

# Senior Mentor Report August 24, 2009

Hi Everyone,

With August coming to an end and school starting back this is a good opportunity to welcome back old friends and welcome new friends into our robotics family. There have been some changes that I would like to make you aware of. After seven year of chairing the Los Angeles Organizing committee I have retired, but will still be involved as the Senior Mentor. Ric Roberts from Raytheon has stepped up to take the reins and is already working with the committee to plan another event down at the Long Beach Convention Center next March.

The San Diego group is going to host the fall workshop this year down in Escondido. The hope is that in the future we will alternate counties and resources. There will be more information later in the newsletter.

Tarek Shraibati and I will no longer host the FTC event. We have someone new who is back in Manchester for training this week and I will have more information coming shortly.

I have enjoyed all of the jobs over the last seven years but am glad to see some new folks stepping up to help out. I will still serve as the Senior Mentor for the greater Los Angeles area and will still be involved with my own teams.

All my best, -Nancy Mc FIRST Senior Mentor Los Angeles

Please contact Jim Beck our California Regional Director for FIRST if your FRC team is interested in participating at the Rockwell Automation show at the Anaheim convention center on November 11 or 12 ,2009.He needs four teams to demonstrate last year's game on a half playing field. Rockwell will cover travel costs and accommodation services for the participating teams. Approximately 3-5 team members and a mentor are needed to represent each team. You will be demonstrating your robot over the course of the day with another Lunacy robot. Your robot must be capable of picking up and depositing or firing moon rocks. Trailers are required, and moon rocks will be supplied. Contact Jim at Ilbeck@yahoo.com.





**Annual Fall Classic** 

Only three teams were registered for SCRRF Fall Classic 2009 as of 8/20. Early Registration is \$150 until 9/3/09. Late Registration is \$200 between 9/4/09 and 9/14/09. Registration will be \$250 at the door. \$25 discount available for each key volunteer provided. We'll need six scorekeepers, four referees, game announcer, FMS operator and queuing support. If you are interested in volunteering or participating, please contact David Brinza by e-mail: team980@ix.netcom.com.

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# San Diego Organizing Committee to Host the Fall Workshops for 2009

The Fall Workshop is scheduled for Saturday Nov 7, 2009. The location will be at Escondido Charter High School. This is a "Save the date" message. As soon as more information is available I will be glad to provide you with updates.



We are pleased to let you know that the Team Profile Section in TIMS will be opening Monday, August 24th at 12:00 noon EST.

We are also excited that new this year in the "Team Contacts" section there is a dedicated "Mentors" area. We ask that you please take a few moments to enter all of your mentors names and email addresses, as FIRST would like to reach out to each one in order to send an official "Welcome to the FIRST Robotics Competition," communication, resource updates, and to recognize each for his/her time and support of your team. Many thanks in advance!

Please make sure you go in and update all information in the Team Profile Section prior to Event Registration opening on October 1st. Remember, this information must be reviewed/updated before you can register for an event, so don't delay!!





Ideas for Securing Funds

I know that getting funding is a year long process and that in these difficult time every little bit counts. I will offer up suggestions as I come across them and welcome suggestions for all of the teams out there.

1. Kids In Need Teacher Grants (Deadline: September 30)

Kids In Need Teacher Grants provide K-12 educators with funding to provide innovative learning opportunities for their students. The Kids In Need Foundation helps to engage students in the learning process by supporting our most creative and important educational resource – our nation's teachers. LOFT Loves Teachers, in conjunction with LOFT Cares, is proud to be a national sponsor of the Kids In Need Foundation

Teacher Grants Program. LOFT is committed to supporting you, the educator, in your efforts to make a difference for our nation's children. LOFT Loves Teachers has pledged \$50,000 in grant funding. Teachers in all 50 states are eligible.

http://www.kidsinneed.net/grants

2. Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grants (Deadline: October 16)

Lowe's will donate \$5 million to public schools and public school parent teacher groups - at more than 1,000 different Public schools per school year. How would you improve your school? Increase parent involvement? Build stronger community spirit? Create a new school tradition? The ideas are endless. Whatever goals and dreams you have for your school, we can help you fulfill them! At a time when schools and community groups are struggling to make ends meet, Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation recognizes that we must increase Our focus on basic, one-time project needs. This year, we challenge ourselves to seek ways to provide the tools that help our educators and parent groups through these challenging times efficiently and with the greatest impact. In 2009, basic needs will take priority. http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/

# 3. Educator Grant Program Applications Now Being Accepted

The Air Force Association believes that one of the most significant means to affect student learning is to fund grants to meet the unmet and unfunded educational needs of students. Each school year, the Association awards grants to worthy projects that significantly influence student learning.

The Association will accept grant applications from August 1 - November 15, 2010. The grant process is competitive in nature. A committee comprised of outside experts in the field of aerospace education will review all qualified grant applications and make recommendations on funding. Based upon the funding available, the

Association will choose to invest in projects that best serve our nation's students and support the mission of the Air Force Association.

The Educator Grant program promotes aerospace education activities in classrooms from kindergarten through twelfth grades. The program encourages development of innovative aerospace activities within the prescribed curriculum.

Grant applications must be completed and submitted online at http://r.listpilot.net/c/afa/48fk4d1/14wbu



#### 4. Don't forget about the Hexbugs.

They worked well for teams last year. Information can be found at <a href="http://www.vexrobotics.com/hexbug-fundraiser.shtml">http://www.vexrobotics.com/hexbug-fundraiser.shtml</a>

5. Also do not forget that all of those bottles add up during build session lunches and dinners. Recycle!

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We are pleased to announce that USC will again host kickoff and Kit pick up on January 9, 2010. More will follow as the date approaches.

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#### FIRST Scholarships



Invite new team members and parents to check out all of the scholarship opportunities that are available to FRC and FTC teams.

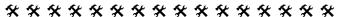
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- 1. Kickoff for Smart Move will be September 3, 2009
- 2. There are already more than 4,000 FLL teams registered.
- 3. For more information on FLL events in the Los Angeles are please contact LeRoy Nelson at <a href="mailto:leroynelson@earthlink.net">leroynelson@earthlink.net</a>



#### **FTC**

- 1. Kickoff for the 2009 2010 Game Announcement will be Saturday, September 12, 2009.
- 2. FTC Teams can register in TIMS on the *FIRST* website.





I Know Many FRC Teams also Play Vex

With so many teams involved in multiple platforms I am glad to provide competition information to support your school programs Ralph Mills will be your best source for information. ralphmills@aol.com

The game for 2009 2010 is Clean Sweep and can be found at www.vexrobotics.com

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

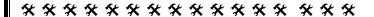
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- September 19, 2009 Fall Classic Team Registration at <a href="https://www.robotevents.com">www.robotevents.com</a>
- November 7, 2009 Fall Workshop Escondido.
- January 9, 2010 Kickoff and Kit Pick Up USC Register on the FIRST TIMS page



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.



**Reminder # 1** Get working on funding early. Don't count your chickens before they hatch.

**Reminder # 2** Get new engineers involved early so they will be ready for kickoff.

**Reminder #3** Fall is a great time to do team building activities.

**Reminder # 4** Clean out your storage areas.

- "A goal is a dream with a time limit."
  -Joe Griffith
- -Nancy McIntyre FIRST Senior Mentor- Los Angeles nmcintyre@chaminade.org