



DECEMBER 2024 | VOL 15

# AHA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



## Spreading Holiday Cheer: North Stars & Comets Give Back at Fisher House

This December, the 10U Minor North Stars and 12U Comet girls had the incredible opportunity to give back to those who have given so much. The teams visited the Fisher house of Alaska at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, where they helped prepare and share a meal with veterans undergoing and recovering from medical procedures.

Beyond the home-cooked meal, the experience was filled with laughter, heartfelt conversations, and the spirit of giving. For the young athletes, it was a chance to express gratitude, learn the importance of service, and bring warmth to the holiday season for those staying at Fisher House.

Fisher House Foundation provides comfort homes for military and veteran families, allowing them to stay free of charge while a loved one receives medical care. Since its inception, the program has saved families an estimated \$610 million in lodging and transportation costs.

A huge thank you to the 10U Minor North Stars and 12U Comet girls for their kindness and volunteerism, as well as to everyone who helped organize this special event. Your generosity and effort made a meaningful impact, bringing joy and comfort to those who have served our country.





## 2024 Sully Showdown: A Big Stage for Young Stars

The 2024 Sully Showdown was one for the books, bringing together twenty eight 8U teams and four 10U teams for an action-packed weekend of hockey. The Olympic rink at the Sullivan Arena was transformed into the ultimate battleground. From the first puck drop, the energy was electric, as young players took the ice on the same stage that has hosted some of Alaska's greatest hockey moments. With cheers echoing through the arena, these future stars skated, scored, and celebrated like the pros. Thank you to all the great volunteers who made the Sully Showdown a huge success.

## WinterFest – The Roots of Hockey

This year's WinterFest Tournament was a celebration of hockey under the open sky, bringing together 40 teams, including one from Oregon, for an unforgettable weekend! Oregon's appearance gave them a once in a lifetime outdoor hockey experience and further deepens AHA's ties to several Pacific Northwest hockey associations.

Thank you to all the teams, families, and volunteers who made this years WinterFest a success!

Congratulations to our Champions from AHA:

- **10A Champions – 10U Comets**
- **12B Champions – 12U Comet Girls**
- **14B Champions – 14B South Stars**
- **14A Champions – 14A Comets**

## Holiday Spirit Shines at 10U Girls Skate

The December 10U Girls Skate was filled with Christmas cheer, as players hit the ice in their festive holiday outfits, decorating their hockey gear with a touch of holiday magic. A special guest, the Grinch, made an appearance, but instead of stealing Christmas, he helped spread holiday joy – posing for pictures, cheering on the players, and making the event even more memorable.



## AHA Volunteer of the Month

This month, we recognize **Vince Haag** as our AHA Volunteer of the Month!

Vince has been an invaluable coach for the Little Dippers Mite Program, always going the extra mile to support our young athletes. From setting half-ice boards to coaching, Vince brings a passion for the game that makes every practice exciting. His dedication helps create a fun and engaging environment, inspiring kids to love coming to the rink. Thank you Vince!





## Fundraising With Speed

The 2024 AHA Skate-A-Thon brought energy and excitement to the ice as the Rec teams skated lap after lap to raise funds for their teams. With music pumping and obstacles adding to the fun, players showcased their skills—skating forwards, backwards, and even jumping their way through the event.

Thanks to the incredible efforts of our athletes, families, and supporters, the Skate-A-Thon raised an impressive \$34,032! The 14A Comets led the way with \$4,850, followed closely by the 10U Comets with \$4,232. A special shoutout to Beckett Holland from the 10B Sparks team, our top individual fundraiser, bringing in \$1,486!

Thank you to everyone who participated and supported this fun and successful event!

## North Star 12U Major Battles in Washington

The North Stars 12U Major team hit the road in December, traveling to Washington for a five-game series against teams from Washington and British Columbia. With matchups in Bellingham, Everett, and Kent, the team put their skills to the test, finishing the trip with a 3-2 record. A major highlight of the weekend was getting to watch the Seattle Kraken take on the Boston Bruins and meeting Alaska's own, Jeremy Swayman, making it truly an unforgettable experience for the players!



## AHA Board Election

*Help Make a Difference!*

**We are seeking strong leaders in our hockey community to serve on our AHA Board!**

**Interested candidates please email: [anchoragehockeyoffice@gmail.com](mailto:anchoragehockeyoffice@gmail.com)**



# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## Anchorage North Stars Program

- 1/11 - 10U Wigren vs SAHA - 2:00PM @ UAA
- 1/11 - 16U Girls vs Seattle Redhawks - 12:00PM @ Lynwood, WA
- 1/17 - 19U Girls vs Florida Alliance - 2:20PM @ Florida
- 1/17 - NS 16U vs LA Jr Kings - 8:15PM @ Utah
- 1/26 - 10U Wigren vs HCF - 9:45AM @ UAF

## Anchorage Comets Rec A & AHA Rec B

- 1/11 - 12A Gastrock vs Parents Game - 12:30PM @ DA2
- 1/11 - 14A Comets vs Drillers - 12:00PM @ Big Lake
- 1/11 - 10U Girls vs 10B Sparks - 12:45PM @ DA2
- 1/12 - 12U Girls vs Seattle Redhawks - 10:00AM @ UAA
- 1/12 - 16B Darling vs Jr Avs - 9:00AM @ Brett
- 1/12 - 14B Smith vs Mat-Su - 10:45AM @ Brett
- 1/17 - 12A Broady vs Aspen Leafs - 4:45PM @ Colorado
- 1/18 - 14A Comets vs CO Rampage - 2:30PM @ Colorado
- 1/18 - 10B Welch vs KPHA - 4:30PM @ Kenai
- 1/18 - 10B Rader vs Drillers - 5:30PM @ Omalley
- 1/25 - 18B Simpson vs Palmer - 3:30PM @ DA1

## AHA Little Dippers

- 1/14 - LD 8U White Practice - 5:30PM @ DA2
- 1/23 - LD 8U White Practice - 5:45PM @ DA1
- 1/25 - LD 8U Red vs ER/SAHA - 1:00PM @ DA1

## Anchorage SeaPups LTS/LTP

- 1/11 - Seapup East LTS - 12:15PM @ UAA
- 1/11 - Seapup East LTP - 1:00PM @ UAA
- 1/13 - Seapup South LTS - 5:00PM @ Dimond Center
- 1/13 - Seapup South LTP - 5:45PM @ Dimond Center

## Alaska Girls High School Hockey

- 1/24 - Chugiak/Eagle River vs Service/East - 5:45PM @ DA1
- 1/24 - South/Bartlett vs Dimond/West - 7:15PM @ DA1
- 1/31 - Girls High School JV Game - 5:30PM @ DA1

