

Historical Committee Report

July 2016

The Historical Committee has been considering the creation of a "virtual ARRL Historical Museum" on the web. Harold Kramer, WJ1B, submitted to the Administration and Finance Committee a proposal to create such a presence on the web upon his retirement. The A&F declined to recommend going forward with it but asked the Historical Committee to look at a scaled back, less costly implementation of the idea. We have a basic plan which utilizes volunteer labor and summarizes benefits to ARRL versus initial costs. This plan will be presented to A&F at its next meeting July 14, 2016.

Significant ARRL historical preservation and display work continue at ARRL Headquarter under the leadership of Bob Allison, WB1GCM and Michael Marinaro, WN1M and several additional volunteers contributing. The committee is consulted and kept informed of their work via email. The following detailed report of their activities was prepared by Michael Marinaro.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rod Blocksome, K0DAS, Chair
Tom Frenaye, K1KI
Dick Norton, N6AA
Bob Allison, WB1GCM, Staff Liaison
Michael Marinaro, WN1M

HISTORICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES AT HEADQUARTERS FIRST HALF OF 2016

The period is marked by a slowing pace in accomplishments as the HQ team has adjusted to the imposition of revised procedures, diminishment in assistance and delay in acceptance of a critical proposal.

The Team

The Historical Committee team at Headquarters presently consists of three principal core members – Bob Allison, WB1GCM Assistant Laboratory Manager who is liaison to the Committee and a member of the Committee: Michael Marinaro, WN1M volunteer acting as Historian, Archivist and Curator and a member of the Committee; Jonathan Allen, K2KKH/1 volunteer acting as custodian of the Museum equipment and Archivist; and Pete Turbide, W1PT volunteer technical restorer and maintainer of the Museum equipment. There are several occasional participants but these are the consistent members. Organizationally Allison and Marinaro inform the CEO and Committee chairperson of their activities and interact directly with department managers to accomplish the prescribed objectives of the team on behalf of the Committee. The team aggressively pursues recruits as succession, continuance and knowledge of the activities is of concern.

On Going Projects

The following activities are being conducted on a continuous basis:

- a. Maintenance of the Document Archives - original *Word* and new *Access* systems.
Secretary Minutes - 8 file drawers
Word programmed - 139 file drawers
Access programmed (Phase I) - 462 individual files
- b. Creation and maintenance of an archive of Executive Correspondence and Reports.
Access programmed (Phase II) - 140 archival boxes
- c. Maintenance of the photographic negative, slide, video & film collections.
- d. Maintenance of the Vintage Technical Library of over 640 *Excel* recorded books and pamphlets.
- e. Lobby Exhibit - We are continuing the sixth consecutive display - the Collins KWM-1 and contrasting KWM-2 transceivers. The seventh display, which will be mounted midsummer, has been prepared and will consist of the first Heathkit amateur products - the AT-1 transmitter and AR-2 receiver.
- f. The equipment exhibits and operating stations in the Laboratory area.
- g. Identification, classification and preliminary cataloging of the Museum equipment collection. Over 1,400 individual items have been recorded in a *EXCEL* database

Priority Projects

These activities are in progress and require attention and support:

Executive Correspondence - Phase II database

Organizing the correspondence and report files of the CEO office principally the accumulated correspondence of CEO's; Directors; and staff members - extending into the sixties. The accumulation includes a number of years of general correspondence, files maintained by individual managers, records and reports, Board minutes...etc. resulting in over 1500 *Access* data base entries occupying 140 archival boxes; 12 fireproof file cabinet drawers and a safe.

The cataloging of the principal portion of this collection has been completed. The following remains to be done:

1. Action on proposal for reorganization of the headquarters building warehouse to accommodate an additional, 40 plus archival boxes currently filled but not shelved. Proposal submitted to CFO.
2. Action on proposal to reorganize the CEO conference room record storage. Proposal will be submitted to the CEO.

3. Obtain guidance regarding the disposition of the considerable accumulation of ITU and IARU material which has not been cataloged yet. Some material has been cataloged in the process of the correspondence cataloging but the contents of a storage area, partially dedicated to this material, has not been organized or listed.
4. Obtain the commitment of employees to aid in moving boxes about in the conduct of activities.

Museum Collection

The initial effort to dispose of 35 items of excess telegraph equipment on Ebay was not successful. There is unusual competition with a large amount of this equipment being auctioned and our items are not particularly unique. Four major dealers who were advised of the offering in advance made no individual overtures.

We are temporarily suspending the online auction approach and considering several alternative methods to propose to the Committee and CEO including donating to Civil War enactors for use at encampments.

Period Accomplishments

The team curated the new CEO conference room with displays. Included are arrangements of artifacts and several pieces of vintage equipment.

Another historical article, this one concerning the *Maxim Logs*, has been rejected by QST. The article has been placed in the Historian Drop Box. Methods of presenting the piece on the website are being considered.

In the course of activities, the following discoveries of historical significance were made:

- First edition, signed copy of Clinton D. DeSoto - *Two Hundred Meters and Down*.
- Ledger maintained by K.B. Warner containing *Original ARRL Constitution* of Feb. 28, 1917; revisions and amendments to Dec. 18, 1923 and printed pamphlets of the *Constitution and ByLaws* through July 1, 1954.
- Six envelopes of records of the QST publishing Co.
- Four different circular slide rule calculators from Radio Amateurs library of 1935.

Contemplated Future Projects

a. Improvement of the equipment displays in the laboratory area. These areas which are viewed by almost all HQ visitors require modernized lighting and shelving. Proposal to be prepared.

b. Preparation of a master directory of the archival, library, and vintage equipment data bases maintained by the Archivist and laboratory staff. The intent is to consolidate these programs, now on several internal systems, and make them accessible to staff. Proposal to be prepared for IT assistance.

c. Establish a web page, within the existing Technical and Laboratory section. This "Historical Corner" to be sponsored by the Committee to showcase historical activities, events, findings, equipment, articles and presentations. The current drop box contents would initially fuel this endeavor. Initial steps have been taken and a formal proposal is being prepared.

Michael Marinaro & Bob Allison
June 28, 2016