From: **Don Smeller** donsmeller@earthlink.net
Subject: Wednesday at 10Bit
Date: August 6, 2015 at 7:09 AM
To: 10BitWorks sa-hackerspace@googlegroups.com

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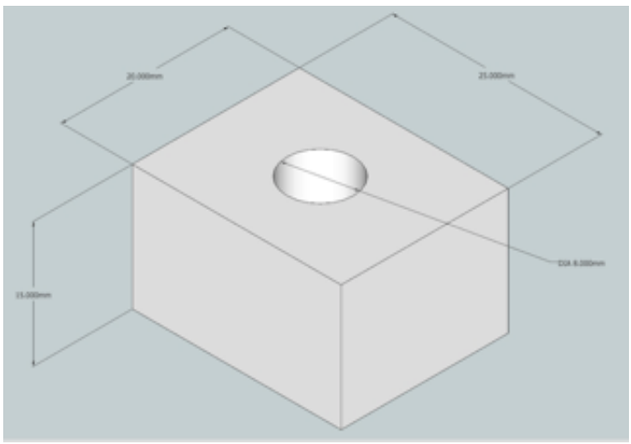
I'm thinking about Tutoring.

10Bit Tutoring. With a capital T.
"When the student is ready, the teacher will appear." That's what I'm talking about.
As a 501c3 non-profit, we have "education" as a part of our mission statement.
It's what we do. It's who we are.
What better way to carry on our mission, than with informal, impromptu, student initiated, tutoring.

I, for one, have declared that I will be at 10Bit on Wednesday evening. Simple as that.
Think of it as office hours. I know stuff. You want to learn stuff. See you on Wednesday. Just ask.

Wednesday and throughout this past week, we have seen several examples of how 10Bit Tutoring might work:

Ken Runner came up to me Saturday. He asked, "Will you be running another class in SketchUp soon?" I said, "How about Wednesday, but can you recruit anyone else?" He said, "Yes, Ken Stephens wants to learn, too." I said, "Great, see you both on Wednesday." We didn't co-ordinate times very well, and they arrived an hour apart, but that proved to be an OK thing. Ken Stephens is a MAC guy, and Ken Runner is a PC guy. Those platforms have enough differences that they warrant separate classes. So, using the studio's AppleTV, one-on-one, we did about an hour each. Really, an hour is all it takes for students who already know stuff, to learn a little more stuff. With SketchUp, we modeled a little calibration brick, (see attached) exported the stl file, downloaded the latest version of Slic3r, shared config files, generated g-code, downloaded TextWrangler, examined the files, put the files on a micro SD card, 3D printed the brick on the grandfather printer, and, ta da, measured the finished brick. 25.3mm vs 25.00 X; 20.3 vs 20.00 Y; 15.3 vs 15.00 Z. Close enough. 6.8 vs 8.00 diam. Not so good. So we reamed the hole.



Sacha was at the space on Monday band sawing a piece of sheet steel. It made a fearsome clatter. I showed Sacha a trick, one that I had leaned just last month from a machinist at work. Put the sheet metal on a piece of sacrificial scrap plywood. Cut the plywood along with the sheet metal. Voila, no clatter.

Sacha asked if I could teach him to use the oxy-acetylene torch to weld said sheet steel. I said no, but suggested asking on this list. He did. Randy responded with an e-mail. "Yep. Will Wednesday at 8:00PM Ok?" They got together. Simple as that.

Militza has a son at one of the community colleges struggling with Calculus II. She bribed me with chicken and pasta, delivered to the space on Wednesday, to call her son and arrange a sit-down. Saturday is now on both our calendars. I don't know squat about calculus, but tutoring isn't about calculus, it's about confidence. For heavens sake the answers are in the book. How hard can it be. But further, I get MY confidence from the fact that there will be a tribe of really smart people at 10Bit to back me up. Just ask, Right? Right.

There was another example of tutoring that came across this Google Groups e-mail list this week. "Searching for "MSP 430" programming help" was the subject line from some guy named Jeff. People responded. The thread ran to 5 or 6 back-and-forths. I hope that had a happy result.

Wednesday Ryan brought a friend named Mitch and exposed the poor guy to the infamous James-led tour. Mitch survived to tell us that he makes his living growing kale and basil with hydroponics.

Peter met up with Bob. They laid plans to make a huge bezel. Peter has a giant CNC router. Bob has a need.

Jeremy was there all day, soldering components for a series of lighted translucent bird houses. Say what? They are destined for an Energy Usage Display for a museum in Canada.

Greg was there, too. Greg is a sponge when it comes to learning stuff. He watches and listens, doesn't say much. But every now and then, he uncorks a project, like a 3D printer, or a laser-cut Tippy-the-dinosaur, or a flashlight guided robot, or a giant Aku-Aku mysteriously planted in the middle of Roosevelt in front of certain silver building. No one knows how a quiet web programmer comes to possess such skills.

Head count: 11.

The A/C in the studio is dead. Zane, the landlord, is on it.

Don S

This post will be archived at smelle Click on 141.