

Chairman's Corner

By Art Jackson KA5DWI

This Issue's Issues



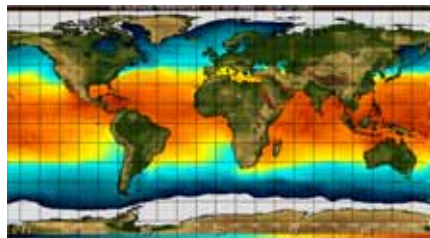
Sounds like
a double
negative...
hi hi

Where's the Tropo?

After a few weeks of believing that summer would never end, we are finally seeing a touch of fall around here. Here in the south end of the Central Plains (North Texas) we continue to see a bit of

abnormal weather. We are suffering from the affects of a two-year drought, but hopefully are seeing a slow end to it. Unfortunately, to see the end of drought is to also see a lack of Tropo. I will settle for the lack of Tropo to get the rain. We are in a mild El Niño.

How does this affect Tropo? It is fairly straightforward. In an El Niño, weather systems move quickly from the west coast of North America towards the east coast. Tropo is induced by stable (clear air) weather systems that change from cold core to warm core ones as they come in contact with warm water or land. During an El Niño, because of an active sub-tropical jet stream, this is more difficult to occur as unstable weather systems constantly are on the move.



Still, do not give up hope this fall, winter and spring. This El Niño is a weak one compared to some of the past ones. It might fizzle out this winter or early spring. I hope it really does not because we all need the rain. Whenever you hear from your local weathercaster

.... In an El Nino, weather systems move quickly from the west coast of North America towards the east coast...

of a few days of clear weather along with warming temperatures (such as Indian summer) be alert to a chance of Tropo. We have had some outstanding openings during the winter, although limited in numbers.

Speak up... Say Something.

We continue to get new members to our Yahoo Group page as well as the Homepage's listserver. But, we seem to lose them as quick as we gain them. No one is really posting much of anything to stir up some interest. Just because I am overwhelmed at college does not mean that you all should be quiet on our real-time boards. Please use either to your liking. The list server is best for speed and repeated responses, while Yahoo is best for announcements.

Please keep it positive. We want to attract new members and participants, not run them off. In the past several weeks, one VHF interest listgroup has done nothing but complain about "Captive Rovers". After several weeks, I have been doing nothing but deleting each digest and I am about ready to leave it. Asking, sharing, informing and promoting are most important.



Beacons - Is the band open?

For the past three years, I have been a member of an ad-hoc group of Hams that enjoy seeing their call up in lights while also determining if certain bands were open. Several of you who visited me at HamCom saw a demonstration of it. It is called PropNet. This group uses PSK31, along with a windows software program and a connection to the Internet, to inform anyone that propagation exists. It is very interesting. The primary focus has been on 10 Meters, but is open to all bands including 2 Meters. These beacons (better called packets) are not continuous, but timed transmissions (about 6-10 single call 30 second long sets per hour).

I have participated on 6 and 10 Meters, and in two years have captured (function of the software) well over 25,000 transmissions of other Hams throughout the U.S. and the world. I really think that this could be of service to us in VHF/UHF and has great potential. It just needs participants.

You can read about it in November's CQ magazine in the Propagation section. Also, visit www.propnet.org. The caretaker of PropNet is Ev Tupis W2EV, SWOT #498. I would like to see a few of us put PropNet on 2 Meters. Utilizing PSK31 in SSB and real-time reporting to the Internet could be a good alternative to APRS (very crowded) and reporting to DX World or a DX Cluster (blah-blah-blah self reports).

Look it over. Let us know what you think. Ev has

worked very hard on this project and it is a positive and efficient way to inform and educate the amateur world that propagation conditions exist.

The Future

I still cannot promise how involved I will be next year. I am planning to make a few adjustments in my schedule that I hope will make me more available. Still, getting a degree in your mid-50s is tough, and it takes all my time. I still have not fixed that broken rotor on the tower.

I reiterate (say again), if anyone wants to replace me, I am taking applications. I would be thrilled to see a more active Chairman, but if no one wants the job, I will do the best I can.

Some opportunities exist for a more visible presence of SWOT next year. The Central States VHF Society is meeting in San Antonio, Texas in late July 2007. Hopefully, you will get to see many of us there and we are looking towards sponsoring a breakfast or luncheon. We will let you know more in the future. Also, despite my frustration with HamCom this year, we will be there. I'll just demand a reserved parking space. (hi hi)

Enjoy the Holidays, and as always I hope that a new rig and tower shows up in your stocking, and if not at least a prosperous, happy and healthy New Year.

73's

Art Jackson KA5DWI



CSVHFS History

By Bill Tynan W3XO/5 EM00
Swot #300

The Central States VHF Society (CSVHFS) is one of the oldest and most prestigious of the several organizations dedicated to promoting activity on the bands above 50 MHz.

CSVHFS began as an informal meeting among a relatively small group of Midwest VHF hams, including Jay Liebmann, then W5ORH now K5JL, Don Hilliard, then W0EYE now W0PW, Bill Smith, K0CER, Ray Nichols, W5HFV, Larry Nichols, W5UGO and Sam Whitely, then W5WAX now K5SW. Several of these folks regularly got together on 75 meters to commiserate on their separation from the rest of the VHF fraternity on the East and West Coasts and gripe about the greater distances they had to span to make QSOs and collect states.

In the summer of 1965, K0CER invited a group of these Midwest VHFers to meet in Sioux Falls, SD. They didn't call it a conference and they didn't elect officers or form an organization. It was merely a bunch of Midwest VHF hams with similar interests and problems getting together to swap ideas and stories about operation on what was then considered the upper reaches



of the radio spectrum, 144 and 432 Megacycles. They hadn't yet started calling them Megahertz.

The following year, 1966, another similar informal gathering was held, this time in Sand Springs, OK. Once again, no thought was given to forming a permanent formal organization.



Bill Tynan, W3XO/5

By 1967, it was perceived that regular annual gatherings should be held and an organization, to be called the Central States VHF Society, was formed. A General Chairman and several Committee Chairmen were selected. W5UGO, was named General Chairman and W5WAX, W0EYE, W0YMG (Dennis Main) and W5ORH Committee Chairmen. The Conference was called for August 19 and 20 at the Western Hills Lodge, Sequoyah State Park near Wagoner, OK. Those dates were selected to follow the Perseids meteor shower, so attendees could swap stories about what they worked, and didn't work, during this major shower. Some 125 hams from 19 states and 7 call areas descended on that beautiful location. Technical talks were supplemented by antenna tests. This laid the groundwork for one of the most popular activities at succeeding Central States VHF Society Conferences.

Both antenna gain tests and noise figure measurements have become key activities drawing VHFers to Society Conferences. In those early days, a 2 dB noise figure

could well win the competition. It is said that a prominent Iowa 2 meter EMEer, who had just worked Australia via the Moon,

surprised everyone, including himself, when the preamp used for the record breaking contact, turned in an 8 dB noise figure. Nowadays, preamps must measure considerably

less than a 1 dB to even be in the running. And, that's not just on 2 meters. Phenomenally low noise figures are regularly turned in by preamps up to 10 GHz and beyond. Al Ward, W5LUA, has long been the prime provider of the latest exotic noise figure measuring gear. Through the years, the antenna range has been presided over by Marc Thorson, WB0TEM and Kent Britain, WA5VJB. Both have carried the load, seeing to it that equipment is on hand to measure antennas for various bands from 144 MHz up. All who help with the antenna range and the noise figure measurements put in long hours at each Conference to insure that these popular activities come off successfully. They deserve the thanks of all.

The presence of many wives and children at that first 1967 Conference, made it apparent that future

Conferences must include programs and activities geared to families, as well as presenting high quality technical programs. The family program has since become an important adjunct to all CSVHFS Conferences. The toddlers present at those early gatherings are now grown and many are active VHFers. Among them are such well known Society members as Charlie Calhoun, Jr, K5TTT, Bryan Ward, N5QGH (Al Ward's son) and Ron Marosko Jr. NN5DX, son of K5LLL.

The 1968 Conference was held at the Lake of the Ozarks with Joe Hall, K9SGD, and Glenn Smith, W0DQY, as Conference Hosts and W5UGO again as Chairman. He was assisted by W0EYE as Program Chairman. At this Conference it was decided to incorporate.. This gathering saw some 100 hams from 35 states plus Canada and England, the CSVHFS Conference already becoming internationally known as a prime venue to learn about equipment and operating techniques for the VHF and UHF bands. Participating on the program that year was Ed Tilton, W1HDQ, longtime Conductor of the QST column, "The World above 50 Mcs" and

for many years, the publication's VHF Editor.

Boulder, CO was the site of the 1969 Conference

with W0EYE as President, Louis Breyfogle, W0MOX as Vice President, Bill McCaa, K0RZJ, Treasurer and Ted Mathewson, W4FJ, as Secretary. Except for a one year hiatus, Ted served as the Society's Secretary until 1983.

The 1970 Conference, held again at the Western Hills Lodge near Tulsa with W5WAX

"CSVHFS began as an informal meeting among a relatively small group of Midwest VHF hams.."

as President and W5ORH, as Vice President, marked a milestone in the progress of the young organization. On the suggestion of KOCER, it was decided to institute an award honoring the memory of John Chambers, W6NLZ, for his many technical contributions to VHF and UHF, including the first terrestrial bridging of the Pacific from California to Hawaii on any band above 50 MHz. W6NLZ's contacts with Tommy Thompson, KH6UK, on 144, 220 and 432 proved the existence of the pacific duct.. The Chambers award, presented to one who has made a notable technical contribution applicable to the bands above 50 MHz, has been a mainstay of the Central States VHF Society since then. The 1971 Conference saw presentation of the first Chambers Award, which went to Mel Wilson, W2BOC, for his studies of Sporadic E propagation.

The theme in 1974 Conference was moonbounce. The Conference was held in Boulder, CO with Dick Hart, KOMQS as Society President and Carl Scheideler, W2AZL, Vice President. That year, the members decided to affiliate with ARRL and make the CSVHFS a Society Life Member of AMSAT. Mrs. John Chambers, W6NTC, was present at the Saturday evening banquet to present the Chambers Award to Dick Knadle, K2RIW, for his 70 cm amplifier design and development of stressed dishes.

The 1982 Conference held in Baton Rouge, LA with Bob Taylor, WB5LBT, as President and Charles McGough, K5BMG as Vice President, was dedicated to the memory of Mel Wilson, W2BOC who had died during the year. With the passing of this distinguished Society member, a new award

commemorating Mel was instituted. All of the Conference locations and Society officers, as well as recipients of the Cambers and Wilson Awards, are presented on the Central states VHF Society Web page, www.csvhfs.org.

In 1984, the Society began printing collections of the various papers presented at its Conferences, but that worthwhile endeavor took on a new direction and importance at the 21st Conference held in Arlington, TX in 1987 with WB5LUA as President and Wes Atchison, WA5TKU, Vice President. With that Conference, ARRL began publishing the official Proceedings, making the technical information presented each year more widely available.

The 1993 Conference held in Oklahoma City with Joe Lynch, N6CL, as President and Tommy Henderson, WD5AGO, as Vice President, was dedicated to the memory of Joel Paladino, N6AMG who contributed so very much to the advancement of our interests in the wonderful world of VHF and above. Though terminally ill, Joel had journeyed to the Azores and Morocco to provide new countries to avid 6 meter DXers.

The Y2K Conference marked another milestone in the history of the Central States VHF Society. It was the first Conference for the new millennium and it was the first Central States Conference held outside of the United States. The site was Winnipeg, Manitoba in Canada. The President and host was Barry Malowanchuk, VE4MA, with Jim Roik, VE4AQ Vice President and in charge of the program.

Four years later, having broken the ice with the Winnipeg meeting, the annual affair again moved north of the border, this time to Mississauga, Ontario, President that year was Peter Shilton, VE3AX with Bob Morton, VE3BFM, serving as Vice President and Program Chairman.

The 2005 Conference, the 40th, was held in Colorado Springs CO under the able direction of Lauren Libby, W0LD, President, Ken Anderson W5ETT, Vice President Operations and Joe Lynch, N6CL, Vice President in charge of the program. The Conference was dedicated to the memory of Ted Mathewson, W4FJ, one of the Society's founders and long-time Secretary.

The twin cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul was the site of another "bang-up" Central States VHF Conference. Last July. Bruce Richardson, W9FZ, along with a an active group of VHFers from the Northern Lights VHF Society, hosted the affair.

Anyone interested in the bands above 50 MHz who have never been to a Central States VHF Conference, owe it to themselves to attend one. The 2007 conference will be held July 27 through 29 in beautiful and historic San Antonio, Texas. As usual there will be lot's to keep the family entertained while we hams learn about the latest in equipment and operation on the VHF, UHF and microwave bands, measure antennas and preamps and generally have a good time meeting folks we've been working and many we would like to work.

For those just getting started, in VHF, a special session is planned that will answer many questions on

what our higher frequency bands have to offer and what equipment is needed to enjoy the same thrill VHFers have been getting for years on six meter, two meters and the shorter wavelengths.



**Paul Goble, ND2X - CSVHFS
President submits the 2007
San Antonio Agenda**

(As of 1 November 2006 - Subject to possibility of minor changes see <http://www.csvhfs.org/> in early Dec 06)

Thursday

- Hanger 18 surplus tour
- Dinner somewhere downtown (River Walk? Tower of the Americas?)
- BoD Meeting 2200-2330
- Hospitality Room 1900-0200

Friday

- Antenna Range - 0730 until ??
- Rover display 0800-1100
- SMIRK Meeting 0930-1100
- Test equipment setup 0900 until done or 1600, whichever is earlier (w/lunch break)
 - 1. Active devices testing
 - 2. Passive devices testing
- Luncheon (Joel Harrison, ARRL pres, "Hot-button topic of the day") 1130-1300
- Technical Presentations (start 1300, end 1630)
- Family Program (morning thru late afternoon - plus an evening thing)
- Dinner on own (SWOT meeting)
- Flea Market (room open 1830, run 1900-2100)
- BoD Meeting 2100-2200
- Hospitality room 2000-0200
- SNOTTS Meeting 2400
- Child care 1900-2400

Saturday

- Technical Presentations (AM 0800-1130)

- Getting Started in VHF & UHF weak signal operations Program (AM 0800-1200)
- Test equipment setup 0900 until done or 1430, whichever is earlier (w/lunch break)
 - 1. Active devices testing
 - 2. Passive devices testing
- Lunch on own 1130-1300
- Technical Presentations (PM 1300-1545)
- Getting Started in VHF & UHF weak signal operations Program (PM 1300-1545)
- Business Meeting 1600-1700
- BoD Meeting 1700-1800
- Family Program (0900 thru 1600-ish)
- Open (pay as you go) bar prior to banquet
- Banquet (1830-whenever)
- Hospitality room immediately after banquet thru 0200
- Child care 1800-2400

Sunday

- Parting Shots Session 0800-1200

NEW items added to the program for 2007

- Testing of passive devices (filters, relays, directional couplers, circulators, coax adapters, coax jumpers, dummy loads/terminations, attenuators, etc.), through the 24GHz band.
- Saturday "Getting Started in Weak Signal VHF/UHF" class for the newest Boy Scout licensee to the oldest HF op who has worked everything there is to work on HF and is looking to expand his/her amateur radio horizons. This includes an antenna workshop to build VHF/UHF yagis, discussion of stacking theory, antenna polarization, calculation and significance of antenna parameters like SWR, etc.).
- Child care on both Friday and Saturday nights.

Lodging (<http://www.omnihotels.com/FindAHotel/SanAntonio.aspx>)

- The \$87 room rate is for rooms which now go for \$149-240 per night in this luxury hotel.
- Make a vacation of it - conference rate is available for either side of the conference as long as they have rooms available (just ask). There is SO much for the family to do in and around San Antonio.
- We contracted for a minium of 100 rooms at the conference rate - the hotel will let us have as many more as they have rooms available. This means the earlier you make your reservation, the more likely we are to be able to accommodate everyone at the conference hotel! Call 1-800-400-1700 (24/7) and mention "Central States" to receive the outstanding conference rate! They are taking reservations now!



The WSJT Group 2006 Winter Rally

Please read the rules carefully as changes in contest categories, QSO points and awards have been made.

Click [here](#) for the wsjtgroup homepage.

Sponsor: WSJT Group groups.yahoo.com/group/wsjtgroup/

Rally period: 0000 UTC Dec 10 to 0700 UTC Dec 18, 2006. The rally period has been chosen to coincide with the Geminids meteor shower. More information on this shower can be found [here](#).

QSO Procedure: QSOs can be made using any mode provided they are entirely by meteor scatter. No QSOs within own maidenhead grid square or any of the 8 adjacent grid squares. Exchange is both callsigns, 4 character maidenhead grid squares, and final 'Rogers'.

IMPORTANT: All operators are reminded that exchanging information without the use of meteor scatter during the QSO attempt invalidates the contact.

Bands: 50, 144, 222, and 432 MHz.

Categories: Categories are assisted or unassisted. Each of these categories compete against stations in their time zone. The competition categories are summarized as follows: Unassisted Assisted Rover

Operating assisted allows scheduling of QSO attempts during the rally period. Unassisted operation prohibits any scheduling or self-spotting during the rally, as well as any active or passive (i.e., read-only) use of [Pingjockey](#) or other websites. Detailed procedures for unassisted/random operation can be found [here](#).

For unassisted entries, schedules made prior to the contest are allowed for QSO attempts over 1300 miles (2092 km). They are scored as unassisted provided they meet the criteria. On 222 and 432 MHz, prearranged schedules for any distance are permitted.

Rovers: To encourage rover activity, a separate competition category exists for rovers. Rovers do not designate assisted/unassisted, but time zones do apply. Rover operators must submit a separate log for contacts made from their home station.

Scoring: Assisted: 1 point per QSO on 50, 2 points on 144, 4 points on 222, 10 points on 432. Unassisted: 2 points on 50, 4 points on 144, 12 points on 222, 30 points on 432.

Score is QSO points times number of unique grid squares worked per band. Rovers: QSO points x (Unique grid squares worked per band + Number of grids from which at least 1 QSO was completed). This is the standard rover scoring formula for VHF contests.

Assisted operators are strongly encouraged to work unassisted operators. As incentive, assisted operator entries can score unscheduled (ie. unassisted) QSOs with unassisted points. If a station has already been worked with assisted scoring, replace with appropriate unassisted points. Example: K1JT works W8WN on 144 MHz after scheduling on Pingjockey. The QSO is scored with 2 point. Later in the rally, these stations work randomly. The QSO is now scored with 4 points.

Log submission: Participants should submit: 1) A summary and 2) A rally log.

1) The summary should include: i) Your call, ii) Your time zone, iii) Assisted or Unassisted, iv) QSOs total, and v) Final claimed score. Please show the arithmetic you use to obtain your final score, ie. QSO points x Multipliers = Final Score.

2) For each QSO, the log must show: i) Date, ii) Time (UTC), iii) Callsign of station worked, iv) Grid, v) Band (50, 144, etc), and vi) QSO points. Submission of the log as an Excel spreadsheet (arrange the columns as shown above) by email is **strongly**

encouraged, although any convenient **electronic submission** format is acceptable. (Paper logs are no longer accepted) Electronic spreadsheet logs greatly reduce the chance of clerical errors that occur when the rally committee transcribes information from large logs (> 10 QSOs) into our database. Note that the current version of WSJT has a logging function that may be of help during the rally. Logs should be emailed by January 19, 2007 to Tip WA5UFH (wa5ufh@ykc.com)

Awards: Certificates will be mailed to the following stations:

Top score for each NA Time Zone (4) : Assisted

Top score for each NA Time Zone (4) : Unassisted

Top score for each NA Time Zone (4) : Rover

In addition, the top Mexico & Canada score will receive a certificate - a total of 14 certificates will be available. All scores, including the various time zone winners, will be posted on the rally website.

Rally coordinators: Joe (K1JT); Russ (K2TXB); John (N6ENU); Mike (WB2FKO); Tip (WA5UFH)

SWOT Net Reports

Here are the net reports for
Sept - Oct 2006

Northern California W6OMF (Sunday)

Sept report -
116 different stations
checked in from 3 states and
11 grids

24 checked in all four times
33 stations checked in three
times
25 stations checked in twice
34 stations checked in once

Oct report -

Week one - 46 stations
Week two - 32 stations
Week three - 47 stations
Week four - 73 stations
Week five - 78 stations

10 stations checked in all 5
weeks

11 checked in four weeks
26 checked in three weeks
33 checked in two weeks
38 checked in once

Northeast Missouri NOPB (Monday 8pm)

Date Check-ins/Grids/
States/SWOT

09/04 no net-Labor day
09/11 no net-T storms
09/18 37 - 21 - 07 - 09
09/25 35 - 18 - 07 - 06
10/02 39 - 17 - 08 - 07
10/09 43 - 20 - 09 - 12
10/16 40 - 21 - 10 - 08
10/23 49 - 22 - 09 - 09

North Texas W5FKN (Wednes- day 9pm)

Date Check-ins/SWOT/Grids/
States

10/04 24 - 14 - 15 - 04
10/11 28 - 17 - 11 - 04
10/18 no net
10/25 30 - 12 - 16 - 04

E. Oklahoma KD5ZVE & KM5ES

(Thursday 8pm)

Date Check-ins/Grids/
States/NCS

09/07 21 - 10 - 04 KD5ZVE
09/14 25 - 10 - 04 KM5ES
09/28 27 - 15 - 05 KD5ZVE
10/05 24 - 11 - 04 KM5ES

10/12 21 - 10 - 03 KD5ZVE
10/19 18 - 07 - 04 KD5ZVE
10/26 20 - 08 - 03 KM5ES

E. Texas Piney Woods KM5PO

(Saturday 7am)

Date Check-ins/Grids/SWOT/
States

09/02 19 - 11 - 08 - 03
09/09 22 - 12 - 10 - 04
09/16 27 - 15 - 13 - 05
09/23 21 - 12 - 09 - 03
09/30 20 - 11 - 07 - 03
10/07 20 - 12 - 08 - 03
10/14 19 - 11 - 09 - 03
10/21 21 - 12 - 10 - 03
10/28 22 - 11 - 10 - 04

Event and Contest Calendar:

Nov 28 WSJTGROUPE Sprint

Dec 10-18 **North American
HSMS 2006 Winter Rally**

Dec 26 WSJTGROUPE Sprint

Jan 30 WSJTGROUPE Sprint

Feb 30 WSJTGROUPE Sprint

Sprints info: [http://
www.ykc.com/wa5ufh/
WSJTGROUPE/SprintRules.htm](http://www.ykc.com/wa5ufh/WSJTGROUPE/SprintRules.htm)

What to expect Dec-Jan Meteors:

Geminids Dec 12-15 peak Dec
14 0400UTC, 120 zHR
Ursids Dec 21-23 peak Dec 22
1300UTC, 12 zHR
Quadrantids Dec 28-Jan 7,
peak Jan 3, 131 zHR

Full Meteors calendar:

[W8WN](http://www.w8wn.com)
[Gary Kronk](http://www.garykronk.com)

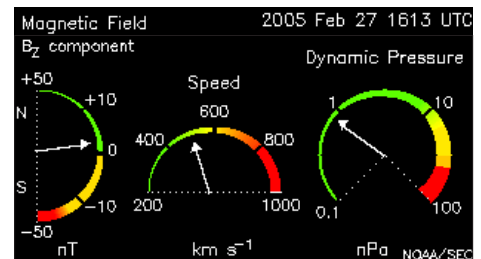
Aurora:

Watch:

[http://umtof.umd.edu/pm/
latest2day.gif](http://umtof.umd.edu/pm/latest2day.gif)

www.spaceweather.com

<http://www.aurorasentry.net/>



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)



Steve Bosshard, NU5D -
SWOT #1788 at 1750'AGL
with the first wide area
repeater ca.1981 KCEN

Mike Friedel-N5SRE/EL29 (SWOT #663)

Installing a new repeater antenna on the 150' high Pasadena, Texas water tower.



SWOT Member Accomplishments

KM5PO #3436 multi-limited wins NTX and finishes 10th in the U.S. - ARRL June '06 VHF contest

Jeepers creepers, Es at the start and Es at the finish! What a contest!

This was our second year as a multi-limited entry at KM5PO, EM12ko, Arlington, Texas with returning first year operators Lee Kemp, N5TIF and Steve Plock, KL7IZW.

Joining us for the first time on the six meter mic was Eric Silverthorn, NM5M and Alan Benoit, WQ5W. It was Alan that hit the high QSO rate at one point on Saturday early evening with 117 Q's per hour!



#	Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class	Section	Club	50 QSO	50 Mult	144 QSO	144 Mult	222 QSO	222 Mult	432 QSO	432 Mult
1	KM5PO	184,212	663	252	L	NTX		471	177	124	42	17	12	51	21

On the two meter and up mic we had a new voice with Don Simonton, K5LOW. Don put in many hours beating the bushes on 144, 222, and 432.

For the wee hours of the morning, two very experienced digital operators gave us their time. Bruce Brackin, N5SIX (of RockMobile fame) and Brad Fuller, WQ5S kept the airwaves humming all night long with FSK441A and even completed one EME contact with Joel, KG6DX in Guam.

While general tropo conditions seemed only average, the big improvements we made this year on 6 meters with a new 50' tower, 6M7JHV, and 3CX800 amp enabled contacts virtually all through the contest weekend.

New & renewed members from Howard Hallman,

SWOT Secretary-Treasurer:

SWOT#	Call	Name	City	State	Grid
1105	WN9GUC	Leon	Tinley Park	IL	EN61
3509	KC0CFB	Billy	Polo	MO	EM29
3508	KB0WJW	D.W.	Independence	MO	EM29
3507	KB0VSL	Jacque	Kansas City	MO	EM29
3481	KD5NJR	Scott	Broken Arrow	OK	EM26
3505	KE5GBC	Mike	Cleburne	TX	EM12
3506	N6ORB	David	Martinez	CA	CM87
3429	WA5UFH	Tip	Edna	TX	EL19
2146	K3HS	Harry	Rockton	PA	FN01



How good is your grounding? photo by K5PY Billy Brown, taken September 23, 2006 at Wilburton, OK



SUITSAT will fly again!

voice message -- "This is SuitSat-1 RSORS!" -- in several languages plus telemetry and an SSTV image on an eight-minute cycle as it orbited Earth. The unusual spacecraft's radio signal was heard around the globe,

although only the best-equipped Earth stations could copy it. Designated by AMSAT as AO-54, SuitSat-1 remained in operation for more than two weeks. It re-entered Earth's atmosphere September 7.

Lou McFadin, W5DID, who headed the SuitSat-1 hardware team, told the AMSAT Space Symposium that SuitSat-2 will incorporate some features his team didn't have the chance to accomplish the first time around. For starters, the second SuitSat will have an onboard Amateur Radio transponder using digital signal processing (DSP) techniques. McFadin says the team is looking at SuitSat-2 as a test bed for the hardware that AMSAT plans to launch on its Phase 3E "Eagle Project" satellite, which will employ software defined

radio (SDR) technology.

"With DSP, we can do more than one thing at once," he said. Among them are an SSB Mode U/V transponder, an FM crossband transponder, a CW ID that offers a contest for listeners to copy as many of the call signs as possible, a digipeater and four slow-scan TV (SSTV) cameras.

Other experiments are yet to be determined. Solar panels -- something SuitSat-1 did not have -- will energize the hardware and recharge SuitSat-2's batteries.

An ISS crew could launch SuitSat-2 during a spacewalk as early as next fall. It could have an operational lifetime of six months or longer.

"We're going to have so much fun with this," McFadin predicted, adding that one goal of SuitSat-2 will be to attract newcomers to Amateur Radio.

(parts taken from ARRL Letter Vol. 25, No. 45)



If you missed the first one, fear not because the second SUITSAT is under preparation for a launch possibly one year from now. Even though the 2-meter signal was incredibly weak, Suitsat-1, a surplus Russian spacesuit carrying an Amateur Radio transmitter and released from the ISS, ignited the interest and imagination of many as it tumbled through space.

"The whole science fiction aspect" of SuitSat-1 made it attractive, ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, told the AMSAT Space Symposium in October. "From our perspective it was a tremendous success." Bauer said the experience gained through SuitSat-1 "will provide the stepping stone to get to the next level." The next-generation SuitSat also will re-use another surplus Russian Orlan spacesuit.

The ISS Expedition 12 crew of Bill McArthur, KC5ACR -- who was the AMSAT Space Symposium's banquet speaker -- and Valery Tokarev released SuitSat-1 into orbit.

SuitSat-1 transmitted its

[click here for more info on SUITSAT](#)

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: **Howard Hallman WD5DJT, Sec.Treas.**
3230 Springfield Lancaster, TX
75134-1214

New member: \$6 - receive bulletin by email
 \$12 - receive bulletin by US post office

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Note: Send all forms to the Secretary-Treasurer at top of this form.

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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://](http://www.thesignman.com/menu.html)

www.thesignman.com/menu.html

