



Groton Update

After the multitude of hours of build, it was finally time to see how our efforts had paid off. We made our way to Connecticut's first District Model Competition in Groton, CT. This year there were 33 teams that gathered at Fitch High School in Groton. The fewer number of teams allowed more playing time; however this led to less time between matches to fix anything that broke or problem solve issue.



We arrived on Friday night and set up the pits. We initiated last minute problem solving on the robot, but the programming issues which we were encountering had to be put off to Saturday morning. Throughout the days of competition we did our share of

adjusting, fixing, tweaking, modifying and rebuilding on the

robot. This did not dampen our energy in the pits at all...in fact it helped us to gel and work better together and highlighted our collaborative efforts.



As for how we did we unfortunately came in 32nd out of 33. Our ranking did not highlight our progress. When encountering problems, the pit crew and drive team was able to efficiently and quickly complete comprehensive repairs of the robot, even when the lead build mentor had

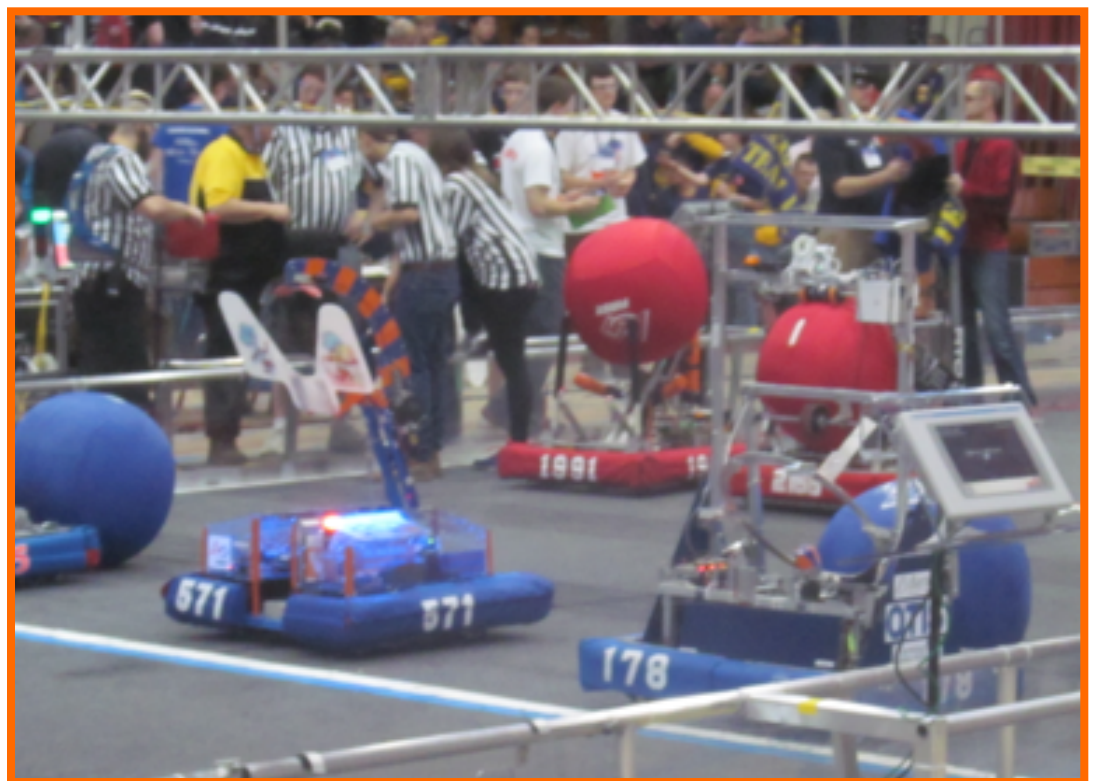


gone to the store to obtain more parts. Additionally, we collaborated well with other teams and created proficient alliances. Despite our original plan of grabbing the ball not working, we were able to improvise and became efficient at defense.

Although we were amongst the lower ranks, our defense was appreciated and we were picked by an alliance to move on to



the quarter finals. After two quarter final matches our alliance was eliminated, but we can hold our heads high as our loss was to the alliance who won the entire competition.



We debuted our new mascot costume in the stands and in the pits.



Maintaining the tradition, our team one the imagery award.
And we did look good!!



We handed out our awards to the following teams:

-Horton Helping Hands of Gracious Professionalism went to Team 195, Cyber Knights for their willingness to help us in a crunch situation even though they were on the competing alliance.



-Suess's Spirit Award went to Team 1991, The Dragons for their energy and spirit



Cat in the Hat's Most Creative Bot went to Team 3719 The STEM Whalers for their design that mimicked a soccer throw in with a full range articulating arm.

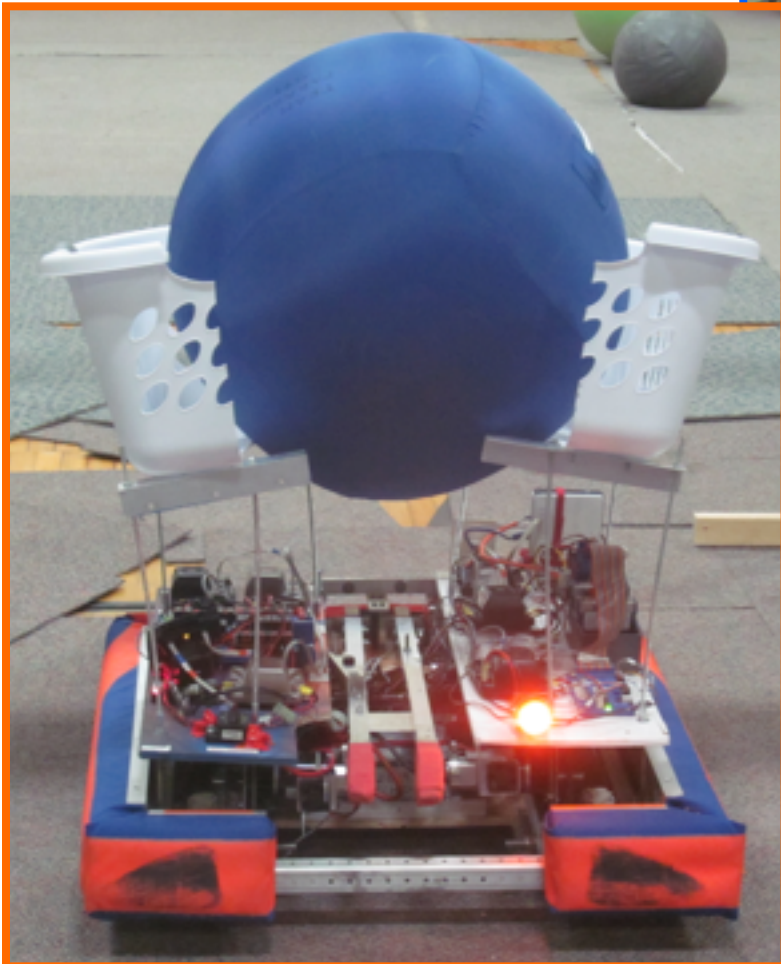
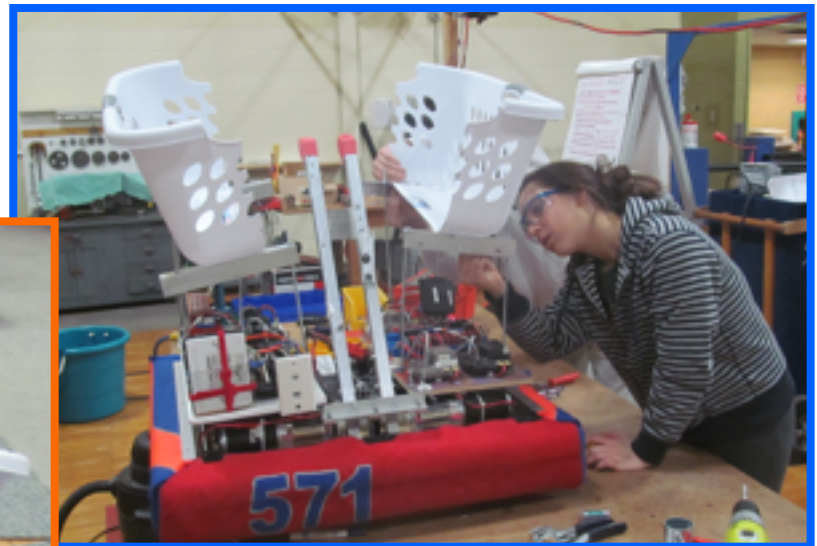


All in all it was a great competition. Congratulations to the Team 2168 The Aluminum Flacons for successfully hosting the first Connecticut District Competition. And congratulations to The District Winning Alliance: Team 230 Gaelhawks, Team 1699 The Robocats Team 1991 Dragons

We decided that we needed to adapt our design in order to be more competitive and sustainable for Hartford. We wasted no time getting to work on our new design. At our dinner stop, we had a R and D (research and development) session on the tables of Wendy's using utensils and ketchup containers.



Since being back at the build site, we have begun prototyping our new design with Julie, our practice robot. We have added a bucket for ball collection and adapted decided to change the arm to permit it to hit the ball, similar to a volley ball.



Our new design seems to be working out nicely, but we may need to work on our driving a little!



We invite you to join us at the Hartford District Competition to be held Hartford Public High School March 29th and 30th. Hope to see you there. Look for the Cat and the Hat Coming Back!

Up Coming Event

Hartford District Competition: March 29th and 30th

Continue to watch for the updates on the blog to watch our progress.

Follow us at:



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