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## Michael B. Parks, PE

Owner and Chief Geek, Green Shoe Garage  
Service Disabled Veteran-owned Small Business

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Mike Parks is a native of Glen Burnie, Maryland. He began his engineering career at the United States Naval Academy as a research assistant in the Department of Weapons and Systems Engineering. He honorably served on active duty in the United States Navy with tours of duty aboard the USNS KISKA, Production Officer at Naval Air Station Key West Public Works Department, and as a project engineer for the Naval Air Systems Command.



Mike is the founder of Green Shoe Garage (GSG), a solutions engineering consultancy specializing in product design with a focus on embedded electronics. He has 19 years of experience in designing, building, and testing practical solutions for clients in North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. Fortune 500 companies, academic institutions, and small businesses alike have sought Green Shoe Garage's unique insights and expertise. GSG is guided by the following philosophy:

*"Green Shoe Garage is committed to the Maker and Open Source ethos. We seek to develop and apply new technologies to solve real-world problems. We seek to work alongside clients who share our same "can do" attitude and who also desire to disrupt the status quo. Tackling these type of moon shot projects requires great design because we have learned that a good design can overcome bad project management but the greatest project management in the world can never overcome a poor design. Over the decades we have honed our design process and have come to discover that the best design stands at the intersection of innovation and ingenuity. Where form and function seamlessly follows each other. Where practical sophistication displaces impractical complexity for the benefit of our ultimate master, the end user. We firmly believe in rapid iterative design and thus embrace the counter-intuitive notion that failure is a part of the creative process. By failing early and often you get to a better solution faster. That's better for us, better for our clients and better for the end user. In short, our mission is to engineer the best damn solutions for our clients and the world."*

Mike is a member of the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, Disabled American Veterans, and the National Eagle Scout Association. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Maryland and a Certified Energy Manager. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and a Master of Science in Systems Engineering from the Johns Hopkins University. To round out his geek credentials he also holds an Extra class amateur radio license (N1HNP). When not sequestered in the workshop Mike also hosts two podcasts. The first is Gears of Resistance which advocates for open source initiatives, the maker movement, and the individual's digital rights. The second, S.T.E.A.M. Power Podcast, aims to increase public interest in all things related to science, technology, engineering, art, and math. He and his beautiful wife, Lisa, comingled their DNA and produced a very talented daughter, Hailey.