

## History

Since the beginning, Beach Cities Robotics was one of the first West Coast teams to get involved in FIRST Robotics. Mira Costa and Redondo Union High Schools comprise Team 294.

In 2001 Beach Cities Robotics became one of only two West Coast teams to ever win the National Championship. After a difficult year in 2002, the team returned in 2003 to earn the Engineering Inspiration award and Sportsmanship awards. In 2004, the team was honored to receive the Regional Chairman's award at the Southern California Regional.

## Impacting FIRST

Our team mentors created a general robotics course, open to all FIRST teams. We partnered with a local community college to provide a basic robotics course that has recruited new members. Our facilities are open to the public every Sunday. This open house has been mentioned on radio, local community calendars and newspapers, and was featured on AOL DigitalCity as the #3 family event of the weekend. The Redondo Super Bowl Fun Run allowed us to exhibit on behalf of Northrop Grumman to the 10,000 people attending the event.

In addition to mentoring three Lego League teams in the South Bay, our team also helped found the largest Southern California FLL Tournament where our team once again staffed the event as judges and referees, working with the 27 participating teams for a successful competition. We also conduct summer day camps on Lego Mindstorms.

We also helped create a Robovations league, the first of its kind in FIRST, held during the off-season. Team 22 leader Wendy Wooten asked team 294 member George Chen, a high school senior, to be director of the South Bay Region.

Our team mentors are on the Planning Committee for the Southern California Regional. We have been instrumental in promoting the event to the general public.

Our team members are highly active in FIRST, appearing on the ChiefDelphi forums. We have partnered with many local teams. Team 330 partnered with us in 2003 to build a practice field. Teams 22 and 599 work along with us to put on the SCRRF Fall Classic.

We like to share our shop, mentors, and experience to any and all FIRST teams. This year we are pleased to have Long Beach and J.T. Academy to share our shop and mentors. We enjoy working along side these teams. We have helped fund several teams by securing them grants and sponsorships. We have helped start & mentor rookie teams across Southern California. We hope to share our love of FIRST with as many as we can. Dean Kamen asked our team, along with team 22, to represent FIRST at a design conference in early 2004. Team members were interviewed by NBC's Hockenberry as part of spreading our message to design professionals worldwide. At the request of Dean Kamen we showed off our love of FIRST at the WESCON Convention. We served as moderators and panelists at an Educators Conference, to introduce teachers to the FIRST program.

Our team reaches out to the FIRST community and promotes a stronger FIRST community. With SCRRF, our team has participated in several exhibitions. The annual SCRRF workshops teach teams essential FIRST skills, where our team members and mentors hosted classes on imagery, programming, team spirit, Chairman's Award, and Robovations. SCRRF also hosts two off-season competitions, which we help run.

NEMO stands for the Non-Engineering Mentors Organization and was founded by our team mentor along with two other mentors. The organization serves as a support group for mentors without engineering background, through discussions on the ChiefDelphi forums. Our efforts have been recognized by several ChiefDelphi members, one of whom said, "I value many other teams. The first has got to be 294. Those guys provide a field at their school, programming help, and have even lent our team parts. Their students are always polite and embrace the ideals of FIRST."

We've started the FIRST Links program to connect mentors with other teams, by working with corporations such as Northrop Grumman Boeing, and FIRST senior mentor Paul Ashley. The Links program

reached out to prospective mentors and teams needing mentors through a database maintained our team connecting mentors with teams to enhance and strengthen teams across the globe. This highly comprehensive program is designed to become a model for which the national FIRST organization can expand upon.

### **Gracious Professionalism**

Beach Cities Robotics is committed to spreading the FIRST ideal of gracious professionalism. We created the nationally acclaimed Gracious Professionalism poster, based upon the Six Pillars of Character, which has been used by FIRST teams nationwide to teach team members about character. One team, from a boarding school, has taken the poster and placed it throughout their dormitories.

We present a gracious professionalism award at every FIRST competition we participate in to the team that best displays gracious professionalism.

In 2004, a college anthropology team of five students asked our team to be subjects of a study on communication based upon FIRST's culture. The group visited our team several times to observe our team members.

To further promote character outside of FIRST, our team became an official certifying organization for the President's Volunteer Service Awards, which honors members of the community who have helped improve the area they live in.

Our team has consistently won Gracious Professionalism awards from other teams, as well as earning the Sportsmanship award in 2003 for our efforts.

### **Media Involvement**

LA Parent Magazine & FreeLA.net work with our team to advertise the Southern California Regional. Our weekly open houses are also listed to enlist interest among the community to join our team or start new ones. By advertising in family oriented publications, we hope to recruit a new generation of FIRSTers.

On bcrobotics.org, our team has maintained an informative website with archives of FIRST's early years. The team has also helped organize website for SCRRF, Southern California FLL, NEMO, FIRST Links, and Robot Chicks Union.

Our constant press updates have attracted media attention from all across Southern California, including TV, radio, and other news media.

### **Mentorship**

Our team aims to help other teams around the world. We have had fun mentoring numerous rookie FIRST teams, as well as Lego League teams. We have also provided assistance to a team from Leuzinger High School on autonomy programs. Student Marygrace Barron moved to Paso Robles after spending two years on our team and is now founding a FIRST team in her new school.