

SHORTSKIP



Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

February, 19, 1982
Vol. 7 #3

DX Watch March 1982

File-up busting, Continued.

Tailending (not to be confused with tailgating) is both the most useful and the most abused technique in DXing. The theory of tailending is very simple: after the stateside station has completed his contact, and before the DX station responds, there is a small gap. A gap of dead air. No one else is transmitting. If you can only get your callsign into that space, you can totally avoid the pileup, and greatly increase your chances on a DX contact.

As with many simple theories, the practice is very different. First, that gap can be absurdly short, often too short for your callsign. Sometimes even too short for part of your callsign. Also, timing is absolutely critical. If you start transmitting too soon, you will cover up the stateside station, and the DX station might have to ask for a repeat. (If the DX station did get your call, it was in a negative way.) If you are late with your call, the DX station is transmitting already, and he is very unlikely to hear you (but other stateside stations might hear you, and not like it. A final (and often fatal) flaw with tailending is that, if overused, it causes the frequency to degenerate into chaos, and nobody works anybody.

So why even attempt tailending? Executed properly, it is perhaps the single most successful DXing technique. You avoid the competition of the pileup (and your peanut whistle and underground antenna don't matter) and the DX station avoids the terrible noise and confusion of a prolonged pileup. Listen (again, always listen) to hear if other stations are trying the technique. The DX station will either work them, or ignore them (and perhaps get angry). If they can do it, so can you.

Work on your timing in less critical situations, practice getting your call (or part of it) into that tiny gap. Be rpeared for a lot of trial and error, but once you get the hang of tailending, you'll swear by it.

Next Month: DXing No-Nos.

DX Tip: the ARRL DX Test and the CQ WPX test this month attract lots of DXpeditions: a great way to get those "easy" ones on the wall (they're all tough, until you work them.)

CLUB OFFICERS 1982

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795-4335

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Activities Chair Chuck Sabin N6DDK
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Short Skip Hank Davis, W6DTV
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833-2000 WB6SMY

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Club QSL Mg. Jim Tomer W6CYM

Public Ser. Hank Davis W6DTV
Coor. Al Bloom NIAL
Repeater
Tech.Comm.

MEETINGS

CLUB - 1st Wednesday each month.
March 3rd. 82 - EOC County Operations
Room. 8:00 p.m. Election of VP
this month.

Board Meeting, March 20th, 7:30
p.m. Where?

RACES, Local and County, 1st
Monday and 3rd Monday. Local 7:00
p.m. Local freq. County, 7:30 p.m.
146:73.

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AMY PARDINI

**MARCH OF DIMES
BIRTH DEFECTS FOUNDATION
BAY AREA CHAPTER**

1310 Commerce Street, Suite H
Petaluma, CA 94952

(707) 778-8222

MARCH OF DIMES wishes the help of Radio Amateurs in Sonoma Co. for the April 25th Sunday Morning Walk. YL8s last year Bo Duke appeared on Campus. Please leave your name with Hank Davis (823-7885) and you will be assigned a check point and time period by the NCS in charge. Thank you - it's a good cause.

BY THE WAY ----- This fine issue of Short Skip will be the last issue sent for last year unless you have renewed your DUES. All the DUES STRUCTURE was given last month. DUES can be sent to SCRA, Inc. P.O. Box 116 Santa Rosa, CA 95402. DON'T FORGET

SIMPLEX OR DUPLEX ???

Lately a need for the use of Simplex arrives. The load on the repeater can be helped by the use of simplex, when hte two of you are in a local area. Many times the repeater is in operation by operators that are local, they could have gone simplex but repeater operation is easy so others that need the use of the repeater and do not want to break into a QSO just wait. Try Simplex you may find you have more privacy.

ARRL - repeater Tips pg. 73 Ham Radio Operator Guide.....

Keep Transmissions short.
Think before transmitting.
Pause before exchanges.
Do identify properly
Use Simplex when you can.
Be courteous
Mini power is sometimes too Mini.
Support your local repeater Club
Don't break into a QSO unless you have something to add. Don't forget the Public Service part of Ham Radio.

12 VOLT POWER SUPPLY -- N1AL

Here's a nice 10 Amp "battery eliminator" I built recently. The 723 regulator runs off a higher-voltage (27v) supply than the pass transistors to allow the highest possible output voltage, even when the AC line voltage is low. The 27 v supply is also current-limited by the 1k resistor to protect the 723, even if the output transistors go "west". I didn't have the right windings on my transformer, so I connected two in series-opposing, but the output was still higher than necessary. If you can get 30-35 v DC out of the rectifier, then you can leave out the zener diodes and replace the 1k, 10 watt with a 200 ohm, 10 watt.

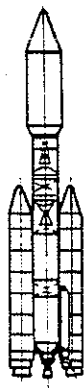
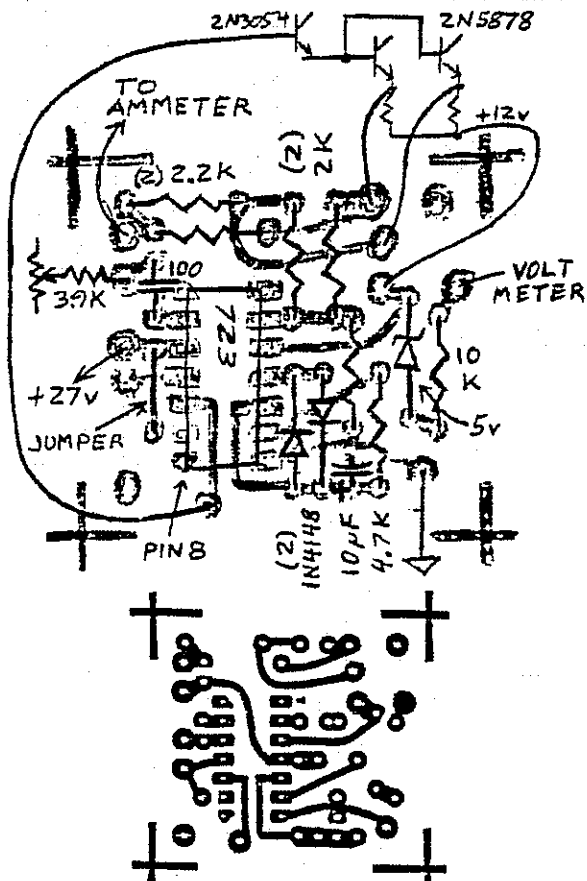
My junkbox transformer had a core measuring $2\frac{1}{4}$ by $3\frac{3}{4}$ by $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

You can make this into a 5 Amp supply by leaving out one 2N5878, heat sink, and .18, 2k, and 2.2k resistors. Also change the 22k to 44k and the 2.2k to 1.1k (meter will read 0 - 7.5 A).

You can substitute 2N5877 for 2N5878. 2N3055 will also work at slightly less current. Although the supply folds back to 7 Amps when the output is shorted, don't operate it this way for more than a few seconds. Allow adequate air flow around all heat sinks, and don't forget to heat-sink the bridge rectifier!

Electrolytics dry out when exposed to heat. Locate the 16,000 μ F filter caps in the coolest location in the cabinet.

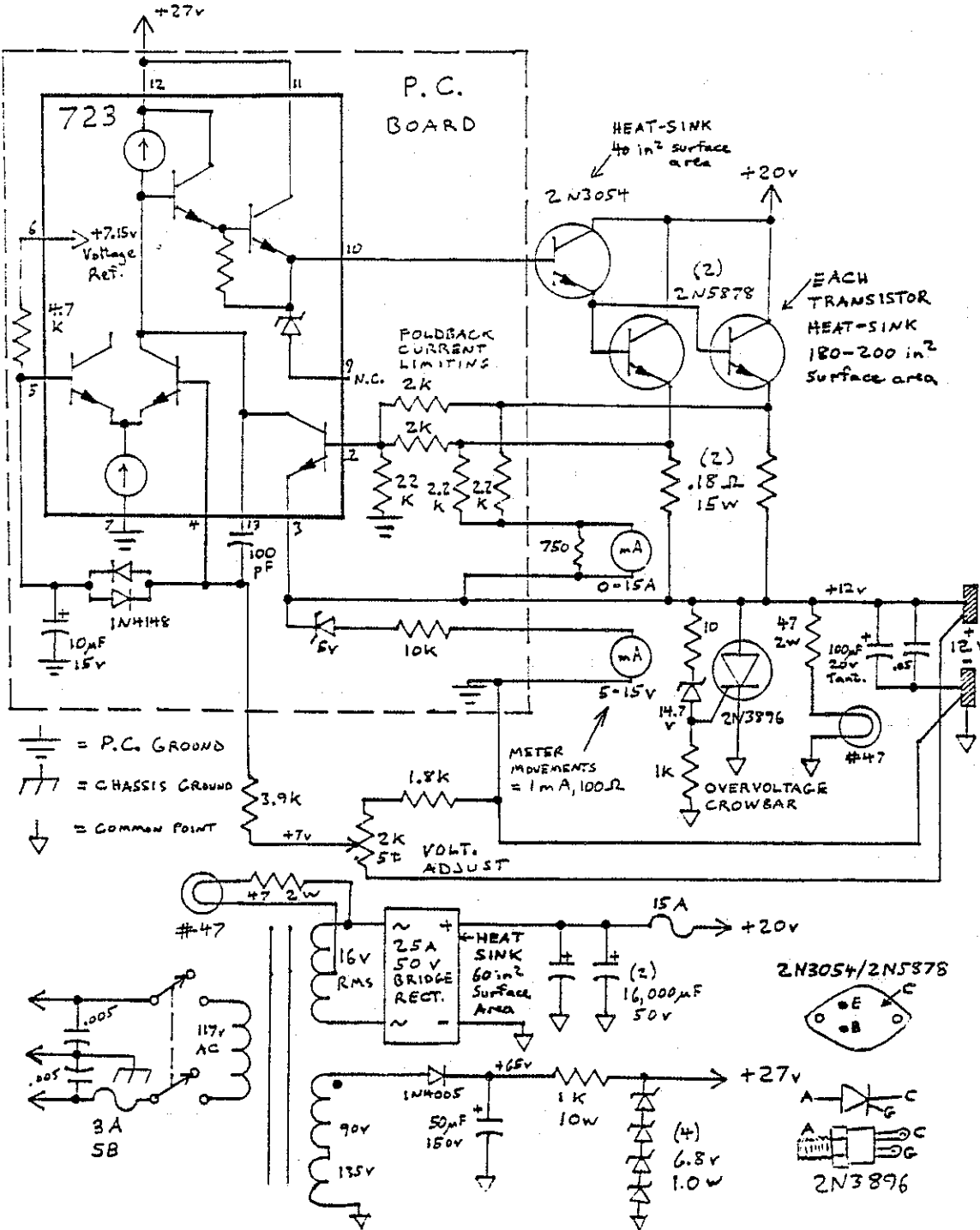
I ran the supply with 13.8 v, 9.8 Amp output for 3 hours on the bench. The xfmr & output transistors were hot enough to become uncomfortable to touch for longer than 2-3 seconds. The bridge rectifier was a little hotter than that, and everything else ran cool to lukewarm. (Note the output transistors will run hotter at lower output voltage.)



HELP HELP HELP

If you can read a schematic and can speak clearly, we need your help. In order to help Rick Joy, with his electronics class, we need to convert the diagrams and illustrations in his textbooks to audio cassettes. There is a massive amount of work to be done and if we can spread it out, the load won't be so great on any one person. Rick is blind, (if you don't know him) and your help would be appreciated. Call Terry, WA6RNF or Don, KB6LC if you would be willing to give a small amount of your time for such a worthwhile cause.

7-15v 10A SUPPLY



New Amateur in Sebastopol. KA6SSM, Ben Besordi, a member of WSCSZ, RACES.

Received a letter from Hans DJ6TJ in Germany. He may be here again in May-June or September of this year. I will bring the letter with me to the next Club meeting in March. Also I will bring the membership roll of our sister club in Lubeck, Germany.

INFO INFO
Want to know more about what is happening at the FCC? What new proposals and decisions are in the works affecting Amateur radio As Assistant Director ARRL, I have copies of FCC action and also detailed reports from ARRL headquarters on important issues.

I would like to be of service to local amateurs as an ARRL Rept. If there is any

way I can help, please feel free to call. If I can't help, I can surely find someone who can. KB6LO

Once again I want to remind all those that have not sent in their dues that this is the last issue of Shor Skip that will be sent to you. You can send your dues to P.O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402. ATTN: SCRA, Inc.



Don't forget the Home Brew Contest for the April Meeting. Applications will be available. Also don't forget to call Hank Davis and sign up for the March of Dimes Walk-a-Thon. They need our help and we have helped several years before.

Don't forget about your candidate for Vice Pres. Election is in March meeting I think. Ask our Pres. February 3, 1982 we had \$1592.00 in both accounts. Pass on the word about Al's Novice Classes.

WANT SWAP SALE GIVE AWAY WANT SWAP SALE GIVE AWAY WANT SWAP SALE GIVE AWAY

- Sale K6OHE 538-1039... ~~Telex~~ ^{SIT} SIT, Case, AC ~~Charger~~ ^{DC} DC Charger, Mobile Mike and Speaker. Rubber Duckey. Months ~~Old~~ ^{Old}. \$225.00
- Sale N6DJR, 527-7255, Chris Stalber...YAESU FT 101S, 260 Watt. \$575.00 or best offer. Butternut V 80 to IO, HFV3, \$50.00...Shure 444 Mike, \$35.00... 50 ft. Rg8U, 50 ft. #' OD TV type mast \$65.00 Radials go with antenna.
- Sale KN6S, 523-2436, Hustler Mobile Mt. Antenna IO-15-20-40...Bumper Mt. \$40.00...Drake TV3300LPF \$35.00...Yaseu UD 844 Desk Mike \$25.00.. Super X APS - 2 Head phones, \$25.00.....
- Sale Lowest priced HF rig on the market. 10 Mtr. FM. Brand new CB Xcvr. with all parts for conversion. Easy to use instructions manual. Lots of activity locally and DX as a bonus. Only \$50.00 Call Don KB6LO 546-7047.
- Sale Heathkit DX-40 Transmitter. A real Classic. \$20.00. Call WA6RNF 528-6412 or Don 546-7047.
- Sale Brand new COMTRONIX 10 Mtr. FM Xcvr. 29 to 29.7 MHz with repeater off set, Mic, Mtg. brkt. accs. \$200.00. 10 watts ready to go for the not-technical minded. Don 546-7047.
- Wanted MOTOROLA Manuals any kind of equipment made by Motorola, especially commercial equipment. Don 546-7047.
- Sale 2 Mtr. J pole antennas made to order. These things beat the Ringo Ranger all to heck. Fine Omni-directional base antenna. Broad banded. Call KB6LO 546-7047..
- Sale Tons of miscellaneous parts. Before you go to the surplus store check with me. I may have what you want or need at a price you can't refuse. KB6LO.

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4 1/2 ft. 8 lbs. 110 kHz* 500 coax \$59.95			31 inches 4 lbs. 250 kHz* 500 coax \$49.95

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NOVICE CLASSES!

START MONDAY, FEB 22

You will need ARRL Novice package. (\$8.50) available at Plants Electronics or from ARRL.

CLASSES MEET MONDAY AT 7PM AT BELLVIEW SCHOOL

5

W5YI REPORT.....

Fred Maia W5YI, Editor; P.O. Box #10101; Dallas, TX 75207

Ted Brown, Chief Tech. of Lompoc Teleprompter, has said that a decision has been reached to abandon operation on Chennel E effective January 25th. Teleprompter is moving to another TV channel out of the 2 meter area. Rich Helzer also points out that there is usually no one to insure quality control on Cable TV installations. He said amateur radio clubs might want to consider offering their services on a consultant basis in this area. If there is a moral to all of this, it is to aggressively deal with the problem when it exists - and be persistent. It sure has paid off in Lompoc.

Note: Santa Rosa Cable in a local paper noted that they wer expanding 40 more channels? Are we next????

Now comes a new source of RFI - Computer Games. Again keep your ears open. FCC REFUSES TO TAKE FURTHER STAND ON AMATEUR NETWORK OPERATION-----

It was further proposed to add the following rule:

"All Amatuer Radio Service licensees shall cooperate in the selection and use of authorized frequencies and shall take such steps as may be necessary to minimize interference to other stations. (Radio Amateur). Licensees making prolonged use of a particular frequency or frequencies shall cooperate with THREE AMERICAN WOODPECKERS TO TAP ON HF SPECTRUM-----

General Electric has built a 1.2 megawatt system for the Air Force which is located near Moscow, Maine. The system has entered its final test phase and will become fully operational sometime in 1983.

The O-T-H radar detects aircraft by emitting a 5 to 30.6 mHz signal to the ionosphere some 50 to 250 miles above the earth. Returning signals are received at Columbia Falls, Maine. Aircraft passing through the downward beam reflected off of the ionosphere are detected. The sweeping frequency allows varying radar ranges. Enemy aircraft will be able to be detected up to 1800 miles from the N.A. coast. A computer separates known from unknown flight plans. Alaska and the West Coast are next.

FLORIDA AMATEURS UP IN ARMS OVER HOUSE BILL 129-----

A bill has been introduced into the Florida House of Reps. that Florida amateur radio operators are very unhappy about. If House Bill 129 authored by Rep. Hawkings of Naples becomes law--Ham operators will be prohibited from possessing a receiver capable of being tuned to any frequency assigned to any law enforcement agency. Where next???

FCC HOPES TO DISCONTINUE AMATEUR OPERATOR TESTING-----

One of the key proposals for amending the comm. Act is the use of amateur volunteers for preparing and administering amateur radio exams. K7UGA, in his bill, the availability of federal funds to administer the Amateur Radio Service need not and should not be permitted to preclude amateur radio involvement for the young or old. Amateurs must be permitted through voluntary efforts supervised by the FCC to supply the services, including examinations, to those who would benefit from them, as funds are not available to supply these services any longer. In that regard, the FCC must insure that there are no conflicts of interest in the preparation and administration of amateur exams and that no one is treated unfairly.

ARRL PROPOSES RESTRUCTURING FCC EXAMINATIONS PROCEDURES-----

They have submitted a detailed proposal to the FCC for self-testing by the Amateur Fraternity.

LOMPOC CABLE TV OFF HAM BAND, BUT STILL CAUSING INTERFERENCE.

This time it is to the aeronautical transmission bands.

AMSAT OSCAR

The Fourth Anniversary of AMSAT OSCAR 8 on 5 March 1982 will be commemorated with a black and white glossy photograph of OSCAR 8, to those who send information of a two way QSO via OSCAR 8. QSLs are not required. The participation period will be the entire month of March. Send a 5 x 7 sase. The OSCAR 8 QSL card continues to be available for reports of telemetry. Send your requests to OSCAR 8 Fourth Anniversary ARRL Club and Training Dept. 225 Main S Newington CT 06111.

CALIFORNIA AMATEURS AS OF NOV. 81

Extra 3925--Advanced 13873--General 15680--Tech. 11521--Novice 9053--
Total--54050

HAMONICS, ARNS

XYN--"We have two big turkeys this year. The one I bought at the supermarket and the one the OM bought at the last swap meet!:

ALASKA'S GIANT WIRE-----SRF, ARS

The Alaskan Oil Pipeline has an unexpected property. It could be described as a giant electric wire, says the London Times. As a result, large surges of electric current have been detected. It seems that magnetic fluctuations in the northern hemisphere are particularly strong, inducing a current in the walls of the Alaskan Pipeline, as though it were a wire moving through a magnetic field. Currents of over 50 amps. have been measured, and up to 1000 amps are expected during periods of greatest atmospheric disturbance.

Scientists say that the only problem this would create are more rapid corrosion of the metal and interference with the pipeline electronic monitoring equipemnt.

MORE OF W5YI

Self exam--The League said "Of central importance, is the restoration of the integrity of the Amateur licensing program and the consequent general improvement in the competence of new licensees at all levels." There is no time table for the FCC getting out of the amateur testing business, but it has to come sooner or later. Unfortunately the FCC moves very slow and it could be some time before it comes to pass.

IARU OPPOSES AMERICAL 20 METER PHONE BAND EXPANSION---

The Executive Committee of IARU Region I urged the FCC to take into account the points made in their letter and not to introduce phone privileges to US amateurs, at the expense of the amateur movement in all other countries of the world..." My own impression (W5YI) from reading the IARU letter is that what the Region I'ers are really concerned about is the same thing that worries Canadian amateurs. That is QRM to their own amateurs rather than developing economies. What are the chances of the FCC allowing voice expansion into the foreign phone band? Very good. Particularly since Canada allows their amateurs to operate there and no North American precedent will be set.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR-----

It is hard to find interesting material to fill this Short Skip each month. This issue I had help from three Club memebbers. I wish at least that many would feel like sending something in each month. Why not try. Hank

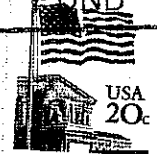
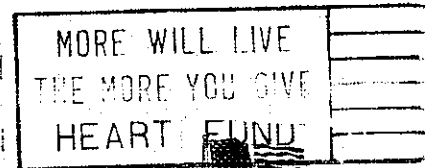
SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS, Inc.

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SANTA ROSA, CA. 95402

ClubCall W6LFJ

Repeater WB6PBS



Bub Olsen

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Santa Rosa, CA

95405

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