RSSL NEWS

February 2008 | THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

The General Meeting for the Month of February 2008 will be held on the last Wednesday (27th) of the month as usual. The venue is the Sudharsi Hall of the Sinhala Association opposite the BMICH. There is ample parking there and we welcome all our members to come over for the meeting.

The Meetings for March will be on the 27th. As always the last Wednesday of the month if not otherwise notified.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Please note that unless otherwise notified, monthly General Meetings will be held at the Sudharsi Hall at 0530 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.

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AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATION/ MORSE CODE

If you have passed the RAExam and not done the CW test on a previous occasion you could go over to the TRC and apply to take the test which will be held on the 22/23rd March at the TRC Colombo. You should contact Mr. Ganashamoorthy Assistant Director in charge of examinations. Needless to say taking any correspondence you have regarding your examination results will help you very much.

AUSTRALIA ISSUES CLASS LICENCE FOR VISITING AMATEURS

The Wireless Institute of Australia advises that on 14 February 2008 a Class Licence issued by the Australian regulator, the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), allowing visiting amateurs to operate while in Australia came into effect.
 The Class Licence is issued under the Australian Radiocommunications legislation,
and allows any overseas amateur visiting Australia to operate for up to 90 days after each entry to Australia. A visiting amateur does not have to make any application or payment to operate, but must hold evidence of a licence or qualification recognised by ACMA and a call sign issued by the administration that issued the licence or qualification.
 The conditions of operation are fully set out in the Class Licence, including the 5 levels of operation permitted.
 The Class Licence may be found on the WIA's website www.wia.org.au.
 The level of operation, which range from the privileges and bands allowed to the Australian Advanced licence to a 146 to 148 MHz low power FM licence (essentially for hand held operation), depends on the level of the overseas licence.

Overseas licences and the equivalent level are set out in the Table of Equivalent Qualifications and Licences which can be found on the ACMA's website. The URL for the part of the ACMA site 'Apparatus Licensing – Amateurs Visiting Australia' that includes the table is:

http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_1311.
THE WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA
ABN 56 004 920 745
National Society of Radio Amateurs
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

More information on the website: This is good news for our Hams as there are many of our countrymen and students who go to Australia. Thanks to David Oven IARV WIA Rep.

ACTIVITY ON THE BAND - Your Ed welcomes your log summery for the month so that others will know about your activity, band conditions and who is on the air. What you need to send is the Callsign of the station worked, time and band and if you like the signal report. Your antenna and Rig will also give a better understanding. If you have many stations to report you might go band by band. You might mention your best catches if you have hundreds of stations to report!
SWLs can also send their log reports in the same way of what they have monitored. By the way SWLs can send reports to Amateur Stations and get their QSL cards. You might try our local boys as a starter.

I invited Ron 4S7RO who runs a Kenwood TS830S and about 300watts into a vertical top loaded 160 m antenna to send a log report of his 160 top band activity. His report follows:
N1BUG   0058 1819 KHz 449/559
AA1K   0059 559/559; VE1ZJ   0003 559/559
VA3EF   0004 569/569; VE1ZZ   0007 589/569

19th FEB 2008 160m log
OK2PAY 0050 579 579 1819,LA8YB 0048 579 579 1819khz
Finn; OM3EY 0052 1819 579 559
W8JI 0059 1819 559/589; UA3AKO QRMing 559/559 0106;
DJ5BV 0108 not sure QSO good
OK1AU 559 0119 UTC 0111
 Feb 20th, 2008
IK0YVV 0100 1817khz 579/579
 JA's are easy to work and get a minimum of 579. EU is so easy to work around 2200. I've worked into Finland on SSS. 57 received from two stations and 59 given. This morn(23rd) the band was full of ARRL SSB contest stations (Tks Ron 4S7RO) And of course Ron reports many dozen VU station on 2metres direct on 145.500 some 59+40 on his 10 el 17foot boom Yagi Antenna at 45feet. Working Indian repeaters is so easy.

LOG BOOKS: Keeping a log book is mandatory for every transmitting Amateur Radio Station.   According to the regulations this should be a bound book and pages should be numbered. Every contact should be logged with the date, time, frequency-band or frequency in MHz, type of emission and signal reports. I need not go into it for licensed Amateurs (did I hear someone ask "why are there unlicensed Amateurs also?!") but for SWLs this is a great learning exercise. From

the day that you get interested start keeping a Log Book. It could be an exercise book, CR book or even a spirally bound professional book. A periodic study of your log book will show you propagation patters and also give you an almanac of material relating to your activities. Just imagine some years later turning the pages of your SWL log book and observing your activities before you got your ticket? You could also have a section for countries heard and QSLd. Speaking for myself, I treasure those early log books. Which not only show my listening activities but also info about our local old-timers from various locations. Logbooks should never be thrown away but preserved. Our RSSL Club shack maintains a logbook and a visit there will show you many things to plan your future station.

Visits to Hams: Most hams will welcome you and show their shacks. However, it goes without saying that it will be a good idea to make an informal appointment beforehand so that you won't disturb the operator and also not miss him when you go. It is also good advice to keep your hands off equipment unless invited to tune around and not talk out of turn when a QSO is in progress.!

OPERATING PROCEDURE: A discussion took place at the last monthly meeting of the need to observe proper operating procedure. Good procedure conveys a good impression of the operator. It should also be kept in mind that it is a mandatory requirement to do so.

Any operating manual will give you a wealth of information from making a basic call to contest operating, pile ups and all forms of operations associated with the Amateur Service. While there are official regulations to follow regarding identification just to name one, there are more accepted procedures that have evolved over the decades to make operations smoother and orderly. Every Radio Amateur should make it his/her business to learn them and operate as a skilled operator. Good operating is a delight to listen to when on CW(Telegraphy). On Voice (Phone) the way you speak, your choice of language and subject, your idiom all go to project who you are not only to the station that you are in contact with, but also to anyone anywhere in the world you can be listened to.

We also need to remember that the repeaters are often connected to the Echolink and other forms of international communication modes. As such, we as a community have a responsibility to project a dignified image of our community and country worldwide.To illustrate a few points: When in a group break in when a transmission is being passed over. Never talk over some while a transmission is in progress. Write down the order in which operators have to be passed on to. Someone might miss a turn and be kept in the cold. When someone breaks in, invite him/her to take the transmission and

pass it over to you. Why? Because you know who is on already and to whom the transmission should go to after you. There is no excuse unless in a great hurry to ask the station breaking in to wait or just acknowledge him and carry on. If you don't allow the breaker in for whatever valid reason, before passing it over to the breaker after you finish, tell him the order and excuse yourself. It might also be good practice to listen for a while before breaking in. AND when you break in don't just say "Break" but give your Call letters. Unauthorised operations should always be ignored because their purpose is to findout whether their signals are heard. Sadly we also come across deliberate QRM. That too should be ignored. There are many more poor operating habits including a common rather amusing habit of "broadcasting". If you know the meaning of the word it is obvious that someone is transmitting to an audience and not just the other station or the group. True, the temptation is very great when you take the microphone, but a little discipline not to overdo it, might make you a better operator and not open yourself to ridicule and be known as a poor operator. Ed.

A.R.M.I. & A.R.I. AWARD RULES
„ITALIAN NAVY COASTAL RADIO STATIONS 2008"
The A.R.M.I. Award **"ITALIAN NAVY COASTAL RADIO STATIONS"** has been conceived to remeber the former W/T Coastal Radio Stations belonging to the Italian Navy. The Award is attainable by all OM and SWL worlwide.
TIME PERIOD

The Award starts on **march 22th 2008 (00:00 UTC)** and ends **on march 30th 2008 (24.00 UTC)**
STATIONS

Special stations will be active as follows :- Special call stations, representing former W/T Italian Navy Coastal Radio Stations **Call QTH Operated by QSL Manager Varie IIØIGU** Gaeta *IWØHP and Teams ARI/ARMI* **IKØJFS IIØIDP** Cagliari *ISØSDX and Teams ARI/ARMI* **ISØSDX II1ICS** La Spezia *I1SAF and Teams ARI/ARMI* **I1SAF II1IGG** Genova *I2AZ and Teams ARI/ARMI* **I2AZ II7ICT** Taranto *IZ7EDQ and Teams ARI/ARMI* **IZ7EDQ II8ICN** Napoli *IZ8FAV and Teams ARI/ARMI* **IZ8FAV II9ICF** Messina *IT9DTU and Teams ARI/ARMI* **IT9MRM**

- A.R.M.I. Stations (Info from 4S7CF)

To: