ARRL Historical Committee
Report to the ARRL Board of Directors – Rev. A
January 2023 – Dave Propper, K2DP – Chair

1. Committee Meetings – The committee met in person at the July 2022 Board Meeting and has met monthly via ZOOM since that time. The committee will meet again in person on Thursday, January 19th, prior to the ARRL Board of Directors meeting.
2. Committee Membership –
   a. Ed Hare, W1RFI, has transitioned off of the Historical Committee as our Staff Liaison, in preparation for his departure from the ARRL later in 2023. The Committee thanks Ed for his many years of service to the Historical Committee and wishes him the best for the future.
   b. Bob Naumann, W5OV, ARRL Director of Operations, has replaced Ed Hare, W1RFI, as the ARRL Staff Liaison to the Historical Committee.
3. 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**
4. ARRL Historical Collection Status
   a. There are approximately 1700 items documented in the ARRL Historical Collection inventory data base that was created some years prior. It is not known at this time how accurately this inventory reflects the collection of equipment, documentation and artifacts currently found at ARRL HQ.
   b. The collection exists in multiple locations throughout the ARRL HQ building and the W1AW building.
      i. ARRL HQ Lobby Displays
      ii. ARRL HQ Building hallway displays
      iii. ARRL offices – some artifacts are currently on display or stored in the offices of employees
      iv. ARRL storage room (unprotected, dusty, dirty, etc), aka "the attic"
      v. W1AW building
   c. Inventory reconciliation – ARRL Volunteers Tom Brooks, KE1R and Georg Papp, K1YBO, have begun to work on the inventory cleanup and

reconciliation of the inventory data base with the equipment, documentation and artifacts at ARRL HQ. Tasks at hand are:

      i. Identify where the inventory is located
      ii. Identify duplicate inventory and prepare list of potential excess inventory for de-accession
      iii. Determine and document the physical and functional condition of each artifact
      iv. Identify inventory by category, ie: parts, components, equipment, artifacts and documentation
      v. Preparation for creating the photographic and scanned images required for the ARRL Historical Virtual Museum web pages

    d. Purchase of additional shelving to support the organization of the ARRL Historical Collection inventory was requested in Q1 - 2022 by ARRL Staff. Funding of $1200 was approved by the Administration and Finance Committee at their July 2022 meeting. *However, the new ARRL Building Manager has identified excess shelving units that will be made available to the Historical Collection and provided as needed. The Administration and Finance Committee has been advised that the $1200 allocated in 2022 for shelving will no longer be required and funding returned to the ARRL general fund.*

5. ARRL Virtual Museum Software and Web URL's
    a. Additional software candidates have been reviewed resulting in the identification and selection of a more modern software package, "CatalogIt", when compared with the software initially purchased twenty years ago by ARRL (PastPerfect). The CatalogIt software is smartly written, powerful, intuitive and written for the mobile internet environment which we have today. Acquisition of this software is pending further evaluation of the digital source material ARRL has used previously to produce a variety of publications highlighting vintage amateur radio equipment. (reference item 8 below)

6. Historical Collection – Accession Process and Status
    a. Harvey Wells Collection of Hamilton Agnew, K4HKA – This collection has been received at ARRL HQ and is presently being evaluated and assessed by ARRL Staff and the Historical Committee Volunteers.
    b. Heathkit SB-100 Prototype Unit – A donation of an engineering model prototype has been donated to the ARRL Historical Collection by Cliff , W8SKQ and Joe, WD8CAT, Nazelli.
    c. Collins 75A-4/32V-3 station donated by Paul Horenstein, K2PH
      i. This equipment was brought to the W1AW station building in July 2022 for display. However, electrical problems with the receiver has mandated that the equipment be returned to the ARRL lab for repair. No further progress has been made on this equipment to date.
    d. Heathkit Digital Collection – Chuck Penson, WA7ZZE, has offered to donate and make available to the ARRL Historical Collection, his "digital" data of Heathkit Amateur Radio Products used to produce his "Heathkit" compendium.

7. Progress on the projects planned for the 2nd half of 2022
    a. Select and purchase Virtual Museum Software – ***alternate and more modern software has been identified (CatalogIt) – see item 5 above***

b. Complete inventory reconciliation of ARRL historical collection including, equipment, historical artifacts, books and other documentation – ***Bob Naumann, Staff Liaison to the Committee reports that ARRL Volunteers Tom Brooks, KE1R and Georg Papp, K1YBO have made good progress on inventory clean up in the "attic" and have found an inventory record that was not previously identified, which will assist in the updating and cataloging of the ARRL Historical Collection.***

c. Complete accession of the Hamilton Agnew "Harvey Wells " collection - ***completed***

d. Begin creation of the ARRL Historical Collection Virtual Museum : ***progress to date includes identification of modern software and beginning to identify digital files of photos of vintage equipment which ARRL has used in previous publications. Access to these files for the virtual museum would greatly reduce the need to photograph equipment currently in the ARRL collection. (see item 8 below)***

    i. Photograph the pertinent equipment to be displayed on the Virtual Museum website

    ii. Convert relevant books and documentation to pdf format for access through the Virtual Museum website

    iii. Populate the Virtual Museum software data base with the graphic, text and pdf files created in items "i" and "ii" above

    iv. Curate the museum collection and select equipment and artifacts for display in the HQ lobby museum area and the rotation of those items

8. Alternative Path to development of Digital data for the "ARRL Historical Collection Virtual Museum"

    a. Due to the lack of resources, the committee has sought an alternative path to creating the "digital" data files (photographs, etc) required for the Virtual Museum project

    b. As previously mentioned, Chuck Penson, WA7ZZE, has generously offered the use of his "data set" for the Heathkit Amateur Radio product line

    c. Numerous previous ARRL Publications have contained excellent photographs of vintage equipment, leading the committee to determine whether this "data set" could be used to support the ARRL Virtual Museum.

        i. The question of copyright ownership is key to the access of the data from these publications, which are authored by various individuals, but published by ARRL.

        ii. The question of who actually owns "the rights to this data" was posed to ARRL CEO, David Minster, NA2AA in early September, 2022. Due to numerous pressing issues of a higher priority, CEO Minster has been unable to evaluate and review the relevant contractual data. In December, 2022, CEO Minster assigned this task to Bob Naumann, W5OV, ARRL Director of Operations.

        iii. *The key issue here is why would the Historical Committee want to expend the resources to photograph equipment for which the ARRL already has access to and may own the data rights to existing photographs in either analog or digital format, which could be used to support the Historical Collection Virtual Museum project ?*

10. Current Committee Roster

first name	last name	call	ARRL position	e-mail	Status
			ARRL Historical Committee Membership - 12/29/22		
Rod	Blocksome	KØDAS	former Chair	rod.blocksome@gmail.com	active
Tom	Brooks	KE1R	volunteer	tbrooks.ct@gmail.com	active
William	Hudzik	W2UDT	volunteer	whudzik@comcast.net	active
Carl	Luetzelschwab	K9LA	Director Central Div	k9la@arrl.org	active
Bob	Naumann	W5OV	Director of Operations - Staff Liaison	w5ov@arrl.org	active
Lynn	Nelson	WØND	Vice Director Dakota Div	w0nd@arrl.org	active
Dick	Norton	N6AA	Director Southwestern Div	richardjnorton@yahoo.com	active
Chuck	Penson	WA7ZZE	volunteer	wa7zze@gmail.com	active
Dave	Propper	K2DP	Chair - Vice Director Midwest Div	k2dp@arrl.org	active

Note: Ed Hare, W1RFI, has transitioned from his position as ARRL Staff Liaison to the Historical Committee as of September 2022.

Note: Georg Papp, K1YBO, has also recently volunteered to work with Tom Brooks on the inventory reconciliation project.