



Senior Mentor Report September 21, 2009

Greetings,

We are now in full gear with FLL and FTC up and going for the fall and events for FRC coming soon. With fall only a day way FRC Kickoff 2010 can't be far behind. It is hard to believe that this will be our 9th year with a regional event in the Los Angeles area. We have come a long way since that initial event at the Sports Arena. If any of you has a great impact story about FIRST would you please share it with me? I would like to be able to forward them on to Jim Beck the Regional Director.

All my best,

-Nancy Mc

FIRST Senior Mentor Los Angeles

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LeRoy Nelson, the Operational Partner for Los Angeles Region *FIRST* LEGO League, is having trouble finding a venue large enough for this year's FLL Championship Tournament for 36 teams of enthusiastic 9-14 year old students on a Saturday or Sunday in mid December or mid January. The FLL program has a different scientific theme each year; this year the theme is **Smart Move: Transforming Transportation**. The event includes a robotics competition and presentations of research projects with proposed solutions to local transportation problems. Teams are judged on Robot Performance, Robot Design, Project Presentation and Teamwork.

LeRoy is asking all high school robotics teams to let him know if their high schools or any other facilities in Los Angeles County might be able to host the FLL Championship on a weekend in mid December or mid January. The FLL Championship needs the following facilities close together:

- Parking for 144 cars
- A gym with bleachers or an auditorium/theater that can hold 720 people for the opening and closing ceremonies and 360 people for the Robot Performance competition. For an auditorium, the stage area would need to be at least 48'x24' to hold the competition fields, but 72'x24' or 48'x40' would work better.
- Other rooms with 4,000 sq. ft. of space or 8-9 classrooms for 36 team pit areas and 8-9 practice field tables. A classroom with 30 student desks can hold 4 team pit areas plus a practice field table. A classroom with 36 student desks can hold 5 team pit areas plus a practice field table.
- Quiet spaces for 9 judging areas, each at least 16'x16', preferably in separate rooms
- Dining room/meeting room for 18 judges and 6 referees.
- Space for 720 people to buy and eat snacks and lunch

Preferred weekend event dates:

Dec. 19

Dec. 12 or 13

Jan. 16 or 17

Jan. 23 or 24

Event Schedule:

Setup takes 4-6 hours, preferably the previous evening

Event runs from 8 AM to 4 PM

Clean up takes 2-3 hours

The Los Angeles Region FLL Championship is sponsored by a grant from Rockwell Collins and by the Southern California Regional Robotics Forum, your all-volunteer nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Los Angeles Region FLL supports approximately 160 FLL teams in

four Southern California counties: Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo.

Please contact LeRoy Nelson at 310-937-7226 or LeRoy@LARobotics.org. See FLL.LARobotics.org for additional information about the Los Angeles Region FLL program.



Annual Fall Classic

The Fall Classic was held in two gymnasiums on the John Muir High School campus courtesy of the Pasadena Unified School District. PUSD superintendent Edwin Diaz was impressed at the effort put forth by the teams and the enthusiasm of the event. The game announcer, David Seidel (JPL) provided spectators with colorful descriptions of the teams and action on the field. Dan Swando served as our DJ and kept the energy level high throughout the event. The referee corps was led by Lauren Halatek (JPL), with AJ Yeckel (Energy Innovations), LeRoy Nelson (LA FLL coordinator) and Chris Gilmore (JPL) observing the action. The field was managed by Terry Wells (Xerox), operated by Ryan Epperson (WRRF), and assisted by queuing lead Ric Roberts (Raytheon). Co-hosts were Team 980 and 2404 with David Brinza (JPL) serving as event manager. Teams 980, 2404, 1323 and 2493 assisted in field set-up and tear-down. The field management system was provided by the WRRF. Finally SCRRF, led by Chris Husmann (Northrop Grumman), was the event sponsor, furnishing the field structure, pit power distribution and other logistics support. Thanks to all who participated and helped make the 2009 SCRRF Fall Classic most certainly a hot event!

We had 14 teams with 15 robots attending. We started with several 2v2 practice rounds to get everybody back into the swing of things.

Practice rounds were first come first served so teams that were prepared ran several times while others who were having trouble getting going could fix whatever needed to be fixed. All robots took the field at least once during practice.

Around 11 am the Qualification rounds began and ran until about 4 pm. The competition was fierce with several rounds that scored over 100 points. Everybody got to play 8 matches. It was practically guaranteed that you would play with or against everybody at least once. Only one robot was damaged seriously. We were Beta testing WRRF's Field Management System and it worked flawlessly. The biggest delay was for some field damage and lasted 4 minutes. Our announcer Dave Seidel, who announces for the Regional, kept up a constant stream of color commentary.

Eliminations began around 4:15 and were over by 5:30. Awards were done by 6pm and the field loaded on the truck by 7pm. Many thanks to the Torbots for helping get the field back into storage after the trip home. Your many hands indeed made light work.

Here are the results and various awards:

Alliances:

- 1 - 973 968 1160
 - 2 - 1538 399 980
 - 3 - 597 330 1197
 - 4 - 702 4973 2404
- Backup: 1323, 1070, 2493

1 beats 4 in three matches
50-78, 96-40, 84-58

2 beats 3 in two matches
102-34, 77-62

2 beats 1 in finals in two matches
56-72, 56-66

4973 is 973's practice robot

Team Spirit = 2404
Most Creative Robot = 330
Highest Quality Robot = 968
Most Effective Design = 399
Peer Favorite Robot = 973
Judges' Award = 1538

A thank you to Mark Epperson and his help in setting up the field control system. The Field Management System provided by WRRF was brought from the Bay Area by WRRF BOD members and Ryan Epperson, along with trailers and outposts from NASA." Also, maybe somewhere show Western Region Robotics Forum

San Diego Organizing Committee to Host the Fall Workshops for 2009

The Fall Workshop is scheduled for Saturday Nov 7, 2009. The location will be at Escondido Charter High School. This is a "Save the date" message. As soon as more information is available I will be glad to provide you with updates.

Notes From Manchester:



The *FIRST* Senior Mentors are pleased to announce they will be hosting the second in a series of important teleconference calls for FRC Team Mentors this coming Tuesday, September 22, at 7 pm EST.

FRC Mentor Orientation 102, **Choosing a Competition**, provides useful guidelines and tips and suggestions for successful planning and travel.

All team mentors are welcome. The call in number is 1-800-503-2899. The Access number is 6663906.

We will have 150 lines available, so lines are on a "first come, first served" basis. The call will also be recorded and available for replay.

FIRST Senior Mentor FRC New Mentor Training Call.

Call Topic

FRC Mentor Orientation 102, Choosing a Competition

Hosted By

FIRST Senior Mentors Kathie Kentfield, CT. and Senior Volunteer Jenny Beatty

When

Tuesday, September 22, 2009, 7pm EST – 8pm EST

How:

1-800-503-2899
Access code – 6663906

Areas of Content:

Tips and Suggestions for Successful Planning and Travel
Now that you have a team established, where can you compete?
Deciding where to go
Who Decides - Options
Where and When to Register
Additional Resources



Ideas for Securing Funds

Boeing/*FIRST* robotics team grant applications begin Monday

Again this year, Boeing will provide up to 100 grants to teams of high school students, with company employees as mentors, that are seeking to compete in a robotics contest

arranged by FIRST. This is the second year of the company's national, multi-year partnership with FIRST to encourage emerging talent in science, technology, engineering and math among high school students.



We are pleased to announce that USC will again host kickoff and Kit pick up on January 9, 2010. More will follow as the date approaches.



FIRST Scholarships



Harvey Mudd College has joined the FIRST Scholarship Program and will be providing a FIRST Scholarship for 2010. Their scholarship is for \$10,000/year (renewable up to \$40,000) for 1 high school senior majoring in any course of study. This is a merit scholarship, and preference will be given to students traditionally underrepresented in the STEM fields. You will be able to view the listing for this scholarship on our website early next week at

<http://www.usfirst.org/scholarshipsearch.aspx>.



For information on local events please contact:

Suparna Mukherjee
Los Angeles FTC Affiliate Partner
FTC@losangelesFIRST.info



Boeing mentors for both new and existing teams are encouraged to apply for a grant starting Monday through Oct. 26 using the application available on the FIRST@Boeing Web site. Applications will be reviewed by a committee with employee representatives from each region. Applicants will be notified of decisions in mid-November.

To qualify for a grant, a team must have a Boeing employee as a mentor. The grants will cover the standard robotics parts kit and team registration for one regional competition during the 2010 season.

During their mentorship, Boeing employees will help a high school team solve a common problem within a six-week time frame by using a standard "kit of parts" and a common set of rules.

Boeing team grants do not cover registration costs for the FRC Championship Event or the cost of team travel to regional and national events. Contact Rhonda Beason-Jordan for questions not addressed in the Frequently Asked Questions section of the FIRST@Boeing Web site.

The Boeing Company's partnership with FIRST is supported by Global Corporate Citizenship, University Relations and Engineering, Operations & Technology in the form of team grants, scholarships and funding for underserved and under-resourced communities.



Kickoff 2010



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

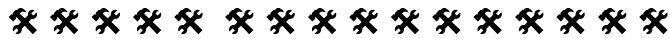
I Know Many FRC Teams also Play Vex

With so many teams involved in multiple platforms I am glad to provide competition information to support your school programs
Ralph Mills will be your best source for information. ralphmills@aol.com

The game for 2009 2010 is Clean Sweep and can be found at www.vexrobotics.com

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

CSUN Vex Regional Saturday, December 12, 2009



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.



Reminder # 1 Have you updated your team profile on TIMS?

Reminder # 2 Have you planned out your funding options for the year?

Reminder #3 Have you reached out to help start a new team?

“Energy and persistence conquer all things.”
-Benjamin Franklin