



NBAHA

Newsletter of the North Branch Area Hockey Association – February 2009

Dates to Remember

- 2/21 – 3/1: District 10 Playoffs
3/4: Arena/Arena Capital Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm @ NB Library
3/18: Arena/Arena Capital Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm @ NB Library
3/19: NBAHA Board Meeting, 7 p.m. @ North Branch Library
3/24: **NBAHA Annual Membership Meeting, 7 p.m.** @ North Branch Library

Annual Meeting

**Tuesday, March 24, 2009 @ 7pm
North Branch Library Community Room**

Mark your calendars and plan on attending this year's annual meeting. The items listed below are discussed at this meeting and it is important for as much of the membership to be involved as possible.

- Vote on board members
- Vote on disbursing gambling proceeds
- Receive an update from each board member on the past year
- Receive an update on the arena effort and have a chance to ask all of your questions.
- Provide information or ideas on how to make NBAHA better.

Bingo Help Needed!!!

We are currently hiring bingo employees for the Oak Inn and Pizza Pub charitable gambling sites. The pay is \$10 per hour. If you are interested, contact Lisa Henderson at gamblingmanager@northbranchhockey.com or at 651-674-2440.

Letter from the President

Members...

It's hard to believe another hockey season has almost come and gone. Congratulations to those teams that made districts and best of luck to you all.

Our annual meeting is coming up next month and I would like to encourage all of you to attend. The annual meeting is intended to recap the past year and look forward to the coming year. It's also a meeting that is well attended and is a great opportunity to provide updates on topics such as the arena and charitable gambling. We also have a nominating committee working hard to ensure we have members lined up to run for the board positions that will be vacated. We also look for input on what we can do in the coming year to continually improve on the hockey experience we are providing for the kids. Please make every effort to attend.

With that said, I want to make you aware of two recent changes to the board. First, Lynda Chilstrom has stepped down as Secretary and Lisa Isaacson, Publicity Director, has taken on these responsibilities until we can find and appoint a new Secretary to fill that void. I want to thank Lynda for her years of very dedicated support to the North Branch Hockey Association. She has put in countless hours supporting the association in many capacities. The next change is concerning Don Osland. Don has done a terrific job for a number of years supporting Building and Maintenance. We have mutually agreed to remove Building and Maintenance as a board position and make it a manager level position reporting in to the Vice President. The reason for this was to not only to manage the size of the board but also help us be more successful in our recruiting efforts should Don ever decide to step down. We tend to struggle to find a Building and Maintenance Director as those interested would fill the position but weren't interested in being on the board. I want to thank Don for his years of service on the board and his willingness to support our Building and Maintenance needs.

Please don't ever hesitate to contact me or any other board member with questions or recommendations on how to improve our association and hockey experience for the kids.

Thanks!
Tim

District 10 Tournament Volunteers Needed!!!

What an exciting time of the year. District Playoffs will be starting tomorrow. Different than in past years where we worked Super Sunday at Anoka, we will be partnering with C.I. to support the district playoff games hosted at Isanti arena. District 10 requires each association to volunteer for positions at the arenas that host games for the District playoffs. This season the Isanti Arena will be hosting the C PW and C Bantam portion of the tournament. In return for your hard work you will be given a gate pass to get into all D10 playoff games. This pass is accepted at all arena's that district 10 playoff's are taking place.

I will be organizing and scheduling the hours for C.I.N.B. Please contact me at president@northbranchhockey.com to arrange for a time slot that will work for you (pending availability). Thank you in advance for your participation and hard work. It is much appreciated.

Regards,
Tim Cashill

Annual Meeting – Board Member Elections

The current board has begun looking ahead to next year's board positions that will be voted on at the annual membership meeting in March. For the 2009-10 season, there will be two officer positions, Vice President and Treasurer, up for election. The board will also be appointing someone to fill the remaining term for secretary. All director positions are up for election each year. The director positions include: coaching, ice director, registrar, fundraising, publicity and mite director.

The nominations committee, chaired by Tim Cashill, is working to find interested and dedicated association members that are willing to fill these positions and do the work necessary to keep the association moving forward. Descriptions of the positions are available at <http://northbranchhockey.com/board/>.

If you are interested in running for a board position or know of someone who would be a good board member candidate, please contact Tim Cashill at president@northbranchhockey.com.

Bar Bingo – Tuesday's @ 6:30 pm Meat Raffle – Saturday's @ 2 pm

Bar Bingo will now be offered on Tuesday's at 6:30 pm at Pizza Pub and Meat Raffle's on Saturday's at 2 pm. Stop by and show your support.

Congratulations CINB A Bantam & A Pee wee teams for making it to the District 10 Tournament!

District 10 playoffs begin tomorrow, Saturday, 2/21. Come show your support for the following teams during District Playoffs. The bracket for each level is available at <http://www.district10hockey.org/tournaments.php>, please verify times and locations at this link.

A Bantams:

1st game: Saturday, 2/21 vs. Rogers at 12:15 pm at Champlin Park Forum
2nd game: Sometime on Sunday, 2/22 at Champlin Park Forum.

A Pee wee:

1st game: Saturday, 2/21 vs. Elk River at 12:00 pm at Centennial
2nd game: Sometime on Tuesday evening, 2/24 at Centennial

B1 Squirt: (All Squirt Teams go to District Playoffs)

1st game: Sunday, 2/22 vs. Elk River at 5:00 pm at Anoka 2
2nd game: Sometime on Thursday evening, 2/26 at Anoka

B2 Squirt: (All Squirt Teams go to District Playoffs)

1st game: Saturday, 2/21 vs. Anoka Maroon at 7:20 pm at Anoka 1
2nd game: Either Tuesday, 2/24 in the evening or Wednesday 2/25 in the evening at Anoka

C Squirt: (All Squirt Teams go to District Playoffs)

1st game: Saturday 2/21 vs. Centennial at 2:40 pm at Isanti Arena
2nd game: Sometime on Sunday 2/22 at Isanti Arena

Good luck at the District 10 Tournament!

S.K.A.T.E

NBAHA is participating in the S.K.A.T.E. Program this year. S.K.A.T.E. stands for "Skaters Keep Achieving Through Education" and is a program that encourages, supports and rewards youth hockey players who commit themselves to their schoolwork while enjoying the sport of hockey.

Lena Shepherd is the S.K.A.T.E. coordinator and will be getting information to team managers this week. Managers, if you have any questions, please email Lena at lshepherd7@hotmail.com.

Parents, for more information please talk to your team manager.

Arena Update

The arena and arena capital committees have been meeting every other week since the beginning of January. Their goal is get the arena effort moving again and come up with new options that could still provide the opportunity to make a rink a reality in today's economy.

Currently, the committee is looking at a phased approach to building an arena in Stacy. This phased approach would be very similar to what was done by Pine City and Grantsburg.

The arena committee has been working with a consultant and building contractor to determine the best approach to meet our needs as well as to gather cost estimates for each potential phase. The arena capital committee is doing prep work needed to be able to start pursuing grant options as soon as a plan is formalized and approved.

What are the next steps? The arena committee will be finalizing costs per proposed phase and getting a draft drawing of the phases completed. They will also be meeting with the City of Stacy to discuss our ideas to determine if they would be on board. Most likely, this information will be presented to the membership at the annual meeting in March. If the information is available sooner, a special membership meeting would be held and members would be notified. When the proposal is brought to the membership, the committee will explain the plan and entertain any questions the membership has. At that point, the membership will be voting on whether to pursue this new plan.

The committees are very excited to discover there are options available that are very attainable and look forward to sharing this information with you. We hope that all of our members get as excited about this project.

Annual Meeting – Charitable Giving

The North Branch Area Hockey Association annually disburses money back to the community as a result of the revenue generated from NBAHA's charitable gambling operations throughout the area. The following organizations will be considered for a disbursement at the annual meeting.

Potential recipients of gambling proceeds:

Camp Sunrise, City of Stacy (arena fund), Early Childhood Coalition, NB High School Hockey Program, John Pinnseanault scholarship fund, Let's Go Fishing, NB Music Booster Club, North Branch Area Athletic Association, North Branch Library, North Branch Lions, Ruby's Pantry Food Shelf, Senior All Night Party, Trinity Christian School, Youth Service Bureau, Blue Line Club.

Winter Learn to Skate

Thanks to the coaches, skaters and parents who volunteered at Learn to Skate this winter. Without your help we could not offer this program to the community.

Equipment Turn-in Mite Players, Mite & Traveling Coaches & Goalies!!!!

Thursday March 5th @ 6pm or Saturday March 7th @ 8:30am
At the shack south end of the High School

Please Return all equipment: Pucks, Puck Bags, Water Bottles, Equipment, Sticks, Goalie Gear, Jerseys, Jersey Bags, Pullovers, Everything!!!

Coaches and Managers are responsible for collecting all equipment from players and returning it. Mite Parents with Rental Equipment will be required to turn in all equipment on day and time above. Spring League Coaches & Players: You will be required to leave a deposit check for any Association Gear checked out.

If you are unable to make one these times call Carl @ 651-492-4082 to set up a different time.

Head Coaches Turn in Coaches Books

Mite head coaches need to turn in their coach's book to Kristi White as soon as possible after your season has ended. If you have any questions, contact Kristi at 651-674-1854.



Vikings Blue Line Club Presents Boys High School Hockey Second Annual Basket Bingo

Bingo Prizes -- Featuring Beautiful
Longaberger® collectible baskets
(hand weaved baskets from Ohio)

When: March 21st, 2009 from 9am-12:00noon.
Where: Trinity Lutheran church in North Branch, MN
Ticket prices: \$20.00 available at the door or purchase directly from any Boys High School Hockey Player

What Do You Get For \$20.00?? 20 fun-filled games of Bingo

We are a community organization designed and developed to assist with fundraising efforts for our North Branch High School Hockey programs. All baskets generously contributed by local businesses.

www.vikingsbluelineclub.org

North Branch Area Hockey Association Members,

The Oak Inn would like to thank you again for the opportunity to team with your organization in an effort to promote hockey and raise money. Our Progressive Mega Bingo is up and running. People seem to be enjoying it and it's great to offer it at our location. Lisa Henderson has done a great job coordinating all the events. We are currently offering pull tabs, bar bingo, meat raffles, and progressive bingo. The days and hours are listed below. We would like to invite all members to join us anytime and have attached another coupon for your dining enjoyment. Feel free to copy as many as you would like. Please feel free to contact me or my staff at anytime with any concerns or questions that you may have. Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity.

Sincerely,
Gloria Bergstrom
651-674-9977

Mega & Bar Bingo - Wednesdays 7 PM / Saturdays 1 PM
Meat Raffle - Sundays 3 PM
For more information - please visit our web site @
www.theoakinn.net
The Oak Inn - North Branch

cut coupon here
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

THE OAK INN
BUY ONE LUNCH OR
DINNER ENTREE, GET
SECOND ENTREE
HALF PRICED

- * beverage purchase required for each meal
- * ½ priced entree must be equal value or less
- * coupon valid 11am to 10pm
- * coupon not valid with other discount/special
- * coupon expires March 31, 2009
- * sorry, eat in only

To the A mite black team players,

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to our team this season. We started out three months ago with only three returning players and the rest of you just learning how to skate. You came to practices, gave it your all, and soon became a team. From our first game at the Mora Jamboree to our most recent against Pine City you have continued to improve and grow. For the new players you have gone from walkers to scoring goals. For our returning players, you have incorporated stick handling, passing and play making into your game. We are proud of each one of you for your accomplishments this season. We hope you take with you not only the obvious skills that have been learned on the ice, but perhaps more importantly, a sense of commitment, dedication, sportsmanship and teamwork.

Thank you for a great season!

Tim, Todd, Dan, Bruce, Kerry & Tamara

A Mite Red Team

When the Red A-Mites started the season there were a few kids who could barely stand-up on skates. But due to their hard work they were skating within a few short weeks. All the skaters showed significant improvement throughout the season. While the returning skaters started to put their passing, shooting and scoring together, the new skaters were able to pick up on these skills as well, along with other fundamental skills young hockey players need.

One of the most memorable events of the season was the Mora Jamboree, highlighted by near blizzard-like conditions for the Saturday night game ~ an unforgettable memory!

With the season coming to an end, we would like to thank the players and parents for their dedication and a wonderful, fun-filled season.

We wish all the skaters a great off-season and look forward to seeing you back next fall!

Don, Tom, Rick, Brian, Dawn and Janelle



A Mite White

The White A Mite team started out excited and eager to have fun and learn about hockey. Skating was slow at 1st for a few, but within a couple weeks, all the walkers were gone and all were skating on their own. As the season progressed the skaters got faster and faster and their smiles got bigger and bigger. The games started, and the kids learned to work as a team and made many goals together. Now many of the players are looking forward to becoming even better hockey players next year.

Thank-you to all the parents for supporting the kids, and a special THANKS to all the Kids for a great season!

Pat, Rich, Todd, Derek, Lisa & Angela

North Branch C Mite Red Team - Grantsburg Champions

The North Branch team had a great weekend of hockey, January 24th and 25th. After playing a little sluggish in their first game on Saturday morning, the team stepped it up Saturday afternoon and made their way into the title game. The game was a seesaw battle with the host team. North Branch finished the job though in the third period by first tying the score and then winning in dramatic fashion. Congratulations players and coaches.



CINB B-1 Bantams

The B-1 Bantams played their final games of the year in the Rum River Classic Tournament. The kids had a challenging year but worked hard all season and did their best every game. This marked the end of the youth hockey career for many kids as they will move onto the high school team next year. The weekend was filled with stories from many parents who have spent the last ten years watching their kids grow up in youth hockey. The B-1 bantams finished their season with 3 exciting games. They played a tough North St. Paul team on Friday. They played Blaine on Saturday losing in a shootout that took 8 shooters from each side to decide the game. They finished the weekend with a 3-2 victory over Albert Lea. The Bantams will have their team party at the Owls game on Friday which will have them skating with the Owls before the game and singing the National Anthem. Special Thanks to all the coaches, managers and parents who volunteered to make this a great year.

CINB B - 1 Squirts Champs in the C-E-C B squirt tournament

The weekend of February 13-15, the CINB B - 1 squirts went up to Cloquet and brought home the championship trophy of the 10 - team tournament by winning an exciting title game tilt against Centennial Black 4 - 3.

The B - 1's advanced to the title game on Sunday by finishing 3 - 0 in Pool A play (Silver Bay was also 3 - 0 in Pool A but CINB had a better goal differential for the weekend to that point, which was the first tiebreaker).

The weekend started with an exciting 5 - 4 win over Cloquet White, a game in which CINB trailed 4 - 1 going into the 3rd period but staged a furious rally culminating with a breakaway goal with under a minute remaining.

Saturday the B - 1's won an early game against Cloquet Black 4 - 1 , then capped the day with a 7 - 1 whitewashing of an undermanned Greenway White team, setting the stage for the aforementioned title tilt with Centennial. CINB had lost a game to the same Centennial team earlier in this season by a score of 10 - 4. However, this game found a CINB team that gave a complete team effort the entire game and, coupled with Centennial's inability to stay out of the penalty box, the stage was set for the 4 - 3 thriller. After pulling out to a 4 - 1 lead midway through the 3rd period, CINB survived a pair of quick goals by Centennial and held on for the exciting win.

Team members are: FRONT ROW (L - R) (lying is Nate Muehlberg #6), Lauren Boettcher #21, Tyler Cashill #33. 2ND ROW (L - R) Jack Goodmanson #17, Austin Howell #13, Connor Lee #47, Jared Konen #67, Cullen Osen #49, Brandon Waldo #24, Mitchell Ziebarth #25. 3RD ROW (L - R) Austin Schlenker #37, Nick Fairbanks #15, Jeremiah Magnuson #12, Noah Sunde #31, Derrick Isaacson #19, Ryan Byrkit #5. BACK ROW COACHES (L - R) Tim Cashill, Brian Goodmanson, Phil Schlenker, Hugh Muehlberg.



CINB Pee wee A Take Championship at Little Falls Tournament January 23-25, 2009

First game paired them up against Crow River, this was a rematch from an early season scrimmage loss, this time CINB came out with a win 4-2 on a back and forth, fast paced game. 2nd game of tournament paired the team against New Prague. New Prague scored first, but we battled back to take the game 5-3. Securing this win brought the boys to the championship game versus Orono. Orono brought a tough and very physical team to this game though we came away very battered and bruised we played stronger to get the win 6-4. Team members on photo back row left to right: Jake Slyvester, Colton Miller, Levi Miller, Elliott Simon, Matt Olson and Kurtis Grimm. Middle Row: Mavrick Nelson, Brandon Timm, Colin Anderson, Joe Courtright, Ian Dunham, Dustin Davis, Ben Henderson. Front Row: Blaise Fairbanks and Randy Hoff.



CINB B2 Bantam team

The B2 Bantam team coached by Mark Kissner finished the season with an overall record of 2-14-2. Although those numbers are not very impressive, our games were much better than our record. Many games were lost by just one point. Despite the disappointing outcome, the kids certainly made new friendships and had a great time. They should be proud as they never hung their heads.

We finished the year with a team party at the Pizza Pub in Cambridge where Coach Kissner awarded kids for most goals, (Tate Blankenship), most assists, (Logan Klatt), most points, (Logan Klatt), hardest worker, (Ryan Zentner), most coachable, (John Dummer), most improved, (Kaleb Larson), best attendance, (Casey Ryan). They are all winners to us! Thanks boys for a great year.

Season Ends for the CINB B2 Squirts

The B2 Squirts had a great year this year. The kids really pulled together and played hard all year. They ended their season this past weekend, at a tournament in Cloquet. Although the weekend ended without any wins, they never gave up, and played hard all weekend. They also had a great time cheering the B1's to their championship victory!

They will begin district playoffs this weekend in Anoka. Best of luck to the team, and special thanks to the coaches and parents for making a very fun and successful season!

CINB C Pee wee Team Update

If smiles at the end of a game indicate a child's feeling of accomplishment and enthusiasm toward an activity then it can definitely be said that the CINB Pee wee C team had an outstanding season! Hockey at the Pee wee C level is all about improving skill sets while having fun and developing a passion for the game. With three players on the team experiencing hockey for their first time, it was a proud moment when the team could announce that all new players had officially scored a goal during the season!

To keep the players motivated and excited, two tournaments were originally scheduled. Families and players both were able to bond early in December in Brainerd when they attended their first tournament. A third tournament in Princeton was added mid-season when parents and players overwhelmingly voted to include it. The final tournament in Andover is scheduled for the weekend of March 6th-8th.

CINB B2 Pee wee Team Attends Moose Goheen Tournament

The CINB B2 Pee wee Team had a great time at the Moose Goheen Tournament this season.



North Branch Area Hockey Association - NBAHA

Mite Parent survey

Please return to Team Manager by end of year party.

Please take a moment to provide feedback on your experiences this season from a parent's perspective. Your name is optional and your input is invaluable to our future decisions so please, take a moment whether your experience was great or could have been better. You can return this survey to your team manager, coach, a Mite committee member, board member or mail to the PO Box listed at the end of this newsletter.

Team: _____ **Parent(s):** _____

1) How did you hear about NBAHA? (Please circle one)
Friday Folder, Web page, Newspaper, Older sibling in program. Other: _____

2) Please rank the order of importance of the reasons for you signing up this year:
__Cost. __Played as a kid __ Friends. __Older sibling __Other: _____

1 = Poor 5 = Excellent

3) The information I received at Registration/Mite Night was complete.....1 2 3 4 5
Comments: _____

4) The equipment I received from NBAHA was the correct fit / condition.....1 2 3 4 5
Comments: _____

5) The coach provided good communication with parents..... 1 2 3 4 5
Comments: _____

6) The coaching staff treated my player fairly..... 1 2 3 4 5
Comments: _____

7) The practices level was appropriate for this level.1 2 3 4 5
Comments: _____

8) There was the right ratio of games to practices.....1 2 3 4 5
Comments: _____

9) The manager provide good communication with parents.....1 2 3 4 5
Comments: _____

10) What is the area that NBAHA needs the most improvement? _____

11) What was your players favorite part of his/her season? _____

12) Will you be returning next year? YES NO
If no, reason: _____
If Yes, what grade will your skater be in next year: _____

Any additional comments: _____

Thank you.

Association Contact Information				
NBAHA	PO 541, North Branch	MN 55056	651-674-4152	www.northbranchhockey.com
Gambling Manager	Lisa Henderson		651-674-2440	gamblingmanager@northbranchhockey.com
NBAHA Board Members				
President	Tim Cashill		651-408-1055	president@northbranchhockey.com
Vice President	Jeff Henderson		651-674-2440	vicepresident@northbranchhockey.com
Treasurer	Paige Lee		651-674-6298	treasurer@northbranchhockey.com
Secretary				secretary@northbranchhockey.com
Building & Maintenance				buildingandmaintenance@northbranchhockey.com
Coaching Director	Ben Fairbanks		651-674-5958	coaching@northbranchhockey.com
Fundraising	Jen Fairbanks		651-674-0813	fundraising@northbranchhockey.com
Ice Director	Tom Garin		651-277-0160	icedirector@northbranchhockey.com
Publicity	Lisa Isaacson		612-807-4609	publicity@northbranchhockey.com
Registrar	Kristi White		651-674-1854	registrar@northbranchhockey.com
Mite Director	Craig Moline		651-248-6302	mitedirector@northbranchhockey.com

Annual Meeting
 March 24th
 7 pm
 North Branch Library Community Room

North Branch Area Hockey Association
PO 541
North Branch, MN 55056