



# Reflections

Volume 21, Issue 2

SPRING 2010

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

BY: MIKE SIMONS

Summer is going to see the completion of two longstanding projects – the installation of the Fundamentals Gallery and the restoration of the XAF. Our “summer” kicks off at the end of April and runs through September and we have a lot in store.

Staff and volunteers are finishing the remaining pieces of the Fundamentals Gallery. As faithful readers of Reflections will know, this project has been ongoing for nearly four years. I know I cannot wait to see it finished. We plan to close the Fundamentals Gallery for approximately three weeks in mid August. During this time all of the current exhibits will be removed and the new exhibits put in place. We expect the installation to continue over the ensuing month culminating in a gallery Grand Reopening in mid September.

After a few months of inactivity, mostly due to weather, work on the XAF is again underway. Restoration of the mount was completed last fall and preliminary paint removal on the antenna was begun. The next phase involves the completion of the concrete pad, moving the mount outside, and restoration work on the antenna. The final step will be painting and replacing the antenna. As you can see there is still plenty of work yet to do. We still are looking for donations of time and money to finish this important restoration.

Robot Fest (April 24, 2010) signals the start of our summer. Back for its seventh year and bigger than ever, this year's event will feature a fashion show of wearable electronic clothes, artists from the Maryland Institute College of Art, musicians, medical robots, battle bots, reproductions of famous movie robots and way much more. We are going to charge a small fee this year to help defray costs and to give us some working capital to make next year's event even better.

We have several events for kids planned. April 22<sup>nd</sup> is Take Your Child to Work Day. YESS is returning for high school students in the fall and a new format for middle school students in July. NEM is hosting our third annual Pioneer Camp on August 11 and 12 for kids aged 8-10.

The 2010 Speaker Series started out of this world. In February Jim O'Leary from the Maryland Science Center, discussed the possibility of life in other galaxies while in April, Hadi Navid of JHUAPL, explained the challenges of sending probes to neighboring planets in our own solar system. On June 3, 2010 Paul Biermann, JHUAPL, will discuss the history of composite materials from the Red Baron's tri-plane to NASA's latest space probes. We plan to resume the series in September with a speaker to be announced.

NEM is wrapping up the summer with a return of Electronica Fest—a day long music and technology event. Build your own instrument or listen to electronic music arts performing on the NEM stage. Look for the event to return in early September.

Finally, fall is booking up fast as the museum prepares for our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, the USA Science & Engineering Festival, and the regional Rubik's Cube competition. Look for details on all these events on our website and in the next issue of Reflections.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Tim Titus has returned as a volunteer at the museum. He first came to NEM because of his interest in the history of radio but also discovered that we had a ham radio station. He took all of Roland Anders licensing courses, ultimately earning an Extra Class license, W1TRT. Tim joined our team of Saturday volunteers who staff the museum on weekends and help promote our facility. In 2006 he was among the Saturday volunteers who won the Volunteer of the Year award.



The demands of career and family kept Tim away from his volunteering for several years although he remained a member of the Amateur Radio Club. Now that he is retired, he has returned as a volunteer pinch hitting on Saturdays and conducting tours as needed. Welcome back Tim!

## FULFILLING OUR MISSION

NEM Mission Statement: *We promote and encourage the study of science and engineering using our electronic heritage to educate and inspire students and the general public. The Museum collects, preserves, exhibits, and makes available for research various artifacts, documents, and publications related to development of defense and other key electronics systems and the commercial products derived from them. We provide visitors with an appreciation of the evolutionary milestones in electronics that led to the sophisticated products in use today, and honor the achievements of the pioneers who made these advancements possible.*

If you visit the museum frequently, you'll notice a slow evolution of the exhibit signs here. We are constantly reviewing exhibit text, refining our message, and making sure it's understandable. As we discover photographs that show our electronic components in action, we add them to the display to help show how each piece fits with the others. This self-evaluation keeps us aware that while we see our signs everyday and know exactly what they mean, our visitors who are new to the topic might need a little more (or a little less) detail. We will continue to help visitors appreciate our electronic heritage by giving them clear and engaging information.

## NEM RADARS RECEIVE SNOW



## ORAL HISTORIES

The National Electronics Museum received a grant from the State of Maryland through the Maryland Historical Trust to record personal and professional histories of key individuals who contributed to the development of the electronics industry in Maryland. Over the last year, NEM has invited 23 pioneers to participate in this Oral History program. The IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) History Center partnered with NEM on the project and provided their experienced oral historians to elicit the recollections of our interviewees.

Among those whose stories we have recorded are Robert Dwight, NEM founder and Manager of Administration for Westinghouse's Defense Center, and Gene Strull, Vice President for Technology at Westinghouse. Interviewees discuss why they entered the field and what it was like to work in electronics in those crucial mid-twentieth century years, share anecdotes about Westinghouse and the early days of the industry in Baltimore, and how technology that we now rely on was created and advanced.

Transcripts for the first few interviews are already available on the NEM website under the "Resources" tab, and we will continue to add transcripts as they are completed. Check out the fascinating, inspiring, and sometimes funny stories of Maryland electronics pioneers!

## CAP PRESS RELEASE

### **NEM to Participate in Heritage Preservation's Conservation Assessment Program From Heritage Preservation's Press Release**

Heritage Preservation is pleased to announce the National Electronics Museum has been chosen to participate in the 2010 Conservation Assessment Program (CAP). NEM joins the 2,700 museums that have participated in CAP in its twenty year history of serving small museums. Heritage Preservation's CAP is supported through a cooperative agreement with the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. CAP assists museums by providing funds for professional conservation specialists to identify the conservation needs of their collections and recommend ways to correctly improve collections conditions. Heritage Preservation's President, Lawrence L. Reger, praised NEM for "making the vital work of caring for collections and sites a priority of their institution, even in these challenging financial times, and helping insure that they are available to present and future generations."

Heritage Preservation is a national non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage of the United States. To learn more about Heritage Preservation, please visit [www.heritagepreservation.org](http://www.heritagepreservation.org). The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. To learn more about the Institute, please visit [www.ims.gov](http://www.ims.gov).

## National Electronics Museum

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Baltimore, MD 21203

TEL: 410-765-0230

FAX: 410-765-0240

EMAIL: [nemuseum@gmail.com](mailto:nemuseum@gmail.com)

WEB SITE: <http://www.nationalelectronicmuseum.org>

### HOURS:

Monday– Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Also, open by appointment

### LOCATION:

1745 W. Nursery Road

Linthicum, MD 21090

(Next to the Marriott)

### MAILING ADDRESS:

National Electronics Museum

P.O BOX 1693, MS 4015

Baltimore, MD 21203

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>:** National Take Your Child to Work Day

**Saturday, April 24,:** **Robot Fest 2010** Fun with robots for all ages! 10am – 3pm.

**Saturday, May 22: GBHA Yard Sale:** Join us for the most unique Yard Sale around! Fifty Baltimore museums are cleaning out and selling their exhibit graphics, banners, posters, exhibit cases, gift shop stock, furniture, pictures, and photos! Who knows what neat things you can snag for a great price? All sales benefit the Greater Baltimore History Alliance (GBHA). Visit their website for a list of items for sale: [www.baltimoremuseums.org](http://www.baltimoremuseums.org). The GBHA Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 22 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Baltimore Museum of Industry, 1415 Key Highway, Baltimore, 21230. Rain or shine.

**Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>:** **2010 Lecture Series presents Paul Beirmann:** Materials and Process Engineer, Principle Professional Staff at JHUAPL: *Composites & their Practical Applications to Electronics*. 7pm, \$10/\$5 NEM & IEEE Members

**August 11 & 12: NEM's annual Pioneer Camp** returns! Open to children ages 8-10, 9am-1pm, watch our website for more information.

**October 10-24, 2010 — USA Science & Engineering Festival.** NEM is proud to be an Official Partner of the inaugural USA Science & Engineering Festival. Expo on the National Mall: October 23 & 24, 2010. For more information visit: <http://usasciencefestival.org/>

**Become a Member! Call 410-765-0230 or visit us online.**

**We are also on Twitter (as RadarMuseum) and Facebook!**