



Senior Mentor Report January 20, 2009

Hi Everyone,

I am hoping that this note finds you well and your robot progress good. Hopefully your strategy sessions and design brainstorming will provide some innovative robots at this year's regional events.

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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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My team has had success producing the Gus balls that were posted on Chief Delphi. A group of team moms came in last Sunday armed with sewing machines, rivet guns, tape measures, and all of the trimmings. We are using the official Orbit balls for testing on the robot only and our human players are practicing with the ones we made.

The opportunity to bring the parents together was wonderful. They met new friends, and now know what the kids really go through during build season. The moms even went home with nicknames like Mrs. Cutter, Mrs. Sticky, Mrs. Bobbin etc.

If you have a story to share please let me know and I will be glad to post it in the next issue.

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The Control System

Teams having problems with their Driver Stations should report the issue on the FRC Control System forum in the 'Driver Station' sub forum:

<http://forums.usfirst.org/forumdisplay.php?f=1002>

Issues should be reported in as much detail as possible, including the exact nature of the problem, what updates have been performed on the system, and what troubleshooting has already been done. FIRST personnel, the control system developers, and our very experienced beta testers monitor the forums will respond quickly.

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We would also like to announce that WPI has created an exciting Think Tank website where members of the FRC community can post articles on any topic related to the *FIRST* Robotics Competition. This site is unique in that it is driven by the FRC community. Subject matter experts appointed by

FIRST monitor the site and approve new articles. Anyone may view the entire site, but only FRC team members may submit and rank articles.

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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>

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***FIRST* Scholarships**

Yes I know we have just started building the robots but when there is some down time remind the students and their parents to check out the 2009 *FIRST* Scholarships at
www.usfirst.org/scholarships

There are scholarships from over 120 colleges and organizations that are directed specifically at *FIRST* students like you.

Seniors: These scholarships have application deadlines during January:

- Grand Valley State University – 1/31/09

- University of Missouri-Kansas City – 1/31/09
- Washington State University – 1/31/09

www.usfirst.org/scholarshipsearch.aspx

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VISUCATE

Over 300 grants that can be used to purchase:

- Autodesk® CAD software
- Autodesk® Animation software
- VEX® Robotics

We hired a professional grant writing firm to search for these grants. If you would like access to this valuable list for FREE call or email us.

Free VEX Robotics® Competition Registration

Purchase a VEX Robotics Classroom Lab Kit from VISUCATE, and receive a FREE registration for the VEX Robotics Elevation competition. If you have already registered for the Elevation competition, you can receive a \$75 credit towards the 2009-2010 school year competition. Limit one free registration per school. Cannot be combined with any other discounts or promotions. Offer ends March 31, 2009.

Our contact info is:

VISUCATE

800-811-8022—Phone

800-511-8024—FAX

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No News to Report

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

The Los Angeles Regional for FTC will be Saturday, March 7, 2009 at CSUN. For additional information please contact Prof. Tarek Shraibati at tarek.shraibati@csun.edu

San Diego Regional FTC Event:

- Date: February 28, 2009
- Place: Madison High School, 4833 Doliva Drive, San Diego, CA 92117
- Cost: \$75 for first team from each school; \$50 per team for additional teams from the same school
- Food: Box lunches from Subway (6" sandwich, soda, cookie &

chips) are available for pre-order at \$6 per lunch

- Team Limit: Registration is limited, so we encourage early registration.
- **EARLY BOT SPECIAL:** The first 25 teams to register will receive FREE tournament t-shirts (up to 10 shirts per team)
- **Contact:** John Brooks
firsttechchallengesd@gmail.com

If there are teams out there that are interested in hosting a scrimmage please step forward and let us know. We have heard that there are teams that would like to play before our regional on March 7th.

Have you been to the www.ftctraining.com website lately? If not, you may have missed the new templates that have been released. These *_templates are mandatory*_ for events. Without these templates, it is very unlikely that teams will pass software inspection. These are dual mode templates and they have been provided for each software. You need to download these ASAP!

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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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Reminder # 1: Don't forget to check out the team updates. They are posted on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Reminder #2 Rookie teams do not forget to work on building your crate.

Reminder # 3 Make sure you have Velcro to secure your Driver controls to the driver station.

Reminder # 4: Only 27 days until ship day!

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