



Since 2016, Central New York's volunteer-run community organization sparking interest in the drone education & employment pipeline!

Q3 2021



## Powering Up for 2022

To answer the most important question... YES, we're rebooting our Northeast Team Drone Challenge for 2021-2022! Teams originally registered for FARM-i-GEDDEN (2019-2020) were sent emails in May and June regarding registration for the new season. We've been updating elements, improving the manual & planning on a kick-start event for October 2021 with a competition in April 2022! We anticipate capping the event at 12 teams, although we will accept all 17 original registrants, should they choose to participate. New teams will be accepted as space permits.

It's nearly impossible to overstate how difficult it was to maintain our volunteer-run, hands-on, multi-mentor programs this past year.

There we were, deep into our growing 3<sup>rd</sup> Team Drone Challenge season. We went from 6 to 11 to 17 teams. Suddenly - no competition, no demos, no tech meets, community connection. For a while, we all lacked motivation to move forward. We've kept tabs on how other STEM providers attempted to adapt. We're heard all kinds of stories of struggle from teachers, parents, & volunteers. For us, online continuation didn't mesh with our goals. Our focus on interactive, kinesthetic learning experiences could not be reproduced virtually. Our plan is to stay the course with what works so incredibly well in attracting students to technology - the fun, the interaction, the camaraderie. We've been preparing ourselves for a re-boot with a more cautious, socially distanced approach. Our Planning Committee continues to meet regularly.



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CNY Drones @RoboSpartans Robotics operates as a STEM group, graciously hosted under the 501(c)3 of the Griffiss Institute in cooperation with great community resources. We gladly accept monetary & non-monetary donations as well as new volunteers!

## Growing a Drone Sport

We're gauging local interest in **US Drone Soccer** as a new sport for Middle & High School students!

We're talking with new friends in Colorado about the best way to grow US Drone Soccer in New York State. It makes sense to have it centered here within reach of the NYS Drone Test Site, MVCC's drone tech degree program, AND – in an area where we all hold sports in the highest regard. Is this our region's new way to incorporate our love of sports into drone tech? Let us know what you think! Take a look at US Drone Soccer on YouTube & on their website: <https://www.dronesoccer.us>. Interested in helping us kick it up a notch? Get in on this fast growing, tech-sport on the ground floor - connect with us! CNYDrones@gmail.com



## New Certified Commercial Drone Pilots

Downtime didn't go to waist, we kept meeting, we studied --- & we passed!

In August 2020, CNY Drones Planning Committee meetings turned into a Part 107 study sessions, preparing interested members for testing. We're happy to report that 6 volunteer Committee Members tested & are now Certified Commercial Drone Pilots. Congrats to all! And – thank you to the **Mohawk Valley Testing Center** for helping us schedule our exams!

## Demos, Presentations & Hands-On Workshops

Getting back to regular demos!

We're working on some new ways to safely return to our hands-on, multi-mentor format. Our first demo for 2021 will be **at Rome's Canal Fest**. Catch us on Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> for conversation & demos!

## Combat Bots & Drones



This year, we quietly took notes as a group of Mechanical Engineering students from SUNY Poly worked on their Capstone Project involving Combat Bot redesign. A few of us had witnessed drones in Combat Bot competition. Many of us see the close ties with anything run with a remote control. As a part of our continuing collaboration with SUNY Poly CGAM clubs – the Fabrication, 3D Printing & AMA (drone) clubs, we've been pondering the idea of adding one of our drones into a robot competition. We've connected SUNY students to the [Norwalk Havoc Robot League](#) & will be looking towards developing local feeder competitions.

## Discord Added To Our PLC

Discord outreach is one more way we connect!

This Fall, we're introducing the CNY Drones Discord Server to bring together teachers, students & new recreational pilots in a one-stop location for information on building, repair & flying. We're hoping the new connection with encourage further exchanges of ideas, news & information.

## Promote Your Company's Support of STEM!

Your donation to our annually planned outreach is tax deductible.

STEM-focused sponsors help our volunteers maintain & upgrade equipment, grow new ancillary programs, & increase student outreach! Ever changing technology & constant use forces us to update our equipment regularly. We appreciate having great companies behind us as we increase our promotion of STEM in the community. Help us maintain our commitment to linking students to the drone technology education & employment pipeline! We're happy to share our success stories! Contact us at: [CNYDrones@gmail.com](mailto:CNYDrones@gmail.com) or leave a message at 315-732-1001 for donation information packet.

**STEM CHAMPIONS WELCOMED! HELPING US HELPS OUR FUTURE WORKFORCE!**

*Monetary & equipment donations, sponsor & grant leads, planning assistance & event volunteers are always welcomed! We are run by the community, for the community. We invite your ideas!*

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