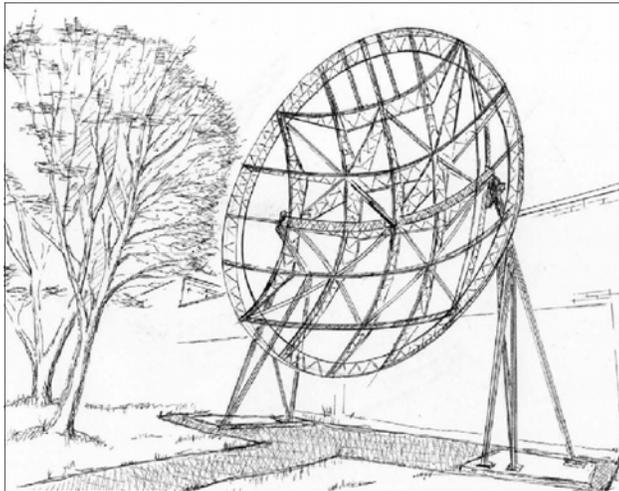


Historical Electronics Museum Reflections

Vol. 19
Issue 1

Spring 2008

Over the Horizon



Wurzburg Riese Radar Antenna at HEM — Drawing by Bob Ferguson

It's the Friday before the Memorial Day weekend and I thought I would spend an hour cleaning up my office. Things have really piled up but it has given me a chance to reflect back on the past few months. The first five months of 2008 have been some of the busiest in the museum's history. We mounted one major exhibit and held four outreach programs bringing in well over 1,000 people to the museum. Several important artifacts arrived including the XAF and AN/ZPQ-1. We upgraded the satellite exhibit and the airborne radar exhibit. New upgrades are in the works for the Fundamentals Gallery and the WWII Radar Gallery. Our archives can now be searched electronically and we greatly increased the photograph collection. The Board of Directors met in an important strategy session where they crafted revised mission and vision statements. Other decisions were reached that will lay the groundwork for a revised and energized museum. Our education and outreach director left us for a consulting job. In her place the museum contracted a marketing expert to get the message out to the public that we are here and we fully support education in the all important subjects of science, technology, engineering, and math.

Our education and outreach director left us for a consulting job. In her place the museum contracted a marketing expert to get the message out to the public that we are here and we fully support education in the all important subjects of science, technology, engineering, and math.

Everything the museum has accomplished so far this year has been because of the hard working staff and the corps of volunteers, without whom the museum would just be a couple of rooms filled with old stuff. I would also like to credit the members and donors for supplying us with the resources to do what we do. Well what's next? We are taking a little breather so the staff can rest up but the summer and fall are looking just as busy. Work on the XAF will begin with the hiring of a consultant to put together a restoration plan. An intern is joining the staff this summer who will be working on collections related projects. The staff is putting together the 2008 Pioneer Camp which is a day camp for 8-10 year olds to be held August 13 and 14. If you have young ones or know someone with kids this is not to be missed. We plan to have events to celebrate the 50th anniversary of NASA and the 150th anniversary of the birth of the great South Asian engineer Chandra Bose. A number of tours are scheduled as the word gets out we are here and we have great programs for kids. It has been a great six months. I am looking forward to the next six months. Better get my office straightened up!

Mike Simons
Director

Letter from the President

If you haven't been to the museum, lately you have been missing lots of very exciting activities! Be sure to get in to see the temporary exhibit from JHU APL before it leaves, and also to see the new "space backdrop" in the Space Gallery. The communications gallery also has a nifty new Spark Station exhibit, if you haven't caught it yet. And, as you see in the photos in the rest of the *Reflections* there have been some superb special activities, including the dedication of the Giant Wurzburg German WWII antenna now on our lawn, the nearly 800 people attending Robot Fest, and our first annual Wine Tasting and Tour. The Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club (HEMARC) conducted a special operating activity using the callsign W2W during the week of the Wurzburg installation, and contacted several thousand hams around the world to tell them of the event.

Coming up soon will be the installation of the XAF radar, which is the first ever shipboard radar developed in 1938—truly a historic radar that we are very proud to have. The ham club will be commemorating D-Day with another special operating event on the weekend of June 7/8.

Your board has been very active, and has reviewed and updated the strategic plan for the museum which should lead us to an ever-improving museum experience for our visitors in the next 5 years. It will emphasize our educational mission and the quality of our exhibits, and "How Electronics Changes the World".

I hope to see you at the Museum!

Rol Anders



XAF Antenna

HEM Mission Statement

Our mission is to educate, inspire, and excite the interest of students and the general public. We carry it out by presenting to them our electronics heritage through the collection, preservation, and display of significant artifacts and literature and the commemoration of the creativity and dedication of pioneers and all workers in the field of electronics. We focus on electronics developed for the defense of our country, the technologies that made them possible, and the commercial products derived from them.

"Dedicated to the thousands who devoted their careers to advancing electronics technology."

Congratulations!



Our VSR, Jennifer Robles, traveled to Australia in May to collect her PhD in Museum Studies from the University of Sydney.



Marketing Outreach Coordinator

Priscilla Goode recently joined HEM as the Marketing Outreach Coordinator. As Marketing Outreach Coordinator, Ms. Goode will focus on promoting awareness of the Museum and its vision and mission with special emphasis on education programs for all ages. Her professional experience includes a successful career in marketing and competitive research and developing branding strategies and promotional activities for several non-profit organizations as well as in the health care industry in Maryland, Texas and Washington, DC. Her academic credentials include an undergraduate degree from Texas A&M University and a Master degree from Johns Hopkins University.



History on Display



Currently on display at the Northrop Grumman Information Resource Center are some wonderful pieces of artwork. These are a part of an extensive collection of works by local Westinghouse-Northrop artist Al Schwartz who used vibrant colors to emphasize a variety of electronic systems in his paintings.



Take your sons and daughters to work

Take Your Child to Work Day 2008 was a great success! Over 200 visitors came to see live demonstrations about magnets, electricity and solar power and participated in hands-on activities using our radar gun!



Wurzburg dedication

The Wurzburg dedication was a big success. We had beautiful weather for the sign unveiling and Dr. Merrill Skolnick proved to be the perfect speaker. We are waiting on the permanent sign and there is still some minor restoration to be done.

Thank you to all the donors who made this acquisition possible.

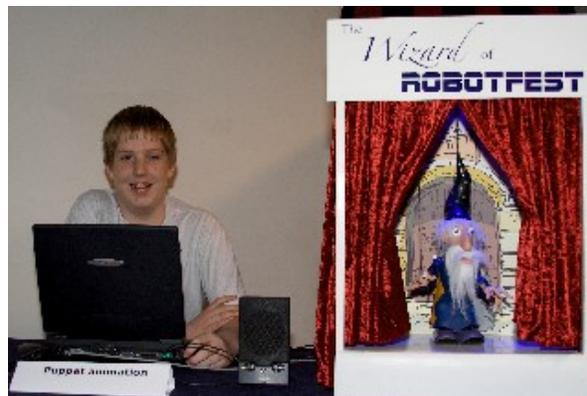


Bob Dwight and Mike Simons at Wurzburg dedication.

RobotFest



HEM was invaded by hoards of robots and an even larger hoard of robot enthusiasts. Over 800 people crammed into the museum to see battling robots, musical robots, military robots, life-sized Star Wars robots, and many others. This year the RobotFest featured a hands-on course where kids could build their own solar "bots". Mark your calendars now for the last Saturday in April, you are not going to want to miss the 2009 RobotFest.



New and returning members

We would like to acknowledge the following new and returning members of the Historical Electronics Museum

Life Member

Merrill I. Skolnik

Supporting Members

David Beck
 Weston G. Bruner
 Frank M. Butler
 Kernan Chaisson
 Michael A. Cross
 John N. Entzminger
 John Fielding
 Connie Finney
 R. James Fritsch
 Carolyn M. Fry
 James Hendry
 Arthur Henshall
 Karl Holub
 Charles Layton
 George W. Massing
 Naomi McAfee
 James Nowotarski
 Edgar H. Parker
 James Russell
 Ted Saad
 Jane Siebert
 C.W. Smith
 Xavier Spiegel
 Ralph Strong
 Chip Weems
 William Zoller

Family Members

N. E. Berneberg
 Louis P. Butler
 Elbert Cole
 John Cross
 Charles Denton
 Jerry Ditzel
 Ernest Farkas
 Charles Francis
 Donald Friedmann
 Robert Gardenghi
 William Griffiths
 Grosko Family
 Bruce Havlicsek
 Michael Lauriente
 Henry D. Lawton
 Stan Lebar
 James Mims
 Godfrey Rockefeller
 John & Lenore Russell
 Ron Schroer
 Kelly Tackett
 David Taylor
 Bill & Eleanor Thompson
 Wade Turner
 Sandra Valencia
 Emmett Wheeler

Individual Members

Thomas Ballard
 David Boyd
 Arthur Buckingham
 Russell Coile
 John Coltman
 David Dobson
 Mrs. Roy Dodd
 Steven Fick
 William Freienmuth
 William Kisse
 Julius Kozma
 Wayne Lloyd
 John McCarty
 James McGuinness
 William Melton
 Joseph Muchnij
 Edward Niehenke
 Albert Nims
 Thomas Panfil
 Joseph Pratt
 Terry Smith
 Joseph Spontak
 Diane Tichnell
 Thomas Wildenberg
 David Williams
 Joseph Zamoyta



HEMARC news

HEMARC's April meeting featured a presentation by Ron Plityka, WB3AAL on ham radio on the trail and at low power. Ron demonstrated a number of small and very small transceivers that have been effective in making many contacts while on the Appalachian Trail. A variety of portable antennas for several frequency bands were also discussed. The power for these rigs came from batteries and solar cells. A very impressive flexible solar cell array that could be worn over a backpack to charge batteries or run a small rig was very much admired. Everyone enjoyed seeing what can be achieved in this most interesting segment of amateur radio.

HEMARC is also pleased that Ron has joined the club and will participate in future events. His success in communicating along many miles of trails is particularly encouraging to the group of members that are enjoying ham radio at low and very low power—which we call QRP.

HEMARC has embarked on an ambitious long term process to upgrade the club radio station in the Communications Gallery. As part of that update, the recent changes have included the replacement of mid-size CRT computer monitors with large format LCD display monitors, plus an animated picture frame which continually displays photographs of club activities and interesting QSL cards received. Future plans include the replacement of the station computers, addition of a display of the certificates the club creates for its special on-the-air events, and an improved method for gallery visitors to see and hear what is being sent and received over the radios. In addition, the club is working with the museum to create a temporary exhibit, entitled "Hallicrafters and Heathkit - The "H" in Ham radio" in the near term. We are planning to display our significant collection of H and H equipment both in the museum's collection and that which is donated by club members for the exhibit. We intend to have at least one working shortwave receiver that can be used by museum visitors to scan the airwaves. And, as always at this time of year, the club is looking forward to another ARRL Field Day, on the 28 and 29th of June. We will be at Gary Mauler's spacious property in Jessup, MD for the fourth year, attempting to beat our score from last year and hold on to our first place position in the Maryland-DC division in class 3A. Come on down and visit!

New membership benefits

HEM is participating in the new Greater Baltimore History Alliance Reciprocal Membership Admission Program. This program will provide free general admission to other participating GBHA sites to HEM members who donate at least \$100 yearly. A membership card will be issued to all qualified members and a list of participating museum partners will be made available.

We will keep you informed as more information becomes available.



HISTORICAL ELECTRONICS MUSEUM

P.O. BOX 1693, MS 4015
BALTIMORE, MD 21203

TEL: (410) 765-0230
FAX: (410) 765-0240
E-mail: hemuseum@gmail.com
Web Site: <http://www.hem-usa.org>

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HEIGHTS, MD
PERMIT NO.8

FOUNDER

Robert L. Dwight

DIRECTORS

*Roland A. Anders
David J. Beck
Dorothy Brown
Louis P. Butler
Lorraine Clark
Jayfus Doswell
M. Constance Finney
James R. Fritsch
Mark A. Gaertner
William R. Gretsch
Karl J. Holub
Mark LeBrun
Walter G. Sutcliff
Thomas Wildenberg*

ADMISSION IS FREE! OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The museum's mailing address is:
**Historical Electronics Museum
P.O. Box 1693, MS 4015
Baltimore, MD 21203**

The museum's location is:
**1745 W. Nursery Road
Linthicum, MD 21090
(Next to the Marriott Hotel)**

The museum hours are:
**Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturdays
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
(and other hours by
appointment)**

Historical Electronics Museum Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please check one:

Student \$15
 Individual \$25
 Family \$30
 Supporting \$100
 Life \$1000

Please make checks payable to Historical Electronics Museum, Inc.