

Tech News

Last Tech Club of the Year

Today's Tech Club meeting is the last one for this school year, and the last one that I'll be running. It's been a great year and a half for me, and I hope that everyone has had fun.

I encourage everyone to continue learning to program in Scratch over the summer. There is a great community of Scratch users online on the forums at scratch.mit.edu, and they would be glad to give you help with projects that are giving you trouble.

If you want to post to the Spring Hill gallery on the scratch website (<http://scratch.mit.edu/galleries/view/290>), then you need to be on my list of "Friends". I'd like to see some of your projects posted there!

If you are not on my list of friends on Scratch, and want to add to the Spring Hill Gallery, then e-mail me at karplus@soe.ucsc.edu, so that I can add you.

Remixing pictures

This year's Tech Club students had a lot of fun remixing and editing pictures. For some amazing examples of the art form, check out <http://www.funpic.hu/funblog/allatok/allatok.htm>



Tech Club next year

I won't be running Tech Club next year, but Craig Hunter has volunteered to do it! There will undoubtedly be changes as Craig brings new ideas to the Club, but I'm sure it will continue to be fun!

Craig will also be co-ordinating Family Science Night next year, so if you have any ideas for Tech Club or Family Science Night, be sure to share them with him.

Summer fun

There are lots of things to do this summer (not just program in Scratch).

Summer camps

<http://www.santacruzkids.com/santacruzsummer.html> lists local camps

http://www.internaldrive.com/california/santa_cruz.asp?loc=UCSC

has classes for creating video games and animation at UCSC.

Library

The library is a good place to hang out during the summer. Here are some techie books to look for:

The Art of the Catapult: Build Greek Ballistae, Roman Onagers, English Trebuchets, and More Ancient Artillery by William Gurstelle

Gonzo Gizmos: Projects & Devices to Channel Your Inner Geek by Simon Field

Cool Stuff and How It Works by Chris Woodford, Ben Morgan, Clint Witchalls, Kevin Jones

Amazing Leonardo da Vinci Inventions You Can Build Yourself by Maxine Anderson

The New Way Things Work by David Macaulay

You might prefer web sites for inspiration:

<http://www.soe.ucsc.edu/~karplus/family-science-night-2007.html> has pointers to several web sites with fun activities.

<http://www.exploratorium.edu/snacks/> is one of my favorite sites for easy, fun science activities.

Or maybe you want to do a project from a kit:

<http://nerdkits.com/> looks like a particularly promising series

<http://www.ramseyelectronics.com/> is a supplier I've gotten some good kits from