



# 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://www.swotvhf.org)

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

## BULLETIN # 294

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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

### **Rattling Off:**

Usually by this time of the year, I start suffering from the old "Let Down" syndrome. "Es" propagation is all but over and the Perseids have just become history. In addition, if you were lucky enough to get into a great weather pattern for Tropo ducting, we are beginning to see a bit of a change in those patterns. All the contests are over and you always wish you would be participated or done better. Other than the lucky ones who will gather at Larry's (W6OMF) place in California, my VHF and other Conference visits are probably now over for the year.

The summer was fun for me, despite me having the Biology class from Hell. I thought it would be a breeze after easily A'cing the first semester. Turns out I had an instructor whose tests were harder to figure out than determining an Es opening to Utah! I spent hours each week studying. It was the hardest "A" I ever made. Being a perfectionist has its drawbacks. The good news was that there were no Es openings during class and really one small Tropo opening was affected.

Despite the outside interruptions, I did get to break away for the Central States VHF Conference. I worked a few 2-Meter Es openings this summer and picked up a couple new grids here on 2, plus 18 new ones on 6 Meters. I am getting closer to the 200-Grid mark on 2 Meters and 500 on 6. I still made no impression on 432 MHz VUCC, with 9 to go for 50. I promised to do that, but other things got in the way. This summer wasn't spectacular, but I can't wait till next year.

### **What does the Fall bring:**

For me it will mean 15 College hours. Therefore there will be a ban on morning Tropo openings on Tuesdays and Thursday. The bands will require a 4-hour morning shut down on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Again, you will be allowed to work DX in my absence. As well, please report to us results of your efforts. Please do not rub it in cause I was wrapped up in Sociology.

My point here... I need articles and input for this Bulletin. I cannot, and will not do it alone. I always appreciate your efforts and reports. I will need them for a while. If anyone wants to be an Editor, I am accepting applications for the position. December might be tough for a Bulletin. I will have finals and as soon as they are over, this boy is heading for "J6" for sun, fun and DX.

### **Making Peace:**

If you all read my articles, you have noticed that I have not been what you would call "very happy" with staff at

CQ Communications Inc. The reason for this was discontent, was that I personally felt that SWOT had been ignored. Example, we were not listed as a VHF/UHF group in the Summer 2003 edition (Page 79).

I briefly met with Joe Lynch, N6CL the Editor of CQVHF Magazine at the Central States VHF Conference. I was glad to hear that he reads this Bulletin. He knew I had issues with them. I expressed my concerns and Joe at least heard me out.

So, I made peace with Joe by subscribing to CQVHF magazine. I will give them a year. If I do not see any mention of us within the next subscription year, I will not renew.

By the way... CQVHF magazine is really a very good magazine. Pick up a copy at your favorite Ham store or conference. Maybe you will get to read about us. Your turn, Joe!!!

### **SWOT Business:**

At the beginning of the summer, I posed to our Officers and Board to bring any issues that they felt needed to be addressed. So far, none of them have had any.

That could be good or, that could be bad. It's kind of saying the glass is half empty or half full. So not hearing anything, I decided I would bring up the first issue that it is time to look at.

The issue I have brought before the Board is our Articles of Association (Bylaws). Our current set has not been updated since 1978. The original Articles are not really that bad, they are just really out date. Too many things have changed since then and our focus and future direction needs to be better addressed.

I asked Wade Massey, KC5MGL to draw a new set of Bylaws. I also asked him to utilize the Bylaws of some other successful Ham organizations (i.e. SMIRK & 10-10 International) as a reference. Wade graciously accepted the chore and has drawn up a Draft for the board to act upon sometimes in the foreseeable future.

As soon as our Board and officers have acknowledged receiving it, we will immediately post it on the Yahoo Group Page and the SWOT Homepage for all to read. At that time, the membership will be able to bring up any issues directly with a Board member. I will also print it here in the Bulletin, hopefully next month. Then I hope you will see where we all hope to go with SWOT. That is if we can get the officers to confirm receipt. Which brings up the next point!!!

## **Rattling Part 2 (My Monthly Plea):**

First of all, I want to thank everyone who occasionally and regularly contributes time and energy to SWOT. The membership and I appreciate it.

Every now and then I will ask of some of you to keep me up to date on outstanding issues and current events in Weak Signal. I may drop you a line or an Email asking you for an update. Recently it seems that a lack of responses has become more the norm.

I want to remind everybody that this Club that has only one purpose. That purpose is to promote 2 Meter Sideband. We can't promote it if we don't share what we are doing.

## **The 37<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Central States VHF Society in Tulsa, Oklahoma** **July 24-27, 2003 Part 1**

**From Art Jackson KA5DWI**

As long as you enjoy the VHF/UHF/Microwave spectrum of Ham radio, this is the one event you should make a serious attempt to attend. The "Who's Who" of Weak Signal operations is usually in attendance for this annual event held on the last weekend of each July. This year it was held in the fine city of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The VHF group in and around Tulsa has hosted a few before, but not since 1985. The attendees were entertained at fine facility; a new Renaissance Hotel located on the Southeast side of Tulsa. Plenty of room, as well as a large number of adjacent hotels and restaurants were nearby. All the fast food one could stuff. Only problem, was I didn't know where any local cuisine locations were. I still ate well, almost ...

Due to a Biology exam on Thursday, I did not leave for Tulsa from Fort Worth until early Friday morning. Despite the early morning departure and 75-MPH speed limits on the Turnpikes, by the time I arrived late Friday morning I had missed the Antenna and Noise Figure Measurement competition. Another missed opportunity to see how much gain that 20+ year old Janel QSA5 preamp and 9 inch high low profile Squalo on the back of the Honda Accord has. I guess it will wait a bit longer.

As they are taking everything down, I bump into Larry, NOMST. Like me, we got there a little too late to get anything measured. I also noticed that Tulsa was a lot like Dallas/Ft. Worth. I seemed like it had turned a bit toasty outside. Time to head into those "Meat Locker" cold conference rooms.

I made my way back into the conference area and proceeded to find out where everything for the event was

located. Although a new and rather large facility is real nice, you sometimes feel like a rat in a maze. I must have entered two wrong rooms and asked 5 people that had nothing to do with it where main conference area was. Interesting that the map of the listed Conference Room V as number 9 on the listing!!! Finally, after using several GPS navigational devices, plus yelling "Where the H.. are you guys", I found that it was located next door the Flea Market Exhibit area. Duh!!

Yes, like most conference centers, they are also great facilities for Beef, chicken and pork storage when they are not used for meetings. I walked in and the first person I see is Don, NL7CO. Don was typing away on his laptop, so I decided to join him. One thing about sitting with Don is that he always has something to say on any subject and with the help of the room temperature you will not fall asleep during the presentations.

If you never have been to one of these conferences here is what to expect.

Several months before the conference, a call for papers is announced. Those who want to speak, turn their presentations into CSVHFS. These are accepted and printed by the ARRL into an excellent book (248 pages). Promptly at 1:00PM the President (Charlie Calhoun, K5TTT), welcomes you. At 1:05PM, the presentations begin. If you like Technical and Propagation, you are in Heaven. If you don't, go back to your room and take a nap.

The first presentation was from Bob Magnani - K6QXY. Bob is one of the best 6 Meter DX'ers in the world. His presentation was on 50MHz MUF Tracking. From what I recall, Bob's QTH sits up on an Alluvium ridge mountain over looking the Sonoma Valley and out towards the Pacific Ocean. Bob has built a series of log periodic antennas specially designed to capture various commercial, governmental and amateur radio beacons, just to tell him that opportunities exist for 6-Meter propagation. All I can say was that it kept me awake and very jealous. Once you have seen his presentation, you will understand why he posts so much DX on the 50MHz Propagation Logger.

Next on the list was Gerald Youngblood-AC5OG. The topic, "A Software Defined Radio for the Masses". Gerald is an Electrical Engineer that has at least a 200 IQ. He has developed an innovative RF detector that attaches to the sound card of a PC. It uses the processing capabilities of the computer along with software, to produce ultimate quality reception of signals. All I can say is that it is revolutionary and in due time the concepts presented will replace the many of the radios we have. The presentation was fascinating, lots of side conversations about the values of the

product. This was the first time that I have ever been “Shhhushed” at a Ham conference. Gerald was awarded the Chambers Award by CSVHF for his designs and technical achievement. His devices were the center of attention at the Flea Market.

Next was a presentation on Sliding Load. I don't remember much about it. Again, not all of the presentations are for everybody. Remember it is not nice to dose off and snore. The room temperature was at least still cold.

Well its break time and I get to see a few fellow SWOT members and officers. I see Dave-KB0PE, John-NE0P, Gerald-W5DBY, John-W5UWB and of course Howard-WD5DJT. Visits unfortunately are always too short cause you have to get back into the conference.

Next, we got back to my favorite subject, PROPAGATION!!! Jim Kennedy K6IMO/KH6 presents more on 6-Meter Propagation. The main topics are Trans-Equatorial (TE), Trans-Equatorial Long Path (TEL) and Trans Polar Path (TPL). For most of you, it may be boring. But, if you have ever worked Europe on 6 Meters from Texas with the Yagi pointing at 120°, you are interested in that subject!

We continued with propagation, this time Tropo. Joe Jurecka-N5PYK did a presentation on VHF and Above Tropo Ducting. Joe's presentation was nice, but when you put 50 or so long term VHF/UHF DX'ers with 30 plus years of experience in the room, you usually have around 50 different ideas what causes it. Of course, this student of Propagation (Me) feels like he has all the answers anyway. Joe did manage to demonstrate some important points to look for. He was a little short to demonstrate the true weather patterns to look for in my opinion. I admired his bravery to present a topic with so many opinions.

The final presentation was from the renowned Doctor Paul Shuch-N6TX. His presentation was on SETI Horn O' Plenty. I admire the Doctor's efforts in the search of extraterrestrial intelligent life, but I think it is more important to find intelligent life within our neighborhood in order to remove all the restrictions to our hobby.

So ended Friday's presentations. Time to find the hotel room. Once again, Mapquest points me in the wrong direction. At least I did find it. I drove three miles to find out it was ¼ mile away from the Renaissance. I cleaned up and met up with Don and Howard for a healthy, low-fat dinner at Fuddruckers and proceeded to the Flea Market.

Friday evening of the conference is when the Flea Market is held. This is not your typical Ham Flea Market. You won't find jewelry or arts and crafts. All you will find is pure VHF/UHF/Microwave goodies. The prime Commercial vendor is Down East Microwave. If you had the money, you would want one of everything in the place. This year, I walked out with absolutely nothing. At least I would get something the next day.

It was off to the Hospitality Suite for hor'dorves and a couple of cold ones. A nice group attended. You should have heard some of the stories told. This is one of those; “A good time was had by all.” evenings. It was back to the Hotel to review my emails, find out if I missed an opening and at least get a good night's rest.

One of these days, I propose that there be a side conference at Central States strictly covering propagation. I will be the moderator. On the panel will be: Emil Peacock W3EP, Robert Mobile K1SIX, Bob Magnani K6QXY, Jim Kennedy K6IMO/KH6, Pat Dyer WA5IYX and Lee Wical- KH6BZF. The others are screened so that those attending can add value to the meeting. The presentations and discussions are then compiled and published as the Real Answers to VHF/UHF Propagation.

Next month, I will share with you the second day of presentations, the Banquet and the Wilson Award recipient surprise.  
73's Art

## **W6OMF , Larry's Annual End of the Summer Gathering - Announcement**

**Date and Time:** August 30, 8 AM to Noon.

**Sponsors:** SideWinders On Two

Western States Weak Signal Society  
Vaca Valley RC

**Location:** Larry Hogue' s House and directions: 7372 Paddon Rd: W on Midway Rd off of either I-80 or I-505, turn right onto Paddon Rd, third driveway on right.

**Events:**

Flea Market, tailgating, VE Session (1 PM) VUCC checking and refreshments.

Talk in: 441.150 (77 Hz) 145.47 (127.3 Hz)

Admission: Free. Tables: Bring your own.

Larry Hogue, W6OMF, 7372 Paddon Rd, Vacaville, CA 95688-9634; 707-452-9701; [w6omf@arrl.net](mailto:w6omf@arrl.net)

73 Larry, W6OMF-Sue, K6SUE

**2003 Operating Activities – Notes and Pictures**

**From Gene Vantressee, WD5FDL:**

### **Fun in the sun during the 2003 Summer ARRL QSO Party**

I set up at Chisum Park in Hurst, Texas. A fellow Ham, Ron Boyk N5QV and I worked on 432 MHz. From the pictures, you can tell the heat got to my hair. I found out my 1296 MHz unit was not functioning properly. No XMIT or RCV although my SWR meter says it is 1.5 to 1. I found out I had bad new coax. I also have some antenna battle scars, got a little sunburn. So next time I am bringing the patio umbrella urrr ..uhh... renting the Pavillion instead, it has it has electricity.



### **Introducing the 2003 Fall VHF/UHF Sprints**

The Southeastern VHF Society is again sponsoring the Fall VHF/UHF Sprints.

All amateurs encouraged to participate, even if only in a small way. The rules have intentionally remained simple. They are meant to get everyone on and operate. The rules encourage rover, microwave operation and the

casual operator new to VHF/UHF.

The contest is intended for single operator, single transmitter entries. However, if one wishes to introduce a newcomer to weak signal vhf/uhf operations, the sponsors of the contest reserve the right to allow such entries, if identified as such. Operating categories are Single Op and Rover.

Sprints are held on different days for each band except for the Microwaves (902 and up) which are held together. The operating time for each Sprint is short (like a sprint :- ) and meant to compress the activity into a shorter time span.

This year DEMI is again supporting the Fall Sprints by sponsoring a participation award for the 222 and the Microwave (902+) Sprints. The awards are being sponsored to encourage amateurs to get active on the bands. Details are in the rules. Our thanks to DEMI for their continued support!

If you would like to sponsor a plaque for one of the Sprints please contact the Fall Sprints Chairman Jim Worsham W4KXY at [w4kxy@arrl.net](mailto:w4kxy@arrl.net).

While the rules for the Fall Sprints are set for 2003, we are always open to suggestions on how to improve them for the future. If you have an idea on how to make the Fall Sprints better for next year (different dates, times, rule change, etc.) please drop the Fall Sprints Chairman a note and help out.

73 and good luck!

Jim Worsham W4KXY  
[w4kxy@arrl.net](mailto:w4kxy@arrl.net)

An excerpt from the rules with the dates is below.

#### 2. Contest Period:

2.1 The 144 MHz Sprint will be from 7 PM to 11 PM local time on Monday September 22, 2003.

2.2 The 222 MHz Sprint will be from 7 PM to 11 PM local time on Tuesday September 30, 2003.

\*\*\* Prize - DEMI is sponsoring a participation award of a \$100 gift certificate to be presented at the SVHFS Conference. Winner to be drawn from the list of stations that turned logs in for the 222 MHz contest.

You do not have to be present at the conference to win.

2.3 The 432 MHz Sprint will be from 7 PM to 11 PM local time on Wednesday October 8, 2003.

2.4 The Microwave (902 MHz and above) Sprint will be from 6 AM to 1 PM local time on Saturday October 18,

2003. Choose any 5 hours, in one hour increments, to operate, and clearly indicate in log which hours were operated. The Microwave Sprint is one Sprint and certificates will be awarded for highest total score (i.e. total number of contacts on all bands 902 and above, times total of all multipliers, recounted separately on each band.)

\*\*\*Prize - DEMI is sponsoring a participation award of a \$100 gift certificate to be presented at the SVHFS Conference. Winner to be drawn from the list of stations that turned logs in for the 903 and above contest. You do not have to be present at the conference to win.

2.5 The 50 MHz Sprint starts 2300 UTC October 25, 2003 and ends 0300 UTC October 26, 2003.

Posted for Jim W4KXY ([w4kxy@arrl.net](mailto:w4kxy@arrl.net)) by, Greg Robinson KB4NVD  
[Rover@wireco.net](mailto:Rover@wireco.net)  
 SVHFS Fall Sprint Publicity Chairperson

## DX Reports July 16-August 15

By Art Jackson KA5DWI

### Second Good Month for DX!!!!

#### Aurora:

Picked up a bit.

7/26 – FN42/EN93

7/27 – CN88/CN96

7/29 – EN91/EN34

8/01 – EM59/EN44

8/06 – EN44 to EN35,EN82

#### Meteors:

#### Early Perseids Info!!!!

#### From John Butrovich W5UWB EL17:

Gents:

Fairly puny shower from my location (EL17ax). Ran some long schedules on 144MHz using WSJT441. 2 were busts and I had 3 completions.

The busts were at a range that takes "an act of God" to complete. AK3E at 1490 miles and NY2Z at 1440 miles.

The three completions on 13 August (all 144 MHz) were:

0305utc KA0RYT at 1193 miles

1150utc KN4SM at 1385 miles (furthest one)

1257utc W3KWH at 1327 miles

Rigs: 144 - 1500w and 17el at 50', 222 - 1500w and 17el at 54'.

73 - John W5UWB

#### From Lee Kemp, N5TIF EM12:

Since last night was a "No Go" due to storms, I got on first thing this morning. I completed only one QSO that was with K4QI FM06. At least it was a new grid. Seems

that a lot of them were trying to get to K5QE EM31. Here is the list that I did hear, but did not work. KB9WZJ EM69, K4MBI NO GRID, W3ZZ FM18, W3EME NO GRID, K3ACE NO GRID.

#### From Your Optimistic Chairman:

#### Fun on WSJT !!

Living in the middle a large Metro area isn't conducive to random Meteor work. There were 3 locals working off and on with WSJT and at least 2 others working SSB. So rather than adding to the mess, I decided to do some monitoring and if I really wanted someone, I would set up a quick Sked on WSJT.

A number of THE Big Guns seem to spend their time on 222 MHz and justifiably so. I noticed a number of long burns Wednesday morning on WSJT. Compared to last year, I seem to me to be much better. I easily completed a Sked to earn a new grid. Thank you Claude, W0IC

Here are examples from some of the my 2 Meter FSK441 captures from the shower. Many of these stations were pointing away from me!!  
 Station: Yaesu FT290R, KLM16LBX @ 35'

30 SECOND SEGMENT BEGINNING: HH:MM:SS  
 FOLLOWED BY SECONDS INTO THAT SEGMENT

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092831 10.3 1160 10 36 -64 D K0JI N,EPD K0RI
N7EPD K0RI N7EPD K0RI
092831 11.5 820 11 27 -64 D K0RI N7EPD K0RI
N7EPD K0RI N7EPD K0RI

093831 9.4 960 5 26 22 B CQ 0A3LTB CQ
WA3L4B8CQ W 3LTB BQ WA3LT
093831 10.4 60 2 16 22 P 7A3LTB7BR
093831 10.8 20 -1 00 65 R26
093831 10.9 80 2 16 22 LTB7BQ SC3LPR9
093831 11.6 320 3 26 22 B Q TA3LXB CQ
WA3LTB CQ WA3LTB CR WA2 T
093831 12.0 180 3 26 109 QOW13LTB 3Q WA3LTB
3Q37A3?TB
093831 12.6 180 3 26 22 $ CQ WA3$TB2CQ
WA3LTB CQ W13
093831 12.9 40 2 16 65 0A3LVB
093831 14.1 240 2 26 65 TB CQ?WA30TB CP
UA3LTB CQ WA1?TB $B0
093831 16.1 240 3 26 109 CQ WA3LTC CQ
WA3LTB3CQ WA3LTA,CQ 0A3
BURN 6.7 SECONDS!!!
104601 3.2 220 7 26 152 CQ NJ0U CU NJ0U CQ
NJ0U *
104601 3.6 40 3 16 109 CQ NXYXN
104601 3.7 180 8 26 109 CQ NJ0U
104601 3.8 20 0 00 130 RRR
104601 3.9 780 11 27 152 NJ0U CQ NJ0U CQ NJ0U
104601 4.7 1040 12 37 152 NJ0U CQ NJ0U CQ NJ0U
CQ *
104601 5.4 20 3 00 130 RRR
104601 5.8 580 11 27 152 CQ NJ0U CQ NJ0U CQ
NJ0 *
104601 6.4 40 6 16 152 NJ0U CY
104601 6.5 400 12 27 152 CQ NJ0U CQ NJ0U CQ
NJ0 *
104601 7.0 160 7 26 152 NJ0U CQ
104601 7.2 100 6 16 152 U CQ NJ0U CQ NJ0
104601 7.3 380 9 26 152 CQ NJ0U CQ NJ0U CQ
NJ0U *
```

104601	7.7	80	8	16	152	NJ0U CQ
104601	7.9	580	12	27	152	CQ NJ0U CQ NJ0U CQ
NJ0W *						
104601	8.5	120	10	26	109	NJ0U/CQ
104601	8.7	700	12	27	109	CQ NJ0U CQ NJ0U CQ
NNOU *						
104601	9.4	400	9	26	152	CQ NJ0U CQ NJ0U CQ
NJ0 *						
104601	9.9	420	9	26	152	CQ NJ0U CQ NJ0U
CQ#NJ0U *						
104601	10.3	1020	12	37	152	NJ0U CQ NJ0U CQ NJ0U
CQ *						
104601	11.7	400	11	27	152	CQ HJ0U
104601	12.1	100	4	16	109	NJ0U CQ NJ0U CQ
104601	12.3	300	9	26	152	CQ NHOU
104601	12.8	20	-1	00	130	RRR
104601	13.0	180	4	26	152	CQ NJ0U
104601	13.6	120	3	26	152	J0U CQ NJ0U CQ?NJ0U

**10.4 SECOND BURN!!**

104701	1.1	60	6	16	152	CQ NNOU
104701	14.1	740	4	26	152	,Z GQ NJ0U \$U BJ0T C
?NJYU KQ NJ05?CQ NJ						
104701	15.5	300	3	26	152	OU CQ NJ0U K NN0T
CY NJ0U CQ3N.0U CQ NJ						
104701	15.8	2020	8	36	152	CQ NJ0U CQ NJ0U CQ
NJ0U *						
104701	17.1	20	4	00	130	RRR
104701	18.7	360	3	26	152	Q B 0U CQ JJ0UOCQ
NJXZ?OZ NJ0U FY NJXU C						
104701	19.1	100	2	16	109	A BJYU GQ#NJ0U K1
104701	19.6	1180	7	36	152	CQ NJ0U CQ NJ0U
CQ#NJ0U *						
104701	22.5	540	4	26	152	Q NJ0U CQ BJ0U?CQ
LJ0U CP NJ0U CQ NJ0U B						
104701	23.1	80	2	16	109	.XQ GQ NN Y3R4

**9 SECOND BURN!!**

111301	10.5	620	4	26	-21	C E/SG N8OC VX1 G
N8OC VE1RF N8OC VZ1RG						

123131	18.6	100	6	16	-236	WA5UFH WB8TGY D
123131	18.8	120	5	26	-236	5UFH WB8TGY WA5UFH
125131	4.0	360	2	26	65	W0RRY WA4MVI W0RRY
WA4MVH *						
125131	4.5	1280	8	36	65	WA4MVI W0RRY WA4MVI
WXRRY *						

**Single Tone RRR's from W0IC DM79**

140100	4.8	20	-1	00	-127	RRR
140100	5.2	20	4	00	-127	RRR
140100	5.3	20	2	00	-127	RRR
140100	5.9	20	1	00	-127	RRR
140100	6.0	20	2	00	-127	RRR
140100	6.4	20	3	00	-127	RRR
140100	6.6	20	3	00	-127	RRR
140100	6.9	20	5	00	-127	RRR
140100	7.5	20	3	00	-127	RRR
140100	8.2	20	-1	00	-127	RRR
140100	9.0	20	0	00	-127	RRR
140100	9.4	20	0	00	-127	RRR
140100	17.2	20	2	00	-127	RRR
140300	14.4	20	4	00	-137	73
140300	14.5	20	0	00	-137	73
140400	15.0	20	9	00	-137	73

**10.2 SECOND BURN!!**

141731	0.0	520	10	26	-150	W0IC WA7AGK
141731	0.7	400	7	26	-150	W0IC WA7ADK
141731	1.2	2630	12	37	-150	WA7ADK W0IC WA7ADK
O1C *						
141731	3.9	2730	11	37	-150	W0IC WA7ADK W0IC
WA7ADK *						
141731	6.7	720	11	27	-150	W0IC WA7ADK
141731	7.5	280	2	26	-107	ADK W0IC WA7ADK W0HC
WA7ADK W0IC 0A7ADK						
141731	8.1	520	5	26	-107	W0IC WA7ADK W0IC
WA7ADK *						

**8.1 SECOND BURN!!**

120701	7.7	60	5	16	-64	NX BURC 8Z
120701	17.7	60	7	16	-150	TNX B RXY
120701	28.1	180	7	26	-193	FX BURCH 73
TNX7LVRCH 73 NX						
120731	10.4	20	-1	00	141	R27
120801	21.8	280	5	26	-193	JT FOQAH 73 V X
RURCH 4C TFH0#UQ H 70 T						
120801	22.1	160	3	26	-236	URCH S TAX BVRGK
720 N0/						

**K5CM on Backscatter, Saying TNX BURCH**

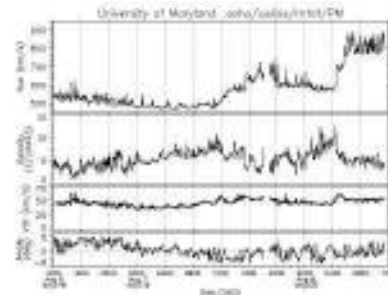
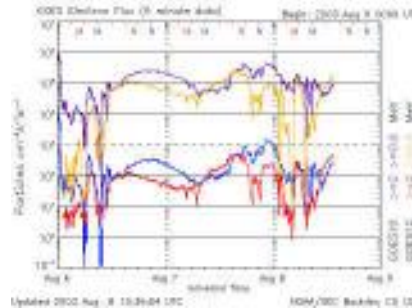
**Sporadic E/ FAI:**

I stick to my words from last year. It wasn't great, but a heck of a lot better that last year.

Small openings occurred on July 22 and August 2.

On August 7 & 8, once again we saw a Solar disturbance shake the ionosphere enough to fire up an Es / FAI event. This has happened 3 of the past 4 years.

**Electron Flux and Solar Monitor Charts 08/07-08:**



You will note a disturbance in the Electron Flux and a sudden increase in Solar Wind Speed, Density and Angle. The 2-Meter propagation began into the Electron disturbance and just as the Solar wind increased.

**A report from August 07-08, 2003:**

**From John Butrovich W5UWB EL17:**

Had good 6 meter opening to the Northwest the evening of 7 August local, working many in the Colorado/ New Mexico area. At 0318utc (now the 8th) worked W5ZO DM95 at about 500 +/- miles. Started then watching 2 meters. First 2 meter FAI appeared at 0344utc. Worked the following stations:

UTC Call / Grid	Mode	Prop	RST
0344 K7ICW-DM26	CW	FAI	52A
0352 K7ICW-DM26	SSB	E' s/FAI?	5x8

0401 N6RMJ- DM14 SSB FAI 5x6  
 0401 W7CS-DM42 SSB FAI 5x7  
 0402 WA7JTM-DM33 SSB FAI 5x5  
 0404 WB7ETR-DM43 SSB FAI 5x3  
 0406 W7IXA-DM43 SSB FAI 5x6  
 0407 N6CA-DM03 SSB FAI 5x3  
 0410 K7ICW-DM26 SSB FAI 4x1  
 0421 KF6JBB-DM12 SSB FAI 3x1  
 0421 K7ICW-DM26 CW FAI 31A  
 0444 N6RMJ- DM14 SSB FAI 5x5\*\*

\*\* Last signal heard via FAI.

All signals were heard with beam offset to the north about 15-20 degrees towards the maximum E's cloud noted on 6 meters.

AI, K7ICW and I tried 222 many times but noted NO signals there.

As usual, I announced on .200 indicating that I was listing down 20 on .180. Managed to move quite a few down there. .200 was a mad house!

Rig here: 1500w, 17el at 50' agl.  
 73 - John W5UWB EL17ax

**From Lee, N5TIF**

I had a nice opening here last night to the West. It was mostly FAI, with some Es and meteors thrown in. I first heard N6RMJ at 03:53UTC in DM14. He faded before we could make a complete contact. I then worked WB7ETR DM43 at 3:55, next WA7JTM DM33 at 3:56 and at 3:57 I was able to work N6RMJ DM14. My last QSO was K7ICW DM26 at 4:27. There was a lot of fading. This was for sure FAI. I had a blast. Wish that I had worked some new grids but that is the way it goes. Lee N5TIF 73

**Tropo:**

**The forgotten DX mode:**

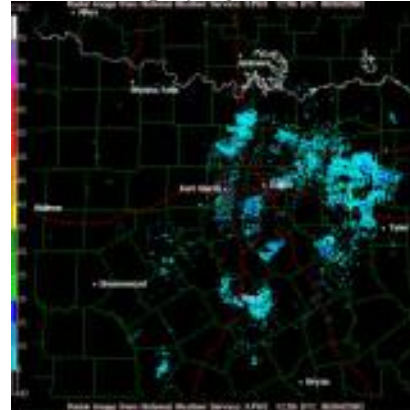
The northern half of the US seemed to benefit this period again. Despite a healthy heatwave in the south, no one really reported much down here.

Openings reported:

- 7/20 - Central Plains, Midwest and East Coast
- 7/22 - Central Plains
- 7/26 - Great Lakes/ Atlantic Coast
- 7/27 - Great Lakes
- 8/03 - West Coast
- 8/07 - Major Europe Opening England to Canary Islands
- They had all the fun this year.
- 8/13 - Great Lakes

Here in Texas on the morning of 8/04, TV DX was outstanding. San Antonio to Shreveport LA TV stations signals were as strong as local TV stations.

This a picture of the DFW National Weather Service Radar. Note the Echoes ...THEY ARE ALL FALSE,..displaying inversions.



No one was on 2 Meters!!!

**What to expect August 16–September 15:**  
**A Change in the Patterns.**

**Meteors:**

The Perseids are now finishing up. We will not see anything too good until October. Still, a large number of minor and variable showers are there to keep you going. WSJT opportunities are the best during these periods.

**Solar Influences:**

We have re-introduced Lee Wical's propagation information. Pay close attention to his alerts. There is a high degree of accuracy in his analysis.

**KH6BME Report:**

- As we venture into the murky realm of Astrophysics,
- DIS-BN 9/03
  - BN 9/02, 04, 08
  - LN-BN 8/25-28
  - LN 8/16-19, 22-24, 29, 9/05-07, 09-14, 18-19
  - HN-LN 8/21, 9/17
  - HN 8/19-20, 30-31, 9/01, 15-16

Bottom line, this period's data does not look promising. Aloha, Lee KH6BZF

Translation:

Disturbed, Below Normal, Low Normal, High Normal  
 Look for possible VHF conditions on Below Normal and Disturbed days.

**Aurora:**

Look for aurora possibilities around 8/25-28, 9/02-04 and 9/08-09 as possible active periods. Be sure to monitor *Spaceweather.Com* for possible events.

**Tropo:**

We start seeing the first fronts approach from the north. We also see the Bermuda High become established in the Southern USA. Heat waves will now breakup. Look for strong fronts to stall out as they move across the US.



Once again look for upper air high pressure to influence the formation of inversions above 10,000 feet.

### **E-Layer Propagation:**

Es are now ending.  
Still openings have occurred as late as August 18.  
As we approach disturbed Solar conditions, look for an opportunity. You will never know.

### **Moon:**

Best days: None again.  
Good days: 8/25-31, 09/09-11  
Bad days: 9/04-05  
*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 – 8/31, Apogee – 8/19

Full Moon – 9/10, New Moon – 8/27  
Highest Declination (Elevation):08/23  
Lowest Declination (Elevation):09/06

**Solar:** Overhead 8/16: - 13.8°N, 9/15: -3.1°N

**USAF Predicted Solar Flux Average:**

8/16-09/15: 116  
(Drop of 10 from prior month)

### **Meteors:**

8/16-8/31 -22 Active showers, 9 Peak  
9/01-9/15 - 21 Active showers, 10 Peak

Meteor info at:

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

## **Event & Contest Calender 2003**

### **Calendar:**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Event</b>
September	13-15	ARRL VHF QSO Party
September	22	144 MHz Fall Sprint
September	30	222 MHz Fall Sprint
October	8	432 MHz Fall Sprint
October	25-26	50 MHz Fall Sprint

Send me dates important to you all.

## **SWOT Announcements and News**

**From Wade Massey, KC5MGL**

### **Awards Manager:**

The following are the rules for the "Worked" Award program for SWOT. The program is to recognize those SWOT members who have made contacts with other SWOT members on the 2-Meter band via SSB or CW modes. The purpose of the program is to promote activity on the weak signal portion of the 2 meter band

and fellowship among the operators.

A certificate will be issued upon receipt and verification of a log reflecting that the member has worked 10 or more SWOT members.

I would prefer that these be active calls, since I have no way to verify when an operator may have become a Silent Key or the call sign expired.

The certificates will be eligible for additional endorsements for every group of 25 additional SWOT members worked.

At the present time I do not have the material to place endorsements on the certificates, but will make an announcement on this group when available.

Logs submitted for this Award should include the following information:

SWOT Number  
Call Sign  
Date & Time of Contact  
Frequency(Optional)  
Mode(Optional)

Please be sure to include you Call Sign, SWOT Number and your name, as you would like it to appear on the certificate with the log you submit.

These rules are subject to review and revision by the board of Directors of SWOT. Any revisions will be posted to this group and included in the SWOT newsletter.

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.

## **SWOT Net Reports**

Here are the net reports for May and June. 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 July:**

23 checked in once, 35 twice, 29 three times, 34 four times... 14 different grids

07/06 – 77      07/13 – 68      07/20 - 90  
07/27 – 73

An extremely hot hot July... A bit of Tropo gave us Oklahoma and Vancouver Island on Two meters. Not as good for us Northern stations. Members are looking forward to the gathering on the 30th of this month... Donations are coming in and we'll grab a radio for a raffle item. Campers are coming in the night before and Sue says dinner is at 7 PM. Right now we are at 12 for dinner.

Looking forward to seeing all....Larry W6OMF

**Northern Missouri (Monday)**

**Month of July:**

07/07... 13/10 07/14... 29/17 07/21... 14/9  
07/28... 22/15

**Central Louisiana (Tuesday)**

Still on Hold -No Nets

**North Texas (Wednesday)**

07/16... 19/9 07/23... 32/13 07/30... 29/14  
08/06... 31/15 08/13... 25/10

**Southwest Oklahoma (Thursday)**

No Reports

**East Texas Pineywoods (Saturday)**

07/19... 13/5 07/26... 18/9 08/02... 12/05  
07/12 ... 20/08 08/16... 17/6

**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 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. SWOT	144.250	N0PB PHIL
MON	8:00P	SANDUSKY	E. MICHIGAN VHF	144.250	W8IDT BART
TUE	8:00P	CA.NO CTYS	NORCAL	144.250	KF6BXH BILL
TUE POSTPONED	8:00P	EM31 LA.	CENTRAL LOUISIANA SWOT	144.250	K5MQ DAVE
WED	9:00P	NO TEXAS	NORTH TEXAS SWOT	144.250	W5FKN BOB
THU	8:00P	CA SO CTYS	NORCAL	144.250	KA6CHJ PAUL
THU	7:30P	DUNCAN OK	SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA SWOT	144.250	W5SSG JIM
THU	9:00P	TENNESSE	UPPER CUMBERLAND	144.225	N2BR BOBBY
SAT	7:00A	EAST TEXAS	PINEY WOODS	144.250	K5LOW DON