

VOLUME III ISSUE I  
JANUARY 2011

UPCOMING  
EVENTS

- Build Season ends February 22.
- Waterford: March 11-12
- Troy Athens: April 1-2
- Michigan State Championships: April 7-9
- World championships: April 27-30

INSIDE  
THIS ISSUE:

- It's Logomotion 1
- The Game 2
- Gearheads 2
- Kickball Potluck 3
- Sponsors 4



## It's Logomotion



Crevolution's student leaders hold three game pieces to make the FIRST logo. VP of design Marek Pilarski (left), VP of PR/Marketing Lauren Cocco (middle), and CEO Cody Marshall look confidently towards the future. Bonus points!

Early, on a cold Saturday morning a group of well educated, creative, diverse, and enthusiastic students met up together at Utica High School. The members of FIRST Robotics team Crevolution gathered together at 9:00 am and waited impatiently for the time to come; the time when this year's game would be announced. They sat anxiously and watched the one and half hour First Robotics presentation on the NASA channel. Finally, the time came for the event to be announced. After a countdown that seemed to last forever, the curtain dropped and a gasp could be heard around the room. Crevolution

sat in amazement as they watched as the details of the challenge unfolded. Already, the wheels and gears inside of their heads began to turn. The new game was revealed!

The game Logomotion was revealed by Dean Kamen and Will.i.am to over 50,000 high school students at the FIRST Robotics Competition Kickoff. The 2011 kickoff celebrated FIRST Robotics 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Crevolution, after watching the animation of the 2011 game, began the start of the six week build season by highlighting the rules that were printed out by mentors. When the team was finished with that, they discussed the rules of the

game with the consideration of penalties. This session was only for strategy not for the design of the robot. After two hours of straight of discussion, the team broke up into subgroups according to their main interests. They divided into the design, programming, public relations and the website teams. Then they discussed the specifics of what the robot will look like and how it will function. May ideas bounced around from a fuzzy green minibot to what specific functions the robot should perform. At 4:00 pm the team packed up and headed their separate ways, eager to come together again and get down to work.

*"One of my biggest fears before we went public was, people would think of this as a toy, ... We think it's much more than that."  
~ Dean Kamen*

## The Game

First has yet again managed to out do themselves with their competition called "Logo Motion". The goal is to design a robot that hangs tubes on to different levels of pegs on a wall. The tubes consist of a red triangle, white circle, and blue square; shapes of the First robotics logo.

In the beginning of the match, the robot must first hang a special tube called the "Ubber Tube" on the wall without being

controlled by a human player. This gives each team bonus points that can double your score if another tube is placed over it. Then, human players step up to take control of the robot. They run back and forth across the field, grabbing tubes from one side of the arena, and bring it to the other to be hung to score points. At the end of the match, the robot must be driven to the middle of the arena,

where there are four metal poles. A mini robot is released from the robot. The mini bot then, by itself, climbs up the pole, hits the top, and then climbs back down. The game only lasts two minutes and fifteen seconds. Competing in this challenge requires strategy, ingenuity, and creativity.

## Gearheads

With little kids screaming their heads off, an overpriced snack bar, and excessively crowded hallways, parents attending the FIRST Lego League regional held at Henry Ford II High got a little more than they may have bargained for. The students however, had the time of their lives.

The energy there could have rivaled that of a match-up between Michigan and Michigan State. Teams,

made up of fourth through eighth graders, compete using the building blocks of any-



The team Gearheads.

one's childhood, Legos. Prior to competition, the competing teams built their robot using Mindstorm, a Lego robotics platform, and installed a program

of their own design to interact with the playing field elements. Competitions like this are great examples of how FISRT Robotics Competitions are. Lots of noise, sweat, and even the occasional tear or two. After putting in hours of work, these teams do everything in their power to avoid failure, and failure is not an option. The Jack Harvey Gearheads, a FLL team sponsored by Crevolution, managed to kick it



Three of the game pieces that create the FIRST logo.

in gear with their teamwork demonstration and placed 12th out of more than 40 teams, securing them a spot in states. Made up of fourth, fifth and sixth graders, the team had been meeting at least once a week since early September 3<sup>rd</sup>. The kids worked extremely hard, and even took time out of lunch during school days to practice with their

teacher. The students put a lot of effort into this team with the support of their parents. Their hard work and display of gracious professionalism earned them a first place in teamwork at regional's, and the inspiration award at the state competition. This is the Jack Harvey Gear Heads second year, and already they have made it to states! The Gear Heads,

even being the youngest team to compete, performed extremely well against the other teams with more experience. We are very proud of them and have great hopes for them in the future. Because, we know there is only good things to come from an amazing team like the Gearheads.

## Kickball Potluck

The whistling wind flying through the trees wasn't the only sound in Jaycee Park on Sunday. The sound of leaves and gravel crunching under the feet of friends at play sliced through the chilly autumn air. What possibly could they be doing? With the smack of rubber on rubber, sending the giant red ball into the air, the only possible answer could be kickball.

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, Crevolution hosted a kickball potluck for new, interested, and returning members. Although a large turnout could not be gained due to other school activities being in full swing, the students that came had a

blast. The kickball players split into two groups of nine as onlookers cheered from the benches, others raiding the snack table. A heated game ensued, which resulted in the Yeah Yeahs winning seven to four against That's What She Said. After the game, the team enjoyed a plethora of potluck goodies supplied by the team members. An assortment of chips, pop, hotdogs, macaroni and cheese, and desserts littered the food table under the pavilion. Once the Crevos ate their fill, they split into groups and played mini games of soccer, frisbee, and football.

At the end of the day, everyone went home tired, happy, and even closer than they had been before. The sounds in the park dwindled back to just the small whistle of the wind blowing through the trees, but some warmth from the day's events remained.



"Barefoot Basil" kicking the ball for the Yeah Yeah Yeahs.

# Sponsors

Thank you to all of our sponsors. We couldn't have done it without you.



We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. If you would like to sponsor Crevolution, contact us at [crevo.robotics@gmail.com](mailto:crevo.robotics@gmail.com)

To learn more about us visit our website at <http://crevolutionrobotics.org/>