

The Radio Hotel -- Get Ready for WRTC

The Olympics of Ham Radio July 8 and 9

By Rick Hiller – W5RH

OK, I admit, I don't ski or snow board and I don't pole vault or run the 220 (anymore) but, I do watch the Summer and Winter Olympics every 4 years and cheer on my country. It is a great competition that brings together the best of the best in the amateur athletic world. Another event that happens every 4 years that brings together the best of the best, but in Amateur Radio, is the world-wide **WRTC – World Radiosport Team Championship**.

The **WRTC** is an on-site ham radio competition held every four years. Previous WRTC's have been held in Seattle (1990), San Francisco (1996), Slovenia (2000), Finland (2002), Brazil (2006), Russia (2010), Boston (2014), and Germany (2018). This year it is being held in Italy on July 8-9. *NOTE: the WRTC is always held in conjunction with the annual IARU DX contest (arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship).* The **WRTC** event promises to be a spectacular showcase of amateur radio, with the world's best operators competing against each other. The event will feature advanced radio equipment, cutting-edge technology, and high-level competition. **Visit the WRTC** web site at wrtc2022.it

What can we do here in Texas? You, as a single or multi-op, can work these WRTC stations and give them more QSO's. They are all in Italy, but on 20, 15 and 10 meters it should be possible and fun to work them, plus there are many other IARU contest stations to work on all the bands. Interesting to note that phone and CW are the only modes allowed by the WRTC stations because it is a test of the operators, not a test of the computers and equipment.

The WRTC Rules (abridged a bit) states each of the 61 WRTC teams (of 2 ops each) work the contest 80 thru 10 meters, CW and Phone only, using the exact same antennas and a 100 watt limit. All WRTC stations are located near Bologna, Italy spread out over a fifty mile diameter area, but all are within a few miles of each other.

Contest Period: Saturday, July 8th 12:00 UTC to Sunday July 9th 11:59 UTC

Frequencies: 3.5, 7, 14, 21, and 28 MHz bands

Language: English

Contest Exchange: signal report plus ITU zone

With the IARU happening at the same time, I encourage you to participate, and work the world-wide IARU stations along with the Italy-based WRTC competition stations. This popular DX opportunity is also a great contest for the beginning contester.

Enjoy the contest. QRZ? DE W5RH 73