



Senior Mentor Report February 16, 2010

Hi Everyone,

"The finish line is in sight." "There is a light at the end of the tunnel." If you are at the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on." Enough said.

I have enjoyed talking with many of you during the build season and hearing your triumphs and all that your students have learned during this build season.

We have a pre-ship scrimmage here in the Los Angeles area at Harvey Mudd on Sunday. There will be additional information posted later in this newsletter. We also send best wishes to the teams in Hawaii who are hosting their first off-season event for their local schools.

Have a great week!
-Nancy Mc

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Update from Manchester

Robot Ship Date:
After an in depth exploration of the options and careful consideration of the potential impact, the Director of FRC with the advice of the GDC decided that although Robot Ship Day must remain February 23rd this year, all FRC teams will be allowed to hold back up to 65 pounds of their robot's weight and may continue to work on that portion of the robot up until their first event. For more details see Bill's Blog.

<http://frcdirector.blogspot.com/>

Driver Station and LabVIEW updates:
FRC LabVIEW Update 2.1 for 2010
<http://joule.ni.com/nidu/cds/view/p/lang/en/id/1534> This also updates the cRIO image.

Driver Station Update 1.1 for 2010
<http://joule.ni.com/nidu/cds/view/p/lang/en/id/1535> Install this update on your classmate.

Fixed and Known Issues updates here:
<http://digital.ni.com/public.nsf/websearch/487FB316344500E6862576C8004CC32D?OpenDocument>

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Harvey Mudd College FIRST Scrimmage

The FIRST Mentors Club of Harvey Mudd College will be hosting the inaugural FIRST Robotics Competition Pre-ship Scrimmage. Teams will play the Breakaway game with official rules.

Date: Sunday, February 21, 2010
Cost: \$200 per team

Schedule: 8 AM Pits Open
9 AM – 12 PM
Practice Matches
12 PM – 12:30 PM Lunch
Break
12:30 PM – 3 PM
Practice Matches
3 PM – 4 PM
Possible Tournament
4 PM Pits
Close

Location:
Linde Activities Center Gym

Harvey Mudd College
340 E. Foothill Blvd
Claremont, CA 91711

Directions:

<http://www.hmc.edu/about/visitingcampus/mapsanddirections.html>

Meal Options:

Bag Lunches provided by Hoch-Shanahan dining hall are \$8.50 each and include a meat/vegetarian sandwich, chips, apple, bottled water, and two cookies. These must be preordered by sending an email to sferraro@hmc.edu with the number of meat and vegetarian lunches desired by Feb 18th. Payment must be made when checking in for the event. Other options include the dining hall on campus (open for a buffet style brunch from 10:30 AM to 12:45 PM - \$10.50 per person) or various fast food and restaurants nearby.

To Register:

Register on RobotEvents.com (<http://robotevents.com/robot-competitions/first/scrrf-pre-ship-scrimmage-2010.html>)

Good Luck Teams!

Additional Information from SCRRF for the same event:

SCRRF Pre-Ship Scrimmage

2010 Registration: \$200 Pricing Information Scholarships available based on need. If lack of funds is the only reason your team cannot attend, please contact us and we will work something out.

Event Description Southern California FIRST Robotics Competition teams are welcome to attend the Southern

California Regional Robotics Forum's annual Pre-Ship Scrimmage. It's a great chance to test your robots, give your drivers practice, meet other teams, and get help with any problems you might be having with your robot prior to the robot ship date. **Quick Overview** Dates:

Sunday, February 21, 2010 Times: 8:00

AM – 4:00 PM Venue: Harvey Mudd

College, Linde Activities Center Address:

340 E. Foothill Blvd. City:

Claremont State: California Country:

United States Zip/Postal Code:

91711 Registration opens:

Now Registration Deadline: February 19,

2010 Capacity: 24 **Contact**

Information Chris Husmann (310) 749-

7265, chusmann@earthlink.net or

chris.husmann@ngc.com

[<mailto:chris.husmann@ngc.com>](mailto:chris.husmann@ngc.com)

Other Information Please park along

E. Foothill Blvd. Robot loading zone at N.

Mills Ave and E. Foothill Blvd. Campus

Tours will be available. Food will be

available at the campus dining hall for

\$7.00 per person. Payment can be

made by credit card at the end of the

online registration or by check at the

registration table at the event. Checks

should be payable to SCRRF. For

additional information, see

[http://larobotics.org/Scrimmage2010.ht](http://larobotics.org/Scrimmage2010.html)

[ml.](http://larobotics.org/Scrimmage2010.html) **Schedule/Agenda** 8:00 AM –

4:00 PM

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A Raytheon Request

We have many local Raytheon Teams out there that would love the opportunity to say thanks and demonstrate the impact of this program on their schools.

Five robotics teams are needed to bring their robots and five students on February 17th. We will be having engineer games and a robotics demo.

I would like five working FRC robots and if your team also does FTC or VEX, I would also like to demonstrate these robots as well.

The schedule is as follows:

Wed 2/17 - Engineer Games & Lab
Tour 11:00 am to 3:00 pm
- Robotics Demo 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Plan on arriving at 10:30am so you can be checked in and eat lunch.

Please get back to me if you are interested,

Ric Roberts
Sr. Manager,
Space and Airborne Systems
Systems Development Center
Raytheon Company
Office: (310)616-1356
Mobile: (310)658-9553

PS - I will also need two teams do demonstrate robots on Bring Your Kids to Work Day, April 22nd,

This will be from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm,
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The Westin In Long Beach Has Rooms for Teams, Who Would Like to Stay near the Convention Center

I would like to confirm that we have availability to accommodate the general block of the First Robotics Competition on March 25-27, 2010.

Our team would be delighted to welcome your group and we will make sure that everyone will have a memorable stay with us.

We would like to offer a discounted rate of \$119 and we will set-up a courtesy hold for your group. The discounted rate will be subject to availability.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if you questions or if there is anything further I can assist you with. I look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Thank you and have a great day!

Best,
Stephanie

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manager the westin long beach
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562.901.3432
elevate your senses > westin.com

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2010 FIRST Awards

The Award Submission section of the Student Team Members website <https://my.usfirst.org/frc/goteams/site.lasso> is now live. Teams have until 11:59pm ET on Thursday, February 18, 2010 to submit applications for the 2010 Chairman's Award, Woodie Flowers Award and Website Award.

Detailed submission instructions can be found here:

<http://www.usfirst.org/uploadedFiles/Community/FRC/FRC Documents and Updates/Awards%20Submission%20instructions.pdf>.

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FIRST Scholarships

Did you know that there are a number of scholarships that are available to the juniors on your team?

2010 FIRST Scholarships at www.usfirst.org/scholarships

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ATTENTION TEAMS

Are you tired of practicing and tuning your robot on a small patch of carpet at the Regional? Would you prefer to practice on a full sized field with all structures? This can happen but your help is needed.

SCRRF is building a full- scale field for the Pre-Ship Scrimmage on 2/21. This field will be available for use at the Regional, and there is enough space in the venue BUT we need people to volunteer to pick it up from storage, drive it down to Long Beach, assemble it, supervise it during the competition, disassemble it, pack it back into the truck and deliver it back to storage. Most of the people who normally do this will be busy building and running the official field, which is unusually complex this year.

Set-up of the practice field can happen either Wednesday afternoon, or evening or Thursday morning (at the expense of some practice time) and tear down would be around Noon on Saturday. Loading the truck and putting everything back in storage are up for negotiation.

We need one person who will take on the responsibility to lead this effort, and 6-8 people to help every time the field moves. These do not need to be the same people each time.

Please contact Chris Husmann at 310 749-7265 if you can help.



SCRRF 2010 Scholarships

The Southern California Regional Robotics Forum (SCRRF) will award \$500 scholarships to two Southern California high school students for their first

year of college study in the field of math, science or technology.

The award is non-renewable and will be recognized at the Los Angeles Regional *FIRST* Robotics Competition and *FIRST* World Festival in Atlanta.

Student Eligibility Requirements:

- High school senior
- Actively participates on a Southern California robotics team
 - *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) team or
 - *FIRST* Tech Challenge (FTC) team or
 - VEX Robotics Competition (VRC) team
- Participated or scheduled to participate with robotics team in one or more Southern California qualifying regional events in Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Kern, San Bernardino or Orange counties.

Submission Requirements:

- Students write a 500 word essay titled "The Impact of FRC/FTC/VRC on my Future Goals."
 - A copy of their high school transcript.
 - Letter of recommendation from one of the adult members of their robotics team stating that the applicant has demonstrated the values of *FIRST/VRC* and is a member in good standing.
 - All materials need to be delivered or post marked by February 25, 2010 to:
LeRoy Nelson, Chairman E-mail:
LeRoyNelson@earthlink.net
SCRRF Scholarship Committee (310) 937-1416 Fax
1457 3rd Street (310) 937-7226 Home office
Manhattan Beach CA 90266-6335
(310) 529-4637 Cell
- About SCRRF:

The Southern California Robotics Regional Forum is a nonprofit association formed by *FIRST* robotics teams in Southern California. Originating in Chatsworth, the Forum was formed after the 2001 *FIRST* Robotics season in the spirit of sharing and helping in the *FIRST* community. It is the goal of SCRRF to provide a way for Southern California teams, both rookies and veterans, to get help and to share opinions so that the

experience can be improved for everyone. SCRRF hosts the Fall Classic and Pre-Ship Scrimmage as well as various workshops to help teams prepare for upcoming competitions. Beside the events and workshops, teams in SCRRF have formed a sense of *FIRST* community, making their experience so much more enjoyable.

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FTC



For additional information please contact
 Suparna Mukherjee at
suparna.mukherjee@jpl.nasa.gov

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Volunteers for FIRST Events can register in VIMS.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in volunteering for our regional events they need to register in the FIRST Volunteer System at <https://my.usfirst.org/vims/logon.lasso?page=logon>

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Vex World Championship Dallas, TX
 April 22-24, 2010.

Ralph Mills will be your best source for information. ralphmills@aol.com

You can also find additional information at www.robotevents.com

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**Upcoming Events
 Spring 2010**

- Chairman’s Woodie Flower’s and Website Award submissions due February 18, 2010.
- Annual Robot Blessing Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angeles Sunday, February 21, 2010 9:00am (*Not a FIRST event.*)
- L A Pre Ship Scrimmage Sunday, February 21, 2010 Harvey Mudd College.
- San Diego Regional FRC March 4-6, 2010
- FRC Los Angeles Regional Long Beach Convention Center March 25-27, 2010
- Hawaii Regional Stan Sheriff Center March 25-27, 2010
- *FIRST* Championship Event Georgia Dome Atlanta Georgia April 15-17, 2010



If you have news that I can share with the *FIRST* teams you are welcome and encouraged to send it to me.

If you would like to write on a particular topic I am happy to provide space in this newsletter.

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**FREE Shipping
on VEX Robotics!***

VISUCATE



*Purchase \$250 or more and receive FREE shipping. For details:

1-800-511-8022

sales@visucate.com

www.visucate.com/vex

Reminder # 1: Get all of your shipping documents in order prior to ship day.

Reminder # 2 Team Update 10 is out. Make sure that all team members are up to date.

Reminder #3 If you team is not competing week 1 come down to San Diego and cheer for the teams that are playing. It is also great for local rookie teams to see an event first hand before competing down in Long Beach week 4.

Reminder # 4: Hopefully many of you can take off the weekend after shipping.

-Nancy McIntyre
FIRST Senior Mentor- Los Angeles
nmcintyre@chaminade.org