

Olympics & Radiosport

Like many of you, I spent much of my free time this past summer watching the Olympics, spellbound by feats of athletic prowess and the stories behind some of the competitors. Images of Michael Phelps, Gabby Douglas and Usain Bolt remain in my mind, along with double-amputee runner Oscar Pistorius of South Africa and Guor Marial, the South Sudanese marathoner who ran under the flag of the International Olympic Committee because his country is too new to have fielded a team.

For competitors like Phelps, Douglas and Bolt, it was all about winning ... they were among the games' "big guns." For athletes like Pistorius and Marial, though, it was more about just being there, being part of a worldwide sporting event and competing on the same playing field as the world's best athletes. They had no real expectations of winning medals, but that was beside the point. They are like the "little pistols" of amateur radio contesting, who compete mostly against their own past performances and are there for the joy of taking part in a worldwide sporting event—radiosport, in this case.

The CQ World Wide DX Contest (SSB weekend at the end of October; CW at the end of November) is not only amateur radio's biggest contest, it is also—as far as we can tell—the world's largest participation sporting event. Period. Based on the number of different callsigns that appear in the logs we receive, no other single sporting event has so many participants. Realistically, only a small percentage of those competitors have any real chance of qualifying for a plaque or a certificate. The rest of us are there either to work some rare DX, to compete against our own past performances or perhaps our friends, or simply for the joy of taking part in a worldwide sporting event.

Unlike the Olympics, you don't have to pre-qualify in order to compete in the CQWW (see rules at <http://bit.ly/OOL8AV>). But there *is* a ham radio equivalent of the Olympics ... held every four years, complete with qualifying events, national teams and international rules (but no worldwide TV audience) ... The *World Radiosport Team Championship*, or WRTC. The next WRTC will be held in New England in 2014 (see <http://www.wrtc2014.org/>) and preparations are already well under way.

There's even a brand new ham radio contest inspired by athletic competitions: Our friends from the Araucaria DX Group in Brazil have just announced the *World Wide Iron Ham Contest*, to be held at the end of December, based on Iron Man and triathlon-type events. Competitors will sequentially operate all three major contesting modes - SSB, CW and RTTY, in a single 24-hour period (see <http://bit.ly/OsUaBc>). Events such as these add to the "sport" part of "radiosport."

CQ Contest Changes

While much of my free time during the summer was occupied with watching the Olympics, a good deal of my work time recently has been focused on radiosport, specifically CQ's contests. We dealt with some scoring issues (see October CQ, p. 90), the realignment of our contest reporting schedule (see October CQ, p. 38) and the retirement of Bob Cox, K3EST, as Director of the CQ World-Wide DX Contest after 35 years.

Bob led the contest through massive upgrades in technology, both on and off the air, that have significantly changed the way people operate their stations during contests, how they log their contacts and submit their logs and how those logs are scored and checked for accuracy. Through it all, Bob and the CQ WW Contest Committee

*e-mail: w2vu@cq-amateur-radio.com

Digital Edition 1st Anniversary

This issue marks the beginning of CQ's second year of publishing in digital form as well as in print. After some initial growing pains that come along with any new project, everything is moving along well, and we hope everyone is making the most of what this new format offers, such as direct links to videos, audio files and references on the web.

A note for those of you who have hesitated to try our digital edition because of prior problems with Zinio, our digital edition host. Around the time that we began digital publication, Zinio apparently underwent a major service upgrade and virtually all of the earlier problems that people have described appear to have been resolved. So if that has been holding you back, we urge you to give them another shot. There are special discounts available for print subscribers adding on a digital subscription. —W2VU

have kept us at the leading edge of the technology curve, building the CQ World-Wide DX Contest into the world's largest ham radio contest and, as noted above, the world's largest participation sporting event. Thank you, Bob, for your many years of service to CQ, to contesting in particular, and to amateur radio in general.

While the details of our new contest reporting schedule were published last month, I would like to take a moment here to reiterate one point, which will affect every reader of this magazine. The process of rearranging everything to publish contest results several months sooner—something that many readers have been requesting for several years—will take a full year to complete and our schedule for next year is going to be a little jumbled. For example, we're going to have two years' worth of WPX Contest results in the same year, and some of our specials are going to be bouncing around a bit. So we ask for your indulgence while we get things rearranged. Our new schedule will be fully in place as of 2014. Thanks in advance for your understanding.

In This Issue...

This is our second annual **Technology Special**, and we're happy to once again share with you several articles on the current and future states of amateur radio technology. More than project articles, our features this month focus on the technology itself, where it's heading and how some folks are combining both old and new technology to accomplish new things. It's what hams have always done and continue to do.

Our first two articles deal with different approaches to a growing problem—severe limits or outright prohibitions on amateur radio antennas in various locations. One focuses on different options for remote station operation while the other looks at the more controversial option of using the internet for ham radio "like" contacts. By publishing this article, we are not necessarily endorsing the concept, but rather putting it out there for discussion. We also have an article on combining "ancient" regenerative circuitry with radio astronomy techniques to pull weak CW signals out of the noise, a look at the pros and cons of wireless battery charging and two CQ reviews. We hope you enjoy this month's selections.

And Speaking of November...

For our readers in the United States, this month begins with a presidential election and ends with Thanksgiving Day and the CW weekend of the CQ World-Wide DX Contest. We encourage you all to vote and to be thankful that we live in a society in which we are free to express widely differing political views without fear of retribution (despite the temptation posed by endless political posts on Facebook!). Happy Thanksgiving! 73, Rich W2VU