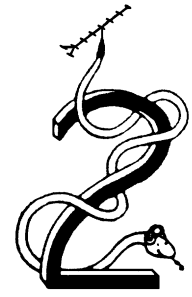




S.W.O.T. BULLETIN



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SIDEWINDERS ON TWO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
SSB, CW AND DIGITAL OPERATIONS ON 144MHZ AND UP

BULLETIN # 275

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S.W.O.T. GENERAL INFORMATION

- Send renewals and new applications for membership to Howard Hallman WD5DJT. Please make all checks payable to SIDEWINDERS ON TWO. And all I need is your SWOT # for your renewals if you want save your bulletin!!!
(See address above)
- Send your SWOT “members worked” from your log to, SWOT Awards manager, Wade Massey, 1016 Weiss Ave, Princeton, TX., 75407 \$1.00 fee for certificate and your certificate number would be appreciated, also SASE.
- Send all applications for County Awards and County Awards correspondence to the SWOT VUCA Awards Manager, Len Parsons W5AL,11361 Tascosa Rd. FM 1061., Amarillo, TX. 79124
- E-Mail all articles and reports to the Editors’ Web addresses listed above or you can mail them to KA5DWI, 6516 Simmons Rd, NRH, TX 76180.
- **MERCHANDISE:**
Decals and listings available for \$1.00 each for shipping and handling from the Secretary/Treasurer.
SWOT PATCHES ARE AVAILABLE AT PRICE OF \$4.00 EACH + \$.50 FOR MAILING
Badges are available from “The Sign Man”, Rick Pourciau NV5A, <http://www.thesignman.com/menu.html>

ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB

Be sure to join and chat with other S.W.O.T. members at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sidewindersontwo>
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The Chairman's Corner

By John Petersen "KM5ES"

Well I hope that everyone got a new rig under their Christmas tree and are looking forward to a new year of unexplored grids, Tropo and E openings. Sidewinders on Two is sponsoring during the regular January VHF Contest, several plaques to be offered. This will be a 2 Meter Contest only for the SWOT awards. Your logs must be in Cabrillo format and sent in Electronically to NL7CO@arrl.net.

Also I am, along with the board, will be working on an annual meeting that will more than likely be in June. We will be electing new officers and board members along with other club business. Band conditions have not been very favorable for 2 Meters. Also, we are entering the lull in the year for meteor-scatter. Hopefully, the bands will be in good shape for the January VHF Contest.

73's All
John KM5ES

Meet the Officers and Net Control Operators for SWOT

Each month we will profile one of the Officers or Net Control Operators for SWOT.

This month we profile **Bob Landrum, W5FKN**: Net Control Operator for the 9:00 PM Central Time North Texas SWOT Net.

Bob became NCS for this well established net about five years ago from Harold Wilson, W5FR. Bob has not been a Ham all that long. In fact, he has been one only since 1994. Bob's entrance into Ham radio was for the enjoyment of another hobby.

Although Bob's father was a ham, he never really showed an interest from his involvement. Bob became a Ham for to deter troubles he was having with Radio Controlled Modeled aircraft. As pagers and beepers began to invade much of the VHF spectrum, Bob needed a quieter band to control his model aircraft. Six meters was the place.

So in 1994, Bob got his No-code Tech license with the call KC5LLT. This was while he was living in Roanoke, Texas, as small community between Fort Worth and Denton. Although the problem was

solved for the R/C Model aircraft, he took it a step further.

Since his privileges were strictly for VHF/UHF operation, Bob decided to get a Yaesu FT736R, with the appropriate antennas, get into Weak Signal operation. As the saying goes, the rest is history.

Bob took his father's call, W5FKN. He and his wife moved their home to the top of a 950-foot high hill on 10 acres just outside of Decatur, Texas. Decatur is located northwest of Fort Worth. Bob selected a prime hamming location. On a clear day, he can see Downtown Dallas 55 miles away.

The home QTH location definitely has some advantages with he current operation. He now runs an ICOM 746 with a homebrew "8877" kilowatt amplifier. He has 2-stacked M² 18XXX, 36 foot boomers at 76 feet.

Needless to say, Bob has a fairly good turnout every Wednesday night. Bob usually has upwards to 40 and over check-ins, in as many as 20 different grids. On even bad conditions, he will get check-ins from Southeast Texas, Louisiana and Kansas.

Bob is now a retired Aircraft mechanic. He still keeps fairly busy. Bob is patient enough to drive his wife Iris back and forth to Downtown Dallas everyday. She is an executive secretary for a major Texas bank. He now oversees the operation of the, W5FKN Lewisville, Texas 145.17Mhz repeater.

Make it a point to check in with Bob each Wednesday night and thank him for his contributions to Sidewinders on Two.

SWOT Participation in the A.R.R.L. January VHF Sweepstakes

By: Donald Ross NL7CO

John Petersen, KM5ES, the president of Sidewinders on Two (S.W.O.T.) announces that S.W.O.T. will recognize, with plaques, the top 2 Meter scores (Single Operator, High Power, Single Operator Low Power, Rover, and Multi-operator) during the ARRL January 2002 VHF Sweepstakes. All amateurs are eligible to participate, with or without S.W.O.T. membership. Members of the S.W.O.T. Contest Committee are not eligible to participate, and their decisions are final.

Currently, the ARRL does not track band specific information unless someone enters the contest in the single band mode. Therefore, to participate, simply include the S.W.O.T contesting manager, Don Ross, NL7CO (NL7CO@ARRL.Net), as a cc: in the electronic submission of your Cabrillo formatted contest logs.

All ARRL contest rules apply with the exception that rule 6.1 is modified such that only electronic logs are being accepted this year.

Plaques will be purchased and mailed prior to the end of March 2002 and the results will be posted on the SWOT homepage (home.swbt.net/wd5djt/) at the same time.

S.W.O.T. is a grouping of amateur radio enthusiasts promoting full usage of the 2 Meter band with an emphasis on the weak signal portions of the band.

Questions may be addressed to either John, KM5ES or Don, NL7CO.

What is Considered a Contact

From the VHF/UHF DX Book via John KM5ES

The answer seems so obvious that many amateurs never give it a second thought. But, if VHF/UHF DX'ers are often working so close to the limits of propagation, that difficult contacts may only just pass or fail. The line has to be drawn somewhere.

The basic requirements for a contact are that both stations receive the following:

1. Both complete callsigns, your own and the other station's callsign.
2. Some other information that was not previously known. This is usually the signal report, but not necessarily. In the US contests it may well be the IARU Locator or Grid Square. For example: EM25
3. An acknowledgement that all the above information has been received for example, QSL, Roger, or R in CW.

4. These rules apply and work for all types of contacts: Tropo, E's, Meteor-scatter, Contest, Moonbounce or whatever.

Just remember when in doubt, ask for the information again to be sure. It may make the difference in getting the new grid or state.

WA6ZFK - Silent Key

Larry, W6OMF reports:

It is with regret that we report the passing of Norm Davis, WA6ZFK, SWOT # 1477. He will be missed by so many of the SWOT members, family and friends.

Norm's untiring devotion to the Amateur community was an inspiration for us all and we will never be able to replace him.

Our sympathy goes out to his Family and we know Norm will always be within our hearts.

Yearly Recap of Operations From the Lawton, Oklahoma (EM04)

By Don Ross, NL7CO

2001 was a banner year for local VHF'ers with four getting new 6 Meter VUCC's (KM5NU, NH6CJ, WH6LR, WO7GI) and one 2m VUCC (NL7CO). KD5OMJ is actively pursuing his 6m VUCC and should be applying for it around the June VHF Contest. WO7GI and NL7CO are in a race to see who will get the first 1.25m VUCC in the local area and there are several now working the 70cm band pretty hard.

We also welcomed NE0P back to the local area. There have been several VHF+ nets established from the Lawton area and the schedules and frequencies are as follows:

Thursday - 1930 CT 144.250 USB NCS is WH6LR
2000 CT 50.150 USB NCS is NH6CJ

We're hoping to add nets for during 2002:
432.100 USB (KD5OMJ as NCS??) and,
222.100 USB (WO7GI as NCS??).

Lawton was well represented during the June VHF Contest with half of the Oklahoma participants coming from here. WH6LR won both the overall

Oklahoma Single Operator Low Power category and was the 50 MHz band winner for Oklahoma. As well, NL7CO topped the 144 MHz band again.

Again, Lawton provided half of the entries for the August UHF contest for the state of Oklahoma with WO7GI taking local honors. The results of the September VHF contest will not be known for several months, but we had approximately seven people turn in logs for the contest. Last year, NL7CO won both the overall Oklahoma Single Operator Low Power category and the 144 MHz band.

Time to dust of those “weird” portions of your IC-706 or FT-100 and make sure that they work right. The W5KS VHF’ers will assist you in checking out those radios during the next VHF contest, which runs from 1300 CST on 19 January until 2200 CST on 20 January. Several local stations will be available to provide this valuable diagnostic service for you.

Look for them on the following frequencies:

- 6m 50.125 USB 52.525 FM Simplex
- 2m 144.200 USB 146.550 FM Simplex
- 1.25m 222.100 USB 223.500 FM Simplex
- 70cm 432.100 USB 446.000 FM Simplex
- 23cm 1296.000 USB

Please take the time and contact the local stations as we can really use the points and we want to continue the dominance of Lawton in VHF+ contests. The best practice is to get on 146.550 FM Simplex and then we’ll move you around to make the most of your station equipment. If you want to play a little in the contest, contact any of the active VHF’ers to see if they’ve got room for you to come on over and make some contacts. The January VHF contest is also the only one that allows for a “club” competition by combining all of the scores for an ARRL affiliated club into one composite score so that we can compete with other clubs. As far as I know, no one has recently submitted a club entry for Oklahoma, so W5KS may get an easy win.

Additionally, Side Winders On Two (SWOT) a national organization of 2m enthusiasts is running a “contest within a contest” during the January ARRL VHF Sweepstakes and will be awarding plaques to

the highest 2m scores in several categories and will probably issue certificates to all participants.

Future plans include a possible grid-expedition to Memphis, TX to activate a rare grid (DM94) for the June 2002 contest and a real effort to highlight the VHF+ bands during field day. If you’re interested in participating, please let us know.

2001 was also the first year that we ran an activity award for the VHF+ bands. The purpose of the activity awards is to encourage VHF+ activity and is the sum of the grid points that you work within one calendar year.

Following the ARRL VHF+ contest scoring procedures giving more points for higher band QSO’s, participants received one point for 6M and 2M grids; two points for 1.25M and 70CM grids; and four points for 23CM grids.

For 2001, the total grids worked on each band are as follows:

<u>CALL</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>144</u>	<u>220</u>	<u>432</u>	<u>1296</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
NL7CO	180	99	15	19	6	371
WO7GI	140	24	15	12	6	242
WH6LR	205	18		3		229
KM5NU	166	36				202
NH6CJ	102	21				123
KD5OMJ	75	21	1	1		100
NE0P	27	54		2		85
WO7HI	41	6		4		55

With NL7CO disqualified as contest manager; WO7GI is the overall winner with WH6LR winning 6M and NE0P winning 2M. Congratulations to all participants and we look forward to seeing both more entries and higher overall scores at the end of the current year. Remember that we all started out back at zero on 1 January 2002. An interesting note is that everyone who worked 6M for at least 8 months last year worked enough grids for a 6M VUCC.

As much fun as 2001 was, we look forward to 2002 with great anticipation and the desire to work each of you on every band.

North California December SWOT

Gathering

From Larry, W6OMF



Left to Right

KD6VNQ, David #3281

KC6SEH, John #3228

KA6VQV, Bill #3162

WA6ZKY, Gordy

KA6NBC, Richard #3170

DX Reports December 16 – January 15

By Art Jackson KA5DWI

Each month we will attempt to let you all know what has been going on 2 Meters and give you an idea what you can expect in the next month. Please Mail or email your DX reports to me and we will get them in the newsletter.

DX Reports

Meteors:

Ursids: December 22 showed spotty reports, *not* one of the better years for this shower. Pings were short, but very loud.

Quadrantids: Fooled a few of us. A number of WSJT QSO's were completed. The actual peak (1900UT, 01/03) occurred from 1 to 18 hours later than the published predictions.

Aurora:

Another quiet month, with only minor short-lived storms. Some aurora reported on 01/11-12. No big openings.

E Propagation:

Close, but no cigar!!!

Short 6 Meter reports and 100 MHz FM broadcast reports on and into:

12/17 2300UT DM68

12/24 0030UT DM43

12/26 1830 UT EM04

12/27 0145 UT EM04 – Poor Don !!

01/05 0100-0200 Widespread in the southern USA. This one almost got there. If we had more 2 Meters in Mexico, I think we would have had a QSO or two.

Tropo:

No widespread openings, but some nice isolated reports from the Gulf States, East Coast and Midwest.

1) 12/15 0000-0430 UT: EM50>EM75, EM42>EM54, FM06>EN61, FN02>EN61 (Nice Tropo before they got 6 ft. of snow!), EM50>EM89, EM84>EM70, EM60>EM75, EM50>EM65, EM50>EM31

2) 12/15 2000 UT- 12/16 0400 UT: EM54>EM86, EM74>EM55, EM86>EM54, EM22>EM75, EM74>EM44, EM54>EM70, EM32>EM04, EM54>EM70, EM54>EM76, EL89>EM84, EM75>EM31, EM56>EM31

3) 01/05 0400–1400 UT: EM04>EM19, EM22>EM04

4) 01/12 1315 UT: EM04>EM22

Sources: DX World 144 Propagation Logger and SWOT Group Page

What to expect January 16 to February 15:

Meteors:

Traditionally, February is considered the slowest month each year for meteor scatter. Despite the gloom outlook, many good WSJT contacts are capable during this period.

Many minor showers occur through this period. Look on 01/16-17, 01/20-22, 01/24-25, 02/01-02, 02/09-10, and 02/14 for some better meteor-scatter.

Aurora:

The sun continues in activity and has had many M-Class flares the past month. A major CME occurred on January 8, but the full force was pointed away from us.

Monitor *Spaceweather.Com* for possible events.

Tropo:

Now that we are in the middle of winter, opportunities are few and far between. There is talk that we are entering into an El Niño. Could give us some opportunities to warm up these cold systems as they move in from Canada. Still, they need to stall out to produce openings. Keep your fingers crossed.

E-Layer Propagation:

We are now on the downhill slope of the winter E season. Possibilities are much less after mid-

February. There are still documented 2 Meter E' openings into February. Short-skip on 10 and 6 meters are the best indicators for potential openings on 2 Meters.

Lunar, Solar and Astronomical Events

Lunar: Apogee – 01/28 & 02/14

Perigee 01/30

New Moon – 02/12, Full Moon – 01/28

Solar: Overhead 01/16 -20.8°S, 02/15 – 12.6°S

USAF Predicted Solar Flux Average:

01/16-02/15: 227 (Forget Decline!!)

Meteors:

Minor Showers: 8 Peak from 01/16-01/31, 5 Peak from 02/01-02/14

Major Showers: None

More meteor info at:

<http://comets.amsmeteors.org/meteors/calendar.html>

Contest Calender 2002

January 19-21 ARRL VHF Sweepstakes
Site for seeing who is doing what (rovers, multi-ops, etc.): <http://www.qsl.net/n9rla/>
June 08-10 ARRL VHF QSO Party
June 22-23 ARRL Field Day
July 13-14 CQ Worldwide VHF Contest
August 3-4 ARRL UHF Contest
September 14-16 ARRL VHF QSO Party

Note: We will note any upcoming Sprints as soon as they are properly listed.

SWOT NET REPORTS

Here are the net reports for December and January. The first figure listed for each date is the number of check-ins and the second is the number of grids.

Sunday Northern California:

Month of December

12/02/01...83 12/09/01...83 12/16/01...72

12/23/01...65 12/30/01...71

17 Different Grids Checked In

Eastern Oklahoma (Monday): 12/17/01...37/16

12/24/01...No Net 12/31/01...41/12

01/07/02...41/12

Central Louisiana (Tuesday): 12/18/01...14/9

12/25/01...No Net 01/01/02...No Net

01/08/02...12/9

Northern Missouri (Tuesday):

12/18/01...No Report 12/25/01...No Net

01/01/02...No Net 01/08/02...23/11

North Texas (Wednesday): 12/19/01...31/13

12/26/01...22/10 01/02/02...38/15

01/09/02...33/14

Southwest Oklahoma (Thursday):

12/30/01...12/5 12/27/01...14/7

01/03/02...10/3 01/10/02...No Report

East Texas (Saturday): 12/15/01...16/6

12/22/01...19/9 12/29/01...14/5 01/05/02...9/6

01/12/02...17/8

Recent New SWOT Members

Thanks for joining and being involved with SWOT

NO.	CALL	NAME	CITY	ST	GRID
====	=====	=====	=====	==	=====
3351	W6KJ	RON MURDOCK	YUBA CITY	CA	CM99
3352	K6DME	RUFFNER GUNN	RIO VISTA	CA	CM98
3353	NR6A	DEANE COATS	SACRAMENTO	CA	CM98
3354	K6JTC	HARRY WORKMANN	SUNNYVALE	CA	
3355	KG6FJL	DARRIN OGLETREE	WINTERS	CA	CM98
3356	KG6HVV	ZACK SELK	CONCORD	CA	CM87
3357	KF6VBJ	JIM DOOLEY	VACAVILLE	CA	CM98
3358	KF6PFT	BOB MILLER	SAN MATEO	CA	CM87
3361	KC5YZS	CHARLES C. BAILEY	GRAND PRAIRIE	TX	EM12
3362	KK5IG	JOHN W. MATTHEYER JR	DAVENPORT	OK	EM15
3363	KC5QCJ	D. J. LOVE	CHOCTAW	OK	EM15
3364	KC5KLY	T. J. CHRONISTER	WILBURTON	OK	EM24
3365	KB0ZHC	RALPH ORAHOOD	CARTHAGE	MO	EM27
3366	W5KVO	DALE HENDREX	WELLSTON	OK	EM15
3367	WW1HH	WARREN HURD	EUFULA	OK	EM25
3368	K4UFT	TED TUTTEROW	KELLER	TX	EM12
3369	N0PB	PHIL BALDWIN	HOLLIDAY	MO	EM39
3370	W5WB	DANNY CROMAZ	LANCASTER	TX	EM12
3371	N5TQB	KEITH FENNELL	BOYCE	LA	EM31
3372	K5JWL	JACK W. LESTER JR	BRYAN	TX	EM10
3373	K5MQ	DAVE TEAGUE	JENA	LA	EM31
3374	KD5KUF	JOE BROWNELL	ROSE	OK	EM26
3375	KD5LJN	MARTY GITSHAM-DAVIS	KILLEEN	TX	EM11
3376	KF4ODI	HOWARD L. RUNION	DYERSBURG	TN	EM56
3377	W4NUL	ROBERT L. WILLSEY	MARTHA	OK	EM04
3378	KC5NOA	BART MILLER	ORANGE GROVE	TX	EL08
3379	N5KDA	GARY NATIONS	NATCHEZ	MS	EM41
3380	WH6LR	JAMES D. KENNEDY	LAWTON	OK	EM04
3381	AC5TX	JOHN ANDERSON	ABILENE	TX	EM02

SIDEWINDERS ON TWO" ENROLLMENT OR RENEWAL FORM

NOTE: Though your membership and number are good for life you must renew annually to receive the newsletter and stay on the active list.

Enclosed find check/MO. to: New member.....\$10.00 _____ Renewal.....\$10.00 _____

Howard Hallman WD5DJT, Sec.Treas.

3230 Springfield Lancaster, Tx. 75134-1214

New Member. I have worked the following members:

Call: _____ SWOT No. _____ Call: _____ SWOT No. _____

Renewing: My SWOT No. is _____

Name: _____ Call _____ Grid Square _____

Street address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone Nos. _____ E-mail _____

SWOT NETS

Day	Local Time	Area	Net	Frequency	Net Control Station
SUN	8:30A	TUCSON AZ	ARIZONA	144.250	N7SQN AL
SUN	8:00P	VACAVILLE CA	NORTHERN CALIFORNIA	144.250	W6OMF LARRY
SUN	9:30P	HOLLAND MI	MI SWAM	144.155	K8NFT
MON	7:30P	NEW MEXICO	NEW MEXICO	144.250	
MON	8:00P	WOODLAND PK	COLORADO	144.220	W2CRS WBODOM
MON	9:00P	MUSKOGEE	EAST OKLAHOMA	144.250	KM5ES JOHN
MON	8:00P	SANDUSKY	E. MICHIGAN	144.250	W8IDT BART
TUE	8:00P	CA.NO CTYS	NORCAL	144.250	KF6BXH BILL
TUE	8:00P	EM31 LA.	CENTRAL LOUISIANA	144.250	K5MQ DAVE
TUE	9:00P	N. CENTRAL MO.	N. CENTRAL MO.	144.250	N0PB PHIL
WED	8:00P	IA-MO-IL	TRI STATE	144.250	WZ9D N9CXO
WED	9:00P	NO TEXAS	NORTH TEXAS	144.250	W5FKN BOB
THU	8:00P	CA SO CTYS	NORCAL	144.250	KC6CHJ
THU	7:30P	LAWTON EM04	SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA	144.250	WH6LR JIM
THU	9:00P	TENNESSE	UPPER CUMBERLAND	144.225	N2BR BOBBY
SAT	7:00A	TEXAS	EAST TEXAS	144.250	K5LOW DON