



RSSL NEWS!

MARCH 2005

The Monthly Newsletter of THE RADIO SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

The General Meeting for the Month of March will be held at the Club Room (On the side of the main auditorium) of Vidya Mandiraya, SLAAS – Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science 120/10, Vidya Mawatha, Colombo 7 on Wednesday the 30th of March 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 145.625 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.

New Council Member

Arosha Kaluarachchi – 4S6AK was elected as a Council Member at the last General Meeting to fill in the vacancy in the Council created by the resignation of George Jayaratne – 4S7GJ.

Amateur Radio Magazines for Sale.

Recent issues of various Amateur Radio Magazines received by RSSL such as QST, Radcom, are available for sale at the General Meeting for prices ranging from Rs.10 to 100.

Echolink

TRC has given formal approval for connecting RSSL repeaters to the Echo-link network through the Internet. The Yati repeater will continue to be linked to Echo-link daily from 9.30-11.30 pm and in addition also during daytime in the weekends so that many foreign stations could access the Yati repeater through the Internet. Repeater linking to Echolink through internet was earlier done from the QTH of Kusal and is currently being linked by Asantha – 4S7AK from his QTH.

New Callsigns

All members who have upgraded their classes of licenses and obtained new call-signs are requested to update their callsigns in the RSSL database by sending a copy of their license to the Secretary. New license holders are requested to update their class of membership to Corporate Member also by sending a copy of their license and paying the relevant corporate membership fee.

Tsunami Disaster Relief Net

The RSSL would like to emphasise the supporting role played by ICTA (Information and Communication Technology Agency)

in setting up the Tsunami Disaster relief communication network. The communication Centre at Prime Minister's residence was set up with the intervention of the ICTA. Our apologies to ICTA for not mentioning their role in the previous newsletter.

The RSSL was preparing to go to Tangalle and provide communications to Colombo by setting up a command centre in Colombo, to link up with Tangalle and a mobile Centre in the Southern Province when the ICTA through Bharatha 4S5BA approached the RSSL to move to Hambantota and link up with the Prime Minister's Office. We are glad that through the ICTA we were able to provide the PM's office with disaster communications and make our effort that much more valuable.

NUWARA ELIYA REPEATER

A team comprising Kusal – 4S7KE, Asantha-4S7AK, Wije-4S7VJ and Kamal-4S7AB went to Nuwara Eliya to reinstall the VHF repeater at TNL station Oliphant Estate. Despite many attempts it was not possible to get the repeater working in a satisfactory manner due to strong interfering signals present at the location.

A duplexer for the Danish repeater is expected from USA which was arranged by Ekendra 4S7EF and David Gilmore and it is planned to test the Danish repeater also at the same location.

FLASH!! *The Duplexer has just arrived.* David was able to get his friends at "Airline Ambassadors," a team of medical doctors who visited Sri Lanka to carry it all the way from the USA. It is a rather big box I must say! The interest taken by David and Ekendra has been tremendous. I don't have to say it., but every radio amateur who uses the repeater will be thankful to David and all those who were associated with this project. The road that amateur radio traverses in Sri Lanka is studded with milestones and this gift from David will be one such. Thanks Ekendra for your interest in the development of amateur radio in Sri Lanka and David for the many miles and hours of effort to secure the Duplexer, the visits to the factory and last but by no means least the more than thousand green backs who have spent.

The goodwill shown to the RSSL by its members whether they be Council Members or not, be Sri Lankans or not makes the spirit of Amateur Radio come alive. The Tsunami has shown, if there was any doubt, that the Amateurs of the world care. We also like to recall all the efforts by members in the past as well, for repeaters, Echolink, equipment and funds donated to the RSSL. Thanks again gentlemen. And ladies.

26th February Disaster Communications Training Program

As announced in our last newsletter our field day to give operating exposure to the many schools involved in the Disaster Preparedness programme got underway on the 26th. Stations were set up at Ratnapura with 4S7VJ/KG, Bandarawela 4S7CK, Kandy 4S7VK/AB, Veyangoda 4S7HP/NI, Guides HQ 4S7EA/AK/5SS, Janadhipathi Vidyalaya Battaramulla 4S6AK, Ibbagauwa 4S7MM/5AH, St. Peter's College Colombo 4S7CF.

The Guides and Scouts enjoyed themselves very much and the experience motivated them greatly. The RSSL was also able to bring in the Echo-link thanks to 4S7KE and this enhanced the effort even more with Sri Lankan living abroad giving it a boost by coming on. We also welcome Dharmapala Vidyalaya Pannipitiya who has already established an Amateur Radio Club, under the direction of Wasantha 4S5WP. The RSSL wishes to thank the many hams who go out of their way, and homes, travelling long distances and putting in many hours at the controls to bring in Amateur Radio to our youth..

On the 25th March there will be another theory class at the Guides HQ where further training will be provided. We welcome any help from members who are interested in promoting Amateur Radio to give a hand with the training programme. However, let me not mince words but clearly state that people who don't believe in the usefulness of Amateur Radio as we know it, need not loiter around to poison the minds of young people discouraging them from learning Morse to mention but one amongst many other negative aspects thrown in.

Relief supplies container from French Hams:

The French Radio Club which earlier provided the RSSL with disaster equipment sent a 40 foot container full of relief supplies to Sri Lanka. It was accompanied by Daniel Barrot . 4S7CF and 4S7VK spent long hours at the Port of Colombo and the Social Service Ministry to help clear the container. It is widely known to what great trouble one has to go to clear relief containers from the Port. The RSSL wishes to thank Calvin 4S7CF for doing almost the impossible to get this container cleared within 2 days from the Port. Using the great trust and relations built with the Ministry of Social Welfare at a time they requested the RSSL to provide communications help, and Calvin's personal contacts, the RSSL was able to help the French club to clear the humanitarian aid container from the Port and send it to Matara.

Daniel was able to distribute the aid with the help of 4S7SKR and helpers under the supervision of the Divisional Secretary and Daniel himself. 2100 people affected by the Tsunami received material aid from this project. Amongst the material were Beds, Bicycles, Tools, wheelchair, clothes and many household goods. We like to thank Daniel, Alan F6BFH and many friends for going out of their way to help Sri Lankan Tsunami affected Matara. A great word of thanks and appreciation goes to Mario and his wife for organising the smooth distribution of the aid. Calvin did a wonderful job assisted by 4S7VK. This container had nothing in it for radio amateurs but the duty of the

RSSL is also to help in whatever way possible other foreign amateurs and the international community in humanitarian work, and build bridges of friendship and good-will.

When we moved into the Social Service Ministry, some were of the opinion that the usefulness of radio communications had passed after the first 48 hours. The RSSL not only provided emergency communication in the initial very crucial hours, but has also been constantly in touch with many NGOs to help with their communications. The Ministry of Social Welfare appreciated our willingness to help. The TRC upholds the value of Amateur Radio and wants to incorporate it in the emergency communications network. We need people who have a vision and can lead and think beyond the small minds of people who run away when the first mobile phone starts piping away and says Amateur Radio is now redundant. Hey might as well go and distribute mobile phones to displaced people and camps which still after 3 months have no regular communications. People are asking for bread, not cake.

EDITORS NOTE: This month the Newsletter is hurriedly got up. You will have to excuse any lapses. I need your technical articles to make the Newsletter a useful monthly technical guide as well.

RSSL COUNCIL CONTACT INFO

President/Editor: Victor Goonetilleke 4S7VK
"Shangri-La" 298 Madapatha Rd, Piliyandala.
Phone:011-2614098 E-mail: victorg@slt.lk.

Hony. Secretary – Kusal Epa 4S7KE
34-A, Wijayaba Mawatha, Nugegoda
Phone : 011-2853982 Email : kusal@ieee.org

Hony.Treasurer – Asantha Illesinghe 4S7AK
32, Bagatalle Road, Colombo 3
Phone : 011-2588874 Email : asantha@imap.cc

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

Views and opinions contained in articles and other material published herein are of their respective authors' and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Publisher.

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

© The Radio Society of Sri Lanka 2005

Printed Matter

If Undeliverable Please return to
The Radio Society of Sri Lanka
P.O.Box 907, COLOMBO

To: