

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

BY: MIKE SIMONS

As we enter the new decade, the museum is approaching an important milestone. October marks the 30th anniversary of our incorporation. We plan to hold several events honoring the anniversary. More information will be forthcoming this spring.

After six years, the AN/SPG-55 radar antenna, previously at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab (APL), has taken its place of honor in front of the museum. For several decades the SPG-55 was an integral part of APL's research in radar and countermeasures technology. Although this type of radar was deployed on a number of US Navy ships, this one may be the last example in existence.

Beginning in February the museum will be hosting a bimonthly speaker series on the first Wednesday of the month. We are kicking off our 2010 speaker series on February 3 with Jim O'Leary, Senior Director of the IMAX/Planetarium, Maryland Science Center and co-host of Skywatch on WYPR. Jim will discuss the search for life on other planets. In April, we have tentatively scheduled Dr. Havi Navid, APL engineer to discuss the challenges of sending a spacecraft to Mercury. Look on the website for more information.

There will be a one-two punch of robot mayhem this year. On February 13, NEM is holding our first annual Tecno-Swap Fest. Everything that is do-it yourself will be bought, sold, and traded. If you are thinking about building that robot or tossing in the towel on that death ray project, NEM is the place to be. And if that's not enough, Robot Fest will be grinding into NEM on April 24. See you in 2010!



The long-awaited AN/SPG-55 ship-board radar arriving at NEM.

FULFILLING OUR MISSION

BY: ALICE DONAHUE

The NEM Mission: 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.

During the past year, the NEM mission statement guided staff in our projects. One way we have tried to enhance visitor appreciation of electronics is to give a fuller context to the artifacts we display. So many of the electrical systems and components in the museum can seem like impenetrable black boxes to our visitors. By incorporating objects such as the tail end of a Skywarrior bomber jet which held the tracking system sitting below it, we help visitors to see how the electronics fit into a bigger picture. As we take on 2010, the museum staff will continue to look for ways to make the history of electronics relevant and exciting for our visitors.

VOLUNTEERS ARE OUT OF THIS WORLD! BY: BECKY GLASBY

Countdown to launch...3...2...1...liftoff! This year's Annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet blasted off on Friday, December 4, 2009, with an Outer Space theme. As guests arrived, they followed Buzz Aldrin's moon footprint through the galleries into the hall and were greeted with music from *Star Trek*, *2001: Space Odyssey*, *Star Wars* and other themed tracks.

Running throughout the night was a picture slideshow of our volunteers throughout the year. There's always a good laugh when volunteers spot themselves in action on the slideshow! This year's dinner was catered by the Olive Grove Restaurant and everyone agreed it was simply fantastic. We had 60 people show up for the night and both Mike and Roland said their thanks for all our volunteers do for the Museum.

Each year we highlight several volunteers with awards for their support and efforts during the year. This year we honored the following:

For **1,000 hours** of service to the Museum: Ralph Strong & Eleanor Thompson

Above & Beyond Award: Gary Mauler & Noel Peterson

Volunteer of the Year 2009: Andrew Zagorski

From the entire Museum staff we say **Thank You** to *all* of our volunteers for their time, hard work & service!



Volunteer of the year, Andrew Zagorski, and Assistant Director, Becky Glasby.



The 2009 Volunteers pose for a group picture.

COLLECTIONS ROUNDUP BY: BECKY GLASBY

This year marks several milestones in our collections care efforts. Starting back in 2006 and with the help of several summer interns, this fall we finished our inventory of the historical collections – a total of 2300+ objects! With the inventory complete, we are able to update our records on each object with pictures & additional information. This year alone we accessioned 100+ objects into our ever growing collection of artifacts.

Another milestone involves the inventory, selection & processing of our vacuum tubes. So far we have inventoried over 18,000 tubes and already over 150 tubes have been processed and each week we add to that number. To house the processed tubes, we purchased two state of the art cabinets for our storage space. Collections care is an ongoing job and with these steps completed, we can continue to better our records & exhibits of these historic artifacts.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

BY: ROLAND ANDERS (FORMER PRESIDENT) AND KARL HOLUB

This will be my last "From the President" message, as I just completed my limit of three terms. Per the by-laws, I will continue on the board as "Past President", which pleases me very much since 2010 promises to be a great year. For instance, the Annual Plan and budget approved for '10 allow for the completion of the renovation of the Fundamentals Gallery and the restoration of the Navy 1938 XAF radar. In addition, the board signed up for fund raising training early in 2010 to further increase the financial health of the Museum.

2010 will also bring more special events. For example, look for a special summer fundraiser with excellent food and exciting silent auction items. Also, the popular "Robotfest" and "Electronica" music event will continue. To further encourage technical studies, the YESS program will expand to a summer "day camp," and the Bob Dwight Scholarship amount has been increased.

2010 kicks off Feb. 3 with a lecture by WYPR "Sky Watch" host Jim O'Leary and the "Techno Swap Fest" on Feb. 13.

Thanks for your support, and see you at the Museum! — Rol Anders

Happy New Year! On behalf of the Board and all those involved with the museum, I extend to recent Past President Roland Anders our heartfelt thanks for his dedication and service to the museum and for a job well done! Congratulations to all of the new board members and officers on their election to the board and thank you to the returning members for your service to the NEM. I look forward to working with the museum staff, volunteers and board to further the mission of the museum preserving an important part of our nation's history and using that as a springboard for our educational outreach.

In that light, progress on the Fundamentals Gallery upgrade has been made and we look forward to finishing those improvements this year. Recently, we received from JHU/APL the AN/SPG-55 radar after several years of effort by the museum director and generous benefactors and are pleased to have it join our "Radar Row". This is a welcomed addition to the collection preserving an important piece of naval history. Look at the Director's article for upcoming NEM activities. Please stay tuned for many more exciting events in the upcoming year! — Karl Holub

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Gary Mauler — Northrop Grumman Engineer, Robot Fest Coordinator

John Quinn — Executive Director of STEM for Baltimore County Public School Systems

Rich Wiggins — Director of Product Management/Business Development - Northrop Grumman Electronic Systems Space Systems

YESS

BY: MIKE SIMONS

YESS 2009 was a big success thanks to the efforts of NEM Board member Connie Finney. To lead the program, Connie recruited Howard County teachers Dean Sheridan and Michelle Bagley, plus Anthony Snukis from the Maryland Science Center. During the five consecutive sessions over 150 local high school students listened to talks by NASA astronaut Don Thomas, Northrop Grumman engineer Jim Armitage, and JHUAPL engineers Hadi Navid and Paul Biermann discuss space travel, radar, mechanical engineering, materials science, and composites. Each session included engineering challenges and Q&A. During the final session, students participated in a panel discussion with young engineers followed by prizes given based on winning challenges and quizzes and having the highest attendance.



A YESS student participating in an experiment.



Students answer questions in order to win YESS money for prizes.

National Electronics Museum

P.O Box 1693, MS 4015

Baltimore, MD 21203

TEL: 410-765-0230

FAX: 410-765-0240

EMAIL: nemuseum@gmail.com

WEBSITE: <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 Marriot)

MAILING ADDRESS:

National Electronics Museum

P.O BOX 1693, MS 4015

BALTIMORE, MD 21203

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Wednesday, February 3 at 7pm – Lecture by Jim O’Leary**, host of WYPR’s SkyWatch: *The Search for Life in the Universe*. \$10/\$5 NEM/IEEE Members
- **Saturday, February 13, 9-2 – Techno-Swap-Fest**. Need parts for your electronic project? Need to get rid of some? Come to the swap meet. Adults \$5/16 and under free. Pay at the door.
- **Saturday, April 24, 10-3 – Robot Fest 2010** Free fun with robots for all ages! <http://www.robotfest.com/>
- **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.

Go to www.nationalelectronicmuseum.org, or find us on Facebook for more information. For ticketed events, call 410-765-0230.



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