



SHARK BYTES



Volume 6, Issue 1



Proud affiliate of the



September 2011

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME BY: RICH LUNDIN

Hi Everyone!

I hope you had a great off-season – now it's time to get back to hockey! Our sixth season of Sharks hockey – time is flying!

Each year we try to have a theme to what we want to accomplish as a club. This year – the theme is 'refocus'. I considered year one a 'clean up and organize' year, and years two and three as 'stabilize'. Years four and five, the focus was on 'growth'; Growth in our membership, how we support the Sharks, and how we support the community. I think as a club, we did a great job in years 1-3, but had a little bit of a hangover in post-All Star Classic year 4, and year 5 we had a drop off in volunteers and active members. Hence the refocusing.

Last season was the 1st time we ever had to cancel road trips. In addition, our attendance was down for the annual awards banquet, and participation in working concessions was also way down. There are obviously several reasons for this. First is money. We all have been affected by the economy, and the top priority in supporting the team is buying tickets. Next would be when the on-ice product isn't as successful as expected, interest in activities wanes. You would as boosters, this would not be an issue, but reality is that for some it is. I see it and hear it. The only advice I can give here is to try and push through that, and focus on the overall fun we have at games, including the social aspect in meeting up with friends and family. Regardless, our mission is to promote and support the Sharks on the ice and in the community. Lastly, what I think most of us are going through is complacency.

We've accomplished a lot - in the past. But - a lot has become routine. We have gotten comfortable and lost some focus. If we as a club stay complacent, deterioration begins and the next thing you know – we no longer have a team. Let's not ever get to that point again, and have to wonder if we could have done anything differently to change the situation but didn't because of complacency. We did so much as a club to get this team here, We need to stay focused and on top of things – and put in same effort we put forth back in 2005-2006. We as a booster club (and as individual boosters) play a big part in the overall relationship between our fan base and the Sharks organization, as well as the community and the Sharks. Individually, this sounds like a lot of responsibility. But as a club, we can provide the structure and support needed to continue to build, grow, and promote the "Sharks Experience".

Let me start at the top – me. I admit and apologize for not being on top of my game last year. I have no excuse except becoming too complacent and too comfortable. There was a lot to reflect upon this summer. So this year I pledge to become refocused. As you can see from this newsletter, we have already outlined so much for you in order for you to plan out the season. We have already set dates for the Holiday Party, Player Awards Banquet, membership meetings, newsletter deadlines/publication dates, membership kit distribution date, trips, and tried to outline tentative prices where applicable.

Now I ask for your help. I need us as a club to be more active. We need more trip participation – as a group. We need more volunteers to work concessions to keep costs down for our events. We need participation and new ideas from you. If you have questions or concerns, we want to hear them, and will discuss with you. Hopefully we'll see you at membership meetings. If not, then at games, or you can always call me (508-829-8285). We have a solid foundation – with some *great* volunteers - and I'd like to expand on that. There's always room for more! We all need to do what we can to keep being a successful club, and for the ongoing health of *our* Worcester Sharks. Here's to a great upcoming season!

Yours in hockey,
Rich Lundin

NEXT BOOSTER CLUB MEETING
Tuesday October 11th–7pm
Overtime Tap—50 Front Street Worcester
Special Guest—Worcester Sharks President Michael Mudd

Visit us on the Web!!! WWW.SHARKSBOOSTERS.COM

CONCESSION STANDS

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

BY RICH LUNDIN

Last year we had a slower, than normal, response to our need to work concessions.

We had about 15 people volunteer for several shows. We raised over **\$3000** in very short year. I can't stress enough how important this is to our club. Without volunteers stepping up to work concessions, you could expect booster club events such as our holiday party and awards banquet to go up at least \$15 per person! Nobody wants that. It also helped in other areas such as the broomball tournament we hosted. We have been able to work the Grandstand which with sellout events has made **\$1000 for the club in one night!** For anyone that wishes to volunteer their time, we are offering **free parking** at the garage across from Uno's, and **\$10 Booster Bucks (up from \$5)** which can be used on any **trip** and also to our **banquets**. We might roll this out to merchandise as well, but haven't got that far yet.

Concessions have gone very smoothly - even for a rookie like me. The DCU Center folks were there for us when needed. Believe it or not (but you can ask the others that did it), we actually had fun doing it!

So it's time to get back on the bandwagon! Don't feel shy if you never have done it before - we have always made sure we had enough people to help each other out. You can run cash registers, fill food trays, flip burgers, you get the idea - it ain't that hard!

Please email the club at info@sharksbc.com or call me @508-829-8285 to signup!

Thanks again!
Rich

Dates coming up:

October 21st - Jeff Dunham (A MUST DO!)

November 25th - Gun's N' Roses (A MUST DO!)

November 29th—Bob Seger (A MUST DO!)

Nothing Else Until February!



COMMITTEES

AWARDS

Rich Lundin

BY-LAWS

Darryl Hunt
Josie Brown
Bob Gillies
Ernie Racine

COMMUNICATIONS

Judi Dionne
Rich Lundin

GAME NIGHT

Chris O'Shea
Looking for more help

HOSPITALITY

Chris O'Shea
Looking for more help

MEMBERSHIP

Linda Lachance
Marc Lachance

SPECIAL EVENTS

Josie Brown
Looking for more help

TRAVEL

Rich Lundin
Josie Brown
Linda Lachance
Marc Lachance
Gerry Collette
Chris O'Shea
Darryl Hunt
Always looking for help/ideas

NEWSLETTER

Rich Lundin
Erin Martin

CONCESSIONS

Rich Lundin
Nick Kronopolus

The following committees are open. Contact any board member or email the club if interested:

AUDIT	ELECTION
HISTORIAN	SPORTS
SUNSHINE	YOUTH

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rich Lundin, **President**
(508) 829-8285
WorcesterShark@aol.com

Ernie Racine, **Vice President**
FinAddictAHL@verizon.net

Judi Dionne, **Secretary**
sharkbytesbc@gmail.com

Chris O'Shea, **Treasurer**
HockeyNanny20@aol.com

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Mary Teixeira
matatm@yahoo.com

Wish to get involved or head up a committee? Contact any Board member. We're always looking for help! Enjoyment and making great friends are the fringe benefits!

COLUMBUS DAY

&

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADES

Please note since this is our 1st game of the year (in Providence), we will not be marching in the Columbus Day parade. And unfortunately, we have a home game on the day of the 2012 St. Patrick's Day Parade.

SAVE THE DATE

Holiday Party—Wednesday December 14th

Player Awards Banquet—Tuesday April 3rd

Tentative Prices for each event
\$41 Adult, \$36 Seniors 65+, \$10 Kids Under 17

ROAD TRIP UPDATE

BY RICH LUNDIN

We've had some great trips this past year! Are you ready to do it again? We have been reviewing the recently released schedule and have some tentative dates and prices (all subject to change)

Sun Oct 9 @ Providence (game #1!) \$15

Sun Dec 4 @ Manchester \$29 adults, \$21 kids

Fri Jan 6 @ Springfield \$20

Sat Feb 18 @ Connecticut \$39 or Sun Feb 19 @ Springfield \$20

Sun Mar 4 @ Portland \$39

Sat Apr 14 @ Adirondack \$55



Please call Rich @ 508-829-8285 or email at info@sharksbc.com to sign up for the Providence trip.

Also, we will not be getting tickets for San Jose in Boston unfortunately, as the Worcester Sharks have a game at the same time.

We will look into getting anyone who is interested tickets to see at game in St. John's, and will help plan your travel.

We'll also look into getting tickets for a game in San Jose (thinking maybe vs St. Louis Sat March 3rd). Those we went last time were treated well- special access to practice, players, and admission to the club inside the arena.

DISCOUNTED TICKETS FOR BOOSTERS!

The following teams have provided discounts to our booster club members (you must make the arrangements)

Providence Bruins

have a by one get one free Promo all year

<https://www.providencebruins.com/Tickets/BOGOFGame/free>

50/50 ON GAME NIGHTS

I will be looking for boosters to step up and help out with 50/50 on game nights. You are asked to be there by 5:45PM for 7 PM games, 6:15 for 7:30 PM games, 1:45 for 3 PM games, 2:45 for 4 PM games to get things set up prior to the doors opening. Generally we ask that there be at least one booster per night but some nights we may need additional people. For all those who have done it in the past I hope you will be back this season and we welcome new people too! Thanks! Please contact me at Hockeynanny20@aol.com to schedule your night. I usually try to have people sign up monthly but if you want to sign up for nights further on in the schedule that is okay to.

You do need a ticket to the game though. More information will follow.

LOOKING FOR BROOMBALL PLAYERS

We are looking for boosters to come join the broomball team- requirements 18 yrs & older have your own equipment (helmet, pads, gloves, shoes and broom-although not all needed until you decide if you want to partake in the team) The team is a CO-Ed one so we are looking for men and women to check this out. We hope to set a practice in late October or November to start. Our practice times aren't the best usually 11 PM or later, but sometimes we

luck out and have them at 10 or even on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in seeing what it is all about please email me at Hockeynanny20@aol.com so I can keep you up to date on what is going on. We need players at every position-goalie, forward and defense. You can also check out footage from this year's tournament on www.livesportsvideos.com go to other sports-broomball AHLBC Broomball Syracuse and all the round robin games are there. Unfortunately something went wrong and the playoffs are not there.

BOOSTER CLUB ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Booster Club is continuing its Annual Membership Drive



Membership dues are:
Individual \$10
Family \$25
Teen (13-17), Seniors (65+) \$5
Kids (12 + under) Free!



Benefits of joining the Booster Club and supporting the Worcester Sharks include:

- Spending time with other Worcester Sharks fans
- Bus trips to away games (Hartford, Portland, Springfield, Adirondack, Manchester)
- Free Worcester Sharks 2011-2012 Pin

Discounts to:

- Away tickets to support the Sharks when they play Providence, Hartford & Springfield
- DCU family type events (such as Disney one Ice)
- Worcester Tornadoes outings
- BJ's Membership
- Wachusett Mountain GPS ski pass
- Free membership for Corporate Perks (discounts on national companies)
- Free membership to Mass Buying Power
- Jiffy Lube discount card.

We are working on other exciting discounts to come!

Helping out with the concession stands to raise much-needed funds for the Booster Club to continue its charity program. By volunteering to work the concession stands, you can gain Booster Bucks to help offset your cost of attending the Holiday and Annual Awards banquets, trips and get free parking.

These benefits are **ONLY** available if you renew now! If you haven't renewed yet, please do so as soon as possible before your name is inactivated from our membership. If you would like to print out a Membership form, please click here on <http://www.sharksboosters.com/k1.html>

ELECTIONS ARE COMING

Don't forget - This Year is an Election Year!

Both the executive board and board positions are all up for election in at the May Meeting. Nominations will be taken at the April meeting. Please make every effort to attend! Want to run for a board position or learn more? Please contact anyone on the board for more info - but most importantly show up at the membership meetings!

You can also consult our bylaws. We'll also need an **election committee**.

Come on folks the more the merrier! Get involved with shaping your booster club!

GAME NIGHT NOTES

BY CHRIS O'SHEA

It is almost time for HOCKEY!!!!!! It has been a terribly long off season to say the least. Hope everyone is ready for the 2011/2012 Worcester Sharks and AHL season. We look to have a team of many new faces as well as those from returning players. The season always starts out with so much hope and we hope that all the hard work and effort, the determination and the commitment is there and it continues all season long. We know many of our players will get the chance to be in San Jose, and they are all wished the very best. We also wish all our former players all the best with their new teams here in the States and in Europe. I hope they all know that they will be missed by us here in Worcester. The Home opener is on Saturday October 15 vs. the Albany Devils-hope to see you all there. Keep informed and stay tuned to www.sharksahl.com for all the updates and keep an eye open for emails from the booster club for all upcoming information as well as at www.sharksboosters.com

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES/ PUBLICATION DATES

We are committed to delivering your Booster club and team news each month. Below are the deadlines for article submissions, and publication dates. If you subscribe by mail, may pick up your newsletter at our table outside section 110.

November 8th/11th

November 23/26th

January 3rd/7th

February 7th/10th

March 3rd/6th

April 7th/13th

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

The following is a tentative schedule of our 2011-2012 General Membership meetings to be held at the Overtime Tap – 50 Front St, Worcester. We will meet in their beautiful basement space (handicap accessible). Each month we will have a guest player to answer all your questions! Come on down for some great company, great food and drink and great Sharks talk!

All meetings start at 7pm



Tuesday October 11th

Tuesday November 22nd

Tuesday January 17th

Monday February 27th

Tuesday March 20th

Monday April 9th

Tuesday May 22nd

Tuesday June 19th

THANK YOU

On behalf of the Booster Club, I'd like to thank all those who took part in helping at two off season events- The Worcester Fire Department Memorial 6K Race and Walk on June 12-Carol & Bob Oliver, Mary Teixeira, Pierce McDonnell and Allan Marcell

The Worcester Relay for Life on June 17& 18 Judi Dionne, Josie Brown-Lundin, Christine Gesek, Michael Braun, Pierce McDonnell, Marianne Adams, Kristen Poirier, Mark Whitaker, Claudette & Peter McNamara, Mark McGurn and FINZ and to all that donated to our team fundraising efforts. We really appreciate all your efforts and support.

AHLBC 2011 BROOMBALL TOURNAMENT UPDATE/RESULTS

The tournament was held in Cicero NY (a suburb of Syracuse NY) and hosted by the Syracuse Crunch Corps Boosters and Broomball Team on July 9, 2011. As is the case for most of the tournament the weather was hot, muggy, sunny and in the high 80's so it was good to be in an ice rink. The tournament started at 7 AM sharp, and we had the third game vs. the host team Syracuse and won 1-0. The second and third games against Philadelphia and Manchester didn't go our way and ended up losing them 3-1 and 2-0. Up next were Hershey and WBS and we were able to rebound in those games and come up with wins 1-0 and 2-0 ending up the round robin part of the tournament with a 3-2 record good for third seed in the playoff round. First place Philly and second place Manchester both had byes so we played the quarterfinal and semifinals. First round we played the sixth seed Syracuse and came away with the win to go into the semis. Second round we played the fourth seed WBS and fifth seed Hershey. Hershey came up the winner in that round. Third round we played the first seed Worcester and Philly vs. Hershey. Hershey won their game and advancing to the final. Philly had to vacate the top spot! It went to the 2 OT and a 1-0 score. Final game with Hershey coming out on top. Congratulations to the 2011 AHLBC Broomball Champs the Hershey Bears! We finished fourth this year. It is so nice to get together with our broomball family of friends and the camaraderie of all the teams is the best.



MVP of the day was Aron Bender of WBS, Unsung Hero Kathie Kissinger of Hershey, and Chris Perry of Manchester won the memorial "Bubba" award for outstanding goaltender. Many thanks go out to Syracuse's Rich Maracle who spearheaded the tournament for the Crunch and to the rest of the Crunch supporters who chipped in to help. The tournament is a lot of work to put on and they did a great job. More thanks to our team who although small this year, went out and competed strongly and were in every single game to the end we played. We missed those who were not able to make it this year due to injury, illness and work and hope you are all back next year. Thanks to my teammates Dave and Lisa Anger, Justin Smith, Mike LaPrade, Joe Ferraro, Fergie Ferguson, Jay and Jen Clem and to our teammate for the day Bob our goalie from Syracuse for all their hard work and effort during the tournament.

BOOSTER SEATS PROGRAM

BY ERNIE RACINE

Our Booster Seats program, in its fourth year, gives the club another way of giving back to the community while supporting Sharks hockey. We got a "wow" response from the AHL as we brought a large number of attendees to the All Star Classic. These are people who wouldn't otherwise have been able to attend. With the state of the economy, there is more need than ever and we want to respond. Here are a couple of ways that you can help.

First, help us connect to local groups who have a need. Have the organization fill out a Booster Seats request on the web at <http://www.tinyurl.com/boosterseats>. You can also forward contact information to Ernie Racine (FinAddictAHL@verizon.net) and we'll call them and explain the program. We are especially interested in supporting local organizations that serve the Worcester community. Second, support our ability to bring in more and larger groups. Proceeds from our 50/50 raffles support this as well as other charity efforts. So buy some tickets and encourage your friends to do the same.

Are you a season ticket holder with ticket vouchers that will go unused? (The Sharks 'no wasted ticket' program makes it more likely that you will have extra vouchers.) Put your extra vouchers in an envelope with your name and bring them to the Booster table at any game. We'll put them to good use. I'll let you know which group your tickets supported and help you get a receipt that might be useful as a tax deduction.

AAHLBC 2011 RECAP

This year's convention was held in Harrisburg, PA and hosted by the Hershey Bears Booster Club on the weekend of September 9-11. Over 230 boosters from around the league were expected to join the hockey family for a weekend of fun and friendship. What was not expected was the rain and flooding that devastated many cities and towns and homes of convention attendees from upstate NY and central/NE PA. Our convention hosts last year Binghamton was under water and many were not able to join us from that area as well as from the Wilkes-Barre area. Roads flooded, closed, washed out. Rivers and creeks way past flood levels, mandatory curfews on city streets, no drinking water bans, properties destroyed and loss of lives all went on during this week. Those that did make it to Harrisburg were grateful to make it and made the most of their time here.

Some side trips had to be canceled, The hotel (Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey) there. With the hotel being up on higher to downtown Harrisburg wasn't so lucky. week and start arriving early prior to the ac- and have fun. Hospitality rooms start on was a trip to Gettysburg for many and travel- the Hershey area up close rather than just was hit by rain but thankfully not flooding- there and details of how things were back back then and they still continue to preserve exploration of downtown Gettysburg - I after our two hour tour of the Gettysburg trail the museum-lots to see- and the gift shop. costume dinner after some of us went to the executive meeting.



but the majority of the events went on as planned. was great and very helpful throughout our stay ground the area was okay a few blocks away closer Many boosters have made this week a vacation tual start of the conventions to connect with friends Thursday night and are always so enjoyable. Friday ing there we got to see all the devastation around from pictures on the TV and computer. Gettysburg What an awesome place to visit! So much history then and how much of it still stands now as it did things of yesteryear. Heavy rains preventing further guess that will have to be another trip some day – so many found something to eat and then explored We returned back to Harrisburg to get ready for the

The theme was Honoring the Military and there were some creative costumes-Betsy Ross, Uncle Sam, The Marines at Iwo Jima, many fatigue shirts and pants, Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard were all represented as well as Hershey chocolate characters represented all the donations that Hershey's have made to our Military. After dinner and costume parade the booster family all gathered around the dance floor and sang God Bless the USA-holding hands as one- In Memory of 9/11! Rookie initiation followed that as did the hospitality room and more fun, stories and games were played.

Saturday saw the hustle and bustle of the booster clubs tables doing brisk business with raffles, selling of merchandise etc. while surrounding the breakfast tables. Next was the annual general meeting where we all get together and go over things that happened during the past year but that all came after the traditional singing of the Canadian and US anthems. Reports and correspondences were read, ideas discussed and then we had elections and the following are the executive board for the next two years-Melinda Harty-Pittsburgh-convention chair, Terri Lewis-Baltimore-President, Bill Walch-Manchester-VP, Cindy Haluszczak-Pittsburgh-Secretary and Chris O'Shea-Worcester-Treasurer. The rest of the afternoon was filled with trips the Chocolate World which had been able to open on Friday after being closed due to the flooding and closed roads, so many familiar faces were seen as they were on Friday when even more people visited the hot spot. Others went to the Hollywood casino. The SUN finally came out on Saturday –Hooray!!

Many took the time of sun and warmth to enjoy the outdoor swimming pool before getting ready for the formal dinner in which we honored and remembered all those lost in the 9/11 attacks 10 years ago and those who are fighting for our freedom now because of it. We heard inspirational words from two of our boosters, as well as a recently retired firefighter from Wilbraham MA, a Fire Chaplin from Pompton Lakes NJ and we also had a volunteer firefighter from Harrisburg and all were honored for their efforts and work. We then heard from Sean Lavione from the AHL office before we had the raffles called and dinner concluded. On to the hospitality room and boy was it busy there!!!! Laughter, fun, building of towers, LRC games, games played outside with ping pong balls and the traditional singing of the Anthems again at midnight on our last night there- everyone stops what they are doing to come into the room to be a part of it.

Sunday was a day to say good bye to our family of friends for another year unless we have the good fortune to see them throughout the year on travels to their rinks or to ours.

May everyone have a safe, healthy and great season with their respective clubs and may we all meet again in Cleveland Ohio in September 2012. That's right the AAHLBC 2012 will be hosted by the Cleveland Hockey Boosters and the theme is "Cleveland Rocks" in which you can come dress as any icon that has been selected into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Many thanks go out to the Tom Mara and the Hershey Bears Booster Club who were excellent hosts as well as all their hard work and effort despite the set back of the weather and to the Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey for their hospitality to all of us that made it down to convention.

Our prayers and thoughts are with all our booster friends who have experienced such devastation and destruction with all this crazy weather Mother Nature has thrown our way since the summer has began. Now that it is Fall may the weather change for the better for all of us. Enough is enough!!!!

We look forward to 2012 and if you have any questions regarding attending the AAHLBC convention do not hesitate to ask.

Visit us on the Web!!! WWW.SHARKSBOOSTERS.COM



NEWSLETTER



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