

Newcomers and Elmers Net: Setting Up Shop 8/31/14

Robert AK3Q

Environment – somewhere quiet; good lighting; sufficient power; electrically quiet location

- if kids or nosey neighbors are likely to be around, try to be somewhere where you can lock up the room, or at least remove power or microphones
- basement or ground floor works better for running a ground out, but 2nd floor or higher can work fine too
- comfortable chair and desk/table etc
- shelves are always useful
- shelves on table are good when you want to add equipment
- computer or notebook for logs
- internet connectivity if possible
- space for additional radios

Needed Equipment

- Radio – HF, VHF, or combo
- Power supply switching or linear (pros-cons) weight of linear supply much more, but less noise; switching supplies can cause RFI, but not all do; choice is yours, but linears are usually recommended when the radio will be stationary
- antenna
 - Spend more time getting the best antenna system you can to make sure you hear and send the best signal you can
 - That doesn't mean things have to be expensive; a wire dipole antenna can work wonders; just spend the time to learn antenna theory (or work with someone who does) to get a good antenna
 - An expensive or full-featured radio is nice, and that is something you can certainly enjoy—but the antenna system is far more important to being heard!

Useful

- SWR meter/power meter
- Antenna analyzer or similar
- basic tool set with soldering iron, various connectors
- barrel adapters/converters/pig tails
- coax switches

Fun equipment

- Signalink/Rig Blaster or homebrew sound card/digital converter
- Digital station (HF or VHF)
- Morse Code Capability

- Feedline routes- windows, walls, etc;
- Size of lot for antennas
- What the significant other will accept

Resources

Ham Radio Retail/Used Sources (In no particular order, and not exhaustive by any means)

- R&L Electronics (local store) -- <http://www.randl.com/shop/catalog/>
- GigaParts -- <http://www.gigaparts.com/radioindex.php>
- Ham Radio Outlet -- <http://www.hamradio.com/>
- Universal Radio (great catalog info even of discontinued radios) – <http://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/index2.html>
- Ham City -- <https://www.hamcity.com/store/pc/home.asp>
- Texas Towers -- <http://www.texastowers.com/>
- AES -- <http://www.aesham.com/>

Review Resource

EHam -- <http://www.eham.net/reviews/>

Google (of course!) – www.google.com

Used Equipment

- Most of the above-mentioned stores
- Ebay
- qrz.com in the swapmeet forums
- EHam in their classified sections
- Hamfests!!! (where hams go to meet!)