

It's a Really Big Show

CCA Ready for A Super Dayton Hamvention

A multitude of special events sponsored by the Collins Collectors Association will greet Collins enthusiasts gathering at the annual Dayton Hamvention May 15-18.

For the first time, the group will have an exhibit space located inside Hara Arena (booth 622). Several CCA members will be on duty during the open hours to greet vintage radio collectors and users and spread the word about the Association's activities. Some collector quality equipment will be on display and for sale. The Association will take a commission on the sale and interested parties should contact Sandy Gerli, AC1Y at 860-675-7633 for more information. Also if you are interested in taking a shift or two at the booth, please contact Sandy by phone or e-mail: angerli@connix.com.

Beginning on Thursday night, the CCA will host a hospitality suite in the Premier Room of the Quality Inn headquarters hotel on Needmore Road (formerly the Radisson Hotel). The room will open at 7:00 for fellowship, displays and refreshments. The room will also be open after the banquet on Friday and again at 7:00 on Saturday night. Video equipment and a slide projector will be available so bring your slides and videos.

The annual membership banquet will take place on Friday night May 16 in the Regency Room beginning with a cash bar at 7:00 with dinner at 8:00. A video spectacular, under the direction of Floyd Soo, W8RO, will feature a presentation produced by the CCA membership. Video clips from many familiar CCA members will illustrate the program.

During the dinner meeting, door prizes donated by a dozen members and commercial firms will be handed out to those with matching ticket stubs (you will be given a ticket when you enter the banquet room). At the close of the program, we will announce the winner of the raffle prize, a reproduction 270G-2 speaker donated by Mort Jones, W6KLG. Tickets will be on sale during the cocktail hour for \$1 each (no limit to the number you can purchase but you must be present to win). After dinner the room will be open for socializing.

Saturday night the AM International Forum will take place at Marion's Pizza. This

annual event is always well-attended by Collins enthusiasts and all are welcome.

Room confirmations have been mailed to those members who reserved rooms at the Quality Inn. A "dance card" with member's flea market spaces will be available at the hotel registration desk when you check in. Your banquet tickets and name badge will be available outside the Regency Room beginning about 6:45 pm on Friday.

The outside flea market opens to exhibitors only at noon on Thursday, May 15. The

general public is admitted to the outside flea market during the following hours: 8:00 am to 6:00 pm on Friday, 6:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday and 6:00 am to 4:00 pm on Sunday. The inside exhibits open to the public at from noon on Friday to 6:00 pm. On Saturday they will be open from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and on Sunday from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Bus service is available to and from the hotel and the arena area.

A very limited number of banquet tickets will be available at the door. Tickets are \$25.



At the Mike with Bill Wheeler

Chairman, Collins Collectors Association

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Those of us actively acquiring and disposing Collins equipment are well aware of the volatile prices people are paying for our beloved radios. To many of our YLs, it has no doubt occurred that we OM's are most certainly better off financially dead than alive when it comes to the value of our estates!

We have noted with some trepidation a possible correlation between the increasing prices commanded by Collins gear on the trading market, and the increased number of complaints alleging misrepresentation of condition. What is going on? Are people willing to pay any price, go to any lengths or even down right lie just to sell a price of gear for the highest price? Let's face facts: (1) Collins equipment is highly collectible, (2) they are not making any more of it, (3) vintage radio collecting and operating is the fastest growing aspect of the hobby and (4) there are people out there with more money than sense.

As members of this association I feel it is our duty, if not our obligation, to take a leadership role as far as integrity is concerned. We took the extraordinary step of committing to writing a set of detailed equipment grading standards and took the process further by insisting these standards be used on our 20 meter weekly net. I'm kind of disappointed because I still hear equipment described as "a 9 to a 10" or "real clean and sweet" on the net— worlds not even remotely contained in our *Grading Standards Data Sheet*. Unfortunately, many of those frequenting our net are not even members of the CCA so this may be some of the problem.

I also hear horror stories— and even a minor nightmare or two— about equipment purchased over the Internet and the *Yellow Sheets* arriving and not living up to the seller's description. To quote from our Data Sheet "Honesty and integrity cannot be legislated. However, when both buyer and seller use the same terms to describe a piece of equipment, the chances for misrepresentation, innocent or intentional, are greatly reduced." If you have piece of gear to sell, describe it accurately. Be honest with your fellow ham. Tell him that the MM-1 mike cord is not original, so you may only get \$100 for it rather than \$125. Isn't your integrity worth \$25? Is your radio really in excellent condition? Just because somebody recently paid \$1,200 for a 75A-4 does not mean that all 75A-4s are worth \$1,200.

The frantic feeding frenzy about our hobby is something we cannot stop but we can make a difference. Let no one say that he was "ripped off by some clown in the CCA" when it comes to fairly and accurately describing a piece of equipment.

See you in Dayton!



Well, it's that time of the year again—Dayton! So much has happened in the last few months. Hard to believe that we are more than a third of the way through 1997 already! Springtime flooding and summertime static is already reminding us of the price we pay for the warm weather. Oh well, we can only hope for the new sunspot cycle to kick in and give us better propagation conditions.

As usual, our Sunday 20 meter net is going along just fine. This net has been a crowd pleaser since 1988, and we'll be celebrating it's 10 year anniversary after the first of the year. We will have to come up with a unique birthday celebration! Thanks to Butch (KOBS) and a capable group of NCOs, it looks like the net is in competent hands. We are indebted to everyone that assists with this very large net.

The 75 meter nets on Tuesday and Thursday evenings have grown and have become a handful as well. Even under less than ideal conditions, a dedicated bunch of CCA members show up regularly and engage in some very enjoyable QSOs. As an added bonus, there were a few "Theme Nights" thrown in for good measure.

It all started with "Gold Dust Twins Night" in January. Then, on February 20, there was "KWM-380 Night." Jim (W4THU); John (WA5VVT) and Peter (VE3URO) shared the NCO responsibilities that night. Now that Peter has jumped in as a NCO for the first time, we will all expect to hear him in that capacity more regularly! Thank you Peter for helping out! Many KWM-380s were enjoying some fellowship that night, with a few HF-380s also joining in. Collins' only Solid State ham rig surely was well represented, and seems to be gaining popularity.

On Thursday evening, March 20, members and non-members alike got on the air with their KWM-2s for "KWM-2 Night". With John (WA5VVT) at the helm, at least 65 stations checked in that night. Of the KWM-2s that were in attendance, 17 were winged-emblem and 11 were round-emblem. Of the KWM-2As that checked in, 6 were winged emblem, 10 were round-emblem and 3 were Rockwell-emblem. The lowest serial number was 781 and the highest 39952. Obviously, these Theme Nights have been a great success!

On April 17, 3875 Khz came alive with heterodynes. Elsewhere in this issue, you will

find a nice wrap up of "AM Night", what a rousing success that evening was! It was nice to hear all that "big iron" out there that night, even though the QRN and QRM was heavy at times. We are planning on doing this again sometime next winter, hopefully, with less QRN.

Another idea that has popped up is a gathering on the Novice/Tech bands. Many of our members are Novices and Technicians, so we may try some gatherings on those bands that they can operate on. There have been some requests for CW nets too! We are working on that as well.

For the Spring and Summer, the Theme Nights will be fewer in number. This is because many members are taking advantage of the nice weather and doing outdoor type activities (including yours truly). In September, we may start back up with a regular Theme Night Schedule again. So, stay tuned for continuing information.

As always, if there are any of you (like Peter) that would like to assist with the CCA Nets as one of the NCOs, please contact either Butch (KOBS) or I, and we can get you on the schedule. Even if you can only help out once a month, that is great! Any help is welcome, all participation is welcome! See you in Dayton and have an enjoyable Spring and Summer!

—73 de W8RO, dit dit



The following is a report of check-ins to the Sunday afternoon 20 meter net. This list includes stations in "for the numbers" as well as for technical and swap traffic:

Date	Check-Ins	Comments
March 2	61	
March 9	70	
March 16	77	
March 23	82	
March 30	73	
April 6	64	KK5IM
April 13	79	
April 20	72	

—73, Butch, KOBS

CCA Annual Summer Meeting
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
August 1-3
Mark Your Calendar!

The New COLLINS AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENT VIDEO SPOTTERS GUIDE joins
 The Collins KWM-2 Video
 The Collins 75S-3 / 32S-3 Video
 The Collins 30L-1 Video
 The Collins 30S-1 Video
 The 1991 Collins Forum at Dayton
 The 1992 Collins Forum at Dayton
 and introducing the
 PDC-1

Universal Peak Detector Circuit
 This circuit converts ANY average reading wattmeter into
 a Peak Reading
 wattmeter, including the Bird 43!
 Perfect for AM and SSB!

HI-RES Communications, Inc.
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Clarkston, MI 48348-4058
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KWM-2/PM-2 Mounting Hardware

Exact reproduction mounting hardware for KWM-2 to the PM-2 power supply or the mobile mount. Complete Set (Thumb Screws, Nylon Washers, Threaded Chassis Inserts) \$19.95/pair, post paid. Thumb Screws only \$9.95/pair, post paid.

Warren Hall, K0ZDQ
P. O. Box 282 • Ash Grove, MO 65604

CCA Membership Hot Line:

507-282-2141

Sorry, no call-backs available!

S-Line & KWM-2 Painting
 A-Line St. James Gray Overspray
 75A-4 • KWS-1 • 51J- Front Panel
 Repainting and NEW Custom Lettering
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Butch Schartau KOBS
507-288-0044

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AM Theme Night

It was a Huge Heterodyne Pile Up on 3875!

By Jay Miller, KK5IM

On the night of April 17, a small point on the 80 meter phone band came alive with the sound of plate modulation carrying with it a loud and clear demonstration of the interest and affection held for vintage radio communication.

Organized by the Collins Collectors Association, the AM Theme Night was coordinated on 3875 kc with other stations who normally use that frequency. Amateur stations from 36 states joined in for the opportunity to work each other and WOCXX, the Collins Amateur Radio Club station, from Cedar Rapids.

The operators at the famous Collins station logged over 125 QSOs from 7:00 pm until past 11:00. A great collection of "heavy metal" made their presence known—many transmitters of which had not been on the air in years. Dale Gagnon, KW1I, made a special presentation to WOCXX on behalf of AM International by bestowing AMI Certificate number 1000 to the station.

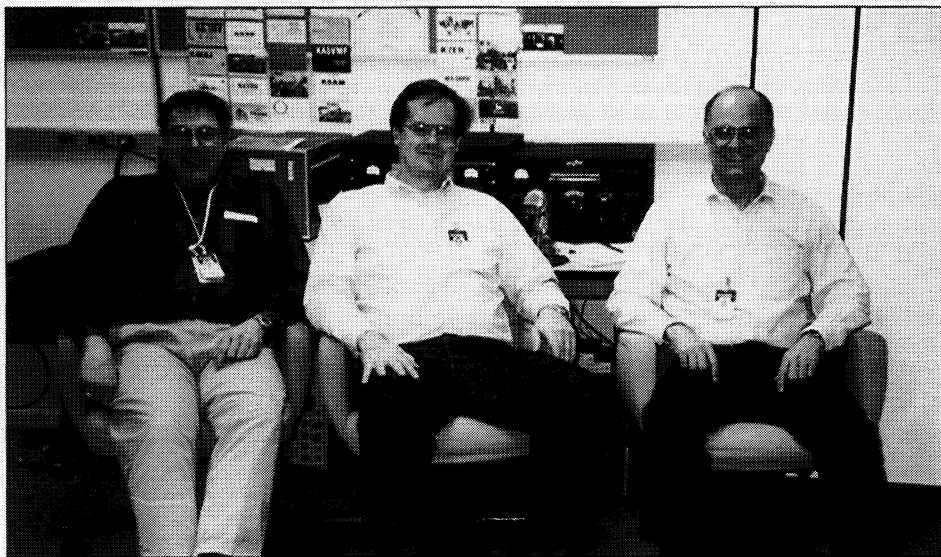
"It was like taking a time machine back to the 50s," commented Bob Peters, K1JNN after making his AM contact from Dallas. "I had not heard a heterodyne pile-up in 30 years!"

Rod Blocksome, KODAS; Mark Hovda, NOJWI; Lee Johnson, WTOD and Gayle Lawson, KOFly manned the station at WOCXX which was located in the Main Plant at Collins Radio in Cedar Rapids. The station ran a 32V-3 transmitter and a 75A-4 receiver with an Alpha 77D as an AM linear amplifier. The

antenna was a dipole up 100 feet on one end, 60 feet on the other.

The airwaves literally came alive after KOBS kicked off the event from Rochester, MN with his magnificent KW-1. High-fidelity signals from 30Ks, KW-1s, 32Vs, ancient mili-

Continued on page 4.



Pictured here in the Collins Amateur Radio Club station at the Main Plant in Cedar Rapids is the WOCXX operating team which included Gayle Lawson, KOFly; Mark Hovda, NOJWI and Rod Blocksome. In the background is the AM station used to make 126 contacts in 36 states and 4 Canadian provinces. The operating event even wound up on the DX packet cluster! —NOJWI

Join Us on the Air!



14.263 MHz
Sundays
2000Z
3805 Khz
Tuesdays and
3875 Khz Thursdays
0100Z

Sunday for Technical and Swap.
Tuesday and Thursday for ragchew.

Visit the CCA Booth
at the Dayton Hamvention

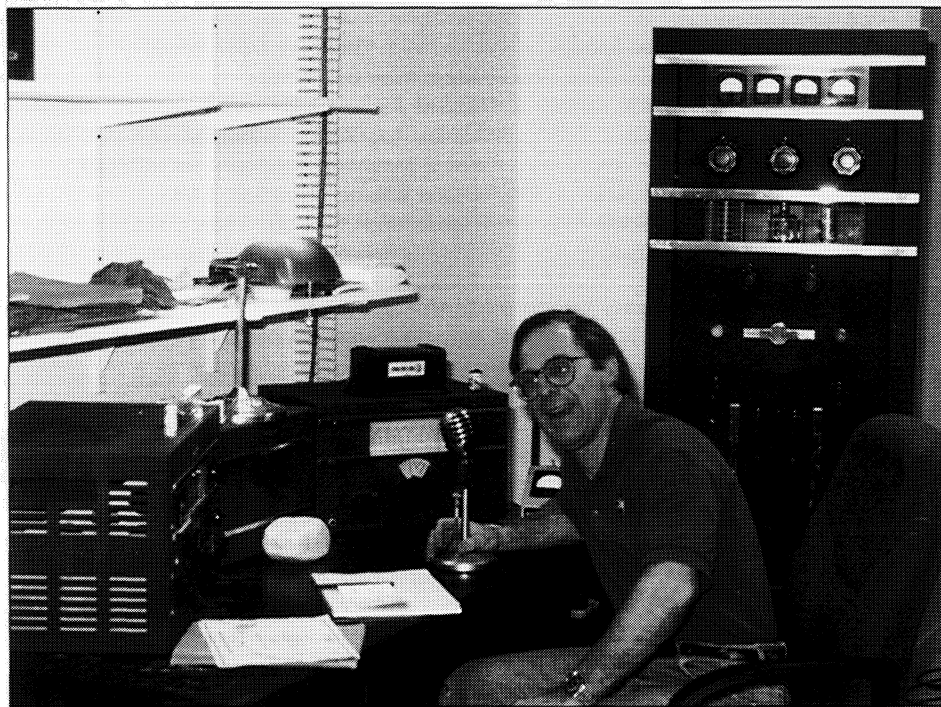
#622

Inside the Hara Arena

Call the CCA Hotline

(507) 282-2141

if you are willing to help out
and work an hour shift!



Sandy Gerli, AC1Y, operated AM Night from his shack in Avon, CT with his 30K-1. The receiver is a 75A-1 and the exciter is a 310A. —AC1Y

Visit the CCA's website:

http://www.teleteam.com/~jmiller/cca_html/ccahome.html

"Art would have expected nothing less!"

Continued from page 3

tary rigs and even a 30-J transmitter competed for WOCXX's attention.

"We struggled all night with an extremely high noise level. Even without the RF noise from the Collins factory, the band seemed to be pretty noisy. Anyone who was less than a S-9 was very difficult to hear," said NOJWI the next day. "I'm sure there must have been plenty of stations with good signals that we were not able to hear," he continued.

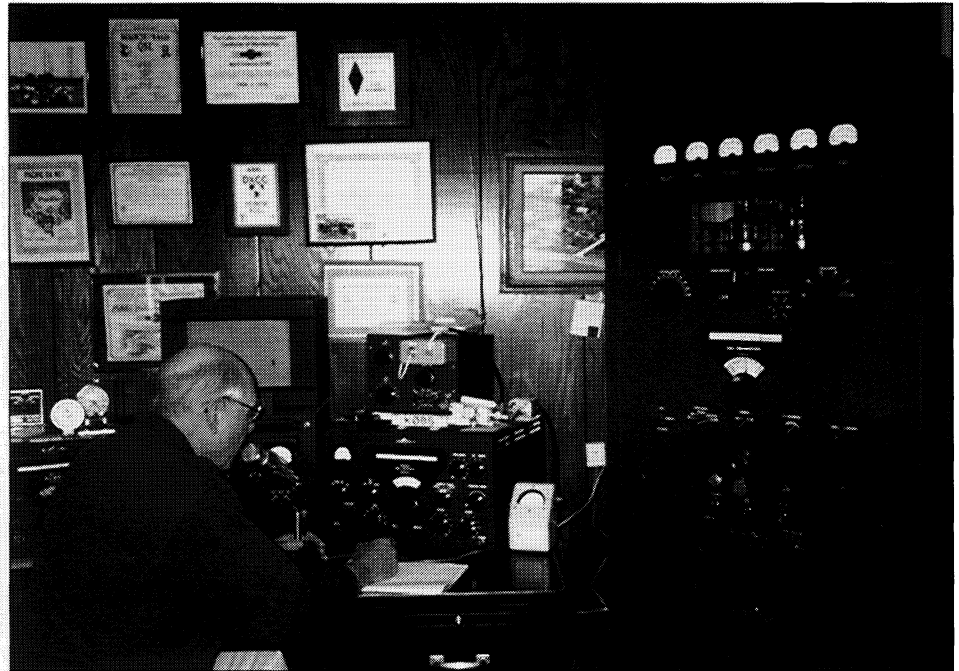
It was not an all-Collins night. Many other famous radio names and a wide assortment of homebrew equipment made it through the heavy but workable QRM. Desk-Kilowatts, a Globe King and even a few rice burners working DSB had a chance to work the strong signal from Cedar Rapids.

"Considering the neighborhood, the event was relatively free from intentional QRM. The prior planning and promotion done by the CCA certainly helped in that regard," said Bill Wheeler, KODEW, CCA President.

It was truly a night to remember. The following day the Internet mail reflectors were churning with positive comments. One ham quipped, "Where are all those AM stations the other 364 nights of the year?" Andy Howard, WA4KCY, best summed it up how-

ever, "Art would have expected nothing less!"
Ed. Note: Stations wishing to QSL with WOCXX, should send their cards along with

a SSAE to Tom Vinson, NY0V, at 10211 Hall Road, Cedar Rapids, IA 52411. Remember to mark your card "CCA AM Night."



Butch Schartau, K0BS, had the honor of clearing a hole in the band as net control station for AM Night. Butch's immaculately restored KW-1 (one of many on the air that night) is coupled to a 75A-4 for AM operation.
-Jane Schartau

More Dope on Dayton:

Member's Flea Market Spaces

Call Sign	Space Number
K0BS	941-942
W9VTC	941-942
K2WE	1146
KK5IM	3039-3040
K1JNN	3039-3040
WA5WEX	3039-3040
WA4UPV	3353
W6IRD	3353
W9OTN	4430
N4VMY	4430
WA5VVT	4443-4444
	Inside 459
WB8WZW	1151-1152
N4XO	2729-2730
KW1I	2437
KE3NK	3357
WA3CEX	2514
N4JL	3109-3110
W4THU	Inside 430-432
KQ4IX	Inside 430-432
K0ZQD	1326-1327
K3ICH	2877
K9RJ	2109
KC2MF	1941-1942
W8RO	Inside 472
K5GIT	2865-2866

Banquet Door Prizes

Knob Inlay Set, K3ICH
Collins Pocket Guide and Calendars, KK5IM
Collins Log Books, WA4UPV
PM-2 Mounting Hardware set, K0ZQD
S-Line Cabinet Paint Job, K0BS
Hardbound "First 50 Years", K0DAS
516F-2 Repro Grille and Reprint "
Introduction to SSB", W6IRD
\$150 Gift Certificate, The Radio Works
Dial Fiduciials and Band Switch Card,
WA5VVT
Air Force S-Line Tech Manual, W7FG
Vintage Manuals
270G-3 Repro Grille, W6KLG
Coffee Mugs, K1JNN
Collins Spray Paint and Gift Certificate,
Surplus Sales of Nebraska
Cap and Polo Shirt, AC1Y
Any Collins Video and a PEP Wattmeter Kit,
HI-RES Communications
Medallion and Paper Weight, WA3ECX
4CX100 tube, K1QCF

Raffle Prize:

Reproduction 270G-2 speaker by W6KLG

Collins Ham Equipment PTOs

Several questions have come up regarding the frequencies of the PTOs used in Collins amateur equipment. Here is a little chart which indicates the PTO Type, Usage and Output Frequency.

Type	Usage	Frequency Output
70E-8	Early A-Line	1600 - 2000kc
70E-12	75A-2, 75A-3	1955 - 2995kc
70E-7A	51J-1, 51J-2	2000 - 3000kc
70E-15	51J-3, 51J-4	2000 - 3000kc
70E-23	KWS-1	2750 - 3750kc
70E-24	75A-4	1955 - 2955kc
70H-12	R-390A	2455 - 3455kc
70K-1	KWM-1	3445 - 3545kc
70K-2	All S-Line	2500 - 2700kc
70K-7	51S-1	2500 - 3500kc

Quite often other PTOs show up in the surplus market. If you have a manual you can probably figure out a way to get heater and B+ to the PTO tube and measure the output with a frequency counter to determine the frequency spread. Adapting it for homebrew equipment is then a matter of figuring out the frequency conversion circuits.