



It Seems to Us

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ARRL Centennial, W1AW/x, and WRTC

“If you haven’t noticed ARRL Centennial activity on the bands, you’re not paying attention!”

This year’s Centennial Celebration of the founding of the ARRL is multi-faceted. The big in-person gathering is our National Centennial Convention in Hartford, July 17–19. Knowing that not every ARRL member can make it to Connecticut we also recognized six long-standing, successful conventions as Regional Centennial Events. One of these was the Dayton Hamvention®, which by happy coincidence happened to fall on the exact date that is regarded as the “birthday” of the ARRL: May 18. Hundreds of League members and friends celebrated with cupcakes on Sunday morning before wrapping up yet another delightful Dayton weekend.

But we are, after all, radio people. What better way to celebrate can there be than to get on the air? From New Year’s Day on, that’s what ARRL members have been doing — and we’ll be at it until the calendar says 2015. The Centennial QSO Party is an opportunity to collect points by contacting other ARRL members and to thank the hard-working volunteers throughout the country who do so much to fulfill the mission of our national association. Details are at www.arri.org/centennial-qso-party.

Throughout 2014 the Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW, is being operated for a week at a time in the different states of the Union, usually two at a time and sometimes with an offshore part of the ARRL field organization also represented. By late August all 50 states will have hosted “W1AW/x” where x is the call area of the operation. We had no idea how to gauge interest in advance and frankly, we’ve been bowled over by the demand for W1AW/x QSOs. The *one million* mark was surpassed in April! We’re bracing for a *flood* of applications for the Worked All States with W1AW Award. If you have missed a few, don’t worry — every state will be on for two separate weeks. The operating schedule, which is subject to change, is available at the URL given above.

In addition the FCC has granted permission for the station to use the distinctive call sign W100AW throughout the year. It will be used only from the station location in Newington, CT and from the sites of the Regional Centennial Events.

If you are having fun chasing W1AW/x you will *really* enjoy this year’s IARU HF World Championship, an annual 24-hour event that begins at 1200 UTC (0800 EDT) on Saturday, July 12. There is added spice this year: the 7th World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC), a contest within a contest, is being held in the Boston area. First organized in Seattle in 1990, WRTC is returning to the United States for the first time since 1996 when it was held in the San Francisco area. Subsequent events were hosted in Slovenia, Finland, Brazil, and Russia.

For the 3 years after the Moscow event in 2010, amateurs throughout the world competed for an invitation to lead two-person teams of operators at WRTC2014. Hundreds of ama-

teurs in the New England area have volunteered to assemble 59 identical Field Day-style sites in quiet, level locations near the Interstate 495 arc. The objective is to eliminate the variables of station location and antenna size so the operators can compete on a level playing field, with only their operating and equipment integration skills as variables. Operators from more than 30 countries and all continents will be competing for WRTC gold, silver, and bronze medals and other awards. They will be supervised on-site by an equally international team of referees. Even the competition to be a referee was fierce!

The WRTC competitors have worked hard to get here, and the organizers and other volunteers have worked hard to prepare an outstanding event. The remaining necessary ingredient is the opportunity for the teams to make as many contacts as they can in the 24-hour period, using CW and SSB on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. This is where *you* come in.

WRTC teams will be using 59 of the 75 call signs in the “1 x 1” special event block for the first call area, from K1A through W1Z. They will have modest stations: 100 W, a small triband Yagi antenna at 40 feet, and low inverted Vs for 40 and 80 meters. Please find and work as many as you can, on both modes and on as many bands as you can! We don’t want them to get bored, especially in the wee hours of Sunday morning. The contest exchange is signal report and ITU zone (for the WRTC teams, zone 8).

The WRTC organizers are offering participation awards for contacts with the stations; visit www.wrtc2014.org for details. In addition, each QSO will be worth 5 points in the ARRL Centennial QSO Party. It’s one way for us to thank WRTC for being a part of the Centennial celebration.

Finally, be sure to submit your log — not just your WRTC QSOs but also any others that you make in the IARU HF World Championship — to iaruhf@iaru.org within *6 hours* of the end of the contest. The scores of the top teams are expected to be very close. The WRTC2014 Judging Committee needs as many logs as possible to assist with the log checking process, which must be completed overnight on Sunday so the results can be certified prior to Monday’s Award Ceremony. Everyone who submits a log within 6 hours after the end of the contest will be given the title of “Assistant Judge of WRTC2014.”

Thanks in advance for your help. Now the question is: What do we do next year for an encore?

Chief Judge, WRTC2014