

Historical Committee Report

July 2015

The Historical Committee has not met formally over the last six months. However, significant historical preservation activity at ARRL headquarters under the leadership of Bob Allison, WB1GCM, and Michael Marinaro, WN1M, has been accomplished since January. We are indebted to volunteers Jonathan Allen, K2KKH, and Peter Turbide, W1PT who give of their time and talents in this important work. Attached is a report of their activities prepared by Michael Marinaro and Bob Allison.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

HISTORICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES AT HEADQUARTERS FIRST HALF 2015

1. The following activities are being conducted on a ongoing basis:
 - a. Maintenance of the Document Archives
 - b. Maintenance of the various negative, slide, video & film collections
 - c. Maintenance of the Vintage Technical Library
 - d. Inspection & classification of the equipment in the Vintage museum collection. Over 1200 individual items located about the campus have been cataloged (on *EXCEL*).
 - e. Organizing and cataloging the correspondence and report files of the Chief Executive Office. This project has expanded in dimension to include some twenty boxes of correspondence and reports so far extending to the early 80's.

Note: Maintenance involves on-going logging and filing of documents or hardware of projects that are open-ended.

2. The lobby exhibit has received favorable comments from visitors and management. We are about to mount our fourth exhibit - two transceivers illustrating the beginning and the end of the HYBRID ERA. In September this exhibit will be succeeded by a Collins S-line which was recently donated and is being restored by volunteers working in the Lab. We consider the exhibit the threshold to the larger equipment exhibit in the lab.
3. We have established a *HISTORIAN* Dropbox to store and distribute large files of significant interest. We have downloaded two books written by Frederick A. Parsons, W2EXM, likely in the 1940's, which have been scanned. These were found in deteriorating condition in the course of

inventorying the W1AW building historical items. Each book consists of over seventy original typewritten loose leaf pages with rare original photographic prints pasted in. *WIRELESS ROAD* concerns the history of the Marconi wireless station at Cape Cod and *TALL TOWERS* is a survey of various early radio towers in the Eastern U.S. We believe the U.S. Park Service, individuals and institutions may be interested in these unique books. However, we have first offered them to our publishers for consideration and await their disposition before making them public.

4. There is renewed interest in the production of the *THE HISTORY OF W1AW* slide show with voice-over narration under the auspices of the Media and Public Relations Manager. The slides (95) and script have been prepared. The production will be offered to clubs via the on-line library system. A beta version of the Power Point presentation, without narration is being run on a monitor in the W1AW building for viewing by visitors.

5. With the intent of reorganizing the collection, we are inventorying the contents of the Technical Library maintained by the Lab.

6. The inventory of the hardware of the Vintage Museum Collection has been virtually completed. We are now in the process of identifying and listing those items that do not conform to the specified criteria for the collection. The Historical Committee will be asked to review this listing and approve our suggestions for the disposal of the nonconforming items.

We acknowledge the participation of Historical Group volunteers Jonathan Allen, K2KKH and Peter Turbide, W1PT who are of great assistance in conducting these activities.

Michael Marinaro and Bob Allison 6/16/2015

Report Addendum: The Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of Connecticut has donated equipment designed by former ARRL staffer Doug DeMaw, W1FB (SK), to ARRL Headquarters for exhibit. Doug was one of the most widely published technical writers in Amateur Radio, and was on the HQ staff from 1965 to 1983.

It's unclear just how the VRC museum of Connecticut ended up with its collection of DeMaw project prototypes. With the exception of his famous "Tuna Tin" QRP transmitter, DeMaw retained his projects (in line with the HQ custom of that era). When DeMaw died in 1997, the whereabouts of many of his construction projects was unknown.

Recently, Bob Allison, WB1GCM, spotted something that looked familiar in a box of parts at the VRCMCT. Bob instantly recognized a receiver that DeMaw had featured in a series of articles. After some digging, more boxes containing other DeMaw construction projects were discovered. Apparently, an anonymous donor at some point had dropped off the items at the museum. During an impromptu meeting conducted by Museum Director John Ellsworth, the museum board agreed that DeMaw's work belonged at ARRL Headquarters.

The equipment is currently being lightly cleaned by Pete Turbide, W1PT, and will soon be on display at the ARRL Lab for visitors to see.