



The Bullsheet

The Official News Bulletin of
The Texas DX Society
An ARRL Affiliated Club

The Texas DX Society, Houston TX K5DX@tdxs.net October 2020

TDXS Monthly Meeting via Zoom: Thursday October 15th, 2020 7PM
Check the TDXS Reflector for an announcement

K5DX/50 0000Z Sept 14 to 2359Z Oct 13

Editor's Note by Allen Brier N5XZ

K5DX/50!

K5DX/50 has been rolling along with much less than expected interest and generally mostly by a handful of dedicated TDXS operators. As of this writing, Orville, K5VWW has reported uploading 3197 QSOs to LoTW. As of my last count on the K5DX/50 Sign-up sheet, we have had 335 slots reserved (out of 6,480 available) and used (although I know there has been operation during slots not requested, so the number is higher, and that's fine); 28 stations have filled in their station data and the last report I got from Scott K5DD, 30 stations have registered. Of all those, I counted only 22 TDXS members who have actually activated slots for K5DX/50.

Some other statistics: the most slots reserved in one day is 24 (October 7th). The average slots reserved per day is 11.2.

There are 216 available slots every day. Slots have even been shared and used in contests.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for TDXS members to celebrate our club's 50th Anniversary and share that with the ham world. I am unclear why only a handful of us are even interested. Have we not gotten the word out? Emails were sent to all members with available email addresses. We continue to announce the operation on the TDXS reflector and other individual emails go out and some are not even answered. I have

even posted it on the TDXS Facebook page!

There are only a few days left. The operation period ends October 13th at 23:59:59 UTC.

What are YOU waiting for?

73, Allen N5XZ

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We are now holding my Thursday "EX-ZED SPRED" lunches on Zoom and it is every week! If you would like to be invited, send me at note at n5xz@arrl.net

The Prez Sez by Robie, AJ4F

The Prez Sez

October 2020

As you read this the 50th Anniversary Celebration is either over or nearly so and for me it has been a lot of fun. Conditions have not been great, but I've created a few small pileups and made almost 600 QSOs. I hope you also enjoyed the activity and I'm looking forward to learning all who operated, our final QSO totals, and what we learned from the effort. The hope was that this activity would generate some excitement within the organization, and I believe we have been moderately successful. We certainly have put our club in front of the general ham population with this activity. One measure is the relatively high number of requests for the K5DX/50 QSL card. Orville K5VWW reports receiving 15-20 SASEs per day. I've made an effort to work as many local and other Texas stations as possible hoping that they will visit the K5DX/50 QRZ page to find out the meaning of the /50 suffix and visit our webpage to learn more about TDXS. This exposure should help generate interest in our organization and possibly some new member. I want to thank all who participated in planning this event and especially those who set aside time to operate!

In business the concept of a value proposition is often used to evaluate a product or service offering. The question is, why would a potential customer spend his money for the product or service? Let's apply that concept to TDXS Membership. Why would a ham spend his resources (money for dues, time for meetings and other activities) to be a TDXS member? First is the comradery of the organization. There is a strong bond between members which is generated by the common interests we have. Second, there is an opportunity to learn from one another. And third there is satisfaction received from accomplishment i.e. team scores in contests, Field Day, etc. In what other ways do members receive value for their membership? What are the costs of membership? First there are the annual dues, and these are rather modest. Occasionally there may be some donation for a door prize etc. but this does not happen often. The most significant cost is time to participate. Certainly, you can't receive the benefit of comradery without spending time with someone. Learning a new skill, how to navigate through a software, etc. and participation in an activity also requires time. The question I ask myself is what activities can we offer our members that will make them choose to spend their time with the TDXS? We are all unique individuals and will have different answers to that question. Please take a few minutes and compose your thoughts on this issue and send them to me. I would greatly appreciate the feedback! The lack of feedback is a limiting factor keeping the TDXS a healthy organization!

Robie – AJ4F



TDXS Meeting Minutes by Doug Seyler WB5TKI

Date: September 17, 2020

Location: ZOOM Virtual Conference

Attendance: Robie AJ4F, Doug W9LCQ, Kim K5TU, Larry KB5WWW, Jim N5DTT, Orville K5VWW, Allen N5XZ, Scott K5DD, John K5EC, Keith NM5G, Ben NE5B, Curt WG5H, Dale KG5U, Rick K5GZR, Don N5DD, Ken AB5A, Jimmy NA5D, David KE5ZZO

The September TDXS Meeting was held, as usual, via ZOOM Video conferencing. The agenda was:

Officers Report – Nothing to report

Texas QSO Party – Wrap-up, stories and potential changes for 2021. Keith suggested changing to third weekend in September and allowing only 1 week after the event for submission of logs. Also discussed were changes in event times.

Texas DX Society 50th Anniversary Operating Event

TDXS 2021 Officer Nominations – Nominations are due by the October meeting.

Tech Topic – Kim K5TU presented an overview of data backup and integrity method. He covered various backup media and archive methodologies.

73,

Submitted October 9, 2020

Doug Seyler W9LCQ (ex - WB5TKI)

TDXS Secretary



DX Chairman's Report by Orville Burg K5VWW

The TDXS website, www.TDXS.NET, reports lots of activity on the front page:

Wintertime propagation is beginning and some DX is being heard.

Low Band operation is becoming prevalent with new countries being worked on 160M as well as 80M. FK8CE was worked on 80M by AJ4F. That was a new country.

Jan Mayen, JX2US, will be operational by LA2US starting soon. He will be focusing on CW and FT8 on 160M, 80M, 40M, and 30M. He will be active until March 2021.

Svalbard, JW40 and JW5X - will be activated until October 12th by 7 LA operators for the SAC Contest on SSB. 80M, 40M, 20M, 15M and 10M

Minami Torishima – JG8NQJ/JD1 will operate spare time until Mid-January 2021. HF on CW, with 50w.

Kosovo – Z66DX. DM2AUJ and DL3AWG + 4 others will on 160M to 10M but no 60M (Sorry Allen.) Starting October 19th for 14 days. 2 stations 24/7.

TXØT – Tatakoto Atoll in French Polynesia will be activated by VE3LYC on 40M-17M October 29th through November 5th. CW,SSB, & FT8.

Z81D has been worked By Allen, N5XZ, on 15M FT8. They will be in South Sudan until November 10th.

Please continue to monitor the main page of the TDXS Web Site, www.TDXS.net, for updates to activity on the bands.

Good DX,
Orville, K5VWW



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Hello again. As usual, we will start with a summary of major contests coming up in the next two months.

October

- 3 Oceana DX Contest-Phone
Russian WW Digital Contest
California QSO Party
- 4 RSGB DX Contest
- 10 Nevada, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Arizona QSO Parties
Oceana DX Contest-CW
- 17 10-10 Fall Contest-CW
New York QSO Party
Stew Perry Top Band Challenge
- 18 Illinois QSO Party
- 24 CQ Worldwide DX Contest-SSB
- 31 Russian WW Multimode Contest
UK/EI DX Contest-SSB

November

- 1 North American SSB Sprint
- 9 ARRL Sweepstakes, CW
- 15 10-10 International Fall Contest, Digital
- 21 ARRL Sweepstakes, SSB
LZ DX Contest
- 28 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Texas QSO Party 2020 Sep 12

Multi-Op Mobile LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K5DX			944	46	0	66	18	218,984	TDXS
N8AI			128	0	0	54		24,736	TDXS

SO CW HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N5XZ			555	0	0	97	9:13	161,505	TDXS
KØNM/WHAR		x	312	0	0	79	5	73,707	TDXS
KØNM/FBEN			113	0	0	41	1	13,899	TDXS

SO CW LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K5HEM			124	0	0	36	4:18	13,392	TDXS
AJ4F			76	0	0	45		10,125	TDXS

SO Mixed HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W5GCX			243	40	0	60		48,360	TDXS

SO SSB HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K5IZO			0	270	0	80	9	43,200	TDXS

SO SSB LP

Call	SO2R	Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N5DTT			0	180	0	66	9.5	23,760	TDXS

ARRL September VHF Contest 2020 Sep 12

Single Op HP

Call	SO2R	Remote	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
W5PR			91	40		3,640	TDXS



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Washington State Salmon Run 2020 Sep 19

SOCW HP

Call	SO2R Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K5GQ		9	0	0	8	1	72	TDXS

SOCW LP

Call	SO2R Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
KE8G		43	0	0	19		2,951	TDXS

SOMixed LP

Call	SO2R Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N5DTT		12	4	0	10	2	440	TDXS

New Jersey QSO Party 2020 Sep 19

Single Op HP

Call	SO2R Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K5GQ		3	0	0	3	1	9	TDXS

Single Op LP

Call	SO2R Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
KD5FBA		0	11	0	7		77	TDXS
N5DTT		2	3	0	5	1	35	TDXS

Iowa QSO Party 2020 Sep 19

SO Fixed HP

Call	SO2R Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K5GQ		1	0	0	3	1	6	TDXS

SO Fixed LP

Call	SO2R Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
N5DTT		5	0	0	5	1	50	TDXS



Contest Chairman Report—by Jim Burrough N5DTT

Maine QSO Party 2020 Sep 26

Single Op LP

Call	SO2R Remote	CW Qs	Ph Qs	CW Mults	Ph Mults	Op Time	Score
KE8G		39	0	26	0		1,104
N5DTT		15	5	15	6	4	550
KD5FBA		0	17	0	15		210
K5GQ		9	0	7	0	.55	63

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY 2020 Sep 26

SOAB LP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs State/Prov	DX	Zones	Op Time	Score	Club
KG5U		95 44	19	19	3:30	11,234	TDXS

SOSB10 HP

Call	SO2R Remote	QSOs State/Prov	DX	Zones	Op Time	Score	Club
W5PR		87 15	10	10	28	7,280	TDXS

In the remaining part of the year, we have three of the ten ARRL-sponsored contests that have Affiliated Club Competitions coming up. In November we have the November Sweepstakes contests and in December the 160 and 10-Meter Contests. These contests provide a great opportunity for us the “leave a mark” in the ARRL Club Competition standings. These are popular contests and, I am sure, most of us are planning to participate in at least two of the three. Every active TDXS member is recorded in the Club Contest Eligibility List which is provided to the ARRL Contest Branch. This list is updated annually, in February, and with the addition of every new member.

The State QSO Party Challenge is coming close to its end. There are just a few more state contests left. From what I have seen on their website, the Challenge has been very successful, not just for the people participating but also for the state contests. Many state QSO party organizers are saying they have seen definite increases in the number of out-of-state participants. This is a good thing as more participants are now seeing just how much fun these contests are. The Challenge program was well organized with scoring handled by way of a usual submission to the 3830scores.com website. Standings were clearly and effectively presented, and everyone could easily see how well they were doing. I hope the organizers of the Challenge are so happy with this year’s event that they will renew it for next year.

Stay well and stay safe.

Jim, N5DTT



Where in the World is? ... Ron Litt, K5HM

Where in the world is . . .
 Howland Island (KH1)
 CQ Zone 31
 IOTA OC-089

Howland Island is an uninhabited coral island located just north of the equator in the central Pacific Ocean. The island lies almost halfway between Hawaii and Australia and is an unincorporated, unorganized territory of the United States.

Geographically, together with nearby Baker Island it forms part of the Phoenix Islands. For statistical purposes, Howland is grouped as one of the United States Minor Outlying Islands. Talk about an official putdown. How would you like to be a Minor Outlying island?

Howland Island National Wildlife Refuge consists of the entire island and the surrounding 32,074 acres of submerged land. The island is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as an insular area under the U.S. Department of the Interior and is part of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument. Since Howland Island is uninhabited, no time zone is specified. It lies within nautical time zone UTC-12.



On July 2, 1937, American aviation pioneer Amelia Earhart was attempting to circumnavigate the globe in a modified twin-engine Lockheed Electra when she — and her navigator, Fred Noonan — mysteriously disappeared in the middle of the Pacific Ocean near Howland Island. They had made several changes to the plane's equipment, particularly its antenna layouts and structure, that may have critically harmed communication between the plane and its ship tender, the United States Coast Guard Cutter *Itasca*. The *Itasca* was standing by at Howland Island to signal the Electra and guide it in. Unfortunately, due to the communications problems, the Lockheed and the cutter never made contact. While the ship could hear her engines, it could not respond to her transmissions on the same frequency.

An enigmatic person of her time, she defied most of the female norms of the day and became a pilot. Her flying career included flights across the Atlantic and the United States. In 1935 Earhart made history with the first solo flight from Hawaii to California, a longer distance than that from the United States to Europe. Later that year she became the first person to fly solo from Los Angeles to Mexico City. She was known for encouraging women to pursue careers, especially in aviation.

Howland Island was uninhabited when the United States took possession of it under the Guano Islands Act of 1856. Its guano deposits were mined by American companies from about 1857 until October 1878. George W. Benson formed the United States Guano Company to exploit the guano on Howland Island. For more on guano See *What the Guano??* article below.



The island was a known navigation hazard for many decades and several ships were wrecked there.

Where in the World is? ... Ron Litt, K5HM

Colonists, sent to the island to establish possession claims by the United States, built the Earhart Light, as a day beacon or navigational landmark. It is shaped somewhat like a lighthouse, meant to be visible several miles out to sea during daylight hours. The beacon was partially destroyed during early World War II by Japanese attacks, but it was rebuilt in the 1960s by the U.S. Coast Guard. By 2000, the beacon was reported to be crumbling and it had not been repainted in decades.

The entity of Baker and Howland Islands has been on the DXCC list since 1945, but was initially known as Baker, Howland & American Phoenix Islands. QSOs count for Baker and Howland Islands from 1945. The DXCC entity consists of Baker Island and Howland Island, and, until 1983, also included Canton Island and Enderbury Island. Baker, Howland, Canton, and Enderbury Islands are geographically part of the Phoenix Islands. From mid-1947, the KB6 (WB6 for novice stations) prefix was used for Baker and Howland Islands, and continued to be used for Baker and Howland Islands until the US callsign revision of 1978, from which date the prefix became KH1, with AH1, NH1 & WH1 also being used. According to ClubLog.com, Howland Island is number 30 on its DXCC most wanted list.

What the Guano??

What do these islands have in common?

Most Wanted DX	Name	Prefix	IOTA#
#30	Baker & Howland Island	KH1	OC-089
#8	Johnston Is	KH3	OC-023
#14	Midway	KH4	OC-030
#21	Kingman Reef & Palmyra Atoll	KH5	OC-085
#21	Jarvis Island	KH5	OC-081
#34	Wake Island	KH9	OC-053
#45	Navassa	KP1	NA-098
#31	Swains Island	KH8/S	OC-200
#258	French Frigate Shoals	KH6	OC-055

HINT: Even though they are all islands and most have low numbers on the Most Wanted DX list that is not the link. The thing the all have in common is guano; particularly bird poop.

Yes, without our national desire for bird guano some of the world's premier DX locales might never have showed up on the radio spectrum.

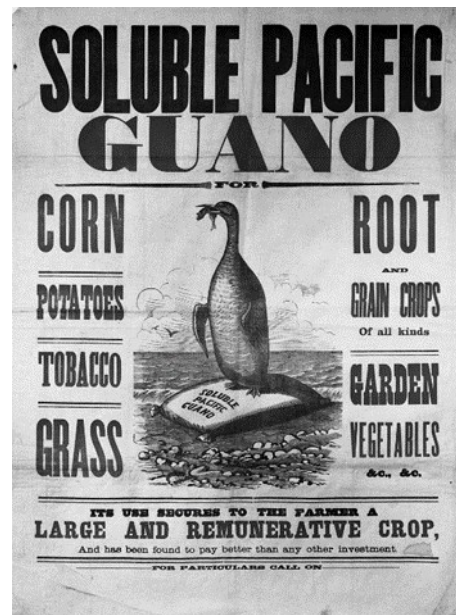


Where in the World is? ... Ron Litt, K5HM

In the mid-nineteenth century before the advent of chemical fertilizers, American farmers discovered that bird guano was a superior fertilizer compared to commonly used manure. The trade in guano became the foundation of modern farming and inspired the colonization of remote bird islands in many parts of the world. When the word spread about the power of guano, Americans became eager for it, despite high prices.

President Millard Fillmore addressed the matter of guano, stating that it was "the duty of the Government to employ all means properly in its power for the purpose of causing that article to be imported into the country at a reasonable price."

In 1856, the U.S. government passed a dubious piece of legislation called the Guano Islands Act. It allowed any unclaimed or unoccupied islands containing guano to be annexed. The U.S. Navy was directed to back up this claim. Companies could use this protection to explore and claim other islands.



The Celebrated
—BD—
Sea Fowl
GUANO,

stands unrivalled in price and quality.
Its original standard is guaranteed and
Prices Reduced.
It has proved to be THE FERTILIZER
for Corn and Cotton and in comparison to
price is undoubtedly the
CHEAPEST USED.—TRY IT.
Enquire of any one who has used it—you
will get a satisfactory answer.
Testimonials furnished on applica-
tion.
Then send orders and applications forth
with to
R. W. ASKEW, Agent,
Windsor, N. C.
Feb'y. 26-5w

The act was originally intended for Americans to acquire their own guano rich islands and was one of the founding acts of American imperialism. Guano islands were found in the Caribbean, such as Navassa Island, and some in the Pacific, including Baker and Jarvis islands.

During the latter part of the nineteenth century, the guano trade flourished. At one time there were more than 60 islands claimed under the act. The Pacific Guano Company was one of the largest who mined guano from the central Pacific islands. During this time, the company flourished. At the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876, the company had its own pavilion that sang the praises of their products.

By the 1880's the trade in guano declined as cheaper chemical fertilizers came to market. However, guano is still in demand by organic farmers.

Today, only eight islands remain; administered as the US Minor Islands plus one each annexed by American Samoa (Swains Island) and Hawaii (French Frigate Shoals), remain as possessions of the United States (see list above). However, there is still plenty of guano around on 75 meters.

Reporting from the Dark Side
Ron Litt, K5HM



My First VHF Contact ... By R.S. Hradilek, AD5Q

This is a story that I have only told to a few, and never in writing. I think the timing is right.

It is about my college days. I attended the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) in Chicago from 1966 - '70, and there was a ham club with the callsign W9YW. There were (and still are) other university clubs in the 9th call area and maybe elsewhere with similar callsigns. W9YH is the University of Illinois, W9YB is Purdue, and W9YT is the formerly famous contest station at the University of Wisconsin. W9YW hadn't been active in decades and was re-assigned a few years ago.

Sidenote: There was a 2nd future tester in the club, WA9IXF, who became KL7Y. He was part of my (small) social network and we graduated together. It was he that originated the infamous "Quack" greeting that many associate with myself. My call was WA9MFX (similar).

The club had a nice room on the 3rd floor of Siegel Hall, with a 3 element tri-bander and 40m inverted vee on the roof. I usually went there to work DX, but there was also a small, tube driven (2E26) rig that only worked on one frequency: 146.94. It was on all the time, usually quiet (squelch) and ignored.

On 5 November 1968 I arrived at the station intending to work DX, but the 2 Meter frequency was alive. This was the day of the US presidential election, and what I heard was fascinating. It was a dispatching operation for an organization called "Operation Eagle Eye", and this was the "Eagle Eye Net". Somewhere near downtown Chicago there was a net control that was communicating with roving mobile hams covering mostly the west and south sides of Chicago. He was working for the Republican Party, and directing the hams to go to specific polling locations and drop off their passengers. These passengers were all attorneys - 2 in the front seat, and 3 in the back. When a car was empty, the driver (the ham) would return downtown for another load of attorneys. Their destinations were invariably the precincts of the south, west and near north sides.

Coincidentally, these were overwhelmingly black.

This frequency was 146.94 DIRECT, but there might have been more frequencies. There were no repeaters back then. The dispatcher couldn't have been in one of Chicago's skyscrapers because he couldn't copy the rovers further south than about 50th street. Since our antenna was on a 3 story building at 33rd, I could hear them fine. So I decided to help. I checked in to the Eagle Eye Net with the W9YW call and began relaying the dispatching instructions to the rovers. This was my first VHF contact (ever).

I never saw what was happening on the ground, and thought I was doing a good thing. It sounded like they were combatting vote fraud, I was conservative back then (I switch back and forth), and it was widely believed that Chicago's infamous "Mayor Daley Machine" flipped Illinois for Kennedy in 1960 and would be active again. Thoughts regarding the legality of using an amateur radio frequency for partisan political purposes on a presidential election day never crossed my mind. We all know that commercial stuff and music is illegal.

For years I heard nothing further about this operation. I never saw any publicity, and my only knowledge of it was my own experience. The story finally surfaced in the alternative (Leftist) media when William Rehnquist was nominated to the Supreme Court. He had been one of the lawyers, but in Phoenix AZ in 1964. There is now a Wikipedia page for "Operation Eagle Eye" with plenty of information, so judge for yourself what they were doing. The online narrative states that OEE was only active for 2 years, with no record of activity in 1968. There definitely was, but who believes Wiki anymore?

1968 was a close race, and back then the big battleground states were Illinois and Texas. On the morning after the election they still hadn't decided Illinois - until about 10 or 11:am when they called it for Nixon. I helped. I "interfered with a US Presidential Election". Don't tell CNN.

It's weird that all the attention is focused on the 1964 election, and on Phoenix AZ where the candidate lived. Though impossible to prove, I still wonder whose idea it was to use ham frequencies for dispatching the lawyers.

Roy -- AD5Q



TDXS 50th Anniversary Operating Event

K5DX/50

2020 is the Texas DX Society's 50th Anniversary and we are planning an on the air operating event to celebrate! Each TDXS member will have the opportunity to operate using the club call sign K5DX with the /50 suffix. *[It doesn't matter when you got your number or if you are an active or inactive member, once a TDXS member, always a TDXS member. (Now this is a great opportunity to renew an expired membership) - N5XZ Editor]*. The operating period begins on September 14, 2020 at 00:00 UTC and ends on October 13, 2020 at 23:59 UTC. We want K5DX/50 on all bands and modes during this period and will have a special QSL for any station who works K5DX/50 and requests a card. Operation will be on all bands 160 M – VHF/UHF using CW, Phone and Digital modes. We have a system that divides the operating period into 4 hour time slots/band/mode for each day to coordinate operation using the K5DX/50 call sign by our members located in various parts of the country. When the event is over each member who operated must submit his log along with station location data to K5VWW for QSLing and uploading into ARRL's Logbook of the World. For more information see "rules", operating guidelines and TDXS member operating slot signup see: <https://k5dx-50.tdxs.net/>.

Robie Elms - AJ4F

President TDXS

Texas DX Society Board members

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How to reach US

On the World Wide Web <http://www.tdxx.net> email address: k5dx@tdxx.net

On 2 Meters: 147.96/36 MHz (100 Hz) On 70cm: 447.00/442.00 MHz (103.5 Hz)

DX Cluster—On Packet: Connect to **K5DX** on 145.71 MHz or telnet via IP address 75.148.198.113

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TexasDXSociety/> (new)

TDXS says “HAPPY BIRTHDAY” to these members with birthdays in October:

Please notify the Editor if I have missed anyone or of any updates:

Jim Whitmire KD4M
 Wes Whiddon N5WW
 Ron Marosko, Sr. K5LLL
 Bill Schrader, K2TNO
 Jeff McClain, K5MV
 George DeMontrond, III, NR5M
 Kim Carr, K5TU
 Laurent Thomin, W0MM
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 Tom Campbell, KD5TIO
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