



Week 8 - 3/3/10

Team 501 News



E-mail comments, suggestions, etc. to: Anna Turgeon at bobtheredsoxgirl@comcast.net

BUILD SEASON COMES TO AN END

by Nicole Lyle
GHS, Freshman

The six-week build season has come to an end. Our robot was shipped on February 23. Our crab drive is fully functional and it is flawless. The wheels can turn in less than a second to change directions from forward and backwards to left and right.

Because of the severe storms all across the country this year and the impact they had on teams building their robots, FIRST has decided to let teams keep up to 65 pounds of their robot to continue working on it. We decided to keep everything for our arm used for hanging, and our roller and kicker pieces used for controlling the ball. The arm has a few problems that we are fixing. The roller is almost finished. The kicker is being developed along with supports to keep the ball from going too far under our robot. The robot should be completed by the BAE Systems Granite State Regional FIRST Robotics Competition, which is in less than a week. Please come support our team next weekend!

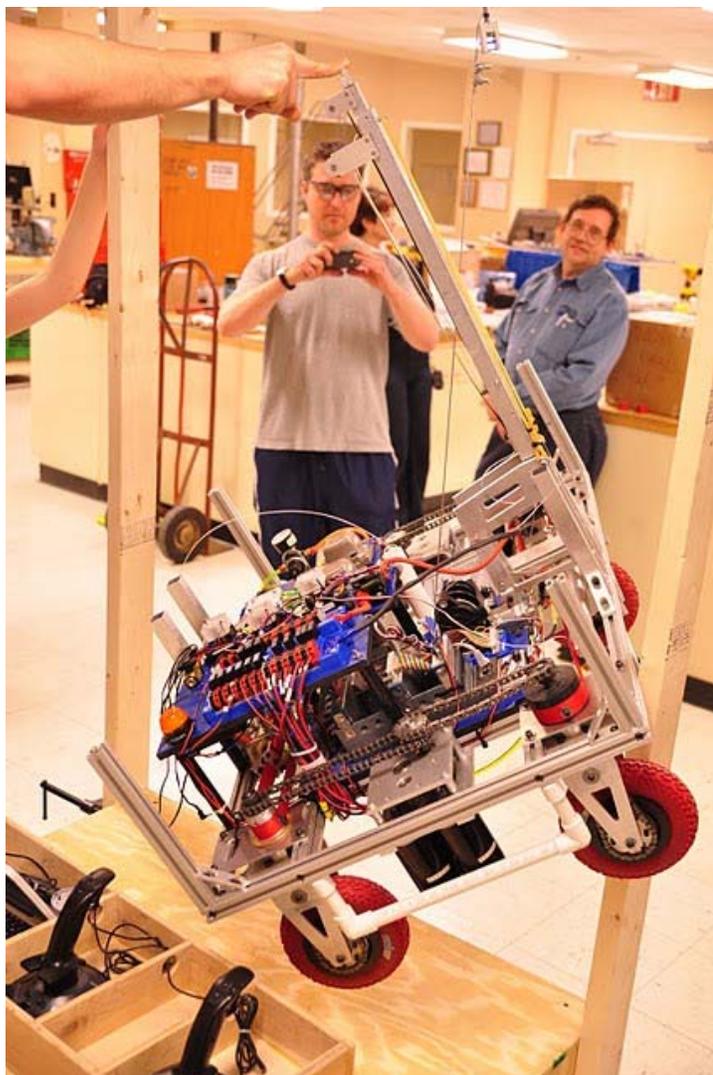


Photo: Isaac Onigman

Jefferson Hall and Ray Provencher watching a test of the robot hanging.

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READY FOR COMPETITION

by Zachary Wagner
GHS, Senior

Team 501's robot this year is called Boomdeyada and has some very interesting features. First of all, we are using a crab-like driving system which means that the robot can drive straight and then suddenly change to driving sideways. This should give us an advantage because our robot isn't a square, it has two different driving styles depending on whether it's driving straight or side to side. When the robot is in the horizontal mode for driving, it has a kicker that kicks the ball straight. It also has rollers in front of the kicker to keep the ball in place and align it up with the kicker foot. When the robot is driving straight, it has the mobility to drive up and over the bumps on the playing field without injuring the robot, assuming it can align itself straight with the bump. And the robot's final feature is the arm. The robot has a spring-loaded arm that it set to shoot straight up with a hook attached to the end during the final seconds of the match. The hook is connected to a strong wire that is connected to a winch which, once it is hooked on the tower, will reel the robot to the top of the tower, giving the team bonus points at the end of the match.

DRIVE TEAM SELECTION

Tryouts for the Drive Team were held on March 2 at BURNDY. Selection was based on the student's knowledge about the robot and how to fix it, knowing the rules of game and how well they drove the VEX robot around an obstacle course.

Congratulations to the following students who made the team.

Mike Drolette was chosen to be the driver; Dani Ithier was chosen as the operator and Matt Snyder was chosen as the human player. Our safety captain will be Colin Fletcher.

Since Dani is not going on the trip to St Louis, Matt will take over as the operator for the St Louis competition and Zachary Wagner will be the human player.

MEET ME IN ST LOUIS!

by Mrs T

The 17 students and 9 mentors traveling to our second competition on March 18-20 in St Louis, MO are looking forward to going. We are leaving on Tuesday, March 16 and returning on Sunday, March 21.

The big sightseeing event will be spending all day Wednesday at the St Louis Gateway Arch, with lunch on a riverboat cruise. In addition to going to the top of the arch to see the incredible view, we will also watch two movies. "Monument to the Dream" is a documentary describing how the arch was built and "Lewis and Clark" describes the country's westward expansion. There is also a museum to tour at the base of the arch.

We will also be touring St Louis Union Station, a National Historic Landmark with amazing architecture. It opened in 1894 and was the largest and busiest train station in the world. There are also shops, restaurants, a museum and a walking tour to enjoy.

A fun night is planned for the "Royal Dumpe," a medieval night dinner theater and another night will take us on a trolley tour of the city.



Please see www.usfirst.org and www.powerknights.com for more information.