

**ARRL Historical Committee
Report to the ARRL Board of Directors
January, 2025 Updated and Revised
Dave Propper, K2DP – Chair**

1. Committee Meetings – The committee met in person at the July 2024 Board Meeting and has met every 4-6 weeks via MS Teams since that time. The committee will meet again in person in the Tuska Conference Room at HQ on Thursday, January 16th, prior to the January 2025 ARRL Board of Directors meeting.
2. Committee Membership and Adjunct Volunteers – There has been no change to the membership of this Committee with the exception of the addition of ARRL Staff Liaison. Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, who was appointed by CEO Minster.
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, “Radio Alpha.”
4. ARRL Historical Collection Status
 - a. Collection Inventory Evaluations –
 - i. Our on – site volunteers continue to assess the contents of the Historical Collection and identify artifacts which are either duplicative, excess or not-relevant.
 - ii. A number of pieces of test and radio equipment were identified as potentially surplus to the ARRL collection. These items were reviewed by the Committee, ARRL Staff Liaison and the ARRL CEO and with some exceptions, approved for de-accession (removal from the ARRL Historical Collection). These items were offered for sale through the Fall 2024 ARRL Auction. A total of 13 items were sold, raising a total of \$708 for the ARRL Education Fund.
 - iii. The ARRL Historical Collection received a donation of ARRL related artifacts from the estate of Laird Campbell, W1HQ, a long time employee of ARRL.
 - iv. The ARRL Historical Collection received a donation from Steve Ewald, WV1X, of an original printing of the 1914 ARRL Radio Relay Station Map, which Steve purchased from the estate of Laird

Campbell. The Historical Committee is currently working with ARRL Staff to identify the appropriate location to display this important artifact prior to pursuing archival framing.

- b. HQ Lobby Display –
 - i. There have been no changes made to the display since the Summer 2023. It is hoped that during the next half year, a new display of manufacturer specific equipment can be curated, ie: Collins, Drake, etc
5. ARRL Virtual Museum Software and Web URL's –
 - a. Virtual Museum Activation and Accessibility – The Committee Chair and ARRL Staff Liaison have met with the new ARRL Director, IT, and have set in motion plans for a discussion with the Catalog It personnel to determine what the next steps will be to bring the Virtual Museum to our ARRL Membership. Expectation is to have these discussions in February. (ie: making the data available through the ARRL web site)
 - b. Virtual Museum – To date, 3300 entries have been uploaded to the database by Chuck Penson, WA7ZZE.
 - c. Virtual Museum Naming – The Virtual Museum will be known at this time as “Radio Alpha”.
6. Progress on the projects planned for 2024
 - a. Continue and complete inventory reconciliation of ARRL historical collection including, equipment, historical artifacts, books and other documentation – Work by our team of on-site volunteers continues but is not completed.
 - b. Continue the uploading of photographic documentation of amateur radio equipment to the Museum CatalogIt data base.
 - c. 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” – work continues on this project
 - 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
 - d. Curate the museum collection - Work continues to “fine tune” the collection. Additionally, the committee is working with ARRL Director of Development, Kevin Beal, K8EAL, to coordinate the evaluation and assessment of donations to ARRL which include collections of amateur radio equipment. This assessment is focused on those pieces of equipment which would be pertinent to the ARRL Historical Collection, as opposed to those contributed for the purpose of sale through auction with the proceeds going to the ARRL.
7. Planned activities for 2025
 - a. Take the “museum” live in BETA test mode (see previous comments)
 - b. Continue to upload additional artifacts to the virtual museum
 - c. Continue to seek additional sources of digital photographic material to support the museum (ie: Collins, Hammarlund, Eldico, Drake, etc) – in work

- d. Continue to work with the Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of Connecticut to pare down the physical inventory of the ARRL Collection – in work

8. Current Committee Roster

| ARRL Historical Committee Membership - 01/05/2024 | | | | | |
|---|---------------|--------|---|--------------------------|--------|
| first name | last name | call | ARRL position | e-mail | Status |
| Rod | Blocksome | KØDAS | former Chair - volunteer | rod.blocksome@gmail.com | active |
| Tom | Brooks | KE1R | volunteer | tbrooks.ct@gmail.com | active |
| Harold | Kramer | WJ1B | volunteer | wj1b@arrl.net | active |
| Carl | Luetzelschwab | K9LA | former Chair - volunteer | k9la@arrl.org | active |
| Joe | Carcia | NJ1Q | ARRL Staff Liaison | NJ1Q@arrl.org | active |
| Lynn | Nelson | WØND | Vice Director Dakota Div | w0nd@arrl.org | active |
| Dick | Norton | N6AA | Director Southwestern Div | richardjnorton@yahoo.com | active |
| George | Papp | K1YBO | volunteer | gpapp@snet.net | active |
| Chuck | Penson | WA7ZZE | volunteer | wa7zze@gmail.com | active |
| Dave | Propper | K2DP | Chair - Vice Director Midwest Div | k2dp@arrl.org | active |
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