

Again, Seton Sea Perch Club Stands Out at PWCS Competition

On 2 Dec 2010 the Seton Sea Perch Club (“Sub Club”), comprised of 15 Seton Senior High students and two Holy Family Academy students, competed against approximately 70 teams from six different High Schools in the “Prince William County Schools Sea Perch ROV Competition Day” at the City of Manassas Park Community Center. The public school students built their underwater robot as part of a 10-week unit in the PWCS Foundations of Technology course. For the Seton Sub Club members, building the robot was an after school activity requiring attendance at the Sea Perch Club which met every Wednesday and several Saturdays during the fall. Sea Perch programs teach students about robotics, engineering, science, and mathematics as they build underwater remotely-operated vehicles, known as ROVs. As students build the robots they learn engineering concepts, problem solving, teamwork, and technical applications.

The Seton 2010 Sea Perch Club members were: Rachel Lambrecht, Lauren Donohue, Molly Dial, and Patrick Kenna (Team 1); Joe Pennefather, Trajan Crocker (Holy Family Academy) Auberon Crocker (Holy Family Academy) (Team 2); Mike Kepler, Peter Salomon and Phil Wycowski (Team 3); Julie Fiormonti, Hannah Alman, Monica, Mosimann and Kristie Ostrich (Team 4); Brendan Koehr, Jonathan Rosato and Leslie Zapiaain (Team 5).

All the teams entered four pool competitions: Maneuverability, Recovery, Collaboration and a Relay Race. Medals were given to the top three finishers in each competition. The Seton Sea Perch Club had 7% of the teams, but won 75% of the pool awards – including three of the four first-place finishes! The 2010 Sub Club eclipsed the previous record set by the 2009 Sub Club, which won 50% of the pool awards.

Seton’s Awards at PWCS ROV Competition.

Competition	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place
Maneuverability	Seton Team 1	Seton Team 2	Seton Team 3
Recovery	Seton Team 5	Battlefield 55	Seton Team 2
Collaboration	Woodbridge 27	Seton Team 2	Seton Team 4
Relay Race	Seton Team 2	Seton Teams 1, 3	Woodbridge 21

Additionally, Seton Team 2 won 2nd place in the innovative design competition giving Seton Team 2 a total of 5 medals! The three teams scoring the most points for the day were also given medals. This was Seton Team 4 (3rd place) and Seton Team 1 (1st place).

Mr. Hoffman, the mentor for Seton’s team, cited that Seton’s performances were exceptional, and that teamwork was the key! Mr. Hoffman surmised that the key factors leading to this superb performance were: (1) the practice sessions at Mr. and Mrs. Nuar’s indoor pool (parents of Seton Alumni); and (2) the dedication of the Seton students who did the club as an after school activity. Marcus Volpert, Scott Volpert, and Manuel Barbara, members of the successful 2009 Sub Club, participated as mentors to the 2010

sub club and were instrumental in helping this year's team during Mr. Hoffman's 4-week trip to the United Kingdom.

Both Mr. Maher and Mr. Hoffman are looking forward to having the Sea Perch club next year for new students who want to compete in an activity like the PWCS ROV competition. Plans are already in progress to have experienced Sub Club members compete at the national level. Seton is grateful for the warm reception and opportunity to participate in PWCS's annual Sea Perch (www.SEAPerchPWCS.org) Underwater Robotics competition. The entire event was fantastic!