



RSSL NEWS

**JULY
2004**

The Journal of **THE RADIO SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA**

REGISTERED AS A PERIODICAL IN SRI LANKA

THE MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING FOR THE MONTH OF JULY WILL NOT BE HELD DUE TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WHICH WILL BE HELD ON 1ST AUGUST 2004

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Please note that unless otherwise notified, monthly General Meetings will be held at the Council Room of SLAAS at 0530 PM 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.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on Sunday 1st August

Notice of the AGM has already been sent. Venue - Berjaya Mount Royal Beach Hotel, 36, College Avenue, Mount Lavinia. Sunday 1st August 2004. Time 10.00AM. AGM to be followed by a Buffet Lunch at the Hotel. Tickets for the lunch priced are at Rs.600, Beach and Pool available for use of Members with a changing room, corkage free for hard liquor provided soda/soft drinks are bought from the Hotel.

We urge all members to attend the AGM If you are unable to stay on for lunch you can take part in the AGM proceedings. Please note that the Rs. 600 charge is for Lunch and not for AGM participation!!! Lunch tickets are available with the Secretary and members of the Council. You may purchase tickets at the AGM itself, however, advance notice of your participation would be greatly appreciated to get the numbers right. We need to confirm participation of at least 30 members for the fellowship lunch.

Subscription Payments for 2004/2005

Please note that only members who have paid for the current year 2004/05 will be eligible to vote and also to seek any office bearer position at the AGM. Members who intend to pay their subscriptions are requested to come early and pay before the commencement of the AGM.

NEW VHF REPEATER UP AND WORKING

The VHF repeater donated by the Denmark is now up for testing at HNB towers, Darley Road.

The squelch level has been set at the lowest and the Tx power is 20W.

The antenna used is a yagi with only the radiator element and a reflector without any directors pointing towards East (inland). Height of antenna from ground level is approximately 90m.

The repeater output freq. is 145.600 MHz with -600kHz shift for repeater Rx. When the repeater is inactive a tone burst of 1750 Hz is needed to activate the repeater. Quite a few have although found it difficult to activate with tone burst and DTMF tone of keypad no 1 has been found to be effective.

If the repeater does not interfere with other communication systems at HNB towers, we may be able to fix it permanently soon.

Try to work the repeater and we are open to your comments and suggestions for any improvements.

We have received reception reports from as far as Polonnaruwa, Ambepussa and Polgahawela, but access has only been possible up to about 35km from Colombo. As the repeater output is set at a high level of 20W although it is received without any problem out of the Greater Colombo area, you may not be able to access it without an external antenna or/and a higher power if you are outside Colombo Suburbs.

Options available for improvements to the antenna will be looked in to and your suggestions are welcome.

CONTEST INFO FOR AUGUST de 4S7NI

SARL HF DX Contest--SSB--sponsored by the Bloemfontein Radio Amateur Club from 1330Z-1730Z Aug 8 (CW is Aug 29). Frequencies: 80-20 meters. Categories: SOAB, MS. Exchange: RS(T) + serial number. QSO points: SSB--1 pt, CW-- 2 pts. Total score: QSO points + ZS call areas and South African countries (see Web site). For more information: www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/contestrules.asp#HFCW PHONE. Logs due 14 days after the contest to admin@sarl.org.za or PO Box 1721, Strubensvallei 1735, Republic of South Africa.

Ten-Ten International Summer Phone QSO Party--

sponsored by Ten-Ten, International, 0010Z Aug 7-2359Z Aug 8, 10 meters only. Exchange: call, name, state and 10-10 number (if available). QSO points: nonmembers--1 pt, members--2 pts. Total score: sum of QSO points. For more information: www.ten-ten.org. Logs due Aug 23 to tentencontest@alltel.net or Steve Rasmussen, NOWY, 312 N 6th St, Plattsmouth, NE 68048-1302.

TARA "Grid Dip" Contest--PSK and RTTY--

sponsored by Troy ARA from 0000Z--2400Z Aug 7. Frequencies: 80-6 meters, work stations once per band, work Rovers again from new locators. Categories: SOAB only--QRP (<5 W), LP (<100 W max), HP (100 W max or RTTY legal limit), Rover (100 W max) operating from more than one Grid Locator, SWL. Exchange: Name and 4-digit grid locator. QSO points: 1 pt/QSO. Total score: QSO points \diamond Grid Locators counted once per band. For more information: www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_grid_rules.html . Scores due Sep 4 via online submission form or gridmanager@n2ty.org or Antony Headwomen, N3FX, 11301 Mosley Rd, Damascus, MD 20872-1332.

New Morse '@' Character

The International Morse code officially gained a new character on May 3. That's when the now-familiar "@" symbol joined the Morse lexicon as the letters "AC" run together (di dah dah di dah dit). Known as the "commercial at" or "commat," the @ symbol never rose to the level of usage that demanded a unique Morse character until it gained currency as a critical component of e-mail addresses during the past decade or so.

Last December, the International Telecommunication Union Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) Study Group 8 agreed on the wording of a Draft New Recommendation ITU-R M.[MORSE] that specified the international Morse code character set and transmission procedures and included the new Morse code character.

Source:The ARRL Letter Vol. 23, No. 18 April 30, 2004

Taken from IARU R3 News June issue.

INTERNATIONAL

LIGHTHOUSE/LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND 2004.

The International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend will be held on 21st and 22nd of August . The RSSL has sought permission from the Harbour Master to operate the event at Galle, Dondra and Beruwala lighthouses. Since this is a special event even Associate members can operate using the special event station call sign. As it is necessary to get prior permission from harbour master all interested members and their guests are requested to send their names and ID numbers to the Secretary on or before 2nd August. All participants will be required to sign an indemnity form given by SL Ports Authority.

Members who intend to participate please keep in touch with Asantha 4S7AK by phone (Mobile – 077-7769486) or email for details about final preparations.

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Edited and designed by Victor 4S7VK – Editor RSSL with the assistance of Kusal 4S7KE, and published by The Radio Society of Sri Lanka.

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Printed Matter

Registered as a Periodical in Sri Lanka

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The Radio Society of Sri Lanka
P.O.Box 907, COLOMBO

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