GT:ARC *v1.20.0922* *Elsa*

September 22nd, 2020

General Information

First it was "**GridTracker - A WSJT-X Companion**" then it evolved to be much more than that and became "**GridTracker - An Amateur Radio Companion**" and now with the news you will soon learn in this update, it is called "**GridTracker - An Amateur Radio Community**" or "**GT:ARC**" for brevity.

Program Update

Windows load times: For those of you who just installed this version and are running Windows, you know what changed. Load times are back to normal!

Good news everyone, real-time spots are here and I can't believe it took me this long to add it!

Utilizing the **OAMS** network (Off-Air Message Service), I was able to provide a quick and seamless integration of spot reporting! If you are sharing your "On-Air" status with other **GT** users, a new option which is default enabled becomes available to you.

As you decode stations in *WSJT-X* and those stations happen to be **GT** users, you will send a spot report to them via the **OAMS** network. If they too have "**Spotting**" enabled, they will receive the spot in less than 2 seconds after the decode. In some cases, they may get the spot report before they are done transmitting! Conversely, if you have "**Spotting**" enabled, you will receive spot reports from other **GT** users in the same way.

PSK-Spots button has been change to just "**SPOTS**" as it now supports both **OAMS-Spots** and **PSK-Spots**.

The "**Source**" link to your lookup service has returned!

The bug "close lookup window after QSO event" is now fixed.

Logbook of The World (**LoTW**) loading issues has been fixed. I had to fallback to the old way of loading the entire logbook from **LoTW**. The method of asking for any new QSL after a certain date appears to not function consistently. **LoTW** is slow, very slow. They are really busy, so please be patient.

All "**Log**" buttons now have a progress indicator, so you know when it's busy downloading, if the progress indicator is updating, it's still working.

Cleaned up some of the weird "text boxes" that we're floating out of place in some windows.

Amateur Radio Community News

Leading up to our self-evacuation week before last, I found that getting timely, accurate map based information was extremely challenging. I have a plan and I'm going to be working with my GT team-mates to come up with a solution. It's a large, challenging project that I think will benefit the Amateur Radio Community at the global scale. It's Called "**Emergency:Amateur Radio Community**" or "**E:ARC**", it is **not** a first-responder application, nor is it intended for use with or by established Amateur Radio Emergency Communication teams, nor is its primary goal communication (but it will have it), the first goal is timely information gathering. If you would like to be a part of the initial team helping to define scope and goals, please continue reading this

update to learn how to contact us. I will be splitting my free-time outside of my day job on the weekends between "**GT:ARC**" and "**E:ARC**" and we hope to have something new to show you soon! We will probably come up with a better name for it, but for now it seemed relevant. I will also be saving some time for myself and my family, because that's what I learned is most important to me in the last two weeks.

Log4OM

We want to welcome **Log4OM** users to the **OAMS** network. As of version 2.9.0.0 of their fantastic logging program, they can now send messages in real-time to users of **GT**. Check out their program and give their users a warm welcome in the "Messaging Window" You can't miss them, they're the ones operating CW / SSB / FM / etc…

GridTracker : An Amateur Radio Community

We are growing so fast and so many new people are joining us, from the Facebook group, the Groups.Io mailing list to the live Discord server. I am having difficulty sorting through all of the (potential) bug reports and requests for new (and very appreciated) features. Going forward I will be watching the Facebook group and Mailing list but will not be as active with support as I have been in the past. It is simply overwhelming! You all are so awesome! If you have a bug report or feature request you are invited to join us in our Amateur Radio Community and join the discord, we have over 500 members so far! Thank you.

A Personal Update

I want to thank everyone who reached out in our family's time of crisis. When the fires reached 24 miles away to our North-East and 17 miles away South-East we self-evacuated to the Pacific coast at Newport, Oregon. Before we left, I asked my oldest son to drop the deer fence gate leading to my wife's edible flower garden. I wanted to make sure that if the first-responders needed to get to the 4 full 375 gallon IPC tanks of water, they would be unencumbered. These brave men and women managed to halt the fire's progress at 20 and 15 miles each from our home. I've been asked repeatedly if we have been impacted by the fire and to that I say "just a little" when we know that many people have lost their lives, livelihoods and homes. So for us, the only thing that happened was that my wife's garden that she uses to make her candies was eaten thoroughly by the escaping deer that came through our property! They got a snack and we breathed fresh air. It could have been much worse! So thank you again for the well wishes and prayers, it meant the world to us!

This release of GT:ARC is dedicated to the memory of my mother, Norma Jean Tietz. Who passed away comfortably and peacefully Monday, September 14th, 2020. Her favorite movie was "Born Free" r.1966 and she loved "Elsa" so much, this version bears that name. I love you mom!

- *Stephen "Tag" Loomis / N0TTL*

Thank you for reading the entire update!

born-free