



THE PUCK

**Philadelphia Flyers
Fan Club**
Volume 24, Issue 3
January 2015

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT...

Hi Everyone,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season celebrating with family and friends. New Year's Day in Philadelphia is watching the Mummers and the Winter Classic. This year the Epix network carried the four part series the "Road to the Winter Classic". It followed the Chicago Blackhawks and Washington Capitals as they prepared for the big game. The series was well done and showed a different side to the players and coaches of those teams. If you did not get a chance to watch, I highly recommend that you find it online.

Speaking of recommendations, inside this issue, is the first "Fisher and Ash Dinner and a Movie review." Josh Ash and I will try to pick a different movie and restaurant each month. If you would like to suggest a movie and/or restaurant, please e-mail me at flyers212@verizon.net.

If part of your New Year's resolution was to get more involved with your Fan Club, Lois Witulski, our marvelous editor of this newsletter is always looking for people to contribute interesting articles and features. Please contact her with your ideas.

I hope to see you at the monthly meetings.
Joe Fisher, President

PFFC MEETING REMINDER

The next meeting of the Philadelphia Flyers Fan Club will be on Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at 7PM at the Stadium Holiday Inn located at 900 Packer Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19148

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

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WIN A SUITE!!

**Tickets available
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**Flyers vs. Detroit
March 14, 2015
Suite includes food,
drink & parking for
12 people!!**

**Tickets are \$5.00
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home games, PFFC
meetings and other
events.**

**Drawing will be held
on March 1, 2015**



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Holiday Fun & Giving by Lois Witulski

Holiday Time. A time for fun, friends and family. On December 15th, the PFFC held their annual meeting/Holiday Party at the Wingate Hotel in Voorhees. Approximately 50 PFFC members were in attendance as Flyers rookie center Scott Laughton visited with the club. Laughton was excited at having scored his first NHL goal just two nights earlier. My Mom is always thinking of others and had the great idea of getting a "Congratulations" card for Scott to commemorate this milestone. Before the meeting began, we had as many members that we could sign it. After the Q&A session, Scott signed autographs and posed for pictures with everyone. When my Mom and I got in line for our autographs, she gave him the card and he was very appreciative and sincerely thanked us. It was really nice to see.

Next, it was time to celebrate the holidays (and Lou Milano's birthday). There were sandwiches, chips, soft pretzels, soda, water and plenty of delicious desserts! PFFC President Joe Fisher had lots of great door prizes too. Everyone had fun spending time together.

As you all know, each year the PFFC donates \$1000.00 to a deserving family for the holidays. In addition to the club's contribution, the PFFC collected over \$500.00 in gift cards from members that evening. It is wonderful knowing that the PFFC helped out this family and hopefully made their holiday brighter. After all, that's what the holidays are all about.

Hope you all had a great one!!

Lois

Condolences to the family of former Flyers coach Pat Quinn who passed away in November. Quinn was Head Coach of the Flyers from the 1978-79 season until the 1981-82 season. He will be remembered best for the record-breaking 35 game unbeaten streak in 1979-80, a feat that is still unsurpassed today. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Quinn family.

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.



Caravan to Canada by Barb Concilio

At 6AM on Friday, November 14th, Lou Milano, Kevin Sobieski and I met up with Bruce Rizzo, Patty and Laura Encarnado and Denise and Craig Cimino in Southampton, PA to begin our trip to Montreal to see the Flyers play the Canadians. After a side trip to pick up Craig and Denise's daughter and son-in-law Angela and Jim Beecher, we started on our 10 hour trip. We decided to go in three cars with Bruce, Lou and Kevin in the lead followed by Patty and Laura and the rest of us in the rear. In our car, we had lots of fun conversation catching up on our lives and reminiscing about previous times we had spent together. After a couple of quick "comfort" stops, we decided on a Cracker Barrel for lunch and then back on the road. I have to say that I was very surprised that there was not a lot of traffic on any of the roads and didn't hit a back-up until we hit the border. We got into a quicker line than the others and actually had to wait for about 10 minutes for the other cars to get through their line. After about another half hour of driving, we arrived in the city of Montreal and after a little "hiccup", found our hotel, Novotel Centre which had an underground parking lot. We all checked into our rooms, had a couple of drinks at the hotel bar and headed out to eat dinner.

A couple of years ago when in Montreal we had found a restaurant called The Keg and decided to try it again at a different location, a 6 block walk from the hotel. When we got there it was packed with about 50 people waiting to be seated and told it would be about 45 minutes and we decided to wait. It was worth it!! The food and service were excellent and we had a great time with the servers and managers. We went back to the hotel and Angela and Jim went down the street to get some donuts at Tim Hortons. With a plan to meet for breakfast the next morning, everyone headed to bed.

At 10AM the next morning we all headed out to a restaurant called Eggcetera for a fabulous breakfast. Lou has a routine he has followed every time he is in Montreal with breakfast at McDonalds and had done so earlier in the morning, but he joined us and had some fruit. I have never seen such an assortment of breakfast choices on a menu and we all tried something different but all delicious. Then, some of us split up and went our separate ways for the afternoon. Lou and Bruce went "sports" shopping, Patty and Laura went to the Montreal Canadians Hall of Fame and did some shopping, and Denise, Craig, Angela, Jim, Kevin and I headed to Montreal's Underground Shopping Mall. After putting our coats in a locker, we explored several of the underground galleries, bought a few things and then decided to take the subway to go into "Old Montreal". One saleswoman in a shop called her mom on the phone to tell us the easiest way to get there and we got a map and more help from an Information Booth but found a very unhelpful employee at the first subway entrance when we needed help purchasing the subway ticket. When asking for help he just pointed to a machine and said we had to get our ticket there even though we tried to tell him the instructions were only in French and none of us understood. He didn't care! Luckily we were rescued by a very nice woman who helped us out and we were on our way. We had to take 2 trains on 2 different lines but it was very easy! If you ever go to Montreal, you must visit the Cathedral of Notre Dame - it is spectacular!! It costs \$5 to go in to see but it is well worth it. We then walked up old cobblestone streets and had a great lunch at a tavern.

We then headed back to the hotel to get ready for the game. But, only Patty, Laura, Bruce and Lou were actually going to the game at the Bell Center - the rest of us planned to watch it at a nearby bar. However, Denise made arrangements with the Hotel Manager to watch it from a high table in their bar inside the restaurant. It was a great idea. They set us up on the one side of the long table to look at the
(continued on page 4)...



(Caravan to Canada continued)...

TV across from the bar and the staff would not allow anyone else to sit anywhere where our view would be blocked. After a time, the staff got comfortable with us and started to tease us as the game went on. For the first couple of Montreal goals they said nothing, but after we finally scored our first and they scored again, they cheered for their team. At the end of the game and a Flyers loss, there were a couple of high fives and even an hour after the game as we sat in the lobby, one of the bartenders gave us all big hugs telling us what a good time he had with us joking around with them (NOTE: The large tip we left could have had something to do with it too – LOL!).

After deciding what time to meet the next day it was off to bed for the night. We were all on time the next morning and headed out just 2 minutes past our planned departure. At the border, we did stop for a few minutes at the Duty Free Store and we had lunch at one of the rest stops on the way home. I switched cars after lunch and rode with Bruce, Lou and Kevin and we split up with each of the other cars where they needed to exit. Bruce took us back to Southampton and then Lou took us the rest of the way home. It was a fabulous and quick trip but we all had a great time and I would do it again. We met a lot of other Flyers fans while we were in Montreal - most of them coming in from the Philly area. We also met a lot of great people from Canada. Patty and Laura ran into a man who was a tour driver from a previous trip several years ago. We met some guys from Nova Scotia who came in for the game - a place I've also been to a couple of times. And, for the first time in a long, long time - our American money was worth more than the Canadian dollar!!

PFFC 2014-15 Trips by Lou Milano (1/1/15)

WASHINGTON 2/8/15 (Sunday) 3 PM Bus trip or Game tickets only

Now that the Caps and Flyers are back in the same division, Flyers/Caps games are fun again. With this game in early February, playoff battles will begin. You'll want to be there. The bus will depart for the Verizon Center at 10 AM and return after the game.

Price includes round trip Motorcoach, snacks, reception and game ticket: \$175.00 per person

BOSTON/NEW JERSEY (Friday to Sunday) 3/6 - 3/8/15 Bus Trip

This will be a chance to see two games in the same trip. We'll depart at 7 AM and have almost two full days to explore Boston (a GREAT Town!!). Our hotel, Wyndham Beacon Hill Hotel is located within walking distance of the TD Bank Center (Flyers/Bruins 1PM on 3/7/14) AND many bars/eateries that Boston is most famous for. And, the hotel is not far from Faneuil Hall!! Around 11AM on 3/8/15, the bus will depart Boston for home but on the way, we'll stop at Newark's Prudential Center to watch the Flyers battle the always tough NJ Devils (5 PM). After the game we'll head home with expected arrival around 9:45 PM that evening. Two game trips are hard to come by, you may want to take advantage.

Price includes roundtrip Motorcoach, two nights lodging, taxes, welcome reception at hotel, snacks on the bus and TWO game tickets (Flyers-Bruins 3/7/15, Flyers-Devils 3/8/15). Quad \$549.00, Triple \$599.00, Double \$699.00, Single \$1099.00 All prices are per person.

Provide Your Own Transportation (no bus) and Save (although if driving, pricing at Boston parking lots is ASTRONOMICAL!!): Quad \$429.00, Triple \$475.00, Double \$575.00

See Lou for single price. All prices are per person.

For more info contact: Lou Milano at 609.922.2234/ Lmstut@comcast.net/ 1608 Lucas Lane, Voorhees, NJ 08043 or visit the PFFC website www.flyersfanclub.org.



Lindros and LeClair Induction Night by Theresa Carney-Kestenholz

Eric Lindros. John LeClair. For many years, you didn't see one on the ice without the other. Now two of the most dominant line mates in Flyers history will forever be linked together with their induction into the Flyers Hall of Fame on November 20, 2014.

I was lucky enough to be in attendance for this special ceremony. It wouldn't have seemed right to induct one without the other. These were the players that I was excited to watch play the game night after night. They were nothing short of spectacular with their chemistry on the ice along with Mikael Renberg to form the Legion of Doom line.

You could tell that not only were Eric and John friends on the ice, but off the ice as well. The highlights that were shown before the ceremony brought back fond memories from my youth. When it came time for the speeches, it was fitting that they did it together thanking their families, the Flyers organization, but most importantly the fans. The cheering for Lindros and LeClair was deafening, and it only grew as the ceremony went on and the banner was raised to the rafters.

Thank you Eric Lindros and John LeClair. You embodied how hockey players should play the game. For all of your hard work and dedication to hockey and the Flyers, you will forever be remembered.



*Eric Lindros and John LeClair during Flyers Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
on November 20, 2014*



Fisher & Ash - Dinner and a Movie by Joe Fisher & Josh Ash

National Mechanics Review

The first stop of the inaugural “Dinner and a Movie with Fisher and Ash” experience was National Mechanics in Old City, Philadelphia.

The restaurant’s building has been standing since 1837, and over the years has been home to banks, churches, clubs, and bars. The name National Mechanics is derived from the building’s beginning as Mechanics National Bank. The atmosphere was relaxed and inviting; not pretentious in any way. The space is quite large and open, mostly filled with high-top tables in the center. Along the periphery were perhaps six booths with church pew benches to the left and a long bar to the right. It was early evening Wednesday, so it was relatively quiet; just a light after-work crowd at the bar.

The menu is fairly limited and features your average pub fare: an assortment of appetizers for around \$10 each (wings, nachos, calamari, etc.), several salads and sandwiches (\$12-15) and a small selection of entrees (\$20+). In addition, there were several daily specials offered, including salmon lasagna.

Ash opted to start with the chicken empanadas (one of the specials), which although listed as an appetizer, arrived at the same time as his crab cake sandwich entree. The outside of the empanadas were bland and overcooked, but they came with chimichurri, which helped. The filling inside was tasty with a little bit of heat. They were served with a refreshing, lightly-dressed tomato and cucumber salad. The crab cake sandwich was a very typical pub-style crab cake. It’s imitation crab meat, but for \$12, that is par for the course. It arrived hot on a fresh kaiser roll with steak fries.

Fisher started out with buffalo wings and the review was excellent. They were not sopping wet with sauce, fried crispy and just the right amount of hot. For a place, not promoting themselves as a “wing” restaurant, they would certainly hold up against those that do.

Fisher’s entrée was the braised beef short ribs. They were the special that night but he would say, they were “sort of” special. The flavors were there, the meat was done decently but it was a little dry and fatty.

Fisher will agree with Ash, the place does have a nice atmosphere, you weren’t rushed and the wait staff was pleasant. They have a good selection of beers, the crowd was very comfortable, a mix of everybody and not loud. It was certainly a good experience, Fisher would go back but he is not rushing.

In general, National Mechanics doesn’t blow you away but doesn’t leave you regretting the experience. Service was sufficient with no complaints. It seems like it could be a fun place to play quizzo or to watch a game and enjoy a few beers. And more wings.

Fisher’s score: 3.5 pucks out of 5 (the extra .5 was for the wings, lol)

Ash’s score: 3 pucks out of 5

National Mechanics, 22 S. 3rd Street, Philadelphia, Pa.



After dinner, it was off to the Ritz East Theater for that evening's showing of *Foxcatcher*.

Synopsis

Directed by Bennett Miller (*Capote*, *Moneyball*), *Foxcatcher* is the captivating story of multi-millionaire John E. du Pont and Olympic wrestling brothers Mark and Dave Schultz.

Mark Schultz, the more reserved of the brothers, is invited to move to and train for the 1988 Olympics at du Pont's Foxcatcher Farm in Newtown Square, Pa. Du Pont, a wrestling enthusiast, has constructed a training facility on par with that of the Soviets, for the purpose of serving both his personal need for approval from his peers and his mother, and his nationalistic desires of enabling the Americans to take the gold at the Olympics. Mark, who inexplicably is at a low point in life, feeling overshadowed by his brother, and for whom it is implied lacking a father figure, jumps at the opportunity. Dave, the most emotionally balanced of the three central characters, is settled with a wife and children, and thus initially declines du Pont's invitation to join his team. After repeated offers, Dave is ultimately convinced to sign on as the "assistant coach," not so much for the money being offered, but out of concern for Mark's well-being after a visit to the estate. As du Pont asserts more control over the wrestling team and begins his spiral toward complete insanity, the unique relationships and tensions between each of the three principal players unfold before ending in tragedy.

Ash's Review

The acting in the film is superb. Channing Tatum, as the troubled, quiet Mark and Mark Ruffalo, as affable Dave, turned in solid performances. It is Steve Carrell, however, who gives the stand out performance. In a stark departure from the roles in which one is accustomed to seeing him, complete with prosthetic nose and slow, deliberate speech patterns, Carrell is hauntingly convincing as the eccentric millionaire du Pont.

The story grabs the viewer from the beginning and does not let go. It may seem slow at times, but this adds to the experience of witnessing du Pont's descent that begins at disturbingly creepy and spirals toward utterly unhinged. *Foxcatcher* is not without flaws; there are unanswered questions for which the viewer is left to draw their own assumptions. Overall though, the intriguing story and stellar performance from Steve Carrell make the film worth seeing.

Fisher's Review

Well, if you want to go out for a feel good movie night, stay clear of this one. I felt mentally drained after *Foxcatcher* was over, and didn't really know what to say. I remembered this story from years ago but over time, the details faded and I forgot what a gripping, horrific story it was. Josh provided the synopsis, quite well and after seeing this film, people ask, "How was it?" It's a difficult question to answer. So, my answer is, if you like excellent acting, Tatum, Ruffalo (always consistent) and an Oscar nomination worthy performance by Steve Carrell, go see it. This story and acting will keep you in its grips throughout the entire movie, but it's still tough to say I enjoyed it. Overall, I would say one of my top films of the year.

Fisher's score: 4 pucks out of 5

Ash's score: 4 pucks out of 5

Foxcatcher Rated R 2 hrs. 14 min



Happy Birthday to PFFC Members celebrating in January!!

- Michael Alessandro
- Allan Bosswick
- Joe Bruckler
- Joe Bustard
- Jerry Callahan
- Albert Eschert
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- Frank Jordan
- Timothy Maher
- Aldo Mastrocola, Jr.
- Jonathan A. Previty
- Jaclyn Primavera
- Liz Sanna
- Tawanda Starkes
- Natalie Young

**PHANTOMSTRIP 3/22/15 (Sunday) 5 PM
Bus trip and Game tickets only**

Join the PFFC on our first ever trip to the new PPL Center in Allentown (PA) to see the Lehigh Valley Phantoms battle the visiting Wilkes-Barre Penguins in their beautiful new arena. Football season will be over and what else is there to do on a Sunday in March? If these two teams play each other like the parent clubs do, we're in for a treat!! We'll depart the Philadelphia area at 1PM and return after the game with a scheduled return approximately 10 PM.



Get your seats today!!

Price includes round trip Motorcoach, snacks and game ticket \$75.00 per person. Purchase Game ticket only: \$25.00 per person. For more information please contact Lou Milano.

Birthday List Compiled by: PFFC Corresponding Secretary Randee Rubin

(current as of 1-1-15)

**2015 NHLBC Convention in Nashville, TN hosted by:
Detroit Red Wings For'em Club**

Nashville Airport Marriot August 7-9th, 2015

For more information follow the link on the PFFC website,
www.flyersfanclub.org

Prices per person are: \$530 single; \$399 double; \$365 triple;
\$335 double; children staying in a parent's room are \$175

*Additional nights are \$122 + taxes.

Payment schedule as follows: (payments are due to Evelyn on the date shown)

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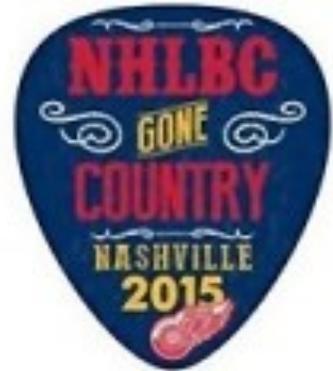
1/25/15 \$100 per person plus any pre-convention activities

3/25/15 \$100 per person

5/24/15 balance due

Checks are payable to Philadelphia Flyers Fan Club and should be mailed along with the registration form, waiver form and pre-convention trip form to:

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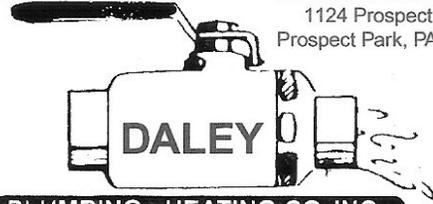
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The Puck
An Official Publication of the Philadelphia Flyers Fan Club
Wells Fargo Center
3601 South Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19148

