



RSSL NEWS

APRIL 2005

The Monthly Newsletter of THE RADIO SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

The General Meeting for the Month of April will be held at the Vidya Mandiraya, SLAAS – Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science 120/10, Vidya Mawatha, Colombo 7 on Wednesday the 27th of April 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.

RSSL RADIO SHACK A REALITY

4S5BA Bharatha Aponso has offered the RSSL a room down Haig Road, Bambalapitiya to house the RSSL shack. The Council inspected it and found it most suitable. It is very conveniently located just a few metres off Galle Road. Bharatha is even offering the RSSL free use of an ADSL line. We shall be equipping the shack with HF and VHF receiving and transmitting equipment and suitable antennae on top of the 4 storied building looking towards the sea. We are looking for a computer that will enable members to browse the Internet as well. Another development could be to install satellite equipment. The target date for the official opening is the last Wednesday of May. Members are urged to contact the Council and work to get the shack going. We will also have books and magazines for the benefit of members.

Members in good standing, meaning paid up! And who have the RSSL ID card will be able to make use of the shack. If you have no ID yet, please contact Asantha 4S7AK and get the necessary details. We are happy with this arrangement because we will have unrestricted access to the shack unlike at the Tourist Board where the internal security service was getting in our way. Let's hope this will help our members who have no equipment to enjoy the hobby. More details in the next Newsletter.

RSSL RECEIVES A SPECIAL AWARD FOR DISASTER COMMUNICATIONS

On the 18th of April the National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR) based in Hyderabad India conducted an International seminar on Disaster Management, Communications

Preparedness with special emphasis on the lessons learnt from the recent Tsunami disaster. The seminar was sponsored by the Ministry of Communications and IT Central Government of India with the Minister as the Chief Guest. The President of the RSSL was invited to make a presentation sharing our experiences with the participants. The RSSL received a Special Award for its disaster work during the Tsunami and a silver medal for 4S7VK for coordinating the efforts.

This seminar was very well attended by nearly 350 Indian hams and delegates from the US, Germany, Sri Lanka and Finland. It gave us the opportunity to meet many old friends and make new ones as well. OM VK thanked the Indian Government and hams especially VU2GMN Gopal who extended great material and moral support during the disaster. The RSSL also placed on record its appreciation of the great efforts by Indian Radio Amateurs in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands through the DX-pedition organised by the NIAR which turned into a disaster communications effort. Amateur Radio showed to the world what it can do in great disasters.

The award will be displayed at the general meeting. Photos of the Amateur Radio Seminar held in Chennai are available on

<http://www.niar.org/isgallery/index.htm>

Victor's photos on page 3, photos C25, and C26

CONGRATULATIONS!

Nishantha Perera 4S7NI has secured the first place as country winner and zone winner in the IARU (International Amateur Radio Union) HF world Championship contest 2004. IARU has issued him a certificate for Operating Achievement in single operate cw only low power category. The RSSL wishes to congratulate our contest manager Nishantha for taking part and putting Sri Lanka on the CW contest map, bringing honour to the RSSL. We will hand over the certificate to Nishantha at the General Meeting.

MEMBERS ADVERTS

Salgamuwa Udaya Jayantha <saitrssl@yahoo.com> says I am looking for a second hand HF receiver with a digital frequency indicator. I would appreciate if you could mention about this in the RSSL newsletter.

S.A.Udaya Jayantha No. 72, Woodward Mawatha, Galle. TEL: 091-2242183

(Ed: Jayantha is the SWL in Gale who helped very much with the disaster opr and was the first to inform us about the Tsunami while it was hitting Galle.)

WORL SPACE RECIVERS FOR SALE: Our member and pioneer in this field E. Cecil Perera has with him a very limited number of World Space receivers. **Contact Cecil at 2717263.**

EXPERIMENTAL STATION OPERATED AT IBBAGAMUWA ON 13TH MARCH- SARATH MAPA 4S7MM+ PADMASIRI HETTIARACHCHI 4S5AH.

This was a very interesting experiment from a hill about 150 feet above the level of the Dambulla road with the help of scouts and electronic students of Ibbagamuwa M.V. Yati repeater was 59++ here and direct signals were copied on 1444.480 from 4S7AA, 4S7FM, 4S7CF, 4S7VJ, 4S7OV, 4S7AI, 4S7PK and 4S5RM with good signals.

It was a very interesting field day activity and we want to thank all those who came up on the frequency to take part in the event. The intention was to see how good reception would be in the event of a requirement. 4S7MM/4S5AH (Tnx Sarath and Padmasiri for your interest.Ed)

COLOMBO / YATI / N-ELIYA REPEATERS: This coming week we propose to test the Colombo repeater with the new duplexer on 145.650. If everything goes according to plan the repeater will be installed at Yati temporarily to remove the existing Yati repeater to bring it down to Colombo for repairs. In the meantime we are working on the Nuwara Eliya repeater. The immediate aim is to have the three repeaters working well and put Nuwara Eliya on the echo-link 24h a day.

We have also received favourable feedback from existing radio sites in Laggala for coverage of the NCP/NWP/EP and Gongala for the Southern and S. Eastern Provinces as possible sites for future repeater sites or even for relocation of any repeater. These sites have to be tested and we need members to come forward and do tests from these sites. We will secure the necessary clearance from the organisations concerned. We need to check whether there is an possibility of reaching these sites from the Western Province where we have the highest concentration of hams, so that any new sites will not just offer regional communications, but connect all locations for emergency and general communications.

We urge members to work on these projects, including possible linking of repeaters.

The RSSL welcomes all technical articles for publication in the Newsletter. It is preferred if the articles are on a computer based file

Printed Matter

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

VHF FM 2 METRE RECEIVER PROJECT

Swl Member Udaya Jayantha has submitted a good home brew project of a 2 M receiver. Since I am short of time to get the newsletter out and posted by evening today, I am holding it back for the next issue. Anyone who wants the details including circuit diagrams can send an e-mail. It is available as an e-mail attachment. Let me quote from Jayantha "This receiver's sensitivity is high. It can receive very low signals. The most important option is the signal strength meter.

PCB layout for this circuit still under test after the finals I will send it for listeners. This is very low cost receiver."

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.

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