

SHORT SKIP-

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS, Inc.

April, 82 Vol. 7 #4



DX WATCH by CHOD HARRIS

CHOOSING YOUR PHONETICS-- (This part of the column is for phone operators only; we'll get to the CW crowd in another column.) Proper choice of phonetics can spell the difference between success and failure in DX pileups. How do you choose the most effective phonetics for your callsign?

Think about why you use phonetics: the purpose is to reduce ambiguity. So many letters sound the same in the English language: b, c, e, t, p, g, o, v, . . . Even under perfect conditions most DX stations confuse stateside calls. In the confusion of a typical phone pileup, these letters are impossible to tell apart. So you turn to phonetics.

You want the DX station to recognize (and come back to) your callsign, and hopefully before he comes back to someone else's. So your phonetic callsign should be unique, through the pileup. Does your phonetic call meet these objectives?

THE SHORTS-- The first place to look for phonetics is the standard list found in any amateur radio handbook or training manual. This standard list is remarkably good, but it does have a few problems for DX'ers. One example: after making thousands of contacts as WAISSQ, I would like to personally throttle the idiot who picked "sierra" for S. Sierra is C. I still hear sierra and write C. "Sugar" gets through as well as sierra, without the ambiguity.

Short phonetics punch through pileups faster than long ones. The amateur who uses short, punchy phonetics can get his call in twice as often as the ham who uses longer ones. Guess who works more DX? "FOX" is vastly preferable to "HONEY". DX station call as long or, worse, work someone else, while I struggled with "Washington American One Santiago Quebec Bolivia Portable Victoria Portugal Mine."

Which brings us to another possible source of phonetics; place names. Place names make long phonetics, usually too long for pileup situations. But they can be used to good advantage in poorer conditions or to confirm a callsign. All place names share a common disadvantage as phonetics, however. Upon occasion they cause more confusion than they eliminate! Witness my callsign above, and the DX station answers, "The station in Bolivia, stand by. The Portuguese station, go ahead!"

One well known contester turned this problem into an advantage. WAIKID often broke through pileups with "WAIKID Delaware." Ethical DXers frown on such use of deceptive phonetics, however, and you will quickly find this practice leads to more harm than good.

A final hunting ground for possible phonetics: "cute" or catchy phonetics. Such as Black White Yellow, or Whiskey One No Good. Or the famous Cute Enema Seashore. Topical phonetics fall into this same general category. When the race horse Seattle Slew won the Triple Crown of racing, K7SS tried Seattle Slew for phonetics.

How do you choose the best phonetics from this assortment? We'll examine how you "fine tune" your individual phonetic for your voice and station, next month.

W5Y I REPORT--

In an anticipated move, the FCC allocated and assigned 2, 5, and 7 MHz. frequencies from the Local Government Radio Service for use by states for disaster response communications. The new disaster plan called SECURE may be manned by amateur radio operators, the FCC did not specify this --although they did encourage their consideration in state planning. ARRL submitted comments on the SECURE program on behalf of the amateur radio community.

CLUB OFFICERS 1982

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795-4335

V. Pres. Spencer Barnes
526-1514 WA6IXC

Ppt. Chair Al Bloom NIAL
527-0840

Activities Chuck Sabin N6DDK
Chair 795-2371

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528-3955

Tres. Frank Gleason
584-6907 KF6CZ

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Chod Harris DX
Watch.
Sarah Davis

Educ. Train. Al Bloom NIAL

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Club QSL Mgr. Jim Tomer W6CYM

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Coord. Hank Davis W6DTV

Rept. Tech. Al Bloom NIAL

Comm. Al Bloom NIAL

RACES OFFICERS

Radio Officer Herb Sullivan
526-3307 K6QXB

Assn. Rad. Officer Lyle Meek N6BLN
829-0206

MEETINGS

CLUB-Ist. Wednesday each month
April 7th. --ECC County Operations
Room. 8:00 p.m.

RACES

Local and County, Ist. Monday
and 3rd. Monday. Local Freq. 7:00
p.m. County, 7:30 p.m. 146.73----

Check your League for free
Publications, there may be sum that
you could use.

Chuck W6KXT went down to 210
feet deep in his picture work.

APRIL

A new month brings many things
for the Club. A new Vice President
Spencer Barnes, WA6IXC. Welcome to
the flock.

April 3rd, and 4th Parade and
race in Sebastopol, Amateurs will
help.

March of dimes, Walk. Chuck
Sabin needs more 2 meter units.
Please get in touch with him or
give Hank Davis a call and he will
relay.

I hope all the dues are in as this
issue of Short Skip goes only to the
paid up members.

Do not forget the HOME BREW Con-
test for the April Meeting. Application
in this issue.

The By Laws and Consttution are
ready and will be handed out at this
April Meeting.

AG6C has about 14 students in
her current classes. NIAL has around
the same number in his Monday nite
Class.

NIAL took a trip up the hill to
the repeater site and did some adjust-
ment work. Found a bad tube in the
control receiver and retuned the Dup-
lexers (80 vs 60 Db). Re adjusted the
timer delay to about 1 sec. 6 Mtr.
repeater still needs the duplexers
they are in the construction stage.
Autopatch--??Still looking for the
interface board. No where to be
found. It was here last summer where
did it go????????????????????????????

A new roll of Club members will
be out as soon as the Sect. and Tres.
get together. In fact Short Skip
needs one.

Were you one of the members present
at the March Meeting? Some fine slides
by Chuck W6KXT of Channel 50. Thank you
Chuck. Our largest Meeting for some
time, keep it up.

The Trailer still needs help. It
could be very useful if in top shape.

Bob Smith NA6T of Fort Bragg our
SCM was at the March Meeting. Warned
of the CABLE TV RFI Problem and to
send letters to your reps. in Washington.

Have you checked into Quick Print
for QSL Cards? You may save money.

WA6KXH lost out on \$60.00 by not
attending last meeting...Shucks.....

ENTRY BLANK

1982 HOMEBREW CONTEST
SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS, INC.

Name _____ Call _____

Name of entry _____

Source of idea _____

Proof of operation _____

Special Features _____

RULES:

1. Contest open to SCRA club members only.
2. Schematic(s) must be supplied. Other documentation optional.
3. No kits unless very heavily modified.
4. Antennas and software will be considered as well.
5. All entries must be ham radio-related.
6. The equipment (or program listing) must be brought to the club meeting on contest night, except if the item is too large (for example a triband quad), photos along with other evidence that it exists and works (SWR curves, etc.) will be accepted.
7. Proof of operation shall constitute plugging the gear in and operating it or, if this is impractical, other data may be submitted.
8. The winner will receive a certificate, and his name shall be engraved on the club homebrew contest plaque.

FOR JUDGES USE ONLY

Circuit complexity and sophistication of function.....	_____	(15)
Novelty, ingenuity, economy of operation	_____	(10)
(applies to original designs only)		
Proof of operation	_____	(15)
Utility and operating convenience	_____	(10)
Neatness, appearance, workmanship	_____	(20)
Use of surplus and/or readily available parts	_____	(15)
Judges' discretion	_____	(15)
TOTAL	_____	(100)

LET'S COOPERATE and GRADUATE

N6BLN

Fellow Amateurs - Its about time we got a handle on the thing what ever it may be that is beginning to crop up on the 13/73 machine. We have perhaps the finest 2 meter repeater in the area and the nicest group of amateurs using it. Recently it has been noticed that a great deal of griping and complaining about operating procedures or should I say the lack of, has been coming from its users. Recently the control operator of the repeater made an announcement on our Tuesday night net regarding certain acceptable operating standards. This announcement was made after he had received a number of complaints regarding recent CB type operations that were being heard on the repeater. I feel the comments, he made, were appropriate and not aimed at anyone in particular. We all need to clean up our operating procedures and yours truly is included. We all have to be willing to accept corrective criticism. The more the repeater usage increases the more we must maintain the proper operating standards. No one likes to be a policeman and no one likes to be corrected by a policeman. Believe me I know, I was in the police field for 20 years. I can recall that when I was out on patrol I was never talked out of giving a traffic citation, BUT I was TALKED INTO giving hundreds of them. Many times I would merely stop a motorist to give him a warning or just to advise him of something, but before I could open my mouth he would bury me in his QRM. By the time he finished with his QRM I had finished filling out the citation, I wasn't going to give him. Perhaps we as amateurs are reacting the same way the motorist did when our fellow amateurs try to point out our operating faults. "A LICENSE DOES NOT AN AMATEUR MAKE." True, it does however entitle you to the privileges. You've studied long and hard. I remember how hard I had worked to get my pilots license. On the day of my flight exam I took the examiner up for the test flight we flew around for an hour and then landed. Not once did he tell how good or bad I had done. Typical government examiner. He filled out a bunch of papers and finally said something I found to be shocking and eye opening. "Where is your pilots license, NOW GO LEARN TO FLY." Perhaps the lady at the FCC office should say. "HERE IS YOUR AMATEUR LICENSE, NOW GO LEARN TO OPERATE."

The frustration is mounting and recently we have noticed some subtle jawing. I believe this is the result of some good amateurs that don't know what to do about the decline in operating practices on the repeater. Come on gang lets get control of ourselves. Lets give and take and strive to improve the system. Whats bugging you on the repeater? LET IT OUT. The following is a list of things that drive me crazy:

"This is NNSZZ on the way to the market to get cat food, monitoring." (It makes me want to scream into the mike, WHO CARES)

"This is NNOZZ just passing Hwy 12 and Hwy 101, north bound." Again who cares. I'm not sure but what both of these types of transmissions might not be considered by the FCC as ONE WAY broadcasting and that is illegal.

The amateur that breaks into a QSO to make a call that could have waited until the existing QSO had finished.

Rag Chewing on the repeater. I recall one day turning on the rig to make a call and there was a QSO in progress. 25 minutes later it was concluded. I WAS NOT ABLE TO BREAK THE QSO.

The amateur that breaks into a QSO and begins talking to one of the amateurs of the QSO about something totally unrelated to the on going QSO. Or the one that breaks and says "Just wanted to say hello" could have waited.

Or the one that breaks a QSO, calls another amateur and starts another totally different QSO. The repeater is not intended to replace the telephone.

Avoid discussing your personal or family related problems on the repeater.

We as amateurs pride ourselves in the fact we speak english and not in clichs or codes. "An amateur has arrived at his destination: A "lid" is destined. An amateur says over: A "lid" says bring it back.

Absolutely no grocery shopping via the repeater. If you must use SIMPLEX.

FOR GOD SAKE U S E SIMPLEX

HANK--You asked for Short Skip articles. Here is an open letter to all the repeater users. Hope you print it!

J. Dickhaut

AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL REPEATER USERS

In case you haven't noticed, there have been a lot of new voices on the repeater in recent months. (Maybe you can remember when the only YL's on 2-meters were Rose, and then Betty.) At first, each YL's voice sounded the same to me. I was just getting used to putting the right name with the right call when all the KA6's changed to N6's and they were all mixed up again. I also remember that whenever I needed a land line, Rose or Betty always helped out. (Rose ran traffic to proud grandparents in Lodi when our first daughter was born.) I also remember witnessing car accidents and having no one monitoring the repeater to make a land line. I think that the more monitoring stations we have at base stations, the better off we are. I've noticed that many of the new calls are YL's of licensed OM's like me that always wanted their wife to have her ticket but, could never teach her anything. I offer my many thanks to Betty for all of her hard work and the many new licenses. She has felt the brunt of much kidding and complaining lately. Some of us have a hard time remembering our first QSO's and how rough our operating procedure was, so we get upset when a newcomer blows it once in a while. I think that no matter how well someone was taught the only way they will become proficient operators is to practice--and make mistakes. So let's be patient and offer encouragement--not criticism as we help channel new enthusiasm into smooth, proficient, polite, and legal radio operators that will be a real asset to the community in time of emergency. Sometimes I think the silent majority is just that--too silent! And thus the purpose of this letter: to congratulate all the new ops and to thank Betty for doing what we "electronics experts" couldn't do--teach our wives. Betty, you have been a real "Mrs. Elmer" in the true spirit of Ham Radio and I want you to know you are appreciated!!!

-- WB6UBA --

CATV IT IS HERE-- NO RTI #2277-- TO SEW???????????

Dig out your Vol. 7 issue #1 of Short skip and read the letter printed in there and send it on to the proper person.

How can you get rid of TVI when you are transmitting on FUNDAMENTAL FREQUENCIES 'spared! with 'CLOSED LOOP' (???) Catv systems. If you have problems, what can you do?

1. Notify your SCM and describe the problem in detail if possible.
2. Write ARRL and describe the problem for inclusion in their CATV interference file.
3. Read and sign the letter in Vol. 7 issue #1 of Short Skip and mail it to the address below.
4. Tell others about the problem and encourage them to also write or sign a similar letter.
5. By doing this you can help make the amateur bands for Amateur Radio and NOT for the CATV INDUSTRY.

ADDRESS

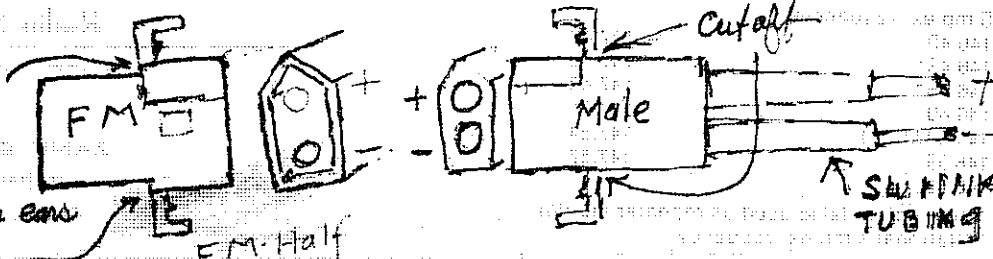
Federal Communications Commission
Cable Television Division
1919 M. St. NW
Washington D. C. 20554
Attention: Cynthia Jeffries

MOLEX CONNECTORS

Radio Shack part # 274-222. This type connector was selected a few years ago to standardize all Club connections for emergency interchanges. A call was made for a reprint but I could not find the original article so will try to draw same. Ed.

Card says they will handle up to 8 amps--

cut these ends off



544 8455

JAM and HAM Don't Go Together

--- de N1AL, Repeater Chairman

We are fortunate here in Sonoma County that we have seen little of the jamming and other "garbage" that has gone on over some of the repeaters in the Bay area and around L.A. I think we should be prepared, however, if and when that sort of thing starts to move North. While tracking down the jammers (direction-finding gear is on order), polite persuasion and, ultimately, action by the FCC are all possible responses to the problem, our first (and best) line of defense is how we conduct ourselves on the air. In addition to the ARRL-recommended operating practices listed below, I would like to add a few more:

1. If jammer(s) appear on frequency, IGNORE THEM. Pretend they are "invisible." Try, as best you can, to copy the person you are talking to through the QRM and attempt to carry on your QSO as if nothing is happening. A jammer's biggest thrill is to "get a rise" out of you -- Ignore him and frequently he will go away.

REPEATER OPERATING PRACTICES

1) Monitor the repeater to become familiar with any peculiarities in its operation.

2) To initiate a contact simply indicate that you are on frequency. Various geographical areas have different practices on making yourself heard, but generally, "This is W1XZ monitoring" will suffice. One practice that is looked upon with disfavor universally is calling a long CQ on a repeater.

3) Identify legally; you must transmit your callsign at the beginning and end of each contact and every ten minutes in between. At the end you must also identify the station you were in QSO with. It is illegal to key a repeater without identification.

4) Pause between transmissions. This allows other hams to use the repeater (someone may have an emergency). On most repeaters a pause is necessary to reset the timer.

5) Keep transmissions short and thoughtful. Your monologue may prevent someone with an emergency from using the repeater. If your monologue is long enough, you may *time out* the repeater. Your transmissions are being heard by many listeners including non-hams with "public service band" monitors; don't give a bad impression of our hobby.

6) Use simplex whenever possible. If you can complete your QSO on a direct frequency, there is no need to tie up the repeater and prevent others from using it.

7) Use the minimum amount of power necessary to maintain communications. This FCC regulation minimizes the possibility of accessing distant repeaters on the same frequency.

8) Don't break into a contact unless you have something to add. Interrupting is no more polite on the air than it is in person.

9) Repeaters are intended to facilitate mobile hams. During the commuter rush hours, base stations should relinquish the repeater to mobile stations; some repeater groups have rules that specifically address this practice.

10) Many repeaters are equipped with autopatch facilities which, when properly accessed, connect the repeater to the telephone system to provide a public service. The FCC forbids using an autopatch for anything that could be construed as business communications. Nor should an autopatch be used to avoid a toll call. Do not use an autopatch where regular telephone service is available. Abuses of autopatch privileges may lead to their loss.

11) All repeaters are assembled and maintained at considerable expense and inconvenience. Usually an individual or a group is responsible and it behooves those who are regular users of a repeater to support the efforts of keeping the repeater on the air.

2. If you are experiencing jamming on another repeater, don't get on the air and announce "Let's go over to '73." Jammers have ears, too, and there's no use importing other repeaters' problems onto ours.

3. Don't be a jammer yourself. The fact that someone is using 4-letter words on the air or otherwise operating illegally does not give you the right to intentionally interfere with them. Don't become part of the problem.

4. Do not discuss jamming on the air. Coordination of tracking activities, etc. should be done via telephone or perhaps on another band such as 220.

Re item 6: With decent antennas, simplex can cover up to 20-30 miles. Not only can you avoid tying up the repeater, but you can have a much more private conversation on simplex, especially if you pick one of the lesser-used channels. ('52 '49 and '55 are the most popular frequencies.)

Re item 8: Accepted procedure on '73 is to use a single "break" if you want to call someone not engaged in the QSO in progress, then take him/her off frequency to complete the QSO.

Simplex frequencies:

146.40*	147.42
146.43*	147.45
146.46*	147.48
146.49	147.51
146.52**	147.54
146.55	147.57
146.58	

*local option (also used as repeater inputs)

**National simplex frequency

Radio Shack

STORE NO. 3855

ZANE BATES
MANAGER

510 FARMERS LANE
SANTA ROSA, CA. 95405

TELEPHONE
546-8423

SWAP SALE WANT GIVE

SALE Call Chuck Coleman--546-7326---Midland SWR Meter 23-126,new Best offer----Bud Low pass Filter- Var. Sect. LF601---\$10.00---Turner Xtal mike-HiZ \$10.00----Astatic D-104 Mike with stand,New \$25.00--Heath Kit HP13 Mobile Power supply, 12V to 00?, Best Offer-----SB 34 SSB Tranceive--New never been hooked up. Manual--80,40,20,15 self pwr. Best Offer.----Elmac Trans Citer--Xtal, VFO--CW-AM-NBFM #AF67, No Manual--Best offer--

SALE Tri-Bander CUSHCRAFT ATB-34 20/15/10, 4 EI Beam, \$100.00, Call WB6ZRP, 575-0768

Want Drawing of Gonset 111-6Mtr. and Gonset 4- 6tr. W6DTV, 823-7885

Sale Tektronix 531 Oscilloscope with K Preamp--Reconditoned --complete with probe--\$200.00-----Precision Signal Generator Model E 200 95 kc to 44 MHz with book \$25.00---Call W6LGQ 707-762-2132

Sale Hallicrafter SX 28--All Band Coverage--Self Contained with speaker PC to 42 MHz---UHF--VHF--Converter Mod. B----1928 Maintance book for Atwater Kent radios---Mod 34 to 53--Old time buffs here is a find. Call Chuck Coleman--546-7326

Service

WB6ZRP is available to do repair work on ham equipement. Call him at 575-0768 for information.

Sale FTDX 400---Transceiver, Good Shape, \$250.00, Call KS6W at 528-0201

Sale Need cash fast--Kenwood TS 511S Xcvr. HF Bands 300 watts, New finals \$300.00 or Best Offer. Dennis Bersca KA6KJL 795-3388

Sale New GE Nicads AA 31.35 each. KB6LO 546-7047

Info. TS-120S OWNERS:

If any of you have early model TS-120's and have any of the following problems:

1. VFO drift

2. Analog Dial doesn't match digital readout

3. Intermittent full current or ALC after initial keying or modulation, (especially on 10 meters)

Kenwood has a FREE modification kit and complete instructions on how to install the mods yourself. Write to Kenwood describing the problem and they will send information and parts. For more information on the above, contact WB6UBA Jim Boyett, on the repeater or at 544-7943.

Wanted

Info. I am using an ASTRON 12V power supply with my TS-120. When driving a line ear on 40 meters, the power supply would shut down. I was able to fix it with a bypass cap. on the regulator chip (a 723). I am interested to know if anyone has had similar problems and how you fixed it. WB6UBA, Jim Boyett, 544-7943.

(Jim if no answers read Aug. 79, 73 Mag. start pg.90. Fig.5 reading on pg. 91--Note part RF Stability. HD.

Sale Kenwood TS 520---Kenwood Phone Patch,(never used),--Drake L4B Amp.---3 section power---ODE Ham motor with control with brake,----Call Edwin 823-5546

AROUND THE CIRCUIT BY CURRENT---

Earl Hickman now goes by the call of KD6TZ. A new amateur in the Sebastopol area we welcome--Heidi Langeburg, KA0STO has her novice and is ready to go down for her General. Good Luck heidi. Betty reports that 12 of her class has passed their code test and are now waiting for the written one to arrive from FCC.

Call Center Call Center Call Center
 1-800-234-5678 1-800-234-5678 1-800-234-5678

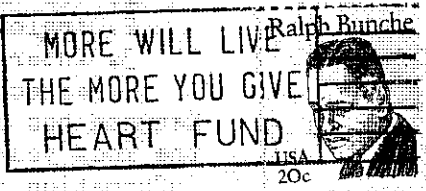
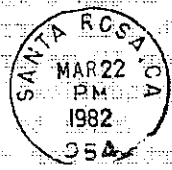
our president. We need help. We may have to reduce the size or more.
 end of the year. So if you have any ideas please get in touch with the editor or
 \$70.00. If we have to go this way each month the club will run out of funds by the
 commercial printing. This costs money, money, money. This issue may cost up to
 one to do the printing. We have run out of free printing and may have to go to
 Short Stop has been printed free. We aid for the paper, but were able to get some
 We have a problem. For many of the last seven years we have been lucky in that
 SHORT STOP

or tell us on one of the Tuesday night networks. We'll be glad to have you
 report of membership percentages to the AHTL. Drop us a card or sign up at the meeting if
 The club needs to know how many members belong to AHTL. This is part of our yearly

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION
 MEMBERSHIP is available to do their work on our equipment. Call

at 527-0870 Home or 525-1100 ext. 29-73. and share \$250.00. Call NOW!
 test gear ready. It suggests that you come early so tests can be made. Phone Al
 you could get word to NVAL Bloom about our project so he could have the proper
 contest are ready. We will try to bring some test equipment. It would be nice if
 and meeting -- the plaque and the certificate for the winner of the Home Brew

SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS, Inc.
 P. O. BOX 116
 SANTA ROSA, CA. 95402



ClubCall: W6LEJ
 Repeater: WB6PBS

BETTY BRAVILN
 AG6C
 3411 COFFEY LANE
 SANTA ROSA CA 95401

FIRST CLASS