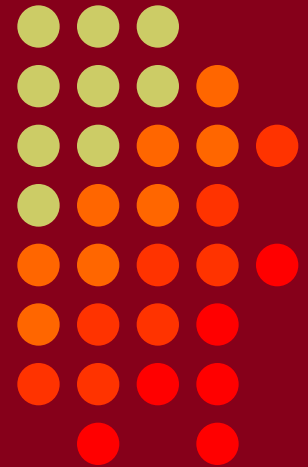


CTU Presents

Taking Care of Our Radio Sport

John Dorr, K1AR



• CTU •
CONTEST
UNIVERSITY

ICOM®

Taking Care of Contesting?



- **The future health of contesting is not guaranteed**
- **External factors:**
 - **Government regulations**
 - **Stagnant/diminishing growth**
 - **Solar conditions**
 - **Cost of entry**
- **Controllable factors:**
 - **Our operating behavior**
 - **Consideration for others outside of contest world**
 - **Ethics**

Ethics



- **Ethics:**

“Moral principles that govern a person's behavior or the conducting of an activity.”

- **Areas of ethical focus:**

- Healthcare
- Sports
- Law
- Government
- Business

Ethical Failures in Sport



- **NCAA Game-fixing**
- **Lance Armstrong Tour de France**
- **2017 Houston Astros sign stealing**
- **MLB steroids**

RESULT: Shattered careers, loss of income, reputation, criminal prosecution

But First...

Why Do You Contest?

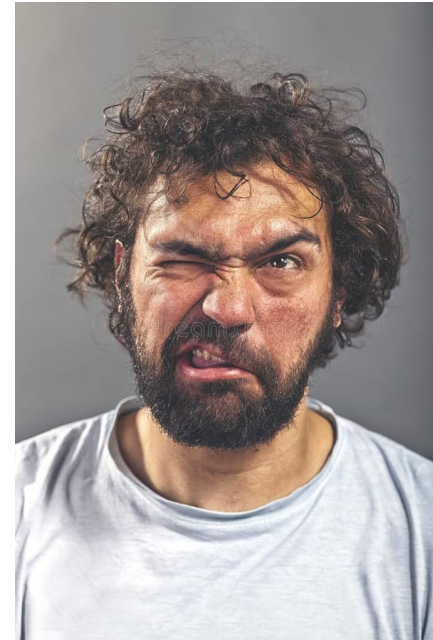


- **It starts with FUN!**
- **Personal satisfaction/goal setting**
- **Recognition by peers**
- **Desire to compete**
- **Serve other interests in the hobby**
- **Did I mention, FUN?!?**

Typical Contester



Before the Contest



After the Contest



Drilling into Peer Recognition

- **Most contesters care about what others think of their skills and results**
- **Peer recognition is not automatic**
- **Recognition of accomplishments does not automatically flow to respect**
- **Actions and behavior (on- and off-air) matter**

Not all Peer Recognition is Positive



- **Positive:**
 - **Known to be polite and considerate on the air**
 - **Has long-standing reputation based on trust**
 - **Regularly has highly accurate logs**
 - **Is willing to share experience/expertise with others**
- **Negative:**
 - **Always has a “dirty signal”**
 - **Is a non-stop caller in pile-ups**
 - **Suspected of running power or abuses spotting**

On Air Behavior



We have all run into these guys!

And, Then There Are These Guys!



- **Click, scream, work, “What’s your call?”**
- **“Frequency in Use?” followed by a “CQ Contest” about 2.1 microseconds later.**
- **Transmit audio levels turned fully to the right.**
- **Natural ability to call on top of the station everyone is trying to work.**
- **Calling an S-0 LP Asian at 700 WPM.**



Drilling into Peer Recognition

- **Most contesters care about what others think of their skills and results**
- **Peer recognition is not automatic**
- **Recognition of accomplishments does not automatically flow to respect**
- **Actions and behavior (on- and off-air) matter**



Knowing What to Do

- **Our contesting sport has very clear rules.
FOLLOW THEM!**

<https://cqww.com/rules.htm>

<https://cqwp.com/rules/>

<https://www.arrl.org/contest-rules>

Contest Code of Conduct



- I will learn and obey the rules of any contest I enter, including the rules of my entry category.
- I will obey the rules for amateur radio in my country.
- I will not modify my log after the contest by using additional data sources to
- correct callsign / exchange errors.
- I will accept the judging and scoring decisions of the contest sponsor as final.
- I will adhere to the DX Code of Conduct in my operating style (see dx-code.org).
- I will yield my frequency to any emergency communications activity.
- I will operate my transmitter with sufficient signal quality to minimize interference to others.

Signed _ Date __

The Challenge of Unwritten Rules



- **Something that is not explicitly defined in the rules is not a free pass to doing it**
- **Examples:**
 - **Asking friends to only work you**
 - **Working someone with multiple calls**
 - **Cheerleading on spotting networks**
 - **Club members only working other club members**
- **The “spirit of the rules” applies here**

Some Cheating Examples



- **Log washing**
 - Using external data sources to correct your log after the contest
 - Validating QSOs with others after the contest
 - Comparing contest recordings to your log
 - Asking others to confirm callsigns in your log
- **Power abuse**
 - Running more than 1500W
 - Claiming low power but running more
 - Turning on the amp to “get that mult”

There Are Others



- **Writing calls into your log**
- **Logging partially copied info**
- **Using spotting assistance as a single-op unassisted entry (or “just a little”)**
- **Self-spotting when not permitted**

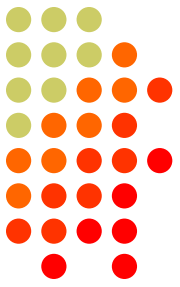
Why Do Some Contesters Cheat?



- Proving self-worth to themselves
- Receiving accolades from others
- A false sense of superiority
- An extension of their overall personal view of ethical standards
- All the other winners are doing it!
- I'm just a small gun; it won't matter

Executive Summary: Cheating is Theft!

Contesting the Right Way



- You are responsible for your own reputation
- Participate in peer pressure (call others out)
- Be in the majority not the minority
- Simple guideline: Play fair
- An oldie but goodie:
“Make your enjoyment of contesting be about the journey not the destination”

Final Thought



- **Play by the rules; it's your only option.**

- **Remember this:**

It takes years to build a positive reputation. It can be easily destroyed in only minutes!

73, John, K1AR

Thanks for the Contributions from Others



- **Ken Adams, K5KA (SK)**
- **Doug Grant, K1DG**
- **Larry Tyree, N6TR**
- **Ward Silver, N0AX**
- **Dave McCarty, K5GN**
- **Kirk Pickering, K4RO**
- **Randy Thompson, K5ZD**