

# The World Radiosport Team Championship

By Steve Morris, K7LXC  
16521 73rd Ave SE, Snohomish, WA 98290

Maybe it's because of the rain that we in the Pacific Northwest have a lot of time for introspection and contemplation. Maybe it's because of the local community of high caliber operators. Maybe it's the fact that our hobby, and more specifically contesting, is graying, with little new blood entering what we feel is an exciting activity.

Maybe it was a lot of factors that caused the World Radiosport Team Championship to be born.

Danny Eskenazi, K7SS, a world class contester himself, saw that without new contesters entering our pool of participants, contesting would slowly erode and heaven forbid-disappear for lack of interest. To combat that trend, Danny felt that if contesting were presented tononhams (as well as hams not particularly active in contests) as an exciting activity that got one's competitive juices flowing, it might create interest, growth, and higher QSO totals.

The dearth of new hams generally is attributed to the competition from computers, computer games, and Nintendo. If contesting could be conveyed as a real-time, competitive activity that had many of the dynamics of a video game, we might win some converts. In talking with other competitors, including Randy Thompson, K5ZD, a plan was hatched to sponsor an event that would catch people's attention and promote Amateur Radio and contesting.

Coincidentally, Seattle is the site of the 1990 Goodwill Games™ where 2500 athletes and thousands of support personnel, judges, officials, journalists, tourists and other cultural exchange visitors will participate in the games and pageantry, while an estimated one billion people will watch on TV. Why not use the Goodwill Games as the backdrop?

What evolved was the World Radiosport Team Championship, where invited US, Soviet and other international two-person teams would compete in a 10-hour HF contest to establish the true champions. By bringing the competitors together, basic geographic advantages are canceled. (As we all know, unless you're in the Caribbean or on the west coast of Africa, or New England for the US title, you're going to have a tough time winning.)

We wanted to have a level playing field for our "radio-sportsmen," meaning everyone needed to be in the same area with the same radios and similar antennas.

As our Committee put final touches on a proposal to the Goodwill Games Cultural Exchange Committee, we realized that hosting all the competitors and providing for their expenses as well as general funding for the event would take financial resources beyond our means.

Soon after receiving our official approval

from the Goodwill Games, we met with ICOM's Evelyn Garrison, WS7A, who realized the significance of our event and the positive effect it would have both on the amateur community and the public. Evelyn soon committed ICOM's financial support and offering ICOM gear. Evelyn's and ICOM's generous support and belief in this event made it happen.

Once we had ICOM as our major sponsor, we gained additional support from Ham Radio Outlet, US Tower, MFJ and CO Magazine.

The next hurdle was team selection. The Committee asked for applications via an announcement in the NCJ and tendered invitations to Japan, Canada, Spain, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Bulgaria, England, Sweden, Finland, Italy, France, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Brazil, and Argentina. We left the selection of the Soviet team up to the Radio Sport Federation of the USSR. As many as 17 teams could be competing in the WRTC-entries are still arriving.

The American Team is made up of the following operators (in no particular order):

K1AR—John "Rate Is Everything" Dorr. John is well known for his QO WW triumphs as a single operator as well as helping to pioneer the new "single-op assisted" category. His contesting enthusiasm and recent ascension to the editorship of the QO Magazine Contest Column recognizes his status as one of the more influential and respected members of our contest community. One of my most vivid recollections of John is the ferocity with which he operated when the 20-meter phone subband was expanded down to 14.150 several years ago. It was such an exciting event that he turned it into his own contest-and had a ball!

W7EJ—Jim Sullivan. Besides being a tenacious single operator, Jim has contributed to such winning multi efforts as KH6XX, PJ1B, P48V, FG5R and KO6ZR. Although he claims to hate Sweepstakes, Jimmy also has been successful in that one. Jim says that "contestng provides me with an opportunity to compete with the rest of the world in an event that is free of lists, jammers and band police."

K8DY—Jeff Steinman. A young electrical engineer, Jeff blossomed under the guidance (and aluminum) of Lew Gordon, K4VX/D. Jeff's dossier, beginning in 1980, includes 35 Top Ten

efforts in everything from M/M QO WW campaigns to WPX and NA Sprint titles.

K1DG—Doug Grant. Doug and John Dorr (Doug's brother-in-law) claim to be pumping Kansas City keyers to get in shape for this competition. An active contester since 1970, Doug has been heard from FG8MM, HIBXWP, 4U1TU, PJ7A and KP2A, as well as from W2PV, K1EA, K1GQ and K1OX. Doug also has served on the QO WW Contest Committee and ARRL Contest Advisory Committee.

W5RE—Mike Wetzel. Another engineer, Mike competes from a tough spot in the US. Typically outgunned by both coasts in DX tests and competing from a not-so-prime spot for SS, Mike never fails to produce. His impressive tower and antenna farm, featured recently in the NCJ, obviously contributed to his winning efforts.

K7JA—Chip Margelli. Amateur radio is Chip's life. From his impressive contesting and DXing credentials to his job as vice president for customer service at Yaesu USA, Chip has made a sizable contribution to hamming. He says his string of three consecutive both-mode wins in Sweepstakes (1971-73) is one of his most memorable accomplishments. His recent involvement with the 4JIFS and Puyallup Tribe of Indians expeditions have only added to the K7JA legend.

KQ2M—Bob "Mosquito" Shohet. Bob acquired his nickname during the winning 1988 effort of P48V, when he either talked or sent so fast that it sounded like a mosquito was operating. His strategy at maintaining CW pileups by increasing his speed until the pileup became more manageable (around 50 + WPM) ensured a place in the P48V

lore. A pension consultant, Bob has entered and won almost everything and currently "owns" the WPX Contest. Whether a state QSO party, a 160-meter test, or one of the biggies, Bob goes all out and consistently places in the Top Three. "Operating under extreme pressure, with inadequate rest and complete concentration, the contesters pride, ethics, courtesy, cunning, sportsmanship and sheer force of will are exposed as they really are, for all to see" is what contesting means to KQ2M.



**AA4NC—Will Roberts.** Will knows the Caribbean. VP2E, HH, VP2M, PJ7, C6 and V4 have been some of his stops over the years. While DXpeditions and record setting really get him going, he also has been known to suffer other contesting dementia, including state QSO parties. As part of a recent VP2E multi-single effort during the 1990 ARRL DX SSB test, the team broke the 10,000 QSO barrier—that's over 200 an hour! Dangerous on any band, Will enjoys the travel and friendships aspects of contesting.

**KH6U—Katashi Nose.** Nose, Honorary US Team Captain, has influenced contesters for years with his techniques and achievements. Although his contesting exploits have slowed down over the years, his appearance on the bands never fails to create a small pileup. As a member of the CQ Contest Hall of Fame, Nose is recognized as one of the great competitors of all time.

In addition, three alternate operators may have a chance to compete. These are:

**N2AA—Gene Walsh.** Gene has one of the world's most recognized call signs. For many years up to the mid '80s, using the call sign N2AA from Buzz Reeves' station (K2GL), Gene helped steer this outstanding multi-multi station to prominence in the CQ WW contests. This effort was immortalized in the outstanding film *To Win the World* and shows the talent and effort behind those scores. Gene established his abilities by being the first double (both modes) winner of the CQ WW in 1963, as 5AITW. He thinks that "international friendships made among contesters are deeper and more lasting than is possible in most casual amateur radio activities, because of the intensity with which most contesters approach their activities."

Gene has received many awards and trophies over the years, as well as setting numerous records, and is respected as being a "contester's contester."

**K1CC—Rich Assarabowski.** Licensed as a 13 year old (weren't a lot of us!), Rich has made his mark in many DX contests. Citing the IARU Radiosport HF Championship contest as one of his favorites, he is active in Murphy's Marauders, promoting contesting to anyone who will listen.

**KN0E—Pete Grillo.** As KN9PDH, Pete placed second in the Novice Roundup in 1958. He was second only to the now KN5A. Pete says that one of his proudest contesting experiences was during the ARRL DX Phone contest in 1973 when he received a distress call from Guatemala for special medicine for a critically injured hemophiliac patient. Through Pete's coordination,

President Nixon was called and a special flight arranged to provide the necessary medication. Although Pete said that his score suffered because of the two-day emergency, his pride did not.

The Radio Sport Federation (RSF) in the Soviet Union have recently announced their team. They are:

**Team Members**

UA1DZ	LY2PAJ
UW3AA	LY2BIG
UA9SA	UW9AR
UA0SAU	UA9AM

**Alternates**

RB5IM	UW0CN
UM8MO	UW0CA

**Support Team**

UA6HZ	UZ3AU
UA3AO	UV3BW
UW3AX	

The Soviet team is in the order of their national ranking for their own championship. There's no question that the Soviets are taking this very seriously and will be toughing in Portland for the Convention. Write to: PNW DX Convention, in care of W7ZR, Route 1 Box 518, Beaverton, OR 97007.

There's no question that this event is attracting some of the best contesters in the world. We wish them all the best of luck.

An event of this magnitude requires a lot of manpower. Our committee has been at work more than 18 months. The WRTC Committee members who have worked very



hard to turn this event into reality are K7SS, K7LXC, KE7V, K97L, W7NG, KM7E, N7MJZ and KM7E.

Marti Laine, OH2BH, the only member of both the CQ Contesting Hall of Fame and the CQ DX Hall of Fame, is Chairman of the Operating Event. He has been instrumental in coordinating the international teams, as well as in developing the rules and promoting our event in the international amateur community.

Rusty Epps, W6OAT, has taken the responsibility for judging and scoring the contest. As one of the founders of the NA Sprint and with his reputation for integrity, Rusty's contribution will help define events of this scope in the future.

One unusual aspect of the WRTC Contest is that we will award prizes in addition to the normal certificates. Make five WRTC QSOs, get a certificate. Work 30 WRTC stations and get a free commemorative pin. And if you submit one of the top 500 scores, you'll win a free WRTC T-shirt!

If you're interested in meeting the teams and some of the operators that you've contacted many times during the contests over the years, plan to attend the Pacific Northwest DX Convention in Portland, Oregon, the same weekend, July 20, 21 and 22. After the Friday night contest, we'll all be gathering in Portland for the Convention. Write to: PNW DX Convention, in care of W7ZR, Route 1 Box 518, Beaverton, OR 97007.

The Committee especially thanks Bob Ferrero, W6RJ, Martin Jue, K5FLU, and Dick Ross, K2MGA, for their support.

We're looking forward to your participation to help us make this event a success. See you on the air in July!

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## From the CQ WW Contest Committee

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The burden for obtaining such information from the committee lies with the entrant. We keep logs for one year after the submission deadlines.

### If the committee needs a diskette, why don't they ask for it from the competitor or his duping service?

We do ask for such diskettes. Most people cooperate very happily; others, for reasons known only to themselves, do not. P40V was asked to provide a diskette to the committee on both modes of the 1988 contest. No diskette came to us until May (only the SSB diskette) and by then the results were already determined. Of course we had already typed in their 39,000 QSOs. It is not our responsibility to seek a diskette from a duping service. It would be unethical without

the entrant's permission. We always contact the entrant directly.

I have touched upon only a few points the CQ WW Contest Committee considers as its policy. An expansion of this general information will appear in CQ magazine this summer. Each member devotes many hours to assure you that the scores that are published are the best judged in any major contest. We are not remote. We are not without ears. We listen to what a consensus wants. There are many contesters, however, and only a few committee members. This fact requires you to interact with us. If you have questions about the rules or anything else please contact a director. We will do our best to answer your questions. A current membership list is published in the September and October issues of CQ?