

“Rolling Thunder” Team 1511 Newsletter

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Regional Competitions a Great Success!

“Rolling Thunder” has successfully completed two regional competitions—the Finger Lakes Regional right here in Rochester, and the Chesapeake Regional at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD.

The Finger Lakes Regional started with a lot of mechanical work in the pits, getting the pulley mechanisms inside the robot to properly handle the “orbit balls” used in the Lunacy game. The mechanical team got the robot up and running by the end of Thursday’s practice session, and we were good to go for Friday’s qualifying rounds!

Team 1511 faced some tough competition, but “Thunderplucker” and the drive team performed well. After the qualifying rounds wrapped up on Saturday, we were seeded 19th out of 49 teams, and hoped to be chosen as a partner by one of the top eight teams for the elimination rounds.

We were delighted when Team 340 (Great Rochester Robotics from Churchville-Chili) asked us to join their 7th-seeded alliance! Team 316 (LuNaTeCs from South Jersey) rounded out our alliance, and what an alliance it was. We fought all the way to the finals with great strategy and teamwork. This is the best finish that Team 1511



“Thunderplucker” getting some mechanical work in the pits at the Finger Lakes Regional.

has ever had at the Finger Lakes Regional, and we brought home the second-place Finalist Award.

In addition, “Rolling Thunder” was given the Entrepreneurship Award, which “celebrates the entrepreneurial spirit by recognizing a team that, since inception, has developed the framework for a comprehensive business plan to scope, manage, and achieve team objectives.” This is the first year that Team 1511 has won this award!

Upcoming Events

- FRC Championship in the Georgia Dome (Atlanta, GA), April 16th-18th
- Team car wash at Hess (corner of 441 & 250), April 26th
- Rochester Rumble (off-season FLL event), Penfield High School, May 9th

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Regional Competitions a Great Success! (continued)

In addition, Team 1511 was a runner-up for the UL Industrial Safety Award at the Finger Lakes Regional.

“Rolling Thunder” barely had time to catch its collective breath before it was time to head down to the Chesapeake Regional. Fifty-five teams from as far away as the United Kingdom gathered at the Naval Academy in Annapolis. This was a new venue for Team 1511, and everyone enjoyed the change of scenery.

The action on the field was fast and furious! By the end of Friday’s matches we were close to being in the top eight. To the team’s delight, we received two awards on Friday: the Imagery Award and the Website Award.

Qualifying rounds continued on Saturday, and Team 1511 ended up seeded 11th out of 55 teams. We were selected as a partner by the 8th-seeded alliance. After two very hard-fought quarterfinal rounds, our alliance was eliminated from the competition—but Team 1511 wasn’t ready to pack up! Again the team received



“Thunderplucker” scores by unloading “moon rocks” into an opponent’s trailer!

special recognition for our safety procedures, collecting an unprecedented 79 safety tokens and receiving the “Safety Star of the Day” award for Safety Captain Mike Hartman.

But even more importantly, behind the scenes the team had been in the process of applying for the Chairman’s

Award, which is *FIRST*’s highest award and “honors the team that, in the judges’ estimation, best represents a model for other teams to emulate, and which embodies the goals and purpose of *FIRST*.” The team had submitted an essay in February, and Friday morning at the Chesapeake Regional three of the team’s students gave a presentation to the Chairman’s Award judges.

“Fifty-five teams from as far away as the United Kingdom gathered at the Naval Academy in Annapolis.”



Alliance-mates from Team 1511 and Team 340 at the Finger Lakes Regional competition.

Team 1511 Newsletter

Regional Competitions a Great Success! (continued)

At the very end of Saturday's awards ceremony, the announcement was made—"Rolling Thunder" had won the Chairman's Award! There was a riotous celebration in the stands. The long bus ride back to Rochester was a cheerful one. For the fifth year in a row, Team 1511 had qualified for the Atlanta Championships.

In a couple of short weeks, we'll be packing up to head for Atlanta, where over 300 teams from all over the world will meet in the Georgia Dome for three days of competition, presentations, and fun events. Team 1511 will be holding an "All Rookie Meet and Greet" for the rookie teams at the



Team 1511 members celebrate at the announcement of the Chesapeake Regional Chairman's Award.

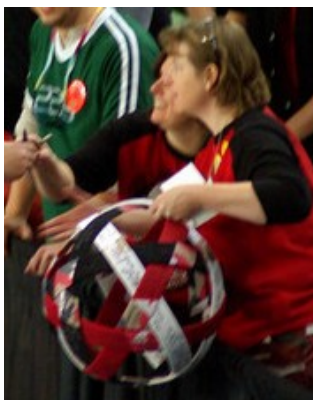
Championships, with games and prizes. The giant "orbit ball," which we've had signed by all the teams at the Finger Lakes and Chesapeake Regionals, will be the prize for one of the rookie teams—a great memento for them to take home from their first Championship event!

"Rolling Thunder" will be competing on one of the four fields in the Georgia Dome: Newton, Archimedes, Curie, and Galileo. Watch for an email letting you know which field we'll be on, and where you can find the live NASA webcast of the Atlanta Championship event.

Along with all the other Regional

Chairman's Award winners, Team 1511 will be presenting to the Chairman's Award judges in Atlanta. There will be a lot of fantastic teams there, and we'll be up against stiff competition, but "Rolling Thunder" just might come home with the Championship Chairman's Award!

If you'd like to read our Chairman's Award essay, you can find it online at <http://penfieldrobotics.com/forum/index.php?topic=2510.0>. You'll need to log in to see the attached file, but it's easy to register as a user, and the forums are a great way to keep up with the team's activities.



Getting the giant orbit ball signed at Annapolis.

"For the fifth year in a row, Team 1511 had qualified for the Atlanta Championships."

Check out our Chairman's Award video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=VgJgmhuGN0E, and wish us luck at the Atlanta Championships, April 16-18!

Penfield High School / Harris RF Robotics Team
"Rolling Thunder" Team 1511

25 High School Drive
Penfield, NY 14526

"The thunder just keeps getting louder."

We're on the web with an award-
winning website!

www.penfieldrobotics.com

Useful links:

Team 1511 website: www.penfieldrobotics.com

Team 1511 photos: www.rollingthunder.smugmug.com

Team 1511 Chairman's Award video:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=VgJgmhuGNOE

FIRST website: www.usfirst.org

"Lunacy" video:
www.usfirst.org/community/frc/content.aspx?id=418

"Lunacy" description:
www.usfirst.org/uploadedFiles/09_FRC_GameDescrip.pdf



Team 1511 on the Chesapeake Field—Chairman's Award Winners!

