



# RSSL NEWS

JANUARY 2006

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

**The General Meeting for the Month of January 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 January 25<sup>th</sup> 2006 at 0530 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 PM 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.

## JAMBOREE STATION IN NUWARAEIYA

The Sri Lanka Scout Association has requested RSSL to operate an amateur radio station during the 7<sup>th</sup> National Jamboree and 4<sup>th</sup> SAF Scout Friendship Camp. The station will be operated at the Sports Complex in Nuwaraeliya from 21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> February. Members who are willing to participate in this event please contact OM Arosha 4S6AK, the coordinator of the event. This should give an opportunity for scouts to communicate worldwide as the RSSI is planning out a big operation with a beam and many scouts from Asia are scheduled to attend.

## VHF NETS AND REPEATERS

Two VHF nets are in operation daily. Net over the Yatiyantota repeater starts at 0900 pm while the net over the Nuwaraeliya repeater starts at 0930 pm. 4S7PK and 4S6AK are the regular net controllers.

The RSSL is looking out for possible locations for the setting up of a 4<sup>th</sup> repeater in the Sabaragamuwa mountain range. If any member can get a location and work on it the Council can help. What is required is not mere suggestions of where a repeater should be, but actively get things moving, to work on it as a project. The problem with suggestions is that others have to do the work, and to do such work we have few hands on board.

## USAGE OF DISASTER RIGS

President requests members to submit proposals to decide a criterion of usage of rigs donated to society by foreign organizations to be used during disasters. Members are requested to submit proposals to secretary via regular mail or e-mail (4s7ni@qsl.net).

## PRESENTATION OF EQUIPMENT TO RSSL

Honorary member Shanti 4S7WP has donated a multimeter to RSSL. This is being used for the training courses at the RSSL Shack during Sundays.

## NEW MEMBERS

Following persons have been admitted to the associate membership of RSSL:

K.K.G. Dahamkith

M.D.T. Chathurika

W.M.N.D.B. Iddawa

**4S7MD Senevi** in 4S7 on holiday: Senevi was back in December and the first 2 weeks in January and came for the December meeting. It is nice to see our hams living abroad paying us a visit. We miss people like **4S7NMR Romesh**, **4S7RO Ron**, **4S7NW Nihal** **4S7RG Ravi**, **4S7PVR Paul**, **4S7PE Petere** and many more out there.

## HF BAND CONDITIONS AND 7060 OPERATIONS

Band conditions have been very poor in the last several weeks due to low Sunspot activity and also due to the winter conditions. The morning 7060 kHz local Rag chew has suffered very badly as the band doesn't open until well past 7.45 AM, by which time people have to go off for work.

Regular Operators on the morning net have been OM **Ernest 4s7EA** from Divulpitiya running a dipole on 40 and his landmark Quad is been not at optimum due to a broken spreader. He says even though it is not at its peak he does get the odd W station from time to time. But mostly on CW.

**4S7WN Nihal** is the most regular 40M operator getting the 7060 local ragchew going. Nihal starts calling anytime around 7.30 a.m and is heard working Indian stations as the local stations start propagating on the skywave only close to 8 A.M.. Nihal runs a dipole from Ward Place Col. 7 and puts in a very well modulated signal from his TS 830.

**4S7MM OM Sarath Mapa** comes in regularly from Ibbagamuwa with a strong signal with his dipole on two coconut trees and his TS 520. He had a problem with one of his 6146 tubes, but is on daily since getting his rig going.

**4S7LFG Leonard Fernando** though having a 3 letter suffix call sign meaning Guest is a nice and Parippu eating sri Lankan from Bandarawela who has come back to his motherland from many years in Denmark.. Runs a G5RV and thunders in from the hills. If you want to learn all about house building listen to Leo. All the best leo with your house building.

**4S7AI Ananada** has been rare these days, but has reappears after a lapse of nearly 3 months and represents Polgahawela running his Home Brew with about 30 watts into a random loop. It is a delight to listen to Ananada's signal which is as good as any of the commercial sigs and is the pride of home brewers in 4S7.

**4S7VJ Wijay** is another of the regulars from Himbutanne running his FT7B and good dipole from his mango tree. Wijay is the master rigger of the RSSL club station climbing the dizzy heights atop the 5<sup>th</sup> floor roof of their shack.. Although he hangs his boots as air traffic controller, is good for another 50 years!

**4S7KG Kule** runs a TS 530 which is the rig that supported the RSSL Tsunami effort from "Temple Trees" also is one of the regular stations looking for Malaya **4S7CK** from Attampitiya Bandarawela. Kule's YL harmonic **4S7YL**(Call reissued from legendary Soma)

also puts in an appearance occasionally.

**4S7CF Calvin**- who has been a long time player operates now from Panadura putting in a nice signal. Usually brings up the rear around 8.10 and is a vox operator who listens while talking and is easy to break into. Very conscious that the proper order should be maintained in the round table so that people don't miss out.

**4S7GF Sam** is operating now from Nawala having moved around a bit in the last few years. If you listen to Sam you could never guess his age!! Sam uses a TS440 and a low strung dipole from his suburban QTH.

**4S7AB Kamal** the happy go lucky globe trotter. One day he is in his regular home at Attanagalle, and the next in JA, HS, W, SM, VU. It is rumoured that the President offered him the Foreign Ministry! Kamal's QTH is an antenna farm in the truest sense of the word with many towers and metres and metres of wire an aluminium tubing running in all directions. A visit to his QTH is well worth, especially if it is during the Rambutang season. Kamal always puts in a strong signal.

**4S7DF Dammika** comes in when his ICRC operations don't take him out of his shack. More interesting is Df's annual mobile operations from Kataragama, Nuwara Eliya and such out of the way locations using his home brew mobile antenna. His HF tower is down for paining these days at his Dehiwala Home, but should go up soon.

**4S7TZ Trevor** the baritone voice from Gower Street Col 4 is a very regular operator who bowls two overs and is off. On the weekends TZ can be heard just before a late lunch after a few short ones for good measure. Runs an Icom 756 and a G5RV on 40 and is most concerned about the poor HF conditions.

**4S7AVR Noel** father of **4S7NMR Romesh** is back with us after a long stay in W-land and is trying hard to get his 40m antenna up. Operates with his tri-bander on 40 and is barely audible outside the Nugegoda area. We need to do a shramadana to get his antenna going for 40. By the way Romesh is out there in VK land, but never fails to acknowledge the RSSL Newsletter every month.

**4S7EF Ekendra** also puts in an occasional appearance on 7060 from Initium Rd Dehiwala and his signal depends on which rig he uses. By the way he offered a few of them for sale to anyone interested. I hear not too many appeared to be interested!

**4S7SKR Mario** comes in from the Tsunami ravaged southern town of Matara with a strong signal from his TS 830 and his dipole. We would like to have Mario a little more often to broaden the network. Always a happy voice and a good signal.

**4S7FM Fawzulla** is suddenly off the air after being very regular with his RM96 home brew and nice signal from Maligawatta. He is more popular with the VU2s and they keep asking. So old boy come back soon.

**4S7AA Asgar** is back with us after his long trip in VU in the second half of last year. Operates from Thimbirigasyaya..but is quick to point out there are no more Thimbiri trees in the yaya and even coconut trees are hard to come by these days. Gets in a good signal, but amazing is his VHF signal.

**4S7WM Wimal** A pro turned amateur operator who kept the Petroleum net humming operates from Polhengoda where we have the RSSL President and VP as neighbours, coming in every now and then. We also hope **VG and RM will get the dust off the rigs soon!**

I know I have missed a station or two but we will continue next month. I thought it would be nice to document our operators in the newsletters because often foreign hams ask about the activity level here in Sri Lanka.(Ed 4S7VK operating from Piliyandala on a 40m dipole up on coconut trees; waiting to get the wire beam up.)

#### CONTEST INFORMATION – FEBRUARY 2006

##### Courtesy ARRL

(1) XE International RTTY Contest: from 1800Z Feb 4 to 1759Z Feb 5. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. Categories: SO-1 Radio, SO-2 Radio. Exchange: RST and serial number or XE state/district. Send logs to xe1j@ucol.mx.

(2) Dead-Band Contest, Meteor Scatter: from 0000Z Feb 4-2400Z Feb 5 (repeat Feb 11-12, 18-19, 25-26). Frequencies: 6 meters. All contacts must be via meteor scatter using SSB, FSK441 and JT6M.

(3) CQ World Wide RTTY WPX Contest: 0000Z Feb 11 to 2400Z Feb 12. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. Categories: SO (LP, HP), SOSB, MS, M2, MM, Rookie (licensed <3 years). Exchange: RST and serial number. Logs due Mar 11 to wpxrtty@kkn.net.

(4) RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest, CW: 2100Z Feb 11-0100Z Feb 12. Frequencies (MHz): 1.820-1.870. Categories: SO only. Exchange: RST + serial number and UK district.

(5) Dutch PACC Contest, CW/SSB: from 1200Z Feb 11-1200Z Feb 12. Frequencies: 160-10 meters according to IARU band plan, no SSB on 160, work stations only once per band. Categories: SO, SO-QRP, MO, SWL. Exchange: RS(T) + serial number (Dutch stations send province).

(6) EU EME Contest: Digital: 0000Z Feb 11-2400Z Feb 12. Frequencies (MHz): 50, 144, 432, 1296. (Mar 11, 12-CW/SSB-432 MHz, 5.7 GHz; Apr 8, 9-CW/SSB-144 MHz, 2.3 and 3.4 GHz; May 6, 7-CW/SSB-1296 MHz). Exchange: callsigns TMO/RST and "R."

(7) ARRL International DX Contest, CW: 0000Z Feb 18-2400Z Feb 19.

(8) CQ WW 160 meter SSB Contest: 0000Z Feb 25-2400Z Feb 26.

(9) UBA Contest, CW: from 1300Z Feb 25-1300Z Feb 26.

(10) REF French Contest, Phone: from 0600Z Feb 25-1800Z Feb 26.

(11) High Speed CW Contest: 0900Z-1100Z and 1500Z-1700Z Feb 26. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. Categories: SO (150 W max, members and non-members), SO-QRP, SWL. Exchange: RST and HSC member number or "NM."

Full information is available at [www.arrl.org/contests/months/feb.html](http://www.arrl.org/contests/months/feb.html).

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