

USCG Admiral's Cup Floor Hockey Tournament.

This tournament came together because of a few people up in Maine and Cape Cod, Ma. Back in 1992 a few Coasties from MSO Portland and Group Portland used to get together during lunch time and head over to their local Boys club and play floor hockey. Later that same year a Coast Guard Cutter from Woodshole Ma, pulled into port at Group Portland Maine and started playing street hockey. This group was later invited to play against the boys from Portland when ever they pulled into port.

From there an idea was drummed up by then, Petty Officer James Nagle, and others from MSO Portland and Station South Portland to seek out other Coast Guard units that maybe interested in playing floor hockey, thus calls were made and these are the first teams that answered this beckon call;

MSO Portland Maine
Station South Portland Maine
USCGC Monomoy
Station Gloucester
Station Cape Cod Canal
Air Station Cape Cod

Thus, the berth of the Admiral's Cup was born in 1993 and it was developed by a handful of teams from the old 1st District which I like to call the original six. The first tournament was held at Hockey Town in Peabody Mass. where USCGC Monomoy was crowned as its 1st inaugurals Admiral's Cup Champion. That year every team received its on little plastic admiral's cup trophy for participating plus a tee shirt.

1994/95 we moved to the Sports Mecca in Ashland, Mass. Along with the move the Admiral's Cup Trophy was purchased. This Cup has been sought after by many of players and holds the names and teams of past Champions that are scripted onto the cup. Also in 1995 a new Champion was crowned, or should I say a dynasty was born. These young guns from South Jersey won this cup in 1995, 96, 97 & 1998. Also in 1995 the boys from Cape May started another tradition which I like to call the "Sip of Victory". Each player since then has a sip of victory out of this cup after their win. It is also rumored that this cup holds more than a full six pack.

In 1996 to 2004 we relocated to TeamWorks in Northborough, Mass. and played there until 2005 when we moved to the current TeamWorks in Warwick, RI.

Over the years we have established a great bunch of teams and players from as far away places like Kodiak Alaska, and San Juan Puerto Rico and Detroit Michigan. One can only hope that in years to come this tournament we grow into one of the best known hockey tournaments throughout the Coast Guard.

This year in 2009 we held our 1st Annual Skills competition. The skills were who had hardest shot, who has the best shooting accuracy, and which goalie was the best.

The hardest shot competition was first. And I have to say this had to be one of the funniest events ever. We had some real shooters competing for this prize let's just say that the talent present that was to part take in this event endless, and I wish we had this on video. We had guy's that missed the net from 30 feet away (I was one of them) and others that recorded some real speed, like 23mph.... Boy, I would hate to be a goalie attempting to stop that shot one.

There was even a shot heard around the world. This gentleman came out of retirement and is known as a pure shooter with one of the hardest shots in the league.

Picture this in mind if you would. A man, who is not so young anymore steps back two maybe three steps, then runs up while cocking his stick back like an young Bobby Hull swings into it with all of his might while you hear a great big whoosh and you witness something that have never been seen before. The ball does not even move. I really do mean it when I say this ball never moved. However, the shooter did yell out Mulligan and he was allowed another shot. This player will not be named however you can find his name engraved on the Admiral's Cup several times.

The winner of the hardest shot did go to Kevin Parrington which topped out at 84 mph.

Shooting accuracy was our second event. Let's just say that this event was harder than it looks. We had several players attempt this shooting accuracy and not hit one target, we even went and allowed dependants shoot because no one was hitting any targets. My son Niles even attempted this and went head to head against me. I was humbled by my 15 year old son as he schooled his Dad by hitting two out of the 4 targets to tie Rich Forte.

So Niles and Rich went to a shoot out and both players once again hit two targets out of four. However, it was later determined that Niles Deary's stick was deemed to be an illegal stick which measured to long. (he used his Dad's stick, because my stick is 6' 4" long in order to make of for my slowness') Rich Forte was the winner in our shooting accuracy event in hitting two out of four targets in eight shots under 20 seconds.

Goaltending award went to Phil Wolf, who stop all 12 shots during our in the zone shooting skill, and then all but one on the breakaways skills.

Sincerely,

Paul T. Deary