

VK port-a-log – A brief guide.

V20161218_03

Disclaimer: This Android application is provided "as is" without warranty of any kind, either express or implied, including without limitation any implied warranties of condition, uninterrupted use, merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, or non-infringement.

VK port-a-log is an Android application written by Peter VK3ZPF to assist with logging functions associated with SOTA, WWFF, VK Shires and portable activations. The application has been written for use on Android phones and tablets.

VK port-a-log is available for Android version 4.0 or later.

Most functions of the application should be self-evident.

Log entry cannot be saved if critical QSO data, such as call sign, frequency and mode are missing or not of the correct format or length.

Log files can be copied or emailed using third party apps such as ES Explorer File Manager



VK port-a-log can only be installed if device allows Unknown sources...See **Settings/Security/unknown sources**

SOTAwatch and ParksNPeaks spot notifications

Your SOTA, WWFF and VK Shires references show here. See 'Activation Details'

Tap to access menu options (see figures 3 & 12)
May be 'soft key' at bottom left or right on some devices. May also look like ≡ on some devices

Your Maidenhead locator – derived from GPS
Tap to get Maidenhead locator (on screen and in ADIF log) and GPS coordinates (in ADIF log only)

Clears entered data for QSO

Popular suffixes for call sign

QSO info scrolls up and down – See figure 2

Current activation QSO summary

Hot keys – can be VK call prefix, numbers 0 - 9 or user defined
Change format in 'Logger Settings' or tap and hold VK1 key to change format

Log of contacts for today. Can be scrolled up and down. Latest QSO always on top. Number of QSOs shown varies on size of device screen. Collapse keyboard to see more QSOs.

Tap QSO to edit contact.

Tap and hold QSO to delete contact.

VK1	VK2	VK3	VK4	VK5	VK6	VK7	VK8
TIME	CALL	MHz	TX	RX	NAME	QTH	
0009	VK3KAB/P	7.090	59	59	Kevin	VK3/VC-025	
0008	VK3YY	7.090	59	59	Glenn	VK3/VC-025	
2323	VK5PAS/P	7.135	57	59	Paul	VKFF-1159	

Figure 1 - Main screen

Call: / /P

Sent: 59 Rec'd: 59

Name:

QTH:

Frequency (MHz): 0

Mode: SSB Power:

SOTA ref: XXX / XX - 000

WWFF ref: VKFF - 0000

VK Shires ref: XX0

Notes:

Tap in each field to enter QSO details.

Swipe up to access SOTA, WWFF and Notes fields.

Default Sent and Received RS(T) can be set in 'Logger Settings'.

Call, Frequency, and Mode are mandatory fields.

Maximum field lengths:

Call	20
RS(T)	10
Name	25
QTH	100
Frequency (MHz)	10
Mode	5
Power	4
Notes	200

Entries in excess of maximum length are truncated.

SOTA, WWFF and VK Shires references must be correct format as shown.

Default WWFF reference prefix can be set in 'Logger settings'

SOTA chaser entry is created when SOTA reference is entered.

All QSO details are available in ADIF export file.

Mandatory fields are highlighted until completed.

Save button changes to green when ready to save QSO.

Figure 2 – QSO details

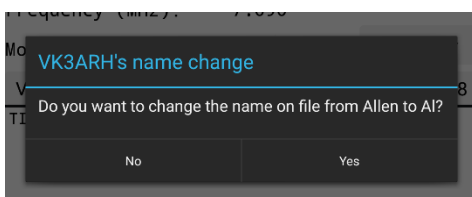
A names file is included on your device at **Device/sdcard/VKportalog/names/names.csv**

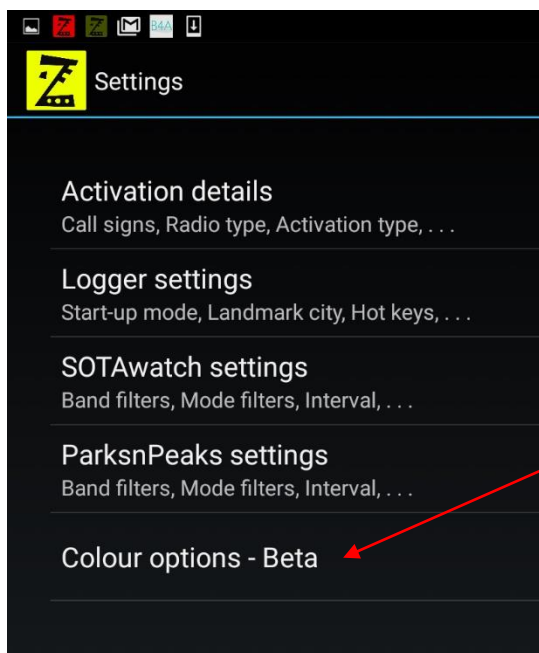
This file retains the operator name of each call sign worked where the name has been entered. This file may be edited with a simple text editor to add names. Please keep the format as shown below

Call,Name
VK3ZPF,Peter
VK3ARH,Allen
VK3KAB,Kevin

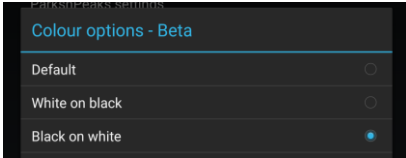
VK port-a-log will pre-fill the name field on the logger screen if the name is already stored.

If you change this name in the logger screen you are prompted if you wish to save the change.





Colour options:

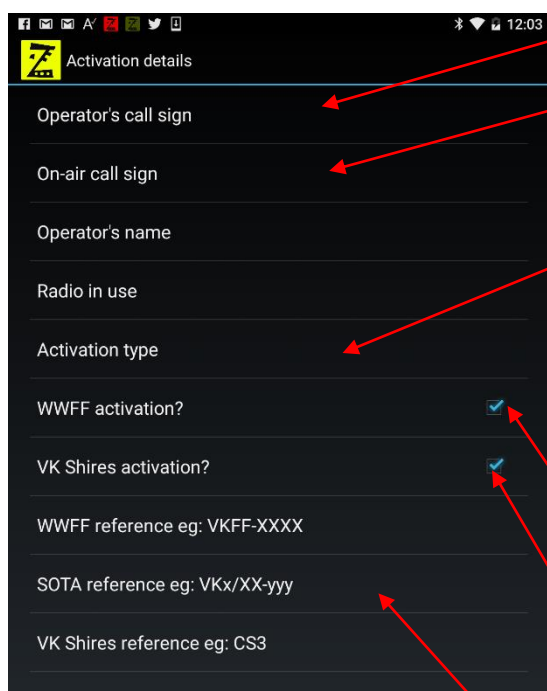


Screen shots in these instructions are either;

- White on black
- Black on white

Colour options have not been extensively tested. If you are having troubles select Default.

Figure 3 – Settings – Main options

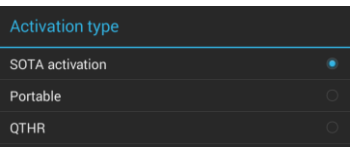


Your normal licensed call sign

The call sign used on air during the activation

Select appropriate activation

- SOTA makes SOTA activator and ADIF logs
- Portable makes ADIF log
- QTHR makes ADIF log without GPS info or locator
- SOTA chaser file is made if any SOTA station is worked regardless of activation type chosen



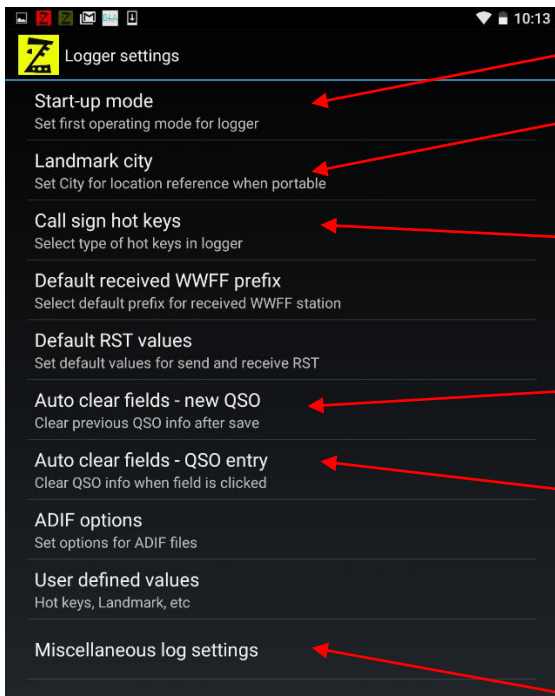
Check if activating a WWFF area
Creates separate ADIF activator file for each WWFF area activated each day.

Check if activating a VK Shires area
Reference used for logging and spots.

Activation references must be in the correct format.
e.g.:

WWFF	VKFF-0876
SOTA	VK3/VC-025
VK Shires	CS3

Figure 4 – Settings – Activation details



Sets the mode default operating mode

Sets reference city for distance description

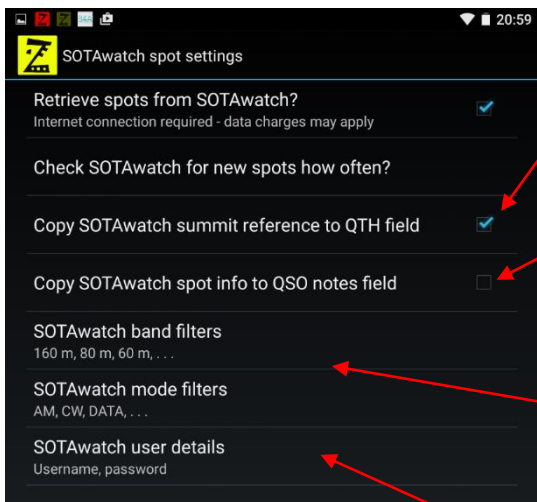
Change hot keys format

Sets which logger fields are returned to default for each new QSO

Sets which logger fields are cleared when field is tapped during QSO entry

Miscellaneous log settings

Figure 5 – Settings – Logger Settings



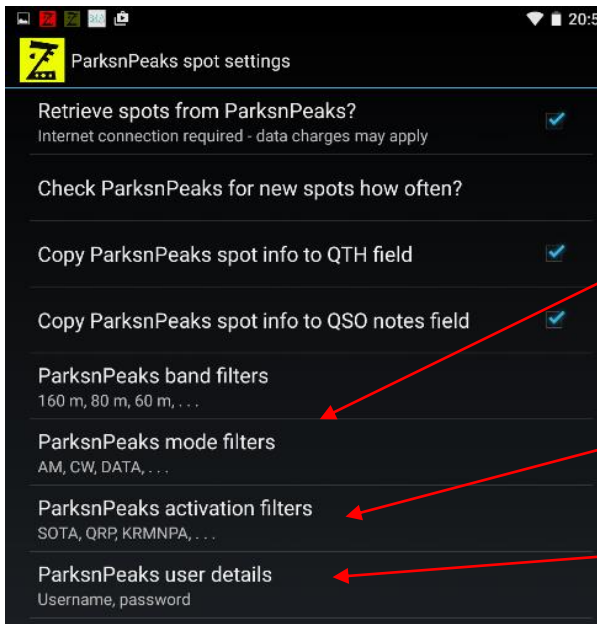
If a SOTAwatch spot is tapped the spot info is copied to the relevant fields on QSO logger screen.
If this option is checked the summit reference is also copied to the QTH field.

If a SOTAwatch spot is tapped the spot info is copied to the relevant fields on QSO logger screen.
If this option is checked the spot info is also copied to the QSO notes field.

SOTAwatch spot filtering for band and mode.
NOTE: Filtering works by reading the content of each spot received.
Errors in spot data entered by others may cause some spots not to appear.

SOTAwatch username and password are required for posting spots. See figure 10.

Figure 6 – SOTAwatch spot settings



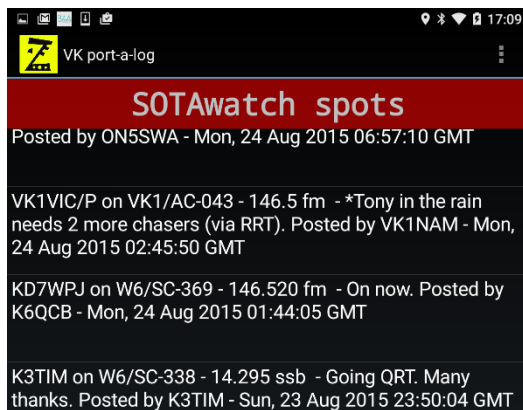
ParksNPeaks spot filtering for band and mode.

NOTE: Filtering works by reading the content of each spot received. Errors in spot data entered by others may cause some spots not to appear.

Spot filtering for ParksNPeaks activation type: SOTA, QRP, KRMNPA, SANCPA VK & ZLWWFF and all WWFF spots.

ParksNPeaks username and password are required for posting spots. See figure 11.

Figure 7 – ParksNPeaks spot settings



Swipe left and right to move between ParksNPeaks post, SOTAwatch post, QSO logging, SOTAwatch spot and ParksNPeaks spot screens.

Tap on any SOTAwatch or ParksNPeaks spot to transfer info to QSO logging screen.

Band, mode and activation type filters are set in 'Spotter settings'.

Figure 8 – SOTAwatch spot screen



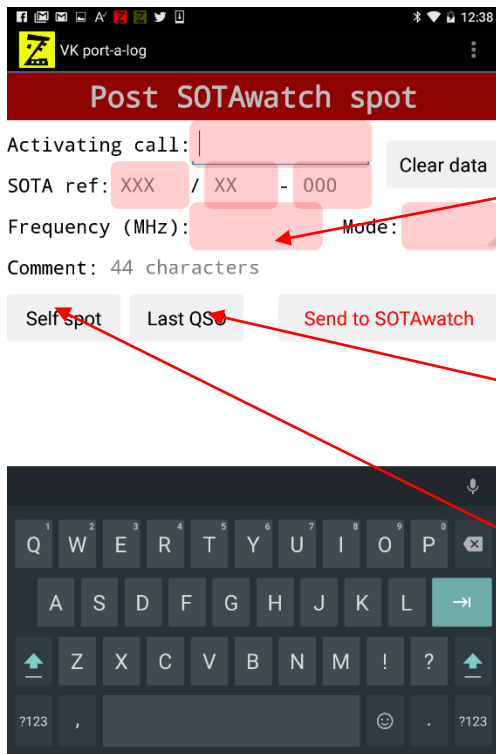
NOTES:

Spot data is sourced from www.sotawatch.org and www.parksnpeaks.org

Errors in spot data entered by others may cause some spots not to be shown.

Spots sourced from the WWFF cluster may not contain mode data.

Figure 9 – ParksNPeaks spot screen



Enter details to send spot via Internet to SOTAwatch.

Mandatory fields are highlighted.

Comment field is limited to 44 characters

Send button text changes from red to black after sufficient information is entered.

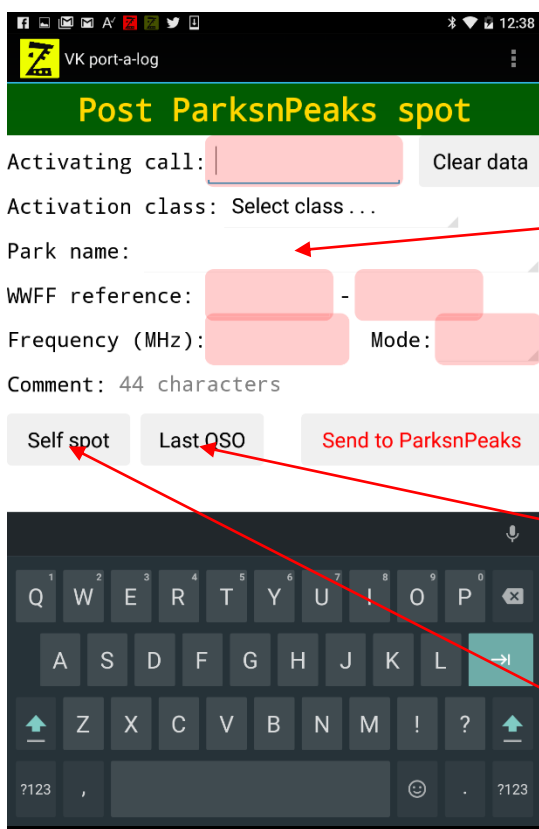
Last QSO copies details from last QSO in log ready to send spot to SOTAwatch.

**** Check all details before tapping Send ****

Self spot copies activation details from settings and frequency from QSO logger screen ready to send spot to SOTAwatch.

**** Check all details before tapping Send ****

Figure 10 – SOTAwatch post spot screen



Enter details to send spot via Internet to ParksnpPeaks.

Class, Park and VK Shire details can be selected from drop down lists or WWFF or VK Shire reference entered.

Mandatory fields are highlighted.

Comment field is limited to 44 characters

Send button text changes from red to black after sufficient information is entered.

Last QSO copies details from last QSO in log ready to send spot to ParksnpPeaks.

Some spots do not contain mode.

**** Check all details before tapping Send ****

Self spot copies activation details from settings and frequency from QSO logger screen ready to send spot to the ParksnpPeaks site.

**** Check all details before tapping Send ****

Figure 11 – ParksnpPeaks post spot screen

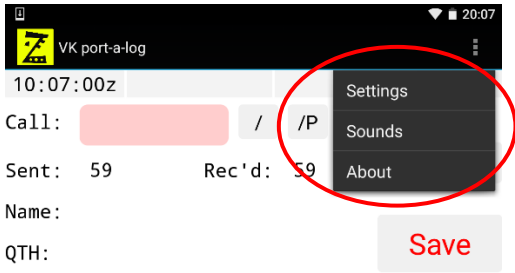
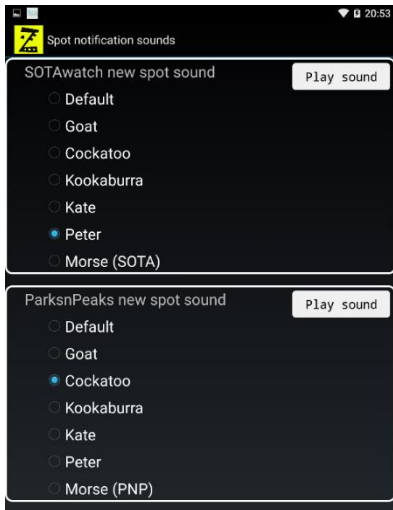


Figure 12 – Menu options



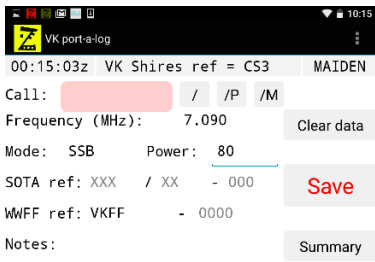
Select notification sound for each new spot being received.

Select different sounds for SOTAwatch and ParksnPicks

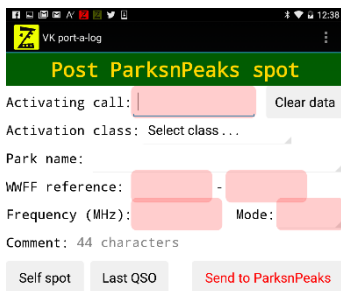
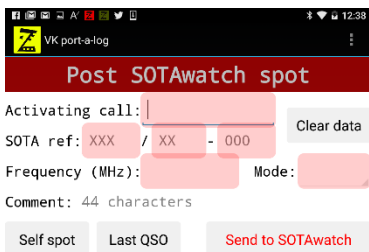
Kate and Peter are text to speech voice announcements.

Figure 13 – Spot notification sounds

External keyboard short cuts



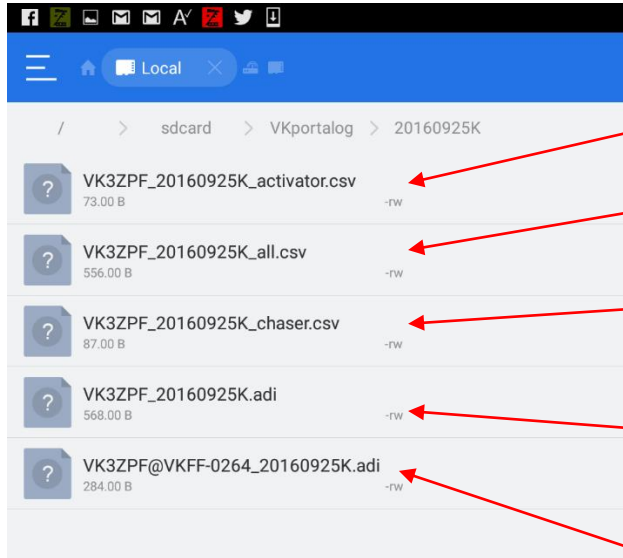
<CTRL> C	Clear data
<CTRL> S	Save QSO
<CTRL> <	Scroll left
<CTRL> >	Scroll right
<CTRL> U	Show summary



<CTRL> C	Clear data
<CTRL> E	Self spot
<CTRL> L	Last QSO
<CTRL> S	Send spot to Internet
<CTRL> <	Scroll left
<CTRL> >	Scroll right

Log files are saved at **Device/sdcard/VKportalog/yyyymmddK** – new folder and files are made for each local day.

Log files can be copied or emailed using third party apps such as ES Explorer File Manager



SOTA CSV activator file ready for upload to sotadata.org.uk

CSV file containing all data for the local day – Can be opened in Excel.

SOTA CSV chaser file ready for upload to sotadata.org.uk

ADIF file ready for import to third party logging software. Contains all QSOs for the local day.

ADIF file ready for import to WWFF program. Contains only QSOs made from WWFF area mentioned in file name.

Note: As at December 2016;

- WWFF does not accept chaser entries
- VK Shires does not have a defined logging format
- KRMNPA does not have a defined logging format
- SANPACP does not have a defined logging format

For the latest info visit www.vk3zpf.com/vk-port-a-log