

REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE  
July, 2013

In January 2013 the ARRL Board approved a request to fund the Historical Committee request to establish a small historical collection at ARRL HQ with changing artifacts from the collection and develop an Online Museum. That effort is progressing. Plans are underway to expand the work area used for this effort on the second floor at Headquarters. Efforts are underway to let knowledgeable, interested amateurs who live within a reasonable distance of ARRL HQ know of this opportunity to work on this worthy project with our key staff/volunteers, Bob Allison, WB1GCM and Mike Marinaro, WN1M.

In the past the Historical Committee Report has included an article by Mike Mainaro, WN1M, describing the work of volunteer archivists in preserving our historic artifacts. The bulk of this Report to the Board will be the following progress report from Bob Allison, WB1GCM, ARRL Laboratory Test Engineer and one of the lead volunteers in the historical preservation effort:

***The ARRL Evolution of Amateur Radio Exhibit: "Understanding  
the Past to Develop the Future"***

***By Bob Allison, WB1GCM, July 11, 2013***

***"Our exhibit continues to delight all visitors to the ARRL Laboratory. I have observed that most visiting Radio Amateurs connect with equipment from their youth; in the 1955 to 1980 era. While our exhibit has some truly interesting and rare items on display, we only have a few pieces from this era. As part of our exhibit, I plan on adding a display in our "Novice Corner" with some equipment a Novice would use, such as a Heathkit DX-20, DX-40, DX-60 transmitters, lunch boxes and simple receivers, such as a Hallicrafter's S-38 in honor of "the beginner".***

***However, our primary plan of our exhibit is to properly identify and inventory all (hardware) items in the ARRL Collection. Specifically, we would like to identify items that are the key to our exhibit; items that are significant to the history of the ARRL and to history of the development of Amateur Radio.***

***As you may know, most of our (large) collection is stored off-site in a warehouse, one mile away from ARRL Headquarters. Much of it was removed and packed up after our lobby was made handicapped accessible over 15 years ago. While it was inventoried at the time, it was inventoried by untrained staff that could not properly identify many of the items. Our plan is to expand our archive area, located on the second floor. The expanded area will allow us to take inventory and create two groups of items:***

***1. Significant items we need to keep for the history of the ARRL and Amateur Radio***

**2. Common items that are not rare and are likely to be seen at most Amateur Radio flea markets. This group of items can be sold off; the proceeds go into the Fund that supports our historical artifacts.**

***The cost to expand this area is minimal, since we already own the material needed to expand the archive area.***

***Once the IT department gets through issues they have been dealing with, I will work with them to set up our Access database.***

***As part of the inventory process, each item will be bar coded, likely with a "QR" code. When an exhibit item is scanned with a QR reader, Smartphone or iPhone, a photo, description, and history of the item will pop up on a nearby display monitor for visitors to see. Each item will be tied to a URL on a server, which will allow members to access this information at home. It is hoped that this system can be in place by the time we have our grand open house during our centennial celebration. Research for determining the equipment needed has been started by Lab volunteer, Jonathan Allen, K2KKH.***

***While this plan has merit and usefulness to our members, it requires the help of (local) knowledgeable volunteers. We do need help finding volunteers who can be trained to enter photographs and information into our database. We have made progress, but only slowly, with this project, due to the lack of time needed by me and the limited time of Jonathan.***

***It would be wonderful, in the long run, to have a larger space for our exhibit. It could have the potential to be world-class and would attract more visitors to ARRL Headquarters."***

The Historical Committee has taken a backseat to the efforts of staff and volunteers. In the second half of the year we hope to provide assistance in helping them find knowledgeable and interested volunteers in the Northeast who can work with our lead volunteers in this effort.

Respectfully submitted,

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