



Hi Everyone,

November was a very busy month for my team. We traveled to New Zealand to follow up on the team development that we started in July of 2008. We were excited to see that Robotics is alive and well on the other side of the planet. The remaining members worked on the Safety Video submission and preparing for FRC kickoff which is quickly approaching.

Last Saturday we had a successful Regional 48 VEX team event with special guests from Stevenage England. Two of the teams that were supposed to compete at the World Championships in Dallas were grounded because of the volcano eruption. They chose to come to sunny California in December as their replacement trip and had a wonderful time.

We have 60 teams signed up for USC Kickoff and kit pick up so we are asking that each team only bring three students and one adult to the broadcast. This way there will be seats for everyone who attends. Also, we will NOT distribute any kits until after the broadcast. We all want to get back to our teams and have a lot to do. You have been gracious to our volunteers in the past and I would expect nothing else this year.

Have a great week,

-Nancy Mc

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Kickoff FRC USC

he Kick-off broadcast will be in Salvatori Computer Science, room 101 (SAL on the attached map). Enter USC through gate #5, on Jefferson. Parking will cost \$8 per car. I'm told that the broadcast will begin at 7:30 am this year, but come early as the line to get into USC

may be long as only one gate will be open that early on Saturday. We'll have coffee and Danish at 6:30 or so.

We have just enough seats in SAL 101 to accommodate 4 people (students and adults) from each of the 60+ teams we're expecting.

See you 1/8!

Larry Lim
Director, Pre-College Programs
USC Viterbi School of Engineering
3710 McClintock Ave., RTH 210
Los Angeles, CA 90089-2901

213-740-1999 213-740-6226 fax

If you are attending a different Kickoff Location you will be able to find information at:
<http://usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/content.aspx?id=10406>.

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Attention Rookie Teams:

Team 3295 - Poly Techs is sponsoring a Rookie Kit Bot Build day on Jan 15th 830AM-300PM in Riverside, CA.

They will have experts from around Southern California to work with the rookie teams to build a working robot from your Kit of Parts. Experts will lead your team through Frame and Drive Train assembly, Electronics mounting and wiring, and Programming. By the end of the day each team will have built their own working robot.

Lunch will be available for purchase. There will also be some tools and material available.

With many rookies in Southern California this year and we want to help you have a successful and competitive season. This is a day you won't want to miss!

If you are interested please register

at <http://bit.ly/KitBotBuild> no later than Jan 8th

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask!

Rick Sisk
FIRST Senior Mentor - Southern California
FIRST Team 2493: Robokong - Programming Mentor
(951) 530-3526
<http://www.usfirst.org>

Engineering Project from PTC

Registration is now open for the 2010-2011 Real World Design Challenge. The Challenge is totally free to participate in and open to teams of 3-7 high school students. It is an aviation design competition that uses real engineering tools. We have added some new tools this year, and each teacher that participates gets more than \$1 million in professional engineering software. Teams get access to mentors, and state winners get an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, DC to compete in the National Finals. Please check out our new website www.realworlddesignchallenge.org and sign up.

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I have spoken with the person who has been coordinating this program in Hawaii and will be running a team at my school this year so I will

be glad to do my best to answer questions that you may have.

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The Pre Ship Scrimmage will be at Harvey Mudd on Feb 20th, starting at 8am. Rookie teams are highly encouraged to attend. As usual we will be offering courtesy inspections. This is also a great place for teams that have no room to run their robot to find out just what it will do. I am looking for a scale suitable for robot weighing that we can borrow.

Another event is in the planning stages. It is a Robot Quick Build Session. All teams who can use help with assembling their robot are encouraged to attend, especially rookies. We will be building complete kitbots. Teams should be able to leave the event with a running robot base. Once they get it running they can modify as they see fit. We are tentatively planning this event for Jan 15th at Poly High in Riverside. We can also use some volunteer mentors, especially in electronics and programming.

Christopher H Husmann, PE
Tool Design Stress Analyst
Northrop Grumman - Aerospace Systems
2P61/ES1
310 331-6758

There is an archive of this newsletter is posted at <http://larobotics.org/SeniorMentorNewsletters.html> should you need to see it again for reference or to share it with someone else.

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Critical Deadline Approaching: Does your team need special shipping support for your Bag & Tag event? If so, you must

inform frcteams@usfirst.org by **December 15th**. As a rule, all Bag and Tag teams must bring their robots IN and OUT of their event venue. If you write in and ask for an exception to this rule, and we decide your team has a good reason for SHIPPING your robot to a Bag and Tag event, we will try to find someone or some place near the event that can accept the delivery of the robot and store it securely until FRC has access to the venue. Finally, we will try to arrange for the stored robot to be delivered to the event. As you can imagine, this will take some serious planning to set up, so PLEASE only ask for this "special delivery" option if you ABSOLUTELY need it. As always, the sooner you let us know, the better! (*Tip:* You can typically rent a U-Haul truck for as little as \$19.95/day...this could be a great alternative option!) Thanks for your cooperation.

FIRST Choice opens Monday, December 13th: The FIRST Choice system will open next Monday for "window shopping." Teams will not be able to select/order parts until after Kickoff. For more information about the ordering process, please visit: <http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/content.aspx?id=18619>.

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The LARFLL events page has been updated (<http://fil.larobotics.org/Events.html>) and the FLL Team Registration

LeRoy Nelson is the partner in Los Angeles
LeRoyNelson@earthlink.net
 Lynn Crockett is the partner in San Diego
Lynn.Crockett@LEGOLAND.com
 Sara Tamayose is the partner in Hawaii
stamayose@gmail.com
<http://www.hawaiiifll.org/>

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Los Angeles Partner Suparna Mukherjee
suparna.mukherjee@jpl.nasa.gov

San Diego Partner John Brooks
jbrooks6@att.net

San Diego Partner Marion Brooks
manybrooks@att.net

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The details for 2011 Robotics and Education Foundation (RECF) Online Challenges have now available at RobotEvents.com

at <http://forum.robotevents.com/design/>.

Mixing successful ideas from the past two years with new challenges and interesting twists, we are proud to release this year's events. We are also pleased to announce that EMC Corporation is joining last year's sponsors, Autodesk, the FUTURE Foundation, and VEX Robotics. EMC Corporation is sponsoring the robotics team Website Design Challenge. The complete list of this year's challenges:

- Autodesk® Inventor® 2011 Digital Prototyping Challenge
- EMC Corporation Robotics Team/Club Website Challenge
- FUTURE Foundation Design Challenge
- VEX® Robotics Design a Game Animation Challenge
- VRC Promote Award
- RECF Team Educational Video Challenge
- VEX® Robotics Essay Challenge

Admissions are open now, so start working!

All the specific details and information can be found at <http://forum.robotevents.com/design>.

If you have any questions about the challenges, post them on the Online Challenge forum at <http://www.vexforum.com/forumdisplay.php?f=352>.



Many colleges and universities, professional associations, and corporations offer college scholarships to high school students on *FIRST* teams. This is official recognition of the knowledge and technical and life skills these students have gained from participating in a *FIRST* competition. For 2011, over **128 scholarship providers** are making available over **853 individual scholarship opportunities** with a total value of over **\$14 Million!**



Make this Poster Visible to Students

Post in Math Room

- Post in Science Classrooms
- Post in Team Workspace

- Post in Guidance Office
- Post in Cafeteria
- Post in Activities Office
- Post in Computer Lab

The link is available on the FIRST Scholarship page.

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If your team is looking to do some traveling this spring you may want to consider working with a travel agent. Below is information on one agency that I worked with while my team traveled to New Zealand in November. It was nice to have someone to help with all of the details.

Travel planning that is easy and fun, and an experience that is exceptional - that is what we do best at Litwin Travel! Litwin Travel is a member of Virtuoso, the leading travel network made up of an exclusive group of the top 2% of agencies worldwide. By working with us to plan your next journey you will gain a valuable edge through our worldwide connections, unparalleled expertise, and passion to give you the best quality and service for your travel dollar. There is no doubt we save our clients a great deal of time and money, but as your travel memories are priceless we can create an amazing weekend celebration get away or a customized trip of a lifetime. With over 30 years of experience and extensive relationships in the travel industry, Litwin Travel is certainly an agency you can trust! Give us a call to make your next trip exceptional! Marti Litwin can be reached directly at 805-529-2126 or martilitwin@yahoo.com.



MATE Underwater Robotics Program

This year's competition theme highlights the role that ROVs play in the offshore oil and gas industry and focuses on the challenges that they faced during the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. The mission tasks include removing a damaged riser pipe, capping a wellhead, collecting a water sample, measuring depth, and sampling organisms.

2011 marks the 10th year of international competition. The event is being hosted by the Neutral Buoyancy Lab (NBL) at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas June 16 – 18, 2011.

The competition announcements have been made public:

http://www.materover.org/main/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=117&Itemid=171

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Summer Plans

The University of Dayton

Pre-engineering Summer Camp

2011

Friday, June 24, through Sunday,
June 26

The UD Pre-engineering Summer Camp is a three-day, two-night, residential camp where students engage in engineering design activities, meet college faculty and students, and interact with peers. The camp is open to rising freshmen through senior high school students. Space is limited.

Registration is available on-line at
http://www.udayton.edu/engineering/hs_programs/preengineering_summer_camp_form.php

Tuition Fee - \$275. Application deadline is April 1, 2011.

Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from UD.

Personal vehicles are not permitted to remain on campus during camp.

Applicants will be notified of acceptance by May 2, 2011. Tuition and registration forms must be submitted prior to attending camp.

Limited scholarships available based primarily on financial need only. For a scholarship application - go to http://www.udayton.edu/engineering/hs_programs/pre-engineering_program.php and click on the link for scholarship application.

For any questions, please feel free to contact me by email or at 937-229-3296.

If you would like to be removed from my list, please indicate via email.

Thank you!
Annette Packard
Program Coordinator

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Upcoming Events:

Los Angeles FLL Regional: Saturday, December 18, 2010 Chaminade College Preparatory Chatsworth, CA

FRC Kickoff 2011: USC School of Engineering
Saturday, January 8, 2011 Location TBD

FRC Pre Ship Scrimmage February 20, 2011
Harvey Mudd to host.

San Diego FRC Regional March 10-12, 2011

Los Angeles FRC Regional March 24-26, 2011

Hawaii FRC Regional March 24-26, 2011

VEX World Championship Walt Disney World
April 14-16, 2011

FiRST Championship St. Louis April 27-30, 2011

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Resources:

FIRST www.usfirst.org

VEX www.vexrobotics.com

Robotevents www.robotevents.com

Carnegie Mellon Curriculum
<http://www.education.rec.ri.cmu.edu/roboticscurriculum/index.html>

ROC <http://www.hawaiiroc.org/>

Autodesk Student Community
<http://students.autodesk.com/>

Robot Magazine <http://www.botmag.com/>

Chief Delphi
<http://www.chiefdelphi.com/forums/index.php>

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Grants and Fund Raising Ideas:

Department of Education: College Assistance Migrant Program Application deadline: January 19, 2011 This program provides support to help migrant and seasonal

farmworkers and their children complete their first year of college and continue in postsecondary education. Of particular interest are activities that address one or more of the following priorities: providing students with increased access to rigorous coursework in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields; increasing the number and proportion of students prepared for postsecondary or graduate study and careers in STEM, with a focus on groups traditionally underrepresented in STEM careers; and engaging faith-based and community organizations in the delivery of services under this program.

Grants Promote Women's Educational Equity [American Association of University Women: Community Action Grants](#)

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Educational Foundation works to advance educational and professional opportunities for women in the United States. The AAUW Community Action Grants program provides funds to individuals, AAUW organizations, and local community-based nonprofit organizations throughout the country for innovative programs or non-degree research projects that promote education and equity for women and girls. Special consideration is given to projects focused on K-12 and community college girls' and women's achievements in science, technology, engineering, or math. One-year grants of up to \$7,000 provide seed money for new projects; two-year grants of up to \$10,000 provide start-up funds for longer-term programs that address the particular needs of the community and develop girls' sense of efficacy through leadership or advocacy opportunities. The application deadline for both types of grants is January 15, 2011. Visit the AAUW website to submit an online application.

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Quote for the week:

"The best way to predict the future is to invent it." - Alan Kay

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Reminders:

1. Have you selected the folks that are attending Kickoff and picking up your kit?
2. Have you organized your build schedule for your team to take in to account your testing schedule for mid term exams?
3. Have you made sure that your student team members and their parents understand the commitment needed during build season?

-Nancy Mc

FUTURE Founding Board Member

(My school e-mail is still the best way to reach me during the academic year.)

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nancy@futurefound.org