



S.W.O.T. BULLETIN



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SIDEWINDERS ON TWO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
SSB, CW AND DIGITAL OPERATIONS ON 144MHZ AND UP

BULLETIN # 276

SECRETARY-TREASURER.

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S.W.O.T. GENERAL INFORMATION

- Send renewals and new applications for membership to Howard Hallman WD5DJT. Please make all checks payable to SIDEWINDERS ON TWO. And all I need is your SWOT # for your renewals if you want save your bulletin!!!
(See address above)
- 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.
- Send all applications for County Awards and County Awards correspondence to the SWOT VUCA Awards Manager, Len Parsons W5AL, 11361 Tascosa Rd. FM 1061., Amarillo, TX. 79124
- E-Mail all articles and reports to the Editors’ Web addresses listed above or you can mail them to KA5DWI, 6516 Simmons Rd, NRH, TX 76180.
- **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>

ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB

Be sure to join and chat with other S.W.O.T. members at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sidewindersontwo>

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The Chairman's Corner

By John Petersen "KM5ES"

Well January and the first week of February was a busy here at the shack. We had very interesting weather. The last week of January we had an ice storm just north of us, which caused considerable damage to trees and power lines. Also, heard from several stations that had suffered some loses of antennas and bent arrays. We were very fortunate this time around. Considering we had the ice storm here in December 2000 and many of us were without power for over a week.

January also brought us the SWOT January 2 Meter Contest which ran along side of the January VHF Contest. We have received several logs and hope you have turned yours in to NL7CO. I didn't work the biggest part of the contest due to the band conditions not being very favorable. I did manage to rake up several multipliers by using WSJT.

We are looking forward to this spring and the SWOT Meeting planned for it. As of now, it is not set in gold on our meeting place. If at all possible, we would like to try to have it during the Hamcomm Hamfest in Dallas. Please start thinking about elections of new officers and board members. We appreciate everyone that has worked as officers and board members for the past year. Also, we plan to work on a club constitution to incorporate election of officers yearly.

I am looking forward to warm weather here and hope that we can have good conditions for the upcoming contests this year. Pray that we have more E-skip this year and better Tropo openings

73 and Good DX
John Petersen KM5ES
SWOT Chairman #3331

Meet the Officers and Net Control Operators for SWOT

Each month we will profile one of the Officers or Net Control Operators for SWOT.

This month we profile **Phil Baldwin, N0PB**, Net Control Operator for the Tuesday, 9:00 PM Central Time North Central Missouri SWOT Net.

Phil got into ham radio kind of by accident. When he was 20 years old, Phil purchased an old National receiver at a flea market. Listening around, he became interested in Ham Radio as he happened to tune across the 75 Meter Missouri Single Sideband Net. He discovered that there were hams as close as 40 miles from him.

Phil started looking around for information and found an old book at a store that had information on getting your novice ticket. He taught himself the code (the wrong way he claims!) and absorbed the theory. He located two hams that would give him the test and he was on his way.

Phil received his Novice ticket in March 1984. He studied up and went to Kansas City and passed both his Technician and General tests August 1984 back before VEC's were available. Phil studied and passed the Advanced in March 1991 and then the Extra in May 1991. He was too busy and having fun to upgrade for a while.

Phil got into Weak Signal as part of purchasing his first 2 Meter rig, an Icom 245A all-mode. Everyone in his area told him he would never use the SSB portion because you had to have a repeater to talk very far. Wrong! Being determined and hard headed, he wanted to see for himself. Many of his fellow Hams would not believe the contacts he was making until they came and saw it for themselves. He was hooked.

Phil has been net control for several nets in his area and state of Missouri. He was the Missouri Single Sideband Net control for several years, plus a few local FM nets. Phil enjoys CW and SSB. He operates 160 meters through 70 centimeters. His favorite band is 2 Meters of course. He enjoys 2 Meters because it is the only band that has so many propagation modes.

With a great location and hard work, he now has 45 states and 190 grids confirmed on 2 Meters. He has worked at least 210 grids. All of this was accomplished with about 150 watts and 18 elements or less.

Phil's motto for Ham Radio is:
"Antenna, Antenna, Antenna."

You can take a pretty crappy radio and hook it to a good antenna and feedline and do fairly well. But, you can't take a good radio and hook it to a crappy antenna and do very well at all.

The present station is a Yaesu FT-847 with an Ameritron AL-80B for HF, 150-Watt brick for 2 Meters. The antennas are dipoles for 160,80,40,30 Meters, a Tri-band on 20-15-10. For VHF-UHF, 50 MHz 5-element yagi, 144mhz 18-element yagi, and 432 24-element yagi. Phil plans to improve the VHF-UHF station antennas this spring and summer. "Antenna, Antenna, Antenna Hi Hi"

Phil and his wife Jane, of 20 years, have 2 boys, ages 16 and 9. Jane works for Cerro Copper Tube. Phil is in sales and distribution for a locally owned business, Bogie Pump Inc. He sells wholesale, deep well pumps and plumbing supplies and they are also the distributor for the state of Missouri for Ritchie livestock fountains. His other interests are bow hunting, bass fishing and a car that he tries to make go down a ¼ mile strip in less than 13 seconds.

Phil holds SWOT number 3369 and is located in grid square EM39wo.

On June 26, 2001 Phil started up the new Tuesday night, 9:00PM, North Central Missouri SWOT Net. The net has been extremely successful and with the right conditions, has had great coverage. Phil starts early check-ins about 8:45 PM. He looks towards the South at 9:00PM, East at 9:15PM, North at 9:30PM, West at 9:45PM, and the South again at 10:00PM.

Phil is located in Holliday, Missouri. Holliday is so small that the Rand McNally Road Atlas has the audacity of not listing the town in the index. Holliday is in Moore County just north of Columbia, Missouri between Kansas City and St. Louis. Make it a point to check in with Phil each Tuesday night and thank him for his contributions to Sidewinders on Two.

Results SWOT Member Participation in the A.R.R.L. January VHF Sweepstakes

From: Donald Ross NL7CO

SWOT Contest Results:

Please note that these results are preliminary and must be validated by the contest committee after the closing date that is after the deadline for publication in this newsletter, but prior to the day that you will receive it. It was however, the unanimous decision of the contest committee that we wanted to get some feedback into the hands of the members since we knew that they were already making plans for the upcoming contest season. Once the results are "certified", plaques for the winners of each category will be obtained and they, along with a certificate for each participant, will be mailed to them directly.

With that caveat, let's look at what went on.

We've now run the second SWOT contest that I've been affiliated with – the first being the Sidewinder Shootout that generated exactly TWO log entries with Larry, W6OMF being declared the winner – and this one. This one, at least, had more logs entered, a total of thirty-four.

To review, we were only concerned with 144 MHz scores (we are a 2m specific organization) and the board of directors decided to piggyback off of the ARRL's January VHF Sweepstakes this time instead of running our own contest. The reason for this is that the last time we tried to run a separate contest, we just didn't get the response. Another reason was that everyone was submitting Cabrillo formatted logs that were easy for our contest committee to strip out all of those "other" bands. The consensus is that it worked well.

For those of you who like the *Reader's Digest* version of the contest, here are the winners by category:

Single Operator, Low Power - W2EV
Single Operator, High Power - KG4BMH
Rover - N7MX
QRP - KD5OIA
Multi-operator - W3SO

For the rest of us, please read on.

So how did the logs stack up by category? The number of logs submitted for each category is as follows:

Single Operator, Low Power	21
Single Operator, High Power	2
Rover	6
QRP	3
Multi-operator	2

Note – for those of us who have been separated from statistics for a while, adding all of the numbers in the category together and then dividing by the number of entries for that category obtains the numbers for the “average” participant. The mean is the number that exactly half of the entries had a greater score and half of the entries had a lower score. Taken together, they can more clearly give you an idea of where you ranked in a contest. Did you do better, or worse, than the “average” contest participant? Were you in the top half or the bottom half of the participants?

The most popular category for us, as well as the ARRL, was the SOLP category where you could run a maximum of 200 watts and twenty-one people did just that. For those of you who like this kind of information the average number of QSO’s was 41 and the mean number of QSO’s was 30; the average number of grids worked was 14 and the mean was 13; total points average was 935 and the mean was 455.

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>CALL</u>	<u>QSO's</u>	<u>GRIDS</u>	<u>SCORE</u>
1	W2EV	161	32	5152
2	N0PB	84	44	3696
3	NL7CO	111	27	2997
4	WA4ATJ	102	17	1734
5	KM5ES	54	32	1728
6	N5TIF	51	17	867
7	W6OMF	44	16	704
8	NE0P	43	15	645
9	WH6LR	38	14	532
10	K4SSO	30	17	510
11	K5LOW	35	13	455
12	N5OSK	19	13	247
13	N3XJX	16	7	112
14	KM5NU	12	8	96
15	KD5FID	13	4	52
16	KD5OMJ	13	4	52

17	KA5DWI	5	4	20
18	AA5CH	6	3	18
19	WO7GI	10	1	10
20	KD5RQ	8	1	8
21	KC5EDX	4	1	4

In the SOHP category where you could run more than 200 watts we had only two entrants. For those of you who like this kind of information the average number of QSO’s and the mean was 109; the average number of grids worked and the mean was 29; total points average and the mean was 3425.

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>CALL</u>	<u>QSO's</u>	<u>GRIDS</u>	<u>SCORE</u>
1	KG4BMH	131	41	5371
2	N0UK	87	17	1479

The second most popular category for us was the ROVER category and most of us non-Rovers were very glad to get the points from these hardy and dedicated individuals. The average number of QSO’s was 24 and the mean number of QSO’s was 12; the average number of grids worked was 10 and the mean was 8; total points average was 335 and the mean was 78; and for the grids activated the average and the mean was 5.

<u>ROVER PLACE</u>	<u>CALL</u>	<u>QSO's</u>	<u>GRIDS</u>	<u>SCORE</u>	<u>Grids Active</u>
1	N7MX	56	23	1288	10
2	WB2FKO	47	10	470	7
3	WM5R	10	9	90	5
4	KD5QYD	13	5	65	3
5	AB5GH	10	5	50	4
6	NH6CJ	8	6	48	3

Personally, I expected the popularity of the Yaesu FT-817 to make this the second most popular class in the contest, but even with the use of just an FM-only HT (which is what the winner used), it still didn’t stack up to the ROVER category. An interesting side note is that all three of these entries came from the same club – the Lawton / Fort Sill Amateur Radio Club up in EM04 (who provided 14 of the 34 total entries – 41%). Here, the average number of QSO’s was 8 and the mean number of QSO’s was 7; everybody worked the same grid, so both the average and the mean was 1; total points average was 8 and the mean was 7.

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>CALL</u>	<u>QSO's</u>	<u>GRIDS</u>	<u>SCORE</u>
1	KD5OIA	11	1	11
2	KC5TTY	7	1	7
3	KC5EIU	6	1	6

We placed both the Limited and the unlimited multi-operator stations in one category since we were only counting 2m and the four-band limitation wouldn't be a factor. There were only two entries for the multi-operator class on this one, although we hope to see more in the future. The average number of QSO's and the mean number of QSO's was 160; the average and the mean number of grids was 45; total points average and mean was 7832.

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>CALL</u>	<u>QSO's</u>	<u>GRIDS</u>	<u>SCORE</u>
1	W3SO	253	52	13156
2	KC0LUF	66	38	2508

Now the big question for the membership is where do we go from here? Do we ignore this method of creating interest in 2m and try something else? Do we continue to do this once a year on a specific contest? Do we expand the process to more contests? Do we try and run another contest of our own?

Personally, I'm willing to continue to do the number crunching for the rest of the year if we want to do the same things for the June ARRL, the July CQ-VHF, and September ARRL contests. Maybe even track placing for each contest (and maybe the spring and fall sprints) to award an annual plaque for the best 2m contesters like we're doing in Lawton this year. If we do that, we'll be recognizing the stations that participate in the all of the "majors" of ham radio contesting.

I am providing a copy of this article to both Dan Henderson, N1ND, at the ARRL and to Joe Lynch, N6CL, at CQ-VHF in the hopes that they'll mention our efforts and chide SMIRK and the 6 Club to do the same thing for 6m, and also to persuade other special interest groups to step up to the plate for "their" bands. Maybe even get the big contest clubs to adopt some of the orphaned bands and thereby increase their scores some more.

A final note – if we do something like this again, I will personally buy, and suitably engrave, a gavel for any local (non-contesting) club that submits more entries than the Lawton – Fort Sill Amateur Radio Club does in the next one.

Either way, it's been fun and I thank everyone for the opportunity to do this.

Contest Observations:

This was one of the strangest contests that I have yet played around with.

It was definitely the beneficiary of some outstanding missionary work by KC5TTY, KM5NU, NH6CJ, WH6LR, WO7GI, NE0P, and others getting the "vote" out so to speak by encouraging the non-sidebanders to give the contest a try. I think that we're going to reap great rewards out of this effort in the long run and hope to help some of these neophytes move into the ranks of experienced VHF contesters. The efforts started during field day last year and we are definitely reaping what these gentlemen have sown.

Band conditions, were as AA5CH said, pretty bad overall. I think that there were less than a dozen 6m contacts in non-EM04 grids in the entire group. We, as a group, did better on 220 and 1.2 GHz than we have ever done and I think that we will see many improvements on these bands in the upcoming contests. We are all realizing that the only way to do well on one of these things is to get on as many bands as you can unless you want to work for something specific like being the top 2m score in the section.

I will say again, as a group, we did better than we have ever done on using (rather than abusing) the calling frequency. At least for the first 2/3's of the contest, we would call on .200 and announce where we were moving (KM5NU used .180, NL7CO was on .190, WH6LR went to .210, WO7GI went to .220, etc.) By the middle of Sunday though, there were few new pickings and we started circling ever closer to .200 for longer and longer. If someone new showed up, usually on .200, we all worked them like a pack of rabid dogs and then got back on 146.55 to continue rag chewing while we

took turns trolling for new ones on the calling frequency.

But, as always, it was a lot of fun and I know what I need to do between now and June.

Again, thanks to all that took the time to work us.
Don, NL7CO/EM04

Thanks to everyone who participated (*editor*).

Confessions of a 2 Meter Junkie

From Donald Ross, NL7CO

Well I just sold the FT-736R to someone who will appreciate its non-2 Meter capabilities better than I will. He's promised to love and to hold, etc. and he doesn't compete here in 5-land so I won't have to listen to him brag about the radio.

Why did I sell it?

After all, I did give it a very glowing recommendation after the Leonids and talked about it a great deal to the folks that I talked to it with on 220 and 432. But you see, that was the problem with the radio - the other bands.

Every time I used it on one of those "other" bands, I was always wondering if I was missing a new grid, state, county, road, creek, or whatever on 2 Meters by being so unfaithful and spending time somewhere else. It just didn't make the other bands as much fun to operate when I was always worried about what was happening on 2 Meters.

Now, as I lie back on the couch and talk to the shrink (funny, he looks just like KA5DWI - wonder if I've worked his grid on two) and he's talking about my relationship with my parents and my siblings (never talked to them, they don't play on 2 Meters), I realize that I'm a 2 Meter junkie. Yep, one of those lowlifes that just lives for the next opening on two. You know the type - always trying to get one more db out of their station; planning on hocking the wife's ring for that Commander amp; praying to the propagation Gods that they'll smile on you just this once; and feverishly checking the mail everyday for one of the missing QSL cards for the SWOT VUCA for the 100 counties or (praise the QSL fairy) that last one needed for VUCC.

So its "Hasta la Bye-Bye" to the 736, I guess I'll have to try and make do with the five remaining 2 Meter SSB radios that I own.

See you on the band.

DX Reports January 16 – February 15

By Art Jackson KA5DWI

Each month we will attempt to let you all know what has been going on 2 Meters and give you an idea what you can expect in the next month.

Please Mail or email your DX reports to me and we will get them in the newsletter.

DX Reports

Meteors:

No major showers the past month, but occasional 2 Meter reports of pings heard. WSJT (FSK441) is very reliable during these times.

Aurora:

Another quiet month, with only minor short-lived disturbances. Some aurora reported on 02/02, 02/05, 01/21 UTC A.M. No significant openings.

E Propagation:

Nil on 2 Meters. Six meters was also quiet. Only one VHF opening towards Mexico reported on 1/30.

Tropo:

Although we are in the middle of winter, some nice reports from the Gulf States, Southeastern US and Midwest. W1LP/MM provided some opportunities.
01/17: Central Gulf states –400km paths
01/18: Some enhancement Oklahoma – 400km paths
01/19-20: Texas Gulf coast, Southeastern States (TN, GA, NC), North TX to KS, MN to MO – 400-550 km paths
E. Oklahoma to Iowa - 850km
01/21: Central TX – E.LA 500km
01/22: W.TN to E.AL – 450km, W1LP/mm 700km water path to S. FL
01/22: W1LP/mm 925km water path to S.FL
01/27-28: Best reports for the period!!! Central Gulf states and Southeast US, 600-900km. One report EM84>EL49. Contest was one week too early.
01/29: UTC AM Central US, KM5ES-EM25 59 check-ins from NOPB EM39 and KC5KYX EL17.
02/10: W1LP/mm in FM01 into South FL

Sources: DX World 144 Propagation Logger and SWOT Group Page

What to expect February 16- March 15:

Meteors:

Late February thru early March is the slowest period each year for meteor scatter. Again, WSJT contacts are very reliable and capable during this period.

Look on 02/18-20, 02/22, 02/28, 03/10-12, 03/14 for some better meteor-scatter opportunities.

Aurora:

The sun was fairly quiet the past month. No real major CME's occurred. Solar flux is predicted to decrease 15 the next month. Late predictions show 3/04-03/07 as a possible active period.

Monitor *Spaceweather.Com* for possible events.

Tropo:

Winter is coming to an end. Good opportunities generally develop in mid-March.

Look for an upper air high-pressure system to develop over the southern Gulf of Mexico as a good omen. Cold systems as they move in from Canada will stall as they run in to it.

Also, as a series of Pacific systems move in from the west coast, look for a bell-shaped formation in the jet stream between them. This is indicating an upper air high. Again look for paths on the western and northern portions of the upper air high-pressure system as it moves across the US. The slower these move, the better possibilities.

E-Layer Propagation:

"E" possibilities are pretty much nil till late April. Remember that disturbances in the Sun can set off a surprise opening.

Moon:

Good days: 02/24, 02/28

Best days: 02/25-27

Based on low sky noise and path loss readings less than 2dB.

Lunar, Solar and Astronomical Events

Lunar: Apogee – 03/13

Perigee 02/27

New Moon – 03/13, Full Moon – 02/27

Solar: Overhead 02/16: -12.3°S, 03/15: -2.1°S

USAF Predicted Solar Flux Average:

02/16-03/15: 211 (Declining 15)

Meteors:

Minor Showers: 21 from 02/16-03/15, 6 Peak during this period.

Major Showers: None

More meteor info at:

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

Event & Contest Calender 2002

April	26-27	S.E.VHF Conference, Oakridge, TN
June	08-10	ARRL VHF QSO Party
June	22-23	ARRL Field Day
July	13-14	CQ Worldwide VHF Contest
August	3-4	ARRL UHF Contest
September	14-16	ARRL VHF QSO Party

Note: We will note any upcoming Sprints as soon as they are properly listed.

SWOT NET REPORTS

Here are the net reports for December and January. The first figure listed for each date is the number of check-ins and the second is the number of grids.

Sunday Northern California:

Month of January

01/05/02...91 01/12/01...95 01/19/02...69

01/26/02...75

128 Different stations checked in.

Eastern Oklahoma (Monday): 01/14/02...41/16

01/21/02...34/10 01/28/02...43/14

02/04/02...27/10

Central Louisiana (Tuesday): 01/15/02...17/12

01/22/02...13/11 01/29/02...No Report

02/05/02...No Report

Northern Missouri (Tuesday): 01/15/02...24/14

01/22/02...27/11 01/29/02...27/14

02/05/02...21/11

North Texas (Wednesday): 01/16/02...39/17

01/23/02...No Net 01/30/02...41/18

02/06/02...35/13 02/13/02...38/18

Southwest Oklahoma (Thursday):

01/17/02...No Report 01/24/02...7/03

01/31/02...6/3 02/07/02...No Report

East Texas (Saturday): 01/19/02...11/4

01/26/02...16/5 02/02/02...17/7

02/09/02...15/6

From EM12 DFW - 02/16/02 ... 11/3

Classified Listings

I have an ARR MSP144VDG-160 that I no longer need since I will be using the preamp in my new 2 Meter brick. This is the 160 watt mast mounted version with 22 dB gain. I no longer have the original box, but do have the mounting hardware still in the package as I have only used the preamp in the shack.

To the best of my knowledge the preamp was in excellent working condition when I took it off line a

few days ago.

I am asking \$160 and will pay UPS shipping and insurance to addresses in the CONUS. I f interested, please email me direct at:
aa5ch@arrl.net

73,Brad AA5CH EM35

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---\$10.00_____ Renewal----\$10.00_____

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	WOODLAND PK	COLORADO	144.220	W2CRS WBODOM
MON	9:00P	MUSKOGEE	EAST OKLAHOMA	144.250	KM5ES JOHN
MON	8:00P	SANDUSKY	E. MICHIGAN	144.250	W8IDT BART
TUE	8:00P	CA.NO CTYS	NORCAL	144.250	KF6BXH BILL
TUE	8:00P	EM31 LA.	CENTRAL LOUISIANA	144.250	K5MQ DAVE
TUE	9:00P	N. CENTRAL MO.	N. CENTRAL MO.	144.250	N0PB PHIL
WED	8:00P	IA-MO-IL	TRI STATE	144.250	WZ9D N9CXO
WED	9:00P	NO TEXAS	NORTH TEXAS	144.250	W5FKN BOB
THU	8:00P	CA SO CTYS	NORCAL	144.250	KC6CHJ
THU	7:30P	LAWTON EM04	SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA	144.250	WH6LR JIM
THU	9:00P	TENNESSE	UPPER CUMBERLAND	144.225	N2BR BOBBY
SAT	7:00A	EAST TEXAS	PINEYWOODS	144.250	K5LOW DON