

REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE
January 2015

The Historical Committee is responsible for facilitating necessary support and resources to the “hands on” volunteers at HQ actually engaged in preserving our historical documents and articles. Additionally, the committee is charged with keeping the Board aware of their activities. The simple fact is that for the foreseeable future this work must be done on site by those volunteers able to be physically present.

We believe the best way to inform the Board of the historical preservation and presentation activities at ARRL is to include the attached Joint Report of Michael Marinaro, WN1M and Bob Allison, WB1GCM, the leaders of the ARRL Historical Collections Data & Hardware Groups outlining their activities since the ARRL Centennial Convention. We are indebted to Mike and Bob along with Jonathan Allen, K2KKH, and Pete Turbide, W1PT, the volunteers that assist them in preserving our heritage.

One item of note: “The ARRL Library: A New Online Resource” as announced in the January 2015 QST includes an oral history component that appears to overlap the previously approved Historical Committee Memoir Project. It isn’t clear from the article whether the ARRL Online Library Historical Records effort is merely intended to afford members an opportunity to reminisce and record recollections or has an additional purpose. We note that according to the article “(c)omplete information on how to submit information for consideration will be on the ARRL Library site.” We hope the Historical Committee and the Public Relations Department could collaborate on in developing a approach that will enhance this opportunity for members and also add to our historical knowledge.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Bellows, KØQB, Chair
Tom Frenaye, K1KI
Dick Norton, N6AA
Rod Blocksome, KØDAS
Michael Marinaro, WN1M
Bob Allison, WB1GCM

2014 POST CONVENTION ACTIVITIES – PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF ARRL HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

JOINT REPORT OF DATA & HARDWARE GROUPS

Our 2014 Successes:

Rescue of the Vintage (Museum) equipment
Convention Exhibits
Lobby League History Slide Presentation
Deaccession of the K5VT Collection to AWA
Rehab of Oscar One display
Professional Archiving

Vintage Equipment

All boxed items from the warehouses have been moved to the newly established Cage #2 area.

Approximately 75% of items have been removed from their storage boxes and shelved.

Paper items and photos have been archived in the Phase1 system.

A computer work station has been installed and a preliminary inventory record established.

A traveling processing/work order plan has been devised to follow the equipment through the identification/diagnosis/disposition/inventory steps. Some equipment has already been moved to the Lab for examination and processing.

Lobby Display

The Convention exhibit of equipment has been removed.

We have retained one table on which to display a piece of equipment from our collections.

This display is accompanied by informational signs and an explanatory book.

We intend to rotate this exhibit every six weeks.

The current display is of a superb Hallicrafters WWII Model SX28 receiver.

Next display will be of a rare Cosmophone Model 35 transceiver (one of first transceivers).

Archiving

Phase1 system...This new system of archiving using Microsoft *ACCESS* is growing rapidly with over 600 entries. In many tests the “finding” ability of the system is excellent permitting the rapid retrieval of information. The system is being expanded to six cabinets with the addition of three more file cabinets. Archival boxes have been added to this system to house large paper objects such as photographs and certificates.

Phase 2 (Executive Suite) system...also growing with over 500 entries. The 64 volumes of Secretary Minutes have been cataloged and stored. 9 books of Directors Letters have been cataloged. Some 12 binders of IN-News Reports are in process of cataloging and storage in archival boxes. Miscellaneous ITU publications have also been cataloged and shelved. We are studying the feasibility of scanning our collection of 50-60's QST B&W photo prints and separately a major conversion of the original archives from the inadequate WORD format to ACCESS data base format.

Other Projects

The Memoir Project (written format) approved by the Historical Committee has been temporarily shelved. An independent oral program has been initiated by the PR Department- see January 2015 QST.

The League/Radio slide presentation of 135 individual slides in *Power Point* format which was shown in the lobby during the Convention has been updated and a synchronized script prepared. The "voice over" will be applied and the completed presentation will be made available to clubs for meetings through the new on line Library and to HQ traveling presenters.

On Going Projects

In addition to those activities previously mentioned there are some two hundred 35mm slides remaining to be catalogued in their appropriate collection. These slides should be scanned and stored either in our system "My Pictures" or our established on line sites- *FLICKR* or *PICASSA* where the remainder of the collection currently reside.

Petitions

For some time we have been formally petitioning management for support in acquiring additional space in which to conduct the activities of the Data group. It was requested that a modest portion of the outer office, exterior to the current office/library area be relinquished by the IT group for the Data Group to table, examine and record material and set up a work station. The space in Cage#1 is gradually shrinking with the addition of more cabinets and archiving system boxes. The environment in the cave is not conducive to good preservation work. These requests have been approved but no action has as yet been taken.

We requested the services of a part time input clerk to assist the volunteer Historian and conduct the *ACCESS* program for document archiving. This operator would also be available to input information into the *PAST PERFECT* inventory program, on occasion, for the Hardware Group. We understand that this request has been approved and budgeted for 2015 but cannot be implemented without the additional space requested.

Volunteers

There is considerable work to be done and too few volunteers to assist. Volunteers Jonathan Allen, K2KHH, and Pete Turbide, W1PT have been of considerable assistance and should be recognized for their efforts. We believe that we have recruited another capable volunteer from the ranks of the tour guides who will join us in 2015. We have no prospects of additional volunteers at this time. Recruiting is a major mutual objective and any assistance in this regard would be appreciated. The matter of attracting and properly applying volunteers is a complex one and will be addressed in a separate writing.

QST

We see that our editorial policy is shifting away from vintage era equipment to the contemporary and away from history. Articles concerning Amateur Radio history are not receiving the editors' attention that they were. We recognize that our principals endorse and support our efforts to illuminate the League's history and heritage. We are an institution unique in that significant events and imposing personalities frame our history. Our history is a major element of the League's culture and is somewhat proprietary. What better voice for this than our own publication?

12/22/2014