

URL: <http://www.rssl.lk>



# RSSL NEWS

November 2012

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

**The General Meeting for the Month of November 2012 will be held on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> of November to coincide with the RSSL outing at Nature resort Hanwella.**

**MONTHLY MEETINGS** are held on the last Wednesday of the month in the Balcony Hall of the Otter Aquatic Club 380 / 1 Baudhaloka Mawatha Colombo 7. at 6.00 p.m. Its not far from the BMICH towards Borella. Continue towards the rear of the BMICH at the Wijerama Rd / Baudhaloka Mawatha junction.

Please note that unless otherwise notified, monthly General Meetings will be held at Otters Aquatic Club at 6.00 P.M. 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 meeting dates. Membership and ID Card applications can be obtained at the meetings. Membership renewals are also accepted by the Treasurer at the monthly meetings.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: PLEASE NOTE THAT WE DO NOT ISSUE MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS NOW DUE TO THE PROHIBITIVE COST OF POSTAGE AND ALSO THE LIMITS ON WHAT ONE CAN PUT ON PAPER IN THIS AGE OF THE INTERNET. Therefore, without increasing the membership fee which has stayed static, unchanged, for almost 20 years we decided at the last AGM to post all notices on our Web Site: [www.rssl.lk](http://www.rssl.lk) which was re-launched late last year. It is in a constant state of updating and adding new information. Please check it as often as you have the time. If you have information please send it on. This could be links to sites or your own contributions. ANYONE WISHING TO GET E-MAIL ALERTS PLEASE SEND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS TO THE EDITOR [victorg@sl.lk](mailto:victorg@sl.lk). Your e-mail will not be made public so your privacy will be safe guarded.

## EDITORIAL:

From the Desk of the President – RSSL President's message

The Role of the Ham radio operator in times of Disaster

Disasters could happen, and will happen at times and places which cannot be predicted with pinpoint accuracy. Many have written on this topic and many have accepted that amateur radio does play an important part as a second line of communication in times of disaster.

When disaster strikes all terrestrial communications go down and cellular networks are either destroyed or overloaded, thus putting a great part of communication out of commission.

Developed countries like USA and Japan have faced major calamities and have used their second line of communication "Ham Operators" effectively and efficiently to disseminate information and also to set up a mechanism to coordinate with government and nongovernmental organizations. This is in addition to their effective communication channels of their armed forces.

However having said that, there are a few nay sayers who are like the ostriches with their heads buried in the sands of their high offices, who fail to see that no matter how high tech one can get in setting up a disaster coordination centre there will be that one link which could be the decisive factor in life and death.

Apart from the disaster communication we could help in alleviating the anxiety of those who are away from their homes or working in a remote area by relaying messages to their loved ones, as everyone is concerned of the well being of their kith and kin, since the official communication channels will be busy with the law and order situation.

We as Hams should be prepared at all times with a core team having the necessary equipment ready to be on air at any given time and location. We also need to have a simple plan of operation to effectively control the channels of communication with proper documentation. If this is not in place we may have to ask the Disaster to standby until we get our house in order!

Our first drill on Disaster Coordination communication was held on the 2nd of September 2012, and we hope to continue this on the 1st Sunday of every month.

Looking forward in hearing from you.

Harenn Durghabakshi – 4S7RD

President, RSSL.

## **RADIO SOCIETY FAMILY OUTING!!!!**

The rssl is very happy to announce our annual get together and outing on the 25th of November 2012. Taking all aspects, like distance from Colombo, privacy, cost etc we have decided to spend the day at Hanwella. The Natures Resort Hanwella

<http://www.thenaturesresort.com/attractions.html>

You can check out the above web site for more details as to the location and available facilities.

Cost per person will be Rs. 1000 which will include a welcome drink, lunch and tea. You can bring your guests along. We look forward to have as many of you as possible. It will be a great opportunity to rag chew, and also have some great fun. We are in the process of planning events and can assure you that

you will have a great time!! An HF/VHF station will run as to be expected for those who haven't had the chance to experience HF activity. In addition a desk will function to update membership/ID cards and also a membership certificate is being prepared (hopefully) to issue there.

**WORKED 10 SRI LANKA AWARD:** We would like to issue a beautiful award (certificates available) to any one who has worked 10 Sri Lankan stations. From Sri Lankans, we will charge Rs 200 on this special occasion. It will be a great addition to your shack wall.

**A SURPRISE!!!** All licensed hams are in for a little surprise...no! come and see for yourself no advance information!!

**We need to know in advance of confirmed bookings and the deadline is the 20th of November. You can call Harenn at [0773136638](tel:0773136638) or office [0112504513](tel:0112504513). Victor: [0112614098](tel:0112614098)/[0718328336](tel:0718328336) or any of the Council members.**

### **RSSL T-SHIRTS**

As you know the last batch of T shirts got snapped up even before they were released, actually because it was a confirmed order of 25 which were done as a pilot project by our dynamic field team of Senarath 4S6WAS/Jaliya 4S7JL and Iresha 4S6ISH. A few minor adjustments will also be made to improve it even further. The available sizes will be XL and Double XXL. Price per T-shirt is Rs. 1000. Drop us a line and confirm your booking. Orders will be delivered at the outing on the 25th. If you are unable to come you will have to make arrangements to get yours. Contact Senarath 4S6WAS [0718687798](tel:0718687798). We will try to put a picture of one on our web site. Its in dark green and black (You can hack without washing..ha ha!!) with the RSSL Logo and a very catchy caption at the back. Don't miss out this time.

**RSSL WEBSITE:** More news on the RSSL website [www.rssl.lk](http://www.rssl.lk) Members should bookmark the website and check when ever you can. We welcome your contributions of articles, project reports, photographs and any interesting clips and even website info so that our members can benefit. You can contact our webmaster: Nadeeka 4S5NCH Nadika Hapuarachchi <[hapuoo7@yahoo.com](mailto:hapuoo7@yahoo.com)>.

Remember our outing, **Sunday 25th November 2012.**

**RSSL ID CARDS:** This fine professionally done ID card by CBA Colombo is a must for all RSSL members. You have to fill a ID card application form which will be certified by the Hony. Secretary RSSL and on payment of Rs. 250 to the Treasurer you will get a card which should be produced at the CBA office in Bullers Road/Baudhaloka Mawatha (near the round-about) where your photograph will be taken and ID card done for you. The Rs. 250 includes the charge for the photograph and all other costs.. We will have a batch of forms and cards at the Hanwella outing too and at all monthly meetings.

### **RSSL INVENTORY UPDATE:**

The Council decided to take a physical count of all RSSL possessions. President 4S7RD, Secretary 4S7VK, Arosha 4S7BU and Senerath 4S6WAS were appointed to take stock and update. The purpose is to check on usability of equipment available, do a physical check and update the inventory. Members who are custodians of RSSL items are kindly requested to help in this project. The Council wishes to thank members who have been kind enough to provide security for such items and providing valuable space in your premises for such.

73 Victor 4S7VK  
Hony. Secretary RSSL

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