From: **Don Smeller** donsmeller@earthlink.net
Subject: Saturday at 10Bit
Date: June 7, 2015 at 8:05 AM
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I painted highlights on my reproduction of Zorn's "Violinist", called it done, uploaded it to my trusty Pi server: http://smelle.privat-server.net:8080/ click on 140.

Mary Runner gave the Art-In-The-Am crowd an introduction to encaustic painting. She adds pigment to hot wax and applies it with heat guns and flames. What's not to love!
Ken Runner finished his two masted filament reel holder using his shiny new made-at-10Bit 3D printer. Yay Ken.
Ariana Runner is now working her way through Orwell's "1984".

Militza came back from an ESL teaching gig in Mexico City with stories to tell.

A dude named Alex immigrated from Mexico City two years ago and showed up at the space Saturday with that peculiar what-is-this-place look of wonderment on his face. Harold Bloom played the role of tour guide. They both come and go via VIA. Alex showed us pictures of a huge CNC router that he had recently built for his job as a graphics artist.

GnuDon held his 3rd "summer camp" session (of 4) teaching RaspberryPi programming. The attendance has dwindled to about 10, but it's a dedicated 10. Notable among the Pi group was a wee lass named Gillian. She had designed a dinosaur/horse/skeleton figure (that she called Spino) using free software from Autodesk. After the Pi class she wanted to laser cut Spino from acrylic. It took some doing by a whole throng of onlookers, including Alex who helped at just the right moment, but she / they / we succeeded. I admired Gillian's not-to-be-denied determination.

Andres gets the Pied Piper award for best recruiter. He lured a veritable flock-of-kids (6?) to the space from Burbank High School's robotics club. Andres is graduating but he's leaving behind a healthy crop of eager followers. They were especially attuned to all things 3D. I introduced them to our grandfatherly 3D printer. We went to the Thingiverse and found a chess horse, and downloaded it, and Slic3r-ed it, and put it on a micro SD, and printed it. Without any fakery we encountered a dozen ways to fail (and learn) but succeeded in the end. Also we laser cut a fresh batch of acrylic Fiesta 2015 medallions for takeaway souvenirs.

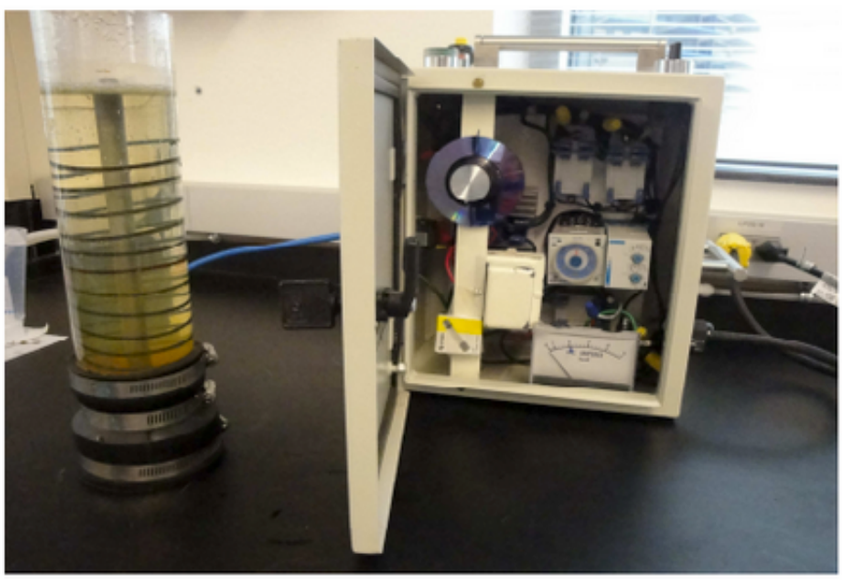
There's a lot of waiting-around time involved in 3D printing. The newbies and I filled the time by sweeping the space.

Two of the high schoolers asked about learning how to program an Arduino. I placed a FaceTime call to Les and set it up. Les is going to do an hour long telepresence class on June 20, right in the middle of our 5th Birthday Party. So hear this. Whoever puts out the word for such things, Joey?, We're going to hold an Arduino Class, 3: to 4: PM Sat June 20. Teacher: Les Hall. BYO Laptop. There will be burgers involved, too.

Charles Peterson of XCSSA brought in an audio amplifier box and tinkered with the circuitry.

James Manley quietly fixed the arcade last week. It's running now and you can play a bazillion video games on it. Oldies but Goodies.
James Manley also quietly moved the printer to reside almost hidden amongst his lair. It's now hooked up permanently to his desktop computer, which we are all welcome to use. Andres put the printer to good use Saturday, making a hard copy of the user's manual for his 3D printer software.

Ryan Beltran walked a few of us through the saga of EC, ElectroCoagulation, and his fledgeling limited liability entity called Elequa. It's dawning on me, who am a slooow learner, that this is not a flash in the pan. A woman at UTSA did her Master's Thesis using Ryan's goofy demo unit to clean up waste water from the fracking fields. The same setup removed all the measurable arsenic from El Paso water samples. Heavy metals, btw, defy filtration but metals are urgent to get-the-flock-out in the face of an electric current. Ryan wants to share EC, to broadcast it to open-source-land. He lives 2 blocks from 10BitWorks. He came in looking for shirt sleeves electronics engineering help. And we're going to give it to him. Les is on it. Yay, Les. James M, too. Yay James. The goal is to reduce the clunky black box (attached picture) to something a hacker or a hobbyist could love. And importantly, it needs to be something that we all can afford to make from open source available materials.



We welcomed UTSA professor Alajondro ? who came in to observe the Pi class in action and our PhD candidate teacher, GnuDon,

Randy put a better blade on the bandsaw. We've got a new heavier duty blade on order. Also on order is a dust bag for the miter Skilsaw. Thanks, Randy, for maintaining the shop equipment.

Don S