



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 #4 World Edition – May 2015

St. Louis World Championship

Capping off a Successful Season with a trip to Worlds

What a thrilling robotics season! The Flying Toasters Robotics team capped off a successful season earning their second trip to the World FIRST Robotics Championship in the last 3 years.

It was held April 23-25 in St Louis, Missouri. With 602 high school teams competing, the event was huge and held in the St. Louis Rams football dome. It is just a few blocks away from the famous St Louis Arch. FIRST announced that 42,000 people registered and were in attendance.

The 602 FRC teams were divided in 8 divisions with 75 to 76 teams in each division. The Toasters were in the Newton Division.

During the 10 qualification matches, the team did well. At the end of qualifications, they ranked 7th out of 76 teams in Newton.

During alliance selections, they were the Captain of the 6th seeded alliance. The team chose the following partners: Team 1983 Skunk Work Robotics from Seattle WA, Team 1741 Red Alert from Greenwood IN, and Team 5027 Event Horizon from San Jose CA. The top 16 alliances competed.

The Toasters advanced to the Top 8 and hoped to get into the Top 4. However, it was not to be. They came in 6th place in the Newton Division.

For Newton, the Top 4 came out exactly how they had ranked 1, 2, 3, 4 in the tough division.

In the end, the top alliance that won the Newton division went on to win the world crown in the exciting Eistein finale against the other divisions. The top team #118 Robonauts was sponsored by NASA and picked their alliance team also from Texas. They could load from any position.

In addition, to the FRC high school level, there were FTC and FLL teams in a different building along with an Innovation Faire.



Pictured above are the Flying Toasters at Worlds



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Upcoming fun events!

June 19-20 – MARC competition

Dean's Advice to Alums

At the closing ceremony at World's, Dean Kamen had a special message to seniors. He asked them to stand. He said you are now officially "FIRST alums". He then gave sage advice to them. He stated that in the past, you've been "takers". You've taken from your "coaches, mentors, and parents". You are now moving to the other side into the "giving" side. So go to college then come back and "give back" to FIRST.

FIRST Pioneers in STEM

You are the first generation involved in FIRST in your families. So each and every Toaster has helped be a pioneer in FIRST. Just by being involved you upped your understanding of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

In addition, team members had an opportunity to gain other valuable skills. Check off how many skills that you gained this year.

- ✓ Pioneer in FIRST
- ✓ STEM participant
- Builder
- CAD designer
- Colleague / Team Mate
- Entertainer (who knew you could dance...)
- Film Maker
- Fundraiser
- Human Player
- Inventor
- Mascot
- Photographer
- Pit Admin
- Public Speaker with Chairman's group
- Robot Driver
- Safety consultant
- Sales & Marketing promoter at Pumpkinfest
- Scout at competitions
- Social Media Writer online
- Volunteer
- Website Designer
- Writer in newsletters



Dean's Homework to You

Dean Kamen, the founder of FIRST, was one of the featured speakers during the closing ceremony. He had a challenge to teams for next year. He wants to "Grow Faster". He said there has been good growth this past year. However, the number of "female and minority students" hasn't grown at the same percentages as in the general U.S. population. So he challenged current students to go "outside their social circle" and invite other students to learn about FIRST. For example, he stated that the singer Will I Am went to a Ferguson Missouri school in April, talked about FIRST, and invited Ferguson students to view the World competition. Dean Kamen challenged students to spread the word about FIRST. He said he wanted all students to have the "opportunity" to hear about FIRST and join a team if they want. So help FIRST "Grow Faster."



Thank You Mr. Weber

Thank you for all of your hard work coaching South Lyon youth in robotics during the 2014-2015 season. There wouldn't be a robotics team in South Lyon without you.

Thank you,
Students & Parents



Freshman Toasters take in Newton division matches in St. Louis.



The Flying Toasters Season Highlights

Bloomfield Girl's Robotics Competition Bloomfield Michigan – November 1 2014

- Competed in the majority of qualifying matches with 32 teams.

Published a Book:

- "The Flying Toasters Spread the Word: A F.I.R.S.T. Reader"



District FIRST Robotics Competition Gull Lake High School Michigan – March 13-14 2015

- Competed in 12 qualifying matches.
- Ranked 26th out of 40 teams after qualification matches. Average score 34.08.
- Moved on to playoff rounds for the Top 8 alliances.
- Selected by the 8th seeded team in the second round to form an alliance.
- Advanced to Semifinalist in elimination playoffs. Finished in 3rd place.
- Winner of the prestigious Chairman's Award, the highest honor in a district competition.

District FIRST Robotics Competition Livonia Churchill High School Michigan – March 27-28 2015

- Competed in 12 qualifying matches.
- Ranked 4th out of 40 teams after qualification matches. Average score 102.58.
- Moved on to playoff rounds for the Top 8 alliances.
- Named Team Captain of the 3rd seeded alliance.
- Advanced to District Finalist in elimination playoffs. Finished in 2nd place.
- Winner of Innovation in Control Award sponsored by Rockwell Automation.

District FIRST Robotics Competition Bedford High School Michigan – April 3-4 2015

- Competed in 12 qualifying matches.
- Ranked 4th out of 40 teams after qualification matches. Average score 135.66.
- Moved on to playoff rounds for the Top 8 alliances.
- Selected by the 2nd seeded team in the first round to form an alliance.
- Advanced to District Finalist in elimination playoffs. Finished in 2nd place.
- Winner of Excellence in Engineering Award sponsored by Delphi.

State of Michigan FIRST Robotics Championship Grand Rapids Michigan – April 9-11 2015

- Competed in 12 qualifying matches.
- Ranked second out of 102 teams after qualifications. Average Score 172.66.
- Moved on to playoff rounds for the Top 16 alliances.
- Advanced to Semifinalist in elimination playoffs. Finished in 6th place.

World FIRST Robotics Championship St Louis Missouri – April 23-25 2015

- Competed in 10 qualifying matches.
- Ranked 7th out of 76 teams in Newton Division after qualifications. Average score 160.90.
- Moved on to playoff rounds for the Top 8 alliances in Newton.
- Captain of 6th Seed Alliance during playoffs in Newton.
- Advanced to Quarterfinalist in elimination playoffs. Finished in 6th place in Newton.



Thank You Sponsors, Mentors, Parents

Thank you to all our sponsors, mentors, and parents. Together you helped inspire a new generation of youth in robotics. **Sponsors**, your financial support during the 2014-2015 school year was very appreciated. Without you, funds wouldn't have been available to pay for registration fees or build the robot. **Mentors** and Mr. Weber, your contribution of time teaching students about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) will be remembered for a lifetime. Finally, thank you **parents** for your encouragement, volunteer assistance, and support during the season. We are deeply grateful. Thank you.

Good Bye Seniors – Take Flight & Soar

- Aaron B.
- Amanda P.
- Bryce B.
- Chris T.

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

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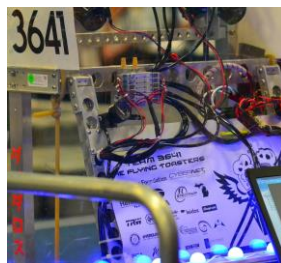
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Sponsors on our 2015 team shirt

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 Ron Weber at weberr@slcs.us

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

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Thank you so much, The Flying Toasters