



# THE BULLSHEET

Official News Bulletin of the  
Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club

founded 1970



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The Texas DX Society, P. O. Box 540291, Houston, TX 77254-0291

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Contest Chairman	Ken Manchester, NZ5I
DX Chairman	Bob Walworth, AK5B
Field Day Chairman	Bob Burns, W5SJS
Legal Chairman	Chuck Dietz, KE5FI
Repeater Chairman	Bill Schrader, K2TNO

## Announcements

**Meeting Notice** - The Texas DX Society meets on the second Friday of each month, except when the date is changed by the Board of Directors. The January meeting will be held on **Saturday, January 12, 1991 at Brady's Landing Restaurant** at 8505 Cypress Street in southeast Houston. The gathering will begin at 7:30 P.M., with a buffet dinner to be served at 8:30 P.M. The cost is \$25.00 per person which includes dinner, a 15% gratuity and prizes, prizes, prizes! To get to the meeting site from the 610 Loop East take the Highway 225 West exit. Proceed to the first traffic light which is Broadway. Turn right on Broadway and go north on Broadway to Cypress. Turn right on Cypress. Then turn left at the sign into the Brady's Landing parking lot. (If you did not get the mailing giving the details, contact me for reservations. Please get in touch ASAP. If you did get the mailing, give me an immediate response using the enclosed SASE. de Jim, N5DC)

**Bullsheat Mailing List** - TDXS wishes to provide the Bullsheat to those amateurs in the Houston area with an active interest in DXing and contesting. Donations to help defray publication and mailing costs are appreciated. Visitors to our club meetings will receive the Bullsheat for three months free of charge simply by signing the Attendance List and including their mailing address. Articles or other newsworthy items are hereby solicited by your editor. Articles should be submitted in the form of either ASCII files or as MS Word or WordPerfect word processor files. Files may be uploaded to the TDXS Bullsheat area on K2TNO's Bulletin Board at 713-798-4955, or sent direct to the Editor on either 5 1/4" or 3 1/2" diskette, either DS/DD or DS/HD. If necessary, files may be sent to "Dr. William Schrader" via FAX at 713-790-1275. For those with VHF Packet and having access to any of the local Digipeaters, or able connect directly, ASCII text can be sent directly to the Editor. Contact W5ASP at (713) 974-3455 to arrange such file transfers.

**DX Packet Clusters** - The Waller County Contest and DX PacketCluster Bulletin Board (PCBS) is located in Hempstead, Texas operating on 144.990 MHz with the call KE5IV. A local digipeater is operational on 144.990 MHz from the Greenway Plaza area to provide convenient access to this PacketCluster. This Digi has the alias TDXS. The suggested procedure is to connect with KE5IV via TDXS (C KE5IV V TDXS) rather than connecting first to TDXS and then to KE5IV. KE5IV may also be reached via LAH, LAH4 on 145.010 MHz. There is a second port operating on 144.91 MHz, also under KE5IV's call. This affords those with higher ERP (i.e. power and/or gain antennas), particularly on the west or northwest side of Houston, the option of connecting directly with Hempstead and has the virtue of giving somewhat faster response.

The Galveston County DX PacketCluster, now located in La Marque, is now active under the call KC5SC and is on 144.93 MHz. It is usually connected with KE5IV via the 446.100 MHz backbone link. Stations in the southern parts of Houston may find it easier to connect with this cluster. AB5A located in Dickinson, about 10 miles northwest of KC5SC, provides digis on both 144.930 and 144.970 MHz to assist in accessing the KC5SC PacketCluster. This Cluster also features a 40 Meter HF Gateway on the 144.930 MHz port.

Both clusters are frequently linked into Austin, Dallas and beyond for added DX coverage, especially during contests. In addition to listing current DX spots, the system provides access to a wide variety of DX related information such as the W6GO QSL Manager list, Russian oblasts, WWV propagation, beam headings, etc.

Users are requested to limit their use of these "databases" to off-peak hours so as to minimize the side effects on others. A quick check of the status shown in the opening message which appears upon connection will indicate the number of nodes/users active at the time. Otherwise all users are encouraged to query the various data banks and make full use of their many features. A complete list of the PacketCluster commands can be obtained by sending a S.A.S.E. to the TDXS at the address shown above.

**Weekly DX and Contest Net** - Each Tuesday night a 9:00 P.M. local time the Texas DX Society sponsors a net on 147.96/36 MHz. The purpose of this net is to exchange information of interest to DXers and contesters. The agenda includes current DX and contest information, QSL routings and related announcements. Stations checking-in are urged to report DX heard or worked locally, band openings, contest claimed scores, and any other information that might be of interest. Participation is not limited to members of TDXS, but is open to all and everyone is encouraged to join in.

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## The Prez Sez

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de Jim, N5DC

As this is my first column as your President, I feel that I should present to the Club what I see in the year ahead as it relates to the TDXS. However, first things first. The **annual dues** are payable on or before the first meeting of the year on January 12, 1991. Any member who has not paid his annual dues by midnight **January 31** will be dropped. (And this tacks on an extra \$10...ed).

Remember that if you live within a 75 mile radius of Houston, you pay the full dues of \$25.00, rather than half dues, REGARDLESS of whether or not you are a Full or Associate member. I feel strongly that we need to have more participation, more often, from all members and less willingness to accept associate member status.

Getting back to the outlook for 1991. My first goal will be to find a permanent meeting place for the club. It needs to be close to downtown, preferably inside the 610 Loop. I welcome any suggestions from any of you. If you know of such a site, please let me know. We need to be able to bring in our "Klub Kooler" with soft drinks and 807's. This may limit our choices, but let's make a serious effort to turn up something. We will continue to have some dinner meetings, as well.

My second goal is to have full TDXS participation in the 1991 Houston ham convention. To that end Jim, NN50, has agreed to head up our convention activities, and George, NR5M, has agreed to handle our fund raising effort. That leaves the DX and Contest Forum and the Hospitality Suite slots open.

I think we should continue to put forth a "good" effort for Field Day. Bob, W5SJS has agreed to be Field Day Chairman. Kenny, NZ5I is our Contest Chairman and will need your participation to keep TDXS among the elite in the contest arena. Bill, K2TNO is the Repeater Chairman and will continue to "improve the Breed". I am also pleased to have the assistance of Butch, K5GB, as Secretary and Dale, KG5U, as Treasurer.

I use to belong to a civic club whose creed was "Mine eyes search for good men that they may become good Civitans". I think this is an area that we need to address seriously. All of us need to actively search for "good" men (and gals), that they may become productive members of our Club. We don't need members just for the sake of having members, but we do want new members who will regularly contribute to the Club, supporting its activities and helping achieve its goals. Our criteria should be "ask not what TDXS can do for you, but what can you do for TDXS". And this applies equally to both old and new members!

In closing, I would like to thank Kenny, KE5IV, for all of his efforts in behalf of the Club. Two years is a long pull, and he did it well. THANKS KENNY!

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## DX Report

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de Bob, AK5B

Greetings and a very Happy New Year to all. Trust we all made it through the holidays without any damage or discomfort due to the winter weather that slipped in here these last few weeks. I did hear that Dennis, K2UA had some antenna parts come tumbling down due to ice over the Christmas holiday. Hope it's not too serious and that he will be QRV again soon.

This new year brings us a new slate of officers for the TDXS. Sounds like Jim, N5DC has some great plans and ideas

for '91, so let's all try to be a part of it and make it a super year. We ALL need to get involved. That's why we belong, right?

Thanks also to Ken, KE5IV, for his direction these past two years. Don't know how much rest he'll get now, what with trying to keep the cluster running, but again Ken, thanks! 1990 must have been his year. Went from attackee to attacker with Bambi. Even if he didn't get to keep the meat, it makes a great story.

Congratulations from all of us here in the TDXS to Tom Comstock, N5TC on his overwhelming (better than two-to-one) victory for the office of West Gulf Division Director. Tom is a well known DX'er, member of the DXCC Honor Roll, and is often seen on the local packet cluster. Sure hope that this impressive list of accomplishments will off-set the fact that he is not only an Aggie, but a teacher of lil' Aggies. Oh well, can't have it all. At least now maybe we will hear something from the DX Advisory Committee and/or our representative from the West Gulf. Haven't heard anything from the DXAC or our the guy who "speaks for us" since it's inception.

Looks like we will have to continue to keep our fingers crossed for everyone's most needed country, ZA. Seems that lots of folks are trying to be the ones to put it on the bands, but the domestic situation in **Albania** is such that no one stays in office long enough to do us any good. The group that seemed to have the best chance were the HA fellows. Their contact here in the states, Jacques, W2/F2YS has sent a letter to all the contributors to this ZA operation and has returned their donations. So it looks like it's going to be a while yet. But don't pass up that ZA that you hear on the low end of 20. You never know!

What rhymes with ZA? How about YA. If you can't have one, maybe the other will show up this year. As I write this column on New Year's Day, all ears are tuned to the HF bands plus packet, looking for Romeo, UB5JRR to fire up as YA0RR. Rumor also has it that another operator will be with him signing YA0WW. And if all that fails Jacky, F2CW is still expected to go to **Afghanistan** for a six month work assignment. So hang in there, '91 should prove to be another interesting year DX wise. Remember 1990 started with the 3Y5X Bouvet operation!

Also this year some other operations to look for include ZD8Z on **Ascension Island** who will be QRV again by N6TJ, Jim Nieger this month from the 8th till the 15th. QSL to W6CF.

The Natal DX Group from PY-land are planning a DX-pedition to **St. Peter/St. Paul, PY0S**. Look for this one during the month of May.

Something for March? Look for W5LJU/KP1 on **Navassa Island**. They will be there late March/early April for about 10 days.

Also this spring look for another multi-national group to put **Malyj Vysotskij (M.V.) Island** on again. The group will include UA3WA and OH2BU.

Looking forward to seeing all the club members and their "significant others" at the banquet. This is the one time a year that everyone will be cleaned up and shiny with suits, ties, polished shoes and all that. Certainly not like any other gathering of the bunch during the year, e.g. field day, Gaby's, 'tests, etc. Should be lots of fun. Don't miss it.

If anyone needs or would like a club vest, be sure to see me at the banquet, as I'll have Jim's, NN50, vest with me. The price is right and besides that Linda's, KE5TF, sister custom makes them.

## The TDXS Bullsheat

Had a nice letter from Jeanne and Charles Frost, or as most of us know him, Frosty. Seems they are about settled-in and keeping quite busy. They have a small duplex with two bedrooms, bath, kitchen and living room. I'll have the letter and some pictures at the dinner, so be sure to stop by and see them. If you would like to just drop them a note, I assure you it would be welcome. They are a long way from Houston! Their address is: C & J Frost, Box 50599, ZA 15101 Ridgeway, Lusaka, Zambia. 73 es gud DX in '91.

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### South of the Border

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de Chuck, K5LZO

Plans are underway for another TDXS mini-DXpedition to our home-away-from-home at Rancho Hinojosa outside of Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. Once again the ARRL International DX Contest will be the focus of the effort with operations set for both the CW and the SSB weekends (February 16/17 CW; March 2/3 SSB).

The first group is planning to get away late afternoon on Wednesday, February 13th to get an early start Thursday on the set-up activities. Although several towers and antennas are already in place, past experience suggests that there will be plenty of work needed before "key down" time on Friday. Now that there is commercial power at the hacienda things are a bit more convenient and will support either a multi-one or multi-two operation depending on the operator turnout.

As always we will be guests of our good friends with CRANTAC, and the usual festivities can be expected.

There is a need for a 4-element 20 Meter monobander and several screw anchors to finish off the permanent installation.

Those with a itch to do some serious contesting from a great QTH and have fun in the process should let K5LZO know when they can show up to help. Final plans will be discussed at the February TDXS meeting.

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### DXCC Award

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According to Mike, W5ZPA, who checked in (from New Orleans!) to the TDXS Weekly DX and Contest Net the other night, the DX Advisory Committee is requesting comments from DXers and DX Clubs on a pending proposal. Apparently they are considering a plan whereby the initial 150 QSL cards being submitted for a new DXCC award would be checked "locally" rather than being sent to the DXCC desk in Newington.

The cards would be checked by a designated group, such as a DX Club, and the application certified and forwarded to ARRL Headquarters. This would moderate the workload on Mr. Search and his jolly group of elves up north and sped up things for the rest of us.

If you have comments, positive or negative, pass them on to the DX Chairman (a.k.a. Bob, AK5B). We'll publish more details if anything shows up in print.

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### For Sale

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Apple IIe - 128k RAM, Monographic Monitor, two 5.25" floppy disk drives, serial/parallel I/O board w/Clock, programs, books. Excellent condition. \$450 Dale Martin, KG5U, 484-4465 (H)

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## Contest Corner

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de Dale, KG5U

### UPCOMING CONTESTS

*North American QSO Party* - CW on Jan. 12/1800Z till Jan. 13/0600Z; SSB on Jan.19/1800Z till Jan. 20/0600Z. Exchange operator name and state. Details in November/December NCJ, December 1990 QST and January 1991 CQ. Notice that there is a minor schedule conflict between the TDXS Annual Banquet and the CW section of the NAQP contest..too bad we don't know anyone connected with the sponsoring organization, i.e. the National Contest Journal, to coordinate such crucial schedules. (NOTE: This year, for the first time, there will be a team competition...five operators maximum. If you're interested, say so...we'll have a go at it during the SSB affair..ed)

*HA CW DX Contest* - Jan. 19/2200Z till Jan. 20/2200Z. Exchange RST plus S/N. Details in January 1991 CQ.

*CQ WW DX 160M Contest* - CW on Jan. 25/2200Z till Jan. 27/1600Z; SSB on Jan. 22/2200Z till Jan. 24/1600Z. Exchange RS(T) and State. Details in January 1991 CQ.

*ARRL Novice Roundup* - CW, SSB, RTTY, Packet on Jan. 26/0001Z through Feb. 3/2359Z (30 hours max). Exchange RS(T) + ARRL Section. Novice/Technicians work everyone. Higher classes work only Novice/Technicians. There used to be a "No-CQ" rule for the higher license classes which does not appear in the rules now. Get on and get a few novices and techs enthusiastic about contesting!

*North American Sprint* - CW on Feb. 3/0000Z till Feb. 3/0400Z; SSB on Feb. 10/0000Z - Feb. 10/0400Z. Exchange his call, your call, S/N, name and state. Details in November/December NCJ and January 1991 QST. It is not too early to be thinking about being on a team. TDXS will field at least one team per mode.

### KUDO's

*1990 CQ WW 160M Contest K5NA/2* - 3rd M/O CW W/VE and *K5MA/1* - 1st SO CW Mass. (NOTE: Winners of the David Busick, N5JJ Memorial Trophy, sponsored by K5AAD, were SO CW - VE6OU/3 and SO SSB - UG6GAW..ed)

DXCC Endorsements: Mixed - AK5B (317), KI3L (312), KE5TF (306); Phone - KI3L (305); CW - AK5B (303); 10M - KI3L (261)

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### Upcoming Events

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January 12.....North American QSO Party-CW  
January 12.....TDXS ANNUAL BANQUET  
January 19.....North American QSO Party-SSB  
January 19.....ARRL VHF Sweepstakes  
January 25.....CQ WW 160 Meter - CW  
February 03.....North American CW Sprint  
February 08.....Texas DX Society Meeting  
February 10.....North American SSB Sprint  
February 16.....ARRL International DX Contest - CW

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## Repeater Report

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de Jim, N5DC

As most of you know by now, the K5DX repeater antenna has been moved to a slightly different location at the existing site. During the process of making this change we found the source of the noise that had been bothering us in recent months. Though I originally thought that it was external to our system, it wasn't. It turned out that a set screw which locks the antenna to a metal sleeve through which the feed line passes had vibrated loose and fallen out. The antenna was just sitting loosely in the upper portion of the sleeve. As a result any motion caused by the wind would cause the antenna to move relative to the sleeve making erratic metal to metal contact thus generating the noise.

With the help of W5ASP, K5DX, K5LZO and KE5IV we solved that problem, moved the antenna, and then replaced the original 9913 feed line with a shorter run of large hardline that we had inherited. I do not believe that moving the antenna itself will have much effect on our coverage, i.e. the shadowing that we have experienced will remain. However, I do feel that we improved things quite a lot, both on transmit and receive, by going to the shorter run of large hardline and by getting rid of the noise.

I plan to have the GASFET preamp back in the line by the time you read this. I hope this will help the repeater to hear even better. We still have some problems with the 220 MHz control receiver and the old Spectrum unit which has been re-installed. Bill, K2TNO, and I will address these problems in the near future.

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## Packet Racket

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de Ken, KE5IV

Well, you are probably wondering why you are still seeing articles from me now that I am a "Double Has-Been". Blame it on our Editor, he just wouldn't let me off the hook! (it's hard to get experienced help these days..ed)

I received a Christmas present from Jay, W6GO and Jan, K6HHD, thanks to the subscribers in this area. When you use my PacketCluster, you'll see that the QSL Manager database has grown to about 15,000 routes. There are 5,337 records in SH/QSL data, 9,503 in QSLOLD.dat and about 280 records currently in the QSLNEW.dat file. If you are curious, are on my cluster and want to see the subscribers who make this possible...type SH/QSL SUBS!

By the time you read this, I will have been to the Digipeater site at 5 Greenway Plaza and will have changed a few (well probably more than a few) parameters. I will just be trying to overcome some of the problems with the KA-NODE, digi/radio and the local paging systems. At times I feel like another Repeater Chairman for the club...the only difference in my case is, if it finally gets to me, there is the power switch on the Compaq, KPC-4s, and the radios right here beside me!

Shortly, I will have another KA-NODE and digipeater up at K5LZO's place with the antenna above his high 6-element 20 M at 125 ft. This addition should help the users in the Woodlands, Conroe, Kingwood, and Cleveland areas. The KA-NODE and digi will use the alias TDXS-1, and for ID purposes will use KE5IV-11. It will run 70 watts to probably another G7-144 fed with 7/8" hardline. W5RUS will have no problem connecting...any bets?

After working with several of the club members and other users on my cluster, I have found out how SLOW some of the PLLs in these new radios are! If you are being routinely disconnected and are using a synthesized radio, please change some of the following parameters in your TNC.

*TXD* (try 40-50)  
*AXD* (try 6-10)  
*AXH* 3  
*FRack* (try 3-12)  
*RES*time (try 8-31)  
*SLOT* 4 (absolute)  
*RETRY* (7 max.)  
*RELink* or *CONPERM* OFF (absolute)  
*PARITY* 4 or None (absolute)  
*CMSG* OFF  
*DIGI* OFF  
*BEACON* OFF  
*UNPROTO* NONE  
 (As I have asked before, please when using the KE5IV PacketCluster, make sure UNPROTO is set to None...  
 Thanks!)  
*CHECK* 0 (I repeat CHECK 0!).

Nothing is better than a little power and a good antenna. With all the momentary power failures here I plan to add a U.P.S. system to the Cluster. It will keep the computer on approximately 15 minutes after a power failure and also protect against a brown-out. Hope to see most of you at the Banquet!

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## Outgoing QSL Cards

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The ARRL provides a service to its members which allows them to send DX QSL cards to foreign countries at minimum cost and effort. TDXS members can take advantage of this service by getting their cards to KG5U, who will in turn forward them to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service. TDXS pays the nominal service fee of \$2 per pound as well as the postage.

Those wishing to use this route for their cards must sort their DX QSL cards alphabetically by country as shown on the ARRL DXCC Country List. This means that the prefix ES or LY goes with the Russians, XQ and 3G with Chile, AZ and L2 to Argentina, etc. However, it is not necessary to sort within a given country, i.e. all Russians may be lumped together, don't sort RA, UT, LY separately.

Keep in mind that QSL's for DXpedition operations usually go the country of the operator, e.g. JW9XG via LA9XG, 3D2XR via SM7PKK, etc. Many foreign stations have state-side QSL managers. These cards may be included with the "K's". By the way, most caribbean stations turn out to be non-residents, so send such QSL's to the operator's home country.

There are number of DXCC countries not served, e.g. many U.S. territories (KH3, KH7, KH9, etc.) and countries such as Taiwan, Egypt, Nepal, etc. A complete list currently appears in September 1989 QST, page 65.

Finally, each TDXS member must include his QST address label with each group of cards submitted. Contact KG5U if you have any questions (before you drop the cards on him!).

## The TDXS Bullsheet

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### ARRL DX BULLETIN

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FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS  
NEWINGTON CT JANUARY 4, 1991  
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS

Thanks to Joe Sand, K2GX, and the TRISTATE DX Packet Cluster Network, for the following DX information.

**AFGHANISTAN, YA.** The **YA0RR** operators were delayed in Tashkent for one day on route to Kabul. They visited the Soviet Embassy in Kabul, January 2nd, and are now retrieving their equipment from Customs. Operations could commence at any time. QSL YA0RR via Romeo Stepanenko via Box 812, Sofia 1000, Bulgaria. RTTY contacts may also be confirmed by UT5RP. Stations with more than one contact per mode may find their wait for a QSL to be longer than others.

**BAHRAIN, A9.** **A92BE** has a big signal on 75, 17, and 12 meters and is expected to be on the top band at any time.

**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, TL.** **TL8SC**, Carl, likes 14 MHz SSB at 2300 UTC.

**COMOROS, D68.** **D68JM** still roams 20 meter SSB at 0300 UTC. Try 14153 KHz. QSL via WV4F.

**ETHIOPIA, ET.** Gabi, DL2BCH, says that an Italian group has 3 complete stations shipped to Ethiopia in anticipation of a license. IK6DPW expects to arrive January 15. If he is successful in obtaining a written license, operations will commence immediately. QSL via I8YCP.

**IRAQ, YI.** **YI1BGD** logs up to October 13, 1990, have been hand carried out of IRAQ. Contacts with operator Sami, QSL via ON7LX. Contacts with operator Ali, QSL via JR1AIB. Contacts with other operator QSL via JL1BLW.

**KURE ISLAND, KH7.** **KD7P/NH7** has concluded a successful 2 week operation here and informs us that KH6JEB will visit Kure in February.

**LORD HOWE ISLAND, VK9.** Joe, N4MQX, plans to operate from here during March, including the WPX SSB Contest. He will be using a beam at fifty feet.

**MALAGASY REPUBLIC, 5R.** **5S8JD** has been active this week. 5R8GN operated 12 and 17 meters, possibly for the first time ever from here, on January 2.

**MONACO, 3A.** Look for **3A/F9UW/M** any morning meter SSB.

**NIUE, ZK2.** Look for activity from here by mid-month, as Eli and Miki move on from their ZK1 operation.

**SAN FELIX, CE0X.** **XQ0X** has been active on 14236 KHz and also on 10 meters in the morning.

**SIERRA LEONE, 9L.** **9L1US** has a big 75 meter signal at 2100 UTC.

**TEN METERS** seems to be the best place to hunt DX these days with A22AA, A71CD, FP8HL, H5AW, JY5FA, OD5RX, OY9JD, TA3PB, T77T, VK9NS, XQ0X, ZD7VC, ZD8DX, 8Q7BX, and 9H4R recently heard or worked.