CTU Presents

Contesting & Station Optimization

Tim Duffy K3LR

CTU Chairman
ConTest University Update

- 12th year for Dayton CTU
- Icom has supported CTU - ALL 12 YEARS!
- Over 6000 students have now attended CTU
- CTU Live Stream thanks Icom America
- Strategic Partnerships with the NCDXF & YASME
- Support the vendors that support CTU
- CTU YouTube and slide decks available on web
- N9RV Contesting Terminology – updated for 2018
Copper Station Ground Bar
Connect radios, amplifiers and switches
Strap connection
To ground rod
Thick 1 inch wide – indoor use only
Getting the most out of CTU 2018

There is a note pad in your bag – how many ideas have you written down today? You have access to lots of experience here at CTU – ask questions!

Pick a new area to optimize your operating style or station assembly and focus on it this summer. Commit to research – and improve - enjoy.

- Everyone has a contesting story – tell yours and listen to others. Give a new program at your local club in the next 12 months.

Be a Field Day coach/mentor this year.
RG-400 with good connectors
High Quality RG-400 double shield

Teflon – aircraft grade 50 ohms
Make sure you use the best coax connectors possible.

Keep a notecard during every contest.

Check, Double Check, Re-Check

Develop a pre contest “Proof Of Performance” plan – KEEP A NOTEBOOK!

How many house wall warts are causing RFI which hurts your noise floor?

Let me introduce you to Mr. Ferrite
DEX Ferrite cores
Color coded
Every AC line cord - #31
Coax cables
And DC cables
#31 - BLUE
Intel NUC computers - choke RFI
DC Cable with #31 & ISOPLUS
New RJ45 Ethernet RFI filter
ISOPLUS in use at K3LR
What are you doing to improve Contesting?

- Congratulate the CTU “SCHOLARS” and GOLD stars!
- Take an interest in helping new hams to become involved in contests.
- Radio contesting’s reputation is important – do the right thing – be a model operator. Lots of SWLs.
- Find a way to “give back” to our hobby.
- Set goals for your contest self improvement. Set something achievable for you and then go hard after your goal.
- Remember as a CTU Graduate you are a mentor!
It’s 0000 Zulu – Are you worried about your connectors?
Keep the water out!
Even good COAX goes BAD in time
One nick and the water gets in

Coax shields will break at the rotation loop
Time to replace!
Do your shields look like this?
Or this?
Heat Shrink Self-Solder Butt Splices

Yellow - 12 to 10 AWG
Blue - 16 to 14 AWG
Red - 22 to 18 AWG
Clear - 26 to 24 AWG
Clifton Labs K8ZOA High Gain HF Preamp
Lightning rod
Safety and Static Reduction

Example showing the DXE-LRMM Lightning Rod Clamps installed with an optional lightning rod on a tower mast using an optional fastening hardware set
Servicing a rotor?
MAST LOCK
Bearing bypass to reduce RFI
RX SHARE box for multi ops
The UHF Male connector
The Amphenol 83-1-SP
Channel Lock
CNL-426

“Tighten Up”
ARRL DX Contest

Presented to
K3LR
(+ N2NC, N5UM, W2RQ, VE3EJ, N2NT, WM2H, K1AR, N3SD, K3UA, K1DG, N3GJ, NP4G)

SCORE: 6,232,164
FIRST PLACE
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SECTION
MULTIOPERATOR, MULTITRANSmitter

FIRST PLACE - US & CANADA

2017

President, ARRL

Contest Manager
Send out QSL cards!
Having Fun with Contesting

- Be the best example of a model contest operator
- Share your contesting passion with others – help THEM put up or fix an antenna. Please be SAFE!
- Get on the air and operate. Teach others how to operate in a contest.
- Have an open heart to all who are willing to learn – encourage and send congratulations emails.
- Be active in your local club – not just Field Day. Join, pay dues and contribute your time and experience!