



RSSL NEWS

**February
2004**

The Journal of THE RADIO SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

REGISTERED AS A PERIODICAL IN SRI LANKA

The General Meeting for the Month of February will be held at the Tourist Board Committee Room on Wednesday the 25th of February 2004 at 5.30 pm.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Please note that unless otherwise notified, monthly General Meetings will be held at The Ceylon Tourist Board Committee Room (1st Floor), 80, Galle Road, Colpetty 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. (Hony. Secretary – Kusal Epa 4S7KE Phone:011-2853982). 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 – Callbook data-

We remind you to respond to last month's notice about the information for the Call-Book. **If there is no response from you, the currently available information as given in your address label will be printed in the callbook.**

At the last General Meeting Calvin Fernando (4S7CF) a former President of the RSSL, graciously offered to meet the cost of printing the Call Book. We thank Calvin for helping the RSSL

New repeater More progress has been achieved and we hope to announce very shortly the installation of the Repeater on a permanent basis. Watch out for announcements over the Yati Repeater at 9 P.M.> RSSL Net.

DUPLEXER NEEDED FOR THE NEW REPEATER

We have not yet solved the Duplexer issue for the 3rd repeater. Some duplexers which we found advertised wasn't suitable and the closest available unit is estimated to cost in excess of US\$1000 which is out of this world for RSSL. So we are still looking.. Duplexer should be able to handle 50W, and exact freq. are Tx. 145.650, and Rx. 145.050 MHz."

QST Magazines for sale – A lot of QST magazines which were received by the RSSL during the past few years will be sold at the General Meeting at Rs.20 per magazine.

Amateur Radio exam – While the RAE is to be conducted any moment, the next RAE will be notified in the Gazette in the coming weeks. Please keep a look out for it. Any member who needs help for the forthcoming Amateur radio exam (Feb.2004) in the theory part or Morse code practice, please get in touch with Kule – 4S7KG. Phone – 011-2878170 or email - kule4s7kg@hotmail.com (Tnx Kule for all your efforts over many years. Ed)

Experiences of my trip to Srilanka. –

By Leonard - OZ6ZV

It was 24th June 2003 that I started my journey to my mother land Sri Lanka. Apart from all other times that I have gone there, this time was very special as I had in mind that I am a radio ham from Denmark. It is not really necessary that I have to mention, I am a member of our local club SARS here in Loland F. I was packed with information about SARS with various activities performed here in Denmark to pass on to the Srilankan Hams, most of the events in SARS I have participated, getting together at our club locality in Nykøbing F, contests, grill party events etc!. With all this I have to highlight the event of handing over the 2 meter repeater station to our friendship club Radio Society of Sri Lanka (RSSL) I offered a dinner in appreciation, to the officials of SARS at my place the so called QTH. I made a short video clip so that I will show it to Srilankan hams when I go there. This will also be a special cultural event to show those Sri Lankans how a Dane packs their food in great hummer, sipping the light beverage of alcohol and sweet waters to gulp down the food. I have to stress the point that with the generous request of the fellow Hams my XYL and I made real Sri Lankan dishes with devil HOT taking care of the one who does not like HOT we made the same dish a bit LITE. From the safe side of things I made a dish of Danish style Fricadellas and kept it very near a guy I know very well that he might not like our hot food! For our surprise the most hot items were quickly disappeared from the table.

OK now enough of this let me move on to what happened in Sri Lanka with my friendly Hams there! I landed at the international airport Sri Lanka on the 25th of June at about 0700 in the morning after flying 15 hours, I was taken home by my nephew and was a bit tired and suffering from jetlag, also the time differences between Denmark and Sri Lanka about five hours!. Actually the radio club in Sri Lanka had their monthly meeting scheduled on the same day that is 25th of June! They have postponed it to next day 26th of June thinking about my tiredness. To tell you the fact I was really waiting to give them a briefing of our events in Denmark, keeping the Two meter repeater station event as the main subject.

I got a telephone call to say that I am the guest of honour for that meeting, Wow! President Victor Goonethileka RSSL, came to my local place the temporary QTH in Sri Lanka, at about three in the afternoon and took me to the meeting place at the Tourist Board Auditorium. On the way we picked up Sena and Ernest, we reached the place with out any problem they started their monthly meeting announcing that I am the Guest of Honour and introduced me to the whole assembly. They mentioned that I am from Danish club SARS and my call sign etc, etc. I had to wait until they finished their local matters at the meeting, it was no second to the gatherings we have here in Denmark, various people commented, argued, in various matters, etc! I think it is international all those matters, with the experiences I have here in our meetings with the SARS! I was a little nervous when my turn of a briefing coming nearer and nearer! At last now the president Victor Goonetilleke gave the word to me!

First I thanked the whole office and the assembly on behalf of our Danish club SARS for giving the opportunity to address the meeting. Also I mentioned that I wouldn't have been there with out the kindness

of Allan! I started rolling the video clip taken at my place during the dinner given by me in appreciation of the donation, VHF repeater. I had to explain every word of Danish in the video. (Those guys were confused when they heard our Danish friends jabbering in Danish!)They were very keen to see and here my translations, I could see some of them were very sharply focused to the subject! I must mention that I was really rejoiced as one of my old college Mr. Tisil Cooray was with the crowd. It gave all my memories during the Civil Aviation life working together with high power transmitting and professional receiving systems! (Bit of a gossip He!) So it came to an end at last! The whole house was clapping and lots of them came and greeted me. Then, came a surprised event! I was presented a wonderful gift to give Allan also some tokens to myself. The last event was they took me to Sri Lanka s most expensive hotel for a dinner! Scotch on the rocks was served as an appetiser after the dinner was served! At last they drove me to my dwelling. Next day they came back to me and they helped me providing transport to visit some of my old timer s shacks! During that time I was really intoxicated with Scotch and Arrack! (Arrack is our local drink made out of coconut flower juice) this concludes the whole event: I have written the event to the best of my ability and hope reading this you will enjoy what I have experienced, not forgetting the generous gesture showed to Sri Lankan Hams from Danish Hams!

We enjoyed having you here in Sri Lanka and continue to carry our good wishes to the Danish Hams and the club. Ed

Letters to the Editor

I am writing this letter to give you my opinion on facts that I believe are important for the existence of amateur radio in this country. I hope you will pay your due attention to them.

Amateur radio faces greatest challenges today than ever before. Wire communication that originated in eighteen thirties has been replaced by communication by means of electromagnetic radiation in eighteen seventies. The former is developing now making great challenges to the latter. Threat comes from persons who got amateur radio licenses for different objectives. Amateur radio is for those who like to do experiments and communicate by means of guided electromagnetic radiation through free space. Organisation of true amateurs is necessary to protect this hobby. Each fact I like to mention is given below, briefly.

(1) Any attempt to abolish Morse test or to reduce the speed of the test will be disastrous to future of amateur radio in this island. CW is not only a mode of HF communication but also a method of developing skill and discipline. Although I totally object, it is up to you to decide. I sincerely request you to observe reaction of VU, 9M, HS and AP to recent ITU ruling before taking a final decision. If Morse test is to be totally abolished then appropriate steps have to be taken to prevent downgrading of 4S7. If CW is to be replaced by new digital techniques then introduction of a new question paper on digital communication techniques will be most appropriate.

(2) hope that activity of RSSL must be increased in an orderly way. I propose you and house to form committees each headed by a council member. These

committees may be the examinations committee, committee of popularisation of amateur radio, ethical practices and finance.

(3) Urgent action is necessary to abolish 2 m jokers club, telephone club, gang club, hatred club and policemen's club and to form 2 m amateur club.

(4) Increase of annual membership fee needs careful consideration. I give you annual membership fee and life membership fee of some recognised professional organisations below for your kind reference.

Sri Lanka Association of Advancement of Science: annual 300/- life 2500/-
Institute of Chemistry, Ceylon: annual 350 to 500 life 3500 (all in Sri Lankan currency, i.e. Rs)

You will find that life membership fee of RSSL is already higher than these professional bodies. I believe it is inappropriate for an amateur club. Annual membership fee of Institute of Engineers and Sri Lanka Institute of Architects is however 1430/- and 2000/- respectively. You are aware that membership in them enables one to earn several million rupees a year. I think we must take necessary steps to increase our membership and find suitable other measures to increase income.

I hope you will pay attention to the facts mentioned above and take appropriate action.

Nishantha Perera, 4S7NI

NEWSLETTER: From next month the Newsletter should go into 4 pages thanks to a Member who had donated Rs 15,000 towards it! I wish I could mention his name but he wants to be anon.

Membership Dues: We remind members to send in their membership fees because in the last couple of years expenses have been very heavy. We have paid nearly Rs 25,000 in the last 2 months for freight & customs duty on the new repeater alone Your dues will help the RSSL to keep activities going and give you required services. Ed..

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