

Annual Meeting in Las Vegas By Bob De Cesaris

The **Oughtred Society Annual Meeting** was held April 29, 2017 in Las Vegas, NV at the National Atomic Testing Museum on the UNLV campus.



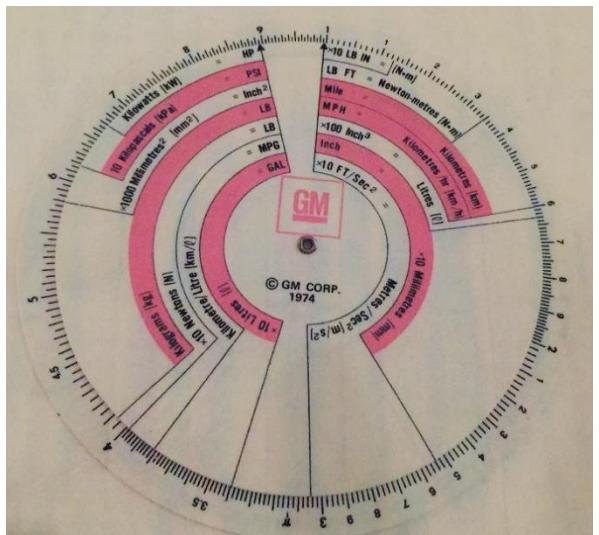
morning's activities culminated in interesting presentations from two of our members on very different subjects.

Marion Moon presented a paper on one of his favorite subjects "End of an Era Slide Rules" which featured a late circular slide rule that was designed by General Motors and copyrighted in 1974, quite late for any slide rule. This rule included gauge points for numerous conversions for distance, power, force, pressure and volumes. The reverse of the rule contained a table of frequently used conversions for 14 different key areas in engineering and mechanics. Marion related his initial discovery of the rule and some of the work he did in researching its development and utility.

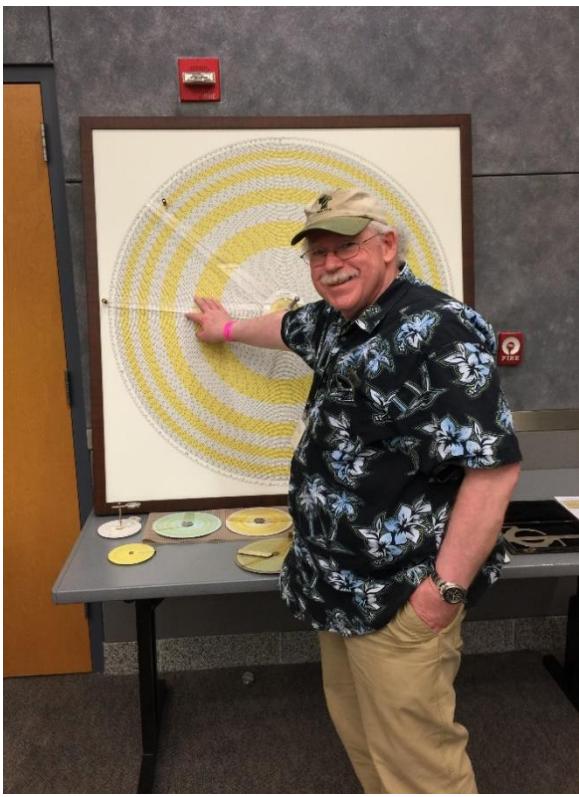
End of an Era, GM Circular Slide Rule, 1974

Members gathered at the Four Points by Sheraton hotel the evening before for dinner and many interesting discussions were held in the fields of calculating, engineering, and technology. The next morning started with a meet and greet and set-up of displays and auction tables.

As usual, the museum, which features displays and videos of key players and important milestones in the history of the race to develop the atomic bomb, was open throughout the meeting to OS members. The



- **Jim Bready**, Our second presenter, brought his improved “**Colossus**” slide rule (“Colossus 2.0”) to the meeting for display and reviewed his interesting experiences with designing and fabricating this rule. The challenges revealed were many, especially in designing and perfecting the scales on this enormous rule, which features five and six place accuracy, and in constructing the cursors with the correct friction and weight for proper operation. Jim noted one of the most visible changes from his initial version was the replacement of the opaque metal cursor counterweights with transparent leaded glass to ensure that no calculation would be blocked by the metal weights. Everyone at the meeting was quite impressed with the rule and with Jim’s passion to create the longest scale slide rule ever created! We will need to compare this



rule to Skip Solberg's effort some years ago that featured the longest rule ever designed. Jim's rule is certainly the one that would hang in every Fortune 500 high tech conference room in an alternate 'Steampunk' universe!

Among some of the other highlights from the member displays were **Richard Davis**'s two displays featuring **Nuclear and Chemistry Slide Rules** and **Ace Hoffman's Digital Virtual Analog Slide Rule**. Richard's display included an example of the Hemmi 257, Faber-Castell Chemiker, Post 1460, Nestler 33 Chemiker, a large circular Russian Chemical rule, and many nuclear 'DOSE' calculators for use when entering nuclear fallout areas. Ace's display featured his free app which allows virtual simulations of linear and circular slide rules. He displayed these on both a laptop and tablet computer, along with instructions for downloading to various operating systems.

Hundreds of interesting rules and calculating devices were on display from the attendees with many items for sale at the auction. Over 70 items from the **Thomas Wyman collection** were featured for sale at the auction. There were many highlights, including a 24-inch boxwood Sliding Gunter,

Brown's Slide Rule for Steam Engines, an early Scientific Publishing Co. circular slide rule, a celluloid-on-wood Pilot Balloon Slide Rule, Mark II, and numerous other boxwood slide rules and Gunter scales. A big thanks to Clark McCoy, Ron Knapp, and Bob De Cesaris for organizing and transporting the rules to the meeting from the Wyman Collection and then transporting any unsold items back our storage facility in Roseville, CA.

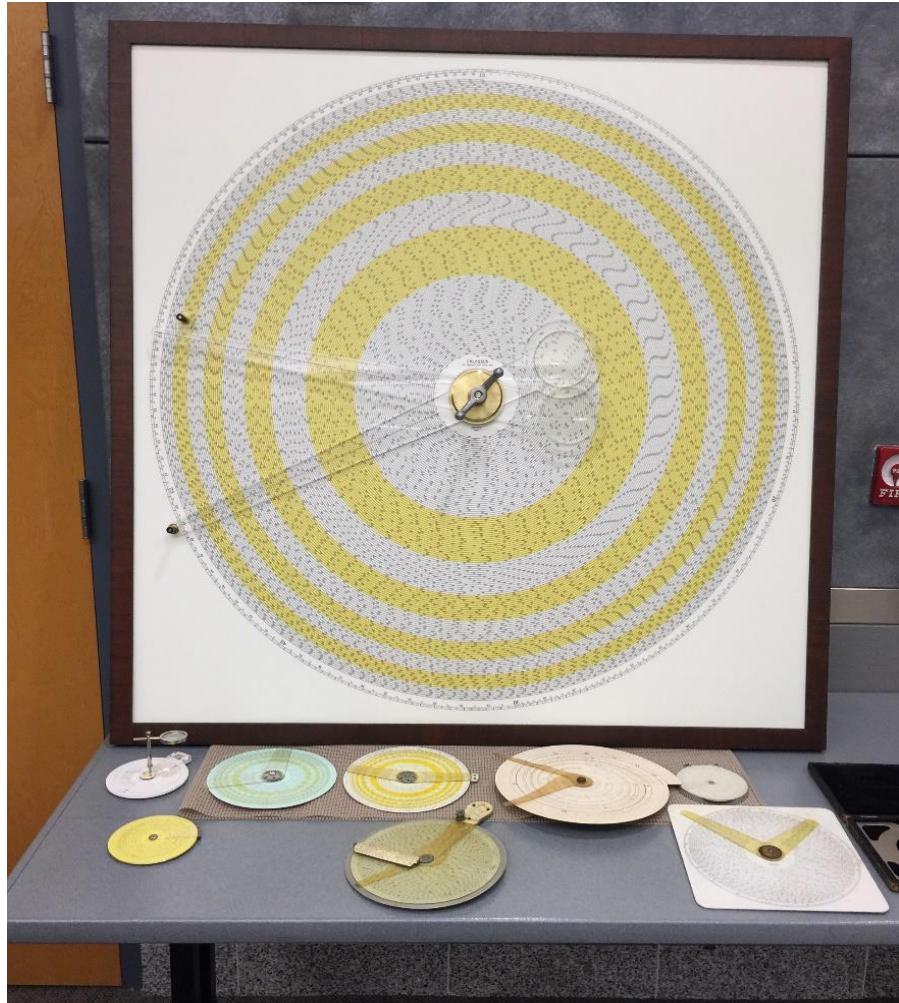
Our **Oughtred Society Annual Business Meeting** was held on Saturday afternoon, presided over by our president, Bob De Cesaris. Membership remains strong at 355 renewed by the end of April, well on our way to our typical total of 400 members for the year. Bob reported that a new board position, Director Emeritus, was defined at the March Board Meeting, and two of our founding members, **Bob Otnes** and **Conrad Schure**, have assumed these positions. Our two new members of the Board of Directors, **Jim Bready** and **Louis Gotlib**, were also recognized. Officers for 2018 were nominated and unanimously approved:

President:	Bob De Cesaris
Treasurer:	Clark McCoy
Membership Secretary:	Clark McCoy

As there were no nominations for the office of Vice-President, this position is currently vacant for the coming year. Our most sincere thanks go out to **Kate Matthews**, who did an outstanding job both in this position and also as our Recording Secretary for ten years, since our May 2007 Annual Meeting. **Herb Gold** has volunteered to manage some of the duties of this position by assuming responsibility for Oughtred Society federal and state tax filings. For any member interested in discussing the Vice-President Board position, please contact Bob De Cesaris (robert.g.de.cesaris@intel.com) or Clark McCoy (oughtredsociety@comcast.net) for further information.

The remainder of the meeting focused on updates to the membership on the status of all of our OS publications and our website. **David Sweetman** and **Richard Davis** have continued driving excellent progress and

maintaining all schedules in both of these areas. Also covered was the effort that had been made in recovering the files for the English version of the book on Curt Herzstark, the inventor of the Curta calculator, a special project that had been spearheaded by Tom Wyman. Members present were also asked to express their preferences for the location of our 2018 Annual Meeting; Las Vegas was clearly voted again as the favorite site for next year.



The Colossus Compared to the Other Large Circular Rules