



September 20, 2011

*Hi Everyone!*

If the word has not reached you, Jim Beck is no longer our Regional Director. A huge Thank you to one of the hardest working people in FIRST. Jim has always made sure that California was well represented in everything FIRST. Jim will now be handling Northern California and we welcome David Berggren as the New Regional Director for Southern California. David was an Asst. Regional Director last season, and a Senior Mentor in San Diego previously. Many of you will also know David from his team The Holy Cows. Please join me in welcoming David.

-Nancy Mc

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### **News From San Diego:**

For the first time in 6 years we will be having an off-season competition in San Diego! Off-season competitions are a great way to kick off a new year, recruit new students to your team, train new and returning students and get a little more playing time with your 2011 robots.

There will also be a FIRST Day celebration, with more details about that coming in the next couple of weeks.

**What:** Battle at the Border & FIRST Day Celebration

**When:** October 15th 2011

**Where:** Francis Parker School ( 6501 Linda Vista Road, San Diego, CA, 92111 )

**Cost:** \$150 (Before October 2nd), \$200 (After October 2nd)

Capacity: 30 teams

### **Rules**

We will be running similar rules to what we ran at the fair. We will send out a comprehensive list of the rule changes later, but here's a brief overview of the rules:

Depending on the number of teams, each team will get 7 or 8 qualification matches

All matches will be 3v3

Matches will have an autonomous period

Minibots will be worth 20 points if they touch the top of the tower

Depending on the number of teams we will have either a 4 or 8 alliance elimination tournament

If you would like to register for Battle at the Border and lock in your lower registration fee, sign up here:

[https://spreadsheets0.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?hl=en\\_US&formkey=dFJsMk9uV19yYjhnNjg2LXNleXdWeGc6MQ#gid=0](https://spreadsheets0.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?hl=en_US&formkey=dFJsMk9uV19yYjhnNjg2LXNleXdWeGc6MQ#gid=0)

### **New Website**

Battle at the Border has a new website: [battleattheborder.com](http://battleattheborder.com)

Here is where you'll be able to find updates and information about the event.

### **Fundraising For Breast Cancer Research**

October is national breast cancer awareness month. Since Battle at the Border is happening in October, we thought it'd be a great way to raise money for breast cancer research. So far we have a couple of different ways to raise money:

Buy A Pink Uber Tube - \$25 (limit 1 per team)

For \$25 teams can buy a pink uber tube. These pink tubes can have the name of a survivor put on them. Pink Uber Tubes will have a special importance during matches: Pink Uber Tubes can be used as a doubler during the teleoperated portion of a match. Only teams that buy Pink Uber Tubes can score them during a match.

### Sponsor A Match - \$25

Teams and individuals can also sponsor matches. This means that you can buy the naming rights to a match so when the announcer introduces the match they would say "Match 8 sponsored by Team XXXX".

There will also be special items at the concessions where the proceeds will go to breast cancer research.

### San Diego Food Bank

With Thanksgiving right around the corner, Battle at the Border is also partnering with the San Diego Food Bank to hold a canned food drive. We're asking each team to bring one bag of canned goods and turn it in when the check in the morning of Battle at the Border.

Battle at the Border is a great way to introduce new students to the excitement of FIRST Robotics. If you are interested in registering, please go to:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?hl=en\\_US&formkey=dFJsMk9uV19yYjhnNjg2LXNleXdWeGc6MQ#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?hl=en_US&formkey=dFJsMk9uV19yYjhnNjg2LXNleXdWeGc6MQ#gid=0)

Remember if you register before October 2nd registration is just \$150!

We hope to see all of you there!  
--Jon

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### **Boy Scout Robotics Badge Day**

On Saturday, October 15, 2011 from 9:00am to 3:00pm I along with Tarek Shraibati from CSUN will be hosting a special day for all Greater Los Angeles Area Boy Scouts. We will have VEX robots available for building and FRC robots around for demonstrations and for driving.

We plan to videoconference with the national office in the morning and will have a badge ceremony in the afternoon for all of those who complete the requirements.

If you have any Boy Scouts on your team have them contact me for more information.  
[nmcintyre@chaminade.org](mailto:nmcintyre@chaminade.org)

The workshop will take place at the Condon Science Center at Chaminade College Preparatory 7500 Chaminade Ave West Hills, CA 91304.



Fall Classic: September 24, 2011  
John Burroughs High School  
For additional information  
<http://larobotics.org/FallClassic2011.html>

Fall Workshop: November 5, 2011  
California State University Northridge  
For more information:  
<http://larobotics.org/Workshops2011.html>



**TIMS is now open for team leaders to update. The link can be found at**  
<https://my.usfirst.org/frc/tims/site.lasso>

**FRC 2012 Kickoff Saturday, January 7, 2012 Local events are listed at :**  
<http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/local-kickoff-information>



**The 2011 Food Factor Challenge has been released!**  
<http://www.firstlegoleague.org/challenge/thechallenge>

[nge](#)

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

LeRoy Nelson is the partner in Los Angeles  
[LeRoyNelson@earthlink.net](mailto:LeRoyNelson@earthlink.net)

Lynn Crockett is the partner in San Diego  
[Lynn.Crockett@LEGOLAND.com](mailto:Lynn.Crockett@LEGOLAND.com)

Sara Tamayose is the partner in Hawaii  
[stamayose@gmail.com](mailto:stamayose@gmail.com)  
<http://www.hawaiiifll.org/>

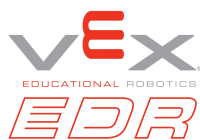


Kickoff September 10, 2011  
Information coming soon.

Los Angeles Partner Suparna Mukherjee  
[suparna.mukherjee@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:suparna.mukherjee@jpl.nasa.gov)

San Diego Partner John Brooks  
[jbrooks6@att.net](mailto:jbrooks6@att.net)

San Diego Partner Marion Brooks  
[manybrooks@att.net](mailto:manybrooks@att.net)



High Desert Vex Robotics League  
for the 2011-12 school year.

In association with VEX Robotics Sultana High School has been given the opportunity to create a VEX Robotics League. League play is a new concept to the VEX competition play. The league play concept is going to allow areas with a high concentrations of VEX teams to easily manage the growing number of robotic teams and allowing all levels of teams a chance to participate. The High Desert League will have up to 40 teams competing in six tournaments and taking the top scores from five of those six tournaments.

### League Guidelines

The league qualifying sessions structures are structured to allow teams to play 4 of 6 league matches. Teams will earn points by winning matches and the

calculation of each teams WPs and SPs points. (*Win Points and Strength of Schedule points*) This gives teams the flexibility to schedule around potential conflicts and allow for more qualifying matches.

### League Finals

League play finals will only be 2 team alliances, not the traditional three. Alliance selection will be done based off the final league standings, where teams will have their best 4 match score calculated. Teams failing to compete 4 league matches will have not have the opportunity to discard any scores.

### League Awards

- \* Winning Alliance earns a qualifying spot for the World Championships
- \* Excellence award to #1 ranked team at the end of the regular season.

## VEX ROBOTICS

### WEB SITE

Sultana High School will have a inactive web page with up to date standings, league play news, tournament pairings.

### TEAM COST

Entry into the league will 250.00, this will cover all league matches as well a lunch for each session.

### PRACTICE

First league match date is set for October 29th. During the this session league rules, policies and procedures will be discussed. There will also be two qualifying matches.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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For 2011, over **149 scholarship providers** are making available over **932 individual scholarship opportunities** with a total value of over **\$14.8 Million!**

<http://www.usfirst.org/aboutus/scholarships>



The MATE Center coordinates an international student ROV competition and a network of 20 regional ROV contests that take place across U.S. and in Canada, Hong Kong, and Scotland. Student teams from middle schools, high schools, home schools, community colleges, and universities participate in the events, which consist of different "classes" that vary depending on the sophistication of the ROVs and the mission requirements.

In addition to being fun and educational, these competitions connect students and educators with employers and working professionals from marine industries, highlight marine-related career opportunities, and promote the development of technical, problem solving, critical thinking, and teamwork skills.

Information for the upcoming season will be released in November.

[http://www.marinetech.org/rov\\_competition/](http://www.marinetech.org/rov_competition/)



Harvey Mudd College students are looking for an FRC team near Claremont, CA that needs mentors. We worked as mentors last season to rookie team 3473, and most of us have considerable experience from our own high school FIRST teams. If you are looking for mentors or want to hear more about what we do, please contact Sarah Ferraro at [sferraro@hmc.edu](mailto:sferraro@hmc.edu).

### **Local High School Looking for Science Teachers**

Newbury Park High School is looking for a

teacher who can teach Honors Chemistry from October to January and for someone who can teach college Prep biology from January to June. Please contact Jen Lockwood at [jlockwood@canejok12.ca.us](mailto:jlockwood@canejok12.ca.us)

### **Resources:**

FIRST [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org)

ANDYMARK <http://www.andymark.com>

VEX PRO  
<http://www.vexrobotics.com/products/vexpro/>

VEX [www.vexrobotics.com](http://www.vexrobotics.com)

Robotevents [www.robotevents.com](http://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>

### **Grants and Fund Raising Ideas:**

Many local restaurants like to have school fund raising event on slow nights during week. Tuesday is a great night to host a team event. Contact the local manager and bring in lots of hungry

### **Quote for the week:**

*"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."*

**Theodore Roosevelt**

## **Reminders:**

1. *Let any Boy Scouts on your team know about the Robot Badge Day on October 15<sup>th</sup> at Chaminade College Preparatory*
2. *Register your team for the Fall Workshop Day.*
3. *Touch base with your mentors and start preparing your schedule for build season.*

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-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](mailto:nancy@futurefound.org)