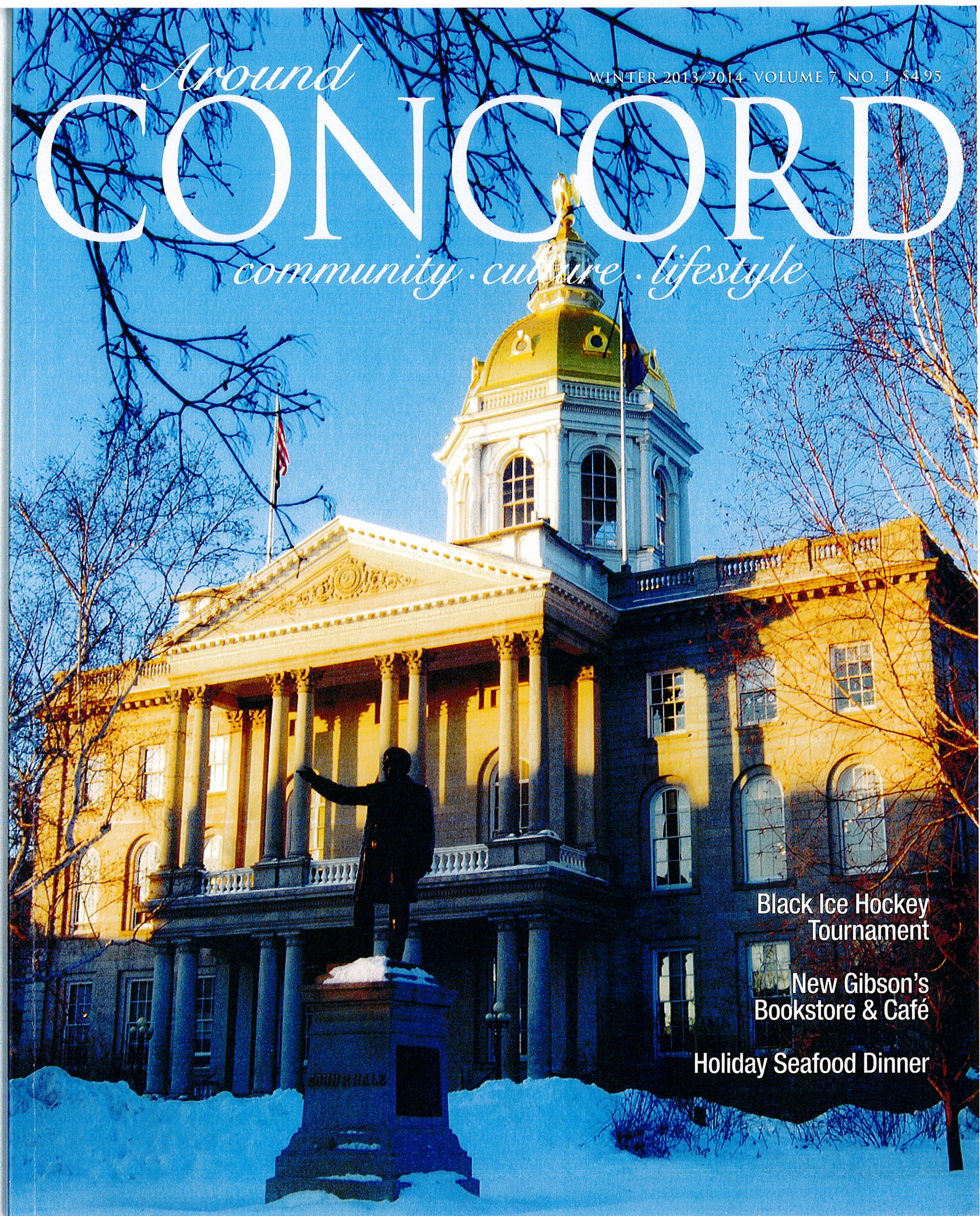


WINTER 2013/2014 VOLUME 7, NO. 1 \$4.95

# Around CONCORD

*community · culture · lifestyle*



Black Ice Hockey  
Tournament

New Gibson's  
Bookstore & Café

Holiday Seafood Dinner

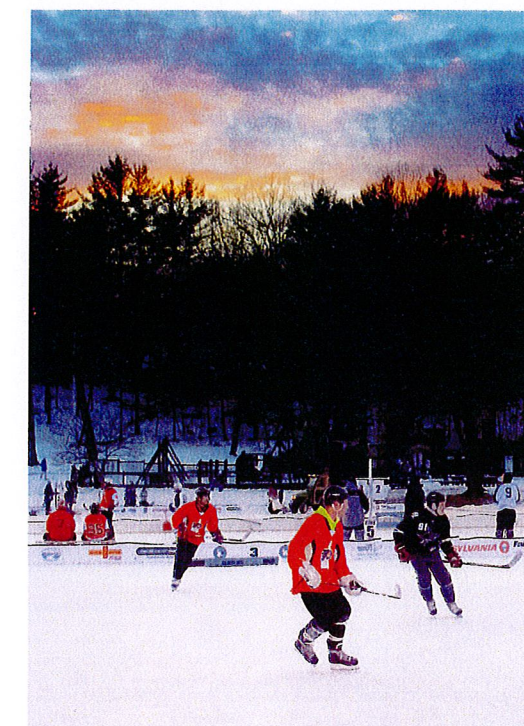




# ice cold FUN!

THE 1883 BLACK ICE POND HOCKEY TOURNAMENT IS A FAMILY AFFAIR

The hometown Concord Capitals in red jerseys skate against the Requins from Montreal.



WHETHER AS SPECTATORS OR PARTICIPANTS, FANS WILL ENJOY AN EXCITING OUTDOOR WEEKEND AT WHITE PARK IN CONCORD THIS JANUARY 24 TO 26. This year marks the fourth annual

1883 Black Ice Pond Hockey Tournament.

The event is hosted by the nonprofit organization 1883 Black Ice Pond Hockey Association, which has made it a mission to maintain and expand ice-skating opportunities throughout the city.

Chris Brown, president of the association, explains: "The tournament's name is in honor of the long history of ice hockey in Concord. In 1883, the St. Paul's School community held the first organized game of hockey in the United States. 'Black Ice' describes the purest of ice—the first ice of the season—and as the name implies, the event is held on a pond, originally at St. Paul's

School; but since its revival four years ago, the event has been held at White Park. The three-day event has attracted a lot of people—approximately 3,000 to 5,000 spectators attend the tournament each year, including die-hard hockey fans as well as local folks who have a strong connection to White Park, perhaps reliving childhood memories of where they first learned to skate." ►





Clockwise from top left: Concord Youth Hockey kids enjoy hanging out. Hockey rink at White Park. Green and Gold Landscaping team rests before taking the ice during the Friday night fireworks. Family members of the Babes of Glory women's hockey team help clear the ice. Friends warm up with hot chocolate. Concord Capitals take a break between periods.



Perhaps the most surprising difference between pond hockey and indoor hockey is that there are no goalies or goal nets in pond hockey.

#### NO GOALIES NECESSARY!

Pond hockey rules differ from indoor hockey in several ways. Teams are comprised of up to seven players total, with only four players from each team on the ice during a game. The ice rink is roughly half the size of an indoor rink. The game consists of two 15-minute periods. Perhaps the most surprising difference between pond hockey and indoor hockey is that there are no goalies or goal nets in pond hockey. Instead, located at each end of the rink is a six-foot-wide wooden box containing two one-foot-wide slots. When it comes to blocking the goal, no goalie is necessary—it's challenging enough to get the puck into one of the two narrow slots! It's a fast-paced game requiring a great deal of skill. The tournament prides itself as a family-friendly event by imposing mandatory rules regarding good sportsmanship. Fighting on the ice is not tolerated and will result in the offending players' expulsion from the tournament.

The pond at White Park is divided up into eight separate rinks, adding to the excitement as onlookers try to keep track of several games at once. A total of 85 teams consisting of 550 players competed in six divisions during the 2013 tournament. Each team played two games on Friday and two games on Saturday, followed by the winners of those games playing in the semifinals and finals on Sunday.

Last year, spectators enjoyed sunny but chilly weather, with temperatures dipping down into the single digits and accentuated with a good strong breeze. According to Chris, "Challenges arise when you are conducting an outdoor, weather-dependent event such as this. Our first year, we had perfect weather. Year two we had temperatures in the 60s, and last year it was bitterly cold. But somehow we work through it and make whatever adjustments are necessary."

#### FESTIVITIES, FUN, AND FIREWORKS

There is a sense of camaraderie among those who attend the event. A love for the sport provides for





Clockwise from top left, opposite: A crackling bonfire keeps spectators warm as they watch the action on the ice. Members of the Concord Youth Hockey Dyno-mites in red jerseys. Members belonging to New Hampshire teams from Somersworth and Francetown catch up after the game. Brian Smith at the mic. John Reardon cooks burgers for the hungry crowd.

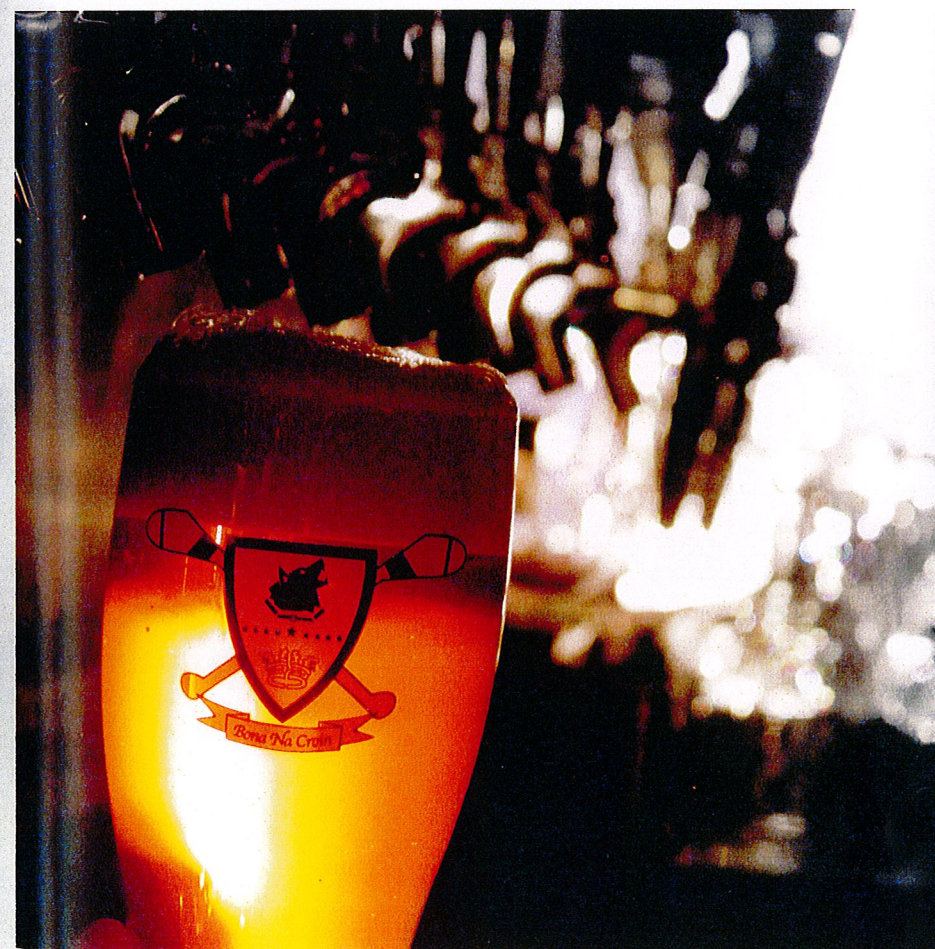
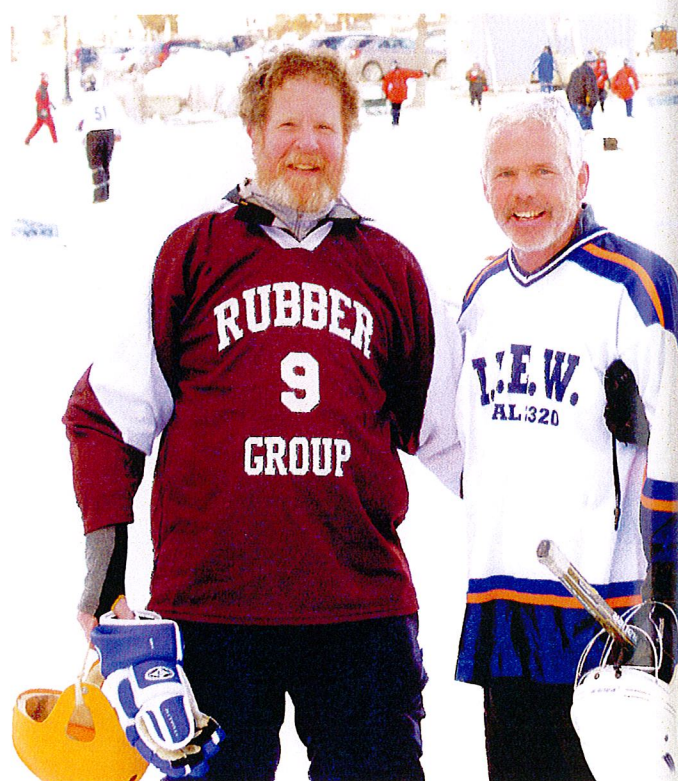
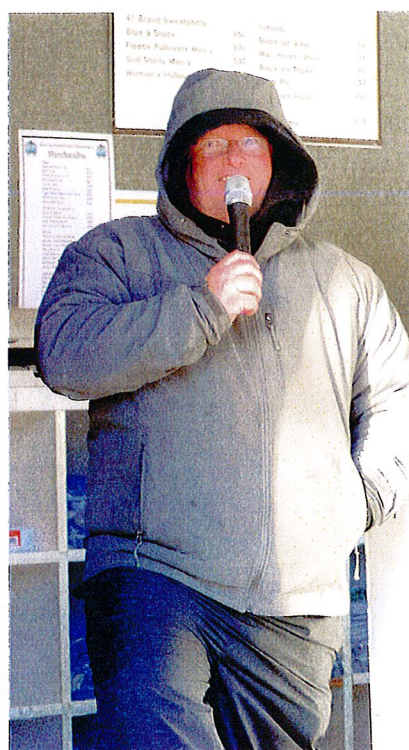
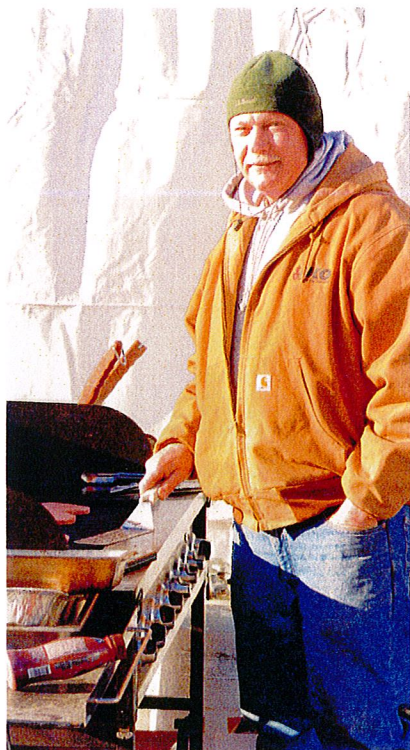


a festive atmosphere, with friends and family gathered around the bonfire or enjoying piping-hot food fresh off the barbecue. Many folks head into the concession tent to warm up with a steaming cup of hot cocoa or to discuss the current tournament standings. On Friday night, a celebration of Day 1 activities culminates with a colorful explosion of fireworks above the rink. Strap on a pair of skates, and you can enjoy skating on the hockey rink when it's available, or stop by the merchandise trailer for a souvenir.

"The event has been a tremendous success from day one. Each year we build on the success of the prior year." Chris attributes much of that success to the passionate involvement of the community. "It's a team effort with support from residents, area businesses, and nonprofit organizations. The 1883 Black Ice Pond Hockey Association is the catalyst that brings this partnership together and organizes the fundraising and donations of materials and labor in order to continue the legacy of hockey in our community."

In giving back to the community, some of their accomplishments include dredging the pond at White Park to remove years of

"We try to promote hockey to all ages, starting with children ages 5 or 6, because we realize that they are the future of this pond hockey event. It's important that they feel they are part of this big event."



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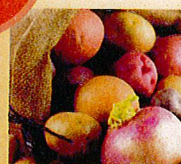
2013-2014 SCHEDULE

Every Saturday

November 2<sup>nd</sup> through April 12<sup>th</sup>\*

\*Except December 28<sup>th</sup>

10am  
to  
2pm



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"It gets everyone in the  
community involved.  
The event attracts quite a  
crowd. It's great to host an  
activity that brings people  
into Concord during the  
winter, when they might  
otherwise continue  
north on the highway  
to the ski areas."

sediment buildup, restoring a skate area  
at Rollins Park, including the installation  
of lighting for nighttime skating, start-  
ing a fund to build a new multi-function  
skate house at White Park, and providing  
starter equipment packages for kids just  
learning the game of hockey so that the  
expense of equipment doesn't stand in  
their way. You may see Concord Youth  
Hockey at the youth hockey rink at  
White Park during the tournament.  
Chris enthusiastically declares, "We try to  
promote skating and hockey to all ages,  
starting with children ages 5 or 6, because  
we realize that they are the future of this  
pond hockey event. It's important that  
they feel they are part of this big event."  
He relates how the youth hockey teams  
skate out on the pond on their way up to  
the youth hockey rink, while the adult  
players line up to salute them as they pass  
by. "It gets everyone in the community in-  
volved. The event attracts quite a crowd.  
It's great to host an activity that brings  
people into Concord during the winter,  
when they might otherwise continue  
north on the highway to the ski areas."

When cabin fever strikes this January,  
bundle up and head over to White Park.  
You're sure to enjoy a weekend full of fun  
as athletes take to the ice!



Gallery Extra!

See more images of Black Ice Hockey online  
at [www.aroundconcordnh.com](http://www.aroundconcordnh.com).

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