



RSSL NEWS

Dec09/Jan 2010 | THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

The General Meeting for the Month of January 2010 will be held on Monday the 25th of January 2010. Please note that due to the Presidential elections we had to bring the day forward. 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 Mawata junction. The Meeting for December was not be held due to the holiday season. Monthly meeting for February will be held as always on the last Wednesday of the month. 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.

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JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING SPECAIL PRESENTATION :

Andrew Jarred G1EFP will be making a presentation about issues relating to Amateur Radio. Andrew is a good friend of the 4S community and is looking forward to meeting as many members as possible. We urge members to be present and give Andrew who regularly checks in on the net and is heard via Ecvholink, a fine reception. He also hopes to speak about VHF antennas. Also satellite communications. Someone tells me that Andrew is planning to give some souvenirs to those present!!

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ECLIPSE OF THE SUN 15TH JANUARY 2010

A Solar eclipse happens when the Moon in it's orbit around the Earth passes in front of the Sun. The shadow of the Moon cast on the Earth is only about 250 km in diameter. From within the track of this shadow the moon will appear directly in front of the Sun and we see an Eclipse of the Sun. If the apparent diameter Moon relative to the Sun at the time of eclipse is larger we have a Total eclipse and if smaller we have an Annular eclipse.

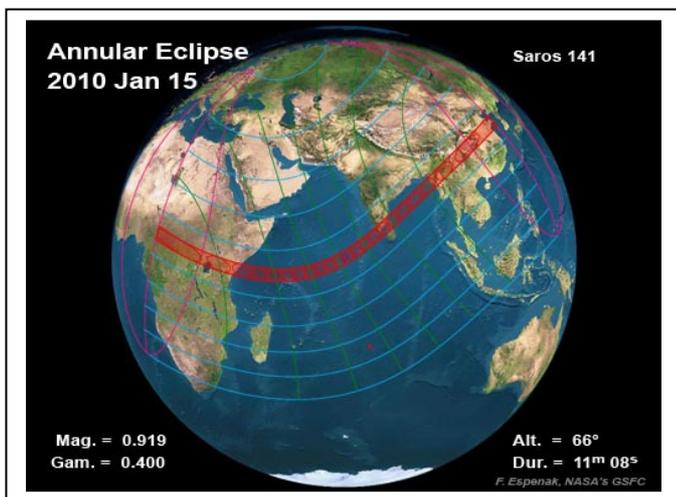
On Friday 2010 January 15th, an Annular eclipse is visible in Northern Lanka, The southern border of the path crosses just north of Chilaw on the west coast and north of Nilavali on the East coast. The border crosses south of Anuradhapura, just north of Eppawala. The center-line crosses Jaffna where the Annular phase will have the longest duration of over 10 minutes from about 1:20 to 1:30 PM at an altitude of 55 degrees. About 84.2% of the center of Sun will be covered by the Moon. The dark Moon will be seen in front of the Sun, leaving a 15.6% of the Sun still visible as a bright ring of Fire.”

The above is a paragraph taken from an Internet article “**The Annular Solar Eclipse □ on 2010 January 15th By Dr Kavan Ratnatunga.**” Please Google it for full details.

This is an ideal opportunity for Radio enthusiasts to conduct some excellent propagation experiments. As mentioned above the eclipse will be approximately 10 minutes long between 1.20 & 1.30 in the afternoon when there is very high ionisation and reception is impossible on the low frequencies like 3.5 and 1.8 and even in the Medium Wave broadcast bands for more than ground-wave due to the D-layer and high absorption. When there is an eclipse of the sun there is a dramatic drop in the radiation from the Sun falling on the eclipse zone creating a temporary night-time situation and the above low frequency bands should produce signals that are normally impossible at that time. Therefore you do not need sophisticated very sensitive equipment. What you need is to select broadcast stations that are on the other-side of the eclipse zone from yours, in other words stations to propagate across the zone of darkness as well as stations inside the darkness area. Radio Amateurs in South Central India and Sri Lankan stations should set up skeds and try for contacts. 7 MHz will also be ideal though 3.5 will give you fool-proof results of eclipse propagation. If you are an SWL you should concentrate on the Medium Wave broadcast

band to hear Indian Medium Wave stations.

What you must do is listen for stations a day or two before the day of the eclipse and note down the strengths. Then during the eclipse observe the band for those very same stations and previously unheard stations which will now be heard during the eclipse and a few minutes after it. Hams should make up skeds in a similar way. Observe what is regularly heard and check for enhanced or degrading of signals. And also observe stations which will come thru due to the eclipse. Somewhere in 1984 4S7RO and myself conducted an eclipse monitoring session of a similar nature with staggering results which were commended by Dr. Clark. Good luck this time to those who are keen. The WWW is full of articles, so use them to educate yourself. After the eclipse let me have your results for publication. (4S7VK)



(I as Editor am sorry the hard copy of the newsletter will not reach members before the Eclipse but those who get it before via e-mail can do justice to this effort. I am sorry I am in the middle of a family funeral and I am unable to go deep into it. Please take the guidelines and do your best. 73s de VK.)

VIA E-mail:

The Editor has decided to forward useful articles and information of use to fellow members via e-mail, making full use of e-mail, as it doesn't cost the RSSL anything unlike the printed newsletter. The advantage is that we can send info as often as needed. Photographs, circuit diagrams and much more could be sent along with website info. If you wish to receive such info please indicate to the Editor your willingness to receive such. Those who are already on the e-mail list will be automatically included unless you indicate that you do not wish such info other than RSSL notices and the Newsletter. You are also requested to forward anything you think might be of interest which will be sent to members. There will be no editing.

73 and good luck till the next issue: Editor 4S7VK.

Articles/Information Needed: Your Newsletter is as good as you make it.

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

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