

SVFIG Meeting

Fourth Saturday, June 25, 2011

Speakers' Schedule

Please go to Meetup.com and register for the meeting if you have not done so.

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NOTES FOR FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES:

- 1) Please note that this is NOT the native Arduino "sketches" development environment. Forth is an exciting alternative! Information for Forth beginners will be provided at the meeting and going forward.
- 2) Print yourself a map so you can find the building easily. If you get lost, call Kevin Appert at 650.678.0532
- 3) Look at the additional online information: <http://www.forth.org/svfig/next.html>

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This page is for the schedule and coming attractions only, other details will be in the email announcement and online here: <http://www.forth.org/svfig/next.html>

Links, PowerPoint, PDFs, and source files from last month's meeting are on the SVFIG website too!

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09:50 Coffee and a Chat

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10:15 --- Traffic Lights on Arduino --- C.H. Ting

Ting has improved his Traffic Controller program and ported it to the Arduino Uno. It should be interesting to see an in-depth demo and review the code.

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11:00 --- More Quantum Computing --- Jack Woehr (via Skype)

"A Unified Field Hypothesis suggests that the geometry of an infinitely subconsistent universe is sufficient to unify the four forces and reconcile paradoxes encountered observing both the subatomic and the macroscopic."

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11:45 --- Lunch

We'll walk to the Treehouse.

Here are the Yelp [reviews](#).

The menu has changed a little but here is the [old menu](#) to give you an idea.

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13:00 --- Introductions, Announcements, Rumors and Gossip

We'll go around the room and each introduce ourselves. If you're willing, tell us about something about yourself. Suggest a future presentation!

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13:30 --- View of a Faire --- [Dave Jaffe](#)

Dave will share his photos from the Maker Faire.

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This talk has been cancelled due to illness. We all wish Tim (or whoever is ill) a speedy recovery and we hope he'll be able to present his talk in July.

13:58 --- CANCELLED --- FedEx's Other Forth System --- Tim Lee

Many of you are aware that the awesome FedEx tracking wand runs on a brilliant application written in SwiftX Forth from FORTH, Inc. In the 1990s, deep inside of FedEx's operations, another Forth-based system assigned all their air crews and tracked changes as required. This saved Fedex \$40,000/hour by avoiding idle aircraft due to missing flight crews. The system was deployed in the Memphis operations center, and it ran on a local area network. It featured a distributed database, allowing trip editing from multiple terminals, and it had an interactive graphical user interface running on 80386 computers with special hires display cards. Hard copy of schedules was sent to a large-format plotter.

[LMI UR/Forth](#) replaced a scheduling system that was being done by hand on rolls of butcher paper. The graphics code was written in assembler. This mission-critical system served Fedex non-stop for 8 years and saved them untold millions of dollars. Little did they know that their system was built on code from a videogame.

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14:40 --- BREAK

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15:00 --- Porting Graphic Haiku to F# --- C.H. Ting

Brad Nelson's "Graphic Haiku" was a big hit at the April meeting and the Maker Faire. Ting will describe his progress at gaining access to the Intel CPU's Floating Point Processor with F# with the eventual goal of drawing Graphic Haikus.

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15:55 Clean up before you go!

16:00 Adjourn

Okay, now you can go.

Please note that the times listed above are precise but not necessarily accurate. We might go a little long or short on any agenda item or shuffle things on the fly with abandon. If you're desperate to see something at a particular time, please let us know! Remember that there are bugs in any non-trivial SVFIG meeting announcement. Mistakes were made and we're not too proud to admit it. <<<proofreader's humor

The schedule above may be reformatted or line-justified but please transmit verbatim or not at all. A link to this page is preferred.

No Newsgroup posts or other media distribution please!

At each lull in the action, between talks or before breaks we will be inviting folks to give short 5-10 minute 'quickies'. If you'd like to tell us about something, let Kevin know at the meeting and we'll reserve the time for you or you may take your chances that nobody else will grab the slot.

COMING TO SVFIG

* New member outreach... we'll talk about formulating a presentation for venues such as the Home Brew Robotics Club, TechShop, Hacker Dojo and so on.

* Arduino Hands-on. If we can develop a demand, folks will bring their Uno, ISP and laptop and we'll install amForth or SwiftX and do some exercises. Let me know if you're desperate to do it this month. If we're going to do it at some future meeting, please help me decide what to do and/or volunteer as a cat-herder!

--- forther_at_comcast_dot_net

