



RSSL NEWS

OCT/Nov 2009 THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

The General Meeting for the Month November 2009 will be held on Wednesday the 25th of November 2009. The venue is the Balcony Hall of the Otters Aquatic Club 380 / 1 Baudhaloka Mawatha Colombo 7. at 6.00 p.m. In future too the meetings will be held at this new venue. Its not far from the BMICH towards Borella. Continue towards the rear of the BMICH at the Wijerama Rd / Baudhaloka Mawata junction.

The Meetings for December will not be held due to the holiday season. Monthly meeting for January will be held as always on the last Wednesday of the month, the 27th of January if not otherwise notified. We have also made arrangements to provide tea, so come for the meeting and enjoy tea with us.

MONTHLY MEETINGS.

Please note that unless otherwise notified, monthly General Meetings will be held at Otters Aquatic Club at 6.00 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.

EDITORS NOTE: Due to personal reasons the hard copy of the October Newsletter was not sent to members. Only the E-mail issues were dispatched. A combined newsletter Oct/Nov 2009 is being sent herewith. Please accept my apologies. 4S7VK

VISITS BY SECURITY PERSONNEL TO SHACKS

There have been two visits by security personnel to two Amateur Stations in the city of Colombo. These are not the result of any decision by the TRCSL nor the MOD, but by routine search parties in the course of their duty. A large Antenna could arouse their curiosity. They might ask you questions as to what it is all about, why you are using transmitters and so many things. There is nothing to get excited about, as you are a duly authorised person, cleared by the Ministry of Defence and issued a valid licence to operate by the TRCSL representing the government of Sri Lanka. Have your license ready at all times and your log book and a file of your clearance documents.

You can refer them to the TRCSL for any further information. You can refer them to the Radio Society if you like, but it might not be in line to give information about other hams and inconvenience them too by such people who know nothing about a duly authorised perfectly legal operation. You might not be appreciated for having disclosed their locations. If they

need such information refer them to the TRCSL. Also keep in mind that such people have no authority to take away any equipment. It is only a duly authorised officer of the Director General of the Regulatory Commission who has the authority to do so or ask you not to operate. Be gracious, and corporate, don't be pigheaded, but be firm and insist that you are a legal operator. Always be perfectly within the law and also operate within the regulations and you have nothing to be exited about.

JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING SPECAIL PRESENTATION :

Andrew Jarred G1EFP will be making a presentation about issues relating to Amateur Radio. Andrew is a good friend of the 4S community and is looking forward to meeting as many members as possible. We urge members to be present and give Andrew who regularly checks in on the net and is heard via Ecvholink, a fine reception. He also hopes to speak about VHF antennas.

HF BEACON : The Council wishes to thank Bharath 4S6ABC for his efforts in clearing the Beacon rig (TS-50). At the moment the beacon is being tested and will be installed the moment there is an improvement in the weather. Asantha 4S7AK is making all arrangements and tests. We hope to have it running within the next 2 weeks at the latest.

TESTS FROM GONGALA/DENIYAYA REPEATER: 4S5SK Wasantha went over to Gongala with a replacement antenna and a test was conducted, which unfortunately gave negative results. This effort was to see whether superficial repairs could get the repeater going. Unfortunately it revealed that a totally new approach was needed and a team needs to go up. At the first available opportunity, another effort will be made. The journey is quite a difficult one with the road impassable at some points unless at great risk. We urge members to be patient and understand the difficulties involved.

AGM 2009/10 : The AGM which was held at Berjaya Mout Royal Hotel Mout Lavinia saw very good participation. 48 stayed on for the fellowship lunch. We were very happy to have Leonard 4S7LF(Lovely Face!!) all the way from Bandarawela, 4S7MM Sarath and 4S5AH Padmasiri from Ibbagamuwa.

Council of Management for 2009/10

The members of the council of management for the year 2009/2010 were elected unanimously at the AGM held on Sunday the 30th of August 2009 in the Balcony Hall of

the Otter Aquatic Club 380 / 1 Baudhaloka Mawatha Colombo 7.

Patron Hon. Minister of Communications.
Vice Patron Secretary, Ministry of Communications.
Director General of Telecommunications
Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka

President Dammika Fernando 4S7DF
1ST Vice President Harendra Durghabakshi 4S7RD
2nd Vice President K. K.G. Kulasekara 4S7KG
Secretary G.V.A.Goonetilleke 4S7VK
Treasurer Rodney Martenstyn 4S7RM

Council Members elected at the AGM

1. Mr. Jayasiri Wijeratne 4S7VJ
2. Mr. Lesley Weerakkody 4S7WL
3. Mr. Ranjit Fernando 4S7RZ
4. Asantha Illasinghe 4S7AK
5. Bharath Aponso 4S6ABC
6. Thilan Liyanage (Assoc. Mem.)
7. Upul Senannayake (Assoc. Mem.)

Auditor Gunasekara Ratnayake. & Company

Following appointments were made by the RSSL council,

Librarian Lesley Weerakkody 4S7WL
Editor, IARU coordinator, and Disaster Operations
Manager Victor Goonatilake – 4S7VK

QSL manager Uthpala Vithana 4S7UV
Awards manager: Earnest Amarasinghe 4S7EA
HFBeacon coordinator: Asantha Illasinghe 4S7AK
and Sirimevan Abeysinghe 4S7SA
Echo Link Coordinator: Asantha Illasinghe 4S7AK
Yatiantota Rept co-ordinator: J.T.Wijeratne 4S7VJ
N'Eliya and Deniyaya repeater coordinator
Mr. Vasantha Guruge 4S7VG
Colombo Repeater coordinator and
RSSL shack custodian : Mr Bharath Aponso 4S6ABC

AMATEUR RADIO JACKETS

1. The RSSL is getting Amateur Radio jackets made which are ideal for members to wear on field days, publicity events, like the JOTA & exhibitions . The Jackets come in three sizes small, medium and large. The dominant colour is Yellow . We will send a picture/jpg of it in about a weeks time. The jackets have the RSSL Logo embroidered and individual call signs printed with the handle/name of the operator. We have already placed an order for 25 and a second order will be placed within the next 3 weeks, and that will be it. Cost is Rs. 750 per jacket.

The project is handled by Harenn 4S7RD. Please call Harenn at 0773136638

INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION ISS

4S6SSP Sena has been pioneering this activity in Sri Lanka and our wish is that in Sri Lanka our schools too could join this programme. All details are attached, info received from Sena. We need our hams to get interested in promoting. If you are a school teacher, it will be even easier but otherwise you could align with your old school or your childrens' school.

Contact Sena for further information.

Sena Fernando,
Residence PH#s:0094112805072/++2806291/0094
4931801, Mobile:0094 777354478
Fax:0094112576068. Ham Radio Call: 4S6SSP

JOTA 2009:

52nd Annual Jota was held on the 17 and 18th of October. The RSSL Council of Management wishes to thank the many members who assisted in various ways to make the JOTA a possibility and a success. We are happy that there are members who go to the trouble of taking equipment and going away from the comfort of their homes to operate JOTA stations to give the youth of this country that opportunity of enjoying radio communications while learning about it. Unfortunately there were fewer stations this year because there was hardly any coordination from the Scouts HQ. For the JOTA to be a success the Scouts should contact the radio amateurs who have shown down the years that they are prepared to assist. Radio Amateurs can't call up scouts to take part in their jamboree. Last year Mr. Dharshana Rantunge coordinated and we had many radio hams giving their support to help Scouts to enjoy communicating with one another. A few years back when Mr. Merille Goonetilleke took the initiative at the Scouts HQ, we had 18 stations participating. With peace returning to the country the potential is enormous if all concerned come together. It would be wonderful if we could link up Jaffna, Mannar, Trinco, Batticaloa with the rest of the country and give the opportunity to all Sri Lankan Scouts and Guides to interact via radio.

Only the following Stations operated this year although permission had been secured for 12 stations. At the last moment Lyceum (Haren 4S7RD, 4S7NZ, 4S7NC) couldn't operate due to the flue scare which resulted in the closing of the school for a week. However these enthusiastic hams moved into Guides HQ to lend a hand.

Girl Guides H.Q.; Victor 4S7VK, Prarthana 4S7PL, Marlon 4S7MY, Dammika 4S7AP, Ranjit 4S7RZ, Haren 4S7RD and Asantha 4S7AK

Ernest 4S7EA from his QTH at Divulpitiya.,

Ratnapura: Furgusson G.S. Naomi 4S7NL, Wijay 4S7VJ, Uthpala 4S7UV, Kule 4S7KG, Leslie 4S7WL

D.S.Senasnayake College: Dimuthu 4S7DZ, 4S7JL Jaliya

4S7DF and 4S7SK were prepared to go to Kandy and Mario 4S7SKR in Matara, Sarath 4S7MM and 4S5AH in Ibbagamuwa, Leo 4S7LF in Bandarawela and Chandra 4S7CK at Attampitiya, 4S6ABC & 4S7WL at Scouts HQ to mention a

few, were willing to operate stations if the Scouts were going to be on hand.

Wedding Bells and XTAL Controlled

The RSSL Council & members wish to congratulate Kamal Edirisinghe 4S7AB who sacrificed his Most Eligible Bachelor status to tie the knot with Yudheera on the 28th of September in a very colourful ceremony in Gampaha with many of Kamal's ham friends present to wish the couple every success. Knowing the commitment Kamal puts into his ham life, we are sure we are going to see a great union with ample harmonic radiation in the coming years. All the best Kamal & Yudeera.

The truth about Broadband over Power Lines (BPL)

You Tube carries a TV **Channel 8 News** report on the problems caused by the use of the mains power supply for Internet connections.

Watch the TV report: <mhtml:{843801DE-3324-4162-890E-AF2592C804B8}mid://00000054/!x-usc: http://www.southgatearc.org/news/october2009/the_truth_about_broadband_over_power_lines.htm>http://www.southgatearc.org/news/october2009/the_truth_about_broadband_over_power_lines.htm.

Echoes of Apollo moon bounce video

Quote:

<http://www.southgatearc.org/news/october2009/world_moon_bounce_day.htm>http://www.southgatearc.org/news/october2009/world_moon_bounce_day.htm

Here is a YouTube video from the Echoes of Apollo event.

I'll bet that every radio amateur would wish for a set of antennas like these (Hmm, must check my lottery numbers).

The YouTube description reads:

The Echoes of Apollo program to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the first moon walk included the World Moon Bounce or (EME) Day on 27th June 2009. Many EME station participated and a group of radio amateurs in Tasmania were able to use the 26m Mt Pleasant Radio Telescope located in Cambridge, Tasmania, Australia to communicate with stations around the world during the day. Many thanks to the University of Tasmania for the use of their dish.

Un-quote

(Sena Fernando, 4S6SSP)

Hi! I(4S7WN Nihal) thought you'd be interested in this story from Science@NASA: The sun is in the pits of the deepest solar minimum in nearly a century. Weeks and sometimes whole months go by without even a single tiny sunspot. Are sunspots disappearing? Experts discuss the question in today's story from Science@NASA.

http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2009/03sep_sunspots.htm?friend

LONG RANGE PROPAGATION FORECASTING

The Sun's "Great Conveyor Belt" has slowed to a record-low crawl, which has important implications for future

solar activity: Solar Cycle 25 peaking in 2022 could be one of the weakest in centuries.
http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2006/10may_longrange.htm?friend (Nihal Wijesooriya 4S7WN. Tnx)

NOVEMBER CONTESTS (Via 4S7NI Nishantha)

1.8-28 MHz, Mongolia DX Contest, Nov 21, 0000Z - Nov 22, 2359Z, phone & CW, send RS(T) and CQ Zone, reports upto Dec 31

3.5-28 MHz, LZ DX Contest, Nov 21, 1200Z - Nov 22, 1200Z, phone and CW, send RST and ITU Zone, reports upto 30 days

1.8 MHz, RSGB 1.8MHz Contest, Nov 21, 2100Z - Nov 22, 0100Z, CW, send RST & serial, reports accept 16 days
-- Nishantha Perera BSc MSc PhD L.I.Chem.C. M.I.Biol.SL. 4S7NI

Subject. Field day at Bandarawela.

(Update: Leo's intention was to have this in October, but organising it was a bit too difficult, and since Leo had to be away too from the country we have to postpone it. In the meantime Leo is back and the rainy season is upon us, so it could be held in Feb/March 2010.)

It is my intention to have a field day or a small feast to the fellow hams. I have been talking about this to you I have to do something to finalise this, Just talking will not do any thing.. I am sure there will be guys who will rejoice about the invitation as well as some negatives too.Hi. I do not care about such things but my aim is to have a good time and give a good time to my ham friends!

I am aware of the tensions prevailing with some matters, hams, etc. but everyone is my friend and with all that I have nothing to do, for me the entire ham community is alike and all of them are friends. I do not know my invitation to my QTH, is also will be criticised, even then I do not care, I will do some service to my friends to my capabilities. The guys who want to participate are very welcome.

Please Victor I need your assistance as Secretary to plan this. So I have some facts about to be considered on my part. Please be kind enough to send me your views about this.

Next month,(5th to 9th we have to go to Galagedara my XYL has a Catina pingkama. After that we have to drive to Martara to visit some of my friends. So after all this I can. Also we must think about the rainy season!! If it pours down its not so good.

1. It has to be on a Friday or a Saturday.
2. I need to know how many will in advance for me to make food.
3. I can accommodate YLs as I have limited beds! (Sharing can 7 to 8 YLs!)

4. All men can rough out or I will make arrangements to be lodged at some kind of a guest joint, they have to pay for the same.
5. I am sure before, guys arrive to my QTH, the lunch is on the way, as it takes 5 hours to reach my QTH! Tea and short eats will be on my account.
6. I will provide dinner and it will be on my account.
7. Any RF will be OK but it will be at their cost! (Sorry)
8. Next day breakfast will be on my account
9. I have HF and Yati, Nuwaraeliya in hand.
10. Any suggestions apart from mine is appreciated.
11. I have limited number of pillows, sheets, if they bring some will be a great help.
12. Please be kind enough to bring a pair of slippers to be used in side the QTH. (Please do not misunderstand)
13. Water is a problem at Bandarawela, so will have to be very cautious to the comfort of my guests them self.
14. Sing songs are very well come. I have a box guitar, an musical organ! Need good players.

Victors I wish and hope all this is OK and try and send me a mail about this, Hope the guys will agree to my suggestions!

Kindest Regards! Leo...4S7LF / OZ6ZV. Leonard Fernando <oz6zv@yahoo.com>

Ed: Leo in any Society there will be differences of opinion and different views held on issues. BUT YOU HAVE BEEN ABOVE ALL THAT and is an example for many to follow.. I can not think of anyone who would find your invitation unacceptable Leo. Your home has always been open to everyone. Even before you came back to reside in Sri Lanka you made arrangements and coordinated with Sena 4S6SSP and were instrumental in getting the present Nuwara Eliya repeater for the RSSL. I think it is

an excellent idea and lets get about it. Those intere4sted can contact the Secretary, any council member or Leo direct so that something definite could be worked out.

LOG BOOKS

It is mandatory that every amateur radio station maintains a log book. For your convenience a log sheet is attached which can easily be photocopied or duplo copied and spirally bound with an appropriate cover. You can customize it with any other information. SWLs can also maintain a logbook which will be very useful and professional rather than using exercise books and loose sheets. It is fascinating to go back in time to the beginnings of your listening as its shows how you progressed over the years.

VIA E-mail:

The Editor has decided to forward useful articles and information of use to fellow members via e-mail, making full use of e-mail, as it doesn't cost the RSSL anything unlike the printed newsletter. The advantage is that we can send info as often as needed. Photographs, circuit diagrams and much more could be sent along with website info. If you wish to receive such info please indicate to the Editor your willingness to receive such. Those who are already on the e-mail list will be automatically included unless you indicate that you do not wish such info other than RSSL notices and the Newsletter. You are also requested to forward anything you think might be of interest which will be sent to members. There will be editing.

73 and good luck till the next issue: Editor 4S7VK.

Articles/Information Needed: Your Newsletter is as good as you make it.

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

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TO

SUPPLIMENT:

CALLING ALL CONSTRUCTORS – COMPETITION AND INVITATION

The Council decided at the last meeting to invite members to come up with completed projects with a deadline of 28th February 2010. This is open to all members of the RSSL. It has to be a ham radio related project. The winner will be awarded a cash prize of Rs. 10,000 and reimbursement of the cost of the project, if the finished project is given over to the RSSL.

Since this project is open to all members, a panel of judges will be appointed close to the deadline from of course non contestants. The project could be a HF, VHF, UHF transceiver, receiver, an antenna, Linear amplifier just to name a few. But no commercially available kits from abroad will be eligible. The projects will be judged according to its merits and a huge bonus will be given if the components could be obtained locally or easily. So we urge you to start getting on the job.

ASSISTANCE FOR MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS:

While the above competition is a separate matter the RSSL welcomes any projects that could help the Amateur community. We know members are interested in constructing Repeaters, a 2m receiver project and there might be other ideas that members have. The RSSL can assist and will be happy to assist if a proper project proposal is put forward. The members are free to make suggestions and these suggestions could be for the consideration of the Council to venture into. Very often there are good suggestions but there is no one to carry them out. If on the other hand suggestions are made with a willingness to do it yourself, the RSSL will be pleased to accept it and render whatever assistance it can give. To illustrate.... A suggestion was made some months ago to remove the Nuwara Eliya repeater from the TNL site and move it to another location. Someone could suggest that we should send up our own Sri Lankan satellite. However, if it is a positive recommendation, a proper proposal should be made for example...

1. Where should it be instead of Nuwara Eliya?
2. Can permission be secured for the location from the said organisation.? Who will do it?
3. Will it be a location that will be better?; support it with a test and contour map.
4. Can the organisation give us space and electricity? Or else what arrangements have we to make?
5. Can the person suggesting it, be a part of the team that would carry it out?
6. What assistance would they need from the RSSL?

The above are a few points that go to make a proper professional approach to a project. At the moment if we take the Nuwara Eliya repeater, former president Vasantha 4S7VG is a director of TNL and the RSSL has quick and fast communication to the repeater site through him. They have allowed us to house the repeater inside their premises in one of their buildings and all these years TNL has given us free electricity. It is even better than having the repeater in our homes. However, we grant that it is not the best possible place to cover the whole of Sri Lanka with a handheld. The repeater was tested from both TNL and the SLBC Radella site and it was found that at Radalla the coverage to certain areas was much better, mostly to Colombo but not areas that N.E. covered and the RF saturation was so high that at Radalla the repeater squelch had to be at a higher level which made it hard to access. So all in all TNL Oliphant was better. However, the road is very bad and it is not easy to get there easily. On the other hand Yatiyantota is an excellent location to cover the western part of the Island. We have easy relatively easy access, but while it can be accessed from the western province and many locations even with a handheld there are areas which it does not cover. We win some we lose some.

7 Mhz Band Extension:

on the 27th of March this year the ITU recommendation for all broadcastiers to leave the 7100-7200 segment came into force and in Sri Lanka the HF Broadcasters, IBB(VOA) and DW vacated the band. The only violator is the SLBC on 7190 kHz from Ekala to India and is the only legal broadcaster in the whole world to do so much to the embarrassment of the Amateur Radio Community is Sri Lanka. The RSSL made representation to the TRCSL and they have in turn asked all SL broadcastiers to leave the portion of the band. In the meantime radio amateurs are free to use our worldwide exclusive amateur extension and you may use the band from 7000-7200.

Sri Lankan Fishing Trawlers:

Ha! it is a pain and a well known fact and a great embarrassment to Sri Lanka that our fishing trawlers are violating every known spectrum rule. They operate where ever two of them can find a slot. The Amateur bands are indiscriminately used and they are found even on non Amateur bands. This situation has gone on for more than 10 years. Despite repeated requests to the authorities to ask them to vacate and stick to their band allocations this unfortunate situation continues. Requests to them to leave often bestows you with language which any son born of a mother would be put to great embarrassment, if you get my line. ***To be fair by the Amateur Radio Community they are well behaved and stick to their given frequencies and has taken great care to be an example to all users of the spectrum.***