

From the Director's Desk By: Mike Simons

The staff is limiting what I can say in this newsletter, which is good because this is shaping up to be a busy summer. We kicked-off the season by placing the XAF base outside. You will find it just beyond the Wurzburg facing Nursery Road. We currently are completing the repair and restoration of the antenna. I hope to have the painting and final assembling completed by the end of summer.

Behind the scenes, we are moving our storage area to another part of the building to accommodate our new neighbor, the NG Calibration Lab. We have roughly the same amount of storage space, in a more secure area with better environmental controls. The most noticeable change will occur in the Fundamentals Gallery. It closes on 16 August and the new Fundamentals Gallery opens in mid September. The staff and volunteers will be completing preparations for the USA Science and Engineering Festival on the National Mall October 23. If that's not enough, in July we are kicking off our second YESS program with a week of activities for Middle School students. Pioneer Camp returns for its third year on August 11 and 12. Finally, we are hosting students from the Harbour School of Annapolis, giving them the opportunity to interact in a professional work setting.

As summer ends and we complete moves and renovations, look for the continuation of our 2010 Speaker Series on September 1 with a talk by Jerome Beser. Join us as he discusses his father's experience as part of both atomic raids at the end of WWII. There will also be copies of Jerome's book and a book by Jack Spangler for sale after the talk. Our second annual Electronica Fest closes out the summer on September 18. Come out for a full day of music, workshops, and surprises. Also, look for an announcement concerning our 30th anniversary bash in October and the official reopening of the Fundamentals Gallery in September.

As you can see, it's a packed summer. If you want to help with any of these projects either through a donation, or as a volunteer, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Fulfilling Our Mission By: Alice Donahue

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.*



In addition to artifacts and objects, NEM houses a research library and archive to provide insight into the history and development of our electronic heritage. The library holds thousands of historic and modern books and journals: textbooks at the high school and college levels; how-to books for amateurs and enthusiasts; treatises on theory; biographies of electronics pioneers; and much more. The archive contains a treasure trove of manuals instructing in the use of early electrical systems as well as thousands of photographs documenting electronics developments. These resources are all available to the public for research projects, or just to sate your curiosity about electronics history.



Collections Corner By: Rebecca Glasby

This summer Emily Margolis joins the staff of the NEM as a collections intern. Emily graduated from Princeton University this June with a Bachelor's Degree in Physics and minors in Mechanical Engineering and German. Her primary academic interest is the history of science, which, coupled with her technical background, is responsible for her great curiosity about and appreciation for the objects in our collection. Emily is looking forward to taking part in the varied responsibilities of the work we do here at NEM, as she hopes to one day become a science museum curator after pursuing graduate studies in the history of science.



Our summer interns spend 12 weeks working on a variety of collections related projects, along with lending a hand where needed throughout the museum. This summer, Emily will work with the staff to accession and catalog new donations, organize artifact storage areas, learn to handle and pack artifacts for relocation, install exhibits and help to coordinate our summer education program. Interns are an important asset to the museum and we look forward to Emily's time with us this summer.

Robot Fest 2010 Recap By: RJ Compton

Everyone who came out to our annual Robot Fest enjoyed one of the year's most exciting and fascinating events. We are so grateful to all of our members who attended or contributed to Robot Fest. A special thanks goes out to our board member Gary Mauler, who developed Robot Fest and continues to improve it every year. The much-admired event lived up to its reputation with plenty of stimulating displays, presentations, and, of course, robots!

Joining us again this year was a state-of-the-art R2D2 reproduction that inspired and awed Fest-goers. We also had an interesting fashion show of robot-inspired dress put on by local MICA students. A hit with so many Robot Fest attendees, our Vibrabot and Simon workshops provided kids and adults the opportunity to learn about electronics while building their very own working robot! In addition, we were lucky to have representatives from the Arundel Mills Lego store presenting Lego education class demonstrations. To top it all off, the winners of the FIRST Robotics Competition demonstrated their creations, Greg Kist exhibited a vocoder and allowed people to process their voice through it, and several other incredible presenters displayed so many more crafts and inventions.

If you missed out this year, don't worry because Robot Fest is slated to return to NEM next year. Robot Fest is always growing, so those of you who did attend please be sure to come see what's new next year!



Farewell to an NEM Friend By: Mike Simons



On 23 Dec 2009 Stan Lebar passed away. Although I only knew him for a short time, I counted him as a friend. As I got to know Stan I found out he was more than just "the lunar camera guy". He was a religious leader, philanthropist, and veteran. He knew what he wanted and how to get it; and he was a darn good storyteller. Over the years, Stan was a big supporter of the museum – donating artifacts, time, and money. In fact, Stan was one of the first guys in my office when I started at NEM. Immediately, he "asked" me in the way only Stan could "ask", would I help him track down the missing Apollo 11 telemetry tapes. Little did I know this was to be the first of many visits to look for the tapes; and several future visits that coincided to plan celebrations, organize photo shoots, set up interviews, plan his travel, haul artifacts here and there, etc. All of these activities culminated in the 40th anniversary celebration of the Apollo XI mission in Washington, DC last summer. I'll miss Stan "asking" for my help on his various endeavors. The museum has lost one of its biggest fans.

National Electronics Museum

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LOCATION:

(not mailing address)
1745 W. Nursery Road
Linthicum, MD 21090
(Next to the Marriot)

HOURS:

Monday– Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Also, open by appointment

Upcoming Events

August 11 & 12, 2010—NEM's annual Pioneer Camp returns! Your children should join us for two days full of knowledge, activities, and fun, while exploring this year's topic *Magnetism & Electricity*. Open to children ages 8-10, 9am-1pm.

September 1, 2010 7-8:30pm —The Atomic Bombings of WWII: The Views of the Radar Man by Jacob Beser, presented by his son Jerome Beser. Please join us for a presentation of Jacob Beser's recollections of being the only man to fly on both strike B-29s that delivered the A-bombs to Hiroshima and Nagasaki. For more information, please call 410-765-0230 or email anne.mech@ngc.com.

September 18, 2010—Electronica Fest. It's back! Our annual Electronica Fest returns with electronic music that is sure to excite your temporal lobe. We have asked last year's bands to return, as well as invited a slew of new creative geniuses to play.

September 2010—Grand Opening of NEM's new Fundamentals Gallery. Be on the lookout for information on the grand opening of our new Fundamentals Gallery in late September. We would love to see you at the grand opening, or just stopping in to see our newest gallery!

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 Radar Museum) and Facebook!