



Hi Everyone,

*A huge thank you to Larry Lim and his crew from USC for again hosting our local kickoff. From breakfast to the kit distribution it was first class all the way. We had 60 teams in attendance and everyone is very appreciative.*

*Now that we are off an running I will do my best to get a newsletter out weekly.*

Happy Week 1!

-Nancy Mc

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**Wanted:**

*Engineers for the Buckley School Team 1661*

*This year they had more students sign up to be part of the project than they anticipated and need some additional assistance.*

*They are located Sherman Oaks and are working after school*

*Mondays- Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:30.*

*Contact Kathy Griffis at [kgriffis@buckley.org](mailto:kgriffis@buckley.org)*

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**Help Offered:**

Michael Teitel from Haas Automation and his team are offering assistance to teams in the Ventura area. Contact them directly at [mteitel@haascnc.com](mailto:mteitel@haascnc.com)

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**Attention Rookie Teams:**

10 teams have signed up to take part in the Kit Bot Day being sponsored by Team 3295 - Poly Techs on Jan 15th 830AM-300PM in

Riverside, CA.

They will have experts from around Southern California to work with the rookie teams to build a working robot from your Kit of Parts. Experts will lead your team through Frame and Drive Train assembly, Electronics mounting and wiring, and Programming. By the end of the day each team will have built their own working robot.

Lunch will be available for purchase. There will also be some tools and material available.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask!

Rick Sisk  
FIRST Senior Mentor - Southern California  
FIRST Team 2493: Robokong - Programming Mentor

**(951) 530-3526**

<http://www.usfirst.org>

**AutoDesk**

Starting **Monday, January 10**, you can access the 2011 season Kit of Parts designed in Autodesk Inventor Professional 2011 through the section of Autodesk's Education Community dedicated to *FIRST*, as well as access over 30 FREE software products by visiting [www.autodesk.com/first](http://www.autodesk.com/first).

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**PTC**

The Product Development Company, has modeled the 2011 FRC Kit of Parts in Creo Elements/Pro (formerly called Pro/ENGINEER) and has made it easily accessible through Catalog Data Solutions' CAD library. Thank you to Catalog Data Solutions for donating the storage of these models!

**Visit [www.ptc.com/go/firstkop](http://www.ptc.com/go/firstkop) to access the 2011 CAD Library!**

As a Crown Supplier to the FRC program, PTC is offering the following software tools to all teams for FREE:

- Windchill for team collaboration

(hosted by PTC)

- Creo Elements/Pro (formerly called Pro/ENGINEER) for creating CAD models of your robot
- Creo Elements/View (formerly called Productview) for visualizing your robot designs
- Mathcad for documenting your engineering calculations



The Pre Ship Scrimmage will be at Harvey Mudd on Feb 20th, starting at 8am. Rookie teams are highly encouraged to attend. As usual we will be offering courtesy inspections. This is also a great place for teams that have no room to run their robot to find out just what it will do. I am looking for a scale suitable for robot weighing that we can borrow.

Christopher H Husmann, PE  
 Tool Design Stress Analyst  
 Northrop Grumman - Aerospace Systems  
 2P61/ES1  
 310 331-6758

There is an achieve of this newsletter is posted at <http://larobotics.org/SeniorMentorNewsletters.html> should you need to see it again for reference or to share it with someone else.

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**FRC Manual Q & A System:** *FIRST* recognizes that teams may have questions about game rules, robot construction, event logistics, and more. *FIRST* asks that teams use the Question & Answer System (Q&A) on the *FIRST* Forums to post questions pertaining to a

specific section within the [2011 FRC Game Manual](#). Your posted questions will be reviewed by the appropriate moderator and answered in a timely manner (usually within 2-3 business days). The 2011 Question & Answer System, <http://forums.usfirst.org/>, will go live on the *FIRST* Forums Wednesday, January 12th at Noon EST.

**Don't forget to take inventory of your Kit of Parts (KoP) after Kickoff:** After receiving and checking all items in your Kit of Parts (KOP), should you determine you are missing a part(s), or need a replacement part(s) you must use the *FIRST* "Replacement Parts Request" system to order replacements.

Parts requests will be handled through this online system only.

The Replacement Parts Request system will be accessible via the [Team Information Management System \(TIMS\)](#) at noon (Eastern Time) on Saturday, January 8.

To begin the process of submitting a Replacement Parts Request, team Main or Alternate contacts will:

Login to TIMS

On the right side of the Team Summary page, under the "What's New" header, click on the link to "Submit a Replacement Parts Request HERE"

Follow TIMS instructions to complete a Replacement Parts Request

**VERY IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!!**

This is a "one time only" opportunity to submit a Replacement Parts Request. Please make sure your request is both accurate and complete prior to pressing the "Confirm

Request" button. **FIRST Choice opens Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**: The *FIRST* Choice system will open next Monday for "window shopping." Teams will not be able to select/order parts until after Kickoff. For more information about the ordering process, please visit:

<http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/content.aspx?id=18619>.

The *FIRST*<sup>®</sup>Green e-watt saver ordering Web site is also now live.

Instructions to create an account for your U.S.-based FRC or FTC teams are available to download on the *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> Green e-watt saver resources page.

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The LARFLL events page has been updated (<http://fl.larobotics.org/Events.html>) and the FLL Team Registration

LeRoy Nelson is the partner in Los Angeles  
[LeRoyNelson@earthlink.net](mailto:LeRoyNelson@earthlink.net)

Lynn Crockett is the partner in San Diego  
[Lynn.Crockett@LEGOLAND.com](mailto:Lynn.Crockett@LEGOLAND.com)

Sara Tamayose is the partner in Hawaii  
[stamayose@gmail.com](mailto:stamayose@gmail.com)

<http://www.hawaiiifll.org/>

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Los Angeles Partner Suparna Mukherjee  
[suparna.mukherjee@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:suparna.mukherjee@jpl.nasa.gov)

San Diego Partner John Brooks  
[jbrooks6@att.net](mailto:jbrooks6@att.net)

San Diego Partner Marion Brooks  
[manybrooks@att.net](mailto:manybrooks@att.net)

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The details for 2011 Robotics and Education Foundation (RECF) Online Challenges have now available at RobotEvents.com

at <http://forum.robotevents.com/design/>.

Mixing successful ideas from the past two years with new challenges and interesting twists, we are proud to release this year's events. We are also pleased to announce that EMC Corporation is joining last year's sponsors, Autodesk, the FUTURE Foundation, and VEX Robotics. EMC Corporation is sponsoring the robotics team Website Design Challenge. The complete list of this year's challenges:

- Autodesk<sup>®</sup> Inventor<sup>®</sup> 2011 Digital Prototyping Challenge
- EMC Corporation Robotics Team/Club Website Challenge
- FUTURE Foundation Design Challenge
- VEX<sup>®</sup> Robotics Design a Game Animation Challenge
- VRC Promote Award
- RECF Team Educational Video Challenge
- VEX<sup>®</sup> Robotics Essay Challenge

Admissions are open now, so start working!

All the specific details and information can be found at <http://forum.robotevents.com/design>.

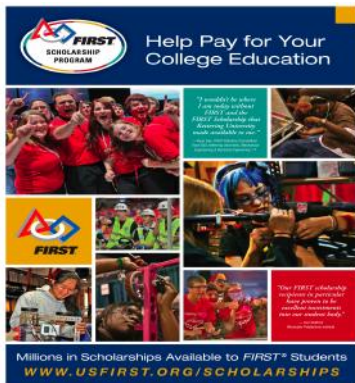
If you have any questions about the challenges, post them on the Online Challenge forum at <http://www.vexforum.com/forumdisplay.php?f=352>.

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Verbum Dei has offered me the use of their school for a Sunday afternoon Scholarship meeting. I will post the date and time as soon as I have the details all worked out.

Many colleges and universities, professional associations, and corporations offer college scholarships to high school students on *FIRST* teams. This is official recognition of the knowledge and technical and life skills these students have gained from participating in a *FIRST* competition. For 2011, over **128 scholarship providers** are making available over **853 individual scholarship opportunities** with a total value of over **\$14 Million!**



Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
School Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

### Make this Poster Visible to Students

Post in Math Room

- Post in Science Classrooms
- Post in Team Workspace
- Post in Guidance Office
- Post in Cafeteria
- Post in Activities Office
- Post in Computer Lab

The link is available on the *FIRST* Scholarship page.

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If your team is looking to do some traveling this spring you may want to consider working with a travel agent. Below is information on one agency that I worked with while my team traveled to New Zealand in November. It was nice to have someone to help with all of the details.

Travel planning that is easy and fun, and an experience that is exceptional - that is what we do best at Litwin Travel! Litwin Travel is a member of Virtuoso, the leading travel network made up of an exclusive group of the top 2% of agencies worldwide. By working with us to plan your next journey you will gain a valuable edge through our worldwide connections, unparalleled expertise, and passion to give you the best quality and service for your travel dollar. There is no doubt we save our clients a great deal of time and money, but as your travel memories are priceless we can create an amazing weekend celebration get away or a customized trip of a lifetime. With over 30 years of experience and extensive relationships in the travel industry, Litwin Travel is certainly an agency you can trust! Give us a call to make your next trip exceptional! Marti Litwin can be reached directly at 805-529-2126 or martilitwin@yahoo.com.



MATE Underwater Robotics Program

This year's competition theme highlights the role that ROVs play in the offshore oil and gas industry and focuses on the challenges that

they faced during the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. The mission tasks include removing a damaged riser pipe, capping a wellhead, collecting a water sample, measuring depth, and sampling organisms.

2011 marks the 10th year of international competition. The event is being hosted by the Neutral Buoyancy Lab (NBL) at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas June 16 – 18, 2011.

The competition announcements have been made public:  
[http://www.materover.org/main/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=117&Itemid=171](http://www.materover.org/main/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=117&Itemid=171)

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**Summer Plans**

The Educating Girls about Engineering (EdGE) program is designed for women who have interests in science and design and are exploring career options. It is a two-week (July 10-22, 2011) residential workshop, where students learn about engineering through hands-on activities, design projects, and tours of local companies. It is both a high quality enrichment experience and a technical career exploration opportunity.

More details about the EdGE workshop can be found in the brochure that is enclosed, as well as the EdGE web page.

<http://engineering.union.edu/edge/>

Please distribute as you see fit to students and mention the opportunity to those who might benefit and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Best regards,  
Cherrice Traver  
Dean of Engineering  
traverc@union.edu

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Upcoming Events:

Rookie Kit Build Saturday February 15, 2011

FRC Pre Ship Scrimmage February 20, 2011  
Harvey Mudd to host.

San Diego FRC Regional March 10-12, 2011

Los Angeles FRC Regional March 24-26, 2011

Hawaii FRC Regional March 24-26, 2011

VEX World Championship Walt Disney World  
April 14-16, 2011

FIRST Championship St. Louis April 27-30, 2011

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Resources:

FIRST [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org)

ANDYMARK <http://www.andymark.com>

VEX PRO  
<http://www.vexrobotics.com/products/vexpro/>

VEX [www.vexrobotics.com](http://www.vexrobotics.com)

Robotevents [www.robotevents.com](http://www.robotevents.com)

Carnegie Mellon Curriculum  
<http://www.education.rec.ri.cmu.edu/roboticscurriculum/index.html>

ROC <http://www.hawaiiroc.org/>

Autodesk Student Community  
<http://students.autodesk.com/>

Robot Magazine <http://www.botmag.com/>

Chief Delphi  
<http://www.chiefdelphi.com/forums/index.php>

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## Grants and Fund Raising Ideas:

The *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> Green e-watt saver ordering Web site is also now live.

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### **Quote for the week:**

"The beginning is the most important part of the work." - Plato

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### **Reminders:**

1. Have you inventoried your kit?
2. Have you and your team read all of the rules?
3. Have you ordered your supplies from FIRST Choice?

-Nancy Mc  
*FUTURE Founding Board Member*

*(My school e-mail is still the best way to reach me during the academic year.)*

[nmcintyre@chaminade.org](mailto:nmcintyre@chaminade.org)  
[nancy@futurefound.org](mailto:nancy@futurefound.org)