

- 1) With over-the-pole openings scarce as sunspots decline, the low bands have been quite busy, with a couple of East Coast USA stations managing QSOs with UA9MR and UA9SHF on 160 meters. Watch 1855 at around 0230-0245Z underneath the SSB QRM. Other activity on 160 comes from UT4UC UQ2GKM and U05GQ around 00Z and 05Z.
- 2) New Antarctic activity has been provided by 4K1CEY (home call UA0CEY) who will be active until the end of December from Molodezhnaya Base. He was active as 4K1A from January through July 26th, but has used his own callsign since then. He operates daily with the following schedule: 1100Z 21.250, 1500-1600Z 14.010 or 14.120, 2100Z 7.003 or 3.503. QSL via V.A. Skrypnik, UY5DJ, P O Box 435, 310084 Kharkov, Ukraine, USSR.
- 3) Other Antarctic activity has been from 4K1GAG (Alex, UQ2GAG) who is in the South Shetland Islands at Bellingshausen Base, 4K1B who has been moderately active, 4K1C (UA0QDR, operator) from Vostok Base, and soon to be active is 4K1ZZ (RA3ZZ) from Mirny Base. Expected arrivals are also UW3EU and UA3HK (Oleg Neruchev, well known polar traveller) to operate 4K1A and experiment with RS satellites. 4K1ZZ QSLs also go to UY5DJ.
- 4) Franz Josef Land activity has been provided by UA10T on Hayes Island, as well as R10 and R210WA. No way to tell the FJL stations from the other UA10 stations - you'll just have to ask. UA10T and R10 QSLs go to Amateur Station _____, c/o UBSKW, Box 261, 266000 Rovno, Ukraine, USSR. With the deletion of Oblasts 171 and 172, anyone know if FJL or Antarctic QSOs count for the R-100 award?
- 5) Until the 25th of November, Uzbek hams were using RI0 prefixes in celebration of 60 years of the Uzbek Republic. RI00AA was particularly loud on 40 meters around 1200Z both long and short path.
- 6) Late October activity from Kirghiz included RM6M(Frunze), RM6N(Dsh), RM6Q(Issyk-Kul), RM6P(Naryn) and RM6T(Talas). Haven't seen any reports of their activity in USA DX Bulletins.
- 7) UHBAAC has been QRV on 14 MHz cw around 1400Z, RI0AWA 14000 16Z, UA0YAN 14014 02Z, UK0LAJ 7014 1145Z, UI8RAA 7013 1201Z, 4K1XBP 14040 1730Z (67S 45E QSL via RA3XA), RI0ZAE 14025 0745Z, UA0DAE 14020 0800Z, RI0QWX 14014 17Z.
- 8) UA0KAV (Lerry in Pevak) is quite fluent in English is often found around 14020 and likes 80 cw DXing. He reports no current activity in UA8T or UABV but that there will be a future DXpedition to them both. He says UA0HAN is pretty active from Tura, and that UA0KBL and UZ0KWA are on Wrangel Island.
- 9) For those that keep track of how long QSLing takes via Box 88, W9LOF reports that the average time for cards he's been getting has been cut from 2 years to 1.5... I've even gotten a couple in six months recently. W3SOH keeps a running list showing about a 50% return in QSLs for nearly 1100 QSOs, with the worst rates from FJL UA9/0 UB UI and UL. Best return from UD UH UN UO.
- 10) As for sending callbooks to the USSR, W3SOH reports no problems in them getting through. It takes 3 to 4 months and Foreign Callbooks are prized highly. If you have an extra one, send it on!
- 11) For an older perspective on Russian Amateur Radio, dig back through some old QSTs for articles in November 1958 and August 1962 by K3CUI.