February Events
Working with Leather
Summer Camp for Kids
Learn about the Matsuura MC-510V CNC Mill
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Chinese New Year is not just a day, it is a spring festival celebrated on a lunar calendar. This year, it runs January 25 to February 4 and introduces the Year of the Rat. Did you know that the Rat is the first of all zodiac animals, so we are beginning not just a new decade, but a new twelve-year zodiac cycle? Did you know the Rat became first after tricking the Ox into giving him a ride to the Jade Emperor’s party, then hopping off to arrive first? Or that the Rat is associated with the Earthly Branch and the midnight hours, an apropos mascot for Nova Labs and our membership habits? Traditionally, the Rat is associated with wealth and surplus; married couples used to pray to the Rat for children, but maybe Nova Labs can channel its own inner Rat to continue the Capital Fund nest egg we created as 2019 closed.

We have been discussing the great transition to Nova Labs 3.0 for over a year now as we prepare to lose our current home in January 2022. What you may also know is that Nova Labs has been given an opportunity to add on about 8,000 square feet at 1930 Isaac Newton Square. It is within walking distance of 1916 Isaac Newton Square—only 500 steps door-to-door according to Google Maps! This opportunity has been reviewed by the Board of Directors and is now being discussed with Team Leads, Operations, and general membership, as we explore the impact to our operations, 2020 Strategic Initiatives, and Nova Labs 3.0 aspirations.

The 2020 Strategic Aims target membership growth at 38%, the same growth we had in 2019, as one way
to create the revenue we will need to afford a home in Fairfax County at 2022 pricing. Remember, the days of discount real estate are probably over, as others have realized what a great place northern Virginia is to live, work, and play. But fitting more members into our current 10,500 square feet, even with creative use of daytime hours, is likely to have all shops feeling squeezed for space and tools.

Pursuing the Annex at 1930, as it’s been dubbed, allows us the freedom to reimagine the floorplan of 1916 and optimize current usage by membership, not the usage of the makerspace as it existed five years ago. The Annex also allows for another Strategic Aim, the development of entrepreneurs at Nova Labs, by creating a home for an Innovation Center. Developing a robust group of small businesses not only increases Nova Labs’ revenue separate from membership dues, it diversifies our revenue in a mode that is attractive to banks and landlords.

Nick Lattanze, Facilities Team Lead, has been talking to Stewards and Team Leads about their current space usage and constraints, as well as with the property manager for Peter Lawrence, LLC, in order to generate a first-draft floor plan for both spaces. If you see him (the guy with the awesome mustache), feel free to ask questions. Sam Aparicio, our President, is available every Friday evening and happy to chat with any member in front of a glowing LED fireplace.

I try to also be available Fridays after my robotics team is done meeting. I daresay you could bend the ear of anyone in leadership to express your dreams and concerns. A community meeting is scheduled for February 17, we hope to have concrete details to share by then.

Gong Xi Fa Cai
Translation: Wishing You Enlarge Your Wealth!

Karen Shumway
Secretary, Nova Labs Board of Directors
Managing Editor, Nova Labs Newsletter
Lead, Nova Labs Robotics

Find me on Nova Labs Slack: @Karen Shumway
Nova Labs community, the matching drive we finished up last month was an amazing start to the Nova Labs 3.0 Capital Campaign. Thank you to all who donated—your generosity is truly impressive. In accordance with the Nova Labs Strategic Plan, we want to expand our drive to local commercial firms, big and small, to scale our donations and get us primed for Nova Labs 3.0. Some of you may work for firms that already donate to us. Some of you may work for employers who would like to sponsor events such as MakerFaire, E2M, or even the Lake Anne Cardboard Boat Regatta.

For our initial fundraising plan, we want to create a list of current donors since we do not have such a master list. Some programs may work with a single donor, and that is fine, we just want to track this. We will then work with any willing members to socialize our Nova Labs 3.0 fundraising plans with targeted requests.

We will need your help in finding the appropriate people that have decision making ability within the targeted organizations.

Please send a note to me and Jeff

- if you are currently working with any outside donor, big or small,
- if you think your employer would donate,
- if you have a contact at another potential donor willing to learn about us, or
- If you would like to help out the fundraising committee.

daryl.peace@nova-labs.org, jeff.spugnardi@nova-labs.org

NOVA LABS COMMUNITY MEETING

Join us for this an informative and lively meeting about what is happening in our makerspace community. Learn the latest news from the President and other board members.

Monday, February 17, 2020
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Nova Labs is an all-volunteer organization. We need your help if we are going to keep this space and community thriving.

The list below is just a fraction of the volunteer opportunities we have at Nova Labs.

For a more comprehensive list, see https://www.nova-labs.org/volunteer/. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions (or any other) please email volunteering@nova-labs.org or post in #volunteer-here on Slack.

Team Leaders:
Are you interested in leading Nova Labs projects and helping to steer the future of the organization? Volunteering as a Team Leader at Nova Labs is an engaging, hands-on way to deepen your current leadership skills. Put your prior leadership experience to work while working toward a worthy goal at an increasingly high-profile nonprofit. Re-envision Nova Labs Team Leadership roles.

How can volunteering as a Nova Labs Team Leader benefit you? Here are the key benefits that can boost your skills and value as a leader:

• Exposure to senior leaders both inside and outside of the organization.
• Use of planning tools, such as Asana, in support of business strategic goals, major project management, task structuring, goal setting, and task management.
• Hands-on learning and mentoring from senior leaders and professional sessions (in planning) to practice solving complex, real-world business issues with a diverse, cross-functional group.
• Learning to act as mentor for emerging, high-potential leaders.
• Leading new organizational initiatives to develop project management skills.

We have several open Team Leader positions, including:

Member Experience Team Leader:
build a team to help make Nova Labs members happy and well-informed, with focuses on

• member user experience,
• new member experience, and
• maintaining and improving internal communications.

Technical Team Leader:
build a team to keep Nova Labs tech and IT up and running while coordinating with all of our existing technical volunteers and projects.

Volunteering Team Members:
We are working to make volunteering at Nova Labs easier and more efficient. To make that happen, we are building a brand-new Volunteering Team. Since it is a new team, we need volunteers with a wide variety of skills. Without volunteers, Nova Labs could not exist. Help us make our volunteers’ lives easier.

Web/Wiki/Social Media Content Contributors:
Nova Labs website, wiki, and social media need regular content updates. We are looking for people interested in writing, photography/videography, and graphic design.

Computer Admin:
We need someone to maintain and improve our shared computers: CAD lab, front desk, and class laptops.

Member Care/Front Desk Agents:
We are looking for Member Care/Front Desk Agents for Thursday night and Saturday afternoon. This is a great place to start volunteering: you meet a ton of members and learn a lot about our internal processes.

Contact volunteering@nova-labs.org if you’re interested!
Pouch traditionally paired with Scottish highland attire
Crafters’ Cove, a Treasure’s Trove of Tools: Leatherworking

by Siobhan Williams

The Crafters’ Cove holds many wonders: often just the tool you’re looking for, and sometimes the tool you didn’t know you wanted. With each new tool discovered within the confines of the Cove, a whole new world of materials and projects opens up. Leather has become that new world for me with the discovery of leather tooling.

My journey into leather truly began when I took Margie Foster’s Leather Wallet class, with the introduction of hand stitching and dyeing leather. I took the next step by exploring the contents of the leather tools cart to find everything I needed for adding textured designs to my leather goods. From swivel knives, to 20 different leather tooling stamps, and even various sizes and shapes of punches, the world of decorative leather crafting has opened up. All that I needed was a design to tool, and a project to receive that design.

I started on a celtic design from Tandy for my first foray, sticking with the simple application of the beveller and backgrounder tools to emboss the design. This led to the creation of my most involved leather project to date: a dyed and tooled leather sporran (the pouch traditionally paired with Scottish highland attire).

In addition to this project, I brought the basic concepts of tooling Celtic designs to the rest of the makerspace with the introduction of a new course: Introduction to Leather Tooling. The first offering of the class was a success with each of the students completing a coaster sized design, and going home with three more pieces of blank leather to continue practicing their new skills.

Gear: Find me on Nova Labs Slack: @smiley7o9 (Siobhan)
What is big, red, weighs 4 tons, and can sculpt a solid block of metal to tolerances of a human hair? Answer: Our Matsuura MC-510V CNC Mill! This Reagan-era monster was donated to Nova Labs by Kform of Sterling, Virginia. Although 36 years old, it can cut with the same precision of modern metal mills. It is a very unique and capable tool to have at a maker space.

Besides getting it moved, there were challenges making such an old machine useful with modern CAD software like Fusion 360. The real challenge was to make this intimidating beast accessible to makers with no metal machining background. Countless hours were spent by many volunteers, and now all those goals have been met!
Interested? Like all big, fancy machines at Nova Labs, you will have to invest a bit of time. Learning a CAD tool like Fusion 360 is a big part of it, but it will pay off.

Once you’ve put your time in, you will be able to use it to make things not only the Matsuura, but also the ShopSabre CNC which can cut wood and plastic and any 3D printer.

Matsuura classes are held regularly, both one-on-one and for small groups. Members can join the #metalshop-matsuura slack channel, or contact support@nova-labs.org for more information.

Find me on Nova Labs Slack: @bobcoggeshall
I am currently sitting on my couch under a blanket, a cat siphoning heat off my lap because it is a cold January day. But summer is coming. Do you know how your children will spend their days? Would you like them to have an experience more memorable, or at least more enriching, than playing the latest version of Roblox or Fortnite? No prior robotics experience is necessary for any of our offerings; we often have rookie students. The natural curiosity and plasticity of young learners lends itself to the challenge of learning robotics from scratch!

Nova Labs Robotics has been offering summer camps for several years now, and we think we have mastered the art of structured play by creating three different camps—each targeted to a different age range and group of skills. Pushbot Phantasm is an evening workshop that brings rising 7th to 10th grade kids together to learn the fundamentals of building a Tetrix chassis and then using Android Studio and Java to program this basic “pushbot” to move using Xbox controllers and autonomous functions. This workshop series and its curriculum were created by Michael Kim after his rookie year as a First Tech Challenge (FTC) coach to ease the learning curve when building in this format. All FTC coaches know this is a huge transition because the skill sets necessary for 3D printing, sensor integration, Android phone programming, and even screwdriver assembly of a basic pushbot are so much more demanding than those required to build and program a successful LEGO-based robot. Rookie students therefore get to learn the basic skills necessary to build with Tetrix pieces, hubs, gearboxes, and servos and to program phones using Java in a fun, evening format, without the pressures of school assignments or competition deadlines.

LEGO Mindstorm robot “brains” and LEGO Technic pieces are our preferred medium for teaching younger engineers the basics of robot design principles and block programming skills. Spencer Allain worked with Nick Swayne at James Madison University and the Smithsonian Institution to develop the RobotMakers curriculum years ago for rising 6th to 8th graders. When the Smithsonian and JMU could no longer support the camp, Spencer brought it to Nova Labs and has offered valuable mentorship every summer. Mentors build the robots ahead of camp every summer according to the basic build instructions provided in the box, so campers do very little building other than to attach sensors as needed. Instead they focus on programming their robots to navigate obstacle courses designed by Spencer and the mentors out of colored electrical tape, buckets, and whatever scrap they think looks interesting. As the week progresses, the obstacle courses get more complicated and require more sophisticated sensor use for successful navigation. I love watching Spencer engage with kids. I don’t know if it’s because he’s been mentoring with FIRST for 16 years or because he’s just a genuinely great educator, but he is very good at encouraging students so that they generate their own solutions—Spencer never just tells them how to build or program something! And since he trains the mentors to follow his example, he’s also developed some great mentors along the way.

Our third workshop, but the first offering of Summer 2020, is the SuGOBots camp, and it is targeted towards rising 4th to 6th grade elementary students. SuGOBots were developed by an educator in Maryland to battle each other on a circular arena; in addition to standard LEGO Mindstorm parts, they use a special SuGoEyes sensor. There is no student programming in SuGOBots, the battle code was developed by Phil Malone and GEARS (Garrett Engineering and Robotics Society). Instead, students spend each day of the camp solving challenges and learning how traction, center of gravity, and gearing change the performance of their basic robot. Then they combine this knowledge to create a robot of their own design to compete in the SuGOBot arena on the last day, hoping to be the last bot standing in the arena. Like the challenges in Pushbot Phantasm and RobotMakers, the engineering process is iterative,
seldom works the first time, and kids learn best from our magic not-much-older-than-them, peer-to-peer mentoring formula.

If you live with a young STEM enthusiast, I highly recommend you consider signing them up for one of these three camps!

Register with Nova Labs Robotics at https://www.nova-labs.org/youth-robotics/

🛠️ Find me on Nova Labs Slack: @Karen Shumway
Nova Labs obviously has many options to learn about robots, but we are also aware that not every kid is a roboholic. We’d like to be able to offer a larger variety of camps so we are asking Nova Labs members interested in spending some time guiding kids this summer, to raise their hands.

As a very wise woman once told me, we cannot compete with the Summer Camp Establishment so we should think outside the usual summer goody bag and create camps that take advantage of our unique talents, our originality and, of course, our tools.

Here are some examples currently on the drawing board:

**Title: DaVinci Machines**  
**Duration:** 1 week  
**Grades:** 5th - 8th grade

Learn about the physics of movement, Newton’s laws, DaVinci, and Renaissance warfare while manufacturing three or four of his inventions.

Possible inventions are a catapult, a crane, an olive press, a vertical ornithopter, an aerial screw, etc. ([http://www.leonardo3.net/en/](http://www.leonardo3.net/en/)). The wooden pieces for these machines will be pre-cut, students will use drills, sanders, hand saws, and other simple tools to assemble and test the machines. The last day students can use their creations to take over the neighboring Duchy of Herndon.

**Title: Pre-History of the Movies**  
**Duration:** 1 week  
**Grades:** 5th - 8th grade

Learn about all the inventions and concepts that eventually led to motion pictures while building some of them. Starting with a camera obscura and a demonstration of persistence of vision, passing through a large range of Victorian parlor toys like magic lanterns, thaumatropes, phenakistoscopes, zoetropes, mutoscopes, and ending with a stop motion animation done with found objects ([https://youtu.be/qBjLW5_dGAM](https://youtu.be/qBjLW5_dGAM)). Students will travel through several hundred years of technological innovation.

If these ideas, or one of your own, inspire you to teach a summer camp at the Labs this year, please contact me. I will help you plan, find co-conspirators, obtain and prepare materials, and so on. Patience is most of what you need; teaching children can be demanding but it is always very rewarding.

Find me on Nova Labs Slack: @Fabiana
KIDS’ CORNER

January’s Open Maker Meetup brought a record number of attendants. The activities included the always popular take-apart, a build-a-mobile station, an introduction to woodworking and a kid-friendly sewing project: a ‘monster’ pillow. This last station, staffed by Jolene and Farina, is pictured here. Kids were thrilled to take home a little pillow hand sewn by themselves.
Show Us What You Got

by posting pictures of what you make on the Slack channel
do not forget to add a caption that includes your full name! All images on the channel will be added to our newsletter each month.

1. Jude Kessler
   Bat
2. Sean Crane
   Metal stand
3. Gari Jimenez
   Paring knife
4. Todd McAnally
   Embroidery
5. Anjelika K
   Cutting board
6. Siobhan Williams
   Pouch
7. Andrew Albosta
   Adapter for cinema light
8. Bob Coggeshall
   sign-in kiosk
9. Bo Pollet
10. Gari Jimenez
   13 blades
11. David Kaufman
   Foldable design for a donut (torus)
12. Patrick Waters
   Ready for the finish coat
13. Elvira Woodburn
   Gengar lamps
14. Steve Fritzinger
   Platter turning class
15. Scott Smith
   board class
HAPPENINGS IN FEBRUARY

Some of the Main Attractions in February are below. Class names are clickable.

2/1/2020 11:00  WW: Woodshop Winter Roundup Saturday
2/1/2020 16:00  Nova Labs Drone Meetup
2/2/2020 09:00  WW: Woodshop Winter Roundup Sunday
2/3/2020 19:00  3d Printer Build Night
2/3/2020 19:00  CC: ShopSabre CNC Safety Sign Off - Associates and Members Only
2/3/2020 19:00  WW: Woodshop Yellow Sign Off
2/3/2020 19:00  Metalshop Mondays: Project help and Practice Session
2/3/2020 19:00  WW: Jointer, Planer, Thickness Sander (Materials Prep)
2/3/2020 19:00  Mending Monday
2/4/2020 18:00  Wood Lathe Skill Enhancement
2/4/2020 19:00  CiviCRM Meeting
2/4/2020 19:00  National Drone Science University (NDSU) Drone Science
2/4/2020 19:00  JavaScript Meetup
2/4/2020 19:00  LC: Laser 102 Advanced Techniques
2/5/2020 18:00  Coaching Series, Part I: Introduction to Coaching & Coaching Techniques
2/5/2020 18:00  BL: Blacksmithing Open Office Hours and Practice Session
2/5/2020 19:00  Craig Trader's Open Office Hours
2/5/2020 19:00  Woodshop Wednesday: Get help and supervised tool practice
2/5/2020 19:00  Nova Labs Tour
2/6/2020 18:00  CNC Open Office Hours (Matsuura, Shopsabre, and CAD/CAM)
2/6/2020 19:00  LC: Laser Cutter 101 Red Tool Sign Off
2/7/2020 18:00  BL: Blacksmithing/Foundry Education Class
2/7/2020 19:00  Chat with the President
2/7/2020 19:00  PH3AR TH3 LAN: Monthly LAN Party & Make/Hack Space ++ 2600
2/7/2020 19:00  Makers Circle & Art Lab
2/8/2020 10:00  WW: Jointer, Planer, Thickness Sander (Materials Prep)
2/8/2020 10:00  WW: Woodshop Yellow Sign Off
2/8/2020 11:00  BL: Blacksmithing/Foundry Education Classes - Camp Knife
2/8/2020 14:00  Nova Labs Open House - Volunteers Needed for Tours/Demos/Bring your stuff
2/8/2020 17:00  Making Tiny Furniture
2/9/2020 09:00  WW: Woodshop Bandsaw Red Sign off
2/9/2020 15:00  Woodshop Sunday: Get help and supervised tool practice
2/10/2020 18:00  NoVA Hackers at NoVA Labs
2/10/2020 19:00  3d Printer Sign Off
2/10/2020 19:00  3d Printer Build Night
2/11/2020 18:30 MW: Introduction to Sheet Metal Tool Sign Off
2/11/2020 19:00 MW: MIG Welding 101 Sign Off
2/11/2020 19:00 Tech Toast: Technical speaking and presentation skills
2/12/2020 19:00 Build a humanitarian drone with Team RhinoHawk
2/13/2020 19:00 Going Pro? Turning a Hobby into a Business
2/13/2020 19:00 Electronics Evening Meetup
2/14/2020 19:00 Kinetic Sculpture Build Team - Open to all
2/15/2020 10:00 Robotics Group Meetup
2/15/2020 10:00 Code Day 24 Hour Marathon (Day 1 of 2)
2/15/2020 13:00 NVIDIA Jetson GPU Meetup
2/15/2020 17:00 STEM4Kids - Kids Open Maker Meetup
2/16/2020 00:00 Code Day 24 Hour Marathon (Day 2)
2/16/2020 14:00 Rockets and Spacecraft MeetUp
2/16/2020 18:00 Valentine’s Makesperience - Couples make and dine night
2/17/2020 19:00 WW: Woodshop Yellow Sign Off
2/17/2020 19:00 Nova Labs Community Meeting - News, demos, flash talks, remote access
2/17/2020 19:00 WW: Jointer, Planer, Thickness Sander (Materials Prep)
2/18/2020 19:00 Arduino group meeting
2/18/2020 19:00 DC Virtual Reality in VA – VR & AI
2/18/2020 19:00 Computational Mathematics: P=NP for students and engineers at Nova Labs
2/19/2020 19:00 NoVA TOOOL Locksport Meetup
2/19/2020 19:00 Woodshop Wednesday: Get help and supervised tool practice
2/25/2020 18:00 STEM4Kids: Take-Apart for kids
2/25/2020 18:30 MW: Metal Shop Yellow Tools Sign Off
2/25/2020 19:00 Raspberry Pi Users Meetup
2/25/2020 19:00 Tech Toast Toastmasters: Technical speaking and presentation skills
2/26/2020 18:00 BL: Blacksmithing Open Office Hours and Practice Session
2/26/2020 19:00 Build a humanitarian drone with Team RhinoHawk
2/27/2020 19:00 Electronics Evening Meetup
2/27/2020 19:00 MW: MIG Welding 101 Sign Off

Calendar of Events
Provided by Instructors and Randall Wood
POLICY MINDER

Please sleep at home and not at Nova Labs. Sleeping on couches, tables, or chairs is not permitted in Orange Bay or other locations. Please exit the makerspace and go elsewhere if you are tired and need to sleep. This is a code of conduct violation and will be documented as a code of conduct incident.

SAFETY REMINDER

Contact support@nova-labs.org to report any of the following:

- incident reports, e.g., safety, accident, or code of conduct incidents (please include time, date, witnesses, and any other relevant details);
- equipment outages (please include photos); and
- supplies needed (please include size, color, and Amazon link if possible).

Send an email with clear and relevant details or use the contact page on the web site.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

We are looking for an Executive Director to lead the day to day operations at Nova Labs and help us build a top notch team of paid and volunteer staff. If you know someone who could be a great fit, or if you are interested in the position please see the job description and details.

MAKER FAIRE VOLUNTEERS

Maker Faire 2020 is gearing up and we need lots of volunteers, doing all kinds of things—jobs involving food, kids/teachers, parties, recruiting makers, ticketing and registration, marketing, other makerspaces, social media, and money. Whoever you are, we could use your skills and your sense of humor. We have a critical need for people to help with fundraising and partnership development. To join us, please email contact@makerfairenova.com.
WELCOME, KEY MEMBERS

Debbie Finch was sponsored by Carrie Hafer. Debbie is a puzzle person and enjoys crochet. She’s looking forward to learning 3D Printing, vinyl cutter, and getting back into more advanced sewing projects. She has been coming regularly to the Friday night Makers Circle and Art Lab events and helped her daughter plan and complete some Christmas present projects.

Christopher Sexton was sponsored by Doug Calvert. Chris likes making things out of wood. Things like organizers, boxes, and furniture. But he also tinkers with custom keyboards, small electronics projects, and board games.

Adam Rhodes was sponsored by Jalene Gelana. He comes from a software engineering background, but wants to get more into hardware based projects and Nova Labs is the perfect place to do that! The friendly and helpful people, and the tools and classes to make it happen. So far he has built a working conveyor belt from paper, rubber bands (Jalane’s idea!), and a motor, as well as learning more about how DC motors work and how to reconstruct one. He looks forward to many more fun projects as well as seeing all of the cool stuff people are building in the space, and meeting all of the wonderful people building them.

Ryan Foote was sponsored by Doug Calvert. Ryan likes to make furniture/small items. He is currently working on a coffee table. His next plan is to make some boxes.