

Optimizing HF SSB Transmit
Rick Medero 2013

1. Tune your antenna before your first transmission after selecting a new frequency band. If your rig has a tune button use it, don't depend on the auto tune function. Depending on auto tune can cause the first part of your transmission to be low or missing. For example when transmitting, "Gypsy Sails" only "ails" is sometimes heard. It is ok to have the auto tune function enabled in case you forget to use the tune button.
2. Select high power especially when checking in on a net, don't assume that the receiving station has good conditions on their end. Exceptions: When using your rig for email, select the lowest power that will work – will usually work on low power. Also if you know that propagation is good to the receiving station, select a lower power. Selecting low power will save battery and is less likely to interfere with other receiving stations.
3. Speak loudly, marine rigs are set to minimize background noise like wind or engines. If using a Ham rig, make sure that settings for mic gain and ALC automatic level control are set appropriately.
4. Make sure power at the radio is good and batteries are charged.
5. Turn off any high current equipment that can cause interference of the power to the radio. Inverters and battery chargers are typical sources.
6. See tips on antenna and counterpoise in this forum.