

Fireline



The Newsletter of the Atlanta Flames Fan Club

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October, 2012



Once again we have returned from another great convention, hosted by our friends, the Florida Panthers Booster Club..

Almost 200 NHLBC members traveled to Ft. Lauderdale where we stayed at the Sheraton Ft. Lauderdale Airport & Cruise Hotel .

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

The 2012 NHLBCC being held in Fort Lauderdale, FL afforded a lot of people a chance to visit many parts of the state both before and after convention time. Quite a few opted to spend extra time in Key West or Orlando. A couple did a driving tour of the entire Atlantic coast. Others spent a lot of time exploring the local area. But regardless of what they chose, everyone thoroughly enjoyed their Florida vacation.

Monday was Animal Lovers day, featuring pre-convention tours to the Miami Aquarium or the Miami Zoo or on a face to face dolphin encounter.

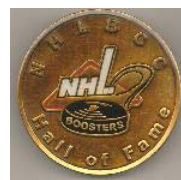
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Next year's convention will be hosted by us, the AFFC—August 9-12, our first since 1978. The AFFC 2013 NHLBC committee has been hard at work the past few months and we are all excited about an enjoyable week or weekend. But one which be filled with lot of hard work.

Our home for the week will be the Hilton Savannah Desoto Hotel, located in the historic center of Savannah.

If you wish to attend the package is online at :

<http://www.atlantaflamesfanclub.org/>



NHLBCC Hall of Fame

Update on AFFC members inducted to the Hall of Fame

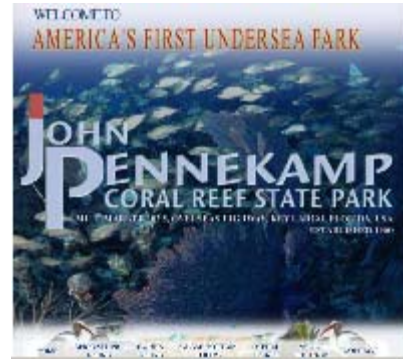
Joe Watkins 2007 Cathi Flanagan 2009
Mary Kay Davis and Tom Gibbs 2011
Congratulations!!

Officers

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

Convention continued

Tuesday’s options included a day of snorkeling the coral reef and/or a glass bottom boat tour at John Pennekamp Park in Key Largo. Or one could opt to spend the day on a day trip to Key West to soak in the atmosphere, consume the local seafood, drink the ever popular boat drinks and watch the famous sunset.



Wednesday, during the day, the tour was a Duck tour of Fort Lauderdale and its waterways. And, of course, in the evening, the Annual Pub Crawl, which was held at the Seminole Hard Rock Casino Resort. The property contains enough bars and restaurants to satisfy everyone’s tastes. The hands down favorite of the night, however, was the outdoor patio at Wet Willie’s where many gallons of frozen adult beverages were served.



Thursday was Beach day, including time to frolic in the surf, bask in the warm Florida sun and enjoy an oceanside cookout. Thursday evening saw the best attended tour of the week, the Jungle Queen Riverboat Dinner Cruise, which included an entertaining daylight narrated tour of the Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous who own yachts and mansions along the waterways of Fort Lauderdale, an all you can eat dinner of shrimp and chicken and ribs and fixings, an entertainment show that highlighted the talent (or maybe just the good sense of humor) of several conventioners and a moonlight cruise back to the base that showed off the lights of the city.



The Jungle Queen



Island Dinner Show

Continued .. next page

Convention continued

Friday saw a couple of busloads heading over to the airboat rides at Sawgrass Recreational Center in the Everglades to experience the wildlife indigenous to the swamps. Each boatload was treated to up-close views of alligators, turtles, fish and birds in the wild. The rides were followed by time to explore the native animal menagerie and a talk about alligators that starred a huge reptile and his human friend occupying the same pond with no loss of life or limb!

Friday night was American Heroes Night where people came dressed as soldiers, sailors, Marines, firemen, policemen, nurses, teachers, in colonial costumes and even a “Rosie the Riveter.”

After dinner was dancing and visiting the hospitality suites.

Saturday morning was the usual breakfast and General Membership meeting. After breakfast, each club’s representative has three minutes to give an overview of their club’s previous activities, trips, etc.

Afterwards the Atlanta Flames Fan Club previewed the 2013 convention trips and activities. The St. Louis Blueliners club followed up with their presentation for 2014.

After short break the clubs’ delegates headed off to the delegates meeting for the business aspect of the NHLBCC.

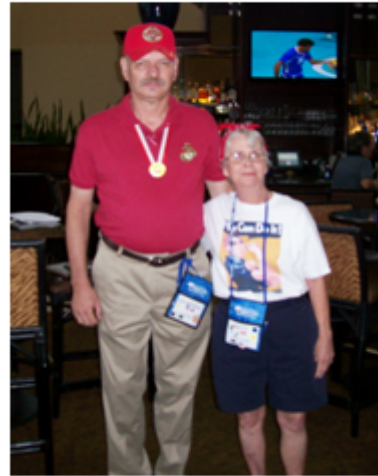
Saturday night was Miami Vice ... Going back to 80’s night. There were “older and paunchier” Sonny Crocketts, rock stars, or just 1980’s dress.

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Sawgrass Recreational Park Airboat



Patriot’s Night



Convention Continued

Following dinner we got to hear about some of the tales, trials and tribulations of the Stanley Cup as told to us by the NHL's Hockey Hall of fame Vice President, Curator Phil Pritchard, the "Keeper of the Cup"

Following Phil was another much anticipated event, inductions to this year's NHLBCC Hall-of-Fame. This year's Inductees were : Beth Berger-and Judy Tomlinson of St Louis; Bev Gibbs, N.Y. Rangers, Gregg Roell, Detroit and Rosemarie Sheetz, Philadelphia. Congratulations!

Afterwards more dancing and partying, as well as impromptu "Stanley Cup" celebration by the L.A.Kings Booster Club.

When the music and dancing concluded it was on to visit the hospitality suites and the annual "Saturday Night Survivors."

The Annual Survivors night was held in the Florida Panthers hospitality suite. Jigsaw puzzles, table games, Philadelphia's orange punch and rookie initiation kept everyone entertained throughout the night. The competition for Rookie of the year was tight, but in the end, Philly AI was the winner.

After breakfast Sunday it was a morning and afternoon of goodbyes and "see you next year" as most of the conventioners returned home.

Contributing writers– Cathi Flanagan and Joe Watkins.

Photography Cathi Flanagan, Betsy and Joe Watkins

Phil Pritchard -"Keeper of the Cup"



Miami Vice / 80's Night



NHLBCC HOF Inductees

