







## ARSI HILLTOPPING CONTEST & NATIONAL FIELD DAY

29 Feb - 1st MARCH 2020

MODES : VHF - UHF - HF - SAT QO100 - DIGITAL - CW

Station Callsign :  
**VU3NPI**  
Grid:MK82ql



Operated By: VU3NPI  
VU2GRM  
VU2KPU  
VU2RPS  
VU2GTI  
VU3UNO  
VU3YPP  
VU3ZNG  
VU3GDS  
VU3ULP  
VU3TQE  
& SWLs

Location : Achalu Betta, Karnataka

12°28'17.0"N 77°21'54.5"E



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## President's message



In an era of text messaging, Facebook and Face-Time, many across the globe are turning to becoming ham radio operators for a sense of connection in a time of social distancing and isolation.

There seems to be a significant connection between members of volunteer emergency response teams and amateur radio operators. The connection makes sense given that ham radio, since its inception, has always been seen as a communication backup, and something that can be relied upon in an emergency. We are seeing many Radio Amateurs, individually and through their local clubs providing voluntary service to the society teaming up with health and social relief organizations during this Covid-19 crisis.

The Radio Amateurs across the world are spending more time on the hobby because of the compulsory lock-down barring people to step outside their homes. We are seeing that many are refurbishing their shacks and pruning their antennas to come back on the air to keep in touch with friends across the world.

In this time of social isolation, amateur radio continues to remain relevant in bringing people together. "Social distancing" has long been a positive practice in the hobby by bringing people together culturally through radio while providing essential communication in the service of communities.

With the World Amateur Radio Day on April 18 a few days away, let us celebrate amateur radio's contributions to society, the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the IARU, and that amateur radio is the best way to practice social distancing!

My wish for this World Amateur Radio Day is for everyone to stay safe, follow your society guidelines and the advice of the doctors and use amateur radio and your skills to help us through this crisis.

73, de Ramesh Kumar VU2LU

## From the Editor's desk:



I am sorry, this issue is delayed.

In these days, we are spending a lot of time at home, and the borders between our towns/cities/states are all closed. This situation is surely putting some stress on all of us.

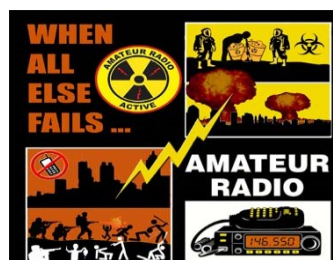
All of us have adapted to this new reality, but we need to stay in good shape. As radio amateurs, we have the opportunity to make these difficult days a lot easier. Two way radio communication is easy for us, and it is safe because we are maintaining social distancing while enjoying chatting with others. That's the only way we can preserve our psychological balance and not feel lonely and isolated.

I read reports that there is an increase in activity on the HF bands on account of the lockdown. I urge you, therefore, to do your part - by switching on your rig every day and make contacts with as many others as possible; doesn't matter if it is across the street or across the oceans. Come, let's maintain friendship around the world in these hard times.

The 2020 Hilltopping and Field Day contest was a big hit. I have included lots of photos in this issue.

Hope you'll find the issue interesting,

73 Ganesh VU2TS





## ARSI's VHF HILL TOPPING & FIELD DAY CONTEST 2020

The Hill topping and Field day Contest was conducted on Feb 29<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020 was a big hit. The entry for the event was open to all Amateur Radio operators with a Valid License, in India.

There was a new category- **Satellite Communication** included from this year.

Twenty five teams enrolled for the event. The two day event was successfully ventured by teams to Hill tops and other Strategic locations across India. Three of the teams participated in the Home category.

The statistics for the event is as tabled below:-

	Total
QSO's	1314
VHF	407
UHF	14
HF	429
Digital	311
Satalite	153
Logs Received	23
Mixed Logs	15
VHF Logs	5
HF Logs	2
Satalite Log	1

The results:

**In first place is team AU2ØHT with a total of 1428 points**  
**In second place is team VU3NPI with a total of 621 points**  
**In third place is VU2RDQ with a total of 597 points.**

73, Kash- VU2IBI – Contests manager

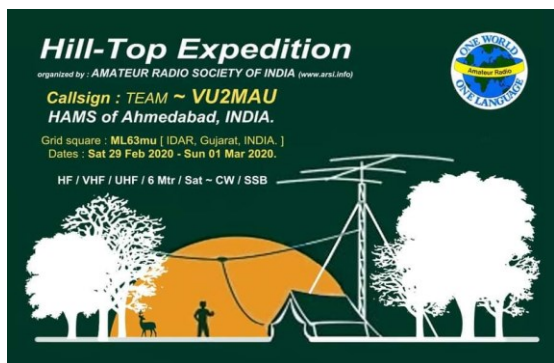


**VU3JBA – Somasekhar and team, Malai Mahadeswara Betta Karnataka MK81**





## VU2MAU – Adhir and Team Ahmedabad, Idar Fort Gujarat ML63mu





## Goa Amateur Radio Society AT1HT led by VU2ZMK – MK75ai





## AU2ØHT – Palamalai, Salem Dist. Tamil Nadu





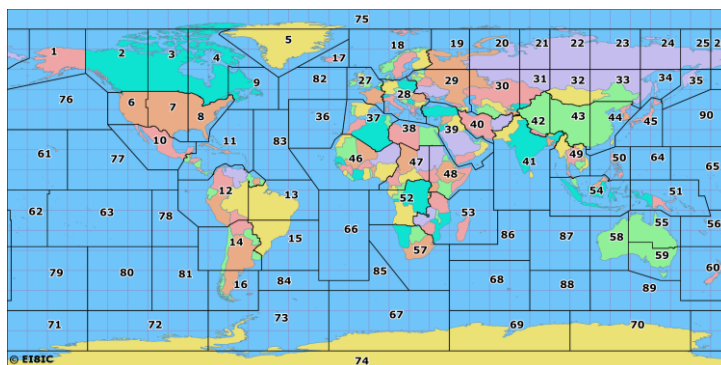
## VU2MHC – MIT Ham Club, Manipal Karnataka MK73ii



## VU2RDQ –Mangalore Amateur Radio Club – MK72rj



## VU2SMS – Hambel Amateur Radio Club, Belgaum MK75ev





**VU2JPN – Team DARES (Disaster Amateur Radio Emergency Services) Karjat, Maharashtra – MK69ra**





**VU2UOB -Subhash Babu and team, Ponmudi near Trivandrum**

**MJ88ns**



Once again this year, the **Pune HAMS and Amateur Radio Club VU2PHQ** participated in the ARSI Hill topping & Field day contest from a hillock at Vadgaon Dhyari, Pune. The location is the foothills of Sinhagad, approximately 100 meters above Pune city.

Although the event was of two days, members of the club could participate in the event on Sunday 1st March 2020 as the ASOC exam was held on Saturday 29th Feb 2020 at their Club Station, VU2PHQ.

For the event the club operated a VHF station, a VHF/UHF Satellite station and a HF station for 7mhz & 14mhz. Besides this the club also had an experimental cw beacon operating on 7005 KHz. The beacon was copied and reported by many Radio Amateurs.

For antennas, an inverted V antenna was used for 7 & 14mhz, a diamond x30 was used for VHF, and for satellite communications, a cross-band Yagi was used.

Though the station was set up late that day there were able to log a number of stations both on VHF & HF.

Sixteen members of the club participated. Of these fourteen were license holders and two were SWLs. Although this was the club's second HF/VHF field event in 2020, from the feedback from participants, the event had a huge learning experience for all the participants. In view of this feedback we plan to regularly have more field exercise in the coming months.







## PUNE, MAHARASHTRA

### Udaya Patil VU2UPQ reports:

Amateur Station Operators Certificate (ASOC) Exam was conducted by the officials from WPC Western Region HQ, Ministry of Communication, Govt of India was recently conducted **at the PUNE HAMS AND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB VU2PHQ** at their club station in Pune Cantonment.



30 aspirants appeared for the exams. Commander Abhilash Tommy who has circumnavigated the Globe solo in a sail boat and was a participant of the Golden Globe race in 2018 was one of the candidates who appeared for the exam.

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### 7MHz QRP HF Field Event of the PUNE HAMS and AMATEUR RADIO CLUB-VU2PHQ held on 19th Jan 2020

On Sunday, 19th Jan 2020, four mobile & two fixed stations from the PUNE HAMS and **AMATEUR RADIO CLUB-VU2PHQ** participated in the Club's 7MHz QRP HF Field Event from different locations in Pune. All stations including the fix stations were QRP with power output of 5-7 watts.

Additionally the Club also put up a experimental CW beacon on 7.005. MHz to ascertain its footprint.





The objective of the field event were:

1. To train ourselves in quickly setting up & operating QRP field stations with limited, battery power supplies.
2. To understand WEAK SIGNAL propagation.
3. To check the viability of using the  $\mu$ BITX QRP transceiver as a field station.
4. Trying various antenna types and observe propagation.
5. Trying out our Goto Kits creation with transceiver, battery and antenna for Field deployment

All the participating stations were able to make good contacts and received good reports. A number of station also heard and sent reports on the beacon signals.





The event gave the participants a good field experience. It gave them the confidence that not only will such setups would be useful when one travels out of ones shack on business or for leisure but can will also be used to provide communication backup in case of an emergency.

The debriefing and the discussion that followed specially about the behaviour of various antennas that were used during the event was very enriching. The fellowship and lunch that followed was highly appreciated.

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**PUNE HAMS AND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB- VU2PHQ** - Mid Month TECH EYEBALL QSO was held on Sunday 16th February 2020 at its club station in Pune Cantt.

Over the last few months the discussed and technical sessions at the Club's EYEBALL QSO have been dealing with the different aspects of a transceiver and how to get the most out of it. At the last eyeball QSO on 2nd February 2020 the discussion was on how to tune a dipole or an inverted "V" antenna to the desired frequency.





Besides doing a *recap* of how a half wave dipole antenna or an inverted V antenna can be quickly tuned, it was also stressed upon the importance of matching impedance of the complete antenna system with that of the transceiver to bring out the best performance of the transceiver. In the experiments that were demonstrated, the change in impedance by changing the angle between the two legs of a half wave dipole antenna and how surrounding objects can change the impedance of the antenna



Besides the members of the club, VU2EOJ – Suresh Varma who travelled from Kharghar Navi Mumbai, & SKØCKX Thomas Andersson and his XYL from Stockholm Sweden who were visiting Pune, also attended the Technical EYEBALL QSO.

During the Tech EYEBALL QSO SWL Aniruddha Bokil displayed the L trans match that he has homebrewed. The same will be tested at the next field event.

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## **PUNE, MAHARASHTRA**

### **Report by VILAS RABDE – VU2VPR**

Pune Hams Sunday TechTalk was scheduled for 22nd March 2020 at 8:30 AM - It was attended by more than 25 Hams. **Pune Hams conduct TechTalk every Sunday 8:30 AM.**



The theme of the TechTalk was **"7 Element VHF Beam Antenna construction"**. OM Venkat VU3OIM from Bangalore shared his project details of VHF beam Antenna construction. OM . Venkat is very new & less than one year old to Ham community. He works for Nokia.

*Pune VHF Repeater VU2ETD of Ajeenkya DY Patil University 144.800 Mhz with -ve shift} is connected to Echolink. Hence Hams across globe could participate.*

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Pune Hams monthly Eyeball QSO meet on Sunday 2nd Feb 2020 at 10:30 AM was attended by 22 Hams & SWLs. The venue of the meeting was open air natural surroundings on ARAI Hill on Paud Road area of Pune in Vital Baba Temple, Pune



Hams proposed permanent location for UHF Repeater. It is 2600 feet high & the highest point in Pune. The temple is next to PMC fire brigade repeater.

The Eyeball QSO started at 10:30 AM with fellowship (with Tea & snacks.) Then, Around 11:00 AM there was a 'self-introduction session' for new comers like Vipul VU3OOL & his XYL Poonam, SWL Deshmukh. & Ashok Kale from All India Radio

Around 11:30 AM -OM Nitin VU2CAN an expert in wireless communications, who came all the way from Kolhapur, started the Technical interactions with Pune Hams on VHF/ UHF Repeater performance in emergency and insisted on proper training. Shared his experiences on Repeater installations. He also shared how Kolhapur team handled flood situation with a repeater in his car on Jyotiba hill top with 25 Handie's. All these efforts resulted in zero casualties.

Pune Hams have acquired Motorola make 10 W, FM UHF repeater Model Radius-900 - VU2DQY with 2 x Vertical Antenna having 3 db gain operates on 434.100 MHz with 1.6 MHz +ve shift. It will run on Solar energy in near future. Thanks to OM Atul VU2OPY & SWL Deshmukh for generous donations.

The UHF Repeater procurement made possible only because donors like VU2RPV OM Rajesh Vaishampayan who donated Rs 10,000/- Followed by VU2MSB Milind, Rahul & Pranit SWL Deshmukh and many others. I must say, this is a good beginning.

The meeting ended with enclosed Group Photo around 1:00PM

Pune Hams have a daily morning VHF net on Repeater VU2ETD 144.800 ( Simplex and Negative Shift repeater frequency) from 08:15-08:30 Hrs everyday morning, and evening 20:30 / 21:30 Hrs onward since last one year. The Net controller is VU3UEL OM Dilip Bapat from Alibag.

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The VHF Repeater VU2ETD is two years old, works on 144.800 with -ve shift.

On the Republic day, 2020, Pune Hams have completed the installation of an UHF repeater with professional assistance from Nitin Aainapure VU2CAN from Kolhapur. We thank VU2CAN and his brother who assisted him.





Also thanks to VU2VPR for giving us the opportunity for same by arranging uhf repeater.

73, de VU3OPY Atul

## **BENGALURU, KARNATAKA**

### **FIELD DAY – Reva University and Indian Institute of Hams, Bengaluru**

A field day was conducted by Reva University In association with Indian Institute of Hams, VU2IIH - on 15th and 16th FEB. 2020 at Silver Line Retreat Hotels (P) Ltd., Kolli Hills, Namakkal, Tamil Nadu.

Kolli Hills is one of the beautiful places situated in Namakkal District of the state of Tamil Nadu, South India. This beautiful location is referred to as the Kolli Malai, and it means the 'Mountains of Death.' The hills are over almost 1000 to 1300 meters in height that cover more than 280 sq. Km. You will get nearly 70 hairpin bends, which take the tourists to the top of the hill. Furthermore, the hills are actually the part of discontinuous Eastern Ghats.

Reva University, School of ECE under the banner "REVA Ham Radio Club", faculty members and students participated in this field day. Total team numbered 35, with 22 Hams and 13 SWLs.







Activities focused: Setting up VHF, HF, QO-100 ground station, tuning HF antenna Inverted "V". We erected the antennas and station was QRV from 1700 hrs onwards. One side VHF, HF and digital modes and on other side QO-100 supported by Mr Saro, VU3OBR. On VHF, we had access to Yercaud Repeater 145.850 (minus), Kodai repeater, 145.150 (plus), Udumalpet repeater 144.900 (Minus), Coimbatore repeater 145.800 (minus). Chennai repeater 145.775 (minus), Nilambadi repeater. 145.650 (minus).

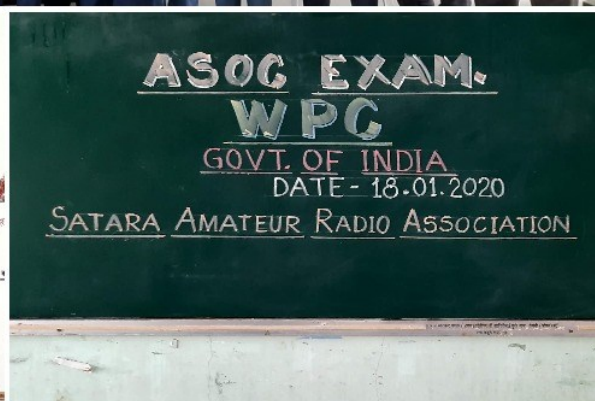
73, Rajan VU3JYT

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## **SATARA, MAHARASHTRA**

Year's 1st ASOC exam was conducted by Satara Amateur Radio Association (SARA) on 18th January 2020 @ Satara, Maharashtra; more than 35 aspirants from Satara, Pune & Sangli district appeared for the ASOC exams, that included engineers, doctored, navy cadets, scouts - guides, pilots and self-employed young students. Many of the participants were trained by the President of Satara Amateur Radio Association – Mr.Rohit Bhosale VU2MIB. Capt. Gopi Shetty (VU2JGA), YL Komal R. Bhosale (VU3LWE), Mr. Jawale (VU2CCJ) & Bharat Scout, Satara team made all the arrangements with the WPC for holding the examinations.. We are happy that the HAM Radio hobby is reaching to all parts of our community.

Thanks & Regards,  
Rohit Rajendra Bhosale, VU2MIB, President - SAR





## MUMBAI, MAHARASHTRA

**Somaiya Space Conclave 2020** was organised by KJ Somaiya Institute of Engineering and Information Technology, Mumbai - on 28th Feb 2020. It was a full day event covering topics related to Students such as Satellite program, Amateur Satellites, PS4 Orbiting Platform program, Design & Development of Nano Satellites etc.

**AMSAT-INDIA** was invited along with prominent speakers from ISRO & Satellite industries.

Myself Rajesh Vagadia VU2EXP, (Regional Coordinator for West India Zone) represented AMSAT-INDIA. I introduced AMSAT-INDIA & it's activities, along with Amateur Satellite Development scenario in India. I talked about HAMSAT, AISAT, the role of ITU (API Submission), IARU (frequency allocation) procedure in brief for students' satellite program. Some highlights were given on Satellite Ground station / Amateur Club station requirement. Before concluding the talk, I provided some info on ARISS program & gave live Demo of SSTV over VHF which turnout as fun for all.

More than 60 curious Students including few budding team for Satellite program participated from different institutions and gained knowledge on various topics. Students from IIT Bombay shared their sensible experience on their Pratham satellite.



I am thankful to our AMSAT-INDIA Secretary Nitin Muttin VU3TYG for all technical support & Coordinating with organisers. I also thank Dr. Umesh Shinde, Mr. Rohit Bokade, Supriya Bhide, Siddharth & whole volunteer team for great cooperation & support.

It was a remarkable event for all of us to gain & share knowledge, meet and discuss a single subject: SATELLITES!

73, Rajesh Vagadia, VU2EXP  
Regional Coordinator  
West India Zone  
AMSAT-INDIA





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