

1ST ISSUE
WINTER 2018

BENCH MINOR MAGAZINE

THE HOCKEY MAGAZINE FOR BEER LEAGUE DUSTERS

Celebrating 15 Years of Beer League Hockey



Patterson Ice Center

Silver PUCK XV

THE COOLEST HOCKEY TOURNAMENT IN GRAND RAPIDS.

What's Included?

LOOKING BACK
15 Years of the SPC

PREVIEW
DeKes & Dangles IV

AEA Hall of Fame
Class of 2019

HOCKEY HOLD'EM
What the H*ll is that?

Our First
SOLID GOLD Conversation

... and Much,
MUCH MORE

THE SEARCH BEGINS

FREDONIA CUP EXPANSION

OUR MOST ELITE BRACKET IS LOOKING FOR TEAMS TO JOIN US THIS JUNE AT SPCXV.

BRACKET AVAILABLE TO ACHA EXPERIENCED PLAYERS & ABOVE.

BENCH MINOR

MAGAZINE

THE HOCKEY MAGAZINE FOR BEER LEAGUE DUSTERS

Seriously, What's Next?

Someone please take the pen from this guy. We knew you would be saying that to yourself when you saw this publication. What else would you expect from Brent Belanger, Commissioner of the AEA. We're excited to take our tournaments to print!!! This magazine could be the perfect read for those who follow and participate in the tournaments of An Edge Above (AEA). So, if you're a 44 year old beer league duster (or on your way to becoming one) and still think you have a shot at the show then BENCH MINOR MAGAZINE is the magazine for you.

We're guessing this magazine will be solid bathroom literature that will keep your "beer league" hockey hopes and dreams alive. Remember if you come to a word you don't know, sound it out.

You can find these publications on our website too. Our goal is to publish twice a year, once in the winter (December) and again towards the end of summer (August). Print versions will be scattered across west Michigan at the local arenas.

BENCH MINOR MAGAZINE will highlight some of the awesome things that happen at

our events. We'll have conversations with some of our champions, and those still in search of going to the big dance. Maybe we'll even answer some of your questions, or possibly give you the chance to share your thoughts on how our very own Reg Dunlap is running things in the AEA.

This is our first ever issue of BENCH MINOR MAGAZINE and we're excited to share a look back on fourteen great years of the Silver Puck Challenge (SPC). We'll even give our thoughts on the upcoming 15 year celebration of West Michigan's Premier Hockey Tournament, the Silver Puck Challenge.

We'll highlight one of our AEA champions in our Founders Solid Gold Conversation, have a preview of Dekes & Dangles IV, and touch base on how you can have Hockey Hold'em at your hometown arena! We'll have the details on how to get blouses for your hockey team, an AEA Hall of Fame breakdown and an updated list of who could become our next AEA All Around Champion.

We're hoping you enjoy this behind the scenes look at the AEA. So, pop the top on your favorite post game barley soda, and sit back and enjoy!



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The Silver Puck Challenge would like to thank Mike Brann Sr. and the staff at Brann's Steakhouse & Grille in Cascade, Michigan. 14 years ago you took a chance on a young man who had a dream of starting a hockey tournament. You gave our event creditability, and the bystanders began to take notice. Now that we are going into our 15th year, a simple thank you is not enough to show how grateful we are of your support. Your organization has been a shining example of leadership, professionalism and community involvement. The Silver Puck Challenge looks forward to the next fifteen years of tournament success, and we're proud to say we are affiliated with one of the best steakhouses and grilles in west Michigan.

~ Sincerely, Brent A. Belanger; AEA Commissioner

Celebrating 15 Years | 2005 to 2019

Silver PUCK XV

THE ORIGINAL HOCKEY ENTERTAINMENT TOURNAMENT

The Silver Puck Challenge (SPC) is turning 15 years old in June 2019. We've been behind the wheel for quite some time now and we don't have any intentions of handing over the keys any time soon. We have had to do a lot of learning along the way. Still, through the highs and lows and with 14 years behind us, we can honestly say it's been one h*ll of a ride!

The Silver Puck Challenge's first official tournament was held the weekend of June 10th, 2005 at Patterson Ice Center (Grand Rapids, MI). It was a small show, and the first hockey tournament the AEA Commissioner ever attempted. We only had 12 teams in attendance, barely anything worth writing an article about.

Let's go back to the previous year, when it was all just an "idea". Brent Belanger (AEA Commissioner) had repeated conversations with his long time friend, forever lovable, but always controversial, Steve Kreuger. Steve was a major influence in bringing the SPC to a reality. He pushed his friend to take a chance on something he had never done before. Steve had the hockey experience and connections, something the commissioner did not currently possess. He assisted with the naming of the event, and introduced us to some key players that would bring the SPC from an idea, to a reality.

Steve introduced us to Tom Mehney, owner of Patterson Ice Center and to Jon Perz, the rink manger of Walker Ice & Fitness, and tournament director of the Walker Cup.

Continued on page 3.

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Silver PUCK XV CELEBRATION

15 YEAR

Continued from page 2. | The puck was officially in play, it was up to Brent to take off the “double runners” and go for it. He first sat down with Tom and discussed the idea of an adult rec-league tournament held at their facility. There had to be doubts in Tom’s mind, but he took a chance and turned the handle on the biggest door in starting a hockey tournament. Tom and Brent agreed that the Silver Puck Challenge would be held at Patterson Ice Center.

The SPC officially had a home, no teams yet, but we had ice. We’re going to need fill this show, which meant getting more teams than just my Thursday night, slapstick, 30-rack drinking Shamrock team. After one of our late games, Steve introduced me to Jon Perz of Walker Ice & Fitness. An introduction turned into a friendship. We never imagined how awesome of a partnership (friendship) this was to become. Jon jumped into action, (keep in mind, this isn’t the *facebook* era) making calls, forwarding messages and delivering a large majority of the first teams involved in the Silver Puck Challenge. One of those connections was with another great SPC “OG” . . . Jammin’ John English.

John English, an EMS employee, was a Silver Puck Challenge staple from the beginning. He helped spread the word about the event, brought teams, and was willing to assist at the show. A friendship was born - a friendship that would impact the Silver Puck Challenge for years to come.

Teams began calling and claiming spots at the show, and some of these teams were filled with some pretty amazing talent too. We had players from the IHL, grandma’s

basement and every place in between. They were all making the trip to play in this little unknown hockey tournament.

In the first years of the SPC it wasn’t uncommon to see hockey bags in the commons alongside professional team logos from across North America. We’ve had Red Wings, Flames, Sharks, Thrashers and more, even us *beer leaguers* with our unmatched sweaters, zipper broken hockey bags, ripped socks and wooden twigs shared in the Silver Puck experience.

THE SILVER PUCK CHALLENGE IS OFFICIALLY ON THE MAP.

One year would become two, then three, then ten, and now we look forward to an event 15 years in the making with over 60 teams, seven divisions and more than 1,000 participants in the annual event. We didn’t get here alone, and we’ll never claim to either. There was and are some amazing people that have made our events truly great.

Besides the competition between teams on the ice, the Silver Puck Challenge is also successful because of the people involved at our events. Our tournaments bring some of the most elite officials in the area, notably the late David “Rooster” Rue, one of the SPC’s originals, along with Joel Potter, Charlie Ely III, Steve Hedke, Matt Mead, John Ferguson and many others. These top tier officials bring their years of experience, dedication to community and knowledge of the game to our show year after year.

Continued on page 7.

THE FIRST OFFICIALLY
CROWNED SPC CHAMPIONS
“THE KNIGHTS”
OF THE B BRACKET ON
JUNE 12TH, 2005.





DEKES & DANGLES IV PREVIEW

Mother Nature is always playing her games, and every year we take on the challenge to see what we can do to thwart her efforts from melting our tournaments away.

In the first D&D tournament in 2016, we were only able to have one completed tournament, and one really good “college try” attempt. In 2017, Dekes & Dangles had one . . . ummm, yeah . . . one tournament before we put in the pool. Then we were given a great winter season in 2018 at Dekes & Dangles III. We were able to complete four great tournament weekends. We crowned champions in the C Bracket, B Bracket, Women’s Bracket and COED Bracket.

Last year we had our largest group of new Dekes & Dangles players and champions in the AEA tournament world. The Spider Monkeys (Darren Martucci, C Bracket), BLB (Sam Johnson, COED Bracket) and FTKz (Josh Vance, B Bracket) won their respective brackets, along with the first



FULL AEA Women’s tournament since Silver Puck Challenge IV (2008). If the weather stays cold we’ll look to also include the B+ and 30+ Bracket as well.

Rink owners, Joshua and Alisa Vance, with the assistance from Kurt Potter, Brent Belanger and others, were at it again this fall/winter. They were building the atmosphere, preparing the cabins and laying down liquid gold in hopes of pulling off another great tournament season.

Let’s keep our fingers crossed for another great winter. We look forward to sharing this beautiful outdoor facility with all of those that love the pond hockey experience and the outdoor excitement of Tron Pond.

Start getting your teams together, unpack your winter gear, and remember Dekes & Dangles is a 3 v 3 tournament, with full rosters being no more than six skaters. Remember there are no goalie positions in this tournament.

Photo Credits: Sam Iannamico, Tron Pond at Night

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR OUR DEKES & DANGLES TOURNAMENT WEEKEND SCHEDULE. ALL GAMES PLAYED AT FOR THE KIDZ GYMNASTICS.

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We want you and your team to look top notch at our shows and every place in between. You'll look and feel like a champion with AEA and Men's League Sweaters.

AEA will have our Men's League Sweaters on display at the Silver Puck Challenge, Dekes & Dangles and Hockey Hold'em tournaments. Come out, put them on, order the perfect fit for yourself and your team.

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SOLID GOLD CONVERSATION

BRENT BELANGER (BB): Well here we go. We'd like to welcome Stephen Hyde as our very first ever "Solid Gold Conversation". These conversations will be held with our AEA champions. Stephan are you ready to do this!

STEPHAN HYDE (SH): You betcha!

BB: You are an official champion of the AEA and this is our first "Solid Gold Conversation" that we've ever had. What are you thinking when you hear those two statements said out loud?

SH: Well, first I'd like to say I'm real happy to be here. It's an honor and it's really nice that you thought of me for your first interview. Hearing it out loud . . . WOW. You know it's just one of those things that it has a whole different meaning you know. Being a champion, and all the years that it has taken me to finally get to an (SPC) Sunday so it's an honor, and I appreciate it.

BB: I know this part might be hard for you to hear . . . You know you're officially a "duster" now. How you handling it? Has it been a smooth transition for you?

SH: Well, I know I've been a "duster" for probably, what is it now 15 almost 20 years. I was a "duster" right out of the gate. I was a duster in high school, but yeah, it's been a smooth transition I'm keeping up with it and hanging in there, I say I'm doing okay with it.

BB: You've been participating in the Silver Puck Challenge for a lot of years now, I mean, I remember when you were fresh out of high school. What keeps calling you back year after to year?

SH: Love of the game for sure. You as a coordinator and putting this tournament together. From the first time I skated it's been nothing but fun, the hockey community, I'm so thankful for that too, friends, meeting new people having a beer after the game, or a barbecue in between games with the boys we just competed against . . . I look forward to it every year and I'll love playing until these dusty old legs can't pull me around the ice anymore.

BB: I think you've had a pretty successful summer. You went to the finals at SPCXIV and you won it all at Hockey Hold'em IV. What are your thoughts on those last two shows?

SH: Definitely SPCXIV in the B Bracket, I was speechless to even be there on a Sunday. I've been playing in that tournament (SPC) for awhile, since 2005. Every year in the past we've lost Friday and basically been out of the show. But the way you changed the setup and the way it plays out, that one loss can get you into the finals still. So we brought a good group of guys and we made it to Sunday.

That was so cool just to play on Sunday; and in that game too. I think the boys will even attest to this . . . that game was the

best hockey that any of us have played since the majority of us played high school. That was the best game that we've skated in a long time.

Now going towards HH'em, there's some guys that played some junior, a little bit of low level college. That was the fastest game that we've skated at that tournament. I won the inaugural HH'em and I was skeptical about the format. But you know you're a friend of mine, so I said "Hell, I'll give it a shot." I went out there and had the time of my life. HH'em is the best tournament hands down. SPC was the best tournament in my opinion until HH'em came out. Both tournaments are great. I love them, and I'll be there every year.

BB: This past August at HH'em IV, you made it to the finals again. Does that Championship Sunday at HH'em feel the same as the finals at SPCXIV? Or did it feel different?

SH: Oh, it's way different at HH'em. It is competitive, but fun. I'd say it's more fun than anything. Even more fun than Silver Puck. At SPC, it's a battle, and you and your team is going to battle against another team. It's a "fight to the death" if you will. You definitely want it more . . . Where HH'em is more laid back. It's like, yeah. Okay. Cool. I made it Sunday. That's awesome. You know, I could skate on Sunday, but if I didn't make it to the finals it wouldn't be the end of the world. I want to win the Kegger Cup, but at the same time I've been there before. I'd like to see other people win.

Continued on page 15.



Silver PUCK XV

15 YEAR CELEBRATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3 | Our head of scorekeepers, Josie Sundberg, and her push towards using technology at our tournaments has made our shows run even smoother. It was truly a *sh*t show* in the beginning. Your ideas and your “don’t take any sh*t” approach to score keeping is loved and appreciated. The AEA Commissioner is in your debt!

Through the years we have only had three repeat champions and only a handful of teams that have been able to win multiple titles. Our tournaments have every kind of player imaginable; we have players that are just starting out, veteran rec-leaguers, high school state champions, college national champions, NHL hopefuls, Stanley Cup winners and even an Olympic Gold Medalist. Everyone that plays at the SPC knows that winning one of our tourneys is something special, but you’re going to have to work for it.

Being part of the Silver Puck Challenge is

something that needs to be experienced, the true magic of the event cannot be described in a few lines of text. It’s not just an adult “beer league” hockey tournament, it’s a community of great people, that just so happen to play hockey.

ONE OF OUR
PARTICIPANTS PUT
IT LIKE THIS . . .

“SILVER PUCK
WILL DO IT
TO YA.”

ZACH FELDT

FROM PATTERSON ICE
CENTER ZAMBONI
DRIVER TO SILVER PUCK
CHALLENGE CHAMPION.

(DREAMS DO COME TRUE.)

As the SPC continues to evolve, new names and faces have come forward from the crowd. Each one being a liaison to the sport, the event and the community. Yes, we’ve

grown, but we pride ourselves on not losing touch of where we came from. We want to connect with each and every person in attendance. We’re willing to accept our faults, we’re always striving not to repeat them, we listen to all of those that want to share their thoughts. We want this event to continue to evolve and include new fans of this great game.

Now that you’re all caught up, we want to thank you all for making the Silver Puck Challenge, West Michigan’s Premier Hockey Tournament!

In June 2019, we will look to build on our successes of the past and see if returning champions like Curves, Team English, Torque, Drew Peakcock’s Mauraders, Gong Show and Vicious & Delicious can defend their titles. It won’t be easy, and there is a hungry group out there looking to take your spot on top of the mountain.

The Silver Puck Challenge isn’t going anywhere for a while. So stay tuned, get a good edge on your steel, because we have many more years to go and a sh*t load of games to play. Visit our website for the full list of tournament weekends and when they will be played!



HIS & HERS



Drew Polak played in his first AEA tournament this year and was victorious in the SPCXIV JEMC (30+) Bracket. This was Drew's first SPC and he left our show with something shiny to put in that empty spot on the mantel. Drew's wife, Melanie Polak, also became an AEA Champion in 2018. Melanie played in her first SPC as well, but went home empty handed. She would not be denied at Hockey Hold'em IV where she hoisted the Kegger Cup above her head in victory.

Long time SPC and Dekes & Dangles captains; Jody and Darin Immink went home with this year's inaugural Rec-COED championship. This was Jody's first AEA title and it was nice to see her share this moment with her father (Gary), sister (Marcy) and husband (Darin). This was Darin's second SPC title, winning it all in 2011 with Agape.

D&D is up next and we'll have to wait and see if the two of them can bring home a championship crest as well!



RESPECT THE STRIPES

Thank you to all the officials out there staying up late, giving up your weekends, and putting up with our sh*t on a weekly basis.

If there is a real *Beer League* champion out there, it's the men and women that don the stripes; keeping our NHL hopes alive at 10pm on Thursday night.

You definitely don't get the credit you deserve.

BTW, we love how you can turn a *two* into a *ten* quicker than a buzzard on a gut wagon. Nicely done.

BENCH MINOR MAGAZINE

THE HOCKEY MAGAZINE FOR BEER LEAGUE DUSTERS

We would like to give a special thank you to Beth Parbel & Jody Immink for their assistance in proof reading our first issue.

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WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE KING!

This has been a big year for Andy Skiver, the owner operator of the Kings Room Barbershop. Andy has been playing hockey since the early 2000's and it looks like things are coming full circle with his amazing 2018 calendar year.



On the ice, Andy has found all of his success in the AEA at the Hockey Hold'em tournament. Though he has brought teams into the Silver Puck Challenge and Dekes & Dangles tournaments for years, his teams have yet to make it to a Championship Sunday . . . now Hockey Hold'em is a totally different story.

Andy has made it to Championship Sunday three years in a row now, and has lifted the Kegger Cup in celebration twice. He also has a 12 game playing streak on the line going into next year's Hockey Hold'em tournament. Andy is trying to catch Rani Vitali who will be bringing his 16 game streak into the same tournament.

Andy's second Hockey Hold'em title has officially made him eligible for the AEA Hall of Fame. To be even considered for the AEA Hall of Fame is a great honor, and there are many others out there looking for the nod themselves. In order to be a strong consideration a third or even fourth title will be needed to be acquired first.

Andy is still in the hunt for his first Silver Puck Challenge and Dekes & Dangles titles. Will 2019 be the year that he finally lays claim to one of these elusive championships? It won't be an easy road with new competition and the old guard standing in the way.



Andy and Colleen Bennett have had an amazing summer as well at the Kings Room Barbershop, with their excellent team of stylists they were given the proud title of "Best of the West" Barbershop by Revue Magazine.

The Kings Room has been in business since 1974 and founded by the late Joe Booker. Over the last three years, the Kings Room has turned a lot of heads in the west Michigan community and has continued to deliver the best men's haircuts in the area.

There are three Kings Room Barbershop locations in the greater Grand Rapids area; Caledonia, Rogers Plaza and their recently moved and remodeled Northland Drive location.

The Kings Room Barbershop is an official sponsor of all of our events. If Andy and Colleen can't be found on the ice, you'll find them assisting others and being liaisons at our shows! If you still can't find them? Check the parking lot, we know how much they like to play cornhole and Kan Jam. ;)

Good luck to Andy & Colleen in 2019, and the next time you need a haircut, go to the Kings Room Barbershop . . .

They will "Rock Your Style"!

Website: www.kingsroom.net
Kings Room Barbershop Locations:
Caledonia, Michigan
Rogers Plaza, Wyoming, Michigan
Northland Dr., Plainfield, Michigan



Photo Credit: Chantel Labra, SPCXIV

HOCKEY HOLD'EM

WHAT THE H*LL IS THAT?

Summer is winding down, the kids are going back to school, and work is starting to pick up again; the grind of real life is about to hit. Good thing we figured out that Hockey Hold'em is a fun way to come together to close out the summer with a little hockey mayhem.

This year's Hockey Hold'em tournament was the perfect way to close out summer. Who wouldn't like playing a little puck with your friends, relaxing, grilling out and enjoying some yard games in the summer sun.

We had 91 participants in this August classic, and we had one hell of a show too, where 7 of the 13 games were within one goal. Our championship game would conclude needing overtime and a shoot out to proclaim our Hockey Hold'em IV winner.



Still asking “What the H*ll Hockey Hold'em is? Well, we'll try to break it down for you. Hockey Hold'em is a full ice, full equipment, adult ice hockey tournament where you can sign up as an **INDIVIDUAL**. We'll make the teams for you.

Not only will we make the teams for you, we'll make them for you all weekend long, since the teams change **EVERY ROUND**.

The first round of games is decided by the annual Hockey Hold'em Draft; which is done one week prior to the event. Players are sorted out by skill, age and gender and drawn onto teams until all players have been drafted and the rosters have been filled. This is known as “The Flop” at Hockey Hold'em.

Everyone will know what time they play on Friday night, what color jersey they need and who is on their team; from there we let your team's success decide your fate for the following rounds.



The second round or “The Turn” is the second full game of the weekend. In this round teams and players are matched up according to their success from the night before. Meaning, if you won your first game, you'll be playing against someone else who won their opening night game.

After “The Turn” we like to relax a little, and this is when the yard games get taken out of the trunks and our local grill master, Nate Petter, steps up to grill and starts preparing food and providing a nice base camp for our competitors to hang out at during the break.

Our final round of the weekend, known as “The River”, is after the “break.” This is when anything can happen. Teams will be sorted out once again. Players will now play against teams of players that have the same record as themselves. For example, if your record is 2-0 at this point, there will be a counter part on the other team that is 2-0, and has a similar skill set as you, 1-1 and 0-2 as well.

All along you're “betting” and “gambling” on your team's success. You're always looking to double or increase your chip total during these round-robin games. You win, you double up your bet, you lose and your chip stack dwindles.

Continued on page 14.

An Edge Above Hall of Fame

It's time to start building your AEA legacy...

Yes, we have a hall of fame, it's nothing like what you might find in Toronto, but it's ours . . . the AEA Hall of Fame started on December 1st, 2016. The first person enshrined in the AEA HOF was Jammin' John English. John was a long time assistant to the AEA, held one Silver Puck Challenge title (SPCV, B Bracket), and founded the 30+ Bracket. The 30+ bracket would be renamed to JEMC (John English Memorial Cup) in his honor after his passing in July 2013.

Each year the AEA will open their halls to new champions. We will have three to four players going into the hall based on the votes of the public, from there the AEA Selection Committee will add one more deserving person; who may or may not have played hockey, but has been an integral part of our events.

The vote for this year's AEA Hall of Fame inductees will be held from December 1st-31st, 2018 on our website. As you read on you will see the list of those eligible for the hall. They will be listed with their winning credentials.

FOUR (4) OR MORE AEA TITLES

Neil Roelofs (5): SPCXI (COED), SPCXIII (COED), HHII, HHIV, DDI (COED), All Around Champion
Jerre Coretti (4): SPCIII (B), SPCVIII (B), SPCIX (30+), SPCXI (JEMC)
Peter Noto (4): SPCII (B), SPCIV (B+), SPCV (B), SPCX (JEMC)

THREE (3) AEA TITLES

Stu McLean (3): SPCX (B), SPCXIII (JEMC), D&DIII (B)
Chad Kiouss (3): SPCV (B), SPCX (COED), SPCXIV (JEMC)

The final group of champions each have two (2) titles to their credit, but have they done enough to get the nod for the hall?

TWO (2) AEA TITLES

Luke Jonkman (2): SPCIX (B), HHI, (Goalie AAC*)
Wes Baughman (2): SPCV (A), SPCVII (A)
Will Snyder (2): SPCV (A), SPCVII (A)
JP Grover (2): SPCVII (B+), SPCXII (JEMC)
Darin Immink (2): SPCVII (B), SPCXIV (REC-COED)
Andy Skiver (2): HHII, HHIV
"Wild" Bill Kelly (2): SPCV (B), SPCXIV (JEMC)
Sander Romers (2): SPCXII (B+), SPCXIV (JEMC)
Jason Meadows (2): (COED), DDIII (COED)
Steve Buck (2): SPCXII (C), DDIII (COED)

We have done our best to document all of those that have won championships at our events. If you have two or more titles, please let us know as we would love to add your name to those listed on our website.

*AAC | All Around Champions, goalies must win two of the three AEA tournaments (SPC & HH'em).



CURRENT AEA HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

Brant Morgan (5 Titles | 2018)
Dan 'Danimal' Collins (5 Titles | 2018)
Adam Copeland (5 Titles | 2018)
David Wilmert (4 Titles | 2018)
Jon Perz (WIFC Rink & Team Manager | 2018)*
Jabez Waalkes (6 Titles | 2017)
Annie Devaney (5 Titles | 2017)
Brent Belanger (5 Titles | 2017)
David 'Rooster' Rue (Official | 2017)*
Jammin' John English (1 Title | 2016)*
*AEA Selection Committee

How do you become eligible for the hall?
Below you will see the highlights of what it takes to become an AEA Hall of famer.

35 Years of Age (Turning)
Hold at least two (2) AEA Titles.
Participated in at least five (5) AEA tournaments.
Five (5) year wait after your first AEA tournament.

Please visit www.anedgeabove.com in December to view the full list of eligible contenders and vote for your favorites and most deserving AEA Champions.

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ALL AROUND CHAMPIONS

Besides the AEA Hall of Fame we also keep track of who has won it all. That's right, who has won each different AEA tournament. The AEA Commissioner has looked through the past tournament years and has done his best to pull the names of most of the Silver Puck Challenge, Hockey Hold'em and Dekes & Dangles champions, compiling a list of barley pop enjoyin', cup raisin', hockey dusters.

There are only four AEA players that have accomplished this feat; Neil Roelofs (2016), Brent Belanger, Annie Devaney & Nichole Werkema (2018). The two goalies that have won both the Silver Puck Challenge & Hockey Hold'em tournaments are Luke Jonkman (2015) and Adam Lussier (2016). There are no goalies in the Dekes & Dangles tournament. As for now these two have accomplished all there is until they take off the goalie pads and put on the training skates.

Here is our list of champions that just need to collect that "missing" cup for their AEA collection in order to join this exclusive group of champions.

Dekes & Dangles IV (Jan-Feb '19)

Adam Copeland, Brant Morgan, Caitlin Harrison, Chaslyn Duffek-Gofton, Craig Fulco, Jabez Waalkes, John Habel, Jon Siterlet, Maggie Voelkel & Nick Duesbery

Silver Puck Challenge XV (June '19)

Adam Knoll, Darren Martucci & Garret Avery (G)

Hockey Hold'em V (August '19)

Brock Golembieski, Gabriel Bolen (G), Donald Sund, James Bond, Jason Meadows, Joshua Vance, Justin Saunders, Monique Squiers, Steve Buck, Stu McLean, Troy Meiners & Zach Feldt

If there are any names that are missing from our website (www.anedgeabove.com) please let us know. We really don't want to exclude anyone.

PUT SOME ENGLISH ON IT



FINALLY!!!! Team English brings home the JEMC (30+) title for their friend, brother and colleague; Jammin' John English, whom founded the 30+ Bracket in 2013. John never had the opportunity to play in the bracket that he created, as he tragically passed away in late July of the same year. His name continues to be carried and represented on the ice and in our hearts at the Silver Puck Challenge.

Since John's passing Chad Kiouss, Bill Kelly, Kevin Walk and many others have held the team together and continued to return year after year.

In 2018 the Silver Puck Challenge had custom trophies made for each bracket involved in the tournament. The JEMC trophy was unveiled and it caught the attention of the boys of Team English. It also drew in John's daughters from the east side of the state. Jessica and Ellie English were both in attendance to cheer on Team English and see the new center piece of the JEMC.

Team English would fight their way through the bracket rounds with only one goal in mind; Championship Sunday. In their first game of the tourney they would defeat VETSports (Nate Pette) in an opening night duck shoot, but Saturday would be a different story, and they would be pushed to their limits.

Team English would have to come from behind to beat Relay for Life (Andrew Forzley) in their Saturday morning game. Over the previous two years Relay for Life

has made it to the finals; winning it all in 2016 over Team English. It was like destiny was in the air. Team English would score two in the third period and edge out Relay for Life, 2-1. Then they would faceoff against Lasers Resource (Richard Hart) in the night cap. Lasers Resource would take the lead in the first, but couldn't hold it through the second. Team English would get three goals in the second stanza and be locked in as one of the two teams playing on Championship Sunday. We do tap our sticks to Lasers Resource whom had their best show ever at SPC. Team English would go undefeated in the pre-lims, and wait to see who they would meet on Championship Sunday.

Team Green (Brad Stegenga) would make it out of the losers bracket and get the nod to go up against Team English in the Sunday finals. This was Team Green's first SPC in a couple of years, and it was truly a special weekend for these guys as well.

A few of the boys (Brad Stegenga, Blake Osborn, Pat Tighe) of Team Green have played on Championship Sunday seven or more times over the years. The veteran lead squad would not be able to keep Team English from reaching their ultimate goal of winning the JEMC.

Team English would claim the JEMC title over Team Green with a final score of 3-1. It was also their first title as a team in the history of the Silver Puck Challenge.

Congratulations boys, you earned it!



HOCKEY HOLD'EM

WHAT TH'U'LL IS THAT?

On top of all of that mayhem, we like to keep things interesting and competitive, so we decided to throw in some additional rules like; Lady Luck, Lucky 7's, Split the Pot and more. These rules help include everyone in the game, and give you and your teams additional ways to pull out the victory! More victories should also mean more chips to your stack.

The best part about it all is you get to play hockey with new people each round, hang out and get to know the people you may have been playing against your whole rec-league career (if we dare to call it that).

It's amazing to see strangers and/or rivals working together to get to Championship Sunday. There's a twist here too, we don't take the best two teams to Sunday. We take the players with the highest chip totals. Sunday will be separated into two teams and each team will have 13 skaters and one goalie.

The winner of our Championship Sunday game will be our Hockey Hold'em Champions and



will have their names placed upon the Kegger Cup. These champions can enjoy the Kegger Cup for a calendar year, pass it around, take it on vacation or whatever they choose to do with it. They also receive special gifts donated by sponsors and the AEA.

This year's tournament; Hockey Hold'em IV, we took our event to a new level. We went out, talked to sponsors, and with our partnership with Men's League Sweaters; we were able to provide jerseys for our finalists to wear on Championship Sunday. Everyone looked and felt like they were part of something special, because they were.

We really could see the joy in the player's eyes as they hit the ice, feeling great and looking sharp, all participants now being part of a Hockey Hold'em finals team. We also felt like it brought the players together, igniting them for one last run for the cup. Congratulations to this year's Hockey Hold'em Champions, you are now part of an exclusive "Beer League" fraternity.

This year's Hockey Hold'em VI Champions are:

- Garret Avery (15,300)
- Jason Dusendang (9,200)
- Taylor Roberts (9,200)
- Darren Martucci (8,200)
- Melanie Polak (8,200)
- Neil Roelofs (7,800)
- Jordan Grzegorzczuk (7,400, GWG)
- Travis Charon (7,300)
- John Habel (7,200)
- Nick Duesbery (6,800)
- Adam Knoll (5,600)
- Andy Skiver (5,400)
- Maggie Voelkel (5,400)
- Stephan Hyde (5,398)

Thank you
Cosmic Candy
Company and Hyde
Construction for the
beauty threads!



HOCKEY HOLD'EM COAST TO COAST

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BRINGING THIS UNIQUE ADULT HOCKEY EXPERIENCE TO A RINK IN YOUR AREA?

SEE PAGE 16 FOR MORE DETAILS OR VISIT WWW.HOCKEYHOLD'EM.COM

SOLID GOLD CONVERSATION

BB: You've always been a bridesmaid, you've never actually made it to Sunday (SPC) and this year you got to put on the dress like it was your big day.

SH: Man!!! At first, the emotions were like, Ahhhhhhh, you know, I felt like we really had a good shot of winning it (SPCXIV). In fact, I was so confident that we were going to win it. Getting dressed in the locker room, we had one of the boys girlfriends run out, get us some champagne. We're gonna celebrate drinking out of the cup, so maybe that's what jinxed us. We were overly confident, then it was such a nail biter. I think we came down to a one goal game at the end, and we clinked the pipe a few times. That game is the most competitive game for me probably since high school regionals or district finals. But when you lose, and you came that close. You know, your heart just sinks a little bit knowing that's the end of your tournament. Yeah, we went to congratulate the boys on a good game and go shake the champions hands, then have a couple of beers, and look to do it again next year.

BB: Now, you've won HH'em IV with your brother (Taylor) and your cousin (Jason); that had to be fun for you guys. What was it like to experience winning on Sunday with some family on your side?

SH: It was really cool. We actually had a brothers day planned already. I have one other brother (Jordan) that also played in the tournament. Jordan, he didn't make it to Sunday. So it was my #3 brother as I'm #1, he was out there with us (Jay and myself). He (Taylor) just started playing hockey about two years ago. This was his second HH'em. He went to the finals last year and came up short. Then my cousin Jason played, this was his first HH'em. Now, Jay and I have been playing hockey together ever since high school. So, yeah, that was a lot of fun playing with family, and winning it with family, then going

out and celebrating our "Brothers Day". We invited Jay to come with us and we went out to do some go-karting.

BB: I saw the pictures. It was actually really cool seeing you boys share a day like that. You've officially won two titles from the AEA, both HH'em titles. Between the two victories, do you feel like one meant more than the other?

SH: Yeah, that's a good question. I want to say they both are very meaningful. To win the inaugural HH'em, you'll never forget, you'll never be able to do that again . . . to win the first one. So that first one was really cool and that one will probably stick out just a little bit more. But my second one has its own special parts with it too, you know being with family, and having won it before, now seeing HH'em evolve, it's just so much fun.

BB: Did you feel this year (at HH'em) a different role in the locker room? Did you feel like you were looked at as a leader, because of that past experience? Being a part of the show on Sunday once before. Did the guys ask advice from you? Was there any tense moments where you felt like your leadership was called upon? Or maybe change the way things were going?

SH: I'd say to an extent, mainly there was a lot of new people. Them knowing that I played in the tournament before you get a lot of the questions from new guys who aren't familiar with other players, skill levels, how to bet, what's your confidence in winning. I think through Friday night and Saturday those first two games I was asked a lot of questions. On Sunday everybody was a little tired from the long weekend, the BBQing, hanging out and enjoying the weather. We just got dressed, it was kind of quiet and we jumped on the ice and skated. It's kind of funny to mention that we shortened our bench some in the finals. Players volunteered to kick back a little bit because we were in a one goal game, a one goal

nail biter, right down to the bitter end. We went to overtime and being short handed (thanks Melanie) we shorten things up a bit more, and everybody basically wanted to win the Kegger Cup. For me if I wasn't performing well I would have been the first person to say hey I'm not going back out on the ice. So let's keep guys/ladies that have the fresh legs out there and let them finish it up.

BB: SO, do you feel that it was kind of surprising that people sacrificed playing time for the betterment of a team at a tournament? Considering everybody's basically strangers in this game?

SH: Absolutely, we're all adults and my money is just as green as anybody else's. Everybody paid their dues and they belong there whether they're a bender or a pond rocket for crying out loud. Yeah, I was very surprised that a handful of people would say they'd give up their ice time for the chance to win that trophy. It was surprising and cool at same time. I don't take it too serious, I could say that for even my competitive days in high school it was remember it's just a game and it's for fun. Don't let competition define you.

BB: Do you have a favorite AEA moment? Whether it was at Dekes & Dangles, Hockey Hold'em or the Silver Puck Challenge?

I want to say they both are very meaningful.

Read Stephan's reply and more as we conclude our Founders Solid Gold Conversation online.



Our Founders Solid Gold Conversation is concluded online:

www.anedgeabove.com



HOCKEY HOLD'EM COAST TO COAST

HERE'S YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO BRING THIS ONE OF A KIND ADULT HOCKEY TOURNAMENT TO YOUR HOMETOWN ARENA.

The summer time is typically a slow time of year for ice arenas. It's not exactly the "hockey" season for everyone. That doesn't mean there isn't a group of men and women out there that won't hit the ice. Trust us, there's a group just waiting for the invite or a spot to open up!!!

The AEA would like to assist any arena interested in filling a summer weekend with a great tournament opportunity. We've developed an online tournament system that will change your standard hockey tournament into a night in Vegas, well . . . sort of, but the Hockey Hold'em format and the opportunity to win gifts and prizes will change the atmosphere of any typical hockey tournament. Hockey Hold'em is an event that will alter the way participants approach hockey in your community as well. The level of player engagement is unmatched when compared to other tourneys. Our participants have grown to enjoy HH'em far more than the SPC!!!



We'll build all the teams based on the AEA Salary Cap System. Give you access to our online Hockey Hold'em software. We'll let the software build the teams, write the schedules, sort out the "chips" and run the show, so everyone can enjoy a great weekend of hockey.

The tournament is open to all genders, ages (21+) and skill levels. The ever mixing of players and teams make it exciting for all participants involved.

The top 26 skaters and two goalies with the most "chips" at the end of their three game round-robin set will be heading to Championship Sunday, not the best two teams. This gives ALL participants an opportunity to raise a championship cup of their own.

Interested? Contact us through our website. We are extremely excited to share the Hockey Hold'em experience with your hockey loving community.

WWW.HOCKEYHOLD'EM.COM



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LOOKING FORWARD TO SILVER PUCK CHALLENGE 2019

Here is a list of our current SPCXV needs and what to expect in the very, very near future at the SPC.

June | 2019 | Silver Puck Challenge XV | Come help us celebrate 15 years of the Silver Puck Challenge this June at Patterson Ice Center.

June | 2019 SPCXV | Fredonia Cup (A) Teams, this is our most elite bracket of the SPC, it is for ACHA or higher skilled players. We're already accepting teams.

June | 2019 SPCXV | VanValkenburg Cup (B+) Teams, we may have room for one or more teams primarily made up of high school skilled players, between the ages of 21 to 30. Interested? Send us a message.

June | 2019 SPCXV | C Bracket Teams, we are looking to fill our C Bracket with some beginner groups. We also look to make house teams if we have interested individuals.



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SILVER ^P/_C

SILVER PUCK CHALLENGE XV

SILVER PUCK CHALLENGE XVI 2020

June | 2020 SPCXVI | The 40+ Bracket will make its SPC debut, which will mean there will be a big shuffling of teams happening. All SPC Brackets will have open spots available. We're now accepting bracket requests.

June | 2020 SPCXVI | Rec-COED Bracket, will be expanding to a full eight (8) teams in 2020. Teams made up of non-competitive players looking to have a fun weekend of hockey at the SPC.

*All teams must follow the guidelines set by the AEA Salary Cap System. Details:

www.anedgeabove.com

AEA is Looking "SWEET" Hometown Classmates, Team Up!!

Cosmic Candy Company is one of the premier candy companies in the United States, little did the AEA Commissioner know that the owner was also a long time Caledonia classmate . . . let's not define "long time". Once the reunion happened . . . so did the magic and a new bar is being set for future tourneys.

The first time Cosmic Candy was associated with an AEA event was at Hockey Hold'em II (2016) and we were so grateful to have them a part of our show. That was the year a tornado was sighted and touch down in Byron Center, heading north towards Wyoming, Michigan.

We were all trapped and sharing the arena with Southside's house organization FOX Motors. Everyone was off the ice and in a safe place, but it was getting cramped and a little tense. Thank goodness John Nagel, owner of Cosmic Candy had dropped off over 300 sample flavor bags of popcorn for us to hand out at Hockey Hold'em. The popcorn didn't make it to our group of competitors, but was distributed to all the kids and parents of the FOX Motors organization. Their delicious treats were a blessing!

Now our partnership is going into its third year together and our two organizations have continued to grow and support each other, on and off the ice.

Cosmic Candy Company also sponsored a set of jerseys for the AEA to have on hand at our tournaments. The AEA has offered these jerseys to house teams that didn't have complete sets and to be used on Champion Sundays!



The jerseys were worn for the first time at this year's Silver Puck Challenge tournament. Then they were on the ice for the world to see at the Hockey Hold'em finals. They looked pretty "sweet" on the ice and they really added to the atmosphere of our shows.

Unfortunately we did not get a chance to get any championship pictures with these uni's this year, but there will be plenty of opportunities in the years to come for us to get a few. The next time we'll see if we can get a championship photo will be at Dekes & Dangles IV this winter. Stay tuned.

Thank you so much to Cosmic Candy Company, Pentwater Popcorn and especially John Nagel for bringing our show to a completely new level. Someone might actually take us out to dinner now.

Cosmic Candy Company has locations in Pentwater, Michigan; the Woodland Mall (Kentwood) and now the RiverTown Crossing Mall (Grandville). Be sure to stop in and support this great owner operated organization. Check out their website for more details: www.pentwaterpopcorn.com

Bring home the perfect gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, parties, stocking stuffers and more!!! Savory Southwest popcorn is our personal favorite!

Photo Credit: Kyle Mustane, SPCXIV

Up Coming Tournaments



JAN/FEB | 2019 | DEKES & DANGLES IV
3V3 POND HOCKEY TOURNAMENT
PLAYED AT FOR THE KIDZ,
WYOMING, MICHIGAN
WWW.DEKESDANGLES.COM



JUNE | 2019 | SILVER PUCK CHALLENGE XV
PLAYED AT PATTERSON ICE CENTER,
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN
WWW.SILVERPUCKCHALLENGE.COM

JULY | 2019 | WALKER CUP
PLAYED AT WALKER ICE & FITNESS,
WALKER, MICHIGAN
CONTACT JON PERZ @ WALKER ICE & FITNESS
WWW.WALKERICEANDFITNESS.COM | 616.735.6286



AUGUST | 2019 | HOCKEY HOLD'EM V
PLAYED AT SOUTHSIDE ICE ARENA,
BYRON CENTER, MICHIGAN
WWW.HOCKEYHOLD'EM.COM

PHOTO CREDIT: CHANTEL LABRA, SPC TROPHIES, SPCIV
TROPHY DESIGN: HOLWERDA-SNOAP SPORTING GOODS (PLATING),
STEVENS DESIGN & FABRICATION, INC. (DARREN MARTUCCI, METAL FABRICATION)
KEN WAAYENBERG (CONSTRUCTION/WOODWORKING).

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Phone # 616-669-0331

Special thanks to Holwerda-Snoap whom has provided the AEA with trophy services for 15 years; Stevens Design & Fabrication, Inc. (Darren Martucci) for the excellent metal work on our SPC center pieces and finally to Ken Waayenberg and his beautiful woodworking on our crest and trophies.

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'DE BLONDE VIKING UIT MICHIGAN'

A TRIBUTE TO
JORDAN STEGER

Which translates to . . .

“The blond Viking from Michigan”

Jordan Steger from Caledonia, Michigan has been a part of the AEA family ever since he was old enough to vote (2008). Now, he's pushing the 30 year old age barrier, and still living the hockey dream.

Over the years we have watched Jordan do what most of us wish we could, and that's playing hockey at the competitive levels. He played hockey at Cal-Lowell (HS) and Davenport University (ACHA III), where he had very successful careers at a very young age. Now we see him taking his experience and professionalism to another country. Last year it was with Vikingar of the Icelandic League; where he was third overall in points (53 points in 22 games), tied for second in goals scored (30). On top of the great regular season numbers, he also helped carry his team through the playoffs where the Vikingars would become champions.

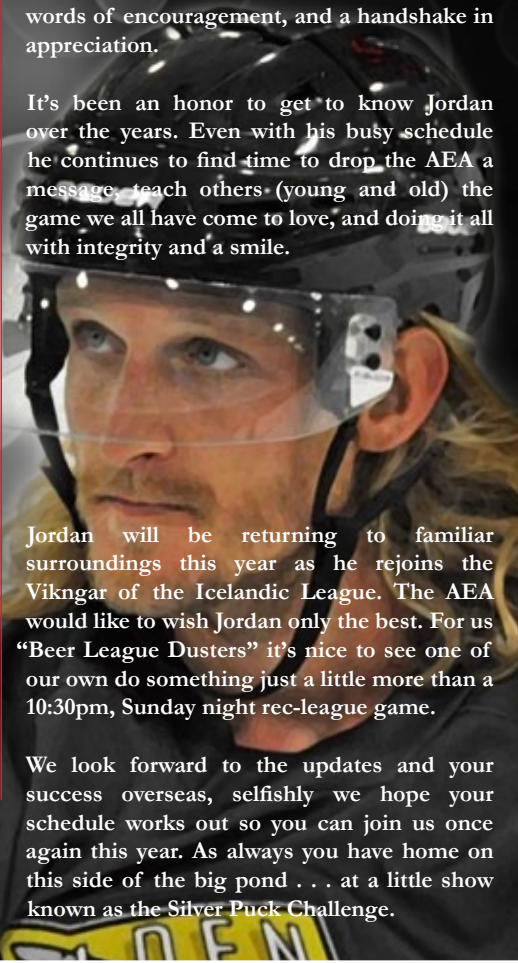
Why is this so special to the AEA? Yes, having highly skilled players a part of our show is exciting, but there is something more about Jordan that has grabbed our attention. The AEA taps our sticks to Jordan's character. Ever since day one; Jordan has participated with great sportsmanship and respect, both

on and off the ice. He has always found his way through the crowd to offer assistance, words of encouragement, and a handshake in appreciation.

It's been an honor to get to know Jordan over the years. Even with his busy schedule he continues to find time to drop the AEA a message, teach others (young and old) the game we all have come to love, and doing it all with integrity and a smile.

Jordan will be returning to familiar surroundings this year as he rejoins the Vikingar of the Icelandic League. The AEA would like to wish Jordan only the best. For us “Beer League Dusters” it's nice to see one of our own do something just a little more than a 10:30pm, Sunday night rec-league game.

We look forward to the updates and your success overseas, selfishly we hope your schedule works out so you can join us once again this year. As always you have home on this side of the big pond . . . at a little show known as the Silver Puck Challenge.



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AEA REGISTRATION

Everyone that participates in the Silver Puck Challenge, Hockey Hold'em and/or Dekes & Dangles hockey tournaments needs to register with the AEA.

Why is registering important to the AEA? Because we want to make sure all teams/players are following the rules and ethics of the AEA. We want everyone that participates in our events to have the same opportunities to hoist a championship cup in celebration. Our goal is to deliver a fair and competitive hockey tournament environment for everyone involved.

We also want to acknowledge our champions and embrace their AEA Legacy. Winning one of our titles is something special and should be shared with others.

We have made some upgrades to our registration process. When you register with the AEA, you will now have an AEA Account. You will be able to keep track of our AEA Legacy, build teams as a captain and more.

AEA REGISTRATION PROCESS

Go to our website www.anedgeabove.com, and click the "Player Registration" link.

Create your AEA Account, or login if you are an existing player and update your AEA Profile. (Previously registered players can use the "Lost Password" feature to reset your password.)

Upon arriving at one of our events, you must show your AEA Account profile at the registration table and sign in.

AEA SALARY CAP SYSTEM

All registered participants are given an AEA Value based on their experience, age and gender. Every bracket in the AEA has a specific AEA Salary Cap range. All captains are expected to follow these guidelines when building their tournament teams.

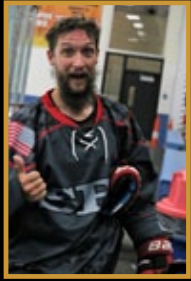
If teams are built following these guidelines we can help insure a healthy and competitive tournament environment for years to come.

As we have seen over the past few tournaments (SPCXIII & SPCXIV) and especially at Hockey Hold'em, brackets following these guidelines are becoming more and more comparative. The goal differential has decreased, thus leaving the door wide open for any and all teams to have an opportunity at a Championship Sunday.

Thank you to all captains that have embraced the AEA Salary Cap System and the new tournament format (especially at the SPC).



ABOUT THE AEA COMMISSIONER



It's no secret that Brent Belanger, the AEA Commissioner does most of the leg work when it comes to putting on the tournaments of the AEA . . . Ok, I gotta cut the bullsh*t. Enough writing in third person, I'm starting to get a big head over here.

All jokes aside, I've been promoting and putting on tournaments in west Michigan since 2005. The journey has been an amazing one; and I am truly blessed for the thousands (yes, I can say thousands) that have come through the doors of my shows.

Yes, I do put in a lot of work, it's a lot of late nights and long hours . . . and maybe, just maybe, I go a little overboard . . . but it is all worth it. Especially knowing how much fun you have at the tournaments. The smiles, stories and joy is priceless to me. I have become friends with so many of you over the years. Looking back 15 years ago I would have been hard pressed to have more than five of you in my address book. Now I . . . WE, have a community at our fingertips.

The Silver Puck Challenge, Hockey Hold'em and Dekes & Dangles tournaments are a success, because of ALL of you. Thank you to all of those that help me out, guide the new participants and make it possible for me to participate as well. If I didn't have this level of trust and support, there is no way these events would have gone on for as long as they have been going.

You've all made the AEA; "West Michigan's Premier Adult Hockey Tournaments". You've put us on top, and we will do our best to continue to impress you.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart, you let me be me, you let me be a part of your lives and that is something I personally cherish. Thank you.

Brent A. Belanger

BENCH MINOR MAGAZINE

THE HOCKEY MAGAZINE FOR BEER LEAGUE DUSTERS

SEND US YOUR BEST CHIRPS

Clearly we're no Bill Sheakespeare, but we hope you found this issue of BENCH MINOR MAGAZINE an enjoy to read. If not, we hope it at least helped kill some time while you were at the free clinic.

If you would like to write an article for the BENCH MINOR MAGAZINE we encourage you to do so.

Send us a message through any of our websites and an AEA representative will contact you to discuss the details needed so you can see your story in the next issue of BENCH MINOR MAGAZINE.



ADVERTISE WITH BENCH MINOR MAGAZINE

You may send us a message through any of our websites. An AEA representative will contact you with pricing and format details.

We love to promote those that support the men and women of the AEA. Thank you to all of sponsors for your continued support!!!

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LEGACY

REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!

BENCH MINOR MAGAZINE IS FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT OF THOSE THAT PARTICIPATE IN THE AEA, PLAY ADULT "BEER LEAGUE" HOCKEY OR ARE THE LOVING PUCK BUNNIES THAT SUPPORT THEM. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT HAS MADE THE AEA "WEST MICHIGAN'S PREMIER ADULT HOCKEY TOURNAMENTS".

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