



NEWSLETTER

March 2024

"The MakerBarn is a member-driven family-friendly makerspace that exists to provide a place for our members to envision, design, and realize creative projects. We are dedicated to building a creative maker community among our membership and the community at large."

The DIY Spirit - Keep it Alive!

I've been in New Zealand this month and thought I would share a relatable observation.

The DIY spirit in New Zealand is deeply ingrained within the cultural fabric of the nation. Known for its resourcefulness and can-do attitude, Kiwis take pride in tackling tasks independently, whether it's home renovations, crafting, or problem-solving. This spirit is nurtured by a combination of factors, including the country's remote location, where access to specialized services may be limited, as well as a cultural ethos valuing self-sufficiency and creativity. From building backyard sheds to brewing craft beer, New Zealanders embrace the DIY ethos as a means of personal expression, community engagement, and sustainable living.

It's not just about saving money or getting a job done; it's about the satisfaction of creating something with one's own hands and the shared camaraderie that comes from exchanging skills and ideas within communities across the country.

Keep up your DIY spirit by sharing it with your kids, friends, and relatives. It's a valuable thing.



Kathy Barbieri
President, MakerBarn

A Family Friendly Maker Space

As I sat in a recent ceramics class, I was reminded of what it means to build a legacy. In this class of thirteen adults and one preteen, we had four parent/child pairs. After taking in the night's lesson, the preteen declared that in twenty years he would be doing pottery with his own kids. That is a legacy. His mom was sharing something she enjoyed with her son, who will one day share it with his own children.



As you look across the Barn you will see members sharing their time and knowledge with the next generation. This is what it means when Maker Barn is described as family friendly. It is an environment where we practice creativity, learn alongside one another, and embrace building into the next generation. It is about meaningful time spent working and learning together. It is not just about building things, but building a legacy.

As a reminder, children visiting Maker Barn should be with their parent/grandparent at all times and an appropriate age to participate in making activities. Please help keep Maker Barn a safe environment to invest in the next generation. - Lisa Lane, Area Manager Ceramics

Are you Manager Material?

The MakerBarn runs on volunteers. If you have been an active member for two months or more, we would like you to consider becoming a Shop MakerBarn Manager.

MakerBarn Managers work 3-4 hour shifts during which they supervise the general operation of the Shop keeping a close eye on safety and noting any maintenance issues that arise. They also devote a fair amount of time to general cleaning of the shop floor and emptying the dust collection and trash systems. They give prospective members tours and update MACS access cards as needed for members.

Oh, and they enjoy 24/7 access to the Shop!

If the Shop manager role sounds interesting to you, contact Jim Barron via Slack. Thanks!

Ceramics at The Barn

In February, The MakerBarn Ceramics SIG had fun making slab-built heart dishes and learning how to throw closed forms.

In March, the SIG will focus on Paint and Glaze Techniques. If you are interested in participating in the Ceramics Program at The MakerBarn, please complete the interest form at

<https://forms.gle/uwCXZwiWCpKso2tX7>

and join us for the General Ceramics Orientation on Tuesday, March 2nd. This is the required orientation for the Ceramics program and is only offered once a quarter. Register for the orientation at

<https://www.themakerbarn.org/events/general-ceramics-orientation/>.

The Ceramics SIG on Tuesday, March 19th will cover paint and glaze techniques. We will discuss techniques for decorating pottery and what paints and glazes are appropriate for The MakerBarn firing protocol. The registration link is

<https://www.themakerbarn.org/events/ceramics-sig-paint-glaze-techniques/>.

You can view and register for the classes on The MakerBarn website.



Laser SIG



Our area manager of Laser Printing, Greg Radliff will host a Laser SIG (Special Interest Group) to begin meeting at the Lab **on the 4th Thursday of the month.**

Anyone interested in talking about and sharing tips and tricks on laser cutters is welcome. Bring your projects for show and tell.

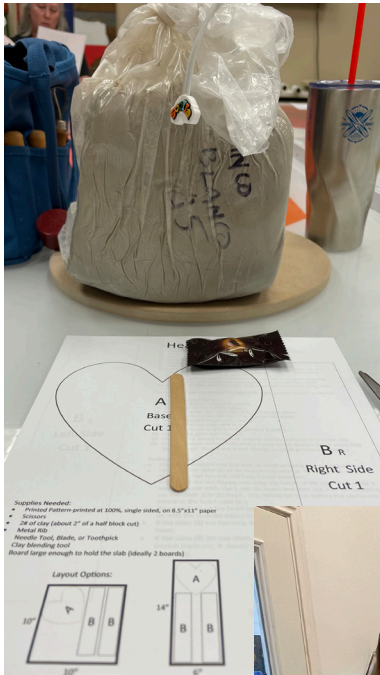
The next gathering will be March 28 at 7:00pm until the discussions end.



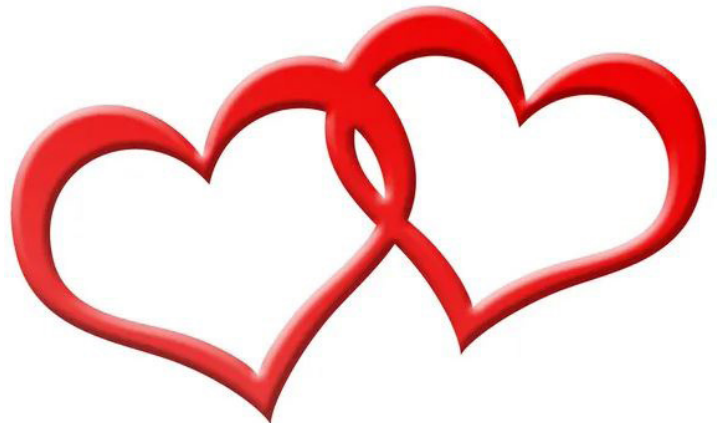
The students of MakerBarn's **Beginning Fusion Class** admire the custom designs they have 3d printed after 5 weeks of the ten week program. Congratulations!



MADE AT MAKERBARN!



Ceramics SIG Hand Built Hearts Class



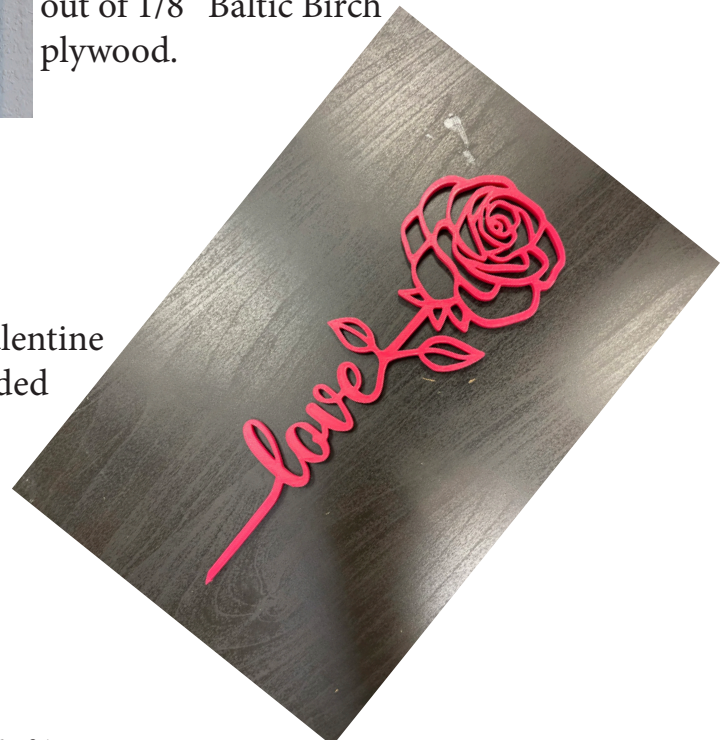
MADE AT MAKERBARN!

Colleen Helz made a lazy Susan for her daughter's birthday. She used a piece of wood that Joe Shields kindly gave to her. Thanks Joe! The CNC router, bandsaw, orbital sander and laser engraver were used in the process.



David Grimmer made a picture frame of walnut planed and jointed at The MakerBarn. He used the CO2 laser to cut the letters out of 1/8" Baltic Birch plywood.

Charlie Lindahl made a Valentine 3d print which he downloaded from the Bambu 3d printer collection.



MADE AT MAKERBARN!

Lisa Lane made a birdbath with ceramic tiles made at The MakerBarn. The tiles were made on the slab roller and decorated with underglaze. This was made for my parents and each of their children and grandchildren decorated a tile to describe a special memory with my parents.



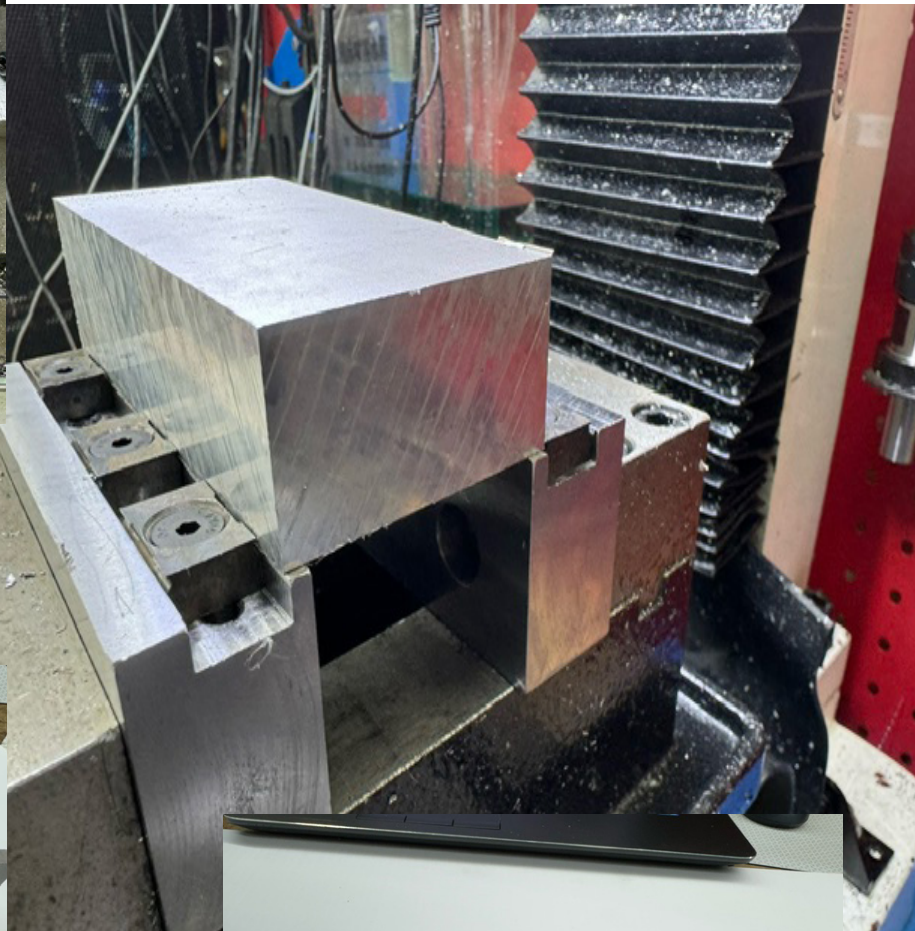
MADE AT MAKERBARN!

Ed Fraini made a solar filter for a telescope To get ready for the up coming solar eclipse. The filter housing was designed using Fusion 360, the 3D printed. Thanks to Bob W. For teaching me the skills to build a nice little box to carry the filter in.



MADE AT MAKERBARN!

Gary Alose made a Talon grip vise jaws for his home CNC. It is based on Clouth42's design, the hardest part was making the Talons which he had to heat treat to harden them. Gary made the vise jaws at the Barn and finished them along with the the talons on his home CNC.



MADE AT MAKERBARN!

Joan Mooney made a Shadow Box for Hockey Pucks. It was made with pine and poplar with acrylic door and acrylic peel and stick hinges.



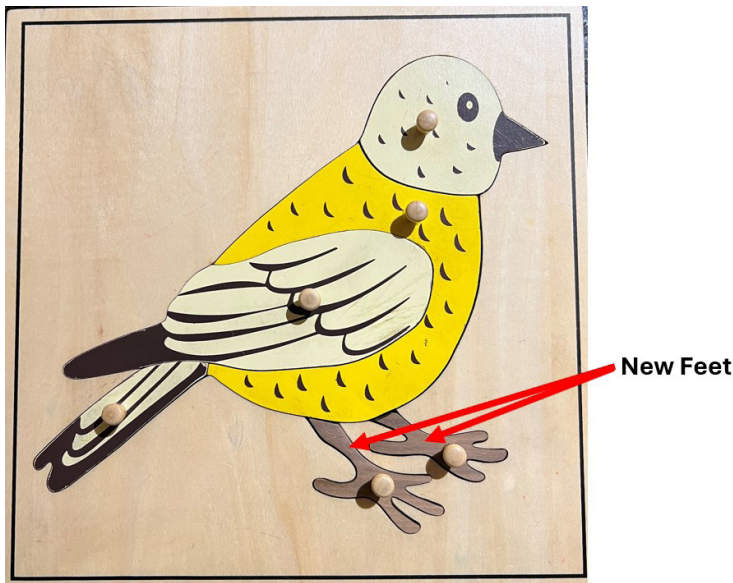
MADE AT MAKERBARN!

Have you ever heard the story of the lost tail, broken feet, and broken legs? Well, for elementary kids at Pines Montessori school I am repairing three wood puzzles.

The first was a turtle with a missing tail (no picture).

The second was a bird with broken feet (see the repaired version). I was able to scan the feet outer edge, import into Lightburn, and with some magic create a laser solution.

I chose to use black walnut because of its strength and brown color (so I didn't need to paint). If they break again I'll have to go back to plywood parts.



(P.S. It would have been easier to make a complete new puzzle!).

The third puzzle is a frog that needs new legs (it is work in progress).

Of course you can buy the puzzle new on line for \$20, but what's the fun in that?

- Joe Foster

MADE AT MAKERBARN!

Joe Foster made two flower pot holders designed to use repurposed round and square plastic buckets from a local bakery. They were made for the Pines Montessori School in Kingwood and are to be used during class instruction.



MADE AT MAKERBARN!

Kevin Byrne
made a huge
hallway bench
and storage in
The MakerBarn
Shop!



Meet the Area Managers



WOODWORKING

Mark Bush is area manager of woodworking. Contact him via SLACK.



LASER PRINTING

Greg Radliff is an artist and expert at using Laser Cutter and Engravers. Greg can show you the LightBurn software we use and can check you out for use of the Laser printers in the Lab. Contact him via SLACK



METALWORKING

Bryan Manka is area manager for metalworking which includes the metal mill and the metal lathe at the Barn. He can check you out for use of either of these machines. Contact him via SLACK.



3D PRINTING

Jody Cochran is a graphic artist with deep experience in 3D printing and other graphics tools. Jody can show you slicer and other software used with the 3D printers. Contact him via SLACK.



ELECTRONICS

Raul Garcia is area manager for electronics. More of a fixer than designer, but willing to help and learn together. See Raul for anything related to microcontrollers, electronic devices or other electronics related projects. Contact him via SLACK.



CERAMICS

Lisa Lane is area manager for ceramics. Contact her via SLACK.



WELDING

Joe Foster is area manager for welding. Contact him via SLACK.



CNC MACHINING

Gary Alose is area manager for CNC metal machining. Still learning but happy to help! Contact him via SLACK.

For New Members

WELCOME to the wonderful world of making!! We know you will come to love this place as much as we do.

First and foremost, this place is about the people. We would like to encourage you to see yourself as more than just a member. We are a community. Because we don't have any employees, we rely heavily on our community to keep things running. So please join in, pitch in, and get involved. Ask lots of questions. We are a really friendly group and love to help one another. The MakerBarn is a fantastic community of makers and we are glad you are here!



Maker Barn: The Shop & The Lab
28030 FM 2978, Suites 201, 202, 203 & 204, Magnolia 77354
Phone: 832-663-6390

MakerBarn Directors:

George Carlson, Director
Jeanie James, Director
Greg Radliff, Director

Executive Committee:

Kathy Barbieri - President
Jody Cochran - Secretary
Raul Garcia - Treasurer
Jim Barron - Membership
Matt Folsom - IT
Ashley Dickson - Member at Large
Mark Bush - Member at Large
John Buckley - Newsletter Editor

Area Managers: (Guru or Custodian):

Woodworking - Mark Bush
Lasers - Greg Radliff
3D Printing - Jody Cochran
Metalworking - Bryan Manka
Electronics - Raul Garcia
Welding - Joe Foster
Ceramics - Lisa Lane

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MakerBarn Lab
28030 FM 2978 Suite 204
Magnolia, TX 77354

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