

Welcome back to the 46th season of hockey in St. Clair Shores. My son, Colin, started playing hockey in the SCSHA when he was a Squirt. He's heading off to U of M as a second year law student. My daughter, Caitlin, will hopefully be playing on the Saintes/Lakers high school team. It's great to see high school hockey back in the Shores.

The introduction of the 'blue' puck, a lighter weight puck than the traditional 'black' pucks will startle many hockey traditionalists. I can already hear coaches' comments . . . 'Real men don't use blue pucks', 'What's next? Lavender pucks?' 'It's good for a little kid to take a real puck in the head . . . it toughens Ôem up.' 'Can pink sticks be far behind?'

Just remember that USA Hockey has spent A LOT of time developing this idea. According to various studies, younger players actually developed skills faster using the 'blue puck' than their counterparts playing with traditional pucks.

I'm just not sure how 'blue' pucks are going to go over with the Shores coaches, especially John Rafferty Sr. who learned the game with black rocks that he tenderly gathered on the shores of Lake St. Clair. Anyway, try to approach the 'blue' pucks with an open mind. If they don't take hold in the hockey world then here are the . . .

Top 10 Things That You Can Do With BLUE PUCKS

10. Show your creativity, supply your own answer
9. Breast enhancers
8. Glue them in a rectangular shape and make a welcome mat (idea credit to Carol Duvall)
7. Big blue buttons on a snowman
6. Play 'bluepuckfetch' with your dog
5. Blue teething pucks for toddlers
4. Try and pass them off as really big 'blue' chips at the casinos
3. Big checkers for colorblind arthritis sufferers
2. Give kids a can of Play-Do and a 'blue' puck and let the fun begin
1. Beer can coasters on team trips

1st Assoc./Coaches Meeting Planned

The first SCSHA meeting is on **Tuesday, August 19, at 7:30 p.m.** in the Activity Room. Division Representatives will be elected and house draft packets will be handed out. All head coaches, in both the travel and house divisions must attend. As, always, the meeting is open to all members of the SCSHA.

Draft Dates and Times

The house drafts will be as follows: Tuesday, September 2 - Mite draft at 6:00 p.m. and Pee Wee draft at 7:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Sept. 3 Squirt draft at 6:00 p.m. - Bantam draft at 7:30 p.m. And Thursday, Sept. 4 all Midget B at 6:00 p.m. and Midget BB at 7:30 p.m.

Rini Retires After Fifteen Years

Jim Rini has served the SCSHA as both a coach and league treasurer. He and his wife Jane have devoted countless hours to our hockey league. A big 'Way to Go' cheer should go out to this devoted couple. Jim will be stepping down as the league's treasurer, but had agreed to continue to serve as the SCSHA Ôs legal counsel!

Removing Registered Players Before Draft

If your house player made a travel team outside of St. Clair Shores, if your family is moving, or if your player just decides not to play hockey, please notify the registrar, Brian McEvoy, to remove your player from the draft. Call **Brian @ 779-4389 by September 1st.** There will be **NO REGISTRATION REFUNDS**, even if you notify Brian BEFORE the drafts. The no refund policy was CLEARLY stated on all registration forms. If you're not going to play SCS Hockey, early notification of your intent not to play will clear room for a player on the waiting list.

News from the MAHA Convention

The Michigan Amateur Hockey Association held its annual summer convention at Boyne Highlands. The SCSHA was represented by Sal Giacalone and Brian McEvoy. The hot topic, for another year in a row, was Mite travel hockey. Should Mites play on travel teams or not? In the end, MAHA decided that Mite travel is not a sound idea. So wave bye to Mite travel teams, at least as far as MAHA is concerned.

Also new, all boys and girls divisions, under 10 years of age must use 'blue pucks'. The pucks are lighter and reportedly easier to control. They also seem to enhance skill development, an important factor, especially for young players.

The offside rule was also changed. There is no longer any delay in the call. Look for Mite games to be real whistle-fests.

Used Hockey Equipment Sale

The Parents' Club will be holding its annual USED EQUIPMENT SALE on **Saturday, August 23 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.** Items can be brought in for resale from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 21 and Friday, August 22. If you want to sell your items, remember to price them reasonably. The Parents' Club keeps 20% of the purchase price. The terms of the sale are cash only and no items will be accepted on the day of the sale. If you want to work at the sale, and get first crack at the equipment on Friday's workers' sale night, call Luanne @ (586) 725-6679 or Chris @ 772-7726. Also see the flyer mailed with this newsletter for more complete information.

Treasurers' Meeting Scheduled

Ted Wahby, SCSHA Treasurer, will be conducting his team treasurers' meeting on **Thursday, Sept. 11.** The travel treasurers' meeting will be at 7:00 p.m, followed by the house treasurers' meeting at 8:00 p.m. The meetings will be in the SCSHA Board Room. All teams MUST be represented. Call Ted @ 778-0093 with questions.

SCSHA ON LINE

To check out St. Clair Shores Hockey online, visit its web site at **scsha.org**. The site is maintained by our talented Webmaster, Paul Van. If you have current information, you can contact Paul through the web site. Referee information can be found at **scsra.com**

It's Managers' Clinic Time Again

The 10th annual Managers' Clinic will be held on **Tuesday, September 16.** Material for new managers will be discussed from 6:30 p.m.- 7:45 p.m. Information for both new and 'seasoned' managers will begin at 8:00 p.m. Revised league guide books, first aide kits, Dollar Store Give Away, and 'Ask MISTER Referee' with Greg White and Jim Hadad are just some of the planned events. It's fun. It's informational. AND it's free.

Parents' Club Meeting Slated

The first Parents' Club meeting of the season is scheduled for **Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Activity Room. All teams should be represented. The Parents' Club sponsors many outstanding events throughout the season. The commitment is about 1 hour per month. Don't let your team miss any of the exciting events and activities. Make sure to put the first meeting on your calendar. Anyone can attend - - not just your team rep. After September, the Club meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

THANKS!

The Parents' Club Board would like to thank the Salis family for donating space at Island Harbor Marina for the storage of its float. Although the float did not appear in this year's Memorial Day Parade, the club has plans to refurbish it for Parade 2004.

Spend New Year with Friends

Spend New Year's Eve with your hockey friends and help the scholarship fund as well by attending this proposed holiday gala. Details have not been worked out yet . . .but if you can't wait for the year end party, get an early start with the Parent's Club New Year's Eve Party.

NEW OPENING DAY ITEM

Before you blink, it will be Opening Day. The Parents' Club still plans on selling the traditional sweatshirts and t-shirts. However, this year they will add SCSHA lanyards to their list of items for sale. What a great gift for a coach - with a new Acme Thunder whistle attached to it. So get ready to shop on Opening Day.

Parents' Club Board

The SCSHA elected its new board at the close of last season. The new members are as follows:

President -	Luanne Romano	725-6679
Vice President -	Christine Singleton	772-7726
Secretary -	Matt Garbe	294-1690
Treasurer -	Darlene Davenport	465-9957

MORE STATE CHAMPIONS

It's almost becoming a right of each new season . . . the raising of State Championship banners in our arena. SCSHA's Pee Wee B Blues, coached by John Schrewe, won the state title in their division. When you consider the hundreds of Pee Wee teams in the state, you have to marvel at this tremendous achievement.

And for the second year in a row, Jim Rini's Junior C team garnered State honors and represented Michigan at the National tournament.

Way to Go - both teams. No other association in the state can even come near to the number of state championships which SCS teams have won. Remember . . . our players skate for the St. Clair Shores Hockey association, 'Where tradition and excellence take the ice together.'

Upcoming Events this Season

2nd Association Meeting	Thurs. Oct. 16@ 8:00 pm
Opening Day	Sun, Oct.19 @ 10:00 am
Silver Stick 'A'	Thurs. Dec. 4 - Sun. Dec. 7
Silver Stick 'AA'	Thurs. Dec. 11 - Sun. Dec. 14
Skate with Santa	Sat. Dec. 20 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Silver Stick - Mite Finals *	Fri. Jan 30 - Sun. Feb. 1

Corrected Sep 6, 2003

Announcing 2003 - 2004 Coaches

Mites

101 Bill Evans	102 Tim Washburn
103 Tim Keelan	104 Joe Casaceli
105 TBA	106 TBA

Squirts

201 Brian McEvoy	202 Mike Blum
203 John Grzelak	204 Paul MacPhee
205 Gary Hardy	210 Tom Peck
220 Tad Ruggeri	250 Mark Burlingame

Pee Wees

301 Leo Bieniek	302 Frank Demers
303 Dan Drop	304 Mark Chiccini
305 Doug Templeton	306 TBA
310 Pat Ryan	320 Ron Lipa
350 Ted Brakman	

Bantam

401 Tim Miller	402 Ronald Lipa
403 John Schrewe	404 Gary Partyka
405 John Rafferty	410 Sal Giacalone

Midget

501 Sal Giacalone	502 Mark Fett	
503 TBA	504 BB - TBA	510 Tony
Sabatini	520 Fred Springer	
550 Don Benson		
620/Junior C Program John Giannetti		

We'll All Have to be Stars Again!

In an effort to promote sportsmanship and positive parental behavior, District 3 (our district) & MAHA are requiring that each player's parents view the STAR VIDEO. STAR, an acronym for 'SHARED TOLERANCE & RESPECT', is a taped effort to reduce negative parental behavior. It's the same video that many of us saw last year, narrated by the effervescent, Mickey Redmond. Even if you saw it last year, and the year before, you'll have to watch it again, because you'll have to sign a pledge card which indicates you've viewed the tape this season. Your division rep. will have details for each team early in the season.

As you watch this mini cinematic gem, listen to its straightforward intent. The message may be trite, but it's true . . . it's only a game. Finally, model STAR behavior is required at every rink in which a Shores team plays. Your behavior represents the SCSHA. So let's all be 'STAR' spectators.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Congratulations to the new members of the SCSHA Executive Board. Brian McEvoy joins us as the registrar; Ted Wahby Jr. as treasurer; and Bill Hargis is an officer at large. Returning Executive Board members include: Sal Giacalone - president; Tad Ruggeri - vice-president; Debby Connor-secretary; Steve Hoffa - travel rep; John Giannetti and Mark Burlingame - officers at large. Bill Stevelink will also return as past president. Let's hope for a fabulous season!