

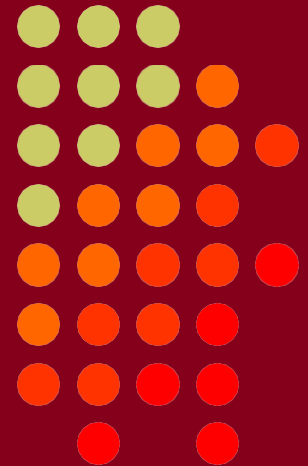
# CTU Presents

## Operating a Contest – How to Have Fun!

John Dorr, K1AR

• CTU •  
CONTEST  
UNIVERSITY

ICOM®



# We all had to begin somewhere!



FCC FORM 660 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AUGUST 1963 FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
*Not Transferable* WASHINGTON, D. C. 20554  
AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE


OPERATOR PRIVILEGES: NOVICE  
CALL SIGN: WN2LQZ  
EFFECTIVE DATE: 09-16-69 EXPIRATION DATE: 09-16-71

JOHN H DORR  
66 RUDDER DR  
HOLTSVILLE N Y 11742

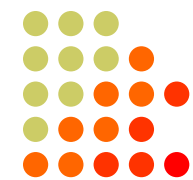
STATION LOCATION: SAME AS ABOVE  
REMOTE CONTROL LOCATION: NONE

*John H. Dorrr* (Licensee's Countersignature)  
*Ben F. Waple* SECRETARY

THIS LICENSE ISSUED SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS ON REVERSE SIDE



# And, we all had our first contest!!



**Novice Roundup**

Call WN2LQZ Section NLI (See page 6 Q)

SENT										RECEIVED									
B A N D	DATE ON OFF TIMES	GMT QSO TIME	NR	SEC	NR	CALL	SEC*	B A N D	DATE ON OFF TIMES	GMT QSO TIME	NR	SEC	NR	'CALL					
15	0117 to 0025	0016	1		2	W16CFA	CR6	40	0120 to 1205	218	26		5	W121					
		0028	2		5	W16LVP	SCV			1217	27		14	W146					
		0032	3		3	W16JFF	E.804			1237	28		43	K244					
	OFF 0040 ON 0100	0037	4		3	W15TAA	N.102			1250	29		7	W121					
		0102	5		18	K08IX	COLO			1300	30		5	W131					
		0109	6		3	W12EE	NLF			1321	31		32	W140					
		0102	7		3	W15HDT	STB			1341	32		21	K246					
40	OFF 0130 ON 0155	0125	8		6	W192AV	IND			1344	33		2	W121					
		0156	9		18	K4CAV	NJ			1347	34		20	W121					
		0200	10		18	K8HAM	MICH			1357	35		6	K2DN					
	OFF 0235 ON 0255	0207	11		7	W18TET	OHIO			1405	36		24	W121					
		0230	12		8	W18TET	OHIO			1407	37		1	W121					
		0400	13		11	W14YLT	KY	15	OFF 1425 ON 1430	1420	38		15	W121					
80		0442	14		2	W121DE	NJ	45	ON 1450	1454	39		6	W121					
		0444	15		25	W121M	VA	13	OFF 1425 ON 1430	1423	40		13	W121					
		0440	16		12	W130MV	E.10	1	ON 1435	1442	41		9	W121					
		0503	17		24	W121ZS	E.10	1	OFF 1400	1458	42		21	W121					
		0518	18		10	W121ZS	ONT	1	ON 1415	1418	43		6	W121					
	OFF 0545 ON 0700	0542	19		22	W121BN	NJ	15	OFF 1630	1630	44		1	W121					
40		0700	20		1	W121DE	VA	1	ON 1633	1634	45		5	W121					
		0725	21		4	W121BT	ILL.	1		1634	46		21	W121					
	OFF 0740 ON 0815	0733	22		12	W121SH	S.FE	1		1655	47		8	W121					
		0819	23		62	W121ET	WIS	1	OFF 1705	1708	48		7	W121					
80	OFF 0830 ON 0837	0830	24		88	W121HRL	VA	1	ON 1715	1715	49		27	W121					
1	OFF 0837 ON 0840	0840	25		21	W121SM	NJ	40	OFF 1710	1720	50		7	W121					

**MULTIPLIER CHECK-OFF LIST**

1 Conn -	2 EBY -	3 Ala -	4 Ark -	5 EBy -	6 Ariz -	7 Meb -	8 HI -	9 Colo -	10 Mar -
EMass -	RI -	Del -	Fla -	LA -	GA -	Ohio -	Ind -	Iowa -	Qua -
Mo -	NH -	Ill -	Mass -	MD -	Mont -	WVa -	Wis -	Kans -	Ont -
NJ -	NY -	WV -	NC -	NH -	Neu -			Mich -	Sask -
Pa -	RI -	WV -	NC -	NH -	Neu -			Min -	Atl -
WV -	RI -	WV -	NC -	NH -	Neu -			Neb -	BC -
WV -	RI -	WV -	NC -	NH -	Neu -			SDak -	VEB -

## HUDSON DIVISION

### Eastern New York

WN2JAM	28,480	435-64-40
WN2KDC	10,400	193-50-21
WN2MDY	4662	101-37-20
WN2KFL	4350	130-30-17
WN2MGT	4347	161-27-32
WN2ITO	3240	120-27-09
WN2JGC	2870	070-41-13
WN2HIC	2590	074-35-13
WN2KBR	2156	077-28-16
WN2JVR	969	051-19-12

### New York City - Long Island

WN2MAN	38,940	570-66-35
WN2LQZ	21,830	345-59-36
WN2MSF	10,850	217-50-29
WN2GGQ	10,074	219-46-20
WN2ITQ	4716	111-36-15
WN2KBB	3808	099-34-10
WN2HTB	3672	093-34-28
WN2KJO	3364	116-29-18
WN2LOM	3275	131-25-29
WN2MQI	2842	088-29-16
WN2LJV	1200	040-24-05
WN2JRJ	592	037-16-
WN2GRV	561	033-17-06
WN2JFU	315	021-15-04

### Northern New Jersey

WN2HID	33,835	490-67-40
WN2LOV	19,760	370-52-36
WN2KHO	17,174	262-62-25

WN0VJF	30,095	453-65-40	WI
WN0YMK	20,178	342-59-35	WI
WN0YBS	16,800	300-56-36	WI
WN0ADS	16,308	302-54-21	WI
WN0YRE	13,664	244-56-29	WI
WN0YJL	13,050	220-58-40	
WN0AJU	2940	098-30-40	
WN0VZK	656	082-08-18	WI

### Missouri

WN0YST	21,472	352-61-31	WI
WN0AEW	20,740	340-61-40	WI
WN0ZNV	16,472	274-58-30	WI
WN0YMS	7285	140-47-14	
WN0YMC	7238	154-47-07	
WN0YBW	5863	143-41-35	
WN0YFA	5848	136-43-22	WI
WN0WBK	5120	128-40-31	WI
WN0YBB	2725	109-25-13	WI
WN0VSH	2523	087-29-25	WI
WN0YKI	840	042-20-09	WI

### Nebraska

WN0WOT	30,756	451-66-40	WI
WN0UFA	7150	143-50-30	WI
WN0WXX	5568	116-48-21	WI

### NEW ENGLAND DIVISION

#### Connecticut

WN1LKS	22,208	347-64-	WI
WN1MAO	19,530	300-63-33	WI
WN1LJD	18,900	300-63-40	
WN1LWR	13,200	230-55-17	WI
WN1LSH	9849	181-49-24	

# Where Do I Begin? ...I'm Glad You Asked!



- Know the rules (all of them!)
- Develop a plan that best exploits your station, availability, and goals
- Practice, practice, practice
- Effective operating style(s)
- Know your competition
- Have fun!



# Know the Rules

- Rules change all the time
  - Missed scoring opportunities
  - “I didn’t know I could self-spot!!”
- Ignoring rules can be fatal
  - Score reductions, DQ
- Not all contests are created equal

# Did you know?



- Self-spotting is allowed in ARRL contests but not in the CQ WW?
- The log submission deadline for CQ WPX is now 48 hours?
- The CQ WW allows you to operate at a multi-op and also at home with your call?
- Band change rules vary by contest and category

# Develop a Plan

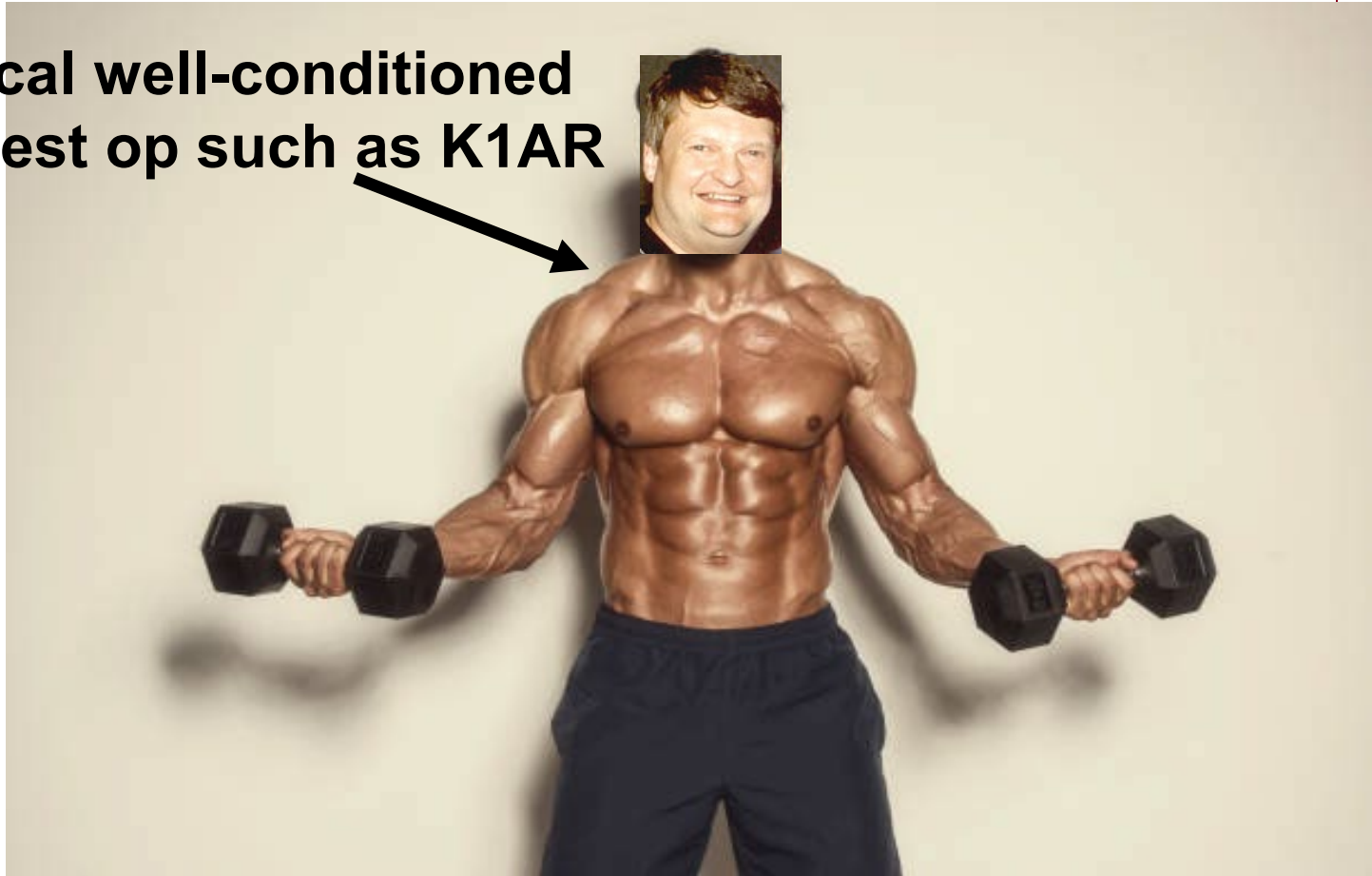


- Set goals
  - QSO totals, best personal score, 1:1 competition, stretch goals
- Review previous log entries/competitors
  - On-line contest recordings (e.g., <https://k5zd.com/audio-archive/>)
  - Public logs
- Look for mistakes/poor operating decisions
- Be radioactive!!

# Practice, Practice, Practice



Typical well-conditioned  
contest op such as K1AR



# Even More Practice...



- Play in lots of contests
  - QSO parties, regional contests, CWTs, etc.
- Contest skills are not developed overnight
  - Getting 50+ years under your belt is a good start!
- Conversational CW
- Know your logging program inside & out

# Operating Better Than That Other Guy!



- Some basics:
  - Say/send the least amount needed to make a QSO
  - Don't be afraid to operate high in band
  - Timing in pileups matters
  - Old adage: operate on highest open band
  - Play to your strengths (and weaknesses)
  - If you feel loud in your mind, you're loud...exploit this!!

# Operating Better Than That Other Guy!



- Some more basics:
  - Use your ears first (then your tools)
  - Run when you can; S&P is not bad operating
    - ✓ 100+ QSO rates are quite achievable in S&P
  - Check odd bands/propagation
  - Track multipliers; avoid missing “easy ones”
  - Know/search for odd openings
    - ✓ 10M morning Asia LP, middle night high bands, early 40M EU, listening where others are not

# Operating Better Than That Other Guy!



- Let's talk SSB...



# Operating Better Than That Other Guy!



- SSB tips:
  - Use normal phonetics
    - ✓ W3 Linoleum, Pneumonia, Linoleum
  - Zero beat guys you're calling, not just the spotted frequency (if assisted)
  - Situational awareness matters
    - ✓ Callers working someone else, adjacent stations, band conditions
  - Please copy this:
    - ✓ NEVER, EVER, say "Please copy!"
    - ✓ Don't repeat the other guy's exchange

# Operating Better Than That Other Guy!



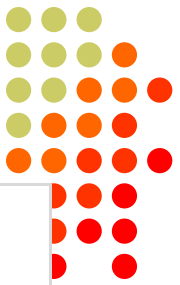
- CW tips:
  - Use appropriate CW speeds
    - ✓ Speed reflecting propagation, station you're calling, etc.
  - Call stations off-center frequency/where others are working them
  - The “one second” pause
  - Stations can be successfully passed on CW

# Knowing Your Competition

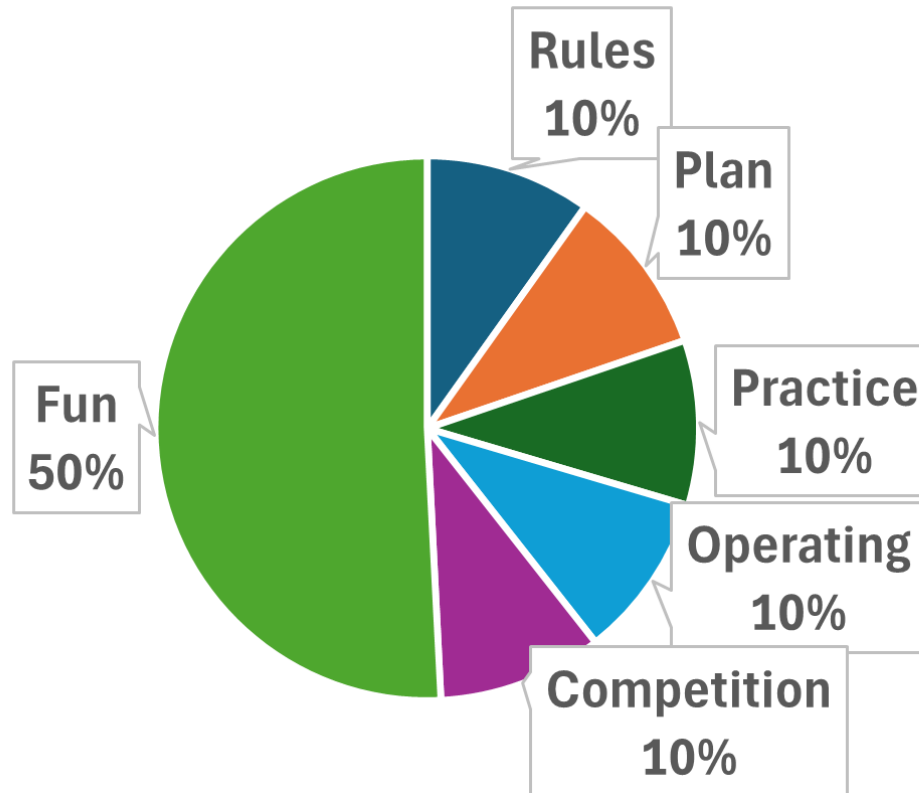


- Review previous results
  - Many on-line resources
- Discuss strategies with others
- Let the “head games” begin
- Who else is competing in your category?





# Contest Operating Wheel



# With Special Thanks To...



The contesters that took me under their wing  
and have provided countless opportunities:

W3LPL, K3EST, W2PV, K1EA, K3LR, and  
hundreds more!