



Week 5 - 2/9/10

# Team 501 News



E-mail comments, suggestions, etc. to: Anna Turgeon at [bobtheredsoxgirl@comcast.net](mailto:bobtheredsoxgirl@comcast.net)

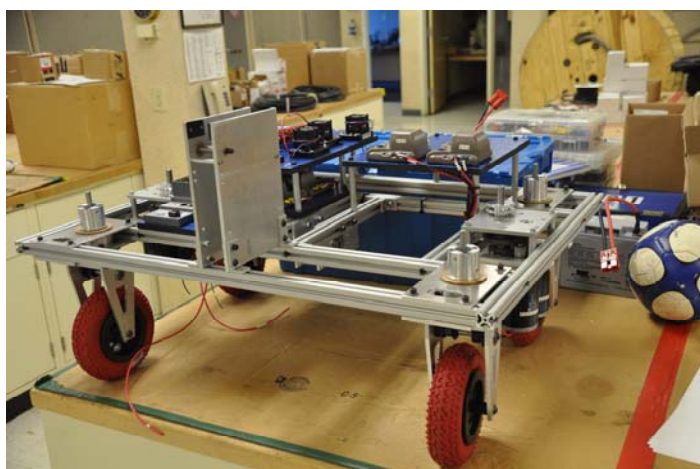


Photo: Isaac Onigman

The robot as of Sunday afternoon.

## Wiring

by Nishchal Gurung  
WHS, Sophomore

Team 501 is now midway through the build season. Working this past week at Burndy, the team began installing the key components of the chassis for the robot, and have also begun wiring. Wiring is very essential to programming the robot, and the programming committee is on hold without it. The robot's motor for the wheels was attached and working on parts for the arm

also got underway. At the end of the week, the team installed the speed controllers and the central processor for the robot, and was about to start wiring them. The team has been progressing very nicely this week.

We will finish wiring the robot sometime next week so the programming committee can start modifying the robot's code to fit it's different functions. Once programming begins, the team can get going on the fun part of the building process - testing the robot. We hope to have a lot of success.

## From Student to Mentor

by Colin Fletcher  
WHS, Freshman

One of our mentors this year is **Tom Provencher**. Tom was on Team 501 for four years, graduated from West High and is now a sophomore at UNH studying Mechanical Engineering. He has come back to be a team mentor both last year and this year. Recently I had the opportunity to interview Tom.

The first question I asked Tom was: What does it feel like to be a mentor versus a student on the team? He said: It was fun to come back and help design the robot. Another question I asked was: What made you want to come back to work with the team as a mentor? He said: I get to learn a lot from the team. I can still keep learning. Another question was: When did you want to become a mechanical engineer? Answer: Ever since I started playing with Legos, I have always wanted to build stuff. Legos are fun. My other question was: How do you like UNH? Answer: It's fun, I like the teachers, and the social life. It's still school. My final question was: Have you used what you have learned about robotics in college? Answer: I have used some of the things I learned on the West High robotics team in my freshmen classes.



Photo: Mike Nesmith

L to R: Jefferson Hall, John Willis, RJ Walsh, Tom Provencher and Mike Przekaza in 2007.

## SPONSOR UPDATE

by Mrs T

Congratulations to **Tom Daly**, of Dynamic Network Services, Inc. for being named one of the New Hampshire Union Leader's "40 Under Forty for 2010." The 40 Under Forty program "recognizes and honors the state's emerging leaders who have already begun to help shape New Hampshire's economy and business landscape." (NH Union Leader February 1, 2010)

Tom's volunteer activities include Vice Chairman and Director of the NH High Technology Council, Advisory Board Member of Worcester Polytechnic Institute's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, and Steering Committee Representative of Speed Venture Summit.

Tom started out as an engineer with Dyn Inc. and now is the President and Chief Technology Officer. He says he "encourages his employees to experiment and take chances. If you can afford the risk, failure is gold, in a way, and success is even better. It's platinum."

Previous "40 Under Forty" winners include Jeremy Hitchcock and Graham Chynoweth, also from Dyn Inc. in 2008.



Please see [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org) and [www.powerknights.com](http://www.powerknights.com) for more information.



Photo: Katie Thibaudeau  
Denise O'Rourke, Lollipop the Clown, and Anna Turgeon at an Applebee's Pancake Breakfast.



Photo: Alan Ellis  
Lollipop the Clown and her bag of tricks at our last Barnes & Noble bookfair.



Photo: Alan Ellis  
Two of Pam's satisfied customers.

## CLOWNING AROUND

A big thank you to **Pam Bridge (aka Lollipop the Clown)**, Jacob Perry's aunt, for volunteering her services to the team for the last four years. Pam has brightened our mornings at several Applebee's Pancake Breakfasts and gotten the attention of many children at the Barnes & Noble bookfairs with her wonderful balloon creations and fun antics. She also has done face painting and made balloon sculptures at the robotics competition at the Verizon for the past few years. **Thank you** Pam for all the spirit you have added to our team! We really appreciate it!

Pam is also the clown for the Monarchs Hockey team; she is at every home game. If you ever need to hire a clown for a birthday party or special event, please give Pam a call at 668-8651.

## WHO'S IN THE HOOKSETT BANNER THIS WEEK?

Congratulations to Zachary Wagner who had his robot programming article published in the February 4 issue of the Banner.

## GET SMART

I saw the following article in the January 17 issue of the Sunday Parade. "Want to go to Princeton for free? Audit a Harvard class without leaving your couch? At **AcademicEarth.org** you can stream actual course lectures from some of the nation's top universities. Study Jack Kerouac with a professor at Yale, **tackle physics with an MIT engineer**, or hear a UCLA political-science expert explain game theory. It's almost like TV. There's no homework, no exams, no 8am labs - just you, your curiosity, and your computer. Watch and learn!" Doesn't it sound interesting? Check it out!



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