



founded 1970

THE BULLSHEET

Official News Bulletin of the

Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club



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

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The Prez Sez - de Jim, N5DC

With the month of October now upon us, it means that the **Houston Com-Vention '91** will be coming up in just a few more weeks. For those of you who may not know it yet, TDXS is going to play a major role in this year's ham radio convention. We are not only putting on our traditional Contest and DX Forum and TDXS Hospitality Suite, but we are responsible for the appearance of the two special guests from the U.S.S.R.

It's all taken a great deal of effort, with much remaining to be done. I want to sincerely thank those who have already put their labor, long hours, and a not inconsiderable number of bucks into getting the show "on-the-road". I certainly would be remiss, if I didn't give them credit by name.

First of all, there's **Jim, NN50** who not only conceived of the idea, but has spent huge amounts of his time and quite a lot out of his own pocket making the arrangements for getting our Russian friends here for the convention.

Others who have really been a great help, in no particular order, include **K5XL, W5ASP, KG5U, AK5B, K5RC, K2TNO, NR5M** and **AA5NK**. And last but by no means least, **KF5MY** for putting up with all of this. It is a real pleasure to be associated and work with these guys. Each of them has willingly undertaken a job and done it without any "prodding" from yours truly. It has made my task the easiest of them all!

THANKS GANG!

I would also like to recognize the HHC group for organizing the annual Houston ham convention which provides TDXS the opportunity to stage our events. This will be the 15th consecutive year of the convention in Houston, and more to come!

I have the definite feeling that the 1991 Com-Vention will be major success. Further, I believe that next year's convention will be even bigger and better, due in some measure to the efforts of TDXS this year. I personally will be very interested to hear something about the attendance figures after the convention is over, and compare them with those of years past.

If you plan to stay at the hotel over the weekend, make your own reservations directly with the Sheraton Crown Hotel. (The Com-Vention '91 rate is \$45, plus tax. The phone number is 713-442-5100 ..ed) When you make the reservation identify yourself as TDXS and request that you be assigned a room on the same floor as the TDXS Hospitality Suite. They can not guarantee that your room will be on the same floor, but will attempt to accommodate your request.

If you haven't yet gotten your tickets for the **TS-850S**, be sure and get with **George, NR5M** pronto! I understand that the demand is high, and I wouldn't be surprised if George doesn't run out soon!

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. This month the October meeting will take place on **Friday, October 11, 1991** at **St. Johns School** at the corner of Claremont and Westheimer Roads. Claremont is the name of Buffalo Speedway after it crosses to the north of Westheimer. There is a parking lot entrance just north of Westheimer. Park in the lot and follow the walkway to enter the school building. The general meeting will take place in the auditorium/lecture hall and will begin about 7:30 P.M. A short meeting of the TDXS Board of Directors will be held following the close of the regular meeting. Visitors are welcome to attend the meeting and may obtain help in finding the location by checking in on 147.96/36 MHz.

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 area on K2TNO's Bulletin Board at 713-798-4955, or sent to the Editor on either 5 1/4" or 3 1/2" diskette, either DS/DD or DS/HD. If necessary, text may be sent to via FAX to the editor at the number listed below. Files or other messages may be sent via E-Mail to: Schrader @ BCM.TMC.EDU.

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 for either fax or packet transfers.

DX Report

de Bob, AK5B

It really happened! It finally came to pass. After more than a year of reporting that "the ZA is coming, the ZA is coming", **HE HAS COME!** And has he ever. As I write this, there are no less than three groups operating from **Albania**. The first is **ZA1A**. This is the group consisting of Martti, OH2BH, Chip, K7JA, and crew.

QSL cards for ZA1A contacts go to the Northern California DX Foundation, P.O. Box 1, Los Altos, CA, 94023. It's been requested that you hold your cards until after the operation is complete, then send them all in one envelope with one or two SASEs. The logs will all be on computer. Upon entering your call the computer will display all of the contacts that were logged (including dupes!).

Word on the street has it that since Chip, K7JA (one of the primary ZA1A operators) and Rusty, W6OAT, past president of the NCDXF are to be here at the convention, the cards for many of the locals will be available at that time.

The other two groups are both Hungarians. First to show was **ZA1QA**. Their QSL address is, Quick Aid Foundation, P.O. Box 5, Komoro 4622, Hungary. The other is **ZA1HA**, and their address is, Globex Foundation, P.O. Box 49, Budapest 1311, Hungary. Sure looks like ZA is going to be at the very bottom of the most wanted countries list the next time the list is published.

Also during September, we had the appearance of Jacky, 3B8CF/3B7 operating from **St. Brandon**. It's been quite a few years since a 3B7 has been on the air, although there have been many attempts to activate it. Thanks to Jacky for all his efforts and super operating once he got the permission. Even if he does work lists, he also operates quite a bit on his own giving out both phone and cw contacts.

Then there was Romeo and his crew signing **XY0RR**, Myanmar (**Burma**). And as if that wasn't not enough, Romeo was then reported to be on from **Spratly** as **IS0RR** again for 3 to 4 days.

Between Romeo, Martti and the gang from Norway, lots of DXers are rapidly finishing up those last few countries on their DXCC need list. I guess now it's on to the WARC bands!

Coming up this month, look for those JA folks headed up by JA1NUT to be QRV from XU, **Kampuchea** with the call **XU0JA**. They're scheduled to be there from October 9-16 with four operators on 160 M to 10 M, plus the WARC bands, CW and Phone.

How about YA, **Afghanistan**. Looks like Jacky, F2CW finally was able to get operating permission, and is due to be back on anytime now on. Don't know if he has been heard since Sept. 21, but keep your fingers crossed. He used the call **YA2CW**.

D2ACA, Angola is also to be up this month. Currently set to show up on Oct. 15-30.

Have you gotten your **DX QSL cards to Sharp, K5DX** yet? No? Well neither have I, but I will! Remember, he would like 25 or so good DX cards from as many folks as possible, so he can get a display put together for the TDXS Hospitality Suite at the convention. Bring them to the October meeting, or get them to me and I'll get them to him. Let's all try to contribute. Remember, it's our hospitality suite. Lets do it up right this year!

If you haven't heard already, the weekend of Oct 12-13 is the date for the **First Annual W5 DX Get-Together**. It's to be held at WSKFT's place on Lake Buchanan just northwest of

Austin. Sounds like two days of good times. And that should be just the right time of year for an outdoor event in the Hill Country. Among other guests will be **Danny Weil**, VP2VB (of YASME fame). Also on hand will be Les Bannon, WF5E of the W5 QSL Bureau. For further information see the article by Ken, KE5IV elsewhere in this issue. Should be a great time.

Don't forget that the **Houston convention** is right around the corner. Get registered, make your reservations, sign up to help, and let's make this the best ones yet.

Through the herculean efforts of Jim, NN5O, with lots of help from Jim, N5DC, we're going to have a couple of special guests with us for the weekend. Musa, UV3AM, the Russian Cosmonaut of U2MIR fame, and Boris, UW3AX will be here to put on what I'm sure will be a super program.

We can look forward to a good look into the status of DX'ing and operating now in the USSR. Also in attendance will be Chip, K7JA just back from the ZA1A operation. And Rusty, W6OAT will be back with us with all sorts of interesting things to talk about. I'm sure that with all this DX oriented talent around, all of the members of this club will want to be in attendance. It's about time we let the local ham community and the convention attendees all know that the TDXS is alive and well thank you! Have a great month and **THINK CONVENTION!**

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.

For Sale

Kenwood TL-922A Linear Amplifier
 160 M - 10 M w/SSB, CW, RTTY
 Pair 3-500Z Finals
 2000 W PEP w/Fan & ALC
 Power Req. 120/220 VAC

Contact Bob, AK5B
 (713) 363-0209

Upcoming Events

- October 11.....**Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting**
- October 12.....First Annual W5 DX BASH
- October 12.....VK/ZL/Oceania DX Contest
- October 13.....RSGB 21/28 MHz SSB Contest
- October 20.....RSGB 21 MHz CW Contest
- October 26.....CQ WW SSB DX Contest
- November 02.....ARRL Sweepstakes CW
- November 08.....Houston Com-Vention '91
- November 08.....Texas DX Society Monthly Meeting
- November 16.....ARRL Sweepstakes SSB
- November 23.....CQ WW CW DX Contest

The TDXS Bullsheat

Contest Corner

de Kenny, NZ5I

Behold, we have contest season before us. Hopefully all who plan to be QRV have completed all necessary maintenance or repairs to ready for the majors. Yes, the CQ WW contests are upon us. It promises to be an interesting year, especially with the unpredictable band conditions.

For those of us who participated in the **North American Sprints**, we're surely warmed up. The club did well considering current activity levels in the TDXS. We were thoroughly represented in CW event and had a pretty decent crew in SSB.

Competition was fierce among the CW guru's. Before dupes, it looks like Chuck, **K5LZO** barely edged out Billy, **K5GA**, who in turn barely edged out Dave, **K5GN**. Their scores were: 13,464, 13,254, and 13,232 points respectively. That's close folks! The killer story here is the fact that Billy's 282 x 47 was accomplished using his GAP ground mounted vertical! That's absolutely incredible...what a stud! Don, **K13L/5** turned in 217 x 37 and Joe, **W5ASP** scored 200 x 40. **NM5M** slugged it out for 210 Qs and yours truly brought up the proverbial rear end with 144 x 34 (my GAP doesn't work as good as Billy's I guess). I didn't get the numbers for Steve, **KN5H**. Sorry Steve. Also, I don't think Kim, **K5TU** made it on the air. Hope to hear you next time Kim. It sure was nice to work all the "out-of-towners"!

I had a helluva time trying to drum up some participants for the SSB Sprint (any surprises here?). I did my best to assess, solicit, beg, and bribe members to sign up. I missed a couple of you who were on and didn't manage to get you on the team. My apologies. As I write this I wonder how we fared, as I've been underground of late.

PLEASE ...Send in your logs and mark them TDXS!

For you DXers who've been chasing the ZA the last few weeks, I want to tell you that contesting is easier than those #@%& pileups! Speaking of pileups, it looks like I'll have ample opportunity to chase 'em at strange hours by this time next month. That's when our newest family member is due. So it looks like I'm likely to become a "rare one" soon.

In case you're wondering how in the world Billy, **K5GA** could score so well in the CW Sprint against all the might populating our call area, with little more than a noodle for an antenna... Well, I thought I'd share the secret to his success: He merely wanted to demonstrate to Frank, **W5JWM** that it was truly a decent little antenna in order to attempt to wrench a couple hundred bucks out of Frank's notoriously tight pocket for his own GAP. Well Frank, your antenna on order yet?

Contest News

Results

1990 CQ WW DX CW

Texas DX Society - #14 USA Club Score

W5WMU SO/15M #1 USA, #5 World

1083 Q 34 Z 113 C 467.7K

K5NA/2 MS #2 USA

3230 Q 182 Z 609 C 7.43M

KC5CP SO/AB

274 Q 92 Z 161 C 187.9K

NZ5I SO/AB

129 Q 42 Z 81 C 53.3K

N5EA MS (W5ASP, W5VAH, N5EA)

1456 Q 134 Z 387 C 2.16M

1991 ARRL DX

Texas DX Society - #7 ARRL Club (Medium Category)

CW

XE2FU #1 DX MS 4.06M

4152 Q 326 C (K5LZO, W5ASP, AC5K, et.al.)

AK5B SO/AB 235 Q 121 C 85.3K

KE4GY/5 SO/40M 574 Q 74 C 127K

NZ5I SO/10M 828 Q 73 C 182 K

K5MA/1 SO/AB 2171 Q 323 M 2.1M

SSB

XE2FU #1 DX M/2 7.87M 8073 Q 325 C

(K5LZO, AASNK, KD5SP, NM5M, WB5RUS, WA9VLI)

GM0ECO #9 DX SO/AB 3810 Q 240 C 2.74M

K5FI SO/80M #10 27 Q 22 C 1.7K

K5MA/1 SO/10M #8 1570 Q 115 C 541 K

K5NA/2 MS 2370 Q 472 C 3.4M

W5ASP SO/ASSISTED 527 Q 212 C 335K

QST...QST...QST

de Ken, KE5I

Here's the latest scoop on the big DX bash.

WEST TEXAS DX ASSOCIATION FIRST ANNUAL W5 DX GET-TOGETHER

This is an open invitation to all DX'ers, Contesters, DX Cluster Users, Antenna Nuts, Big Guns and Little Pistols to come join us!

Saturday, October 12 8:30 A.M. till whenever the band closes, or last lie is told!

Sunday, October 13 8:30 A.M. till 1:00 P.M.

LOCATION: W5KFT's ranch on Lake Buchanan northwest of Austin, TX

SPECIAL FEATURES AND DISCUSSIONS: Rotating Towers, DX PacketCluster, Contesting, Antennas, Contest Stations, Great DX Feats, DX HOG of the Year

SPECIAL GUEST: Danny Weil (VP2VB, FO8AN, HC8VB, and many more!) Other DX operators will be with us Saturday, October 12!

W5 QSL BUREAU: WF5E, Les, the new W5 QSL BUREAU manager will be on hand to discuss the recent change in the W5 QSL BUREAU management. Some of the bureau QSL card sorters will be on hand to personally deliver QSL cards!

REPEATER TALK-IN: Frequency will be on 146.06/146.66 MHz

DIRECTIONS: From Burnet go 13 miles west on Hwy 29 (past Inks Lake/Colorado River Bridge) to Hwy 261. Sign reads Lone Grove, Tow, Bluffton. Take a right on Hwy 261 and go 6.7 miles to ranch entrance. Sign at the gate reads EDWARDS-FULGHAM Ranch. Take the pasture road for 2 miles to the ranch house.

From Llano go 2.2 miles east of Llano to FM 2241. Take FM 2241 to Bluffton. At Bluffton continue east on Hwy 261 for 1.9 miles to ranch entrance. Sign at the gate reads EDWARDS-FULGHAM Ranch. Take the pasture road for 2 miles to the ranch house.

COST: \$5 per person for lunch. Bar-B-Que at Big John's is dutch treat. Coffee and donuts are courtesy of the WEST TEXAS DX ASSOCIATION.

We need to know if you are attending so we can plan for food. Please notify Bryan Edwards, W5KFT, so he can see that you get fed. Notify Brian via the DX Cluster at KA5EJX, or his office number is (806)-747-2067, his home number is (806)-799-5783, or mailing address is 3801 68th Street, Lubbock, TX 79413.

The phone number at the ranch for emergencies only during the weekend will be (915)-379-2501.

SCHEDULE: Saturday, October 12 8:30 A.M.- 9:00 A.M.---Coffee & Donuts 9:00 A.M.-12:30 P.M.----Lots of DX, Contest and Antenna talk 12:30 P.M.-1:30 P.M.----Lunch at the Ranch 1:30 P.M.- 6:30 P.M.----More DX, Contest, Antenna, Cluster, Misc. BS 7:00 P.M.- ??---Bar-B-Que Dinner at Big John's, Intersection of Hwy 29 and Hwy 1431 about 7 miles south of the ranch. 8:30 P.M.-Till the band closes---Back to ranch for more DX talk

Sunday, October 13 8:30 A.M.-9:00 A.M.----Coffee & Donuts 9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.----More talk about DX, Contests, Cluster 1:00 P.M.-----Everyone goes home to get ready for CQWW

MOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

Burnet

Post Oak Inn
910 Buchanan Drive
512-756-4747

Rocky Rest Bed & Breakfast
(512)-756-2600

Llano

Classic Inn
Hwy 29 West
1-800-346-1578

Houston Com-Vent'91 Contest and DX Forum

de Sid, K5XI

The Texas DX Society is sponsoring the **Contest Forum** which will be held during the Houston ham convention on **Saturday morning, Nov. 9th from 9 A.M. to 11 A.M.**

Our distinguished line-up of speakers includes a group of contesters with well over 60 years of contest experience between them, and who are all involved in the latest developments that are shaping the future of this part of our hobby. The dramatic increase in the use of computers and packet, among other advances in technology, have significantly changed amateur radio contesting. The last year's WRTC contest represented the first time that an international contest has been held where all contestants competed from a "level playing field", with no propagation or equipment advantages.

Our panelists include three well known contesters. Rusty W6OAT, who was the chief official for the WRTC contest, and who served as the computer logger for the winning team. Tom K5RC, the current editor of the *National Contest Journal*, who some years ago had a super station that dominated the multi-single category of all major DX contests. Tom offers a great perspective on where we have come from, and his involvement with the NCJ uniquely qualifies him to offer us some

insights on where we are going. Boris UW3AX, editor of the premier Russian ham magazine, *Radio*, was a member of the Soviet delegation at the WRTC contest, and has been a key figure in extending this type of contest format in the Soviet Union with the recent "Stars of the Air" contest.

This will be a great opportunity to meet and talk to some great guys who have been involved in contesting in a big way for many, many years. It will be interesting, and it will be fun!

During the **afternoon of Saturday Nov. 9th** the TDXS will host the **DX Forum**. We have a great program arranged.

Chip K7JA, who is currently in Albania as one of the operators of ZA1A, will be here to tell us the inside story of the Albanian operation which put this most wanted country on the air after 40 years of inactivity.

Boris UW3AX will present a slide show on 4J1FS, the joint Soviet-U.S.-Finland DXpedition, which put this country on the air for the first time in history. (Chip K7JA was also one of the operators on that trip).

Rusty W6OAT who has been involved in a number of DXpeditions will also talk on his many DX activities. Rusty is the QSL manager for ZA1A, a past president of the Northern California DX Foundation and the Northern California DX Club, on the DXCC Honor Roll, ex-9N1OAT, and member of two DXpeditions to Clipperton Island.

This will be a great chance to meet and talk to some great DXers who have been involved in the forefront of recent events. This will be fun, and we hope to see you there!

MIRly Speaking - Part II

de Jim, NN5O

As everyone surely knows by now, the big Houston ham convention is relentlessly bearing down on us, and the last minute details related to the U2MIR and UW3AX visit are coming fast and furious. Yes, all is in order so far (keep digits crossed) for their appearance on the second weekend in November at the Sheraton IAH.

You will probably meet them first at the TDXS hospitality suite on Friday, November 8th. Wear your vests, bring your cameras and get some autographs ...these guys are big shots. For example, did you know that:

1. **Musa** (U2MIR/UV3AM) has spent more time in space than any other human? Had more space walks (EVAs)? Had the longest EVA? Was last up with Helen Sharman, the English woman who won a contest to fly in space? Is a real contest ham and participated in the recent Stars of the Air contest from Leningrad on the weekend of the aborted Soviet coup?

2. **Boris** (UW3AX) is the father of the RS Soviet ham radio satellites and has helped design each one? Boris trains each Mir crew in ham radio and communications? Boris is a big time contest and DXpeditioner, having attended the WRTC during the Seattle World Games, and operated with the veteran crew or Russian, Finish and American operators on MV Island as 4J1FS? Boris is Deputy Chief Editor of "Radio" magazine, the leading ham publication in the USSR? He is the father of the SOA contest?

So, plan on coming by and meeting some very interesting guys you may hear and hear about again in the strangest places! Musa and Boris are coming a long way to put on a great show for us (Musa's videos in the Mir space station, for example), so help them understand just how welcome they will be in Texas as guests of TDXS!

VISIT THE TDXS OPERATING ROOM

de Bill, K2TNO

This year the **TDXS Hospitality Suite** will again be in full swing at the Houston ham convention in November. Mike, AA5NK, and I are planning to open it up for your carousing pleasure on Friday afternoon. The November meeting will take place there that evening. This year we'll have a few new wrinkles: for one thing, there will be **THREE ROOMS** -- we've commandeered the two adjoining rooms as well as the hospitality room itself. So, there should be plenty of space for the anticipated crowds.

Speaking of crowds, the gang will be pleased to learn that we'll be QRV on the VHF packetcluster, thanks to Kirby, K7WOC, who's setting up the 2 Meter station in one of the three rooms. George, NR5M, and I are staying in one of 'em, and George has the task of getting us on 20 meters from the suite, too. Can he do it? Of course! Can he do it without breaking any windows? Come and find out...

To commemorate the **Operating Room**, the team running the suite will be easy to spot in their hospital operating room regalia. The Club will have consumables, and commestibles available. Combustibles, on the other hand, are limited to the main room, if you must smoke!

Yours truly will be tending the bar; I will recruit a suitable gang of thugs to help with various chores, but it should be basically your old-fashioned, down-home, run-of-the-mill, usual get-together with Russian Cosmonauts, ops from the ZA DXpedition, and even K5LZO back from the high seas..

I have been informed that Dr. Rubberlips will make an appearance, too, so come exchange pleasantries or try out the operating positions if you like. The main room will be open Friday night and Saturday night (of course), and open for sitting around (no bar) during the day on Saturday as well. It's there for us to have a place to crash occasionally, make it your base of operations! We'll check out on Sunday.

ATTABOYS: Some of the Club members are making special arrangements to help out this year; sort of a silent opportunity. You'll be contacted..... See you there! --Tuna.

DXCC News

Endorsements

KF5MY - Mixed 318; Phone 242

Honor Roll

Mixed:

- 321 - K5AAD/352, K5NA/346
- 320 - K5YCP/336
- 318 - K5DX/362
- 317 - K5BZU/332, KC5M/321, N5DC/333
- 316 - K5RC/341, W5SG/321
- 315 - AK5B/320
- 314 - KC5CP/316
- 313 - N5EA/332

Phone:

- 320 - K5YCP/336
- 319 - K5NA/339
- 318 - K5DX/357
- 316 - KC5M/319
- 313 - W5JWM/351

ARRL DX Bulletin

Thanks to Tedd, KB8NW, the Ohio/Penn Packet Cluster Network, and Allen, N2KW, for the following DX information.

ALBANIA, ZA - The latest official QSO count tops 40,000 for this most impressively organized effort. A new operating site has been established on the coast in Durrës, some 20 miles from Tirana. Listen for the **ZA1A** group on 1825, 1835, 3530, 3770, 7003, 7045 kHz and the WARC bands. And if that is not enough news, Luciano, I5FLN, will operate RTTY for about four days. Check 3585, 7035, 14085, 21085, and 28085 kHz. QSO up 10 kHz.

Four students have been licensed as ZA1TAA, ZA1TAB, ZA1TAC, AND ZA1TAD. Training frequencies are 14075, 21075, and 28075 kHz for CW and 14295, 21395, and 28695 kHz for SSB.

It was reported on the W2MIG Net that three ZA licenses have been issued to the French operators who were QRV from 708AA. They will be active from October 6 through 13. One operator is F6EXV who will sign ZA1ZXV. Also listen for ZA1ZMX and ZA1ZVX. It was mentioned that calls issued to foreigners will start with the letter Z in the suffix.

ARMENIA, 4J - There were two stations active on the 21335 Net signing 4J4JJ and 4J4GO from Armenia, not Malyj Vysotskij Island.

GLORIOSO, FR/G - FR5ZU/G is QRV. Try 14256 kHz around 0200z.

THAILAND, HS - John, who uses the HS0AC club station, now has his own callsign, **HS0ZAA**. QSL via KM1R.

CLIPPERTON, FO0 - The Clipperton DX Club has announced plans for a major Clipperton Island expedition scheduled for March 1992.

WAKE ISLAND, KH9 - Look for KH9/AD1S and KH9/WE5I October 22 through 30. They will be active before, during, and after the CQ WW DX SSB Contest. Before and after the contest, check 40 and 80 meters for CW and RTTY from two complete stations with amps and gain antennas. During the contest, check 80 through 10 meters, including the WARC bands. QSL to OKDXA, Box 88, Wellston, OK 74881 or via AD1S.

AFGHANISTAN, YA - Jackie, F2CW, will be returning to France the first week of October for vacation. When he returns to YA land, he will operate for about six months. QSL to F2CW. Some T6AS QSL cards are now showing up stateside. This operation is good for DXCC. The W2MIG Net reports log data from the YA0RR operation is being put into computer by Moscow hams and more QSLs should start coming out in about a week.

24 MHZ HEARD AND WORKED, or look what you have been missing.

- 3X0HNU 24944/1712z
- 4Z4BT 24940/1650z
- S79HX 24950/1817z
- SV9/SV0HV 24975/1720z
- VP8CFM 24935/0038z
- ZA1A

SOON GOING QRT - 9L1US will be leaving early October.

PIRATES COVE - In the wake of a station signing **VK9WI** this past week, Jim, VK9NS, QSL Manager for VK9WI, recently called Willis Island and found out the real VK9WI is not there now. The only station currently active is **VK9GS**.

Help Wanted

de Charlie, K3WW

(Recently your editor received a request from Charlie, K3WW asking for our support in assisting John, W2GD, in his effort to bring the CQWW CW SO/AB World Record back to the U.S.A. John just missed by just 85 Qs in 1990 using the call P40GD. Here is an extract of the note..ed)

In Search of Excellence - P40W

For the fifth time in the last six years, John, W2GD, will operate CQWW CW from Aruba, attempting to accomplish one of the most difficult and coveted achievements in contesting - the CQWW CW World All Band Single-Operator Record. The extra special effort made by US and VE stations (by searching out and contacting P40W on multiple bands, frequently spotting P40W on packet, etc.) could very well be the margin of victory.

...This year's CQWW will likely be the last chance for anyone to break the record until the peak of Cycle 23 in the year 2002. QSL P40W via N2MM.

DXers Toy Box

Given the current political turbulence in the U.S.S.R. it may be some time before the devoted Oblast hunter has newly revised and up-to-date details to use in his relentless search for the elusive oblast. In the meanwhile, to amuse the idle mind, we include in this issue a curious relic, known as an Siberian Oblast Map. You might have fun coloring in those oblasts that you have, or need, whichever you choose. Should this item be well received amongst the faithful, we may consider releasing the full set of maps as the official Oblast Hunter's Coloring Book.

Incoming QSL Cards

The ARRL DX QSL Bureau consists of a number of separate call area bureaus that handle the incoming QSLs arriving from foreign countries. This service is free of charge and does not require ARRL membership. For the Fifth Call Area the address is: **ARRL W5 QSL Bureau, P. O. Box 50625, Midland, Texas 79710.** Full details about this ARRL service appeared in the **September 1991 QST on page 64.**

To claim cards ARRL recommends sending the bureau a number of 5 x 7 1/2 in. SASEs. To assist TDXS members in this Bob, AK5B, has obtained a supply of envelopes. He will provide 10 of the 5 x 7 1/2 envelopes along with a single 6 x 9 in which to mail them to the bureau for \$1.00. If you are interested, catch him on the repeater or call a day or so before the monthly meetings.

For those who expect to receive large quantities of cards here are a couple of suggestions. (1) Place \$1.25 postage on each 5x7 self-addressed envelope, (2) Have the post office stamp "THIRD CLASS" in the lower left, (3) Attach a label "50 Cards Minimum" beneath the "THIRD CLASS", (4) Put your call in the upper left and (5) Number the envelopes consecutively (so you will know where you stand as you receive them back from the bureau).

This approach will save a lot of agony with postage due and avoid small mailings which use up envelopes needlessly. The time delay in using Third Class won't be noticeable.

DX Packet Clusters

The Waller County Contest and DX PacketCluster Bulletin Board (PCBS) is located in Hempstead, Texas and operates on 144.990 MHz with the call **KE5IV**. A digipeater node operating on 144.990 MHz with the alias **HOU99** is located at Stafford to provide access to this PacketCluster for users in the southern part of the greater Houston area. A second node with the alias **MAG99**, also operating on 144.990 MHz, is located near Magnolia and gives better access to those users in the northern part of Houston. The preferred procedure is to first connect with the digipeater node (**C HOU99** or **C MAG99**) and then connect to the PacketCluster (**C KE5IV**). Please leave the cluster with the command **BYE**. There is a second port operating on 144.910 MHz, also under **KE5IV**'s call. This affords local stations with higher ERP, generally those on the west side of Houston, the option of connecting directly with Hempstead and gives somewhat faster response.

The Galveston County DX PacketCluster, located in La Marque, is active under the call **KC5SC** and operates on 144.930 MHz and 144.970 MHz. It is usually connected with **KE5IV** via the 446.100 MHz backbone link. Stations in the southeastern parts of Houston may find it easier to connect with this cluster. **AB5A** located in Dickinson about 10 miles northwest of **KC5SC** operates another PacketCluster node regularly connected to the **KC5SC** PacketCluster via 446.100 MHz. This cluster features a 40 Meter HF Gateway on 7.089 MHz as well as limited access for local uses on the VHF port.

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, **WVW** 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

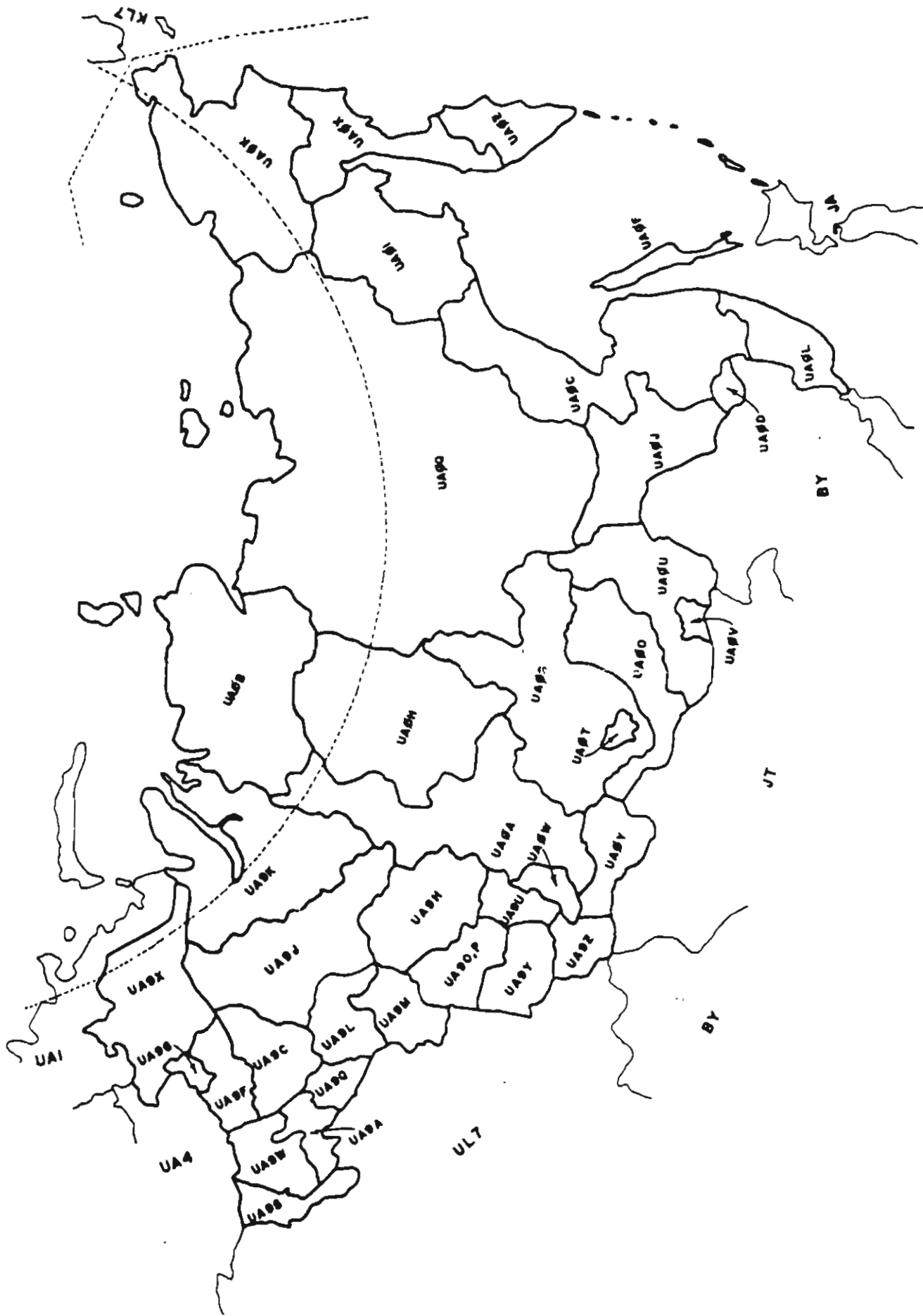
Outgoing QSL Cards

The ARRL provides a service to it's 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 D-Xpedition operations usually go the country of the operator, e.g. **JW9XG** via **LA9XG**, **3D2XR** via **SM7PKK**, etc. Many foreign stations have stateside QSL managers. These cards may be included with the "K's". By the way, most caribbean stations turn out to be nonresidents, 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!).

U. S. S. R. SIBERIAN CALL SIGN MAP



NOTE: UA0T is now UA8T, same Oblast
UA0V is now UA8V, same Oblast

Map by W7YF and updated by K1KI