



Meet The Board

Featured Board Member:

Mike Serverian
First Vice-President



Meet Mike Serverian. Mike has been a Blackhawks parent since 2010, and a Board Member since 2011.

Q: How did you get involved with the Blackhawks?

A: My younger son Will (now Bantam AA) was playing in house hockey mites (and soccer and baseball) and he tried out for the Mite team made it. At the time, my wife and I weren't sure about a 7 year old in a travel sport so we red-shirted that first year. He practiced with the team and could play in tournaments but not Norcal games which, at that time, was a full season of full ice games. We liked the club so we stayed on. I helped the team manager a bit that first year and managed the mite team our second year for coach Elliot Chung. I brought nothing to the table as a first-year manager other than a willingness to try, but we had a lot of fun figuring out how to properly roster a team, enter a tournament, deal with finances, etc. I proved my naiveté through many emails to our registrar Becky Castronovo and Mich Pane, asking how to do this and that. After that season, I was encouraged to run for the Board. Despite running unopposed, I barely won. I think I got 6 votes and one was mine. As voters, we are an apathetic club.

Q: Describe your role on the Board. What are some of the key things that happen behind the scenes?

A: During the season, I mostly put out fires. I get involved in disciplinary issues that arise with kids, parents and coaches. With kids, it is typically around bantam age and its been an extension of the stuff we deal with as parents of teenage boys--inappropriate language, merciless teasing, disrespectful actions, defacement of property. With parents it's usually poor behavior at a game--yelling at the officials or an opponent as they come off the ice. The heavy lifting as a Board member happens around now, as we plan for the summer and next year. A lot of time is spent with coach selection. Looking at coaches for the next season can somewhat dictate the appointment of our Summerhawks coaches. Another critical aspect behind the scenes is procuring ice for our teams. Our ice scheduler, Kevin Bergner, works with SJ Ice to make sure they can accommodate us. Once we know how many teams we have, our money man, Mike King, prepares team budgets

Meet the Board, continued

and dues. Ice is by far our biggest expense. We pay over \$500 for one hour of ice.

Q: What has surprised you the most throughout your Blackhawks experience?

A: A few things jump out at me. First is how hard the coaches work for basically nothing. Coaching stipends cover travel expenses and not much else. A coach probably "makes" about .13 cents an hour if you divide the stipend into the amount of time they spend preparing for practice, dryland, ice time, watching film, researching possible tournaments, emailing families, evaluating the officials, etc. I would guess most of our coaches put in at least three hours a week of behind-the-scenes work in addition to what the parents and players see. Second, how much time our Hockey Ops Director, Jorge Murillo, puts into the club, as did our mites coach/assistant Hockey Ops Director Eric Pane before him. Third, how complicated rostering is and how complicated the Norcal and CAHA rules are. We should be eternally grateful for Becky and Frank Castronovo who have sorted rostering out for a decade or so. They are grinders whose efforts don't show up on the scoresheet. And finally, how every team is different. Some teams want to travel a lot. Others want to practice and not travel. It's a long season, a bit too long at mites and squirts so by season's end the kids, parents and coaches are barely hanging on.

Q: What do you enjoy the most about our club?

A: The autonomy of the Board and the autonomy that each team and its parents have to chart its course for the season. I love Labor Day in Tahoe except for the drive home, though there is talk that tier teams may have to play games that weekend and may not be able to participate going forward. I enjoy watching Kevin Bergner and Eric work with the mini-mites and mites. I enjoy sitting in the stands and talking to parents.

[Tier II Playdowns Feb 24-26](#)

Good luck to our Bantam AA and Midget 16AA!

[USA Hockey Regional Development Camps](#)

Congrats to Scott McManus, Will Serverian and Vladislav Severin for being selected

[NORCAL Playoffs March 10-12:](#)

A and HS will be in Vacaville;
B and BB will be in Oakland

One Timers



- The **Blackhawks** sent seven teams to the Arizona Cactus Cup over the January MLK weekend. Five of our teams played in semi-final games.
- The **Squirt A** Team went to Colorado to participate in the Arvada MLK Squirt Tournament. It was a great experience for the team! The boys skated their hearts out, winning two games, losing one and tied their last game, finishing third on their bracket. The boys had an opportunity to bond and came back as a more solid team, currently 4th place in NorCal. Pond hockey at Evergreen Lake was the highlight for parents and kids alike! The team is now getting ready to go to Arizona over President's Day weekend.
- The **Squirt B** team competed in combined SQ B/BB division and finished 2-2. The kids had a ton of fun. The team is currently 10-0-1 in NorCal, duking it out with San Francisco for first place. The team will head to San Diego for President's Day weekend in a pure B division. All should have a great time!
- Peewee BB** kicked off 2017 with a badly needed win against Redwood City and then headed to Phoenix for the Cactus Cup. The team had a strong showing and made it to the semi-final, facing the Cupertino Cougars for three hard fought periods to a 0-0 tie at the end of regulation. They went scoreless after a 4 rounds of OT and finally lost after 5 rounds in a shootout. Though a heartbreaking loss, the team played valiantly and admirably until the end and received praises for their work ethic and sportsmanship. Next month, they head to San Diego for the CA State Games with big aspirations to take home the banner.



Squirt A



Mites



Mites



SUMMERHAWKS 2017 SPRING HOCKEY

SummerHawks 2017 tryout [registration](#) is live!

Teams will focus on skill development and strong fundamentals in preparation for a Memorial Day weekend tournament in Southern California.

Go to www.blackhawks.org and click on the **Spring** tab for more details and to [register](#)!

Planned Travel Teams and Coaches:

Team	Birth Years	Coaches
8U	2009-2010	Eric Pane & Kevin Bergner
10U-1	2007-2008	Sova Khuong
10U-2	2007-2008	Eric Pane
12U-1	2005-2006	Brent Faulhaber & Shaun Collins
12U-2	2005-2006	Jorge A Murillo
14U-1	2003-2004	Kevin Reny & Erik Hove
14U-2	2003-2004	Allen Collins & Victor Klee
18U/High School	1999-2002	Michael Mendez

For Tier Teams:

Go to

www.blackhawks.org

for details

