

Fan



Club

Vol. 4, No. 6

February 2005

February General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, February 22, 2005

Special listening party



Since an away game with the Lancers is scheduled for this evening we are combining the game and Storm Chaser business in one big evening of fun.

Meet in our usual place on second floor of the Kearney Event Center in time for the 7:05 puck drop. We will have our business meeting during the intermission, during both intermissions, if necessary.

Your only excuse for missing this meeting is if you are at the MAC attending the game in person.

Awards Banquet

Wednesday, March 23, at the Kearney Holiday Inn

6:00 p.m. Social hour; 7:00 p.m. Dinner

The Storm Chasers Booster Club will hold its annual Tri-City Storm Player Recognition Banquet on Wednesday, March 23, 2005, at the Kearney Holiday Inn

This event is open to Chaser Members, the Tri-City Storm players and their families, the 2004-2005 season Housing Families, and the Storm Office staff. Those who are not currently (paid) members, may attend if they become Chaser members. Memberships are available for \$15.00 for individuals, or \$25.00 for the family. All memberships expire Aug. 31, 2005.

The cost of the banquet is \$11.95 for members, \$7.50 for children 6-9, and free for children 5 and under. Page 3 of this newsletter contains a reservation form. If you are planning to attend, please fill it out, cut it out and send it in by March 16.

Family Appreciation Reception

Thursday, March 24, Second floor of the Kearney Event Center

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

The Storm Chasers would like to show their appreciation to families and host families of our Storm players. Since there is a day between the Awards Banquet and the last two home games of the regular season, this seems like a good time to do that. So we are hosting a family appreciation reception on the afternoon of the last practice of the regular season. Join us on the KEC second floor (cont. on page 4)

A Visit With the Blue Zamboni

Q: Hi. The fellow who works here and drives you a lot, Jeff Halbert, says you are a Zamboni. We would like to know more about you and your work here at the Kearney Event Center. Will you answer some questions for us?

A: Sure, what would you like to know?

Q: For starters, I see that there are two of you. Who is this guy parked beside you? He looks like you except he's painted white and advertises Budweiser. Is he a Zamboni too?

A: Nah, that's Olly. He's an ice cleaning machine like me, but he is an Olympia. That's an off brand. I'm a real Zamboni.

Q: How do you clean the ice?

A: First, my blade shaves the ice. Then an auger picks up the shavings made by my blade and by the player's skates. It is pushed up a tube into that open space under my hood. Sometimes you might see the driver pumping something as he drives. He is clearing the tube if the ice sticks so it can continue to move up into the box.

Q: Do you ever pick up anything else besides the shaved ice?

A: Oh, yes. Anything that is laying on the ice. Splinters from broken sticks. I've picked up a couple of teeth, one from an Omaha player recently. Once I picked up a Nerf ball. That really screwed up things. We had to stop immediately and come off the ice to get that thing out.

Q: What happens after you have shaved the ice?

A: Then water is spread on the ice. We started using hot water three years ago because it freezes faster and harder. And it melts into grooves left by skates. There is a tank that holds 190 gallons of hot water up there in front, under the box where the ice shavings go.



The "real" Zamboni

Q: How much water is used during a Storm game?

A: Each of us will use about all our 190 gallons during each intermission cleaning.

Q: What do you do with the ice shavings?

A: After I leave the ice, I park here in front of this trough. Then I open my hood, lift up, and the ice slides down into the trough. It melts in there and is drained away.

Q: Tell me about your blade. How sharp is it?

A: It's razor sharp. You gotta' be careful or you'll cut a finger on it. In order to keep it that sharp it has to be sharpened once a week. The guys send the blades to Lincoln for that. Obviously, we have more than one blade here so when one is being sent out for sharpening, they can put another one on me.

Q: I notice you have studded tires. Do they give you good traction on the ice?

A: Yeah, but the drivers can't go too fast or I will fish tail on the turns.

Q: How fast can you go?

A: On ice I go about 5 miles per hour but I can get up to 15 miles per hour. When I got this blue paint job with the red flames and Eustis Body Shop ad, they took me to the Eustis shop on a trailer. It was kind of disappointing. I was looking forward to driving up over I-80 on the overpass.

Q: Thank you very much for answering our questions. We look forward to seeing you during intermissions at the next Storm game. When there is another hat trick, we will make a point of getting all the hats and other items off the ice before you come through so your system doesn't get clogged up.

A: Thanks, I appreciate that.



Ollv. the ice cleaner

Reservations for Awards Banquet and Family Appreciation Social

Awards Banquet – Wednesday, March 23, 2005

Please reserve the following spaces for my family:

_____ Adults @ \$11.95 _____ Children 6-9 @\$5.50 _____ Children 5 & under @Free

Family Appreciation Reception – Thursday, March 24, 2005

There is no cost but we would like to know how many to plan for.

How many in your family will be attending? _____

Make Awards Banquet checks to Storm Chasers Booster Club and send with this reservation.

Send reservation form to:

Storm Chasers

P O Box 2101

Kearney, NE 68848



Drawing by Butch Knapp

WHAT IS HE SAYING?

We've all seen it. The players move into face off position and wait for the puck to drop. The linesman holds the puck out but hesitates. We see his mouth moving but we fans in the stand cannot hear him. So we yell, "Drop the Puck!" But WHAT IS HE SAYING?

Here is your chance to provide the words. What caption would you put under Butch's drawing?

Send your ideas along with your reservation form or email them to cottonmill@charter.net or catch me at a home game. We will put your suggestions in the next issue.

Family Appreciation Reception (cont.)

for refreshments and some visiting time. The players are welcome to join us after practice if they wish. There will be more than appetizers so you might want to get there before practice is over and the boys come up and clean off the trays. There is no charge but we need to know how many to plan for so please send in the reservation form on page 3.



**Happy
Birthday**

Only two birthdays this time:

Christian Hanson will be 19 on March 10.

Cody Chupp turns 20 on March 17.



Penalties

There have been penalties in hockey since the first time the rules were written down 128 years ago this month. No player could trip, kick or charge an opposing player. However, there were no penalties.

Nine years later when new rules were written, that list was extended to add collaring, shoving, and raising the stick above shoulder height. An offender would be warned by the referee twice and if he did it again he was out for the rest of the game.

The first time penalty times were charged was in 1904. Ten years later a money fine could be charged as well as the penalty of 5 minutes. We are talking pro teams here obviously. The practice of fines apparently did not last long. Penalty minutes were reduced to 3 but were not very effective since a substitute could be sent in. It wasn't until the 1917-18 season that teams skated shorthanded when a penalty was called. There was a penalty for "loafing offside" that year.