



## FIRST Team Paragon Week 6 Update

Team Paragon is at the end of our build cycle. On Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> we ended our 2012 build season. We made incredible progress over the last week and a half. All subgroups really came together during the past week to cover a lot of ground. Collectively we feel that we are in a good place to go to The NorthEast Utilities Regional Competition at the end of March with our robot- Metal Arc



## Mechanical

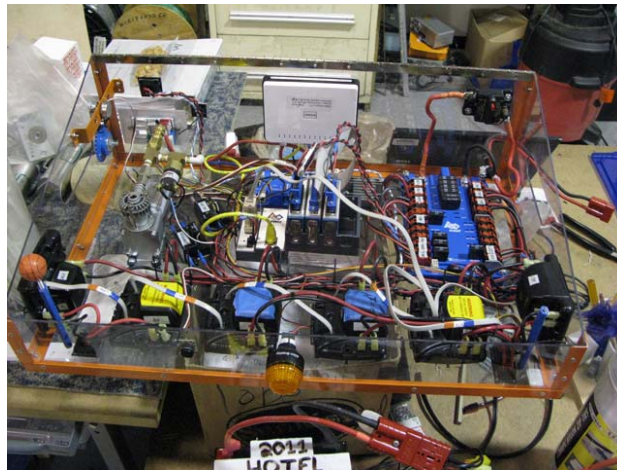
The mechanical team put things into overdrive in order to get things completed. The drivetrain and shooter are now solid and the ball pickup system is complete. All of these mechanisms have come together to form a final robot. We successfully demonstrated our ability to shooting hoops with Metal Arc! We

also finished our reversible bumpers courtesy of Mrs. Foreman and Mr. Ferland.



## Electrical

This week, electrical group has finished the ElectroPneumoQuarium. The box itself is finished and fully loaded and wired with electronics. We have fitted it on to the robot and insured that everything will clear. The



ElectroPneumoQuarium looks great this year. The robot itself has been wired to connect the ElectroPneumoQuarium to the different motors, encoders and camera on our robot.





## Programming

Our programming team was typing up a storm writing code for the robot. The code is the control that tells the “brain” of the robot what to make the components do. Once the code was finished being typed, they uploaded the code to the ElectroPneumoQuarium, and used it to drive the robot. We were able to get it moving and seeing the hoops. They were able to get initial debugging completed before it was time to say goodnight, but it will require some fine tuning at the Hartford Regional event.

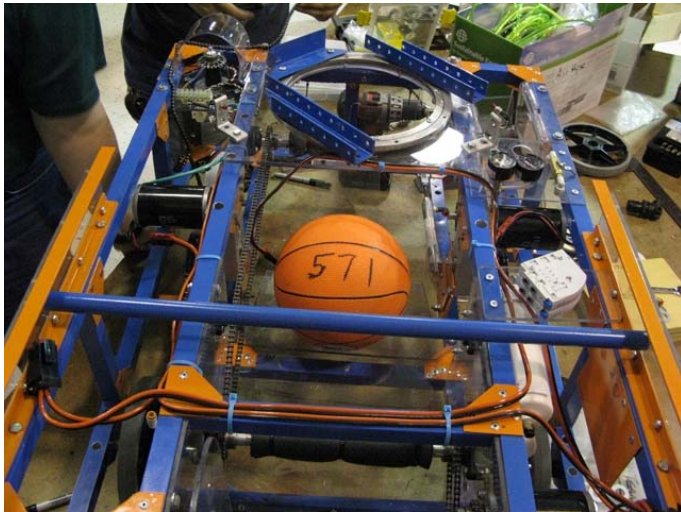


## Web Design

This week the web team has buttoned up the website and submitted it to FIRST. We are confident that we will do well this year. Our website looks great. It is easier to use than in previous years and has greatly improved in aesthetics and visual appeal. Check it out at <http://www.team-paragon.org/>

## Imagery

Our Imagery team has the important task of maintaining our image, meaning awards, handouts and team wear. We



have finalized our award design, as well as our giveaways for other teams. We always want to recognize and thank our sponsors. Imagery is laying out the decals for our Platinum sponsors on the robot.

Additionally, they are designing our "sponsor" light bulb with all of our sponsors to display at the competitions. The character decals for the robot have also been finalized and are ready to be sent for printing.

## AT LAST

It is time to share with you what the final robot looked like so you know who to look for and root for on the playfield



Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at 1056 P.M. it was time to say goodbye to Metal Arc. We bagged it and tagged it and stowed it away till Hartford. It's hard to have it sitting there and not be able to work with it.





## Other Team Events



In the midst of the madness of completing Metal Arc, Team Paragon's FTC team, the Blazing Paranormals, is also finishing their robot, aptly named the Procrastinator. Some Paragon members are also Blazing Paranormal members and keeping the schedules for both teams.

Their competition will be on March 3rd at Kingswood Oxford School.

Members of Team Paragon took a trip to Suffield High School to watch Suffield Shakedown! This "competition" is for teams who finished their bot early and want to get in some drive time, or work out the bugs in their system. While we had hoped to be able to run a robot at Suffield Shakedown, we had not quite completed enough of the robot to be able to do that. Either way, it was a success for everyone, spectators and competitors alike. It shed new light on gameplay and what sections of the match we should focus the most on.



Now that the madness of build season is finished, please remember that you are always welcome to visit us at the build site, returning to our “easier” schedule of Monday nights from 6:30 to 8:00, to see your contribution at work. We will still be working on other things necessary for the competition like our second “practice” robot, completing the awards and sponsorship boards, buttons, bling and maybe even some driver practice on our playfield. Stay tuned for more updates.

