

## 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:

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**RADIOGRAM**  
VIA AMATEUR RADIO

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 DATE TIME

REC'D

Sign: Loren N1IQI

PRINTED IN USA

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.