



# NEWSLETTER

## January 2026

"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."

## *Fresh Starts, New Projects, and Growing our Community*

As we kick off a new year at The MakerBarn, January is all about fresh starts, new projects, and growing our creative community. Welcome to all of the new members!

We're excited to share that George Carlson will be hosting a Fusion 360 class starting this month so be sure to check out the details below in this newsletter if you're interested in sharpening your design skills.

Our vibrant ceramics community will also be busy, with a Ceramics SIG (Special Interest Group) Monday meeting planned, along with a MakerBarn ceramics orientation for anyone who would like to start making ceramics.

Whether you're learning something new, finishing a long-awaited project, or simply connecting with fellow makers, we're glad you're here.

Here's to a creative and collaborative start to the year!

Kathy Barbieri  
President



# *Ceramics Orientation and Makers Challenges*



## **The 2026 Pottery Maker's Challenge**

Are you interested in ceramics? The next Ceramics Orientation is scheduled for Monday, January 12th, from 7:00-9:00PM. If you would like to participate in the ceramics program at The MakerBarn, please register for the orientation at [www.TheMakerBarn.org](http://www.TheMakerBarn.org), under classes and events. You must be logged in with your email to view classes and register.

2026 is the year of the Makers Challenge in The MakerBarn Ceramics Studio. There will be 5 challenges with opportunities to earn a Makers Medallion for each. We will start the year off with a Mug Challenge: Make a mug using any pottery method and bring it to the Ceramics SIG on February 23rd at 7:00PM. We will enjoy hot cocoa in them as we test out our creations. Not sure where to begin? Come explore methods and ideas for creating mugs at our Ceramics SIG on January 26th at 7:00PM.

Mark your calendars! Maker Mondays are the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 7:00PM in the Ceramics Studio. The 2nd Monday is typically a training or class and the 4th is our Ceramics SIG. The Ceramic Interest Group is an opportunity to join with other members interested in ceramics. This year the SIG's will align with the challenge topics. 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

### **Upcoming classes:**

January 12, 2026, 7:00-9:00PM - Ceramics Orientation

February 9, 2026, 7:00-9:00PM - Wheel Throwing Orientation

March 9, 2026, 7:00-9:00PM - Platter Making Class

### **2026 Makers Challenge:**

January/February - Mug Challenge

March/April - Bowl Challenge

May/June - Vase Challenge

July/August - Plate Challenge

September/October - Tea Pot Challenge



## *DIY (Design It Yourself) 3D printing course*

It's fun to download an STL file from Thingiverse or other 3D printing site and print it out



on a 3D printer. There are millions of projects to choose from. But what if you want to do your own thing and design your own part? Maybe it's a replacement part for something that broke, or maybe it's for a device of your own invention.

This is where 3D printing becomes a bit complicated. In this class, you will learn

how to copy an existing 3D object or design one of your own.

The first step in making a new or replacement part is to measure. We will cover the proper use of the digital caliper so your project will come out perfect. Then we will learn how to make rough mechanical drawings to record these measurements. Making a rough draft of your part will give you more understanding of just how the part will be created.

Next we will learn the basics of Fusion 360, a 3D CAD program. In Fusion you can clean-up your project and add additional features if desired. You will learn how to evaluate your part for the best results when it is 3D printed. Using Fusion 360, we will turn your design into an STL file that the 3D printing software will understand. Then we will learn how to bring your STL design into Bambu Studio to make the best possible print.

A Bambu P1S printer with AMS will be available to use in the Learning Center. All supplies are provided. You may want to bring reading glasses and a calculator or your smart phone to do calculations. The course will start on January 24th and will be every Saturday morning for 5 weeks. The sessions begin at 9:00am and are 2 hours long. It is limited to ten students max. **NOTE: If you cannot attend all 5 sessions, please do not sign up.** There is no fee for the course, The MakerBarn membership is required.

For more information or to sign-up for the course email George Carlson at [geotekds@swbell.net](mailto:geotekds@swbell.net).





## 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!



The 2025 MakerBarn **Christmas Party** was a huge success thanks to all members who pitched in to cook, clean and organize fun activities and contests.



## MADE AT THE MAKERBARN!

**Cam'n** made  
2026 3D printed  
glasses to ring in  
the new year!



**Charlie Lindahl** 3D  
printed measuring  
spoons



**Kathy Barbieri** made a  
mug. She says, "Shes not  
a looker, but she holds  
water!"



**David Grimmer** made a project  
with his wife Cynthia. She used the  
extruder at the Barn to create the  
tubes and he used the CNC router  
to create the base for them.



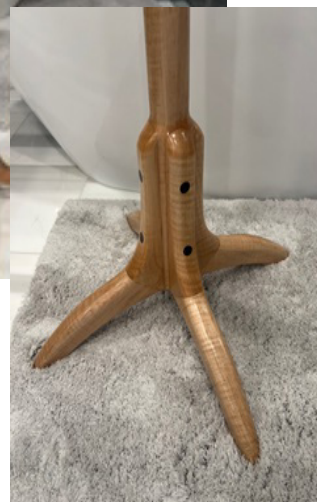
## ***MADE AT THE MAKERBARN!***

Mel Pye made three things at Maker Barn in 2025:

Hall Trees modeled after  
Sam Maloof from curly  
maple and ebony.



Cutting boards with help from  
Trevor Whalen; maple, walnut &  
cherry



Dining room  
set made  
from hard  
maple and  
ebony



# MADE AT THE MAKERBARN!

Tiffany Rollins made three things at MakerBarn in 2025:



Tiny shelves to get back some unused space in the bathroom. Mostly decorative rather than functional. The trim is currently in progress.



Momentos for our Christmas cruise! Made from plywood and the laser engraver then painstakingly hand painted. Do not recommend! I'd probably laser cut acrylic masks to use spray paint next time.

A dice shaped day tracker made of cherry wood using the laser engraver and various shop machines. The base is an air dry clay, painted peach, and modge podged.





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

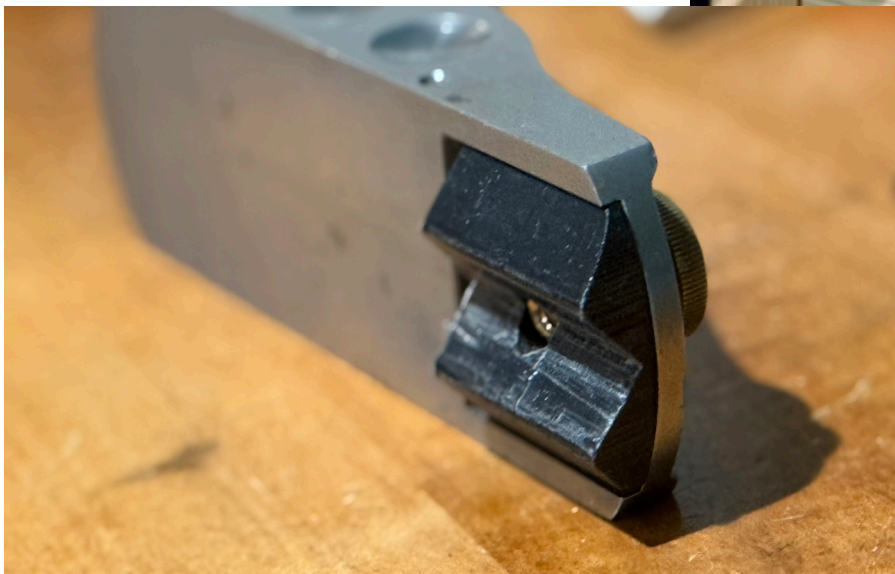
## **Matthew Crawley made three things at MakerBarn in 2025:**



A shower bench from teak that was reclaimed from an abandoned outdoor storage box that had sat outside for 20+ years locally.











A3D printed a chamfer guide for my Lee Valley block plane that I used to relieve the edges on the teak bench handles.



A holder for the LV block plane's accessory handles.



	<h2><i>Meet the Area Managers</i></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  
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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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