

Centerburg Gazette

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Rookie Robotics team wins finalist awards

By Mary Kinsman

Fourteen high school students in Centerburg Trojan Robotics Club went to Regional Competition in Cleveland on February 26-28 and made it to the final match. They won two awards, the Rookie All-Star Award and the Rookie Highest Seat Award to qualify as regional finalists, and are going to compete at the First International Robotics Competition in Atlanta, Georgia April 16-18. "It's quite a feat," said Tina Urban. There were 59 teams and not just from Ohio, they came from other states as far away as Florida, Michigan and South Carolina. They are the first team to go to competition from Knox County.

"It's very expensive to go with the registration fee alone," said Michelle Trumble. "We are a new club just getting set up with meetings and fundraising. Anyone

who wants to contribute a tax deductible donation may send it to Centerburg School District for the Robotics team." Robotics Club is an extra curricular activity and members meet in the tech area of the old high school once or twice a month. To finish the robot they met everyday and now it's once or twice a week. They are a nice mix of kids who build and program robots for competition. They have a certain challenge they have to meet that is announced in January. What the robots have to accomplish is different every year. The robot itself has to be built pretty much from scratch. "The Big Metal Box," has to be crated and shipped. When they go to competition, it all happens in a short period of time. It's very intense. All the teams are required to use the same types of wheels and

motors. It's pretty standard. How they use all the pieces is up to them and their design. It has to be a certain size and nothing can touch the floor other than the wheels. The robot goes around, gathers up balls, and drops them onto the trailer of another team or into a corner where people throw them back. It's all about conquering a challenge and these kids have found their niche.

The team members who attended the Competition are Abby Altizer, Graham Altizer, Austin Garber, David Hebenthal, Kathryn Hebenthal, Danielle LeChard, Michael LeChard, Zack Liston, Thomas Liwosz, Alex Losego, Noah Orr, Becca Trumble, Bryce Trumble, and Audrey Urban. There are also two Junior High members, Willis Fannin and Creston Buzard.



CENTERBURG HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS TEAM

(Courtesy Photo)