VARAC

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Areas of Interest

- What is VarAC?
- Software required
- Hardware required
- Vara-HF settings
- VarAC settings
- Operational Choices
- Operational Choices while in QSO
- Other Features
- Further Assistance

What is VarAC?

- A newer digital mode that allows for keyboard conversations even in weak or low band conditions, typically over HF
- If you remember the old Packet Radio days of the 80's, you may find this similar
- The ability to chat, leave messages, transfer files, check signal reports, and see what stations others have heard recently

Software Required

- If you use WinLink on HF today, you already have half of the software now

- Vara-HF by EA5HVK
  - Vara v4.6.4 is the latest version
  - https://rosmodem.wordpress.com/

- VarAC by 4Z1AC
  - VarAC v6.0.8, NEW updates frequently
  - https://www.varac-hamradio.com/

Installation Note

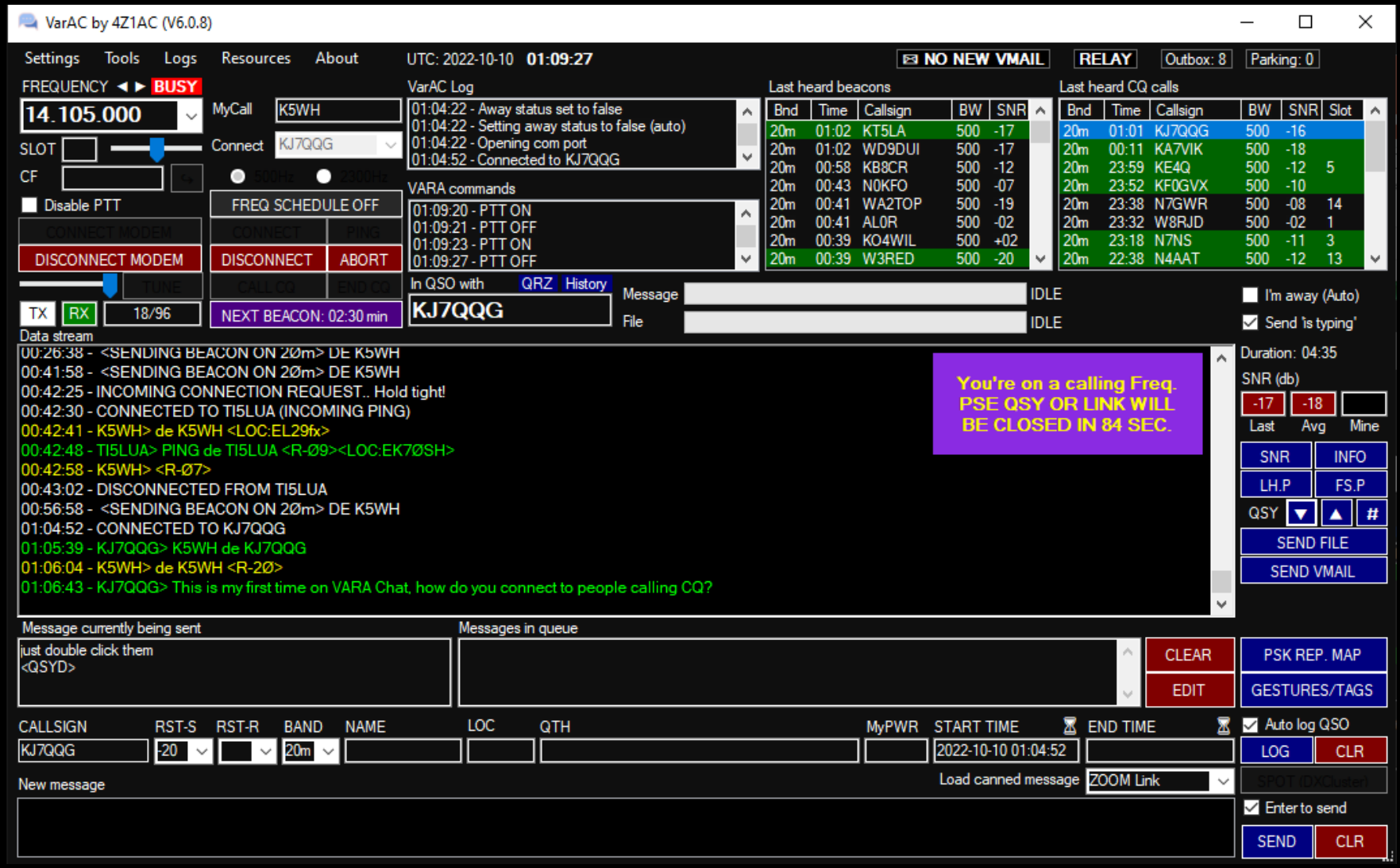
- It's worth mentioning there is NO installation package for VarAC
- I recommend creating a folder anywhere, such as VarAC, and copy the unzipped files into this folder
- When NEW releases are available, you typically unzip the files into it's NEW folder, and manually copy over just the VarAC.exe file into your original VarAC folder

- This way, ALL your configuration settings will remain in place

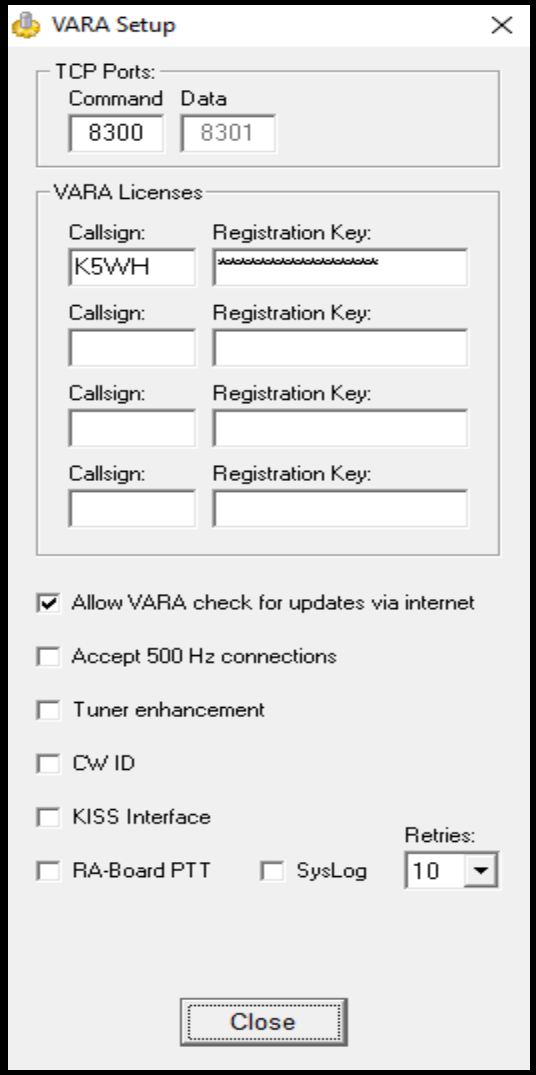
Hardware Required

- Like most digital mode software, VarAC requires a sound card digital interface
- Most current radios have this built in
- Legacy or older radios may require a SignaLink, RigBlaster, RigExpert, just to name a few, or any of the similar type digital interfaces

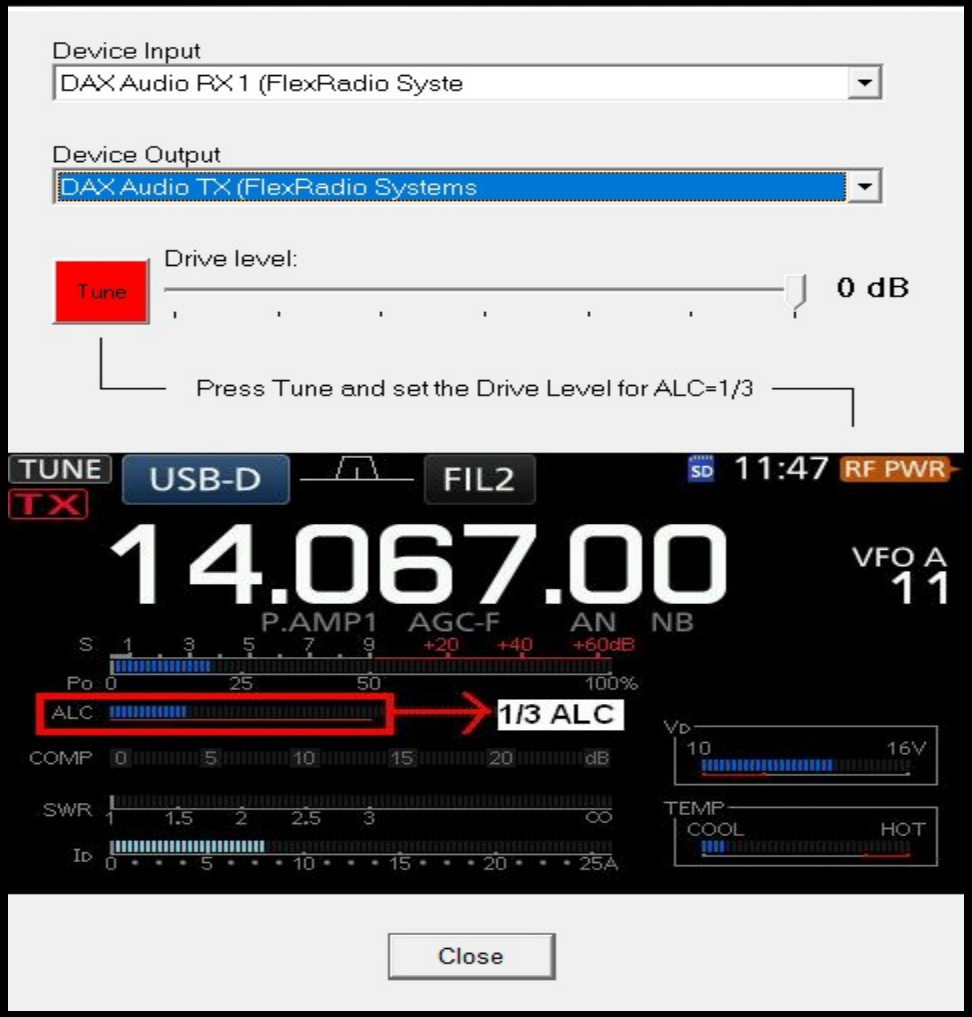
Install Vara-HF & VarAC, then launch VarAC



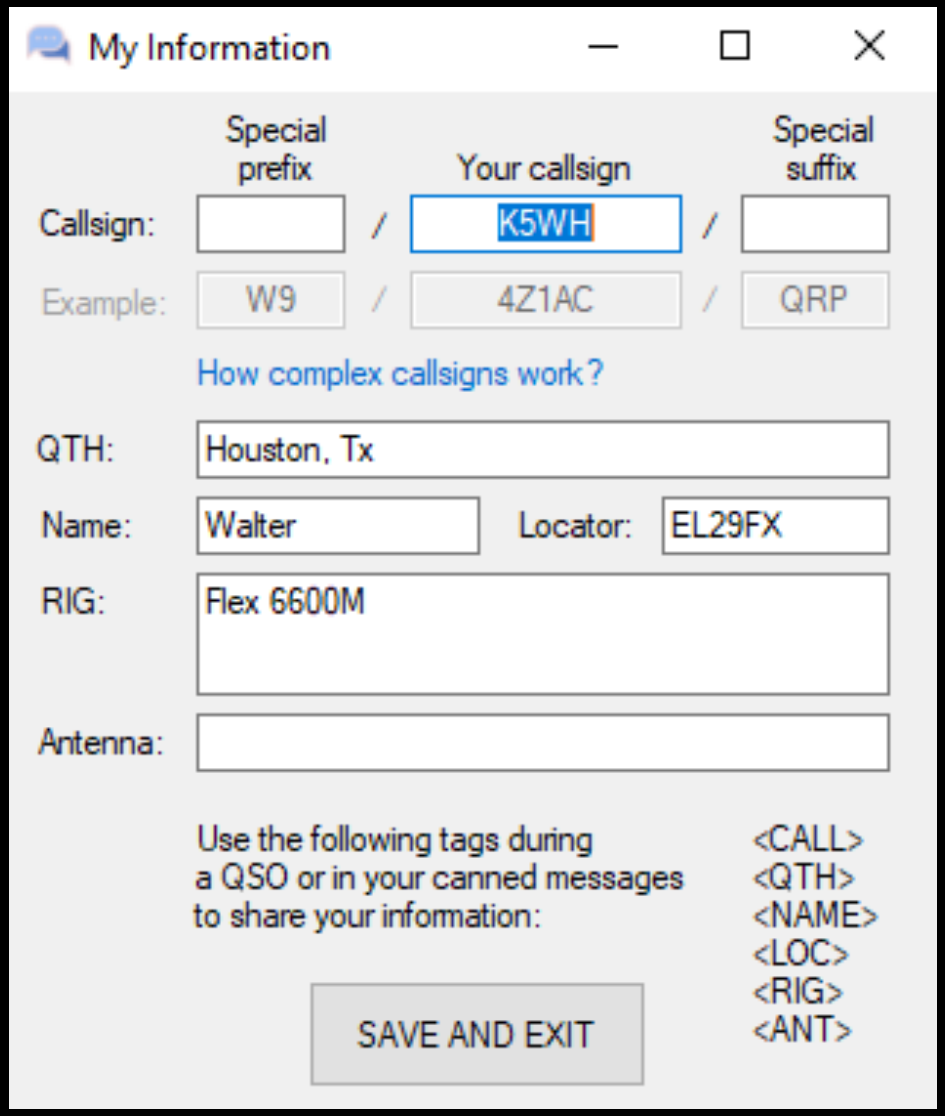
Vara-HF Settings, VARA Setup



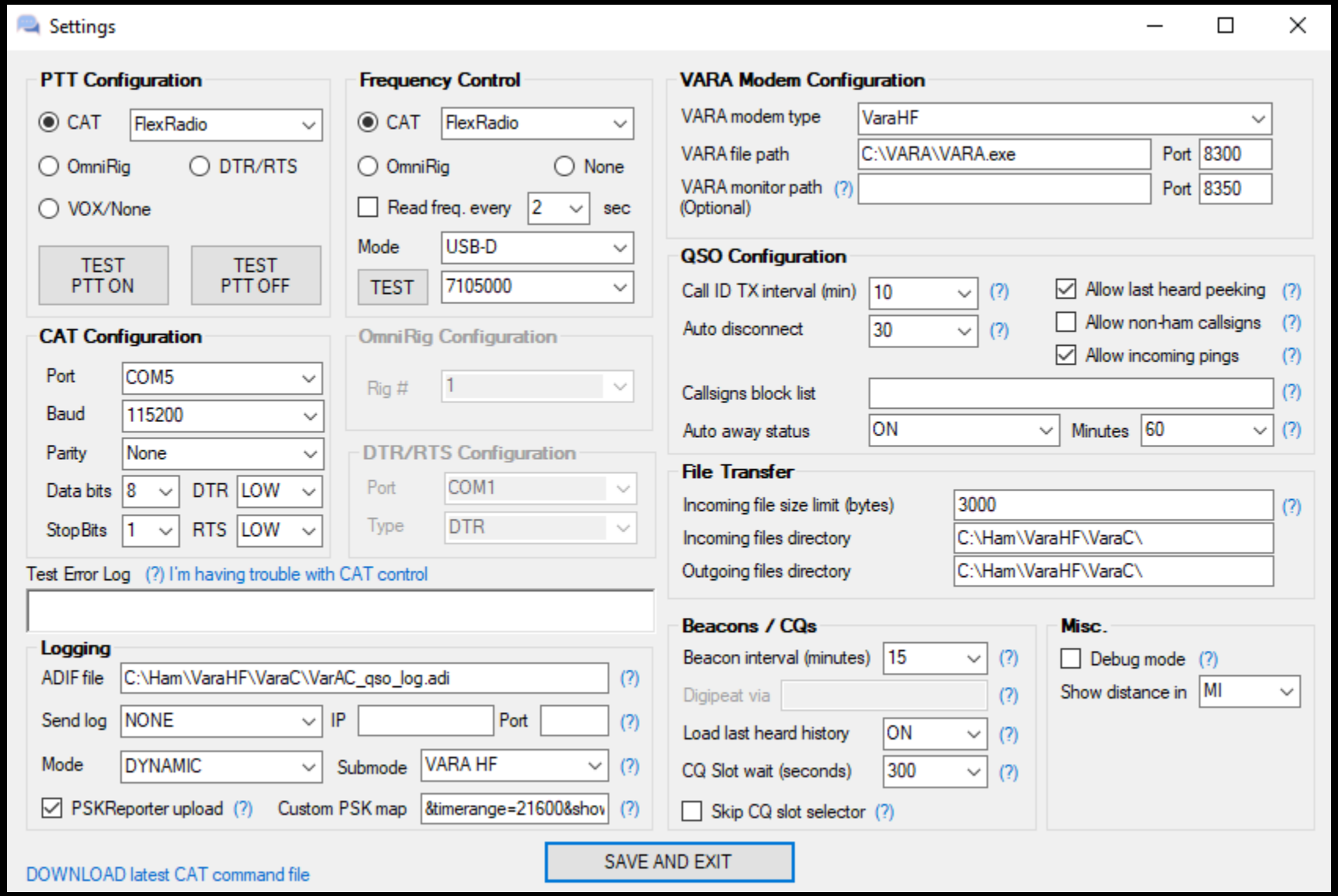
Vara-HF Settings, Soundcard



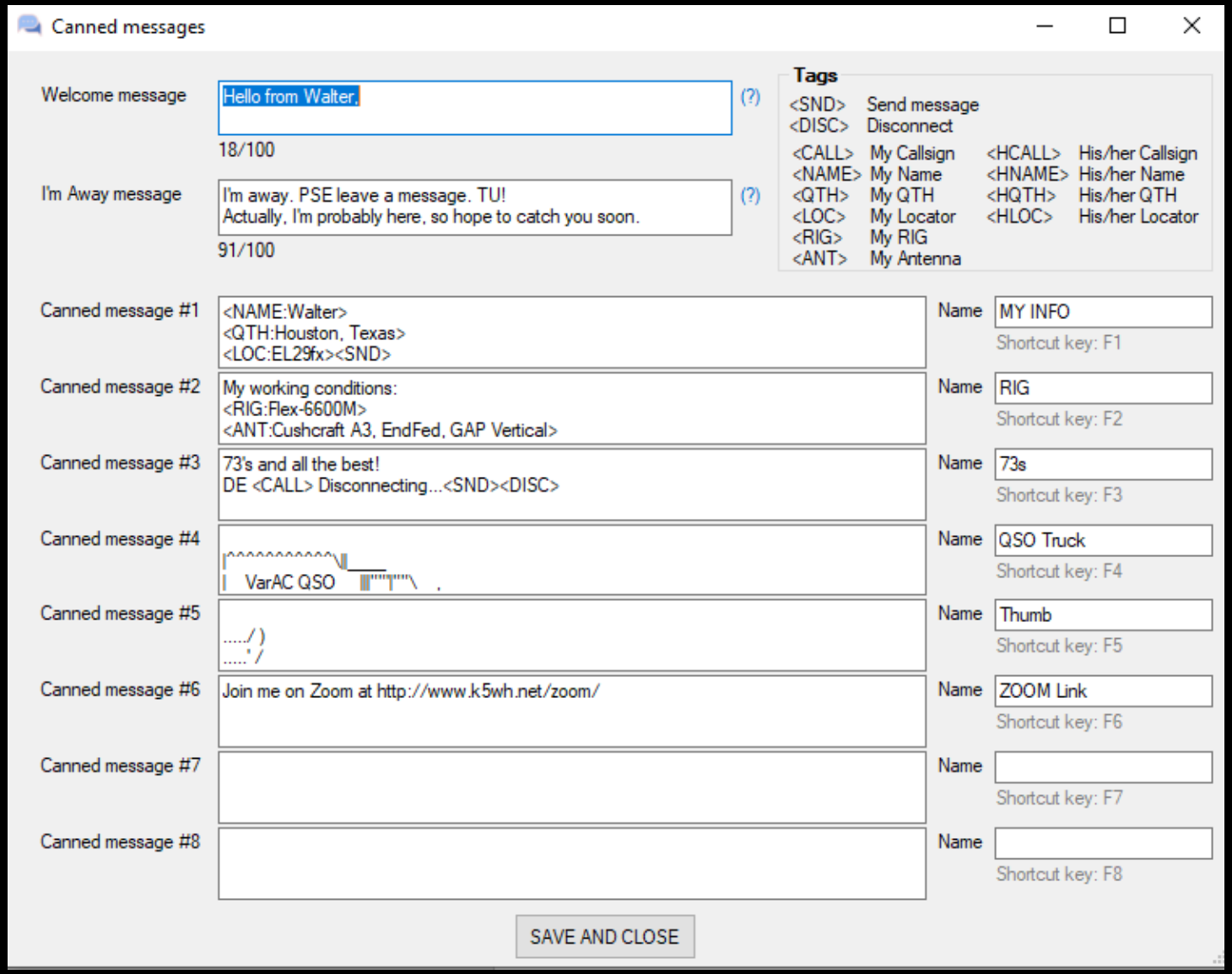
VarAC Settings, My Information



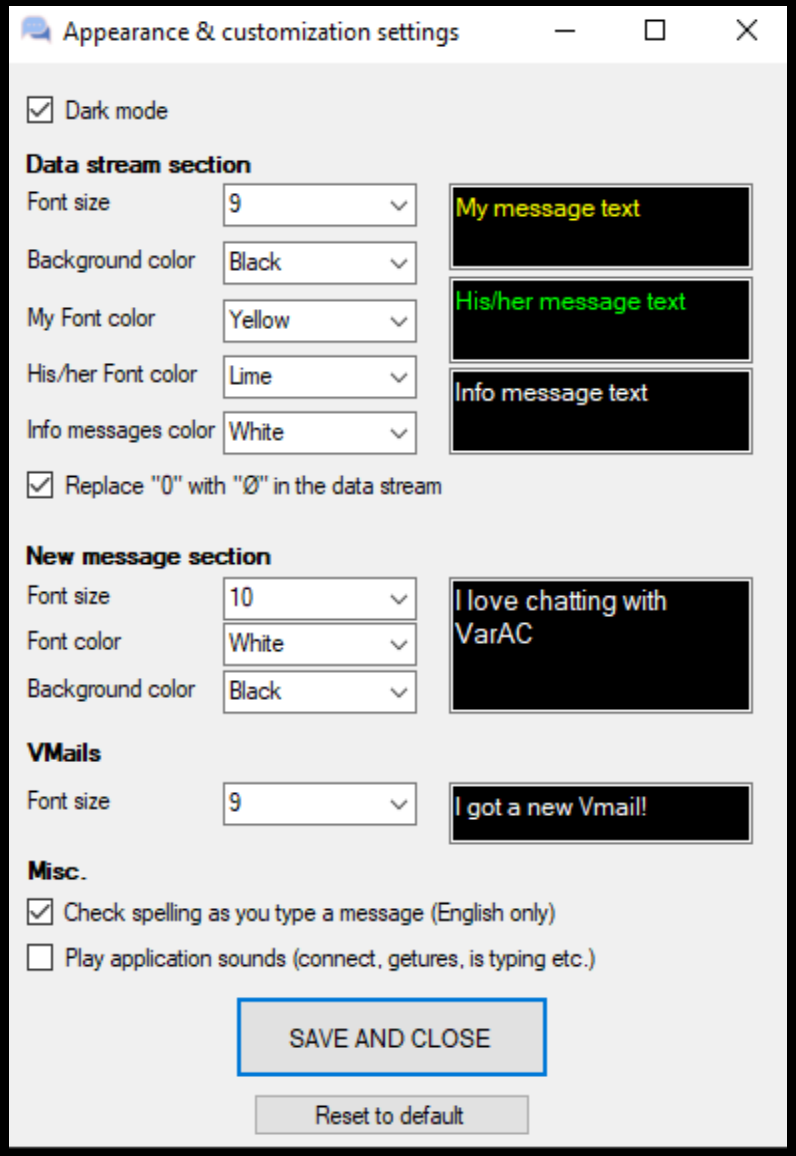
Rig Control and VARA Configurations



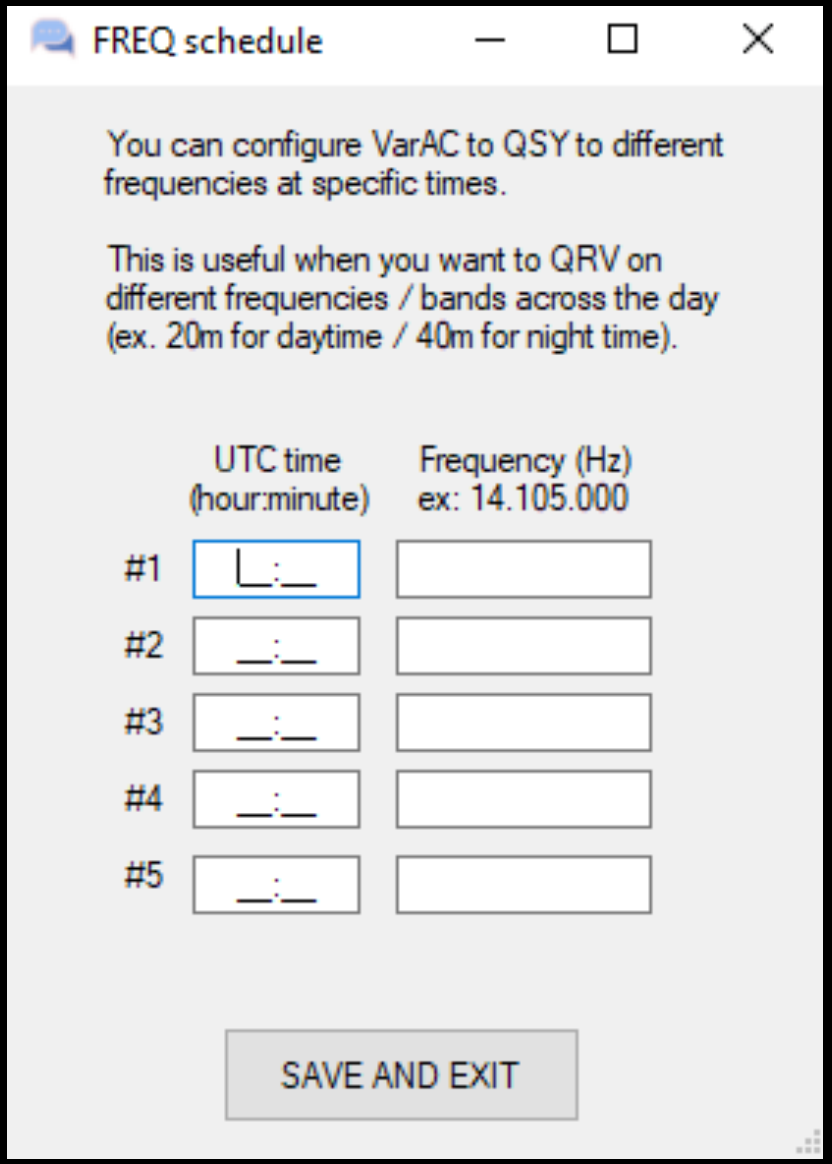
VarAC Settings, Canned Messages



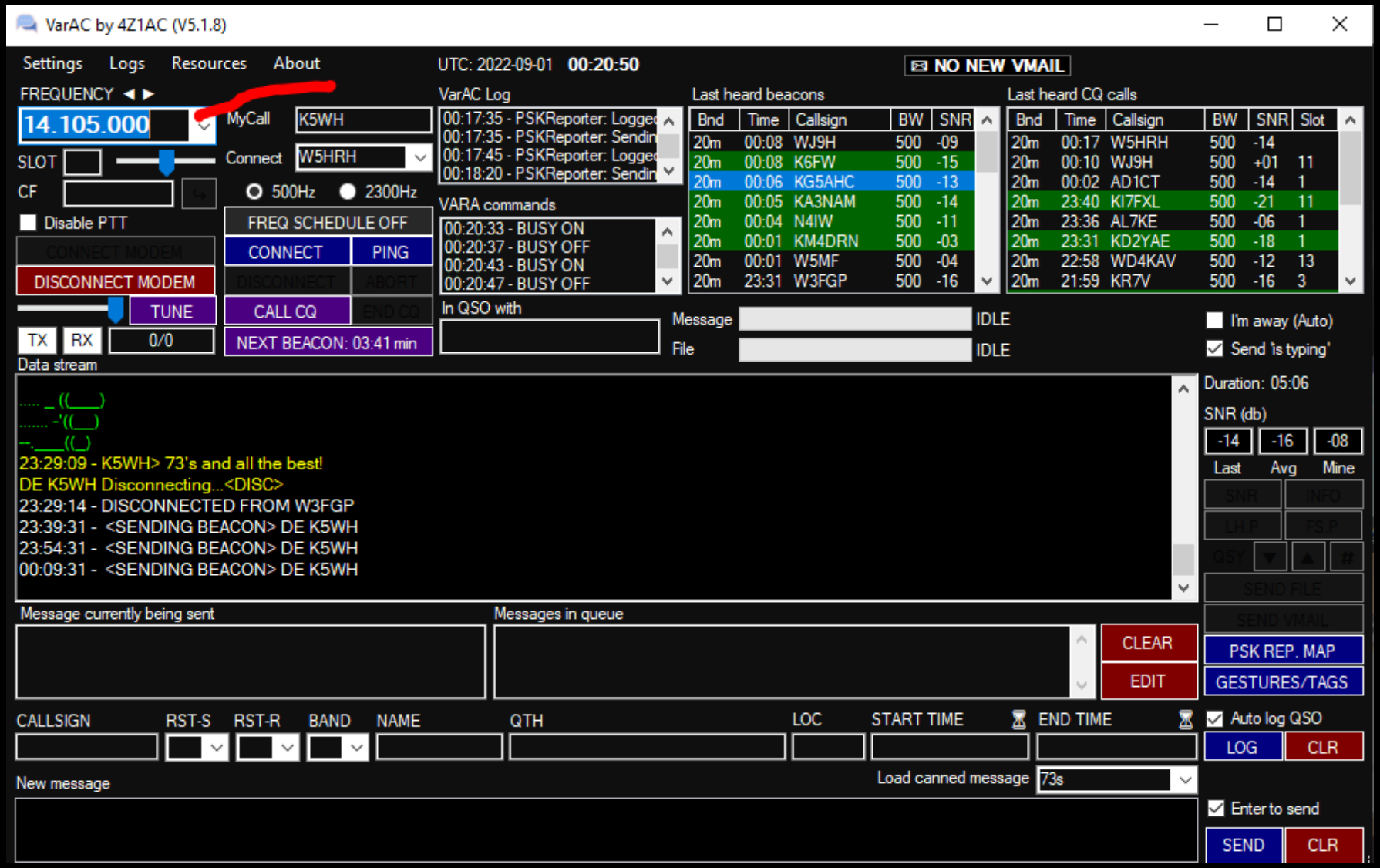
VarAC Settings, Appearance & Sounds



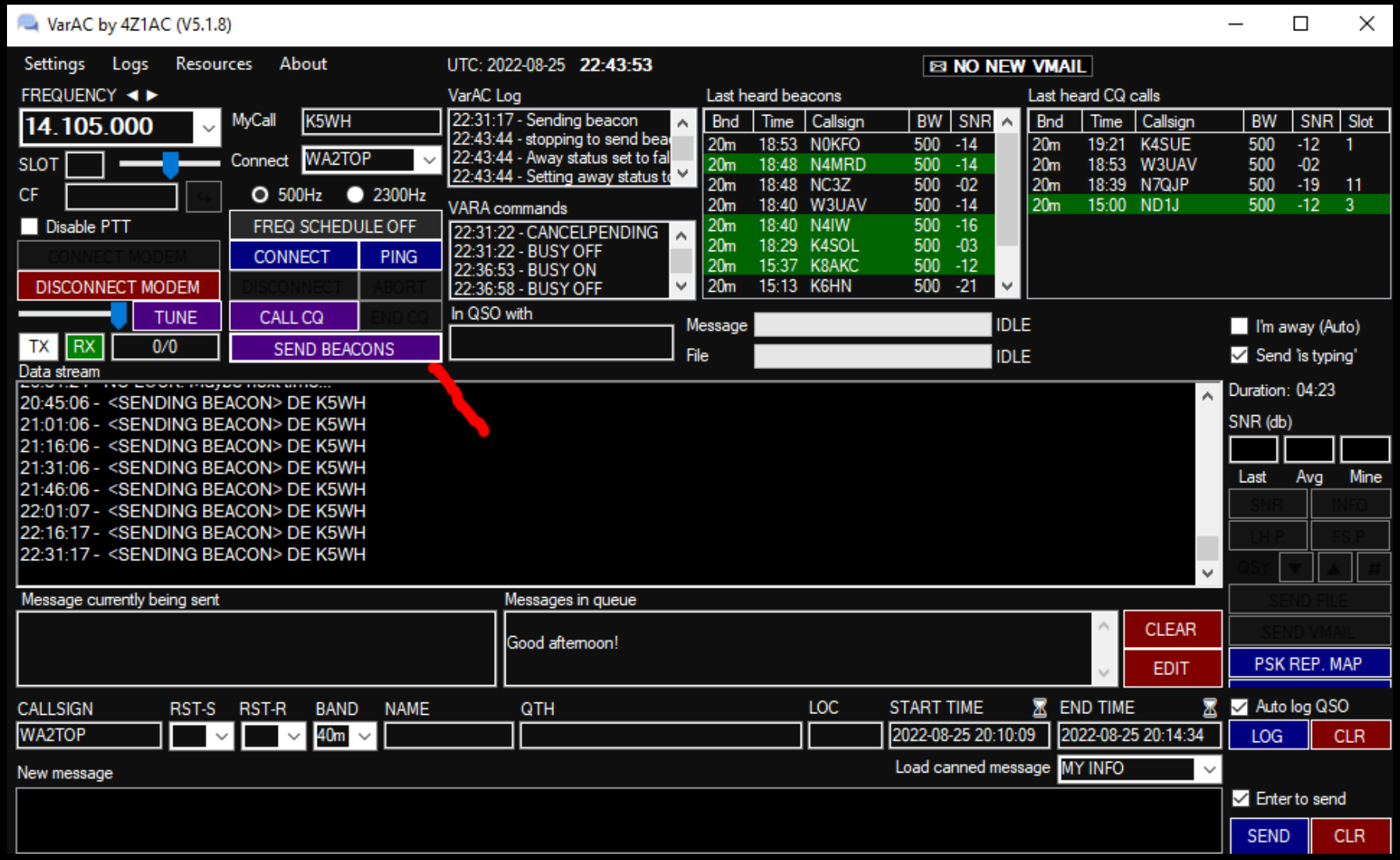
VarAC Settings, Frequency Schedule
Change frequencies automatically



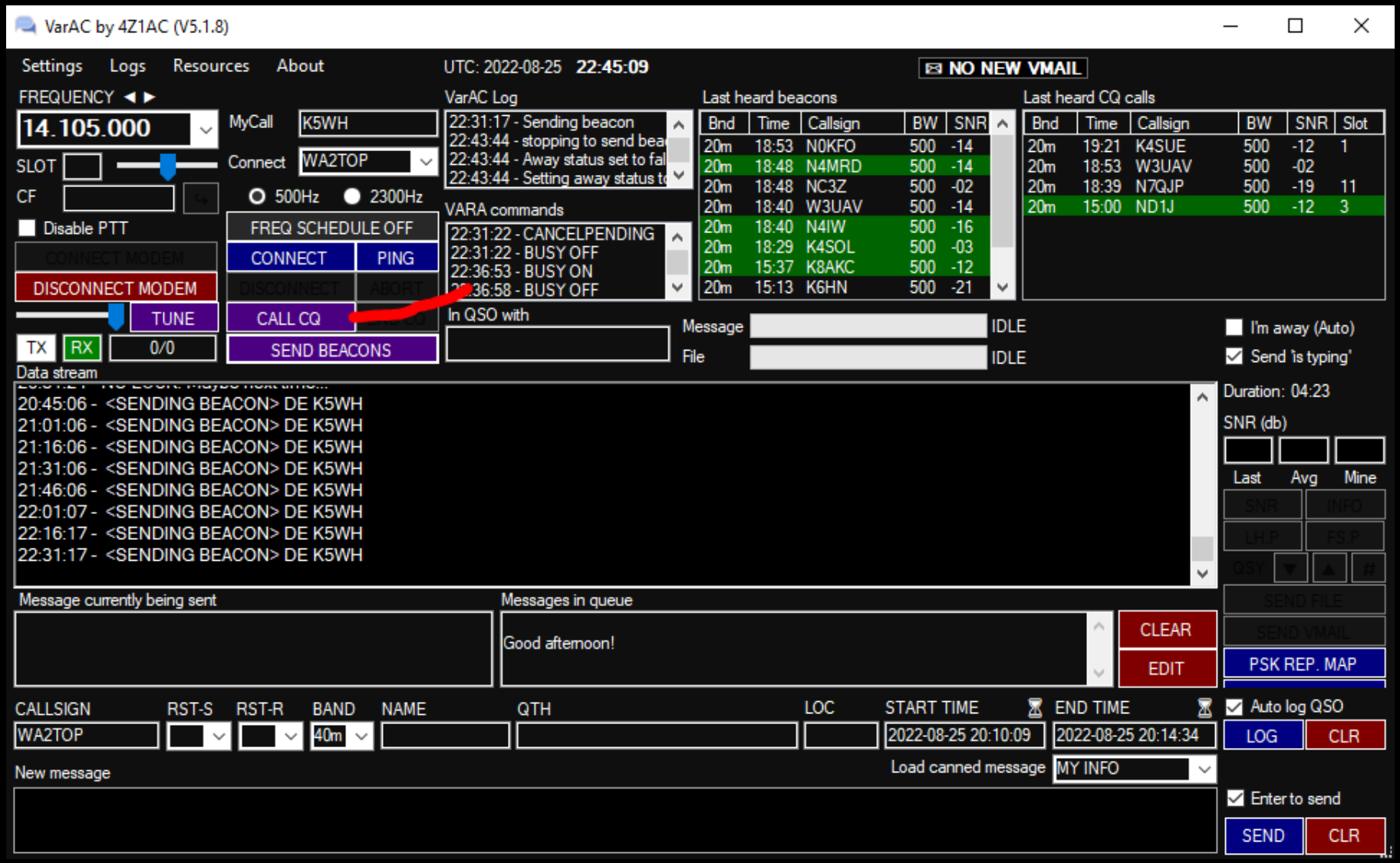
Operational Choices
Frequency



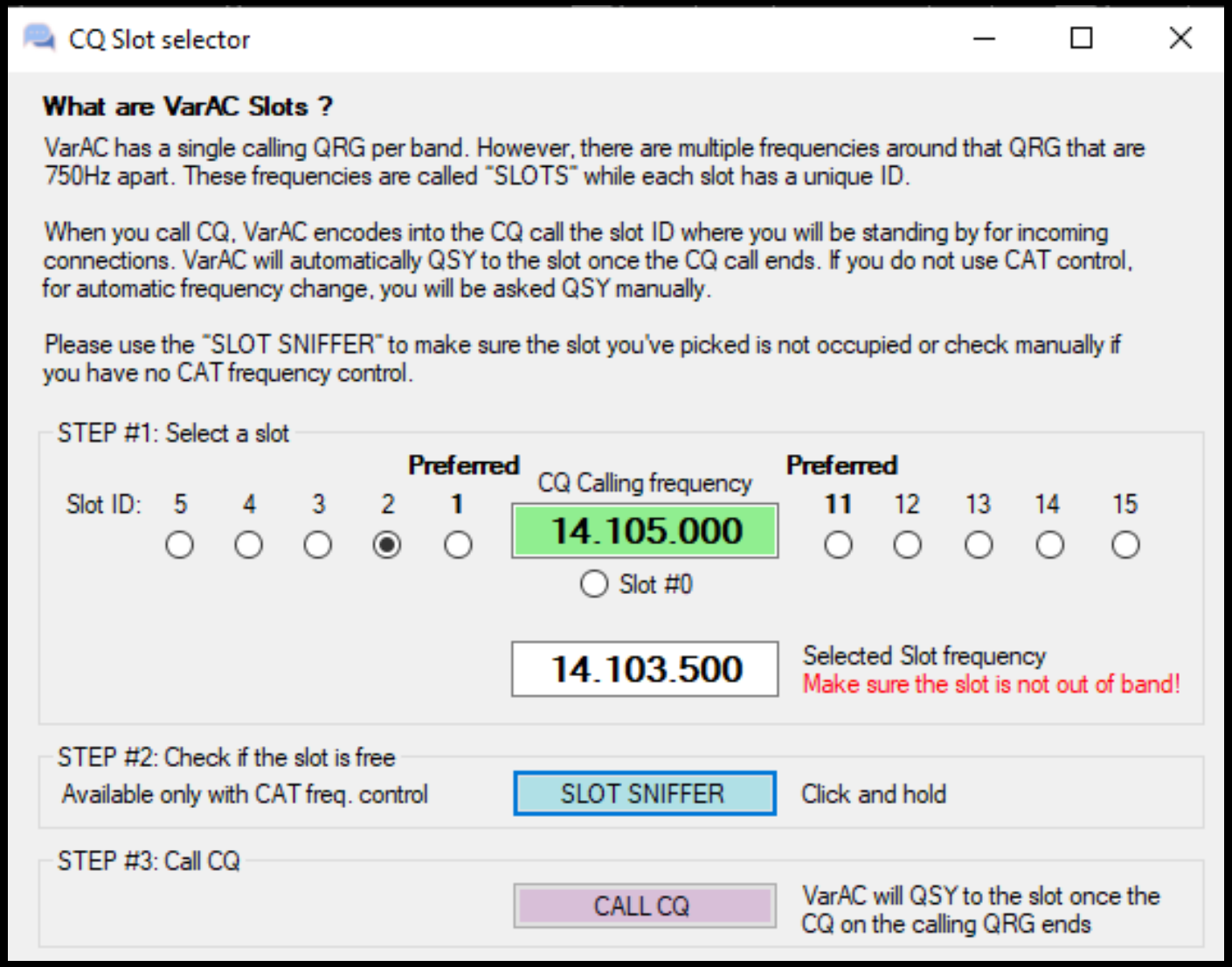
Send Beacons



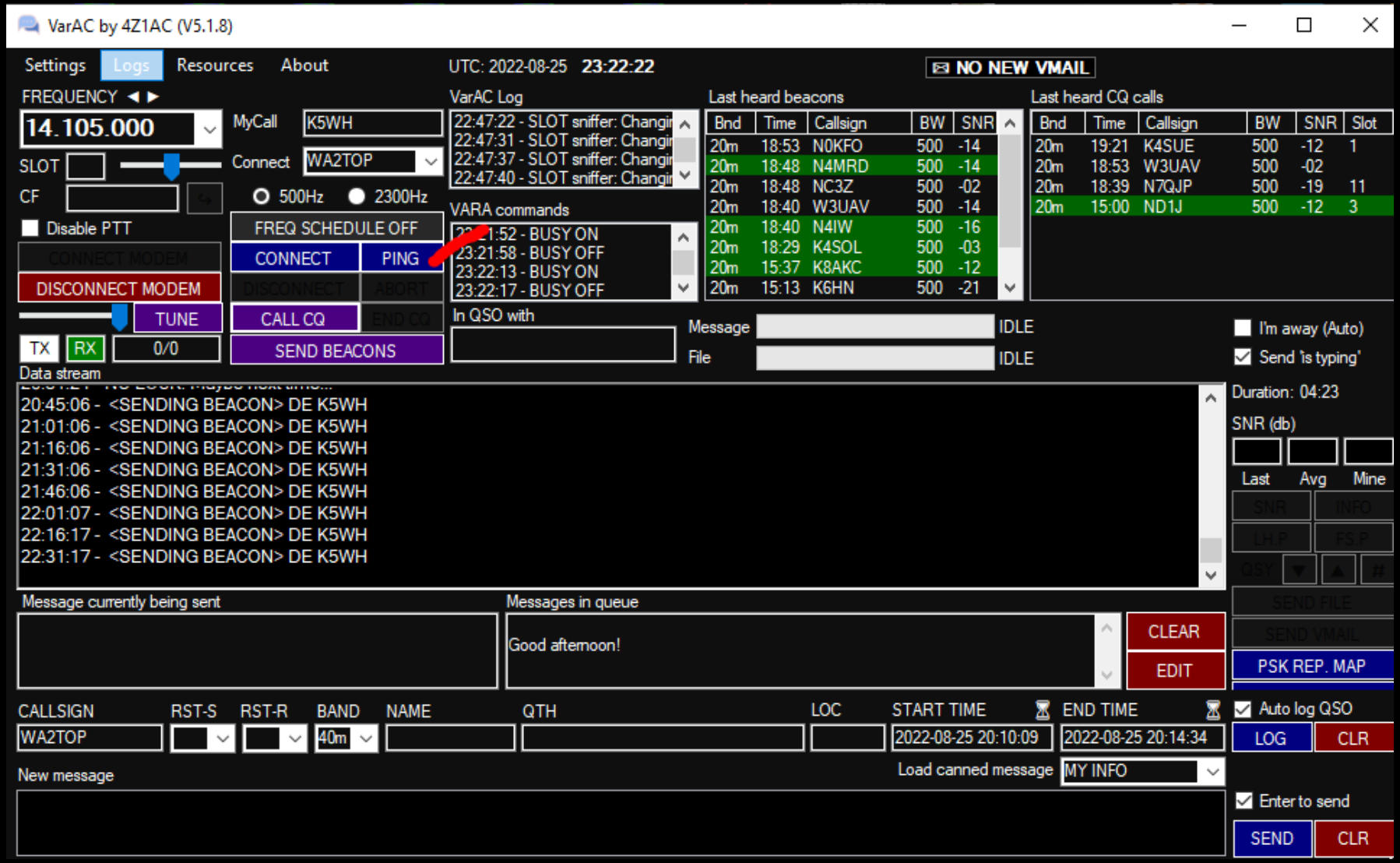
Call CQ


VarAC by 4Z1AC (V5.1.8)
Settings
Logs
Resources
About
UTC: 2022-08-25 22:45:09
NO NEW VMAIL
FREQUENCY
14.105.000
MyCall
K5WH
Connect
WA2TOP
SLOT
CF
500Hz
2300Hz
Disable PTT
FREQ SCHEDULE OFF
CONNECT
PING
CONNECT MODEM
DISCONNECT MODEM
DISCONNECT
ABORT
TUNE
CALL CQ
TX
RX
0/0
SEND BEACONS
VarAC Log
22:31:17 - Sending beacon
22:43:44 - stopping to send bea
22:43:44 - Away status set to fal
22:43:44 - Setting away status t
VARA commands
22:31:22 - CANCELPENDING
22:31:22 - BUSY OFF
22:36:53 - BUSY ON
22:36:58 - BUSY OFF
In QSO with
Last heard beacons
Bnd Time Callsign BW SNR
20m 18:53 N0KFO 500 -14
20m 18:48 N4MRD 500 -14
20m 18:48 NC3Z 500 -02
20m 18:40 W3UAV 500 -14
20m 18:40 N4IW 500 -16
20m 18:29 K4SOL 500 -03
20m 15:37 K8AKC 500 -12
20m 15:13 K6HN 500 -21
Last heard CQ calls
Bnd Time Callsign BW SNR Slot
20m 19:21 K4SUE 500 -12 1
20m 18:53 W3UAV 500 -02
20m 18:39 N7QJP 500 -19 11
20m 15:00 ND1J 500 -12 3
Message
IDLE
File
IDLE
I'm away (Auto)
Send 'is typing'
Data stream
20:45:06 - <SENDING BEACON> DE K5WH
21:01:06 - <SENDING BEACON> DE K5WH
21:16:06 - <SENDING BEACON> DE K5WH
21:31:06 - <SENDING BEACON> DE K5WH
21:46:06 - <SENDING BEACON> DE K5WH
22:01:07 - <SENDING BEACON> DE K5WH
22:16:17 - <SENDING BEACON> DE K5WH
22:31:17 - <SENDING BEACON> DE K5WH
Duration: 04:23
SNR (db)
Last
Avg
Mine
SNR
INFO
LH P.
FS P.
QSY
SEND FILE
SEND VMAIL
PSK REP. MAP
Message currently being sent
Messages in queue
Good afternoon!
CLEAR
EDIT
CALLSIGN
RST-S
RST-R
BAND
NAME
QTH
LOC
START TIME
END TIME
WA2TOP
40m
2022-08-25 20:10:09
2022-08-25 20:14:34
Auto log QSO
LOG
CLR
New message
Load canned message
MY INFO
Enter to send
SEND
CLR

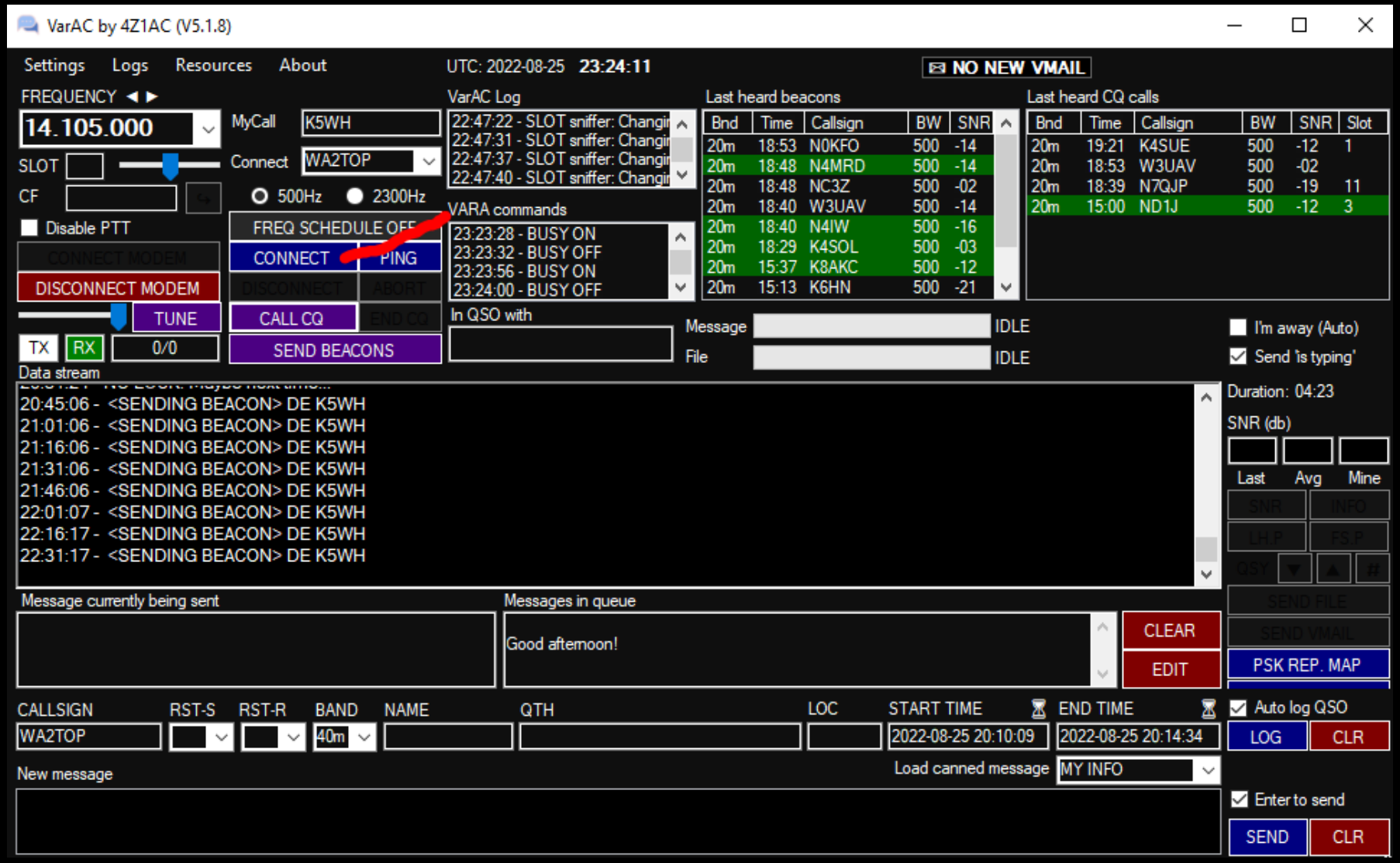
Call CQ
Slot Request



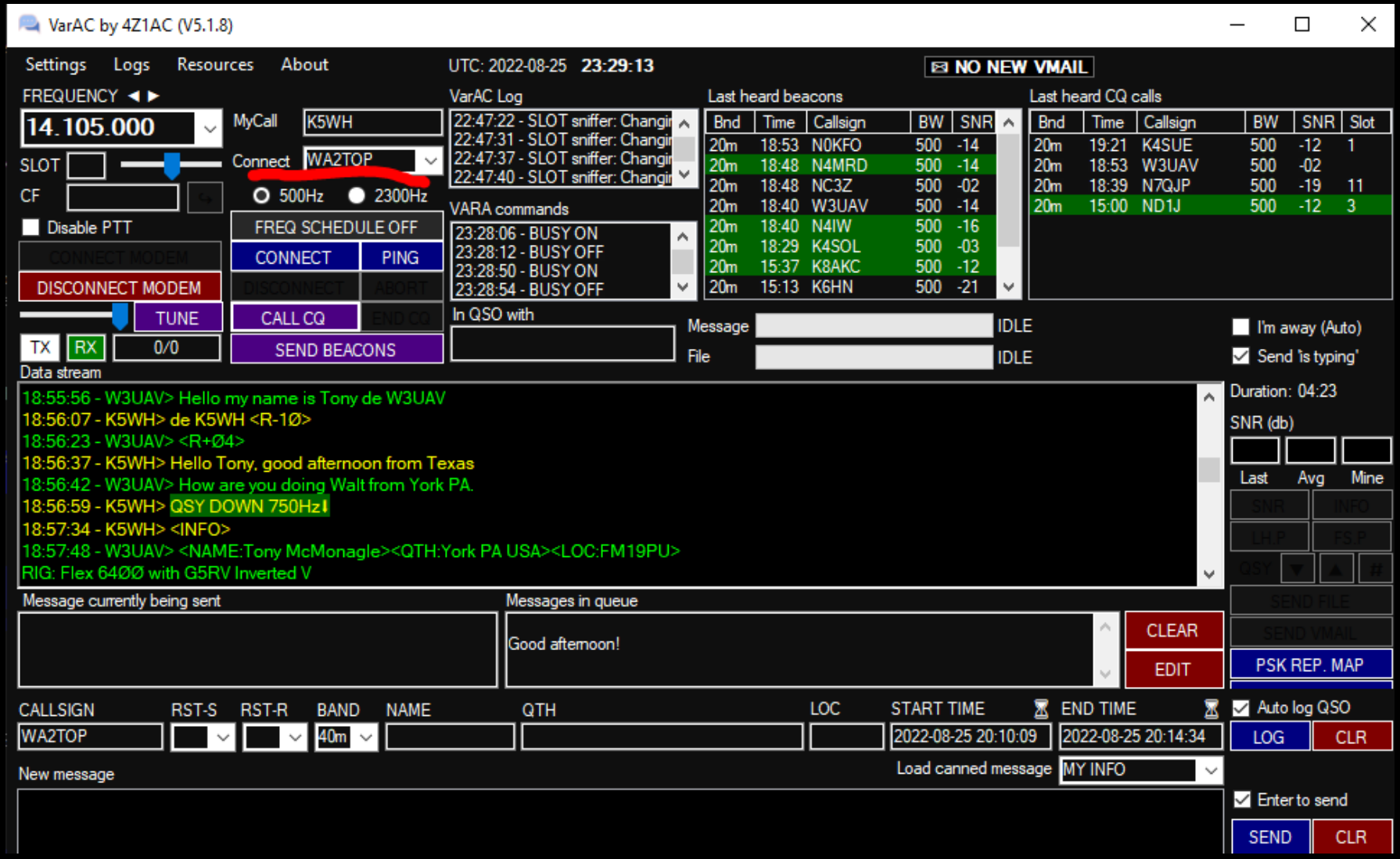
Ping
To get a signal report



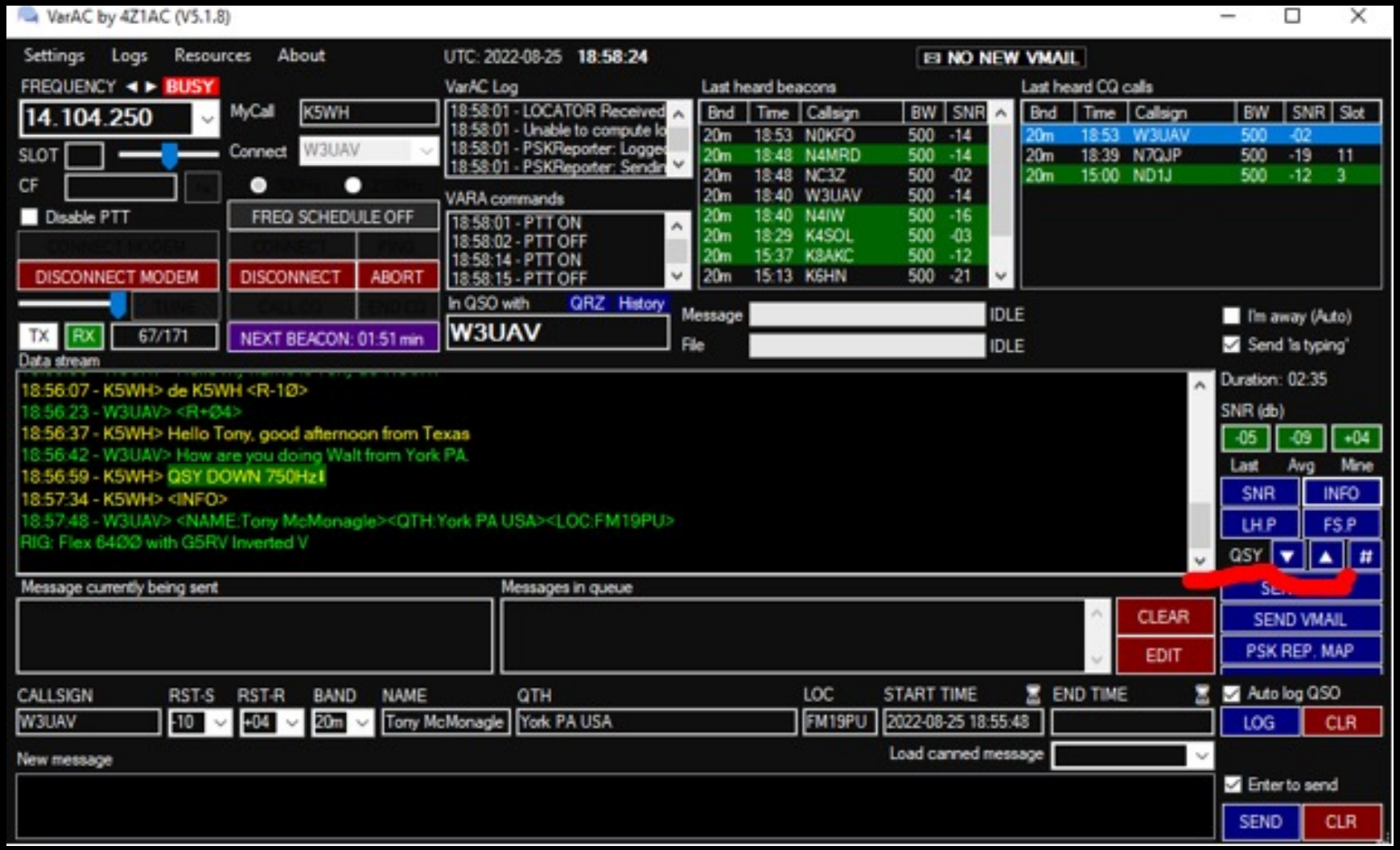
Connect
Select a callsign to begin QSO



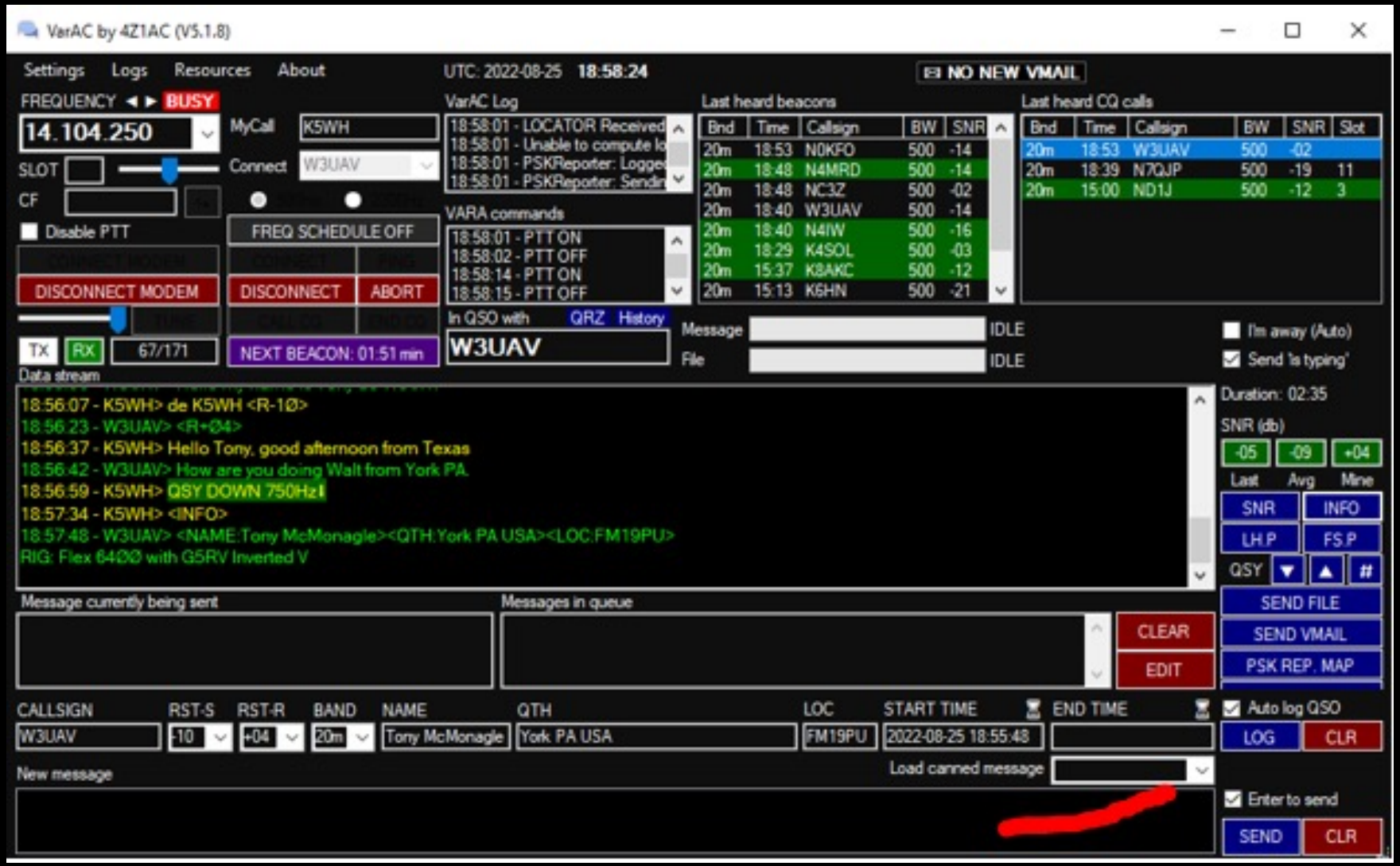
QSO Bandwidth 500hz or 2300hz



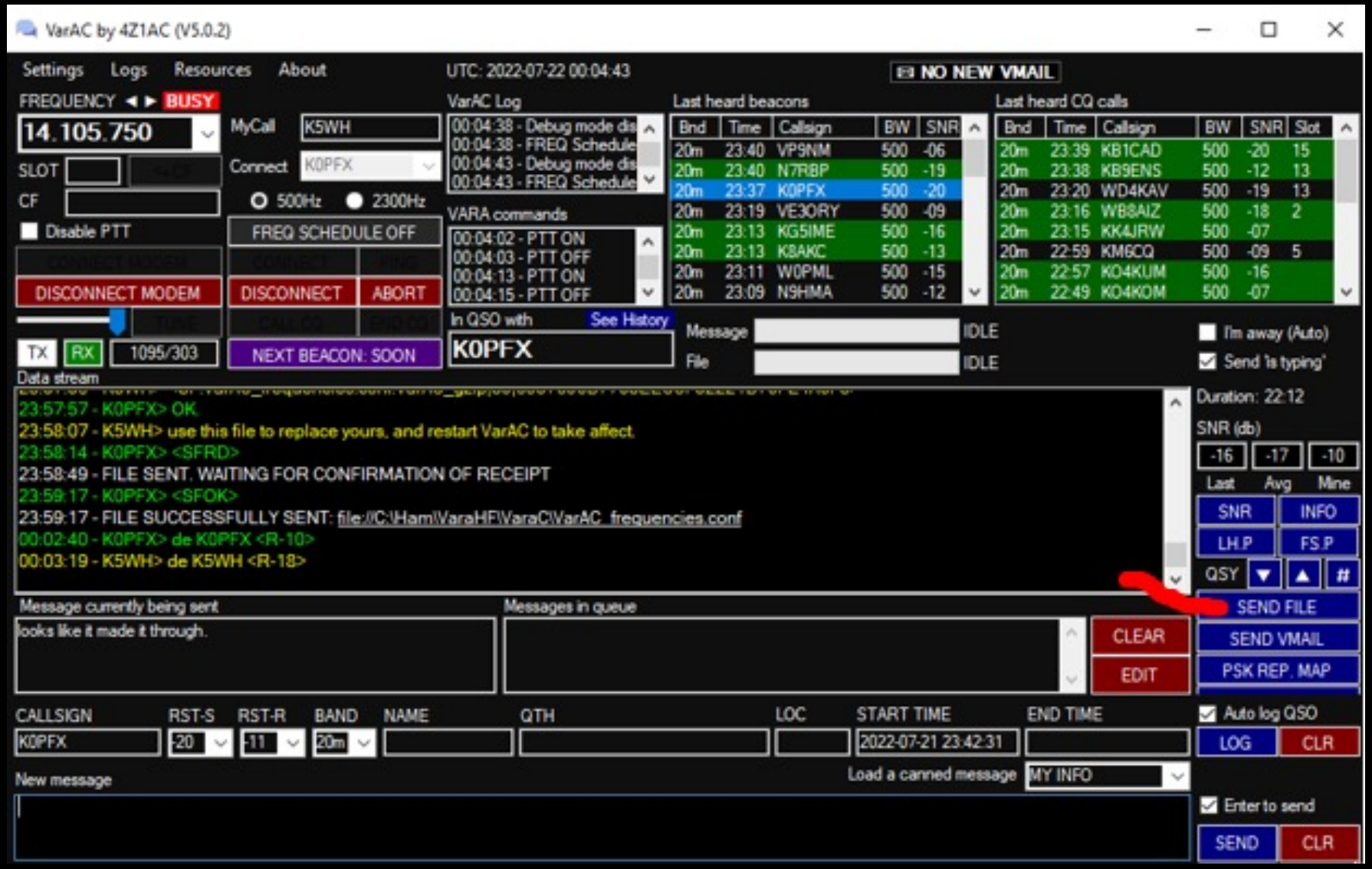
Operational Choices while in QSO
QSY Down or UP, off calling frequency



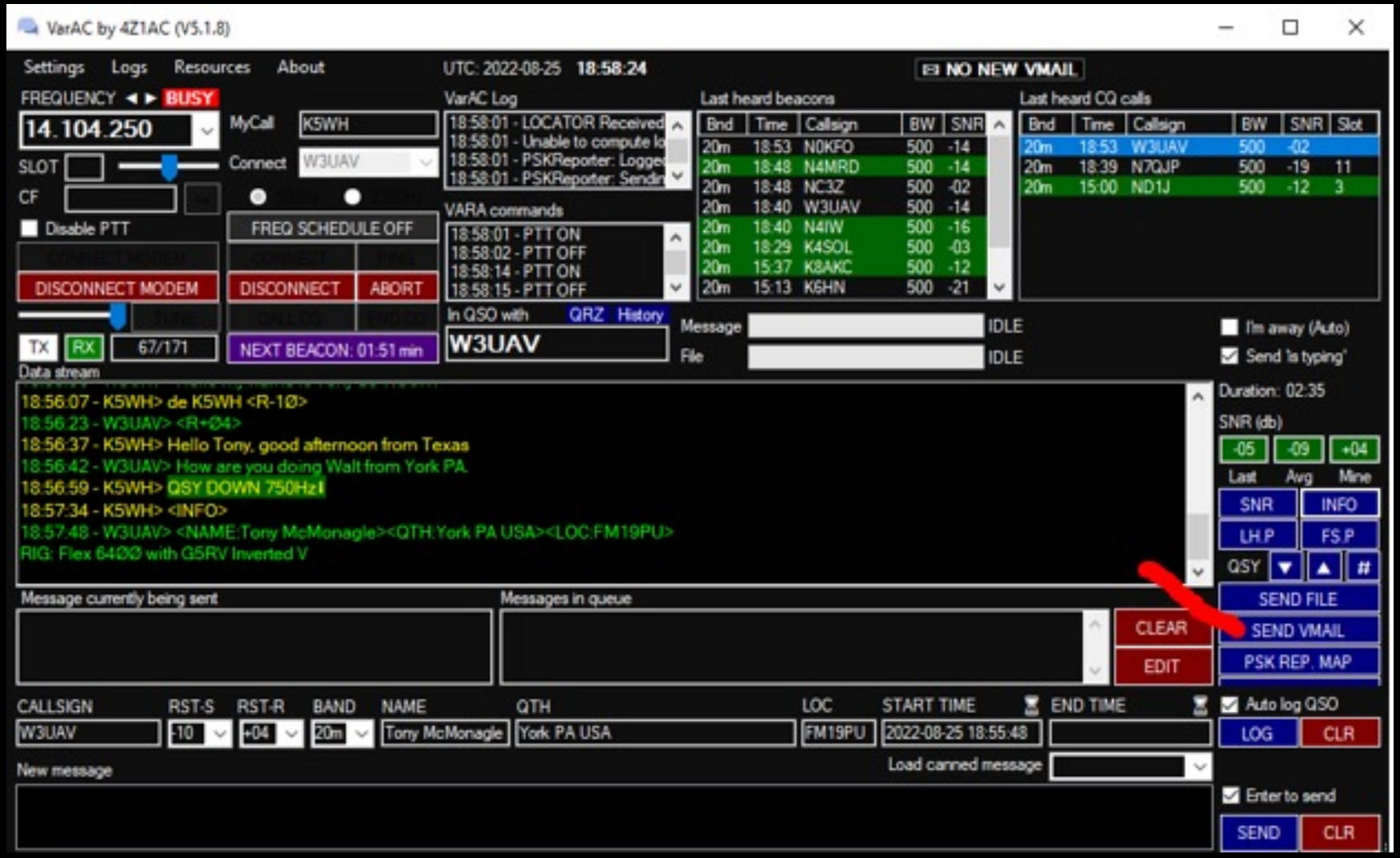
Load canned message



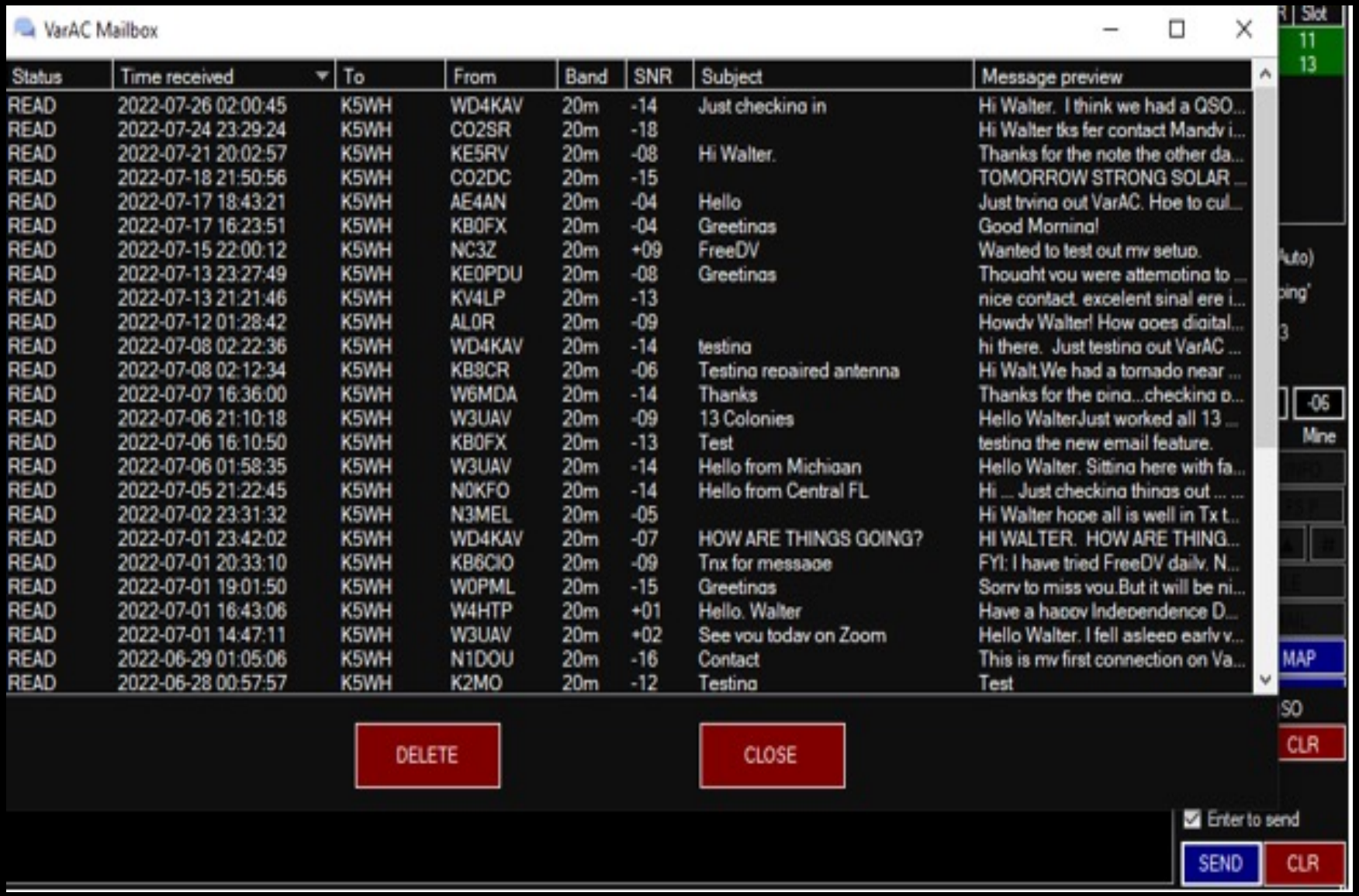
SEND FILE


VarAC by 4Z1AC (V5.0.2)
Settings
Logs
Resources
About
UTC: 2022-07-22 00:04:43
NO NEW VMAIL
FREQUENCY
BUSY
14.105.750
MyCall
K5WH
Connect
K0PFX
SLOT
CF
500Hz
2300Hz
Disable PTT
FREQ SCHEDULE OFF
DISCONNECT MODEM
DISCONNECT
ABORT
TX
RX
1095/303
NEXT BEACON: SOON
VarAC Log
00:04:38 - Debug mode dis
00:04:38 - FREQ Schedule
00:04:43 - Debug mode dis
00:04:43 - FREQ Schedule
VARA commands
00:04:02 - PTT ON
00:04:03 - PTT OFF
00:04:13 - PTT ON
00:04:15 - PTT OFF
In QSO wth
See History
K0PFX
Last heard beacons
Bnd Time Callsign BW SNR
20m 23:40 VP9NM 500 -06
20m 23:40 N7RBP 500 -19
20m 23:37 K0PFX 500 -20
20m 23:19 VE3ORY 500 -09
20m 23:13 KG5IME 500 -16
20m 23:13 K8AKC 500 -13
20m 23:11 W0PML 500 -15
20m 23:09 N9HMA 500 -12
Last heard CQ calls
Bnd Time Callsign BW SNR Slot
20m 23:39 KB1CAD 500 -20 15
20m 23:38 KB9ENS 500 -12 13
20m 23:20 WD4KAV 500 -19 13
20m 23:16 WB8AIZ 500 -18 2
20m 23:15 KK4JRW 500 -07
20m 22:59 KM6CQ 500 -09 5
20m 22:57 KO4KUM 500 -16
20m 22:49 KO4KOM 500 -07
Message
IDLE
File
IDLE
I'm away (Auto)
Send 'is typing'
Data stream
23:57:57 - K0PFX> OK
23:58:07 - K5WH> use this file to replace yours, and restart VarAC to take affect.
23:58:14 - K0PFX> <SFRD>
23:58:49 - FILE SENT, WAITING FOR CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT
23:59:17 - K0PFX> <SFOK>
23:59:17 - FILE SUCCESSFULLY SENT: file://C:\Ham\VaraHF\VaraC\VarAC_frequencies.conf
00:02:40 - K0PFX> de K0PFX <R-10>
00:03:19 - K5WH> de K5WH <R-18>
Duration: 22:12
SNR (db)
-16
-17
-10
Last
Avg
Mine
SNR
INFO
LH.P
FS.P
QSY
#
SEND FILE
SEND VMAIL
PSK REP. MAP
Message currently being sent
looks like it made it through.
Messages in queue
CLEAR
EDIT
CALLSIGN
RST-S
RST-R
BAND
NAME
QTH
LOC
START TIME
END TIME
K0PFX
-20
-11
20m
2022-07-21 23:42:31
Auto log QSO
LOG
CLR
New message
Load a canned message
MY INFO
Enter to send
SEND
CLR

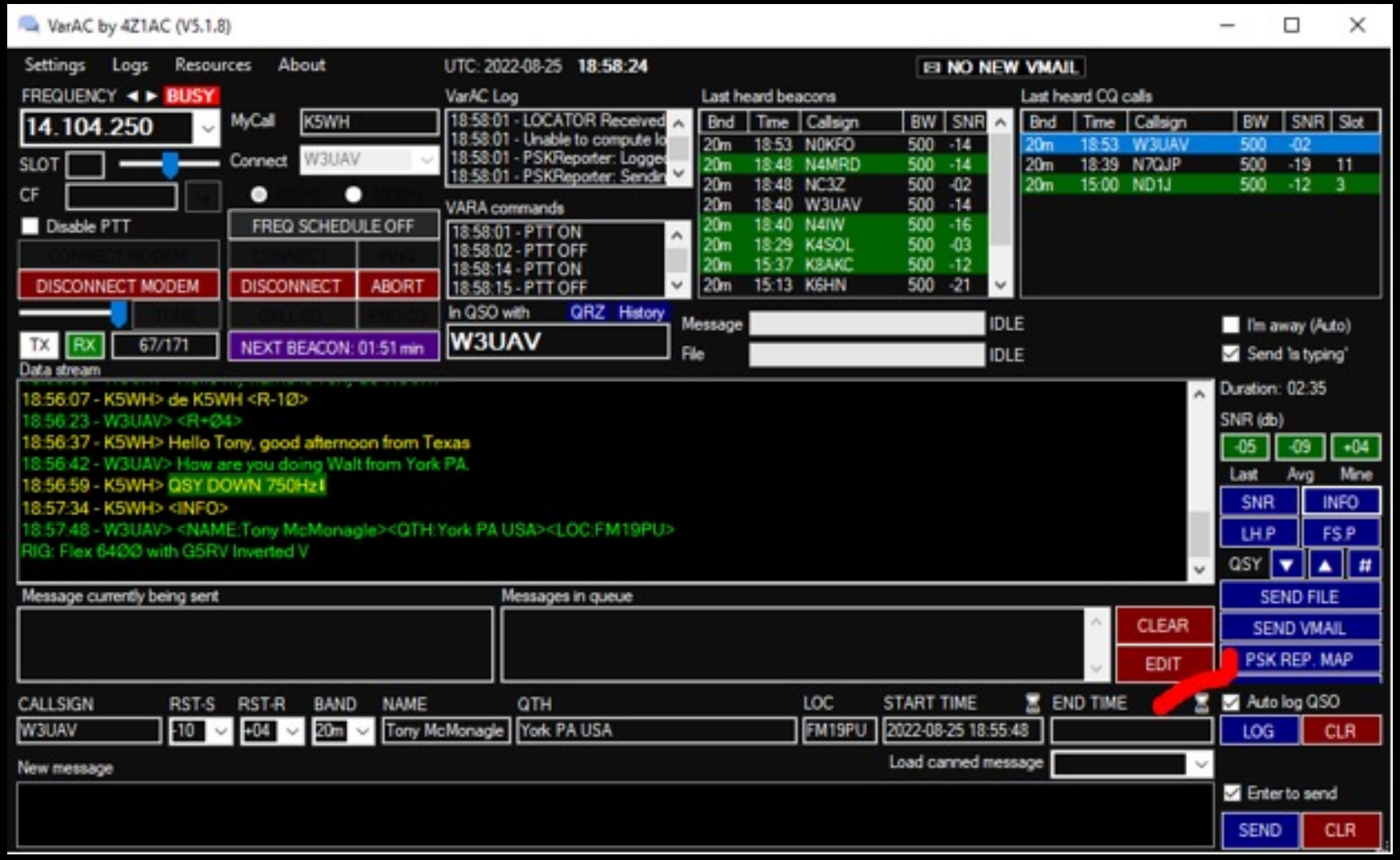
SEND VMAIL


VarAC by 4Z1AC (V5.1.8)
Settings
Logs
Resources
About
UTC: 2022-08-25 18:58:24
NO NEW VMAIL
FREQUENCY
BUSY
14.104.250
MyCall
K5WH
Connect
W3UAV
SLOT
CF
Disable PTT
FREQ SCHEDULE OFF
DISCONNECT MODEM
DISCONNECT
ABORT
TX
RX
67/171
NEXT BEACON: 01:51 min
VarAC Log
18:58:01 - LOCATOR Received
18:58:01 - Unable to compute lo
18:58:01 - PSKReporter: Logge
18:58:01 - PSKReporter: Sendir
VARA commands
18:58:01 - PTT ON
18:58:02 - PTT OFF
18:58:14 - PTT ON
18:58:15 - PTT OFF
In QSO with
QRZ
History
W3UAV
Last heard beacons
Bnd Time Callsign BW SNR
20m 18:53 N0KFO 500 -14
20m 18:48 N4MRD 500 -14
20m 18:48 NC3Z 500 -02
20m 18:40 W3UAV 500 -14
20m 18:40 N4IW 500 -16
20m 18:29 K4SOL 500 -03
20m 15:37 K8AKC 500 -12
20m 15:13 K6HN 500 -21
Last heard CQ calls
Bnd Time Callsign BW SNR Slot
20m 18:53 W3UAV 500 -02
20m 18:39 N7QJP 500 -19 11
20m 15:00 ND1J 500 -12 3
Message
IDLE
File
IDLE
I'm away (Auto)
Send 'is typing'
Data stream
18:56:07 - K5WH> de K5WH <R-1Ø>
18:56:23 - W3UAV> <R+Ø4>
18:56:37 - K5WH> Hello Tony, good afternoon from Texas
18:56:42 - W3UAV> How are you doing Walt from York PA
18:56:59 - K5WH> QSY DOWN 750Hz
18:57:34 - K5WH> <INFO>
18:57:48 - W3UAV> <NAME:Tony McMonagle><QTH:York PA USA><LOC:FM19PU>
RIG: Flex 64ØØ with G5RV Inverted V
Duration: 02:35
SNR (db)
-05
-09
+04
Last
Avg
Mine
SNR
INFO
LH.P
FS.P
QSY
#
SEND FILE
SEND VMAIL
PSK REP. MAP
Message currently being sent
Messages in queue
CLEAR
EDIT
CALLSIGN
RST-S
RST-R
BAND
NAME
QTH
LOC
START TIME
END TIME
W3UAV
-10
+04
20m
Tony McMonagle
York PA USA
FM19PU
2022-08-25 18:55:48
Auto log QSO
LOG
CLR
New message
Load canned message
Enter to send
SEND
CLR

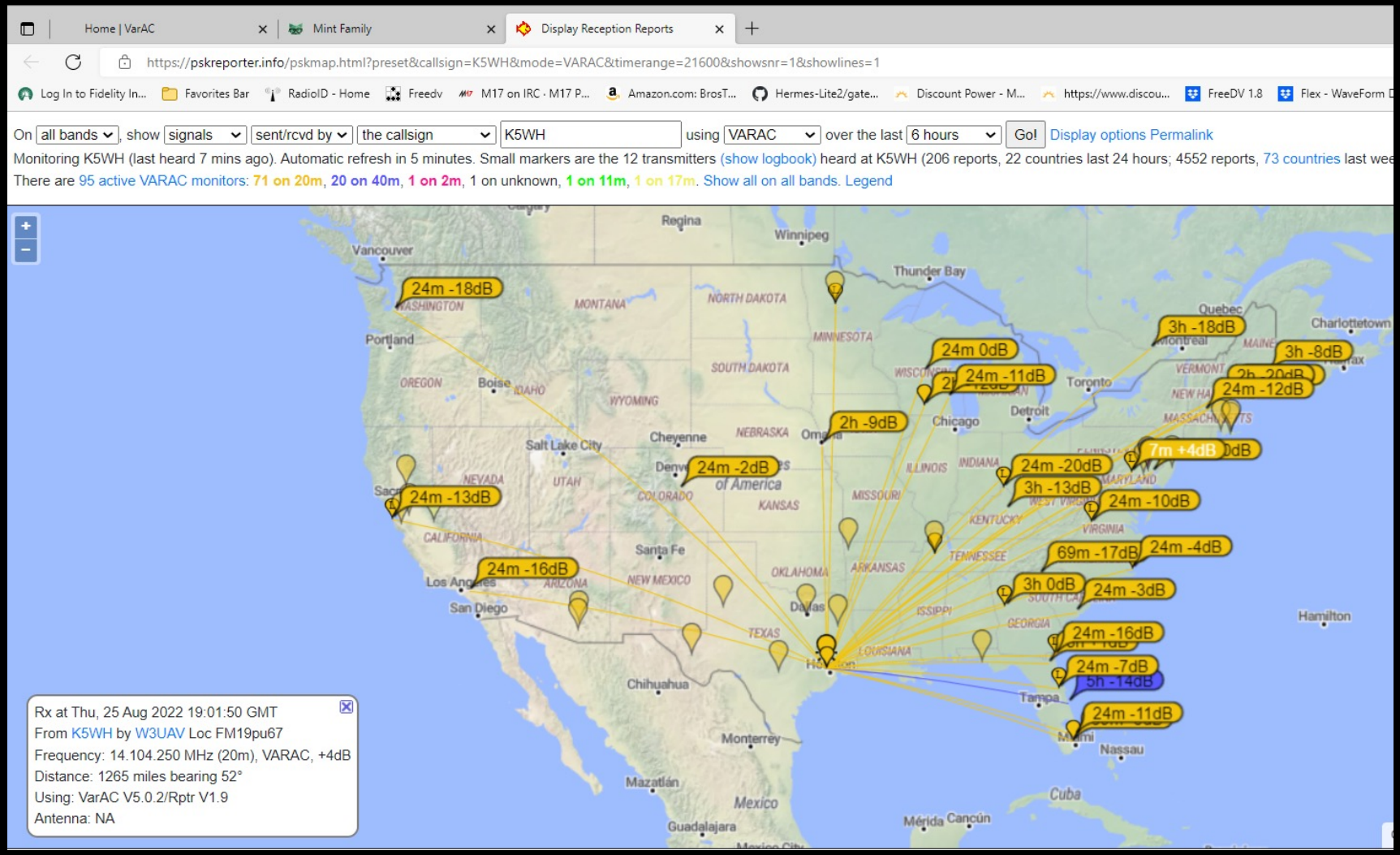
Viewing the Vmail



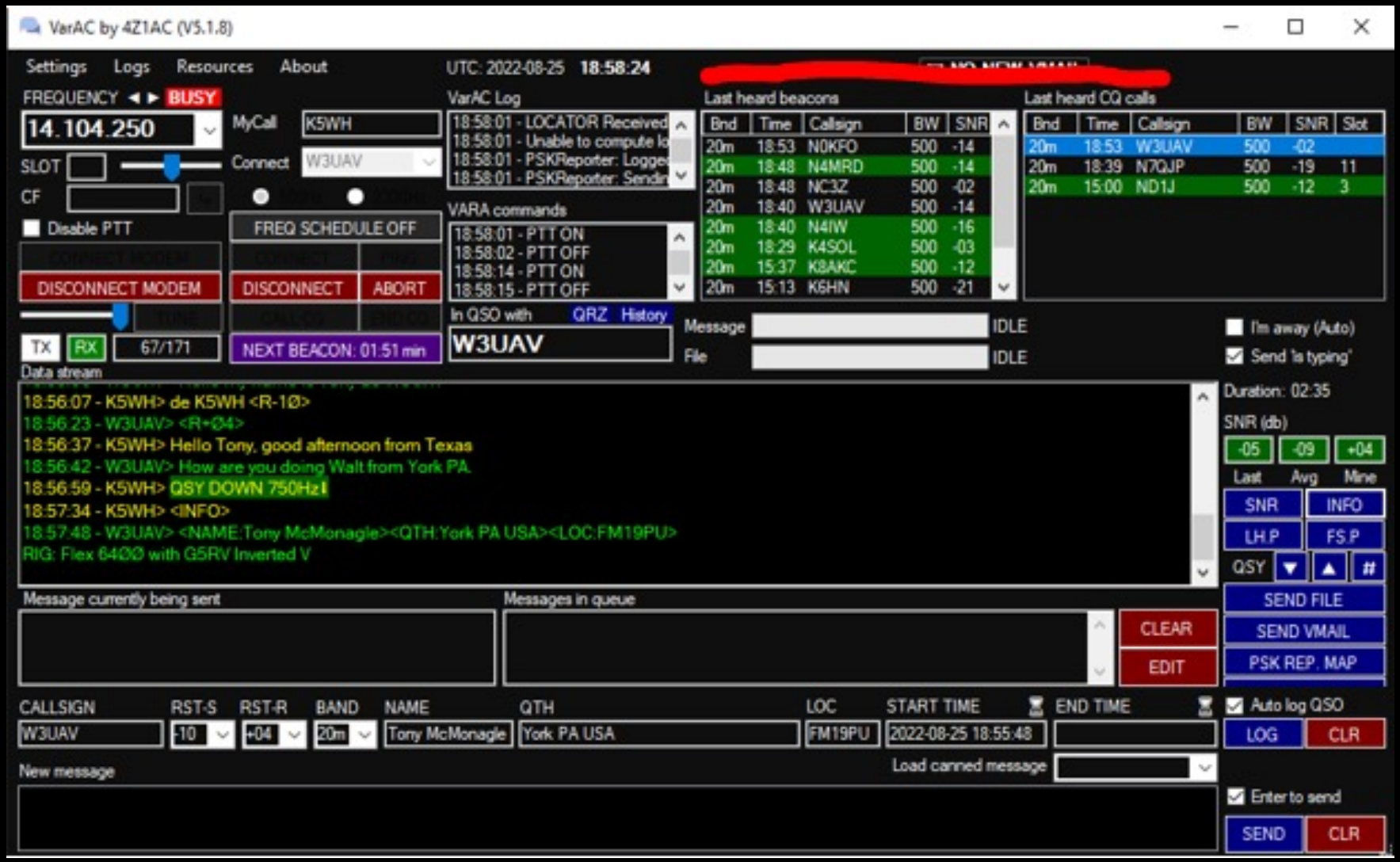
PSK REP. MAP
To show stations on PSK Reporter



PSK REP. MAP
To show stations on PSK Reporter



Other Features
Notice the list of Last Heard beacons and Last heard CQ calls



Right Click on a callsign for options

- Clear
- Copy All
- Ping (get report)
- QRZ.COM lookup
- PSK Reporter lookup
- Callsign History
- QSY to slot

Logs

- QSO Log
- Chat History
- Last Heard Log
- VarAC Log
- Open Logs Directory

Resources

- Quick Start Guide
- User Manuals (EN)
- User Manuals (Non EN)
- VarAC Facebook Group
- VarAC Forum
- Troubleshooting
- FAQ

Further Assistance

- For any follow-up information or configuration assistance, please contact Walter-K5WH
  - walterh@k5wh.net

- Or join us on ZOOM anytime around the clock
  - http://www.k5wh.net/zoom/