

Robot Builders Night Virtual for March 17th, 2026

Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHICFU_awj0

Key Discussion Points

Upcoming Competitions and Events

- **Competitions:** Upcoming competitions include Quick Trip, Line Following, Advanced Barrel Racing, Six Can Foursquare, and Sumo. Detailed rules are available on the Dallas Personal Robotics Group website.
- **Events:** The DPRG monthly meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 28, at the Dallas Maker Space.

Project Updates

- **Doug Paradis' Zamboni-Inspired Robot:** Doug discussed modifications on his robot to participate in a line-following parade. Efforts included designing a Zamboni-style add-on with ultrasonic sensors for distance calculations.
- **Sensor Challenges:** Doug described challenges with an Australian ultrasonic sensor product and discussed troubleshooting steps.
- **Mark R's Quadruped Robot:** Mark showcased a quadruped robot project and mentioned his plans for further development and customization to accommodate various sensors and modules.

Innovative Ideas

- **Animatronic Eyes:** Mark R. discussed teaching a class on making animatronic eyes, utilizing 3D printing and electronics to create realistic motions.
- **Laser Diodes for Engraving:** Conversations included the use of laser diodes for cutting and engraving, discussing different techniques and beam combinations.

New Technologies

- **TinkerNav:** Pat Caron introduced the TinkerNav, featuring centimeter-level GNSS RTK positioning at an affordable price point, which could broaden access to precise navigation technologies.

Fun and Entertainment

- **Combat Robots:** The group discussed attending a robot combat event in Richardson, noting the excitement and logistical aspects of robotic competitions.

Conclusions and Insights

- Troubleshooting remains a core part of robotics, as evidenced by Doug's ultrasonic sensor challenges.
- Collaborative projects, such as Mark R's animatronic eyes, illustrate the intersection of creativity and technology in robotics.
- Continued engagement in public demonstrations and competitions helps in exposing new ideas and innovations within the robotics community.

Referenced Links

- Pat Caron:
 - [TinkerNav GPS Article](#)
- Mark R:
 - [Clash Competitions](#)
 - [Robot Combat Event Video](#)
 - [Will Cogley Animatronic Projects](#)