

Michael P. O'Leary's Reporting on the 2002 East Coast Oughtred Society Meeting.

November 9, 2002, at East Windsor, NJ.

edited by [Jim Cerny](#) July/2004.

Introduction.

Michael P. O'Leary wrote a summary report on the 2002 East Coast Oughtred Society Meeting and posted it to the International Slide Rule Group (ISRG) list on November 11, 2002, as message 16147. Michael also took pictures and made scans of rules at the meeting, but he was not able to make these available before his unexpected death in July, 2003. Pam O'Leary, his widow, gave me a copy of his unedited files and I've edited and organized them for this report, so that the materials are not lost and as a remembrance of Michael.

[Michael's Summary Report](#). Message 16147

From: "Michael P. O'Leary"

Date: Monday Nov 11, 2002

Subject: The 2002 New Jersey Oughtred Society Meeting

Greetings:

It has been an exhausting week, but I wouldn't have missed it for the world. I started the week with the excitement over the Concise 380 Radio Computer (more on that in another, separate email). Add to it the sales of another 5 inch rule I have (see the slide rule trade list for details). Deciding what to wear to the NJ OS Meeting (an ISRG Logo Polo shirt, of course!). Pulling together a slide rule display (over 30 Concise circular slide rules) Configuring two laptop PCs to run two HP ScanJet 4p scanners, plus two spare scanners. Preparing two presentation slide shows for my talk during lunch. Attendees got a preview of the photos of the K&E Logarithmic Dividing Engine that will be appearing in the JOS shortly. Reading and/or answering over 1500 emails in about 10 days. Driving to and from New Jersey. Finally, attending a great meeting! Did I say I was busy?

Here is a very brief description of the OS meeting. Jerry Helck and Conrad Schure hosted the event, providing us with a large hall for the meeting, and a separate dining hall for our continental breakfast and catered lunch. We had 19 members at the event, with 6 guests and a walkin or two. Several hundred slide rules were placed on display, ranging from the extensive hydraulic rule display by Darryl Calkins, to David Hyman's collection of unusual and somewhat hard to find 20th Century rules. There were a variety of Picketts on Jerry McKenna's table, and Ron McConnell brought along a Pickett 1084 Resistance Rule, and especially elusive rule on my "want" list. And these were just the first-timers! (I think I got them all, but I might have missed one or two.) The veterans of these events also showed up with some tantalizing delights. It was good to see everybody, and renew acquaintances. There were about a half dozen Thachers, including Ed Chamberlain's very low serial numbered first variation. Conrad had a 4013 magnifier variant. Zach Fluhr had an excellent Thacher for sale, well beyond what I could afford,

but at a very reasonable price. Bob Otnes and Ed Chamberlain were almost able to combine two half rules of early British origin to make up a complete rule. The pieces did not quite match. (I forgot most of the details on this, and hope either Ed or Bob will expound further!)

Bob Otnes brought along some mechanical adders, and gave a very informed and interesting talk about their evolution during lunch. Ed Chamberlain has a thing for long scale rules, and did an admirable job with his presentation of these wonderfully diverse devices. Darryl Calkins gave a presentation on the slide rule designs of William Cox, known to many as the author of many of K&E's slide rule manuals. Darryl gave a very well documented and prepared presentation of the rest of Cox's activities, most of which I had never seen before. I was very impressed, Darryl! Me, I was last up, and gave a presentation on why scanning is important to slide rule collecting, and how to do it. I also gave an overview of the editing process I use to produce images for Herman's Slide Rule Catalog. I finished up with a slideshow of the pictures of the K&E Logarithmic Dividing Engine that Ed Chamberlain discovered at the American Precision Museum in Windsor, VT. You will get a much more detailed description in the upcoming JOS. (This is a HINT that if you do not join the JOS, you will be missing out on something really special.)

After lunch was the auction of the slide rules. All during the morning, everyone has a chance to look over the slide rules on all the tables. Some of the rules are offered for auction. If at least two people sign up for a rule, it gets auctioned in the afternoon. If only one signs up, he wins by default at the opening bid. Anything that didn't sell can be haggled over after the auction. I think it was a reflection on current times that the auction this year was not as lively and spirited as at prior events. In spite of this, a lot of rules changed hands.

As is almost always the case, the meeting came to an end way too soon, and too many good conversations were cut short, and put on hold for another day. As is usual among good friends, I saw each pack his gear, and then all helped each other out in getting everything removed from the hall. That level of camaraderie is rare, most places, and is a further demonstration of the quality of the people collecting slide rules.

Following the meeting, we all converged on a local Italian restaurant for a fabulous dinner. We fed an awful lot of people for a very meager fee, and no one left hungry. We finished up the night at Conrad's house for coffee and dessert. It was a lot of fun watching the faces of everybody as they entered Conrad's inner sanctum, where much of his collection resides. They came around the corner, generally watching their step as they got to the top of the stairs. Entering the room, they looked up, looked puzzled for just a second, and then their eyes widened big as saucers as they started to recognize things, jaws dropped, and when they recovered their voices, said something like, "OOOHHH MY GAAAWWWWD!". That about covers it. <Very Big Grin!!> Even the spouses were stunned! We all gained a new appreciation for the diversity of forms in which we found slide rules. I had the privilege of holding many very rare K&E slide rules, rules I have no hope of ever owning. Conrad, kindhearted and softspoken gentleman that he is, handed me rule after rule that I have only seen in the K&E catalogs. He entrusted me with holding such treasures! I am looking forward to assisting him (should he need it) with scanning and documenting these beautiful rarities. Conrad was most gracious to us all, and the most perfect of hosts. While there, I stayed with Jerry Helck and his wonderful wife. We had many long talks about slide rules, the Oughtred Society, the ISRG, computers, scanning, Herman's

catalog, and various and sundry other hobbies in common. It was fun helping prepare the nametags and placemarkers the night before the meeting, and it was wonderful to have such a nice peaceful place to kick off the shoes at the end of the day. Thank you very much Jerry, for your hospitality and friendship.

Well, I guess that about does it. I need to get to bed. It has been a long day. I look forward to the next OS meeting with great anticipation.

Warmest regards,

Michael

[Michael's Pictures](#). **Michael P. O'Leary's Reporting on the 2002 East Coast Oughtred Society Meeting.**

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Pictures.

With a bit of educated guesswork I've supplied brief captions for some of Michael's pictures, but please send me corrections. Click on each picture to see a larger version.



Demonstration of Michael O'Leary's slide scanning technique, with a Pickett rule positioned on an older model HP 4P scanner, using a glued-up set of drafting triangles.



Ross Rapid Computer, very similar to the Dempster Rotarule.



Ed Chamberlain's table, featuring long-scale circular rules.



David Hyman inspects Ed Chamberlain's table.



Zack Fluhr's table with others and significant others talking in the room.



Bob Otnes' table.



Michael O'Leary's table, featuring Concise circular rules.



Ted Palen at his table, with items for sale. Note the Bygrave cylindrical rule at the left and the circular Crichlow artillery rule at the right.



Ed Chamberlain (recorder) and Bob Otnes (auctioneer) in action, stopped at Zach Fluhr's table.



Ed Chamberlain at the center of attention during the auction.



Ed Chamberlain (recorder) holding a small Hemmi 32-type rule with magnifying cursor.

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Michael's Scans of Rules. Scans of Rules.

[Webmaster Comment: The 2002 and 2003 East Coast Meeting Reports were lost due to a computer failure. These files and some of the images have been recovered from old, on line, Oughtred Society Website files. Unfortunately not all images could be recovered. Links below have been left in place in case someday the files turn up on someone's archive!]

Michael scanned rules at 300 dpi and saved them as large, unedited TIFF files. Using Photoshop I've made some basic edits (cropping, color correction and balancing, sharpening) and saved the results as JPEG files. Most rules are shown front and back. Click on each thumbnail image for a larger version. Place the cursor in the lower right corner of the image, using Microsoft Internet Explorer 6 automatic image resizing, to see whether it is at maximum size. The rules are grouped here by type: circular, linear, other. I've skipped some of the more common rules Michael scanned, to concentrate on less common examples.

A very uncommon Concise Multi Calculator rule (model 1000) that includes an Addiator!
Brought by Zach Fluhr.

The Calculaide frequency computer made by American Hydromath. Brought by Tom Frank.

This E-C-1 model is a shipping capacity computer (tonnage) made by American Hydromath for the War Shipping Administration. Brought by Tom Frank.

This E-C-2 model is a capacity computer for keeping a ship trim while loaded, made by American Hydromath for the War Shipping Administration. Brought by Tom Frank.

This M4A1 model circular rule is used to calculate nuclear weapons yield. Brought by David Hyman.

This is a circular Russian flight computer, model HPH-2. Brought by Jerry McKenna.

The Hemmi 153 rule, with hyperbolic scales. Brought by David Hyman.

The 20-inch Hemmi 154 rule, with hyperbolic scales. Brought by Bob Otnes.

This is a water line capacity rule, designed by Grizzle and made by Lawrence Engineering. Brought by David Hyman.

This is a centrifugal pump rule, designed by Thom and made by Lawrence Engineering. Brought by Henry Schadt.

This Unique rule is the T.E.R. No. 5, for calculating transmission limits. Brought by Paul McConnell.

This is the uncommon 20-inch K&E; 4087 rule, with the very uncommon column cursor, circa 1913. Brought by Conrad Schure. On Clark McCoy's Web site you can see versions with the all-glass and clamshell cursors (look in the "4071 Early" category). This variation is so uncommon it is not even in Michael O'Leary's K&E; XREF!

This is the small Mindling Adder, plus instructions. Brought by David Hyman.

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