



RSSL NEWS

**JUNE
2003**

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

MONTHLY MEETING FOR JUNE IS ON THURSDAY THE 26th of June 2003 – Note change of Date and Day

The General Meeting for the Month of June will be held at 5.30 PM at the Tourist Board Committee Room on THURSDAY the 26th of June 2003, as the Committee Room is not available on the 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

SPECIAL FEATURE AT THE JUNE MONTHLY MEETING

Sri Lankan born Leonard Fernando OZ6ZV now domiciled in Denmark who is also a member of the RSSL will be the guest of honour at the June monthly meeting. Leonard will make a presentation with video clips of the presentation ceremony held in Denmark when Allan OZ3ACC donated the RSSL a VHF repeater through the kind intervention of Leonard. Leonard will be in Sri Lanka for about 2 weeks. We are happy to welcome him to our midst. The RSSL will host him to Dinner after the meeting. Members who wish to join are requested to contact Kusal We urge members to be present at the monthly meeting.

LETS SEE WHAT SUNSPOTS ARE (4S7EA Ernest)

For the past four decades or so I have been an active dxer, practically on all HF bands. While DXing I often hear about sunspot activity- solar flux number , A index and K index. Hence I started reading books on HF propagation and feature articles in magazines on this interesting subject. I thought of passing down to others who may be interested some information..

SUNSPOTS I read are relatively cool areas that appear as dark spots on the sun. Some sunspots are large as 80 000 miles in diameter.

The study on sunspots activities had started way back in 1750. On the average the sunspot activity varies from 7 to 17 years. But we take the sunspot maximum average as 11 years.

Scientifically sunspot activity count started in 1755 - cycle 1. We are now in cycle 23.Solar activity comes to a maximum every 27 days - which is the suns rotational period.

Broadly speaking we radio hams depend very much on sunspot activity for propagation. Higher the sunspot number better the propagation for HF. Sunspot counts are taken on an average of 12months period and termed SMOOTHED SUNSPOT NUMBER.

Those of us who listen to WWV , WWVH propagation broadcasts specially on 15MHz can hear the SOLAR FLUX number given at 45mts past every hour UTC. The best WWVH reception I get is at

1145 UTC and 1245 UTC. As per announcements given on this broadcasts, they use 27 satellites to give these predictions. SOLAR FLUX number given daily is proportional to smoothed sunspot number. This is shown graphically in the ARRL HANDBOOK.

WWV broadcasts also give figures on A and K index. A index is the average value of geomagnetic activity - measured on a scale of 0 - 400 K index is measured on a scale of 0 - 9 which is the geomagnetic field.

By observation I have found when A and K indices are 0 the propagation is good.

Of course the flux number will have to be high.Cycle 23 which we are on now is very poor and propagation is very poor. There are sporadic openings on 14 18 and 21mhz bands.

One could ask why sunspots are important for propagation. SUNSPOTS give rise to high UV ULTRA VIOLET radiation which acts on the ionosphere to assist HF propagation.

The 44th ALL ASIAN DX CONTEST - 2003

Supported by the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications, Japan.

The purpose of this contest is to enhance the activity of radio amateurs in Asia and to establish as many contacts as possible during the contest periods.

01. CONTEST PERIOD:

(1) CW: From 00:00 UTC the third Saturday of June to 24:00 UTC the next day <48 hours> (June 21-22, 2003)

(2) Phone: From 00:00 UTC the first Saturday of Sept. to 24:00 UTC the next day <48 hours> (Sept. 6-7, 2003)

Amateur bands below 30MHz except 10, 18, 24MHz bands(1.8MHz band:CW ONLY. 3.5MHz band:includes 3.8MHz band) (4S7NI) Tnx Nishantha for the information. The detailed info along with rules and the points scores and the list of Asian countries are available free on request to those members interested.

GUIDELINES THE INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE/LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND 2003.

This highly popular annual August event attracts hundreds of activated lighthouses and lightships (316 last year) in 45 countries. This year the period of the event is from 0001 UTC on Saturday 16 August until 2359 UTC on Sunday 17 August 2003.

The event is NOT a contest. It is a special event weekend when each group decides how it will operate with regard to modes and bands.

The International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend is used to obtain maximum exposure for our hobby.

<http://www.lighthouse.fsnet.co.uk/events/intlighthouseday.htm>

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So come and join us in the fun of the weekend, establish a

station at a lighthouse, lightship or maritime beacon. The more the merrier. The RSSL has been running a special event station for a number of years. Tentatively we are thinking of operating from Dondra, Beruwela or Tribncomalee. Those interested please give your names in. Better still come for the meeting to discuss the event.

For sale

1) Yaesu YR 901 RTTY/CW decoder with spares, instructions, circuits etc.

needs attention Rs. 2500/

2) MFJ TNC suitable for VHF and HF with manual etc. Rs. 5500/

Contact- Ranjit 4S7RR on 865107 email : taos@lgo.lk

Pentium III 550MHz PC 15GB HD, 128MB RAM Rs. 25000
586 - 133MHz PC Rs.7000

Contact - Kusal 4S7KE on 853982 Email : kusal@ieee.org

Following Tx/Rx available for sale Trio TR310, Tx 310 Contact :
KTP de Silva Phone : 034-35281

Amateur Radio Exam - Past Question Papers

Members who are interested in obtaining copies of past exam papers please contact S.Sritharan who is the Associate Member representative in the RSSL Council. Contact info - Email srit@slt.net.lk or Phone 0777-787081

WHAT IS FIELD DAY?

(4S7RO Ron who is in Jamaica sends the following article for the information of our members regarding Field Days.)

Field Day is the most popular Amateur Radio event of the year in Jamaica. It is an emergency preparedness exercise, which is conducted at the early start of the Hurricane season. As ham radio operators, it affords us the opportunity to practise the maintenance of portable communications and development of our technical and operating skills, under difficult conditions.

Although there is a serious side to Field Day, the actual fun activities of setting up a communication camp sometimes turns into a battle with Murphy's Law. The camaraderie that develops, far outlast the Field Day operating time. Therefore members are encouraged to bring along their families and make it a gala occasion.

WHERE IS THE FIELD DAY SITE?

This year, the site will be located at **BOWDEN WHARF**, approximately two miles east of Port Morant in St Thomas. This site provides all the basic amenities including two containers converted to six rooms with air conditions. These

rooms have all been booked by Selvin (6Y5SG) and his overseas crew.

In addition to the picnic atmosphere, this Field Day objective is to achieve the following; -

1. Installation of a Portable emergency radio station.
2. Local and overseas contacts (DX'ing)
3. Make the most of the IRLP mode.

FRIDAY

The advance party will depart Kingston for the camp site. Their responsibility is to set up camp, hoist antennas and prepare for the main party on Saturday. They should also establish communications with Kingston and Montego Bay via 7.150MHz or 3.775MHz. LSB and the 147.960MHz, or 146.840MHz. repeater should it be reinstalled. The simplex frequency for the site will be 147.800MHz.

SATURDAY

The main party arrive; unlike previous years JARA is unable to provide tents for participants. Therefore all invites must have their own tents.

MEALS/COST Meals are arranged by the club and costs borne by members. It is also an opportunity to invite guests to give them an idea of what ham radio is. These include people from the Ministries

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.

RSSL COUNCIL CONTACT INFO

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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

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