

Association des Radio Amateurs Tunisiens



INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR
RADIO UNION
REGION I

Annual Report

14

Table of Content

Word from the President.....	2
2014 Annual Meeting	3
IARU-Tunisia Membership	3
IARU President Visit	3
Albena IARU-R1 Conference.....	3
Cooperation Agreements	4
Tunisian Scout	4
Stations Maintenance.....	4
ARA	4
On the air.....	5
Scout Stations.....	5
JOTI-JOTA	5
TS1G DXpedition	5
3V8BCC Activity	6
Contesting.....	6
International Activities	7
HamRadio Friedrichshafen	7
Tours Hamfest	7
Collaboration with Tunisian	
Administration	7
Achievements	7
YASME Excellence Award 2013.....	7
Ali 3V8ESG having French and US	
Licenses	8
WRTC 2014	8
Support to 7O6T and 7O2T.....	8
Receiving Stations	9
Reverse Beacon Node Set-up.....	10
Social Networks	10
Media	10
Visitors	11
Supporters	11

Word from the President

I feel pleased and very proud when I look back into the three years of ARAT history and all the activities we carried-out considering our difficult and challenging conditions.

The membership in the International Amateur Radio Union is a great achievement for us this year. We are committed to continue growing and promoting Amateur Radio hobby in country together with all involved parties.

It's been long time that Tunisian amateurs are awaiting for their individual licenses to be delivered. I'm very confident more than in any other time, we are in the end of the long way.

Keep enjoying your hobby!

President

Wael Arfaoui



2014 Annual Meeting

ARAT has held its 2014 Annual Meeting on January 18th 2014 in Riadh Al-Andalos, Ariana. The meeting gathered 16 ARAT Members from 4 different cities.



ARAT Annual Meeting – Jan 2014

The meeting started by going through the Annual Report for 2013 and discussing its points. It was then followed by a small celebration and a nice DX chat.

IARU-Tunisia Membership

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), founded in 1925, is a worldwide federation of national Amateur Radio societies with members in 159 countries and separate territories, broken down into three Regions.

IARU President Visit

On April 22nd 2014, ARAT was pleased to welcome Mr. Hans Blondeel Timmerman PB2T, President of IARU Region 1 and Mr. Faysal Alajmi 9K2RR, Vice President of Kuwait Amateur Radio Society (KARS).



Meeting with PB2T and 9K2RR

The meeting was organized by ARAT Board and was attended by some members as well. The purpose of this meeting was to give IARU-R1 a sight on ARAT carried out activities and to discuss Tunisia Membership in the International Union given the existence of two amateur radio associations.

Albena IARU-R1 Conference

ARAT was kindly invited by IARU-R1 Executive Committee to attend IARU Region 1 General Conference in Albena, Bulgaria.



IARU-R1 General Conference 2014 – Albena

Achraf Chaabane, in charge of Public Relations in ARAT, was the representative in this meeting which gave ARAT a flavor of how things work in IARU.

The Executive Committee of the Union took this opportunity to meet and discuss Tunisia's Membership which was pending for over two years following the political change in country.



Part of the opening Plenary

IARU EC has decided to follow the suggestion of the former IARU Member Society for Tunisia (CAST) to transfer its membership to ARAT.

ARAT would like to thank IARU for their efforts sorting out this issue and the Commissaire General of the Tunisian Scouts, Mr. Wahid Laabidi, for his support.

Cooperation Agreements

Tunisian Scout

Following the successful cooperation opportunities between ARAT and Tunisian Scouts organization, and given the fact that Chief Operators of the Scout Stations are members of ARAT, both parties agreed on signing an official cooperation agreement to better and more efficiently cooperate.

The agreement states that ARAT will be in charge of managing Scout Clubs by training operators, maintaining the stations and upgrading them.



Ahmed and Ali working on 3V8CB A3S Antenna

This report includes a listing of some of the activities that were conducted under this framework.

Stations Maintenance

3V8ST	Repairing the A3S Rotor Replacement of all coax cables Power supply unit repairing Set up of weather satellite images
3V8CB	Total dismantle, repair and set up of the A3S Repairing the Rotor Coax Cable change out
3V8SS	Replacement of the broken Spiderbeam with an HD one. Spiderbeam Rotor Repairing Vertical Antenna repairing Coax Cable change out
3V8BB	Power Lines repairing Guy wires maintenance 20m Monobander rotor repairing Beverage installation

ARA

Tunisia and Algeria are two sister-countries for many years. The Algerian

Association of Amateur Radio ARA is considered to be a good example to follow by ARAT. Discussions were initiated with Afif 7X2RO to identify opportunities of collaboration. The discussions were fruitful and were concluded by signing a cooperation agreement on March 21st 2014.



Agreement Sign off

ARA was represented by Massinissa Lakhal, Secretary General. ARAT was represented by its President, Wael Arfaoui.

On the air

Scout Stations

The scout stations were a little bit more active this year compared to 2013. More operators were trained and are activating their local clubs.



Arwa Al Mehri operating 3V8SQ

The main highlight is the re-activation of 3V8SQ Radio Club of Monastir by a couple of YLs (Arwa Al Mehri & Menzli Lynda) who were periodically attending ARAT trainings throughout the year.

Station	Number of contacts
3V8SS	4800
3V8BB (contest station)	13705
3V8ST	2000 (apx.)
3V8SQ	200 (apx.)

JOTI-JOTA

As every year since 2011, ARAT is organizing the JOTI-JOTA Activity in cooperation with the Tunisian Scouts.

This year witnessed the activation of two scout stations; 3V8CB in Borj Cedria and 3V8SS in Sousse. A participation of 72 scouts was recorded.



Ahmed 3V8CB animating a training for Scouts

JOTI JOTA is considered to be one of the most important activities were new comers are attracted. Radio "gaming" was found to be very attractive to youth. A different game is organized every year. This year's theme was to enhance the awareness of how important communication is in case of disaster.

TS1G DXPedition

After TS8TI DXPedition to Djerba island back in 2013, ARAT has organized a new DXPedition to the very southern city in the country "Tatouine" were the closest radio club is 200 kilometers away.



TS1G Poster

Wael Arfaoui led this activity and took a team of operators from capital Tunis to the region of Ghomrassen in Tataouine, over 700 kilometers south.

The south of Tunisia was always considered to have a big potential of hobby development. Thus trainings were done for the locals. ARAT is planning to conduct more activities in there and hope to open a club in this southern city.



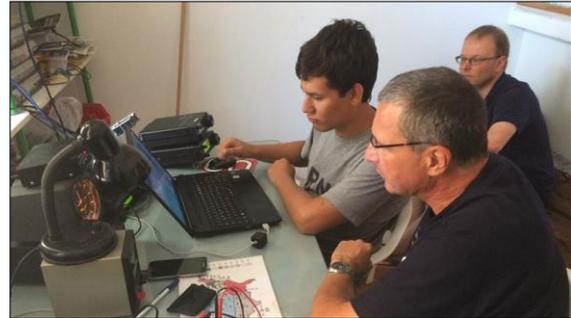
Training to Tataouin's youth

3V8BCC Activity

In collaboration with Bavarian Contest Club BCC, ARAT has organized an activity in 3V8SS Club Station of Sousse. The goal of this activity is to:

- 1- Take part in CQ WW RTTY 2014 with the German Team
- 2- Exchange knowledge between local and German operators
- 3- Upgrade the station as per the framework agreement with the Tunisian Scout

The BCC team consists of 4 German operators DL6RAI, DL2MLU, DK7MCX, DJ4MZ. Together with the local operators (KF5EYY, F5PUT, 3V8CB, 3V/F4HJD). The team has replaced the broken Spiderbeam antenna with a new Heavy-Duty one. It also repaired the 80/160 vertical by replacing the broken lower element.



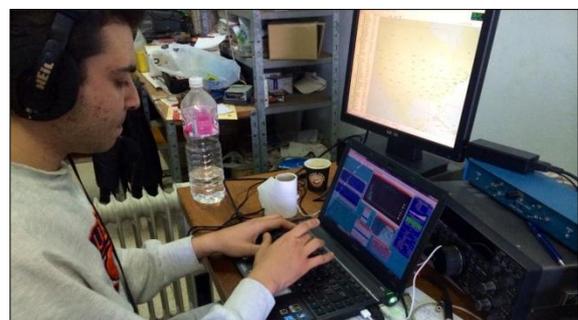
Ahmed 3V8CB operating CQWW RTTY

The team took part in CQ WW RTTY 2014 – Multi Single Category, which ended up with 2473 QSOs and 3.6 million points.

Contesting

Contesting still doesn't attract a lot of ARAT Members as it should be, however; more people are interested.

This year, ARAT members participated in ARRL DX Contest SSB, Multi-Single Category. Montassar 3V8ST, Ali 3V/F4HJD and Achraf 3V/KF5EYY have participated. 4000 QSOs with US stations were made.



Ali 3V/F4HJD operating ARRL DX SSB

Such activities helped fueling the increased interest in contesting.

Single Operator activations were made by Achraf Chaabane as well. Good results were achieved in WW CW, WPX SSB, RDXC, WW 160, etc.

International Activities

HamRadio Friedrichshafen

Two thousand fourteen has marked the first participation of ARAT in HamRadio Exhibition taking place every end of June in Friedrichshafen, Geremany. ARAT delegation was composed of Ali 3V8ESG/F4HJD and Hakim 3V/ON7HLU. A stand for ARAT has been set up.



Ali welcoming guests to ARAT Stand

Tours Hamfest

ARAT was present this year in in Tours Hamfest in France. Hakim 3V/ON7HLU was ARAT representative.



Hakim 3V/ON7HLU with ARAT banderol

The francophone group in IARU took the initiative to set up a stand for the francophone countries.



Francophone Countries Stand

Collaboration with Tunisian Administration

ARAT has continued its efforts to assist the National Agency of Frequencies and the Ministry of Telecommunications establishing the legal text organizing ham radio activities in Tunisia and allowing for individual licenses to be delivered.

Now that IARU has defined the member society for Tunisia, we are expecting this dossier to be closed during 2015.

Achievements

YASME Excellence Award 2013

ARAT is proud to have Achraf Chaabane selected by YASME Foundation to have the YASME Excellence Award for 2013, received early 2014.

The YASME Excellence Award is awarded to individuals who through their own service, creativity, effort and dedication have made a significant contribution to amateur radio.



This is how YASME board of directors commented on the award: "This is what YASME said: *"Ashraf Chaabane, 3V/KF5EYY, has become an energetic representative on all fronts of Amateur Radio in Northern Africa and globally, presenting a positive role model for Amateur Radio throughout the Arab world with his enthusiasm and competitive spirit. His mission is to see the day when Tunisia issues him that country's first individual Amateur Radio license. Chaabane will represent Africa as the team leader for the African team in WRTC-2014"*.

Ali 3V8ESG having French and US Licenses

Ali Abdelhedi, operator of ARAT Club 3V8ESG, and during his 6-months journey in France, has managed to successfully pass the license exam for the French and American Licenses. Ali has now both F4HJD and KC1CEY callsigns.

WRTC 2014

After 3 years of contesting, Achraf Chaabane was qualified to represent the African continent in the World Radiosport Team Championship 2014 held in Boston, USA.



Achraf 3V/KF5EYY and Hrane YT1AD prior to the opening ceremony

Achraf has selected Hranislav Milosovic as a Team Mate in this worldwide event.

The World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) is held every four years and consists of 50+ two-person teams of amateur radio operators competing in a test of operating skill. Previous WRTCs have been held in Seattle (1990), San Francisco (1996), Slovenia (2000), Finland (2002), Brazil (2006), and Russia (2010).

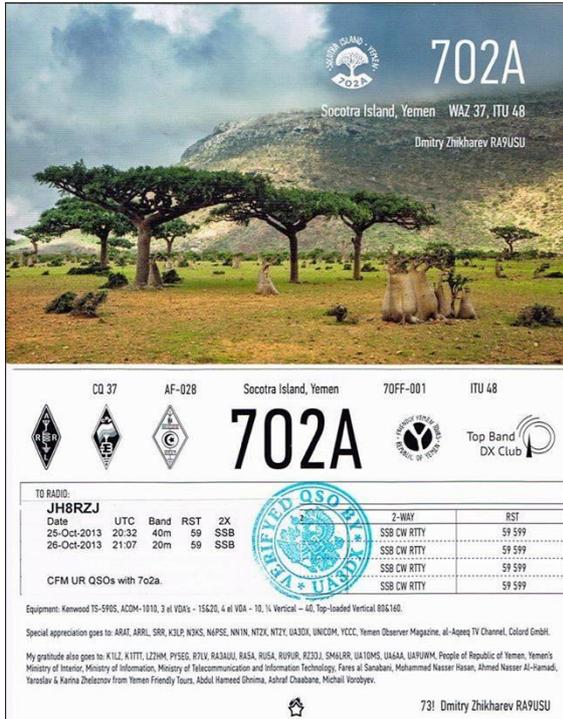


Achraf 3V/KF5EYY operating K1U (WRTC)

This participation is considered to be a good motivation for Tunisian Operators to get more into contesting.

Support to 7O6T and 7O2T

ARAT has successfully supported 7O6T team getting the license to operate from Yemen. In recognition to that, 7O6T team has put ARAT logo on the QSL Card of their 7O2A.

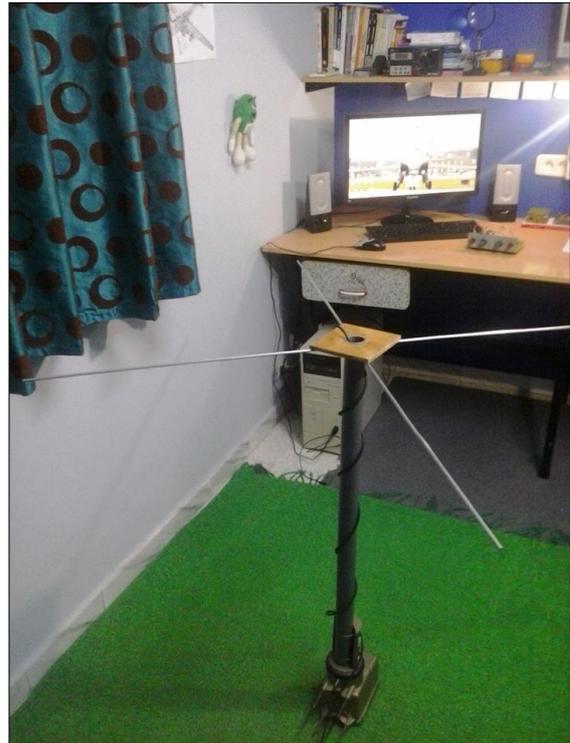


702A QSL Card with ARAT Logo

Receiving Stations

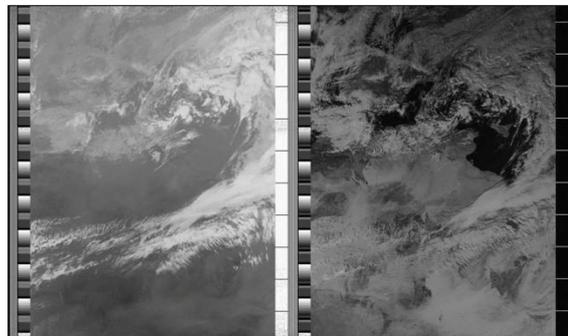
Ahmed 3V8CB, an electronics student and active member of ARAT, has successfully set up a Satellite receiving station in 3V8ST Radio Club.

Ahmed has been interested in satellite communications since few months and he became very active extending his interest to ARAT Members.



Turnstile Antenna made by Ahmed 3V8CB

Ahmed's weather station is now receiving weather images from several satellites.



Satellite image over North Africa as received by Ahmed on Dec 16th



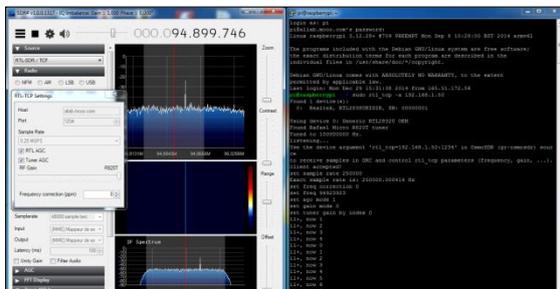
Image received by Ahmed 3V8CB from the International Space Station ISS

Together with some other members of 3V8ST club, Ali 3V/F4HJD has set up the following:

- Installed a VHF remote SDR server with a Raspberry Pi under Raspbian and a low cost DVB-T dongle.
Server address:
aliab.mooo.com:1234 (ask to make it online)



- Installed an ADS-B and AIS receiving station.
ADS-B server interface address
aliab.mooo.com:8080 (ask to make it online)
- Installed a VHF simplex repeater using the Raspberry Pi and an external USB sound card.



Reverse Beacon Node Set-up

ARAT has set up the first Reverse Beacon Node in North Africa. The set up consists of an SDR-IQ by RF SPACE, CW Skimmer by VE3NEA, W3OA's SkinScan, and a dipole antenna.



SDR-IQ used for the RBN

ARAT is planning to use the SDR for to support IARU Monitoring System (IARUMS).

Thanks to LA7QIA, N4ZR, VE3NEA and W2RF for the support.

Social Networks

Greater use was made of ARAT Facebook page capabilities this year. The page reached 6700 followers. Promotional material were prepared and published. The page allowed for a better interaction with our members and newcomers.

Media

Media relationships and the promotion of Amateur Radio continued in 2014 by direct outreach to media.

Ali 3V/F4HJD was invited by "Radio Jeunes" broadcasting on FM to the whole country, to talk about joining IARU and the importance and challenges this implies.



Ali 3V/F4HJD during the interview

That was a good opportunity to talk about amateur radio hobby and provide audience with ARAT contact information.

Visitors

As every year and with the same pleasure, ARAT receives ham radio guests from all over the world and do its best to make their journey in Tunisia as pleasant as possible and to arrange for them to use the club stations across the country and get on the air.



Massinissa (Algeria) operating 3V8ST

Our guests for this year were:

- Dmitry RA9USU
- Massinissa Lakhel (Algerian SWL) and XYL
- DL6RAI, DL2MLU, DK7MCX & DJ4MZ (3V8BCC Team)
- Gert PD2WOG & XYL
- PB2T & 9K2RR

Supporters





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