



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 # 271

SECRETARY-TREASURER.

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Art Jackson/KA5DWI

- 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 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 #no for your renewals if you want save your bulletin!!!. (see address above)

- Send all articles and reports to the Secretary address above.
- Decals and listings available for \$1.00 each for shipping and handling from the Sec/Treas.
- SWOT PATCHES ARE AVAILABLE AT PRICE OF \$4.00 EACH + \$.50 FOR MAILING.

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

Be sure to join and chat with other SWOT members at:

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The Chairman's Corner

Greetings All:

Well the September Contest over by now and many of you have probably gotten some new grids. I have been busy around the shack putting up new HF antenna's and getting ready for fall and winter time. Since the Month of May we have had a website on the internet for SWOT members at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sidewindersontwo> This group page has news for the SWOT members. We also have some of our meeting's online, and really good discussions on contest's, propagation, and other SWOT news. We also have polls that are taken by the members who are online. If you haven't joined it, and have internet access, you should. It is very informative. Upcoming probably in the next issue of this newsletter will be talk about our meeting for next year and it's location. All of this and other items concerning SWOT will be on the group page and also here. Also don't forget you can get this newsletter via email by contacting Howard WD5DJT.

That's all for now. Good DX.

John KM5ES

Meet the Officers and Directors of SWOT

Each month we will profile one of the Officers or Directors of SWOT. This month we profile **Howard Hallman, WD5DJT**: longtime director from Texas.



Just about every SWOT member and 2 Meter operator who lives within 500 miles of Dallas/Fort Worth has worked Howard Hallman, WD5DJT. Howard is probably the most well known SWOT member around these parts. Many of us have heard, "Whiskey Delta Five Delta Juliet Tango". You could say he is the Grand Ambassador for SWOT.

Howard became a Ham in early 1977. Like many of us, his introduction to Ham radio came from his Citizens Band background. While he held

CB callsign KIO0510, he joined a Ham radio class at Duncanville High School. Once he received his Technician license, he already had a Kenwood TS700A and started working 2-Meter sideband from his current Lancaster home located on a nice view of the horizons. Howard immediately got to know many of the original SWOT members, Lloyd Pratt SWOT#1(K5ASZ), Len Hoops and many others from the original group. Howard procrastinated a while and finally joined SWOT in late 1978 and received SWOT number 893.

Howard did not take long in contributing to SWOT. For a short period in the early 80's, Howard was net control for the Saturday Morning Headquarters Net and many years conducted the Wednesday Night Headquarters Net. Even today, Howard jumps in and conducts these nets when the current net controls are unavailable. Since 1982, he has been SWOT's Secretary /Treasurer and has maintained the financial and membership records. On top of it all, Howard he has issued the Newsletter and was its Editor when no others could do it. Without a doubt, his efforts and dedication have helped keep our group afloat. His contributions to SWOT cannot be matched.

Although you will hear him on other Ham bands, 2 Meters remains his main emphasis. Howard has worked 43 States and several hundred grids. He has worked probably 600-700 SWOT members. Howard is not a paper chaser. The only award he has is a 100 SWOT members worked.

Howard currently operates a Kenwood 751A driving a pair of 4CX250B's. The amplifier has a long history itself once owned by Joe Griffey KC5NA and was built by Gerald K5GW for EME. The antennas are 2 Cushcraft 32-19's with slight tilt. The mast was bent a slight amount during a storm a while back. If you ever travel on Interstate 35 through Lancaster, you can't miss that bent antenna. If it isn't broke, don't fix it. You will hear him primarily on SSB, but he will work CW and PSK31.

Many thanks to Howard for all he has done.

WSJT – The New Frontier

By John Petersen KM5ES

The first week of July saw a new mode being brought about WSJT (Weak Signal by K1JT) by Joe Taylor, K1JT. Joe is a Noble Peace Prize winner. He wanted to build a program that would be able to decode MS pings not using CW, but FSK441. Joe built the program and distributed it to around 20 beta testers across the US. The program was put on the air between Joe and Shelby W8WN in its early stages and proved to work rather well on short MS pings. I received my copy and put it on the air.

I had been used to using WINMSDSP2000 using very high speed CW, which has to be slowed down then decoded by ear. WSJT decodes the FSK441 and prints it on the screen, no CW to be copied. The program works wonderfully especially on MS pings and burns.

I have worked over 25 states on WSJT since it first came out and have worked 15 new grid squares with the program. For people who are grid chasers this is a godsend for new grids. I have also worked 3 new states with the program.

WSJT has become a hit both in the US and especially in Europe. There are plans in the making software additions, to also making a mode using it for tropo work (PUA43). There are also stations attempting to use WSJT via moonbounce.

WSJT is a freeware program to the public. Its download is around 5 MB's. You can download it on the Internet at:
<http://pulsar.princeton.edu/~joe/K1JT/>
Try it, you may like it, in the pursuit of new grids on 2 meters and you are stuck in a rut. This program will help.

Report – Last 2 Meter E Opening for Spring/Summer 2001

By Art Jackson, KA5DWI

Those of you that know me know that I love a good Sporadic E opening. I doesn't matter what band either. Since 1970, I have used it or monitored it from 14mHz all the way to Channel 7 TV. If I had 223mHz equipment, I would have tried it on that band. Over the years, I have achieved a good handle on the how's, when's and where's to working E's. I can tell you what is a good or bad year is. This year, 2001 was neither. We had years when there were no 2 meter openings and years

when we had 15. This year on 2 in DFW we had 2 good openings and 3 quick and spotty ones.

After too many years of being out of pocket, I have been lucky enough to be around this year to observe and enjoy many of the openings. With the resource of the Internet as a partner, I have had the chance to confirm or deny some theories and come up with one or two new ones.

Despite my theories (I could write a book), Sporadic E is exactly what it states. Sporadic! To get that Grid and State count up you have to follow the 4 P's on Sporadic-E: *Propagation, Preparedness, Presence and Patience*. All of them lead to each other.

Propagation is obvious, can't work it without it. The patterns are consistent at mid-latitudes. The most active period is from May 1 till August 11. The latitude of the sun is greater than 15 degrees during this time. The peak is the Summer Solstice. At mid-latitudes, E's occur from local 9-11a.m. and 7-9p.m. Most paths on 6 and 10 meters are usually 700-1000 miles.

That leads to *Preparedness*. Whenever an E-opening develops on 10 or 6 meters and the paths start to shorten, concentrate on 2 meters on that area/direction. If you are able to identify a Channel 6 TV station or a FM broadcast station, chances are that if a 2 Meter E opening occurs, that is the direction it will happen. If you see a Internet posting or report of a 2 meter opening, find the path mid-point and point that antenna towards it. K9SE's E Propagation program is a great tool in determining direction and intensity.

Next is *Presence*. This is where my better half believes I get a little too focused. You need to be close by, many times at an instant. I have a low power FM broadcast band transmitter. I have at least two and sometimes three radios (10,6 & 2M) monitoring conditions. I have my Walkman on as I do my chores. Of course the Internet is up watching the loggers. Nice way to get out of painting the wall.

Last is *Patience*. You don't always get a 2 Meter opening. The physicists out there describe E-clouds as *patches* of ionization that are 100-125 km high, *inches* thick and *meters* wide. In other words, it *ain't* shooting fish in a barrel. The fellow ham 5 miles from me can hear that DX station and you won't hear squat! It has happened to me more than once and I've done it to a few. Be courteous. Keep

CQ's short. Listen and share the CQ's with your neighbors. Coverage is everything. Call CQ on .200 and QST you are on another frequency. With patience and coverage everybody gets to work something. Being long-winded and inconsiderate leads to incomplete QSO's, as well as hacked off hams. I have received many a new grid and state from unselfish hams. It's nice to do the same. The heart rate jumped to 150 when I worked New Hampshire from Texas.

That comes to a final point. Every *E*-opening here on 2 meters is a gift. This year we have had roughly 8 hours of off and on *E* conditions on 2 meters. I still managed 7 new grids and one new state. This is what makes it fun. Being aware and involved leaves you with a good feeling of accomplishment. Remember there is always a next time.

Here's a next time !

On August 17, a series of solar disturbances had produced visible auroras in Northern latitudes. A proton event had also begun and was quite pronounced. By the afternoon of the 17th, the WWV K-Index was at 6. Unless you live up north, it looked like a dead band down here. At 1920 UTC, aurora reports on the loggers had begun in earnest. Then something happened that rapidly changed conditions. In 4 hours we had Sporadic-E on 2! This is the latest in the season I can remember. You never know.

Here is what occurred with a timeline:

Date	Time UTC	Event
8/17	1800	K Index at 6
	1920	Aurora Reported in Europe and the US
	2100 Est.	Large Magnetic Disturbance Begins. GOES Hp Plot has a negative reading! Solar wind Density, velocity, and angle change rapidly for about 30 minutes.
	2110	Aurora ends.
	2150-	Southern US hears HC (Ecuador) beacons on 6 Meters.
	2230	
	2340	
8/18	0000	First 6 Meter E openings on the east coast. The Eastern half of the US is working 6 Meter E's in all directions.
	0120	OX (Greenland) 6 Meter beacon in East Coast
	0150	First 2 Meter E reported. E Cloud is over Central Arkansas.
	0210	New 2 Meter E reports. Cloud is over SE Kansas.

	0215	I work KMOT on the Kansas cloud. MUF is 190mHz!
	0229	New 2 Meter reports show new cloud over SW Kansas.
8/18	0230	New 2 Meter report show new cloud over IL/IN border.
Cont	0300	K Index has dropped to 3.
	0310	New 2 Meter report show new cloud at S.KS and CO border
	0325	Others and I work W7JF DN55 on 2 Meters. New cloud is over N.KS and CO border.

Around 0150, 6 Meters was open North to East. It was the busiest I have heard all year. Signals were all the way to 50.250. Several times two high MUF clouds were active. The general direction of the high MUF clouds as they developed was WNW about the same azimuth of the setting sun. It was one of the stranger events I have ever worked. Draw your own conclusions. The trick or challenge is to catch it when it happens again. Hope I recognized it the next time. Appreciate the gift. It's nice to receive.

Reading The Rules – All the Rules

By Don Ross, NL7CO/EM04

Want to start a really good argument on the VHF reflectors? Just start a thread about the "legality" of using FSK-41 or HSMS for award credits or for points during contests.

This very recently happened on the VHF Contesting reflector just prior to the September 2001 VHF contest. The posts flew left and right with very few of them heading towards the center of anything. The posts ran the entire range of human emotion from the dyed-in-the-wool digital devotee to the "death before digital" crowd with each espousing their particular parochial view and demanding that everyone see that their view is the one true way. And while I am in no position to comment on the righteousness of any particular point on this discussion, it does bring me to the point of this month's contesting column – what's legal for a contest?

On the surface, this is a very easy question to answer – just read the rules for the contest that you want to participate in and go from there. But, like the rest of life, it is not that simple.

First, you have to read the rules very carefully. All of the rules.

Let's use an example – can you use the national simplex frequency or 146.520 FM for

contest legal contacts in the ARRL's September VHF Contest?

The first place to look for the answer is on the ARRL Website's contesting area where I found the September 2001 VHF QSO Party Rules: www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/rules-09vhf.html

After reading the rules very carefully, I couldn't find anything about simplex frequencies. Then I saw rule 9.1 "See "General Rules for All ARRL Contests" and "General Rules for ARRL Contests on bands above 50 MHz (VHF)," November 2000 *QST*, or at the Contest Branch web site."

So it was back to the website. There I found General Rules for All ARRL Contests:

www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/rules-all.html and General Rules for ARRL Contests on bands above 50 MHz (VHF):

www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/rules-vhf.html.

And there I found my answer.

According to the General Rules for ARRL Contests on bands above 50 MHz (VHF) the use of 146.52 is the only band plan recognized simplex frequency that is prohibited (Rule 1.8). In fact, if you look at the posts to the VHF reflectors you will notice the uniform use of 52.525, 223.50, and 446.00 as contesting frequencies.

That one was pretty simple, but what if you still don't have an answer to your specific contest question and you have very carefully read the rules?

For that, you just have to look at rule 9.2 "For queries contact contests@arrl.org or 860-594-0232." Give the ARRL contesting branch a call and ask your question. You might not like the answer you get, but they will give you an answer.

Are the digital modes "legal" for the ARRL VHF contests? According to Dan Henderson, N1ND, the chief of the ARRL contesting section in an e-mail just prior to the September 2001 contest the answer is yes.

Are digital modes "legal" for VUCC/DXCC credit? According to Bill Moore, the chief of the DXCC/VUCC awards section at 1714z on 5 September 2001, the answer is yes. There are no mode specific awards for VUCC other than for the satellite specific VUCC and on HF FSK-41 is treated exactly the same as an RTTY contact.

Until next time.

Don Ross, NL7CO/EM04

The VACA Valley Hamfest Report - **By Larry Houge, W6OMF**

Visitors came from far and wide...

Mostly from the Sacramento Valley but many also came from afar and we thank you all for that... 128 total was the count for the 4th annual Labor day swap meet and Grip and Gin session in Vacaville, CA... CA, OR, NV, and NY were in attendance and made for a great day...

Once again the support was the best... With K6HEW, Bob, SWOT #3286, KF6VBJ, Jim, WH6AB, Clyde, N6AJR, Tom, N6WVF, Dan.... Between all these great people we were able to Teach a night course for the Tech class license, Set up for the event and do a VE session... They made sure the help was where it was needed... Great Amateurs doing Great Things....

W6BO, Bob made another great Helo landing in the back yard.. Will have to give him a 10 for this one... Smooth as silk... Testing was great... We had 17 people show up for testing and 16 successfully passed one or more elements...

Great Friday evening dinner with campers coming in from the foothills and Sacramento... KC6SEH, John, SWOT #3228, WA6ZKY, Gordy, KF6KFP, Alan, W6IZU, Ken, SWOT # 3290, and K6MYC, Mike, K6MYM, Myrna, K7QXA, Ron, and KF6LGY, Evelyn staying with us at the house... made for a great dinner evening and wonderful QSOs...

Prize Winners...

Kenwood TR-751A KF6BXH, Bill, #3206 900 MHz Phone WA6VZM, Gwynne 900 MHz Phone KJ6KO, Greg Pair of FRS KD6VCD, Bob ARRL Handbook K7QXA, Ron ARRL Handbook, K6PUD, Mike ARRL Antenna Book, NY6S, Tim First Aid Kit, N6JV, Norm First Aid Kit, KE6MVQ, Mickey 2 Meter HO Loop, K1EP, Ed AM/FM Walkman Radio, KF6BXH, Bill, #3206 AM/FM/CASS Walkman Radio, KC6SEH, John, #3228 AM/FM/CASS Walkman Radio, W6AAQ, Don AM/FM/CASS Walkman Radio, KF6MXK, Phil, #3287 CQ Hat, WD6CHL, Vern, #1431 Power

Horn Speaker, KF6PGT, Alan 25 Ft of Coax with Type N connectors, WB9NJS, Tim 25 Ft of Coax with Type N connectors, WK6Q, Donald, #3288 WSWSS Proceedings, K7NOM, Bill, #3307 WSWSS Proceedings, W6BO, Bob 1 Yr Amateur Radio Trader, K7XQ, Jeff

Our Thanks goes to WB6G, Gary, #3282 W6KOC, Bob, K6MYC, Mike, K6KLY, Russ, WSWSS, Amateur Radio Trader, WH6AB, Clyde, K6SUE, Sue, #162 WA6CAX, Bill, and last the ARRL... These are some great people and organizations that help by providing us with great door prizes.... Thanks to them if you get a chance please...

73 Larry, W6OMF

Our favorite attitude should be gratitude.
<http://users.cwnet.com/w6omf/w6omf.html>

Lunar, Solar and Astronomical Events

Lunar: Perigee 9/17, Apogee 9/29

Solar: Autumnal Equinox 9/22

Predicted Solar Flux Average 9/16-10/15: 196

Meteors:

10 Minor Showers from 9/15 till 10/15

Major Shower: Orionids begins 10/15

SWOT NET REPORTS

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

Monday Eastern Oklahoma:

Aug 20: 44/13, Aug 27: 37/12, Sep 03: 37/15
 Sep 10: 36/12

Sunday Northern Cal: Month of August 117/15

Tuesday Central Louisiana: No Report

Tuesday Northern Missouri: No Report

Wednesday North Texas: No Report

Thursday Southwest Oklahoma: No Report

Thursday Upper Cumberland: No Report

Saturday Pineywoods: No Report

Get Your SWOT Badges

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879 CASTLE KIRK DRIVE

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PRICING INFORMATION(ALL PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE)

BADGE W SAFETY LOCKING PIN: \$7.50

OVER POCKET /SAFETY LOCKING PIN \$8.75

WITH MILITARY POSTS \$8.25

WITH ALLIGATOR CLIP \$8.25

PIN AND ALLIGATOR ADAPTOR \$9.50

BAGE INFORMATION

BADGE CORNER STYLE: ROUND ____ OR SQUARE ____

CALL SIGN _____ LINE 1

FIRST NAME (TO APPEAR ON BADGE) _____ LINE 2

SWOT MEMBER # _____ LINE 3

CITY , STATE _____ LINE 4

<http://www.thesignman.com/menu.html>



SWOT NETS

Day	Local Time	Area	Net	Frequency	Net Control Station
SUN	8:30A	TUCSON AZ	ARIZONA	144.250	N7SQN AL
SUN	9:30P	HOLLAND MI	MI SWAM	144.155	K8NFT
MON	8:00P	WOODLAND PK	COLORADO	144.220	W2CRS WBODOM
MON	9:00P	MUSKOGEE	E.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 LA	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	HEADQUARTERS	144.250	W5FKN BOB
THU	8:00P	CA SO CTYS	NORCAL	144.250	KC6CHJ
THU	7:30P	LAWTON EM04	SW OK. SWOT NET	144.250	NL7CO DON
THU	9:00P	TENNESSE	UPPER CUMBERLAND	144.225	N2BR BOBBY
SAT	7:00A	TEXAS	NO TEXAS HDQRTRS	144.250	K5LOW DON
MON	7:30P	NEW MEXICO	NEW MEXICO	144.250	

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 _____