



# From the Crow's Nest

[www.ipirates1528.com](http://www.ipirates1528.com)

## Team News

With school now upon us, we are busy preparing for fall activities. This October, the team will be attending two off-season events. October 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, we will be attending the WMRI in Zeeland, Michigan. Then, the 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, we will be at the RCCR in Deer Park, New York.

The team is anticipating the January kickoff to the iPirates' sixth season. They are looking forward to what will hopefully be a successful and fun season.

## Car Washes Bring the Community Together



Ryan Huff, Mr. McKinley, and Tim Kennedy work to make a car shine.

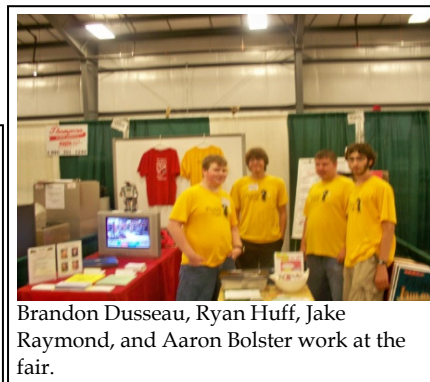
Over the summer, the team held three car washes. Two were at the Wendy's Restaurant on Telegraph Road, near Meijer. The third was held at Riverside Early Childhood Center. The team would like to thank the businesses for allowing the car washes, and the customers that gave up their time and money to help us out. In total, the team raised nearly \$400.



Brandon Dusseau flags down traffic at the car wash.

## Reaching out at Monroe County Fair

Many Monroe residents anticipate the Fair every August, and this year, the iPirates were there. We shared a booth with Monroe Public Schools, showing videos of our MARC event and displaying a Lego robot. We spent most of our time handing out important papers for the school district and educating people about our team.



Brandon Dusseau, Ryan Huff, Jake Raymond, and Aaron Bolster work at the fair.

## MARC News

Two supplemental events were held at the MARC this year: a pig roast and silent auction. These events raised \$871 to benefit T.H.A.N.K.S., Inc. (Tailgaters Helping Aid Needy Kids' Spirits). T.H.A.N.K.S. is a non-profit organization that helps aid families financially that has one or more children with a terminal or catastrophic disease. If you would like to become involved with this organization, visit <http://www.thanksinc.org> or call (734) 269-3027.

## Upcoming Events

### Zeeland, Michigan Competition

October 9-10, 2009

### Deer Park, New York Competition

October 17-19, 2009

## Shipmate of the Month



### Brandon Dusseau

Brandon is an integral part of the iPirates success. Arguably his greatest contribution to the team is his construction of the iPirates website. His computer skills are used to help program the robot and he also helps with the production of the team newsletter. He is an active member of the team, always attending team fundraisers like our car washes and fair booth. Brandon has accomplished all this and is only entering his junior year at Monroe High School.

Brandon participates in other school activities including French Club, NHS (National Honor Society), and BPA. Brandon recently attended a national competition regarding his computer skills.

Brandon is the audio/visual technician at his church and he also does website work for other businesses.

Brandon plans on being a network administrator after school. His hobbies naturally include computer programming, web design, and graphic design. Brandon is an energetic, talented young man and a vital part of the team.

## Why be an iPirate?

With a new school year beginning and the summer fading, perhaps you have wondered if you should join the iPirates. There are many great things about being an iPirate. This small overview is hardly an exhaustive list, and if you ask our shipmates, their answers will vary. There are, however, some reasons that are notable and common to the majority of the team.

Making new friends and relationships is the first one. Not only do you have the opportunity to meet the team members, but when we travel, we look forward to starting or renewing friendships with other teams. Many of the teams have mentors that are skilled technicians, engineers, and business professionals, who may open the opportunity for future job networks. The mentors give us knowledge that is not available to many students.

FIRST Robotics provides us with an avenue toward furthering our education beyond high school. There are currently \$9.8 million in scholarships available from over 100 institutions. These institutions may even sponsor a team in order to get future students.

The team may be diverse in reasons to be one of us, but there is one universal reason: this stuff is fun! FIRST events are complete with team banners, music, and a festive atmosphere. Designing, building, and programming the robot gives a sense of accomplishment like no other. It's not all about the robot, though. FIRST provides opportunities to learn and compete in the fields of computer animation and web design. Becoming an iPirate is also a great way to acquire marketing skills by presenting to potential sponsors. The iPirates truly enjoy spending time together and are looking forward to having anyone who wants to join our crew.

For more information about joining iPirates, speak to Mr. Ketron in room F107 at Monroe High School.

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## Partner on Deck

The iPirates wishes to thank all of its partners by featuring one of them each month on our newsletter. Up this month is FANUC Robotics America, Inc., one of the largest producers of industrial robots in the world. They have seven locations throughout the United States, as close as Toledo, Ohio, and as far as Lake Forest, California. Most of their locations are in the Midwest, easily serving the U.S. auto industry, their largest consumer market. Robots designed and built by FANUC are industrially diversified, functioning as assemblers, welders, painters, coaters, and material handlers. Many of these serve in hostile work environments, keeping human workers out of harm's way. FANUC's sponsorship is not exclusive to iPirates. They provide funds for several other FIRST robotics teams, as well as FFA (Future Farmers of America). Visit FANUC Robotics' website at <http://www.fanucrobotics.com>.

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## Marketplace

The iPirates wouldn't be around without the support from our wonderful partners. We thank them for all that they do

 <p><b>DTE Energy &amp; DTE Energy Foundation</b></p>	 <p><b>ITT</b> Technical Institute</p>	<p><b>Iceberg's One Hour Heating and Cooling</b></p>
 <p><b>FANUC</b> Robotics</p>	<p><b>MHS TEACHERS!</b> We need your help! Visit <a href="http://ipirates1528.com/help_us">http://ipirates1528.com/help_us</a> for more details.</p>	