

Chairman's Corner

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The Chairman's Corner By Jimmy Johnson KD5ZVE



Welcome to a new year! Looking back, the 2009 year was a good one to be remembered with several fine 2 meter band openings and Es events as well as several advancements for the SideWinders on Two.

Our radio club, celebrating 33+ years of being organized was taken to a new level with the Not-for-profit Incorporation which we accomplished mid-year. This status affords us the usual Corporate protection for Officers and Directors but also solidifies us as an even more permanent organization created to foster and support single sideband activity on the two meter band.

We also saw 2009 bring about the formation of three new nets that are enjoying very good success in their respective parts of the country. The Deep South Texas net called out of Laredo, Texas by Frank, N5SSH and the Southern Mississippi net from Bill, K5YG have coverage across the full southern gulf area of the United States and even get checkins from Mexico. The new net in the Northern Illinois area managed by Tom,

K9TMS is growing and serves a highly populated area of the Midwest. For all these accomplishments, I have many people to thank. Thank you - each one - for your diligence and ambition that you've shown to make two meters a friendly place to start out and a great place for DX'ing or just ragchewing.

Also, I'd like to point out that we have 9 older established nets that continue to serve their areas with many many checkins every single week. Larry, W6OMF has one of the broader covering nets and routinely pulls in upwards of 70 checkins weekly. Other nets have smaller coverage but each one is important as it represents a continuous network of effort coast to coast where our volunteer net control stations hold session on 144.250 introducing many new stations to the art of two meter sideband.

Here's hoping that 2010 will be good for you as you continue your ham radio journey. I for one, will be looking for that rare DX out there and hope to meet more of you when the band opens up.

73's,
Jimmy/KD5ZVE

NORCAL news from Larry, W6OMF



The NORCAL clan of SWOT gathered on the 5th of December for a grip N grin session in Sacramento, CA.

Not a bad showing with 34 weak signal guys and gals coming by. Twenty three current members of SWOT were in This

year N6VG, Jerry, #3289 won a M² 2 meter HO Loop and KF6PFT, Bob, #3358 won a M² 432 HO Loop. Congratulations guys...

We had some door prizes and thanks to some cash donations, KW6T, #3561 and K1YQP #3514 plus adapters, WZ6X, #3448, Icom map/sticker KF6PGT, #3303, Thermo Blankets, WF6J, #3465 and ½ inch connectors, 6' jumper, plus radio shack scanner, W6OMF/K6SUE, #155, #162.

Winners:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| WA6ZKY | Radio shack scanner |
| ½ inch connectors | KJ6KO |
| Adapters | K6EL, K6HEW, K6STS, WV6F |
| ICOM stuff | KC6SEH |

**NORCAL news from Larry
cont-**

Blankets KE6QR
Jumper WA6QAK

K6QG Won but donated back
to the group...

Renewals were present and
one new member joined. So
a good day for us.

73 Larry NORCAL Gofer...



Mar 20 M₂ Swap
Meet, BBQ, Grip
N Grin, 4402 N. Selland
Ave,
Fresno, CA 93722 0730 to
?
For those arriving the
night before, the group
is staying at Quality Inn
<http://www.qualityinn.com/hotel-fresno-california-CA791>

One more time-

OK, I will ask for forgiveness before I get started but I just feel compelled to tell this old story one more time. Every time I tell it (like today at the Cowtown hamfest) I see eyes light up as the listeners recognize parts of the story as their own and I realize how much we all have in common. So here I go again - one more time - and I promise not to bring it up again for at least a year..

It's the story of how I got the 2 meter bug. That moment when my ham career was changed forever. Lucky for me it happened very early on in my venture. I was 13 years old and it was 1964 and it was my birthday, December 16th. My mom had bought me a pair of channel 14 (CB) walkie-talkies for my birthday present. I lived in Chelmsford, Mass. at the time and we owned an apple

orchard which gave me acres of room to play and my best friend Steve and I would pretend we were combat troops fighting the invisible enemy out there in that apple orchard just about every day. If you lived at that time, you know that on TV there were several 30 minute and 1 hour TV shows that depicted life on the battlefield during World War II. In the early 60's this seemed to be a good use of TV time although it's kinda weird for me to reflect on those years where on TV the Germans and Japanese were our bitter enemies - only good to us if they were dead. But anyway, that's the way it was then and Steve and I played like real Army Rangers out there but we were missing a critical element - a means to coordinate our critical moves among the various pitfalls of the battle ground. Hence my mother took note of this problem and therefore set out to correct our deficiency with a pair of Radio Shack 10 dollar transceivers.

Well as soon as Steve and I got our hands on those radios, we quickly learned that we could extend their range by just attaching a wire to the end of the telescoping whip! (This range enhancing method must have been in my genes, I'm telling you, because it was just such a natural thing to do.)

Man, this was cool - we were able to talk all the way from my house to his house, a span of about 300 yards. Well anything beyond direct line of sight was amazing and Steve lived down the street around the first bend so I could not see him and yet we could talk all the way up to bedtime on our enhanced dx machines. But all the sudden there was a spoiler to our fun. KKB-2959 was her callsign and she was a crabby old lady cb'er that lived right in between us! I had never taken note of her stupid looking ground plane antenna barely roof high but now she was on the phone to my Mom and I was in some kind of trouble. The situation quickly turned into one of those "you're father will have to deal with you on this" and so came the dreaded confrontation with the old man, a workaholic missile engineer (really a scientist) who barely spoke a language us mortals understood...

But he wasn't all that hard on me and now I know that he was recognizing in me the spark that would fuel my whole ham career. For you see, unknown to me at the time, my father was a licensed ham operator but he had been inactive for some time. I did not know there were such things as ham radio! He quickly made a deal with me that if I would study up and get my license, he would buy me some used gear.

So began my quest.

At the time, an Extra class ham lived way back behind the apple orchard and I knew of him through a friend at school so I trotted myself back there and knocked on his door. He said yes, he could administer the novice exam to me when I was ready. Well I ran back home and grabbed Steve and together we taught ourselves the morse code first, then we memorized the theory. We would practice "sending" and "receiving" to each other in our school classroom the same as our counterparts who were trading scribbled notes back and forth in class. Steve and I were more than prepared as we sat for and passed our novice exam.

So now the ball was back in my father's court. Sure enough a few weeks later he came home with my gear. I don't know where he found it but it consisted of a ratty old DX-100, a Hammarlund HQ-145C and a Heath twoer. Thank goodness for that twoer. This was my big chance! As a novice I could actually use "phone" on two meters but it had to be crystal controlled, AM, and with a maximum 'input' power of 5 watts. The Heathkit twoer was just the ticket. The HF stuff was fine and I actually made my first contact as a ham on the novice 40 meter

subband using a dipole and that old DX-100 running on a single crystal and it was a station about 250 miles away. But I was keen to get that twoer hooked up because not only could I use voice over the air but it was in that weird world called VHF which just seemed filled with magical and mystical happenings. There were things mentioned like "Aurora" and "Meteors" and even something called "Moonbounce" and many other strange and wonderful sounding words!

So with my father providing a little guidance I fashioned a 3 or 4 element (can't quite remember) yagi out of coat hangers and a broom handle and with duct tape I fixed it to the chimney of the house permanently pointing south southeast. My shack was in the basement of the house so the feedline was not short and it took quite a few days before I got an answer to my CQ's but it did finally happen. It was a station in Marlboro, Mass - wow more than 20 miles away. He agreed to meet me often and it was literally all I could think about was the next time I would get to prove that our signals could travel that distance.

But then one day a very strange thing happened indeed. A BAND OPENING!! The little superregen twoer receiver was swamped with strong signals. I called and called but no telling how far off frequency I was to the stations I was calling. My heart was aching as I heard stations talking to each other. How bad I wanted to get someone in the logbook. Then to my surprise, I made a contact. All the way to Long Island, New York which was not only a new state for me but my signal was somehow hopping clear over Rhode Island and also the station was a "2 call area" station which was like putting him in another galaxy from all of us "1" stations (my call was WN1FFY at the time). Man oh man, I had hit the jackpot, bigtime DX, all of about 125 miles but hey, the earth is not flat so what kind of strange phenomena was responsible for bending my signal in this fashion? I don't think I slept in the days following until I got that guys QSL card in the mail.

These then, were the events that defined things for me. What was impossible the day before was now in my hands and with very little equipment or skill. What could I accomplish with better gear and more practice? Could this propagation be understood and predicted? Could it be harnessed to yield even greater results? These are the things scrambling around in my 13 year old head and I knew one thing for sure - I needed to get my General upgrade asap so I could preserve my right to operate on 2 meters and oh yeah, I might need to check into that new thing I was hearing about.. I think they called it "SSB".....

-Jim, KM5PO

From WB2CUT-

OK, it wasn't Frank Sinatra time ("a very good year"), but, if not often good, it had several very good moments on 2 meters. First, I confirmed 2 new grids: FN76 (VE1AHM, reworked in 2008 as grid squares weren't even thought of when first got him) and EN32, KCOCF, bringing my total to 161. I also worked 9 new counties and confirmed 8: Ray (KCOCFB) and Jasper (WBONQD) in MO, Hamilton (KCOCF) in IA, Whiteside (K2DRH) and Warren (KA0FBJ) in IL, Escambia (W4RL) in FL, and Franklin (W4LMR) and Harnett (W4WZR) in NC, for a total of 591. W5MRB in EM35 in AR has not yet QSL'd, despite being according to him his first FN20 (me, a new grid for an Arkansas station??), a SASE, and an emergency "sign it and return it" QSL.

Those emergency QSLs have come in handy this year. KCOCFB said he didn't QSL but responded promptly to one. W4RL not only did, too, but, having gotten regular cards, eventually sent a "proper" one back with my SASE. Thanks, fellows!

The year itself went as follows: January Contest: tough, of course, but still managed 198 QSOs (JUST missed the magic 200 mark) and a shocking 26 grids! That I'll take every January. Then it was quiet until the June contest, another tough one, though I did work FN04 for what would have been a new grid but did not get a card (yet), despite including a green stamp. This was an unspectacular 140 QSOs and 23 multipliers - still better than some of the truly dreadful ones I've had of late.

The band stayed quiet until July, when Eskip began to make its appearance. I caught WOFY on the 6th (for the 3rd time, twice on skip and once on tropo!), managed two more on the 28th, N0IRS and KCOCFB both in EM29 in MO, and then, despite constant rumbles of thunder, caught a productive one on the very next day (or the SAME day, if you use Zulu time). The band seemed to be right on the edge, as stations kept appearing and quickly disappearing, but most of them kept reappearing. I worked 7 stations in 6 states - and 7 grids: N5OMG (EL49 LA, and the most consistent signal), W4RL (EM60 FL), N0GZ (EN31 IA), KA0JGH (EN10 NE), K2DRH (EN41 IL), KCOCF (EN32 IA) and finally W5MRB (EM35 AR). VERY strange opening.

Band stayed quiet here, though I was just on the fringe of several openings, normally hearing only big guns I already had cards from. I managed to work K2DRH again, this time on tropo, on Aug 25, the first time I ever worked the same station on both E and tropo in the same year, then waited patiently. I was eventually rewarded when the activity quieted down after midnight by managing QSOs with KA0FBJ (EN 40 IL), WB9YBI (EN71 IL, who was sitting in his driveway trying to catch a repeater jammer!), and WBONQD (EM29 MO). Early September brought another long-lasting tropo I was on the edges of. Suspecting something might still be up, I turned the rig on the morning of the 3rd and was rewarded with W4WZR and W4LMR in NC.

The September contest was another tough one - can't we get some decent contest conditions on 2 in the northeast! - but I managed an acceptable 149 Qs and 24 grids. Then came the fall sprint. I'm never in a mood to participate for scores, but do check it out for whatever the band might offer. I got on 20 minutes late, having been out to dinner, and WOW! Sure I heard no serious DX, unlike a few of the big guns, but I found a frequency (somehow) and kept calling to the northeast. Got 51 replies, 12 of them new stations. 11

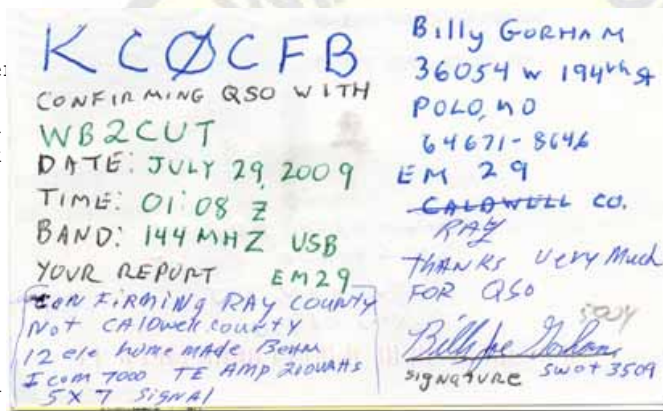
promised cards, but only 5 of those came through, as did the 12th. But my goodness - TWO FN54s - two NEW ones, mind you, both of whom did QSL, and both called ME. (hi, hi - they were IN ME/Maine). Never worked two FN54s in one opening before, nor was called by two Maine stations. That was FUN! Strangely, didn't hear an FN53.

There was another nice opening on Nov 18 I was on the fringe of. I heard things like VE1WLC, but nothing loud enough I needed to work.

I did pretty well (for these days) with working new members of the Sidewinders on 2, catching 3 more towards my next endorsement: 3507 (N0IRS), 3509 (KCOCFB) and 2974 (WBONQD), who had a reissued call sign which had belonged to a ham who had also been SWOT member .

AND I joined the KCVHF Grid Bandits, being the first member from New Jersey.

Happy New Year to all and to all good DX. 73 de WB2CUT Rich



SWOT Net Reports

Here are the net reports for
Nov & Dec 2009

Northern California W6OMF (Sunday)

Nov:
Week 1 produced 66 checkins
Week 2 produced 67 checkins
Week 3 produced 69 checkins
Week 4 produced 69 checkins
Week 5 produced 67 checkins

8 checked in once
16 checked in twice
20 checked in three times
17 checked in four times
34 checked in five times

14 grids

Dec:
Week 1 produced 63 checkins
Week 2 produced 69 checkins
Week 3 produced 63 checkins
Week 4 produced 50 checkins

23 checked in once
18 checked in twice
29 checked in three times
30 checked in four times

15 grids

North California KG6WLW CM87 N.Cal/Bay Area (Tuesday 8pm)

Date Check-ins
No Data

NORCAL W6DWI (Thursday
8pm)
No Data

Northeast Missouri NOPB (Monday 8pm) Date Check-ins/Grids/ States/SWOT

11/02 32 - 15 - 09 - 05
11/09 26 - 11 - 06 - 04
11/16 33 - 22 - 09 - 05
11/23 28 - 17 - 08 - 05
11/30 31 - 15 - 06 - 05

12/07 30 - 15 - 09 - 05
12/14 29 - 18 - 08 - 04
12/21 32 - 15 - 09 - 05
12/28 28 - 15 - 07 - 05

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

11/04 23 - 10 - 14 - 03
11/11 25 - 15 - 16 - 03
11/18 23 - 10 - 13 - 02
11/25 19 - 10 - 13 - 03
12/02 19 - 10 - 11 - 03
12/09 16 - 07 - 09 - 02
12/16 23 - 11 - 15 - 02
12/30 13 - 08 - 09 - 03

South Texas N5SSH (Tuesday 9pm) Date Check-ins/Grids/SWOT/ States/Countries

11/03 04-03-03-01-01
11/10 06-04-03-01-01
11/17 05-04-04-01-01
11/24 06-05-05-01-01
12/01 03-02-03-01-01
12/08 12-08-06-02-02
12/15 06-03-04-01-01
12/22 04-03-03-01-01
23/29 04-02-04-01-01

Southeast Ohio AB8XG KD8DJE Sub) (Tuesday 8pm)

Date CheckIns/States/Grids/
SWOT
11/05 13 - 02 - 05 - 06
11/12 15 - 03 - 04 - 06
11/19 14 - 02 - 04 - 04
11/26 07 - 01 - 03 - 05
12/03 13 - 02 - 04 - 05
12/10 14 - 02 - 04 - 06
12/17 14 - 02 - 04 - 05

E. Oklahoma KD5ZVE (Thursday 8pm) Date CheckIns/Grids/States/ SWOT

11/05 23 - 11 - 04 - 15
11/12 19 - 10 - 04 - 10
11/19 22 - 13 - 04 - 11
12/03 25 - 13 - 04 - 11
12/10 26 - 14 - 04 - 12
12/17 21 - 12 - 04 - 11

Daytona Beach W2RAC/W1LVL
(Wednesday 8pm)

Northeast Illinois K9TMS

(Sunday 7pm)
Date Check-ins
09/06 4 checkins
09/20 7 checkins
09/27 10 checkins

10/04 5 checkins
10/18 5 checkins
10/25 8 checkins
11/08 9 checkins
11/15 4 checkins

South Mississippi K5YG (Friday 8pm) Date Check-ins

12/04 03 checkins
12/11 09 Checkins
12/18 04 Checkins
12/25 08 Checkins

E. Texas Piney Woods KM5PO (K5LOW,N5GE sub) (Saturday 7am) Date Check-ins/Grids/SWOT/ States

11/07 28 - 12 - 14 - 05
11/14 18 - 09 - 10 - 03
11/21 22 - 13 - 12 - 04
11/28 20 - 10 - 09 - 04
12/05 15 - 08 - 09 - 03
12/12 17 - 08 - 10 - 04
12/19 21 - 10 - 10 - 04
12/26 25 - 12 - 13 - 04

Southern California WB6NOA (Sunday 7:30pm/144.240)

New! SWOT Membership/Renewal form
is available on the web at:

[http://www.swotrc.net/
membershipform.htm](http://www.swotrc.net/membershipform.htm)



Event and Contest Calendar:

WSJTGroup Sprints-

This is a VHF digital contest using meteor scatter propagation!

Jan 30

Feb 27

Mar 27

Apr 24

http://www.ykc.com/wa5ufh/Sprint/W5WVO_Sprints.htm

Mar 20 M₂ Swap Meet, BBQ, Grip N Grin, 4402 N. Selland Ave, Fresno, CA 93722 0730 to ?

June 5 NORCAL SWOT Brunch Sacramento, CA location TBD

June 11-12 Hamcom, Plano, TX

June 12-14 ARRL June VHF contest

June 26 ARRL Field Day

July 22-24 CSVHFS conference, Bridgeton, MO

What to expect Apr-June 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](#).

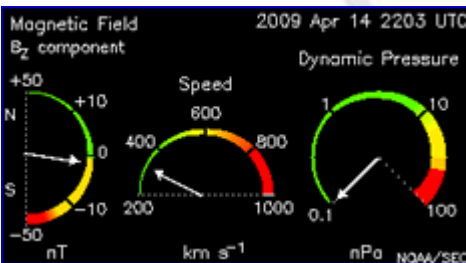
the [APRS Real time VHF propagation map](#).
 the [Presence of radar reflectivity \(false echos\)](#) [HERE](#)

the [Green Page \(144 Mhz Propagation Logger\)](#)
 the [Surface Map](#) (there are many choices)

www.spaceweather.com

New! SWOT Membership/Renewal form is available on the web at:

<http://www.swotrc.net/membershipform.htm>



Accurately detect tropo by observing "false" echoes 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.

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

Real time Magnetic Field dials (Aurora)

SWOT Bank account balance [12/31/09]

\$3227.02

Howard Hallman, SWOT Secretary/
 Treasurer

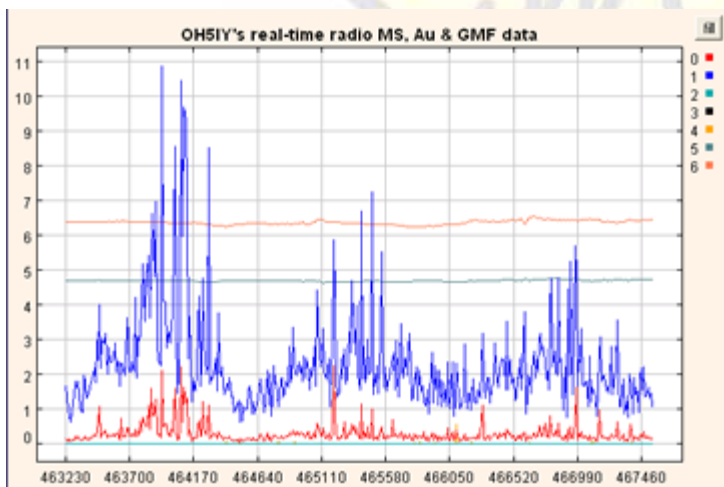


Click Here

SWOT#	Call	Name	City	State	Grid
3397	WA6ZKY	Gordon	Placerville	CA	EM98or
3561	KW6T	Russ	Latrobe	CA	CM98mo
880	K6HLK	Larry	Lancaster	CA	DM14cp
1746	W0BCG	David	Ft Worth	TX	EM12iu
3474	KI6ARW	Jennifer	Vellejo	CA	CM88vc
3308	KE6QR	Gary	Vallejo	CA	CM88vc
3476	WA6KTK	Steve	Manteca	CA	CM97jt
3514	K1YQP	Fred	Shingle Springs	CA	CM98mq
3524	KG6WLV	John	Concord	CA	CM87xx
1166	WB6ISO	Dennis	Rio Linda	CA	CM98gq
3441	WB6AWA	Jon	Livermore	CA	CM97cq
3586	N6TNI	Danny	North Highland	CA	CM98hq
3587	AA5IW	Robert	Ardmore	OK	EM14hh

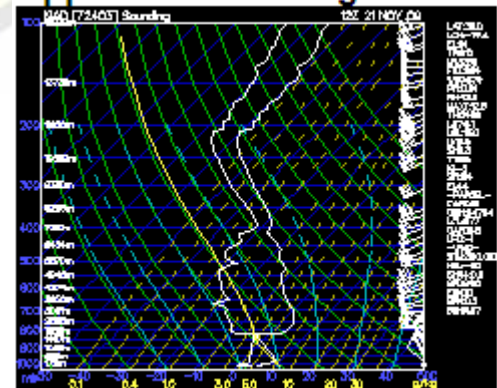
SWOT and Selected 2-Meter Nets

Day	Local Time	Area	Net	Frequency	Net Control Station
SUN	8:00 pm	Vacaville, CA	NORCAL	144.250	W60MF Larry-CM98ak
SUN	7:30 pm	Costa Mesa, CA	South California	144.240	WB6NOA Gordon-DM13bp
SUN	7:00 pm	Chicago, IL	North Illinois	144.250	K9TMS - Tom-EN52wi
SUN	8:30 am	Tucson, AZ	Arizona	144.250	N7SQN Al-DM41mw
SUN	8:30 pm	Zebulon, NC		144.220	N1GMV-FM05tu
SUN	9:30 pm	Holland, MI	Michagan SWAM	144.155	K8NFT-EN62xt
MON	7:30 pm	Albuquerque, NM	New Mexico	144.200	N5XZM Bobby-DM65rc
MON	8:00 pm	Colorado	Rocky Mt. VHF +	144.220	N0VSB W6OAL-DM79qj
MON	8:00 pm	Midwestern United States	Northeast Missouri SWOT	144.250	N0PB Phil-EM39wi
MON	9:00 pm	Tidewater, VA		144.230	
TUE	9:00 pm	Texas and Mexico	Deep South Texas SWOT	144.250	N5SSH Frank-EL07go
TUE	8:00 pm	Bay Area, North California, West Nevada	Northern California SWOT	144.250	KG6WLV John-CM87xx
WED	8:00 pm	Florida	Daytona Beach SWOT	144.250	W2RAC Richard W1LVL George-EL99lf
WED	9:00 pm	Texas, Okla, Ark, Louisiana	North Texas SWOT	144.250	W5FKN Bob-EM13gh
WED	0100 Z	Wisc and the upper midwest		144.240	WB9LYH-EN54cl
WED	0230 Z	Wisc and the upper midwest	Badgers contesters net	144.250	KC9BQA Todd-EN63ao
THU	8:00 pm	Bay Area, North California, West Nevada	Northern California SWOT	144.250	W6DWI Robin-CM98dn
THU	8:00 pm	Oklahoma, Texas, Ark, Missouri, Kansas	Eastern Oklahoma SWOT	144.250	KD5ZVE Jimmy-EM26fg
THU	8:00 pm	Greater Ohio area	Southeast Ohio SWOT	144.250	AB8XG Kenny-EM89ud KD8DJE Russell
FRI	8:00 pm	Southern tier United States	South Mississippi SWOT	144.250	K5YG Bill-EM50oj
SAT	7:00 am	Texas, Okla, Ark, Louisiana	Piney Woods SWOT	144.250	KM5PO Jim-EM12ko



OH5IY real-time Meteor Scatter & Au monitor: <http://www.kolumbus.fi/oh5iy/>

Upper Air Sounding Plots



Current SkewT from Washington DC

A new propagation tool has been added to the SWOT website: <http://www.swotrc.net>

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 :

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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 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



Side Winders on Two Radio Club S.W.O.T.
Promoting Weak Signal Operation since 1976

