

REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE  
JULY, 2012

The ARRL Historical Committee was created by a Board Resolution at Minute 71 of the January 2000 ARRL Annual Meeting “to develop a plan for storage of historical artifacts and archival material related to Amateur Radio, and to explore means for future public access and display of such material.”

In the ensuing 12 years committee members, staff, volunteers such as Charles Griffen, W1GYR, Michael Marinaro, WN1M and staff/volunteers such as Perry Williams, W1UED and Bob Allison, WB1GCM, have devoted countless hours to identify and organize ARRL’s historical artifacts and archival material without any guidance beyond the original resolution as to managing, cataloging these items and subsequent additions to the collections. Michael Marinaro, one of those dedicated volunteers, authored an excellent article in December 2011, QST, detailing the history of the ARRL Historical Committee and the considerable efforts of staff and volunteer archivists over the past twelve years. A copy of that article is attached to this report.

As is noted in the Marinaro article ARRL has several collections including:

- Documents including ARRL correspondence and records beginning with Hiram Percy Maxim
- Antique Books and Pamphlets
- ARRL and other related books publications
- QST Plate Negatives
- Image and Audio records
- Antique and Historic Equipment and Devices

These dedicated volunteers have been working with little guidance from the Board beyond the original resolution. Their work and realization of the Board goals as stated in the original charge to the Historical Committee has been hampered by the lack of a clear, cohesive and defined Statement of Purpose, Acquisition Policy, Guidelines as to Documentation and Cataloging, and Care, Maintenance and Usage Policy. It has become increasingly apparent proper appreciation; use and benefit from the items in the ARRL Historical Collection requires a single ARRL Historical Committee Collections Policy and Terms of Reference encompassing all the parts of the collections.

Over the past five months the Historical Committee, utilizing the committee reflector, email \ and two teleconferences, has discussed workable procedures to best protect, preserve and provide access to the items in the ARRL Historical Collections. If we are to know, appreciate and use the treasures in the collections we first need to understand what is in the collections, how to access, care for and permit use of those items. The ARRL Historical Committee has approved the attached Collections Policy and Terms of Reference and recommends the ARRL Board adopt the Policy as the necessary next step in effort to protect, preserve and provide access to the ARRL Historical Collections. The committee recognizes the Policy and TOR is not an end, simply the next necessary step in this process.

The work of cataloging and preservation is ongoing. The Board charge to the Historical Committee was “to develop a plan for storage of historical artifacts and archival material related to Amateur Radio, and

to explore means for future public access” (to the collections). The ongoing questions facing the committee and the Board are how to identify what is in the collections, what belongs in the collections, how and where to display these items, how to provide access to these items and finally, how to fund the costs of maintaining and preserving the collections.

Respectfully submitted,

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