

## Dayton 2004 — It's a Wrap!

by Tony Sokol, W9JXN - 2004 CCA Dayton Chairman



It seems like just yesterday when we were starting to think "Dayton" and beginning to make plans for the annual pilgrimage to Ohio. All of a sudden, Dayton 2004 has come and gone, but the memories are still here.

Once again this year we had an exceptional array of activities for our fellow CCA'ers. A nice crowd was on hand to enjoy the CCA banquet, which featured an outstanding presentation by Lawrence Robinson on the B-29, the Collins gear on board, and their collective role in the Pacific Theater. To lend authenticity and color, Clyde Hussey, the radioman on a B-29 called "The Horrible Monster," spoke of his first-hand experiences on board the Superfortress. Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, rounded out the program with an FCC update, which was appreciated by all.

Thanks to those many individuals and companies that generously donated to the door-prize effort (go to [www.collinsradio.org](http://www.collinsradio.org) for the list of donors), we had a lot of smiling faces leaving the banquet again this year. Among the prizes was the first (serial #CCA-001) of a special-edition Vibroplex bug and

display case, which is truly a work of art. Introduced at Dayton, the special, limited edition CCA Vibroplex products are available directly through Vibroplex and can be viewed on the CCA website at [www.collinsradio.org](http://www.collinsradio.org).



Jim Green WB3DJU at the CCACollins station during the Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computer Fest held in Timonium, Maryland

## The CCA at the GBHC

by James Green, WB3DJU

For the second year running, the Collins Collectors Association was represented at the Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computer Fest held in Timonium, Maryland. On March 27th of this year, a station was set up by CCA Treasurer Jim Green, WB3DJU, using a KWM-2, 312B-5, and 516F-2. During operations this combination communicated with Hammond Museum of Radio special event station operator Floyd Soo, W8RO. It was Collins-to-Collins with solid copy!

## Special Edition CCA Collins Vibroplex Keys

The CCA and Vibroplex are proud to announce the availability of an initial limited run of 250 special edition CCA Collins Vibroplex keys, complete with nameplate with the Collins logo and a CCA serial number. Serial numbers are available on a "first come, first serve" basis.

You can order either a traditional bug (as shown in the photos at [www.collinsradio.org](http://www.collinsradio.org)), a keyer paddle, or an iambic paddle. The key in the photos on the CCA website has the "Collins Gray" textured base, or you can get them with the base in chrome or black-wrinkle finish. There also is available an optional numbered case.

To order yours, call Vibroplex directly at 800-840-8873, or use the order form at [www.collinsradio.org/CCAorder2.doc](http://www.collinsradio.org/CCAorder2.doc).

## In this issue...

Dayton 2004 - It's a Wrap!	1
The CCA at the GBHC	1
Special Edition Vibroplex Key	1
At The Mic	2
Net News Summer 2004	2
Call for Nominations	3
On the Workbench	3
The Hammond Legacy	4



## At The Mic

by Floyd Soo, W8RO - President CCA  
floyd@hi-rescom.com

Again another Dayton Hamvention has come and gone. Our CCA Dayton Banquet 2004 was a tremendous success! In my estimation, this was one of the (if not THE) best CCA Dayton Banquets ever. The camaraderie was great, the food was excellent, the prizes were fabulous (thank you to all the donors!), and the presentations were outstanding. For the second year in a row, our CCA Dayton Chairman, Tony Sokol, W9JXN, pulled off a well-organized and enjoyable event. Kudos to you, Tony!

Tony had help in the form of Jim Centanni, W2IMK; Jim Green, WB3DJU; Dean Prull, KA6BGW, and his lovely wife Judy; Gene Duprey, K1GD; Dave Propper, K2DP; Larry Saletski, WA9VRH; Paul Braun, WD9GCO; Hap Perry, WA4UPV; and Barb Misic, along with untold others. All of these folks contributed their time and energies in assisting at the CCA booth and with the banquet, hospitality suites, and other activities. To all of you, I (and the CCA) am indebted. This year's activities at Dayton would not have been possible without your dedication and assistance. Thank you! At the banquet CCA member Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, gave the group an update on the FCC enforcement scene in his usual entertaining manner! It is an honor to have a person of Riley's stature as a participating member of the CCA. He and his staff are doing a fabulous job of cleaning up the amateur bands. Kudos to you, too, Riley! Certainly one of the highlights of Friday evening's banquet was the history lesson about the end of the WW II Pacific campaign that we all received from guest speakers Lawrence Robinson and Clyde Hussey. Lawrence is from Rockwell Collins, and Clyde was the radio operator on one of the B-29s on "The Last Mission." Some of you may remember a famous B-29 radio operator by the name of Jim B. Smith. Jim was aboard the B-29 nicknamed "Boomerang" during its final airborne mission to Akita, Japan on August 15, 1945. The Boomerang belonged to the 20th Air Force, 315th Bomb Wing, and they participated in that longest and last mission over Japan which unknowingly helped thwart a military coup that was occurring on the grounds of the Emperor's Palace. Jim has authored a book entitled *The Last Mission* detailing the little-known events following the two atomic bomb missions in August 1945. The History Channel aired a documentary based on this book this past year.

Clyde was the radio operator one of the other B-29s on that same mission. The Superfortress that Clyde and his crew were aboard was nicknamed the "Horrible Monster." One of the things that Clyde spoke



We are into full Summer mode with the 75 meter nets. High static levels and erratic propagation are the rule at this time of the year. We continue to have a good number of check-ins, but it is sometimes difficult to copy everyone well with the high levels of QRN. The NCOs do a great job of coping with the band conditions, and there are always those who relay in the weaker stations. Mark, VE3DJU, has come up with a novel idea for the nets when he is the NCO. He asks a Collins trivia question of everyone as they check-in. Ideas like this are always welcome.

Propagation on the 20 meter Sunday net has also been very spotty and sporadic. We have to remember that we are on the downward side of Cycle 23, and conditions will be like this for now. The number of check-ins is also down, as is normal for the summer months. Remember that the first hour of the 20 meter net is for Buy, Sell, and Swap. It's a great place to find that piece of gear, or to sell/swap what you have.

The 1st Wednesday AM net continues to grow in popularity. Even with the QRN, there are always many check-ins to each time zone.

(and wrote) about was the newly (at that time) designed transmitter, the ART-13, built by Collins Radio. It eliminated the complicated tuning required every time the frequency was changed. That was a real blessing for radio ops on the bombers back then, as their job mostly entailed emergency communications, and getting on the correct frequency in a hurry was a life-saving capability under certain conditions. The knobs on the Collins unit whirled and turned to the required settings automatically once the proper frequency was selected. It was a technological wonder compared to the radio equipment they had used prior to that. Talk about someone who has "been there, done that"!

Lawrence Robinson detailed the Rockwell Collins involvement in the recreation of the B-29 radio room at the History Center in downtown Cedar Rapids and the research they had done during the project. We learned about the ART-13 and its place in the B-29 and in history. We also learned about some dedicated people who are still restoring and operating some of this WW II vintage gear. It is a moving story, and I am hoping that we can get the entire story one of these days. Thank you, Lawrence and Clyde!

Finally, to the 90+ attendees at the CCA Banquet, I thank you, too! Your support allows

It's great to hear all those vintage AM rigs on the air. Even the ARRL has gotten on the bandwagon and set up a vintage AM station at W1AW. Maybe we'll get check-ins from there.

The 10 meter AM net on Sundays has been suspended for the summer because of poor propagation. Anyone working on the "10 on 10" Award will not be penalized for this hiatus, as the 12-month award period will be extended for the same number of months that the net is officially off the air. There have been 77 "10 on 10" Awards sent. This is a good indication of the popularity of the 10 meter AM Net. Now all we need is some good propagation so we can continue the net.

As always, we are looking for people to act as NCOs during the various nets. If you have an interest in becoming an NCO, please contact me at w1sku@directway.com, or Dean at daprull@aol.com, so we can provide you with information so you can see what it entails. Remember that it is not a lifetime commitment. It is actually a lot of fun. To be an NCO, you must be a member of the CCA, and preferably be running Collins equipment.

us to get together for an evening of fun, prizes, good food, and libation, in addition to some great presentations. Plans are already in motion for Dayton 2005. Don't miss it!

Due to a lack of interest in participation this year, the Cedar Rapids get together had to be postponed. Hopefully, we can garner enough interest this winter to pull it off for August of 2005. However, we are still looking into the possibility of having a CCA get together at the Hammond Museum of Radio in Guelph, Ontario, Canada. It would be worth the trip, and a long weekend in the Toronto area would allow visitors the option of also visiting the Antique Wireless Association's Museum and Annex outside of Rochester, NY. Regardless of whether or not there is an official CCA visit to the museum, some CCA members will be back at the Hammond Museum again later this fall for an AM Special Event. Fred Holmes, W1SKU, Scott Madison, WN1B, and I will be there to get both of the museum's KW-1s, and maybe even their 30K-1, back on the air. These classics have not been on the air since they were moved to the new museum back around 1997. It's time to fire 'em up again! Is there anyone interested in visiting the Hammond Museum of Radio? If so, I'd like to hear from you! We're looking at early November for that visit at this time . . . 73 de W8RO



# Call For Nominations!

by Robert Turner W5APN

The Collins Collectors Association will be electing three members to its Board of Directors during the month of November.

The Nominating Committee will coordinate nominations and elections and the chair person will be announced soon via the CCA Collins reflector and via our weekly CCA nets. Board member Robert Turner W5APN is acting as temporary chair until the CCA Board finds a volunteer to replace him.

Members in good standing of the CCA are invited to submit nominations for the board vacancies, 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 W5APN by email at w5apn@swbell.net. All nominees in accepting a nomination shall prepare a brief bio of approximately 250 words describing relevant personal history, ham activities, 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 Treasurer, Membership Secretary 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 Thursday, September 30th. 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 between October 15th and November 1st, and the deadline for ballot receipts is Tuesday, November 30th.

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 w5apn@swbell.net.

Put your thinking caps on and contact your potential nominee for his willingness to serve, get a second to the nomination and encourage immediate bio formulation and submission prior to the September 30th deadline. 


## On the Workbench:

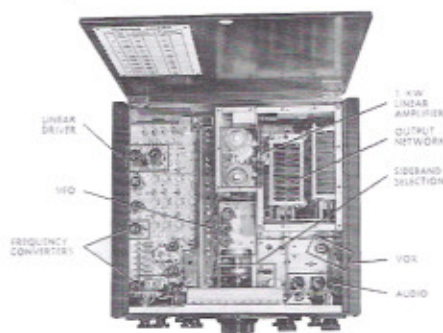
*Grid Drive of the Gold Dust Twins*

by Dutch Maurer, WB7DYW

Here is a tip for those of you who have "Gold Dust Twins" in which the grid drive seems to wander or be unstable. Connect an oscilloscope to the "250 Kc" injector BNC located at the front right side of the chassis. You should see a steady saw-tooth pattern on your scope. If it is fluctuating, then check your manual, and you will see a number of silver mica caps in that stage. I suggest you replace them all, as they will fail with age and there is no sense troubleshooting for a single cap only to find that a short time later another has failed. As a matter of fact, it is a good idea to replace all of the silver micas in the front end of the rig just to save time later on. The silver micas that are on the different band coils can stay, unless you have a lot of time and a steady hand with a soldering iron; they are easy to spot if they fail, because only one band will quit.

Another tip: The screws on the bottom and side of the KWS-1 exciter MUST ALL be in place for the rig to operate correctly. I have seen a number of exciters with only a few screws in the bottom, and the rig will not load correctly and seems to have a mind of its own. There are two rows of small screws with flat washers that must also be in place, as they hold the bottom plate steady, and that will dramatically affect tuning and general operation of the transmitter.

If you have any questions or need further help please let me know. You can reach me at: wb7dyw@ev1.net. 



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# The Hammond Legacy - USECA and the CCA visit the Hammond Museum of Radio - (Part 1)

by Ken Coughlin, N8KC, and Floyd Soo, W8RO



CCA President Floyd Soo W8RO at the mic

It was the mid-1920s and AM Broadcast radio was just beginning to take off. These were the "golden years" of radio. To anyone who could afford one, an AM radio receiver was a "gotta-have" item. The industrious Hammond family knew an opportunity when it saw one.

In 1920, the sons of Oliver Hammond (Len, Roy, Ken, and Fred), following in their father's tinkerer/inventor footsteps, designed and began assembling Hammond radios in the parlor of the family's farmhouse (a local furniture maker supplied the wood cabinets). Over several years and a production run of about 800 hand-built receivers, they were gaining area-wide respect for a quality product and garnering some unwelcome attention from the giant RCA Corporation, in that day known for quashing even the smallest competitor. Warranted or not, in 1926 RCA's lawyers threatened a lawsuit for patent infringement, a claim the Hammonds could ill afford to fight in court. For the Hammonds to continue building radios as a franchisee of RCA (the privilege would have cost \$5000 in 1926 dollars), paying a royalty on each one sold seemed not only not fitting, but unprofitable as well. Snatching success from what seemed apparent defeat, the family gave up building radios and, in exchange, got RCA to agree to buy Hammond transformers for use in RCA radios (much of Canada used 25 Hz power as late as the 1950s, versus 60 Hz in the U.S.).

In 1927, Hammond Manufacturing incorporated, and almost 80 years later, transformers (some of the largest in the world), battery chargers, power supplies (battery eliminators), and amplifiers are still the core of the business.



Today, three generations later, Hammond Industries is still in the family, run by Fred's sons Rob and Bill, with annual sales of over \$186 million and 1200-plus employees located in 12 facilities around North America, the UK, and Australia.

Fred Hammond's name and call sign, VE3HC, are respected and admired around the world. He was perhaps Canada's best-known amateur because of his long and distinguished professional and amateur radio career. Fred began building radios in 1923 at the age of eleven and became a radio amateur in 1929. He was a true promoter of amateur radio, and his generous support of worthy amateur radio causes is legend.

In 1983, Fred and fellow Canadian Tom Wong, VE3BC, were invited to China to be the first foreigners to operate the brand-new club station in Beijing. This event crowned ten years of effort in which Fred was instrumental, supplying a major portion of the gear to put China back on the amateur bands for the first time since 1948. In Fred lived the true essence of the spirit of amateur radio. Few other Canadian amateurs have contributed so much to the hobby.

The Hammond Museum of Radio got its start when its founder, Fred, began collecting



early radio and wireless artifacts at the age of 16. The first public display of his collection was in a small building at the rear of his College Street home in Guelph, which originally housed his ham station. When in the early '70s Hammond Manufacturing built a new plant on Guelph's Curtis Road, Fred reserved a 4000-square-foot area to house the growing "Hammond Museum of Radio."

Shortly before Fred's passing in 1999, a complete new and larger facility at the Hammond Manufacturing Company's expansion site at the South Transformer Plant became the current location for the museum. The museum is now home to Fred's hundreds of receivers and transmitters dating from the spark era up to and including National's first solid-state HRO 500 (almost all are in pristine working condition). The Hammond Museum is most assuredly one of North America's premier collections, unique in that visitors are encouraged to explore each piece of equipment, to open the cover and look inside,



Floyd Soo W8RO and Fred Holmes W1SKU

unlike other museums where the specimens are behind glass partitions. Fred wanted it that way and that philosophy continues today.

Over the last eight years, Floyd Soo, W8RO, had traveled to the museum in its original home a few times to visit with CCA member Fred, VE3HC. Floyd even interviewed Fred on video for the CCA before Fred became a SK. With the museum's move and word of additions to the collection, a return trip was in order. CCA members Fred Holmes, W1SKU, and Scott Madison, WN1B, joined Floyd and a couple of dozen hams from the Utica Shelby Emergency Communications Assn. for the trip to Guelph, Ontario, Canada on the 27th of March, 2004.

Upon our arrival at the museum, we were met by Nori Irwin-Hann, VE3AQZ, the museum curator; her husband John Hann, VA3LKH, an ex-railroad telegrapher; Lloyd Swackhammer, VE3IIA, of the London Vintage Radio Club; Paul Cassel, VE3SY, of the Kitchener-Waterloo ARC; and Ken Hammond, Fred's last surviving brother. Nori, VE3AQZ, showed us with the layout of the new museum, of which she is curator. The collection is now far more organized into military, broadcast, amateur, vacuum tube, speaker, spark, key, and microphone categories, with a special section dedicated to Hammond Industries items and memorabilia. We wisely were advised to look under the main display tables as well, where there are many collections of radio-related magazines (amateur and broadcast) dating back to the 1920s, some early test equipment, and yet more of the radio collection. Nori also pointed out that the museum would be catering a lunch for all of us.

*(continued in next issue)*

