

## ARRL Historical Committee Report July 2020

The ARRL Historical Committee members for 2020 are:

Rod Blocksome, K0DAS, Midwest Division Director (chair)  
Richard Norton, N6AA, Southwest Division Director  
Tom Delaney, W8WTD, Great Lakes Division Vice-Director  
Bill Hudzik, W2UDT, Hudson Division Vice-Director  
Carl Luetzelschwab, Central Division Vice-Director  
Michael Marinaro WN1M, headquarters volunteer lead  
Bob Allison, WB1GCM, (Staff Liaison)

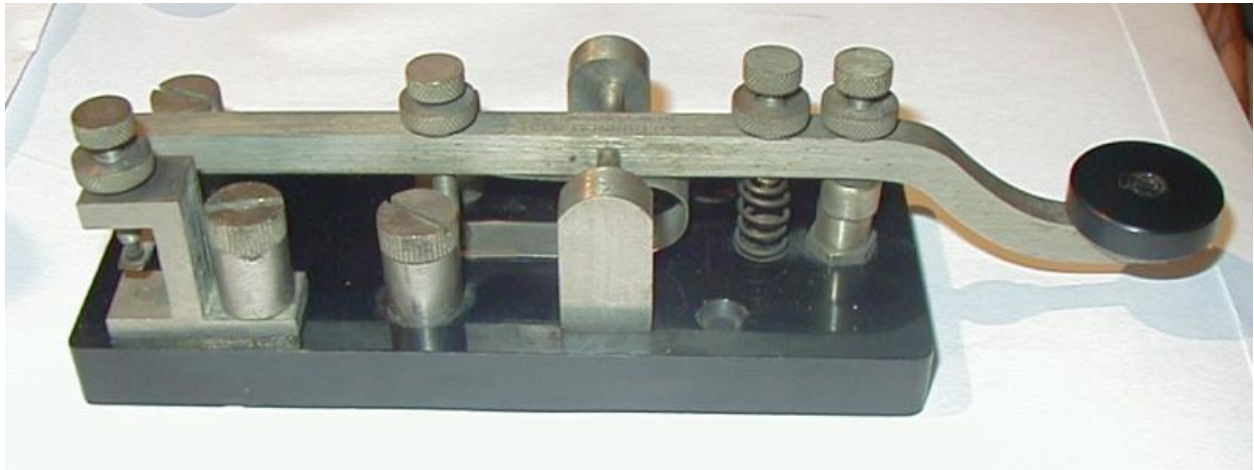
Activities of the ARRL Historical Committee in the first six months of 2020 were conducted by volunteers working to organize, identify, and catalog the historical documents and artifacts at ARRL headquarters, until headquarters shut down for the Corona Virus pandemic. Bob Allison, staff liaison, managed the volunteers; each donated significant time and labor to this important endeavor.

This group also receives and restores vintage equipment donated to ARRL. They design and implement interesting historical exhibits for the lobby of ARRL headquarters. The lobby exhibit is periodically refreshed with a different exhibit by this volunteer group, though it was removed due to the closing of HQ to visitors in March. A detail report of the group's work prepared by Bob Allison, WB1GCM, follows.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rod Blocksome, K0DAS, Chair

**The Historical Group at Headquarters**  
**REPORT OF ACTIVITIES – FIRST HALF 2020**



Marconi spark-gap key

The Historical Group activities at ARRL HQ continued uninterrupted. Specifically, the group conducts the following core activities:

**ON-GOING ACTIVITIES**

Document Archive Maintenance (Phase I) continues using *MS Word* and *Access* programs. The Secretary Minutes are contained in 8 file drawers and other *Word* programmed documents are contained in 140 file drawers.

Executive Correspondence and Report Archive (Phase II) maintenance is in the accumulation phase. It is *Access* programmed with 1500 line entries. Materials are contained in 140 archival boxes, 12 fireproof file drawers, and a safe.

The Media-slide, video and film collection is being supplemented.

Vintage Technical Library Maintenance involves shelving 700 *Excel* recorded volumes.

Exhibitions and displays:

- Vintage Equipment Lobby Displays – Heathkit. This is the fourteenth consecutive lobby presentation.

- Laboratory Museum Section – A portion of the equipment collection and period operating station setups are arranged for viewing, including a converted Gates BC-1T AM broadcast transmitter, and a working model of OSCAR1.
- The CEO Conference Room is curated. Unique items of League historical significance are displayed including the recent addition of Hiram Percy Maxim's key.

The *Heritage Museum* Equipment (amateur hardware) Collection is securely stored and being grouped by category. Items eligible for removal are being identified. Obvious non-collectables have been disposed of. More than 1800 individual items have been recorded in an *Excel* database.

## **RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### 1. *Heritage Museum* On-Line.

Embedded within the ARRL web site, in the Laboratory section, are posted linked formal articles relating to the early history of amateur radio, the League, and significant events. Eleven articles and a power point presentation have been posted as the *Historian's View*.

A Directory or Finders Guide to the location of all the paper and media material which has been archived or preserved by the Historical group has been prepared. It includes details of the various data bases in use as well as the physical storage locations. Primarily for staff use, the Discovery Guide will be published internally.

This comprehensive five-page guide records and reveals the extent of the Group's accomplishments over the past ten years.

## **DONATIONS**

We received a donation from Judith Baldwin, daughter of former ARRL CEO, Dick Baldwin, W1RU. Judith donated her father's collection of pins, key fobs, badges and two of Dick's QSL cards that were autographed by General Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1952. They will make an interesting lobby display when the time is appropriate.

## ON GOING PROJECTS

### 1. Vacuum Tube Collection.

We have undertaken to reorganize our collections of vacuum tubes and test equipment. We have a large quantity of tubes stored which require consolidation, cataloging and a plan for disposition. Similar actions will be applied to our array of test equipment, spanning many eras, which must be further identified and determined for retention.

### 2. 35mm Slide Collection.

Consistent with our cataloging efforts, we have undertaken the identification and cataloging of the 35mm slide collection. The collection will be centralized on a separate hard drive with those currently on an external system. Various database programs are being evaluated to select the one most suitable for our application.

### 3. ARRL First Member Register.

The recently discovered register of the *first* members of the ARRL initially maintained by Secretary Clarence D. Tuska is still under study. We suspect that this register may record only the stations initially qualified to participate in the relay trunk line system but have been unable to verify this.

### 4. On-Air Operating Events

ARRL Historical Committee Liaison, Bob Allison, WB1GCM, participated in on-air AM operating events, using a converted Gates BC-1T AM broadcast transmitter, located in the ARRL Lab. Specifically, Bob participated in both Electric Radio's "Heavy Metal Rally", and the Antique Wireless Association's AM operating event. It was, however, the "AM Rally" this past February that Bob and guest operators shined in the spotlight, casting a positive light for the ARRL in the eyes of the AM community, with 361 casual contacts in 36 states. Of special note was "lady's night" during the Saturday evening of the event, when YL ops took over operations, much to the delight of all who listened. The Gates transmitter is our ambassador to the AM community and its presence stands out as a beacon for the ARRL on the 75-meter band.

## THE GROUP

The Historical Committee team at Headquarters presently consists of Bob Allison, WB1GCM, Assistant Laboratory Manager, who is liaison to the Committee; Michael Marinaro, WN1M volunteer Historian, Archivist and Curator and a member of the Committee; Jonathan Allen, K2KKH/1 volunteer curator of the Museum equipment and Archivist; our volunteer technical restorer and maintainers of the Museum and donated equipment, Pete Turbide, W1PT and Ray Thornton, W1YFF.

Organizationally, Mr. Allison and Mr. Marinaro inform the CEO and Committee chairperson of their activities and interact directly with department managers to accomplish the prescribed objectives of the team on behalf of the Committee. The team aggressively pursues new recruits as succession, continuance and knowledge of the activity is of concern, but is having great difficulty finding volunteers who have the skill and knowledge to carry on with the work. This concern is now *amplified* by the fact that volunteer, Jonathan Allen, K2KKH, resigned as volunteer curator and has permanently moved to Arizona. I also regret that our media curator, Michael Marinaro, WN1M, has been and is unable to travel to ARRL HQ due to health issues. Our radio restoration volunteers are not permitted to enter HQ until further notice due to the pandemic, causing equipment restoration, paper archiving and displaying of artifacts to halt. Effectively, this leaves ARRL lab staff member, Bob Allison as custodian to the collections, who returned to HQ to resume Product Review testing in June.

Bob Allison  
WB1GCM  
July 2020