

EAA Chapter 81 Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2020

Meeting was called to order by President Erik Fjerstad at 1000 at Xerocraft Hackerspace, a 6,300 square foot (or 6,600 square foot, depending upon to whom you listen) warehouse at 101 W. 6th Street, Ste. 111 in downtown Tucson, right next to some incredibly noisy railroad tracks. This was more of a field trip than a formal meeting, and there was no Treasurer's Report, Secretary's Report, Old nor New Business. Instead, President Fjerstad introduced us to the operators of this interesting organization, which caters to do-it-yourselfers by supplying tools and informal training for projects ranging "from simple electrical repairs to complex electronic design, prototyping, machining gears, casting odd pieces, creating innovative costumes, building art pieces, exploring esoteric arts, and teaching cutting-edge technologies," to quote Wikipedia.

After a brief introduction, our group was divided into 3 very-unevenly-divided subgroups, reminding us of the old adage about herding cats. Each was shown, in turn, 3 sites where CAM (Computer-Aided Manufacturing) was demonstrated:

1. 3D printing, which is an additive process wherein a computer program guides a stylus which melts a polymer string fed from a reel and deposits it where needed to build up a 3-dimensional object. The shapes can be very complex.
- 2) Computer programmed routing of a wooden sign; essentially a form of machining.
- 3) Computer-programmed LASER (Light Amplification through the Stimulated Emission of Radiation) cutting, in this case burning relatively soft materials with a low-powered LASER.

CAD (Computer-Aided Design), which is the programming that drives CAM, is taught as well, in a one-on-one format, rather than formal classes. Members of our community are invited to take a more comprehensive tour (which was offered after the meeting adjourned at about 1130). The idea is to learn, to share knowledge, and to be creative using modern technology. Membership is required (with cost reduced for those who teach) during normal work hours, with the exception of Thursday nights from 7-10 PM, and Saturdays from noon to 4 PM, which is called Open Hack. Many of the present Chapter 81 members were intrigued with the possibilities presented to us and some have new projects in

mind, taking advantage of the free use of tools (although materials must be paid for) and training.

The next Chapter Meeting will be held at the Ryan Field meeting room on Saturday, March 21 at 1000.

Respectfully Submitted by
Secretary Bob Miller