



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 # 274

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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 Happy Holidays All,

Welcome to our December/Christmas Newsletter. It has been a very busy this year for the Officers, NCS's and Board Members. This year we have added 3 new Nets in the US, and elected a full compliment of officers and board members. Let us hope that this year we continue to grow.

Also keep in mind that we are taking nominations for member of the year. Contact me via mail or email before December 31st with your nomination.

At this time I would like to thank the newsletter staff for the great job with the newsletter, Art for gathering articles and putting it all together, Howard for the mailings and printing, and Wade for proof reading.

Many thanks to our Net Control Op's for their bang up job handling the check-ins, checking band conditions and all the other stuff involved in being a NCS.

And. Many thanks to the members for being there for the club. Let's make 2002 a bigger year for SWOT.

73 All Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
John Petersen KM5ES SWOT Chairman #3331

Meet the Officers and Net Control Operators for SWOT

Each month we will profile one of the Officers or one of the Net Control Operators for SWOT. This month we profile **Dave Teague, K5MQ**: a Director for SWOT from Central Louisiana.

Dave is an operations manager for a group of insurance companies operating in Louisiana. He manages the accounting department and administers a wide area computer network covering 7 locations in central Louisiana. Have been with the same group of companies for 16 years.

Now that's commitment!!...ed.



Dave was born in New Iberia Louisiana and grew up in Homestead, Florida. He moved back to Louisiana at the age of 14 and has remained there since.

As a teenager he was active in the CB radio craze of the 1970's. But, what led him to Ham radio was shortwave listening. He inherited an old Zenith shortwave receiver from his older brother and hooked up a piece of wire run through the window and to the trees. It was amazing for him to hear broadcast stations from all over the world. He used the old Zenith off and on for a couple of years and knew mostly nothing of Amateur Radio.

In the late 1970's, Dave purchased a copy of Radio Shack's "From 5 Watts to 1000 watts" a Novice study manual. It had a section on learning Morse code. He used the book and with the shortwave receiver he learned the code for fun. Dave used the old Zenith with the BFO on to copy Hams working CW on HF. Then came college and the Zenith and with the Novice study guide went into the closet for a few years.

After squeezing a 4-Year degree into 5 years of college he made the discovery that the university had an "Amateur Radio Club". (*He still calls amateur radio the "hidden hobby"*) In his last quarter of college he pulled out the old Radio Shack novice guide and the Zenith and brushed up on the code and theory. He knew no Hams and had never been to a Hamfest.

He called the president of the Louisiana Tech University Radio Club and said he wanted to test for Novice. In 1985, N5BHE Joe Lovell, the first ham he ever met, tested him one-on-one for the Novice test. He passed it. Joe said that his code was good and he should test for his General class soon. He passed his General and Advanced 6 weeks later at the Winnfield, LA Hamfest!!!

Dave has enjoyed Ham radio now for 16 years and most of his closest friends are Hams. Over the years he has tried, in his words, *lots of stuff* on ham radio. He has worked Packet, repeaters, RTTY, low orbit Satellites, plus other digital modes.

He seems to always come back to DX'ing, either on HF CW or 144 MHz SSB and CW.

Dave got into 2 Meter Weak Signal operations about 10 years ago at the urging of N5KDA-Gary, N5JBZ-Ray, K5EMP-Bill, and N5KWB-Tommy. A great bunch of guys. Gary, Bill, and Dave are still very active.

Dave is always watching for enhanced propagation on 2 Meters via Tropo, E's and Aurora (*Yes, he has worked aurora on 2m 3 times from LA*). He is very active in the Perseids and Leonids meteor showers, as well as some minor showers.

The Leonids in November 2001 was his best shower and he completed 53 random QSO's on 144 MHz.

Dave activates EM31 for most vhf contests on 50 and 144 MHz. Sometimes he is serious in the contest and sometimes just for a couple hours. He hopes to work on another rover station for future contests.

Dave currently has 236 grids and 44 states worked on 144 MHz, all terrestrial. He has worked 49 states on 6 Meters and just still needs Hawaii. He has been too lazy to get it!

Dave's current station setup for VHF is an Icom 706, Kenwood 751A, He runs 400 watts on 2 Meters from a TE Systems 1452g amplifier and runs 100 watts on 6m. He is using a M2 2M5WL 17-element yagi at 52' for 2 Meters and a 3-element yagi at 45' for 6 Meters.

You can check out this web page on at: <http://www.qsl.net/k5mq>

Also, catch him as NCS for the Central Louisiana SWOT Net on Tuesday evenings, 8:00 pm Central Time on 144.250. Dave's net is a good gauge for identifying Gulf based Tropo conditions. Many propagation logger postings are posted from his net.

Thank you Dave for your contributions to Sidewinders on Two.

Leonids -The VHF DX Event of the Year **Testimonials from SWOT Members and others** **From Donald Ross – NL7CO:**

We, the Lawton locals, actually started thinking about how we were going to play this

shower the morning prior and made some basic plans.

Since SWOT is a 2 meter organization, I'll concentrate what went on from my perspective as a 2 Meter only operator, although most of the others made several contacts on other bands.

We started by looking at who would actually get to play and how much they intended to play. The fact that it was at the same time that the ARRL SSB Sweepstakes meant that we weren't going to see some of the higher license holders during this one.

Although they generally can be seen during VHF activities, they were going to do the sweeps. We talked about run frequencies; where we were going to hang out; and how to pass contacts amongst ourselves. We planned to call on .200 and then announce a move to our respective areas. The more casual guys were going to go with what worked at the times that they were going to be on and, as usual, we would all look out for each other.

The local weather was uncooperative, so I didn't get to take the 220 Beam down and replace it with the KB6KQ full wavelength loop prior to the start of the showers. So I tried to take a nap. Now I remember what a kid feels like on Christmas Eve and finally decided that it wasn't going to happen. I got up and rearranged the shack - again.

My FT-736R with the Mutek front-end boards had been to the shop for repairs on the 2M module but had come back last week. I had owned one before (without the boards) and was unimpressed compared to my IC-746 and even the TS-711A and I wanted to have the two other radios completely configured incase I decided to switch during the showers. Finally though, all was ready and I sat in the shack browsing the Internet for information since this was my first major shower.

At the start, my station consisted of the FT-736R, a TE Systems 1452G (400+watts), and an M2 2M18XXX up 55'. The laptop was in it's docking station and the 144 Propagation Logger (<http://dxworld.com/144prop.html>) was up and running.

Did I say I remember what it was like to be a kid on the night before Christmas?

The fun started for me at 0715z and lasted until 1136z - basically 4 hours of continuous pileups and hasty attempts at schedules set up on the Prop

Logger. At the end, I was so tired that I couldn't remember my own grid.

It was sunrise, the bands were dying, and WH6LR was also tired, hoarse, and hungry so we went down to one of the local restaurants for an omelet and a review of the evening. At that time, I had worked 19 new grids and 14 new states and was feeling proud of myself since my goal had been 10 grids and 4 states. Jim had added new grids and states on both 2m and that other band (6m).

I went home and took a nap before getting up and finding that the rocks were still roaring and in the next two hours before they really died, added 18 more grids and 5 more states.

So what did I learn after 6+ hours of operation?

I learned that I love the FT-736 and it is now the centerpiece of my station. Even though I only intend to use the 6m, 220, and 432 modules during contests, it is still a great 2m radio.

I learned that I really, really missed the digital link between my IC-746 and my logging program (log windows does not yet support the FT-736) and I failed to enter some of the information that I would have liked such as specific frequency and having the time auto-entered.

I learned that I need to buy a voice keyer for things like this and for contests.

I learned that running the TE Systems amplifier full bore makes it get pretty warm - and this was new to me because I've always run it at 190 watt output to stay in the low power class for the ARRL contests.

I learned that I no longer enjoy sitting in wooden chairs for prolonged periods of time.

And I also learned that I have not always been the most considerate of operators when it came to one of my habits - the calling frequency. There were a couple of locals in the next grid square (about 50 km away) who stayed on 144.200 for the entire time. Since I was particularly interested in working northeast from EM04 (that's where the majority of VHF operators are - W1, W2, W3, W8, and W9) they were always where I wanted to make that crucial announcement of where I would be and they were always blocking my "view" of the area that I was interested in. Don't get me wrong - they were 100% legal where they were and I will defend their use of the frequency as being within their legal "rights" as long as I'm playing this game. But, I can

see why I was so frustrating to W4NUL, who lives to my west, when the big opening to the east went on last summer and I was working them on .200 as fast as I could. I never thought that I "hogged" the frequency, as N6CL put it in one of his recent articles in CQ, because I would let the other locals "tailgate" any QSO that I made and would even alert the distant station to look for them. And I should not have been doing it for an even more important reason - I am the VHF Elmer to most of the guys getting their start here in Lawton and I was showing them an inconsiderate habit just as much as I was showing them the good ones of making sure your buddies get the contact with the DX also. Enough of the soapbox - I learned my lesson and will carry on from here in what I hope is a more considerate manner.

How did I do? This morning I sent out 50 QSL cards with SASE's and 4 others that went to Canada. I need just 13 of them to come back with cards to get my 2m VUCC and I've had to readjust my goals for next year since I surpassed all of them this weekend. My totals are now 128 grids and 34 states worked.

Hope everyone had as much fun as I did.
CUL DE NL7CO/EM04

From Larry Linthicum – N0MST:

What a time was had by all. Sounds like the shower was productive.

As for me, only got one new state, and two new grids. That makes me have 44 states, 321 grids worked, 247 confirmed.

I am glad to see so many working on 2 Meters. If all the folks that were on during the opening were to be on every night, more grids would be worked by all. Good hunting, and 73's
de n0mst Larry ...-.-

From Phil Baldwin – N0PB:

WOW !!!! What an event !!!

If you didn't at least listen on 2 meters on this last Sunday you really missed out big time.

This one will stay on my list of big happenings for a long time. Almost hard to believe that you could hear stations on the east coast and almost the west coast at the same time here in the central part of the US.

Before this shower I had 181 grids and 41 states confirmed. During this shower I added 4 new states and about 18 grids

I still haven't had time to check the grids yet. So for me it was a blast to say the least. I hope it was the same for everyone else.

Now gotta get busy checking new grids and sending cards!!!

73, Phil N0PB EM39wo

From Lee Kemp - N5TIF:

Hi All

Grids worked: EM75, EM84, EM06, EN90, EM76, EN61, EN34, FM19, EN43, EN81, EN82, EN91, FM05, EN52, EN70, DM37, DM26, DM89, DM24, and DM14.

I think my best contact was N2XT, FN02. It sure was fun.

LEE KEMP N5TIF 73

From John Petersen - KM5ES:

I have done my count as far as total new grids. I make a lot of dup's on grids. When you get above 100 it is a lot harder to get new ones. New ones were: EM74, EM84, FN13, EN50, EN19, DM03, DN74, DN25 and EN93. My grids now total 164, 63 initials WSJT. Worked 9 grids 2 states during meteor shower. Not bad.

New states were South Carolina and California. Also a quick note registered users of WSJT rose to over 160. A lot of new ones were on during the shower. Also, now we have a station in MT on WSJT.

73 All John KM5ES #3331

From Art Jackson-KA5DWI:

Those who know me well know that if you ask me what time it is, I'll tell you how the clock works. My priorities were all messed up. I was just fascinated observing the openings.

I monitored many signals on WSJT, but have a very bad RFI source on .140. DFW has way too many 2 Meter hams, so I decided not to battle with the others. Then worse of all, there was a big European opening on 6 Meters, the best in 12 years. So the end result was only one new grid and one new state (#38).

Despite it all, it was totally fascinating. It could be described as E's, FAI, and backscatter all

at once. The next time, I'll battle it out with the locals and unplug the 6 Meter rig.

Good Luck and Good DX, Art EM12ju

From Jason Wilborn- KG4BMH:

Since I joined group late, I will give a late Leonid report. Hi! Hi!

11/18/01 On 144mhz SSB I worked:

106 QSO's

58 grids

38 {New grids !}

12 new states

Best DX this shower was VE4KQ EN09.

Good rocks from 9:00 UTC to 17:40 UTC.

Had several dupe QSO's and reworked everyone from 2001 Perseids shower.

73 Everyone DE KG4BMH EM76jk

Some Other Reports on the Web:

John W8PAT EN8Ivg OHIO

What a blast. I worked one new country on 144 MHz WSJT (CO2OJ 1191 miles 1918 km). My longest 144 MHz WSJT MS QSO ever (VE5UF 1372 miles 2207 km). My longest 222 MHz ssb MS QSO ever (W5UWB 1278 miles 2057 km). I worked 2 new states on 222 mHz (W5UWB, K5UGM, WB5AFY and K5YT all Texas) and W5RCI in Mississippi).

Also heard WD5AGO and N5OSK in Oklahoma, W1AIM in Vermont, WB2SIH in New York. The 0800 to 1200 time was great but 1700 to 1815 was fantastic to the southwest from here. Heard the same fellows time after time (sometimes S9 on the meter!!) with 10 to 15 second or more burns on 222 mHz.

Larry K6AAW CN80te CA

On SSB worked 56 QSO's, 37 grids, 3 countries, VE4, XE2, and a hard one W/K. 6 new grids which is a lot being at 318... and a super lot for having my back up against an ocean, and not much south, hi hi. Longest 1400 mi, shortest 220mi backscatter !! Most exciting QSO was with Chuck W7CS. Called him at 1624Z and the QSO rolled on and on...with others breaking in and both of us working them. On and on, us taking turns CQ'ing and working stations, periodically asking. "Are you still there Chuck? Yes!" A few minutes later. "Are you still there Larry..Yes!" Until 1640Z !

Was this a giant blue whizzer of all time? Or a 16-minute "E cloud"

DX Reports November 16 – December 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:

Leonids speak for themselves. Best shower in 30+ years.

Geminids: Many completed WSJT and several good random MS QSO's 12/13 and 12/14. One long burn was reported from EN10 (K0SM)

Aurora:

Fairly quiet the last month. Only minor short-lived storms occurred. Some aurora reported on 11/24. No big openings.

Tropo:

Evening 12/04 (12/05 Beginning 0240 UTC) during Central Louisiana Net, stations in the eastern half of Texas began hearing and working northern Alabama & Mississippi, and Eastern Tennessee.

Paths included:

EM56>EM32, EM54>EM20, EM54>EM10, EM54>EM31, EM63>EM13, EM54>EM12, EM54>EL29, EM75>EM31, EM74>EM31, EL79>EM31, EM56>EM31, EM75>EM12, EM75>EM10, EM75>EM20, EM55>EM10,
Dave, K5MQ had one real good net.

Then again, one week later (evening 12/11), another minor opening appeared during the Net. Paths included:

EM31>EL89, EM41>EL89, EM56>EM41, EL79>EM54, EL79>EM56, EL59>EM46, EM64>EM31,

Sources: DX World 144 Propagation Logger and SWOT Group Page

What to expect December 16 – January 15:

Meteors:

Ursids Shower peaks 1200 UT, December 22. This shower produces only 20 meteors per hour, but it is highly efficient for the reflection of East to West paths.

Quadrantids Shower peaks 1700 UT, January 3. This is a good shower for less than a day with rates around 120 meteors per hour.

High Efficiency (70%+) paths with **Local** Times: N-S 0000-0300 & 0700-1000, NE-SW 0700-1300, NW-SE 2200-0300

E-W Not as good (50% Eff.), look 2200-0200 & 0700-1200.

Aurora:

The sun continues in activity and has had one X-Class and many M-Class flares the past month. Monitor *Spaceweather.Com* for possible events.

Tropo:

As winter begins, opportunities are few and far between. Still, look for stalling weather systems along the coasts to produce new openings. We had had good openings around New Years Day.

E-Layer Propagation:

We are in the middle the winter E season as 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.

SWOT Classified Adds

From Don Ross – NL7CO

Yaesu FT-736R Satellite radio currently set up for 50/144/220/432 with the MUTEK receiver boards (2m/70cm) and the 6m modification that is internal to the module. Also includes the electronic keyer, the FTS-8 CTCSS Tone Squelch Unit, and the narrow CW filter. I also have the service manual. The radio just went through alignment while at Burghardt's in October 2001 and was used by me during the Leonids. The price is \$1900.00 plus shipping.

If they come pick it up in Lawton, OK I'll give them a real good deal on already assembled M2 beams (220-7WL and 432-13WL)

Don, NL7CO.

Lunar, Solar and Astronomical Events

Lunar: Apogee – 12/21, Perigee 01/01

New Moon – 01/13, Full Moon – 12/30

Solar: Overhead 12/16 -24.2°S, 01/15 – 19.5°S

USAF Predicted Solar Flux Average:

12/16-01/15: 208 (Begins Decline)

Meteors:

Minor Showers: 3 Peak from 12/16-12/31, 6 Peak from 01/01-01/15

Major Showers:

Ursids Peak 12/22, Ends 12/25

Quadrantids 01/2-01/05, Peak 01/03 17UT

More meteor info at:

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

SWOT NET REPORTS

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

Eastern Oklahoma (Monday): 11/19/01...44/13

11/26/01...41/10 12/03/01...43/11

12/10/01...46/15

Central Louisiana (Tuesday): 11/13/01...13/9

10/20/01...No Report 11/27/01...13/11

12/04/01...21/14 12/11/01...23/16

Northern Missouri (Tuesday):

11/20/01...No Report 11/27/01...No Report

12/04/01...29/13 12/11/01...29/15

North Texas (Wednesday): 11/14/01...33/14

11/21/01...35/13 11/28/01...No Net WX

12/05/01...36/17 12/12/01... 40/18

Southwest Oklahoma (Thursday):

11/15/01...No Report 11/22/01...No Report

11/29/01...15/6 12/06/01...No Report

12/03/01...10/3

East Texas (Saturday): 11/17/01...14/6

11/24/01...15/5 12/01/01...20/7 12/08/01...16/5

Sunday Northern California: Month of

November

No Report

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 HDQTRS	144.250	K5LOW DON