

## Annual Collins Dinner Highlights Hamvention

Over 70 Collins users, collectors and CCA members from around the world attended the annual banquet during the Dayton Hamvention May 17.

Following a full day of perfect weather at the huge flea market, the guests met for happy hour and dinner at the hotel. After dinner speaker Tom Vinson, NY0V, gave an interesting program on the last days of S-Line production. Tom was an industrial engineer with Collins and was given the assignment to close it down.

At the annual Board of Directors meeting the CCA Board adopted a set of By-Laws and approved further production of the *Signal* news-

letter and other publication projects (see below). The Board also adopted business plans and procedures to enhance the continued operation and growth of the Association.

More than a dozen CCA members secured flea market spaces at the giant outdoor market and much Collins gear changed hands. Most gear with reasonable prices changed hands but many pieces with outrageous price tags were still sunning themselves on Sunday morning.

One reported deal of the show was a 32V-3 and a 75A-4 for \$450! Other interesting deals included 30L-1s for \$300 and 312B-4s for \$50. In both cases the items were military

surplus and in need of complete restoration. Virtually every piece of Collins S-Line and A-line equipment was for sale.

A Hospitality Room for CCA members was available for fellowship, movies and slides. Our thanks to Ron Steinberg for furnishing the AV equipment. Thanks also go to Treasurer George DuBose and Manual Maseda who passed out name tags and registered people at the dinner.

Dayton Hamvention officials estimated the crowd at 30,230, down approximately 6% from 1995. Over 4,000 flea market spaces were sold. The weather was perfect and the CCA will "do it again" in 1997.

## Signal Receives a 5 x 9 from Members, Board

At its annual meeting in Dayton, your board gave a go-ahead to further production and expansion of the *Signal* and appointed Jay Miller, KK5IM, as Editor. Jay previously designed the publication and produced the first two issues for the group on an interim basis.

The board was presented with a detailed production budget for the remainder of 1996 and a projection of funds necessary for expansion and enhancements through 1997. Additionally a publication philosophy for the *Signal* was discussed and approved as presented.

Members can look forward to the same high-quality, timely publication of the newsletter for some time to come. Each issue will be dedicated to covering news and information of interest to the group as well as features and articles highlighting the people that make up our hobby.

Items of a technical nature will be written, edited and presented in a Data Sheet format for distribution with the *Signal* and eventually preserved by the members in a three-ring notebook specially created for that purpose. Each of these Data Sheets will undergo a thorough editing and fact-checking process by experts in the particular field to insure accuracy.

Contained in this issue of the *Signal* is the first Data Sheet covering Grading Standards for Used Collins Amateur Equipment as approved by the Board. It is our goal to produce at least two more data sheets in 1996.

Currently being prepared are Data Sheets covering electron tubes used in Collins equipment, a KWM-2 trouble shooting guide and instructions and information on proper hook-up

and use of the 312B-4 phone patch. Other topics are under consideration and input from the membership is strongly urged.

As our financial condition grows, we plan to offer for sale to "members only" a three-ring notebook complete with printed divider tabs which will allow members to gather all their Collins technical information into a convenient, easy to use format.

Our Association continues to grow. Several thousand Collins collectors and users have been identified and the value of your membership in the CCA will increase as we develop programs such as the Data Sheets to foster research and disseminate technical information.

Feature articles on fellow collectors and

users are encouraged. Photographs of member's ham shacks or restored equipment are always welcome. With the digital laser scanning used in the *Signal*, the reproduction quality of our photographs is second to none.

An aggressive campaign to seek out new members is underway as well. Quality publications cost money and it is much cheaper for all involved when these costs are distributed over a large membership base.

Your comments and suggestions, ideas for submissions and shack photographs are encouraged. Feel free to contact the Editor via e-mail (jmillar@teleteam.net), FAX (214-828-2952 or regular mail to the address in the masthead.



### At the Mike with Bill Wheeler

Chairman, Collins Collectors Association

Where has all our quality gone? It may be simply the fact that I am getting somewhat older each year or it may be that I visualize things being a little bit better in the "good old days." Or maybe it might just be that consumer goods are manufactured with less and less reliability. A recent purchase of a gas grill for the backyard solidified my thinking on this subject.

It only took my wife four trips to the place of purchase to get the correct parts and all of the parts to get the grill to cook. Now the grill only lights when we are testing it and refuses to light when we're trying to cook a hot dog!

I only relate this sad story to make the comparison to Collins equipment. We would not be collecting Collins radios if they had been built in the same manner as our new grill. The story was told that Art Collins wanted the KWM-2 to last for 25 years—thank goodness he was wrong on this one!

The S-Line was introduced 38 years ago this November. How many consumer items do you have in your home that are still working and serving a useful life after 38 years? I will bet you my Rockwell-Collins KWM-2A that my new gas grill will be long gone in 38 years!



As most of you know, the nets are still alive and well. Bill Wheeler, KODEW and I are in our Summer schedules (which means that we are not around much on Sundays). Butch and the regular gang have been doing a great job as usual with running the nets. I have been able to participate with the 75-meter nets on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, when I haven't been out of town. There has been the usual decline of check-ins during the summer months, but there is one thing to look forward to—the new solar cycle is showing signs of life! I believe that propagation conditions will be improving dramatically in the next several years, and that means the possibility of being able to hear most of the country on the Sunday 20 meter nets. Of course, this will also mean more QRM, more DX, more check-ins, etc.

That brings me back to the usual request. If there are any aspiring Net Control Operators (NCO) out there, please contact me or Butch, KOBS! We would still like to establish a larger pool of NCOs that we can count on in the upcoming months and years. As Fall and Winter arrives, the nets will again become more active, and the need for more help with the nets will certainly increase. In the next edition of the Signal, I will post a list of operators that are willing to help with the nets and a schedule, that way we can pass the responsibilities around. At the moment, Wes, WV5I has been the only member that has contacted me after the request was made for more help with the nets at Dayton! C'mon folks, don't be bashful! It is fun and for a good cause!

The present list of Assistant Net Control Operators is as follows: Bill, KODEW; Warren, K0ZQD; Jim, W0JLL; Wayne, W6IRD; Chuck, WA4HHG; Jay, KK5IM; Foster, W4HCX/6; Steve, N6HK; Terry, N6UR; Tom, KA1BAZ and Wes, WV5I. If there are any changes to this list, please contact me immediately! I need to get everyone's preferences as to which Net during the week or during the month that these NCOs

would like to help with; otherwise I will make the schedule and post in the next *Signal*. If I don't hear from you by the 1st of October, I will assume that your schedule is flexible enough for me to place you where needed. I can be reached at (810) 391-6660 phone and fax; or e-mail me at: hires@rust.net.

I'd now like to turn this column over to Butch for some very important comments regarding our new Data Sheets and a discussion of the impact it will make on our weekly swap and technical nets.

73 de Floyd, KF8AT

Included with this issue of the *Signal* you have in your possession a copy of "Grading Standards for Used Collins Amateur Radio Equipment," the first of our official Data Sheets that will become a regular addition to our quarterly newsletter.

Over the time period that I have been Primary Net Control, by far, the greatest number of off-line comments have been from net participants who have purchased Collins equipment only to find that it's condition was in no way close to what was described.

The Sunday 20-meter net is an official function of the Collins Collectors Association and in consideration of the privilege to participate in that net, all CCA members are encouraged and expected to follow the attached guide when describing the condition of listed equipment. With the CCA membership using the guide, non-members will have little choice but to follow suit. In the long run, everyone will benefit while promoting the high standards that have been synonymous with Collins Radios.

I would like to thank Chuck, WA4HHG and his committee consisting of Bill, N7OTQ; Manuel, WF1J; San, K5YY; Bud, K7RMT, and Floyd, KF8AT for compiling the information.

On other matters, Dayton has once again come and gone and I would like to thank everyone who stopped by my space to say "hi" and helped me put a face with the calls I hear every Sunday on the net.

Not to be out done by Dave Letterman, the following list may be of interest as to the 10 Most Wanted Pieces of Collins Equipment based on net listings: (1) KWM-380, (2) 312B-5, (3) KWM-1, (4) KWS-1, (5) 30S-1 R/E, (6) 32S-3A, (7) 312A-1, (8) 6 kHz filter for 75A-4, (9) SM-3 and (10) KWM-2A R/E. How does this compare with your want list?

73 de Butch, KOBS

## K0ZQD Recovering from Surgery

Warren Hall, K0ZQD, CCA Board Member and long-time Collins enthusiast underwent triple by-pass surgery in June. At press time he was "out of the woods" from a difficult procedure and is expected to make a full recovery.

According to close friends and relatives Warren was attempting to get the hospital staff to run a wire out his window to enable him to listen in with a KWM-2.

His family extends their appreciation for the cards and letters received from the members of the CCA. Those wishing to send along their own words of encouragement may address them to his callbook address.

Warren has been a ham for many years and is a valuable member of our technical staff.

**Collins AM is Alive and Well  
Interested in getting together  
on the air?  
Listen in 3880-3885 after sunset  
or early mornings.**

S-Line & KWM-2 Painting  
A-Line St. James Gray Overspray  
75A-4 • KWS-1 • 51J- Front Panel  
Repainting and NEW Custom Lettering  
30S-1 Dials  
**Butch Schartau KOBS  
507-288-0044**

### Do You...

Sell Collins parts, offer repair or restoration services or other Collins services on a regular basis? Support the CCA and advertise your work in this space. Contact the Editor for details. SASE please!

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**The Collins Collectors Association  
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## 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 ragchewing.

# Around the World with Bud Whitney, K7RMT

By Jay Miller, KK5IM

From the shipyards of Portland to the jungles of South Vietnam; from Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia to the Arabian Gulf and from Papua, New Guinea to deep in the heart of Texas, hams around the world have been working the strong signal of Bud Whitney, K7RMT, for over 35 years.

Well-known to listeners of our Sunday afternoon swap and technical net, Bud has spent most of his adult life working on everything from chain saws to drilling machinery. He holds a masters degree from the "school of hard knocks" and in addition to being one of the best Collins technicians alive today is also a certified welder, machinist, gunsmith, electrician and all-around jack of all trades.

Born in Kendall, Kansas he moved with his family to Idaho where he finished high school. He went to Portland, Oregon and took a job in the shipyards and learned how to weld. World War II came along so Bud enlisted in the Navy; his welding and shipyard experience quickly earned him a machinist mate rating. He served aboard an LCS in the South Pacific.

After the war, he went back to work in the shipyards until a buddy suggested they head up to the Pacific Northwest and join a small lumber operation, so off they went to the sawmills. In need of a hobby, he started a small gunsmithing business until it became a full-time job. Bud discovered he needed another hobby—you guessed it—he studied the code and earned his novice ticket, KN7RMT, in 1961.

The American experiment in Southeast Asia was gathering momentum so Bud hired out in

1966 with the DeLong Corporation, a marine construction company that won a contract to build docks and piers in South Vietnam. They were looking for someone with shipyard experience who also "might know something about radios." "I got the job," he admits, "because of my ham ticket."

He went to South Vietnam and was put in charge of 45 marine and shore radio stations, both amateur and commercial, in Vietnam, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia. The stations were aboard tugs, in shipyards and all along the coastline. Bud's job was to design, specify the equipment, install and maintain all the rigs.

"The only equipment that would stay with us under our conditions was Collins," he remembers. Bud ordered S-Lines, KWM-2s and 30L-1s and travelled all over Southeast Asia getting the stations on the air. "We tried some solid-state stuff," he added, "but the transistors fell off like dandruff."

Based in Singapore, he held 9V1OI and ran a lot of DX out of a shack in the corner of his apartment. He did considerable hamming while out on "the road." During his 17 years overseas he also held foreign calls of VK9BD and YB9ABH in Indonesia and New Guinea, MP4BGR in Bahrain and 9K2CC in Kuwait.

In 1972 he went to work with Sun Marine in the Arabian Gulf as "communications expert" and fixer of just about anything else that broke." One day aboard a drilling platform in the Gulf his KWM-2 overloaded and blew the power switch. He took the next chopper to Kuwait City

and paid a call on sheikh Mohammed Saleh Behbehani, 9K2AM, who happened to have "a room stacked to the ceiling with Collins gear and parts." Bud talked the sheikh out of a switch and flew back to the rig and had the KWM-2 back on the air in short order.

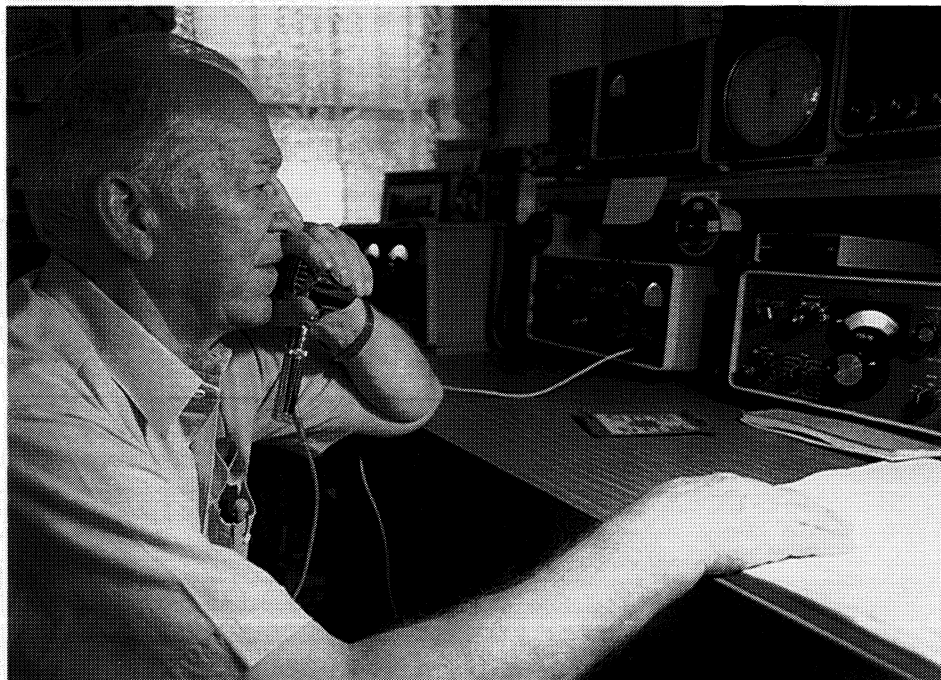
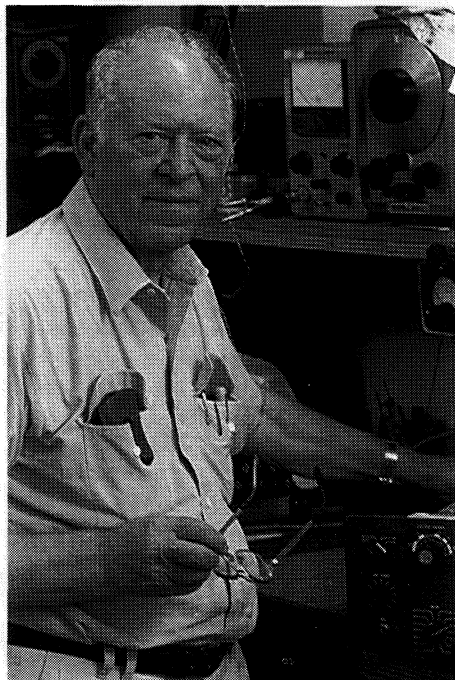
He travelled back and forth from the Arabian Gulf to Indonesia working on drilling rigs, radios and running phone patches for the crews as time and regulations permitted. Once, one of the big kilowatt commercial rigs blew and the only contact the crew had with the outside world was Bud's KWM-2.

In 1974 he went to work for Scan Drilling company and spent a little time in Houston going to SCR school. He shipped out for Taiwan (no ham rigs allowed) and boarded a drilling platform for the South China Sea. En route they encountered a typhoon which capsized the platform. The \$46-million rig went to the bottom but Bud and the rest of the crew were rescued.

He shuttled between the Arabian Gulf and Indonesia with his toolbox in one hand and a Hickock 600A in the other. By this time his wife Jan, a native of Singapore, was working with Henry Radio as the government liaison between the Henry company and the Singapore government. The Whitney's made Singapore their home base.

Eventually in 1983 and hundreds of thousands of air miles, more drill rigs than he cares to remember and countless QSOs with hams all around the world, Bud and Jan decided it was time to settle down and retire.

*Continued on page 4.*



A ham since 1961, Bud Whitney is senior technical advisor for our Sunday 20 meter net. Bud and his wife Jan live in Wimberley, Texas. Bud's fascinating career has taken him all over the world. Now retired, he spends lots of time in his well-equipped shop aligning and repairing KWM-2s and S-Lines.

-Jay Miller

# Around the world with K7RMT

Continued from page 3

Ham radio played a big part in their decision to locate to Wimberley, a small town southwest of Austin in the Texas Hill Country. Bud began tossing about the idea of moving back and retiring during his regular stateside contacts. Many guys offered suggestions and sent back maps, brochures and advice. The Whitney's decided on the Hill Country, took their annual vacation and fell in love with Wimberley.

Bud found "the ideal spot for a ham" high above the town in a new development with no antenna restrictions. He designed the house and supervised its construction. On May 1, 1983 Bud and Jan moved in and quickly assimilated into the Hill Country community.

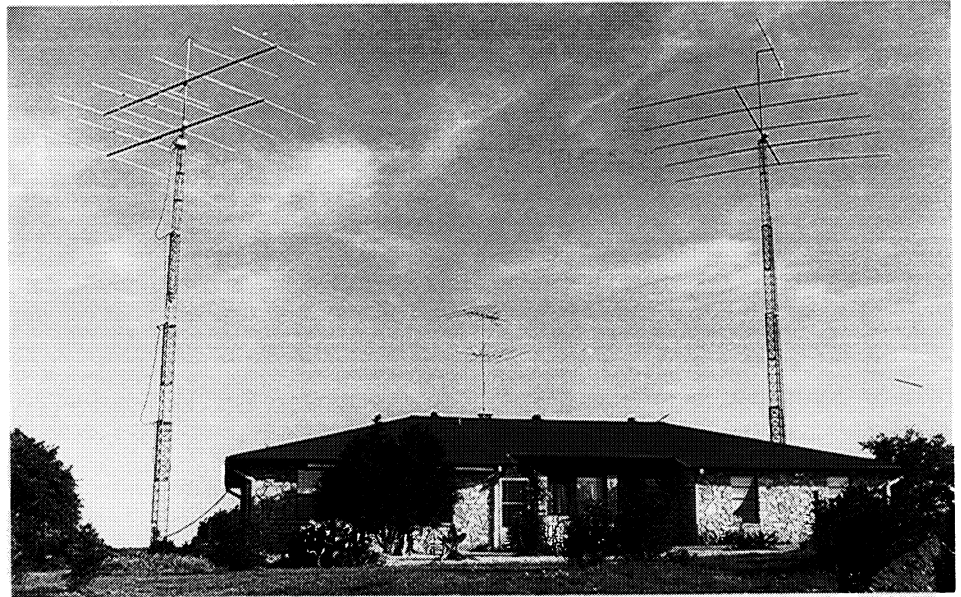
Bud enjoys working on S-Lines and KWM-2s. From his well-equipped shop he has serviced and modified hundreds of radios for Collins collectors and users all over the world. His 516F-2 power supply modification (based on his experience with the blown power switch in the Gulf) is one of his specialties. His technical knowledge of the KWM-2 is legendary and his patience is incredible. He credits Dennis Brothers as a guiding force in his technical expertise.

During one (of many) personal visits, this reporter watched in amazement as the skilled hands moved an RF probe over the exposed underbelly of a wayward KWM-2. In a couple of minutes Dr. Bud's examination of the radio's vital signs revealed the problem. Most of us would still be searching for the first test point.

Bud rises with the chickens and meets his old gang on 20 meters for a couple of hours each morning. Then it is off to the garage workshop for a round of troubleshooting and fixing. After lunch he drifts back to the shop and more aligning, soldering and pondering. Jan stays busy in town with her own interests which includes playing a major force behind the Wimberley library.

The shack at K7RMT occupies one corner of a cozy den. It is truly a family place and one easily imagines the warmth of the fire on a cold Hill Country night (yes, it does get cold in this part of Texas). Bud's Collins station includes a 32S-3, 312B-4, 75S-3B and a 30S-1. He prefers to use his TenTech Omni Six most of the time however (he is, of course, entitled to this transgression). A transfer switch connects the 30S-1 to either the S-Line or the Omni Six.

Outside the hilltop home are two US Towers 72-foot crank-up towers, complete with motorized winches, mounted on concrete bases Bud poured himself. One tower is home to a five element 20 meter Telrex beam on a 36-foot boom. Above that is a 13 element KLM 2 meter beam. The other tower hosts a six element 10 meter Telrex above a five element Telrex 15 meter beam. Both towers have prop pitch motors and selsyn direction indicators. A simple



The QTH at K7RMT sits atop a hill overlooking the Blanco River near Wimberley, Texas. At left is the 10 and 15 meter arrays and at right is the 20 meter monobander. Both towers are US Towers, 70-foot crank-ups with electric winches and prop pitch motor rotors.

-K7RMT Photo

40/80 meter inverted 'V' completes the antenna farm.

Besides his morning chats, Bud still maintains contact with his old friends in Singapore and Indonesia when conditions permit. He doesn't work DX anymore commenting, "I've been in more DX pileups than most guys have been in chow lines!" Understand here, if you please, he was on the business end of the pile ups!

When you've worked on as many Collins radios as Bud has, certain things come to mind when offering advice. Among his admonishments to users wishing to prolong the life of their rigs and get the most out of them, he offers the following "Whitney-isms:"

- Dust is the enemy of tank circuits- keep the rigs covered when not in use.

- Keep your dial lamps glowing- every user should keep spares on hand and learn how to change them out.

- Coffee and drinks are fine but radios don't like to drink them!

- Run your rotary switches through the positions frequently (with the power off) to reduce oxide build-up

- Don't scrimp on patch cord. Bud recommends using 4-foot lengths of RG-58 for all cords except the VFO and crystal oscillator connections (RG-62 for these).

- And, use the best phono connectors you can find.

- If you buy a 75S-3B, make sure it has the bottom RF shield and the cover over the mechanical filters. The presence of these parts indicates a later radio with much better response than earlier models. Certain parts associated with radios equipped with the two RF

shields are no longer available and older radios cannot be modified.

- Swab a Q-Tip on tube pins occasionally.
- Use some common sense when tuning and loading.

Bud and Jan Whitney have seen a great part of the world and made many friends. They both credit ham radio as one of the major factors in bringing them to the station in life they so richly deserve. A kind and wise man, we are honored that K7RMT is among us.

## August 9-11 Cedar Rapids Meet Program

The program for the CCA's annual summer meeting in Cedar Rapids, Iowa is set and promises to be the best meeting ever.

Meeting headquarters is the Longbranch Motor Inn where activities begin Friday night at 1900 with a poolside Happy Hour.

On Saturday morning at 0800 the group will gather in the lobby for tours of Collins Com-Central and the antenna farm. At 0930 the group will tour the Art Collins exhibit at the Linn County History Center.

Programs begin back at the motel after lunch. Ben Stearns will present a discussion of the life of Art Collins and later Butch Schartau and Jay Miller will conduct a restoration clinic on A-Line and S-Line gear.

Videos and hands-on displays will be available for viewing during the afternoon.

Saturday evening after the dinner Warren Amfahr, W0WL, will present a program.