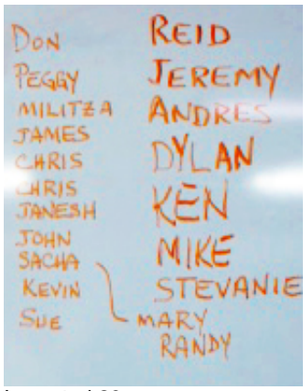
From: **Don Smeller** donsmeller@earthlink.net
Subject: Saturday at 10Bit
Date: August 23, 2015 at 7:20 AM
To: 10BitWorks sa-hackerspace@googlegroups.com
Bcc: Don Smeller donsmeller@earthlink.net



I counted 20.

Chris' father owns the Sunset Inn, the motel between 10Bit and Whataburger. We're neighbors. He's 20-something, a smart guy and very friendly. He brought his friend Janesh to 10Bit for the nickel tour. We couldn't let them leave without making them a couple of laser-cut Fiesta medals.

Dylan is a first timer, working on a PhD at UTSA, and a sometimes worker at SwRI in plasma physics. He worries about how solar winds will affect weather on earth. I set him to doing some honest work for a change: band sawing and deburring steel strips and laser cutting plywood, and generally doing stuff he never gets to do. He's hooked.

Randy and Militza are our two public school teachers. They both once taught at Nimitz Middle School, the place that jettisoned all that shop equipment that 10Bit grabbed up. School starts Monday. Randy will be teaching in the Judson ISD. Militza will be in the SWISD. Good luck to you both on your new assignments.

Stevanie starts 11th grade at Brackenridge, Monday. She's Cherokee and was telling about her coming of age ceremony and the wiikiup shelters that her people build. She ran the laser for several cycles. I need lots of wooden slats for a project. She kept things going.

Ken and James managed to, not just pop, but explode, a fuse on the new circuit board for the DynaMill. Some foolishness about putting a.c. in where d.c. is supposed to go. Sigh.

Kevin asked for some pointers on SketchUp. He was making a 3D model of a junior size printer. It spits out 3x5's on photo paper. Shhhhh, it's for the photo booth that Sue and he are cobbling together, together. Meanwhile, Sue coated hardboard with chalkboard paint.

Mike G used the free version of SketchUp to design a cuboidal grid of flashing LED lights, like the one on the kiosk. He needed to go from 3D SketchUp into 2D Laser Cutter, which just isn't done, but we found a "tool chain" work-around. Pay attention. From SketchUp Mike exported an STL. He then imported the STL into SolidWorks. A slap on the space bar causes Solid Works to orient in an orthogonal 2D view, and a dialog box pops up offering several options. At this point we called James over. James poked a green check box and, voila, Solid Works was willing to save as DXF. Mike imported the DXF into the Laser program. It was now 2D but there were remnants of the triangles from the STL file. In the laser program, Mike deleted unwanted lines and redrew others that fell off. He united the paths and the part was ready to download to the laser cutter.

John is another first timer, an entrepreneur of all things computer graphic. I showed him the grandfather printer and we set it to making an ABS PacMan Ghost. John filed it and made it nice, then he acetone vapor polished it in the Fry Daddy. Next he found a chess knight and he made that smooth and fine too. Alas it was a knight of the PLA sort, and it was not going to be a candidate for vapor polishing. Stupid PLA.

Reid and Jeremy work together at an architect firm. They showed up at 10Bit with a sick 3D printer. It was not communicating with Pronterface. Ken got them over that hump. The y-motors still do not work. That's going to take some serious circuit tracing which will have to wait for another session.

Sacha borrowed the wagon but first he added air to the soggy tires.

Peggy water-colored invitations to a party for the 90-somethings who attend her art class at the nursing home.

Don S

Archive Click on 141