



## Back to school

Despite just going back to school, Team Paragon is preparing for January's build season.

### Summer ***Robot Building:***

Over the summer, we worked on a universal chassis that should help us, not only pull carts, but also test out code and electrical parts.



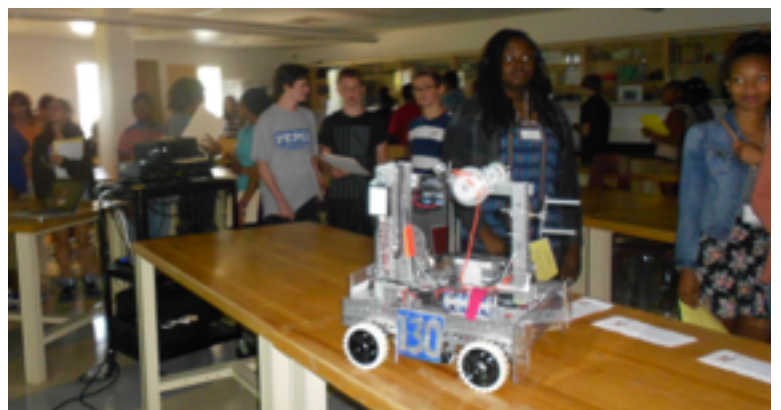


The team also spent several evenings over the summer to work on a new battery cart. The new cart will be smaller, but features new and improved battery charger



To end the summer and to start the school year, Team Paragon has been recruiting new members for this year's season.

### ***Freshman Orientation:***





At freshman orientation, we had a large number of students sign up who were interested in joining the team. We had the robot there, as well as some interesting videos, showing some of the celebrities that support FIRST. We also had two meetings after school to help introduce the freshmen to the team, and to follow up with people who signed up during freshman orientation.

### ***New Member night:***

At our first meeting of the school year we had a good turnout of new members and returning students. On Monday we gave the members a scavenger hunt of the build site, introducing them to the subgroups and the general layout of the build site. They explored all of the build

site,

including all of the 5 subgroups, Mechanical, Electrical, Programming, Imagery and Web Design as well as fund raising. We also had all of the new

members have a chance to drive last year's robot, Dr. Seuss. Everyone seemed to have a fun time and enjoyed the meeting.

The next Monday, we all took some time to





recycle some bits and bots from various things people had donated, from car doors, to and exercise bike. This was a



great tool training experience for the new members. They all seemed to have a very



enjoyable time. It was nice to be able to play with tools without



worrying about breaking anything. At the end of the night, a tower of parts was built to tumble.

### ***Robot Board Game Night:***

On our third meeting of the season, we had a programming night with Burt.

We played a robot based card game, and it introduced the new members how the

games work, and how they might be played.

The game was “capture the flag,” and

every new person was partnered up with





veteran. There were 4 groups per team, compared to a normal *FIRST* alliance of 3 groups per team. The groups controlled their robot piece with cards that made them move in different directions, and that allowed them to try to capture the enemies' flags.

### ***Fundraising and Parents Night:***

This Monday was Bring Your Parent night and Fundraising night. This meeting was solely to inform parents about the team, and what we do throughout the year. This also taught new members and parents the requirements of fundraising on the



team. Mr. Petro, our main fundraising mentor, gave a speech on the requirements for fundraising, and how to solicit funds from different companies. We were also given a list of companies that had donated to before, so now is the time to get on it and start getting fundraising done!

### ***Bottle and Can Drive:***

On Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup>, we had the bottle and can drive from 9:00 to 2:00 on the town green. We had collected a large number of bottles and cans, which will go towards both the FTC's and FRC's food budget. We are always grateful to the community for their continued support to



the bottle and can drive. Our next bottle and can drive will be May 15th. If you need to have bottles and cans picked up before then please contact the team at [teamparagon571@att.net](mailto:teamparagon571@att.net)



### ***Northwest Park Country Fair:***

At the Northwest Park Country Fair the 20<sup>th</sup>, we showed off the FTC teams' robots, and the FRC robot, Nemo, and Metal Arc. Many people came up to us and asked us what they did, and many were fascinated with what we had made. The fair was a great time this year!



### ***Reap Street:***

REAP Street was a one-day Creative Arts & Performance event that took place along Broad Street spaces in Windsor. Since Team Paragon

prides itself on its imagery we were invited to participate in Reap Street. We had the opportunity to not only present the mechanical and electrical aspects of our robot but also the imagery aspect. We talked about how we have



stamped our team with the colors blue and orange, turned our robot into a moving working billboard, and created unique shirts that coincide with the theme of that year's game.

### ***Jaycees Horseshoe Tournament:***

Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, was a beautiful day for the Jaycees Horseshoe Tournament. We had two teams participate in the tournament, but



Unfortunately did not come out on top, but they had a great time participating.

JayCee's randomly donated the proceeds of the fundraiser to one of the organizations represented. We were

fortunate enough to have our ping pong ball drawn and

won over \$2,500! A huge thank you to the Jaycees who supplied the food that fed us and to the others we competed against. This year was a real ringer!



### ***Upcoming Events:***

We have a good amount of events planned for the rest of this month, and some of October. Bash at the Beach October 18th, and a Stafford Springs fundraiser the 19th of October. New this year, look for us at the Chili Challenge, where we're going to serve some of the best chili around! We will also be holding a reverse pasta party at Windsor High School to support Windsor Food Bank. A complete list of events can be found at

[www.team-paragon.org/events/](http://www.team-paragon.org/events/)