

OM Bob Tanna, VU2LK silent key

The NIAR joins the Governing Council members and Hams, to express our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members of OM Bob Tanna, VU2LK on 18th February 2011. He was associated with NIAR since decades and also member of Governing Council over the years. He has been a supporter and guide to several developmental activities conducted by NIAR. He was a great motivating force that gave us strength as we embarked on several challenging activities that brought good recognition to NIAR. Our condolences go to members of his bereaved family and we pray to give them the courage and fortitude to bear this irreplaceable loss.

Three Yachtsmen Killed by Somali Pirates were Hams

Four Americans – including three Amateur Radio operators – who were being held hostage on their yacht by pirates off the coast of Oman have been killed. Scott Adam, K9ESO, and his wife Jean, KF6RVB, along with Bob Riggie, KE7IIV, and Phylis Macay were on board the S/V *Quest* when pirates boarded their vessel on Friday, February 18. The Adams were based in the Los Angeles area; Riggie and Macay were from Seattle. According to the US Central Command, the boat was in the Indian Ocean, headed toward the Somali coast when on Friday, the 58 foot yacht sent a distress signal. The boat was being trailed by US Navy forces; it was about a two day sail from the Somali coast. They had begun tracking the yacht after being alerted that a Danish naval helicopter had seen the *Quest* off Oman under the pirates' control. The Central Command oversees US anti-piracy operations in the Indian Ocean. Officials were in the process of negotiating for the Americans' release when gunfire was heard around 1 AM (EST) on Tuesday, February 22. "As (US forces) responded to the gunfire, reaching and boarding the *Quest*, the forces discovered all four hostages had been shot by their captors," a statement from US Central Command said. "Despite immediate steps to provide life-saving care, all four hostages ultimately died of their wounds."

There were signs of divisions among the 19 pirates during the hostage standoff, Central Command said. On Monday, two of them came aboard one of the Navy vessels, the USS *Sterret*, for face-to-face negotiations and did not return to the yacht. The incident turned fatal on Tuesday morning when the pirates fired a rocket-propelled grenade at the *Sterret*, which missed, and US naval personnel heard gunshots coming from the yacht. At that point, a team of 15 special-operations forces boarded the yacht. On Saturday, President Barack Obama authorized the military to use force in case of an imminent threat to the hostages, said White House spokesman Jay Carney. After the grenade was fired at the *Sterret*, several pirates came on deck with their hands raised, as if trying to surrender, said Admiral Mark Fox. The gunfire erupted on board almost immediately. But US officers said it was not known whether the hostages had made an escape attempt or whether disagreements among the pirates prompted the shots. Fox -- the Commander of US Navy's Fifth Fleet, responsible for naval forces in the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea and the coast off East Africa as far south as Kenya -- said that the incident was the deadliest one he could recall involving US citizens held by pirates. It is believed 19 pirates were involved in the

hijacking. The Navy had been closely monitoring the S/V *Quest* for about three days, once it became known to be pirated. Four US Navy warships comprised the response force dedicated to recovering the *Quest*: the aircraft carrier USS *Enterprise*, the guided-missile cruiser USS *Leyte Gulf* and the guided-missile destroyers USS *Sterret* and USS *Bulkeley*. The bodies of the four Americans are now on board the *Enterprise*. The Adams planned to travel across the Indian Ocean from their temporary dock in Phuket, Thailand, and then head up the Red Sea and through the Mediterranean to the Greek islands. They had considered shipping the boat to avoid the dangers of the trip, but decided instead to join a rally of yachts heading to the same location. For reasons unknown, the foursome apparently decided to break off from the Blue Water Rally, which organized and supported the group of boats headed toward the Mediterranean. Blue Water Rally organizers released a statement on their website, saying that said the Adams chose to take an independent route from Mumbai to Salalah, Oman, and left the rally on February 15. In a statement on February 22 after hearing of the deaths from "the pirate menace which is plaguing the Indian Ocean," Blue Water Rally called the Adams, Riggie and Macay "brave adventurers."

A former TV unit production manager, Scott Adam, 70, was an experienced sailor who had owned a boat most of his life. And although 66 year old Jean Adam, a retired dentist, became seasick easily, she took medication for it because she loved being on the water. According to their website, the Adams -- who each have children from previous marriages -- planned to hand out Bibles during their trip. --Thanks to The Associated Press and US Central Command for some information

(<http://www.arri.org/news/view/three-yachtsmen-killed-by-somali-pirates-were-hams>)



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ABOUT US

NIAR is a Non-Profit, Non-Government Voluntary Organization emphasizing on encouraging peoples' Participation in communication and information technology through Amateur Radio and disaster management.

OUR VISION

To build a world-class institution to support advancement of global Amateur Radio activity in terms of promotion, training, advocacy, technical support, knowledge repository and research, exceed the expectations with commitment, quality and excellent service.

PROGRAMS

- Training / Awareness
- Disaster Management
- Support for Organisations
- Technical Support
- QSL Bureau
- Knowledge repository
- Comprehensive consultancy
- Demonstrations
- Supports government in Policy making.

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Visit Amateur Radio Museum, Knowledge & Awareness centre, go to <http://www.niar.org/museum.htm>

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AMATEUR RADIO



Left: Mr. .M.A.Baby, Hon'ble Minister for Education & Culture, Govt. of Kerala inaugurating Radio Messaging Server at Amateur Radio Club, VU2CLU at Kerala State Science & Technology Museum, Trivandrum.

Right: Mr. S. Suri, Chairman, NIAR addressing the gathering



❖ Amateur Radio Message Server (RMS) and Client stations Inauguration

❖ Amateur Radio in "Sarasati Pooja" in Kolkatta

❖ Governing Council meeting of NIAR.

❖ A.R. Demonstration to SSJ Engineering College, Hyderabad

❖ Amateur Radio Advanced Digital Communication Network Guidelines to hams

PROJECTS

NIAR is implementing a pilot project on "Amateur Radio Advanced Digital Communication Network", that mixes Internet technologies and appropriate amateur radio technology that bridges any distance to deliver advantages of reliable, secure transparent system for last mile connectivity. The project is supported by the DIT, Govt. of India.



Mr. P. T. Thomas, Hon'ble Member of Parliament inaugurating A.R. Client station of NIAR at St. George's Higher Secondary School, Kattappana on 23rd Jan 2011. Mr. Jose, VU2JOS from NIAR explaining the details of Amateur Radio Station.

A.R. Client station, VU2NRP inaugurated at Kattappana

The Amateur Radio Client station was inaugurated by Mr. P. T.Thomas, Hon'ble Member of Parliament at St. George's Higher Secondary School, Kattappana on 23rd Jan 2011 at a public meeting organised in connection with the Golden Jubilee of the school. In his speech he emphasised its Amateur Radio usefulness in Disaster Management. The Principal thanked NIAR for including their school as one of the centre's in the project. A demonstration was shown to the participants. Local hams VU2PHD, VU2JEU, VU2GIP, VU3KJB, VU2IQZ and some SWLs participated in the same.



VU2CLU Thiruvanthapuram:

The Radio Mail Server (RMS) station installed by NIAR under its "ADCN" project supported by DIT at Amateur Radio Club, VU2CLU, Kerala State Science & Technology Museum, Trivandrum was inaugurated at a glittering public function on 7th February 2011 by Mr.M.A.Baby, Hon'ble Minister for Education & Culture, Govt. of Kerala. A Thrillarium, Laserium with Musical Fountain and a Mobile Science Exhibit on Astronomy was also inaugurated on the same occasion.

The Chief Guest was Prof. K.P.Patil, Vice Chancellor, North Maharashtra University. Dr.E.D.Jemmis, Director, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) gave the key note address. Mr. Arul Jerald Prakash, VU2OLE, Director, Kerala Science & Technology Museum welcomed the gathering and Mr.S.Suri, VU2MY, Chairman & CEO gave felicitations. Mr. M.A.Baby, Hon'ble Minister presented a memento to Mr. S.Suri. The RMS and client stations installed by NIAR at Hyderabad (VU2NRO) and Kattappana Client station VU2NRP connected and exchanged messages through this RMS station on the occasion. About 250 persons and several local hams like OM Hari VU2HRI, OM Nadan VU2KGN, OM Abdul VU2MF, OM Santosh VU2OGO, OM Alex VU2PAG, Dr.Mahadevan VU2SWM, OM Sunil VU2SWX, OM Surendran VU2SYT, OM Joseph VU3DDE, OM Saji VU3SQG also attended the function along with OM Jose VU2JOS of NIAR.

ADCN Client Station installed at Kannur, Kerala

A client Station of "Amateur Radio Advanced Digital Communication Network " project was installed at "Kannur Association for Integrated Rural Organization & Support" (KAIROS), VU2KLP at Thaliparamba, Kannur on 31 January 2011. Mr.V.J.Thomas, VU2VJT of Malabar Amateur Radio Disaster Communication Club is in charge of the station. Training of the operations was also given to the other members of the club viz. OM Santhosh, VU2OGO and OM Remesan, VU3RGB



Amateur Radio in Sarasati Pooja, Kolkatta

The Bally Prafulla Samity, Kolkatta a prestigious club of Howrah, West Bengal has celebrated Sarasati Puja during 8th to 15th February 2011. An attractive light & sound arrangement with automatic mechanic system was made. Over 1 lakh devotees were participated in the program. Up on the request of organizing committee, NIAR had demonstrated amateur radio communication technologies to the general public during 8th - 15th February 2011 from 5.30PM to 9.30PM. Mr. Mukesh Kumar Gola, VU2MCW from NIAR assisted the Indian Wave of Amateur Radio (IWAR) for the program. Mr. Tapas Chakraborty, VU2TKC led the team.



Mr. Mukesh Kumar Gola, VU2MCW demonstrating Amateur Radio communication at Sarasati Pooja

Governing Council meeting of NIAR held on 1st February 2011

The GC meeting of NIAR was held on 1st February 2011 at NIAR HQ. Review of ADCN project, activities of various demonstrations, Awareness, training programs, Museum was discussed in detail. The GC has approved the Audit report and Balance sheet for the year 2009-2010 and also budget for the financial year 2011-2012. The GC felt happy with the progress of NIAR. The GC recommended organizing national and International Ham events like expeditions and other events by NIAR in coming years.

Amateur Radio Demonstrations



Amateur Radio demonstration was organised at Infosys, Hyderabad on 15th February 2011 demonstrating the various modes of communications like Voice and Digital.



Visit of Prominent Hams

Mr. Muthu Koya, Dy. Director, Supply & Transport, Mr. P. Pookoya, S & T, Mr. Rafeekh, Dept. of Fisheries of Lakshadweep Administration visited NIAR on 4th February 2011. Amateur Radio demonstration and visit to Museum was organised.



Mr. Thomas Anderson, OZ1AA visited NIAR on 12th February 2011 enroute during his adventure trip cycling the globe from Denmark to Sydney. He is currently in India traveling from Goa to Kolkatta via Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Vizag,



L-R: Mrs. Lissy, VU3LMS, Mr. Paddy, VU2PEP, Mr. Mohan, VU2MYH, Mr. Thomas, OZ1AA, Mr. Krishna and Mr. Jose, VU2JOS during visit to NIAR.

New Zealand Amateurs Assist in Earthquake's Aftermath

A 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck the Canterbury region in New Zealand's South Island on Tuesday, February 22 at 12:51 PM local time (2351 on February 21 UTC). According to IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee Chairman Jim Linton, VK3PC, 10 radio amateurs are using their two emergency broadcast vans to keep rescue teams and Civil Defense staff in touch. One is at a major welfare center, providing portable communication so they can talk to Civil Defense, and the other vehicle is on its way to assist search-and-rescue teams in an area where communication is poor. "Richard, ZK4FZ, said Amateur Radio operators from around the country are volunteering to help out," Linton said. "Others are sending updates on the disaster to families of people in Christchurch who are overseas."

As of February 24, the death toll from the earthquake stands at 98, with dozens yet to be rescued from beneath building rubble and hundreds of people still missing. The massive rescue effort now involves 300 rescuers -- boosted by urban experts from Australia -- and has rescued 20 people so far. Christchurch Mayor Bob Parker said a pocket of 15 had been found in the TV3 building, the heart of local television production.

Countries around the world have responded with personnel and materials to help the citizens of New Zealand in the aftermath of the earthquake, including the US. The Urban Search and Rescue California Task Force 2 - a 74 member heavy rescue team consisting of firefighters and paramedics from the Los Angeles County Fire Department, emergency room physicians, structural engineers, heavy equipment specialists, hazardous materials technicians, communications specialists and logistics specialists -- with 26 tons of pre-packaged rescue equipment is now in Christchurch. This unit also responded to the 2010 Haitian earthquake, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

According to media reports, buildings collapsed around Cathedral Square in downtown Christchurch and the spire atop ChristChurch Cathedral collapsed. The spire's tip had also fallen in earlier earthquakes, but much more fell during the February 22 earthquake. Police believe 22 people died in the collapse of the cathedral's tower. The Canterbury Television (CTV) building was severely damaged and caught fire. On February 23, police decided that the damage was not survivable and rescue efforts at the building were suspended. More than 100 people may have died in the building. Firefighting and recovery operations resumed that night, later joined by a Japanese search and rescue squad. Thirteen Japanese students from the Toyama College of Foreign Languages are missing, with some feared trapped in the rubble of the CTV building.

New Zealand Prime Minister John Key said a State of Emergency continued and those in the affected areas needed to keep their resolve and good spirits as the whole country was right behind them. He

acknowledged the support already given and being offered from overseas. Christchurch and its surrounding areas account for 500,000 people, about half the population of the South Island. There is no word yet on the frequencies being used. Once the ARRL has this information, it will be posted on the ARRL website. --Thanks to IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee Chairman Jim Linton, VK3PC, for some information.

Radio hams keep Civil Defence in touch

A small team of amateur radio operators are keeping the lines of communication open in earthquake-hit areas of Christchurch.

The head of the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications team, Richard Smart, says 10 amateurs are using their two emergency broadcast vans to keep rescue teams and Civil Defence staff in touch. He says one is at a major welfare centre providing portable communication so they can talk to Civil Defence and the other vehicle is en route to assist search and rescue teams in an area where communication is poor. Mr Smart says amateur radio operators from around the country are volunteering to help out and others are sending updates on the disaster to families of people in Christchurch who are overseas. <http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/canterbury-earthquake/69300/radio-hams-keep-civil-defence-in-touch>

Chennai students design nano satellite, to be launched April

CHENNAI: A group of 54 engineering students from the city has designed a 10-kg nano satellite to monitor greenhouse gases (GHG) that the Indian space agency is planning to launch in April. The students from the SRM University, some 40 km from the capital city, have been working on the project 'SRMSAT' since 2008. The satellite weighing just 10 kg is being developed under the guidance of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) at a cost of Rs.1 crore. With climate change becoming a cause of serious concern globally, the satellite will monitor GHG - mainly carbon dioxide - in the atmosphere. A grating spectrometer is employed for monitoring earth-based sources and sinks of anthropogenic and natural sources of GHG.

The students from 12 disciplines of engineering in the university have been working closely with the ISRO to develop the nano satellite. A nano satellite is one that weighs less than, or equal to, 10 kg. "The satellite is scheduled for launch in April this year with ISRO's Megatronics G satellite. We have signed a memorandum of understanding with the national space agency for the project," M. Loganathan, former ISRO scientist who is heading the team, told IANS on the sidelines of the ongoing Indian Science Congress at the SRM University campus here. According to Loganathan, the students are very passionate about the project and would work on it after their classes. "Their classes get over by 4 p.m. and after that all of them hang on in the research laboratory for say till midnight to work on the nano satellite. It's their baby and an outcome of their hard work," he said.

The ISRO said the satellite has to be tested before it can be included as a payload. The students have been wholly involved in the project, right from procuring components to assembling and testing the satellite. Explaining the initial problems they faced, Sarwesh Narayaan, a mechanical engineering student, told IANS: "It was difficult to communicate technically as we all come from different disciplines of engineering, but we did overcome it as each of us had to understand the concepts of all the other disciplines before designing the project." "All of us are multi-tasking, and an electrical engineer student in the group is also conversant with the concepts of mechanical, aerospace, electrical communication and information engineering. We have been solving each others' problem," Guruditya Singh, a final year student, told IANS. It's the team spirit that keeps this group of 51 men and 3 women students going.

In ground station they are going to use two antennas, a crossed polarized quad stacked Yagiuda at a frequency of 437.5 MHZ and a crossed polarized simple yagiuda antenna at a frequency of 145 MHZ (which is an amateur radio VHF/UHF frequency). For more details, visit <http://srmsat.in/ground.html> or <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/...ow/7229314.cms>