



WRTC2014

World Radiosport Team Championship brings the world's best contesters to the United States this summer.

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It is hard to imagine now, but in 1990 the idea of Amateur Radio operators from the Soviet Union coming to America to operate a contest was just a dream. Under the banner of the Goodwill Games in Seattle, a group of enterprising contesters from the Pacific Northwest created the World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC). Five Soviet teams joined 17 other teams from around the world for a historic social and sporting exchange. From that simple beginning, the WRTC team competition concept moved on to San Francisco (1996), Slovenia (2000), Finland (2002), Brazil (2006), and Russia (2010). WRTC2014, to be held in New England July 8 – 14, returns to the United States just in time for the ARRL Centennial.

WRTC2014 pits 59 two-operator all-star teams, representing 38 countries, in a battle of radiosport competition on a truly level playing field. Competing teams were selected from 29 regions around the world through a series of 55 qualifying events over a 3-year period. Just earning a spot at WRTC2014 was a prestigious accomplishment for every competitor.

Fifty-Nine Teams in 16 Communities

Contesting evolved from the earliest attempts to see who could work the most DX or relay the most messages. Contests often had a hidden bias that favored operators with the biggest antennas or best location. This left participants always wondering who the best ops really were. With teams using identical power, antennas, and locations, WRTC strives to answer this age-old question.

The WRTC2014 competition will run for 24 hours, concurrent with the IARU HF Championship beginning on July 12 at 1200 UTC. The day before the contest, each of the competing teams will have been escorted to their randomly selected operating locations. The WRTC2014 organizers, with the help of hundreds of volunteers,

will have set up complete stations “Field Day style” in 16 communities along the Interstate 495 corridor around Boston. It will be a massive job to assemble all of these stations in less than 72 hours!

Each site includes a tent, generator, desks, chairs, a 40-foot tower, and three antennas. The antennas consist of a TX-38 tribander by Cycle 24 and separate inverted Vs for both 40 and 80 meters hanging from the tower. The teams bring their own radios, switching systems, computers, and logging software. The rules for WRTC2014 allow both operators to make contacts at any time. The teams will have to make maximum use of the three antennas to provide full operation for two stations. This will require teams to push the limits for interstation interference filtering and effective use of triplexers! As with many technical sports, winning will require a combination of technology, skill, strategy, and luck.

Under Watchful Eyes

Competition at this level requires keen oversight. Each team will have a full-time, on-site referee to answer questions about the rules or making equipment changes, and to monitor the operation by listening to the audio from the two stations. Referees are all experienced contesters who were selected from around the world. No referee will be monitoring a team from their own country. To help keep things fair, the referee will hand each team their contest call sign just 5 minutes before the contest begins!

Work WRTC2014 Stations for Special QSLs and Centennial Party Points!

A unique aspect of Amateur Radio competition is that anyone can join in the game. The WRTC2014 competitors will be using distinctive call signs that will make them easy to recognize. The competition will be on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters on both CW and SSB. Everyone is encouraged to work the WRTC stations on as many band/modes as possible. All WRTC2014 station

contacts will be confirmed by QSL card and through Logbook of The World. As an added incentive, each WRTC station will count as 5 points for the Centennial QSO Party!

In addition to working the WRTC2014 stations, you can monitor their progress on an online scoreboard at the WRTC2014 website at www.wrtc2014.org. While the teams will not see the scoreboard, everyone else will be able to follow the teams' strategy decisions and see how they change positions over time.

Post Contest

Once the contest is over, the teams will head back to the “Team Village” hotel for some much needed rest. The judging committee will assemble all of the electronic logs and begin the process of certifying the winners. It will be important to collect as many logs as possible from around the world to help with the checking. All logs submitted by e-mail to the IARU HF Championship robot (iaruhf@arrl.org) within 6 hours of the end of the contest will be eligible for a WRTC prize drawing. Awards will go to the stations working all 59 teams in the shortest time and to those who work the most band modes.

The WRTC2014 Committee is an independent organization created specifically to organize the event. It has taken 4 years to assemble the necessary resources, skills, logistics, and locations. This event could not happen without the financial support of sponsors, foundations, radio clubs, and individuals. Visit www.wrtc2014.org for more information about WRTC2014.

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