



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 # 300

MAY/JUNE 2004

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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 a 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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The Chairman's Corner

By Art Jackson, KA5DWI

Now that I have spent weeks trying to figure out the attitudes of this group, it is time to resolve where we are going from here.

The last 18 weeks has been Hell for me. I admit a 51-year old scholar has experience and discipline to take the rigors of a full-time college curriculum. Unfortunately, the age and interruptions tend to take a toll on you. On the good side, I still maintained the 4.0, was selected for an Honors organization (I was not the oldest) and received a Mathematics department award. On the bad side, I wrote 13 papers, studied every weekend rather than working DX and spent my Spring Break working on the Bulletin. I am a bit burnt out, but I know it is time to refocus my attention to other matters.

I have had to put the issues of this organization on the backburner and it is now it is time to handle them and resolve as many as we can.

First Issue: SWOT Homepage

The spring has at least been fairly quiet. At least we did not lose the Website at any time, compared to what happened in the winter.

John Petersen, KM5ES has expressed to me the desire to pass the reigns of the website to someone else. Lee Kemp, N5TIF has agreed to take it over.

Regardless of who is the Webmaster, I have decided that we will no longer use the services of HostOnce to house the Website. They did okay when it was up, but being in England added an entire set of problems. They just failed to keep us informed of problems and intentions. You might say that they seriously lacked in customer service skills.

Our challenge now is to get all the parties together and get it completed. I always appreciate everyone's thoughts and ideas. Let Lee or myself know what you want in the new site. I personally am highly impressed with what the Europeans are doing on their VHF sites. In the long run, I would hope that this is the direction we go. I also want your opinions to whether you do or would use it. That brings us to the next is issue.

Second Issue: Membership Involvement

This is a non-profit Amateur Radio club. Everything we do is on our personal time and efforts. To be successful, we are dependent on the efforts, time and contributions of the members.

Our strength comes from our Nets. If we didn't have them, SWOT wouldn't be around. Phil N0PB, Bob W5FKN and the entire NORCAL group continue to have outstanding numbers. We definitely need additional check-ins for the other Nets, as well as backup Net controls. In addition, we could use a few more Nets. These numbers sadly have declined.

I strongly believe in supporting and informing all the membership of non-SWOT nets as well. My biggest disappointment is that we receive absolutely no information from others concerning those Nets.

Third Issue: By-Laws and Attitudes

My response from the membership concerning the By-Laws was extremely disappointing. The attempt of updating this was get us in line with other radio clubs. Whether you were for or against it, this was an opportunity for all us to show interest in SWOT and express your opinion. That leads me to my next concern. Does anybody care anymore?

The more I try, the less I seem to get in return. I am beginning to believe that this end of the Ham community is becoming highly individualistic. Very few care about the group as a whole. Obviously, a tremendous amount of competition exists for what time, modes and interests we spend on the bands. I continue to see members and past members starting their own enterprises and not considering to inform SWOT or ask for our support or solicitations. It has always been there.

Fourth Issue: Where we go from here?

HamCom will be on Friday and Saturday June 18-19. Like last year, I would like to gather as many members as possible for lunch at a good local establishment at 11:30AM Saturday.

Prior to then, I would like all of you to visit the SWOT Booth inside the Flea Market. I will have a copy of the proposed By-Laws. I would appreciate your comments and thoughts. In addition, I need you all to express your feelings about the organization and what you think we should do to get us growing. More important, what you can do for SWOT.

We will discuss these issues over Nachos, Enchiladas and Fajitas. After HamCom, we will introduce a few new proposals and completely redo, re-nominate and then elect officers and the Board.

Overview:

I still believe that given the correct circumstances that SWOT has much to offer. I still enjoy operating 2 Meter SSB and still get thrilled when we have the opportunity to work unusual and exciting propagation. I am also

realistic. If it has come to past that everyone wants to do his or her own thing. If they do not want to consider SWOT as their central, informative and supportive source, then it is time to accept it and move on to other constructive and beneficial avenues.

I look forward to seeing you and hearing from you all at HamCom. Email me or call me if you cannot attend HamCom and would like to pass your opinion.

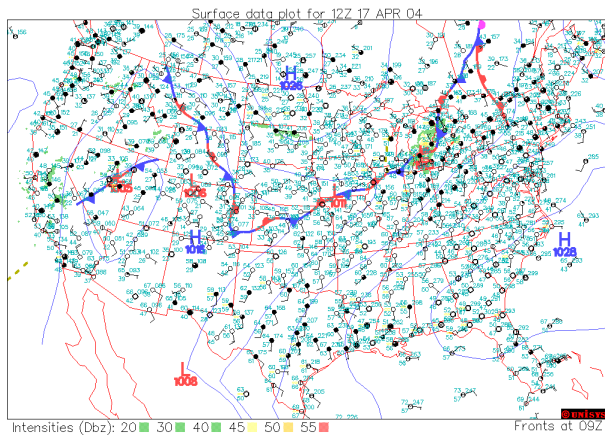
First Major Tropo Opening of 2004

By Art Jackson KA5DWI

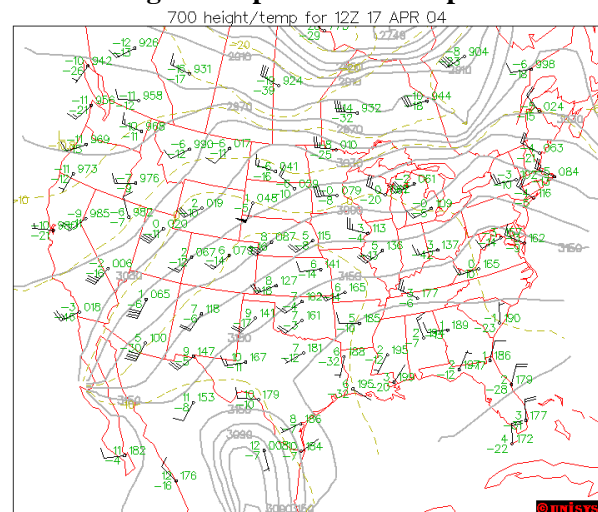
Seems as though we have had fewer opportunities this year. This opening was slightly unusual, as it did cover the West much better than most Tropo openings do this time of year. This report is on the 2nd day of a 3-day event.

Surface Data 12Z April 17

A large surface high pressure ridge extended from the Atlantic Ocean off of the coast of North Carolina to far west Texas. This was a great source of warm moist air. A Canadian cool front had stalled across the Midwest.

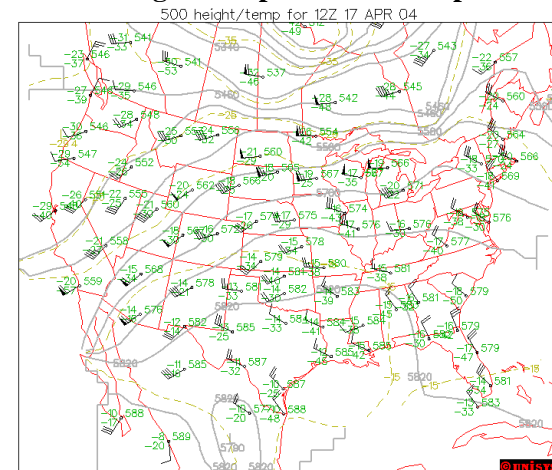


700 Mb height/Temperature 12Z April 17



A large ridge of upper air high pressure near 12,000 feet was located over the same general area.

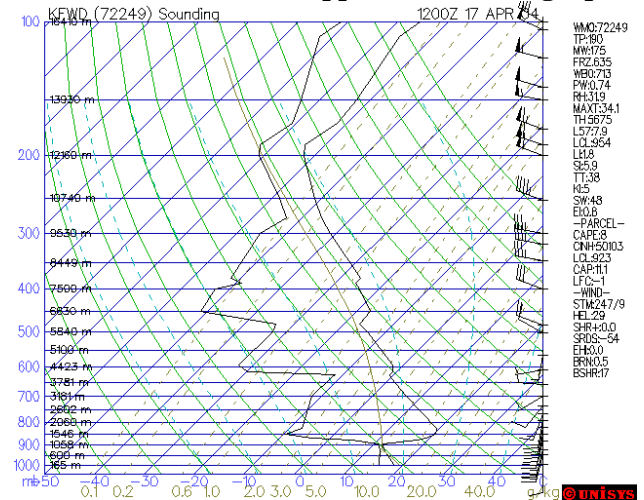
500 Mb height/Temperature 12Z April 17



Indicates that upper air high pressure at near 24,000 feet and that it exists from the surface to this level. The High pressure centers tended to move westward with height.

Whenever this phenomenon occurs, the chances of excellent Tropo conditions exist.

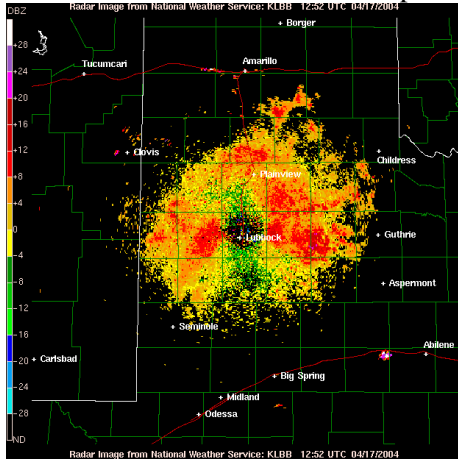
Dallas/Fort Worth TX Upper Air Sounding April 17



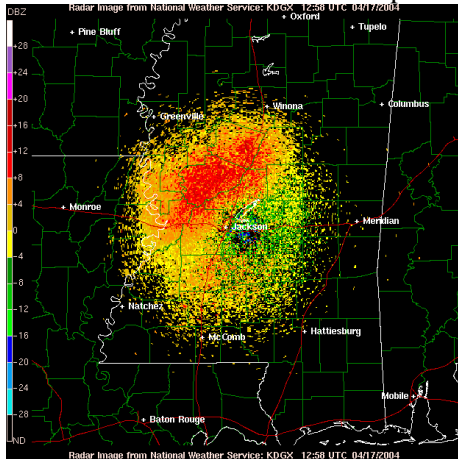
DFW was the center of some of the most intense inversions. This meant that much of the DX passed overhead. This sounding indicates 4 distinctive temperature inversions. The highest, near 25,000 feet. Each inversion is identified by the movement of the left line rapidly to the left (drop in dew point), as the right line kinks to the right (temperate increases).

An extensive area across the southeastern US experienced excellent Tropo. NWS NEXRAD radars showed these inversions as false echoes. THIS IS THE BEST CONFIRMATION THAT TROPO EXISTS!!!

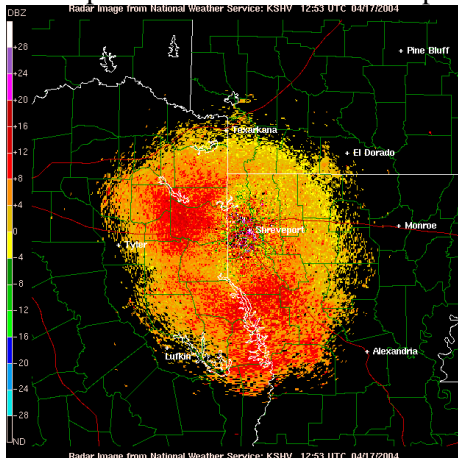
Amarillo TX NEXRAD 1252Z April 17



Jackson MS NEXRAD 1258Z April 17



Shreveport LA NEXRAD 1253Z April 17



The red shades of the radar do give a good indication what directions the Tropo tends to follow.

The 144 Propagation Logger was busy for the first time in 6 Months.

A number of reports on April 17 from the 144MHz Logger:

- 10:04 W5DDJ/EL09 5/9 in e159aw n5hyv 144.200 bands open
- 10:13 W5VTM EM-25 5/7.200 EL-09 W5DDJ
- 10:24 W5VTM/N5OSK 5/5 EM25 144.2 N5OSK 5/5 432.1/N5HYV EL59
- 10:49 KC5TER/EM26 5/5 IN EL59 N5HYV 144.210
- 11:09 W5LSB em20 into dm84 kd5rph

- 11:17 KD5RPH DM84 is Portales, N Mexico k5sw em25
- 11:17 KD5RPH DM84 5x6 .200 ssb k5sw em25
- 11:23 KD5RPH/DM84 5/7 144.2 AN 5/2 432.1 N5HYV/EL59
- 11:32 WB5OBS/5 EL39, on a 200' crane wid loop, 5x7 into OK k5sw em25
- 11:39 KD5RPH DM84 NM on 144.2 and 432.1 ----> K5QE EM31
- 11:40 W9XQ DM73 to EM13 W5LUA .200
- 11:40 W5LSB EM20 INTO EL79 KE4YYD
- 11:47 W9XQ DM73 .200 ssb Roswell, NM 5x7 k5sw em25
- 11:49 W5LUA 144200 EM13 INTO EM50, WRK KE4YYD KN4QS
- 11:54 KB5UOT DM84 Clovis, NM .195 ssb k5sw em25
- 11:54 W9XQ/DM73 5/2 144.2 N5HYV/EL59AW
- 11:54 w9xq dm73 144.2 57 into em31 de k5mq
- 12:07 W5UWB EL17 >> K5MQ EM31 144.210
- 12:09 W5LSB EM20 HOUSTON INTO EM55 MEMPHIS WB4LHD
- 12:12 k5wpm em14 144.210 57 into em31 de k5mq
- 12:14 W5UWB EL17 .205 ssb k5sw em25 ok
- 12:27 kd5rpe dm84 144.2 56 into em31 de k5mq
- 12:28 W9XQ DM73 Roswell, NM still cqng loud .200 ssb k5sw em25
- 12:28 W4WA looking west, hearing weak signals, from EM84 on 144.200
- 12:41 WA4EWA EM63 AL .195 looking west k5sw em25
- 12:50 w7cnk em15 144.1 55 into em31 de k5mq
- 12:50 ne0p em04 144.2 559 into em31 de k5mq
- 12:53 w9xq dm73 144.195 Roswell NM is still loud in LA de k5mq em31
- 13:12 K5DYY EL07 144.185 de NE0P
- 13:31 kb5wmy em32 .200 5/9 kc0hfl em 17
- 14:30 JUST WORKED WA4EWA EM63 5/9 N5TIF EM12
- 14:43 Just wrked NN5DX DM80 on 222.100-new grid # 130 k5sw em25
- 14:52 W5SFW DM95 says AL stns louder than me, DUCT overhead k5sw em25 ok
- 14:56 W3XO/5 EM00 53 into EM 74 de KA2KQM
- 15:33 NN5DX 5x1 KE4YYD EL79rvApr17 15:07 NN5DX DM80 .200 ssb now k5sw em25 ok
- 15:34 KE4YYD EL97 144.200 > DM80nv de NN5DX
- 15:37 kf4odi up for grabs frm. em 56 in tenn.
- 15:39 KA2KQM EM74 hrd .200 ssb, had phone call -missed him k5sw em25
- 15:43 NN5DX/DM80 --> AG4V/EM55 5x9++ 144.210
- 15:45 W5SFW DM95 .205, a EM54 cw stn on .210 k5sw em25
- 15:47 NN5DX DM80 on .210 ssb k5sw em25 ok
- 15:49 nn5dx peaked +20 kf4odi em56 tn
- 15:57 Just hrd KF4ODI EM56 wrk W5SFW DM95 .200 ssb k5sw em25
- 15:59 WT0A 144.2 en10 ae5b em02
- 15:59 NN5DX DM80 cqng .200 cw , loud off back of beam k5sw em25
- 16:03 NN5DX/DM80 5/9 144.2 5/5 432.1 N5HYV /EL59AW
- 16:06 WT0A EN10 144.200 25w only - worked! NN5DX DM80nv
- 16:22 NN5DX - clg u nw on .210 N0JK
- 16:24 wa4ewa em63 144.2 not over yet ae5b em02
- 16:34 NN5DX DM80. 144.200. Still 59 plus to EM35 de K5UR
- 16:41 w5jlc 144.200 dm81 de ae5b em02
- 16:55 Hring NN5DX DM80 working WA4EWA EM64 .200 ssb DUCT k5sw
- 17:00 W5SFW DM95 wrking EM51 via DUCT .200 ssb k5sw em25
- 17:11 N5IT/EM11 --> AG4V/EM55 539 144.200
- 17:27 w5wrl dm82 144.2 cw de ae5b

Many in the Southeast US were treated to New Mexico and West Texas QSO's with North to South QSOs thrown in.

On the following day, a dry line and accompanying Cool Front move through West Texas and ended any possibility of a repeat to that area. The Southeastern US continued to enjoy an additional day of Tropo.

Internet Links

A few links that are of interest to the Weak Signal enthusiast:

WSJT Downloads (Now at version 4.7.0)

<http://pulsar.princeton.edu/~joe/K1JT>

<http://pulsar.princeton.edu/~joe/K1JT/UPD470.EXE>

Enroll for the Sporadic E Alerting Service

<http://gooddx.xs4all.nl/cgi-bin/gooddxvisitors>

It is okay, but expect a few false reports. All comes from the 144 Propagation Logger. Someone uses "es" instead of "&" and it sets it off.

One of the best papers on Sporadic Es. This is a 43-page recap of one of the best recorded 2 Meter Sporadic E openings that occurred in Europe on May 20, 2003.

http://www.dk5ya.de/vldp_ea8.pdf

How VHF DX web pages should look. Excellent information. Yes, it is European.

<http://www.dk5ya.de/index.html>

DX Reports March 15- May 20

By Art Jackson KA5DWI

It has been a very quiet spring....

Aurora:

Reported on the following date:

04/03 - Midwest

Meteors:

Several reports of scatter received *not* during any of the minor or major showers.

Sporadic E/ FAI:

No reports.

Good 6 Meter openings reported on 5/11 and 5/15.

This season may be off to a slow start.

Es and FAI were reported in Europe on 5/16.

Tropo:

Still is an unusually slow season.

3/29 – NE States

4/11 – SE States

4/16-18 Entire Southeastern Quadrant

4/25 – SE States

5/04 – VE2

5/11 – Midwest

5/15 – Southern California

From: John Butrovich -W5UWB EL17

WSJT Successes

Here is some of the activity from this station the past month or so. I am back at work, so I am missing out on any weekday morning Tropo openings.

FYI - station here is: 6 - 1100w and 6el, 2- 1500w and 17el at 50', 222-1500w and 17el at 54', 432 - 160w and 25 el at 30', 1296 - 60w and 35el at 35', 2304 - 8w and 76el. 10GHz equipment in the garage, but not put up yet.

02/29	N4IS	EL96	Meteor Scatter	FSK441B	2 Mtrs
02/29	K5GMX	FN31	EME	JT65B	2 Mtrs
03/01	PA0JMV	JO21	EME	JT65B	2 Mtrs
03/04	WB9IIV	EN69	metero scatter	FSK441B	2 Mtrs
03/05	KG6DX	QK23	EME	JT65B	2 Mtrs
03/05	SP6GWB	JO80	EME	JT65B	2 Mtrs
03/07	IK7EZN	JN90	EME	JT65B	2 Mtrs
03/07	AD4ZB	EM65	meteor scatter	FSK441B	2 Mtrs
03/08	DL1GGT	JN58	EME	JT65B	2 Mtrs
03/10	KL7IZW	EM13	EME	JT65B	2 Mtrs**
03/11	AA9MY	EN50	EME	JT65B	2 Mtrs***
03/12	F9HS	JN23	EME	JT65B	2 Mtrs
02/14	N0PB	EM39	Meteor scatter	FSK441B/C	6&2 M
03/21	KE7NR		EME	JT65B	2 Mtrs
03/27	IK7EZN	JN90	EME	JT65B	2 Mtrs
03/27	I2FAK	JN90	EME	JT65B	2 Mtrs
03/27	W8WN	EM77	EME	JT65B	2 Mtrs

** Steve, KL7IZW was running 150w into a 34el, 100' long yagi, rope supported!

*** Bob, AA9MY was running 600w into a single M2 18xxx. These two stations are the first single yagi to single yagi contacts that I have made.

FYI only as it concerns 6 meters I worked IW5DHN via EME on 22 Feb. Very surprised with this minimal station here (1100w/6el). He was running 1500w and 4 x 7el.

It is amazing how many grids one can pick up on meter scatter using Joe Taylors digital mode. (FSK441A/B/C). His JT65B is working great also as you can see from the success I am having on EME with one yagi.

73 - John W5UWB EL17ax

What to expect May 15 – June 30

Generally, this is the best time of the year.

Meteors:

The Arietids begin on 5/21 and continue till 8/1. A few of the Sporadic E theorists have expressed the opinion that this shower is a factor in the formation of Sporadic Es. The shower peaks on June 7th or 8th. It is a daylight shower with a mid-morning and mid-afternoon peak. It favors North to South paths.

Do not fret if you work during the day. Many minor showers appear during the month for meteor work.

Aurora:

It might be finally slowing down. New regions are developing, but have not been too active. Predictions for possible disturbed conditions: 6/01. It appears that it will *not* produce any auroral activity.

Tropo:

Like Es, it is the best time of the year.

Look for the following:

- Fronts from Canada push through your area and then stall out as they approach the Gulf of Mexico.
- Developing heat waves. It indicates the domination of an Upper Air High Pressure ridge. Hot and Warm air is capped above.

E-Layer Propagation:

It is time to pay close attention to all openings!!

The vast majority of all E openings occur the month prior to and the month preceding the Summer solstice. Es are unpredictable, but the best openings show similar characteristics. Look for strong 10 Meter and 6 Meter openings very early in the morning. These openings tend to not end and actually carry on into the early afternoon. The longer the lower bands are open, the chances of a rise in MUF high enough to produce 2 Meter openings.

Moon:

Good days: 5/24-31, 6/06-10, 6/20-27

Bad days: 6/04

Good days are based on low sky noise and path loss readings (DEGR) less than 3dB, *Best* days at/or below 1dB. *Bad* days are those with a 10db plus reading.

Lunar, Solar and Astronomical Events

Lunar: Perigee – 6/03 Apogee – 5/21

Full Moon – 6/03 New Moon – 6/17

Highest Declination (Elevation): 5/22

Lowest Declination (Elevation): 6/04

Solar: Overhead:

5/25: - 21.1°N, 6/25: - 23.4°N

Summer Solstice: 6/21 0100 UTC

USAF Predicted Solar Flux Average:

5/19-5/15: 107

(Increase of 9 from current levels)

Meteors:

5/16-5/31: 17 Showers active, 6 Peak

6/01-6/15: 23 Showers active, 5 Peak

6/16-6/30: 23 Showers active, 11 Peak

Meteor info at:

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

Event & Contest Calendar 2004

<u>Month</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Event</u>
June	4-7	Six Club Contest http://6mt.com/contest.htm
June	5	Biannual Brunch and SWAP See below..
June	12-14	ARRL June VHF QSO Party
June	18-19	HamCom Arlington, Texas
June	19-20	SMIRK Contest
June	26-27	Field Day
July	17-18	CQ WW VHF Contest
July	22-25	Central States VHF Society Conference – Toronto, Ontario
August	7-8	ARRL UHF Contest

Send me dates that are important to you all.

SWOT Announcements and News

From Larry, W6OMF and Sue, K6SUE:

Biannual Brunch and SWAP

June 5th at 9:30AM PDT

Bakers Square at Harbor Blvd and Hwy 50

Time to dust off your war stories and come share.

73 Larry & Sue

Looking to Work 2 Meter PSK31?

Southern California WSWSS 2 Meter PSK31 Net

Every Tuesday at 8:30 P.M..PDT / 0330UTC

144.300 MHz

NCS KG6DHQ, Bob DM04xn/ Palmdale CA

Ed. Thank you Chuck WB6UPV

SWOT Net Reports

Here are the net reports for March, April and May.

Northern California (Sunday)

March we had 4 nets with a total of:

16 grids checking in

26 stations stopped by once

30 stations stopped by twice

28 stations stopped by three times

34 stations stopped by four times

April we totaled 3 nets with a total of

16 grids checking in

37 checked in once

30 checked in twice

45 checked in three times

Always a great group...

Northern Missouri (Monday)

Month of April:

Date	Check ins/Grids
04/05	28/17
04/12	30/16
04/19	29/10
04/26	28/14

Southwest Oklahoma (Thursday)

Date	Check ins /Grids/States
04/02	8/4/2
04/09	9/4/2
04/16	5/3/2
04/23	3/3/2

North Texas (Wednesday)

Date	Check ins/Grids
03/10	32/14
03/17	26/16
03/24	32/17
03/31	27/15
04/07	27/12
04/14	31/17
04/21	21/15
04/28	24/16
05/05	29/16
05/12/04	No Net (Dayton)

East Texas Pineywoods (Saturday)

Date	Check ins/Grids
03/13	15/07
03/20	9/03 From DFW
03/27	13/07
04/03	14/09
04/10	16/08
04/17	18/08
04/24	No Net (Weather)
05/01	No Net (Weather)
05/08	18/08
05/15	7/02 From DFW

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 _____

Receive Newsletter By Email: YES _____ NO _____

SWOT and Selected 2-Meter Nets

Day	Local Time	Area	Net	Frequency	Net Control Station
SUN	8:00P	VACAVILLE CA	NO. CALIFORNIA	144.250	W6OMF LARRY
SUN	8:30A	TUCSON AZ	ARIZONA	144.250	N7SQN AL
SUN	8:30P	ZEBULON NC		144.220	N1GMV
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
MON	8:00P	NE MISSOURI	NORTHEAST MISSOURI SWOT	144.250	N0PB PHIL
MON	8:00P	SANDUSKY	E. MICHIGAN VHF	144.250	W8IDT BART
MON	9:00P	TIDEWATER VA		144.230	
TUE	8:00P	CA.NO CTYS	NORCAL	144.250	KN6NG TONY
TUE	8:00P	GREENSBORO NC		144.225	K4HC
WED	9:00P	NO TEXAS	NORTH TEXAS SWOT	144.250	W5FKN BOB
THU	8:00P	CA SO CTYS	NORCAL	144.250	KA6CHJ PAUL
THU	9:00P	LAWTON/ DUNCAN OK	SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA SWOT	144.250	W5SSG JIM
THU	9:00P	TENNESSE	UPPER CUMBERLAND	144.225	N2BR BOBBY
SAT	7:00A	EAST TEXAS	PINEYWOODS SWOT	144.250	K5LOW DON

SWOT Nets in Bold