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March 17, 2017

[View this email in your browser](#)**Newsletter Edition 2016-17, Volume 07**

Competition reigns for the robotics teams. VEX and FTC have ended their regular season and are entering post-season competitions. FRC is set to compete in their second STEAMWORKS tournament of the season at The Rocket City Regional. It is critical now to make sure you have satisfied your financial and administrative requirements if you want to travel with your team to these competitions.

Remember, all club events are located on the calendar at: www.frc1369minotaur.com/calender

The following topics are covered in this issue of the newsletter:

- Quote of the Day
- Corporate Sponsors
- FTC Teams Qualify for South Super Regional Tournament
- VEX Team Competes at State Tournament
- FRC Competes at Palmetto Regional
- Travel Teams
- Fundraising
- Outreach
- Annual Robotics Awards & Sponsor Recognition Banquet
- Robotics Varsity Letter
- Adult Committees
- Communication

As we near the end of the 2016-2017 season, we are most excited about our teams and their advancement through the competitions. We look forward to cheering them on as competition gets even more intense. We're excited about

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Florida and the U.S. If you have any questions, comments, or would like to volunteer and help out, please contact your team captain and/or coach or you can contact Rich Berglund directly at roboticscoach@gmail.com

If you no longer wish to receive email newsletters and updates from Middleton Robotics, please use this [unsubscribe](#) link to opt out of this list. Thank you.

Quote of the Day

This part of the newsletter is used for those words of wisdom or commentary we hear from our students and/or mentors. If you hear one, send it to Rich Berglund (roboticscoach@gmail.com) for inclusion in the newsletter.



"If the whole thing does not fit into my mouth, then it is not a cookie"

Captain Jack, FRC Minotaur.

New Corporate Sponsors

Remember, the easiest and quickest way for anyone to achieve their fundraising goal is to solicit corporate sponsorships. Money students help collect is credited directly toward their fundraising goal. Many are continuing with ongoing efforts to seek out new and recurring corporate relationships.

We welcome the following new & returning corporate sponsors to the Middleton Robotics family:

- Doolittle Institute
- SOFWERX



FTC Teams Qualify for South Super Regional Tournament

Both of our FTC teams competed at the Florida State Championship in February. Maelstrom won the PTC

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There they will compete for a slot at the FIRST World Championship in Houston, TX. Good Luck, Maelstrom!

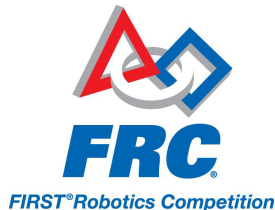
VEX Team Competes at State Tournament

VEX team Mercury competed at the State Tournament in February. Although they competed fiercely, they just missed out on winning. The team has made great strides this year under the leadership of Mr. Greishop and Team Captain, Riccelo.



Mercury is still on the wait list for the National Open tournament in Omaha, NB. Right now they have been placed on wait list due to tournament capacity. This is a great accomplishment for our VEX team.

FRC Team competes at Palmetto Regional



FRC Minotaur traveled to Myrtle Beach, SC, to defend their title at the Palmetto Regional. Minotaur was one of the top robots at the regional. The team only made it to the quarterfinals, but left many teams impressed.

Minotaur currently holds the world record for STEAMWORKS rope climb in 2.7 sec. Watch the climb here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wO6a1cuXULA> Next stop is Rocket City Regional in Huntsville, AL. Good luck, Team Minotaur!

Travel Teams

There have been several questions regarding Team Travel Teams and student's eligibility to travel. Here is a recap of current policy and what was presented at the Parents Meeting in August. **Travel Team is defined as traveling with team to a competition where an overnight stay is required.** For FTC this is State Tournament and beyond, For VEX, this is World Championship, and for FRC this is Regional competition and beyond. In order for a student to go to

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to logistics.

- **Finances.** Student must satisfy fundraising goal and dates as defined below
- **Outreach.** Student must complete a minimum of 3 official robotics Outreach events
- **Academics.** Student must have minimum 2.75 unweighted GPA and no "F"
- **Disciplinary.** No disciplinary actions
- **Approval.** Completed permission forms: Parent; Medical Release (notarized); Teacher Permission
- **FRESHMEN.** At least 1 parent/guardian must travel on first out-of-state trip. (FTC – Super Regional; VEX – World Championship; FRC – Regionals)

Fundraising

We have completed 22 fundraisers so far this season. We do not have very many, schedule for rest of the year. Now that Post season tournaments are upon us, parents and students are reminded that additional fundraising is required beyond what has been listed. As teams qualify for post season, new goals will be established and communicated to team members and families.

Ongoing Fundraisers include:

eBay sales. Event Coordinator: James Goldney.

Got something around the house you and to get rid of, but don't want to hold garage sale? We have teamed with a local vendor to participate in eBay sales. The basic description is we provide the items to sell, deliver them to the vendor.



The ebay Vendor does all the work or advertising, tracking and shipping items and provides us a percentage of sales. Students will receive 90% of profit. Vendor would appreciate only higher dollar items for sale due to logistics. Students/Parents can drop off items at robotics room. Please mark items with student's name and approximate value (if unusual item). James will pick up boxes weekly on Fridays and deliver to vendor. He will also track donations and sales.

Outreach

One of the great things about our robotics program is it's really "more than just

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a minimum of 3 outreach events, your opportunities are very few. You have to make the effort to complete your goals.



Upcoming Outreach include:

Electronic waste recycling. We are collecting electronics and other electrical devices for recycling. Students will receive outreach credit and some fundraising (depends on what we collect). There are collection boxes in the robotics room. See flyer on the Google Drive (tinyurl.com/middletonrobotics) for details and list of items to be collected.

BAMA Annual STEM Meeting, Middleton High School, Mar 30. This is the annual meeting of Bay Area Manufacturers Association and a time for us to showcase our robots. Team Captains will nominate a few students from each team to demonstrate the robot.

FLATE Robotics Day. FLATE is holding their annual Robotics Day celebration at HCC Brandon, April 13 and have asked Middleton Robotics back to demonstrate our robots. Team Captains are compiling lists of student demonstrators. If you want to participate, contact your team captain

Florida FLL State Invitational Tournament, May 6, Lakeland. This annual event will invite FLL teams from across the state to compete in a friendly competition. Many volunteers are needed to make this tournament work. If you want to volunteer, signup is via the FIRST VIMS system

Tampa Bay LibCon, North Tampa, May 13. The Hillsborough County Library System is holding their first annual LibCon at Jimmie Keel Library on Bearss Ave. They have asked Middleton Robotics to come demo our robots. We will be at the event from 10am to 4pm, so there is plenty of opportunity for students to volunteer. See your team captain to sign up. Students who work this event can have their hours credited toward the 2017-2018 season.

RoboFest Robotics 2017 Competition. Our VEX team volunteered at the first Robofest event and impressed the organizers so we've been invited back! The second is the National championship, **Jun 1-3 in St Pete Beach.** Robofest is a number of robotics competitions of varying skill levels with students from grades 5-12. More info is available at <https://www.robofest.net/>. All kinds of volunteers are needed from judges, referees and general. Signup for volunteer positions is at <https://robofest.net/rms/volunteer.ControllerServlet?contentPage=JobList.jsp>

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months. These will be announced via Remind Text service.

Annual Robotics Awards & Sponsor Banquet



The date is set for our annual Middleton Robotics Awards and Sponsor Recognition Banquet. The banquet will be held **Wednesday, May 17 at 6 PM, in the Middleton cafeteria**. This is our chance to show off our robots, recognize sponsors, and award students. There is no cost to students who are in good financial standing with the club (i.e. met goals). Parents, family, guests will pay a small fee to help cover costs. We ask ALL to RSVP so we can get a head count to accurately order food. Please RSVP online at <http://tinyurl.com/MHSBanquet2017>

Robotics Varsity Letter



Middleton High School is the only high school in Hillsborough County / West Florida and one of only a few in the country that offer its students the opportunity to earn a varsity letter in robotics. The rigorous requirements are established and posted to the Google Drive (tinyurl.com/middletonrobotics). Our 2017 class will be announced at our Annual Awards & Sponsor Banquet on May 17.

Adult Committees

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We are looking for parents to step up and help out with Club Administration for next year. You can start now to help get acclimated. These are not full time positions and your expertise is needed. Committee members have great insight into upcoming events and are able to pre-select activities in which to participate. We are currently seeking members for the **Fundraising Committee** and the **Outreach Committee**, which seek out community outreach opportunities that the club can undertake to give back to the community. If you would like to help with one of these committees, please email Rich Berglund (roboticscoach@gmail.com)

Club Webmaster

We are on the hunt for someone to serve as the Middleton Robotics Club Webmaster. Our website is in dire need of making it useful. Ideally, we'd like to have someone who can build our website then monitor and manage it to help improve robotics education and disseminate information to the community. If you have the talent and expertise and want to tackle this, please email Rich Berglund at roboticscoach@gmail.com. Webmaster position has great benefits!

Communication

A major goal for the upcoming season is better communication up, down, and lateral. The first step is to communicate with your team leads (coach/mentor and team captain). If they send out a request – respond! If you have a question – ask! We are working on making the website more useful and we intend to make the newsletter more useful for everyone.



One of the tools we use in the club is "**Remind**" text messaging. This tool allows us to send out global texts (to include pictures) to the club for rapid

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mandatory for students and optional for parents. To signup, simply text the phrase **@mhsrobotcl** to the number **81010**.

Remember, all robotics club events are currently listed on the FRC online calendar. Until we get the Robotics Club website fully operational again, the calendar is available online at www.frc1369minotaur.com/calender



As always, if you have any questions, comments, or would like to volunteer and help out, please contact your team captain and/or coach or you can contact Rich Berglund directly at roboticscoach@gmail.com

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