

Skarda sponsors college robotics team

Skarda's products are most often used in factories or small business aiding in motion control, helping to increase productivity, or solving production problems. Recently Skarda teamed with Kansas State University's Robotic Competition Team (KSURCT) to put one product into a creative use.

Kansas State's RCT is an organization of engineering students who compete with robots in combat, similar to what many have seen on television in Battle Bots. These robots can be smaller though and require an arena to use for competitions.

The Kansas State team needed to upgrade its arena. The arena they had was made of a warped wooden frame, was heavy to move, and was slow to set up. Putting the robots in the arena was also time consuming, requiring the removal of six bolts to open a side. The team greatly needed an updating.



KSURCT vice president, Rein Herrman, learned about Skarda Equipment and its 80/20 product line through an engineering internship with a Kansas City company who manufactures car seats. One of Herrman's supervisors ordered 80/20 products from Skarda on a regular basis.

Herrman found using the 80/20 products had many advantages: "We saved a lot of time in fabrication since I could cut and assemble 80/20 parts myself, instead of getting a maintenance person to cut and weld steel. Also, the aluminum made the machines much lighter, and you can use the channel of the 80/20 to make finite adjustments, instead of drilling a lot of holes in a plate of steel."

With his work experience in mind, Herrman considered how 80/20 might improve the combat conditions for the KSU team's arena. Using 80/20 would allow the team to build a light-weight, sturdy, and larger arena. Herrman approached Skarda through customer service supervisor, Matt Ware, about donating the team's materials.



Skarda Equipment readily agreed to donate the 80/20 product to help the team assemble the new arena. Skarda's president, John Skarda Jr., is an alumnus of Kansas State and was able to meet with team members during one of their Saturday builds. He provided catalogs of Skarda's lines and watched some of their robot demonstrations. He commented that it is "good to get our name out in front of young engineers, the 80/20 product and the Skarda name. When they go out to their jobs hopefully they will use Skarda and 80/20.

For Herrman, that will definitely be the case. "I really enjoy working with Matt Ware and John Skarda," he said. "At all my future jobs, I intend to order from Skarda for all my

80/20 and other power transfer needs."

The new arena, assembled from 80/20 product has allowed the Robotic Competition Team to compete with larger robots and host more tournaments. The arena has legs that fold underneath for convenient storage; it is now assembled by only two people and only two bolts have to be removed to place robots inside. The new arena has already been put to good use in 2005, and several more events are planned for the coming months.

Skarda is proud to sponsor the Kansas State Robotic Competition Team. To learn more about their team and monitor their progress in competitions, visit www.ksuret.org.

Photos courtesy of Kansas State Robotic Competition Team

Skarda employees celebrate 5, 10, 15, and 20 years

Roger is celebrating his tenth anniversary with Skarda Equipment. Roger works in customer service assisting those Skarda customers with house accounts and small businesses who do not usually purchase large amounts of parts at a time. He works hard to help his customers meet their needs and to find the equipment specifically fit for the job needed. One thing Roger likes about working at Skarda is its long standing reputation of good service; he finds himself receiving many referral customers because of Skarda's reputation.



Roger

Roger is married with three children. Outside of work he enjoys photography, bicycling and motorcycling, and scuba diving. While Roger is ocean certified for scuba mostly he is able to visit some lakes in the Midwest to enjoy this hobby.



Angela

Angela has been at Skarda for five years working in the accounts receivable department. Her specific tasks include collecting overdue accounts, processing checks, and keeping track of tax exemptions. She is also Skarda's picnic planner extraordinaire, as she has helped to coordinate the event for the past few years.

Angela enjoys the family atmosphere of working at Skarda and also enjoys the time she spends with her own family. She and her husband have three sons, along with a dog and a cat. Angela's spare time is spent with her sons' sports activities and also with reading, both things she really enjoys.

Dan works in Controlled Motion Dynamics, Skarda's sister company in motion control. His job is to take information from customers who need control systems, create an estimated price to construct it, and then build the complete system. He works to guarantee that the system will do exactly what the customer wants it to do. Dan enjoys the diversity of his work as he is always working on different projects and the opportunity to be creative.

Dan has been with CMDI since its beginning and celebrates his fifth anniversary. He cites the potential for growth and the family atmosphere as two things he enjoys about his work.

Dan is married and he and his wife have five extremely active children. He enjoys activities with his children, hunting and fishing, and Cornhusker football.



Dan

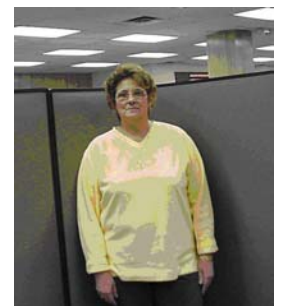


Tricia

Tricia is the office manager for the Wichita branch of Skarda, a position she has held for the past five years. As the sole office employee of the branch, she handles shipping and receiving, as well as any office tasks such as phone calls and faxing. Tricia enjoys the variety of her job and the opportunity to complete different tasks throughout the day. She also finds the people in the Omaha office to be helpful and friendly.

Tricia is married with an 11 year old son and a stepdaughter who is getting married. She enjoys playing with her black lab Shadow, spending time with her family, and participating in church activities.

Betty is celebrating twenty years of service to Skarda Equipment. She started her employment in sales/customer service and has since moved into the purchasing department. Betty spends a lot of time working with different factories, which she really enjoys because some of them she has known for the past twenty years. Betty says Skarda is a good company where people are really friends. For Betty, working at Skarda is also a family affair; her daughter Debbie works part time in the office.



Betty

Betty enjoys using her spare time to read, visit the casino, and play with her little dog Buddy, which she loves.

