



SHARK BYTES



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Proud affiliate of the



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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 ninth season of Sharks hockey, and this is the 20th anniversary of AHL hockey in Worcester!

Each year we try to have a theme to what we want to accomplish as a club. This past season, our theme was “visibility”. This season, I would like to keep with this theme, but add 2 more.

Overall, we achieved most of our goals last year. Our attendance remained excellent for the Holiday Party, with an increase in donations of toys for Friendly House. The annual Awards Banquet attendance also grew. Road trips were not as successful as the previous season – but this was mainly due to lack of dates which could work. Hopefully this year will be even more successful, as we have several great trips planned (see inside newsletter).

Participation working concessions was up quite a bit compared to previous years which was great, as we needed to replenish our funds. And we still need to seize on opportunities to work events. We need more volunteers to work concessions to keep costs down for our events.

As boosters, we put focus on the overall fun we have at games, including the social aspect in meeting up with friends and family. Our mission to promote and support the Sharks on the ice and in the community was very strong last season, and I am proud of the effort the booster club put forth. Something that I happily noticed was the continuation of participation from new boosters, and the younger boosters stepping up and being an integral part of the club. I hope this continues – it was great to see.

We need to continue what we've been doing, and also recognize and react to the challenges we face for the upcoming season. This year, the themes will also be “*support*”, and “*fun*”.

I don't think I need to re-hash the situation with San Jose potentially moving the Worcester Sharks to the west coast. What I can tell is that San Jose has been very up front and honest about their desire. But nothing is in place - and may not be for some time. I can show you articles written in 2008 about rumors and ‘done-deals’ of NHL west teams moving their affiliates west. As a fan, and as a city, it can be very frustrating waiting for the shoe may drop (if it does). But we are boosters – we are the core of all things hockey in this community. We need to not only keep up the support for the Sharks, but in doing so will show that we can support another AHL team (if the Sharks do leave). If we jump off the bandwagon (or allow others to), we won't have hockey in Worcester much longer. It is critical that we support this team, the community, and have fun while doing it.

(Continued on next page)

Visit us on the Web!!!

WWW.SHARKSBOOSTERS.COM

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME (CONTINUED)

Having fun for most of us is the easy part. Yes I know – it's more fun when we win. But really, this should be a social night out. Pre or post game dinners, and in between watching some hockey – letting loose, etc.

So what can we do – or should I say – what can **YOU** do? We need to become more visible, and also make the Sharks more visible as well. How? When you're out and about – wear your Sharks apparel. Pick up boxes of pocket schedules from the office, and leave them in business you frequent, and also at your work. Ask for them at the fan assistance table – they will be more than happy to give them to you. Reach out to friends, family, neighbors, about how Sharks games are affordable and so much fun, great place to have a group outing, birthday parties, etc. **We are an extension of the Sharks office.** Our job is also to promote and sell the Sharks to this community.

Lastly, my annual warning on complacency. We've accomplished a lot. But - a lot has become routine. We can easily get too comfortable and lose 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”.

Now I ask for your help. I need us as a club to be more active in every aspect. Getting more people to games is a priority. 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

ROAD TRIP UPDATE

BY RICH LUNDIN

We've listened to feedback and we're going to focus on the longer trips this season Below are some tentativedates, with prices to be announced (all subject to change)

Fri/Sat Nov 21-22 Lehigh Valley + Hershey (Overnight Trip!)

Sat Dec 20 - Portland

Sat Dec 27 – Syracuse

Sat Jan 24 – Albany

AND MORE TO COME!

NEW THIS YEAR – pay in full early and get a discount!



We are also working on getting boosters group rate tickets prices even if we do not go as a group, for the following teams: Manchester, Portland, Providence has deals all the time for everyone – and I'll be emailing one out shortly.

Please call Rich @ 508-829-8285 or email at info@sharksbc.com with any questions

CONCESSION STANDS

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

BY RICH LUNDIN

This year will be challenging. There are events booked early on, so it is critical that we respond!



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 merchandise, any **trip**, and also to our **banquets**.

Concessions have gone very smoothly - even for a rookie like me. The DCU Center folks are 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 sign up!
Thanks again!
Rich

Dates coming up:

ArenaCross 11/22
Monster Jam 2/13-2/15



COMING SOON!!

COMMITTEES

Awards
Rich Lundin

By-Laws
Darryl Hunt
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

Looking for more help

Travel

Rich Lundin
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
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

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Buzz Bayer
beekaybear@aol.com

John Grogan
jfgrogan@alum.wpi.edu

Dave Jaffarian
wsharks06@charter.net

Darryl Hunt
DarrylHunt@gmail.com

Chris Gesek
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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!

WATCH THIS SPACE

Holiday Party — Mid December

Player Awards Banquet — Mid April

Tentative Prices for each event
\$43 Adult, \$38 Seniors 65+, \$10 Kids Under 17

New this year – discounts if you pay in full early!

50/50 HELP ON GAME NIGHTS

I will be looking for help for each home game to do 50/50 please email me at Hockeynanny20@aol.com and let me know your availability. Thanks!!

Let's first work on these dates Tue 10/21, Fri 10/24, Sun 10/26, Wed 10/29, Sat 11/1, Wed 11/5, Sat 11/8, Fri 11/14, Sat 11/15

Arrival for 7PM games 5:45PM, for 7:30 games 6:15PM and for 3PM games 1:45PM

Once again I thank those who have helped out in the past and hope you come back again this season to help.

BOOSTER SEATS PROGRAM

BY ERNIE RACINE

Our Booster Seats program, in its seventh 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 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.

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. We need to see the interest that is out there before we know if we can field a team. 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.

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 11th/14th

December 9th/13th

January 12th/16th

February 17th/20st

March 15th/18th

April 9th/11th

BOOSTER CLUB ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Booster Club is starting 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 (Hershey, Springfield, Portland, Syracuse, Etc.)
- Free Worcester Sharks 2014-2015 20th Anniversary Pin

Discounts to:

- Away tickets to support the Sharks when they play: Manchester, Portland, Providence
- DCU family type events (such as Disney On Ice)
- Free membership for Corporate Perks (discounts on national companies)
- Free membership to Mass Buying Power

We have more 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 www.sharksboosters.com/k1.html

Membership forms are also available at all Sharks home games by section 109/110.

GAME NIGHT NOTES

BY CHRIS O'SHEA

Welcome to the 2014-2015 Worcester Sharks Hockey season. The Sharks start their 9th year here in Worcester and it will be the 20th year of Worcester hockey. The year will be intertwined with IceCats and Sharks memories so come shared this special year with us.

We all look forward to a wonderful year ahead for our Sharks. As with any season there are changes to the team we will see before us, and we roll out the welcome wagon for all the new guys to our hockey family – Bryan Lerg, Evan Trupp, Taylor Fedun, Melker Karlsson, Micheal Haley, Jeremy Langlois, Petter Emanuelsson, Gus Young, Matt Taormina, JP Anderson.

We also welcome back Troy Grosenick, Dylan DeMelo, Taylor Doherty, Matt Tennyson, Eriah Hayes, Konrad Abeltshauser, Freddie Hamilton, Travis Olesuk, Ryan Carpenter, Rylan Schwatz, Chris Crane and Jimmy Bonneau.

We also welcome back the hockey staff Head Coach Roy Sommer, athletic trainer Matt White, equipment manager Chris Davidson-Adams, asst equipment manager Mike Blomgren and video coach Charlie Townsend. We welcome to the staff new assistant coach Ryan Mougengel and strength and conditioning assistant Marco Sanchez to the family.

Welcome back to the Sharks front office staff-Mike Myers, Suzanne DeGeorge, Eric Lindquist, Kristyn Galante, Ryan Walsh, Dave Gwozdz, Mike Murtha, Joey Goldstein, Peter Kelly, Andrew Nawn, and welcome to the staff Emily Quinn, Carly Grimaudo, Dominic Dipersia and Matt Baranofsky.

Welcome back to the game time crew lead by Greg Cirrone, Adam Webster and George Brown and the one and only Top Shark-FINZ. We will also welcome back longtime favorite teal cat Scratch many times during this special 20th season as well surprise guests.

We hope to get more participation from all our boosters for different things throughout the season because the more help we have the more things we can do and if anyone has any ideas on things to do please do not hesitate to forward them to the board so we can discuss them.

Please check the game night table for any upcoming events that you can help out at. I'm always looking for additional boosters to help with the 50/50 table so that we do not over burden those that have been staples the last few years - Chris J, John W and Judi D who I'm truly grateful for all their time over the seasons. It's not too hard to learn or do and we can assist anyone who'd like to step forward and help out. It consists of at least an hour before the game and then in between the periods. We really try to not make you miss any of the game –except maybe a few minutes here or there, but the tv is right there to help. Please see me at the games or contact me at Hockeynanny20@aol.com if you can give us some of your time – thanks!!

GOODBYES

The Sharks said good bye to associate coach David Cunniff in the summer as he chose to pursue new challenges and he signed with the Albany Devils in September as assistant coach and we wish him and his family –wife MaryAnn, sons David & Patrick all the best but know that he will be missed here in Worcester. We thank him for all his years with the Sharks organization.

We also wish our guys from last season or more all the best in their new situations and teams but they will forever be part of our Worcester Hockey family. John McCarthy, Dan DaSiva, Sena Acolatse, Nick Petrecki, Brodie Reid, Bracken Kearns, Rob Davison, Brock Higgs, Curt Gogol, Chad Rau, Marek Viedensky, Adam Schmidt, Adam Comrie –Thank you all for your time here in Worcester.

Our Booster Club suffered a huge loss this summer in June when our friend Marianne Adams passed away suddenly up in Maine where she had just gone up there for the summer. We send our heartfelt prayers, thoughts, condolences and sympathies to her husband Bill and son Jason as well as their entire family. She and Bill were always fixtures on our road trips and they had been with us as boosters and hockey supporters going back to the IceCats days. Her friendly greetings and smile will be missed-Marianne may you rest in God's peace.

AHLBCC 2014 CONFERENCE RECAP BY CHRIS O'SHEA

This year's booster club convention (Hockey Family Reunion) was held in Pittsburgh at the Doubletree Pittsburgh Downtown and hosted by the Philadelphia Firebirds and Pittsburgh Penguins Booster Clubs. This was the 50th Anniversary of this wonderful event that always kicks off the hockey season for all of us. 225 boosters from around the AHL both present and past started to make their way to the Steel city early Labor Day weekend, as the convention doesn't officially start until the Friday after Labor day, but by Thursday about 85% of attendees were already there. They came in cars, on planes and trains and we greatly appreciate the efforts of the Pittsburgh boosters for the transportation from the airports or train stations.

The early arrivals took time to explore what the city had to see whether it be the downtown area, Market Square, the famous Primanti Brothers restaurants, the Strip District filled with many types of ethnic shops and stores, Station Square across the Monongahela River as well as the two inclines (Monongahela & Duquesne) that give you awesome views of the city from way up high. Other stops were to PNC Park-home of the Pittsburgh Pirates (MLB) and Heinz Field –home of the Pittsburgh Steelers (NFL) and to of course the CONSOL Center where the Pittsburgh Penguins (NHL) play - this was only two blocks from our hotel. For the drinking connoisseurs, there were plenty of places for them to go like the Hofbrauhaus, Church Brew Works, Penn Brewery, and Allegheny Brewery & Pub to name a few that I heard mentioned all week.

Friday is first the board meeting for representatives from each club and then it is the costume party dinner - this year the theme was hockey through the years so many wore jerseys that represented many past and present teams and it was so great to see the variety of jerseys. We also had use of a photo booth and so many took advantage of it. In the part of the hotel where our functions were held were so many pictures, memories and past names of those who started this up and those who have passed on the legacy to those of today.

Hospitality rooms were busy Thursday through Saturday nights after our dinner functions were over-so much fun and laughter and activities going on for everyone. Saturday starts out with the booster club tables then the general meeting for all boosters to attend. As per tradition the anthems were sung before the meeting was started and near the end of the meeting we all viewed the wonderful DVD recap (Dennis Gottesman from Hershey put together) of last year's convention in Rochester. Then, it was more side trips (cruise and duck boats) and the one I went on was the cruise on a river boat along the 3 rivers in Pittsburgh to view the city and history. Although overcast, it was a beautiful ride.

Saturday evening is set aside for us to get out of the usual hockey attire and get all dressed up and I do have to say that we all do a pretty good job of cleaning up and looking sharp. Two special ladies received special awards for their dedication to the convention, when they do not have team anymore or will ever have teams-Joan Schott –Philly Firebirds and Beatrice Smith Halifax Citadels. Our guest speaker was Phil Bourque for NHL player from Chelmsford MA and Stanley Cup winner with the Pittsburgh Penguins. He is currently in the broadcast booth helping to call Penguins games. We all saw a special DVD featuring 50 years of memories and people made by Dennis from many of the pictures that people had sent in from previous conventions and it also had in memory to those who have passed that were convention goers. There was also a single table set for two with candle light illuminating it and a memory book of all those who have passed on from each club and are in the hockey family in heaven.

As usual on Saturday night at 12 midnight we all gather in the hospitality room to sing in unison the National Anthems of Canada and the US. Sunday morning came and it was time to say farewell until we meet again in Albany next September, although many of us will see each other during the season. Once again it was an awesome time had by all. Thank you to both the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia Firebirds Booster Clubs for their wonderful handling of this year's convention.

We are truly a family that comes together not only in September, but at the All-Star game, the broomball tournament and throughout the season and we care about each other and when one hurts we all hurt and when someone is in need we are there for them. Our friend Jeremy from the Philadelphia Phantoms Phan Club is going through chemo and radiation for neck and brain cancer and is putting up a great battle and is fighting it with all he has. As you know not all of it is covered by insurance so we were able to help him and his wife Donna out with many monetary donations and with love and support throughout the week in Pittsburgh. We continue to send our prayers and thoughts to Jeremy and Donna.

If anyone is interested in more info regarding the annual convention it will be coming out by the end of January if not earlier. As mentioned next year's convention will be held in Albany NY and hosted by the Albany Devils and Utica Devils Booster Clubs on September 11-13, 2015. I'll have it at the table when it becomes available.

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



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