

Career Changes

By Tom Morton



I have been associated with the Ice Rink Industry now for a period of more than 29 years and I can truthfully say with very few exceptions that I have enjoyed every bit of my association with the industry.

It has not only been an ongoing learning experience but I have met so many wonderful folks and have made some very close and lifelong friendships. I also believe that I have made some major contributions to both NEISMA as well as to the Ice Rink Industry. My reward is knowing that I have done a good job. I feel blessed. What more can one ask for.

That has not always been the case with some others who have at one time left the industry for one reason or another as my good friend Ed Peduto may agree. He and I have seen a number who have left the Ice Rink Industry over the years.

Without naming names, some have left due to ill-

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2020 Spring
Conference
and Trade
Show

Sunday, April 19 through Wednesday, April 23, 2020

President's Message

by EJ Gottwald, CIT, CAO, CAP, CAM



Let me say Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to everyone. This time of year, when the rink business is at its peak, I hope everyone can find some time to enjoy the holiday spirit.

In the past several years we have been trying to reach out

and offered several fall conferences in our membership states. This year we hit a home run at UPENN, Pennsylvania thanks to the hard work of George Arnaoutis, Rob Harkin, and supporting Vendors. I am sure all who attended came away with increased knowledge, new contacts and returned to there rinks energized.

This Year we are really excided about our 2020

spring conference, which will be taking place in Newport, RI. Eric Dursin the Conference chair has put together a great program in a wonderful venue. Newport is a wonderful place to spend a few days and If you play golf Newport National is the course of choice this year. This is an event you will not want to miss, and we hope to see you there.

In 2020 the NEISMA Board of Directors has some exciting changes to announce, which in return will benefit all our members, vendors and rinks alike. Stay tuned for these changes as they take place. Our committees have been working hard to find new ways to benefit all our members and the industry to provide the education and latest updates to all.

In this issue of the Rink Rat, you'll see some great article submitted by our Board of Directors along

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with some of our member rinks! You too can submit an article for the Rink Rat and we encourage you too.

Please don't forget the NEISMA Scholarship program is growing by great vendor support and the NEISMA Conference raffle. Also don't forget the NEISMA Awards program; it is opportunity for you to recognize those that have made a great contribution to your facility and ice sports.

In closing make sure you check out the Tribute to Ben Ruggles on page 14. Ben is the consummate rink manager and as the President of NEISMA brought us to new heights, innovative ways to grow and expand. We can not say thank you enough to him for his hard work and dedication to NEISMA.

NEISMA 2020 Spring Conference and Trade Show

Gurney's Newport Resort

I Goat Is, Newport, RI 02840



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Rink Rat

Fall 2019 Conference Wrap-Up

NEISMA 2019 Fall Conferences

Special Conference Sponsors































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NEISMA Conference at UPENN



The Fall Conference at UPenn Class of 1923 drew 20+ arenas and 43 attendees. Our guest speakers, George Arnaoutis of Jet Ice/NEISMA, Mark Bradley of CDI, Ray Lafond of LSK and Dave Loverock of Jet Ice helped NEISMA bring out an impressive turnout.

Dave Loverock presented the 8 factors of quality ice and he, along with George Arnaoutis, did an on ice presentation of painted and drop in logos, as well as specialty paint. Mark Bradley did a presentation on ice arena dehumidification and Ray Lafond presented on ice resurfacer maintenance.

The seminar had round table discussions on various topics. At the end of the seminar our host, Rob Harkins of UPenn, gave a tour of the new renovations to the arena that had recently been finished. The 17 million dollar upgrades to the facility included a new roof, exterior concrete repairs, LED lighting, compressor refrigeration, HVAC system, dehumidification, refurbished locker room floors, new dasher boards and glass, as well as a modern lobby facelift.





NEISMA 2019 RECAP Fall Regional Conferences continued

Bentley University, Waltham, MA October 8th





Greater Canandaiqua Civic Center, Canandaigua, NY October 22nd

Down and Dirty Look-up Line Painting

By: George Faran, CIT, Proctor Academy

I'm not sure how many other rinks paint a "Look-up Line", and I know that ours isn't entirely according to official spec's for several reasons, but we do. In the past it has taken several hours to complete. I always

thought there might be a quicker, more efficient way to do this. So, this summer, I experimented using some left over PVC boards from a project elsewhere on campus and build a "Look-up Line Painting Machine."

Our look up line varies from the official specs in at least two ways: I) It's currently painted yellow, not safety orange. A previous rink manager thought the orange "clashed" too much with the yellow kick plate around the rink, and decided to use yellow instead. When I did a paint inventory before ordering paint



this year, I found that we still had 3-4 tubs of yellow paint, so I made the decision to use it up this year instead of throwing it away, and 2) We have always left a gap between the line and the boards of about 4-5" leaving the white paint showing against the boards. Our rink is prone to "chip outs" or "blow outs" along the boards, and we feel that this gap lets us check for damage along the boards more easily. Also we can patch it with some good ol' slush without diminishing the appearance of the Look-up Line.

We used to use the Jet-Ice paint stick and a plywood sled to paint two lines (inner and outer), then go around with rollers and fill in the rest of the line. We used 5-7 gallons of paint to paint the line, and it used to take two guys as much as 3-4 hours to complete depending on their proficiency with a roller.

I decided we could do better and built a box that we could push along the ice, and spray paint down into, the

(Continued on page 25)





RESURFACE RECHARGE REPEAT...



ZAMBONI.



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Rink Rat



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(From cover page - Career Changes

ness, long hours, low income, greater opportunities elsewhere, alleged misdeeds, early retirement, not having been recognized or thanked for a job well done, rink closure, no longer being challenged, etc.

Making a career change is not always easy. In doing so one generally may lose contact with former associates. Career changes always present new challenges.

A good example of one who made a positive career change after having served very successfully as a rink manager, as an active member of the Board of Directors, as Chairman of the Awards Committee and as NEISMA President is Jeff Rubin.

To this day he remains one of my close friends. Although he made a successful career change, unlike some others he has not forgotten his former associates in the Ice Rink Industry.

Aristotle, that great Greek philosopher once said "Happiness is the golden mean of life." If one finds happiness in making a career change then one has achieved the best in life.

ASTM is a nonprofit international organization with approximately 35,000 members that prepares industry safety standards. I represent NEISMA as an active member on behalf of NEISMA.

ASTM in their November 2019 reports stated with regard to making a career change, "Don't be afraid". ASTM in turn quoted Jack Kelly, an Executive Recruiter, who said "Anyone can reinvent themselves" and "Think about the person you want to be and the work you are happiest doing."

In making a career change consider the following:

Look forward not backward.

Give yourself some time to adjust in going from one career to a new career.

Face your new career with determination and anticipation.

Expect and face up to new challenges.

Don't be afraid.

Make a periodic self-analysis.

Don't hesitate to seek the help and advice from others.

Make sure you have found your Golden Mean of Life-i.e. Happiness.

Lastly, in making a career change, always keep in mind that the NEISMA Board of Directors ever continues to be available to assist you as is within their power to do so. In other words, don't burn all of your past bridges.

Ed Peduto AT THE Big E



Scott Overgaard of Rink Systems (Albert Lea, MN), Buoy Bill Page of Churchill Rink Durham, NH and Ed Peduto Reading, Ma met up at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA.

(Continued on page 16)

NEISMA 2020 Spring Conference & Trade Show Schedule

Sunday, April 19

4:30 pm - 6:00 pm ISI University (CAE) **7:00 pm - 9:00 pm** Networking Social

Monday, April 20

7:30 am - 8:30 am Registration and light breakfast

8:30 am - 5:30 pm ISI University (Certified Arena Manager / Part 2)

8:30 am - 5:30 pm US Ice Rink Association (Operations and Risk Management)

8:30am – 5:30pm ISI University (Certified Skating Director / Part 1)

9:00 am - 4:00 pm NEISMA Golf Tournament — Newport National Golf Club

7:00 pm - 10:00 pm President's Reception

Tuesday, April 21

8:00 am - 9:00 am

9:00 am - 9:45 am

10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Registration and breakfast

Welcome Presentation

Educational Sessions:

ISI University (Certified Arena Manager / Part 2)

Learn to Skate USA Workshop

ISI University (Certified Skating Director / Part 1)

US Ice Rink Association (Operations and Risk Management)

10:00 am - 11:30 pm Hands on Breakouts – Morning Session

II:30 am - I2:30 pm EPA Presentation

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm Awards

1:45 pm - 4:00 pm Educational Sessions (continued)

ISI University (Certified Arena Manager/ Part 2)

Learn to Skate USA Workshop

ISI University (Certified Skating Director / Part 1)

US Ice Rink Association (Operations and Risk Management

1:45 pm – 230 pm ASTI – Emergency Planning presentation

2:30pm - 3:30 pm Hands on Breakouts – Afternoon Session

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm NHL – Community rink discussions

4:00pm - 7:00 pm Trade Show **7:00 pm - 10:00 pm** Social Event

Wednesday, April 22

7:30 am - 8:30 am Coffee and pastries

8:30 am - 12:00 pm Educational Sessions (Completions)

ISI University (Certified Arena Manager/ Part 2)

US Ice Rink Association (Operations and Risk Management)

ISI University (Certified Skating Director / Part 1)

9:00 am - 5:00 pm ASTI Seminar

















2020 CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

Sunday, April 19 - Wednesday, April 22, Gurneys – Newport RI **ATTENDEE REGISTRATION** (not for Exhibitors)

Facility Name:	Primary Contact:							
Facility Address:	City :							
State:Zip:	Phone):				Fax:		
Primary EMAIL								
For ID Badge:		Conference	CAE Ser	minar	ASTI Semina	r LTS USA	Trade Show Only	<u> </u>
First Name	Last Name	Fee*	Add \$50	or \$20		Workshop	Add \$50 or \$75	TOTAL
		\$	\$				\$	\$
		\$	\$				\$	\$
		\$	\$				\$	\$
		\$	\$				\$	\$
PLEASE REGISTE	R EARLY!	14	ΙΨ				TOTAL	
CONFERENCE	FEE*			NEI:	SMA Meml	ber Rates	Non-Men	nber Rates
Full Conference								
Full Conference in	cludes meals, functio	ns listed, keyn	ote,	\$ 150)		\$ 190	
Tuesday seminar a	and Trade Show.			After	3/1/20	\$ 180	After 3/1/20	\$ 220
Full Conference	+ USIRA Certific	cation		\$ 57!	5		\$ 650	
Operations and Risk Management			After	3/1/20	\$ 600	After 3/1/20	\$ 675	
Full Conference	+ ISI University	Certificatio	n					
Certified Arena Manager / Part 2			\$ 300)		\$ 350		
Certified Skating Director / Part 1			After	3/1/20	\$ 325	After 3/1/20	\$ 375	
NEISMA Golf To	ournament			\$ 100)		\$ 125	
·		After	3/1/20	\$ 120	After 3/1/20	\$ 140		
Full Conference + ASTI Seminar		\$ 250)		\$ 300			
Ammonia Hazard Ris	sks and Threats, Tab	le Top Drill		After	3/1/20	\$ 300	After 3/1/20	\$ 350
OTHER CONFERE								
CAE Seminar: (Sun	day 4:30pm-6pm)			CAE	Credit	\$ 50	Audit only	\$ 20
Trade Show Only				\$ 50		\$ 75		
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Or by phone: <u>I-888-234-</u>	3968 and ask for John Zull	0.						
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2020 Spring Conference Golf Tournament Newport National Golf Club, RI

Monday, April 20, 2020

Registration form

\$100 NEISMA Member /\$125 Non-member (per golfer) before **3/1/20** There after \$120 NEISMA Member /\$140 Non-member (per golfer)

Sign up as a team or as an individual (we will pair you up)

Name	Rink/Vendor	Avg Score 18 Holes
İ		
2		
3		
4		
Team or individual player contact: Name:		
	Phone:	
Email:	Total enclo	sed -
YOU MAY REGISTER		
Mail check (payable to NEISMA .) or Cred to: NEISMA, P.O. Box 290595, Wethe		
Or scanned copy to jzullo@neisma.com	or <u>fax copy to 1-888-234-3968</u> .	
Or phone: <u>I-888-234-3968</u> and ask for Joh	nn Zullo.	
CC#	/ //	
Exp / 3 or 4 Digit Code	e CC Zip Code	
Name on card:	Signature:	

The Organized Manager

T.Josti CIT, CAO, CAP, CAM

ADV(ICE)- A recurring column dedicated to providing

insight to new or struggling managers with quick actionable tips and advice they can implement at their facility. Knowing Ice is only half the equation. This column is meant to spark ideas, and point managers in the right direction. Every rink is different, and it should be expected that not every idea works in every rink. Find the useful parts to tailor it to your facility, situation, and management style.

Organization can be monumental in solving many problems, it can reduce anxiety and leave your mind at ease. Organization can be the difference between a successful manager, and a manager failing to achieve standards. When we speak of organization, it can relate to many areas of the operation. From office and concessions, down to the maintenance garage. The time we take now to get everything straightened out can save us hours of frustration in the future.

You're a busy person and the mess that may currently occupy your office is overwhelming. Where do you start? Let's pick few areas and explore some basic tips.

Make digital copies of paperwork that has been sitting around the office for months, or longer!

Label all binders containing logs, waivers, receipts, etc.

Store previous seasons binders in a clearly labeled box, out of the office in a designated storage area where they will not be damaged. Should something come up in the future you know exactly where the box is stored, what season, and each binder is labeled inside of that box.

Keep a few tools or small kit in the office, in a specific spot, for quick access.

Keep in mind your office is not your workshop, when you are done using something, get it back to the workshop and in its right spot. Do not keep any tools in view or access for the public.

Post clean and clear schedules, keep updates neat, and employees informed of changes. Remove old schedules and event briefings as they be-

come outdated.

Have a bulletin board that you regularly post company updates, arena events, available shifts, etc. that employees can see every time they come to work.

Personal items should be kept to a minimum and in a designated area, out of site from the public. Establish a break room with lockers, or a closet that staff can put their belongings in during their shift.

Custodial items, especially cleaners and spray bottles should be labeled properly and stored in a locked custodial closet, not on your desk.

The concessions stand is cluttered, your inventory is wrong, and your equipment is dirty! Lets get back on track.



If you have the luxury of a food storage area, only keep the open packages and supplies currently in use in the concessions stand. Large boxes or unnecessary supplies should be kept in storage until needed.

Clean as you go! Train staff to clean as they go throughout the shift. This will make the end of the night much easier.

Schedule times for deep cleaning of specific equipment on days when it is slow, or low attendance sessions.

Move equipment and supplies around. Ask for input from your part time staff- they

(Continued on page 18)

Rink Rat

A TRIBUTE TO BEN RUGGLES



A room full of love was in attendance in the Sumner Smith viewing area overlooking the Harrison Rink on the beautiful, bucolic campus of Phillips Andover Academy(PA). The occasion was a celebration for the retirement of Immediate Past President Ben Ruggles. Appropriately, snow was falling outside on the cross-country skiers as they schussed by the oversized windows while inside the PA boys hockey team practiced on the Gurry Rink and the girls team simultaneously drilled on the Harrison Rink. Rarely do coaches abandon their teams, but both were amongst the crowd waiting for Ben. Ben would not skate or walk to his party, the chair car delivered him in a wheelchair, struggling to speak but calling everyone in the room by name. What has taken this towering man from his skating, his manager's job and his NEISMA Presidency? Gliobastoma,

an aggressive, incurable brain cancer. Ben has battled this merciless disease valiantly every step of the way.

Ben Ruggles spent a career in ice rinks. A Lunenburg kid, he logically started at the Wallace Civic Center. A rink with a planetarium attached which for many years was the Training Camp home of the Boston Bruins. Hockey boomed in Central Mass and a second rink was added. When it came time for a change, Ben was snapped up by rink friend and fellow "Central Masser" Wes Tuttle. Wes had a tiger by the tail as his company's New England Sports Center, owned by H. Larue Renfroe was growing from the original four rinks to the current ten. Wes couldn't pass on passionate "Rink Guy" Ben's talents. Meanwhile, a PA alum was seeking consultation on PA's decades-awaited move from the frigid, outdoor rink to an indoor facility with the requisite private school bells and whistles. When the PA Alum realized Ben could be the "guy" for PA's new place, the rest is history. Ben came aboard, helped design, manage and maintain a first-class facility for the past 18 years! He'd still be toiling there if only his body would allow him to.

Many lovely presentations were made by the PA staff, including a beautiful PA Hockey Game Shirt with "RUGGLES" boldly on the nameplate and the number 18 signifying his tenure at PA. To say that the only thing lacking at the PA Rink that day was enough Kleenex would be very accurate.

When asked to comment, Tuttle said "Ben was one of very few rink persons willing to help anyone at any time with ANY rink problem that arose." Since NEISMA's purpose aligns very well with Ben's nature, it is no surprise that he would join the NEISMA Board, serve in many roles including hosting meetings at PA and ultimately serve as NEISMA President since 2015. If you know Ben, you know of his passion for basketball and golf. Since the Basketball Hall of Fame resides in Springfield, MA, I suspect he may have had some input to site 2 of the last 3 NEISMA Spring Conferences alongside the Connecticut River! Having said that, his legacy to me will be pulling off a Conference site we talked about for twenty years. In 2018 Ben made it happen, hosting the NEISMA Conference in Lake Placid, NY. Anyone who attended became a child of 1980's "Miracle on Ice" walking through the 1980 Rink, now Herb Brooks Arena. None of us dreamed it would be Ben's last as an active President. Ben wasn't satisfied with just having the conference there. He invited the players of all the major rink associations to his "Rink Summit." He boasted of its success and anxiously awaited the next one. I pray he can attend!

Appropriately, the end of the reception line to Ben's chairside featured three NEISMA Board Members presenting him a certificate stating that NEISMA is donating \$500 to his favorite charity, the Plaistow, NH YMCA which provides a home base to many children that lack so much. If you're surprised at that choice, then you don't know Ben Ruggles! Godspeed and God Bless, Ben!







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NEISMA Awards

Each year we look for worthy recipients for NEIS-MA awards given at the Spring Conference. We have a few nominees but are still looking for more suggestions. As last year's recipients indicate this isn't an "everyone gets a trophy" kind of thing. The Frank J Zamboni Hall of Fame inductees were Paul Gallivan and Jeff Bardwell. Robb Olexin was awarded the Friend of NEISMA. The three combined had over 100 years in the business.

While we look for recipients who are NEISMA members that have positively influenced the industry as a whole that isn't the only way to be an awardee. NEISMA and the rink industry are strengthened by each member helping keep their rink a safe, clean and enjoyable place for their users. That includes someone who excels at one facility, a group of facilities or works as a vendor.

The Frank J Zamboni Hall of Fame- This award is given to the individual with at least fifteen years of experience in the arena industry and who has given

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95 Camelot Drive Unit 1 Plymouth, MA 02360 (508) 888-3692 www.northstarmechanicalinc.com www.northstarrefrigerationinc.com of him or herself in such a way as to benefit the entire industry.

<u>Friend of NEISMA</u> - Awarded to an individual, group or organization that has demonstrated meritorious contributions benefiting NEISMA or its programs.

NEISMA Achievement - The award is presented to a NEISMA member who has demonstrated unusual leadership and has made significant contributions benefiting NEISMA or its programs.

If you want to nominate someone for consideration please forward their name and a brief bio to thomas.walsh.5@bc.edu

(From page 9- Ed Peduto AT THE Big E)

The 17 day extravaganza features a horse show in the Arena once owned by Eddie Shore and former home of the Springfield Indians AHL hockey team. The Big E mu-



seum features a "pre-Zamboni" water cart built by Eddie Shore and restored by Burbank Arena's Jim Brown.















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Our shared vision and values remain the same. We will lead the industry in bringing safe, innovative products to market underpinned by superior customer service.







WATERLOO

MINNEAPOLIS

VANCOUVER

BEIJING









from NEISMA

We are wishing you and your associates a happy new year filled with health, happiness and success

(From page 13 - Organized Manager)

are the ones working in there. Try to establish a good workflow, keeping staff out of each other's way as they complete tasks.

Simplify your product offerings, over-whelming or complicated menus do not increase sales. Find what your customers enjoy and reduce your waste.

Have a separate set of cleaning supplies for your concession worker, make sure they are food safe products and only used in the food service areas. (Ex. You should not be mopping your concession stand with the same mop that cleans the bathroom)

The resurfacer is down, the lock to a team room door just broke, and it's snowing outside. You can't find a single part, tool, or shovel to help your situation.

Keep an inventory of common parts that need replacement around the building. Making sure that inventory is updated regularly, and

items are replaced once they are used. (Ex. Having the most common size glass measured and a piece of plexiglass on hand for breaks, Spare wash water impeller, Ice chopper spring, a hydraulic hose, spare keys to locker rooms, etc.)

Have an organized garage, keep your summer and winter equipment separate. Snowblowers, shovels, ice chippers, and salt should all be stored together. Lawnmowers, string trimmers, hedge trimmers, rakes, and so on should be together as well.

Preform the required maintenance at the end of each season and start these machines up prior to needing them.

Put together your own "tool kits" and have them clearly labeled for recurring jobs that are important and time sensitive. A blade change kit, a replacement glass kit, an elec-

(Continued on page25)



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P

(From page 6- Down & Dirty Look-up Line Painting)

sides of the box trapping any over spray, and leaving behind a nice and well defined Look-Up Line.

I made the side against the boards have a "ski-like" arm that sticks out and rides along the dasher. It holds the side board about 5" off the dasher. The rear of the box doesn't go all the way to the ice, but is held up about 1/8" so that they doesn't drag wet paint along, and the bottom rail of each side is shaped like a runner, and sanded smooth so that it glides along the ice evenly. Then I made a handle to push it with, and the "Look-Up Line Painting Machine" was ready!

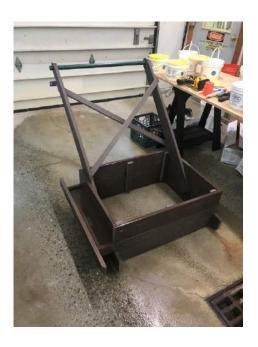
I am pleased to say it works just as I had intended.

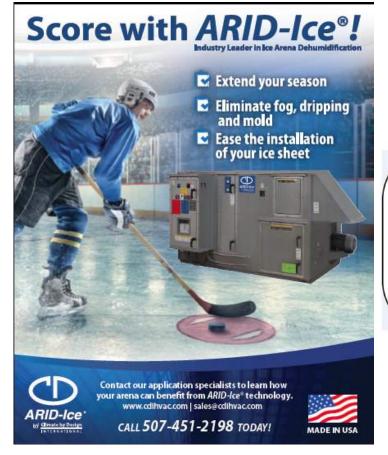
It only took the two of us, we did the whole thing in about 45minutes, and used less than 3 gallons of paint!



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Here is the completed "Look-Up Line Painter" – notice the "ski" which rides along the dasher boards.







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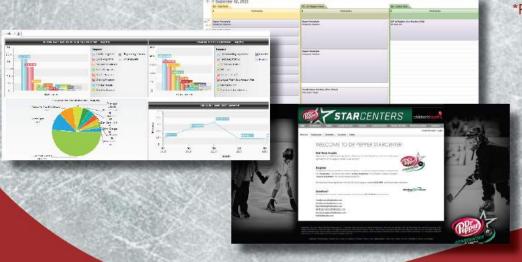
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- Beth Lenz, Kettler Capitals Iceplex



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Z

(From page 18 - Organized Manager)

trical work kit, a plumbing kit, etc...

Buy a small toolbox, label the top and put the items for that general job in the box. The rule is that these tools don't leave that area. (ex. "Blade change kit"- Only the right sized sockets for the job, an allen key, proper sized wrench, blade angle guide, etc.) Establishing these kits will help your tools magically appear where you need them, when you need them!

Follow these tips and discover more for yourself.

The cleaner your space gets, the more you will want to keep going. You will realize the benefits of organization from reduced stress, less calls from staff who can't find items they need, and quicker turnaround from unexpected problems.

THE RINK RAT

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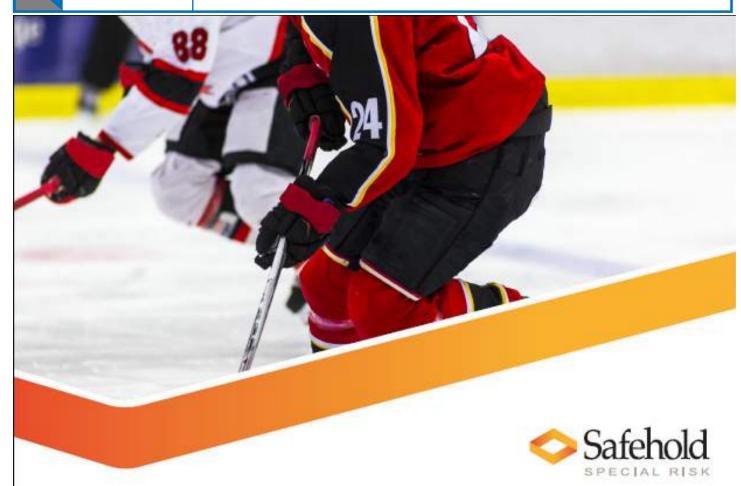
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Applicants will be notified in early April. Scholarships will be awarded at our annual Spring Conference.

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