Tech News

Upload your programs to the MIT web site

Go to scratch.mit.edu and update your version of scratch to the latest version (currently 1.0.2), if you haven't already. Then, with your parents' permission, sign up for an account (you do not need to use your real name). Once you have an account on the MIT web site, you can upload your programs by hitting the "Share" button in scratch.

Make sure that you have written appropriate comments for the program first, as the comment block will appear together with the program. Other people will be able to run your program as a java applet, even if they don't have scratch downloaded. (The java interpreter for scratch is a bit buggy, so running downloaded scratch code works better.)

Once you have uploaded your program, you can add it to the Spring Hill Tech Club Gallery. While logged in to the scratch.mit.edu website, go to the gallery (you can sort the galleries in alphabetical order) and subscribe to it. Then you can go to the "my stuff" tab, select your projects, and add them to the gallery.

Browse around and see what other people from around the world have done. Read their code to figure out how they did it!

Thanks for Family Science Night

I want to extend thanks to all the Tech Club members who helped set up Family Science Night last week. The Tech Club animations and games were a popular station, and the help in setting up tables for the other stations made everything go very smoothly.
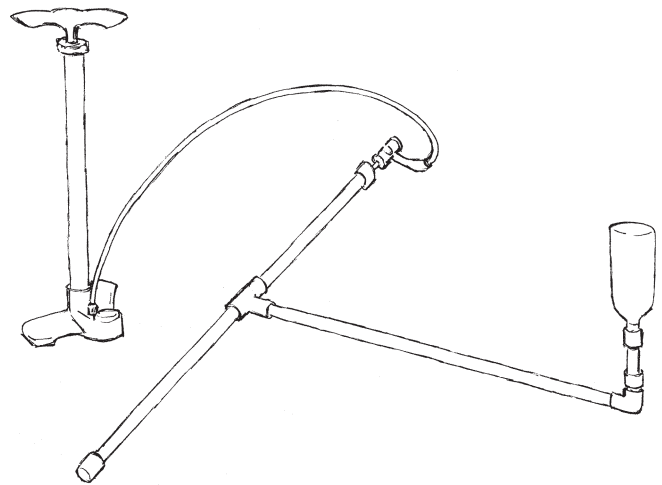
I had a good time at Family Science Night and I hope the Tech Club members did too. We plan to do it again next year!

Maker Faire

Saturday and Sunday, May 19 and 20, are the Maker Faire at the San Mateo Fairgrounds. This is *Make* magazine's 2nd annual show. For more information see http://makerfaire.com/ Abe and I are planning to go, and I think that Graham's family is too. It is supposed to be a great time for both techies and artists (ask Graham for info about last year's Maker Faire).

Rocket Launchers Next Week

Next Week (8 May) we will build soda-bottle rocket launchers. I need to know by Friday (4 May) how many kids will be participating, so that I can buy pipe and fittings over the weekend. There will be a small material fee (about $5, I think). I'm assuming that everyone has their own floor-model bicycle pump already. If not, I can pick up some cheap ones at Long's—let me know by Monday if you need a pump for your launcher!

Only Five Tech Clubs left

Counting today, there are only 5 Tech Clubs left this year—is there anything you want me to schedule?

May 1	starlogo demo
May 8	rocket launchers
May 15	(open)
May 22	no Tech Club (5th grade camping)
May 29	(open)
June 5	(open)
June 12	no Tech Club (I have UCSC poster session)

Other programming languages

On http://www.soe.ucsc.edu/~karplus/scratch_programs you can find back issues of *Tech News*, as well as pointers to other programming languages, such as Alice and starlogo. We'll give a demo of starlogo today, and Alice sometime later this year. These languages have different capabilities from scratch some quite fun, but they are a little harder to start with.