

# The Space RAIDers Newsletter

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Be sure to visit our YouTube Channel to see several videos from our 2015 season, including highlights from both competitions, an end of year wrap up, and our Chairman's Award video describing how far we have come as a team

<https://www.youtube.com/user/frc2537ahs>

## Mark your calendars now!

We will be competing at two off-season events in fall 2015:

- Battle O'Baltimore: 26 Sept  
McDonough School, Owings Mills, Maryland
- IROC : 25 October,  
Battlefield High School  
Haymarket, Virginia

## Space RAIDers 2015 Competition Awards

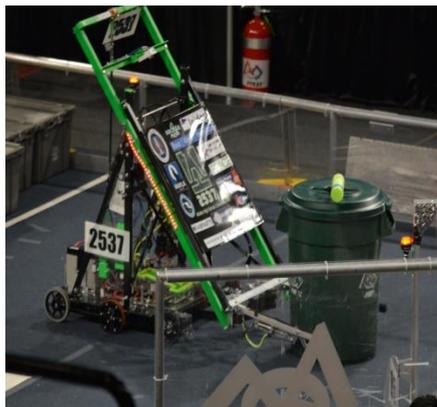


**Space RAIDers Team 2537 with the Entrepreneurship Award at the 2015 Greater Washington D.C Regional Competition**

For the second consecutive year, the Space RAIDers won the Entrepreneurship Award at the Greater Washington D.C. Regional Competition. Team Business Lead, Marcus O, created an entirely new, more comprehensive, business plan to back up the Teams Entrepreneurship Award submission. The combination obviously impressed the judges

Also, we had our second Dean's List winner- Gabriel P, our Electrical team captain, was chosen as one of two Dean's List Finalists at the Greater Washington D.C. Regional. This qualified him to travel to the World Championships in St. Louis in April. See his article about that trip on page 4 of this newsletter.

## Greater DC Regional Summary



**Atlas, the name of Team 2537's 2015 robot, in action.**

The 2015 Greater DC Regional was a long, but hard-fought battle. On Thursday and Friday, there was a steep learning curve for our drive team as we completed the first practice and qualification matches.

## Chesapeake Regional Summary

With a full week of rest, team 2537 was ready to face the onslaught of even more competitive teams from the US and around the world at the Chesapeake Regionals. From day one of competition, our improvement was very apparent. Our specialized strategy complimented many of the strong teams, and our experience from the Greater DC regionals meant faster turnaround times. All of our team's efforts paid off as we were consistently ranked 20th or higher, catching the attention of many top tier teams.

By the end of Friday, 2537 was 38th out of 47, suffering some mechanical failures and drive team break downs along the way.

But in the last match, team 2537 pulled off a last minute miracle. When our alliance team suddenly had issues putting a recycle bin on top of their 6 tote stack, our drive team rushed in and was able to crown the 6 stack with seconds to spare - a great way to end the day with a bang! Riding on the success of the last match on Friday, 2537 found its comfort zone and optimal strategy.

By end of qualifications, we were in 21st place, impressing many of the top seeded teams. Going into alliance selections, several alliance captains expressed interest in

However, Chesapeake turned out to be way more than just a display of 2537's technical progress. As playoff matches started, we were selected as the first pick by team 1389 and formed an alliance with 4547.

Together, our playoff alliance devised a tricky, but efficient strategy to score the most points. The strategy paid off handsomely in the 1st quarterfinals match, but unfortunately fell short in the second quarterfinals match.

picking us, and when the fourth seeded alliance, teams 1895 and 1599, picked us to complete their alliance, we knew our team had a great chance in winning the regionals.

Unfortunately, as 2537 completed its first and second quarterfinal matches, our alliance was not able to execute the original strategy well enough to make it to semifinals. Even with a disappointing loss in quarterfinals, it was still a great few days! We learned a lot as a team, and our new members experienced their first regional!



**Getting ready to crown a stack of totes.**

We ended quarterfinals just one point away from advancing to semifinals! It was a disappointing end to a great season, but with all the challenges faced, 2015 was a year of many firsts and definitely worth celebrating!

## Graduating Senior Portraits



**Tom B in St. Louis for 2014 Dean's List Awards**

Tom B, a 2015 graduating senior, has been an essential component during his four years part of team 2537. During Tom's first year he was a student ambassador and part of a small electrical team consisting of three members. He learned enough his freshman year to become Electrical team lead as a sophomore. Tom was promoted to Integration Captain his junior year and made many important calculations during the team's most successful year. He also traveled to St. Louis as one of two 2014 Chesapeake Regional Dean's List finalists.

This year Tom was Team Captain, and gets to make very important decisions. Throughout his four years on team 2537, Tom has found a desire to pursue Mechanical Engineering and will be attending Virginia Tech this fall. The current team lead plans to get a degree in Mechanical Engineering and Law Degree so he can be a patent lawyer.



**Joseph B overseeing hardware work.**

Joseph B, a 2015 graduating senior, has been a big part of building the robot in his three years on team 2537. As a sophomore Joseph helped build the robots climbing system. He took a big step forward in his junior year becoming a mechanisms lead and leading his team to build an effective arm mechanism. This year Joseph has established himself as Hardware Captain. Joseph has gained engineering experience, abilities in problem solving, and leadership experience. Joseph's favorite moment was in his sophomore year when he watched the climbing system he built work for the first time. Joseph intends to study aerospace engineering at University of Maryland this fall.

## 2015 Space RAIDers Sponsors

- NSA- Math Engineering Partnership Program
- Ramparts LLC
- Booz Allen Hamilton
- Leidos/PLTW
- Bright Minds
- Grace Foundation
- PTR
- AKAYLA
- Maryland Space Business Roundtable
- AFCEA
- Lockheed Martin

Want to learn more about how you can help the Space RAIDers, or other FIRST teams?

In addition to funding, we are always in search of adult volunteers to help mentor.

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

**Space RAIDERS,  
FRC Team 2537  
Atholton High School  
6320 Freetown Road  
Columbia MD**

**EMAIL US AT:  
bill@bialick.com  
OR  
contact@raidtech.net**

**Visit us on the Web:  
first.raidtech.net**

## Congrats to our 2015 Dean's List Finalist!



**Gabe P with Dean Kamen in St. Louis**

The first thing that ran through my mind at Championships was, "wow. I can't wait until we come here as a team". The scene at St. Louis was astounding with hundreds of people flanking the streets and the convention center to work on robots!

This year I was selected to go and attend the FRC Championship because I was selected as a Dean's List Finalist at the DC Regional. It was an honor to be selected to represent not only your team, but also your region. Championships are a big deal at FIRST and I think that the Space RAIDers are on the verge of making that jump.

Upon reaching St. Louis you get this feeling that even though competition is tough everybody is happy and excited to be together. At the Dean's List lunch, Dean Kamen (founder of FIRST) himself mentioned how extraordinary the people that belong to this program are and how proud everybody should be of themselves and the work they do to support their community.

This was by far one of the best experiences I had at FIRST and I can't wait until the team makes it there too.  
– Gabe P.