



Apr 28 – May 16, 2022

Andaman Islands

<https://www.lral.lv/vu4w/>

On 28th of April I started my journey Riga – Helsinki – Delhi with Finnair. On the way to Andaman Island I had to stay in Delhi for two days where I planned to use this time for sightseeing. After stepping outside of airport, I realized the very hot temperatures outdoors about +42 to +44°C. I changed my plans and stayed in hotel instead.

In the evening of May 1st, I had flight to Andaman Island. Plane landed in Port Blain airport the next morning. Temperature was around +32°C and also you could feel the humid sea climate there so it was challenging. Taxi brought me to hotel “Princess Beach resort” that was 28 km away from the airport. This hotel was chosen to be the most suitable for expedition and previous expeditors VU4G worked from there as well. John G4IRN also suggested it for me.

From VU4 it's allowed to operate only for amateurs with VU callsigns. In the license we were three operators, however, Indian friends did not join because of work matters.



Port Blain airport



DXpedition shack

Hotel staff welcomed me very friendly and showed me a room that I declined. After explaining my needs for the space for antennas, they proposed me a conference room for additional cost that was located in a separate building next to the yard with palm trees. This actually was good location because antenna cables could be much shorter than intended. Sleeping quarters were shown in a different room. Right after settling in I started setting up LBS vertical and shortly realized that I wouldn't be able to complete it until

the dark so I left it for the next morning. Instead I worked on 40-10 m vertical intended for FT8 so I could make first QSO`s as midnight stepped in and license for VU4W was ok. While unpacking my gear I found out that K3 screen was smashed and this probably happened while the hand bag felt from the seat on the plane. So, transceiver was broken, however, I solved this problem by connecting it to computer that allowed me to change frequencies. For the remaining DXpedition I used this K3 only for FT8. First QSO is completed right after midnight with YB3BBF.



Vertical RA6LBS

The next morning, I start setting up the Spiderbeam antenna and complete it by midday. I chose the location right next to the fence because other places were covered with palm trees. After setting it up it had SWR > 5 on all bands. I checked the antenna and found the problem – broken transformer cable. After fixing it was good and I started to work on CW upper bands. In the evening I went to take some sunset pictures for QSL cards. I was lucky to do it then because this was the only evening with clear sky. The rest of the time was rainy with clouds.



Spiderbeam

The Wednesday morning I started with setting up LBS vertical. Weather was windy and foggy as the monsoon season was about to begin – two months of rain and no sun. We also received weather warnings for storm and heavy rains in South of Andaman Island for the next day.

The next day I started with setting up beverages behind the hotel fence next to the jungle. Weird noises came from there while I worked and I didn't venture deeper in the jungle because

of wild crocodile risks. In the end, beverages were 120 m long. During the night wind picked up and started to tear down coconuts from the trees. Their falling and hitting on roof made loud noises like firing from a gun. From now on electricity interruptions also were frequent and at least 10 times a

day for 10-20 minutes till local generator was switched on. This was the reason for unexpected disappearances from frequencies.



Yard with antennas

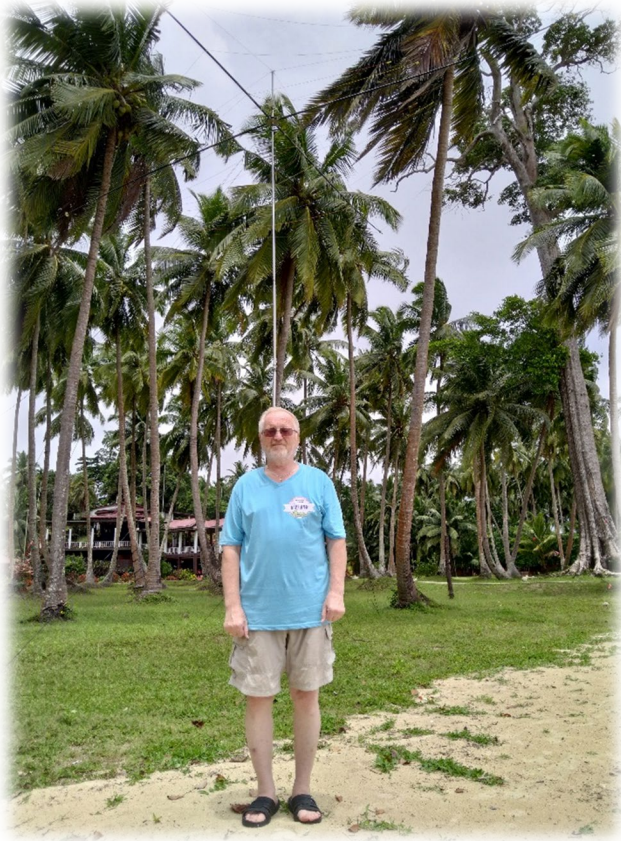
On 5th of May I uploaded log and it was ~6500 QSO`s. Internet was accessible only in the reception hall that was 300 m away from the shack. In order to talk with XYL and also to set correct time I walk there every evening. Dinner was usually served at 7pm and some of the evenings I was the only visitor there. Some more visitors came only on weekends. During the day outside was +30 to +33°C and very humid. When working with antennas I had to change shirts often.

For the following days the aim was to work more on lower bands. On Sunday 8th of May first 300 QSO`s were made on 80 m CW and 40 m FT8. Propagation changed every day and for the worst. On Monday I tried for 6 m and managed to get only 6 QSOs with Japan. Later I uploaded the log and in total it was 7732 CW and 10092 FT8 QSO`s. The targeted QSO count was set 30000 for the expedition to reach Mega DXpedition standards by GDXF.

I received message from WSJT development team with question why I only operate with MSHV software instead of WSJX Fox mode. I had MSHV from previous expedition 3DA0WW because this was the only software that worked with non-standard callsigns. Other problem was that I didn't have internet connection at all times and couldn't provide my frequency for Fox mode. For this moment I operate only on standard FT8 frequencies. I know it's not the optimal solution, however, for this situation I didn't have other options.



Celebrational dinner



YL2GM, behind yard with antennas and shack, dense jungle in the far back

Remaining days went by in usual routine. On Saturday 14th of May I made last QSO. Goal was reached and the total QSO count was 33577. Unfortunately, not many contacts on SSB and majority of them on FT8 which is today's reality. On Sunday I took down antennas and packed all my gear. My biggest concern was the falling coconuts and if they would hit your head than in best case scenario it would be injury for life. In the evening I had celebrational dinner and photo with chef and personnel. Monday morning taxi took me to airport from where I had flight back home. From humid +30°C in Andaman Island back to Delhi +43°C. Little shopping for small gifts on the way back home from Delhi – Helsinki – Riga. Expedition is concluded and now huge work for QSL printing and dispatching.

Thanks to everyone who supported this DXpedition and who worked with us. See you soon in the next one.

Juris /YL2GM/

QSL card



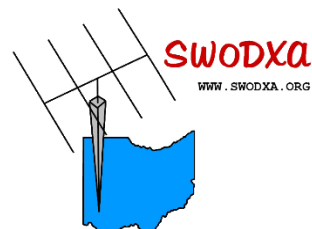
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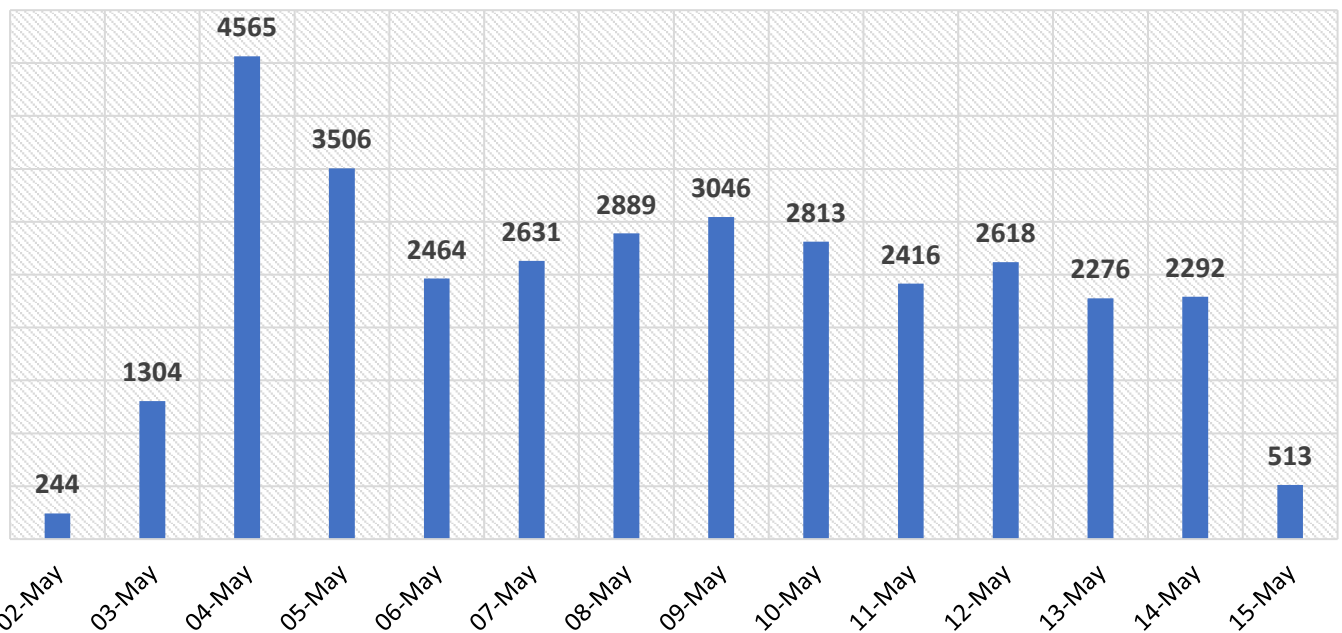


KU4NY, CT1FCX, K9LA, JI1WMI, DM2HK, JA8UIV, YL3FT, W2OR, JA6GPR and others.



STATISTICS

Daily QSOs VU4W (Total 33`577 QSOs)



Band/Mode breakdown VU4W

Band	CW	FT8	SSB	Total	Total %
160	232	151	0	383	1.1%
80	901	1227	0	2128	6.3%
60	0	155	0	155	0.5%
40	699	1514	0	2213	6.6%
30	1041	1778	0	2819	8.4%
20	2800	3603	545	6948	20.7%
17	2329	4095	0	6424	19.1%
15	2551	3476	302	6329	18.8%
12	1524	1755	0	3279	9.8%
10	1469	1425	0	2894	8.6%
6	0	5	0	5	0.0%
Totals	13546	19184	847	33577	99.9%

DXCC by Band/Mode breakdown VU4W

Band	CW	FT8	SSB	Total
160	32	31	0	38
80	56	64	0	69
60	0	37	0	37
40	63	73	0	79
30	61	78	0	80
20	90	103	55	110
17	83	96	0	105
15	86	90	47	107
12	62	67	0	75
10	67	60	0	73
6	0	2	0	2
Totals	108	119	67	133

Continent by Mode VU4W

Band	SSB	CW	FT8	Total	Total %
AF	7	68	75	150	0.9%
AN	0	0	0	0	0.0%
AS	99	3405	8230	11734	14.8%
EU	664	9274	8880	18818	58.5%
NA	57	481	934	1472	19.4%
OC	9	241	828	1078	2.0%
SA	11	77	237	325	4.4%
Totals	847	13546	19184	33577	100.0%