



Bonner County Amateur Radio Club

April 12, 2024

VFW Post

1325 Pine Street, Sandpoint, ID 83864

18:00 hrs. – Informal Discussions & Eyeball QSO's

18:30 hrs. - Meeting

Introductions

- Quick reminder – please use the mics
 - Now one on each row so just pass it up and down the row
 - Please, please – don't start pushing the buttons on the mics
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Introductions
 - New members, guests
 - Upgraded calls
 - Members
- 50/50 raffle - \$1 Per ticket, 50% to winner & 50% to club

BCARC Annual Dues

- To those of you who have paid your dues, thank you!
- What your dues cover:
 - VFW Hall rental
 - ARRL club insurance
 - Groups.io annual fees
 - Zoom annual fees and equipment
 - Our many projects
- Participation in groups.io and Zoom meetings are dependent on being a paid-up member

Building You Shack for Ease of Use
&
Virtual Shack Tour

John Kludt, K7SYS
BCARC Activities Manager
&
BCARC Membership

Things we consider when setting up our stations

- We talk a lot about radios, getting the “right radio”
 - Objectively Sherwood Engineering ratings ([Receiver Test Data \(sherweng.com\)](http://sherweng.com))
 - May consider the “Clean Signal Initiative” (www.arrl.org/arrl-clean-signal-initiative)
 - Subjectively “Ford’s vs. Chevy’s” or “Icom’s vs. Yaesu’s”
- We talk endlessly about antennas and the “right antenna”
 - Horizontal versus vertical
 - Wire versus beams
 - The “correct feedline”
 - Antenna supports
 - RF Exposure (You all have done your FCC required RF exposure calculations, right?)
- We talk about other “accessories”
 - SignalLinks, DRA-50, antenna tuners, voice keyers
 - Computers and computer software

The most important piece of equipment in the shack?



SKCC 136

FACTS FROM



ERP

Signalink 158

KENWOOD

14.300.000

11:43:15.42

145.990.00

RADIOGRAM

The second most important piece of equipment in the shack?

The second most important piece of equipment in the shack?



Two major concerns

Creature comfort & safety

- Is your shack safe?
 - Lighting
 - Grounding
 - Air quality
 - Temperature
 - Work Space
 - “RF Exposure”
 - High voltage precautions

“Go fast”

- Is your shack fun to operate?
 - Location of equipment
 - Clear working spaces
 - Ease of band/antenna change
 - Ease of rig change
 - Monitor, keyboard and mouse
 - Maintenance access

Where many of us started



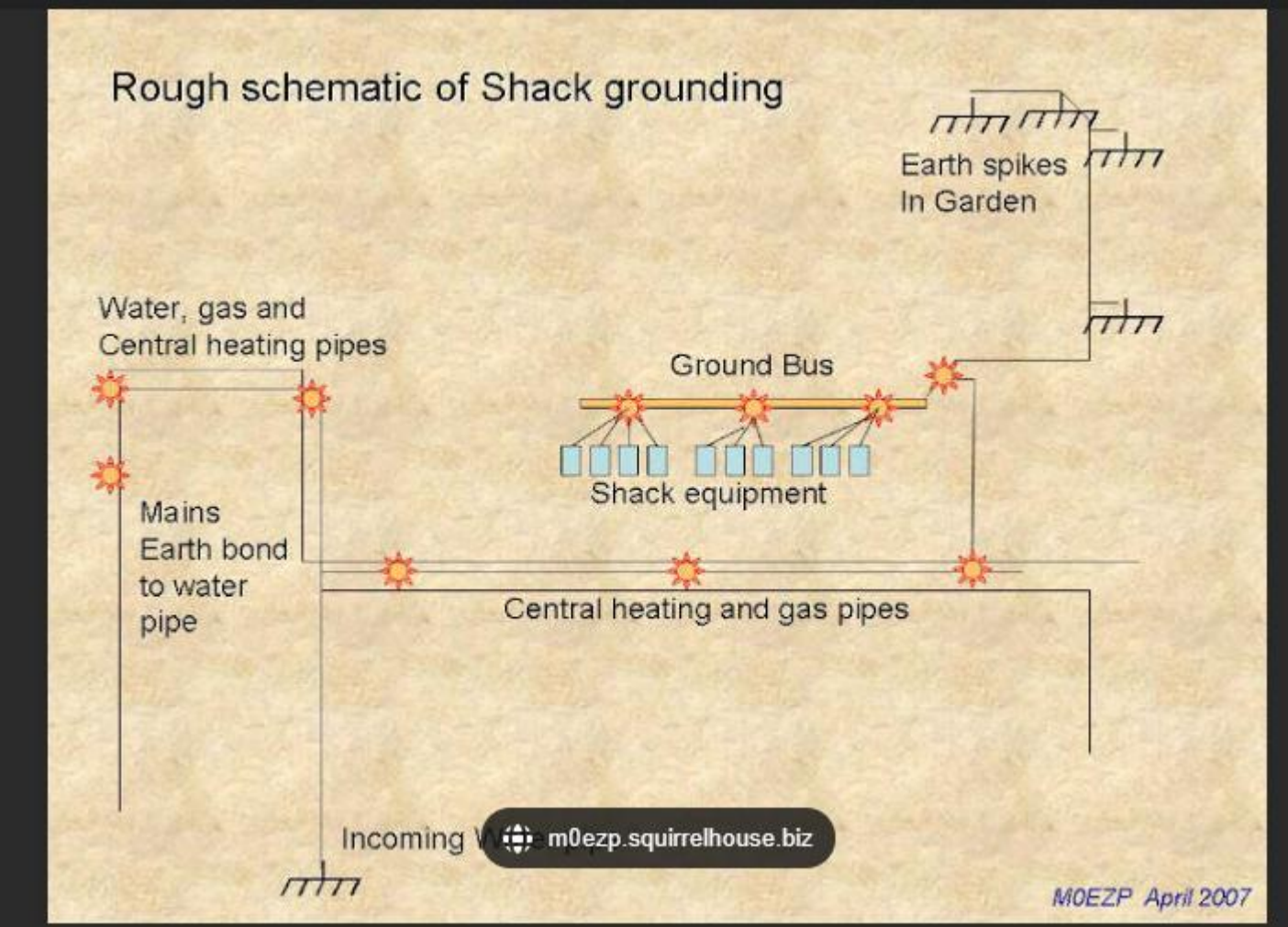
Ray, KK6WTG

And then things got more complex!



Unknown - Daryl K6KRG

Common shack ground



What are we looking for in “shack space”?

- Adequate space with access to outside
 - Coax feedthrough bushing, window passthrough
- Adequate power 120VAC, 240VAC, 12VDC?
- Security
 - “Little finger”
 - “Big fingers”
- Lighting
 - Can you see what you need to see?
 - “Ancillary lighting”

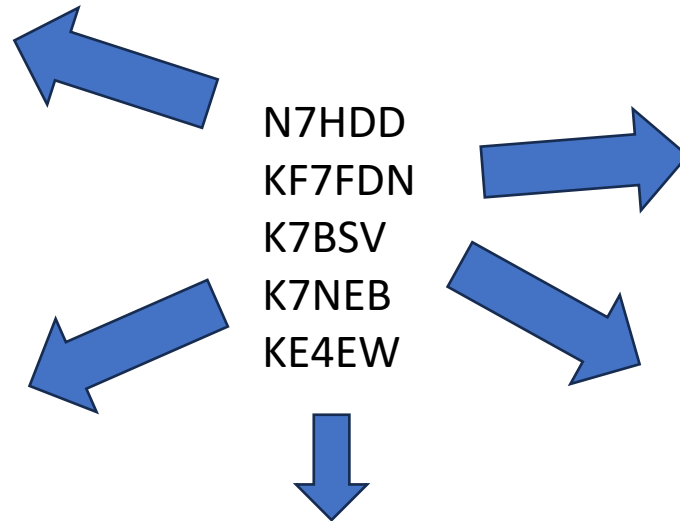
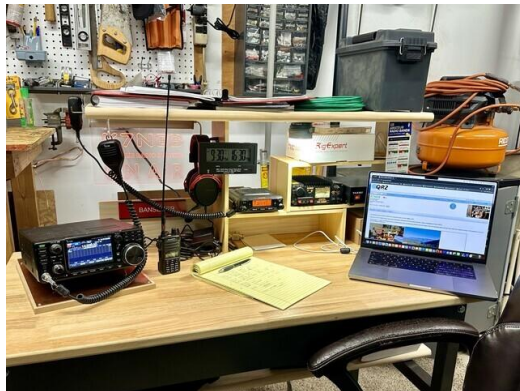


And they call it wireless radio!

- How is all of that equipment hooked up?
 - 12VDC cables
 - Coax
 - Ethernet, USB cables, monitors, etc., etc.,
- Access
 - Tables on wheels
 - “False wall”- Neil Foster N4FN
- Frequent “cable clean up”



Common Themes?



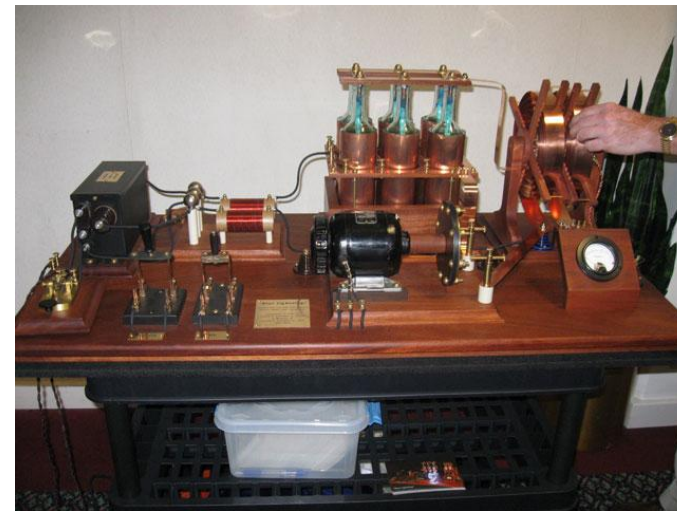
Common attributes

- Computer monitors
 - Frequently two monitors
 - Eye level
 - Vertical versus horizontal stack
 - Keyboard?
- Clear area in center
 - Consider boom mic or headset
 - Foot switch – both hands free
- Radio – easy to reach
 - Right handed or left handed?
 - Key controls – what are they?
 - Hand should never cross body
- Accessories
 - Antenna switches
 - Voice of CW keyers
 - SWR bridges
 - Power supply – on table or under table?



W4ZST/W4NH Bob Lear

Radios, then and now and the
“shacks” of yesterday and today

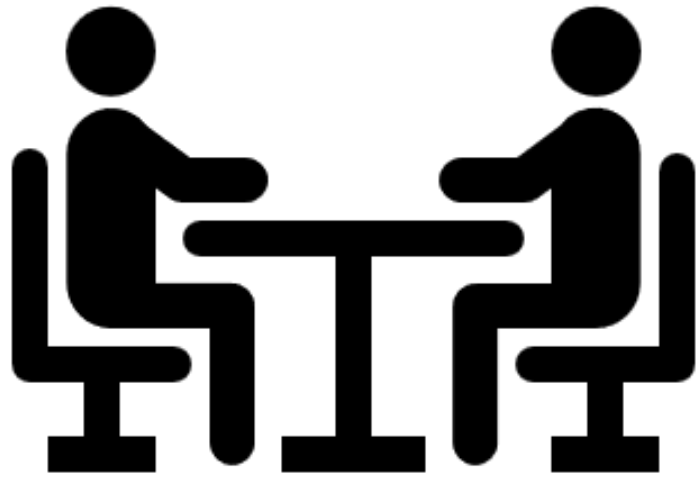


[Spark Gap Transmitter - Blue Lightning 1/2 kW ca. 1910 Style Radio \(youtube.com\)](#)

Conclusion



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BCARC Business Items and Activities

Annual Business Meeting

As required by law

For 501(c)3 in Idaho

&

Other Announcements

Name badges and BCARC merchandise

- Company moving from Sagle to Sandpoint – slight delay
 - Expecting 26 name badges end of April from current order
 - Okay to order on your own, direct.
- Other logo merchandise available
 - Check with Ken for details



Upcoming Activities

- Field Day Update – Jim KJ7SEN
 - Recruiting operators beginning next month
 - Goal – “BIC” for entire 24hrs on FT8/FT4 and SSB
 - One hour shift on Saturday, two hour rest of FD
 - Contact Jim – Digital and John A. SSB
- Transmitter hunt – delayed to May, helpers needed – John K.
- SeaPac – June 1-2, Seaside, OR
- June VHF Contest – June 8-9
- 4th of July Parade – John A.

Shift	SSB		FT8		6m	
	Operator 1	Operator 2*	Operator 1	Operator 2*	Operator 1	Operator 2*
11:00						
12:00						
13:00						
14:00						
15:00						
16:00						
17:00						
18:00						
19:00						
Change to two-hour time blocks						
20:00						
22:00						
0:00						
2:00						
4:00						
6:00						
8:00						
10:00						
FD Over						

Breakfast at Connie's Cafe
323 Cedar Street, Sandpoint ID
April 27, 2024
09:00 hrs.

Next Meeting
May 8, 2024
VFW Post, Sandpoint, ID
18:00 hrs. Informal Discussions and Eyeball QSO's
18:30 hrs. Meeting
Topic: BCARC Ballooning Project & APRS

End of the Online Portion of the Meeting

- Going to be playing a game or two
- Awfully hard to do on Zoom!
- Please join us next month either in person or on Zoom



Tic Tac Code