



# 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:

The SWOT Homepage: [www.swotrc.net](http://www.swotrc.net)  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sidewindersontwo>

Bulletin #306

May / June 2005

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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' email address listed above or you can mail them to Jim McMasters KM5PO, 2805 Shady Lane South, Arlington, Texas 76601.
- **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

From Art Jackson, KA5DWI



Thank you all for being patient. It has been a while since our last Bulletin. Your Chairman and our new Bulletin Editor have had many other issues to take care of the past couple of months. Now that many of the issues are behind us, we can get at least produce a few Bulletins in a timelier manner. Thank you again to Jim McMasters, KM5PO for taking over the reins of the Bulletin. This past 5 months has been a heavy burden to my time. It would have been impossible for me to do the Bulletin. It is almost impossible for me to let alone be the Chairman.

If you keep up with my escalades, I am a 50+ year old college student. I probably wrote 25,000 words in papers this spring. The YL pays the bill and insists that I must maintain a 4.0 GPA. So far so good!!! I guess that I am going to continue the college and still can "radio" when I have the time (what little there is). Although it is a bit useless, I earned an Associates Degree this spring and will head up north to Denton in the fall to finish my pursuit of a Mathematics Degree. A Physics degree would be nice, but I think students would care less about the science of Mid-Latitude Sporadic Es. So I will just have to beat Algebra into them instead.

### Ham-Com:

In between sessions, I will attempt to make what few events I can and promote SWOT. Since most of the group resides around the Dallas/Fort Worth area, we will make Ham-Com another opportunity to gather and see you all face to face. As in the past, we will have a table in the Flea Market so look for us. "PLEASE LOOK FOR US!!!"

Sadly, the gathering will not be a complete one. I have already received word that two officers of the club will not be able to attend. At least I was informed in advance. That was much appreciated.

So what are we going to do for Ham-Com? I hope that a few of you can make lunch on Saturday at one of my favorite Mexican restaurants (Mercado Juarez). We had a great time the past couple of years and look forward to doing it again. We will not have meeting at

Ham-Com. Due to last year's mismanagement of the event, I will no longer waste my time with the event staff. Lunch outside of the Arlington Convention Center is much more pleasant anyway.

So if you cannot make lunch, visit us at the Flea Market table. This year's agenda is that I want all of you that attend to nominate and /or volunteer names as future Officers and/or Board Members for the club.

### Nominations of Officers and Board Members:

It has been two years since the last election. A few have served the club well, and few have made no contribution. It is time to attempt once again to nominate then elect new officers. If you cannot be at Ham-Com please call, email, or snail mail me your nominations. This includes an nomination for yourself. With a week or two after Ham-Com, we will publish in the nominees and begin the vote. As for the voting requirement, your vote will be accepted as long as you have a SWOT number. There is no requirement of a current paid membership.

Obviously SWOT would like to see some new blood and a younger generation into this club. I also accept that it more important to have officers that have time to make a solid contribution to it. With today's life styles, it is probably best achieved by active and healthy retirees. Ham radio is still a fun hobby and many opportunities to enhance this part of it still exist. We could use some energetic souls to accomplish this.

### Another editorial .....Some comments on the new digital modes:

The rapid expansion of micro computing, along with the addition of programs that take advantage of this technology has produced a number of new modes for the weak signal enthusiast to try out. I am excited that this has developed new and rekindled old interest. I was beginning to believe that weak signal was turning into a dying art until Joe Taylor, K1JT invented WSJT. Other modes have now emerged. What has been a much too quiet portion of 2 Meters has begun to fill up with signals.

In the past year, we are now seeing more articles, seminars, and demonstrations of these modes. What this has done is bring new and much needed participation. But, there a downside to these gains.

I am glad to have the additional participation, but so does a serious lack of knowledge and experience of how and where to operate on this portion of 2 Meters. I cringed the first time I heard an FSK441 signal on 144.200. I also am concerned that we are seeing posts of operating SSTV on 144.250. The most ridiculous observation I have come across is someone trying to use the WSJT modes with a Ringo-Ranger, a Squalo, or better yet a longwire.

Yes we need new participants .... But what we really need are some Elmers that can assist and inform the "newbies" to what is really necessary to operate and enjoy this band. I am also concerned that we maybe needing another look into re-inventing a new band plan. And we all know that the current one is being paid attention to.

Invite, inspire and most of all assist. But if they don't get it, send them to 75 Meters. At least a longwire works down there.

Thanks again to all the paying members, new members, NCS and Yahoo group members for your participation and support. See yall at Ham-Com.

### SWOT & Hamcom 2005

The SWOT table is located in row D table 11 in the center of the room. Please make it a point to stop by and say hello.

[The Hamcom 2005 Flyer is here](#)

Just a reminder to all concerning our SWOT Nets during the storm season in which we are now in. It will be at the descretion of the net controls in the event of severe weather that the SWOT Nets may be cancelled for that particular evening or morning. Especially during storms with a lot of lightning activity. Do not put your self at risk and use common sense.

John Petersen KM5ES  
SWOT Vice Chairman #3331  
SWOT Net Manager



Moonrise from OK1TEH, JO70fd, Prague, Czech Republic. 100 watts on 144 Mhz. with 10 elements. QRP EME.

# North Hills Radio Club

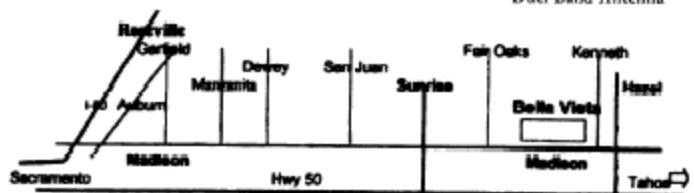
# HAM SWAP

## May 22, 2005

Seller spaces \$10 (2 car stalls)  
Free parking for buyers  
Coffee, Donuts, Sodas, Hotdogs  
Info: Maynard Wright / W6PAP  
Phone (916) 726-1673  
e-mail: w6pap@arrl.net  
http://www.k6is.org

From I-80, Go east on Madison Ave. for 5.8 mi to High School. From Hiway 50, Take Hazel Ave. north 2.6 mi to Madison Ave. Go west for 1.4 mi, HS is on right. Talk in 145.190 - PL162.2

Raffle Tickets \$1.00  
Lots of Prizes awarded.  
Drawings hourly.  
Grand Prizes,  
Yaesu FT - 7800 M  
Astron SS-30-30 power supply  
Diamond NR-770 H,  
Duel Band Antenna



6:00 am to 12:pm  
Bella Vista High School  
8301 Madison Ave. Fair Oaks, CA.

## The M<sup>2</sup> 2005 Swap Meet

By Larry Hogue

The annual M<sup>2</sup> gathering was a don't miss event... A walk through count mid morning produced 178 with 122 staying for the BBQ around eleven. Weak signal members from WSWSS and SWOT were in abundance. We introduced a couple newbies to the SSB and CW mode and also met some great HF DXers... A wonderful day... It pushed 90 degrees by the time we left in the afternoon. Sue even got to hit Macy's for some shopping in Modesto on the way home...

Mike, Myrna and the Gang from M<sup>2</sup> put on their normal great event with FREE BBQ & Door prizes (for both Hams and non Hams). Thanks Myrna and all.



Donations from M<sup>2</sup> of a HO Loop for 6, 2, and 432 there were Beams for 1.2, 2, 440, and 6 meters with an AC meter called "kill a watt"... Nice Huh!!!

N6EQ took a great reduction on a VX-7R radio and donated it to the drawing... And Sue still got him to buy tickets...hi hi I think between Chuck and Pat, N6RMJ they were a large part of the ticket sales... Thanks for always being there guys.

Winners were all over the place... Chuck was the first



drawn and didn't even take the Radio he donated, but did grab the 22EZ for 1.2; N6VMO won a 2M9SSB; KE6BEU won a 440-18; then Larry, KG6EG, picked the VX-7R radio; Chip, N6CA's ticket was drawn but he donated back to the group. Thanks Chip... On went the drawing with Catherine, KG6HXI winning a 6M3 beam; KG6TTF won the 6M HO Loop; N6JY



won the Kill A Watt meter; K6FGE won the 432 HO Loop; and, K6HEW won a 2 Meter HO Loop. N6EQ, Chuck's ticket was drawn again in the middle of all that and he also donated back to the group... Nice Chuck.

The non ham items were a great addition to the draw and I didn't get them all but do remember a couple Hams walking away with lots of goodies.

KF6ZSW, KG6TTF, and K6SUE... Congratulations.



A quick reminder of the September SWAP at the Runt Ranch in Vacaville. The 3<sup>rd</sup> of September is the Saturday of Labor Day so if you can make it we would love to see you. 0800 would be a good start time...

73 Larry and Sue...

From the log of W5UWB John, EL17ax (144Mhz- 1500w, 1-17el at 50' AGL)

Date	Call	Grid	Prop	Mode	Note
29 Apr	W4FF	EL96	TRD	SSB	
	XE2OR	DL98	TRS	SSB	
	N4IS	EL96	TRD	SSB	
	N4IS	EL96	TRD	CW	432.100
	WA8TTM	EL98	TRD	SSB	
<b>EME:</b>					
24 Apr	EA5SE	IM98	EME	JT65B	Initial #121 with a single yagi
15 May	RA3AQ	KO85	EME	JT65B	
	IK1UWL	JN33	EME	JT65B	
	RU1AA	KO48	EME	JT65B	
	DF2ZC	JO30	EME	JT65B	
	DF7KF	JO30	EME	JT65B	
	RK3FG	KO86	EME	JT65B	

From the log of KM5ES, John, EM25di

Date	Call	Grid	Prop	Mode	Note
09 Apr	K5UGM	EM12	TRD	SSB	5x9
	W5LSB	EM20	TRD	SSB	5x7
	W5JRJ	EM23	TRD	SSB	5x8
	KD5GTB	EL29	TRD	SSB	5x8
	N5UAC	EM20	TRD	SSB	5x3
	K5LLL	EM10	TRD	SSB	5x7

From the log of KM5PO, Jim, EM12ko

Date	Call	Grid	Prop	Mode	Note
30 Mar	W1GUD	EL87	TRD	SSB	
	WA8TTM	EL98	TRD	SSB	
	KW4RZ	EM60	TRD	CW	Ft. Walton Beach, 20 watts
	NN4AA	EL97	TRD	SSB	
	K4DZP	EL97	TRD	SSB	
	N4IS	EL96	TRD	SSB	
03 Apr	XE2OR	DL98	TRS	SSB	
29 Apr	W4SIX	EL79	TRD	SSB	
<b>EME:</b>					
12 Mar	W8LON	EN73	EME	JT65B	1 x 17b2, 400 watts
	W5UWB	EL17	EME	JT65B	
	DL9MS	JO54	EME	JT65B	
	9H1TX	JM75	EME	JT65B	Zurrieq, Malta
	NJOU	EN71	EME	JT65B	
03 Apr	WA8CLT	EN80	EME	JT65B	Initial #100
24 Apr	KU7Z	DN41	EME	JT65B	
17 May	PA3CMC	JO21	EME	CW	

### Event and Contest Calendar:

May 22 North Hills RC SWAP, Fair Oaks, CA

June 03-05 HamCom Arlington, TX

June 11-13 ARRL VHF QSO Party

June 25-26 ARRL Field Day

July 28-31 CSVHF conference, Colorado Sp, CO

Aug 06-07 ARRL UHF Contest

Aug 20-21 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest

Sept 10-12 ARRL September VHF QSO Party

Sept 17-18 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest

Oct 26 01-05 UTC KAOS Two Meter Sprint

Nov 30 01-05 UTC KAOS Six Meter Sprint

Dec 28 01-05 UTC KAOS Two Meter Sprint

### What to expect May - June - July Meteors:

Omicron Cetids May 25, 7 zHR

Chi Scorpiids Jun 3-6, ? zHR

Arietids Jun 8 peak, 60 zHR

Zeta Perseids Jun 13, 30 zHR

June Lyrids Jun 15/16, 8 zHR

Phi Sagittariids Jun 18/19, 5 zHR

Ophiuchids Jun 20/21, 6 zHR

Beta Taurids Jun 29, 25 zHR

Alpha Lyrids July 14, 25 zHR

Delta Aquirids July 28/29, 25 zHR

[Full Meteors calendar](#)

### Aurora:

Watch: [www.spaceweather.com](http://www.spaceweather.com)

### Tropo:

Watch for:

1. Upper Air High Pressure systems building from Northern Mexico, the Gulf of Mexico or Southern Florida.

2. Pacific Fronts passing across the U.S. with a strong High Pressure ridge wedged between them.

*Always keep an eye on:*

the [Hepburn Forecast](#).

the [APRS Real time VHF propagation map](#).

the [Presence of radar reflectivity \(false echos\) HERE](#)

the [Green Page \(144 Mhz Propagation Logger\)](#)

the [Surface Map](#) (there are many choices)

and [another Surface Map](#)

### E-layer propagation:

E season begins the end of April and continues until August.

Watch for short skip on 6 meters and sign up for the E-skip robot notification: [sign-up page](#) (list name is: eskip-na)

### Moon:

WSJT JT65 contacts are possible any time of the month however, see the moon-graphs on the last page of the bulletin, and look for minimum downgrade days when CW contacts may be made.

F.S. 144 EME/Tropo equipment. Email

[w5uwb@arll.net](mailto:w5uwb@arll.net) for details.

Includes ants, tower sections, AZ/EL rotators, preamps, cables etc.



## WSJTGroup News

### *Dead Band – Maybe Not, Consider WSJT*

This is the title to a presentation scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup> at Hamcom in Arlington, Texas. The presenters will be Bruce Brackin, N5SIX; Dave

Robinson, WW2R; and assisting on the remote side: Randy Tipton, WA5UFH.

WSJT, which has started a revolution in weak signal work will be the subject. You can expect to receive an introduction and tutorial to this software developed by Joe Taylor, K1JT. Each of the weak signal modes will be reviewed. Actual WAV files recorded while operating will be played. How to get set up, including portable use will be explained. As time permits, a mobile/rover station will be available for viewing and operating (N5SIX/M).

If you are interested in this digital mode, which enables contacts well below the normal threshold of the weakest CW, then don't miss this meeting.

### *Early returns – Spring Rally*

The WSJT Spring Rally meteor scatter contest logs are trickling in. Early logs in hand have the top 3 scores so far as K1JT (3360), WA5UFH (2436), and AF4O (1938). These guys all made excellent use of the high QSO value given to random/unassisted contacts. The majority of the rally QSOs still appear to be scheduled on Pingjockey, but the big scores get run up as a result of random contacts that score 3 times higher.

Last years contest shows 76 grids were activated during the contest in which 84 unique calls were logged! This contest takes place over a week + of time and coincides with the Eta Aquarids meteor shower.

### **Getting started with WSJT!**

WA5UFH email : [wa5ufh@ykc.com](mailto:wa5ufh@ykc.com)

WA5UFH webpage : <http://www.qsl.net/wa5ufh/>

 **The Sidewinders On Two Radio Club Homepage**  
Promoting VHF Weak Signal Operation since 1976

## Internet Links:

A few links that are of interest to the Weak Signal enthusiast:

WSJT Downloads (Now at version 4.9.2)

<http://pulsar.princeton.edu/~joe/K1JT>

<http://pulsar.princeton.edu/~joe/K1JT/Download.htm>

[Lots of calculations \(from Larry/W6OMF\) Amateur Radio Propagation Studies](#)

## DX reports Jan - Feb 2005:

### **Aurora:**

No reports, please send in your reports.

### **Meteors:**

No reports from members but see special report on meteor scatter contest.

### **Sporadic E/FAI:**

No reports, please send in your reports.

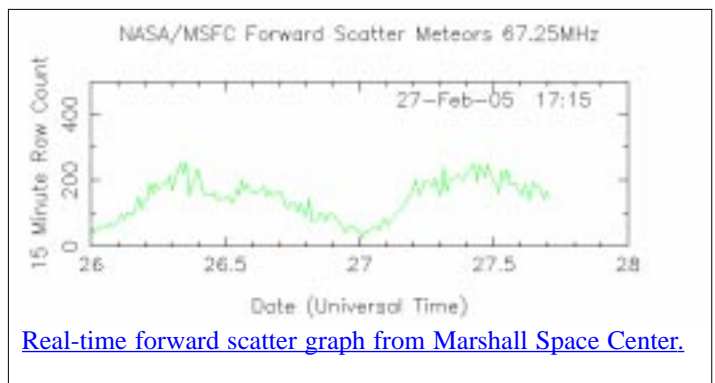
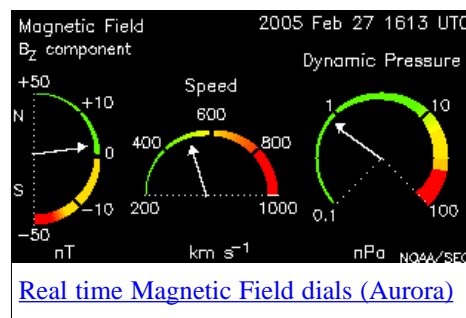
### **Tropo:**

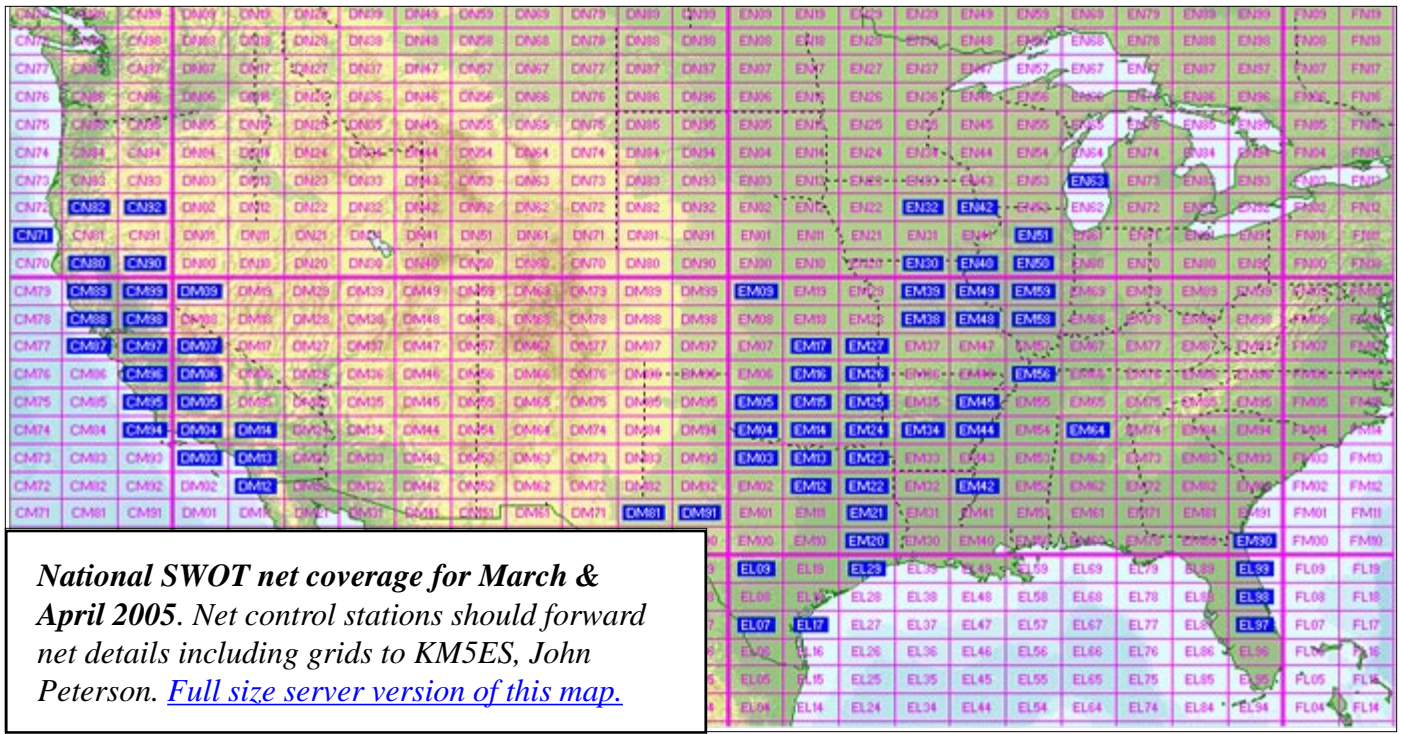
See logs in this issue.

Several days of general Gulf of Mexico tropo were observed in March and April which moved inland enough to support contacts across a path from Texas to the Carolinas. Improvements came to the West Coast and East Coast areas as well. Please send in your reports.

### **EME:**

See logs in this issue. Please send in your reports.





*National SWOT net coverage for March & April 2005. Net control stations should forward net details including grids to KM5ES, John Peterson. [Full size server version of this map.](#)*

**SWOT Net Reports**

Here are the net reports for Mar/April 2005

**Northern California W6OMF (Sunday)**

Date	Check-ins/Grids
03/06	79
03/13	97
03/20	92
03/27	83
04/03	87
04/10	77
04/17	87
04/24	85
23 Grids for Mar/April 2005	

**Northeast Missouri NOPB (Monday 8pm)**

Date	Check-ins/Grids/States
03/07	21 - 12 - 6
03/14	30 - 14 - 7
03/21	31 - 17 - 9
03/28	data missing
04/04	28 - 14 - 6
04/11	31 - 14 - 6
04/18	no net
04/25	data missing

**North Texas W5FKN (Wednesday 9pm)**

Date	Check-ins/Grids/SWOT
03/02	32 - 18 - 15

03/09	34 - 15 - 17
03/16	30 - 16 - 16
04/06	34 - 19 - 16
04/13	30 - 18 - 15
04/20	38 - 19 - 18
04/27	40 - 16 - 22

**Southwest Oklahoma NH6CJ (Thursday 7:30pm)**

Date	Check-ins/Grids/States/SWOT mbrs
03/10	5 - 3 - 2 - 2
03/17	8 - 4 - 2 - 4
03/24	7 - 3 - 2 - 4
03/31	7 - 4 - 2 - 3
04/07	4 - 3 - 2 - 2
04/14	no net
04/21	7 - 5 - 2 - 3
04/28	4 - 3

**Northeast Oklahoma KD5ZVE (Tuesday 9pm)**

Date	Check-ins/Grids/States/SWOT
03/08	18 - 10 - 4 - 8
03/15	21 - 11 - 4 - 10
03/22	23 - 11 - 3 - 9
03/29	20 - 11 - 3 - 13
04/05	16 - 8 - 3 - 5
04/12	22 - 12 - 3 - 14
04/19	26 - 11 - 3 - 14
04/26	22 - 10 - 3 - 14

**Eastern Oklahoma KM5ES (Thursday 9pm)**

Date	Check-ins/Grids/States
03/03	27 - 12 - 5
03/10	15 - 7 - 3 [KD5ZVE]
03/17	22 - 12 - 4
03/24	16 - 8 - 3 [bad wx]
03/31	no net [bad wx]
04/07	22 - 9
04/14	32 - 13
04/21	28 - 10
04/28	24 - 9

**East Tex. Pineywood (Saturday 7am)**

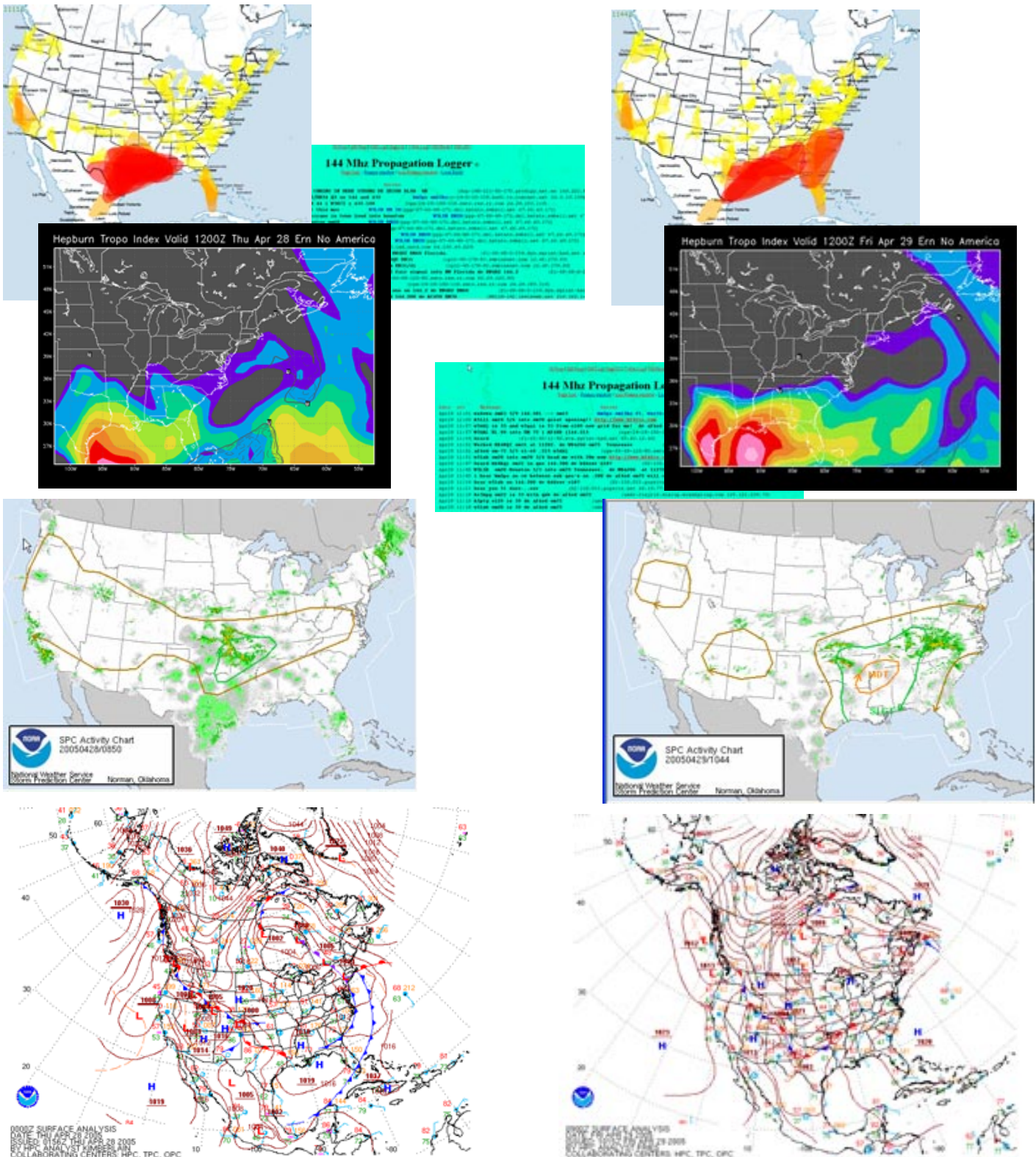
Date	Check-ins/Grids
03/12	23 - 12
03/19	18 - 10
03/26	8 - 5
04/02	22 - 11
04/09	22 - 13
04/16	24 - 12
04/23	16 - 9
04/30	6 - 4

**Daytona Beach Florida KU4VQ (Wednesday 8pm)**

Date	Check-ins/Grids
04/06	20 - 4
04/13	20 - 3
04/20	no data
04/27	10 - 1

## For the Propagation Hunter

Here are some recent observations made during a typical Gulf tropo opening. If you are a propagation hunter you will find these images interesting. The left side relates to April 28th and the right side April 29th, 2005. A combination of tools shown here reveals that there is no one foolproof indicator of conditions. The DX operator should use a variety of information and then MAKE NOISE! Shown here is the APRS, Hepburn, SPC Activity Chart (false echos), and surface pressure maps.



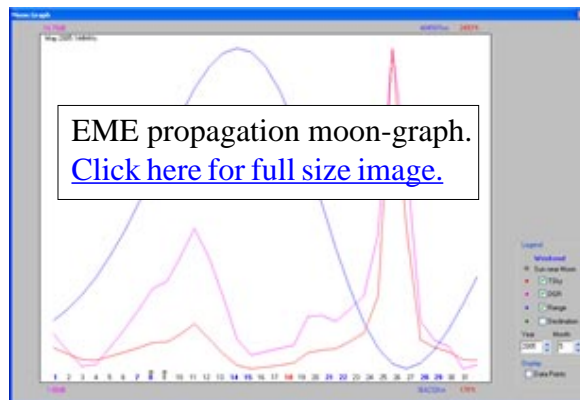


## *SWOT and Selected 2-Meter Nets*

Day	Local Time	Area	Net	Frequency	Net Control Station
<b>SUN</b>	<b>8:00 pm</b>	<b>Vacaville, CA</b>	<b>North California</b>	<b>144.250</b>	<b>W6OMF Larry</b>
SUN	8:30 am	Tucson, AZ	Arizona	144.250	N7SQN Al
SUN	8:30 pm	Zebulon, NC		144.220	N1GMV
SUN	9:30 pm	Holland, MI	Michigan SWAM	144.155	K8NFT
MON	7:30 pm	Albuquerque, NM	New Mexico	144.200	N5XZM Bobby
MON	8:00 pm	Colorado	Rocky Mt. VHF +	144.220	N0VSB W6OAL
<b>MON</b>	<b>8:00 pm</b>	<b>Northeast Missouri</b>	<b>Northeast Missouri SWOT</b>	<b>144.250</b>	<b>N0PB Phil</b>
MON	8:00 pm	Sandusky	East Michigan VHF	144.250	W8IDT Bart
MON	9:00 pm	Tidewater, VA		144.230	
<b>TUE</b>	<b>8:00 pm</b>	<b>California North Citys</b>	<b>NORCAL</b>	<b>144.250</b>	<b>KN6NG Tony</b>
TUE	8:00 pm	Greensboro, NC		144.225	K4HC
<b>TUE</b>	<b>9:00 pm</b>	<b>Northeast Oklahoma</b>	<b>Northeast Oklahoma SWOT</b>	<b>144.250</b>	<b>KD5ZVE Jimmy</b>
<b>WED</b>	<b>8:00 pm</b>	<b>Central Florida</b>	<b>Daytona Beach Florida SWOT</b>	<b>144.250</b>	<b>KU4VQ George KI4FIA George</b>
<b>WED</b>	<b>9:00 pm</b>	<b>North Texas</b>	<b>North Texas SWOT</b>	<b>144.250</b>	<b>W5FKN Bob</b>
<b>THU</b>	<b>8:00 pm</b>	<b>California South Citys</b>	<b>NORCAL</b>	<b>144.250</b>	<b>KA6CHJ Paul</b>
<b>THU</b>	<b>7:30 pm</b>	<b>Lawton/Duncan, OK</b>	<b>Southwest Oklahoma SWOT</b>	<b>144.250</b>	<b>NH6CJ Mike</b>
<b>THU</b>	<b>9:00 pm</b>	<b>Eastern Oklanhoma</b>	<b>Eastern Oklahoma SWOT</b>	<b>144.250</b>	<b>KM5ES John</b>
THU	9:00 pm	Tennessee	Upper Cumberland	144.225	N2BR Bobby
<b>SAT</b>	<b>7:00 am</b>	<b>East Texas</b>	<b>Piney Woods SWOT</b>	<b>144.250</b>	<b>KM5PO Jim</b>

### New SWOT members:

Swot #	Call	Name	Location	Grid
3462	K5RGE	Ronnie	Allen, TX	EM13
3463	W5SKS	Stanley	Rose, TX	EM26
3464	NB5Z	Randy	Burkburnett, TX	EM04



[Moon-graph](#) used by special permission to the Side Winders on Two Radio Club from David Anderson, GM4JJJ.

New moon = sun symbol.  
 Red data = Sky temperature.  
 Pink data = Downgrade.  
 Blue data = Range  
 Green data = Declination

### *SWOT Nets in bold*

#### **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 \_\_\_\_\_