

Historical Committee Report

July 2017

Document #18

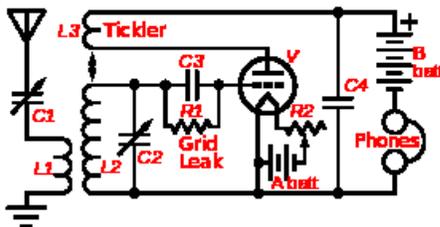
The preservation and display of our rich history is important to the ARRL Legacy. This work continues at ARRL Headquarter under the leadership of Bob Allison, WB1GCM and Michael Marinaro, WN1M plus several dedicated volunteers. We are fortunate to have dedicated volunteers who are passionate about ARRL History. The historical committee is consulted and kept informed of their work via email and visits to ARRL HQ. This detailed report of volunteer activities for the last six months was prepared by Michael Marinaro, WN1M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rod Blocksome, K0DAS, Chair
Tom Frenaye, K1KI
Dick Norton, N6AA
Bob Allison, WB1GCM, Staff Liaison
Michael Marinaro, WN1M

HISTORICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES AT HEADQUARTERS MID-YEAR 2017

The period is marked by the initiation of several new projects and the continuance of normal activities.



[SCHEMATIC OF DETECTOR OF PARAGON RECEIVER ON DISPLAY](#)

EXAMINATION

The recently discovered register of the *first* members of the ARRL initially maintained by Secretary Clarence D. Tuska is still under study. It is a loose bound school notebook with individual type written pages in alphabetical order by last name. Calls and names with membership numbers are listed.

Also found separately, in correspondence files- the original letter of conveyance by Tuska (at Atwater Kent) to K.B. Warner and copy of K.B. Warner's response letter. We are attempting to establish the correlation of entries with the listings in the first edition of *The List of Stations* of 1914. So far this approach has not revealed any cross relationships. We suspect that this register may be of only the stations initially qualified to participate in the relay trunk line system.

RESTORATION

A Gates model BC-1T, one KW, AM Broadcast Transmitter is being displayed in the Heritage Museum section in the Laboratory. The unit is on loan from the Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of Connecticut (VRCMCT). It is being restored by museum volunteers. It will soon be operational on the 75 meter band. This impressive historical unit will be enjoyed by visitors to the lab, particularly broadcast engineers and AM operators. An ambassador to the AM community it promotes the VRCMCT.

DONATION

The Heritage Museum Collection recently accepted several items created by the Leagues' former Technical Editor (and Lab Manager), Doug DeMaw (SK). The equipment was donated by his friend who had them in protective storage for many years. The equipment consists of RF decks for 10, 6 and 2 meters AM/CW and a power supply/modulator chassis. The equipment was used for a QST article in 1967 and later was presented in *Handbooks*. The equipment is in excellent condition and is on display in the Heritage Museum section in the Laboratory.

ON GOING ACTIVITIES

1. Document Archive maintenance (Phase I)–*Word* and *Access* programs.
 - Secretary Minutes - 8 file drawers
 - *Word* programmed - 140 file drawers
2. Executive Correspondence and Report Archive (Phase II) maintenance.
 - *Access* programmed -140 archival boxes, 1500 line entries, 12 fireproof file drawers and a safe. Program is in accumulation phase.
3. Media-slide, video and film collection supplementation.
4. Vintage Technical Library maintenance – shelving 700 *Excel* recorded volumes..
5. Exhibitions and displays.
 - Lobby-vintage equipment displays. We are in the process of mounting the eighth consecutive display featuring a Paragon receiver similar to the one used by Paul F. Godley to monitor the US signal during the Transatlantic tests of 1921.
 - Laboratory Museum section - portion of equipment collection and period operating station setups are arranged for viewing.
 - CEO Conference Room - Unique items of historical significance displayed including a recent addition of Hiram Percy Maxim key. (Artifacts safely stored include Maxim log books; Constitution and amendments; and various documents).
6. Museum Equipment Collection.

Contents are securely stored and being grouped by category. Items (and categories) eligible for removal are being identified. More than 400 individual items have been

recorded in an *Excel* database. Volunteer, Jonathan Allen, K2KKH, continues to catalog new additions. Donations are accepted and included or auctioned.

NEW AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

1. Initial postings to the new *HERITAGE MUSEUM* section on the ARRL web site were made of five narrative articles. This posting is being removed and replaced with a *HISTORIAN's VIEW* section consisting of six articles and a three part PowerPoint presentation (narrative, slides and script). This revised posting presents articles concerning League history in chronological order of occurrence, similar to a book, in consistent format and layout. Additional historical articles will be added to this section.
2. We are in process of preparing a format for the web site presentation of unique equipment *FROM THE COLLECTION* initially using the material accumulated from the previous lobby exhibits.
3. To facilitate the web site activities above, the team members are learning the methods and process for posting. The posting to the current structure is complex and challenging.
4. Resumption of identification and cataloging of the 35mm slide collection. The collection will be centralized on a separate hard drive with those currently on a external systems. Two database programs are being evaluated to select the one most suitable for our application.
5. Guidance is still sought regarding the disposition of the considerable accumulation of ITU and IARU material which has not been cataloged as yet. It is centralized but not organized.
6. Preparation of a master directory of the archival, library and vintage equipment data bases maintained by the Archivist and Laboratory staff is in process. The intent is to have these programs accessible to all staff.

MAJOR PROPOSAL

The group has proposed to management the creation of a physical *Heritage Museum* and Visitors Center designed and constructed to professional standards. This concept involves dismantling the current underutilized technical library attached to the Laboratory and revamping the adjoining display areas. The library contents are to be melded into the equipment area and adjoining sections of the warehouse. The Library space is to be completely redecorated and repurposed.

Although funds are available for this project, we have been requested to proceed gradually as other physical projects take precedent and disruption is to be avoided. A PERT chart of project steps has been prepared. In anticipation of relocating the retained portions of the Library content a *Access* database is being created. This is a long term project to be undertaken in stages while our other activities are underway.

THE TEAM

The Historical Committee team at Headquarters presently consists of four principals – Bob Allison, WB1BCM Assistant Laboratory Manager who is liaison to the Committee; Michael Marinaro, WN1M volunteer acting as Historian, Archivist and Curator and a member of the Committee ; Jonathan Allen, K2KKH/1 volunteer acting as curator of the Museum equipment and Archivist; and Pete Turbide, W1PT volunteer technical restorer and maintainer of the Museum and donated equipment. There are other occasional participants but regrettably no permanent additions.

Organizationally, Allison and 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 recruits as succession, continuance and knowledge of the activities is of concern.

Michael Marinaro
Bob Allison
6/15/2017