



RSSL NEWS!

AUGUST 2005

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

The General Meeting for the Month of August 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 31st of August 2005 at 5.30 pm.

The General Meeting will be followed by two short technical presentations. Kusal 4S7KE will brief on the CDMA technology and Asantha 4S7AK will give an Introduction to Amateur Satellite communication. This will be followed by the screening of a video on Amateur radio.

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 145.650 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.

Golden Antenna 2005 award for RSSL

Every year since 1982 the town of Bad Bentheim in Germany presents the 'Golden Antenna' award to a radio amateur or an amateur radio group that utilises technology in connection with humanitarian work and to appreciate an outstanding humanitarian achievement on the field of amateur radio.

The award is the result of a world wide convocation. The jury evaluating the nominations includes the President of IARU Region 1 and the President and Chair of the Dutch and German amateur radio societies.

After sifting and evaluating the valid proposals of this year the jury has decided to award the Golden Antenna 2005 to The Radio Society of Sri Lanka to honour its important part in emergency amateur radio after the tsunami catastrophe in December 2004.

The award ceremony will take place on 26th August 2005 in the Castle of Bad Bentheim during the opening of the German – Dutch Amateur radio meeting. The Mayor of the

over the award to the President of RSSL Victor Goonetilleke. Victor will also address the gathering here. The award is a recognition of the work put in by all members of the RSSL who helped in various ways in the Tsunami days. These include the teams which went to Hambantota, Galle and Puthuwil 4S7AK, KE, DZ, 6TP, 7DF, 7SK, Sarath 7SW who operated from Matara, the mobile team of 4S7WI and 6NM. The groups who helped at the Social Service Ministry stations, The station at the Prime Minister's Office, the team of 7AA and 7FM who went up to Yati and also the great support given by members who in Colombo and other areas that kept a watch on the 7060 and VHF, taking down messages making numerous telephone calls. The people who worked out in the field were under the threat of disease, personal safety and of their equipment and vehicles to name but a few of the things that at a glance will not be apparent. Even people who operated from their homes placed their time and resources at the disposal of the RSSL so that the collective effort could make a meaningful contribution to the whole operation. There was a lot more that we could have done, but the nature and scope of the disaster made things not that easy for various reasons. We are sorry for what we could have done, but which we couldn't due to our limitations. We are happy that those who helped didn't come to harm while on duty which could have easily happened. How many realise the dangers that stalked but didn't strike, and how many know what it is to appreciate even getting yourself uprooted from the comfort of your home to go out and do something in the name of Amateur Radio. Let us be happy that the International Amateur Community recognises the work done. Those who did the work never expected rewards or awards nor did they even know of awards like the Golden Antenna. Sad to state but it should be stated that these people did the work while some were criticising and even writing to other international clubs asking for equipment and funds. The RSSL never asked for anything but put to use what it had and what its members gave and worked with those with a positive mind.. To all of them a grateful thanks.

YATI REPEATER: The current repeater at Yatiyantota which was donated by the Danish Amateur operators has a higher output power of around 25watts. Earlier Yati repeater out put was about 3 watts. Under the earlier set up any place Yati was received it was also possible to operate also. But it is not the case now. Since there is a much higher out put the repeater signal is better and the receiving range is also wider. Members would have observed that unlike earlier it is not possible to operate from anywhere you hear the signal unless you put up a higher power or use a high gain antenna when the received signal is not at peak. This obviously is due to higher repeater output power.

INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE/LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND 2005-

By the time you read this Members who had given their names to participate in the lighthouse expedition would have enjoyed it very much-we hope.. The plan was to leave for light house on 20th Saturday and comeback on 21st Sunday. The following callsigns were obtained for the expedition. A full report should be out soon.

Dondra – 4S7RSL
Beruwala – 4S7LGT

Visit by Kenneth – N5VHO

Kenneth G. Ransom – N5VHO, from USA who is at NASA as Ham Radio Project Engineer of the International Space Station (ISS) addressed RSSL members at the July General Meeting. Kenneth also demonstrated the equipment he used to contact the ISS. Kenneth made two contact with ISS while in Sri Lanka which many members were able to listen to. Soon after Kenneth's address members were able to observe the ISS passing over followed by the space shuttle. RSSL wishes to thank Kenneth for addressing RSSL members and also to Sena 4S5SS & Shanthi 4S7WP who coordinated Kenneth's visit.

Clarification on HF band use for new licensees

Please note that there has not been any change to the regulations where a new license holder accessing HF bands can only communicate on CW during the first year after getting the license. The TRC has confirmed this

position. There is no truth to rumours that this regulation is no longer applicable. Regulations just don't change because someone at the TRC is supposed to have said so, as such, members should be careful about being misled. Further, the defence ministry in discussions with the RSSL stated that every transceiver being used should be properly documented and imported and they were going to initiate inspection of stations while insisting that transmissions are monitored.

The RSSL has always assured the authorities that it can vouch for its members and that our members are responsible operators and even police the bands ourselves. Remember that the Amateur Service as the name clearly implies is a service and we can lose it if we misuse it. As someone once said the Amateur Bands are not the place to preach and practice your right to free speech. The microphone is definitely not for you if your tongue starts to wag after a tot too many. Best guidelines are to operate within your regulations.

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

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Printed Matter

To:

The Radio Society of Sri Lanka
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