



# Robo-Lions

ISSUE #11  
June, 2011

FRC Team 2199

## Upcoming Events

August 13: Battle O' Baltimore Off Season Competition. 9 am—4 pm at Woodlawn HS. Check our website for details!

August 14 at 7:00 pm will.i.am's *FIRST* Special on ABC—check local listings

## Championships

The Liberty High School Robo-Lions competed this spring in a game called Logo-Motion, which is similar to tick-tack-toe, but with some special twists: the game pieces were geometrically shaped inner tubes; the squares were metal pegs varying at heights from 3 to 9 feet; and, at the end of the game teams attempted to deploy a mini-bot capable of racing to the top of a pole. The mini-bot was then awarded bonus points based on their speed in getting to the top of the pole. This game is focus of the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) teams around the world, and culminates in the international Championship held in St. Louis, Missouri.

*FIRST* (For the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a non-profit organization set up to advocate science and technology through a hands-on challenge which changes each year. The program offers multiple levels, catering to students of all ages. After winning the Engineering Inspiration award in March at the New Jersey Regional, the Robo-Lions moved on to compete internationally for the first time in their five-year history.

Championships took place during the last week of April, and the experience was filled with exciting challenges and discoveries. The team participated

wholeheartedly in the competition, as well as attending workshops and giving support to the members competing for awards and achievements, including Deans List finalist Alex Bratchie and Scholarship winner Jonathan Mayo.

More than 350 teams from 29 countries competed in Logo-Motion with a robot they built from scratch in only six weeks. The truth is, as *FIRST* founder Dean Kamen says, "It's the hardest fun you will ever have". The long nights, endless fundraising, and six weeks of insanity all paid off at championships with everything from the new skills to the new friends. The Black Eyed Peas concert was pretty cool too, but nothing could compare to the final rounds of the competition on Einstein field, where the four best alliances in the world faced off. After nine of the most suspenseful and gripping matches the game has ever seen, the world champions were announced. The Winning Alliance of the *FIRST* Robotics Championship was Team 254, The Cheesy Poofs from San Jose, California; Team 111, WildStang from Schaumburg, Illinois; and Team 973, Greybots out of Atascadero, California.

Through out the Championship Robo-Lions team members were everywhere; some members worked on the robot, while others scouted, several members attended workshops, learning valuable skills, other members talked to other teams, learning from their experiences. Robots built by students from Elementary School to University were on display all over the St. Louis Convention Center. Meanwhile, the mentors somehow kept sane, despite mad dashes from the Convention Center, where the Pits were located, to the Edward Jones Dome (home to the NFL St. Louis Rams) to watch the Robo-Lions matches. The team is now preparing for a new year of "hard fun".



Contact us:  
[www.robolions.org](http://www.robolions.org)  
[team@robolions.org](mailto:team@robolions.org)

Above: Team members attending Championships were treated to a free concert by the Black Eyed Peas, feature will.i.am

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## Welcome New Sponsors!!

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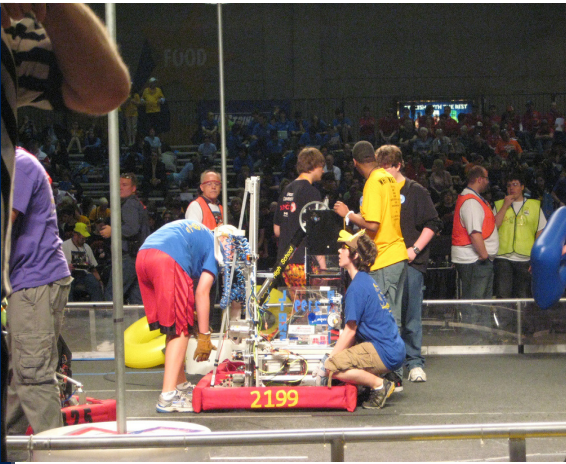
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## Moving on -

### Farewell, Class of 2011

Out of 27 students this year, seven were seniors. Now they are embarking on a new phase of their educational lives. At this season's end of year banquet the team wished them all luck with their endeavors through college and life. The skills gained through robotics will help serve these graduates well.

These Robo-Lions taking on new challenges. Listed are their key positions on the team and college they will attend in the fall:

- Adam Degenhardt (Scouting Captain) Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- Alex Hazlett (System Engineer) University of Dayton
- Johnathan Mayo (Programming Team Lead) Virginia Tech
- Jeff Mello (Minibot Team Lead) Frostburg State University
- Katie Miles (Senior Captain) Maryland Institute College of Art
- Kevin Sears (Programmer) University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus
- Mike Warren (Programmer) University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus

## Our newest team

Since Championships, the Robo-Lions have sponsored a new partner, FTC team 4991, the Roboleons. FTC stands for *FIRST* Tech Challenge; in this game students make smaller robots, which are easier to build and program, allowing for a step between the Lego-based middle school competitions and the high school competitions.

The new team will have a maximum of ten students and will consist of students from grade eight through twelve. FTC game rules are released at the beginning of the school year, two months before FRC kickoffs, and their competitions will take place in December.

The Roboleons are currently in their organization stages, and are still deciding on things like member eligibility and leadership roles. Be prepared to hear about the accomplishments of this rookie team soon!



*Above: Johnathan Mayo (top left) sits with other Scholarship winners during a ceremony that took place in St. Louis*

*Top: Team members set up the robot for a match at Championships*

## More Robotics Info

**Liberty Robo-Lions:** [www.robo-lions.org](http://www.robo-lions.org)    **US FIRST:** [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org)  
**FIRST in Maryland:** [www.mdfirst.org](http://www.mdfirst.org)    **BAA:** [www.firstbaa.com](http://www.firstbaa.com)

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BATTLE O' BALTIMORE