

WRTC 2018 – Looking Back and Forward

Rosenheim, 18 December 2016

The year 2016 gradually parting offers a good opportunity to look back at what happened in the course of that year. Time rushes too fast to realize the facts immediately. Therefore, this review tries to summarize the course of events and there were quite a few.

DJ6QT sk

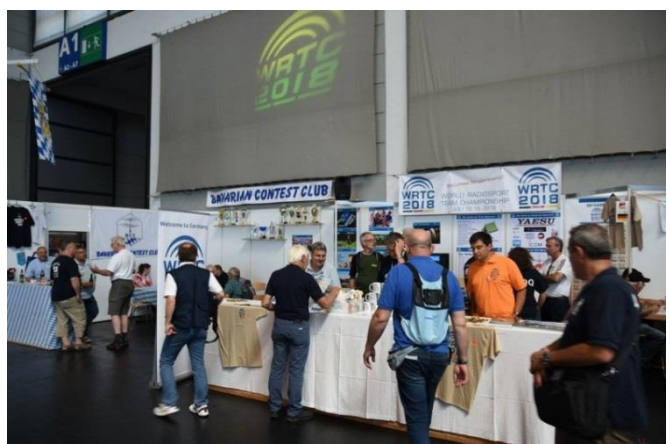


The evening before the test days we received the sad news that Walter, DJ6QT, had passed away in his home at Hirzenhain already on July 5th. As a pioneer in many fields of amateur radio Walter took part in the first 5 WRTC events, three times as a competitor (1990, 1996 and 2002) and twice as a referee (2000 and 2006). He had offered his support when we began organizing WRTC2018 but unfortunately he had to retire because of his weak health condition. We will miss you, Walter.

PR / Marketing

The year 2016 was marked by our attempts to gain public attention for the WRTC. At international fairs or regular local club meetings, on the web as well as in ham radio magazines and at local events we have tried to inform as many people as possible about what WRTC 2018 is all about and what needs to be done.

In Germany we were present at the Amateurfunktagung radio meeting in Munich, at the novel Funktag in Kassel, at the amateur radio flea market in Dortmund and, of course, at the Ham Radio in Friedrichshafen, where we could optimally place our own exhibition booth between those of the Bavarian Contest Club and the Rhein-Ruhr DX Association. There we launched a WRTC presentation in the Contest Forum and welcomed potential competitors, ambassadors and above all current and future sponsors at our booth.





Nor did we neglect international contacts - Sandy, DL1QQ, represented us at the DX-Convention at Visalia and Toby, DH1TW was our ambassador at the Iberradio at Madrid, both with great success at low costs. Of course, our high-light, the Dayton Hamvention is hard to be topped. Apart from a booth that we kept manned for two days of the fair, we were interviewed by Podcast and Internet-TV, we were represented at the Contest University and took part in the Contest Supersuite every evening. Great hits in the evening programme were our beer

vouchers. For a donation of USD 100 the donor received an original "Radeberger Pils". Furthermore Sandy's solo performance on the drums together with the band "Spurious Emissions" rocked the audience.

Our most important clientele will be the hams in the club districts and the local branches of the DARC as they shall finally provide the large part of the volunteers. Therefore, we attended a great number of amateur radio meetings on all levels to introduce our plans and canvass new volunteers.

Two main means for public presentation are flyers continuously upgraded and "pimped up" optically by Sabine DL3KWS, of the QSL-Shop in Berlin as well as the Road Show initiated by Toby, DH1TW, that is continuously kept up-to-date with current events and changes. You can download it from our web page at any time. Meanwhile an Italian version of the Road Show prepared by Carlo, IK1HJS, our ambassador for Italy, can be downloaded as well. Visit <http://wrtc2018.de/index.php/presse/roadshow>.



All over the year our individual efforts were accompanied by monthly articles in CQ-DL, in the Funkamateure and international magazines like NCJ or CQ, month by month quite a bit of work for our PR head Michael and his team of writers and translators.

To keep us present in the social media networks, Irina, DL8DYL, makes sure that our Facebook followers will regularly be fed with the latest news. You can keep on our heels by visiting <https://www.facebook.com/wrtc2018/>.

As a highlight for German speaking hams we have subtitled 9V1YC's WRTC2014 film in German. Owing to DJ2YA, DM5EE, DJ8EW and DL6RAI there are two versions available now, one in its original length and

another as a short 3 minutes' version. Both of them can be found on our Vimeo-page (<https://vimeo.com/wrtc2018>).



On top of all that we also drum up our case in the real ham world. Meanwhile we have launched the third callsign already. After DLOWRTC and DKOWRTC DFWORTC will be on the air until October 2017. Those of you who might frown at such a waste of call signs should be told that the German licensing authorities have limited the validity of call signs with 4-letter-suffixes to a one year only. The number of QSOs with these three call signs has meanwhile summed up to close to 52 000.



These special call signs count as jokers for the WWQR award with Hajo, DJ9MH, as its most active manager. More than 1100 copies from this award program mean a substantial source of funding and great advertising of our cause at the same time.

Fundraising



In 2016 we were very successful in gaining corporate sponsors. To provide an adequate sponsoring class for YAESU - they agreed to support us with rotators, radios and cash - we had to come up with the special category "Prime Sponsor". At the beginning of the year it was decided in Wittenberg that Spiderbeam will become our main provider of antennas for WRTC2018. The resulting discounts granted for antennas and masts make this company a "Platinum Sponsor". During the Dayton Hamvention we were successful to

convince ICOM to become a "Platinum Sponsor". We must not forget the co-operation of Wimo and Messi&Paoloni providing the coaxial cables for the 65 WRTC stations. Furthermore Wimo agreed to offer the 80m dipoles at much reduced prices and, in addition, offered to handle the YAESU sponsoring here in Germany.

Our ambassador program has become an important step to represent us abroad. Meanwhile there are 23 ambassadors in Europe, North- and South-America, as well as in Asia on the move to spread the message of "WRTC2018" and help to find sponsors and donations.

9A6XX (Hrle)	Croatia	K1RX (Mark)	US #1
DH1TW (Tobi)	Iberian Peninsula	W2GD (John)	US #2
F6BEE (Jacques)	France	K3LR (Tim)	US #3 North
G4BUO (Dave)	UK	K3ZJ (Dave)	US #3 South
HB9DDO (Stephan)	Switzerland	K1TO (Dan)	US #4
IK1HJS (Carlo)	Italy	W1RH (Bob)	US #6
OH1RX (Jouko)	Finland	N9RV (Pat)	US #7 Nord
OH2BH (Martti)	Asia	NV9L (Val)	US #9
OM3BH (Rasto)	Slovakia	WS9V (Skip)	US #9
	Czech Republic		
SP4Z (Wes)	Poland	K0MD (Scott)	US #0
LY4L (Mindis)	Lithuania	N1TX (Larry)	Alaska, Western Canada, Yukon Territory, Hawaii
		PY8AZT (Luc)	Brazil

Even in Germany there is still a lot left to be done to inform about the WRTC2018. As we plan to recruit most of the required volunteers in Germany we have decided to nominate “ambassadors” for the DARC districts to promote WRTC2018 within their districts targeting specially at the members of the local branches of the DARC. So far, there are 13 such “ambassadors” on our team and, of course, we are trying to appoint even more.

DL4NAC (Maddin)	District B	DJ5MW (Manfred)	District T
DJ3WE (Rudolf)	District C	DC6RI (Andreas)	District U
DM6DX (Robby)	District D	DL6MHW (Michael)	District W
DL3LBA (Kai)	District E	DL8UAT (Andy)	District Y
DK9VZ (Wolfgang)	District F	DM5WF (Frank)	District Y
DL8OBF (Uwe)	District H	DL1QQ (Sandy)	District Z
DK2OY (Manfred)	District M		

Just before Dayton we introduced our tent sponsoring program to the public. Its target is to dedicate tents publicly to their sponsoring clubs. Furthermore, there is the chance to honor deserving hams who have passed away by “in memoriam” tents. Meanwhile, almost half the total number, exactly 31, of the available tents have been assigned.

Also, just before Dayton, we opened the stage for applications for “Sponsored Teams”. We are well aware of the fact that there is a number of good testers out there who did not qualify or not even tried to qualify because of health problems or sheer lack of time to participate in the 2-year qualification exercise. In our mind it would be a pity to deprive them from participating. We, therefore, offer up to 5 teams the chance to compete in return for a substantial donation of presently Euro 15,000 each. So far we have concluded an agreement with one applicant. Another three have applied, but no decision yet.





Our „Tile Program“ concurrent with the „1000x100“ program is still enjoying great popularity. Luise, DL2MLU, makes sure that each donator of at least 100 Euros (app. US\$ 105) receives her/his personal-ized tile. The tiles are colored depending on the relevant year (2015-2017); however, any Euro 300 do-nation will buy the full set of three tiles at any moment in time. The colored bars resemble the colors of the German national flag, namely black, red, gold. As this little present has found a great number of friends even in the USA Bob, N6TV, has become our stateside “Tile Man” helping us to save postage fees.

A great number of minor projects and efforts contribute additionally to the funding. Well worth to be mentioned is the “preamp project” developed and launched by Matthias, DK4YJ, in co-operation with DL6MFI and the publishers of the “Funkamateuer”, during the first half of 2016. To the best of our knowledge there is no broad band amplifier in the ham radio market offering equally excellent specifications especially when it comes to dealing with high level signals. The amplifier kit can be ordered at http://www.box73.de/product_info.php?products_id=3634. A substantial part of the profit goes to the funds of WRTC2018.



Financials

All these activities have resulted in the fact that now, at the end of 2016, more than 50% of the required finances have been acquired either on our accounts or as confirmed sponsoring contracts.

Here is the composition of the funds collected so far:

- 44% from individuals (stemming from around 700 individuals, averaging 120 Euro/person)
- 37% from ham radio clubs (major contributors: WWROF, NCDXF, YASME)
- 19% from institutional sponsors (mainly YAESU, Spiderbeam, ICOM, Wimo and M&P)

The regional break down of the amount sponsored by individuals looks like this:

- 73 % from Germany
- 23 % from North America
- 4 % from Europe (w/o Germany)

In total the regional break down presents itself like this:

- 50 % Germany
- 5 % Europe w/o Germany (mainly M&P)
- 31 % North America
- 14 % Japan (mainly YAESU)

To summarize: We believe that we are well on track.

Qualification

Now we turn to aspects that are closer to the actual competition. The qualification period ended with CQWW CW at the end of November. After a total of 30 contests we now gain a first impression of those who will travel to Germany as competitors in 2018. However, the results will not be final before the adjudication of the last contest in the summer of 2017.

Competition

To let competitors know what will be awaiting them in the competition, we have concentrated to work on the set of rules for WRTC2018. Most of the rules could be adopted from WRTC2014. However, a few adjustments were required. The most important adaptation is the permission to use radios with (local) remote control (such as the Maestro from Flex Radio) or Panadapters or scopes. Unfortunately, we were not able to convince the “WRTC Sanctioning Committee” to allow 160m in the competition.

WRTC 2018 Qualification Standings


Calisign

Qualification Area

DXCC Prefix

Please contact us for any feedback on the qualification standings
Latest Update (19.11.2016): CQWW SSB 2016, some corrections (View History)

This search was sponsored by:



Want to become a sponsor?

Standings in EU #7 area

Displayed data calculated on the basis of the both claimed scores and final contest results (when available)

Area rank	Operator	Qualification Points	Counted contest entries	Country rank
1	[TL] DJ5MW	11.817	12	#1 in DL
2	[TL] DL1IAO	11.495	12	#2 in DL
3	[TL] DL2CC	11.296	12	#3 in DL
4	DL4NAC	10.880	12	#4 in DL
5	DL8DYL	9.058	12	#5 in DL
6	DJ8OG	8.855	12	#6 in DL
7	DD2ML	8.398	12	#7 in DL
8	DL6RAI	8.114	12	#8 in DL
9	DL9EE	7.500	12	#9 in DL
10	DL7FER	7.494	12	#10 in DL

Sites

At about the middle of the year Andy, DK4WA, had to pass the responsibility for the sites over to Frank, DM5WF, as his new born baby and the long distance of more than 500 km to his residence in Munich took too much of his time. Just at his start Frank surprised us with a number of new sites. At the moment the situation is as follows:

- A total of 160 sites have been targeted
- For 82 of them we have an oral agreement
- 77 of them are considered to be suitable

To have (and keep) all sites under control, Fabian DJ1YFK, is programming a site administration software at the moment. With its help all relevant information of each site shall be documented. Each site manager (responsible for the actual site) will be equipped with a “site folder” enabling him/her to answer all possible questions by the police, neighbors or concerned citizens.



Invited by Paul, DL5CW, a number of members of the organization committee and new volunteers are now busy marking small parts of the Spiderbeams or cutting wires and ropes to their proper lengths and assembling components of the antenna - nation-wide handicraft work, an amazing activity.

Some time ago we received the power meters of the WRTC2014. Matthias, DK4YJ, has checked them and will try to complete our stock as we have some more sites than the Americans in 2014.

At the end of the year the generator problem finally approached a solution. Early in December Wolfgang, DK9VZ, and Michael, DL6MHW, had an appointment with the marketing manager of Honda Germany to negotiate the possible support for WRTC2018. They managed to get a substantial discount for EU20i generators and an additional donation in cash. Meanwhile the WRTC-Board has decided that EU20i generators will be used in the WRTC2018.



„Camping“ is a theme that still is an issue. For the sites in 2018 we do not only need masts and antennas but also fundamental infrastructure such as tents, tables, chairs, toilets and a host of further bits and pieces. Though trying very hard we have not been able to find a suitable person neither within our own ranks nor among potential supporters who is willing to take the lead in this important task. If there is anybody among our readers who is prepared to help, please contact Chris, DL1MGB (dl1mgb@wrtc2018.de).

IT

In the course of the year the home page of our web site <http://wrtc2018.de> has been rearranged and a gallery of pictures was added. Pictures of WRTC2018 activities in the past can now be found there.

Similarly, <http://funktionswm2018.de> has received a brush-up. The design was adapted to that of the main web page <http://wrtc2018.de> and the contents were updated with thanks to Ben, DL6RAI, Christian, DL8MBS and Dirk, DL7DSW.

Ben has adopted the scoreboard technique of KM3T. Basically we will be able to use his hard- and software. Making the Internet links to each site fail proof will surely be our main concern. Besides cell phone Hamnet was being discussed but finally rejected due to lack of expertises.

Marketing

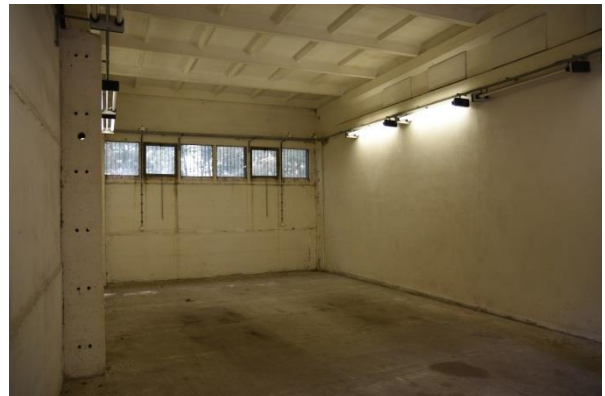
At the beginning of the year we could win Andreas, DC6RI, to look after merchandising and selling “devotional objects” as he already does for the BCC.



Besides the web shop in the USA, exclusively for the North American market (<http://wickeddesignz.com/product-category/wrtc2018>) we consider to open our own shop to serve the rest of the world with promotional gifts at beginning of 2017.

Organization

We began the year with an organizational meeting at the Luther Hotel in Wittenberg. Various topics were discussed and decided upon by 12 members. Reserving the Luther Hotel as the Headquarter of WRTC 2018 was the most important decision.



Before the test days in July we inspected the rooms for the first time. At the end of September we signed the contract for the much needed warehousing capacity near Jessen. Until December 2018 we can use a store-room of 72 sqm. From July 2017 until December 2018 we have rented a further store-room of 72 sqm giving us enough room to store our entire equipment. Oskar, DL3OF, will be our store manager and take care of the rooms. Thanks, Oskar!

What a weekend, when we had the test days. Most of the participants (more than 50 people) arrived at the club station of the local DARC branch Wittenberg in the industrial area of the town on Friday evening.



Instructed by Paul, DL5CW, they assembled and, afterwards, disassembled a Spiderbeam. Katharina, the wife of Ralf, DK1DSA, the chairman of the local club, had prepared the catering. We owe both of them thanks for a lot of other jobs around the test days. On Saturday morning the teams went to the 5 sites that had been chosen for the test. Antennas, tents and generators were set up, a lot of experience was collected and finally all stations were on the air. Frank, DL2CC, prepared a procedure for a systematic skimmer test. The results will be published in CQ/DL 2/2017.

To inform the potential helpers we have prepared an FAQ for volunteers. At present this documentation is only available in German, but we intend to translate it at least into English before long. The German version is available under <http://helfer.wrtc2018.de>.

Lodging & Hospitality (L&H)

This heading covers everything that has to do with the accommodation and catering of the participants. Already at our first meeting in January we were able to reserve the Luther Hotel and a little later the City Hall in Wittenberg for the opening and closing ceremonies of the WRTC2018. Further details are being discussed and negotiated with a local event manager at the moment.



What to expect next year?

A lot has happened in 2016. What do we need to focus on next year? The year 2017 will be dominated by two topics, namely: Funding and Volunteering.

Funding is well under way so far, but we must not slow down. It is contrary to a contest for which the first 200 000 points are always the most difficult ones. In fundraising a good portion of what is needed can be reached by “harvesting the low hanging fruits” to use a term common in marketing. Collecting the balance of the needed funds calls for another extraordinary effort. It means finding further potential sponsors, motivating individuals to support us as well as winning clubs for tent sponsoring.

Perhaps the most difficult task will be winning a sufficient number of volunteers for the 2018 event. We need some 400 volunteers, segmented as follows:

- 15 antenna teams of 6 persons each = 90 persons
- 65 site-teams of 3 persons each = 195 persons
- app. 50 drivers for competitors, referees, sponsors and material trucking
- app. 15 volunteers in the HQ-hotel
- app. 15 volunteers for warehousing
- app. 35 jokers capable of filling any vacancy arising

At present about 80 persons are involved in organizing the event. Additionally 200 persons have indicated their preparedness to support us at site. Last not least, quite a number of people have signed the "Declaration of Boston". We intend to call on them for a more active support. Yet, to recruit the expected number of 400 we'll have to bang the drums with full power.

To reach our two targets, financing and volunteering, we are busy in various fields. In 2017 we plan to be present at the great ham fairs, e.g. the Hamcation in Florida (USA), the Visalia DX Convention in California (USA), the Dayton Hamvention in Ohio (USA), the Funktag in Kassel, the Ham Radio in Friedrichshafen, the Iberradio in Spain or the Tokio Ham Fair in Japan. But we will also be present at many district and local ham meetings and try to win more sponsors and volunteers for our cause.

Particularly the Ham Radio at Friedrichshafen in 2017 will surmount the 2016 fair. We are planning a number of activities, among them a great tombola and a WRTC-station ready to be operated. Naturally we are looking for some highly motivated hams to man our booth. Michael, DL6MHW, who is in charge of our presentation at the great ham fair will happily receive your application and keep you informed in time.

You see, a tremendous lot has happened already, but there is much more left to be done. We are determined to cope with whatever 2017 is up to challenge us with.

We would like to express our gratitude to all supporters of WRTC2018.

Please receive the compliments of the season, merry Christmas and all the very best for 2017.

The WRTC 2018 Organizing Committee

