



Mathews Robotic Team Newsletter

December 15, 2013

Mathews FIRST Robotics Team #1137 has moved from the local high school into the Mathews Boys and Girls Club. This is our tenth year of competing in the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC), www.usfirst.org, and we are really excited about our new home. The Boys and Girls Club enables us to reach a broader range of students, including those who are home-schooled.

This year we are starting our program earlier than ever before. We believe this will give the students more time to master skills such as using tools to make parts, wiring a chassis, and operating the robot wirelessly. Waiting until the official FRC announcement of that year's competition gave us only six weeks to design, order parts, assemble, build, program, test and ship our robot. It is indeed a great challenge for our young people to complete such a complex electromechanical device in such a short time frame.

FRC introduces the rules and challenges for the current year's competition on the first Saturday in January. The announcement for this year's competition will be broadcast on the NASA Channel at 10:00 a.m. EST on January 4, 2014. Please tune in if you get the NASA Channel; you will really be impressed with the caliber of student participants and the sophisticated skill levels required of them.

So far this year, we have a team of twelve students and ten mentors, some of whom are prior student participants who have gone on to graduate in the engineering sciences. We meet every Sunday from 1:00pm to 4:00pm to refine our skills using robots we built in prior years. Please join us, and if you know a student who might be interested in learning about robots, please bring them along. We have both girls and boys on our team.

If you are able to help fund this very worthwhile program, we would really appreciate your support. Our past expenses have been \$15,000 for the Regional Competition in Richmond and \$23,000 for the St. Louis National Competition if we qualify.

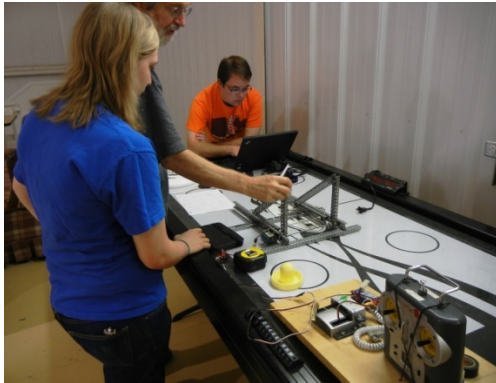
Please send your tax-deductible donation to the following address:

FIRST Robotics Team 1137
P.O. Box 315
Moon, VA 23119

If you have any questions please call Larry Brown at (804)725-8789, or e-mail us at info@team1137.com.

Best regards,

Bill Higdon
Team Mentor



Developing a Frisbee throwing mechanism



Testing the Frisbee thrower on the robot



Mentors & team members working together



Shannon creating several team newsletters