

The Community VOICE

Rohnert Park, Cotati, & Penngrove



Brian Melani works on the electronics layout for Tech High's new robot.
Cecily Condon

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So, how's that robot coming along?

Tech High robotics update

Tech High Robotics has reached the halfway point of our six week build season. With three weeks exhausted we have accomplished many of our goals. The chassis for the first robot has been completed, the motor mounts and gearboxes have been attached and the electronics have been wired in. We have even started programming. The chassis for the second robot is completed with the exception of the electronics.

As far as the game is concerned we have decided on one arm design and we have begun assembly for this design. We have started prototyping for the hand design and we hope to begin assembly at the beginning of next week. We have also designed a functional Web site, <http://techhighteam675.com>.

We've decided to build two robots this year - one for practice and one for competition. Both are well underway, and we should have the practice robot driving around by the end of the weekend. We've decided to go with a forklift design for the arm. That concept was developed and designed by two freshmen students, Hunter Baird-Wise and Stephanie

Pearlman.

The manipulator arm was designed by Connor Dabney, Nadav Soroker (both sophomores), James Hellfeier (freshman) and Cecily Condon (junior).



Tech High Robotics member Ian Collins taps and threads holes for the school's new robot as Quest Meyer looks on.

Cecily Condon

engineering firms and government agencies. Team members also met Dean Kamen, FIRST founder and inventor of over 150 products, including the Segway scooter.

Last year Tech High Phantom Robotics earned a trip to the "Super Bowl" of robotics, the FIRST national robotics competition in the Georgia Dome, home of the Atlanta Falcons football team. The team finished in the middle of the pack - 41st out of 86 teams - in the April competition, and also met some industry specialists from major

The team earned the invitation after a strong finish at a regional competition in Davis. "Gloria Machina" (Translated roughly to "Glory to the Machine" from Latin) finished in the top eight and won the Regional Engineering Inspiration Award, the second-highest honor at the event. Local businesses then came in and helped pay for the trip as team sponsors. With the expenses reaching a whopping \$58,000 this team depends on local sponsorship on top of money raised through fund raising efforts.