ARRL Historical Committee
Report to the ARRL Board of Directors
July, 2024 – Dave Propper, K2DP – Chair

1. Committee Meetings – The committee met in person at the January 2024 Board Meeting and has met every 4-6 weeks via MS Teams since that time. The committee will meet again in person in the Tuska Conference Room at HQ on Thursday, July 18th, prior to the July 2024 ARRL Board of Directors meeting.
2. Committee Membership and Adjunct Volunteers – There has been no change to the membership of this Committee with the exception of ARRL Staff Liaison.
3. **ARRL Staff Liaison to the Committee** – With the recent retirement of Bob Naumann, ARRL Director of Operations, who has served as the Staff Liaison to the Historical Committee, no replacement for the Staff Liaison position has been named by the ARRL Executive team. ***This has made it difficult for the Committee to work through several different issues requiring ARRL Staff support.***
4. Committee Tasks – the committee remains committed to its objectives as previously noted:
   a. Document and preserve the history of the ARRL
   b. Document and preserve the history of Amateur Radio
   c. Document and preserve the history of radio communications through Amateur Radio and the technological developments attributed to Amateur Radio
   d. Document and preserve the history of Amateur Radio equipment manufacturers and their contributions to the development of radio communications technology
   e. **Make as much of this information available to all ARRL members through an "on-line" Virtual Museum**
5. ARRL Historical Collection Status
   a. Collection Inventory Evaluations –
      i. Our on – site volunteers continue to assess the contents of the collection and identify artifacts which are either duplicative, excess or not-relevant to the ARRL Historical Collection
   b. HQ Lobby Display –
      i. There have been no changes made to the display since the Summer 2023.

6. ARRL Virtual Museum Software and Web URL's –

    a. Virtual Museum – ***The "data base" for the virtual museum resides in the "CatalogIt" cloud and has been ready for public release and viewing since the January 2024 Board of Directors meeting.*** This was formally noted and addressed at the January 2024 Board meeting. To date, an additional 1100 plus entries have been uploaded to the database, bringing the total number of items available in the data base to more than 2800.

    b. Virtual Museum Naming – The ARRL staff (Bob Inderbitzen and David Minster) had requested the ability to review the "naming" of the virtual museum prior to taking it "live" on the ARRL website. The three options listed below were provided in writing via e-mail to the ARRL Executive Staff as requested on January 18th. To date, no direction has been received from the Executive Staff.

        i.   ARRL History Museum
        ii.   ARRL Research Library
        iii.   ARRL Virtual Museum

    c. Web Based Access to the Virtual Museum – The Virtual Museum has been ready for BETA testing and release to the ARRL website since December 2023. A "HUB" script (code) has been written to link the CatalogIt / Historical Committee Virtual Museum to the ARRL website. ***The ARRL Historical Committee and Staff Liaison requested in December 2023, that the ARRL IT group establish this link (a button on the ARRL home web page) to allow our membership to begin to access the virtual museum.*** The release of the "Virtual Museum" for ARRL Membership use was addressed at the January Board Meeting by Director Scott Yonally, N8SY. Director Yonally posed the question to CEO Minster as to what level of effort (time) would be required to link the Virtual Museum to the ARRL website. CEO Minster responded by stating that it was simply a "one hour" task. ***Unfortunately, this task has not been addressed as of the writing of this report by the Committee Chairman.***

7. Progress on the projects planned for the 1st half of 2024

    a. Continue and complete inventory reconciliation of ARRL historical collection including, equipment, historical artifacts, books and other documentation – ***Work continues but is not completed.***

    b. Continue the uploading of photographic documentation of amateur radio equipment to the Museum CatalogIt data base. ***An additional 1100 plus items were added to the museum data base between January and June 2024, bringing the total number of cataloged items to 2800 plus.***

    c. Photograph the pertinent equipment, artifacts and documentation from the ARRL collection to be displayed on the Virtual Museum website. Harold Kraemer, WJ1B, is working on this project which can be done simply with a Smart Phone Camera and a table top "photo studio" – work continues on this project

        i.   Convert relevant books and documentation to pdf format for access through the Virtual Museum website
        ii.   Populate the Virtual Museum software data base with the graphic, text and pdf files

    d. Curate the museum collection - Work continues to "fine tune" the collection. Additionally, the committee is working with ARRL Director of Development,

Kevin Beal, K8EAL, to coordinate the evaluation and assessment of donations to ARRL which include collections of amateur radio equipment. This assessment is focused on those pieces of equipment which would be pertinent to the ARRL Historical Collection, as opposed to those contributed for the purpose of sale through auction with the proceeds going to the ARRL.

8. Planned activites for first half of 2024
   a. Select a name for the ARRL Virtual Museum – ***awaiting response from ARRL Executive Staff***
      i. "Radio Alpha" had been proposed
   b. Take the "museum" live in BETA test mode – ***awaiting support from ARRL IT Staff (see previous note)***
      i. Requires a link to the museum to be created on the ARRL home web page
   c. Continue to upload additional artifacts to the virtual museum **– *1100 additional items added to the data base between January and June 2024***
   d. Continue to seek additional sources of digital photographic material to support the museum (ie: Collins, Hammarlund, Eldico, Drake, etc) – in work
   e. Continue to work with the Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of Connecticut to pare down the physical inventory of the ARRL Collection – in work
   f. Add "History of ARRL" Section to the Virtual Museum – no progress made
9. Current Committee Roster

ARRL Historical Committee Membership - 07/04/24					
first name	**last name**	**call**	**ARRL position**	**e-mail**	**Status**
Rod	Blocksome	KØDAS	former Chair	rod.blocksome@gmail.com	active
Tom	Brooks	KE1R	volunteer	tbrooks.ct@gmail.com	active
Harold	Kramer	WJ1B	volunteer	wj1b@arrl.net	active
Carl	Luetzelschwab	K9LA	Director Central Div	k9la@arrl.org	active
tbd	**tbd**	**tbd**	**ARRL Staff Liaison**	**tbd**	**vacant**
Lynn	Nelson	WØND	Vice Director Dakota Div	w0nd@arrl.org	active
Dick	Norton	N6AA	Director Southwestern Div	richardjnorton@yahoo.com	active
George	Papp	K1YBO	volunteer	gpapp@snet.net	active
Chuck	Penson	WA7ZZE	volunteer	wa7zze@gmail.com	active
Dave	Propper	K2DP	Chair - Vice Director Midwest Div	k2dp@arrl.org	active