

**From:** Cynthia L Fong <clfong@hawaii.edu>  
**Subject:** **MATE-BIRR Results**  
**Date:** May 13, 2009 8:37:57 PM HST  
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Aloha All,

The MATE-BIRR Underwater Robotics Competition was held this past Saturday, May 9, 2009 at the Sparky Kawamoto Pool in Hilo, HI. This was an exciting prelude to the upcoming International MATE Underwater Robotics Competition this year at the Maritime Academy as well as next year, when Hilo hosts the 2010 International in late June! Please let me know if you are interested in helping this event happen - we need a steering committee of community members to make it happen!

It was a very exciting day as students in both the Ranger Class and our first Explorer Class teams operated their ROVs in 16 feet of water to survey a grounded submarine and complete a variety of rescue mission tasks under a time constraint of 15 minutes. They had the opportunity to run their missions twice, back-to-back. All teams also gave an oral presentation on their ROVs and the lessons learned, a poster display, and had previously submitted a technical report. There were some very intense and exciting moments as the students were challenged to troubleshoot on the spot and get their ROVs operational.

Attached are the final verified team standings along with breakdowns of specific points earned in the 4 different categories. This year, we had 15 teams participate in the Ranger Class day of the competition from 11 different schools. With 11 different school teams participating in this class, the top 2 overall teams qualify for a berth at the International MATE Underwater Robotics Competition that will be held at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy at Buzzards Bay, MA June 24-26, 2009.

The top two Ranger Class teams qualifiers are:

1. Mauna Kea Educational Academy (Myron B. Thompson Academy PCS)
2. Kealahou Intermediate School

Our first ever Explorer Class - University of Hawaii - Hilo "University Robotics Club" provided an exhibition of their ROV (or has the fondly referred to it, our anchor as the relays blew during pre-entry testing...oops). But they got their ROV wet!

Our energetic Scout Class consisted of 3 teams from 2 elementary schools: Kaumana Elementary and Haaheo Elementary. It was a very exciting learning event for the students at the shallow end of the pool. The all girl's team from Kaumana Elementary displayed quite the strategies and teamwork by herding all crabs into one area and in one swoop, picking them up for a grand total of 65 points.

Lastly, our MATE-BIRR Logo Design winners were:

1. Laurel Fongblatt, Hilo Intermediate School (7th grade) - Octopus ROV recovery
2. Reyn Yoshioka, Hilo High School (11th grade) - Deep water survey and recovery

These student designs were used for this year's T-shirts (front/back) as well as on each school's banner printing and all certificates. Thanks so much.

Thank You to all who made it happen. Special mahalos to these partners who provided technical judging support, competition support, diving support, or hard manual labor:

Dean McMahel (Kapu Racing) - our big cheese who keeps us organized!

Pascale Pinner

Penny Pung & family

Michael Bechtel

Cindy Fong & family

KECK Observatory (Kirk Tataeishi, David Lynn, Mike Wagner, Liz Chock, Andrew Cooper & wife Deborah, Jim Bell, Al Honey & son Dennis, Dwight Chan, Collette Tyau, Jim Lyke, Kellee Summers, Klaus Ulander, Ed Wetherell, Tomas Krasuski)

Institute for Astronomy (Kenyan Beals, Darryl Watanabe & wife Cindy & family, Gary Fujihara)

Joint Astronomy Center Hawaii (Russell Kackley, Inge Heyer)  
UH Manoa (Song Choi - College of Engineering; Mark Rognstad - SOEST)  
UH-Hilo (Jon-Pierre Michaud)  
Liquid Robotics (Eric Brager, Andrew Burcham & his dad Bob)  
Sun Microsystems (Bob Douglas)  
Cycle Counters Inc (Adam Greenblatt)  
Russell Rapozo (Keaau High School)  
William McClellan  
Lisa Diaz (Kealakehe Intermediate School)  
Stu Burley  
ROC - Corrie Heck  
isisHawaii  
KEDB - Mia Ako  
and all others who provided support!

Thanks to all the student participants who put a lot of effort to learn, try and compete and their teachers/advisors/parents who all made it happen! We hope you are inspired and continue to explore! This was for you!

Some web pages of photos are being put together and another notification will be sent with the url.

Cheers!

Cindy Fong  
MATE-BIRR Director

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