

# Volume 1: The First Week



Allendale  
**Robotics**



## Weekly Build Season Update

*From The TriSonics, FRC Team 4003*

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The TriSonics newsletter allows us to share with you the weekly happenings throughout our 2016 Build Season. In the newsletter, you will find a description from each of our sub teams with what they've been doing during the week! We hope you enjoy seeing our team grow throughout the season, and the progress we make through our 6 week build season!

## Kickoff:

On Saturday, January 9 our team gathered at our build space to learn about the 2016 game! The game is called STRONGHOLD, and more information can be found at [firstinspires.org](http://firstinspires.org).



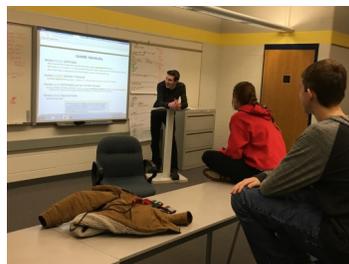
## Build



Our build team has started off the season! Monday the whole group talked about what the team wanted to do. They discussed strategies and wheels. Wednesday, they talked about strategies for intake and shooting the boulder. Thursday, this subteam cleaned up their build space to get ready to begin prototyping. Friday the mentors purchased build materials and Saturday this team began building the defenses for a practice field our team will set up.

## Design

When the game was released, the designers got to work discussing strategy for autonomous and teleop. They broke into small discussion groups, then met as a team to go over what they had found. Throughout the week, they finalized the strategy and began brainstorming drive systems and ball handling mechanisms. This subteam ended the week by focusing on a wheeled drive train and deciding between 4- or 6-inch wheels to cross the defenses.



## Programming

This week our programming team has been busy getting their season off to a good start. They have updated the RoboRio (the brains of our robot) and the radio on one of the old robots to use as a test robot while our new bot is being constructed.



Currently they are working on installing the new Java software and Eclipse on all of the students' laptops to get them ready to program the new robot. They'll be working on GitHub for version control. Their future plans are to investigate the NavX capabilities, and work on our autonomous strategy.

## Meet Our Team!

Every week we feature one mentor and a senior from our team to help you get to know the TriSonics!



**CHAD** *mentor*

Chad Potinsky is the head mentor of the TriSonics! He's been with the team since it began in 2012. He also works with our FTC team, the HexaSonics and works with all subteams on our team. He is a professional engineer at Knoll Manufacturing, so he's really helpful in teaching our students real life skills they can apply to their careers later in life! Chad was nominated by our team for an award last year recognizing his skills in mentorship.

**MORGAN** *senior*

Morgan has been on our team since his freshman year. Morgan is our head builder and is almost always found in the build room helping to assemble the robot and mentoring younger students. Morgan plans to attend Grand Valley State University to pursue a degree in Engineering. His favorite memory from his time on the TriSonics is getting the opportunity to work with the younger students and coach a 4-6 grade team.



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