



Happy
New Year!

The President, Secretary,
and the office bearers of the
AMATEUR RADIO
SOCIETY OF INDIA greet
all the members, wishing
lots of DX and best
propagation!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Since writing to you in October 2015 we have had the Hamfest in Rajkot. It was very enjoyable with a large gathering of hams from all over India. Numbers were a bit lower than in Hyderabad and this was expected due to there being no direct connectivity.

The Hamfest in 2016 will be at Mount Abu in Rajasthan.

At Rajkot, ARSI presented certificates of appreciation to six hams who contributed greatly to the ham community by developing kits and circuits and enabling new hams to get on the air more easily.

I also attended the Triennial meeting of IARU Region 3 which was held in Bali, Indonesia. 18 countries were represented.

Election of directors for the next triennium took place and I was re-elected director and nominated Chairman of Directors.

Shortly after the conference several directors headed off to Geneva, Switzerland to attend the World Radio Telecommunications Conference 2015 (WRC 2015)

The IARU team was able to obtain access to a section for radio amateurs in the 5 MHz band. This is a new band for radio amateurs and will help communications seamlessly from 3 MHz to 7 MHz especially during emergency communications. Work will now start to get WPC to permit Indian amateurs to use this band.

73, Gopal VU2GMN

President

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



The table - VUs and DXCC - published elsewhere in this issue looks impressive indeed. Thanks to Deepak VU2CDP for compiling the ITU / IARU anniversary activity.

While your society is trying to convince the authorities that they need to speed up the licencing procedures, there is news that some aspirants in Guwahati have received their licence 25 years after they sat for the exams!! I consider myself lucky - I received my licence within 5 years only. I passed my exam in 1960, and received my licence in 1965, Hi

The deluge in Chennai was unprecedented and it's heartening to note that local amateurs were up and active with much needed emergency communications. Hats off to all those who participated. I have included a report in this issue.

It just goes to show that all the high-tech, cutting-edge, modern gadgets are useless in times of natural disasters like this. All the more reason why we need to do our best in encouraging students and others to take up this hobby.

The annual VHF hill-topping contest is slated for the 1st weekend of February, I hope there will be many participants, all having a gala time working long-haul on 2 meters. Good luck to all.

73, Ganesh, VU2TS

Editor



International Amateur Radio Union Region 3

Date: 17 October 2015

16th IARU Region 3 Conference, Bali, Indonesia

1.The triennial conference of Region 3 was inaugurated on Monday 12th October 2015.

2.The meeting observed a minute silence in memory of Fred Johnson ZL2AMJ and Ken Pulfer VE3PU who went SK during past three years.

3.Mr. Sutyoso, YB0ST, as the President of Conference, welcomed everyone on behalf of the host Society, the Indonesian Amateur Radio Organization (ORARI).

4.Mr. I Made Mangku Pastika, the Governor of Bali, sent his vice-Governor Mr. Ketut Sudikerta to convey his welcome message to the Conference and welcomed everyone to Bali. He commended the contribution of ORARI and wished every success for the Conference.

5.Mr. Gopal Madhavan VU2GMN, Chairman of Directors of IARU Region 3, thanked the guests for their attendance and welcomed the delegates to the 16th IARU Region 3 Conference on behalf of the IARU Region 3 Officers.

6.Mr. Timothy Ellam VE6SH, President of the IARU, welcomed the participants on behalf of the IARU Officers and the International Secretariat and thanked ORARI for hosting the 16th Triennial Conference of IARU Region

He then pointed out that the WRC-15 is to be held soon in November 2015 and IARU team

would make their best effort for a possible allocation to amateur service near 5 MHz at WRC-15.

7.Mr. Rudiantara, Minister of Communication and Information Technology of Republic of Indonesia, also welcomed the participants to the Conference. He recognized the important role of amateur radio in disaster communication in this country with many islands. He also wished the Conference every success.

Mr. Rudiantara was then joined by other speakers on the stage and formally declared the Conference open jointly with Tm Elam by striking the gong.

8.The conference saw participation by 15 societies in person (ARRL/ARSI/CRSA/CTARL/HARTS/JARL/KARL/MARTS/NZART/ORARI/RAST/RSSL/SARTS/VARC/WIA) and three by proxy (BDARA/PARA/RSGB). Also attending was the IARU President Tim Ellam VE6SH, Vice President Ole Garpestad LA2RR and Secretary Rod Stafford W6ROD, from Region 1 President Don Beattie G3BJ and Region 2 President Reinaldo Leandro YV5AM and Vice President Jose Molina YS1MS.

9. Two working groups were formed

- WG1-Policy matters that included education, training, development of amateur radio and international and regional conferences involving radio administrations with special concentration on Youth.

- WG2- Operational and Technical Matters, including emergency communications, digital modes, APRS common frequency and band plans.

- In addition a separate Finance committee was formed where all delegates were invited to participate.

- A total of 37 papers were discussed by the working groups and recommendations submitted to conference.

10.The Administrative Council of IARU also met just before the Region 3 conference with Chairman Gopal Madhavan VU2GMN and Director Shizuo Endo JE1MUI participating on

behalf of Region 3 with Director Wisnu Widjaja YB0AZ and Secretary Ken Yamamoto JA1CJP also attending as observers. The Administrative Council members also participated in the conference.

11.The conference noted that ORARI amateur satellite LAPAN A2 was launched successfully in September 2015 from a launch pad in India.

12.The following six were elected by voting following seven nominations:

- a) Rhee, Joong Guen HL1AQQ
- b) Shizuo Endo JE1MUI
- c) Peter Young VK3MV
- d) Gopal Madhavan VU2GMN
- e) Wisnu Widjaja YB0AZ
- f) Don Wallace ZL2TLL

The directors then elected Gopal Madhavan VU2GMN as their Chairman, which was endorsed by conference.

Katsumi (Ken) Yamamoto JA1CJP was returned unopposed as Secretary.

13.The conference were in praise of the ORARI organizing committee, headed by Mr. Gjelani Sutama YB1GJS and the dedicated team of young volunteers, the hotel, arrangements for meetings etc.

14.The conference thanked Syarif Hidayat YB1FWO for taking on the role of conference chairman and conducting the meetings with efficiency.

15.One invitation was received from KARL to host the 17th Regional Conference of IARU Region 3 at Seoul in the Republic of Korea. Presentations were made by KARL and the conference adopted to hold the next conference in Korea in late 2018. (ARDF World Championships will also be held in Korea, 2018.)

Gopal – VU2GMN

A Report on ham radio service during the Chennai floods



When the torrential rain came down for several days during December last, numerous areas in Chennai were flooded.

This was compounded by the release of water from a natural reservoir that was overflowing and in danger of the banks failing.

Some areas experienced over 3 to 4 meters of water, which meant that all ground floor houses were totally inundated and owners lost everything.

Loss of life reported initially is over 300 but several more might have also succumbed to the fury of nature.

Most hams were also isolated in their homes as normal passenger cars could not negotiate the high waters.

Power supply was cut off in most areas as the distribution systems were under water.

Gradually all cellphones stopped working and land lines became erratic. Hand held transceiver batteries also died down.

Most filling stations ran dry, internet failed and even banks were unable to process transactions as they could not access their data bases and so no one could draw any funds. Credit card and ATM transactions were not possible

On 4th December water levels started to come down and power was restored in some areas, with most of the city still having no power.

Once it was possible to move about, local hams started going out assisting with delivery of food and water to stranded individuals and assisting with rescue from tall buildings where people were trapped.

The army, navy, home guards and the national disaster action forces have all been deployed

The number of hams increased substantially, a control room was established to coordinate efforts and more volunteer organizations have swung into action to provide food and water. Many mobile stations became active to become active in locations not possible earlier

Fortunately two local VHF repeaters are working and so VHF communications was effective.

A watch was also being maintained on 7.070 in case of messages from distant locations, but that was not being utilized very much and so it was discontinued.

VU2JAU OM Jayu was approached by several hams worldwide as to where relief material could be sent and an NGO in Chennai has been identified to take care of this and provide efficient distribution. We established a station at their location also to assist.

On 7th December 2015 the EmComm net slowly reduced the number of hams on the ground and maintained a close watch on what was urgently needed.

Some volunteers continued with their work of distributing food, water and medical supplies. Volunteer medical teams accompanied some teams to distribute medicines and treat whoever required on the spot treatment.

Most of the hospitals in and around the city are on high alert now as after the rescue efforts the fear is of disease as many were exposed to flood waters which were highly polluted.

The control stations are active on 7th December also but with reduced volunteers, many of who have had to go back to work after almost a week of doing relief work.

The net was kept going for another two days then wound down as traffic requirements reduced.

The task of rebuilding the devastated city will be herculean and numerous support groups have become active. Especially receiving and

dealing with material that is coming in from all over the world.

Many of the hams are continue to be active with support groups providing medical and other form of assistance to affected citizens.

The following is a partial list of hams that assisted in some way or other to keep Chennai going. Some who had power acted as net controllers for extended periods.

Apart from communications, many risked themselves going to very flooded areas distributing food, medicines and accompanying medical teams.

(Apologies if any call-signs are recorded incorrectly or some are missed out)

1. VU3KNQ VIPIN
2. VU2SVF SUBBU
3. VU3SMZ MUKUND
4. VU2XSK SURESH
5. VU2XPK SINOSH
6. VU3GSL SARAVANAN
7. VU3VWR RAGAV
8. VU2DH DAS
9. VU2TSF PETER
10. VU2INA INARAPPAN
11. VU2ABS ARAVIND
12. VU2GRR YL RAJI
13. VU3USI CHRISTY
14. VU2CSM SHANMUGHAM
15. VU2AIR VIJI
16. VU3LTB ASHISH
17. VU2JA RAJA
18. VU2KVB SARAVANAN
19. VU3ISJ GUNA
20. VU2DTD MANDAAR
21. VU3CPE VIMAL
22. VU2DA MANO
23. VU2MTS ANANTHA
24. VU2DJR RAVI
25. VU2DPN OM DEEPAN
26. VU2GHX MADHAVAN
27. VU2SJD SANJAY
28. VU2SDU SHAIK
29. VU2LSW NARAYAN RAO
30. VU2MPK KANAPPAN
31. VU3ASB ASHOK
32. VU2GPS PARTHA
33. VU2GMN GOPAL

VU2VAU - Srimi was net-control, handling traffic most of the time.

Since the 145.550 (minus shift) repeater was Echo link enabled, several hams connected

from remote stations to pass traffic or enquire on situations. One station from Bengaluru was particularly active enquiring about the weather, situation on running of trains and situation at the airport. There were enquiries almost every ten minutes!

A very big "THANK YOU" to all who came forward in Chennai's time of need- a complete cross section of hams participated without any concern as to which organization they were members of.

The ham spirit of working without looking for recognition and seeking compensation, was amply demonstrated in Chennai.

Gopal VU2GMN

Getting the right signal

This feature appeared in THE HINDU, January 01, 2016 - /Ed

Smartphone and web-based communications can be prone to failure when they are needed most such as in last month's floods in Tamil Nadu. Amateur Radio can provide a reliable alternative when disaster strikes.

This is where the simplicity of a standalone communication system like amateur radio (also known as ham radio) gets a chance to burnish its image. "Usually the more sophisticated the technology, the less foolproof it is," says A. Aslam VU2AXL, assistant professor, Department of Botany, Jamal Mohamed College and co-founder of the Tiruchi Amateur Radio Association. "Ham radio is very reliable. If one antenna falls down, I have a pile of antenna I can choose from. And most of them are made of junk material, like used aluminum pipes and copper wires. So it is easy to erect an antenna and start communications."

Amateur radio has a history going back to the early 20th century.

It continues to pull in millions of enthusiasts who share a liking for electronics and communication equipment.

"Amateur radio actually helps students in academics, by introducing them to complex subjects in an easy way. If a student learns ham radio electronics, they will surely do well in 12th Standard Physics. It is a highly educative hobby," says Dr. Aslam, who is also an adviser to the Amateur Radio Club at the Jamal Mohamed College, where 32 students have assembled receivers, and several faculty members are preparing for the licensing exams.

Govt plans HAM radio centres in every Maharashtra district



The Nepal quake has made the state government aware of the difficulty in reaching tourists through routine communication networks during natural disasters. It has now decided to set up at least one Emergency Operation Centre equipped with a HAM radio system in every district to communicate during such disasters.

"We will set up emergency operation centres in all districts and, if possible, at taluka level too," said Suhas Diwase, director of the state disaster management cell. There are about 400 licensed HAM radio operators in the state, 40 of them from Mumbai, including doctors, lawyers and engineers. "HAM radio can also be used to send and receive e-mails, share data and images," said Ankur Puranik, chief commanding officer for engineering and wireless service of Disaster Amateur Radio Emergency Services (DARES), an active HAM radio service in the state.

Source & credit:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/City/Mumbai/Govt-plans-HAM-radio-centres-in-each-Maha-district/articleshow/47077398.cms>

JAMBOREE ON THE AIR 2016 PUNE, MAHARASHTRA

There was overwhelming response from Scouts & Guide in Pune for JOTA organised by Bharat Scouts & Guides Pune district HQ on Saturday 17th October 15. More than A hundred scouts attended the event in two batches.



The program started with a Power-point presentation on Ham Radio and its relation with JOTA then the scouts were taken to my Ham shack in batch of 5 where they enjoyed talking to fellow Hams and Scouts from other states.



Vilas doing a "modulation test"

Thanks to OM Anand VU2WWX, from Baroda, OM Madhu VU3NPI from Bangalore & OM Vijay VU2YVK for excellent support. A team of four from Enduro Adventure sports club supported. Special mention, is made for the fantastic support from Pune based Technocrat Ham OM Narendra VU2NYP.

I also appreciate good support from Mr Anil Scott of Dastur Highschool for organising the event along with Bharat Scouts and Guides HQ staff.

Mr Sudhakar Tambe, Commisionar, Pune district attended the event in second half and appreciated the efforts and event.

MONTHLY MEETING AT PUNE

Pune Hams gathered yesterday morning for an Monthly Eyeball QSO to congratulate OM Sanjay VU2SIJ. Sanjay did non stop Pune - Umbraj - Pune 308 Kms BRM bicycle ride on Sat 5th Dec 15 in just 21 Hrs The event was organised by local organisation

OM Sanjay is passionate Bicycle rider can meet you on 7020Khz every morning around 8:30AM

Ex member OM Shrini VU2MUA came all the way from Hyderabad for monthly meet. Shrini left Pune more than a year ago for better prospects in his IT Carrier. OM Shrini is in regular touch with Pune Hams. He created more than 40 Hams in his old morning QTH **Cybage IT Company** in Kalyani Nagar Pune conducting classes and ASOC exam. We all salute him

OM Milind VU2MSB exchanged sweet memories of recently concluded Rajkot Ham-fest with members. OM Keki VU2KI and Deepak were very keen to hear about technical sessions

We meet every first Sunday of the month in the morning 10:30AM - visiting Hams can get in touch with me.

ANTENNA WORKSHOP IN PUNE

Ajinkya DY Patil Universitie's Collage of Engg Lohegaon, Pune - witnessed Ham Radio activity on Monday 11th January 16. Around 10 AM in the morning E & TC students gathered on terrace to understand basics & construction of Dipole Antenna. Students understood simple terminologies like Antenna Impedance and SWR

The activity started with construction of simple dipole Antenna and its measurement

using SARC 100 Antenna analyser. A real theory and practical exercise. The dipole and its basics were explained to more than 100 students in Auditorium class Room and actual measurements were carried out on Roof Top using Antenna analyser.

Student member Sneha played major role as she is working on her final year project on GSM Antenna.

A small technical information like cable loss and other specifications of 50 Ohm LMR 400 co-axial cable was given and measurement of actual characteristic Impedance (Z_0) was calculated using 1 Mhz LCR Meter.


In the evening select SWL students visited my shack to witness actual demo of Ham Radio operation. Thanks to VU2 DMV, VU2NP and VU2DSI for fantastic support making live demo successful.

More than 50 students enroll their names for proposed Ham Radio club

Pro Riyaz Kazi & Laxmikant Hase (ex Indian Navy) took special efforts and supported this first student friendly event.

73,

Vilas Rabde VU2VPR
(M)+91 98225 02078,

Radio: VU2VPR-145.5 MHz, 
Skype: vilasrabde

HAMFEST 2015 RAJKOT, GUJERAT

The HAMFEST 2015 was conducted successfully between November 28 & 29 organized by Gujarat Institute of Amateur Radio - at The Atmiya College, Rajkot.

With more than 700 participants, this was indeed the largest congregation of Radio Amateurs in the country.

There were talks by several hams including VU2GRM-Ram who spoke on Digital Communications, VU2SPF-Bhatnagar who spoke on PCB designing with a live demonstration, VU2HPX-Joshi on Wave Propagation, to

mention a few. HAMFEST 2016 IS AT MOUNT ABU.

REPORT FROM AMSAT INDIA @ RAJKOT

Nitin VU3TYG, Somu VU3HCJ, Ravindranath VU2RVJ & Rajesh VU2EXP represented AMSAT INDIA at Hamfest India 2015 which was held in Rajkot on November 28th and 29th 2015. We had requested one slot to cover three topics

- About AMSAT INDIA
- Decoding SSTV from ISS
- Telemetry Decoding from Amateur Radio Satellites and an update on new FM satellites.

Nitin VU3TYG spoke about AMSAT INDIA and provided updates on our activities related to some of the projects, request to WPC (thru ARSI) to open satellite privileges to restricted grade, Educational outreach initiatives and help required from the Amateur Radio Fraternity.

Rajesh VU2EXP who is the newly appointed coordinator for West Zone for AMSAT INDIA presented a well prepared presentation on how to decode SSTV from ISS and shared some of the images received by him and his YL harmonic Sakshi, VU3EXP.

The third session on Telemetry decoding and new FM satellites did not realize due to some last minute logistics related issues.

Many participants approached me post the presentations with their queries and I have provided information to the best of my capability and will reach out to them directly as well.

I would like to thank HFI 2015 organizing committee for providing us an opportunity to talk about Amateur radio satellites and for a successful HAMFEST. Somu VU3HCJ and Ravindranath VU2RVJ for all the support.

HAMFEST 2016 is at Mount Abu. See you all there!

73

Nitin [VU3TYG]
Secretary, AMSAT INDIA

ARSI - AT HAMFEST INDIA RAJKOT

This year, ARSI decided to recognize some hams who by developing circuits, kits etc. play a very big part in assisting newcomers to get on the air, by awarding Certificates of Appreciation.

We chose the following home-brewers this year:

1. VU3NKK OM Krish
2. VU3GEK OM Ganesh
3. VU2PTR OM Thyagu
4. VU2ZAZ OM Naidu
5. VU2SWJ OM Shaji
6. VU2ESE OM Farhan

Out of these only OM Farhan was present at Rajkot and so the certificate of appreciation was given to him. The other certificates were either being carried back by friends or will be sent by courier in a few days.

In future we will call for nominations for such awards and we plan to do it for other categories also.

ARSI also made presentation highlighting the roles ITU (in its 150th year} IARU (in its 90th year) and ARSI play in the allocation and use of spectrum. ARSI explained the process involved before any frequency can be used in India (something that many are unaware of - leading to frustration and criticism)

SEANET (SOUTH-EAST-ASIA NET) CONVENTION 2015

JA3AER Arakawa Taizo writes:

The 43rd SEANET convention, four days from October 15, 2015 , was held at the Lake Palace hotel in the riverside area of Alapuzha Southwest of India's Kerala State. Held earlier in India in 1996 at Madras (now Chennai), followed in 2005 in Bangalore - three times in ten years - first time in any country.

I am attending SEANET for the second time following the 2005 event. Starting from

Kansai International Airport , and arrived late at night in Kochi (Kochi) Airport via Singapore . And we were warmly greeted the organizers from there by bus and boat journey of more than two hours, arriving at the hotel past midnight (the time difference with Japan minus three and a half hours). The next morning , we were exploring the beautiful town of Alapuzha.



There were 80 participants, out of the nine overseas and about 50 local hams, 7K3EOP Tokura-san, JL1XWR Inoue-san, JE3BEQ Miyamoto-san , JA5EVQ Yu-san, were the along with me, making five of us from Japan. VU30TK (JM1NCA) Ota-san and another Japanese from Phillipines - DU1YV (JA2KLT) Maruyama-san and some Indian residents from the Philippines were also there. Hotel as the venue, it was a very good 'resort' far removed from the hustle and bustle of towns.

Starting after lunch on the first day the 15th (Thursday), delegates received a warm welcome in the form of classical dance of Kerala -THEYYAM- wearing their distinctive clothes.

The special station **VU4SEA** was ready for guest operation, but as conditions were poor, I could not make QSO with my homeland.

The opening ceremony held at the Convention Center in the hotel, started with the ritual lighting of the traditional lamp that is known as Nala Villakku was conducted . Then, after the opening declaration , which also serves as the greeting of VU2KKZ Raja 's welcome on behalf of the organizers, a beautiful folk dance of Kerala was performed by a specially invited dancing team.

The second day , in the morning of October 16 (Friday) there were three lectures as

technical sessions, VK2KGB Girish san who is the CEO of Technopark in Kerala is ICT / software – with Bengaluru being the best in the world by far – the Silicon Valley of India. Spoke about future plans, and subsequently VU2CDP Deepak's talk on contests . The last topic for the day was Traditional Medicine in India known as AYURVEDA by Dr.Abdul Zuhin, who explained how it can be used to rejuvenating and maintaining a healthy mind and body .

After lunch the delegates were taken on a cruise in the river. We could see the beautiful countryside along the riverside, with its unique people. There was a lot of rowing activities too. By evening, we sat by the side of the auditorium on the beautiful lawn – where the individuals who helped organize the event were introduced and later there was another traditional dance with drum-beats that enchanted all of us.

Day 3 of October 17 (Saturday) was for sight-seeing in and around Kochi –followed by a group photo. And then we were taken to the Kerala ethnic Museum followed by lunch at Sarovaram Hotel – a famous vegetarian hotel in Kochi. We ate a multi-course lunch known locally as “Sadhya” eating off plantain leaves, using our hands just like the locals do. It was a delightful experience!

After lunch we went in a Bus to the historic city of Fort Kochi, and St. Francis Church where there is the tomb of Vasco da Gama , and visited Mattancherry Palace and enjoyed shopping in the spice market .



Evening was open to performances by the delegates. Starting from Australia in alphabetical order, soon it came to Japan, in

JE3BEQ Miyamoto's “concert” with the rest of us in chorus – the songs “September Affair ” and “You are my sunshine” on stage . The last performance was by Indian delegates – the hosts - in which VU3OTK Ota , participated along with the Indian team.



October 18, the last day - after breakfast, the General Assembly as the last event was opened, with 9M2KN Dr. Ken-san in the Chair. HS1XIM Ponrawat spoke, offering to hold the next SEANET convention in Thailand. India I received a banner of SEANET organizers. . After discussions regarding some of the challenges associated with SEANET, it was decided that the year 2017 is Malaysia.

VU2ETS Sarav formally closed the event and on behalf of the Indian delegartes, wished us well, and thanked everyone for helping carry out the event so successfully.

73 to all! de JA3AER Arakawa Taizo



ITU and IARU anniversary operations: *an epilogue*

As the New Year rolled in, it brought down the curtains on two successful special event activations celebrating 150 years of ITU and 90 years of IARU. The ITU celebrations were in the form of 2 special calls – AT150ITU, which ran from April to December 2015, and AT150HQ – the HQ station call for the IARU HF Championship in July. Collectively they netted 17k QSOs while the relatively shorter duration IARU operation – AU90IARU ended up with 2,250 QSOs. Those are over 19.5k QSOs. Kudos to the ops who put these calls on air and made them popular world-wide. There was enough enthusiasm for working these stations right till the very end given their interesting prefixes. Conditions notwithstanding, the ops managed to have fun and sometimes the pileups were really big. There was a lot of positive feedback from the DX community where DXers managed to get VU on a needed band or mode, and an electronic confirmation followed within 2-3 days. This helped them get much needed points for any awards they were chasing.

Despite electronic confirmations, the interest in physical QSLs remains high. Direct requests continue to flow in and these are disposed of within a month. With the increasing popularity of Online QSL Request System (OQRS), it is now easier than ever to get a QSL Card. The huge number of Buro QSL requests mean the work-load on the QSL manager has only increased which he is happy to shoulder ☺ A packet was also received from the Buro recently which weighed almost a kilogramme and around 90% of those cards were for AT150ITU. Rather unnecessary! These would need to be checked against the Buro Requests received via OQRS and then responded to. There are also multiple cards from a single station, each listing a single QSO despite having the space for filling in extra QSOs. This kind of QSLing is called Indiscriminate QSLing, and it serves no purpose. Once these cards are answered, they will be assigned to the shredder. OQRS works better as it cuts down on processing time, reduces wastage, and is

a lot more efficient. Indiscriminate QSLing is something IARU will be taking up in its subsequent meetings as mentioned in the recently shared IARU R3 newsletter.

Final remarks:

The success of any such initiative hinges on the collective contributions of participating members. The degree of contribution will always vary depending on the station capability and operator's skills, not to forget the amount of time devoted in putting a special call on air with the assistance of the propagation gods. We were fortunate that there are some very capable ops in our ranks who can truly do justice to such events. But could we have done better? Absolutely yes. For instance, it takes persistence to stay on a band and CQ away when conditions are lousy, or keep looking for marginal paths day after day. Such ops are too far and few. We were greatly helped by the tenacity shown by Nandu VU2NKS who continued to keep AT150ITU on air right till the very end.

It is no secret that there is a dearth of HF operators in VU who can contribute towards success of such events. All it takes to come up the curve is a moderate degree of familiarity with logging programs, the ability to operate uninterrupted, run a smooth pileup on an open band, and not get distracted by one's own personal DXing goals if that rare one calls.

Fortunately, the recent uptick in the number of logs submitted in CQWW and other international contests is a very positive sign and we hope this trend continues. If it does hold for a few more years, then the 100th anniversary of IARU on-air celebration would definitely be something to look forward to!

73 de Deepak VU2CDP

[Co-ordinator and QSL manager for AT150ITU, AT150HQ, and AU90IARU]



AT150ITU

DXCCs worked by Band and Mode

	80	40	30	20	17	15	12
Mixed	19	56	99	126	109	122	100
CW	13	40	62	78	90	86	82
SSB	0	7	0	102	55	93	43
Digital	9	30	73	60	60	73	65

	10	Total	Cfmd
Mixed	95	179	146
CW	66	149	124
SSB	79	130	103
Digital	44	113	94

Mode-wise QSO breakup

CW	SSB	RTTY	PSK	JT-65	FM	Total
5815	4854	2907	833	9	88	14506



AT150ITU QSL. The QSL was designed by VU2CDP and printed by Gennady UX5UO.



AT150HQ (IARU HF Championship 2015)

DXCCs worked by band

	40	20	15	10	Total
CW + SSB	65	70	98	65	105

Band CW SSB Zones HQ Mults

160:				
80:				
40:	102	21	13	32
20:	256	357	27	36
15:	407	1157	37	46
10:	90	320	19	34

Total: 855 1855 96 148

Final Score = 2,748,904



All AT150HQ QSOs were confirmed only electronically via LoTW and eQSL, no physical cards were printed.



DXCCs worked by Band and Mode

	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	Total	Cfm
Mixed	51	17	47	11	67	32	14	81	60
CW	48	19	21	11	46	32	9	68	50
SSB	4	0	3	0	5	0	1	61	45
Digital	5	0	2	0	3	0	1	40	23

Mode-wise QSO breakup

CW	SSB	RTTY	Total
1154	826	267	2247

The IARU callsign was chased by many award hunters for IARU 90 years' diploma.

Following were the ops who put these calls on air:

AT150ITU	AT150HQ	AU90IARU
VU2ATN	VU2CPL	VU2CPL
VU2BGS	VU2PAI	VU2EXP
VU2DPI	VU2RCT	VU2SGW
VU2EXP	VU2PTT	VU2WE
VU2HOT	VU2MUD	VU2NXM
VU2JAU	VU3KPL	VU2MUD
VU2LBW	VU2CDP	VU3KPL
VU2MUD		VU2NSL
VU2NFG		VU3TTL
VU2NKS		VU2PTT
VU2NXM		VU2LBW
VU2PAI		VU2CDP
VU2PTT		
VU2RCT		
VU2SGW		
VU2TE		
VU2UUU		
VU2VUV		
VU3DJQ		
VU3IMV		
VU3KPL		
VU2CDP		



ACTIVITIES FOR 2016

VHF Hill-top: 6-7 Feb
Field Day : 16-17 April
Generations: 16-17 July
Himalayan: 20-21 August

The last quarter of 2016 is kept free since there are too many international contests around that period, and also to accommodate any other contest/special event operation during that time.



Amateur Radio Society of India



VHF Hilltop Contest
 6-7 February, 2016

www.arsi.info/contests



VU-DXCC - 010116

DXCC: a brief on amateur radio's premier DX award



The ARRL's DX Century Club program remains the most popular DXing award world-wide since its inception in 1945. The pursuit of DXCC's 'Honor Roll' and the Holy Grail - "#1 Honor Roll" sees tremendous time and money invested by expeditioners year after year to put God-forsaken places on air for the benefit of DXers. What exactly is the thrill of *earning* this wallpaper? What is it that drives DXers to spend countless hours in front of the radio just to hear a fleeting report from an elusive location?

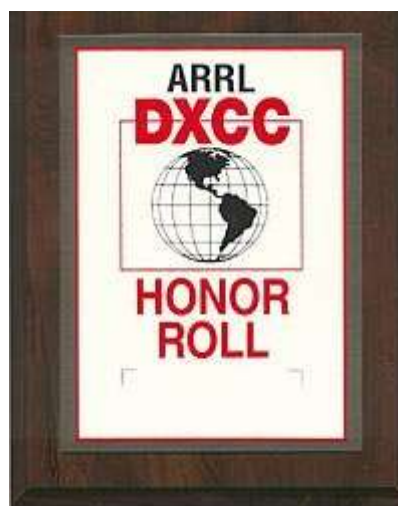
Perhaps the lure of DXCC lies in the fact that the first 100 are easily gettable and as one climbs up the DXCC ladder, the 'Honor Roll' starts to look like an oasis. A mirage only a few can convert to reality while the rest expend a lifetime getting there. #1 Honor Roll especially can be a life-long pursuit. Countries which have been off air for years, even decades, can suddenly be activated and then fall silent again. Or become commonplace like China BY and Albania ZA. For decades there was no amateur radio activity allowed from these countries. DXers kept haranguing the DXCC Desk to knock these entities off the DXCC list so that they may make it to the Honor Roll minus these two. This was back in the 70s and 80s. Today a BY or ZA station can be heard almost every day on at least one band! Other places which would be easily accessible have now gone off the airwaves for an unknown length of time. Places like Syria YK or Iraq YI will not be available for a few years at least. The reasons for unavailability need not always be political. Some of the remote islands like Johnston Atoll KH3 or Kingman Reef KH5 are inaccessible due to environmental and safety reasons. The desire to work them all is what keeps DXers alive and hungry irrespective of age!

DXCC jargon

Current List: List of entities currently valid for DXCC credit. The Current List comprises 340 entities.

Deleted List: includes entities which were once on the Current List but have since been deleted. Contacts with deleted entities do not count towards DXCC credit. However, if an entity was worked before it was deleted, credits are granted.

Honor Roll: The Honor Roll listing includes those who have worked and confirmed, and are within 10 entities of the total number of entities on the Current List. This means, as per the Current List, one needs to have a minimum of 331 countries.



#1 Honor Roll: Awarded to those who have worked all entities on the Current List.



VUs and DXCC

The adjoining table was compiled by Mohan VU2DCC based on the official ARRL DXCC standings published on their website. The DXCC standing always show the total number (Deleted + Current) countries worked. There is presently no VU on the Honor Roll even though Suhas VU2SMN has the highest count of countries among all VUs – 331.

The list does not contain calls of VU DXCC holders from yesteryears. The likely reason, as pointed out by Prasad VU2PTT, is the digitisation of records at ARRL in 1991. This is mentioned in an obscure page of the ARRL website. Records prior to 1991 exist on paper and do not appear on the website unless requested by the awardees. It would be nice if the Old Timers could write to the DXCC Desk about their historic DXCC achievements for inclusion in the current standings.

There has been a significant improvement in the number of recent DXCC awards from VU, aided largely by the fact that many hams these days are connected to the internet and therefore have access to information which was earlier hard to get. Electronic confirmations via Logbook of The World (LoTW) have made QSLing cheaper and faster. With expeditions lined up in the first quarter of 2016 to six of the top 10 Most Wanted Entities, there is no better time to become a DXer than now.

To conclude, in the words of the late Hugh Cassidy WA6AUD, "The great days of DXing are at hand". And no matter how you look at it, things are improving. But what DXer will say: "Stop! I have all the DX I need". None.

73 es GL!

Deepak VU2CDP



VUs AND DXCC

		As on: 01/01/16														
VU DXCC Call	Ma	Ph	CW	Dig	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	8	Ch		
1 VU2SMN	331		331											187		
2 VU2PTT	326	326	236	339	187	113	227	331	295	207	235	157	209	186		
3 VU2NKG	317	317	299	305	282	118	225	259	295	180	288	277	267	208		
4 VU2TTC	280	280	257	295												
5 VU2CDP	263	263	183	242			110	138	197	146	207	136	184	108		
6 VU2LAW	253	253	173	139	171		118		189		288		151			
7 VU2MTA	231	231														
8 VU2DQ	217		217													
9 VU2NOM	213	213	114	204			101		148		143	103	115			
10 VU2SWS	200		200		113		106		146	109	144		109			
11 VU2SGW	181	181	161						126		111		100			
12 VU2DQJ	175		175		107		101		139		104		101			
13 VU2RCT	165		165						128		138		109			
14 VU2MUD	164	164	112	143					109		123		100			
15 VU2DCC	150	150	120	183							108					
16 VU2RD	150	150	108													
17 VU2LR	147	147														
18 VU2RMS	140	140		200	101				117							
19 VU2RTF	127	127														
20 VU2RCK	120	120														
21 VU3SD	118		118													
22 VU2DMD	117		117													
23 VU2RMS	116		116													
24 VU2DNG	116		116													
25 VU2HFR	114	114														
26 VU2SDU	113		113													
27 VU2CVS	111	111		200												
28 VU2PWW	111			111												
29 VU2FOT	110		110						110							
30 VU2BNK	110	110	110													
31 VU2PWW	110	110														
32 VU2DCK	108	108														
33 VU2CPL	107		107													
34 VU2SDW	107	107														
35 VU2KFC	107	107														
36 VU2SV	107			107												
37 VU2NSP	105	105														
38 VU2SM	104	104														
39 VU2KPL	104	104														
40 VU2GWN	103	103	103													
41 VU2ZAP	103	103												103		
42 VU2PEB	102		102													
43 VU2ATB	101	101														
44 VU2SDN	101		101													
45 VU2HCT	100		100													
46 VU2ZAB	100	100														

Notes:
1: Figures improved from last report (05/11/15) are shown in Red bold.
2: Compared to last report, New band/mode entry is shown in Red bold & Yellow BG.
3: Compared to last report, New callign in desc. is shown in Blue bold & yellow BG.

1967 SATELLITE COMES TO LIFE!

An American satellite, LES-1 - abandoned in 1967 as a piece of Space Junk has begun transmitting again after 46 years.

Lincoln Experimental Satellite refers to a series of satellites designed and built by Lincoln Laboratory at MIT between 1965 and 1976, under USAF sponsorship, for testing devices and techniques for satellite communication.

The series had satellites named LES1 through LES9. They suffered a number of launch problems – LES1 and LES2 were supposed to be delivered to the same 2800 x 15000 km orbit, though a failure of a boost stage left LES1 in a 2800 km circular orbit. LES3 and LES4 were intended to be delivered to geostationary orbit, but a launch problem left them in their transfer orbit. All these satellites returned useful results despite the

incorrect orbits. LES 5, 6, 8 and 9 ended up successfully in geostationary orbit; the project that would have been LES-7 ran out of funding and was cancelled. Check out the video of LES1 on page 2 – creepy as hell!

An Amateur Radio Astronomer in North Cornwall accidentally picked up the signal in 2013 and after cross checking with various lists, has identified it as LES1 built by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and launched in 1965. The satellite failed to reach its intended orbit owing to a wiring error and has been drifting out of control ever since.

Phil Williams G3YPQ from near Bude noticed its peculiar signal drift caused by its tumbling end over end every 4 seconds as the solar panels become shadowed by the engine. 'This gives the signal a particularly ghostly sound as the voltage from the solar panels fluctuates' Phil says.

It is likely that the on board batteries have now disintegrated and some other component failure has caused the transmitter on 237Mhz, to start up when its in sunlight.

LES1 is about the size of a small car, It is not likely to re-enter the atmosphere for a long time as the orbit is still relatively high. It poses no threat other than that caused by the thousands of other pieces of space junk in orbit. Phil says its remarkable to think that electronics built nearly 50 years ago, 12 years before Voyager 1, and long before microprocessors and integrated circuits, is still capable of working in the hostile environs of space.

Listening to the signal you can easily imagine the craft tumbling over and over every 4 seconds and the transmitter starting up as the sun rises. He refers to the hobby as 'Radio-Archeology'!

[Tnx: .thevintagenews.com]

ITALY'S AMAZING AMATEUR SPACE WATCHERS

By J. D. Ratcliff

With homemade electronic equipment, two young Italians are keeping tabs on Russian satellites and making some startling discoveries.

There is an eerie possibility that a long-dead Russian astronaut is today hurtling silently through space at thousands of miles an hour - the victim of a Soviet space shot that went wrong. His body perfectly preserved by intense cold, he may be a lonely wanderer in space for centuries to come.



Evidence that such a macabre voyager may exist, comes from an exciting new band of hobbyists: amateur space watchers.

Like the early ham-radio operators, these

talented enthusiasts build their own equipment, often creating for a few hundred dollars - out of such cast-off junk as chicken wire, used pipe, second hand radios - instruments that would cost a government hundreds of thousands. Their eavesdropping on astronauts and their satellite - tracking achievements are impressive even to professionals.

Of the many amateur tracking stations now scattered over the earth, one of the most striking and complete is located in the peaceful little village of San Maurizio Canavese, 12 miles outside Turin, Italy. Although much of the equipment is either homemade or dates back to World War II, it looks thoroughly efficient. Inexpensive kitchen clocks on the wall give Greenwich Mean Time, local time in Moscow, Cape Kennedy and Turin. Operators wear white lab coats. The tracking console faithfully copies the one at Cape Kennedy - ingeniously modeled after photographs and scaled down to one-fifth-size.

The builders of this remarkable station are two brothers, Achille and Gian Battista Judica - Cordiglia. They got interested in radio as a hobby in 1949 while living at Erba, near Lake Como. Achille was 16, Gian only 10. When they tried to wheedle funds from their physician father to build a shortwave station, he reacted as most fathers would - "Don't

waste time when you should be studying." They had better luck with their mother. The U. S. military was then selling off surplus radio equipment at the knockdown price of five cents a pound. The boys bought 300 pounds. After rebuilding it to their own needs, they were soon conversing in code with newfound friends the world over.

In 1959 the family moved to Turin. Satellite launchings had begun, and the boys were fascinated. "There was a new world out there," says Gian, "and we wanted to be a part of it." They decided to concentrate on Soviet rather than U. S. space efforts, because Russia was closer, and because the Russians were secretive, never publicizing shots in full technical detail as the United States does. They installed crude listening equipment in an old World War II German bunker, and shivered through the winter of 1960-61 while they perfected their apparatus. Achille spared all the time he could from medical school; Gian signed up for a correspondence course in engineering, so he could study at the station with his headphones on.

Better quarters came the next year when their father took over a convalescent home in a rambling 16th - century villa at San Maurizio Canavese. Now the boys christened their station *Torre Bert* (*Torre* for tower, *Bert* for *Villa Bertalazona*, the original name of the convalescent home). They already had a number of striking achievements to their credit. They could listen to conversations between astronauts and ground stations for a few fleeting seconds as the space vehicles passed over Turin. But they wanted to listen longer and to be able to track satellites. This meant they must have a "movable dish" antenna, which could follow objects across the sky and scoop up even the faintest electronic signals from space.

Governments spend millions for such things installed in elaborate layouts - Britain spent \$4,500,000 at Jodrell Bank, the U. S. Air Force 15 million at Tyngsboro, Mass. A Turin contractor offered to build a dish antenna for \$3200. The boys checked their *Torre Bert* bank balance - \$30. The only solution, of course, was one they had become accustomed to: build their own.

From junkyards they came back with pipe for the antenna framework, an auto steering wheel that could be used to turn it, and truck bearings to carry the ton - and - a - half contrivance. With extraordinary ingenuity

they built other equipment: a 4 - by - 12 foot screen that would light up to show the position of a satellite at any given moment; a second screen to follow moon shots; a listening console with three secondhand recorders to tape messages from satellites. In sum, it was a remarkably faithful model of the tracking control room at Cape Kennedy, the far off wonderland of their dreams.

Lacking a library or funds to buy technical journals, the young space watchers had to invent much equipment already in existence, but about which they knew nothing. One example was a filtering device to screen out unwanted noises coming in from space. They also developed methods of determining whether a signal came from the ground or from a moving vehicle. But one of their biggest achievements, which required superb detective work, was determining the frequencies of Russian tracking stations. At present they know the frequencies of six of them and can tune in at will.

As their station grew in complexity, it became clear to Gian and Achille that help would be needed for its operation. Fifteen space enthusiasts, mostly in their early 20's, were recruited. The boys' sister, Maria Theresa, a pert and pretty teen - ager, got one of the most difficult assignments. She was to learn Russian so she could translate messages from manned Soviet flights. She is now fluent in the language.

Next, the boys wanted to organize electronic coverage of the entire earth. Gian's fiancée, Laura Furbatto, was given the job of enlisting other amateur space watchers scattered around the world - from Tahiti in the Pacific, to Angola in Africa, to Argentina in South America. Thus the 17 - station Zeus amateur network was born, hooked together by shortwave radio. Now, when the operators of the little Italian station discover that the Russians are going through a pre - launch rehearsal, they alert the other Zeus stations so that they can be ready to start tracking when the time comes.

Normally on a 12-hour schedule, *Torre Bert* goes on 24 - hour alert when Soviet ground stations become active. Every team member has his assigned post: two men monitor voices and signals and make tape recordings; two work the dish antenna; and one of the most talented members of the team, a math wizard, operates a hand - cranked calculating machine to figure speed and orbital path. (Professionals use electronic computers.) The

team's accuracy is such that they were able to predict, 12 hours in advance, that Russia's Lunik IV would miss the moon by 5000 miles. The actual miss: 5281 miles.

Most man -carrying satellites circle the earth in 90 to 120 minutes. By the time the second orbit begins, the busy little station has already calculated its basic tracking information, and the screen on the wall lights up, showing minute to minute location.

In its short span of life, *Torre Bert* has plucked some remarkable messages from space. On November 28, 1960, for example, there was the cryptic message: "SOS to the entire world." It came from a moving space vehicle and was repeated three times. Amateurs in Texas and Germany picked up the same message. Three days later Russia admitted a launch which had ended in failure - but did not mention a man aboard.

On May 17, 1961, the voices of two men and a woman were heard in desperate conversation - "Conditions growing worse why don't you answer? ... we are going slower... the world will never know about us . . ." Then silence. The same words were picked up in Alaska and Sweden. Their meaning? No one will know until the Russians choose to talk.

Perhaps the most moving message of all was a wordless one made early in February 1961. Tapes, which I myself heard at *Torre Bert*, recorded the racing beat of an over - exerted heart (the hearts of all astronauts are monitored automatically) and sounds of labored breathing. The Judica - Cordiglia brothers took the tapes to famed heart surgeon Dr. A. M. Dogliotti. His verdict: "This is the heart of a dying man." The brothers are firmly convinced that the Russians have spent freely of human life to achieve their space successes. Accumulated evidence indicates that there may have been at least ten deaths.

The young men of Turin spent a long time admiring the U.S. space program from a distance before they finally got an opportunity to see it last year. Italian TV put on a space-quiz program with a \$3000 prize. The Judica - Cordiglia brothers won in a walk and promptly bought plane tickets for America. Visiting space centers in Alabama, Florida, Maryland and Texas, they deeply impressed American space scientists. "They have done a remarkable job," says Harry J. Goett, director of the Goddard Space Flight

Center. At Cape Kennedy the brothers played tapes they had made of John Glenn's conversations with the ground. Professional spacemen were mystified. The United States never announces radio frequencies until after a flight for fear of causing traffic congestion on the particular wavelength. How had the boys determined this one? Easy, the Judica - Cordiglias said; they had seen a pre - flight picture of the Glenn capsule and had figured the frequency from the size of the capsule's antenna!

The future? The busy little tracking station will be only a hobby for Achille, who now has his medical degree and hopes to specialize in space medicine. But for Gian, a hobby has become a career. "The further you go with this, the stronger is the urge to continue," he says. He hopes for a job offer from the United States. Meanwhile, he and his fellow space watchers around the globe are keeping their eyes on the sky and providing the scientific world with its most striking example of amateur ingenuity.

<http://www.aerospaceweb.org/question/cons piracy/q0235a.shtml>

GlobalSET 2015 a great success

The Simulated Emergency Test to measure the disaster readiness of Amateur Radio involved 38 countries and four others who recognised its importance but could not take part this time.

IARU Region 1 Emergency Communications Co-Ordinator Greg Mossop GØDUB, has reported on the event, which was different from other GlobalSETs held since 2006.

While earlier events had an emphasis on message handling and field stations, a better and simpler exercise was needed to demonstrate the strength of Amateur Radio Emergency Communications throughout the world.

Greg Mossop GØDUB, said: "The IARU Emergency Communications Co-ordinators decided that the best way to achieve this would be to have an availability or 'call-out' exercise.

"It asked all countries with Emergency Communications Groups to contact their

members and ask them how quickly they could get on air if required."

This seemed to be more suitable to all, particularly some very involved in emergencies but unable to take part in earlier GlobalSETs because of timing or the distance from other countries.

The aims of the exercise were:

Show that we can respond quickly and in a co-ordinated manner.

To get groups and societies involved in an event without language, time or propagation barriers.

Update information on how many radio amateurs around the world are available for emergency communications, showing the strength in the hobby.

The exercise could start at any time as disasters do not just occur at weekends, with the start time to be decided by the IARU regional coordinators, who chose December 18 as being clear of most social and cultural events.

A web-survey form was used to gather data and analyse the results, both globally, and with the IARU regions.

The web form was intended to be simple because of the different languages used, but its role and the GlobalSET itself was misunderstood by a few, who admitted later either not reading it, or sending it for individuals to complete.

Pre-publicity had sought to explain to new GlobalSET concept. Using a web form sought to overcome any language barriers through the freely available online translation tools, making it easier to fill in by coordinators and not each radio amateur.

The survey collected data from National Emergency Communications Groups about their organisation's response.

It asked them to identify their member's availability. Those immediately available to respond to an emergency, others needed to obtain supplies before responding, and a third wave with commitments that needed to

be cleared, resulting in a truly structured response.

The survey results covered an estimated 8466 members worldwide, of which, 2048 claimed to be available in less than 1 hour.

Greg GØDUB, said: "This exercise occurred on a normal business day in many countries, an availability rate of 20-30% of stations is very good and does seem reasonable as a planning assumption for future exercises.

"To balance this however, it is also recognised that some countries did not get a response from all their membership."

An interesting finding was the need to revise or improve alerting procedures. The survey asked the methods used to contact their members – options were the telephone, SMS, email, radio or by other means.

"A quarter of participating countries (10 of the 38) who took part relied on a single communications method with their members.

"Some 25 used email as part of their alerting method, but from previous exercises it has been shown that email is not a 100% reliable. One group's email callout method in this exercise failed.

"Where possible a mixture of methods should be used for alerting members with automatic feedback of message delivery or the response," said Greg GØDUB, Listed under 'other' methods on the survey, Whatsapp emerged as a favourite – a mixture of the Internet and SMS, but groups should remember that any single system is a single point of failure.

Whatsapp itself was inaccessible on December 31 in some areas. The cause is unknown, but it showed again that any public service is vulnerable to overload and may not be available on demand, particularly during a disaster.

The exercise caused some healthy debate, and part of the aim of every exercise – learn and improve. The small number of frequent complaints, some based on misunderstandings, are explained in the report.

Greg GØDUB, said that probably ten times more radio amateurs took part this time, with a few groups returning after a few years absence.

He said: "Finally, success at International Telecommunications-World-Radio-communications Conference WRC-15, and the International Amateur Radio Union advocacy work that includes references to the emergency communications, can be backed up with further proof.

"What GlobalSET 2015 did was to produce good data to support the IARU claims on spectrum and shows that we are ready to respond when needed."

A full report will be sent to the IARU regional coordinators, who will distribute it further.

Jim Linton VK3PC - *Chairman IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee.*

Nepal students to speak to Tim Peake KG4BVI

UK astronaut **Tim Peake KG5BVI** will be using amateur radio to talk to students at **Brihaspati Vidhyasadan School** in Nepal on Wednesday, January-20th. 20

The Himalayan Times reports this is the first link up between a school in Nepal and the International Space Station (ISS). It will be a Telebridge contact via Tony Hutchison VK5ZAI in Australia and is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20 at 08:37:04 UT. The ISS should be in range of the Telebridge station for about 8 minutes.

BVS is organising an Exhibition during the week of the contact from January 19-23. Experts as well as knowledgeable students will be at hand to respond to queries of visiting students who will be able to get acquainted with amateur radio during the exhibition. The school has an academic facility of a very high standards, housing a free Open Source Research Lab and a Ham Radio facility that students and the staff have access to.

The **Nepal Amateur Radio Operators' Society** is one of the organisations supporting the exhibition.
<http://www.ariss.org/upcoming-contacts.html>

H.A.L.SCHOOL, LUCKNOW TO CONTACT ISS

It is informed by ARISS Asia Japan programme operation committee member Satoshi Yasuda 7M3TJZ/ AD6GZ that the H.A.L. School Lucknow India students telebridge contact programme with ISS astronauts is scheduled and will be organised between 04th April to 10th April 2016.

73 - de Pandit, VU2DCT via SOUTHGATE ARC

Ham licence received after 25 years of passing exam in India! BELIEVE IT OR NOT

(Ripley - please excuse!)

I think it is an International Record indeed in the history of Amateur Radio!

Three ham radio enthusiasts from Guwahati, Assam, India who passed their licencing exam conducted by the Ministry of Communications & IT, WPC wing, New Delhi, in 1991, received their amateur radio licenses last week, January, 2016.

Congratulations to them and hats off to their patience and perseverance throughout all these 25 years! Assam is now gearing up for ham radio in a big way!

Congrats and 73 to OM Paresh VU3YPB, OM Pranab VU2YPK and OM Ritu VU3ZRI

de -Sandeep Baruah, VU2MUE via SOUTHGATE ARC

LICENCE RENEWAL FOR 80+ AMATEURS

Here's info for those who are over 80 years of age who wish to renew their licences but didn't know how.

You only need to send an application for renewal as usual with the standard declaration of having made the minimum number of contacts per year. There is no License fee and the license will be renewed for 10 Years each time.

The rules are on the WPC website:
http://www.wpc.gov.in/content/10_1_Regulations.aspx

Look for a document in the list innocuously marked as GSR 385(E) - this is the Gazette of India notification of the relevant rule itself which is at the bottom of Page 3. I am attaching the document here if it goes through.

So Hello, 80+, it's time to get back on the air and have fun!!

Thanks to Deepak, VU2CDP for this useful info!

TID BITS

The 17th International Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) Conference is being held in Venice from August 19-21, 2016

December 31, 2015 will be the last day of transmissions from Medium Wave AM stations broadcasting the Radio France programs.

More than 50 years ago, I used to listen to RADIO LUXEBURG - I have received a QSL from the station, too... On 1 January 2016, the medium-wave transmitter site will finally close its doors after almost 60 years in operation, during which it gave generations of listeners their first taste of rock and pop and an opportunity to explore these new genres of music.

REALTIME band condition information for CW QRPP, QRPE and CW/SSB for Contesters interested in increasing their scores - NOT based on any software predictions or any kind of satellite based readings. It is based on a new Ionospheric sounding method called "HF Ionospheric Interferometry" which operates very similarly to the PolSAR system used by NASA.

It can also be of benefit to other Radio Amateurs to determine band conditions for Nets and casual QSO's.

<http://www.bandconditions.com>

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