



PROGRAM: The Mechanical Meltdown: Finger Lakes Area Robotics Education

SPEAKER: Assemblyman Phil Palmesano

HOST: Jim Howell/Intro by Mark Rondinaro

GREETER: Charlie Cole

**MECHANICAL MELTDOWN:
FINGER LAKES AREA ROBOTICS EDUCATION
PRESENTED BY: ROGER ORT AND THE MECHANICAL
MELTDOWN TEAM
HOSTED BY: GLENDA GEPHART**

Meeting Date: April 12, 2018 –

The Finger Lakes Area Robotics Education team: Mechanical Meltdown, is on their way to the World Competition in Detroit, Michigan! Their coaches, Roger Ort and Kathy Gascon introduced us to the team of 9th – 12th grade WG, OM, and Ithaca students who shared about their experience in designing, building, and programming their robot as well as competing at various tournaments in the region.

The team has been working since September to perfect their robot, spending hours after school for weeks to complete the project. Their dedication paid off as the team placed among the top 6 of 72 teams in the North East Super Regional competition in Scranton, PA to advance to the World level competition. The team of 7 will compete against 128 teams in their level.

The trip to Worlds set for April 24 - 28 will require an estimated \$6,500 for registration, travel, accommodations, and food. While the team has done some fundraising to meet their goal, they are welcoming donations. The fines from this day's Club meeting totaled a \$144 donation to support the team. Donations can be mailed to FLARE, PO Box 356, Trumansburg, NY 14886-0356, Attn: Kathy Gascon.

For more information on the club, visit the FLARE or Mechanical Meltdown Facebook pages. A great feature on the team is also at: <http://www.odessafile.com/features.html>

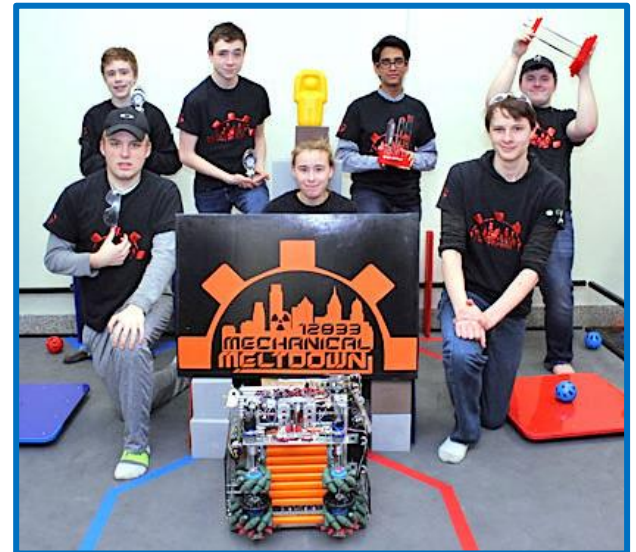
NEXT MEETING: APRIL 26

PROGRAM: Southern Tier Soaring

SPEAKER: Donna Howell, Regional Director for Empire State Development

HOST: Jim Howell

GREETER: Beth DeCaro



**CONGRATULATIONS WG SOTM:
AMBER BENJAMIN**

Watkins Glen High School senior Amber Benjamin was honored April 12 by the Watkins-Montour Rotary Club as its WGHS Student of the Month for April. Benjamin was introduced by her Journalism teacher, Travis Durfee, who said that Amber had taken on a significant leadership role in the class and for the school newspaper by leading a story on school safety following the shooting in Parkland, FL. The article which included interviews conducted by Amber with students and faculty led to a school-wide assembly facilitated by Amber. Amber is a member of NHS, Interact, and Youth Court. She has played varsity volleyball and softball, and is an honor student. She will attend Keuka College in the fall and intends to transfer to law school. She aspires to be a District Attorney and return to Watkins Glen to raise a family.

Credit: Charlie Haeffner, The Odessa File

NEWS FROM APRIL 12

GUESTS: WG Student of the Month: Amber Benjamin, mother and father, Karri and Don Benjamin, and teacher, Travis Durfee; Robotics Team: Roger Ort and Kathy Gascon (coaches), Sam Stewart, Kaden Loucks, Trevor Dunn, Diane Karasevicz, Richard Bauer, Bill P., Louie Perazzini; Linda Confer (guest of Dena Carrigan); Charla Colburn, guest of Fred Hall

RAFFLE WINNER: Nancy Loughlin

AUCTION: APRIL: Charlie Cole, Beth DeCaro, Tony Fraboni

FUNDRAISING:

DREAM RAFFLE FUNDRAISER: The raffle basket is assembled and includes a great list of items valued at over \$750. The Club has already made nearly \$600 in sales. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Members are encouraged to sell tickets. They can also be purchased at the Watkins Glen and Montour Falls Chemung Canal branches and Watkins Sporting Goods. Winning ticket will be drawn at Ribs & Reisling event on May 24 at Seneca Lodge.

RIBS & REISLING EVENT: The event is May 24 at Seneca Lodge. Members should have received invitations in the mail. Proceeds from the event will support literacy programs at Montour Falls library.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FELLOW MEMBER, JIM PRESTON: Jim struggled with a bouth of pneumonia recently, but Charlie Cole reports he has spoken with Jim and he is doing better and is recuperating at home.

DISTRICT CHANGEOVER DINNER: Will take place at the Watkins Glen Harbor Hotel on July 2. We hope see a great showing from the Club. More info to come.

DISTRICT 7120 CONFERENCE: The District 7120 Conference is being held in Saratoga Springs May 4 – 6. Visit the District Conference website for registration and schedule details.

THOSE WE MISSED:

Duke Argetsinger, Michelle Benjamin, Bruce Boughton, Steven Briggs, Dena Carrigan, Rebekah Carroll, Beth DeCaro, Tony Fraboni, Dominick Franzese, Matt Hayden, Dean Hillyard, Jim Howell, Brian Kenney, Mike Learn, Debbie MacDonald, Gary Mead, Dennis Morris, Emily Peckham, Jim Preston, Nancy Ruda, Jeff Schultz, Kristine Somerville, Bridgette Stewart, Jennifer Sweet, Lindsay Wickham, Nan Woodworth, Ken Bell, Jim Chedzoy, Tom Clifford, Ginny Eaton, Dave Ryan, Dave Sidle

MAKEUPS:

Mike Learn (FL); Seneca View volunteers: Ken Wilson, Rich Greenberger, JC Argetsinger, Nan Woodworth

CELEBRATIONS AND CONFESSIONS:

Bill Phoenix: SOTM

Rich Greenberger: SOTM

Holly Baker: Mechanical Meltdown Team

Terri Orbin: SOTM, Meltdown, grandson placed 13th in Rubik's Cube tournament

Nancy Loughlin: Meltdown, SOTM

John King: Missed meeting

JC Argetsinger: Seneca View volunteer experience was great, forgot badge, Meltdown Team

Carl Blowers: Meltdown team

Jim Bacalles: Makeups, Meltdown team, Son and wife had a boy after 3 girls!

Charlie Haeffner: SOTM, Meltdown Team

Don Stocum: SOTM, Meltdown Team

Judy Cherry: Missed meeting

Fred Hall: SOTM, Meltdown Team

Stan Beaver: Meltdown Team

Glenda Gephart: Great young people in Schuyler County

Nancy Peters: SOTM

Judy Keough: SOTM

Meredith Williams: Meltdown Team, SOTM, New faces today

WATKINS-MONTOUR DICTIONARY PROJECT

Watkins-Montour Rotarians, Terri Orbin, John King, Doug Hagin, Ken Wilson, and Glenda Gephart presented the 3rd Grade students at Hanlon-Elementary with copies of brand new dictionaries! The Dictionary Project promotes literacy among our area youth.

