

Science Olympiad strikes again

By **Ashley Berlot**

Thursday, April 4, 2013



Photo Credit: Lindsay Croom

"...Everybody is able to bring something to the table no matter who you are. If it wasn't for this diversity, we would not be making it to States this year..." ~ Shelby Mychayliw

On Wednesday, March 6th, North Pocono's Science Olympiad team competed in the Northeastern Region Competition at Penn State Wilkes-Barre. The team competed in all 23 "C level" events, which are the events designed for the high school level. Out of the long list of events teams are able to participate in, North Pocono placed 1st in Water Quality, 2nd in Gravity Vehicle, Magnetic Levitation, Circuit Lab, Forensics, Material Science, Rocks and Minerals, and Dynamic Planet, 3rd in Elastic Launched Glider and Experimental Design, and 4th in Fermi Questions and Astronomy.

The North Pocono team had competed at three previous invitationals before the regional competition: One on January 12th at Valley Forge, another on January 19th at Athens, and a third on February 9th at Northwestern Lehigh. Although the team did fabulous at the competitions, regionals provided North Pocono with a spot as the third place finalist. They then went on to compete at the state level at Juniata College.

The team, led by Mr. and Mrs. Croom, was extremely enthusiastic about their competition. It consists of seniors Bryn Aston, Mackenzie Black, Rebecca DeGiosio, Emily Donahue, Dylan Fantini, Tristan Flood, Kyle Haddock, Amber Lane, Kayla Limani, Marissa Maurer, Carly Mischello, Shelby Mychayliw, Joey Stalker, Ray Watkins, Spencer Williams, and Davey Yatsonsky; juniors Jerrid Demeck, Austin Ely, Wesley Fenstermaker, Justin Gensel, Aaron Goryl, Scott Lougee, Trevor Pawlik, Christine Reid, Nathan Rosengrant, Kerrianna Wallace, Marissa Wolfe, and Elizabeth Youshock; sophomores Ashley Berlot, Anna Dyska, Alexa Flood, Fernando Forte, Matthew Kuniegel, Sophia Parola, Marissa Reuther, Zac Silvia, and Jared Williams; freshmen Cierra Fantini, Mike McGee, Josh Misiura, and Nick Trinovitch.

Senior Dave Yatsonsky could not wait for the state competition, weeks before it occurred, "We've got a strong team from freshmen through seniors. We're really excited about states, and we're looking to do very well there!" he said. Another senior, Shelby Mychayliw, is going to miss Science Olympiad so much as she moves onto college. "Science Olympiad isn't just another club for me; it's a family. It has helped me grow into the person I am today and who I want to become. A lot of people think it is just a club for smart people, when in reality it's a club that anyone can join. We have events in topics that range anywhere from Chem Lab to Rocks and Minerals. We also

have building events for those who like the hands-on aspect of the club. Everybody is able to bring something to the table no matter who you are. If it wasn't for this diversity, we would not be making it to states this year." Shelby is extremely proud of how well the team has done so far this year. "I am so proud of my SciOly family for working their butts off to get us there. In Regionals, we lost second place by one point, but we didn't let that get us down. We brought our swag to States and kicked some butt. As a captain of the team, I will never forget these exceptionally great and hardworking people. I can only hope that the juniors are able to carry on the legacy next year," she said.

At states, the team diligently competed. After some difficult competition, North Pocono placed second in the region and eleventh at states, a great feat compared to their nineteenth place state's score last year. The two trial events North Pocono competed in gained first and third place medals. Junior Austin Ely is well versed in the Science Olympiad club. He says, "It's been my third year in Science Olympiad and my second time at states. I am significantly impressed with the quality of work and dedication the team has displayed over the past three years, and I am proud to be part of the team." We would like to congratulate the team on a job well done this year, in hopes of placing even higher next year.