

Montgomery Cheetahs Year 2 Vol. 5

July 10, 2007

New web site link:: http://edit.usahockey.com/montgomery_spe/main_site/main/home//

Thanks a ton to Cheetah equipment/uniform coordinator, Carol Hyndman, who collected, unloaded and distributed 3 bags of ice hockey equipment to our new athletes.

Just a brief email with the schedule – two more practices left in this summer session – including a parent meeting following practice on the 21st. Below is some Cheetah history for those of you who are new this year.

Coming up in next week's email – meet the coaches David Schwab and David Lucia.

See you Saturday,

Kelly Thackston

kcthackston@hotmail.com

- I. Cheetah History
- II. Schedule
- III. Contact Info

I. Cheetah History

This summer marks the Cheetahs second summer session. Here is a look back at last year.

(from Special Hockey Montgomery Vol. 3 October 25, 2006)

Did you ever wonder how Special Hockey Montgomery was started? It started out with a service project in the Berk family. The Berks, Steve and his wife Susan Board, and their sons, Corey and Jacob were the sparks behind starting a Special Hockey Montgomery team. Both Corey and Jacob are on ice hockey teams. They've been playing the sport since they were seven years old. The Berks have a niece who has autism, thus they wanted to make the connection between hockey and kids with special needs. Steve googled ice hockey and found Special Hockey in Reston, VA. Corey and Jacob volunteered as mentors for the Virginia team. "We enjoyed and were so gratified when we participated in Reston," Steve Berk said. "We wanted to bring the opportunity to Montgomery County." He sent some emails out to a few key locations, soliciting players. The response was positive. They had the players. Next, they needed ice time, which is competitive and therefore limited. Steve made a case before MYHA (Montgomery Youth Hockey Association). He asked them to donate ice time for the Special Hockey Montgomery players. MYHA agreed and the rest is history in the making.

Special Hockey Montgomery completed its inaugural/premier 8 week summer session in 06. This is our first official hockey season.

Other info on the Cheetahs:

The Cheetahs are a part of the American Special Hockey Association, and consists of athletes with developmental, speech and language and other disabilities.

The mentors are volunteers from local teams. They come each week to help the players adapt to new equipment, learn to skate, conduct drills and learn new skills. The mentors are an integral part of the team and its success.

Last season athletes nominated and voted for their mascot - the Cheetah. Last Spring the team (athletes, mentors and volunteers) was awarded the F. Michael Taff Award by the Rockville Human Rights Commission. The Taff Award honors an individual or organization that has made a contribution to improving the lives of people with disabilities.

II. Schedule

Arrive about 30 minutes before ice time (7:30am) to get equipment on/matched with a mentor.

ARC Rockville Ice Arena
50 Southlawn Court
Rockville, MD 20850
301-294-8101
(<http://www.rockvilleicearena.com>)

Date	Day	Start time	End time
07/14/07	Saturday	8:00 AM	8:50
07/21/07	Saturday	8:00 AM	8:50AM**

****PARENT MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PRACTICE ON JULY 21.****

II. Contacts

Questions? Contact a contact.

David Schwab
dsterp93@yahoo.com
Montgomery Cheetah Coach

David Lucia
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Montgomery Cheetah Coach

Steve Berk
Steven@chavezgertler.com
Lead coordinator

Kevin VanLowe
kvanlowe@emassist.com
Treasurer

Niki Bouvier
nbouvier@verizon.net
Liaison to American Special Hockey Association (ASHA) and Montgomery Youth Hockey Association (MYHA). ASHA can help us with coaching, equipment and tournaments. Parent email. USA Hockey registration

Kelly Thackston
kcthackston@hotmail.com
Special Hockey Montgomery newsletter/parent information. USA Hockey registration.

Sutura Bobbo
suturaello@hotmail.com
Coordinates registration of new and existing skaters, forms etc. USA Hockey registration.

Carol Hyndman
clhyndman@comcast.net
Equipment and uniforms (yes uniforms) coordinator.

Lynn Weintraub
hibob99@aol.com
Coordinator for our many (and enthusiastic) mentors.

Andrea Golden
goldnfam@comcast.net
Educates mentors and coordinates our outreach to the autism/special needs community.