

Fireline

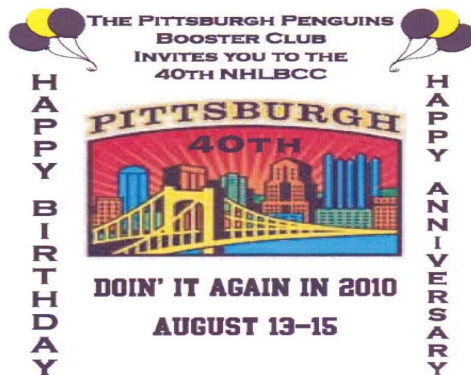


The Newsletter of the Atlanta Flames Fan Club

Volume 37 Issue 1

Atlanta, Georgia

October, 2010



**Y'all are invited to join
the NHLBCC for a
Pig Pickin' & Beach Party!
August 12-14, 2011
Come early & enjoy all
NC has to offer.
Hockey
Southern Style**

Once again we have returned from another great convention. This time hosted by our friends in Pittsburgh

220 NHLBC members traveled to Pittsburgh where we stayed at the same hotel as the 1993 convention the Green Tree Radisson.

Among those in attendance from the AFFC were Mary Kay Davis, Cathi Flanagan, Tom Gibbs, Betsy and Joe Watkins. Bev Gibbs as usual attended with her original club the New York Rangers.

As usual, there was a host of trips/events during the week.

Sunday was a Pirates-Rockies game at PNC park. Monday was a choice between Flight 93 Memorial and Quecreek Mine Rescue Site or Whitewater Rafting down the Middle Youghiogheny River or a trip to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame & Museum in Cleveland. Wednesday was the day of tours to PNC Park and Heinz Field. Wednesday night was the infamous Hofbrauhaus and Pub Crawl.

Next year's convention will be hosted by our friends in Carolina, August 12-14.

Besides the convention some of the suggested tours will be a choice(s) of Duke University, downtown Raleigh, the Carolina coast and lighthouses, Vineyard tours, a trip to the Biltmore Estate, Winston-Salem, Wilmington as well as the NASCAR Hall of Fame in Charlotte.

Information will be sent out as soon we receive it from Carolina Hurricanes Boosters Club



See page two re hosting 2013 convention

Officers

**President—Joe Watkins
Vice President—Betsy Watkins
Sec./Treasurer—Cathi Flanagan**

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Convention continued

Pub Crawl

Two busloads of conventioners headed out Thursday to attend the annual Pub Crawl on the south side of Pittsburgh. The evening began with dinner at The Hofbrauhaus, with traditional German fare such as wiener schnitzel, sauerkraut, spaetzle noodles, dumplings and a variety of sausages.

Each reveler was handed a two page list complete with reviews of all the bars along a stretch of Carson Street. They were all in older buildings, so they all had that historic feel, but that was where the similarities ended. The interior and the theme of every bar was unique. The crowd favorites were the Lava Lounge, where the music was decidedly 80s and the clientele spanned several generations, and the Tiki Room, which featured island themed décor and volcanic drinks. Most folks returned to the hotel on one of the two buses, but a handful of stalwarts, including Tom Gibbs and Cathi Flanagan, stayed on until the bars closed.

Thursday's trips were either to the Football Hall of Fame in Canton or a trip to Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob Mill Run to see some of Frank Lloyd Wright's architectures. Thursday night a hundred plus NHLBCC members enjoyed a Gateway Clipper Cruise with chicken and ribs dinner while cruising up and down the three rivers in Pittsburgh—the Allegheny, Monongahela and the Ohio.

Friday was the Just Ducky tour (land and water) tour of Pittsburgh. Then Friday night it was time to celebrate the NHLBCC's 40th Birthday. It was team colors night and we enjoyed a buffet of stadium style food and danced into the night with the D.J. Afterwards it was on to the hospitality rooms.

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Savannah by Atlanta—2013

For the last several years we have looked into hosting a convention either in Atlanta or Savannah. We tried twice in Atlanta and once in Savannah, only to conclude it would not be financially feasible.

But to the rescue come Larry Zub and Sue Lefever. They checked out Savannah and found the newly renovated Hilton hotel in the historic district in Savannah was a good choice to make this happen. While we have not committed to submitting a bid at this time we are working on cementing as much as possible so we are comfortable on bidding for the convention.

Last month we held a club meeting featuring a low country boil dinner after our convention picture session and prior to the meeting to discuss club business and the convention.

The weekend dinner dance will be a Jimmy Buffet night, dress will be Jimmy Buffet music and Hawaiian/Caribbean shirts and shorts. The other night will be team colors

We are looking at making a low country boil as one of the main dishes.

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Convention continued

Thursday, there were two day trips.

One was trip to Canton, Ohio to see the Football Hall of Fame or to Fallingwater & Kentuck Knob Mill Run and Chalk Hill, PA to see some of Frank Lloyd Wright's architectures.

Thursday night was the Gateway Clipper Cruise, a evening of chicken and ribs dinner while taking in the sights of Pittsburgh on the Allegheny, Monongahela and the Ohio rivers.

Friday, the only scheduled event was the "Just Ducky Tour," a sightseeing tour on the duck vehicles that can travel on water and land. Also included in the tour was the opportunity to ride the Mon Incline to Mt. Washington and the shops at Station Square.

Friday night it was to celebrate the NHLBCC's fortieth birthday party. Dinner was typical arena food, hot dogs, hamburgers etc in a ballroom festooned with balloons and streamers—for dessert were cakes with all the teams logos.

Afterwards, of course the D.J. cranked up the music for dancing for the rest of the night. Then it was off to the hospitality rooms

Saturday morning was breakfast and General Membership meeting. As usual we were updated by all clubs about last season's activities, comments re the off season player movements and lots of congratulations to Pittsburgh Penguins Booster Club for the convention and the Chicago Blackhawks Standbys for their team winning Lord Stanley's Cup and to the Flyers Fan Club for their team's great run through the playoffs, comments re the off season player movements.

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Savannah by Atlanta—continued

Some of the tours/activities discussed :

Monday, a trip to a Sand Gnats minor league Game (if in town).

Tuesday, a day trip to Charleston, S.C. and /or haunted house tour.

Wednesday - day off—everyone can go sightseeing in Savannah or go over to Tybee Island.

Wednesday night—River Street pub crawl.

Thursday—possible tour to Tybee Island Fort Pulaski, lighthouse, lunch on the island and couple of hours of beach time.

Possible trip to Parris Island, S.C. Museum and/or day trip to Beaufort, S.C. or a cruise/tour to Daufuskie Island, S.C.

Thursday night will be a dinner cruise on the Savannah River.

Thursday/Friday—on-your own sightseeing and/or a photo scavenger hunt.

Convention Committee:

Co-Chairpersons - Bev Gibbs / Cathi Flanagan

Registration - Cathi Flanagan

Treasurer/Transportation - Tom Gibbs

Hospitality - Louis Principato

Pre-Convention - Sue Lefever

Printing, badges, pins, book—Betsy Watkins

Toast / Gifts - Joe Watkins

Hotel - Larry Zub

Time to join/renew AFFC membership

Now is the time to join or renew your AFFC membership for the upcoming season—2010-2011.

Included in the is email is a PDF file membership application form. Or it can be located at <http://affc1.t35.com/affcnew.htm>

Convention Continued

And of course, lot's of congratulations to Pittsburgh Penguins Booster Club for the convention and the Chicago Blackhawks Standbys for their team winning Lord Stanley's Cup and to the Flyers Fan Club for their team's great run through the play-offs. In closing Atlanta's "Flat Betsy" Watkins thanked everyone for her "out of body " experience at the Las Vegas convention

There was a very moving moment when Frank Marshall (Winnepeg} and Kathy Marshall (Cleveland) chose to combine their time and mentioned all of the NBHLC members who had passed away over the years.

Then Crys Harms whose daughter is under going treatment for Leukemia, implored everyone to get involved in helping out in any way possible with anyone suffering from any debilitating disease

Then Claire Cook, Suzanne Hagen, Dawn Mooney and Chris Clark updated everyone about 2011 NHLBCC in Carolina. Up next was Florida Panthers Booster Club which updated us on the plans for 2012.

Afterwards was the delegates committee meeting where we went through the usual committee reports, etc. The only news to report were—Vancouver Canucks Booster had officially disbanded and Florida was awarded the 2012 convention.

The Atlanta Flames Fan Club also mentioned that it was seriously looking into bidding for the 2013 NHLBC convention which would held in Savannah.

Then it was on to the Consol Energy Center where the final touches are being made to open the Penguins new home.

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Betsy with "Flat Betsy"



Betsy, Joe, Cathi - Friday night



Convention Continued

Saturday night was the “Anniversary Waltz” (business casual) diner/dance.

Dinner consisted of a choice Roast beef with mushroom gravy, Chicken Maurice, Grilled Atlantic Salmon or a Vegetarian meal.

One of the highlights of the convention was inducting three new members into the NHLBCC Hall-of-Fame. Those inducted were L.A. Kings member Denise Piper and Pittsburgh members Pam Appel and Peggy Lonett.

The last order of business was the handing of the gavel from Pittsburgh’s Melinda Harty to Carolina’s Clare Cook, with good luck wishes for the Carolina convention.

Then it was time for the D.J. to crank up the music for dancing for everyone. Then it was on to the hospitality rooms to mingle and chat. When the hospitality rooms closed down - it was time for the “infamous” Survivor’s night - where those brave (?), hardy (?) and/or crazy enough, finished off the convention by staying up until breakfast Sunday morning.

Survivors

After the rest of the partying was over, the heartiest of conventioners moved to the hospitality suite to participate in the annual Survivor’s night. Forty one hearty souls, including Willie the Cabbage Patch doll from Philly, stayed up all night together, playing games, watching movies, rehashing the weekend, making plans for the next convention and most importantly breaking in the rookies.

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**NHLBCC HOF Inductees—2010
Peggy Lonett, Denise Piper , Pam Appel**



**Goal Magazine story on last convention
hosted by Pittsburgh in 1990 in hospitality
room.**

Convention Continued

The Rookie Games included such classics as Meet the Veterans (complicated by sneaky vets who kept moving in and out of the room), Fluffy Bunny (try saying that with a mouthful of marshmallows), Make Bob laugh (once again no one had jokes funny enough to crack him up) and Buzz (it seems that it is as hard to play that when you are exhausted as when you are drunk).

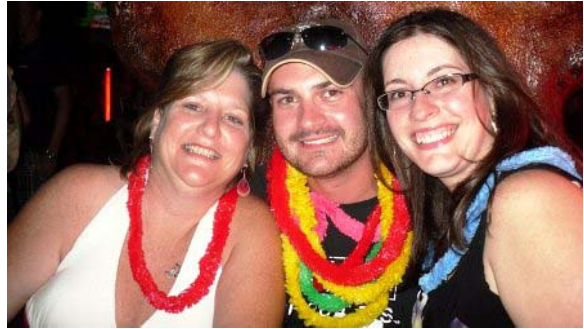
The veteran Survivors were definitely entertained and the rookies all seemed to have a great time playing. The night ended with the usual group photo and breakfast, where certificates were distributed and Brad Page from Detroit was named Rookie of the Year.

Then Sunday morning after breakfast, it again time for everyone to take their leave and return home, with lots of well wishes for the upcoming season and see you next year.

Contributing writers - Cathi Flanagan and Joe Watkins

Photographs by Cathi Flanagan, Bev and Tom Gibbs, Betsy and Joe Watkins

Pub Crawl Pictures



River cruise Dinner Pictures



Birthday Party Pictures





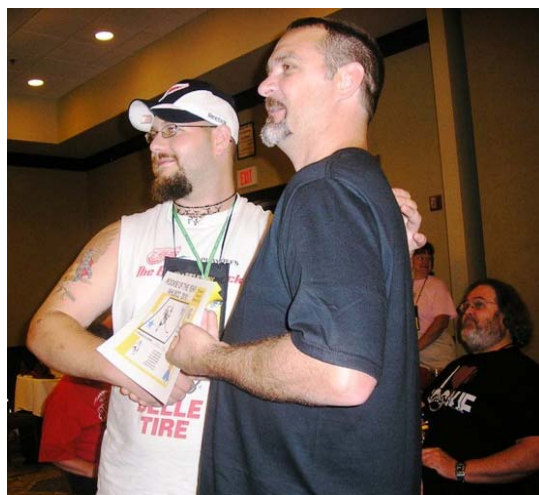
Anniversary Dinner Dance Pictures



Saturday Night Survivors



Sunday morning group shot



Detroit's Brad Page - Rookie of the Year