



2011-2012 Club Handbook

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I. Aquidneck Island Robotics

Section 1: Mission

Aquidneck Island Robotics (hereinafter referred to as AIR) is a 4-H club dedicated to mentoring local youth about science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) subjects.

Section 2: Recognition

AIR is organized under the National 4-H council and locally under Rhode Island 4-H. Rhode Island 4-H is the youth outreach education program of Cooperative Extension in the University of Rhode Island's College of the Environment and Life Sciences. The organization offers "hands-on" learning activities for young people so they will become productive citizens. Self-directed study and "Learning by Doing" are keys to the attraction and success of the 4-H program.

Section 3: History

In May of 2008, Mr. Richard Blight and Mr. Michael DeSousa, former volunteers of *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 121, founded AIR to support *FIRST* Tech Challenge Team 121, Rhode Rage. This organization's goal was to support the development and sustainment of future *FIRST* robotics programs and teams. During the 2008-2009 competition season, AIR provided support in the forms of mentorship, technical assistance, fundraising, and travel logistics.

After two years of successful team management with Rhode Rage, AIR signed an Educational Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Division Newport, RI. This EPA allows AIR and NUWC to share resources, including mentorship, the use of NUWC workshops, outreach centers, tools, and other technical resources.

To date, AIR manages ten *FIRST* Robotics and VRC teams, all of which are competing in the 2011-2012 competition season:

- FRC Team 78, AIR Strike
- FTC Team 4497, Rhode Rage
- VRC Team 78a
- VRC Team 78b
- VRC Team 78c
- FLL Team 4656 AIR 1
- FLL Team 4657 AIR 2
- FLL Team 5025 AIR 3
- FLL Team 5606 AIR 4
- FLL Team 5607 AIR 5

Section 4: Goals

- Enrich the minds of every youth member who joins the club and prepare them for a successful post-secondary school education and career.
- Assist youth members in earning *FIRST*-related scholarships every year.
- Promote, encourage, and assist the creation of new FRC, FTC, VRC, and FLL teams in Newport County, Rhode Island.
- Enlighten the Newport County community about the rewards and benefits of science, technology, engineering, and math subjects through outreach programs.
- Promote the mentorship and sponsorship of *FIRST* and *VEX* teams.
- Strive to win a programs award by being an exemplary team and a model for other teams.
- Earn technical awards and win competitive events through exceptional robot performance.
- Collaborate with and help other local and regional FLL, FTC, VRC, and FRC teams.

II. Robotics Program Descriptions

Section 1: Robotics Programs

For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (*FIRST*) and VEX Robotics Competition (VRC) are the organizations that Aquidneck Island Robotics endorses to achieve its mission.

- *FIRST* Lego League (FLL): FLL introduces younger students to real-world engineering challenges by building LEGO-based robots to complete tasks on a thematic playing surface. FLL teams, guided by their imaginations and adult coaches, discover exciting career possibilities and, through the process, learn to make positive contributions to society.
- *FIRST* Tech Challenge (FTC): FTC is designed for those who want to compete head-to-head, using a sports model. Teams are responsible for designing, building, and programming their robots to compete in an alliance format against other teams. The robot kit is reusable from year-to-year and is programmed using a variety of languages. Teams, including coaches, mentors and volunteers, are required to develop strategy and build robots based on sound engineering principles. Awards are given for the competition as for well as for community outreach, design, and other real-world accomplishments.
- *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC): FRC combines the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. Under strict rules, limited resources, and time limits, teams of 25 students or more are challenged to raise funds, design a team “brand,” hone teamwork skills, and build and program robots to perform

prescribed tasks against a field of competitors. It is as close to “real-world engineering” as a student can get. Volunteer professional mentors lend their time and talents to guide each team.

- VEX Robotics Competition (VRC): In VRC, teams of youth members and mentors build medium sized robots for head to head competition. VRC offers students an exciting platform for learning about areas rich with career opportunities spanning STEM. These are just a few of the many fields students can explore by creating with VEX Robotics technology. Beyond science and engineering principles, VRC encourages teamwork, leadership and problem solving among groups.

III. Community Impact

Section 1: Events

- AIR Open House:

Once a year AIR invites the community to learn about and participate in AIR by holding an open house. School age children, in particular, are encouraged to attend through public and school notices. During the event, attendees learn about AIR through robot demonstrations, team presentations, hands-on trials, mentor Q & A's, and other interactive exhibits.

- Community Events

Each summer and fall, AIR participates in local family oriented events such as the Harvest Fair in Middletown, RI, the Escobar Corn Maze in Portsmouth, RI, and the Eastern RI 4-H Fair in Portsmouth, RI. At these events, AIR mentors and youth members describe our program, demonstrate past years' robots, and give spectators a hands-on experience on robotics technology.

Section 2: Partnerships

- Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC)

AIR has an Educational Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the NUWC Division Newport, RI. This EPA allows AIR to share NUWC resources including, but not limited to, mentorship from NUWC employees, the use of NUWC workshops and outreach centers, and the use of NUWC tools and technical resources.

- Newport County Schools

AIR has an understanding with most Newport County schools whose students are involved in the FRC, FTC, and VRC programs. This understanding allows

youth members to inform teachers in advance of absences due to competition related travel and develop a plan to make up any missed work and/or exams. It is the responsibility of the youth member to initiate and ensure completion of this process.

IV. Organizational Structure

Section 1: Bylaws

AIR operates according to the AIR bylaws, which have been adopted by the club. The Board of Directors (BOD), which consists of seven elected volunteers, oversees the entire organization. The BOD includes the Club Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary as described in the AIR Bylaws.

Section 2: Organizational Hierarchy

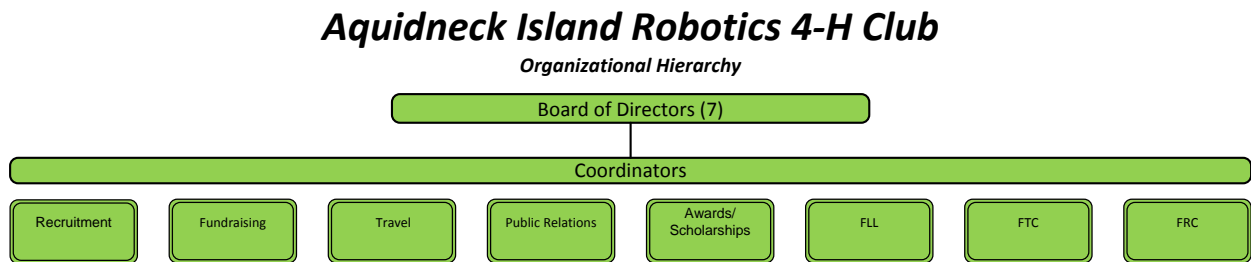


Figure 1 – AIR Organizational Hierarchy

Section 3: Committees

AIR has the following permanent committees, each managed by a different coordinator:

- FLL
- FTC
- VRC
- FRC
- Recruitment & Retention
- Fundraising
- Travel
- Public Relations
- Awards/Scholarships
- Parent/Volunteer

AIR may create a special committee, managed by a coordinator, if the need arises. Some examples of a special committee include, but are not limited to:

- Grants
- Offseason Activities

- Team Building/Morale

Section 4: Youth Member Officers

AIR has four youth member leadership positions that are elected by the clubs youth members as defined in the AIR Bylaws. These four positions include a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

V. Funding

Section 1: Example FRC Budget

FRC is the most expensive program in *FIRST*. Figure 2 shows a breakdown of a standard FRC season budget.

Item (Per Team)	Cost (\$)
Team Registration/ Regional # 1	6,000
Regional # 2	4,000
Championship Registration*	5,000
Robot Parts	3,000
Field Elements	500
Spirit Items	500
Miscellaneous	500
Total	19,500

*Qualification required.

Figure 2 - FRC Budget Breakdown

Based on previous years of travel experiences, AIR can estimate the competition travel costs for youth members and volunteers. These numbers vary year to year and additional charges may apply including a minimum of \$10 overhead per event per person. Figure 3 shows anticipated individual travel expenses.

Item (Per Person)	Cost (\$)
Regional # 1 Lodging (2 Nights)	75
Regional # 1 Food	85
Regional # 2 Lodging (2 Nights)	100
Regional # 2 Food	85
Championship Flight*	350
Championship Lodging (4 Nights)*	200
Championship Food*	200
Total	1095

*Qualification required.

Figure 3 – FRC Travel Cost Breakdown

Section 2: Example FTC Budget

FTC is the second most expensive program in *FIRST*. The reduced cost may give the team the opportunity to attend more competitions. Figure 4 shows a breakdown of a standard FTC season budget. Currently, only the RI competition will be attended.

Item (Per Team)	Cost (\$)
Team Registration	250
Event # 1 Registration (Local)	250
Robot Parts	1,000
Miscellaneous	250
Total	1750

Figure 4 – FTC Budget Breakdown

Section 3: Example VRC Budget

The VRC program is new to AIR this year and costs are based on former expenses with earlier programs. Figure 5 shows a breakdown of a standard VRC budget.

Item (Per Team)	Cost (\$)
Team Registration	50
Robot Parts	450
Field Elements	75
Event Registration #1 (Local)	40
Event Registration #2 (Local)	40
Event Registration #3 (Local)	40
Championship Event Registration*	500
Spirit Items	150
Miscellaneous	100
Total	1,445

*Qualification required.

Figure 5 - VRC Individual Team Budget Breakdown

AIR can estimate the competition travel costs for youth members and volunteers. These numbers vary year to year and additional charges may apply including a minimum of \$10 overhead per event per person. Figure 6 shows anticipated individual travel expenses.

Item (Per Person)	Cost (\$)
Championship Flight*	400
Championship Lodging (3 Nights)*	175
Championship Food*	150
Total	725

*Qualification required.

Figure 6 - VRC Travel Cost Breakdown

Section 4: Example FLL Budget

FLL is the least expensive program in *FIRST*. Figure 7 shows a breakdown of a standard FLL season budget (travel and personal costs are not included):

Item (Per Team)	Cost (\$)
Team Registration	225
Robot Parts	500
Field Elements	75
Rhode Island Event Registration	150
Spirit Items	150
Miscellaneous	100
Total	1200

Figure 7 – FLL Individual Team Budget Breakdown

Section 5: Grants

Organizational and corporate grants are AIR's primary source of funding. Throughout the year, youth members and volunteers are encouraged to search for possible grants to submit to the BOD. The BOD reserves the authority to either write and submit grants or assign the work to the fundraising committee.

Grants vary in size and come from different private and public companies and organizations. This money is often earmarked in the grant requirements for registration and/or a specific *FIRST* program. Money awarded from grants cannot be expected to subsidize travel expenses.

Section 6: Club Fundraising

General club fundraising is AIR's secondary source of funding, which includes, but is not limited to, the follow methods:

- Fundraisers (i.e. bake sales, car washes, golf tournaments, raffles and more).
- Personal donations.
- Local and corporate business donations.

The AIR fundraising committee operates year round and is run by an appointed coordinator, as described in the AIR Bylaws.

All club fundraisers are conducted with the understanding that the specific fundraiser will benefit the AIR general fund, a specific program level (i.e. FRC, FTC,

VRC FLL), and/or individual youth member travel funds (based on member participation).

The fundraising committee, in conjunction with the BOD, will do their best to organize and execute team fundraisers to fill shortfalls in the AIR general fund, a specific program level, and/or to subsidize travel expenses. All youth members and volunteers are required to participate in team fundraisers.

Although fundraisers may vary year to year, listed below are a few high profile fundraisers AIR runs annually: Figure 8 shows previous fundraiser events.

Fundraiser	Timeframe	Brief Description	Proceeds Benefit
Golf Tournament	August-September	An afternoon of golf and/or dinner with a raffle.	AIR General Fund
Calendar Raffle	October	A month of selling raffle tickets for daily cash prize drawings that will be awarded in November.	AIR General Fund & Youth Member Travel Fund
Sponsor Drive	October-January	Collecting monetary donations from local businesses.	AIR General Fund & Youth Member Travel Fund
Car Washes	January-February	Indoor car washes at the Maher Center, especially profitable after snowstorms	Youth Member Travel Fund
Newport Gulls Night	July	Partial game ticket sale profits and 50/50 raffle tickets sales at a Newport Gulls game. AIR members help sell tickets and volunteer at the game.	AIR General Fund

Figure 8 – High Profile Fundraisers

Section 7: Youth Member Travel Funds

For certain fundraisers, participating members can receive a percentage of the fundraised money to deposit in their travel fund. The percentages and participation requirements will be publicized prior to the fundraiser.

For example, if AIR hosts a car wash that raises \$500 in profit with 10 members participating for the entire event, AIR may split the profit with them. AIR will take \$250 for the general fund, and \$25 will go into each of the 10 members' travel funds. The AIR treasurer maintains these travel funds and will automatically apply available funds to upcoming travel costs.

This is done to help alleviate the costs to youth members, parents, and volunteers by rewarding those members who participate in AIR fundraisers. The money in a member's travel fund can only go towards hotel and transportation expenses. If the member has a balance in their fund at the conclusion of a season, the money can be

rolled over to the next season if they plan on renewing their membership. The money is forfeit to the AIR general fund if the member is dismissed, quits, has no travel to use it on, and/or graduates, and is no longer a member. Also, if a member cancels travel plans, their travel fund may be forfeit to cover the costs associated with the cancelation.

VI. Club Membership

Section 1: Equal Opportunity

AIR shall not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual preference, age, handicap, national origin, religious affiliations, or religious beliefs.

Section 2: Club Composition

AIR is comprised of adult volunteers, youth members entering 5th grade to 12th grade, and parents/guardians. The majority of the club members reside in the Newport County, Rhode Island area. Volunteers are responsible for club administration and team technical support. Additionally, the club welcomes support from adults who work professionally in the surrounding community, including engineers, scientists, and business people. The family members of AIR's youth members form a dedicated support group for the club through their volunteer efforts.

Section 3: Application

Before becoming a member of AIR, youth members, adult volunteers, and parent/guardian members are required to complete an AIR application, a RI 4-H application, sign the AIR Club Handbook, and pay the seasons dues. Additionally, adult volunteers and parent/guardian members must authorize RI 4-H to conduct a background check. They must successfully pass the background check to become an official AIR club member.

Section 4: Registration Process

Current AIR youth members will be permitted to register for their program first. Following this early registration, the public may register at an announced registration day. All materials needed for application must be turned in and dues must be paid. The completed application will be time stamped and space will be offered on a first come-first serve basis.

Section 5: Academic Standing

High academics are a priority for all youth members in the club. It is expected that students be able to fulfill commitments to their academics first and their robotics

team second. Any students with a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) below 1.7 (C-, based on a 4.0 scale) will not be permitted to travel with the team to competitions until proof is shown that their GPA has been raised above that threshold. Youth members who do not meet the GPA requirement will still be allowed to attend team meetings but must use 50% of their time there to do to schoolwork. Present club members will be willing and able to help with studying and homework.

Section 6: Member Classifications

Classification	Description
Club Member	Any AIR member who is up to date on dues and forms
Volunteer	AIR adult mentor/volunteer
Youth Member	AIR member entering Grade 5 through Grade 12
Parent/Guardian Member	Adult mentor/volunteer and also Parent/Guardian of a youth member

Figure 9 – AIR Member Classifications

Section 7: Membership Dues

AIR requires youth members and volunteers to pay yearly membership dues. These dues include the following items:

- Official membership in Rhode Island 4-H
- 4-H Medical insurance
- AIR specific team T-shirt
- AIR team participation certificate and wrap party invitation

The membership fees for the 2011-2012 season are listed below:

Member Type	Cost (\$)
Volunteer	25.00
Parent/Guardian Member	25.00
Youth Member	70.00

Figure 10 – AIR Member Annual Dues

The initial membership fee of either \$25 or \$70 includes membership to AIR and one program. For each additional program the cost is \$20. Membership fees are non-refundable.

VII. Meetings

Section 1: Club Business Meetings

AIR club business meetings are every other Tuesday at 6:30PM in the Undersea Collaboration and Technical Outreach Center of Building 80, NUWC, Newport, RI. During the FRC build season, business meetings are held at 6:00PM on every other Tuesday at the same location.

Section 2: Team Meetings

FLL, FTC, VRC, and FRC meeting dates and times vary based on the program's season, volunteer availability, and workload. Each team leader will produce a monthly or season schedule for their respective team. In general, the meetings and locations are as follows:

Team Type	Build Season	Meeting Frequency	Duration	Location
FRC	Early January – Mid February	Daily	3 hours +	Building 2, Naval Station Newport
FTC	Early September – Late December	Twice a week	3 hours	Building 2, Naval Station Newport
FLL	Early September – Early January	Once a week	1.5 hours	Building 80, NUWC
VRC	Early September – Late December	Twice a week	3 hours	Building 2, Naval Station Newport

Figure 11 – AIR Team Meetings

Section 3: Attendance

Although each program level varies in the amount and frequency of meetings, youth members are expected to make their best effort to attend as many meetings as possible. FLL, FTC, and VRC youth members are expected to attend at least 75% of meetings during their build season. Since the FRC team meets every day, those youth members are only expected to attend at least 60% of build season meetings.

Team and club meetings are scheduled far in advance and posted on the AIR website calendar. Youth members should have enough time to adjust work and social schedules to try to meet the above expectations. If there is a conflict, youth members are encouraged to inform, and potentially work with, their team leader to resolve it.

Attendance is taken at all AIR functions and poor attendance may result in a loss of privileges, including the ability to travel with the team. It is the responsibility of the youth member to sign in at the beginning of each build season meeting.

Section 4: Participation

Participation is one of the most important aspects of the AIR program. In addition to good attendance, youth members are required to put forth their best effort to accomplish daily tasks and goals. Other youth members, volunteers, and the team leader are adversely affected by poor participation.

Poor participation may result in a loss of privileges, including the ability to travel with the team, the contacting of parents/guardians, and/or a counsel session with the team leader and/or the BOD.

VIII. Code of Conduct

Section 1: Gracious Professionalism

AIR encourages all members to follow the *FIRST* definition of gracious professionalism:

Gracious Professionalism is part of the ethos of FIRST. It is a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community.

With Gracious Professionalism, fierce competition and mutual gain are not separate notions. Gracious professionals learn and compete like crazy, but treat one another with respect and kindness in the process. They avoid treating anyone like losers. No chest thumping tough talk, but no sticky-sweet platitudes either. Knowledge, competition, and empathy are comfortably blended.

In the long run, Gracious Professionalism is part of pursuing a meaningful life. One can add to society and enjoy the satisfaction of knowing one has acted with integrity and sensitivity.

Section 2: Club rules

AIR believes in the strict adherence of RI and National 4-H policies, and state and federal laws. The following policies and standards apply at all AIR functions, which include (but are not limited to) team meetings, club meetings, fundraisers, team parties, and while on team travel:

- Club members will respect all volunteers, parents/guardians, and youth members.
- Club members will respect the rights of others and their property.
- Club members will participate in a positive and enthusiastic manner.
- Club members will behave in ways that protect the health and safety of themselves and others.
- Club members will be respectful of the facilities, tools, equipment, and things being used by the club.

- Club members will not use profane, obscene, or vulgar language in written, gestured, and/or verbal form.
- Club members will exhibit dignified and restrained actions in expressing affection towards members of the opposite sex.
- Club members will not be in possession or under the influence of illegal substances.
- Club members will not be in possession of weapons.

Section 3: Disciplinary Actions

The team leader and/or the BOD may counsel a club member about failure to follow the code of conduct. A counseling session would be documented and if an issue persists, additional counsel or disciplinary actions may be taken. However, there is no official warning system; disciplinary action can be taken immediately if a problem is deemed severe enough.

Disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following:

- Early dismissal from an AIR function, which may include competitions while on travel. Any non-refundable costs associated with an early dismissal will be a loss for the club member.
- Contacting of a youth members parents and/or legal guardians, or appropriate authorities.
- Search and seizure of suspected or found illegal items.
- Probation or dismissal from AIR.

IX. Safety

Section 1: Club Safety

The responsibility of safety lies with each member of AIR. Each club member is required to abide by the safety practices of all club and event facilities. The majority of *FIRST* programs involve the use of tools and equipment that unless are used properly can be potentially dangerous.

Youth members of AIR are viewed by the club volunteers as young adults, acting much like employees of an organization. It is important to maintain a positive image to our community, sponsors, and *FIRST*, and this begins with safety. All AIR members must know and demonstrate safe and professional behavior wherever the team conducts business.

Section 2: Safe Practices

The following safety practices apply at all AIR functions which include, but are not limited to, team meetings, club meetings, fundraisers, team parties, and while on team travel:

- Club members will respect the safety captain(s) and adhere to their requests.
- Club members will not use tools and equipment without proper training.
- Youth members may use power tools or equipment only under the supervision of a volunteer.
- FRC, FTC, and VRC club members must have completed and been signed off on any required NUWC safety training.
- Club members will be required to wear safety glasses in workshop areas of NUWC facilities and in the pit area of all *FIRST* and *VEX* competitions. In addition, club members may be asked to wear gloves, facemasks, and/or ear protection during certain tasks.
- Club members will be required to maintain a clean and organized work area. In addition, club members will be required to clean up work areas at the conclusion of a workday. This process may include sweeping the floors, sweeping the work surfaces, putting away tools, putting away materials, and/or disposing of trash.
- Club members will be required to wear proper clothing at competitions and in work areas such as closed toed shoes and correctly fitting clothing.
- Club members will be required to tie back long hair while working with power tools and on the robots.
- Horseplay will not be tolerated at any time on NUWC/Navy property or at any club event.

X. Volunteering

Section 1: Importance of Volunteering

AIR is a 100% volunteer managed, driven, and structured program. Everyone from the Board of Directors, coordinators, team leaders, technical mentors, and involved parents are here for one reason; to inspire the youth in our community. With over 100 members annually, AIR is essentially a small business that relies on its volunteers working cohesively to meet all of its goals.

The dedication of AIR's volunteers is unlike the dedication found in many other organizations. Most of the volunteers are here because of personal ties to the organization such as a child enrolled in a program, or as an inspired graduate of the program.

Section 2: Volunteering Ethics

The impact that AIR's volunteers have on the youth of the organization is proven to be lasting and inspirational. It is because of this that AIR reminds our volunteers the importance of being great role models to the youth members. Below are a few simple steps to follow:

- Treat all youth members with the same respect you would expect to be treated.
- Follow the principals of Gracious Professionalism and the standards in the AIR Code of Conduct.

- Treat other volunteers with respect and always act professional when interacting or working with volunteers.
- Support youth member parents/guardians by keeping them informed on their child's progress and answering any questions or concerns they may have.

Section 3: Volunteer Requirements

Any person who is above the age of 18 and is not enrolled in pre-college education may become a volunteer for AIR. All volunteers are expected to understand and demonstrate the professionalism expected by AIR.

Any volunteer who is under the age of 21 may not be in a supervisory role. This means they may not be the main volunteer at a meeting and may not drive youth to competitions. However, all volunteers are eligible to take leadership roles, such as coordinator positions and/or run for director positions.

XI. Family Involvement

Section 1: Importance of Family Involvement

AIR firmly believes in families supporting their children in any AIR robotics team. Family involvement can be beneficial to both their children's experience and to the AIR organization. Parents/guardians who are active in their children's youth programs often develop a better understanding of their children's skills and goals.

Section 2: Types of Family Involvement

AIR has many opportunities for families. Some parents/guardians may want to become an actual club mentor: no technical experience is required, just a desire to learn and help others. In addition, some parents/guardians may just want to take on specific tasks and roles as a parent/guardian member. Some of these tasks and roles include:

- Assist in the supervision of youth members at AIR functions which include, but are not limited to, team meetings, club meetings, fundraisers, team parties, and while on team travel.
- Provide food for long team meetings.
- Join a committee.
- Support fundraisers and team parties.
- Drive youth members to club meetings, team meetings, and competitions.

XII. Communication

Section 1: Importance of Communication

All AIR programs are time intensive and often require dynamic meeting schedules and plans. It is imperative that all club members, especially youth members and parents/guardians, be kept well informed of all plans. By staying informed, club members will be able to hone their levels of involvement so they may better fit their busy schedules.

Sections 2: Types of Communication

- Email

The AIR BOD often sends emails to the entire organization, team leaders often send emails to an entire team, and club members often send emails to each other. Email is AIR's primary and most important form of communication. **Club members are required to check and respond to their email regularly.**

Board of Directors email: bod@lists.air4h.org

- Website

The AIR website is a great resource for information. Here you will find the specific team meeting schedules, event schedules, club meeting agendas, club meeting minutes, and all the forms required for involvement in AIR. In addition, the website will have links to official *FIRST* and *VEX* information, team photos, and other informative news and websites.

The AIR website is also where you can look for last minute updates such as meeting cancelations due to inclement weather.

<http://www.air4h.org>

- Phone

The AIR BOD and specific team leaders are the only club members with access to the club roster with telephone numbers. They may call youth members and parents/guardians with important information of last minute changes if email is not quick enough.

- Facebook & Twitter

AIR will try to stay current with the social networking sites and may post relevant information on Facebook and/or Twitter. Youth members and

parents/guardians may choose to follow AIR on these sites. These however, are not a substitute for following emails or the websites.

<http://www.facebook.com/air4h>

<http://twitter.com/AIR4H>

- Snail Mail

Yes we do have a mailing address:

PO BOX 4475
Middletown, RI 02842

XIII. Resources

Section 1: Importance of Available Resources.

The *FIRST* and *VEX* robotics programs can be very in-depth and overwhelming, especially for new participants. AIR wants youth members and their parents/guardians to have the ability to learn as much as possible about these programs. Veteran AIR members are always willing to introduce and educate youth members and their parents/guardians on the *FIRST* and *VEX* robotics programs. The veteran AIR members are great sources of knowledge.

Section 2: Types of Resources

- *FIRST* website

The *FIRST* website is the best place to learn more about the robotics programs, their goals, and history. It is also where program specific information, such as the competition manuals, updates, competition venues and dates, and other team information can be found.

<http://www.usfirst.org>

- *VEX* Robotics Competition Website

This year's *VEX* Robotics Competition is called "Gateway". A complete list of rules and animations are available at www.vexrobotics.com/competition.

- Chief Delphi Forums

The forums on this website have become the communication point for all *FIRST* students and adults. Specifically, the FRC forums have the most members and topics, but information on FLL and FTC is also available. Here, members of the *FIRST* community from around the world share ideas, show

photos, and chit chat about robots, teams, and competitions. AIR members are encouraged to join and share their thoughts, however, please remember to act and speak graciously as you will be representing your specific team and AIR.

<http://www.chiefdelphi.com>

- The Blue Alliance (TBA)

TBA is a scouting database for FRC teams. Here, with only a simple search of a team number, data, and video of the past five years can be found for nearly any team and robot. This is a great website to learn and watch the results of other competitions happening around the world.

<http://www.thebluealliance.net>