



FRC TEAM 6324

NEWSLETTER

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URI Event

By Opal F.

Team 6324 attended its first event of Rebuilt's season. The team was still finding its footing in many ways, as it was the first event implementing new scheduling and documentation tactics in the pit crew, media team, and scouting team. These new processes provided the team with a smoother work environment and more data to assist with any future problems. This is also our first year with significant assistance to other teams in their pits, helping them fix their robots and donating supplies of higher values such as robot batteries.

Throughout the event, the team received six separate rounds of judge visits, so we got to talk about our recent activities and accomplishments on a large scale. The work and discussions all paid off, as we received the Gracious Professionalism Award. This award is given to the team that the judges find to exemplify FIRST's core values, specifically professionalism and collaboration on and off the field. This was our first attribute award in five seasons.

We performed well throughout the qualification matches, and placed sixth by time for alliance selection. Our team was the first pick of the Second Alliance, led by Team 5000, The Hammerheads, from Hingham, MA. With Hammerheads and 6620, The Voltage Vikings, from North Smithfield, RI, we managed to make it to semifinals before being eliminated.





SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT



By Sean M.

This month's sponsor is Standex International! Founded here in Salem, NH in 1955, this electronics company has been providing global advancements in multiple industries. They have worked with our team for 9 years, and just recently submitted a donation. Their core values align similarly with our own: innovation, integrity, teamwork, and accountability. We are extremely grateful for their contributions to our team, and look forward to working with them in the future.

"Our partner, solve, deliver mantra is more than a mission; it's a promise... We thrive on the opportunity to unravel a challenge and deliver the solution with the ingenuity that is synonymous with Standex."

UNH Event

By Abi B.

The UNH event took place March 28-29, and it was a lot of work. The week leading up to the event was spent making sure our robot, pit supplies, and Impact presentation were in peak condition. Despite a few struggles in our first match, the pit crew managed to bounce back fast, and we performed exceptionally well through the rest of the qualification matches.

By the end of quals, we were in second place, and consequently the captain of Alliance 2. Our alliance members were Team 133, B.E.R.T., from Standish, ME, and 3597, The Robo-Rangers, from Kittery, ME. With our high scoring and amazing defense, our alliance made it all the way to finals! With hard work and an excellent automotive code, we got a head start and won the first match of the finals. However, we lost the next two matches due to our competitors' quick adaptation to our tactics.

While we did not win the event, we still took home silver medals and two trophies; one for being finalists, and one for receiving the Gracious Professionalism Award for the second time this season. We donated some pit elements, assisted many other teams, and even took photos for rookie teams who didn't have enough bandwidth to focus on media efforts. We also ran the machine shop, as we do every year. It's these efforts that allowed us to receive this award, and we are always happy to help other teams.



Who Are Our Mentors?

By Gail B.

This month's mentor was our faculty advisor and engineering teacher, Mr. S. Mr. S has been teaching at Salem High School for 10 years, and founded our team back in 2016. He formerly mentored Team 118, the Robonauts, from Houston, TX, and is an alumni of Team 20, The Rocketeers, from Clifton Park, NY.

In his free time, he likes to cook, work on his husband's business, and do research on media analysis. He says that his favorite day of the week is Sunday, because it's the closest thing to a "low-key day" that he has. He even goes as far to say that his favorite thing about the season is seeing us all collaborate as a team that's working towards the same goal, instead of working as independent sections. He also likes the "meme balls," which are just practice game pieces that the students have named and drawn faces on.

As a mentor, he's a steady presence who works with all subteams evenly, from participating in design discussions to reviewing the Newsletter before it gets published. As a teacher and an engineer, he's PLTW certified for four different programs, a Certified Scrum Master, and works closely with SkillsUSA, NTHS, and Salem's community partner network. He works hard to prepare his students for post-highschool life and to provide them with resources and opportunities to support them on their journey.

Thank you for all of your support and dedication to our team and our future, Mr. S!



Build Season Check-Ins: Software

By Cooper B.

Software has spent a lot of time writing our robot with a new framework, AdvantageKit. AdvantageKit allows us to log a large amount of data that exists only in the robot code, which makes it much easier to diagnose errors and unexpected behavior experienced by the robot. It also shows us what the robot was processing during a match, allowing us to see what went wrong from the robot's perspective. This is very important when trying to solve problems in the robot's code.

There was a significant amount of time spent changing our auto strategy from last year. We decided to start writing more of our autos in the robot's code instead of using PathPlanner GUI. This allowed us to make our autos more controlled by the robot code, and gave us time to make our auto paths more modular. These modular paths can be plugged together in many different configurations to increase our strategic flexibility.



SOFTWARE LEAD
Cooper B.