

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?