

WRTC 2010: NCJ Chats with Roman Thomas, RZ3AA

WRTC 2010 will take place July 8–12 near Moscow. Earlier this year at Dayton Hamvention® we had an opportunity to sit down with WRTC 2010 Organizing Committee Chairman Roman Thomas, RZ3AA. — Al Dewey, KØAD

NCJ: We understand WRTC 2010 will be run Field Day-style. How will that work?

RZ3AA: This will be the first time in history that WRTC will be run using a Field Day setup. Stations will be separated by not less than 500 meters in three or four clusters. The clusters themselves will be separated by 3 to 6 km. I have been asked whether the stations will interfere with each other. The RRTC [Russian Radio Team Championship] 2008 was held at this location with a similar setup, and there was no problem. The site will be tested again this year during RRTC 2009. The terrain is relatively flat with an overall variation of only 5 to 10 meters in height above sea level. The stations will generally be located at the border between fields and forests. Each team will be issued a tent, two tables, three chairs, a generator with outlets and gasoline, water, an outhouse, a 12 meter tower, a tri-band Yagi and inverted Vs for 40 and 80. We are also looking into providing a 40 meter vertical for each team.

NCJ: What about radios and computers?

RZ3AA: Each team will bring its own radios and computers. There are two reasons for this. First, we feel the teams have more experience with their own radios. Second, our budget does not really allow for providing radios and computers. Each station will be provided with a device that monitors output power. This device will

use green, yellow, and red lights so the judges can easily monitor the power at each location.

NCJ: How is team selection for WRTC 2010 coming along?

RZ3AA: There will be 50 teams, and 44 of them will be selected based on the judges' opinion as well as on qualifying event results. One team will consist of the previous WRTC winner. One team will be a special SRR team from Russia. Finally, four teams will be commercially sponsored. All qualifying events except for RDXC 2009 have taken place. The

RZ3AA: In previous WRTCs, the second radio could only be used for spotting, not transmitting. In WRTC, both radios will be allowed to transmit, as long as there is only one signal on the air at one time. Teams must provide their own interlock circuitry.

NCJ: Will the current state of the worldwide economy affect WRTC 2010?

RZ3AA: We are seeing some effects of the economy, of course. The Russian ruble is currently devalued almost 27 percent, and we have lost a few sponsors because of the economy. Our total budget for WRTC 2010 is currently \$420,000. We have raised about \$225,000 so far. Special funds are being set up in the US and Russia for donating to WRTC. We hope that sponsors will step forward to help make WRTC 2010 a reality.

NCJ: Tell me a little about yourself, Roman.

RZ3AA: I was first licensed as UA3AHF in 1975. In 1984, I received the call sign RZ3AA. Also, NP2KY is my US call sign. I have had the opportunity to operate at a number of DXpeditions, including K5K, KH5/NP2KY, K1B, 3D2CI, T23A, 3D2RU, T88AA and V63UA. I have also taken part in multi-op contest efforts at P3A, 3V8BB, 4U1ITU, YT1AD, HU1A, KH7Q and 9Y4W. I was one of judges at WRTC

2002 and took part as competitor at WRTC 2006. I live in Moscow and am self-employed in the area of factory redevelopment. I graduated with degrees in radio engineering and law.

NCJ: Where can people keep up to date on plans for WRTC 2010?

RZ3AA: The best place is our Web site, www.wrtc2010.ru.

NCJ: Thank you for your time, Roman. We all look forward to following the events leading up to WRTC 2010 near Moscow. Good luck to your organizing committee.

RZ3AA: Thank you! [NCJ]

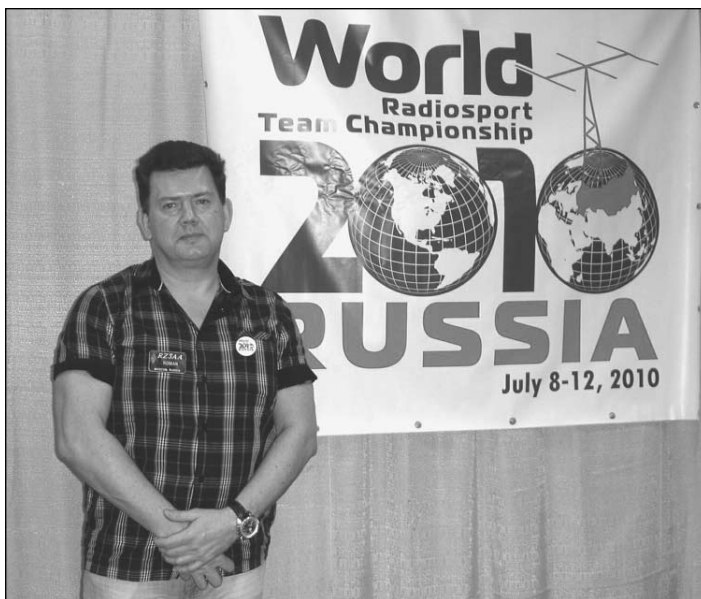


Figure 1 — Roman, RZ3AA, at Dayton Hamvention 2009

results of all qualifying events will be available by October 1. The 50 leaders from the qualifying events must submit their scores by November 1. The judges will review the applications and announce the teams by December 15. Applications for potential referees must be received by December 31. Referees can be self-nominated or recommended by WRTC judges. The selected referees will be named by January 31.

NCJ: Are there any unique aspects of WRTC 2010, as compared to previous WRTCs?