

SWOT Bulletin



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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 Continues

As was mentioned in the last Bulletin, this 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.

After completing a Bulletin for the first time in many months, there have been **very few** contributions.

We need your support and help to keep this going or at least someone with the spare time to search, locate and prod our members for things to report on.

So help us out whenever you can. It so much appreciated.

If it is interesting to you, it is interesting to someone else out there.

Please send your articles, news and events to: ka5dwi@yahoo.com

Chairman's Corner – Jimmy Johnson N5NET

From the Editor:
Jimmy has been committed full time to important family matters.

The good news is that Jimmy hopes to be back in full swing sometimes within the next few weeks.

Expect to hear more from Jimmy sooner than later.

Ed.

He has had to suspend his activities as NCS of the Thursday evening Eastern Oklahoma SWOT Net.

Look for Stan W5SKA or Larry W5VTM in the meantime.

SWOT Members Remembered

Our purpose is to not mourn, but instead celebrate those who have contributed to our hobby.

W5ARR SWOT# 3 Kenneth Martin, formerly of Springtown TX. Ken had not been active in several years (call expired 2005 and has been re-issued). One of the charter members of SWOT in 1976.

N6MDJ SWOT# None Jim Haggard Walnut Grove CA. Jim was known in NORCAL circles and was an avid 2-Meter SSB enthusiast.



c/o W6THW



A Return to Weak Signal.... Don Ross NL7CO/R

I actually got the project for this weekend done! The antennas are now configured for movement while roving on VHF contests. Now I have to start putting the beams together and getting the rest of the mast parts together. AND figuring out how to mount everything in the Escape. AND figure out how to power everything. AND figure out how to interface everything. AND ...

Don

Look for NL7CO during the September VHF Contest .. ed.



New Station Set Up de Gary WB5LFO

Thought I would send the pictures of the new (as of 10/3/13) tower and antennas. This is the first tower and beam setup I have ever had and I'm enjoying it very much so far.

A little background - I was licensed in 1973, in Austin, as WN5LFO and my mentor was W5SD, John (Nemo) Tekyl. He was one of the original owners of the Little Print Shop in Austin.

Moved to Corpus Christi in 1975, passed the Tech test before my Novice license expired and became WB5LFO. Passed the general in 1977 and the advanced in 1984. Passed the Extra in 1999.

Was laid off from the bank at which I worked in 1991 and moved the entire family to Massachusetts to join my father (W1GAF-SK) in his small porous plastics firm. Twenty years later I bought the company from my brother and sister and re-located the company to Texas, specifically to the small (pop. 135) town of Marietta, TX. My two sons now largely run the company. My oldest son, Eric passed his Tech in MA (2006) and has my dad's old call.

We live on 5 acres about 3 miles East of Marietta, TX, surrounded by a pine forest. I had saved up some money for retirement and a tower, but I did exceed my budget on the tower project. I am therefore still working part-time at the company, mostly doing the accounting and generally staying in the way of the boys Hi Hi. Age is 67 years.

As to the tower, it's a U.S. Tower HDX589MDPL which means it's 89 feet tall with 5 sections and has a Motorized Drive with Positive pull down and Level wind on the cable. The total antenna wind load is 24.5 sq ft and consists of the following (from bottom up):





Cushcraft XM-240 40M 2 element beam (because 40M is my favorite band)

2 - horizontally stacked M Squared 6M7JHV 7 element 6M beams

2 - horizontally stacked M Squared 432-9WL 28 element 440 Mhz beams

2 - horizontally stacked Cushcraft 17B2 17 element 2M beams

The main coax from the shack to the switch (Hofi 5 position) on the tower is 7/8" hardline with 0.8 db loss at 900Mhz per 100 feet and the feeds from the antennas to the are LMR600uf for the vhf/uhf and Davis Bury-Flex for the 40M and 6M.

It took a year to get from the planning stage to using the tower and antennas as I did all of the work myself, with help at times, except the actual pouring of the 13.5 cubic yards of concrete and the placement of the beams on the mast.

I have been checking into each net on 2 Meter SSB that I can find, and I hope to work as many of you as I can.

73, WB5LFO
Gary Sims

From the Editor's Desk – Art Jackson KA5DWI

Would you believe I almost had a Bulletin finished last January?

The last time you heard from me it appeared that I was on the road to retirement. The only sure thing was that I would be teaching part-time and I would have an opportunity to give some of my efforts towards doing the Bulletin

I had good intentions, but while I was completing the last Bulletin, my phone started ringing of the wall from schools looking for a Math teacher.

So much for an earlier retirement!

I once again taught Math to kids that hate Math and hate school in general. At the same time, I began

spending all my off time working towards retirement after the end of the 2013/14 school year.

For every spare minute the YL and I were preparing for relocation during the summer of 2014. I sadly had to take apart and store 30 plus years of Ham equipment for the move.

I was surprised how little room antennas take when broken down and how much weight and room all of the rigs, amplifiers and power supplies would take.

So, my time was very limited until this part of my life was completed.

I had hoped to move to Arizona, but the YL's

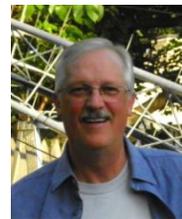
mother hated it. It changed to an East Texas lake home, but the YL hated it. Then we looked at the Texas Hill Country and it didn't work out. The home we liked got sold before we made an offer.

Then the YL's mother passed away!

Arizona was back in the picture!! We found our home in the Prescott, Arizona area. I am now putting things slowly back up. Spring 2015 is a good goal.

I do appreciate your patience. If you feel that I am not doing my job here, you can have it if you want it. ☺

73's Art KA5DWI/7
DM34un



This smile turned into tears as I was tearing it down and putting the shack away.



The new QTH with a monsoon in the background



Tropo Summertime: It Was Active, About No One Reported



Tropo reports 7/1-8/18/2014



KF6A Tropo Reports



2014 2-Meter Es

I have mentioned multiple times that Tropospheric Ducting is common place east of the Rocky Mountains to the Gulf and Atlantic coasts and in many valleys along the west coast, plus a path to Hawaii.

This year there appears to be a problem reporting it. I have my theories as to why. This article is to inform you that all you need to be is available and recognize the signs. In addition, to show you all to what a moderate effort can create when it exists.

Now a recap of what was reported from July 1 until August 18, 2014:

Using the DX Summit website as a source (DX Telnet reports), only 285 specific Tropo posts were made between the above dates. One fourth of these reports were made by KF6A - Dan in EM73 Michigan.

The first map shows grids that reported Tropo and the grids worked for those dates. Notice the complete lack of reports along the Gulf Coast.

The next map contains the reports of Dan Kaeo KF6A in

EN73. Dan made 75 reports of the total.

Dan runs about 350 watts into a 29-foot long homebrewed Yagi at 15 Feet high. Yes I said 15 feet high!!

With Tropo, it is all about forward gain and polarization. The phenomenon has to do with scattering of signals and not much about low angle signals.

Do not let websites like Hepburn and Mountainlake influence your activity.

2014 Spring/Summer Es Season – Another Down Year

What we call Sporadic Es are kind of fickle year to year. Some of the most dramatic openings one will ever experience are 2-Meter Sporadic Es. A quiet band can literally become like 20-Meters during high solar flux.

Working Es on 2-Meters takes a lot of patience. You need to wait for things to happen and you have to make noise. Experience will lead good operators to recognizing that it is about to happen.

Sadly, the number of reports of 2-Meter Es has declined. I honestly believe a lack of patience and operating has lead to a lack of results. The resurgence of solar activity surely influenced the

opportunities, but should not have eliminated them.

This season saw only 50 reports of Es in N. America on the clusters. It was also fairly quiet in Europe, which has not been the case for a number of years.

The map to the left shows who worked Es the entire season. It was evenly distributed throughout the continent except for a good concentration in Florida. Hardly anyone on the Gulf Coast other than Florida worked or reported Es. The plot in Arizona is me and I did not work any.

The key focal point of 2-Meter Es and Es on other bands is always Florida. Whenever Es occur, Florida

will usually be worked first as evidence to activity this year.

Although solar flux came back up this summer, the sun was not that active. Many early and late season Es openings are associated with FAI (Field-Aligned-Irregularities). There was no indication of that this season. Aurora has not been reported in North America this year. Worldwide, no Aurora has been reported south of a X"O"## grid square.

In my opinion, I believe our anemic solar cycle is the culprit for that result.

On the other hand, some patience and participation could have had better results.



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



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: _____ Checks made payable to:
 Howard Hallman WD5DJT, Sec.Treas. _____ Howard Hallman, not SWOT
 3230 Springfield Lancaster, TX
 75134-1214

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

Sign-Ins at Ham-Com Plano TX June 13-14 2014

Name	Call	SWOT#	Name	Call	SWOT#
Howard Hallman	WD5DJT	#893	Kent Britain	WA5VJB	#193
Randon Porter	WA5BEG	#3111	Jim Horton	WB8YWA	#1125
Jom Conner	N4BKX		Don Ross	NL7CO	#2873
Gary Cooper	K5TXC	#2766	Chas Bailey	KC5YZS	#3361
Ed Hudgens	WB4RHQ	#502	Rusty Motts	WK5R	#3402
Chuck Clark	AF8Z	#1322	Doyle Hardy	K5HTE	#3495
Bobby Smith	W5IH		Rick Ellis	KJ5UY	
Jim Flanders	W0OOG	#3627	Daryl Pate	KC5SLQ	#3608
Matt Wiley	N5ENU	#3599	Larry Wiley	W5LGW	
Gordon West	WB6NOA	#1032	Samuel J. Smith	WB5PUN	
Randy Baggett	K6SNE		Rusty Patten	WD5RP	#3566
Dan Abbott	W5CKK	#3133	Robert Bossmen	N5TI	
Danny Stephens	KB5WB		Jim Nordgren	W8EP	#3096
Sam Burnes	WY8V		Jack George	KI5EG	#3181
George Fletcher	AD5CQ		Frank Hormann	KM5I	
Davie Reeder	WA5URJ	#3499	James Hunt	KI5DQ	
Gary Tate	WT5H		Robert Webste	KF5ZCR	
Al Ward	W5LUA	#197			

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://swotrc.net/>

<http://swotrc.net/TheSWOTRCHP>

**SWOT and other
 2-Meter SSB Net
 Schedules can be
 found on the
 SWOT Homepage**

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.



New SWOT Members

SWOT#	Call	Name	City/State/Province/Country	Grid Sq
3626	WW5LOV	Mike Love	Idabel OK	EM23
3627	W0OOG	James A. Flanders	Plano TX	EM13
3628	AF5RS	Robert W. Storey	Highland Village TX	EM13
3629	W5WVH	Rick Hall	Tyler TX	EM22

To each of you welcome.....