

Summer 2013

Issue # 337

SWOT Bulletin



In this Issue:

- The SWOT Bulletin Returns
- Chairman's Corner
- From the Editor's Desk

Individual Highlights:

While We Have Been Away	2
It's Never Too Late For Es	2
Meteor Showers	4
Upcoming Hamfests	5
Advantage Europe	5
New SWOT Members	5
Membership Form	6
Hamfest / Net Information	6

The Side-Winders-On-Two Radio Club formed in the mid-1970's and has members nationwide. We promote Single Sideband activities on the 2-Meter (144 MHz) Amateur Radio band. SWOT conducts Nets across the United States on or near 144.250 MHz USB and has over 3,600 registered members worldwide. This Bulletin is provided for our members and those interested in 2-Meter Sideband activities.

The SWOT Bulletin Returns

Well we are back after too long of an absence. Life in general is tough and it takes us away from what we love to do. This was no exception.

This bulletin can only be as good as the contributions we receive from its members. We need your help and support to spread the word that SWOT still exists and that its purpose is to promote activity on 2-Meter Sideband.

Anything that you can share with the members is always welcome here. It does not even need to be SWOT related. It just needs to be about 2-Meter Sideband activities or related to it.

Before we had the Internet, bulletins such as these were the best source of information what was happening on the band. Today, the reliance on the Internet is probably becoming a hindrance to

us gaining information because it is getting lost in the massive amounts of data from 1,000's of sources.

An important part of this phase of our hobby is that we all have a centralized point of information. This Bulletin is a reliable point of focus.

Please send your articles, news and events to: ka5dwi@sbcglobal.net

Chairman's Corner – Jimmy Johnson N5NET

Well we are finely back with a newsletter if everyone did not know we lost our Newsletter editor some time ago and with my wife's bad health, I did not have time to do one. If you have joined The Side Winders On Two in the last four or five years you probably won't remember Art, KA5DWI. So for

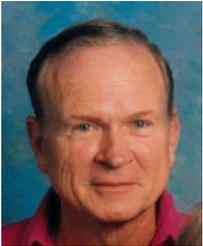
newer members, a little history. Art has served the club in just about every capacity there is and I am extremely happy to have him back as Editor for our newsletter. With that I will get to the heart of the matter. He needs your help. Please send him articles and pictures of your station, the

Hamfest and anything else that is going on in your area. That is about all I have time for this newsletter. My wife is still in the hospital, but hopeful she will get out in the next few days.

73 de N5NET
SWOT #3458



Larry Hogue W6OMF



John Butrovich III
W5UWB

While We Have Been Away.....

It is with much sadness that as time passes that we lose so many of the pioneers and the friends we have in this hobby.

Since our last Bulletin, we have lost two special members of SWOT.

In late June of 2012 due to complications of heart surgery, we lost Larry Hogue, W6OMF #155

In mid-April of 2013, we lost John Butrovich III, W5UWB #39.

Larry Hogue, W6OMF was one of the finest Hams that you could ever meet. Besides being proficient in the operation of weak signal, he was a wonderful event coordinator and knew the importance of gathering those in this hobby. His gatherings every September at his Vacaville ranch was world famous. He was NORCAL SWOT.

John Butrovich III, W5UWB was usually a guaranteed check-in for the Saturday Morning HQ SWOT Net since the late 1970's. John was active in many phases of weak signal. He was an avid 6-Meter DX'er and was still active on VHF EME in early 2013. Many of the digital modes available with WSJT were always maximized by his efforts. He was a regular at the Central States VHF Conference.

It's Never Too Late for Es de KA5DWI

Those of you that know me know me; I love a good Sporadic E opening and it doesn't matter what band either. Since 1970, I have used it or monitored it from 14 MHz to as high as analog Channel 7 television.

Over the years, I have achieved a good handle on the how's, the when's and the where's to working E's. I can tell you what is a good year or bad year. This year, 2013 has appeared to be bad, but still very consistent to what is normally observed.

We have had years when there were no 2-Meter openings, and years when we had 15. This year on 2-Meters (as of July 21) we have had only 4 reliable reports of openings and these were quick and spotty. Meanwhile in Europe, 2-Meter Es have been almost daily at times.

I have been lucky enough to enjoy many Es openings. My independent study using PropNET as a partner, I have had the chance to confirm or deny some theories plus come up with new ones. I have written two papers and one presentation for the Central States VHF Conference. When I started my study I thought Sporadic Es was what it states, *Sporadic*.

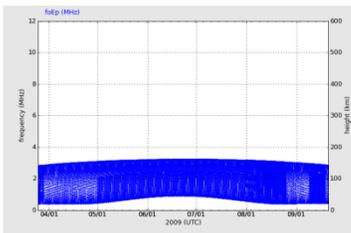
I was totally wrong. Es propagation during the Spring/Summer is highly predictable and cyclical. Es are as common as the Sun rising and the Sun setting. It is this daily phenomenon (the Sun) that controls it.

To get your Grid and State count up, you have to follow the **4-P's** on Sporadic-E:

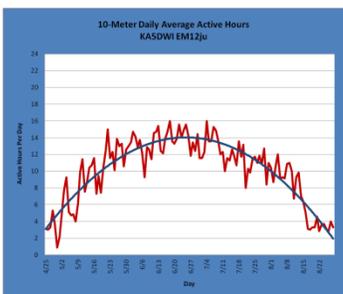
1. *Propagation*
2. *Preparedness*
3. *Presence*
4. *Patience.*

All of these will lead to each other towards a successful conclusion.

Propagation is obvious, can't work it without it. The patterns are consistent at mid-latitudes. The most active period is from April 25 till August 28. The latitude of the sun is greater than 13 degrees during this time. The peak is at the Summer Solstice. The season lasts from 8 weeks prior to, 10 weeks after the solstice. At mid-latitudes, E's occur from local 9-12 noon and again 7-9 PM. Most openings begin on



foEp- Es Critical Frequency
Source - HAARP



Daily Average of Active Hours "Es"
7-Years



6 and 10-Meters and are usually within a 700-1000 mile range.

That leads to **Preparedness**. Whenever an E-opening develops on 10 or 6-Meters and paths begin to shorten or become more intense, concentrate on 2-Meters in that area/direction. If you are able to identify a FM Broadcast station, chances are that if a 2-Meter E opening occurs, that is the direction it will happen. If you see an Internet posting or report of a 2-Meter opening, find the path mid-point and point the antenna towards it. K9SE's E Propagation program is a great tool in determining direction and intensity. DX Sherlock maps also show Es MUF, but many times its listing is well after the fact.

Next is **Presence**. This is where my better half believes I get a little too focused. You need to be close by, many times at an instant. I have used a low power FM broadcast band transmitter to monitor. I have at least two and sometimes three radios one (10, 6 & 2-Meters) monitoring conditions. I will have my Walkman on as I do my honey-do's. Of course, the Internet is up watching the loggers and real-time, but **DON'T** focus on them. Nice way to get out of painting the wall or trimming a hedge.

Last is **Patience**. You don't always get a 2-Meter opening. The physicists out there describe E-clouds as *patches* of ionization that are 100-125 km high, *inches* thick and *meters* wide. In other words, it *ain't* shooting fish in a barrel. Your fellow Ham 5 miles from you will hear that DX station and you won't hear squat! It has happened to me more than once and I've done it to a few.

Be courteous. Keep CQ's short. Listen and share the CQ's with your neighbors. Coverage is everything. Call CQ on .200 and QST you are listening on another frequency. With patience and coverage everybody gets to work something. Being long-winded and inconsiderate leads to incomplete QSO's, as well as hacked off Hams. I have received many a new grid and state from unselfish hams. It's nice to do the same. The heart rate jumped to 150 when I worked New Hampshire and Oregon from North Texas.

That comes to a final point. Every E-opening here on 2-Meters is a gift. This year we have not had any notable activity, but some years you might have 20 hours of off and on E conditions on 2-Meters. You could pick up 20-30 new grids and a dozen new states in a single season. This is what makes it fun. Being aware and involved leaves you with a good feeling of accomplishment.

Remember there is always a next time.

From the Editor's Desk – Art Jackson KA5DWI

Sorry that I have been away so long.

The last time you heard from me, I was beginning my first full year teaching Mathematics to High School students that hated school, hated teachers, hated Math and hated Math teachers!!!

I had a wonderful 5 years in which I helped around 300 students figure out Math, get them to graduate, go to college, and/or become taxpayers and hopefully good citizens.

To accomplish this, I have had to give up my energies to this part of the hobby and concentrate on my second career.

So for the past 5 years I brought the tower down. Was only on sporadically (favorite propagation term) and spent what limited time I had doing propagation research with the PropNET organization.

I did a presentation of my findings (7 years of research) to the Central States VHF Society Conference, wrote 2 papers for them, have been doing a Blog on my study findings. On top of that, I did a 2 episode podcast for NW7US - Tomas Hood's Solar and Propagation website, plus 2 other speaking engagements.

I did manage to work a

couple of 2-Meter Es openings and get the state count up to 43 and the grids above 200.

So after my high school teaching career has ended and my educational activities are now part-time. I saw Howard at HamCom and heard "help", then rejoined the Yahoo page and heard help again for this Bulletin, the Group page and the Website.

So now that I am involved with all three, I will do the best I can for all until someone wants the responsibly to take the ownership of each of them from me.



Notice that I can smile after bringing down the tower.



Visit us at:
<http://swotrc.net>

From the Editor's Desk - Continued

I immensely enjoy this hobby. Those of you that know me, or have heard me speak know my love for 2-Meter sideband.

Now, for the more serious side which must be addressed.

I am now looking for a place to retire and settle down. It appears to be Arizona in the next year. My wife wants to be closer to Northern California and

so do I. So I can now hobnob with that group ☺. Be mindful that I am always looking for someone to take over, but I will give you all the best I can as I do these jobs.

Since I am an educator, I will tend to focus on that. I enjoy sharing with all of you new, casual, and want-to-be operators of 2-Meter SSB the joys and experiences you can have here.

Also, any events and gatherings are always welcome on the Bulletin and we will post them here.

I will try to inform you of upcoming events to meet and greet other SWOT members.

I look forward to my new relationship with SWOT and hope you will share my enthusiasm.

73s Art Jackson KA5DWI

Meteor Showers – thanks to Gary Kronk

Delta Aquarids

The duration of the southern Delta Aquarid meteor shower covers the period of July 14 to August 18.

Maximum currently occurs on July 29/30 ($\lambda=125^\circ$), from an average radiant of RA=339°, DEC=-17°. The maximum hourly rate typically reaches 15-20.

The duration of the northern Delta Aquarid meteor shower covers the period of July 16 to September 10.

Maximum currently occurs on August 13/14 ($\lambda=139^\circ$), from an average radiant of RA=340°, DEC=-2°. maximum hourly rate typically reaches 10.

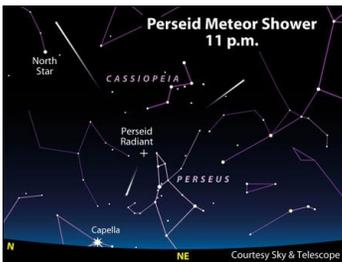
Perseids

This is the most famous of all meteor showers. It never fails to provide an impressive display and, due to its summertime appearance, it tends to provide the majority of meteors seen by non-astronomy enthusiasts.

This meteor shower gets the name "Perseids" because it appears to radiate from the constellation Perseus. An observer in the Northern Hemisphere can start seeing Perseid meteors as early as July 23, when one meteor every hour or so could be visible. During the next three weeks, there is a slow build-up. It is possible to spot five Perseids per hour at the beginning of August and perhaps 15 per hour by August 10.

The Perseids rapidly increase to a peak of 50-80 meteors per hour by the night of August 12/13 and then rapidly decline to about 10 per hour by August 15. The last night meteors are likely to be seen from this meteor shower is August 22, when an observer might see a Perseid every hour or so.

Meteor showers do not cause Es propagation, but tend to be an excellent trigger mechanism for these events. The Delta Aquarids are one such Meteor Shower that has helped the formation of 2-Meter Es.



The grandfather of all showers peaks in August

Upcoming Hamfests

- Texas State Convention (Austin Summerfest 2013)
- Great Lakes Division Convention & Columbus OH Hamfest
- New Mexico State Convention (Duke City Hamfest)
- Kansas State Convention
- 24th Annual Joplin Hamfest
- 44th Annual Queen Wilhelmina Hamfest
- Gainesville Hamfest 2013

- <http://www.austinsummerfest.org/>
- <http://www.columbushamfest.com>
- <http://dukecityhamfest.org>
- <http://centralksarc.com>
- <http://www.joplin-arc.org>
- <http://menahamfest.org>
- <http://www.gainesvillehamfest.org>

- August 2-3, 2013
- August 3, 2013
- August 9-11, 2013
- August 18, 2013
- August 23-24, 2013
- September 6-7, 2013
- September 7, 2013

Your input is always welcome here. You plan to attend one, let us know and we will broadcast it.

Advantage Europe – What is different over there?

May 2013

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2013

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July 2013 as of the 21st

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

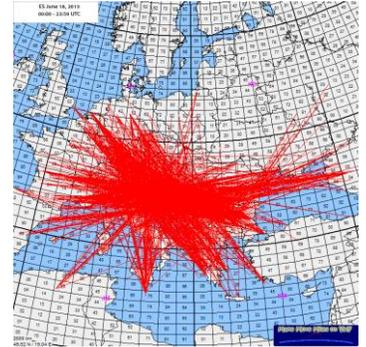
Blue – Es in Europe
Yellow – Es in N. America
Green – Es in both

For many years, Europe has out-reported and out-worked North America when it comes to 2-Meters Es. It is becoming embarrassing.

They are doing an excellent job and should be commended for it.

The question is what do they do different to enjoy such events, and next what should we be doing differently to have these events here.

It has nothing to do with Propagation. It has to do with: Preparedness, Presence and Patience.



One of two intense 2-Meter Es openings in Europe this year.



Could NLC's (Noctilucent Clouds) be a source?

Seen very early this season and usually not present in more Solar active years.

Source: Jim Henderson- Scotland

New SWOT Members

SWOT#	Call	Grid Sq	Name	City/State/Province/Country
3606	W5YCK	EM12	Richard H. Ellis	Red Oak TX
3608	KC5SLQ	EM12	Daryl Pate	Fort Worth TX
3611	WB2SNN	FN20	Charles Benn	South River NJ
3612	WB6VYH	CM98	Robert Wortman	Orangevale CA
3613	KI5KC	EM24	John L. Emmett	Antlers OK
3614	K8BXD	CM87	Duncan Steel	Oakland CA
3615	WW6USA	CM97	Larry Lecrone	Oakley CA
3616	K6BHC	CM88	Brian Campbell	Martinez CA
3617	KE5JXC	EL39	Arnold Lemaire	Kaplan LA
3618	WB6ATN	DM04	John Ruckert	Los Angeles CA
3619	AB3OO	FN00	Eric Chamberlain	Irwin PA
3620	W5DPT	EL29	Louis House	Deer Park TX
3621	K8LEN	EM87	Patrick M O'Brien	Perkin IL
3622	KD8ORN	EM89	Scot A Freeman	Logan OH
3623	AC8HU	EN81	Marcus Williams	Woodville OH
3624	NG9R	EN40	Danny Pease	Camp Point IL
3625	K7DAM	EM13	Douglas Mentzer	Princeton TX

To each of you welcome.....



SWOT Yahoo Group:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sidewindersontwo/>

We're on the Web!
 See us at:
<http://swotrc.net/>

Membership Form:

Enclosed find check/MO. to:

New member: \$6 – receive bulletin by email

\$12 – receive bulletin by US post office

I have worked the following SWOT members:

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

Renewing: \$6 – receive bulletin by email

\$12 – receive bulletin by US post office

My SWOT No. is _____

Name: _____ Call: _____

Grid Square: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Nos. _____

Optional: I check into the following nets: _____

E-mail _____

Receive Newsletter By Email: YES _____ NO _____

Note: Send all forms to the Secretary-Treasurer:

Howard Hallman WD5DJT, Sec.Treas.
 3230 Springfield Lancaster, TX
 75134-1214

Checks made payable to:

Howard Hallman, not SWOT

Sign-Ins at Ham-Com Plano TX June 7-8 2013

Name	Call	SWOT#	Grid Sq	Name	Call	SWOT#	Grid Sq
Howard Hallman	WD5DJT	893	EM12	Al Ward	W5LUA	97	EM13
Kent Britain	WA5VJB	193	EM12	Will Hoag	WA5OLT	2193	EM12
Wes Atchinson	WA5TKU		EM13	Gary Cooper	K5TKC	2766	EM17
Randon Porter	WA5BEG	3111	EM12	Bob Landrum	W5FKN	3152	EM13
Paul Newman	KA5TYW		EM12	Oscar Hoyt	K5UBS		
David DeSpain	W0BCG	1746	EM12	Bill Scurlock	K5GCW		EM12
Leo Hogard	N5DZO		EM13	Tim Marek	K7XC		EM12
Frank Krawiec	WB5NDJ		EM13	Art Jackson	KA5DWI	2497	EM12
David Reeda	WA0URJ	3499	EM13	Doug Mentzer	K7DAM	3625	EM13
Roger Ashcraft	KE5CCJ	3500	EM13	Rob McClure	KC5RET		
Larry Bowman	WB5UGC		EM21	Bobby Smith	W5IH		
Jim Flanders	W0OOG		EM13	Dwight Baldwin	KC5RAB		
Bobby Fisher	KG5BBH		EM13	Dale Clark	WA0CFQ		EM37
Maurice Martin	KM5RT		EM12	Thomas Kinser	KE5UUO		EM12
Floyd Rogers	KC5QBC		EM12	Mike Pilgrim	KF5MWH		EM12
Mike Baker	W8CM	1045	EM13				

About SWOT

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The Yahoo group page is a portal for those interested in the art of Weak Signal operations and the happenings in the SideWinders-On-Two Radio Club. Please visit: <http://swotrc.net> "The SWOT Homepage" to find information about us and important other links for Weak Signal operating. Please be sure to "Bookmark" or "Add To Favorites" the Homepage and the Yahoo Group

Use the SWOT Yahoo Group to report Weak Signal events, including Amateur Radio items to sell or trade, any VHF/UHF DX event, and Hamfests that you plan to visit and can meet with other SWOT members. Help attract new members and establish contact with older ones on our web-links. Keep an eye on the SWOT Homepage for announcements and the latest news. It is the location of the most recent Bulletin and in addition an archive of past ones.

We invite you to monitor, visit, participate and contribute with all of our social links.

SideWinders On Two Radio Club

