



# FACEOFF

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE BOOSTER CLUBS

Volume 2 Issue 1

May 2011

## Lowell Devils Booster Club to Cease Operations

By Daniel O'Grady

After meeting in late March, the members in attendance at the LDBC General Meeting decided that it was time for the club to dissolve. With the loss of the Lowell AHL team at the end of last season and with declining interest, it seemed like the right time to end things for the club. With a vote by members at that meeting, it was decided that the LDBC would cease to exist after the next General Meeting at the beginning of October. With Scholarships still to be awarded, a summer outing to plan and a group of members attending the AAHLBC Convention in September, the members felt that we should be able to wind things down by October.

It is really sad knowing that things really are going to be ending soon. When we did finally learn that the team would be leaving Lowell, we figured that we would keep things running for at least a year and see how things would progress. After a few months it really started to look like things may not last after the year was up. Trying to run a club without a team was not an easy task and staying in contact with members through email and phone calls was much harder than having a table at the arena during hockey season. We were able to run a fun bus trip with some Worcester Booster Club Members over to Albany to see a Devils vs. Sharks game this past season but a similar trip with Manchester to see the Devils play the Monarchs fell through. A smaller holiday party was held in December and it was fun but then it was getting harder to get people to meetings.



have a quorum of members to be able to run the meeting. A couple of meetings had to be cancelled after the terrible winter weather we experienced this past season. At some point the board was discussing the fact that it looked like we should talk about dissolving the club. The fact that we are in the middle of so many other options for hockey fans has made it very difficult to keep members interested.

Manchester and Worcester are both within about an hour's drive with Providence and Portland about another hour away. There are the UMass Lowell and Merrimack College NCAA Hockey East teams that are in the Lowell area as well as the Bruins and several other Boston area college teams within about a half an hour (or so) drive. I have talked with several members and they all seem to be doing their own thing to get their hockey fix.

It has been a great ride in Lowell for the past dozen years or so, we have been able to meet so many different great players and have shown them some good support as a club. From Lock Monsters to Devils, we have seen some great action as the farm team for the: New York Islanders, Los Angeles Kings, Carolina Hurricanes, Calgary Flames, Colorado Avalanche and finally the New Jersey Devils. It was awesome to be able to have access to be able to interact with these players at a team practice, a golf tournament, bowl-a-thon, pot luck dinner, end of year banquet, Player of the Month presentation, General Meeting and other games/activities. We were very lucky that we were given some good access from the beginning and were able to partner well with the Lowell AHL team.

At one point we had scheduled a meeting but then did not

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## Did you know Faceoff is now in its 2nd year of publication?

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## **Mission Statement**

The purpose of this organization will be:

- a. To promote better understanding between Booster Clubs and the American Hockey League Organization.
- b. To Compare and attempt to alleviate problems confronting each individual Booster Club.
- c. 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](mailto: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**

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At the March General Meeting, it was decided that we would give out the balance of the Scholarship Fund this year and we will be helping out six different high school scholar/athletes with their college expenses. We will also be donating the remainder of our money to four different charities after our obligations and expenses are met. I do think it was a hard decision to make and there are many of our members sad to see the club go but it felt that the time was right and the feeling is that we would not likely see another AHL team in Lowell. Even though we are getting ready to cease operations, we are still helping some people and organizations in the Lowell area. I hope that people remember all the positives that we were able to accomplish over the years.

I know that members have already joined other clubs and still others will join as soon as the new season starts up again. The Lowell Devils Booster Club will be making its last appearance at this year's AAHLBC Convention in Hershey with 10 members in attendance. I know that it will be great to see many old friends there but I am sure that you will still see many of the same faces at future conventions, just with a different club.

Thank you to all of the clubs that we have visited over the years and have been given such great hospitality as well as the ones that we were able to see visit us. It has been a great time as an AHL Booster Club and I hope that all of you remember the good times. We will be keeping our website active for about the next year if anyone would like to visit: [www.lowelldevilsbc.com](http://www.lowelldevilsbc.com) and should be posting some more photos in the near future. Best wishes to everyone, keep in contact on Facebook and have a great summer. We will be seeing you all again in September!!!

## **Who Are We? ... Rochester**

The Rochester Americans Booster Club has been around since the AHL's 1966-1967 season. Mike and Nancy Sullivan originated the idea of an Amerk Booster Club during the 1965-66 season. Mike met with Joe Crozier to discuss the possibility of starting a booster club and also ask for the Amerk Office's cooperation. Mike and Joe decided it should be open to season ticket holders only. Joe Crozier named the club "The Rochester Americans Executive Club", as he wanted it to have "an elite and classy-sounding name".

The purpose of the club is to promote Hockey, support the team and assist the Amerk office. The club's 1st year of operation was the 1966-67 Season and the 1st season for "Meet The Players Dinner".

In 1967, the newspaper "The Exec Edition" was started and it was the 1st season some members attended the American Hockey League Booster Club Convention. Charter Memberships and "Game Winning Goals" were started in 1968. At the start of the 1969-70 season, the club was opened up to non-season ticket holders and they had all the rights of the club except voting rights. Also in the 1969-1970 season, the newsletter name was changed to "Passing The Puck".

In 1970, broomball was started and club jackets were sold. The Constitution was amended to add the office of Vice President. The club donated a plaque at the Convention which was to be kept in the AHL office. The winner was determined by a vote of the clubs in attendance. The inscription of the plaque reads: "The American Hockey League Booster Clubs Convention Award to the club which did the most to promote hockey and goodwill amongst member clubs."

In 1971, the Exec Club and the Amerk Office held a Miss Amerk Pageant in October with a dinner dance and a parade in which we entered a float. They also held a Clambake. Team owners Joe Hudson and Joe Fox were speakers at their August meeting.

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## Who Are We? Rochester

Rochester...Continued from page 2

In October 1973, our hockey world was saddened by the loss of broadcaster, Bill Givens. A memorial fund was set up in November. The RABC presented the Sportsmanship Award for the 1st time. This award goes to the player that most exemplifies the qualities of sportsmanship, perseverance and dedication to hockey.

In 1974, the Junior Executive Club was started for children and teens up to the age of 18. A Club banner was made by Ann and Virginia Paddock and Lynn Jaehn.

In 1975-76, for the first year that we worked on the Channel 21 Auction. The 1st Red Armstrong Memorial Plaque was presented to Robert Green. This plaque is presented to a person for his or her dedication and service to the development of youth hockey.

The Clark Memorial Fund was started in 1976 for the family of Amerk player Gordie Clark who lost seven members of his family in a fire. We held our 1st Garage and Baked Food Sale. We also sold cookbooks, ties, Amerk hats, and stationary and took out our 1st ad in the Amerk Magazine.

In 1979, the Executive Club donated a gavel to the AHLBCC and also raffled off NHL and AHL rugs. We worked on the Jerry Lewis Telethon, sold Broomball T-Shirts with decals, a sports Rug Raffle and a Tupperware Party. The First Sign Night was held on March 21, 1980.

In 1980, we sold our first 50/50 tickets at home games. The club worked at the Skate, Stickhandle and Shoot competition and for the third year in a row our Broomball team won the Interstate Cup. The "Exec of the Year" was started this season and was won by Mary Dibble.

We started several new activities in 1981: food was provided for the team

on nights when they had to go on the road immediately after a home game; a member number was drawn at each game and the holder of the winning number received a 20% discount on any Amerk souvenir; and we had a display case on the Exchange Street side near our table for our trophies and awards. The Executive Club was incorporated and an Early Bird Discount for membership was started. Our broomball team won it's fourth straight interstate Cup.

In 1982, we won the AHLBCC Award for the promotion of hockey and goodwill amongst booster clubs. The first annual "End of Season Awards Banquet" was held at Mapledale Party House. The Exec of the Year was Dennis DeGeorge.

In 1983, the club won both of the Awards presented at the AHLBCC. One award was for the club that does the most to support its team and community. The other was for the promotion of hockey and goodwill amongst booster clubs, which we won for the second year in a row. This season the "Sign of the Night Contest" started. Fans were invited to bring signs to every home game and they were judged by members of our club's Sign Committee. The Exec Foundation, Inc. was formed and incorporated during this season.

In 1984 on opening night, the Club presented the Amerks with replacements for two championship pennants that had been misplaced. Money for the pennants was raised through a garage sale and raffles of obsolete AHL team pennants. The Spina Bifida Association presented the club with a plaque in appreciation for donations made through the Exec Foundation, Inc. At the City's 150th birthday, the club helped with the "Rochester Sesquicentennial Hockey Extravaganza". Youth hockey games were played at the War Memorial, a luncheon was held to honor Amerk old-timers and other VIPs. We held a Candy and Arts and Crafts Sale. Our membership reached a record 480.

The club won the AHL award at Convention in 1986. We also presented a \$100 check to the newly-formed Players Pension Fund. We took part in the Festival of Trees for the first time. Two end of the season awards were renamed to honor Dick Fairand (Sportsmanship Award) and Honorary Member Robbie Zabelny (Unsung Hero Award).



Amerks win the Calder Cup in 1987 for the 5th time in their history.

The 1987-1988 season, we started the point system for working members and the Club's annual promotion night at an Amerks game. We also rented a storage locker for Club Property.

In 1988, the Club officially shorten our name from the Executive Club to the Exec Club. We donated a decorated Christmas Tree to the Convalescent Hospital for Children.

In 1989, around Christmas time, the Club along with the wives and girlfriends of the players, raised money for the Adam Walsh Child Resource Center. We made and sold "Moose Balls", Christmas Ornaments that looked like and were signed by the Amerks Moose. We donated a decorated Christmas Tree to St. Joseph's Villa.

We took part in a fund raiser for Special Olympics in 1990. This was our 25th Season and a historical book was created. A 25th anniversary cookbook with recipes from the entire Amerks organization and the Booster club was created and sold.

In 2002, a club logo contest was held. A design by Diane Wilkinson was selected and pins of her logo were made and sold by the club

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## AAHLBC Convention Side Notes

230 people signed up at this point – more than the last couple of years. Many plan to arrive on Wednesday or Thursday...

We still need a couple clubs to volunteer to host a hospitality room. Hershey will be hosting Friday night, so there is still a need for hosts on Thursday & Saturday nights. Two clubs can go together if it makes things easier. Please contact Melinda Hardy at [mhardy@valspar.com](mailto:mhardy@valspar.com) if your club would like to volunteer.

Here is the link to the hotel to make your reservations for the extra nights. Extra night reservations must be made by **August 16, 2011**:

<http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/booking/reservation?id=1011100452&key=D6F31>

The Democratic National Convention chose to meet in Charlotte, NC for convention in 2012 (they were considering Cleveland). That said, the Cleveland BC will now be hosting Convention in 2012. Portland will host in 2013. Halifax has declined for 2014, so it goes to the Philadelphia Firebirds, then 2015 to Pittsburgh. Philadelphia & Pittsburgh may combine for 2014. Rochester would host in either 2015 or 2016...

Shirt & Pin orders will be coming soon...



## AAHLBC Broomball Tournament

Hosted by the Syracuse Crunch Corps

July 9, 2011

Cicero Twin Rinks, Cicero, NY

Games begin around 7 am.

## Who Are We? Rochester

Rochester...Continued from page 3

In 2003, our club designed its first website. Dinners were served for our firemen heroes at various fire stations. We sent care packages to American soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The RABC began the 2006-07 season with several new Board members. We hosted several visiting booster clubs, and gave them club coupons for use at the concession stands. November included another successful Meet the Players Dinner. The Amerks BC logged over 1,520 miles on road trips to Binghamton, Syracuse, Toronto, Wilkes-Barre & Philadelphia. Membership grew to 289 members. We again sold 50/50 and jersey tickets, bringing in the largest income in years. Our charities projects included the Christmas Project, Easter Basket Project, Project Bundle Up, AI Sigl Walk About, Bell Ringing For the Salvation Army, Project Linus, and collected can tabs for the Kidney Foundation. The Booster Club's Annual Fireman's Dinner concluded after the July dinner. The 20th Annual Craig Charron (formerly John Bednarski) Golf Tournament was held in August, and the BC was a pin sponsor. Seventeen BC members attended the annual American Hockey League Booster Club Convention in Lowell, MA. Former Boston Bruin Terry O'Reilly was the keynote speaker. BC President Jeff Savidge was voted Booster Club Member of the Year.

During the 2007-08 season, we again welcomed fellow booster clubs to Rochester, furnishing them with concessions coupons. Road Trips brought members to Cleveland & Binghamton. It was a successful year selling 50/50 raffle tickets. 252 members were signed up this season. Charity events included the Christmas Family Project, Bundle Up, Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army, the AI Sigl Walk, Project Linus & collecting can tabs for the Kidney Foundation. End of the season awards were presented during the final home game, and brief case/computer bags were given to all Amerks players, coaches and front office personnel. The Club Picnic was held in September. The Christmas Dinner featured an ornament exchange. Ten Rochester BC members attended the AHL Booster Club Convention in Scranton, PA. The Nancy Milliman Players Incentive Award was created, awarding money to our Executive Foundation, when Amerks perform exceptionally in games. Proceeds go to youth hockey teams in the area.

In 2008-09, we continued to welcome several AHL booster clubs to Rochester, this time we stocked their buses with snacks and soda for their trips home. The Meet the Players Dinner was a success. Road trips included cheering the Amerks on during a three day trip to Manchester & Providence, an overnight run to Cleveland & a day trip to Binghamton. Several youth hockey teams helped sell raffle tickets at the home games, doing an excellent job. Jersey winners were drawn every six games. 212 members were aboard as BC members this year. Our charity events featured helping out a Christmas family, Project Linus, and holding a Euchre Tournament, which benefited the Mary Cariola Center. We sold coffee packets for Christmas and Easter and helped the Amerks by selling Shooting Stars and aided in the game day promotion. The Club Picnic was held in September and an Assistant's Dinner was sponsored, to thank those members. The Christmas Dinner again included an ornament exchange. We also filled scrapbooks with newspaper clippings for the players and coaches so they would have memories of their stay with the Amerks. Eleven people attended the Annual AHL Booster Club Convention, this time in Baltimore.

## 2011 AAHLBC Convention Side Trips - Hershey

### Thursday, September 8, 2011

**Brewery Tour & Pub Crawl:** This will take you on a tour of our local establishments. We will stop at the Appalachian & Lancaster Brewing Companies and then head to downtown for a tour of some of Harrisburg's downtown taverns. Due to the location of the hotel, we will be using a bus for the crawl. **Cost for the bus will be \$15 per person.**

### Friday, September 9, 2011

**Gettysburg:** A bus trip to the town where many historic battles were fought, tours of the battlefields, museums and historic sites. **Bus and tour cost \$30 per person.**

**Pennsylvania Dutch Country:** A bus trip to the area will include a visit to an Amish farm and other area attractions. **Bus and tour cost \$40 per person.**

**Lancaster Outlets:** One of the largest outlet areas in the Northeast, you can find anything you could possibly need and/or want in this group of stores. **Bus and tour cost \$30 per person.**

**Golf Outing:** A trip to a local golf course for 18 holes of fun(?). **Cost of golf \$25 per person.**

**Harley Davidson Plant, York, PA:** Tour of the factory of America's most popular brand of motorcycle. **Bus and tour cost \$20 per person.**

### Saturday, September 10, 2011

**Downtown Hershey Tour:** A trip to see "The Hershey Story", a new museum chronicling the development of the town and the life of the man whose name gave the area its identity. This will be followed by a 1-hour trolley tour of the area which begins and ends at Chocolate World. **Bus and tour cost \$25 per person.**

**Hollywood Casino @ Penn National Race Track:** Slots and Table games are all included in this casino, and if you need a break, there is a simulcasting area for nationwide horse racing just upstairs. **Bus cost \$30 per person (vouchers will be included).**

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Please make check payable to "Hershey Bears Booster Club" and return with the following to:

Hershey Bears Booster Club PO Box 15 Hershey, PA 17033

Please Return By July 15th:

\_\_\_\_ Thursday - Pub Crawl \$15  
\_\_\_\_ Friday - Gettysburg \$30  
\_\_\_\_ Friday - PA Dutch Country \$40  
\_\_\_\_ Friday - Lancaster Outlets \$30  
\_\_\_\_ Friday - Golf \$25  
\_\_\_\_ Friday - Harley Davidson Plant \$20  
\_\_\_\_ Saturday - Downtown Hershey \$25  
\_\_\_\_ Saturday - Hollywood Casino \$30

**Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Booster Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address or phone number: \_\_\_\_\_