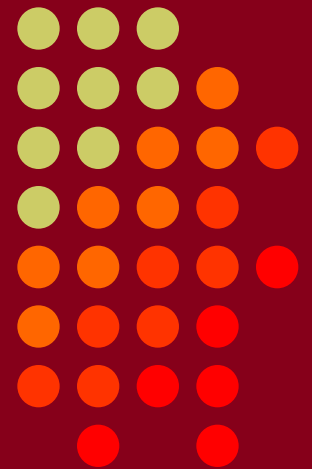


# CTU Presents

**It's a Fun Game**

**Let's Operate the Right Way**

**Joel Harrison, W5ZN**



• CTU •  
CONTEST  
UNIVERSITY

ICOM®

# CASH PRIZES !!!!!!!!!!!!!



- CQWW 1<sup>st</sup> Place Cash Price \$25,000 ?
- ARRL DX 1<sup>st</sup> Place Cash Price \$15,000 ?
- ARRL Sweepstakes 1<sup>st</sup> Place Cash Price \$5,000 ?
- WHAAAAAAAAAAT????? No Money?

# Explaining Radio Contesting to a non-ham (or non-contester)



“We operate for 24/48 hours, log all the stations we contact, and see who can make the most contacts in the most states, countries”

*“How do you know who won?”*

“We send our logs to the sponsor, and they check them”

*“How much money do you get for winning?”*

“Nothing”

*“Huh?? Then why do you do this?”*

# Why do we do radio contests?



- ~~Financial Rewards~~
- Self Improvement
- Personal Satisfaction
- The thrill of competing “one-on-one” with Nobel Laureates, Rock Stars, Admirals, etc.
- Peer Recognition
- FUN and EXCITEMENT!!

# Why Do We Have Rules?



- Let's face it, if you're going to have FUN in an event such as ours we must have rules!
- What if there were none?





# The Rules

“The rules are black & white, we make them gray” K5ZD

Which side of the fence are you on?

Right

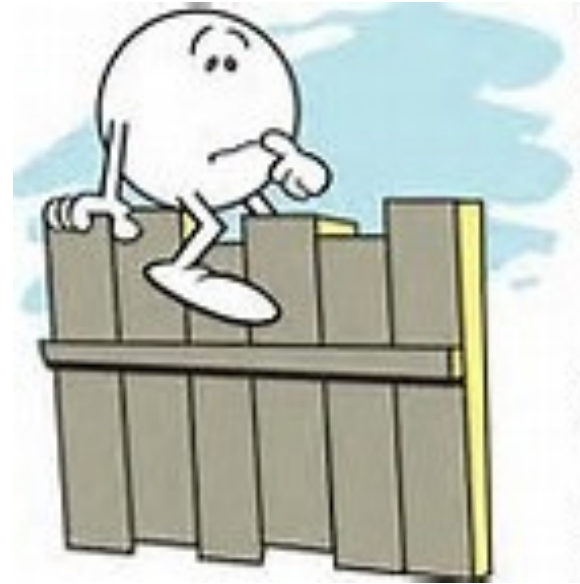


Wrong

# I don't actually cross the fence

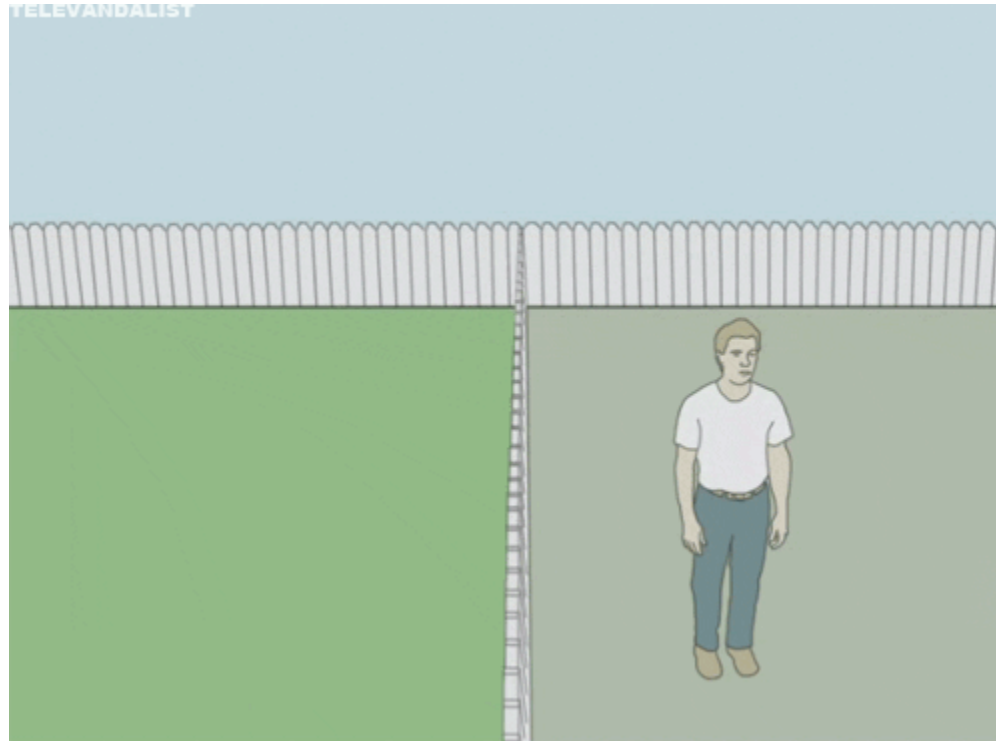


I just lean on it



I just straddle it a tiny bit !

# The Green Grass Temptation!





# Let's Talk Ethics



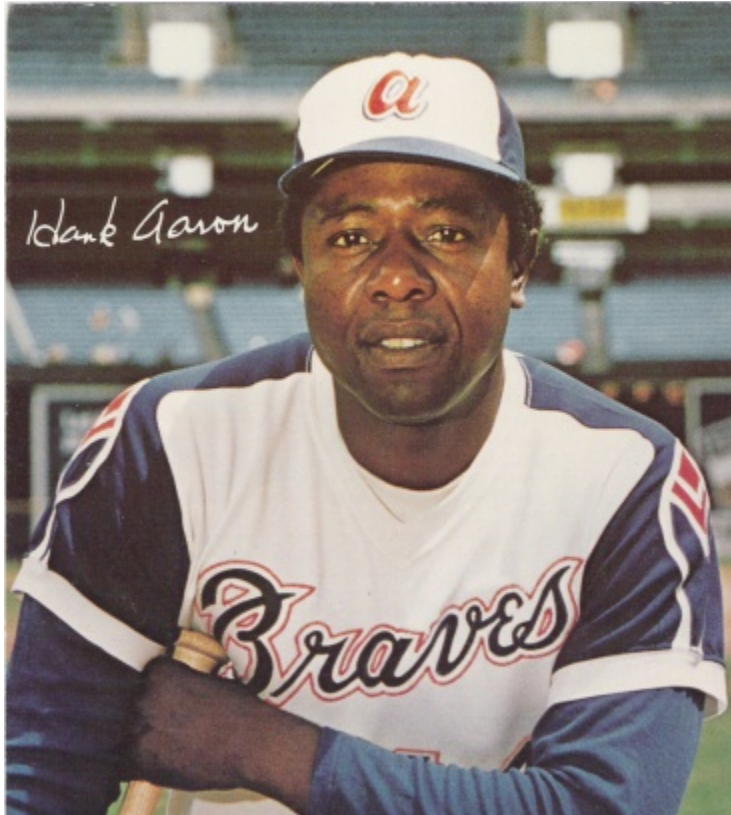
- Discussion of what ethical behavior is in radio contesting
- Understand the impact of unethical behavior, and some of the motivations behind it
- Encourage participants to take ownership of their own behavior and encourage others to do the same

# Ethics & Attitude



- Let's be honest – if you don't embrace an ethical attitude you won't put ethical behavior into practice!
- What are “Ethics”?
  - Moral principles that govern a person's or group's behavior
  - Ethics in practice is knowing the difference between right and wrong and choosing to do what is right

# Why do ethics matter?



Hank Aaron  
755 Home Runs



Barry Bonds  
762 Home Runs

# Why do ethics matter?



**Without ethics and respect –  
we have NOTHING**



# Talk is Cheap



**“I am NOT a crook!”**



**Neither am I !**

## **Ethical *Actions* are *LOUD***

# Motivations for Cheating



- 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 (sibling rivalry)
- A means to prove self-worth
- These are *Powerful forces*, worthy of study and caution

# Multi-op Team ?



# Ethics in Contesting



- Unobservable rules require participants to choose right or wrong on their own.
- Ethics are in play particularly when no one is looking. We are free to choose.
- The freedom to choose right or wrong carries both responsibility and scrutiny.





# Ethics and Respect



- Ethical behavior requires ***respect***...
  - Respect for ***others***
  - Respect for ***the game***
  - Respect for ***yourself***
- 
- A cartoon illustration of a young boy with brown hair, wearing a white robe and a halo. He is standing with his hand to his chin, appearing to be in deep thought or listening intently. The background is plain white.
- To ***get*** respect, you have to ***give*** respect

# Rationalizations for Cheating



- *Everybody is doing it (#1 Reason)*
- Nobody was hurt (*Except those cheated*)
- Nobody was watching (*Not any longer*)
- Overcome unfair disadvantages
- Rules don't specifically disallow a practice
- Rules apply to others, not us

# “All the guys at the top are cheating”



- NO! They are not
  - There are a few bad apples – this is true in any sport
  - They don't last long
- This belief is the primary reason for cheating - in virtually every sport studied!

# “I’m not a big gun...it doesn’t matter if I cut corners a bit”



- **Yes it does!**
- Bad habits early on become seriously bad habits later
- Your reputation is established early
- Dealing with temptation is hard...“It’s easy to just give in! And it keeps getting easier.”



# Honor Code



- You are responsible for your own reputation
  - Follow the rules!
  - Don't participate with people who cheat
- Lead by example
  - You never know who is listening or watching
  - Don't do anything you would not want to be made public
- Be respectfully vocal
  - Confront cheating when you see it
  - Every incident is an opportunity to teach proper behavior
  - Provide Peer Checking for others

# What is this peer recognition?



- We are recognized by our achievements and how we went about achieving those results
- Our recognition is influenced by what other people say about us
- We all need peer recognition (external) more than we may realize (there's no money!)
- The classical “hero” myth lives in our psyche. We rightfully cheer those who win fairly.

# Peer Pressure



- Good
  - Encourage others to follow the rules
  - People respect those who are true to their beliefs



- Bad
  - Letting others influence you into not doing the right thing
  - “everyone else is doing it.”



# Negative Peer Recognition Examples



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

**While most of these examples can not be proven – they are often based upon something not being quite right about a log entry.**

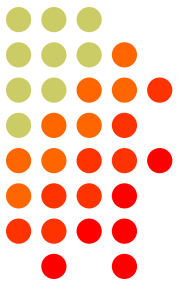


# Applying Positive Peer Pressure



- 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

# Time for a Test!!



- Let's review some of our peer pressure techniques

# Scenario 1



- We discover a local contester uses cluster spotting and enters an unassisted category. What do we do?
  - They never win anything so assume it doesn't matter
  - Avoid speaking to them ever again
  - Publicly call them a cheater at the next club meeting
  - Send a letter to the contest sponsor
  - Call them up and ask if they are aware of the rules about using spotting information

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# Scenario 2



- We are invited to a multi-op and upon arrival, we discover they are running 2.5 KW. What do we do?
  - We are there, loud is good, operate anyway
  - Turn the power down to 1500 W when we're operating
  - Loudly encourage the other ops to follow our example
  - Quietly ask the owner if he always runs excess power
  - Leave (hard to do if thousands of miles from home)
  - Send a note to the contest sponsor and FCC

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# Scenario 3



- A local contester has key clicks that wipe out large chunks of the band. What do you do?
  - Sharpen up YOUR keying and give him a dose of his own medicine!
  - Send “KLIX” on his frequency anonymously
  - Call him, tell him he has key clicks, and sign your call
  - Contact him after the contest, explain the problem, and ask to help fix the problem
  - Notify the contest sponsor and his rig’s manufacturer



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# Communication Success is Defined by the Receiver



THE FAR SIDE/GARY LARSON

What we say to dogs



What they hear

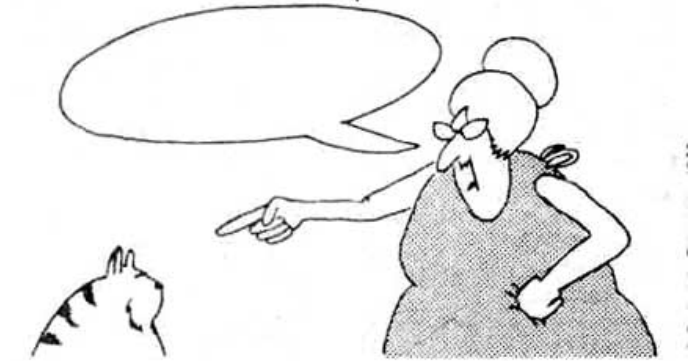


THE FAR SIDE/GARY LARSON

What we say to cats... 12-14



What they hear



# How do we know what to do?



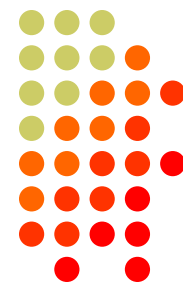
- Written Rules
  - Specified by the contest sponsor in writing
  - Black and white
  - May, can, should, must...
- Unwritten Rules
  - Expectations about behavior
  - Interpreted norms
  - Gray areas – Ethical behavior **required**

# Some written rules are very clear (some people break these anyway)



- **“A. Single Operator categories:** For all single operator categories, only one person (the operator) can contribute to the final score during the official contest period.”
- “Total output power per band must not exceed 1500 watts or the output power regulations of the country in which the entrant is operating, whichever is less.”

# Essence of Unwritten Rules



- Just because it's not specifically prohibited by written rules doesn't mean you should do it!
- Keep the contest on the radio and within the contest period – no log washing or padding!
- Don't give or take unfair advantage of others
- Learn and follow the spirit of the rules

# 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



# Technology - A Game Changer



- With more technology comes more ways to cheat... and more ways to detect cheating..
- Remote operations - Specify transmitter QTH unambiguously. Adhere to RX distance rules.
- Crowd sourcing – CQWW 2014 CW – egregious cheating found through community effort. World high TO7A DQed – previous years also DQed!
- Few places left to hide with SDR, RBN, etc.
- Ethics becomes more important than ever as technology marches onward

# The Contest Code of Ethics

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



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

# *The CTU 2017 Challenge !*



- Play by the rules **PERIOD!**
- Attend today's sessions to gain an effective edge in operator skill
- Attend today's sessions to gain an effective edge in station technology
- Apply that edge in your next radiosport challenge
- HAVE FUN !!!



# The W5ZN Multi-op Team Will See you on the Bands



# Acknowledgments



This presentation draws on material developed by:

Ken Adams, K5KA (SK)

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Tim Duffy, K3LR