

Fall/Winter

FTC 4324—RoboThanksgiving!

As one of our outreach activities into the community, Team 4324 organized and led RoboThanksgiving, our annual event where we serve a meal to residents at a nursing home on Thanksgiving. We brought food such as turkeys and hams and visited with the residents to keep them company. Other Linn-Mar Robotics teams came or donated food and everyone who helped had a lot of fun.



Inside this issue:

Iron Lions 967
ALOTO 10107
DM 4150
LiT 4324

Contact Info/ Interesting Websites

- **Linn-Mar Robotics Website:** <http://lmrobotics.com>
- **FIRST Website:** <http://www.firstinspires.org>
- **Linn-Mar Website:** <http://linnmar.k12.ia.us>
- **Dan Niemitalo:** Coach
- **Andy Marshall:** Coach
- **Contact the organization:** lmhsrobotics@gmail.com

ALoTO—Building Schools Across the Ocean

Team 10107 'A League of Their Own' held a fundraiser selling paper bricks to help raise money for the COCE (Collective for Orphan Care and Education) so as to help them build schools and buy books for children in Kenya. Successfully raising \$740, the money bought these orphans many of the books seen in the picture. ALoTo has plans for additional fundraising to help COCE purchase more necessities in the future.



FRC Iowa Kickoff—FIRST Stronghold

On Saturday, January 9th members from FRC Team 967 Iron Lions joined 7 other Iowa teams and 1 Nebraska team in Cedar Falls to watch the unveiling of the new FIRST Stronghold challenge, kicking off the 2016 FRC Build Season.



At the kick off team members were split into groups among the other teams to simulate the game as well as to begin strategizing to get over the 9 defenses. We could examine mock field elements and share experiences. In addition, another set of members stayed back at the lab to begin game analysis once the video was released.

The “Impact” of Dark Matter—FTC 4150

Dark Matter has been building two robots simultaneously. We are building a prototype robot out of tetrax parts for our first competition. This is a simpler robot and will allow us to test our methods that we are using for this challenge. Later in the year we will make a more robust and refined robot out of VersaFrame.



In outreach news, Dark Matter attended the Westfield Elementary School Science Night. At this event we demonstrated our mecanum robot from last season, and we used our 3D-printer to print wrenches designed for astronauts on the International Space Station. We also encouraged the children to pursue a future in FIRST by joining FIRST Lego League and also promoted our summer camp curriculums.

Competition Lessons Learned—FTC 4324

In early December, Lost in Time competed in their first FTC League Meet at Linn Mar High School. Ten teams participated in the competition with each team taking part in five matches total. We encountered some difficulty where the robot was unable to properly respond to commands from the controller. After analysis we came to the conclusion that our robot had issues with its wiring. However, by the final round, we were able to control the robot properly and managed to move it throughout the field. We were able to get to this point by replacing the broken wires with functional ones. Our first league meet was a learning experience and we are looking forward to our future meets and the League Championship on January 23, 2016.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ◆ Marion FTC League Championship—Sat. Jan. 23 @ Marion HS
- ◆ Iowa FTC Championship—Fri. & Sat. Mar. 4-5 @ Marriott Coralville
- ◆ FTC North Super Regional Championship—Mar. 17-19 @ US Cellular Center, Cedar Rapids, IA
- ◆ FRC Iowa Regional—Mar. 23-26 @ UNI Dome, Cedar Falls, IA

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