



December 22, 2009

Dear BYHA Members,

As we approach the end of 2009, I thought I would take a look back on the past year and try to remember what has been accomplished in the world of Bemidji Youth Hockey. As I started a short list, it became clear to me, that the "short" list is actually quite a "long" list.

With that in mind, I began to think that some may not be totally aware of all of the accomplishments, committee projects and hard work that has been done by so many in our organization.

While this is not a complete list in any way, it should give you a good idea of some of the people that have helped and projects that have been started or are on-going here at BYHA.

In no particular order, here goes:

✿ BYHA Elections

- 7 member board elected
- New Board strives to be a committee based organization.
- Dozens of volunteers pledge their support and get involved.

✿ BYHA Marketing Committee

- May 2009 meetings begin from members Clint Bruestle, Hugh Welle, Tracy Pogue, Scott Andersen, John Mackenroth, Dale Thompson, Steve Montgomery and Mike Gregg.
- Marketing Package is developed and sold to long time supporters of BYHA
- New lighted signs look great in the BCA!
- After months of planning, selling and organizing, this committee has helped generate thousands of dollars for BYHA.

✿ Membership Benefit Program

- Card handed out to each BYHA member
- Special discounts at businesses that support BYHA
- Fantastic opportunity for other businesses if interested!

✿ Mite Recruiter – Angie Loch and others

- Angie put together countless hours in recruiting kids at the parade and other events at the elementary schools
- She also coordinated our FREE skates at the City Rink for hundreds of first time skaters.
- Play It Again Sports donated FREE skates for the kids to use and try hockey for the first time
- HUGE turn outs for 4 straight weekends
- Helped grow Mite program by over 30 kids!



- ⚙ 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parades
  - Kristin Huerd, Angie Loch, Mitch Smith, Lisa Smith and others put together a quick campaign to attract new kids to hockey by attending two parades.
  - Many BYHA kids participated during the parade by roller-blading and playing street hockey for the crowds
  - Distributed marketing flyers to attract new kids to BYHA
  
- ⚙ New BYHA Website
  - Webmaster Kris Hammitt (plus a new mom this fall!)
  - Registration done all on line for the first time
  - Master calendar
    - New software uploads schedules to website
    - Tracking ice time to become more efficient
    - Work in progress, but most agree a great start!
  - Team game schedules
  - Team pages
  - Coaches resource center
  - Parents info
  - Communication to members improves
  
- ⚙ Volunteer Program – DIBS
  - Jana Norgard & Bridgett Tews deserve special recognition for coordinating these huge tasks!
  - DIBS posts jobs online
  - Members can choose which volunteer job they would like
  - Hundreds of jobs have been completed...THANK YOU!
  - Work in progress and improving every day!
  
- ⚙ Tournaments
  - Tournament Director – Jill Andersen
    - Hats off to Jill for countless hours of phone calls, emails to organizations all over the 5 state area and Canada to attract teams to come to Bemidji.
    - Tournament Coordinators to date: Ernie and Shannon Heifort, Jen Neubeck, Stacy Larson, Jari Hanson to mention a few.
    - We will be hosting several more tournaments and Jill will be looking for more help soon.... 😊
    - State Bantam B tournament at the BCA March 19-21, 2009
      - Committee starting to meet now for yet another huge undertaking.
      - Contact Jill if you have interest in helping out here.
  
- ⚙ Old Timers for First Timers
  - Developed by Scott Andersen, this group of hockey guys has committed dollars to help grow our mite program.



- ❄ Goalie Equipment Manager
  - Tom Kuesel took it upon himself to coordinate all goalie equipment for BYHA
  - Sorted, discarded, inventoried old goalie equipment
  - Sought donations from BYHA members of old equipment and traded it in at Play It Again Sports for over \$800 worth of new goalie equipment
  - More coming too!
  
- ❄ Hockey Awards
  - Stephen Pflieger coordinating USA Hockey program for kids
    - Patches and recognition for kids
    - Lifetime of memories
    - More on this later.
  
- ❄ Concessions
  - New managers for Nymore (Jari Hanson) and BCA (Teresa Peterson) under the direction of Joe Bofferding.
  - Continues to be a great source of revenue
  - Many new items from Joe each year

I know I may have forgotten something or someone's contributions, but wanted all to know just how many people it takes to run BYHA.

I would like to take this opportunity to say **THANK YOU** to every member for their dedication to BYHA. The above and many other things would not be possible without the countless hours of volunteering.

We are all extremely lucky to be able to watch our kids play the greatest game on earth and we do it all for them.

Thank you once again and HAPPY HOLIDAYS to all!

Sincerely,

Tracy Pogue  
President  
Bemidji Youth Hockey Association