



October Update

Team Paragon



Will and John

Spooktacular October

The Team Paragon had a fun filled October with meetings every Monday and a few fun events thrown in. Students have been working on tool training as well as getting started on their fundraising for the year. Paragon also had the honor of being officially recognized as a sport at Windsor High School and were allowed to participate in their annual pep rally!



Meeting – October 5th

Our first meeting of the month consisted of a safety training video and was followed by a brief quiz, testing the students on the content of the video. While some members were familiar with a majority of the safety practices, it was valuable for them to review, and be reminded of how important safety is to the team. Other less experienced team members had the opportunity to learn safety tips and certain rules that all people must follow when handling potentially dangerous equipment. The quiz reinforced these concepts, and allowed team mentors to make sure that the students were understanding what they were being taught.



Build Night – October 6th

Mr. Koenig hosted one of his famous build nights. The first five students who answered the email he sent out revived the privilege of participating. During this session the students worked on changing sprockets and learning where and how they are used. Students used this new knowledge to change the wheels on an old robot in order to make it more useful on various terrain. As a mid-week build season tradition the night was finished off recycling. The build night was a success and every student report having a great time!



Meeting – October 12th

On our second Monday of October we decided to use the meeting to conduct tool training. Mentors split us up into six groups, and we rotated through six different machines where a mentor demonstrated the use of the machinery and safety precautions. Students were taught and reminded of things like wearing safety glasses and tying back hair and loose clothing. After each training section each student would practice using the machine safely and sign off that they completed their training.



Mentor Build Session – October 15th

In preparation for the 2016 season, a group of mentors got together to review past robot construction and get familiar with the tools and equipment in the build area. This is the first of several mentor build events designed to help new mentors get comfortable with the tools and work with the build team. A second meeting will be planned for November. Stay tuned for the date.

Stafford Swap Meet – October 18th

Every year Stafford Motor Speedway hosts a swap meet where people come to buy and sell goods relating to cars, motors, and electronics. Paragon conducted their annual fundraising at the two main gates of the event. We brought along Nemo, our robot from 2012, as well as our mascot costume and dazzling personalities. As people entered we screamed “bucks for bots” and asked for



small donations. The response was from people was very positive, and the team was able to collect over eight-hundred dollars. It was a well spent Sunday morning, but we were all grateful to be packing up right as it started snowing!



Meeting – October 19th

After a brief meeting the team dove right into a scavenger hunt. This competition was a fun way to help members learn where important tools and supplies are stored, as we have a sizable build site packed with the equipment necessary to function as a robotics team. The team was split between hardware and software, and each side had different lists of supplies to find. Each team raced to collect everything on their respective lists, and tried to be the first back to the meeting area. This activity was not only fun, it also forced us to work together as a team to identify and find the different tools.

Windsor Pep Rally – October 24th

Every year Windsor High School, a school Team Paragon is associated with, has a Pep Rally, to end Spirit Week with a bang and celebrate the school's many successful athletic teams.



This year, for the first time, Team Paragon, was officially recognized. Many members of the team wore the team colors, and corresponding Paragon hats and capes, and marched onto the center of the gymnasium with robot Blue Cyclone. The student body showed their support for the team with much cheering and clapping, and overall the event was quite a success.



Meeting – October 28th

One of our programming mentors, Mr. O'Neil led the programming subsection of the team through a basic intro to Java, and programming in general, for those unfamiliar with the subject. Part of said intro included a brief game of sorts, that taught the concept of states, which is frequently used when programming the robot. The game had the students create a treasure map based on certain 'islands' and their respective 'ships', a creative way of teaching the programming concept. Students more interested in the mechanical aspect of the robot learned about gear systems and how they are utilized on robots. Mr. Koenig showed examples in past robots while students passed around various gear boxes in order to familiarize ourselves with the mechanics.



Upcoming Events:

Sat and Sun, November 14th and 15th 10-4: Team Paragon will be participating in a Food Drive with Windsor EMS at Stop and Shop on Kennedy Road in Windsor

Weekends in Dec: Team Paragon will be working with the Windsor JayCees at their annual Christmas Tree sales fundraiser held at the Ocean State Plaza in Windsor. Come out to support both the JayCees and Team Paragon at the same time.

If you would like to learn more about the team, or come to visit us contact teamparagon571@aatt.net or check out the web site at team-paragon.com

-Addison & Sam

