



# RSSL NEWS

FEBRUARY 2006

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

## PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE OF FEBRUARY MEETING

*The General Meeting for the Month of February will be held at the Seminar Room (Ground Floor) of Vidya Mandiraya, SLAAS – Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science, 120/10, Vidya Mawatha, Colombo 7 on Tuesday the February 28<sup>th</sup> 2006 at 0530 pm.*

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

Please note that unless otherwise notified, monthly General Meetings will be held at the SLAAS at 0530 P.M. on the **last Wednesday of the month**. Please also monitor the RSSL net regularly on 145.625 MHz at 0900 PM and 145.650 MHz at 0930 PM for announcements of RSSL. You are welcome to contact any Council member if you need to verify. Membership and ID Card applications can be obtained at the meetings. Membership renewals are accepted by the Treasurer at the monthly meetings. Renewals can also be done by posting a cheque or money order to him.

## PUBLIC LECTURE ON AMATEUR RADIO BY 4S7VK

SLAAS is organizing a public lecture titled 'Importance of amateur radio during disaster situations.' OM Victor has accepted an invitation of SLAAS to conduct this lecture. The Lecture, which will be followed by a practical demonstration and a discussion, will be at 0400 PM at the SLAAS Auditorium on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Members are invited to attend this lecture which will be followed by the February General Meeting which will be held in the adjacent chamber. Both HF and VHF will be demonstrated and anyone who can standby will be making the demonstration a success.

## JAMBOREE STATION IN NUWARAELIYA

The RSSL will be running a special event station in Nuwara Eliya for the International Scouts Jamboree. It will be on air from February 21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> 24 hours a day on HF and VHF under the 4S7RS call sign. All arrangements have been finalised at the time of going to press! The Station will be controlled by 4S7KG, 4S7VJ, 4S7NI, 4S7AB, 4S7RM and 4S6AK. Members are invited to participate in this big event. Contact OM Arosha 4S6AK, coordinator of this event, to obtain details. 0777826276. Those who can help out please do so. Thanks to everyone for giving your time and energy to make this event a success, thereby introducing and exposing the amateur service to more than 20,000 scouts and guides.

## NEW MEMBERS

The RSSL council is happy to admit H. S. R. Fernando, son of OM Calvin 4S7CF to the ranks of associate membership of the RSSL.

**CONTEST RESULTS** Sunil Pathmakumara 4S7PK better known as RSSI Net Controller has won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the SEANET 2005. Single Operator, Single Band, Single Mode (CW) Competition. He operated on 7 MHz using his Homebrew RM 96 running 15 watts to a dipole. Congrats Padme and also thanks for keeping the RSSL flag flying. Padme has printed a nice QSL card

and is QSLing all his contacts. Any SWLs/Associate members needing a QSL, can send Padme a report.

## QSL-ING CONTACTS:

Sending and receiving QSL cards for contacts made, are very important and often very emotional aspects of Amateur Radio. A QSL is a formal verification of a two way contact and is proof used to apply for awards. A QSL is usually a card giving details of the station and its operator, Call sign, the Date, Time and Frequency of the contact and the mode, be it SSB / AM/CW / FM / RTTY etc. Some hams go to great lengths to make their card a beautiful souvenir from his or her country. It can even be a Picture Post Card or a Shack Photo of the ham.. Most radio shacks have beautiful collections of QSLs both in albums and of course on the radio shack/room wall which shows friends and fellow hams visiting the shack an idea of the stations and countries that the operator has been in contact with. It is often considered an honour to have your card displayed on the shack wall of a fellow ham.

To send and receive QSL cards members can use our QSL Buro which saves them postage. Such cards can be handed over to our QSL Manager at the monthly meetings which in turn will be posted periodically by him to other clubs world over for distribution. Some prefer to do it on their own which is called QSL"Direct". Addresses can be found in the International Call Book, which is a directory of all radio hams in the world. Now a days an easier way is to go to QRZ.COM on the Internet and type in the call sign of the station that you want to find the address of. If you send a QSL and expect a reply direct, it is customary to enclose an IRC( International Reply Coupon) for return postage. However, some will send a card even without RP.

## SWL Reports:

SWLs can also send reception reports to hams on hearing their transmissions. In the event of sending an SWL report , it is important to mention the call sign of the station with whom the particular amateur was in contact with ie. the Date, Time(UTC), Band MHz, Mode and a signal report. In other words, enough details for the radio amateur receiving the report to check his/her log and find out whether the report is correct. Most often the radio ham will QSL your report with a cards. When you send an SWL report make sure you tell the station about yourself, your receiving equipment and whatever you want to tell him about his signal. Some hams (not often) don't bother to QSL contacts and SWL reports. The best judge of such a situation is by listening to the conversation and getting an idea of what type of operator the radio ham is. Great friendships are built through contacts via mail or e-mail and such friends will not only help you in your hobby, but also welcome your visits to their homes on visits abroad and of course you will be delighted to have them visit you. The hams who find it difficult to find "contacts" abroad to locate used equipment for them are those who never listened to the bands before getting their License. Very often new hams or would be hams have no problem spending a reasonable amount to find

some used equipment abroad or have family members abroad but who have no knowledge of where to find equipment. In such situations your ham friends will help you.

**LISTENING:** Listening can be very interesting and often one would realise that it is more than half the preparation for the Radio Amateur Examination. By carefully listening the SWL can learn correct procedure, improve technical knowledge, understand propagation, learn call signs of countries and many more aspects of the hobby. Often an SWL turned Radio Ham is a much better operator than a person who learns from books and exam material without firsthand experience of the hobby. All one needs is a receiver and a dipole antenna for the best band. Even a random length of wire would do for local 7 Mhz or 40 M contacts and for the stronger signals. As you progress in your listening you will become motivated to improve your antenna and get your own license.

Every morning our local hams chat (QSO) on 7060 kHz LSB from about 7.30 (0130 UTC) to 8.15 (0215 UTC). If you hear ye Editor 4S7VK, you are more than welcome to send an SWL report and you will receive a QSL card. No RP is needed. Good luck with your QSLing and Listening. 73 de 4S7VK.

## CONTEST INFORMATION – MARCH 2006

### Courtesy ARRL

- (1) ARRL International DX Contest, Phone, 0000Z Mar 4 to 2400Z Mar 5.
- (2) DARC 10-Meter Digital "Corona", RTTY/AMTOR/PACTOR/PSK31/Clover from 1100Z to 1700Z Mar 4.
- (3) Open Ukraine RTTY Championship from 2200Z Mar 4 to 0159Z Mar 5.
- (4) RSGB Commonwealth Contest, CW from 1000Z Mar 11 to 1000Z Mar 12. Open to British Commonwealth stations only. Frequencies: lower 30 kHz of 80 to 10 meters. Categories: SO - open (full-time), restricted (12 hrs max), Headquarters-MO and SO. No spotting assistance. Scoring: 5 pts/QSO, first 3 QSOs with a call area count 25 pts. Send logs to [commonwealth.contest@rsgbhfcc.org](mailto:commonwealth.contest@rsgbhfcc.org).
- (5) EU EME Contest, CW/SSB, 0000Z March 11 to 2400Z March 12 - 432 MHz, 5.7 GHz & up.
- (6) EA PSK31 Contest from 1600Z Mar 11 to 1600Z Mar 12.
- (7) AGCW QRP Contest, CW from 1400Z to 2000Z Mar 11.
- (8) Russian DX Contest, CW/SSB from 1200Z Mar 18 to 1200Z Mar 19.
- (9) 10-10 Mobile Contest, any mode from 0000Z to 2359Z Mar 18. Frequencies: 10 meters only.
- (10) CLARA and Family HF Contest, Phone/CW from 1700Z Mar 18 to 1700Z Mar 19.

## PRINTED MATTER

*If undelivered, please return to*

RSSL,  
P.O. Box 907,  
Colombo.

(11) 9KCC Contest, CW/SSB from 1200Z to 1600Z Mar 19. Frequencies: 15 meters only.

(12) BARTG Spring RTTY Contest from 0200Z Mar 18 to 0200Z Mar 20. Frequencies: 80-10 meters.

(13) CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB from 0000Z Mar 25 to 2400Z Mar 26. Frequencies: 160-10 meters. Categories: SOAB, SOSB, SO-Assisted, HP, LP and QRP, MS (10-min rule), M/2, MM, SO-Rookie, SO-Tribander and Single Wire. Exchange: RS + serial number. QSO points: different continents - 3 pts (14-28 MHz) and 6 pts (1.8-7 MHz), with North America - 2 pts (14-28 MHz) and 4 pts (1.8-7 MHz) and with own country - 1 pt. Score: QSO points × prefixes worked. Send logs to [ssb@cqwpx.com](mailto:ssb@cqwpx.com).

Full information is available at [www.arrl.org/contests/months/mar.html](http://www.arrl.org/contests/months/mar.html).

### EchoLink for 24 hours on Weekends

OM Ranuka 4S5RD is planning to connect Yatiyantota repeater to EchoLink 24 hours a day on weekends. Members are invited to make use of this opportunity.

### Donations to RSSL Club Station

OM Shanti 4S7WP has donated a soldering iron and soldering lead to the RSSL Club Station in Colombo 4. Tnx OM.

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*Edited and designed by Victor 4S7VK – Editor RSSL and 4S7NI and published by The Radio Society of Sri Lanka.*

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