

# team COMBUSTION 1912

January 14, 2012  
Volume 2, Issue 2

Northshore High School  
Slidell, Louisiana

**FIRST**

## THE INFERNO

### Upcoming Events

- Kickoff

When: January 7th

Where: Stennis Space  
Center

- Jumpstart Build

When: January 14

Where: Northshore High  
School, 100 Panther Drive

- Krewe of Slidellians  
Parade

When: February 4th

Where: Slidell, LA

- Open House

When: February 20, 7 pm

Where: QinetiQ building,  
40201 Highway 190 E

- Bayou Regional

When: March 15-17

Where: Pontchartrain Center  
Kenner, LA

### New Game Revealed, 1912 Starts Build Season

“At Kickoff on January 7, inventor Dean Kamen was joined by former Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton, will.i.am, frontman of The Black Eyed Peas, and a host of other celebrities via video to launch the 21st FIRST robotics competition season today with the Kick-off of a new robotics game called ‘Rebound Rumble.’ Before a crowd of 800 people at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, N.H., the hometown and headquarters of *FIRST*<sup>®</sup>, an estimated 60,000 around the world joined the Kickoff via live NASA-TV broadcast and web-



Rebound Rumble game logo

cast.” - FIRST website

In “Rebound Rumble”, robots attempt to earn points by balancing bridges and shooting hoops. Teams can earn more points by cooperating with a team from the other alliance to balance the middle of the three bridges on the court, and they can earn more points by shooting into the higher hoops (4 hoops with 1 top level, 2 middle level, and 1 bottom level). Teams can also earn points in a “hybrid”

autonomous mode. It is a hybrid this year because we get to use the Xbox kinect to move our robot. Only one team on each alliance will be allowed to do so, and the other two teams will do a regular autonomous mode, hence the “hybrid” name. For the next five weeks, we will meet every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at the QinetiQ building brainstorming and building. As always, sponsors are welcome to attend our build sessions. We would be thrilled if sponsors and the public would attend our Open House, Monday February 20, at 7 pm.

## BETA TESTING 2011

For the third year in a row Team 1912 was chosen by FIRST to participate in beta testing. During the fall it was our job to experiment with the new controls hardware and software to work out all the bugs and improve documentation before kickoff. Beta teams are chosen based on geography as well as the strength of their controls team and communication. We were lucky enough to participate in all three fields: LabVIEW, hardware and the Microsoft Kinect. At the conclusion of our testing we held a presentation at our build space that was attended by eight of our fellow FRC teams. We enjoyed the chance to spread our knowledge with other teams and have already continued to do so with the beginning of the new season. There is no doubt that our learned knowledge from beta testing will help during the build season.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

[WWW.TEAM1912.COM](http://WWW.TEAM1912.COM)

CONTACT US:

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AND FOLLOW US ON

FACEBOOK, TWITTER AND YOUTUBE



## LOOKING FOR MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

Team Combustion is in need of mechanical engineering mentors. As a mentor, you can assist us in building and designing our robot. Our main season is a six week period between January and February. Contact us at our email and visit our website.



FOR MORE INFO, GO  
TO:  
[WWW.USFIRST.ORG](http://WWW.USFIRST.ORG)

## A Team Combustion Build Season

Six weeks of intense building, teenagers working with passion—that is the robotics build season. Every team across the country will be trying to figure out the best strategy that will allow them to win and/or go to the international competition in St. Louis, Missouri. Some will be rookie teams. Some will be large, experienced veteran teams. But what about Team Combustion? What do we do? Who are we? In order to answer these questions, one must look at the way Team Combustion functions. We have build sessions four times in the week: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 5:30-9:00 and Saturday from 9:00-4:00—a total of 17.5 hours. Each meeting day, members mill about, finding tasks to tackle and simple jobs to be done. We have a chassis team, challenge team, and a controls team that work together to make the robot. Chassis is in charge of building the wheels and framework of the robot, whereas the Challenge team does their best to figure out the best way to tackle the “challenge.” The controls team works all things electrical and will most likely be the eventual drivers of the robot. Plus, we have an AutoCAD Inventor team and an AutoCAD animations team. The AutoCAD inventor team builds the robot on the computer using the Autodesk program, so that we may see contradictions in the physical world before we realize that we have made a mistake and waste materials and time. As for the animation team, they work on the safety animation and make the cute computer mascots. And EVERYONE is on the Safety Team because in FIRST robotics, safety comes first. Furthermore, we have captains and elected officers that have specific jobs and lead their respective teams. For every team, there is one captain, and as a whole, we have the standard elected officers: President, Vice President, etc. It is only because all of these mini-teams mesh together that we can form Team Combustion as we know it. We do everything in our ability to be the epitome of gracious professionalism, and we will never stop “burning.”

