

Dennis Brothers, Restored Collins Com Van to Highlight CCA 1998 Dayton Activities

S-Line wizard Dennis Brothers and the restored Collins Radio Company amateur communications van will highlight the CCA's presence at the 1998 Dayton Hamvention May 15 through 17.



Dennis Brothers, WA0CBK

After nearly 32 years in retirement, the fully-restored Collins Radio Company communications van will make a return visit to Dayton's Hara Arena. Owned and restored by Jim Stitzinger, WA3CEX the vehicle (featured in a

technical Data Sheet last year) will anchor the CCA booths numbers 253 and 254 in the North Hall. During the 1966 Hamvention, the van was on display at Collins' booth.

The van will be open during the exhibit hours of 12 noon Friday May 15 to 2pm Sunday May 17. Reproduction copies of Collins' original 1966 brochure (with CCA membership applications) will be available to all visitors. CCA President Bill Wheeler will oversee manning the booth with CCA people in 2 hour shifts for the hours it is open.

A Collins-equipped station in the van will be in operation as well as a second station outside the van under its awning. Rod Blocksme will bring the W0CXX club call and the station will be available to those interested in operating it.

On Friday night, May 15, the annual banquet will take place in the Downtown Marriott hotel starting with a cash bar at 7:30pm. After dinner, Dennis Brothers, WA0CBK will give the keynote program. Brothers earned his novice ticket in 1961 while in high school. After graduating from college he started work with the Collins Radio Company in 1963. He has spent almost 35 years with S-Line equipment from building them on the assembly line to his present avocation of repair and modification.

CCA hospitality rooms will be open at the Marriott hotel on Thursday night, May 14 and Saturday night May 16.



Jim Stitzinger's restored Collins Radio Company amateur communications van is fully equipped with operating S-Line equipment. Outfitted by the amateur products group in 1964, the van travelled across the country demonstrating the S-Line amateur equipment. It was purchased and restored in 1993.



At the Mike with Bill Wheeler

Chairman, Collins Collectors Association

If your membership was due this past January and if you have sent your check to our Treasurer AC4FQ, you observed that you wrote the check for more than you did last year. No, you were not dreaming, there was an increase in membership dues for the CCA. To understand why, we must study the history of the CCA.

When we elected to strike out on our own with our own newsletter and Jay Miller stepped forward and volunteered to publish the *Signal*, no one knew what it would cost and no one could see the future potential for our newsletter, or the new CCA. In other words, we made an educated guess.

However, none among us guessed that the newsletter would grow from a two page letter to one of four or more pages, no one could have predicted the Data Sheets or the full sized photos that appear from time to time. Because we are an association and need to provide more than just a simple newsletter, no one could see the need at that time for a "hot line" telephone number for CCA members needing help of any type, and a booth at the Dayton Hamvention was not even a dream when the Board established the original dues.

Only the future knows what value added the CCA will be providing for its members in years to come, we are only limited by ideas from the membership.

As I have said before, and I will say again, we need your input and suggestions, for example, the *Signal* can always expand and is only limited by the number of articles we have to publish. If you have an idea and would like to develop it into an article, give Jay, KK5IM, a call, he would be happy to help you in any way he can.

I am personally looking forward to seeing everyone in either Dayton or Dallas, or both. Hope you are making plans to attend either or both of these fine meetings.

—73, Bill



Well, lots of things are happening on the airwaves. Propagation is slowly improving, net participation is good, and the Theme Nights are bringing rigs out of dust collecting duty and into actual use! In addition to our Sunday afternoon net on 14.263 mHz, our Tuesday evening net on 3.805 mHz, and our Thursday evening net on 3.875 mHz; a west coast net has started up Friday evenings on 75 meters. Sandy (KW6KW) is leading the charge and asking for participants and assistance. Presently, he is calling the net up on 3.895 mHz at 2000 Pacific Time. Turnout has been great!

Speaking of Theme Nights, the May Theme Night was originally scheduled for the 14th. Unfortunately, many folks will be at Dayton by that night, so the May Theme Night will be rescheduled to May 21, 1998. This will give everyone an opportunity to go to Dayton and participate in May's Theme Night. The topic for that night will be "Favorite Collins Rig Night." We want you all to show up on 3.875 using your favorite piece of Collins gear; and be prepared to tell the world why it is your favorite Collins rig! This is the one night that everyone can truly participate in! There should be a huge number of check-ins for this one!

Bill Decker (N4VMY), spokesman for the 3.875 gang, has suggested that we start our Thursday evening event a half hour earlier! As many of you know, we often run out of time for the number of check-ins that we get. So, we have begun to meet at 2030 Eastern Time on 3.875 on Thursday evenings, and will continue to do so until further notice! Please mark your calendars accordingly. Many thanks to the 3.875 gang for letting us share the frequency for 2 1/2 hours per week!

The Sunday 20 meter Net has a new look! As most of you know, we have been trying a

different format with Sunday's net. Net participants suggested that we try a format that we used 6 or 8 years ago again. We did in fact begin using this slightly different format back in March, and the response was overwhelmingly in favor of its use (for now, anyway). This format differs in what we have been doing, in that the NCOs will take Swap information in the first half of the net. In that first half, Call Areas will be taken right in order, First through Tenth. Then after the Swap portion is completed, the Technical and "in for the numbers" check ins will be taken; again, starting with the First and concluding with the Tenth Call Area. Now! Pay Attention! This does *not* mean that if you can only stick around for the first part of the net, that you can't check-in to say hello! Accordingly, if you tune in to the latter part of the net, that doesn't mean that you cannot make a listing for gear. These are *guidelines*! They are not inflexible rules. Once the participants realize that the Swap happens first, and the Technical and "for the numbers" happens later, they can more efficiently utilize their own, as well as net time on Sunday! I encourage all of you to check in at the proper point in the net when you can. However, if you can't, simply inform the NCO, that you are "Short-time" and make your comments when called upon, just as before! You will not be ostracized for making a swap listing in the Technical portion or vice versa. We just ask that you follow this new format whenever possible. This format will run until March 29. Starting on April 5 and running through April 19, we will REVERSE the Tech and Swap portions! Tech will be the first half and Swap will be the last half. Call areas will still be run from First through Tenth. We want to be fair and try it both ways before making any decisions. We would like to hear your comments on how this different format is working out!

Hope to hear all of you on the air! See you at Dayton! —73 de W8RO

Sunday 20 meter net check-ins:

12/7	86	1/25	141
12/14	81	2/1	125
12/21	97	2/8	119
12/28	119	2/15	159
1/4	133	2/22	129
1/11	80	3/1	154
1/18	92	3/8	91

—73 de Butch, K0BS

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CCA Membership Hot Line: 507-282-2141

Sorry, no call-backs available!

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The CCA is not related in any way to the Collins
Radio Divisions of Rockwell International.

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

Join Us on the Air!



**14.263 MHz
Sundays
at 2000Z**

**3805 Khz
Tuesday nights and
3875 Khz Thursday nights**

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

Product Review

Almost All Digital Frequency Display

As Reviewed by Jay Miller, KK5IM

Tired of "rice box" friends kidding you about being "off frequency" with your prized vintage gear? Give them a taste of their own medicine with a digital frequency display.

Designed and marketed in kit form by Almost All Digital Electronics (AADE) of Auburn, WA, the circuit features a digital logic circuit which samples all three oscillators in the radio and displays an average frequency on a backlit LCD display. By sampling the PTO output, the output of the HF crystal oscillator and the frequency of the BFO crystals, the unit computes the operating frequency and emission mode (USB, LSB or AM) of the transmitter, receiver or transceiver.

The AADE Digital Frequency Display, Model 2 (otherwise known as DFD2), is also sold by Ron Hankins, KK4PK of Geneva, FL

assembled and installed in a Collins-like enclosure, complete with all connecting cables, ready to hook-up. The "guts" of Ron's unit are the assembled kit from AADE giving rise to some of the confusion about two different displays on the market. Both companies have collaborated on the project as well as provided amateurs with two options for adding this modern accessory to their vintage rigs.

AADE and Ron Hankins graciously provided samples of the display circuit kit and an assembled ready-to-run unit for our evaluation. Assembly of the digital board is straightforward and simple if you have the requisite tools! Be sure to replace the broad tip on your soldering iron before attempting to solder ICs to a double sided printed circuit board! For those interested in the kit route, you are left to your own devices to come up with the power

supply, enclosure and connection hardware to the radio.

The assembled product comes complete with everything necessary to connect it to a KWM-2 or S-Line receiver. We plugged the DFD2 into a KWM-2 and the display came right up with the operating frequency and told us we were on LSB. Hooking it up to an S-3 line was a little more complicated however. The designers could have done us a favor by adding extra RCA jacks on the box to allow for an easier connection to the receiver VFO and crystal oscillator. As it is, you should buy a pair of RCA 'Y' connectors from Radio Shack and use them either inside the rig or on the display itself. This will make it work (and work it certainly does), but some confusion is added to the transceiver cabling. John Bess, WA5VVT, also suggested sampling the BFO oscillator from the S-Line transmitter to better determine the transmitting frequency. We tried this and, sure enough, there was a slight difference in the BFO crystals between the 32S-3 and the 75S-3C. Wes Bolin, K5APL, reported that minor adjustment of the display's input level controls is necessary when used with an S-Line in transceive mode.

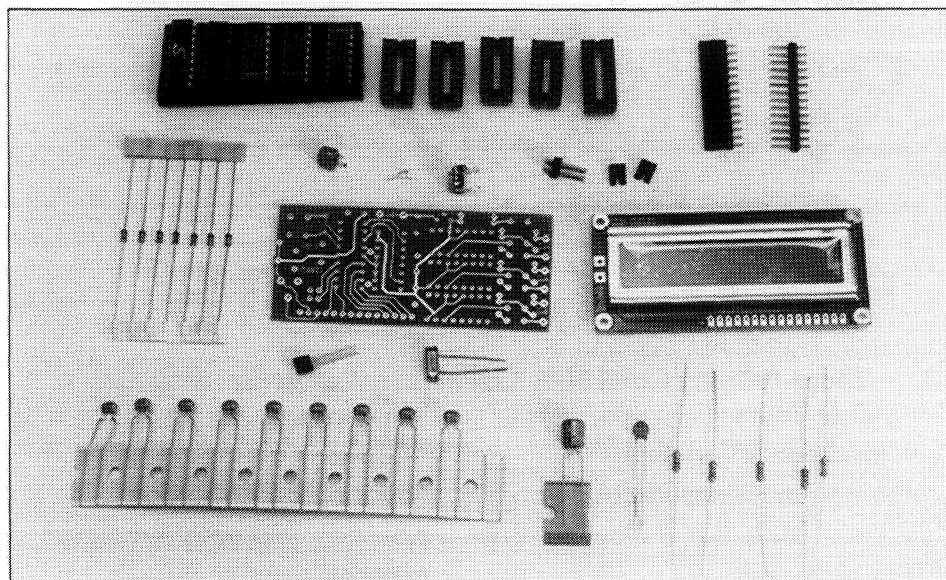
This display (and its new brother the DFD3) makes an interesting accessory for your station. It is also very reasonably priced, well designed (with one minor exception) and works extremely well.

The kits are available from Almost All Digital Electronics (1412 Elm St. SE, Auburn, WA 98092; 253-351-9316; <http://www.aade.com>) for \$49.95.

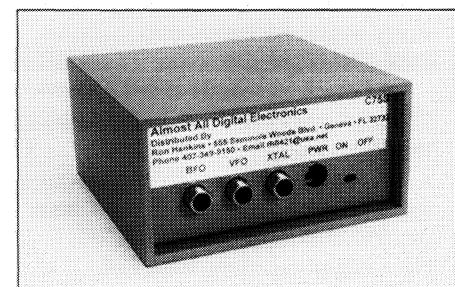
Assembled units are sold by Ron Hankins (555 Seminole Woods, Geneva, FL 32732; 407-349-9150; <http://www.gate.net/~rh8421/radio.html>) for \$150.00.



Furnished with the complete unit from Ron Hankins are all cables and battery eliminator as well as an attractive "Collins looking" enclosure for the back-lit display.
—Photos by KK5IM



The display-only kit available from Almost All Digital Electronics is fairly easy to assemble if you leave your Black Beauty iron on the bench and use a soldering pencil designed for digital devices!



Back view of the assembled unit shows RCA jacks for the three oscillators. It would be much handier for Collins S-Line users if there were a duplicate row of jacks wired in parallel to couple the transmitter and receiver for transceive operation.

Visit the CCA's website:
http://www.teleteam.com/~jmiller/cca_html/ccahome.html
Coming soon: Historical Photos!

New 1998 CCA Net Control Schedule

By Floyd Soo, W8RO

Generally, the Primary NCO shows up 15 minutes before the net starts. They listen for the previous stations to clear, and then ensures the frequency is guarded with "Pre-net" activity until he actually starts the net at the top of the hour. If the Primary NCO does not come up on frequency, then the Secondary NCOs should take the initiative of assuming his responsibilities. Our net frequencies should never be left unguarded immediately before and during net times!

The station callsigns in the schedule above are listed in descending order of priority, i.e., on Sundays, Butch (K0BS), is usually the Primary NCS (The top one on the list.). That doesn't mean that he has to run the net every time, all that means is that he is responsible (as he has been) to make sure someone will be there if he will be absent (or just doesn't feel like doing it that day). The Primary NCO will contact the next callsign in line and make him responsible for the net that day. The reason there are 3 or 4 callsigns on the list for each net is that in case of a last minute conflict, *someone* out of the group will most likely be there! If everybody is present, then there will be strategically located stations that can relay from all corners of the country! Keep this in mind when making any changes! It would not make any sense to place 2 or 3 stations in the same part of the country, and leave huge gaps in others! The present assignments were made with keeping the whole country covered as the primary concern. Please remember to take turns running the nets during the course of the year, that way no one gets burned out and no one gets bored!

Week	Sunday	Tech	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday
1	WA5VVT K1QCF KW6KW KK5IM	K7RMT K0ZQD	AA8XC W0GM K0COM	K0BS K5APL W0NKL	KW6KW
2	K0BS K1QCF W0GM KW6KW	K7RMT K0ZQD	WA5VVT K0COM W4THU	W8RO W4THU W0JL	KW6KW
3	KW6KW K0BS KK5IM K1QCF	K7RMT K0ZQD	VE3URO W0JL W8RO	W4THU K0DEW VE3URO	KW6KW
4	K0BS K1QCF W6IRD W0GM	K7RMT K0ZQD	W0JL K5APL K0DEW	W0CXX VE3URO K1QCF	KW6KW
5	K0BS KK5IM W6IRD K2WE	K7RMT K0ZQD	W4THU K0COM W0JL	W8RO W4THU W0JL	KW6KW

This is a tentative schedule. Let me stress that we are all volunteering to help with these nets. This schedule can and will change from time to time. I am asking that everyone that has volunteered to help with these nets, stay in contact with each other! If there has to be temporary or permanent changes, contact the other station(s) involved and *make them*! If they are permanent changes, please let me know!

I took wild guesses as to how often and when these assignments were made! If, for instance, Wayne (W6IRD) wants to be more active, he would contact the person listed on

days he would like to be there; and if possible, make the switch. Just let me know, so I can amend the schedule. I am sure that most of you will want to change or switch with someone else. Please organize it amongst yourselves and inform me of the changes! Again, it is important to consider the geographic location of the station(s) you are switching with!

Please support the new Friday 75 meter net, if you can! If anyone else is interested in joining this group of Net Control Operators, please contact me at (248) 391-6660 or e-mail me at: hires@rust.net.

Theme Night Results

Here are the stats for recent Theme Nights on our 75 meter nets:

KWM-380 Night -December 11, 1997

Total check-ins was 31 with 13 KWM-380s and one HF-380 on frequency.

AM Night -January 8, 1998

Lots of participants on 75M, poor conditions on 160M. (Sorry, still don't have complete data from all NCOs.)

S-Line Night -February 12, 1998

42 total check ins with 18 1/2 WE S-Lines, 10 1/2 RE S-Lines, eight WE 30L-1s, six RE 30L-1s, five WE 30S-1s, two RE 30S-1s and two 51S-1s on frequency.

Gold Dust Twins Night -March 12, 1998

50 total check ins! Twenty-two KWS-1s and 27 75A-4s on frequency! (Wow! Last year, we had 16 Twins on frequency!)

-W8RO

Mark Your Calendar Now!

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