



RSSL NEWS

November
2002

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

Next Monthly General Meeting

The General Meeting for the Month of November will be held at 5.30 PM at the Tourist Board Committee Room on Wednesday 27th November 2002.

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.

December – No General Meeting

As it was customary RSSL will **not** have a General Meeting in the month of December, where the last Wednesday falls in the Christmas season.

Newsletter

The RSSL Council has decided that the newsletter will be compiled by each council member in turn every month with final editing to be done by Victor. This issue of newsletter is compiled by Kusal – 4S7KE. December issue will be compiled by Asantha 4S7AK and January issue by Thusitha 4S6TP. Send in your contributions by 15th of each month to be included in the newsletter.

Editorial by Kusal 4S7KE

Challenges to Amateur Radio

With the advent of Internet, Mobile Phones, SMS, Voice over IP and similar new technological innovations, amateur radio today is facing an unprecedented challenge to maintain its prominent position. Couple of decades ago amateur radio was such a glamorous hobby where it was the only means by which many people could communicate overseas or talk while mobiling. To ordinary people it was quite fascinating what ham radio could do then an being a ham was such an envious position, there were even a few hams who did not want amateur radio to be spread around and tightly guarded the hobby among themselves.

Commercial ham radio equipment were then exorbitantly expensive and not readily available, many hams used to build their own equipment. With the advent of state of the art amateur radio equipment and people having less time to devote to their hobby, home brewing today is a dying field

and some old timers even name the current generations of hams as appliance operators.

If a newcomer asks what ham radio can do today and is given an explanation, he/she would say that one can do all those with better reliability at a fraction of that cost through internet. He/She would say if one wants to talk mobile better use a mobile phone and to talk overseas and even see the picture of the person at far end better use internet, rather than messing around with huge antennas and waiting till propagation conditions get better.

Earlier days many people used ham radio as only a utility to communicate from a vehicle or talk to known people overseas, without having a genuine love for the hobby. In that sense the advantage today is ham radio today attracts only people who have an interests to the hobby as others those who only want a method of communication for their own needs have other reliable means.

The ham radio community has to face up this challenge without being stagnant by taking up new technology as well. Satellite communications, digital modes of transmission, are some of the hi-tech methods which hams could experiment with.

Rather than being overshadowed by internet, amateurs should use internet to compliment ham radio, a good example being i-Link.

Amateur radio has withstood many obstacles in the past, amateur operators have contributed a lot to many innovations in the communications field and we should collectively face the challenges confronting us to maintain prominent position amateur radio had in the past.

RSSL NOTICES

D.P. Padmaperuma – Silent Key

D. P. Padmaperuma who was the Treasurer of RSSL for nearly 35 years passed away and the funeral was held on 2nd November. Path as he was affectionately known among us did yeomen service to the RSSL as the treasurer for 35 long years, and the RSSL conveys its deepest sympathies to Mrs. Padmaperuma and family on his demise. On behalf of the RSSL the President, Secretary and many

members paid their last respect to Path in his QTH at Padukka.

LICENCE UPDATING FOR 2003.

The TRC states that very soon renewal forms will be sent to all hams who have a valid licence. These forms should be filled as soon as possible and returned to the TRC. The TRC will then forward an invoice at which stage the licence and payment could be posted or handed in at the TRC. The TRC will seek defence clearance for those who have got five year licences and who need to renew. When you receive your renewal notice please don't delay because if you do not act before the specified date, the TRC will have to resubmit your renewal for defence clearance.

The Council is working on a better arrangement regarding renewals and will inform members when it succeeds! Members are encouraged to communicate with the Council regarding concerns about matters relating to Amateur radio and the RSSL. It would be more ethical not to air your frustrations on the airwaves, as we strive hard to build a more disciplined band. - 4S7VK Editor
RSSL Database – Asst. Secretary Thusitha 4S6TP will be in charge of RSSL Membership Database. For any clarifications, details about membership payments and arrears, change of address etc. contact Thusitha on 074- 208689 or email: thusithag@eureka.lk

New Memberships - All new Membership applications will be handled by Asst. Treasurer Asantha 4S7AK. Membership applications could be obtained and completed forms handed over to Asantha. Payment of membership fees can also be made to Asantha Contact No; 01-588874 and Email : asantha1@yahoo.com

Official files and document belonging to the RSSL.

The RSSL Council is trying hard to gather past files and records which unfortunately are not available at present. It is the desire of the Council to streamline operations and make these files available, with proper handing over procedures to future office bearers.

The Council seeks the assistance of any member including past Presidents, Secretaries and Office bearers who are in possession of RSSL files and

documents to hand them in. Contact Victor 4S7VK for details.

RSSL Family Get together

A family get together for RSSL Members has been planned for Saturday 14th December 2002 at STAR Island Resort, on Bolgoda Lake Piliyandala.

"Star Island Resort " is managed by "Corral Sands Hikkaduwa". The Island is located in the Bolgoda Lake in Dampe, Tuduwa which has approach accesses from Piliyandala-Madapatha Road and Moratuwa-Piliyandala Road.

Guests will be ferried in a motor boat to and fro to the Island. There will be ample vehicle parking area and security provided on the land side entrance.

The entire Island, public area and a rest room will be at our disposal morning to dusk on the 14th Dec., '02. Cost of Buffet Lunch is Rs.330/= all inclusive with a welcome drink and evening cup of tea plus a piece of cake. Corkage is free.

Members wishing to participate could give their names at the Nov. General Meeting or contact Sena (Tel : 01-576068-, 01-576863 Email: senafdo@sltnet.lk) for further information.

The Council decided to have this get together close to Colombo for maximum participation. Therefore, your participation will be of great support. It is also planned to have an informal meeting to discuss future outings and DXpeditions. If anyone needs transport please contact and we will see if we could coordinate some lifts. If sufficient numbers are involved we could even hire a bus from Colombo to Bolgoda and back.

Romesh on air from Sydney

Look out for Romesh Lokuge on HF specially 20m from VK land. His Callsign is VK2IWU. QTH Sydney.

Nuwara Eliya Repeater – Nuwara Eliya Repeater was brought down to Colombo and has been handed over for repairs to Allen and Dinesh at VOA. We hope to have it running as soon as possible.

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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