

# 2018 Maker Faire Debrief

8/7/2018 8:30 PM (Post member meeting)

## Main Faire

- Successes
  - Nameplates for exhibits were excellent! (making up for Maker Faire not doing it, which they did in the early years...)
    - Not everything had a nameplate, last-minute items. (Make blank ones for handwritten impromptu stuff on-site?)
  - The bunk couch/hangout area was a neat idea, was it well utilized? Could we expand on this next year?
    - Not a lot of people actually sat in it, but it demonstrated our laid-back culture.
    - Would something else convey the idea but be easier to transport?
  - Brochure was helpful for members as an explanatory aid.
  - Space allocation was well executed (gg Kevin and volunteers!)
    - Could use a diagram though...
  - Truck on-site at i3 roughly 1pm on Friday, worked well.
- Improvements for next year
  - Assign role: Media/display coordinator
  - Attach a chromecast/RPi/NUC or something to back of the TVs so we can just plug them in, pop in an SD card/flash drive and have them running slideshows and videos from the get-go - no fumbling with laptops required
    - Nate's suggesting this might be a not-dumb use for a 'smart tv'.
    - Many of them can just read PPTs and JPGs off a USB stick.
    - But test this well in advance!
      - And make sure they work with no network.
      - And autostart on boot...
  - Obtain a bunch of cool, eye-catching paper-weights to hold down brochures, party invites, etc. on tables
  - Clips for tablecloths... please
  - Either move the "main" table out in front of the tent or put some kind of "Information" sign near it so we have a clear point for people to go if they have space specific questions
  - We didn't blog about it, tweet about it, or get any news articles out of it...How do we get someone to take point on the PR next year?
  - Truck loading was hampered by the needful people not being around when truck arrived. -- Declare a *loadmaster*.
  - There wasn't a comprehensive check-off-list of things to load onto the truck.
    - Items that went in personal cars appeared on list of projects but didn't go on truck, might've been confusing.

- Also note that car-bring items should be car-take-home items...
  - Need a list of non-project items to pack:
    - Banners
    - Carabiner-esque objects
    - Specific rubber bungees for gripping tent stanchion poles
    - Weights? Or a frame to stiffen the banner...
    - Duct tape
    - Rope
    - Chicken-wire frames and stuff
    - Cordless drill and charger
    - Gloves
    - Bungee cords and hooks
    - Zipties
    - Flush cuts
    - Ratchet straps
    - Wheeled dolly
    - Die-cart (hydraulic lifting table)
    - Tablecloth clips
    - Tablecloths
    - Paperweights
    - Bottled water
    - Carpets, rugs, stuff to cover extension cords
    - Ladder (little giant)
    - Cart!
    - Flesh out this list!
  - Some members might've registered as attendees or exhibitors-on-their-own rather than exhibitors-through-i3.
  - Early-risers should be on the floor-plan team so they can direct folks as they arrive
  - Possibly consider bringing the Genie again, do party prep first and then get it on the truck. It's good for photography, and it's also a backup battery...
  - Some displays were unattended, kids were playing with them, needed a "do not touch" sign, or conversely, an "ok to touch gently" sign...
  - Rope and stanchions to rope things off.
  - Assign role: Shepherd of unattended projects, someone whose sole job is to oversee things that have nobody watching them.. Floaters while you go pee..
  - "Will return at" signs.. .?
  - Materials budget for protection (cases), signage, etc? Ask Kevin how to spend it!
- Have a 6-month plan and someone to bump it and move it along, starting in January
- Start early to nurture sharing of projects, pull from show-and-tell at meetings?
  - Have a dedicated monthly meeting to prep for maker faire?
  - "Project Club"
- Improve moneysucker so we can get money back out too

## Afterparty

- Successes
  - It wasn't too loud to talk!
  - The cops didn't come!
  - Drinks and bartending were great!
  - Food was great!
  - Makerspaces used our tools to fix their stuff during the party
    - AHA fixed their PPPRS car
    - And someone from NC
    - And they all signed waivers
  - Makerspaces from out of state brought us gifts
    - Someone from SC brought peaches for our party
- Improvements for next year
  - Counting numbers of attendees!
    - Use wristbands because they're serial-numbered?
  - Honestly consider a guestbook for folks who want to sign it
  - Gary volunteers to set up a guestbook
  - Officers and board and whoever might want to have business cards
  - Did our invitations end up in the Maker Packet this year?
  - Make sure THF knows to speak about us and our position as "official" party hosts
  - How do we share previous knowledge about Maker Faire with new contact @ THF without stepping on toes?