Sponsor Update!

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The Thunder Press

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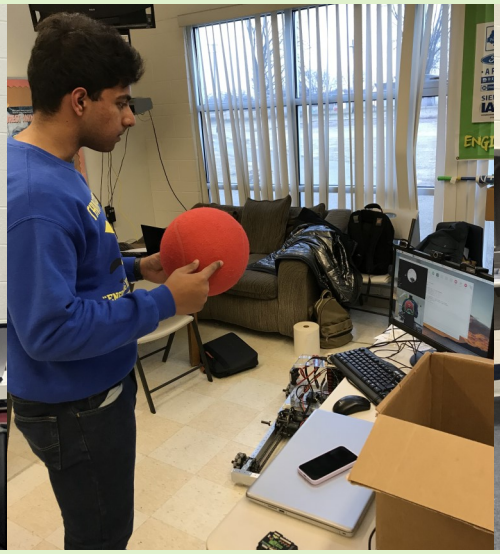

Countdown at the Coop

This last week at the coop, we have hit many milestones in our build process. The most important accomplishment of this week has been the finishing of the competition robot.

As the competition nears, the testing phases of the robot has begun and will continue throughout the week. Another major accomplishment of the week has been picking out the driver, operator, and human player for the team. The team was selected by mentor, Donovan Whitehead, who hosted drive tryouts at the beginning of the week. On Wednesday, the drive team was finally announced. Congrats to Max Pagel as our driver, Brendan Schwartz as our operator, and Sydney Bely and Nathan Schultz as our human players. They will be hard at work over the next week, practicing for the upcoming Saline Competition on 3/26 and 3/27.

Another accomplishment that we've achieved this week was completing our robot. This was the result of many months of hard work. Overcoming the numerous challenges that we have faced throughout the build season was a wonderful learning experience for the team. With this opportunity we were able to grow and strengthen our knowledge in engineering and the different aspects of robotics.

Another thing that happened this week was the choosing of the robot name. On Wednesday, the team voted to name the robot Onago, as suggested by our team CEO, Noah Vermuelen. He suggested this name because the 'N's in Nonagon will be covered by our bumper and our robot will say our name, Onago also happens to be the same name as a Japanese folklore yokai that "causes no particular harm but is enough to ruin someone's life."

In the Mechanical department, a major task has been completed: the climber was finished and was attached to the robot. It has been several long weeks of building, testing, fixing, and more testing, but finally the climbers have been attached.

The Programming department has been constantly testing the code written by the programming head, Noah Vermuelen. The code that is being tested governs each part of the robot from the motor controllers to the pulley system for the climber. The new members have been creating tester classes to test the code.

The Electrical department has been busy dealing with one of the issues of the robot: the CAN wires (communication wires). One of the main issues of the week was getting communication with the different parts of the robot, and with the failure of the CAN wires, this created a difficult task. However, with many hours of testing, the issue was fixed.

This week was very eventful and we are very excited to see our hard work in action at the upcoming competitions!

A Quick Preview of our Robot!

Here's a quick preview of our robot a week before our first competition at Saline! In the image, our robot has the practice bumpers to mock our official design. With our climbers attached, we are ready to practice for our first battle.

This image is not our final robot and we are still working on it. Feel free to attend our first event at Saline to see our final robot first hand!

Our Competition Schedule:

Event	Dates	Location
Saline District Event	March 26 & 27	Saline High School
Macomb District Event	April 1 & 2	Macomb Community College Sports and Expo Center
Michigan State Championships	April 14 – 16 (assuming we qualify)	Saginaw Valley State University Ryder Center
FIRST World Championships	April 20 – 23 (assuming we qualify)	George R. Brown Convention Center Houston, Texas

The public is invited to attend competitions in person. If you'd like to join us, please contact frc.team.217@gmail.com and we will arrange for a tour!