

QNEWS - Nov 18 2018 VK4 ON AIR

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DID YOU TELL ANYONE ABOUT AMATEUR RADIO THIS WEEK?

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VK4 SILENT KEYS @ 2018-2019 WIA YEAR

VK4EZ	(July 6)	R D Sivyer	(vk4apd)
VK4FCMI	(August 26)	Valentine Harbort	(vk4hit)
VK4AER	(advised Aug 30)	Edwina Rooms	(theTARCinc)
VK4AIF	(September 17)	Ivan Fien	(vk4vi)
VK4HPT	(advised Sept 18)	Peter Amos	(theTARCinc)
VK4BDJ	(Oct 6)	David Munn	(theTARCinc)

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Hello, I'm Geoff Emery, VK4ZPP, and I've been thinking.

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When we look at how things have changed, we have a perspective that is our own. The place where we started life and formed those early memories, the smells, sounds and things that surrounded us form the basis on which we develop our opinions. This is understood by the social scientists and behavioural economists who try to understand and explain how and why we do things.

What this means is that before transport was mechanised it was natural to consider walking and use of animals for carriage and when the motor vehicle appeared, it was unnatural and to many frightening. Then there

was the telephone and electricity, that invisible thing that could leak from sockets if the switch wasn't turned off. Each of these things caused as much confusion as they brought benefit to the users.

Now people that developed their awareness of living with these things, as growing children, formed opinions that it is normal to have them as part of ordinary life. If we stop and think about our own opinions on a subject and try and fathom where they are from, we might be surprised. For instance, when we think about this hobby and how we got involved, there is a context, a framework of people and technology that stimulated us to join in.

There are many people who owe their involvement in amateur radio to the CB boom of the 70s and 80s. Currently there seems to be a burst of nostalgia causing the old rigs from that time to be considered collectable and have an increasing value.

With this in mind, when we think about encouraging a new generation of people to join radio and electronics as a pastime or recreation, we have to think of how they have learned to use this kind of technology and whether it is exciting or it is so common they walk by without noticing. For people who never saw TV, B & W was a thrill but now the thrill is thinking of streaming ultra HD to a mobile device. For people who only experienced BC radio and a telephone fixed to the wall by a cord, being able to talk to others on a two-way or a CB was the buzz. With the internet and real time video chat there has to be more than the memories of last century to engage people.

We need to remember our own attitudes to this hobby have been formed a while back and we should think of how would some-one new get excited about what we do. Our normal is somebody else's old hat and we need a way to blow their hat off.

I'm Geoff Emery and that's what I think....how about you?

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