

Getting Ready for our first regional, VCU:

Volume 1, Issue 4 and 5

- Let the mentors know if you are able to come on Wednesday night (3/17) or Friday morning (3/19)
- Space is very limited for the Wednesday van, RSVP ASAP
- Check to see if you are on the list for Wednesday or Friday
- Submit your travel money and forms to Ginny Ivey to lock in your space
- Understand the serious nature of your responsibilities once you arrive at the regional

1/18/2010

FRC 2010 Kickoff!

Saturday, January 9th, marked the greatly anticipated kickoff for the 2010 FRC Season. Students arrived at our Regency Park office at 8:45am, in order to participate in an hour-long safety training before the actual kickoff at 10am. At around 11:30am, after several inspirational speeches by prominent leaders from across the United States, the FRC 2010 game was announced— Breakaway. However, before Woodie Flowers described the game, he said the following, "This thing we're launching today is not about building a robot, it's about changing society. Remember Gracious Professionalism, remember informed thinking, and remember critical analysis --

all three, all the time. If you do that, you will soon have real comparative advantage."

In the high speed game, Breakaway, two alliances, red and blue, each composed of three FRC teams, will compete head-to-head on a twenty seven by fifty four foot field. Each alliance will attempt to earn points by "scoring" soccer balls into goals located on either end of the field. Additional bonus points will be rewarded at the conclusion of the game for each robot suspended in the air. Each match is two minutes and fifteen seconds long, with a fifteen second autonomous period at the beginning of each round. Immediately following the autonomous period is the

teleoperated period, during which the human player resumes control of the robot. The human players remain in control for the duration of the match.

The Turtles were all super charged by the Kickoff ceremony! Immediately after receiving the information about this FRC season's game, our team split up into three smaller sub teams, in order to brainstorm all day long. Ideas flowed and focus was phenomenal! By the end of day-one, we all met to present our ideas and even began to finalize our design. I think we managed to "wow" the mentors a little! It was a great start to what's sure to be a great season! Go Team Awkward Turtle!

RoboFAQs-New Question and Answer Forum! By Patrick Spain

The new site that our scouting team has put together, RoboFaq.com is up and running. This awesome site was put together during the last few days and we are very excited about it. The site's purpose is to create a community of questioners and answerers about robotics. Those who are curious about robotics, or any of the FIRST programs will get their queries answered here. We have set up a "karma points" system, users can rate others questions/answers a thumbs up or down and that will

affect their karma. Karma shows how active this user is and the quality and helpfulness of their questions and answers. Additionally, users may earn badges for different actions they perform. The team (headed up by super parent Rick Ross) is working currently on loading the site with as many questions and answers as we possibly can. However, your help is desired. Please create an account and get to asking and answering questions. We need your input!

RoboFAQs Robotics Q&A community

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Teams Attending North Carolina Regional

Team Name	Team Location	2009 Record	Website
ComBBAT	21 FLORIDA	13-14-0	http://www.combbat21.com/
Delphi ELITE	48 OHIO	28-23-0	http://www.delphielite.com/
Team Krunch	79 FLORIDA	33-18-0	http://www.teamkrunch.com/
NASA Knights	122 VIRGINIA	15-13-0	http://www.team122.org/
Hard Working Hard Hats	337 WEST VIRGINIA	16-13-0	none
RoboCats	379 OHIO	10-17-0	http://www.team379.co.cc/
Full Metal Jackets	393 INDIANA	12-19-0	none
Hokie Guard	401 VIRGINIA	6-10-0	http://www.team401.org/
Robodogs	435 NORTH CAROLINA	7-9-0	http://robodogs.srhs.net/
The Blair Robot Project	449 MARYLAND	9-7-0	http://robot.mbhs.edu/
Titans	539 VIRGINIA	3-4-0	http://trinityes.org/
Hedgehogs	587 NORTH CAROLINA	6-14-1	none
Oscar	832 GEORGIA	25-9-0	http://team832.wordpress.com/
Team Infinity	900 NORTH CAROLINA	9-9-0	http://appsci.ncssm.edu
Robo Rats	1249 WEST VIRGINIA	12-10-0	http://www.mingorobotics.com/
Longhorns	1311 GEORGIA	10-9-0	http://www.kellrobotics.org/
Flash	1319 SOUTH CAROLINA	23-18-0	http://www.flash1319.com/
Mechanical Mayhem	1519 NEW HAMPSHIRE	10-7-0	http://www.mechanicalmayhem.org/
Triple Strange	1533 NEW HAMPSHIRE	5-4-0	http://www.ecgrobotics.com/
Team Talon	1598 VIRGINIA	5-9-0	http://web.dps.k12.va.us/qwhs/
Fresta Valley Robotics Club	1731 VIRGINIA	7-9-0	http://team1731.org/
Red Alert	1741 INDIANA	16-15-1	http://www.redalert1741.org/
AIDTEC Trail Blazers	1772 BRAZIL	4-12-0	none
FRESH	1811 NEW JERSEY	4-10-0	http://www.freshrobotics.webs.com/
Exploding Bacon	1902 FLORIDA	22-23-0	http://www.explodingbacon.com/
TAT	2108 NORTH CAROLINA	1-5-1	http://teamawkwardturtle.org/
Cougar Tech	2228 NEW YORK	7-11-1	http://www.hflrobotics.com/
WiredCats	2415 GEORGIA	24-18-0	http://www.wiredcats2415.com/
Clawbotz	2483 NORTH CAROLINA	8-8-0	http://www.clawbotz.net/
SPARC	2540 MISSISSIPPI	9-8-0	none
MARS	2614 WEST VIRGINIA	15-14-1	http://marsfirst.org/
HOTBOTZ	2640 NORTH CAROLINA	4-3-0	none
Pitt Pirates	2642 NORTH CAROLINA	4-10-0	none
Flying Platypi	2655 NORTH CAROLINA	16-8-0	http://team2655.org/
What?!?	3185 TENNESSEE	Rookies	none
S.P.O.R.K	3196 NORTH CAROLINA	Rookies	none
Grimsley Whirlies	3215 NORTH CAROLINA	Rookies	none
Hawktimus Prime	3229 NORTH CAROLINA	Rookies	none
Maroons	3259 KENTUCKY	Rookies	none
Tarheel Robots	3331 NORTH CAROLINA	Rookies	none
Pirates	3336 NORTH CAROLINA	Rookies	none
Blue Comet Robotics	3346 NORTH CAROLINA	Rookies	none
CCCMC Knights	3384 NORTH CAROLINA	Rookies	none
Technoprisoners	3402 NORTH CAROLINA	Rookies	none

"There will be 45 teams attending the NC Regionals and that is as many as we can hold at Dorton Arena." - Marie Hopper

Turtles Organization Part 1

There are many leadership positions in Team Awkward Turtle, ranging from technical positions like building the robot to management positions like grant writing. Many of the team members serve on multiple sub-teams. This series will outline the different teams and their leaders.

Our report in this issue introduces one half of the Team Awkward Turtle leadership. The next issue will complete the leadership structure. As outlined in the first issue of the Turtle Times, Team Awkward Turtle is a meritocracy. Team Awkward Turtle is usually run by high school seniors, but we always leave the door

open for exceptional underclassman. Each team has a prime and a second in command so that the team operates just as well when the prime is not available.

So the Turtle Times is pleased to introduce the following team leaders:

Leadership/Strategy

Rob Collis, Team Captain

Tatiana Miller, Second

Animation

Andrew Bodine, Prime

Alex Surette, Second

Sam Fink, Second

Mechanical

Zack Coutant, Prime

Rich Pajerski, Second

Programming

Ryan Fredette, Prime

Ada Taylor, Second (inside)

Kyle Martin, Second (outside)

Stephan Baulch, Second (outside)

Electrical

Tad Miller, Prime

Rich Pajerski, Second

Scouting

Tatiana Miller, Prime

Gala Taylor, Second



“Our report in this issue introduces one half of the Team Awkward Turtle leadership.”

Turtle Feeding a HIT! By: Tad Miller

It has been an awesome first "food" week here at Team Awkward Turtle. Thank you to all our dedicated parents for your incredible donations to keep our Turtles fed. . Our yummy snacks have been overflowing with delicious variety, and nutritious too (extra special thanks to Mrs. Spain for all the home made treats.)

We also have a variety of great beverages (juices, water, and soda) to quench our every thirst. Lunch-Dinner on Saturdays have been delicious and plentiful too, thanks to Mr. and Mrs Collis for amazing Chili this past Saturday, and thanks to Mrs. Miller for the kick-off pizza party!

Your support of our stomach really helps us do our work!

Parents, please note that we would like to request that our Saturday "Lunch-Dinner" be delivered around 4pm if possible. (Please see Mrs. Ginny Ivey if you have any questions.)

Turtle KOP (Kit of Parts) Arrives!

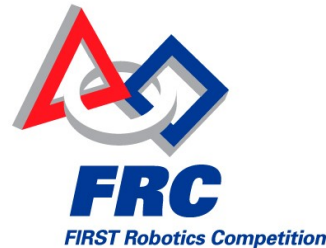
Special thanks go out to super coaches Richard Coutant and Randy Miller for delivering our Turtles KOP (Kit of Parts) last Saturday. These two dedicated coaches left Raleigh NC at 6 am on Kickoff Saturday to drive all the way to Charlotte to pick up the KOP. After attending the

required opening ceremony at the cool FRC "speedway" headquarters, they loaded up the KOP and drove it back to Turtle headquarters. They were met with cheers and elation by all the Turtles, especially by super happy Coach Mark Ivey! THANK YOU Coaches R & R!



Team 2108 Visits Chapel Hill

On Monday, January 18th, Coach Randy Miller took several members of Team Awkward Turtle on a 1/2 day community outreach trip. We visited new NC FRC Team 3331, The Blindside (officially called Tarheel Robots) at house / team headquarters in Chapel Hill. Ryan Fredette and Andrew Bodine patiently helped them load Labview code onto their robot and get the tricky coordination between joystick and robot wheels moving. They also helped this rookie team diagnose problems with their gearbox



and suggested fixes.

Meanwhile, Tatiana Miller worked to help them get their scouting and strategy team in order. Team 3331 is going to send several members up to VCU to work with Team 2108 (TAT) on strategy and scouting at that event. We will also be seeing this exciting new team at the NC Regional —so please be sure to say hello if you meet one of their team members at that event! They are a great new team and we were happy to welcome them to FRC!

Team 3331 is going to send several members up to VCU to work with Team 2108 on strategy and scouting at that event.

Student Spotlight – Elissa Hill

Another featured student this week is Elissa Hill, a homeschooled senior who is extremely excited about her first year of FRC. Elissa's first impression of FIRST was that the program was rather intimidating, as she found each member of Team Awkward Turtle to be extremely smart.

However, despite her doubts about fitting in, she decided to join the Turtles, and within a short period of time became a prominent member of the scouting and business sub-teams. After high school, Elissa plans to attend a university, most likely The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

However, she has not yet decided what she will do after university. This season, Elissa is most looking forward to the competitions the team will be attending, as she is eager to see "how it will all work."

Student Spotlight– Lucy Ross By Patrick Spain

The person interviewed this week had this to say about their first impression: Tell me the tale of Coach Mark I and his finger! Lucy Ross, an 8th grade homeschooler, is a rookie on Team Awkward Turtle, and is a part of our programming, IT and scouting teams. Her career plan is to become a great writer and professor. As far as FRC is

concerned, Lucy said that she decided to join the turtles because she's interested in the idea of artificial intelligence, and because it's cool.

Her favorite movies are Inglourious Basterds, Heathers, Gladiator, and 10 things I Hate About You, while her favorite books are The Iliad

primarily, while she also enjoys Julius Caesar, What's Bred in the Bone, and Dream of Scipio. If Lucy could sit down and have dinner with 4 people, she would ask Aeschylus, Homer, Euripides and Brutus. Very classic tastes! Watch out for Lucy this year, she will surprise you!

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*Team Awkward Turtle
specializes in training high school
students in all aspects of robotics,
an up and coming technology*

“Champions are made from something they have deep inside them — a desire, a dream, a vision. They have to have the skill, and the will. But the will must be stronger than the skill.”

-Muhammad Ali

Thank you to all of our tireless Coaches and Mentors! You have provided Team Awkward Turtle with not only the “skill”, but also the “will” to succeed.

A Fresh Start By Zack Medina

Coming from a Lego background (I was on a First Lego League team called the Microbots for the past three years), and now on starting my first year on a FRC team, this will be very different for me. Instead of working with plastic Lego bricks, I am now working with aluminum extrusion and power tools. At first this was sort of scary for me, I have never used any sort of tools on material like this before. But with the guidance from my build team mentor Mark Ivey, and the fellow build members, I soon overcame that fear. I know most kids my age don't get the chance to do something like FIRST, so I

feel quite privileged to be doing this program. I also have to give my parents some credit for allowing me to come to these meetings. If my parents didn't care so much, I would probably be sitting on my butt all day playing video games. I know FIRST has opened new doors for me and my future, and though I am not certain what my profession will be when I get older, this will certainly be an experience that I will never forget.

