



NBAHA

Newsletter of the North Branch Area Hockey Association – May 2008

Dates to Remember

- 5/29: NBAHA Membership Meeting, 7 p.m.
NBAHA Board meeting, 8 p.m.
@ North Branch Library Community Room
- 6/22: Midsummer Day Parade in North Branch
Parade Lineup at 1 pm, Parade at 2 pm
- 6/25: NBAHA Membership Meeting, 7 p.m.
NBAHA Board meeting, 8 p.m.
@ North Branch Library Community Room
- 8/2: Stacy Daze Booth & Parade
- 10/17: 5th Annual Power Play Fundraiser

www.northbranchhockey.com

Go to <http://northbranchhockey.com/> for up to date information on North Branch Area Hockey association.



2008-2009 NBAHA Board Members

The 2008 – 2009 NBAHA Board Members took over their elected board positions at the April board meeting.

There was no change to the following board positions.

Secretary – Lynda Chilstrom

Treasurer - Paige Lee (not up for election this year)

Building & Maintenance - Don Osland

Publicity – Lisa Isaacson

Registrar – Kristi White

Mite Director - Craig Moline

Ice Director– Tom Garin

Fundraising – Jen Fairbanks

Coaching Director – Ben Fairbanks

The following changed board positions.

President - Tim Cashill

Vice President - Jeff Henderson

NBAHA to Co-op with Cambridge/Isanti for 2008-2009 Season

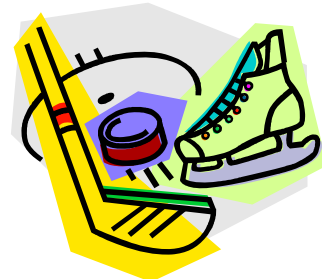
We are excited to inform you that North Branch Area Hockey Association and Cambridge/Isanti Hockey Association have committed to a co-op for the 2008-2009 hockey season at the traveling levels. A committee made up of members and board members from both associations is being formed and will be meeting to work out all of the details.

Both associations feel that a co-op will provide a better hockey experience for the skaters at every level of play. Our goal is to place kids at their proper ability level. By doing this we feel that we will be more competitive, not only at the top levels, but at every level.

Below are the items the Board asked Cambridge/Isanti to provide in a co-op.

1. Ice provided for all North Branch teams at one location, including mite teams.
2. Co-op for all traveling levels Squirts, Peewees and Bantams with all players eligible to play on any level team based on evaluation process agreed upon by both associations.
3. Each association would host the same number of teams as if we were hosting teams without the co-op.
4. Equal representation of coaches from each association on each team.
5. Provide ice hours for all tryouts.

We will keep you updated as we make progress on the co-op.



Adopt-A-Highway Saturday, May 17th, 10 am

Thanks to everyone who helped with Adopt-A-Highway!

Arena Update

The arena project continues to move forward. The committee is working hard at gathering the necessary documentation to complete the grant application process. A number of grants are being pursued and the committee is doing a great job of gathering the data and getting the applications together for submission. The committee also remains committed to locating other funding sources to close the \$300,000 gap.

In addition to this work the committee is also in the process of having final drawings completed and gathering final budget information. We soon will have a sign on the future site of the new arena in Stacy. This should help increase awareness in the community. We will keep you posted as new information is received.

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.

This year, NBAHA made disbursements totaling \$50,700 thanks to the successful charitable gambling operations at Big Daddy's (Harris), JJ's Bowl (North Branch), Pizza Pub (North Branch), Tortillas (Lindstrom), Wild River (Almelund), and Border Bar (Taylors Falls).

NBAHA would like to thank the residents and businesses in North Branch and the surrounding communities for supporting NBAHA and our charitable gambling operations.

2008 (\$50,700)

\$7,200 - High School hockey program
\$1,000 - Chisago Schools for outdoor ice rink
\$2,000 - City of Taylors Falls
\$250 - NB Music Booster Club
\$250 - Early Childhood Coalition
\$250 - Senior All Night Party
\$500 - Youth Service Bureau
\$250 - John Pinnseanault scholarship fund
\$125 - Trinity Christian School
\$500 - North Branch Area Athletic Association
\$250 - North Branch Library
\$125 - North Branch Lions
\$38,000 - City of Stacy (Multi-purpose arena fund)

Number of Skaters and Coaches Up in District 10

Last year, District 10 had an increase of 193 players and 125 coaches!

Upcoming Summer Events Volunteers Needed!!!

NBAHA will be participating in a couple of publicity events this summer. Volunteers are needed to make these events a success.

Midsummer Day Parade: Sunday, June 22nd in North Branch. Lineup at 1:00 pm, parade starts at 2:00 pm. Volunteers needed to walk and rollerblade. Volunteers are also needed to put together the float and drive it in the parade.

Stacy Daze Booth & Parade: Saturday, August 2nd in Stacy. We are still waiting for details, but in past years the booth has been open 8 am to 5 pm and the parade was at Noon. Volunteers will be needed to work at the booth and to walk/rollerblade in the parade. Watch for more details.

Call Lisa Isaacson at 612-807-4609 or email publicity@northbranchhockey.com if you have any questions and to volunteer.

Coaching Applications For Traveling Teams Due by July 1st!

Coaching applications for head and assistant coaches for Squirt, PeeWee and Bantam teams are due to the Coaching Director by July 1st. Applications are available at <http://northbranchhockey.com/board/coaching-director/coaches/>. Or call Ben Fairbanks at 651-674-5958.

Coaching Certification Level 1, 2, 3, 4 Classes

If you are interested in being a Mite, Squirt, PeeWee, or Bantam coach or helping on the ice with Learn to Skate and are not currently certified at the correct level or need to be recertified, start watching USA Hockey Website, www.usahockey.com for certification dates. Clinic dates are usually posted mid summer. We have been told a Level 4 clinic will be held at the Super Rink on September 19th.

If you are interested in attending a certification class, contact the coaching director, Ben Fairbanks. Ben will register all of the coaches needing certification so the association can pay the registration fee. Contact Ben at 651-674-5958.

Minnesota Hockey Golf Tournament July 18th

Minnesota Hockey will be hosting its annual golf tournament on July 18th. If you are interested in attending please contact Mr. Dave Meisner at 651-770-3642 or Mr. Mark Jorgenson at 651-602-5727.

Volunteer Policy 2008 - 2009

The Board is reviewing the volunteer policy for the 2008-09 season. Our goal is to get people involved in the association and the future policy will be focused on getting families active on committees. The committees currently include: arena, building/flooring; coaching, publicity, fundraising and Learn to Skate. Watch for more details in the June newsletter.



Power Play Fundraiser October 18th!

The 5th annual Power Play Fundraiser will be held on October 18th. Watch for more details in upcoming months.

Mite Recruitment

In order to grow our association, we need to start at the Mite level and build a large population of skaters. We lose a large number of Mite skaters each year for a number of reasons. In order to have a large enough population of skaters as we get to the traveling levels, we need to have a very large base to start with.

The Board has decided to make a special attempt at recruiting 4, 5 and 6 year old Mites to try playing hockey. This age group will play hockey this coming season for \$40. All equipment, except skates and stick, will be provided to the first 75 skaters who register. Fall and Winter Learn to Skate will be included in the cost. First year families will be encouraged, but not required to participate in volunteer and fundraising activities.

This \$40 offer, including starter equipment if needed, will apply to 4, 5, 6 year old skaters who have already skated with the association in previous seasons. Those families will be required to participate in the volunteer and fundraising activities. If you have a skater who would like to skate again this year and they need starter equipment, please send a \$40 check to NBAHA, P.O. BOX 541, NORTH BRANCH, MN 55056 and the registration form available online, to reserve your starter set.

We will start advertising this offer in schools and around town this month and continue throughout the summer. The flyer will be posted on the website under "Skaters Age 4 - 8". Please pass this information on to any friends and family members who have 4, 5 and 6 year olds who would like to give hockey a try.

Introducing the Vikings Blue Line Club

In an effort to help raise money for the high school hockey program and provide in-season extras for the team, a club is being formed. The Vikings Blue Line Club is a non-profit organization that will conduct various fundraising activities to help the high school hockey program.

The Vikings Blue Line Club is not affiliated with NBAHA or Independent School District #138. It will be comprised of members of our community that have a love of hockey and want to see their skaters play for the high school they are attending.

You may not be aware that over the last several years the school district has operated with a deficit and the hockey program has been impacted by these budget adjustments. In 2007-2008, 50% of the athletic budget cuts directly affected the hockey program. For 2008-2009, 17% of the proposed budget cuts will directly impact the hockey program.

To help grow and develop the hockey program at the High School level, we feel that forming a club is a necessary step and we need your help to make this happen. In the coming weeks we will be developing a membership program. Donations will always be accepted and appreciated. If you have any question, comments or would like to volunteer please contact the Vikings Blue Line Club at 651-674-2440 or at the website, <http://vikingsbluelineclub.org/>.



Vikings Blue Line Club Support Letter and Membership Form

Included with this newsletter is a support letter and membership form from the Vikings Blue Line Club. Please take a moment to review the materials.

There are many benefits to having a Blue Line Club in the community. The biggest benefit is the club will provide much needed support to High School hockey. It will also help ensure High School hockey is there for our kids once they get to that level. The club will provide funding to help the High School hockey program develop with potentially more and better ice hours. The club can also ensure High School hockey players are potentially safer, should transportation become an issue again this coming season. There are many benefits to the association as well. It will take some of the financial burden off the association to support the High School hockey program.

Association Contact Information				
NBAHA	PO 541, North Branch	MN 55056	651-674-4152	www.northbranchhockey.com
Gambling Manager	Kris Dennis		651-274-0870	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	Lynda Chilstrom		651-674-4693	secretary@northbranchhockey.com
Building & Maintenance	Don Osland		651-237-0635	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

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