

Chairman's Corner

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The Chairman's Corner

By Jimmy Johnson KD5ZVE



Hello again.

It will be hamfest time again soon. Anyone wanting to set up a table and represent SWOT at their local gathering needs to contact me by E-mail at kd5zve@swotrc.net. We will have tables at Hamcom in Plano, Texas, Green Country hamfest in Claremore, Oklahoma and we are trying to make arrangements for the Dayton hamfest but they have not been confirmed at this date.

And if you have not been to the SWOT Homepage since the last newsletter you should check it out. Tom-N5GE has made several improvements and it is looking good.

There is a new project getting started. The first committee meeting is taking place at this writing. This will be a new thing for SWOT and I should be able to tell everyone more about it in the next newsletter.

I hope this is the last time for a long while I will have to mention a thing like this, but we have lost two long time VHF operators in the last two months: Rex-W5RCI, who I mentioned in the last newsletter in December, and Gary Gompf-W7FG of Bartelsville Oklahoma, the owner of Vintage Manuals for many years, had a heart attack on the way from Bartelsville to Texas on January 22 2009. They both will be missed.

73 de KD5ZVE Jimmy SWOT #3458

NORCAL SWOT June Brunch announcement from W6OMF

Hello to all... I'm early on this but wanted to get ahead with notice of the new stomping grounds. As most know Bakers Square has closed in West Sacramento, CA Our old stomping grounds are gone! We have made arrangements for the gathering on 6 June 2009 at the Denny's off HOWE AVE....0930

East Bound Hwy 50 personal will take the Sac State university exit...Exit as if going to the university... Off of 50 it curls around back under Hwy 50 and ends at a stop light, this is College Town Drive. Right turn on to this street and in approximately 3 blocks Denny's will be on your right... NOTE: Just before reaching HOWE AVE...

West Bound Hwy 50 personal will Exit Howe Ave and turn right onto Howe and then

another immediate right to exit Howe. This takes you to La Riveria Drive and a stop sign. At the stop sign take a left turn and follow it around and back under HOWE AVE as it will will end at College Town Drive. Now looking straight ahead you should see Denny's.

Click below for a map on the MapQuest page. If this does not work for you, then the address is 7900 College Town Dr. Sacramento, California

Copy, take a look see, or visit before June... 73 Larry...

[Link to Denny's map on MapQuest](#)

[JOIN THE SWOT YAHOO GROUP](#)

Click
Here

Standings update and '08 Summary from Richard, WB2CUT, SWOT #90

I wouldn't say that 2008 was a GREAT year for 2 meter work, but it was the best one in quite a while. I worked 5 new grids, though only 3 (EM54, EM 56, and EM 64) QSL'd so my confirmed total is now 158 grids on 2. I also confirmed 8 new counties, bringing me to 583 confirmed on 2. This is a curiously coincidental number, as when I started counting my counties on July 26, 1982, I had 283, so I've added exactly 300 since I started keeping track of them.

There were a few other coincidences, too. W1OUN, though he had a very nice card, should have been an unexciting Massachusetts card - except that it was my 250th MA card. Similarly, KU4PT was the one NC I worked in an opening who wasn't a new county - but he WAS my 50th NC QSL card.

The year started off very nicely in the January contest. The contest was OK for a current January, though the contact totals, as in all 3 of the ARRL contests, are far down from their heyday. But I did work a new VE2, VE2ASL, something I haven't done in several years, and he promptly QSL'd No wonder - I was his first FN20! More importantly, thanks to the extreme patience of KC2BCJ, I worked him, too, and he was my 59th (of 62) county in NY, Essex. And he, too, got the card right out to me. Soon thereafter I got the missing QSL card from the 2007 opening to SC, thus starting the year off with 2 new confirmed counties. Not much happened until April, when the 21st brought an opening to not one but TWO VE1s. Despite enclosing green stamps, only one QSL'd - VE1WLC. And again no wonder - I was his first QSL card - EVER! ME, a VE1's first card? WOW!

Again the band went to sleep. Then May 29th brought a very early-season ESkip, and a good one. I worked 7 stations (all the ones I actually heard) and got 6 QSL cards from KU4IU, new county in AL, AG4V, K5YPV, new county in MS and new grid, KG9D, new county in TN and new grid, K5RUS, my third card from Ouachita parish, for some odd reason (2 in Monroe, LA and one in West Monroe), and K4XR, new county in AL and new grid. Unfortunately, the 7th station would have been a new county and grid in TN, but have not been able to get any sort of card from him. Still, 4 new counties and 3 new grids confirmed is a very good night's work! The June contest had miserable weather, with rain both days, though, if I read the posted results right, I did win NNU low

power for 2 meters again. But I did get a local with a great call sign - WW2WW, with a remarkable card design.

I worked a brief ESkip on July 1, but contacted only K5AZU, whom I had already gotten a card from. There was a great opening to NC centered around July 12, but I could only hear a few big guns, though stations like K04YC and NG4C were almost literally pinning my S-meter.

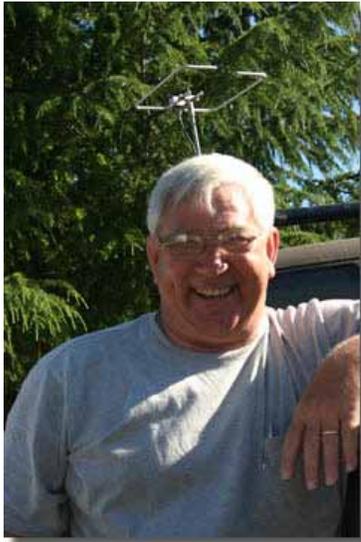
Then came the September contest. Conditions actually seemed to be up a bit for once, as I worked 18 multipliers in the first 3 hours. I worked 22 new stations, and having gotten 3 "I don't have QSL cards", sent out 19 cards. The two DX contacts replied promptly - W2RJO, in a most uncommon county of NY for non-portables, Herkimer (he had a nice card, too!), and WE2Y, in far western NY. Most of the other cards trickled in, but they just kept coming, and I wound up with 14 replies to 19 cards (so far), and exceptional ratio for a contest, even for me.

The year then basically wrapped up with the opening to NC on Sept 20. I scored KB4XK, new county, KU4PT, and N1RIK, new county. I also heard SC again, but it was a station I'd already worked in the 2007 opening. And, for the first time ever, I worked VE1 twice in a year - in the SAME opening, catching VE1AHM. He'd be a new grid if I can get another QSL card from him - I already have one from a 1982 opening - but he did finish my worked 450 SWOT endorsement, which "only took 14 years from my worked 425. (VE1 and NC in the same tropo? WOW!)

One thing I've noticed that isn't so good, though. Of the last 25 cards I've received, 3, fortunately non critical, are invalid. One station filled the "radio" box, which should have had my callsign, with the description of his radio. A New Hampshire station took great care to make a very nice card, and also left off my callsign. And a third station makes up his cards with a picture of his antenna farm in color on photographic paper. He has spaces for the date, time, band, and equipment, but no place for the callsign of the station worked, or, for that matter, his QTH - even his STATE! I think the ARRL needs to publish an article on what it takes to make a QSL card valid, as too many hams don't seem to know, which is a shame, since the substantial majority of 2 meter SSB hams do QSL me.

73 es good DX and a happy New Year de
WB2CUT, Richard Kaplan (SWOT #90)

From Larry-W6OMF and the California SWOT world



From the Annual Norcal SWOT meeting: [donated items came from individuals in parentheses]

DOOR PRIZES:

Dual band glass mount VHF/UHF antenna (W6OMF)

Winner K6QXB #3360. 900 MHz mobile antenna & feedline (W6OMF) Winner K6YC. 18' RG8X coax jumper (W6BO & 12' RG8X coax jumper

WA6CAX) Winner KC6ZWT. (W6BO & WA6CAX) Winner KF6PGT. 3' RG8X coax jumper (W6BO & WA6CAX) Winner KJ6KO. Mirror mount (W6BO & WA6CAX) Winner KG6HVY. Icom/Kenwood OPC 346 power cord (W6BO & WA6CAX) Winner WA6ZKY. DK MINI mobile screwdriver antenna (W6BO & WA6CAX) Winner KE6QR. Wine (donated - WA6KTK) Winners, W6HMB, K6LEA, W6VNQ, K7NOM, W6MEM. Spectra 900 MHz radio donated by K6YC and Won by KM6QR #3330.



SWOT WINNERS:

MP1 portable HF (5MHz-450MHz) antenna (SWOT) Winner K6ALE #3323. 70cm FM amateur transceiver (SWOT) Winner W6QNE #3327. Amphenol 1/2" connectors (SWOT) Winner AC6DC #847. Cushcraft ARX-2B 2 meter base antenna (SWOT) Winner WD6CHL #1431. Micronta field strength/swr tester (W6OMF) Winner KF6SML #3415. Jwin DVD player (W6OMF) Winner KI6TVZ #3520. Shure 555L base mic (W6OMF) Winner K6DME #3352.

Large donors are W6BO #3395 and WA6CAX #3400. Other donors are K1YQP and K6SUE.



**That's why I love 2 meters by
WB2CUT SWOT #90**

The [January] contest has been and gone. I assumed that it wouldn't be a very good one, as the bitter cold would undoubtedly keep most field operations from taking place (and it did. No W2SZ, W3SO (so no FN00), no Skyline Drive operations (there goes FM08), and no rovers. Well, there were a few hearty souls who went roving, and K4GUN/R did give me FM08.

I also expected lots of QRN, which, except for a brief period on Sunday, didn't happen. And I expected that, with fewer multiops, there might be more stations on, which there were, but not by many more than last January. Only 10 more QSOs.

So I really had little hope for this contest, and it certainly seemed that way at first, with the multipliers coming in very slowly. But they just KEPT coming. There was much very rapid QSB, especially on Saturday. This cost me 3 contacts and two grids, as I was called by KA2LIM (FN12) on Saturday and VE2XX (FN25) and N1NDF (in the last 15 minutes of the contest), only to have them disappear when I came back to them. Very annoying, as I wound up with 199 QSOs, missing the magic 200 AGAIN. But then I won't have to make out a dupe sheet. Frankly, I'd rather have the work and the 200 QSOs. And there were some really tough contacts. I'm amazed that several stations stuck with me as I struggled mightily to get their calls and grids. The band had many very bad moments, too.

But it was the multipliers. I had to chase down the last 2 - FN34 and FM27 - but the other 26 - yes, I said TWENTY-SIX - all called me! I've never come remotely close in January, and it might be my second highest total ever. Considering I had no FN00, which I always get, and FN01, which KA1ZE gives me in June and September, it had to include some goodies, like FN51 (KC1MA) and its reflection, FN15 (VA3KA), as well as FN44, FN23 and 22 (I have a lot of trouble with 22, for some odd reason), FN03 (another Canadian, VA3ST), FM28, etc (and I even heard FM06), I was most pleasantly surprised. Though I worked no new counties, I came close, getting my second Synder co in PA.

North American High Speed Meteor Scatter 2008 Geminids Test Certificate winners		
Assisted Category		
Time Zone	Station	Points
EST	WA3LTB (Terry)	216
CST	KOAWU (Bill)	4136
MST	W5WVO (Bill)	1484
PST	KC6ZWT (Norm)	817
Unassisted Category		
Time Zone	Station	Points
EST	K3RWR (Rob)	288
CST	N0PB (Phil)	4180
MST	K57S (Jim)	1160
PST	VE3CDX (Barry)	1026
Rover - XE/VE		
Top XE	*	*
Top VE	*	*
Top Rover	*	*
* no entry/log submitted for certificate		

I have 16 QSL cards to send. I hope the returns are as good as last September's. Then I worked 20 new stations, 3 of which said they had no cards. So I sent out 17 and got 14 replies. An 80% return rate is absurd even for me, topped only by the 100% rate of a June contest when I only sent out 7.

So it was a much better start to the year than I expected. I hope for much DX and some great Eskip. 73 de WB2CUT SWOT #90.

SWOT Net Reports

Here are the net reports for
Nov & Dec 2009

Northern California W6OMF (Sunday)

Nov:

Sue and I ran to Hawaii for
the first two weeks of
November.

88 different stations
checked in for the month of
Nov.

27 Checked in once
22 Checked in twice
39 Checked in all three nets
First week 70 stations
checked in
Second week 57 stations
checked in
Third week 61 stations
checked in

Dec:

10 grids checking in with us

59 check ins the first week
62 check ins the second week
52 check ins the third week
56 check ins the fourth week

28 stations checked in all
four weeks
21 stations checked in three
times
19 stations checked in twice
16 stations checked in once

North California KG6WLW CM87 N.Cal/Bay Area

(Tuesday 8pm)
Date Check-ins

Nov (3 dates):

11/12 31 check ins
11/19 19 check ins
11/26 19 check ins

18 ops checked in 3 times
1 op checked in 2 times
32 ops checked in 1 time

SWOT check ins for the
month: 8

Total different stations for
the month:32

Total Grids:5

Total States:1

Dec (4 dates):

12/03 28 check ins
12/10 28 check ins
12/17 25 check ins
12/24 30 check ins

15 ops checked in 4 times
8 ops checked in 3 times
6 op checked in 2 times
11 ops checked in 1 time

SWOT check ins for the
month: 10

Total different stations for
the month:44

Total Grids:5

Total States:1

NORCAL W6DWI (Thursday
8pm)

No Data

Northeast Missouri NOPB
(Monday 8pm)

Date Check-ins/Grids/
States/SWOT

11/03 25 - 16 - 09 - 05
11/10 23 - 14 - 08 - 04
11/17 no net
11/24 30 - 18 - 06 - 05

12/01 32 - 19 - 08 - 05
12/08 32 - 18 - 08 - 05
12/15 no net/ice
12/22 15 - 09 - 05 - 02
12/29 27 - 16 - 07 - 02

**North Texas W5FKN (KM5PO
sub)** (Wednesday 9pm)
Date Check-ins/SWOT/Grids/
States

11/05 14 - 08 - 11 - 02
11/12 23 - 08 - 16 - 03
11/19 21 - 13 - 16 - 04
11/26 no net

12/03 no net
12/10 19 - 07 - 14 - 03
12/17 26 - 08 - 13 - 02
12/24 no net
12/31 no net

**Southeast Ohio AB8XG
KD8DJE Sub)**
(Tuesday 8pm)

Date CheckIns/States/Grids/
SWOT

11/04 19 - 03 - 04 - 05
11/11 17 - 02 - 03 - 05
11/18 17 - 02 - 03 - 08
11/25 22 - 02 - 04 - 05

12/02 19 - 03 - 06 - 06
12/09 24 - 02 - 04 - 06
12/16 23 - 02 - 03 - 07
12/23 23 - 03 - 04 - 07

E. Oklahoma KD5ZVE
(Thursday 8pm)

Date CheckIns/Grids/States/
SWOT

11/06 13 - 12 - 04 - 10
11/13 23 - 12 - 04 - 16
11/20 no net/weather
11/27 no net/weather

12/04 15 - 10 - 04 - 10
12/11 12 - 09 - 03 - 11
12/18 22 - 09 - 03 - 10
12/25 no net/holiday

Daytona Beach W2RAC/W1LVL
(Wednesday 8pm)

Date Check-ins

No Data

**E. Texas Piney Woods
KM5PO (K5LOW -N5TIF sub)**
(Saturday 7am)

Date Check-ins/Grids/SWOT/
States

11/01 20 - 10 - 12 - 03
11/08 20 - 09 - 08 - 03
11/15 17 - 08 - 10 - 02
11/22 25 - 13 - 15 - 05
11/29 16 - 07 - 09 - 02

12/05 no net
12/13 15 - 06 - 09 - 02
12/20 19 - 08 - 10 - 02
12/27 10 - 06 - 06 - 02

**Southern California
WB6NOA**

(Sunday 7:30pm)

The Southern California area
has consolidated several
weak signal SSB nets to a
single net on Wednesday at
8pm local time on 144.240
MHz. This is a collection of
Weak Signal nets rather than
an official SWOT net. All
are invited!

-Gordon West WB6NOA

Event and Contest Calendar:

Mar 21 M² Swap Meet, BBQ, Grip N Grin, 4402 N. Selland Ave, Fresno, CA 93722 0730 to ?

June 6 NORCAL SWOT Brunch Sacramento, CA

June 12-13 Hamcom, Plano, TX

June 13-14 ARRL June VHF contest

June 21-22 SMIRK contest (6 meters

June 27-28 ARRL Field Day

July 23-25 CSVHFS conference, Elk Grove Village, IL

What to expect Feb-Apr Meteors:

Chi Capricornids Jan 13 - Feb 28, peak Feb 13/14

April Piscids Apr 8-29, peak Apr 20/21

Lyrids Apr 16-25, peak Apr 22, 10 zHR with outbursts over 100

Full Meteors calendar:

[W8WN](#)

[Gary Kronk](#)

Aurora:

Watch:

<http://umtof.umd.edu/pm/latest2day.gif>

Tropo:

Always keep an eye on: the [Hepburn Forecast](#).

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

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

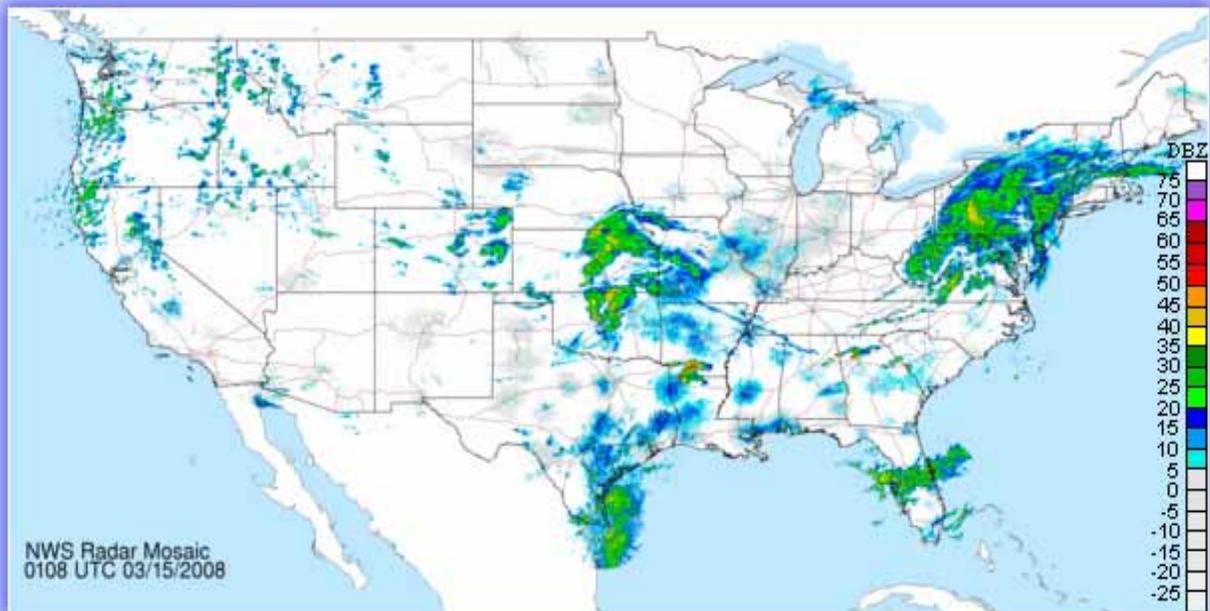
the [Green Page \(144 Mhz Propagation Logger\)](#)

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

www.spaceweather.com

**From Howard Hallman, SWOT Secretary.
Membership updates and new members**

SWOT#	Call	Name	City	State	Grid
3303	KF6PGT	Alan	Diamond Springs	CA	CM98
3558	K6YC	Jack	Sacramento	CA	CM98
3330	KW6QJ	Travis	Concord	CA	CM98
3559	W6WEM	Mark	Manteca	CA	CM97
3307	K7NOM	Bill	Elk Grove	CA	CM98
3560	WA6BTH	Frank	Somerset	CA	CM98
3441	WB6AEA	Jon	Sacramento	CA	CM98
1746	W0BCG	David	Fredericksburg	VA	FM18
3411	K6UE	Francis	Alameda	CA	CM87
3562	KC9BQA	Todd	Adell	WI	EN63
3563	KE6TE	George	Elk Grove	CA	CM98



Accurately detect tropo by observing "false" echos on National Weather Service maps such as this one which you can link to at http://radar.weather.gov/Conus/RadarImg/latest_Small.gif Watch for light blue and gray areas turning darker.

SWOT and Selected 2-Meter Nets

Help improve our listing of nets! If you find errors or omissions or know of other two meter nets being conducted, please send email to either the bulletin editor: km5po@arrl.net or the SWOT Net Manager- Jimmy Johnson, jjohn357@swbell.net

Day	Local Time	Area	Net	Frequency	Net Control Station
SUN	8:00 pm	<i>Vacaville, CA</i>	<i>NORCAL</i>	<i>144.250</i>	<i>W6OMF Larry</i>
SUN	7:30 pm	<i>Costa Mesa, CA</i>	<i>South California</i>	<i>144.240</i>	<i>WB6NOA Gordon</i>
SUN	8:30 am	Tucson, AZ	Arizona	144.250	N7SQN Al
SUN	8:30 pm	Zebulon, NC		144.220	N1GMV
SUN	9:30 pm	Holland, MI	Michigan SWAM	144.155	K8NFT
MON	7:30 pm	Albuquerque, NM	New Mexico	144.200	N5XZM Bobby
MON	8:00 pm	Colorado	Rocky Mt. VHF +	144.220	N0VSB W6OAL
MON	8:00 pm	<i>Midwestern United States</i>	<i>Northeast Missouri SWOT</i>	<i>144.250</i>	<i>N0PB Phil</i>
MON	9:00 pm	Tidewater, VA		144.230	
TUE	8:00 pm	<i>Bay Area, North California, West Nevada</i>	<i>Northern California SWOT</i>	<i>144.250</i>	<i>KG6WLW John</i>
TUE	8:00 pm	<i>Greater Ohio area</i>	<i>Southeast Ohio SWOT</i>	<i>144.250</i>	<i>AB8XG Kenny K0BDJE Russell</i>
WED	8:00 pm	<i>Florida</i>	<i>Daytona Beach SWOT</i>	<i>144.250</i>	<i>W2RAC Richard W1LVL George</i>
WED	9:00 pm	<i>Texas, Okla, Ark, Louisiana</i>	<i>North Texas SWOT</i>	<i>144.250</i>	<i>W5FKV Bob</i>
THU	8:00 pm	<i>Bay Area, North California, West Nevada</i>	<i>Northern California SWOT</i>	<i>144.250</i>	<i>W6DWI Robin</i>
THU	8:00 pm	<i>Oklahoma, Texas, Ark, Missouri, Kansas</i>	<i>Eastern Oklahoma SWOT</i>	<i>144.250</i>	<i>K0SZVE Jimmy</i>
SAT	7:00 am	<i>Texas, Okla, Ark, Louisiana</i>	<i>Pine Woods SWOT</i>	<i>144.250</i>	<i>KM5PO Jim</i>

SWOT Nets are highlighted

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.**

NOTE: do not make checks out to SWOT. Make checks out to Howard Hallman

**3230 Springfield Lancaster, TX
75134-1214**

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

I have worked the following SWOT members:

Call: _____ SWOT No. _____ Call: _____ SWOT No. _____

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

My SWOT No. is _____

Name: _____ Call _____ Grid Square _____

Street address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone Nos. _____

Optional: I check into the following nets: _____

E-mail _____

Receive Newsletter By Email: YES _____ NO _____

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

SECRETARY - TREASURER :

Howard Hallman/WD5DJT
3230 Springfield Ave.
Lancaster, TX 75134-1214
Phone: (972)-224-5964
Email: wd5dj@swbell.net
Webpage: <http://home.swbell.net/wd5dj>

CHAIRMAN & SWOT NET MANAGER :

Jimmy Johnson/KD5ZVE
Email: jjohn357@swbell.net

BULLETIN EDITOR :

Jim McMasters/KM5PO
Email: km5po@arrl.net
Phone: (817)-563-2720
Webpage: <http://64.78.8.127>

SWOT WEBMASTER (www.swotrc.net)

Tom Childers/N5GE
Email: n5ge@n5ge.com

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 Howard Hallman 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.

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

