

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2008

# THE EDGE

The professional journal for the ice skating industry



# Take Control of Your Energy Use

## Liability Pitfalls for Ice Arenas

## How ISI Works For You



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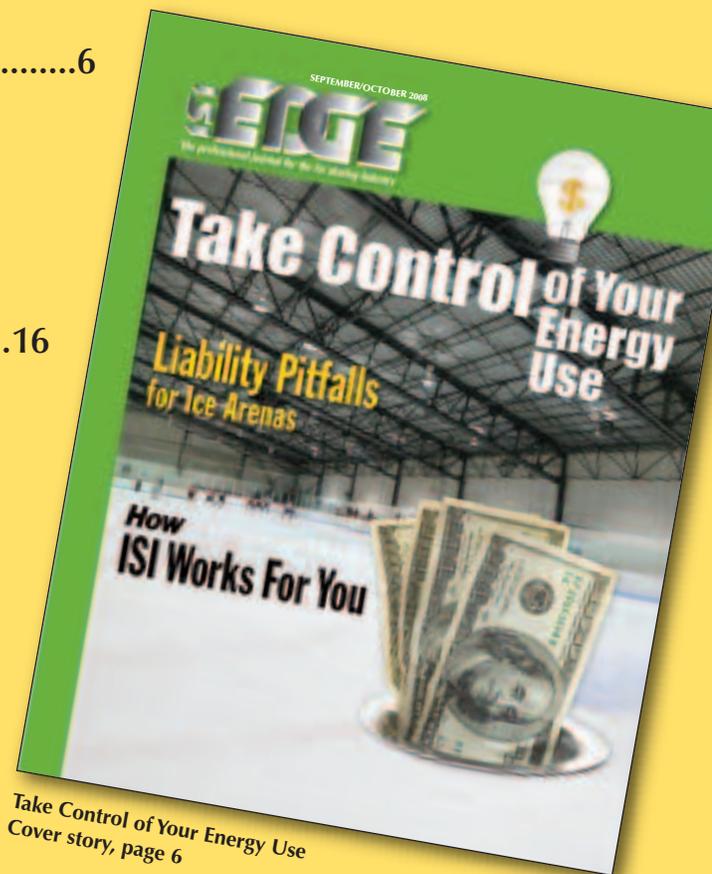
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*Dedicated to providing leadership, education and services to the ice skating industry.*

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## Zamboni Co. to deliver machine No. 9,000

PARAMOUNT, Calif. – Frank J. Zamboni & Co. Inc. has announced that its 9,000th ice resurfacing machine will be sold to the Citizens Business Bank Arena in Ontario, Calif. The new facility is under construction and is scheduled to open later this year. The arena will be operated by AEG Worldwide, the developers of the Staples Center and many other multi-use venues. The ice sheet will be home to the Ontario Reign, a future affiliate hockey team of the Los Angeles Kings. Machine No. 9,000 is one of two Model 545 Zamboni ice resurfacers scheduled for delivery prior to the arena's grand opening.

## MIAMA selects iAIM for fall conference education component

DALLAS — The Minnesota Ice Arena Managers Association (MIAMA) has selected ISI's Ice Arena Institute of Management (iAIM) to provide the education at its fall conference for the next three to five years. Two full certification schools will be offered annually for as many as 40 students in each, with the operations and management tracks being offered at this year's conference (see page 30 for more information).

"This is a wonderful opportunity for us to further develop and strengthen ISI's excellent relationship with the MIAMA organization," said Rob McBride, chairman of the iAIM board of regents. "This strategic partnership will provide a model for other regional associations to consider a similar arrangement with iAIM to provide education and certification for their membership. We are a much stronger industry when we pool our resources and all pull in the same direction."

## Don't miss your free ISI district seminar

DALLAS — As part of ISI's ongoing dedication to providing leadership, education and services, the Institute is again offering free seminars for instructors and managers. The seminars and accompanying free manuals are essential tools for career enhancement. For those unable to attend a seminar, the manuals are available for purchase after Dec. 1.

Seminars are no longer held exclusively in the fall, and may be offered at any time during the year. Some districts are holding *weSKATE* instructor training sessions in conjunction with their instructor seminars. For more information, contact your district representative or check the ISI Web site under educational programs.

**Send announcements and photos to [editor@skateisi.org](mailto:editor@skateisi.org). Watch your e-mail Updates for facility news, including construction and openings.**

### In Memory



**Louise Hoggan**

SALT LAKE CITY — Louise Hoggan, a founding member and the first secretary of the Ice Skating Institute of America, died on July 6 at the age of 101. She managed Hygeia Iceland for nearly four decades, which she called the "best years of my life."

Hoggan was involved in the ISI during its formative stages, and contributed to the development of the original ISI figure skating test standards and the introduction of the ISI trade show. Her contributions were acknowledged with the 2007 Great Skate Award.

Hoggan was preceded in death by her husband, Gordon Hoggan, and is survived by her children, Susie Thomas and Joe Hoggan, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



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# Take Control of V

## *A practical guide to reducing ener*

by Rob Mo

This is the first of a series on the critical issue of energy use in ice arenas and the threat that rising rates pose to the financial stability of the ice arena industry.

It is no secret that rising energy rates are placing an enormous burden on the operating budgets and financial viability of ice arenas across the United States. What we are facing is a long-term trend toward rapidly increasing energy rates that is driven by diminishing supply and ever-increasing demand.

This is not a monetary price spike that the marketplace will correct. To balance these ongoing rate increases, we must develop and implement a comprehensive program to reduce consumption throughout our facilities without sacrificing the quality of our product and services.

Energy costs now account for more than 30 percent of the arena operating budget in many parts of the country, and the rate of increase is likely to outpace our ability to raise revenues through fee increases and expanded programming.

Our options are to reduce costs in other areas of our operating budget or find ways to control the amount of energy we are using. Since most ice arenas have already cut nonessential expenses from their budgets, the most viable approach is to focus our efforts on lowering usage.

guiding force in building design. Quite simply, efficiency and conservation were not high priorities and were often sacrificed in favor of lower construction cost. The result is that many ice arenas consume far more energy than necessary.

The application of technology in arenas has also advanced dramatically in the last decade, especially in the areas of equipment control and lighting. As microprocessor-based controls have reached the stage of mass production, their lower cost and ease of application have made them standard features on most new refrigeration equipment and readily accessible for retrofit of existing systems.

Even equipment installed in the last 10 years may be a candidate for retrofit or replacement, with electric rates climbing past 16 cents per kilowatt-hour in many areas of the country. As you start developing your conservation program, it is critical to discard the mindset of "We can't afford to upgrade" or "The equipment is only a few years old, so it must be efficient."

In this new world of escalating energy costs, projects and equipment that were not cost-effective or practical even a few years ago may now make financial sense. The belief that we cannot afford an upgrade project is being shattered by shorter payback periods — even less than a year for many low-cost or high-impact projects. The question now has become: Can you afford NOT to upgrade your facility to be more energy-efficient?

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### Develop a plan that fits your needs

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The first step in any successful program is to develop a comprehensive but simple plan that will allow you to understand your current situation and how you can have a major impact on it.

The plan should establish your present energy-use patterns, compare them to industry standards and models, determine how much energy reduction is possible, catalog potential efficiency measures and, finally, estimate the cost and calculate a payback period for each measure.

When you reach the final stages of your plan and begin prioritizing projects, it is critical that savings potential and payback period be adjusted as each successive measure is added. Each measure should lower the baseline energy usage from which the savings for successive measures are calculated.

In many cases, it is well worth the time and cost to engage a professional to work with you on developing your plan. Many utilities offer this type of technical assistance and will even pay some or all of the consultant's fees for the plan.

An organized approach that prioritizes high-impact and low-cost measures first will help generate the quickest payback and, ideally, provide positive cash flow in a short

Depending on location and energy efficiency,  
**electricity consumption**

for year-round single-surface, 40,000-square-foot community ice arenas **can range**

from 450,000 to 1.5 million kWh per year

(37,500/month to 125,000/month).

The difference in cost at 16¢ per kWh is

**\$168,000 annually!**

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**We are operating in a new world  
when it comes to energy**

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Many arenas were built more than 30 years ago, when energy rates were a fraction of what they are now and before mitigating environmental impact and carbon footprints became the

# Your Energy Use

## Energy usage and costs in your facility

By Bruce A. Bride, CAE

amount of time, which can then be used to implement the other measures with a longer pay-back period.

Almost every ice arena is a custom design with a unique set of challenges and opportunities when it comes to energy efficiency.

That means a conservation program must be customized for your facility and take into account existing conditions, utility rates, rebate incentive options, etc.

However, there are some basic strategies that apply to most facilities, and those are what we will focus on here.



### Create a culture of conservation at your arena

Before we get to energy use and strategies to control it, I want to touch on the human element required to make your efforts fully successful. If you are managing the business of your facility, then you surely understand the fiscal impact of energy costs. Have you communicated that to your staff in a way that they can understand and that makes them want to invest themselves in the program?

Too often, energy conservation is approached from an engineer's or planner's perspective: If we do X, we will save Y. This approach misses the important role that our people have in managing energy use. Everyone working at the arena needs to be part of the program. Whether their contribution is as limited as turning lights off in unoccupied spaces or as major as maintaining ice at the minimum thickness, their role is crucial to the overall success of the plan.

Beyond the financial necessity of energy conservation, there is a social component that is important for us to also capitalize on. Reducing the energy use and resulting carbon

emissions is good for the environment as well as good publicity for your arena. Incorporating this "green" aspect of conservation into your overall strategy will help not only staff but also your patrons to get invested in the cause.

### Where are you using electricity?

The first step in managing energy use is to understand how, where and when energy is consumed in your arena. In most community ice arenas, electricity is consumed to freeze the ice surface, condition the air (HVAC) and light the interior and exterior of the facility.

As the chart of typical electrical use indicates, the ice refrigeration equipment is by far the largest consumer of electricity in an average year-round ice arena.

#### Typical Breakdown of Electrical Use Varies by Arena

Electricity Use	% of Total
Ice refrigeration . . . . .	57%
Public spaces - lighting and plugs . . . . .	14%
Ice rink lighting . . . . .	9%
Ventilation . . . . .	6%
Dehumidification (mechanical compression type) . . . . .	6%
Other uses – exterior lighting, resurfacers, etc. . . . .	8%

Estimate based on year-round operation, northern climate  
Source: IIHF

Lighting and plug loads for public spaces such as the lobby, concession, restroom and changing areas represent the second-largest aggregate use.

Ice rink lighting is estimated to be the third-highest use, but that can be a bit deceiving. The use represents only energy consumed by the lighting fixture, but not the refrigeration energy required to remove the radiant heat that the lighting produces. As we will see, reducing the lighting energy provides a secondary refrigeration energy savings.

The fourth- and fifth-highest uses are ventilation and dehumidification, which are closely related and will be addressed in a future article. These two uses also impact refrigeration energy required.

The final category is the aggregate of all other typical uses, such as exterior and specialty lighting, resurfacers, score clock, sound system, office equipment, etc.

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## Once you understand where energy is used, how do you control it?

First, some general concepts followed by specific measures to reduce refrigeration and lighting energy consumption:

1. Adjust equipment setpoints and lighting based on the level of occupancy and type of activity. A tremendous amount of energy is wasted maintaining low ice temperatures and a comfortable environment when the facility is partially used or unoccupied. Automating your arena to deliver the ideal conditions for the use will ensure a quality experience and save significant energy. From a practical perspective, this means raising the ice temperature for figure skating and raising it even further during unoccupied periods overnight, reducing comfort heating or cooling in changing areas when they are not in use, etc. Use energy where you need it to deliver a quality product and save when it doesn't affect your patrons.
2. Reduce refrigeration loads by changing operating practices and installing energy-saving devices such as a low-emissivity rink ceiling and high-efficiency ice lighting.
3. Improve the efficiency of your equipment through upgrades and a dynamic control strategy that optimizes performance based on operating conditions.
4. Integrate refrigeration and heating processes to move heat from cold to warm zones (waste heat recovery).
5. Evaluate the cost and benefits of low-volume ice programming, and consider merging or condensing the schedule to produce greater revenue during contiguous occupied hours and lower energy use during the newly unoccupied times.

### Refrigeration energy

The refrigeration system consumes a majority of the typical arena's electric usage (57 percent) and thus it is the first place to look for savings. There are two approaches to reducing refrigeration energy that should be implemented simultaneously. The first is to reduce the refrigeration heat loads, and the second is to improve the efficiency of the equipment.

### Reducing heat loads

There are three types of heat loads placed on an ice rink refrigeration system:

- Conduction — the transfer of heat energy through matter from particle to particle, usually via a solid
- Convection — the transfer of heat energy in a gas or liquid by the movement of currents
- Radiation — the transfer of heat energy from one surface to another by electromagnetic waves

In the refrigeration loads chart, each type of heat load is quantified as a percentage of the total load and then broken down by the individual components that produce the load. The potential to reduce the load through design and operating practices is also quantified.

### Refrigeration Loads

#### Conductive Loads – 37%

	% Load	Potential Reduction
Brine Pumps	15%	60%
Ice Resurfacing	12%	80%
Ground Heat	4%	80%
Skaters	4%	0%
Header Heat Gain	2%	40%

#### Convective Loads – 28%

Rink Humidity	15%	80%
Rink Air Temperature	13%	50%

#### Radiation Loads – 35%

Ceiling Radiation	28%	90%
Ice Lighting	7%	40%

Source: ASHRAE Refrigeration Handbook, Chapter 34

We will look at each individual load and explore options for reducing it. But first, note the highest single heat load that also has the greatest potential for reduction — ceiling radiation. If you don't have a low-emissivity ceiling installed in your arena, this is likely the first and best place to look for energy savings.

### Measures to reduce conductive loads

#### Brine pumps (15 percent):

- On/off control — if your brine/glycol pump runs continuously, there is a tremendous opportunity for energy savings through turning the pump off when the ice temperature is satisfied. This has the potential of reducing both the heat load and pump energy by up to 50 percent. This likely would require the installation of a new control system with an infrared or ice-slab sensor to monitor temperature in place of the return brine sensor. This has the added benefit of more accurate temperature control and greater refrigeration savings at low load conditions.
- Vary flow with variable-speed pump control or multiple smaller pumps. Some system designs have the potential to benefit from lower brine flow during certain operating conditions. Even a small reduction in pump speed can have a measurable impact on energy. The cost of variable-speed motor controllers has become very affordable in recent years, making this a viable option for many systems. The use of variable-flow controls is not appropriate for many ice rink system designs and could actually increase energy use if applied improperly; it is critical to consult an experienced mechanical engineer before implementing this measure.

#### Ice resurfacing (12 percent):

- Reduce ice-making water temperature. Ice-making water is heated to remove oxygen and improve the bond between the ice surface and new layer being put down. The temperature required will depend on a number of factors, such as dissolved mineral content, pH, air entrainment, etc. The water temperature should be just high enough to produce a quality skating surface; for most arenas this will be 130-150 F.

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**WHAT EVERY ICE RESURFACER SHOULD BE**



- Fill resurfacer just before the ice make to reduce time that water cools in the resurfacer tank.
- Control water volume during resurface based on the amount of ice being removed, and use wash water on every resurfacing.
- Water purification should be considered if your water source has high dissolved mineral content. Purified water freezes at a higher temperature, allowing the ice setpoint to be raised without sacrificing ice quality.
- Reduce the number of resurfacings if this can be accomplished without sacrificing safety.

#### **Ground heat (4 percent):**

- Control with insulation and vapor retarder on new ice floors.
- Higher ice temperature reduces the transfer of ground heat to the refrigeration system.
- Maintain your defrost floor at no more than 38-40 F, sufficient to prevent permafrost formation.

#### **Skaters (4 percent):**

- The one heat load we want to increase!

#### **Header heat gain (2 percent):**

- Bury header in the ice floor to eliminate unwanted heat gain.
- Implement ice temperature and brine pump control strategies (higher brine temp = less heat gain).
- Insulate exposed headers (this can be expensive with a long payback relative to other measures).

### **Measures to reduce convective loads**

#### **Rink humidity (15 percent):**

- Rink humidity transfers latent heat to the ice as moisture condenses out of the air to the cold ice surface. When dedicated dehumidification equipment is not capable of maintaining a dew point in the 35 F range, the ice surface will act as a dehumidifier and remove moisture through condensation.
- Optimal efficiency is achieved when most moisture is removed through the dehumidification equipment with control based on dew point rather than relative humidity to achieve the optimal balance of dehumidification and ice refrigeration energy.
- Sealing your building envelope (gaps in doors, etc.) is critical to reducing air and moisture infiltration. Ideally, all fresh air introduced into the ice rink area is through air-handling equipment that treats the moisture content and temperature of the air before releasing it inside the rink space.
- Use an electric ice resurfacer to reduce ventilation required. Some ventilation is required for occupants; however, removing the source of emissions can greatly reduce the need for ventilation in the rink space.
- Melt ice shavings inside using recovered waste heat from refrigeration. Opening exterior garage doors for outside disposal of shavings allows a substantial amount of untreated air to enter the arena, requiring refrigeration and dehumidification energy to condition the air. Hot water should be avoided for melting ice shavings; a low-grade heat source will effectively melt the shavings in most situations and drastically reduce the moisture load created by evaporating hot water.

- Use of hot water should be minimized and contained within the resurfacer room when washing the conditioner. A cooler or, ideally, unheated water source should be used for these purposes when ambient temperatures allow.
- Control the ventilation rate based on occupancy and air quality. Ventilation systems are designed to meet codes during the full occupancy of the facility. Most facilities operate at a fraction of full occupancy for much of the time, and their ventilation systems should be controlled to meet the requirements of this lower occupancy. This will be discussed in greater detail in the next segment of this series.

#### **Rink air temperature (13 percent):**

- A key to reducing transfer of sensible heat to the ice surface is to use localized heating in the rink area to provide comfortable conditions for patron areas without excessively heating the air over the ice surface. This allows a minimum ambient temperature to be maintained in the ice rink space with higher temperatures in comfort zones, such as spectator seating and other common areas.
- The use of low-intensity infrared heating units provides an instantaneous heat source that warms objects within its projection area without heating the air. Occupancy and temperature control can be effectively used as the units begin emitting their heat very quickly after startup. More detailed information on infrared heating will be provided in the next segment of this series.
- Ice rink air naturally stratifies with warmer air rising and cooler air sinking to the ice surface, creating thermal inversion that slows heat transfer. It is important to minimize air currents over the ice surface to reduce the introduction of warmer air down to the ice plane. Air-handling equipment should always be directed away from the ice surface (unless the intent is to flush contaminants from the rink area), and dasher gates should be closed when the ice is not in use.
- Building envelope insulation is an important element of controlling rink air temperature. Ceiling/roof insulation is essential to mitigating solar heat gain and should be of an appropriate type for an ice rink — water-resistant and vapor barrier on the warm side (usually the outside in most U.S. climates where the exterior temperature is higher than the interior rink temperature for a majority of the year).
- Wall insulation is less critical but certainly necessary to reduce heat flow from the exterior to the rink space or the rink space to ancillary heated spaces, such as your lobby. Adding insulation to an existing arena can be expensive and have a longer payback period than many other potential energy-efficiency upgrades.



### **Measures to reduce radiant loads**

#### **Ceiling radiation (28 percent):**

- Because the ceiling of an ice rink is much warmer than the ice surface, it transfers its heat to the ice through radiation. The ceiling can typically be 35-80 F warmer than the ice surface in many arenas, and this produces significant radiant heat load.
- Most materials used in ceiling construction — such as wood, vinyl, concrete, painted steel, etc. — are 85-97 per-

cent efficient (emissivity factor) at transferring their heat through radiation. Even light-colored materials such as white vinyl and galvanized metal are highly proficient at radiating their heat to cooler surfaces.

- The most effective solution to this heat load is to install a low-emissivity rink ceiling to reduce radiant heat load by up to 90 percent. Low-e ceilings are typically just 3-5 percent efficient at transferring their heat through radiation. They offer one of the fastest simple payback periods of any energy-efficiency upgrade in an ice arena, often 18 months or less, depending on the height, shape and average interior temperature of the existing rink ceiling.
- A secondary but important benefit of the low-e ceiling is the high light reflectance of its polished aluminum low-e surface, which increases the perceived light level by 25-30 percent. The higher reflectance allows you to install fewer light fixtures upon retrofit or reduce the use of existing light fixtures while maintaining the same light level at the playing surface. This reduces the lighting radiation heat load at the same time you lower lighting input energy.



Courtesy of IntellEnergy

An ASTRO-LINK low-e ceiling by Energie Innovation and IntellEnergy's ArenaStar lighting reduce radiant heat load at Wonderland of Ice in Bridgeport, Conn.

#### Ice lighting (7 percent):

- All energy consumed by lighting is converted to radiant or convective heat. Consequently, reducing ice-lighting energy through efficient light sources, control strategies and lowering the number of fixtures/lamps will have a substantial impact on reducing refrigeration load as well as light energy. Lighting will be discussed in greater detail in the final segment of this series.
- Lighting radiation can be controlled by using a more efficient light source such as high-output fluorescents that consume 50 percent of power input of standard

Continued on page 12

# It's Your Business!

**Protect it by registering your skaters as ISI Individual members.**

How can your skaters' membership status affect your facility? More than you think! In addition to the financial rewards of ISI programs and events, membership benefits – even at the Individual level – make good business sense for the facility itself.

ISI has negotiated new Individual member insurance coverage that's good news for Administrative members as well. In addition to the \$25,000 in excess accident insurance already offered, the new policy also includes liability insurance with limits of \$1 million per occurrence/\$2 million aggregate at no additional cost to the member. This additional liability coverage also extends to the sponsoring entity, which should result in savings on business liability premiums.

Contact the ISI membership department for more information.

**ISI works for you,  
so you can  
sleep better  
at night.**



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high-intensity discharge lighting for approximately the same perceived lumen output. Light-emitting diode (LED) lamps are offering even greater promise to reduce power input and lighting radiation than fluorescents.

- As mentioned previously, you can very likely reduce the number of ice light fixtures required when a low-e ceiling is installed while maintaining required light levels (IES standards).

### Ice Lighting Retrofit Example

#### NHL-Size Community Ice Rink

(48) 400 watt metal halide fixtures -w- ballast = 20.4 kW

(48) 4-lamp T5 high output fluorescent -w-ballast = 10.8 kW

Peak demand reduced by 9.6 kW

Annual usage (3,600 hours) reduced by 34,560 kWh

Potential annual savings at \$10 kW & 16¢ kWh = \$6,681.60

Plus refrigeration system energy savings!

- Ice lighting design is dictated by the maximum light level required for the intended use of the facility. Arenas that host professional and collegiate hockey require a much higher light capability than most community or recreational facilities. The maximum light level often is required only a fraction of the time for games and events, providing the opportunity to safely reduce the lighting for practices, lessons, figure skating, public sessions, etc. Consider purchasing an inexpensive light meter and experiment with switching or dimming to achieve the minimum required light level for each activity. Consistency of light levels across the ice is important, especially for ice hockey, and is more easily achieved through multiple ballast or dimmable fluorescent and HID fixtures.

### Improving the efficiency of your refrigeration system

- Raise the temperature setpoint overnight and during extended unoccupied periods. A higher temperature reduces heat gain and allows the refrigeration system to operate more efficiently. A 1 F increase in average ice temperature produces a 7 percent reduction in refrigeration energy (U.S. DOE-TIC 10289).
- Allow compressor discharge pressure to float with the ambient conditions to reduce the horsepower requirement of the compressor and increase the effective refrigeration capacity of the system. Some systems require a minimum discharge pressure for expansion valves or oil recovery to work properly; those need to be determined in advance of implementing a floating discharge strategy.
- Install electric expansion valves in place of thermal expansion valves on direct expansion chiller systems. Electric valves eliminate the minimum pressure requirement mentioned above and accurately maintain refrigerant flow to maximize heat transfer in the chiller.
- Sequence compressors during off-load periods on systems with a single circuit chiller and condenser to maximize the work of one compressor using the full heat transfer surfaces.
- Operate compressors fully loaded until temperature is satisfied; capacity unloading reduces the system efficiency significantly.

Continued on page 14

### Example of Setpoint Schedule with Infrared Ice Temperature Control:

Base case – 16 F brine/22 F surface

#### Infrared control:

- 22 F for hockey 50 hours/wk (30%)
- 24 F for public sessions 24 hours/wk (14%)
- 26 F for figure skating 20 hours/wk (12%)
- 28 F unoccupied set-up for 74 hours/wk (44%)

Average temp 25.5 F vs. 22 F = 3.5 F increase and 24.5% chiller energy savings!

Average refrigeration usage of 560,000 kWh/yr at 16¢ per kWh produces annual savings of \$21,952



Courtesy of Zamboni Co.

An electric ice resurfacer reduces the ventilation required in an ice rink.



## One Size Fits All??

When it comes to outfitting skaters, is it one size fits all?? Of course not! The wrong fit will make even the easiest moves difficult. In fact, it could be dangerous.

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- Install infrared ice temperature sensors to accurately control ice temperature based on the surface condition. Infrared responds immediately to heat loads, eliminating thermal lag and the need to maintain artificially low ice temperature.
- Perform regular maintenance of the refrigeration plant and periodic recommissioning of sensors and controls.
- Recover waste heat for snowmelt and subfloor heating; integrate with heat pump technology to efficiently raise the temperature of the recovered heat for space and water heating. Utilize the waste heat of compression as well as oil and compressor-head cooling in your recovery strategy.
- Use premium-efficiency motors when replacing existing motors or installing a new system; many utilities offer "motor-up" incentives to cover the incremental cost of increasing motor efficiency.

### Other methods to reduce refrigeration energy use

- Maintain minimum acceptable ice thickness. Ice is an insulator; thicker ice produces a slower response to loads and lower temperature required. Each additional inch of ice requires 8 percent more refrigeration energy in the winter and 15 percent more in the summer (northern U.S. climate).
- Use high-quality ice paint with good thermal-transfer characteristics.

- Minimize solar heat gain by applying low-e film to windows in the ice rink area.

As you can see, a variety of options is available to reduce refrigeration energy consumption without spending large sums of money. A combination of prudent investment in upgrades, good operating and maintenance practices and a staff culture committed to energy conservation will put you well on your way to taking control of energy use in your arena.

*Future installments in this series will address natural gas/propane use (with an emphasis on HVAC and dehumidification systems), general lighting and building automation controls.*

### The High Cost of Excess Ice

#### Example:

Refrigeration energy in February is 40,000 kWh; ice is 2" thick on average. Reduce thickness to 1", save 3,200 kWh @ 16¢ = \$512

Refrigeration energy in July is 60,000 kWh; ice is 2" thick on average. Reduce thickness to 1", save 9,000 kWh @ 16¢ = \$1,440

Extrapolated over 12 months, the average cost of 1" excess ice is: \$9,856!

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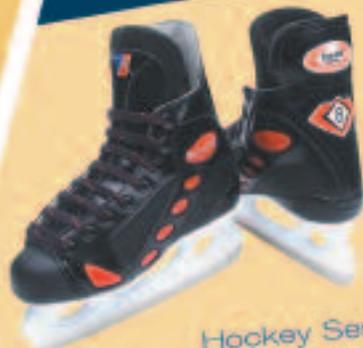
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# “Priceless!”

## Arena Professionals Give Thumbs-Up to 4th Annual School of Ice Technologies

by Peter Martell

**A**rena professionals from as far away as San Juan, Puerto Rico and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan gathered in Kansas City, Mo. June 15-20 for the fourth annual School of Ice Technologies (SIT).

Jointly hosted by ISI and the International Association of Assembly Managers (IAAM) at the state-of-the-art Sprint Center, the school provided five days of practical, intensive on- and off-ice training. Course topics included refrigeration theory and maintenance, HVAC and dehumidification, energy management, building conversions, ice-making and installation, resurfacer operation and maintenance, dasher installation and maintenance, and lift truck safety.

The Sprint Center team, headed by Rod Wagner, did a wonderful job of serving as hosts for the week. In addition to a behind-the-scenes tour of their facility — complete with complimentary social hour — SIT students enjoyed an unexpected bonus when

treated to a Tuesday night Tim McGraw concert, courtesy of the Sprint Center. On Wednesday afternoon, those interested had the opportunity to tour the Kaufman Stadium under construction.

SIT instructors included a Who’s Who of industry professionals headed by Dr. Jack Vivian, director of the ISI’s Ice Arena Institute of Management (iAIM) program. Among this year’s faculty were Gerald Curran of CIMCO, Todd Bradley of Arid Ice by CDIMS, Dave Loverock of Jet Ice Ltd., Bruce Irving of Athletica, Bob Jordan of the New York Jets and Mike Damas of the Schottenstein Center in Columbus, Ohio.

Course evaluations and recommendations were overwhelmingly enthusiastic. Here are just a few of the comments received:

- “It covered every detail of my duties for the entire maintenance and operation department.”
- “The collective knowledge of the instructors was incredible.”
- “I learned easier and better ways of

painting, and new information that is going to help me perform (dasher board maintenance) with a more knowledgeable approach.”

- “These classes offered the info most relevant to my job. It was nice to get hands-on training with the ice painting.”
- “I have a strong feeling that I will be able to improve a lot of my daily operations.”
- “The instructors were all very knowledgeable and passionate about what they were discussing. That made it much easier to listen to and learn from.”
- “I picked up so much from this school that I did not know. I can’t wait to get back to my arena and put it into play.”
- “It’s exciting to think I may be able to effect a building change that will save money and improve the ice.”
- “I really feel like I’m part of something, being here. I’m taking these ideas home with me.”
- “This is a great experience for anyone in the business.”
- “Be prepared to fill your head with knowledge.”
- “I learned more in one week than I did in years of school.”
- “There is no way I can quantify the value of the contacts I have made here.”
- “Just go. It is definitely worth it.”
- “Priceless!”

Plans for next year’s school are expected to be announced in the fall. Watch the ISI and IAAM Web sites for further information. ■



More than 40 arena professionals completed the 2008 School of Ice Technologies in June at Sprint Center in Kansas City.



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# Liability Pitfalls for Ice Arenas

by Joan Rice

Let's face it: Just by opening your doors in the morning, you are creating liability. Simply operating your business puts you at risk. Some of these risks are insurable; some are not. Insurance and risk management go hand in hand. While you insure some risks, others are best controlled by good risk management and prevention whenever possible.

What are the most common claims in ice arenas? That's an easy one. Slips and falls on the ice are the most frequent reasons for lawsuits against ice arenas. However, we also see slips and falls in the parking lot, locker rooms, snack bar, lobby and bleachers. Your insurance should cover these situations, however, good housekeeping can prevent some slips and falls. Make sure your parking lot is free of ice and snow whenever possible, well lit, in good condition and free of potholes. The same applies to the other areas in your building — make sure they are free of hazards and that water tracked in from outside and other potentially hazardous spills are cleaned up immediately.

Recently, we have also seen the following incidents. Not every one was insurable, and some probably could have been prevented.

## Ammonia leak

Lawsuits due to refrigeration leaks usually are not covered by insurance, as they fall under the pollution exclusion. This includes any kind of pollution that involves refrigerant or fumes from ice resurfacers, edgers or other machinery such as heating and cooling equipment. A limited amount of cleanup coverage is generally provided in your property insurance, but there would be no coverage for bodily injury sustained by your patrons.

## Oil spill

While removing an old transformer, arena employees noticed oil leaking. This oil went into a drain and turned up in a neighbor's pond. Again, the insurance will pay a small amount of the cleanup costs for the arena property. However, when the oil leaves the premises, it then becomes a liability claim. Cleanup on the neighbor's property is not covered due to the pollution exclusion.

## Mold overgrowth

As a precautionary measure, a town board has closed an ice



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arena pending the completion of testing and issuance of environmental testing results at the ice rink. There may be some limited mold coverage on the facility's policy. Some policies contain a small amount of coverage, some entirely exclude loss due to mold.

### Flying pucks

Claims against arenas from injuries due to pucks flying into the stands are generally covered. Of course, spectators should be paying attention to the play and should be aware of the possibility of injury. But what happens if they are not? Are claims against the rink always successful? The New Jersey Supreme Court recently ruled that the "venue operator has satisfied its duty to safeguard spectators if it provides protected seating in the most dangerous sections of the stands." Since the legal climate varies by state, this is a case where prevention of such a loss would be prudent. Netting is not mandatory for amateur arenas now, but it is likely to be in the future, especially if there are any more high-profile claims due to serious injury or death.

### Handicap accessibility

A federal magistrate has recently ordered the owners of an ice arena to make its facilities accessible and usable for people with disabilities. This ruling is the result of a discrimination lawsuit filed against the rink last year. Claims arising from alleged noncompliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act are not covered by insurance. Unfortunately, the

arena owner must absorb this cost at this point. The arena is only 8 years old.

### Subrogation

Lately, we are seeing more requests from arena patrons' personal insurance carriers to reimburse medical expenses paid out. Typically, a patron is injured at the rink by a simple fall due to lack of skill. He then goes home without reporting the injury to rink personnel and sees his own doctor. Months later, the rink will receive a letter requesting reimbursement. The arena manager should first check to see if there is an incident report, check video surveillance (if possible), and then turn in any evidence found to the insurance carrier to answer the letter. Generally, these demands are not paid, but it is best to let your carrier handle it. In addition, if you do not report the incident at that time, the carrier may then deny coverage for late reporting if it ever does become a lawsuit.

These incidents represent just a small sampling of what's going on in the industry. Contact your insurance professional for more information.

*Joan Rice is with Rice Specialty Risk, a provider of all forms of insurance to professional and amateur sports and leisure facilities across the nation.*



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# Foundation Takes 2008 Fundraisers to the Mile High City

by Lisa Fedick

Even Denver's record heat could not melt the enthusiasm at the 2008 World Recreational Team Championships. Special thanks go out to Event Chairman Gerry Lane, along with Tim Johnson and Frank Xavier and their staffs at the South Suburban Ice Arena and South Suburban Family Sports Center, and to the army of volunteers, who were as gracious as they were efficient.

The event was a big week for the ISIA Education Foundation. The festivities started on Wednesday evening with the opening ceremonies, featuring a parade of participants followed by several presentations, including remarks by Pat Bowlen, president and CEO of the Denver Broncos, presenting sponsor of the Worlds event. The ISI celebrity dunk tank was the hit of the competitors' party, with Gerry Lane and ISI Pres-

ident Jim Hartnett braving the treacherous waters not once, not twice, but a combined total of seven times, raising \$100 per dunk for the Foundation's scholarship fund.

Thursday evening the Foundation hosted a mini-golf tournament at the Family Sports Center. Hometown girl and Worlds adult skater Liz Avery won the grand prize of a pair of Klingbeil custom skating boots, generously donated by Donald Klingbeil. (The best score was actually earned by another adult competitor, Barbara Mozug, who graciously passed on the skates, as she had just gotten a new pair. Barbara, you are a true champion!) Rob Laurence Hawk of Melvindale, Mich. took home the MacGregor putter.

The highlight of the week for skaters and spectators alike was the Benefit on Ice show on Friday evening. The talented cast of 2008 ISI Worlds champions was joined by the two lucky "Skate with the Stars" raffle winners, Carly Andrews from Northbrook Sports Arena and Angelina Giuliano from Franklin Park Ice Arena.

Both of the 2008 ISIA Education Foundation scholarship recipients were in attendance and honored by Foundation President Donald Bartelson and ISI Past President Boyd Wietecter. Emily Miller skated a beautiful hoop Rhythmic program, and Jessica Stachulak performed an ambitious Artistic program. Another highlight of the show was Brittany Bowlen, who skated a Spotlight program that included some of the most amazing use of four hoops imaginable.

Just when we thought the show couldn't get any more exciting, it was time for 2008 U.S. Senior Ladies Champion Mirai Nagasu to perform. The 15-year-old was pure graceful energy as she effortlessly executed a triple loop, triple toe loop and double Axel, but it was the flexibility of her spin positions that took our breath away. I'm not sure who had more fun at the meet-and-greet session after the show, the crowd or Mirai. She

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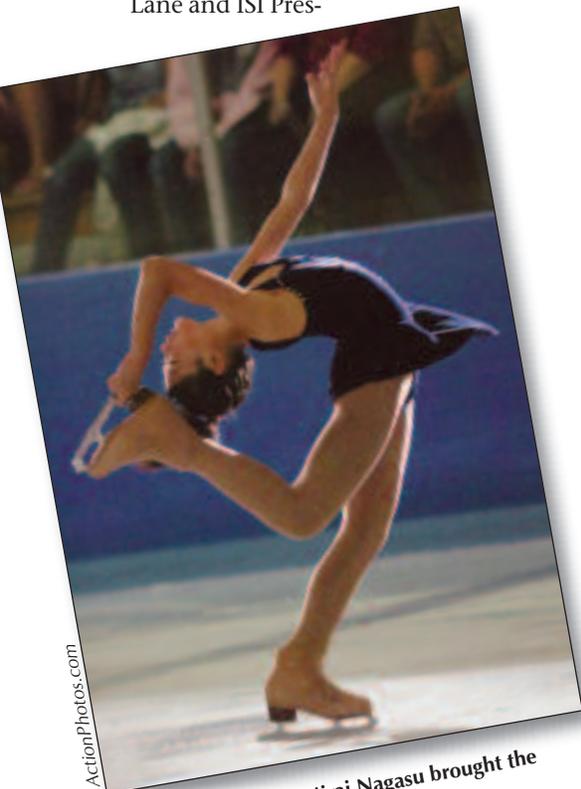
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Glyn Jones (in memory of Diane Lane)  
Paige Wardell (in memory of Robert Unger)



Benefit on Ice star Mirai Nagasu brought the house down.

stayed late into the evening until every last audience member left the arena with her autograph.

All of our skaters are truly amazing and worthy of all of the accolades we bestow on them. A heartfelt thank-you goes out to all of you who have contributed in any way to the Foundation this season; it is your generosity that makes dreams come true. The five-year capital fund drive is now in full swing. For more information on this or any of the ISIA Education Foundation's programs, please visit [www.skateisi.org](http://www.skateisi.org) and click on the Education Foundation tab on the toolbar. ■



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The Sunshine State, home of the first official ISI headquarters, is an ideal place for celebrating our rich past and charging into the exciting future of our dynamic industry. An official hotel of *Walt Disney World Resort<sup>®</sup>*, the Hilton is located just 24 minutes from Orlando International Airport, in the heart of the *Downtown Disney Area*. You'll enjoy easy access to outstanding shopping, dining and golf, not to mention the Magic Kingdom, Epcot, the *La Nouba Cirque du Soleil* show and dozens of other Disney attractions.

In addition to this ideal location, the timing will be perfect for many of our attendees and exhibitors – following the 2009 PSA Conference & Trade Show, at the very same hotel!

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## SIMPLE SOLUTIONS FOR SKATING DIRECTORS

by Carrie Clarke, ISI Director of Skating Programs & Services

# Back to ~~School~~ Business!

With summer drawing to an end, I hope all skating directors have had some time to unwind, relax and regroup, and are ready to tackle the busier times ahead once again.

As so many of our skaters head back to school, directors will find themselves faced with new challenges, one of them being retention. Cooler weather often brings skaters in the door, but keeping them there can be difficult, especially with all the other options suddenly available to them. After-school sports and clubs, new friendships, homework, music lessons and school activities all force us to work a little harder to keep the customer who may not yet quite be “hooked” on skating, or the one who is “burning out.”

As a director, I found this to be most true with tots, whose parents are purposely trying to expose their child to many different things at an early age, and teens, who have so many other distractions and are being pulled in different directions. This is also a time you want to focus on those teens that have been stuck at the Freestyle 4 or 5 levels, possibly for years, as double jumps just may not be a part of their future. If these groups are ignored, you can count on losing them soon.

So what do you do?

If you don't have one already, this is a great time to start a teen synchronized team. Teens like being part of a group where they fit in with their peers. Likewise, they can be a huge asset to your skating school if you make them junior assistants or junior coaches. At this age, they are starting to think about getting their first job, and by offering them something at the rink, even if in the snack bar, you will keep them involved in the sport. If you start training them now to assist with classes, they will probably get you out of several tight binds in the winter when things are busy and you need a substitute instructor at the last minute. For more hands-on experience, allow them to help with your bring-a-friend parties.

And don't think that an ISI competition is the only kind of competition you can hold. Use your creativity to come up with some other intra-rink or skating-school competition ideas that will give your skaters something to look forward to, work toward and keep them excited about your program. Do it several times a year. It will be fun for your coaches and skaters alike.

Even the summer Olympics can work in your favor. Many of our youngest participants understand that gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded at the Olympics. Your facility can hold its own “Olympics,” with events such as the longest spiral, one-foot glide or shoot-the-duck, balloon races, swizzle relays, four-person relay races, the farthest waltz jump or Axel, the longest one-foot spin or the most loop jumps in a row. Make your entry fee minimal and put competitors in groups of three, so everyone goes home a winner. You'll be able to get so many skaters on and off the ice in an hour's time, it will be a very effective money-maker for the facility.

An event like this does not require an ISI endorsement, since the categories are not ISI events and you won't be using ISI level names or rules. But it will increase the interest in recreational competition and should help to make your next ISI-endorsed event that much more successful, because your skaters will have learned that both practice and competition really can be fun. ▀



Thomas E. Blackburn

Use your creativity to come up with inter-rink or skating-school competition ideas that will give your skaters something to look forward to, work toward and keep them excited about your program.



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# ISI WORKS for me!

by Alane Swiderski

Another season is just around the corner, and how awesome is it that you can now associate the beginning of each new season with renewing your ISI membership? And how awesome is it that ISI expanded its instructor liability insurance coverage but lowered its price? And how awesome is it that I can renew both at the same time and then not have to worry about either until next season when it's time to renew?

As you can see, I am excited about ISI. I choose to be a Professional member because *ISI works for me* — in so many ways. From member benefit programs like health-care coverage to free seminars to a program created for all skaters,

*ISI continues to give me tools* to make it easier

for me to be successful in this industry,

and it is always finding ways *to make its membership more beneficial.*

with ongoing updates and improvements, ISI is always working to find new and better ways to help me be successful.

From the time I first began teaching, ISI has been the obvious choice. Trying to make ends meet as a college student living on my own, I worked short evening and weekend shifts at an ice arena. Soon, some of the parents of the skaters I taught in classes asked if I taught private lessons. Fortunately, the rink ran an ISI program. With affordable membership, insurance benefits and free annual seminars, ISI provided me with the tools I needed to start making a real living within the confines of my budget.

I took full advantage of all of my membership benefits. I attended the free ISI seminar hosted by my district each year to stay updated and keep improving as a professional. When the judge's certification program was introduced, I became certified. When my district offered additional coach's education seminars, I signed up and learned more. When my

skaters were looking for new challenges, the ISI testing system and local and national ISI competitions helped me keep them involved and achieving. With ISI's help, I was able to create a large clientele of skaters of all abilities, ages and commitment levels.

As an instructor, what I loved most about the ISI program is that I could almost always find something that made my skaters successful and helped keep them growing in skating. Skaters who have wonderful technical skills but lack in their presentation can do well in Compulsories. Skaters who refuse to stick to the program their instructor creates love competing Interpretive. Spotlight is a miracle for the skaters who love to perform but don't like focusing on perfecting skills. Couples and Team Compulsories are available for skaters who don't want to compete alone, Artistic for those who want more flexibility with their programs and Footwork for the ones who love edges. For every one of my skaters, ISI has offered something fun and stimulating. The events that they do well in keep them motivated, and the events they don't do so well in teach them valuable life lessons. This comprehensive program kept my business —and me — going.

Now, as a skating director, I love ISI because it continues to give me tools to make it easier for me to be successful in this industry. I can offer quality programming that suits skaters of all ages, abilities and commitment levels, which makes the arena and my staff more successful. ISI partnered with NCSI to offer affordable background checks on potential employees. When the ISI Web site opened its Members Only page, I signed up so I could receive e-mail updates, use the online directory, renew my ISI membership online, access old issues of the *EDGE* and *Recreational Ice Skating* magazines and join discussion forums. My instructors have access to the same great benefits I did, plus many that have been added in recent years, such as health insurance, online judge's certifications, *weSKATE* certifications, affiliated partner discounts like the ones with Office Depot and Sherwin Williams, online updates and many more.

And the benefits don't stop there. Different ISI districts offer great services, too. Some have their own Web sites that post their annual district competition calendar, offer access to competition packets and schedules, give or sell space to advertise used equipment and classified information, etc. Some ISI districts offer scholarship programs for skaters and professionals to help pay for opportunities they'd otherwise miss.

So again, I choose ISI because *ISI works for me* — literally — and it is always finding ways to make its membership more beneficial.

Your district will host a free annual seminar for ISI members this year. Be sure to note the date and attend so you can find out how *ISI can work for you*.

*Alane Swiderski is the skating director at Rocket Ice Arena in Bolingbrook, Ill.*



## It's about time!

New universal term makes renewal tracking a breeze!

### ISI Membership Made Simple

- Effective Sept. 1, 2008, ISI will be changing to a universal membership term for both Professional and Individual members. Memberships will begin on Sept. 1 and expire on Aug. 31 of each year.
- Annual membership fees will remain the same (\$75 for Professional, \$13 for Individual), and will be prorated after March 1 of each year (\$45 for Professional, \$9 for Individual).
- Existing memberships that expire after Sept. 1, 2008 remain in effect through the end of their current membership period, then depending on that date, renew at either the full or pro-rated rate for the remainder of the 2008-09 term.
- By Sept. 1, 2009, all memberships will renew on the same date each year!

## FAQs

#### Why a universal membership term?

We have received considerable feedback from our Administrative members who have told us that our "12 months from inception" membership period was difficult to track and an administrative challenge for many rink managers and skating school directors. This new system will eliminate those issues and streamline the process for all involved – rinks, coaches, skaters, parents and the ISI headquarters. It's an easy date to remember, and coincides with the ISI hockey membership renewal date. It will be especially appreciated by families with multiple ISI members currently renewing on different dates.

#### In the future, will new members have to join at the beginning of the universal term?

No, new members are welcome to join anytime during the year. The full annual membership rate applies between Sept. 1 and March 1; the pro-rated fee applies March 1 through Aug. 31. After that, their memberships will always renew on Sept. 1.

#### If I renewed in April 2008, do I still get a full year?

Yes. Your membership will expire in April 2009, and at that time you may renew at the discounted rate of \$9 (Individual) or \$45 (Professional). On Sept. 1, 2009, you will renew at the full rate for 12 months.

#### When new students enroll in summer classes, they may not want to spend \$9 for just a few months of membership. What is available for these skaters?

As an alternative to Individual membership, ISI offers a 13-week weSKATE club registration for \$4, allowing new skaters to test up to the Alpha level. On Sept. 1, they will be ready to register for a full 12-month Individual membership for the normal \$13 rate.

**Questions?  
Contact the ISI office.**





# COACHES' CORNER

by Randy Winship

ISI National Skating Program & Events Coordinator

## We're All Certifiable!

### Why should I take an ISI judge certification exam?

Before serving on a judging panel at any ISI competition, all current ISI Professional members must pass any level of ISI judge certification test. Besides that, you can gain valuable knowledge about ISI competitions from completing this open-book exam.

### Why would I ever want to judge at an ISI competition event?

Many local, district and national events require all coaches to participate in judging responsibilities if they have skaters participating in the event. ISI's judging system is based on coaches judging because they should know best how to judge ISI skaters.

Sitting on the judge's stand for several hours can be an eye-opening experience — and valuable education — to help make you a better coach in the future.

### What is the purpose of these exams?

The main purpose is to make sure you know where to locate the current rules and correct guidelines for any and all ISI competition events you will be judging. It's not to test your memory of ISI competition rules and penalties.

### What do I need to take an exam?

Since this is an open-book exam, make sure you have a current copy of the *2008 Skaters & Coaches Handbook* and the *2007 Judge Manual*. While there are still a couple of questions that might not be found in the books, you will have all the information at your fingertips to pass the exams.

### How many exams are there?

### What levels and events are covered on them?

There are currently four certification exams. The Bronze, Silver and Gold levels must be taken and passed in order. These exams cover questions about all levels and competition events, except for Synchronized skating events.

The Bronze test covers questions up to Level 3 (i.e., Pre-Alpha-Freestyle 3, Couple 3, Pair 3, Dance 3, Figure 3, etc.) and all competition events for those levels, such as Freestyle, Footwork, Artistic, Interpretive, Solo Compulsories, Jump & Spin, etc.

The Silver test covers questions up to Level 6 events, and the Gold test covers questions up to Level 10 events.



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The new Synchronized skating exam covers compulsory program requirements as well as synchronized skating, formation and dance team events.



**What is the 2008 update test, and who is required to take it?**

The 2008 update test is required only for coaches who have passed any level of judge certification exam *before* Jan. 1, 2008. If you have taken any online test since Jan. 1, 2008, you are not required to pass the 2008 update test.

**How can I take the exams?**

The exams are available 24/7 on our ISI Web site. Simply log in, pay the \$35 exam fee and then you will have seven days to complete the exam and submit your answers for scoring.

Once your exam answers are submitted, you will receive your results immediately. When you pass, you can follow a link to print out your completion certificate. We will automatically receive your online test results the following business day. The results are documented in your ISI Professional membership record.

Each night at midnight, our server uploads the new test results and your newly passed judge certification exams become part of the ISI Web site database.

**What happens if I don't pass on the first try?**

If you are not successful on your first exam attempt, you can try again at any time. It is usually helpful to discuss some of your questions about the exam with a more experienced coach or your skating director. You can even call me at the ISI office for any specific exam questions or clarifications.

**What will I get when I pass?**

Besides the test certificate that you can immediately download and print at your computer, ISI will send you, free of charge, a beautiful lapel pin for the test levels you complete. The Gold and Synchronized pins started in January, and the newly designed pins for Bronze and Silver levels started in August.

As space permits, we will print a list of the recently passed Bronze, Silver, Gold and Synchronized tests in the *Edge* magazine, with the first list appearing on page 33 of this issue. For a complete list of coaches who have passed any certification test, please check the ISI online directory. For all completed 2008 update tests, please check the alphabetical listing on the judge certification page of the ISI Web site.

**What if I have more questions about ISI judge certification tests?**

For more information, please contact me at the ISI office, at (972) 735-8800 or [randy@skateisi.org](mailto:randy@skateisi.org).

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Entry Deadline: Feb. 1



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Entry Deadline: Aug. 15



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For more details on the weSKATE program, contact the Ice Skating Institute at (972) 735-8800 or online at [www.skateisi.org](http://www.skateisi.org).



**Ice Skating Institute**

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## North East Ice Skating Managers Association (NEISMA)

*by Tom Morton, President*

Under the leadership of board director John Zullo, NEISMA is in



**Tom Morton**

the process of revising and expanding its Web site. Members are encouraged to review the site on an ongoing basis.

Following a successful spring conference, NEISMA has already set its sights on an even more successful event next spring. Director Jeff Doucette, chairperson for the 2009 spring conference, has already presented some cogent ideas to the board. At this year's conference, NEISMA President Tom Morton was inducted into the Frank J. Zamboni Hall of Fame. This is the organization's highest honor and service recognition.

Deane Pomeroy recently retired from the NEISMA board of directors after many years of dedicated service. His presence will be missed — especially his efforts in connection with NEISMA's annual golf tournament — and he will be hard to replace. Thanks, Deane, for your many years of excellent service.

NEISMA has established a new committee called "Future NEISMA Emphasis," chaired by director Ben Ruggles.



## Minnesota Ice Arena Managers Association (MIAMA)

*by Joseph M. Balzer, President*

Through its board of directors, MIAMA has continually made an effort to be the conduit that our members can use to expand their sphere of knowledge. More important, MIAMA members have used the information provided through our seminars, workshops and conferences to enhance the facilities that they represent. However, like any organization, we must always be willing to encourage feedback from our peers. It is with this in mind that we are extremely proud to announce a three-year agreement (with a possible two year extension) with the Ice Skating Institute and its iAIM educational program.



**Joseph M. Balzer**

This educational partnership had its beginning a number of years ago when previous MIAMA leaders began to discuss the possibility of a more formal educational track at our fall conferences. This year "a perfect storm" was created when the current board renewed the issue after our members expressed a need for an educational track to help our newer industry members as well as a continuing program for industry veterans.

The trend toward this type of education is realized in the increased participation at educational programs focused on the different “tracks” that today’s job market and employers are using to evaluate their current and future staffing needs. Then, as costs for everything increased, we wanted to find a way to use our time and location of our fall conference as a tool for a separate educational track.

We are fortunate to have organizations like ISI that understand the value of educational opportunities and continuing career development. Our partnership with ISI/iAIM will allow any MIAMA member in good standing to attend our fall conference and, for a special MIAMA rate, earn certification in one of the iAIM tracks. The tracks being offered this year are operations and management. This will be the full iAIM certification program, not a hybrid or abbreviated version.

In addition, we have been able to stagger the educational sessions so that everyone who attends the conference will be able to gather in the evening to socialize and network, which we feel is also a very important part of our conference. This time allows our members to learn from the finest teachers of all — each other.

I would like to close with a big thank-you to Peter Martell at ISI, our hard-working board member Mike Sheggeby from Eden Prairie, Minn. and Eric Edlund from St. Paul. Although Eric is not a board member, he wants to be a voice in MIAMA as we grow and build on our 35-plus years as an industry leader.

## Ice Rink Owners of California (IROC)

*by Bert Blanchette, President*

ISI District 15 and the Ice Rink Owners of California (IROC) hosted a bowling party during the ISI annual conference in Anaheim. More than 100 people participated in the evening event. We even had costumed bowling pins and bowling balls join us in our evening of fun. Trophies were handed out, with special attention given to the worst bowlers of the evening — and there were many competitors for this dubious honor.



**Bert Blanchette**

It has been a long, hot summer in southern California; even downtown Los Angeles and the beach areas have experienced above-average temperatures. The inland and valleys reported many 100-degree days. But even with the extreme heat, public sessions are not what we expected. Southern California gas prices are the highest in the nation, and people simply are not driving as much, which had a negative impact on summer day camps, programs and outings.

The weSKATE instructor seminar for District 15 is scheduled for Sept. 30 (subject to change) at the Ontario Ice Skating Center, hosted by Don Bartelson. Carrie Clarke will be the guest presenter.

*Continued on page 32*

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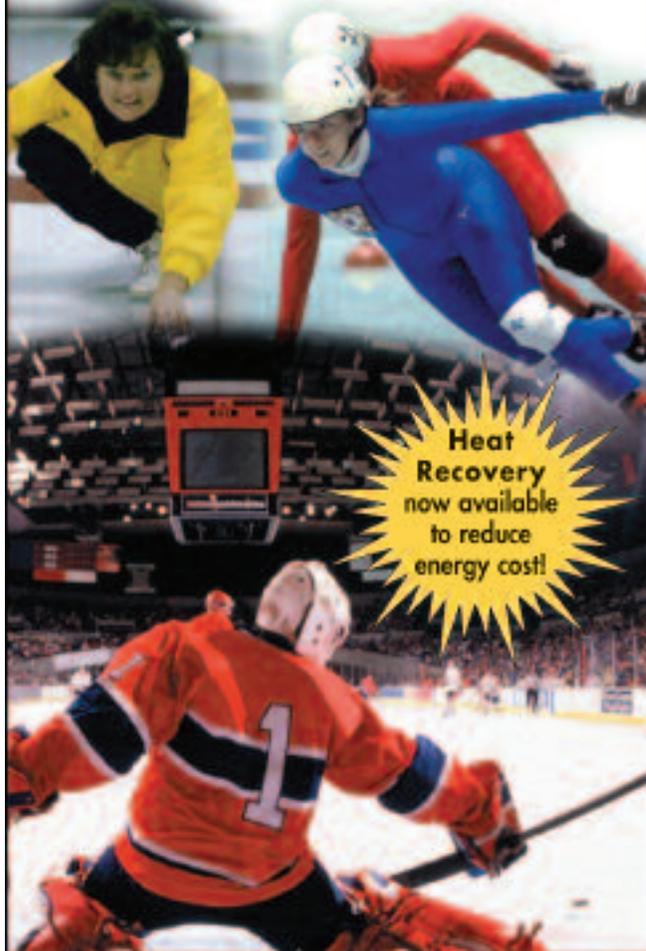
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Continued from page 31

## Wisconsin Ice Arena Management Association (WIAMA)

by John Wardman, 2nd Vice President

The Wisconsin Ice Arena Management Association recently completed the annual Fall Fire-Up at the Pleasant Prairie IcePlex.



John Wardman

We started the event with a Brewers game at Miller Park in Milwaukee. The next day's training tracks included ice resurfacer operations, management (building tour, IT software scheduling, Web site preparation and organization structural issues) and maintenance (building tour, resurfacer maintenance, refrigeration panel discussion and dasher board maintenance), followed by question-and-answer sessions. Thanks to the Pleasant Prairie RecPlex for another successful Fire-Up.

The next event for WIAMA is the spring conference in April at the Kalahari resort in Wisconsin Dells. We had success with offering a figure skating track for the first time in 2008, so we hope to build on that area of the conference. Please visit our Web site for upcoming events and the spring conference agenda: [www.wiama.com](http://www.wiama.com). ▀

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Karin Freund  
Kristine Galloway  
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Jordan Mann  
Alexandra Merino  
Heather Meyer  
Staci Miron  
Julie Stahl  
Brittany Sullivan  
Kahiapo Tavares  
Krista Thompson  
L. Emma Withrow

## **SILVER**

Stephanie Andrade  
Robbin Rae Baker  
Marjorie Barnes  
Caitlin Brozna  
Melissa Dodge  
Kristina Feste-Hanson  
Karin Freund  
Kristine Galloway  
Marina Khaltourina  
Danielle Koscielak  
Meng-Ling Kuo  
Jodie Maier  
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Alexandra Merino  
Crystal Miler  
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## **BRONZE**

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Robbin Rae Baker  
Julia Bancroft  
Joanie Bauer Hupp  
Kelly Bosetti  
Julie Boudreaux  
Merisol Brilliant  
Kristina Feste-Hanson  
Courtney Gragg  
Marie Grieshaber  
Meegan Johnson  
Patricia Justice  
Bonnie Kirchoff  
Debra LaFleur-Trapp  
Tatyana Malinina  
Lisa May  
Shellanne Mellor-Pasquale  
Hailey Mulder  
Janyce Myrland  
Staci Niederlehner  
Bre Ocegueda  
Lauren Page  
Jan Perkins

Hollie Price  
Gretel Reich  
Jillian Reiher  
Jessica Sauve-Schofield  
Amy Schneider  
Michele Seneca  
Disa Steiber  
Barbara Tapia  
Holly Thompson  
Belva Underwood  
Colley Johnson Ward  
William Wong

## **SYNCHRONIZED**

Stephanie Andrade  
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## ISI-endorsed competitions & shows/exhibitions

Deadline for the next EDGE calendar: Sept. 15

For regular calendar updates, see [www.skateisi.org](http://www.skateisi.org), event info

### COMPETITIONS

#### JULY

- 6-7 **Westminster, Calif.**  
Westminster Ice Arena  
ISI Open Competition
- 19-21 **Arlington, Texas**  
ICE at The Parks  
5th Annual ISI Open  
Competition

#### OCTOBER



- 3-5 **San Francisco**  
Yerba Buena Ice  
Skating Center  
ISI Adult  
Championships
- 10-11 **Casper, Wyo.**  
Casper Ice Arena  
Autumn Skate 2008
- 17-19 **Aliso Viejo, Calif.**  
Aliso Viejo Ice Palace  
Aliso Viejo Ice Palace  
Annual ISI Open
- 25-26 **Rockland, Mass.**  
Winterland Skating  
School  
22nd Annual  
Halloween Classic

- 25-26 **Irmo, S.C.**  
Palmetto Skate Club  
Palmetto Classic

#### NOVEMBER

- 7-9 **Northbrook, Ill.**  
Northbrook Sports  
Center  
Northbrook Park  
District Falling Leaf  
Open
- 9 **Anaheim, Calif.**  
Anaheim ICE  
8th Annual Anaheim  
ICE Synchronized  
Team Competition
- 29-30 **Skokie, Ill.**  
Skatium  
All American Team  
Competition

#### DECEMBER



- 5-7 **Burbank, Calif.**  
Pickwick Ice Center  
ISI Artistic Challenge
- 2009**
- 6-8 **Glenview, Ill.**  
Glenview Ice Center  
February Freeze

#### FEBRUARY



- 13-15 **Dallas**  
Dr Pepper StarCenter  
ISI Winter Classic

#### APRIL



- 17-19 **Chicago**  
Arctic Ice Arena  
ISI Synchronized  
Championships
- 25-26 **Anaheim, Calif.**  
KHS Ice Arena  
Jump Into Spring  
Annual ISI Open  
Competition

#### MAY



- 23-24 **Orlando, Fla.**  
RDV Sportsplex  
ISI 50th Anniversary  
Skating  
Championships

### SHOWS & EXHIBITIONS

#### JULY



- 27-  
Aug. 1 **San Jose, Calif.**  
Sharks Ice at San Jose  
ISI World Recreational  
Team Championships

#### DECEMBER

- 12-14 **Evanston, Ill.**  
Robert Crown Center  
34th Annual  
Nutcracker on Ice
- 28 **Arlington, Texas**  
ICE at The Parks  
Holiday in The Parks

**2009**

#### MAY



- 26-29 **Orlando, Fla.**  
Hilton in the Walt  
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— Full-time position at ISI headquarters in Plano, Texas. Director is responsible for the development, promotion, delivery and supervision of all skating-related programs and services offered by the Ice Skating Institute. Candidate must be ISI gold-certified judge with a minimum 10 years' experience managing a large, successful skating school and have a thorough understanding and appreciation of the ISI philosophy. Must also possess strong leadership, oral and written communication abilities in addition to general office and computer skills. Excellent compensation and benefits package. Send résumé and letter of interest to pmartell@skateisi.org.

### HOCKEY DIRECTOR

— Peaks Ice Arena in Provo, Utah, is interviewing for a hockey director who can provide exceptional hockey instruction and leadership. Responsibilities include: promoting and administering youth and adult hockey leagues, learn-to-play hockey, camps, clinics and tournaments. Send résumé to mrabner@peaksarena.com or fax to (801) 373-8711.

### HOCKEY DIRECTOR

— Skatetown Ice Arena, located in northern California, is accepting résumés for a hockey director to manage and grow our hockey programs. Previous successful experience as a hockey director required. Strong organizational, management, customer service and team-member skills required. Athletic administration degree or equivalent preferred. Salary is \$50,000 plus bonus and benefits. Send résumé to scott@skatetown.biz.

### SKATING INSTRUCTORS

— International Ice Centre in Romeoville, Ill. is seeking dedicated and experienced ISI/USFS professionals to coach learn-to-skate classes and private lessons. Must be available to work Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. Please e-mail résumés to Christine Poyner at YNOTSK82@aol.com or call (815) 886-4423.

### SKATING DIRECTOR

— Kroc Center in San Diego is seeking a skating director with previous skating school management experience. E-mail resume to sean.cummings@usw.salvationarmy.org.

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# AND ANOTHER THING...

by Peter Martell  
ISI Executive Director

## Help Us Help You

*Participation, not elimination. Fair, fun and rewarding.*

This is what ISI is all about, right? Absolutely! The ISI learn-to-skate, skill testing and recreational competition programs were developed to generate interest and continued participation by providing a lifetime of opportunities for skaters of all ages and abilities. This vision is as appropriate and fundamental to our purpose today as it was 40 years ago.

But over the years, the ISI motto of "Participation, not elimination" has been interpreted too loosely by some who have taken liberties with ISI membership and testing requirements. Yes, we want everyone to participate, but in order to

preserve the integrity and maximize the value of the ISI program, certain rules and regulations must apply.

As many of you know, the Institute has begun a more stringent enforcement of the longstanding requirement for the verification of ISI membership and test registration for all participants in inter-rink competitions. This initiative is intended to serve several purposes. First and foremost is the need to ensure that, like all other skating organizations, all participants in ISI competitions — arenas, judges and skaters — are current ISI members, as required by our rules.

Second is the desire to provide a "level playing field" for all competitors by grouping them according to age and their highest test level passed by the event entry deadline — once again, as required in ISI competition rules.

These two requirements are not new. They are two of the most basic tenets of the original ISI recreational ice skating program.

The membership requirement is important for several reasons. As a member-based organization, ISI's benefits and privileges are reserved for the exclusive use of its members. The ISI recreational ice skating program (*weSKATE*) is a *copyrighted* program for ISI members only — arenas, instructors and skaters. Any use of the program by non-members — including coaches — constitutes copyright infringement.

In addition, membership is important for insurance purposes. All Professional and Individual members of ISI have, as a benefit of membership, excess accident insurance that protects them in the event they sustain an injury while participating in an ISI-endorsed activity. Without a current membership, there is no coverage, putting both the individual and the sponsoring facility at risk. It is the responsibility of every skating or competition director to ensure that ALL participants in ISI-endorsed competitions are current members.

It is also the director's responsibility to ensure that all skaters have been tested on the required maneuvers of every level of ISI tests up to the level at which they are competing, and that all the tests are registered with the ISI office. This does not mean simply filling out postcards, but actually administering the test(s) so that the students can demonstrate mastery of the skills at proficiency level required, rewarding them with the appropriate patch recognizing their accomplishment and registering the test with the ISI office.

Not administering tests as required diminishes the concept of a step-by-step learning process where the student is encouraged to continue skating, building on the skills previously learned. It also shortchanges the facility and coaching staff of testing and lesson fees that could be earned. And perhaps most important, it undermines the ISI philosophy of *fair and equitable competitions that encourage skaters to continue skating rather than discouraging or eliminating them.*

I understand that checking or processing memberships and administering tests requires time and effort. But these functions are necessary for a nationally consistent program that promotes continued participation by skaters of all ages and abilities, provides a reliable source of income for arenas and coaches and allows the Institute to continue to offer the member programs and services that it does.

The ISI is your trade association. Circumventing the system only hurts everyone involved — skaters, instructors and directors, and facilities. The strength of ISI programs lies in their consistency and integrity — without that, the concept of fair, fun and rewarding events is significantly reduced and, in the long run, everyone suffers. ▀

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For more information or to sign up, contact Kathy at [kchase@skateisi.org](mailto:kchase@skateisi.org) or call (972) 735-8800

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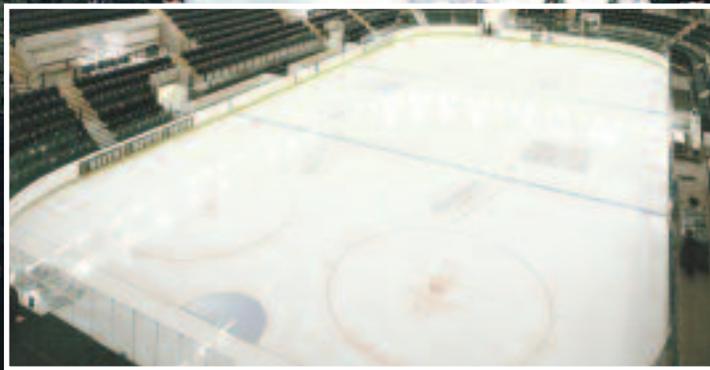
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