

Call for Nominations

The Collins Collectors Association will be electing one member to its Board of Directors during the month of November. A nominating committee temporarily chaired by Robert Turner W5APN will coordinate the nominations and elections. If you would like to volunteer to help with the elections, please contact Robert Turner W5APN at the following : rwturmer@JonesDay.com.

Members in good standing of the CCA are invited to submit nominations for the board vacancy, and those nominated must be current CCA members. All nominees must have a second by another CCA member in good standing. All nominees should be contacted in advance to confirm their willingness to stand for the board position, and this should be done before submitting a name to the Chair of the Nominating Committee. Nominations and seconds may be made to Robert Turner W5APN at email addr4essrwturmer@JonesDay.com.

All nominees in accepting a nomination shall prepare a brief bio of approximately 250 words describing relevant personal history, ham activities, and their vision for CCA's future and, most importantly, a clear statement of

what their presence on the Board of Directors will do to enhance the CCA as an organization.

'The CCA Board of Directors membership requires a commitment of time and energy, and nominees should consider the high level of activity and participation that will be required of them as a board member. There should be no conflict of interest between their board position and other undertakings. The CCA Board of Directors is responsible for overall operations of the CCA including planning of CCA events, the care and feeding of the CCA web site, publication of "The Signal" and recruitment of members to fill other key positions such as Dayton Chairman, Reflector Moderator, and Net Manager. The Board sets the tone of the organization and plots the course for the future.

All nominations with appropriate seconds should be made in a timely fashion so that the completed bio of the nominee can be received by the Nominating Committee Chairperson no later than Saturday, October 31st. No nominee will be considered if a bio is not submitted to the Nomination Committee Chair by the deadline. This requirement confirms that the nominee is willing to serve if elected. Election ballots and nominees' bios will be included in the Signal's Fall issue mailed in November, and the deadline for ballot receipts is December 22nd.

Following tabulation of results, the Nomination Committee Chair shall convey results to the CCA President and Board, and shortly thereafter results will be announced via the Collins Reflector and on the CCA web site.

Nominations, seconds and bios should be emailed to Robert Turner W5APN at the following email: rwturmer@JonesDay.com.

Put your thinking caps on and contact your potential nominee for his/her willingness to serve on the board, then get a second to the nomination and encourage the nominee to provide an immediate bio formulation and submission prior to the October 31st deadline.

DAYTON HAMVENTION

57th Show

MAY 16, 17, & 18

2008

Start planning your attendance now.

More information to come in the Fourth Quarter 2007 Signal.

If you have not already done so, please visit our new Web site at www.collinsradio.org

Subscribe to the Collins Reflector... a FREE e-mail mailing list of over 1300 Collins users and collectors! Visit the CCA web site for complete information!

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The Collins S-Line becomes Rockwell-Collins S-Line

By Jim Stitzinger, WA3CEX

In June, 1971, North American Rockwell began a move toward the purchase of Collins stock and thereby gaining controlling interest in Collins Radio. Art Collins and William F. Rockwell, Jr. signed an agreement on September 2, 1971 whereby Rockwell made a \$35,000,000 investment in Collins Radio Company, providing the working capital and management skills so desperately needed by the company. In February 1973, North American Rockwell was renamed Rockwell International, and in November 1973 Collins Radio was officially merged into Rockwell International. This change of ownership was significant to every aspect of the company's procedures and products. The famous S-line and KWM-2A were no exception to these changes. The logos, nameplates, and catalog photos of the Amateur equipment were changed over time following the merger.

The red brochure, published in 1974, describing the S-line and KWM-2A equipment still displayed the round "meat-ball" emblem on each piece of equipment. However, the new brochure published in 1975, while keeping the red color, removed all the emblems from the equipment. The pictures appeared to be touched and did not include any emblems. It seemed that Rockwell had not decided what emblem to put on the equipment.

The last of the Collins round emblem production of S-Lines did not have a unique serial number but instead used the MCN Manufacturer's Control Number (MCN) for the serial number.

These units had numbers in the range of MCN4400-5000. The Collins KWM-2A production units ended their number at about 39XXX. Rockwell continued to produce KWM-2A's and S-lines but they eventually moved the production of these units from Dallas to Canada. At first, these units had the "round" emblem on the front panel, while the black and silver Rockwell serial plate was added to the inside chassis. The serial numbers for these units began with C30XXX. Soon afterwards, the rectangular Rockwell-Collins emblem was added to the front panel of the S-line pieces and the black and silver serial plate on the chassis displayed serial numbers beginning with T50XX, indicating that they were manufactured in Toronto. The familiar round emblem was removed from the center of the grill on the SM-3 but the indent remained on the grill.

Some of the transition units from Collins to Rockwell had PTO's with round emblems while the radio had the Rockwell emblem. As production continued, all Rockwell units had Rockwell emblems on the PTO's. The serial number sequence of the PTO's remained largely consecutive from round emblem to the Rockwell emblem changing over at about 57XXX. The serial number of the PTO has proven to be a more reliable way to date the s-line equipment.

Every piece of the S-line that was made in the Rockwell era had Rockwell emblems and Rockwell packaging. This included the 75S-3C, 32S-3A, 312B-4, 516F-2, 30L-1, 30S-1, KWM-2A, 312B-5, PM-2, 51S-1, 55G-1, 637K-1/2, SM-3 and MM-1, KWM-2A noise blanker, crystal pack, CC-1/2/3 cases, and DL-1.

During the Collins era, the S-line and KWM-2A equipment was manufactured in the Cedar Rapids or Anamosa Iowa locations and eventually in Dallas Texas. For a brief period, the production of 1000 units (50XXXJ) was moved to Tokyo Japan. In the Rockwell era, as production drew to a close, manufacturing was relocated to Toronto and then in May/June of 1978 to El Paso, Texas, and later to Salt Lake City, Utah. Not many units were made at these locations. S-Line production ended in 1980, while the KWM-2A production continued until 1982, in Toronto, overlapping the production of the KWM380. The 51S-1 also ended in 1982. While the 30S-1 ended production earlier in Toronto, the 30L-1 was manufactured until 1982 and some were used in the Military with the KWM-380. According to Rod Blocksom, curator of the Rockwell Collins Museum, almost all of this late production went to international customers as the price of the units was too expensive for the average ham and Japanese units were dominating the U.S. market. Some of the last S-lines and KWM-2A's had a blue Rockwell emblem on them but most of these went into military or foreign use. Every production location used different quality control stampings on the chassis which can easily be used to identify the place of manufacture. Units made in Cedar Rapids are stamped CR or CRC. Dallas units are stamped DL, Tokyo units are stamped CRCJ, Toronto units are stamped either CR or TO, El Paso units are stamped ELP, and Salt Lake City units are stamped SLC, all inside a small circle, square, or six sided enclosure on the stamp.

The equipment manufactured by Rockwell worked well, but it was not manufactured under the high level of scrutiny of the earlier units manufactured in the Viet Nam era, where the plant received weekly government inspections. The quality of some components was diminished such as the tube sockets which tended to rust more easily.

Replacing the Grommets Used to Hold the Slug Tuned Inductors and Transformers on S-Lines

By Dick Weber, K5IU

I just recently completed a major clean up of one of my 75S3As. One thing about this radio that was a bit different from the other S-Line receivers I've worked on is that the grommets used to hold the slug tuned inductor (L2) and transformers (T1 and T2) were severely deteriorated. Portions of them had fallen off and they actually had become a bit gooey. Lord knows what this radio had been exposed to in its prior life. Or perhaps, the original grommets were not made of the proper material to begin with. Regardless, they had to be replaced.

I measured the outer diameter of the coil forms to be about 0.29 inches – smaller than 5/16ths of an inch and larger than a quarter inch while the hole in the chassis was 3/8ths of an inch in diameter. I then began looking for grommets to use.

The first thought was to use a quarter inch inner diameter grommet that was intended for a 3/8-inch diameter hole. After going to several large hardware stores, I discovered that I could not find grommets of this size for a chassis thickness of .063 inches. My next stop was Radio Shack. Just so happens they sell a packet of assorted grommets (Assorted Vinyl Grommets: pn 64-3025). This packet had 7 grommets of the right size and, fortuitously, a number of grommets of four larger sizes.

After installing one of the new quarter inch grommets, I found that the inner hole would not expand enough to allow the coil form to be pressed in. These were not going to work. I then tried the next size up grommet from the assortment packet. It has an inner diameter of 5/16 inch and is intended for a 7/16-diameter hole. With some effort I was able to get the grommet installed and the inner hole made

round with the use of a ballpoint pen used as an angled drift pin. (The inner hole had become somewhat distorted as the outer diameter of the grommet was forced to go into the 3/8ths inch diameter hole in the chassis. The grommet looked perfect after a bit of massaging with the pen.) I found that the inner diameter of the grommet had shrunk sufficiently to make a secure fit with the coil forms. To install the coil forms I had to rock them back and forth and in a circular motion for them to go in. But, the result was an excellent fit with plenty of gripping action.

On my 75S3A I found that I did not have to unsolder all the leads on the inductor and the two transformers. With each, I only had to unsolder the one lead going to the band switch. Unsoldering only this one lead allowed plenty of movement while the old grommets was removed and new ones installed. I've not tried this on any rig other than this 75S3A. Most likely you won't need to unsolder all the leads with other S-Line receivers and transmitters. As far as the grommets, the Radio Shack grommet assortment has seven of the 5/16-inch grommets - one packet will do two receivers or one transmitter.

Technical Disclaimer

The information contained in this newsletter is believed to be reliable. However, no responsibility is assumed for inaccuracies or omissions. The CCA, anyone who is a member, and the authors of said material shall not be liable to anyone with respect to liability, loss, or damage caused or alleged to have been caused directly or indirectly by this

Join Us on the Air!



- Sunday 14.263 MHz at 2000Z
- Tuesday 3805 kHz at 8pm CST
- Thursday 3805 kHz at 8pm CST
- Friday (West Coast) 3895 kHz at 10pm CST
- Sunday 10m AM 29.050 MHz at Noon CST
- 1st Wednesday AM 3880 kHz at 8pm CST

Sunday for Technical, Buy, Sell & Swap
Tues., Thurs., Fri., & Sunday for Ragchew

Call for Operators

Band conditions have not been the greatest, but the CCA Nets are still alive and well. No reservations are required. If you have a technical issue or some Collins related experience that you would like to share, please join us. Anyone that would like to volunteer as an NCO for any of our scheduled nets, please contact our CCA NET Manager Lloyd Rafalsky K4HWB.

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Board of Directors

Jack Mory, KE3WV, President
Jim Stitzinger, WA3CEX, Secretary
James Green, WB3DJU, Treasurer
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www.collinsradio.org

From the President

By Jack Mory KE3WV CCA President

Hopefully you have had a chance to visit our newly designed website (www.collinsradio.org). Brain Sokol has done a great job in the redesign of our site and more is to come. Our new site gives us the opportunity to grow into new features such as the Forums site where Collins enthusiasts can discuss their technical inquiries as well as other Collins related items.

CCA elections are coming up soon. If you have anyone who you would like to nominate for the one Board of Directors slot, please contact Robert Turner, W5APN at rwturner@jonesday.com. One board position is up for re-election, Jim Green WB3DJU. Last year we had an excellent turnout for the voting, and we hope to see that level of participation again this year. Please nominate someone whom you think can do the job of running this great organization

Visit the CCA web site at:
www.collinsradio.org

Call for Articles

Jack Mory – CCA President

We need material to publish! Technical articles, "hints 'n kinks", on-the-air experiences with Collins equipment, articles of historical nature, and items for "Collins Radios at Work" are just some of the things we are interested in publishing.

We also would like to hear from those of you who were around in the early days of the Collins era. It is important to document and archive the knowledge and experience of those who either worked for Collins in the early days, knew the people who were associated with Collins Radio at that time, or used the equipment on the air in that period. This material is priceless, and we want to be able to preserve it for generations to come.

Remember, you don't necessarily have to write a full-length article (although we certainly appreciate that as well!). A few photographs or even just a photo with an explanatory caption is welcome. You do not have to be an experienced writer either. We would be most willing to work with you to make your material into something of which you and the CCA can be proud.

We are also looking for shack photos for "In the Shack". Please send us a high resolution photo of yourself sitting at your Collins station and include a brief description of your equipment.

The Signal is a very important part of the voice of the membership of the CCA. You can contact me at ke3wv@amsat.org.

FIRST WEDNESDAY AM NIGHTS!!!

Sponsored by the Collins Collectors Association.

As 2007 comes to a close we have only three more first Wednesday nets for the year. I would encourage those who have not experienced our First Wednesday Nets to try to participate in one of our upcoming Nets. Our First Wednesday Nets is held on 3880 kcs and starts at 7:00 PM local East Coast time.

The event is anchored by a "tall ship" AM station in each time zone. The East Coast and Central sections run for 90 minutes in response to the tremendous participation in those time zones. The remaining time zones will be an hour. We encourage stations to check-in on AM using Collins and other AM transmitters, new and old. It's an opportunity to revel in this nostalgic mode, enjoy giving vintage equipment a "run," and sharing some storytelling about classic vacuum tube homebrew and commercial designs.

Typically more than a hundred stations take part in the evening's coast-to-coast AM event; by the time it concludes at 10:00 PM Local PST.

LISTEN for our anchors and stop by to say hello, won't you? You don't have to be running Collins or vintage gear to be welcomed into the group.

7:00 PM-8:30 PM Local East Coast Time

7:30 PM-9:00 PM Local Central Time

8:00 PM-9:00 PM Local Mountain Time

8:00 PM-9:00 PM Local West Coast Time

We are still looking for additional anchors in the West Coast time zone. Please contact me if you are interested!

Comments please to Larry at: wa9vrh@dishmail.net