

Monthly Newsletter
Of The
Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc. #6953T

Box 1261, Mail Centre, Ballarat, Victoria, 3356, Australia.

Next Meeting:

Friday, 25th of October, 2013, 7.30 pm



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COFFEE at the CLUB (A Cuppa Tea is also available)



Join us for a Cuppa and a yarn on the
2nd and 4th Thursday of each month
(except January & December) at the Clubrooms.

We start at 10.30am and finish at about
11.30am, in time to get home for lunch.
**COME ALONG AND JOIN US IN A NIBBLE
AND A NATTER. (FRIENDS ARE WELCOME.)**



B.A.R.G Items for Loan.

Antenna Analyser MFJ269 HF-VHF-UHF

Antenna Analyser MFJ249 HF/VHF

UHF Antenna Analyser

Antenna Analyser VHF. Autek.

Receiver Drake SSR-1.

Receiver FRG-7.

Transceiver TS-530.

Oscilloscope BWD 509.

Grid Dip Oscillator.

Safety Belt.

Antenna Gin Pole.



REVIEW with Craig - VK3KG

REVIEW of the SEPTEMBER edition of QST for 2013.

- P4 Index pages
- P9 Editorial by K1ZZ
- P24 Letters from members.
- P30 Protecting Your Rotator.
- P32 Two handy mods for your UPS
- P33 A 21Mhz Four Square beam Antenna. Works on 15 as well.
- P41 Very simple project, a one chip Audio Voltmeter on a breadboard.
- P42 Build an Audio Distribution center. Multiple operators a& radios.
- P46 Decibels and dBm demystified. Easy to understand.
- P48 Eclectic Technology. Public service APRS with Garmin Montana.
- P49 Review: FiFi SDR receiver, Programmable RF power meter.
- P52 Build the MB1 Programmable RF Power meter. A review.
- P56 The Doctor: looks at dipole versus Inverted V. Other ant questions answered.
Flat earth antenna calculation towards hill obstruction.
- P59 Short Takes A digi Field Strength meter. DC to 12Ghz.
- P60 Hands on Radio. Ex 128. Phasors Part 3.
- P62 Hints & Kinks. Racking Radios and Colouring cables.
- P64 Technical Correspondence. Fun with old style Simple Transmitters
- P70 NBEMS a new efficient messaging packet.
- P72 Do you have a "Ready to Go" box.?
- P90 World above 50Mhz. Includes comments on the 4 and 6Meter bands..
- P96 Vintage Radio: Historic equipment of early amateurs. Earl W2FTT (SK)
- P100 75, 50 and 25Years ago. Read the index in these editions of QST.

P156-157 Index of Advertisers.

Good reading this month.

73 Craig
VK3KG

Jetstar's first 787 to arrive Wednesday



Jetstar's – and Australia's – first 787 will arrive in Melbourne at 1305 on Wednesday October 9. Due to depart Boeing's Paine Field in Seattle on Monday carrying flight number JQ7878, the aircraft – VH-VKA (pictured) – will transit Honolulu overnight before arriving to a welcome ceremony at Jetstar's Melbourne Airport facility on Wednesday.

After arrival, the 335-seat 787-8 will be used for familiarisation before being put into service initially on domestic routes in November. Following a period of bedding-down through local flying, the 787 will then be pressed into international services.



Bob, VK3BNC behind the 'wheel'.



REVIEW with Craig - VK3KG

REVIEW of the OCTOBER edition of QST for 2013. No10.

- P4 Index of pages
- P9 Editorial by K1ZZ Discusses PRIVACY matters.
- P24 Letters from members.
- P30 Dipoles atop a Vertical. 43ft Vertical and a 20/15/10M dipole on top.
Also interesting detail for making a trap coil.
- P35 New Products: MFJ80/160 matching network for 43ft Verticals and
A new Repeater controller [NHRC2.1] with interesting additions.
- P36 EME A new DX Challenge.
- P39 The Cookie Tin Antenna, making it work.
- P41 Contents of the Sep/Oct QEX issue .
- P42 Light Bulbs and RFI. There are some issues.!
- P46 A mixing bowl used as ground plane for VHF/UHF Verticals.
- P47 New Product: A Deburring kit. 3/8" to 3 1/2 "
- P48 Build a small Voltage controlled oscillator with 555 and LM386.
- P49 Reviews: Oscilloscopes. Tektronix TBS1042 and a Rigol DS1052E.
- P53 Review: AT-5888UV Dual band FM transceiver.
- P57 The Doctor: Answers four questions concerning HF antennas.
- P59 Short Takes looks at a memory keyer from Hamcrafters.
- P60 Microwavelengths: EME, Easier than you think.!
- P62 Hands on Radio. Ex 129 Wye-Delta and Pi-T Networks.
- P64 Eclectic Technology: Amateur TV by Laser.
- P65 Hints & Kinks. Swapping batteries in Yaesu DVS-2.
Remote control using *Team Viewer* Software,
Trimming a dipole simply.
Installing insulated boots on coax cable ends.
- P68 Pioneers of Wireless. Good read back in time.
- P72 DX from Rotuma Is Fiji. 3D2RX & 3D2RO
- P75 Adventure Portable Pt 2.. MM on a river with Murphy.
- P77 Dominica Dxpediton J79GV.
- P80 Scouts snare the Spacecraft at JOTA.
- P92 Sunset on Pitcairn Is. Tom Christian VP6TC (ex VR6TC) SK.
- P96 World above 50Mhz. Remote Stations.
- P99 Vintage Radio. K2TQN Mobile Museum.
- P104 75, 50 and 25Years ago. Read the index in these editions of QST.
- P165 QST Index list of Advertisers.

Good reading this month.

Craig, VK3KG

B.A.R.G.

A COLUMN FROM YOUR PERIPATETIC AMATEUR

Music has been, and still is, an important part of my being.

I was a chorister at 8 years old and also started piano lessons, enjoying both of these musical experiences for 10 years, but then curtailed by university activities. I was still in contact with some school friends and we established a traditional Jazz band and practised at a local pub, the rhythm improving after a few Ansell's Mild at 9d. a pint.

Being a hospital intern in those years was a little cramping in the availability of time to join in normal 'outside world' activities, but you can get lucky! I was invited to accompany and help in the traditional hospital Christmas concert by the gorgeous nurse producer. I agreed of course, and married the girl.

For three years in Sale and around Gippsland country practices with our new family, and then more postgraduate work in England meant that I did not play music regularly. A piano is not a very portable instrument.

When we chose Ballarat for my career and family home, I bought an old pub piano (yes – both old) which tuned up well; my interest and enthusiasm was rekindled. I still had all my sheet music which had been across the world three times.

When I decided to obtain a better instrument, I gave my upright away, and in the interim bought a Rhodes stage piano (of Fender-Guitar fame) a transportable keyboard needing an amplifier (similar

to that used by the Beatles and other groups of that time). I still have it in mint condition and set it up for a variation in sound.

I was lucky to have my piano tuner as a friend, and he guided me in my choice of a 'baby' grand piano which is a treasure that I exercise every day.

I have played for voice, violin, viola, cello, guitar and presently, with clarinet. However, I also enjoy playing alone when I can imagine performing a concerto at Carnegie Hall, or perhaps accompanying Barbara Streisand in her show songs in Las Vegas. Everyone needs new ways to dream.

I don't like background music; I need to listen as an isolated pleasure, but agree with a statement of there being two sorts of music i.e good music or other. In this, I do not suggest snobbery, for there are so many styles that each person's favourites, is their 'good music'.

I love a tune and harmonies, not all from the 'so called' classics, but my choice would mainly come from Grieg, Schubert, Dvorak, Elgar and many others, plus the genius Rachmaninoff (the Einstein of that era), his compositions being quite beyond my skills, however. But, I suppose he couldn't cut out 'lumps and bumps' and deliver babies!

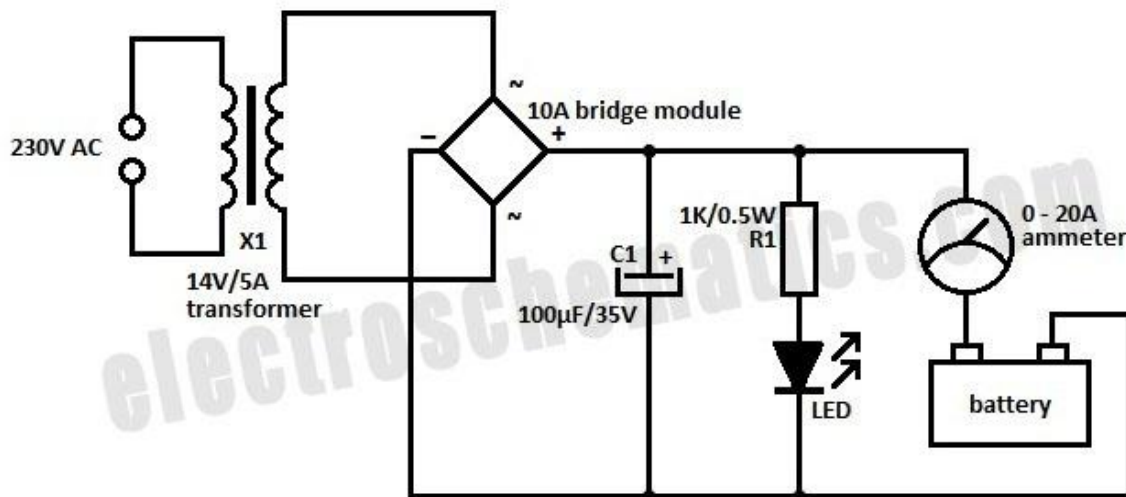
Well, back to practice.....

Simple 12 Volt Charger

This is the circuit of a simple 12 volt battery charger for Lead Acid battery. It gives 12 volt and 5 Amps current for quick charging of the battery. If the battery is partially discharged, full charge will be attained in one hour.

The circuit uses a 0-14 volt 5 Ampere Step down transformer and a 10 Amps Bridge rectifier module to convert AC to DC. Since pulsed DC is good for Lead Acid battery, a low value smoothing capacitor is used as C1. To monitor the charging status, Ampere meter is provided in the positive rail. LED act as the Charger on status.

Schematic of the Simple 12 Volt Battery Charger Circuit



When the output is connected to the battery terminals, the meter shows a higher reading depending on the current flow into the battery. As the battery attains full charge, its terminal voltage rises to 13.8 volts and current through the meter ceases. The meter reading then returns to zero. This indicates the full charge state and the charging can be terminated.

BARG Hamvention 2013

