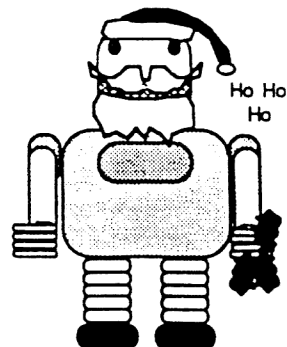


ROBOT BUILDER

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P.O. Box 3227, Seal Beach CA 90740, Meetings the 1st Tuesday @ 7:00 PM at MTI College

Our November meeting was quite interesting with a formal presentation on several varieties of robot bases. With so many people new to the field, what a perfect place to start. Bob Angelo has built many robot systems and has developed a good feeling for those systems best suited for personal robot development. See the other side for details on base systems. Lets have some articles submitted by all of you, preferably camera-ready, to the editor. To make this society really go, we need every one helping out in their own way.



You may have noticed that you received this newsletter at the last possible minute before our December 5th meeting, or possibly after. Your editor takes most of the blame but must also explain his situation. Good newsletters take more effort than any one person can spend. To take a phrase from a good robot movie, "Short Circuit", - Robot Number 5 said he always needed "INPUT". We need input, and early. Good articles on battery systems, controllers, humorous articles, cartoons, computer interfacing, end effectors (robot hands), arms, walking robots (such as last month's article that didn't get included in the newsletter), and robots used in space, industry, and the environment would be appreciated.

Your editor had the good fortune to be invited to an amusement park convention and show in Atlanta this November. Most of the exhibits dealt with your basic midway type of attractions and other rides such as simulators, roller coasters and photo booths. My particular interest was in a soft drink dispensing robot that I had helped develop over the past three and a half years. Bob Angelo also helped in it's development.

There were several robots at the show. Bob Doomick of International Robotics in New York had his very popular SICO at the show. I had known Bob for several years and SICO has gained quite a bit of popularity by being in several movies and TV shows. SICO is aesthetically one of the most well made promotional robots that I have ever seen. The custom fiber glass shell is a true work of art and the articulation of the bug-like head and the arms are very meticulously designed and constructed.

Another robot present was the popular COOTER by Semborg-Recorb of Lansing, Ill. COOTER is, without a doubt, the most intricate promotional robot that I have ever seen. The robot was disguised as a furry, horned 45 pound gremlin and had 39 separate movements, - all radio controlled from a remote van. He contained a CCD color camera the size of my little finger, - with an RF link to the van. He could move his tongue; snarl with his lips; move his nose, eyes and lashes; wiggle his ears; and of course move his jaw, head and arms. All motion was accomplished by model airplane type of servos. COOTER sat upon a clear plastic stand so everyone could see the absence of wires. Do you want one? COOTER and his sophisticated control van was for sale for only \$500,000.00!

There were several other robot companies at the show such as Dave Colman's creations from the Robot Factory in Cascade, CO. But, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the KOLA-KRON robot from Cofusa, Chula Vista, CA. I have been a consultant to Cofusa since mid 1986 to develop a series of entertainment robots, - one of which is the soft drink dispensing KOLA-KRON. This man-sized (actually she's a woman) robot that is placed within a booth between two hidden standard soft drink dispensing machines. A customer is beckoned over by encouraging words from the robot and invited to have a nice cold drink. The customer places his dollar bill in a money acceptor and makes a selection. The robot reaches over and grasps the filled cup and places it on a rotating turntable which in turn rotates it to the vicinity of the customer, all while talking to the customer. It proved very popular and over 1000 free soft drinks were passed out to the show attendees. KOLA-KRON was very popular with the press and was photographed serving SICO a Coca-Cola. The crowd knew how it worked, but they were still amazed and entertained.

Robots have seemingly come of age. It's not science fiction. The stuff experimenters like us are doing would have amazed university researchers only a few years ago. Join us this Tuesday.

EDITOR