

# A History of WRTC

Adapted from the WRTC2006 Web site.

The World Radiosport Team Championship—WRTC for short—represents a large gathering of the world's best contesters. WRTC2006 will be the fifth WRTC to take place, and this year's event will bring together contesters from some 35 different countries and all continents in the spirit of competition. Using the same playing field will allow pure skills to determine world champions in two-man teams in the 24-hour nonstop competition in Florianopolis, the state of Santa Catarina, Brazil.

Here is a brief history of the previous WRTCs.

## Seattle, USA – 1990

WRTC was born in 1990 under the auspices of the Goodwill Games, which was the brainchild of Ted Turner of CNN fame. The first Games were organized in Seattle, Washington, focusing on areas of cultural exchange, arts and other unique subjects - one of these being Amateur Radio and hence WRTC. Radio Amateurs from the whole world were gathered in an Olympic-style event for competition and camaraderie.

After the first WRTC ended, the top 3 teams were:

- 1 K1AR, K1DG
- 2 K7JA, W9RE
- 3 KQ2M, KRØY/N5TJ

## San Francisco, USA – 1996

In 1996, the WRTC traveled to San Francisco, and in the shadow of the Golden Gate the event provided a historical setting and a ticket of continuity. At the same time, the WRTC Steering Team was born in the US to promote the concept, to select future sites and to be of valuable help to future events. This time the WRTC was a pure radio amateur event and assumed the more clearly defined proportions of the Olympics. The WRTC began to emerge as a worldwide radio contest and, in particular, a warm-hearted get together of radio contesters.

The 1996 event resulted in the following standings:

- 1 KRØY/N5TJ, K1TO
- 2 K4BAI, KM9P/W4AN
- 3 K6LL, N2IC



This WRTC, with K1TO and N5TJ taking the top spot, started a run in contesting that can only be considered as phenomenal.

## Bled, Slovenia – 2000

It was in 2000 that WRTC expanded internationally, as the newly born country of Slovenia - on the sunny side of the Alps - set the stage. WRTC 2000 was another historical event for the benefit of those present as well as those following the event on the radio waves from all corners of the globe. The entire country of Slovenia was actively involved, once again upholding the spirit of WRTC and its Olympic flame. It was a big and successful event in a small country, and those that were there have an experience they never will forget.

The top 3 teams for WRTC2000 were:

- 1 K1TO, N5TJ
- 2 RA3AUU, RV1AW
- 3 K1DG, K1AR

The team consisting of K1TO and N5TJ pulled off a repeat win. Could they do it again at the next WRTC?

## Helsinki, Finland – 2002

Honoring the declining sunspot cycle, the 2002 event came only two years after the previous competition, and it was also a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Olympic games of 1952. The Contest Club Finland (CCF) and the Finnish Amateur Radio League (SRAL) jointly hosted the event. While the actual on-site race was organized in the Helsinki area, the week prior to the competition saw these world competitors spending several days together with the entire Amateur Radio population of Finland, as well as spending time with many international guests. Some 2000 people

gathered in the SRAL Summer camp (field day). This time 53 teams from 30 countries were competing, with almost real-time score presentation on monitors at the WRTC HQ and on the Internet—Finnish hi-tech at its best.

When the contest ended, the order of the top 3 teams was:

- 1 N5TJ, K1TO
- 2 RA3AUU, RV1AW
- 3 DL2CC, DL6FBL

Indeed, the K1TO and N5TJ team pulled off a three-peat.

## Florianopolis, Brazil – 2006

At the bottom of the sunspot cycle the competition will be held in Florianopolis at the Atlantic coastal area in southern Brazil. Forty-seven WRTC and up to 15 multinational multi-single teams (MN MS) with participants from 47 countries, will participate. In line with the qualification principles for the Olympic Games, the competitors have been selected on basis of real performance within their regions. (To encourage participation of ladies and young radio amateurs, a special selection criteria was created for them.) The MN MS Teams will serve as a booster for Amateur Radio in Brazil, and at the same time develop international friendship and contesting experience between the participants.

Due to the poor propagation conditions and the remoteness of the WRTC site from the radio amateur population centers, the competition is providing a linear amplifier and a beam for the 40-meter band in addition to the standard set-up. Further, the rules have been modified to give the second operator a more active role.

Another significant step towards globalization and international friendship is that all teams are not strictly national; there are bi-national teams as well.

Who will be the top three teams for WRTC2006? We'll know the outcome soon, but it will definitely not be K1TO and N5TJ. Unfortunately, both gentlemen have business commitments that have prohibited them from participating.

**NCJ**