



FIRST ROBOTICS MILILANI HIGH SCHOOL TROBOBOTS



MARCH MADNESS

March has come and gone. It was an exceedingly busy month for the team as before we knew it, all our time had gone by and it was time for competition. With multiple events taking place the weeks before competition, it was hectic as members began preparations. Every weekend of this month was taken by an event and with it all done now, we look forward to relax for a bit and catch up with our friends and families. But with outreach events and preparations for next year coming soon, we'll be back to work before we know it.

MILILANI MIDDLE SCHOOL STEM NIGHT

On March 6 the team participated in the annual STEM night was held at Mililani Middle School. Attendees got the chance to drive our robot. We also told people about our program and encouraged people to sign up to get information about our STEM Camp during the summer. The community viewed the FIRST Lego League Robotics of Mililani Middle School, the VEX teams of Mililani, along with other science, technology, engineering, and math projects.



PUBLIC LIBRARY DEMO



The next week on Friday, March 13, the team held a demonstration at the Mililani Public Library. The team presented their robot to the community during this event and people were able to drive our robot. Families with young children attended this event so we were also able to use this time to inform them about future STEM camps.

ROBOTICS WEEK



Robotics week was from March 16-22. During this time team across Hawaii held demonstrations across McDonalds to advertise FIRST. On March 21, we headed out to the Mililani Mauka McDonalds for a demonstration of the robot. We showcased our robot and set up a field for people to drive our FTC robot. Members also went around the restaurant telling customers about the program and advertising the Egg Mc-Muffin robotics fundraiser.

REGIONAL PREPERATIONS

Excitement was everywhere as competition neared and what we had put many hours of hard work into the robot and it would be put to the test. The drive team continued to practice handling the robot so they could pick up and stack totes with ease. After driving with multiple totes and going over the platforms, they found that carrying too many totes would exceed the torque capabilities of the gearbox used to lift the hook. With the chance of fracturing the gears, the strategy changed from moving multiple totes at a time, to one at a time and stacking the totes on the platform.

Our human player prepared his arm as he would be throwing noodles during competition trying to get it on the competing alliances field to give us points. He found that throwing the noodles were nothing like throwing a usual



ball. After hours of practicing the art of noodle throwing, our human player gained the muscle memory of handling the noodle gently so it would fly straight but giving it enough force to make it to the opposing field.

Those chosen to be in the pit during competition for robot repairs between matches, inventoried and made check lists for parts to bring to competition. We needed to bring extra equipment incase there was the need to replace parts on the robot.



Also at competition, we would need to do scouting with the chance that we would be picking alliance partners during elimination matches. Members practiced by watching regional matches that have already passed. They needed to note abilities of individual robots during matches and their average scoring potential.

HAWAII REGIONAL

The 2015 FIRST Robotics Competition regional was held at the Stan Sheriff Center from Thursday, March 26 to Saturday, March 28. It was fun filled days of competing in Recycle Rush. Since Bag and Tag day in February, we were not able to touch the robot. Thursday began with robot inspection so after a few finishing touches, the robot went thru inspection so we could compete in practice matches in the afternoon and qualifying match the next day. Practice matches went well as the drive team practiced in the competition atmosphere. Any obstacles due to the new field were able to be worked out, noodles were being thrown to the other side of the field consistently, and we were excited for qualifying matches the next day.



The pit team waits to be queued for their practice matches



Photo Booth at the team social

At the opening ceremony, McDonalds announced that from robotics week, they would be donating \$40,000 to Hawaii FRC teams. After the ceremony, we were eager to play Recycle Rush. As matches commenced, members scouted teams observing their robots ability and scoring potential. The entire day was filled with matches playing all the way to match 51 before the completion of day 2. We were able to finish 13th out of 36 team on the first day. Following the qualifying rounds, there was a students only social. There was pizza, music, and a photo booth. Everyone had a great time dancing and meeting new people, an amazing way to end the day.

Saturday was the completion of the competition, finishing qualifying round and eliminations after lunch. After the last qualifying match, we finished 17th with the average score of 78.25 points. During alliance selection the top eight teams choose two other teams to work with during eliminations. Although our team did not get chosen by an alliance captain, we are grateful for our mentors, parents, school, and all the teams that helped us during the competition. This experience would not have been possible without the support. Teams 359 (Waialua), 368 (McKinley), and 3880 (Kealakehe) triumphed in the end after a strong battle against teams 610 (Toronto, Canada), 3132 (Sydney, Australia), and 3721 (Pearl City).



Our shiny robot



Drive team waits in queueing



Team 3008 (Kalani) and our team's mascots



MC AJ Raphael



Our drive team is ready!



Dance party on the field!



Scouting and Cheer squad

UPCOMING EVENTS
Hawaii FTC scrimmage
 -April 4, 2014
STEM Conference
 -April 18-19, 2015; Maui

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