

# Winter Newsletter 2017

*Hello, friends and family of CV Robotics! This is our third seasonal newsletter! Here's what we have done so far this season, more about our team, and what we plan to do in the future.*

## October 7th 2017

Girls Generation is an annual competition hosted by Team 1540, the Flaming Chickens, at Catlin Gabel High School in Portland, OR. Every year the competition is the same as last year's FRC competition - teams even compete with their 2017 FRC robot - except this competition is for girls only. Girls Generation serves as a time for girls' only hands-on experience through driving, competing, and repairing the robot. This year's competition was STEAMworks, in which two airships were stationed in the middle of the field. Robots had to bring gears to their airships in order to turn their rotors and shoot fuel (wiffle balls) into the boiler to boost steam power. At the end of the match, robots needed

to climb up a rope attached to their airship. The airship best prepared to take flight at the end of the match won! During the competition every girl, especially freshmen, were able to drive the robot at least once, and have plenty of hands-on time repairing and learning about how the robot functions. While our

team regrettably did not perform as well as previous years at Girl's Gen, largely due to the intense action the robot suffered during the 2017 competition season, we were able to gain a lot of invaluable experience in working with the robot as well as other teams.



## **Go Baby Go: October 15th 2017**

This fall, we participated in Oregon State University's Go Baby Go program. Through the Go Baby Go program, kids ride-on cars are modified for children who experience limited mobility. There are a multitude of different car designs and every car can be modified in different ways to accommodate children with varying disabilities. Cars may be given side rails, a seatbelt, a backrest, and a big red button which only moves the car forward at safe speeds. This year we built and donated five Paw Patrol fire trucks to the program. These will be given to Oregon children to use, and will be passed down once outgrown - continuing to benefit Oregon children for many years to come.



## **WINExpo: November 16th, 2017**

WINExpo is an annual event held by the Willamette Innovators Network that showcases technology entrepreneurs in the Willamette Valley. For the 3rd year in a row, our team was invited to join the other companies and demonstrate our robots. We chose, this year, to showcase our BroccoliBot project at the event (we also brought a small robot for the kids to drive). Spectators were amazed by our vision automation, and several potential sponsors had their interest piqued by our robust design. The kids had a fun time, too!

## **Pancake Breakfast: November 18th, 2017**

Our annual Pancake Breakfast fundraiser raises a large portion of our yearly revenue. At this year's Pancake Breakfast, we supplied delicious all-you-can-eat pancakes in many forms -- gluten-free, mixed berry, and chocolate chip. In addition, we had sausages, eggs, biscuits and gravy supplied by Van Vleet Meats, Coffee provided by Starbucks, bread supplied by Great Harvest, donuts supplied by Death By Donutz, and English muffins supplied by New Morning Bakery. We also had many exciting themed raffle baskets at the breakfast full of donations from parents, mentors, and local businesses ranging from a Fit Chick basket to a Movie Night In basket. Thanks to our hardworking business mentors, we were able to increase revenue by pre-selling tickets for the breakfast. By doing this, we were able to raise over \$1000 more than last year! We hope this will serve to increase the number of people attending the Pancake Breakfast in years to come as well as make the community more aware of FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and

Technology) and promote STEAM. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math). The funds acquired from the Pancake Breakfast help our team pay for competition registration costs as well as lower travel costs to allow more members to travel with the team to competition. Overall, the Pancake Breakfast not only provided income for our team, but also a fun way to reach out to the community as a whole. Many thanks to the gracious 2017 Pancake Breakfast sponsors!



### **BunnyBot: December 9th, 2017**

During the pre-season competition BunnyBot, hosted at Catlin Gabel in Portland by team 1540, the Flaming Chickens, we managed not only to move our robot but also to win the competition! Our robot finally managed to make it to competition after a long season full of training for new members and learning from mistakes made along the way as everyone found themselves a valuable niche to fill within the team. By the time quarterfinals and alliance choosing rolled around, we were ranked 19th, and were lucky to become the 3rd pick, or fourth team, of the 2nd ranked alliance. In the end, the 2nd alliance won by ten points from a penalty given on the other side. Despite coming out ranked 19th, our team remained positive throughout the entire competition, and we are proud to say we were the loudest cheering team out of everyone present. Not only that, but in one of the finals rounds we helped win our team the victory. It was a valuable learning experience for our team, and we have since reflected on our strengths and weaknesses, so as to perform better during the 2018 FRC Competition season.

## Benefit Concert: December 16th, 2017

Our third annual CV Robotics Benefit Concert was just as fun as our previous concerts, despite fewer acts. We had an excellent performance from several students - shoutout to all participants: Lucy, Alicia, Andrea, Tristan and friends, Micah and Gabe, and all of our brave kazooists! After the top-notch performances, refreshments were provided, and our 2017 BunnyBot competition robot was available for driving to all ages. All-in-all, it was great chance for our students to show off their non-robotics skills while still supporting the team. Next year, we hope to turn it into an all-team talent show to increase the amount of creative acts students can present for the community!

