



## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

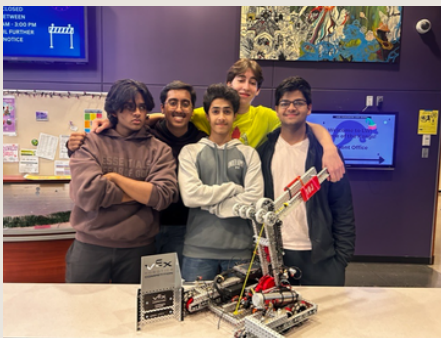
This past month, **Exothermic Robotics** has been in full swing, with teams attending competition after competition, taking home a cascade of awards! The dedication and talent displayed by our members have set the tone for an **outstanding season!**

Written By: Emily Chu

## RECENT NEWS

### Quantum's Midseason Mayhem

On December 3rd, all 17 Exo teams attended **Quantum's Midseason Mayhem Competition** at Lake Washington High School. It was a great experience seeing all the teams compete and show off their skills! A huge shoutout to team **10C** for winning the **Design Award**, **10J** for **Innovate Award**, and **10B** for winning their division and making it to the **finals!**



Team 10J after winning Innovate Award.

### Snake River Rumble

Exo teams **10W** and **10J** attended the **Snake River Rumble** tournament on December 9th, where **10W** was awarded the **Tournament Champion** title! It was a great opportunity for both teams to observe different designs and strategies!



Team 10W posing with their alliance (61002G) and award.

### Ellensburg Robotics VRC Challenge

Through December 15th and 16th, teams **10E**, **10J**, **10K**, **10N**, **10S**, and **10T** went to the Ellensburg Robotics VRC Challenge and had a great time gaining **new experiences** and practicing with their robots!



## First Exothermic Robotics team to win Signature Event

TEAM 10C WON THE HOLLYWOOD BLOCKBUSTER SIGNATURE EVENT IN HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA, EARNING THEMSELVES A SPOT AT THE 2023- 2024 VEX WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS.



Team 10C with both awards, their robot, and banner.

### Hollywood Blockbuster Signature Event

Down in Hollywood, California, teams 10B, 10C, 10F, and 10X competed in the Hollywood Blockbuster Signature Event! An enormous applause to team 10C for going 8-0-0 in the qualifications, then winning both the **Amaze Award** and **Tournament Champion** titles! Additionally, they have now earned their ticket to the **2023-2024 VEX World Championships**! Congrats!

## Current State Skills Rankings (Top 5 Exo teams)

Running driver and autonomous skills as a great way for Exo teams to qualify to state! As of now, the top 5 exo teams and their rankings can be seen below:

Team:	Ranking:	Results:
10F	3 (State), 39 (World)	<u>Driver</u> : 162 points; <u>Programming</u> : 181 points
10A	8 (State), 144 (World)	<u>Driver</u> : 155 points; <u>Programming</u> : 145 points
10C	9th in state	<u>Driver</u> : 163 points; <u>Programming</u> : 128 points
10K	10th in state	<u>Driver</u> : 148 points; <u>Programming</u> : 133 points
10T	11th in state	<u>Driver</u> : 172 points; <u>Programming</u> : 109 points

## Upcoming Events

### 1. January 13th–15th: Ignite the Northwest Signature Event–

- Ignite Robotics is hosting their first ever Signature event at the Microsoft Conference Center next month! Teams from countries all around the world will be coming, so be sure to bring your game face! This tournament will be a great opportunity for teams to earn an early spot at the 2023– 2024 VEX World Championships and gain new experiences!

### 2. January 17th: Exothermic 2nd Annual HS League Night–

- League Night is happening again on Wednesday, January 17th! This will be the last of the qualifying matches before the League Finals, on February 14th. League matches are a fantastic way to practice match play and run skills, which could be your ticket to the State Championship!

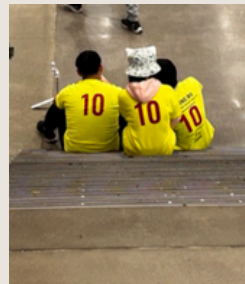
## Our Community



An exo member proudly showing off her club merch and 10C pins.



Team 10B checking out the Hollywood field after a close match.



Exo members after a long day of competing.



Team 10X in a fierce match in Hollywood, CA.



10C members cuddling with their trophies and banner.



Mr. President Farzad found in a robot box.



Members of 10F posing for a picture at Quantum's Midseason Mayhem.



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It is now midseason and we have had great results so far! Our teams hold **7/10 of the top 10 skills** standings in Washington State. One of our teams is in the top 20 in the country! We still have time to design, build, test, and improve learning as we go! In our first 2 tournaments, we competed and aligned with high school teams who often have much more experience. This was a great time for teams to focus on autonomous coding and **test, test, test!** Longer days will provide the focus time needed to perfect their autonomous runs and practice them on our league night fields in preparation for our next league night on January 10, where skills scores will count towards state qualification. **Design it, code it, test it!**

## Coming Soon

After the holidays we will have **3 more league nights** (great opportunities to increase those skills scores) and 1 more tournament prior to State. Remember, team skills scores are a great way to make into State if an award or tournament champions has not been achieved. It is highly likely that most of our teams will make it to state. Keep up the encouragement, parents, **stay focused on the hard work**, teams!

- League Night: January 10th
- Ignite Signature Event: January 13-15
- League Night: January 24th
- Blaze's Tri Ball Matchup Tournament: February 10
- League Night: February 21st
- Washington VRC Middle School State Tournament: March 2

## Ignite Signature Event

**January 13-15 is the Ignite Signature Event!** This highlight of the robotics season hosted by our very own Ignite Robotics, will be an awesome opportunity to see some of the best VEX robots in the country without flying to Worlds. This is a **MUST SEE** event. If your team does not qualify to compete, they should still go and experience the excitement and see the amazing robots.

## Volunteers Needed!

Don't forget to sign up for your **volunteer shift** at the Ignite Signature Event! It will be great for our community and an amazing event to be a part of!

The **top 6 Skills Ranked teams** from Blaze/Ignite VRC Middle School will be invited to compete in the Signature Event. Keep up with the rankings through our VRC Portal Skills Rankings link (bottom right). The next chance to improve Skills scores is at the **January 10th League Night**.

## Happenings at Blaze

We get to see our teams **improve**. This year we have conducted over **40 check in meetings** to ensure teams knew where to go for information regarding the season, and to provide soft skills training and engineering notebook and interview rubric reviews. These meetings do not include all the **coaching sessions** with Coach Chris providing guidance on build, code and game strategy! This year saw the roll out of our VRC Portal to provide a one stop shop for team information and resources to prepare for the Over Under Season. A **Code of Conduct** was defined to help establish ground rules, community, and what it means to be a roboticist at Blaze/Ignite. We also conducted seminars on build, engineering notebooks, game strategy, CAD and coding to encourage mentorship, knowledge sharing and skill growth. Most of our kids are also now trained on the use of power tools and shop safety. **It's been a busy year learning and growing!**

### Thank you, Parents!

**Thank you to our volunteers** who help League Night and tournaments run smoothly. Thank you to the parents who stay at Blaze while their teams work away into the evening. And **Thank You to the parents** who remind their kids that this is all an amazing learning experience, that winning is not the end goal and that teamwork and the pursuit of knowledge will take them far.



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