



**On top of Kabbaladurga hills - 75Kms from Bangalore  
941 m above sea level**

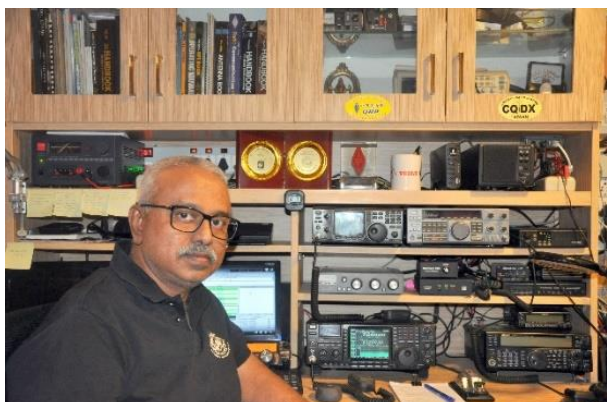
**VU2YUU - IN ARSI HILL-TOPPING & FIELD DAY 2022**

## CONTENTS

- 3 President's message
- 4 From the editor's desk
- 5 Meet R K Saxena, Wireless Advisor to Govt. of India
- 10 VHF Hilltopping & National Field Day – VU2REC
- 12 VHF Hilltopping & National Field Day -- VU2GHO
- 14 VHF Hilltopping & National Field Day - Signal Wizards
- 19 VHF Hilltopping & National Field Day – VU2RCP
- 20 VHF Hilltopping & National Field Day – VU2ANM
- 21 VHF Hilltopping & National Field Day - VU2UPX VU3OSA
- 22 VHF Hilltopping & National Field Day - VU2TUT
- 23 ARSI's first step in Virtual Morse training – VU2MUD
- 24 Tidbits



## President's Message



### Enjoying Amateur Radio with Low Power Operation

The interest in QRP activities is everlasting in the amateur radio community worldwide. QRP radio communications testify to the high ability of radio amateurs, and offer advantages concerning, among others, the reduction of QRM on the amateur bands.

In the 10th IARU Region 3 Conference held in September 1997 in Beijing it was resolved that the Region-3 Societies help to promote the IARU objectives for QRP operation -

- To support QRP operation on **June 17** each year;
- To foster QRP activities by their members;
- To encourage regular publication of QRP articles in their national magazines;
- To provide QRP sections in any national contests;
- To assist other Societies with the promotion and development of QRP.

Our Contest manager is working to seek a Special Callsign to promote this activity in India for a period of three months, April, May and June 2022 to encourage VU Hams fine tune their antennas, sharpen their operating skills and to work DX with Very Low Power.

***Good luck to all QRP enthusiasts in this season.***

Early February 2022, we lost a veteran Ham and ARSI Life Member VU2RKC Ramakrishna N. Reddy, fondly called Bobji who served as the Secretary of ARSI, when VU2RCR-Chandru was the President of ARSI in early 2000 and then served in the Governing Council as a member. Let us pray to God for his soul to rest in peace.

**73, de Ramesh Kumar, VU2LU**

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



The big event during the last quarter was the VHF Hilltopping & National Field Day. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 restrictions prevailing it was decided to club the two events together this year also over the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March. I have included reports and photographs received from some of the participating teams.

For the first time, a **virtual morse-training** programme is being tried out by OM Madhu VU2MUD. There is good response. We need to find different ways of keeping CW alive, Hi

Your President is motoring with family all the way to the Capital – let's wish him a memorable journey and safe return.

**73, de Ganesh VU2TS**

## Meet R K SAXENA, IRRS

### Wireless Advisor to the Government of India

**The WPC wing of the Department of telecom** – *with which we are familiar* - is the national government authority responsible for all aspects of spectrum management in the country. The Role of WPC is to ensure that the spectrum Management processes are established to support spectrum access for all wireless users in the country and this includes not only the cellular mobile services but also civil aviation, defence services, industries and government users, satellites, meteorological services, research and development and many more users. WPC ensures that we involve all the key stakeholders in this process of making available the necessary wireless spectrum to all users.



Shri. Saxena is the Wireless Advisor to the Govt of India, Department of Telecommunication, Ministry of Communications. He earlier served as Director & Head of the Department (HoD), Wireless Monitoring Organisation (WMO), Department of Telecommunication, Ministry of Communications, w.e.f. 1st May 2018, which is a field unit of WPC Wing and provides technical support to WPC Wing for Radio Spectrum Management by way of EMI/EMC and ensures interference-free operations to various wireless users across the country. He was responsible for 28 Wireless Monitoring Stations (WMS) spread all over the country which include 5 International Monitoring Stations (IMS) and 1 International Satellite Monitoring Earth.

He is currently serving as the Wireless Advisor to the Government of India, Department of Telecommunication, Ministry of Communications from September 2021.

He has majored in *Electronics and Communication Engineering* with Honours from the reputed central university AMU

Served in **ARABSAT**, an International Organisation/Consortium of 22 Arab Countries, as Frequency Coordination Expert with significant contribution for their ARABSAT satellite networks in ITU & WRC 2003 with outstanding appraisal from ARABSAT.

Over 30 years of Administrative, Managerial and Technical Experience in the field of radio spectrum management and radio monitoring as a member of the All-India Radio Regulatory Service (IRRS)

Widely travelled abroad and participated, representing Govt. of India, at various ITU, APT and WIMAX Forums, internationally, on Radio-Communication issues, viz. International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and Asia Pacific Tele-community (APT).

Our best wishes to Shri.Saxena.

## **ARSI'S HILL-TOPPING AND NATIONAL FIELD DAY 2022**

This year's hill-topping and national field day held between 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March - was a grand success with some 33 teams participating from different parts of the country. Here are reports with photos received from some of the participating teams.

### **Team MANIC MONKEYS** – Bengaluru – callsign **VU2YUU**

Krishna Kumar- 'KK' VU2YUU, Girish-VU3GDS, Nygil George-VU3ZNG, Vijayakrishnan-VU3KWK and SWL Pranav - *Harmonic of VU2YUU*.

**Location** : Kabbaladurga hills. which is about 75Kms from Bangalore, Altitude of about 3,090 ft AMSL.



L-R - VU3ZNG-NYJIL, VU3KWK-VIJAY, VU2YUU-KK, SWL-PRANAV (HARMONIC OF VU2YUU), VU3GDS-GIRISH

We set out from our homes early morning of Saturday, 12 March 2022 from Bengaluru towards Kanakupara town. Our Frist stop was the Iconic Vasu Hotel in Kanakapura .

After filling our bellies with heavy breakfast we headed out and reached the foothills of Kabbala Durga Hill in Alur.

Our payloads consisted of

- VHF base rig-Kenwood TM71V ,
- VHF handies FT6R,
- Yaesu FT 857 HF rig,
- HF MCHF QRP rig,
- Barret HF Manpack,
- LiFePo4 batteries,
- VHF antenna and HF wire antennas.
- Sleeping Bag /Mat



We also carried enough water, about 4 ltrs per head, basic precooked food, bread and jam for nearly 24 hour operation – Average backpack load was 25 Kgs per person.

This hill is characterised by several steep climbs and rated at *moderate difficulty* by trekkers. After an arduous trek of about 3 hours with several water breaks we reached the top.

The Top was characterised by sparse Vegetation, a natural water body, the *ruins* of a Fort and an jail built by Hyder Ali. There was a small shrine which is frequented by people during festivals.

It was a magnificent view with openings on all four directions, we were thrilled. The Trek was totally worth it. We immediately started VHF operations using our handies, until the base stations were setup.

After a light snack we set up our VHF base station using the wall of a small temple for supporting our Diamond VHF antenna.

Gradually, we secured the G5RV antenna using a 33' telescopic Fiberglass mast in an Inverted – V configuration aligned towards EU.

We observed that the SWR was high on a lot of bands and changed the configuration by increasing the height of the ends from the ground. Using a LDG Antenna Tuner, we quickly started HF operations on CW.

Since there was no Power supply at the top and our Solar panels were of little use towards dusk, we were operating at 50W CW on HF.





We had planned to participate in the RSGB Commonwealth CW Contest (BERU). To our surprise, we were working VK stations at will. There was one VK station who was booming in at 599 +60dB.

The first time we heard such strong signals from *Down Under*. We wanted to try the greyline communication – we were reasonably happy with the results. That night was mostly working UK and Canadian Stations. All the CW QSOs was on 20 and 15m.

In parallel, the VHF QSOs were continuously going on.

An end-fed antenna, tossed over to a nearby tree, was used to operate digital modes with QRP.

While the CW Ops was on a break, we started looking out for SSB stations and we had spots of hectic operations with sufficient time in between for a snack and tea and star gazing.

We learnt a few lessons on interference due to proximity of operations of different bands and greyline communications during this hill-topping.

The night was spent under the stars in our sleeping bags. 3KWK and Pranav were making sure that the ghosts and animals were away from the other 3 who slept peacefully, HI.

The last activity planned in the morning was to check-in to the CW net on 40m conducted by VU2TS, OM Ganesh. It was a short quick check-in and we started packing up before we found the place was full of pilgrims and trekkers and decided to wind up operations by about 10a.m. The trek back took about 2 hours and we drove back to our usual eating haunts in the city before disbursing home for a well-deserved rest.

Looking forward to another Edition Next year. Manic Monkeys signing off.

**73 de 'KK' Krishna Kumar VU2YUU**

## Team VU2REC - Mangalore

This year for ARSI Hill Topping and National Field-day operation, we hams from Mangalore, Suratkal, Udupi, and Manipal area (all members of Mangalore Amateur Radio club) decided to participate from a seashore location under NITK Suratkal Amateur Radio facility, callsign VU2REC supported by MIT Manipal ham club and MARC.

The location chosen to set up the shack was **National Institute of Technology, Karnataka - NITK Suratkal beach**. A lovely clean beach on the western coast of India with a 180° view of the Arabian Sea. The team leaders included hosts VU2TAO OM Ganga and VU2WFN OM Nidhi from NITK, VU2SBJ, VU2VTI, VU2BQN, VU2DVB, VU2PZI, myself VU2ABU, and another 24 participants from MARC including OM Kiran Padiyar VU2XE who came from Bangalore. He is a native of Mangalore and a member of our club (MARC).



Rear – L-R Devdas VU2DVB, Abhay VU2ABU, Sri VU2SBJ, Sukumar VU3FEN, Manu VU2BQN, Ganga VU2TAO, Murthy VU2VTI, Rohith VU2RDQ, Kiran VU2XE & Lester VU3LMP

Front – L-R Steven VU3LGA, Swl Manish, Rakshith VU3LGQ, Parvez VU3PZI, Rajath VU3LHV, and Swl Pruthviraj

We assembled at the site on Saturday 12th March 2022 morning at 6.30 AM and put up our radio shack housed under one tent (*shamiyana* of approx. 10 m x 10 m) This was located about 30 mtrs from sea and we installed 4 quarter wave vertical antenna in a row about 10 mtrs from the sea, each for 40,20,15 and 10 meter band. We had three 100W transceivers kindly spared by VU3XE, VU2SBJ and VU3FDU. Three 12V 160 AH batteries took care of our power requirement. Charging of the batteries was via solar panels; we had an *inverter* for powering /charging our laptops.



VU2DVB, VU2ABU, VU2WFN



VU2SBJ interacting with visitors

**On the air** operation started at around 10.30 AM with one radio operating HF SSB/CW, second radio on HF FT8 mode and the third radio for working VU stations on 7 and 14 Mhz bands. The band condition was excellent throughout the day on 10,15 and 20 mtrs and we were able to work a pile up most of the time. Being sea shore location ensured good radio propagation throughout the day as well as during night on Saturday and on Sunday too we were able to make continuous contacts.



Talking to NCC Students



Solar power

We kept the station running uninterrupted from Saturday morning till Sunday afternoon. Post lunch we wound up operation on Sunday. The stations were kept running by dedicated operators taking turns. The sea side weather was very hot and sultry during day and evening/night was



fairly pleasant. We logged in nearly a ton of QSOs and had a wonderful time operating the station. meeting beach-bound tourists/visitors, explaining ham-radio to them and demonstrating to them what amateur radio hobby is all about. We had nearly 200 visitors to the Field Day shack including students from NITK Suratkal, and NCC cadets from Moodbidri

**73 de Vu2abu, Abhay MARC Mangalore**

## **Team VU2GHO – Avalakondarayanahalli, Karnataka**

*Here's a report from XYL Manorita VU2MGE who was a team member:*

Never could I have imagined that in my 75th year I could have been invited to a **Hill topping expedition** by my Ham friends, Kumar VU2BGS & Sharan VU2GHO! The 12th & 13th March 2022 were the dates-set-for-the-Field-Day.

We perhaps could have started out earlier but since it was a fairly fun sort of trip, we collected our stuff and headed out about 75 kms north of our location – *Grid MK83ub* – to a hill top with an unpronounceable name – Avalakondarayanahalli, *Grid MK83vm*! We nicknamed it Signal Hill!. For those who really want to know, it was a beautiful location, untouched by city developers & such. So pristine, indeed, that not a mosquito was around during the two days we were there! We were in two vehicles; one was our anchor and the other was kept free for runabouts.

First of all the canopy for shade was tied up, between the anchor car & a sturdy tree amongst the rocks. We brought along only one camp table (*next trip there will be at least two!*) Four camp chairs were quickly opened up (*Decathlon zindabad!*) & then the rigs, tenderly and carefully unpacked! We had plenty of rigs but the ones used were the Icom 7300 and 9700. Incidentally, this was the first time I had worked with either of them & they are incredible radios! Running on batteries.

A stand-alone vertical was quickly put up and connected. Next was the VHF 7 Element Yagi, which was strapped to the wheel of the anchor car and-made-rock-solid-with-ties.

We started calling CQ while the third antenna was being rigged up, a little distance away amongst some large boulders, which were on a higher elevation from the surrounding areas. This took a bit longer because the guy ropes and the beams were blowing in the wind. There was a gusty spell of strong winds which were playing havoc with the canopy we were sitting under and also the larger, higher two element HF Yagi antenna!



Finally everything was organized and we had our cups of black coffee and sandwiches! We'd brought along drinking water in two canisters & a dispenser. This was wrapped up with a kind of checked lungi, kept wet to keep the water cool, but it appeared as if there was a fourth guy there in-our-midst!

Lunch was brought in using our run-about car, from the Dhaba on the highway, about 8 kms away! Delicious jeera rice & dal, which was supplemented with pickles brought from home. We had a choice of food of course! Parathas & jeera alu, pickles and snacks & biscuits – and of course loads of coffee, chilled Ocean drink & beer on Sunday! At night we lit a bonfire with the dry twigs and small pieces of wood which **we found in plenty all around. The food was heated on the fire,** which thereafter had a smoky effect, enhancing the taste even further!

We pitched up tents before dark, though one of us slept in the car. It became quite cold in the night but the sleeping bags were quite snug. For all the YLs who are perhaps wondering how I managed the bare necessities, it was really no problem. The terrain was an undulating hillside with a lot of rocks dotting the slopes & of course, not a soul in sight. Besides, I had carried my *umbrella* if-the-need-arose!

As we were operating in the Category 'C', we made a fair number of contacts on practically all modes, including FT8, but the highlights were the-DX-contacts-made-on-SSB.

An unbelievably entertaining trip, & I thank my teammates, Sharan & Kumar-for-this-experience!

**73, Manorita Singh**  
**VU2MGS**

## **TEAM - SIGNAL WIZARDS – Karnataka**

**Leader: Achar VU2MLA**

Members: Cmdr. Raghunath VU2MYS, Exo/Tom VU2EXO, Sashi VU3KSP, Rajesh VU3HRP, Renu VU3CQM, and Neil VU3EFZ

Initiated by Cmdr. Raghunath VU2MYS, and followed up by Shashi VU3KSP, a team of seven - as above, was formed for participating in the ARSI Hill Top Field Day event on 12th and 13th March 2022. The team was titled **SIGNAL WIZARDS**. All members of the team except Achar (VU2MLA) were first time hill toppers.

The location selected was Thimmappa Swamy Betta, a hill top location at 750 MSL, about 55 KM from Bengaluru (near Ramanagara), as this had a huge rocky surface near the temple at about 100 ft. high from where the motorable road ends. This location is surrounded by hill ranges and had a beautiful picturesque view on all sides.

The equipment required to be carried for the event is as follows. ICOM 7300 rig with a fan dipole for 7 & 14 MHz for HF by VU2MLA - Achar, Alinco Digital TRX DR MD500 by VU3HRP – Rajesh for VHF and Yaseu FT897 all mode TRX for HF/VHF by VU2MYS-Cmdr. Raghunath with two 40 AH batteries, Three Panels of 330watts (total 990watts) solar panels with charge controller and 150ah Battery for power supply by VU3KSP-Shashi.





Renu (VU3CQM) designed the banner for our team And Rajesh Ponday (VU3HRP) got them printed. Neil (VU3EFZ) provided placards and log sheets.

The team reached the site at around 6.00 pm on 11<sup>th</sup> and with full enthusiasm, the team jumped into action immediately on reaching the site. After reaching the peak of the hill, we faced the real challenge – The 20'x20' Mantap with a roof served as the operating station. There was no place on any side of the Mantap to support or mount any antenna. The nearest power supply point in the Community Hall was around 400 ft. from the Mantap and it was not practical to connect to grid supply for the operations. Hence the operation depended totally on Solar Power. This would also ensure bonus points!! Hi!!

As it was getting dark, priority was given to erect the HF antenna and power the equipment from the battery. The only support available was a single protruding steel rod found on the rooftop of the Mantap. After a few trials, the team succeeded in getting a rope hooked to the steel rod and pulling the centre point of the antenna of the 40/20 inverted V up to about a height of 20 ft.





While one team attended to minor re-orientation of the HF antenna for improved transmission, the other team was busy fixing End Fed antenna for the Yaesu all mode TRX of Cmdr. Raghunath. Again, there was a challenge to fix the feed point to this antenna. After putting in very much hard work, the team could bring a rope over the roof of the mantap and tie it on to the pillar and the other point of the rope extending to around 200 ft to a metal pipe.

A quick test was done by checking in to different nets both on HF and VHF and the results were found good.



The team was ready and eagerly waiting for the contest to start at 9 AM. As the contest started, the team could work some stations, marking successful start of the event. The rigs were operated in turns by all team members both on HF and VHF, exchanging reports, grid location and recording the logs.

People from different walks of life – Techies to School goers, Business people to Professionals, working women to Housewives, Common man to Teaching Class, Children to Aged persons. We also had some foreign guests visiting our Station.

VU2KSP – Shashi and VU2MYS - Raghunath interacted with the visitors explaining Amateur Radio, its activities and its service to the Society during natural calamities and disasters. Most of the visitors were unaware of the existence of such an activity as a hobby and were amazed to learn about the Amateur Radio Community. They were also amazed to know the yeoman service provided by HAMs to the Society, without depending on grid power supply and also without having facilities and comforts for stay, food and other basic requirements.



Visitors included few hams, and Shri Siraj (4th person from right in the last image), a Sub-Inspector from the Bangalore City Police Wireless Station.

By around 10.00 pm, the SSB contacts reduced due to wave propagation conditions. Then the team switched to Digital mode and established contacts mostly with DX Stations till around 2.00 am on 13th March. As battery power went low, we were forced to shut down operations temporarily till next morning.

Along with the rising Sun, batteries started getting charged enabling the team to start the operation in full swing.



The morning of 13th again started with rejuvenated enthusiasm among members with hot coffee - and the operations continued. Due to an official commitment, VU2EXO – Exo Tom could join the team only on the 13th morning. His experience was well utilised by other team members during the rest of the day.

As the team needed to reach Bangalore before nightfall, we decided to dismantle the station setup by around 4.00 pm. By 5.30 pm, all equipment and belongings were wound up, packed and loaded onto the vehicles and started the journey back, carrying unforgettable memories with satisfaction and experience gained during the field day.



We thank VU2MUD-Madhukar for his guidance and VU2JHM-Lion Ajoy for suggesting this wonderful location for our Field Day.

**73 de Narasimhachar VU2MLA**

**Team Leader SIGNAL WIZARDS**

**TEAM VU2RCP Pune, Maharashtra**

**Pune Hams VU2RCP participated in ARSI's Hill topping and National field day. The location was \*Tukai Temple Hill\* Baner Pune. Grid location \*MK68VN\***

***\*IETE Pune Local centre was the main sponsor for this practical event\*.***

Pune Hams and SWL participants installed a \*G5RV HF all band Antenna\* and \*X 30R from Diamond\* for VHF & UHF across the Temple peak and successfully did HF communication.



In this exercise, the students and professors from Moze College of Engineering, *Electronics & Telecommunications department* actively participated and learnt the basics of Ham Radio and various types of Antennas. VU2MSB OM Milind demonstrated various parameters of the Yagi antenna on an Antenna analyser. Students enjoyed this hands-on activity and understood the practical aspects of the Antenna Analyser.

Pune Hams viz., Mangesh VU2OOM, Milind VU2MSB & Vilas VU2VPR decided to focus on E&TC students with structure approach. through Ham Radio and create interest in Radio communication engineering.

Actually Radio was invented by Sir JC Bose {Not Marconi} but no one took this invention further. Sadly, all R&D and research took place in Europe and USA, Vilas Rabde VU2VPR noted.

In the evening Star Party was organised and most of the participants observed the Moon through Telescope, kindly arranged by Mangesh VU2OOM.



### TEAM VU2ANM – ASHISH, MAHARASHTRA




## National Field Day & Hill Topping Exercise 12-13 Mar 22

### Radio Surfing @ Kasarsai

With Old Man Ashish VU2ANM



VU2ANM



Talk to the  
World





Ham Radio







Grid : M68 TO

Land Mark : Balaji Boat Club & Water Sports Center



## TEAM VU2UPX – MUMBAI & AHMEDABAD



## TEAM VU3OSA GAURAV and VU3OGW VISHAL, KARJAT MAHARASHTRA

 The Amateur Radio Society of India (ARSI)  
**HF VHF UHF Hill Topping & National Field Day**  
Date: 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at Karjat  
Grid: MK69ra  
**VU3OSA**  
Participants :  
VU3OSA : Gaurav    VU3OGW : Vishal





VU3OSA and VU3OGW

### TEAM VU2TUT



## **Amateur Radio Society of India's first step in Virtual Training**

### **Virtual Morse Training – 2022 VU2MUD “Madhu”**

With WPC making the process of submission of applications for ASOC exams, application for issue of licences/ renewals and issue of normal & special event licences totally online and with ARSI's push towards making the examination also online, it was felt the time was appropriate to start training enthusiasts all over India – irrespective of membership status – to enable them through to appear for the Amateur Radio Operator's Licence at their convenience an online (Virtual) classroom. As a beginning, it was decided to start Morse Code training for the new enthusiasts and Restricted Grade operators who intended to upgrade their licence to General Grade.

When this was discussed in the committee, I offered to conduct this training over a period of 8 – 10 weeks with a duration of around 30 minutes on weekdays. When Registration was opened, we saw over 250 SWLs and Hams from all over India in a matter of a couple of days. We had to close registration within 5 days as it would have been difficult to accommodate any more – most wanting to learn and a few who wanted to up their current speed and make CW QSO's.

Since the response was so overwhelming, it was decided to start 2 batches for the learners and another for those seeking to up their operating skills. The first Learners training started on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January and the second one on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2022. As is the usual trend, although more than 50 initially turned up for the Learners session, around 20 are regularly attending. It was therefore decided to merge the two batches and conduct a single batch.

The session for those who registered to improve their skill is yet to be scheduled due to time constraints and will be started as soon as the current session is completed – which will be around mid-April.



The training is being conducted by introducing 3 – 4 alphabets, a numeral and a punctuation (based on the syllabus prescribed) in each group and has been divided into eight groups. Once this is completed, the participants will be taken into running text – sentences – and progressed into the recommended speed of 8 words per minute or slightly more.

The method being used is based on the *Farnsworth method* – with the character speed being around 10WPM and the effective speed for training being around 4WPM which will be gradually increased to reach the target speed.

I thank ARSI for giving me this opportunity to go back to my teaching days – I used to take CW classes in the 1990s in Mysuru – and give me an effective way of utilizing my time during the evening hours.

I wish all the participants success in their endeavour to learn Morse (CW) and hope to meet them all on the air in the future ON CW!!

## 3D printing of items useful the shack

3D printing has become quite popular now; I have heard that many members have taken up the hobby. Here is a collection of 3D printed designs for hobbyists in *electronics and amateur radio* who may want to add finishing touches to projects. (Source: Southgate ARC news)

<https://www.whizz3dparts.co.uk/>

## World Amateur Radio Day

Monday 18 April is **World Amateur Radio Day**. It was on 18 April 1925 that the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) was founded, during the International Radiotelegraph Conference in Paris. That is why radio amateurs worldwide celebrate this day with special activities every year. France's REF reports a special event station **TM97WARD** will be on the air April 16-25 to celebrate World Amateur Radio Day which takes place on April 18.

## World's oldest radio amateur

ARRL reports a Barbados ham is among the world's oldest, if not the oldest. Winston A. "Woody" Richardson, 8P6CC (ex-VP6WR), has turned 107 years old, placing him among the world's oldest radio amateurs.

## WRC-23 Agenda and relevant resolutions now available

The ITU have made the agenda and relevant resolutions for the World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (#WRC23) available as a free PDF. WRC-23 will take place in the United Arab Emirates from 20 November to 15 December 2023, preceded by the Radiocommunication Assembly 2023 (RA-23) from 13-17 November.

Download the WRC-23 booklet from

<https://www.itu.int/hub/publication/r-act-arr-1-2022/>

W2GD will be active as P44W from **Aruba, IOTA SA - 036**, 24 - 31 May 2022.

Ren, HK0/PY8WW will be active from **San Andres Island, IOTA NA - 033**, 7 - 12 May 2022.

Ham Radio **Monster Antenna** by ZL3SV

<https://youtu.be/7ah95zW9-WM>



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