



Senior Mentor Report January 11, 2010

Hi Everyone,

The flight clock is off and running and we are at kickoff plus two days and if your teams are like mine the kids and engineers are all pumped up. The kit parts is all over my room, inventoried, but all over my room. A bump has been built and we have been kicking soccer balls all over the parking lot. It should prove to be a fun build season. We have been looking at the CAD parts in Inventor and designing our team button for the year.

We enjoyed spending Saturday with the team from Loyola and wish them the best of luck this season.

✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂



*To Larry Lim and his crew from the
School of Engineering:*

*Thank you for not only opening up
the university for our broadcast, serving
us breakfast, making sure that all of our
parts arrived, and for getting all of us
our stuff quickly and efficiently so we
could catch up with the rest of our
teams back at our schools and start off
our build season.*

Fight On SC, Fight On!

Don't forget to check in your Kit of Parts!

See the Competition Manual for details. This is your only way to correct a situation of missing items. The photos are very helpful. Work with only one box at a time, and do not let the kids move the stuff until everything is checked.

Replacement Parts Request Procedure

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 9 until January 13, 2010.

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

- Log into 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.

Once the request is submitted and confirmed there can be no changes to it.

Replacement Parts Requests will be processed and shipped to teams in a timely manner. Please make sure your Shipping Contact information is accurate and complete in TIMS as this is to whom the parts will be shipped.

Please note the system will not allow teams to request a quantity of parts higher than the number originally sent with the KOP. This system is also not to be used to order additional or purchased parts.

Deadline Date and Time

All requests must be placed by 11:59 pm (Eastern Time) on Wednesday, January 13, 2010.

Event Payment

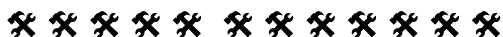


A final reminder that payment for a second regional is due to FIRST by January 15, 2010. Contact the finance department for details.



2010 FIRST Consent and Release Form

(Needed prior to all competition participation by all team members.) We also want to let you know the 2009-2010 Consent and Release form is now posted at: For full details about the FIRST Student Team Members and Parent/Legal Guardians Information System/Electronic Consent and Release Form please visit <http://usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/content.aspx?id=8128> . If you have any questions regarding this new system, do not hesitate to contact us at frcteammembers@usfirst.org



FIRST Scholarships

2010 FIRST Scholarships at www.usfirst.org/scholarships



Ideas for securing funds

✓ **HEXBUG Fundraising**

We know one of the biggest obstacles facing many schools and teams trying to participate in high end technology competitions is the financial cost and required fundraising. HEXBUG provides students with something new, interesting and different from typical fundraisers and will give your students a fun and exciting product to offer. We want your fundraising efforts to be successful and hope the innovative and fun HEXBUG will help your



team achieve its goals. We wish you and your team all the best for the upcoming season.

- ✓ Also do not forget that all of those bottles add up during build session lunches and dinners. Recycle!



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
 - o *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) team or
 - o *FIRST* Tech Challenge (FTC) team or
 - o 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

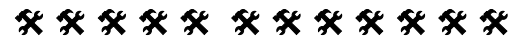
1457 3rd Street (310) 937-7226 Home office

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.



Pre-Ship Scrimmage,
Sunday, February 21, 2010.

SCRRF is looking for teams to help with building field structures for the Pre-Ship Scrimmage. We are looking for four teams. Two teams to build towers and one half of one bump, and the other

two to build half bumps. SCRRF will provide carpet and reimburse selected teams for the construction materials. The teams are free to use the elements they have constructed for practice before and after the Scrimmage. They will be responsible to make sure the elements they build are delivered to Harvey Mudd in time for the Scrimmage and for taking them home afterwards.

It is also expected that the elements built with SCRRF funds be made available for off-season competitions after the LA Regional and to other area teams that would like to test their robots during Build Season. Such availability can be negotiated by the teams involved.

If you are interested in finding out more please contact Chris Husmann (310) 749-7265, chusmann@earthlink.net or chris.husmann@ngc.com

 FTC



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

Calling All Team Mentors:

All mentors can be recognized by FIRST if they are listed in TIMS. The team lead contact will have more information for you.

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>



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

**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.



Lets Nominate One of Our Own

One of our robotics folks in Hawaii, Jeff Piontek has been selected to be one of the five finalists for the keynote at the largest educational technology conference in the world. There are five of people that are nominated and now it is up to the public to vote for the speaker.

That said I have attached the link and ask that you vote (preferably for Jeff) and thank you for all you do on behalf of our children and our future.

http://www.iste.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Membership/Member_Campaigns/ISTE2010KeynoteProject/ISTE_2010_Keynote_Project.htm

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www.visucate.com/vex

Reminder # 1: Don't forget to be on the lookout for the team updates and share the information with everyone on your team.

Reminder # 2 Rookie teams don't forget that you will also need to construct a crate to ship your robot.

Reminder #3 We can now also program in JAVA this year.

Reminder # 4: Be careful when testing kicking portions of your robot. We did our testing on the weekend in an empty parking lot with everyone behind the device.

*"All the so-called "secrets of success" will not work unless you do."
 ~Author Unknown*

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