

QCluster User Guide

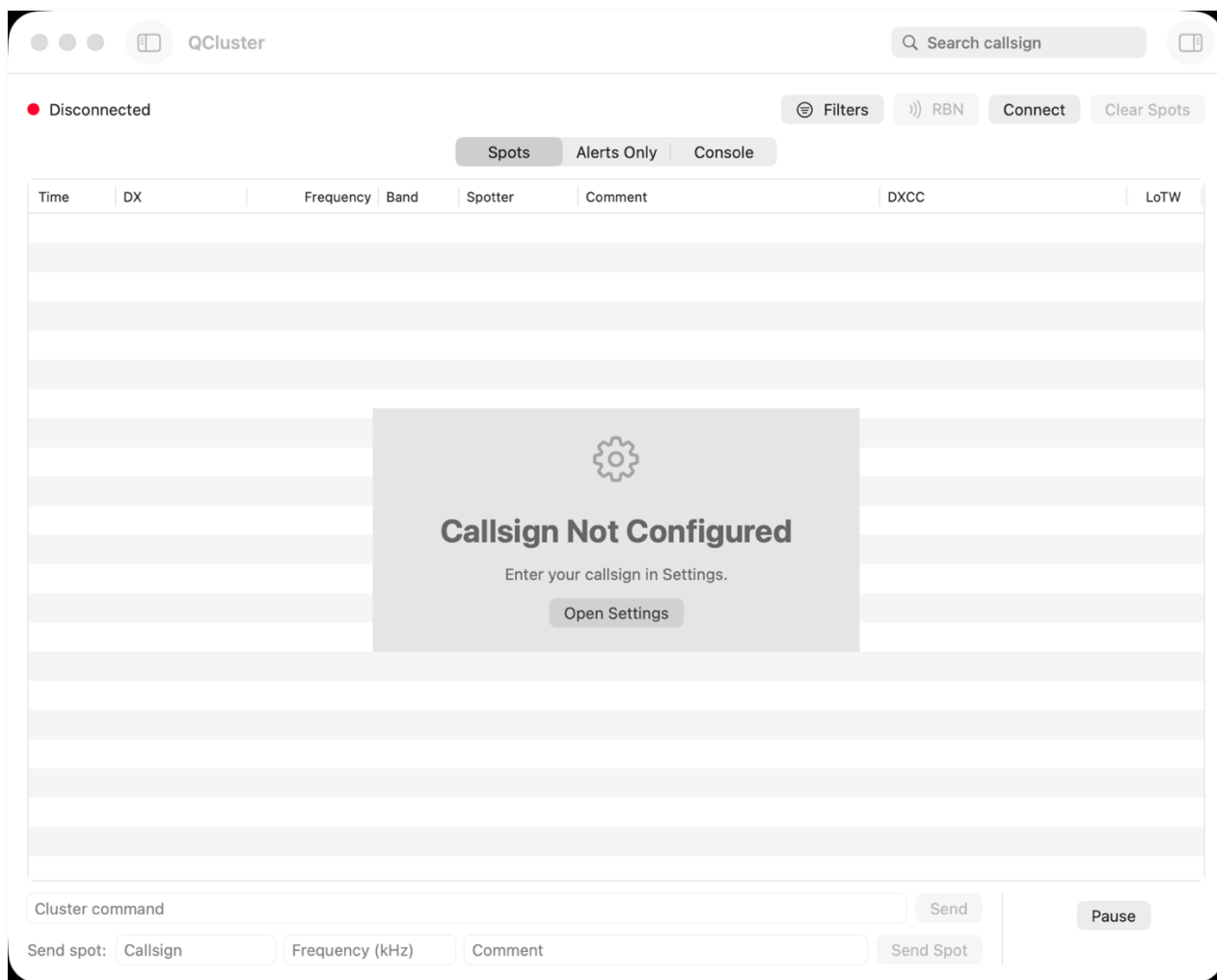
A guide to installing, configuring, and using QCluster.

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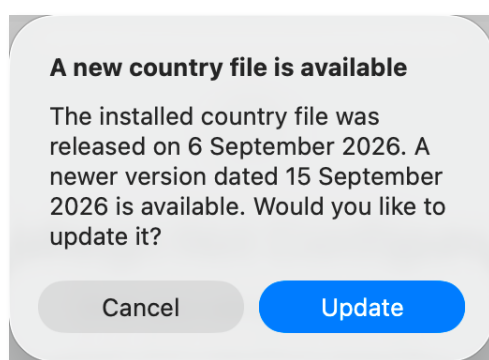
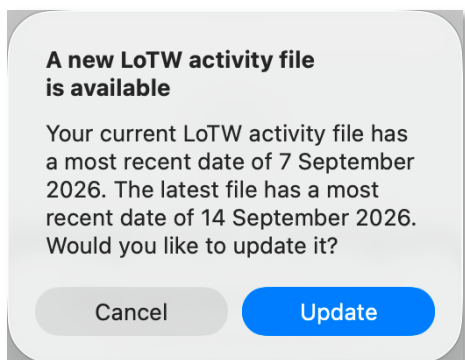
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First use

When you first open QCluster, you'll be presented with this screen.



After a few seconds, you may see either or both of these update messages appear. You should click Update on each of them.



Settings – Initial setup

Either click Open Setting on the main screen, or use the keyboard shortcut cmd-, or use the Settings... option under the QCluster menu.

The screenshot shows the 'Settings' window for QCluster. At the top, there are two tabs: 'Standard' (selected) and 'Club Log'. Below the tabs, a message states: 'DX Cluster Nodes (QCluster works best if you don't change the Primary or Backup Cluster)'. The settings are organized into several sections:

- Primary Cluster:** Includes a 'Connect on startup' checkbox (unchecked), a 'Host' field with 'dxspider.co.uk' (recommended), a 'Port' field with '7300', and an 'Automatically reconnect' checkbox (checked).
- Backup Cluster:** Includes an 'Enable backup cluster' checkbox (checked), a 'Host' field with 'dxc.hamserve.uk', and a 'Port' field with '7300'. A note below states: 'If the primary cluster cannot be restored, QCluster will use the backup and periodically check for the primary to return.'
- Login:** Includes a 'Callsign' field (highlighted with a blue border), a 'Password' field (optional), and a 'Start QCluster at login' checkbox (unchecked).
- Local Telnet Server:** Includes an 'Enable local server' checkbox (unchecked) and a 'Port' field with '7300'.
- UDP Feed:** Includes an 'Enable UDP feed' checkbox (unchecked), a 'Destination' field with '127.0.0.1', a 'Port' field with '7301', and a 'Send' section with 'Everything' (checked) and 'Alerts' (unchecked).
- Data Files:** Includes a 'Country File' section with 'Bundled — release 2026.09.15.00' and an 'Update CTY_WT.DAT' button, and a 'LoTW User Activity' section with 'Bundled — 235,503 callsigns', 'Latest activity 14 Sep 2026', and an 'Update LoTW Activity' button.
- Updates:** Includes a 'Check for new versions' section with 'Disabled' (unchecked), 'Daily' (checked), and 'Weekly' (unchecked) options, and a 'Check Now' button.

At the bottom left, it says '© G6NHU 2026'. At the bottom right, there is an 'OK' button.

It is strongly recommended that you don't change either the Primary Cluster or the Backup Cluster hosts and ports. QCluster is designed to work with DXSpider nodes and certain features are only supported by the default Primary Cluster. If you change these, full functionality cannot be guaranteed.

This is a close-up of the 'Login' section from the settings window. It shows three input fields: 'Callsign' (which is highlighted with a blue border), 'Password', and an 'Optional' label next to the password field.

At the very minimum on this page, you need to enter your callsign in the box. If you have a password configured to access the cluster then enter that as well.

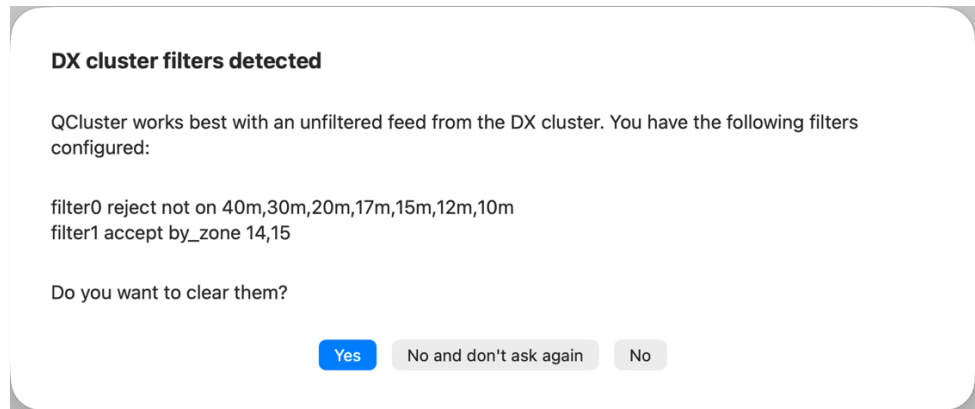
Start QCluster at login – When you log into your Mac, QCluster will start automatically.

Connecting for the first time

Click either the connect button in the centre of the screen or the Connect button towards the top right corner.

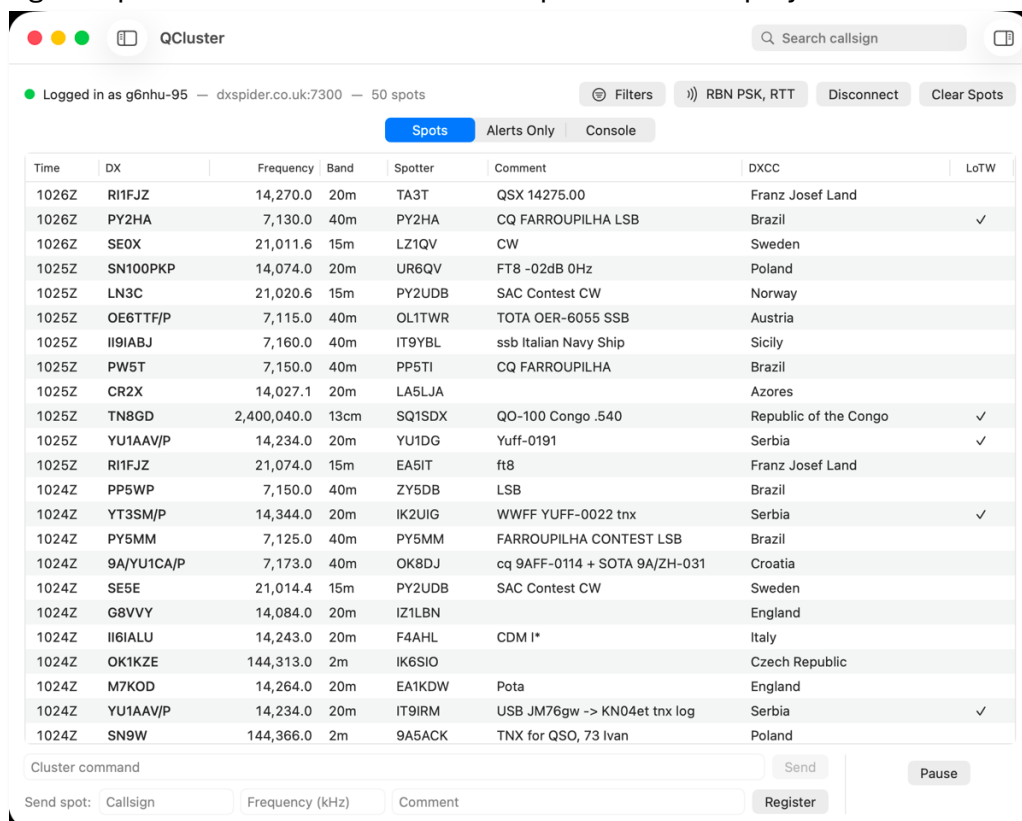
QCluster will connect and as it's the first time it's run, it will do some basic housekeeping in the background. It will query the DX Cluster node to check the RBN status, it will check to see if you're registered and it will check for the presence of any existing filters stored on the DX cluster.

If any exist, QCluster will prompt you to clear them.



It is strongly recommended that you click Yes to this. If you click No, you won't be prompted again until you relaunch QCluster, if you select No and don't ask again, you will never be prompted again, unless you manually remove and re-add the filters.

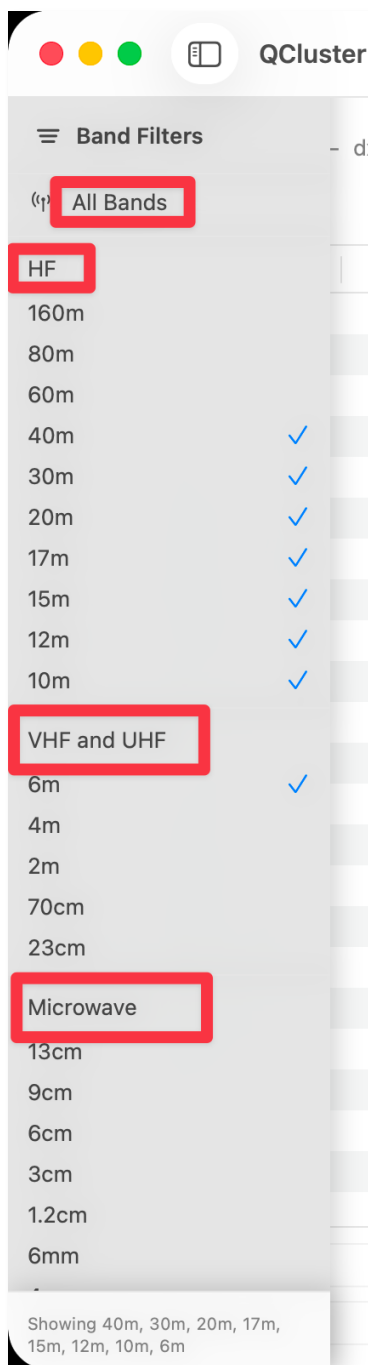
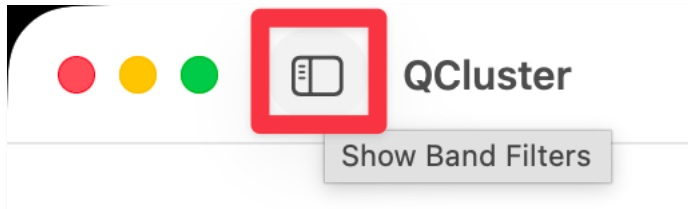
If there aren't any filters, QCluster will connect straight away and you'll be presented with the main screen showing the spot table. The most recent 50 spots will be displayed.



Band Filtering

QCluster is now showing you every spot that comes in from DC to daylight, which is probably more than you want. The first thing to do is select the bands you're interested in.

Click the sidebar button at the top left to show the band filters.



There are clickable areas within the band filter sidebar.

All Bands – clicking here will reset everything below and select all bands.

HF – Clicking here will select/deselect the HF bands.

Individual bands can be clicked for custom selections.

Here you can see that the only bands selected are 40m through to 10m and 6m.

VHF and UHF – clicking here will select/deselect the VHF and UHF bands.

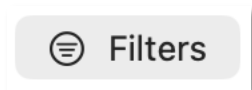
Microwave – clicking here will select/deselect the Microwave bands.

At the bottom, there's a summary of the bands selected.

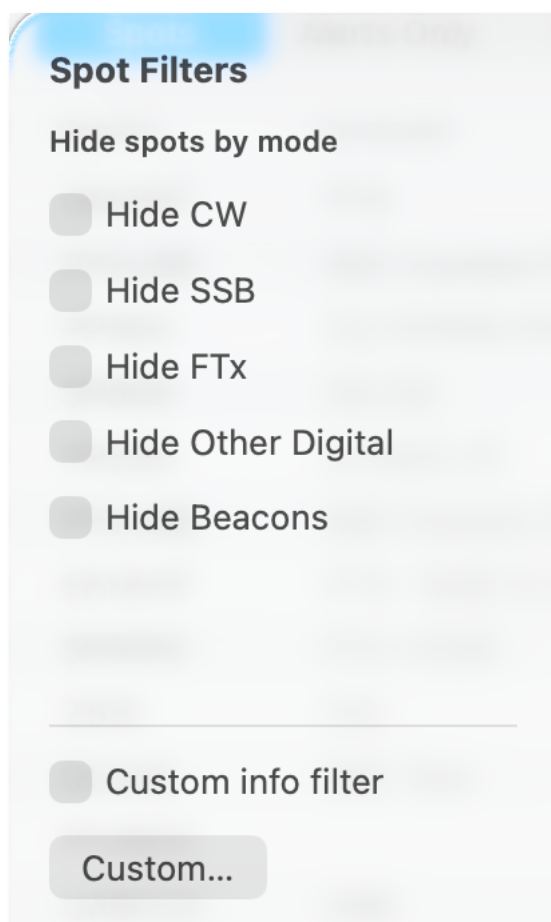
To close the Band Filter sidebar, click the button at the top of the screen again.

Mode and info filters

Click the Filters button towards the top right of the screen.



The filters box will open. To start with, we'll look at the left side.



The mode filters let you remove the types of spots you're not interested in. Tick the appropriate box to remove each mode from the spot table.

QCluster doesn't just assume the mode from the frequency; it also examines the spot comment for useful clues.

So, for example, a spot containing FT8, RTTY or PSK can be identified by what the spotter has actually said, rather than simply where it happens to fall in the band.

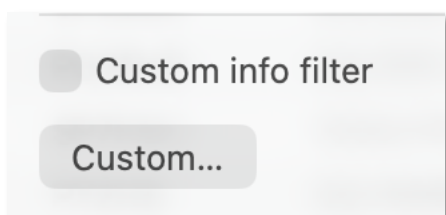
The FTx filter hides FT8, FT4 and FT2.

The Other Digital filter hides all other digital modes, SSTV, PSK, Olivia, Throb, etc.

This combination of frequency ranges and comment matching makes the filters rather more intelligent than just chopping out fixed sections of each band.

For convenience, you can click the text to Hide spots by mode and all filters will be selected, allowing you to just deselect one or more.

From here you can click the Custom... button to open the Custom info filter.



The top half of the Custom Info Filter is shown here unpopulated. You can use it to hide spots containing specific words or phrases. If, for example there's a special event station for large bananas that you're not interested in, you enter the phrase 'large banana' into the box and either hit enter, or click the Add button.

The screenshot shows the 'Custom Info Filter' window with a title bar indicating '0 entries'. It is divided into two main sections. The left section, titled 'Add a word or phrase', contains an 'Info text' label above a text input field with the placeholder 'e.g. sausage'. Below the input field is an 'Add' button. At the bottom of this section is a note: 'Add one word or phrase at a time. Matching will be case-insensitive.' The right section, titled 'Blocked words and phrases', is currently empty.

You can add as many words and phrases as you want here, the entries are not case sensitive. Here, I've added three. You can remove individual entries by clicking the bin to the right, or clear the list with the Clear All button at the bottom. You can either Cancel your edits, Save the list or Save and Enable the filter.

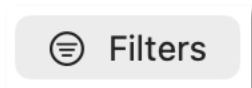
This screenshot shows the 'Custom Info Filter' window after three entries have been added, with the title bar now showing '3 entries'. The 'Add a word or phrase' section on the left remains the same. The 'Blocked words and phrases' section on the right now contains a list of three items: 'large banana', 'SES', and 'towers'. Each item has a trash icon to its right for removal. At the bottom of the window, there are four buttons: 'Clear All', 'Cancel', 'Save', and 'Save and Enable'.

When the list is enabled, the button changes to show how many phrases have been entered.

This image shows a small UI element with a checked checkbox labeled 'Custom info filter'. Below it is a button labeled 'Custom (3)...', indicating that the filter is active and contains three entries.

DX and spotter continent filters

Click the Filters button again.



In this section of the Filters window, you can select to hide the DX or the spotter based on continent.

Hide DX from	Hide spotter from
☐ Africa	☐ Africa
☐ Antarctica	☐ Antarctica
☐ Asia	☐ Asia
☐ Europe	☐ Europe
☐ North America	☐ North America
☐ Oceania	☐ Oceania
☐ South America	☐ South America

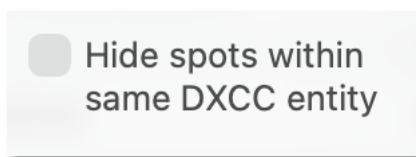
Clicking either of the two red areas will select/deselect all the continents below. You'd never leave them all selected, it's just for convenience.

For example, if you only want to see spots originating in Europe of DX in Asia and North America, you would set it like this.

Hide DX from	Hide spotter from
☒ Africa	☒ Africa
☒ Antarctica	☒ Antarctica
☐ Asia	☒ Asia
☒ Europe	☐ Europe
☐ North America	☒ North America
☒ Oceania	☒ Oceania
☒ South America	☒ South America

Same country filter

Within the Filters box is the same country filter. Click this to hide all spots made within the same country, for example French stations spotting French stations.

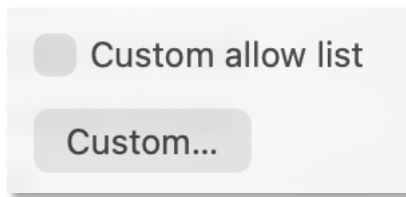


Zero frequency filter

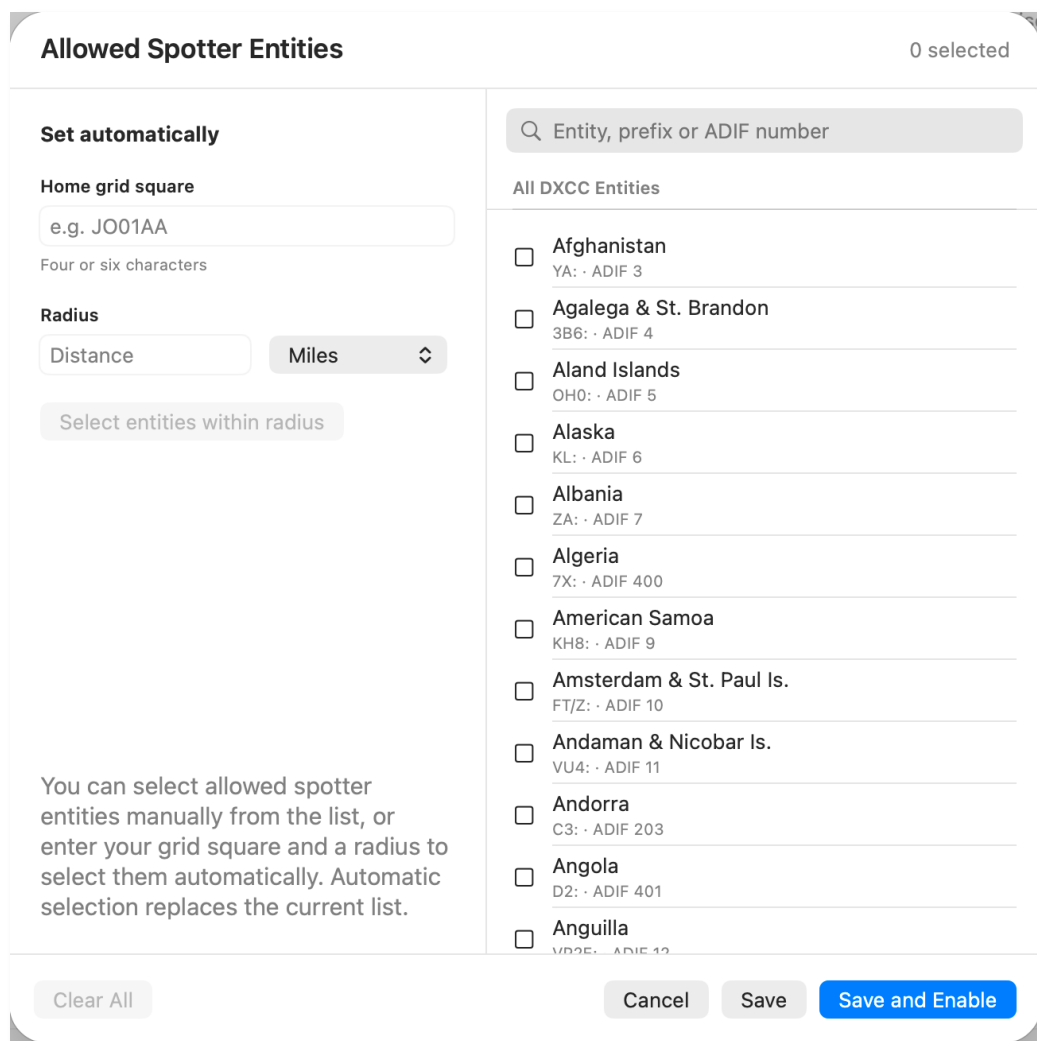
This is an internal filter. Spots made on the absolute bottom frequency of the HF bands are filtered out automatically if they contain common comments like 'test' or 'ignore'.

Custom Allow spotters list

Click the Filters button to get to this option.



This is a very powerful part of QCluster although it initially seems quite basic. Click the Custom.. button and the Allowed Spotter Entities box opens.

A screenshot of a dialog box titled 'Allowed Spotter Entities' in the top left corner. In the top right corner, it says '0 selected'. The dialog is split into two main sections. The left section is titled 'Set automatically' and contains a 'Home grid square' input field with the example 'e.g. JO01AA' and a note 'Four or six characters'. Below this is a 'Radius' section with a 'Distance' input field and a unit selector set to 'Miles'. A button labeled 'Select entities within radius' is at the bottom of this section. A paragraph of text at the bottom of the left section explains that users can select entities manually from a list or use automatic selection based on grid square and radius. The right section is titled 'All DXCC Entities' and features a search bar with the placeholder 'Entity, prefix or ADIF number'. Below the search bar is a list of countries and territories, each with a checkbox and its corresponding ADIF number: Afghanistan (YA: · ADIF 3), Agalega & St. Brandon (3B6: · ADIF 4), Aland Islands (OH0: · ADIF 5), Alaska (KL: · ADIF 6), Albania (ZA: · ADIF 7), Algeria (7X: · ADIF 400), American Samoa (KH8: · ADIF 9), Amsterdam & St. Paul Is. (FT/Z: · ADIF 10), Andaman & Nicobar Is. (VU4: · ADIF 11), Andorra (C3: · ADIF 203), Angola (D2: · ADIF 401), and Anguilla (V025: · ADIF 12). At the bottom of the dialog, there are three buttons: 'Clear All', 'Cancel', and 'Save and Enable'.

This allows you to customise the allowed spotter entities list which means that you'll only be shown spots from within those countries in the spot table.

There are two ways to use this box. Either manually search for the entities you want to allow spots from on the right side, select them all and then click Save and Enable or you can use the more advanced search.

To do this, enter your Home grid square in the box and the distance you want to search in the Radius box, being sure to select Miles or Kilometres as desired.

When you click ‘Select entities within radius’, the following happens:

QCluster takes your home grid square as the centre point and searches outwards by the distance you’ve entered. It then automatically selects every DXCC entity which has any part of its territory within that radius.

This isn’t simply a distance check against the nominal location for each country in the standard CTY file. That would give some fairly inaccurate results, particularly for large countries where the reference point may be hundreds or even thousands of miles from the nearest border.

Instead, QCluster uses its own custom made, detailed DXCC geographical data. The world is mapped against Maidenhead grid squares, with much finer six-character grid data used around borders. This means QCluster is effectively looking for the nearest part of each DXCC entity to your location.

For example, if the edge of an entity is 450 miles away but its normal CTY reference point is 700 miles away, a 500 mile search will still find it. That’s what we want, because some part of that entity really is within 500 miles of you.

The automatic search replaces anything already selected in the list, so you can experiment with different distances quite easily. Enter a new radius and click Select entities within radius again to generate a new list.

You can then review the results on the right and manually add or remove entities if you want to fine-tune them. Nothing is actually put into use until you click Save and Enable.

The result is a spotter filter based on real DXCC geography rather than simply selecting whole continents or measuring to an arbitrary point in each country.

Here you can see I’ve selected JO01OU as my centre point, entered a radius of 500 miles and clicked the button. Twenty-one entities have been automatically selected for me. Click Save and Enable when you’re happy with the results.

Allowed Spotter Entities 21 selected

Set automatically

Home grid square
JO01OU
Four or six characters

Radius
500 Miles

Select entities within radius

21 DXCC entities selected automatically.

You can select allowed spotter entities manually from the list, or enter your grid square and a radius to select them automatically. Automatic selection replaces the current list.

Entity, prefix or ADIF number

Selected DXCC Entities

- ☒ Austria
OE: · ADIF 206
- ☒ Belgium
ON: · ADIF 209
- ☒ Czech Republic
OK: · ADIF 503
- ☒ Denmark
OZ: · ADIF 221
- ☒ England
G: · ADIF 223
- ☒ Fed. Rep. of Germany
DL: · ADIF 230
- ☒ France
F: · ADIF 227
- ☒ Guernsey
GU: · ADIF 106
- ☒ Ireland
EI: · ADIF 245
- ☒ Isle of Man
GD: · ADIF 114
- ☒ Italy
I: · ADIF 248
- ☒ ITU HQ
AL: · ADIF 157

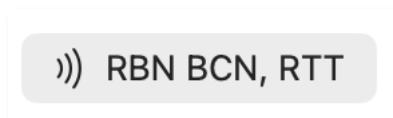
Clear All Cancel Save Save and Enable

Reverse Beacon Network (skimmer)

This is controlled entirely through the RBN button.

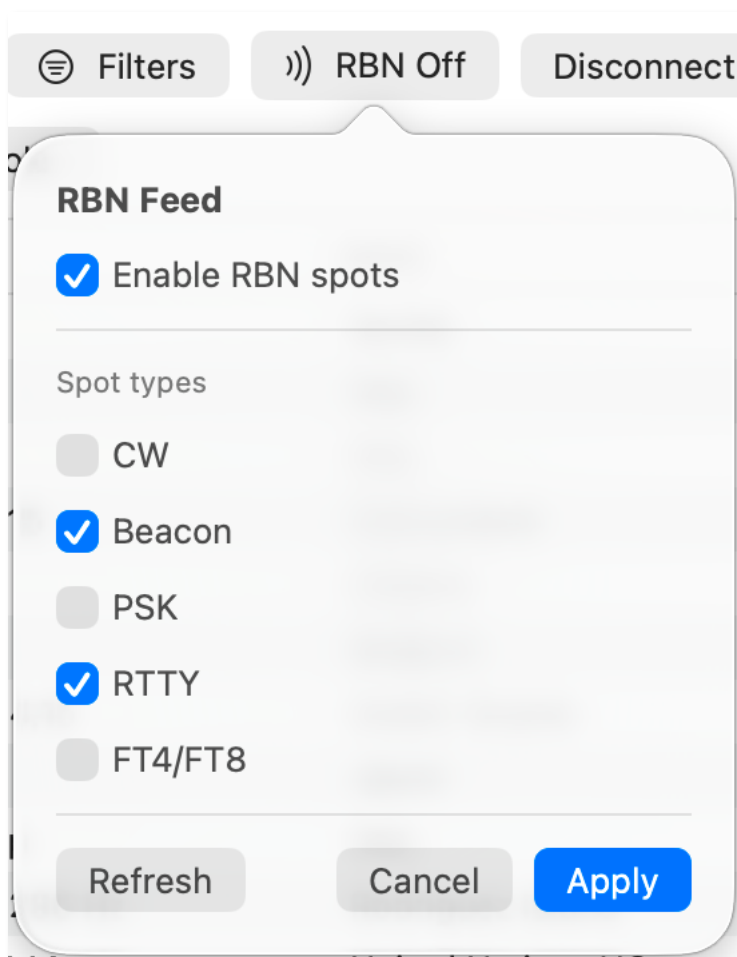
When QCluster initially connects to a DXSpider node, it sends a command to interrogate the current RBN status which is then displayed via the RBN button itself.

If the RBN is disabled, the button simply says RBN Off but if it's enabled, it indicates the current status.



Here the RBN button is showing enabled for Beacons and RTTY.

To enable the RBN, click the button, click to Enable RBN spots and then select the spot types you want below. This isn't activated until you click the Apply button.



Here you can see the RBN button has been clicked the feed enabled and Beacon and RTTY spots selected.

The button itself still shows Off because 'Apply' hasn't been clicked. QCluster has to send a command to the DXSpider to configure the RBN modes you have requested.

Clicking the 'Spot types' text will select all RBN modes.

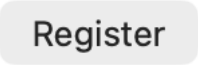
Be careful when enabling the RBN feeds, it's possible to enable the CW feed, but have the CW mode filter enabled which will override the feed and you won't see any CW spots.

The RBN button is only active when connected to DXSpider type nodes.

Registering to be able to send spots

To help protect the DX cluster network, many nodes will only allow you to upload spots if you're registered.

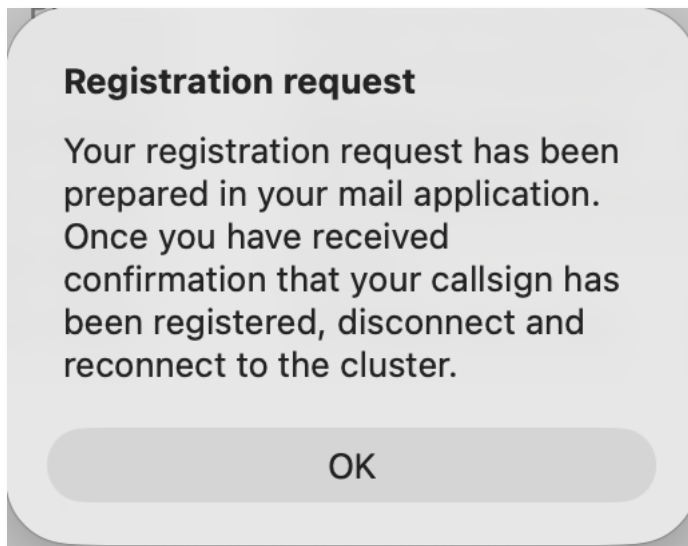
Providing you're connected to the default cluster node and haven't changed anything, QCluster will detect whether you're registered or not. If you are, the 'Send spot' button will be available, but if not, that button will change to 'Register'.



Register

When you click the Register button, three things will happen.

This will pop up.



Your email client will open a new email ready to send, to request registration. Don't change the contents of that email at all, just click to send it.

A timer will be started in the background, and every thirty minutes until the app is closed, QCluster will check your registration status. When it finds it's been registered, the button will change from Register to Send spot.

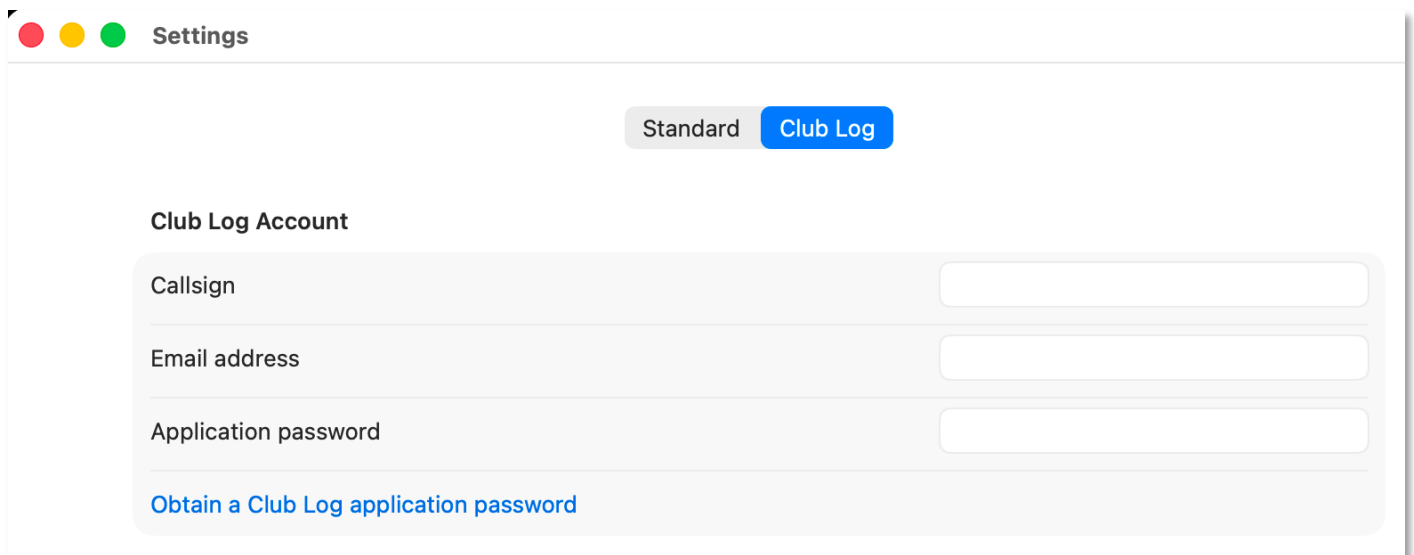
It shouldn't actually take half an hour. Your email will be received, go through an automated checking process and you'll normally get a reply within ten minutes or so. You can either wait the remainder of the thirty minutes or simply close and open QCluster.

Alerts

To get the most out of the alerts, you should ideally have a Club Log account which is up to date with your latest log book. It's not essential but it makes setting up some alerts very easy.

Enter QCluster settings, either via the cmd-, shortcut or use the Settings... option under the QCluster menu.

When you're in settings, click the Club Log section at the top.



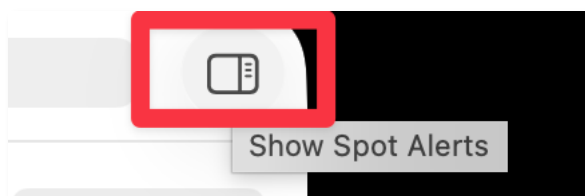
The screenshot shows a macOS-style window titled "Settings". At the top right, there are two tabs: "Standard" and "Club Log", with "Club Log" being the active tab. Below the tabs, the section is titled "Club Log Account". It contains three input fields: "Callsign", "Email address", and "Application password". Below these fields is a blue hyperlink that reads "Obtain a Club Log application password".

All three fields should be filled out. Your callsign is obvious, the email address is the email address associated with your Club Log account and the Application password is NOT your normal Club Log password. Nobody will ever ask for that.

Click the link to Obtain a Club Log application password. It will open in your internet browser and you can generate an Application Password there by clicking the 'Create a new Application Password' button at the bottom.

Once you've entered that into the QCluster setup, click the OK button at the bottom.

Now click the button at the top right corner to Show Spot Alerts.



The right sidebar will open with the Spot Alerts page.

This consists of four general alerts which can be configured manually or via Club Log.

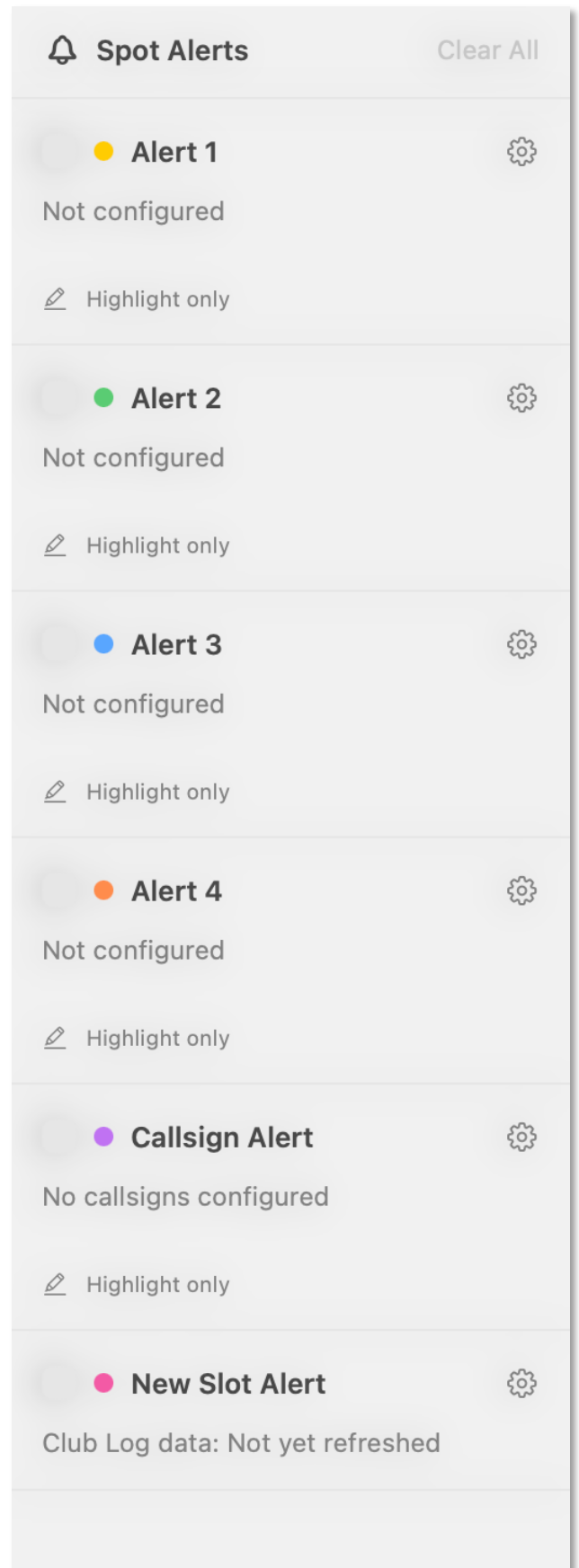
These are all configured the same way and each alert can be given a custom name.

There is also one alert for callsigns. This can be configured for just one callsign, or multiples, including wildcards.

The final alert is for New Slots and is another Club Log automatically generated alert.

Each alert has its own checkbox to enable or disable it, a title and a summary of the alert itself and the alert type that's configured.

There's a 'Clear All' selector at the top right which clears all alerts completely.



Against each alert is a cog. Click the cog to go into each individual alert.

When completing this manually, you can search for an entity in the box at the top right, highlighted in blue or you can manually scroll through the list to select as many entities as you want. As you select them, they'll be moved to the top of the list.

Then you can manually select the Bands, Modes and Actions for each alert. The red zones are all click zones where they will select/deselect everything in the group below, just as per the band filters.

Alert 1

0 selected

Bands

HF

☐ 160m
☐ 80m
☐ 60m
☐ 40m
☐ 30m
☐ 20m
☐ 17m
☐ 15m
☐ 12m
☐ 10m

VHF / UHF

☐ 6m
☐ 4m
☐ 2m
☐ 70cm
☐ 23cm

Microwave

☐ 13cm
☐ 9cm
☐ 6cm
☐ 3cm
☐ 1.2cm
☐ 6mm
☐ 4mm
☐ 2mm

No selection means any band.

Modes

☐ CW
☐ SSB (Phone)

☐ FTx
☐ Other Data

No selection means any mode.

Actions

☒ Highlight matching rows
☐ Play an alert sound
☐ Alert every matching spot
☐ Show Apple notification

Highlight colour

Apple Default

☒ Maximum once every five minutes

Entity, prefix or ADIF number

All DXCC Entities

☐ Afghanistan
YA: · ADIF 3

☐ Agalega & St. Brandon
3B6: · ADIF 4

☐ Aland Islands
OH0: · ADIF 5

☐ Alaska
KL: · ADIF 6

☐ Albania
ZA: · ADIF 7

☐ Algeria
7X: · ADIF 400

☐ American Samoa
KH8: · ADIF 9

☐ Amsterdam & St. Paul Is.
FT/Z: · ADIF 10

☐ Andaman & Nicobar Is.
VU4: · ADIF 11

☐ Andorra
C3: · ADIF 203

☐ Angola
D2: · ADIF 401

☐ Anguilla
VP2E: · ADIF 12

☐ Annobon Island
3C0: · ADIF 195

☐ Antarctica
CE9: · ADIF 13

Clear All

Club Log...

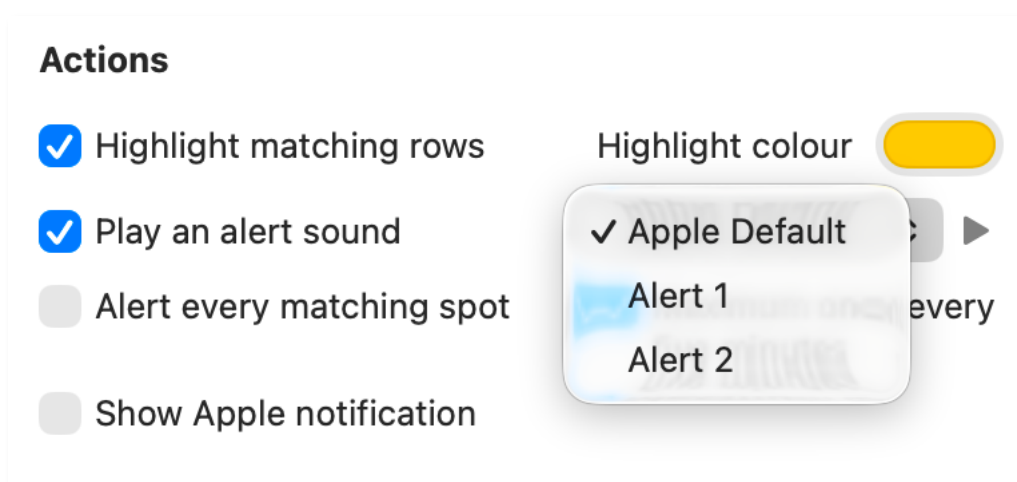
Cancel

Save

Save and Enable

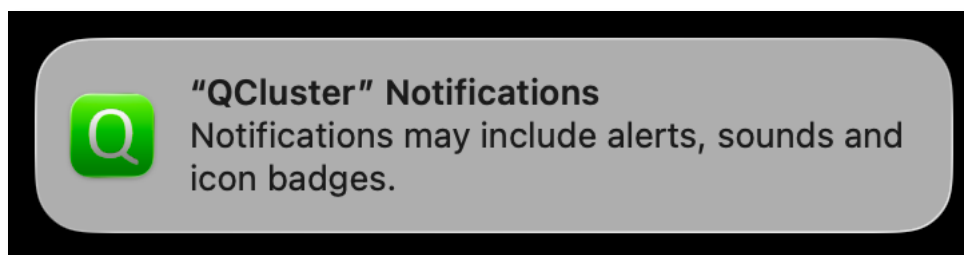
Under Actions there are multiple options. The default and simplest alert is just to highlight the spot in the spot table. You can change the colour of the highlight by clicking the colour itself which will open the macOS colour picker.

When you enable 'Play an alert sound', you have the option to use the Apple Default alert or to pick one of two custom alerts using the drop down. These are guaranteed to attract your attention more than the default beep. You can hear a sample by clicking the play button after you select each alert.

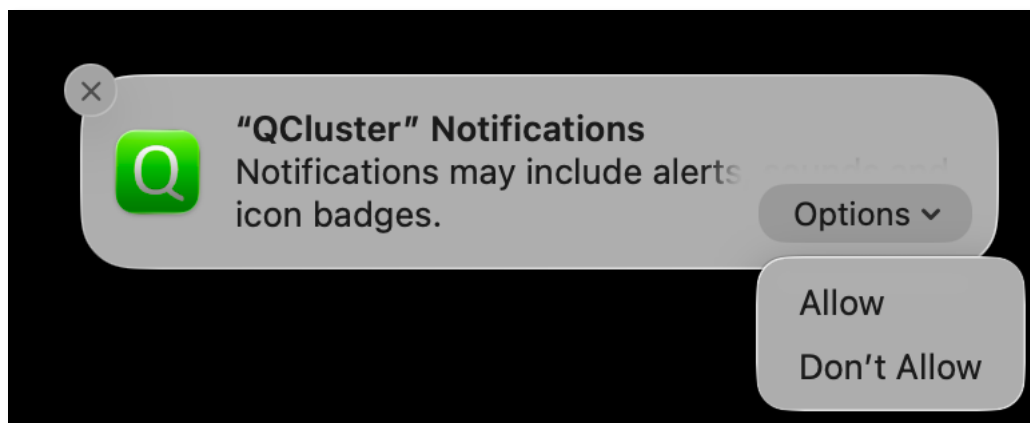


You can also configure the number of audible alerts you get, whether you're notified for every instance, or you just get one alert per five minutes.

Finally there is an option to notify via Apple notifications. The first time you select this, you'll get asked to allow the alerts.



Hover over this, select Options and then Allow.

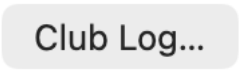


You can also click the alert name at the top of each alert to change it to something more useful than just Alert 1.

Club Log alerts

Using Club Log makes it much easier to configure alerts.

Go into an alert and click the Club Log... button at the bottom.

A rectangular button with rounded corners, light gray background, and a thin dark border. The text "Club Log..." is centered in a dark gray font.

As the window opens, you'll be shown a description of how to configure the two different types of Club Log setup which explains it quite well.

Populate from Club Log

If you do not select a DXCC entity, Club Log will be searched for all entities you have not worked or confirmed, depending on your 'Needed for' selection.

The resulting alert will apply to the Modes and Bands you select.

If you select a DXCC entity, QCluster will create an alert only for that specific entity, using the Modes and Bands you select.

The first option is a catch-all alert for all unworked or unconfirmed DXCC entities. The second creates a specific alert for the band and mode slots still needed for the entity you choose.

☐ Don't show again

OK

Make sure you understand this before you tick the 'Don't show again' box.

It sounds really complicated but it's one of those things that's easier to use than it is to describe it.

Click OK.

This is the default screen that opens on a new Club Log alert.

Populate from Club Log

All DXCC entities

Needed for

☒ Not worked

☐ Not confirmed

Mode

☒ Mixed

☐ SSB

☐ CW

☐ Data

Data enables both FTx and Other Data in the alert.

Bands

HF

☒ 160m

☒ 80m

☒ 60m

☒ 40m

☒ 30m

☒ 20m

☒ 17m

☒ 15m

☒ 12m

☒ 10m

VHF/UHF

☒ 6m

☒ 4m

☒ 2m

☒ 70cm

☒ 23cm

Microwave

☒ 13cm

If you don't select an entity, all unworked or unconfirmed entities matching the choices above will be added to the alert. If you select one entity, Club Log will populate only the unworked or unconfirmed band and mode combinations for that entity.

DXCC Entities

Entity, prefix or ADIF number

All DXCC Entities

☐ Afghanistan

YA: · ADIF 3

☐ Agalega & St. Brandon

3B6: · ADIF 4

☐ Aland Islands

OH0: · ADIF 5

☐ Alaska

KL: · ADIF 6

☐ Albania

ZA: · ADIF 7

☐ Algeria

7X: · ADIF 400

☐ American Samoa

KH8: · ADIF 9

☐ Amsterdam & St. Paul Is.

FT/Z: · ADIF 10

☐ Andaman & Nicobar Is.

VU4: · ADIF 11

☐ Andorra

C3: · ADIF 203

☐ Angola

Clear Selection

Cancel

Apply

I'm going to use this one as a catch-all, the first method described in the pop up box to automatically select any ATNOs (All Time New Ones).

I'll leave 'Needed for' as Not worked, because I want it to automatically select all DXCC entities that I've never worked.

I'll leave Mode as 'Mixed' because this is for ATNOs, I want all spots.

But I don't want all bands. I have nothing for 160m or 80m so I'll just select the bands I'm interested in. The red zones are clickable to select/deselect all.

Then I click the Apply button.

QCluster then queries the Club Log API and as you can see, it's automatically ticked the 28 DXCC entities I've not yet worked on any band or mode. True All Time New Ones.

All I had to do on this page was select the alerts that I want which are.

Highlight.

Play an alert sound (Alert 1).

Alert every matching spot.

Show Apple notification.

The bands and modes I selected on the Club Log page are already selected but you can change them here if you need to. The red zones are clickable.

New DXCCs

28 selected

Bands

HF

☐ 160m
☐ 80m
☐ 60m
☒ 40m
☒ 30m
☒ 20m
☒ 17m
☒ 15m
☒ 12m
☒ 10m

VHF / UHF

☐ 6m
☐ 4m
☐ 2m
☐ 70cm
☐ 23cm

Microwave

☐ 13cm
☐ 9cm
☐ 6cm
☐ 3cm
☐ 1.2cm
☐ 6mm
☐ 4mm
☐ 2mm

No selection means any band.

Modes

☒ CW
☒ SSB (Phone)

☒ FTx
☒ Other Data

No selection means any mode.

Actions

☒ Highlight matching rows
☒ Play an alert sound
☒ Alert every matching spot
☒ Show Apple notification

Highlight colour

Alert 1

☐ Maximum once every five minutes

Entity, prefix or ADIF number

Selected DXCC Entities

☒ Annobon Island
3C0: · ADIF 195

☒ Aves Island
YV0: · ADIF 17

☒ Baker & Howland Islands
KH1: · ADIF 20

☒ Banaba Island
T33: · ADIF 490

☒ Chesterfield Islands
FK/C: · ADIF 512

☒ DPR of Korea
P5: · ADIF 344

☒ Eritrea
E3: · ADIF 51

☒ Heard Island
VK0H: · ADIF 111

☒ Johnston Island
KH3: · ADIF 123

☒ Kerguelen Islands
FT/X: · ADIF 131

☒ Kermadec Islands
ZL8: · ADIF 133

☒ Kure Island
KH7K: · ADIF 138

☒ Macquarie Island
VK0M: · ADIF 153

☒ Mellish Reef
VK9M: · ADIF 171

☒ Midway Island

Clear All

Club Log...

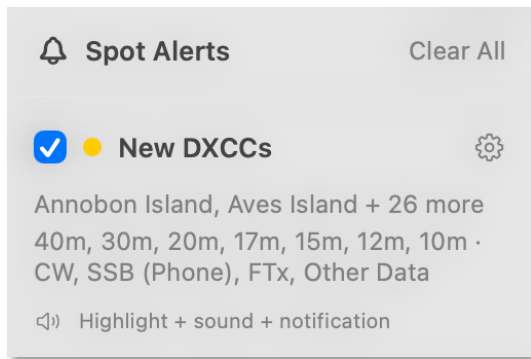
Cancel

Save

Save and Enable

I renamed the alert by clicking on 'Alert 1' at the top, then I clicked the Save and Enable button.

The alert sidebar now shows a summary of this alert, including notification methods.



Now we'll set up a single entity alert, this is used for finding new slots of specific entities. The most common use will be for DXpeditions.

At the time of writing there's a DXpedition to Franz Josef Land and it's the second of two in quick succession. I worked the first one a few times but they've not yet confirmed. I'm going to set up a 'not worked' alert on CW and data.

This time I'm doing it with Alert 2.

I go back into the alert and click on Club Log... again.

This time I've searched for Franz Josef Land in the box on the right. It appeared when I'd typed Franz, so I've selected it. I've changed Mode to be just CW and Data. Clickable zones are highlighted in red.

A screenshot of the 'Populate from Club Log' dialog box. The title bar says 'Populate from Club Log' and '1 selected'. The dialog is divided into two main sections. The left section has three sub-sections: 'Needed for' with 'Not worked' selected; 'Mode' with 'CW' and 'Data' selected; and 'Bands' with 'HF' selected. The 'Bands' section is highlighted with a red box. The right section has a search bar with 'franz' entered, a list of 'Selected DXCC Entities' with 'Franz Josef Land' selected, and a section for 'All DXCC Entities'. The 'Franz Josef Land' entry is highlighted with a red box.

Now when I click apply, it queries Club Log again and now there's a noticeable difference to the displayed alert configuration.

It shows it's a Club Log generated alert and explains that it cannot be edited directly. The only way to change it is to go back into the Club Log screen and search again, or to clear the alert entirely.

Alert 21 selected

Club Log bands and modes

These band and mode combinations were generated by Club Log and can not be edited here. Use Club Log... to update them, or use Clear All to reset this alert.

Alert type: Not worked

CW: 40m, 30m, 17m, 12m, 10m

Data: 40m, 20m, 10m

Actions

☒ Highlight matching rows

Highlight colour

Alert 2

☐ Play an alert sound

☒ Maximum once every five minutes

☐ Alert every matching spot

☐ Show Apple notification

DXCC Entity

Franz Josef Land

R1FJ: · ADIF 61

This entity was selected by Club Log and can not be edited here. Use Club Log... to change it, or use Clear All to reset this alert.

I renamed the alert and saved it and again, there's a subtle difference on the alerts sidebar.

It now specifically shows that it's a Club Log generated alert.

☒ Franz Josef Land

Franz Josef Land · Club Log · Not worked

CW: 40m, 30m, 17m, 12m, 10m · Data: 40m, 20m, 10m

Highlight + sound + notification

Callsign alerts

The penultimate alert in the alerts sidebar is for callsigns.

Callsign Alert

0 callsigns

Bands

HF

☐ 160m

☐ 80m

☐ 60m

☐ 40m

☐ 30m

☐ 20m

☐ 17m

☐ 15m

☐ 12m

☐ 10m

VHF / UHF

☐ 6m

☐ 4m

☐ 2m

☐ 70cm

☐ 23cm

Microwave

☐ 13cm

☐ 9cm

☐ 6cm

☐ 3cm

☐ 1.2cm

☐ 6mm

☐ 4mm

☐ 2mm

No selection means any band.

Modes

☐ CW

☐ SSB (Phone)

☐ FTx

☐ Other Data

No selection means any mode.

Actions

☒ Highlight matching rows

Highlight colour

☐ Play an alert sound

Apple Default

☐ Alert every matching spot

☒ Maximum once every five minutes

☐ Show Apple notification

Callsign

Add

No Callsigns

Enter a callsign above. A base callsign also matches portable suffixes. End an entry with * to match the prefix before the first slash.

Clear All

Cancel

Save

Save and Enable

The usual red areas are clickable to select/deselect everything below them.

Multiple callsigns or partial callsigns can be entered, use * as a wildcard.

Below you can see, I've set up an alert for all G7 callsigns, all KB3 callsigns and W1AW on all HF bands, SSB only and with just a highlight notification.

Callsign Alert

3 callsigns

Bands

- | HF | VHF / UHF | Microwave |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ☐ 160m | ☐ 6m | ☐ 13cm |
| ☐ 80m | ☐ 4m | ☐ 9cm |
| ☐ 60m | ☐ 2m | ☐ 6cm |
| ☒ 40m | ☐ 70cm | ☐ 3cm |
| ☒ 30m | ☐ 23cm | ☐ 1.2cm |
| ☒ 20m | | ☐ 6mm |
| ☒ 17m | | ☐ 4mm |
| ☒ 15m | | ☐ 2mm |
| ☒ 12m | | |
| ☒ 10m | | |

No selection means any band.

Modes

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| ☐ CW | ☐ FTx |
| ☒ SSB (Phone) | ☐ Other Data |

No selection means any mode.

Actions

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☒ Highlight matching rows | Highlight colour <input type="text" value="Purple"/> |
| ☐ Play an alert sound | <input type="text" value="Apple Default"/> ▶ |
| ☐ Alert every matching spot | ☒ Maximum once every five minutes |
| ☐ Show Apple notification | |

Add

Alert Callsigns

- | | |
|------|--|
| G7* | |
| KB3* | |
| W1AW | |

Clear All

Cancel

Save

Save and Enable

The alert sidebar shows an appropriate preview.

☒ **Callsign Alert**

G7*, KB3*, W1AW
40m, 30m, 20m, 17m, 15m, 12m, 10m ·
SSB (Phone)

Highlight only

New Slots Alert

The final alert is for New Slots and can only be populated via Club Log.

When you first go into it, it will appear unconfigured.

The screenshot shows a window titled "New Slot Alert" with a "Summary" tab. A message states: "This alert has not yet been populated from Club Log. Use Club Log... below to configure it." At the bottom, there are three buttons: "Club Log...", "Cancel", and "Save and Enable".

Click the Club Log... button in the bottom left corner and the configuration screen will open

The screenshot shows the "New Slot Alert" configuration window with the "Club Log data: Not yet refreshed" status. The window is divided into several sections:

- Needed for:** Radio buttons for "Not worked" (selected) and "Not confirmed".
- Mode:** Radio buttons for "Mixed" (selected), "SSB", "CW", and "Data". A note below states: "Data enables both FTx and Other Data in the alert."
- Bands:** A section with a red box around the "Bands" header. It includes a sub-section "HF" with a red box around its header, containing checkboxes for 160m, 80m, 60m, 40m, 30m, 20m, 17m, 15m, 12m, and 10m. Below this is a "VHF/UHF" section with a red box around its header, containing checkboxes for 6m, 4m, 2m, 70cm, and 23cm. At the bottom is a "Microwave" section with a red box around its header, containing a checkbox for 13cm.
- Actions:** Checkboxes for "Highlight matching rows" (selected), "Play an alert sound", "Alert every matching spot", and "Show Apple notification". To the right, there is a "Highlight colour" picker set to pink, a dropdown menu set to "Apple Default", and a checked checkbox for "Maximum once every five minutes".

At the bottom of the window are buttons for "Reset", "Refresh", "Cancel", and "Apply".

The usual red areas are clickable to select/deselect everything below them.

You'll notice there's nowhere to enter any DXCC entities here, this is because the configuration for this alert is entirely pulled through from Club Log.

Select the bands and modes you are interested in being alerted for.

When you click Apply the following happens.

QCluster pulls your entire DXCC database from Club Log and checks every entity for the bands and modes you need, depending on your setting of Not Worked or Not Confirmed.

It then adds every single unworked or unconfirmed entity as a custom alert, again depending on bands and modes you've selected.

For example, if you've not worked South Africa on 10m data or 20m SSB, QCluster will alert you.

If you've not worked Tunisia on 20m data, QCluster will alert you.

If you've not worked Poland on 30m CW, QCluster will alert you.

Here's how I have that screen configured. I want to be alerted for new slots on 40m through to 10m on CW and Data.

New Slot Alert

Club Log data: Not yet refreshed

Needed for

☒ Not worked

☐ Not confirmed

Mode

☐ Mixed☐ SSB

☒ CW☒ Data

Data enables both FTx and Other Data in the alert.

Bands

HF

☐ 160m☐ 80m☐ 60m☒ 40m☒ 30m

☒ 20m☒ 17m☒ 15m☒ 12m☒ 10m

VHF/UHF

☐ 6m☐ 4m☐ 2m☐ 70cm☐ 23cm

Microwave

☐ 13cm

Actions

☒ Highlight matching rows

Highlight colour

☐ Play an alert sound

Apple Default

☐ Alert every matching spot

☒ Maximum once every five minutes

☐ Show Apple notification

Reset

Refresh

Cancel

Apply

When I click the Apply button, I'm shown the summary.

This shows me the alert is for entities I've not worked. It confirms the modes and bands I've selected and the actions. It also shows me when the Club Log data was last refreshed and how many actual entities and slots have alerts set against them.

New Slot Alert

Summary

This alert is populated from Club Log and cannot be changed directly. Use Club Log... below to change the needed status, modes, bands or actions.

Needed for

Not worked

Mode

CW, Data

Bands

40m, 30m, 20m, 17m, 15m, 12m, 10m

Actions

Highlight

Club Log data

Club Log data last refreshed: 24 Sep 2026 at 15:25

337 entities · 2,896 slots needed

Club Log...

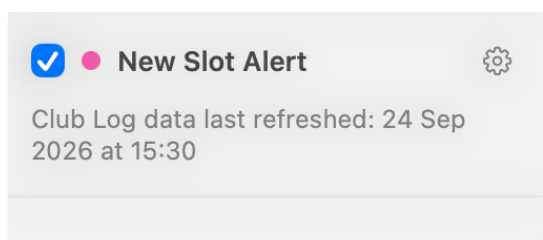
Cancel

Save

Save and Enable

The final step is to click the Save and Enable button which returns to the alert sidebar.

The alert shows enabled and when the Club Log data was last refreshed.



Club Log data is refreshed automatically when QCluster is launched and if the New Slots alert is configured, it will automatically refresh every ninety minutes. The Club Log API data is cached for sixty minutes so there's no point in forcing an update more often, although you can do this if you wish via the Refresh button on the alert configuration page.

Here's how it works in practice.

I don't have Tunisia on 20m data so it's highlighted here on RTTY through the RBN feed.

QCluster

Logged in as ge6nhu-22 — dxspider.co.uk:7300 — 256 of 774 spots

Filters RBN PSK, RTT Disconnect Clear Spots

Spots Alerts Only Console

Time	DX	Frequency	Band	Spotter	Comment	DXCC	LoTW
1114Z	3V8LL	21,093.0	15m	GI4DOH-#	RTT 17dB Q:5+ Z:14,16	Tunisia	✓
1113Z	JR1GSE	21,074.0	15m	2E0OEW	FT8 73 THX	Japan	✓
1112Z	3V8LL	14,086.2	20m	G4ZFE-#	RTT 30dB Q:7+ Z:14	Tunisia	✓
1112Z	OM1CI	14,084.0	20m	PD2WL	FT2 Decodium	Slovak Republic	✓
1112Z	JA7QOA	14,074.0	20m	G0DYW	IO91QV<->QM08 CQ-10db, tksGI	Japan	✓
1111Z	VE9GC	14,074.0	20m	F4IAM	FT8 -03dB from FN76 506Hz	Canada	✓
1111Z	KH8WW	10,136.0	30m	LB9RE	TU, FT8, 73!	American Samoa	✓
1110Z	EA1AER/P	14,062.1	20m	EI3HA	EA1/LE-023	Spain	✓
1109Z	IU1PZC	10,112.0	30m	IU1PZC	CW cq cw	Italy	✓
1108Z	JG1OUT	21,280.0	15m	DL6DAC	73	Japan	✓
1107Z	FK8GM	21,267.0	15m	G0WCK		New Caledonia	✓
1107Z	EA3HIG	14,040.0	20m	EI3HA	EA3/GI-039	Spain	✓
1106Z	RL3FM	21,021.0	15m	M0CVO		European Russia	✓
1106Z	JA2MWP	21,073.5	15m	G4VSS	FT8 IO83qj -> PM85	Japan	✓
1105Z	M7KOD	14,274.0	20m	M7KOD	POTA GB-1012 BEAM USA AND CANA	England	✓
1103Z	FK8GM	21,267.0	15m	F4UJU	IOTA OC-032	New Caledonia	✓
1103Z	7Z1DH	21,267.0	15m	F4UJU	USB JN06ij -> LL24fn	Saudi Arabia	✓
1102Z	3V8LL	14,086.2	20m	G4ZFE-#	RTT 23dB Q:7+ Z:14	Tunisia	✓
1102Z	DL6CMF	7,074.0	40m	IW6DGJ	73 Tnx FT8	Fed. Rep. of Germany	✓
1059Z	E77SR	14,048.0	20m	F4CYH		Bosnia-Herzegovina	✓
1059Z	RN0JJ	21,074.0	15m	DL4MFF	JN57IW<->PN49RT tnx ft8	Asiatic Russia	✓
1059Z	RM3F	21,094.0	15m	G4ZFE-#	RTT 18dB Q:4 Z:14,15	European Russia	✓
1058Z	EY8BL	28,074.0	10m	DF9CY	JO54AL<->MM48JN	Tajikistan	✓

Cluster command Send

Send spot: Callsign Frequency (kHz) Comment Send Spot Pause

I worked them and uploaded my log to Club Log.

It just so happened that a few minutes later, the 90 minute refresh happened and QCluster changed. I didn't touch it.

QCluster

Logged in as ge6nhu-22 — dxspider.co.uk:7300 — 259 of 792 spots

Filters RBN PSK, RTT Disconnect Clear Spots

Spots Alerts Only Console

Time	DX	Frequency	Band	Spotter	Comment	DXCC	LoTW
1118Z	JH1GEX	21,260.0	15m	IU4LDD	USB JN54es -> PM95ik	Japan	✓
1117Z	7L1WII	21,030.0	15m	G5ACF	CQ CWU	Japan	✓
1115Z	3Z100PKP	14,029.0	20m	ON3VS	CW	Poland	✓
1114Z	3V8LL	21,093.0	15m	GI4DOH-#	RTT 17dB Q:5+ Z:14,16	Tunisia	✓
1113Z	JR1GSE	21,074.0	15m	2E0OEW	FT8 73 THX	Japan	✓
1112Z	3V8LL	14,086.2	20m	G4ZFE-#	RTT 30dB Q:7+ Z:14	Tunisia	✓
1112Z	OM1CI	14,084.0	20m	PD2WL	FT2 Decodium	Slovak Republic	✓
1112Z	JA7QOA	14,074.0	20m	G0DYW	IO91QV<->QM08 CQ-10db, tksGI	Japan	✓
1111Z	VE9GC	14,074.0	20m	F4IAM	FT8 -03dB from FN76 506Hz	Canada	✓
1111Z	KH8WW	10,136.0	30m	LB9RE	TU, FT8, 73!	American Samoa	✓
1110Z	EA1AER/P	14,062.1	20m	EI3HA	EA1/LE-023	Spain	✓
1109Z	IU1PZC	10,112.0	30m	IU1PZC	CW cq cw	Italy	✓
1108Z	JG1OUT	21,280.0	15m	DL6DAC	73	Japan	✓
1107Z	FK8GM	21,267.0	15m	G0WCK		New Caledonia	✓
1107Z	EA3HIG	14,040.0	20m	EI3HA	EA3/GI-039	Spain	✓
1106Z	RL3FM	21,021.0	15m	M0CVO		European Russia	✓
1106Z	JA2MWP	21,073.5	15m	G4VSS	FT8 IO83qj -> PM85	Japan	✓
1105Z	M7KOD	14,274.0	20m	M7KOD	POTA GB-1012 BEAM USA AND CANA	England	✓
1103Z	FK8GM	21,267.0	15m	F4UJU	IOTA OC-032	New Caledonia	✓
1103Z	7Z1DH	21,267.0	15m	F4UJU	USB JN06ij -> LL24fn	Saudi Arabia	✓
1102Z	3V8LL	14,086.2	20m	G4ZFE-#	RTT 23dB Q:7+ Z:14	Tunisia	✓
1102Z	DL6CMF	7,074.0	40m	IW6DGJ	73 Tnx FT8	Fed. Rep. of Germany	✓
1059Z	E77SR	14,048.0	20m	F4CYH		Bosnia-Herzegovina	✓

Cluster command Send

Send spot: Callsign Frequency (kHz) Comment Send Spot Pause

The Alerts Only view

Click the Alerts Only button in the centre of the display and it switches to show only alerts. This is useful if you've been away from your computer for a while and don't have sounds or Apple notifications enabled.

Spots Alerts Only Console							
Time	DX	Frequency	Band	Spotter	Comment	DXCC	LoTW
1319Z	RI1FJZ	18,085.0	17m	F5SIH	Up nice sig	Franz Josef Land	

Callsign Search

Start typing anything into the Callsign Search box in the top right and the spot table will live filter the display to only show what you're searching for.

For example, I've entered CT2 in the box and it's only showing me stations in Portugal.

QCluster

CT2

Logged in as

dxspider.co.uk:7300

494 of 2054 spots

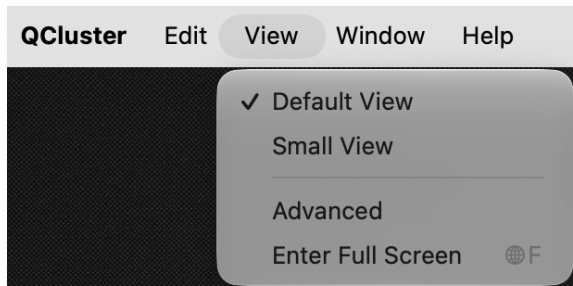
Filters

RBN Off

Spots Alerts Only Console							
Time	DX	Frequency	Band	Spotter	Comment	DXCC	
1357Z	CT2KNS/P	18,132.0	17m	IZ8WGR		Portugal	
1353Z	CT2KNS/P	18,132.0	17m	F5IDJ	cq pota	Portugal	
1337Z	CT2KNS	18,132.0	17m	G1JSP	POTA	Portugal	
1050Z	CT2KCK	14,071.5	20m	ON4EDG	PSK 599 JO20hx<>IM59ig	Portugal	

Two different views

As well as being able to manually resize QClusters window, and resize and rearrange the columns, it has two pre-configured views which can be selected via the View menu.



Default view – This is QClusters ‘Default View’.

A screenshot of the QCluster application window. At the top, there's a search bar labeled 'Search callsign'. Below it, a status bar shows 'Logged in as dxspider.co.uk:7300' and '71 of 294 spots'. There are buttons for 'Filters', 'RBN PSK, RTT', 'Disconnect', and 'Clear Spots'. Below the status bar, there are tabs for 'Spots' (selected), 'Alerts Only', and 'Console'. The main area is a table with columns: Time, DX, Frequency, Band, Spotter, Comment, DXCC, and LoTW. The table contains 25 rows of spot data. At the bottom, there's a 'Cluster command' input field with a 'Send' button, and a 'Send spot' section with fields for 'Callsign', 'Frequency (kHz)', and 'Comment', each with a 'Send Spot' button. A 'Pause' button is also present.

Time	DX	Frequency	Band	Spotter	Comment	DXCC	LoTW
1534Z	OE3JLY	14,303.0	20m	2I0EVH	many thanks 73s Alan	Austria	
1534Z	TN8GD	21,225.0	15m	G7PNF	up 10 tnx	Republic of the Congo	✓
1534Z	I18IHBC	10,136.0	30m	IU8HEP	FT8 Italian Navy Ship	Italy	
1534Z	DB70DLRS	18,075.0	17m	DF0DA	SES	Fed. Rep. of Germany	✓
1533Z	EA8FO	14,109.5	20m	G4ZFE-#	RTT 16dB Q:2 Z:3,14	Canary Islands	✓
1532Z	I17IAME	14,074.0	20m	IU7KEG	Italian Navy Ship FT8	Italy	
1532Z	TA2ED	18,100.0	17m	IW2HWN		Asiatic Turkey	✓
1532Z	I18IHBC	21,140.0	15m	IU8NKW	Italian Navy Ship ft4	Italy	
1532Z	I19IABJ	7,068.0	40m	IT9JOB	Italian Navy Ship SSB	Sicily	
1531Z	KF4CCG	21,074.0	15m	IU6HWW	FT8 -17 dB 2503 Hz	United States	✓
1530Z	Z81Q	14,027.0	20m	HB9DOZ	Alex up 1	Republic of South Sudan	✓
1529Z	HB3YOR	21,250.0	15m	HB3YOR	Calling CQ	Switzerland	✓
1529Z	KW7Q	18,081.0	17m	F6IIE	CW	United States	✓
1529Z	UA3IDQ	14,074.0	20m	IW2HWN		European Russia	
1529Z	IU6TZS	7,116.0	40m	IU3UMA	CDM I*	Italy	✓
1528Z	W5LO	21,303.0	15m	G7PNF	Tnx	United States	✓
1528Z	3B9FR	21,074.0	15m	IU6HWW	FT8 -16 dB 2183 Hz	Rodriguez Island	✓
1528Z	C91RU	24,916.3	12m	IK7JNM	CQ FT8 (tnx)	Mozambique	✓
1527Z	M0ICK/P	7,133.0	40m	M16LFU		England	
1527Z	I17IABB	14,080.0	20m	IZ7PDF	Italian Navy Ship FT4	Italy	
1527Z	DR800WE	7,172.5	40m	ON3UI		Fed. Rep. of Germany	✓
1525Z	W5LO	21,303.0	15m	ON4CHG	Tnx4ContactBob. 73fmBelgium. G	United States	✓
1525Z	DL/HB9BIN/P	7,024.0	40m	OV5O	TU 73 44	Fed. Rep. of Germany	✓
1525Z	LZ3CB	14,074.0	20m	IW2HWN		Bulgaria	✓
1525Z	I14PAGE	7,074.0	40m	IK4UXA	IU4PPL A LOG 73\I\ AWARD MARC	Italy	

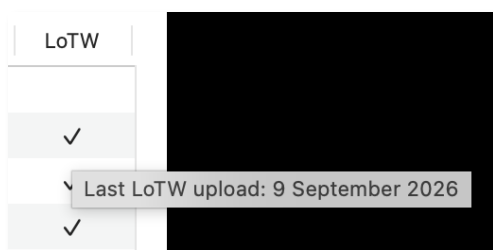
This is QClusters 'Small View'

Time	DX	Frequency	Band	Spotter	Comment	DXCC	LoTW
1534Z	OE3JLY	14,303.0	20m	2I0EVH	many thanks 73s Alan	Austria	
1534Z	TN8GD	21,225.0	15m	G7PNF	up 10 tnx	Republic of the Congo	✓
1534Z	I18IHBC	10,136.0	30m	IU8HEP	FT8 Italian Navy Ship	Italy	
1534Z	DB70DLRS	18,075.0	17m	DF0DA	SES	Fed. Rep. of Germany	✓
1533Z	EA8FO	14,109.5	20m	G4ZFE-#	RTT 16dB Q:2 Z:3,14	Canary Islands	✓
1532Z	I17IAME	14,074.0	20m	IU7KEG	Italian Navy Ship FT8	Italy	
1532Z	TA2ED	18,100.0	17m	IW2HWN		Asiatic Turkey	✓
1532Z	I18IHBC	21,140.0	15m	IU8NKW	Italian Navy Ship ft4	Italy	
1532Z	I19IABJ	7,068.0	40m	IT9JOB	Italian Navy Ship SSB	Sicily	
1531Z	KF4CCG	21,074.0	15m	IU6HWW	FT8 -17 dB 2503 Hz	United States	✓

The text in the spot table is reduced in size, the columns are automatically resized narrower and the overall window is reduced.

Logbook of The World

The LoTW column in the spot table shows whether a DX station has uploaded to LoTW within the last year by displaying a tick. If you hover over the tick, it shows the exact date of the last upload.



If you click on the LoTW column heading, QCluster hides stations who haven't uploaded to LoTW in the last year. This is indicated by a tick in the header itself.



UTC or local time

By default, QCluster shows times in UTC as indicated by a z following the time.

Time
1547Z
1547Z
1546Z
1546Z
1545Z

By clicking the Time column heading, you can switch to local time which is indicated by removing the z.

Time
1147
1147
1146
1146
1145

QRZ lookup

Double clicking either DX or spotter callsign opens their entry at qrz.com

Sending a DX spot

At the bottom of the main window are two rows, one for Cluster commands and one to send a spot. When you've added a callsign and a frequency, the Send Spot button will become available.

Cluster command			Send	
Send spot:	Callsign	Frequency (kHz)	Comment	Send Spot

Cluster commands are sent directly to the DX cluster node and the response will be shown in the Console view (not pictured).

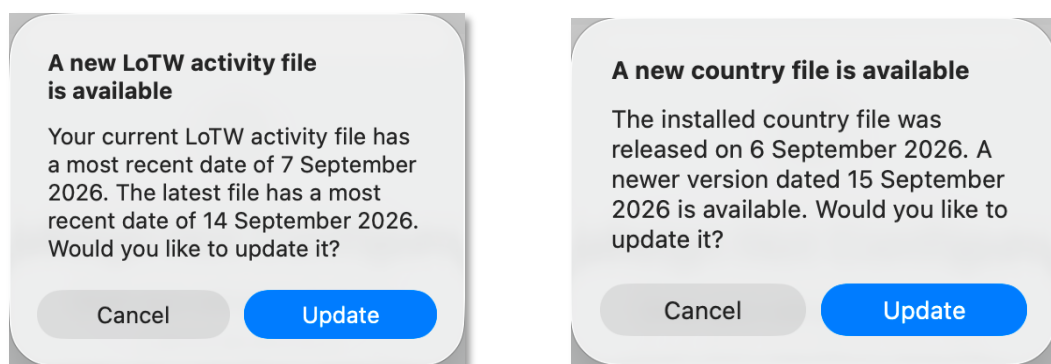
Included databases

QCluster uses two updatable databases, both are included with QCluster and both can be automatically or manually updated.

The Country Files database is provided by Jim Reisert AD1C and the updates are regular, but not scheduled. This database is the most important, QCluster uses it for every incoming spot to display the DXCC entity.

The second is the Logbook of the World user activity database. This is provided by the ARRL and is typically updated weekly.

When QCluster starts, it checks the installed version of these files and will prompt to update each one if they're found to newer than the currently installed versions.



Selecting Cancel to either of these will pause prompts for the current session only. The next time you open QCluster, it will prompt you again because it's important that both these files are kept up to date.

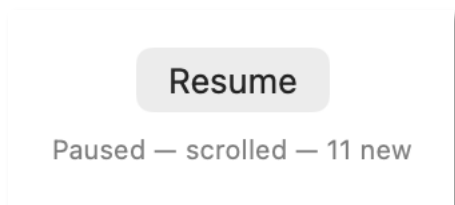
The country file is more important than the LoTW activity file so in the background, providing you didn't select Cancel, QCluster will periodically check for updates. The LoTW check is only done at launch.

If you want to see what versions you have installed, they're shown at the bottom of the Settings page where you can manually check for updates or even switch back to the version which was included with QCluster.

Data Files	
Country File Bundled — release 2026.09.15.00 <button>Update CTY_WT.DAT</button>	LoTW User Activity Bundled — 235,503 callsigns Latest activity 14 Sep 2026 <button>Update LoTW Activity</button>

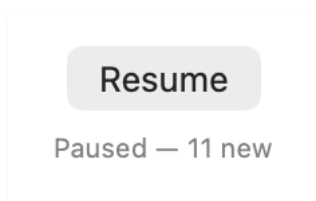
Pausing the spot table

There are two ways to pause the spot table, automatically or manually. When you scroll down, it will automatically be paused and this will be indicated at the bottom right of the main display. The Pause button will change to Resume and below, it will indicate that it's paused because you scrolled and tell you how many new spots have come in since you scrolled away.



Spots aren't lost when the display is paused, they're buffered and will display automatically when you scroll back to the top.

Manual scrolling is done by clicking the Pause button. In this case, scrolling back to the top does not cause the spot table to resume, you must click the Resume button.



Telnet and UDP server

These are available through the Settings menu.

Local Telnet Server	UDP Feed
☒ Enable local server	☒ Enable UDP feed
Port 7300	Destination 127.0.0.1 Port 7301
	Send ☒ Everything ☐ Alerts

QCluster can provide the received DX spots to other applications through a local Telnet server. Enable the server and select the port to use; the default is 7300. Applications can then connect to QCluster as they would to a normal DX cluster feed.

QCluster can also send spots to other applications or devices using UDP. Enter the destination address and port; the defaults are 127.0.0.1 and 7301 for software running on the same Mac. Select Everything to send all spots which pass QCluster's filters, or Alerts to send only spots which trigger any of your enabled alerts. The UDP output uses the original DX de ... spot format.

Automatic reconnection and the Backup Cluster

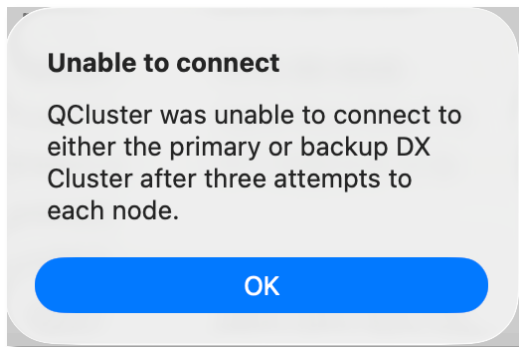
These options are both enabled by default.

QCluster uses multiple techniques to detect when a connection to the DX cluster has failed or stalled. In reality, both the Primary and Backup clusters have been chosen because of their reliability and connectivity.

If the connection to the Primary node drops, QCluster will attempt to reconnect a number of times. QCluster can also detect if the TCP link has stalled, gone stale, or simply decided to stop working.

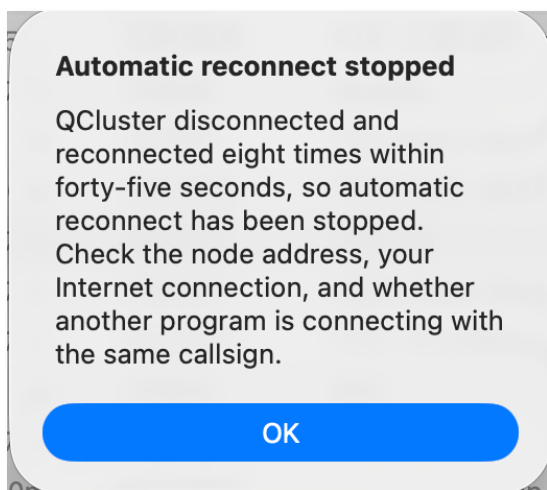
Three reconnection attempts are made. If the connection can't be established, it will switch to the Backup Cluster. Once it connects, it will then ensure that the RBN status of the Backup is identical to the Primary. In the background, QCluster will quietly attempt to reconnect to the Primary and if the link comes back again, it will seamlessly switch over without any interruption.

If both the Primary and Backup are unavailable, QCluster will tell you. If this happens, it's most likely an internet connectivity issue at the client end, rather than both clusters being down.



QCluster detects when the Mac goes to sleep. It will log out from the DX cluster cleanly and log back in again when the Mac wakes up.

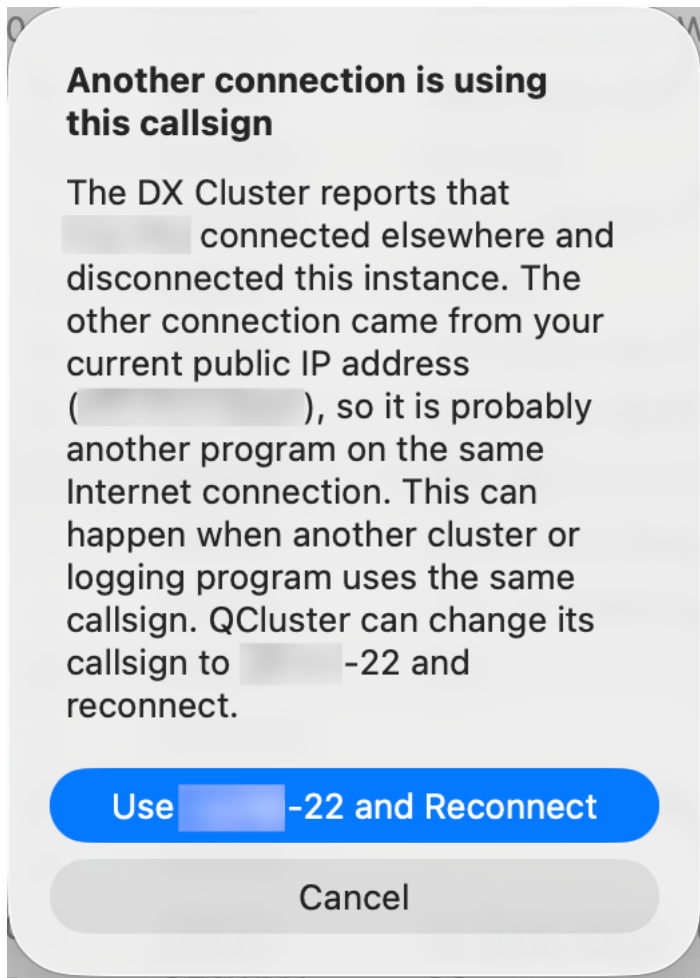
QCluster will also detect if the connection starts bouncing. If the link drops and is remade eight times in forty-five seconds, reconnection attempts will stop.



DX cluster nodes only allow one connection per callsign. If you are connected to the network with QCluster and you have some other software, perhaps logging software, or contest software that connects to the same node, with the same callsign then each piece of software will bump the connection to the other software off.

Often this simply happens in the background with no notification and the connect / bump / disconnect / reconnect loop can continue indefinitely.

QCluster detects this. If another connection is made to the server with the same callsign from the same external IP address, rather than get into the bump / reconnect loop, it will tell you exactly what's happened and offer a solution.

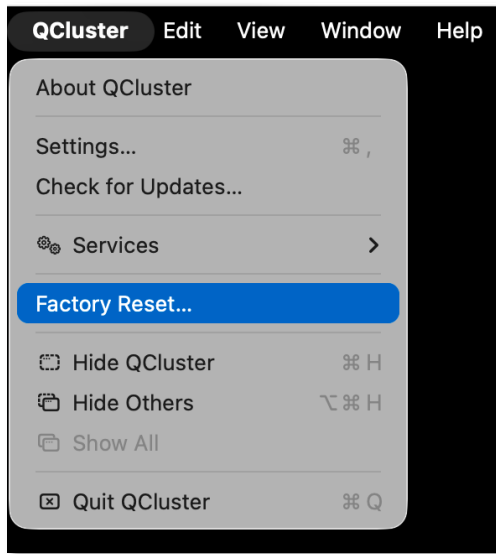


Contact the Author

Under the Help entry in the menu, there's an option to Contact the Author which will open a pre-addressed email in your default mail client with the subject filled in with your QCluster version number.

Factory Reset

Under the QCluster menu, there's an option to Factory Reset QCluster...



If you select that, you will get a final warning. Click Factory Reset to continue. Everything will be cleared and QCluster will quit.



System Requirements

An Apple Mac computer running macOS Sonoma or later.

Intel or Apple Silicon CPU.

An internet connection.

A Club Log account (optional, but recommended for custom alerts).

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