



March Update

Hello from Team Paragon! This Thursday through Saturday is our Hartford Regional Robotics competition! We are very excited as a team and are preparing to compete. After a long, hard build season, we will see if our hard work pays off.



After our robot was bagged and tagged, we built a prototype of our robot so we could practice driving for the competition. An extensive test of knowledge and skill was executed to determine who, on our team, is best fit to drive, operate, coach, and act as our human player, as well as fix our bot when it breaks. Congratulations

to Liam Foreman, Mike Petro, Julie Vumback, David Jardim, Josh Weirs, Nick Girard, and Kyle Neron, respectively.

Our drive team has been getting together on multiple week days to hone and perfect their abilities. They are learning the ropes and strategies of their positions on the team. They attended the Boston regional on March 24 to learn how the game is played. Congratulations to teams 233, 246, and 341 on their victory in Boston.



The pit crew has been deciding what to pack in our supply of parts and tools for each regional. We are limited to 30 pounds of pre-manufactured parts that we can take to competition. On top of that we are also limited to 40 pounds of tools for St. Louis due to shipping. This year is very tight as far as packing. Our pit crew has also created an operator interface to control the robot at the Hartford Regional.

Although FIRST is all about the science and technology (the S and T in the FIRST acronym), Team Paragon is very interested in our image for the competition, our community, and ourselves. Since ship, they have finally received delivery of the t-shirts. For the first time, our t-shirts and our robot will be wearing the same design. Konica-Minolta created stickers for us this year which allowed us greater flexibility in the images we could put on Metal Arc. Our sponsor logos for the robot are in their true colors this year and our robot decals have greater detail. We take pride in posting our sponsors in our pit at the competition. Through the efforts of mentors Mr Ferland and Mr Petro with the imagery group, we are sporting a revolving light bulb in our pits this year. Our “bling” give away of Team Paragon key chains are ready to go. And our button designs are completed and packed to go also.

Using the practice robot, the programming team has been writing code for targeting, shooting and driving so that when the competition robot is available as much as possible will be as ready as can possibly be.

After an extensive and tiring build season we rewarded ourselves with an evening of midnight bowling. We bowled from 10pm to 1am at Bradley Bowl in Windsor Locks. We had a blast as a team and it was a great way to wind down the 2012 build season.



Anyone who is interested in seeing us in action please check out the Hartford Regional between 9am and 5pm on Friday the 30th and Saturday the 31st. It is totally free and we appreciate your support. Hope to see you there!

