

TEAM 1718

KNOCKOUT NEWS

THE LATEST FROM THE FIGHTING PI



Volume 10 Issue 15 December 2017

Welcome back to the Knockout News!

A BUSY SUMMER/FALL FOR THE PI

UPCOMING EVENTS

2018 FRC Kickoff

Don't miss the 2018 season kickoff. Meet in the academy gallery at 9:00 on Saturday, Jan 6, 2018

Team Meetings

Team meetings will be held every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. also on Saturdays from 9:00 to 3:00 p.m. If you are unable to attend please contact Mr. Roys in advance.

1st District Comp

Gibraltar District, March 1-3 at Oscar A. Carlson HS, Gibraltar, MI

2nd District Comp

Marysville District, April 5-7 at Marysville HS, Marysville, MI

Team Meals

Parents/mentors, please sign up to host team meals during the build season as parent groups or individuals. Your support in this fashion is greatly appreciated! Go to "Sign Up Genius" and look up "Robotics Meeting Meals"

This summer and fall The Fighting Pi team members participated in numerous off season events. Here are just some of the reports from our student project leaders:

Road and Trail Cleanups

Hannah Schmalzel reports that the May 22 road and trail cleanup was completed quite quickly with ten students and two parents assisting.

Inaugural MAC Conference

Alumni, Frank Ferrari reports that eight Pi team members and two Pi mentors along with a parent went to Lansing on Tuesday, May 30 to advocate for continued monetary support of Michigan FIRST programs. This inaugural Michigan Advocacy Conference event was arranged and hosted by Fighting Pi student members Frank Ferrari and Ethan Vanlerberghe. Four other area teams joined us in this event with our team contacting and briefing two state representatives and a state senator about the importance of supporting all FIRST programs. The team plans to host another Michigan Advocacy conference in October, 2018. this was a great opportunity for students to get a first hand look at government and to interrelate/advocate with our state representatives.

Team Awards Banquet

On June 1 The Fighting Pi held their annual team awards banquet. In addition to team members being recognized in a number of categories and students presenting awards to mentors, Nathan DeBons and Scott Jacobs were presented certificates as new

mentors while Trevor Goolsby was the new Hall of Fame inductee and Alex Coubard won the annual scholarship award. 92 year old Special Forces veteran Herman Kasoff was the guest speaker

Weingartz Hot Dog Fundraiser

Lauren Clemons reports that eight team members and seven parents had fun selling hotdogs at Weingartz in Utica on June 3 to help offset costs for three of our team members who will attend the National Advocacy Conference in Washington D.C. on June 25-27. our team members will meet with other teams and then advocate for national support for FIRST programs with our U.S. congressmen and senators.

Pi on NEMCtv6

On June 12 local NEMCtv channel 6 released a video produced for their weekly Focus program based on The Fighting Pi team and their accomplishments this past year. Featured in the presentation were our Chairman's Award presenters, Frank Ferrari, Tiffany Lain and Ethan Vanlerberghe along with build team supervisor Liam Bradford and controls captain Riley Jacob. One of our mentors, Becki Brice served as the moderator. The video can be brought up on YouTube at: "NEMCtv6 FOCUS PROGRAM FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION TEAM 1718 (05-2017)"

Team Picnic

On June 21 a majority of team members, mentors and parents attended a team picnic most graciously hosted by mentor, Susan Schember and the Schember family.

School Board Presentation

Ethan Vanlerberghe reports that eight of our team with six mentors presented this year's team results to the Armada School Board on June 20. This was a chance for the team to "gloat" about their eighth consecutive district Chairman's Award and their very first State Chairman's Award of which the team is very proud. The accomplishments demonstrate to the very supportive school board that the hard work has paid off. The Fighting Pi is only one of ten teams out of the 450 state teams to compete at the state level for all nine years of this regional competition and go on to compete at the world level for the past eight consecutive years.

Michigan Advanced Robotics

On June 23-24 Pi competed in the off season Michigan Advanced Robotics Competition in Monroe, Michigan with the robot posting a 6-4 record seeding 9th, chosen by the 5th seed and losing in quarter-finals. The team won a special Gracious Professionalism award.

MDA Camp

On June 26 Alex Lanni reports that twelve members of the Pi went to the Camp Cavell annual Muscular Dystrophy camp for kids to demo the 2013 robot and let other campers drive the bridge bot. The camp is located just outside Lexington, MI and four parent/mentors escorted the students. Various activities are sponsored by the camp and Pi have become regular yearly visitors to this event. Campers were also able to make buttons with our button maker to fill time between events.

Pi Hosts Two FLL Camps

On June 28 and July 12, members of The Fighting Pi hosted two half day FLL camps where later elementary students were introduced to what is involved in joining an FLL team. Elementary students participated in team building challenges, programming and robot design demonstrations as well as getting to design their own prototype robots with LEGOs. Each student received a completion certificate and small LEGO set at the end of each session.

Starbase at Selfridge ANGB

On June 30 Pi Tony Romero reports that three Pi team members and mentor Rich Wahl with parent Mrs. Grobel, took this year's robot to Selfridge for a presentation to two 5th/6th grade classes as part of the week long Starbase program that Selfridge hosts each year to interest young students in STEM careers.

Bottle and Can Drive

Team 1718 held a bottle and can drive to help fund our annual Infinite Possibilities grants. Over \$300 was raised over the 4th of July holiday collection. A team challenge has been put out for all students, mentors and parents to collect bottles and cans up to the January 6 season "kickoff" to see if we can fund more multiple grants. Each year \$500 grants are given to struggling 2nd and 3rd year FRC teams to help them sustain their FRC robotics programs.

Armada Library Robot Demo

On July 18 and 20 Dylan Clemons reports that a collective of 30 kids ranging from 1st to 9th grade were presented on aspects of FLL and FIRST Robotics at the Armada Public Library for around 1½ hours each day. We displayed an NZXT robot as well as explained and demonstrated the FLL game from the past year. Following this, we engaged kids in team-building and communication exercises involving the creation of LEGO structures that either had to be recreated by another team through explanation or complete the task of traveling the furthest down a ramp. Kids were excited to utilize their imaginations and work together with their peers. Mrs. Brice, assisted four PI members with the presentation.

Adopt-A-Trail Cleanup

On July 25 Josh Schember reports that along with brother Zach and Mom Schember the Orchard trail was once again walked for its annual summer cleanup Pi members walk the trail three times each year to pick up trash and contact the Macomb County Road Commission for trash pickup.

Detroit Maker Faire

Dylan Clemons reports that on Saturday, July 29th, and Sunday, July 30th, Lauren Clemons, Paige Drob, Alex Lanni, Nolan Wisneski, Tony Romero, Josh Schember, and Jon Mabbit participated in the Maker Faire demos consisting of multiple FIRST Teams at the Henry Ford Museum. The event was mentored by Vic Lanni, Jeanine Coubard, Vince Messina, and Holly Romero. As part of the demonstrations, our team was active in simulating matches similar to that of this past year's game. We competed alongside and against many other teams in the area to show the fairgoers what FIRST is all about. Also, we drove the Bridge Bot around while passing out flyers to raise awareness for FIRST in our local area. During the matches, some of the members went into the crowd of spectators to answer any of the questions they may have had. All in all, Maker Faire has continued to be an engaging and influential event that has spread the word of FIRST to parents and kids alike.

Armada Fair Demo

On August 13 about a dozen team members helped set up our field, robots and presentation area in barn #2 at the Armada Fair. Throughout the week team members answered fair attendee questions and demonstrated our robot. This year we were joined by Richmond team 4130, New Haven Merritt Academy team 6120 and Yale team 6344. The assistance by other teams allows our team members to also support the Richmond Rotary and the Armada Lions food booths. The demonstration of robots always draws interested onlookers and children who may be getting their first taste of what STEM is all about.

Selfridge Air Show Robot Demo

On August 19-20 several mentors and Team 1718 students demoed a robot and answered questions about FIRST at the semi-annual Selfridge ANGB air show. No further details were available at this printing.

Rotary Certificate Presentation

On August 22 Trevor Goretski along with Mentor Wahl attended the weekly Richmond Rotary luncheon in Richmond and presented them with their appreciation certificate and a team picture. Members were very appreciative of our continued support of their food booth at the Armada Fair and were also interested in how our former alumni and now college graduates have fared. Their annual support goes back to 2010 (and they always serve a great lunch).

Chairman's Boot Camp

On August 23 Ethan Vanlerberghe hosted a Chairman's "Boot Camp" featuring guest speaker, Steve Hyer, a former mentor of team 27 (RUSH). During the day-long session Steve presented tips and techniques in order to prepare and present a good Chairman's presentation to FIRST judges. Steve now serves as a judge adviser at FRC events. One other local team was in attendance.

Blake's Lions Club Cider Dayze

On August 26-27 several of the adult Team 1718 parents assisted the Armada Lions Club pouring cider and promoting FIRST programs at Blake's Orchard just east of Armada. Cider tasting was enjoyed by guests and participants alike.

Peach Festival Parade

On Labor Day, Sep 4, Victoria Fair reports that students and mentors from Team 1718 participated in the annual Romeo Peach Festival entering a float with our robot and student participants. Fun was had by all.

Richmond Good Old Days Parade

Team 1718 joined Richmond team 4130, Memphis team 5046 and New Haven Merritt Academy team 6120 to participate in the Richmond Good Old Days (often called "Michigan's Best Small Town Festival") parade on September 10. Team members escorted robots and walked the parade route passing out candy to kids and FIRST robotics informative flyers to adults.

Fall Road and Trail Clean-up

On September 17 The Fighting Pi continued our community service by cleaning up Omo Rd in Armada and the Macomb Orchard Trail section from 32 Mile to Romeo Plank. "It was hot and steamy, but we cleaned up all the trash from the road and the trail in a little over an hour", reported mentor lead, Susan Schember. Other participants included parents, Holly Romero, Mary Griffin, Dennis Schmalzel, and students, Hannah Schmalzel, Lili Griffin, Nolan Wisneski, and Trevor Goretski.

Armadageddon Parade and Street Fair

On October 7 Team 1718 sold treats and cookies at the street fair and later participated in the Armadageddon Light Up Parade down Main Street getting an early start on the Halloween season. Team members threw candy and escorted our robot in the parade.

Pi Wedding Bells

On October 16 Pi alumni, Michael Graham, arranged his proposal to Pi alumni Jessica Payne. Friends since middle school, Michael he made arrangements to have a baby grand piano delivered to the academy gallery, the place where they built their relationship. After playing "their song" he proposed. Congratulations Michael and Jessica!

Team Photo for Cheer Calendar

Hannah Comilla reports that on Oct 19 members of Team 1718 assembled with the Armada cheerleaders for a photo to be included in the cheerleader's calendar. The calendar features photos of the cheer team with different Armada teams each month and serves as a fundraiser for that group. Hannah's mom contributed the \$150 fee to be included in the calendar.

New Team Member/Parent Orientation

On October 23 Team 1718 welcomed about a dozen new members who will be joining Team 1718. While our student leaders presented to prospective team members, mentors explained aspects of the team to parents.

Leadership Boot Camp

On November 4 Lauren Clemons reports that Team 1718 held its annual Leadership Boot Camp directed by Mentor, Becki Brice. Representatives from three other local teams attended to learn about their leadership strengths and weaknesses and socialize in some interesting team building events; can you imagine 40 participants being able to keep dozens of metallic marbles continuously rolling in pool noodle halves standing in a large circle?

Dave & Busters Meet & Greet

On November 22 Team 1718 hosted their 3rd annual Dave & Buster's Meet and Greet at, where-else, Dave & Busters in Utica MI. About four teams in addition to The Fighting Pi were represented for an evening of eats, greets and game fun.

Special Forces Association Meeting

On Nov 4 Alex Lanni and Jon Mabbit gave a presentation to the SFA in Charlotte, MI. About 40 veterans and spouses were impressed with the presentation focusing mostly on the business side of things as a robot was not available. They encouraged members of the team to come back again.

Armada Automation Tournament

For the 4th year Team 1718 hosted a FIRST LEGO League (FLL) tournament at Armada High School on Dec 2. In all twenty-five FLL teams and five Jr. FLL teams competed. The previous Friday evening set-up went smoothly with all competition necessities in place for the 7:30 a.m. next morning start. Nearly all team members, mentors and some parents made up the nearly 100 volunteers to host this event. Special thanks goes to mentor, Becki Brice, serving as event coordinator and Paige Drob, Kaylee Johnson and Maya Gutierrez serving as student leads. After a strong competition six FLL teams were chosen by judges to move on to state competition in addition to twelve team awards being given out. At the Jr. FLL level all five teams received awards for presentations. The Fighting Pi received numerous compliments on their "ambassador" system helping teams to be at any of the three judging rooms or four competition tables at their assigned times. Thanks to all who volunteered.

Breakfast In A Bag

Jon Mabbit reports that in November The Fighting Pi participated in an outreach event that is called "Breakfast In A Bag". Breakfast in a bag was a fundraiser to donate breakfast items to our local food bank. The Fighting Pi assembled bags with four or more breakfast items and passed them out to families in need. There were 50 families that went to the St. Mary's food bank and I am proud to say that every family left with a bag full of breakfast items. This was a great way for the PI family to give back to the community and to be able to provide families with a Holiday meal.

Team Christmas Party

On December 14 Team 1718 held their annual Christmas party and white elephant gift exchange. This was a first chance for team members to get to know each other and there were no hard feelings when gifts were "stolen" as part of the game.

A Special Thanks to our Sponsors...

