



December Update

It has been a busy month for Team Paragon. With Kickoff right around the corner, see what the team has done to prepare for build season.

Overview of Monday Meetings:

Monday 12/1:



On this Monday meeting Mr. Koenig gave the team training on linear motion and how we use it. He showed us many different systems that use linear motion and how they are used in some of our past robots. Some examples included 80-20, a type of track we use to mount systems on and pistons a device which we use to push things around. After the training, we sorted metal between aluminum, and steel. This would help us later in the week for our recycling run.

Monday 12/8:

On this night we learned how to crimp wires. Students got to look and try the numerous tools used in the art of crimping. Students also learned how crimping is used



in robots and what a good crimp looks and feels like. By using the pull test, we were able to see whether a crimp was secure or not. Crimping is used to attach connectors to the end of a wire. It is done so we can make a good connection between two or more items.

Monday 12/15:

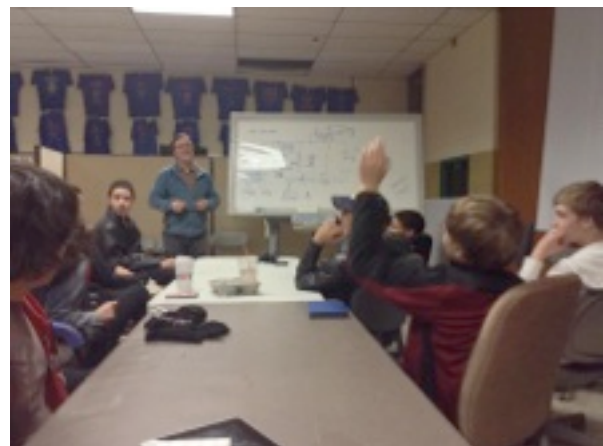
This night was game night. Students enjoyed playing appropriate board games and



eating ice cream. This night allowed students to get to know other students in a fun way before the hectic pace of build begins. Some of the games that the students played were War, Checkers, Chess, Spoons, and a game called Ricochet Robots.

Monday 12/22:

Today we learned about the brand new 2015 control system from FIRST and how it differed from last year. Even though we thought we were going to have all the pieces for tonight, they have not yet shipped from the supplier, so we had to use a whiteboard to explain the new parts. We learned



the many functions of the new control system and how it controls every aspect in our robot, from electrical to movement. Ms. Hammersmith was also kind enough to bake cookies for the entire team. Thanks, they were delicious!

Tree Sales:



If you bought a tree from the Jaycees this year, you might have noticed a few Paragonians out with the Jaycees helping them sell some trees. Despite the frequent rain, this year was a huge success, and everyone that attended had a great time. Tasks included sweeping pine

needles up, to cutting the trees, and then tying them on top of cars



EMS Project Santa Toy Drive:



On December 13th and 14th Team Paragon assisted the Windsor EMS in their annual Project Santa Toy Drive. Although it was cold, students had a great time, and followed the words of wisdom “smile and wave” all day. Throughout the toy drive, students stood in the middle of the

street accepting donations and toys for the toy drive, all while wearing Santa hats and holding stockings.



Wednesday 12/10/14:

On this Wednesday night, the build and web subgroups met to work on numerous projects.

Build worked on taking inventory on all the 2015 robot parts we



received that week and started looking at how the Kit of Parts Chassis went together. Students also made an attachment for a pulley/gear puller so that they could easily remove a gear from a shaft. Web was also there, and they worked on updating the website with the newer student profiles, and having them fill out

surveys, and retake pictures. This was also the day the town had a community meeting at Roger Wolcott to discuss possible future use for the site. If you have an opinion of what should happen to Roger Wolcott, the visit this page here: [Survey](#). Hopefully the

town and citizens appreciate what the Team has to offer its student's as well as what the Team Contributes back to the town to allow us to stay in our present location.

Wednesday 12/17/14:

On this night students worked on the battery charging cart. Students installed a new terminal block for and a new side panel to accommodate gauges in the future.



Recycling Run:



This recycling run was the result of our meeting on Monday 12/1, where we sorted the steel and aluminum to be recycled. This is one of the ways we earn money: by taking things apart and redeeming the raw materials at a

scrapyard. By recycling the raw materials we raised just about \$200. Great job everyone!



Upcoming Events:

Kickoff 1/3/15:

It's coming!!! Each year just before kick off, there are "clues" given to hint at what the game will be. In hind site, the clues always make some sort of sense, but before hand: well, they are great discussion starters. This years clue so far is "Change is coming." KICKOFF is January 3rd, this is when the 2015 game is introduced and we begin designing, building and programming our robot, and the hints will make themselves clear. It is a great time and anybody available should come. You can also go on our website after kickoff to find more information about the 2015 game.

From the Captains: ~ Matt & James

You can follow Team Paragon at www.teamparagon571.org