



SWOT BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
SIDEWINDERS-ON-TWO RADIO CLUB

PROMOTING SSB, CW & DIGITAL OPERATIONS ON 144MHz AND UP

VISIT US ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB AT :

www.swotvhf.org

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sidewindersontwo>

BULLETIN # 288

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S.W.O.T. GENERAL INFORMATION

- Send renewals and new applications for membership to Howard Hallman WD5DJT (See address above). Please make all checks payable to SIDEWINDERS ON TWO. Include your SWOT # for your renewals.
- 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.
- E-Mail all articles and reports to the Editors' Web addresses listed above or you can mail them to Art Jackson KA5DWI, 6516 Simmons Rd., North Richland Hills, Texas 76180-4243.
- **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>

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Election Announcement for SWOT

This year we will be having our yearly meeting over the Internet. This will give members throughout the United States the opportunity to nominate and vote online for the officers and board members of SWOT. Also votes and nominations can also be taken by regular mail.

The nomination period will start in February 18, 2003. The cut-off date for nominations will be March 7, 2003. There will be an online area for the members to cast their nominations for officers.

Voting for officials of the club will start March 16, 2003. Again this will be a online process. Voting deadline will be March 31, 2003. Results will be posted in the April 2003 newsletter.

All positions and offices will be open for nominations.

The following positions will be available:

Chairman
Vice-Chairman
Secretary-Treasurer
4 - Board Members.

All club officers have the opportunity to run for their office they now hold.

For those members that do not have the opportunity to nominate or vote online, an area will be put in the next newsletter for members to nominate for and then vote for the officers.

Please note the following:

1. John Petersen KM5ES will not be running for re-election as Chairman.
2. NL7CO - Don Ross' position as Board member has been vacated.

Make sure you watch the Yahoo SWOT Page and The Sidewinders On Two Message board for any other information regarding this upcoming election. Please direct your questions there as well.

73 John Petersen KM5ES

Editor:

A nomination form is enclosed on the final page of the Bulletin if you wish to mail to at my address listed under SWOT Information.

You may E-Mail them to me at:

ka5dwi@sbcglobal.net , voteswot@swotvhf.org or ka5dwi@swotvhf.org

The Chairman's Corner

By John Petersen, KM5ES

Winter seems to still be hanging on with snowfall here in Oklahoma twice in the past week. But soon the calling of the spring weather fronts and tropo openings will be upon us before you know it.

This year we are having our yearly SWOT meeting online so it will be available for 95 percent of our membership. This will give the membership a chance to put forth their nominations for officers and board members of SWOT.

Please send your nominations in to the editor of the newsletter Art Jackson, KA5DWI. Next months newsletter will have the listing of the people up for nominations of office. Send your email nominations to voteswot@swotvhf.org.

Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary Treasurer along with 4 board members are up for election. Please nominate and vote for someone who you think will participate and make the club more active.

After this election I will be stepping down as Chairman for SWOT. I have been Chairman since 1999. I believe it is time for new blood in our club officials.

73 to all

John Petersen KM5ES
SWOT Chairman #3331

From the Editor's Desk

By Art Jackson, KA5DWI

A month for reflection and thinking ahead.

A Slow Month:

What happened to everybody?

The last month I have all but begged for some feedback from you all. I would say it was a trickle this time. Again, the inroads that have been made with this bulletin could not have been accomplished without your input. So I plead once more... Help.

Since I took over the publication in September 2001, I have been able to donate much of my time (8-24 hours each month) to the process of writing and editing. You have to appreciate that Oklahoman dialect!!

One of the reasons I was able to give it the time was that I have been on temporary retirement (unemployed) during this period. The Human Resource Manager YL has now decided that it is highly unlikely that I will ever

find employment in the field I was highly experienced in. So therefore, it is time for me to find a new career in a field that there is a demand in, and I will feel I am contributing something to society. To get there, I am going to back to school, full-time. It will be tougher for me to give you all the hours in the future. I still will be the Editor as long as the Club and new Chairman desires me to be it. If someone would like to take it over, I would be willing to pass it on. In any case, I need you all to make contributions to keep it fun and to inform.

Keep those articles coming.

The Officer Elections:

This is your chance to help shape our group for the future. I have heard many good thoughts on what directions SWOT needs to follow. We need your input, ideas, and contributions to continue. So if you are nominated, please accept it. Also, I do not think anyone would object to you nominating yourself.

I will be accepting the nominations via my email addresses and here at the home address. I will post and attempt to inform you all through both the websites each nomination as it is received. I would appreciate that you inform the nominee before submitting it to me.

I sure hope all my mailboxes are full.

Witness to the Columbia Tragedy:

On February 1st I was hoping to see quite a spectacle here in Dallas/Fort Worth. Usually on a Shuttle science mission, the inclination of the orbit is low enough to be treated to a spectacular site when it finally lands at Cape Canaveral. As it enters the atmosphere, it leaves quite a vapor trail from horizon to horizon. It is a perfect meteor trail and has been reported to produce almost Sporadic E qualities if you point the antenna along it.

The night before, I loaded the latest Keplerian elements into the Satellite tracking program. The local TV stations confirmed on their evening newscasts that we would see Columbia's return the next morning.

I got up a little early Saturday morning and checked in with Don's (K5LOW) Net. It was absolutely beautiful here with mild temperatures and crystal clear skies. The wife and next-door neighbor were going on a shopping escapade. Them, and a number of other neighbors were all outside to see it. I had also had the computer hooked up to NASA TV on the Internet. It was announced on TV here to expect it at 8:03 AM. Several minutes before, we were outside awaiting the return.

I was focused on the horizon to my west, because from there is where I had witnessed its return before. Right at 8:00 AM, the wife says "There it is!" It was directly overhead.

Almost immediately, for a split second, my attention was drawn to a small single trail separate from the main one. I caught up with the main trail just as it began to break apart into multiple ones. It all quickly disappeared behind the trees and into sun. There was no doubt that something was terribly wrong.

I quietly mentioned to the wife that something didn't look right and promptly ran into the house. Once in, I watched and listened to NASA TV for their "UHF Com Check" requests and prayed that there would be a response. At 8:04AM, a lengthy sonic boom was heard. Finally, at about 8:14AM, the news channels broke in to announce that Columbia was overdue.

If you did not know already, three of the seven Astronauts were Hams: Kalpana Chawla KD5ESI, David Brown KC5ZTC and Laurel Clark KC5ZSU.

Columbia had a quite a history with Ham radio. Who can forget the entire Ham world attempting to contact Owen Garriot-W5LFL in December 1983. He was the first Ham to operate directly from Space. Yours truly made his first Shuttle QSO with WA4SIR Ron Parise, also on board Columbia in December 1990. Plus, a number of Packet setups were carried on board and a large number us had a chance to communicate with it.

Say a prayer for the seven brave souls that were onboard and their families. We all hope for a determination and correction of the cause as well as a speedy resumption of space exploration.

Recap:

Many thanks go out to Larry W6OMF for his contributions this month. Also John KM5ES and Tip WA5UFH provided us a tidbit.

73's Art Jackson KA5DWI #2497

Recap of 2002 Activities NorCal SWOT Chapter

By Larry Hogue, W6OMF

Need to take a little time and say hello to all the SWOT Members... Art is pounding away at filling the newsletter and I will try my best to fill a couple lines... Thanks Art...

NORCAL Members took 2002 by Storm and increased membership... Can't beat that can ya... Many of the members not only rallied for the Organization, but came to the band with as much enthusiasm.

Our year started with a "Worked All CM98 Sub Square" contest and had many of our group gathering AA thru XX Sub Squares... Our Rover of the year ended up being John, KC6SEH, #3228. His support was the best of the best... John went home with the big trophy. Thanks John

Plaques were awarded to fixed operators KA6CHJ, #2724, Paul ended up with 452 sub squares grids on 144 MHz (1st place) and 442 sub squares grids on 432 MHz (1st place). Bob, K6HEW, #3286 came up with a claimed score of 156 sub squares grids on 50 MHz (2nd place), 180 sub squares grids on 144 MHz (2nd Place), and 152 sub squares grids on 432 MHz (2nd place) and Ken, W6IZU, #3290 came away with 50 MHz sub squares grids of 394 (1st place), 144 MHz sub squares of 419 (2nd place) and 432 MHz sub squares grids of 352 (2nd place). So as you can see a great start to 2002...

The Gathering at M² went with a great Swap Meet and a wonderful introduction to the Plant. The Gang at M² presented us with great door prizes and offers of great deals to help with those upgrades... We will be doing the same again this year on the 29th of March beginning at 9AM in Fresno. Come on by and enjoy the gang and have Lunch...

Out gathering in September went without a hitch and over 125 hams and their families showed up to grip and grin... Looking forward to another great gathering this year... Bob, W6BO, #3395 and Janet, KG6FFL, #3396 came flying in with his 1948 Bell 47 helo and presented us with a great Air show... Oh, and the Hot air balloons were floating down the valley presenting us with a kaleidoscope of colors.

December's meeting went as another gathering to beat all gatherings... We can seat 75 in the room we reserve and they came and filled that plus ½ of the front... Standing room only for announcements and drawings... M² donated to the SWOT gathering in the form of M² bucks and we drew two prizes, one for \$150 went to

WB6G, Gary, #3282 and \$50 went to Paul, KA6CHJ, #2724... A side bar! Gary has no need to make any additions to his station antennas at this time and donated his \$150 back to NORCAL and we will have another drawing at the Jun Breakfast for NORCAL members... \$100 and a \$50 drawing of M² bucks. So NORCAL members heads up, you need to be current with your dues and you do not need to be present to win... Just make arrangements to pick them up... I'll make sure the word gets out... Thanks to all and especially to Gary...

Well enuf of my rambling, it's time to get the house cleaned, Sue will be home in a bit and you know there is never a dull moment in the life of a House Husband... Perfect Job for listening to the radio... hi hi For now I wish you all well and hope your 2003 is a great one...

73 from the Home of Sue, K6SUE, #162 and Larry, W6OMF, #155

The December Gathering and a "Short Snort" from the NorCal Chapter

By Larry Hogue, W6OMF

Just talking with a Southern Friend on the Twisted Pair and he made a comment that he had not seen anything on the December gathering... I' ve most probably goofed and just thought I' d sent it along... Sorry about... so here is what wrote and must have not sent... Damn I hate getting old...

To all of our Amateur Friends:

With the fog settled into the valley, 32 members of SWOT NORCAL Chapter came in from the mist for our gathering at Bakers Square. A total of 76 SWOT/WSWSS/family members showed with 65 being Hams and 11 Family.

All the NORCAL SWOT/WSWSS Two meter Net Controls were in attendance, Bill, KF6BXH, SWOT #3206, Paul, SWOT #2724, KA6CHJ and me SWOT#155.

Our furthest traveler was Larry, K6HLH, SWOT #880 of Lancaster, CA. Our Youngest member was Zack Selk, KG6HVY SWOT#3356. Our oldest (well, of those willing to admit their age) was KE6JNT, Marv, SWOT 3392 at 81 years old. Well done Marv. Good living.

WSWSS President, Bill Fredson, KD6LTB was in attendance and addressed the group asking a Conference Chair (WSWSS 2003). Contact either Paul, KA6CHJ or Larry, W6OMF if you would like to volunteer. Remember we' ll help!

Treasurer, Paul Hammer, KA6CHJ came and presented Certificates for participation in the WSWSS nets. The WSWSS 222 Net Control, Bill, WA6QAK, SWOT#1497 was there, and rallying the 222 operators.

Donators and winners..

We couldn't make it without their help. Thanks from the bottom of our hearts.

M² - SWOT only
\$150 M² Bucks, won by WB6G, Gary Youngs
SWOT#3282
\$50 M² Bucks, Won by KA6CHJ, Paul Hammer
SWOT #2724

SWOT MEMBERS - SWOT only
3 each 2 Meter HO Loops, Won by WD6CHL, Vern Roberts, SWOT#1431, KE6JNT, Marv Lemburg, SWOT#3392, and AC6DC, Wil Dees, SWOT#847.

DOOR PRIZES. Licensed Amateurs only, donators and winners WA6JQV, Bob.

TEMPO 2020 HF rig, 2010 VFO, and Speaker. Won by K7NOM, Bill Janssen, SWOT#3307

SWOT, SUE, AND LARRY-
MFJ-1824BB All Band Mag Mount Mobile 25-1300 MHz, Won by W6HMB, Tom Snyder.

Communications Waist Pack (Fanny Pack) 5 storage compartments Won by K6DME, Ruff Gunn, and SWOT #3352

Digital Multimeter 15 Ranges, won by KD6QDG, Fay Alexander.

KJ6KO, Greg.
2 EA 50ft lengths of 7/8 Hard-line. And one set of connectors, Won by W6PJJ, Don Righello and W6RWL, Ralph Lucas, SWOT#3412. A set of connectors was added to this run by KM6QJ, Travis Selk.

KJ6KO, Greg.
2 EA in line 5 watt DC to 2200 MHz 30 DB and 2 EA 5 watts in line variable (in 1db increments Attenuators. Won by KF6KYB, Carla, KC6DFA, Ernest, KB6WAB, Don, SWOT#3398, and KF6FJL, Darrin, SWOT#3355.

Mystery prize. (Donation drawing) Donated by Larry and Sue.
Won by KE6TWR, Pete Spencer. The mystery ended up being an IC-720 and the matching Power Supply, PS-35.

Wonderful gathering hoping to see you all at M² this

spring. Larry and Sue

Short Snort:

A small band of the NorCal Chapter Gang gathered in the Orville area to have lunch and tell a few lies... Those attending this rare and elusive gathering were, K6SUE, Sue SWOT #162, KF6BCH, Wayne, #3172, KE6EVX, Tom, #3161, KE6JNT, Marv, #3392, KF6PIU, Bill, #3301, KC6SEH, John, #3228, KF6ELU, Blake, 3263 and Myself W6OMF, #155...

It was obvious from the start that the first Liar didn't stand a chance, but Sue prevailed and we declared her the winner with "I'm only 39!"

We enjoyed a wonderful drive and site seeing run as well as wonderful people sharing a part of their day... Thanks to all for coming...

On the drive home we were in the area of W6BO, Bob #3395 and KG6LLF, Janet #3396 of Tudor, CA and had a great visit with them... Ya just gotta try her Carrot Cake and Apple Pie. Oh my, Oh my... What a way to go... hi hi

73 Larry, W6OMF-Sue, K6SUE

Do You Remember When?- The June 1987 ARRL VHF Contest

By Art Jackson KA5DWI

As I had mentioned in an article last year, I would write about past band opening events here on 2-Meters. Again, I invite you all to share your experiences and I will put them in the bulletin. The purpose of these articles is to let the newer 2 Meter SSB operators of how much excitement you can find here.

On this go-round I will share with you the absolute best Sporadic E opening that I have experienced of my 20 years on 2-Meter Sideband. The opening occurred during the ARRL June VHF Sweepstakes of 1987. A number of firsts would occur. It should be a testament to all VHF/UHF enthusiasts to always be available for this contest, as it is the best opportunities to have extremely productive results. This article will include my direct experience and excerpts from a QST Above 50MHz column. So let's begin.

1987 was an eventful year for me personally. The Ham Hating YL had finally etched the letter "X" in the title and I was going through a not so pleasant divorce. Being the wage earner, I had to pretty much give up anything I owned confirming that in a community property state that what is hers is hers, both of yours is

hers and finally what is yours is hers! Although the marriage was down the tubes, the one thing that we did not have was debt and children. Plus, I got to keep all my radios and the rented house!! Needless to say, I was on the rebound and finally getting my interests back to Ham radio. I had pretty much disappeared for 4 months during the debacle, but once the issues had been settled and final papers signed, it was time to get with the program.

I attended HamCom in Arlington Texas on June 6, 1987 with the intention of purchasing a few improvements for the shack. So on Saturday morning, I purchased (with the Credit Card) a new RF Concepts 317 amplifier. I had been using a borrowed Mirage that put out 100 watts into the simple 14-element HyGain at 25 feet. It was a beginning at least. Sunday morning (back then it was an all weekend event) in the flea market, I ran into a fellow VHF'er selling out his station as he was moving up north. Being a tight wad in my personal ordeal, I had managed to build up a nice cash reserve. Out on the table was a good condition Drake TR6 6-Meter rig. I couldn't resist. I had to have it. The lawyer had already been paid off and the final settlement check had been agreed upon and issued.

Why would I want a 6-Meter rig? I love E Skip and it is a great way to tell what could happen on 2-Meters, if it makes it that far. I had always enjoyed working Es on 10 meters and especially the occasional and rare 2 Meter ones. I had worked 6 at Field Day a couple of years before and had a ball. What better than to enjoy those new "E" opportunities on 6 Meters. Last but not least, I had already built the antenna, a 4-element ¼ wave spaced Quad.

During the week following HamCom everything got hooked up and tested. My signal was much improved on 2 Meters and 6 Meter TR-6 was doing the job. So now I am ready to tackle the June VHF Sweepstakes.

The event began quietly on 1800 UTC Saturday June 13, 1987. I started it out working a number of the locals and adjacent grids on 2 Meters, 6 Meters was dead as a doornail. For a few hours I spent my time working line-of-sight on 6 and 2 when out of the blue about 5:00PM (Central time), the "E" light switch got turned on. The outlying Northeastern and New England grids began to show up on 6 Meters. For an hour I picked up a few nice rare grids on 6. Things slowed down around a half-hour or so (I was probably feeding my face). Then just around 6:30PM something turned on the "E" light switch on to Extra Bright!!!!

Now the Northeast, Atlantic States, Ontario and the Midwest started to appear in mass. 6 Meters sounded

like 20 Meters during Field Day. Within 4 hours of the beginning of the opening, I had worked 50 Grids on 6 Meters. Most of the stations I was working were 1000 mile plus and were spread out from 50.100 to 50.250 MHz. Only occasionally would a shorter distance QSO's occur. 2 Meters just would not open. From 8 to 9 PM, I worked over a QSO a minute on 6 Meters. What a nice entrance to a new band!!

The opening shifted from the northeast, to north, and then to west as the evening hours wore on. It seemed that as one area of the country would fade out, a new one would appear. As the opening drifted westward well into the evening, the Southeastern states appeared for the first time. By 1:00AM in the morning, all the stations I was hearing I had worked before. So I called it a night with 160 QSO's in 96 Grids on 6 Meters and only 30 QSO's and 10 grids on 2 Meters. According to a number of others, 6 Meters may have never closed down that evening.

I woke up at the crack of dawn and started working some 2 Meter Tropo. Good conditions were around as I got to work a number of stations approximately 200-300 miles away with not too much effort. The new amplifier on 2-Meters was doing a fine job. I switched to 6-Meters and found similar Tropo conditions as I worked a few there. Too early for E skip, or so I thought!!

At 8:15AM (Central Time), 6 Meters becomes alive again to East and East-Southeast. A half-hour later, 6-Meters opens to the West. I quickly worked 4 new grids to bring the total to 100. 6 Meter VUCC in 20 hours total (4 of them I was sleeping)!!! It seemed like the exact same conditions as the evening before, except maybe more southerly this time. Signals were arriving from both coasts. Once again I was amerced in 6-Meters. The distance of the contacts did not appear to be getting shorter, but the activity on 6 was intense. At 9:40AM the phone rings. It is Gene WD5FDL.

2- METERS HAS OPENED!!!! My focus had changed.

Sure enough, 2 Meters was alive and kicking and somewhat relaxed. Excellent S9+40db signals. It wasn't crowded as I think most were still on 6 Meters or sleeping. The 2-Meter E opening started between here in Dallas/Ft. Worth and all of Florida. You could tell that this one was going to be a great opening. Signals were not fading in-and-out, they were staying in there. About a half-hour into the opening, conditions had shifted north and west into Southwest Georgia. That was the first time for me to work that area of the U.S. on sporadic E.

As the minutes wore on, the opening seemed to be intensifying. No real signs of letting up. At 10:50AM,

off the back of the yagi, in the middle of Northern Florida and Southern Georgia stations, I hear a XE1 located in Northern Baja. That was a first for me. I had never had I heard both coasts at the same time!!!!

Despite working the XE1, the 2 Meter opening stayed keyed on the east coast. For 40 more minutes it would remain open to the east. I felt I had worked about everyone on 2 Meters on the East Coast. When at about 11:35AM the Las Vegas, Nevada area appears. This time the West Coast stays in. For 20 minutes Nevada, Georgia and Florida are competing for room on 2 Meters. At 11:49AM, I completed a QSO with KI3L/5 in DM55, about 700 miles. For 2 Meters, this is very short for Es. Still, 2 Meters was open to the east. I managed to work a couple more in Central Florida. Right at noon, 2 Meters closed up. 2 hours and 20 minutes of excitement.

6 Meters was still open and remained that way throughout the afternoon. I took a pause around 3:00 PM to grab a good meal. When I returned, it hadn't slowed a bit. 6 Meters continued to have moments of high intensity into the evening hours. Near 9:00PM Sunday, it looked like 2 Meters would open up again, this time to the North Central U.S. I heard several increases of background noises and occasional pings of signals. No luck this time.

6 Meters remained extremely intense. The final hour of the contest (9-10PM Central) I made 56 QSO's and collected 11 new grids on 6 Meters. It was the only time in my 24 years of being a Ham that I wanted a contest to end. I was hoarse and exhausted. Everyone else was as well. When it ended at 10:01PM, you could hear a pin drop.

The final results of the contest was 294 QSO's in 142 grids on 6 Meters and 70 QSO's in 30 grids on 2 Meters. I have yet to have as a productive weekend since.

Success was definitely not limited to me. A number of VHF/UHF DX'ing firsts happened during this opening.

2-Meter Double Hop E's – Extremely Rare:

WA7JTM from the top of Mt. Graham, AZ DM52 worked W5HUQ/4 and N4ATM near Jacksonville, FL EM90 and WU4E in SE Georgia. WB4SLM in EM82 Centerville GA worked N7CKE in Phoenix AZ DM33 whose 25 Watts and 8 Element Yagi produced S9 signals. NI4Z in Orlando FL worked W7CI AZ DM34. KD4WF Savannah GA worked NW7O in Las Vegas NV. The QSO was measured at 1976.6 Miles!!!! To my knowledge, this has only occurred one more time since then.

First 220 MHz Sporadic Es:

After a number of failed attempts, John Moore W5HUQ/4 and Bill Duval K5UGM completed the first known 220MHz Sporadic E contact at 1544UTC. John was running only 25 Watts to a single Boomer.

Epilogue:

In my 20 plus years on 2 Meters, I have never experienced another 2 and 6 Meter as intense and as long as this one was. In fact, the last half of June 1987 was probably the most concentrated period of E's ever reported. Major Trans-Atlantic and Hawaii to West Coast 6 Meter E QSO's were completed. On June 30th, 2 Meters would light up again to the Northeastern states. The QSL's I acquired from this opening put me over the top in getting my 2 Meter VUCC (#237).

The moral to the story.... Be ready and available next June, especially the VHF Contest. You never know what can happen.

You have a story? Share it with us.
73's Art

Results 2003 North American Meteor Scatter Contest

From Tip Tipton, WA5UFH

A very good turnout for this year's Meteor Scatter Contest.

First Line:			50	144	222	Pts
Call	Grid	Time				
Second Line:				Total-Grids	Total-Score	Bands
Low Power Single Band						
W09S	EN61	CST		16/16		16
K3JT	EM99	EST	12/12	16	256	A,B
VA3NFA	FN25	EST	9/8	12	144	A
AF40	EM55	CST		8	72	A
KR7O	DM07	PST		8/8	64	B
WA3LTB	EN92	EST		8	63	B
WB2FKO*	DM55	MST		7	63	B
K7MDL	CN87	PST		5/5	25	B
				5	25	B
				2/2		2
				2	4	B,C
* Rover activated two grids						
High Power Single Band						
K0PW	EN34	CST		48/43		48
K1SIX	FN43	EST	25/24	43	2064	B
WB2SIH	FN31	EST		24	600	A
				8/8		8
				8	64	B

W1ZC	FN42	EST		8/8		8
				8	64	B
N0UK	EN34	CST		6/6		6
				6	36	B
KB4FQ	FM04	EST		1/1		1
				1	1	B
WA3DRC	FN20	EST		1/1		1
				1	1	B

LowPower Multi -band

W5KI	FM29	EST	15/15	3/3		18
				18	324	A,B
N7CZ	DN47	MST		5/5	1/1	8
				6	48	B,C
N9WBR	EN54	CST	5/5	1/1		6
				6	36	A,B
K2OVS	FN30	EST	1/1	3/3		4
				4	16	A,B
KB9UMT	EN50	CST	3/3	1/1		4
				4	16	A,B

High Power Multi-band

K5CM	EM25	CST	16/13	27/26	2/2	49
				41	2009	A,B,C
N8AIA	EN82	EST	10/9	7/7	1/1	20
				17	340	A,B,C
K0AWU	EN37	CST	5/5	11/11		16
				16	256	A,B
W5UWB	EL17	CST		12/10	1/1	15
				11	165	B,C
N3RN	FN11	EST	6/6	4/4		10
				10	100	A,B

Low Power Single Band

WA5UFH	EL19	CST	4/4			4
				4	16	A,B
N1RWY	FN54	EST	3/3			3
				3	9	A
KB3EDF	FM18	EST	2/2			2
				2	4	A
NJ0U	EN71	EST		2/2		2
				2	4	B

High Power Single Band

K2TXB	FM29	EST		19/17		19
				17	323	B
K9KNW	EL95	EST		14/14		14
				14	196	B
K1UHF	FN31	EST		9/9		9
				9	81	B

LowPower Multi -band

W8PAT	EN81	EST	8/7	1/1		9
				8	72	A,B

High Power Multi-band

K1JT	FN20	EST	20/20	21/20		41
				40	1640	A,B
K7ICW	DM26	PST		5/5	2/2	11
				7	77	B,C
N8OC	EN83	EST	1/1	8/7		9
				8	72	A,B

Bands: A - 50; B - 144; C - 222; D - 432

VHF/UHF Contesting Calendar:

<http://pages.infinet.net/ve2pij/calendar.html>

Excellent list of VHF Software and Hardware Links:

<http://www.alltel.net/~wb5apd/vhfuhf.html>

VHF/UHF Mailing List

<http://www.hamradiousoa.net/VHFUHF/>

KI5DR –Scott Pederson’s January Contest Rover effort:

<http://www.ki5dr.com/JanVHFSweep.html>

DX Reports January 15-February 14

By Art Jackson KA5DWI

Aurora:

Reported on 01/25-26, 01/30, 02/02 and 02/04.

Meteor:

Sporadic E:

As expected, none reported. Still a few good openings occurred on 6 Meters. We all hope this will reappear in May.

Tropo:

The following areas of the U.S. reported enhanced conditions on the days stated:

West Coast States: 01/25 & 01/31

East Coast States: 01/16

Southeastern States: 01/19, 01/31, & 02/02-4, 02/12 & 02/14

Mountain States: 01/30

Gulf States: 01/31,02/02-03, & 02/12

Midwest: 01/19, 02/01

Central Plains: 01/19, 01/29. 01/31, 02/01-02

Best Opening:

The big event of the period occurred on Saturday, February 01 through Sunday evening, February 02. A upper air high pressure ridge developed from Mexico northward towards Oklahoma as slowly approaching surface fronts from the North and the Pacific stalled. The end result was excellent conditions from West Texas to Oklahoma, east towards Tennessee, Southeast to Georgia and finally south to Florida. Sunday evening, DX conditions across the Gulf of Mexico was outstanding. Signals from Dallas/Fort Worth to Tampa Bay were at times 40-60dB over S9.

On the World Wide Web

A few sites Weak Signal operators may be interested in. Send in your favorite sites and they will be listed here.

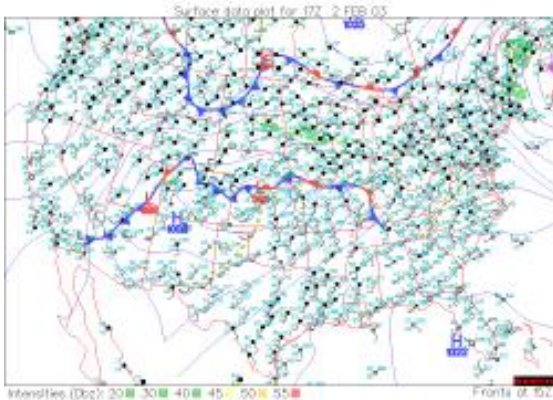
East Tennessee DX Association – Sponsor of all the VHF/UHF Sprints this year:

<http://www.etsdxa.org/>

Weather Maps:

First Chart- Surface Map:

Note the stalled fronts. Strong southerly inflow and a pronounced surface-high pressure system over Florida



Second Chart 850 Mb Height/Temp (Higher elevation approx. 10K feet.):

Note the high pressure ridge from Ohio all the way down to the southwest of Mexico



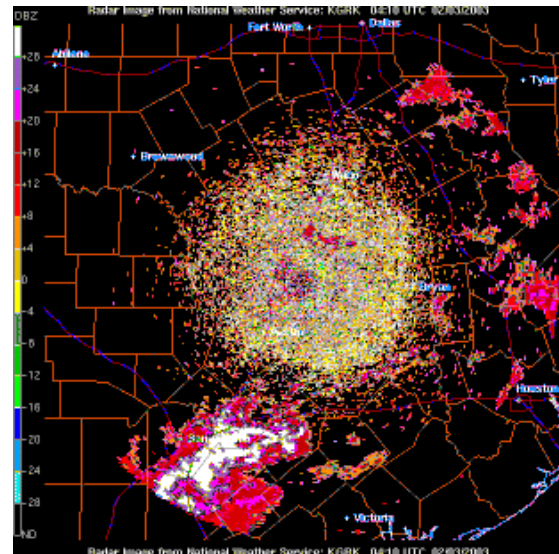
Third Chart – 500 Mb Height/Temp (Approx 18K Feet): Note the high pressure ridge at the even higher altitude is further West, from North Dakota to Mexico.



The pattern of high pressure ridges drifting westward with rising heights usually will lead to extremely good

conditions from the highest ridge towards to lowest ridge. In this case West Texas to Florida and every area in between.

Central Texas NWS Radar:



Note the extended ground clutter. The echoes to the northeast to south-south-east are all false ones. Signals were outstanding at that time.

Sources: *[DX World 144 Propagation Logger](#)* and *[SWOT Group Page](#)*

What to expect February 15-March 15:

This is the best time to do those major projects.

Meteors:

No major showers occur till April. Still WSJT FSK441 will produce ample chances for QSO's. Schedules will be your best bet. There are a good number of small showers to give you an opportunity.

Aurora:

We still occasional periods of geomagnetic activity as well as large coronal holes. Look for 02/19-20 and 03/04-05 to be active.

Be sure to monitor *Today's Space Weather* and *Spaceweather.Com* for possible events.

Tropo:

The El Nino actually backed off a bit in late January and early February. Unfortunately, it has showed back up. Tropo development along the coasts will be the best opportunities. Look for upper air high-pressure areas developing in the Gulf of Mexico and in Mexico to trigger a good opening.

E-Layer Propagation:

Other than aurora induced Es, nothing here until May.

Moon:

Best days: 02/16-17, 03/15-17

Good days: 02/18-21, 03/02 & 14

Bad days: 02/25

Based on low sky noise and path loss readings (DEGR) less than 3dB. Bad days are those with a 10db plus reading.

Lunar, Solar and Astronomical Events

Lunar: Perigee – 02/19, Apogee – 03/07

Full Moon – 02/16, New Moon – 03/02-03

Highest Declination (Elevation):03/12-13

Lowest Declination (Elevation):02/25-26

Solar: Overhead 02/16: - 12.7°S, 03/15: - 2.2°S

USAF Predicted Solar Flux Average:

02/15-03/15: 131 (Down 5)

Meteors:

All Showers: 02/15-02/28, 14 Active, 3 Peak

1 Minor shower

03/01-03/15, 18 Active, 5 Peak

1 Minor showers

More meteor info at:

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

Event & Contest Calender 2003

March	08	Irving TX ARC Hamfest
March	15-16	St. Patrick's Day Hamfest Midland, TX
March	29	Weak Signal Gathering Fresno CA
April	04	144 MHz Sprint
April	05	Ham Expo 2003 Hamfest Belton, TX
April	12	222 MHz Sprint
April	19	432 MHz Sprint
May	03	Microwave Sprint
May	10-11	50 MHz Sprint
June	14-16	ARRL VHF QSO Party
July	19-20	CQ WW VHF Contest
August	2-3	ARRL UHF Contest
September	13-15	ARRL VHF QSO Party

Send me dates important to you all.

New SWOT Members

Reported in February

Thank you all for joining.

Number 3422

K5RLA Carla Dyer Cisco TX Grid EM02

Number 3421

WA7MLD Marvin L. Dixon Vancouver WA Grid CN85

SWOT Net Announcements and News

Sorry for the too quick notice last month.

Jim Kennedy, W5SSG has announced that he will continue to be the NCS for the **Southwest Oklahoma SWOT Net**. Be looking for him at 7:30PM Central from EM04.

From Karl N7DMA:

I' m trying to promote more 2-Meter activity in southern Arizona. We currently have a simplex group on FM, but I' d also like to see more activity on 2-Meter weak signal modes. Currently, the only activity I' ve really noticed on SSB (aside from the random QSO) is the Sunday Morning SWOT Net. I' m proposing a 2-Meter SSB Activity Night on Thursdays, starting 1/30/03. I realize it' s short notice, but tonight is just a preliminary meeting. I' ve gotten the word out to others, so there will probably be 4 or 5 of us on tonight. Future plans include a 2 Meter CW Activity Night. Will work out the plans for that one. I also plan on announcing this on the SWOT Net on Sunday morning.

This is the plan. Meet at 0200z (7 PM MST) on 144.210 (USB) every Thursday night. N7DMA will be Net Control. After check-ins, we' ll switch to a roundtable discussion format.

Due to equipment limitations of some of the locals who want to participate, this first net (and only the first) will be conducted with vertical polarization.

I' ve also included this information on my web site (www.n7dma.com, follow the NASA Link).

Thanks es 73,
Karl N7DMA

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.

Northern California (Sunday)

Month of January:

01/05 – 93

01/12 – 88

01/19 - 79

01/26 - 78

Total of 16 different Grids, 3 states and a breakdown of
22 checked in once
32 checked in twice
34 checked in three times
34 checked in all four time for the month....

Northern Missouri (Monday)

01/06... 39/19 New Record
01/13... 38/19 01/20... 22/09 01/27... 22/13

Central Louisiana (Tuesday)

01/21... 07/07 01/28...11/09 02/04... 10/10
02/11... 10/08

North Texas (Wednesday)

01/22... 27/14 01/29... 36/20 02/05... 27/10
02/12... 28/15

Southwest Oklahoma (Thursday)

01/23... 07/?? 01/30... 05/?? 02/06... No Report
02/13 ... No Report

East Texas Pineywoods (Saturday)

01/25... 12/06 02/01... 16/07 02/08... 15/07
02/15 ... 09/05

SWOT OFFICER NOMINATION

I nominate _____ for the office of:

Name & Call

Circle to identify:

- Chairman**
- Vice-Chairman**
- Secretary-Treasurer**
- Board Member – (4 Positions)**

From: _____
Your Name, Call and SWOT Number

**Send to: KA5DWI, Art Jackson, 6516 Simmons Rd., N Richland Hills, TX 76180-4243 or
Email to: ka5dwi@sbcglobal.net**

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---\$12.00_____ Renewal---\$12.00_____

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	ALBUQUERQUE	NEW MEXICO	144.200	N5XZM BOBBY
MON	8:00P	COLORADO	ROCKY MT. VHF +	144.220	N0VSB W6OAL N0POH
MON	8:00P	N. CENTRAL MO.	N. CENTRAL MO.	144.250	N0PB PHIL KB0PE DAVE
MON	8:00P	SANDUSKY	E. MICHIGAN VHF	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
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	KA6CHJ PAUL
THU	7:30P	DUNCAN OK	SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA	144.250	K5WPN WADE
THU	9:00P	TENNESSE	UPPER CUMBERLAND	144.225	N2BR BOBBY
SAT	7:00A	EAST TEXAS	PINEYWOODS	144.250	K5LOW DON