



# RSSL NEWS

**FEB/MARCH 2007**

**THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA**

**The General Meeting for the Month of March 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 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2007 at 5.30 pm.**

## **MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Please note that unless otherwise notified, monthly General Meetings will be held at the SLAAS at 0530 P.M. 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.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF RSSL TRANSMITTING EQUIPMENT**

There has been discussion in the last few General Meetings about making available some of the equipment in the possession of the RSSL to members, so that more hams will get on the air and be prepared in case of disaster. The RSSL will retain a complement of HF and VHF equipment for its own disaster management and regular use in the shack, Jamborees, demonstrations etc.

There has been much discussions about what to retain and what to allow the members to have. At the MARCH GENERAL MEETING a final decision will be taken as to the best method of disposal. Your comments suggestions either in writing or in person will be very important towards arriving at a consensus. Please give this issue your urgent attention.

### **HF/VHF RIGS:**

1xIcom IC 725 HF(used)  
1xIcom IC 706MK2G HF/VHF/UHF (used)  
1xIcom IC 706 HF/VHF (used)  
1xYaesu FT 746 HF (used)  
1x Patcom PC900 HF used  
4x Yaesu VX150 VHF Handhelds(unused)

## **RSSL NEWSLETTER- Editorial**

The newsletter is used as a means of communicating info to the membership, however please note that the newsletter is not a notice of a monthly meeting. It is well established that the meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month unless otherwise notified. We list telephone numbers and addresses of Council members so that members can communicate with them if any clarification is needed. If anyone feels that non receipt of the newsletter diminishes attendance at monthly meetings, it will be a wrong analysis of the situation. Last month a post card was sent 5 days before the meeting confirming the last Wednesday meeting, but due to no fault of the Secretary, but of the postal system,

the notice was received after the meeting by some members.

**Articles in the Newsletters:** Some members point out that there are no articles in the Newsletters worth reading other than the occasional one. If this comment comes from members who have contributed articles for publication the Editor will gladly accept such views. Time and time again articles and information are sought by the Editor. Sans the occasional response there is a deathly silence. Whenever a contribution is received it is published in the very next newsletter. No articles in the Newsletter? Because none has been received. Some go as far as to suggest that the Editor should go through QST, RADCOM and other Magazines that the RSSL receives and include interesting articles in the newsletters. This indeed would be the ideal situation. However, not possible due to practical reasons. In the long period that the present Editor has edited the newsletter, it has been clearly stated that only articles from members, original works, will be included due to the high cost of producing articles. To print one page of the Newsletter it costs the RSSL nearly Rs. 850. To print and post the monthly newsletter it costs nearly Rs.2500 which is the cost of 10 co-corporate member subscriptions. Some diagrams are hard to print clearly and the nature of the articles themselves makes it hard to reproduce in monochrome. We are in an age when Internet access is round the corner & photocopying and such things are easy. The club shack located in Colombo is open to all and all the magazines are available there for any member to read, obtain photocopies, and even borrow. We will attempt to run an index of articles in the current issues, and any member interested in a photocopy could contact the Secretary with a self addressed stamped envelope.

CW-Morse classes are conducted every Sunday between 8.30 and 1030 A.M. at the club shack. Kule 4S7KG conducts classes ably assisted by Wijay 4S7VJ. The club has a fully equipped Ham station and members can make use of it to transmit and receive. There are SWR metres which can be used if antennas need to be tuned. It is open every Sunday from about 8.30 past 1.30 P.M. and by appointment on other days. There are many useful books in the library and the latest copies of magazines like QST, RADCOM, CONTACT. Contact 4S7VJ. A free ADSL connection is also made available to members.

4S7VJ the Secretary has produced a CD complete with all the lessons needed for new hams. 4S7KG has produced a CW CD. Both are available for Rs 100 each postage paid. The RSSL maintains 3 repeaters, a Beacon, & an Echolink node. Each month the Editor, Secretary and at least 2 Council members meet in the

club shack to despatch nearly 300 Newsletters. It costs at least Rs 300 each to make the visit to the city, and nearly 4 hours. The officials KG,VJ. GV who conduct classes every Sunday incur similar expenditure every week. Despite all this some are very critical of the RSSL even on the air and even to cast nasty comments about officials. This is common all over the world in most volunteer organisations. It also demonstrates the poor spiritedness and upbringing of those who act and speak in that manner giving in to their state of depression. It might be pertinent to look inward and ask, ***"In what way have I contributed towards the betterment and seeing the improvements in the RSSL that I am screaming about get implemented?"*** People who say there is no social activity hardly ever join such events when they are organised, but are critical of such events.

Who or what is the RSSL? It is also **YOU** not only the officials that **You** put in place at every AGM. Appreciate what is done, even what little in your opinion. If something more can be done, come forward and do it. If you feel the RSSL is not run well, try to organize yourself with a dedicated group and win the confidence of the majority & run it. Join together and work for the benefit of the RSSL.. If not we will continue to see one group trying to do something while others criticize and when it is their turn, find the same thing happening. We shall all be responsible for destroying the RSSL and say "it is dead."

#### **DONATION OF COMPUTER & MONITOR**

Achira 4S5DD donated a P-3 computer for use in the RSSL shack and a monitor was donated by a member who wants to remain anonymous. The Council thanks Achira and the other member for their generosity. Such very positive actions strengthen the RSSL and encourage members to work even harder towards a better RSSL.

#### **HAM RADIO CDs AVAILABLE.**

"I am very happy to inform you that I have successfully produced the long outstanding CD on CW for Hams, SWLs and the absolute beginners who are eager to learn Morse Code for their Code proficiency exams. I like to donate the said CD to The Radio Society Of Sri-Lanka at the forthcoming monthly get together on 31st January 2007."(4S7KG Januaray 2007)

4S7KG Kule's CD of Morse lessons is available at Rs 100/- each. There are A few copies in the Shack. Those interested should contact Kule 2878170

**Amateur Radio Theory** CD by 4S7VJ is already circulating. A new updated and improved version will be released shortly. It will also be available for Rs. 100. Contact the Hony. Secretary to obtain copies. They should be available at the shack and monthly meetings.

#### **RSSL JOURNAL-**

After nearly 5 years the RSSL has decided to publish another edition of the RSSL JOURNAL which is long overdue. A Magazine Committee is being formed to produce it. With the availability of good printing facilities today, this magazine is aimed at a large readership and to be made available to the public as well. It should inform people about Amateur Radio, its uses, how it helps the community, the past and present activities of the RSSL. It should also include articles with construction projects, a Call Book of RSSL and Sri Lankan Radio Amateurs. Your articles and suggestions will be greatly appreciated to make it a success. You may include diagrams and photographs. Articles should be adaptable to computer printing in one of the normally accepted programmes like MSWord. They could be

forwarded to the Editor or the Secretary via e-mail (information appears at the end of the newsletter every month for your easy access) or in CD form.

Any further info can be obtained from the Editor or at the General Meetings.

**DEADLINE FOR ALL SUCH ARTICLES WILL BE THE 30<sup>TH</sup> OF APRIL.** to make it possible to have it by the next AGM.

**RSSL DATABASE:** It is proposed to include the names and addresses of members in the upcoming RRSL Magazine. We will use the information that we have on hand unless members request any changes. Please forward any such changes to Names (spelling) addresses (if different from present) telephone Numbers and e-mail addresses. You may handover such info at the General meetings, post them or e-mail to the Secretary.

**VHF RECEIVER:** COLIN PEIRIS 4S7CP writes. "I am attaching a circuit diagram of a different 2M Receiver. All the components are available in the local market. The cost is not high. The stability of the receiver is very high and I am sure many will enjoy 2M reception with it." T. Colon Peiris, 82 Watinapaha. This circuit was designed by Doorhenk Van Denhof PE1BVJ and taken from Internet.

Thank you very much Colin for your article. You have always contributed articles to RSSL Journals as far back as I remember and I would even say even before I knew what ham radio was all about. You may contact Colin for any further details. I hope the diagram will get reproduced clearly.

#### **Sri Lanka can use amateur radio stations to issue disaster warnings**

Wed, 2007-02-14 02:22 Sunil C. Perera - Reporting from Colombo Colombo, 14 February, (Asiantribune.com): Local scientists propose that development of an effective amateur radio voice communication network to be used during disaster situations.

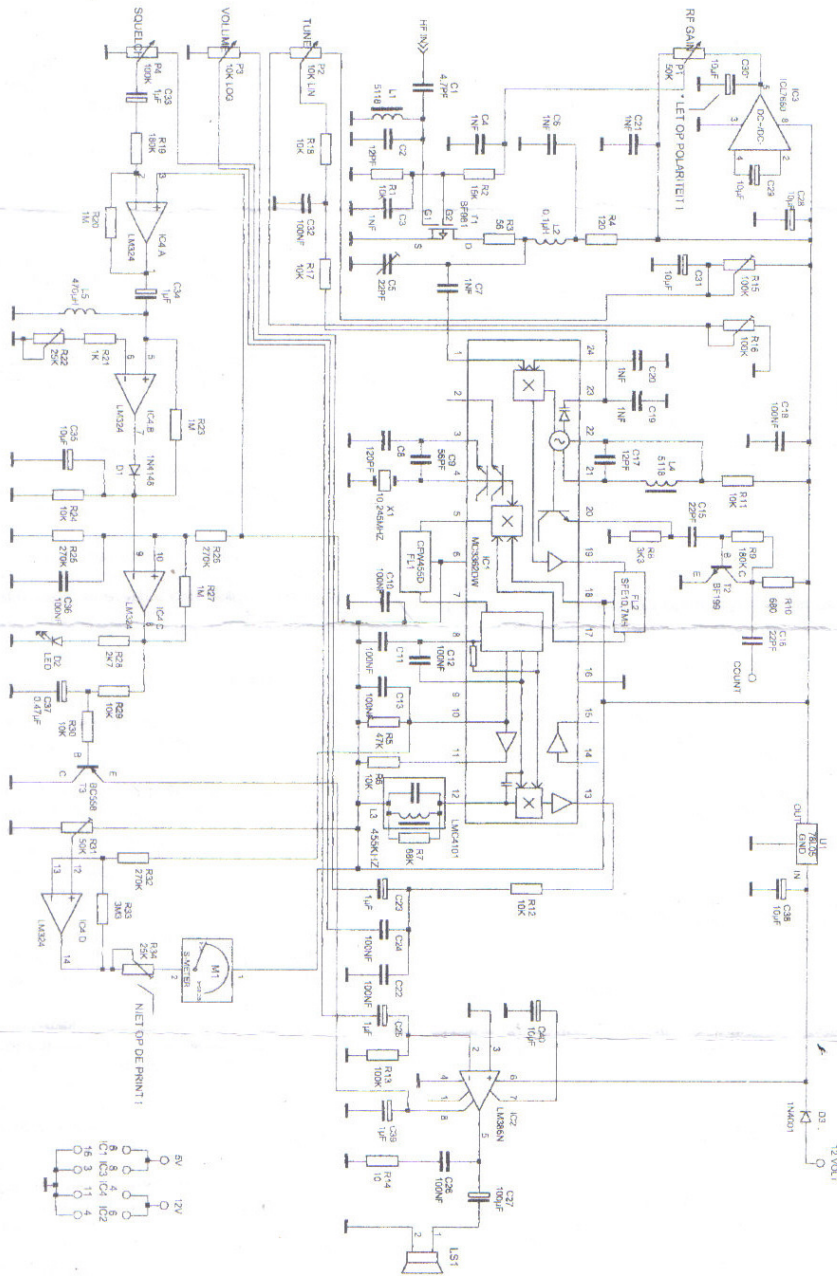
T.D.N.Perera of Department of Architecture, University of Moratuwa said every established landline and electromagnetic forms of communication come to a standstill during a disaster.

"This is a result of damage to landlines, switching centers, cell sites and power supplies," said Perera.

However Sri Lanka has a number of Amateur Radio operators who have independent operation, portability and requirement of low power .These radio operators are useful, when the country face a disaster to make communications to aware the public on various matters, Perera said.

The Amateur Radio Service is for individuals who are interested in the technical side of radio and are able to provide emergency communication in disasters, all for the general benefit of the public. It is called "amateur" because it is strictly non-commercial; no business may be transmitted on amateur frequencies.The Amateur Radio Service is a voluntary disciplined communications service guided by five traditional objectives.

- 1) To provide emergency or public service communications when normal communications disrupted or inadequate;
- 2) To advance the state of the art of communication;



2M Rx For 144 - 146 MHz.  
457CP

This circuit designed by Doorhenk Van Denhof PE1BVJ - Taken from Internet

- 3) To improve individual skills in radio operation;
- 4) To provide a reserve pod of qualified radio operators and technicians;
- 5) To promote international goodwill.

Amateur radio communications are carried out using modern, state-of-the-art systems consisting of many modes of operation. In addition to voice capabilities provided by hand-held, mobile, and fixed/portable base stations, digital data communications may be established over any existing radio circuit using "packet radio" equipment to provide printed "hard copy" error free, high speed point-to-point communications. A growing number of amateurs have equipment to generate, transmit and receive color television signals; such equipment aboard aircraft or mobile units is being used to send "real-time" pictures back to central control points in times of disaster, hazardous chemical spills, or fires.

Just three days after the calamitous tsunami, Radio Society of Sri Lanka (RSSL) President, 4S7VK, declared that "uncomplicated short wave" radio had saved lives.

"Ham radio played an important part and will continue to do so," he said in an e-mail relayed to ARRL. He said Sri Lanka's Prime Minister had no contact with the outside world until Amateur Radio operators stepped in. "Our control center was inside the prime minister's official house in his operational room," he recounted.

"This will show how they valued our services." Amateur radio operators are also experienced in improvising antennas and power sources and most equipment can be powered by an automobile battery.

Annual "Field Days" are held in many countries to practice these emergency improvisational skills. Amateur radio operators can use hundreds of frequencies and can quickly establish networks tying disparate agencies together to enhance interoperability.

Recent examples include the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center the 2003 North America blackout, the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and Hurricane Katrina, where amateur radio was used to coordinate disaster relief activities when other systems failed.

Licensed amateurs often take portable equipment with them when traveling. A portable station can be anything from a small QRP (Low Power) radio and antenna, to a top-of-the-line rig, space dependent. On long-distance expeditions, such equipment allows them to report progress, arrivals and sometimes exchanging safety messages along the way.

PRINTED MATTER

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P. O. Box 907 COLOMBO

Scientist Perera has completed a research on this matter and published through Sri Lanka association for the Advancement Science –Annual research booklet.

According to the research a reliable disaster communications system must be capable of providing means for effective and efficient communication with any two locations in the country at any given time without a break with at least four communication channels.

TDD is the standard operational mode used in amateur radio transmissions .2m and 40m bands are the main amateur radio bands used in inland communication.

The research said Sri Lanka could use this system to issue public warnings and other communications. Twenty four hour communication is possible on 2m up to about 22 km distance.

Long distance inland communication is being done using repeaters. Two repeaters installed in Yatiyantota and Nuwara Eliya cover about 65% of the total land area of the country.

Local communications on 40m band is highly susceptible to variations in ionosphere. It is impossible to rely on this band throughout the year. Resources available for 2m band are also not sufficient due to inability to allocate more than a single channel at a time and impossibility to sufficiently cover the total land area of the country.

It was understood from analysis done that the present system failed to provide reliable communications during disasters. Results confirmed that 2m band is the most suitable band to perform reliable transmissions irrespective of the time of the day and season. Since only a single channel is available, AM, SSB and NBFM modes cannot be used to handle necessary density of traffic. Since TDMA needs centralized processing at repeater site, its usage is non-relevant. CDMA is unusable due to the availability of only a narrow bandwidth of 50 kHz. Usage of CDMA with narrow digital channels is the only possibility. It is necessary to limit bit rate to 5khz, the research revealed. - Asian Tribune - (The Scientist referred to is 4S7NI. Congrats Nishantha!- Ed)

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