



RSSL NEWS

MARCH/APRIL
2002

The Journal of THE RADIO SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

REGISTERED AS A PERIODICAL IN SRI LANKA

NOTICE OF MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING APRIL 24TH 2002 - WEDNESDAY

Please be informed that the monthly General Meeting for April will be held on the 24th Wednesday at The Ceylon Tourist Board Committee room, Galle road, Colpetty at 0545 PM

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Please note that unless otherwise notified, monthly General Meetings will be held at The Ceylon Tourist Board Committee room, 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 - Sam Silva - 4S7GF Phone : 769474)

AGENDA FOR APRIL MEETING

1. Meeting called to order
2. Reading and adoption of minutes
3. Matters arising from minutes
4. Special announcements
5. Discussion of Guidelines and modalities of RSSL shack operation
6. Appointment of a new Associate Member to the council
7. Requests from Associate Members.
8. Any other business
9. Technical discussion – (if time permits)
10. Conclusion.

Bharatha Aponso who was elected as a council member to represent Associate Members received his Amateur Radio licence **4S5BA** and has been transferred to Corporate Member category. At the next General Meeting another Associate Member will have to be elected to represent Associate Members in the Council of RSSL. Only Associate Members can propose and second a nominee for this position.

Hony. Secretary.
The Radio Society of Sri Lanka.

The Radio Society of Sri Lanka

The following appointments have been made by the RSSL Council for the year 2001/2002.

Custodian RSSL Shack - Paddy Gunasekara 4S7PB
Asanatha Illesinghe 4S7AK
Sena Fernando 4S5SS

Other sub committees will be appointed as and when their services are required.

RADIO AMATEURE EXAMINATION 2002

Ham Radio Exam has been Gazetted in the Govt. Gazette of the 08 Feb. It also appeared in the Daily News supplement of the 8th February. closing date 08 Apr. Please inform your friends and those interested.

WELCOME TO NEW HAMPS: Sena Fernando 4S5SS has received his call and is very active, along with 4S5BA Bharatha, 4S6SP Padmakumara. 4S5UV Upali, 4S5WO Wasantha

TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT:

Members would have seen the two page newspaper announcement by the TRC about recommendations regarding telecom policy. While it is mostly

related to professional services, we urge members to go through them carefully and notify the RSSL of any recommendations you may have.

CONDUCT ON THE AIRWAVES

From time to time there have been instances where operators have exceeded norms, thus creating unpleasant situations. I do not wish to use the term violating radio regulations although it can be argued that at times such behaviour borders or clearly violates the conditions under which an operator is expected to use the airwaves.

A few points that both new and old timers might keep in mind so that we all have a smoother functioning community of radio amateurs.

- ◆ Need to follow good operating procedure, some hams only say the last two letters of the Callsign. Since there are 4S5, 4S6 and 4S7 it is important that the full Callsign is used.
- ◆ To refrain from discussing controversial matters. i.e. politics, religion, security situation etc. They are best discussed at eyeball.
- ◆ Refrain from publicly criticising the RSSL and the Council on the band. The Band is not the place for it. A better friendlier approach will make things happen all the same, at the same pace, if not faster.
- ◆ Need to bring down equipment in the proper legal manner and register them with TRC.
- ◆ Do not comment on the band about unauthorised users and interference. Often, it maybe the means by which such users check their equipment and get their reports. When breaking in give your Call sign. Don't just say break break!
- ◆ The need to have an efficient antenna system to use the gain of the antenna rather than using a high power. Ham radio is not having the highest Tx power but putting the highest ERP with lower Tx power and high gain antennas.
- ◆ To conduct yourself with dignity at RSSL meetings and on the bands. While it is not necessary to use neck ties a little care about dress and concern for the place and the general atmosphere might create a better impression about members. Remember the RSSL is a group of people who have come together to work for the benefit of Amateur Radio in this country. There shouldn't be the need for raised voices, insinuations and uncouth behaviour. Special guests, officials, family members, listeners judge radio amateurs by the way they conduct themselves.
- ◆ Sometimes you might find that the pace at which things get done is too slow for your liking.. It is not as simple as sending a letter to the Council or raising matters at the meetings. Such proposals have to be discussed., put in proper perspective and then put forward to the authorities. There are bottle-necks all the way. There are times when however much a club official may want to do something that priorities intervene. Council members have their own priorities and make a great effort to serve the RSSL. On the other hand Council Members too should take genuine interest to serve the members as best as they can. Many fine people amongst the membership prefer to stay out, and the people who rise above that get criticised in the most un-friendly manner. It is easy to be an idealist, but the RSSL is also a reflection of society at large where we have idealists, realists, pessimists, optimists, and even terrorists!

There are many more points that need to be mentioned, but if we are all a little more thoughtful there is no doubt that we can have a better society. The above was not aimed at anyone in particular. They are not entirely the views of the editor. To be honest, we are all guilty of at least some of those at some

point of our ham life. It is just that we need to remind ourselves from time to time.

MORSE SPEED/AND MORSE REQUIREMENT

There has been a much talk about reducing Morse Speeds from 12 WPM to 5 WPM. In fact the RSSL has recommended to the TRC that Morse Speed be reduced to 5WPM. There is a procedure that has to take place before such recommendations are implemented. In the meantime it has become a very sensitive and an emotional issue as well. There are very many valid and invalid points put forward about the whole issue. Some of these issues are.

1. Was such an important issue as bringing down the Morse Speed, which has wide repercussions, adequately debated before arriving at a decision of 5WPM.? Who took the decision? Was proper notice given to the membership? Were all issues taken into consideration before taking such a decision? Were the members given proper, prior notice before taking such a decision and a vote taken? Or was the decision taken because a few countries that belong to CEPT and the WIA decided to implement it? Why haven't all CEPT countries brought the CW speed down? None of the countries in this region, South Asia and Japan (the largest country with radio amateurs) has reduced the speed for General Class? Is Sri Lanka doing what is best for her? Taken as a whole isn't the number of countries that have reduced the speed a small minority?
2. Are the old timers, the 4S7s, trying to block this whole procedure because they want the new comers to go through the same hassles they underwent? Is there an old timer attitude here?
3. Wasn't it the old timers who in their wisdom(?) and after many long hours of discussion and procedures who introduced a 4S5 and 6 class of licence so that today's 4S5s and 6s are on the air without CW (4S5s) and 4S6(with 5WPM). Didn't these old timers also recommend waving off the accepted rule in most countries that novice class be restricted for a period of one year in which they had to upgrade to general or lose their novice class? Didn't they also introduce the MCQ instead of essay type papers to help those who have the technical knowledge but lack English language skills?
4. Is there a difference between an electronics experimenter and a radio amateur or are they one and the same? Is amateur radio on the other-hand a branch or a step beyond it to use electronics for communications? Aren't there electronics enthusiasts and professional broadcast engineers in Sri Lanka who put on four or five HF 500 kW transmitters on the air but are not interested in ham radio? Would it be correct to say that Amateur Radio operators are people who use their knowledge of electronics, build on what their predecessors have done, add their own knowledge and keep things moving and use it to improve communications? If there is some truth in it, wouldn't CW be a very important part of amateur radio and if one is interested to extend his/her interest in communications not think that CW is outdated? Maritime radio and such professional services need to use the fastest and most efficient means unlike Amateur Radio. Should Amateur Radio be scrapped since there are very modern means of communication and it might be outdated like CW?
5. Is everyone who is sceptical about reducing CW speeds for **general class** and **advanced class** prejudiced? Do we want to reduce speeds or do away with CW as out-dated, as a convenient excuse or a way of making things easier? If millions over many generations mastered CW and still do, are we really justified in downgrading it?. Won't it after all be a nicer sequence of getting a novice class, getting on the air, learning enough CW to pass the 5WPM, get on the band and use it and immediately see how your speed picks up and in the meantime work the world on 21 MHz and 80 m and in a year get voice operation too? And in the meantime do the general, (you might have already passed the theory) take the CW 12WPM and get on the international bands Is that too much to ask? Too unfair? To old fashioned? After-all if it is to make international contacts, there is ICQ, Chat, I-link and even mobile phones? If I may be permitted to strike a personal note, this OM was one of the prime movers of the 5WPM proposal but now I wonder whether I was too hasty and that I have been unfair by millions who kept the standards high? I am not like 4S7DA, NE, RO, EA or WP or even

GF, KG and a few more who would fold their hands and read 30+WPM and at speeds that the human hand can not copy. I do operate CW from time to time like riding my old bicycle and I love it and think I made the grade and joined the band of radio enthusiasts down the generations..

These have been some reflections because there is no information from members to include! It is not this editor's policy to reproduce articles from other magazines because the RSSL newsletter is the voice of members. Your comments, ideas, articles are always welcome. Many e-mails are circulated amongst members, however unless specific permission is given such correspondence can not be included in the newsletters although much of the above has been a reflection of such correspondence.. (4S7VK)

VHF PROPAGATION/HF PROPAGATION: The months of February/March/April have always shown VHF propagation from India. Many VU stations come through our repeaters and the repeaters in S. India are also accessible most evenings. S. Indians are enjoying FM stereo reception of Sri Lankan FM and TV Broadcasts. TNL TV has been picked up in far away Australia.

On HF excellent 10 12 and 15m and 18 openings are available throughout the night during these times of equinox.

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RSSL MEMBERS' E-MAIL DIRECTORY

" The RSSL has decided to compile an email directory of members. Members who have email addresses, please send your name, call sign if corporate member and email address to kusal@ieeee.org. Once the directory is compiled, it will be circulated among members." If anyone has objections to his/her e-mail address being put on the directory, please indicate so. In which event, the e-mail address will be used only for official purposes. We will e-mail all RSSL notices and the Newsletter free of charge via e-mail. However, your e-mail address will be used as a BCC in such mail.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS : In future either the Treasurer or the Assistant..

Treasurer will be present at the Monthly Meetings to accept membership dues.

That is all for this months Oms/Yls. If you have articles or news for the Newsletter do send them in. I will publish them and I am sure they will make the newsletter even more interesting. - de 4S7VK editor, 298 Madapatha Road, Piliyandala. Tel: 614098 E-mail victorg@slt.lk

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

Views and opinions contained in articles and other material published herein are of their respective authors' and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Publisher.

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