

## Chairman's Corner

### The Chairman's Corner By Jimmy Johnson KD5ZVE



Hello again. There is not a lot to report from the last committee meeting. Due to previous commitments and trips out of town, only three members were present so most of the club business was postponed. If you haven't been to the website lately, Tom N5GE has been busy. Please go by and check it out (<http://www.swotrc.net>). We do have the problem with filling the secretary/treasury position worked out but I will wait til the next news letter to make the announcement. By then I hope the transfer of most of the responsibility will have occurred.

Getting away from club business, the week

after the last VHF contest I received an e-mail from JD - N0IRS in Kansas City telling me that Rex Turner - W5RCI, a long time VHF contester and 2 meter sideband operator was in ICU in serious condition with a bacterial infection in his throat. Now after several months in ICU in a hospital in Oxford MS, they have moved him to a small facility in Memphis Tenn. that specializes in helping people come off the ventilator. This is hard on a young man. Rex is 81 years old. If you know Rex or have worked him over the years and would like to send him a get well card, you can send it to his address on QRZ and his son Rex Jr. will see that he gets it. And we will keep him in our prayers.

Until next time 73's  
Jimmy KD5ZVE SWOT #3458

## Vanishing Ham Radio

In a recent "Wallet Pop" article ([click here](#)), Ham Radio was listed as number 16 on a "Top 25 Things vanishing from America" list. Noting "the proliferation of the Internet and its popularity among youth" as the cause for the decline, the piece goes on to cite that "in the past 5 years alone, the number of people holding active ham licenses has dropped by 50,000, even though Morse Code is no longer a requirement".

The expanded article, written by

Tom Barlow, N8NLO, describes the modern ham as "likely to be computer savvy and involved in cutting edge technologies". He goes on to relate his own personal experience as the Director of the nation's largest week-long bicycle tour: "[Hams are..] among our nation's best trained and most capable respondents to disasters".

Tom then delivers a dire warning: "Given the cash value of the radio bands allocated to amateur radio, there will be relentless pressure on the government to take back those bands so they can be sold".

We would like to know your thoughts and comments. Is this the future?

Top 25 Things vanishing from America	
1. The Family Farm	13. Cameras That Use Film
2. Analog TV	14. Answering Machines
3. News Magazines & TV News	15. The Swimming Hole
4. Honey Bees	16. Ham Radio
5. Mumps & Measles	17. Ash Trees
6. Drive-in Theatres	18. VCRs
7. Personal Checks	19. Chesapeake Bay Blue Crabs
8. Wild Horses	20. Phone Landlines
9. Hand-Written Letters	21. Dial-up Internet Access
10. The Milkman	22. Movie Rental Stores
11. Stand Alone Bowling Alleys	23. Classified Ads
12. Incandescent Bulbs	24. Yellow Pages
	25. Pit Toilets

**JOIN THE SWOT YAHOO GROUP**

Click  
Here


# New presentation

Randon Porter - WA5BEG has created a first class presentation promoting SWOT and two meter SSB. This brochure (see a few of the slides posted here) will be available for you to use in your own venues should you be able to secure a time with your local club, school project, or other PR opportunity. We believe it is important for us to spread out in the general ham community and lend our help to all other areas that we can. In doing so, we can also make others aware of what we hold important and we will find opportunities to communicate the SWOT message.

Once Randon is satisfied with the work we will post the file where it can be downloaded and announce it's availability. Good work Randon!

## Sideband Activity on the Two Meter Band

Promoted by the  
Side Winders on Two  
Radio Club




## 2-Meters SSB Offers

- Affordable Equipment.**
  - Radio costs increase with higher frequencies.
  - Many older and newer 2-M all mode radios on the market at reasonable prices.
- Antennas manageable.**
  - 2-M quarter wave length allows small and light high gain antennas mounted on moderate support structure.
- Mobil and Portable:**
  - Simple 
  - Not Simple  Try this with HF beams

\*Available to Technician license classification

## Two Meter Sideband Activity







### The Sideband Advantages:

- Communicate over longer distance than FM. FM receivers will not capture weak signals. Weaker signals from longer distances will be detected and copied. 2-M CW will offer an additional advantage in distance.
- Hear all signals on a frequency. FM will only capture the strongest signal or be interference blocked if several signals are on the same frequency. SSB will other s
- Continu
- \*14
- \*14
- \*Not re
- \*C
- \*N

## Propagation

### Two Meter SSB Offers to the DXing Community:

- Sporadic Es and FAI**
  - When the Maximum Usable Frequency (MUF) for the E-layer of the ionosphere reaches 144 MHz, the 2-Meter band becomes a beehive of DX activity.
- Tropospheric Ducting better known as Tropo.**
  - Tropo is the result of specific weather events
    - Directly caused by the strong influence of an Upper-Air High Pressure system (15,000-35,000 feet high) ridged over a surface High Pressure system.
  - Three types of Tropo
    - Tropospheric Scatter (TrS)
    - Tropospheric Emission (TrE)
    - Tropospheric Ducting (TrD)
- Aurora**
  - Aurora is a special propagation mode that is a result of the severe solar storms that are created by the Sun.
- Meteor Scatter**
  - Meteor scatter is rare and does not provide continuous contact.
- Earth-Moon-Earth (EME)**



Headed for West Sacramento for brunch, October 30th. From the left:

WF6J, Carl, #3465, Blank chair, W6OMF, Larry #155, W6VNQ, David, 3281, W6IZU, Ken, 3290, K6HLE, Doug, #1490, KI6TVZ, Shirley, #3520, KA6TYG, Jo Anne, WA6ZKY, Gordy, #3397, KF6PGT, Alan, #3303

# North American High Speed Meteor Scatter 2008 Geminids Test

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

**Sponsor:** WSJT Group [groups.yahoo.com/group/wsjtgroup/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wsjtgroup/)

**Contest period:** 0000 UTC Dec 11 to 0200 UTC Dec 15, 2008. The test period has been chosen to coincide with the 2008 Geminids meteor shower.

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

**Rules and scoring:** 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'. Output power up to the legal limit on any band. Use of self-spotting and scheduling (eg. [Pingjockey website](#)) before and during the event are allowed. Random QSOs completed without the use of any scheduling aids or self-spotting will score double points. Detailed procedures for random operation can be found [here](#). All operators are reminded that exchanging information without the use of meteor scatter *during* the QSO attempt invalidates the contact. The scoring is as follows:

Band	Points	Random Points
50	1	2
144	2	4
222	4	8
432	8	16

Total score is QSO points times number of unique grid squares worked per band (standard VHF contest scoring).

An operator is free to attempt both scheduled and random QSOs. If a random QSO is made with a station that has already been worked with a schedule, replace with appropriate random points. Example: K1JT works W8WN on 50 MHz after scheduling on Pingjockey. The QSO is scored with 1 point. Later in the event, these stations work randomly. The QSO is now scored with 2 points. An example of self-spotting is a Pingjockey post 'CQ east on 144.140'. QSOs that result from making or reading such a posting cannot be scored as random. Monitoring Pingjockey activity violates the spirit of random operation. Pingjockey use gets very heavy during this event, so operators are encouraged to adhere to proper [posting etiquette](#).

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. Rovers making QSOs from their home station must submit a separate log for those contacts.

**Awards:** Certificates will be mailed to the high scorers in each of the four North American time zones. Awards will also be given to top scoring Random-Only operators and Rovers in each time zone. A Random-Only operator is expected to refrain from any self-spotting and/or scheduling before and during the contest.

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

1) The summary should include: i) Your call; ii) Your time zone; iii) Category: Regular, Random-Only, or Rover; iv) QSOs per band; and vi) 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. This information will be used to cross-check with other logs for scoring accuracy.

Submission of the log as an Excel spreadsheet (arrange the columns as shown above) is strongly encouraged, although any convenient log submission format is acceptable. OpenOffice Calc is an excellent free program that almost perfectly mimics Excel. It can be downloaded [here](#). Logs should be emailed by January 15, 2009 to Tip WA5UFH ([wa5ufh@ykc.com](mailto:wa5ufh@ykc.com)).

Contest coordinators: Tip (WA5UFH); John (N6ENU); Mike (WB2FKO)

***This is the premier meteor-scatter contest of the year! Be sure and get prepared to operate !!!***

## SWOT nets - a tradition

### **SWOT nets are special-**

There are informal gatherings on 2 meter SSB every night around the world but a SWOT net is something a little different. When you take part in a SWOT net either as the net control station or as a check-in station, you are standing on the shoulders of thousands of other stations that have come before you in the bygone eras dating back to 1976. These stations are certainly part of the reason we still have a great VHF band like two meters and although we may not see a return to the dozens of SWOT nets held each week, you can bet every one of our nets counts. It's important to exercise our privilege to use weak signal techniques in communications and an organized SWOT net is a great way to do this on a regular basis.

### **SWOT nets are fun-**

Need a reason to use that two meter equipment? A SWOT net gives you every reason! Not only can you listen up to see how band conditions are playing out but you can key that rig and make some noise. Want to try out a new antenna? Go right ahead and ask the net participants to give you some feedback. How about a new preamp on the receive side? Hook it up and see how much better you can hear as the net control

station makes the rounds and some of the distant stations start checking in.

### **SWOT nets are free-**

You don't have to be a SWOT member (hey it only costs 6 bucks) to join in to a SWOT net. Anyone is welcome to step in at net time as often as possible. At a time when everyone has their hand out, a SWOT net is one place you can find true value in friendship, mentorship, and good old down home ham radio.

### **SWOT nets are growing-**

There are SWOT nets all around the United States these days and most of them are healthy, sporting a very active participation from week to week and day to day. If you are in an area where you cannot reach one of the nets, how about starting one of your own? All it takes to make this happen is your own motivation. You don't need to wait until you have a "better" station. Simply contact Jimmy Johnson, KD5ZVE ([jjohn357@swbell.net](mailto:jjohn357@swbell.net)) for the 'how-tos' to get started calling a net. Or maybe you are part of a group that meets regularly already. Consider becoming affiliated with SWOT and adding it to your name.

The SWOT tradition is still alive and well and when you participate in one of our nets you are joining the legacy of great two meter SSB operators that have staked out our claim in this manner for decades. Come join the ranks!



Latest from the SWOT lab !

A multi-band beacon for the microwave bands. Not to do with 2 meters but still an interesting homebrew project. The "heart" of the beacon is a synthesized L.O.

board (The Apollo 1) from Steve Hicks, N5AC ([www.n5ac.com](http://www.n5ac.com)). The beacon is on the air temporarily while final preparations are made for the slotted waveguide antennas and complete packaging

before installation on the roof. Output power is about 23-25 dBm or 1/3 of a watt. [km5po/b - EM12ks - 2304.250 & 3456.375 MHz]

All guts, no glory

Looking east at 6 flags over Texas with temporary dipoles @ EM12ks (top right)

Measuring gain & pattern of slotted waveguide array.



## SWOT Net Reports

Here are the net reports for September and October of 2008

### Northern California W6OMF (Sunday)

September:

10 Grids checking in with us  
61 stations the 1st week  
56 stations the 2nd week  
63 stations the 3rd week  
58 stations the 4th week

88 different stations for the month

30 stations checked in all four times  
19 stations checked in three times  
22 stations checked in twice  
17 stations checked in once

October:

85 Different stations checked in with us

15 checking in once  
18 checking in twice  
21 checking in three times  
31 checking in all four times

First week 53 stations  
Second week 66 stations  
Third week 60 stations  
Fourth week 59 stations

### North California KG6WLV CM87 N.Cal/Bay Area (Tuesday 8pm)

Date Check-ins

no data

### NORCAL W6DWI (Thursday 8pm)

Date Check-ins/SWOT/States

no data

### Northeast Missouri NOPB (Monday 8pm)

Date Check-ins/Grids/States/SWOT

09/01 no net (ants down)  
09/08 18 - 14 - 08 - 05  
09/15 24 - 14 - 08 - 04  
09/22 no net (contest)  
09/29 21 - 11 - 06 - 04  
10/06 26 - 16 - 08 - 05  
10/13 27 - 19 - 07 - 07  
10/20 18 - 12 - 07 - 04  
10/27 19 - 15 - 07 - 05

### North Texas W5FKN (KM5PO sub) (Wednesday 9pm)

Date Check-ins/SWOT/Grids/States

09/03 no net  
09/10 no net  
09/17 20 - 09 - 15 - 04  
09/24 no net  
10/01 19 - 11 - 13 - 04  
10/08 21 - 10 - 16 - 03  
10/15 17 - 09 - 13 - 04  
10/22 16 - 08 - 11 - 03  
10/29 16 - 08 - 13 - 03

### Southeast Ohio AB8XG KD8DJE Sub) (Tuesday 9pm)

Date CheckIns/States/Grids/SWOT

09/02 18 - 02 - 02 - 06  
09/09 16 - 02 - 03 - 06  
09/16 14 - 02 - 03 - 05  
09/23 13 - 02 - 02 - 06  
09/30 12 - 02 - 02 - 07  
10/07 14 - 02 - 02 - 06  
10/14 16 - 01 - 03 - 05  
10/21 24 - 02 - 03 - 06  
10/28 15 - 02 - 03 - 06

### E. Oklahoma KD5ZVE (Thursday 8pm)

Date CheckIns/States/Grids/SWOT

09/04 17 - 08 - 04 - 11  
09/11 16 - 12 - 04 - 12  
09/18 16 - 09 - 04 - 09  
09/25 no net (weather)  
10/02 16 - 09 - 04 - 11  
10/09 15 - 09 - 04 - 10  
10/16 21 - 11 - 04 - 09  
10/23 19 - 08 - 04 - 13  
10/30 18 - 08 - 04 - 10

### Daytona Beach W2RAC/W1LVL (Wednesday 8pm)

Date Check-ins

09/03 03  
09/10 03  
09/17 03  
09/24 03

### E. Texas Piney Woods KM5PO (K5LOW sub) (Saturday 7am)

Date Check-ins/States/Grids/SWOT

09/06 21 - 12 - 10 - 04  
09/13 14 - 06 - 05 - 02  
09/17 20 - 13 - 11 - 03  
09/20 15 - 08 - 09 - 03  
09/27 19 - 10 - 09 - 03  
10/04 19 - 09 - 10 - 03  
10/11 15 - 09 - 09 - 03  
10/18 12 - 05 - 05 - 02  
10/25 19 - 10 - 09 - 03

### 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

## NORCAL SWOT MEMEBERS

The annual NORCAL meeting/gathering will happen on: 6 December 2008 0930 Local California time Bakers Square in West Sacramento, CA Corner of Hwy 50 and Harbor Blvd.

**NORCAL MEMBERS need to paid up, thru me, thru December, for the drawing.**

Larry, W6OMF

[Visit the Sidewinders on Two Website!](#)



**Event and Contest Calendar:**

Dec 11-15 WSJTgroup Geminids meteor scatter contest. This is the 'big event' for North American High Speed Meteor Scatter group. Full rules are posted here: [http://www.sportsclique.com/wb2fko/w08/rules\\_w08.html](http://www.sportsclique.com/wb2fko/w08/rules_w08.html)



Example of the very nice certificate awards given out to winners by WSJTGROUP.

Jan 9-10 Cowtown Hamfest, Lockheed Martin Recreation area, Ft. Worth, TX <http://cowtownhamfest.org>

Jan 19-20 ARRL Jan. VHF Seepstakes



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](http://radar.weather.gov/Conus/RadarImg/latest_Small.gif) Watch for light blue and gray areas turning darker.

June 13-14 Hamcom, Plano, TX

June 14-16 ARRL June VHF contest

June 28-29 ARRL Field Day

**Meteors schedule:**

Canis Minorids Dec 9-11 1.27 zHR

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 3-4, 131 zHR

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

**Aurora:**

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

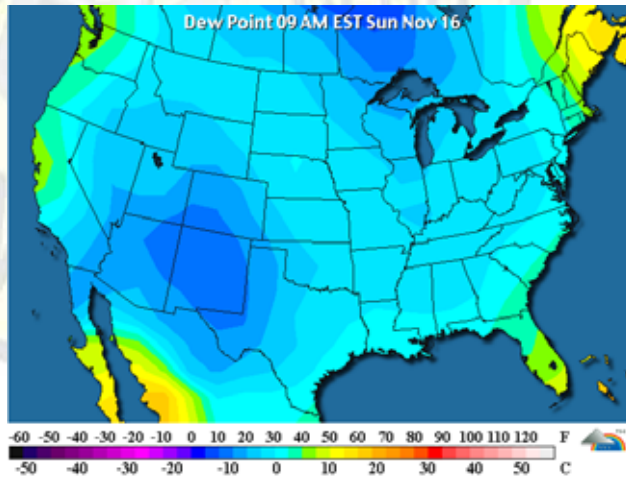
[www.spaceweather.com](http://www.spaceweather.com)

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

**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)

<b>SWOT Bank account balance [Nov1, 2008]</b>
\$3,171.38
Howard Hallman, S.W.O.T. Secretary/Treasurer



Dew point is another indicator of tropo conditions:

<http://www.wunderground.com/US/Region/US/2xDewpoint.html>

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

SWOT#	Call	Name	City	State	Grid
3520	KI6TVZ	Shirley	Folsom	CA	CM98
3555	KC5DDK	Ron	Tulsa	OK	EM26
3561	W6OHM	Russ	Latrobe	CA	CM98
3557	N6BLU	Gary	Magalia	CA	CM99
3556	K6EL	Jon	Chico	CA	CM99
847	AC6DC	Wilbert	San Jose	CA	CM97

## *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](mailto:km5po@arrl.net) or the SWOT Net Manager- Jimmy Johnson, [jjohn357@swbell.net](mailto:jjohn357@swbell.net)

<b>Day</b>	<b>Local Time</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Net Control Station</b>
<b>SUN</b>	<b>8:00 pm</b>	<b>Vacaville, CA</b>	<b>NORCAL</b>	<b>144.250</b>	<b>W6OMF Larry</b>
SUN	8:30 am	Tucson, AZ	Arizona	144.250	N7SQN AI
SUN	8:30 pm	Zebulon, NC		144.220	N1GMV
SUN	9:30 pm	Holland, MI	Michagan 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
<b>MON</b>	<b>8:00 pm</b>	<b>Midwestern United States</b>	<b>Northeast Missouri SWOT</b>	<b>144.250</b>	<b>NOPB Phil</b>
MON	9:00 pm	Tidewater, VA		144.230	
<b>TUE</b>	<b>8:00 pm</b>	<b>Bay Area, North California, West Nevada</b>	<b>Northern California SWOT</b>	<b>144.250</b>	<b>KG6WLV John</b>
<b>TUE</b>	<b>9:00 pm</b>	<b>Greater Ohio area</b>	<b>Southeast Ohio SWOT</b>	<b>144.250</b>	<b>AB8XG Kenny KD8DJE Russell</b>
WED	8:00 pm	Southern California	Weak Signal consolidated nets.	144.240	WB6NOA Gordon
<b>WED</b>	<b>8:00 pm</b>	<b>Florida</b>	<b>Daytona Beach SWOT</b>	<b>144.250</b>	<b>W2RAC Richard W1LVL George</b>
<b>WED</b>	<b>9:00 pm</b>	<b>Texas, Okla, Ark, Louisiana</b>	<b>North Texas SWOT</b>	<b>144.250</b>	<b>W5FKN Bob</b>
<b>THU</b>	<b>8:00 pm</b>	<b>Bay Area, North California, West Nevada</b>	<b>Northern California SWOT</b>	<b>144.250</b>	<b>W6DWI Robin</b>
<b>THU</b>	<b>8:00 pm</b>	<b>Oklahoma, Texas, Ark, Missouri, Kansas</b>	<b>Eastern Oklahoma SWOT</b>	<b>144.250</b>	<b>KD5ZVE Jimmy</b>
<b>SAT</b>	<b>7:00 am</b>	<b>Texas, Okla, Ark, Louisiana</b>	<b>Piney Woods SWOT</b>	<b>144.250</b>	<b>KM5PO Jim</b>

*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: [wd5djt@swbell.net](mailto:wd5djt@swbell.net)  
Webpage: <http://home.swbell.net/wd5djt>

### CHAIRMAN & SWOT NET MANAGER :

Jimmy Johnson/KD5ZVE  
Email: [jjohn357@swbell.net](mailto:jjohn357@swbell.net)

### BULLETIN EDITOR :

Jim McMasters/KM5PO  
Email: [km5po@arrl.net](mailto:km5po@arrl.net)  
Phone: (817)-563-2720

Webpage: <http://www.james-randall.com>

### SWOT WEBMASTER ([www.swotrc.net](http://www.swotrc.net))

Tom Childers/N5GE  
Email: [webmaster@swotrc.net](mailto:webmaster@swotrc.net)

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

