



## But I'm Afraid To Talk Into That Microphone!

- Alan Jones, KD7KUS

We have all had mike fright and it not only strikes beginners. This session will help you overcome mike fright by explaining amateur radio etiquette - knowing the procedures will help you build confidence to get on the air! The dos and don'ts of talking over the radio will be demonstrated, and you will have an opportunity to both observe and practice these techniques "off the air" in a friendly environment. We'll go over typical net procedures and how to "check in" to a net, and how to start a contact on the air with someone you've never met. Then, you will have an opportunity to get on the air in the CommAcademy's own "CommAcademy Net."

### 1. Radio Etiquette

- 1.1 PTT / RTL Button – Don't think on the air
- 1.2 Beginning a Transmission
  - 1.2.1 Listen to a frequency for a few seconds before transmitting. If there's no conversation on say your <call sign>, <call sign> – "Listening", or <call sign> - "Monitoring." Don't use "CQ" on VHF/UHF bands. Ok on HF bands.
  - 1.2.2 If there is a conversation and you wish to join, wait for a break and say your <call sign>. Considerate operators will always leave waiting periods before keying up during a conversation.
  - 1.2.3 If you want to speak with a particular person/station, give their call sign and then your call sign: "N7HXX, this is KD7KUS". Wait 30 secs and call again. If no one responds, announce "<your call sign> Clear".
  - 1.2.4 If a conversation is on the frequency you want to use to contact a friend, wait for a break, give your call sign, wait to be recognized, ask to make a quick call. If your friend responds, tell them to move to another frequency or standby for the current conversation to end.
  - 1.2.5 If you're conversing and you hear a call sign, recognize the caller. Try to accommodate their wishes to join your conversation or make a call. Be polite.
- 1.3 Repeater Operation
  - 1.3.1 Remember to pause for "1001" after keying and before speaking. Most repeaters are "open" – anyone within range can use them.
  - 1.3.2 After you release, you'll hear the unmodulated carrier for a second or two. It tells you that the repeater is working.
  - 1.3.3 Repeaters have time-outs (90 secs up to 10 mins). Don't drone on without a break – unkey your mike! If you time-out, the repeater may shut down for several minutes. Either stop speaking or say "Break."
- 1.4 Simplex Operation
  - 1.4.1 Underutilized. Affords more privacy than a repeater. Can usually have extensive conversations without interruption.
  - 1.4.2 Use your radio's *reverse* feature when your friend is speaking to hear if simplex is possible (*Check your repeater's operations section for the monitor transmit λ*).