

# CENTER ICE

The Official Newsletter of The New York Islanders Booster Club



VOLUME 34 - NUMBER 1

Our 34th Year

SEPTEMBER 2005

## Convention 2005: Lights, Camera, Action, Live 2005 in Los Angeles, California (August 8-14)

by Claire Le Compte

August usually means hot steamy summer days and trying to stay cool. To fifteen members of the New York Islanders Booster Club, it meant a week of fun and excitement, as the Los Angeles Kings Booster Club hosted the National Hockey League Booster Club Convention.

We all flew out at different times on different days and had our own agendas, but eventually all met up with each other just in time to party. Friday night's fun began as we met in the lobby to find many dressed as the cast from MASH. Some were doctors and medics, while many were patients "recuperating from their wounds" by carrying IV bags filled with libations taken orally rather than intravenously. Others in attendance included Dorothy and the Scarecrow from the Wizard of Oz, Darth Vader, Marilyn Monroe and the Hanson Brothers from Slap Shot. Even Elmo was there.

Saturday was a "Black Tie" affair. If you know this crowd, dressing up is not one of their favorite things to do, but we did it! Pictures were taken in front of a limousine, simulating arriving at the Academy Awards. After dinner, awards were given for the previous night's performance. Before the night was over, everyone received a copy of the picture as a souvenir of the evening; a nice touch.

Knowing that we needed an article for the Newsletter about Convention, I decided to go to those who attended to get their individual thoughts and feelings. Attendees this year included Rose & Bobby Muller, Marie & Vinny Paradiso, Jill & Bob Kozik, George & Mary Schutz, John & Lorraine D'Errico, Bob DiGiovanna, Trish Flanagan, Gary Harding & myself. Following are comments from some of the attendees.

**Jill & Bob Kozik:** Seeing old friends, meeting new ones and hockey camaraderie; that's what Convention is. Did we men-

tion Disneyland, Universal Studios, a Dodger baseball game, the Reagan library, Pub Crawl, Comedy Club, Staples Center and Zamboni factory tours?

Friday night's theme was to dress as your favorite movie or TV actor. We had so much fun as Lily and Herman Munster, and the "Cheers Gang" was well received. Receiving an Oscar on Saturday night at the formal dinner for our "performance" was an added bonus.

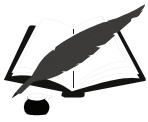
Guest speakers Bob Miller (radio voice of the LA Kings) and Marty McSorley (former LA Kings defenseman) were very entertaining.

Most of all, we loved hearing fellow NYIBC member George Schutz say, when asked if he will be attending next year's Convention in Buffalo, "ABSOLUTELY!!" This is what it's all about. Once you are hooked (this being our ninth Convention and George & Mary's second), you'll want to go again. You can't imagine until you go how much fun it is being with fellow hockey fans. Yes, even with Rangers fans – it's good to be Elyse Greenberg! (You have to attend a Convention and you will know Elyse from the Rangers Fan Club)

Sooooo... if you love hockey and having a good time, don't miss Buffalo in 2006.

**John & Lorraine D'Errico:** The Zamboni tour was a blast. We arrived in two busses although they only expected about ten or twelve Boosters. What a shock, but they took it all in stride and greeted us warmly. Richard Zamboni, the son of founder Frank Zamboni, was like a kid, smiling and laughing when he saw the crowd. There were more of us than Zamboni workers and he couldn't fit us all in his factory at the same time. Rather than turn us away, he suggested we go to his "ICELAND" Arena and come back ten or twelve at a time. We disrupted his factory, but he didn't seem to mind as he smiled and took each group *continued on page 3...*

**Hockey is back..! That means the New York Islanders and the Booster Club are back, too! We have the scoop on what the club did during the summer, upcoming trips and an opening night ticket offer. See Inside for more!**



## President's Message.....

HOCKEY IS BACK! Seems I have heard that phrase a lot lately, but for hockey fans, it is tops on our list. We all survived a year without hockey and I must admit, I did enjoy more time at home and found the holidays less stressful. However, I am ready to go to every home game and watch hockey again on TV. I am crazy enough to tape the home games so I can watch what I might have missed! I am anxious to see how the new rule changes affect the game and how the teams match up. It should be very interesting and hopefully exciting.

I want to wish Adrian Aucoin, Dave Scatchard, Roman Hamrlík and Michael Peca all the best with their new teams. A special good luck to Kenny Jonsson; I sincerely hope he is happy with his decision to stay in Sweden. We will certainly miss what each of them brought to the Islanders. On the other hand we welcome Alexei Zhitnik, Mike York, Miroslov Satan, Brent Sopel, & Brad Lukowich and wish them much success. It's going to take a little time to recognize new faces much less their numbers!!

As far as the Booster Club goes, we have made some changes on the board and we are busy planning the upcoming season. I want to thank all of you who joined last year without knowing if there would or would not be a season, and those who attended our General Meetings. We are looking to have former members return and have sent letters to many of them encouraging them to come back. Trips have been scheduled and already are getting good responses. We are working on an air trip in March to Florida, so watch for information as it becomes available.

As always, charity is a big part of who we are. We have already purchased school supplies for our annual donation to Little Flower Children's Services which we will deliver shortly. We also have donated \$100 worth of school supplies to the Long Island

Ducks' collection for the John Theisen Children's Foundation. This money comes from the generous donations and participation of our members in the many raffles we conduct throughout the season. At present, we are working on making a donation for those devastated by hurricane Katrina and planning additional activities to raise more money.

As I write this message we have not yet gotten confirmation from the Islanders as to meeting dates and players, but expect them shortly.

Please, if you can access the internet, frequent our website, [www.nyiboosterclub.org](http://www.nyiboosterclub.org). All club activities are updated there. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter via the internet rather than in the mail, please let us know.

I encourage all our members to try to get involved in club activities. We want to see new faces at meetings, on trips and other club events. The more you put into the club, the more you will get out of it. Talk to a friend, talk to the person sitting next to you at a game, tell them about the Booster Club and invite them to come to a meeting. It is only \$5 for a non-member to attend a game and the \$5 will be deducted from the membership fee if they join that night.

Come visit the Booster Club table between gates 3 & 4 at the Coliseum, opposite the Islanders Customer Relations Booth. We are there before games and between periods. Come say hello!

See you at the Coliseum! I can't wait, how about you? Let's make our presence known and support the team we love! I want to hear **"LET'S GO ISLANDERS!"**

*Claire*

Remember: If you were a 2004-2005 Booster Club member, your membership was automatically extended for the 2005-2006 season.

*Your support is appreciated!*

## New York Islanders Booster Club 2005-2006

President.....**Claire Le Compte**  
Exec. Vice President.....**Diane Hesse**  
Second Vice President.....**Danny Parisi**  
Treasurer/Past President **Maryann Filangieri**  
Recording Secretary.....**Rose Muller**  
Corresponding Secretary.....**Bill Finck**

### Board of Committees

Art.....**Dennis Coburn**  
Awards Dinner.....**to be announced**  
Charities.....**Jill Kozik & Rose Muller**  
Constitution.....**Bruce Schneider**  
Historian.....**Jean Nebiosini**  
Membership.....**to be announced**

Newsletter.....**Jim DiStefano**  
Novelties.....**Bill Hayes**  
Publicity.....**Donna Coughlin**  
Special Events.....**George Schutz**  
Trips.....**Ron Kind**  
WebMaster/Convention.....**Gary Harding**  
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Sergeant-at-Arms.....**John D'Errico**  
Trustee.....**Ed McGloin**

Printed by: **On The Spot Printing**  
1916 86th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11214  
(718) 259-8200

**Center Ice**, the official publication of the New York Islanders Booster Club, is published monthly during the hockey season and once during the summer. Opinions expressed in articles printed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Booster Club or of the New York Islanders. Submissions should be sent to:

NY Islander Booster Club  
PO Box 502  
Hicksville NY 11802-0502  
ATTN: Newsletter

Deadline for an issue is the preceding month's membership meeting.

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Special mention to Scott Coates who redesigned the "shooting puck" logo now featured on our masthead.

Moving? Make Sure **Center Ice** goes with you! Please notify the Membership Committee of both your new and old addresses. **Have an e-mail address? Let us know that, too!**

All Photos by.....**Jim DiStefano**  
(unless noted otherwise)

## Convention 2005: Lights, Camera, Action, Live 2005

around personally, explaining each phase of Zamboni manufacture. At the arena we saw the original Zamboni and many later versions. As we left, Richard got on the busses and gave us each a miniature Zamboni. His smile said he had as much fun as we did.

The Queen Mary in her day was a luxurious cruise ship. During W.W.II she was refitted to carry troops to England and return wounded soldiers and prisoners to the U.S. During our tour the anti-aircraft guns and mounts were visible on her decks. Some of the luxurious fittings have been restored and some furniture has been replaced to show visitors how magnificent she once was. We saw the ship from top to bottom exploring the engine room up to the pilot house. I managed to get into the 1st class dining room and took pictures. The fireplaces were stunning. We enjoyed the displays, specifically those showing the ship in its glory before the war and then those during the war where it was reported she carried 16,000 troops in one crossing.

**Rose & Bobby Muller:** We were thrilled that NYIBC members Jill & Bob Kozik were awarded Oscars for their performances as Lily & Herman Munster. We really had a blast as Carla and Cliff from Cheers and had a good time with Claire & Gary who added to the Cheers theme as Diane and Norm. One last thing, to Vinny and Marie Paradiso (Ro's parents): Cheers to both of you for reaching a milestone. They were married 60 years on July 29<sup>th</sup> and got to celebrate with everyone at Convention.

A little added note...despite the fact that we are Democrats, we ventured off to the Reagan Library. We found it wonderful and very impressive. The Library is located overlooking the valley with the gravesite facing west. The view is awesome and we were told on a clear day one can see the Pacific Ocean. Definitely a place not to be missed...whatever your political views!!

**George & Mary Schutz:** Among my favorite memories of Convention are the tour of the Zamboni factory and Rose wearing a Red Sox apron as Karla on Friday night. I know that just killed her, being a staunch Yankee fan! Best of all was hugging a Ranger fan (the one dressed as Marilyn Monroe) while wearing my Potvin Jersey!! Where's a camera when you need one?? (Obviously, that was George!)

**Gary Harding & Claire Le Compte:** (Claire) - Prior to arriving at Convention we spent several days with Gary's sister in Bel Air. We had a tour of Hollywood and checked out some houses of "Stars" followed by a day at Universal Studios and a day at

Disneyland. We even met up with our friends from England who were also visiting California. We arrived at Convention Wednesday evening so we could take the trip to Catalina early the following day. We boarded a high-speed ferry that left the LA haze behind to a beautiful sun-filled island, 26 miles away. We had been told the best way to see the island was to rent a golf cart. John & Lorraine D'Errico were also on the trip, so we set off together. We were given a map to follow that showed which roads we could travel and which were private. It wasn't long before we were making stops to take pictures of the beautiful views as we climbed the hills.

(Gary) – My sister has a gorgeous house. I enjoyed spending my "Pre-Pre" Convention with my family. However, going to Convention is not only a ritual (17 consecutive years), but it is something that I look forward to every year. Just the camaraderie that exists between people from all over the U.S. and Canada is such a blast. You see people exchange hugs, and talk to them like you just saw them last week but you haven't seen them since last year. Some hockey is discussed (more this year than in past Conventions), but a great deal of the conversations are social in nature. Bob and Jill did a great job with their costumes. Actually, Bob just likes to put green makeup over his face. Being Norm required me to wear a suit jacket and walk around with a beer. Gee, what a stretch. Also, we had Roger Farina, the 2003 NHL 7<sup>th</sup> Man Award winner, with us for the weekend. He was there to try to spread the word about the NHL Fan Advocacy Group that he is starting. His Dress Blue Mess Army uniform (he is a Warrant Officer in the US Army) looked sharp on Saturday night.

The most disappointing thing during the week was having to sit through the eighth inning at the Mets/Dodgers game, when Pedro Martinez not only lost his no-hitter and his shutout, but also lost the game. My brother in law, a HUGE Yankee fan, rubs it in big time. Ugh!!! But I had no time to get to walk around Dodger Stadium, since the game lasted only two hours and seven minutes.

The best thing was the Reagan Library. As a Republican, Reagan is my favorite President. He performed with style, humor and sense of self-power that the nation needed, and this was shown throughout the museum. I absolutely recommend taking a visit to Simi Valley to see the Library, if you are ever in Southern California.

We all want to thank the L.A. Kings Booster Club for hosting the Convention, especially Kim, Debbie & Linda for all their hard work. Now they can relax. Best wishes to Buffalo as they begin a year of hard work and preparation. As the Governor of California says... "WE'LL BE BACK!" to Convention that is!

### Charities Report

As we approach the start of the season, we have already made a contribution to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. A check for \$1,000.00 was made out to the American Red Cross. Thanks to all of our Booster Club members who purchased the 50/50 tickets and the raffles at our meetings. It was due to your generosity that we have the funds to make this contribution. Every bit of help makes a difference. Cheers to all of you.

*Rose Marie Muller*

## ISLES BOOSTERS VISIT QUACKERJACK'S PLACE

By Gary Harding

When hockey season is over (or in this case, it never happened), what does a Booster do to get through the summer?

In the case of nearly 200 fans this summer, they visit Citibank Park, the home of the 2004 Atlantic League Champion Long Island Ducks.

For the fourth year, the New York Islanders Booster Club made summer field trips to see the Long Island Ducks baseball team play. If you've never made the trek to Citibank Park (and frankly, why haven't you?), you know that the home of QuackerJack and the Ducks is one of the best places to see a baseball game in the Metropolitan area, period. For such an inexpensive ticket (\$9 or \$10 apiece), Ducks games are a great way to see baseball as close to the field as possible.

This season the Booster Club made three trips to Central Islip. The first game we attended was on Saturday night, July 9<sup>th</sup>, against the North Division leading Nashua Pride. It was quite a special night for Ducks fans, as they welcomed back Doug Jennings to the flock for his first home game. He was activated the week before, but due to being hit by a pitch, his season was brought to a grinding halt six innings in, which resulted in a broken bone in his hand. All 73 visitors from the NYIBC received Doug Jennings bobblehead dolls. The Ducks, however, did not give the faithful a happy result, as they lost 7-3 in a three hour, twenty-two minute contest.

In game two, which was on Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, we had our largest turnout ever: 78 strong. Again we had a bobblehead giveaway. This time, they honored long-time broadcaster Bob Wolff. Bob has been broadcasting since the late 1930's, and has been involved in some of the greatest games in baseball history, especially the perfect game thrown by Yankee Don Larsen in 1956. He was honored by throwing the ceremonial first pitch. Our group was loud and supportive for the home team. Alas, the Ducks were not helpful, allowing 11 runs in *continued next page...*



We had a strong turnout for the three Ducks games the Club attended. Photo by Gary Harding.

## On The Road Again by NYIBCTripGuy aka Ronnie Kind

These are the tentative trips that the Club has put on the calendar. For the Canadian trips, it is essential for us to get a handle on how many are interested. An email to Ronnie at NYIBCTripGuy@aol.com or a message on the hot-line (number on the back of this newsletter) is vital! Deposits are needed to secure your spot!

### Montreal - Saturday, October 22, 7:00PM

#### 10/22 5:00AM departure, return 10/23 evening

Option 1 - Club Level seating in the 200's section (great seats). Both options include price of ticket, unlimited food and non-alcoholic beverages starting one hour before game time. We need at least 20 people.

Option 2 - White Level seating in the upper level first six rows.

**Prices below are for the Club Level (option one). The upper level price would be \$25 less.** Specify how many people are going and which level you want when sending in the trip application (available on the Club website). Deposit is \$100 per person. Remember, the more people we get on the bus, the better the price:

#### 30 People

Single \$285      Double \$225      Triple \$210      Quad \$200

#### 40 People

Single \$265      Double \$205      Triple \$190      Quad \$180

#### 49 People

Single \$255      Double \$195      Triple \$180      Quad \$170

### Ottawa - Saturday, November 5, 7:00PM

#### 11/04 11:00PM departure, return 11/06 evening

We need at least 10 more people to sign up for Ottawa or it will be cancelled. Anyone already signed up will have first priority on the remaining space to switch to Montreal if we don't have enough people to go on this trip.

### Philadelphia - Saturday, November 26, 2:00PM

#### 11/26 9:00AM departure, return after game

### New Jersey - Saturday, January 21, 12:00PM

#### 01/21 9:00AM departure, return after the game

### Pittsburgh - Saturday, February 4, 7:30PM

#### 02/03 11:00PM departure, return 02/05 evening

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## Opening Night Tickets vs. Carolina Saturday, October 8, 7:00PM

We have 40 tickets in each of two price categories:

Center Mezzanine row F through O - \$39 each

End Mezzanine row F through O - \$28 each

We need to confirm ASAP with the Islanders office. **Call George Schutz now at (516) 668-1693** or anytime 24/7 (leave message if not there) or send him an email at TripGuyToo@optonline.net and let him know how many you want at each price. Next, mail him a check made out to NYIBC for the full amount of your tickets. They can be mailed to George Schutz, 14 Sterling Place, Malverne, NY 11565. He will also collect at the pre-season game on Sept. 20th. This date is the final day to get tickets!

## ISLES BOOSTERS VISIT QUACKERJACK'S PLACE...continued

the first six innings, as Long Island fell to the visiting Camden Riversharks 11-7.

In our third game, Friday night, August 19<sup>th</sup>, the forty faithful saw the Ducks have one of their most explosive offensive efforts in their history as they slammed 23 hits in an 18-9 barrage over the Atlantic City Surf. The Ducks scored in every inning but one, as they pulverized the visitors. Original Duck (and West Babylon native) Justin Davies tied a team record with five runs scored on the evening and Juan Lorenzo went five for six at the plate. Unfortunately, no bobblehead dolls were distributed, but playing cards were given to the first 2,000 fans in attendance. After a long and exciting evening, we were too tired to use the cards for the planned Texas Hold 'em tournament.

The first time that we got tickets four years ago, we struggled to get 25 people to attend. We are now offering three games, and selling nearly 200 tickets. All of the thanks and accolades have to go to Claire Le Compte, who spends many hours of her time contacting the Ducks in the winter to get tickets, e-mailing and calling people to buy tickets, making seating arrangements, mailing the tickets and coordinating everything at the ball park for us, especially when there is a pre-game picnic involved.

It has been our goal each and every season to sell more tickets than the previous year. Next season, the task becomes a little more difficult. Please consider the opportunity to join us at Citibank Park next season. Hopefully, we will need to do something exciting, after the Islanders win the 2006 Stanley Cup.



Top: Claire Le Compte got to put up a 'K' when a Duck's pitcher got a strikeout. Bottom: More Club members enjoy the game. Both photos by Gary Harding.

## MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER WALK

By Claire Le Compte

October brings the start of hockey, but it is also time for the American Cancer Society's annual Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk at Jones Beach. This year's walk will be held on Sunday morning, October 16<sup>th</sup> and again the Booster Club will be putting a team together to participate.

Last year we were proud to be a small part of the 40,000 walkers who raised over \$2.2million. The money raised goes directly to the American Cancer Society's research, education, patient support and advocacy programs. Today, there is more hope than ever for people touched by breast cancer. Early detection and improved treatments have increased survival rates. Not only are more women surviving; many enjoy fuller lives with less impact on their bodies. Making Strides is a non competitive walk supporting the American Cancer Society's unique mission to fight cancer on four fronts: research, education, advocacy, and patient services. Your support is needed. When you get involved in Making Strides, you help continue the progress against breast cancer, and help save more lives.

If you are interested in walking with us, please contact me and I will send you the registration form. If you are unable to walk and would like to support us by making a donation, it would be greatly appreciated. You can either call the hotline, 631 547-NYIB (6942) or email me at NYIBC2@aol.com.

### HOPE STARTS HERE!!

#### Club Member Selling Extra Tickets Section 112 - Row C/Seats 1 & 2

Andrew Rogovic is selling tickets from his season package. Face value is \$95 per ticket. As a season ticket holder his cost is \$125 per pair per game, which is what he wants for them. He would work out a deal if anyone buys tickets for several games. Contact him through email at [andrew.rogovic@prudentialrand.com](mailto:andrew.rogovic@prudentialrand.com).

#### Available game dates are:

10/25 Atlanta	11/23 Buffalo
11/25 Ottawa	12/23 Ottawa
01/02 Tampa	01/07 Carolina
01/12 Calgary	01/31 Washington
02/06 Tampa	02/28 Montreal
03/21 Montreal	04/08 Washington

### Another Request

We received an email from Kyle Somerville, a fan (not a Booster Club member) living in Atlanta who is just starting a pro hockey team pocket schedule collection. His wish list includes any Islander schedules that any of our members would be willing to mail him. Any season will do and they don't have to be in top condition. Contact him through email at [whowantscake98@yahoo.com](mailto:whowantscake98@yahoo.com).

# Booster Club Meetings.....

**Monday, October 24th - Brett Sopel**

The rest of our meeting schedule hasn't been finalized yet.

Check frequently with our Website or the Hotline for the latest news!

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We will be at the pre-season game at the Coliseum  
Tuesday, September 20th - Stop by our booth and say "hello"

- All meetings will be in the downstairs amphitheater at the Marriott across from the Coliseum. Call the Hotline or visit the website for up-to-the minute details about meeting locations.
- Meetings start at 7:30PM.
- The Booster Club Booth at the Nassau Coliseum is located between Gates 3 & 4, and is open before every home game. The booth closes 10 minutes before game time, and reopens between periods.

You Can Reach Us On Our Booster Club HOTLINE: (631) 547-NYIBC (6942)

OR Our WEB-SITE: <http://www.nyiboosterclub.org>

OR E-mail: [webmaster@nyiboosterclub.org](mailto:webmaster@nyiboosterclub.org)

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Islanders hockey is back in session