

THE NUTS AND BOLTS

PRESEASON ISSUE

Carmel High School—Rolls-Royce

www.techhounds.com

TECHHOUNDS TEAM 868

Issue 4.1
November 8, 2010

What is a TechHOUND?

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Call Out Meeting	1
FIRSTEP Summer Camp	2
Indiana Robotics Invitational	3
Rookie Corner	3
CarmelFest Update	4
Sponsors	4



THE TECHHOUNDS, TEAM 868, IS A STUDENT MANAGED ROBOTICS TEAM AT CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL. DURING A SIX WEEK BUILD SEASON AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR, OVER 90 STUDENTS AND 15 MENTORS, INCLUDING 4 TEACHERS, CONSTRUCT A ROBOT TO COMPETE AT THE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS.

Calling All New Members!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- IUPUI Kickoff/ Build Season Starts
January 8, 2011
- Milwaukee Regional
March 10-12, 2011
- Boilermaker Regional
March 17-19, 2011
- St. Louis World Championship
April 28-30, 2011

ON THURSDAY OCTOBER 2ND, 2010, OVER ONE HUNDRED PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS CROWDED INTO ONE ROOM AS THEY EAGERLY LISTENED TO FACULTY LEAD GEORGE GILTNER AND THE STUDENT LEADERS DISCUSS THE TECHHOUNDS TEAM AND WHAT THE TEAM ACCOMPLISHES. THE TEAM HAS INCREASED EXPONENTIALLY FROM THE MODEST THIRTY MEMBERS FROM THE ORIGINAL 2002 TEAM.

THE NEW MEMBERS WERE PRESENTED THE BASIC FACTS ABOUT THE TEAM AND INFORMATION ON JOINING THIS TEAM. AFTER THE MEETING, MANY SEEMED EXCITED ABOUT BECOMING A TECHHOUNDS MEMBER.

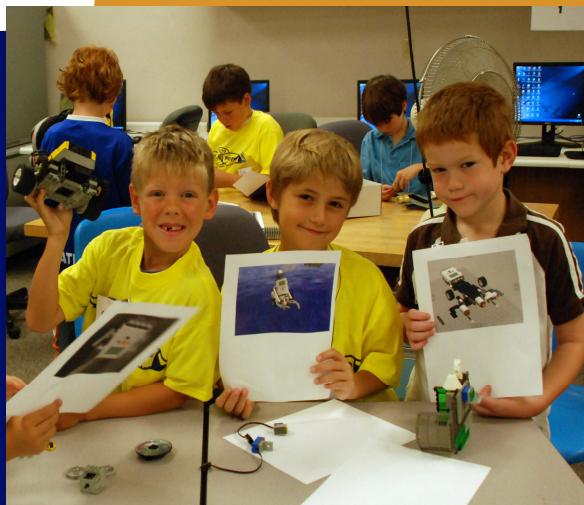
THE INCREASED NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS INTERESTED IN JOINING THE ROBOTICS TEAM IS A TESTAMENT TO THE SUCCESS OF THE ORGANIZATION.



"THE EAGER CAMPERS ARRIVED WITH LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF ROBOTICS OR COMPUTER PROGRAMMING, BUT LEARNED QUICKLY. IN THE END, THEY LEFT THE SUMMER CAMP WITH AN UNDERSTANDING OF THESE COMPLEX SUBJECTS."



FIRSTEP Summer Camp



- FOR THE 5TH YEAR IN A ROW, STUDENTS RANGING FROM FIRST THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE, SPILLED INTO THE INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY WING OF CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ANNUAL FIRSTEP SUMMER CAMP. THE EAGER CAMPERS ARRIVED WITH LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF ROBOTICS OR COMPUTER PROGRAMMING, BUT LEARNED QUICKLY, LEAVING THE CAMP WITH AN UNDERSTANDING OF THESE COMPLEX SUBJECTS.
- MORE THAN A DOZEN TECHHOUNDS MEMBERS, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, AND TEACHERS SPENT THEIR TIME AT THIS CAMP MENTORING AND TEACHING THE STUDENTS. THE CAMPERS COULD ATTEND FIVE DIFFERENT SESSIONS OF THE CAMP: LEGO DIGITAL DESIGNER, AUTODESK INVENTOR, VEX CHALLENGE, LEGO CHALLENGE, AND A WORKSHOP SESSION.
- SOME OF THE SESSIONS INTRODUCED NEW SOFTWARE TO THE CAMPERS. YOUNGER CAMPERS USED COMPUTERS TO DESIGN LEGO CREATIONS WITH LEGO DIGITAL DESIGNER WHILE THE OLDER CHILDREN DESIGNED INTRICATE OBJECTS WITH AUTODESK INVENTOR (A THREE-DIMENSIONAL MODELING PROGRAM USED BY PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS).
- OTHER SESSIONS FEATURED HANDS ON LEARNING EXPERIENCES. CAMPERS WERE INSTRUCTED IN BUILDING ROBOTS IN BOTH THE LEGO CHALLENGE AND VEX CHALLENGE. THE STUDENTS DIVIDED INTO TEAMS AND COMPETED AGAINST EACH OTHER ON SPECIALLY DESIGNED PLAYING FIELDS. THE INTENSITY OF THE MATCHES RIValed THAT OF AN ACTUAL HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS COMPETITION. IN ADDITION TO BUILDING ROBOTS, SOME CAMPERS ALSO MADE TOOLBOXES AND METAL BRIEFCASES IN THE TOOL SHOP DURING THE WORKSHOP SESSION OF THE CAMP.
- FIRSTEP IS AN EXCITING WAY THAT THE TECHHOUNDS REACH OUT TO THE COMMUNITY AND INVOLVE FUTURE TEAM MEMBERS IN ROBOTICS. THIS CAMP GETS YOUNG STUDENTS EXCITED ABOUT MATH AND SCIENCE. FIRSTEP ALSO SERVES AS AN IMPORTANT FUNDRAISING EFFORT FOR THE ENTIRE TEAM.

Indiana Robotics Invitational

THE INDIANA ROBOTICS INVITATIONAL (IRI) IS THE PREMIER SUMMER ROBOTICS EVENT. HELD AT LAWRENCE NORTH HIGH SCHOOL IN INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, IRI IS AN INTERNATIONAL SPECTACLE IN WHICH MANY TEAMS TRAVEL THOUSANDS OF MILES TO PARTICIPATE.

AT IRI, MANY YOUNG STUDENT-MEMBERS OF TEAM 868 GAINED ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE FOR THIS COMING SEASON. THE EVENT WAS THE FIRST COMPETITION WITHOUT THE 2010 SENIOR MEMBERS AND WAS THE INITIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR THE YOUNG TEAM MEMBERS TO OPERATE THE ROBOT FOR AN ACTUAL COMPETITION.

ON THE FIELD, THE TECHHOUNDS MADE A STRONG SHOWING WHICH HELPED ESTABLISH THEIR ROBOT AS A RELIABLE MIDFIELDER AND A CAPABLE SCORER. DESPITE SOME EARLY RADIO COMMUNICATION ERRORS, THE TECHHOUNDS ROBOT PROVED TO CONSISTENTLY BE AN ASSET TO ITS ALLIANCES.

ALTHOUGH TEAM 868 WAS NOT SELECTED FOR THE ELIMINATION ROUNDS, THE FRESH FACED DRIVE TEAM LED THE TECHHOUNDS TO A RECORD OF 3-3-1.

THE INDIANA ROBOTICS INVITATIONAL PROVED TO BE A VITAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR A TEAM WORKING TO AVOID A DIFFICULT SEASON DUE TO A LOSS OF EXPERIENCED SENIOR TEAM MEMBERS. THROUGH THEIR CONSISTENT PERFORMANCE AND LEARNING, THEY PROVED THAT THEY CAN COMPETE ADMIRABLY WITH THE BEST TEAMS IN THE NATION.



GOAL!

Rookie Corner

Freshman animator

Michael Jeffers answered our tough questions.



Q: Why did you join

TechHOUNDS?

A: "I really like animation. I'm thinking of animation as a career choice."

Q: What skills can you contribute to TechHOUNDS?

A: "I'm good at drawing and designing. I was also in LEGO robotics at Creekside Middle School and I do a lot of computer programming."

Q: What are your future aspirations regarding TechHOUNDS?

A: "I hope to be the Animation Lead."

Community Involvement

CARMELFEST CELEBRATIONS

Fireworks exploded in the background as the city of Carmel's annual Independence Day celebration concluded.

For the fourth consecutive year, TechHOUNDS members worked at CarmelFest. The team operated a game booth that required contestants to knock down stuffed clowns with wiffle balls.

Working at CarmelFest is just another way that the TechHOUNDS are publicizing their name within the local community and continuing our efforts to seek essential fundraising for our operating costs.



CONTACT THE TECHHOUNDS

George Giltner, Faculty Team Leader
ggiltner@ccs.k12.in.us

Ryan Wilmes, Student Team Leader
rnwilmes@gmail.com

THANK YOU TO OUR 2010 SPONSORS

(We Hope You'll Continue Your Support in 2011)

Catalyst TECHNOLOGY GROUP

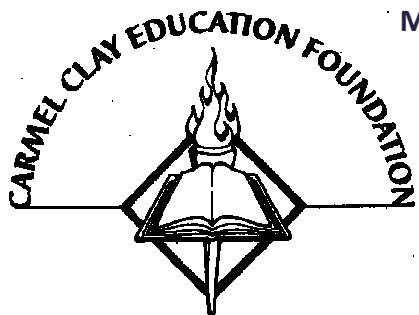
Aerodyn Engineering
American Rodent Supply
Bowman & Associates
BMW Constructors, Inc.
Carmel Orthodontics
Cardinal Publishers Group

Carmel High School
INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT



Rolls-Royce

Redali Consulting, Inc.
Rupenthal Dentistry
Schue Engineering
Shawn Spence Photography
The Skoog Family
Stoneware, Inc.
The Streeter Family
TIEbot.com
TOR Publishing
Wittler Orthodontics



Duke Energy



integrity partners

Funded through a grant provided by the Carmel Clay Education Foundation