



# CGW FRC TEAM 2996 NEWSLETTER

## Ready For A Wicked Cool Season? | September 25, 2025

As we gear up for the season, we're excited to participate in outreach events like the Cool Science Carnival and Turman Elementary Family Night (see the links below for details). We're also thrilled to welcome new team members, who we're currently preparing for their first exciting FRC season! And, don't miss the chance to meet our amazing mentors, with photos featured on page 3 of this issue!

### **Sadly No Homecoming Parade, But....KCMT!**

Sadly, the team will not be able to participate in this year's Homecoming Parade, but we can't wait for KCMT, which will be held at the same time! The Kendrick Castillo Memorial Tournament (KCMT) honors the legacy of Kendrick Castillo—a FIRST Robotics student and victim of the STEM School shooting—by celebrating his love for robotics through a high-energy offseason competition. This year's event will take place on October 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> at Regis University in Denver, Colorado, with load-in on October 10. Teams will even have the unique opportunity to enter a second robot—something Team 2996 is currently working on! You can find the full daily schedule at the link below.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Cool Science Carnival - September 27, 2025 (10:00 am - 4:00 pm)  
<https://www.coolscience.org/cool-science-carnival-day.html>
- Kendrick Castillo Memorial Tournament (KCMT) - October 10 - 12, 2025  
<https://coloradofirst.org/frc/kcmt/>
- Team BBQ - October 4, 2025
- Mock Game - November 4 - 6, 2025

**Check out the calendar on our website, [team2996.com](https://team2996.com) for more upcoming events!**

## Do you have a high school student interested in mechanics, media, or entrepreneurship?

Invite them to check out Cougars Gone Wired, Coronado High School's robotics team. And here's the best part—you don't even have to be a Coronado student to join! Cougars Gone Wired is more than just a robotics team; it's a business that we keep building every year. Here, you'll have a chance to:

- Build and name a crazy cool robot
- Learn CAD, programming, electrical, and mechanical skills
- Work with real engineers
- Market, fundraise, and tell our team's story
- Communicate with sponsors and contribute to our team newsletter
- Travel to regional competitions and events
- Make friends, have fun, and be inspired.



## Off-Season Training and Meetings

The off-season is a crucial time for our team, focused on welcoming and integrating new members. During this period, new members have the opportunity to explore different sub-teams, participating in hands-on activities to find the area where they fit best.

In addition to member integration, we are actively working on our second robot in preparation for KCMT with workdays on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school until 5:30 PM.

Training is another key part of the off-season, focusing both on introducing new members to the team and equipping new leaders with essential skills. New members are guided through setting up essential communication tools such as Discord and Remind, ensuring they are fully connected and able to participate in team updates and alerts.

A promotional poster for FRC Team 2996: Cougars Gone Wired. The top half features a group photo of the team members in yellow shirts. Below the photo, the text reads: "Join FRC Team 2996: Cougars Gone Wired! Build Robots. Build Skills. Build the Future." The bottom half of the poster is yellow and contains the following text: "Are you ready to design, build, and compete with 120-pound robots? Want to learn real engineering, programming, business, and leadership skills? No experience required — just bring your curiosity and energy! Wednesdays 6:00 - 8:00 pm Tech Building, Room 407 Prizes! Don't forget to bring a friend!" The Cougar's Gone Wired logo is in the bottom left corner.

## Meet Our Mentors!

At Cougars Gone Wired, our mentors play a vital role in our team's success. As real-world engineers and experts in their industries, they bring invaluable experience and insight. While Cougars Gone Wired is proudly student-led, our accomplishments wouldn't be possible without their guidance. They support us across all aspects of the team—from technical challenges to business strategy—teaching essential skills and offering advice that helps us grow and succeed.



**Robert Dawkins**



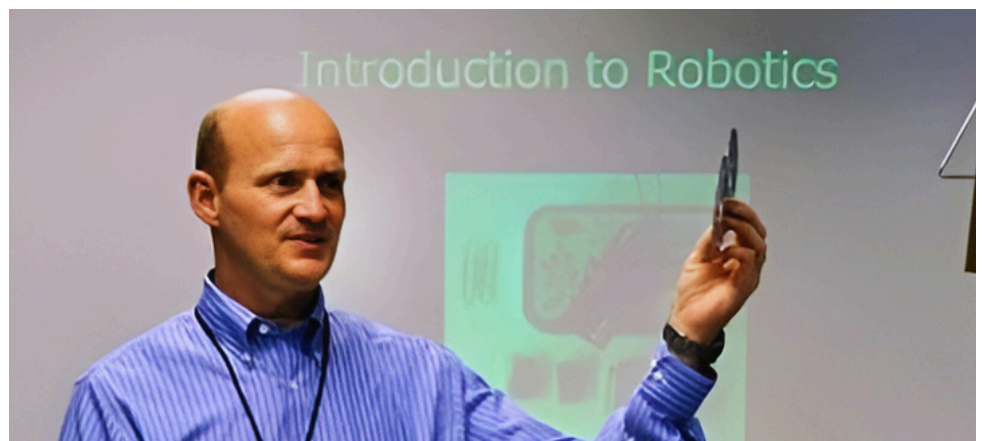
**Marc Arnold**



**Zachery Finley**

### Not Featured:

- Bryce McLean (Head Coach)
- Ethan De Alejandro
- Patrick Bernard
- Cynthia Bernard
- Zachery Finley
- Callum Fleming
- Ryan Kight
- Sean Kight
- Eric Luther
- David Murphy
- George Ott
- Deb Van Caster
- Troy Van Caster
- Cooper Vaida
- David Steele
- Grace Wilson



### In Memoriam of Dr. John Jay Wood

On August 9, 2014, we lost our beloved mentor Dr. John Jay Wood and his wife Reisa in a small aircraft accident in Iowa. Dr. Wood, head of Engineering Mechanics at the Air Force Academy for 16 years, had mentored Team 2996 since our rookie year in 2009. His dedication, intelligence, and passion for STEM inspired all who worked with him.