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## **Regional's Robotics Team Gears Up For Competition This Weekend, 'Benefit Blast' In April**

Posted on 28 March 2012.



2

*The following is a press release we received from Nathan Starr, Vice President of Northwestern Robotics Gearheads (NRG) with an update on the team's progress: Regionals this weekend and a 'Benefit Blast' in April:*



The bagged and tagged robot. Photo courtesy of NRG 4055 Gearheads

Photo enclosed of the finished robot with most of the FIRST Team 4055 'NRG' members from Northwestern Regional #7 High School, taken at 10 p.m. on February 21, the last day of the 6-week build period. We made it! It works! The team has 17 students and an equal number of mentors, and has come through an intense rookie season of forming a team and building the robot. The robot had to be 'bagged and tagged' – no further development- by midnight on February 21, until the UTC Hartford regional competition, which is this Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 29, 30, and 31.

The competition involves cooperation as well as competition, for a 3-on-3 basketball game with tilting ramps at half-court. In the closing seconds of each 2-minute match the robots try to balance on the ramps with their

new-found alliance partners, and sometimes with opponents.

The team is part of the FIRST robotics worldwide program, and more info can be found about FIRST at [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org). The regional website is [www.CTFirst.org](http://www.CTFirst.org).

The NWR7 team, known as the NRG 4055 Gearheads, sponsored by Alcoa-Howmet and JCPenney, hopes to win an invitation to the FIRST championship to be held in St. Louis at the end of April. More info about the team is available at [www.nrg4055.org](http://www.nrg4055.org).



The NRG 4055 Gearheads team with the completed robot. Photo courtesy of the NRG 4055 Gearheads

## **'Benefit Blast' To Raise Funds For Trip, etc.**

To raise funds for the St. Louis trip and future team needs, there is a 'Benefit Blast' dance and raffle event scheduled for Saturday April 14th at Regional #7 High School. The event also benefits the Highlander Fund, which awards grants for extracurricular program needs not otherwise funded by the Board of Education. The Highlander Fund has recently helped the Astronomy Club purchase and install an observatory at the High School. Parents of NWR7 Middle School students are especially invited to attend the Blast and support enhanced educational opportunities at Regional #7.

The 'Benefit Blast' is scheduled for Saturday, April 14, from 7:30 p.m. through 10:30 p.m. at Regional # 7 High School. There will be hors d'oeuvres, raffles and a silent auction. Tickets are \$15 and are available from the Beekley Library and the Bakerville Libarary. For more information see the [Fundraisers/Happenings section](#) of the NRG4055 weebite.

A promotional poster for a 'Benefit Blast' event. The background is black with a blue and white disco ball in the upper left corner, emitting starburst light effects. The title 'Benefit Blast' is written in a large, white, stylized font with a black outline. Below the title, the event details are listed in white text: 'Saturday, April 14', '7:30 - 10:30', 'Northwestern High School', and '\$15 per person'. The activities 'DJ · Hors D'oeuvres · Raffles · Silent Auction' are listed below. The text 'Proceeds Benefit' is centered, followed by 'The Northwestern Robotics Team and The Highlander Fund'. At the bottom, there are silhouettes of seven people dancing. Below the silhouettes, the text 'Tickets available at' is centered, followed by two locations: 'Beekley Community Library, Central Ave., New Hartford' and 'Bakerville Library, Maple Hollow Rd., New Hartford'.

**Many Thanks** To **Nathan Starr** and **Tom Goddu** for helping keep us informed of the NRG 4055 Gearheads' progress. Good Luck At The Regionals, Team!

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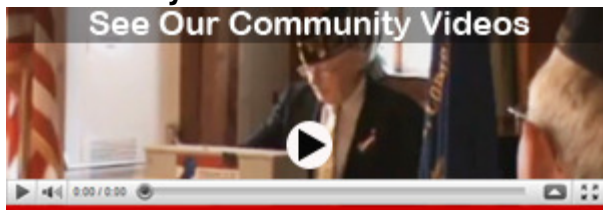
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