

First Robotics Team #4819 News Letter

1/3/13

This was our fourth robotics meeting, and possibly the most successful so far. The proceedings of the meeting are as follows:

- First of all, we discussed the schedule for this Saturday's trip to the Michigan FRC kick-off event held in Flint. Most, if not all, of the members present at the meeting are going. The schedule is as follows:

Saturday, January 5th, kick-off event schedule:

1. 7:30 AM Saturday: Depart from Michael Engineering Ltd.
 2. 10:00 AM: Attend kick-off at Kettering University McKinnon Theater, 1700 University Ave. Flint, MI
 3. 1:00 PM: Pick up Kit of Parts, depart event, and return to Mt. Pleasant.
 4. 3:00- 5:00 PM: Inventory Kit of Parts
- Secondly, the Sunday event, held the next day, was discussed, and the schedule for that day. This event is a quick build seminar held to help rookie teams get on their feet faster. The schedule for Sunday, the 6th of January, is shown below:

Sunday, January 6th, Quick-build Seminar

1. 7:30 AM: Depart from Michael Engineering
2. 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM: "Strategy Dictates Design" Seminar
3. 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM: Lunch Break
4. 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM: Kit of Parts Chassis Hands-On Workshop
5. 2:30 PM to 5:00 PM: Team Organization Workshop
6. 7:00 PM: Arrive back in Mt. Pleasant.

It should be noted that for both the above events, each member of the team has to turn in the Field Trip Permission Form signed by his/her parent/legal guardian to be allowed to come along on the field trip. These Permission Forms were handed out at the meeting.

We also discussed team safety, PPE (**P**ersonal **P**rotective **E**quipment), and discussed assigning a Student Safety Coordinator. All members were also encouraged to read the Safety Manual.

Now, on to the highlight of this meeting! A team name and motto, after some debate, has finally been chosen! Team #4819's name has been chosen as *Flat Mountain Mechanics*. The team motto is the acronym, **COURAGE** (**C**hampions **O**f **U**nderstanding, **R**espect, **A**bility, **G**odliness, and **E**ndurance.). Everyone seemed to be thoroughly satisfied with this name idea. The Name was chosen, due to the unique fact that it refers to Mt. Pleasant as being "Flat" since there is no mountain in or near the city.

The acronym motto was chosen for the fact that it displayed good character and the statement that we try to serve God in everything we do, even robotics. And, as Team Leader Eric Prewett pointed out, "It sounds more noble."

Team mentor Gerry Simms suggested to those working on the logo that they perhaps incorporate the letters of the acronym to make the shape of a robot. He also asked that people pray for his upcoming back surgery in the next couple of weeks.

Below are some photos taken at the meeting:



At the end of the meeting we went over the things each person thought was good about the meeting (i.e. Things accomplished, topics discussed, etc...), and the things we thought could change (Delta). For the positive side of things, most people agreed that we had been more organized than last time, that we had a good number of people, and also thankful that we have chosen a team name and motto. On the Delta side of things, it was voiced that there could have been more input from some of the team members, and Team Leader Eric Prewett said that he wished he himself could have been more organized.

Overall, we had a successful meeting in which much was accomplished.