THE TORQUE TIMES

FRC TEAM 1477 ■ TEXAS TORQUE

APRIL 2014 - LONE STAR EDITION

TEXAS TORQUE AT THE LONE STAR REGIONAL

This past weekend, Texas Torque took part in one of the last FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) Regionals in the 2014 season: the Lone Star Regional. Of the 15 years that the Lone Star Regional has been active, Texas Torque was proud to make this their 11th appearance — and a solid one at that. Sixty-seven teams were present, including two teams from China and three teams from Mexico.

The team quickly reaped the benefits of the two weeks of fixes and practice between the Dallas Regional and this event, winning the first match 231 to 16 with longtime partners, FRC 624, CRyptonite. Throughout the first day of competition, Texas Torque only lost one match.

The second day brought even more successes, as Texas Torque won every qualification match in the morning. By the end of the day, Texas Torque was ranked 2nd of the 67 teams at the regional, falling beneath FRC 148, Robowranglers, by only 20 Assist Points. In alliance selection, we were elated to welcome CRyptonite, our historic partners, as our first pick on our alliance. The pair decided to pick FRC 3997, The Screaming Chickens, to complete the alliance.

In the elimination rounds, Texas Torque, CRyptonite, and The Screaming Chickens won the quarterfinal and the semifinal rounds handily. Semifinal 2-2 was especially intense, as the 2nd seeded alliance set the high score of the regional without fouls (275). In the blink of an eye, the finals were upon us, and our 2nd seeded alliance was up against the 1st seeded alliance of FRC 118, FRC 148, and FRC 2585. Both alliances played at their best, but in the end, the first seeded alliance came out on top.

Texas Torque was glad to bring home the Industrial Design Award and a Finalist trophy. In addition, Texas Torque congratulates FRC 3103, Iron Plaid for their Engineering Inspiration Award, and FRC 3847, Spectrum, for winning the Chairman's Award at the Lone Star Regional.

All in all, the team is happy with their performance at the 15th Annual Lone Star Regional. With the end of this year's regional competition season, the only obstacle that remains is the 2014 World Championship; the team feels as though the last two events have thoroughly prepared them for both the World Chairman's presentation and the competition aspect, and hopes to make a grand showing on the international stage once again.

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

Milam Elementary Demo	4/15
World Championships	4/23-26

CHINESE COOPERTITION AT COMPETITION

The Lone Star Regional is known for bringing in teams from all around the United States and the world. In years past, this 15-year regional has brought teams from Australia, Brazil and Mexico. This year, the George R. Brown Convention Center was proud to host two teams from somewhere a bit new: China.

The two Chinese teams, FRC 5307 (Grapefuit) and FRC 5308 (Creation), joined us for the 15th anniversary of the Lone Star Regional. (More information about the Chinese teams)

Texas Torque took the opportunity to welcome these two new, international teams by organizing a regional-wide shirt donation, gathering team shirts from approximately 20 teams at the event.

On the second day of competition, right as elimination rounds were starting, Texas Torque gathered student representatives from nearly all of the teams that donated shirts to present the goods. A TV crew from PBS was there to capture the excitement as a crowd of Texan robotics students handed off the box of t-shirts to the Chinese teams as a memento of the Lone Star Regional. Team representatives Vaishu Kishore and Matt Bartell were proud to organize the handoff and presentation.

The team is proud to have facilitated such an event as a way to spread both Texas Torque and FIRST in Texas across the world. Hopefully, these Chinese teams will see Texas as an enjoyable destination for future years through the friendship and camaraderie that was shown through our actions.

THREE DAYS UNTIL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS BEGIN

It's that time of year again — the 2014 FIRST Robotics Competition World Championship event (CMP) is almost upon us! Despite having already qualified for the World Championships by winning the event in 2013, Texas Torque made an effort to "triple-qualify," winning the Chairman's Award in Dallas and advancing to the finals at the Lone Star Regional.

Throughout this season, the team has run through many trials that have overall increased our potential for success. Following a rocky start to the season in the Dallas Regional, the team made thorough improvements in both subsystem elements and driver control. Apart from Torque's second regional, the team has traveled to the Johnson Space Center on multiple occasions for drive practice with other teams, simulating matches to build priceless experience on the field.

After the past seven weeks of competition, we can confidently say that we have made all of our preparations for the World Championships, from preparing our Chairman's presentation to making necessary adjustments to the robot and strategy. We hope to have a grand showing in St. Louis! Who knows — maybe our robot could be seen on Einstein Field once more.

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

THURSDAY, APRIL 26

Qualification Rounds (All Day)

FRIDAY, APRIL 27

Qualification Rounds (All Day)

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

8 AM —10:30 Qualification Rounds

10:30 AM Alliance Selection

12 PM—3:30 PM Division Elimination Rounds and Award Ceremonies

4:30 PM FIRST Closing Ceremonies

5:30 PM Finals on Einstein Field

"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**