



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW ROLLER HOCKEY RINK OPENS AT HALF MOON BAY HIGH SCHOOL

Entire Coastside community invited to skate at ribbon-cutting ceremonies on May 3

HALF MOON BAY, CA (April 3, 2008) - The entire Coastside community is invited to lace up their skates and “Rock the Rink” on Saturday, May 3, from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m., as the Boys & Girls Club of the Coastside (BGC) and the Coastside Youth Association’s (CYA) North Coast Hockey League (NCHL) host a community-wide roller skating and ribbon-cutting celebration for the opening of “The Rink,” the new roller hockey facility on the campus of Half Moon Bay High School.

“Our new rink is the realization of a decade-old dream of the board members from the NCHL board, who wanted to provide a unique athletic experience on the Coastside,” said NCHL President Emeritus Brian McNamara. The event will launch the NCHL’s 17th annual Summer Roller Hockey season.

At “Rock the Rink,” people of all ages are welcome to roller skate for free. The afternoon festivities will feature live music from the local band “Flagged Down,” plus food, skills competitions, a Squirt exhibition hockey game, raffles, prizes, and more. SJ Sharkie, the “hardest working fish in the NHL,” is set to appear, dependent upon the San Jose Sharks’ playoff schedule. All children will receive a pack of vintage NHL hockey cards and are invited to sign up for the 2008 NCHL Summer season, which begins on June 1 and runs through Aug. 3.

The Boys and Girls Club rink will become the new home arena for the NCHL and the Half Moon Bay High School club roller hockey team. The 185-foot long by 85-foot wide outdoor regulation rink features 3-1/2 foot boards similar to what is installed at the San Jose Sharks’ “Shark Tank” at the HP Pavilion, with 5-foot tempered glass on the ends, and 3-foot glass on the sides.

Roller hockey has thrived on the coast since 1992, when the NCHL, part of the non-profit CYA, began play at the Half Moon Bay Airport. The NCHL has developed more than 1,000 youth hockey players living in the Pacifica-to-Pescadero region in northern California, and nearly 120 players and their families have participated each season. According to McNamara, the Athletica/Border Patrol model 4000A rink was purchased by the league in 2002 from a site in Marina del Rey, CA, and will replace a structure that had to be removed and rebuilt yearly. Awaiting a permanent home, the rink has been in storage at the Lazy H Pony Ranch in Half Moon Bay ever since.

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In 2007 the Cabrillo Unified School District agreed to locate the rink on the high school campus. The Boys and Girls Club of the Coastsides led the 2007 fundraising drive to attract contributions from private individuals, with no City funds available. “We greatly appreciate the support of the Community, which recognizes that we need to provide outlets for active participation for our youth,” said BGC president David Cline. “Roller Hockey has been a part of the Coastsides for 16 years, and we’re thrilled to help it prosper with a new facility that is unrivaled in this region.” Along with a number of academic contributions, the rink joins a long list of improvements to the high school’s sports facilities – including the football field, track, softball field, and pool – that have been made by the Boys & Girls Club of the Coastsides and its donors.

“The district provides many of the recreational facilities for the Coastsides, and we’re thrilled former Superintendent Dr. John Bayless and the school board chose to build this facility on the high school campus,” said NCHL president Joel Farbstein. “Students have already formed a HMB High Cougars roller hockey club team that will begin play this month in San Jose against other high schools.”

Rink construction efforts were led by Ed Watkins of the Boys and Girls Club, and Andreini Bros, which donated a substantial amount of time and effort to prepare the facility. Rink assembly was headed by Mike Durso of Empire Builders and Jack Quinlan of DRP Plumbing, with a volunteer team of parents and students moving, cleaning, and building the rink. “The generosity of the community, and the volunteers who have worked tirelessly to build this rink, has been overwhelming,” said McNamara.

According to NCHL board member Gino Padua, who heads NCHL sponsorships, “The rink’s location at the entryway to Half Moon Bay High School provides a great promotional opportunity for local businesses who wish to connect with San Mateo County families and Coastsides consumers. You couldn’t find a more visible location in the district.” The rink’s 69 dasher boards will offer exclusive signage opportunities, much like is seen at the “Shark Tank.”

With the enhanced facility, the NCHL is in discussions with the Half Moon Bay Recreation Division to offer additional programs to Coastsides residents of all ages. NCHL league play is broken down into four divisions: Squirts include children from 5-8 years of age; PeeWees are 9-11; Bantams are 12-14; and Midgets are 15-18. “For people who may be financially unable to participate, we want them to know that the NCHL has received grants from the HMB Lions Club and HMB Rotary Clubs for equipment and scholarships, since we don’t want to turn away anyone who wants to play hockey” said Farbstein. Registration forms and online signups for the 2008 season are available at www.CoastsidesRollerHockey.com.

“It’s hockey that’s fresh, not frozen,” said Farbstein. “We call it ‘the fun league on the coast,’ because of the family-friendly environment we’ve created. On game days we make sure there’s participation from spectators so it’s a truly enjoyable experience for everyone. And the community will see that when they join us by coming out to skate on Saturday afternoon, May 3.”

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About the North Coast Hockey League/Coastside Youth Association

The non-profit North Coast Hockey League (NCHL), as part of the Coastside Youth Association, endeavors to provide a high-quality athletic experience for Coastside boys and girls of all skill levels, from Kindergarten through High School. The NCHL is dedicated to the concept of good sportsmanship, and providing a positive model for youth sports. With a committed all-volunteer staff, many of whom have spent years building this youth-oriented program, the NCHL works to maximize players' athletic skills while simultaneously enhance the concept of teamwork, self-esteem and self-discipline in a positive, supportive environment.

About Boys & Girls Club of the Coastside

The non-profit Boys & Girls Club of the Coastside is a youth development organization dedicated to promoting the health, social, educational, vocational, and character development of the community's boys and girls. Programs and activities are designed to instill in children a sense of self-esteem, belonging, competence, usefulness and influence.

About Cabrillo Unified School District

CUSD, located just south of San Francisco on the beautiful Pacific Coast, operates four elementary schools, one intermediate school, one high school, a continuation school, and an adult education program. Its mission is to develop critical thinkers and socially responsible citizens who actively participate in their individual learning and development, and are fully prepared to embrace their next challenge. The District utilizes its unique natural resources to provide a rich and academically rigorous curriculum in a safe and nurturing environment. Half Moon Bay High School is located on Lewis Foster Drive in Half Moon Bay, CA.

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