



**THE RADIO SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA**  
**Annual Report for the year 2011/2012**

The Council of Management of the RSSL has pleasure in submitting to the members, this annual report of the RSSL for the period February 20<sup>th</sup> 2011 to 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2012  
 This report has been approved by the council of management of the RSSL.

**Council of Management**

The following members were elected to the Council of Management for the year 2011-2012 at the AGM held at Otter Aquatic Club on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2011.

Patron	: Hon. Minister of communications.
Vice Patron	: Secretary, Ministry of communications. : Director general of Telecommunication Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka.
President	:Mr. Dammika Fernando- 4S7DF
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	:Mr. Harenn Durghabakshi 4S7RD
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	:Mr. Mr. K. K. G. Kulasekara 4S7KG
Hony. Secretary	:Mr.G.V.A. Goonetilleke– 4S7VK
Hony. Treasurer	:Mr.Rodney Martenstyn – 4S7RM

Council Members elected at the AGM

	1. Mr. Bharath Aponso – 4S6ABC
	2. J. T. Wijeratne 4S7VJ
	3. Mr. Leslie Weerakkody 4S7WL
	4. Mr. Jaliya Lokeshwara 4S7JL
	5. Mr. Uthpala Vithana 4S7UV
	6. Mr. Upul Senanayake (Assoc. Mem.)
	7. Mr. Kingsly Wimalawanse (Ass. Member)
Auditor	: Ratnayake.T.A. & Company

**Following appointments were made by the RSSL council,**

Librarian	: Mr.Leslie Weerakkody 4S7WL
Editor,IARU coordinator, and Disaster Operations Manager:	Mr.Victor Goonatilake 4S7VK

QSL manager : Mr.Uthpala Vithana – 4S7UV  
 Awards manager : Mr.Denver Wijesooriya – 4S7DA  
 HF Beacon coordinator Mr. Asantha Ilesinghe – 4S7AK and  
 Mr.Sirimevan Abeysinghe – 4S7SA  
 Echo Link Coordinator : Mr. Bharath Aponso – 4S6ABC  
 Yatiyantota Repeater coordinator: Mr.J.T.Wijeratne – 4S7VJ  
 N’Eliya repeater coordinator :Mr. Vasantha Guruge – 4S7VG  
 RSSL shack custodian : Mr Bharath Aponso – 4S6ABC

### **General meetings and council meetings**

Number of General meeting held for the year:- 10

Number of Council meeting held for the year:- 11

The attendance of council members at the meetings is given below:-

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Council meetings (11)</b>	<b>General meetings (09)</b>
1	Dammika F’do 4S7DF	President	11	9
2	Harenn D’kshi 4S7RD	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	7	7
3	Kule – 4S7KG	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	6	6
4	Victor- 4S7VK	Secretary	11	9
5	Rodney – 4S7RM	Treasurer	10	9
6	Wije – 4S7VJ	Elected Council Member	9	8
7	Bharath – 4S6ABC	Elected Council member	7	6
8	Leslie W. 4S7WL	Elected Council member	7	6
9	Jaliya L 4S7JL	Elected Council member	8	6
10	Uthpala V.-4S7UV	Elected Council member	7	9
11	Kingsly W. (Associate)	Elected Council member	7	7
12	Upul S (Associate)	Elected Council member	4	4

### **Membership on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February -2011**

04 new members have joined the society during this administrative year.

Summary of the membership as follows:

Number of Honorary members : 7

Number of Corporate members : 138 (4S5 – 37, 4S6 – 15, 4S7 – 95)

Number of Affiliated Clubs : 1

Number of Overseas members : 24

Number of Associate members : 107

Number of Student members : 18

Total :295

Eighty of the above are life members

### **Following new members were enrolled during the year 2010/2011**

Student (1)

Ahmed Nabil Jain

Corp. (2)

W.A.Senarath Wickramasinghe 4S6WAS

Nadika Hapuaarachi 4S5NCH

Associate (1)

Kasun Maduranga Kaluthanthirige

### **FACILITIES PROVIDED FOR THE AMATEUR COMMUNITY**

#### **RSSL Club station**

RSSL club station has been active on Sundays but needs to be revitalized. Thanks to 4S7VJ, KG, WL. The station is equipped with HF and VHF transceivers, a rotatable HF beam Antenna is available and needs to go up on a tower or mast. The main problem has been corrosion due to the salt-spray. A computer and other accessories are also available.

The RSSL is very grateful to OM Bharat-4S6ABC for providing space for the club station. Haig Road Bambalapitiya is very conveniently located for anyone to attend and it is hoped that the facilities will be used by many more in the years to come. Since the dropping of CW/Morse code requirement for obtaining a license, the attendance at training classes has shown a noticeable drop.

#### **RAE Classes/Examination Assistance to members**

A great word of thanks go to Wije 4S7VJ and Nadeeka 4S5NCH for preparing an “on-line” self examining project on the [www.rssl.lk](http://www.rssl.lk) website which goes into 5 years of past question papers with answers and explanations. It has been hailed by many and even by other clubs worldwide who have posted links to the [www.rssl.lk](http://www.rssl.lk) web page.

#### **RSSL Library**

The library is functioning well with the availability of magazines like RADCOM, QST and reference facilities. It is open almost every Sunday. There are 50 text books and 200 magazines available at the moment. The RSSL thanks Leslie 4S7WL for arranging library facilities. A Computer is available with an ADSL connection. Since the Library was moved to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the building there has been a temporary halt in activities which will be restarted in the near future.

#### **RSSL VHF net**

The RSSL VHF net is operative daily commencing at 9 pm via the Yatyantota repeater by regular net-controllers, Victor 4S7VK assisted by Jaliya 4S7JL. On the average 10 Sri Lankan radio amateurs have been checking in and on some occasions Indian stations when propagation has made it possible. The Echo-Link is also connected to the Yati repeater and we have had Sri Lankan expatriate members checking in.

**7060 kHz:** The age old tradition of getting together on 7060 has been kept alive thanks to many 4S7s. Sam 4S7GF, Nihal 4S7WN, Nelson 4S7NE, Calvin 4S7CF/a from Batticaloa, Naren 4S7NC, Jayantha 4S7DJ, Trevour 4S7TZ, Victor 4S7VK, Mario 4S7SKR, Ron 4S7RO, Ravi 4S6RAV, Sena 4S6SSP, Gayan 4S6GGS have been heard operating and helping to keep our frequency intact. Members are urged to occupy the channel 7060 kHz as often as possible because non use on a regular basis will weaken our claim to the channel which is often used by non Sri Lankan stations who are not aware of the traditional usage of the 40m.b.

## **VHF Repeaters**

### **1. Yatiyantota Repeater (145.625 minus shift)**

This is the mainstay of Sri Lankan repeater activity. If Yati goes out VHF activity comes to a grinding halt!! Thanks to all who keep the ball rolling and Wije 4S7VJ and his team of Jaliya 4S7JL/ Nadeeka 4S5NCH/ Thilan 4S5TNT for taking care of things. The antenna at Yati was replaced in February along with a lightning protector and a new ground rod was also added and it showed a marked improvement. The coverage is about 50% of the country under good conditions. The battery was also replaced with a sealed low maintenance battery.

### **2. Nuwara Eliya Repeater ( 145.650 minus shift)**

It is sad to report that the Nuwara Eliya repeater is severely damaged due to lightning and repairs have been very difficult. Malaka 4S6MHM from Matale has been trying to get it back into wiring condition.

### **3. STONO Repeater (145.600 minus 600 shift)**

This is the very first Repeater installed in Sri Lanka. The move to Deniyaya on test basis wasn't successful due to severe desensitizing and we even had difficulty getting it down as it was declared a high security zone. On getting the repeater down to Colombo it was discovered that there was a serious problem with the unit and also the controller. 4S7RO Ron and 4S7RL Rohan designed and built a controller unit and 4S7LF Leo did up the modules and brought it to working order. At the moment, after on air tests, moves are underway to retune and improve the front end. The repeater will be ready to go up in a suitable place very soon.

### **4. PYE REPEATER (148.800 -600 shift)**

As members will remember this repeater was installed at HNB Towers on 145.800 and functioned with two antennas for a while until it developed a problem and the TXer ran uncontrolled for a week un-noticed as this repeater was not regularly used. We are happy to announce that Jayantha 4S5SC has repaired this repeater completely overhauling it and is under test now with two antennas.. We need a duplexer for it and preliminary explorations have been made to secure one.

## **Echo Link**

The Echo Link is connected to the Yatiyantota repeater and it is on from time to time. It is located at the RSSL shack at Haig Road and in the care of 4S6ABC Bharath. Sadly it has been observed that very few people use it.

## **HF Beacon**

The HF beacon is installed at Galle and is functioning well after a new PSU was installed. This is a very useful service for DX stations to assess HF propagation between Sri Lanka and their locations. The Beacon operates on 14.100MHz, 18.110MHz, 21.150MHz, 24.930MHz, 28.200Mhz and identifies in CW as 4S7B. The beacon has been running 24x7 for more than 25 years. We extend our thanks to Asantha 4S7AK for playing host to the Beacon in Galle and checking up on it

## **RSSL web site (www.rssl.lk)**

The RSSL web site was redesigned by Nadeeka 4S5NCH and we also got a prime web domain name and unlimited capacity thanks to the efforts of Nadeeka 4S5NCH. He not only hosts it, but also periodically updates it. Please visit the site [www.rssl.lk](http://www.rssl.lk) During an average day around 60 hits are recorded and this number is going up. During the Tsunami warning in April it went up to almost a thousand hits in an hour. Many features have been added and further improvements are being undertaken. It has brought in many inquiries and messages of appreciation from members.

## **QSL BURO**

The RSSL operates an incoming QSL Buro with Uthapola Vithane 4S7UV putting in a great effort to distribute cards to members. Unfortunately due to the high cost of postage the RSSL is unable to operate an outgoing Buro. Uthapala takes great care to packet each one's cards and securely deliver them.

## **NEWSLETTERS:**

3 Newsletters "RSSL NEWS" were made available to the membership during the year which kept members informed about RSSL activities. In keeping with a proposal to get costs down and with the availability of E-mail and the web site, it was decided at the last AGM to limit the number of newsletters to save nearly Rs. 4000 a month in postage costs and use e-mail and the website to communicate with members and also announce on the VHF Net any important notices. The Newsletter was mailed to all members either via e-mail or regular post. The Newsletter is sent via e-mail to members on request, friends of the RSSL and member societies of the IARU as a free service.

## **ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR 2011/2012**

Regular monthly meetings were held other than in December and April. We had foreign guest speakers on some occasions and also a very useful presentation on Disaster Management by Dimuthu 4S7DZ which along with the Tsunami scare in April re-emphasised the need to have a functioning Disaster Management group. At present there are nearly 35 members and non members who have volunteered to help in a disaster situation. Discussions were initiated and an action plan formulated to work closely with the DMC. Discussions are taking place with the Director General of the DMC and a meeting is to be set up during the last week in July.

## **51<sup>th</sup> JOTA held on the third weekend of October 2011.**

There were 8 stations operational. Ferguson Girl's High School, Ratnapura was operated by Naomi 4S7NL assisted by 4S7VJ-Wije, 4S7KG-Kule and 4S7UV-Uthapala.. Attampitiya National School was operated by Chandra 4S7CK, Lyceum International School Nugegoda by Harenn 4S7RD, Blind School Ratmalana by Victor 4S7VK/Nishantha 4S7NI/Upali 4S6URN/Nadeeka 4S5NCH, Ja-Ela Scouts HQ by Victor 4S7VK/Nadeeka 4S5NCH/ Senarath 4S6WAS, Bhurani College Bambalapitiya Asgar 4S7AA, Jaliya 4S7JL and Thilan 4S5TNT at Mathugama, Ranjit 4S7RR in Avissawella and Santhusth 4S5JY/Daya 4S7DB Club station 4S6ARA in Kandy. The Yati Repeater carried the bulk of the traffic and some stations could use simplex channels. HF 7060 kHz also provided useful contacts and international JOTA contacts were made of the higher bands.

## **TSUNAMI ALERT NET:**

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 2012 at around 2.30 p.m. alarm bells and sirens were sounded. The RSSL members quickly passed the message around and checked up with members. The Yati repeater was a hive of activity and many stations stood by with Jaliya 4S7JL and Victor 4S7VK operating a net on 145.625 and controlling the traffic to keep the repeater free in case of disaster. After the first 30 minutes or so from time to time telephone networks got saturated and it was impossible to get any telephone calls in or out. However, our amateur frequencies and repeater held fast and was open for any traffic, again demonstrating that during times of disaster amateur radio can play a crucial roll.

**BERUWELA LIGHTHOUSE 4S7LGT:**

Once again it is to the credit of the RSSL that Barbaryn Light House was activated by Wije 4S7VJ/Kule 4S7KG/Jalya 4S7JL/ Uthpala 4S7UV/ ably supported by others. A much bigger event is planned for August this year and a special QSL card has been printed for 4S7RS AS171 Barbaryn.

**RSSL FOX HUNT 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2012:**

After a number of years a Fox Hunt was organized by Jaliya 4S7JL Nadeeka 4S5NCH and Senarath 4S7WAS with excellent arrangements including maps and an RSSL Cap for the event. In all 5 teams participated and the team lead by Nadeeka 4S5NCH which included, Daya 4S7DB, Tilak 4S6ATL tracked down the fox to a rocky outcrop in a temple at Kaduwela after about 4 hours of tracking. Prizes were given which included radio stuff like antennas and a very well done certificate to all participants.

**AMATEUR RADIO TRAINING CAMP:**

The RSSL along with the Vijaya Newspapers organized three training camps in April, June and August for Scouts. Past question papers were given to all participants and lectures and demonstrations were conducted at the Deaf School Ratmalana. An FM antenna project was also carried out to explain antenna theory. The Boy and girl scouts enjoyed themselves. Scout groups came from as far away as Badulla. We appreciate the help given by Vijay 4S7VJ, Kule 4S7KG, Jaliya 4S7JL, Victor 4S7VK, Upali 4S6URN to make the training programme a success. It has resulted in the addition of 4 new radio amateurs to the ham community. We also place on record our thanks to Vijaya Newspapers and Mr. Chaminda Wariapperuma.

**EXHIBITION STALL/STATION AT STC MOUNT LAVINIA**

On the 3/4/5 October 2011 the RSSL had a stall and special event station 4S7RS on both VHF and HF to take Amateur Radio to the community. The bad October weather dampened the event but the station was a success even though numbers coming into the stall were few due to the bad wx. Bharath 4S6ABC organized with Kule, Wijay, Jaliya, Sanidu and Victor helping him.

**Amateur Activity on the Bands VHF/UHF**

During the year nearly 50 Sri Lankan VHF operators were heard on the bands. Main activity was centred around the Yatiyantota repeater with about 15 amateurs being heard regularly. Other popular frequencies have been 145.550, 145.500, 145.700 operating simplex. With 4 repeaters in working order now it is hoped to link these repeaters and initial preparations have already been made. The project document has been placed on the website.

**HF Activity** In addition to the local rag chews on 7060 kHz, real Dxing took place on all HF bands. Nelson 4S7NE and Ron 4S7RO made 160 and 80m active as have been in the past making these hard to work bands available to the international community. 40/20/18/21/24/28 were the other bands that 4S7s and 4S6s kept alive. Most often heard stations were 4S7NE Nelson, 4S7KM Ranjit, 4S7VK Victor, 4S7RO Ron, 4S7CF/a Calvin, 4S7NMM Nalaka, 4S7WM Wimal, 4S7TZ Trevor, 4S7WN Nihal, 4S7DF Dammika, 4S7VJ Wijay, 4S7KG Kule, 4S7LF Leo,

**MEMBERS ABROAD:** There has been a rather steady, but we won't call it alarming though, exodus especially to VK land. During the past year we saw 4S7RO, 4S7KE, 4S7SC, 4S7HG and along with 4S7NB, 4S7AI, 4S7WI and a few more Australia has been the beneficiary.

We were very sad to see 4S7EA Ernest and XYL Chandra who need no introduction, leave Sri Lanka for the US to join their son Kavi 4S7K in California earlier in 2011. Members will remember bidding farewell to Ernest and Chandra at the last AGM. We miss them very much and

are happy to see them happily settled down in the US. Ernest does come on Echo-link from time to time.

On a happier note we had Abdul 4S7RN and Feroz 4S7FG visiting us and joining us at the monthly meetings. Even though these members have been away from the shores of Sri Lanka they have always been in contact and helped the RSSL in many a way.

### **Obituaries**

Compared to the previous year, 20011/12 were sad years where we lost more of our dear members. Glenn 4S7GV was the Beacon of Sri Lankan activity. Even though he was over 90 years he was on the band every day until the last 2 weeks. We miss Glen Pappa as we so affectionately called him daily on 145.550 where his morning wake up call is heard no more.

We also lost Manel Chandraratne 4S7CMR who was very active from Anniwatte Kandy in earlier years on his return to Sri Lanka having been in Brunei, and this last month 4S7GW G.W. Wickremaratne, Wicky who kept Chilaw so active. Wicky was an excellent CW operator and many were the chats many of us had with him late into the night on the Yati repeater.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The RSSL Council wishes to thank the following for services they have rendered to the society in various capacities.

1. Director General and other officials of the Telecommunication Regulatory Commission and in particular Asst. Director Amateur services.
2. The Additional Secretary Ministry of Defense and Urban Development and the technical advisor for always helping the cause of amateur radio.
3. Mr. Shan Wickramasinghe for allowing us to locate the Nuwara Eliya repeater at TNL premises, Oliphent Estate and even giving publicity to Amateur Radio on his TNL program.
4. The Directors and the Technical staff of ITN for hosting the RSSL Repeater at ITN premises at Yatiyantota and helping in regular maintenance. Also for their willingness always to help us in our maintenance visits and on our recent feasibility expedition to Karagahatanne.
5. Vasantha Guruge 4S7VG for being there always for the RSSL to coordinate matters with ITN and TNL
6. OM Asantha-4S7AK for hosting the HF Beacon at his Estate in Galle, and also checking up often on the Beacon to keep our international obligations fulfilled.
7. OM Bharath 4S6ABC for maintaining the Echo Link
8. OM Bharat-4S6ABC and his family for space and facilities to house the RSSL club station.
9. OM Kule-4S7KG and Wije 4S7VJ for helping upcoming radio amateurs with Theory classes.
10. OM 4S5NCH Nadeeka for his tremendous generosity and dedication taking our technical team to repeater sites at very high personal expense. Thank you Nadeeka and also your team of Jaliya, Wijay, Thilan for all this work and also hosting the [www.rssl.lk](http://www.rssl.lk) website free of cost to the club.
11. OM Lesley 4S7WL our librarian.
12. All those who helped in the functioning of the Society and it's activities in numerous ways. Most of all those who kept the bands alive.

Special thanks go to outgoing President, Dammika 4S7DF for leading the RSSL and the cause of amateur radio in the last three years. As the Secretary I wish to highlight and pay a special tribute

to the Hony. Treasurer Rodney Martenstyn 4S7RM who relinquishes the position after many years of service to the RSSL with a record that has been impeccable.

A special word of thanks go to Council members who keep the RSSL alive and doing the day to day running which is no easy task. Attending Council and General meetings alone takes much time and expense. Special events like exhibition stalls and JOTAs take much preparation and again require the sacrifice of personal funds. Without their support it would have been very hard to keep the RSSL afloat during these difficult times. There are many members who carry the weight of amateur radio carrying out many projects to take amateur radio to the community. They are not in the Council and seek no publicity and do it all for the love of the hobby.. They are not seen, sometimes not even heard on the bands but often work in the background and help us in many ways. With the Internet and other services making inroads into our traditional youth base and also with the rapid increase in the pace of life, it is increasingly hard for people to give their time for voluntary work like serving amateur radio. It is the duty of all concerned to uplift the standard of amateur radio, to strengthen it and enhance the respect towards the Amateur Service of the authorities and society at large. We are happy to announce that MOD clearance difficulties have almost disappeared completely and equipment clearance and clearance for licenses come back fast from MOD. There is no problem getting down equipment anymore. With the security situation easing we wish all our members great times of amateur radio.

**Best wishes to all the members of the RSSL for a successful year ahead.  
73!!,**

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G. V. A. Goonetilleke

Hony. Secretary The Radio Society of Sri Lanka