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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Seniors Gear Up for Senior World Hockey Tournament

Snoopy's 44th Annual Senior World Hockey Tournament will be July 7-17, 2022 at Snoopy's Home Ice in Santa Rosa, California. Seventy teams from across the US and Canada will play 106 games at the unique, chalet-style ice arena over the 10 days. More than 1,100 ice hockey players, aged 40-96, will compete. Admission for spectators is free.

For hockey fans the tournament offers a wealth of opportunities to see great on-ice action. Games will be played from 6am until after midnight all week long.

### What hockey players say about the Snoopy Tournament:

"I had to borrow my son's equipment to play. I rediscovered hockey. It was so much fun. And so different than 'playing for keeps.' I went home and bought my own equipment and started playing again in an adult league, and it got me going to other tournaments. At the Snoopy Tournament I see other guys I played with professionally or played against. One year a guy came up to me and introduced himself; it was Pat Curran who was our reporter when I played in Montreal. It was so silly, I knew he wrote about hockey and never thought that he played, and here he was on the 65 and over team. He said he plays about a hundred games a year back home in Ottawa."

"And the Snoopy Tournament – it's built a way for all of us hockey players to stay interconnected. We can all play in local Tournaments or regional Tournaments, but this is the big one, where all of us see each other. At Stockton, or Eugene, or Tahoe tournaments, and I'm sure across the country, the common thread is 'See ya at Snoopy next year!'"

- TERRY HARPER, Former NHL Player

"The most important thing he did for hockey was to put on the Senior World Hockey Tournament. We got to know hockey players from all over the world -- people who loved hockey like we did and loved to play no matter how old they were. Without the Tournament we would not have had the opportunity to know each other. We stay in touch today by the internet, but back when we started, it was just the Tournament and telephones."

- ROLAND THIBAUT, Long-time Friend and Coach of Sparky's Diamond Icers

"More importantly to hockey, Sparky provided one of the best senior hockey tournaments. We got to meet hockey players from the U.S., Canada, and other parts of the world. It was an incentive for me to keep playing hockey and to be in the best possible shape to play when July rolled around. I'm sure that by having the Senior World Hockey Tournament, Sparky encouraged many players to continue to play the great game of hockey into later years so they could attend a wonderful tournament and gain hockey friendships from all over."

- MARK SERTICH, Guinness Book of World Records - Oldest Hockey Player in the World

"While I was playing professionally I heard about Snoopy's Senior World Hockey Tournament, but after I retired from hockey I had to wait a while to play – I wasn't old enough. I think my first tournament was about 2005, and I've played in nine tournaments over the years. Now I make a point to come and play, when work and other things permit... Charles Schulz created a place where there was hockey life after hockey, for me and for many other players I've met. The Tournament brings people together. My wife got to meet other hockey wives and they became friends. The Tournament created a small world for hockey players from all over the larger world who are still able to enjoy the game and the camaraderie with the other hockey players and families. It reminds us that as life moves on, we can still enjoy the

game.”

- TONY STILES, Former NHL Player

## 44 years of tournament history

Today, Snoopy’s Senior World Hockey Tournament hosts 70 teams who compete in three games over 5 days, with a day of rest and vacation between games. Players ages range from 40 to 98, with divisions for 40 and up, through 75 and up. Many bring family to cheer on their team. All in all, more than 1,100 players attended the Tournament in 2017, and a similar number is expected in 2022. In 2017, 44% of the players came from outside California, another 19% came from Canada.

In 1973 Schulz’s Santa Rosa Diamond Icers participated in the 4th annual Senior Olympics Hockey Tournament in Burbank, California. The following year, the director of that Tournament asked Schulz if his arena in Santa Rosa could host the future tournaments. And so it began. The tournament has been played at the arena every July since 1975, with the exception of 2001, when the arena closed for a short time for equipment renovations. In 1982 the name was changed to Snoopy’s Senior World Hockey Tournament.

Initially the Burbank tournaments had teams playing in one category, age 40 and over. When Schulz took over the 45+ and 50+ Divisions were added. Initially ten teams played in the tournament. As years progressed, more divisions were added, and in 1998, Snoopy’s Senior World Hockey Tournament became the first tournament in North America to offer a 75 and over division – a division in which Schulz’s own Diamond Icers played, with Schulz on the team until the year before his death in 2000 at 77.

Over the last 44 years teams have traveled from Finland, Japan, Austria, Australia, Norway and Sweden to play in the Tournament. In 2017, 13 teams traveled from Canada to play, a not unusual number. Teams from outside California numbered 31 in 2017.

In 2002, Jeannie and Monte Schulz became the Tournament Sponsors to carry on Sparky’s tradition of gathering life-long hockey players to compete in their favorite sport and celebrate their hockey friendships and friendly competitions.

Tournament history shows a ‘record’ 64 teams played in 2,000 and celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Tournament in 2015. In 2018, a new ‘record’ of 70 teams took to the ice, bringing more than 1,100 players from across the US and Canada.

## About Snoopy’s Home Ice

Snoopy’s Home Ice offers a unique atmosphere for families to enjoy recreational ice skating and a world-class facility to support the goals of local athletes in the sports of Ice Hockey and Figure Skating. Home to the Warm Puppy Café and Snoopy’s Gallery & Gift Shop, the arena complex is also a popular destination for **Peanuts** fans from across the globe.

### Location:

Snoopy’s Home Ice is located at 1667 W Steele Lane, Santa Rosa, California, 95403.

### Hours:

Open Monday to Sunday 6am – 10pm, Public Skating Sessions daily call or check [www.snoopyshomeice.com](http://www.snoopyshomeice.com) for times, and Snoopy’s Adult Hockey League starting August 2022. Spectators welcome, it’s always free to watch.

Images are available on request. For more information consult the arena website at: [www.snoopyshomeice.com](http://www.snoopyshomeice.com)

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