



RSSL NEWS

FEBRUARY 2005

The Monthly Newsletter of THE RADIO SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

The General Meeting for the Month of February will be held at the Auditorium of Vidya Mandiraya, SLAAS – Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science 120/10, Vidya Mawatha, Colombo 7 on Thursday the 24th of February 2005 at 5.45 pm.

Before the commencement of the General Meeting, the Tabling and Adoption of Audited Accounts for 2003/04 will take place at 5.30 pm as notified in the last newsletter.

Note the change of date for the meeting to Thursday as the last Wednesday of February is a holiday.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Please note that unless otherwise notified, monthly General Meetings will be held at the Auditorium of 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.

Vacancy for Council Member

George Jayaratne 4S6GJ has resigned from the Council due to ill health. The Vacancy in the Council created by George's resignation will be filled at the February General Meeting.

Echolink Under testing

The Yati repeater is connected to Echolink Network daily from 2130-2330 hrs local time. TRC was given a demonstration of the set up and final approval is awaited.

4S7AVR, 4S7RO, 4S7WP, OZ6UV 4S7KA 4S7PE, 4S7OF and many Sri Lankans and foreign friends of RSSL members have been using the Echolink to be in touch. Excellent quality has been achieved. The RSSL thanks 4S7KE for daily connecting the equipment to make it possible.

Please adhere the following points for proper operation through Echolink.

- Momentarily release the PTT during conversations to make sure that you are not doubling with another station either local or through internet.
- Always leave a gap of about 2 seconds between each transmission.

Echolink can also be accessed from a PC having appropriate Soundcard, mic and speaker and an Internet connection. To download software and for more information visit www.echolink.org For any clarifications please contact Kusal – 4S7KE

YATIYANTOTA REPEATER

As you know the Yati repeater is behaving quite erratically due to technical failures. Before the Tsunami disaster the repeater was giving problems and plans were being made to go up to Yatiyantota when the Tsunami hit. 4S7AA and FM went up to Yati at the request

of the President to carry-out emergency repairs, which they did carry out successfully much to the satisfaction of members. However they did inform the President and also the members present at the January Meeting about the poor state of the repeater, which will need a thorough overhauling. I am informed that the problem is not just as simple as adjusting the squelch control. In the meantime we are attempting to install the Nuwara Eliya repeater this week and action is underway to receive the duplexer for the Colombo repeater from David Gilmore in the USA.

The Nuwara Eliya and Yatiyantota repeaters are located on mountain tops which are very difficult to access needing hardy 4WD vehicles and cost in excess of rupees five thousand a visit. This is very high when one considers that it is the cost of 20 corporate annual subscriptions out of a membership or 200. They are not weekend holiday stops and need a fair amount of coordination, technically capable people and also clearance from the organisations which have been kind enough to grant the RSSL the privilege of hosting its repeaters there. We do not have replacement standby repeaters and at times the most unexpected technical situations confront those that brave the visits on behalf of members. At times criticisms are levelled unfairly even after all the voluntary efforts with the best of intentions and result in demoralisation of the few who come forward with a genuine desire to assist. Such situations will damage the long term development of amateur radio in Sri Lanka. So please be patient and try to understand that all suggestions are considered, but implementation is not without its inherent problems. We are juggling with the situation so that the best options can be implemented.

POST TSUNAMI DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLAN

It is proposed to set up 25 club stations Island-wide to train young radio amateurs as a disaster plan of action and also to promote Amateur Radio. Even before the Tsunami the RSSL was involved with its training program. If I may go even further, recap that even on the very day the Tsunami was wrecking the country we were training around 80 students at the Guides HQ.

An initial plan is to set up school clubs in towns such as Colombo, Galle, Matara, Hambantota, Ratnapura, Veyangoda, Kurunegala/Ibbagamuwa, Kandy, Anuradhapura, Chilaw, Polonnaruwa, Amparai, Badulla and in any town that we can get a licensed member to train and be responsible for the school club station. Discussions have already taken place with the Japanese, French and British radio amateur clubs/communities who have come forward on their own initiative to help and are not only discussing with us, but have already sent equipment such as Echolink and some of which are awaiting clearance. Other equipment will be shipped the moment we get clearance from the authorities, which is a slow process due to the deluge of communications equipment which is awaiting clearance as a result of many NGOs wanting to bring in their communications equipment.

26th February Disaster Communications Training Program

As part of the training programme it is planned to run an operation to give the young trainees a chance to link up from various parts of the country. Stations will operate from Scouts HQ, Guides HQ, Veyangoda, Kandy, Ratnapura and other centres in Colombo. If anyone can help put other towns/schools on the air on the 26th, it will be greatly appreciated. There are also moves to have Polonnaruwa and Hambantota on the air. We shall use both VHF and HF between 8.30 AM and 5 PM. You may get those interested in amateur radio to come to your shack/station and see amateur radio in action. It will also be useful to connect a base station with a portable operation. HF mobile or portable will also be useful. We shall discuss the operational plan on the 24th when we have the general meeting. We urge members to take part in this disaster drill in whatever capacity/level possible. We will get the necessary clearance from TRC for the operation. Please contact President Victor for more information.

MEMBERS' ADVERTISMENTS

WANTED . A Keyer paddle in working condition. Please call 077 315630 /03322 85252 to Kamal 4S7AB with pricing.

Items for sale :5W VHF power module M57796MA Brand new. This module is used in TH-25 and FT-23R transceivers. Price Rs 2,500 call Kamal 4S7AB 0777315630.

For sale Kenwood TS 520 HF transceiver, in perfectly working condition on LSB and CW but needs looking into the USB mode.. Reasonably priced. Also Kenwood R300 all band Receiver, include SSB, CW, AM reception Rs.5000 Call 4S7VK 2614098 for details. Members can place their advertisements free of charge and can repeat them in subsequent issues.

CONTEST INFORMATION de 4S7NI

Feb 19-20ARRL International DX Contest, CW, 0000Z Feb 19-2400Z Feb 20. (See Dec QST, p 104.)

Feb 26-28

CQ WW 160-meter SSB Contest, 0000Z Feb 26-2400Z Feb 27. (See Jan QST p 102.)

UBA Contest--CW, from 1300Z Feb 26-1300Z Feb 27. (See Jan QST p 102.)

REF French Contest--Phone, from 0600Z Feb 26-1800Z Feb 27. (See Jan QST p 102.)

High Speed CW Contest--sponsored by High-Speed CW Club, 0900Z-1100Z and 1500Z-1700Z Feb 27. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. Categories: SO (150 W max, members and non-members), SO-QRP (<5 W), SWL. Exchange: RST and HSC member number or NM. QSO points: member--5 pts, non-member--1 pt. Score: QSO points. Logs due 6 weeks after the

contest to hsc-contest@dl3bzz.de or Lutz Schröder, DL3BZZ, Am Niederfeld 6, 35066 Frankenberg/Eder, Germany.

VISIT BY JARL KANSAI GROUP

The RSSL was very happy to receive three long standing friends of the RSSL. hams from Japan who were in Sri Lanka from the 3rd Feb to the 6th. Hasagawa, Turu and Miagawa came to see friends who they had come into contact with on their previous visits, out of great concern they have for them.. They also brought with them a donation of US\$4000 from the JARL towards our efforts to develop Amateur Radio in the disaster situation. They are also arranging equipment for our post disaster plan. The Council formally met and thanked them on Sunday the 6th of February on behalf of the members and hosted them to dinner prior to their departure.

We welcome all these foreign visitors because they can get a first hand view of the situation and also in their discussions with the RSSL understand the true picture as opposed to unfortunate misinformation being generated by one or two hams for personal gain. We have received communications from organizations abroad of such instances and we shall place them before members in due course. It is sad that some people will go to any lengths even to exploit the situation for personal gain.

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