



# The Flying Toasters

Building Bridges and  
Ahead into a Better Future



## 2015 Build Season Newsletter

"To inspire and intrigue, unite and achieve greatness"

# 2015 Challenge: Recycle Rush

Issue #3 Livonia Edition – March/April 2015

## Livonia District Competition

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Finish at Livonia

Oh, you thought Gull Lake's 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish was their peak? Think again. Team 3641, The Flying Toasters made more than just an appearance at Livonia Churchill High School on March 27-28.

Having already qualified for states, the restless team used Livonia as an opportunity of practice and scouting for up-coming challenges they are going to face. The Toasters were able to maintain a top 5 rank through most of the tournament. When all 80 rounds came to an end and alliance selection began, the Toasters were the 3<sup>rd</sup> seed team with an average qualification score of 102.58.

With all of the excitement built up, the main representatives of the team had to discuss tactics and allies they were going to need for the next few intense rounds. After embracing the work of their wonderful scouts, Team 3641 chose Team 503 Frog Force from Novi, and Team 5756 DHDC Robotics from Detroit to be their allies for the fierce playoffs to come.

These three strong allies put up an extreme fight against all their competitors. They were able to conquer through the quarter finals, the semifinals, and all the way up to the championship round, against the legendary Team 67 Hot Team from Highland with their outstanding allies Team 548 Robostangs from Northville, and Team 4405 Atoms Family from Canton.

With a strong fight to the end, The Flying Toasters and their alliance unfortunately lost to their challenging opponent. Ben Wolak, stated, "The robot and drive team performed very well, making it all the way to the finals, and giving the champions a run for their money."

With such a positive attitude, one can conclude that this is not the end of the road for the Toasters. – Kristian T.

*(Turn to page 2 – Find out what happens next as the Toasters face their nemesis again at Bedford)*

Pictured below are the Flying Toasters, the District Finalists, at the Livonia FIRST Competition



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## Upcoming events!

April 8-11<sup>th</sup> -- Michigan State Champ.

April 22-25<sup>th</sup> -- World Championships

# Innovation in Control

A huge honor was bestowed during the Livonia awards ceremony when the team received the Innovation in Control Award sponsored by Rockwell Automation. The award celebrates an innovative control system or application of control components – electrical, mechanical, or software – to provide unique machine functions. The team collected two trophies for their display cases at both SLEHS and SLHS.



# Bedford District Competition

2<sup>nd</sup> Place District Finalist

Competing at the Bedford District Competition on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, the Toasters faced a hurdle when one of the drivers was sick. Senior Bryce B came to the rescue and operated the robot's arm. Together with Ethan N and Kyle J, they competed valiantly. After qualifications, the team was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> out of 40 teams.

During alliance selections, the second seed Team 1189 The Gearheads from Grosse Pointe chose the Toasters and Team 5252 Cyber Tigers from Detroit to form an alliance. The alliance advanced through the quarterfinals, semifinals, and reached the finals.

In the epic finale, they faced the legendary home town favorites of Team 1023 Bedford Express from Bedford/Temperance, Team 548 Robostangs from Northville, and Team 4395 Vi-Borgs from Dundee. Game one was so close. Only 1 point separated the contenders. However, in the end, we were a little toasted and came in 2<sup>nd</sup>.



Mascots form alliances too

## It's All About the Bot

It's all about the robot in this stacking game.



## TRW's Semi-Autonomous Vehicle at Livonia



Flying Toaster sponsor TRW was also the FIRST Livonia event sponsor

## Flying Toaster Fans



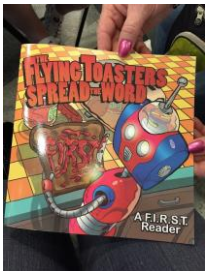


## Chairman's Update

After winning the Chairman's award at the Michigan Gull Lake District Competition, we decided to use the Livonia competition to help other teams that were competing for Chairmans. The Hackbots, Team 3414, approached us to get our advice for their judge's presentation. We were so excited to see what other teams were doing in their communities and it inspired us on new ideas to present at states. – Baylie B.



Booster President David Ascher and Vice President Kim Ascher watch the Toasters soar at Livonia.



For information on the new book **"The Flying Toasters Spread the Word: A F.I.R.S.T. Reader"**, please contact Mrs. Ann Bizer.

## Thank You Mentors

Without our mentors we wouldn't be able to accomplish many of the things that we do as a team. For example, mentors help students with drive team, Chairman's, robot build, programming, practice field construction, scouting, batteries, etc. We appreciate every hour that they help out especially during the build and competition season. So thank you mentors for all of your hard work. – The Students



Mr. Manny Novilla



Mr. Jim Burkowski



Mr. Ed Debler



Mrs. Ann Bizer



Mr. Mike Lepkowski & Mr. Jim Sicoli



Scott Brodesser & Lucas Burkowski



Mr. Doug Klein



Mr. Don Stokes



Mr. Brian Perion



Mr. Jon Mikola

## Who is the Human Player?

Every team needs a human player as part of the drive team competing in every match. But who is Team's 3641's human player? Here's an insider's view from Kyle J who was the "Human Player" at both Gull Lake and Livonia.

Q: What is your role on the playing field in the load zone?

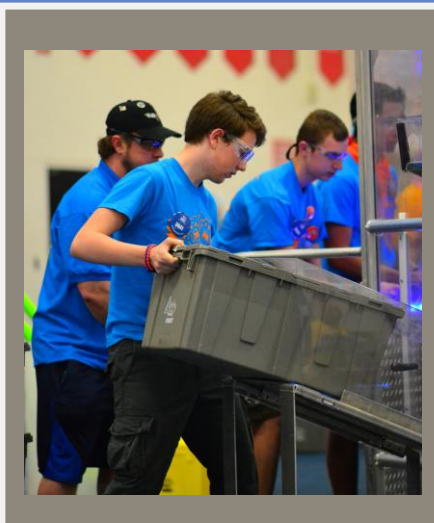
"I always have to have a tote ready. I constantly watch where our robot is on the field and how high the arms are so I know when to release totes."

Q: Are you nervous out on the field in front of hundreds of people? "Not really."

Q: What's the best tip for any rookie human player next year? "Communicate."

Q: Why didn't Kyle join as a Freshman? According to his Mom, he only heard about it after being in Mr. Weber's class last year so joined as a Junior.

– Interview of Kyle J. & his Mom



# Thank You To All Our Sponsors

- “Our sponsors allow us as a team to achieve all we can. No amount of thanks can suffice. – Aaron B.
- “Thank you for sponsoring us and giving me the opportunity to learn how to build and program a robot.” – Alexander M.
- “Thank you for the opportunity to improve my engineering skills that will help me in my career.” – Andrew O.
- “With the help of our wonderful sponsors, I have been able to be definite that I want to be a mechanical engineer.” – Kristian T.
- “Without sponsors, there would be no robots.” – Mark S.
- “Robotics impacted my life by being able to find my passion of programming and being able to meet new people.” – Matt K.
- “Thank you for contributing to our robotics program. Your contribution to our team is highly appreciated and without you, this team would probably not make it where we are now.” – Zach C.

**The Flying Toasters welcome some of our many sponsors for 2015:**

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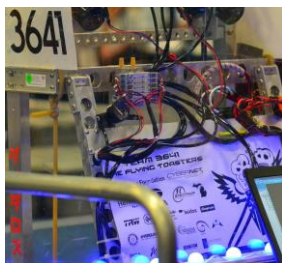
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### Sponsors on our 2015 team shirt

**Thank you Sponsors for helping inspire students in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Science (STEAM).**



For more information on helping to sponsor the team, please contact Coach Weber at [weberr@slcs.us](mailto:weberr@slcs.us)

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**Thank you so much, The Flying Toasters**