



# RSSL NEWS

Feb/March 2010 | THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

***The General Meeting for the Month of March 2010 will be held on Wednesday the of 31<sup>st</sup>. The venue is the Balcony Hall of the Otters Aquatic Club 380 / 1 Baudhaloka Mawatha Colombo 7. at 6.00 p.m. In future too the meetings will be held at this new venue. Its not far from the BMICH towards Borella. Continue towards the rear of the BMICH at the Wijerama Rd / Baudhaloka Mawatha junction.***

***Monthly meeting for April will be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> Tuesday and not as always on the last Wednesday of the month as it is a poya day. We have also made arrangements to provide tea, so come for the meeting and enjoy tea with us.***

## **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. Membership and ID Card applications can be obtained at the meetings. Membership renewals are also accepted by the Treasurer at the monthly meetings.

## **OBITUARY & APPRECIATION ERNIE PERERA - 4S7EP**

It is with sadness that we inform the membership of the passing away of R. Ernest (Ernie) H. Perera (4S7EP) fondly referred to as Echo Papa by the radio amateur community of this country and as REH at Radio Ceylon/SLBC. Ernie passed away on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February, a few weeks before his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was a founder member of the RSSL. He retired as Director Engineering of the SLBC serving the broadcasting industry of this country for almost 40 years. He held Licence No 003 in post independent Ceylon but is only the second Sri Lankan to receive an amateur radio license pre independence Ceylon on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July 1947, at a time when it was the British who almost exclusively obtained licenses. He was VS7EP and up to his death held a valid Advanced class license 4S7EP.

Ernie was a Christian but he had no religious bias and he proudly used to relate how he carried two car batteries on his shoulders up Adam's Peak for the first Pirith Ceremony from the peak in the fifties. He loved radio and was a great experimenter and constructor. He was active until a few years before his passing away, only ill health keeping away from the bands. Even though his eyesight was failing he always waited for the newsletter and inquired after members when ever we had the opportunity to meet or call him.

He was President of the RSSL from 1984-1987 and in his tenure took steps to make the RSSL an Incorporated body with Cecil de Mel as his able Secretary. He also initiated with 4S7EF Ekendra. a training programme for radio amateurs with the Ministry of Man Power Development and he also initiated action to get ARRL kits for our members and no less than 50 ARRL Handbooks. He was a very energetic president and he also revived the journal of the RSSL, printing it in 1985 after a lapse of 6 years.

It was a pleasure to talk to this man and go own memory lane and relive the glorious past with its exciting developments and even hilarious anecdotes. We shall dearly miss him.

The RSSL remembers and appreciates his services to the radio amateur community with deep gratitude. His name will go down in the annals of the Amateur Service in this country and will be remembered for many years with such names as John Amaratunge, Dick Le Mercier, Gabriel Rockwood. Jim White, Wickram and Soma, Freddie Gomes and Noel Gunasekara, Paul Solom if I were to name a few of the greats.

The RSSL extends its deepest sympathies to his XYL Therese and his children who down the years extended their support to Ernie and like most ham families were a part of the amateur community.

Good bye dear friend. May you rest in peace.

## **MEMBERS NEWS**

4S7AI Ananda Jayatilake has QSYd to VK land we understand and is badly missed with his homebrewers delight on 40m. in the morning and evening. We wish AI all the best and hope he will make up his mind to return to 4S land soon.

4S7NE Nelson: Another who has QSYd down under, but not for good we understand to help celebrate his grand son's 1<sup>st</sup> birthday. Enjoy the next generation and put the bug in the fellow Nelson. All the best in SWLing and Internet browsing while there.

4S5SC: We like to extend our sympathies to Jayantha on the passing away of his mother recently. We know only too well the pain of losing loved ones Jayantha.

4S7GV: Condolences to Glen and Mallika who grieve the passing away of their Son-in-law Ranjit with whom they were living. To Dilhara, Glen and Mallika we extend our deepest sympathies.

4S7RO-Ron and XYL Madhvi mourn the passing away of Madhvi's father in VU2land. It has been a hectic time for them and we extend our sympathies to them.

On a happier note:

4S7LF- Lovely Face as we call him or the Mawbimay—sorry RSSL ekey panchakalyaniya, Leo is enjoying cool 19C in Bandarawela while the rest of us are sweating it out at 33C here in the Western Prov. Leo reissues his invitation to visit Bandarawela and the Council is exploring the possibility of going up there.

**VHF DX SEASON** - It has been our experience that VHF propagation to India peaks around March April and September October due to Equinox, with another season in June. If one goes to the Internet there is loads to read about unusual VHF propagation due to Sporadic E, Trans-equatorial scatter, where openings can be from a few minutes to an hour or so where signals could be expected from up to 2000 miles away. A good beam antenna with a few watts can get you to the South Indian repeaters and also well planned DXing, direct contacts as well on the popular FM mode. Repeater stations on high mountain tops are easier to work thru than ground level stations beyond line of sight and of course when unusual propagation takes place naturally it is earlier to work thru repeaters.

*Sporadic-E (Es)* is formed when clouds of highly dense ionization develop in the E-layer. These clouds might be very small, but regardless of their size, they seem to drift and move about, making the propagation via these clouds short and unpredictable. They form between 50 and 70 miles above the earth. So imagine a normal line of sight VHF signal hitting a point 50-70 miles in the ionosphere and acting like a repeater and being refracted which can get your signal many hundred miles further than normal. In the tropics this can be pretty common. Please Google Sporadic E VHF propagation and learn more.

*Tropospheric Ducting* is another mode where due to a temperature inversion signals can travel thru layers and reach long distances. Usually as we go higher in the atmosphere the air gets cooler. Sometimes it happens the other way which enhances VHF propagation as it causes ducts.

**GET WELL WISHES TO WASANTHA:** 4S5JW is at Kanday hospital after an accident. We ask our members to think of him and wish him a speedy recovery. He is the one who helped with the Gongala project while at ABC radio.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Journal** : I have discovered a few copies of the last RSSL Journal which was published in the year 2000. On a first come first served basis you can have a copy. I think it is time we print another Journal "The Radio Amateur" and your contributions will be most welcome. I have had the pleasure of being the editor/publisher of the last two which appeared in 1985 and 2000, so I would like to make it my swansong as after 25 years I have just about had enough as Editor!!

## HOBBY FAIR 2010:

A spark of interest can be the first step to greatness. This spark is what the Rotary Club of Colombo in association with SLANA (Sri Lanka Anti Narcotics Association) hopes to generate in Sri Lanka through the "Hobby Fair 2010". Organized in aid of Cancer and Drug Abuse Treatment and Prevention, the Hobby Fair committee launches this unique event with the primary goal of offering the younger generation an avenue to express their creativity and talents.

The Hobbies Fair 2010 will take place in June 2010 at the Sri Lankan Exhibition and Convention Centre. Although the three day event will cater mainly to the youth, it is also open to all and any amateur and professional hobbyists, artists, crafts persons and related vendors of any age in order to create an effective multi-purpose forum that connects both traditional and modern hobbies to facilitate new learning." The RSSL wishes to take part and seek volunteers to man the stall. Pl contact Harenn 0773136638.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** To 4S7NI for securing 1<sup>st</sup> place in the WPX CW competition. Way to go OM and you have proved beyond doubt that you have what it takes to make a good ham! Ed

## JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING SPECAIL PRESENTATION :

**G1EFP Andrew Made a fine presentation at the meeting which was appreciated by those present. Andrew promised to make the presentation available for distribution to those interested. Those interested please inform the editor and who will get it from Andrew. Once again thanks Andrew and trust you enjoyed your visit to your XYL's home country.**

**E-Mail Newsletters:** If you like to get the newsletter by e-mail please send me your address. If you like to get RSSL announcements only but not the newsletter, inform me as well. Its useful to be able to reach you via e-mail.

**Disclaimer :**Comments articles herein are those of the editor made in good faith and not necessarily those of the Council of Management. Ed.

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