World Maker Faire 2011

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The Unisphere and the Observation Towers from the 1964-1965 World's Fair.

On the weekend of September 17th, InfoAge exhibited at the 2011 World Maker Faire, which was held at the New York Hall of Science in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Queens, New York. The event was organized by Make Magazine, a publication that focuses on and encourages do-it-yourself and hands-on activities. Thousands gather at Maker Faires to celebrate STEM (Science Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) as well as arts & crafts and creativity. It is a great place for people to interact with others who share their passion and enthusiasm for their particular interest.

The exhibits at the Maker Faire were vast and varied, with over 500 exhibitors present. Some notable exhibits included a giant-sized working model of the "Mouse Trap" board game, a Tesla coil concert, and a Diet Coke & Mentos fountain. Tons of electronic projects were on display, including ones involving Arduino microcontrollers, DIY Geiger counters, LED projects, MakerBots (home-made 3D printers) and many more. In addition to the large assortment of electronics-based exhibits, there were several other exhibits showcasing sustainability, the "green" movement and several arts and crafts displays.

The central theme of the InfoAge booth was "history of the maker movement". A section of our booth was set up to teach visitors the origin of "making" within the electronics industry, with items on display such as a homebrew superheterodyne radio, a pile of Heathkit and Lafayette catalogs, a kit-built VTVM and more. The majority of the booth space was comprised of exhibits which represented as many of the InfoAge sub-organizations as was practical, many of which were interactive. Two army field phones were set up across the tables for people to play with. A model 33 teletype was set up for people to encode "secret messages"

onto paper tape. An Altair 8800 and a Commodore 64 running a homebrew homage to the popular Guitar Hero franchise were set up as well. The hand battery and the Theremin from the Radio Technology Museum were wildly popular with visitors, with people lining up to use both. An impromptu Theremin contest was held, though unfortunately we did not discover any musical prodigies. Regardless, lots of people left the booth with smiles on their faces.

In addition to our interactive exhibits, we had lots of literature to educate those interested in all things InfoAge. Mel Nusbaum's computer monitor collages were on display showing the history of computers. Informational posters stating the InfoAge mission\ vision, as well as the history of Camp Evans were all over the booth. Our "flyers" (paper airplane brochures designed by Al Klase) were a popular and unique handout. Several brochures for InfoAge, IXR, NJARC, and MARCH were handed out. QR codes (similar to barcodes), were posted all over the booth and on our "flyers" to bring the curious to a special InfoAge webpage, optimized for smartphones.

InfoAge volunteers were in attendance throughout the event to run the booth and educate those interested in learning more about InfoAge. Joseph Giliberti, Steve Goulart, Marah Rosenberg, Dan Wobser, Jeff Jonas, Evan Koblentz, Jeff Brace and myself (Matt Reynolds) all participated. Everyone did their part to make the booth a success. It was a lot of work, but I believe it was a very worthwhile event for InfoAge.

Attending Maker Faire was quite an inspiring experience for me. Being surrounded by thousands of people passionate for science and learning all in one place was very exhilarating. What better place is there to host an event of this kind than on the site of the 1939-1940 and 1964-1965 World's Fairs; events designed to showcase mankind's progress and dedication toward a better tomorrow? I am grateful for having been able to attend the World Maker Faire again this year and for representing InfoAge and all those associated.

A Gemini-Titan II rocket in the Rocket Garden of the New York Hall of Science, where the event was hosted.

MARCH's section of the InfoAge booth - Far left:, Altair 8800, Middle: Commodore 64 with Shredz64 (Guitar Hero homage) Right: one of Mel Nusbaum's Computer Monitor Dioramas. Background: Posters of InfoAge.

Steve Goulart (facing) speaks to a visitor about InfoAge.

Section of the booth for the "Museum of Interesting Things" - A collection of phone technology, such as a Dyna-Tac cell phone, a briefcase phone, and a lineman's handset.
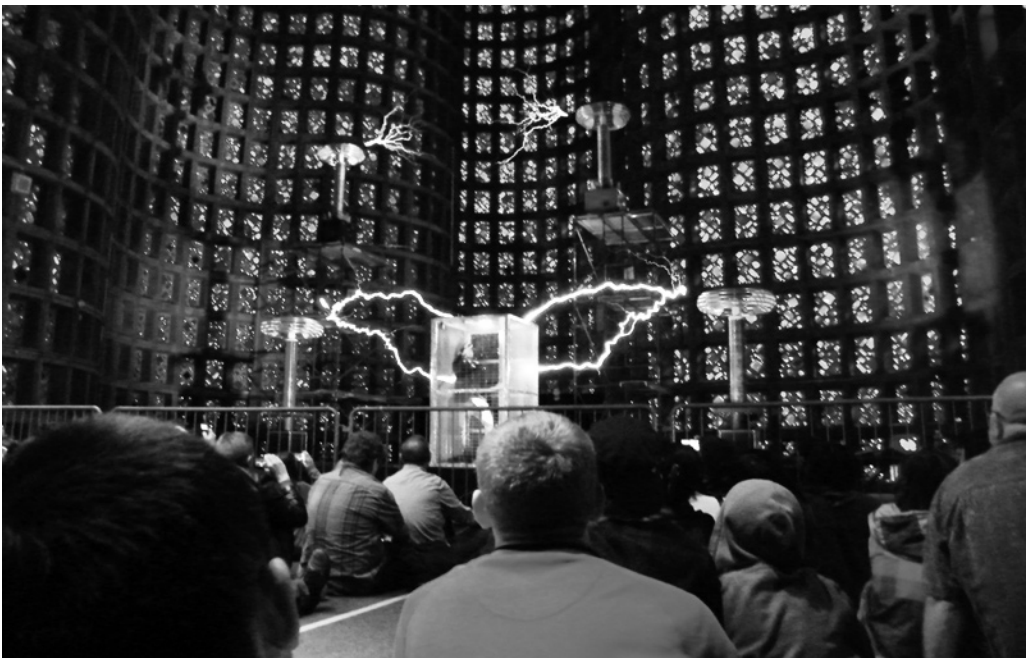

InfoAge booth packed with people. Person in foreground inspecting a radio exhibit, person to left playing with hand battery, etc.

Another Section of the booth for the "Museum of Interesting Things" This table features an Osbourne portable computer, a portable TV, and a portable stereo system.

Kids playing with the Hand Battery.

Arc Attack using four giant Tesla coils and a Faraday cage to create music.

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Changes At MARCH

Evan Koblentz

Mid-Atlantic Retro Computing Hobbyists • (646) 546-9999 • evan@infoage.org

InfoAge's computer museum team is planning some exciting changes for 2012, including a possible move into a larger building.

The museum, run by a club called MARCH – Mid-Atlantic Retro Computing Hobbyists – opened in one small room at the InfoAge Marconi Hotel building in 2006. At the time there were just a couple of dozen artifacts on display. It now fills almost 1,500 square feet in four rooms of the adjacent building, with more than 100 artifacts on display, in addition to an extensive research library.

MARCH's newest exhibits include an IBM 1130 mainframe, a Prime 6550 minicomputer – for which "mini" means it's around 800 pounds and the size of a small car – and a recently redesigned exhibit about business microcomputers of the 1970s and 1980s. The group also recently put a UNIVAC 1 Technical Manual on display.

On May 5-6, 2012, the group will host the Vintage Computer Festival East, which is an annual weekend-long celebration of hands-on computer history. Children are admitted free. Details of the exhibits, lectures, and workshops will be announced by springtime.

The group plans to stage smaller exhibits at the Trenton Computer Faire (March 10, College of New

A rare Apple III computer was exhibited at the 2011 Vintage Computer Festival East. Photo Credit: Daniel Temkin.

Jersey, Ewing, N.J.), Philadelphia Science Carnival (sometime in late April, Philadelphia, PA), Hackers On Planet Earth conference (July 13-15, Hotel Pennsylvania, New York, N.Y.), World Maker Faire (usually in mid-September, Hall of Science, Queens, N.Y.), and

New Jersey Science & Engineering Festival (October 13-14, Clifton High School, Clifton, N.J.)

But what most excites the computer museum team is the prospect of moving into a larger space next year, and therefore opening many new exhibits! The museum may be among InfoAge's first to make its home at InfoAge's famous H-building complex, where there are vast open spaces allowing for larger computers to be displayed in greater numbers, as well as a variety of hands-on and classroom opportunities. The team hopes to know more about this by next spring.

The museum's other major project for 2012 is an efficient reorganization of its 3,000 square foot storage facility. Such an effort requires funds, time, and volunteers. To help, please contact MARCH president Evan Koblentz at evan@ infoage.org or call (646) 546-9999.

The vintage computer museum is open most Sundays from 1pm - 5pm. Learn more at InfoAge.org.

2nd Annual WWII Symposium At InfoAge

Bob Perricelli
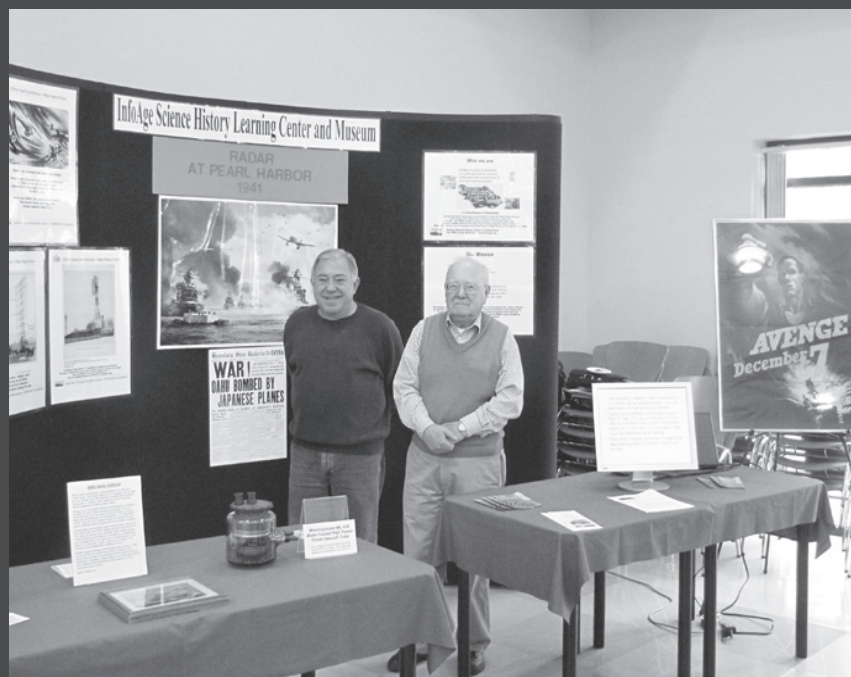Association Old Crows • 732-295-0663 • perricelli@comcast.net

The symposium was held at the Evans area in building 9032 and in the banquet hall of the old Marconi Hotel. John Cervini, Chairperson for the event developed a program that included the showing of a formerly classified training film on the Norden Bomb site, one of the most secret and sensitive developments of WW II. Members of the InfoAge Staff presented a robust program of topics that included: U-Boat Activity off the New Jersey Coast (Dan Lieb, NJ Historic Divers Association); The Wizard War: WWII & The Origins of Radar (Ray Chase, Radar Historian, NJ Antique Radio Club); US Army Signal Corps Strategic Communication (Al Klase, NJ Antique Radio Club); Electronic Warfare: the "Hidden" Story of the War (John Cervini, (AOC Garden State Chapter); WW II Vehicles: The advance to Four Wheel Drive (Luke Janquitto, Military Technology Museum of NJ) and the Norden and Sperry Bomb Sights: How they work (Joe Giliberti, InfoAge Staff).

Dan Lieb's presentation targeted the many wrecks that litter the sea bottom off of NJ that were the direct result of German U-Boat activity during WWII. John Cervini discussed how the technical work conducted at Fort Monmouth (Camp Evans) associated with development of intercept receivers and electronic counter measures affected the outcome of many battles during the war. Further, Radar historian Ray Chase's presentation showed how secret radar development programs conducted at Fort Monmouth also impacted the success of allied forces during WW II. The Army entered WW II equipped with radio devices developed with 1920's technology. Al Klase's presentation provided insight on how the Signal Corps used these radios and how reliable communications were established during the Italian Campaign and for Operation Overlord (D-Day). Luke Janquitto's presentation showed how the peace time Army still depended on the use of horses for movement and how new technologies were needed and developed to replace their use. WW II vehicles were on display including a German Command Reconnaissance Car to the delight of all who attended the event. Bob Perricelli, also a member of the AOC introduced a new InfoAge Gallery "WW II Military Miniature Models and Displays". The purpose of the new exhibit is to depict WW II events through the use of museum quality scale figures, models and art work. Exhibits in the new gallery will be updated and changed to keep it fresh and interesting.

70ᵗʰ Anniversary of Pearl Harbor Attack

This photo was taken at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft during their 70th Anniversary Commemoration of Pearl Harbor on Saturday, the 10th of December. The Center for World War II Studies and Conflict Resolution hosted this all day event. InfoAge volunteers Ray Chase (right) and Bob Perricelli (left) set up and manned this display that centered around the role that radar played on that fateful day and contained in addition to several posters of InfoAge and the SCR-270 radar in use at Pearl Harbor, a presentation explaining how the Camp Evens radar tracked the incoming Japanese attack force but that the warning went unheeded due to an incomplete command and control system. The program by the speakers was moving and well attended while our display booth had good visitation.

THE AMATEUR'S CODE

Ron Olender/President

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In 1928, Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, wrote the original Amateur's Code. It was modified somewhat along the way and represents a broad range of ethics that amateur radio operators should follow. These ethics are pretty well self explanatory and are listed as follows. The amateur is considerate, loyal, progressive, friendly, balanced and patriotic. This code of ethics appears in the front of every Amateur's handbook and serves as a reminder of how we should morally behave in regards to our Amateur hobby.

All of the ethics are important but the one that means the most to me is the one that states that the amateur should be "balanced"… radio is an avocation and should never interfere with duties owed to family, job, school, or community. I wrote a short article on this particular subject many years ago and I would like to repeat it here as it is just as important today as it was back then.

"Most of us, I guess, tend to do things in moderation. However, there are always a few that go to an extreme in any endeavor they participate in. The precept of being "balanced" as per the amateur's code does not mean walking in erect- upright manner but does subscribe to the precept that, " no man is an island." Isolating ourselves from family and friends in total pursuit of a hobby is one sure way of bringing scorn upon us from the people we care about the most. It reminds us to look carefully at our operating habits and see if the fulcrum is at the balance point. Perhaps, it is time we recognize the fact that, just maybe, our preoccupation with the hobby may be causing a hardship to those around us. It may be time to socialize with friends, play with a child, talk to your significant other, smell a flower, look at the stars, etc. After all, life is or should be a lot more than _._.   _ _._. "

At the Ocean Monmouth Amateur Radio Club (OMARC) , we are a diverse group of amateurs coming from all walks of life. We all have our likes and dislikes but the glue that holds our organization together is the love of this hobby and the respect we have for each other. We have both male and female members, young and not so young. We are dedicated to helping each other learn more about the hobby as the technology is always changing. But more than anything else, we are there for each other if needed. So the amateur code, not only gives us a sense of ethics to follow for the enjoyment of amateur radio but it is also a guide on how we should be living our lives.

Have Fun and Help InfoAge

InfoAge needs more volunteers. While we are currently open most Sundays 1 to 5 PM, we are considering opening on Saturdays and Wednesdays, as well. It's hard getting enough volunteers to staff the center on Saturdays, but in order to grow we need to be open more days of the week. Eventually, there will be a time when InfoAge is open seven days a week, but that time is still a bit off in the future. That said, we want to start moving toward that goal now. This is where we need your help.

For insurance purposes, all volunteers must be members in good standing. If you are receiving this newsletter, there is a good chance it's because you are already a member of InfoAge. If that's the case, you're half way there. Why not come down to InfoAge and register as a volunteer?

At InfoAge, and we want members to get involved in more ways than donating money or paying dues. We have buildings to paint, gardens to tend, and displays to interpret. Come on out, help us out, and have fun!

Interested? Contact Steve Goulart at 732-371-6116 or steve@infoage.org

Camp Evans: The Untold Story

InfoAge is proud to sponsor the book, "Camp Evans: The Untold Story," in recognition of the significant contributions made by men and women, both military, civilian, and contractors who served at Camp Evans, Wall Township, New Jersey and who left a legacy of innovation that had enabled and continues to enable our Armed Forces.

The InfoAge Science History Learning Center and Museum at Camp Evans is a focal point for the preservation and interpretation of New Jersey's rich communications, computer, and electronics history, providing a specialized learning center for all visitors. The area is especially significant in history, serving as the site of the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America. During World War I the Navy operated the station under the authority of the Radio Act of 1912. The message announcing that World War I had ended and the Armistice had been signed was received at the Marconi Station and retransmitted to Washington.

Camp Evans' U.S. Army Signal Corps provided America's first World War II radar systems. In 1946, Camp Evans under Project Diana opened the "space age" by reflecting radar signals off the moon. During the 1950s, innovative and far reaching technologies were developed at Camp Evans.

It is appropriate that InfoAge, as a science and technology learning center, has its start at such an historic location. The intent of InfoAge is to provide visitors a dynamic and evolving interactive atmosphere, rich in specialized history, technologies, and basic science, and similarly, to invoke an appreciation for the vital contributions of the many engineers and scientists who developed the technology.
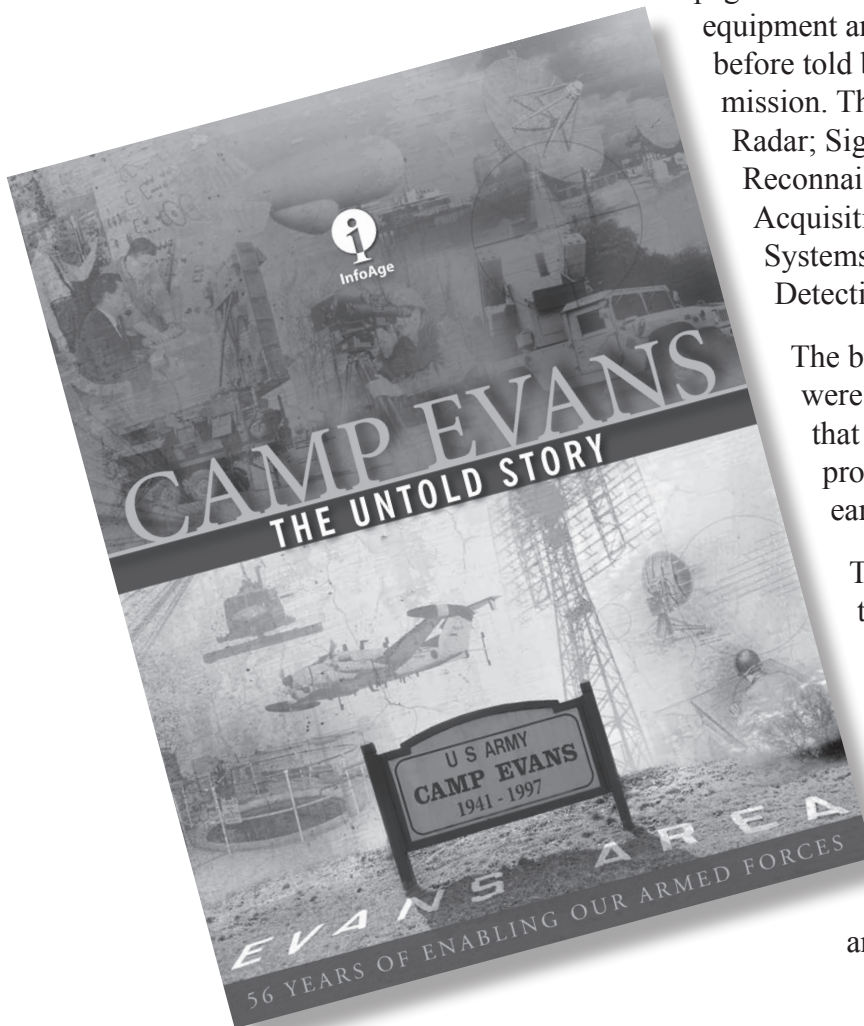
We ask that you consider purchasing this important book which captures the tremendous heritage of technological innovation at this historic site.

"Camp Evans: The Untold Story" has over 200 pages and 100s of photographs showing the actual equipment and technology developed in a story never before told because of the classified nature of the mission. The breadth of the work described covers Radar; Signals Intelligence; Electronic Warfare; Reconnaissance and Surveillance Sensors; Target Acquisition Systems; Identification Friend or Foe Systems; Unattended Sensor Systems; Radiation Detection Systems; and Meteorology Systems.

The broad spectrum of accomplishments were achieved with an assembled workforce that was considered the best in the country, providing products that were the "eyes and ears" on the battlefield.

The legacy of Camp Evans will live on in the hearts and minds of those who helped make that history. Their contributions will hopefully be better appreciated by having been recounted in this book.

To order your copy of "Camp Evans: The Untold Story," contact InfoAge at 732-280-3000, or contact us via e-mail at rfginc@optonline.net and an order form will be forwarded.

InfoAge
Science/History Center
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The Newsletter of InfoAge
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Member Donations Making The Difference

The above image depicts our progress in fixing roofs at InfoAge and will be used in a campaign effort to raise needed funds.