



Monthly Newsletter

(December 2016)

December's events:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 FTC Pittsburgh Qualifier
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 SHARP FRC Workshops	12	13	14	15	16 VEX Qualifier	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Winter break begins	24 Winter break
25 Winter break	26 Winter break	27 Winter break	28 Winter break	29 Winter break	30 Winter break	31 Winter break

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

Upcoming events:

- FRC Kickoff/Start of build season - Saturday, January 7th, 2017
- FRC Brainstorming session - Sunday, January 8th, 2017
- FTC Qualifier - Saturday, January 14, 2017

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

Announcements

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.

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!

Save the date!

Here's some major FRC milestone dates to keep in mind over the next few months:

2017 Game Kickoff	Week 0 Scrimmage	Stop Build Day	Greater Pittsburgh Regional	Championships
(We find out the details of this year's game, FIRST STEAMWORKS!)	(We put the robot on the field for an unofficial scrimmage with other local teams.)	(Also known as "Bag&Tag Day": All work on the hardware must stop.)	(Qualifying competition at the Convocation Center at Cal U)	(World Championship competition in St. Louis. Must qualify at Pittsburgh to advance..)
Sat, Jan 7th	[likely held on] Sat, Feb 18th	By 11:59PM Tue, Feb 21	March 16-18	April 25th-29th

General FRC Build Season schedule

The FRC Build Season is 45 days of pure robot-building joy! It's also the busiest time of the Quasics season. In general, team leadership plans to have the FRC team meet 4 days per week during the Build Season, which begins with a bang on Kickoff day (January 7) and concludes by midnight on February 21. Our four meeting days are planned to be Tuesday (evening), Wednesday (evening), Friday (evening) and Saturday (afternoon). Week to week, a meeting night could change one way or the other but this is our general plan. We will stick to it as best we can!

Follow us on social media!

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

November events

MPL Fall Robotics Expo (Nov. 5, 2016)

The club staged our third “Robotics Expo” at the Monroeville Public Library.

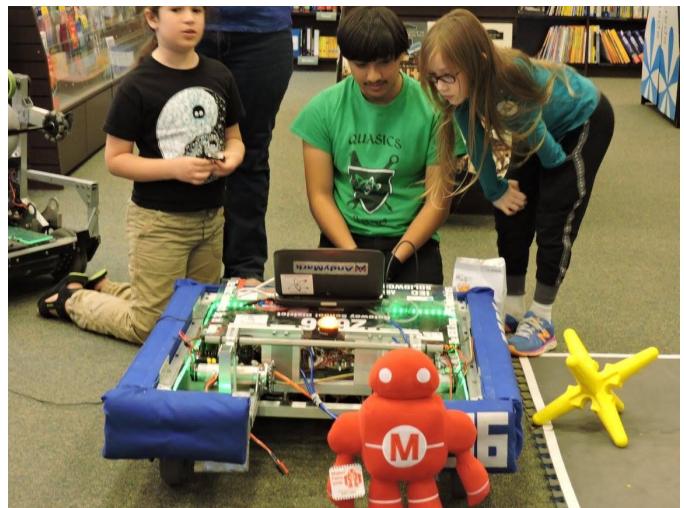
We brought down the drivetrain of Grace (our robot from 2 years ago) that the incoming FRC members have rebuilt, as well as our FTC Velocity Vortex robot.

We also had three exciting science experiments for kids to try: Baking Soda Balloons, Lemon Volcanoes, and Milk Molecule Movement!



Mini Maker Faire at B&N (Nov. 5-6, 2016)

Quasics members participated in the Mini Maker Faire held by Barnes&Noble for their second year. We brought both Dante (last year's FRC bot) and the VEX robots with them, and set up a maze that the kids who came to check us them out could drive through.



Quasics club party (Nov. 13, 2016)

We had a chance to get together *outside* of the workshop for an event for a change!

Lots of food, drink (including mass quantities of Mountain Dew, of course), laughter, and video gaming: what's not to like? :-)





STEM Series guest speaker (Nov. 15, 2016)

On the evening of November 15th, Quasics hosted our second STEM Series guest speaker for this year.

Mr. Victor Puchkarev, a software engineer from Google's Pittsburgh office (and a Gateway alumnus!), came out to discuss his education and work in STEM-related fields.

