



BOLANS, P.O. ~~ENGLAND~~ ANTIGUA, W.I.  
To Radio VU2TS QSO 24.11.93 GMT 0.128 RST 559

**V<sub>2</sub>/G6QQ**

Mhz 7 Tx IC 735 CW/SSB/FM  
Ant R3 Watts 100 Pse/Tnx QSL

ISLAS CANARIAS - ESPAÑA

**EA8EY**

DATE	TIME GMT	STATION	BAND	RST	MODE
16.1.66	17.44	<b>VU2TS</b>	14	569	CW

QRA/QTH: QSO nr 501 7561 QSL VIA BUREAU  
O. P. Agapito Montero Martín "AGA"  
Calcinas, 23 BOX 220 MADRID

ROSE COTTAGE, BALLAFREER LANE  
UNION MILLS, ISLE OF MAN  
BRITISH ISLES

**GD3FXN**

Radio VU2TS  
Confirming QSO on 21.4.77 at 1812 GMT  
Ur 14 Mc AM/CW/2 WAY SSB Sigs 599

FIJI ISLANDS  
VATUKOULA  
Emperor Gold Mining Co.

**VR2DK**

Radio VU2TS confirming our QSO 12/25 19 65  
at 11422 Ur 14 Mc A1 sigs  
RST 5-6-9 73 ☐ PSE QSL TKS ☒  
W2CTN - QSL Manager. OWEN MARSHALL

FALKLAND ISLANDS  
Port Stanley, Box 89

**vp8hj**

Radio VU2TS confirming our QSO 10/27 19 65  
at 16402 Ur 14 Mc A1 sigs  
RST 5-5-9 73 ☐ PSE QSL TKS ☒

MALDIVE ISLANDS

**VS9MZ**  
(FE7XZ SU1XZ VS9XZ G3LXZ)

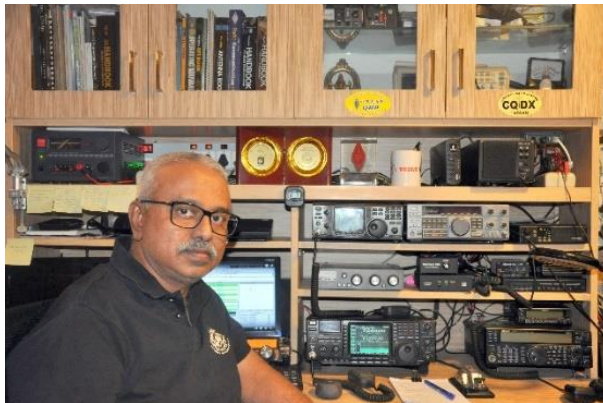
To VU2TS Confirming 14 Mcs 569 / CW QSO at 1743 GMT  
On 18/9/1969 RST 569 Rx HRO  
Tx LG50 Inpt 40 wts. Ant G3RV  
Pse-Tnx QSL via R.S.G.B. (TOPS 658)

*IOTA QSL cards – from VU2TS collection*

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## President's message



### IARU-R3 Conference 2021

The Eighteenth International Amateur Radio Union Region-3 Conference concluded last week on 22 September 2021. Eighteen member societies of Region-3 including ARSI, participated in this virtual conference hosted by the National Society of Thailand - RAST. ARSI with its 3-member delegation participated in this conference, presenting a report of its activities in the last triennium and actively took part in the working group discussions.

This triennial conference was previously held during September 2018, in Seoul and was hosted by KARL, the National Society of South Korea.

The International Amateur Radio Union is an international confederation of national organisations that allows a forum for common matters of concern to amateur radio operators worldwide, and collectively represents matters to the International Telecommunication Union. The International Amateur Radio Union was founded in 1925 in Paris and, as of July 2021, it is composed of 172 national member societies.

The Region-1 has societies belonging to countries from Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and Northern Asia with 101 member societies. Region-2 has societies belonging to countries from the Americas and has 42 member societies and Region-3 has societies belonging to countries from most of Asia, Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Islands and has 29 member societies. The Region-3 Hq., is in Tokyo hosted by JARL.

The 18th IARU-R3 Conference elected a new Board of Directors and Secretary, for the period till the next conference and appointed volunteer coordinators for ARDF, Region-3 Awards, Frequency Monitoring, HF Band plan, VHF+ Band plan, Beacon, Disaster Communication, EMC,

EMR, STARS\*\*\* Task Force and Youth activities in the Region. A total of 39 papers were discussed at Plenaries and the working groups, and 16 recommendations were adopted during this conference.

73, de Ramesh Kumar, VU2LU

## From the Editor's desk



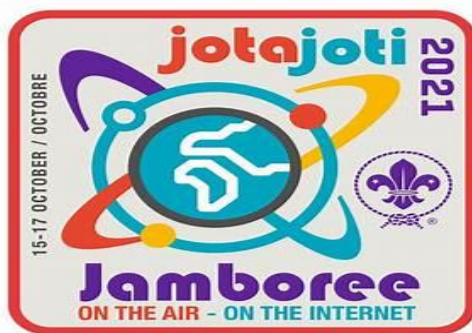
How time flies! Another year has come to an end; the next issue of HRN will be January 2022!

Solar activity is improving, Cycle #25 having begun by end of 2019. Sunspot number rising from single digit up to 60. As I am writing this, there were no sunspots for a total of 59 days during this year whereas last year it was 208 days. DXers are happy to notice some good band openings these days. Local 40 meters band activity in the mornings are back to normal – as it was a few years ago. Only hope it lasts, HI.

Your contest manager has come out with something new - **the ARSI MIXED SPRINT CONTEST** to be run every month. (*details on page 9*). Hope members support this activity and get on the air in numbers; the idea is to hear as many stations as possible on the bands. This will be an exercise to help participating in DX contests in future.

73, Ganesh VU2TS





**JOTA - Jamboree-on-the-Air** - is the world's largest on-the-air Scouts-and-Guides event taking place on **October 16-17, 2021**, over the airwaves. Held every year in October, the event connects millions of young people around the world for a full weekend of online activities that promote friendship and global citizenship. JOTA-JOTI enables young people and volunteers to participate in fun and engaging group activities on the ham bands focused on developing 21st century skills through Scouting.

Spare some time on October 16 and 17 weekend to make contacts with the Jamboree stations and support their activities. Participating stations – please don't forget to send a brief note of the activities along with some photographs for publication in the Ham Radio News of January 2022.

## **How many radio amateurs are there worldwide?**

The RSGB General Manager, in a recent You Tube talk, quoted 3 million as the number of radio amateurs worldwide. In fact, a figure of 3 million has been widely quoted over the last 20 years or so, and is the figure that was published by the IARU in 2000. The IARU used to regularly collect statistics for the number of radio amateurs in each country and IARU published these amateur radio operator global totals:

2000 - 2,986,772  
1995 - 2,646,000  
1990 - 1,967,000  
1985 - 1,489,000  
1980 - 1,134,000  
1975 - 737,000  
1970 - 525,000

IARU stopped collecting the data just at the point when amateur radio numbers started to decline. Data is available elsewhere for a few of the larger amateur radio countries and except for the USA this shows a steady decline in radio amateurs since 2000. For example, the number of amateur radio stations in Japan has fallen by over 600,000 in the past 20 years, see Amateur Radio Licensing Statistics at <http://ah0a.org/AH0A.html>

In some countries like Japan, there are separate operator and station permits. The Operator total given in the AHØA table is for all the amateurs that have ever lived since the 1950's. Many may not be alive and many others not interested in the hobby anymore. A better indication of numbers is provided by the Station license totals.

At the end of the day, no one knows how many radio amateurs are there in the world today. The general consensus is - it's likely to be around 1.75 million.

**Amateur Radio Licenses:** 1: Japan: 12,96,059: 2: USA: 6,79,864: 3: Thailand: 1,41,241: 4: RO Korea: 1,41,000: 5: Germany: 79,666: 6: Chinese Taipei: 68,692: 7: Spain: 58,700: 8: UK: 58,426: 9: Canada: 44,024: 10: Russia: 38,000: 11: Brazil: 32,053: 12: Italy: 30,000: 13: Indonesia: 27,815: 14: France: 18,500: 15: Ukraine: 17,265: 16: Argentina: 16,889: 17: Poland: 16,000: 18: Australia: 15,328

[Ref: n0hr.com/ham\\_radio\\_population.htm](http://n0hr.com/ham_radio_population.htm)



As you were all aware, **the Hamfest India 2021** was scheduled to be held in Mysuru on 14th and 15th November, 2021 – has now turned into an 'on line' event – being held on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November - with interesting, informative and memorable programmes. Be a part of the commemorative event and we promise you that it will be worth it.

The organizers are planning a very unique, personalized, attractive **memento** which will demand a place of pride in every amateur radio shack commemorating the Centenary Celebrations of Amateur Radio in India. The following is the programme, on digital platform.

### **13<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021**

1600 IST – Inaugural Session by Shri Onkarnath, Assistant Wireless Advisor, Department of Communications, WPC Wing – the Chief Guest.

1645 IST - Session on uSDX by Manuel Klaerig DL2MAN

1700 IST - Honouring five old timers

1745 IST - Session for Amateur Radio Society of India (ARSI)

### **14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021**

1600 IST - Session on SDR by Jack Purdum W8TEE

1645 IST- Session on import of amateur equipment or Roundtable on building Indian AmSat.

1700 IST - Roundtable of Repeaters Custodians of India

1745 IST – Closing session.

Members are invited to register – using the following link:

<https://forms.gle/ktmRiTR7sx99qTjR8>

Please also subscribe to the official YouTube channel of Hamfest India 2021 to keep informed about the activities and information related to Hamfest India 2021. We have just started the channel and some previous amateur radio activities of Mysuru will be uploaded in a couple of days. to keep the channel active. Your co-operation will be very helpful in taking the activities planned to a larger digital audience.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOQp45VfPC3bTRwNPepFdpg>

## **Apu, it is time for you to come back to Ham Radio**

***By Rajesh VU2CW***

Summer of 2020, an unforgettable time-period of pandemic lockdowns brought us close to Amateur Radio and compelled many to remove the dust over the cache of radio gears bundled up in the closet. On one such lockdown WFH days, I was scanning ham bands and heard VU2ATN calling 'Seek You'. Thus followed ragchew on prevailing pandemic, HF band conditions, morning 40 m HF Net on 7150 KHz and about revival of VU2APU call sign owned by Ranjan Chakrabarty settled in Zurich, Switzerland, destined to be back in India at his home in South Goa. License got revived/renewed with the same call sign – VU2APU. Interesting call sign, disclosed by Ranjan, comes from Satyajit Ray epic drama films – The Apu Trilogy.

Summer of 2021, during the month of July VU2APU visited Gurgaon only to meet ham friends and visit their radio shacks to spend good quality radio time. **ARSI Amateur Radio Club in Delhi-NCR, hosted by VU2ATN and VU2CW welcomed VU2APU in Gurgaon followed by visits to several radio shacks in Gurgaon and NOIDA in Uttar Pradesh.**



***At left – in the shack of Rajesh VU2CW; right: VU2ATN welcomes VU2APU***



Apu - during the eyeball shared his Amateur Radio life story as quoted below:

“As a schoolboy I was quite thrilled to have built my own two band medium wave-shortwave radio in 1970. One fine morning as I switched on my radio, Vividh Bharati, the very popular station just disappeared and there was this man talking in Bengali..... He was everywhere, on all the radio bands. Didn't matter where I tried to tune to! My introduction to Amateur Radio happened with VU2EM, Shri Avinash Mishra swamping over my little radio. He lived in the flat above, in Kolkata.

Under his fond tutelage and strict guidance, I appeared for my ASOC exam, Grade 1 and received my Station Operator's licence on 24th May, 1972.

Amateur radio in those days was all about home-brew and "AvinashDa" as I respectfully remember him was a master in the art. Thanks to his support, I ran a fully home brew CW station on 20 mtrs in a matter of weeks.

Along with meeting other radio hams in Kolkata, one fine morning a young gentleman came to meet me. That meeting would turn out to be very providential decades later.

This very enthusiastic individual quickly got into ham radio. He stayed with the hobby all through, since 1973 and happily continues as VU2ATN, Atanu. My ham radio faded into a distant memory as I got busy with my career and as life took me all over. Atanu and me stayed in touch though, as more than radio hams - we were family friends. On a dark cold winter day in Zurich, Switzerland in 2018 as we lived there, I was generally chatting with Atanu on the phone when he said "Apu, it is time for you to come back to Ham Radio".

A very special friend, Rajesh, VU2CW helped me with the process and I owe it to them both for getting back on the air again. A hiatus of around forty years!

Back in India, I operate from Goa now. Happy to be back amongst friends and a delightfully engaging hobby!" Here are some pics:



*At the shack of VU2MZX*



*VU2APU back in his shack, Goa*

## **The Amateur Radio Society of India (ARSI)**

### **MIXED SPRINT CONTEST**

**Objective:** To promote VU hams to work other hams using as many modes as possible.

**When?** ONE HOUR – 0230-0330 UTC (0800-0900 Hours IST)  
4th Sunday of Every Month.

**What Bands?** 20m and 40m

**Exchange** Four Letter GRID. No need for RS(T)

**Exchange example:** MK82

#### **Categories**

5 Watts or Less Category: QRP

50 Watts or Less Category: LOW

400 Watts or Less Category: HIGH

**Reporting** Send Logs to [contests@arsi.info](mailto:contests@arsi.info) within 15 days after Contest.

#### **Guidelines:**

QSOs on Net frequencies during Net scheduled Net timings will be considered INVALID.

Participants are required to adhere to general frequency guidelines and not cause QRM to other ongoing QSOs etc.

Participants shall submit log in Cabrillo format. Times logged should be in UTC. Suggested logger program is N1MM -MAKRORTTY contest.

Also, one can make total 3 QSO's / band with other call sign in each of 1 hour session,

i.e. 1 SSB, 1 CW and 1 Digital. Scoring will be One point per valid QSO in each of the 3 modes.

**Log submission deadline** – within 15 days following the contest. Logs should be submitted to [contests@arsi.info](mailto:contests@arsi.info)

All participants need to adhere to Power limits of category they choose and License specs.

## **Awards**

The contest scores will be evaluated at the end of 12 Months . (Starting SEP 2021 to AUG 2022).

The total valid QSO points will be totalled from logs received for each month.

The Standing at the end of every month will be available on the ARSI web page.

At the end of 12 contesting months, winners will be awarded in each category with a Plaque and the runners up - a certificate.

## **KAPU LIGHTHOUSE QRV FOR ILLW WEEKEND, 2021**

A team led by Ajoy VU2JHM was active from Kapu Light House, Kapu Beach, Kapu, Mangalore, India, Grid MK73if - with the special event callsign **AT8KLH** – between 14<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2021. The team: VU2LU, VU3GLS, VU3NPI, VU3UNO, VU3GDS, VU2MTT (VU2VTI),

VU3FDT, VU2SBJ and others. They operated on HF bands – SSB, CW, FT8 and satellite.



A private, special **first day cover** with the cancellation of Kapu lighthouse was released on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021 during the celebration of the 24<sup>th</sup> annual International Lighthouse/Lightships weekend. This happens to be 120<sup>th</sup> year of the Kapu lighthouse and the 23<sup>rd</sup> India's Amateur Radio at lighthouses.



#### International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend - ILLW

Normally held on the 3rd full weekend in August Next year: 00.01 UTC 20th August to 24.00 UTC 21st August 2022 (48 hours) **2022 is the 25th Anniversary of this popular event.**



## Proposal to ban all 300-2000 MHz transmissions in the Shield Zone of the Moon

There is a proposal to ban all radio transmissions between 300 MHz and 2000 MHz in the area designated the Shielded Zone of the Moon (SZM), this would also be applicable to Mars.

The spectrum would instead be used for radio astronomy operations, this would mean the Amateur Satellite Service allocations at 435 MHz and 1260 MHz would no longer be available to spacecraft in Lunar orbit such as Lunar-OSCAR 93 and Lunar-OSCAR 94 (Longjiang-1 and 2), see <https://amsat-uk.org/2018/05/19/dslwp-satellites-lunar-orbit/>

The frequencies of the spectral lines of astrophysical interest are:

- 327.4 MHz hyperfine transition of the deuterium atom
- 1,420.4 MHz neutral hydrogen (HI) line
- 1,612.2 MHz OH radical line
- 1,665.4 MHz OH radical line
- 1,667.4 MHz OH radical line
- 1,720.5 MHz OH radical line

The Space Frequency Coordination Group (SFCG) also has defined frequency bands allocated in the lunar region. These Radio Regulation and Recommendations therefore apply to the lunar GNSS frequencies, since a GNSS system made of lunar orbiters will cover all the far side of the Moon, and therefore must not create harmful interference on future radio astronomy observations in that zone.

The ITU Radio Regulation defines the SZM as follows: **“The shielded zone of the Moon comprises the area of the Moon’s surface and an adjacent volume of space which are shielded from emissions originating within a distance of 100,000 km from the center of the Earth”**. Because Mars is regularly in the SZM, the specific Radio Regulation protecting radio astronomy in the SZM is therefore also applicable to Mars.

What is the effect on EME operations by radio amateurs is not known at present.  
*(Tnx: Southgate ARC news)*

## News from Pune, Maharashtra

Pune Hams organized a **TECH TALK** on Sunday 5th September at 8:30 AM on VHF Repeater VU2ETD 144.800 MHz with std negative shift and simultaneously on Echo Link.



**T. Balasubramanian VU3TBR** - Director of Gulf Ocean Shipping Pvt. Ltd and Proprietor of Softway Computers has over 5 decades of experience in Shipping and Trading, along with his passion for electronics and music. He has been involved in various projects of late and was kind enough to share his experience with us. He has been the Net Control of the regular Sunday Ragchew/roundtable net.

We have seen in previous presentations different hardware and software that were used in Digital modes of communications. His present assignment and presentation was to focus on how the different protocols can be integrated by the Interlink System. This Program was on YouTube Live as well. Thanks to VU2OPY Atul from Pune for his professional arrangements. Here is the link for those who missed the live presentation:

<https://youtu.be/pydADwjBaF8>

The SUNDAY **TECH TALK** on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021 was by **OM Venkat VU3OIM** works at Nokia Networks in Bangalore as a Senior Technical Architect.



He has been in Nokia now for 21 years, having wide technical experience from developing Large Scale Software Systems for Telecommunications Systems having end to end expertise in Telecom Network Management spanning 2G GSM, 3G WCDMA/UMTS, 4G LTE, 5G NR, R4 CS Core, PaCo, VoLTE Core, IMS, EPC, 5GC, Landline switching systems etc.

The presentation was on Digital Mobile Radio – or DMR. The talk was on VHF Repeater VU2ETD 144.800 MHz with std negative shift and simultaneously on Echo Link. It was live on YouTube; here is the link for those who missed it live:

<https://youtu.be/Gu-KelHRI2E>



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