



# NEWSLETTER

## September 2025

*"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."*

### *A Popular Community*

Hello Makers,

One of the things we are most proud of at The MakerBarn is how many people want to join our community. Right now, we have over a hundred folks on our waitlist! While this is a great problem to have, it also highlights something important: our region is ready for more makerspaces.



If you've been on the waitlist for a while, I'd like to encourage you to think about starting one of your own. A makerspace doesn't have to begin big. Many start in borrowed rooms, garages, churches, schools, or shared industrial spaces. The heart of a makerspace isn't the equipment, but the people who bring curiosity, creativity, and a willingness to share skills.

The MakerBarn was built by volunteers with a dream (and a lot of donated sweat). There's no reason it has to be the only one in town. More makerspaces mean more opportunities for collaboration, cross-pollination of ideas, and stronger communities. And we'd be happy to share what we've learned along the way - our successes and even our mistakes so you don't have to reinvent the wheel.

If you're on the waitlist, don't just wait, make it happen. Find a few like-minded makers, pool your talents, and start something where you are. Who knows? In a years time, you could be the one with a thriving new community of makers looking to you for guidance.

Keep making,  
Kathy Barbieri



**Kathy Barbieri**  
President



## Ceramics SIG

Are you interested in Ceramics? Join us for Maker Mondays! The 2nd Monday of the month focuses on training. This month's training will be about the wheel. It will include a wheel orientation and demonstration for our ceramics trained members interested in using the wheels. The wheel training will be Monday, September 8th at 7:00PM. Please register on The MakerBarn website. The 4th Monday of the month is our Ceramics SIG. The September SIG is scheduled for Monday, September 22nd at 7:00PM. The monthly topic will be test tiles. We will learn how to make test tiles and discuss glazing techniques. Bring your favorite glaze combination ideas to share.



What happens at a Ceramics SIG? The Ceramic Interest Group is an opportunity to join with other members interested in ceramics. Makers are encouraged to bring a success and a failure for the Pottery showcase. If you are interested in the glaze exchange, bring 2-4 oz. reusable jars (Mason jars or similar) and the glazes you want to share. Each SIG includes a learning opportunity. In August we learned about clay printing and how to make and use underglaze transfers. We enjoyed trying our hand at applying the underglaze transfers to extruded vases and slab formed trinket dishes. It is fun to gather with other makers and explore a new skill. While the orientation is required to work with clay and the ceramics

equipment, members interested in the program are welcome to join us for the Ceramics SIGS. It is a great way to meet other makers and learn more about the program. If you have a request for a Ceramics SIG topic, please message Lisa Lane on Slack.

Please help our ceramics program run smoothly by submitting your maker's mark via our Makers Mark Upload Form at

<https://forms.gle/wumstigmkskT5j6M46>.

Your maker's mark needs to be on file in order for your items to go in the kiln. This helps our kiln team ensure items were made by trained members and avoid damage to the kiln. If you need help making or submitting a maker's mark, please let us know.

If you are interested in the ceramics program at the Maker Barn, please complete this form:

<https://forms.gle/uwCXZwiWCpKso2tX7>.

The next Ceramics Orientation is scheduled for Monday, October 13th at 7:00PM. Register on The MakerBarn website.

We look forward to seeing you in the studio!



## ***MADE AT MAKERBARN!***

**Angie French** made her senior overalls with help of a neighbor and MakerBarn. She thanks Joy Slaback and Lane Ohlemeier for their advice!



### ***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.

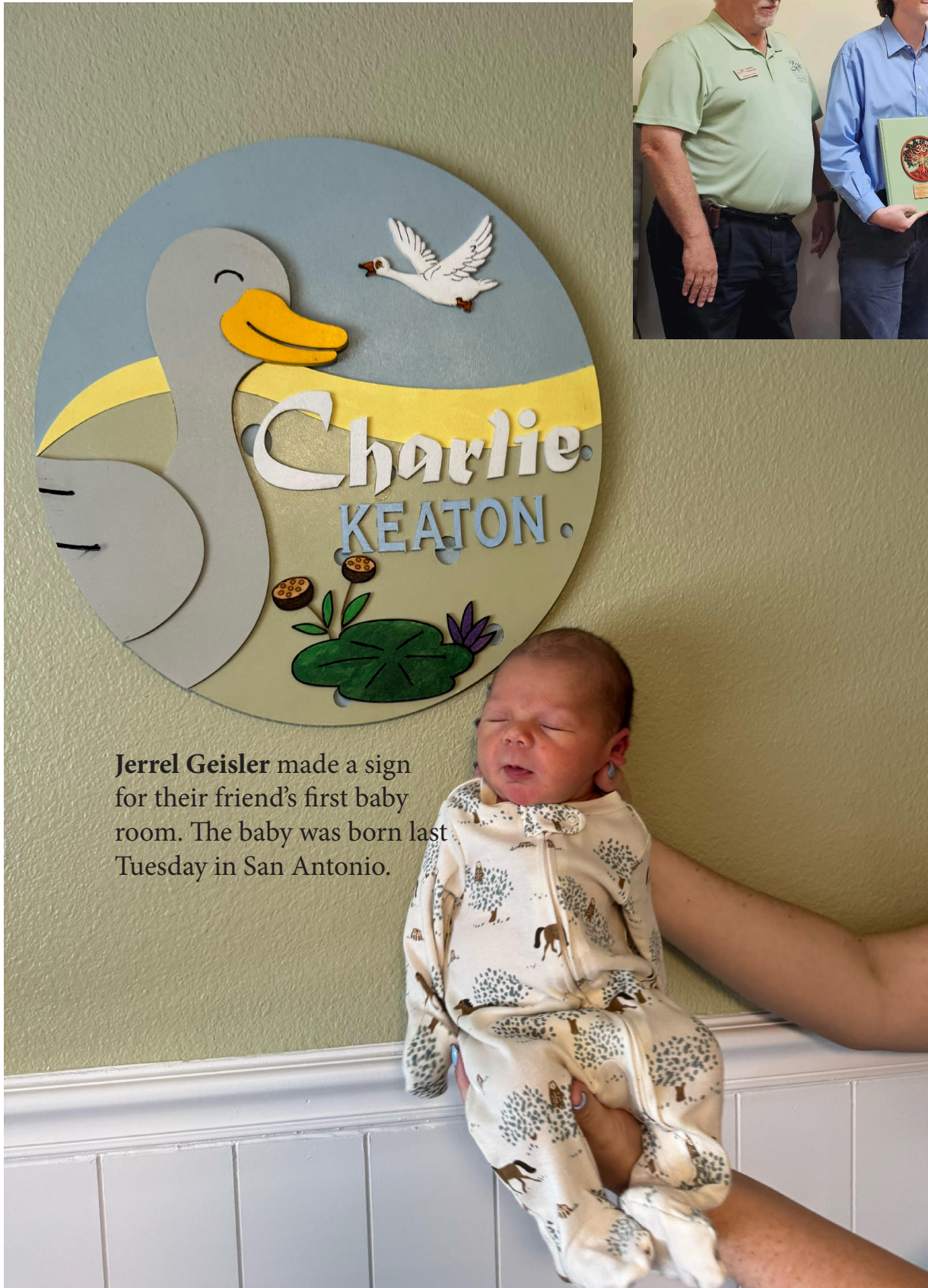
MakerBarn Managers work 3-4 hour shifts during which they supervise the general operation of the Shop keeping a close eye on safety and noting any maintenance issues that arise. They also devote a fair amount of time to general cleaning of the shop floor and emptying the dust collection and trash systems. 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!



## MADE AT MAKERBARN!



**Jerrel Geisler** made a sign for their friend's first baby room. The baby was born last Tuesday in San Antonio.



**Jerrel Geisler** made some awards for the interns at Mercer Arboretum on behalf of the Heartwood Master Naturalists.



## MADE AT MAKERBARN!



**David Grimmer** made storage in a game room. He used some cabinet doors that were about to be demolished. The two units are made of birch and plywood with mortise and tenon joints.

**Dave Grimmer** made an Adventure sign to hang in a bedroom that has pictures of the family adventures. Dave wanted to learn how to do inlays with the CNC router, so he used a piece of live edge walnut and some maple to make the sign.





## MADE AT MAKERBARN!



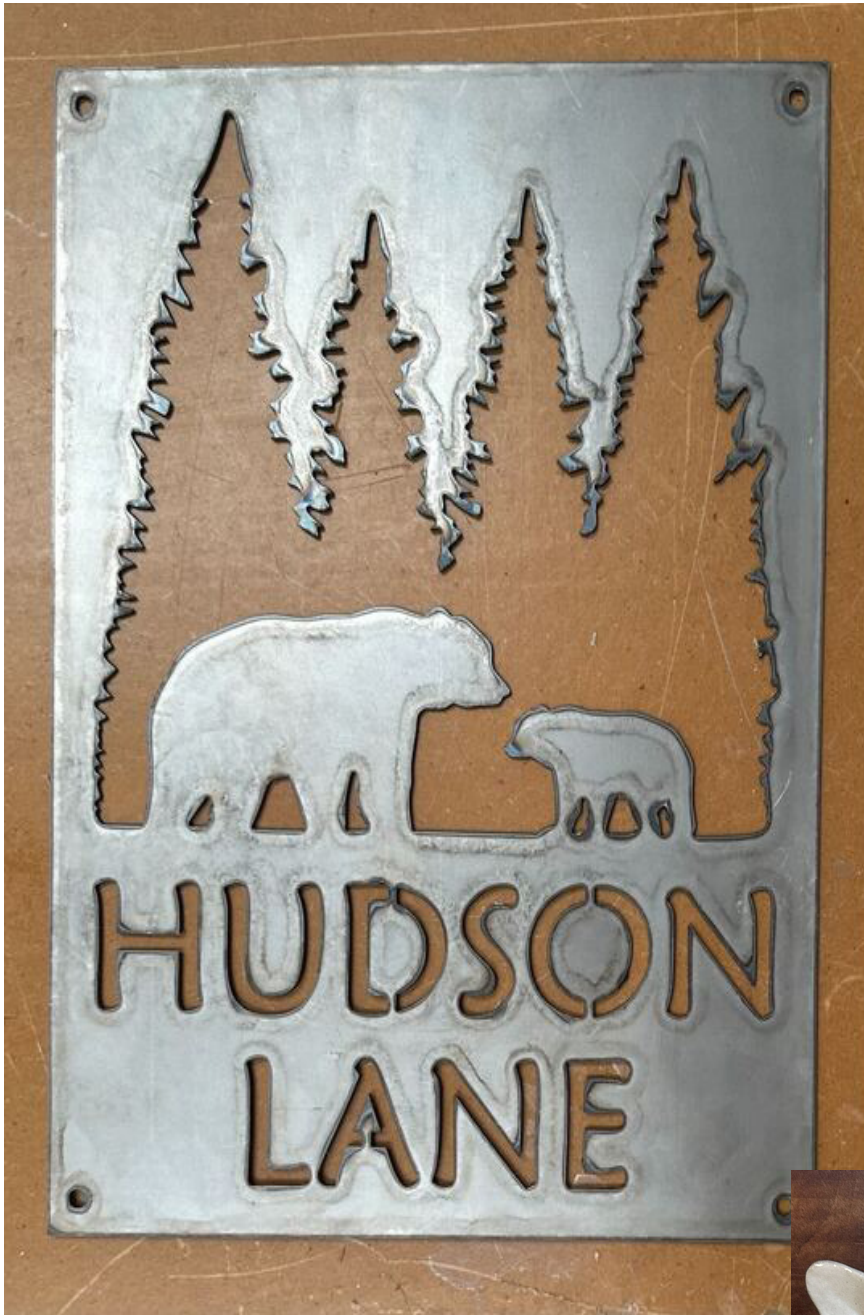
**Joe Foster** made Montessori inserts (the blue and pink things in the photo) for Montessori Pines school. Made with Baltic birch using the laser.

**Joe Foster** made a shish kebab grill for my friend. Cut with the metal plasma CNC, assembled and welded in the welding area using the MIG and TIG welders. The only purchase finished parts were the handles. Everything else is custom made.





## MADE AT MAKERBARN!



**Lisa Lane** made a metal sign. Joe Foster was kind enough to teach her how to make this metal sign using the CNC Plasma Cutter. It was designed in Lightburn, exported as DXF file, and imported into Sheet Cam. The material was 16 gauge Steel. It was fun to see the project come together. Lisa says the biggest thing she learned was the importance of layers when exporting the DXF from Lightburn. The layers could then be assigned the correct cutting directions in groups.

**Lisa Lane** made this example of fired screen printed clay.





## MADE AT MAKERBARN!

**Kevin Slaback** made a woven wooden clothes hamper for his daughter using woven strips of red oak and walnut. There are two canvas bags attached to the inside with snaps so they do not fall down. The lid is attached with torsion hinges.





## MADE AT MAKERBARN!

**Trevor Whalen** has made even more beautiful cutting boards! These are all end grain walnut with end grain maple inlay. Trevor uses CNC, table saw, jointer, hydraulic press, and lots and lots of sanding. Inlay was done with 12.4 deg tapered ball nose, a V-bit, and 1/8" end mill. Trevor is our cutting board expert...





# MADE AT MAKERBARN!



**John Buckley and Mike Durham** made a circus themed model train layout and took it to the Austin Model Train Show. Most of the animations and scenery of the layout were designed and made at MakerBarn including a moving parade, ferris wheel, big top and carousel. They are looking for volunteers to help with future shows; contact John if interested.



See video here:  
<https://vimeo.com/1113088669?share=copy>



## 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  
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Phone: 832-663-6390

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## 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  
Lisa Lane - Member at Large  
Joe Foster - 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  
CNC Metal - Gary Alose

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