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Pond Hockey Classic 2015

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Pond Hockey Classic

2015

Kalispell, Montana

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Pond Hockey Classic 2015

Kalispell, Montana

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Case Study Report 2015-3

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Abstract

This study was conducted for the Kalispell Conventions and Visitor Bureau, to provide insight into the characteristics of attendees of the 2015 Pond Hockey Classic. Paper surveys on site or a post-event web survey were completed by 149 attendees and/or participants of the event. Results show that 60% of respondents were residents of Montana and of those Montana residents, 69% were from Flathead County. Out-of-county respondents spent an average of 2.84 nights in Kalispell and on average less than 1 night in other Flathead Valley locations (not Kalispell). Hotel/motel/b&b purchases received the highest total dollars spent during the event. Respondents to the survey reported a total spending of \$61,618.00 in Flathead County. Results provide event organizers and the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce with useful data for future event planning, making improvements to the event, event marketing/promotion, and understanding the visitor spending associated with the event.

Executive Summary

The 2015 Pond Hockey Classic attracted out-of-county Montana residents (19%) and out-of-state (40%) visitors to the Flathead County area. The attendees of the event make important economic contributions to the Flathead County area. The results of the study are worth considering for future planning of the Pond Hockey Classic.

- 46% of visitors who reside outside of Flathead County spent at least one night away from home. The mean number of nights spent in Kalispell was 2.84 nights.
- More money was spent by these out-of-county visitors in hotel/motel/b&b (\$23,870.00), restaurant/bar (\$19,825.00), and groceries (\$6,150.00) than other spending categories.
- 48% of respondents reported staying in a hotel/motel/b&b, followed by 28% staying in a rental cabin/home.
- Attendees were mostly travelling with just friends (32%) or with family and friends (32%). The average travel group size was 3.9 people (travel group spending size).
- Respondents traveled with a variety of age categories in their group – the highest percentages were 25-34 years old (50%), 35-44 years old (44%), and 45-54 years old (36%).
- Attendees heard about the event mostly from the word of mouth (70%), newspaper (21%), and the event website (14%).
- Overall, attendees of the event were satisfied with most aspects of the Pond Hockey Classic, and 97% of respondents indicated that they would attend the event next year.

Management Implications

Survey results indicate that Pond Hockey Classic attendees are travelling from outside of Flathead County for the event. This event brings both resident and nonresident visitors to the Flathead County area, and the attendees of the event make a variety of monetary contributions while visiting.

More than half of the people who attended the Pond Hockey Classic were non-residents from out-of-state, with 29% coming from other U.S. states. Non-resident visitors bring new money into Montana and make valuable economic contributions to the area. Event organizers should continue their efforts to attract non-resident visitors to the Flathead County area for future events.

It is recommended that the organizers review the respondents' comments from Appendix B to gain more insight into people's likes and dislikes of the event's organization, location of the event, concessions available, and other aspects of the event. Changes based on this input could help bring back repeat visitors to Flathead County in the future.

Introduction

The 2nd annual Pond Hockey Classic was hosted in Woodland Park in Kalispell, Montana over three days from February 20th through February 22nd. This is in contrast to the event being held at Foys Lake last year. It is understood that due to weather conditions, the event was moved to an alternate location. Pond Hockey Classics take place around the United States and are known for drawing people from across North America.

This event is organized by the Kalispell Convention and Visitor Bureau and the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce. The Kalispell Chamber of Commerce works to improve the business environment for the Kalispell and Flathead area community. Kalispell's chamber has been around since 1904 and is committed to strengthening the economic opportunities for the greater Kalispell area.

The purpose of this study was to provide the organizers of the 2015 Pond Hockey Classic with an understanding of the characteristics of visitors to the event, visitor spending in Flathead County, and levels of satisfaction with different aspects of the event.

Methods

Data was collected in two ways:

1) Surveyors intercepted participants and spectators 18 years of age or older for on-site completion of the survey during the two day event. Surveys were given to people by random selection in an attempt to represent the event attendee population. People willing to fill out the questionnaire were given a clipboard, pen, and a survey. This resulted in 139 surveys. If a respondent indicated they were solely a spectator but were attending the event with a participant of the Pond Hockey Classic, they were not asked to record their spending in the Kalispell/Flathead Valley Area. This is to eliminate over-representing the amount of money spent in the area since all registered participants received an invitation to the same questions via a web survey after the event (see data collection method 2). This survey asks them to record all spending for their group (including themselves and any non-participants).

2) An email invitation to a web survey was sent by the Kalispell CVB/Chamber to capture the group characteristics, spending, and satisfaction of the participants of the 2015 Pond Hockey Classic. One reminder email was sent to participants who had not completed the web survey asking them to please do so five days after the initial survey invitation. This resulted in only 10 surveys.

No documentation of the number of refusals was recorded.

Limitations

As in all research, there are limitations to the study. Limitations for the Pond Hockey Classic study include the following:

- Data was collected by Kalispell area volunteers who received a short training from ITRR's survey contact person at the Kalispell Chamber/CVB on how to intercept people and how to obtain completed surveys.
- ITRR personnel were not present during the data collection for quality control.
- Despite efforts by data collectors on-site, the sample size is very small for this study.

Results

Of the 124 valid responses to the residence questions, 60 percent (74 people) were from Montana and 40 percent (50 people) were from out-of-state or Canada (see Tables 1 and 2). Of all Montana respondents, 69 percent (51 people) were from Flathead County while 31 percent (23 people) were from other Montana counties.

Table 1: Residence of all Respondents

| Place of Residence | # of total | % of total |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| Flathead County | 51 | 41% |
| Other MT County | 23 | 19% |
| Montana=74 | | |
| U.S. State | 36 | 29% |
| Canada | 14 | 11% |
| | | |
| Total all Residences | 124 | 100% |

Table 2: Out-of-State and Canadian Residences

| Residence | # of respondents |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Alberta, Canada | 13 |
| British Columbia, Canada | 1 |
| Colorado | 1 |
| Connecticut | 3 |
| Idaho | 11 |
| Illinois | 1 |
| Minnesota | 1 |
| Oregon | 7 |
| Pennsylvania | 1 |
| Utah | 1 |
| Washington | 10 |

The mean age of respondents was 40 years old. Of those who were from outside Flathead County and responded to the survey, 68 people reported that they spent at least one night away from home. Of those nights spent away from home, the greatest percent of respondents (64 percent) spent three nights in Montana. The mean number of nights spent in Kalispell was 2.84 nights. The mean number of nights spent in other Flathead Valley locations was less than one night. A full breakdown of nights spent as well as results of all other questions in this survey can be found in Appendix A.

Expenditures

Spending information was asked of event attendees (participants and spectators who were not in a travel group with a participant) who reside outside of Flathead County. The survey asked that they report their best estimate of the total amount of money they and their family/travel group (if applicable) spent in Flathead County in the following categories: accommodations, restaurant or bar, groceries or snacks, gasoline, transportation, auto rental, retail goods, and entertainment or recreation.

Table 3 presents the expenditure data of only the non-resident respondents (those who reside outside of Flathead County) who reported spending money in the categories. The mean expenditure of those who spent money for each category can be found along with the percentage of people who reported that they spent money in that category. The last column provides the total dollars spent by those respondents in each category. The total reported expenditure for respondents who spent was \$61,618.

Table 3 – Expenditure Data: Expenditures calculated using only non-residents (those who live outside of Flathead County) who spent.

| Expenditure Category | Mean expenditures of non-residents <u>who reported that they spent money in these categories</u> | % of respondents who reported spending money in each category | Total dollars spent in each category <u>by respondents who spent</u> |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---|
| Hotel/motel/b&b | \$459.04 (n=51) | 34% | \$23,870.00 |
| Restaurant/bar | \$291.54 (n=68) | 46% | \$19,825.00 |
| Groceries/snacks | \$133.70 (n=46) | 31% | \$6,150.00 |
| Gas | \$88.70 (n=54) | 36% | \$4,790.00 |
| Retail goods | \$165.80 (n=23) | 15% | \$4,145.00 |
| Entertainment/recreation | \$86.90 (n=18) | 12% | \$1,738.00 |
| Auto rental | \$183.33 (n=4) | 3% | \$1,100.00 |
| | | TOTAL | \$61,618 |

Appendix A- Results

Q1. Are you a registered participant of the Pond Hockey Classic? n=145

52% Yes (Skip to Q2.) 48% No (answer Q1a.)

Q1a. Does your group include someone who is a registered participant of the Pond Hockey Classic? n=65

42% Yes (Skip to Q14. On back) 58% No

Q2. Are you a resident of Montana? n=124

57% Yes 43% No (skip to Q4.)

Q3. Do you reside in Flathead County? n=74

69% Yes (skip to Q14. on back) 31% No (skip to Q5.)

Q4. In what state, province, or foreign country do you reside?

See Tables 1 and 2.

Q5. Is this your first time visiting Kalispell or the Flathead Valley area? n=70

23% Yes 77% No

Q6. Was attending this event your primary reason for being in the area? n=69

94% Yes 6% No

Q7. For what other reasons are you visiting the area? (Check all that apply.) n=109

20% Vacation/recreation/pleasure <1% Just passing through 1% Business/convention/meeting

10% Visiting friends/relatives 5% Shopping

Q8. For this event, how many nights did you spend away from home? n=70, mean=4.41

3% 0 (skip to Q.12) 0% 1 61% 3 7% 5 1% 7 0% 9
6% 2 16% 4 4% 6 1% 8 0% 10 or more

Q9. How many of those nights were in Montana? n=68, Mean=4.47

0% 0 6% 2 18% 4 4% 6 2% 8 0% 10 or more
0% 1 65% 3 4% 5 2% 7 0% 9

Q10. Of your nights in Montana, how many did you stay in Kalispell? n=68, mean=2.84

15% 0 3% 2 16% 4 2% 6 2% 8 0% 10 or more
1% 1 60% 3 0% 5 2% 7 0% 9

Q10a. Of your nights in Montana, how many did you stay in other Flathead Valley locations? n=68, mean=0.75

78% 0 5% 2 0% 4 3% 6 0% 8 0% 10 or more
2% 1 10% 3 3% 5 0% 7 0% 9

Q11. In what type of accommodation(s) did you stay in Kalispell or the Flathead Valley? (Check all that apply.) n=64

48% Hotel/motel/B&B 2% Private campground 0% Resort/condominium
28% Rental cabin/home 17% Home of friend/relative 0% Guest ranch
0% Public land camping 8% Second home/cabin/condo 0% Vehicle in parking lot

Q12. Please enter your best estimate of the TOTAL amount of money in US dollars you (and your family/travel group, if applicable) spent in the Flathead Valley area in each of the following categories. If you did not spend money in a category, please leave it blank. (See Table 3 for expenditures).

ACCOMMODATIONS in Flathead Valley

Hotel/motel/bed & breakfast

Campground

FOOD in Flathead Valley

Restaurant/bar

Groceries/snacks

TRANSPORTATION in Flathead Valley

Gasoline/diesel

Local transportation

Auto rental

RETAIL/SERVICES in Flathead Valley

Retail goods

Entertainment/recreation

Q13. How many people does the above spending represent (including yourself, i.e., your travel group size)? n=69

| | | | | | |
|-------|------|-------|------|-------|-----------------|
| 28% 1 | 7% 3 | 4% 5 | 9% 7 | 0% 9 | 6% more than 10 |
| 19% 2 | 7% 4 | 17% 6 | 3% 8 | 0% 10 | |

Q14. What option best describes the group with whom you attended this event? n=146

| | | | |
|-----------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 8% Self | 10% Immediate family | 32% Family/friends | 3% Business associates |
| 7% Couple | 3% Extended family | 32% Friends | 5% Organized group/club |

Q15. Please select all the ages represented in your group: n=147 for each age category

| | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 9% 0-5 yrs. | 5% 11-17 yrs. | 50% 25-34 yrs. | 36% 45-54 yrs. | 6% 65-74 yrs. |
| 7% 6-10 yrs. | 17% 18-24 yrs. | 44% 35-44 yrs. | 25% 55-64 yrs. | 0% 75 and over |

Q16. What best describes your annual household income? (In US dollars) n=131

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 7% Less than \$20,000 | 12% \$60,000 to \$79,999 | 5% \$150,000 to \$199,999 |
| 16% \$20,000 to \$39,999 | 18% \$80,000 to \$99,999 | 6% \$200,000 and over |
| 18% \$40,000 to \$59,999 | 18% \$100,000 to \$149,999 | |

Q17. How long before this event did you make plans to attend? n=144

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 9% The day of the event | 15% 1-4 weeks before the event | 31% Over 6 months before the event |
| 11% 1-7 days before the event | 34% 1-6 months before the event | |

Q18. How did you hear about the Pond Hockey Classic? (Check all that apply.) n=143 per selection

70% Word of mouth 11% Posters 12% Group or club 12% Social media
 21% Newspaper 4% Magazine 1% Retail outlet 3% Other website
 10% Radio <1% Direct Mail 6% Flyer
 6% Television 11% E-mail from event planners 14% Event website

Q19. Please rate your satisfaction with the Pond Hockey Classic:

| Satisfaction | Very Dissatisfied | Dissatisfied | Neutral | Satisfied | Very Satisfied | N/A | Mean | Total respondents |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------|-----------|----------------|-----|------|-------------------|
| Organization of the event | 0% | <1% | 8% | 17% | 74% | <1% | 4.66 | n=146 |
| Event staff | 0% | 0% | 5% | 16% | 77% | 2% | 4.76 | n=147 |
| Cost of the event | 0% | 1% | 10% | 22% | 60% | 7% | 4.62 | n=146 |
| Location of the event | 1% | 8% | 14% | 30% | 47% | <1% | 4.14 | n=146 |
| Concessions available | 3% | 8% | 14% | 29% | 44% | 1% | 4.06 | n=147 |
| Number of people at the event | 0% | 2% | 12% | 33% | 52% | <1% | 4.37 | n=147 |
| Parking | 1% | 4% | 10% | 40% | 45% | <1% | 4.24 | n=147 |
| Sound system | <1% | 2% | 9% | 32% | 56% | <1% | 4.43 | n=148 |
| Variety of activities | 2% | <1% | 16% | 38% | 41% | 2% | 4.21 | n=147 |
| Signage/directions | <1% | 4% | 14% | 29% | 50% | 2% | 4.29 | n=147 |
| Cleanliness | 0% | <1% | 3% | 30% | 66% | <1% | 4.62 | n=146 |
| Availability of restrooms | 1% | 0% | 6% | 27% | 63% | 3% | 4.59 | n=147 |

Q20. What is your age? Range=20-74, mean=39.69

Q21. What is your gender? n=147

67% Male 33% Female

Q22. When might you come to the Pond Hockey Classic again?

97% Next Year 2% Within 5 Years 1% Never

Q23. Please tell us what you liked about the Pond Hockey Classic.

See Appendix B

Q24. Please tell us what you did not like about the Pond Hockey Classic.

See Appendix B

Q25. What suggestions do you have for improvements to the event?

See Appendix B

Appendix B: Open-ended Responses

Q23. Please tell us what you liked about the Pond Hockey Classic.

| |
|--|
| A great opportunity for a family holiday. |
| All the boys! Revenue in Kalispell. |
| Always a great time playing hockey outside. |
| Atmosphere |
| Atmosphere |
| Awesome |
| Being outside with friends and family. |
| Bringing hockey back to the basics- good natured hockey. The plethora of people and teams that come out. |
| Camaraderie, seeing all my friends |
| Classic Montana! Outdoor hockey is wonderful! |
| Cool event |
| Enjoying my favorite sport back at its basics. |
| Everything |
| Everything |
| Everything! |
| Everything! Will return every year. |
| Everything. |
| Friendly and fun staff. Great overall. |
| Friendly staff |
| Fun and entertaining |
| Fun competition |
| Fun event to watch. |
| Fun experience, spending time with friends, meeting new people. |
| Fun outdoor activity. |
| Fun, friendly atmosphere. |
| Fun, good weather, could have been colder. |
| Get beer and wine. Fun! |
| Good attitude of organizers and volunteers. Fires. |
| Good fun- nice folks |
| Good hockey |
| Good hockey outdoor event. |
| Good times and hockey |
| Great atmosphere |
| Great event and well organized |
| Great event overall. |
| Great event to spend with friends and family while playing a little hockey |
| Great event with good history. Hockey is fantastic and this does a great deal for the Flathead Valley |
| Great event! Great to bring people in from outside of MT and promote hockey! |
| Great event. |
| Great event. |
| Great event. From Minnesota so appreciate anything hockey! |
| Great experience. Staff was great. |

| |
|---|
| Great fun! It's hockey how I grew up. |
| Great group of people. Love West! |
| Great layout at Woodland- more convenient. |
| Great location for last minute. |
| Great location. |
| Great people and friends to be around. Family oriented. Lots of barley fluids. Best tournament I look forward coming to every year. Location was nice |
| Great people taking care of event |
| Great to have so many people of all different groups come together and play. |
| Great venue and format- good job managing the change of venue due to weather. |
| Group atmosphere. |
| Hockey |
| Hockey- good community event. |
| Hockey! |
| Hockey. |
| Hockey. |
| I love hockey- pond hockey is pure hockey. They play because of the love of the game. |
| I thought the venue was great, we had not been to Foys Lake to compare and do realize that the rinks were smaller this year. The proximity to town is fantastic. We are not used to playing pond hockey with the boards, so that was new but we all agreed that it added a different dimension to the game. I do like the fact that you had the Twigs division to get more people involved. We spent some time with some teams that had only been on skates for a few years and they are loving it. |
| It is a great group of people- organizers and players. It has been a blast! |
| It was a fun atmosphere |
| It was a fun environment. Good times! |
| It was exciting and a lot of variety between the teams playing. |
| It was fun and good guys |
| It's fun and easy to attend. |
| It's the essence of hockey. The spirit. |
| Keep it at other Woodland |
| Like the outdoor feel. |
| Location was great vs. last year |
| Lots of fun people. Lots to do. |
| Lots of fun! |
| Love it! |
| Love the hockey...great team event |
| Meeting other hockey teams. |
| Need a beer garden |
| Number of games |
| Number of teams. |
| On time! |
| One and only event |
| Organization |
| Organization- ice preparation |
| Organization! |
| Organized and lots of concessions |
| Organized/professional |

| |
|--|
| Outdoor hockey- low key |
| Outside |
| Outside hockey. Positive people. |
| People were all nice and exposure to the valley |
| People. |
| Played last year. Outdoor hockey. |
| Playing hockey |
| Playing with my buddies on the pond |
| Rinks done very well- easy to watch. |
| Something to do, get out. |
| Sports |
| Staff and environment. |
| Super cool venue, gathering of awesome peeps |
| Taking it back to origins. |
| Thanks for finding outside ice. Woodland was better than nothing. Foy's is best when possible. |
| The ambience, great tunes, and group of people from all over North America. |
| The atmosphere and the venue, game scheduling. |
| The availability of things to do in the valley. Sportsmanship, competition, good weather. |
| The camaraderie - and cohesive feel of hockey |
| The changing tent is better (larger and wooden benches much better) |
| The concept and hockey camaraderie. |
| The event and the community. |
| The fun of playing outdoors with friends |
| The idea is wonderful and love the concept allows my family to gather. |
| The location at Woodland, the friendliness of all attendants. |
| The music, energy, and people watching! |
| The proximity to town and access to local businesses |
| The valley and event. |
| Unique event for the community. Fire barrels. |
| Venue was great. Easy access. Parking. |
| Very fun to watch! |
| Volunteer/great |
| Volunteers were awesome |
| Volunteers. Hockey spirit. |
| Watching hockey! |
| Weather related issue and event location change made the event not as fun as last year. |
| Well organized and quick standings update |
| Well organized. |

Q24. Please tell us what you did not like about the Pond Hockey Classic.

| |
|---|
| All of it |
| Beer at the venue. |
| Beer gardens (lack of) |
| City council decision. |
| City denied a beer garden. Next time invite them all down to experience the event. |
| Condition of ice |
| Cost of t-shirts, hats, etc. |
| Due to warm weather the ice was bad, not your fault. |
| Failure of city to embrace the need and allow beer vendors |
| I felt that the city/county missed their opportunity to take advantage of an event that benefits many in our community!! |
| I liked the beer tent last year. I liked the larger rink sites. Break the challenge played some people/members on two teams in different divisions. |
| I would think this would be a great event to serve beer- they city of Kalispell should be reorganized. |
| Ice condition. |
| Ice conditions- however, you do not control the weather. It would be nice to have an old timers division. |
| Ice maintenance. Felt like no effort for safety by maintaining the ice was a priority. Just a quick cash grab. Plus the Donnybrooks and Shady Pucks, two Junior A caliber teams playing in the shinny division made it not fun for the teams in the under 35 shinny division. They should be playing in the Open. |
| Ice surfaces |
| It was cold and windy. |
| It would be nice for better seating and viewing. |
| It's cold. |
| Just the weather. That's life. |
| Lack of beer & a beer tent. Venue was better than nothing but left a lot to be desired. Mooses was PACKED very quickly and didn't allow for many folks to stay after checking in. |
| Lack of beer gardens. Ice conditions. |
| Lack of teams playing in the correct skill groups!!! |
| Lousy weather |
| More options for sitting and more events. |
| More staff would be nice |
| More vendors-food. |
| N/A |
| n/a |
| N/A |
| Need to sell alcohol next time |
| No alcohol |
| No beer |
| No Beer |
| No beer |
| No beer |
| No beer at the park. |
| No beer garden |
| No beer garden on site |
| No beer garden was a bummer- hope it doesn't affect attendance next year! |

| |
|---|
| No beer garden. |
| No beer garden. |
| No beer garden. This could hurt future PHC's if not rectified. |
| No beer gardens, ice was too small. |
| No beer here! Thanks to the mayor and council |
| No beer in the park, although I understand that it was last minute. Maybe a little better ice prep when it was cold enough, the massive cracks on Sunday were dangerous, yet part of the game.... Maybe better rule enforcement from the volunteer officials, some of them were better than others. |
| No beer sales! |
| No beer tent this year. |
| No beer! |
| No beer! |
| No beer! |
| No beer. |
| No beer. |
| No beer. |
| No beer. |
| No beer. |
| No beer. |
| No beer. Lack of organization for possible bad weather. |
| No beer. Not at Foy Lake. |
| No beer/Becky's Pizza, Two Dog is not here. |
| No beer? |
| None |
| None |
| None |
| None |
| Not enough vendors. |
| Nothing |
| Nothing |
| Nothing |
| Nothing. |
| Nothing. |
| Opening night (better than last year), music choice, need more merchandisers |
| Prefer Foy's Lake but understand the weather issues. Should have a beer garden. |
| Rinks needed to be a bit larger for 4 on 4 would be perfect for 3 on 3 in that venue. Maybe add another rink also would help |
| Sand bagging teams |
| Sandbaggers- Twig not twig- apes and moose |
| Should have a beer tent. |
| Should water multiple times in small amounts to fix ice at night |
| Slush on Friday! |
| Slushy ice on Friday. |
| Small area. |
| Some score keepers weren't that great about keeping score. Missed goals |
| Space for opening at Moose Saloon too small. It was better at the Tamarack last year even with the drive |
| That it wasn't able to be on the pond. |

| |
|--|
| The ice was dangerous and unsafe. No beer concessions |
| The ice. |
| The lack of beer garden was ridiculous and caused a huge setback for the event. |
| The location- family so spoke of Foy's Lake and the Vista. No beer. |
| The no beer garden was a bummer, but understandable given the circumstances. Same goes for the condition of the ice, again, not within your control. The music being played during the event needs to be livened up a bit. We as players want something that is motivating, not put us to sleep(aka Elton John) |
| Venue, condition of ice, no beer! |
| We are an Old Team (Cellar Dwellers) and obviously there were only two 40+ teams. We were still competitive (and still could have won if not for our indulgences) but it is getting increasingly hard to keep up with the hangovers. Also, some of the refs had no idea about the game of hockey, which is okay as I'm sure they are volunteering and I know how hard it is to get volunteers sometimes. Some of them didn't even know where the puck should be thrown if it goes outta bounds (small pet peeve) |
| Weather |
| Weather but you can't help that |
| Weather, lack of beer for spectators |
| Weather. |
| What happened to the beer garden? |
| Wish alcohol was approved- truly think folks would have spent more if so. |

Q25. What suggestions do you have for improvements to the event?

| |
|--|
| Awesome! Hay bales for dressing outside |
| Beer |
| Beer garden! |
| Beer gardens at the venue...I heard that with the move of the venue, city council would not approve the liquor license...maybe next year. ***Only have one 35+ Open division*** Overall: we totally enjoyed the tourney and the weekend as a whole. We are certainly spreading the word around the Kootenays and just got back from Spokane and trying to get more teams coming your way. Thanks again for a great time and see you next year. |
| Beer gardens, bigger ice. |
| Beer tent |
| Beer tent, avb at the venue |
| Beer tent. |
| Beer! |
| Beer!! |
| Beer, fire pits closer to ice, pathway, beer, chairs/benches, beer, more teams, beer. |
| Beer, more vendors. |
| Beer. |
| Beer. |
| Beer. |
| Bench on sidelines. Beer at rink. |
| Better contingency planning. See Q24. |
| Better hats. Better shirts and put "Montana" on the shirts. |
| Better ice maintenance. Teams mentioned above moved to the more competitive division. We didn't expect to play the Harlem Globetrotters. |

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|--|
| Better ice, lower temp. |
| Better location. |
| Better seating. |
| Better seating/viewing. |
| Better signage to parking |
| Better weather! aka ice |
| Bigger location. |
| Booze |
| Bring back the beer concessions |
| Bring back the booze |
| Bring back the pom beanie |
| Bring beer. |
| City/county need to work with opportunities- not against them! |
| Clear the ice off the walking path. |
| Colder weather- back at Foy. |
| Consistency between volunteer staff. They were all great but could have been a little better about half ice goals and goal tending. |
| Contingency plan in case of emergency. |
| Crease so no goal tending. |
| Evaluate the volunteers. Especially the ones that ref the games. It makes a difference between a good one and a bad ref |
| Flip charts for game scoring. |
| Food closer to ice. Bathroom on ice |
| Get beer. |
| Have a beer garden! |
| Have an open game day where each team will play 2 games and have their skill assessed and then be placed into the correct pools. Then proceed with tournament games and playoffs. I think this would make for a more enjoyable and fair competition environment. |
| Have beer & wine people... it's cold out! |
| Hay bales around the rink |
| Hay bales for seating/ back to Foy's if possible/ plan for backup with full concession. |
| Hay bales outside for changing and sitting. |
| Hay bales! |
| Ice |
| Include a beer tent, larger variety of food vendors, move the initial Welcome Fest to a larger venue such as Tamarack Brewery. |
| It's perfect. |
| Keep growing and promoting. |
| Kick the mayor out-work with the PHC not against them. |
| Larger rinks. |
| Make the weather colder, haha! |
| More advertisements. It's a great event! |
| More advertising in our area. |
| More beer |
| More brushing |
| More food, beer, scoreboard. |
| More garbage cans- was messy |

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| More like last year |
| More picnic tables and seating for spectators |
| More planning. More trash cans. Burn barrels good |
| More vendors. |
| More vendors. |
| Move to January |
| Need a beer garden. |
| Needs more vendors. |
| Next year have the city pre-approve a second venue for back-up with approval for the beer garden. |
| No heaters in the changing tent. It melts the ice too fast and we are getting dressed in large bubbles of water. The tent itself is enough to shelter from any wind/snow/rain. The heaters just make everything soaked. |
| None- good job |
| None, really. Good job! |
| None. |
| Not much to say. The weather was the limiting factor. The game was good, the ice sucked due to the warm temperatures. Nothing anybody can do about that. Foy's Lake would have been better had the temps been colder. |
| Nothing |
| Organize for contingencies next year or people won't return. We came from Washington State. |
| Prepare for alternative locations. |
| Put up the score of the score card of the games going on |
| Seating with heat source closer to the rinks if possible. |
| The weather so we can get back on Foys Lake! |
| Was hard to keep this in town and embrace the opportunity it offers (its hockey!) |
| Was perfect |
| We can't control nature, but maybe a better sharing of the rules with officials would be nice, not a deal breaker in any way though. |
| We need beer gardens! |
| Would be cool to see live standings/results. |
| You all did what you could to get beer. Thank you for everything and don't change. |