

Seton Sea Perch Club Stands Out at PWCS Competition

On the Feast of the Annunciation the Seton Sea Perch Club (“Sub Club”) competed against forty teams from five Prince William County High Schools in the “Prince William County Schools Sea Perch ROV Competition Day” at the Freedom Aquatic and Fitness Center. The public school students built their underwater robot as part of a 10-week unit in the ninth-grade PWCS Foundations of Technology course. For the Seton students, building the robot was an after school activity requiring attendance at the Sea Perch Club which met for 15 - 1.5 hour sessions. 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 2009-2010 Sea Perch Club members were: Monika Derbogossian, Megan Fitzpatrick, Christine Geene, Emily Michael(Team1), Dan Koehr, Dillon O’Doherty, John Wall(Team 2), Marcus Volpert, Gabe Lovejoy, Jude Van De Voorde(Team3), Scott Volpert, Neil Blanchard, Paul Hurst(Team 4) and Manuel Barbara, Xavier Holl, Tim Jackson(Team 5).



All the teams entered four pool competitions: Maneuverability, Recovery, Collaboration and a Relay Race. Awards were given to the top three finishers in each competition. The Seton Sea Perch Club had 11% of the teams, but won 50% of the pool awards – including three of the four first-place finishes!

Seton's Awards at PWCS ROV Competition.

Competition	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place
Maneuverability	Seton Team 2	----	----
Recovery	Seton Team 1 (tie)	Seton Team 5 (tie)	----
Collaboration	Seton Team 2	----	----
Relay Race	----	Seton Team 4	Seton Team 2

Mr. Hoffman, the mentor for Seton's team, cited that Seton's performances were exceptional, and that teamwork was the key! As Seton was new to the competition, Mr. Hoffman was surprised at Seton's success. He surmised that the key factors leading to this superb performance were: (1) the three 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.

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 as well as returning club members who will be given a new challenge. 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!