

Nicola Marras Manfredi – Italy

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Date of birth: 1954. From 1978 I have been renting sailboats in the Caribbean and in the Mediterranean. The business ended in 2007.

Over time, my interest in ancient mathematical instruments led me to build one of the most important private collections in the field, being appointed as a fellow of the [Oughtred Society](#) and a collaborator of the [International Slide Rule Museum](#).

In 2008, realizing that people saw the digitization as a substitute for personal skills, I have supported non-profit initiatives, exhibits, and lectures aimed at preserving the legacy of the antiques technologies. In fact, ignoring the traditional knowledge, people must blindly trust the new one, overestimating the reliability of the results.

The idea that new discoveries can eliminate the challenges that require personal responsibility is wrong. Following my motto “reshape the future by transmitting the past” I have taken part in the [Cagliari Science Festival](#) for ten editions, and my programs have represented twice Italy at the educational fair [Science on Stage](#).

In 2016, alongside Wolfgang Irlner, I organized the 22nd [Oughtred Society International Meeting](#) held at the MUSE Science Museum in Trent, Italy.

Education:

- classical high school;
- degree in Communication Sciences;
- master of Arts in Music Education.

Certifications:

- *Ocean Yacht Master* (sail and power) – *Marine radio*: RYA ROC and SRC;
- *PADI Master Diver* (advanced, nitrox, deep, wreck, stream, night, rescue);
- *Ultralight Aircraft Pilot License* – *Radiotelephone Operator for Aircraft Stations*;
- *HAM Radio License*, Call Sign: [IS1EH](#);
- *Gun license and competition certificate Bronze Level 3000*.
- *Regularity Competition License*.

Languages: Spanish (B2), English (B1), and French (B1).

My interests include also, classic car racing, vintage watch, classical music, gym. A [condensed version](#) of my biography is featured in the *Hall of Fame* of the [ISRM](#).

Some exhibits, lectures, and publications

- [Was There Life Before Computer?](#) (It-En), popular history of calculators; the [English version](#) is currently reduced and requires a translation review.
- [Unplugged](#) (It-En), designing and building before the digital age.
- [Analog Calculation & Democracy](#) (En-Es), a new challenge for the Old Instruments: to reshape the future by transmitting the past.
- [Dangerous Sliding](#) (En), slide rules for special uses in dangerous situations.
- [Calcolare prima delle calcolatrici](#) (It), the posters of the exhibit on calculus.
- [Online](#) (It), the posters and labels of the exhibit on telegraphy and ham radio.
- [Ghiere, Quadranti e Lunette](#) (It), when watch dials and bezels were the apps of the past.
- [Nuove Regole per Nuovi Dei](#) (It), cinema and censorship in Great Hollywood.
- [Possesses by Possessions?](#) (En), collect, own, share objects and knowledge.
- [Too weak to survive](#) (En), reviving the electric slide rule, long ago killed by the computer.

