# Robot Builders Night Virtual for February 10th, 2026

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AqfbcDEEZL8

**Key Discussion Points**

**Project Presentations**

- **Doug Paradis** presented a project on a lunar rover design inspired by a Hackaday article. He highlighted challenges with printing TPU wheels and discussed the rover's mechanical design suitability for an autonomous platform despite its RC car origins.

- **The Mockbot Project** was discussed as an entry-level platform for the ROS operating system, with members sharing a PDF resource.

- Doug also shared experience working with a laser cutter, emphasizing the importance of setup with additions like chiller alarms and air assists.

**AI Tools and Programming**

- **Harold Pulcher** shared his experiences on transitioning from the Arduino IDE to Platform IO for faster compilation with his project, Jaredbot, which is a balancing robot. He also leveraged AI tools for project documentation and code development.

- Members discussed experiences with AI chatbots, sharing insights on their efficacy in retrieving accurate information and supporting project development.

**Platforms and Frameworks**

- **ESP32 Modules**: Discussions included modifications to protoboards to accommodate wider development boards like the ESP32, improving setup efficiency for projects.

- **Platform IO without VS Code**: Alternatives were explored for those who prefer lightweight coding environments, highlighting community resourcefulness in adapting to different tools and preferences.

**High-Power Robotics Project**

- **Mike Williamson** shared insights into a visual arts project requiring a rotating platform capable of supporting significant weight. This project used robust motor and relay components for reliable operation. Discussions covered technical challenges and synchronization needs with projection and sound components.

**Conclusions and Insights**

- The importance of adapting to new tools and platforms was a recurring theme, with several members finding value in tools like Platform IO and AI assistance for documentation and ideation.

- Collaboration and resource sharing continue to be a foundation for the group, as members exchanged solutions for both hardware challenges (e.g., protoboards, motor interference) and software inefficiencies.

- The meeting reemphasized the significance of robust project setups, especially when dealing with high-power applications, ensuring safety and reliability across different installations.

**Referenced Links**

- **The Mockbot PDF**: [The Mockbot PDF](#) - Provided by Ponder SomeMore

- **Twitch Video Recording**: [Twitch Video](#) - Provided by Harold Pulcher

- **Notepad++ Vulnerability Update**: [Notepad++ Hijacked Incident](#) - Provided by Pat Caron

- **3D Printable Breadboards for ESP32**: [Thingiverse Link](#), [Makerworld Link](#), and [Hackster.io Article](#) - Provided by Doug Paradis