

Title of Session: FIRST Robotics
Moderator: Patricia Chen
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Room: FIRST Robotics Group

PatriciaCh: actually....I came back from Atlanta ...last weekend..

BJB2: how did it go?

PatriciaCh: our team was eliminated in the division quarterfinals...but had a blast....met a lot of new people as well as old friends too

PatriciaCh: you have asked me to write - for perspective.....I will work on that once I have a free moment....I am thinking how Tapped has improved a method of communication

KathieK joined the room.

PatriciaCh: well...it will be grammatically correct ...of course

KathieK: hello

PatriciaCh waves hello to Kathie

BJB2 smiles

BJB2: good job, Kathie

KathieK: LOL, I'll have to remember that next time

PatriciaCh: did you recover from Atlanta?

KathieK: It was nice meeting you in Atlanta, Pat

KathieK: Yes, actually taking some time off to do normal things!

PatriciaCh: Like wise....but I wish we had time to chat with everyone

KathieK: I know, I felt bad about being called away to the Vex fields

PatriciaCh: it was rather rush.....: {

KathieK: but Thursday was a rough start for us. By Friday we had it all under control

PatriciaCh: and Thursday is my free day...less responsibilities

KathieK: We didn't have enough volunteers and we got incorrect info from TIMS so some of the vols we thought we had, were already taken by FRC and FLL

PatriciaCh: I could have helped out....

KathieK: I got to relax on Sat - I had an interview in the AM with the author writing the book on FIRST Stories, and then sat with RAGE on Galileo

PatriciaCh: I know we sent one adult down to the fields

KathieK: Well, if you have any extra people next year who can help, Vex still doesn't have the volunteer base that FLL and FRC has

PatriciaCh: great....two of the boys on the team wanted to help with scout management.....so I train them....got some of Fri and Sat off....

KathieK: Many of its teams only had 5 people to start with!

KathieK: And Vex may double in size for Champs next year

MarieMS joined the room.

KathieK: I am working on the NEMO website - every time I think it's ready to launch, I think of something else to add!

KathieK: Hi Marie

MarieMS: Hi Kathie

PatriciaCh: I will pass the word on.....our team is undergoing a transition....some of us are retiring to the backburner so to speak...not as actively involved.

PatriciaCh: hi Marie

MarieMS: Hi Pat

KathieK: I need photos of mentors (preferably NEMs) -

PatriciaCh: did you take any pictures?

KathieK: with contact info so I can get the OK to use their photo on the NEMO site

KathieK: not this year... too busy running the events I was at!

PatriciaCh: I don't think I have any pictures....except for sleeping kids on our team

MarieMS: Kathie, if you are just looking for pictures of NEMO's - not necessarily in Atlanta - a lot of the regionals have photo galleries

KathieK: If you get a minute, please take a look at www.firstnemo.org - if you notice any typos, broken links, or missing content let me know.

KathieK: Yes, that's my next step. I just have to get permissions to use the photos, so I have to be able to identify the mentors

KathieK: I published a listing of the 2006 off-season events today (and have more info to add to it)

KathieK: Sometimes it's handy to have it all in one place so you can see what dates they are

BJB2: you should feature that url here in the group room, Pat

MarieMS: Was Robyn going to join us tonight?

TiffanyLe joined the room.

MarieMS: Hi Tiff

BJB2: Hi, Tiffany

TiffanyLe: Hi everyone!

PatriciaCh: I visit the site...the only thing isI could not open the photo on the FIRST page....I can check for typos later

PatriciaCh: BJ...do you mean the NEMO site?

PatriciaCh: if so...yes we can

BJB2 nods to Patricia

KathieK: No photo there yet.

PatriciaCh: ok....sometimes....I have problem opening pictures

PatriciaCh: The link is added to this page

KathieK: Thank you.

MarieMS: Tiff - did you complete your finals?

PatriciaCh: no problem....we are all in this together

TiffanyLe: yes I finished

TiffanyLe: I'm back home now

PatriciaCh: Robyn should be joining us

MarieMS: congrats!

TiffanyLe: thanks

KathieK: We finish exams this week and commencement is next Sunday (my daughter will be graduating) YEAH

PatriciaCh: did you all see the link that Robyn uploaded? Symptoms of a FIRST-a-holic?

MarieMS: I was wondering if we should do some strategizing concerning the 2006/2007 season for the Robot chicks based on the inputs we received in the Atlanta Annual meeting

PatriciaCh: we should if we can get all the players together...

JessicaCD joined the room.

MarieMS: Hello Jessica

JessicaCD: Hi

MarieMS: I don't recognize your id - are you new to this ?

JessicaCD: Yes...I have no idea what I'm doing but I want to join the FIRST Robotics discussion =)

MarieMS: wonderful - where did you hear about this?

BJB2 smiles. You've done that, Jessica!

PatriciaCh: hello

KathieK: Hi

TiffanyLe: hi

KathieK: Jessica, are you a student or adult?

JessicaCD: Great! I'm going to be sponsoring a Technology Club next year at my school and my principal sent me the information

KathieK: Great news

PatriciaCh: what school are you at?

JessicaCD: I'm at Challenger Middle School in Huntsville, AL

KathieK: Do you have any specific questions about FIRST that we can answer?

JessicaCD: I'm not even sure where to start...I have several parents interested in getting a team together but I've never heard of it before

MarieMS: I'm sure we can help you

PatriciaCh: For middle schools - usually the kids gets involve with LEGO League...then progress on to VEX then the "big" robots

KathieK: www.usfirst.org is the FIRST official website

JessicaCD: Thanks, that's a great place to start!

KathieK: You can click on the different program links at the top of the page to learn more

JessicaCD: Okay

KathieK: FIRST LEGO League is for 9-14 yrs old

JessicaCD: That's what we'll be interested in

PatriciaCh: on our welcome page.....we have links to FIRST as well as articles about the programs

KathieK: Vex is intended to be a high school age program, but middle schools also were involved this year (it was a pilot program this year)

JessicaCD: I saw that but haven't had a chance to look at the links yet

KathieK: The FLL (LEGO) program registration has opened for the coming year's season

PatriciaCh: some middle schoolers are older than 14...as some are sophisticated enough to do VEX as well

JessicaCD: Funds to purchase everything have been donated by a local company

MarieMS: Hi Jessica - I would also suggest. Many high school teams help middle school teams start Lego League team. In your area there are 4 High School teams - I suggest you ask your principal to help you make a connection with them - since they are local, they can help you understand how to build the robot, and how to play the game.

JessicaCD: That sounds great...do you know which high schools they are?

JessicaCD: How many students usually make up a team?

MarieMS: Lee High school is one

PatriciaCh: You cannot have more than 10 students per team....last year was my first year as a mentor

PatriciaCh: I can share with you....some of the things that work and did not

MarieMS: Madison country high school, Columbia high school, and Limestone County

JessicaCD: Okay thank you, I am familiar with those schools

JessicaCD: I would appreciate any ideas or suggestions that you have to offer

KathieK: I am looking at the registration page and it is \$150 for the team registration fee and \$280 for the new MINDSTORMS kit

PatriciaCh: FLL is a little different from FRC (high school robotics - which I am more familiar with)....

KathieK: Pat, are there additional fees to go to a tournament, or other things (like t-shirts, etc.) that Jessica should be aware of?

PatriciaCh: yes....there are registration fee for tournaments as well as ...if the team wants t-shirts ...give aways, etc.

MarieMS: Jessica - I didn't say it before - but, congratulations to you - this is a big thing you are doing, and I think I speak for all of us in saying we will help you as much as we can - and any mentors or teachers who help you

BJB2: are you ok, Jessica?

JessicaCD: thanks, sorry had some technical difficulty

JessicaCD: we are having bad storms

BJB2: yikes!

KathieK: cool and rainy here in CT

PatriciaCh: in the FLL....you need a research team, builder, programming and spirit...it is easier to have 2 kids per group....

PatriciaCh: so they all do the work.....and you need parents to help too....that is how I survived

NancyJK joined the room.

PatriciaCh: also ...with the registration fee...order the field kit as well...

JessicaCD: I do have several interested parents

BJB2 waves hi to Nancy

MarieMS: Hi Nancy

NancyJK: Hello

KathieK: hi Nancy

PatriciaCh: get them involved....you can google for programming help....this coming game...the hint is nanotechnology....

PatriciaCh waves hello to Nancy

KathieK: Jessica CD is from Huntsville and is interested in starting an FLL team at her middle school

KathieK: so we're helping her out!

PatriciaCh: Jessica...feel free to email me anytime.... f134990@yahoo.com

PatriciaCh: to echo Marie..Congrats!....you will enjoy it

JessicaCD: Thanks! I'm writing that down right now...I appreciate it!

BJB2 . o O (Jessica, when you log out you will receive a transcript of this text chat)

PatriciaCh: I was a first timer....made a few mistakes ...but was able to land back on my feet

JessicaCD: Excellent

NancyJK: Thanks BJ I was just trying to get that typed!

JessicaCD: How should I advertise the FLL to the kids to get them interested?

PatriciaCh: well ...how many parents are interested?...how many kids belong to them?

NancyJK: A team demonstrating what they did sometimes if just the right incentive.

KathieK: Most kids love LEGOs, and computers, and put them together and it takes off

JessicaCD: This is true

MarieMS: I agree with Nancy - see if you can get a demonstration

JessicaCD: That sounds like a great idea

PatriciaCh: how many kids do you think you would have at this time?

KathieK: If you go here - <http://www.firstlegoleague.org/us/> then click on Teams and Tournaments, then select Alabama, you will see there are 18 teams currently signed up (probably many more in the state) -

JessicaCD: I think probably about 6 or 7

PatriciaCh: That is a good start...the max number on a team is 10

KathieK: But if you click on the Contact Info link, you will see the State contact person who could put you in touch with area teams for a demo

JessicaCD: maybe more, but I know they are interested

JessicaCD: Okay, I'll definitely get in contact w/ them for a demo

JessicaCD: for someone who has never done any programming or anything before is this going to be difficult?

PatriciaCh: I had 2 teamsbecause in my school you must have 16 kids in order to have a club....at times I found 2 teams a bit much

JessicaCD: okay, that's good to know

JessicaCD: We are also going to do the ACTE technology fair so not all kids in the club would have to do FLL

PatriciaCh: after you go through the first year...more than one team is easier to handle

MarieMS: Gosh Jessica - the FLL partner who runs all of Alabama is a friend of mine - I never realized it - I'm sure she can help you - she's Dana Hobbs

JessicaCD: Great! How can I get in touch with her?

PatriciaCh: what is ACTE technology fair?

MarieMS: Her email is danahobbs1@aol.com and you can tell her Marie from the World Festival judging sent you.

JessicaCD: thanks!

MarieMS: My email if either of you want to connect is: MarieSchulmann@yahoo.com

PatriciaCh: Jessica...if you can get your hands on Robolab 2.5.4...you can learn the programming ...using the tutorials....that is how I am spending the summer

JessicaCD: Thanks Marie

PatriciaCh: ask the teams in your area...I am sure someone has the program

JessicaCD: okay, I will do that Patricia

PatriciaCh: we can commiserate together

JessicaCD: great =)

JessicaCD: Patricia...just saw your question about ACTE, sorry

PatriciaCh: that is okay.....I am looking for after school programs.....

JessicaCD: ACTE is the Alabama Technology Education fair

JessicaCD: you can enter in several areas including multimedia presentation, video production, programming, etc.

PatriciaCh: I decided to join the staff at the new middle school.....and my principal wants activities...she was looking at a robotics program ...cost \$10k....

NancyJK: Would your school qualify for the 21st Century Grants? It is for an afterschool program. Has a lot of \$\$attached but then a lot is used up in paying teachers to "teach" the after school classes.

PatriciaCh: what is that??

JessicaCD: I've not heard of that

PatriciaCh: our district is doing the 21 Century teacher classes....but I am not aware of the grant program

NancyJK: It is a national program. I believe we qualified because we are an inner city high school; in the weed and seed community.....

JessicaCD: we are also a 21st century school participating in the professional development

PatriciaCh: we are participating in the professional development...but I do not [know] how we are categorized

JessicaCD: I am not in a low income or inner city school so we may not qualify for the grant program

NancyJK: ummmm, maybe there is another name. This program has classes after school for students, parents, teachers that are interested....it goes through the summer. It is also in some of our elementary schools and one middle school, I think.

PatriciaCh: I think this is the link....I yahooded it.. <http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/>

NancyJK: a fee is charged depending on your income level. We did a VEX session in the fall.

NancyJK: Is there a theme or topic for tonight? I gather we are talking about FLL at this point. I know I was late and missed the introduction.

PatriciaCh: I believe Marie would like to address...about RCU going forth in 2006

MarieMS: Ah Pat, you know me so well....

PatriciaCh: we will have a low attendance...by the girls ...because...major testing is happening...at this time

PatriciaCh: I think we think alike at times...

MarieMS: Yes, I heard we had great momentum in Atlanta - and I know input was taken from the girls to Pat and Robyn - I thought we'd review it and see if there were major themes we could identify to help the girls formulate a 2006/2007 game plan

NancyJK: I know some colleges are in finals right now.

NancyJK: Sounds like a plan

PatriciaCh: IB and AP tests are now....then the high schoolers will have finals

NancyJK: Our finals are not until the third week of June! But AP testing is going on now.

MarieMS: So, my goal may be premature?? - that's o.k. you know I get "DRIVEN" I just don't want to lose the girls to the summer and then need to start in September all over again.

PatriciaCh: I im Robyn

PaulK joined the room.

BJB2: Hi, Paul

PatriciaCh: we can talk about it now....I am not sure if I am available in June

PatriciaCh: hello

PaulK: Hi am I late

MarieMS: Hi Paul

PatriciaCh: I don't recognize your name...are you a fellow teacher?

NancyJK: Perhaps we should see what Paul would like first?

PaulK: Yes I'm a third grade teacher

PaulK: My daughter and son were on the King/Tech robotics team

NancyJK: AWWWW....looking for FLL info?

MarieMS: Wonderful Paul.

PatriciaCh: Is that a high school team?

PaulK: When I looked at the calendar I saw robotics so I thought I would join if that's ok

JessicaCD: Thanks for all your help! I'll be checking out all of the links and probably e-mailing you. Please feel free to e-mail me at jcalhoun@hsv.k12.al.us if you learn anything new or think of something great. Thanks again!

PatriciaCh: of course ...all are welcome

MarieMS: good luck Jessica!

KathieK: Paul, do you have any specific questions about FIRST?

PaulK: No not really

JessicaCD: Sorry, thanks and you guys have a great night!

PatriciaCh: if you want ... chenp@martin.k12.fl.us is my school

KathieK: bye Jessica

PaulK: Did I miss the chat

PatriciaCh: bye Jessica

JessicaCD left the room (signed off).

PatriciaCh: no...Paul....

DavidWe joined the room.

DavidWe waves

MarieMS: Paul, we are all involved in FIRST Robotics teams

PatriciaCh: we usually run for 2 hours

BJB2 waves to David

MarieMS: Hi David

PatriciaCh waves hello to David

PaulK: Outstanding

PaulK: Anyone come to the Milwaukee regional

NancyJK: No to the regional for my team

PatriciaCh: I am in Florida....so we go to Orlando

MarieMS: No, but we have numerous members in the Michigan area and a Michigan chapter of the club - I believe there are numerous Wisconsin teams as well.

NancyJK: And I am in NH and go to that regional

PaulK: May I ask a question

PatriciaCh: sure

PaulK: Which competition did you prefer last years or this years

NancyJK: Do you mean the championship or the game itself?

PaulK: The game itself

PatriciaCh: I like this year's game a lot...

NancyJK: This one really got the students thinking and used a lot of different techniques, if that is the right word

MarieMS: I liked 2004 with the robots needing to hang from the bar - that was great!

PatriciaCh: it was very different from the usual king of the hill and hanging....which I think most teams got very good at..

PaulK: Missed that one Marie

PaulK: I did like this years, although as a spectator it was harder to watch

PatriciaCh: last years' tetras....it was another strategy one as well...

PatriciaCh: Paul....I agree...for spectators....it was hard

NancyJK: It is hard to say which is a better game

PaulK: It is interesting to see how different teams go after a particular goal

PatriciaCh: as a team member....the vision...is a problem....the spectrum changed from one venue to another...just because of the lighting

NancyJK: Actually if you are a spectator it is hard to watch (I was one at the Championship) and find a seat

KathieK: I never did figure out this year's FRC game! LOL

KathieK: Last year at least I could count tetras

PatriciaCh: actually it is easier than one thinks....it is a combo of hockey/soccer (offside rule) and basketball...

NancyJK: I think this years was hard because of all the "stuff" that could be designed to fit the tasks

PatriciaCh: also if you didn't try to count the balls...it is more enjoyable

PatriciaCh: how long were you involved with FRC?

MarieMS: I thought all the robots looked too similar - I enjoyed a more diverse task list

PatriciaCh: I think we had a diverse group except for the Triplets

PatriciaCh: on Curie that is

PaulK: This is my second year with FRC

MarieMS: I was locked in a judging room with Nancy! never saw it!

PaulK: I'm just a behind the scenes parent

MarieMS: ****just?****

KathieK: I was on the Vex fields at Champs and never saw much of it

PaulK: Thanks for the chat

KathieK: Paul, as in a NEM? (non-engineering mentor)

PaulK: I have to run

KathieK: bye

PatriciaCh: and I am the scouting files master on my team....so I am always in the stands

PaulK: Will you be chatting again

PatriciaCh: check out the welcome page

PatriciaCh: yes every other week

PatriciaCh: we have links on the page

PaulK: Hope you don't mind if I join again

PaulK: Have a great week

PatriciaCh: you are most welcome

PatriciaCh: bye

BJB2: May 23 is the next meeting

BJB2: . o O (7-9pm EDT)

PaulK left the room (signed off).

PatriciaCh: . o O (yes)

MarieMS: Everyone, I want to see what we want to do around RCU -- Pat rightfully stated that we have momentum and we need to build. I have some observations and suggestions - but I was not at the meeting. How do we want to proceed with kicking this up a notch? And how to ensure that the girls feel comfortable?

PatriciaCh: oh I updated the files and links

PatriciaCh: the girls want to talk to other college/young FRC mentors.....they can use the South Florida room any time...we do not need to be there ...if the chapters wants to chat...

MarieMS: I heard from Allison Scanlon, Erin Rapaki, Two women from the ASME, and several others that they'd like to support/help the RCU

PatriciaCh: how can we tapped into it??

PatriciaCh: if we run special forum chat...then an adult mentor presence is needed?

KathieK: All, I have to run - I need to still find photos and get working on getting the NEMO site finished!

MarieMS: I think the question is, are chats even what the girls want?

KathieK: Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help RCU -

KathieK: bye

PatriciaCh: also I spoke to Patti cook and the ladies from ASME...they would like a speaker at Peachtree and NYC Regionals

MarieMS: Bye Kathie

PatriciaCh: bye Kathie

KathieK left the room (signed off).

MarieMS: ooopps, sorry if I scared everyone away!!!

NancyJK: You didn't scare them away, they just have other things to do and got their answers/problems taken care of.

MarieMS: Pat - what would they like to speak about - and is that in a particular venue? - part of the ceremonies or a separate meeting?

PatriciaCh: well the girls in my group said that they would like to chat with girls like Erin, Kristin, Tiffany....etc...younger mentors...who they feel they can connect with

MarieMS: Nancy

MarieMS: Understood Pat - thanks

PatriciaCh: Peachtree and NYC....they want RCU to present....I guess like what you all did in Boston and BAE...for me Orlando and Palmetto

NancyJK: Well, I don't know if you will get those girls together, easily until their semester is over and they can breathe.

MarieMS: So, I have a project I'm pursuing with HP along those lines - I'll continue and as I get further, we can start to engage the girls in defining it further

PatriciaCh: Oh for Boston...my son said to give you a message...if you let the regional committee know early ...you can have a nicer meeting room

MarieMS: thanks Pat

PatriciaCh: Nancy: I agree...high schoolers have no idea how it is ...for these college students....

NancyJK: At one point a couple of years ago, Kristen's goal was to go to each regional and do a RCU workshop/talk.

PatriciaCh: Tiffany is home now...relaxing....survived Freshman year....

NancyJK: Congrats! Mine won't be home for another week and the reality of not having an internship or job has her depressed.

PatriciaCh: that is hard for Kristen....I told the ASME ladies...if they fly me to NYC....I will do a talk/workshop....I can stay with family

PatriciaCh: family....and they are thinking of asking the local ASME to pay for my flight...we shall see

NancyJK: They are a good group to hook up with

NancyJK: I liked the list that Kevin emailed the Yahoo group

PatriciaCh: Kristen needs to relax too.....I hate to say this...once you get out of school for good....you are working for a very long time.....may be she can give me programming lessons

RobynN joined the room.

NancyJK: I know she won't be idle, but volunteering at FIRST for the summer isn't really what I would like to see her doing

RobynN: Hi all...sorry I am late, got tied up this evening

PatriciaCh: yes....I believe the girls are aware of the societies...I know Tiffany is a member of SWE and ASME....but the membership fee is high for college kids

PatriciaCh: hi Robyn

NancyJK: Hello Robyn

MarieMS: Hi Robyn

RobynN: greetings

PatriciaCh . o O (I understand Nancy)

PatriciaCh . o O (I am sure Kristen will find something)

NancyJK: So... RCU.... the action plan?

RobynN: Nancy, I understand as well - Greg decided to work at a day camp last summer....it was not the choice I wanted him to make, but...

PatriciaCh: Marie raised a point in Atlanta....do you want to share that?

NancyJK: I believe Robyn has some promotional items. I took some headbands and pins for the postseason events up this way.

RobynN: I have lots of the tape measures, some headbands and a bag of pins

PatriciaCh: not to change the subject....Robyn do you have any more of the tape measures?

PatriciaCh: I forgot to take some

MarieMS: Pat - which point ??? - LOL - I was soooo tired -

RobynN: most of our area post season events are in the fall though

RobynN: I have tons, Pat

RobynN: and I can change the labels if we decide to...right now they say "Atlanta 2006"

PatriciaCh: about...how to best support the girls and keep this organization going when they are inundated

MarieMS: Around RCU - I believe we need at 2006/2007 game plan that the girls can feel comfortable - did I break that record?

MarieMS: Ah, I think we're saying the same thing Pat

MarieMS: thanks!

PatriciaCh: yes we are

RobynN: we all agree, Marie

RobynN: most of the girls we talked to at the meeting agreed also...but some emphasized that they like doing the "traditional" girl thing

NancyJK: We have two postseason events that we will go to (I think if we have a robot working); RCU will be represented at both, I believe. Then in the fall we have RIVER RAGE....

MarieMS: Ladies - we should pick 2-3 things that the RCU does that are simple to get moving and make a real difference in momentum. It should be something the girls believe is meaningful for them

RobynN: my point to them was that they should all learn to be handy with tools, because in all likelihood they will live alone at some point

MarieMS: what is the "traditional" girl thing

RobynN: Marie, did you ever talk to the rep from Girl Scouts

RobynN: traditional meaning - writing the awards, planning travel, not getting their hands dirty

MarieMS: I am working with two women from Girls Scouts national -- they have decided to focus their partnership with FIRST at the JFLL/FLL level as a start

NancyJK: Well, as my group knows, it does take someone to do that work and left to boys.....

PatriciaCh: that is okay....if the choice is to do the traditional thing...but for others.....if that is not it....we can try to empower them

MarieMS: I thought one of the questions for the break out sessions was "what could RCU do for you that would make a difference" - did anyone address that?

NancyJK: I can also say the girls on my team this year, were not included with the large robot...the boys had them do the VEX robot. The girls I believe were very comfortable with that.

PatriciaCh: I asked....but no one seems to have an answer....

RobynN: one thing I discussed with the girls in our group was helping younger Scouts with their tech patches...

PatriciaCh: ah....I did not address that one...

NancyJK: UMMMM, Marie I still feel like I missed out because we couldn't leave. Might mean I do not volunteer in that capacity again.

MarieMS: Nancy, believe me I understand!!!

RobynN: it's hard to be everywhere at once....

RobynN: and I was just a floater!

NancyJK: Any idea how often girls check out the Yahoo site?

PatriciaCh: overall.....I know Katelynshe is from MORT and is trying to organize an NJ chapter ...they like the idea that a national organization exists.....s

MarieMS: I guess I have the following observation - we are attempting to put a national infrastructure in place - but the girls really want to interact face to face - so that may be the wrong strategy

RobynN: Nancy, I don't think they are checking often...I haven't seen any posts on CD, nor any new ones after Atlanta on Yahoo

PatriciaCh: her ideal is to be able to connect with the girls in her state and national provide support

MarieMS: So, we need to look at how to empower local organizations.

NancyJK: Or it just takes more years to get to that part then we have the patience for!

RobynN: Marie, I was thinking that our girls could help some of the Scouts with their patches and badges

MarieMS: Robyn - I think that's wonderful.

PatriciaCh: the girls are not posting at all

NancyJK: Okay, so no posts, very few at the chats....so what are they looking for?

PatriciaCh: I am not sure.....even the girls on my team do not participate that much....this chapterthe ladies that are most involved are from 108 and 1251....I am fine with that

RobynN: I don't see many girls checking in on Yahoo...no new posts

RobynN: same for the RCU Forum on CD

NancyJK: Well, I know my two, I could not get them to go to the meeting at the BAE regional

PatriciaCh: why don't we pose that question on the Yahoo forum?

PatriciaCh: what do they want the RCU to do for them

NancyJK: Is it possible the ones that are most vocal are satisfied? or are they so busy that they just don't have the time.

NancyJK: Will they see it? Perhaps a post on the CD would get more of a reaction?

PatriciaCh: could be.....also...may be the girls want a time and place to talk to each other even if there is no topic...just meet and chat?

NancyJK: Could be but was tonight given a topic?

PatriciaCh: the yahoo goes to every subscriber....not CD forum...I am not that good about going on CD

MarieMS: So, they probably need to start with building relationships first

RobynN: Most of the girls at the Atlanta meeting seemed like they'd enjoy chatting and getting friendly

NancyJK: I have only gone on CD maybe five times total ever

RobynN: I have started going on CD more lately, but there is a lot of reading there - and the RCU Forum is not in the forefront, you have to go looking for it

PatriciaCh: no...but we are not in the girls' room....this is a general site ...open to all...the South Florida room is closed except with an invite...meaning I have to set them up

NancyJK: could they have exchanged their emails and are chatting....one on one

PatriciaCh: I am sure they are.....even on AOL...

NancyJK: So they may be communicating....we just aren't there to monitor

PatriciaCh: sometimes....I hear things from Tiffany ,...and it is about one of the members

RobynN: I don't know if they are, Nancy - I think that Kristen and Lisa made a sign in sheet, but I'm not sure if emails were included

PatriciaCh: yes....I need to photocopy and send to all....

NancyJK: well, I meant between themselves....not a public type of item

RobynN: where would they be talking, though?

PatriciaCh: I don't think so....but I think if they go into yahoo...then they can communicate

PatriciaCh: instant messaging is big...emails

RobynN: I kept emphasizing the message board and chatrooms here

PatriciaCh: I know Tiffany is imming....with some of the girls in our chapter....

RobynN: I think Marie is right, though - we need to help the girls establish relationships first and then see how things grow

PatriciaCh: I would like to see them to take advantage of the SF room....we do not have to be on line with them...I get a copy of the transcript.....

PatriciaCh: so I make sure that nothing bad is said....

RobynN: perhaps in setting goals for the next year, we can reach out to the organizations to get involved with local teams, then we can reinforce it

PatriciaCh: the big thing is establishing the relationship....and most of them have.....

NancyJK: But I think that is too structured for what they want. The im'ing is what I see most doing.

PatriciaCh: but you still have the few lone ones....they are the ones I want to reach

RobynN: I wonder if the girls shared IM screen names at the meeting

PatriciaCh: I am sure they do...

MarieMS: So maybe the pipeline model makes the most sense? - those who went before encourage others in their footsteps?

PatriciaCh: my concern is...how do we proceed to maintain an organization like this...

NancyJK: Did Julia get to the meeting?

PatriciaCh: yes

PatriciaCh: she and Kristen ran the meeting

MarieMS: that says that we ask rcu members to "empower" 1-2 younger members

NancyJK: I never got a summary from Kristen as to what happened.

PatriciaCh: the girls introduce themselves...the chapters gave updates.....and we broke into discussion groups

NancyJK: I'm sorry....I have tried to do two things tonight as I am overwhelmed with school stuff. The atmosphere here is not going well. and I have a presentation tomorrow night.

NancyJK: Actually I did hear that summary, probably from Robyn

PatriciaCh: I know...I have 12 more days left...I am trying to grade and get some more tests in before the end of the year

NancyJK: Did anything get put on paper or was it verbal only?

RobynN: our students have at least a month left

NancyJK: Well, I have about 30 days left but

RobynN: I have some thoughts on paper, but I don't have it in front of me

NancyJK: that is 30 school days

PatriciaCh: discussion? we took notes...Robyn and I have not had the chance to collaborate yet

NancyJK: Perhaps, we could have a meeting to "talk" about your notes? or is it really nothing we could grasp onto?

PatriciaCh: but we will....it is very hectic right now.....especially I agreed to be transferred to a new middle school...talking about starting from the ground up...

RobynN: we could...

NancyJK: Pat why did you decide on that?

RobynN: most of the girls wanted a snappy website, and seemed to want to get friendly with one another

PatriciaCh: we should....we could pick another day...not on the 23rd..just in case we have people like Paul and Jessica

NancyJK: Although at times I have considered moving to another school just to get out of the "mud"

NancyJK: I think the website just got "refurbished" didn't it? Perhaps one of them with a mentor could revise?

RobynN: we could put a suggestion out there on CD for that

NancyJK: I'll admit I don't think I have ever gone to the RCU website

PatriciaCh: Nancy: I will not be working where I live....which at this time...down the street...secondly...the school has new pc and a projector in the ceiling.....thirdly....I have no clue why I did it.....senioritis or stupidity...take your pick

NancyJK: No, you are looking for adventure, girl!!

RobynN: sometimes it's good to change, even though it's not easy

NancyJK: hey, where did Marie go?

MarieMS: I'm here!

NancyJK: Just wanted to let you know I missed your name popping up on the screen

MarieMS: I have thoughts on moving forward - thank you for "missing" me - you are quite kind

MarieMS: But I need more time to formulate my thoughts - before I can share them and see if they make sense

NancyJK: Okay, Marie, you have 2 minutes by my clock....list your thoughts

MarieMS: ummmm..... tick, tick tic, --- oooh tock

RobynN: well, even though we made contact with a great number of girls, they have melted into the walls again

RobynN: of course, the APs and end of school could have something to do with it

RobynN: how about going on to CD and emailing all of the girls who are posting

MarieMS: That's because in person works - but virtual seems to be a problem

RobynN: maybe a personal invitation to get together would be in order

NancyJK: Well, I think you guys did a Marvelous job at the Championship. And the number of attendees was fantastic!

RobynN: it was awesome Nancy

MarieMS: I still think - a pizza party in every state

NancyJK: So you have put RCU on the map and it is out there.

RobynN: I like it...

MarieMS: Yes, congrats on a great meeting

PatriciaCh: I looked at the RCU site....the only thing that is not updated is the newsletter but Tiffany did upload in our chapter...also she included the video we showed at the meeting

NancyJK: Perhaps the girls can only take RCU when they are in the build season or at a competition????

RobynN: I think they don't know what to do with it

MarieMS: also notice a few things - TWO count them TWO all-girl teams winning awards - TWO!!! COOL!

PatriciaCh: and they are happy to get the newsletter as well

RobynN: yes, everyone made favorable comments about the newsletter

MarieMS: The Newsletter is a wonderful win!

PatriciaCh: oh I saved bracelets for both Marie and Nancy

MarieMS: I NEED a smart is sexy bracelet!

RobynN: an interesting thing I noticed in general....the students who are on CD had lists of people they wanted to meet....Pat and I were on some of those lists

NancyJK: So as much as we think RCU isn't working, I think you will find it is working. Yes it can be better (I don't know how but...) It is a group noticed. People do know it. Yes we have more work to do but things are GOOD

RobynN: Pat, I have gotten so many compliments on those bracelets

MarieMS: cool

PatriciaCh: what list are you talking about?

PatriciaCh: I have one for you Marie

PatriciaCh: Marie...cannot type tonight

RobynN: oh... some of the kids had lists of their CD friends, whom they hadn't met until then

PatriciaCh: I missed that list then

NancyJK: So see you ladies are fantastic and have accomplished a lot FABULOUS!!

MarieMS: I would wear it with honor

NancyJK: Maybe one thing the computer does is not tell you who you are talking to at first so you have to ponder who/how old/ etc. before you can join in and talk. Where in person you have some clue

PatriciaCh: well....I have ideas...something else for next year....a mom of one my students -FLL -helped me make the bracelets....we had over 100 to give out

MarieMS: I have one more observation before I call it a night. We mentors are meeting religiously and passionately. Can we use our momentum and passion to ignite others - no answers now - just think about it.

NancyJK: I think the momentum is there. It may not be as fast as we would like it to be.

MarieMS: I have to go - 7 am meeting with the folks in Indis, global companies never sleep! All the best to each of you!

PatriciaCh: Marie...send me your address so I can mail it to you....I think I still have yours Nancy..

RobynN: we have to get the girls who are passionate reach out to the others

NancyJK: Yes, I really do need to get school work going (well, the kind where you have to concentrate!)

RobynN: and I have some office work to catch up on

PatriciaCh: good night...I have been grading the same quiz for the last 2 nights...ugh!!

MarieMS left the room (signed off).

NancyJK: Thank you for being all so caring and thinking and working for our young ladies

RobynN: they are all worth it

PatriciaCh: We have to ...they are our future

BJB2 waves goodnight

RobynN: night, BJ

NancyJK: I am going to say good night also. Take care and good luck with stuff the next two weeks.