

# LMT

## Life Member Times



at&t



Summer 2021

### The Life and Times of Joe Schott

### Pioneering in Action

### The Fall 2021 Luncheon

### The Truisms

Life  
Member  
Times



## Summer 2021

### New Jersey Life Member Club

AT&T Pioneers Chapter 139  
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Vice President: Marie Zach  
Past President: Suzanne Balian  
Past Vice President: John Wright  
LMC Rep: Machiko Nagata  
Secretary: TBD  
Treasurer: Mike Mulvey

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Ron Glover  
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Ron Seidorf  
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#### Life Member Times Editor

Madhu Rangi

*Life Member Times* is the magazine of the Life Member Club of New Jersey Pioneers Chapter 139. It is published three times a year, in the Spring, Fall and Winter. We welcome your comments. Please direct welcome your comments. Please direct these to the telephone number, email address or postal address listed above



Hello Fellow Pioneers,

Happy Summer! As things start to open up in New Jersey, we hope you are all keeping cool, and staying safe and positive.

Lots of changes within our New Jersey Pioneer Team! All New Jersey clubs have consolidated to one club. Both active and retired Pioneers are now part of the New Jersey Pioneer team. Please join me in congratulating the new Officer team:

President – Suzanne Balian ([balian2@aol.com](mailto:balian2@aol.com))  
Vice President of Projects – Michael Hickey ([mh2685@att.com](mailto:mh2685@att.com))  
Vice President of Communications – Mike Mulvey ([mikemulvey@comcast.net](mailto:mikemulvey@comcast.net))  
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Past President Life Member Club – Sandy Seidorf ([spseidorf@aol.com](mailto:spseidorf@aol.com))  
Past President Liberty Garden Club – Carla Burgess ([cb2943@att.com](mailto:cb2943@att.com))  
Past President Jersey Shore Club – Paul Fellingham ([pf1937@att.com](mailto:pf1937@att.com))

This last issue of the Life Member Times honors Joseph Schott who will be celebrating his 100th birthday next year. Also included is a flyer with the details for our Fall 2021 Luncheon that will be held at the Stoney Brook Inn on Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Happy Reading!

We are always looking for opportunities to help those in our local communities so feel free to submit an idea for a new project. The reward we receive is a thank you, a smile of appreciation on the face of a person receiving food from a local food pantry, the excitement of a soldier receiving an Operation Shoebox that we helped pack, the excitement of the students at STEM competitions, or the smiles as they receive AT&T Pioneers scholarships towards their college education.

It has been a pleasure to serve as the Life Member Club President. I will be staying on the new Board for the remainder of this year and continue to lead projects for our team.

Enjoy the hazy lazy days of Summer, and enjoy spending the precious gift of time with your families.

Yours in Pioneering,

Sandy Seidorf

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# Life and Times of Joe Schott



John Joseph Schott (Joe) was born in 1922, and with four siblings, was raised in Newark, New Jersey. He attended Central High with a technical vocational course focus. After starting work in 1941 at Western Electric in Kearney, N.J., he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1942, and was sent to the Naval Station at

Great Lakes, Illinois for basic training (boot camp). "From there, the group of guys I had trained with was sent to Brooklyn. On December 12, 1942, we were ordered to pack our ditty bags with our toilet articles and only one change of underwear, and we were also told to keep our hammocks with us. Everything else we owned was taken away, and we would not see our belongings until December 30. We were shipping out and were taken by trucks to a pier on the Hudson River in Hoboken, New Jersey. We boarded a troop ship, the S.S. Westernland, which was built in 1918 as a passenger liner. It was 575 feet long and had been acquired by the British government in World War II for use as a troop ship. I found out many years later that it also served as the headquarters ship to the exiled Dutch government for the duration of the war."

After crossing the Atlantic, Joe was stationed in Londonderry, Ireland as an electronics technician at the U.S.'s operating base to the states. "We reached our destination for duty at the United States Naval Operating Base at Londonderry. The base was vital for servicing the many American, British, and Canadian convoy escort ships. One time, I saw a small Russian vessel that came in to be serviced. The crew was made up of Russian women sailors.

"I worked on many of the ships that came in for repair and servicing. My job was installation and servicing electronic communication equipment. I also took the opportunity to take a U.S. Navy sponsored correspondence course, and in a few months made the rating of radio technician. Then in April 1944, I was reassigned and left Londonderry on the Navy destroyer escort ship U.S.S. Bates. I returned to the United States to attend Navy V-12 Officers Training at Swarthmore College.



# Life and Times of Joe Schott—*cont'd*

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The Atlantic Ocean and most of the other waters of the world were dangerous places to be in those years of the war. German U-boats prowled the seas and did a lot of damage. From August 1942 to May 1943, more than 400 Allied ships were sunk in the Atlantic, during what is referred to as the Battle of the Atlantic.”

Joe returned to the United States in 1944 to study electrical engineering at Swarthmore College as part of the Navy V12 Officers Training Program then was transferred to the University of Pennsylvania to study atomic physics as a Navy ROTC student.

Joe returned to work at Western Electric for a few years before joining Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, N.J. At Bell Labs, AT&T’s research and development division, he worked in acoustics and solid-state physics as a technical assistant on Eleuthera Island in the Bahamas and in Bermuda, before returning to Murray Hill, N.J. He retired in 1984 as a senior technical assistant, with 41 years of service.

Joe and his wife Nancy volunteered with the Telephone Pioneers of America starting in 1963. Joe’s spirit of volunteerism was also expressed in visiting with patients at the Children’s Specialized Hospital in Mountainside for 12 years. In Fanwood, he helped restore the Carriage House and three old horse-drawn sleighs. In conjunction with the Fanwood Environmental Commission and Fanwood Recycling Association, Joe helped build the recycling center and worked there on roughly 50 Saturdays. This volunteerism was in affiliation with the Flintlocks, a Boy Scouts of America volunteer group of retirees, which Joe has been a member of for 31 years. In 2019, the Boy Scouts awarded Joe a Silver Beaver Award. That year, he was the grand marshal in the Fanwood Scotch Plains Memorial Day Parade. In 2021, he received the Fanwood Scotch Plains Good Scout Award.

Joe fondly remembers his visit to the Bell Labs in 2007 when he met with Dr. Alfred Cho and his former technical aid, Charlie Radice, as well as Ed Eckert, the archivist for the Labs, and Dr. Flavia Pardo, a physicist who now has the honor of working in William Shockley’s former lab. Ed conducted the tour of the Labs and pointed out the Picturephone, early lasers, the



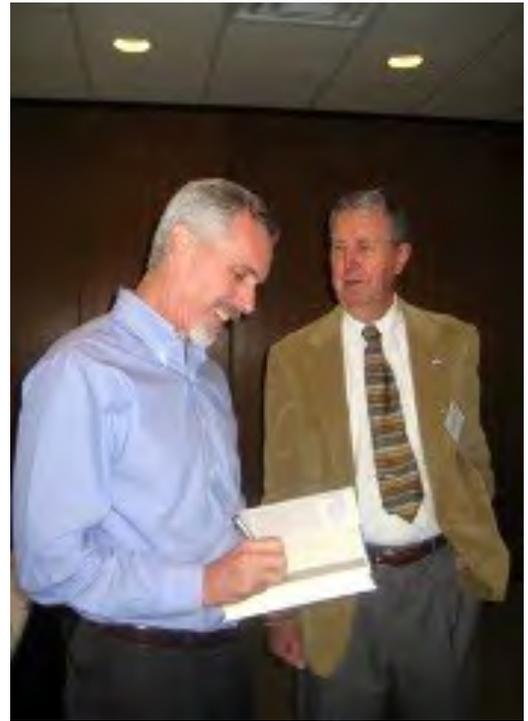
Telstar communications satellite, the first telephone, timelines, photos, visual displays, circuitry, molecular beam epitaxy (MBE), and quantum cascade laser. “During the tour, My father could easily rattle off the names of his instruments—lasers, multimeters, microscopes, oscilloscope, vacuum chamber, power supplies, amplifiers, function generator—all of which were used to study new materials,” said Susan Schott Karr.

# Life and Times of Joe Schott-cont'd

As the tour team moved towards the lunch room, they were joined by Gee Rittenhouse, then CEO of Bell Labs, who had come to meet Joe. Gee stayed for lunch to honor Joe, Cho, Charlie, Ed, Susan, and Robert. Gee signed a copy of *The Idea Factory: Bell Labs and the Great Age of Innovation* by Jon Gertner and wrote, "Joe, we all stand on the shoulders of greats. I am glad to stand on yours."

**Special Note: Join us at the Fall luncheon on Sept. 23 to meet, greet, and reminisce with Joe as he nears the celebration of his 100th birthday.**

Besides volunteering with the Boy Scouts, Joe has been actively pursuing his interests in oil painting, woodworking, building bird houses, making dollhouse furniture, and gardening.



# Life and Times of Joe Schott—*cont'd*



May 2020, at age 98, under his WWII banner in Fanwood, NJ



Joe is looking forward to being honored for his WWII service by taking a ride in a two-seater, open-cockpit Stearman bi-plane this summer, thanks to the Dream Angels volunteer organization.

He continues to enjoy the company of his five children — Susan, Peg, Jim, Robert, and Mary

# PIONEERING IN ACTION

Dear Suzanne

The AT&T Scholarship was awarded to Ashton Hewitt. It was heartwarming to see Ashton receive the AT&T Pioneers scholarship and we appreciate your support in helping to keep Ashton's hope alive. Thank you for all you do for Vision and Pathways.

With gratitude  
Team Vision and Pathways

Hi, Machiko, & Madhu!  
Thank you so much for funding the AT&T Pioneers Scholarship again this year! We have received the check from AT&T Pioneers for \$1000. Thank you again for supporting the post-grad education of an Morristown High School senior. 2021 AT&T Pioneers scholarship winner is Alia Masud. She will be attending NYU.



Hello Sandy & Ron Seidorf,

You filled a table and warmed a heart! We cannot thank you enough!

Thank you for participating in the The Ronald McDonald House of Central & Northern New Jersey New Brunswick meal schedule.

Warmest regards,

Adina Bailey  
Co-founder



## Scholarship Presentation

Tatiana Pope admitted to the University of North Carolina to study Computer Science



The Clinton Sunrise Rotary Club's "The Great Rubber Ducky Race" was held in beautiful Clinton, New Jersey on July 11th. There were 3 ATT retirees led by Sandy & Ron Seidorf and 3 community partners volunteer at this fun event that raises money for the American Cancer Society, Cancer research, and local Cancer support organizations. The Pioneers were acknowledged at the Ducky Race for our long-time support! The beautiful plaque will be proudly displayed in the Pioneer Store in Bedminster when it reopens later this year!

# Truisms

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## FROM ONE FRIEND TO ANOTHER

I've learned....

That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

I've learned....

That when you're in love, it shows.

I've learned ....

That just one person saying to me, 'You've made my day!' makes my day.

I've learned....

That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

I've learned....

That being kind is more important than being right.

I've learned....

That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

I've learned....

That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in any other way.

I've learned....

That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

I've learned....

That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

I've learned....

That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

I've learned....

That life is like a roll of toilet paper.  
The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

# Truisms-cont'd

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I've learned....

That love, not time, heals all wounds.

I've learned....

That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

I've learned....

That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.

I've learned....

That life is tough, but I'm tougher.

I've learned....

That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.

I've learned....

That when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

I've learned....

That I wish I could have told my Mom that I love her one more time before she passed away.

I've learned....

That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.

I've learned....

That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

I've learned....

That when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, you're hooked for life.

I've learned....

That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.

# Truisms-cont'd

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I've learned....

That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

I've learned....

That when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, you're hooked for life.

I've learned....

That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.

I've learned....

That money doesn't buy class.

That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

I've learned....

That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.

I've learned....

That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.

I've learned....

That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.

I've learned....

That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.

I've learned....

That the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.

# 2021 Life Member Club Calendar



<i>January</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>March</i>
<i>20—Life Member meeting</i>	<i>17—Life Member meeting</i>	<i>17—Life Member meeting</i>
<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>
<i>21—Life Member meeting</i>	<i>19—Life Member meeting</i>	<i>16—Life Member meeting</i>
<i>July</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>September</i>
<i>21—Life Member meeting</i>	<i>18—Life Member meeting</i>	<i>15—Life Member meeting</i> <i>23 - Fall Luncheon</i>
<i>October</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>December</i>
<i>20—Life Member meeting</i>	<i>17—Life Member meeting</i>	<i>8—Life Member meeting</i>

# Life Member Club 2021 Fall Luncheon



Join us on Thursday, September 23rd, for an old fashioned Indian Summer gathering. Share your summer adventures and catch up with those of your friends at the Stoney Brook Grille in North Branch, NJ.

Use this form to make your reservations and menu selection, and attach a check for \$30 per person. We would appreciate the reservations before Friday, September 17th. Please bring food for distribution to the needy, or, if you prefer, a cash donation in lieu of food.

Please select from: A: Chicken Marsala   B: Grilled Salmon   C: Roast Prime Rib of Beef

Name	Address	Phone	Meal (A,B,C)

Please check one:

- Lunch Only    Additional Funds to Pioneers    Additional Funds to Food Bank

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cut out along the line and mail the upper half with your check. Retain this lower half for reference. Any questions, call Bill Pritchett at 908-803-0196.

Make check out to: AT&T PIONEERS CHAPTER 139.

Mail to: Ron Glover  
98 Lafayette Ave.  
Chatham, NJ 07928

**LUNCHEON DETAILS:**

Date: Thursday, September 23rd, 2021  
Time: Starts 11:00 AM  
Location: Stoney Brook Grille  
1285 Route 28, North Branch, NJ 08876  
Telephone: 908-725-0011

**PROGRAM:**

11:00 AM Cash bar/soda & water on the tables  
12:00 PM Program starts  
12:15 PM Lunch

My lunch selection: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions to the Stoney Brook Grille:

**FROM NORTH:** *Morristown, Bernardsville.* Take 287 South to 78 West. Take 78 West to Exit 26 (North Branch - Lamington). At traffic light, make a left and go towards North Branch (Rattlesnake Rd). Go for 3 miles, and at the light make a right (Easton Turnpike). Stoney Brook Grille is 200 yards ahead on your right.

**FROM SOUTH:** **A** *Perth Amboy, New Brunswick.* Take 287 North to 22 West. Go for about 7 miles. Look for our road sign and the North Branch Exit by the QuickChek. Exit on your right. Stoney Brook Grille is ahead on your left.

**B** *Princeton, Flemington* Take 202 or 206 North to the Somerville circle. Take Route 28 West north of the circle for approximately 4 1/2 miles. Stoney Brook Grille is on your right past the RVCC and Lamington Road.

**FROM EAST:** **A** *Newark, Summit.* Take 78 West to Exit 26 (North Branch - Lamington). At traffic light, make a left and go towards North Branch (Rattlesnake Road). Go for 3 miles and at the light make a right (Easton Turnpike). Stoney Brook Grille is 200 yards ahead on your right. **B** *Union, Plainfield.* Take Route 22 West. After entering North Branch, look for our road sign and the North Branch Exit by the QuickChek. Exit on your right. Stoney Brook Grille is ahead on your left.

**FROM WEST:** *Phillipsburg, Clinton.* Take 78 East to 22 East for about 14 1/2 miles. Look for our road sign on right by Vollers Excavating Co. Exit ahead on your left at the traffic light (North Branch Exit). Cross over Route 22. Stoney Brook Grille is ahead on your left.

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Any and all decisions and actions taken by a reader of our articles should not be made without the advice of a qualified professional in his or her respective field.

## Links to AT&T Retiree Sites

[AT&T Benefits Center](#)

[Retiree Discount Site](#)

[Fidelity netbenefits Site](#)

Please let us know what you think about the Life Member Times and submit articles for upcoming issues. We look forward to hearing from you!

Please send all correspondence to  
attpioneers@lmc139.com or call 908-234-3618

### **Credits and References:**

Life and Times of Joe Schott: Joe Schott, Susan Karr ( Joe Schott's daughter) & Robert Schott (Joe Schott's son)

Truisms: John Wright

Correspondence and Scholarships: Suzanne Balian, Sandy Seidorf, Bencilla Jenkins, Machiko Nagata, Madhu Rangi

Clinton Rotary Duck Race - Sandy & Ron Seidorf

Calender: Ron Seidorf

Fall 2021 Luncheon: Ron Glover