

Unofficial Propeller Expo West event

June 27th and 28th 2009 marked the first West Coast Unofficial Propeller Expo (UPE) event. Staged at Parallax Inc. in Rocklin, California, this event was full of exciting projects, presentations, and the highly innovative, good-natured users the Propeller chip naturally attracts.

The "unofficial" expo is the brain child of Jeff Ledger, a Propeller customer and active Parallax forum member, known as OBC (Oldbitcollector) on the Parallax Propeller Forum. In 2008, Ledger came up with the Propeller expo as a way for Propeller fans and like minds to get together to show off their latest projects. "When I started this, I figured we might find 30 people to meet for an afternoon to eat pizza and discuss Propeller projects," said

Ledger. Fast forward to a year later, and the expos are now wildly popular. Over 150 people from around the world attended the West Coast Expo at Parallax, still jokingly referred to as "unofficial."

The event attracted people from 10-year-olds to 60+, whose experience ranged from hobbyist to Ph.D. The presentations were awesome examples of the flexibility of the Propeller chip. Everything from autopilot flight controls and microcomputer systems to robotics and sailing was presented. The level of excitement around each project and presentation was intoxicating.

In a not-too-distant room, attendees were greeted with free Propeller boards from SchmartBoard (www.schmartboard.com) and encour-



aged to sit down and solder up their own surface-mount Propeller chip using this convenient system. A live webinar with Chip Gracey (President, Parallax Inc.), Jeff Martin (Software Engineer, Parallax Inc), and Hanno Sander (President, MyDanceBot.com), included both live and remote participants and was aimed at answering many questions covering a wide range of Propeller topics.

Announcements on future UPE events, videos, and more pictures of Propeller Expo West may be found at the website below.



The next expo will be hosted in Norwalk, Ohio, on Saturday August 22nd, 2009. As on the West event, every attendee will receive a free copy of *Elektron USA* magazine.

www.Parallax.com/event

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