

Parker Blog - November 2012

Fri. Nov 30

Errands

- Brought generator to St. Joe for repair

Project Car Removal

- Brought paperwork to Rodney, got it approved. Won't be able to come till Monday to scope it out.

True Fans

- Dedicated day to finish TF Handling Process
- Got reward structure approved after back-n-forth about \$10 lvl and possibility of coupon
- Modified TF Welcome email to reflect structure
- Wrote up how-to process for sending rewards
- Wrote up how-to process for updating graph
- Wrote up how-to process to add donors to contact database

Thurs. Nov 29

Still sick but got some work done.

True Fan Rewards

- Got graphics fixed up, and make custom graphics for different types of True Fan Merchandise.
 - Water bottle, tote bag, T-shirts, stickers, etc.

Errand

- Wrote and mailed Aaron payment check.

Wed. Nov 28

Sick in bed.

Tues. Nov 27

True Fans / Store

- Tried to take graphic from Aaron and turn it into vector image so it could be modified for the store graphics. Watched tutorial but technique failed.
 - Decided to scour the wiki to see if a better version of the logo could be found. Miraculously stumbled upon the original vector file package with all the logos and even the LifeTrac T-shirt logo. Made my day!
- Used vector files to make a set of five different graphics that should well suit our needs for the OSE Store for now. Other graphics can always be implemented later.
 - Possibility of a process on how to do this...but kind of case specific, so perhaps not. Need to think on it.
 - Had issues with graphics and making them transparent. After creating all five graphics, realized when enlarged that some of the gear holes in the logo were not

showing through. Frustrating.

- Set up separate TrueFanReward store to keep exclusive TF rewards separate.
- Took one of the vector logos and added True Fan text to it to be used for exclusive reward merchandise.

Car Fixing

- Called Randy to see about fixing truck. Found out earliest he can is end of next week. How to get wood until then?

Mon. Nov. 26

True Fans

- Developed standard [donation](#) email and implemented into TF Handling Process

Construction

- Spent most of day working on leveling and laying insulation panels outside the house

Week of Nov 26 - Dec 1 Milestones

- Complete Final Steps of True Fan Handling Process **COMPLETE**
 - Create and upload needed graphics
 - Add potential products for rewards and decide with Marcin which to use
 - Update TF Handling Process and New Subscription Email to reflect the structure and instruct other on how to send rewards.
- Write OSEmail Process -- Instructions on how to get in to Campaign Monitor and send out weekly newsletter **PARTIAL**
 - **Wrote up process for how to send mass emails to TFs. Need to develop broader OSEmail process, but good for now.**
- Create Instructional Video for camera usage **INCOMPLETE**
 - Taking pictures, taking video, memory card, charging, time lapse, formats, uploads to YouTube) - I am looking for a 2-5 minute concise video instructional where you walk somebody through the whole process, and then put this on a wiki page with supporting documentation such as links to specifications, manuals, other instructionals.
 - **Postponed with Rocket Stove prioritized over it temporarily.**
- At a minimum, get all products loaded into OSE Store. If time permits: **COMPLETE**
 - Discuss pricing with Marcin
 - Format layout of store to make it more professional looking
 - Publish and implement into wiki if possible.
- Get cars hauled and scrap materials delivered (assuming Rodney will accept the new form)**PARTIAL**
 - **Got Rodney to approve, but can't haul till next week.**

Sun. Nov. 25

- Tried to activate Farmer's Bank card. Emailed Aaron asking for necessary information.
- Started to configured Synology drive. Got it onto network and had it set up drives. Need to figure out file sharing now.

- Tried to get wood for stove. Car broke.

Sat. Nov. 24

- CEB Production Run

Wed-Fri Nov 21-23

- Thanksgiving Break

Tues. Nov. 20

Project Car Removal

- Spoke again to Sheriff's Office and was told this time that they won't fill out 5062 because if they did, there are a ton of salvage yards who would be wanting them to do it for them as well, and they'd be doing nothing else all day. Said Rodney had a license to buy them himself without the form.
 - Called Rodney and he said he could buy it, but couldn't sell it to anyone without a title, but said I should talk to Becky at the license office who he has spoken with on the phone about this and she'll be able to help me. The saga continues...
 - Went to license office and was informed that yes, 5062 is needed. Administrator couldn't believe the Sheriff wouldn't fill it out and called him directly. She couldn't persuade him either unfortunately. Recommended I try calling St. Joseph Highway Patrol again.
 - Called St. Joseph Highway Patrol and they said they couldn't fill it out because they can only do so if the cars had been already abandoned on the property when Marcin acquired it.
 - Called license office again and updated them. Their only last suggestion was to call the State Department of Revenue.
 - Called the State Department of Revenue and after a few re-directs, was informed that Rodney should indeed be able to buy it without the 5062 and pointed me to another, entirely different form, that I could use to make the sale without a title.
 - Printed and filled out forms, but didn't have time to bring to Rodney before leaving for Thanksgiving

Bills/Mail

- Sent out water payment and well drilling certification. Need to call 573-368-2165 in a few days to make sure Dept. of Natural Resources accepted the well certification form.

Mon. Nov. 19

Recruiting

- Emailed Ed Reasner and Bradley Hall and requested they fill out the Open Application Process before I interview them

Project Car Removal

- Went to scrap yard with Bills of Sale and was informed that while I don't need a title for cars over 20+ years, Rodney (the owner) would like at least that I get a 5062 Form filled out by a police officer, which verifies that the cars are not stolen

- Called St. Joseph Highway Patrol who, after returning my call, directed me to the DeKalb Sheriff Office. Called them and arranged to have someone come out today or tomorrow to fill out the paperwork.

OSEmail

- Wrote up OSEmail and sent preview to be reviewed before sending
 - Took Founder's Corner notes from Marcin and developed section for it with links where applicable
 - Wrote up bit about TIME magazine article
 - Added section about newest test of Trencher but was taken down b/c Aaron wanted to wait until Friday for his Smart Mob

OSE Store

- Took graphic Aaron had provided and used Cafe Press template to resize it in Illustrator to more appropriate size and location (was way too small and high on T-shirts before)
- Removed all merchandise with prior bad logo after realizing graphics will individually have to be customized via template for each type of item.
- Added new graphic to one of the T-shirts as a test.
 - Should see if Marcin has any input on pricing.
- Brain-stormed prospect of having exclusive merchandise for TF rewards---perhaps having T-shirts with OSE logo on front and True Fan emblazoned across the back.
 - Need to talk to Marcin about prospect, and possibly whoever designed the nuts'n'bolts logo to do the words "True Fan" in similar font (Isaiah?)

Week of Nov 19 - 25 Milestones

- Direct remaining applicants to complete Open Application Process. **Completed**
 - *Got feedback from one of them that they are unwilling since they are otherwise employed and don't want to endanger current employment*
- Write and send out OSEmail 3.0 **Complete**
- Configure Synology Drive. **Partial**
 - *Set it up once I got back from Thanksgiving but auto-parsing of the RAID process took hours and there wasn't time to set up file sharing for a test-run yet*
- Get scrap cars hauled away **Partial**
 - Have scrap yard deliver rocket stove materials when they come to pick up cars
 - *Had been led to believe that all paperwork was in order. Proved not to be the case, but progress was made and the end is now (hopefully) in sight (see Project Car Removal above)*
- Finish TF Handling Process. Requirements: **Partial**
 - Get OSE Store equipped well enough at least to send merchandise rewards.
 - Determine and get reward structure approved.
 - Update TF Handling Process to reflect this structure and complete other necessary subsections within the process
 - *Got initial graphic uploaded into store and tested on a shirt. Was delayed from proposing reward structure and the rest due to unexpected delays on dealing with scrap car removal. Would've completed if not for Thanksgiving and then production run upon return.*
- Pay bills and work on getting more checks (since we only seem to have a few, and not an entire checkbook). **Complete**

- *Ample Spare Time* -- Work on Rocket Stove design and part sourcing **Incomplete**

Sun. Nov. 18

Log

- Filled out log for past two days.

Learning

- Got tutorial from Yoonseo about how generators work and had discussion about feasibility and logistics required to build a CEB in Africa. Also a brief chat about merits of vertical primary compression on CEB vs. horizontal.

Construction

- Fixed and improved watering device. Listened and discussed Gabi's idea for overhang above nesting boxes to make space more enticing. Also experimentally widened opening of two boxes to see if it has any effect.

Processes

- Added instructional steps on how to import contacts (new True Fans) into Campaign Monitor on True Fan Handling Page.

Sat. Nov. 17

Errands

- Trip to Bakers to get silicone for outside sealing.
- Trip to grocery with Yoonseo for provisions.

Project Car Cleanup

- Returned to scrap yard armed with the law on my side (for a change) and informed owner of the legislation. Seemed pleased to find out and since his fellow who hauls scrap was hunting deer that day, said to stop by on Monday to finish things up. All that's needed is Bill of Sale.
 - Went back to license office and picked up two blank Bills of Sale.
- Also found promising materials for rocket stove while at scrap yard.

Work Day

- Worked on leveling ground on east side of Hablab with Gabi and Yoonseo. Used gravel to get it decently smooth and then laid pink insulation board down all along the wall.
 - Then laid thick plastic sheeting over insulation and over onto ground past it.
 - Shoveled dirt onto plastic sheeting to hold in place until Lifetrac covers it all over.
 - Helped Yoonseo install metal flashing running from walls over top and a few inches down of insulation.

Research

- More research into rocket stove--specifically whether aluminum can be used. Turns out it can, but is best left only to exhaust and not heat riser construction.
 - Also determined that heat riser should be between 25-50", though higher is better since the amount of pull is directly correlated to height of stack.

Fri. Nov. 16

Errands

- Took Tristan to airport
- Picked up generator from repair shop
- Purchased new laser jet cartridge

Emails Etc.

- Emailed with Aaron about Scott Williams and agreeing to his request that I send his checkbook to him express mail on Saturday.
- Printed 100+ pages of CEB diagram for Marcin.
 - Realized printer has fatal flaw in that papers don't neatly stack as they come out and need to be manually stacked, which is a real time black hole.

Project Car Cleanup

- Stopped by scrap yard on way back from errands to investigate possibility of having them drive to FeF and haul two rust buckets wasting away on the property. Had heard they would do this at an earlier date and decided to get the process underway
 - Found out that we need to have the car's title in order to sell it legally to them
 - Returned to FeF to find titles. Apparently they've been lost over the years, but we have some registration application forms, so I returned to the scrap yard with these for advice.
 - Informed by scrap yard that we should obtain scrap certificates from the license office in Maysville which we could do with these registration papers. Off to Maysville then!
 - Found out from cranky crone at office that we could not, in fact, do this, and that one of the car's VINs doesn't even show up on the Missouri database since it was last registered in Wisconsin.
 - Defeated and glum at the prospect of contacting Wisconsin's DMV, decided to instead put on lawyer hat and peruse Missouri's [actual laws](#) regarding the topic.
 - Discovered delightfully that there was a provision that allows cars older than 20 years to be scrapped without any title or papers. Since these cars fit the bill, it seems to be a great solution.

Research

- Read up on the law regarding scrapping cars
- Did extensive research into probable dimensions for rocket stove. Need to determine whether 6" intake is large enough for a single bedroom 10'x10'x15'.

Thurs. Nov. 15

Recruiting

- Contacted Bradley Hall (who applied for CAD Director position) about setting up an interview, since he appears well qualified for the role of machine designer.
 - Have his resume and cover letter and will upload to wiki along with interview once complete
- Sent follow-up email to Ed Reasner to ask for a time to interview.

Errands

- x2 trips to Maysville for generator oil and pressure gauge for pressure tank. Had to go twice because OSE card didn't work and I didn't have my wallet to pay with my own money the first time.

Admin

- Spent afternoon revamping [True Fan Handling Process](#) with an improved template

(which could potentially serve as a template for all other process documents moving forward).

- Reorganized content and added new sections
- Using existing version as outline, I expanded on existing categories with much more concise instructions and links to additional supporting tutorials.
- Clearly outlined what was left to do, as well as blocks that need overcoming before completion.
- Ordered [Synology Network Attached Storage](#) (NAS) device and [Uninterruptible Power Supply](#) (UPS), as well as [replacement lens](#) for OSE camera, as well as [pressure switch](#) for pressure tank.
- Planned on starting to put together a list of possible pursuable projects to propose as per Marcin's request. Before doing so, decided to create a rough draft of a standardized process for development/approval of these projects. Ended up turning into an hours long brainstorming/writing session with the end result being [a document](#) that (with review and tweaking) could possibly serve as a process-template for any and all proposed projects by anyone at FeF, potential Dedicated Project Visitors or even Remote Collaborators.

Wed. Nov. 14

Recruiting

- Replied to Thomas Hurst re: his news that he took another position.
- Replied to Mike Helsinger to set up time for phone interview.
 - Agreed on time and had [an interview with Mike](#).
- Added Ed Reasner to interview list and sent out email to set up time.
- Replied to Martin Oline who informed that he's moving to Florida in spring and is withdrawing his application as a result. Addressed his concerns that we're going to create a bunch of mini-polluting-foundries across the world. Also skimmed [interesting article](#) he sent about new discovery in making metal casting molds using sugar as a binder for sand.
- Emailed Brad who sent in email of interest in CAD Director position. Asked him for resume/cover letter. Perhaps would make good machined designer.

Admin

- Proof-read and edited Tristan's OSEmail 2.5.
- Proof-read and edited Tristan's Blog Post.
- Email with Aaron
 - About getting content in for OSEmail 3.0
 - Answering questions about Autodesk and sending pic of package
 - Question about logo--got sent version of logo without blue background which will work for now and which I should be able to build off of.
- Added [Truefans@opensourceecology.org](#) as mailing address to my account.
 - Currently forwards to [opensourceeco@gmail.com](#) so I simply had it forward from there to me. All True Fan correspondence will go via that address. This will improve overall email organization and flow, as well as help with development of True Fan Handling Process.

Store

- Uploaded new logo to store and added to merchandise I had selected before. Now have [basic functioning store](#), but it will take time to customize the logo for light-colored

merchandise, re-size the logo for certain larger items, and add other graphics (i.e. OSE Tractor image and perhaps a GVCS 50 silhouette image).

Tues. Nov. 13

Meetings

- Met with Marcin and agreed to add more details in my log in order to accurately paint a picture of how time is spent.

Errands

- Trip to St. Joseph to drop off faulty generator and pick up battery for new power cube. Also checked mail and sent letter for Yoonseo.

Admin

- Converted log over to Google doc to prevent issues with losing information again.

Mon. Nov. 12

- Production Run of Powercube v.7
- Drove to St. Joseph to replace broken camera lens from Best Buy at Tristan's behest. Was not in stock unfortunately.
- Between tasks reinstalled water push-tabs with more sealant and made mounting frame to suspend the PVC pipe.

Sunday Nov. 11

- Production Run of Powercube v.7
- Between tasks sent TF emails and troubleshooted leaks in chicken water device

Saturday Nov. 10

- Helped Graham with plastering by troweling some wall
- Powercube production meeting. Set up remote collaboration with Rahul via Skype.
- Installed chicken water push-tabs into 2" PVC pipe and sealed pipe on either side. Added intake valve on top to be fed from 50 gallon drum.
- Set up pump with automatic float switch turn-off in barrel and hooked up the line.

Friday Nov. 9

**Had failure with wiki login and log update when filling out today and the rest of yesterday.*

Admin

- Installed lock on filing cabinet

Errands

- Took Yoonseo on grocery trip

Thurs. Nov. 8

Administration

- Discussed need for uninterrupted power supply for RAID array with Yoonseo and Tristan. Also made discovery about automatic voltage regulators that are recommended for use in buildings with off-grid power to protect sensitive electronics equipment.

Yoonseo acknowledged that we certainly have power surges and general fluctuation and that such a regulator would be advisable. Such fluctuation would also explain why the stove electronics no longer work, possibly why the routers are failing and my computer no longer works.

Construction

- Helped move debris from around workshop so Graham could plaster

Wed. Nov. 7

Research

- Since the Drobo was finally released, I was about to order. Quickly determined that it was far from the ideal choice. Further, discovered that we could even get a RAID array that would not simply hook up to one computer, but could be integrated directly into the internet router. This is a huge benefit because we would not only get a large data repository for video and other content attached to an individual computer, but one that would be accessible by anyone on the same wireless network. Thus, large (and small) files could be shared between computers rapidly without having to upload to the cloud or transfer via flash drives, and it would be far to collaborate on the same file. Further, a network attached storage system such as this could be upgraded into the setup of an in-house server at another point if we decide to go that route. Research into best models and how to set up the system ended up taking most of the afternoon instead of the less-than-an-hour initial timeframe expectation when I was simply planning on confirming that the Drobo was the correct choice.

Interviews

- Interviewed Franklin Griffin via Skype. Recorded conversation, video export failed and only audio could be uploaded. Have since fixed the issue by speaking to Aidan and downloading different software for audio/video recording. Candidates information can be viewed at [Franklin Griffin Interview](#).

Tues. Nov. 6

Administration

- Interviewed Aidan to discuss work plan. Spoke a bit about general things needing doing around here starting in late December. Suggested structure construction, workshop/Hablab improvements, Microtrack, etc. Logged [here](#). Next step looks to be him drafting rough proposal.
- TF Emails
- Forwarded Bill information on Open Source Economy.
- Corresponded with Kickstarter candidate who never received T-shirt.

Mon. Nov. 5

Administration

- Emailed Ken Christensen at Hagerman & Company Inc. and made payment fee for Autodesk licenses.
- TF Emails
- Created backlog.

Recruiting

- Emailed Martin for interview. He was out of state last week, and might visit in person tomorrow on his way back for an interview. If not, we'll Skype at his earliest convenience once he returns home.
- Contact with Rahul who created page exhibiting his works [Rahul Log](#)
 - Waiting on reply from Marcin regarding details of project
- Emailed Aidan to set up time to discuss work plan on Skype
- Emailed Ed Reasner (originally Prototyper applicant) to set up Skype interview.

Construction

- Replaced chicken floor swept yesterday with fresh straw.
- Finished spray painting majority of the house. Now protected from rust, and existing rust damage will be hampered from getting worse. Not quite life-time design, but the rust prevention will certainly give the coop a number of more years versus if it had been left alone.
- Week Milestones Review from last week.:
 - Completion of OSEmail #2 and post to Blog. - **done**
 - Conduct interviews for other applicants and review those who shifted from prototyper to designer - **no interviews done**
 - True Fan process map, and link to TF handling process - **not done**
 - Start Accounting process page - **rough draft**
 - OSE Swag Store up and running - **no products up yet**
- **Summary: Worked 3 of 5 days. Most of the work not done.**
- *^Most? Not accurate. Interviews were delayed on side of candidates, not me. TF process map was superfluous. OSE Store had been set up, and just needed proper graphics.*

Sun. Nov. 4

Construction

- Swept out entire chicken coop and rustled out debris
- Scrubbed and cleaned laying boxes, ground down rust
- Started spray painting to prevent further, and slow down development of existing, rust.

Thurs. Nov. 1

- Implemented changes suggested by Aaron and Marcin in OSEmail 2. Scheduled to be sent at 12:30 am tomorrow morning.
- Set up payee information and store on CafePress. [Incomplete Store](#). Determined a better vector graphic of the logo would be needed without any white background behind the logo. Will have to be done either when I get back or by Aaron in Illustrator (unless it can be done in Gimp?)