

# Interview with Corneliu Faurescu - YO4AUL

## Introduction:

Faurescu Corneliu, known by his call sign **YO4AUL**, is a master of sports, an ultra-shortwave enthusiast, a dedicated DX-man, and a skilled radio constructor. He has won numerous top places in Romanian and international competitions and has contributed articles to amateur radio magazines.

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**YO3CCC:** When and where were you born?

**YO4AUL:** I was born on May 14, 1949, in Brad, an important gold mining center in Hunedoara County, Romania.

**YO3CCC:** How did you first learn about radio waves?

**YO4AUL:** My interest in radio waves began at home in Brad. My father was passionate about electronics and built and refurbished tube radios. His well-equipped lab, filled with various radios, fascinated me as a child with their bright scales and magical eyes.

**YO3CCC:** How did you discover amateur radio?

**YO4AUL:** I found several electronics and radio books in my father's library, including the magazine "RADIOAMATORUL" from 1957-1958. Through this magazine, I learned about ham radio and notable amateurs like George Craiu YO3RF and Liviu Macoveanu YO3RD. I also found the book "Hints for Radio Amateurs" from 1960, which I still have.

**YO3CCC:** Who were the first radio amateurs you met?

**YO4AUL:** After moving to Constanta in 1964, I reached out to Dem Dascalu YO8DD, who guided me to the County Radioclub Constanta. There, I met many fellow amateurs who became my friends and mentors.

**YO3CCC:** Do you know CW (Morse code) or do you only work in phone mode?

**YO4AUL:** Yes, I know CW. It was essential for my operations, especially with my modest equipment. Despite it not being a compulsory subject anymore, knowing CW is crucial for achieving high performance. I learned it in 1965 at the Constanta County Radio Club under Borteanu Constantin YO4WG guidance.

**YO3CCC:** Did you connect with other amateurs while studying in Bucharest?

**YO4AUL:** Yes, during my studies at the Foreign Trade Faculty in Bucharest (1967-1971), I visited the Central Radioclub YO3KAA every Tuesday and met many notable amateurs. I also worked as a volunteer at the QSL office and formed close friendships with others like Raul Vasilescu YO3LX.

**YO3CCC:** When did you achieve your first major awards?

**YO4AUL:** In 1983, I obtained the first category of sports classification, and in 1984, I became a member of the YO DX Club and was titled Master of Sports for my VHF performances.

**YO3CCC:** What equipment did you start with after obtaining your license?

**YO4AUL:** I began with self-built equipment for the 7 MHz band, using diagrams by Stanciulescu

Gheorghe YO7DZ. This included a superheterodyne receiver and a transmitter with a GU-50 tube in the PA.

**YO3CCC:** What antennas did you use?

**YO4AUL:** I used a folded dipole for the 40 m band, placed about 6 meters above the terrace of my 4-story building.

**YO3CCC:** What equipment did you use for the 28MHz band?

**YO4AUL:** I used an A7A type station from the radio club, which I modified with Russian metal tubes. Despite the simple setup, I managed many DX contacts due to better propagation and less QRM and QRN.

**YO3CCC:** What were the first factory-built radios you purchased?

**YO4AUL:** In 1973, I bought a second-hand TRIO tube receiver and a 4 BTV vertical antenna. Later, in 1977, I bought my first industrial transceiver, a Yaesu FT-7.



**YO3CCC:** How did you handle antenna installations on your building?

**YO4AUL:** I had to limit my installations due to the many TV antennas on the building. I could only put antennas on the elevator house from my staircase.

**YO3CCC:** Did anyone help you with VHF activities?

**YO4AUL:** Yes, Iulius YO2IS and Dietmar Schmidt YO7VS guided me in VHF activities, including making the first Meteor scatter qso's.

**YO3CCC:** What equipment did you use for 432MHz and 1296MHz bands?

**YO4AUL:** For 432MHz, I used a reception converter and a frequency tripler. For 1296MHz, I used a

home-made 1296/144 reception converter and a 432/1296 tripler.

**YO3CCC:** Were your VHF antennas factory-made?

**YO4AUL:** No, I built all my directive antennas for 144, 432, and 1296 MHz myself.

**YO3CCC:** What were your first factory transceivers for VHF?

**YO4AUL:** In the 80s, I acquired two used transceivers, FT290R and FT790R. The FT290R still works perfectly after about 40 years.

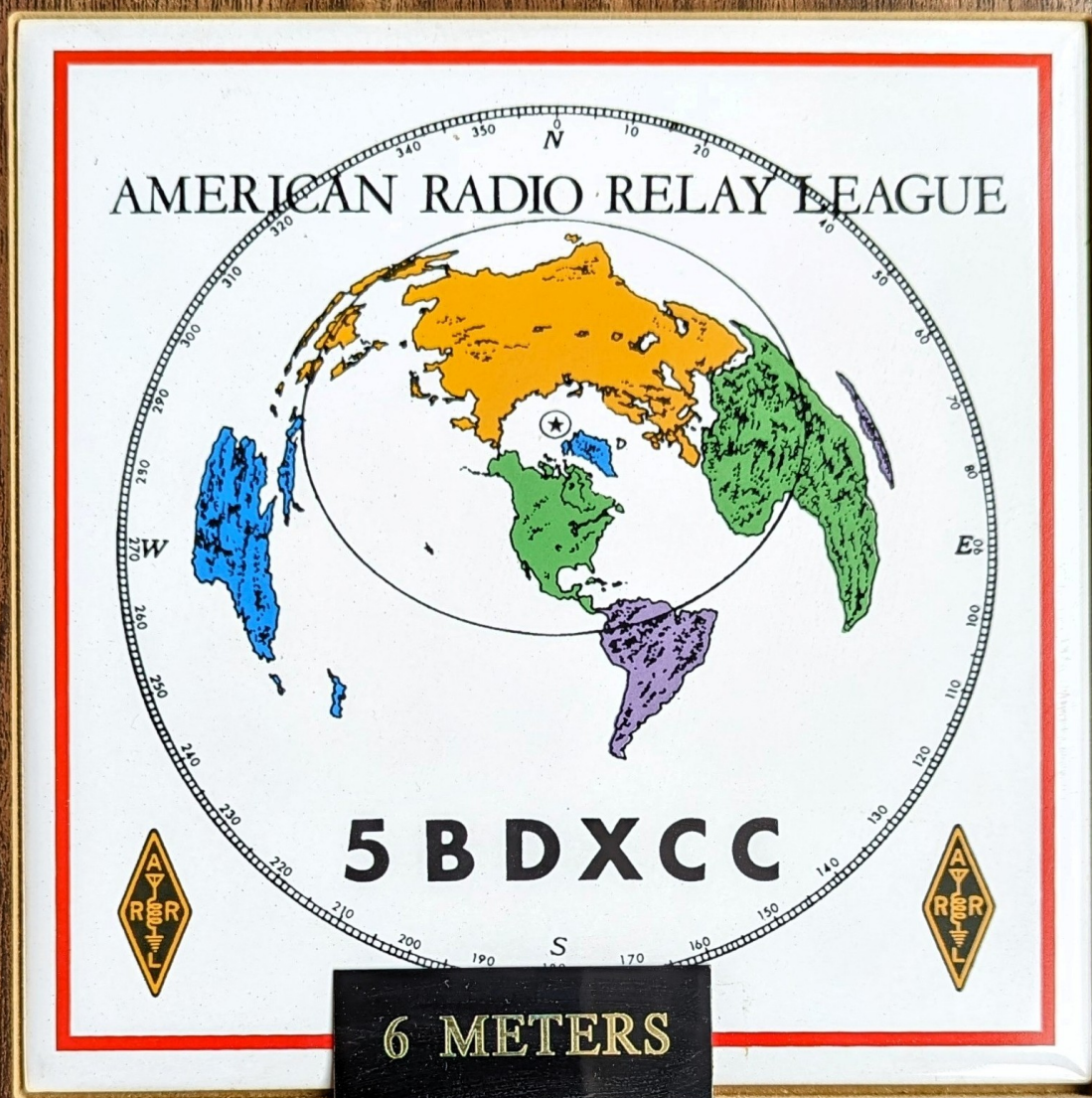
**YO3CCC:** What was the first industrial transceiver you purchased?

**YO4AUL:** I used a second-hand NEC CQ110 hybrid transceiver, which I refurbished. In 1997, I bought a Yaesu FT-920 and later an FT897D and FT2000.



**YO3CCC:** Have you worked in all frequency bands?

**YO4AUL:** Yes, I have worked in all allocated bands from 160m to 23cm and in all modes, including digital. I have also received the DXCC award for 10 different bands.



160 METERS

12 METERS

NO. 7,008 YO4AUL

MAY 5, 2011

17 METERS

30 METERS

**YO3CCC:** What other awards have you received?

**YO4AUL:** I have received DXCC, WAC, and WAS diplomas in CW, Phone, and digital modes. My records in the 144 and 432 MHz bands were approved by the Romanian Federation of Amateur Radio. I also received the UKW-EU-D-TROPHY for my 2-meter band results.

**YO3CCC:** How do you manage antennas in a limited space?

**YO4AUL:** Due to space limitations, I rotate my activity among different bands each year, focusing on 144/432/1296 MHz, 50 MHz, or short waves as needed.

**YO3CCC:** Have you operated in mobile or portable VHF?

**YO4AUL:** Yes, I have worked both in mobile and portable in the 144 MHz band with an FT51R and a 5-element portable antenna.

**YO3CCC:** Did you participate in packet radio?

**YO4AUL:** Yes, I was one of the first to assemble a computer for packet radio connections and maintained a permanent connection with Bucharest in the 144MHz band.

**YO3CCC:** Are you passionate about building radio equipment?

**YO4AUL:** Yes, I have built numerous devices, including wave meters, grid-dip-meters, noise generators, reflectometers, transverters, RF amplifiers, and more.



**YO3CCC:** What articles have you written?

**YO4AUL:** I have written several articles for amateur radio magazines. In 1990-1991, I had a regular column in "Radioamator YO" magazine.

**YO3CCC:** When did you create your website for radio amateurs?

**YO4AUL:** In 1997, I launched the first Romanian amateur radio website, "Revista electronica on-line," which inspired others to create similar websites.

**YO3CCC:** Do you participate in competitions?

**YO4AUL:** Although I don't actively participate in contests due to location constraints, I have achieved satisfactory results in ultrashort wave contests and the 50 MHz band.

**YO3CCC:** Can you list some of your contest achievements?

**YO4AUL:** Here are some highlights:

- 2nd place in CQ WPX SSB 1975, Romania, 14 MHz band.
- 1st place in the VHF international competition in Buzdluja, Bulgaria, 1983.
- 1st place in the International YO - VHF/UHF Championship, 1986 and 1988.
- 1st place in the UK Six Meter Group competition, 1998.
- 1st place in the Italian Field Day Ciociaria competition, 1999.

The interview was conducted on December 13, 2010. Other photos from this interview can be found at [album](#)

**Interviewer:** Nini Vasilescu YO3CCC

(Original interview, in Romanian, " Sa facem cunostinta cu Faurescu Corneliu YO4AUL", was published at [radioamator.ro](#))

