

Making the Future

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IEEE Region 6, the Santa Clara Valley Section and the Consultants Network of Silicon Valley (CNSV) are sponsoring a branded IEEE booth at the 2016 Maker Faire May 20-22, 2016 in the Make to Market Pavilion in San Mateo. There is a special 20% discount for IEEE members for one-day Maker Faire adult registration.

Maker Media is the organization that puts on Maker Faires all over the world (<http://makerfaire.com>). The company is an off-shoot of O'Reilly Media, the Sebastopol, CA publisher of mostly software programming books. Maker Media is based in San Francisco California. Maker Media and O'Reilly Publishing were recipients of 2015 Region 6 Directors awards.

According to the company web site the "Maker Faire is the Greatest Show (and Tell) on Earth—a family-friendly festival of invention, creativity and resourcefulness, and a celebration of the Maker movement. Part science fair, part county fair, and part something entirely new, Maker Faire is an all-ages gathering of tech enthusiasts, crafters, educators, tinkerers, hobbyists, engineers, science clubs, authors, artists, students, and commercial exhibitors. All of these "makers" come to Maker Faire to show what they have made and to share what they have learned."

The first Maker Faire was in May 2006 in San Mateo, CA. Since that initial event the Maker Faire movement has spread all over the world with full annual Maker Faires in over 14 cities such as Detroit, New York, Oslo, Rome, San Mateo, Salt Lake City, San Diego, Shenzhen (China), Taipei (Taiwan), Tokyo and over 119 independently produced Mini-Maker Faires in other cities (including Santa Cruz and Seattle in Region 6). In 2014 I was in Taiwan and stumbled upon a Maker Faire going on there.

The local Santa Clara Valley IEEE Section has participated in various ways in the San Mateo Maker Faires over the years with a booth in 2011 (manned by local volunteer and past section chair Lee Colby) and with a local group of technical organizations called the Silicon Valley Engineering Council (SVEC) in the years since then. IEEE volunteers have participated in various Maker Faire activities such as solder training stations. At the 2011 IEEE Sections Congress in San Francisco we had several folks associated with the Maker Faires do technical projects for the children of IEEE members that attended that event.

IEEE will have a branded IEEE booth at the 2016 San Mateo Maker Faire that will be manned by local volunteers including consultants and student members. Material and support for this booth are coming from various IEEE operating units coordinated by the MGA membership staff. One of the primary goals of the booth is to sign up new IEEE members and IEEE Collabratec participants. There will also be

a video shoot of Maker Booths by the IEEE Public Visibility Committee during the Faire. IEEE members can get a 20% discount to register for a single day adult pass (this is the 5th choice down on the registration page) for the 2016 San Mateo Maker Faire using this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/maker-faire-bay-area-2016-tickets-20741987844?discount=IEEE20>

Region 6 is looking into using this sponsorship as a path to additional future interactions with the Maker Media people that could include IEEE member participation in Maker Faires and mini-Maker Faires in the region, possible participation in maker camps and maker spaces. We see participation in Maker Faires, First Robotics, Future Cities and other STEM activities as an important part of our IEEE outreach and to help bring in and retain more members to the IEEE community. We hope that you can join us in this effort!