



KICKOFF NEWSLETTER

Welcome back to the start of an exciting new robotics season! We are happy to have your continued support throughout the upcoming year, especially in these trying times. Here's what we've been doing so far...

COVID-19 UPDATE



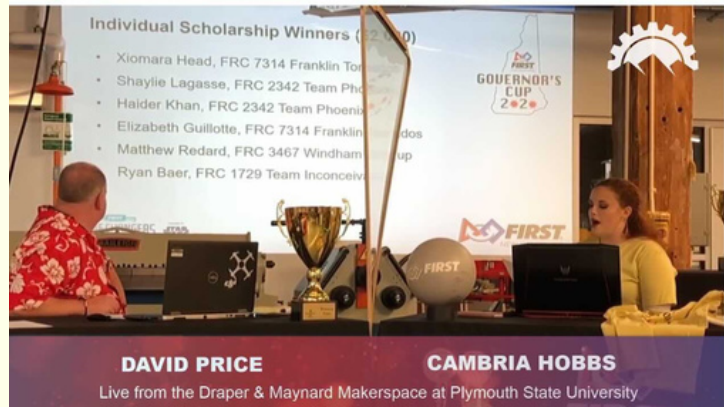
In mid-March, FIRST teams throughout the country were asked to suspend operations with the rising prominence of the coronavirus. Before this announcement had been taken into effect, our team was able to meet one final time and discuss the challenges of the season and the future of the team. Although we left on a somber note, we were confident that our team would confront this challenge just like any

other — by working together. In the wake of the pandemic, our team has adopted a fully remote meeting environment, using Zoom to meet twice a week for two hours. This new format has allowed individual subteams greater flexibility in creating meeting times that work best for their members. We are happy to note that we've maintained similar levels of membership compared to last year with the addition of several new students. In compliance with FIRST guidelines, we have also fully embraced the three themes of this year's virtual season: Game Design, Innovation Challenge, and INFINITE RECHARGE.

GOVERNOR'S CUP

Within our new remote environment, we competed in our first off-season event of the year! Governor's Cup this year involved a virtual pit, technical, and general team interview. The team gave an excellent showing at both the CAD and general interviews. Congratulations to our seniors Shaylie Legasse and Haider Khan for winning an individual \$2,000

scholarship at this event. We would also like to extend congratulations to freshman Andrea White for winning a signed t-shirt.



KICKOFF

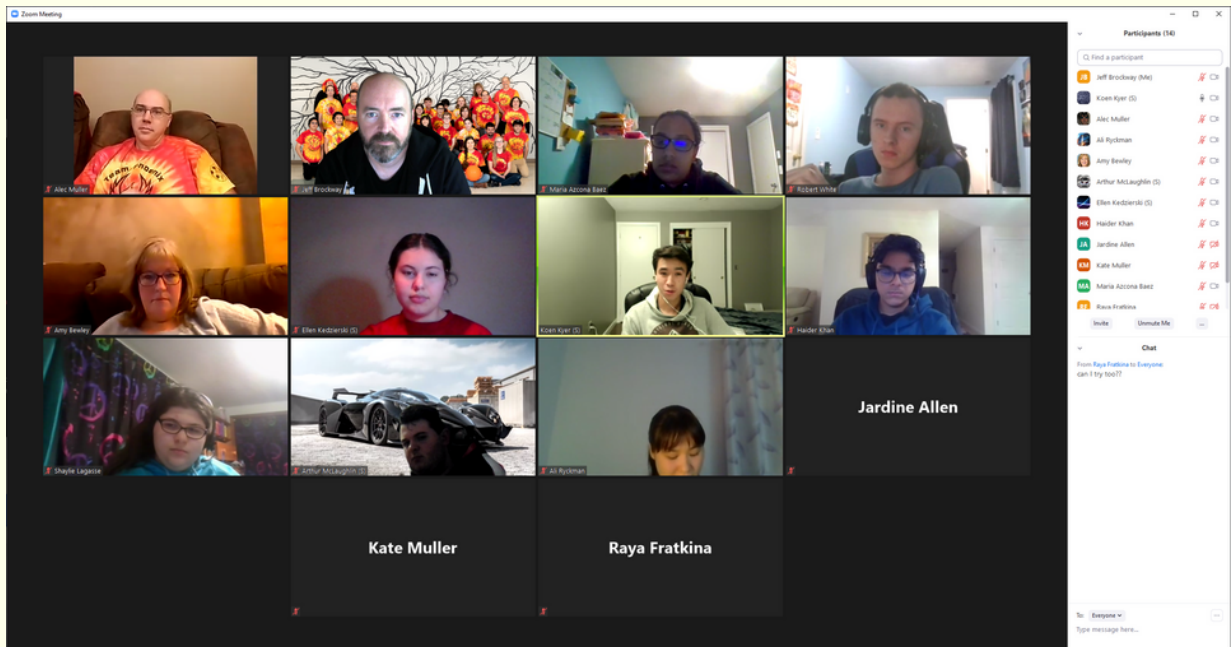


Despite the challenges of this year, our team held a virtual kickoff. This year, we were presented with four smaller challenges: the At Home challenge, Game Design challenge, Innovation challenge, and BAE Minibot challenge. Our team has decided that each student will work on the challenge that they are most interested in, and some sub-teams will continue working together to help each other out and continue with other projects. For the At Home challenge, our team plans to have mechanical students do an overview of the robot while leaving the robot fairly similar to last year in order to give software students time to work on their code.

At the moment, the students working on the Game Design challenge have mostly been brainstorming, though they hope to draw out the field using CAD software. Regarding the BAE Minibot challenge, the team plans to have each software student get a Romi robot to practice code on. Since the business sub-team has continued their efforts in grant and outreach projects, our team has only briefly started work on the Innovation challenge.

SYSTEMS

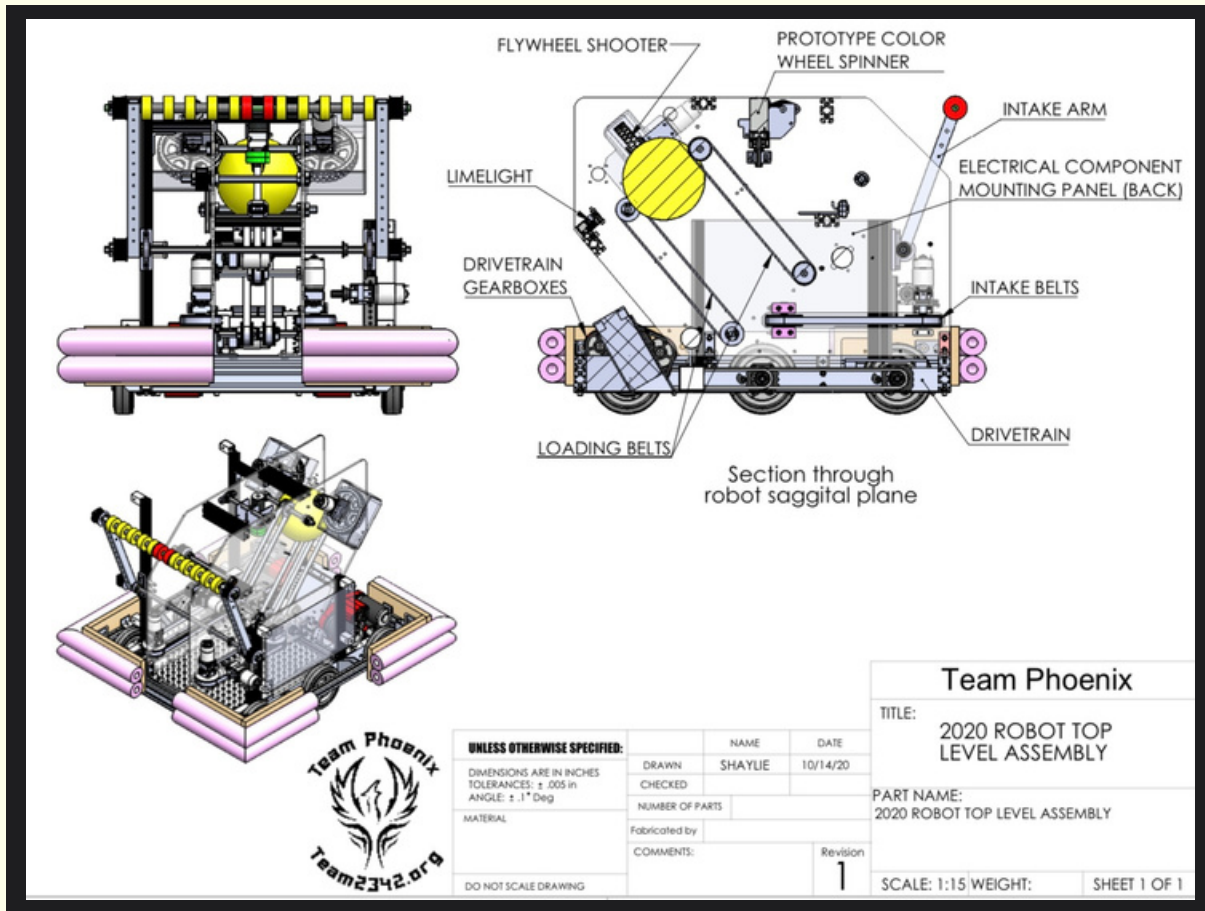
This year, the Systems sub-team began their season by working on the Governor's Cup presentation. At the competition, a younger student representative from this sub-team highlighted the unique aspects of Team Phoenix in addition to sharing information about their own sub-team. While they have faced challenges from not meeting in person, the Systems subteam responded by joining with the Fabrication sub-team. These two sub-teams have been meeting together, allowing for greater communication and more effective training while not meeting in person. Despite the fact that the format of the season is not ideal, the online meetings have allowed sub-teams, such as Systems, to work more closely with other parts of the team.



FABRICATION

Fabrication, along with the rest of the team, started off the season in a fully remote format. With the addition of three new members, Fabrication opted to share breakout rooms with Systems, allowing for better communication between the sub-teams. Although Fabrication was unable to conduct their usual machine shop and safety training, they still created various group activities for members to participate in. These activities have ranged from ice-breakers to robot design discussions, allowing students to become more acquainted with each other. During the first few meetings, Fabrication prepared for their portion of the Governor's Cup presentation, along with its subsequent interview. In the future, they plan on doing digital training with the CNC machine and CAD models.

CAD



Resulting from the nature of CAD's work, the subteam has adapted well to the online format of this year's season. CAD started the season strong with two separate presentations at Governor's Cup: a technical presentation and the team presentation. The first included two novel drawings, a ten-minute interview, and a ten-minute presentation. For the second presentation, CAD worked closely with Business to highlight the unique aspects of their sub-team, along with their student-led characteristics. In the coming weeks, CAD plans to research previous mechanism designs to prepare for future projects.

SOFTWARE

Last year, Software decided to switch the robot's code to C++ and have begun the year strong with C++ and Github training. With the new remote-nature of FIRST Robotics, Software has explored remotely deploying code to our robot through the use of VPNs. In the coming weeks, they plan to continue training and debugging the current code they've been working on.

ELECTRICAL

The Electrical sub-team has started the season on a strong note: participating in both Governor's Cup and various side projects. With the lack of in-person meetings, Electrical has shifted away from its traditional solder and safety training, opting instead for a more individual route. Each student is tasked with researching a specific topic within the electrical engineering field. After conducting research, the students share their findings with their peers, promoting collaboration within the sub-team. In the future, Electrical hopes to conduct a team-wide project, as well as continue their various side activities to further hone their skills.

BUSINESS

Business

- Student-led aspects
 - Writing
 - Grant Applications
 - Sponsor updates
 - Outreach
 - Art
 - Pit Design
 - Banner and button
 - Drive-team Costumes



To start off the season, the business subteam has been working on grants and outreach projects as well as training new members. So far, they have already completed the BAE and Raytheon grant applications. In addition to this, they have begun to sign up for digital fundraisers in order to raise money for this new season. This year, the business subteam was very involved in the Governor's Cup competition and created the team's presentation for this event. The new members of the business subteam started their season with a scavenger hunt that familiarized them with the different websites commonly used by the business subteam, such as the Team Phoenix website.

Team Phoenix has been flourishing for the past 14 years, thanks in large part to you, our sponsors. Despite the disruption last year and this year looking completely different than previous seasons, we value your continued support to make this year a success. Using the GoFundMe link located below, you can make a contribution to our team — allowing us to continue changing the lives of youth through robotics.

gf.me/u/v373tf

Or, you can send us a check at the following address:

Team Phoenix 2342
379 Amherst St. PMB #127
Nashua, NH, 03063

Your friends at Team Phoenix 2342

