Team 5511

Issue 2

January 2015

Cortechs Robotics: Monthly Newsletter

2015 Competition Release

On the 3rd of January, we traveled to East Carolina State University (ECU) for the annual FRC challenge release. This day marks the beginning of our 6-week build season. The team was so excited to learn what the 2015 challenge would be! FRC teams from around the world will be spending the next 6 weeks prototyping, designing, and manufacturing robots to best complete the given challenge. After a lot of build up, FIRST finally released the game details: Recycle Rush.

RECYCLE RUSH is a recycling-themed game played by two Alliances of three robots each. Robots score points by stacking totes on scoring platforms, capping those stacks with recycling containers, and properly disposing of pool noodles, representing litter.

Using chains, sprockets, aluminum, gears, polycarbonates, and other build materials, we will engineer a competing robot. We could not be more excited for our rookie year.

The game animation which contains more information can be found at the link below.

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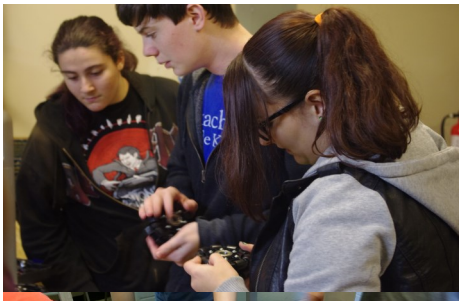
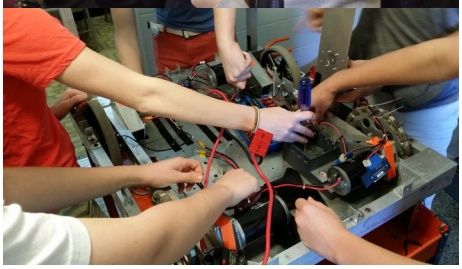
Other Team Achievements:

As we strive to promote and aid other local FIRST teams, we have created a forum titled "the Rookie Alliance." The purpose of the forum is to connect local rookie teams with veterans. This will facilitated quick question and answer conversation. The forum should further the success of first year teams. The forum can be found at: www.NCRookieAlliance.com.

Planning & Building





Just like every other FRC team, one of our team's biggest challenges throughout the course of the season is the planning and constructing of our robot. After kick-off, we began the first step in the process: design and prototype.

As we incorporate Agile Methodology, providing real-world experience to members, into our practices, the designing and prototype process started in an efficient an effective way. First, the team created a unique plan as to how we would go about the challenge. Once this plan was created, the team started working on ideas as to how to achieve all that we wanted to do. This stage was very tedious. We held a focus group, inviting industry engineering professionals, to critique and collaborate on concepts of design.

After countless arguments and hours, we finally had a decision as to the design of our robot and were ready to start building. Once the essential parts of our design arrived, we put on our safety glasses and got to work. In no time, we had the chassis built and racing around our build space. We still had much to do though so we split into groups and collaboratively worked on different aspects of the robot.

Today, we are coming close to the end of our build stage and then we will move to polishing up the robot. We will make it's motions more fluid and….add a little bit of style. The countdown to stop day (February 17th) begins!

2015 FRC Game:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTyCIYZQ_1s

Connect With Us:

www.Cortechsrobotics.com

@CortechsFRC

Sponsorship & Grants

In the beginning of the season, the team set a fundraising goal of $12,000. In the past month we, as a team, have successfully raised our target! Thanks to our fantastic supporters, we are able to purchase tools and parts. These funds have come through many local businesses as well as cooperate sponsors, both of which have had a tremendous impact on our teams success throughout build season.

Some of our sponsorships that we have acquired this month are Martin Marietta, Advantage Computer, United Therapeutics Cooperation, and Gamma Technologies. We are forever grateful!