



RSSL NEWS!

JULY 2005

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

The General Meeting for the Month of July 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 Wednesday the 27th of July 2005 at 5.30 pm.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Please note that unless otherwise notified, monthly General Meetings will be held at the SLAAS at 0530 PM on the **last Wednesday of the month**. Please also monitor the RSSL net regularly on 145.650 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.

New Callsigns

The RSSL congratulates Ranjith Cryshantha Fernando who has upgraded his license to General Class with 4S7RZ and also welcomes to the ham bands M.P Mahesh Sudarshan who obtained his callsign 4S5MP. Members who obtained new callsigns are requested to inform the Secretary of their new callsigns with a copy of the license. Associate Members who obtained licenses have to upgrade their membership to corporate member category.

Newsletter by email

All members who currently do not receive the newsletter by email have the option of receiving an email copy in addition to the printed copy. Inform your email address to Victor or Kusal if you wish to receive an email copy of the newsletter.

Yahoo Group on Hamradio

Over 35 have joined the yahoo group. This forum can be used to discuss ham radio related matters particularly of interest to Sri Lankan hams and also to keep contact with fellow members specially those domiciled abroad.

To join simply send an email to

Hamradio-SriLanka-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

To participate in the discussion group one only needs an email account, it is not necessary to have full internet access.

News from TRC

The TRC has informed RSSL of the following facilities which have been approved as a result of the requests made by RSSL and the discussions held with TRC.

- ✍ Renewal of licenses for period of 5 years
- ✍ HF Mobile operations subject to security clearance for those entitled as per their license. (Those wishing to operate HF Mobile can apply from TRC for permission)

- ✍ License in Book format will be issued once it is printed and the charges for it are Gazetted.

REPEATERS: The Nuwara Eliya repeater duplexer was realigned by 4S7CS and his technical team at VOA Iranawila. We thank Alan and especially VOA Engineer Carl Britt who is a ham himself for extending their support to us. We hope to go up to Nuwara Eliya soon to try to reinstall the repeater there. In the meantime the repeater is installed at the RSSL shack for testing purposes. The antenna is at a height of only 60 feet. Check out 145.00 input, 145.600 output. No tone is needed, just the career.

In the meantime the old Yati is also ready to go up. We hope to try it at Nuwara Eliya if the old NE repeater can not stand the heavy RF field there. We are also seeking a site for the Danish repeater in the South or in the Matale area. Any member who can get us permission at a good site is welcome to contact us.

RSSL SHACK 4S7RS: The shack is gaining popularity. 4S7NI and KG participated in the IARU and SEANET contests during July. The HF beam will go up very soon thanks to the efforts of VJ and KG. In the meantime we have two inverted Vees at 60feet asl. Many SWLs also took the overnight availability to be active on VHF and also use the ADSL line to have a ball on the internet. You can operate VHF, HF and soon we ope Satellite. We thank 4S7BA for making all the arrangements.

INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE/LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND 2005

The International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend came into being from the Scottish Northern Lighthouses award weekend. Over the past 7 years it has grown to over 370 lighthouses in some 51 countries around the world participating in the event. The event is always held on the 3rd full weekend in August starting at 0001 UTC on Saturday and finishing at 2359 UTC on Sunday. It also now coincides on the Sunday with the International Lighthouse Day. The basic objective of the event is to promote public awareness of lighthouses and lightships and their need for preservation and restoration, to promote amateur radio and to foster International goodwill.

This highly popular annual August event attracts hundreds of amateur radio stations at lighthouses and lightships world-wide. This year the period of the event is from 0001 UTC on Saturday 20 August until 2359 UTC on Sunday 21 August 2005. The event is NOT a contest. It is a special event weekend when amateur radio stations are established at lighthouses or lightships and each group decides how it will operate the station with regard to modes and bands. Participants are not committed to being on the air during the entire period - operate as

to enjoy themselves and have fun while making contact with as many stations as possible whilst giving priority to other lighthouse/lightship stations.

The International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend is used to obtain maximum exposure for our hobby. The RSSL has sought permission from the Harbour Master to operate the event at Dondra (4S7RSL) and Beruwala (4S7LGT) lighthouses. Since this is a special event even SWL members can operate using the special event station call sign. As it is necessary to get prior permission from the harbour master, all interested members are requested to send their names and ID numbers to the Secretary before 30 July 2005.

Access for Frequencies above 30MHz

Nalaka – 4S6NM has requested that the RSSL should work on allocating frequencies above 30MHz mainly UHF 430-440 MHz, 1240-1300 MHz and 2300-2450 MHz to novice class operators as well. It has been decided to seek the views of members in this matter at the July General meeting, those unable to attend could send them to the Secretary by post or email.

Decisions taken about the Sri Lankan licence have to be in keeping with international standards. It is important that members who write in or express their views for or against the above proposal at the meeting do so with valid references and not purely taking their personal feelings as a guide. The RSSL will study the views of members as well as the international implications of this and make a decision.

Security Clearance for amateur equipment

President Victor and Secretary Kusal met the Technical Advisor to the Ministry of Public Security, Law and Order Brigadier John Seneweera to discuss the issue of obtaining security clearance for the import of amateur radio equipment.

Visit by Kenneth – N5VHO

Kenneth G. Ransom – N5VHO, from USA who is at NASA as Ham Radio Project Engineer of the International Space Station will be in Sri Lanka this month. If things work out according to schedule he would address the RSSL members at the July General Meeting. He would also be trying to communicate with the shuttle crew from Sri Lanka while he is here.

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