



CITRUS CIRCUITS

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

WADPAN
October 12

Capital City Classic
October 18-20

MadTown ThrowDown
November 8-10

LINKS



[Website](#)



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FORCE FOR CHANGE VIDEO

It is an honor for our team to represent FIRST in Lucasfilm's Force For Change promotional video. Our own Team Captain Katie Stachowicz and Hardware Design Subteam Leader Nathan McAllister were featured in the video along with BB-8! Click [here](#) to see the video.



SEPTEMBER GIRL POWERED EVENT

Citrus Circuits hosted a Girl Powered event in the Blanchard room of the Yolo County Library on September 28. The event was designed to spread STEM to young girls in our community through several activities such as driving VEX robots, scratch programming activities, and STEM challenges like marshmallow towers, origami, and chromatography. Team members assisted with these activities and presented a robot demonstration at the end of the event.

NEW STORAGE SPACE

This year, we began working on "The Barn," our new storage shed. The Barn, which is an extension of the crate we use for storage, will contain extra tools and equipment for the Hardware subteams. Because of our growing collection of robots over the years, it will also serve as a place to store them. We recently placed the final touches on The Barn, including the roof and paint job. Thank you to Dan Tolson, a team parent, for leading the construction of The Barn.

INTERVIEW WITH NEW MEMBER SKYE BERTAIN

Q: What made you decide to join the team?

A: When I was in 6th grade, I was a part of DYR and that introduced me to robotics. I really enjoyed it, and my sister is also on the team, so that's how I found out about Citrus Circuits.

Q: What has your Citrus Circuits subteam training taught you this year?

A: I haven't had too many trainings, but so far I've learned about the different machines and was shown around the shop. One of the machines I've been trained on is the router. I also did electrical training, so I learned a little bit more about that aspect.

Q: Do you think what you're learning here at Citrus Circuits will help you in the future?

A: This experience will definitely help me in the future because of the teamwork aspect and the technical skills I've learned so far are very useful.

Q: Are you enjoying your subteam so far?

A: I'm enjoying Hardware Fabrication a lot because I've never had an experience like this, so it's fun to try something new and learn new skills. The people on the subteam are also really nice.

Q: Do new members help each other out? Do you often ask veteran members for help?

A: I think I mostly ask veteran members because they have more experience, but the other new members are really helpful too.



2019 CHEZY CHAMPS

On September 28, we began our offseason by competing with 39 other teams at Chezy Champs, hosted by the Cheesy Poofs at Bellarmine College Preparatory school in San Jose. For two days, our 2019 robot stored cargo, placed hatch panels, and climbed to the third level of the HAB platform. Throughout the FIRST DESTINATION: DEEP SPACE elimination rounds, we competed alongside 2659 RoboWarriors, 2928 Viking Robotics, and alliance captain



1619 Up-A-Creek Robotics. Our alliance made it to the quarterfinals but lost in the third match against 4414 HighTide, 846 The Funky Monkeys, 5818 Riviera Robotics, and 5199 Robot Dolphins From Outer Space. Watch out for our next offseason competition, Capital City Classic on October 18-20.

OUR SUCCESSFUL PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

On September 14, over 100 parents joined us for an informational team meeting. They had the opportunity to learn about our team structure, FIRST robotics, and how to support the team. Parents were given a tour around the Hardware, Software, and Business and Media subteams. As well as getting introduced to our team dynamics, parents enjoyed a barbecue potluck and a robot demonstration.

NEW MEMBER TRAINING PROGRAMS

Every year, team members must complete their subteams' training standards. This year, our six subteam leaders have done their best to train new members using peer to peer techniques to get every student ready for build season. New Hardware Electrical students are learning the basics of what electrical components are and how they work. A few veteran members are teaching new members the basics, but others are working on offseason robots. Hardware Fabrication new members are learning to use basic machines and hand tools while they shadow veteran members working on offseason robots and projects. New Hardware Design members are learning how to use our 3D printers, tools and machines, and the CAD software, On Shape. Returning students are training new members and designing tool paths and part drawings for our offseason robots. This year, Hardware Electrical, Fabrication, and Design are getting trained on our main machines, mill, lathe, and router, and get cross-trained with the two subteams they are not on to expand the three subteams' general hardware knowledge. Both Software Robot and Software Scouting new members are learning general programming skills in Python to gain a foundation before separating into the specific software language they will use. Software Scouting veteran members are leading the programming training and working with new members to answer questions and work on assignments while veteran Software Robot students are converting the offseason competition robot code to Java. Business and Media is currently working on writing, photography, and branding standards training. New members are focusing on completing their camera skills training as well as learning how to use formal tones in their writing. Veteran Business and Media members are contributing by completing grants and emailing sponsors.