

## KRØY-K1TO Team Tops WRTC-96

When the smoke cleared Sunday, July 14, the team of Jeffrey Steinman, KRØY, and Dan Street, K1TO—operating as W6X—wound up at the top of the heap in the second World Radiosport Team Championship. The WRTC-96 event featured 52 team stations (plus two “wild-card” exhibition teams) operating 18 hours of the IARU HF World Championship contest July 13-14 from the San Francisco Bay area of California. Jeff, 32, and Dan, 36, operated from the QTH of WA6AHF. K1TO called the accomplishment “the highlight of my ham radio career.” He said the W6X team spent most of its time on CW and “we never stopped running.” Using one transmitter, the pair made 1706 CW and 751 SSB QSOs during the 18-hour WRTC contest period.

All teams had similar 100-W stations and used comparable antennas. In the case of the winning pair at W6X in San Lorenzo, that meant a Hy-Gain TH6 at 50 feet and a pair of ICOM IC-765s (one for transmitting, one for spotting). The 40-meter dipoles of at least the first three finishers were wire inverted Vs made by WRTC-96 for the host stations.

“This whole week has been one of the most fantastic parties ham radio has ever seen,” said John Zapisek, K2MM, who posted the scores on the contest reflector for an anxiously waiting contest community.

WRTC-96 Treasurer Dave Leeson, W6QHS, offered “heartly congratulations to the top finishers, but also to all the champions that made up the 52 competing teams and the two demonstration teams.” Some two dozen countries were represented among the competitors and demonstration teams.

The ARRL was among the financial supporters of WRTC-96, and Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, was invited to observe the event, which included representatives from several IARU sister societies. “The WRTC proved to be an exceptional setting for demonstrating the



WRTC-96 competitors (l-r) Jan van Niekerk, ZS6NW; Dan Street, K1TO; and Stan Stockton, K5GO, join ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, to wind down at a pool party the day after the contest. The team of K1TO and Jeff Steinman, KRØY—operating as W6X—led the field of 52 teams in WRTC-96.

capacity of Amateur Radio to promote international good will,” he said. “Participants came from every continent and from a veritable rainbow of cultures, but shared a strong common bond. Our hats are off to the organizers, judges, referees, and competitors, as well as to the FCC, whose exceptional cooperation made the event possible.”

Several well-known contest call signs also were in the top 10. They included Georgians K4BAI and KM9P in the second spot as K6T, operating from NQ6X, and the W6R team of K6LL and N2IC in the number-three position, operating from AF6S. The winners of the first WRTC in Seattle, Washington, in 1990, John Dorr, K1AR, and Doug Grant, K1DG, placed 13th this time around. The first WRTC was a 12-hour event and was not held in conjunction with a worldwide contest.

Sumner said the week of social activities and tours associated with WRTC and a

prevailing spirit of “extraordinary fellowship” gave him a chance to compare notes with officials from other countries on how Amateur Radio is faring here and abroad. “The WRTC embodied some of our real strengths,” he concluded, noting the youthful ages of the winning team and many of the competitors (that included at least one operator still in his teens).

On the East Coast, W1AW/3, operating from the QTH of Frank Donovan, W3LPL, in Glenwood, Maryland, handed out the official ARRL HQ multiplier to IARU contesters. W1AW racked up 8017 contacts in the IARU event. The W1AW/3 operation was a joint effort of the Frankford Radio Club and the Potomac Valley Radio Club. In addition to W3LPL, the operators were AA3NM, K3DI, K3NA, K3RA, KA2AEV, KJ4VG, N3ADL, N3QYA, N5OKR, ND3A, ND3F, W3MR, WA3WJD, WB4NFS, WM2H, WN3K, WR3E and WR3Z.