



3100 Lightning Turtles

Pre-Season Newsletter #1

The 2019-20 Pre-Season Begins!



It's that time again - Recruiting time! Through Sibley's Fall Recruiting Fair and our callout meetings, we have gained 8 new members! We're kicking off our pre-season with training, off-season events, team-bonding, and more!

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Extreme Pre-Season Team Training!

Turtle Trials Challenge Series!

Our technical mentors Charles, Conor and Dan G have developed a great, pre-season team training program - centered on a challenging game designed to give rookies and veterans a deep, hands-on understanding of the regular winter build and competition season - all centered around a game.

In preparation for our game challenge, our rookies and veterans built two drive chassis kits designed specifically for the game.



Fall Game Kickoff

For the Turtle Trials Challenge we staged our own mock kickoff just like the real build season. Mentors unveiled the game animation that revealed a game called "[Quick Quota](#)".

In the game, players will have to decide the fastest and most efficient way for their robots to deposit "particles" and "accelerators" (different sized balls) into different containers following a strict set of game rules. Alliances of 2 teams will compete for fastest completion time to reach exactly 73 points. Hopefully, this will tide over our urge to build and compete until the actual build season in January...



Callout Meetings

We spent the first few weeks of our new school year recruiting new members to join our team through informational sessions (callouts) and presentations. Eight new members joined bringing us to just over 30 students



Pre-Season Events

In mid-September, we attended the East Metro Cooperative Competition off-season tournament hosted by the Eastridge HS ERRORS (FRC 3130). It wasn't about winning, it was about giving our new drivers real-life practice before our competition season in March.

The tournament ended on a light-hearted note with mentor matches, where our mentors got the chance to drive our robot!

We'll be competing twice more in Oct/Nov at the MN Robotics Invitational Regional hosted by Roseville HS Firebears (FRC 2846) and at the Minne Mini-Regional hosted by Prior Lake's KING TeC (FRC 2169)



Mentor Spotlight

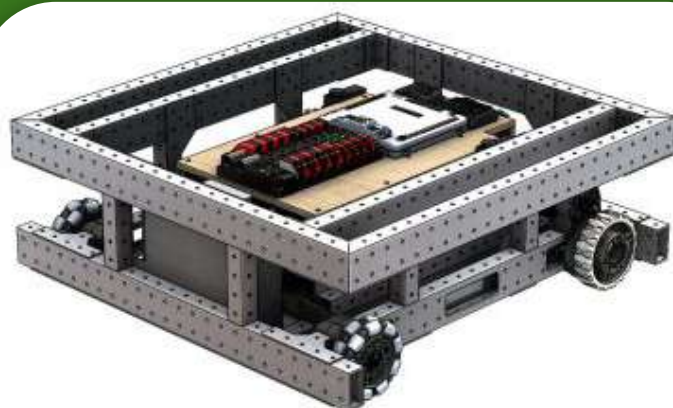


Charles Nepomuceno

Our lead technical mentor, Ecolab senior mechanical engineer Charles Nepomuceno, led the design of our new pre-season training program - Turtle Trials. Charles is also a regional official with the FIRST organization and has been part of FIRST for over 15 years.

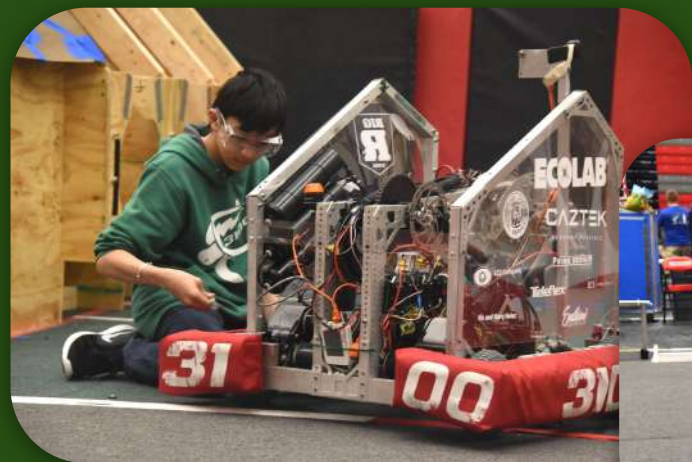
Training Kit of Parts Fab and Assembly

Before the Team even knew what the game was, they were tasked with building a drive train that would be used in the game. Two were constructed by two teams of students and both were flawlessly produced



Summer Recap ~ A Look Back...

Gitchi Gummi Get Together



**In Mid-July, We
Headed to Duluth
for Our First 2019
Off-Season
Competition.**



During this informal off-season event, anyone on the team who was interested was given a chance to drive the robot. We met up with a lot of other Minnesota teams and it was fun to interact without the stress of serious competition. Students gained valuable knowledge on how the robot drives and operates. Lily and Eddie were the ringside announcers for the mentors rounds.

Say Hello to our New Division Leads!



Jacky: Design Lead



Bailey: Team Lead



Luz: Electrical Lead



Oscar: Co-Build Lead

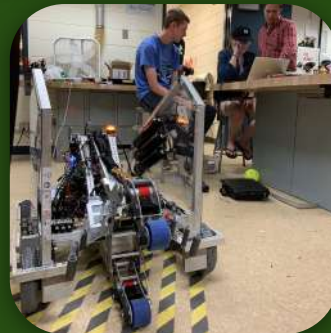


Arielle: Co-Build Lead

Summer Learning Sessions

Thought we quit working just because it was summer and Sibley was under construction? Guess again! Throughout the summer, mentors held office hours at Heritage Middle School so students could come in to learn skills they wanted to apply in the upcoming season.

Students gained valuable knowledge about their divisions before the hectic build season.



Thank You to Heritage Middle School for allowing us to meet in the Tech Department all summer!

Minnesota LYNX STEM Expo



On Sunday August 25th, the Lightning Turtles were invited by the Minnesota Lynx to demonstrate at their STEM Expo at the Target Center. We joined Edina's Team Green Machine and talked about STEM and robotics to attendees. Hopefully we sparked some interest in people curious about robotics. And we were invited to the entertaining Lynx game afterwards!

Mendota Days Parade

On Saturday July 13th, the Lightning Turtles were invited to participate in the Mendota Days Parade along with the Henry Sibley Marching Band. Many team members and their families joined us. Who doesn't want to be in a Parade?!? Everyone had a great time marching and connecting with the community!



More Summer - The Final Chapter

Minnesota State Fair

On August 28th the Lightning Turtles were invited to demo our robot at the Minnesota State Fair Education Building along with several other Minnesota FIRST Robotics teams. We also joined the daily parade in front of thousands of onlookers! We had a lot of fun showing everyone how our robot functioned. The state fair food was also a nice bonus!



Team Social

On August 2nd, the Lightning Turtles gathered together to watch the documentary "Small Town Robot". It is the story of how team 5172, a team from Greenbush Minnesota, made it to Worlds with the support of their community. The documentary was very inspiring and entertaining to watch!



3M Robots Invade the Plaza



23 Minnesota teams sponsored by 3M were invited to showcase their robots at 3M HQ in Maplewood. Our team shared our experience with STEM and robotics with employees and taught kids to drive the robot. Frank Merrick - Worldwide Director of the FIRST FRC Program - shared his thoughts about the impact of this program and the upcoming season. We finished with a parade around the plaza.

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