

History of the Collins Amateur Radio Club

Rod Blocksome, K0DAS

April 18, 2023

Time Line of Events

- May 17, 1977 – HF Engineering Dept. Mgr. Dennis Day, W0ECK, obtains approval to establish a Collins Amateur Radio Station at Main Plant
- Equipment to be the “HF-80 Demo Units”
- Nothing further done except discussions at coffee break and lunch for the next five years!
(as near as anyone remembers)

Time Line of Events

- Fall 1982 – Planning Committees for the 50th Anniversary of Collins
 - Amateur Radio: Tom Vinson, WA9YZN (chair), Rod Blocksome, K0DAS, & Jerry Vonderheide, W0NGL
- 18 Jan 1983 – Presented our proposal for a special event station at Main Plant. Paul Congdon, AD0C, volunteered his call sign.
- 25 Feb. 1983 – Our proposal approved!
- 4 Mar. 1983 – First official committee meeting

Time Line of Events

Tom Vinson's Memos

- 10 Mar. 1983 – Committee Meeting Results
- 14 Apr. 1983 – A progress report on “Special Event Amateur Station”
- 11 May 1983 – Minutes of May 10th meeting.
- **8:00 AM 13 June 1983** – Official dedication of the special event station and first contact made by Wayne Groff, WORU



1983 – The Special Event Station



The Sabre LPA
First Located
in the
“Bull Pen”
At Main Plant



8:00 AM, 13 June 1983 – Official Dedication of Special Event Station



Wayne Groff, W0RU, Makes the first Contact at AD0C



Wayne Groff, W0RU, Makes the first Contact at AD0C

Time Line of Events

- 27 Sept. 1983 – Culmination of special event was AD0C portable operation on the lawn of building 120 at 50th anniversary celebration.
- 2,838 Contacts in 50 states and 162 countries
- 5:18 PM, 17 Nov. 1983 – **Constitution of the Collins Amateur Radio Club formally adopted and the club was born.**

Time Line of Events

- Club Officers were:
 - President: Tom Vinson, NY0V
 - Vice President: Al Hammond, KOHWE
 - Secretary: Joel Gillett, WB0OZF
 - Treasurer: Vern Garman, KOEGA
 - Activities: Larry Kerr, KOMTM
- Charter Members: 102
 - Names engraved on a plaque in club station



Collins Amateur Radio Club Chartered November 17, 1983

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TOM VINSON	WA9YZN	President
AL HAMMOND	KØHWE	Vice-president
JOEL GILLET	WBØOZF	Secretary
VERN GARMAN	KØEGA	Treasurer
LARRY KERR	KØMTM	Activities Manager

CHARTER MEMBERS

NAME	CALL	NAME	CALL	NAME	CALL
ALBEE, MAX	WØOZO	HARRISON, JAMES	WBØTXL	ORTZ, DANIEL	WØRRV
ANDERSON, IRVIN	KØKWD	HARRINGTON, TIM	WDØFHO	O'CONNOR, GERRY	VK3AJD
BARINGM, DEAN		HART, BILL	WBØTKY	PAIDAR, JOHN	WØDLJ
BAXTER, HOWARD	VE3INT	HATCHER, ROGER	WBØOMY	PHILPOTT, TERRY	KØEOW
BERANDT, LEON	WØAEP	HAWKINS, EARL	WØSAL	PLASENCIA, RICHARD	WØRPV
BERRIDGE, BOB	WØSYQ	HENNING, GARY	WØLME	POMEROY, CHAS	WØPEP
BISHOP, GARY	WØRVQ	HENRICK, CARL	NØLJM	RAUSCH, SCOTT	WØVYC
BLOCKSOME, ROO	KØDAS	HEPWORTH, MARK	WBØBNE	ROCAREK, RICHARD	NØBCB
BREITWISCH, RON	KØBOX	HERR, DON	WØVH	ROLAND, KEN	WØQLG
BROWN, BARRY	KØYLU	HIRVELA, BOB	AKØD	ROTH, MICHAEL	AAØN
BURNHAM, BOB	KØPPJ	HORNBECK, JAN	NØCS	ROTH, WALT	NØMM
BUTLER, ALLAN	KØBES	HOTCHKISS, JACK	WØQAK	SHELHANEK, TERRY	WØPFR
COMCOOK, PAUL	ADØC	HOBENER, BILL	WØBALH	SPALTI, JAY	WØSCM
COPELAND, GREG	WBØOET	JACKSON, RALPH	KØQKR	SPENCER, JIM	WØSR
CULWELL, JOE	WBØYFL	JAKSA, DAVE	WØVX	SPINK, TOM	WØTS
DARLAND, ED	KØPSC	KELLEY, NORM	KØMA	SPINKS, JOE	KØØKQ
DAY, DENNIS	WØECK	KERR, LARRY	KØMTM	STERNOWSKI, BOB	WBØLJ
DEDICH, JOHN	WØTPZ	KIBBE, DALLAS	WØKJW	STONE, JAMES	WDØEJK
DRAKE, BOB	WØRAP	KITTRELL, DICK	WØRFX	SUSZKO, HARRY	WDØTT
DYKEMA, RICH	KØRV	KLEHFOTH, WARREN	WØJF	TOOMSEN, GARY	KØGT
EGLI, RON	KØBLY	LACEY, WARREN	WBØWBG	TRAVIS, BROCE	KØRTM
ELMORE, JERRY	KØTRO	LAUBENGAYER, BILL	WØYEY	TRUCKA, TOM	KØSOC
ERICKSON, ALAN	WBØOAV	LAWSON, GAYLE	WØFO	VINSON, TOM	WØSYZN
FENWICK, CHARLES	WØFTM	LEARN, E.J.	WDØEMO	VONDERHEIDE, JEROME	WØNCL
FINCK, FRANCIS	WØGCS	MACCANI, JIM	WØHQP	WALKER, JOEL	NØEAP
FITZPATRICK, BILL	KØBYD	MEYER, ARLO	WØLKB	WALSTROM, WADE	WØELJ
GARMAN, VERN	KØEGA	MEYER, DON	KØCHF	WEAVERLING, BILL	WBØLJL
GENTLE, JOE	NØBB	MOOROW, MARLAN	KØRRY	WEBSTER, RICHARD	KØGLW
GILLET, JOEL	WBØOZF	MOORE, TOM	KLTQ	YFOMAN, DAVE	WØQWY
GLYNN, LEON	WØWQQ	MORNING, STAN	WBØYSN	YODER, JULES	WØOOT
GOCHENQUIER, GEORGE	WDØCMH	MOST, NORTON	WØNTN	YOUNG, FRED	WØPLS
GRIMM, DON	WØWJM	MÖCKLER, JACK	NØNH	ZIEGLER, MARC	
HALLOCK, DAVE	WØSS	NEWTON, JAMES	KØDNI	ZELLMAN, DAN	WBØOQ
HAMMOND, AL	KØHWE	NICOLL, JAMES	WØQMBE	ZISER, JACK	WØKTM

Collins ARC Charter Members Plaque Resides in WØCXX Station

Collins Amateur Radio Club NEWSLETTER



Volume I Issue 1

*
* C.A.R.C. MEETING *
* ANNOUNCEMENT *
*

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COLLINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 17, AT 4:45 PM IN THE MAIN PLANT CAFETERIA (BUILDING 140). ALL GUESTS ARE WELCOME!

BILL SABIN, W0IYH, WILL BE SPEAKING ON SPREAD SPECTRUM APPLICATIONS FOR AMATEUR RADIO.

LOCAL CLUBS

CEDAR VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETS THE SECOND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 7:30 PM IN THE PEOPLES BANK BUILDING DOWN TOWN.

EASTERN IOWA DX ASSOCIATION WILL MEET ON MAY 4 AT 7:30 PM IN THE LINN COUNTY REC BUILDING ON THE EDGE OF MARION.

FIELD DAY

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE CLUB TO PARTICIPATE IN FIELD DAY ANNUALLY

Special Event Operations

- July 12-20, 2008 – 50th Anniversary of the Collins S/Line Special Event Operations
- Sept. 20-26, 2008 – 75th Anniversary of Collins Radio Special Event Operations



ADØC

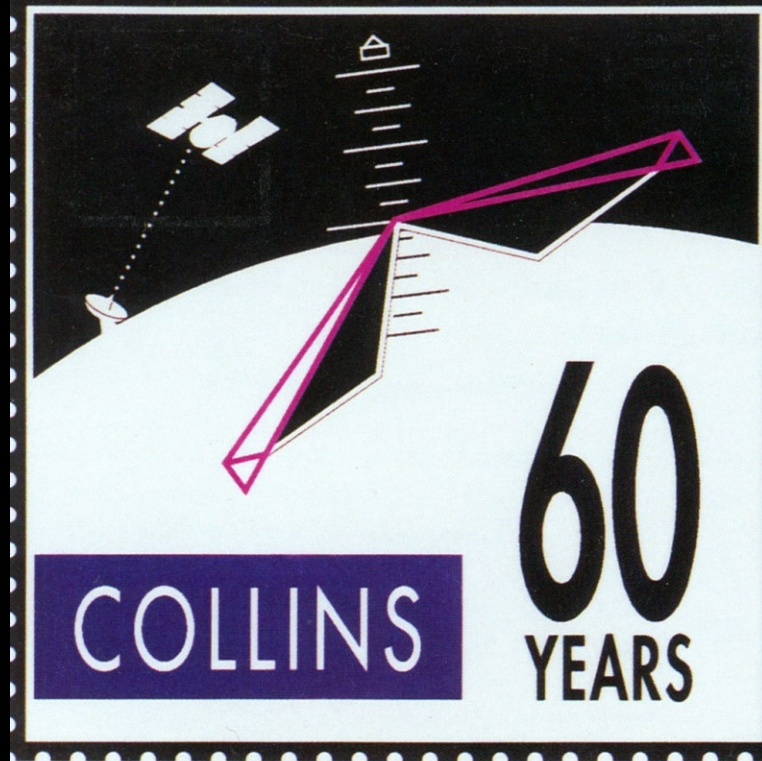


KWM-380

Collins Telecommunications Products Division
Box 728 Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52498

Collins ARC First QSL Card

Collins ARC QSL Card in 1993



ADØC

**Collins Amateur
Radio Club**

**Cedar Rapids
Iowa, U.S.A.**

ADOC

**COLLINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
350 COLLINS ROAD NE
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52498
MAIL STATION 145-100**

**Collins ARC
ADOC
QSL Card**

WØLBK

**ARLO MEYER
7461 COMMUNE CT.
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA
52411-8017**

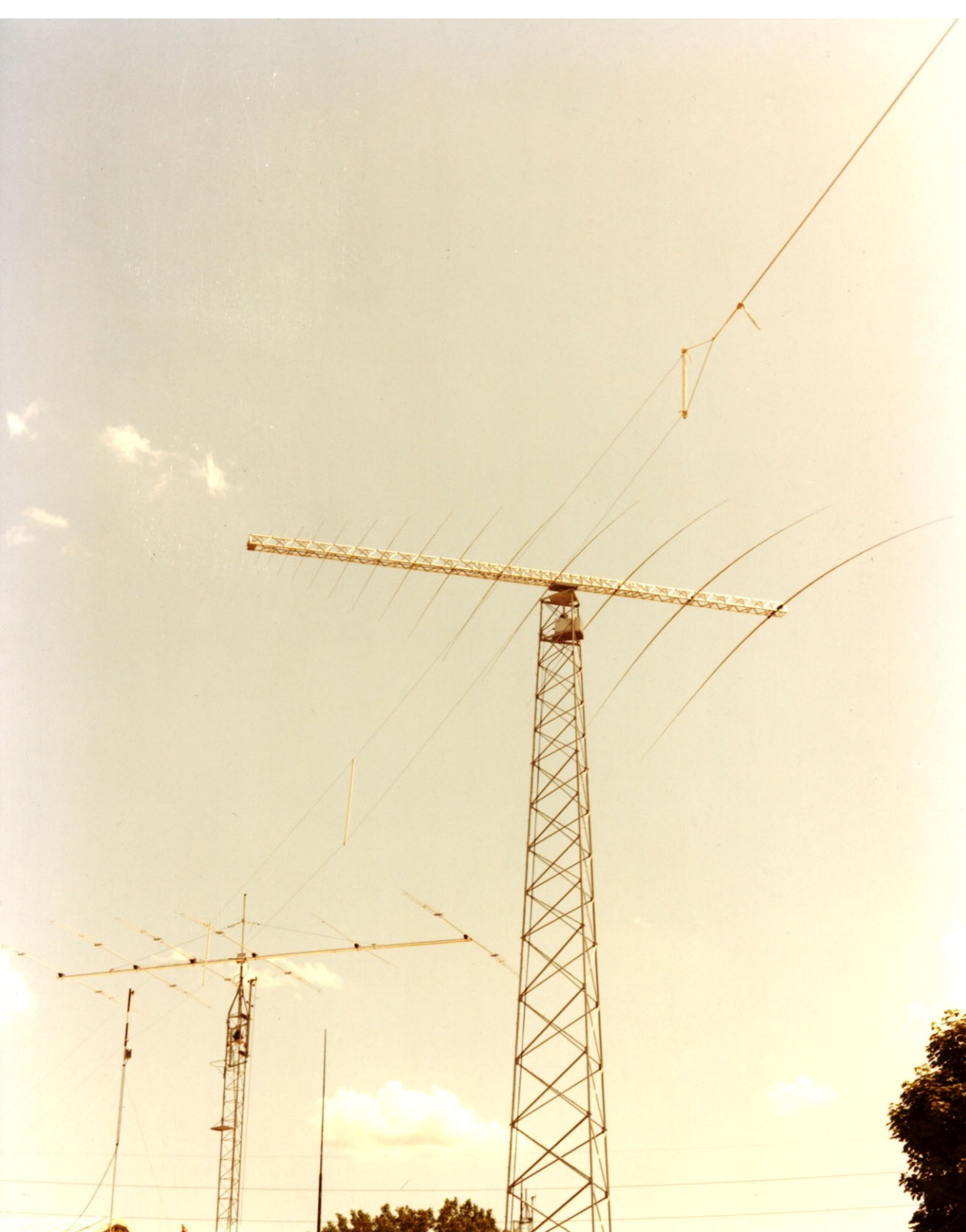
**CARC
Members
Got Free QSL
Cards**





11:20

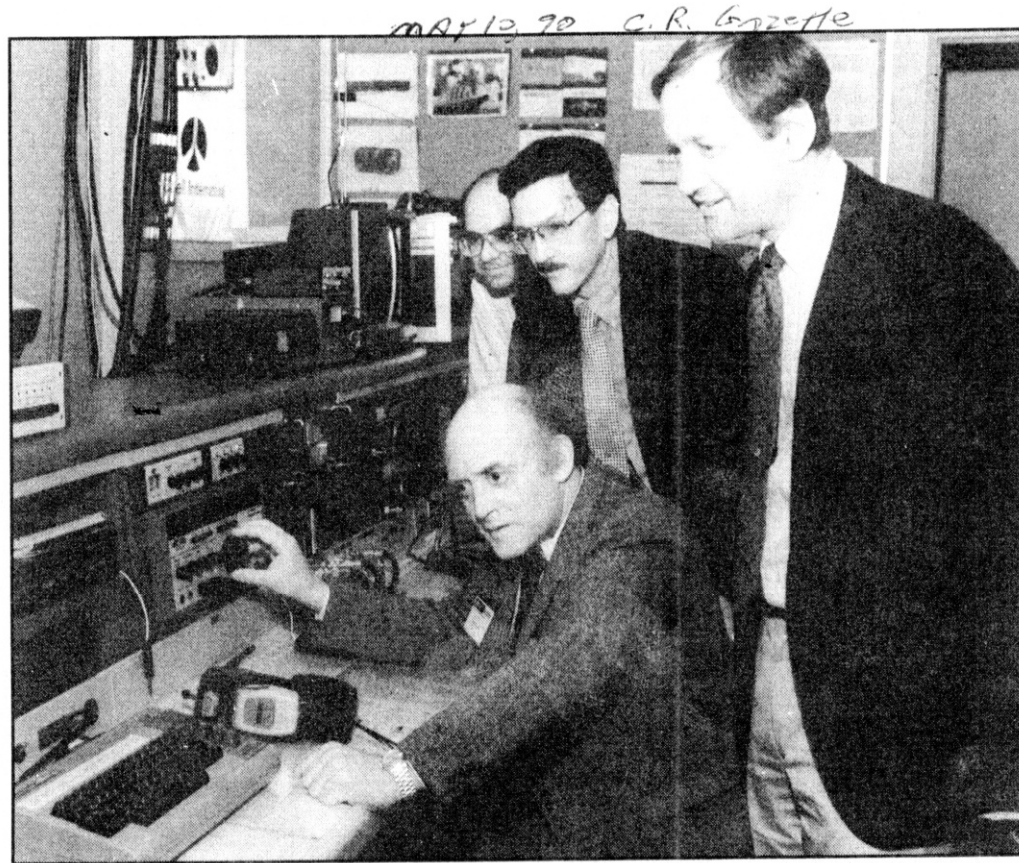
17 Nov. 1983 – Original CARC Station, Bldg 139



CARC
Antenna Farm
6-30 MHz LPA
TH-7 Tri-band
2 m Vertical
75 m Dipole

CARC Visitor – Lorin Hollandar

May 10, 1990



Likes his code in A-flat

Lorin Hollandar, the renowned pianist who soloed Saturday and Monday with the Cedar Rapids Symphony Orchestra, took time out Monday to visit Rockwell International's Collins Defense Communications plant because of his interest in amateur radio. Here he inspects equipment in the Collins amateur radio club station in the 35th Street NE plant. With him are members (from left) Rod Blocksome, Tom Vinson and Peter Tilly. Hollandar told radio club members he finds A-flat the most comfortable tone to use in receiving Morse code.

Collins Amateur Radio Club

Wants you!



Before joining CARC



After joining CARC

B E N E F I T S

From AD0C to W0CXX

- In late 1995 Tom Vinson and I started working the FCC process to obtain Arthur Collins' Call for CARC
- Arthur's widow wrote a letter to the FCC recommending the call go to CARC (Facilitated by Warren Bruene, W5OLY)
- Many "hurdles" to clear with the FCC
- First Contact as W0CXX made with Warren Bruene in Dallas, TX on Nov. 24, 1996

WØCXX

The Collins Amateur Radio Club
Cedar Rapids, Iowa U.S.A.

Takes pleasure in this QSL to amateur radio station:

Rod Blocksome, K0DAS

Confirming our 20 meter single sideband QSO on this,
the 24th day of November 1996 during the first day
of operation for our club station as WØCXX.

This special event was jointly sponsored by the
Collins Amateur Radio Club and the

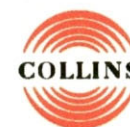


A blue ink signature of Tom Vinton, written in a cursive style.

Trustee, WØCXX



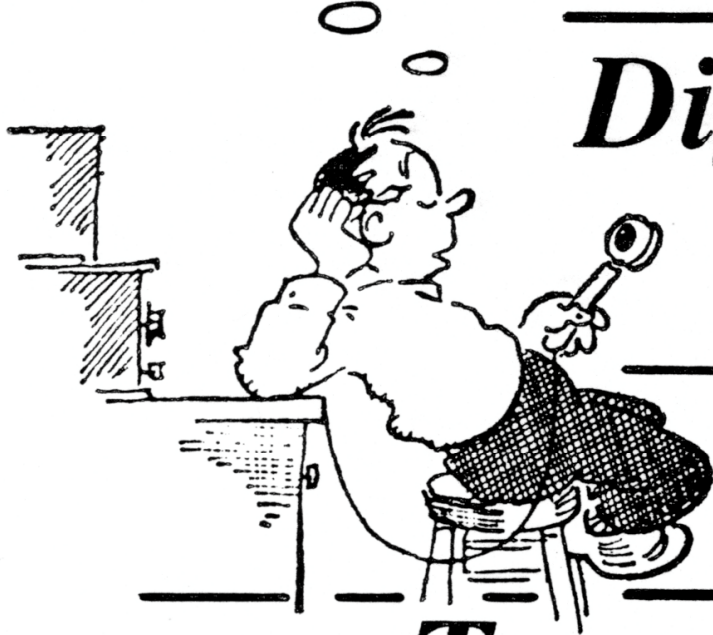
Arthur A. Collins, WØCXX
1909 - 1987
Founder of The Collins Radio Company



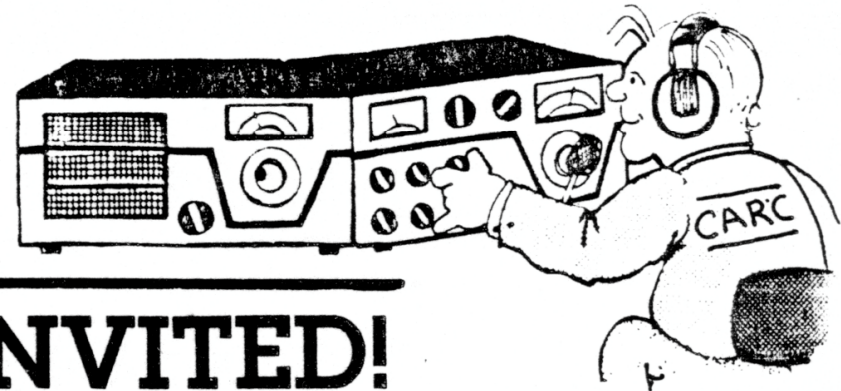
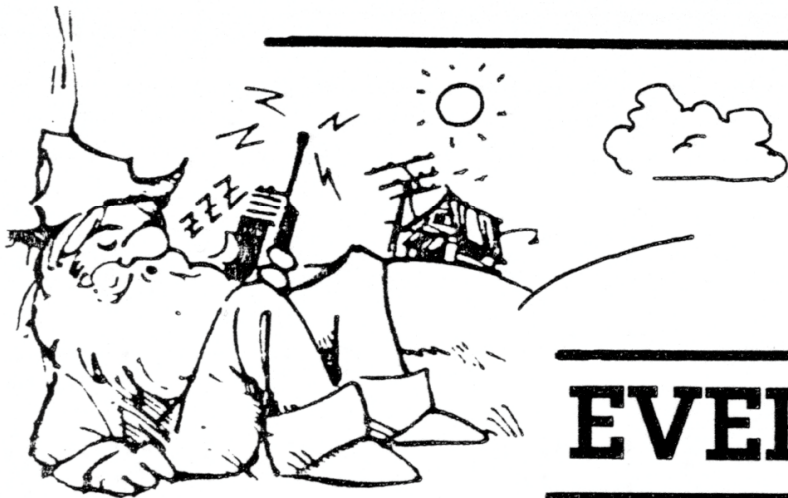
CARC

PRESENTATIONS

Digital Sampling IC Applications



Tour of the Collins Telecommunications System



EVERYONE INVITED!

WØECK



ONE OF THE GANG AT COLLINS RADIO

WØECK

DENNIS J. DAY
2501 BLUE RIDGE DR. NE
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52402

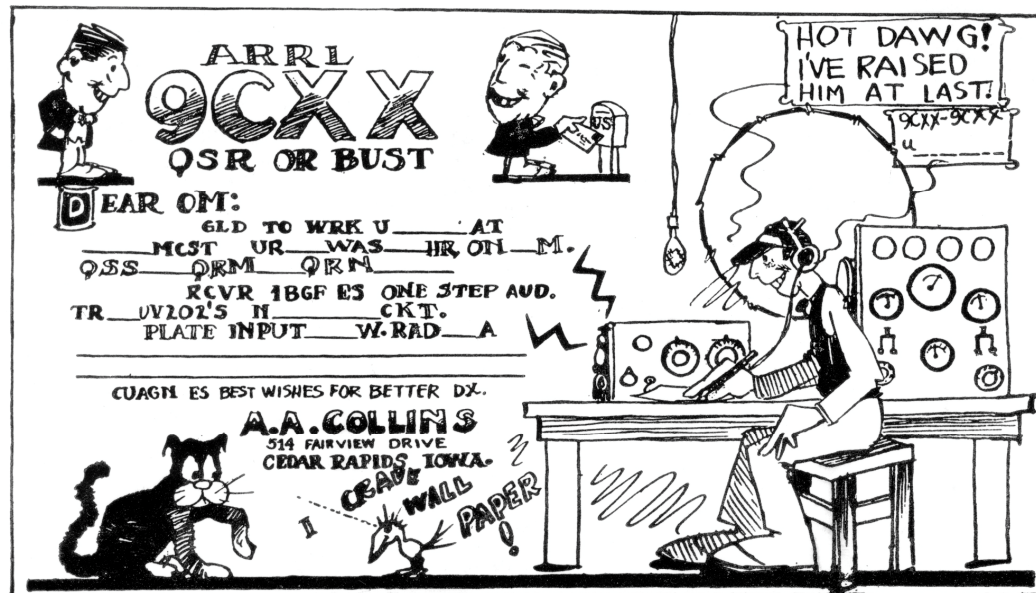


W0CXX

COLLINS
AMATEUR
RADIO CLUB
Cedar Rapids, Iowa



Rockwell Avionics & Communications
Collins



Sep. 1989 – Second CARC Station, NOCXX,



MARS Operations

- **Fall 1990**, Desert Shield & Desert Storm
- CARC Granted access to Comm Central Assets for Phone Patches. MCI donated Long Distance Toll Charges
- Organized by Vern Garman, K0EGA; Bob Lee, WB0UL; & Rod Blocksome, K0DAS
- USAF Call Sign: AFC3RI
- In 9-months: 5,000 phone patches & 1,400 volunteer hours by CARC members

MARS Operations

- **1991/2**, Operation Fuertes in Honduras
- In 7-months: 6,400 phone patches & 900 volunteer hours by CARC members
- **Nov. 1992**, CARC transferred to Navy MARS
- Navy Call Sign: NNNORRC
- Phone Patches to ~170 Navy Ships in the Persian Gulf and Mediterranean Sea.
- As of Dec. 15, 1993 – 7,500 phone patches & 1,200 volunteer hours by CARC members

MARS Operations

- **April 16, 1993** – Governor Terry Branstad presented prestigious Iowa State Award to CARC for volunteer work in MARS programs.
- Governor Branstad and the CARC volunteers photograph taken in Cedar Rapids

State of Iowa



Governor's Volunteer Award

1993

I, Terry E. Branstad, Governor, acknowledge and applaud

Rockwell-Collins Communications Central

for outstanding service to the State of Iowa



Terry E. Branstad
TERRY E. BRANSTAD
GOVERNOR



oto #4

Standing, left to right

Dan Zillman, Tim Busch, Bob Ruthorford, Mark Kovalan, Bill Bell, Gov Branstad, Mike Krenz, Dan Veerhusen, Lee Johnson, Alan Bechtold, Darrell Berg, Jim Nickum

Sitting, left to right



Joe Culwell, Rod Blocksom, Bryan McCoy, Bob Lee, Joel Walker, Vern Garman, Tom Vinson

The Big “Oops”

- On August 2, 2000 the N0CXX Club Station in Building 112 Catches Fire !
- Caused by a shorted pilot lamp holder that did not blow the line fuse in the CDE Rotator Control Box.
- Ignited the papers on Cork Bulletin Board
- Fortunately this event did not “kill” the club

STREET DRIVE: C.R. neighborhood with a harmonious blend, 8-9B

The Thursday Gazette

TODAY	FRIDAY
	
Partly cloudy Wind: E 3-7	Partly sunny Wind: SE 5-10
High 80 Low 61	High 83 Low 71

Weather Report, 12E  Latest forecasts online
<http://www.kcrg.com>

AUG. 3, 2000

THE NEWSPAPER OF EASTERN IOWA

AN EDITION OF GAZETTE COMMUNICATIONS

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 50 CENTS

Rockwell Collins building damaged

Cedar Rapids firefighters battle a blaze on the roof a Rockwell Collins engineering laboratory building in the company's complex along Blairs Ferry Road NE. Firefighters responded to Building 112 around 8:30 last night, and the fire was extinguished about an hour later. There were no injuries. The fire was caused by an electrical equipment failure. Story, 1B.

Gazette photo by Brian Ray

Fire damages laboratory building at C.R. Rockwell Collins complex

Company representative believes building could be open for work today

By Frank Gluck

Gazette staff writer

CEDAR RAPIDS — A two-alarm fire last night damaged an engineering laboratory building at the Rockwell Collins complex in northeast Cedar Rapids.

About 20 firefighters responded to Building 112, located between Blairs Ferry and Collins roads, around 8:30 last night. The fire was extinguished about an hour later.

Nancy Glass, spokeswoman for Rockwell Collins, said the four to six maintenance workers, who were in-

side the building when the fire alarm sounded, were evacuated without injury.

"It's not a building that has many people in it after hours," she said.

Firefighters on the scene appeared to be concentrating their efforts on the roof, and ventilation fans were airing out the building. No chemicals were related to or affected by the fire, Glass said.

Glass was unsure if the building would be open today.

"By the looks of it, it (the fire) was contained to a small area," she said. "So, my best estimate is that, for the most part, the building will be open."

The fire started when a piece of electrical equipment failed and ignited combustible material in a radio room, the Fire Department reported late last

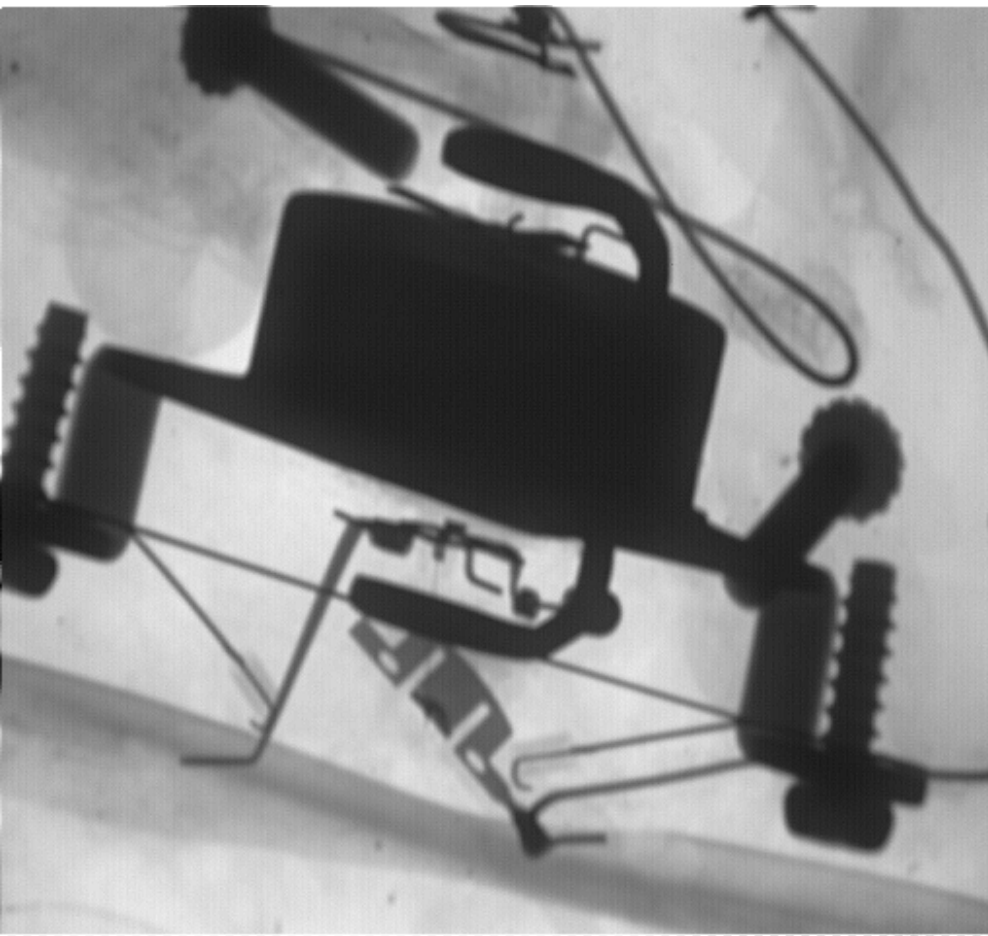
night. The fire traveled to the ceiling level, causing a skylight to fall and letting the heat and smoke escape, department spokesman Dave Koch said. The ventilation of the heat helped reduce the damage caused by the fire, he said. A damage estimate was not available.

There were no injuries.

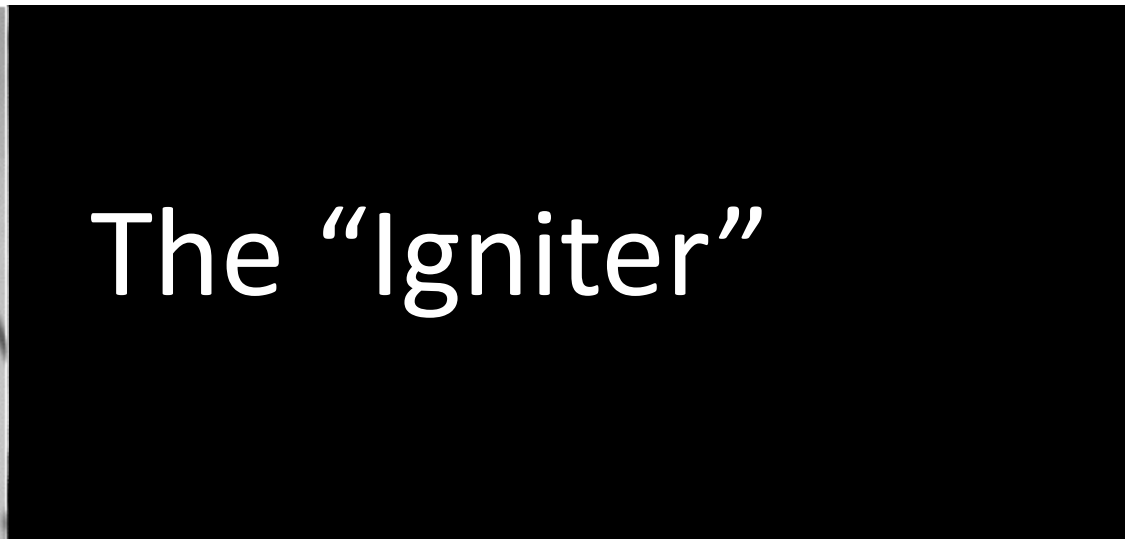
In February, a small explosion and chemical spill prompted the evacuation of two buildings. After accounting for seven workers in the immediate area of the blast, firefighters evacuated 110 employees from an adjoining building as a precaution. No fire followed that explosion and there were no injuries.

Contact writer Frank Gluck at (319) 398-8310 or frankg@fjiowa.com

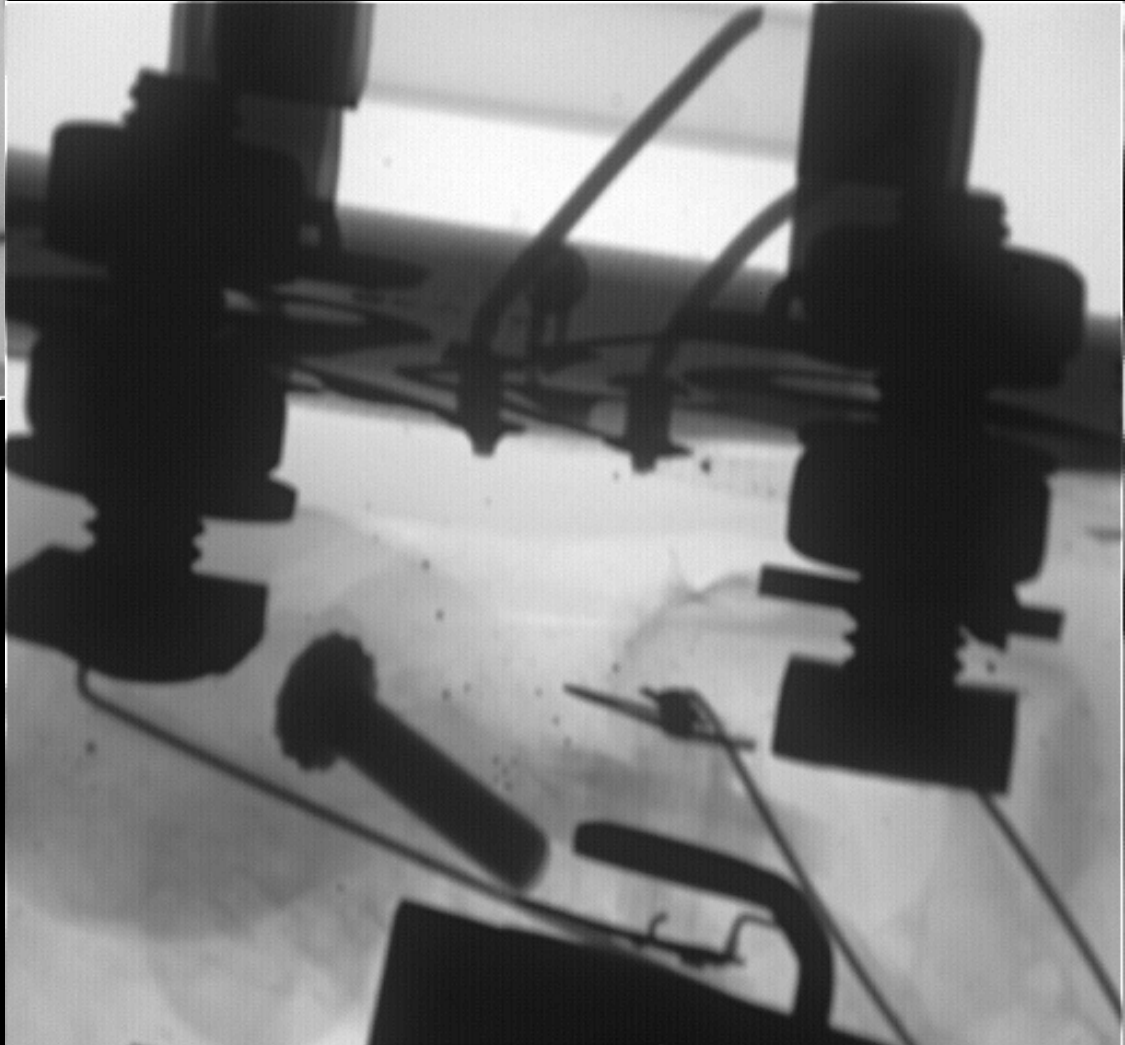
Aug. 2000 – CARC Suffers Embarrassing Publicity



X-Rays of the CDE
Rotator Control
Meter & Pilot
Light



The "Igniter"



CARC Events & Activities



11:17

2003 – Joe Spinks, AA0KW, Special Event Op



2005 – SSB Sweepstakes at Comm Central



The First "NO Hamfest"
Sponsored by CARC - 2008



Kids Visit NOCXX- April 2008



Kids Visit NOCXX- April 2008

WØCXX

Collins Amateur Radio Club
Cedar Rapids, Iowa



50 Years Collins S/Line

NØCXX

Collins Amateur Radio Club
Cedar Rapids, Iowa



50 Years Collins S/Line

W5ROK

Collins Amateur Radio Club
Richardson, Texas



50 Years Collins S/Line

W6CXX

Collins Amateur Radio Club
Tustin, California



50 Years Collins S/Line

Portable CARC Stations

- 2002 – W0CXX/MM near Howland Island
- 2002 – T30CXX on Tarawa Atoll
- 2006 – W0CXX/MM, Howland – 2nd Time
- 2006 – T30CXX, Tarawa - again
- 2008 – T32CXX on Christmas Island
- 2017 – W0CXX/MM, Howland – 3rd Time

WØCXX/MM

Collins ARC
R/V Davidson
Pacific Ocean



The Collins ARC operated aboard the Research Vessel Davidson Mar. 12 to Apr. 29, 2002 while conducting a deep ocean sonar search for Amelia Earhart's airplane. Club member Rod Blocksom, K0DAS and Station Trustee Tom Vinson, NY0V operated an IC-706MKIIG, AT-4, and a 75-foot sloping long-wire antenna secured to the top of the aft mast. This photo was taken during the search near Howland Island in the Central Pacific.

Confirming QSO with	Day	Month	Year
UTC	MHz	RST	Mode 2-Way

The CARC Station
Went to Sea in
2002 with Tom
and Rod aboard
the R/V Davidson
for 2 months



T30CXX

Tarawa
Rep. Kiribati

Tarawa in
2002

Again on
Tarawa in 2006



T30CXX

Tarawa
Republic of Kiribati

W0CXX/MM on the R/V Mt. Mitchell - 2006



T30CXX on Tarawa - 2006

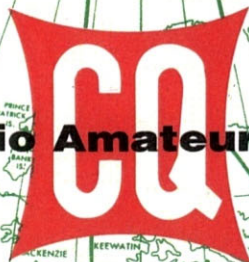


The Editors of

2008

The Radio Amateur's Journal

2008



Take pleasure in awarding this Certificate of Merit to

T32CXX

In recognition of the achievement of winning the
WORLD-WIDE DX CONTEST

for the **1ST PLACE SSB MULTI-SINGLE** division for
EAST KIRIBATI (LINE ISLANDS)

A total score of **641,170** points was computed on the basis
of Zones, Countries and Stations worked. In witness of this achievement,
we hereby affix our signatures.

#8 OCEANIA
OPS: NY0V KODAS

Robert Cox, K3EST

Contest Director

D.S. Wooten, W2VU

Editor

Preserving CARC History

- Complete Scanning All Newsletters to PDF
- Collect & Scan Photos of Events, People, and Stations
- Post on the CARC Web Site
- Other Ideas ?

Questions ?

Comments ?

Other CARC Stories ?