



THE PUCK

**Philadelphia Flyers
Fan Club**
Volume 25, Issue 1
September-October 2015

In this issue of THE PUCK

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT...

Hi Everyone,

As I write this, the 2015-2016 Season is about to begin. This season will feature a new overtime format of 3-on-3. The NHL has selected 45 games throughout the preseason, which will follow the conclusion of regulation with a five minute 3-on-3 overtime regardless of the score of the game. This is to allow the teams to get used to the new format and try out different strategies.

I attended the first home preseason game against the NY Rangers. This was one of the selected games featuring the new overtime format. It was very unusual since the Flyers had won the game 5 to 3 in regulation. Shortly into the overtime, the Flyers received a penalty and Lou Nolan explained to those in attendance that you couldn't have 3-on-2 so the 4-on-4 format was needed. When the penalty ended, since there was no stoppage of play, the 4-on-4 format remained until the end of the game. While it was brief, I'm looking forward to the new format. Although I would prefer they win in regulation.

Games in October and November this year will allow Flyers fans to say goodbye to three Flyers who retired at the end of the last season, Kimmo Timonen, Danny Briere and Simon Gagne. I know I will be looking forward to honoring these players who gave us fans some great memories.

I hope to see everyone at our monthly meetings and don't forget to check out the trips Lou Milano has planned for this year.

Joe Fisher, President

PFFC MEETING REMINDER

Tentative upcoming meeting dates: 11/9/15 & 12/7/15
(Subject to change)

**Please visit our website at www.flyersfanclub.org or
check our Facebook page for the latest PFFC news**

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Coming Soon!! Fall Raffle Drawing!

**1st Prize: Win a Bus
trip for 2 to see the
Flyers vs. NY Islanders
on January 23, 2016**

**2nd Prize: Win an
Autographed Claude
Giroux Jersey**

**Proceeds will benefit a
deserving family during
the holidays**

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK**Escape the 80's by Lois Witulski**

"Escape the 80's" recently opened on Passyunk Avenue in South Philadelphia and a group of 11 of us decided to give it a try over Labor Day weekend. We had a blast! We all love the 80's, so for us this was like taking a trip down memory lane. If you're not familiar with the concept of escape the room adventures, basically you and your group get locked in a room for an hour, where you have to work together to find clues and unlock doors, etc. until you ultimately escape (don't worry you are monitored the whole time and are in constant contact with the coordinators). You can "buy" clues that cost minutes but also win minutes and small prizes along the way.

I can't go into a lot of detail in case you want to give it a try, but let's just say things like VCR tapes, Atari and Lite Brite were all used in our adventure. We triumphantly escaped with just 3 second remaining and had a really awesome time. It was so much fun figuring out the clues and after our escape we were told how well we worked together to succeed.

Our adventure that night showed us a little of what it's like to work as a team. Throughout the preseason, things have looked promising as the team learns to work together with new coach Dave Hakstol. I am looking forward to the new season ahead and wish the Flyers much success in 2015-16.

If you are looking for a fun night out, don't miss "Escape the 80's"! For more information, see their ad on page 7.

PUCK ADVERTISING AVAILABLE

If you would like your business to reach potential new customers, try advertising here in the official Flyers Fan Club newsletter, The Puck. The Puck is mailed to all Flyers Fan Club members and available at all the Flyers home games. The following prices include advertising in 8 issues of the Puck: Full Page Ad \$200.00, Half Page Ad \$105.00, Quarter Page Ad \$55.00 and Business Card Ad \$35.00. If interested, please contact Lois Witulski at (215) 551-7998 or email lwitulski@verizon.net. Disclaimer: Ads published in the Puck do not indicate endorsement of items advertised.

We'd like to hear from you!

The PFFC welcomes all ideas and comments. You can submit your articles to: Lois Witulski, c/o PFFC, 3601 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148 or email to: lwitulski@verizon.net.

Please note: All materials sent for publication are subject to approval. We reserve the right to edit any portion of any article to better suit the needs of this publication. Articles printed strictly represent the opinion of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Philadelphia Flyers, its Fan Club or the editor of this newsletter.

**PFFC ROAD TRIPS 2015-16 SEASON by Lou Milano (updated 10/1/15)****OTTAWA (11/20-11/22/15) Provide your own Transportation:**

Canada is great in the fall, hockey has just started and it's still warm enough that the COLD weather hasn't hit yet. Even though you probably won't be able to skate on the CANAL (though you never know...), Ottawa is a great place to visit with all the Canadian history. And Canadian Tire Center is one of the best Arenas in the NHL (at least in my opinion). So, join us on a "provide your own transportation" trip for a quick jaunt to Ottawa (a perfect pre-Thanksgiving treat) to see the Flyers battle the Senators 11/21. Just FYI, there are many Flyers fans in the area so it should be a great time. **We'll offer one and two night packages:**

ONE NIGHT PACKAGE: Price includes one night lodging (Novotel Hotel Downtown), taxes and upper level game ticket:

Quad: (4 to a room) \$159.00, Triple: (3 to a room) \$179.00 Double: (two a room) \$199.00, Single: \$285.00

TWO NIGHT PACKAGE: Price includes two nights lodging (Novotel Hotel Downtown), taxes and upper level game ticket:

Quad: (4 to a room) \$199.00, Triple: (3 to a room) \$225.00 Double: (two a room) \$279.00, Single: \$429.00

Remember, if we get enough people to attend we'll look into a bus.

WEST COAST: (12/26/15 - ??) This will be one of our "you tell us where/when and how long" and we'll make it happen.

NY ISLANDERS: 1/23/16: Our first trip to the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, this trip will be a blast as we mingle with Islander fans. For this trip we're teaming up with **Phans of Philly** to combine one GREAT Trip. There will be surprises, happy hour specials and a free buffet at an establishment named 200 Fifth located down the street from the Barclays Center. The bus will depart Philadelphia approximately 2:00 PM and return after the game. **Price includes: Roundtrip Motor coach, happy hour specials, buffet, game ticket (upper level), drivers gratuity and snacks on the bus. Price per Person: \$165.00.** NOTE: This is higher than last year but gone are the cheap 300 level seats at Nassau Coliseum. In fact the game ticket cost is now close to the \$99.00 we paid for the entire trip last season.

TORONTO: (2/19 to 2/22/16): Join us as we venture into Canada and invade Toronto (always a blast...) to watch the Flyers battle the always fun Maple Leafs. This will be another trip teaming with **Phans of Philly**. We'll depart for Toronto approximately 6:30 AM 2/19/16 via deluxe motor coach with arrival approximately 2 PM where we'll check in to the Sheraton Downtown Hotel. The hotel is located close to the Air Canada Center, Hockey Hall of Fame, CN Tower, Toronto's bars/eateries and all the hockey shops (an experience!!) on Yonge St. After some R&R or touring the town, we'll all gather at **Gretzky's bar/restaurant to watch the Flyers/ Canadians game at 7 PM. The establishment will provide happy hour specials and a full buffet. I expect us to fully take over the place!!** Saturday, 2/20/15, you'll have all day to tour Toronto or do whatever you wish **before joining us at approximately 4:30 PM at Real Sports Bar located next to the Air Canada Center for another happy hour (with drink specials) and a full buffet. This should be a blast as we mingle with all kinds of hockey fans from Canada.** But, don't have too much fun and forget to venture over to the Air Canada Center to see the Flyers battle the Leafs that night. Sunday, after having all day in Toronto (**FYI the Hockey Hall Of Fame is open both 2/20 and 2/21/15**) we'll depart Toronto 6 PM and arrive in Philadelphia approximately 2:30 AM 2/22/16. Sounds like fun, doesn't it?? Seats for the trip will sell early, don't get shut out!! **Price includes: Roundtrip Motor coach, two nights lodging, a party at Gretzky's 2/19/15 with the opportunity to purchase drink specials, free buffet (at Gretzky's), a before game party at Real Sports with the opportunity to purchase drink specials, free buffet, (at Real Sports), upper level game ticket to the Flyers-Leafs game 2/20/15, ticket to the Hockey Hall Of Fame, drivers gratuity and more!! P.S. Get those passports ready!! Price: only \$599.00 Quad Occupancy (four to a room), \$659.00 Triple Occupancy (three to a room), \$729.00 Double Occupancy (two to a room). Single: See Lou.**

"FLORIDA" games 3/11 and 3/12/16. Another one of our "you tell us where/when and how long" and we'll make it happen.

COLORADO/ARIZONA: (3/23-3/27/16): Ever want to take a trip out west and search for gold? Well here's your chance, maybe even a trip to the Grand Canyon!! Details will be available in late October or early November.

PITTSBURGH: (4/1 to 4/3/16). It's always great to visit Pittsburgh. Join us...
Details in the next Puck issue.

For more info, contact Lou Milano, 609.922.2234 (cell/text), Lmstut@comcast.net
Please visit our website www.flyersfanclub.org for important trip notes and information!



Fun in Nashville - 2015 Convention Highlights by Lou Milano

The Detroit Red Wings For'em Club has gotten into the habit of having NHLBC Conventions in different cities than Detroit. In 2004 they held the Convention in Toronto (this got the wheels in motion for our 2007 Convention in Philadelphia) plus it got me back into Conventions. In 2009 they held the Convention in LAS VEGAS where besides the obvious PFFC members Heather Turner, Alan Ellis, Al Shell, Palma Maglio and myself (among others) we rode the New York New York upside down rollercoaster several times. And, yes it is true what happens in Vegas stays there. This year Nashville (who does not have an "official" Booster Club except for our awesome friend Deborah Reynolds, no not the star, our Deb is MORE FAMOUS!!) was the chosen city for the NHLBC Convention. The following is the synopsis of this year's "fun".

It seems every year I attend the convention for four days/five nights. This year was no exception so I (along with Alan Ellis) boarded the flight to Nashville on 8/5. The flight was bumpy but we arrived on time, made our way to the Airport Marriott Hotel (awesome hotel) and went to the Red Wings For'em Club's hospitality room where the fun began, seeing old friends, hanging out, etc.

Thursday, 8/6 was a mild day. A bunch of us had lunch in the hotel, took a ride downtown where we, of course, browsed into Bridgestone Arena, then back to the hotel where we mingled with hockey fans all day, catching up with old friends and making new ones. Before you know it was time for dinner but four of us had other plans. Thanks to Sandy Van Essendelft from the Rangers Fan Club we had tickets to a Nashville Sound AAA game. Sandy, John-19, Alan Ellis and I were treated to a doubleheader (YES, ONE PRICE FOR BOTH GAMES) courtesy of a rainout the night before. We even got Bobble Heads! The games weren't that exciting but the Stadium and the Scoreboard (shaped like a guitar) were really neat. After trying to hail down a cab for what seemed like hours, we finally arrived back at the hotel where the "For'em" room was the place to be. People were mingling, drinking, doing puzzles and a new dice game where you roll and can win money... It was fun and I even won a couple hands.

It was my intention to drive to Dollywood to try a couple new rollercoasters but after finding out it was over 3 hours from Nashville I looked for other "fun". It just so happens Nashville Shores, a local Water Park, was located close to the hotel. So, I decided to try. Most other conventioners had other tours planned but I got a few takers. On Friday 8/7 Alan Ellis was on board and a couple friends, Kathy Johnson-McHue from Winnipeg/Detroit (long story) and Kathy Koeller from Detroit decided to join us. It was blast. The park had several "normal" waterpark rides plus one I've never seen before. People rode in a tube down a hill and up the other side. Of course my tube went the highest up the other side; really a blast!! The day wasn't exactly perfect weather but the four of us had a fun time... BTW, we're looking at Waterparks in NY for next summer. That evening (the official start to the Convention) we gathered to dine. The food theme was country and it was great. Among other people (namely Theresa from NYR and Trish from NYI) I got to sit with Joan Schott. This turned out to be much fun as I never sat with her before (despite our "hi Lou" and "hi Joan") we never really sat and talked. It was fun listening to her stories about Kenny and his family. Who knows maybe one day Kenny will return and even more I'll get Joan to attend a PFFC meeting!!! The theme was country and the dancing was country line. It was a riot seeing everyone (especially me, you all know how coordinated I am) learn and I admired the patience of the people teaching... After the dancing it was time to open the Hospitality Room. This night was different as we served our famous Broad St. Punch, which as usual was gobbled up by everyone (thanks again Al Eschert). I served and we all took turns helping. It was a great time! People were just talking, laughing, etc. and as the night wore down we closed the room and headed into...



Saturday 8/8/15: The Saturday AM part of the Convention is something I really like. You see everyone trying to hide their eyes from being up so long, among other things etc. The Buffet Breakfast is served then a rep (yes, I'm the PFFC Rep) from each club gets on the "stage" and describes the past years events. It's very disheartening to hear the lack of support given to other clubs by their organizations. I mentioned I kind of feel guilty stating we continue to receive tremendous support from the Flyers. I explained where we went and who visited us (and the frat weekend at Lou's with the Detroit/Hartford and Ranger people), also mentioned the charity work we do. I also mentioned instead of always us going to see people, THEY should come to see us!!! Then the presentation for next year's Convention in Long Island (and who said we'd never have a reason to go back to the Island) was shown. After this was the Delegates Meeting (the "real" business part of the NHLBCC). All in all the "business activities" last from about 8 AM to 1 PM every Saturday of a convention. This day was pool day for a lot of us and for others, a chance to catch up with some rest. It seemed everyone hung out in the lobby or was by the pool. Saturday night was the team colors night. The food was Italian and well (with me being Italian) it was ok. We all hung out after dinner, some people danced, some people just hung out. Some people won prizes. I was thrilled of who won. Ruthann Petrell from St. Louis via Minnesota (where she lives...) won an IPOD and Rick Lind from LA won the Convention Package for next year in Long Island (I had won the Convention Package for Nashville last year). Both have had VERY TOUGH YEARS!!! Afterward the hospitality room opened but Saturday Night has a twist. There's something called Survival Night where you stay up all night, hang out, play games until 6 AM when pics are taken and we all escort each other to breakfast (some of us need the help!). It's usually a blast and "usually" I survive also but this year I only made it to 3:30 AM. But, Crys Harm, Beth Krummert and Alan Ellis made us proud by being the survival reps for the PFFC.

Sunday 8/9/15, which is normally a sad day with people saying their goodbyes until next year but lately most people are now staying over until Monday, with us being no exception. Sunday is usually a recuperating day until dinner. Then people magically come alive!! For a few of us we went to a place in Downtown Nashville named Acme Feed and Seed (no this is not something from the Road Runner...). It was great! Joining me was Sandy, Steve, Lucy from LI (two Rangers, one Islander - I'll make you guess), Alan Ellis, Ruthann Petrell from Minnesota and the famous Debbie Reynolds from Nashville. We had a blast, great pulled pork, southern cuisine, etc. We then took the van back to the hotel where we hung in the bar (I was watching the Vikings in the Hall Of Fame game) with some of the people that stayed over and it was finally time to pack for the trip home.

Monday 8/10/15: The trip home was uneventful and we landed on time. Evelyn, Al and I were on the same flight (God help Ev...).

It's always fun to attend Convention, whether you reminisce with old friends or make new ones. For me I always discuss trips with the other clubs' trip reps. Just FYI, this is how we get tickets for our trips to arenas where tickets are tough (e.g. Detroit). Next year (2016) the Convention is in Long Island. It's not that far so try to attend. I want to thank Kim and Brian Bowerman for putting up with me in the Hospitality Room all week as well as Kathy/Kathy from Detroit and also Larry Zub and Sue Lefever for coordinating the entire show. Also, a special thanks to our famous Debbie Reynolds for her help in having the Convention in her town!! We love ya Deb!! In closing a great time was had by all.

**Want to know more: visit <http://nhlboosters.org/events.html>
Details about the 2016 NHLBC Convention coming soon!**



Happy Birthday to PFFC members celebrating their special day!!

PFFC September Birthdays

PFFC October Birthdays

Wayne Baker	Robert Manahan	Michele Baker	Shawn E. Messinger
Joann Burke	Brooke A. Ostapovich	John J. Braccili	Carol Monahan
Terri Dziomba	Phillip Panzarella	Mark C. Castaldi	Tony Monte
Peter A. Ferla	Dan Penen	Deborah Crennan	Robert Muschelli
Joey Hammitt	Joan E. Schott	Joe Fisher	Maria C. Ostapovich
Crys Harm	Judith Shanoskie	Pam Foldes	Luke Sutton
Clifford Lentz	Gordon Shelly	Red Guernsey	Joseph Turner
Trish Leone	Lois (Mom) Witulski	Russ Gulbert	Sandy Turner
David Lowy		Joyce Heacock	Christine Wieder
		Glenn H. Heiland	Marge Windolph
		Aiden Lee	

Birthday List Compiled by PFFC Corresponding Secretary Randee Rubin (current as of 10-1-15)

Flyers Greats to be Honored this Season! You won't want to miss these games!



Kimmo Timonen
Retirement Night
October 14,
2015



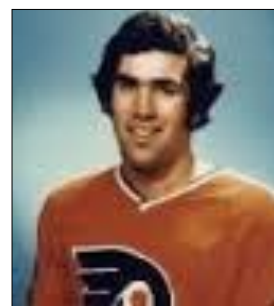
Danny Briere
Retirement Night
October 27,
2015



Simon Gagne
Retirement Night
November 17,
2015



Rod Brind'Amour
Flyers Hall of
Fame Night
November 23,
2015



Jimmy Watson
Flyers Hall of
Fame Night
February 29,
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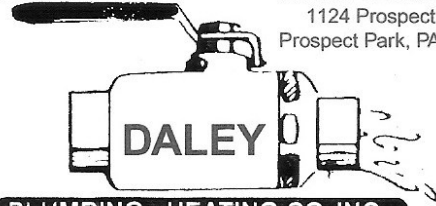
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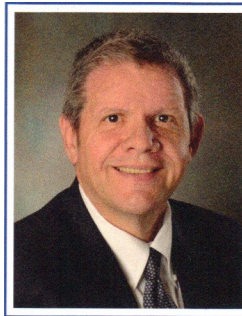


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