



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 # 273

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"

This month I would like to take my hat (cap) off to our net control operator's for SWOT. We are very fortunate to have a real good group of Net Controls of the Sidewinders on Two Radio Club.

As for Net Controls, I speak for them for I am also one we enjoy our work to promote SWOT and to find out the band conditions and what's been happening during the week with the different members and check-ins.

One thing I believe I would like to see is an interest of other members and of our check-ins to try being a Net Control. It can be interesting and a lot of fun. Having backups for when we are away from home can be really nice. I would like to see more volunteers to join us being Net Controls.

One thing I have found in being a net control is finding out band conditions from all directions of the compass, plus the fact finding the openings then after the net working the openings. 2 Meter openings do not happen often but when they do look out as a NCS the fun is just beginning. You will find out just how people can come out of the woodwork. I have many times before becoming a NCS listening to Ed WD5GVP running the Eastern Oklahoma SWOT Net during an opening and working up into Nebraska and points beyond and this has also happened to me on several occasions. Try it some time volunteer as a backup NCS you might like it.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving this year for we have a lot to be thankful for.

73 All
John Petersen KM5ES
SWOT Chairman

Meet the Officers and Net Control Operators for SWOT

Each month we will profile one of the Officers or one of the Net Control Operators for SWOT. This month we profile **Donald Ross, NL7CO**: a Director for SWOT from southwest Oklahoma.

Don is retired from the US Army and is currently working as a system requirements

developer for automated command and control systems primarily for US and allied field artillery command centers. His current job requires a lot of traveling and he gets to go to some exotic grid squares. Sadly, it has a tendency to get in the way of his hamming.

Don first got interested in radio communications as a young Civil Air Patrol cadet in the late 60's and early 70's. He was introduced to VHF FM and HF. He talked about getting licensed as a ham for a number of years, and finally broke down and took the tests in 1983.

The Army gave him orders to move to Germany. Originally licensed at the novice and then technician levels, he was told by several of the local hams at Fort Sill, OK (EM04) that the Germans were really big into something called 2m SSB and that he should take an all-mode radio. Fortunately, the nice folks at HRO in Anaheim, CA were willing to sell him the newest and best - a Kenwood TR-9130.

Taking on the radio in Germany (operating as DA2GD in JO49) and talking to the locals convinced him that this was the only way to play and that he got hooked. He also tried HF and decided that it wasn't as much fun as it was to push the limits on 2m.

Returning from Germany, he was assigned to Fort Carson, Colorado (DM78) and came under the tutelage of Loren, KX0O (now W0LD), and Ron, NK0P on how to operate as a member of the weak signal community. During his two assignments there, he managed to confirm 87 grids. To this day he continues to monitor whenever he passes through hoping to get that last thirteen grids for VUCC.

After retiring from the Army, he moved back to Lawton, OK (EM04) and got involved with the local club. He became the pied piper of weak signal operations. At the urging of Claude, KD5RQ, he upgraded to an Extra Class License in 1995 to strictly help with the local VE team. Don has also lived in Korea for two years as a military computer systems administrator and operated mostly on 6m as HL9DR.

For most of his ham radio career, he has lived in barracks and apartment type settings so most of the operations were mobile in nature. Don

still plans to be active as a mobile or portable contesting operation once his VUCC is confirmed.

Don's current station set up is a work in progress with the 2m side being converted from an Icom IC-746 to an FT-736R with Mutek front end boards feeding a TE Systems amplifier providing 400 watts to an M2 2M18XXX up 50'. He also has the 6m, 220, and 70cm modules in the 736R and have long M2 beams available for those bands also. He plans to build his station towards being EME capable and will try and make a couple of CW contacts each week.

Currently, he has within just a couple confirmations of his 2m VUCC and is about half way to getting his first 500 counties confirmed on 2m SSB. His 2m goals are to complete his VUCC; obtain the CQ Magazine county hunters award at the 500 counties level; to work on my 2m WAS and DXCC; and to get five new hams on 2m SSB in the next year and of course, hopes to work us all his favorite band and mode - 2m SSB.

We can catch Don as your NCS for the Southwest Oklahoma SWOT Net every Thursday at 19:30 Central Time 144.250.

VHF/UHF The Internet Way

By John Petersen KM5ES #3331

Remember when you used to setup skeds on 10 meters on 28.885 or other places on HF. Or chased spots on packet DX clusters. Now with the age of the Internet most people are resorting to spotting and chasing DX on the Internet. Plus you can do it by the band or by the mode ... interesting huh.

Upon getting online around 5 years ago the Internet grows daily in huge leaps and bounds. New sites, new propagation, new modes and you name it. For VHF, now it is a Godsend. Probably one of the best sites on the net to watch for VHF/UHF DX is at <http://www.dxworld.com>. There you can pick your poison, even 6 meters and HF spots. If you go with 144 or 2 meter propagation try the 144 Propagation Logger at:

<http://www.dxworld.com/144prop.html>. On this site you can post or send in what you are seeing on the 2 Meter band, plus what hams around the US have been posting. This really comes in handy especially

with openings of Es coming in or Tropo. You can tell where the Es Clouds are by watching the posts. Remember the E skip clouds are flying at 200 mph towards the NW. Watching the post between 2 stations working each other or station's reports of the opening can help a lot in that chase for the elusive grids you are looking for.

If you're a 6 Meter buff go to:

<http://www.dxworld.com/50prop.html> or Magic Band Live at <http://dxworld.com/magicband.html>.

For 222 mhz try this one:

<http://dxworld.com/220prop.html>

For 432 and above try this link:

<http://dxworld.com/uhflog.html>.

On these pages, numerous other interesting links are listed.

For Meteor Scatter work especially SSB try <http://www.dxworld.com/hsms.html>. For digital work especially WSJT or HSCW look at the Ping Jockey Central page at:

<http://www.pingjockey.net/cgi-bin/pingtalk> . You can also find out if tropo conditions are favorable at <http://www.iprimus.ca/~hepburnw/tropo.html>. The site shows worldwide maps of hotspots for Tropo. It seems to be very accurate at times.

You can find many sites that have all the above webpages such as my site at:

<http://go.to/km5es>.

There are thousands of other sites. This will give you a starting point for checking out the bands and you don't even have to turn the rig on...but it helps. Next month I will talk about DX Prop sites that feature Aurora and other modes of propagation that will help in your grid chase. 73 All.

DX Reports October 16 to November 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.

Thanks -Art KA5DWI

Reports

Meteors:

10/21-Orionids Shower John KM5ES-EM25 reported working K2TXB-FM29, W0AH-DM78 and N3NGE-FN20 in a couple of hours that morning using WSJT.

Aurora:

10/28 0630UT K0SM-EN34 reported a visible light show. Everyone was asleep.

11/01 0130UT KX9X-EN60 reported working W0VB-EN34.

11/06 0230-0330UT One of the best Aurora displays this year. The aurora was visible as far south as Abilene, Texas.

Many reports of propagation from coast to coast.

11/06 2245UT Aurora re-appeared in the far northeast part of the US.

Tropo:

11/10 0200UT KU4WW-EM54 reported 59 signals from N4GN-EM78 & K4TO-EM77

11/10 0300UT N0DQS-EN22 had worked EM54,56,64,68 & 77

11/10 0530UT K5UR-EM25 59+ QSO with KG4BMH-EM76

11/11 0210UT N0PB-EM39, Phil worked KG9BV-EM79 & KX9X-EN60

11/12 1500UT KE4YYD-EL79 heard EN31 & EN33.

Sources : KM5ES SWOT postings and DX World 144 Propagation Logger

What to expect November 16- December 15:

Meteors:

Geminids Shower peaks late UTC December 13. This is a good reliable shower for a couple of days with rates around 80 meteors per hour.

Paths with Local Times: N-S 2100-0100 & 0400-1000, NE-SW 0500-0800, NW-SE 2100-2400, E-W Not as good, look 2100-2400 & 0600-0900.

Aurora:

The sun has resurged in activity and has had several X-Class flares the past month producing Aurora. Monitor *Spaceweather.Com* for possible events.

Tropo:

As winter sets in, opportunities will decrease. Still look for stalling weather systems along the coasts to produce new openings. Water paths are best.

E-Layer Propagation:

We are entering the winter E season. It peaks at the winter solstice. Events occur less than the spring and summer season. It still can be as intense when it happens. Short-skip on 10 and 6 meters are the best indicators for potential openings on 2 Meters.

Worked Awards Report

By: Wade Massey KC5MGL

Since I have taken over as the "Worked" Awards Chairman, we have had only two requests for Certificates and on for an Endorsement received. They were all approved and are as follows:

Certificates:

John Petersen, KM5ES 50 SWOT Stations

Phil Cornyn, KF6MSK 25 SWOT Stations

Endorsements:

Norman O. Davis, WA6ZFK 200 SWOT Stations worked.

It only takes 10 stations to qualify for a certificate. Endorsements are in groups of 25 stations worked. I will bet that a bunch of you would qualify for certificates and endorsements if you would just look over your logs. All SWOT numbers are listed on the Yahoo group page or can be obtained from our Secretary Howard, WD5DJT. (It is free if he can e-mail them to you, there is a cost if you want it on diskette.)

If you don't want to dig back through your log to find which stations are SWOT and which are not, why don't you start calling "CQ SWOT" on the call channel and develop a new list. See what you can come up with. Please remember to take QSO off the call channel. With no contest for a couple of months, working SWOT members for certificates and endorsements is a great way to keep up the contesting skills and check to make sure the station is working properly.

73's Wade/KC5MGL

Your Input Is Appreciated for a New Product

This email was received by Donald Ross last month and is passed on to us to feedback if we wish.

From: ALPHA-SALES
[mailto:alpha-sales@crosslinkinc.com]
Sent: 14 October 2001 01:50
To: Donald M. Ross
Subject: Re: 6/2 Amplifier

Hi Donald,

We are still debating features versus price for the VHF market. Our options range from the all out 6/2 we displayed at Dayton (& website) to possibly producing separate 6 meter & 2 meter amps. It will be next year before we announce anything formally.

However, if you have comments about the VHF situation we would appreciate receiving your input via email. I will be sure to pass it along to the appropriate marketing and engineering folks.

Sincerely,
Scott Ehrhorn, ALPHA Product Manager
CrossLink, Inc.

Lunar, Solar and Astronomical Events

Lunar: Apogee – 11/23, Perigee 12/6
New Moon – 11/15 & 12/14,
Full Moon – 11/30

Solar: Overhead 11/16 -18.8°S, 12/15 - 23.3°S

USAF Predicted Solar Flux Average:
11/16-12/15: 222 (Third monthly increase)

Meteors:

Minor Showers: 1 Peaks from 11/16-11/30, 8 Peak from 12/1-12/15

Major Showers:

Leonids Peak 11/18, Ends 11/20
Geminids 12/9-12/19, Peak 12/13 23UT
(Good Viewing, see Lunar)

More meteor info at:

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

SWOT NET REPORTS

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

Eastern Oklahoma (Monday): 10/15/01...57/15
10/22/01...61/19(New Record)
10/29/01...63/19(New Record) 11/05/01...50/15

Central Louisiana (Tuesday): 10/16/01...11/7
10/23/01...11/9 10/30/01...14/9 11/05/01...10/8

Northern Missouri (Tuesday): 10/16/01...18/12
10/23/01...29/15 10/30/01...25/14 11/05/01...No Report

North Texas (Wednesday): 10/17/01...40/15
10/24/01...30/11 10/31/01...37/18
11/07/01...33/16

Southwest Oklahoma (Thursday):
10/18/01...23/7 10/25/01...No Report
11/01/01...No Report 11/08/01...No Report

East Texas (Saturday): 10/20/01...16/6
10/27/01...10/5 11/03/01...20/8 11/10/01...20/7

Sunday Northern California: Month of October
127 Different stations in 16 Grids (4 Nets)

-----WARNING -----

What you are about to witness is an Amateur Radio Station licensed to:

YOUR CALL HERE

BEFORE YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS, HERE ARE THE ANSWERS.

1. The total cost of this equipment cannot be discussed here as it creates many complicated and varied marital conflicts!
2. No, we cannot send a message to your brother in Amsterdam, Berlin, London, Los Angeles or Hong Kong - I suggest you use Southwestern Bell or another telephone carrier for that purpose.
3. This is strictly my hobby. I have neither the facilities nor the time or inclination to want to fool around with fixing your Toaster, Clock Radio, Electric Kettle, Video Recorder, TV set, Car Stereo or hi-fi - I suggest you see a local serviceman.
4. Yes, all those antennas in the backyard are essential to the proper operation of all this equipment.
5. The farthest station I have contacted has been in the Ubangiland Islands off the coast of Southern Kowawowwww.
6. The cards on the wall are called QSL cards. They are confirmation of contacts made with other stations throughout the world without my having to resort to using the facilities of, or incurring the cost of Ma Bell or any other telephone carrier.
7. Yes this station is fully Y2K compliant as well as up to full international standards in all respects - for the simple reason I designed, programmed and built it all by myself.
8. Accordingly, it is a technical IMPOSSIBILITY for this station's very complicated equipment to interfere with computers, video games, vcrs, television reception, washing machines, hearing aids, pacemakers, telephone or stereo systems.
9. Any interference problems of that nature are strictly caused by very obvious design flaws in the home entertainment devices or the appliance itself.
10. Curing arthritis might be a definite maybe. Then again maybe not.
11. An Amateur Radio Station may only be operated by a highly qualified, technically skilled electronics expert.
12. It takes absolute dedication, training, intelligence, as well as years of schooling to reach the level of competence that justifies one to be licensed by the government of the Commonwealth of Australia.
13. Therefore it is not considered inappropriate to show proper awe, respect and general obsequiousness when I discuss my hobby or operate the numerous, yet complicated controls

FURTHERMORE

If you are granted the extreme honor of being invited to speak into the microphone, please observe the following rules:

1. Speak in a low and soothing tone.
2. Do not disagree with me in any manner what-so-ever.
3. Say no bad words and tell no off color jokes.
4. It is customary for the guest to make complimentary remarks about this station and its licensed operator when talking to other hams on the air.

DO NOT TOUCH ANYTHING!

TURN ANY KNOBS!

SIT ON THE EQUIPMENT!

I HAVE LOST SEVERAL VISITORS BY ELECTROCUTION IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS.

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	9:30P	HOLLAND MI	MI SWAM	144.155	K8NFT
MON	7:30P	NEW MEXICO	NEW MEXICO	144.250	
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