



# RSSL NEWS

MAY 2005

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

The General Meeting for the Month of May 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 25th of May 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.

## Membership fees for 2005/06

The financial year 2005/06 began on 1<sup>st</sup> April and Members are requested to pay their membership dues without delay.

## The RSSL Receives further assistance for its Disaster Communications Network

When the Tsunami struck Sri Lanka on the 26<sup>th</sup> December President Victor 4S7VK received numerous calls from his world wide friends in International Broadcasting and SWBC DXing, as a broadcaster for more than 24 years on Radio Netherlands, Broadcaster on Radio Korea, contributor to the World Radio TV handbook etc asking about what assistance they could provide the people of Sri Lanka in their private capacities. When he stated that we were providing disaster communications they authorised him to use whatever funds needed for the communications effort of the RSSL from funds they were collecting. As a result the RSSL didn't incur any expenditure from its small budget up to now for all Tsunami connected work. This is even after receiving \$4000 from JARL for disaster communications.

Fund raising efforts of Victor's friends in Europe and N.America also resulted in a German Ham Paul W. kluetz DK4FV and his DX Group making a donation of Euro 1700 specifically for a disaster communications network. This money has been given to the RSSL to utilise for the Disaster Communications network it is building up.. We like to thank Paul Kluetz DK4FV for all his efforts.

The great response from the international community has helped the RSSL to get on Echo-link, gets its repeaters functioning and get badly needed hardware for them as well. In addition equipment has been received and further equipment has been pledged by the French Radio Amateurs and we await government authorization to go ahead. We have also been able to commission the RSSL shack. We thank all those who have assisted in these efforts and the good will of the members.

## Yahoo Discussion Group on Ham Radio in Sri Lanka

A Yahoo discussion group on Ham radio in Sri Lanka has been created.

The website is

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Hamradio-SriLanka/>

To subscribe to the group send an email from the email account you need to include, to

[Hamradio-SriLanka-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Hamradio-SriLanka-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

To post a message send them to

[Hamradio-SriLanka@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Hamradio-SriLanka@yahoogroups.com)

Members of the group will receive by email all messages posted. They can be viewed at the group website given above also. Message posting is open to all including those who are not Group members. Group membership is open to all.

To unsubscribe from the Group send an email to

[Hamradio-SriLanka-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Hamradio-SriLanka-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Contact Kusal – 4S7KE for any clarifications.

## VO52 (HAMSAT) Information

VUSat-OSCAR 52 (VO-52 HAMSAT) is a microsatellite for providing satellite based Amateur Radio Services to the national as well as the international community of Amateur Radio Operator (HAM's). Launched as an auxiliary payload on PSLV-6 by The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) along with CARTOSAT-1, the 42.5 kg VO-52 will meet the long felt need of the Amateur Radio Operators in the South Asian region who possess the required equipment and operate in the UHF / VHF band based satellite radio communication. One of the transponders of VO-52 has been developed indigenously involving Indian HAM's with the expertise of ISRO and the experience of AMSAT-India. The second transponder has been developed by Dutch Radio Amateur Operator and Graduate Engineering student William Leijenaar PE1RAH from the Higher Technical Institute, Venio, Netherlands.

VO-52 is India's contribution to the international community of Amateur Radio Operators. This effort is also meant to bring ISRO's satellite services within the reach of the common man and popularize space technology among the masses.

This satellite will play a valuable role in the national and international scenario by providing a low cost readily accessible and reliable means of communications during emergencies and calamities like foods, earthquakes etc. It will stimulate technical interest and awareness among the younger generation by providing them with an opportunity to develop their technological projects including offering a platform. Some of the new technologies being tested in VO-52 include Integrated

Processor based Electronic Bus Management Unit, Lithium Ion Battery and Gallium Arsenide based Solar Panels.

#### Satellite Features:

- Physical: 630 mm X 630 mm X 550 mm Cuboid
- Mass: 42.5 kg
- Orbit: Near Circular Polar Low Earth Orbit
- Structure: Aluminium Honeycomb Structure
- Power: Body mounted Gallium Arsenide Solar Panels, Lithium Ion Battery
- Stabilisation: Spin Stabilized (4 +/- 0.5 RPM)
- Antennas: UHF Turnstile VHF Turnstile
- Transponder Uplink: 435.250 MHz
- Transponder Downlink: 145.900 MHz
- Beacons - 145.936 MHz (Unmodulated Carrier) OR 145.860 MHz CW Telemetry
- Transponder Bandwidth: 60 kHz
- Transmitter Output: 1 watt
- Modes of Communication: CW, SSB (FM also according to [www.amsatindia.com](http://www.amsatindia.com))

Taken from [www.amsat.org](http://www.amsat.org). (Thanks to Stefan 4S6ST for the info)

#### CD on Amateur Radio exam material

Wije 4S7VJ has compiled a CD with study material for the amateur radio examination and morse code practice lessons. Members who are interested in obtaining a copy could contact Wije on 011-2578447 (Email : [jt4s7vj@slt.lk](mailto:jt4s7vj@slt.lk) )

#### RSSL RADIO SHACK A REALITY

The shack is now being put in place at 82/1 Galle Road Colombo 4, entrance through Haig Road. The shack is located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor next to IE Electronics show room. At the moment we have a 40 m and VHF antennas up on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor roof top. The RSSL tri-bander for the higher HF bands which has no boom is being repaired and should go up pretty soon as well. This will enable members to enjoy HF DX and also work VHF. The RSSL has already put in HF and VHF equipment.

We also invite interested members to get the shack equipped with Satellite antennas so that members can work satellite as well. We need volunteers to build the antenna system. The club can meet all expenditure of course. The advantage of a club station is that even SWLs can enjoy listening and also under the watchful eye of licensed hams experience ham radio.

There is also an ADSL connection which is pen to members. At the moment we do not have a computer in place, but that too is being looked into so that embers can browse the Internet and also work out the Satellite passes.

The Council welcome all suggestions and help from members to make the RSSL shack a truly state of the art listening and transmitting centre for our members.

Printed Matter

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

**COLOMBO / YATI / N-Eliya REPEATERS:** At the time of writing arrangements are in place to go up to Yatiyantota on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May to bring down the ailing Yati repeater for repairs and put in the Danish repeater with the new duplexer at Yati until the yati repeater is fully refurbished. If repairs can be carried out satisfactorily on location our team will repair the Yati repeater and put it back and not bring it down. The Nuwara Eliya repeater will also be tested at Yati on this trip. If the present Colombo Danish repeater is put at Yati temporarily the freq will be 145.650 with -600kHz shift It need a tone burst 1750 Hz to activate it. A good whistle is more than adequate!

**VHF Receiver Project.** Anyone interested in receiving the circuit diagram and details of Udaya Jayantha's VHF project is free to write in for a hard copy. I have not received the final PCB layout which should come in later this week, unfortunately too late for inclusion in the Newsletter.

**RAE-2004 EXAM: The long delayed exam was conducted on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of May. We wish all those who sat, the best of luck and welcome more hams into the community**

#### **RSSL COUNCIL CONTACT INFO**

RSSL, P.O. Box 907, Colombo

**President/Editor:** Victor Goonetilleke 4S7VK  
"Shangri-La" 298 Madapatha Rd, Piliyandala.

Phone:011-2614098 E-mail: [victorg@slt.lk](mailto:victorg@slt.lk).

**Hony. Secretary** – Kusal Epa 4S7KE

34-A, Wijayaba Mawatha, Nugegoda  
Phone : 011-2853982 Email : [kusal@ieee.org](mailto:kusal@ieee.org)

**Hony.Treasurer** – Asantha Illesinghe 4S7AK

32, Bagatalle Road, Colombo 3  
Phone : 011-2588874 Email : [asantha@imap.cc](mailto: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

To: