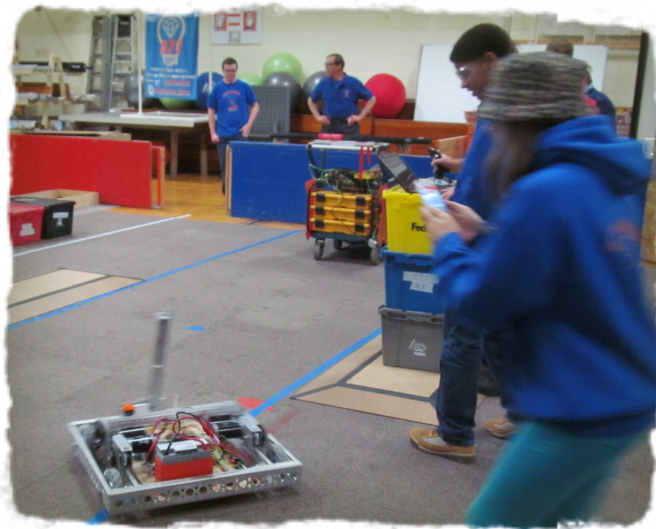




Week Two Update

Its alive!!! Despite school being canceled, we still met on Monday, and our robot came to life. Thanks to the efforts of the team, we are now able to drive our robot in the shortest time in team history. But were not done yet, and with 4 weeks left, the team is still working hard to perfect our current mechanisms and designing new things to add to the robot.



Robot Build:

Build has done a ton of work of this week! Not only have we managed to get our practice robot built to where it can drive, we have set up our pneumatics for our tote picker upper. That is correct we are using pneumatics: the first time in three years that the team has used them. We last used pneumatics on our 2012





robot, Metal Arc, to tip the teeter-totter ramp.

This week we also started assembling and our new 2015 batteries and machining the

parts to build our second (competition) robot. In an effort to keep our robot nice and cool during the heat of competition, we are creating some brand new CIM motor fan

brackets. One of the “new things” the build group has fabricated this week is an elevator mechanism that will be able to lift the recycling barrels and stack them for bonus game points. Because of its beautiful design, build has decided to nickname the part, “The guillotine.”



Imagery:



This week in imagery, it was all about designing. The students continued working on their designs from the previous week and perfected them. The 3D foam model of the awards was made into a digital picture, and beginning to be

prepped to be put into CAD. This will allow us to 3D print them with our new 3D printer that we bought using a *FIRST* grant. The T Shirt

design also got a lot of work done on it, as students started to finalize the design by laying out the shirt with our sponsors and the graphic itself. The front and back of our T-Shirt design has been made and is ready to be



digitized to put on a shirt. Imagery has started the process of naming the robot. The ideas from the team are coming in. We will need to see what the robot begins to look like to see what the final name will be.

Programming:

In programming this week, we have made the robot come to life. With the transition from C++ to Java, programming had to start fresh with the code.

Programming got their code on, as they had the robot able to drive, and the pneumatics for the lifting arm working by the beginning of the week. When programming finally finished programming the pneumatics, we gave it a test on our robot. It even worked, just as we wanted to too!! This is a rare occurrence with programming, where in the land of 1s and 0s, almost everything



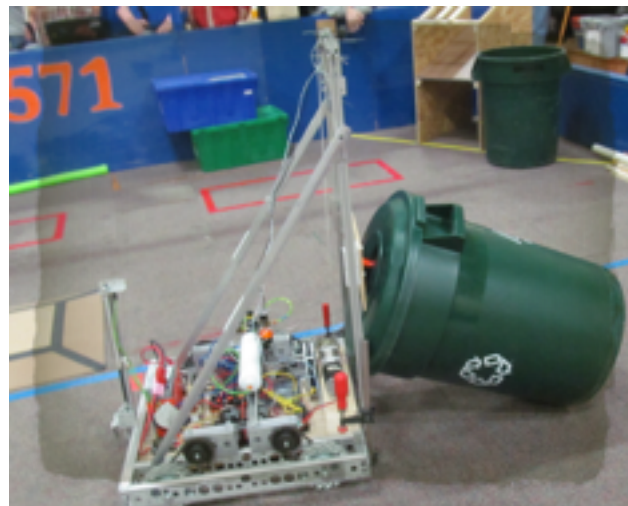
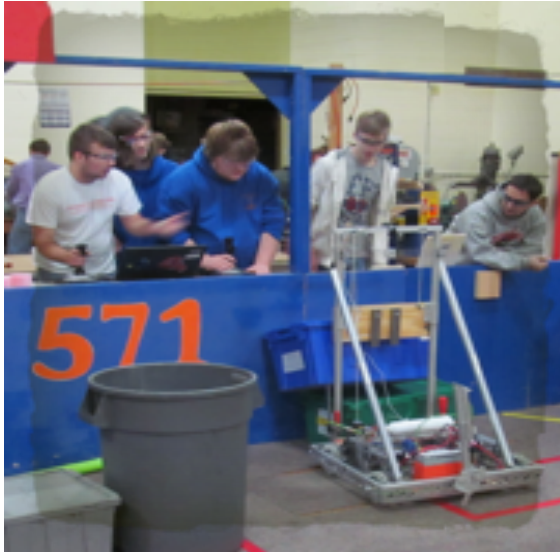
is either just off or backwards. Programming has also given the robot the “code” name FLDSMDFR from “Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs”. This name comes from the movie when Flint Lockwood tries to explain to the reporter what the invention is that is creating all the food. It comes out as “The Flint Lockwood Diatonic Super Mutating Dynamic Food Replicator.”

Unfortunately, she doesn’t see it as the way he does. This name comes from the idea that we are never able to fully explain what our ideas are and how to present them. They make sense in our head, but might not to other people. This is similar to trying to explain to others what we want to write for code.



Web:

This week in web, efforts were continued on updating the website. Web continued updating student and mentor profiles by using surveys to ask questions like “What is your favorite memory of *FIRST*?”, and “Why did you join team paragon?”. Students also finished updating the sponsor list for 2015 on the website sponsor and home page.



At the end of the week, we had a fully functioning drivable tote/trash can picker-upper practice robot. We were able to see what needed to be improved and what we did right. We have come out of the gate flying, and we're just getting started. See you next week

Please remember to go online at WINPUT and vote for Team Paragon to continue to have a home at our current build site. If you have an opinion of what should happen to Roger Wolcott, the visit this page here: [Survey](#)

From the Captains: ~ Matt & James

You can follow Team Paragon at www.teamparagon571.org

Upcoming Events:

2/14/15 - Suffield Shakedown

2/17/15 - Ship Day

3/6/15 - 3/7/15 - Springfield District Competition

3/28/15 - 3/29/15 - Hartford District Competition