



FACE OFF

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE BOOSTER CLUBS

Volume 5 Issue 5

September/October 2015

2015 AAHLBC Convention

By Tom Mara,
Hershey Bears
Booster Club

Though it officially is a Friday to Sunday event, the 51st annual Booster Club Convention



began to take shape on a sunny September Wednesday afternoon, and ran through the weekend. Just over 240 attendees representing 25 current, long gone, and recently departed AHL franchises spent the weekend based at Albany's Desmond Hotel getting acquainted with friends, touring the region, and hitting some of the many fine restaurants in the area for lunch & dinners.

There've been a number of articles written about the Convention over the years, and the feedback on them have indicated that they tell a story, but this year, we've decided to take a different approach – we're going to let the pictures do the talking, with minimal commentary to explain what you're seeing. I'd like to thank Hershey's Dennis Gottesman, Bridgeport's Lori Gomez-Uilecan, Rochester's David Sturm and Manchester's Steve Belforti and the people at Otter Concepts Ltd. for the terrific pictures and for granting me permission to use them on these pages. I hope you will enjoy the "trip" as well.

With the numerous early arrivals on Wednesday, a new event has sprung up – the annual Jeremy Hall Memorial Room crawl. This room-to-room walking fundraiser was created last year as a fun way to raise a little money for Jeremy, who was battling cancer and some steep medical bills. Jeremy lost the fight this past season, but people

decided to continue the crawl, and each year, money will be given to a "family member in need" as a means of showing our support.



Above: Room crawl participants

Below: Kelly & Rusty Brewer (Rockford) at Ben & Jerry's



Thursday is mostly for individual touring, and there was plenty of that. Nearly a dozen of us went golfing, while

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Mission Statement

The purpose of this organization will be:

- To promote better understanding between Booster Clubs and the American Hockey League Organization.
- To Compare and attempt to alleviate problems confronting each individual Booster Club.
- To act as a social organization for Booster Club members.

Submitting an Article

To submit an article to this newsletter, please email it to lighthouseman2@yahoo.com with "AAHLBC Newsletter" in the subject line.

Please note: Your club must be a member of the AAHLBC in order to submit an article to this newsletter.

Editor: Bill Walch

2015-16 AHL/NHL AFFILIATIONS		
	ALBANY DEVILS	
	BAKERSFIELD CONDORS	
	BINGHAMTON SENATORS	
	BRIDGEPORT SOUND TIGERS	
	CHARLOTTE CHECKERS	
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	SPRINGFIELD FALCONS	
	STOCKTON HEAT	
	SYRACUSE CRUNCH	
	TEXAS STARS	
	TORONTO MARLIES	
	UTICA COMETS	
	W-B/SCRANTON PENGUINS	

AHL OPENING NIGHT
10.9.15

[@TheAHL
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2015 Convn Convention Funniest Photo Contest Winner

Congrats to Krista Dieckamp on submitting the winning photo this year. You will be contacted about your \$20 gift card.

Go Dante!!!



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others toured as far as Vermont & the Adirondacks (hence the photo on Page 1).



Above (L to R): Rusty & Kelly Brewer (Rockford), Hershey's Dennis Gottesman, Yolanda Alejandre and Rich Maracle (Syracuse)

Below: Jim & Jeanne Carras of the host Albany Devils BC greet Bridgeport's Lori Uilecan



Thursday's Hospitality Room

The big trip Friday was a river cruise, as we got a nice buffet lunch and a rundown of the history of the Capital Region.



Above: Waiting for the River Cruise



Below: A view of the Hudson from the boat



Then there was this:

Friday evening was the theme party, and with "The 70's" and "A Night at the Disco" as the starting points, there was a lot of room to maneuver. There were several Disco

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Balls, and it seemed that the 60's made more than a token appearance at the festivities, but the outfits were entertaining, to say the least.



Women of the 70's – and beyond

After the Saturday morning raffle sales and General meeting, the last of the side trips took off. The Trolley ride of Albany was a memorable tour, as it included a stop at the New York State museum, including a 9-11 memorial that really hit home for many as the trip was only one day removed from the anniversary. There were many touching photos, but this montage of nationwide headlines says it best:



(L to R): Cathy Rynard, Megan Mundis, Norine Borelli, Lesli Shade, Deb Bowles & Chris Garren

Saturday night is our annual attempt to show how well hockey fans clean up, and we were in fine form this night. A great dinner, guest speakers, and a final night in the hospitality room before Sunday's departure:



WB/S's Vicki Silva (winner of the Hershey's Chocolate Basket) and her husband, Alex

Sunday morning is for breakfast, hugs and kisses, and all were in abundant supply for all. It's tough to squeeze as much fun into a weekend as we do, but we manage to have a blast every time.

Thanks to the Albany & Utica Devils Booster Clubs, our hosts, as well as the staff at the Desmond Hotel, who were there for our every need. Thanks to the Convention E-Board for all their efforts as well. We are already looking forward to next year's Convention, set for the weekend of September 9th through the 11th. Springfield will be the hosts, and we are all ready for the next edition of the family reunion!

Yearly Update from the Philadelphia Firebirds

Editor's Note: Every convention, we receive an update from the Philadelphia Firebirds. It gets delivered by the queen herself, Joan Schott. Below is the copy of Joan's speech, delivered at the Albany/Utica convention 2015. We hope you enjoy reading it. It won't be the same as if you were there in person listening to Joan's unique way of delivering a message, but at least you know what was said.

Good Morning fellow Booster Clubs Family Members.

For the Rookies present, I am Joan Schott, President of the Philadelphia Firebirds Booster Club. And all you Rookies are probably too young to have ever heard of the Firebirds, I assure they are not a figment of my imagination. They really did exist for two seasons. I am happy to be back in Albany for Convention. The last time it was here in 2000, I was a month away from becoming a grandmother. And social media was not as prevalent then as it is today.

Fifteen years later, my grandson Steven is a sophomore in high school where he made the honor roll each quarter of his Freshman year. Steven plays the drums in the school band and on any other flat surface around, is in the choir and plays hockey for the local township. This summer he decided not to play baseball. His father was asked if Steven might like to umpire and Steven was happy to do that. When I talked to him about how he got the job he said Daddy got it for me and I get paid \$18 a game during the week and \$25 on the weekend. I said Oh, Daddy got you the job. Well that makes Daddy your agent and agents get 10% of your salary. There was dead silence on the phone, then Steven said he would have to think about that, after all he was the one earning the money. What a rude awakening he is going to have later on when he starts paying FICA, IRS, state and city taxes on the money he earns. He has no idea that he will be working 5 and one half months a year to cover all these taxes.

Also since 2000, the world of Facebook has been opened to me. I had been on Facebook several years but rarely looked at it until this year. When I did, I found so much minutia there. Who wants to see pictures of animals. Yes, they are all adorable and flowers, yes they are all beautiful and who really cares that so and so is going to have dinner

at their favorite restaurant or going to the gym. And my favorite is the one when someone lets you know they are getting a pedicure. Next year, I am due for a colonoscopy do I post this on Facebook?

Ken and Steven decided to visit Philadelphia and spend some time with me, so we had our annual meeting in Philadelphia this year and since it was not an election year, I remain president. They arrived on a Thursday and went to the outlet mall Thursday evening to look for Philly sports items. On Friday, we went to the pool and that evening they went to the Phillies game; Saturday, after going to Forman Mills to look for additional Philly related items, they went to the Phillies game and preceding both games they went to Chickie & Pete's for their dinner. Then, Sunday afternoon they went to the Phillies game and left for home from there. Did you notice exactly how much time they actually spent with me?

Ken, "the great college hockey journalist for the Schenectady Gazette" (his words, not mine) begins his 25th year of covering Union College hockey and the 20th year of his radio show on Fox Sports 980. He is very proficient on Facebook and is actually the one who told me what I was missing by not checking my account daily.

Now, I am not going to go crazy with social media. I don't send text messages, I don't shoot videos for YouTube. Can you just imagine what they might be like? Nor do I plan on opening a Twitter account. And, SnapChat, what the heck is that? And, of course, my speech is now probably trending on Twitter since I gave Ken a copy to review. I have made an impact!

Thank you and enjoy the rest of this marvelous Family Reunion.

Good Afternoon and Good Hockey!

