



Summer and back to school Update

Team Paragon



Summer

For Team Paragon, Summer remains a time of relaxation for students after their busy school and robotics seasons. The Team keeps itself going through this period by offering some events such as optional builds and extra opportunities to learn about new machines or techniques students might not have time for during the active season. This summer seemed particularly busier for the team than past ones.

Carpet Pickup - June 11th

Mr. Moore led a team of students to pick up the new carpet for our build site at FIRST Robotics Headquarters in Bloomfield, CT. The students rolled up the gigantic carpets and transferred them into the truck, where they brought the carpets back to the build site to be unrolled at a later date.

Build - June 20th

The 20th marked the first build session of the Summer. Organization was the order of the evening. Fewer people allows for more individual time to focus on what the students wish to do.



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Carpet Rollout - July 5th

The team gathered together on this legendary date to work together on a project that had been dreamed about for years. On this date we rolled out the new two sections of carpet. After moving multiple field components, a lot of vacuuming, and one random faceplant, the red and (partly) blue carpet was ready to be used in next year's robotics season. Thanks again, to CT FIRST who allowed us to celebrate this event with their carpet donation.

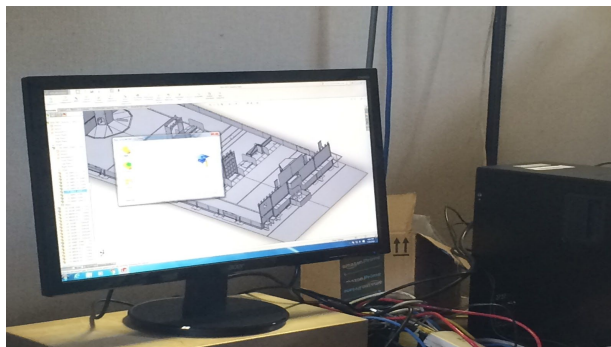


Bottle and Can Drive - July 9th and September 10th

At these bottle and can drives, the team once again met on the Town Green to collect recyclables from town citizens in order to exchange them for funds to help support our team. Team members assisted citizens by taking bags and boxes of bottles and cans out of their cars, helped to sort and count bottles and cans, and went with Mr. Carrol to bring the counted bags to the recycling building in town. Again, these events were a huge success, and a valuable asset to the funding of our team for the upcoming season.

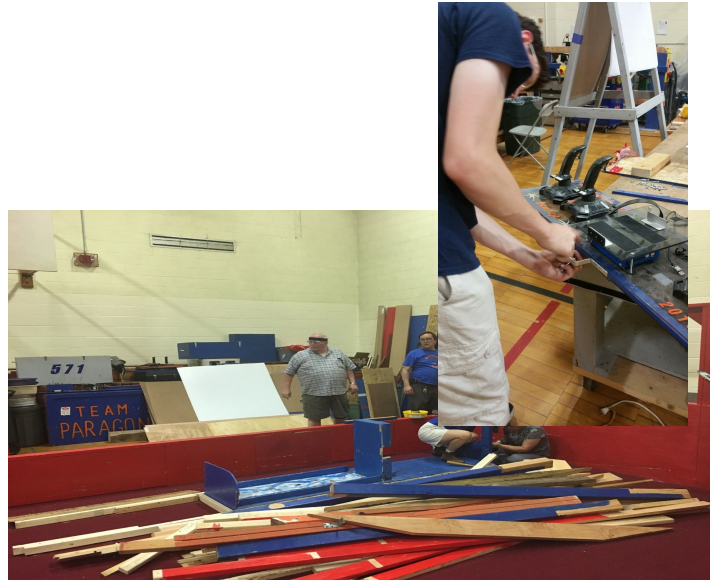
Build - July 19th

At this Tuesday build session, Mr. Schwartz led a very informative CAD lesson, teaching 4 students to become more familiar with the CAD program. This will help organize our ideas for future robots on the computer, and also create other designs for this upcoming season. All the students felt like they walked away with a greater knowledge of computer design, which is all the team hopes to achieve at these productive build sessions.



Build - July 26th

At this summer build session, students worked on upgrading the playfield by breaking down the obstacles built for last year's game to make room for this year. Many wood pieces were stacked on the back wall to prevent fire hazards (#safetyFIRST), and many more pieces were recycled to make more space in the build site.



Build - August 16th

At this build session, students worked on creating the final finishing touches for the playfield, such as a sturdier support system to hold up the controller table and tape marks on the carpet to show where the wall needs to line up (after some intense vacuuming of course). We also sorted through some (very) old parts/floor sweepers on the back bleachers to decide what we should keep that might be useful for our team in the future.



Freshmen Orientation - August 23rd

At this year's freshmen orientation, a simple short presentation about our team was given to multiple groups of new faces as they learned more about Windsor High School's activities. During the presentation, students were given basic information about Team Paragon and the opportunity to sign up for the team by writing their names and phone numbers on sheets in front of them. The event was successful with over 20 freshmen expressing their interest.

Build - September 7th

Final preparations were made for the first official meeting for Team Paragon for the 2016-2017 season. Wood pieces were cut up and recycled and spare parts organized and stacked in a manner that would save the most space at our build site. Another shelf and support plank was also created to fit on the bottom of one of the tables in the machine area.



First Meeting - September 12th



Our first meeting flowed (mostly) seamlessly as we introduced new and old members and mentors to the entire group. We then began our annual build site scavenger hunt. As we split off into groups, newbies got a feel for different subgroups and where different things were located. After veterans gave a summary of different stations, mentors (and Justin) showed both new and old members alike what really goes on in each corner of our space at Roger Wolcott. We are looking forward to many more meetings to come!

-AMANDA AND JUSTIN 



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TEAM PARAGON OR YOU WOULD LIKE TO COME JOIN THE FUN, YOU CAN CHECK OUT THE WEB SITE AT TEAM-PARAGON.ORG OR EMAIL US AT TEAMPARAGON571@ATT.NET