

The World Radiosport Team Championship Wrap-Up

By Steve Morris, K7LXC

The first ever World Radiosport Team Championship can only be described as one of the most exciting and most significant events to ever take place in Amateur Radio contesting. The gathering of 44 of the world's top contesters yielded not only world-class competition, but also immeasurable international goodwill and enduring friendships.

After we worked for nearly two years to get them here, the arrival of the Soviet delegation on the Tuesday before the contest was very emotional. To make it even more special, we obtained official permission from the FCC for the UA, LZ, HA and OK teams to operate (despite the lack of reciprocal operating agreements) just five days before their arrival.

The contest itself was preceded by several days of get-acquainted activities. Although the Soviets were very focused on preparation and the contest itself, they found themselves in the middle of a social whirl that exceeded Dayton or Visalia in magnitude. N2AA and UN9AR were unflagging in their dedication to keeping the festivities going no matter how long it took or what the hour was.

When the WRTC Committee decided to sponsor its own contest, it was like throwing a party and not knowing if anyone would show up. With the winning team making over 1400 QSOs and with more than 2000 call signs in the contest data base, the participation can be summarized as fantastic! Propagation was poor for several hours before the contest started, but conditions kept getting better and the rates never let up. The only atmospheric disappointment was the virtual RF "wall" to Asia. Normally

high rates into Japan never materialized, with several teams working only one or two JAs.

Despite the "Asian curtain," the contest exceeded everyone's expectations. Not only was the activity level high, but US and DX stations reported high numbers of QSOs and many interesting "counters" (multis).

All of the logs were put into a computerized format that could be used by the Judging and Scoring Committee. Headed by Rusty, W8OAT, and Marti, OH2BH, the Committee put in more than 100 hours analyzing and scoring the logs (they missed the entire DX Convention while holed up in a hotel room checking logs!). There was a requirement that all teams submit an audio cassette

of their effort. We'll never know just how many times the Committee listened to the same contest on different tapes! With the top three scores winding up within 3% of each other and with national pride at stake, close scrutiny was mandatory. The final analysis was a "unique +1" analysis. With the increase of computerized logging, it is hoped that this effort will be a prototype for future contest log-checking programs.

The final scores put KI AR and KI DG as the gold medal winners, with the K7JA and W9RE team as silver medalists and KQ2M and K80Y as the bronze-medal-winning team. Different strategies were employed by the different teams.

The winning team stuck to its proven East Coast plan of "running them and letting the multis come to them." This resulted in a low counter total for John, K1AR, and Doug, K1DG, but their well-oiled team pulled out the win aided by a winning CW effort. Chip, K7JA, and Mike, W9RE, used their SSB skills to win the SSB title and points, but again finished down in the pack for counters. Unable to produce the rates of some of the other teams, especially on SSB, Bob, KQ2M, and Jeff, K80Y, found counters that no one else worked and walked away with the top honors for counters. At the conclusion of the contest, many teams were already making strategy plans for "next time."

All stations were deemed to be approximately equal in terms of antennas, location and overall station performance. The great equalizer of station dominance was achieved through a random drawing of teams and stations. No one team or station combina-

Numbers from the WRTC

Courtesy of N2IC/V

Call	QSOs	Multis	Score
KZ2S	784	230	1.3 M
K9ZO	775		
WB9JKI	694		
KW8N (Multi-I)	716	301	2.4 M
N4RJ	751	294	2.24 M
N5RZ	833	257	1.7 M
W8LT (K8RE)	766		
WB3KX	599	267	1.87 M
KM3T	860		
K1IU	667	199	1.2 M
KR2J	702	195	1.0 M
WB2ULI	890	168	
KD2SX	620	200	
N2FM	729		
N6RO	731	180	
K1TO	806	263	2.367 M
N2IC/V	758	331	3.10 M
K5XI (Multi-I)	687	101	1.0 M



Paolo, I2UIY, cranks up the "Italian 2-kW linear amplifier." It seem to be working just fine. .



Paolo, I2UIY, and Ivan, IK2DVG



Stephen, G3YDV, and Dave, G4BUO.



Willy, UW9AR, and George, UW9AM.

tion had a clear advantage over the other teams, and since this was supposed to be a test of operator skill and not station performance, it turned out to be the close horse race that everyone wanted to see. The final results are:

Team	Points
K1AR/K1DG	263.35
K7JA/W9RE	255.39
KQ2M/KR0Y	254.30
VE7CC/VE7SV	247.44
DL5XX/DJ6QT	247.11
LZ1MS/LZ2PO	244.86
G3YDV/G4BUO	239.21
EA5BRA/EA9EO	237.56
UA9AM/UW9AR	236.45
AA4NG/W7EJ	235.12
UA1DZ/RB5IM	232.78
I2U1Y/IK2DVG	229.06
OH1XX/OH8PF	228.06
OK1RI/OK2FD	225.38
YU1RL/YT3AA	220.55
HA6NY/HA0MM	219.85
UW3AA/UA9SA	209.91
UW0CA/UW0CN	209.59
JE1CKA/JE1JKL	195.64
PY4OD/PY5EG	193.06
FD1NYQ/F2CW	177.43
JJ3UHS/JM3JQW	172.45

The morning after the contest (with little or no sleep), everyone traveled to Portland

for the annual Pacific Northwest DX Convention, where the competitors were the honored guests. With over 300 hams in attendance, the convention offered even more hospitality for the competitors.

Monday evening was the Awards Banquet, emceed by K7SS, with talks by UV3BW and W6EJJ. After bestowing honors on the competitors, the results were declared official and medals were awarded. Seeing the 44 participants assembled together on the stage made you realize the tremendous contribution that these operators have made to radio contesting by meeting and competing for World Radiosport Team Championship honors. As many of the radio sportsmen and guests talked together about the future of radiosport contesting, two things became clear. One, that this event should take place again. Whether there is some kind of special event (like the Olympics, Goodwill Games, expos, etc) shouldn't be the deciding factor, but it may offer a stage or backdrop for the competition. This event was too important not to happen again and the Committee hopes that another group will pick up the baton for the second WRTC. We will offer all of our expertise and experience to make this happen again, anywhere!

The second significant outcome was the

discussion of a permanent organization that will help to establish new standards for judging, scoring and contest coordination throughout the world.

The World Radiosport Team Championship would not have been possible without the tremendous financial support of our sponsors. First and foremost was ICOM America and Evelyn Garrison, WS7A, who shared the vision and helped us launch this world-class event. Our grateful thanks also go to Bob Ferrero, W6RJ, of Ham Radio Outlet and US Tower; Martin Jue, K5FLU, of MFJ and Ameritron; the Northern California DX Foundation and Joe Mullan, W3FLR. Special thanks to Dick Ross, K2MGA, of CO, Atilano (Oms) de Oms, PY5EG, for helping us with financial support from Brazil, and Barry Merrill, W5GN, for their generous donations.

Led by Danny, K7SS, WRTC Committee members include Steve, K7LXC; Don, W7NG; Jean, KM7E; Pat, KS7L; Karen, KA7VMP; Ron, NV6Z/7; John, KE7V; Ward, N0AX; Mary, W7QGP; Adam, N7MJZ; Chip, K7LR; Marina, N7LSL; Dave, N7MYO; Dick, N7NKG; and Mike, KF7YB. Team Zebra (in the black-and-white striped referee shirts) included W6OAT, K3EST, OH2BH, N6AA, OH2MM, N6ZZ, K8NA, UZ3AU and UW3AX.

Thanks to everyone for all your support and we'll see you on the air!