



GEARHEADS GAZETTE

01/16/2014

Volume 2, Issue 2

Special
points of
interest:

- Pata's daughter born!
- New student leadership
- Gearhead's Spotlight: Geoff Corbin

Right: Brooklyn
Clare Pata, born
1/16/2014

A New Gearhead is Born... And it's a Girl!

By Emily Murray

Once again the Gearhead's adviser Don Pata is the father of a newborn baby, and this time it's a girl! The baby was born at 2:30 PM on January 16, 2014. The baby is named Brooklyn Clare Pata and was 6 pounds 15 ounces and 19.75 inches long. This is baby number three for the Patas, they also have two other sons: Marshall, and Dexter. While the birth is a big relief for the proud parents, it also means that this build season will be even more stressful for our



advisor. This baby is the first girl to be born in the family which should be an interesting experience for Mr. Pata. In naming the child, the parents have kept with the tradition (that was thought of by Mrs.

Pata) of naming the kids after places in Michigan. The baby is a very welcome addition to the Pata clan and all the Gearheads are so happy for the family.



The Robo Trinity: A Progress Report

As Told by the Group Leaders

Robo Trinity: Build

Build is currently working on the sonic shifters so that we can put encoders on them and on the chassis. We're working on the "Howitzer", which has pneumatic pistons that can launch the ball over the truss or into the goal. We're brainstorming pick-up

methods: one which has two arms and a wheel and pivots down and picks up the ball, and the other which has one arm with a triangular frame on the end that scoops beneath to the ball on top of it and place it on the shooter. We decided on making

a square chassis rather than a rectangular one. We're currently refining some aspects of the shooter and intake mechanism and are beginning to figure out how to put it all on the robot.

Robo Trinity: Controls

Mr. Peirce is giving a tutorial on Labview (the program used to write code) to all kids on the controls team. They are also working on switching from PWM's to CAN mecha-

nisms to communicate with the Jaguars on the robot. Jaguars are the components on the robot which regulate the motors. The controls team is also working on add-

ing encoders to the motors controlling the drive train so they will automatically switch between high and low gear with the super shifters.

Robo Trinity: Design

Design has been working on finishing up CADding a few of the prototypes this week. These include the pneumatic grabber arm (which operates very similarly to a clapping

monkey toy), the catapult, and Geoff is also currently working on CADding the pneumatic Howitzer (our name for the cannon-type shooter design). They have also started working on

training the new members on how to use and abuse Solidworks, the CAD software.



Social media: Websites and Sounds

By Daniel Blohm

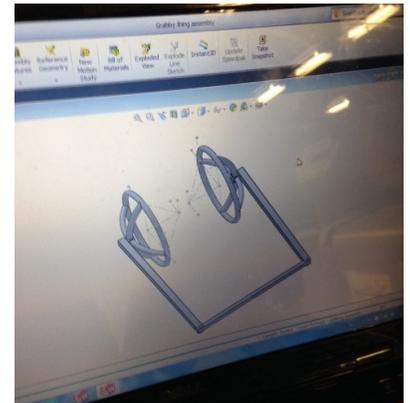
Last year the Gearheads created a group email account for the team, but Professor Utonium accidentally added an extra ingredient to the concoction... Chemical X! Thus the social media team was born! Shortly thereafter, a Gearheads Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Tumblr page were created. Following the Gearheads on

social media sites is the best way to keep up to date on the events and announcements on a day-to-day basis. It is also a good way to find the most recent newsletter. The Gearheads are also on Youtube where we regularly upload videos of the robot and the team. If you're interested in finding or following any or all

of these pages, the information about our accounts can be found on the Gearheads website and in the links below.

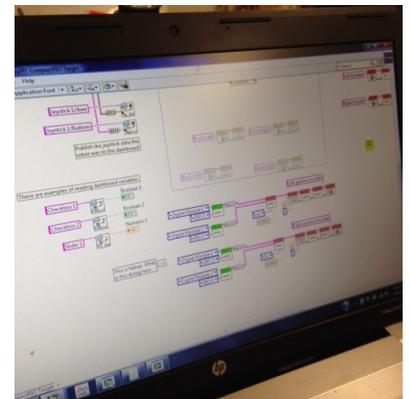


Top Right: Nick Santrock understands the importance of ***SAFETY!***



Middle Right: The "tennis racket" grabber CAD mockup.

Bottom Right: The current code for the robot.



Bottom: The newsroom!

Facebook: [FRC 1189 Gearheads](#)

Twitter: [@GPGearheads](#)

Instagram: [frc1189](#)

Tumblr: [frc1189](#)

Youtube: [Team 1189 Gearheads](#)





Meet the Gearhead: Geoff Corbin

By Audrey Kam

Gearhead: Geoff Corbin

Team: Design

Years Participating: 3

School: Grosse Pointe South

The story of how he joined the team:

"Neal's the one who told me about it. We always ate lunch together in the student commons at South and freshman year I did football, so that's all I had my time for. And Neal was on the robotics team because his older brother was on the team, and I guess that's how he got on. I don't know the full story about that, but he would just talk about the robotics club. I'm like "Man, that sounds rather cool, I wish I wasn't completely booked 'cause of football." Then he mentioned the LAN parties, and I'm like "Sold. If I quit football, I'm joining this team." And over the next year I just really started falling out with the football team and after that I'm eventually like "Screw it, I'm done with this." And it took me a while to realize that "Wait, I can join the robotics team now, I should totally do this." So, so that happened."

On his decision:

"I think joining the robotics team has to be the best

decision I've ever made. Period."

What he likes about being part of the Gearheads:

"I always liked how the team is more like a family than anything else. Like, we're not very serious about a lot of things. It's been a lot of fun just, I guess, working on projects with people, just getting stuff sorted out, trying to figure out how stuff works. So it's always a lot of fun."

On the competitions:

"Another funny note, when I first went to the competitions -- because it's laid out a lot like your average sporting event, except it's robotics, but the main difference is that at a normal sports competition the competitors hate each other, especially like rivalries like Michigan and State or whatever, but at the robotics competition I can just go up to another team member like from some different team and I can be like, 'Hey we're going up against each other next match, let's have a dance party!'"

Parting thoughts:

"Everyone's so nice in the FIRST robotics program. It's amazing."





Our Dark Overlord Pearce Reickert and His Illustrious Associates

By Audrey Kam

On Tuesday January 8, the Gearheads voted for their 2013 season team leaders. The Team Captain results were counted and announced on site. The votes for build Controls, Fabrication, Design, Safety, and "Other Stuff" (PR, social media, and assorted other things having nothing to do with the robot) were announced the following Thursday. The results were as follows:



- **Pearce Reickert** -- Team Captain. Serves as an intermediary between the students and the mentors and to unify the team as Gearheads. Our leader.
- **Easton Washburn** -- "Other Stuff" Captain. In charge of overseeing all non-robot things such as the Newsletter, website, social media, finances, photoshop and other essential things that just happen to have nothing to do with touching the robot. Makes sure that Mr. Pata is kept in the loop.
- **Neal Troscinski** -- Design Captain. In charge of drawing the robot in three dimensions. He uses a CAD (computer-aided design) program to create the robot in virtual space so the team can see how all of the pieces will fit together.
- **Joe Rabaut** -- Controls Captain. In charge of making sure that all electrical connections work, and that the program is working and on the computer. He also will build and make the driver station.
- **Michael Bakowski** -- Fabrication Captain. In charge of making custom pieces correctly and precisely so that they will fit onto the robot. Also teaching all of the new members of the Fabrication team how to use the machinery so that they can assume the responsibilities that the current members will leave behind when they graduate.
- **Nick Santrock** -- Build Captain. In charge of making sure the robot gets built in a safe and timely fashion.
- **Kim McBryan** -- Safety Captain. In charge of enforcing safety rules. Improving the "fun" element of safety, keeping the safety manual updated, making slideshows about safety at specific events, occasionally working on Material Data Safety Sheets, which tell you what chemicals are, what they do, the dangers they pose, and how to deal with possible emergency situations involving that chemical.

These students elected by the team will serve as captains for the rest of the season.



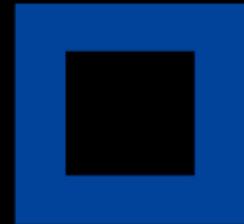
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