



NBAHA

Newsletter of the North Branch Area Hockey Association –April 2007

Dates to Remember

- 4/14: Adopt-A-Highway 10 am
- 4/25: NBAHA Membership Meeting & NBAHA Board Meeting
- 5/30: NBAHA Membership Meeting & NBAHA Board Meeting
- 6/28: NBAHA Membership Meeting & NBAHA Board Meeting

Membership and Board meetings are held at the High School in Room #D104. Starting with the April Membership meeting, the Membership meeting will start at 7:00 PM and the Board meeting will be immediately following. **Children attending meetings with their parents/guardians must be in the meeting room, or we could lose our meeting privileges from the high school.**

The following dates are available for committee meetings, in room D104 at the High School on 4/9, 4/23, 5/7, 5/10, 5/23. Contact Lynda Chilstrom to reserve the room.

Arena Update

The NBAHA board and arena committee heard loud and clear from the comments at the meeting and the survey results that the membership would like the arena in North Branch, scaled back from the large building that has been pursued during the last 24 months (less costly), and the membership wants a building up as soon as possible for our skaters.

The gap between going with Options B, C, D and E is funding/cost and timeline of each of the projects. The timing to build B and C or D and E isn't that much longer but has a more significant funding gap.

The board has instructed the arena committee to pursue Option C with the city of North Branch. The arena committee will prepare their information (revised proposal, revised floor plan, and revised construction cost estimate) within 45 days to pursue a presentation date to present the revised scaled down plan to the city council for their consideration. If the city does not want to pursue the scaled down effort with NBAHA, then the arena committee will channel their efforts to a community within the school district, but outside the city of North Branch (Option B). The groundwork that has been laid by revising the proposal, presentation and financing will not be lost if we need to pursue another municipality for locating the arena. The arena committee would present the same information provided to the North Branch city council to the other municipality and proceed with their approval process.

Option B – Permanent Metal Structure

- * Cost: \$1,400,000
- * Location: A city within our boundaries but not in the city of North Branch
- * Completion Time: Winter 2008
- * Structure Size: 120' x 250' (27,000 sf)

- * Construction: Metal Permanent structure
- * Funding: NBAHA building fund account plus up to a \$980,000 loan, a \$100,000 grant and in-kind donations

Option C – Permanent Concrete Structure

- * Cost: \$1,650,000
- * Location: City of North Branch
- * Completion Time: Winter 2008
- * Structure Size: 120' x 250' (27,000 sf)
- * Construction: Concrete Permanent structure
- * Funding: NBAHA building fund account plus up to a \$1,200,000 loan and a \$150,000 grant and in-kind donations

The financing opportunity (loan) that the arena committee is pursuing does not allow a city to operate the facility. The city would need to own the facility to allow NBAHA to escape the significant tax implications. NBAHA will need to create an arena operating corporation and that corporation would enter into a long-term lease with the city and operate the arena.

After the gambling disbursement to the city of North Branch following the March annual meeting, the combined account balance of the city fund and the deposits into the Community National Bank (CNB) building fund account total \$251,807. The CNB account includes one-time and regular donations for pledge commitments, an Oxford Township donation, Stacy Daze fundraising profits, and is an interest-earning account. If you include the total pledged commitments from 13 NBAHA families and the AmericInn that are being deposited into the CNB account on a regular basis, our current fundraising effort totals \$297,604.

The arena committee has been at a roadblock with the grant seeking efforts because our funding has been too far away from the final goal to be able to complete grant applications. The arena committee will revisit our grant list, prioritize them and try to move this effort forward.

Adopt-A-Highway Saturday, April 14th, 10 am

North Branch Hockey has a 2-mile stretch of county road that is registered with the Chisago County Adopt-A-Highway program. We need volunteers to assist with roadside cleanup on Saturday, April 14 at 10 a.m. If it is raining or snowing, Adopt-A-Highway will be rescheduled. Cancellations will be posted on the voice mail number, 651-674-4152.

To get to our Adopt-A-Highway site, take County Road 14 past the North Branch Middle School, then turn left on County Road 72. A sign is posted, and our commitment to Chisago County is to care for County Road 72 beginning at County Road 14 and ending at County Road 67.

Call Lisa Isaacson at 651-327-7247 if you have any questions.

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 \$50,575 thanks to the successful charitable gambling operations at JJ's Bowl (North Branch), Big Daddy's (Harris), Wild River (Almelund), and Border Bar (Taylors Falls). Also, NBAHA started selling pulltabs in March at the newly remodeled Pizza Pub (North Branch).

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

2007 (\$50,575)

City of Taylors Falls	\$75
Camp Sunrise	\$250
Ruby's Pantry Food Shelf	\$250
North Branch Music Booster Club	\$500
Early Childhood Coalition	\$500
North Branch Public Library	\$500
North Branch Senior All-Night Party	\$500
John Pinsonneault Scholarship Fund	\$500
North Branch Area Athletic Association	\$1,000
Youth Service Bureau	\$1,000
North Branch High School Hockey Program	\$2,500
City of North Branch – Arena fund	\$43,000

B2 Bantams have a Win-Win Season

Cambridge/Isanti and North Branch youth hockey associations cooperated this season on two levels of play, the bantam and peewee levels. C/I hosted a Bantam A and a B2 team and North Branch hosted a B1 team. The Bantam A team consisted of all C/I players with the other two teams having a mix of both associations. C/I had an A and B1 Peewee team, North Branch had a B1 Peewee team and there was one B2 Peewee team of mixed players.

The B2 bantam team had 9 players from North Branch and 10 players from C/I, with coaches from each association. The players started out the season getting to know each other as well as trying to get the players in the positions that worked best for the team. It was a lot of hard work but the players did a great job and meshed well.

The season play started with a few losses before a winning streak of four wins in December. The district game season ended with nine wins and eight losses placing the team second in the B2 Bantam National division of District 10. The team earned 15 fair play points, the highest number of any team in the National Division. The second place ranking earned the bantams a seat in the District 10 playoffs. The first game was C/I versus Princeton with C/I beating Princeton 9-1. With the regular goalie not able to play, the team stepped up and did a great job keeping the puck out of the C/I zone. The second game proved to be a nail biter to the end. C/I tied Andover 3-3 with the game going into sudden death overtime. The Andover Huskies got the puck past C/I winning the game 4-3. The third game of the three game tournament was a loss to Champlin Park Blue. Champlin Park went on to win the entire B2 tournament.

C/I B2 Bantams played in four tournaments throughout the season; Roseville, New Ulm, Duluth and Wadena. They won the consolation game in Wadena earning the team a trophy. The players as well as the parents had a great time getting to know each other throughout the season at both the tournaments and get-togethers planned off the ice.

A big thank you goes out to Forever Young Childcare in Cambridge for sponsoring the B2 Bantam team this season. The players, parents and coaches of Cambridge/Isanti and North Branch B2 Bantams would like to thank both boards for making the decision to co-op the associations for the 2006-2007

season. It was a win-win situation for both associations with new friendships made between all involved.

B1 Squirts Season Wrap-Up

Families keep track of the passage of time in different ways. Some families may track the passage of time by displaying their children's school pictures and noting the differences a year makes and others keep track by measuring their children's growth spurts on a door frame. A hockey family keeps track of the years gone by, with the number of skates in the closet that no longer fit. It's time to add another pair of skates as the 2006-07 North Branch B1 Squirts season has come to an end.

The B1 Squirts final game was a disappointing loss to Champlain Park 4-3 in the Consolation Championship of the District 10 Tournament. The team put forward a tremendous effort in the tournament going 2-2 defeating both Coon Rapids and Centennial Black.

The team finished with an impressive regular season record of 7-5-4. In tournament play, the team finished first in the Baldwin Shootout, a 3rd place finish in the Duluth slapshot tournament and 3rd place in the Chisago Shootout.

However; at this age, a successful season is not measured by wins and losses. Instead, it's measured by more discreet methods. It was a team who started the season with no goalie and ended the season with two fantastic goalies. It was a team who started the season with individual play, but realized by seasons end an assist was just as good as a goal. And most importantly, it was a team who started out having fun and continued to have fun until the very last game. This could not be accomplished without the dedication of the coaching staff who understood the importance of teaching discipline and skills, yet still enabled the kids to have fun. Based on these methods of measurement, it was a very successful and fun season.

2007-2008 NBAHA Board Members

The 2007 – 2008 NBAHA Board Members took over their elected board positions at the April board meeting.

There was no change to the following board positions.
President - Jeff Henderson (not up for election this year)
Secretary – Lynda Chilstrom (not up for election this year)
Treasurer - Paige Lee
Building & Maintenance - Don Osland
Publicity – Lisa Isaacson
Registrar – Kristi White
Mite Director - Craig Moline

The following were newly elected board members or changed board positions.
Vice President - Tim Cashill
Ice Director– Tom Garin
Fundraising – Jen Fairbanks
Coaching Director – Ben Fairbanks

Thanks to the Members Who are Donating Through United Way Charitable Giving

Thanks to the members who have donated to the association through the United Way Donor Choice program. We have received a check for contributions January-March of 2007 totaling \$1,247.83.

If your employer participates in the United Way charitable giving program, you can designate the funds you donate to NBAHA. You simply need to supply the organization's name and mailing address, which is NBAHA, PO Box 541, North Branch, MN 55056.

Board Members Forming Committees and Seeking Volunteers

The board members are forming committees and are seeking volunteers for the 2007 – 2008 hockey season. Listed below are descriptions of each committee. If you are interested in serving on any of the committees or volunteering to help any of the board members, please contact the board member in charge.

Coaching Committee

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Ben Fairbanks at 651-674-5958.

The responsibilities of the committee include:

1. Recommend head coaches for each team
2. Develop and administer coaching recommendation process
3. Develop the player evaluation and tryout process
4. Develop and administer coaching and player mentoring process
5. Develop and administer coaching and player development process
6. Develop and administer coaching feedback surveys at the end of each year
7. Evaluate coaches and determine target numbers of expected players to return for the next year

Fundraising Committee

Do you have creative ideas for fundraisers? Do you like to organize events? If so, the fundraising committee could use your help. Some of the fundraisers that have been done in the past or been discussed are Power Play, Pancake breakfast, Spaghetti Dinner, Golf Tournament, Softball Tournament, 4-Wheeler Raffle, Cash Calendars, sales of products and fundraisers at booths at community events. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Jen Fairbanks at 651-674-0813 or at fundraising@northbranchhockey.com.

The responsibilities of the committee include:

1. Generating fundraising ideas
2. Organizing fundraiser
3. Working with Publicity Director to promote any fundraising events.
4. Work with Gambling manager on any raffles or gambling type fundraisers
5. Recruit volunteers for fundraising events

Publicity

Do you like to write? Are you creative? Have you worked with newspapers before? Do you like to organize events? If you are interested in helping with publicity, please contact Lisa Isaacson at 1-651-327-7247 or at publicity@northbranchhockey.com.

Volunteers are needed:

1. To organize booths & parade entries & work at events
2. To work on newsletter which is published about every 6 weeks. To write articles, create newsletter, copy and distribute to members via mail and email.
3. To create flyers for events, get copies made and distribute around town, to schools for Friday folders or to team managers
4. To write team articles and/or take pictures
5. To collect team articles and submit to newspaper and newsletter
6. To create advertisements for newspapers for registration, Power Play, Learn to Skate and other events and work with the newspaper to get published
7. To do sign creation for A-Frames to advertise events
8. To contact community & bank billboards to advertise upcoming events
9. To order end of year trophies and distribute to team managers

Mite Director Committee

Volunteers are needed to help Mite Director with:

1. Recruiting, selecting, appointing and developing Mite coaches
2. Coordinating mite recruitment and registration
3. Assigning mite players to the appropriate mite level

4. Coordinating communication among players, coaches, parents and team managers

Call Craig Moline at 651-248-6302 if you have any questions or would like to volunteer or email mitedirector@northbranchhockey.com.

Ice Director

Volunteers are needed to help the Ice Director with:

1. Locating indoor ice
2. Helping with scheduling indoor and outdoor ice
3. Help with scheduling tournaments

Contact Tom Garin at 651-277-0160 if you have any questions or would like to volunteer or email icedirector@northbranchhockey.com.

Building & Maintenance

Volunteers are needed:

1. To help with Shack Cleanup
2. To help with outdoor ice and includes, but is not limited to, flooding, shoveling, and preparing ice, repairs and general maintenance
3. To help with maintenance of the shack

Call Don Osland at 651-237-0635 if you have any questions or would like to volunteer or email buildingandmaintenance@northbranchhockey.com.

Gambling

Volunteers are needed:

1. To brainstorm prospective new sites
2. To review procedures at existing sites
3. To spot audit played games
4. To ensure Internal Controls are being followed properly
5. May be involved in investigative duties as required/needed
6. Also, from time to time, paid positions may become available working at the sites. Help wanted as needed is posted on the website and in the newsletter.

Call the Gambling Manager, Kris Dennis, at 651-274-0870 if you have any questions or would like to volunteer or email gamblingmanager@northbranchhockey.com.

Registration

Volunteers are needed:

1. To help prepare registration materials and mail to members
2. To help at registration sessions to process paperwork
3. To be present at Picture Nights to ensure teams are staying on schedule. Help families with forms and equipment

Contact Kristi White at 651-674-1854 if you have any questions or would like to volunteer or email registrar@northbranchhockey.com.

Goalie Coach Needed

Do you have experience playing goalie? Would you be willing to share that knowledge with goalies of all ages in our hockey program? Most of our coaches don't have goalie experience and have expressed the need to have someone with experience help train goalies during practices. A goalie coach would need to attend a coaching certification class. Those classes are held starting in August and the cost is covered by the association. If you have questions or are interested in helping train goalies, contact Ben Fairbanks at 651-674-5958.

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	Jeff Henderson	651-674-2440	president@northbranchhockey.com
Vice President	Tim Cashill	651-408-1055	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	651-327-7247	publicity@northbranchhockey.com
Registrar	Kristi White	651-674-1854	registrar@northbranchhockey.com
Mite Director	Craig Moline	651-248-6302	mitedirector@northbranchhockey.com

North Branch Area Hockey Association

PO 541

North Branch, MN 55056