

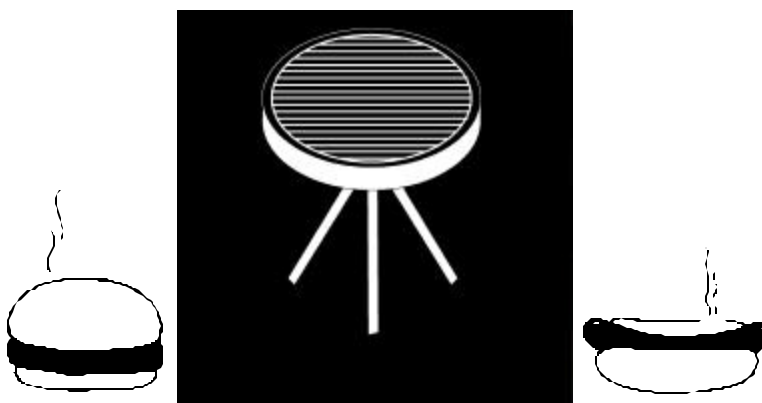
Aug. 24 – Next Storm Chasers meeting – 7:00 p.m. at the Tri-City Arena, second floor.

Kick Off Barbeque!

Meet the Storm Players

Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2004 **Time:** About 5:00 p.m.
Place: Tri-City Arena Parking Lot

Watch the Storm players practice and then meet them in person at the barbeque.



This is a Booster Club members activity.
Have you paid dues for this year yet?

If you did not pay them at the August meeting, you can pay them when you arrive at the barbeque.

Do you know someone who would be interested in joining the Storm Chasers Booster Club?
Invite them to come along with you as your guests.

Arena Sale

By Mardi Anderson

When we arrived at the lobby of the courthouse on the day of the auction, there were maybe a half dozen people. As the time drew nearer to 10 a.m. more people filtered in – news media with cameras and note pads, Storm fans, officials from the city, Chamber of Commerce, Storm office and many others who were unknown to me. I could not count everyone because from my vantage point I could not see them, so I won't estimate numbers. I'll just say there were many but there was still space in the center of the lobby so it wasn't packed solid.

Shortly before the auction started a gentleman entered the east door intent on taking care of some personal business at the courthouse. Imagine his surprise when faced with this crowd who were all looking his direction! That surprise showed on his face as he stopped short inside the door. But then he decided to brave the crowd and walked on through instead of turning around and going back out the door.

The lawyer in charge of the auction described the procedure saying the auction would be held open 20 minutes and he would read the legal notice three times. Usually an auction under these circumstances lasts only five minutes or so. But because of the size of the property and the money involved he wanted to allow time for any possible bidder who might be running late.

After each reading he gave instructions for anyone wishing to bid to register their name and enter their bid. Each time there followed silence as we all watched to see if anyone would come out of the crowd and approach to register. No movement after any of the readings. Gradually people would begin visiting again. As we all know by now Mr. Wien's opening bid was the only bid of the day.

After the auction in the interview with reporters when asked what he would do now, he said he--

--would bring in a management team to operate the arena.

--would bring in a basketball team which means buying a new special floor for them to use.

--would maybe put a stage at the west end for performances.

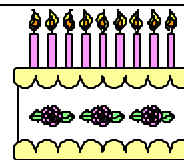
--hadn't talked to anyone from the Diesel.

--will have to work out some things with the Storm.

--is still willing to sell the arena or take in investors.

When asked to spell his name he said, "J-o-e-l, Joel, it's in the book. Do you know what book I mean?" When a reporter said, "Yes, the Good Book," he complimented her for giving the right answer and then went on to spell his last name, "W-i-e-n-s."

So what has changed? Now the owner is not a group who had a huge mortgage on the arena. The owner is Joel Wiens who does not have a mortgage on the arena. Now we wait to see what happens next.



Storm Birthdays

Michael Hudson turned 17 on August 1
Michael Lukac will turn 20 on August 26

No more Storm birthdays until December.

Schedule of Events

Aug. 24 – 7 p.m.- Storm Chasers general meeting
September 7 – 5 p.m.- Kick Off Barbeque
September 10 – 7:05 p.m. Exhibition game with the Lancers at the MAC in Council Bluffs
September 16-18 – Buc Bowl in Des Moines
September 24 – 7:05 p.m. - Opening game against the Lincoln Stars
September 25 – 7:05 p.m. - Home game against the Sioux City Muskateers

Reminder

Membership dues for the 2004-05 season are due now. The treasurer will be accepting dues payments at the August meeting and at the Kick-Off Barbeque.

Bylaws changes

By Mardi Anderson

Several changes to the bylaws were approved at the July meeting. Following is a summary of those changes. To see the exact word changes just go to our website at <www.tricitystormchasers.com> and click on the bylaws section at the bottom of the opening screen.

Previously we have had three categories of membership – Individual, Family, and Non-voting. We changed the term “Non-voting” to Associate. The definition was not changed. The non-voting member is one who wishes to support the organization but will not be actively involved in our projects. A fourth category of Life Member was added. This person will be granted that status only by a unanimous vote of the Board of directors or by a 2/3 vote of the membership at the meeting when the issue is presented. The Life Member will have full voting rights, have dues absorbed by the organization and will have served at least one full term on the Board of Directors.

The bylaws had stated that the Booster Club would meet on the first Tuesday of the month unless a game was scheduled for that evening. We replaced that restrictive clause with a more general statement that the Booster Club will meet once a month. This will give us more flexibility in setting the meeting dates.

The title of Sergeant-At-Arms was changed to 2nd Vice President and the Vice President is now the 1st Vice President,

We removed the newsletter editor as a board position so now there will be three members a large instead of two. This also meant removing the newsletter job description and elimination of the newsletter committee. The Scholarship committee was removed as well as all references to it.

The Board was expanded to include the immediate past president, called Board Chairman, who will be a non-voting advisor to the Board and may act as liaison with the Storm office.

This question was raised by a Storm Fan... from New Jersey!

Question:

So tell me... how do they get rid of the ice at the end of the season? Just let it melt and suck up the water? And how do they make new ice? Fill up with water and freeze? Anyone know the low-down?

I was equally curious, and went to the best source. Thanks to Mr. Bob McBride, Tri-City Arena General Manager and Mr. John Rumbaugh, the Facility Director for the "low-down"!

Ken

Answer:

Taking the ice out at the end of the season is a very simple process. First we turn off the chiller so there is nothing cooling the ice, then we just take the Zamboni out there and shave, shave, shave. We shave the ice down through the paint so there is barley anything left. By this point the chiller has been shut down for at least 5 hours and the last layer of ice is very thin and soft, we then take our skid loader out on the ice and bulldoze the rest right off. To get the remaining water off of the floor we take the blade off of the Zamboni and drive it around sucking up the rest of it.

Building ice on the other hand is a very complicated process. First we turn the chiller on the day before we start making ice, to give the floor enough time to chill and drop to about 16 degrees. Then to start we lay two very small layers of water using a 10 ft. wide boom sprayer, once the first two layers freeze its only about 1/16 " thick. Next we mix the white base paint and put down 3 layers of it, we then seal that paint with another thin coat of water. After that sets up we are ready to paint the lines and logos onto the ice surface which typically takes about 8 hours. We then seal that layer of paint with yet another thin layer of water and we put down another 5-8 coats of cold water. Once there is approx. 3/8" on top of the paint we take off the boom sprayer and put on a flooding nozzle, we then use hot water (because it freezes faster and doesn't allow air pockets to form) to flood the ice until it gets to the skating thickness of 1". We will be installing the ice for the upcoming storm season starting on Aug. 16th. If people are interested I recommend coming down and checking out the whole process so you can see it first hand.

John Rumbaugh
Facility Director

Don't Forget!! – The next Storm Chasers meeting will be Tuesday, August 24 at 7:00 p.m. at the Tri-City Arena second floor.

More about Ice.....

Speaking of ice, did you know that the Zamboni was not used until 1955? In the early days of hockey the ice was only resurfaced before a game began. Then at the beginning of the 1940-41 season NHL officials made a rule change requiring the ice to be resurfaced between periods. To do this, eight to ten men would clean the surface with metal shovels or scrapers. Then barrels of hot water were poured on the ice.



Resurfacing prior to Frank Zamboni's invention was a challenge. This photo shows the Detroit Red Wing's ice maintenance crew hard at work. Photo courtesy Robert Wimmer

The reason we call this ice resurfacing machine a Zamboni is because it was invented by Frank Zamboni. He was a rink attendant at Paramount Studios in California. This rink was used by figure skaters, including Sonja Henie who backed his idea. His first de-icing machine made on a war-surplus jeep chassis was very bulky. It swept and scraped the ice and flooded it with water. Just what the Zamboni does today. It took Frank about seven years to develop his machine into the one we are accustomed to seeing now.

The NHL first used this machine in 1955 in Montreal. It wasn't long before every NHL rink had one. Then before the 1994-95 season another rule change required that all rinks have two ice resurfacers.

Although we call it a Zamboni, that is a brand name. Other companies make ice resurfacers also. At the Tri City area we have two machines but only one is a Zamboni.

(from The Official Rules of Hockey by James Dupacey, 2001)