



CITRUS CIRCUITS END OF THE YEAR NEWSLETTER

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TEAM UPDATES

Citrus Circuits is currently continuing with online meetings and preparation for training in the Off-Season. We started having general team meetings every Thursday to catch up on current plans and talk a little bit about our team history. This year RoboCamps will be a stay-at-home camp where each camper will have a VEX IQ kit and a set of tasks to complete. Campers will also have access to student counselors through Zoom meetings if they need any help. In the past month, we have started recruiting new members for next year, made personal protection masks for our community, chosen the next leaders of our team, and celebrated our graduating seniors.

RECRUITMENT FOR THE 2020-2021 SEASON

Due to COVID-19, we could not do our usual recruitment day where we invite students from our school district to come to our shop and meet the team. This year, we have created a series of videos featuring our subteams and outreach to help introduce our team to potential new members. We send the link out to students in our school district and we can't wait to meet everyone in the fall.

FACE SHIELDS FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

While in quarantine, many of our mentors worked together to make plastic masks for public healthcare workers. We received 3,500 lbs of PET from The Coca-Cola Company, which we used for the plastic part of our face shields. After producing these shields, we distributed over 600 of them to North Bay



Medical hospital in Fairfield and numerous skilled nursing and retirement communities in the area, including Courtyard Healthcare Center in Davis, Palm Gardens in Woodland, The Californian in Woodland, St. John's Village in Woodland, Alderson Convalescent Hospital in Woodland, Woodland Skilled Nursing, Gloria's Country Care in Woodland, and University Retirement Community in Davis. Some of our other team members are working on creating fabric masks to donate to our community in the future.

NEW TEAM LEADERSHIP

Captain: Livy Taylor
Vice Captain: Gabi Skilling
Business and Media Lead: Gabi Skilling
Chairman's Lead: Ellie Bair
Diversity in STEM Lead: Eithne Arsuaga-Vazquez
DYR League Coordinator: Zach Hoblit
DYR Event Coordinator: Siddarth Merchant
DYR Elementary School Coordinator: Amena Sahmoud
Fall Workshops Coordinator: Apurva Mishra
Farmers Market Lead: Helena Young
Hardware Design Lead: Nathan McAllister
Hardware Electrical Lead: Nick Viatella
Hardware Fabrication Lead: Zataro Nepomuceno
Software Robot Lead: Mohamed El Mashad
Software Scouting Lead: Ethan Talbert
Strategy Lead: Kate Unger
Winter Shelter App Lead: George Berdovskiy

SENIOR PARADE

To commemorate our graduating seniors, we decided to visit each one on May 16 and surprise them at their houses. We organized a parade and delivered a yard sign and graduation cord to each senior. We also took many pictures and wished them the best of luck in their future endeavors. Congratulations seniors!



GRADUATING SENIORS

As we promised in the previous newsletter, here are profiles on the last eight of our graduating seniors. If you missed the first eight, please look back at our [April Newsletter](#) to read about them. We asked our seniors about their experience on the team and what the future holds for them. We hope you enjoy what they had to say.

Jishnu Sen

Favorite Memory

My favorite memory from my time on the team was winning the Innovation in Control award at the 2017 Las Vegas Regional. It was my first year as a programmer, and the software I wrote for the shooter was instrumental in winning the award.

Something I Learned

I learned how to write industry-grade software on a tight timeline, which helped me be an effective employee at SunPower.

Proudest Accomplishment

My proudest accomplishment was writing auto-aiming software for this year's robot. It was the first ever turret by 1678, and made for a great learning experience with a lot of trial and error.

Post Graduation Plans

I'm going to study Computer Science at UCLA.

Advice For Members

I would advise new members to be ambitious and take on more responsibility than they are assigned. It's important that kids realize that while we may be winning consistently, we need to continue to strive to be the best to continue winning. Getting complacent in success is a death sentence.

Justin Yeung

Favorite Memory

My favorite time on the team would have to be from my first year on the team at the Las Vegas Regional, when we were waiting in line for the venue to open. Everyone was super tired from waking up early, but we were all laughing and making jokes with each other, and even met a few of the other teams in line, including 118 and 5012.

Something I Learned

One thing that I learned on this team was how to teach others without giving them the answer. As a DYR mentor and veteran software scouting member, I was responsible for teaching new members how to work together and problem solve, so I learned how to use the Socratic method to teach them.

Proudest Accomplishment

I would have to say that my proudest accomplishment was developing a brand new strategy curriculum this year to teach new members about past FRC games. Due to the Off-Season trainings we held, each member had a strong understanding of past games and how to apply that knowledge to the strategy of the 2020 game.

Post Graduation Plans

I will be going to UCLA with a major of Material Science.

Future Involvement

Yes, I'm hoping to mentor teams in strategy and scouting development when I go off to college.

Advice For Members

If you ever have an idea, don't be afraid to speak up, because you may be the only one with the idea, and it may be the best one out there.

Katie Stachowicz

Favorite Memory

I don't know if I have just one favorite memory...maybe winning Chairmans for the first time in 2018 since our team had never done it before. That was pretty exciting. Also I really enjoyed being a RoboCamps counselor.

Something I Learned

I learned a ton about leadership and professionalism, both from formal leadership roles and just solving problems day to day.

Proudest Accomplishment

My proudest accomplishment has definitely been being able to pass down my knowledge for Chairmans and Business and Media to the next generation of Citrus kids. I'm not at all worried about next year because I know they're gonna kill it.

Post Graduation Plans

I'm going to Emory University to study neuroscience.

Future Involvement

I'm hoping to become a judge once I'm old enough!

Advice For Members

My advice would be to treat everything as a learning experience and to not be afraid to speak up if you see something you think should change.

Lasthenia Beran

Favorite Memory

My favorite memory is of the Houston Championships in 2018. It was fun to see how happy and joyous everyone was after winning our Newton Division. I will never forget how happy we all were in that moment.

Something I Learned

I learned so much while on the team. The Business and Media subteam taught me how to work with others, communicate, and showed me the importance of professionalism.

Proudest Accomplishment

My proudest accomplishment was being the Business and Media representative for Citrus Service in 2018. Just seeing them work together and have a huge impact on other teams at competition was heartwarming. I really enjoyed being able to document their success and talk to students that they helped.

Post Graduation Plans

I will be attending UC Santa Cruz in the fall.

Advice For Members

My advice is that although the team can be really intimidating at first, there is a role for everyone. And even when things get stressful, don't give up, everything will fall into place. There are some amazing people on this team.

Rachel Solomon

Favorite Memory

Going to the Las Vegas Regional in 2017.

Something I Learned

I learned a lot about electrical stuff and some things about leadership.

Proudest Accomplishment

Being on Citrus Service helping teams be able to compete.

Post Graduation Plans

I'm going to UCSD majoring in Human Developmental Sciences.

Advice For Members

Take initiative.

Saif Younis

Something I Learned

I have learned a lot after three years on this team. Most importantly, I learned a lot about the importance of communication within a team. I have seen how crucial it is for success.

Proudest Accomplishment

My proudest accomplishment would probably have to be becoming a DYR Schools Mentor. The smiles on the faces of little kids after they see their robots work is enough to bring joy to my day. I feel proud when they tell me that they have become interested in robotics and STEM.

Post Graduation Plans

After I graduate, I will be attending Cal Poly SLO to major in Mechanical Engineering and hopefully minor in Political Science.

Future Involvement

I am planning on staying involved in FRC and will try to mentor Team 973, and hopefully volunteer at local events.

Advice For Members

My advice to younger members would be to enjoy your time on the team but also put in the effort to allow the team as whole to strive for every, for every single person on the team matters.

Jakob Smith

Favorite Memory

One of my favorite memories of being on the team were the rapid prototyping/design challenges. We were given a limited number of supplies, and more importantly, limited amount of time to design and construct a mechanism to complete a task. Those two frantic hours of time taught me more about designing, collaborating and assembling mechanisms than I would have after a week of normal work during the season. It also taught me that a simple design, based on fundamental scientific principles, would always win over needlessly complicated designs.

Proudest Accomplishment

Being on the mechanical team, I wish there was one part or mechanism I could point to as being my crowning achievement. While I am very proud of almost every piece I fabricated, I am more proud of passing on knowledge and teaching others. It was very satisfying to witness yourself go from the one asking the questions to the one answering them, and that growth I am very proud of.

Post Graduation Plans

I am going off to study engineering at a college with programs very similar to FIRST. My involvement in robotics has grown my interest in engineering, and while I loved working in the machine shop, I am really excited to demystify some more of the more theoretical aspects of engineering.

Advice For Members

My advice for incoming students is this program will return what you put in. I would encourage those who truly enjoy what they do to pursue it with a ferocious tenacity. I have never heard of a mentor being upset at someone for being curious and asking more questions. Everyone is there to help you succeed, and although it may be the most intensive and demanding thing you choose to take on in high school, the opportunities to learn and connect with peers are unparalleled.

Sofia Huston-Isais

Favorite Memory

One of my favorite memories is coming in during the summer in order to clean up the shop, which was a task that was supposed to take all day but we ended up finishing early. None of us had rides home, so instead we used the pancake mix in the kitchen and cooked pancakes (with mentor approval). In each batch we used different ingredients, the most memorable one using Citrus's liquid fire AKA ghost pepper hot sauce.

Something I Learned

I learned how to use tools and machines in a mechanical shop, my favorite being the lathe as it is the most aesthetically pleasing and calming in my unbiased opinion.

Proudest Accomplishment

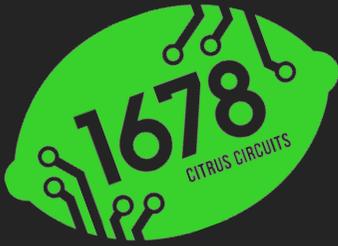
Honestly, my proudest accomplishment is both growing as an individual by taking on responsibilities and creating strong friendships with my team members.

Post Graduation Plans

My original plan was to travel, however due to the Coronavirus, I've had to cancel those plans just because I am unsure how long the flights will be grounded. Instead, I will start going to community college in order to get my basic classes done, as well as hopefully find a career path I want to pursue.

Advice For Members

Try to take moments to relax and enjoy the positives of robotics, both the people and learning experiences. Try not to stress too much if possible and be willing to take a break.



GRADUATING SENIORS

2020 SEASON



JISHNU SEN

Software Robot
"I've figured out why vision isn't working."



JUSTIN YEUNG

Software Scouting
"Life is like a game of chess. You do random things and hope it works out."



KATIE STACHOWICZ

Business and Media
"6 AM is my best time but that's only because there's no one else up to compare me to."



LASTHENIA BERAN

Business and Media
"We have no spirit"
"We have spirit when we win"



RACHEL SOLOMON

Hardware Electrical
"Just keep swimming!"
-Dory



SAIF YOUNIS

Hardware Fabrication
"Zip-ties, gaff tape, and rivets did not only hold our robots together, but the entirety of my high school career as well."



JAKOB SMITH

Hardware Fabrication
"Measure twice, cut once."



SOFIA HUSTON-ISAIS

Hardware Fabrication
"When spindle working prohibit near it"