



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 # 296

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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

The Tropo Gods Gave a Party... And I Just About Missed It!!!

Well the first question for you all was, "Where were you on September 6th & 7th.". I hope most of you got a chance to be at the 2-Meter radio and experience one of those unique events that will be talked about for years and years. It appears that a number of us just were busy with other matters or were just on the wrong sides of Canada and the United States.

If you have been elsewhere, I eluded to you all last month in the Bulletin that something big had happened in early September. Most of the eastern one-half of the United States experienced a Tropospheric Ducting opening of what you would call, "One for the Record Books". At the same time you could call the conditions during the opening somewhat strange. In any case, it made 20 plus years on this band worth the wait.

Approaching that weekend, I was heavily swamped by my studies. You might say I was totally removed. In preparing for a couple of upcoming exams, I at least had the computer up on the Internet and was on it with my Interactive Algebra class. My better half got home and demanded my time. Of course I obliged. Around 10:00PM, I decided to call it a day and shut down the computer. I traditionally review my Emails before I call it a day. Thank God I did that evening.

On the Yahoo SWOT Group page, I select "Individual Emails" for every post on the site. I admit that "Digests" and "No Emails" are less of a hassle, but if you want to know something right away, select "Individual Emails". I quickly glanced at the Emails and sure enough I see an Email from a post from Lee, N5TIF. The band is open!!!! I turned on the 2 Meter rig and started listening in on the madness.

I admit living in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex (MetroMess) has its disadvantages. We have too many Hams and too many antenna ordinances for one thing. Still for some reason, everyone was behaving fairly well and it was too overcrowded. There is usually one or two out there that have the drive and Mic gain cranked up too much, someone yelling on the Call Frequency and the unavoidable stepping on each other. Overall, everyone was very pleasant and respectful of each other this time. Also, most would inform the DX station that others were there to also work him. I am sure glad that a few of us still do that.

The conditions that Friday night was much like one of the first Tropo openings I remember way back in 1983. What caught me off guard was the conditions were more like "E" scatter rather than a Tropo opening. There weren't many signals and they tended to fade in and out. Once again, I was at a disadvantage. It was to the north and northeast. There I have the *Evil Hills* 1/4 mile from the house. Still I did manage to work central Ohio. Of course, it was someone that I had worked before on Es and Meteors. Signals were very strong to my north, but most of those stations were pointing towards the east rather than towards us.

Since I have been around for a while, I tend to now observe more than operate. I have had my VUCC for 15 years and have had well over 30 states for as long. Being here in this crowded area, I tend to sit back more and study the propagation. You will hear me when its valuable.

In my years on VHF, being a student of propagation has tremendously helped me get successes to offset the lack of a "Big Gun" station. As I am listening in, I was on the Internet looking at the Weather sites analyzing what was causing the opening. This one was classic!!!!

First of all, I do not use the Hepburn Tropo Prediction site. The site is nice to maybe alert you that something could occur. It is not precise and is wrong more than it is right. It's like predicting the weather. You can do a better job than the guys on TV and at the weather office at times when you know what to look for. I was pretty much convinced by late Saturday morning that we were in for a repeat performance that evening and it was going to be every bit as good and probably better. Later in the Bulletin I will display some of the charts I use.

I spent a nice peaceful Saturday on school and honey-do matters all the time knowing that the evening was going to be interesting. The YL had a long day herself at school and called it an early evening. About 30 seconds after she called it a night, the rig was on and I was looking to see what had developed. No surprises. I was hearing the Big Guns of McAlester Oklahoma and few of the locals engaged in the sport of hunting DX.

Unfortunately, my heart was sinking. The DX was coming from about 45 to 60 degrees from the QTH. Those (\$^*&#\$^*^##)(!\$#%% hills!!!!

Still, I am hearing things. And again what appeared to be odd was a total lack of real QRM. I am hearing fairly long DX, the locals who are close or pointing over me but, NO ONE IN BETWEEN!!! Ohio, Illinois, are there and suddenly. I worked a couple of them. I hear a few working in New England, but no luck for me. Only got

one new grid, but a new grid is a new grid. Odd conditions, it is more like Es than Tropo again. It is still there and it won't go away. I hear a little commotion around 190 and it is Ron WZ1V FN31 in Connecticut working here in Texas. I really don't think I can make it so I twist the rotor back and forth praying for some peak between those dang hills. His signal comes up and is very readable. Now patience is needed. He is attempting to complete with Al Ward W5LUA on another band. Wes Atchison, WA5TKU and I await his return. I need this state.

After a few minutes he returns completes with Wes and the good operator Wes is, he turns him over to me. He signal is down but strong enough to complete. He goes down into the noise (that's Tropo) when a new signal appears. This one will make the time, effort and frustrations of 20 plus years on 2 Meters worth it all.

I hear the call K1WHS of Dave Olean FN43. I immediately know who he is. I had copied Dave off the moon before. In a quivering and stuttering voice I call him. And Dave comes right back. We exchange grids, states and things I don't remember. I am totally shaking. I knew this one was special.

I post on the 144 MHz Propagation Logger, "I Am Having A Heart Attack, I just worked K1HWS in Maine!!" I couldn't even type right, K1WHS. I must have shook for at least a half hour. Even more interesting was that Dave and I tried on 432 MHz, but there really were no conditions there for me. I believe I barely heard him, but it could have easily been someone else.

In any case, after calming down just a little, I suddenly realized that this one QSO might mean something. Al Ward, W5LUA informs me that QSO was about 1600 miles. Then the little light in the brain goes off to let me know that, "Your QSO may have broke a record".

I proceed to listen up and down the band. This QSO is no fluke. I ran across Bob, W5FKN down on 175. Bob and with his outstanding view and station had created what had amounted to a big pileup. Bob was working the entire Midwest US at the time and I was not hearing many of them. Out of the blue, there is Dave K1WHS again as strong as he was earlier. Bob had worked him an hour earlier than I had.

As the evening wore on, the band did shift for me to the west and I managed to work a few stations. Once again I had worked many of them in the past on Es, Meteor and Tropo. This opening produced only 2 new grids (Dave's was not a new grid) and 2 new states. But I got a few

Big reminders of how much fun this can be and if you hang around long enough you get your rewards.

Thanks to all you "Big Guns". You give us less sophisticated stations a chance. Also thanks to Wes WA5TKU and Al Ward W5LUA for passing along to the DX stations that others were in there. Plus thanks everyone on Bob Colyard's DX World Website. Everyone was pretty much well behaved this time and there was a little sharing of info. Sometimes we like to keep the edge and report well after the fact.

Many fabulous "Over Land" record setting QSO's were completed during the opening. A large number of these QSO's were completed with very modest setups. On one of the record QSO's listed on the ARRL Website was accomplished with 10 watts and a 4 element Yagi, one with a antenna sitting on a porch and yours truly's QSO with a line of hills 70 feet higher than the top of this station's yagi at about 1/4 mile away.

Of course a great representation of SWOT members are now on the records list.

So this issue will contain tidbits of the opening. Look over the weather data and pick up what to look for the next time this happens. You Newbies and Old Timers that missed it, hang in there. Your chance will come.

Thanks to Sam K5SW, Ron WZ1V, Don NL7CO and Lee N5TIF for your contributions.

Enjoy and Happy DX
Art Jackson-KA5DWI

Applying for the VUCC

From Donald Ross NL7CO

These last several weeks have seen some really outstanding openings on 2m and along with the greater acceptance and use of some of the new digital modes like WSJT, more and more of our members are hitting that magic number of 100 confirmed grids. Just like Santa, you've checked the card list twice (or more!) and you're ready to submit for the VUCC – but how do you do it?

The first place to look is on the ARRL website (<http://www.arrl.org/awards/vucc/>) to get the specifics of the application process. The following is the summarized version of the process.

- Must be a current ARRL member. I know a ham who saves up his ARRL award applications and then

rejoins them every other year or so just to process his paperwork for new awards and endorsements.

- Must have QSL cards confirming two way contacts with 100 separate maidenhead grids after 1 January 1983.
- All contacts must be made from a location or locations within the same grid locator or locations in different grid locators no more than 50 miles apart.
- QSL cards and application forms (MSD-259 and MSD-260 – both forms are available in MS-Word format in the download section of the Members Only section of the SWOT website – www.swotvhf.org) must be submitted to an approved VHF Awards Manager for certification. They are not to be sent to the ARRL unless asked for. It is usually a good idea to have a few “extras” with you in case the card checked doesn’t like one or two of the cards. Since I rarely work only one person in a grid (unless using WSJT or PSK-31), I take all of the cards that I have for the new grids with me when I get cards checked. To find the nearest card checker, look at <http://www.arrl.org/awards/awardsearch/wassearchform1.php3> and find the one closest to you.
- Cards must be sorted alphabetically by field and then numerically from 00 to 99 within that field. This means DM80, DM98, EL17, EM04, EM12, etc.

The application fee is \$10.00 and for that you will receive your certificate, a printout of the grids that you used for your VUCC, and a VUCC pin.

Endorsements, also \$10.00, are only slightly different. Endorsements require that you annotate the grids that you are seeking in red on either the computer printout that is sent back to you or that you annotate those grids, in red, on ARRL form MSD-259.

Personally, I use the MS-Word version of the MSD-259 as I get the cards in. I enter the information in the appropriate blank and then changing its font to BOLD RED UNDERLINED. Once my endorsement is processed through the VUCC card checker, I save that copy on my hard drive as something like “2m VUCC 175” until I receive the confirmation from the ARRL. I also go back into my original MSD-259 and do a global change of font to BLACK and UNBOLDED so that I can start adding the new cards in when they come in.

Again, you fill out the paperwork and take it to your card checker and they send it off to the league just like your original VUCC application. After the processing is over, you get a sticker to put on your VUCC signifying the number of grids that you have confirmed.

All in all, it’s a pretty simple procedure and quite painless.

The Opening of the Year – Recap of the Tropo Opening September 6 –7, 2003

From Lee Kemp N5TIF:

For me it all started on 9/2/03, I was having a look at the prop logger and saw that K5SW EM25 was making some long haul contacts. It could only mean Tropo this time of the year. I made several calls but nothing on my end the waiting would begin.

9/3/03: I notice that the conditions were even better as more contacts were being made from EM25 and others. With a small cool front making its way here I knew that it was only a matter of time before I would be in on the action.

9/4/03: On this day nothing was new I thought that the movement of the cool front had really slowed down in a way that’s good but it was killing me that it was moving so slow.

9/5/03: ITS HERE my first contact was a local in em13 after a quick QSO I heard a very weak KB4KIP grid unknown. Then at 02:41 UTC K9HMB EN52 was in there I quickly worked him for a new one. Next, at 03:08, KG9BV EM79 another new grid. Ten minutes later I worked W8JKS EM89. Now I know that it was stretching out. For about an hour after that I called and scan up and down the band. Nothing, I was a little disappointed.

Then 04:22 I heard K2DRH EN41 there was a big pile up but someone got to him first then after that they moved to 432 or 222 not sure about that. And I would like to say that I really do hate that. Why can’t they work as many as they can then move to a different frequency. But that is another story.

That was it for the night. But I knew that things were heating up.

9/6/03: I was right this morning turned into great fun. 11:58. Started with KA9CFD EN40, yep another new grid. Then I heard Phil NOPB EM39 I had worked Phil in the past but he asked if I need any grids around him and I said yes! He said he would put the word out that I needed all the grids around he but his and one other. At 13:14 the band stretched out and worked K2AXX in FN12 Mark and I had a nice QSO for about 5 mins. then off for more grids. 13:21 worked KA0FBJ EN40 a new one. 13:22, then worked K9IMX EM38. I have worked

him on Es, scatter, now Tropo maybe one day I could work him on AU.

The evening of 9/6/03 was even better. To start out the evening I made my 2nd longest contact off the whole event. At 03:25 worked K1TEO FN31 wow now that is a stretched. I figured that could not be beat. Man was wrong 2 mins. later at 03:27 I worked Walter K1CMF FN42 1558.2 miles. This is his set up; an ICOM 746 PRO @ 100 watts to a 13B2 at only 10 feet. And yes he sent me a QSL card with him standing on his deck with his hand on the beam. This put me in the record books.

But the band was still wide open and had more work to do. At 03:34 worked W3KWH EN90 this one happen to be a club station nice to hear you guys. Next at 03:47 worked KB8U EN71 then off to another long haul it was WZ1V FN31 at 03:58. Next it was K8ZES FN02 at 04:00. The band was crowded but I managed to pull him out. At 04:33 worked NY2Z FN02 Sid. I thought I would never get his call right .. haha. 04:35 worked N9RAM EN41 then it seemed to cool off for a few mins.

Then at 05:05 worked K9MRI EN70 worked him in every mode but AU next W8BYA in EN70 as well. At 05:21 worked KB0PE EM48 another new one DAVE had been looking for me he is one of the guys up near Phil. And it was another new one for me. I did hear W9UD but never got to get him into the logbook.

9/7/03: This morning the band was partly shut down but I did manage to work K0RL EM49 another one that was looking for me that Phil sent out to chase after me. This was the last new grid that I worked. The rest were in OK and KS that I had worked before.

I think that this was a once in a lifetime opening glad that I was able to take avenged of it. This opening I was able to complete my VUCC for 2 Meters. As of now, I am still waiting on one card to get back. This one card will give me 111 grids confirmed then I will put them in the proper order get them over to Kent WA5VJB the card checker in the area.

It was fun hope that many of you enjoyed the opening as much as I did. Good luck to all.

Lee N5TIF
6M VUCC #1114 SWOT #3319

From Sam Whitley K5SW:

To All whom I have not already told of my good fortune to be in the right place at right time-

On 144 MHz:

I worked all of **W1** land except VT-none heard ME-K1WHS FN43 ME-

**My best of the period 2249.7 km

NH-W1ZC FN42

MA-K5MA FN41

RI-N1DZ FN41

CT-K1TEO, WZ1V, W1COT, K1PXE all FN31

W2 land

NY-K2AXX FN12, NY2Z FN02

NJ-K1JT, W2KV, K2SMN, K2PLL all FN20

W3 land

DE-none

MD-K1RZ, W3ZZ all FM19

PA-K3AX FN20, W3EME FM19, WA3LTB EN92,

K3ZGY FN00, N3FZ EN90

W4 land

GA-W4EUH

KY-K4TO EM77, KI4OT EM67

VA-W4RX FM19

AL-KU4WW EM54, WB4VHF EM64

NC-K4QI FM06

TN-KG4PSR EM65, WB4ECR EM66, AE4BK

EM75, KF4ODI EM55, WB4JGG EM75

SC-none

FL-none

W8 land

MI- OH- Too many worked to list

WV-K2PQI FM09

W9/W0 land

Too many to list, all states wrked-except CO, ND, SD

VE3 land

VE3AX FN02 wrked many times over the period

On 222 MHz I worked

IL-KR8L, W9RVG all EM57, K9SM EM59

MO-WA0SJR EM56, W0DQY EM48, K0WYN EM38

AR-KG5MD, N5DZQ both EM36

KS-N0LIE EM27

OH-K8TQK EM89

TN-WB4JGG EM75, KG4PSR EM65

IA-KM0T EN13

VA-W4RX FM19

MI-KB8U EN71

ONT-VE3AX FN02

CT-K1TEO FN31, state# 32, grid # 127, 2018.55 km-

**my best of the period

50 MHZ

K2DRH EN41-ran with Bob to see what lower freq prop was like and signal was very good Tropo

Thanks to internet postings to prompt all so that many QSO's were made that would have been passed up.
Sam K5SW EM25hr

From Ron Klimas WZ1V:

I'm surprised about the lack of reports so far from this past weekend Sept 6-7. This was a huge opening, I thought for sure everyone on here would be talking this up!

Here's my report from Sept 7th: I had just put up new 144-5WL, 222-5WL and 432-9WL Yagis on the tower Saturday afternoon. At 0200Z I fire up 2M and work KM5PO in EM12. I thought, man that antenna's working good, HI!

I wound up filling 2 log pages of 4'S 5'S 8's 9's and 0's on 2M, 222, and 432.

Some of the stations worked on 2M included K4TO EM77, KD4EVB EM78, WB8ED EM79, KG9BV EM79, WB8JHI EM79, K4OM EM88, N8OB EN80, AG4V EM55, K9OIM EM56, KC0ONF EM56, WA0SJR EM56, WA9GYH EM57, NM9H EM59, K5UR EM35, KG5MD EM36, W0DFK EM47, K0HHB EM48, KO0Z EM48, NI0D EM48, KA5DWI EM12, KM5OL EM13, W5FKN EM13, W5MB EM13, WA5TKU EM13, NL7CO EM04, KD5TGM EM15, K5CM EM25, K5SW EM25, W5VHF EM25, K5XH EM26, K5YY EM26, N6CL EM26, N0MST EM27, and best DX was N5TIF in EM12hk 1485 miles.

On 222, I worked K8TQK EM89, N8XA EM79, KB8U EN71, K4TO EM77, KR8L EM57, K5UR EM35, and best DX W5LUA EM13 1423 miles! Signals weren't as strong on 432, but worked K8TQK EM89, KB8U EN71, K4TO EM77, and best DX K5UR EM35 1164 miles. I put up some microwave antennas Sunday afternoon but that evening brought diminished conditions, just managed to work K4EJQ EM86 on 2m.

I'd like to personally thank Fred Stefanik N1DPM, for helping me put up the antennas, getting me back in the game, and making this all possible.
73, Ron WZ1V FN31mp

From Don Ross NL7CO:

Grid: EM04uo
Power: 400w
Antenna: Single M2 2M18XXX @ 55'

Readers Digest version:

QSO's: 26
States: 12 + Ontario
Grids: 23
Fun: Lots

DATE	TIME	CALL	GRID	ST	BAND
09/06	03:26	W2KV	FN20	NJ	2
09/06	03:30	K8TQK	EM89	OH	2
09/06	03:39	KG9BV	EM79	IN	2

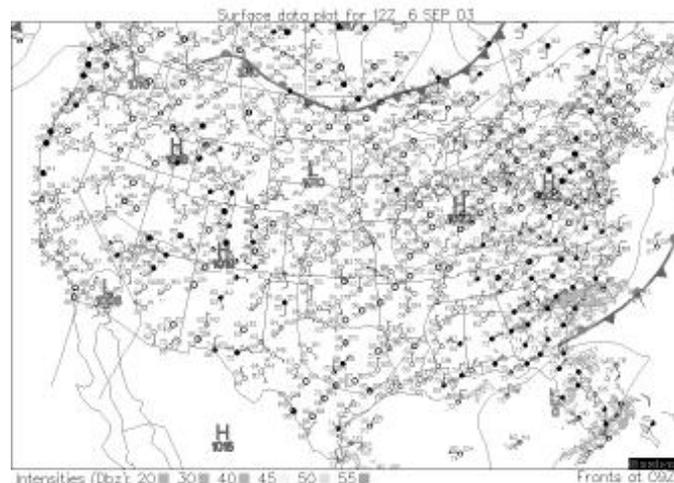
09/06	03:42	W9RVG	EM57	IL	2
09/06	03:44	K9HMB	EN52	IL	2
09/06	04:34	N0PB	EM39	MO	2
09/06	04:36	W0DQY	EM48	MO	2
09/06	11:57	VE3AX	FN02	ONT	2
09/06	12:03	KA9CFD	EN40	IL	2
09/06	12:03	N9OBB	EN41	IL	2
09/06/	12:20	K0UO	EM07	KS	2
09/06	12:35	K9IMX	EM38	MO	2
09/06	12:58	AB0SD	EN30	IA	2
09/07	03:40	NY2S	FN02	NY	2
09/07	03:56	WA0I	EM47	MO	2
09/07	05:05	W1ZC	FN42	NH	2
09/07	05:24	WZ1V	FN31	CT	2
09/073	05:32	K1RZ	FM19	MD	2
09/07	05:59	W8BIA	EN70	OH	2
09/07	12:37	K1TEO	FN31	CT	2
09/07	12:40	N8KOL	EN80	OH	2
09/07	13:50	W8TN	EM98	WV	2
09/07	14:01	K2SMN	FN20	NY	2
09/07	14:02	W8PAT	EN81	OH	2

So What Happened? :

On the surface, this opening was very similar to past great ones.

Source: Unisys Weather – <http://weather.unisys.com/>

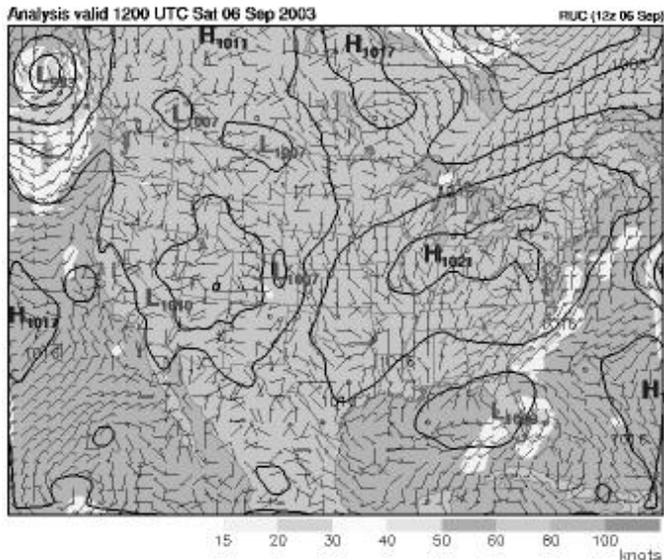
1) 9/06/03 Surface data



A Cool front had made its way out of Canada for a number of days. This front was the first major one since the Spring. It had stalled at the Gulf of Mexico and also just off the Atlantic Coast. Hurricane Fabian was east of North Carolina and heading away.

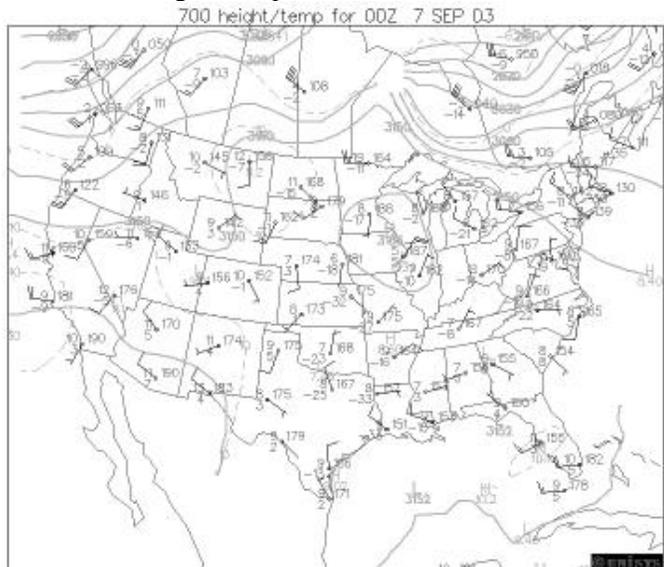
2) Detailed Surface features On 9/06/03

Wind Speed (knots) / MSLP (mb)



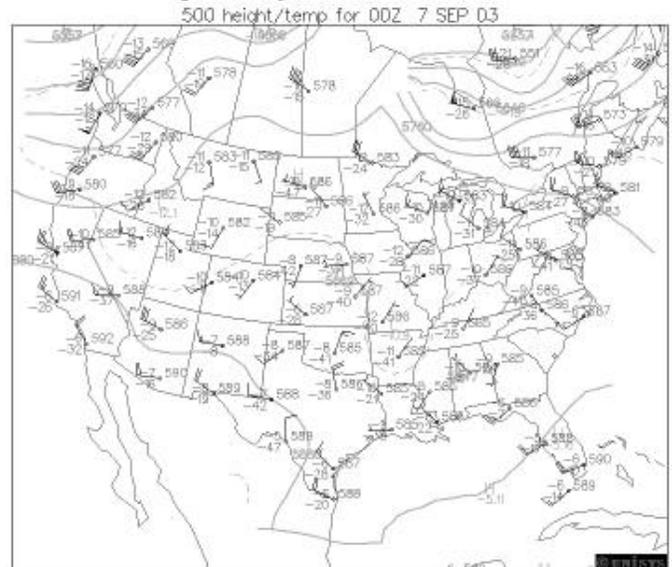
A very large surface high-pressure system centered over Illinois, behind the cool front, is stuck. High-pressure systems are cold-cored as they arrive from Canada. With the stalling situation, it is now pumping Warm air from the Atlantic, the land around the center (Southeast US and Central Plains). Heat Rises!!!

3) 700 Mb Height Temperatures (+/- 10,000Feet)



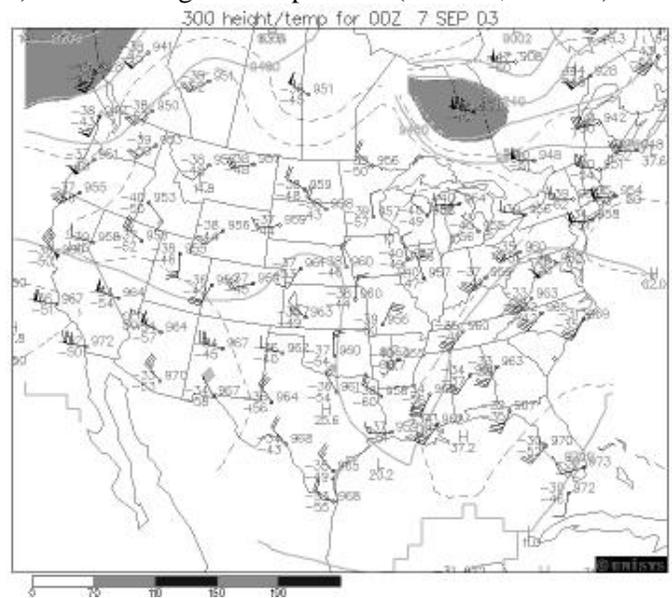
This chart should have provided some immediate answers. It actually provided more questions. A small center of High Pressure is located over Illinois. Normally in large openings, it would be much further south. The big factor was a complete lack of winds around the 10000 foot level. Temperature and Dew Point gaps were large from Texas to South Dakota to New York.

3) 500 Mb Height/Temperature (Near 20,000 Feet)



Once again, the key factor is no wind. There is a small trace of a High Pressure center over Nebraska. West of the Atlantic Coast, all the way to West Texas and back to New England, again a large spread of temperature to due points at these heights.

4) 300 Mb Height / Temperature (Over 30,000 feet)



Surprising is a ridge of low pressure over Arkansas. This might explain the lack of east to west propagation. Along the northern border of the Low from West Texas to Minnesota to New York, once again there is very little wind at this height and the same dew point/temperature gap.

So What Does This Mean?

For most of the big Tropo openings, we see Upper Air high-pressure on top of a surface high system. This produces strong and very large temperature inversions.

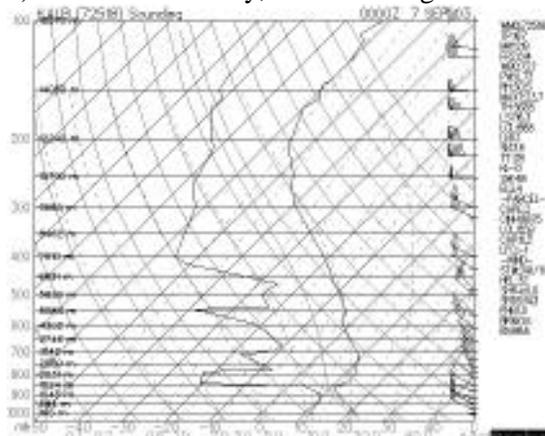
If this had occurred, I doubt that Texas and Oklahoma would have worked New England. Too much activity in between to complete a good QSO. Also, throughout this opening, I observed little, if any TV Tropo. It appears that a lack of winds above the surface allowed good multiple temperature inversions over a very wide area of the country to bend VHF/UHF radio waves.

Upper Air Soundings:

Twice daily (Early Morning/ Late Afternoon), the US Weather Bureau releases weather balloons and measure temperature, dew point and wind speed well into the atmosphere. These are available several hours later. A few of these soundings show the inversions.

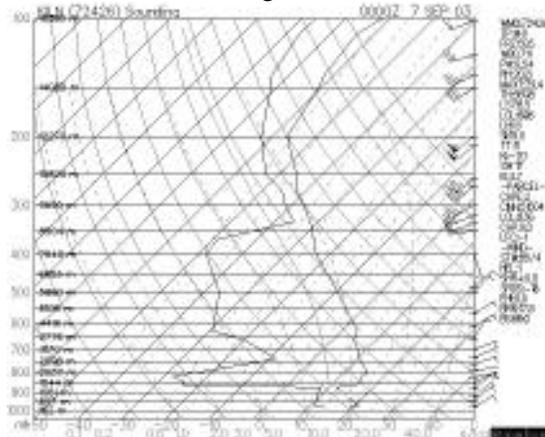
In a stable (boring for Hams) atmosphere, temperate and dew point will decrease at a similar pace. In a Tropo friendly atmosphere, you will see temperature inversions at one and multiple levels signified by a rise in air temperature and a very distinctive large decrease in dew point.

1) 9/07 00UT Albany, NY Sounding



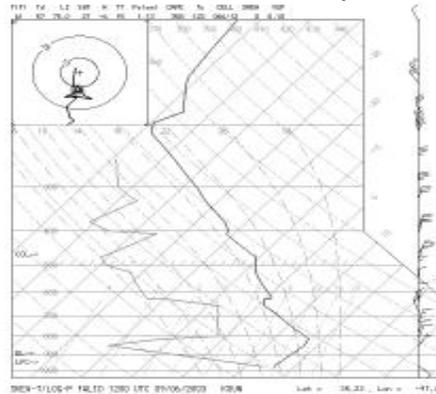
Dew Point Left Line, Air Temperature Right Line
3 possibly 4 Temperature Inversions !!!!

2) 9/07 00UT Wilmington, OH Soundind



2 with one extremely deep inversion.
Notice the light winds up to 25000 feet.

3) 09/06 12 UT Oklahoma City Sounding



Once again as many as 4 inversions.

The Conclusion:

When you take multiple temperature inversions at varying heights over a very large area, they will line up to produce highly extended paths of bending of VHF signals. The key was an extremely large affected area. Rarely is the atmospheric coverage this large.

It will probably be many years before we see this again.

DX Reports September 15 - October 16

By Art Jackson KA5DWI

Aurora:

- 9/17: Midwest US
- 10/14: Midwest US

Meteors:

- 10/12: NW5E EL98 worked FM19 on CW via MS.

Sporadic E/ FAI:

Season is over. No reports.

Tropo:

Hard to top last month!!

- 9/17: Enhancement Florida
- 9/18: East & Midwest
- 9/21-23: Great Lake states
- 9/25: Gulf Sates
- 9/25: Atlantic Coast
- 10/04: Southeastern States
- 10/07: Great Lake states
- 10/14: Northeast and Great Lake States

Please send me your reports, I will be glad to put them in the Bulletin.

What to expect

October 16 – November 15:

Fall is produces the best Tropo.

Meteors:

The Orionids will peak quickly at 20:00 UT on October 21. Many minor showers abound. The Leonids show up on November 18. Remember, we are just a year from the storm and could still see

heightened conditions. Also, the Leonids have two separate peaks. It is an excellent North-South path shower.

Solar Influences:

KH6BME Report:

DIS 10/16-17, 10/21-22, 11/11-14
DIS-LN 10/23
BN-DIS 11/10
BN-LN 10/18, 11/15
LN 11/03
LN-HN 10/19, 10/24, 11/04
HN-BN 10/28, 11/09
HN-LN 11/02
HN 10/20, 10/25-27, 10/29-11/01, 11/05-08

Translation:

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

Aurora:

Still active!

Look for chances 11/09-10

Tropo:

Continue to look for stalling frontal systems at the Gulf and Atlantic Coast and generating a opportunity a day or two later.

E-Layer Propagation:

Es are over till around late November.

Moon:

Good days: 10/18-26, 11/03-04, 11/15-22

Bad days: 10/29

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 – 10/25, Apogee – 11/10

Full Moon – 11/08-09, New Moon – 10/25

Highest Declination (Elevation): 10/17, 11/12

Lowest Declination (Elevation): 10/29-30

Solar: Overhead 10/16: - 8.9°S, 11/15: -18.4°S

Southern Hemisphere E Threshold 11/03

USAF Predicted Solar Flux Average:

10/16-11/15: 118

(No change from prior month)

Meteors:

10/16-10/31 - 18 Active showers, 12 Peak

10/01-10/15 - 18 Active showers, 7 Peak

Meteor info at:

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

Event & Contest Calender 2003

<u>Month</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Event</u>
October	24-25	Texoma Hamarama Kingston, OK
October	25-26	50 MHz Fall Sprint
November	08	NCTECHamfest Azle TX
November	08	Clear Lake Hamfest Houston TX
November	15-16	ARRL International EME Competition Part 2

Send me dates that are important to you all.

SWOT Announcements and News

Vice Chairman Position:

As mentioned last month John Petersen has asked that he be relieved of the duties of Vice Chairman. Don Ross NL7CO has been nominated to succeed John. We will approve it when the board votes on the By Laws.

NEW MEMBERS:

3430

K5YC JAMES CRAWFORD

LOVINGTON NM DM82

#3429

WA5UFH LOUIS (TIP) R. TIPTON

EDNA TX EL19

Thanks for joining all.

From Larry Hogue, W6OMF

The month of September has finished and there is nothing but great weather...

We had a short impromptu gathering of about a dozen of the SWOT gang at the River City SWAP on the 27th in Sacramento. Renewals are coming in and I picked up four more.

December the 6th is the annual NorCal SWOT gathering at Bakers Square in West Sacramento. Bill, SWOT 3400 has donated his M² win of \$50 back to the drawing for SWOT members. I will balance the books in Mid November and rally the NorCal SWOT Membership monies for the drawing... Remember you must be current thru me and thru Dec to be eligible for the SWOT Drawings...

To be a NorCal SWOT Member you have to be able to check into one of our three nets... Myself, KA6CHJ, or KF6BXH...

SWOT Net Reports

Here are the net reports for August and September. Unless noted, 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 September:

A total of 15 grids with 119 different stations checked in.

40 stations checked in each Sunday

22 checked in three times

18 checked in two times and

39 checked in one time...

OR, NV and CA were the states saying howdy...

Northern Missouri (Monday)

Month of September:

Date/Check ins/Grids/States

09/01-28/ 17/ 7 09/08 - 35/ 16/ 6 09/15 - 24/ 13/ 5

09/22 - 28/ 16/ 8 9/29 - 27/ 16 / 6

North Texas (Wednesday)

09/17... 41/19 09/24... 34/17 10/01... 30/16

10/08... 32/15

Southwest Oklahoma (Thursday)

09/04...5/2 09/11...5/2 09/18...4/3

9/25...5/3

East Texas Pineywoods (Saturday)

09/20... 13/5 09/27... 14/7 10/04... 10/4

10/11... 12/7 10/18... 12/06

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	NO. 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
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
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