

# The SIGNAL



Issue Number Twelve

Official Journal of The Collins Collectors Association

Fourth Quarter 1998

## 40th Anniversary of the Collins S/Line - A Special Event!

by Mark Hovda, N0JWI

### Certificate of Achievement Awarded to

**Rod Blocksome - K0DAS**

In Recognition of Working All Three Collins Amateur Radio Club Stations  
During the November 6-8th, 1998 Special Event Celebrating the 40th  
Anniversary of

INTRODUCING COLLINS S/LINE OF AMATEUR SSB EQUIPMENT



W4CRC  
Melbourne, FL

W5ROK  
Richardson, TX

W0CXX  
Cedar Rapids, IA

A few months ago, I stopped by Rod's, (K0DAS) office to see what our resident HF guru, Collins Collector, Rockwell-Collins museum curator and all around good guy was up to. As is normal for Rod, he was working on a plan. The plan was for an S/Line special event to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the introduction of the S/Line. As they say, the rest is history. Over the weekend of November 7-8, the three

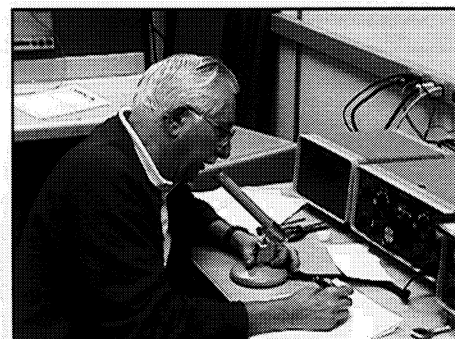
Collins Amateur Radio Club Stations, W0CXX, Cedar Rapids, IA; W5ROK, Richardson, TX; and W4CRC, Melbourne, FL put on the very successful special event. Of course, what made the event such a success was you, the Collins Collectors! All of the operators of the three stations had a wonderful time. Many of the event operators commented on the operating skills and manners the Collins users demonstrated during some very tough pileups.

There were a few surprises. Most notably that W5ROK came in out front in contacts with 974 using only four operators and operating without a linear. W0CXX and W4CRC had 930 and 900 contacts respectively. We at Rockwell Collins headquarters here in Cedar Rapids have assembled a team to analyze why W0CXX, utilizing a 30S-1, log periodic at 125 feet and 11 operators, was outdone by W5ROK. Among the other surprises was the solar flare that made for some interesting propagation, including a total black out over Texas for a few hours during Sunday morning.

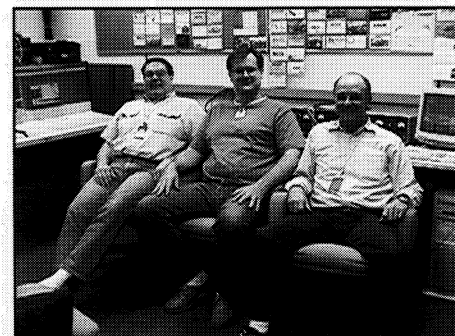
Some special guests who were directly involved with the S/Line participated in the event. At W0CXX, we had Arlo Meyer, W0LBK, co-developer of the 30L-1, Dave Hallock, K0SS, S/Line receiver project engineer and Tom Vinson, NY0V, who was a project engineer during the last days of the S/Line production. CCA members participating were: W0CXX - Rod Blocksome, K0DAS; Gayle Lawson, K0FLY; Jim Jones, W0NKN and myself, N0JWI; at W5ROK - Gene Duprey, K1GD; Bob Ashbey, K5JHR and Bob Peters, K1JNN. For those who have not yet sent in QSLs, confirmation from any of the three stations can be obtained by sending cards to the W0CXX callbook address, which is:

W0CXX c/o Tom Vinson  
10211 Hall Road  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52411

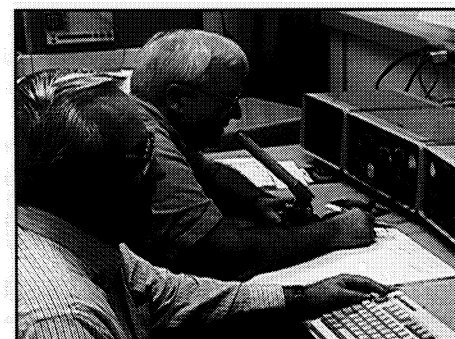
This was the first special event that the Collins club has operated since the 50th anniversary of the Collins Radio Company back in 1983. We at the Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Clubs are looking forward to the next event.



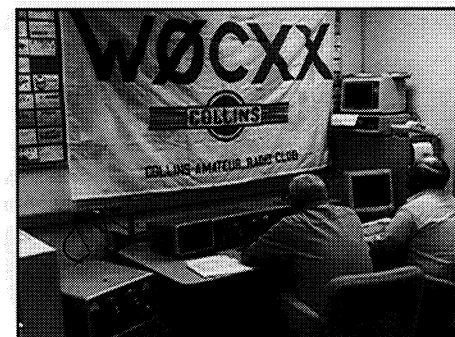
Arlo Meyer W0LBK (co-inventor of the 30L-1)



Gayle K0FLY, Mark N0JWI, and Rod K0DAS



Jim W0NKN operating, Dick K9ULW logging



W0CXX - Collins Amateur Radio Club Station

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## KWM-1 Theme Day

by John Bess, WA5VVT

On Sunday December 6, 1998 the CCA conducted its first Theme Day of this season. The theme was KWM-1 day. During the course of the net, a total of 26 stations were operating their KWM-1's. Every one of these old 1957-1959 vintage radios sounded wonderful. (Note: delivery started in September 1957 and orders were no longer being accepted after March 1959). It has been rumored that only about 250 of these units were produced. However, one of the stations checking into the net said that he had serial number 2116. No other serial number above 1150 was reported. It is known that the KWM-1 was also purchased by the U.S. Government. Did Collins assign a different serial number sequence to these units? Does

anyone know? The 26 stations checking in reported that they collectively owned 54 KWM-1's. Since then, five more have been reported, bringing the number up to 59. Serial numbers ranged from #E-10 (prototype unit) and #11 to 1150 production units and the #2116. We wish to thank everyone who participated in the net and who have provided additional information since that time. If you have any additional information to add, please do so. Send your KWM-1 information to [cca@collinsradio.org](mailto:cca@collinsradio.org) or pass it on to any net control operator during any of the CCA weekly nets. Don't forget the other Theme Nights and Theme Weeks coming up this season.

73 John, WA5VVT



## Dayton Hamvention

Dayton, Ohio May 14, 15, 16, 1999

The Dayton Hamvention® is the world's largest amateur radio gathering. The Collins Collectors Association sponsors a multitude of special events at the annual Dayton Hamvention. The CCA hosts a hospitality suite and its annual membership banquet. Door prizes donated by CCA members and commercial firms will be awarded at the banquet, but we are still looking for donations. Please contact Wayne-W6IRD if you have any prizes you're willing to donate for this year's event. Also, contact Hap-WA4HPV with your inside booth or flea space number so he can add you to the "dance card".

Art Lewis, WA8VSJ is handling hotel arrangements for CCA. At this point, we have arranged for 60 rooms for members at the:

Dayton Marriott  
1414 South Patterson Blvd.  
Dayton, OH 45409

Tel: (937) 223-1000 - Fax: (937) 223-7858

Make your reservation now! Make sure you identify yourself as a member of the Collins Collectors Association. Watch the CCA web site for more specific information about CCA events at Dayton as we get closer to the Hamvention. See you in Dayton.

## Treasurer's Two Bits

by Gary Leininger, W7YO

Shortly after the CCA Dallas Convention, I was asked by the Board if I was willing to be the new CCA Treasurer. After accepting the honor, I dove into the responsibilities by establishing the new CCA mailing address, new bank account, and by getting the membership database up and running on my meager computer. There were a few hurdles to get over, but with the support of the Board I seem to have gotten a handle on it.

My immediate goal is to get all outstanding membership applications processed and to get renewals out to those that are due. You can plan on seeing my "Two-Bits" column quarterly in the *Signal* and I'll do my best to keep you informed on what's going on in the Treasurer's Corner. Please feel free to contact me in writing, email, on the phone, or of course on the air if you just want to say "Hi" or if you have any membership questions. If I don't have the answer, I'll try to find it.

CCA Mailing Address:  
PO Box 963  
St. Cloud, MN 56302-0963

My Email Address is: [w7yo@cloudnet.com](mailto:w7yo@cloudnet.com)  
My Phone Number is: 320-255-0146

## Theme Weeks - 1999

Jan 10-15	Gold Dust Twins
Feb 4	KW-1 night
Feb 14-19	S/Line
Mar 4	AM night
Mar 14-19	KWM-2
Apr 8	AM Broadcast night (80 and 160M)
Apr 11-16	Military/unique equipment (618T, SAC KWS-1s, etc.)
May 2-7	Your favorite Collins
May 16-21	KWM-380

## CCA Membership Hot Line 507-282-2141

Sorry, no call-backs available!

## The CCA's New Web Site

The new CCA web site can be viewed at:

<http://collinsradio.org>

This is a "living document" which will continue to grow over time. Visit the CCA web site to get the latest information about CCA sponsored events and activities.

## Join Us on the Air!



- Sunday 14.263 MHz at 2000Z
- Tuesday 3805 kHz at 8pm CST
- Thursday 3875 kHz at 8pm CST
- Friday (West Coast) 3895 kHz at 10pm CST

Sunday for Technical, Buy, Sell and Swap.  
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for Ragchew.

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Sandy Meltzer, KW6KW, President  
John Bess, WA5VVT, Vice-President  
Butch Schartau, KOBS, Vice-President  
Floyd Soo, W8RO, Vice-President  
Jim Stitsinger, WA3CEX, Vice-President  
Gary Leininger, W7YO, Treasurer

### The **Signal**

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

**The Collins Collectors Association**  
P. O. Box 963  
St. Cloud, MN 56302-0963

# The CCA International Convention - Dallas

*Did you miss our biggest event of the year?*

By Jenks Garrett, K5YNZ

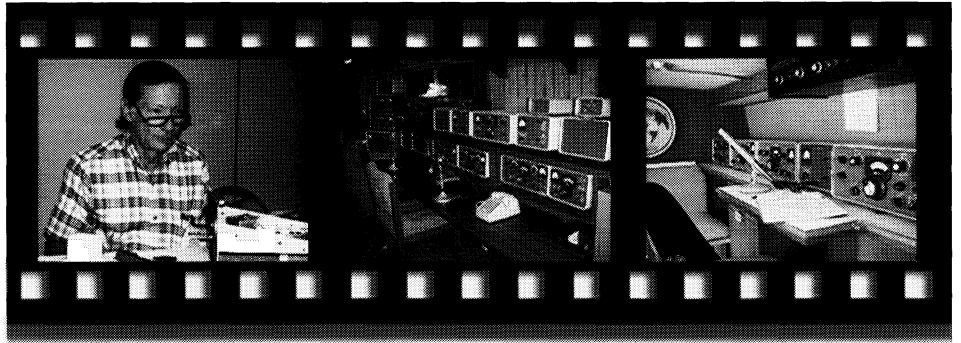
On the way back from one of the last planning sessions at Jay's (KK5IM) I was trying to schedule in my mind the timing for cooking the barbeque and setting up the serving lines.

There had been much discussion about the various tours, which order to go in, how long it would take to travel from place to place and, ultimately, what time the buses would wind up at my QTH for the party.

There was so much to see and do and all that Dallas traffic to fight, I knew there was no way they could get to my place by the appointed hour of 6:00 PM.

A few days later, I heard from J.B. Jenkins (W5EU) and he told me that Gene Robinson (WA5LX) was in charge of the logistics for keeping the buses on schedule and General Gene had driven the routes to get a solid feel for how long it would take.

Still, weekend traffic would be hard to predict and it would be impossible to predict



Enough praise and 'thanks cannot be heaped on Jay and his team for what they put together. But time was tick'n and I had to get back to the ranch.

Just as I got back, my good friend and restaurateur, Pete Pulido, showed up. A little more wood on the fire, final barbeque rub on the briskets and put 'em on the smoker.

The weather was not cooperating.

raining hard and difficult to keep the temperature up on the cooker.

By mid-morning Saturday, everything is looking better, but behind schedule. But, the weather was bound to slow down the tours also.

By late afternoon, the tables and chairs were in place and covered, the ribs and sausage were coming along fine. The brisket needed more time. Pete's homemade potato salad was looking great. Rainy weather was still hanging on.

And what do you think happened in the last minute frantic rush? Here comes General Gene and the first bus 15 minutes early!

With the skill of Pete and his beautiful and able wife, Lauren, it all came together and the party was off and running.

If those that were here had half as much fun as Denise and I did we would be well pleased. It was great to meet so many of you that I had heard and talked to on the Collins nets. We just wished we had more time to visit with each one longer. Seems like no sooner than it started, General Gene had everyone on the buses and gone (on schedule).

Thanks to all of you who came. To those who didn't make the Convention, we hope to see you when you are in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area.

73's and Happy New Year,  
Jenks, K5YNZ



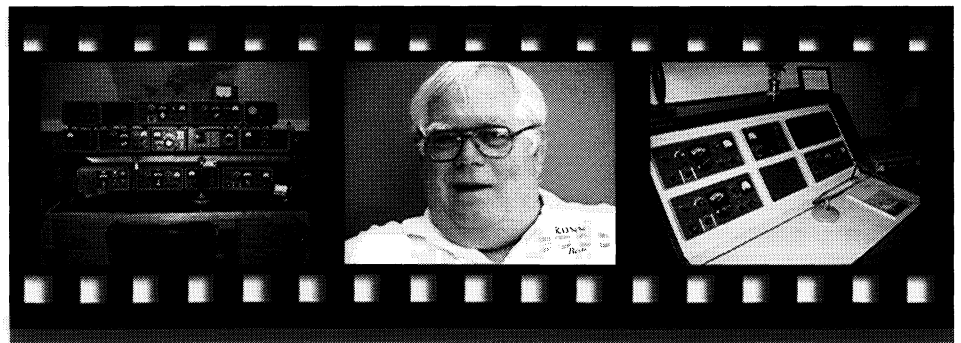
how long each group would be at each location viewing equipment and asking questions. It just wasn't possible to make the loop as quickly as they thought and get to my place in Arlington. I didn't want the food cold, so I would factor in a little slow down time and presto! it would all work smoothly.

Friday morning everything was ready to go. We had the meat and all the fixin's. The firewood and the "Coors" cooker were in place. I started a fire in the firebox. It would need to burn down to coals, so I slipped over to the Convention to catch a couple of the forums.

Although I didn't have much time, I was able to catch John Bess' (WA5VVT) breakdown of the S/Line PTO drive and Bud (K7RMT/5) explain and show how he rebuilds and updates the 516F-2 supplies (careful guys, that's MY 516F-2!). The forums were great.

Thunderstorms were due and the wind was getting up. We had made arrangements for a 70'x30' tent. Better call and get it up or we are going to have 150 wet people. Tents are like antennas. Because of the winds, they put the tent up three times!

Rain and wind cools the smoker. It takes more wood and makes it harder to judge the cooking time. At midnight Friday night it's



# Thanks for the Great CCA Convention in Dallas

from George Shute, W4BDG

For some time, I debated with myself about going to the CCA convention in Dallas. As I have my own practice, I don't get paid unless I work, but I decided that the Program was just something I would not want to miss.

I still smile when I remember this most wonderful weekend. I learned a lot about my Collins equipment. All the guys there were so friendly, helpful and share my enthusiasm for ham radio from the 50's when I was first licensed.

I can't say enough for the obvious work that went into preparing for the weekend and then for actually putting it on for those of us that benefited from the technical programs and from the wonderful tours of the "shacks" of those very kind folk who opened their homes to us. The talks I had with so many true gentlemen gave me real people to remember when they check into the CCA Net. It was a weekend that I will long remember and I will use what I learned for as long as I am a Ham.

Thanks Guys, more than I can say.

from Larry Watson, W5VHP

I thoroughly enjoyed the convention. The Dallas guys really outdid themselves and put forth a great deal of effort to make sure everything went smoothly and to ensure that the attendees enjoyed themselves.

In particular, the sessions with Warren, Butch, John, Wayne, Bud, etc., were well received by the group. We were really treated to a wealth of experience and "know-how" by those guys. Another highlight was the comm van. That restoration was a true labor of love.

And, of course, the shack visits on Saturday were priceless. I only wish that we could have had more time to check out Jenk's antenna farm before it got dark. All in all, it was a great three plus days. I look forward to the next one. Lastly, let me say thanks for a great job on the new web site. I know a lot of time and effort went into that one!

Good luck to you and the others for continued success of the CCA.

from John VanEgmond, K16ZS

I would like to let you know that I have thoroughly enjoyed the 1998 CCA National Convention in Dallas. The overall program was very well organized with interesting activities for everyone. I particularly enjoyed the hands-on workshop on Saturday morning. This type of instruction is very effective and, in future conventions could be staffed relatively easy with CCA members with specialties or experience in any of the Collins equipment areas.

The Plant and Shack tours including the barbeque at K5YNZ were outstanding. The Convention Program brochure with its travel directions and hints, program outline, and Warren Bruene's story on the Collins Radio Company in Dallas was excellent and very professionally done.

Thanks to all the 1998 Board members to have organized such a wonderful event.

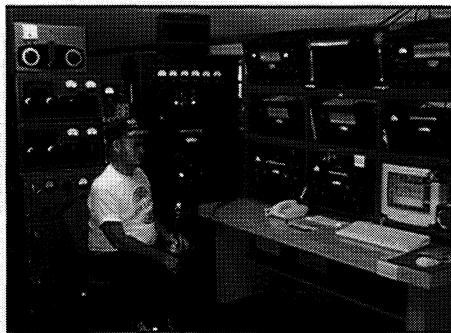
## We Need Your Help!

We are constantly looking for:

- Material for the *Signal* and new web site.
- Professional experience to help with the production of the *Signal* and web site.
- Net Control Stations to help run our nets.

If you'd like to help the CCA with these Association activities, please contact us.

## In the Shack



Jim Shoemaker, W0NKL

Send us a picture of your shack and we might use it in a future issue of the *Signal* or on the new CCA web site. Just mail a good quality (color) photograph to the CCA address and we'll scan it in and return it to you ASAP. Or, email a photo to [cca@collinsradio.org](mailto:cca@collinsradio.org). Please include your return address, call sign, and any shack information.



## At the Mike with KW6KW

Sandy Meltzer - President, Collins Collectors Association

Lots of things happening with the CCA since the last issue of the *Signal*. You have elected a new Board of Directors (Sandy-KW6KW, Butch-K0BS, John-WA5VVT, Floyd-W8RO, Jim-WA3CEX) and Gary-W7YO has been appointed by the new CCA Board to be our new Treasurer.

In October, we had a very successful CCA Convention in Dallas thanks to a fine job by Jay Miller, his deputies, and everyone who donated their time to help with the many activities enjoyed by all who attended—it was a wonderful event.

The new CCA web site located at <http://www.collinsradio.org> is now active and growing. Since one of the main goals of the CCA is to archive technical and operational information related to Collins Amateur Radio equipment, our on-line archiving goals are to provide basic technical and operational information for the most popular Collins Amateur Radio products. We want to display as many of the Collins Radio products from 1933 (pre-war) through the 1980's—showing complete descriptions of all amateur gear with top, bottom, front, and back photos, detailed technical/repair data, and many of the Service Bulletins/Service Information Letters.

We have already received permission from CCA member Norm-WA3KEY to use much of the Collins "Exhibit" material from his wonderful "Virtual Collins Radio Museum" web site and we have officially requested permission from the Rockwell Collins legal department to use any and all Collins Radio related copyrighted material including technical/operational manuals, photographs, and logos in use since 1933.

I'm most interested in archiving what isn't in the Collins Radio manuals—the undocumented technical and user idiosyncrasies (hints and kinks) of these radios—data that has been gathered over decades of daily use and handed down by "word of mouth". It is imperative we document and archive this data before it's too late.

Our on-line plans are rather ambitious and it will take a fair amount of time, energy, and manpower to accomplish our goals. We need your help. If you have any material, documents, photographs, or useful hints and kinks, please contact me via email, telephone, or on the air.

The new year looks bright for the CCA. Hope to see all of you at Dayton in May.