



Monthly Newsletter

(November 2016)

November's events:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 MPL Fall Robotics Expo Mini-Maker Faire
6 Mini-Maker Faire	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 STEM Series: Victor Puchkarev	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving break	24 Thanksgiving break	25 Thanksgiving break	26 Thanksgiving break
27 Thanksgiving break	28	29	30			

(Note: individual team meetings are scheduled weekly and are not listed above.)

Upcoming events:

- FTC Pittsburgh Qualifier 12-3 Pittsburgh Sci/Tech Academy
- SHARP FRC Workshops 12-11 Sarah Heinz House
- VEX Qualifier 12-16 Sarah Heinz House
- Winter Break 12-23 through 1-2

(The team calendar is available at "<http://quasics.org/index.php/outreach/>".)

Announcements

MPL Fall Robotics Expo (November 5)

Quasics will be hosting our third annual Robotics Expo at the Monroeville Public Library on Saturday November 5. It will begin at 11am and wrap up at 4pm. The event will be held in the Create Space on the upper floor, just across from the stairwell. Feel free to stop by and see some of the STEM-based learning activities our team members will have for the public.

Mini Maker Faire at B&N (November 5&6)

Quasics will participate in the second annual mini-Maker Faire at Barnes & Noble (Monroeville Mall) on Saturday November 5 and Sunday November 6. We will be there most of the day when the store is open. Stop by Barnes & Noble to see our FRC machine up close, drive a VEX robot and more!

STEM Series guest speaker on November 15!

On Tuesday November 15 Quasics will host our second STEM Series guest speaker. Mr. Victor Puchkarev from Google will come out to discuss his education and work in STEM-related fields. Mr. Puchkarev is also a Gateway alumni!

We look forward to seeing *all* club members at this event.

Dues are... well, due on November 16

Each season we ask Quasics members to pay \$50 per student in team member dues. This money helps support our second and third largest expenses after registration fees: transportation and team uniforms. Dues should be paid by November 16. (They can be paid in installments if need be, though we would like to have the total turned in before you attend your team's (FRC, VEX, or FTC) first competition.)

If the dues present a financial problem for a team member and their family, please speak to Coach Sean. In the long run, we do not want to see anyone leave Quasics over the dues. We will work with you.

Steamworks is coming!

If you haven't seen the teaser for the FIRST FRC game this year ("Steamworks"), [check it out!](#) Kickoff for build season will be on Saturday, January 7th, 2017.

National Center for Women & IT (NCWIT)'s "Aspirations in Computing" Award

The National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) is now accepting applications for the Award for Aspirations in Computing and the Aspirations in Computing Educator Award. Winners are eligible for scholarships, prizes, and more.

Any U.S. high school woman with outstanding aptitude and interest in computing is eligible to apply for the Award for Aspirations in Computing, and over 20% of award winners in the last 3 years have had experience in FIRST. Put *your* experience to work for you, and apply soon. (Don't forget to reference that you are a FIRST program participant on your application, but try to avoid just using acronyms, please!)

Any U.S. high school educator who encourages women's interest and participation in technology pursuits is eligible to apply for the Aspirations in Computing Educator Award, sponsored by AT&T. Applications are open online through November 9, 2015 at 8:00 p.m. EDT: <http://bit.ly/AiCEdAward>.

Information and FAQs are available at the NCWIT Aspirations in Computing site (<https://www.aspirations.org/>), and applications for both awards are open online through early November.

FIRST STRONGHOLD Lego Set!

Please help to make an Official LEGO® set for FIRST® STRONGHOLD become a reality! Two members of FRC Team 810 ("The Mechanical Bulls"), from Smithtown, NY, USA, created a FIRST STRONGHOLD set using LEGOs, and have started the process to turn it into an official LEGO set that could be purchased! Go [here](#) to vote.

Please note that you need to make an account to vote, but it takes less than a minute to make one. Please also make sure that you leave a comment indicating what team you're from when you vote, as the six teams providing the most votes will have their team standard featured in the set!

Follow us on social media!

Be sure to Like our [Facebook](#) page, and follow our [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) accounts!

October events

FTC "Build It" Workshop (Oct. 1, 2016)

Quasics hosted an FTC workshop in the high school Cafeteria on October 1. We had members from four local FTC teams join us for an afternoon of learning and building.

Special thanks to Mrs. Frownfelter and her family for bringing the field over, and to Chryseis, DJ, Ebru, and Mr. Long for volunteering at the event.



Homecoming bonfire (Oct. 6, 2016)

At the high school homecoming bonfire, our students worked a booth that allowed anyone to drive around a small robot made out of parts from our VEX kits. Many children were thrilled to drive around the robot we dubbed “Dante Jr.” (as the sibling of last year’s “Dante”). We introduced the field of robotics to many children that night.



STEM Series guest speaker: Dr. Lauwers (Oct. 13, 2016)

We were pleased to have Dr. Lauwers of BirdBrain Technologies (creator of the Finch and Hummingbird kits) in as a guest STEM speaker on the thirteenth.

We were given a chance to see what the future has in store for us once we graduate and move on to careers, as well as a chance to see a bit of the behind the scenes work which has gone into some of the kits with which we have worked. As with all of our STEM speakers, we are truly grateful to Doctor Lauwers for coming in to speak with us and we wish him well moving forward.



Pittsburgh Maker Faire (Oct. 15-16, 2016)

Quasics attended the Maker Faire on Oct. 15th and 16th at the Children's Museum in Pittsburgh. We shared a FIRST booth with teams 3260 ("SHARP"), 1708 ("Amp'D Robotics"), 3504 ("Girls of Steel"), and 2614 ("MARS Robotics").

We gave kids of all ages the chance to drive Dante (our FRC robot from last year's competition) for his final event and provided parents with information that may allow their children to pursue robotics in the future.



MPL Little Bits workshop (Oct. 20, 2016)

At our local library, Quasics members prepared and taught a mini-class and workshop for kids to learn about electricity and circuitry!

The kids that attended learned how to make a flashlight and an automatic hand greeter using the Little Bits kits provided by the library.



FTC “Drive It!” Workshop (Oct. 30, 2016)

The Girls of Steel hosted this workshop at their practice field at the National Robotics Engineering Center (NREC). Six FTC teams were able to bring their robots down to the legendary robotics lab for four hours of drive testing and exchanging ideas.

We took our FTC machine for a test drive on the regulation playing field, and were able to identify some areas for redesign and repair.

