

How to build a successful ROV team

1. Visit Birch Aquarium at Scripps and Marine Advanced Technology Education (M.A.T.E) Center website for required assignments, deadlines, and competition details.
For the aquarium <http://aquarium.ucsd.edu/Education/>
For M.A.T.E center http://www.marinetech.org/rov_competition/
2. Be sure to understand the details of all the general information and mission specifics. Teams that fail often overlook the specifics of each assignment.
3. Keep a detailed journal of your work as you are planning, researching, and building your ROV. The notes that you keep will help you to see your progress and assist you in trouble-shooting.
4. Meet all deadlines. Technical reports due **April 1, 2008**. Poster display due **April 19, 2008**. Engineering presentation and underwater competition **April 20, 2008**. EACH PORTION OF COMPETITION IS REQUIRED AND IMPORTANT TO SCORING.
5. Utilize all the resources available to you. Talk to local professionals. They may be able to give you much need advice and be able to direct you to surplus building supplies. You can begin you search at this website:
http://www.marinetech.org/rov_competition/resources.php
6. Hold regular team meetings, once a week seems to work best. Working together as a functional team is highly important and being able to communicate is a definite key. Being successful is much more than having a working ROV, its also being able to work together under pressure by communicating verbally and understanding each others strengths and weaknesses. Be sure to listen to each other. Take pride in your work.
7. Start planning now and build early! Leave room for error because it will always arise.
8. Test your ROV several times before the competition. Get all the kinks out! And don't forget to practice with your monitors. It's a whole new world of flying your ROV when you can't look at it.
9. The written report and oral engineering report also weigh heavy on points. These are the easy points to earn! Take advantage of them by leaving time to devote to these elements.
10. PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!! But don't forget to have fun!
11. Remember...“A team that works together, wins together!”