

February 2017 Jeff VE1ZAC

A Review of "Contact Sport" by JK George, N3BB

Just gave the Kindle edition of this book a read. It's a front and back look at the 2014 World Radio Sport Team Championship. Quite an interesting read and a good peak into the event from the 58 teams perspective. For hams and non-hams alike, this is a great window into the highs and lows of competitive contesting. Arguably a small group of the ham fraternity are serious contesters at this level. But those with a fiercely competitive bent represent the cream of the world's contesting community.

I learned a few interesting facts about some of the technical issues affecting international contesting. Especially, the significance of the North East and its propagation paths which is relevant to me. I live in the extreme North East..in fact my Halifax QTH is stuck out in the Atlantic. This story also makes a point that every contester pretty much knows..Morse Code (CW) is exceedingly important and you have to be a top notch code operator if you want to do well in this, and many other contests.

This story details the 2014 effort located in New England and it's 2014 first time format. A 24 hour gruelling competition that was designed to be set up for international teams in "equalized" sites. I am an occasional CW contester myself, but I wasn't aware of the scale of effort, cost, and volunteer organization required to manage this contest championship. The event moves around to various countries and the format can change.

I enjoyed the narrative, and took away a better understanding of the organization behind this event, the competitors, full time referees (I didn't know they had one per team), the live monitoring and judging effort. This is a truly international event with teams from around the world participating.

In my own contesting efforts, as weak as they are, I routinely come across John Laney K4BAI, and not surprisingly John was one of the referees in this championship!

A good job by Jim N3BB. I give this book a thumbs up.