

QRP - When Less is More

"About thirty or more years ago, when I first became interested in Amateur Radio I was told by some old-timers who delighted in telling me stories of what the hobby was like "back in the old days." Not only did they have to walk ten miles to school everyday carrying their little brother and sister on their back, they had to pass a "real" examination, drawing the schematic for a triple-conversion radio from memory, designing a linear amplifier based on beer bottles, and send the entire text of the US Declaration of Independence at 30 wpm with no mistakes. They had to cut the firewood to make the fire to make the steam to generate the electricity to run their radios, which of course they had made themselves from a handful of paperclips, rocks & glue. Twenty years farther down the coax and I'm the old timer, entertaining the current crop of newbies with tales from the Golden Age of Ham Radio. I'm sure they think my stories are just as far-fetched, but I have a big advantage because I can literally recreate that world for them, through the wonders of modern QRP.

By definition, QRP is simply low power operation, specifically with 5W of RF output or less. In practice it is a large and growing Movement within the ranks of Amateur Radio, a genuine Avocation for most, and a Way of Life for many. At a time when the ham population as a whole has been declining, the QRP fraternity has been growing exponentially, QRP clubs are thriving, and the support industries like kit manufacturers have gone from strength to strength. Believe it or not, a few years from now it will be apparent that in a scant two decades, QRP has grown from being a special interest to become the life-blood and mainstream of the entire hobby.

How can this be? Isn't working with QRP power levels a handicap? Not at all. It's a somewhat arbitrary restriction of the one technical aspect of radio that has consistently worked against the interests of the hobby. Take away power, and you are left with skill, inventiveness, challenge, and enthusiasm that are very similar to the attractions of the hobby in its earliest days. It all adds up to Fun with a capital F, and at very low cost."

Printing By: M J Body - Golden Square 3555 - Phone 03 5443 2692



Issue
256
March
2010

bsbratio@hotmail.com

Bendigo Sideband Radio Club Inc. 9 Guthrie St Kangaroo Flat Victoria 3555

Inc No
A0008770X

President's Report Well our first social function for the year was an enjoyable night out for a meal at the Bendigo Schweppes Centre where a large number of BSB members enjoyed each others company together combined with a nice meal, it was very heartening to see so many members turn up for the gathering of the year, hopefully this is a sign of bigger and better things in the coming months.

Congratulations to BSB18 Ernie turning the BIG 60 yesterday 8th March, we will celebrate with him this coming Saturday evening, there are three other members all in their 60s celebrating their Birthdays this month as well as you will see elsewhere in this newsletter, Happy Birthday to you all.

The April social event will be held on Saturday 17th April at BSB11 Bens home for a Barby, this will also be a Birthday celebration as well, hope to see you all there, so keep this date free (Saturday 17th April 2010) Ben turns 37 on the 19th.

The Birthday that we are looking forward to though is the BSB08 Ron's 80th when he opens the 30 year old bottle of Glenfiddich Malt Whisky to celebrate the "BIG 80" and we are on the countdown, there are only 530 Days to go and counting.....

The BSB21 Bill's wife Valerie celebrated her 70th Birthday recently with Family and Friends which was a lovely evening which I am sure Val enjoyed very much, good on you Valerie and have lots more of them.

Don't forget this year is also the 20th year since the birth of the Mountain Radio Challenge and BSB106 Tony would be grateful for any suggestions that our members can come up with to make this one extra special.

Well that's about all I have for this month, hope to see all members at our monthly general meeting.

President: BSB06 / VAK956 John.....

Our BSB Social Gathering's

February : A meal and get-together A members Birthday!

Location: New Victoria Hotel Eaglehawk on Saturday March 13th

BSB.21 Bill

A very elderly gentleman (mid nineties) very well dressed, hair well groomed, great looking suit, flower in the lapel, smelling of good aftershave, presenting a well looked after image, walks into a cocktail lounge.

Seated at the Bar is an elderly woman (mid eighties). The gentleman walks over and sits alongside her, orders a drink, takes a sip, turns to her and says.

"So tell me do I come here often?"

A police officer stops a blonde for speeding and asks her very nicely for her Drivers Licence.

She replied in a huff, "I wish you guys would get your act together, just yesterday your take my Licence away and today you expect me to give it to you".

Birthdays for the Month of January 2010

BSB 18	ERNIE
BSB 41	DOT
BSB 36	EDWINA
BSB 56	BARRY



<http://users.vic.chariot.net.au/~jamesrs/bsb.htm>

BSB.60 Jim

A little girl and her mother were out and about. The girl, out of the blue, asked her mother, "Mommy, How old are you?" The mother responded, "Honey, women don't talk about their age. You'll learn this as you get older."

The girl then asked, "Mommy, how much do you weigh?"

Her mother responded again, "That's another thing women don't talk about. You'll learn this, too, as you grow up."

The girl still wanting to know about her mother, then fires off another question, "Mommy, Why did you and daddy get a divorce?"

The mother, a little annoyed by the questions, responded, "Honey, that is a subject that hurts me very much, and I don't want to talk about it now."

The little girl, frustrated, sulks until she is dropped off at a friend's house to play. She consults with her girlfriend about her and her mother's conversation. The girlfriend says, "All you have to do is sneak and look at your mother's driver's license. It's just a like a report card from school. It tells you everything."

Later, the little girl and her mother are out and about again. The little girl starts off with, "Mommy, Mommy, I know how old you are. I know how old you are. You're 32 years old."

The mother is very shocked. She asks, "Sweetheart, how do you know that?"

The little girl shrugs and says, "I just know. And I know how much you weigh. You weigh 130 pounds."

"Where did you learn that?"

The little girl says, "I just know. And I know why you and daddy got a divorce. You got an 'F' in sex."

Knock Knock: *Who's There?* Adam. *Adam Who?*

Adam up and tell me the Total. Ha Ha.

Knock Knock: *Who's There?* Adair. *Adair Who?*

Adair once, but I'm bald now.