



T H E TORQUE TIMES

FRC TEAM 1477 ■ TEXAS TORQUE

MARCH 2014 - EDITION ONE



HALLIBURTON



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

Lone Star Regional 4/4-6

World Championships 4/23-26

TEXAS TORQUE COMPETES AT THE DALLAS REGIONAL

After this year's busy build season and the continued work on the robot throughout the last 9 weeks, Texas Torque was eager to compete at its first official FIRST Robotics Competition event since last year's Championship — the Dallas Regional.

Following the first day, which consisted primarily of travel and pit setup, the team entered its first day of competition at the Dallas Regional. While key members in each of the build subteams spent nearly the entire day working on final adjustments on the robot, other team members took time to help out other teams at the regional. As a team that considers Gracious Professionalism one of the driving influences on the team's character, a solid portion of our team's members went out into the pits to make sure that all teams would be in tip-top shape for the following day of competition. Work on the robot finished successfully as well; near the end of the day, our team played two practice matches to get a feel for the gameplay and performed very well on the field.



This year's robot competing in qualification rounds at Dallas. (Photo credit: FRC 1296)

On the second day of the competition and the first day of qualifications, Texas Torque started the day off with a bang, winning its first qualification match 165–28. As the day went on, Texas Torque suffered some mechanical and electrical difficulties, causing problems on the field. Still, the team's members kept their spirits high, fixing problems as they arose with a respectable air of efficiency and calmness. The day ended with a victory playing with FRC 148, the Robowranglers, and a 5-3 record overall. That night, team leadership and scouting/strategy officials on the team met to discuss what could be seen in the following day of competition and potentially strong alliance partners in the next day of competition.

The third day of competition started with an unexpected loss due to further problems on the robot. We con-

tinued to play through the rest of the qualification matches, ranking 21st. We were happy to form an eliminations alliance with FRC 1817, the Roboraiders, and FRC 3735, the KleinBots. However, our 3rd seeded alliance lost in the quarterfinals due to a controversial penalty.

The regional ended fantastically with a well-deserved Chairman's Award (details on the next page). Following the event, our team had a delicious dinner with FRC 359, the Hawaiian Kids, winners of the Dallas Regional.

Overall, our team feels confident and ready to tackle the next two weeks in preparation for the Lone Star Regional. We hope to build on this performance there. Without a doubt, we accomplished our primary goals for this tourney and look forward to a bright future this season.



TEAM TALKS: CHASE NOREN

After our Chairman's Award victory at the Dallas Regional, it would only be reasonable to interview Chase Noren, a third year student on the team who led the Awards subteam and all involved members to this year's first ever Chairman's Award.

How did you get started on Texas Torque?

C: Well, I was originally a part of the Academy BEST team, and I noticed that FIRST was another program. One of my friends, Robert Oakley, "encouraged me" to join one day (really, he dragged me into the lab), promising that I would only need to stay for thirty minutes. At first, I wasn't sure if I wanted to join,

but I decided to give it a chance. Long story short, I ended up staying for a lot longer than thirty minutes.

What was it like working on the Chairman's Award this year?

C: It was worth every second of it. I felt like I was doing something that was really helping the team. To me, I think our work changed Texas Torque's perspective, as we continually looked at ways to make FIRST loud and make an impact on the community. Without a doubt, it was tiring at times and was a lot of hard work, but in the end, I got to work with some of the best people. Overall, it was a worthwhile experience

and something that I would never trade.

What do you want to do in the future?

C: Let's see... well, I plan to go to a four year program at Texas A&M to get my Bachelor's degree. I'll be majoring in either Aeronautical or Mechanical Engineering. After that, I hope to earn my Master's degree at a higher level institution. It would be great to be able to do a Co-op with NASA during this time as well.

Eventually, it would be great to work at NASA or a private company like SpaceX.



Chase Noren is the captain of Texas Torque's Awards subteam, spending much of his time this year working on our Chairman's submission.

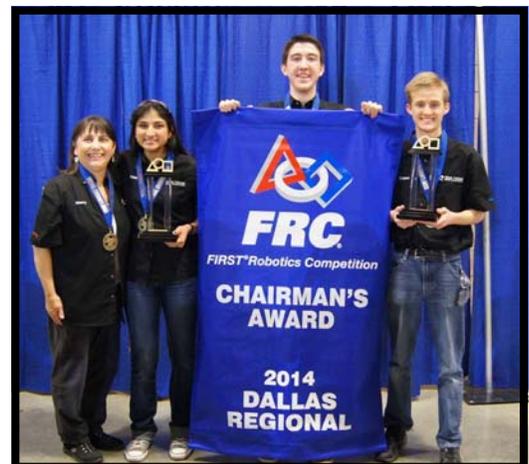
We greatly appreciate all of the work Chase does for the team, and congratulate him on leading the team to its first ever Chairman's Award!

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD VICTORY

Behind the tools, machines, and robots in our lab lies a certain drive towards innovation, impact, and leadership in Texas Torque's community. Throughout off-season, build season, and beyond, our Chairman's team has been working nonstop to prepare our entry for the Chairman's Award in the FIRST Robotics Competition, given to the team which "best represents a model for other teams to emulate and best embodies the purpose and goals of FIRST" (USFIRST.com). As of this weekend, Texas Torque is proud to hoist its **first ever** Chairman's Award. The victo-

ry is the culmination of the persistent efforts of our Chairman's team, the guidance of various mentors both from Texas Torque and from other teams, and the promotion of the core values that have developed with our program.

We are honored to take home this prestigious award. Our Chairman's entry will be presented at the World Championships this year; regardless of the result there, we will continue to build on our successes and strive towards becoming an even better model for FIRST teams and students worldwide.



Mentor Sherry Coats and Chairman's Award presenters Vaishu Kishore, Matt Bartell, and Chase Noren pose with the newly acquired banner. Not pictured here is Kolton Coats, who directed the accompanying video.

"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**

