

# Welcome to hack.rva!

## Getting Involved

### Things We Do

HackRVA is all about making things and learning with friends. We collaborate on projects, host and go to events, hold classes, and exchange knowledge. We're a wide spectrum hacker and maker space doing anything from programming to kinetic sculpture. If you have an interest, hobby, or project, more than likely someone else in the space shares it, so get out there and start communication then make something awesome. Doing a cool project or getting past that hurdle on an existing one is what we're all about.

HackRVA provides the collaborators, tools, and space, you provide the imagination and action.

### Communication

#### HackRVA Mailing List:

The listserv mailing list is the most realtime way to communicate with other members. Make sure you join it and feel free to post as much as you need to. We're all here to learn from each other and make stuff so don't be afraid to jump in the conversation. (Don't use the digest form

when you sign up. It organizes things badly.)

<http://lists.hackrva.org/listinfo.cgi/hack.rva-hackrva.org>

#### HackRVA Wiki:

The wiki is the place where we try to keep persistent yet dynamic information about the space. On the wiki you will find tool details and use info, class syllabi, projects ideas, resources for making, and various stuff about hack.rva in general. If you have special knowledge, a project you want to detail, or just a place to put things HackRVA related, feel free to add new pages or edit and add to existing ones.

Find our wiki in the side panel of the main website.

#### HackRVA Website:

The hack.rva website is mostly a static landing page for people just discovering us as well as the place to find links for all other HackRVA web stuff. General information about the space can be found there as you probably already know, but we tend to lean on social media, meetup.com, and our calendar for event announcements. The blog there does get updated from time to time, but only to cover major events or announcements.

<http://hackrva.org/>

#### Social Media:

We use social media for publicity and outreach. Subscribe or Like or follow us. If we post, please share/retweet/+1 it to spread the word. We don't advertise in the traditional sense, so this really is the way we get the word out. Feel free to communicate via the mailing list if you'd like to have anything posted or announced there. Cool projects or hacker/maker related events are always welcome.

<https://twitter.com/hackRVA>,

#### Meetup.com

We use Meetup.com to announce Thursday night open house and other public facing events. If you have a special event to announce to the public such as a class or a hackathon at the space, just tell the mailing list and the right person will get back to you or someone there will tell you who to email specifically.

#### Event Calendar

If you want to see what's meetings are in the space, the calendar is a good place to go. Classes and meetings are typically updated there.

Examples are Thursday night Open House, Noise Night, Saturday Hack-a-Thons, Monday Electronics, Maker Mondays, MakerGuild meetings, movie nights, and other special interest meetings. If you have a group in mind or something you'd like to do we'll gladly add it to the calendar.

## Using the Space

### Organization

You will find hack.rva is run very differently from most organizations. There are no officers, no votes, business meetings, or Robert's Rules of Order. Everything happens by consensus and consent. If you see something that needs to be done, talk with other members and get it done. There are some members who have taken on specific tasks such as the bookkeeping, and there is a group whose names are on the official documents, but they don't consider themselves above other members. If you are ever thinking, "The person who...should do something about this." in most cases, *you* can be that person. Email it to the list if you need help.

### Use of the space

As a member you have a key, and you can use the space for any reasonable purpose. You can have guests or even meetings as long as you or another member is there. You are responsible for any damage caused by your guests, and you are responsible for their safety. *Guests should not operate the equipment.* Re-arrange the tables and chairs if you need to. When you are done, put things back and clean up. There may be another group using the space the next day.

### Supplies

Anyone may have drinks in the refrigerator. If you drink sodas, buy a 12 pack once in awhile, or make a donation to cover them. Cans cost us 25¢ to 50¢. Beer varies, but we just try to give as much as we take. If you see that we are out of something like cups or spoons, there is no official person to go buy it; You should get it yourself.

### Storage

On request, members can get a bin on the shelf. You can store small projects or tools, supplies, or anything not dangerous. Please do not store chemicals or explosive items in your bin. Larger items can be stored at the space while you work on your project, but not forever. We just don't have room. Put your name on your things not in your bin. Anything not in a bin or labeled is available to any member to use. As a courtesy, we often ask on the mailing list if anyone minds if we use any special materials.

### Making things

The only restriction is that you should not make any weapons, like guns, knives, or explosives (cosplay and artwork notwithstanding). When you are working always keep in mind, "What is the worst that could happen?" There are several fire extinguishers around the space. Wear protective gloves when working with chemicals. When using power tools, use goggles, clamp things down, consider what will happen if you slip...Be careful!