

# HURRICANE WARNING

Vol. 8, No. 2

The official newsletter of the Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club

November/December 2004

## Boosters Travel to Fayetteville for Hockey

by John Gallagher  
Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club President

The Boosters found their own replacement for their hockey fix. On October 31<sup>st</sup> and November 21<sup>st</sup>, 50 members of the Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club traveled to see the Fayetteville Fireantz, a team in the Southern Professional Hockey League.

The familiar "Let's Go Canes" chant was temporarily replaced by "Let's Go Antz!" On October 31<sup>st</sup>, the Fireantz were down 5-0 at the hands of the Jacksonville Barracudas by 4:44 of the second period, but the team rallied behind their seventh man from Raleigh and made it interesting in by scoring the next four goals. The Antz would lose the game, but the Boosters were impressed enough to book a second trip to Fayetteville on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Antz lost again in the second outing by the Booster Club. The Antz lost 4-3 to the Winston-Salem Polar Twins despite outshooting them.

Such is life in a lockout world for the NHL fan. Other hockey teams in Winston-Salem and Charlotte will similarly benefit from an extended NHL lockout for

the diehard hockey fan.

The closest game the fans can find to the NHL in these times is the AHL, which have an abundance of NHL experience this year.

"The AHL is a very good league," Said Hurricanes Assistant General Manager Jason Karmanos at a recent Storm Trackers luncheon. "There are about four to five NHL players per team."

Fans pining to see the Hurricanes, but not wanting to travel too far, will have to make plans to see the Lowell Lock Monsters in Norfolk, VA on December 10th and

11<sup>th</sup> when they play the Norfolk Admirals. That is the closest the team will come to Raleigh. Brad Fast, Ryan Bayda, Eric Staal, Allan Rourke, Danny Richmond, Mike Zigomanis, and Bruno St. Jacques have been relegated to the minor leagues to gain valuable ice time and experience while the NHL settles their labor dispute. Lowell is presently 3-3-1 and fifth place in their division.

The Canes haven't exactly relaxed as the lockout  
*(More coverage on pages 4 and 5...)*



*The Fayetteville FireAntz take to the ice at the Crown Coliseum on November 21<sup>st</sup>.*

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8 More Chuck Kaiton!

Next CHBC Meeting: Friday, Dec 17<sup>th</sup>

## Officers & Directors

**John Gallagher**  
President

(919) 363-8817  
johng@hurricanesboosters.org

**Patrick Drollinger**

Vice President  
Denal414@bellsouth.net

**Cheryl Mulhern**

Recording Secretary  
cherylm@hurricanesboosters.org

**Open**

Corresponding Secretary

**Laura Harper**

Treasurer  
laura@hurricanesboosters.org

### At-Large Board Members

Edith Creasy  
creasy@attglobal.net

**Suzanne Hagen**

suzanneh@hurricanesboosters.org

**Pete Peters**

pete@bpdsonline.com

**Brian Williamson**

bwilliamson3@nc.rr.com

### Committee Chairmen

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Garden: Loreice Jernigan  
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### Carolina Hurricanes Booster Club

P. O. Box 20776  
Raleigh, N. C. 27619  
hurricanesboosters.org

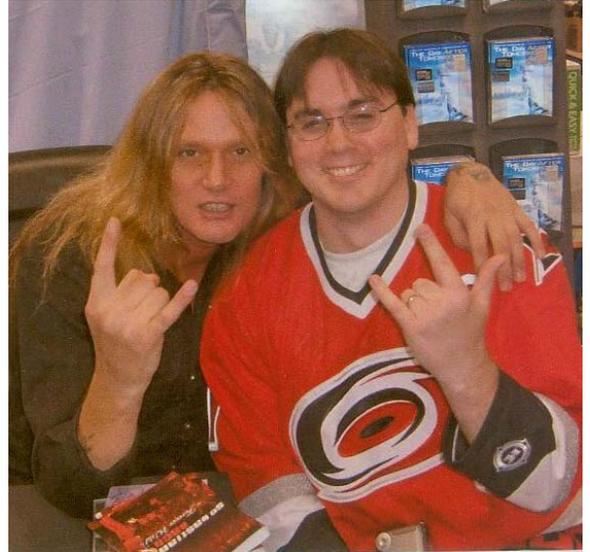
Send newsletter submissions to:  
bhorner3@sanfordherald.com

### Newsletter deadline:

Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup>  
For the Jan 2005 Issue

## President's Message / John Gallagher

*Youth Gone Wild? Not exactly. Former Skid Row lead singer, Sebastian Bach, poses with John prior to his appearance in Jekyll and Hyde at the BTI Center this past October. "Never miss an opportunity to pose with a celebrity in your Canes jersey!" says the Prez.*



As of this writing, the lockout continues to lull hockey fans into severe bouts of boredom. The Boosters have certainly stayed very busy despite the cancellation of games in the 2004-05 season.

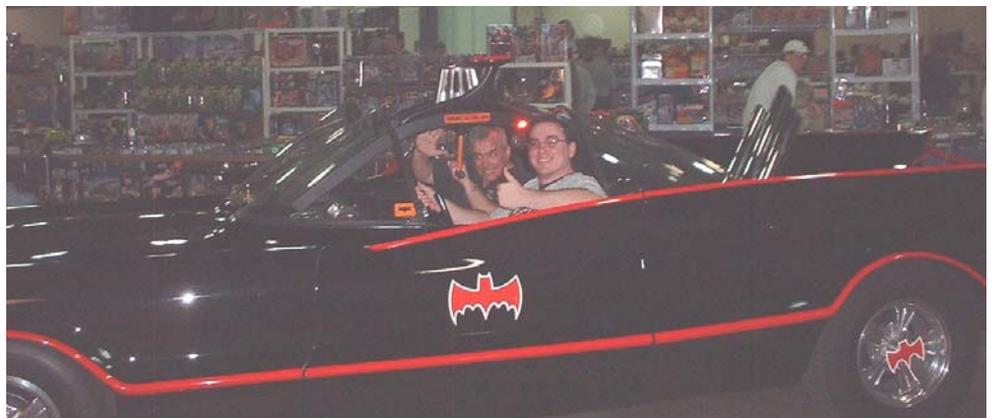
October brought the Town Hall and Hurricanes Halloween party to give us excuses to go to the RBC Center. Some kudos needs to go out to all the wonderful people at the Carolina Hurricanes who are making an effort to stay in touch with the fans while the season remains on extended hiatus.

More props need to go out to Kevin McNaught, Dallas Parks, and Tracy Furjanic from the Fayetteville FireAntz Organization. These individuals were very accommodating to the Boosters as we trekked down to see how the Southern Professional Hockey League plays the sport. The Boosters caught two games so far this season and will likely go again should the lockout continue.

On a personal note, life could not be any better (or busier), as I celebrated a promotion to Senior Pricing Analyst at work and my wife and I are expecting our third child in April (It's a BOY!). It certainly is a bummer to be without NHL hockey this year, but I welcome the extra time with family and friends, especially some of the many new faces in the Booster Club this year.

Meeting attendance is at an all-time high despite the circumstances and I truly thank all of you for making this year a wonderful experience as we close 2004. We will keep the activities going, but let's hope we soon have some NHL games to attend. **STAY SHARP!**

And that's hockey to me...



**HOLY LOCKOUT, BATMAN!: If there is any more evidence that the labor dispute needs to end quickly, see the photo of Pat and John above. These two really need something to do! LET'S GO CANES!**

## RBC Center GM Olsen tells CHBC members about arena's operation

Davin Olsen, Vice President and General Manager of the RBC Center, was the featured speaker at the Booster Club's October meeting. Olsen discussed topics ranging from the move from Hartford to North Carolina and the effects of the NHL lockout with regard to RBC Center business.

Olsen started the evening with a five-year anniversary video, which highlighted the many concerts, shows and events which have become commonplace at the RBC Center. The challenges of his position have certainly intensified due to the empty slots on the RBC schedule due to the NHL lockout. Olsen had experienced similar circumstances in 1994 when the Whalers hosted the NHL Draft and the NHL had a similar work stoppage following that event.

This time around was a little different for the RBC Center GM. One of the negative results of this NHL lockout caused Olsen to have to let 26 RBC Center staff members go. It was the first time in his career he had to enact such a layoff.

"I lost some tremendous people," he said. "That's a real hard thing to have to do."

The conversation next moved to the business of running the RBC Center and the creative process that goes along with booking events in the arena. For Davin and his staff, there are three ways an event can be brought in to the RBC Center: 1) buy a show, 2) co-promote a show, or 3) rent the building. Renting the arena is probably the least risky from a financial perspective because the burden of profitability is passed to the promoter or renter.

Like any viable business, the RBC Center has its competitors. Its key competition comes from the Charlotte Coliseum and the Greensboro Coliseum. The Charlotte arena holds 24,000 seats and the Greensboro Coliseum holds 22,000 plus 14 luxury suites. The RBC has 20,000 seats and 66 suites.

The suites sometimes determine if an event is won or lost. The RBC sells its suites for three-year commitments. A suite-holder is then entitled to all the events in the arena in a given year. The rent for these suites is pre-paid to the RBC so any show or event that comes in would not generate revenue for the artist or promoter from the attendees in the suites. This is why Charlotte and Greensboro can sometimes attract the higher demanded shows because there are more sellable tickets.

Another drawback to the luxury suites can occur if a stage obstructs the view for a suiteholder. In these instances, the RBC is obligated to provide alternative and comparable seating to the suiteholder. For example, if the stage for the Bette Middler concert obstructs a suite, the RBC must purchase seats for that suiteholder.

One other topic of interest was the move from Hartford to North Carolina for the Hurricanes. The Whalers were basically a tenant of the Hartford Civic Center. The revenue surrounding the Whalers was split among five different organizations, which made it basically impossible to make a profit for any one, especially the Whalers. The profitability challenge was the genesis that started the move to Raleigh.

Olsen oversees approximately 700 part-time employees at RBC Center. It was clear he had a passion for what he does. His college degree is in criminal justice and one aspects of his job he loves the most is the art of the investigation. He told a couple of stories about catching criminals from crimes committed under his watch.

"I love coming to work everyday," he said. "Now there are days I wish I didn't show up, but I love coming here (to the RBC Center)."

The Boosters got a 45-minute glance into the occurrences that allow them to be able to watch and enjoy a Carolina Hurricanes Hockey Game. After listening, it would almost be a crime not to purchase a ticket to any event booked in the arena.



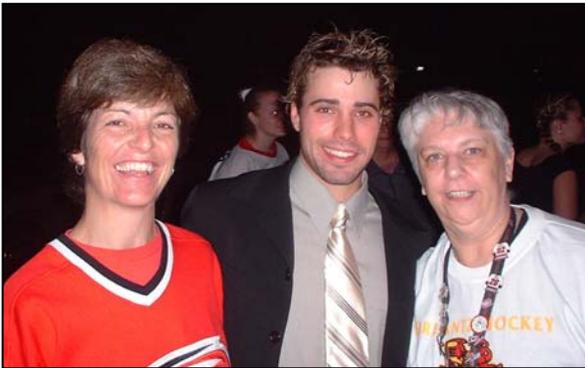
*The lower-level concourse at the RBC Center*

## Fayetteville FireAntz

*(continued from page 1)*

threatens to cancel the NHL season. The team recently hosted a town hall meeting with Hurricanes owner Peter Karmanos and NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman to address fan questions and concerns. They also sponsored a Halloween haunted house for their season ticket holders on October 29th.

The Canes have put together a free trip for season ticket holders to see Lowell in Norfolk on December 11<sup>th</sup>. At press time, the trip was completely full. Unfortunately, Boosters and Caniacs alike are relegated to traveling to Lowell or Norfolk to experience any professional hockey in 2004-05. The waiting is truly the hardest part.



*Members Ginny Paisie and Suzanne Hagen with FireAntz Goalie Chad Collins.*



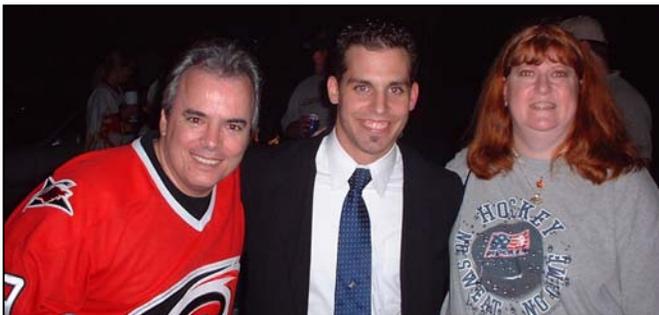
*Who let these guys in? FireAntz mascots give the Boosters a warm welcome in Fayetteville.*



*Cathie McCorkle, Emily Stephenson and Mary Scott at the November 21<sup>st</sup> FireAntz game.*



*Goalie Chad Collins stopped 9 of 10 shots after replacing Goalie Tim Knudsen in the 2<sup>nd</sup> period.*



*Pat Drollinger, former NC State netminder Jorge Alves, and Cheryl Mulhern pose at the FireAntz Meet-and-greet on Oct 31<sup>st</sup>.*

## What's the greatest single game in Hurricane history?

only became a Caniac in October 2002. Of all the games between then and now, if I limit my choices to games that the Canes won, the one that I go back to frequently, especially since Sept. 15, is the 6-3 win over the Rangers on November 6, 2003. It had all the elements of a great hockey game - scoring (imagine - 9 total goals!), great play by guys (Ron Francis, Danny Markov, Craig Adams and Sean Hill) who were fun to watch, great play by guys who I hope will get to play with the Canes again some day (Eric Staal, Ryan Bayda, Josef Vasicek, Glen Wesley, Rod Brind'Amour, Kevyn Adams), teeth extraction (Markov lost three teeth in the first period and, like any great hockey player, returned to play later in the game), and even a Canes power-play goal. And a penalty shot, to boot. All the elements that make hockey a great game.

**Edith Creasy**

The Miracle at Molson. This is my favorite of the "Canes Classics" because to me it is the turning point of the playoffs in 2002. I felt after the Hurricanes beat the New Jersey it gave the team a lot of confidence to advance



*Rod Brind'Amour, left, and Erik Cole celebrate Cole's game-tying goal with 40.8 seconds left in the 'Miracle at Molson' game in Montreal in 2002.*

to the next round. But I feel that Jose Theodore was a big problem for the Canes. It seems no matter how many shots they put to him they just couldn't break through and score. And because of this the Canadiens were dominating this game. But once Sean Hill got the first goal and it proved to the team that Theodore could be beaten then they gained back their confidence and took control of the game. And to me it was the best 3rd period and overtime in Canes history.

**Cheryl Mulhern**

Not much could beat the "Miracle at Molson" or the opening game of the Cup finals, when the Hurricanes beat the Red Wings in overtime, but a game I especially remember with fondness is the Carolina-Philadelphia match-up that featured Keith Primeau's return to Raleigh after the Brind'Amour trade. Bates Battaglia scored early in the first period and Arturs Irbe made it stick with a shutout. There were a lot of highlights in that game - hard hits, great saves, and an incredible crowd. You can't beat the energy of the playoffs...but the Miracle at

Molson and the win in Game 1 of the Finals over the Wings were both road games. So for a non-playoff home game, this game against the Flyers really stands out.

**Bill Horner III**

The home game against the Atlanta Thrashers on Oct. 11, 2002, because we won, 5-3, and I was there and I did ride the Zamboni

**Daniel van Buyner from Belgium**

The Miracle at Molson (Game 4 of the 2002 playoffs against the Canadiens). The Canes had zero momentum going into that game, found themselves in a big hole, and mounted a great comeback that solidified confidence in themselves to carry them through that series and the next. It was a true testament of the work ethic and mental toughness of the team at that time. The fans really identified and embraced those qualities which set the stage to make the ESA (now the RBC Center) the loudest in the NHL.

**John Gallagher**

## New CHBC member reviews Lowell experience

Hi, I'm Myra Wheeler, and I'm a new member of the Hurricanes Booster club. Some of you I've met already, and some I have not, but I hope to soon!

In light of the Lowell Lock Monster games on December 10th and 11th, I decided to share my trip up to Lowell last March to see the Lock Monsters play on their home turf. What started as mainly a sightseeing trip ended up being a pretty good hockey trip too.

My friend April and I began our trip with a sendoff day with the Canes. We drove into Raleigh on the 9th after work with the news that Ron Francis was gone to

Toronto and our team was now without a captain. Our plan was to get an early start the next morning and finally get to see a Hurricanes practice session.

I always knew a lot of hard work went into preparing for the games, but to see the dedication of some of the players to running the same drills over and over until they were as good as they could be was an eye-opener. After practice, we bummed around Raleigh until it was time to head to the RBC for the game that night against the Tampa Bay Lightning.

As most of you know, the team put in a great effort against the eventual Stanley Cup Champions, but couldn't quite top them, losing the game 4-2. I still had a great time at the game, since the Canes first goal of the night was scored by my favorite player, Jesse Boulerice, and we were ready to begin our trip by setting out on the road that night.

We made it to New York City the next day after catching a few hours of sleep in Maryland, and began the sightseeing portion of our vacation. We had looked into finding hockey to watch in the NYC area, but there were no Rangers or Islanders games in town, and no one we couldn't miss in Jersey, so we

had decided, why not road trip a little more and head to Lowell to catch some of the up and coming Lock Monsters? There just happened to be a Sunday afternoon game during our trip that gave us plenty of time to get there and back before it got too late.

A few call ups to the Canes later, we still had a great Lowell team to watch, and also had the chance to see Michael Zigomanis, Ryan Bayda and Tomas Kurka, who had been called up for our sendoff game.

Well, Sunday morning arrived and we headed to pick up the car in the parking lot across town (don't ever drive into New York City!!!) and it was off to Lowell via

many toll booths we went. Our main excitement on the drive up was finally realizing that all the white areas we saw on the sides of the interstate were ponds and lakes that were completely frozen over.

I've lived in the mountains of North Carolina where it gets cold my whole life but I've never seen anything like that. It took finally seeing the water in a roadside ditch to realize what we were seeing.

Anyway, we finally arrived in Lowell around 3 and were instructed how to "paaak the caaa" by the nice gentlemen in the parking lot and we made our way into Tsongas Arena to pick up our tickets.

Our first stop was by the gift shop to pick up our Lowell souvenirs, and then up to the seats we went to await pre-game warm-ups to begin.

The first thing I noticed inside was a large Carolina Hurricanes Eastern Conference Champions banner from 2002 hanging by the Lowell banner for the same year. It was nice seeing a little bit of home on vacation. Finally, the Monsters took the ice along with the Hartford (CT) Wolfpack (the Rangers' affiliate) for warm-ups.

We saw many familiar names from stints with the Canes, such as Joey Tetarenko, Brett Lysak, Brad



*The Lowell Lock Monsters on a faceoff from a game last spring.*

*(continued from page 6)*

Fast, Damian Surma, Tomas Malec and Rob Zepp. The backup goalie in the game for Hartford, Steve Valiquette, was called up soon after our game to play for a time with the Rangers.

After the warm-ups and the pre-game festivities, it was finally game time. I was impressed with the style of play I saw with the Lock Monsters. They played a very fast paced game, and at times you had to work hard to keep up with the action. It was also a very physical, in your face style game that led to many penalties, and one Wolfpack player having to be taken to a nearby facility for a little extra attention.

Unfortunately, it wasn't the time for winning in Lowell either, but the Monsters made a good showing in the loss. Back at home, the Canes, of course, went on a great winning streak while we were gone and couldn't watch the action. We had to settle for news clips of the games from the newsstand outside our hotel.

After the game, the arena staff announced an autograph session for those in attendance with Rob Zepp and then a post-game skate for anyone interested. We thought we might as well meet our goalie while we were there, so we headed over to wait in line.

After getting our autograph, we began the trek back to midtown Manhattan, via the Queens detour April took on the way back instead of listening when I gave her the right exit. We got a fly by tour of a ballpark or two, lots of houses, several airports, and eventually the Brooklyn bridge on our way back into Manhattan.

We eventually made our way back to get packed up for the return trip to Canes country. All in all I had a great time on the trip, especially in Lowell, and I hope to make it back soon. Until then, I guess it's going to be the Lock Monsters in Norfolk this December. Hope to see you there!

## Buzz at November Meeting Was as Good as Gold



***Long-time CHBC Member Richard Minton plays wingman to 850 the Buzz radio personality Adam Gold at the November Booster Club meeting.***

With the lockout steadfast in the minds of the Boosters, there was no one better to lead the discussion than 850 the Buzz's Adam Gold.

Adam listened to frustrated fans, who vented freely, and handled questions and comments with ease in a challenging environment at Blinco's Sports Restaurant.

"The thing that really bugs me about the players in Europe is that the owners can't own and fans have no hockey to watch, but the players have still found a way to scratch that itch," said Gold.

Other topics included the NBC television deal, player salaries, comparisons to the other major sports, and the alternative activities for fans during the lockout.

You can catch Adam Gold on the "G-Spot", his afternoon radio show Monday through Friday from 3 to 6 pm on AM 850.

## CanePoll: How badly are you missing NHL hockey?

**It's excruciating - I can't stand it! GIVE ME HOCKEY!!! – 3 votes**

**Pretty badly. I'm not going nuts or anything, but I sure would love to go to an NHL game. – 4 votes**

**I'm missing it, but I've found other ways to fill my schedule. – 4 votes**

**A little. Not as much as I thought. – 0 votes**

**CHBC Event Calendar:**

**Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> – 8pm**  
**Storm Shelter at Damon's in Raleigh**  
**(across from RBC Ctr)**  
**Canes Classics – 2002 Stanley Cup**  
**Finals Game 1**  
**(more details inside!)**

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Booster Club Presents:

**Charity Dinner/Auction**  
**RBC Center**  
**Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**Special Guests To Be Announced**

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