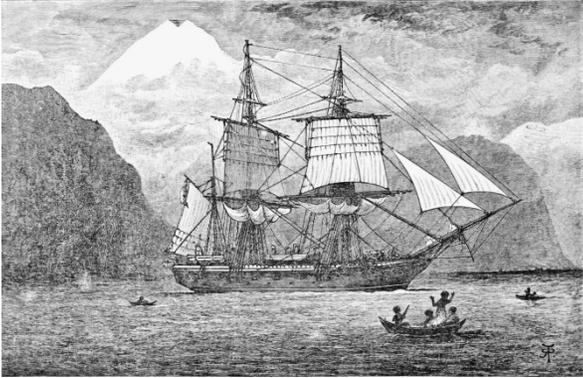


**Where in the World is . . .**  
**Tierra Del Fuego (LU/CE8)**  
**CQ Zones 12, 13 ITU Zone 16**  
**IOTA SA-008**

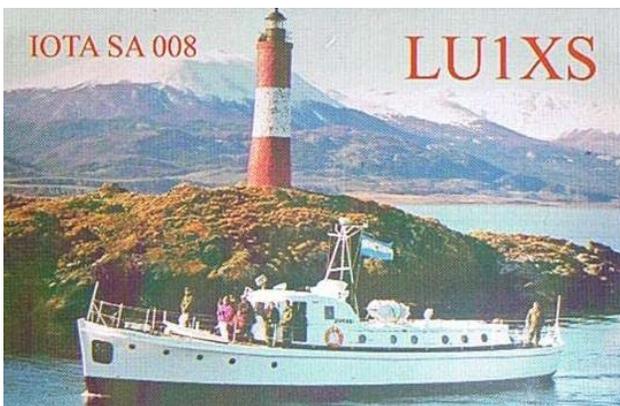


**The Land of Fire** can be considered the end of the world. It is the roughly triangular archipelago off the southernmost tip of the South America, across the Strait of Magellan. The archipelago consists of the main island, Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego, and a group of many smaller islands including dangerous, Cape Horn. In the days of sailing ships rounding Cape Horn was deemed particularly dangerous due to the contrasting currents from the Atlantic and Pacific oceans meeting here. During his circumnavigation Magellan discovered the strait

named for him that makes up the northern boundary of the island.

Sir Francis Drake discovered the Drake Passage, the open ocean path between Cape Horn and the South Shetland Islands. History has seen its bravest and best head south over the centuries with a mission to conquer these inhospitable lands. From Magellan to Darwin and Francis Drake, people coming in search of gold, anthropological study and the great unknown have considered Tierra del Fuego one of the most indomitable lands on earth. Later voyages of HMS Beagle in the 1830's with Charles Darwin aboard made numerous discoveries of plant and animal life in the area. The Beagle Channel, named after Darwin's vessel, was discovered to be the southernmost strait between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Tierra del. Fuego is divided between Chile and Argentina, with the latter controlling the eastern half of the main island and the former the western half plus the islands south of Beagle Channel. Europeans first explored the island during Ferdinand Magellan's expedition of 1520; *Tierra del Fuego* and similar names of other places stem from sightings of the many bonfires that the natives built.



Though Tierra del Fuego shares a border between Chile and Argentina, the invisible line has been pretty flexible over the years as the two countries have engaged in turf wars to lay claim to the southern province. It was the last territory in Argentina to be declared a national province, with this status only being bestowed upon it as recently as 1990. Tierra del Fuego was also home to indigenous cultures who controlled the region until the 1870s. And, of course, the notorious Falklands War took place on the Malvinas Islands (Falkland Islands in England) in 1982. Argentina claims that the Malvinas are part of

Argentine territory, while they are internationally recognized as belonging to Britain. Today, petroleum extraction dominates economic activity in the north of Tierra del Fuego, while tourism, manufacturing, and Antarctic logistics are important in the south.

The town of Ushuaia, as well is recognized as the southernmost town on earth. Sail the Beagle Channel and pass by the Lighthouse at the End of the World. Take a trip through the Beagle Channel and pass by the *Lighthouse at the End of the World* (See LU1XS QSL above).



Roads are poor in Tierra del Fuego, and there are no railways. Air services, however link major settlements to Punta Arenas, Chile, and Río Gallegos, Arg. Sea communications are also important; a regular service links Porvenir and Punta Arenas, and naval vessels supply Ushuaia and the Isla Navarino, Chile.

**Reporting from the Dark Side,  
Ron, K5HM**