



# T H E TORQUE TIMES

FRC TEAM 1477 ■ TEXAS TORQUE

FEBRUARY 2014 - EDITION TWO

## SPEADING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN OUR AREA

The past two weeks have been some of the most active weeks in Texas Torque's history, with robot tuning, lab organization... and event after event as Torque members went out into the field to volunteer at science-related events.



Connor Smith, Vikram Krishnan, and Patrick McCabe volunteered at Armstrong Elementary.

We began our efforts with a VEX Robotics Competition event in the middle of the month as a team of our members trekked to League City to volunteer with competition duties. Torque volunteers met volunteers from other teams to help the event operate smoothly throughout the day.

Last week, team members distributed themselves among the three elementary schools, promoting science and technology at the various presentations. For many of the students, this was their first time getting to see a fully functional robot from Texas Torque; while some of the students remembered seeing our 2012 robot, Veloci-

Riptar, we also presented our 2013 robot, Sonic, at two of the three demonstrations. Our students took great pride in explaining both the functions of our robot and our team to children and parents alike. Even our newest members were able to demonstrate knowledge of our team and FIRST as a whole. Of course, we made sure to advertise Texas Torque as a fulfilling team to join in the future!

### LEAD MENTOR

SCOTT RIPPETOE

### BUILD MENTORS

JAMES TONTHAT

RAYNE BERIDON

CASSIE STEFFY

### CHAIRMAN'S MENTORS

JASON BALL

SHERRY COATS

### BUSINESS MENTOR

MATT DAVIES

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Dallas Regional 3/13-15

Lone Star Regional 4/4-6

## TEXAS TORQUE LEADERSHIP ATTENDS HAL ACADEMY

In the middle of this month, Texas Torque representatives got on the road for *The Halliburton Academy*: a 5 day global internal conference held in San Antonio, Texas.

Co-captains Vaishu Kishore and Josh Beridon, Electrical Captain Robert Oakley, and mentor

Jason Ball went to the event to demonstrate our World Champion robot, Sonic (shown right).

We take great pride in being able to give a professional demonstration at such a major event, and thank Halliburton for their continued support of our team and program.



Our 2013 robot, Sonic, was presented at Hal Academy.

## TEAM TALKS: JACOB LUBECKI

The Dallas Regional is quickly approaching, and Texas Torque World Headquarters is buzzing with excitement as the date of our first FRC competition runs closer and closer. I took a moment of our schedule to talk to Mechanical Captain Jacob Lubecki, who has been an important factor in our success during build season and beyond.

### **How did you get started on Texas Torque?**

J: How did I get started on Texas Torque? Well, in sophomore year, I needed an R&P (Research and Problems) as an Academy of Science and Technology requirement. Many current team members in summer school class en-

couraged me to join the team. The team was very inclusive when I wasn't able to do BEST, and my transition into the team was very smooth. I've never regretted that decision.

### **What are your current projects with the team?**

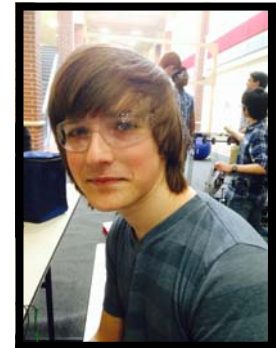
J: Right now, I'm busy making the catapult more consistent. We've got a nice shot right now, but we think that we can make it better before our competition next week. The rest of the robot is pretty much done, though, so it's mostly drive practice and more programming right now.

### **What is your favorite memory with the team?**

J: Winning Championships, hands down. At first, that day wasn't so great, since I was sick for just about the entire day. I finally regained my composure enough to head off to the Edwards Dome when I heard that we made it to Einstein, the semifinals of the entire competition. After so many ups and downs this season, that victory was so, so sweet.

### **What do you want to do in the future?**

J: Well, I will be heading off to University of Texas at Austin or University of Houston this fall. I want to be able to start mentoring the team while studying mechanical engineering.



*Jacob Lubecki is the Captain of the Mechanical Subteam at Texas Torque. In addition to working with the Mechanical Subteam, he is an expert with Computer Aided Design (CAD), specializing in Solidworks. This is his third year on the team.*

*We greatly appreciate all of the work Jacob does for the team!*

## BUILD CORNER



### PROGRAMMING

Without our skilled programming team, our team could not function as well as it does. In addition to programming the basic functions of the robot for driving and operating, our programming team is responsible for coding the autonomous mode of the robot, i.e. the 10-second period at the start of the match during which the robot operates according to pre-programmed instructions. Bradley Holloway, our programming captain, is leading the effort.

“Our mission is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership.” — **FIRST Mission**

