

Volume 18, Number 4

<http://sections.asme.org/pgh/>

Pittsburgh Section Calendar

March 10-12: FIRST Robotics Competition
(Petersen Events Center – University of Pittsburgh)

March 25-27: District B Conference (Grand Valley State University – Grand Rapids, MI)

March 29 or 31: Spring Student Professional Mixer (Location - CMU)

April 1-2: Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair (Heinz Field – Pittsburgh)



FIRST[®] Robotics Competition

**March 10-12, 2011 at the
Petersen Events Center**

The *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC[®]) has been called “a sport of the mind”; don’t miss the opportunity to see the action in person! Join us for the 2011 Pittsburgh Regional *FIRST* Robotics Competition, March 10-12 at the Petersen Events Center in Oakland. This event will feature 39 high school robotics teams from eight US states and Canada. Several local Pittsburgh teams will be in action, on the field and in the pits. The event is free, family friendly, and open to the public.

If you are interested learning more about Pittsburgh *FIRST*, or serving as a volunteer or mentor, please visit <http://www.pittsburghfirst.org> or contact Patricia DePra, *FIRST* Regional Director - Western PA/Pittsburgh, at pdepra@usfirst.org or 412.512.4302.

More information can be found at any of the links above, later in this newsletter, or at the [ASME Pittsburgh website](#)

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PLEASE PRINT AND POST





Message from the Chair



Dear Members,

The National Engineers Week event on February 18th and 19th at the Carnegie Science Center went extremely well this year. I don't know if it was the relatively mild weather, an early case of spring fever, the chance to expose youngsters to engineering and science, or what, but this year saw a record attendance by the public. I was told by Carol Schoemer, the Engineers Week logistics coordinator, that more than 2800 people visited on Friday and 3200 people showed up on Saturday! When I went to support my company's activity booth late on Saturday, I know I had trouble finding a spot to park. So I can confirm that it was very busy! But it was also fun to see so many people there and to get the chance to talk with youngsters about science and engineering. And maybe, get them excited about engineering as a possible career!

The FIRST[®] Robotics Competition is coming March 10-12. There's a call for volunteers, and you can read more about it elsewhere in this newsletter. Looking further ahead, the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair (PRSEF) will be coming up on April 1 (no fooling!) and 2 at Heinz Field. More information can also be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

And, I want to remind you that we're continuing to work on the Spring Student Professional Mixer. It will be held the week of March 28th at Carnegie Mellon University. The Fall Mixer was a fun event, which was hosted by the University of Pittsburgh and included schools from southwestern Pennsylvania as well as West Virginia. Some good dialogue was held at the Fall Mixer, and as a result we plan to make the Spring Mixer a follow-up so we can build on the information that was exchanged and the camaraderie that was felt. We'll be sending out an e-mail as the event draws near.

If you wish to become involved with the ASME Pittsburgh Section, please contact Ron Kalnas at rskalnas@earthlink.net or any member of the Executive Committee. We look forward to hearing from you!

Regards,
Ron Kalnas
ASME Pittsburgh Chair 2010 – 2011
rskalnas@earthlink.net



Executive Committee Meeting

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 23rd at 6PM. The location is to be determined.

Carnegie Mellon

Looking for Engineering Mentors at CMU

Only nine percent of American engineers are women. And only twenty percent of engineering degrees are earned by women. There are a number of reasons why the number of women in engineering is low. One of those reasons is a lack of role models and access to females who have earned and utilized engineering degrees.

You can make a difference in the education and career of female students in their first year of study at Carnegie Mellon. We are looking for ten women to mentor female engineering students. As a mentor you will help a student learn to develop supportive relationships, provide career guidance, build a professional network, build confidence, and gain valuable academic advice (this does not include tutoring or job prospecting).

To learn more about this new program and how you can participate, please contact JoAnn Truchan (412-578-7981; jtruchan@achd.net).

Call for Mentors! Ementoring - Opportunities for Early Career Engineers.

Mentors are a great way to gain knowledge and learn from the experiences of experts in your field. ASME offers an e-mentoring service right at your fingers!

To learn more and sign up for mentors, or to register to become a mentor, log onto http://www.asme.org/jobs/mentoring/Ementoring_Early_Career.cfm or contact Noel Netel at neteln@asme.org

Do you have an idea for a Program or Tour for ASME Pittsburgh?

If so...

Contact any Executive Committee Member to start planning! We want to know what you would like to see!

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR ASME

If you sponsor ASME Pittsburgh, we will feature your company's products and services in our newsletter. For \$300 you can capture the attention of 1500+ fellow members and inform them of your company on a full page in one issue. For \$180 your company will be featured in ½ page; for \$95, ¼ page; for \$70, 1/8 page and for \$50 a business card sized space.



FIRST[®] Robotics Competition

Volunteers Needed: FIRST[®] Robotics Competition, March 10-12, 2011 at the Petersen Events Center

If you'd like to make a difference in the lives of local high school students, consider volunteering for Pittsburgh FIRST[®] (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, www.usfirst.org), a program designed to provide a positive, exciting, and intense exposure to engineering at a stage where it can have a big impact on young people. Volunteers are needed at the regional event, and local teams are in need of mentoring assistance. The time commitment for both mentors and volunteers can range from one-time to long-term involvement.

FIRST mentors serve as role models and play an integral role on robotics teams by assisting with technical issues (mechanical, electrical, or programming) or non-technical issues, such as time management, team dynamics, brainstorming, or entrepreneurship. Some mentors may act as a one-time consultant, helping the students to solve a specific problem. This brief video sums up what it's like to mentor for FIRST teams: <http://www.youtube.com/user/PghFIRST?feature=mhum>

FIRST event volunteers get to see the excitement up close, and are essential to keep things running smoothly; other volunteers work prior to the event in areas such as outreach and marketing.

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If you are interested learning more about Pittsburgh FIRST, or serving as a volunteer or mentor, please visit <http://www.pittsburghfirst.org> or contact Patricia DePra, FIRST Regional Director - Western PA/Pittsburgh, at pdepra@usfirst.org or 412.512.4302.

Helpful links:

- All things FIRST: <http://usfirst.org/>
- More information on the Pittsburgh regional (including the full schedule) closer to the date of the event: <http://pittsburghfirst.org/>
- Links to short FIRST videos: <http://www.youtube.com/user/PghFIRST>
- An animation that presents an overview of the 2011 game: http://robotics.arc.nasa.gov/events/2011_frcwebcasts.php#animation
- A representative match video from last year: http://www.thebluealliance.net/tbatv/match/2010pit_sf1m2.
- A quick introduction to the point of FIRST: <http://usfirst.org/uploadedFiles/2009FIRSTOpeningVideoFIRSTOpeningVideoHighQual%20800Kbps.mov>, or here: <http://usfirst.org/uploadedFiles/FIRSTOpeningVideoHIGHQual.wmv>

Robot Quickbuild Workshop: For those teams who are interested, an additional workshop session will be offered that will lead teams through building the kit bot chassis included in the Kit of Parts, how to wire the control system, and how to download the default program code onto the robot. Teams not attending the Quickbuild workshop may leave after the breakout sessions at 1pm.

UPCOMING EVENT



Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair

April 1-2, 2011
Heinz Field
Pittsburgh, PA

In 2011, the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair (PRSEF) will celebrate its 72nd year of open competition of research projects in the fields of science, mathematics and engineering on April 1 (competition day) and April 2 (awards ceremony) at Heinz Field. This competition is open to all students in grades 6-12 from 23 counties in Western Pennsylvania and three counties in West Virginia.

As the only local [International Science and Engineering Fair](#) (ISEF) affiliated fair, PRSEF will nominate Senior Division students to attend ISEF in 2011.

Become A Science Fair Volunteer

The Science Fair is looking for volunteers to help on Competition Day, **Friday, April 1, 2011**. The competition takes place at Heinz Field, Club Levels. Refreshments and a Science Fair t-shirt will be provided FREE! You can volunteer for a number of tasks:

SET-UP ASSISTANTS 6:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. - 45 needed

INSPECTORS 6:30a.m. - 9:30 a.m. - 45 needed

STUDENT GUIDES/FLOOR MANAGERS 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. or 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

SPONSOR AWARD RUNNERS 1:30p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 2: AWARD CEREMONY ASSISTANTS 8:30a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Additional opportunities are available. Please contact the Science Fair office at kosickl@carnegiesciencecenter.org or (412) 237-1534.

Volunteers are VITAL to the success of the Science Fair. The region's future scientists and engineers depend on your valued help, enthusiasm and support. JOIN US!

Further information about judging, volunteering, and more can be found at the PRSEF website at <http://www.scitechfestival.com/mainsf.asp>

Executive Committee 2010-2011 – Pittsburgh Section

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