

Handling Book Traffic

For traffic handlers and net controls

Book traffic is when several very similar messages are combined so that the common parts are only transmitted once. This saves a lot of time and tedium on traffic nets. Usually this means the same message is addressed to several different recipients, so only the message number and the addressee are individual to each message. But there may be other variables, “blanks” as well. Consider the following message:

The image shows a screenshot of a 'RADIOGRAM' form from 'THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE'. The form is titled 'RADIOGRAM VIA AMATEUR RADIO'. It contains the following handwritten information:

| NUMBER | PRECEDENCE | HX | STATION OF ORIGIN | CHECK | PLACE OF ORIGIN | TIME FILED | DATE |
|--------|------------|----|-------------------|-------|-----------------|------------|--------|
| 123 | R | G | N1IQI | 25 | Pembroke MA | | Feb 25 |

TO: JohnDoe KF7ABC
Portland OR 97123
TELEPHONE NUMBER 503-123-4567

THIS RADIO MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED AT
AMATEUR STATION _____ PHONE _____
NAME _____
STREET _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

A friendly reminder your amateur
radio license expires March 23
2016 Hope you will renew
if not done so already
We need your participation 73

FROM _____ DATE _____ TIME _____ TO Loren N1IQI DATE _____ TIME _____

REC'D
THIS MESSAGE WAS HANDLED FREE OF CHARGE BY A LICENSED AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR, WHOSE ADDRESS IS SHOWN IN THE BOX AT RIGHT ABOVE. AS SUCH MESSAGES ARE HANDLED SOLELY FOR THE PLEASURE OF OPERATING, NO COMPENSATION CAN BE ACCEPTED BY A "HAM" OPERATOR. A RETURN MESSAGE MAY BE FILED WITH THE "HAM" DELIVERING THIS MESSAGE TO YOU. FURTHER INFORMATION ON AMATEUR RADIO MAY BE OBTAINED FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS, 225 MAIN STREET, NEWINGTON, CT 06111

THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, INC. IS THE NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP SOCIETY OF LICENSED RADIO AMATEURS AND THE PUBLISHER OF QST MAGAZINE. ONE OF ITS FUNCTIONS IS PROMOTION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMUNICATION AMONG AMATEUR OPERATORS. TO THAT END, THE LEAGUE HAS ORGANIZED THE NATIONAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM FOR DAILY NATIONWIDE MESSAGE HANDLING.

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On the digital message board, Hal KC7ZZB found this message, and he found the same messages numbers 124 and 125 dated Feb 26 going to Fred Smith and Judy Smith both in Beaverton and both with an expiration date of March 24, and the same message number 126 dated Feb. 27 to Glenn Jones in Gresham whose license expires March 25.

Hal can list this traffic when asked by Net control as, “A book of four with one to Portland, two to Beaverton and one to Gresham.”

Net control acknowledges and asks for volunteers. Marino KG7EMV volunteers to take the Beaverton traffic and Michael AE7XP volunteers to take the other two. Net control asks receiving station AE7XP (or KG7EMV) to call KC7ZZB to receive the traffic. Michael does so and states he is ready to copy.

Hal then relays all four messages as follows: (Prowords in Italics)

“AE7XP please copy and KG7EMV please copy along. Follows book traffic:

“Routine Hotel Xray Golf November one India Quebec India 2 5 Pembroke Massachusetts February
BLANK *BREAK*

(Note that the message number is skipped as is the TO: information)

“A friendly reminder your amateur radio license expires March BLANK *figures* 2 0 1 6 Hope you will
renew if not done so already We need your participation *figures* 7 3 *BREAK*

“Loren *Amateur call* November one India Quebec India

(For the sake of brevity, I have omitted the phonetic spelling of Pembroke and Loren)

“End of book traffic. AE7XP are you ready for fills?”

AE7XP replies, “Ready for fills.”

KC7ZZB: “*Please copy* 1 2 3 February 2 5 John Doe *I spell* Delta Oscar Echo *amateur call* Kilo Foxtrot
Seven Alpha Bravo Charlie Portland Oregon *zip figures* 9 7 1 2 3 Blank is 2 3. End, one to follow.”

Hal then relays the Gresham message in the same way substituting the number, date, TO: and the text
blank.

After Michael rogers both messages and gives his callsign, Hal then calls KG7EMV and asks if he is ready
for fills, then after Marino’s reply, gives the fills for the Beaverton messages.

Marino rogers his messages and signs off. Hal gives his callsign and the net resumes.