

WELCOME LETTER FROM TIM HERMAN:

First of all, I would like to take the time to congratulate Bob Anderson on an amazing 11 year run as President of the XHL. I can say with all honesty, this is the best-run recreational hockey league I have seen. I know there are things that we can work on to continue to improve for the next 10 years.

Secondly, I would like to thank Bob for having the faith in me to appoint me as the next President. I hope to leave the next president with a league in even better shape.

That being said, I thought maybe this was a good time to introduce myself to all of you. I've tried to get to know a lot of you, but playing goalie makes socializing during games/pick ups a little tougher.

Personally, I am 35 years old, originally from Carnegie, PA. I graduated from Penn State in 2000 with a Bachelor of Science in Science, which gets you a job at the phone company. I have worked for Windstream/Alltel for 10 years, working in Kittanning, PA; Stow, OH; Ridgway, PA before transferring to Brookville, PA last year. I've been married to Megan for almost 3 years, and we recently (2 weeks ago) purchased our first house in Brookville.

In terms of hockey experience, I started playing ice hockey in 1989 for Chartiers Valley HS. I also began playing dek/roller hockey around Pittsburgh at Mt Nebo, South Park, and Bridgeville rinks. In college, I played 2 years of Intramural ice hockey, 4 semesters of IM roller hockey, and 2 seasons of full contact floor hockey. After college, I played 4 seasons of Dek Hockey at Butler, 2 seasons of roller hockey at the Farm Complex and 2 seasons of Roller Hockey at Neville Island. It might surprise some of you to know that I always played out for these teams. In pickups, I played goalie occasionally, but never took it seriously.

When I was transferred to Ohio, I found one hockey league, and played 2 more seasons of roller hockey before the league folded. When I was transferred to Ridgway in January of 2008, I figured there was no chance of resuming my hockey career. About 3 months later, I was surprised to hear a radio ad for the Xtreme Hockey League in Brockway PA of all places. I wasn't on a team at the time, but the captain of the Dragons called me and said he was in a similar situation, and would love to have me on his team. I played a season with the Dragons, and then got let go...where the Venom picked me up. While I don't think we won a game, I enjoyed my time on the Venom. We tried hard, and as luck would have it, our goalie didn't show up, I filled in, and showed enough promise to get encouraged to try goalie full time.. I started playing pick up that winter, and Derek and Boyd picked me up to be the HotShots Goalie that spring.. We enjoyed the ride to the finals last year, and then stuck together to form the Voodoo this year. Hopefully next year is the chance for me to lift the trophy (and put it in the bottom of my swimming pool...That's why we bought this house. haha)

As you can see, hockey has been a large part of my life for the last 20 years. I've played in 12 different organizations. I am telling you all of this because I want you to know that I take our league seriously for myself, and for all of you. I am not sure what changes are in store, but I promise you that we will take things seriously. I want you to know that my first big change was already implemented at the "XHL summit" last winter. We sat down with Bob, and tried to define all the jobs he and his officers handle. We quickly realized that Bob did a lot more behind-the-scenes work than any of us realized. We talked a lot about how the league members should have the opportunity to have their voices heard. In addition, we took the time to clearly define the board member positions, and the roles they should be willing to take on as part of their duties. We felt this was the fairest way to spread around some of the power and delegate some of the work.

At this time, I would like to let you all know that all the board positions (VP, treasurer, secretary, and communications) will be open. There is no nomination/voting process in place. We decided that all appointments would come from me this year. These positions are a one-year term. I will consider current board members as well as all new comers for all positions. Please let me know if you are interested in any/multiple positions. I envision a board getting together to make a joint decision on large issues such as the move to Reynoldsville, rule changes, selling the boards, etc. This is your opportunity to really get involved in the League, and help push further ahead in the next decade. For some of the younger guys, it certainly could look good on a resume as well.

If you're not aware, I'm on the message boards as hermdogg. My email is timherman21@yahoo.com and my cell phone is 330-814-5057. Feel free to contact me with any concerns, suggestions, criticisms, and hopefully some compliments too. I look forward to an enjoyable winter league, in preparation for our next XHL season.