

# Trenton Computer Festival: Hands On Robotics

**T**he oldest and premier personal computer show and sale in the world is again scheduled for The College of New Jersey on Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27. The event surely promises to captivate the interest of many in the Northeastern region, but especially those living in the Philadelphia - New York corridor.

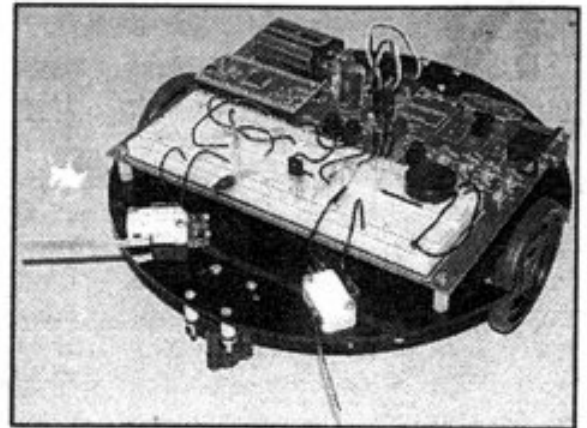
This year's festival will focus on "hands on experiences." Many of the speakers and special presentations on the main exhibition floor will involve visitors in hands on activities. These activities include three robotic competitions and one electronics design contest scheduled to take place during the show. These competitions will surely spark the interest of those that crave hobby robotics, as well as those just watching the fun.

TCF 2008 and its first set of annual robotics contests is inviting the best minds of the region to compete in one of four categories to showcase their knowledge of robotics and electronics.

The contests are sponsored by The College of New Jersey, several professional and hobby organizations, and A-WIT Technologies, Inc. To help competitors get up to speed quickly for the competitions, the registration

for the contests includes a robot, which people can customize for the competitions. This robot is based on an educational micro-computer platform called the C Stamp™ ([www.c-stamp.com](http://www.c-stamp.com)). C Stamp modules are very affordable and capable micro-computers (self-contained single chip computers) that are designed for use in a wide variety of projects.

While retaining a high educational value, the C Stamp comes with very powerful software infrastructure that make project development and the user experience most rewarding; all with professional tools, and with a focus on Digital Control, Signal Processing, and Mechatronic applications. Each C Stamp comes with a microcontroller chip that contains the C Stamp Operating System, internal memory (RAM, EEPROM, and Flash), a 5-volt regulator, a number of general-purpose I/O pins (TTL-level and Schmitt Trigger inputs, and 0-5 Volts outputs), communication and other peripherals, analog functions, and a set of library function commands for math, pin-operations, and much more. C Stamp modules are capable of running many thousand instruc-



tions per second and are programmed with a subset of the C programming language, called WC.

WC is a simple, easy to learn language, and it is highly optimized for embedded system, as it includes many specialized functions. The manual includes an extensive section devoted to each of the available functions.

For the competitions, show hours on Saturday, April 26, are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday show hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For additional information on TCF and the robotics contest including entrée information see the festival's web site at [www.tcf-nj.org](http://www.tcf-nj.org). Interested parties can also call the Trenton Computer Festival show management office at 201-825-2229.

U.S. 1 Newspaper is a co-sponsor of this year's Trenton Computer Festival.

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