

Title of Session: FIRST Robotics

Moderator: Patricia Chen

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Room: Robotics Group (K-12)

MarieMS: So Pat - you want to reorganize - I don't oppose that at all - what's the current thinking? - can I help?

PatriciaCh: reorganize meaning.....let the girls chat in the south Florida roomI want to use this site for the adults....I am setting up a chat with 2 of the girls from our chapter...I emailed Lisa (Michigan), Kristin, Julia and Tiffany to join us....I heard from Tiffany only...aside from my 2 girls

PatriciaCh: I want to work out the logistics....I can log on.....just be a monitor....but let them talk freely..

MarieMS: I understand - kind of regroup and build the "spark" back up -- I think that is wonderful!

PatriciaCh: I also emailed Jessica P....she had participated in the Yahoo chats....she spent a semester overseas...so was not in on chats....

MarieMS: If you were going to chat with them tonight - I'm happy to leave in order to let you guys have an open conversation - is that the intent tonight?

PatriciaCh: yes.....I understand that the girls are not on the same page as we are....they shouldn't be...SPAM has another female mentor...recent college grad.....I am enlisting her assistance to help with South Florida.....get some sparks

PatriciaCh: no....the girls want to chat on Sunday....weekdays are hard for them

MarieMS: ok - whatever you need!

PatriciaCh: please check with Julia....she has not respond....but if it is a sore subject...drop it....

PatriciaCh: newsletter.....we do not have any articles.....Tiffany said that she has the games and fun features laid out....we need the "meaty" articles

MarieMS: hmmm... I'll check with Julia - but she hasn't mentioned any "sore subject" around RCU - around FRC we've got some problems - I'll check -- and thank you!

PatriciaCh: sore subjectmeaning....her interest may be waning.....and do not want to be nag by mom...

MarieMS: On the newsletter - I can check. I can find TONS of women who would LOVE to write articles - but is that what she wants?

MarieMS: Ah, I understand that!

PatriciaCh: no one emails questions for....technical corner.....we can replace that with something else....

MarieMS: Interesting. I wonder about the newsletter - it is a

MarieMS: oh, lost have my note!

MarieMS: it's a wonderful resource that we need to help Tiff pull together!

MarieMS: She and you are kind of "stuck" alone with it.

PatriciaCh: right now.....I am helping her out....she likes laying it out.....Lisa helps with the editing.....I do whatever the girls cannot do....then I send it out....

MarieMS: Julia has left her FRC team due to politics - she remains interested and involved - but it's very different than in previous years.

MarieMS: On the newsletter - how can I help. I can do many things with my network - but I always hesitate - I want Tiff and the RCU to own it - not me and my network of women! Ideas?

PatriciaCh: that is a shame.....maybe she can evolve to be more of a mentor.....Michael....lost interest in mentoring...due to politics and such...but he is involved in the Boston Regional Planning and loves it....he likes the volunteering aspect.....

MarieMS: Yes, it's a shame - but these things happen. She remains extremely involved - but at the FIRST corporate level - and that's just wonderful for her.

PatriciaCh: right now.....we need to pull October issue together....I think one of the problem isthe RCU ...at least on the girls level....there is no leadership.....no one wants to upset Kristin....but she is so busy and over extended in her activities.....she is not leading the RCU.....so everyone is kind of floundering...

PatriciaCh: I understand when you say.....we as the adults do not want to meddle too much....I agree with that....the RCU is for the younger crowd...not us.....

MarieMS: Ah Pat - thank you for your insight - very helpful. Although I sensed you were right when I read your input - I hadn't really internalized that problem

PatriciaCh: I kind of lost my notes from Atlanta.....but the gist is...the girls want to connect with other girls....that is why I am trying the chat...I am going to let Vic, Melissa., Jessica, Lisa, Tiffany, Julia or Kristin .lead the chats..

PatriciaCh: I will find out from Tiffanywhat we need for the October issue....and email both you and Nancy....

MarieMS: OK - here's some things I can do -- if we had a set of let's say three questions girls are interested in - I could get a lot of technical professional women to answer them - and create a section of the newsletter like "ask the expert" or something - but I need to know what they would find (interesting) if they like the idea

MarieMS: What happened to the FIRST alumni idea? - no response?

PatriciaCh: I can pose that question to the girls when I chat with them on Sunday.....we did have a better showing when we chatted on Sunday

PatriciaCh: Tiffany said that she only had 4 responses

MarieMS: Interesting - I have an idea there..

PatriciaCh: ok

MarieMS: I have a friend who does videos - could we do a FIRST women's alumni video? - kind of what FIRST meant to me.... etc.?

PatriciaCh: that's a good idea....we need a listI do have one candidate....she is the new mentor on SPAM...former student on the team

MarieMS: if you could check the idea with the Sunday crowd - we could "tee up" many "videos" - what FIRST meant to me -or for non-FIRST women - what technology has opened up to me. etc. maybe video is a medium we can explore more fully.

PatriciaCh: I will...

MarieMS: what do you think Jeff and BJ?

PatriciaCh: ask Julia as well...just in case she doesn't make the chat

MarieMS: will do!

BjB: videos sound very exciting....

BjB: as a matter of fact....we just had a new discussion group...next vista

BjB: . o O (www.nextvista.org)

BjB: maybe Rushton would be interested in putting your training videos on this site.

PatriciaCh: I am checking the site

MarieMS: me too

BjB: Rushton Hurley is a TI member. rushton@hotmail.com

PatriciaCh: it was taking too long to load....so I sent the link to school

BjB: check it out and then contact Rushton. Tell him BJ sent you

MarieMS: seems the audience is teachers?

BjB: and students

BjB: teachers can use the videos as short tutorials or different ways to present a lesson

MarieMS: so, if we had a video and used it to distribute - it would be part of the curriculum?

BjB: not sure Rushton pushes curriculum so much as visual ways of delivering information

BjB: First Robotics could be a series of videos on examples of projects

PatriciaCh: United Streaming....delivers videos on different subject areas.....but it is a fee...

BjB: or whatever you feel would 'hook' people to participate

BjB: right. nextvista is free

BjB: you might even suggest to Rushton that he meet with you during the next nextvista discussion to talk about how to help you get the word out about first robotics

PatriciaCh: it has short video clips...2- 8 minutes long.....it enhances instructions....it is up to the teacher...as how they will use the video

BjB nods

MarieMS: So, this is interesting - it's a possible distribution mechanism if we have content to offer - I feel we have a lot of content - but we're not getting uptake in our target audience

BjB: and your target audience is...?

PatriciaCh: we need to learn how to tap.....

MarieMS: high school girls to start with

PatriciaCh: the audience....is the girls who are involved in FIRST

BjB nods

MarieMS: so. what makes a school or teacher want to pick up content from this medium?

BjB: I'm just guessing, Marie... I would say that teachers want a way to deliver content that is different from lectures and books

BjB: kids will watch just about anything if it's on TV

PatriciaCh: I use robotics to show how math, science is important

BjB: and that would be great, Pat

PatriciaCh: the games....the music...pumps the kids up....

PatriciaCh: I do this all the time...now I have a projector in my room.....it is better

BjB: and even having the opportunity to produce a video like that might be a good draw for the girls

PatriciaCh: so if we have a RCU clip....it helps with the social issues...it is okay to be "geeky".....it can be fun....

MarieMS: so, if I listen here - I think we could create content and have a distribution mechanism but we would still need to have a way to "promote" the content - i.e. if not promoted, no-one knows of all this cool stuff!

BjB: you also could have a Tapped In discussion during the K-20 Science Resources

BjB . o O (be a guest speaker for the session)

BjB pokes Jeff

MarieMS: Pat - an RCU clip would be SOOO wonderful

BjB thinks Jeff is afk

PatriciaCh: yes.....we can promote it at Atlanta....it depends on how long this project takes

MarieMS: Ah folks, I speak ALOT about RCU, and FIRST - my next "gig" is in November - but I do give speeches on a less formal basis ALL the time!

PatriciaCh: what is afk?

BjB: away from keyboard

PatriciaCh: ah!

MarieMS: So Pat - if we did video clips - could you ask the girls what they would find interesting?

PatriciaCh: yes....I will start the ball rolling.....we need to involve the other chapters too...

MarieMS: I agree. I also have several videos created by companies/foundations that encourage young women - we could look at offering a distribution vehicle for those organizations as well.

MarieMS: If you look into what's interesting. I'll look into who could fulfill the content and how we could do distribution. I may need help on the latter as I'm a little unsure how I'd do that one

PatriciaCh: it depends on when clip is finished.....we can email teachers....not the administrators...if they want a clip.....it may be more of a word of mouth....the easiest is ...hand them out during competition

PatriciaCh: BJ...discussion on K-20 Science resources...is that your group?

BjB: that's Jeff's group

PatriciaCh: oh.....we can do that....

MarieMS: Interesting.. I have to go - I'm exhausted - tomorrow I have meetings from 8 am to 8 pm - so, I'll need a little R&R - it's wonderful to reconnect with you.... Marie your devoted helper!

JeffC: back

JeffC: yup... want to be a guest speaker next month?

PatriciaCh: yes.....are you going to the Boston Regional?

MarieMS: bye-bye

JeffC: I mean at the Science Resources group.

PatriciaCh: I am thinking of coming up for that instead of going to the Florida one

PatriciaCh: Jeff...when next month?

JeffC: Either Marie or Patricia... first Tuesday of the month from 5-6 Pacific... I'd love to have you talk about girls and science, robotics, whatever you want.

JeffC: or both of you.

PatriciaCh: Tuesday is fine....I just need a reminder...senioritis...these days..

MarieMS: It might make sense to space it out (no pun intended) - I'm happy to "talk" - I've done mechanical engineering for portions of the space shuttle - my parts worked I might add.

BjB smiles.

PatriciaCh: yea!!!!

MarieMS: I've also run my own business and run consulting businesses across multiple disciplines - so depending on what is interesting.

JeffC: well... that sounds interesting to me...

PatriciaCh: Oh Julia should apply for the NASA internship...she will have a great time

JeffC: but I'm not a high school girl either.

BjB: maybe you can email Marie, Jeff...since she has such a busy schedule tomorrow

JeffC: yes... will do

PatriciaCh: what kind of business...

MarieMS: I will be speaking at the WIST forum about running a software development project for a company run by Japanese men!

MarieMS: Jeff - if you'd like to contact me I'm at Marie.Schulmann@hp.com or MarieSchulmann@yahoo.com - I can help in lots of ways - just let me know what you need

JeffC: Thanks Marie

MarieMS: and again good night to all you brilliant people!

PatriciaCh: good night

JeffC: gnite

BjB waves goodnight to Marie

MarieMS left the room (signed off).

PatriciaCh: okay....I will be there....October 3?

JeffC: thanks Patricia... sounds right

BjB: yes....8pm EDT

PatriciaCh: the topic is girls' involvement in robotics?

BjB: probably depends on what Marie chooses to discuss, but I assume Jeff will suggest that topic to her

PatriciaCh: okay....that works.....wrote myself a reminder on a sticky note....hope it doesn't fall off the wall...

PatriciaCh: I am going to log off....good night

JeffC: I'll be in touch with both of you.

JeffC: (Marie, Patricia and Bj) to hammer out the details.

BjB waves goodnight to Pat

PatriciaCh: thanks...good night