

Tech News

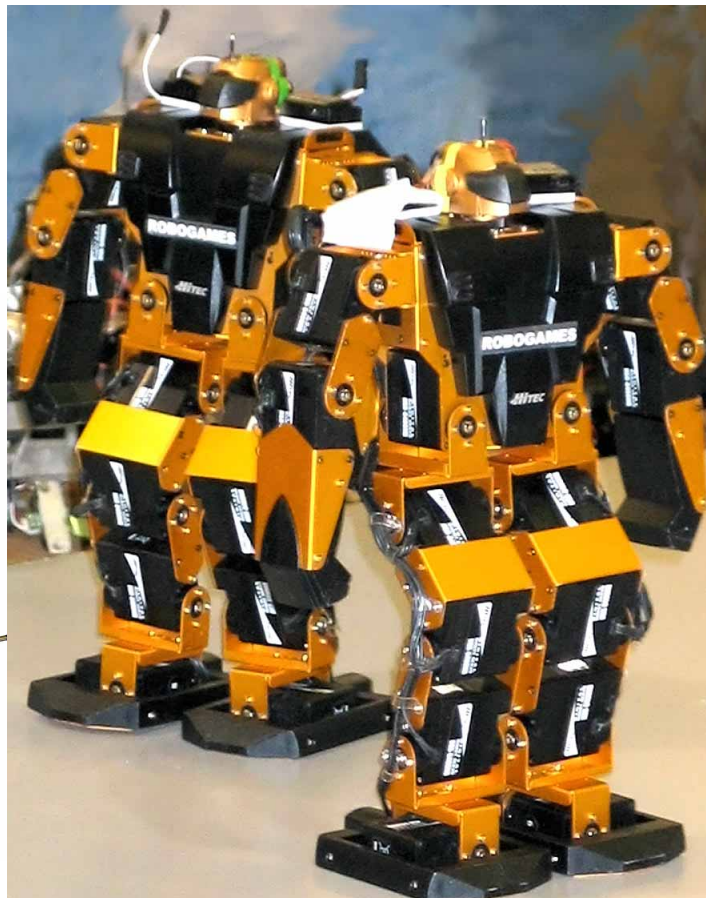
Maker Faire® May 3 –4

The Maker Faire website <http://makerfaire.com/> begins with “Maker Faire is a two-day, family-friendly event that celebrates the Do-It-Yourself (DIY) mindset. It’s for creative, resourceful people of all ages and backgrounds who like to tinker and love to make things.”

That seems to me like a fair description of the annual event at the San Mateo Fairgrounds. This year, the Maker Faire will be on May 3 and May 4, with discount tickets on sale on their web site until April 25. The discount is \$5/day pass subtracted from \$25 for adults or \$10 for kids (age 4-12). You can get a weekend pass, but it is precisely twice the cost of a day pass, with a doubling of the discount, also, so there is no additional savings.

There is also a special deal that getting a 1-year subscription to *Make Magazine* or *Craft Magazine* (for \$35) gets you a \$25 adult day pass for the fair for free (a \$20–\$25 value).

Abe and I went to the Maker Faire last year, taking the Highway 17 Express bus and the Caltrain to the Hillsdale stop. We had a lot of fun looking at and playing with some remarkable constructions. The robots alone were worth the admission price, and that doesn’t count the steampunk art, the people-powered amusement park, the fire cannons and flame art, and



These small robots are surprisingly adept—they can even turn cartwheels!

all the other hardware. For those more interested in softer things, there is an entire warehouse-size space devoted to various crafts, but Abe and I did not spend much time there, so I can’t describe it.

EepyBird (the Diet Coke and Mentos fountain performers) will be there this year. Information about other “makers” at the Faire can be found at their website: <http://makerfaire.com/>

Family Science Night Apr 24

Next week there will be no Tech Club, since most of the 5th graders will be away at Science Camp. There will be tech stuff to do that day, since Family Science Night will run that evening 6:30–8:30 in the Fellowship Hall. It looks like we’ll have a good lineup of projects this year.

I’ll need a list of which Scratch games or movies you would like to have displayed. I’ll want to have both the name of the Scratch file and who created it.



Human-powered carousel at 2007 Maker Faire