



# RSSL NEWS

MARCH 2008

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

**The General Meeting for the Month of March 2008 will be held on the last Wednesday (26<sup>th</sup>) of the month as usual 5.30 p.m. . The venue is the Sudharshi Hall of the Sinhala Association opposite the BMICH. There is ample parking there and we welcome all our members to come over for the meeting.**

**The Meetings for April will be on the 30<sup>th</sup>. As always the last Wednesday of the month if not otherwise notified.**

## **MONTHLY MEETINGS**

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

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## **SIR ARTHUR C. CLARKE:**

Its is with profound sadness that we heard of the passing away of this great Scientist and writer who has been a household word since the end of the Second WW. We lost a great friend and Sir Arthur Clarke and the Clarke Centre have been helping us on numerous occasions. To mention just one instance, the Duplexer for the Nuwara Eliya repeater was hand carried by a group of his friends and all we had to do was to collect it from his Barnes Place residence.

Many years ago, 1984 to be exact ,when there was a total eclipse over India I conducted propagation tests bouncing signals off the Eclipse Zone and my report was published in the RSSL News. I offered details to anyone interested. Would you believe that I had a telephone call from Sir Arthur Clarke asking me to send him a copy. He was the only one who did so. Such was the humility of this wonderful man of our times who was ahead of our times.

A vote of condolence will be passed at the monthly meeting and a message of appreciation will be sent to the Clarke Centre. The RSSL was represented at the funeral by our President and other members.

## **RSSL FAMILY EVENT GETTOGETHER ON THE 27<sup>TH</sup> OF APRIL**

**Venue:** Club Penthouse at Madapatha Thuduwa on Bolgoda Lake; Sun Island.

**How to get there:** Come to Piliyandala Town. Proceed half a km towards Horana, turn right taking Madapatha Road and keep going 4km till you come to the Madapatha Junction and proceed to the Ferry. Its just 200m from the Ferry. Parking for your vehicle with security is available. Take the Boat and get to the Island.

We have arranged a full spend the day on Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> April from 9. a.m. till 5 pm for members to come over with family and friends and enjoy a day of fellowship. Welcome drink, lovely lunch and tea will be provided including the use of the swimming pool all for just Rs. 500 per head.(RSSL is subsidising to encourage member participation)(If

you want to bathe in the Bolgoda Lake, that's your choice!!) harmonics 5-12years will be half rate and under 5 no charge..(We at the RSSL even encourage you to radiate lots of harmonics!!!! I don't know about spurious and cross modulation though..that's your problem, but same rates apply. Hi) RF will not be on the ticket but I am sure guys will bring along that odd 807 be it local or foreign. No corkage on any RF.

We really want to have loads of people. We haven't had a family outing for a number of years. Please make that extra effort to come. OK if you really can't make it for lunch, come after or before. We want at least 50 people. The Island can accommodate all of you. It's a very nice private place.

Ravi 4S5RV with help from 4S5SS has made all arrangements. Lets resolve to be there. Contact Ravi 0777238069. Victor or Rodney or any RSSL Council member  
For reservations and further info. Help us to make it a success.

## **CW-MORSE PRACTICAL TEST 22/23<sup>rd</sup> APRIL**

The CW practical tests have just been concluded with great success. The results will be out very soon. There were nearly 40 who presented themselves for the tests, of whom nearly 25 for 12WPM General Class. Other than a very few seeking upgrades from 4S6 to 4S7 all the others were newcomers which means that in the last year we have had nearly 40 new hams. This is tremendous growth and other than for about 5 the rest have been below 30 years. There were others who just couldn't make it for the CW tests but are eligible to have a Novice license.

The RSSL would like to welcome a Father and Son duo **Nihal and Naren Canagasabey** who were so keen that having passed the General Class didn't wait for the CW test to apply for a 4S5 ticket and they are already on the air with the Calls **4S5NZ Nihal, and 4S5WN Naren**. A big welcome to **4S5NN YL from Eheliyagoda Nayomi and also YL Prarthana** who passed the General class and did the 12WPM CW as well. The RSSL wishes all those who took up the CW teast success and to come on the air soon. If you need any guidance don't hesitate to contact the RSSL.

**THANKS To 4S7KG and 4S7DF** who assisted the TRC to conduct the Morse test making themselves available on the 22/23<sup>rd</sup> March despite it being a long weekend.

**NEXT RAE EXAM:** This is tentatively scheduled for June/July. If there are sufficient candidates for CW we could work with the TRC to have another test later this year.

**THANK YOU TRC:** A special word of thanks go to the TRC, especially Asst. Director Mr. Ganashamoorthy for his interest and work to get the CW examinations held and coordinating with the

RSSL. He has been excellent. We also would like to thank Asst Director Spectrum Management Mr. Wakista for being a great person to deal with and last by no means least Ms. Manjula the pretty lady with that fine fist who prepares our Licenses and attends to all our files. And who doesn't know Mr. Punchibanda who now deals with commercial licensing, but is always there to help.

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:**

**Pradeep Asanka, 97 1/2, Kolombagedara**

**John Srian Jayalath, 110/7A 16<sup>th</sup> Lane Wickremasighapura Rd, Battaramulla.**

**G.M.P. Lal Aponso, 65, Agaraguru Mwt, Thudella, Jaela.**

**G. Prarthna Liyanage, 658/28A Mahaweli Gardens Col 9.**

**Nilanka S. Abeyegunaratne, 31 Kahawatta, Ambatenna, Kandy.**

**MEMBER NEWS: ERNEST 4S7EA** our DX champion is enjoying family time with his harmonic 4S7KA Kavi and XYL in LA. Of course EA didn't forget to take XYL Chandra. They are enjoying Los Angeles and 4S7WN says that EA is looking for any lost angels to rescue !! Ernest comes through the Echo Link just like Ron 4S7RO who is back in Boston joining XYL and harmonic..but is right now in VK land with XYL Madhvi VU2MAB a strong possibility of making a home down under. We miss Ron's 160/80/2m DX, but Ron hopes to be back on holiday in June.

**4S7DJ (Dr.) Jayantha Nanayakkara** who needs no introduction is back on the air after many years of devoting time to his professional life. Delta Juliet operates from Rajagiriya on 2m but will soon be on HF where he is known more outside Sri Lanka. Welcome Jayantha;..time to lend a hand with all that experience as a former Sec of the RSSL and the main force behind the DARC course in 1980.

**Ekendra 4S7EF** again a former very efficient RSSL Sec. Is back on the air on 2M and HF. Operates from Dehiwala and was my first ham contact in 1983. Welcome back Eke.

We urge our old timers who have done much for the RSSL in their day to come back and join us, at least on the bands from your homes. We want folks to check in on the VHF Net at 9PM daily on the Yati repeater. Also its time to start UHF activity. Come on-board.

**What is APRS? by JA1OGS -- VK4GO(via 4S5SS)  
Automatic.Position.Report.System**

Packet radio has great potential for passing large pieces of message traffic from one station to another. However, with the internet growing by leaps and bounds a lot of folks, including myself, seem to become disenchanted with packet. Then I discovered APRS! (Of course some of us discovered APRS before then but I digress...). It was always difficult to apply packet to real time events. Especially since these events seem to always be short lived. APRS can avoid this problem. It is not limited to a connected network or its complexity. APRS permits any number of stations to exchange data just like voice users do on a voice net. Any user can send information and all stations receive it or transmitted it. Secondly, APRS

Return:  
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recognized one of the greatest real-time needs of any special event or emergency. That is tracking of key assets! For instance... Where is the event leader? Where are the emergency vehicles? What is the weather at various points in the country? Where is a mobile base amateur station? Where is the hurricane? Where is my car now

(if stolen) ?? WHERE IS THE DX? To answer these questions, APRS is a full featured automatic vehicle location and status reporting system too. All this is happening here in Japan on the allocated APRS frequency 144.640MHz.

PS: There are a few HF APRS Gateway's 10.147.60MHz USB .

This is great for travel in the country HF-VHF So if you have a Packet, SSTV, PSK-31 Radio Modem or a soundcard interface then you can monitor the APRS traffic flow (VHF 1200bd Packet) activity.

The Main Frequency 144.640MHz. There are already about 800 stations in Japan.

<<http://ja1ogs.com/dxja.htm>>See the stations list in Japan

<<http://ja1ogs.com/dxww.htm>>See the stations list outside Japan

<<http://ja1ogs.com/aprs.htm>>Return to the APRS Page .....

Double click this line .. <<http://ja1ogs.com/aprslink.htm>>Link to: JA1OGS APRS-Link Page <<http://ja1ogs.com/aprslink.htm>>

<<http://ja1ogs.com/dl.htm>>Link to: UI-View APRS Download Page <<http://ja1ogs.com/dl.htm>>

**EQUIPMENT NEEDED:** As mentioned there are many new hams who are looking for VHF and HF equipment. Some of them are good technicians and they can repair defective sets while others are looking for working rigs to get on the air. Could you please contact the RSSL Secretary 2614098/0774013775 if you have anything for disposal, sale or free to a young ham. Thanks a lot.

**ED NOTE: Sorry about the delay this time. I need more articles.** Colin 4S7TP. Your article will be featured in full next issue.

**E-Mail Newsletters:** If you like to get the newsletter by e-mail please send me your address. If you like to get RSSL announcements only but not the newsletter, inform me as well. Its useful to be able to reach you via e-mail

**RSSL COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**To:**