



# RSSL NEWS

**MAY  
2003**

The Journal of THE RADIO SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA  
REGISTERED AS A PERIODICAL IN SRI LANKA

## **MONTHLY MEETING FOR MAY IS ON THURSDAY THE 29<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY 2003 – Note change of date**

**The General Meeting for the Month of MAY will be held at 5.30 PM at the Tourist Board Committee Room on THURSDAY the 29<sup>th</sup> MAY 2003, as the Committee Room is not available on last Wednesday of this month.**

### **MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Please note that unless otherwise notified, monthly General Meetings will be held at The Ceylon Tourist Board Committee room, 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 :853982 ). Membership and ID Card applications can be obtained at the meetings Membership renewals are also accepted by the Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer at the monthly meetings

### **RSSL Announcements**

#### **Disaster Preparedness and Recent Floods**

As I write this, the situation after the recent disastrous floods has not returned to normal yet, although things are vastly under control now. Members would like to know what the RSSL did in this situation. The moment things became clear that there was a major disaster on our hands the Council immediately started to discuss as to what part the RSSL could take. It was decided to announce in the RSSL Net asking for volunteers that would come forward to offer emergency communications assistance. A detailed announcement was made at the 9 PM net, which 4S7VK and 4S7KE took while severe lightning was in progress. Repeated announcements were made till 9.30 P.M. There were less than 10 check-ins and most signed off immediately due to bad weather.

After the Net and making telephone calls to the OMs who usually help at field days and Jamborees, and an Associate member who called in, we had 8 members who were willing to participate if equipment and transport and such logistics could be arranged.

There upon the RSSL contacted the Director General of Social Services on the hot line numbers and finally we were told that what was needed most was food and medicine and such, and Communications were satisfactory. Besides we were able to offer to the Dir. General only two points of communications 24 hours of the day with 4 people manning each point. Asantha 4S7AK with his 4wheel drive vehicle and equipment with Kusal KE Victor VK along with Associate Ranjit were standing by to go out stations with 4S7EA, VJ, KG Dimuthu and possibly a few others prepared to run a base station in Colombo. Some who were contacted couldn't take leave and had legitimate reasons for their inability to participate. Yet others could not meet the level of endurance needed for such an outdoor operation in very trying conditions which needed proper preparedness and training. Equipment for such an operation was also lacking.

Over the last 4 or 5 years the RSSL was taking part in discussions with the authorities with 4S7PB Paddy heading the programme. Many

proposals were put forward to the authorities including to the Presidential Task Force on Disaster Preparedness. The RSSL from time to time discussed the issue at meetings and Newsletters. The stands taken, opinions expressed, the numbers who volunteered and were prepared to take off at short notice and many of the aspects of such an operations were discussed and explored.. Let me not go into more and more details. The situation as it stands and stood in the hour of need was that what ever we could offer we offered. There was no central authority to co-ordinate such a volunteer service of a technical nature. Almost all were caught unawares and unprepared. This whole operation and the need for disaster preparedness will be discussed at the General Meeting.

Maybe the horse has bolted and the stable boy needs to be thrashed. At least there might come a proper plan of action now that people see the need for such an operation. You will have the opportunity to air your views and make your suggestions. Please attend the meeting on Thursday the 29<sup>th</sup> of May at the Tourist Board Committee room. This will be the top item on the agenda. Editor

#### **THIRD REPEATER**

#### **VHF Repeater donated to the RSSL from Denmark**

The SYDHAVSØERNES AMATTØR RADIO KLUB of DENMARK has donated a repeater

The RSSL was looking for a 12.15MHz crystal to repair a VHF repeater and Sri Lankan born Leonard Fernando OZ6ZV now domiciled in Denmark who is also a member of RSSL heard about it form Sena Fernando 4S5SS. Leonard initiated action and Allan OZ3ACC was only too glad not to provide Crystals put a whole modern repeater to the RSSL through his local club. SYDHAVSØERNES AMATTØR RADIO KLUB of Denmark the RSSL is grateful for this offer and hopes to install this repeater in Colombo so that the majority of amateurs can make use of it. If we go back to the first repeater, which was installed in Colombo on an initiative by Ernest 4S7EA with his German friends, we would be reminded of the high level of VHF mobile activity. Leonard and his XYL Erandathie graciously hosted members of the SYDHAVSØERNES AMATTØR RADIO KLUB to dinner at his QTH and a Sri Lankan evening where the traditional oil lamp was lit and a video clip of Sri Lankan dances was played. In a small ceremony the repeater was officially handed over. Leonard's Danish colleagues enjoyed the dinner comprising of many Sri Lanka dishes prepared by Leonard's XYL Erandathie.

The current issue of the club magazine carried a detailed article in Danish with many photographs. We will be sending a translation of this article to members who are on e-mail for their interest.

The RSSL and its Council and Members wish to thank Allan OZ3ACC for his generosity, the Danish Club, Leonard and Sena for all the hard work associated with this project.

We are awaiting Defence Ministry Clearance and we hope to have the repeater installed somewhere in the Colombo District hopefully in the next couple of months.

## **AMSAT AO-40 Phase3D by Noel Lokuge 4S7AVR**

Launched on November 16 2000 on board an Ariane 5 Launcher from Laurou French Guiana. AO-40 is not a single channel "repeater in the sky". It is a linear transponder which means that it has a band of frequencies in which it will receive signals and retransmit those signals unchanged. Thus a variety of modes are possible, including ssb/cw, digital modes etc. FM is not acceptable. Ao-40 was intended to achieve a Molniya Orbit but after the December 2000 incident the remaining fuel for the arc-jet motor was used to insert it into a highly stable elliptical orbit with low inclination. This means it has a very long period of visibility at distances up to 60,000 km and short periods of thousands of kilometres.

The facilities AO-40 offers are:

2.4GHz downlink(including the middle beacon and transponder) also called S band.

2401.225 - 2401.475 MHz CW/SSB

1.2GHz Uplink --L band (L1 1269.250 -- 1269.500 MHz CW/SSB

L2 1268.325 -- 1268.575MHz CW/SSB

70 cm uplink (U Band 435.550 -- 435.800 MHz) CW/SSB

2m uplink V Band 145.840 -- 145.990 CW/SSB not normally available.

Rudak (Digital Channels on 2.4GHZ)

On Board Camera and GPS experiments

K Band transponder 24048.010 -- 24048.060 MHz

No uplink on this Band.

The V Band 2m is normally used for Command functions by the Team controlling AO-40

Like All other Amateur Satellites A computer and good tracking programme is needed. Telemetry can be copied easily with the many programs available from Amsat. These can be downloaded from the internet. If Ao-40 was operational as planned by the many Hams who spent many years of construction and many millions of dollars it would have been possible to make QSO,s with Hams using even a simple 2M handheld rig. Unfortunately the explosion in 2000 caused a lot of damage to some of the many systems. However all was not lost thanks to the untiring efforts of the dedicated Hams who ventured on this project.

Noel received the First QSL card for a contact via AO-40 from VK1VI Virgil Lonescu. He believes that this is the first ever confirmed qsl to a Ham in SriLanka via AO-40.

For this QSO Noel used a 16 turn helix and down-converter which converts the 2.4 GHZ signal to 145 MHZ. For the uplink He used a 70cm 22 element cross yagi with his 435 MHz Ft726. Once the passband is opened again, which will be towards the end of May. Noel will try to make more contacts using my homebrew parabolic dish, which he is sure to be more efficient. CONGRATS Noel and it is indeed good to see your work on Satellites. Ed.

## **NUWARA ELIYA REPEATER**

The repeater was tested from the QTH of 4S7VK using 4S7RO's 10 el yagi and it performed well. We are hoping to get it up to Nuwara Eliya once the weather is clear and suitable transport is obtained for this gruelling trip.

## **12.15MHz Crystal**

We are still in need of a 12.15 MHz crystal to repair a VHF PYE repeater. Any body who could help, please contact Vasantha 4S7VG on 695807 for details.

**SPECIAL NOTE TO MEMBERS:** There is a lot of information that members send which we can not publish due to space limitations, our printing method and cost.. These include photographs and information related to Amateur Radio developments. It will be very easy to circulate this information via e-mail to members who are willing to receive such information on a monthly basis. If you are interested please let the Editor know.

## **Magazines for sale**

Amateur radio magazines received by the RSSL in the past will be sold at the rate of Rs.10 per copy at the General Meetings.

## **Equipment for Sale** : Following Tx/Rx available for sale

Trio TR310, Tx 310 Contact : KTP de Silva

Phone : 034-35281

## **RSSL COUNCIL CONTACT INFO**

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## **PUBLISHER'S NOTICE**

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