



# The Nuts and Bolts

FIRST Robotics Competition

Carmel High School -  
Delphi - Rolls-Royce -  
TechHOUNDS

Team 868

Issue 1.3

April 28, 2008

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## Upcoming Events:

- End-of-the-Season Meeting for Parents and Sponsors  
May 14, 2008
- FIRSTEP Summer Camp  
June 23–June 27, 2008
- Indiana Robotics Invitational  
July 18–19, 2008
- 2009 Season Kickoff  
January 2009



After six weeks of tireless work, two regional competitions, and the receipt of two prestigious awards, the TechHOUNDS finally ventured to Atlanta, Georgia on Wednesday, April 16 for the **2008 International FIRST Robotics Competition**. Having concluded the 2008 FRC season and gained an enriching experience from this occasion, the team is now ready and preparing for even more events of the upcoming season!

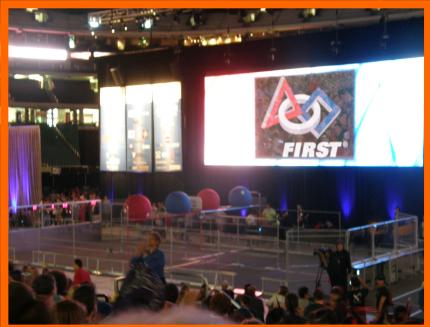
The **FIRST** Robotics Competition is part of **FIRST** (*For the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology*), an organization that, according to founder Dean Kamen, strives to “transform our culture by creating a world where science and technology are celebrated and where young people dream of becoming science and technology heroes.” For more information, please visit [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org).





## The 2008 FIRST Robotics Competition Experience

Thursday, April 17, 2008 –Saturday, April 19, 2008



Not even a tornado could keep thousands of robot fans from the International *FRC* event in the great Georgia Dome in Atlanta! With cheers from teams resonating throughout the stadium and colors of various nations' flags bursting everywhere, one could not help but feel the vibe of intense excitement and sport.

Hundreds of teams were divided into four divisions; the winning alliances from the divisions, comprising of three teams each, in turn competed for the championship prize in a final field.

Throughout the competition, all spectators heard inspirational speeches from various notable figures, including Dean Kamen, founder of *FIRST*; Woodie Flowers, the National *FIRST* Advisor; representatives from the nations' top corporations; and even the former President George H. W. Bush, who humorously remarked that *FIRST* was "like the WWF, but for smart people."



The TechHOUNDS were no exception to catching the energy-fever. Everyone, from the Pit Crew, to the Drivers, to the supporters in the stands worked hard to perform to our best ability. Although the robot did not receive any awards, it, as intended, was a crowd-pleaser, and it caught the eye of many other teams.

We are proud to say that our 30-second animation, produced by the Animation Team during the build season, regarding "A New Invention for the Community," was honored with a top-five ranking among all of the other animations in the championship.

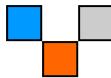
Please visit [www.techhounds.com](http://www.techhounds.com) to view this innovative creation.

While in Atlanta, the TechHOUNDS also participated in several team-building activities, such as team dinners, recreational games, and a carnival with fireworks to conclude the 2008 International *FRC* season with a bang.

Regardless of whether it was their first time in Atlanta for the Championship, all team members gained an invaluable experience difficult to verbally describe. In fact, this has energized us to continue throughout the year with various *FIRST*-related events, such as the Indiana Robotics Invitational, where teams can modify this year's robot and compete in a regional-style setting open to the public, and **FIRSTEP**, a summer camp created by the TechHOUNDS for younger students interested in science and technology.



The 2008 *FIRST* Robotics season may have ended, but the TechHOUNDS look forward to upcoming summer events and ultimately the 2009 Season Kick-Off!



You are cordially invited...



***to the TechHOUNDS End-of-the-Season Meeting!***

To celebrate yet another eventful *FRC* season, the TechHOUNDS will be hosting an End-of-the-Season Meeting for parents and sponsors. This gives us the opportunity to personally thank you for all of your contributions that allowed for the success of the Carmel High School Robotics Team this year. We hope to see you there!

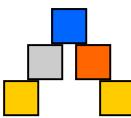


### **End-of-the-Season Meeting**

Evening of May 14, 2008

Carmel High School, Community Room  
520 E. Main Street  
Carmel, IN 46032

For more information, please contact **George Giltner**, TechHOUNDS Faculty Team Lead.

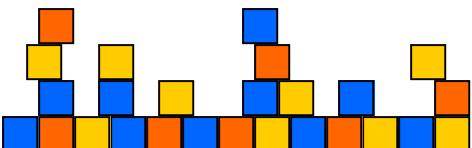


### **FIRSTEP Summer Camp**

The FIRSTEP Summer Camp program was created by the Carmel High School TechHOUNDS Robotics Team to lead younger students with interests in science and technology on their “first step” in learning more about these booming fields. This camp was first introduced in the summer of 2007 with a goal of extending our knowledge to younger students—and possibly future members of the robotics team.

Through this camp, students will learn the skills used by team members on the TechHOUNDS at Carmel High School itself. From designing to building and working with tools in the shop, this program teaches students the basics of several activities they may perform when they arrive at the high school.

We have several programs for various age levels, including the Lego Simulator, Lego Challenge, Inventor 101, VEX Challenge, and a Workshop. More information about these programs and registration can be found on the TechHOUNDS website ([www.techhounds.com](http://www.techhounds.com)).



Registration begins on May 1, 2008.  
Please contact **George Giltner** if you have any questions.

**A Special Thank You to...**

*All TechHOUNDS parents, supporters, teachers, and mentors who have allowed the TechHOUNDS to venture on the journey of FIRST Robotics. We sincerely appreciate your guidance and contributions, whether it be during the build season or at the competitions.*

*We are looking forward to another fantastic season in 2009!*



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*For more sponsorship information, please contact  
Mr. George Giltner or visit [www.techhounds.com](http://www.techhounds.com).*

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