

# What is a Hacker Lab?

BY RUSSELL STEELE

The movies, books, and the media often promote hackers as malicious, antisocial, anti-establishment computer programmers. Thus, when we hear the term Hacker's Lab, the resulting image is a collection of "malicious, antisocial, anti-establishment computer programmers" hunched over their computers in a dark basement. That is not the correct model for the Hacker Labs in Sacramento and Rocklin; these labs are part of the Maker Movement A movement dedicated to making things, learning how things work, sharing with others what they have learned, often repurposing castoff items, giving them a new purpose.

For me, the Sierra College Hacker Lab at 4415 Granite Drive, Rocklin is a place where I can build things after giving up my Nevada County workshop when I moved to Lincoln Hills. At a neighborhood social gathering, several of my neighbors expressed a similar desire to have a place to build things again, some in wood, others in metal fabrication, another wanted to test electronic devices. I discovered the Hacker Lab when exploring my options for building a custom storage rack for my WiFi Devices and Cable Modem. The Sierra College Lab is just a 20-minute drive, via Sierra College Blvd, from my Lincoln Hills home.

For a \$99 monthly fee and completing safety training I can have access 24/7 to a plethora of equipment and tools:

Wood Shop with layout, work, and project storage areas.

Welding Shop with both MIG and TIG capacity

Industrial Sewing Shop

DYI Jewelry Workshop

Electronics Work Benches with soldering and test equipment

3D Printers

Laser Cutter

Computer Numerical Control (CNC)

Machine

Green Screen Studio for Augmented Reality

Computer Workstations

Co-Working Spaces

While some of the high tech devices might be new for some seniors, the Lab has courses on how to use all this equipment. Also, they are looking for people with unique skills to teach classes. This is an opportunity for Lincoln Hills seniors to pass on some of their unique skills to younger generations.

Established in 2012 in Sacramento, the Hacker Lab aims to educate folks and spark innovation with community-driven resources. Industry, business, and individuals have donated surplus equipment to the Lab. For those Lincoln Hills residents who are still tinkering in the garage, the Hacker Lab would welcome your donations when you are ready to downsize again. They are a 501(c)(3) organization, which could be a tax benefit for donors.

Learn more about educational opportunities at the organization website <http://hackerlab.org/>.

Sierra College Hacker Lab Contacts:

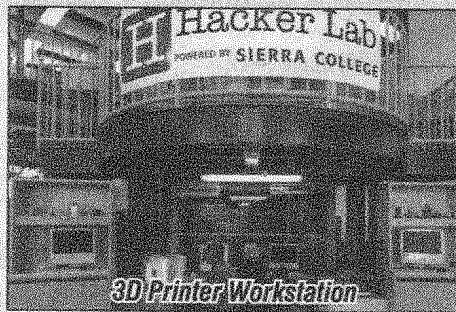
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Become a Hacker and join the Lab! Build something you can display with pride.



Photos by Charles Lowe

