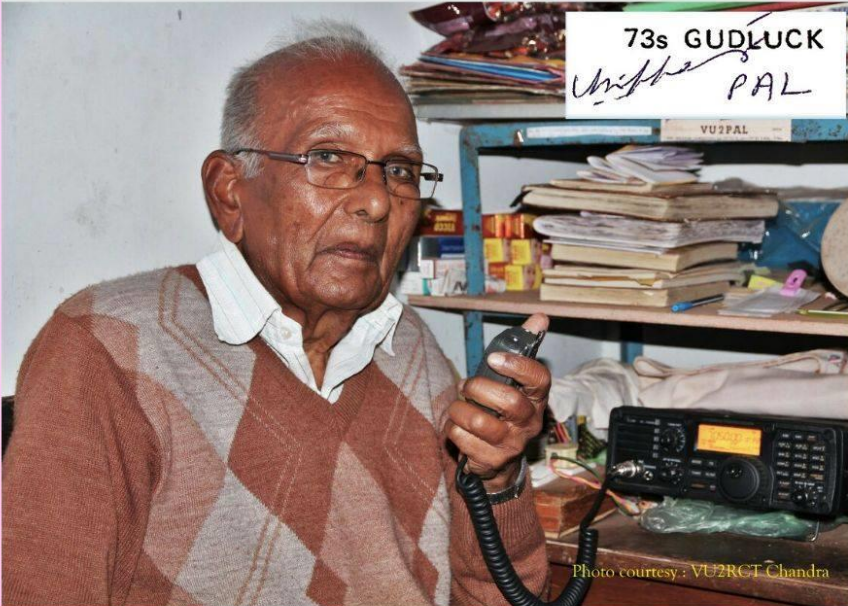


# History of Hambel Amateur Radio Club & Belgaum Net

Compiled by: VU2KOC & VU2BRJ

*Hambel Belgaum Net's*  
**AU1PAL Tribute to VU2PAL**



**Professor M A Hipparagi**, affectionately known as Prof PAL was a legendary HAM of India.

First licensed as VU2MAZ (Grade II) in Aug 1974, he later upgraded to Grade I with call sign VU2PAL (Jan 1977), to Advanced Grade in April 1989 , and General Grade in 2014 with the same call and lifetime validity.

With support from members of Hambel Amateur Radio Club and other active hams namely, VU2PNU, VU2KOC, VU2BRJ, VU2JBP, VU2BAJ, VU2SIV, VU2EXY, he started the daily HAM Net (Humble Belgaum Net which later was named as Hambel Belgaum Net) in 1989 on 7052.5kHz later 7050.0 kHz. It was his dedication and love for ham radio that he controlled the Net for more than 26 years single handedly for one to one and half hour daily, even at the age of 86 years, upto a few weeks before he passed away into eternity. He logged a whopping 3,86,688 QSOs.

Prof PAL was a trained Physicist and taught at RL Science Institute, Belgaum, whence he retired as Principal of the college.

He is survived by his XYL, one OM and four YL harmonics, one of whom is VU2SSP

**Prof MA Hipparagi : 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 1930 - 27<sup>th</sup> Aug 2016**

During late 1960s and early 1970s a few SWLs interested in Ham Radio were preparing for ASOC Examination at Belgaum. Finding the required information was difficult in those days. As a result, this small group used to periodically share the available information they could procure, by getting together on every Sunday morning in the Physics Laboratory of R.L. Science College, Belgaum, wherein Pal, VU2PAL was serving as Professor. Moreover, owning a telephone at home was a dream-like privilege for middle class in those days. This periodical get-together over a cup of tea, led to formation of Hambel Amateur Radio Club, Belgaum (HARC) in the year 1973. The founding members were VU2NSD–Dilip Nerlikar (licensed in 1973); VU2PAL–Prof. Pal (licensed in 1974 with Grade II call sign VU2MAZ and subsequently upgraded to Grade I & Advance Grade with call sign VU2PAL); VU2ASK–A.S.Kuragunal, VU2SIV(SK)–S.B.Arabhavi and VU2CKR–Gaddi, who was working in Telegraphs Department and used to provide CW training regularly.



In 1974 a few others viz. VU2KOC–Omprakash; VU2DLP–Dalpat; VU2PNU–Bebu; VU2MRM–Mohan Metri; VU2JBP(SK)–Jayant Patil; VU2BAJ(SK)–Baji Kaka; VU2TFS–Theodre Fernandes; VU2KDZ–Kumar Shah and others joined HARC and regularly attended the weekly meeting, discussing Ham related matters, particularly the popular programme Dx Juke Box (later called Media Network) broadcast on Radio Netherlands. Prof. Pal also started imparting CW training. Even Kolhapur Group consisting of VU2ABA(SK)–Aba; VU2SMN–Suhas and VU2AVG(SK)–Avinash actively participated in the HARC meetings. It is

worthwhile to place on record that VU2KOC was first to take up the ASOC examination in Hindi language. That apart, VU2KOC & VU2PNU were the first to procure commercial HF Transceiver (Icom IC-751) in 1982 followed by others at Belgaum.

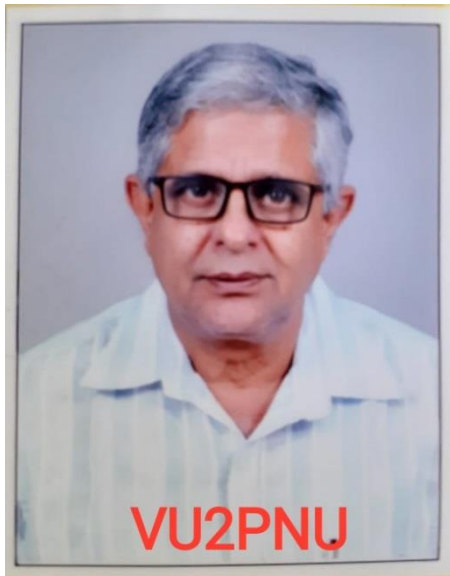


**Omprakash, VU2KOC**

During early 1980s a few more joined as members of HARC viz., VU2SMS–Manju; VU2ACK–Ashok; VU2BRT–Balu; VU2BRJ–Joshi; VU2EXY–Sarvade; VU2SGD–Dr.Sumant Goel; VU2BRG–YL Dr.Beena Goel; VU2SSP–YL Dr.Sukhada (YL Harmonic of VU2PAL); VU3EYE– Dr.S.G.Patil; VU2MAK–YL Maki Kapadia; VU3TYG–Nitin; VU3MUG–Ishwar Rao; VU2BGZ–Bharat Garagatti; Rajmane; and others including SWL Wagh; Bhujannavar and few other inactive Hams whose names are not included here. Cyclostyled News Letter containing Ham

related topics and activities of the club was circulated every month to all the members of HARC. VU2EXY–Sarvade (Astronomical enthusiast) played a prominent role in establishing Amateur Radio Station at Science Centre, Belgaum under Advanced Digital Communication Network project, supported by Dept. of Information Technology, Govt. of India implemented by National Institute of Amateur Radio, Hyderabad in 2011.





Outing, Hiking, Trekking & Field Day to nearby places with VHF Handies were organised from time to time with active participation of all the members of HARC apart from Astronomical observations arranged by VU2JBP–Jayant Patil and VU2EXY– Sarvade. Erection of Antenna at the QTH of other Hams was gracefully taken up by the members of the club. VU2ABA (SK) & VU2BGZ(SK) –Bharat Garagatti provided much needed technical support for home-brewers of the Club. Amateur Radio Club, Shimoga, with its active members viz., VU2SLJ(SK)–Jois; VU2BCP (SK)–Patil; VU2VSJ – Prasanna; VU2LAU–Laxman provided Home-brewed 40 Mts. SSB Rx & QRP Tx built and developed by VU2SLJ-Jois to some of the members of HARC. VU2MRM is a feather in the

cap of HARC in the matter of CW contacts. In 1990s during any local road traffic accident and such other exigencies, the members of HARC provided possible assistance to the local police for which the then SP of Belgaum had also issued ID cards to the members of HARC captioned “HAMS IN PUBLIC SERVICE”. Amateur Radio Club of Kolhapur & Belgaum jointly provided vital VHF communication for MASA (Maharashtra Automotive Sports Association) Car Rallies during late 1980s & early 1990s, besides providing communication backup in 1990s during Elections, at the request of DC, Shimoga.

### Birth of Hambel Belgaum Net:

When VU2BRJ–Joshi got his licence in June 1988, he started using a QRP Crystal Transmitter consisting of single SL100 Transistor with PEP between 500 mill watt to 1 watt which was assembled by VU2KOC in a plastic soap box (same is preserved as an antique piece till today). The said QRP's Crystal frequency was 7052.50 kHz. At the request of VU2BRJ, the local Hams at Belgaum used to have regular QSOs with him between 7.00 am and 8.00 am on 7052.50 kHz and VU3BUT–Dr. B.U.Tekani from Bhavnagar (Gujarat) was Dx-like thrilling station for VU2BRJ to get 599 report on the said Crystal QRP. As days rolled by, other outstation Hams started joining the group on 7052.50 kHz between 7.00 am and 8.00 am. Thus, VU2PAL–Prof. Pal started the Belgaum Net in November 1989 and later on named it as HAMBEL Belgaum Net and shifted the operating freq. from 7052.50 kHz to 7050 kHz. He untiringly conducted the Hambel Belgaum



**Joshi, VU2BRJ**

Net with all dedication till a week prior to his death on 27.08.2016 and thereby logged whopping 3,86,688 QSOs.



**Prof. Pal, VU2PAL (centre) with other hams at a Ham Radio Workshop conducted by HARC in Belgaum in conjunction with National Institute of Amateur Radio**

Now Hambel Belgaum Net is being continued with the same fervour, zeal and dedication on 7050 kHz daily from 7.00 am to 8.30 am IST (extendable depending on the traffic) by three Net Controllers viz., VU2PNU–Bebu; VU2KOC–Omprakash & VU2BRJ–Joshi & VU3PMY–Yaseen from Kerala. On account of Covid-19, lockdown was imposed from time to time with facility to work from home followed by unlock process. Thus, many Hams started coming on air and checking into Hambel Belgaum Net controlled by VU2EVU–OM Galagali during the extended period till 9.00 am.

Every year on 27<sup>th</sup> of August, being the death anniversary of Prof. Pal, Hambel Belgaum Net is dedicated in his memory. Special Call sign AU1PAL was procured on his first death anniversary and QSL card on the occasion was designed, printed and supplied by VU3BUT–Dr. Tekani; VU2SPF–Prof.S.P.Bhatnagar and team of Bhavnagar Amateur Radio Club, followed by Institute of Hams, Bengaluru, on his second death anniversary.



**Galagali, VU2EVU**

The present active members of HARC, Belgaum with contact details are:

VU2KOC – Omprakash (7676720092 email: koc7388@gmail.com)  
VU2BRJ – Joshi (9480006525 email: vu2brj13@gmail.com)  
VU2PNU – Bebu (9845911795)  
VU2SMS – Manju (9403272173)  
VU2ACK – Ashok (9448147053)  
VU3TYG – Nitin (9880018675)  
VU2MRM – Mohan Metri (9845256198)  
VU2EVU – Galagali (9449534100)  
VU3JNM – Jagadish (9448471968)  
VU2BGG – Hegde (6363124778)  
VU3CXM – YL Kanchan (9482739773) (YL Harmonic of VU2SMS)  
VU3HXA – Zoheb (9923879971)

The future plan of HARC is to install a VHF Repeater at Belgaum.

(Note: This paper was presented on 20 Sept 2020 by Joshi, VU2BRJ in the “Tech Talk” program conducted by ADYPU Ham Club & Pune Hams at 8:30 am on YouTube)

## **Belgaum Net**

**Conducted daily  
7.00 to 9.00 am IST on 7050 kHz**

### **Net Controllers:**

**VU2KOC : Omprakash, Belgaum, Karnataka  
VU2PNU : Bebu, Belgaum, Karnataka  
VU2BRJ : Joshi, Dharwad, Karnataka  
VU2EVU : Galagali, Vijayapura (Bijapur), Karnataka  
VU3PMY : Yaseen, Erattupetta, Kerala**

### **Check into Belgaum Net (& Other Nets):**

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

**73 from Hambel Amateur Radio Club (HARC), Belagavi, Karnataka !**

**Circulated by:**

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Hyderabad [www.niar.org](http://www.niar.org)**