Youth Program 2008: Hybrid Car Power

By Amy Pinchuk, Youth Program Chair

Detroit car manufacturing was booming at the EMC 2008 Youth Program, fondly known previously as the "Children's Workshop." The excitement began with Mark Steffka presenting an enlightening EMC talk, including a plasma ball interfering with radio reception and some amazing photos of automotive EMC testing. Soon thereafter the Cobo lecture room turned into a factory floor as the kids assembled their model car kits. The kits included mechanical and electrical assembly as well as some neat functionality tests of the motor, power source and lights. Finally, these electric cars went hybrid with solar panels and a switch between battery and solar panels. Testing the solar cars required heading outside, as we eventually figured out that the Cobo windows filtered the powering solar rays. The program was pretty intense for the limited amount of time available and showing true engineering initiative everyone (parents, grandparents, Gayla Burns, Mark Steffka, sisters, brothers and new friends) teamed together and helped each other assemble and wire their cars. A great effort by all!

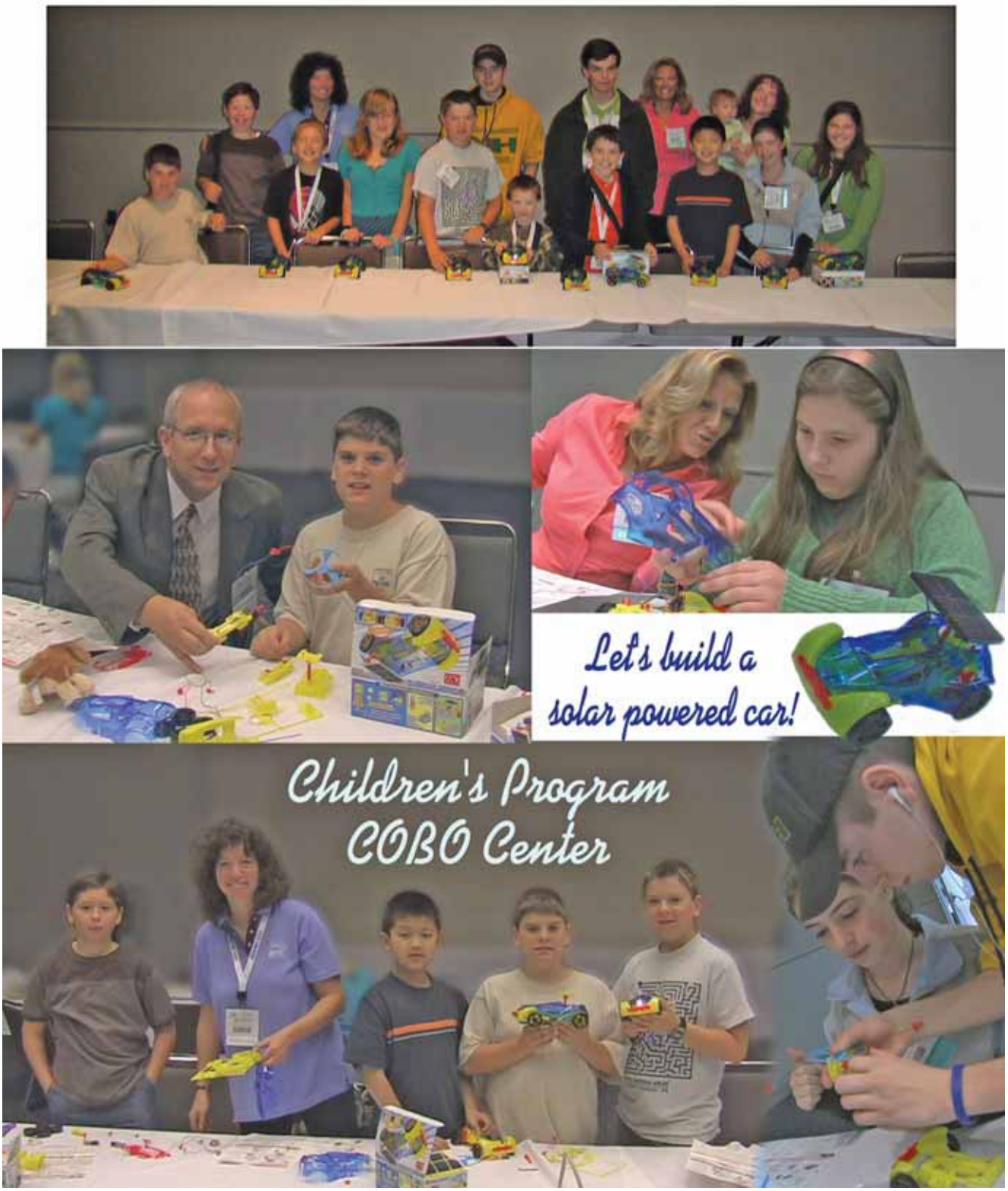
Once the cars were complete, the youths and companions took to the road and visited the exhibition floor. There we were shown everything anyone would ever want to know about EMC including antennas, probes, receivers, amplifiers, ferrites, unmanned vehicles and shielding materials. We were explained the need for safety standards and finally let loose and hit a few home runs. Thanks to all of the participants and exhibitors for making this an informative and fun event.

We are looking forward to some Wild West excitement during the EMC 2009 Youth Program in Austin, Texas.

Exhibitors gave great presentations and answered many thought provoking questions during the companions and youth tour of the exhibition floor.

PHOTOS BY KEN WYATT

Touring the exhibit floor provides "real life" examples of the EMC issues that arise during the youth program. Amy Pinchuk is shown at far right tending to her enthusiastic kids.



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