



# RSSL NEWS

January 2008

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

*The General Meeting for the Month of January 2008 will be held on the last Wednesday (30<sup>th</sup>) of the month as usual. The venue is the Sudharshi Hall of the Sinhala Association opposite the BMICH. There is ample parking there and we welcome all our members to come over for the meeting.*

*The Meetings for February will be on the 27<sup>th</sup> and for March the 26<sup>th</sup>. As always the last Wednesday of the month if not otherwise notified.*

## **MONTHLY MEETINGS**

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

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*Although a little late we wish all our members and their families the very best for the New Year 2008.*

*It is our hope that together with your help we can achieve much for all of us in the new year.*

## **DR. NISHANTHA PERERA 4S7NI.**

We are concerned to inform the membership that Nishantha who has been very active as our contest manager, former Secretary of the RSSL met with a serious accident in Colombo being knocked down by a bus while crossing the road. His condition due to head injuries which was rather serious, has eased now but the road to full recovery might take a few months. As it happens so often, after head injuries, there is loss of memory which is easing gradually and we wish Nishantha speedy recovery. He is warded in the ENT Ward No 7 of the National Hospital Colombo where you can visit him during normal visiting hours. No passes are needed. Do visit him and cheer him up and wish him well like we all do, that he will be able to join his XYL and two small harmonics at home very soon.

## **AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATION/ MORSE CODE**

The Regulatory Commission recently decided to eliminate Morse Code as a requirement for Novice and General Class licenses but keeping 5 WPM for Advance Class. At the same time all other conditions were to remain unchanged. This was about to be implemented when the RSSL pointed out that this situation would be contradictory. Therefore, we will be sitting down with the TRC and formulating a satisfactory approach to suit the needs of the community in keeping with current trends in the Regional as well as the International scene. It is proposed that all Novice Class license holders (be they 4S6 or 5) be given the same

privileges as 4S6 if Morse the code requirement is removed as that is the only skill that separates the 5 from the 6.. In the same light those who did the same written exam for General and Advance Class with 12 And 20 WPM being the difference between them, would also have to be addressed. Finally it is proposed that in the event of General Class licenses being issued without a Morse Code requirement, that they be allocated a separate prefix rather than 4S7..

## **A TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL MORSE AND MORSE CODE**

It is those who use CW and those who know its value that tip their hats to this great man and the mode of communication. Once there is no more an official test of skill conducted by the authorities (TRC); the skill of communicating through Morse, we lose that privilege of having recognition amongst radio communicators. Depending on your personal prejudice you will acknowledge the value of Morse as a means of communication and of a skill that we who call ourselves communicators possess or scoff at it as obsolete and antiquated. Yes, as commercial operators the day and age of Morse maybe be long gone but we who call ourselves radio amateurs and indulge in it for the love of the service should think a little deeper and be a little more gracious. Anyway, soon Morse will be taken off the list, and this year might be the last chance to get that coveted trophy. So make use of the opportunity. The test will be conducted in late February. If interested register for the test. Wijay 4S7VJ and Kule 4S7KG conduct classes on Sundays at the club shack. If there is sufficient demand we will conduct classes on the repeater every evening until the examination. Cds are also available from 4S7VJ.

## **REPEATER FOR THE SOUTH PROGRESS REPORT**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of January a team lead by Dimuthu 4S7DZ, Dammika 4S7DF assisted by Ron 4S7RO, Jaliya 4S5JJ and two of Dimuthu's Suntel friends went on an expedition to the Deniyaya TNL site to assess the feasibility of installing a repeater there to cover the South. We say expedition because it was no weekend fun run but a very hard drive needing nothing less than a 4x4 vehicle. As Ron put it, it took a very skilful driver like Dimuthu to make the journey even on a Defender Jeep where the road had to be imagined at times. However, once the top was reached all the terrors of the drive were forgotten when the tests from Deniyaya proved to be excellent in the South from Matara to Galle where Mario 4S7SKR, in Baddegama Siri 4S7SA, and in Galle Jayantha 4S5SC and Suranga 4S5SN stood by to give us field measurements. Once it was established that signals were very good the Western Province where the majority and concentration of hams are found swung their beams to Deniyaya. It was an unexpected bonus to get through quite satisfactorily. Contacts were made with 4S7VK, 5RV, 7CF, 7EA, 5SS and 4S7VJ and a few more while quite a few others reported reception. There were two concerns. The main expectation was to give good coverage to the South and going by signals in Galle, Baddegama and Matara it is a foregone conclusion that signals as far South as Yala Kataragama would be of no difficulty after scrutinising the contour map of the region. The other concern was whether in an emergency Colombo could contact the South via VHF. Both were realised.

The RSSL is very grateful to the team that went up to Deniyaya to accomplish this mission. It also thanks everyone who stood by to help. A special word of appreciation to Vasantha 4S7VG our President who made it possible in the first place with the ready consent of Mr. Shan Wichremesinghe CEO TNL.. It is this ham spirit that can take the community forward and strengthen it. Leave alone the difficult ascent and hard road this is a time when people have cut down on their travelling closer home. The team did the entire expedition for the love of Amateur Radio at no cost to the RSSL. The next stage is to set up the repeater there. That will come no sooner we get TRC clearance and a few logistics are put in place..

PS. Two rather senior hams were heard discussing on 2m a few days later quite ignorant of what goes on huddled in their shacks of prejudice, that they want to take an HRO and 813 in a funeral procession for the RSSL which is in their eyes dead. Probably they are even more obsolete than an HRO and 813. Who said there is no intrigue on the band. !!!

**RSSL GET TOGETHER DEC 29<sup>th</sup>.** With so much happening 29th December when 20 RSSL members, mostly hams got together to spend time together at Otters seems a long time ago.. It was a lovely evening with Calvin swinging the guitar Marrakkas and what have you! All credit to Dammika, Dimuthu and others who worked behind the scenes to get things going. What Next?? Family outing spend the day. Just you wait!!!! (Still interested in that HRO/813 procession. !!)

**REV FR LORIO 4S7SM(Former)** Everyone who knows a bit of history of Amateur Radio in Ceylon knows the pivotal role he played in the 50s when all communications broke down in the Easter Province due to massive flooding. Fr Lorio didn't renew his ticket since 1970 and his equipment was lying in Galle, all corroded, pilfered and almost in a state of junk. Calvin was offered it as an old student of Fr. Lorio's and he in turn turned it over to the RSSL. Not only did he do that but gave is new truck to go to Galle and fetch it along with 4S7VK. Expenses all borne by Calvin petrol..down to the cup of tea for the driver.. Again not one cent incurred by the RSSL. The TRC permission was obtained and after inspection the Council will have to decide what to do with it.(aside)! Did I hear someone say give it to that funeral procession? Thanks Calvin and also for that offer of doing a new Call Book now that we have many more new hams since the last Call book a few years ago, which was also financed by Calvin and the one before that. Thanks Calvin.

**CQ 160-Meter Contest (sent in by 4S7CF Calvin)**

**0000Z, Jan 26 to 2359Z, Jan 27**

Mode: CW

Bands: 160m Only

Classes: Single Op (QRP/Low/High)

Multi-Op

Max operating hours: Single Op: 30 hours

Multi-Op: 48 hours

Max power: HP: >150 watts

LP: 150 watts

QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: RST + (state/province/country)

QSO Points: 2 points per QSO with own country

5 points per QSO with other countries on same continent

10 points per QSO with other continents

5 points per QSO with maritime mobile

Multipliers: Each US state (excluding KH6/KL7)

Each VE area

Each DXCC country (including KH6/KL7)

## PRINTED MATTER

If undelivered, please return to:

The Radio Society of Sri Lanka  
P.O.Box 907, COLOMBO

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: February 28, 2008

E-mail logs to: 160cw[at]kkn[dot]net

Mail logs to: CQ 160-Meter Contest

25 Newbridge Road

Hicksville, NY 11801

USA

Find rules at:[http://cqamateurradio.com/NEW160\\_CntRules\\_200810207.pdf](http://cqamateurradio.com/NEW160_CntRules_200810207.pdf)

**I have some news for people who like**

**to build there own transceivers for any band.**

**The news is from the Practical Wireless of August 2007.**

**And October 2007 issues.**

**Free software. On electronics, mechanics, maths and computing.V9.2**

**Http ://www.eptsoft.com/studenthobbyist/elecronics.htm**

**The above is large file so you should use ADSL over 6 megabits.**

**The second is the BITX TRANSCEIVER.**

**<http://www.phonestack.com/farhan/bitx.html>.Both are free to down load.Hope**

**This would be helpful to our club members. From 4s5jc .James.**

**NOTE: I am running out of space and time to get this in time**

**for the meeting. But I will be running a huge edition in a**

**couple of weeks. Thanks for all the support. Please send any**

**articles you like to feature. 73 de 4S7VK Editor**

**RSSL COUNCIL CONTACT INFO**

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*Edited and designed by Victor 4S7VK – Editor RSSL and published by The Radio Society of Sri Lanka.*

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**To:**