

[<Back](#)[Print](#)

# FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION WEEK 5

## Almost Finished

February 15, 2007 - Vol 1, Issue 5

### Contents

Pre-ship scrimmage for local teams  
Spotlight on our Alumni  
Team Organization  
The Blue Alliance  
Our Major Sponsors

### Sign Up

**SIGN-UP!**

### Quick Links

BHHS robotics  
FIRST  
Mortorq TV

### Greetings!

Week 5 of our robotics competition is coming to an end and we wanted to share our progress with you. The robot is moving and the machining for our arm is now complete. We are busy working on programming and driving and it is great to see our robot function! This is crunch time and we are really working hard to complete our robot by the 20th. We work late at every night and we are all tired but we know that the end is in sight. Check out the picture above to see how we celebrated Valentines Day.



Once again, We are very grateful for the help from our mentors from WDI, Dan from MOOG, Howard from Santa Monica City College and Roy from the LAPD Bomb Squad. Thank you to the Phillips family for the sandwiches last weekend and to Louis Kahn for Valentine's Day dinner.

### Important Dates:

February 18th--- Pre-ship scrimmage at Hawthorne High School.

February 18th---7:30pm Our fundraiser/dinner. Tickets are \$25. Reserve your space now!

February 20th---ROBOT SHIPS

February 20th---City Council meeting--5pm--we are receiving a proclamation from the City and are doing a short presentation about our program. March 8-10--Los Angeles Regional at the Sports Arena

March 29-31---Denver Regional

April 12-14---FIRST Championship in Atlanta

April 15th---BHEF Classics for Charity Car Show.

### Pre-ship scrimmage for local teams

SCRRF Presents The Ninth Annual Pre-Ship Scrimmage on Sunday, February

18th, 2007. The doors open at 8am and the Competition Concludes at 4pm. This event is Hosted by Hawthorne High Team 207. The school is located at 4859 West El Segundo Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250. The Entry Fee is \$50, \$75 after 02/16/07. The Pre-ship is an unofficial event for this year's FIRST robots. We will play the 2007 game "Rack and Roll" with this year's robots. Several teams are working together to assemble a FIRST-like field and field control system on a retired FIRST carpet. The control system will initiate AutoMode and transition to teleoperation just like the real FIRST system. The Pre- ship is a great way to see if that secret strategy you have been developing will work under competition conditions. Your drive and strategy teams will also get a workout. In addition there are several features you may want to take advantage of including limited use of the school's machine shop, a courtesy inspection by experienced FIRST inspectors, roving mentors and more. You can even finish your robot at the event if needed. Food will be available at the venue.

#### Schedule

8am Doors Open: Pit assignments  
 8:45 Practice Rounds Begin.  
 2:00 Alliance Picking  
 2:30 Elimination Rounds Begin.  
 4:30 Closing Ceremonies:  
 4:45 Clean-up

### Spotlight on our Alumni



Aaron Berger

Inspiration does not come easily to the mind of young entrepreneurs. When a role model such as Aaron Berger, 19 years of age, comes onto the scene, influence is bound to be left behind. This former Vice President had been a member of the Robotics team from the beginning. He dedicated numerous hours in the past two years to this cause. "Aaron was great for the position he held. He was always there for the team members and was a valiant leader," states Jesse Carmona, Vice President of the 2007 team.

These days, Aaron's life is filled with a much different schedule than his Robotics days. He is a freshman at the University of California at Berkeley and is double majoring in Business and Economics. Not only does he spend time attending onerous classes, but he also bonds with his fellow fraternity brothers. Although Aaron has moved on from high school, the lessons he has learned from robotics have stayed with him up until now and have changed his life. "Despite having decided to undergo a business education at Berkeley, Robotics helped me to focus

myself in times of great difficulty. When presented with a difficult task, I am undeterred as I can always imagine having to do another robotics season; comparatively nothing is quite as rigorous as that. I am more confident about my abilities and less fearful that I will not be able to complete an assignment given to me because of robotics."

Aaron has moved on in life but is still remembered back in Robotics. He has been an example to all and is sorely missed. As he gives a word of advice to present members he says, "Work hard and persist with the problems presented to you now, so that in time, future trifles will be of less difficulty to you." Aaron will be returning to assist the team at the Los Angeles and Colorado Regionals. Lauren Ahsan

### Team Organization

by Lauren Ahsan



Taryn Black

"A person, usually an official, who is in charge of the records, correspondence, minutes of meetings, and related affairs of an organization, company, or association." Taryn Black, Robotics Secretary. When one looks through the lucid bubble surrounding Robotics and all of its' extraordinary ideas, there is an aura of organization that surrounds as well. Finances, Excel charts, and minutes do not just organize themselves.

In the mad pursuit to assemble a complex robot in time for competition, the simple yet tedious task of keeping the Presentation Binder in order can be forgotten. The Presentation Binder is a collection of paraphernalia that documents the progress of Robotics in every aspect. This includes everything from weekly newsletters and bulletin announcements to animation storyboards and fundraisers. The MorTorq shrine, if you will. This is a crucial part in assisting the team in winning the Chairmen's Award, the highest award.

Taryn has just been elected Secretary this year, and it is her first year on Robotics. Although she is new to the team, she is certainly not new to the concept and workings behind the scene. She has known many of the alumni well before this year and has constantly been around engineering workshops and MorTorq lingo. She is also secretary of Beverly Hills High School's DECA team and an active member of the Theatre Arts Workshop. Obviously, Taryn Black is well-qualified for this position and Robotics is glad to have her on the team. She looks forward to another year on the team before she graduates. "I know that this experience will stay with me for the rest of my life. The things I have learned are essential to my journey into the real world."

### The Blue Alliance



The Blue Alliance: a FIRST video podcast  
By Greg Marra

Building robots for FIRST can be a daunting venture. For teams lacking engineering support, constructing a working

robot, programming it to operate autonomously, and figuring out strategy to play competitively can be very difficult. In the fall of 2006, Tom Bottiglieri and I decided to do something to help out these teams. Taking advantage of the ease of sharing video online and our technical knowledge, we created a video podcast: The Blue Alliance. A video tutorial series, we are trying to bring you the how-to on topics relevant to competitive robotics. We are producing episodes to share our general knowledge in order to teach you what you need to know to be successful and learn new things.

In addition to video tutorials, we are trying to spread the excitement of FIRST through the use of video. For this year's kickoff, we traveled up to Manchester, NH to give teams a hands-on with this year's field and game elements. While there, we got to speak with Paul Gudonis, FIRST's President, about how he thinks FIRST is evolving and the impact it is having on engineering in America. To see the full interview, watch our full Kickoff episode on our website (<http://www.thebluealliance.net>). During Kickoff, Dean talked about how he wants to see FIRST grow exponentially. We think that showing people what FIRST really is is the way to do this. We're planning on providing video coverage of a few FIRST events this year in a way that will be accessible to FIRST outsiders. Stay tuned for these, and show them to all your non-FIRST friends!

Before Kickoff, we challenged teams to step up and provide their own video tutorials to help spread their knowledge and teach others. We're really excited to see the work that Team 1515 has done in producing MorTorqTV. This professionally-done show does a great job sharing what MorTorq has been working on with other teams. Also, since it is broadcast on local television, people outside of the FIRST community can learn about FIRST and what you have been up to. We thank you for your contribution to the FIRST community and congratulate you on your achievements! We look forward to seeing more video content from you and others! Get out there and help others!

### Our Major Sponsors

Team 1515 is grateful to have so many wonderful sponsors. Our program would not exist without the generosity of our community and our corporate sponsors. Walt Disney Imagineering, The Beverly Hilton Hotel, Mercedes-Benz of Beverly Hills, The Beverly Hills ROP program, MOOG Aircraft Group, The Rosenblatt Family, and the BHHS PTSA are all vital to our program.

A very special thanks to Monogrammit and Danna Black for donating the embroidery on our beanies and sweatshirts. Anyone needing embroidery or special gifts should support this wonderful business located at 251 S. Robertson Blvd.,

Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Their phone number is 310-652-6001. Additionally, we would like to thank the following families for donating \$500 or more to our program. Linda & Edward Brown, The Phillips Family, The Gabbay Family, The Hong Family, and The Istrin Family.

Team 1515 is grateful for the support!

This fabulous newsletter is financed by our own PTSA.

BHHS robotics is funded solely by donations and corporate sponsorships. All business aspects of the program are run by the Beverly Hills High School ROP Entrepreneurship classes taught by Eileen Kahn. If you are interested in supporting our team either as a mentor or as a financial contributor, please contact Eileen Kahn at [eileenkahn@gmail.com](mailto:eileenkahn@gmail.com).

Sincerely, TEAM 1515, BHHS ROBOTICS

Eileen Kahn  
BHHS PTSA Robotics

email: [eileenkahn@gmail.com](mailto:eileenkahn@gmail.com)

web: <http://bhrobotics.com>

#### [Forward email](#)

#### **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to [eileenkahn@gmail.com](mailto:eileenkahn@gmail.com), by [eileenkahn@gmail.com](mailto:eileenkahn@gmail.com)  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Powered by



BHHS PTSA Robotics | 241 S. Moreno Drive | Beverly Hills | CA | 90212