

KVHA News Items for Thursday August 27th

Following are some news items of interest to Kent Valley Hockey Association members

Welcome Back Free Skate (Stick n' Puck) for KVHA Members

Kent Valley Ice Centre has scheduled two **FREE SKATING** (Stick n' Puck) sessions this Saturday, August 29th, to welcome back KVHA Members for the 2009/2010 season. They've split the Free Skate into two sessions with the younger players, PeeWees and under (ages 12 & under) skating from 10:30-11:45am, and older players, Bantams and over (ages 13 & over) skating from 12:00-1:15pm. We'll conduct these sessions like Stick n' Puck sessions.

Conditions: To qualify for the Free Skate players must; (1) be registered with KVHA and USA Hockey for the 2009/2010 season, (2) wear full hockey gear and, (3) be prepared to have a fun time. Hockey sticks permitted and pucks will be supplied.

Session 1 – 10:30–11:45am - LTP, Mites, Squirts and PeeWees (ages 12 & under)

Session 2 – 12:00-1:15pm – Bantams and Midgets (ages 13 & older)

Note: KVHA's Registrar, Rena Sullivan will be available at Kent Valley Ice Centre to accept registrations for those who have not yet registered for the new hockey season.

T-Birds to Practice at Kent Valley Ice Centre

The Seattle Thunderbirds will practice from 2:15pm to 4:15pm on four consecutive days, Monday August 31st, Tuesday September 1st, Wednesday September 2nd and Thursday September 3rd. The T-Birds are practicing at Kent Valley Ice Centre as the Ringling Brothers, Barnum & Bailey Circus sets up for their engagement at ShoWare Center. These T-Bird practice sessions will be the final T-Bird practices before they play pre-season exhibition games against Prince George Cougars, Everett Silvertips and Spokane Chiefs at Comcast Arena in Everett on September 4th, 5th & 6th. Again, members are invited to drop in and watch the practices.

Rob Mason Hockey Stick Project Update

On August 6th, we published a story about Hockey in the Afghan Desert and a project to collect hockey sticks for the troops stationed there. Brenda Mason, an Off-Ice Official with the Seattle Thunderbirds, made us aware of the need. Brenda's husband Rob Mason, a Washington State Patrol Trooper and U.S. Army Reservist stationed at the Canadian run NATO base in Kandahar, Afghanistan, discovered a hockey rink on the base. In true Canadian style the Canadian forces built a hockey rink on the base. Obviously ice was too difficult, given the environment, so they play ball hockey on an outdoor concrete surface rink that looks an awful lot like a standard ice rink. According to Rob Mason; *"The rink is not regulation size. It is the size of a mite league rink, similar in size to the old Burien Ice Chalet."*

Mason went on to say; *"The hockey rink and games provide a good outlet for everyone. There are leagues, with 40 members per team because of the coming and goings of teammates. The league season goes thru September. At other times the field is used for pick-up games. He says they use regular pads, but it is strange to see the goalie in pads, wearing a tee shirt and shorts. Anyone can play in the league or pick-up games."*

UPDATE: The project is rolling along and gathering enthusiasm and momentum. To date we have received 15 hockey sticks, 3 of them goalie sticks. We will also accept cash for this project to purchase a bundle of new sticks to include in the shipment to Kandahar. Thanks to the Mathews, Mertel, Dunn and Haywood families for their stick donations.

How to donate cash or a hockey stick: Donated hockey sticks can be delivered to the main office at Kent Valley Ice Centre to the attention of – **Rob Mason Hockey Stick Project**. The hockey sticks can be new or used, but must be in good condition. They should be adult sized sticks. Wooden hockey stick blades will also be accepted as well as blade tape. Cash donations can be made by check to Kent Valley Hockey Association with a notation on the check that it is for the **Rob Mason Hockey Stick Project**. The amount can be \$5, \$10, \$15 or whatever you feel comfortable donating. We appreciate your support.

Training and Orientation for the 2010 Olympics

I'll be in Vancouver, B.C. for the next week earning certification to work as an Off-Ice Official for the Hockey Venue at the 2010 Olympics in February. While in Vancouver, I will also be working a Women's International Hockey Tournament as part of the training and certification process. The tournament will be my second international tournament (1990 Goodwill Games) and I'm looking forward to my involvement in this event and to my participation in the 2010 Olympics in February. I will have my laptop with me next week and I hope to report on tournament activities and also do my best to keep you informed on KVHA activities as well.

Don't forget the Welcome Back FREE SKATE sessions on Saturday! And, bring a hockey stick for the troops!

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