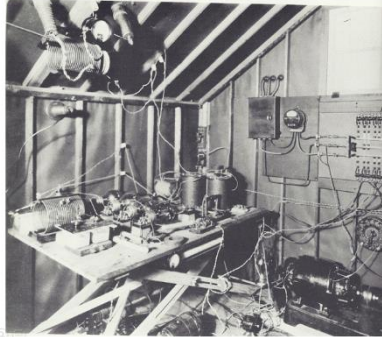


December 1921 Transatlantic Test



1BCG Kilowatt CW Transmitter



Historical Committee

**Report to the ARRL Board of Directors
January 2022**

Submitted by:

Central Division Director Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA, Chair

Historical Committee members for 2021

- Director Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA (Chair)
- Ed Hare W1RFI (Staff Liaison)
- Bob Naumann W5OV (HQ Director of Operations)
- Director Dick Norton N6AA
- Vice Director Hudzik W2UDT
- Vice Director Lynn Nelson WØND
- Vice Director Dave Propper K2DP
- Rod Blocksome KØDAS (former Chair)
- Peter Turbide W1PT (volunteer)
- Ray Thorton W1YFF (volunteer)
- Tom Brooks KE1R (volunteer)

The Historical Committee (HC for short) has met on a monthly basis (via Zoom or Teams) since the July 2021 Board meeting. The following is a brief summary of each of the monthly meetings (including the July 2021 meeting at ARRL HQ).

At the July 2021 HC meeting on the Thursday before the Board Meeting, the planned tour of the attic to get an understanding of the magnitude of the job of sorting through everything up there was cancelled due to covid restrictions inside HQ. General discussions in the combination in-person (at the Marriott) and virtual (via Zoom) meeting occurred in the following areas:

100th anniversary of the December 1921 Transatlantic Test
Mission of the HC – virtual museum, physical museum, budget, existing historical web pages at arrl.org, who can help the HC, communications with ARRL members

During the August 2021 HC meeting, the committee:

Reviewed the video that Mr. Hare made of the attic. Lots of stuff, both physical and paper, up there!
Reviewed the short-term, medium-term and long-term goals envisioned by CEO Minster
Worked on charter, scope and purpose of the HC
Located HC Board reports back to January 2019

At the September 2021 meeting, the decision was made to only be concerned with historical equipment and historical documents/photos – not vintage equipment and vintage documents/photos (although some vintage items will be historical in nature). In line with this, Mr. Naumann put together a document that addresses ‘*what is historical versus what is vintage versus what we can get rid of.*’ This document will give guidance to the monumental task of going through all the items in the attic. It was also decided that the HC will not get involved with general donations of equipment.



At the October 2021 meeting, Mr. Naumann reported that input from CEO Minster and CFO Middleton has resulted in the decision that the focus of the HC should solely be on a virtual museum, as a physical museum is not in the ARRL plans at this time. This does not pertain to displays in the halls and in the lobby at HQ – planning for that effort will continue. Mr. Hare

reported on the whereabouts of the prototypes of DeMaw and McCoy. Mr. Blocksome provided HC reports back to January 2015 (when he chaired the HC). Mr. Blocksome also provided early (circa 2016) proposals for a virtual museum (see the **Some History** section at the end of this report right before Appendix A).

At the November 2021 meeting, Vice Director Propper presented a first-pass draft of position descriptions for critical volunteer positions. These positions are:

- 1) Historical Committee “Attic” Team – to disposition the attic collections
- 2) Museum Curator – position vacated by WN1M when he became an SK
- 3) Software and Website Developer/Maintainer – self explanatory

In addition to volunteers Pete Turbide W1PT and Ray Thorton W1YFF, Mr. Naumann added Tom Brooks KE1R to the HC volunteer corps. These volunteers will help with refurbishing donated equipment, but they are not the volunteers outlined in Vice Director Propper’s document that the HC deems as necessary for the virtual museum to be a success.

Director Luetzelschwab highlighted two virtual websites – the Virtual Collins Radio Museum (<http://www.wa3key.com/collins.html>) is a ‘click a link’ museum to view vintage Collins products and the Museum of Radio & Technology (https://www.mrtwv.org/virtual_tour/) is populated with videos of various topics. The ARRL virtual museum is envisioned to be a combination of these two websites: links plus videos. The ARRL virtual museum also needs to focus on historical documents, not just historical hardware.

Mr. Naumann provided a brief overview of 3-D imaging, which could be used on the virtual website.

During the December 2021 meeting, Vice Director Propper provided a second pass at the position description document, which now includes four positions. See [Appendix A](#).

- 1) Historical Committee “Attic” Team – to disposition the attic collections
- 2) Museum Curator – position vacated by WN1M when he became an SK
- 3) Software and Website Developer/Maintainer – self explanatory
- 4) Photographer/Document Archivist – develop and create the photographic content and document content for the virtual website initially

Director Luetzelschwab listed websites that the ARRL may want to take over if these websites go away for whatever reason. Three examples are www.qrz.com (for looking up addresses and e-mails), the boat anchor manual archive (<https://bama.edebris.com/>) and the radio callbook website (<https://archive.org/search.php?query=radio%20callbook>). The HC members were asked to provide their lists.

Director Luetzelschwab identified three different sub-directories of historical material at www.arrl.org. See [Appendix B](#).

Director Luetzelschwab put together a first-pass structure of an ARRL virtual website. See [Appendix C](#). More detailed work is needed here.

Director Norton commented that the work of the HC in the area of the history of the ARRL (and for that matter, in other areas, too) could provide good opportunities for presentations for the ARRL.

Discussed the volunteer needs per K2DP's document.

Discussed ways to raise money (if needed) to achieve a successful virtual museum. See the **Summary** section that follows.

Action Items for the January 20 HC meeting

Mr. Hare and Mr. Naumann to conduct the "Attic Tour".

Mr. Naumann to look into putting the three separate historical sub-directories of Appendix B into one sub-directory.

Mr. Hare to look into mirroring vintage and historical websites at www.arrl.org. Mr. Naumann and Director Luetzelschwab to compose letters to the owners of the mirror websites.

Summary

I believe the critical path for an ARRL virtual museum is filling the positions described by Vice Director Propper. If volunteers are not found, then the HC should investigate ways to compensate these individuals. Methods to investigate include:

- 1) Possible redefinition of the Preservation of Artifacts fund
- 2) Seek donations from individuals/organizations (ARDC, for example)
- 3) Propose a budget to the A&F Committee

Some History

In January 2016, Harold Kramer WJ1B proposed an ARRL Virtual website. The estimated cost was \$14,000. The A&F Committee asked the HC to propose a plan that would cost less, start small and build up using volunteers.

In May 2016, Rod Blocksome KØDAS put together a plan per the A&F Committee suggestions of January 2016. The estimated cost for 12 months was \$2,500. This plan was not executed for unknown reasons.

Appendix A
Descriptions of Positions – Vice Director Propper

ARRL Historical Committee

Proposed Position Descriptions for “Museum”
Rev. 12/29/2021 sdp

The creation of an “on –line / virtual“ museum would require the following skills and staffing:

1. Museum Curator
2. Software and Website Developer/Maintainer
3. Team to review and disposition all historical material at ARRL HQ
4. Photographer / Document Archivist- Develop and create the photographic content and document content for the virtual website initially.

Position Description – Museum Curator:

- Overall responsibility for the selection, cataloging and maintenance of the ARRL Historical Collection (includes both documentary and physical items)
 - General curatorial work
 - Once the collection has been evaluated, catalogued and identified as to what can be excessed and what is to be kept, by the Historical Committee team, the Museum Curator would then continue the process of reviewing additions and deletions from the collection
 - Research on the collection
 - Collection and selection of new acquisitions
 - Coordination with “Virtual Museum” web site developer on the presentation of the collection
 - Coordination with other “physical” and “virtual” Amateur Radio Museum Curators (such as AWA, RSGB, CCA, Rockwell – Collins, etc)
 - Rotation and sharing of exhibit materials, with other museums.
 - Rotation of “virtual museum” content
 - Planning, programming and selection of items to be displayed on site at ARRL HQ
 - Development of rotating exhibits throughout the year
 - Development of “on line” presentations for ARRL members and clubs
 - Photographic and Document Archival Responsibilities – once the intial museum collection has been prepared for website presentation, ie: all photographic and document archival activities completed, the Curator could take on the additional responsibilities of preparing new additions to the museum collection for website presentation.

Position Description – Software and Website Developer/Maintainer

- Responsible for the development and maintenance of the “ARRL Virtual Museum of Amateur Radio” website
 - Identify potential “available” software products which support a “virtual museum”
 - Photographic Gallery Software Packages
 - Other software as appropriate

- Coordinate with photographer/document archivist best methods for maintenance, retention and preservation of all digital files created for the virtual museum
- Evaluate and compare each software package available and provide pro's and con's of each product and provide a recommendation for selection of product
- Build the "ARRL Virtual Museum of Amateur Radio" website based upon input from the Museum Curator and Historical Committee members
- Maintain and update the "ARRL Virtual Museum of Amateur Radio" website on a monthly basis
 - Addition of new items to the museum collection
 - Keep website current with various web browser and user software updates
 - Keep the website current in terms of information of interest to the users:
 - List special operating events related to vintage and antique radio equipment
 - List special museum "showings" of interest to web site users
 - Maintain and update list of internet "links" which relate to the collection, restoration and maintenance of vintage radio equipment

Position Description – Historical Committee “Attic” Team

- The “Attic Team” will be comprised of members of the ARRL Historical Committee and ARRL employees assigned to support this committee
- Prior to the January 2022 ARRL Board of Directors meeting, the team will meet at ARRL HQ to review the museum documentation and physical inventory currently on site
- Determine how much time will be required to create and complete and accurate inventory of the ARRL Historical Collection
- Review the inventory of the ARRL Historical Collection and make some initial decisions on what material should be retained and what material is considered to be excess to the needs of the museum
 - Develop a plan to disposition the excess material
 - ARRL on line auctions
 - Share / donate to other Amateur Radio Museums such as the Collins Collectors Association/Rockwell Collins Museum , Antique Wireless Association Museum, The Hammond Museum, etc
 - Documentation – scan to pdf or jpg files and discard originals

Position Description – Photographer/Document Archivist

- Photograph all equipment and exhibits, including documentation, which will be presented on the “Virtual Museum” by creating the appropriate digital files
- Photographic tasking to include
 - Take photographs of equipment to be displayed in virtual museum
 - Edit all photographs appropriately for presentation
- Document Archival Tasks
 - Scan or photograph historical documents for presentation in virtual museum
 - Edit document digital files (either pdf or jpg) to prepare document for appropriate presentation
 - Determine best methodology to preserve actual historical documentation
- Preservation and retention of digital files created by above tasks
 - Determine appropriate method to maintain, retain and preserve all digital files created for “virtual “ museum

Appendix B
Existing Historical Directories at www.arrl.org

<http://arrl.org/transatlantic>

Devoted to issues tied to the 1921 Transatlantic Test and subsequent anniversary celebrations

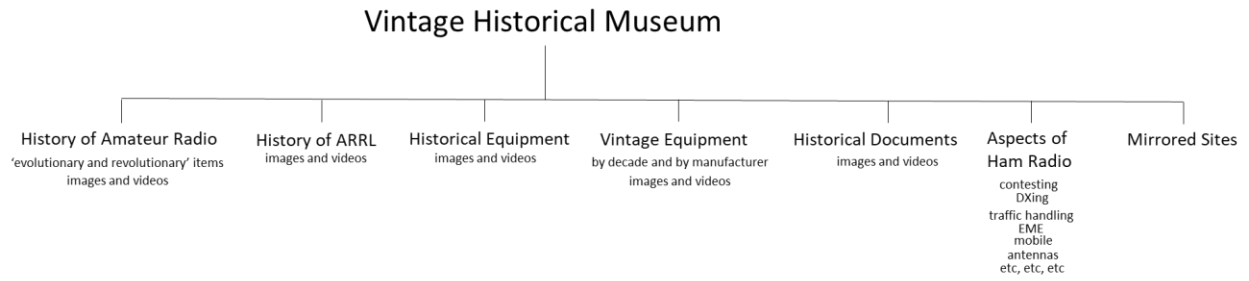
<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-heritage-museum>

The volunteers – Pete W1PT and Ray W1YFF
Lots of text by Mike WN1M (SK)
Text about the hardware collection
Text about the restoration of the Gates BC-1T: "The AMbassador"

<http://www.arrl.org/ham-radio-history>

Extremely brief history from James Clerk Maxwell to EME
A list of historical terms
Links to eighteen articles of an historical nature

Appendix C
Possible Structure of the ARRL Virtual Website
-work in progress-



could Vintage Equipment be the same as Mirrored Sites?