

KICKOFF 2016!

The build seasons at the Robodox's base in K-2 can be characterized by long nights spent hunching over a C&C, making parts before the 6-week deadline comes to finish the year's FRC bot. This time has come once again, and the Robodox are more excited than ever to begin build season.

On Saturday, January 9th, 2016, the Robodox gathered at Granada Hills Charter High School at 7 am to find out about this year's FRC game. The Robodox enjoyed watching the WACKY shenanigans of Woodie

Flowers, Dean Kamen, and the rest of the FRC gang.

After watching the game reveal video, the Robodox went straight away to analyzing the game and developing successful strategies. In fact, many veterans found that this year's kickoff went much smoother than that of the previous year.

Kickoff was indeed interesting this year, and the Robodox hope that their excitement and motivation carry on throughout the 2016 FRC season.



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Kickoff included the naming of their soon-to-be-built 2016 FRC robot. The name "Neonatologist" was chosen. (A neonatologist is a doctor that focuses on infants, for those out of the loop.) Calligraphy courtesy of team member Michael M.



THE NEW GAME: FIRST STRONGHOLD

With every year comes a new FRC game, and this year's game did not disappoint. The new game, called FIRST Stronghold, introduces a game with little to no resemblance of last year's game, "Recycle Rush". (We can finally recycle our pool noodles and totes!)

FIRST Stronghold is a game that consists of an obstacle course-type field in which robots must surpass different defences in order to "capture" the Stronghold of the opposing team. The game is reminiscent of the Middle Ages and the days of castle sieges (and diseases!). What's unique about Stronghold is that the positions of the defenses change with each match. While each alliance chooses their defenses, one defense is reversed for the audience to choose. The interesting mechanics of this year's game is sure to bring a challenge to the Robodex and the rest of the FRC community.



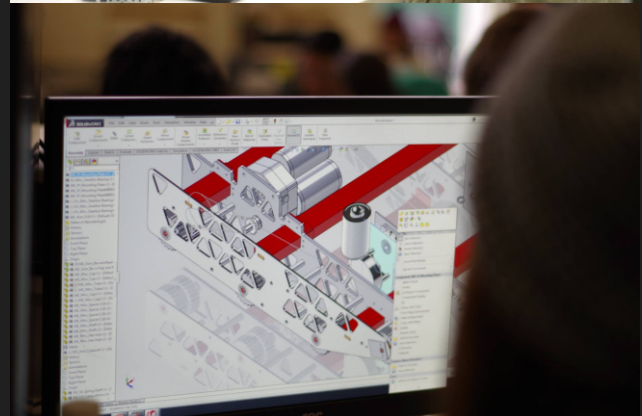
"Robotics has a strong hold on my heart!"

THE COOLEST GIFTS

Up until now, the CADers of the Robodex have been using laptops to model robot parts in SolidWorks. Unfortunately, the computers used posed quite a few problems. A few of them included: overheating, bringing random shutdowns, and hardware limitations, making it difficult to run SolidWorks smoothly. That is, until the Robodex met Cooler Master.

Cooler Master, a company specializing in computer parts, kindly became a sponsor for the Robodex and provided the team with computer cases, parts, monitors, and mechanical keyboards! (In fact, this article is being written on a said computer at this moment.) With these parts, members of the Robodex were not only able to do performance-heavy CADing tasks, but also experience the process of building a computer.

The Robodex would like to thank Cooler Master for giving us the tools needed to succeed!



Team 599 has ascended to glorious PCs, thanks to Cooler Master. *On the left: The wondrous goods donated by Cooler Master. Top right: Melita, a CADer, uses a computer built with the donated parts. Bottom right: A team member reviews a model in SolidWorks, which runs smoothly thanks to the new PCs.*

UPCOMING EVENTS Los Angeles FRC Regional at the Long Beach Arena (March 10-12)
Ventura FRC Regional at Ventura High School (March 24-26)

Suggestions or questions about the Robdrex's newsletter? Contact pr.robodex@gmail.com