



# ARAT

Association des Radio Amateurs Tunisiens

# Annual Report 2012



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*2012*

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## A Message from ARAT's President

The second year in ARAT's life is about to end with a lot of work that has been done so far and a lot of more waiting and more challenging.

This year witnessed the election of a new Executive Bureau after the first congress of the Association held on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

The main objectives of this Executive Bureau for the year were to:

- Assist the Tunisian Administration to create the laws organizing the hobby and establishing licensing system for citizens.
- Promote Ham Radio activity in country by assisting local operators and maintaining interest
- Attract new comers by introducing the hobby in schools, universities and youth clubs.

We consider that our efforts were fruitful and we are very happy to end up with more and more members that broaden the fields of interest of the group instead of focusing on particular topics such as the "classic" HF Communication. Nowadays, ARAT members are creating the diversity and are proving how Amateur Radio can be a life-time hobby!

In return, ARAT was not promising a lot to its members, but we appreciate the fact that all our members loved the idea of this association and believed in its goals and long-term objectives.

We are convinced that one day ARAT will bring to its members the tangible benefits they are expecting from it which will allow a better hobby practicing conditions, and thus, a brilliant future for the hobby.

I am grateful for the outstanding support of the Tunisian Scout organization and its volunteer members. I also would like to thank Mr. Mohamed Dris, Director of ISAJC (3V8BB) for his confidence in our association and generosity. We are working hard to better develop amateur radio hobby inside these two organizations.

We hope that our Association will go further realizing the objectives for which it was created and we expect more cooperation from the other associations around the world so that we end up one day with an amateur radio association that befits democratic, post-revolution Tunisia.

Tunis, December 24<sup>th</sup> 2012

ARAT President

*Ashraf Chaabane*

KF5EYY

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

- Meetings

During this year, ARAT's Executive Bureau met over 32 times. Several un-official meetings were also held to discuss day to day plans.

National meetings were planned and held twice; on March 11<sup>th</sup> for the congress and on October 20<sup>th</sup> in the occasion of the JOTI-JOTA and gathered radio operators from some several cities.



ARAT first congress – March 11<sup>th</sup> 2012

- International Meetings

ARAT was present in Algeria International Meeting held in Djelfa from 20 to 26 of May 2012. Wael Arfaoui, 3V8SA, the Technical Director of ARAT was representing us in this meeting. He made a stand for the association which was visited by local authorities.



Wael presenting ARAT activities



Honoring ARAT for participation

- Trainings

ARAT's trainings were focusing on youth centers and academic organizations. We are conducting two types of courses; basic and advanced. Twelve (12) potential hams are now having the advanced course and we expect them to be fully ready to get on the air by March 2013.

Here below some photos of the trainings we made during this year:



November 29<sup>th</sup> 2012 – Borj Cedria



June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012 – Bardo



May 7<sup>th</sup> 2012 – Sousse (with Gert PD2WOG)



October 20<sup>th</sup> – Tunis



October 20<sup>th</sup> 2012 - JOTA with Scouts and Lars DF3XE



Initiating newcomers to CW Communication

- On the air!

The total number of contacts made by ARAT members during 2012 after collecting logs and uploading to Club Log is estimated to be over 20'000 QSOs.

ARAT Members took part to contests and we are expecting some interesting Top 5 results in major contests.

- Projects



20m SDR by Sfax Club (see **“ARAT - Sfax Club - TX/RX SDR Project”** on YouTube)



SDR Kit experiments

- QSL Management

ARAT Members have started QSLing activity for the QSL Cards received direct as the Tunisian Bureau inside the Scout Organization is encountering some problems.



Our QSL Service is improving and we're working to have some funds to officially launch Tunisia's QSL Bureau.

- Collaboration with National Agency of Frequencies

During this year, ARAT was assisting the Tunisian Administration in redacting the laws organizing the hobby in 3V-land and defining the licensing process for citizens.

The draft has finally passed to the desk of the director of ANF (National Agency of Frequencies) and will be further discussed prior to submission to the National Constitutional Council for approval.

ARAT has also organized a visit of ANF officers to 3V8BB station to further explain the hobby and answer all related questions.



ANF Officers Visit to 3V8BB Club organized by ARAT

- IARU Membership

Tunisia application for IARU-R1 Membership is still pending. We are still hopeful that IARU-R1 will re-consider our application in 2013 so we can do better representing Tunisian Hams interests as the membership will allow better efficiency dealing with Tunisian Administration, having funds to support our programs, etc.

- Articles & Media



ARAT has received a favorable mention in the following ham radio magazines:

- NCJ – September/October 2012 – Page 6 & 7
- CQ Magazine – August 2012 – Page 84

Some articles appeared in some local newspaper and some private TV channels were interested in our hobby and association. Some interviews were made and will be broadcasted in the first weeks of 2013.

- Social Network

In addition to the website, we have also started a Facebook page (Association des Radio Amateurs Tunisiens - ARAT).

The page attracted 649 people and proved how Social Networks are an important way of reaching out to the public, and especially to younger hams and potential hams.



- Visitors

ARAT Members are always happy to receive and host radio amateurs visiting Tunisia from around the world.

One of the most important visits that marked 2012, was the visit of Mr. Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T, the President of IARU-R1 and Mr. Afif Benlegha 7X2RO, Sub-regional



coordinator for Northern Africa & Middle East. We were much honored to meet them and discuss with them ham radio related issues.

We were also thrilled to touch IARU-R1 interest in helping Tunisian Hams in their efforts to obtain their individual licenses.



ARAT Executive Bureau & some members with Hans PB2T and Afif 7X2RO



Visit of Mirko DJ1AA (October 28th, 2012)



Visit of Ali A71AM (October 19th, 2012)



Visit of Uwe DL8OBF (August 25th, 2012)



Visit of Kris SP9UPK (July 9th, 2012)



Visit of Henryk SM0JHF (January 14th, 2012) Visit of Christo LZ3FN (January 1st, 2012)

## THANKS

Many thanks to the following for the great effort!

- Montassar Kammakh (Vice President & Chief Operator of 3V8ST)
- Wael Arfaoui (Technical Director & Chief Operator of 3V8SA)
- Bilel Ben Messaoud (Chief Operator of 3V8SF)
- Halim Bouaouina (Operator of 3V8SS)



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