

**ARRL Historical Committee**  
**Report to the ARRL Board of Directors**  
**July 2022 – Dave Propper, K2DP – Chair**  
**Rev A**

1. Committee Leadership – Dave Propper, K2DP, ARRL Midwest Division Vice Director, was appointed chair of the Committee after the January 2022 Board of Directors meeting. Past Chair, Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, ARRL Central Division Director, remains a committee member, but has taken on the leadership of another ARRL committee. The Historical Committee thanks Carl for his leadership and contributions to the maintenance and preservation of the history of the ARRL and Amateur Radio.
2. Committee Meetings – The committee met in person at the January 2022 Board Meeting and has met monthly via ZOOM since that time. The committee will meet again in person on Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, prior to the ARRL Board of Directors meeting.
3. Committee Membership – Chuck Penson, WA7ZZE, has been added as a valued member of the committee. Chuck is the author of a series of books published on the history of the Heath Company and has professional experience as a museum director and industrial archeologist. Chuck is working with Committee Chair, Dave Propper K2DP, on the evaluation and selection of software for the ARRL Historical Collection Virtual Museum.
4. Committee Tasks – the committee re-affirmed its objectives
  - 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**
5. ARRL Historical Collection Status
  - a. There are approximately 1700 items documented in the ARRL Historical Collection inventory data base that was created some years prior. It is not known at this time how accurately this inventory reflects the collection of equipment, documentation and artifacts currently found at ARRL HQ.
  - b. The collection exists in multiple locations throughout the ARRL HQ building and the W1AW building.
    - i. ARRL HQ Lobby Displays
    - ii. ARRL HQ Building hallway displays
    - iii. ARRL offices – some artifacts are currently on display or stored in the offices of employees
    - iv. ARRL storage room (unprotected, dusty, dirty, etc), aka “the attic”
    - v. W1AW building

- c. Inventory reconciliation – The need exists for a paid “contract hire” to reconcile the inventory data base with the equipment, documentation and artifacts at ARRL HQ. This must be done for several reasons:
    - i. Identify where the inventory is located
    - ii. Identify duplicate inventory and prepare list of potential excess inventory for de-accession
    - iii. Determine and document the physical and functional condition of each artifact
    - iv. Identify inventory by category, ie: parts, components, equipment, artifacts and documentation
    - v. Preparation for creating the photographic and scanned images required for the ARRL Historical Virtual Museum web pages
  - d. Contract Hire to support inventory reconciliation task
    - i. ARRL Staff (Bob Naumann and Ed Hare) have spoken with at least two candidates who have the appropriate background both in Excel (to update the data base) and amateur radio (understand vintage equipment). To date, one candidate has declined the position. Conversation with ARRL Staff continues regarding the second candidate.
  - e. History of ARRL
    - i. Committee Member Luetzelschwab, K9LA, ARRL Central Division Director, has identified several different web pages on the ARRL web site which address the history of the ARRL. It will be recommended that at a future point in time, these pages be updated and consolidated for location on the ARRL Historical Collection Virtual Website.
6. ARRL Virtual Museum Software and Web URL's
- a. The Committee is presently in discussions with two providers of museum type software
    - i. Past Perfect
    - ii. Catalogit
  - b. Past Perfect – ARRL purchased this software in 2001 and upgraded it several times over the past 20 years. However, it has not been used.
    - i. The version of the software currently owned by ARRL requires an upgrade
    - ii. The version of software currently owned by ARRL is not web based and would need to be converted to the web based version
  - c. Catalogit – Another museum type software package, which appears to have enhanced features compared to Past Perfect, including “mobile app” capabilities
  - d. Evaluation of both software products is on – going through the use of the supplier's “demonstration” packages
  - e. Web URL's – the following two URL's have been purchased by ARRL in preparation for the development of the virtual museum
    - i. [ARRLvirtualmuseum.org](http://ARRLvirtualmuseum.org)
    - ii. [ARRLvirtualmuseum.com](http://ARRLvirtualmuseum.com)
7. Historical Collection – Accession Process and Status
- a. Harvey Wells Collection of Hamilton Agnew, K4HKA
    - i. Mr. Agnew has a small, but significant collection of Harvey Wells equipment and historical artifacts which he has offered to donate to the ARRL Historical Collection

- ii. The Committee has voted to accept the donation
- iii. The Committee is working with Mr. Agnew to assess the costs of shipment of the collection from his home in Florida to ARRL HQ
- iv. Mr. Agnew also has an excellent presentation which he developed detailing the history of the Harvey Wells company that would be excellent to digitally record with his narration for future use on the ARRL Historical Collection Virtual Museum Website
- b. Collins 75A-4/32V-3 station donated by Paul Horenstein, K2PH
  - i. This pristine equipment was donated to the ARRL Historical Collection several years ago by Mr. Horenstein
  - ii. It has been carefully stored in the ARRL Labs area
  - iii. Plans are in place to relocate this equipment to the W1AW building
    - 1. Initially to be placed on display as a non-functioning station, ECD July 14, 2022.
    - 2. The equipment was fully restored by Howard Mills, W3HM and is expected to be operational and could serve as a “vintage station” for limited use by visitors at some time in the future.

#### 8. Funding requirements

- a. The Historical Committee has approximately \$200K of donated funding earmarked for its use which has not been expended
- b. Committee Chair, Dave Propper, K2DP, has submitted 3 proposals to the A & F Committee Chair for presentation at the upcoming A & F Committee meeting in Newington on July 14<sup>th</sup>
  - i. Proposal #1 – Fund a contract hire for 3 months at 16 hours/ week to reconcile the inventory of the ARRL Historical Collection, not to exceed \$5000
  - ii. Proposal #2 – Fund the initial purchase and or upgrade of museum software to facilitate the establishment of the ARRL Historical Collection Virtual Museum, not to exceed \$5000
  - iii. Proposal #3 – Fund the purchase of heavy duty shelving units to support the organization of the ARRL Historical Collection inventory in the “attic” area, not to exceed \$1200.

#### 9. Looking ahead to the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2022

- a. Select and purchase Virtual Museum Software
- b. Complete inventory reconciliation of ARRL historical collection including, equipment, historical artifacts, books and other documentation
- c. Complete accession of the Hamilton Agnew “Harvey Wells “ collection
- d. Begin creation of the ARRL Historical Collection Virtual Museum by staffing the effort with contract hire personnel to perform the following tasks:
  - i. Photograph the pertinent equipment to be displayed on the Virtual Museum website
  - ii. Convert relevant books and documentation to pdf format for access through the Virtual Museum website
  - iii. Populate the Virtual Museum software data base with the graphic, text and pdf files created in items “i” and “ii” above
  - iv. Curate the museum collection and select equipment and artifacts for display in the HQ lobby museum area and the rotation of those items

## 10. Current Committee Roster

ARRL Historical Committee Membership 07/01/22					
first name	last name	call	ARRL position	e-mail	Status
Rod	Blocksome	KØDAS	former Chair	rod.blocksome@gmail.com	active
Tom	Brooks	KE1R	volunteer	<a href="mailto:tbrooks.ct@gmail.com">tbrooks.ct@gmail.com</a>	active
Ed	Hare	W1RFI	Staff Liaison	w1rfi@arri.org	active
William	Hudzik	W2UDT	volunteer	whudzik@comcast.net	active
Carl	Luetzelschwab	K9LA	Director Central Div	<a href="mailto:k9la@arri.org">k9la@arri.org</a>	active
Bob	Naumann	W5OV	Director of Operations	w5ov@arri.org	active
Lynn	Nelson	WØND	Vice Director Dakota Div	<a href="mailto:w0nd@arri.org">w0nd@arri.org</a>	active
Dick	Norton	N6AA	Director Southwestern Div	richardjnorton@yahoo.com	active
Chuck	Penson	WA7ZZE	volunteer	<a href="mailto:wa7zze@gmail.com">wa7zze@gmail.com</a>	active
Dave	Propper	K2DP	Chair Vice Director Midwest Div	k2dp@arri.org	active