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

1. Committee Meetings – The committee met in person at the July 2023 Board Meeting and has met monthly via ZOOM since that time. The committee will meet again in person on Thursday, January 18th, prior to the January 2024 ARRL Board of Directors meeting.
2. Committee Membership and Adjunct Volunteers – The "handshake" agreement with the Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of Connecticut is to fostering excellent cooperation between the ARRL Historical Committee members and the Museum's volunteers.
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. Collection Inventory Evaluations –
        i. Our on – site volunteers have been working throughout the past year to assess the contents of the collection and identify artifacts which are either duplicative, excess or not-relevant to the ARRL Historical Collection
        ii. Recently the ARRL Historical Collection donated a large quantity of antique and vintage tubes to the Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of Connecticut
    b. HQ Lobby Display –
        i. Heathkit – the Heathkit display remains "on show" in the lobby area at this time
        ii. Harvey – Wells – The Harvey Wells equipment donated by Hamilton Agnew was added to the lobby display in August and shows a complete Harvey-Wells station with accessories. This display became the focal point to the presentation given by Mr. Agnew at ARRL HQ later in August. (see additional info in this report)

5. Presentations
    a. Hamilton Agnew, K4HKA, gave a presentation on the history of the Harvey – Wells Company at ARRL HQ on August 24th. Mr. Agnew is related to the Harvey Family and has developed a very complete history of the company, the founders and the products it produced. The presentation was attended by approximately 30 guests representing both the Harvey and Wells families. The presentation was recorded and is now available for viewing on the ARRL website and will also be posted to the ARRL Virtual Museum web site.
6. ARRL Virtual Museum Software and Web URL's – ***the museum is now a reality***
    a. Virtual Museum – The "data base" for the virtual museum resides in the "CatalogIt" cloud and is currently being loaded with data by committee member, Chuck Penson, WA7ZZE.   The virtual museum was demonstrated live to the ARRL Board Members at the Thursday evening meeting as part of the July Board Meeting activies. At that time, there were just a few hundred entries in the data base. ***As of this writing , there are more than 1700 pieces of amateur radio equipment documented in the Virtual Museum.***
    b. Museum Data Sources –
        i. Chuck Penson, WA7ZZE, has given the ARRL his complete data base of Heathkit Amateur Radio Equipment and has completed the upload of all Heathkit Amateur Radio Products into the CatalogIt data base.
        ii. Joe Veras, K9OCO, has given the ARRL permission to use his complete catalog of photos of amateur radio equipment associated with his ARRL publication, "50 Years of Amateur Radio Innovation" and the associated supplement CD.
        iii. Ham and HiFi (an eBay Seller) has also provided authorization for the ARRL to utilize their photographs of equipment (particularly keys, paddles and bugs) as posted on eBAY
        iv. Committee members continue to work with other authors and publishers who have photographic inventory related to amateur radio equipment and artifacts (such as recordings of interviews with key figures in amateur radio, such as Art Collins, Bill Halligan, etc
    c. Web Based Access to the Virtual Museum – The Virtual Museum is ready to be BETA tested on the ARRL website. A "HUB" script (code) has been written to link the CatalogIt / Historical Committee Virtual Museum to the ARRL website. ***The ARRL Historical Committee has requested 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. We understand that the IT department is short handed at the moment, but we would like to move forward with this project as soon as possible.***
7. Progress on the projects planned for the 2nd half of 2023
    a. Select and purchase Virtual Museum Software (CatalogIt) – ***Completed***
    b. Complete inventory reconciliation of ARRL historical collection including, equipment, historical artifacts, books and other documentation – ***Work continues on these projects with the inventory of the "documentation" portion of the collection recently identified.***

     c. Continue the uploading of photographic documentation of amateur radio equipment to the Museum CatalogIt data base. More than 1700 items have been uploaded during the past 6 months.

     d. 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"

          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

     e. Curate the museum collection - Significant progress has been made in this area through our partnership with the Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of Connecticut. Items deemed to either be duplicates, excess or not-relevant to the ARRL collection are being transferred to the Vintage Radio Museum collection.

8. Planned activites for first half of 2024
     a. Select a name for the ARRL Virtual Museum
          i. "Radio Alpha" has been proposed
     b. Take the "museum" live in BETA test mode
          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
     d. Continue to seek additional sources of digital photographic material to support the museum (ie: Collins, Hammarlund, Eldico, Drake, etc)
     e. Continue to work with the Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of Connecticut to pare down the physical inventory of the ARRL Collecttion
     f. Add "History of ARRL" Section to the Virtual Museum

9. Legacy Amateur Radio Software
     a. The Committee is presently looking at the maintenance of "legacy" software in a similar fashion to how we look to preserving information regarding vintage equipment. Please see the addendum to this report for additional details provided by Committee Member, Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, Director, Central Division. This remains an area of opportunity for the Committee to work now that significant progress has been made on the Virtual Museum.

10. Current Committee Roster

first name	last name	call	ARRL position	e-mail
			ARRL Historical Committee Membership - 07/11/23	
Rod	Blocksome	KØDAS	former Chair	rod.blocksome@gmail.com
Tom	Brooks	KE1R	volunteer	tbrooks.ct@gmail.com
Harold	Kramer	WJ1B	volunteer	wj1b@arrl.net
Carl	Luetzelschwab	K9LA	Director Central Div	k9la@arrl.org
Bob	Naumann	W5OV	Director of Operations - Staff Liaison	w5ov@arrl.org
Lynn	Nelson	WØND	Vice Director Dakota Div	w0nd@arrl.org
Dick	Norton	N6AA	Director Southwestern Div	richardjnorton@yahoo.com
George	Papp	K1YBO	volunteer	gpapp@snet.net
Chuck	Penson	WA7ZZE	volunteer	wa7zze@gmail.com
Dave	Propper	K2DP	Chair - Vice Director Midwest Div	k2dp@arrl.org