

Editorial

Welcome to WRTC2014!

WRTC Special Commemorative Issue

Welcome to the July/August 2014 issue of *National Contest Journal*. We at *NCJ* are grateful for the opportunity to dedicate this entire issue to WRTC2014. It has been 18 years since a World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) was held in North America, and we felt it appropriate to celebrate the event with a bonus-sized, commemorative edition to mark the occasion.

This issue is being provided to all competitors and referees at WRTC2014; it can be considered a “yearbook” of sorts. Inside you will find a brief biography of every competitor and referee, along with photos of each. Articles describe some of the technology behind WRTC, including the antenna systems, power-monitoring devices, and the live score-reporting network. Also, we’ve included a Participation Awards check-off list. You can use this during the contest while chasing down as many WRTC2014 stations on as many bands as possible.

We hope that you will enjoy getting to know some of the people participating in WRTC2014. I am personally thrilled to be able to attend my first-ever WRTC, as a referee, and I look forward to meeting the talented group of individuals involved in this unique championship. I’ll bring back a full report of the experience for *NCJ* readers. We will return to our normal format with the September/October edition. In the interim, don’t forget the NAQP and Sprint events in August and September. The *NCJ* website, <http://ncjweb.com>, has more details.

No July/August issue of *NCJ* would be complete without a few words about Dayton. Once again, K3LR and his team

of experts made Dayton *the* place to be for contesters in May. From Contest University to nightly pizza parties, informative contesting and antenna forums, entertainment by the Spurious Emissions band, and the not-to-be-missed contest banquet, there was no lack of activities for the contesting community. There is never enough time to say hello to everyone, but I am grateful to the many folks who took some time to share their comments about *NCJ*. We’d also like to congratulate the latest inductees into the CQ Contest Hall of Fame — KØDQ and WØYK. Well deserved, gentlemen!

Some WRTC History, Courtesy of NØAX

It’s hard to believe that it has been 24 years since the *first* WRTC was held in Seattle during the Goodwill Games of 1990. That first event was put together on a shoestring budget, before the advent of e-mail, and — until nearly the last minute — without official approval for operators from behind the Iron Curtain (remember that?) to take part from the US. Yet teams from 16 countries managed to overcome the challenges and operated from the stations of local hosts in a one-of-a-kind contest (results appeared in the September/October 1990 issue of *NCJ*).

That first competition remains unique in radiosport, in that not only were the teams operating from the same general area, but that the contest itself was devised solely for WRTC 1990. No one knew if any other stations would even show up, but they did! Scoring was based on a combination of QSOs, multipliers, and an off-the-air pileup competition. Log checking was done based

on the hand-entered computer logs and listening to audio tapes submitted by each station. Like today’s WRTCs, though, final results were released in less than 24 hours after the competition.

Also like today’s WRTCs, the committee was made up of volunteers. Led by Danny Eskenazi, K7SS, the team labored for nearly 2 years to make the necessary arrangements. In today’s highly-connected world, it is sometimes difficult to remember that it was not always so easy to get permission to travel. For a few of the competitors, it was their first trip outside their own countries. Many of these top contesters, despite hundreds of lightning-fast exchanges during competitions, had never met face-to-face until those first few July gatherings.

That aspect of WRTC — the socializing and friendship — remains the key element of the event today; without camaraderie, why bother? The spirit of WRTC was captured in a video from that first gathering, “Passport to Friendship,” which you can view at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HlzNGBdUfEA>. The teams and spectators and judges and hosts are, first and foremost, friends. Sure, not an inch or a centimeter is yielded on the air, and only a few percentage points separate the hotly contested final totals. But afterward, we congratulate the successful, console and encourage the rest, and then all go back to being hams, sharing our wealth of experiences and our love of wireless.

We hope you enjoy the competition and this special issue of *NCJ*.