

Rookie Conference Call #7
Call Notes
Tuesday, February 1, 2011, 6pm
Call-in Number: 877-251-8582 Pass Code: 8582

In Attendance: Kyle Hughes 27; Clint Bolinger 2337; John 3656; Gary 3570; Lynn 3668;
Shannon Moegling 27 – SNOW DAY??

February 1 – week 4: fabrication and assembly

- **Q: Will the location of the center pole change from match to match?**
 - A: No. The poles are regulated by the field specs. These do not change. Check the updates, however. The Team Field dimensions have had some updates (ex: pole = 16" versus original 14.5")

- **Q: Can you clarify the rule on lining up your robot on the field?**
 - A: Per the rules, when you go onto the field you cannot take any props to align your robot (ie triangle, measuring tape, laser pointer, etc.). Having said that ...
 - This is a very important consideration for consistency in setting up your robot and accuracy for your auton
 - You can use your hands, feet, etc. to align your robot
 - You can also use line following and ultrasonic sensor to really know where your robot starts at the beginning of auton
 - SUGGESTION: Do not start auton in full speed; start small to see where you're at and then increase speed throughout tournament; starting at full speed could really harm your robot if something goes wrong
 - Velcro your controls to the player station – if a team runs into the wall, it can knock off your controls!

Agenda Topics:

- **Robot should be moving by now!**
- **Mini-bot and deployment should be developed**
 - Rule update: You cannot use any type of tool to bring mini-bot down from the top of the pole – and you must recover the mini-bot from the floor (cannot stand on the platform)
- **Programmers – continue development**
 - **Q: We are having trouble saving the program. Help**
 - A: It could possibly be from the 2 kinds of deployment
 - Be sure you're doing "full deployment" to save for next time - "full deployment" package - Labview tells the CRio to remember this next time for reboot
 - Can take 5-7 minutes
 - Know how much time you have between matches - Be sure to plan for this 5-7 minutes to download before you go to your match!!!

- Use the “quick deployment” just to test if code is working
 - Then save in “full deployment” if code is right, and test again in “full deployment” to make sure it saved
 - Test before you go to match to make sure it worked
 - AGAIN – give yourself ENOUGH time for full deployment at the competition.
- **NOTE: Don't forget to go to the website to check updates: Control Systems – Kit of Parts**
 - **Classmate Drive Space Recovery Procedure (UPDATED 2/1/2011)** – shows how to recover the space (5 gig) on the classmate
http://usfirst.org/uploadedFiles/Robotics_Programs/FRC/Game_and_Season_Info/2011_Assets/Kit_of_Parts/Classmate%20drive%20space%20recovery%20procedure_RevA.pdf
 - **Classmate Drive Space Installation Files (zip file) (UPDATED 2/1/2011)**
http://usfirst.org/uploadedFiles/Robotics_Programs/FRC/Game_and_Season_Info/2011_Assets/Kit_of_Parts/Classmate%20drive%20space%20recovery%20procedure_RevA.zip
 - **Windows 7 Activation (NEW 2/1/2011)**
http://usfirst.org/uploadedFiles/Robotics_Programs/FRC/Game_and_Season_Info/2011_Assets/Kit_of_Parts/Windows%207%20Activation%20Procedure_Rev0.pdf
 - **Windows 7 Activation Files (zip file) (NEW 2/1/2011)**
http://usfirst.org/uploadedFiles/Robotics_Programs/FRC/Game_and_Season_Info/2011_Assets/Kit_of_Parts/FIRSTactivate.zip
 - **Driver Station Software Download (NEW 2/1/2011)**
<http://decibel.ni.com/content/community/first/frc>
- **Continue build and assembly**
- **Bumpers – begin construction soon!**
 - **Q: AndyMark bumper instructions didn't come in box, now what?**
 - A: Bumper instructions and segment layout examples are located on AndyMark in same place you ordered the bumpers
 - Bumper Segment Example Layout -
<http://files.andymark.com/37-bumper.pdf>
 - Sample Board Layout and Hole Spacing
<http://files.andymark.com/37-board.pdf>
 - NOTE: When attaching your bumpers, you have a window of a few inches to attach – you may want to go to low side of the bumper specification to help in not tipping over (lower bumpers may get under you and that would be a big problem).
 - Don't forget – you need 2 colors (red and blue)!
 - Team 2809, KBotics, posted a white paper on how to make reversible bumpers – may be worth looking at!

- K-Botics 2809 Reversible Bumpers White Paper - <http://www.chiefdelphi.com/media/papers/2437>
- **Weight of robot – size and weight should be seriously taken into account now**
 - **Q: How do you weigh it when it's this big?**
 - A: Can use wrestling/athletic scale – get the athletics teams involved/interested in why you may need their scale! ☺
 - Put plywood platform on scale, zero it out, and then weigh the robot
 - Be sure you are using an accurate scale! Important for going to competition!
- **Get/build a cart to transport the robot (simple is good)**
 - Can use a garden cart from Home Depot
 - Can use a Carpet cart
 - Make sure it has good, sturdy wheels and is easy to pull
 - Make sure your robot can sit on cart without wheels touching so you can test the program in air without having it on the ground
- **Business update**
 - **Continue to update sponsors/social media/website**
 - **Q: What do I need to do to make sure sponsors are updated for recognition?**
 - A: Be sure to update TIMS on FIRST so sponsors are recognized during announcement of team at competition
 - Be sure they are recognized on the t-shirt
 - Update on website and all other publications (create a poster-board or sign that thanks sponsors to put in pit at competition)
 - **Q: How to keep sponsors abreast of status:**
 - A: Here are some ideas - send out newsletter/pictures of robot/team progress to sponsors/school administration
 - Send out weekly videos/interactive newsletter
 - Invite sponsors to team meetings/shop to see what the team is doing/progress
 - Invite them to all competitions and events!
 - At competitions, give sponsors “VIP pit pass” to feel important
 - Utilize JCP connection – maybe have a wall in a store highlighting team?
 - Include sponsor names, etc. in newsletters, website and newspaper articles
 - **Continue other business processes**
 - **Travel and meal arrangements**
 - Need to start calling NOW for hotels if you haven't already
 - MI State Tournament – other major competitions are in the area the same time, so a lot of hotels are getting full
 - Probably don't need to put money down yet so you can at least make a reservation and cancel if you don't qualify for States
 - Utilize parents to help with this!
 - If you're staying more than an hour away, seriously consider getting a hotel, especially in case of inclement weather
 - Staying in a hotel is a great way to increase team bonding and planning for the tournament!

- **Uniforms**
 - Get this rolling – you are running out of time!
 - Give t-shirt company at least a week
 - Start collecting shirt sizes for order - get samples for members to try on if possible
- **Scouting plans**
 - Establish what do you want to know?
 - What are you going to do with the data?
 - ipads? Database? Spreadsheet?
 - Is there a veteran team that may work with you? ASK!
- **Awards**
 - FIRST in MI points not approved and posted yet from FIRST
 - Awards are due the Thursday BEFORE robot is shipped (Feb. 17th) – Website, Dean's List, Chairman's, Rookie All-star
 - You do not have to submit Chairman's in order to submit Rookie All-star
 - You can still win Rookie All-Star if you don't submit documentation but you will be better positioned to win if you submit prior (judges will review your information prior to competition)
 - Good practice to submit online and continuously improve year after year
 - Read award criteria and promote teams strengths based on those criteria
 - ***Periodically check FIRST calendar for due dates***
- **Team Websites – you can do it!**
 - Check with school/teacher – may have ability to host a website
 - Great communication tool with team, parents, sponsors
 - Can post team documents (ie permission slips, calendars, etc.)
 - Put link to sponsors!
 - Have “in the news” section for articles about the team