"Cabrillo Made Easy: Tips for Submitting Your OSPOTA Log"

Each year, we receive a few emails after the contest regarding Cabrillo files. In this article, I hope to clarify some common questions.

Starting in 2019, we began requiring Cabrillo files for OSPOTA submissions. We weren't the first to do this—the Cabrillo format has been standard for many major contests for some time. Using this format makes log checking much easier.

In the past, log checking involved board members manually cross-referencing logs, a time-consuming process especially with fewer entries. Today, we use an automated system called Cab-evaluator, developed by W3KM, which checks individual logs and compares all received logs for accurate scoring.

Myth or Fact?
If the station I contact does not submit a log, I will not receive credit for that contact, and it will be removed from my log.

This is a TOTAL MYTH!
While having more logs submitted improves the accuracy of results, you will not lose valid contacts just because the other station didn't submit a log. If a contact is missing, it's more likely due to a callsign mistake, an exchange error, or your computer clock being off.

Remember, the more logs we receive, the more accurate the final results will be.

How do you create a Cabrillo file?
Most logging programs (like N3FJP, N1MM, Genlog) include an option to generate Cabrillo files, usually found under the 'File' menu.

If you're using your typical POTA logger, it might not create Cabrillo files directly. Instead, it may generate an ADI file, which can be converted at the website **https://adif2cabrillo.kq4mhe.com/index.php**. This tool will convert your ADIF file into a Cabrillo format effectively.

What does a Cabrillo file look like? On page 3 is a sample Cabrillo file. You can find the original at https://ospota.org/Files/OSPOTA_Sample.log

You'll see that the header contains all of the info about your entry, such as what call you used, your contact information, what logging program generated the file, etc.

The Cabrillo file usually has an extension of .log, though I have seen other extensions used (.cab, .cabr). Before submitting your entry, the Cabrillo file can be opened & edited using a text editor (textpad, wordpad, etc.).

To learn more about the Cabrillo standard, we invite you to follow some of the links at https://www.arrl.org/cabrillo-format-tutorial (There's no login required).

Does time matter?
Yes! During log cross-checking, the software compares contact times. If your contact time differs by more than 5 minutes, it's considered a mismatch.
We've seen cases where all contacts in a log are off by several minutes. Sometimes these can be corrected if the time discrepancy is minor. But there's no fixing logs where it looks as if the contact times were determined by a Ouija board or coin toss.

Check your clocks! Accurate time keeps your logs in sync.

If you need help at any point, please don't hesitate to contact us. We want all participants to successfully submit their logs.

In summary:

- We no longer accept ADI or paper logs for this contest.

- Most logging programs can generate Cabrillo files, but if not, you can convert ADIF files online.

Good luck out there! 73!

Helpful contact info:

- **logs@ospota.org** — Submit your logs after the contest

- **info@ospota.org** — General questions or support

- **plannedparks@ospota.org** — Submit park activation info

Sample Cabrillo File (https://ospota.org/Files/OSPOTA_Sample.log)

```
START-OF-LOG: 3.0
CREATED-BY: <YOUR LOGGING PROGRAM IF APPLICABLE>
CONTEST: OSPOTA
CALLSIGN: <CALL SIGN THAT WAS USED>
LOCATION: <YOUR OHIO STATE PARK NAME, OR LOCATION>
CLUB-NAME: <YOUR CLUB NAME>
CATEGORY-OPERATOR: <MML, MMH, MSL, MSH, MPO, SL, SH, INOH, OUT>
CATEGORY-TRANSMITTER: <SINGLE OR MULTI TRANSMITTER>
CATEGORY-POWER: <LOW, OR HIGH>
CATEGORY-MODE: MIXED
OPERATORS: <CALLSIGNS OF ALL OPERATORS>
NAME: <YOUR NAME>
ADDRESS: <YOUR HOME ADDRESS>
ADDRESS-CITY: <YOUR CITY>
ADDRESS-STATE-PROVINCE: <YOUR CITY, STATE, OR PROVINCE>
ADDRESS-POSTALCODE:   <ZIP OR POSTAL CODE>
ADDRESS-COUNTRY: USA
EMAIL: <YOUR EMAIL>

       YOUR                     YOUR            YOUR        STATION         STATION
------FREQ----DATE-------TIME CALL--------------LOCATION-----WORKED----------LOCATION

QSO:  7000 PH 2019-09-07 1403 KD8MQ            MTG          W8SOO           MI
QSO:  7000 PH 2019-09-07 1405 KD8MQ            MTG          N3CU            PA
QSO:  3500 CW 2019-09-07 1452 KD8MQ            MTG          K8PRC           WBR
QSO:  3500 PH 2019-09-07 1514 KD8MQ            MTG          VE3UTA          DX
QSO:  3500 PH 2019-09-07 1530 KD8MQ            MTG          KE8BKP          OH
END-OF-LOG:
```