



CITRUS CIRCUITS

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Stop Build Day
February 19

Sponsor Open House
February 23

Central Valley Regional
March 7-9

SPONSORSHIP UPDATES

Pomelo
DJUSD
UC Davis
TechnipFMC

Grapefruit
Lockeed Martin
Hill Engineering

Orange
Instant Systems
Boeing
UC Davis School of Medicine

Lemon
M Cubed
Intuitive
UC Davis College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
UC Davis College of Biological Sciences
UC Davis College of Engineering
UCD School of Education
Far Western Anthropological Research Group
The Brin Wojcicki Foundation
Recology

Lime
UC Davis College of Letters and Science
Da Vinci Boosters
University Retirement Community
Watercourse Engineering

Inkind
WestCoast Products
Velonx CNC
GitHub
Aerometals
Fastenal
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STUDENTS FROM CHINA VISIT OUR FACILITIES

On January 19, fourteen middle school students from Guangzhou, China, visited our facility to learn more about Citrus Circuits and FIRST robotics. Most of the students only spoke Chinese, so parents Men Qing, Wang Qiang, and Manda Yeung volunteered to translate for our team. The students came to California in order to get the full STEM experience as part of a two week youth program at UC Davis that introduces coding, multi-sciences, and English for STEM. This program is offered by UC Davis CPE International through Gowell Education based in Hong Kong. During their visit, we gave them a tour of our facilities and showed them our 2018 robot, along with a preview of the 2019 game DESTINATION: DEEP SPACE and our field setup. They are also very interested in discussing a summer program with us where they would fund a group from our team to go to China and teach them about robotics. According to Linda Wu from Gowell Education, "They were impressed and inspired by the fascinating innovation, focused hard work, and strong teamwork that they witnessed with the 1678 team."



Students from China visiting the Citrus Circuits facility

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FIRST ENDORSES THE COMPASS ALLIANCE

We are proud to announce The Compass Alliance's new partnership with FIRST. The Compass Alliance is a 'one-stop-shop' for helpful resources about building robots. Students from 1678 have written many of the documents that have been posted on the website, including Sponsor Relations and Fundraising 101. The new partnership with FIRST ensures that the information put out by TCA is readily available and applicable to all types of teams. Many rookie teams may not realize the amount of information available to assist them during build season, so they look to FIRST for help. Now FIRST directs teams to the TCA resources, spreading the knowledge. As a Leadership Team on The Compass Alliance, we are very excited to partner with FIRST to help so many other teams!

THANK YOU TO PARENTS FOR BRINGING MEALS

Since our rookie year, parents have been supporting the team by bringing in food throughout build season and the off-season. As our team has grown, our parents have organized to feed up to 100 students at every lunch, accommodating a wide range of food preferences. The meals have ranged from the traditional pizza and sandwiches to chili, pasta, barbecue, salads, and a number of ethnic specialties. These meals are a part of what makes the Citrus Circuits experience special, and our team is thankful for the many parent volunteers that help keep us fed throughout the season.



INTERVIEW WITH JAMIE FOX

We interviewed Jamie Fox, one of our new mentors this year. He works with all subteams but can be found helping Software Scouting and Strategy. In his free time he composes and records music as well as studies new areas of spaceflight technology, especially additive manufacturing.



What inspired you to become a 1678 mentor?

As a software engineering hiring manager over decades, I learned that FRC on a resume spoke of the ability to work well with others in fast-paced, ambiguous situations yet with a clear eye on the endgame. We moved to Davis about 18 months ago, and were looking for a way to contribute to the community and meet like-minded people, so I looked for an FRC team. I've long been an enthusiast of Woodie Flowers, and have preached his point of view to my staff repeatedly. That led me here. Wow! Am I ever happy it did.

What have you done or currently do in STEM?

I know what those letters mean but it's not clear what the notion of STEM means – for students in high school? Those in elementary? Available positions in the job market? All I've done is hire those college graduates with a history of demonstrated excellence, especially with demonstrable technical pursuits. To be fair, I must mention that accomplished musicians always rise to the top of the list, for me at least. But in terms of the pursuit of excellence, the collaborative nature of music and of FRC robotics are of a similar sense.

What do you hope to pass onto 1678?

First and foremost, that success is a collaborative act. Success writ large always involves other people, so learn how to work together today, not tomorrow. That technology is fundamental in the pursuit of a better world for us all, and that software is the means by which people can make machines do their bidding, thus saving labor, averting injury, and avoiding heartache everywhere...eventually, as a simple matter of programming and robotic devices. It's a tall future, but within reach. Many of those people who'll make it manifest, I suspect, engage with FRC teams today.