

SOUTHLAND

A communication from the Southland Hockey Association



Message from the president

Welcome to the 2007-08 Southland Hockey Association (SHA) season. September was the usual hectic month with hundreds of volunteer hours going into the evaluations. On behalf of Southland I would like to thank all the volunteers involved in the evaluation process.

SHA has approximately 680 players registered on 41 teams this season: 4 Timbit, 7 Novice, 9 Atom (including one girls team), 9 PeeWee, 7 Bantam and 5 Midget teams. The majority of these teams are at or within one player of the size requested by Hockey Calgary which is 14 players for Timbit, 16 for Novice and Atom, 17 for PeeWee, 18 for Bantam and 19 for Midget. Our teams will be coached by over 160 volunteer coaches. Good luck to all the teams and have a great season.

This season, Southland Hockey is embracing Hockey Canada's National Coaching Mentorship Program that is being launched by Hockey Calgary offering coaches practical sessions on teaching skills, tactics and systems. The program's goals are summed up in SHA's own mission statement: "... to make hockey a fun and rewarding experience for all participants through a program that provides an organized and disciplined approach to developing hockey skills." Ron Hozjan and Keith Nicholson will be co-ordinating Southland's efforts in this area. Watch Southland's website for further information on the Coaching Mentorship Program including upcoming clinics. In addition to Southland, Crowfoot, PSA and Springbank are also participating in this pilot project.

This year ice costs and time will be an issue throughout the season. Ice costs are up 10 per cent from the original budget. Timing of practice ice will be a point of discussion throughout the year. Fairview and Bowness rinks remain closed due to maintenance and late construction. Stu Peppard has just recently opened and Max Bell is scheduled for opening on November 7th. Southland's reliance on city/minor hockey ice for a portion of its ice time requires that we take the majority of ice time allocated to us. There will be early morning practices on the weekend and early evening practices at rinks further than normal from Southland's area.

At this time of the season the SHA board would like to stress the importance of abiding by the Fair Play Code. Fair Play Code of Conduct forms are required to be signed by all players, parents and coaches. To make Southland hockey enjoyable by everyone involved we must be aware of and follow the code. ●

- Scott Mills

Ice Breaker

Join your friends in the hockey community at Southland Hockey's annual Social and Team Fundraiser

Saturday, November 3
Cedarbrae
Community Centre

Silent Auction
6 - 9 pm

Prime Rib Dinner
7 - 8:30 pm

Dance
9 pm - 1 am

Tickets
\$30 per person

The Ice Breaker is both a fun night out with hockey friends and a great way to raise funds for your team.

For details contact
Kim Price at 212-0771
dakotarocks@shaw.ca

Important hockey dates

November 3rd.....Ice Breaker Silent Auction Social
 October 27th to December 9th.....Seeding Round
 January 2nd to February 24th.....Regular Season
 January 25th to February 2nd.....Esso Minor Hockey Week
 Starting February 27th.....Playoffs
 March 21 - 23 and March 28 - 30.....No scheduled playoff games allowing for tournaments.

A conversation with our coaches

Bill Marshall

Head Coach, Bantam 1 and Assistant Coach, Bantam 4

Many Southland families know Bill Marshall through the hockey community. Bill started coaching hockey when his oldest son Quinn started playing as a five year old. Two years later, his youngest son Matthew laced up and his coaching spread over two teams. Ten years later, Bill continues to coach both his boys and a host of others, passing on his skill love for the game. And as always, his sense of humor.

Coaching philosophy: My coaching philosophy has evolved over the years as my boys grew. Coaching has been a learning process for me, moving from coaching young kids to teens. But the basics have never changed – my number one goal has always been to develop a love of the game and to enhance individual skills. Now, coaching older kids, this still remains the foundation of how I coach, but the teaching has become more technical. I try to create a team atmosphere that is based on all players learning and participating. I believe that we win as a team and we lose as a team. With older kids the focus of the game changes and points more toward winning. Even though winning isn't everything, it does become an indicator of a teams hard work and understanding of the technical coaching you do. When you have a kid come up to you and tell you that they hope you're their coach next year, it is the greatest compliment.

Advise to new coaches starting out: Give it a shot. When you start out, it may seem like a lot of work, but give it a try. The rewards of working with young kids are great – to teach someone a skill and have them succeed using it, is well worth the time and effort. An added bonus to the coaching is the development of lasting friendships with both kids and their parents.

Memorable coaching experiences: Winning Calgary Minor Hockey Week three times and winning the City Championship twice are achievements which I am proud to have been part of. The success as always was a collaborative effort between great assistant coaches and talented kids with a willingness to learn and the drive to succeed. As memorable, are those great moments of learning – I remember getting the last kid on the team to learn to stop. No medal. No picture. But a great coaching moment.

Hockey background: I started playing when I was six and twice a week still play shinny – hockey in it's purest form!

Life away from the hockey rink: I am just a regular guy with two kids, a wife and a dog. I play golf in the summer and my interests center around my family. 🏀

Showcasing
our players

Hats off to the many former Southland, Ridgewood, Fish Creek and Southfour players who are playing hockey beyond the community level:

Ben Farrer earned a hockey scholarship to Providence College in Rhode Island starting in the 2007-08 season, and will be playing on their NCAA Division I team while earning a business degree.

Jack Maclellan and **Ryley Hughes** are both playing in the AJHL for the Fort McMurray Oil Barons. Jack is currently negotiating a US University scholarship for 2008-09.

Also in the AJHL are **Mark Miller**, **Ryan Corry**, **Francois Auger** and **Sean Pollard** who are playing for the Calgary Royals; **Trevor Smyth** who is playing for the Drumheller Dragons and **Andrew McWilliams** who is with the Camrose Kodiaks.

Congratulations to Andrew for earning a spot on the Canadian team for the 2007 World Junior A Challenge.

Playing for Kootenay Ice in the WHL is **Paul MacDonald**.

Ryan Cornforth is playing for the Neepawa Natives in the MJHL.

David McIvor, **Scott Cisco**, **John Shaw** and **Brandon Stevens** are playing with the Fernie Ghost Riders in the KIJHL.



Tara Ciezki was one of 12 minor hockey players invited by the Calgary Flames to model the Flames new jerseys at their recent unveiling. Thank you Tara for being a great ambassador for Southland Hockey.

A conversation with our coaches

Breen Neeser Head Coach, Peewee 7


Breen Neeser has coached hockey across the country. The Southland Hockey community is thrilled to have him back in Calgary sharing his skills, knowledge and passion for the game.

Coaching philosophy: I believe that at every level, hockey is fun. And at every level, kids want to improve. As a coach you need to teach the basics – skating, skating and skating. You have to make basic drills fun, you have to change them up and keep them fresh. I believe that kids can learn anything if you teach it in a way that they can understand. You have to be able to read your team . . . look at where they are the weakest and work on those levels. When you keep it fun and interesting, kids improve with out knowing.

Knowing hockey is not the same as knowing how to teach hockey. I knew hockey, but until I started working at the University of Alberta Hockey hockey camps, I did not know how to teach hockey. Hockey is a complex game; there is so much to it. By breaking it down in a way that kids understand it, you can teach it to them. The beauty of hockey is that you can play it until you die. Very few kids “make it” in hockey. And if all that ever comes out of their hockey is enjoyment, it is a good thing. If the enjoyment keeps bubbling to the top when you play and you continue to play as an adult, that is what it is all about.

Memorable coaching experience: In Denver, one of my son’s teams was an average team and we worked to the top of our division and won a championship that we probably never should have won.

Hockey background: I have been playing hockey since I was four. I played five years for the University of Alberta then was invited to play in Germany where I played for a year. Today, aside from coaching, I play in a men’s league and shinny whenever I can.

Life away from the hockey rink: I am married to Barb and we have three children. We keep involved with all our kids activities – hockey with our boys and badminton and track with our daughter. We like skiing – getting away to the mountains is always a special time. 

In our hockey neighbourhood

Southland coaching courses

Registration for coaching courses are now available on Hockey Calgary’s home page www.hockeycalgary.com. Upon successful completion of a course, Southland Hockey will reimburse registered coaches. Hockey Calgary requires that coaches on the bench have proper certification. For most coaches this includes *Coach Level*, *Safety* and *Speak Out*. Although it is not necessary for all coaches to have all the certifications, it is encouraged each coach has some allowing proper coverage if one or more coaches are absent from a game. In addition, all PeeWee head coaches are required to complete *Body Checking* and PeeWee 1 and 2 head coaches required to complete *Development “A”*.

Be sure to check the Southland web site for upcoming Coaching Mentorship Program clinics starting in November for coaches of all levels.

Hockey all day long! Once again Southland will celebrate the hockey season with it’s annual **3 on 3 tournament**. The tournament is open to all Southland Atom, Peewee and Bantam players and will be held at the end of the hockey season in March. Coaches, managers and parents . . . be sure to watch for the dates to avoid conflicts. The format will remain the same, balancing teams with players of all abilities and this year, the organizing committee is looking at ways to encourage better team play. For more information or to get involved, contact Scott Mills at: president@southlandhockey.com or watch the Southland web site.

There is still time to get your tickets for Southland’s **Ice Breaker Dinner, Dance and Silent Auction**. Aside from the fundraising, it is a great night out – good food, good music, good friends . . . good fun. Contact Kim at 212-0771 or dakotarocks@shaw.ca.

We want to hear from you . . .

