



RSSL NEWS

MAY 2007

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

The General Meeting for the Month of May will be held at the Seminar Room (Ground Floor) of Vidya Mandiraya, SLAAS – Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science, 120/10, Vidya Mawatha, Colombo 7 on Wednesday the 30th May 2007 at 5.30 pm.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Please note that unless otherwise notified, monthly General Meetings will be held at the SLAAS 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.

CW-MORSE CODE ELIMINATION/SPEED REDUCTION - EDITORIAL

Two years ago this very emotional issue generated a great deal of discussion and also created much displeasure, disappointment and even mistrust amongst members of the RSSL. The whole issue started on the wrong foot from outside the RSSL and lead to a situation where it was shown as a seniors vs new comers issue. Two years on the Council is asking members whether it is not time to look at this whole issue again in the light of new developments and also the fact that even if we decide to eliminate or reduce the speed to 5WPM, it will be at least 2 years before legal drafting, passing gazettes and things like that will make it come into effect as has been seen in this country. It might come as too little too late for our hobby. The Council feels that we should address this issue and ask our members to look at this afresh. Please give it sincere and serious thought.

DESTRIBUTION OF DISASTER RIGS

As we have been discussing, the rigs listed below will be made available to members to increase the capability of our members to come on the air in the event of a disaster and also to use these rigs for the advancement of Amateur Radio Activity. We feel, while keeping a few sets at the RSSL others could be better used by members scattered all over the island

Council decided to distribute following Rigs for the fixed price as follows

1. IC-706 MKII (HF & VHF sets) – Rs 25,000/-
2. IC-706 (HF & VHF) RS.25,000
3. IC-728 (HF TRX donated by DL6IQ-Hans) – Rs 15,000/-
4. Patcom PC-9000(HF & 6m) Rs 10,000/-
5. FT-747 (HF all bands) – Rs 10,000/-

6. YAESY VX150 150 - VHF handheld 4 sets - Rs 10,000/-each

Conditions

1. Only RSSL paid up cooperate members are eligible to apply
2. One member is eligible for one unit only but can apply for any number of rigs and the first unit drawn by him/her will be allotted to him/her.
3. 4S7 & 4S6 licence holders can apply for any unit depending on power and frequency coverage. (HF or VHF)
4. 4S5 licence holders can apply only for vhf sets
5. Any novice licence holder who has passed general or advance written exam and is awaiting Morse test is eligible to apply for HF sets but the equipment will be released only after updating of the licence to 4S7. A period of one year will be allowed.
6. Those who got a VHF ICOM V-8 hand held from the RSSL recently are not eligible to apply for a VHF set.
7. If there is more than one applicant for one rig lots will be drawn to select one person.
8. A deposit of Rs. 2500/= will be taken towards the allocated rig, which will be released to the member upon receiving MOD clearance and full payment.
9. All equipment available for distribution could be examined at Vasantha's 4S7VG's morning QTH(not home) down 122/1 Elvitigala Mawatha (near TRC) by appointment. Telephone 011-2695807.

For any further info please contact Vasantha 4S7VG President RSSL. 2695807

Fourth RepeaterThe Council is looking at the possibility of relocating the present HNB repeater (which was at OTS, the first repeater, subsequently moved to Neliya and now back in Colombo) somewhere else since the Colombo repeater is rarely used and it can serve a wider area if better located. Possible locations thought

of have been Gongala or Deniyaya. The Council seeks the views of the membership and any real help including field trips to determine the feasibility of locations. It should be a location that can be accessed at least with a beam antenna from Colombo area where there is a big concentration of Radio Amateurs. It should also increase our coverage area beyond the present area covered by Yati at least.

This issue has been discussed before but nothing concrete came out of it. Lets try to be more constructive this time. Your help will be greatly appreciated by all.

QRM ON THE YATI REPEATER

As most of you are aware there has been non amateur signals creeping in on the Yati transmissions. This is due to the enhanced propagation conditions observed in the last few months. It is not an intentional use of the Yati repeater by others, but stray signals falling within the pass-band of the repeater receiving frequency. The interfering signal is not strong enough to over-ride our signals, but the signals come through clearly when there is no amateur traffic. The Council decided to convert the repeater to a tone accessed mode, thereby making it receive only tone generated transmissions of Radio Amateurs.

Since the Council has failed in its attempt to obtain the DTMF code to shut down the repeater when needed, a new code is being introduced. However the Council feels the best remedy would be to introduce the tone access, like the present Nuwara Eliya repeater on 145.650.

VHF ACTIVITY- THE MORNING RAGCHEW

GLEN Pappa 4S7GV as is affectionately known to all, is the oldest member to be on the band. Glen keeps the morning 145.500 rag-chew going daily (when not indisposed) at 6.30 A.M. All 4S5, 4s6 and 4S7s are welcome to join in on the Good Morning Sri Lanka net!! Glen also activates the gang at 4.00 P.M. on the Yati repeater. Please join in and make the bands used more.

LICENCE CERTIFICATE-

The Council proposed the printing of an attractive certificate identifying a licensed ham to be placed in his/her shack, with the call sign and an appropriate text so that it will add some weight to his shack. This will be given to all licensed members. It is to

take the shape of an award certificate and will add colour and pride to the Radio Amateur Station.

EQUIPMENT WANTED

4S5RV Ravi Sumithraarachchi is looking to purchase a VHF Base or handheld set notwithstanding the lucky draw at the end of the month!! State model, condition and ohmic value. You can call Ravi on 0777258069.

CONTEST INFO: Your Ed is sorry that due to the early despatch of the Newsletter this time, to give members more time to have a look at the equipment that is to be distributed, contest info is not being featured. You can extract it from

the ARRL website (www.arrl.org) and CQWPX website (www.cqwp.com.)

RSSL JOURNAL: we have received 4 articles so far. Please hurry, we need your support.

Ed Note:- Please excuse the rush job this time due to severe lack of time. If THERE ARE ANY VOLUNTEERS FOR THE Editors job, please contact the President. Tks

RSSL COUNCIL CONTACT INFO

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RSSL, P.O. Box 907, Colombo.

President: Vasanth L. Guruge 4S7VG122/1, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 8. Phone: +94-(0)11-2695807 E-mail: creaelec@slt.lk

Secretary: J. T. Wijeratne 4S7VJ, 31'2/1 Himbutanne, Angoda. Tel 2578447 e-mail <jt4s7vj@gmail.com>

Treasurer: Rodney Martensteyn 4S7RM, 21/10 Polhengoda Gardena, COL 5 Tel 2811523

Editor: Victor Goonetilleke 4S7VK 'Phone: +94-(0)11-2614098 E-mail: victorg@slt.lk

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