

 THE  
OUGHTRED  
SOCIETY  
*Newsletter*

June/July/August, 2015

**From Your Newsletter Editor - Ed Chamberlain .....**



Note that this issue of the Oughtred Society Newsletter covers the months of June, July and August. This is a continuation of an experiment to issue bi-monthly OS newsletters. Please forgive me for being a month late this time, but life has been hectic on the farm this summer. The next issue will cover the month of September. It will get me back on schedule, and bring a review of IM2015.

It has been a busy time for the organizers of IM 2015. Bob De Cesaris and his able OS volunteers have been getting the proceedings ready and cataloging items from the Tom Wyman and David gamble collections to auction at the meeting. A list of all items from these two collections will be sent to all OS members about 2 weeks before the meeting. If you are attending IM2015, don't forget to bring some of your own treasures or duplicates to also sell at the meeting. There will be plenty of action for all if you do. More on IM2015 follows below. So far about 40 persons have registered for the meeting.

Part of what has kept me busy on my farm was the installation of 20 solar panels on my tractor shed. The system, including a DC to AC inverter, is rated at 5.34 kW AC, and is expected to produce about 6,400 kWh/year (about 95% of my needs). Local building codes, and the poor structural condition of the shed led to a lot of work to get it in shape to support the solar panels. Note in the photo below that the panels nearly cover the entire south-facing surface of the shed roof. As soon as the power company installs a special meter, all excess power generated (over what I use) will be fed into the grid. Does anyone know of a slide rule that can estimate the power output of solar panels for a certain latitude and climate? :)



*Reported by Ed Chamberlain*

News from the Oughtred Society's President - Bob De Cesaris .....

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**IM 2015 -- From Logarithms to Algorithms:  
Bridging 400 Years of Scientific and Computing Evolution**



The **Oughtred Society** is hosting the "**International Meeting of Slide Rule Collectors — IM 2015**" and the "**21st International Meeting for Collectors of Historical Calculating Instruments.**" In addition to a technical program, there will be special events and displays at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, CA, a tour of Bob Otnes' impressive slide rule and calculator collection in Palo Alto, and a sale of important items from the Tom Wyman and David Gamble collections. **The meeting will be held from Thursday, September 24 through Sunday, September 27 at the Hyatt Regency SFO, 1333 Bayshore Highway, in Burlingame, CA.**

**UPDATE: A LIST OF ITEMS FOR SALE FROM THE WYMAN AND GAMBLE COLLECTIONS WILL BE SENT TO ALL OS MEMBERS ABOUT 2 WEEKS BEFORE THE MEETING. THERE WILL BE ABOUT 130 ITEMS FROM TOM'S COLLECTION AND ABOUT 25 ITEMS FROM THE DAVID GAMBLE COLLECTION.**



San Francisco and its Golden Gate Bridge is just a few miles north of the hotel, and Stanford University and the Silicon Valley just a short ride to the south, Further north across the Golden Gate Bridge lies Napa Valley, with its scenic and tasty vineyards, and further north yet are the imposing Redwood forests. Further south is Monterey Bay and Big Sur. It is a grand place for a holiday.

**The following papers will be presented during the technical program:**

Three Specialized Slide Rules for Science and Engineering	Richard Hughes
Slide Rule Deaths	Robert James
The Calculation of Logarithms - Some Pedagogic Aspects	Klaus Kühn
Old Calculators & Democracy	Nicola Marras
The Schumacher Slide Rule	Jerry McCarthy
Logarithms and Log-Logs in the Founding Era of Sociology	David McFarland
ST or SRT	Marion Moon
Michael Scheffelt	Werner H. Rudowski

**Meeting Registration Costs: Member - \$245, Spouse - \$125, Non-Member - \$295**

The conference registration costs include attendance to all activities at Hyatt SFO, all OS-sponsored events, breakfast and lunch on Friday, breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday, refreshment breaks during the conference, and a digital copy on disk of the proceedings. Hard copies of the proceedings will also be available for purchase at the meeting. **Hotel room accommodations are not included as part of the meeting registration fee and will need to be handled separately by the attendee. See details below**

You may register for the meeting on the Oughtred Society's web site using PayPal at <http://www.oughtred.org/meets.shtml>, or you may register by postal mail and send your fee by check or money order to:

**The Oughtred Society**  
9 Stephens Ct.  
Roseville, CA 956

**Hotel Registration Details**



A block of rooms has been set-aside at the Hyatt Regency SFO for Oughtred Society members at a discount rate of \$199/night plus applicable taxes and fees. Members may access the hotel registration link below to learn more about the hotel and surrounding area, and to book, modify, or cancel their reservations. **Please note that the number of rooms available at this guaranteed rate are limited and we strongly urge attendees to book their rooms as early as possible to guarantee this excellent negotiated rate.** Bay Area

hotel prices can be quite high; for example, after the special OS room availability expires, room rates at Hyatt may be \$329 and higher. Hotel space in the Bay Area is limited and the area is routinely overbooked; therefore, early action on reserving a room is very highly recommended.

**UPDATE !**

**JUST A FEW ROOMS REMAIN AVAILABLE AT THE NEGOTIATED RATE !**

**HOTEL REGISTRATION LINK:** <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/OughtredSociety>

**The Schedule of Events for IM 2015 is as follows:**

**Thursday, September 24, 2015 - Arrival Day.** Small gatherings to be held in the afternoon and evenings for "Meet and Greet" sessions as members arrive and settle in. Additional details to be announced.

**Friday, September 25, 2015 - IM 2015 Meeting, Hyatt SFO**

8:30 - 9:30 AM	Registration/Breakfast/Meet and Greet
9:30 - 12:30 PM	Paper Sessions (with break)
12:30 - 1:45 PM	Lunch
1:45 - 4:00 PM	Paper Sessions (with break)

**Spouse/Partners Tour during Friday – Details being arranged.**



**Friday Evening – Tour of Bob Otnes Slide Rule and Calculator Collection – Home of Bob Otnes, Palo Alto, CA.**

Bob's collection is one of the best private collections of rare and unusual slide rules and mechanical calculating devices in the world, and he has generously invited the IM 2015 participants to share in his finds and stories behind the pieces. At left is a photo of Bob Otnes (seated) and Tom Wyman. Both of their collections will be featured at IM2015.

**Saturday, September 26, 2015 – IM 2015 Meeting – Hyatt SFO**

8:30 – 9:30 AM	Breakfast/Meet and Greet
9:30 – 10:30 AM	Plenary Speaker (or panel discussion)
10:30 – 10:45 AM	Coffee Break
10:45 – 12:15 PM	Paper Sessions
12:15 – 1:30 PM	Lunch

**1:30 – 4:00 PM Member Displays and Auctions**

- § Member Displays and Auction Pieces.
- § Display and Auction of Important Pieces from the Tom Wyman Collection.
- § Auction of Pieces from the David Gamble (Dunottar) Collection.

**All registered attendees are encouraged to bring items for display or auction at this event.** (Please contact Bob De Cesaris <[robert.g.de.cesaris@intel.com](mailto:robert.g.de.cesaris@intel.com)> with total number of tables if more than one 6-foot table is needed for your display or auction items.)

4:00 – 5:00 PM	Panel Discussion or Final Presentations
6:30 PM	Dinner Banquet at the Hyatt SFO

**Spouse/Partners/Meeting Attendees – Tours to be Arranged**

**Sunday, September 27, 2015 – Computer History Museum Docent Guided Tour, 1401 N Shoreline Blvd, Mountain View, CA 94043. <<http://www.computerhistory.org/exhibits/>>**

9:30 AM	Meet at Computer History Museum
10:00 AM	Docent Guided Tour Begins
1:00 PM	Babbage Engine Demonstration
Afternoon	Additional Activities to Be Arranged

**We look forward to seeing you in the Bay Area!**

*Reported by Bob De Cesaris <[robert.g.de.cesaris@intel.com](mailto:robert.g.de.cesaris@intel.com)>*

### **The Fall 2015 & Spring 2016 OS Journals .....**

David Sweetman has been busy putting together the *Fall, 2015 issue of the OS journal*. Below is a list of the articles and their authors. The Journal will soon go to press.

Variants of Soho Slide Rules	Werner Rudowski
Pencil Slide Rules Part 3	Rodger Shepherd
Comments on Listing Slide Rule Scales	Jose Fernandez
The EngPen: An Unusual Pencil Slide Rule	Nathan Zeldes
A Chinese Probability Slide Rule	Richard Smith Hughes
Pencil Slide Rules Part 4	Rodger Shepherd
K&E Cooke Radio Slide rule	Richard Smith Hughes
Diabetic Slide Rule	Bryan Purcell
Recommended Reading	Peter Hopp
Three Addenda to Two Recent JOS Articles	Robert J. Sauer
Origins of the K&E Radio Slide Rules	Clark McCoy
Dating K&E Slide Rules	Clark McCoy
How to Save a Warped Slide Rule	W. Richard Davis

The *Spring, 2016 issue of the OS Journal* is rapidly filling. Louis Ross and his slide rules will be featured with the following articles:

The Ross Precision Computer - Types I & II.	Ed Chamberlain
The Ross Rapid Computer.	Richard Davis
The Ross Student Rapid Computer.	Richard Davis
The Ross Meridiograph.	David Ingram
A Biography of Louis Ross	Ed Chamberlain and Richard Davis
The Louis Ross/John Ross Dempster Mystery.	Ed Chamberlain and Richard Davis

Other papers will include:

Blackbody Radiation Slide Rules	David Siminovitch
The Gerber Derivimeter	Paul McConnell
New to Slide Rules in the 21st Century	Phil Rodley
Slide Rules Made in Spain	Jose G. Fernández

***Reported by David Sweetman***

### **Report from Membership Secretary: Clark McCoy .....**

The membership renewal process is going well. To date we have 400 members signed up for 2015. We are approaching the 403 members that we had for all of last year. If you have not renewed your membership yet, it is easy to do. Just go to the Oughtred Society homepage at:

**[<http://www.oughtred.org/>](http://www.oughtred.org/)**

and click on "**Membership**" and follow instructions. You can pay online by Credit card or PayPal, or you can pay by check the old fashioned way.

The following are new members:

Francis Geoddeke	Sunny Isles Beach, FL
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Jaoquin Rincon Abedules Rameriz  
Chinese Academy of Sciences  
Robin J. Jacobs  
Brian Rawsom  
Michael Webb  
Jeremy Glick

Tobasco, Mexico  
Peoples Republic of China  
Corvallis, OR  
East Amherst, NY  
Los Altos, CA  
San Francisco, CA

Welcome to the Oughtred Society!

*Reported by Clark McCoy*

**Notable Slide Rule Sales on eBay: June 1 to July 30 .....**

This time I am featuring just a few of the eBay slide rule sales during June and July. These are in addition to the many Thacher, Fuller, high-end LL duplex slide rules, etc. that also sold.



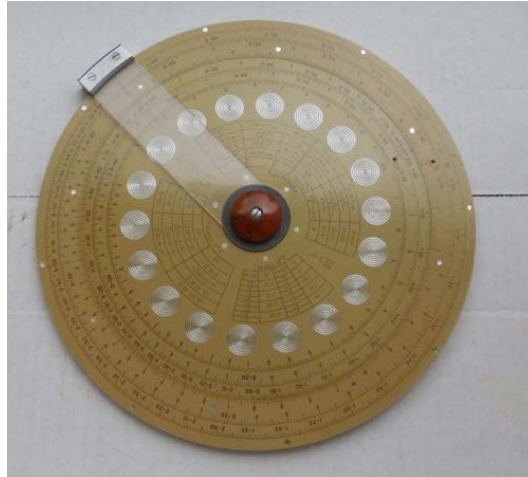
**Supremathic circular slide rule with instructions; French. \$245**



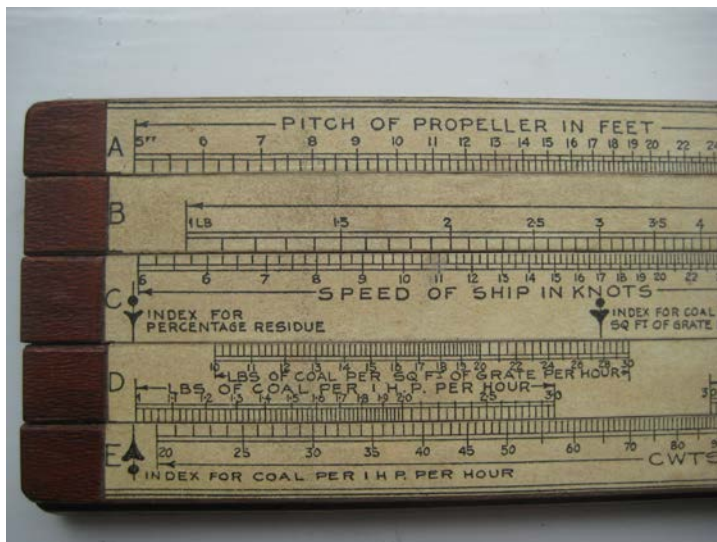
**Lord's calculator, Waddington, Coventry, England; with gold face. \$235**



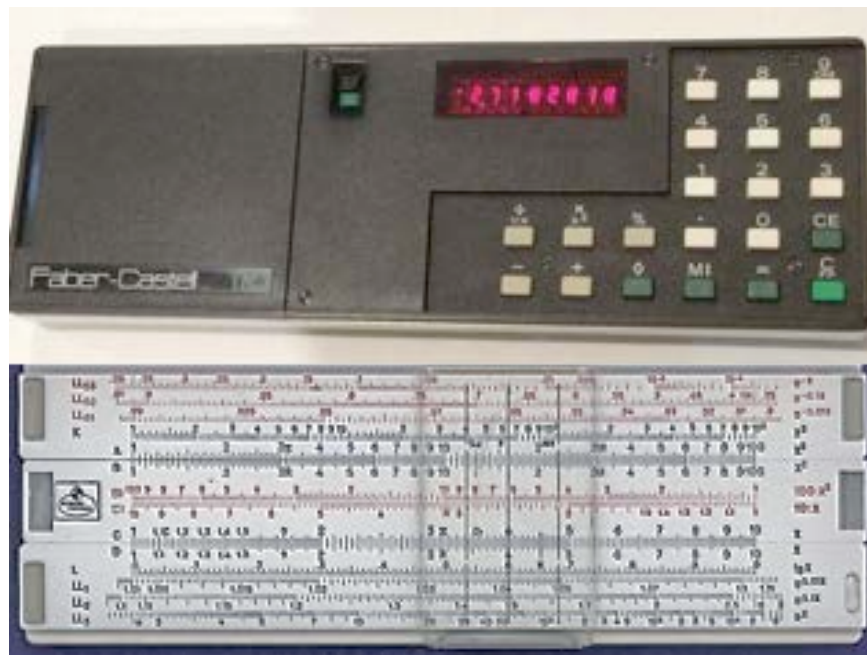
**Mechanical pencil slide rule. Looks like Makeba-Kombinator, but no maker markings. From Russia \$220**



**Russian Circular Artillery Slide Rule, nicely made of enameled aluminum, with milled finger recesses for turning inner disk. Cold war era Soviet artillery slide rule. This is one of the highest quality slide rules made in the Soviet Union. c. 1980. sold for \$179**



**Brown's slide rule for engineers; for coal fired steam ships. Paper scale surfaces on mahogany wood, 2-slides. Gives: ship speed, coal consumption and ash residue for steam pressure, propeller pitch, etc. English made. sold for \$168**



**Faber Castell TR1 Slide Rule/Calculator. Log Log slide rule one side, digital calculator on the reverse; with working button batteries; FC's attempt to stay in the "calculator" market. German. \$160**

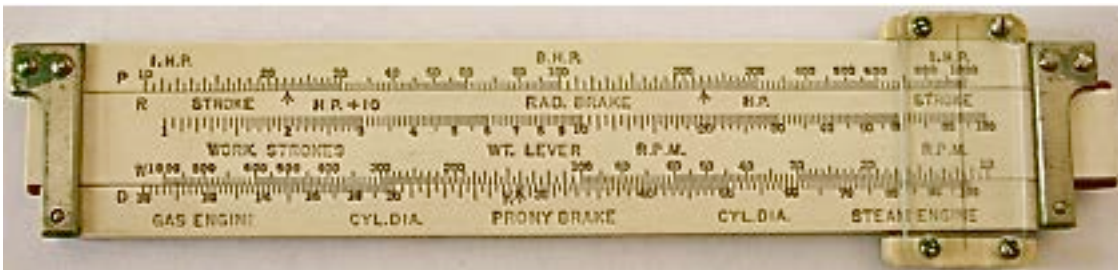


**Pickett N4-ES slide rule with BATMAN case, manuals and tech accessory pocket case. Featured in earlier Newsletter. Made in USA. Two sold at this price. \$145. Bob DeCesaris wrote that he had never seen Pickett Batman slide rules before; now here are two more on eBay.**





**1843 Palmer's Computing Scale, Lithographed Circular Slide Rule, one of the earliest production circular slide rules made in the US, c.1850. Rare version with instructions on the reverse. Gauge marks for geometry, timber, excise, physics, accounting, etc. calculations. Sold for just \$138.**

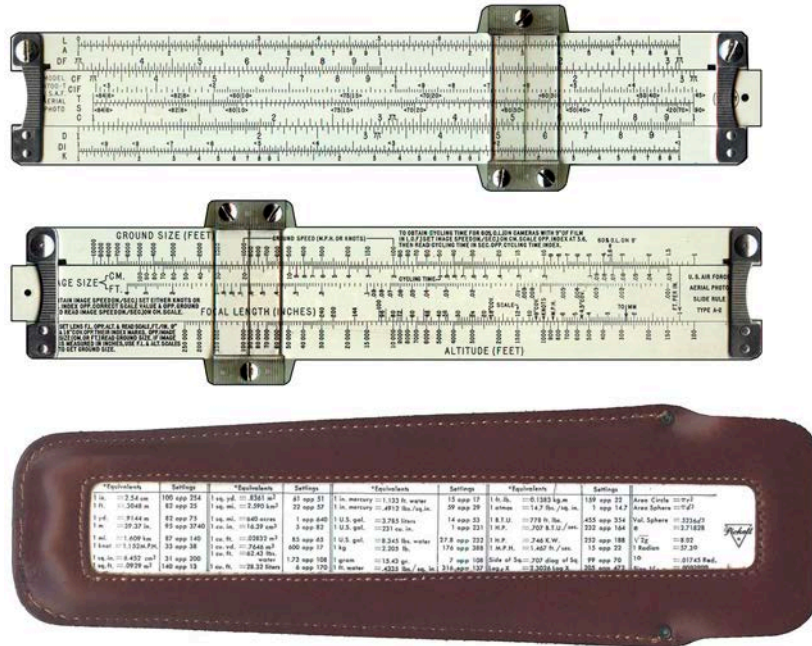


**KEUFFEL ESSER No. 4135 Engine Power Computing Slide Rule. Made in the US. A scarce K&E slide rule; sold for \$134**

*Reported by Ed Chamberlain  
Images courtesy eBay*

**[The Pickett N700T Aerial Photo Slide Rule; a readers contribution.....](#)**

**Bob Soltis wrote the following:** While trolling through Walter Shawlee's [Sphere Research](#) site, I ran across a pocket slide rule designed for aerial photography. As a photographer who is also a licensed pilot, I took a closer look and at \$49 apiece, they're not that much more than Calumet Blueprint charged me in 1972 for my K + E Log Log Duplex Decitrig. The rule is the classic Pickett white, with the usual leather case and pocket clip.



The 31-page manual starts off teaching how to use the altitude, focal length, image size, and ground size scales on the front of the rule to compute the area covered by a photo, the cycling time needed to get 60 percent coverage at a given speed and altitude, and calculating the ground size of an object. These scales are read and the calculations performed holding the rule vertically. This unique rule enabled a photographer and pilot to find the minimum altitude required to provide 60 percent overlap if the cycling time and flight speed were known.

The back of the rule includes L, A, DF, CF, CIF, T, S, C, D, DI, and K scales.

The other unique feature is the conversion factors and instructions inserted in the back of the carrying case. The Pickett N700T rule is a conversation piece and a real bargain at \$49 new in the box.

Bob Soltis is a biologist, former Navy Judge Advocate, recovering attorney, and life long photographer, Bob Soltis has been collecting slide rules ever since his neighbor gave him a 1939 vintage K + E 4081-3 Log Log Duplex Decitrig slide rule as a tip for shoveling snow during the blizzard that buried Gary, Indiana on April 2, 1970. (see *A Tale of Three Slide Rules*, 1998 J Oughtred Society)

Editor's note: The above picture courtesy of the International Slide Rule Museum:

<http://sliderulemuseum.com/>

and Mike Konshak, its curator.

*Reported by Bob Soltis & Ed Chamberlain*

*..... Send Newsletter Contributions to: [edwin\\_chamberlain@valley.net](mailto:edwin_chamberlain@valley.net) .....*