Design Contest
ME72 Engineering Design Laboratory
Fall Term, 2001
Student Participants: Things To Do Prior to Contest Day

1. One of the contest tables will be moved to Beckman Auditorium on Tuesday before the contest, and will be available for practice by Tuesday afternoon. A night-watchman will be on duty at Beckman Auditorium on Tuesday and Wednesday nights. He will be instructed to let ME72 students into Beckman Auditorium for practice.

2. The other contest table will be moved to Beckman Auditorium on the Wednesday before the contest. At that time, both tables will be set up and available for practice.

3. Practice! Practice! Practice! Be sure you can competently operate your device.

4. Practice setting up your team’s devices in the 44 seconds allotted. You will be penalized for any time over 44 seconds that your team uses to set up (as described in the rules).

5. Remember that no device will be permitted to compete without an antenna.

6. Remember that the recommended antenna length is 1 meter, positioned as high as possible. Jittery devices are most likely caused by weak radio signal reception, and a longer and higher antenna will help dramatically.

7. Be sure your power cabling and connector is working properly. Device jittering can also be caused by intermittent power connections.

8. Remember that the proper order to connect cables to the R/C module is:
   (a) Antenna (black),
   (b) Power (grey),
   (c) Motors (blue).

9. Be sure the power module is mounted to your device, e.g., by Velcro. Don’t depend on the wires alone.

10. Can you set them up in less than 44 seconds? A test of this capability will be performed on Tuesday morning.

11. Is your device completely legal? Are all of your screws and other threaded fasteners legal? Do your team’s devices fit in the size box? Are they less than the maximum weight? A test of size and weight will be performed on Thursday morning.
12. Don’t paint or decorate your device the night before the contest.

13. Have a fall-back strategy if your device fails.

14. Don’t “Fix” your device on the last day. For example, be wary of replacing belts with “fresh” ones just prior to the contest. If you make any change at the last minute (no matter how small), be sure to thoroughly test your device to be sure the changes work as planned.

15. Display Device Numbers Prominently on the Top of your device so they can be read by a video camera above the contest table. Two inches high is a good guideline.