



OCTOBER 2013

HELLO WORLD



When you hear that SRI International has a “model shop,” don’t be fooled by the name. It’s a prototype shop with 11 full time employees, 8,000 square feet of space and everything from large CNC lathes and mills to welding equipment and hand tools. Skilled model makers, welders and materials experts work in metal, wood, plastic and other materials to quickly make everything from small parts to big stuff. Using rough napkin sketches, hand waving, pencil drawings or CAD/CAM inputs, this group can make pieces and parts for internal use or polished customer deliverables. Name something that SRI has built and the prototype probably came from the Model Shop. They are nice guys too!

From copies of the original mouse to parts for robotic-assisted surgery, they do it all — odd things like the “USS Neversail” (image below with Darrel and Bob) and very compact cooling coils, from hi-tech to low-tech, and everything in between. Although most of their work is on site at Menlo Park, they do travel sometimes. For example, one of their welders, Bob Beall, went to Greenland to heat up the ice!

In the white smock is James (Kimo) Hogan, an expert in pattern making. He can shape wood into patterns that are cast into metal parts. He took an old 1954 Swain bicycle and handmade all the parts for a gasoline powered bike. As a fun touch, it includes an antique carbide light. Kimo’s mom is from Hawaii, and in the Hawaii language, Kimo is the word for James.

So when you see some models or prototypes around SRI, just think of the Model Shop guys! Shown in the group picture above (left to right) are: Rick Masciocchi, Marty Martoza, Mark Steele, Michael Cutter, Anthony Ware, James (Kimo) Hogan, Andrew Knipe, Don English, Robert Beall, Darrell Stoehr, Bob Champagne (retired) and Mark Nansen. Job titles include everything from Experimental Welder to Model Maker. It’s hard to get these guys to stop working to take pictures! Thanks guys — my visit to your ‘office’ was a lot of fun!

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