

# ROBODOX

This month, the Robodox were insanely busy: in one week we visited a sponsor's headquarters for a presentation AND hosted a competition AND hosted our annual open house. We couldn't have done it if not for some very nice donations. Read about all that and more...

## The 'Dox visit Dreamworks

by Eileen Iniguez

On November 12th, the Robodox visited their awesome somewhat new sponsor, DreamWorks Studios, at their headquarters in Burbank, for a special presentation. The Robodox took along with them their basketball shooting robot, the Radiologist, to show DreamWorks what their donation from the previous year had helped create. Before demonstrating the Radiologist, DreamWorks invited the 'dox along with team 589 from Crescenta Valley High School into their theater to watch a short presentation.



The Radiologist impressed many of the employees with its complexity



All of the executives for this semester line up with a Dreamworks executive with their giant check for the team.

Students, mentors, and parents were able to see how the movie making magic happened at DreamWorks studios and what it takes to become a movie-making master. The 'dox even got a sneak preview of the unfinished animated movie DreamWorks is releasing in early 2013 called The Croods. After a short Q&A with one of the main animators, DreamWorks demonstrated a new application they created called "ptch", which enables users to quickly make a

video presentation and share it with others on the app by compiling photos, videos, and music. The team quickly downloaded it for use and later, the day was highlighted by one of the staff members on the app, reaching the #1 spot on "Popular" within the application.

Their demonstration ended and DreamWorks happily presented the Robodox and team 589 each with a generous check for \$5000. Robodox Fall president Jazmen Thomas graciously accepted their donation and presented them with a special certificate, recognizing and thanking them for supporting GHCHS's robotics team.

After a great lunch provided to the team by DreamWorks, it was finally time to show off the Radiologist! The 'dox set it up and were ready to go. They loaded Radio' up with a few basketballs and they came shooting out. Representatives from DreamWorks were amazed to see what the Robodox had created and were delighted to see what they had contributed to. Throughout the entire lunch hour, miscellaneous DreamWorks staff members played with the robot, interacting and becoming thoroughly amazed by its skills.

As the day came to an end, the Robodox came together in front of the fountain on the studio campus to take a great group picture to remember a fun day with our sponsor.

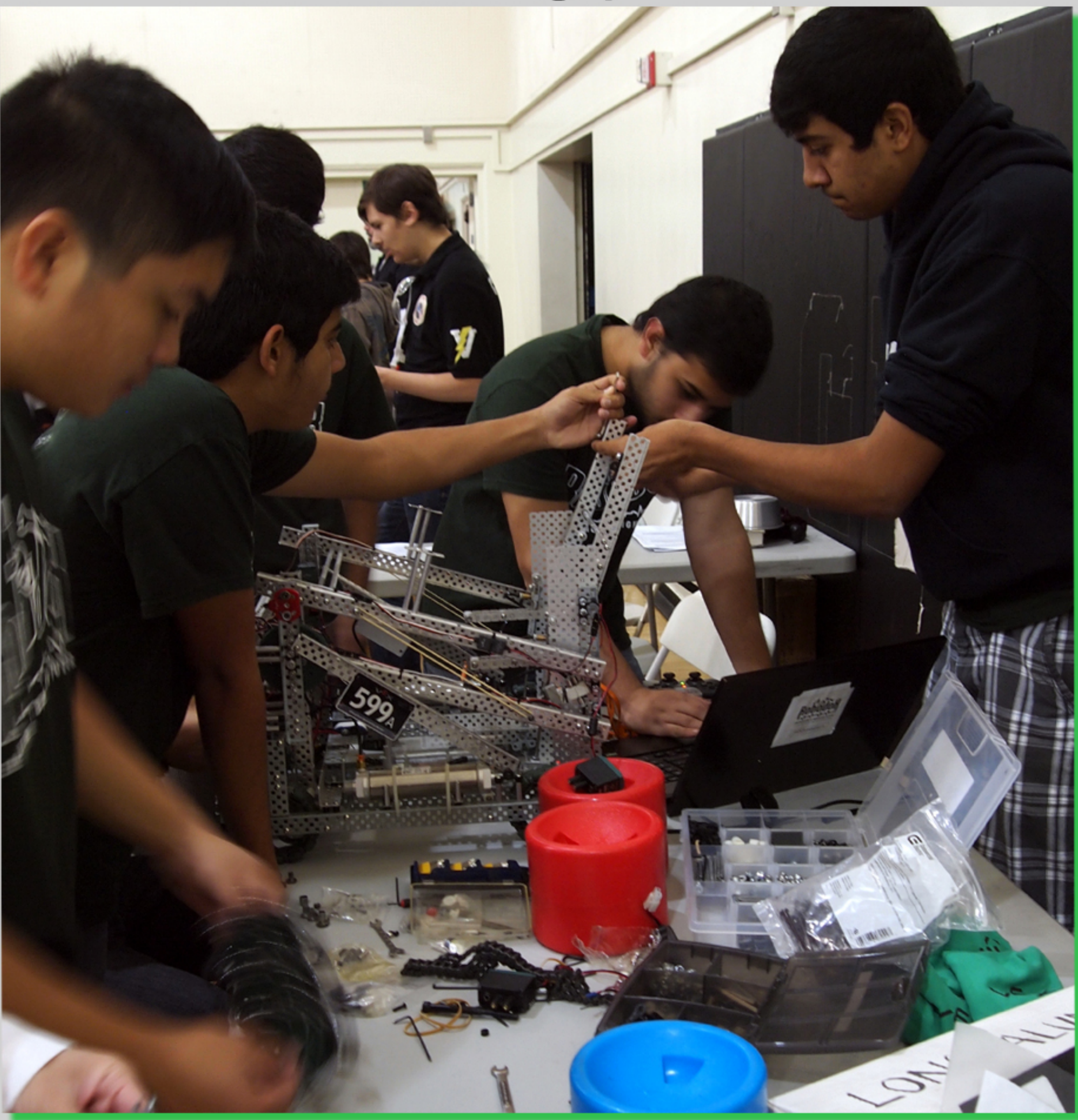


## The 4th Annual GHCHS VEX Comp'

by Jake Mattinson

On November 17th, the Robodox hosted their annual VEX competition. The night beforehand, as is tradition, the team set up the fields and the digital setup, so that the competition can run smoothly the next day. Most years, the doors are locked behind the final members of the team around midnight, but this year the entire field was set up and Mr. Van had walked out the doors before 9 PM. Although it may not seem like much to most, all of the veterans and mentors that came by to help were patting themselves on the back for they could actually sleep that night.

The day of the competition was soaking wet and freezing cold but despite the weather, teams valiantly marched onwards. After a little while, some teams ran late, so the competition started just about 20 minutes late. However, due to the amazingly smooth queuing, and dedicated volunteer team, the competition quickly caught up and actually started running ahead of schedule. Once again, this may not seem like much, but those who have had the experience know how surreal that feeling was. Many teams admired the intensity of the competition, as well as the amazingly efficient volunteer group.



Team 599A works to prepare their robot for their next match

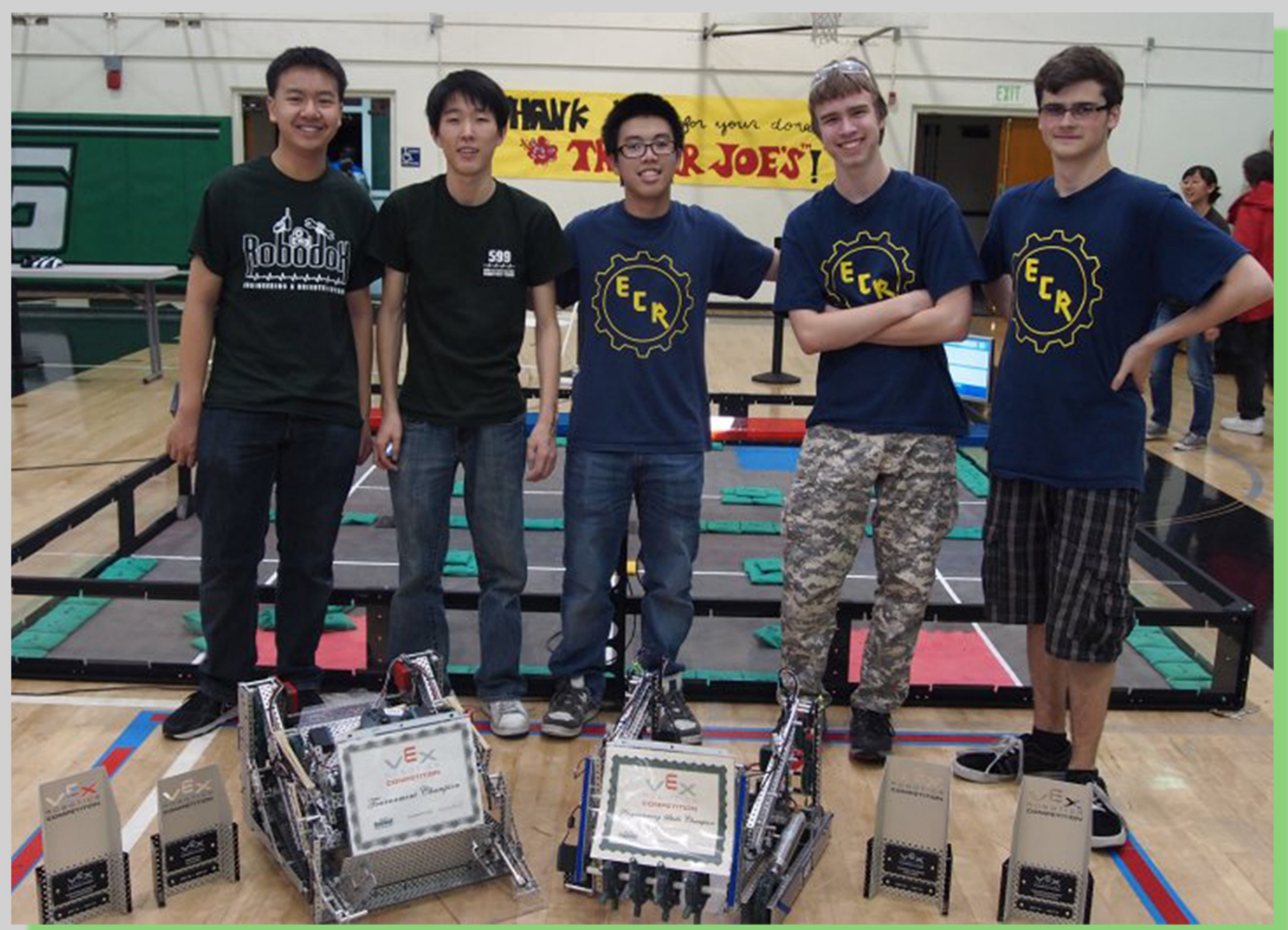
By the time qualifiers were done, both teams 599A and 599D were in choosing positions, D at first, A at seventh. For alliances, due to restrictions from VEX, only two teams were selected for alliances. D-team chose team 404 and A-team was chosen by 1138B. After both teams defeated their first opponents, it was a Robodex on Robodex match, 599D winning and going onto the finals rounds. In the finals matches, 599D and 404 were up against 21C and 1437X and then after intense rounds, a few skillful moves, and a bit of luck, 599D reigned victorious.

After their success, D was awarded the

Design award, having played a perfect day, with about 9 matches without a single loss. Drivers Michael Lee and Cedric Kim were ecstatic and relieved after a long day of competition.

Once the other teams were gone and the sun uncharacteristically shined above, the team swiftly packed everything up and once again, everything was gone by 8. Van, with his hoarse voice after a day of announcing, congratulated the team, commending every part of the group, especially the hardworking volunteer team, the drivers, and even the scouts.

We would like to thank Gabby Merkin and Jazmen Thomas for all of their work that let the competition exist, Mr. Van for keeping the speed and energy up the whole day, and the judges and referees. We'd also like to thank Ralph's and Trader Joes for their kind donations to the team. In the end, the team tasted victory once again and D-team is excited for World. They now remember the answer to the timeless question: Who Rox?



The winning teams pose together after their success

# Robodox Open House

by Jeffrey Lee

In midst of the Granada Hills VEX Robotics Competition on Saturday, November 17, the Robodox also hosted their annual Open House at Highlander Hall. From 10am to 3pm, kids of all ages had the opportunity to compete with VEX Protobots in an original game, or to talk with members of the team about engineering and robotics.

Stations were set up around the room for the kids to make adjustments to their Protobot for customization or if they were unhappy with the current capabilities of the robot. The team members assisted them with their endeavors and let them explore their fantasies through the power of VEX engineering.

After making a few small adjustments, they could compete in our Protobot game, trying, in groups of two robots, to grab small rubber balls and score as many as they could into plastic goals of miscellaneous heights within the center of the court, all within a certain time limit. Team members sometimes drove the robots, but for the most part, inexperienced community members who had thought of the additions to the basic design were driving and competing in the game, driving and scoring after only a little exposure.

On the other side of the hall, the Robodox allowed hands on experience, through physical man versus machine practice, with an FRC robot. This year, they decided to highlight the basketball playing capabilities of the Rebound Rumble robot, the Radiologist. Accidental alliteration aside, many people had fun just watching the more traditional robot's untraditional skills.

The robotics exposure helped spread engineering to the local community and hopefully sparked a child or two into wanting to pursue an engineering or robotics career within life.

## Robodox Events:

*CSUN Competition- The Final VEX Competition of the year (December 10)*

*FIRST Kickoff- The announcement of the new 2013 FRC game, and start of the infamous "Build Season" and the beginning of the second semester (January 5th/6th)*

## For More Information, Contact:

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