



The (Almost) Perfect Conference Location - Lake Placid, NY

For those of you fortunate enough to attend the recent Spring Conference and Trade Show on April 22 through April 26 in Lake Placid, NY, you were treated to a very productive, enjoyable and memorable event! From the certification classes, to the educational sessions, to the annual awards, to the college scholarships, to the Trade Show, to the networking events, to the NEISMA Cup hockey game, to the inaugural Rink Summit - the five (5) day event was a huge success for those in attendance.

There was so much for people to do from the time they arrived to when they packed up to head home. Sunday night featured an ISI certification course then a welcome party at the Olympic Museum. Afterwards, a Learn-to-Curl event was held in the USA Rink. While only a few showed up to try it out (right), spectators started to roll in and by the end of the night nearly everyone went out on the ice to try it!

Monday featured the first-ever "Rink Summit" which was attended by most of the regional and national ice rink organizations in North America (see page 4). In addition, ISI began their 3-day Certificate of Arena Operations - Part 3 course and USIRA began their 4-day Ice Making and Painting Technology course and 3-day Operations and Risk Man-



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2018 Fall Conferences

Wednesday, October 3rd

Hatfield Ice Arena
Colmar, Pennsylvania

Northshire Civic Center
Manchester Center, Vermont

Wednesday, October 10th

University of New England
Biddeford, Maine

Wednesday, October 17th

Phillips Academy
Andover, Massachusetts

Mark your calendar today!

President's Message

by Ben Ruggles, CIRM, PMP

Another Spring Conference and Trade Show has come and gone. Hopefully you had a chance to make it as it was well worth the time and effort to get to Lake Placid. Inside this issue there are several articles and lots of photos of the event. Highlights were the learn-to-curl social event on Sunday night in the USA rink, the annual NEISMA Cup hockey game on the 1980 Rink on Tuesday night, the "Making Ice in PyeongChang" presentation on Tuesday and the first ever "Rink Summit" held on Monday. In addition, forty-eight (48) attendees went home with a certification from either ISI or the US Ice Rink Association.

Special kudos go out to Conference Chair Michelle Stenberg who once again put on a tremendous event. Michelle is turning over the reigns to Eric Dursin who now has big shoes to fill going forward. Rumor has it that we'll be heading out to Springfield, MA again



next April, where we enjoyed the best Spring Conference attendance on record in 2016.

Looking ahead, Eric and his conference committee are now working on a series of fall meetings throughout our region. The dates and locations are listed on **page 1**. Please take advantage of these localized meetings as the networking opportunity with local rinks and vendors is priceless. We've tried to spread them around so everyone has easy access to them. It is a day well spent so please make plans to attend.

One of the Fall Conferences that is already planned is at my facility at Phillips Academy in Andover, MA on Wednesday, October 17th. The first presentation in the morning will be made by our Director of Public Safety, Mark Leonard, in conjunction with the town's police department

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and will address "Active Shooter Protocols". Later, he will review some techniques to "Diffuse High Energy Situations" - something that we all have to do all too often. Mark is an avid hockey player and former Police Chief in Marlborough, MA so he has a unique perspective to share with us. In addition, Dave Gyger, Arena Manager at Plymouth (NH) State University, will show us how to set up and prepare curling ice in our arenas. After lunch, we will have a "learn-to-curl" activity and a modified curling competition for all attendees who would like to try. So mark your calendar today! It should be a great day so please join us.

Note on **page 26** the listing of our 2018 William Chase Scholarship recipients. Congratulations to the five (5) recipients and the rinks that they represent. Just important, though, is our the huge THANK YOU to the five (5) members who stepped forward with a \$500 award, matched by NEISMA's fundraised efforts, to hand out five \$1,000 scholarships to those deserving students for this coming school

year. Employees of our NEISMA members - and children of our employees - are eligible for these scholarships. It is the Scholarship Committee's intent to expand this program again next year, so please contribute and encourage your employees to apply.

Mentioned earlier was the "2018 Rink Summit" that we hosted on Monday of our annual conference (**see page 4**). This was the first such event of its kind, which gathered representatives from all of the major rink associations in North America. The NEISMA Board of Directors' primary objective was to get everyone to the same table - which was reached when we all sat down after coffee in the morning. But more importantly - and thanks to the expertise of moderator, Adam Naylor - we were all able to openly share our ideas, concerns, passions, hopes and visions for the ice rink industry. We all agreed that this was a worthwhile effort and a few suggested that they would offer a similar forum in the future. But know this - there are a lot of people in leadership positions looking out for you! Including NEISMA!

60th
ANNIVERSARY

See You Next Year
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C H I C A G O

June 4-7, 2019

The graphic features a dark blue background with white starburst patterns and swirling lines. The text is primarily in white and green, with the date 'June 4-7, 2019' highlighted in a green box.

2018 NEISMA Rink Summit

A special feature of this year's Spring Conference and Trade Show was hosting the inaugural Rink Summit, a "meeting of the minds" from the various ice rink associations throughout North America. This day-long brainstorming session addressed the following topics:

- **R-22 Phase Out:** With production of the R-22 refrigerant ending in 2020, ice rinks that use it must either stockpile it now for future use or find alternatives. With most of Canadian rinks' refrigeration systems being ammonia-based, this is primarily a concern for many American rinks. There is plenty of information available - rink associations need to point their members to it.
- **The need to develop and retain a strong member/customer base:** What do our members want? What have we done to find out? How responsive are we to their needs? Focus was on good 2-way



Summit participants - (L to R) Ross Rankin (ORFA), Terry Piche (ORFA), Craig Peterson (WIAMA), Francois Martindale (FOMA), Ben Ruggles (NEISMA), Jeff Theiler (USIRA), Jon Balvance (MIAMA), Rick Ragan (MIAMA), Kevin McCormack (MIRMA), Jamie Gibson (FOMA), Lisa Fedick (MIRMA), EJ Gottwald (NEISMA), Ray Ferry (USIRA), John Milton (ORFA), Rob McBride (ISI), Alec Hines (RMRA), Aaron Kirby (WIAMA), Mike Bauer (MIAMA) and Dr. Adam Naylor (facilitator).

communication, offer regular and consistent programs and services, committed to continuous improvement, be leaders in the industry.

- **Training and Certification:** Increases knowledge and skills. Identifies and establishes industry standards. Legitimizes our passion and our profession. Focuses on quality programs and facilities. Helps us to motivate and evaluate our staff. Draws people to our meetings and conferences. Can establish career paths within the ice rink industry.
- **Safety:** A broad range of topics were identified for future focus groups such as lockdown situations/active shooter protocol, indoor air quality, sexual misconduct/SafeSport/bullying, aging infrastructures and the need for structural inspections, and proper employee training.

All in attendance agreed that the Summit was time well spent and that future collaboration among our various organizations will only benefit our respective members. Several of the organizations in attendance expressed the desire to host a similar event in the future. We all look forward to it!

NEISMA sincerely thanks those who participated!





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2018 Trade Show



Annual NEISMA Cup Hockey Game



The NEISMA Cup is in the possession of the Rink Managers after this year's trouncing of the Vendor team, 7-2. The game was played on the famous 1980 Rink / Herb Brooks Arena, named after the Head Coach of the Gold Medal winning USA Men's Hockey Team. Burbank Arena Assistant Manager, Jim Brown (upper left corner), was named game MVP for his outstanding play in net.

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From front cover - The (Almost) Perfect Location

agement course. At night, the popular President’s Reception was held in the Grand Room of the Crowne Plaza Hotel which is a great networking event.

Tuesday was the actual Conference and Trade Show event with featured speaker, Jay Flanders of



the Grand National Curling Club kicking things off after a hearty breakfast. After ISI and USIRA class participants went to their respective classrooms, Don

Moffatt and Brandon Klement then teamed up - as they did in South Korea - to present “Making Ice in PyeongChang and the 2018 Winter Olympics”, an interesting and informative 100+ slide presentation with commentary to go along.



The Annual Awards Luncheon featured “Frank J. Zamboni Hall of Fame” award presentations to Jim Hartnett - which was done over the phone and the room’s



PA system while Jim was recovering from recent surgery - and Dave Loverock, two very deserving recipients. In addition, the “Friend of NEISMA” award was presented to

Doug Peters and included several shirts and a pot of Boston Baked Beans.

After the awards, Tom Ferguson presented five \$1,000 scholarships to deserving students pursuing their college education.



After the afternoon educational sessions ended, everyone adjourned to the Ballroom for our annual Trade Show featuring 40+ vendor booths (see page 7). In addition, our annual raffle to benefit our scholarship fund was held and raised over



\$1,500. Thanks to Tom and Sonya Morton for their assistance with this worthwhile cause.

After the Trade Show,

another gathering was held in the 1980 Rink, site of the “Miracle on Ice” game between the USA and Russia, and featured desserts and open bar for spectators. Down on the ice, players representing member rinks squared off against vendors in the annual NEISMA Cup hockey game (see page 8 for more photos of the game).



The ISI and USIRA classes were completed on Wednesday and Thursday making for a long yet productive event.

So why was it “almost” the perfect location? Unfortunately, the distance for many rink people to travel was prohibitive so attendance was down. Consequently, the vendors at the Trade Show were disappointed in the amount of foot traffic that they encountered. Admittedly, we knew that this was a risk and that is why we began promoting at the 2017 spring conference handing out piggy banks for everyone to save up with. Hopefully next time - and there will be a next time - folks will make the trip. We know that it will certainly be worth their time, money and effort!

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WHAT WE PLAN ON DOING THIS SUMMER

By David Korpiel

It is summer time and the rink doors are shut. Most ice rink facilities up our way do not do business during the summer months. That doesn't mean that all work stops for those that facilitate and administer at each individual rink. Besides doing the routine maintenance, Facility Managers are human, too! They look forward to the summer to enjoy, relax and spend time with family and friends.

Most of the rinks that are shut down to the public begin their "routine" of summer maintenance. **John Tuite**, Director of the Webster Ice Rink in Webster, NY, says that "we are doing our general maintenance but we are upgrading our scheduling boards and software system". Tuite continued, "we are going to change up our main entrance but really don't have a plan yet." Sometimes that is the best way to figure things out. Since Tuite took up the ice in May, he was able to

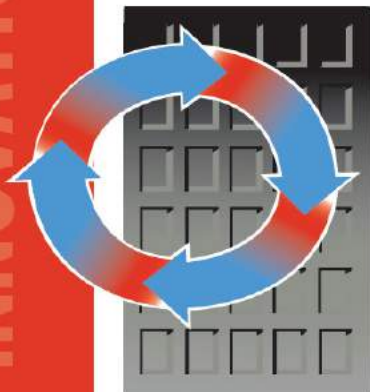
travel to Las Vegas and catch Game 5 of the Stanley Cup Finals. "I wasn't fortunate enough to get inside the arena but was able to be outside with thousands of other hockey fans", he added. "It was awesome! It was a big part and everything was on the Jumbo screen." Tuite plans to work in his garden and work on his coy pond this summer. He no longer boats because he sold it. "Can't go fishing anymore," he concluded.

After several attempts to get in touch with the elusive **Tom Walsh** from Boston College, I was able to get a few answers from him about what his plans were. "Normal maintenance around the rink", Walsh said. As for his summer and what he plans to do, Walsh replied, "Nothing. No wait.... I will take the kids fishing and perhaps vacation in the Catskills."

Rinks always seem to be repairing and putting out

(Continued on page 12)

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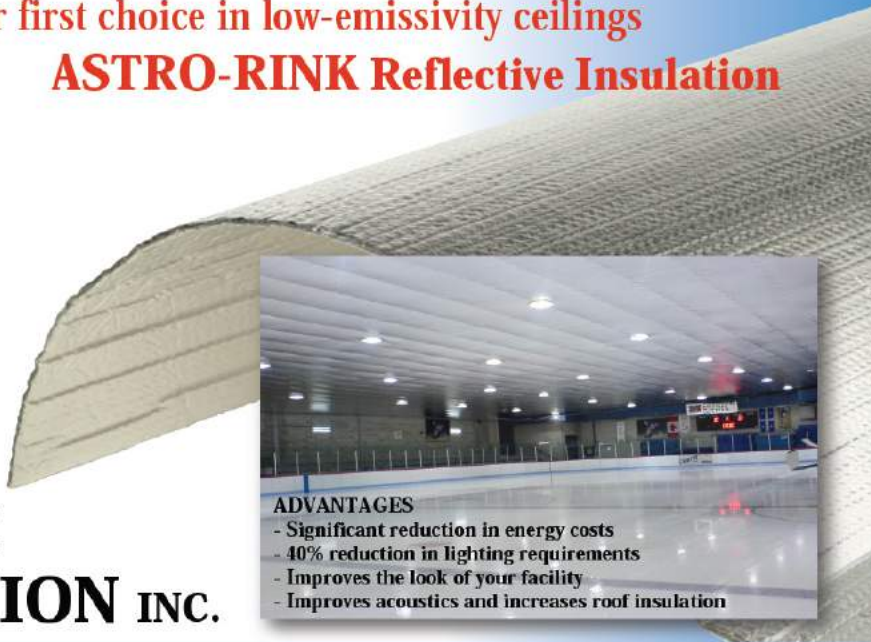
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(From page 10 - What We Plan on Doing this Summer)

fires. **Stu Hughes**, the Facility Director at the Rochester Institute of Technology, says that the students will be performing routine summer maintenance at the Polisseni Center on the campus of RIT. RIT has two rinks on its campus - the Ritter facility does not shut down in the summer. "We are very busy at the Ritter", Hughes stated. "The Polisseni will open back up in July".

Stu plans to get away from the rink for a while and try to get some motorcycle riding in. He rides his Harley Davidson "Fat Boy" during the summer. "I like to ride my Harley with my girlfriend and we go on benefits runs, poker runs and car shows. I would also like to ride in the Adirondacks this summer."

Clint Campbell, Director of the Paul Louis Arena in Downtown Rochester, NY says that he will be doing some general maintenance as well. Paul Louis Arena took up the ice in May. "I will be doing some painting, cleaning and outside work. I will be bouncing around all summer". Campbell became a first time father this past February. "I will not be doing much golfing this summer", he said. "I will be doing a lot a baby sitting", he said with a smile. That is not a bad thing to do. Congratulations to Clint and his wife, Shannon, for being parents for the first time. There is a future hockey player coming out of Rochester, NY.

Dave Sharman runs the Geneva Ice and Recreation Complex out of Geneva NY. His place of employment is home to Division III Hockey Hobart Statesman. The ice at his facility was removed in March. Turf was put down and there is plenty of activity during the summer in Geneva. His crew will be performing the general maintenance activities as well. The painting and cleaning will have to be performed around summer activities like Box Lacrosse, indoor soccer and Muscle Man triathlons. "We lease the turf to the local YMCA 4 days a week", Sharman explained. "We are also the rain site for the summer concert series that the City puts on for its residents."

Like Campbell, Sharman is a young parent of two. He will be working on potty training and "getting the kids to bed at a reasonable hour." Sharman said tongue in check, "Mom and Dad will

be playing defense all summer long!"

James Hoffman from the Scottsville Ice Rink in Scottsville, NY, said that he plans on doing plenty around the facility. "We will be taking the engine out of the Zam and doing some minor repairs", Hoffman explained. "Our locker rooms need to be re plumbed, as well."

After Hoffman completes his duties at the ice rink he will be headed off to Silver Lake. "I'm going to Silver Lake to do some fishing during the first week of August. OK, fishing and DRINKING!" he said with enthusiasm.

I have a full slate of things that need to be completed. After almost two months of spring activity - like motorcycle swap meets, stamp shows, gem shows and antique shows - the routine maintenance will begin. A much needed upgrade to the facility will take place, as well. A major fundraising campaign will begin in the fall as over \$850,000 needs to be raised. It will be a major undertaking but it can be done.

As to what I'll do away from work, I will continue remodeling a kitchen but, more importantly, my wife and I head to Europe for the first time. Four cities over a span of ten days. We're very much looking forward to this summer vacation. We need it!

There are plenty of exciting and fun things happening from a few rink people this summer, from changing diapers to chasing fish, to traveling on a Harley to traveling abroad. We lead interesting and exciting lives. It truly is a great profession to be involved with. Have a great summer and the next assignment will be to share "what we DID on our Summer Vacations!"



ANGRY RINK GUY JUDGES 33 YEARS OF RINK MANAGEMENT

By Ed Peduto

The call came last week... "we need an article from you to fill up the Rink Rat." I serve on the NEISMA Board, part of my Board responsibilities is to write articles. Never before having had writer's block, I thought of topics from subfloor heating systems (is yours working??) to LED lighting (if you don't have it yet, do you want my spare fluorescent bulbs?) but nothing seemed to inspire me.

June 20th marked my 33rd complete year as an ice rink manager...where did the time go?? I decided to reflect on my career and more importantly the changes for the better (and a few for the worse) in all the world RINK. I hope that you enjoy my stroll down memory lane, I'd love some feedback sent to the Rink Rat Editor, if I strike any nerves, positively or negatively!

THE ENVIRONMENT

Rinks built in the '80s and earlier tended to be dark, dank barns; I loved EVERY one! Much to the chagrin of modern rink people, the "mini-rink" is NOT a concept invented by the "ADM!" Rinks were sized strictly by the space that was either built or rented for them to be in. North of Boston alone, few rinks were 200' long, the "old Garden -the GOOD one" measured 191' x 83'. Hockeytown Melrose fit into what had been a bus / trolley barn in Franklin Square. When demand exceeded supply, Hockeytown owners refrigerated a rectangle in the basement complete with four mushroom columns WITHIN the ice surface. Rented nearly round the clock, legendary rink owner John Abbott reportedly stated "we don't need thicker padding around the columns, it teaches the kids to keep their heads up!" Similarly, the Belle Isle Rink in Bedford, MA couldn't have been more than 125' long and was complete with a miniature sized open tank Zamboni! Studio rinks were in many buildings housing larger ice sheets, and they often were rented for shooting practices or small ice drills....these were

NOT invented in 2010! When the Winchester, MA rink was built, the entire level floor was piped and refrigerated, leaving a 200' x 30' strip of ice behind the players' benches. Many an errant stick practice shot interrupted a "real" game on the "big" rink!

As for dank, the "rink smell" is almost a forgotten aroma. The few rinks that had "dehumidification" used a coil of brine or glycol robbed off of the ice floor to "dry" the air. In reality, the air never got dry and the ice only got softer! Often the air ducts were directed at the ice surface to blow the inevitable fog away, and leaving a giant soft patch where the air-stream hit the ice. I can't say for sure if the "rink smell" was purely a result of moisture, mold, combustion fumes alone or in combination, but there was no mistaking the fragrance that came home with

(Continued on page 14)


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(From page 13 - Angry Rink Guy)

you in your hair, your hockey bag and street clothes.

Don't forgot the fine "eau de cigarette" which permeated the barns, almost every coach and parent smoked to reduce frostbite, and NHL players would often sneak a drag between periods of even playoff games!

Dark? If you could see the puck the rink was deemed "bright enough." Often lit by long T 12 fluorescents or mercury vapor lamps, most rinks featured 33% or more of burnt out bulbs and the energy crisis of the early 70s led most savvy rink owners to shut off as many of the 67% functioning bulbs as they could before the goalies started crying!

TODAY, virtually all rinks with extended operating seasons (6 months plus) have a desiccant dehumidifier. Wonder Machines, the lack of dripping, elimination of fog, and minimization of rusting beams are all daily problems of the old rinks that have vanished by the presence of 1 machine (and a bit of energy to run it!) Modern lighting has evolved thru metal halide lamps, to T-5 fluorescent and now LED lamps are the



coup de gras. Whiter than any prior lamp, burning much less energy, LED wins every analysis on how best to light your rink from the parking lot through the bathrooms.

VERDICT: MODERN AREA ENVIRONMENT – even the most nostalgic amongst us has to concede that rinks are far more pleasant today than those of yesteryear.

THE CUSTOMERS

Maybe I'm jaded with age, but the present era rink customers can't hold a candle to my patrons of the 1980s. The Surgeon General had put the kibosh on indoor cigarette smoking, so the crowd smelled better by default (most anyway!). Mostly "working class" parents still attuned to the Big Bad Bruins of the 1970s, customers HUNG OUT AT MY RINK! Regardless of who was on the ice, there were ALWAYS parents around. A dead car battery would often result in 10 patrons flocking to help and a plethora of jumper cables emerging to get the old rig going. We had "the VW dealer" 24 hours on-call for "short block" parts to keep the Zamboni HDB going, the "Diner Guy" who would stay open to feed the late-closing rink crew, Frank Brown - Zamboni repairman in a Jaguar! Say No More!, and others that would appear to help at anytime, anywhere.

If you never had your HDB drive shaft U-joint fail which caused the shaft to fling around and rip your throttle cable apart, you really haven't "lived!" Hello, VW Guy...?

I'm trying to be kind, but today's people just don't measure up. Often driving cars worth more than our resurfacers, they think jumper cables are sold at Lululemon. Dumping and running to their workouts, occasionally work, they appear in the rink for Ice Shows and tournament games only. "What do you want from Au Bon Pain?" has been replaced by "I don't know, I'm the au pair" in most of our boutique rinks.

VERDICT: OLD SCHOOL CUSTOMERS – not open to debate.

THE MACHINERY

Dozing? Already stopped reading? Old school compressor “rooms” were most associated with legendary confusion specialist Rube Goldberg. The first rink I worked in had ammonia in the glycol, you smelled it every time you entered the lobby. It’s effect eased until after 5 minutes you didn’t notice it. Today, I hesitate to guess how many agencies would be involved in the purification of that glycol. When I asked why, I was told matter-of-factly “the chiller popped a tube, we plugged it, it’s all set.” I believed him then, not so sure today.

The fact that we had glycol set us apart. It would be 3 rinks later before I ran into the joy of having Calcium Chloride “brine” run through my rink pipes. The rust inhibitor would later be determined to be very carcinogenic, but I can’t believe it worked anyway. The entire room looked like RUST! The packing on the pump always seemed to leak

faster than the condensate pump could pump it back into the system, the steel tank often sprung tiny leaks, and there wasn’t a work boot made that could stand up to “the Brine’s” effects. Within a day or two of working in that room, the sole of your boot would begin to part from the uppers. The rink was always saved. The boots? Never.

Today’s rooms are smaller, the components far more efficient, and the refrigerants used, I’m told, are “safer”! If nothing else, the pumps have driplless seals, subfloor heating is standard, and much waste heat is recovered. Present day boilers (or tankless systems!) are sized for the demand needed to run a rink. Breakers have vastly reduced the need for spare fuses to protect equipment. On an annual basis , I have very limited contact with chemicals in my “Mechanical” room (even the name has changed!).

VERDICT – hate to admit it, but the MODERN machinery wins, hands down.



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GRAND NATIONAL CURLING CLUB HOSTS ARENA CHAMPIONSHIPS AT PLYMOUTH STATE

On the weekend of June 22 - 24, the Grand National Curling Club (GNCC) hosted their annual Arena Championships at the Hanaway Rink at Plymouth (NH) State University's Ice Arena and Welcome Center. Eighteen (18) teams participated in this event which guaranteed three (3) games per team, crowned four (4) event winners, and awarding five (5) trophies.



The GNCC's Arena Chair, Jay Flanders (also seen on page 9 of this Rink Rat as our Spring Conference's featured speaker) - who also skipped the host site's team #2 in

the tournament - said its somewhat difficult to find a host site for this tournament as the teams come from throughout the east coast of the US. The GNCC now has thirty-three (33) arena clubs (see map) from as far north as the Lake Placid (NY) Curling Club to as far south as the Palm Beach (FL) Curling Club.

Dave Gyger, Arena Manager of the Plymouth State facility - as well as President of the Plymouth Rocks Curling Club - said that he last hosted this event in 2016 but that "the ice was not the best" so he wanted a second chance. "I've learned a lot about arena curling ice since then" including his involvement with the USA Curling's National Arena Championships held in Salt Lake City this past May.

Open that weekend solely for the tournament, Dave and his crew were able to prep the ice the night before the event began, with a wet cut, then a dry cross cut .



On Friday morning, with the first game scheduled for 11:00 am, they were able to set the hacks, pebble, nip and sweep the four (4) sheets, set up the scoreboards, chill and set up the rocks, get the registration table and locker rooms organized, then open up the doors to the participants.



Dave said that some of the players stayed in on-campus dormitories while others stayed at local hotels. The school's food service

company provided the food and non-alcoholic beverages (no alcohol allowed in the building). Many local establishments were frequented by the many teams for their need for adult beverages.

After a brief explanation of the rules by Dave, eight teams kicked off the morning games right on time. Opening round games included all local teams with one team coming from Nantucket Island (MA) - their first bonspiel in their short 2-year history. Unfortunately, they lost their first game to the Plymouth Rocks #2 team, 9-2, but were



able to battle back and make it to the B-Event final on Sunday, losing to the Long Island (NY) Curling Club.



In addition, the A-Event (Arena Championship) was won by the Rutland (VT) Curling Club, beating the Ocean State (RI) Curling Club on the final stone in the 8th end!

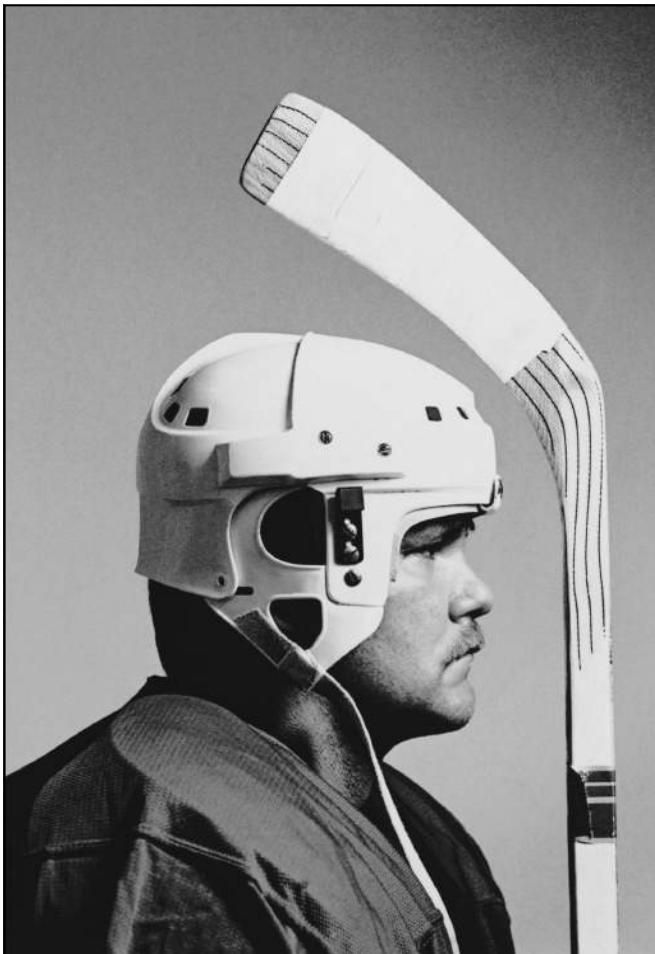
The C-Event was one by the Virginia Curling Club who beat the Plymouth Rocks Curling Club. And the D-Event was won by the South Shore (MA) Curling Club over the Pittsburgh (PA) Curling Club.

Check out the GNCC clubs:

<https://www.mapcustomizer.com/map/GNCC%20Arena%20Curling%20Clubs>

Participating Curling Clubs:

- Mt. Washington Valley (NH) #1
- Mt. Washington Valley #2
- Mt. Washington Valley #3
- Plymouth Rocks #1
- Plymouth Rocks #2
- Plymouth Rocks #3
- South Shore #1
- South Shore #2
- Ocean State #1
- Ocean State #2
- Nantucket
- Rutland Rocks
- Virginia
- Marlborough (MA)
- Pittsburgh
- Long Island
- Woodstock (VT)
- Rutland/Woodstock



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* SPECIAL SPOTLIGHT *

NANTUCKET CURLING CLUB MAKES SPLASH IN FIRST BONSPIEL

NEISMA has made a special effort over the past couple years to bring the ice sport of curling to our membership's attention. We hosted a fall conference in 2016 at Endicott College highlighting curling and giving members the opportunity to try it. We've published numerous articles in this publication about the growth of the sport, especially in ice arenas. And, most recently at our Spring Conference in Lake Placid, hosted a "learn-to-curl" event Sunday evening and had Jay Flanders of the Grand National Curling Club be our featured speaker to kick off the Conference on Tuesday morning.

So why have we done all of this? Well, while we didn't know the U.S. Men's team would win the Gold Medal in this year's Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, we did anticipate that the interest in curling would continue to increase and ice arenas would be a key factor in the ability to meet that demand. Couple that with the fact that most of us have empty ice time at some point during the week, we felt this was a good business opportunity for you to consider.

In this edition of the *Rink Rat*, we thought featuring a curling success story involving a member rink would be of interest. So, let us introduce to you the Nantucket Curling Club!

Established in the summer of 2016 at Nantucket Ice, the only ice rink on Nantucket island off the coast of Cape Cod, the club now features over twenty members. According to club member Mike Gillies, they got a



Members representing the Nantucket CC in the recent GNCC bonspiel in Plymouth, NH - (L to R) Steve Theroux, Mike Gillies, Cory Piper and Devin Remick.

group of twenty or so people together "to help each other gain knowledge of the sport and share tips". In other words, they didn't have the slightest idea what they were doing!



Muffin McMurrer, Office Manager for the rink, said that starting curling at the rink was the idea of Devin Remick who served as President of their board of directors. "He, along with Heather Sheldon, got the program off the ground." At first, it wasn't successful but "once we put the

houses in the ice, it took off!"

A familiar face in the curling world, Russ Lemcke, also came to the rescue. Russ was able to secure the sixty-four rocks they needed to equip their four lanes at a reasonable cost to the rink, which was funding the start-up costs. "Russ is a great ambassador of the sport," Gillies said. "We probably wouldn't have been able to do it without him."

Currently, the club curls during the summer months on Wednesday nights from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm. In the winter, they curl on Sunday afternoons from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm. "We adjust to fit others' needs at the rink and that works for us" Gillies said.

Recently, the club decided to enter a team in the Grand National Curling Club's Arena Championships (see page 16), their first bonspiel ever. With the busy summer months on the island approaching, it was difficult to find more than four players to be

(Continued on page 20)



Pictured above (left) is Russ Lemcke presenting at NEISMA's fall conference at the Raymond Bourque Arena at Endicott College in October 2016. Looking on is NEISMA President, Ben Ruggles.



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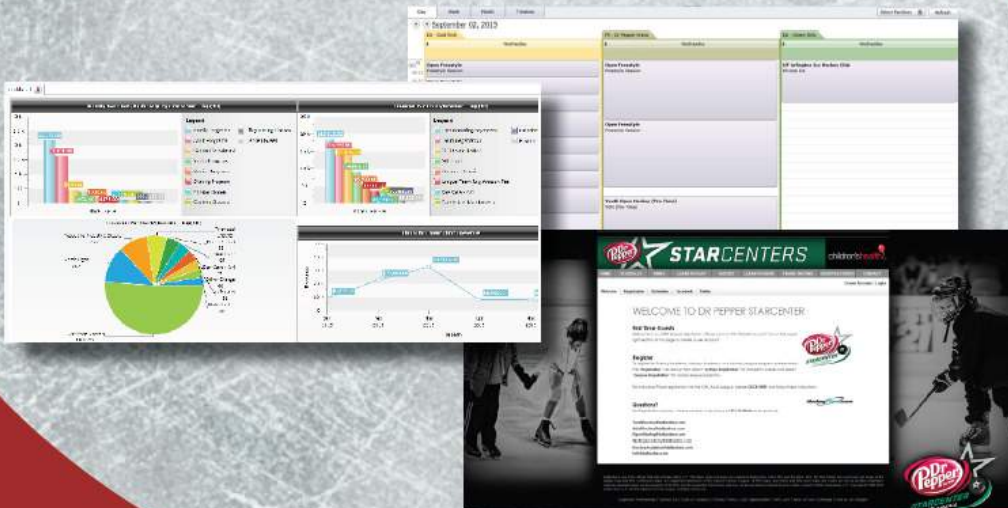
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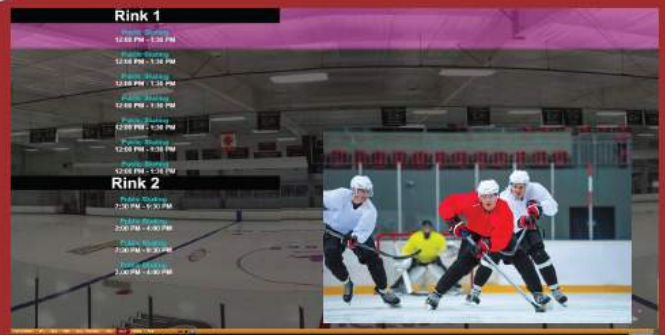
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- Beth Lenz, Kettler Capitals Iceplex



(From page 18 - Nantucket Curling Club Makes Splash)

able to get away, so picking the team was easy. They practiced on Sunday mornings to prepare.

Their first game was against one of the host teams from the Plymouth Rocks Curling Club. Rocks' Skip (and GNCC Arena Chairman) Jay Flanders made an incredible shot to blank the 4th end and retain the hammer. "That shot was probably the turning point in the game," said Flanders. "We had a choice of drawing for one point or trying a risky double take-out. If I missed it we might give the other team a steal of one or possibly two. This was our first game playing together as a team. My instinct was to play it safe and draw for one. My Vice (Skip) convinced me to take the risk. After making the shot their confidence was shaken and ours was sky high. So I guess it was the right decision."



Mike Gillies (left) and Devin Remick prepare to sweep as Cory Piper throws a stone during the Nantucket CC's first game against the Plymouth Rocks. Skip Steve Theroux (not pictured) stands at the house hollering directions.

That it was, as the Rocks went on to win at first game, 9-2. But did it shake the NCC's confidence? On the contrary, said Gillies. "That blank end was a surprise for sure, but I believe it showed that we were giving them a game, that no one expected us to play as good as we did," said Gillies.

From there, the team went on to defeat Virginia, 10-8 and then Plymouth Rocks, 10-3 to advance to the B-Event Championship on Sunday. Unfortunately, the Virginia team got their revenge and sent the Nantucket team home as a runner-up. "This being their first ever bonspiel, that was quite a success story!" Tournament Director and Arena Manager,

Dave Gyger proclaimed. "Plus a great group of people representing their club" he said.

After the tournament, Gillies was asked what interested him in the sport of curling. "I've always been interested in curling after watching it in the Olympics on TV years ago" Gillies said. "When the opportunity to learn and play came about in Nantucket, my wife, Renee, and I jumped at the chance. We have thoroughly enjoyed the competition, the community and the friendships."

A football player in college, Gillies compared the sports. "The similarities are the team aspect and the challenge of making the shot - a little pressure as with any sport. A major difference is that curling is a gentlemen's sport where you call your own fouls if you hit the stone with your foot or broom" Gillies said. "Also, the Skips and Vice Skips will come to an agreement on the score. It's very much a nice sport where everyone wants each other to have a good time and enjoy the game."

Regarding the need for quality ice, Gillies isn't picky. "I believe each sheet at each arena is a little different and when you're playing a match, both teams have to play on the same sheet. So you have to read the ice and learn it, and then use what is working to play your best" Gillies said.

Bob Hickman, Facilities Manager at Nantucket Ice (see photos on pages 23 & 25), said that communication is important between the rink and the curlers. "We understand their need for a smooth sheet of ice, which is different from hockey and figure skaters, especially if they're coming from a dedicated curling rink," Hickman said. "We understand their concerns and welcome their suggestions," he added.

What is the future of the Nantucket Curling Club? Word is that there is an effort to become independent and just rent ice time from the rink. Although the rink has recently purchased the stones outright, the club would like to reimburse the rink and go on their own. "It's a board decision," McMurrer said.

Coming this September 7 - 9, the club will be hosting the "Hot Shots Curling Camp" for adult to learn the finer skills of curling. See the ad on page 23. Thank you to the Nantucket Curling Club and Nantucket Ice for your assistance with this article!



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CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS ARE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE FOR SEXUAL MISCONDUCT CLAIMS

Sexual misconduct has become a big issue in the sports and entertainment world recently and ice rinks are not immune. Since people are now aware of this type of behavior, more people will be looking for it which can result in legal claims and accusations against your staff, independent contractors or even customers. This, in turn, can result in you having to defend yourself and your business from these types of claims.

“Sexual abuse and molestation” insurance coverage is available and, to some extent, protects you and your business against these claims. However, it does not apply to the alleged perpetrator. Why not? Because his/her act is presumed to be intentional and intentional acts are not covered. The perpetrator is subject to his/her



own civil and criminal suits and charges. As the business location where the alleged act(s) occurred, your issue is that the victims and their families may file claims against you as the employer and the operator of the facility. They will claim that you either knew or should have known that the perpetrator was capable or likely to commit such an act. Therefore, you would be liable as the result of your failure to supervise and maintain a safe environment for those inside your building.

What can you do to provide a defense? Where permitted by law, the first step would be to establish a policy which requires criminal background checks on all of your employees – including new

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hires – and update them every three years. In fact, many insurance companies won't provide the coverage without this requirement. Even if they did provide coverage, it would be difficult to defend as background checks are now industry standard. This criminal background information is readily available at a reasonable cost so not knowing that the perpetrator had a propensity for sexual misconduct could make you liable for the employee's actions.

In addition, ensure that the independent contractors and volunteers working inside your building have had background checks, as well. Most organizations, such as USA Hockey and US Figure Skating, utilizing these people (referees, coaches, etc.) require background checks, as well, so getting copies of their documentation and ensuring compliance would be another step in maximizing your defense against such claims.

Note, too, that each state has different laws and requirements surrounding criminal and sexual offense background checks. Discuss this with your lawyer and insurance carrier in an attempt to, first, prevent these occurrences from happening on your property and then to properly defend them, if they do occur.

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6-SHEET FACILITY IN AMESBURY (MA) GETS APPROVAL

(From the Newburyport News)

The Atlantic Sports Center in Amesbury, MA is another step closer to reality as the town's Planning Board approved the \$48 million project recently.

Billerica (MA) based Global Property Developers Corp. will build the 410,000 square foot building which will include six (6) ice hockey rinks, office space, a conference/function room, a restaurant as well as physical therapy and training facilities.

The original plan had a \$30 million price tag but was increased due to the need for a 900 vehicle parking lot as well as an access road.

Project Manager Michael Gorman said that they

plan on bringing hockey leagues, clinics and tournaments to the city. "I am anxious to get building and bring some great hockey to Amesbury" Gorman said.

"The reason why we are the Atlantic Sports Center is that we are going after interested tournament teams (all along the East Coast)" he added.

The Amesbury Chamber of Commerce has been supporting this project since it was first announced in 2016. Executive Director, Kassandra Gove, said that "this is a new chapter for Amesbury." She added "(The Center) will really change Amesbury and our business community and make us a destination. That is what we have all been waiting for."



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Amesbury Mayor Ken Gray agreed. Regarding the Planning Board's recent approval, Gray said "this is an important step in the process. The community loves this project, and we are excited to be moving forward with it."

John Vater, Amesbury High School's varsity hockey coach added "I think this is going to be a great fit for the town and the community and everybody. We've been told there will be a rink and a logo and a locker room for us," he added. "I am pretty sure that is a part of the deal. I hope I get a chance to coach a game from a bench there."

Amesbury Youth Hockey League President, Tara Losee, was thrilled. "Amesbury Youth Hockey has doubled over the past three years and this facility can only continue to support our hockey community," she said.

NOTE: Information for this article was taken from the Newburyport News, written by Jim Sullivan and can be found online at: http://www.newburyportnews.com/news/local_news/amesbury-board-approves-atlantic-sports-center-plan/article_c00232d8-b4ac-5424-bd85-b14e5b30203a.html



Bob Hickman (left) from Nantucket Ice gets advice from Brandon Klement, the instructor for US Ice Rinks' IMPT certification course held at the NEISMA Spring Conference in Lake Placid, NY this past April. Forty-eight (48) conference attendees went home with certification from Lake Placid.

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2018 WILLIAM CHASE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

For those who remember William "Bill" Chase, he loved ice skating and the ice skating business. Bill's career included stints as a coach, youth hockey president, fundraiser, ice rink manager of the West Suburban Arena in Natick, MA (now called the William Chase Arena), founder and President of NEISMA and most memorably as a road salesman for Murray Sandler Skate & Sport Supply. Bill's travels to rinks took him from northernmost Maine through Virginia. **Each one of these recipients was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.**

2018 RECIPIENT: GABRIELLA PEDUTO

Burbank Ice Arena

Gabriella Peduto of Wakefield, MA and Burbank Arena. She is graduating this Spring from Wakefield Memorial High School and plans to study nursing. She is undecided on the school at this time. This award is sponsored by **American Insurance Agency**.

2018 RECIPIENT: CONOR EHRING

Stamford Twin Rinks

Conor Ehring of Norwalk, CT and Stamford Twin Rinks. He is completing his Junior year at Norwalk Community College majoring in Criminal Justice. **Energie Innovation** is the sponsor of this award.

2018 RECIPIENT: BRADEN KADEN

University of Delaware Ice Center

Brad Kaden of Newark, DE receives the award sponsored by **Facility Management Corporation**. Brad is starting at the University of Delaware in the fall after graduating from Caravel Academy. He works at the UD Ice Center.

2018 RECIPIENT: SARAH HUBER

Charles Moore Arena

Sarah Huber of Brewster, MA and Charles Moore Arena. She is completing her Freshman year at WPI majoring in biology and biotechnology. She is a repeat winner from last year. This award is sponsored by **G & A Insurance**.

2018 RECIPIENT: STEPHANIE McSWEENEY

MassMutual Center

Stephanie McSweeney is from East Longmeadow, MA and the MassMutual Center, entering her Senior year at Westfield State. She will be receiving her degree in Elementary Education in 2019. Stephanie is a three time scholarship winner. This award is sponsored by **Safehold Special Risk, Inc.**

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