



STORM WATCH

YEAR 1 • ISSUE 4 • MAY 2026



TEAM PROGRESS

With the race less than 100 days away, our engineering team is working full steam ahead!

We completed welding the chassis and have sent it off to the professionals for powder coating. We have also unboxed our solar panels and connected them to our motor, which means we have an operational solar powered motor! The team is enjoying hitting these big milestones, but we don't get much time to celebrate.

Read on for details on the team's progress

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Engineering Updates!

Partnering with CGCC

STEM Night

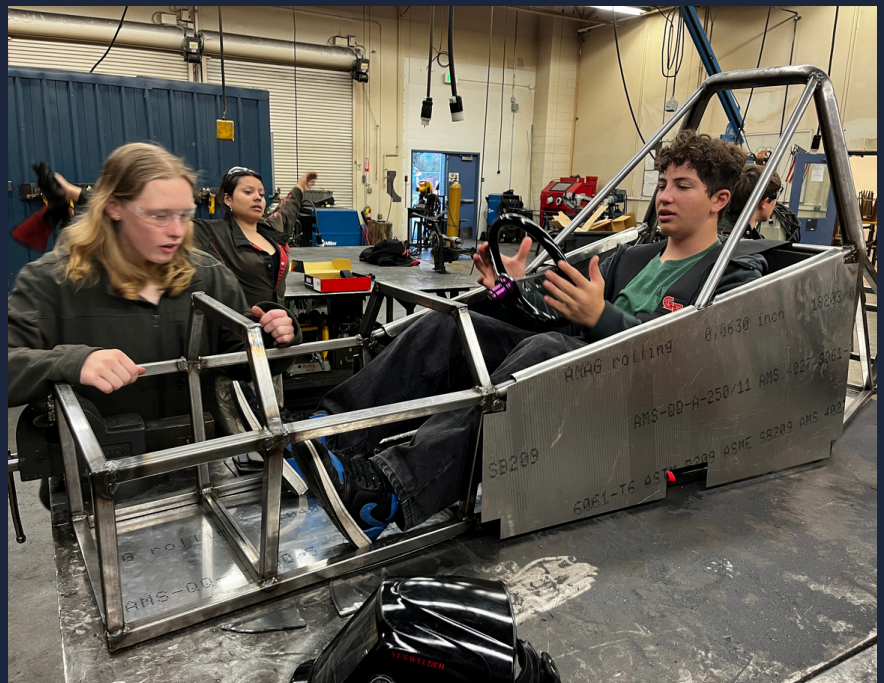
Fundraising Updates

Public Launch Event



ENGINEERING UPDATE

On the engineering/building team, we are currently doing quite a few things. We just recently had our aluminum floor panels mostly done for the side of the car, and the second layer inside the car. We did that by making a design of what shape we would need in a CAD software, then we sent it to CGCC's machining shop in the Dalles, and they cut it out for us with their laser cutter.





MORE ENGINEERING UPDATES



With the chassis done, we shipped it off to a powder coater in the Dalles to keep the chassis looking nice and prevent corrosion. Not only is the chassis getting powder coated, but so are the wheels! Thanks to a local powder coater in Hood River, the rims will be gold and the tires will be added as well. Now the car will be strutting its true colors and making a grand entrance.





WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE ENGINEERING TEAM?



We are currently working on riveting the side panels onto the chassis. Next steps will be to Tungsten Inert Gas Weld the metal a-arms for the suspension, and cutting/welding a few more supports for where the suspension will go.



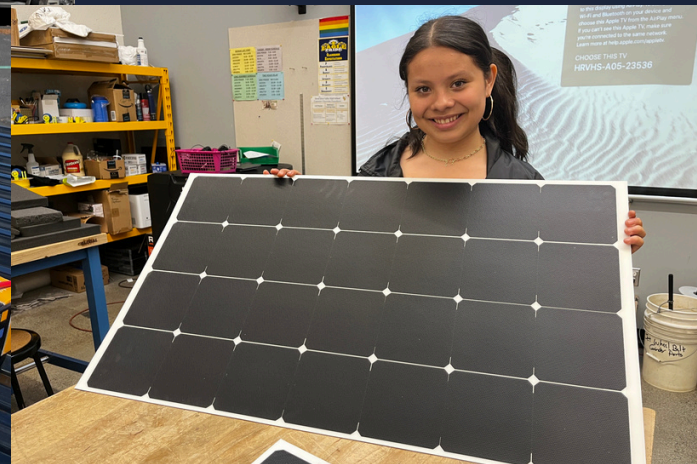


WE HAVE SOLAR PANELS!

We've made huge progress on our solar panel installment! Since receiving our panels, we have attached them to the flat car, and they are now powering our motors! Now, we can actually compete in the race because our car is truly being powered by the sun!



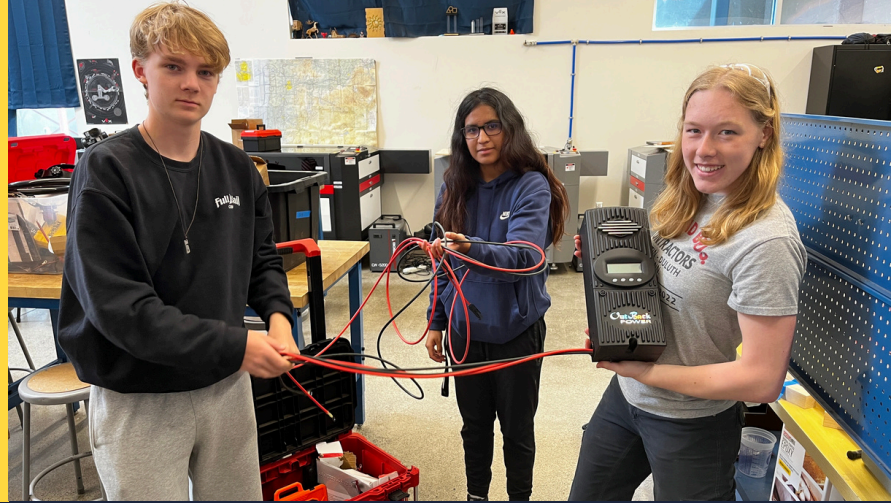
THANK YOU to **SBM Solar** out of North Carolina for donating aerospace grade high-output solar panels to our team! These panels are pliable, lightweight, and super efficient and fit our requirements perfectly. We can't wait to see how fast and how far these will take us.





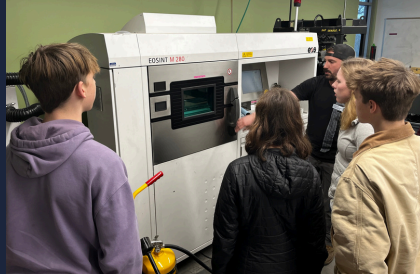
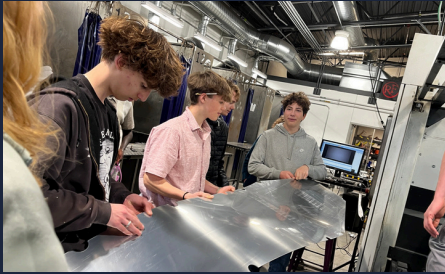
ELECTRICAL/MOTOR UPDATE

We've purchased new buttons for our circuit and have begun to rewire them. We also received our solar panels and have connected them to our power point tracker, converter. Now, the panels are connected to the flat car and we have successfully charged the batteries with the solar panels!

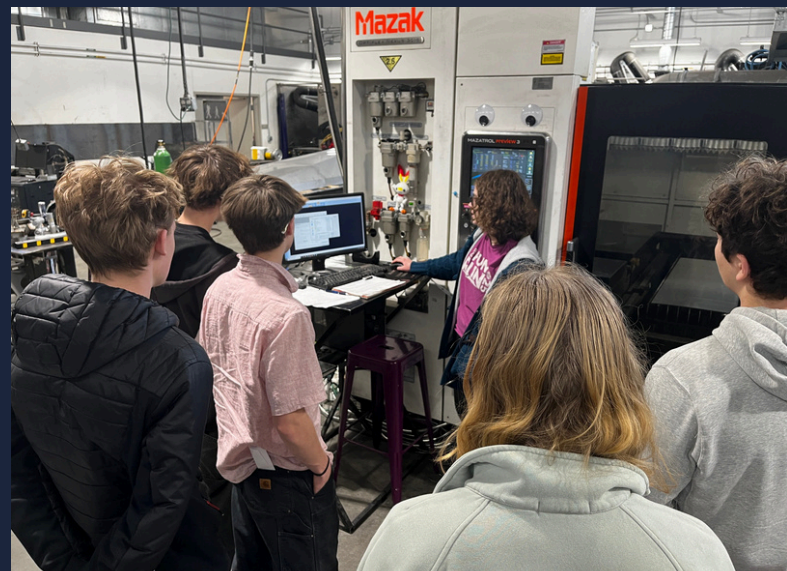




CGCC MENTORSHIP



We have teamed up with Robert Clark, the Welding and Manufacturing instructor at Columbia Gorge Community College. The team has visited the lab in the Dalles on several occasions and worked with Robert using advanced machinery to laser cut panels for the car.





GORGE STEM NIGHT

During the STEM Night on March 18, Elementary kids gathered around our chassis and had so much fun adding their own ideas. They created multiple cardboard panels, drew beautiful designs on the sides, and taped on their own flair to the car, such as a racer's steering wheel, a fancy seat, a spoiler for the back, and a cup holder for a turtle. We were so happy to reach out to the younger community and share our joy for STEM with the kids.





BUSINESS UPDATE

Thank you to Gorge Tech Alliance and Gorge STEM Hub for a joint \$5,000 donation! We have so far raised \$19,600 and are working hard to get to our goal of \$50,000. We have also ordered team stickers to distribute to our sponsors and supporters, as well as worked on our newsletter to keep everyone informed. We are also planning the public launch event and an event at first Friday in June!





FUNDRAISING UPDATE

We are in the final push and we still need to raise \$15-20K to make the trip to the race in Texas affordable and accessible to the whole team. The team members will all soon be participating in a donation drive to help raise funds with the help of friends and family.

YOU can help us spread the word about what we are trying to achieve. HELP US SPREAD THE STORM!!!



Scan here to receive newsletter updates.

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Paul & Judy Ulland

SOLAR STORM

\$10,000+

Help the Team Get to Texas!

Interested in supporting the team? Click [here](#) to donate today (select "Club - Solar Car") or reach out to us at hrvhs.solarcar@gmail.com to become a sponsor!



YOU'RE INVITED!

We are so excited to announce our Public Launch event on June 6th from 6-7:30pm at Hood River Valley High School.

This will be an important opportunity for the team to share the hard work, innovation, and team work that happens behind the scenes. We are eager to show our sponsors, local media, and community how this new hands-on engineering program has impacted our team members!

