

INVENTOR'S UPDATE

March / April 2008

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April 1st: Len Heller, UK Commercialization & Economic Development

JOIN US AT THE CENTRAL KENTUCKY INVENTORS COUNCIL TUESDAY, APRIL 1ST at 6:30p.m.:



Come and hear from Len Heller, Vice-President for Commercialization and Economic Development at University of Kentucky. Dr. Heller oversees commercialization and business development at UK, streamlining processes to get discoveries to market. As CEO of Kentucky Technologies, Inc., Dr. Heller directs investment in technology-based business through KTI, the Bluegrass Angels and Bluegrass Angel Venture Fund, and venture capital networking. Heller's organization includes the intellectual property development office; entrepreneurship and business development through the Von Allmen center for Entrepreneurship, the Lexington Innovation and Commercialization Center, the KY Small Business Development Partnership, and many others.

When: Tuesday, April 1st, 2008

Where: Bluegrass Area Development Center, 699 Perimeter Drive, Lexington KY

Time: Doors open for networking at 6:30pm, Meeting begins at 7:00pm



Links to More Info:

Learn more about the CKIC!
www.ckic.org

How to Become a Member
www.ckic.org/howtojoin.html

Links to Inventors Resources
www.ckic.org/links.html

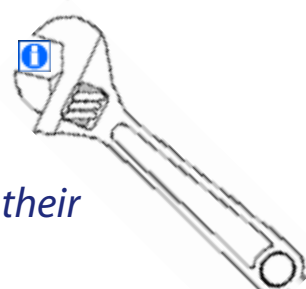
April 8th: Inventor's Workshop (for CKIC Members Only!)

Join Us For Our Monthly, Members-Only - Inventors Workshop



Hosted by CKIC President Emeritus **DON WEST**

- This workshop is designed to help the inventor move from the idea stage through the invention process, by allowing for inventors to discuss and learn from constructive information concerning their ideas in a free and unencumbered, legally binding format.



This Meeting is Open to CKIC Members Only

Not a Member? Come and join us: Membership is only \$40/yr
Where? Bluegrass Development Center, 699 Perimeter Drive.
Call 859-201-1311 Or Contact us at info@ckic.org .



Do you have a great idea for an invention? Find out what you can do!

April 15th: Entrepreneurs Roundtable at Bob Evans

Connect at the CKIC Entrepreneurs Roundtable

If you missed our last Entrepreneurs Roundtable, here's what you missed: Discussions on finding and securing domain names, web hosting services, industry trade shows and how they relate to your invention, and the importance of balancing the different business personalities we all share in business. Also, Dan Atkinson shared his journey in bringing his invention, The Grassbuster, from just an idea to a manufactured product now sold in outlets throughout the country.



The CKIC Entrepreneurs Roundtable is an informal meeting and networking session to provide market-stage inventors, entrepreneurs and others a chance to exchange ideas and benefit from other's experiences. Hosted by Don Skaggs. If you are bringing your invention to this stage, or could provide a valuable service to those who are, please join us at 6:30 on Tuesday, April 15th at the Bob Evans on Richmond Rd near New Circle.

Our Next Entrepreneurs Roundtable is -

When: Tuesday, April 15th, 2008

Where: Bob Evans Restaurant, 2566 Richmond Rd, Lexington KY

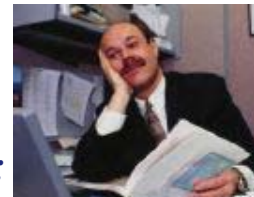
Time: 6:30pm



The Business of Inventing: Moving Forward with Your Invention While Keeping the Day Job

Launching a Successful Product (or Company) Without Leaving Your Desk

In a recent article in Businessweek (March 2008), Tony Wright gives us 7 tips on how to launch a successful Internet company without leaving your day job. The same rules could also be adapted to apply to inventors:



- 1. Get a co-founder or at least some cheerleaders** - If you can't find 2 or 3 people who are really excited to be beta testers for what you're doing, consider changing direction. In a part-time effort, a good partner can help keep you on track and working.
- 2. Pick a day (or evening) or two per week when you always work, ideally with your co-founder(s)** - A fixed schedule helps you through the phases that might not be so fun.
- 3. Have a boat-burning target** - What will it take to dive in full time? 5,000 units/month sold? Funding? If you have co-founder(s), that should be a shared understanding.
- 4. Pick an idea that is tractable** - How difficult will it be to launch a worthwhile prototype/ product? The scarcity of available time should force you to distill the idea to the absolute essence that is necessary to test the theory, without extraneous features.
- 5. Understand that your first version is going to suck** - Inventing is for the most part a long road, even for the best of us. Be prepared for this journey. So with your first version, look for the tiny flicker that tells you you're on to something. Every week, make it better than last week and see if that flicker of light can be fanned into a tiny flame.
- 6. If you're going to goof off at work (everyone does), spend it getting smarter about the stuff you don't know.** - If you're good at designing, read up on marketing. If your strong suit is marketing, brush up on financing, etc. (Just don't forget if you're paid to do a job, you need to do it, too.)
- 7. Be sure you own your invention.** - Before you tell the world about your great new idea, you want to "reduce to practice" and document it as soon as possible, and then have your intellectual property legally secured.

Experience the Valuable Instruction, Motivation and Power of Connections at the CKIC !

email - info@ckic.org
phone - (859) 201-1311
web - <http://www.ckic.org>

CKIC Officers:
President - Mark Miller
Vice-President - Don Skaggs
Treasurer - Jim Hill
Secretary - Gary Davis