



Senior Mentor Report February 2, 2009

Greetings,

I am hoping that this newsletter finds you well as we enter February. By now you have strategized, designed your robots, have worked on prototypes, made "Gus balls," built trailers, learned all about the new control system, run tests with the camera, and are now ready to put the finishing touches on your 2009 Lunacy Robot. Ok, maybe like my team this is still a hope for the upcoming weeks. Any way you are now well into this project and looking forward to the successful completion of your robot and having it shipped to your competition site. Hang in there you are doing great work.

-Nancy Mc

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Pre Ship Scrimmage

The 2009 Pre Ship Event will be at Crenshaw High School on Saturday, February 14, 2009 and Sunday, February 15, 2009. Look for more information in the next newsletter.

- If you can bring balls, regolith and can help please send me an e-mail at nmcintyre@chaminade.org

- We will also need teams to bring the trailers with the official wheels.

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For Those Who Like Robots

These robots are simple, robust, smart and productive--a masterpiece of engineering design.
LeRoy

Woburn, MA – January 12, 2009 Kiva Systems (www.kivasystems.com), a developer of breakthrough robotic material handling solutions that increase distribution center productivity, today announced that Gap Inc. Direct has chosen to install the Kiva Mobile Fulfillment System (MFS) to support its growing e-commerce business

Autonomous Robots Invade Retail Warehouses

<http://blog.wired.com/wiredscience/2009/01/retailrobots.html>

The Nutcracker performed by dancing Kiva robots

http://blogs.spectrum.ieee.org/automaton/2007/12/17/the_nutcracker_performed_by_dancing_kiva_robots.html

- Thanks for the announcement LeRoy.

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A Second Request for Information:

As of writing this newsletter I have only received information from three schools including my school for the names and number of years of service.

Mentor Walk at Los Angeles Regional

We will have our 2nd annual mentor walk in Los Angeles. We need the names, team numbers, and years of service of all team mentors. We need the information by March 1, 2009. Only the names received by this date will be announced. You will all be able to walk.

Send the names, team number and years of service to nmcintyre@chaminade.org by March 1st.

2009 *FIRST* Consent and Release Form

(Needed prior to all competition participation by all team members.)
We also want to let you know the 2008-2009 Consent and Release form is now posted at:
<http://www.usfirst.org/uploadedFiles/Community/Asset/2008-2009%20FIRST%20Consent%20and%20Release%20Form.pdf>



FIRST Scholarships

There are over 56 *FIRST* Scholarships with application deadlines between now and March 1st. Be sure to check out the *FIRST* Scholarship web page (at www.usfirst.org/scholarships) and follow the link to the **2009 *FIRST* Scholarship Opportunities**. Hint: you can sort the scholarship list by application deadline date by clicking on the Deadline column header.

New or Changed *FIRST* Scholarships:

- **Purdue University/BAE Systems** has added an additional \$15,000 scholarship to their offering. They now are offering three scholarships, two

for \$15,000 and one for \$10,000, payable over four years.

- **Purdue University-Computer Science** Department is offering four scholarships, each for \$250.
- **ITT Technical Institute** has updated their scholarship description with an additional participating campus, in Tempe, AZ. They now have 33 participating ITT Tech campuses throughout the country that are each offering one *FIRST* scholarship. Check their scholarship description to see if there is a participating campus in your area.
- **BAE Systems** will again be awarding a \$1,000 scholarship to one student on each team that they support. This year BAE Systems is supporting nearly 100 teams!

www.usfirst.org/scholarshipsearch.aspx

FTC



The new 2008 2009 *FIRST* Tech Challenge game has been announced.

We invite you to consider joining us in the 2nd Las Vegas Official *FIRST* Tech Challenge "FACE OFF" on February 21, 2009 at Palo Verde High School, 333 S. Pavilion Center Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89144. We are exciting to once again bring this event to Las Vegas, NV.

The event registration fee is \$100 and we are filling the slots fast. If you are interested, your local challenge registration must be confirmed by February 4, 2009 to gjhoppert@aol.com. Once you confirm your participation (via email) an invoice will be emailed to you. You will then review the invoice and forward any corrections to gjhoppert@aol.com or mail invoice (with any corrections) and check to *FIRST NV* 2620 Golfside Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89134. A Purchase Order can hold your spot for the event.

The final match schedules will be available at the tournament. Pre-check is Friday night starting at 6:00 pm with robot inspection and an opportunity to practice on the field till 9:00 pm. Final Team check in will be at 8:00 am, Saturday, February 21, 2009 at Palo Verde High School, 333 S. Pavilion Center Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89144.

Planned Event Schedule for Saturday is:

8:00 Team Check-in – (Must have paid invoice, or confirmed PO, engineering notebook and consent forms, team safety glasses)
8:00 - 10:00 Technical Inspection
8:30 Drivers Meeting
9:00 Opening Ceremony
9:30-12:00 Qualification Matches
9:30 - 12:30 Team Interviews
12:15 Alliance Selection
1:00 3:15 Finals
3:30 Awards Ceremony

We are thrilled you are participating in the "FACE OFF" Tech Challenge

and hope you are considering joining us in Las Vegas, NV.

As a special bonus, if you have two FTC teams registered at FIRST for your school, we will waive the second team local event fee, and there will be a reduced fee of \$50 for each team beyond the first two.

FIRST NV
Jean Hoppert
702 947 0766
Cell 702 686 6472
jhoppert@usfirst.org

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Vex World Championship Dallas, TX
April 30- May 2, 2009

Ralph Mills will be your best source for information. ralphmills@aol.com

You can also find additional information at www.robotevents.com

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Upcoming Events Spring 2009

- Pre Ship Scrimmage Saturday and Sunday, February 14, 15, 2009 at Crenshaw High School
- San Diego FTC Tournament February 28, 2009 at Madison High School
- Los Angeles Regional "FTC" March 7, 2009 CSUN.

- San Diego Regional FRC March 5-7, 2009
- FRC Los Angeles Regional Long Beach Convention Center March 12-14, 2009
- *FIRST* Championship Event Georgia Dome Atlanta Georgia April 16-19, 2009



If you have news that I can share with the *FIRST* teams you are welcome and encouraged to send it to me.

If you would like to write on a particular topic I am happy to provide space in this newsletter.

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Lunacy Ball Kits Available

Parents of a Team 980 student member have produced a kit for assembling ten (10), high-quality, durable Lunacy Game balls at ~\$135 (CA sales tax and shipping included) for on-line sale to FIRST teams:

<http://lunacygameballs.com/>

The professionally manufactured kit includes 60 pre-cut lexan strips, 60 sown spandex fabric tubes (30 ea. orange and purple), super-strength adhesive patches and tape for fastening the plastic strips, and simple instructions for assembling the balls.

The initial production run is for 500 balls, but 100 have been committed for the SCRRF pre-ship scrimmage. So, it's first

come, first serve for the 40 kits available (limit 2 kits per team). Orders received by noon (PDT) will be shipped same day via Priority Mail (2-3 day delivery within the US).

These balls are practically indestructible and are suitable for robot testing and human player practice throughout the Lunacy season and off-season.

Based on initial demand, additional kits will be put into production to be delivered to teams prior to robot ship date.

Thanks for your consideration, and, oh yeah ... care to buy some practice balls??

--

David Brinza
FRC Team 980 Mentor
818-522-1456

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Reminder # 1 Have your teams kept up with the team updates during this build season?

Reminder #2: Does your animation team know that the animation is due prior to robot shipment?

Reminder # 3: Invite family friends, faculty, administrators, sponsors, and potential sponsors to the Regional competition at the Long Beach Convention Center, March 13.14, 2009.

-Nancy McIntyre
FIRST Senior Mentor- Los Angeles
nmcintyre@chaminade.org

