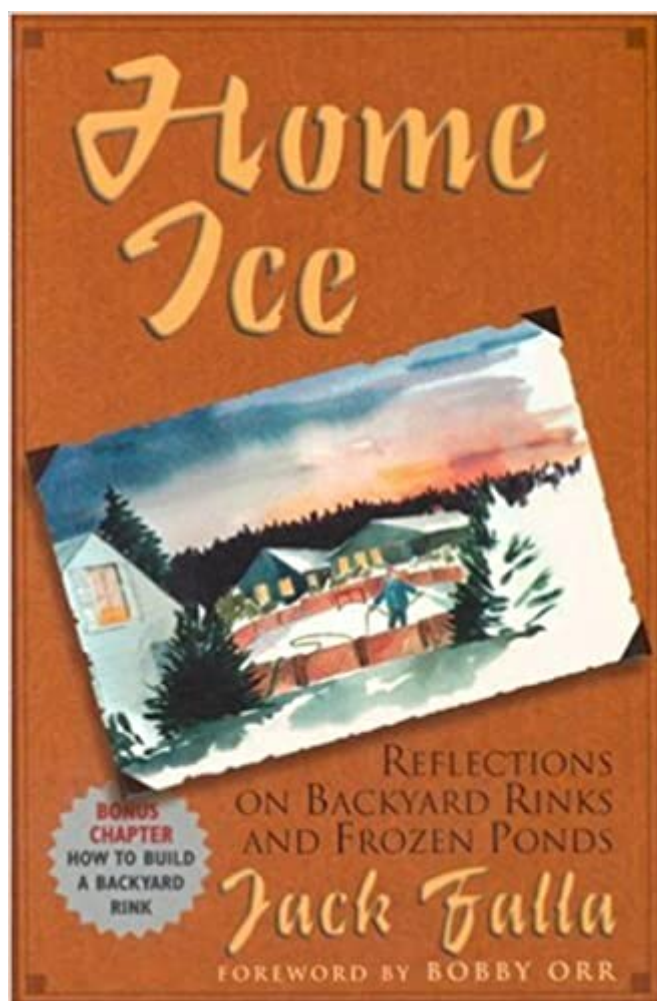


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# Home Ice: Reflections On Backyard Rinks And Frozen Ponds



## Synopsis

There is no shortage of books that describe how participating in a particular sporting activity strengthens bonds between people. Falla's book accomplishes this feat through a collection of essays on backyard skating rinks and frozen ponds and how these local skating venues allow their participants to get in touch with the game of hockey in addition to building relationships with family and friends. The author, a sportswriter and author of *Sports Illustrated Hockey*, is the architect and CEO of his full-scale backyard rink, the Bacon Street Omni, around which neighborhood life seems to revolve during the long, cold months. Each essay is short and provides for excellent recreational reading for people interested in skating in general and hockey in particular. Throughout, the author's love for winter sports is clear, especially as a link between his New England childhood and his current life, but readers who have never put on a pair of skates may have trouble connecting with this well written book. --Library Journal

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## Customer Reviews

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Falla's rink is a place that enlivens the darkness and cold and pays homage to the New England cultural heritage. -- Christian Science Monitor  
The literary hot chocolate that will warm your heart. -- Robert Lipsyte - The New York Times

I wasn't a hockey player growing up. Basketball was my first love. My Dad put up a hoop in the driveway back in the early 70's, and the memories of playing 21, Horse, and three on three will last forever. Meeting neighbors and friends, playing by myself working on skills: those were the days. And Falla's stories of his backyard rink inspire the same kind of love and commitment to family and friends that my father's hoop did. What a wonderful book, made all the more important and influential by the author's passing away not too long ago. He was a wonderful writer who seemed to inspire many others through his life, teaching, and writing. Thanks to Jack Falla...

Jack does a wonderful job in capturing the essence of backyard/pond hockey in its most pure form and the life lessons and character that it can build. There are also some great little tips in this book for even the most veteran backyard rink builders among us. Anybody who loves backyard hockey must have this book in their library. It was one of those books that I had trouble putting down and I will definitely be reading through it again in early Fall as I prepare to install my rink this year.

book arrived in great condition thanks

Have bought TWO for friends and will probably buy 2 more before long. ANYONE who has ever built or played on a back yard rink will LOVE THIS BOOK.

one of my favorite winter time reads. I grew up skating on ponds and having friends try and make

their own. this book makes me feel like a teenager again.

Awesome book. Absolutely delightful. I really enjoyed reading this. Most people will find something to like about this book, even if you only have a passing interest in skating.

After reading the book I wanted to head right out and build the rink it was the spring thaw but I did clear out my back lot and leveled it got it ready for winter can't wait until the first freeze

Home Ice is one of those books you want to read in one sitting without putting it down. Even if you have never skated on natural ice, or never skated at all for that matter, you will relate to this book. In building his own backyard rink several years ago, Falla discovered a venue which brings family and friends together time and time again. Just as a campfire in the woods draws people to it, the rink has drawn family and friends to his home. It is a place where differences are forgotten, where strangers become companions, where a rhythm of living takes over, and where a natural order prevails. Falla has been able to capture the anticipation of looking forward to that first ice, that first time of the season when you lace up the blades, step onto the ice, and find that you have come home. This book should be on everyone's shelf.

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