

## ARRL Historical Committee Report January 2021

The ARRL Historical Committee members for 2020 were:

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, K9LA, Central Division Vice-Director  
Lynn Nelson, W0ND, Dakota Division Vice-Director  
Michael Marinaro, WN1M, headquarters volunteer lead  
Bob Allison, WB1GCM, (Staff Liaison)

In the second half of 2020, Historical Preservation activities at ARRL headquarters were limited due to health conditions in Connecticut. Even so, ARRL Staff Member, Bob Allison, WB1GCM, and Volunteer Archivist and Curator, Michael Marinaro, WN1M, serviced ARRL members by answering their questions regarding the history of Amateur Radio and the ARRL. Specifically, Mr. Marinaro wishes to add the following:

“Although the headquarters building has been closed to all but absolute essential personnel, we have had the opportunity to:

1. Respond to members questions concerning League history via email. These were referred to us by the working staff.
2. Forwarded electronically, to several member requesters, a copy of Frederick Parsons typewritten book, –*Wireless Road & Tall Towers*. Scanned versions are maintained in our Dropbox account.
3. Wrote several articles for the Antique Wireless Association – *Quarterly Journal* and *Annual Review* and the magazine *Popular Wireless*, which mention the League favorably.
4. Edited the signage for the next lobby exhibit which will feature TENTEK equipment.”

Bob Allison has been able to receive donations of vintage, historical equipment. Some mentionable pieces donated were a Heath-kit AT-1 Novice transmitter, a VF-1 VFO and an AC-1 antenna coupler. When conditions allow for the return of visitors to ARRL

Headquarters, this equipment, along with an early 1950's receiver, will be made available for anyone who wishes to relive their Novice Days, using a 40-meter crystal.

It must be noted that volunteers for our Historical Preservation work are needed. Jonathan Allen, K2KKH, a faithful 6-year volunteer, has moved away from Connecticut. Jonathan cataloged all the items that were once stored at our warehouse and scattered about HQ. This leaves only Michael Marinaro as our sole Volunteer Curator. It is hoped that in 2021, conditions will improve and a new, suitable volunteer will be vetted for this preservation work. Projects needing volunteer support include:

- A larger display of equipment
- A Virtual Museum
- A vintage equipment operating event
- Articles; "what's old is what's new"
- More comprehensive support to member/member's families that don't know what to do with equipment of a silent key.

Certainly, with the Historical Preservation funds available, we can excite our members by educating them about our rich history. Please remember, for new hams, what's old is what's new, too.

Best Wishes for 2021,

Bob Allison, WB1GCM, Staff Liaison to the ARRL Historical Committee  
Michael Marinaro, WN1M, ARRL Historical Collections Curator  
Peter Turbide, W1PT, volunteer, in waiting  
Ray Thornton, W1YFF, volunteer in waiting

As this is my last year on the board and this committee, let me state that it has been my privilege to lead the committee and support our HQ volunteers who have done all the "heavy lifting" over the last few years. ARRL members owe them deep gratitude for their countless volunteer hours working to preserve and present our rich history of amateur radio. Knowledge of the people, events, and technology accomplishments of the past does provide insight and inspiration to amateurs forging ahead into the future.

This is important work that needs continued support by the Board and ARRL HQ management.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rod Blocksome, K0DAS  
ARRL Historical Committee Chair