



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 # 292

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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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The Chairman's Corner

By Art Jackson, KA5DWI

It sure has been a little quiet this month. Typically, May and June are busy months on 2 Meter Sideband. It appears to me that everyone has gone on vacation, is totally inundated at work or has changed his interests for the month. I am trying to remember when 2 Meters has been so quiet for a traditionally active time. Maybe we can blame the weather.

A month ago we were warming up quickly as it looked like a La Niña year. That is great for Tropo, bad for air-conditioning bills. All of the sudden, we start getting storms here and 7 inch deficit for rain becomes a 3 inch one overnight. With all the storms we had to say so long to Tropo, plus I am trying to remember when I had to disconnect and reconnect the equipment so much.

Nets

The first bad news of the period was from Dave Teague, K5MQ. Situations at his work have resulted in him discontinuing the 8:00PM Tuesday Night, Central Louisiana SWOT Net. Dave says he hopes to start it back up sometime in the foreseeable future. Dave has done a great job with the upstart net, plus had made great improvements with his station. Someone from Louisiana, Arkansas or Eastern Texas could do the club a favor and pick up the Net until Dave has a chance to return.

Our Nets are key to promoting SWOT membership, as well as 2 Meter weak-signal operations. It doesn't do any of us who enjoy this band any good to be listening to white noise. These nets have a direct impact in clubs future membership and growth. Besides Central Louisiana, in the past year, we have lost one excellent net and have had another struggle. I ask you all to participate by checking in, volunteering as a NCS and even starting an area SWOT Net or Activity Night. These nets can do so much to promote this part of the hobby. I asked you all to help and pitch in.

HamCom

HamCom has been one the absolute best Hamventions for many years. Its location, time of year and the facilities has turned this into one of the largest conventions, second only to Dayton. At the same time, it has had some troubling times and had managed to be a little short of expectations (Last year I stayed no longer than 2:00PM Saturday). Things looked promising this for this year, as it was to be ARRL National Convention. I was pleased that we got on the Program Schedule for Saturday. Unfortunately, HamCom ended up feeling differently. Out of the blue, I was called by the Program

Director to tell me that we had to move the meeting to Friday or Sunday. He was apologetic, but he did not give me a reason for the change. He said it was out of his control. I assume the ARRL had other self-promotion plans. It was decided to skip the meeting.

So therefore, we will have an informal lunch at a local restaurant and I'll spend the majority of the time at the SWOT Flea Market table with Howard meeting you all promoting SWOT. Come join us.

The Websites

John, KM5ES is in a festive mood. He is doing some revising of the website.

Also, the annual fees are due on our website. The expenses are not too extreme, in fact very reasonable (Approximately \$80/year). We would appreciate a contribution for the Website annual fees while you visit HamCom. Also feel free to mail something in if you can't make it.

The Sidewindersontwo Yahoo Group is also still there. And, every member or interested one is invited to join this site.

These sites are a great service for the membership. Make sure you ask questions about them at HamCom if you wish to know more about them.

The Bulletin

Well it looks like Work and Vacation schedules has temporarily removed everyone's writing talents. The Bulletin is a little light this month. Thank you Tip WA5UFH, Larry W6OMF and John W5UWB for your contributions this month.

73's

Art Jackson KA5DWI #2497

June 7th Brunch & Swap NORCAL Gathering

From Larry Hogue, W6OMF

It was the perfect morning. Sixty-five degrees and a light delta breeze blowing into the Sacramento Valley made for a great day. Forty Amateurs and Five of their family members join at the Bakers Square for brunch.

SWOT members were in for a great drawing as Gary, WB6G, #3282 donated his winning from the December gathering back to the group...

Winners were:

Bob, K6HEW, #3286 for \$100 of M² bucks
Bill, WA6CAX, #3400 won \$50 of M² Bucks

Donation Drawings were held:

The Garmin GPS was won by Bill, KD6LTB #3413
KC6TEU won a M² Seven Element Beam...

Door Prizes were also donated.

Greg, KJ6KO donated three sections of 7/8 hard line and
Travis, KM6QJ, #3330 donated two 7/8 connectors.
These were won by K7QXA, Ron, and WA6QAK, Bill #1497.

Two Atomic Clocks were donated my Sue and I, and
they were won by W6SR, Richard and KA6CHJ, Paul, #1431.

Two M² two meter HO loops were donated by M², and
they were won by KC6TEU, Ken and W6FAH, Bobby.

A multi meter was donated by Norm, KC6ZWT and
Fay, KF6QDG and it was won by Don, W6KBX.

WSWSS proceedings were donated by Paul, KA6CHJ
and won by Dave, W7KK.

Several attending were drawn for door prizes and
donated back to the pile. Thanks to K6QG, Lyle,
KC6ZWT, Norm, and KC6SEH, John...



KN6NG, #3173, Tony... Tony's wife in the Blue
KF6LGY, Evelen, N6JV, Norm, K6QG, Lyle, with his
back to us... checkered shirt
N6RMJ, Pat, #2827 Longest traveler 50 feet further than
Larry
K6HLH, Larry, #880 Longest traveler,
KD6LTB, Bill, #3413, KA6CHJ, Paul, #2724
W6KBX, Don, KJ6KO Greg, W7KK Dave and
W6IZU Ken
Sue is standing, K6SUE, #162

Great hams doing great things.

See you August 30th at the SWAP here in Vacaville...

Results – North American Meteor Scatter Rally 2003

From Randy Tipton, WA5UFH

Look at the web page for other information and
listing of high scorer winners....

<http://www.qsl.net/wa5ufh/Rally/NAHSMS.htm>

Also you might want to post the Summary Questions...

*Editor Note: I have had to edit in order to fit it on the
Bulletin. If in error check the NAHSMS Webpage*

Unassisted Single Band High Power

Call	Grid	TimeZ	50	144	222
Points	Grids	Score			
K1UHF	FN31	EDT	1/1		
1	1	1			

Unassisted Multiband Low Power

Call	Grid	TimeZ	50	144	222
Points	Grids	Score			
WA5UFH	EL19	CDT	15/15	6/6	
21	21	441			
W0AMT	EN34	CDT	1/1	1/1	
2	2	4			



Left to right..

KE6EVX, #3161, Tom, KF6BXH, #3206, Bill - Net
Control for SWOT on Tuesdays.
W6IZU, #3290, Ken, W6OMF, #155, Larry
KJ6KO, Greg, Non SWOT member but great supporter
KD6VNQ, #3281 David and W6KBX, Don, Great
supporter...

Unassisted Multiband High Power

Call	Grid	TimeZ	50	144	222
Points	Grids	Score			
W8WN	EM77	EDT	9/9	10/9	
19	18	342			
N8OC	EN83	EDT	5/5	2/2	
7	7	49			
WB2FKO/R	DM75,64 &65	MDT		6/3/3	
6	6	36			
WA3LTB	EN92	EDT		4/4	
4	4	16			
K2OVS	FN30	EDT	4/4		
4	4	16			
W5AK	EL29	CDT	3/3		
3	3	9			

Assisted Single Band High Power

Call	Grid	TimeZ	50	144	222
Points	Grids	Score			
K7BV	FN31	EDT	49/45		
49	45	2205			
K1SIX	FN43	EDT	21/21		
21	21	441			
N0UK	EN34	CDT	6/6		
6	6	36			
WB2SIH	FN31	EDT		4/4	
4	4	16			
W0IC	DM79	MDT	3/3		
3	3	9			

Assisted Multiband Low Power

Call	Grid	TimeZ	50	144	222
Points	Grids	Score			
KB4FQ	FM04	EDT	26/25	9/9	
35	34	1190			
K4MM	EL97	EDT	22/21	4/4	
26	25	650			
AF4O	EM55	CDT	17/16	8/7	
25	23	575			
WO9S	EN61	CDT	17/15	6/6	
23	21	483			
KR7O	DM07	PDT	10/10	10/10	
20	20	400			
KD5IUG	EM42	CDT	14/14	3/3	
17	17	289			
K0RI	DM78	MDT	8/8	5/5	
13	13	169			
AA9MY	EN50	CDT	10/10	2/2	
12	12	144			
KB9UMT	EN50	CDT	8/8	2/2	
10	10	100			
NJ0U	EN71	CDT	2/2	5/5	
7	7	49			
W8PAT	EN81	EDT	5/5	1/1	
6	6	36			
K5CZD	EM32	CDT	1/1	1/1	
2	2	4			

Assisted Multiband High Power

Call	Grid	TimeZ	50	144	222
Points	Grids	Score			
K1JT	FN20	EDT	32/29	32/27	6/2
70	58	4060			
K0AWU	EN37	CDT	20/19	13/12	6/2
39	33	1287			
W5SNX	EM73	EDT	17/16	11/11	
28	27	756			
W3UUM	EL29	CDT	16/16	10/10	
26	26	676			
N6ENU	DM04	PDT	8/7	11/11	3/1
22	19	418			

Randy Tipton WA5UFH (Tip)

Edna, Texas EL19pa

Email:wa5ufh@ykc.com

HomePage : www.qsl.net/wa5ufh

On the World Wide Web

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

Propagation Sites –This is the season!!

Real Time Space Weather

<http://www.visi.com/~brainiac/solar/>

Real Time Northeast USA MUF and E Layer Absorption Display

<http://digisonde.haystack.edu/latestFrames.htm>

QSL Net's Propagation Page

<http://dx.qsl.net/propagation/>

For Those That Can't Predict Tropo

<http://www.iprimus.ca/~hepburnw/tropo.html>

Real Time Proton Monitor (You can even predict SpEs when you learn to read it)

<http://umtof.umd.edu/pm>

DX Reports May 16-June 15

By Art Jackson KA5DWI

A strange month of activity!!

Aurora:

Alot of solar activity for being on the downslope of the solar cycle. The following solar data is from the NOAA Space Environment Center. It shows the UTC Date, Solar Flux, background Xray flux and flares by class.

Date	SF	Bkgnd	C	M	X
06/09	158	C1.8	13	2	1
06/10	177	C2.1	2	9	1
06/11	193	C3.3	2	8	1
06/12	164	C1.8	11	4	0

I do not recall such an active period for a quite a number of years. It will be interesting to see how long these disturbed region lasts.

It was a highly active month for Aurora. On the afternoon and early evening of 5/29, an Aurora occurred as far south as Dallas/Fort Worth Texas.

Dates with Aurora reports:
5/29-30, 6/02-04 & 6/08-09.

Meteor:

A number of meteor observers reported a healthy increase to the number of sporadic meteors compared to earlier in May.

Sporadic E:

This year's reports of Es is much more encouraging the last. During the reporting period, there were no less than seven (7) 2-Meter E openings.

The openings favored the west coast to Canada, Northeast US, VE3 to the Central Plains, Rocky Mountain States to South Texas.

Dates for 2 Meter Es were: 5/25, 5/30, 5/31, 6/09, 6/11, 6/14 and 6/15

One rare event occurred on 6/09. This being 222MHz Es!!

On this date an intense cloud formed over western panhandle of Texas. The first alert was a 350 mile 6 Meter Es QSO within West Texas.

John Butrovich in EL17 sends in the following report:

On 9 June I had E' s on 2 meters from 2336UTC until 0006utc the 10th. Worked the following stations:

2336 144 K0GU DN70mq
2341 144 W3DHJ DM68mn
2342 144 N7IJ DN44gb Best DX=1338mi
2343 144 W5DBY/M Colorado did not know GS
Ed. – Gerald is the luckiest person I know!!!
2346 144 WB9QDL/M DM79 50w and 1/4 whip !!!
2352 144 KC0COU DN70
2354 222 KC0COU DN70lq DX=964mi
2356 144 WB9QDL DM79kx at home DX=923mi
2357 222 KC0COU DN70 again!!

10 June:

0006 144 K0CAO DM79fs
Rig here: 1500w, 17el at 50' AGL.

I usually announce on the call freq and tell where I will be, thus contacts were usually at 144.215 or 144.180. If one doesn' t try to drag people off the call freq it becomes a virtual mad house!

73 - John W5UWB EL17ax

Lee Kemp, N5TIF sent in this short rundown:
I did not do so bad myself: DM65, DN30, DM26, DM68.

Unfortunately for your Editor, I was tied up on some other matters: I did get in briefly. The exciting QSO for me was at 2340 UTC with Art N5JEH in DM65rd Albuquerque, NM. This was the shortest distance Es QSO I have completed. This was 557.5 miles!!! Lee N5TIF's QSO was ½ mile shorter. Most of the other stations I heard or worked seemed to be FAI, rather than Sporadic Es. N5JEH was definitely Es as W5UWB's 222MHz Es QSO's would confirm.

Tropo:

The southern half of the US seemed to loose out during the period because of a stormy weather pattern. This time the Midwest, the Great Lakes and Central Plains seemed to receive the better conditions. Hawaii to California Tropo was reported for 9 days!!

Openings reported:

5/25, 6/02, 6/16 - Great Lake states

6/11- Northern Central Plains

6/09 – Central Plains

6/12 – Tennessee River Valley

5/20-23, 6/05, 6/08-09, 6/15 – Hawaii to California

What to expect June 16-July 15:

Second Best Month of the Year!!

Meteors:

No major showers occur during this time. Still there are plenty of minor showers available to provide good opportunities. Schedules should produce good results.

Aurora:

Look for aurora possibilities around 6/18, 6/24-26 and 6/29-7/03 as possible active periods. Be sure to monitor *Spaceweather.Com* for possible events.

Tropo:

There has been evidence that the El Niño has ended and the La Niña has begun. The weather patterns have not really shown this yet. We should start seeing a developing heat wave sometimes in the next couple of weeks. The heat wave will be caused by an upper air high-pressure system. Openings will occur along the western portions of the High.

E-Layer Propagation:

Es look much better this year. Be prepared to monitor all the indicators and keep an eye for activity beginning on 10 and 6 Meters. Very short skip on these bands leads to openings here.

Generally, from June 20-July 4 a major event will happen in which conditions will occur for a number of hours. Possibilities exist into early August. The peak will be around June 21st.

Moon:

Best days: None

Good days: 6/19-20, 07/01-08

Bad days: 7/12

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 – 7/10, Apogee – 6/24

Full Moon – 7/13, New Moon – 6/29

Highest Declination (Elevation):06/29-30

Lowest Declination (Elevation):07/12-13

Solar: Overhead 6/16: - 23.3°N, 7/15: -21.5°N

Summer Solstice: 6/21 19UT

USAF Predicted Solar Flux Average:

6/16-05/15: 127

(Change of 3 down from the prior month)

Meteors:

6/16-6/30 -23 Active showers, 11 Peak

6/01-6/15 - 33 Active showers, 15 Peak

Meteor info at:

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

Event & Contest Calender 2003

Calendar:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Event</u>
June	20-22	ARRL National Convention Ham-Com Arlington TX SWOT Gathering
June	21-22	SMIRK QSO Party
July	19-20	CQ WW VHF Contest
July	24-27	Central States VHF Conference Tulsa OK
August	2-3	ARRL UHF Contest
September	13-15	ARRL VHF QSO Party

Send me dates important to you all.

SWOT Net Announcements and News

Tuesday Evening – Central Louisiana SWOT Net Dave Teague K5MQ NCS:

The Net has been postponed till further notice. A substitute NCS is being requested. Dave hopes to start it up again in the near future.

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 May:

29 checked in once, 28 twice, 22 three times, 39 all four times.... 15 different grids

05/04 – 79 05/11 – 90
05/18 – 74 05/25 – 68

Northern Missouri (Monday)

Month of May:

4-Nets 89-Checkins 51-Grids

Central Louisiana (Tuesday)

No Nets

North Texas (Wednesday)

05/14... 31/15 05/21...25/15 05/28... 34/12
06/04... 27/13 06/11 ... No Net WX

Southwest Oklahoma (Thursday)

05/15... 03/02 05/22... 03/03 05/29...03/03
06/12... 04/02

East Texas Pineywoods (Saturday)

05/24... 07/04 05/31...12/06 06/07... 15/06
06/14 ... 11/08

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. 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	8:00P	EM31 LA.	CENTRAL LOUISIANA SWOT	144.250	K5MQ DAVE
WED	8:00P	IA-MO-IL	TRI STATE	144.250	WZ9D N9CXO
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	PINEYWOODS SWOT	144.250	K5LOW DON