

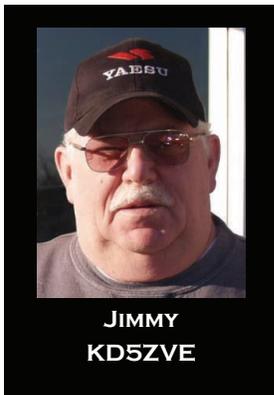
SWOT Bulletin

Official Newsletter Of The Sidewinders-On-Two Radio Club



Promoting SSB, CW & Digital Communications On 144 MHz and Above Bulletin# 335

Chairman's Corner .. By Jimmy—KD5ZVE



JIMMY
KD5ZVE

“Hello again to all of our SWOT members. I hope no one has given up on us as we have had a change in editors for our quarterly newsletter. Our former newsletter editor, Jim McMaster’s KM5PO has produced a fantastic newsletter from the time he took over. Jim’s duties have been taxed to the limit with both his wife’s business, his as well as his large family. This enormous workload has required Jim to step down as our SWOT Newsletter Editor. We thank him for his time and dedication to SWOT and he will be surely be missed. The good news is that “JD” Dupuy SWOT #3507 in Kansas City has agreed to take over the responsibilities. He is the founder of the Grid Bandits and an avid high band DX’er. We look forward to working with JD for a long time. If you have anything for the newsletter, please forward it to JD at n0irs@kc.rr.com. 73 de KD5ZVE Jimmy SWOT #3458

“The Newsletter is produced for everyone’s benefit. We welcome news articles and pictures from all of our SWOT Members. So please send your news in to our new editor!”

SWOT At The HAMFEST’s..... WA5BEG



RANDON
WA5BEG

SWOT shared a table at the COWTOWN Hamfest on 14—15 Jan 2011 in Ft Worth, Texas. The CowTown Hamfest is a mid-sized gathering with good attendance from the Dallas/Ft Worth area. About six commercial vendors attended. Next years event will be on Jan 20 –21, 2012 at the Lockheed Martin Recreation Area, 3400 Bryant Irvin Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76109. SWOT had sixteen sign-ins at the event table with more folks coming by to talk and discuss operating 2m SSB. The lowest SWOT Member sign –in was Randy Perkins, W5KCM, SWOT #178 and Ken Briton, WA6VJB, SWOT #193.

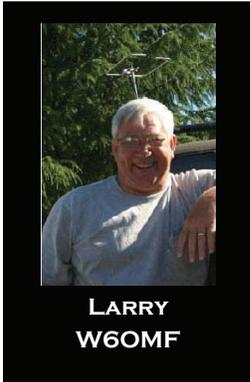


SWOT will have a table at the Irving ARC Hamfest on March 12th, 2011 in Irving, Texas. Also we will attend Ham-Com on June 10—11 in Plano, Texas. This table was arranged by Howard Hallman. Thanks Howard.

For the SWOT Hamfest Report this is Randon Porter WA5BEG SWOT #3111.

[Irving ARC Hamfest Link:](#) [CowTown Hamfest Link:](#)
[Ham-Com Hamfest Link:](#)





LARRY
W6OMF

The NORCAL SWOT Group

Oh my! The September 2010 Swap was one big big big SWAP meet... covering 3 acres and went extremely well. Over 300+ in attendance. I lost count twice and finally stopped trying to keep count. I saw several new faces that had not participated before.

We had some great donations from Sue and 1 of 2 each 900 MHz radios, a new six meter HO Loop, a new 2 meter HO Loop and a 432 HO Loop. WU7Q donated a VX-177 radio. Bill, WA6CAX donated a 900 MHz antenna and a two meter amplifier while KC6ZWT donated an ARRL book. Jack/K6YC donated a keyer, soldering irons and a CW Key and several other



items that escape my memory. Oh, and K6QG donated several 45 watt speakers. Sue and I bought two fly fishing boxes and put adapters in them. So many other items I know I'm forgetting... but a really big thanks to all of you for making it such a great success. I watched 6 excellent Collins rigs go, an FT-990, Bird watt meters, several beams and a whole lot of 900 MHz equipment. There were so many switches, coax and accessories that proved to be a treasure trove reaped by many at the SWAP. Winners abound with GTX 900 radios won by KE6ILX & N6DUK. A DR-M06 was won by N6EQ. The VX-177 was won by WD6GIY. The 6 Meter HO Loop went to K1YQP. The 2 Meter HO Loop was won by KG6LNL and the 432 HO Loop went to WB9NJS. Ya just had to be there. Great people having a great time. **73 From Larry & Sue SWOT # 155 & # 162.**



Reminder: March 19th has been set up for the M2 gathering... SWAP, displays and Grip and Grin... so come play! Updates www.m2inc.com



Home Brewing Amps for the Higher Bands..... by N0IRS

Since becoming a ham I have always admired folks who acquire the knowledge and skills to home brew an amplifier. Working with this type of project can not only be rewarding but potentially lethal if one is not fully aware of what he is doing. That aside, one not only has to be able to understand amplifier design, but also be skilled in fabrication of the cavity and chassis. This fabrication and the actual wiring and assembly of the amp sets the really good builders apart from the average builders. Carey, KC5GTT of Borene, TX in EL09pr is one of those such hams. I first became aware of Carey thru Delbert/K5DDD SWOT # 3251 in EM20. Delbert who is constantly upgrading and chasing the other guy for the biggest signal out of Texas on 2 Meters recently acquired one of these legal limit amplifiers running a single 6S35 tube. Located west of San Antonio, you can see more of Carey's amp projects and learn more about his station through his outstanding web site at: kc5gtt.com. Thanks Carey for keeping home brewing alive in the higher bands. Your work is superb!

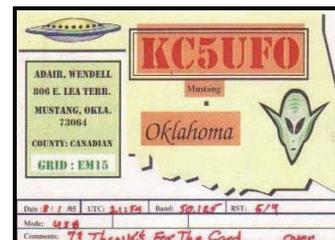


Construction Photos of the Legal Limit Amplifier for 2m SSB

This and That News and Information.....

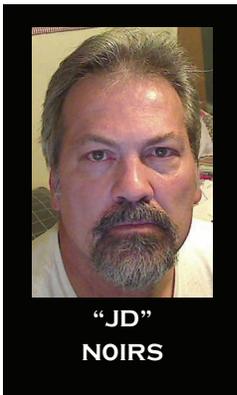
Wendell Adair / KC5UFO Silent Key (SK)

It is with great sadness that we inform our membership of the passing of Wendell /KC5UFO (SK) EM14 of Edmond, OK SWOT # 3595. He passed away on Feb 2, 2011. Wendell was very active last year on 2m SSB from a very rare and highly sought after Grid Square. We pass on our condolences to his family and Amateur Radio friends. We will surely miss hearing his signal out of EM14. His obituary can be read at the following link: KC5UFO



KE5WCE Changes His Call Sign

On another note Our **Piney Woods Net Controller** Jimmy/KE5WCE has gone and changed his call sign to K5WCE "dropping the E". His new email address has also been changed to K5WCE@hotmail.com



“JD”
NOIRS

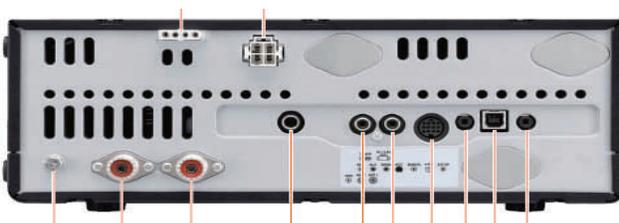
Newsletter Editor Comments..... “JD”

First I want to say thanks for the opportunity to step up and write the quarterly newsletter for SWOT. The change over has taken longer than expected. Jim/KM5PO had been using Adobe PageMaker to produce the newsletter. After several hours I just could not get comfortable with it’s learning curve so I went back to what I know best, Microsoft Publisher. So this is the platform I will continue to use. The newsletter will not be a success if folks across the country don’t get involved and submit articles of interest. Be it an event, antenna project, a bit of past history or anything related to our hobby, please consider taking the time to take a photo or two and write up a short paragraph about your news. I’m sure others will find it of interest! You can send articles to me at my email and I will be sure to include it for our readers. E-Mail n0irs@kc.rr.com



Last Years Tropo Report..... I plan to cover last years Tropo Openings in a series of articles along with video links. This will serve not only to document these events but also serve as a primer to get potential new hams involved in this exciting mode of the hobby. I’d also be interested to hear from any other operator who has documented one of these openings from their part of the country. Videos tend to help capture the excitement that can be played back through the internet and club meetings. Here’s a link to the Aug 19–23 Opening that covered over 800 miles. [YouTube Link 19-23 Tropo Opening](#)

ICOM’s New IC-7410... But Why the Long delay On the IC-9100?



- 1 Tuner Socket
- 2 DC Power Socket
- 3 144MHz Antenna Connector
- 4 430/440MHz Antenna Connector
- 5 Ground Terminal
- 6 HF/50MHz Antenna Connectors
- 7 Data1 Jack
- 8 Data2 Jack
- 9 Key Jack
- 10 ALC Input Jack
- 11 Send Control Jack
- 12 ACC Socket
- 13 CI-V Remote Control Jack
- 14 USB Connector
- 15 1200MHz Antenna Connector (With optional UX-9100)
- 16 External Speaker Jack (Main)
- 17 External Speaker Jack (Sub-band)

The much anticipated IC-9100 covering 2/432 and 1296, has finally received FCC Approval . Just last month ICOM released the already approved IC-7410 for HF and 6 meters. The first thing I noticed was it appeared to use the same cabinet as the IC-9100 as seen in the above pictures. The loss of the 746 Pro with a 100 watts on 2m SSB combined with the production stop of the IC-910H with 2/432 and optional 1296 module dealt “Weak Signal Ops” with fewer and fewer choices to get on these bands outside of costly and sometimes unreliable converters. Unfortunately, the cost of these multi-mode radios might keep them out of the hands of many individuals. On another note, ICOM also intends to release their version of IP remote software (RS-BA1) so that you can operate your radio station from another location like work or a vacation spot over the internet. At least you would never miss a band opening using this type of set-up. Stay tuned for more information on these new radios!

The Ultra Highs Weak Signal Society

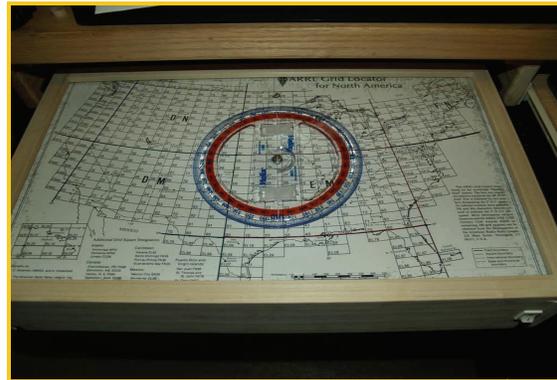


The Ultra Highs Weak Signal Society is back on the air out of Oklahoma. This group meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month with the net starting at 8:00 PM Central Time on 144.190. Jimmy/KD5ZVE is the NCS for the Net. The picture to the right was taken at the home of San/K5YY. From left to right are Jay/K0TEC, Myron/K4YA, San/K5YY, Rick/W0RT and myself Sam/K5SW. So if you happen to be near your radio, please stop by, check-in and let us know what's going on in your part of the country. 73 Sam/K5SW EM25 Muskogee, OK



For more information visit this link: W5VHF.ORG

Hideaway Grid Map Table..... This was an idea I came up with to solve a space problem. This unit is constructed of 3/4 " Poplar wood (Sides), 1/4 Birch Plywood (Back) Plexiglass, 2 fluorescent lights, a compass and a pair of drawer glides. I made the pointed out of a hustler stinger end and a terminal connector that was soldered together. The final unit was disassembled and painted flat black. If you can just get the guys Grid Square this unit will get your antenna headed in the right direction. The nice thing is you can still use a keyboard on top of it. 3/4 drawer guide extensions were added on the sides to adjust the overall height of the unit in relationship to the desk top. The light units were disassembled and only the light tubes and wiring were mounted to the 1/4" back that is screwed in placed. Dados were cut to allow the plexiglass to be recessed in the unit. The front is removable so you can slide the plexiglass in after mounting the grid map and allow for painting. Project was built for about \$50.00 and can be modified to fit your application.



Top Left: Unit extended for use with light on **Top Right:** Shows unit with light off no pointer installed yet
Bottom Left: Shows keyboard in place **Middle Bottom:** Close up of compass/pointer installed NOIRS

SWOT Net Reports....

Northern California W6OMF (Sunday)

Jan 2011

Week 1 - 65 Checkins
 Week 2 - 70 Checkins
 Week 3 - 61 Checkins
 Week 4 - 61 Checkins
 Week 5 - 65 Checkins

16 members checked in once
 14 checked in twice
 12 checked in 3 times
 12 checked in 4 times
 38 checked in 5 times

12 Grids

Northeast Missouri N0PB (Monday 8pm)

Date/Checkins/Grids/States/SWOT

01/03	27	14	8	5
01/10	29	17	8	4
01/17	36	19	8	4
01/23	No Net Rotor frozen			
01-31	No Net Iced Up			

North Texas W5FKN (Wed 9pm)

No Net Information

Southeast Ohio AB8XG (Tuesday 8pm)

Date/Checkins/Grids/States/
SWOT

01/06	11	2	2	4
01/13	13	3	1	6
01/20	15	3	1	4

E. Oklahoma KD5ZVE (Thursday 8pm)

Date/Checkins/Grids/States/
SWOT

11/4/10	18	08	04	13
11/11/10	16	09	05	09
11/18/10	18	10	05	13
11/25/10	No Net			

12/02/10	16	10	04	10
12/09/10	20	10	04	14
12/16/10	20	10	03	15
12/23/10	16	10	05	10
12/30/10	21	14	05	09

01/06/11	21	10	05	12
01/13/11	26	11	05	14
01/20/11	21	10	04	12

Daytona Beach W2RAC/W1LVL (Wed 8pm)

No Net Information

Northern Illinois K9TMS (Sunday 7pm)

No Net Information

South Texas N5SSH (Tuesday 9pm)

No net information

E. Texas Piney Woods K5WCE (Saturday 7am)

Date/Checkins/Grids/
States/SWOT

12/04/10	18	12	03	11
12/11/10	17	07	03	11

Southern MS SWOT K5YG (Thursday 8pm)

No Net Information

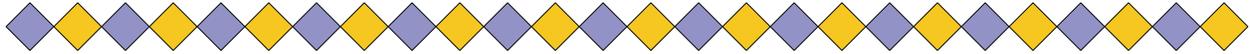
Note* Next quarter we should be back on track with complete Net reports from all the NCS Stations.



If You're Not A Side-Winder Then You're Just Not Having Fun!



If you pour this small of a tower pad make sure you guy the tower every 20 ft or else it's coming down!



HamEXPO Belton Texas

Ham-Expo held this last Oct 2010 was an event that continues to draw a large attendance. The success of this major gathering continues with having use of a great facility, parking and surrounding accommodations and full support of the Temple Amateur Radio Club. This Hamfest serves also as a focal point for many 2 Meter SSB operators from several states to gather and renew relationships, meet folks you have worked and talk about that last big opening on the higher bands. This is also the place to see some great antennas built by K5VH and K5DDD. With it's covered climate controlled environment, RV Parking and nearby hotels... this is a great place to take that short vacation too. **The next Ham Expo will be held on April 2, 2011, at the Bell County Expo Center, in Belton Texas**, off I-35 and Exit 292. Doors open at 7:00 am Saturday with Friday being the day for vendors to set-up. To find out more about this event: Visit: <http://www.beltonhamexpo.org/>



Belton Texas HamExpo October 2, 2010 Pictures



A Gathering of Sidewinders and Grid Bandits

From Left to Right: Richard/WB0NQG SWOT #2974, Jim/K0JRD, Tom/N5GE SWOT #3537, Jimmy/K5WCE (Changed from KE5WCE) SWOT #3565 and East Texas Piney Woods Net Controller and Larry/N0MST SWOT # 3348 and almost too tall to get in the picture. It seems this happens most of the time with Larry. He's holding a "BigWheel" Omni.



"Rafa" XE2OR DL98 made the trip to Belton with his son. Rafael had a great signal on 2m Trop in 2010. Look for him in 2011 on 2m/6m



Larry/N0MST and Wife Sue KB0ANT in the background also made the trip to Belton with a "BigWheel" or two. Larry is seen here performing to a small non-paying audience. "I'm So Lonesome ..."

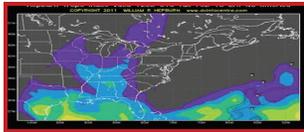
SWOT and Selected 2 Meters SSB Nets

Help improve our listing of nets. If you find errors or omissions or know of other 2m SSB Nets being conducted, Please contact the News Letter Editor at n0irs@kc.rr.com or the SWOT Net manager at jjohn357@swbell.net.

Day	Local Time	Area	Net	Frequency	Net Control Call Sign
Sunday	8:00 PM	Vacaville, Ca	NORCAL	144.250	W6OMF
Sunday	7:30 PM	Costa Mesa	S. California	144.240	WB6NOA
Sunday	7:00 PM	Chicago, IL	North Illinois	144.250	K9TMS
Sunday	1:00 PM	North Central Texas	North Central TX Rag Chew	144.250	N5GE
Monday	8:00 PM	Colorado	Rocky Mt VHF	144.220	N0VSB W6OAL
Monday	8:00 PM	Mid West	NE Missouri	144.250	N0PB
Tuesday	8:00 PM	Oklahoma TX, AR, MO KS	Ultra Highs Weak Signal Society	144.190	KD5ZVE
Tuesday	8:00 PM	Bay Area N Cal, W NV	N California SWOT	144.250	KG6WLV
Tuesday	9:00 PM	South Texas NE Mexico	S. TX SWOT	144.250	N5SSH KF5RM
Wed	8:00 PM	Florida	Daytona Beach SWOT	144.250	W2RAC W1VL
Wed	9:00 PM	TX, OK, AR LA, MO, KS	North Texas SWOT	144.250	W5FKN
Thursday	8:00 PM	OK, TX, AR KS, MO	E Oklahoma SWOT	144.250	KD5ZVE
Thursday	8:00 PM	Ohio	SE Ohio SWOT	144.250	AB8XG KD8DJE
Thursday	8:00 PM	Mississippi Surrounding	S. MS SWOT	144.250	K5YG
Saturday	7:00 AM	TX, OK, AR LA	Piney Woods SWOT	144.250	K5WCE



[Propagation Map](#)



[Hephurn Forecast](#)



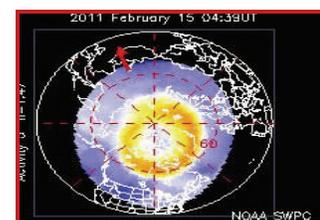
[144 Prop Logger](#)



[DX Sherlock](#)

Accurately detect Tropo by observing "false" echoes on National Service Weather Maps such as this one. http://radar.weather.gov/Conus/RadarImg/latest_Small.gif

NOTE * Watch for light blue or gray areas turning darker.



[Auroral Map](#)



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
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Phone: (972) 224-5964
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Bulletin Editor

“JD” Dupuy/N0IRS
Phone: 816-682-3041
Email: n0irs@kc.rr.com
WebSite: www.kcvhfgridbandits.com

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 (at the address listed above). Please make all checks payable to Howard Hallman. Include your SWOT # for all renewals.

Send your SWOT “Members Worked” from your log to, SWOT Awards manager, Wade Massey, 1016 Weise Ave, Princeton TX, 75407. Enclose \$1.00 for certificate. Please

Merchandise: Decals and listings available for \$1.00 each for shipping and handling from the Secretary/ Treasurer. SWOT Patches are available at \$4.00 each + \$.50 for mailing. Name Badges are available from the “Sign Man”, Rick Pourciau NV5A, <http://www.thesignman.com/menu.html>

