

Hello! We are the Ponytail Posse, a competitive robotics team. This is the third issue of our new quarterly newsletter. You are receiving this because you have supported us in the past or you subscribed at www.theponytailposse.com.

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Thank you!



WHAT'S NEW & HAPPENING WITH THE PONYTAIL POSSE

WINTER 2016 NEWSLETTER

- Eden Prairie tournament results
- In the workshop
- Corporate demos
- Mentoring other teams
- Save the date: MN State tournament
- Looking ahead...
- Winter throwback picture
- Thank you, sponsors!

WHO IS THE PONYTAIL POSSE?

Sabriyah, Nancy, Rose, Meghan, Amy, and Amelie: a 7th year robotics team. We are in our sophomore year of high school.



EDEN PRAIRIE TOURNAMENT RESULTS

On January 16th, we had our second qualifying tournament of the season. We had a fantastic time running our robot and meeting other teams. Our hard work paid off at the end of the day when we received the **Think Award** for our Engineering Notebook, as well as **2nd place Inspire Award** (overall award for the tournament). It was a great way to wrap up the first part of our season and made us even more pumped for the state tournament in February!

[Click here](#) for our blog post about the day.

IN THE WORKSHOP...

Over the past couple months, the builders have been working on designing a way for the robot to hang from the pull-up bar at the top of the mountain. After some thought, they decided to use a custom made aluminum scissor arm. Next, they had to figure out how to raise the arm high enough



to reach the bar. They considered and prototyped several different ideas (such as using a horizontal lead screw, geared system, vertical lead screw, etc.). Right now, they are planning on using a reliable pulley system. Fingers crossed that our robot will be able to climb the mountain at State!



CORPORATE DEMOS

So far this season, we've visited seven of our sponsors to give demos. This past week, we had days off of school and seized the chance to visit two of our new sponsors, [Braun Intertec](#) and [Hypertherm](#). For both, we gave a brief presentation about our team and FIRST robotics. We described the kinds of impacts that FIRST has had on our lives and invited them to our state tournament (spoiler alert – scroll down a bit farther for more info). We always enjoy spreading “the gospel of FIRST” to the local STEM community, and we’re glad to have the opportunity to do so with the companies that have supported us this season.

MENTORING OTHER TEAMS



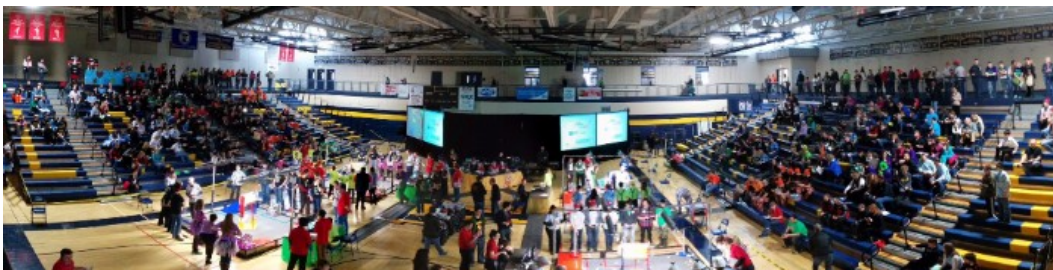
Just like us, FLL teams have been busy preparing for their regional and state tournaments. We've met with a few of them for mock judging sessions, in which we act as judges while also giving them advice on how to improve their robot or research project. We've also met and video called with a few FTC teams to exchange tips. It's been a lot of fun talking to these teams and we wish them good luck with their competitions!

YOU'RE INVITED

Our state competition is on **February 6th** at Thomas Jefferson High School in **Bloomington, MN**. Come **between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM** to watch us compete with other teams from around the state. It's a great opportunity to see what we've been doing throughout the season – it will also be Posse member Amy's birthday, and it would be a wonderful birthday gift to come and say hello.

If you are planning on coming, please let us know beforehand so one of us can meet you to show you around and explain the robot game. You can also [click here](#) to learn the basics of this year's challenge.

Hope to see you there!



[CLICK HERE](#) TO READ ABOUT WHAT ELSE WE'VE BEEN UP TO THIS WINTER!

- GOFIRST FTC Workshop presentation – [link](#)
- October Twitter chat – [link](#)
- Demo for Magenic – [link](#)
- Eagan qualifying tournament – [link](#)
- Middle school robotics club meeting – [link](#)
- Mock judging the Coding Queens – [link](#)
- Mock judging the Dots – [link](#)
- Mock judging the Screaming LEGO People – [link](#)
- Mock judging the Motorbits – [link](#)

- Mock judging the Titanium Allies – [link](#)
 - Video chat with the Sparks – [link](#)
 - Video chat with the Motorbits – [link](#)
 - Demo for Braun Intertec – [link](#)
 - Demo for Hypertherm – [link](#)
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LOOKING AHEAD...

- 2/6/16 – MN State tournament ★
 - 2/15/16 – demo for Promet Optics
- ★ Open to public – contact us for details!

THROWBACK PICTURE



OUR LOVELY SPONSORS:



Everyone who has donated
their time and money to
help us continue our
success in FIRST

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone who might be interested. Thank you!



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