

Aquidneck Island Robotics (AIR) 4-H Club Meeting

11 August 2009

Attendees: Rick Blight, Mike DeSousa, Thomas Dolan, Kevin Goodell, Gary Gabriel, Kyle Kossak, Brad Kulis, Joe Menassa, Mark Seidman, Katie Small, Paul Souza, Nick Toppa, Mike Violet, Michael Violet, Robert Zeuge

Meeting called to order: 6:35pm

- Mike DeSousa motioned (Katie Small second) to approve 11 August 2009 Minutes
 - Motion approved unanimously

Committee Reports

- Golf Tournament
 - Only a handful of golfers officially signed up. Deadline for golf tournament is August 21st.
 - Jamie Bova will register the raffle for the Tournament with the State Police. She will download the form from the website and will be in charge of the \$5.00 fee.
 - Sponsors/Prizes
 - Citizen's Bank donation via Gary
 - Sports memorabilia via Rob
 - CVS gift cards and gift basket via Joe
 - Pier 49 gift card via Mike DeSousa
 - 1-month free membership to Newport Athletic Club via Rayvon
 - Staples gift cards via Rick Blight
 - Mike DeSousa, Kevin, and Brad to call remaining people on contact list about the golf tournament and annual meeting.

Old Business

- AIR Membership
 - Dues are due September 1st.
 - \$25 per student/mentor
 - \$15 per parent/guardian
 - Cash, Paypal on the website, and check payable to Aquidneck Island Robotics will be accepted as payment.
 - Insurance for the student members will be submitted by the first week of September, a letter will be mailed to the club leader once enrollment is complete.
- Annual Meeting on September 1st
 - **MANDATORY** attendance due to elections and important business matters
- AIR Clothing
 - \$50 setup fee with the Gob Shop

- \$22.50 or a gray-colored summer-weight polo with AIR logo
- Need to tell Gary if you want one and what size you are by next Tuesday at the latest (or just notify Rick Blight or Tom Dolan)
- T-shirts would be \$6.75/shirt for 50 shirts

New Business

- Off-Season Events
 - Bash at the Beach
 - October 3rd in Old Lyme, CT
 - No deadline or fee listed on the website
 - In the past, they have asked for a gift basket be donated to a raffle
 - River Rage
 - October 31st in Manchester, NH
 - \$200 registration fee
 - Would be the number one option at this point
 - Gael Force would let us use their backup robot if we cannot use our 2009 machine. They also offered us time at their facility to practice if we want.
- Harvest Fair
 - October 3rd and 4th at the Norman Bird Sanctuary in Middletown.
 - Last year's event was a big success; sold out on Hex Bugs and received a lot of exposure
 - Undetermined cost for table and tent space
 - Can demo robots and/or use VEXplorer kits to make demo machines.
 - Conflicts with the Bash at the Beach event
- Fundraising
 - Rob has offered to purchase 10 cases of Hex Bugs
 - Bugs will be sold at the Escobar Farm Corn Maze event and at the Harvest Fair
 - Gary will take charge of ordering the Hex Bug "food".
- Bylaws
 - A meeting to review and establish the bylaws will be held following next week meeting on 25 August 2009.
- Board of Directors nominations
 - Currently
 - Gary Gabriel
 - Joe Menassa
 - Mike DeSousa
 - Tom Dolan (running for Secretary position)
 - Rick Blight
 - Nominated at tonight's meeting
 - Rob Zeuge
 - Violet (Sue or Mike)
 - Nick Toppa
 - Brad Kulis
 - Kristen Kelso

- If anyone knows a local educator (active or retired) who would be interested in joining, please let Rick Blight know.

Good of the Club

- Car wash
 - Easy way to get some quick cash.
 - Requires 8-10 dedicated people
 - Can pull in ~\$600-700
 - May look into doing one in the late fall?
- Team Social
 - Nick Toppa suggested a team party to kick off the new season.
 - Details to follow at next meeting
- Rick Blight, Tom Dolan, and Mike DeSousa met with Candie Desjardins in the new community outreach room in the basement of Building 80.
 - Discussed FLL and possible new NUWC employees who would be interested in helping
 - Discussed the possibility of using the outreach room as a off base meeting location (outside of the gates). Tom Dolan to inquire about room availability.
 - Discussed hosting an open house in the outreach room, tentatively scheduled for 13 September 2009.
 - Candie would send out a press release to all hands at NUWC (government and contractors) about the team, its goals, and recruiting information (mainly to gain new students, but can also be to gain new mentors).
- News from FIRST
 - Waiting to her back from Deb Rose at FIRST
 - Currently they are writing policies and procedures on how to handle teams splitting, joining, etc.
- Joe Menassa to work on bake sale at Newport and Middletown CVS stores
- Tom Dolan to contact NUWC graphics department about AIR and 4-H signage
- Rick Blight to send out the link to the Google sharepoint list of potential sponsors
- Brad Kulis to talk to Miki Oliver about contacting the owner of Bad Dog Tools in Bistol, RI
- Brad Kulis to talk to his contacts with NYPRO about possible sponsorship
- Mark Seidman motion (Mike DeSousa second) to close the meeting
 - Motion approved unanimously

Meeting called to close: 7:33PM

Next AIR Meeting: Tuesday, 8/25/09, 6:30pm at Building 2 with Bylaws Meeting to follow immediately afterwards