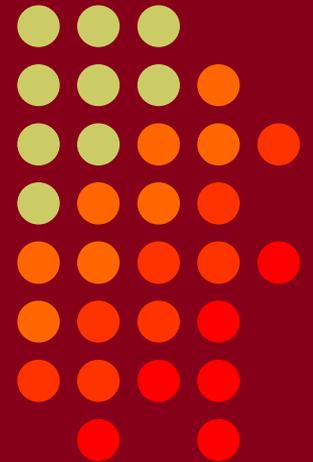


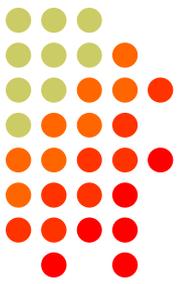
**Read the rules  
Obey the rules  
Have Fun !**

Doug Grant, K1DG



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# “All Contesters are Cheaters”

I refuse to believe  
you can win by playing by the rules.

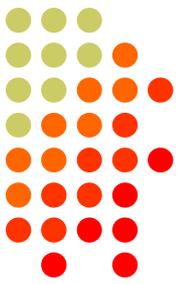
I realize this may be a shock but

“Contesting is for fun”

is a big lie.

“Winning is everything”

So I will tell operators trying to improve their skills  
they are not the most important thing in contesting

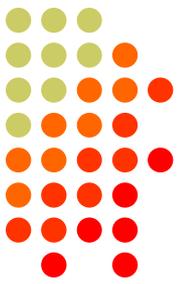


Contesters who compete against me unfairly will know  
that

I have my priorities straight because

Winning  
Is more important than  
Fair play

I'll tell you this  
Once upon a time  
Contesters didn't cheat



But this will not be true in the future

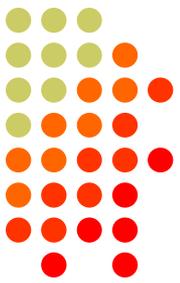
This is a “win-no-matter-what-it-takes” game

Experts tell me

10 years from now every top-scoring station will  
need an on-site referee to prevent cheating

I do not believe that

I will be competing against honest operators  
playing by the rules



In the future

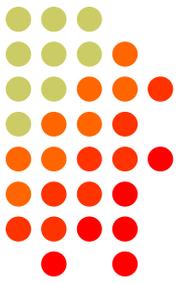
Deliberate QRM, high power, and packet cheating will be the norm.

No longer will it be said that  
Contesters are the best operators on earth

It will become evident  
That contesters are universally ruthless and  
unsportsmanlike.

It is foolish to presume  
There is hope if we play fair.

And all of this will come true...  
unless we choose to reverse it.



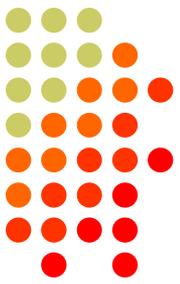
So let's reverse it.

Right here.

Right now.

We have all the words we need...listen  
carefully...

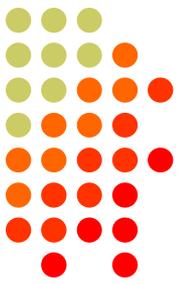
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In the future

I will be competing against honest operators  
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I do not believe that

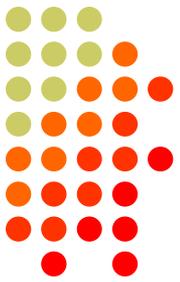
10 years from now every top-scoring station will  
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This is a “win-no-matter-what-it-takes” game.

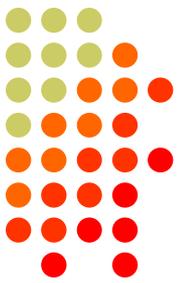
But this will not be true in the future.

Contesters didn't cheat  
Once upon a time.



I'll tell you this  
Fair play  
Is more important than  
Winning.

I have my priorities straight because  
Contesters who compete against me unfairly will know  
that  
they are not the most important thing in contesting.



So I will tell operators trying to improve their skills:

“Winning is everything”

is a big lie

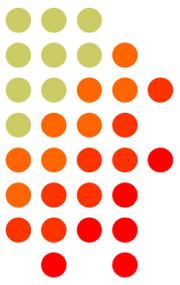
“Contesting *is* for fun”

I realize this may be a shock but  
you *can* win by playing by the rules.

I refuse to believe

“All Contesters Are Cheaters”

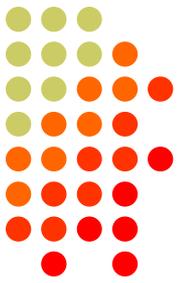
# The Four Stages of Contesting



- Starting out
- Getting hooked on the game
- Trying to win
  - The right way (playing by the rules, having fun)
  - The wrong way (bending or breaking the rules)
- Passing it along

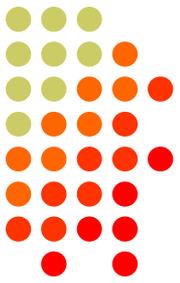
# The Fun in Radiosport

## It comes in many forms



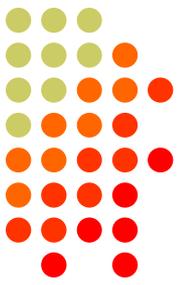
- Personal Satisfaction
  - Better score than last year
  - Better score than “that guy”
  - Cool band opening
  - Finessing through pileups
- Part of a team
  - Help your club (or multiop) win
- Peer recognition and respect

# What are your goals in contesting?



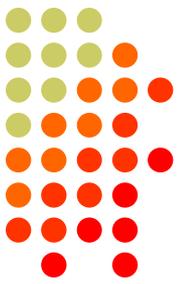
- Win it all
- Have fun, have some good rates, work some cool DX
- Learn how to play the game better

# Let's face it: Contesting is not a Fair Game



- Geographic advantages
- Local Terrain advantages
- Rareness advantages
- A small station in the Black Hole has a big disadvantage when compared to a mega-station in Maine

# If the game is *\*that\** important to you...



- Neutralize the competition's advantages (*within the rules!*)
- Change QTH or guest-op
- Use a remote station
- Put up better antennas
- Practice, practice, practice

# At some point, you make a decision



## Play by the rules

- Work on improving skills/station
- Power consistent with class
- Don't use cluster when not allowed
- Submit log when contest ends

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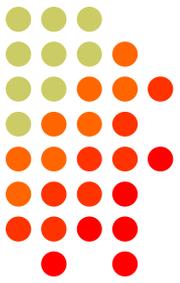
## Make your own rules

- Work on being obnoxious
- More power (turn to "11")
- Use the cluster – who will know?
- Take time to scrub log (fix calls, add calls, "adjust" times, etc.)

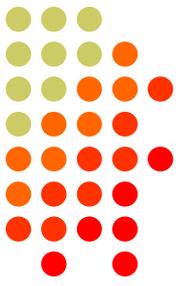


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# Written and unwritten rules



- Written rules
  - Published by the organizer
  - They try to cover all scenarios
  - They have to evolve
- Unwritten rules
  - Generally accepted by the community
  - Sometimes have to be added to written rules

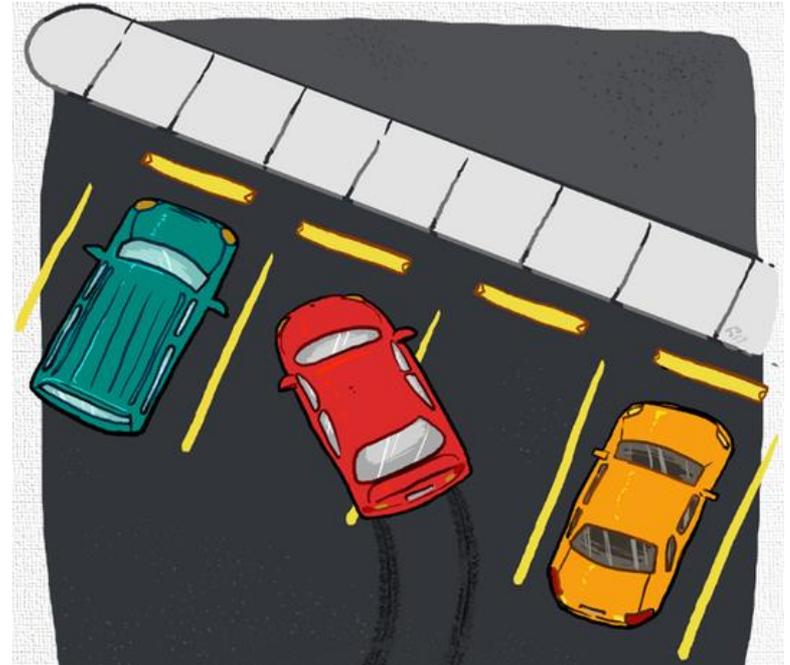


# Cheating = Rudeness

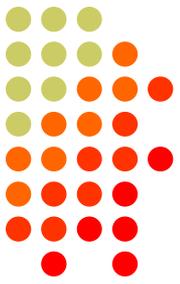
Breaking a written rule



Breaking an unwritten rule



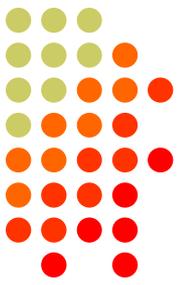
# “If it’s not expressly prohibited, then I can do it”



- Consider this road sign
- Is it really necessary?
- Is there a place where littering is allowed?



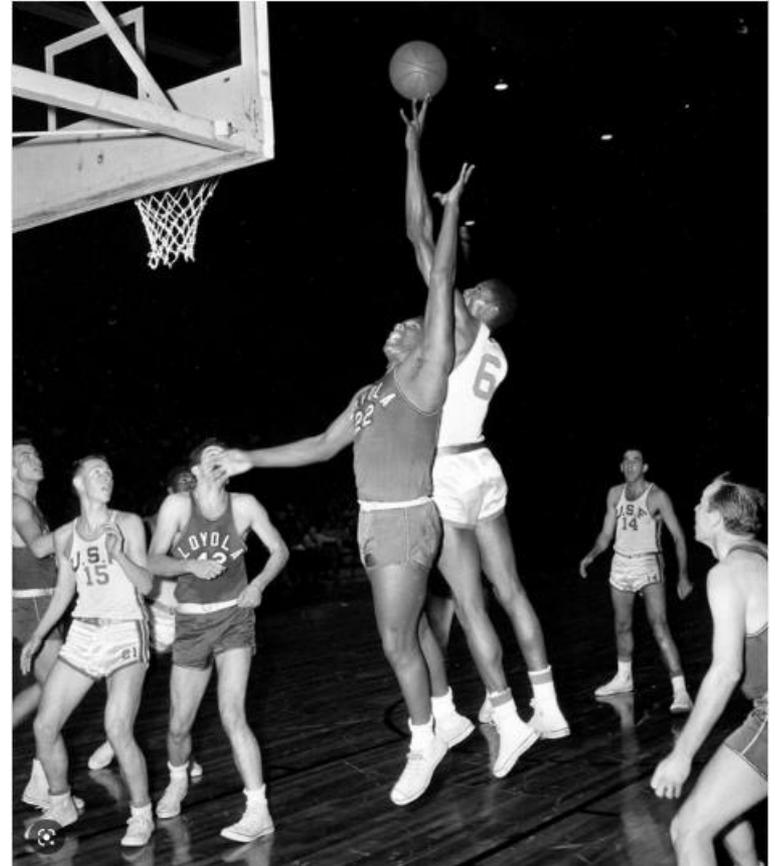
# Sometimes a new technique emerges that gives an advantage



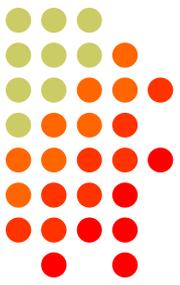
- And people don't like it!
  - Guest operator
  - Memory Keyers
  - Computer logging (including databases)
  - SO2R
  - 2BSIQ
- All of these were within the rules but many people protested

# In another sport...

- Bill Russell played defense differently in basketball
- He jumped to block shots (gasp!)
- His high-school coach: “A good defender never leaves his feet”
- USF: 55 wins in a row, 2 NCAA titles

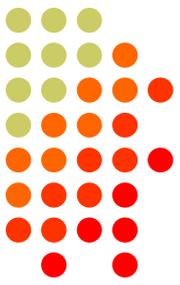


# New Technique or Rule Violation?



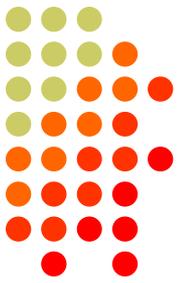
- Russell didn't break any rules by leaping
- Eventually it became the norm
- He didn't throw elbows, trip opponents, commit flagrant fouls, or try to find a way to foul without being seen by the referee

# In Radiosport, sometimes “new techniques” cross an ethical line

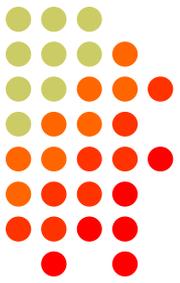


- Examples...
  - Remote Receivers
  - Self-spotting
  - CQing on two frequencies on a band
  - Using a (very) remote station to work that new band-country
  - Live-streaming on social media
  - Self-spotting
- Sometimes this results in a rule change

# Cheating or bending rules leads to more rules



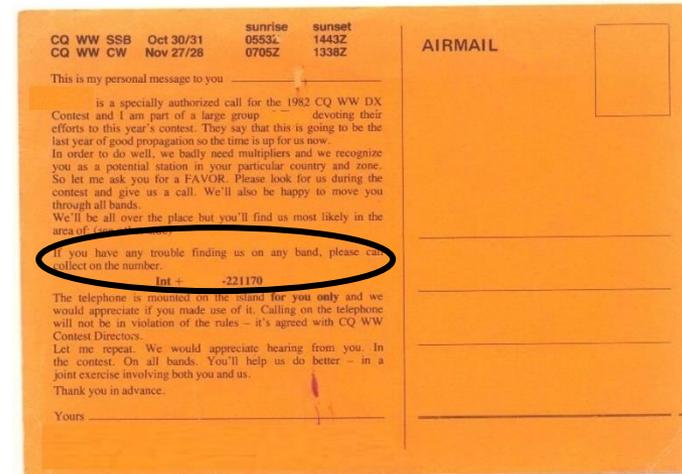
# Is this what we want?



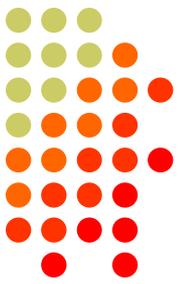


# Pre-contest announcements

- NG3K list: OK
- Postcards and worldwide “call collect” numbers...?
- (This postcard was sent to a lot of “rare” multipliers, and was allowed by the Contest Director...in 1982)

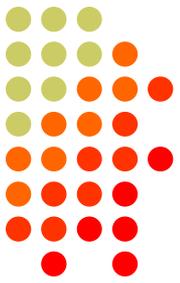


# Why people cheat



- Desire to be a “hero” on the field of competition
- Achieve immortality via community legend, fame, and lasting peer recognition
- Seeking current community “stardom”
- Prove superiority over others
- A means to prove self-worth
- These are *Powerful forces*, worthy of study and caution

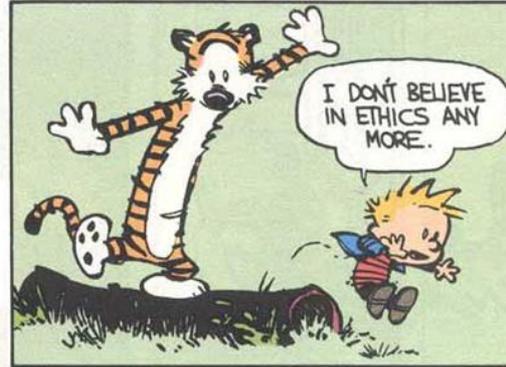
# Rationalizations for cheating



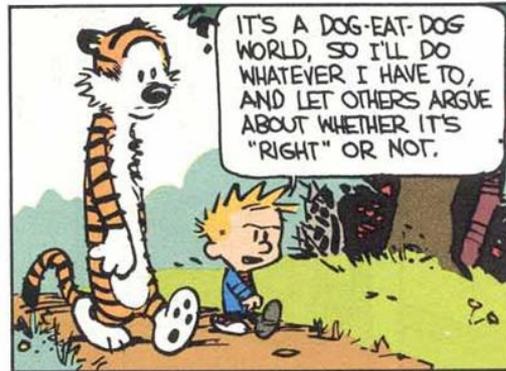
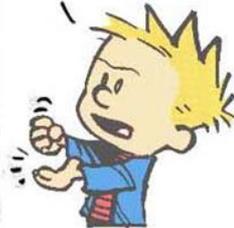
- *Everybody is doing it*
  - *(#1 Reason, and provably false)*
- Nobody was hurt
  - *(Except those you beat)*
- Nobody was watching
  - *(Not any longer)*
- Overcome unfair disadvantages
  - *(Life is not fair)*
- Rules apply to others, not me/us

# Calvin and Hobbes

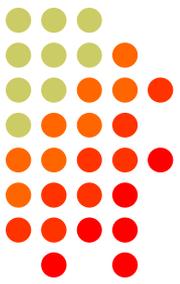
BY WATERS



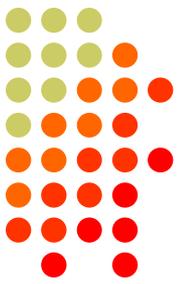
GET WHAT YOU CAN WHILE THE GETTING'S GOOD - THAT'S WHAT I SAY! MIGHT MAKES RIGHT! THE WINNERS WRITE THE HISTORY BOOKS!

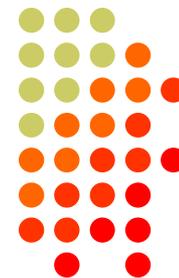


# But people DO notice...



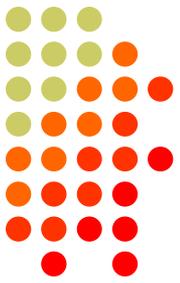
- “That guy was too loud in the NAQP”
- “That guy uses a pair of 8877s”
- “That guy has remote receivers in ...”
- “That guy uses spots but enters as unassisted”
- “That guy padded his log with bogus QSOs”
- “That guy operated with a broad signal to push away nearby stations and keep his channel clear”



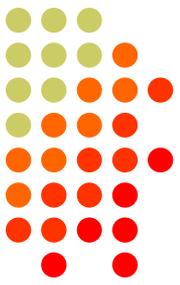


- **Banned from all CQ Contests for 5 years**
- **Previous wins deleted**
- **This does not sound like fun**

# Ethics and Respect



- Ethical behavior requires ***respect***...
  - Respect for ***others***
  - Respect for ***the game***
  - Respect for ***yourself***
- Our fellow competitors want the same respect that we want for ourselves (the “Golden Rule”)
- To get respect, you have to ***give*** respect
- ***Ethical behavior results in respect***



# About that “Golden Rule”

- Not really a “rule”, but basic ethics
- Nearly every religion/social system has it

“In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you...”

Matt. 7:12, New American Standard Version

“Do not do unto others whatever is injurious to yourself.”

Shayast-na-Shayast 13.29 (Zoroastrianism)

# This poster hangs in the U.N.



**THE GOLDEN RULE**

**HINDUISM**

This is the sum of duty:  
do not do to others what would  
cause pain if done to you  
*Mahabharata 5:1517*



**BUDDHISM**

Treat not others in ways  
that you yourself would  
find hurtful  
*Lidana-Vagga 5:16*



**CONFUCIANISM**

One word which sums up the  
basis of all good conduct...  
loving kindness.  
Do not do to  
others what  
you do not  
want done  
to yourself  
*Sun Tzu's Art of War, Alacritia 15:23*



**ISLAM**

Not one of you truly believes  
until you wish for others what  
you wish for yourself  
*The Prophet Muhammad's Hadith*



**TAOISM**

Regard your neighbour's gain  
as your own gain, and your  
neighbour's loss as your own loss  
*T'ai Shang K'in Ying P'ien, 215-218*



**JUDAISM**

What is hateful to you,  
do not do to your neighbour.  
This is the whole Torah;  
all the rest is commentary  
*Mishle, Talmud, Shabbat 31a*



**SIKHISM**

I am a stranger to no one;  
and no one is a stranger  
to me. Indeed, I am  
a friend to all  
*Guru Granth Sahib, pg. 1299*



**JAINISM**

One should treat all  
creatures in the world  
as one would like  
to be treated  
*Mahavira, Sobahikanga*



**CHRISTIANITY**

In everything, do to others  
as you would have them  
do to you; for this is the  
law and the prophets  
*Jesus, Matthew 7:12*



**ZOROASTRIANISM**

Do not do unto others  
whatever is injurious  
to yourself  
*Shiyast-na-Shiyast 13:29*



**UNITARIANISM**

We affirm and promote respect  
for the interdependent  
web of all existence  
of which we are a part  
*Unitarian principle*



**NATIVE SPIRITUALITY**

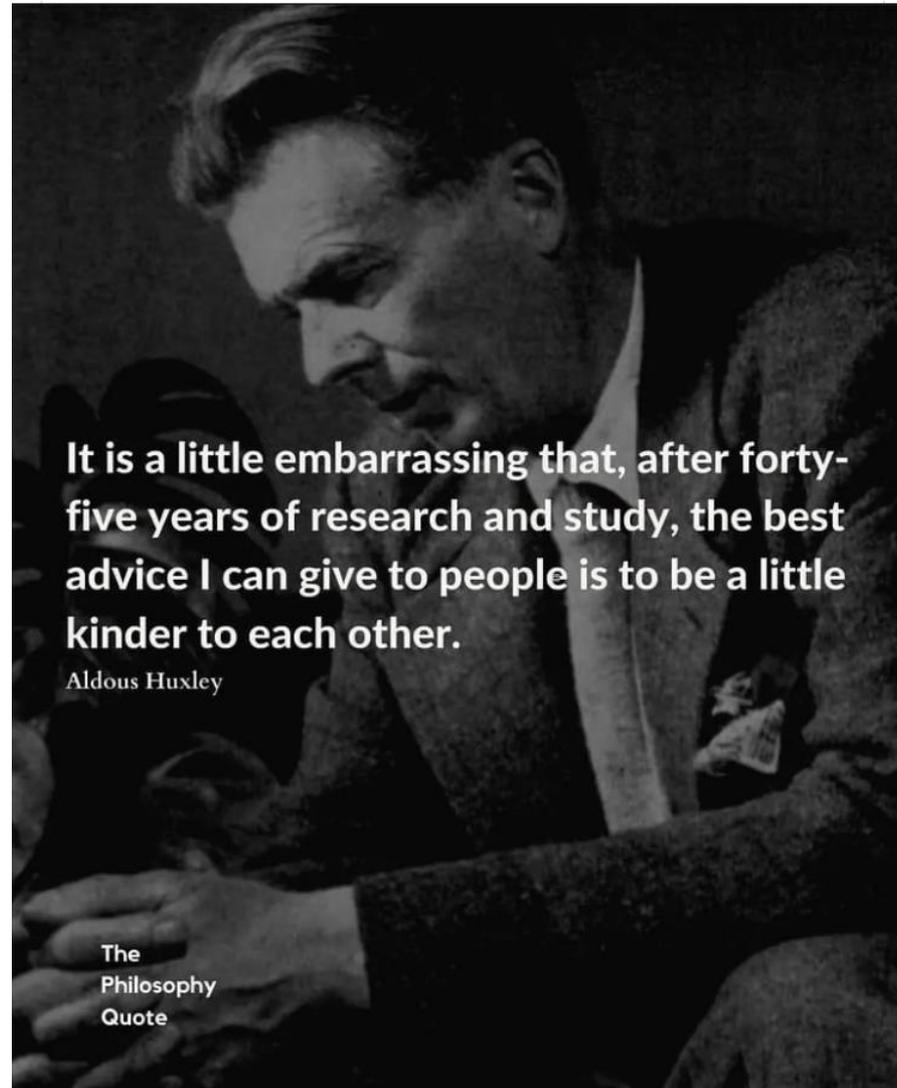
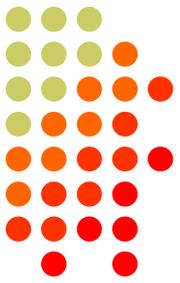
We are as much alive  
as we keep the earth alive  
*Chief Dan George*



**SCARBORO MISSIENSIS**

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# Aldous Huxley's Best Advice

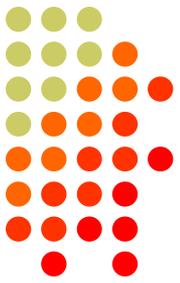


It is a little embarrassing that, after forty-five years of research and study, the best advice I can give to people is to be a little kinder to each other.

Aldous Huxley

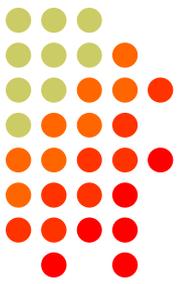
The  
Philosophy  
Quote

# Cheating is stealing



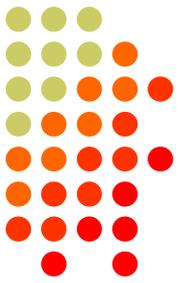
- If you beat someone by cheating, you have stolen his award/recognition
- In nearly every culture, stealing violates the Golden Rule

# The End-game of Rule-Breaking

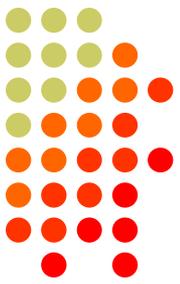


- “Tragedy of the Commons”
- People abuse a shared resource because it is in their own best interest
- Eventually everyone loses

# The Boston Common story



- In the 1600s everyone could graze their animals on the Common, with a limit on number of animals
- Some exceeded the limit because it was good for them
- Eventually all the grass was eaten
- The Common became unusable for grazing

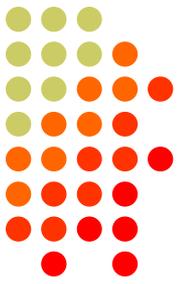


# How old is this idea?

- First mentioned in 1833 by the British economist William Forster Lloyd
- Concept dates to Aristotle:
  - “That which is common to the greatest number gets the least amount of care. Men pay most attention to what is their own: they care less for what is common.”
- The term "tragedy of the commons" came from an essay with this title written by Garrett Hardin in 1968. published in Science

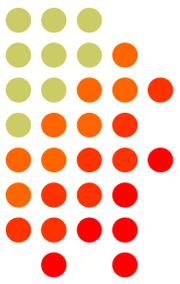
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# Valid concept, wrong conclusion (maybe)



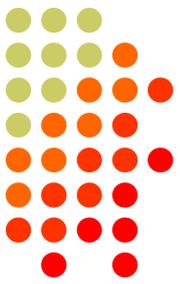
- Hardin used the concept to promote limits on population growth, especially among lower classes
- He argued that governmental economic policy was needed to prevent overpopulation, overfishing, overhunting, etc.
- He revised the concept to “The Tragedy of the 'Unmanaged' Commons”

# Big Game Hunting Management



- Trophy hunting got out of control in some African countries
- Regulations were put in place
  - Limits on number of permits
  - Limits on certain species
  - Priority given to “problem” animals
- The system works

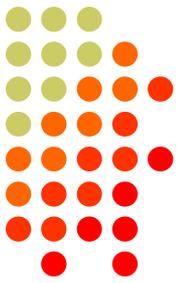
# The BMW Auto-dimming headlight option



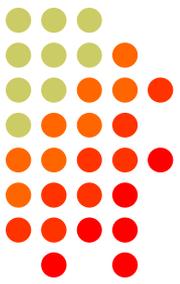
- BMW held a focus group to introduce a new feature – headlights that dimmed as a courtesy to oncoming vehicles
- Cost was a few hundred dollars
- Focus group: “Why should I pay for a feature that helps other drivers and not me?”

Related question: Why do they install turn signals on BMWs?

# And in ham radio...

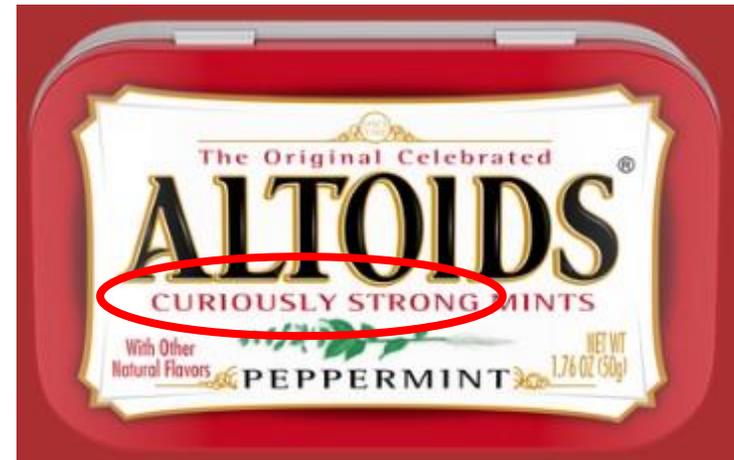
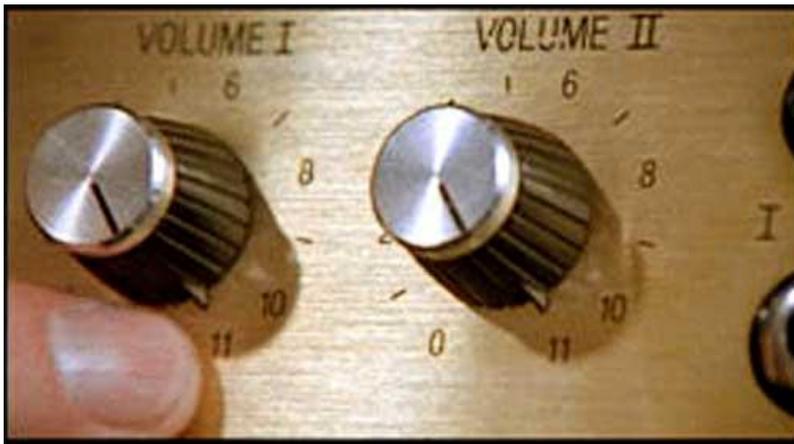


- Contester A sets the CW rise time on his FT5000 to 2 ms, and cranks his SSB Compression to 11
- Nobody can operate within 10 kHz of him so he has a nice clear running frequency
- Works for him, but if everyone does it...
- NOTE: these do not violate specific rules in most contests (“no littering”)



# Excessive Power

- Do not exceed power limits for your category
- Just because the knobs go to 11...
- Applies to ALL power categories
- People know if you are in “Altoids” mode

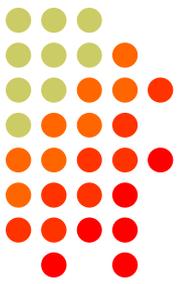


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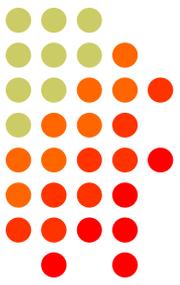
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# Examples of Unwritten “Rules”



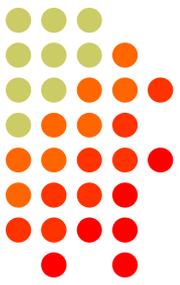
- **Do not** make pre-arranged schedules
- **Do** identify frequently
- **Do not** ask friends to work you ... only
- **Do** encourage club members to work everyone
- **Do not** work friends with multiple calls
- **Do** work and spot stations equally

# Examples of Unwritten “Rules”



- **Do not** telephone or text message multipliers
- **Do** make an effort to help casual callers enjoy the contest and make a contact
- **Do not** let others “help” your single-op effort
- **Do not** plop down 100 Hertz away from your competitor to intentionally disrupt their run

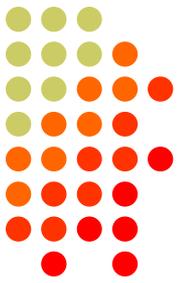
See the ARRL’s *“HF Contesting - Good Practices, Interpretations & Suggestions”*



# No “Log Washing”

- Using QRZ.com, spot history, 3830 reports, LoTW, club databases
- Using utilities to analyze and correct the log
- Replaying the contest to change the log
- Asking others who they worked or if a call sign is correct
- “Fixing” off times or band changes
- It’s **over** when the 2359 rolls over to 0000

# Some people just don't "get it"

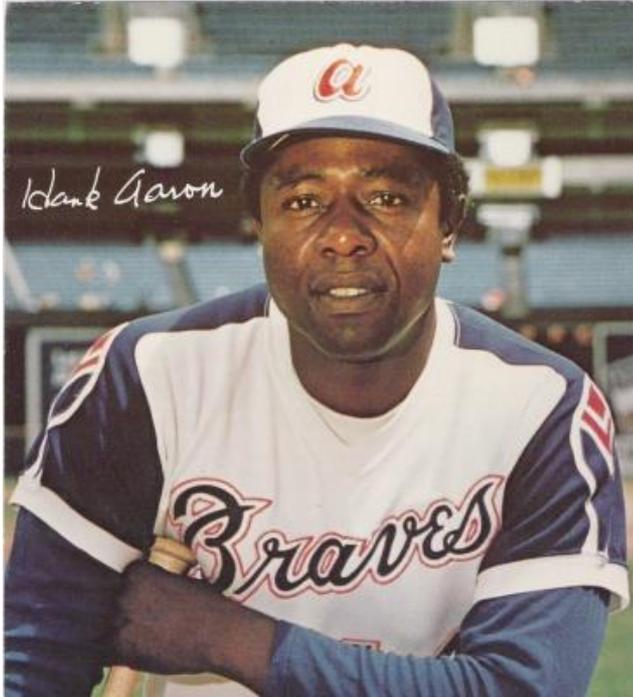


Lance Armstrong admits he would still be lying about doping if he had not been found out

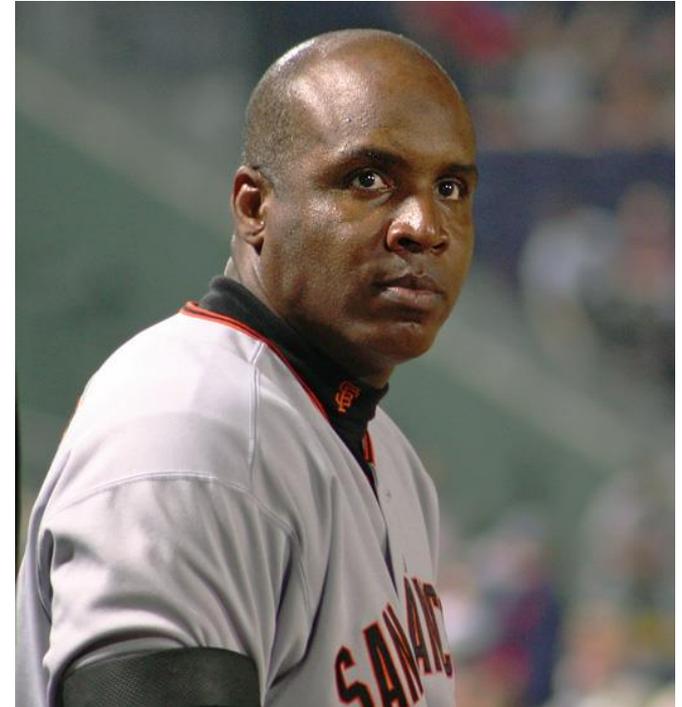
Seven-times Tour de France winner, who is serving a life ban from sport, says only federal investigation stopped his lying about taking drugs



# Honest competitors earn respect; cheaters do not

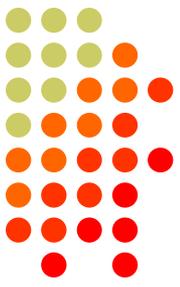


Hank Aaron  
755 Home Runs



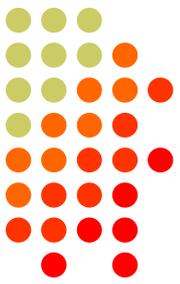
Barry ("Steroid-man") Bonds  
762 Home Runs  
**NOT ELECTED TO HALL OF FAME**

# Covering cheating takes too much effort to be fun (and may not work)



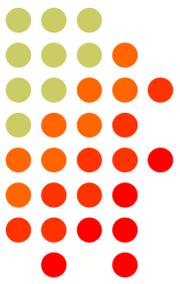
- The RBN and wideband recording systems can verify what really happened (and if your signal was wide)
- Packet/Skimmer cheating is easy to detect
- Power outliers sometimes obvious (plots, RBN)
- Waiting until the log deadline so you can pad your log with guys who did not submit a log will be detected
- Open Logs allow an element of crowd-sourcing

# Expend your time and energy in more positive ways



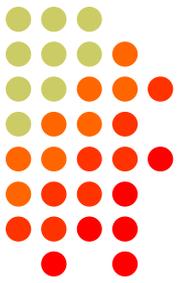
- If someone beats you, ask to exchange logs/rate sheets
- If you are getting clobbered on a specific band, figure out why and work on it (hint: antenna)
- Review your Log-Checking Report and learn from it
- You will gain great satisfaction from improving your station and skills

# Applying Positive Peer Pressure to a Suspected Cheater



- Be aware of your motives
  - Is it personal?
  - If necessary, enlist others to help deliver the message
- Give the benefit of the doubt
  - They may not realize what they are doing is against the rules
- Choose the right time
  - Can they listen without feeling attacked?
- Don't be angry or accusatory
  - Treat the issue as a mistake, not a crime
  - Focus on actions, not character
- Be there
  - People cheat because they see others get away with it
  - Not confronting the problem hurts everyone

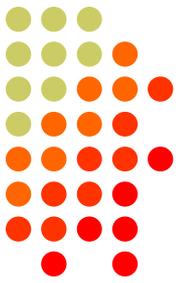
# There are really two scores in a contest



- The published score – the winner has the highest number and gets an award
- The unpublished score – winner gets **respect**

Winner	Loser
Clean signal	Clicks, splatter, “curiously strong”
Behaves in pileups	Aggressive in pileups
Listens on spot freqs to confirm call	Clicks, calls, logs bad spots
Congratulates guys who beat him	Makes excuses why he didn’t win
Works to improve station	Looks for a way to cheat
Invited to join multiop teams	Shunned

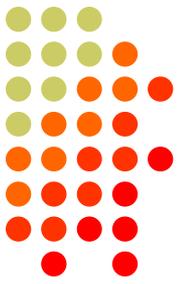
# K3ZO (SK) View of Contesting



- “I know about the Assisted Category. But I don’t want to operate that way.
- I know a lot of guys use two radios. But I don’t want to operate that way.
- I use one radio, my own skills and ears, and have a ball. That’s enough for me.”



# The Lesson of “Cool Runnings”



- Story of the Jamaican Olympic Bobsled Team
- Coach had been banished from the sport for cheating (added weights to his sled)
- Believed that sprinters would make good bobsledders



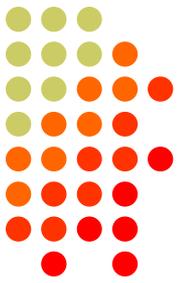
<https://youtu.be/ADROo27EFJo>

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# Acknowledgments



This presentation draws on material developed by:

Ken Adams, K5KA (SK)  
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Kirk Pickering, K4RO  
Tim Duffy, K3LR  
Joel Harrison, W5ZN

And my biggest contest influence, K1HHN/W9HG (SK)

***“Relax, kid. This is supposed to be fun!”***

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# Contest Code of Ethics, expanded



1. I will learn and obey the rules of any contest I enter, including the rules of my entry category.

*No spotting if not permitted, no second op or skimmer for single ops, off-times per rules, correct output power*

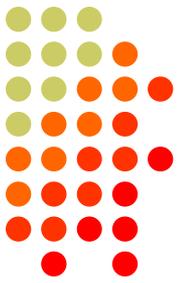
2. I will obey the rules for amateur radio in my country.

*Power, frequencies, licensing – wherever you transmit.  
Remote operations must be especially vigilant!*

3. I will not modify my log after the contest by using additional data sources to correct call sign/exchange errors.

*When it's over, it's over*

# Contest Code of Ethics, expanded



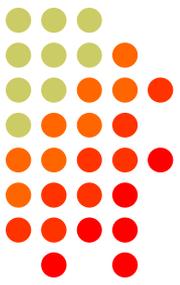
**4. I will accept the judging and scoring decisions of the contest sponsor as final.**

*No whining, no lawsuits, no threats or defamation of any sort. No operation is that important.*

**5. I will adhere to the DX Code of Conduct in my operating style (see [dx-code.org](http://dx-code.org)).**

*Listen, listen, listen; only call when you can hear the station; never trust the cluster (copy the call!)*...

# Contest Code of Ethics, expanded



**6. I will yield my frequency to any emergency communications activity.**

*Contesting is a game. Emergencies are real life.*

**7. I will operate my transmitter with sufficient signal quality to minimize interference to others.**

*Mic gain set properly; amp not overdriven; no splatter!*

*Note that CQWW rules have added language specifically emphasizing this rule of conduct. Expect increased scrutiny as SDR archives reveal the worst offenders!*

[www.wwrof.org](http://www.wwrof.org)