

making a call...

When making a call, it would not be a bad thing to call first without phonetics and then with them... e.g.

VA7MOF VA7 Mike-Oscar-Foxtrot...
VE7 Golf-Delta-Hotel

The first one without the phonetics might get the attention of the station you are calling, and if they are using an HT with "battery save" enabled, it will give enough time for their radio to "wake up" and the second one with the phonetics confirms who you were calling.

If you don't get a reply, try again perhaps 20-30 seconds later. If someone is in a noisy environment, or their volume was set a bit low, they might be able to listen a bit more closely the second time around, or reach over and increase the audio a bit.

I tend to not use phonetics for the prefix, but I try to emphasize the EEE or AAA. Of course, if the other station is really having trouble making out your prefix, there's nothing wrong with using the phonetics for the prefix as well as the suffix. I also tend to not say "this is" before my call sign, but there's nothing wrong with throwing that in there.

Optionally, you could announce what frequency you are calling on. This can be helpful if the other station is listening on several frequencies... e.g.

VA7MOF this is VE7GDH on RSI
(or RGP, EMG or VHF simplex)

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73 Keith VE7GDH