

Ham

RADIO

News

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The Journal of Amateur Radio Society of India (Member of IARU)

Special Issue commemorating the IARU Region 3 Meeting
at Bangalore, India, August 2006.
Hosted by ARSI



Unity is the motto



Ananda Bose, VU2AMB
addressing the workshop on
Ham radio at the
Indian Institute of Engineers
Nagpur



AT0EI group at Arnala



Gurgaon hams in an eyeball
QSO with
Ken Imamura, JE6EIF



President's message

It is now several months since the new committee took charge and we have attempted to streamline things on several fronts.

- 1) Individual letters were sent to all hams that had dues to ARSI and the response has been very good. I will continue to do this regularly and another lot of reminders will go out shortly.
- 2) We have managed to completely update our accounts which were in arrears for several years.
- 3) The membership list is also now fairly accurate but some gaps still exist which we are closing by getting details from different sources.
- 4) To promote activity on the bands several contests are planned starting with The Himalayan Contest - more details on this elsewhere in this issue. ARSI will promote several other contests depending on the success of this one. OM Arasu VU2UR, himself a keen contest, is very active in this area and if any of you have other ideas, please write to him.
- 5) I visited Delhi in February and established contact with officials in the various ministries that we are connected with. I am sure hams would have noticed that the response, especially from WPC, is very good these days and renewals and new licenses are being issued in a matter of days and not years as before. There are many changes in the offing and we are keeping in close touch on a regular basis.
- 6) A meeting of Delhi Hams also took place at Vigyan Prasat when a presentation on Winlink2000 also was made.
- 7) The Bangalore hams also had a get together when a number of issues were discussed.
- 8) This issue of HRN is coming out just in time for the IARU Region 3 conference which is being held in India for the first time. It will be held in Bangalore from the 7th to the 11th August 2006 and will be preceded by the R3 Directors Meeting. We welcome the delegates from all over the world who will be here.

I encourage all of you to please send us your suggestions on how we can improve the functioning of our society.

We need regional coordinators who will take on the responsibility of keeping in touch with ARSI members in their respective areas and also promote membership. Please write to me if you can take up this responsibility.

73

Gopal



The Editor speaks

Greetings from a very rainy Mumbai!!! Its that part of the year again when Mumbai goes underwater!! But after the deluge and catastrophe of last years rain, the city is well prepared this year. Hams have geared themselves up and are working with the Municipal authorities in disaster communication. A special vhf station has been set up at their headquarters by my guru VU2SVS, Mr Sudhir Shah and most hams are qrv on VHF.

This issue is a special issue to commemorate the IARU Region 3 Meeting at Bangalore. ARSI is hosting this meet and the president and secretary are working together to make sure that the event is a success. In fact the whole team has been working in tandem to get the ARSI in good shape for the future. We are all very positive.

I am busy with the organization of the International YL Meet to be held in Mumbai from the 26th to the 29th of October 2006. Already many YLs from all over the world have registered for the event. I invite YLs and OMs from India to participate and make this event a grand success.

The next hamfest is scheduled to be held in Kollam in September and I am looking forward to attending and having an eyeball with all my friends.

Once again, I appeal to all to come forward with articles and advertisements and make HRN a completely self sufficient magazine of the highest caliber.

Greetings of the Season!!!

Sarla

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the revised membership fees.

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Corporate (Club, Society or Institution with Licence)	100	400

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Letters to the editor

In the Jan- March 2006 issue of HRN, you say that you would like comments on HRN – both praises and brickbats. Well, here comes:

When I went through the contents, I was delighted to find that there was an article on Digital Frequency Synthesis VFO. I have been wanting to find out about this for some time now. However, my delight was short lived as I found that there was no clarity in the article. For example, what is meant by modulus and image? I know of modulus only in complex numbers in mathematics. Image is image in what? Then consider the formula for output frequency: $F_{out} = (Phase \times System \text{ Clock}) / 2^{32}$. This formula means absolutely nothing to me. What does the question mark in front of Phase stand for? Phase of what are we talking about? What does the circumflex between 2 and 32 mean? I could go on like this. I notice that there is an explanation of ? Phase but it means nothing to me.

My criticism is not against you, Sarla, but on the author of the article who has written it for those who already know rather than the uninitiated like me. Of course, there is the counter criticism that I am too dumb to understand the article, but then, I doubt very much that I would have got a doctorate in Semiconductor Materials and Device Science from the University of Oxford, England, if I were that dumb.

The criticism that I have made above are for other articles in HRN too. I find that articles are written for those who already know rather than for the uninitiated. There is lack of clarity.

I do hope that I have not been too severe. I am grateful to you for ensuring that we get HRN in time. I remember the time when we did not get HRN for quite some time.

Regards.

Jaswant (Paloli) VU3 NUU.

Dear Ms.Sarla Sharma,

Sub: Address of the outgoing President page 3 of HRN Jan. March 2006.

In his address he has devoted one paragraph on the QSL system in India. This does not give a complete picture of the things going in India. In the following lines I am sharing my experience as QSL Manager for the past four years.

Earlier QSL Cards were given to anybody irrespective of his/her membership of ARSI. When OM Sahar – VU2SDN became president of ARSI it was decided to give QSL service to ARSI members only. This was only to improve the membership strength of the society. This was somewhat successful mainly due to the effort of OM Sahar and OM Adolf. Then I came into the picture with instruction to adhere to the above rules strictly. This

point was discussed in all the G.C. meetings afterwards and all the members agreed upon.

Regarding giving the incoming cards to the members on payment basis. This scheme was also tried by giving notice in the HRN that only incoming cards will be given to non-member on payment of Rs.0.50 per card excluding postage. In this scheme only one non-member from Calcutta paid Rs25/- to receive 50 Cards. That was the end of the story.

There are only about 60 Hams in India doing serious Dxing. Out of them 44 are members of ARSI and availing bureau service. The balance 16 are very stalwart Ham doing many DX work on the daily basis on all the bands and all mode. Mostly they are not ARSI members. This is my own experience being a Dxer myself as well as QSL Manager for the past 4 years simply looking at the vast quantity of QSL cards which are coming for them. If I sort 10 cards about 6 are surely for them. When I took over as QSL Manager I personally sent them postcards and requested them to become member of ARSI and take their cards as courtesy to the sender. They did not reply but told me on the air not to disturb and bother them. Possibly they are interested in direct QSLing. They may have their own reason for that. This practice is followed by Hams world over. I get many cards returned from all the Bureaus of the world - With "NON MEMBER" & NOT INTERESTED IN CARDS VIA BURO" stamp. Such cards are returned even by ARRL, JARL, RSGB, VK & ZL and all European buros.

Regarding poor ratio of incoming and out going cards, are due to some members are sending their cards directly to the DX bureaus by AIR MAIL to save time. In

India one Ham has won 100% QSL award he does not use the bureau for outgoing cards. For a vast majority of Hams, I doubt they have printed their cards or not. Few months back there was an appeal by me and was published in the HRN. Only one Ham responded to it and he is getting cards regularly.

Regarding shifting the bureau to Chennai: How it will improve or streamline as stated? You can take — upto water but cannot make — drink.

I am totally against engaging a salaried person to do the buro work. This work can easily be done by one dedicated ham, who can devote one hour per day when bulk cards comes. ARSI is already in a fund crunch, instead of thinking of spending money for salaried person we can do many more things. I am doing this for 4 years without any difficulty and without any financial obligation to the Society. The Buro expences are shared by the ARSI members (Buro user) at NO LOSS NO PROFIT BASIS, and they are happy with this system. This may be noted here that I have not charged the Society anything so far.

Thanks

Dipuda, VU2DPD

CLUB NEWS

BANGALORE The Upagrah Amateur Radio Club, VU2URC stepped into its 25th year on 24th June 2006. As they entered into the 25th year, club members fondly remember all the founder members and express their thanks and gratitude for all the efforts and contributions made, specially the former ISRO Chairmen Prof. Satish Dhawan, Prof. U R Rao, Dr. K. Kasturirangan the present Chairman Dr. G. Madhavan Nair. former ISRO Satellite Centre Directors Col.N.C.Pant, Shri Aravamudan, Dr. P.S. Goel and the present Director Dr.K.N.Shankara for the support and encouragement being provided to the club in its long journey.

On 6th May 2006 the first Indian Amateur Radio Satellite "HAMSAT" has entered into second year of its mission life. All the 5400 orbits during its first year of birth was been very fruitful. Hamsat is been fully utilised by Hams around the World and remains to be one of the most favorable bird among Hams.

CHENNAI: On May 1st 2006, The Madras VHF Radio Repeater VU2 MRR (Tx 145.775MHz/ Rx 145.175 Mhz) stepped into its uninterrupted 17th year of service to hams. The members of MRR are determined to make this service available for many more years to come. The Chennai hams have also installed a repeater on UHF band with a call sign VU2 MWG. The operating frequencies are TX.435.800 MHZ RX/434.100 MHZ. Power output 10 Watts.

KOLKATA The Young Explorers' Institute for Social Service, an NGO of Salt Lake Kolkata is promoting Hamradio hobby for the last 16 years at various locations in South Bengal. Recently the representatives of this Institute presented a paper titled 'Strengthening Communication using amateur Wireless Station & other alternative means' to the participants of the workshop on cyclone Management and training programme on disaster management, organised by Administrative Training Institute, Government of West Bengal, Salt Lake. VU3SKD, VU2TKC, VU3VQU and VU2MLE were presenting the said programme at Salt Lake.

CALCUTTA VHF AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY has been officially changed to **BENGAL AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY**. The society had filed for alteration of memorandum to change the registered name of the society vide its application in Form V to the Registrar of Societies dated 29.03.05. The society was then accorded permission

by the Registrar of Societies, vide their Permission No. S/ 591 dated 15.02.06 for alteration of memorandum. In the Extra-ordinary General Meeting of the society on Sunday, 5th March, 2006 at 185, Sarat Bose Road, Kolkata - 700026, all members present voted in favour of the change and a resolution to change the registered name of the society from Calcutta VHF Amateur Radio Society to Bengal Amateur Radio Society was unanimously passed. The Registrar of Societies in their Order No. S/17 dated 07.04.06 have accepted and recorded the above alteration of memorandum. The old logo of the society will remain until a new logo is created and approved by the members. An e group BARS has been created for exchange of information.

GURGAON hams VU2BDX, YL-VU2AXS, VU2DED, VU2AXS and VU2OEC hosted an eyeball qso with dx ham JA6EIF - Ken Imamura, in Gurgaon. Ken, working with a Robotics Company, is on a transfer from USA to India. They met at a new Mega Mall of Gurgaon - the City of Malls. It became a nice eyeball QSO with Ken, who shared his QRP operating experience. He also demonstrated his CW skills, when (Anu) pressed few buttons of mobile phone to play the CW ring tone. Ken copied it flawlessly. Ken enjoyed the anecdotes of Indian hams come on the band with junk type antennae and rigs virtually on a shoestring budget. He applauded the efforts put in by Indian hams for pursuing this hobby and keeping it alive during the whole process of learning morse code, radio theory, getting the license and finally the search of equipment, accessories/antenna for their homebrew projects, which is never ending. Very Soon, JA6EIF - Ken Imamura, will be operating on reciprocal VU Call Sign from Gurgaon with his powerful Yaesu FT-990. JA6EIF - Welcome to VU Land.

GWALIOR Weekend HAM Radio Classes were conducted by the Amateur Radio Club Gwalior from 18 May 2006 to 24 May 2006. More than 25 students took part in the programme. Some of them have continued even after 25th May 2006 in order to appear for the examination. VU2JAU is taking an active interest in the conducting of these classes.

MUMBAI Arnala island belonging to the AS-169 IOTA group, near Mumbai was activated by a group of hams from 31st March to 2nd April 2006. The group consisted of

VU2SWS YL Sarla, VU2PAI OM Pai, VU3MTT OM Murthy, VU2IZO OM Mickey, VU2NKS OM Nandu, VU2JPN OM Jaiprakash. Guest operators were VU2HIT OM Huzefa, VU2HVK OM Harsha and VU2UGJ OM Mukesh. With a special call AT0AI, the group made around 1500 qsos around the world. There were 2 stations and 3 antennas. An MA5B beam, a Fritzel multiband vertical and a dipole for 40 metres. The radios used were Kenwood TS 2000, Yaesu FT 840 and an ICOM 706 Mk.2. They operated mostly on CW and SSB and digital modes whenever possible. Connection on Echolink was established via the local repeater on VHF.

MUSSOURIE: A Ham Radio Club has been set up at the Centre for Disaster Management of the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, located in Mussourie. Ham Radio as an extra curricular activity was included in the 78th foundation course and a total of 42 officers underwent training. The training programme was conducted by VU2RDM along with VU2RLP on behalf of CDMH, Hyderabad. Ham Radio Examination was conducted by the Wireless Monitoring Organization New Delhi. Out of 42 Officer Trainees 41 Candidates have qualified in the Ham Radio examination.

NAGPUR The World Ham Radio Day was Celebrated on 18th April 2006 at the Institution of Engineers(India), Nagpur Local Centre. Mr.E.S.Doifode, Chairman, welcomed the peakers. Mr.Ananda T.Bose, VU2AMB gave alive demonstration of Ham Radio for one hour. Gp.Cpt.S.V.Pathak(Retd), VU2ZV gave a short speech on introduction to Ham radio. VU2AMB spoke on contesting and awards that can be won in Hamradio. Mr. Ananda Bose also organized a training class for the ASOC exam in the Institution of Engineers for about 100 aspiring hams.

N.DELHI Government of India and UNDP is presently carrying out a Disaster Risk Management Programme in 17 states and 169 districts of the country. Under this initiative the Central Board of Secondary Education, Government of India with support of Ministry of Home Affairs and UNDP have introduced Disaster Management as part of the school curriculum in standard VIII, IX, X and XI (sociology and geography). Since the subject is very new to the teachers the Board organised more than 35 training programmes across the country so that the subject can be transacted effectively in the classrooms. As a

team the government would like to strengthen the capacities of the regional offices of CBSE which are located in six different locations of the country. To effectively respond to any natural calamity an initiative has been taken to train some of the staff members of the Board in Ham radio.

QUILON The Hamfest India, 2006 will be conducted on 9th and 10th September, 2006 at Kollam, Kerala. This time the event will be conducted by the Quilon Amateur Radio league in connection with the silver jubilee celebrations of the club. The Hon'ble minister for Overseas Indian Affairs, Shri Vayalar Ravi has kindly consented to inaugurate the function. More details will be intimated later. All are welcome to Kollam. Visits the websites of QARL: www.Geocities.com/Indian_hams/VU2QAR also www.qarl.tk

10th KERALA VHF FOX HUNT

World Amateur Radio day is celebrated every year on 18th April. In connection with this, the Quilon Amateur Radio League has conducted 10th Kerala VHF Fox Hunt on Sunday, the 16th April 2006 at Cochin. The winners are: 1st prize: VU3IRH OM Ibrahim (Pollachi), VU3WCS OM Arun, VU3GNU OM Jayakumar & SWL Sreeram. 2nd Prize: VU3IGJ OM Sageer (Aluva), VU2GMK OM Gopinath & VU3JUS OM Justin. 3rd Prize : VU2SUE OM Sudheer (Ernakulam), VU3UES OM Unni & VU2PEY OM Balan. The winners will be awarded VU2CSD rolling shields in addition to cash awards and certificates during Hamfest India, 2006 proposed to be conducted at Kollam during September, 2006.

LAKE CITY PHONE CONTEST WINNERS

The result of the lake city phone contest is declared:

1st prize: OM Mathew, VU2PHD (288 Points) 2nd prize: OM Sunder, VU2CSD (170 points) 3rd prize: OM Anish, VU2AOU (167 points) SWL category 1st prize: OM R.Rajesh, Kottayam (67 points) Total entries received : 14 Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all those who have participated in the contest. The prizes will be awarded during Hamfest India, 2006 proposed to be held at Kollam during September, 2006. The lake city phone contest is conducted every year during the month of March (second Saturday and Sunday).

*A hearty welcome to all the delegates
of the IARU R3 CONFERENCE in Bangalore
Our best wishes to the
Amateur Radio Society of India
in hosting the conference.*

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HIMALAYAN CONTEST 2006:

This is a new contest organised by the Amateur Radio Society of India, to encourage South Asian Amateur Radio Stations to participate in a lively, interesting contest planned by Contesters for the other contesters. This is also to prepare South Asian amateurs to get trained and face many international contests. If there is a good response, the Contest, may also become an international one, with a suitable date and time slot, in future.

The exchanges in this contest are planned, in a way that all the operators can make out the number of Indian States/ Union Territories and the important cities, worked in the course of the contest.

There is **no need** to exchange the conventional RST/RS, as this has been seen to be an exchange which does not reflect the **real RST**. Hence, it has been **omitted**.

QSOs are to be effected between "VU"s & "VU"s and 4S7, AP2, 9N1, A51, S21, 8Q7 (mentioned as other entities in the following paragraphs)

No QSOs in WARC bands or with /MM, /AM stations will be accepted.

A VU contester **must send his contest log** without fail, else, his QSOs with other contesters will be disqualified, while checking the logs received for adjudication. This step is introduced to encourage, those really interested in the Contests and not for those operators from whom an exchange is forced. Hi.

The contest lasts for a period of **36 hours**. The starting/ finishing time and the dates are given below:

June 03, 2006, 0530 IST (0000 UTC) to June 04, 2006 1730 IST (1200 UTC) for CW.

September 30, 2006, 0530 IST (0000 UTC) to October 01, 2006 1730 IST (1200 UTC) for SSB.

Category: Single Operator-Single Band, Single Operator-All bands, Multi Operator-All Bands, SWL (may be single or all bands)

Bands: 3.5, 7, 14, 21, 28 MHz

Modes: CW in June; SSB in Sep/Oct.

Exchanges: 1. All "VU"s exchange the two letter State code used in the automobile licence plates with the 3 digits of the PIN code (from the left) of their city or town or village. There is no RST/RS in the beginning.

2. The other entities work only "VU"s in this contest.

Examples are: KA560, TN600, WB700, MH400, DL110, MP490, GJ380, UP226 etc.,

2. Non "VU"s exchange **serial numbers only, without RST/RS** with "VU"s.

QSO points: 1 point per QSO on 7 and 14 MHz.

2 points per QSO on 21 and 28 MHz.

3 points per QSO on 3.5 MHz.

For an SWL reporting a complete QSO with both the exchanges, gives double the points mentioned above, depending on the band where the QSO is heard.

Multipliers: 1. Each unique exchange is a multiplier, to be considered once only, irrespective of the bands. If "WB700" is worked in 3 bands, it is counted as a multiplier, when it is worked for the first time. MH400, MH401, MH411 etc are **all different** multipliers. This applies to "VU"s and the other entities listed above.

2. For a "VU", the first QSO with each of the DX entities like 4S7, 8Q7, AP2, S21, 9N1, A51 is a Multiplier, irrespective of the bands, considered once only.

(Example: A "VU" worked GJ380, MH400, KA570, TN600, 4S7, AP2 in his many QSOs, gets 6 multipliers. A 8Q7 station logging KA580, KA560, KA570, TN600, KL673, AP520, KA575, KL682 has 8 multipliers.)

Final Score: The sum total of QSO points from all the bands multiplied by the sum total of multipliers, gives the final score.

All, band-wise logs by E-mail may be sent to "vu2ur@rediffmail.com" and snail mail paper logs be mailed to **Contest Manager ARSI, MIG-6, 80 Feet Road, Kengeri Upanagara, Bangalore 560060, India.**

Logs must contain the following: Band, Date, Time, station worked, Exchanged information, QSO points, Multiplier.

Duplicate QSOs in the same band is not permitted, but, in other bands with the same station, for QSO points only.

Dead line for logs: Maximum of 30 days.

Awards: Certificates for the highest scoring contester in the entities listed above, and the highest scorer from each of the States and Union Territories of India, are planned. Suitable prizes with certificates for the top two scorers from VU are also there.

*Our heartfelt welcome to all the delegates
of the IARU R3 Conference in Bangalore
and our congratulations to the
Amateur Radio Society of India
in hosting the conference.*

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**INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO UNION
REGION 3
THIRTEENTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

The Amateur Radio Society of India is proud to host The 13th IARU Region 3 Conference in Bangalore, India from the 7th-11th of August 2006 at Hotel Hari International. It is indeed a proud privilege for ARSI to host this very important event.

IARU is the coordinating body for radio amateurs world wide. The whole world is split into 3 regions- Region 1, Region 2 and Region 3 as per their geographical locations. The Region 3 Conference is held once every three years. The first conference was held in 1968 at Sydney Australia. Since then conferences have been held at Tokyo, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Manila, Auckland, Seoul, Bandung, Singapore, Beijing, Darwin and Taipei.

The object of IARU Region 3 is to promote, represent and advance in whatsoever manner IARU Region 3 thinks fit, the interest of Radio Amateurs in all countries of Region 3 of the International Telecommunications Union by the furtherance of the objects of the International Amateur Radio Union and having regard to the special interest of radio amateurs in Asia and Oceania which interests are to protect and enhance radio amateur privileges in all of the countries in the Region, to encourage an awareness of the value of radio amateurs by the administrations of all the countries in the Region, to educate and encourage potential radio amateurs in all of the countries of the Region, to represent radio amateurs both nationally and internationally, and to protect and retain amateur radio frequency allocation as frequencies allocated for the sole use of radio amateurs and provided always shall exercise its powers in support of IARU and not in substitution for the exercise of power by IARU.

Every society is represented and is entitled to vote on the issues that concern radio amateurs, like frequency allocation in their country, interference on ham bands by intruders, general topics which go towards promoting ham radio etc.

The Agenda for a Conference will include Reports, determination of Policies, operating Matters, financial

Matters, appointment of Officers of IARU Region 3, and future plans for the promotion of Amateur Radio.

As is the convention, the President of ARSI VU2GMN, Mr Gopal Madhavan will be the President of the Conference and preside at the opening and closing ceremonies. The Secretary of ARSI, VU2KKZ, Mr Rajaram shall be the Secretary of the Conference. They will be assisted in their work by other governing council members of the ARSI and volunteers.

In general, the work of the Conference will be based on the written proposals submitted prior to the Conference though proposals presented at the Conference may be considered. While giving all participants the opportunity to express their points of view, the Chairman will endeavour to bring all Agenda items to a satisfactory conclusion, as expeditiously as possible, employing the voting procedure detailed in the Constitution.

A radio station with a special call sign will be set up in the hotel premises to commemorate this occasion.

The venue Hotel Hari International is strategically located on the Subhedhar Chatram Road, in close proximity to Central Business District of Bangalore and City Railway Station and is just half an hour drive from the airport. It has conference halls equipped with highly sophisticated conference equipment including Wi-fi internet connectivity.

Besides the conference optional arrangements have been made for sightseeing trips to Mysore, Belur-Halebid and Bangalore City.

IARU is funded by subscriptions paid by its members based on the number of members in each society.

**The mind is like a parachute,
It works only if it is open.**

With best compliments from

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

We have a new DXCC Entity – Montenegro. Existing callsigns (YU6/YT6/YZ6/some 4Os) are valid for the new one, but it is expected that a new ITU prefix block will be assigned shortly.

The call sign change from ZK1 for the South and North Cooks was Officially announced in the local newspapers "Cook Islands News Daily" on Monday 28, June 2006 Web Page www.cookislandsnews.com. As of 1, July 2006 UTC the International Cook islands Radio Call sign prefix ZK (Zulu Kilo) will be replaced with E5 (Echo Five). This will mean that if the call sign is currently ZKR (Zulu Kilo Romeo) it will now be E5R (Echo Romeo). Please note that only the first two characters will change. So ZK1CG and ZK1USA and ZK1JD will change on July 1, 2006 to E51CG, E51USA and E51JD. Local Ham operators normally get 2 letter call signs and visiting Ham operators get 3 letter call signs.

It's been nearly three years since Manassas implemented broadband over powerline technology - and local amateur radio enthusiasts have battled with interference they say is caused by the system ever since. In March, the Federal Communications Commission directed Manassas and Communication Technologies Inc. (COMTek) to investigate these allegations and take steps to eliminate "harmful interference." Now the FCC has responded to Manassas' report on its progress and directed both the city and COMTek to further address interference issues and the system's non-compliance with FCC emission regulations. The city and COMTek have 20 days from June 16 to file a detailed report on actions taken and progress made in resolving the interference complaint cited in the March directive, according to the June letter. The FCC also directed Manassas and COMTek to provide information regarding plans to ensure adequate notice to customers if the FCC orders the system to be shut down, according to the letter. COMTek spokesman Scott Stapf said what is requested in the FCC's most recent letter is customary procedure in the complaint process, and the company anticipated such requests. COMTek is in the middle of upgrading 600 overhead lines, a move Stapf said is on schedule to be completed by the end of this year. Stapf said he thinks the upgrade will address the FCC's concerns. "COMTek is fully committed to getting the situation resolved," Stapf said. Stapf explained that

the FCC is simply requesting an update on the company's interference investigations. George Tarnovsky, vice president for Ole Virginia Hams, a local ham radio group, said he finds the FCC's letter as a "positive motion" on the FCC's part. "Hopefully this will resolve the interference issues here in Manassas and if not, the FCC will shut them down," Tarnovsky said. Tarnovsky said he and fellow hams look forward to working with COMTek and the city to resolve all interference issues. "I think I can speak for all parties in saying we're looking forward to a BPL-interference-free Manassas," Tarnovsky said. Manassas became the first American municipality to implement the technology citywide in 2003. By plugging a modem into any city electrical outlet, subscribers can get high-speed Internet access for about \$29 per month, approximately half of what cable providers charge. BPL radiates off power lines and can make certain shortwave radio frequencies inaudible. COMTek's BPL service runs through the city's power grid and has nearly 1,000 subscribers.

13 Amateur Radio Satellites will be launched at 19:39:11 UTC on the 28th June 2006 on a DNEPR-1LV rocket from the Kazakstan Baikonur Cosmodrome in what will be the largest ever deployment of Amateur Radio Satellites. The satellites will be put into a 500 by 566 km orbit with an inclination of 97 degrees. Each satellite is a 10cm cube weighing just 1kg into which is packed the battery, transmitter and the various experiments. Twelve of the satellites have downlinks in the Amateur Radio Satellite Service allocation between 435 and 438 MHz and one will operate on 145.950 MHz so they'll be lots of signals to listen out for after launch. One of the CubeSats to be launched is known as SEEDS. Built by students at the Nihon-University it contains a CW beacon, Digi-Talker and other experiments. After launch it will operate a CW beacon on 437.485 MHz using the callsign JQ1YGU. The Digi-Talker experiment will be activated later. The builders say they look forward to receiving reports and data from the satellite from Amateur Radio operators and SWL's all over the world. For further information on SEEDS see http://cubesat.aero.cst.nihon-u.ac.jp/english/seeds_e.html If you fancy building your own CubeSat check out <http://www.cubesatkit.com/> If you want to know more about the fascinating world of Amateur Radio Satellite communications, why not attend the AMSAT-UK

International Space Colloquium which runs from the 28th to 30th July at the University of Surrey in Guildford, details at <http://www.uk.amsat.org/Colloquium/>

If you've been following FIFA World Cup football (soccer) matches from Germany, you may know the name Sergei Rebrov, a midfielder on the Ukraine team. What you might not know is that Serge, 32, is UT5UDX and an active CW contester and DXer when he's not on the playing field (he wears number 11). Although Spain beat Ukraine 4-0 in their June 14 match, Ukraine is still considered a favorite to advance from Group H. Rebrov and his teammates next face off against Saudi Arabia on June 19 at 1800 CEST. Rebrov also has operated as M0SDX, TA2ZF and other call signs.

The Office of the National Telecommunications Commission of Thailand has set up repeaters for amateur radio frequencies in Sukhothai and Uttaradit to provide a communication tool in flood-hit areas. Manas Songsaeng, deputy secretary-general of the Office of the NTC, said on Sunday that a repeater for amateur radio band was set up on the Khao Luang Mountain in Sukhothai's Sri Satchanalai district and another at the Sirikit Dam in Uttaradit. He said the repeaters would allow radio amateurs in the areas to link together to provide communications networks to assist the authorities in providing relief to flood-hit victims. He said the repeaters were installed in line with advice from His Majesty the King, who voiced concern that mobile phones had no signal in the forested areas of the flood-hit provinces. Manas said his office also asked the AM 765 KHz radio station in Lampang to report on the progress of the relief operations so that local people could monitor the progress.

According to the most recent statistics of the International Amateur Radio Union, there are 2.6 million licensed radio amateurs in the world. The list of countries, where about 90% of the world hams reside, may hold some surprises. Japan has half of the world Amateur Radio population: 1.3 million. The Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) has a membership of 194,000. The United States has one-fourth of the world radio amateurs. Less than 30 years ago, the US was home to more than half of the world amateur population. However, at that time the total world ham population was barely more than 400,000! Amateur Radio has grown in the US but has been growing

even faster in a number of other countries, not just Japan. ARRL membership is about 172,000. Thanks to reunification, Germany has the largest number of amateurs of any European country. The Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC) has a remarkable 77% of the licensed amateurs in Germany as members; nearly 50,000 of its 57,000 members are licensed. The United Kingdom has nearly as many amateurs as Germany. The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) has a somewhat smaller, but still impressive 44% of licensees as members. The total membership of the RSGB is about 30,000. Indonesia's position on the list may surprise you, since Amateur Radio barely existed there as little as 25 years ago, but it would not surprise anyone who attended the 1991 IARU Region 3 Conference in Bandung. Organisasi Amatir Radio Indonesia (ORARI) is a well organised and effective national association in a country where radio communication is very important, and membership in ORARI is compulsory to hold an amateur license. According to ORARI, its membership figures are trending downward for reasons that sound similar to those that affected Amateur Radio in the US following the CB boom of the late 70s. Still, Indonesia is in no danger of losing its top-10 status. Spain is another country where Amateur Radio has experienced rapid growth in recent years. r, Canada, is in a growth spurt, thanks to recent changes in its licensing structure. Accurate statistics for Russia are difficult to come by at present, but the estimate of 38,000 is probably close enough to establish its relative position. A new national organisation, Soyuz Radiolyubitelej Rossii (SRR), was voted into membership in the IARU in 1994. Italy has about 30,000 amateurs, making it either the fourth or fifth largest country in Europe in terms of amateur population, depending on whether you count Russia (many of whose amateurs are in Asia) as a European country. Finally, Brazil is the lone South American country on the top 10 list, although in fairness to Argentina it must be said that our LU friends are close behind, in position number 11, with 24,000 licensees. A country that should soon join the Top 10 is Thailand, where 92,000 operators licenses have been issued and 38,400 have requested a station license!

DAYTON, Ohio, May 18 /PRNewswire/ — In 1906 Reginald Fessenden accomplished the first voice radio broadcast. This historic accomplishment caused thousands

of inquisitive hobbyists to join the ranks of those experimenting with this new fangled technology. They were, and are still, called "amateur" radio operators - or "hams." While commercial broadcasting didn't begin for another 14 years, it was the amateurs who labored in attics, barns, garages and cellars to perfect what we now call Radio. Amateur Radio operators continue to be at the forefront, developing technologies years in advance of when they are rolled out to the public. FM, television, mobile telephones, VoIP technologies, fax machines—These were all used by amateur radio operators years ahead of the public. This year, hams celebrate this 100 year tradition and also look at all the new technologies that hams are exploring. ARRL President Joel Harrison stated, "The centennial of the human voice over the air shows the dedication of amateur radio operators over the past century

10 meters was originally left out of the original U-K Foundation Class rules due to anxiety about the bands proximity to 27 MHz. Since investigating the validity of these concerns would have delayed the launch of the Foundation license it was decided at the time to remove the band completely from those being made available to

the Foundation entry level license. But there is still one interesting twist to the U-K's licensing system. Even though 10 meters will soon be open for use by the Foundation Class, one surprising omission from the rules change is that Foundation holders are still not yet being given access to the Amateur Satellite Service. Foundation licensees are allowed to transmit on the Satellite frequencies but they can't actually use the satellites as in the sky repeaters for communications purposes. The UK is the only country that prevents it's entry level licensees using ham radio satellites.

A Radio China signal on 18.160 MHz has been very strong and consistent into Australia and the South Pacific over the past few months. The United Kingdom's government radio monitoring station has confirmed the location of the transmitter as the southern Yunnan province in China, not far from North Vietnam. The U-K monitoring station recently received a note from the Chinese authorities in Beijing regarding the transmission. In it, the Chinese authorities promised to investigate the 18160 KHz broadcast signal and to have it removed from the amateur band. But as we go to air, the signal is still quite loud and clear across the region.

Solutions to Crossword on page 19

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VU4 DXPEDITION

Andaman and Nicobar Islands situated in the Indian Ocean are the most sought after location for a DX-pedition, by the International Ham Radio Community. During the end of the Andaman DX-pedition in December 2004 a powerful earthquake followed by a killer tsunami struck the region and the members of the DX-pedition got down to business by providing extensive wireless communication which helped the major rescue operation, right in the middle of the chaos. The communication provided was so exhaustive, authentic and critical that the world media and the governing bodies took note of the voluntary service provided by the expedition team.

It took more than a year to have the next HAM radio operation from the Andaman Islands in connection with the VU4 Hamfest organized by the National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR) where in Indian and Dx were permitted to operate with a special call VU4AN. OM Sarath (VU3RSB) was specially invited to be present among the biggest DX Ham groups of all, to operate as part of their team. There were approximately 40 hams from 15 different countries and about 60 Indian hams traveled to Pt. Blair.

The Team:

Frank: DL4KQ (organizer of various dxpeditions) - Participated in T33C, T30, 3D2, XY, XU, 4S7 expeditions. Worked with his call VU4AN/VU3FRK and made 35 QSOs to begin the operation and then handed over the mic to others. He was the organizer and representative of this group at the hamfest.



Sarath: VU3RSB - SSB/ Digital Operator who participated in the famous 2004 VU4 expedition, logged 2418 QSOs including digital communication contacts within 20 hours which included 159 WPX zone prefixes with call areas of DL, JA, JH, JR, W & I countries. More over his responsibility was team logistics as well as co-ordination in the venue.

Bernd: DL5OAB - CW Operator, who participated in T33C, T30, 3D2, XY, XU expeditions, joined the team on 21st of April made 213 contacts.

Doug: N6TQS - who participated in T33C, VP6DIA, K1B, SO5X, XR0X, FO0AAA expeditions, He worked only on digital mode and could only make 268 contacts due to poor band conditions.

Andrea: IK1PMR - who participated in T33C, T30, 3D2, 6O, J45, TY, 9H expeditions, spent maximum time on CW / Digital and was able to make 4324 contacts.

Claudia: K2LEO - who participated in T33C, 3D2, 9H, J45, T30, TY expeditions and made approximately 637 contacts in Digital Mode.

Flo: F5CWU - participated in P40, 3D2, T33, T30, TI9M, TY9F expeditions and worked on CW and SSB and made 3853 contacts. He was chosen as the QSL Manager for the DX-pedition

Sylvain: F4EGD - participated in TM0HQ expedition and made 3362 on SSB Mode and spent maximum time inside the SSB Tent.

David: K3LP - participated in KP5, 8P9, T33, T30, 3D2, FS, J6, 5H3, joined the team a bit later and was able to make 2381 contacts on CW and SSB.

Joe: AA4NN - CW Operator, participated in T33, T30, 3D2, XY4, BQ9, BV9, A25, C91 expeditions

EXPEDITION

The first group consisting of OM Frank, OM Joe, OM Doug, OM Andrea and YL Claudia reached Chennai on 14th April 2006 and left for the island along with other members. Everyone was filled with joy when the flight landed at Port Blair. Unfortunately Sarath's Spider Beam was damaged as it was stored incorrectly inside the cargo

compartment. On 15th April all the members from Ripple Resort and Joe from the government guest house moved to the Megapode Nest Camping Resort which was identified as the operation and accommodation spot for the DX-pedition. It was the most ideal site in Port Blair for ham radio and the arrangements for accommodation was done as per plan. Basic tent, fan, television, double bed etc were provided - unlike sitting in hotel and Dx-ing out of air conditioned room. On the 3rd day all the DX-ers had a tough time due to the lack of water at the resort and during the day the water used to be so hot that one could not shower nor even wash hands!

The countdown began for setting up antennas and sites! As there were no big masts available, the best bamboo available in Port Blair were bought and used in erecting the antennas. OM Sarath's Spider beam was reconstructed with great difficulty and was erected for 160-10 m bands. Vertical antennas were erected at 2 corners. The daytime temperature was so high that only Sarath and Frank were able to work outdoors. Doug erected the sigma 5 for Digital and Joe the HyGain vertical 10-40 meter. Flo and Sylvain, two young French Hams, arrived on the 17th and worked extremely hard without proper sleep or meals to put up a 5 element 5 band spider yagi and another 5 element WARC yagi.

Almost all the antennas were ready with initially 4 Operational sites. For Sarath the local logistics were the main duties which kept him busy all day. Thanks to his knowledge on local shopping of materials like ropes, additional coax cables, poles, batteries and so on, the setup time was minimum. Though all the bands were not open, the team was successful in working on all modes and at any given time atleast one band was operational.

On the 18th morning everyone left for the hamfest and Sarath was requested by Frank to take care of the Camp and to keep atleast one station running. Sarath began with the SSB mode to take advantage of the conditions on different bands as well as to make maximum use of the time available. He was quite efficient and could successfully make more than 800 contacts within 4 hours of operation. The kind of expertise he had gained by working with the International hams was tremendous and his capabilities were widely acknowledged by one and all as a very good SSB DX-pedition operator.

On April 22nd the weather deteriorated due to a cyclone

approaching the islands. The heavy rains which followed damaged the tents and the vertical antenna. The thunder and lightening associated with heavy rainfall hampered the operations. The bad weather lasted for three days causing power blackouts and therefore less time on the bands. When the weather improved the dipoles and verticals were reerected. Ultimately with only 4 days of operation out of 8 days of Permitted Operation a total of 19424 contacts were made. With just less than 100 Watt power with the spider beams and verticals these many contacts were achieved because of the excellent location for the DX-pedition.

What else happened at Pt. Blair?

Sarath: Frank and I decided to visit the College where I had the opportunity to work in 2004 and made more than 16,000 contacts. This place is memorable for me and I received the news of two of lecturers who received their Ham Radio License which is real dream for many enthusiasts. When we visited the college, we found that they had no radios for the YL Hams who received their Licenses which left them with no opportunity to operate during the expedition. We decided to leave my radio and put up a vertical antenna to give them hands on experience before they got their own radios. After finishing our operation, Doug N6TQS donated his vertical antenna to the College. Team members donated their coax cables and Frank was instrumental and generous enough to donate his K2 Transceiver with the support of fellow hams namely DF2IC, DL5OAB, DL8GX, EUDXF and GM DX Group. Finally Andamans now has a permanent station at the B. R. Ambedkar Polytechnic College setup by our Group.

Hamfest Summary

The Hamfest was inaugurated by His Excellency, the Lt. Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Many more dignitaries attended the function and sessions with lectures given by International and Indian Hams. Some 40 International and 60 Indian Hams visited the Hamfest and many of them were honored on this occasion.

The American Radio Relay League, USA sent the prestigious "International Humanitarian Award" for the VU4 Team members-2004 with which OM Sarath was an active member. Mrs. Bharathi VU2RBI received the awards on behalf of the team. Later, many high officials

from Indian Ministries as well as from the A&N Administration did visit different camp sites for gathering detailed information about HAM radio and its benefit for the public.

At the end of the Hamfest OM Sarath's DX-pedition

group declared their satisfaction about a very joyful event and that all appreciated the generosity of the GOI to permit VU4 operation after the restless work of NIAR. Once again Indian Amateur Radio created a history in allowing the Foreign Nationals Dream Operation of Emerald Islands as well as Global Friendship through Ham Radio.



*A hearty welcome to all
the delegates of the IARU R3 conference
in Bangalore
Hosted by the
Amateur Radio Society of India*

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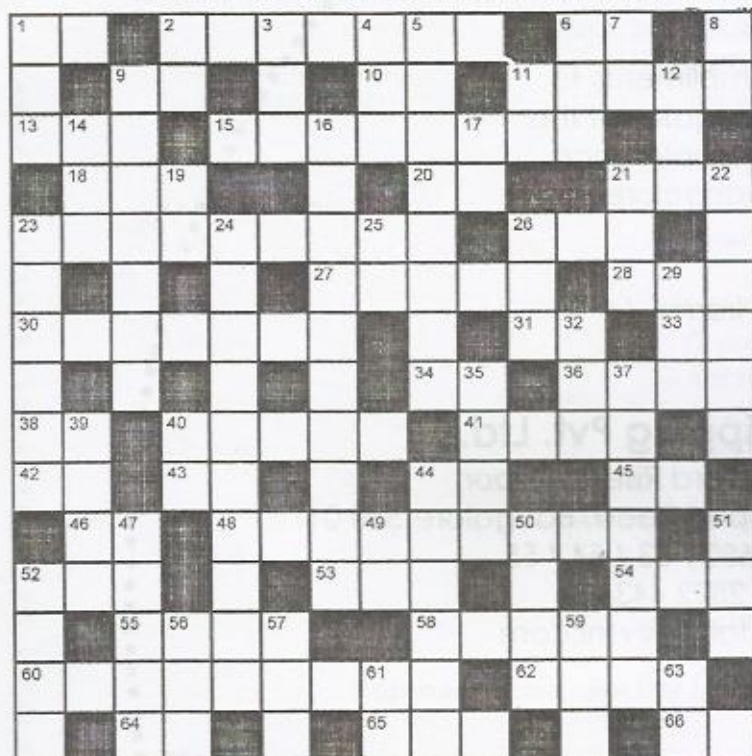
Amateur Radio Crossword Puzzler

By H. Ward Silver, N0AX

Contributing Editor July 4, 2006

"Eclectic Electric #9"

Here's just the puzzle for a lazy holiday while you're waiting for the fireworks to start! There's no particular theme except that the solutions are radio-related. Enjoy Independence Day and perhaps I'll work you in the IARU HF contest as teammate KL9A and I compete in the World Radiosport Championship from



45. Largest county in CQ Zone 13 (prefix)
 46. Where mobiles drive (abbr.)
 48. Number of 11 Across per second
 52. Causes loss in capacitors (abbr.)
 53. Add together
 54. The insulator in some variable capacitors
 55. Keeps crystals warm and on frequency
 58. This DX path is a bear
 60. Complex resistance to ac current
 62. Poor operators
 64. Prefix of country between OK and S5
 65. Web address
 66. Opposite of 6 Across

Down

1. Old name for a radio
 2. On the opposite side of the Andes from 45 Across
 3. Type of imaging technology that uses radio waves
 4. Place that directs responses to disasters (abbr.)
 5. Driven to the maximum
 6. Ham Viking manufacturer
 7. If you don't centerpunch, the hole winds up this way (abbr.)
 8. From (CW abbr.)
 9. Endorse or hold up
 11. Send a copy to (abbr.)
 12. Rest horizontally
 14. Speed of a camera's CCD or film (abbr.)
 16. Reduces in amplitude
 17. Not out
 19. State of the Big Easy (postal code)
 21. Antenna modeling code (abbr.)
 22. Bearing that holds weight (abbr.)
 23. These carry signals
 24. An ad to sell a piece of equipment
 25. The partner of a YL
 26. Synthesizer frequency control (abbr.)
 29. These get a workout when the hamfest comes to town (abbr.)
 32. Live or energized
 35. How you get to the hilltop
 37. Rope that lifts using a pulley
 39. Say bad things
 40. Outside dimension of a round item (abbr.)
 44. Short connection
 47. Propagation along atmospheric features
 49. Makes "ad" into an antenna
 50. An antenna's direction of minimum gain
 51. Sustained spark
 52. Give off
 56. Popular upside-down antenna
 57. Not acknowledged
 59. Point or direct
 61. Most common wire material (chemical symbol)
 63. One component of solder (chemical symbol)

Across

1. The contest category for solo artists
 2. Radio competition
 6. No contact without power
 9. Opposite of NW
 10. Country where the headwaters of the Amazon River are found (prefix)
 11. Complete sequence of ac waveform
 13. Greek letter used to designate time
 15. Makes perfect
 18. Units of loudness (abbr.)
 20. Commonly follows "bal"
 21. On the air meeting
 23. Stores electric energy
 26. Type of amplifier used to hear better
 27. Winlink sends information in this form
 28. Where the mobile station lives
 30. Lots of these at the flea market
 31. One type of threads
 33. CW appreciation
 34. Fields in a radio wave
 36. Measure of resistance
 38. ARRL's local leader
 40. Name for amateur satellite
 41. Award program for island hunters
 42. Prefix for the pyramids
 43. This kind of pole makes an antenna
 44. A type of flip-flop

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all the delegates of the
IARU R3 Conference
at Bangalore

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The International Mumbai YL Meet

The Amateur Radio Society of India is proud to announce that the International Mumbai YL Meet will be held at the Hotel Intercontinental Grand, Sahar, Mumbai, from the 26th - 29th of October 2006.

This event is held once in 2 years and since 1996 has traveled to all parts of the world. It is now India's turn to play host to this very important event.

YLs and OMs are welcome to join this event. The programme is as follows:

Day 1- 26th October 2006

- 4 p.m.-6.30p.m. : Registration and eyeball
- 7 p.m onwards : Inaugural Dinner followed by Cultural programme

Day 2 - 27th October 2006

- 9 a.m.-12.30p.m. : Conference and Presentations by YLs
- 1 p.m. : Lunch. Free time for the rest of the day.

Day 3 - 28th October 2006

- 9.30 a.m. : Depart from Hotel to visit important establishments and sightseeing to Elephanta island off the coast of Mumbai. Return by 5.30p.m
- 6.30 p.m. : Traditional dress evening & dinner.

Day 4 - 29th October 2006

- 9.30 a.m. : Free time for more sightseeing in Mumbai. Dx YLs leave for Jaipur from Mumbai Central Train Station in the evening.

Registration Fees: For Day 1, kit, Day 2 and lunch: Rs. 2000

All are welcome to join activities on Day 3 & 4 with payment at actuals.

Those wishing to stay at the Grand Intercontinental where all the dx YLs will be staying should inform me immediately to avail of the special rates. Accomodation elsewhere can also be arranged.

Optional Tours have been organized and they are as follows:

Tour 1

Jaipur-Agra-New Delhi by train and road.

Departure Mumbai 29th October, terminating New Delhi 2nd November 2006.

Tour 2

Goa by air

Departure N.Delhi 3rd November, terminating Mumbai 5th November 2006.

YLs, OMs, SWLs who wish to attend the YL Meeting or the Tours, may please get in touch with me immediately at telephone No: 022 25682361 or at email sarla.yl@gmail.com

Thanks,

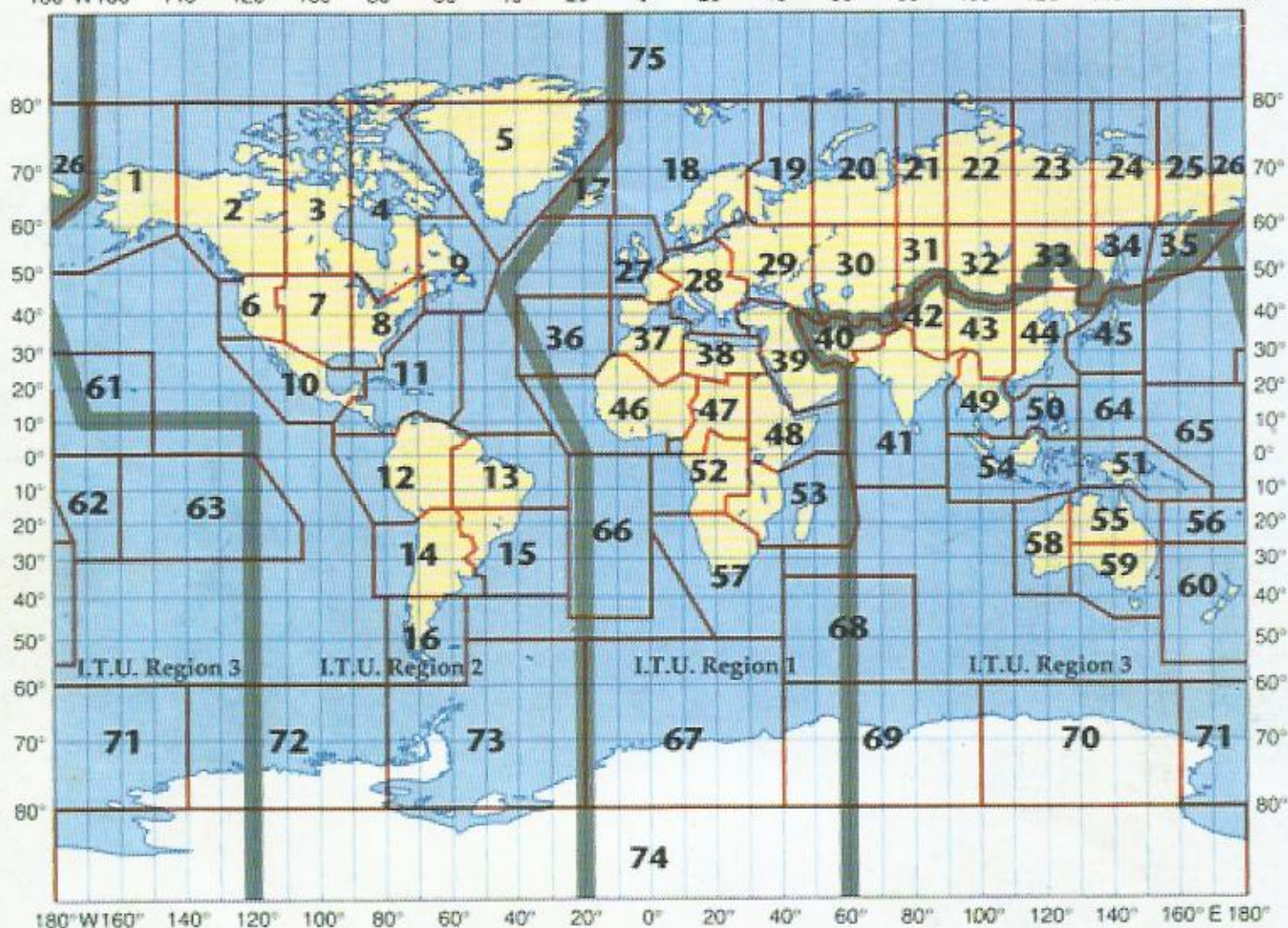
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13th IARU Region 3 Conference

Bangalore India
August 2006



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