

## CCA Readies Plans for 1998 Hamvention, Sets Annual Meeting in Dallas Next Fall

Included with this issue is a registration form for the CCA programs at the 1998 Dayton Hamvention May 14-18.

Due to numerous problems and dissatisfaction with the Quality Inn, a research team headed by Bob Peters, K1JNN, investigated the Dayton hotel situation and came up with alternatives. The Board decided to move our activities to the downtown Marriott Hotel.

Finding a hotel willing to work with us during the Hamvention was not an easy task. Most all the establishments in Dayton raise their rates significantly at this time of the year and are not really interested in making deals knowing they have a captive market. Fortunately Bob found the Marriott in the mood to cut us a deal. We have reserved a block of 50 rooms—the largest number in our history.

From a membership viewpoint, those attending the convention will receive a clean, well-maintained hotel room for a change! Also the staffing at the front desk, restaurant and bars will be much better. Further, the Marriott will assume all responsibilities for room reservations, credit card payment and

notification. Therefore each individual is responsible for dealing with the hotel directly. The accompanying form should make this a simple task. Deadline is March 30, 1998.

Registration for the banquet and other activities remains our own responsibility and this year's banquet tab is only slightly higher than last year.

We plan to have our reception/cocktail hour on Thursday night, the banquet on Friday night and the hospitality room again on Saturday night.

Our 1997 banquet and activities in Dayton were extremely well-attended. We are hoping to do just as well this year with plenty of door prizes and a fund-raising/raffle.

The banquet program is still under consideration as are several other facets of our Dayton presence. A complete agenda for our Dayton activities will appear in the next issue

of the *Signal* due out in March 1998.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa has been the site of our informal summer meetings for the last five years or so. Rod Blocksome and the people from Rockwell-Collins have literally worn themselves out so we thought we'd give them a well-deserved break.

In October 1998 (dates now being firmed up), the CCA will hold what we hope will become an annual meeting—the first of which will be in Dallas. If successful, other sites around the country will be considered to make it an annual affair.

The event is being planned as a full three-day dose of 100% Collins radio with shack tours, Texas Bar-B-Que banquet, hands-on clinics, all-Collins swap meet, guest speakers, operating stations and much more.

Watch the *Signal* and listen on the nets as plans begin to gel for this major event.

## W4ACN is Silent Key

The Collins fraternity was shocked at the sudden death of Harry Kaklikian, W4ACN, on August 27, 1997.

Harry was not in the best of health but his passing was unexpected. According to his widow, he was elated at the latest issue of the *Signal* with the feature story chronicling his amateur radio life which he received just one day before his death.

A contribution in Harry's name was made by the Collins Collectors Association to the American Heart Association. Individual memorials to Harry should be made in care of your local American Heart Association office.

Harry was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. His good friend and fellow Collins enthusiast Captain Hap Perry, USN, delivered a eulogy.

73 Harry.



## At the Mike with Bill Wheeler

Chairman, Collins Collectors Association

During the last few months, I have read the various editorial pages of our popular radio magazines with slightly more than a passing interest. It appears that some of our editors are singing the same song, amateur radio is sick and needs drastic measures to correct the ills. Have you heard the tune before? According to our radio leaders, I should hate the CW mode and be writing my congressman to get code abolished from the testing format, and home construction is discouraged, certainly not encouraged. If I should go against the trend, my projects should be limited to antennas or low voltage power supplies. I am further promoted to purchase new foreign manufactured equipment on an annual schedule.

By engaging in these activities, ham radio will take on a new glow of life. I do somewhat agree that money and total number of amateurs may speak loudly in the halls of congress, but the hams that restore and use older equipment remain a strong

and vital part of our hobby. The operators among us that like and prefer to use CW do not need to be told on a continual bases that their mode is ready for the nursing home, and that because the military gave it the boot we should do the same. Only a few years ago I was told that by making VHF available to no code operators, all problems in amateur would be solved. Now I am informed that was not the cure and now more changes are needed.

As members of the CCA, our small contribution to the hobby is alive and healthy, the collecting, restoring, and using Collins equipment appears to be at an all time high. None among us wish to turn the clock back forty years, but I do think we should take a stand against these knee-jerk reactions within our hobby. We maybe small in number but we are large in spirit, trust me fellows, you will not be considered a social outcast if you use point-to-point wiring.



# NET NEWS

**Floyd Soo, W8RO, Net Manager**  
**Butch Schartau, KOBS, Net Control**

Here we go! It's winter time again, and you know what that means! More radio time! That's what I hear everyone say, anyway. Something about outdoor activities coming to an end and the warm glow of tubes in the shack! I, for one, look forward to the change of seasons and welcome the white stuff! Can't wait to get on the ski slopes again! However, I do seem to get on the air more often during the winter, as well. Maybe it IS because the shack is one of the warmest rooms in the house! I did manage to get my antenna work done before the winter set in, and that is a good feeling, from here in the shack.

OK, now to the business at hand. The CCA QSO Party that was held on 9 September 1997 was a great success. This 1st annual event commemorated Art Collins' birthday. WOCXX was on the air for the event and was quite busy through the evening giving bonus points to CCA members. Contacts were made on 20, 40 and 80 meters using SSB and CW. The following is a list of the Top 10 stations: 1. WOCXX, 2. KOBS, 3. WA5VVT, 4. KK5IM, 5. W7SZ, 6. K1QCF, 7. W0JLL, 8. K7LCT, 9. W8RO, 10. VE3FKD (tie) and 10. KOAZ (tie)

Congratulations and thank you to all that participated. Sounds like everyone had a good time on the bands. By popular demand, this will be an annual event. Certificates for the winners and all those who sent in logs will be in the mail shortly.

The next bit of information that I will pass along is this winter's Theme Night schedule. Again, Theme Night will meet on 3.875 Mhz on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Here is the schedule:

11 Dec. 1997	KWM-380 Night
8 Jan. 1998	AM Night
12 Feb. 1998	S-Line Night
12 Mar. 1998	Gold Dust Twins Night

## Join Us on the Air!



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Sunday for Technical and Swap.  
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9 Apr. 1998 KWM-2/A Night  
14 May 1998 (open)

For AM Night, we will be joined by AMI again. As a matter of fact, we will expand operations to 160 meters as well as 75 meters. The 160M frequency will be 1,885 Mhz. Unfortunately, WOCXX does not have 160 meter capability, so the CCA will have strategically located stations that will help with NCS responsibilities and relays. So it's time to get the old AM gear out and blow the dust off of it and make sure that it is playing!

S-Line night will encompass the 75S, 32S, 30S-1, 30L-1, 312B, etc. Members are encouraged to get any and all S-Line gear on the air!

Gold Dust Twins Night needs no introduction. It was one of the most popular Theme Nights that we have had! Make sure that yours are ready for this fun filled event!

KWM-2/A Night should also be a lot of fun. There are so many KWM-2/As out there, I would expect pile ups on frequency for this one!

I will entertain suggestions for the May Theme Night. Please pass along your comments and suggestions to me ASAP!

Our CCA HF nets are still alive and well. Does that surprise you? It shouldn't! Our HF activities have been the backbone of this organization since its inception. The Sunday 20 meter net and the two evening 75 meter nets are full to capacity much of the time. Also, the CCA Reflector on the internet is also very busy. It is very satisfying to see this network of technical help and parts suppliers. It is nice to know that if you need parts or tech help, it is close by! The current schedule for the NCOs seems to still be working, so I won't "fix" it! Here are the check-in numbers for our Sunday afternoon directed net:



Sept 7	78
Sept 14	78
Sept 21	71
Sept. 28	80
Oct. 5	83
Oct. 13	64
Oct. 20	85
Oct. 27	70
Nov. 2	94
Nov. 9	88
Nov. 16	59
Nov. 24	91
Nov. 30	110

—73, Floyd, W8RO

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## CCA Membership Hot Line:

**507-282-2141**

Sorry, no call-backs available!

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Bill Carns, N7OTQ; Jay Miller, KK5IM.

The **Signal**  
Jay Miller, KK5IM, Editor  
5402 1/2 Morningside Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75206  
FAX (214) 828-2952  
[jmiller@teleteam.net](mailto:jmiller@teleteam.net)

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**The Collins Collectors Association**  
**P. O. Box 840924**  
**Pembroke Pines, FL 33084**

## Fine Collection, Finer Host

# A Journey to Guelph Ontario and VE3HC

BY FLOYD SOO, WB8R

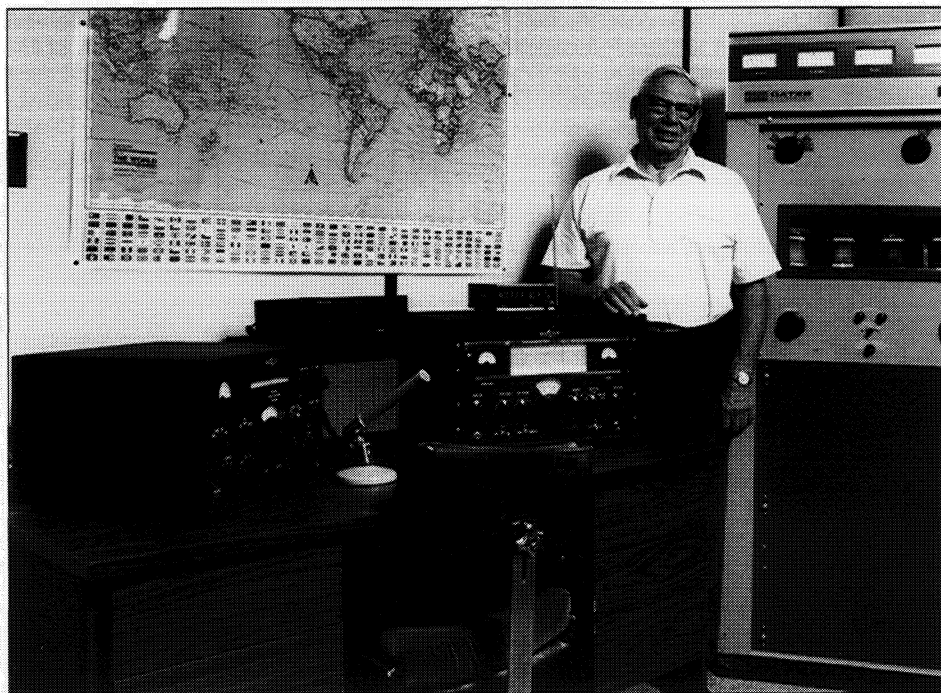
When the Collins Collectors Association asked me to take a trip to Guelph, Ontario, Canada; to visit an old friend from the airwaves, I jumped at the chance. I got on the air locally and asked around to see if anyone else would be interested in going along for the four hour drive. I was joined by Walt (WB8E), Dennis (KB8YYC) and Jim (WB8SIW). Walt had the perfect "boat" for our voyage, so we were set!

We hit the road after a hearty breakfast (Ham radio and food, you know how that goes!). The HF rig and HF antenna were placed in service after we crossed the border from Port Huron, Michigan into Sarnia, Ontario. We chose Route 7 towards Guelph, instead of the normal Highway 401 freeway. What a treat that was! Gorgeous scenery, neat little towns like Stratford and Kitchener, and of course. QRP CW QSOs from the van! What more can a ham ask for? (Yeh, I know, more food! That comes later!) When we were within repeater range of Guelph, we made our presence known by calling for Fred. Bill Smith (VE3HSW) heard our call and came out in his van and escorted us in! That was the beginning of the fabulous "red carpet" treatment we received! Fred (VE3HC) greeted us at the museum. Fred was licensed in 1929, when he was 16! He has been active on the ham bands ever since. He will turn 85 years young in December 1997, so he has witnessed, first hand, the evolution of radio since its infancy. He has basically retired from the family business, but works very hard as curator of the museum. After a quick look around, we all went out for lunch (of course!). Fred and Bill were consummate hosts, treating us to many interesting anecdotes about ham radio during our meal.

Upon returning to the museum, we had the opportunity to look at over 1000 items on display there. Not only are there row upon row of equipment, tubes, magazines, microphones, speakers, etc. There are several different ham stations that are fully operational! One such station resides right at the door as you walk in. There are two Collins KW-1 AM transmitters with a console in between that houses a pair of Collins 75A-4 receivers, a pair of Collins 51J receivers, and the associated speakers, modulation monitors and station controls! Bear in mind that back in 1950, there were only 150 KW-1s made, only about 100 survive today!

In the opposite end of the museum there is separate room that contains two 1 Kilowatt AM broadcast transmitters that have been restored and are fully operational on 160 meters! One is a RCA BTA-1 and the other is a Gates. Again with each of these transmitters comes a separate operating position with Collins (and Drake) receivers, audio, phone patch, signal monitoring equipment!

on a South African DX station. Fred neatly turned the HF Linear on with one hand, and with the other, grabbed the rotator control to swing the Telrex 20 meter monobander to the correct heading. He waited for the DX station to listen and gave him one call. Even with a couple dozen other stations calling, the ZS6 came back immediately to Fred's call! Fred chatted with the op for a minute or so, and



Fred Hammond, VE3HC, was first licensed in 1929 when he was 16 years old. He is retired from running the company founded by his father in 1917, Hammond Manufacturing. Fred's collection includes many pieces of Collins equipment and is open to visitors by appointment. —KOBs Collection

In another room, there are two more separate operating positions. The first is licensed as VE3BJ, which is one of two museum call signs. It consists of a Kenwood TS-940S, TS-430S, Collins KWM- 2A, S/Line, and several Hammond HF Linear Amps. Again, all the associated wattmeters, phone patches, antenna rotators, etc are also included in this Hammond made console that is over 6' tall and 10' wide! The other station is the "Sandy" Sanderson Memorial Station, VE3AHW. This station is in a smaller console and also consists of a combination of Kenwood, Collins and Hammond gear.

Jim and Dennis were treated to a neat little surprise when I asked Fred to find them something to do as I did my video interview with him. Fred proceeded to power up the 940 (he was in a hurry) and tuned around on 20 meters. He immediately found a pile-up

then handed the mic to Jim and Dennis, who proceeded to have a nice QSO with the South Africans! When they found out who Fred was and where he was transmitting from, the DX station put all the stations that were in the pile up on pause and asked Jim and Dennis questions for 20 minutes! In the meantime, Fred and I continued with my tour and video interview. We found out that Walt was in his van running QRP CW and when Fred fired up on 20, Walt was done! (If you know what I mean!)

One of the neatest thrills I got that afternoon was operating a real spark-gap transmitter! It was so loud, that it almost hurt my ears as I sent my Morse code! There was also a very distinct smell as the arc burned through the air! Many of the pieces of gear were in working condition, so it was fun turning them on and actually listening to them. Also on

**Visit the CCA's website:**

**[http://www.teleteam.com/~jmiller/cca\\_html/ccahome.html](http://www.teleteam.com/~jmiller/cca_html/ccahome.html)**

# Hammond Collection is Historical Museum

display were hundreds of tubes. The smallest were the miniature types, the largest were transmitting tubes that were several FEET tall! There was one display that actually turned several dozen of the tubes on so they emitted a warm glow!

As far as Collins equipment on display, here are the major pieces: a pair of KW-1s, with matching 75A-4, 51J-1 and 51J-4 receivers, several Gold Dust Twins, 32V-1, 32V-2, 32V-3, 75A-2, 75A-3, S-1/Line, S-3/Line, KWM-2, KWM-2A, 312B-5, 30L-1, and more! Most of the gear actually works too! Much of the time, one of the KW-1s is tuned to 20 meters and the other is set to 75. The S-3/Line, KWM-2, KWM-2/A, 312B-5 and 30L-1 reside in one of the radio rooms in modern consoles that are used regularly. Fred has quite a bit more equipment that is in storage, either waiting for space in the museum or for restoration. One of the pieces that I saw hidden away is a 10KW Navy ship-board AM transmitter! Wow! Hope they find another building, because it will not fit in the present facility!

Fred also took us for a tour of the two different manufacturing facilities that his company owns in Guelph. One facility produces enclosures, large and small. When I say large, I mean *large*! We saw enclosures made for some of the transformers that the other division makes. These enclosures housed transformers that were 10' tall and 20' square! At the other end of the scale were small boxes that we hams would build a tiny kit into! At the second facility, we saw transformers being built. Again sizes ranged from small audio transformers that you would find in a transis-

torized radio, to the monsters that the electric utility companies use! There was no shortage of hi-tech in the production line either. We saw laser machines making the cutouts in boxes that used to require stamping machines with precision dies.

Hammond Manufacturing was established in 1917 by Oliver Hammond. It is interesting to note that Oliver's first shop was a 20 by 30 foot facility behind the family home. The shop was powered by a boiler that burned just about anything. The steam from the boiler powered a small steam engine, which turned the main shaft and pulleys. Remember, there was *no electricity* yet! Steam power, human power, light of day or lantern was a fact of life! Most of the products were destined for the foundries in the area at the time. It wasn't until 1927, when the foundry industry changed that Hammond began building table radios. These radios progressed from 1 tube to 5 tubes. One of the most noteworthy was the Hammond Model 12. This set required an 'A' battery, a 'B' battery and a 'C' battery to operate. There were 2 knobs, 3 dials and 5-201A tubes. This regenerative receiver became fairly popular. Hundreds of the Model 12 were manufactured before production ended. After Oliver Hammond's death in 1925, his sons kept the business alive. Transformers, broadcast station equipment and other electronic products put the company on the map. The rest is history. Hammond Manufacturing now has facilities all over the world. Their products range from small AC power strips to giant transformers.

Fred had a profound effect on some of the products that the company began to produce.

His love of amateur radio resulted in many ham radio related products with the Hammond name on it. In 1960, Fred founded the Museum of Radio in Guelph. He is well known in the amateur radio community for his love of the hobby and his contributions towards it. Recently, he took equipment to China and helped establish amateur radio club stations in Beijing (BY1PK) and Shanghai (BY4AA) in the PRC! You can find Fred on the ham bands almost every night. He is a QRO sort of guy! He has broadcast transmitters and Hammond HF linear amplifiers at his disposal, and is not shy about using them! He attended American Wireless Association events for many years and still enjoys high power AM QSOs! Look for him during the CCA AM Theme Night on 1885 kc in January 1998!

To anyone that is even remotely considering a visit to Guelph, let me say this; just do it! Plan to spend the whole day there too! Even if you don't fire up one of the stations and get on the air, plan on the whole day! There is way too much stuff to see in less than a day! Every one should fire up the spark gap transmitter at least once! You want to put a KW of AM carrier on the air? DO IT! You want to work some serious DX on 20 meters? DO IT! You want to operate BOTH KW-1s? DO IT! Fred is there most of the time, and if he knows you are coming for a visit, be prepared for a day long tour! The video interview and tour of Fred's museum will be one of the videos that will be available at the 1998 CCA get together at Dayton, Look for it! By the way, Fred is a member of the CCA and sends his regards to all of you!

## Order Now For Christmas

# CCA Company Store Ready for Business

The Collins Collectors Association now has available a selection of Membership Accessories! Effective immediately, here's the list, with more items to come as your Board approves

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### Name Badges

The official CCA Membership Badge in gray with white letters, featuring the famous script "Collins" Logo from the early 'sixties. Please specify your choice of name and callsign. **\$7.50** (postpaid).

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### Ordering Information

Sandy Gerli, AC1Y, and his XYL, Helen Ann, KA1KBY, will process all orders. They may be reached via several convenient means, from Internet to telephone, as follows:

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Avon, CT 06001-2406

Telephone/Fax (860) 675-7633

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