



RSSL NEWS

AUGUST/SEPT

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE OF THE MEETING

The General Meeting for the Month of SEPT 2011 will be held on THURSDAY 29th at 6 P.M.. The venue is the Balcony Hall of the Otter Aquatic Club 380 / 1 Baudhaloka Mawatha Colombo 7. All meetings will be held at this venue. Its not far from the BMICH towards Borella. Continue towards the rear of the BMICH at the Wijerama Rd / Baudhaloka Mawatha junction.

MONTHLY MEETINGS.

Please note that unless otherwise notified, monthly General Meetings will be held at Otters Aquatic Club at 6.00 P.M. on the **last Wednesday** of the month. Please also monitor the RSSL net regularly on 145.625 MHz at 0900 P.M. for RSSL announcements. You are welcome to contact any Council member if you need to verify meeting dates. Membership and ID Card applications can be obtained at the meetings. Membership renewals are also accepted by the Treasurer at the monthly meetings.

On the 29th meeting there will be radio Amateur Magazines that we want to dispose off-free to anyone interested. Also if any member wants to dispose off anything, you are free to bring them along and display them, if you want to sell or give away to a good home!

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATION 2011.

The Govt. Gazette of the 9th September carried the examination application details. I am attaching a copy of the application form which can also be downloaded from the TRCSL website. APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON THE 30TH SEPTEMBER 2011 AND THE EXAMINATION WILL BE HELD IN LATE NOVEMBER. WE WANT EVERYONE TO APPLY AND PASS AND GET A CALL SIGN!!

The RSSL holds classes on Sunday at the Haig Road shack on Sundays. Please contact 4S7VJ Wijay 4S7VJ 0729971194, and arrange to attend classes and you can get loads of examination material from Wijay, but pl no remote lessons and don't worry Wijay to post material. If a person can not make at least 2 or 3 visits we believe it is not worth turning out radio hams who want to get a license to collect it as a certificate. The RSSL can not spend funds and time for such needs. We need to have real Hams/Radio Amateurs not qualification/certificate collectors, who are free to do so with enough Internet or private support! Sorry to say so, but it is a fact today. Some don't even bother to get a license having passed. The results sheet is laminated and produced at interviews!!!

JOTA 2011 JAMBOREE ON THE AIR: 15/16 OCTOBER

Most of you know that the Radio Society has been helping the Scouts and Guides of this country for more than 60 years to get on the air during the JOTA. This year the Scouts are very keen and in fact already with the RSSL, they have had two seminars on the 6th Aug. and 17th Sept. to prepare for it and also to get instructions about sitting the Amateur Radio examination. In fact already about 100 students have been given Syllabi past papers, instructions and much study material has been placed in their website. With all this, there is a need to have as many JOTA stations as possible. The following locations have been asked for in addition to any other locations we can provide. Please come forward to help the children of this country to experience Amateur Radio. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Deaf & Blind School Ratmalana- 4S7RS main station will operate through the night with an HF beam working International as well; assisted by 4S7VK, 4S7DF, 4S6URN
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Ibbagamuwa Maha Vidyalaya 4S7MM/4S6AHB
Wakarai Maha Vidyalaya Batticaloa 4S7CF
Attampitiya M.V. Bandarawela 4S7CK
Furgussons School Ratnapura 4S7VJ/7KG
Lycium International Nugegoda 4S7RD

We need stations in **KEGALLE, AVISSAWELLA, KALUTARA, GAMPAHA, KANDY, AND ANY OTHER PLACE A HAM CAN OPERATE FROM** & As many in Colombo. Plans are also underway for a station at Dehiattakandiya . If you are prepared to operate VHF & or HF please contact Victor 4S7VK 0112614098/0718328336 and we will ask the Scouts HQ to immediately contact you and the RSSL will make arrangements for clearance from TRC and logistical support from the Scouts. You may operate on Saturday and or Sunday.



ARISSat-1 KEDR Satellite Reception
Award to

*Noel Lokuge, 4S7AVR
Sri Lanka*

In recognition of finding a Secret Word from the
ARISSat-1 KEDR spacecraft transmissions.

The ARISSat-1 Team

date: 07 September 2011

We would like to extend our heartiest congratulations to Noel our Satellite expert for the above award he received from AMSAT which probably is the first in this region of Asia. I have requested Noel to give us a full article about satellite tracking and reception from here in Sri Lanka. Noel has been at it for more than 30 years from his Balahenmulla QTH and even from the Maldives when he was there. Congratulations again Noel.

FEROZ GHOUSE 4S7FG.

It was a pleasure to have Feroz Ghouse 4S7FG back in Sri Lanka on holiday and as guest of honour at the monthly meeting in May. We had a good turn out and interesting fellowship including lunch. It was a pleasure to see 4S7DJ Jayantha and also Denver 4S7DA at the meeting. It is always a pleasure to have our members who live abroad, coming over even on a short holiday and giving us the opportunity to have an eyeball. Feroze gave a round up of activity over there in Wisconsin and reminisced a bit about old times. It also gave the chance for new comers to get to know Feroze.

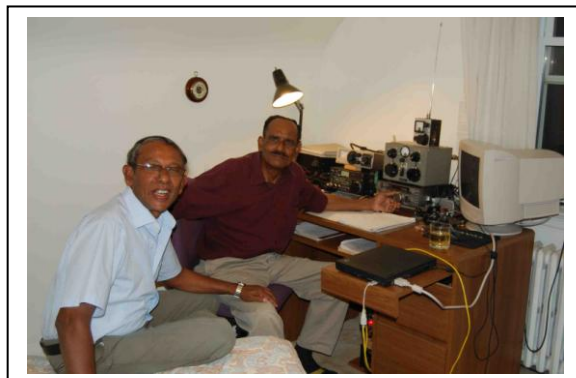


In the picture Seated L Denver 4S7DA, Ferose 4S7FG Standing Victor 4SVK Dr. Jayantha 4S7DJ

Another visitor to Sri Lanka was Abdul. Abdul was shuttling between Kandy and Colombo and it is a pity that we couldn't get him down for our meeting. But Abdul who is one of the better known 4S7s of yesteryear was able to eyeball quite a few of his old friends. Abdul is very active from his new country of Canada as VE3ILG in Toronto and has one of the finest shacks that I have seen. He was a senior ASP at the time of his leaving somewhere in 1980 or so and we really miss people like him in the RSSL (in Sri Lanka) and our Amateur Radio Community.. You can catch him on e-mail. <ve3ilg@hotmail.com> I had the great pleasure of visiting him last September in Toronto and taking some pictures.



Abdul's vintage basement shack with perfectly working BC348, SP600 and a whole host of other transmitters and receivers & Test equipment. The great thing about his shack is every piece of equipment works even if its older than he is. Fantastic!



Abdul's more compact modern shack with digital modes and more modern equipment!

We wish Abdul & Hema a safe journey and many more years of amateur radio and of course regular contacts via e-mail and skype. He never fails to acknowledge the RSSL News.

MEMBERS' ADVERTISTMENTS

WANTED 2 M handheld/Base Station in working condition. Contact Manel Chandraratne 4S7CMR

Email: ferrie@slt.net.lk Tel: 0777316055

For Sale-

YAESU FT767GX Serial No.6k05007 with UHF module. The transceiver needs repairs, it can be inspected at Creative Electronics 4S7VG Vasantha.

Price - as is condition Rs 25,000/= Call Ranjit 4S7RR 0362255597, <taosyacht@slt.net.lk>

Wanted!!! An ICOM IC-706 (MK1) in any condition, (preferably a rig with burnt finals) to be used as spare parts. Please contact Dihan (4S6DHN) on 0722240229 or 0777248864.

Dihan Angelo De Silva

FOR the Radio Amateur also from Jaliya for sale:

Daiwa Power supply PS 304II 230v input; out put variable 5v-17v amp 30 Call: mobile 0776509108 / 0772378108

YATIYANTOTA REPEATER: Unlike any other repeater, Yati has been the mainstay of the RSSL and Amateur Radio in Sri Lanka on 145.625 with a -600 input on 145.025 FM. Ever since this repeater was installed in the 1990s thanks to 4S7PVR Paul Perera who now lives in the UK through his friends in Italy, it has served the community very well. Recently we had a problem with it and two young men 4S7JL Jaliya and 4S5TNT Thilan undertook this difficult journey to do some maintenance work and put things right. (Here are some pictures from that visit.) As you can see it is no easy ride up there and we thank these fine young hams for their voluntary effort on behalf of the amateur community both members and non. So you see my friends

it is not an easy trail to go on to reach the repeater. And probably you will understand why sometimes it takes a little while to go up and maintain this repeater, when something goes wrong. Ed.

Please note that this time the Newsletter is going out as a Hard Copy and will include some material published before in our E-Newsletter. We urge members to send in their e-mail addresses so that we can send you more material much quicker and in case of dated material it is much easier to communicate with you. We are sorry we can't include photographs here as they come out very badly in the duplo printing method we have to use due to the high cost of other printing methods.

LIGHT HOUSE EXPEDITION 4S7LGT

Every year the RSSL has activated the Barbaryn Light House for the world light house event. This year was no exception thanks to a band of sea-fearers (hi!) who crossed over to the Island off Beruwala. Its half a kilometre from the shore to the island and sometimes the sea can be very rough. Everything has to be wrapped in polythene to protect them from the waves that at times beat into the boat.

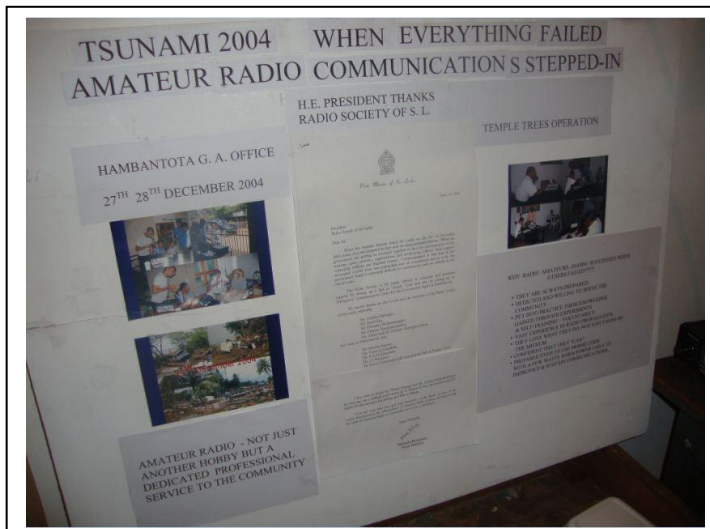
This expedition is a great field day event and the fellowship is wonderful. The wx kept fine and they had a great time operating both HF SSB/CW with the call 4S7LGT/AS1 71. The guys who went over consisted of Wijay 4S7VJ who is always there to string up antennas with his sling shots, Kule our CW expert, ever energetic Jaliya 4S7JL and QSL manager and expert BBQ chef Uthpala 4S7UV, Thilana 4S5TNT and some SWLs for support. Next year a beam and a cool 500watts should make the dx come in faster than the waves that lash the island. There are loads of photographs available of this expedition, the trip up to Yatiyantota and all RSSL activities, which we will share with our e-mailed newsletter. In the meantime we are attempting to upload these to our website.

SPECIAL EXHIBITION STATION 4S7RS AT ST. THOMAS' COLLEGE MOUNT-LAVINIA THOMIAN FAIR – 1ST SEPT-3RD SEPT.

Thanks to the energetic efforts of 4S6AB Bharath the RSSL was able to display the marvels of Amateur Radio at this well attended fair. The RSSL had a beam up there, 40m dipole and 2 m as well and gave a demonstration of Amateur Radio. Many people visited the station and the STC Radio Club also helped in setting up the station. Special thanks go to 4S6ABC, 4S7VJ, 4S7KG, 4S7DF, 4S7JL, 4S7VK & SWLs Wimalawansa and Sanidu for

excellent support to set up and operate.

These special event stations at exhibitions educate the public about what Amateur Radio can do and earn respect for the Amateur Service.



OBITUARY: On behalf of the RSSL the Council extends our deepest sympathies to Uthpala Withana 4S7UV on the passing away of his mother earlier this month. Uthpala has been a great source of strength to the RSSL as QSL manager and at all our special event stations and expeditions.

ELEPHANT COUNT WILD LIFE EVENT.

4S7DZ Dimuthu Wickremasinghe, Jaliya Lokeshwara 4S7JL and Dammika Fernando 4S7DF gave support to the effort in this much published event in August. The RSSL went across to Thanamalwila, Udawalawe and also to the Mahaweli areas to give logistical support. We thank Dimuthu for spearheading & for covering almost a thousand or more kilometres at his expense along with Jaliya and Dammika to bring credit to Amateur Radio by taking part in this national event.

Members will see how these enthusiastic radio amateurs take part in many events to help and promote and build the image of Amateur Radio in this country at their own expense under the umbrella of the RSSL.

ACTIVITY ON THE AIR: Look out for our 4S7/6/5 radio amateurs at these times:

40 Metres: Everyday between 7.30 and 8.15 a.m. (0200-0245 UTC) on LSB our local boys can be heard on 7060 kHz and we would like more participation to keep

this Sri Lankan calling frequency active and save it from being used across the Palk strait at this time. This has been our calling frequency for more than 60 years. New activity has also been started around 10 p.m. (1630 UTC) as propagation is much improved now. Special thanks go to 4S7NS Nihal and Jayantha 4S7DJ for making a special effort to keep things active. They are joined by Nelson 4S7NE, Victor 4S7VK, Noel 4S7AVR, Dammika 4S7DF, Trevor 4S7TZ, Sam 4S7GF and Nihal 4S7WN.

2 METRE ACTIVITY: Daily 145.550 comes alive at 0100 UTC or 6.30 a.m. with 4S7EF Ekendra, 4S6RAV Ravi, 4S7DB Daya, 4S7WL Nihal, 4S7TZ Trevor, 4S7CF Calvin, 4S7NZ Nihal, 4S7WL Lesley and 4S7VK amongst some of the regulars.

At 0800 or 0130 UTC on the Yatiyantota repeater there is regular activity with 4S7MM, 4S7VK, 4S7WL and many others joining in. Another regular slot is at 1030 UTC or 4.p.m. on the repeater.

9.00 VHF NET: The Net which has been around for nearly 20 years takes the air daily when stations check in and out. Sunspot numbers are also given as well as band reports when such info is available. You are welcome to check in as it shows the level of activity on the air and it also allows swls who make a small receivers to check out their projects, in addition to creating an active group to be contacted in case of emergency. Your participation would be welcome. Volunteer Net-controllers are also needed. Please contact 4S7VK the current net-controller .

AMSAT: LATE NOTE PLEASE CHECK THIS URL for info on the AMSAT programme.

<<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/ARISSat/ARISSat.php>><http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/ARISSat/ARISSat.php>

SOLAR ACTIVITY: High BAND OPERATORS WELL WELCOME THE RISING SOLAR ACTIVITY IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS. If you like to have a daily update of events we recommend to you the WM7D.NET web site. Just go to any search engine of the Internet and type in WM7D.Net and go to the solar resource page and you will have the Sunspot count, Solar Flux, A and K indexes.

LOW AND TOP BAND CONDITIONS: The top band is the 160 metre amateur band and is the band that needs much patience and skill to work due to the largeness of the antennas, high absorption levels and static. However, a contact on 160m is worth a hundred on the higher bands. Radio Amateurs all over the world are looking to make contact with Sri Lanka and we thank Nelson 4S7NE for being active there. The summer months of Mar-September are not hot at all but soon the band conditions will improve for 160.

Another hot LF band is 80 metres. The 80m.b, is also a night-time band like 160 and you should look for activity on these bands between sunset and sunrise.

GREETING FROM ACROSS THE MILES: Ernest 4S7EA-Echo Alfa is now well and truly settled down in California with Chandra with their harmonic Kavi 4S7KA. Ernest was often heard on Echo Link and we hope to have it restored very soon. EA passes on his best 73 to everyone. If you like to get in touch, I am sure you do, his e-mail and he is very prompt too, is. We welcome you to check this URL for more info. Noel thanks very much.

Ernest Amarasinghe < Ernest ernest@4s7ea.com. Ernest we miss you badly over here. Thanks again for more than 50 years of service to Ceylon/Sri Lanka. We can never forget you.

RSSL COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION President: Dammika Fernando 4S7DF, 11A Kawdana Road, Dehiwala.. E-mail dammika.damrad@gmail.com Tel: 0777309175, Secretary: Victor Goonetilleke 4S7VK Shangri-la, 298 Madapatha Road, Piliyandala. 2614098. e-mail victorg@slt.lk Treasurer: Rodney Martensteyn 4S7RM, 21/10 Polhengoda Gardens, COL 5.Tel 2811523 Mob 0714808524 Editor: Victor Goonetilleke 4S7VK Phone: +94-(0)11-2614098 Mob : 0718328336 E-mail: victorg@slt.lk, victor.goonetilleke@gmail.com