



## *Santa Rosa Junior Hockey Club History*

The Santa Rosa Junior Hockey Club is a club with a great tradition and in the 2003 – 2004 season, the club will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> year of providing the opportunity to play ice hockey to the youth of the North Bay.

The Santa Rosa Junior Hockey Club was founded in 1963 by Skippy and Meryl Baxter. The club originally skated out of the old Summerfield Arena on Summerfield Road in Santa Rosa. The first teams were sponsored by local businesses and took their names from the sponsors. The Santa Rosa Typos were the peewee team sponsored by the typographical union. The club even had a team sponsored by a local beer company. The original jerseys were black with red and white stripes on the shoulders. In the 1967 season, issues with the stability of the roof beams at the Summerfield Arena caused it to close and the club was no longer able to practice and play in that arena. That arena is now the Rialto Movie Theatre. Once the use of the Summerfield Arena was lost, the hockey club skated for two seasons at the ice arena in Corte Madera in Marin County. In 1969, Charles Schulz of Peanuts fame, opened the Redwood Empire Ice Arena, now known as Snoopy's Home Ice, and it has been the home rink of the hockey club ever since, except for a couple of years in the mid-80's when insurance issues forced the club to skate out of the Corte Madera rink once again. When the club moved to the REIA it adopted the current colors of orange, white and black.

The SRJHC has had many great teams over the years including 4 state champions and numerous Northern California champions. Our state champions include the Squirt A team in 1996 – 1997, the Peewee A team in 1998 – 1999, the Midget B team in 1998 – 1999 and the Midget A team in 2000 – 2001. In addition to these great teams, we have had numerous teams compete in both the NORCAL playoffs and the CAHA playoffs. Over the last few years, our orange, black and white colors have become very well known around the state for the high quality of hockey that comes out of Santa Rosa.

In the early years, several CAHA state tournaments were hosted by the hockey club including the Midget Division, at the Summerfield Arena in 1965. In addition, the 1972 Squirt Division, the 1973 Peewee Division and the 1975 Peewee Division CAHA state tournaments were hosted by the club at the Redwood Empire Ice Arena.

The hockey club has been involved in many special events during the years. In 1971, the hockey club hosted the Korean Army Team, ages from 22 – 25, with the players housed with club parents. The hockey club sponsored the Snoopy's Hockey School in 1972, with over 100 boys participating in the week long program and the instructors included NHL players, Charlie Burns and Ted Harris from the Minnesota North Stars and Pat Stapleton from the Chicago Blackhawks. In 1973 the Bantams attended the Pasadena Invitational Tournament, which was held over New Years Weekend. Charles Schulz was the Grand Marshall of the Rose Parade that same weekend. In 1974, the club hosted a California Golden Seals intrasquad game. In 1982 the peewee and bantam teams attended the Washington D.C. Capitol Invitational Tournament, highlighted by parents and players receiving an invitation to the White House. In 1980 at the Flying Father Invitational Tournament, a team of Catholic priests played Santa Rosa players on a Saturday night and Sunday afternoon with admission proceeds benefiting

Catholic Charities. Through the 1970's and early 80's the club had a junior team for 18 – 21 year olds. For the last several years, an annual tradition of the club has been to host a Bantam B team from Vancouver. The Canadian players are billeted with the Santa Rosa Bantam B families and the teams play two games over two nights in late March.

**Past President's of the club include:**

1964 – 1965 Dr. Howard Moen  
1966 – 1967 Sherman Quinlan  
1968 – 1969 Michael Miller  
1970 – 1971 John Riley  
1972 – 1973 Murray Shortt  
1974 – 1975 Herb Hilliard  
1975 – 1976 Charles Kishbaugh  
1976 – 1977 Murray Shortt  
1977 – 1978 Tom McGee  
1979 – 1981 Dick Levy  
1981 – 1983 Ron Klein  
1983 – 1985 Mike Wiegand  
1985 – 1987 Larry Lambert  
1987 – 1989 Nancy Bice  
1989 – 1990 Erin Porterfield  
1990 – 1991 Lynda Killingsworth  
1991 – 1992 Steve Allen  
1992 – 1993 Debbie Grove  
1993 – 1994 Warren Smith  
1994 – 1996 Steve Mancuso  
1996 – 1998 Bob Montgomery  
1998 – 1999 Dave Wachter  
1999 – 2000 Jim Wentworth  
2000 – 2003 Pete Toft  
2003 – 2004 Mike Donahue  
2004 – 2006 Deanna Branski  
2006-2007 Rich Strauch  
2007-2008 Bryan Neill

The club has several honorary members who are recognized for their contribution to youth hockey and specifically to the SRJHC. Those honorary members include:

Charles Schulz  
Charlie Burns  
Cecelia Shortt  
Claudine Hilliard  
Ron Klein  
Myrtle Klein  
Fay Ghielmetti  
Nancy Bice

Players of note to come out of the SRJHC include Kelton Bice who still coaches with the club. Kelton played midget hockey in Alberta and British Columbia and junior hockey in

the US League in both Sioux City and Green Bay in the late 70's. Jason Royce, David Butler, Robert Hutten and Mark Castillo also spent time in the US league. The 2000 – 2002 Director of Coaches for NORCAL, Larry Cahn, played his youth hockey in Santa Rosa and was a member of our junior team from 1991 – 1993. Carlos Perez, who currently maintains our web site and serves as a goalie coach for the club played Junior B hockey in Flagstaff, Arizona in the 1996 – 1997 season. In recent years, we have had several players who have tried out and played for junior teams in Canada including Zach Brown, Mick Wells and Matt Jimenez.

Four Santa Rosa 3<sup>rd</sup> year Midget players have been the recipients of the NORCAL *Jordan Kocian Award*. Evan Cowen (1999), Jonathan Wachter (2000), Jordan Smith (2001), and Ryan Horton (2007), each received this award which is presented annually to a 3<sup>rd</sup> year midget player in NORCAL who exemplifies desire, determination, dedication, leadership and inspiration in their approach to living their lives and playing hockey. The award, first presented in 1997, honors the memory of a former Berkeley and San Jose Jr. Shark player, Jordan Kocian, who passed away in 1996 at the age of 21 from Wolf Parkinson White Syndrome.

In 1997 the club hosted its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Wine Country Face-Off President's Day Tournament and this tournament is now an annual tradition. The focus of this tournament is not only on hockey. It also takes advantage of the great tourism opportunities in Sonoma County including our wineries, golf courses, great weather and of course, our great ice arena. The tournament is a great fundraiser for the club ranging from T-shirt and sweatshirt sales, to raffles and silent auctions. The tournament has been set up to try to showcase as many of the Santa Rosa teams as possible with great results. Santa Rosa teams winning their divisions include the Squirt A team in the initial 1997 tournament, the Midget A team in 1999, the Peewee B and Bantam A teams in 2001, the Midget A team in 2002, the Bantam B and Midget 16B teams in 2003 and ten other Santa Rosa teams have made their division championship games over the life of the tournament. The initial tournament hosted two divisions of Squirts and Peewees and has grown over the last few years to host as many as five divisions ranging from Mites to Midgets. Tournament participants have included teams from as far away as Anchorage, Seattle, Medford, Salt Lake City, Phoenix, Reno, Denver, Arapahoe, San Diego, Bakersfield, Burbank, Pasadena, Long Beach, Huntington Beach, Ventura and Los Angeles. Local NORCAL teams who have participated include Berkeley, Belmont, Cupertino, Oakland, San Jose, Sacramento, Solano and Santa Clara.

Overall, the ***Santa Rosa Junior Hockey Club*** has a rich tradition in providing the youth of the North Bay with the opportunity to play ice hockey.