

12th Death Anniversary of Vasanth, VU2VWN & 12th Anniversary of Vasanth Net

-Jose Jacob, VU2JOS-AT50JOS



We pay our homage to Mr.K.R.Vasantha Kumar, VU2VWN, a great home brewer, CW operator and Maha Guru of many Kerala Hams on the occasion of his 12th death anniversary falling on 19 Oct 2023.

OM Vasanth was the man who revolutionized Amateur Radio in South India with his QRP transmitter, widely known as VWN QRP. His design of VFO using BFW10 FET and 7 Watts 7 MHz QRP using BD139 NPN transistor became very popular in the mid-1980s as it was rather easy to make with all the components being locally available.

Vasanth, an avid reader initially came to know of Amateur Radio while reading the book about the Kon-Tiki expedition which was a journey by a raft in 1947 across the Pacific Ocean from South America to the Polynesian islands, led by Norwegian explorer and writer Thor Heyerdahl. They used Amateur Radio for their communications.

“VWN” is the callsign of the Coastal Communication Station in Kochi also known as Cochin Radio. OM Vasanth used to copy CW transmissions from this station on LW to practice his Morse Code skills. Hence he gave the choice of his callsign as VU2VWN which the WPC issued to him.

OM Vasanth, VU2VWN has been Amateur radio operator from 1982 after getting guidance from OM Guhan. VU2TG and OM James VU2ARL.

First he had Grade 1 Licence, then he upgraded it to Advanced Grade later known as General Grade license. He is well known for his outstanding service and dedication to the hobby. OM Prathap VU2PCM and OM Mani VU2ITI were the other Hams in the area who got licence at that time and they did lot of experiments on radio then with OM Vasant. OM Vasant started out with small radio and electronics projects at the age of around 20 years. He has contributed to the disciplines of electronics and communications for nearly 40 years. His continued thirst for knowledge led him to the study not only to Amateur radio, but Astronomy and Homeopathy. OM Vasanth was specially interested in Russian books.

OM Vasanth qualified as a Mechanical Engineer worked as Teacher in various Polytechnics/ Technical High Schools / Engg. College in the Department of Technical Education, Govt. of Kerala and retired with grade of Principal.

When he became a Radio Amateur, OM Vasanth was staying in Thuruthipuram, a village located about 25 kms North of Kochi. His house was like a pilgrimage center then for SWLs and Radio Amateurs alike. After introducing solid state QRPs, he made QRO transmitter using 807 valves in the final and was on air with very powerful signals. He used to be mostly active on 40 Meters in CW at first and was a little mic shy but later used AM Mode and then SSB. He used a Dipole Antenna tied to coconut trees. When he used to come on radio, there used to be a mini pile up of stations asking for his Technical guidance which he used to happily oblige on the bands and even by post. We can say that period was the peak of Home Brewing in Kerala. Earlier Ham Radio equipment used to be very costly but OM Vasanth's low cost equipment helped many hams to come on air easily in Kerala and neighboring places. His circuits were published in several hobby magazines of that time.

Before his time, Radio Amateurs in the State made most QSOs in English and hardly used their mother tongue. However OM Vasanth started using Malayalam language frequently (when contacting stations in his native Kerala State) much to the amusement of old timers and others on the band ! Because of OM Vasanth, the nearby areas where he was located became a hub of Amateur Radio activity. He was elected as the President of Rural Amateur Radio Club, VU2RUR. The club organized VWN QRP & VFO workshops, awareness & training programs, ASOC exams etc. in the area. There are many active Radio Amateurs around today who became licensed thanks to motivation and help rendered by him. His many activities included

teaching of Morse Code and Theory classes to those who were interested in becoming a Radio Amateur, designing QRP/QRO transmitters, helping novices in installing and operating transmitters.

I had the opportunity to observe VWN in close quarters during 1983 to 1990 as my house was only about 1.5 kms away from his and we used to meet each other often. I was after Amateur radio for many years and only after becoming in contact with him, I could full fill my ambition. He was one of the main persons who helped me to become a Radio Amateur. He also made one of his famous VWN QRP for me. My very first QSO was with him on 7 MHz in CW in 1985. I could make QSOs with about 30 countries on 7 MHz in CW with the QRP Tx of about 3 Watts made by him.

Later, he shifted to another rural area near Perumbavoor where he had lot of space to experiment on various types of antennas. He also started using commercial transceiver then. He was fond of nature and travelling and after his retirement visited many places in North India. However his life ended suddenly on 19 Oct 2011 in Uttarakhand while he was on a tour to Chardham, after his Mansasarovar Yatra. He was 60 years old when he died and is survived by his wife and a son who did not become hams.

When the extended 40 Meter band (7100 to 7200 kHz) was newly issued to Radio Amateurs in India, a Net was started on 7123.45 kHz at 7.30 am to increase activity in that area of the band. Immediately upon death of OM Vasanth, VU2VWN this Net was named as Vasanth Net by OM Varadhan VU3ITI & OM Yaseen VU3PMY.

Vasanth Net has been conducted daily at 7.30 am to around 8.30 am (0200-0300 UTC) on 7123.45 kHz LSB for the last 12 years. Different controllers take turns to conduct the net; the list of present net controllers is given elsewhere in this article. Some others like OM Charles VU2ACC, OM Yaseen VU3PMY, OM Vinod VU2DIC, OM Galagali VU2EVU etc. also used to conduct this Net occasionally. Lot of stations not only from India but also from Sri Lanka, Maldives and even Middle East like Oman, UAE etc. check into this net.

To observe the 5th death anniversary of our beloved Vasanth Kumar, VU2VWN, his Amateur Radio friends together with the Rural Amateur Radio Club, VU2RUR organized a VWN Ham Meet 2016 at Aluva, Ernakulam District on 18th December 2016 which was good success. There was also a VWN QRP assembling Contest and a CW contest conducted on the

occasion. The General Convener of VWN Ham Meet was OM Joseph. VU2JLX who was also his good friend working in the same Department.

8T1VWN was the special event station operated in memory 5th death anniversary of OM Vasanth, VU2VWN. This station was operated till 30 Dec 2016 by OM Charles, VU2ACC and others.

ARSI has constituted a Technical Award in name of OM Vasanth after his death. The first Award was awarded to Prof. Jayraman, VU2JN who ironically happened to be his boss (viz. Director of Technical Education, Govt. of Kerala) while both were in service!

OM Vasanth VU2VWN will always be in our memories!

VU2VWN Vasanth Net

**Conducted daily
7.30 to 8.30 am IST on 7123.45 kHz**

Present Net Controllers:

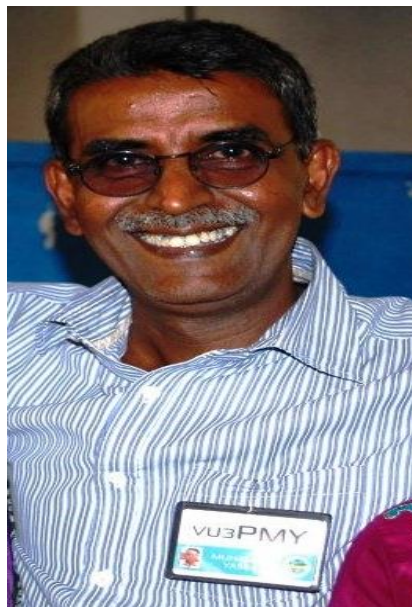
- 1) OM Resel, VU2XPZ, Moothakunnam**
- 2) OM Raju, VU2CRT, Kodungallor**
- 3) OM Ravi, VU2RVE, Koratty**
- 4) OM Mohan, VU2DCC, Aluva**
- 5) VU2MRB, Babu Koothattukulam**
- 6) OM Varadhan, VU3ITI, Bengaluru**
- 7) OM Rajesh, VU3TBU, Bengaluru**
- 8) OM Christy, VU3USI, Chennai**

Check into VU2VWN Vasanth Net :

- a) To remember OM Vasanth VU2VWN**
- b) To mark your presence on air**
- c) To check propagation conditions**
- d) To check for friends / Ham activity**
- e) To pass on / get any messages**
- f) To check performance of your Antennas/ Rigs**
- g) To improve your operating skills etc.**



Varadhan, VU3ITI, Bengaluru, Co Founder – Vasant Net

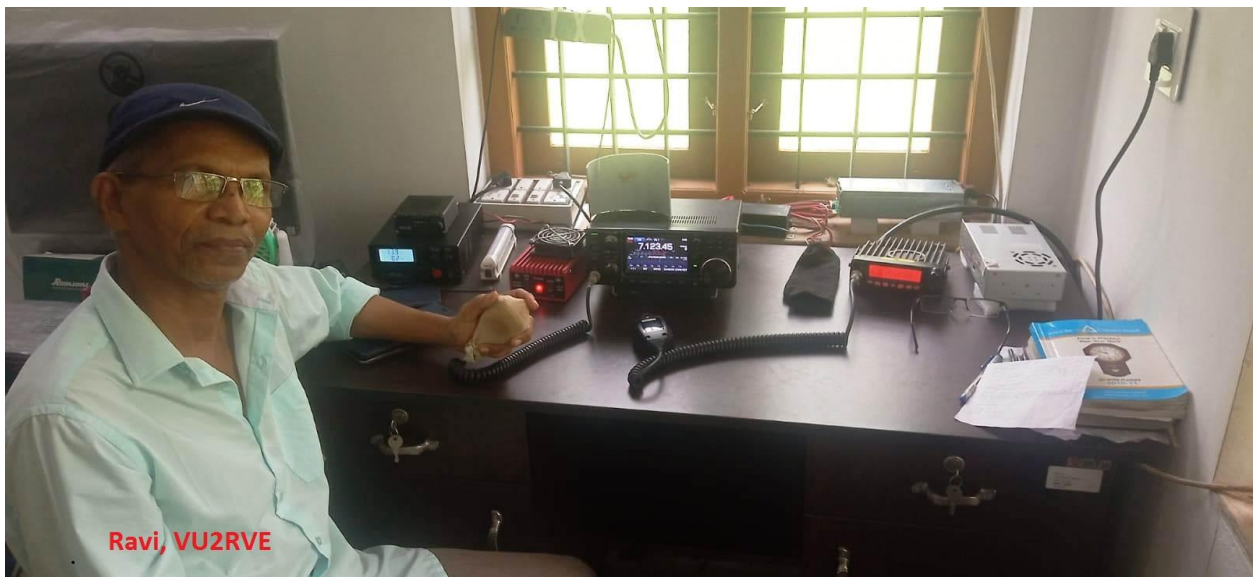


Yaseen VU3PMY, Erattupeta, Co Founder – Vasant Net

Present Net Controllers:



Resel, VU2XPZ, Moothakunnam



Ravi, VU2RVE

Ravi, VU2RVE, Koratty



Raiu. VU2CRT. Azhikode



Mohan VU2DCC, Aluva



Rajesh VU3TBU, Bengaluru



Babu VU2MRB, Koothattukulam



Christy VU3USI Chennai




L-R Dr. Mani VU2ITI, OM Vasanth, VU2VWN,
Gopi VU2GIP (SK), Mathew VU2PHD,
Sreekumar VU2OB - very good friends



Inauguration of VWN Ham 2016 Meet: L-R Resel VU2XPZ, Joseph VU2JLX (General Convenor), Mohan VU2DCC, Dr.Jayakumar VU2JKR, Dr.Mani VU2ITI, Girish VU2KGB, Charles VU2ACC.

VWN HAM MEET 2016
18th December
YMCA CAMP SITE ALUVA



VU2VWN 'VASANTH' 1951-2011

Call :

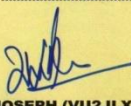
Handle :


VU2RUE & Friends of VWN

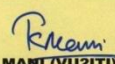
VWN HAM MEET 2016
YMCA Camp Site Aluva
December 18

Certificate

This is Certify that Sri/Smt. Tom K Jose
 having call sign VU2 TO has Participated in CW contest in Connection with VWN Ham
 Meet 2016.


V A. JOSEPH (VU2JLX)
 General Conviner
 VWN Ham Meet 2016


 PIN - 683 516
 MOOTHAKUNNAM P.O.


Dr. T.K. MANI (VU2ITI)
 President
 Rural Amateur Radio Club



Last Shack of VU2VWN

INDIA - ZONE 22

VU 2 VWN

K. R. VASANTHA KUMAR
KALAPURAKKAL THURUTHIPURAM,
MOOTHAKUNNAM P. O., KERALA
INDIA 683516

CONFIRMING QSO WITH

RADIO	DATE	GMT/IST
YB3COP	10.3.85	17.35

FREQ	MODE	RST
14 MHz	SSB	59

QTH: N. Cochin De [signature]

VU2 VWN

Dr Ken,
Thank you for
the fb qso & hope
to meet you again
on bud.

73's
[signature]
VU2VWN

To OM Ken,
YB3COP

Links on VU2VWN:

1. VWN 40M QRP Transmitter: By Prathap, VU2PCM: <https://vdocuments.site/40-m-vwn-grp-transmitter-m-vwn-grp-transmitter-original-design-by-k-r-vasantha.html?page=1>
2. Video on VU2VWN: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7q-iA88_e8
3. Video on VU2VWN Ham Meet: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bl5FvRUALz0>
4. Video on VU2VWN QRP: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQTRn8ejD_s
5. Photos of VU2VWN Ham Meet
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16CaDMoWINXAGAtNnmum74McDBYBNxCuH/view>

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