

THE NUTS AND BOLTS

TECHHOUNDS NEWSLETTER



MON, WED, FRI
3:20-6:30
TUES, THURS
6-9

BUILD SEASON ENDS
ON FEB 17.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

I FEEL PROUD WHEN I SEE A ROOKIE FINALLY UNDERSTANDING A CONCEPT; WE BOTH FEEL ACCOMPLISHED.

ATIF NIYAZ

UPCOMING EVENT DATES

FIRST INDIANA DISTRICT
EVENT
LAWRENCE NORTH HIGH SCHOOL
FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 1

SECOND INDIANA DISTRICT
EVENT
FRANCE A. CORDOVA RECREATION-
AL SPORTS CENTER AT PURDUE
MARCH 19 - MARCH 21

INDIANA DISTRICT
CHAMPIONSHIP
WARREN CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
APRIL 2-APRIL 4.

ST. LOUIS INTERNATIONAL
COMPETITION
EDWARD JONES DOME
APRIL 22-25

INDIANA ADOPTS NEW DISTRICT MODEL

In previous years, IndianaFIRST events ran off of the Regional model in which teams signed up for individual events around the country. Unfortunately, the regional model required teams to either win the entire event or win certain awards that require years of experience and a large time commitment; this left newer teams with a disadvantage.

This year, IndianaFIRST has moved to the District model, in which more teams get the opportunity to advance in the competition season. The district model has placed three events in the State of Indiana: the Indianapolis District, The Kokomo District, and the Purdue District. Each event invites a maximum of 35 teams to compete and score points that are then added to their total score. Each team is required to compete at two events; if

a team attends the third event, any points earned do not benefit their score, but rather take away the opportunity for other teams to earn points.

Once all of the events have been completed, the top teams from the district competitions advance to the District Championship. Teams will have to earn a whole new set of points at District Championship in order to move on. Nine teams will progress to the national competition, held in St. Louis at the Edward Jones Dome/America's Center.

At St. Louis this year, FIRST has also decided to allow more teams to attend by adding an additional 4 divisions, along with the previous 4, allowing 200 more teams to attend and compete in one of the 8 divisions.

ROBOT OPS

At the onset of Week 3, Robot Ops continued prototyping grabbing and pick-up mechanisms. By Week 4, they began developing our practice robot. A drive train was constructed as well as stacking and elevating systems to pick up the totes and containers.

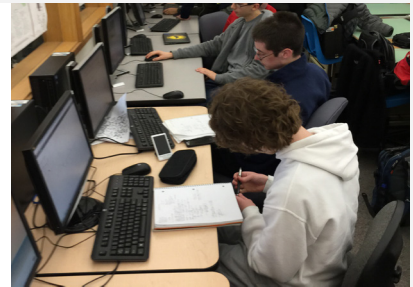


PROGRAMMING

Programmers have been writing vision code with the goal of being able to track yellow crates. The division has been working on construction of a board in which they hope to include a 20-inch monitor to make controlling the robot easier for the drive team. Programming will soon begin to work on and test code for basic features of the robot before moving into more complicated tasks. In the next week, they hope to make the autonomous code.

IT

IT worked on designs for the newly updated scouting forms. On Friday, January 23, they decided on a final design. In addition, they finished mockups of the redesigned TechHOUNDS website and expect to finish it by the end of the 6-week build season.

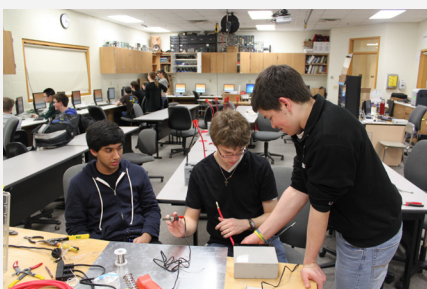


CONSTRUCTION

During the third week of the build season, construction finished building half of the playing field, including all scoring platforms, and practiced setting it up consistently. During the fourth week, they continued working on designing and building the new battery box, setting up the field and pit, and implementing a wood organization system.

PR

The PR division has been hard at work. In the past week, they have distributed and collected order forms for the 2015 spirit wear. PR worked to complete the latest edition of the newsletter and continued producing the competition spirit giveaways: stretchy band bracelets and laser-engraved plastic pins.



ELECTRICAL

Electrical has been supporting Robot Ops by wiring up the prototype robot. They also finished the final revision of the MXP (myRIO expansion port) board into the custom electronics port on the RoboRIO. They have been helping the programming division with wiring for the new control board, as well as testing LEDs and the Gyro. Next week, the division will complete the electrical board for the final robot.

We would like to thank our current 2014-2015 sponsors:



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