

Third Annual Oughtred Society Winter Meeting an Outstanding Event

Tom Wyman



The Third Annual Oughtred Society Winter meeting convened in Las Vegas on February 20, 2010 was a rousing success and all but established the occasion as an ongoing Oughtred tradition. Friday night's dinner attracted thirty participants and wives and was a gala evening with more than plenty of traditional Italian food fare and wine to accompany it. Conviviality was the keynote of the evening with everyone enjoying meeting old friends and making new ones.

Editor's note: Thanks to Tom Wyman for treating everyone to wine with their dinner.



The next morning the doors of the Atomic Testing Museum opened shortly after 8:00 a.m. and participants began arranging their slide rule displays dividing them between those for show and those for sale. In the course of the morning Bob De Cesaris, the Society's president, made a few remarks including commending Bob Otnes for his long and productive tenure as the editor of the *Journal* and congratulating the new JOS editorial team for their sterling initial issue that featured color. Richard Smith Hughes gave an informative talk on the evolution of the Dempster RotaRule, referring to it as the most complicated slide rule ever produced. He went on to discuss how, in the 1960s, it morphed into the Boykin RotaRule, two of which were sold at auction that afternoon.

Our Hawaiian registrant, Riki Nakamoto, very generously gave

everyone present a can of Island-produced macadamia nuts thereby assuring that no one left empty-handed. Dick Rose gave everyone a new in box cursor for the ever popular K&E Log Log Duplex Decitrig slide rule.

The ten minute slide rule competition just before lunch had nine participants, three of whom were recognized with congratulations and handsome plaques. First, second and third place awards went to Bennie Tschoerner, Riki Nakamoto and Carl Schwent respectively. Their good work was a demonstration of the continuing utility of the slide rule! Our appreciation goes to Mike Konshak of the International Slide Rule Museum for providing the problems and contest rules from his International Slide Rule Championships program.



Ted Hume and Bob Koppany conducted the afternoon auction, which stimulated spirited bidding for a wide range of slide rules. It was an opportunity for everyone to add special slide rules to his or her collection. Many fine slide rules were bought and traded, including K&E Analon, Aristo 0972 Hyperlog new in box, Faber-Castell Novo Duplex 2/83N new in box, several rare and ancient K&E rules, overhead projection rules, Boykin RotaRules new in box, slide rule manuals from as early as 1896, and numerous other choice items.

Meeting chairman Richard Davis deserves another round of applause for once again organizing a fine meeting that attracted a good group of dedicated slide rule collectors and historians.



FRIDAY EVENING AT BUCA DI BEPPO – A HAPPY CROWD OF SLIDE
RULE COLLECTORS!





Richard Smith Hughes presenting his excellent Dempster RotaRule paper.



Martha Prince looking over her collection of unusual slide rules and other instruments



Another collection of circular and standard slide rules.



David Sweetman and Jeff White check out some interesting slide rules.