



BEARS Newsletter

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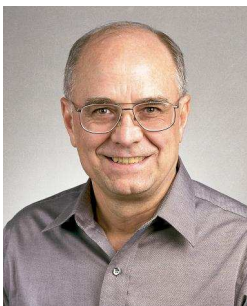
September Meeting to Feature the Presentation: “Key Technology Advances at Collins Radio”

**Membership Meeting Monday September 21st 2009,
Building 111, Room 110A 5:00 pm *SHARP* !**

This presentation focuses on contributions made to communications technology by the Collins Radio Company, from the first HF transmitter Art Collins designed through the many satellite, military and broadcast developments the company became famous for. (It will not be a presentation on the Collins Amateur Radio Product Line.)

Rod Blocksome of Rockwell Collins – Cedar Rapids, will give his presentation via Webex and Telcon Conference Call.

Rod is a Senior Systems Engineer - recently completing 41 years with Rockwell Collins Government Systems in Cedar Rapids. He holds a BSEE 1968 and MSEE 1974 - both from Kansas State University. He spent four years in the USAF as a communications electronics officer. He has designed and/or managed design teams for RF transmitters spanning 0.45 to 2000 MHz and from 10 to 45,000 Watts.



He has been an amateur radio operator for 49 years and has operated all bands from 1.8 to 2,304 MHz. He has also operated as K0DAS/KH6, K0DAS/KH2, VK2IHY, T30CXX, and T32DAS.

He has authored numerous papers on radio communications as well as the RF power amplifier chapter in *Single-Sideband Circuits and Systems* published by McGraw-Hill.

He also has two papers published in *Classic Works in RF Engineering*, published by Artech House. He holds one US patent and was honored as Rockwell Collins Corporate Engineer of the Year in 2002.

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Upcoming Events:

**October Membership Meeting:
19 October 2009**

**Cliff Ahrens, ARRL Midwest Division
Vice-Director**

Halloween Hamfest: 31 October 2009

BEARS Weekly Two Meter Net
147.060 MHz + 600 kHz

PL 141.3 Hz
Sunday 9:00 pm

The BEARS Repeaters Are Located In Building 270
At The Intersection Of I-270 And McDonnell Blvd.

Join us next Sunday!

Rotator Illuminator

By: Joe Duerbusch K0BX

I have had my Hygain (CDE) Ham III Rotor since 1976. The rotor and control box has work well and except for a broken ring gear it hasn't missed a lick.

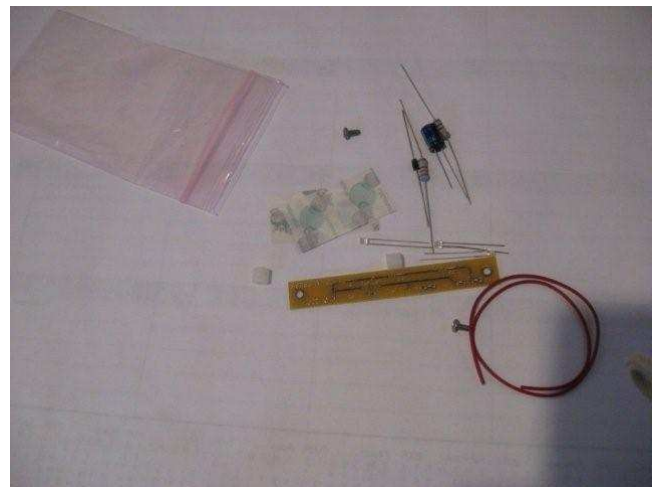
The meter lamp in my box is a 28VDC #1819 Bayonet bulb. This bulb gives enough light but was prone to failure after a few years. It is getting harder and harder to find this bulb. Hygain changed this bulb to a lower current #1818 when it went to the black plastic box used for the Ham IV and Tailtwister Rotors. The #1819 bulb produced too much heat and melted the plastic above it. The #1818 bulb just didn't produce enough light for me to read the meter in my shack.

A year or two ago, I tried a replacement LED bulb but it was too dim. So at Dayton 2008 I went by the Idiom Press booth and they were showing a new product called the "Rotator Illuminator". This product is a kit of parts; circuit board, resistors, diode, capacitor and 3 LED's. Once put together the assembled circuit board replaces the 28VAC bulb in the control box. I finally ordered the kit in October 2008 at a cost of \$10.95 postpaid.

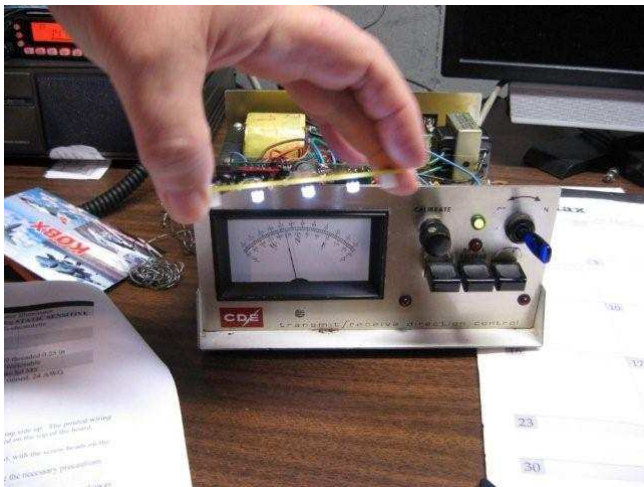
Here is a picture of my control box before modification. You will note that the meter is well lit with the #1819 bulb. It maybe a bit too bright in the center.



The kit arrived and you can see the number of parts. Not many but a nice little circuit board to mount everything on:



This picture is the assembled board with power applied before installing it in the box. The LED's are mounted so they shine downwards on the top of the meter.



Well how does it work?? You can see from the picture that the meter is well lit and gives a softer light across the meter. It is more a 'white' VS 'yellow' light.



My thoughts is that I prefer more light than the LCD's put out but the meter is easier to read than the old bulb. I am going to keep it! What's more, for \$10.95, I sure can change my mind and not be out much money.

18th Annual HALLOWEEN HAMFEST

Saturday October 31, 2009
Kirkwood Community Center
111 S Geyer Road Kirkwood, MO

7:30 A.M. to noon
(Main prize drawing at noon)

Talk in 147.75/147.15
Thanks to Southwestern Bell Radio
Club

ICBM Coordinates:
38.34.848N by 090.25.004W

- Free Parking
- 2 rooms of vendors and swap tables
- Hourly Door Prizes
- VE Exams

Over 1000 in attendances for
2008! 100 tables sold in 2008!