

## Regional's 'Gearheads' Advance!

Megan Llewellyn

Saturday, January 4 marked the beginning of the 2014 FIRST Robotics build season. Teams across the world were introduced to the game Aerial Assist, played on alliances of three, which requires teams to build robots capable

of picking up and shooting two foot diameter exercise balls over a six foot high truss and into goals of the same height. For an added point bonus, robots could catch balls shot from robots on their alliance.

Following completion of a six week build season, the Northwestern Robotics Gearheads built a superb robot capable of picking up, shooting, and catching the ball. Last weekend, the Gearheads took their robot, named Scratch That, to the Southington



District Event at Southington High School to compete against 31 other robotics teams from across New England. Over the course of two days, NRG played their way into third place, earning a spot as alliance captain

in elimination rounds. From there, the Gearheads' alliance took home second place. The team was awarded the prestigious entrepreneurship award for the second year in a row, and will compete in the Hartford District Event at Hartford High School on March 29 and 30.

For more information on FIRST Robotics, visit [nefirst.org](http://nefirst.org) or [nrg4055.org](http://nrg4055.org).

*Megan Llewellyn is the Head of Public Relations for the Northwestern Robotics Gearheads Team.*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

In the top photo, the Gearheads' Scratch That robot is carried onto the field. Above, the Gearheads' enthusiastic supporters during the Southington event.