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Local Boy Throws 'Buzzkill Birthday Basketball Bash' to Fight Malaria



Cooper Smith, center

Photo provided

Birthday wish lists usually include things like basketballs, LEGOs, and maybe a video game or two. But anti-malaria bed nets? That's exactly what 10-year-old Cooper Smith of Lafayette wanted when he decided to raise money for the nets at his recent "Buzzkill Birthday Basketball Bash" April 23 - two days before World Malaria Day.

"I wanted to do my birthday party in a different way than I normally do because I heard about [Golden State Warrior Stephen Curry's] contribution to something called Nothing But Nets," Smith said. "So I looked it up on the web, and found out what a great foundation it was."

Nothing But Nets is a global, grassroots campaign to raise awareness and funding to fight malaria, a leading cause of death among chil-

dren in Africa. Each \$10 donation purchases an anti-malaria bed net that can stop mosquitoes from biting during the night and spreading the disease. An insecticide on the net kills the mosquitoes when they land on it, stopping them from flying on to find their next victim. According to the World Health Organization, greater availability and use of malaria prevention tools and treatment over the past decade has saved more than 1 million lives.

Smith was excited to help. "Just 10 dollars to save a life!" he said. Since his birthday was coming up, he decided to devote his party to the cause. "So that's what I did," he said. In addition to raising money, all of Smith's friends wrote cards of hope to kids in Tanzania.

Vinnie Bianchina wrote: "I hope

all your wishes come true and that you are safe and have a healthy family. I know you will have a bright future and I am trying to help you as much as I can." And Jake Myers said: "I hope you're safe in your new net."

Additional well-wishes came from the 11 other party guests. And together, they raised more than \$2,200.

The boys hope to pull together a bigger fundraiser in July to raise even more money and have more cards for Curry and ESPN's Rick Reilly to take on their trip to Tanzania July 30.

"I am so happy that we could raise money for Nothing But Nets and the kids in Tanzania," Smith said.

For more information about Nothing But Nets, visit www.nothingbutnets.net.

J. Wake

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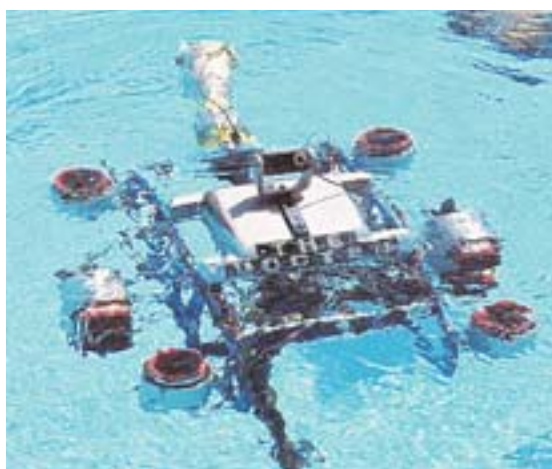
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Bentley ROV Club Takes First for Best Design and Engineering

Submitted by Jenna Starkey



"The Doctor" in action.

Photos provided

A talented group of young engineers from Bentley School's ROV (Remote Operated Vehicle) club won first place at the 13th Annual Monterey Bay Regional ROV Contest for Best Engineering and Design on April 20. The Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Center at Monterey Peninsula College held the 13th Annual Monterey Bay Regional ROV Contest at Aptos High School. This year Bentley moved into the Ranger class, the highest high school level of the ROV competition, competing against 11 other high schools to win the award.

This annual contest challenges students to build ROVs to complete underwater tasks that mimic real-life scientific expeditions. The tasks change every year from finding and

recovering sunken shipwrecks, to managing oil spills. This year's contest focused on ocean observing systems as a response to the MATE request for proposal to build, operate and maintain cabled underwater observatories similar to one being built in the Northwest.

Bentley's ROV club (Phoenix Electronics) successfully built what the team calls "The Doctor." The team members invested over 1,200 hours assembling over 520 individual parts, drilled 200 holes for fasteners, wrestled with 500 feet of cables, while making sure that 250 electrical and 48 video connections were secure. The Bentley ROV featured a frame made from a single sheet of high density plastic, six camera shots displayed on three monitors, a computer-controlled robotic arm, a digital temperature data logger, and eight motors with shrouded propellers - all controlled by a comprehensive controls and power distribution system. The members of Phoenix Electronics were organized into the Frame, Video, Propulsion, Controls, Tools, and Design Integration and Facilitation divisions. Each division was responsible for a specific subsystem of the ROV.

In addition to the 26 mission task steps performed in 12 feet of water while driving remotely, the team created a product poster and delivered a presentation about the science and engineering behind their vehicle to a group of professional engineers and ROV pilots/technicians from the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute. The Bentley ROV Club also won the Ranger class award for being the most spirited team, partly due to their enthusiasm and matching Hawaiian shirts.



Bentley School's ROV club, Phoenix Electronics. (Not pictured: Oren Khan, Chase Chabot, Shane Pracar, Alexis Pracar, Griffin Dey, Margot Witte, and Natalie Sechow.)

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