

## **How Do I...an occasional topic**

### **Microphone Selection and Rig Adjustments for Best Results**

#### **AKA: No Need to Yell at the Microphone**

Think, for a moment, about what takes place during Field Day, the Pennsylvania QSO Party, or any other CARC event that involves multi-operator, multi-transmitter options.

You may have commented about having difficulty concentrating on the job-at-hand when faced with a noisy environment. What can we all do about that?

For starters: Don't yell at the microphone. You should be able to speak at a volume similar to if you were addressing a group of people in a conference room.

Try these tips. You may find that they eliminate any need to yell at the microphone.

Understand the microphone you are using. Most microphones expect you to talk directly in line with the microphone sound opening... do not speak sideways across the mic opening.

Speak close to the mic. Position the mic element so that it aligns with your mouth. Position the mic as close as 1 to 2 inches from your lips – no farther away. Don't sit back from the mic and raise your voice to compensate for the distance.

Use the radio ALC Meter as you adjust the mic gain. When speaking in your normal voice, aim for half-scale or slightly less (on average / not peaks) as you watch the ALC meter.

If your rig includes an EQUALIZER feature, equalize the mic to cut the bass audio frequencies and boost the mid-range and high range audio.

If your rig offers SPEECH COMPRESSION or SPEECH PROCESSING enable the feature. Use the meter as you speak into the microphone and adjust the setting – aim for 5 dB. Read the User Manual for rig-specific suggestions.

Watch this YouTube video – search for W6LG, Jim Heath.  
“How to set Mic Gain and Compression”