

SEPTEMBER 2013

ROBODOX

This month was a month of bonding for the Robodox. Through the annual Team Social, we have been able to get closer with our classmates and bond for the upcoming year. Through simple lessons, new members have been able to learn from older members. Read about it and more...

Bonding: The Annual Robodox Team Social

Written and edited by Jeffrey Lee

On Saturday, September 14th, the Robodox held its annual team social at Northridge Park. Team members slowly trickled into the park, bringing with them miscellaneous drinks, meals, sides, and desserts to the potluck. Many team members, ecstatic to see their fellow classmates outside of the usual environment of K2 and M13, casually socialized and dined on the wide variety of food in the banquet.

When the rest of the team arrived, they were given a fun challenge, according to Robodox tradition. Two members would be “cuffed” and their strings would overlap. The challenge was to untangle themselves without taking the cuffs off. Many threw themselves at the challenge, but ultimately failed, prompting Mr. Van and Dr. K to prove to everyone that it could be done.

In addition to the challenge, the day consisted of other bonding events: ultimate Frisbee, Frisbee golf, and intense matches of chess. Between matches, team members were able to grab a bite to eat and enjoy a meal that everyone had contributed to.

Later in the day, the team had a fun game of Octopus tag. The game is played with all players, except for whoever is “it”, lined up on one side of the court and the objective is to get to the other side without getting tagged. However, those who got tagged were forced to stay in place to try to tag others out on their run back or forth (acting like octopus tentacles). The game would end when all by one remained, becoming “it” for the next match.



Members trying to untangle themselves with Khallid in a ball position.



Michael Lee (above) enjoying a relaxing game of chess

All in all, the Team Social brought the new team together through an amazing day at the Northridge Park. The Robodox grew closer and can face the 2013-2014 build seasons together. Thanks to all those who attended the event, participated in all the games, and a special thanks to our Events executives Cathy Banh and Alyssa Chiang for organizing the event.



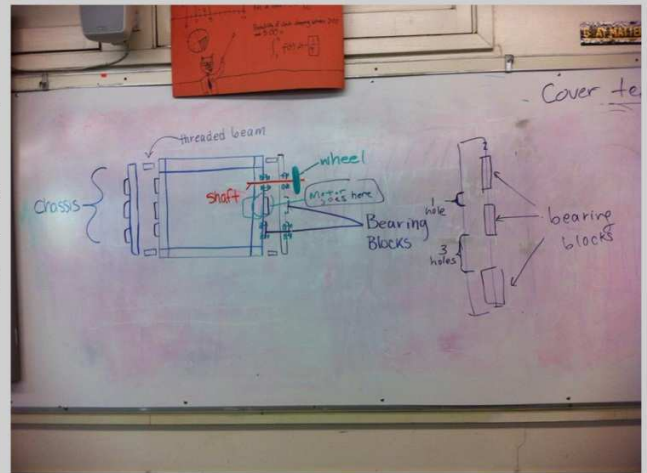
Member Jake (in green) jumping to reach the Frisbee and Zeeshan (in blue) cowering in awe.

Warning: Engineers at Work!

Written by Michael Lee

Edited by Jeffrey Lee

As part of the continually evolving system for new members—"rookies", the "veterans", those who have finished at least 1 year of Robotics already, introduced a new concept to the rookies. The rookies learned about the engineering profession, as well as other aspects of Robotics such as scouting, the act of learning about robots from other teams, taught by Jake Mattinson, measuring and technical drawings, taught by Eileen Iniguez, Alyssa Chiang, and Cathy Banh. However, the lessons soon turned to robot building, taught by members Lauren Yang, Emma Martirossian, and Ziba Shahpar. In addition to their lesson, the girls had the rookies build their own protobot, a smaller version of a VEX competition robot.



Model created by Lauren, Emma, and Ziba for the rookies to duplicate.

After splitting up into several groups and following a set of instructions, the rookies began to construct the chassis, or the frame, of the protobots. While exciting, the lesson was very relaxed; for the sake of learning (and time), Emma and Lauren constructed a model for the rookies to follow.



One of the groups hard at work perfecting their protobots.

As all the rookies learned, a robot is built with three basic parts: chassis, drive, and manipulator. The chassis is the frame and base of the robot. The drive is the part of the robot that allows it to move, including the motors and wheels. The manipulator is the aspect of the robot that manipulates outside objects. Three parts, yet even with over 2 hours a day, the project took the groups 3-4 days. One of the biggest problems the rookies faced was realizing that there was a problem too far into the build process. It was only after they had finished building that they realized that they had to take it all apart to redress a single error, a tedious and very frustrating task. It reinforces a key value in them: to think and work together. It was only after the groups began to work together that they could accomplish the task. Robotics isn't just about building the perfect robot. Engineering has always been, and always will be, a learning experience. It is a way to find something new and to create something new that no one has done before. That's not something a person is taught; it's a way of life, of seeing beyond the present to look to the future and see in it something new, exciting, and perfect.

HELP WANTED

Who: Anyone willing to work (no prior experience necessary), i.e. you!

What: A day of helping out a local robotics team host a competition

Where: GHCHS, in the gyms

When: November 23rd, 7am to 6pm

How: Contact Mr. Vanderway at his email (below), or by his phone at (818) 470-5457

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Robodox Events

Disney Youth Education Series- Learn about mechanical physics through interactive experiences Disney offers (Tuesday, October 8th).

Viewpoint VEX Competition- The team's first VEX competition at Viewpoint School in Calabasas (Saturday, October 19th).

Granada VEX Competition- The team's home competition, hosted at Granada Hills Charter High School (Saturday, November 23rd).

For More Information, Contact:

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