From paper to tablet logging – the VK3ZPF “VK port-a-log” Android app

by Manuel, HB9DQM

How to log

- Pen and paper

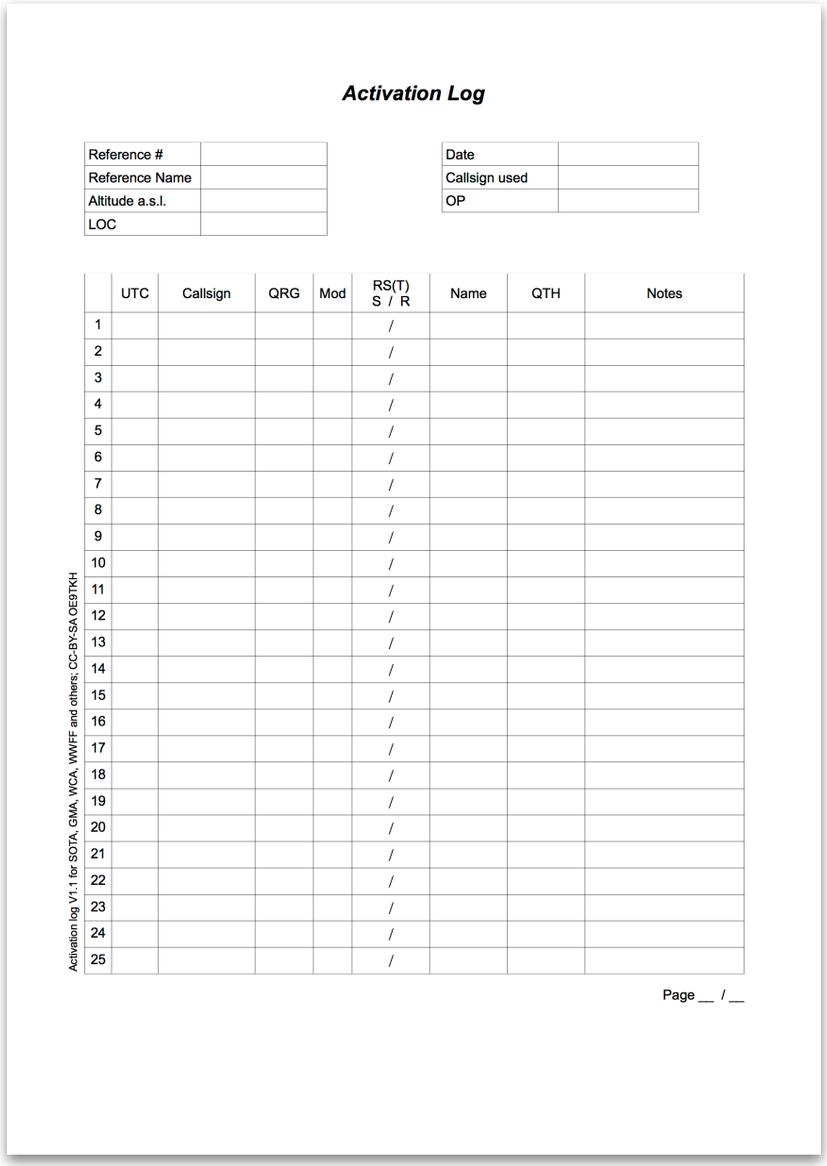
  \+ Cheap

  \+ Reliable

  – Tedious

  – Error-prone

  – Must check clock



Activation Log

Reference #	
Reference Name	
Altitude a.s.l.	
LOC	

Date	
Callsign used	
OP	

	UTC	Callsign	QRG	Mod	RS(T) S / R	Name	QTH	Notes
1					/			
2					/			
3					/			
4					/			
5					/			
6					/			
7					/			
8					/			
9					/			
10					/			
11					/			
12					/			
13					/			
14					/			
15					/			
16					/			
17					/			
18					/			
19					/			
20					/			
21					/			
22					/			
23					/			
24					/			
25					/			

Activation log V1.1 for SOTA, GMA, WCA, WWFF and others; CC-BY-SA OE9TKH

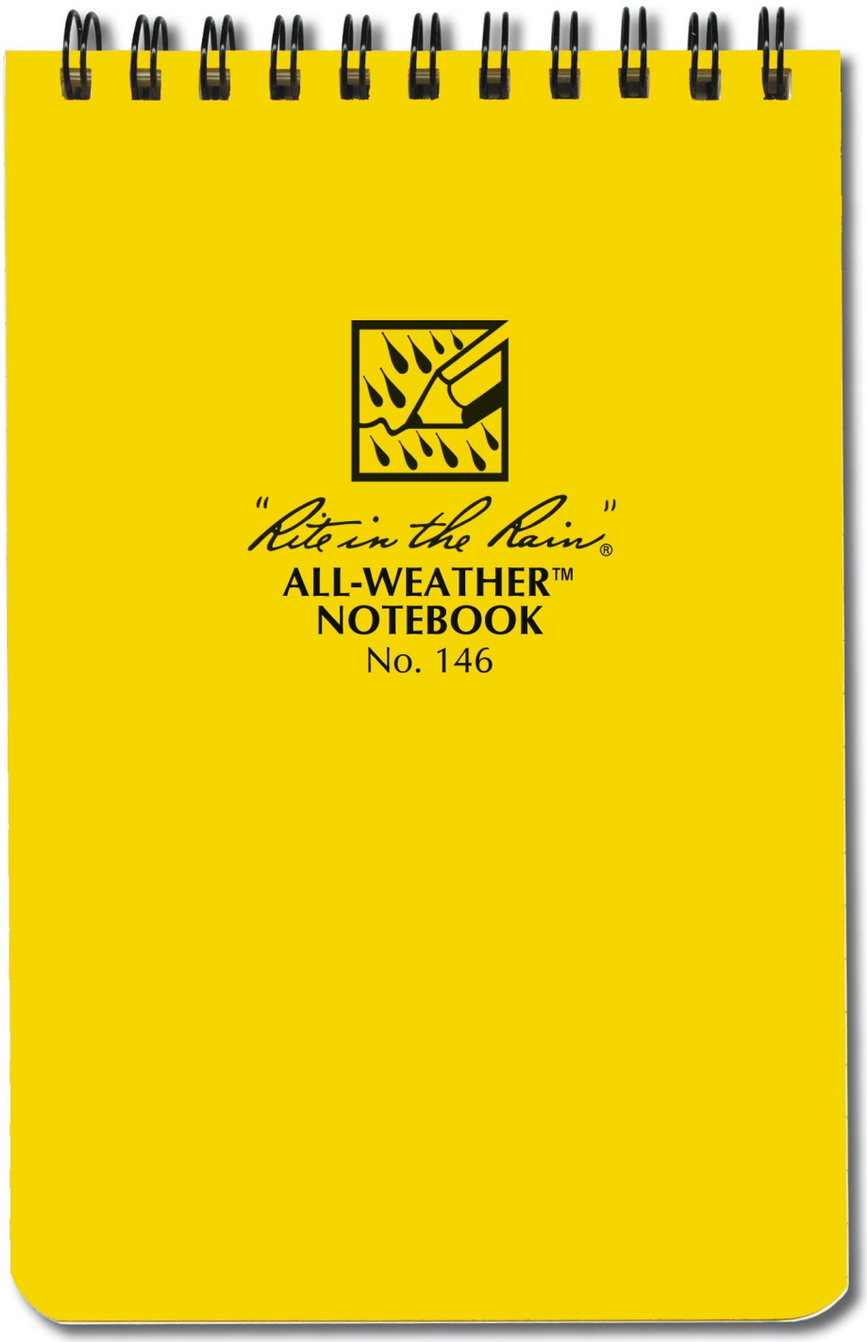
Page __ / __

Template by Tom OE9TKH

http://tomelec.net/w/index.php/SOTA

How to log

- Pen and paper
  - \+ Cheap
  - \+ Reliable
  - – Tedious
  - – Error-prone
  - – Must check clock



How to log

- Electronically
  - \+ Efficient
  - \+ Convenient
  - \+ Automatic clock
  - – More expensive
  - – Total failure possible

Hardware

- Smartphones
- Laptops
- Tablets
- other devices
  - Raspberry Pi with display, game console (HB9TVK), …

Android tablet

- Sony Xperia Z3 Tablet
- 270 g
- 8” screen
- waterproof
- 4G (optional)

Android tablet

- Sony Xperia Z3 Tablet
- out of production, but can still be found online

- alternatives:
  - Samsung Galaxy Tab Active
  - Sony Xperia Z4 (larger)

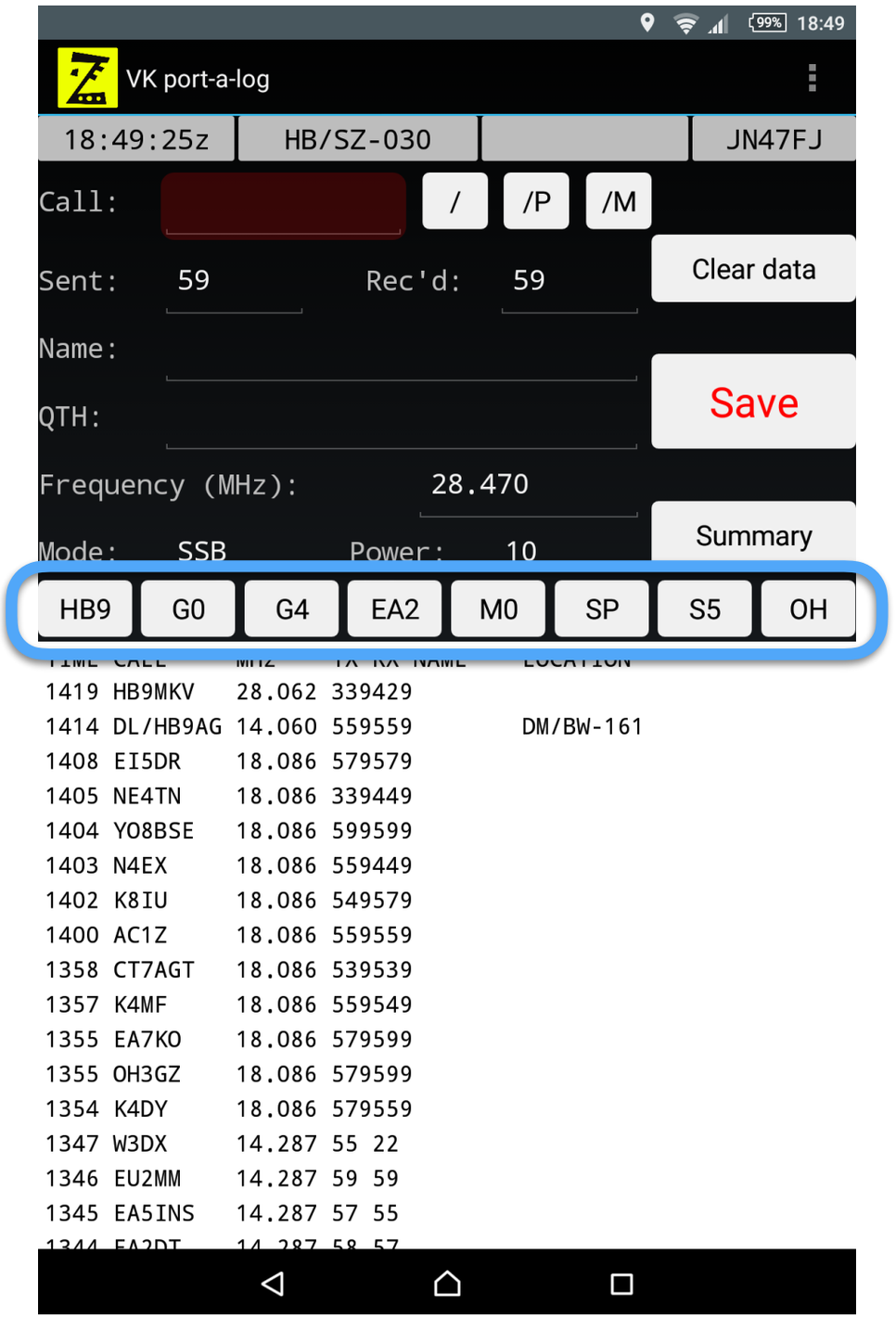
Tablet all-in-one features

- SOTA logging and spotting
- hiking map
- GPS
- check the Reverse Beacon Network
- operate data modes

VK port-a-log

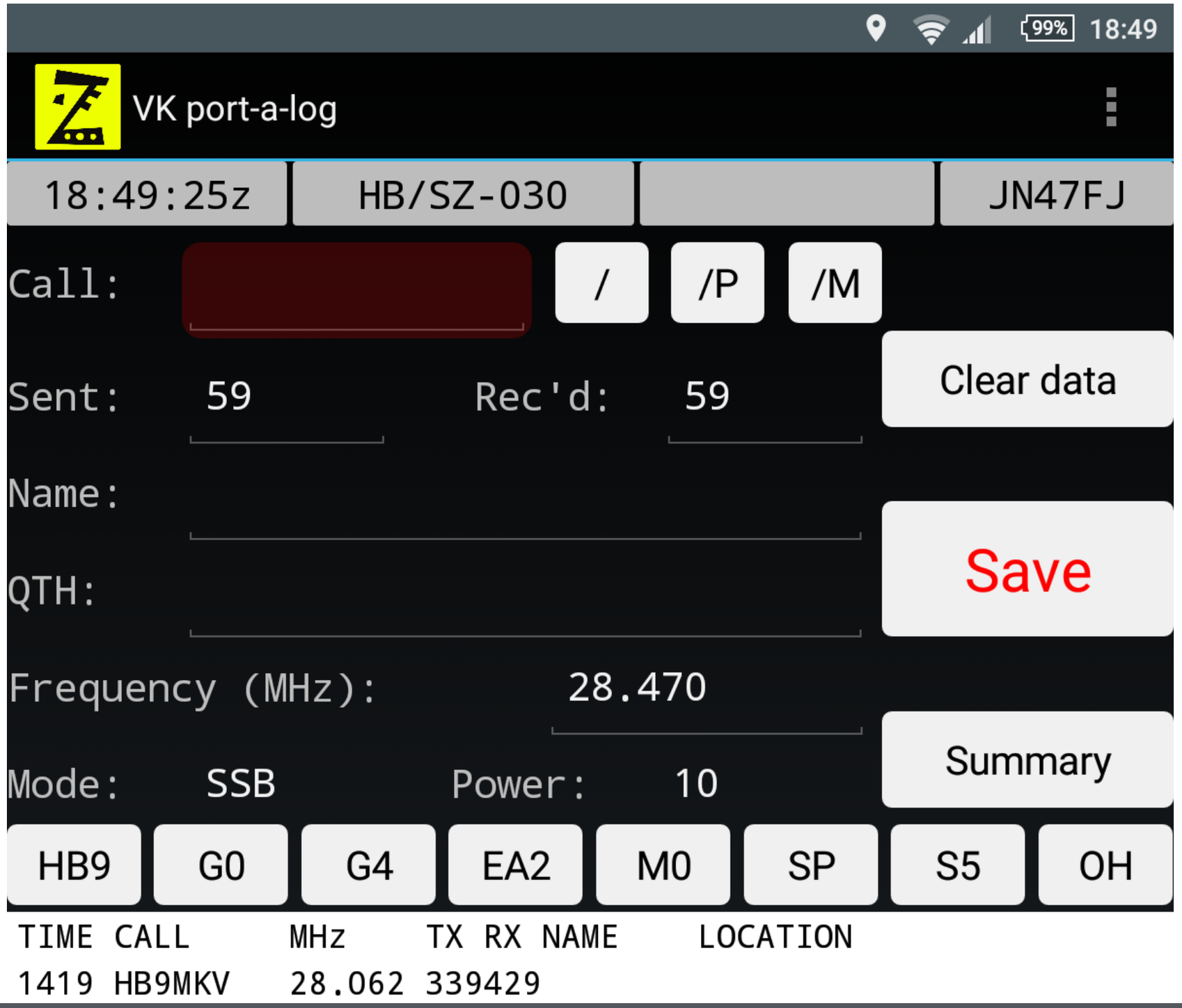
- Android app
- by Peter VK3ZPF
- Freeware
- Download: http://vk3zpf.com/vk-port-a-log

QSO entry screen

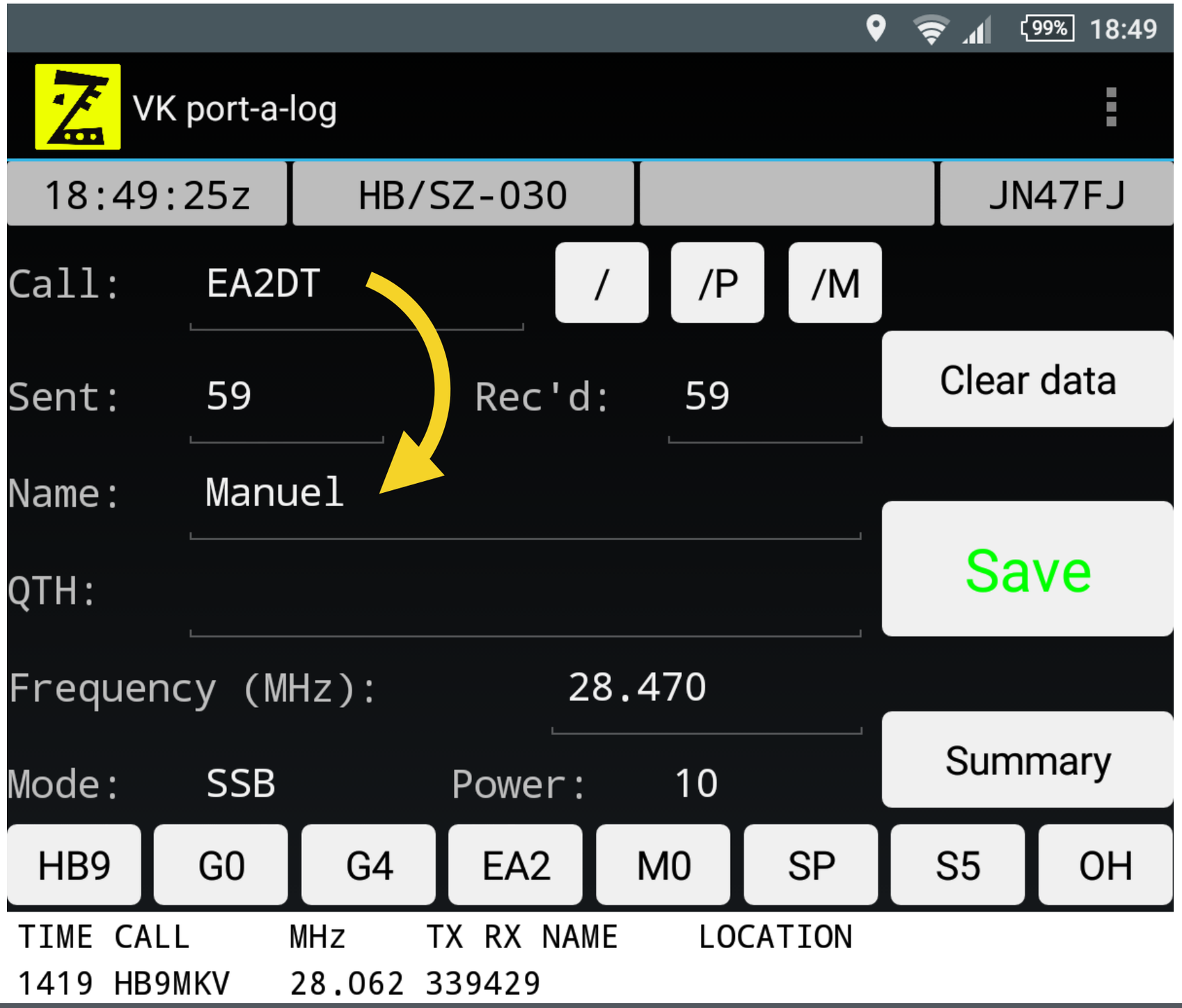


Customizable buttons

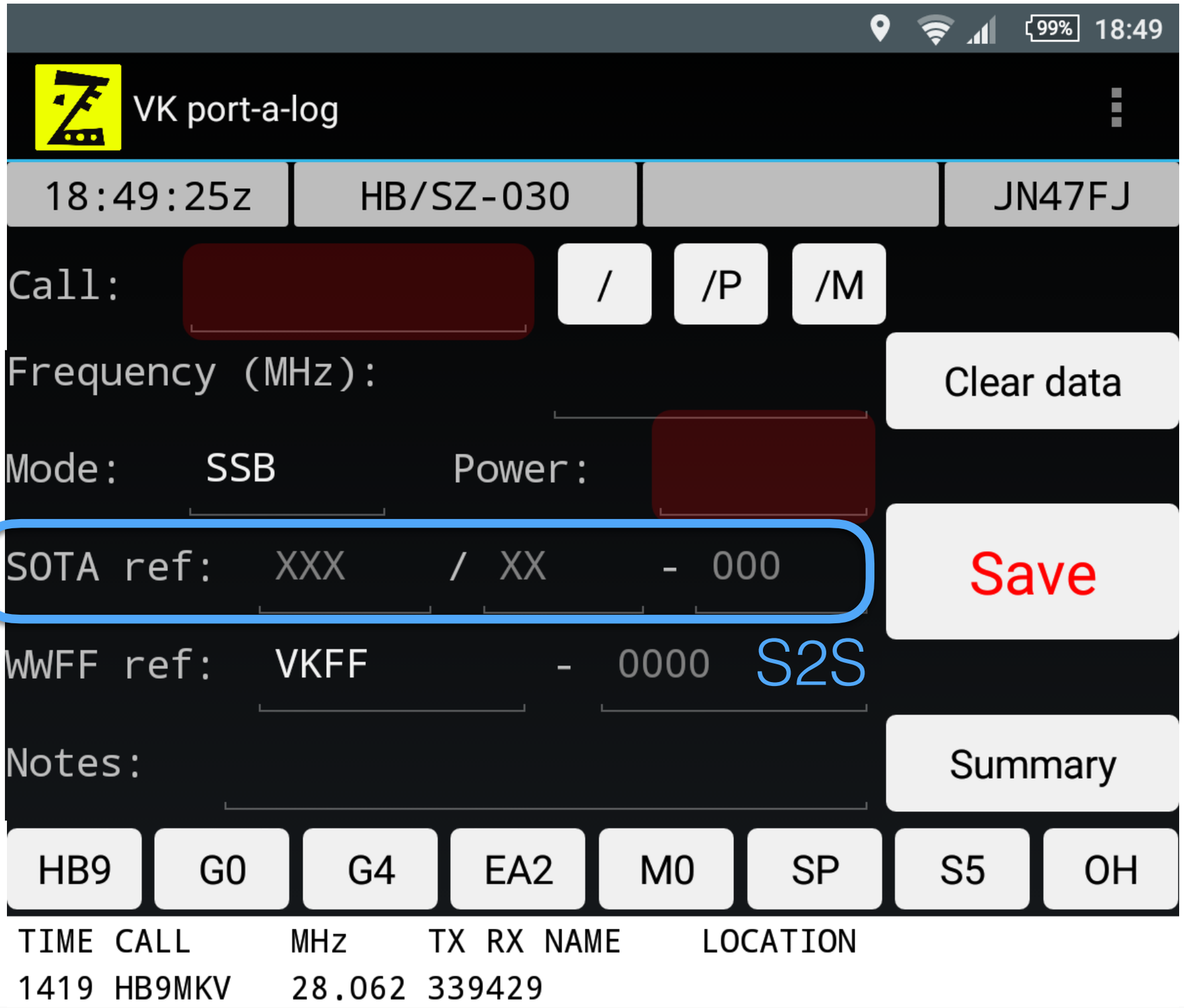
QSO entry screen



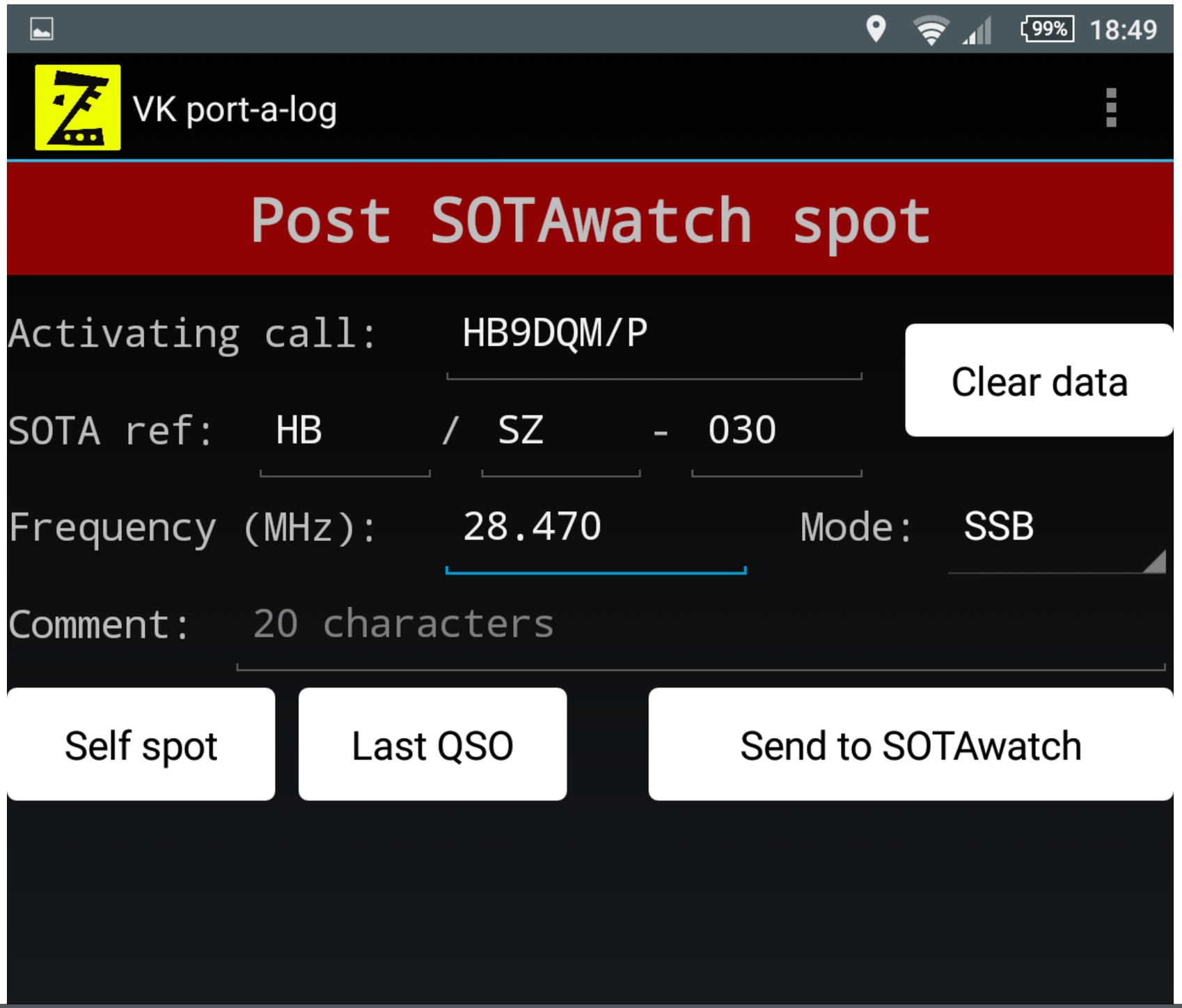
QSO entry screen



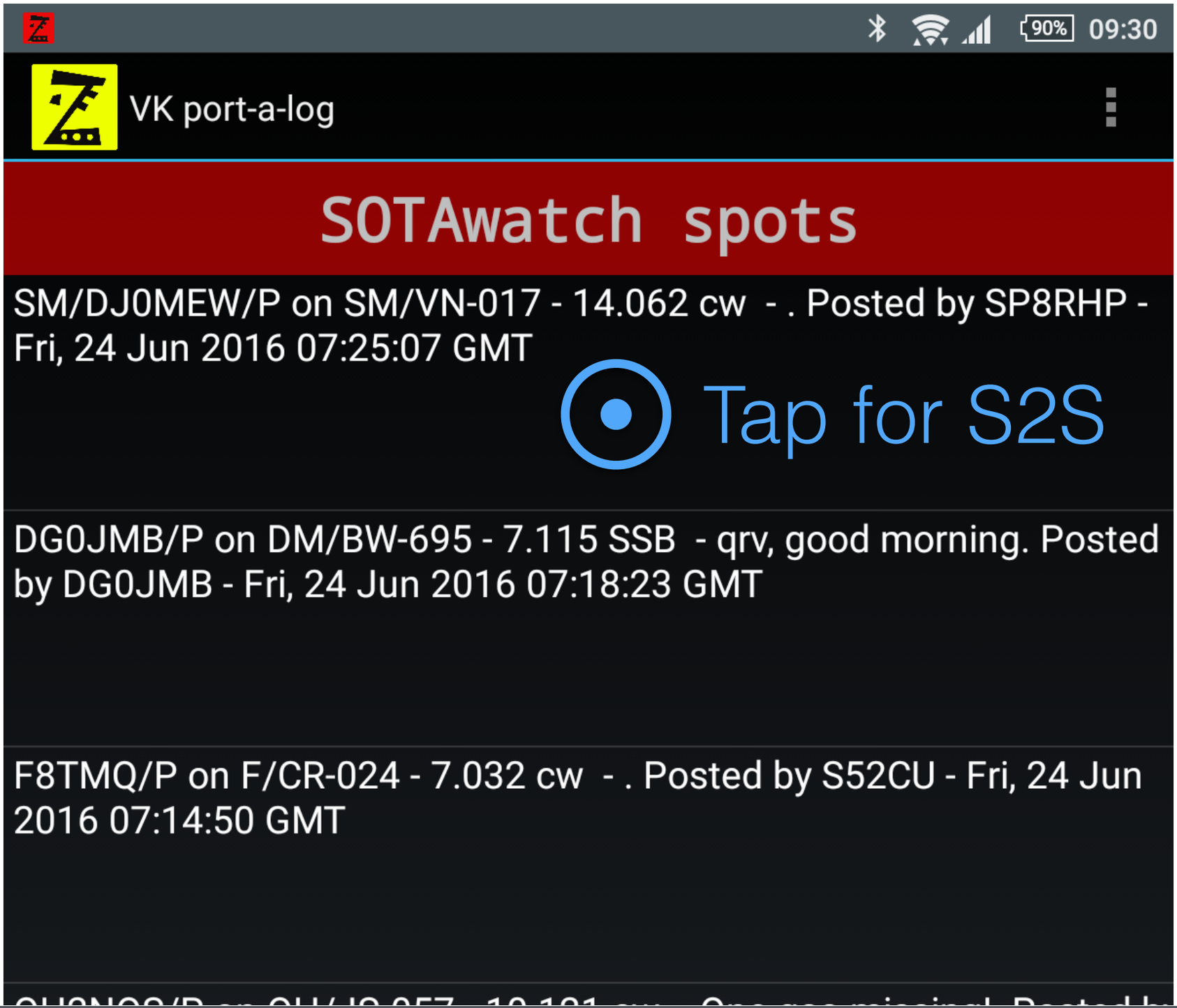
QSO entry screen



Built-in spotter

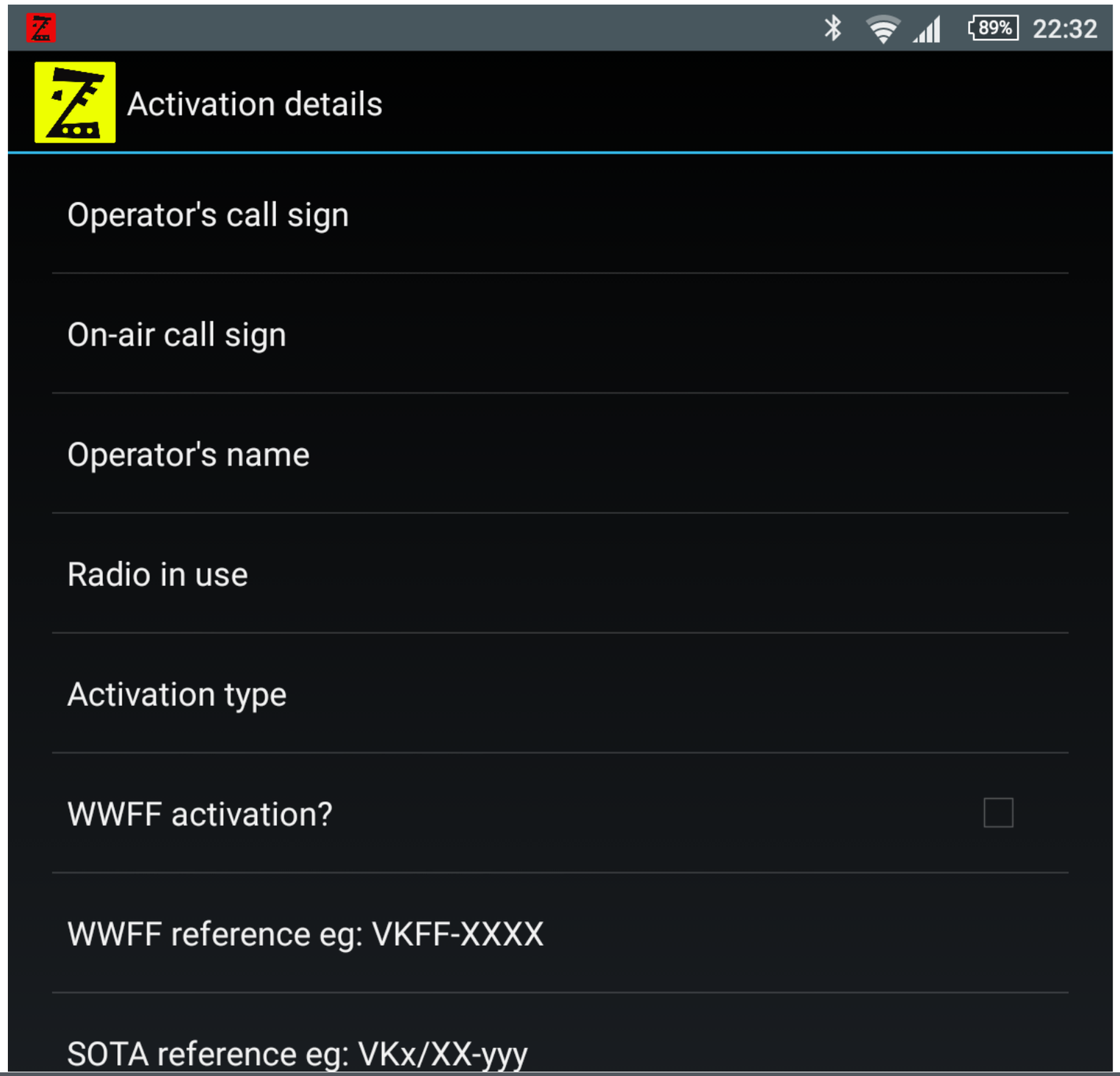


List of spots

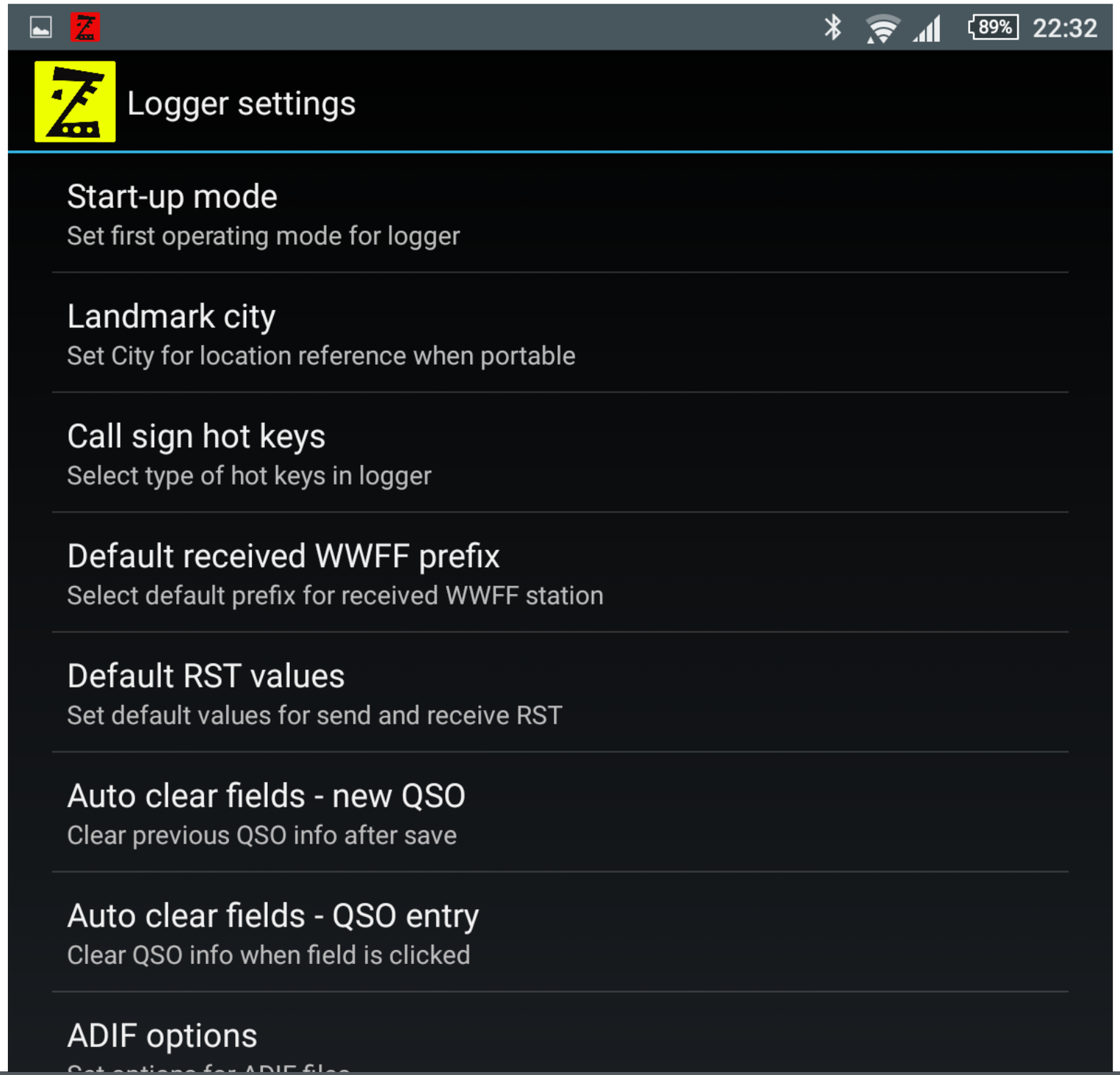


From paper to tablet logging – the VK3ZPF “VK port-a-log” Android app, by Manuel HB9DQM

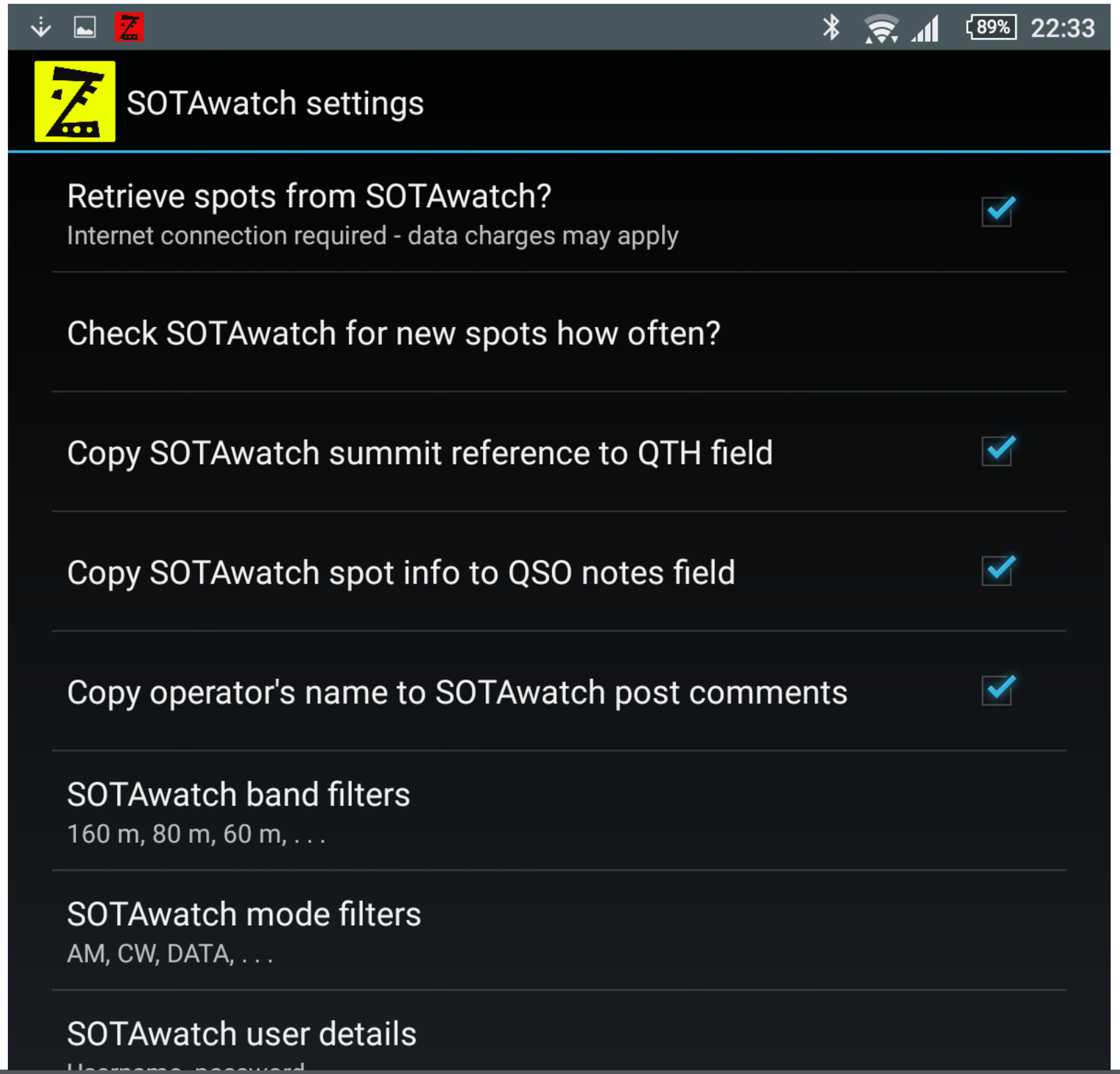
Settings


89%
22:32
Activation details
Operator's call sign
On-air call sign
Operator's name
Radio in use
Activation type
WWFF activation?
WWFF reference eg: VKFF-XXXX
SOTA reference eg: VKx/XX-yyy

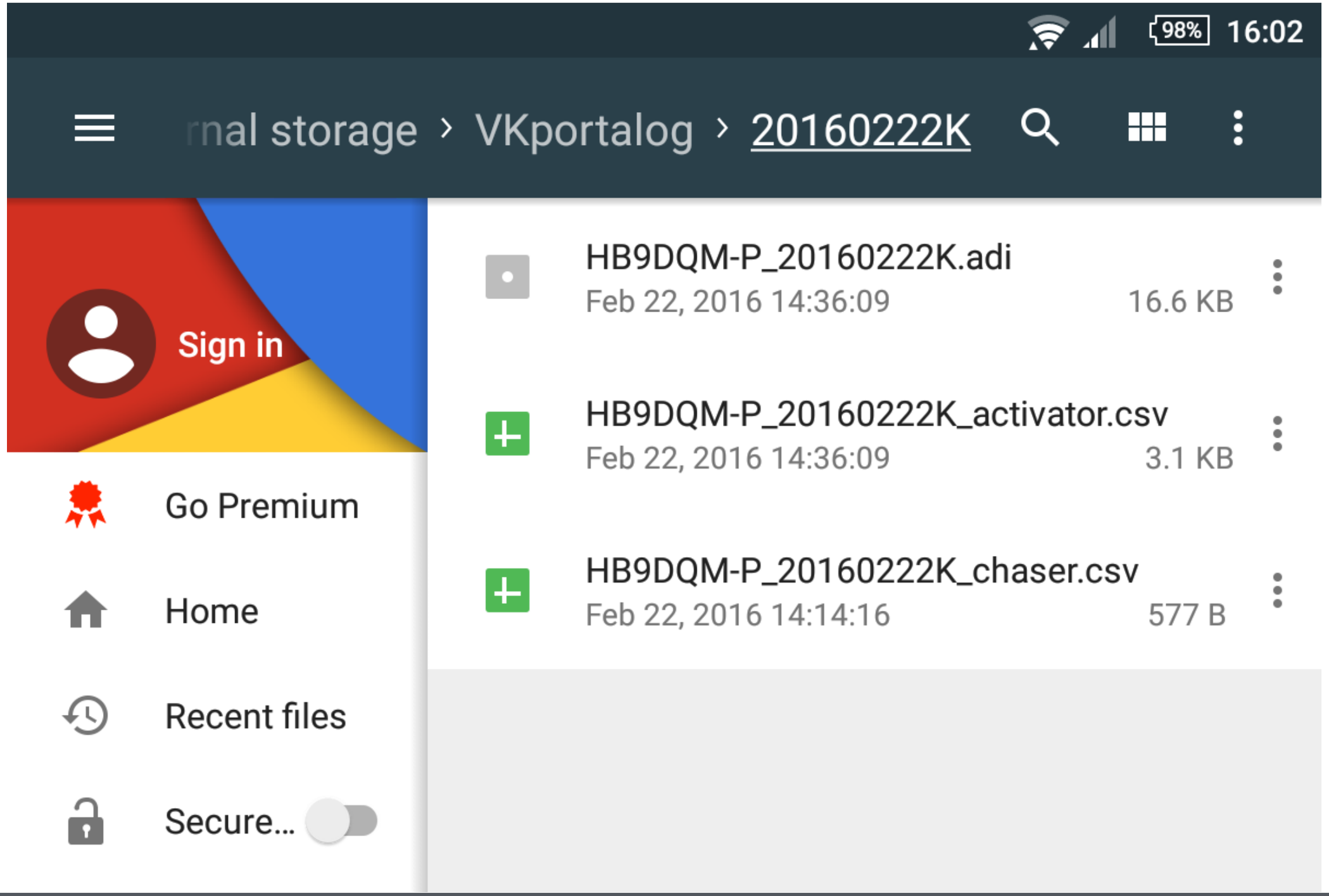
Settings


89%
22:32
Logger settings
Start-up mode
Set first operating mode for logger
Landmark city
Set City for location reference when portable
Call sign hot keys
Select type of hot keys in logger
Default received WWFF prefix
Select default prefix for received WWFF station
Default RST values
Set default values for send and receive RST
Auto clear fields - new QSO
Clear previous QSO info after save
Auto clear fields - QSO entry
Clear QSO info when field is clicked
ADIF options

Settings


89%
22:33
SOTAwatch settings
Retrieve spots from SOTAwatch?
Internet connection required - data charges may apply
Check SOTAwatch for new spots how often?
Copy SOTAwatch summit reference to QTH field
Copy SOTAwatch spot info to QSO notes field
Copy operator's name to SOTAwatch post comments
SOTAwatch band filters
160 m, 80 m, 60 m, . . .
SOTAwatch mode filters
AM, CW, DATA, . . .
SOTAwatch user details

Output: ADIF + CSV



Internet connection

- Tablet with 4G and SIM
  - find a suitable prepaid plan for low data usage (spotting)
- Personal Hotspot on smartphone
  - watch battery usage…

Feature plans

- summit list, ordered by distance
- landscape mode

My tablet logging experience

- > 150 activations with over 4500 QSOs logged on the tablet
- Haven't used a paper log in more than a year :)

Questions?

Thank you!