

September 9, 1997

Hey... It's a Birthday Party on the Air!

By Floyd Soo, W8RO

Tuesday, September 9 marks the 88th anniversary of Art Collins' birth. To commemorate this special day, the Collins Collectors Association is sponsoring the first annual CCA QSO Party.

This party is an informal contest with the emphasis on *fun*! The rules are simple. In the 24 hour period from 0000 EDT to 2400 EDT on 9 September 1997, CCA members are to contact as many other CCA members as possible on HF frequencies and exchange CCA membership numbers. Phone contacts are worth one point apiece, and CW/RTTY/digital contacts are worth two points apiece. The operator with the most points wins! Wins what, you ask? Well, probably a certificate, or something like that.

The important thing, though, is the on the air activities! This is not, and I repeat, not a serious contest! This is an excuse to fire up

Official CCA QSL Cards Now Ready

Hiram Percy Maxim, founder of the American Radio Relay League once wrote "The QSL card is the final act of courtesy."

Official QSL cards for members of the Collins Collectors Association are now available. Based on the famous line drawings of the S-Line and the Gold Dust Twins, our new cards are printed in two colors on heavy stock. Original artwork was used to produce the cards so the reproduction quality is superb.

Personalization of the cards is being done under contract by Dr. Bob Martin, W9YE, of Colorful QSL Card Printing. Cards are available in lots of 250 in either design or half and half. The cards are available to CCA members only!

Please show your support for the Association and send out a QSL for each contact. An order form is enclosed with this issue.

Bill is on vacation—his column will return next issue!

At the Mike with Bill Wheeler
Chairman, Collins Collectors Association



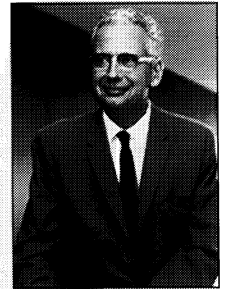
your Collins amateur radio equipment and make some contacts with other Collins users. This brings me to the last rule, namely, you have to be using all Collins rigs to make these contacts! Cheap imitations need not apply! Only the real thing counts for this fun contest!

Oh, by the way, there is a possibility that W0CXX may be on the air during the two hour window in the evening during the Tuesday evening Informal Net. If you make contact with W0CXX, it is worth a 2X multiplier. In other words, W0CXX is worth two points on phone and four points on CW! We are doing this to add greater confusion to the 75 meter airwaves in the evening!

So, start brushing up on your contesting technique, and get ready to have some fun! I

hope to hear many stations calling "CQ CCA QSO Party." Be prepared to answer the inevitable question "What the heck is the CCA QSO Party?"

This will also be an excellent opportunity to begin using your new Official CCA QSL cards. Copies of logs should be submitted via snail mail to: Floyd Soo, W8RO; CCA Net Manager; 8232 Woodview Dr.; Clarkston, MI 48348-4058. Logs may also be submitted by e-mail to: hires@rust.net.



Arthur A. Collins, W0CXX

Cedar Rapids Meet Color Group Pictures Available

Included with this issue of the *Signal* is a special insert of the S-Line Family portrait made at our summer meeting this year.

If you would like an 8x10 color print of this image, the group picture or the photograph of the design team, send a large SSAE and \$5

per photo to Rod Blocksme, KODAS, 690 Eastview Drive, Robins, IA 52328.

Our thanks to Rod, Mark and Gayle for assembling the gear and talking Rockwell-Collins into sending their company photographer over to shoot these memorable pictures.



At our summer meeting in Cedar Rapids, we were honored to meet several members the original S-Line design team: Joe Jekerle, W0UEO, built and tested most of the prototypes; Dave Hallock, W0SS, Project Engineer (PE) for the 75S-1; Joe Vanous, PE for the 32S-1; Chuck Carney, W0GDJ, amateur product line manager; Dennis Day, W0ECK, PE for the 32S-3 and later Director of Engineering and Jerry Vonderheide, W0NGL, PE for the 32S-3. Dennis and Chuck are also CCA members. —John Cox, Rockwell-Collins



Well, here we go. Autumn is around the corner and that means summer static should subside. Maybe we'll be lucky and see the sunspot numbers increase. Most of the NCOs are reporting more favorable conditions on both 20 meters and 75 meters. Hopefully, winter conditions will improve the noise situation. 20 meter net attendance has been pretty consistent. Butch Schartau, KOBS, tells me that check ins have numbered from 62 to 90 in the period from 20 April to 3 August. There still seems to be good activity with the swap listings and thanks to folks like Bud, K7RMT and Warren, KOZQD, the technical questions are usually answered in short order. Every once in a while, we will get a check in from Europe! With the new cycle on the upswing, I suspect there will be more DX check ins in the next several years.

The 75 meter informal nets are also well attended. Check ins generally number from 15 to 35. With the conditions being difficult at times on this band, I think these get togethers have been a hit! It is nice to have W0CXX drop in once in a while to give many of you folks the opportunity to make contact with Cedar Rapids. Many of you contacted me with feedback on the "Theme Nights" and other topics of discussion; with all comments being positive and asking for more of the same. So, due to popular demand, I am encouraging the NCOs to continue with these activities! I am also asking for more ideas from the membership for new topics of discussion. Please pass these along to me and I will make sure the NCOs get them! The next scheduled "Theme Night" will take place on Thursday, 11 September, 1997. The topic will be "Collins Mobile Night." We would like to hear from those of you that have operated Collins radio gear in autos, boats and planes.

Also, any stories of interest regarding Collins mobile operation are welcome. Following that, on 9 October 1997, the theme will be "Collins Elmer Night." For that discussion, we will be looking for stories about the person that turned you on to Collins radio equipment, or the person that has helped you the most, when it comes to repairing or maintaining Collins gear. I am open to suggestions for the "Theme Nights" that coincide with the remaining winter months!

I am also posting the new NCO schedule that took effect in August to the Internet Reflector. As always, if there are any changes necessary, please contact me and the other NCOs involved!

With all the fun we are having in the Midwest, Plains, and Eastern U.S., there are those on the West Coast that are envious. Unfortunately, propagation on 75 meters will not support reliable communications from coast to coast in the evening. I have heard from some CCA members in the 6th and 7th Call Districts asking if we could help organize a 75 meter Informal Net for the West Coast. Of course we can! Trouble is, we can't run it from here! So, here is the deal. To make this thing fly, there has to be 8 or 10 operators willing to commit to helping run this net one night per month. If the West Coast contingent can come up with that many volunteers, I will help set up a schedule! We will start with one night per week, as we did here, and if there is a need for a second, night, we will get that going too! As they say, "Ball's in your court!"

-73 and thanks to all that assist with the CCA HF Nets!, W8RO

The following is a report of check-ins to the Sunday afternoon 20 meter net. This list includes stations in "for the numbers" as well as for technical and swap traffic:

Date	Check-Ins	Date	Check-Ins
April 27	84	July 6	69
May 4	79	July 13	62
May 11	64	July 20	68
May 18	65	July 27	90
May 25	N/A	August 3	80
June 1	82		
June 8	N/A		
June 15	79		
June 22	77		
June 29	72		

-73, Butch, KOBS

The New COLLINS AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENT VIDEO SPOTTER'S GUIDE joins
 The Collins KWM-2 Video
 The Collins 75S-3 / 32S-3 Video
 The Collins 30L-1 Video
 The Collins 30S-1 Video
 The 1991 Collins Forum at Dayton
 The 1992 Collins Forum at Dayton
 and introducing the

PDC-1

Universal Peak Detector Circuit
 This circuit converts ANY average reading wattmeter into a Peak Reading wattmeter, including the Bird 43!
 Perfect for AM and SSB!

HI-RES Communications, Inc.
8232 Woodview Dr.
Clarkston, MI 48348-4058

Call or FAX: (248) 391-6660

E-Mail: hires@rust.net

Website: www.rust.net/hires



KWM-2/PM-2 Mounting Hardware

Exact reproduction mounting hardware for KWM-2 to the PM-2 power supply or the mobile mount. Complete Set (Thumb Screws, Nylon Washers, Threaded Chassis Inserts) \$19.95/pair, post paid. Thumb Screws only \$9.95/pair, post paid.

Warren Hall, KOZDQ

P. O. Box 282 • Ash Grove, MO 65604

CCA Membership Hot Line:

507-282-2141

Sorry, no call-backs available!

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

The **Signal** is published quarterly by the Collins Collectors Association for \$15.00 a year (USA).

Copyright 1997, all rights reserved.

Bill Wheeler, K0DEW, Chairman
 Butch Schartau, KOBS, Co-Chairman
 Chuck Rippel, WA4HHG, Secretary
 George DuBose, AC4FQ, Treasurer
 Board Members: Foster Paulis, W4HCX;
 Floyd Soo, W8RO; Rod Blocksome, KODAS;
 Bill Carns, N7OTQ; Jay Miller, KK5IM.

The **Signal**

Jay Miller, KK5IM, Editor
 5402 1/2 Morningside Avenue
 Dallas, TX 75206
 FAX (214) 828-2952
 jmiller@teleteam.net

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.



A gaggle of CCA members attended a Texas-style bar-b-que at K5YNZ's place during Hamcom. Shown trying to fix a prop-pitch control system are N7OTQ, N5LDX, K0BS, K5DUT and WA5WEX. Cheering them on is K5YNZ himself.

It's Been Busy Since Spring!

CCA members across the country were busy this spring and summer. Hamfests at Dayton, Dallas/Ft. Worth and Cedar Rapids brought hundreds of Collins enthusiasts together for fellowship, horse trading and technical discussions.

Leading off was the Big Show at the Dayton Hamvention in May where the CCA sponsored a booth inside the Hara arena. A record number of members turned out at the annual banquet and enjoyed a video presentation starring many members of the Association. Awards were presented to several members who have donated much time and energy to the Association.

Many door prizes were won by those in attendance. Our thanks to all the members and companies who graciously donated several hundred dollars in Collins "goodies." W6IRD won the reproduction 270G-2 speaker offered as a raffle prize. He probably spent almost as much in \$1 "chances" as the speaker was worth— thanks Wayne!

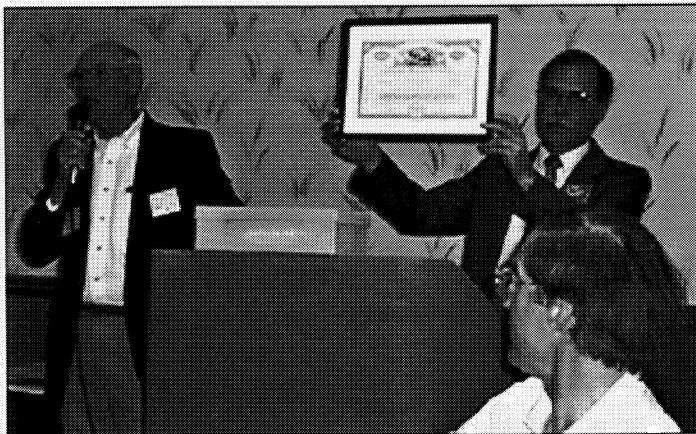
A month or so later in Dallas/Ft. Worth, over 25 CCA members gathered at Hamcom and were later treated to a Texas-style bar-b-que at the home of K5YNZ. K0BS spent a week in the area working on the antenna system at KK5IM (he also got a lot of work out of the OM himself) and was entertained by many of the DFW area members.

In early August our annual summer meeting again took place in Cedar Rapids. Rod Blocksome, Mark Hovda, Gayle Lawson and the rest of the Rockwell-Collins group treated us to two full days of activities culminating in the Cedar Valley ARC hamfest at the Amana Colonies.



Attendees at our 1997 summer meeting in Cedar Rapids gather around a sample of every piece of S-Line equipment manufactured by Collin Radio Company. In the photograph are many of the original design and sales team members.

—John Cox, Rockwell-Collins



Left CCA Co-chairmen K0BS and K0DEW present awards of recognition during the annual banquet at the Dayton Hamvention. Awards were presented to K7RMT, K0ZQD, W0JLL, KK5IM, W4ACN and K1QCF for their contributions to the Association. **Right** Our booth inside the Hara Arena at Dayton illustrated some of the CCA's activities and introduced many new people to the joys of collecting and using Collins radios.



Visit the CCA's website:

http://www.teleteam.com/~jmiller/cca_html/ccahome.html

W4ACN— a.k.a The Fresno Kid

By Hap Perry, WA4UPV

Hello friends and neighbors. I'd like to introduce you to a friend of mine, The Fresno Kid. For those members of the Collins community to whom he has always been a long time good friend, you may know him better as W4ACN (the familiar "Alfa - Charlie - November" on the Sunday net) or maybe W3CPX, W4SUW, W6BID, K6AAD, W6HNS, W6QOP, W7LUJ, KG6EF (Guam), KG6SE (Saipan), HL9KT (Korea), C6HK (China), DL4QT (Berlin), DL4FF (Germany), 9G1AR, 9G1HO, or 9G18AA (Ghana) in past lives. Some of you may even call him Harry, but almost no one calls him Mr. Kaklikian.

Code came easy to Harry, and with the encouragement of his science teacher (also a licensed amateur) he learned the Morse Code at age 11. By 15 he was in possession of his own Class-B license as W6BID. In those years, a Class-B ticket allowed CW operation on 160 thru 10 meters (there was no 15 meter band then), but AM phone was limited to 160 and 10 only. Quickly upgrading the following year to a Class-A (Advanced) and taking a Commercial ticket as well, Harry was finally on 75 and 20 meter phone and on his way to a lifelong career in communications. The strict interpretation of the rules required a portable call to operate at the family summer cabin, so with W6QOP in hand, Harry was off and running taking ham radio everywhere he went and collecting call signs on the way.

Harry has not always been a Collins user. In fact, from 1937 when he first earned that Class-B (General) license as a junior at Fresno High School until 1946, he used only homebrew transmitters and an assortment of popular commercial receivers. His favorite of that era being the National HRO series.

Enter Collins Radio: To understand Harry's involvement with Collins radios, one must follow his dual careers in both the US Army and the Foreign Service. Army duty began in the infantry in 1940, but ham radio was soon put on hold as the Army took him to Europe for the duration. Would you believe Harry is a qualified Army glider pilot? [!] As the war ended, Harry took an officer commission and transferred to the Signal Corps, with his first posting in Guam — HAM RADIO RETURNS! Armed with KG6EF, and KG6SE on his frequent trips to Saipan, he was back on the air. Using a BC-610 transmitter and BC-779 receiver, phone patches became his forte. In fact, the base commander was so impressed with Harry's operation that he surprised him with a brand new 75A-1/32V-1. Direct from Zack's Radio in San Francisco and courtesy of the base recreation fund, Harry received his first taste of St. James Gray. And thus began a fifty year love affair with Collins radios (Yes, Gladys knows about the affair).

With various stateside tours, call signs W7LUJ and W4SUW were acquired before shipping off for Berlin in 1951 with a 32V-2 and 75A-2 packed in his baggage. There he operated with the callsign DL4QT and later in the American Zone with DL4FF.

The first Gold Dust Twins: Returning to the states in 1955 with a pocket full of money, the first order of business was to procure a set of Collins latest, the famously capable and infamously expensive KWS-1/75A-4 combination. Unfortunately the pair only lasted two years before it was off to Korea (where no SSB operation was allowed). Keeping the A-4 and obtaining another 32V, the last of the 50's and early 60's were spent as HL9KT followed by BV1US and BV1USA in Taiwan.

Begin the S-line and W4ACN: Finally back to Washington, DC from 1963-65 to finish up a 25-year Army career with the seemingly appropriate assignment as the Army's frequency manager for long range HF communications. And of course, there was the obligatory purchase of a new KWM-2 and two new call signs, W3CFX and W4ACN, as well as reinstating his old stateside call, W6BID.

The Foreign Service and the KWM-2: Harry retired from the Army and went directly to work for the State Department where he spent the next 10 years. Initially tasked as program manager for the procurement of new emergency communications equipment for US embassies and consulates world-wide, Harry was responsible for selection of the Collins KWM-2A, PM-2, and 30L-1! Shortly afterwards, he was posted to Beirut (then a plum) in charge of middle-east and west-Asia communications. No new call signs during those three years (reports that he was too busy to operate).

Things changed when he moved to Ghana (West Africa), in 1969. Being in charge of the entire sub-Sahara region didn't seem to interfere with his love for ham radio and Collins. Operating 9G1AR at home and 9G1HO at the

office, Harry provided great DX for many hams for the six years that he was there. To complete the callsign list, he held the special fifteenth anniversary of Ghana callsign 9G18AA in 1973.

A permanent home and Collins: Finally returning to Washington to stay in 1975, Harry spent the next ten years at headquarters as the communications guru and all around ace. Of particular interest to us, he was a member of the WARC-79 planning group which yielded the new WARC amateur bands. During the Iran hostage crisis, Harry was instrumental in providing HF communications from both the Department of State and his home amateur station, earning him formal recognition from the State Department and a National Certificate of Merit from the ARRL. Not all of his time was spent behind a desk. As Egypt and Israel were beginning to attempt peaceful coexistence, Harry was sent to the Sinai to help establish of the Field Mission (the diplomatic portion of the peace keeping force). Those ten years of relative stability allowed him the opportunity to reestablish himself in the stateside Collins community and begin frequenting his long neglected past time, Hamfesting. Buying, selling, fixing, rebuilding all manner of Collins equipment began in earnest. The advice and troubleshooting help that we have come to enjoy started show up on the air. Collins equipment and parts began to accumulate; but it's still a mystery where all those crystals came from.

Retirement: Medical problems hastened retirement in 1986. While he is no longer able to run a 100 yard dash in record time, his involvement with Collins radios remains unabated. Over time he has developed a particular like for rebuilding 30L-1s and modifying 516F-2s for solid state and relay control. And of course, if it's Collins crystals, Harry has them.

Through all this, Gladys, his wife of nearly fifty years, has put up with all this moving and radio stuff. Definitely the "better half!"



Harry Kaklikian, W4ACN, as 9G1AR in Ghana in 1969. A 30S-1 is not visible in the picture. Harry's amateur career has spanned well over a half-century.