



NEWSLETTER

October 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 Conroe Maker Space?

Keith Bradshaw, a longtime member of The MakerBarn, is interested in gathering a group of people to explore starting a makerspace in the Conroe area. We at The MakerBarn think this is a wonderful idea! Our waiting list has grown quite large, and a new makerspace would give more people a place to create, collaborate, and belong without such a long wait.

Starting something new is always an adventure, but it's also rewarding to be part of a project that can grow and benefit so many people. We wish the future Conroe makerspace every success, and The MakerBarn will be happy to support their efforts in any way we can.



It all starts with a Meet-Up. If you would like to learn more, please reach out to Keith at N2699X@gmail.com

Kathy Barbieri
President



MakerBarn and Pinewood Derby - the 2025 edition!

The kids had an amazing time this year at the MakerBarn building their pinewood derby cars! From designing and shaping to sanding and painting, they worked hard and had fun bringing their creative ideas to life. We can't wait to see these cars race and celebrate all their hard work! - Jocy Cochran

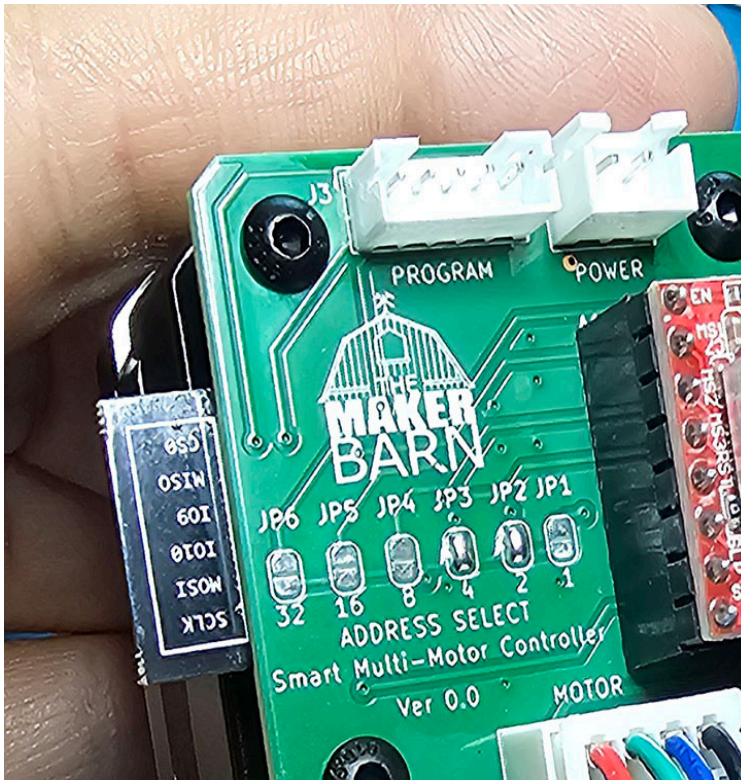


Busy at the MB Electronics SIG !

The electronics SIG has been busy. We started out learning the basic of electronics but have moved on to other things. The idea came up to develop an actual product, to learn how product design works. We also wanted to do something useful, like design a product to control stepper motors. Stepper motors are precision motors used in many devices that require precise motion, like ink jet printers, 3D printers, and laser engravers. Our idea was to make a smart controller that would fit the back of a small stepper motor making a very compact motor solution.

The first smart controller used a small micro-processor that could be controlled by a remote control panel. We then programmed the device to use command sent over a serial link from a computer. This still required wires between the controlling computer and the motor controller, so we decided to use WiFi to connect to the smart motor controller. Then the only wires would be

power connections for the motor controller. So, the device we designed was a miniature Web Server. The user would connect and control the smart motor using a browser on a computer or smart phone. A very neat solution.



But, what if we wanted to control a whole series of motors from a single remote control panel? For this we added the capability of a user settable address on the motor controller, and we would write a graphical user interface program to run on the main computer. This will require learning a programming language such as Python to design the multi-motor remote control panel.

The photos below show the latest version of the smart motor controller mounted on a

stepping motor. Jumpers are used to set the motor address to one of 64 different addresses, so we can control up to 64 motors from one desktop or laptop computer.

- George Carlson

MADE AT MAKERBARN!

Angie French made a photo collage fabric placemat. She used both heat presses to make this.



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!

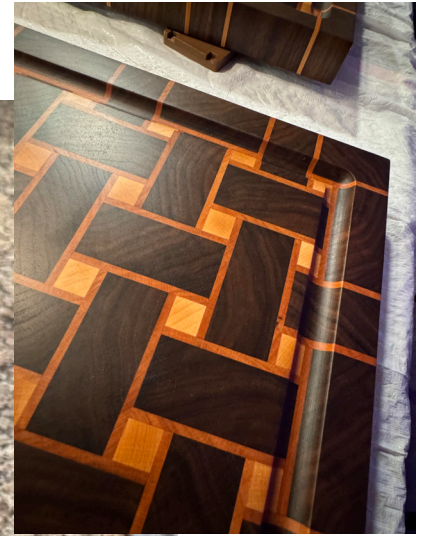
If the Shop manager role sounds interesting to you, contact Jim Barron via Slack. Thanks!

MADE AT MAKERBARN!

Ken Parks made charcuterie boards for his son with big assist from Terry Hurd for laser engraving.



MADE AT MAKERBARN!

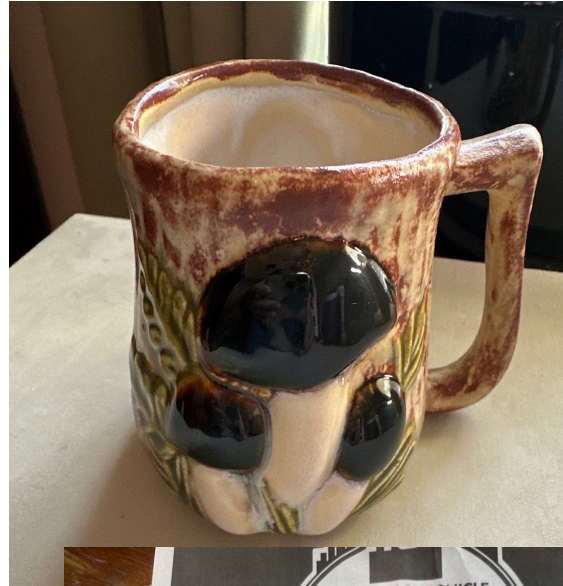


David Hawa made two End-Grain Basket Weave Cutting Boards composed of walnut, cherry, and hard maple. Makerbarn equipment used: table saw, resaw bandsaw, jointer, CNC and most of all the planer. A special big kudos to MB member **Trevor Whalen** for advice on finishes and CNC setup!



MADE AT MAKERBARN!

Jennifer Romito made ceramic items. She used the slip casting molds in the Ceramics Lab to make these.



MADE AT MAKERBARN!





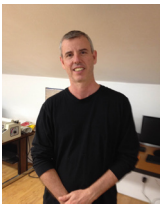


Trevor Whalen made (what else?!) three beautiful big cutting boards!



MADE AT MAKERBARN!



Benjamin McKeig made a bed frame for his wife.

	<h2>Meet the Area Managers</h2>
	<p><u>WOODWORKING</u></p> <p>Mark Bush is area manager of woodworking. Contact him via SLACK.</p>
	<p><u>LASER PRINTING</u></p> <p>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</p>
	<p><u>METALWORKING</u></p> <p>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.</p>
	<p><u>3D PRINTING</u></p> <p>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.</p>
	<p><u>ELECTRONICS</u></p> <p>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.</p>
	<p><u>CERAMICS</u></p> <p>Lisa Lane is area manager for ceramics. Contact her via SLACK.</p>
	<p><u>WELDING</u></p> <p>Joe Foster is area manager for welding. Contact him via SLACK.</p>
	<p><u>CNC MACHINING</u></p> <p>Gary Alose is area manager for CNC metal machining. Still learning but happy to help! Contact him via SLACK.</p>

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
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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MakerBarn Lab
28030 FM 2978 Suite 204
Magnolia, TX 77354

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