

# Making Ice in PyeongChang - Part 2

By Cory Portner, CIRM

My second trip to South Korea had been detailed down to an hour-by-hour timeline and I had reviewed the details in my head a thousand times. Surely I was prepared for this trip. My office whiteboard was littered with notes, to do's, don't forgets and all kinds of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade sketches of the ice surface and other items as it related to the Field of Play (FoP).

- √ Checklist
- √ Timeline
- √ Labor needs
- √ Equipment needs

Satisfied I was ready, it was time to jump on a "short" 15-hour flight and put the planning to work.

**Looking Forward** to the 2018 Winter Olympics



The 30,000-foot overview looks like this. Spend 15 days in South Korea. Half of that time dedicated to the ice installation and the other 7 days dedicated to training the Zamboni operators for the Short Track Speed Skating events in November and December. I have used the same formula several times for various figure skating and hockey events in the past. Theory tells me this should be fairly routine with a few added variables.

A plan was advanced with the premise that this ice would be active with events from installation through February 2017. The ice would host two speed skating events and two figure skating events in that timeline. The ice installation was straightforward.

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# **2017 Spring Conference** and Trade Show

Sunday, April 23 - Wednesday, April 26 Sea Crest Beach Hotel and Resort Falmouth, MA



More details on pages 8 - 9,

### Rink Rat

# President's Message

by Ben Ruggles, CIRM, PMP



First of all, Happy Holidays to everyone! In the midst of our busiest season, it's important we take time to enjoy the holidays with family and friends. Hopefully you'll all have the opportunity to do so!

We thank everyone who has renewed their membership for the current year, which started on September 1st. We've picked up a few new members, as well. A "heads up", which we implemented last year, is that only current members will receive this popular quarterly newsletter. If your name is not listed on pages 18 - 20, please contact our Executive Secretary, John Zullo, and renew your membership today. Thanks!

A new membership benefit that just went out is our **Membership Directory**. Hopefully you've received yours by now as they went out a week ago. If not, please contact John Zullo. Also, please let us know what you think at **feedback@neisma.com**.

We had a successful <u>Fall Conference</u> at Endicott College in Beverly, MA in October. Unlike last fall - where we also held meetings in PA, NY and NH - our other three regional conferences had to be canceled due to low registrations. We are going to reassess our approach to fall meetings for 2017.

We're excited to announce that our annual **Spring Conference and Trade Show** will once again be held at the Sea Crest Hotel and Resort in Falmouth, MA on April 23 - 26, 2017. We had a very successful event there in 2015 and are confident we'll better that one this April!

Our Scholarship Committee, led by chair Tom Ferguson, is looking forward to receiving many more **Scholarship Applications** this year to help deserving college students finance their education. The application form is on page 26 and is due by March 15, 2017. Awards

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(From page 2 - President's Message

will be presented at the Spring Conference.

A funding source for our Scholarship Fund has been promised to us by a relatively new member, **Energy Auction House**. From those NEISMA members who take advantage of their service to save money on their utility bills, NEISMA will receive a percentage of those payments made and will direct those funds to our Scholarship Fund. It might be worth your time to listen to what they have to say.

Looking Forward to the 2018 Winter Olympics



The **2018 Winter Olympics** are right around the corner and NEISMA will be highlighting some events as we get closer which we feel you may be interested in. As our lead article in this issue, we have "Part 2" of Cory Portner's "Making Ice in

PyeongChang" series. It's interesting to see how much preparation goes into the quality of ice two years ahead of the games.

In addition, NEISMA is working closely with the folks involved in the **US Curling Association**, who is also preparing for the 2018 Olympic Games. We had a great presentation from them at the Fall Conference in Beverly and look forward to their involvement in the upcoming Spring Conference in Falmouth. More to come!

And finally, I'd like to thank those who contribute to this Rink Rat newsletter, which has been looking more and more like a magazine, as it's now up to 28 pages. First, our <u>advertisers</u>. Your funding allows us to improve the quality of the publication - which we hope you've noticed - as well as the quantity of information. And second, our <u>authors</u>, most of whom are Board members. Without them, it would just be a bunch of advertisements! To our members, please consider writing an article or two. And photos are always welcome! Happy New Year!

# Malone "Comes Home" to SUNY Cortland

by David Korpiel, CIRM, Greater Canandaigua Civic Center, Canandaigua, NY

Todd Malone has come full circle in a short period of time. Having grown up in Farmington, NY and attending high school at Victor, Todd did his undergrad work at SUNY Cortland, then went on to re-

ceive his Master's Degree in Sports Administration from Canisius College in Buffalo. He then moved to Massachusetts and interned with the Harvard University Athletic Department, working in Events and Operations, and where he was first introduced to the ice rink business. He then accepted a full-time position with the Athletic Department at Holy Cross College in Worcester, MA,

working much of his time the school's ice rink.

This past August, Malone was able to "come home" to his roots when he accepted the position of Arena Manager at his alma mater, SUNY Cortland. He enjoys the challenge of working at Alumni Arena as it's is an older facility. The most challenging part is that

the facility does not have any dehumidification which is not unusual with older rinks. He has to deal with an older ice resurfacer, as well. He likes working in the rink industry because there is always something

different, as no two days are the same. Says Malone, "it doesn't feel like work."

Malone is familiar with NEISMA and the ice rink industry through his relationship with Harvard and Holy Cross. "I am new to the industry but there is potential to learn a lot," he said. "NEISMA can offer a ton of opportunities such as networking," he continued. He likes the idea of the rink owners, managers and opera-

tors getting together to share ideas and having general discussions of common concerns in central and western New York. "There are a good amount of things that can be shared and developed that will make the industry stronger" said Malone.



Todd Malone, Arena Manager SUNY Cortland

Eddie's Old Enough to Remember When...

# ...Scoreboards Weren't "Solid State"

Long before video boards, Three Stooges goal celebrations and indoor pyrotechnics, there were ways to display the game time and score that were far less glamorous. Imagine a time clock that only allowed 8 minute periods, swung a sweep second hand around a round face and could only be reset after the 8 minutes ran out...to ONLY another 8 minutes!

Fortunately for me, most of those "Sweep-Second Beauties" were hanging as "back-up" scoreboards in old barns like Harvard's Watson Rink, Four Seasons

Arena in Walpole and The Forum in Billerica (how did it move to Chelmsford, or did Chelmsford move to it?).

My timekeeping / hockey-playing days look place in the 1970s and 1980s, glorious times in the Boston hockey community. The Big Bad Bruins captivated us into the sport, and the US Olympic victory in 1980 validated our choice of favorite game to play!

In almost every rink, the scoreboard was either a Nevco or the Coca-Cola Company provided an All-

American Scoreboard from Pardeeville, Wisconsin. To anyone who ever operated one or the goalie who played beneath one, the rhythmic hum and electromechanical clunking of the ever-changing digits of the timing device is a sound never to be forgotten. Literally, cylindrical timing disks with electrical connections on them rotated inside the board, and the game time and score were accurately portrayed throughout the arena. With all the moving parts, it follows that the scoreboards were often broken. I never dealt with Nevco, but calling Coca-Cola inevitably got a repair call from Charlie Williams, synonymous to me with Coke and All-American scoreboards. A Damon Runyunesque character, Charlie would often interchange a good part for a broken one from within the same board, so the Game Timer would be re-

paired but "Guest Penalty timer 2" may need a rebuild trip to Pardeeville. After you shipped a few repair timers to All-American you never forgot PARDEEVILLE, WISCONSIN!!

In time, the Coca-Cola partnerships with both All-American and Charlie Williams fell apart, solidstate scoreboards became readily available and needed few repairs, and stiff competition entered the sports scoreboard market. While all that may be in the distant past, I am very happy to report

> that Charlie Williams is alive and well at Williams Sign Erection in Wilmington, MA. Truth be told, I was picking up NEISMA umbrellas in Wilmington and heard his distinctive voice, 25+ years after I had last heard it....didn't matter...it was Charlie, alive and well!

What is difficult to capture and describe for a modern audience is the pressures on the rinks in the 70s.....far more demand than supply for ice, less reliable Zambonis and refrigeration equipment. Thus, rinks were often running late and

pressure was put on the timekeeper to get the rink back "on time." The electromechanical boards were very simple to operate. So simple, that a must -learn no-look trick was to turn the board off as the timer approached :00 seconds in the minutes, press the "minutes" button above the on/off switch and quickly turn the clock back on. The result would be, for example, 10:01, 10:00, 8:59, 8:58.....the rink was closer to being back ON TIME! Try that with a new, solid-state board, much harder. The downside was that, occasionally the electro-mechanical switch stuck, resulting in a large string of clunks from the board, and the result may be, 10:01, 10:00, 9:00, 8:00, 7:00, 6:00, 5:59, 5:58, 5:57...The scary part, it would OFTEN go unno-



(Continued on page 5)



(From page 4 - Eddie's Old Enough to Remember When...)

ticed and the rink was even CLOSER to being back on time!. A timer soon realized to be more careful during the second period, since back-up goalies often split the games, and thus were focused on the 2nd period clock to get to the game's halfway point!

Today's perfect looking LED displays of every number on the scoreboard is NOT "how it used to be!" The digits were made up of 110V Christmas tree bulbs which burn out....OFTEN! Thus, a scoreboard would be fully functional, but even math majors could often not tell if there were 9, 8, 6, 5 or 3 minutes left in the period!!!! The timekeeper was responsible to know how much time was left and he/she interacted with both benches when asked..."What's that say?"....Often, penalty time bulbs were robbed to make the game time look better. It was often anyone's guess as to what time someone's penalty expired! Oh, what memories!

Another fine memory was the time setting mechanism on certain boards, possibly FairPlay. To set the minutes, the timer needed a pencil to push into a collar and depress the button numerous times until the proper length period was set. More than once, in the frigid confines of Belmont Hill's Keller Rink, the game or period could not start because the timekeeper had dropped, lost or forgot the pencil so integral to getting the scoreboard set!!! More than once, "Hold it, Ref" echoed through the cavernous Keller Rink, all in search of a pencil!

Well, we're all spoiled today. It's unlikely anybody has a relationship with a scoreboard repairman (except "Scoreboard Scott" or "Pilot" Hurley!). Rinks buy their scoreboards outright or get a local sponsor to provide the board. Extra controllers are in EVERY rink, games without a scoreboard are rarer than an albino whale, and the scoreboard is almost an "out of sight, out of mind" object in the minds of most rink managers. Not long ago, it just wasn't that way...

- Ed Peduto is the Manager of the Burbank Ice Arena in Reading, MA and long-time contributor to the Rink Rat. Ed welcomes your ideas, memories and photos to be shared in a future Rink Rat! Email them to:

feedback@neisma.com

# **Supply and Demand**

Is the Ice Business Booming - Or on the Verge of Decline?
(Supplement to September 2016 Issue)



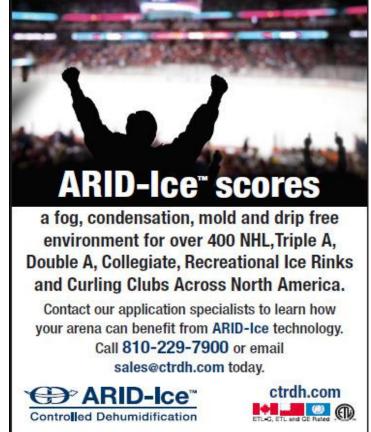
A proposal will be brought to the City of Amesbury (MA) to build a \$30 million, 50-acre, 6-sheet ice rink destination adjacent to the New England Sports Park along Rt. 495, about

a 30 minutes north of Boston. Global Property Developers Corporation will be presenting their plans to the City Council soon.

"(Global) viewed the intersection of the two superhighways and the airport and our location on the Eastern Seaboard near major population centers as a tremendous location for their project," Amesbury Mayor Ken Gray said.

Project Manager Mike Gorman says that they will start as soon as the planning process is complete.

SOURCE: Newburyport Daily News





(From page I - "Making Ice in PyeongChang - Part 2")

inches of ice by applying approximately 24,000 gallons of water in 120-gallon increments, pausing occasionally at specific depths to install the base, speed skating markings and event logos. Follow along with the timeline and approach. Estimate 300 gallons of water per hour as an average throughout the entire ice installation. 24,000 gallons at 300 per hour equals 80 hours. Spread 80 hours over 24 hour shifts and you end up spending 3.33 days of your life methodically applying water to a cold surface. Round this number to 4 days to apply human factor to the overnight crew. Add in 8 hours for ice marking and painting. Round that to 12 hours for sanity purposes. Give yourself one full day for ice maintenance on the FoP. Add that up and circle 6 days start to finish on your imaginary calendar. As I stared at my whiteboard, I thought, this all seems logical.



Side bar: for those that are wondering why 24,000 gallons is the magic number that yields 2" of frozen water, feel free to follow along again.

Volume (V) = Area (A)  $\times$  Height (H)

A (approx.) = 20,000 sq. ft. ( $200' \times 100'$  ice surface)

(Remove 1,292 sq. ft. to factor 28' corners)

A (actual) = 18,708 sq. ft. (2,693,905 sq. in.)

H = .166 ft. (2 inches.)

V = 3,105 cubic ft. (5,387,810 cubic in.)

I gallon of water = 231 cubic inches X gallons = 5,387,810 / 231 X = 23,324 gallons of water

## **Rink Rat**

Gallons of water to ice thickness ratio (estimated):

2,915 gallons: = 1/4 inch 5,830 gallons: = 1/2 inch 8,745 gallons: = 3/4 inch 11,662 gallons = 1 inch 14,577 gallons = 1 1/4 inches 17,492 gallons = 1 1/2 inches 20,407 gallons = 1 3/4 inches 23,324 gallons = 2 inches

As in most cases, theory and logic are often trumped by hindsight. Tack these onto your original theory and planning timeline for more accurate estimates in the future.

- · Add a day for a new facility
- Add another day if said facility is still in construction phase
- Add a day for each language spoken
- · Add a day if using someone else's equipment
- Add another day if using a rope in lieu of dasher boards
- Add however many days you want for HVAC systems and Mother Nature working against you

Note: A similar calculation can be used for training in a foreign country. Use a I-to-I ratio. For classroom discussions, allow twice as much time for your presentation based on the following interactions.

- Present your materials to the class in a language they don't understand
- Listen to the translator present your materials to the class in a language they understand
- Pause and wait for questions and responses in a language you don't understand
- Listen to the translator to provide said questions and responses in a language you understand
- Rinse and repeat for 7 hours to cover 3 hours of information

Given the above information you can now ascertain that my theoretical 6-day install took 11 days. Days 7-11 are comparative to an expectant mother being 5 days overdue. Nothing about the situation is cute anymore. Nonetheless, we reached our goal for ice thickness and used the Zambonis to ready the FoP for competition. The results were a success and the

(Continued on page 7)



(From page 6 - Making Ice in PyeongChang - Part 2)

efforts rewarded. Through physical exhaustion, we were able to smile.



I return to Korea in December to remove the speed skating markings and install the center ice graphics for the figure skating events. Armed with some new information and, sprinkling in some learning curve, my whiteboard approach appears to be more realistic...in theory.

Cory Portner has 20 years of ice industry experience and is currently a Regional Operations Manager for Rink Management Services Corporation, a Virginia-based national ice rink management company.

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### **Pine Tree State News**

#### **New Arena for Ellsworth?**

An \$11 million arena is being proposed in Ellsworth, ME, which will include an indoor ice rink, a running track for walkers and joggers, and amenities to support it. Hal Mayhew, of Bear Mountain Design and





speaker at NEISMA's 2015 Fall Conference in Concord, NH, presented the plans at a recent Rotary Club meeting. Mayhew said that the facility will be the first "net-zero" ice arena in North America, meaning there will be no cost for electricity and fuel. The proposed site is adjacent to the local high school and it is hoped construction will start in 2018.

SOURCE: The Ellsworth American

### Rink Closure Spurs Rinks to the Rescue

When the Suakee Arena in Winslow, ME closed due to mechanical issues, local rinks rallied to save four (4) local high school ice hockey programs. NEISMA members to the rescue included the Bonnefond Ice Arena at Kents Hill School and the Camden National Bank Ice Vault in Augusta, as well as the Alfond Arena at Colby College. The rinks were able to coordinate ice time so the teams could have practices, including early morning ice time, as well as their games at each of the venues.

"That's what we're here for" said Ice Vault general manager Bill Boardman.

Financially, it was a major curve ball for the schools, as they anticipate the cost of the ice time will be \$50 more per hour than at the Suakee Arena. In addition, schools will now have to pay for their game ice but hope to make it up at the gate.

It's unclear when or if the Saukee Arena will open again.

SOURCE: Bangor Daily News

Rink Rat

# 2017 Spring Conference Heading Back to Falmouth, MA

The NEISMA Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the Sea Crest Beach Hotel in Falmouth, MA will once again be our destination for our annual Spring Conference and Trade Show. This year it will begin on Sunday, April 23, 2017 and run through Wednesday, April 26, 2017,



The success of our 2015 event was the main reason we decided to go back to Falmouth. From the golf tournament at the Falmouth Country Club, to the President's Reception in the picturesque Ocean View Room, to Rick Middleton's keynote address in the Ballroom, to the Trade Show in the Conference Center (we'll be using the entire space this year), the feedback we received was very positive. And the food was absolutely delicious!

More information will be out in January!

Got a topic you'd like presented at this year's conference?

Email feedback@neisma.com



# Z

# Photos from 2015 Spring Conference in Falmouth, MA



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS** 



**GENERAL SESSION** 



PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION



**EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS** 



TRADE SHOW



**AWARDS BANQUET** 



#### College and Universities

# Where Have All Our Spectators Gone?

By Tom Walsh, Boston College

I was watching the BC vs Providence men's ice hockey game a few weeks back and noticed the partially full arena that seems to be the norm recently. The official attendance number ended up being 5k plus but for a matchup of two traditionally strong programs with a decent rivalry it felt empty and quiet. Both the basketball and football programs have struggled on

the field lately so you would expect their numbers to be down but the hockey team competes for the national title annually.

I did a little research on attendance numbers from the 2010-2011 season (5 years ago) and compared them with last season. It was a greater decrease than I thought. Five years ago the average attendance was about 6,300 for a

men's hockey game at Conte. That was pretty good at almost 80% capacity. Last season it was just under 5K or 63% capacity. Two things came to mind. First, that's a sizable drop and second, I'm was glad that I wasn't working in the ticket office.

I was curious about other teams with similar size arenas. Boston University went from 80% capacity in

2010-11 to 70% in 2015-16. UNH brought in 5,700 per game in 10/11, 4,900 in 15/16. Might not seem like a big drop but it's a 14% for a season loss of almost 25 thousand spectators. The decrease at slightly smaller venues is not as significant in greater Boston. Northeastern stayed right around 50% and Harvard stayed around 75%.

What's it all mean? I assumed it meant that fans were staying on the couch and eating out of their own fridge. It might be the recent success of the Bruins drawing fans that way. Then I read an article that said **ESPN** lost an estimated 621.000 subscribers in October and 555,000 in September. Are people actually going out and doing activities or has the attention span of the popula-

tion been shortened that much that they do the quick internet check "did we win?"

- Tom Walsh is with the Athletic Facilities Department at Boston College. Tom welcomes your comments, questions and suggestions pertaining to colleges and universities. Email them to:











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# **Our Day With Lord Stanley!**

by Ed Peduto

It started with an innocent, yet heartfelt comment from my long-time assistant, Jim Brown, to long-time Reading hockey icon and recent scout for the Pittsburgh Penguins, Frank Golden. "Eddie Johnston's going to be 80 this year Frank! EJ needs another Cup. You guys are going to win it" he said.

Settled comfortably in last place at the time, Golden could only retort, "I hope so, Brownie! If we do and I get a day with it, it's coming here!" And the rest, as they say, is history.

The Penguins changed coaches and personnel, turned things around, climbed the standings and got into the playoffs. "We're getting the Cup," Brownie repeated with each Penguins' victory.

Knowing the pressure on every team to deliver a Cup, and the added pressure of making too many

promises for the short "Day with the Cup" that the Champions each receive, I remained a firm "non-believer" in 2016 becoming the year that the rink where I work would host Lord Stanley's bowl.

Finishing second in their Division (whatever it's called this year!) the Penguins' postseason run began with a series against Manhattan's own, New York Rangers. The convincing 4 games to I defeat earned them the right to a series with the Washington Capitals. Despite many picking the Caps, the Pens' persevered 4 games to 2, opening eyes along the way. Down 3 games to 2 in the Eastern Conference Finals against the Tampa Bay Lightning, I felt that Brownie's hope for Eddie Johnston's birthday and our "Cup Day" were a LOOOOONG way from happening. Alas, I was wrong again, as the

(Continued on page 14)



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#### (From page 13 - Our Day with Lord Stanley!)

Penguins dominated Game 6 winning 5-2 setting up the decisive Game 7. The DREAM IS ALIVE! The Penguins eliminated the Lightning in Game 7 by a 2-1 score.....I could hear Al Michaels' voice...."Do you believe in miracles!?".....

The Stanley Cup Finals!!! From last place in December to a Finals berth! I'm not sure if more accolades go to A.) Penguins' GM Jim Rutherford for his midseason coaching change to Mike Sullivan, B.) to Sullivan for his leadership or to C.) Brownie for having the Cup premonition and the courage to voice it! Speaking of voices, to this point we'd heard nothing from Scout Golden, who'd offhandedly (we feared!) promised the Cup to the rink! His silence was deafening!

Just two weeks later, "Frankie" would speak volumes, with Brownie and I each receiving a great shot of Reading's Frank Golden kneeling next to The Best Trophy in Sports, promising to bring it to Reading's Burbank Ice "whenever I get it, if I get it!"

#### Rink Rat

The word came down in July....."October"..."can we get the rink?"...."for the whole month?"....."I'll let you know"..."just got word, October 5th, sorry it's a school day, I don't have much say in the matter."..... "you sure you want to bring it to the rink?"..."Absolutely"...



Invitations went out to all of the members of Reading Youth Hockey and a few teams that Frank had coached prior to becoming (now) a Stanley Cup

(Continued on page 15)





#### (From page 14 - Our Day with Lord Stanley!)

Champion Scout! It would be on display on Wednesday, October 5th from 9:00a.m. to noon. As rink manager, I didn't want a disaster. Stories of "hours long" waits only to be told "The Cup has to leave" made me very wary of how the day would go. Seemingly simple questions such as "How many people per hour typically can be accommodated?" went unanswered..... Brownie and I discussed it and decided we'd go "All out" and hope that the day went smoothly.

Sunday, October 2nd, at closing, Brownie and I whited out the center ice display and painted in the oldest and newest Penguin logos....On Monday "2016 Stanley Cup Champions" was added to center ice. Additionally, a large "Thanks, Frank!" was painter in the neutral zone....Monday night was spent searching for a black tablecloth....Scout Frank forgot to tell me that the NHL provides their own tablecloth! Better to be more prepared than unprepared!



Tuesday was "cleaning Day" and sign making day.....a 10' Cup was located on the patio for photo opps, and a "Welcome Lord Stanley's Cup" Sign was hung under the Burbank Ice Arena sign on the front wall. To assuage the few parents refusing to dismiss their children from school for the perceived "lack of education" at the Cup Event, a Trivia Quiz was prepared and is included in this article....Try it, you'll see why only I was turned in, and he was the WINNER!

Special thanks go to former NEISMA President Norman Reid who not only agreed to let us borrow some on ice flooring for the Cup's table but also offered to have his staff deliver and return it to BC! Thanks, Norm!

Fortunately, the day dawned warm and clear, about 150 hockey players and their families got to enjoy the best photo op in sports, which is the Cup! One family even found their cousin's name on the Cup, former BU standout Ed Ronan!

The keepers of the Cup said our rink "was as prepared as any community rink they'd brought it to," the highest compliment Brownie and I could expect! I'd waited 30+ years into my career to have the Cup at my rink, and for every picture and memory it produced, it was WORTH THE WAIT!



Jim Brown (left) kisses Lord Stanley's Cup while Ed Peduto (right) kisses the NEISMA Cup. How sweet it is!



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# Arena Curling - Just Keeps on Growing!

by Russ Lemcke, Cape Cod Curling Club

Curling Clubs Arena Clubs

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73

132

149

171

Ten years ago, curling clubs in arenas represented about 14% of all clubs, meaning 86% were in dedicated facilities. Increasing popularity has resulted in significant increases in the number of curlers. As a

Year

2004

2010

2016

result, 43% of all curling clubs now play the sport in arenas. Dramatic increases are expected in the 2018 with the introduction of mixed doubles, a quite different format. Mixed doubles games are a bit more than an hour in length, compared to three

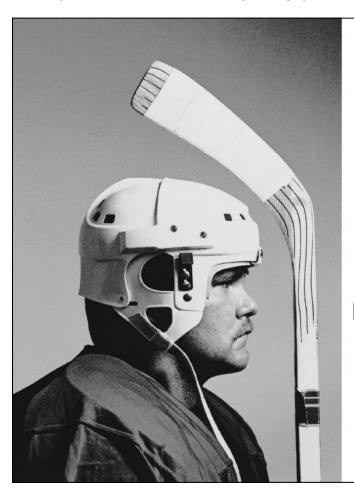
<b>O</b> / I
hours for the conventional game. This format will
be great for TV audiences and viewership is ex-
pected to increase yet again. So curlers are getting
ready for even more new clubs being formed. And
therein lies an opportunity for arena managers to
diversify their revenue stream in a growing sport.
ready for even more new clubs being formed. And therein lies an opportunity for arena managers to

Curlers need basically two important components to
have a successful club, namely consistent ice times
throughout the season and ice as flat as it can possi-
bly be. Since curling is growing as a sport, arenas can

expect not only consistent, pre-
dictable cash flow from clubs, but
also an opportunity to further
grow through added curling
times. Furthermore, the sport is
moving rapidly from winter only
to three and even 4 seasons, with
many tournaments during the

summer months. Such a trend should be helpful to arenas which maintain ice year round.

Want to start a curling program at your rink? Here are some key success factors that were presented at the recent NEISMA Fall Conference at Endicott Col-





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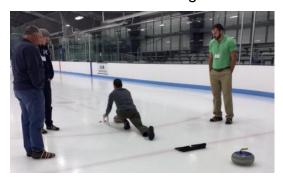
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lege in Beverly, MA this past October.

- Cooperative arena + consistent ice times
- 2-3 passionate curlers
- Establish name, website, social media accounts
- Publicity facebook, newspapers, radio, TV
- Learn-to-Curl Event Arena helps with \$
- Get 35-50 Members Buy equipment
- We are on our way!

Below, Derek Campbell, President of the Pine Tree Curling Club in Portland, ME demonstrates to conference attendees the art of curling.



Why is **NOW** the best time to start a curling program?

- Olympic coverage since 1998
- NBC Sports 'Curling Night in America'
- More arenas Year-round curling
- 2018 Olympics Mixed Doubles



Looking Forward to the 2018 Winter Olympics



More information on arena curling is available on the NEISMA website. Russ Lemcke can also be reached at russlemcke@comcast.net. Additional

information is available on the USCA website at

www.teamusa.org/USA-curling.



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# 2016 - 2017 Membership Listing (Received as of 12/9/16)

#### **Colleges and Universities**

Babson College Boston College **Boston University Bowdoin College Brown University** Connecticut College Curry College **Endicott College** Niagara University Northeastern University Plymouth State University **Princeton University** Quinnipiac College Saint Anselm College **SUNY Brockport SUNY Cortland** SUNY Plattsburgh Syracuse University University of Connecticut University of Delaware University of New Hampshire US Naval Academy

#### **Prep Schools**

Brunswick School Buckingham Browne & Nichols School Dexter Southfield School Eaglebrook School Harvey School Kent School Kents Hill School Methuen High School Middlesex School Millbrook School Milton Academy Newton Country Day School Phillips Academy Ice Rinks Rye Country Day School Salisbury School South Kent School St. Mark's School St. Paul's School The Pingree School Westminster School Williston Northampton School Winchendon School



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NEISMA is a professional service organization, organized to provide the ice skating industry with education and training. Since 1972 NEISMA has disseminated technical information and conducted seminars on rink equipment, energy, air quality, marketing, skating programs, maintenance and safety. NEISMA provides the professional rink manager with the technical information needed to operate a safe, efficient and profitable facility. The NEISMA Board of Directors is not a testing lab for vendors or their products. We are not responsible for vendor representations or errors. We neither endorse or recommend any vendors products.

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#### Public/Private Rinks

Aleixo Arena, FMC Armstrong Arena, FMC Asiaf Arena, FMC

Blackstone Valley IcePlex, FMC

Buffone Arena, FMC Burbank Ice Arena

Burlington Ice Palace, FMC

Canton Sportsplex

Champions Ice Management

Charles Moore Arena Chelmsford Forum, FMC

City of Chilliwack

Clayton Rec. Park Arena

Clinton Arena

Collins/Moylan Arena, FMC

Collins Perley Sports center

Connery Rink, FMC Cronin Rink, FMC

Danbury Ice Arena

Darien Ice House

Dorothy Hamill Rink

Douglas N. Everett Arena

Dover Ice Arena

Driscoll Skating Arena, FMC

Ed Burns Arena

Edora Pool Ice Center

Edward F. Loring Ice Arena

Essex County Codey Arena

**Essex Skating Facility** 

Facility Management Corporation

Fitzpatrick Arena, FMC

Floyd Hall Arena

Gallo Ice Arena

Gardner Veterans Arena, FMC

Gordon Paquette Arena

Greater Canandaigua Civic Ctr

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Hatfield Ice Arena

Hetland Arena, FMC

Hobomock Arenas

Holland Arena

Horgan Arena, FMC

HPP Rinx, Inc.

Hyannis Youth & Community Center

JFK Coliseum

Jim Roche Arena, FMC

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K.B Willett Ice Arena

Maine Ice Vault

Martha's Vineyard Ice Arena

MassMutual Center

McVann-Okeefe Memorial Rink

Midcoast Recreation Center

Nantucket Ice Company

Nashoba Valley Olympia

Navin Arena, FMC

Nelson Withington Skating Facility New England Sports Management

Norwich Rose Garden Ice Arena

North Star Ice Sports

Oaks Center Ice

Optimist Ice Arena

Paramount Iceland

Pilgrim Skating Arena

Pop Whalen Arena

Porrazzo Arena, FMC

Quincy Youth Arena

Raynham IcePlex, FMC

Revolution Ice Gardens

Riley Rink At Hunter Park

Simoni Ice Rink, FMC

Skate 3 Arena

Smead Skating Rink, FMC

Smithfield Municipal Ice Rink

Sport-O-Rama Ice Rinks

Stamford Twin Rinks

Stoneham Arena

The Edge Sports Center

The Forum, City of Presque Isle

The Gardens Ice House

The Ice Center

Tucker Road Ice Rink

Union Arena Community Center

Union Sports Arena

Valley Sports Arena

Veterans Arena, FMC

Veterans Memorial Ice Skating Rink

Westchester Skating Academy

Wallace Civic Center, FMC

Watertown Municipal Arena

William L. Chase Arena, FMC

Wonderland of Ice

#### Vendors and Friends

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**Emerald Environmental Tech** 

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#### (From page 19 - Membership Listing

#### **Vendors and Friends (continued)**

Houghton Chemical Corporation Ice Skating Institute, ISI Icebug USA ICECO Advanced Arena Products **Independent Mechanical Contractors** Industrial Battery of New England Intell Energy J&C Ice Technologies Inc Jet Ice Marshall & Sterling Insurance Maximum Solutions Miller Refrigeration **MIRMA** Morton & Morton Attorneys **Nedap Light Controls** New England Sports Sales Northeast Rink Systems Northstar Mechanical Philip Siena Polygon US Corporation Precision Industrial Services Preferred Mechanical Services Refrigeration Engineering & Contracting Co.

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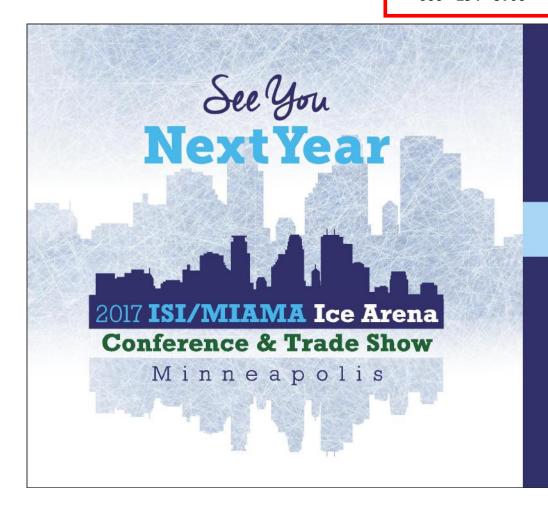
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#### PLEASE NOTE:

If you don't see your name listed here, please contact John Zullo, our Executive Secretary, immediately and he will assist you in renewing your membership or becoming a member.

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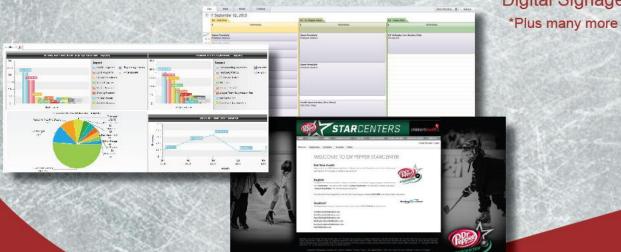
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- Beth Lenz, Kettler Capitals Iceplex



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# **ASTM Update**

by Tom Morton

As many of you know, I am NEISMA's designated representative to ASTM. I've now represented our membership for approximately 20 years. The latest ASTM conference was in November 2016 in Orlando, Florida. The 2017 Spring Conference will be held in May in Toronto, Canada. The F08 ASTM Executive Committee this year appointed me as the Chairman of F08.66 Subcommittee. This subcommittee includes the ice rink industry. Both ISI and STAR are also on the Subcommittee.

For our new members, the "American Society for Testing and Materials" (ASTM) is a nonprofit international organization with approximately 35,000 members. All members serve as volunteers on various ASTM subcommittees. One of the main purposes of ASTM is preparation of safety standards for industry such as the ice rink industry. To date, F08.66 subcommittee has drafted three separate safety standards pertaining to the ice rink industry.

ASTM subcommittees generally meet twice a year at various US locations.

The ASTM F08.66 subcommittee is currently considering Safety Standards pertaining to:

- mold in ice rinks
- emergency evacuations

As a matter of interest, one ice rink was closed by a local city because of the presence of mold in the ice rink. Mold is considered a serious health hazard.

In another recent incident, a youth hockey player was hit in the throat by a puck. There was no throat protector. Fortunately, however, the youth hockey player was not seriously injured. ASTM addressed this incident and an ASTM safety standard was promptly prepared.

Of major interest to our membership is the fact that two ASTM F08 subcommittees - one chaired

by Alan Ashare and one chaired by Tom Morton - have agreed to work together in preparing a symposium entitled "Safety in the Ice Rink Industry". Dr. Alan Ashare will chair the proposed symposium and I will be the co-chair. The symposium will be scheduled for May 2018. It will be scheduled for one full day and perhaps an additional half day.

Extensive preparation is required for such a symposium as well as for the presentation. Formal papers

will be needed pertaining to various safety matters pertaining to the ice rink industry. It is anticipated that symposium data and presentation of papers will be published by ASTM.

Should any of our members be interested in preparing a paper on any specific ice rink industry safety issue then you are invited to let me know of your interest in participating.

Certainly, the proposed symposium will be a milestone in the history of

the ice rink industry. A great opportunity that will inure to the benefit of our industry. Just think what a feather it will be in NEISMA's hat to be a principal player in such a symposium.

NEISMA continues to forge ahead for its members.



# Pretend you're an "expert".

Publishing an article in the Rink Rat is great for your resume!

# **Not Currently a Member?**

Join NEISMA for 2016 - 2017 or renew your membership online.

It is easy, simple and quick

Mail / Fax /Credit card or e-check processing **Registration form on inside of back page.** 

## Flexible Goal Pins and How to Install Them

by Jeffrey Doucette

As many of you know by now, flexible goal pins are being required at more and more levels of hockey. Similar to helmets and face masks, it seems only natural that at some point it will be required just about everywhere. The question is - why and how do we get it done?

In my younger days, hockey goals had those big flat B shaped bottoms that would bend or get sharp edges over time becoming a safety hazard for whoever had the misfortune of sliding into them. They were replaced for the current D shape.

For those of you who have no idea what I am talking about, look at pictures from the 60's. Goals were also held in place by screw in type steel pegs that did not move too well when hit by flying bodies but served the purpose. Safety changed that to what

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American

most of us have - simple drop pins. I am all for continued use of these pins for everyday use because of safety - from youth through adult leagues, reserving drop in flexible pins for games that mean something.

Everyone has a definition of how important their particular games mean so some sort of guideline needs to be established and communicated to all of your customers. Unless it is mandated by higher authorities, flexible pins may be difficult for the average rink to use simply because of the added time and/or labor needed. One resurfacer driver cannot do it all in the time allowed before games and especially between periods.

If you are considering having the flexible system installed, here are a few pointers. First and foremost, do not have a local concrete guy install. Do not have a local concrete guy install. It's not a typo, I repeated myself. There is too much that can go wrong - you really need someone who knows refrigeration pads. When I had my rinks done, the cost between the two was not that significant.

Second, do your own preparation. Order the kit after you have decided what size pins you want. Check with the supplier what tools or other needs the installer may need. You should plan on extension cords, shop vac, concrete chisels (air or hand), 2 part epoxy and its installation gun, levels, tape measures (one at least 100'), string, a steel cutting saw, and maybe a come-along hoist.

Depending on the supplier, they may send their installer by truck and will have hopefully have everything or they may have to fly in, in which case they can't bring everything with them.

Third, pre-measure. Start by laying out string on both sides of the goal line on your dry floor, similar to laying out the red line over ice when painting or installing vinyl. Measure the width of the rink across each goal line, each blue line, and the center line. Divide each in half and mark the floor for center or





as close as you can get to center. Some measurements will be slightly different so it's best to just average. Run your string the length of the rink to find your perfect center. On the goal lines measure 3' out from center on each side and mark it.

Now, turn your game nets upside down and measure the posts from center to center and make sure both nets are close to the same as the measurement up top at the cross bar, otherwise they will not be a universal fit when you need to use them or replace them.

If, for some reason, one is considerably wider than the other, use the come-along hoist to bend it in to match. Use that measurement to mark on the floor for the exact location of where the goal pin insert will be installed. When the installer arrives, repeat the process with the installer. "Measure twice, cut once." And with two sets of eyes.

After install and you are repainting the ice, add a bit of two inch line directly behind the pin inserts in a T shape - about six inches should be fine. This will

make it easier to locate when you are ready to dig out ice before game time.

A few things you will need for each end will be a set of flexible pins, a bucket, hot water either in the bucket or a squirt bottle, large flat head screw driver, either a turkey baster or a rubber battery water filler bulb (turkey baster works fine but they break easy and the battery bulb lasts longer). Last would be a way to dig the ice out so you can use the hot water to clear off the screw top and inside of the insert. Some people use a hole-saw on a cordless drill. Some use a large flat wood drill bit on a cordless drill. But if you are on a budget, you can use a screw driver - it's just not as clean.

I hope this helps. Just don't forget to get the measurements perfect the first time. You don't want to end up with a crooked goal line or have your goal closer to one face off dot than the other. Once they are in, they are in.

Good Luck!

# Rink Rat

#### 2016 - 2017 WILLIAM CHASE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

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College/University enrolled in the Fall 2017:		
Major/Minor:		
Rink industry work history:		
NEISMA Member Affiliation (dues paid 2016 – 2	017):	
Facility/Company Name:		
Manager/Owner Name:		
<b>ESSAY</b> (Please include one page, single space) Please explain how your personal history (school has shaped your future plans in your pursuit of a	ol, extracurricular activitie	
ELIGIBILITY The 2016 – 2017 William Chase Scholarship is on NEISMA members (rinks and vendors alike). Students on a NEISMA member organization, or spears in a NEISMA member facility or company, an accredited college or university in the Fall of the second secon	udent applicants shall ha the student's parent sha Students shall be high s	ve worked a minimum of two (2) Il have worked a minimum of five (5)
CHECKLIST		
A complete application shall consist of the following:  The above application filled out will all necessary inf  A letter of recommendation from a NEISMA membe  Your most recent high school transcript.  A one (1) page, single spaced essay on the abover	r (facility or business owner/m	nanager, etc please no relatives).

APPLICATIONS SHALL BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN MARCH 15, 2017.

Applicants will be notified in early April. Scholarships will be awarded at our annual Spring Conference.

Send to: NEISMA, P.O. Box 290595, Wethersfield, CT 06129.



# 2016 - 2017 NEISMA Membership Registration

**S**eptember 1, 2016 – August 31, 2017

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# Attention!

THIS IS THE LAST RINK RAT TO BE MAILED TO LAST YEAR'S MEMBERS. IF YOU HAVEN'T RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR THE 2016 - 2017 YEAR, YOU NEED TO DO SO IMMEDIATELY SO YOUR BENEFITS CONTINUE.

TO CHECK WHETHER OR NOT YOU ARE UP TO DATE, GO TO PAGES 18 - 20 AND SEE A LISTING OF CURRENT MEMBERS. IF YOU'RE NOT LISTED, YOU CAN USE THE MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM ON PAGE 27 (INSIDE THIS BACK PAGE) AND RENEW.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF NEISMA!**