

## Convention Philly Style!!!

The 2006 AAHLBC Convention was held on September 8 – 10 at the Sheraton Society Hill in Philadelphia. This was a great Opportunity to meet with other booster clubs, exchange ideas and have a great time that weekend. The Lowell members in attendance were watching things a bit more carefully this year as we will be hosting this event next year in Lowell.

Convention attendance was down this year due to a few factors but that did not stop the 150 or so attendees from having a great time. The Philadelphia Phantoms Phan Club did a great job in throwing a party!!! The theme was “1776—You figure it out” but I still haven’t... The buffet dinner on Friday night was very casual with most clubs dressing up in themed outfits and Philadelphia put on a great local spread of items such as Philly Cheese steaks as well as an assortment of Tastytreats from the Tasty Baking company.

Several members of the Lowell Club had a group entry into the themed costume contest as they “reenacted” the Boston Tea Party complete with the HMS Beaver as a backdrop. We did tie the Binghamton Senators Booster Club in that category. They had an entire Colonial Fife & Drum corps with them but it goes to show everyone how creative that each club can be. Rookie convention goers Bill & Doris Bruner had a great theme with Bill being 17 and Doris being 76. I think they really got into the whole spirit and really enjoyed themselves.

Not to be outdone, member Nancy Baillargeon teamed up with Ed Drozdowski of Wilkes-Barre/Scranton as a Native American couple. They both received some good applause from the crowd. As the weekend progressed, so did the socializing, trip taking and a little bit of drinking here and there!!! What seemed to be in short supply at convention as usual is sleep. With so much fun it really is hard to sleep that weekend.

With this years convention now over, the focus is now on Lowell and how great a convention we can plan. I encourage every member to get out those Mardi Gras beads and “Let the good times roll...” next year here in Lowell!!!

## Never Forget... Lowell Lock Monsters Booster Club



1999 - 2006

## New Beginnings... Lowell Devils Booster Club



2006– Present

Lowell Devils Hockey • Lowell Devils Hockey • Lowell Devils Hockey  
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## Misguided Allegiances

**Ilene Tatroe**  
*Contributing Staff*

The true AHL fan is a very interesting breed indeed. Our allegiances are, well, a little messed up when it comes to the NHL.

This was readily apparent at the first-ever NHL pre-season tilt at the Tsongas Arena a few weeks ago. The New Jersey Devils – the owners of the Tsongas Arena’s newest tenants, the Lowell Devils – played against the Boston Bruins. As expected, most game attendees were wearing the hallowed Black & Gold, and most were cheering on the “away” team (Boston).

The Lowell Devils are new to us Lowell AHL fans; we have no history with the team, and so no real reason to cheer on their parent organization. Perhaps if this was Carolina (Stanley Cup year or not), I could understand it. After all, several names on that roster played for Lowell in the past.

And yet I saw quite a few people cheering on those ice demons from New Jersey. In fact, I was cheering on the Devils, which is something I never ever thought I’d do.

What’s up with that?

For me (and some of the folks around me), it was simple. We intended to cheer for the *Boston* Bruins. But when we looked on the

ice, what we really saw were people we jeered as *Providence* Bruins (Bergeron, Toivonen, Sigalet, Boyes, Reich, etc.). It was easy to mentally replace the spoked-B with a spoked-P – especially given our surroundings (the Tsongas). And thus we found ourselves – from the beginning, mind you – cheering for the New Jersey Devils.

I’m not surprised. A few years back, I had a Stanley Cup watching party for the Calgary Flames. And this year I did the same for the Carolina Hurricanes. (By the way, I’m not allowed to have people over to watch Stanley Cup games when we care who wins. The team being cheered on lost every game people watched at my house. No one was at my place for Game 7, and that is why Carolina won.)

Why did I care? I cared because guys who played for *us* were playing for these teams. (And, honestly, how cool was it to see the likes of Cam Ward, Mike Commodore, Chad LaRose, Andrew Ladd, Eric Staal, and Craig Adams win the Stanley Cup? Who else shrieked with delight that Cam Ward won the Conn-Smythe?)

In the end, it’s about the players and not the team colors. I’m still a Boston Bruins fan, but I have favorite players everywhere, and the bulk of them are within the Carolina, Calgary, and Colorado organizations.

Yup. I’m an AHL fan. My allegiances really are messed up.

## October Celebrations



### Birthdays

Dave Bradley  
 Dan Conroy  
 Lee Doyle  
 Jessica Dubois  
 Steve Gallo  
 Joan Gibson  
 Jonathan Greene  
 Stephen Melanson  
 Grace Milot  
 Peter Recka  
 Joe Scali  
 John Turner  
 LD Stephen Gionta  
 LD Frank Doyle –belated Sept.  
 LD Mark Fraser –belated Sept.  
 LD Mike Pandolfo –belated Sept.  
 LD Jordan Parise –belated Sept.  
 LD Rod Pelley –belated Sept.

### Anniversaries

Steve & Lee Doyle  
 Judson & Carolyn Greene  
 Laurie & Petr Hadamovsky

*My apologies if I have forgotten anyone this month. If I have, just email the Editor.*

### **LDBC Membership Pins**

#### **Bring your designs**

Members are encouraged to bring a pin design to the October General Meeting!!!

We need designs for our 2006-2007 Member Pins.

Please try to limit the colors.

All pin designs will be considered!!!

Use your talents to create an awesome members pin for this year!!!

#### **LDBC Internet Links:**

##### **Lowell Devils Hockey**

[www.lowelldevilshockey.com](http://www.lowelldevilshockey.com)

##### **Lowell Devils Booster Club**

[www.lowelldevilsbc.com](http://www.lowelldevilsbc.com)

##### **American Hockey League**

[www.theahl.com](http://www.theahl.com)

##### **New Jersey Devils (NHL)**

[www.newjerseydevils.com](http://www.newjerseydevils.com)

##### **Lowell Devils Yahoo Group**

[sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/LowellDevils](http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/LowellDevils)

##### **AHL Boards**

[www.ahlboards.com](http://www.ahlboards.com)

##### **AHL2 Boards**

[s10.invisionfree.com/AHLBoards2](http://s10.invisionfree.com/AHLBoards2)

## Events and Happenings

- ◆ **Booster Club General Meeting: Mon., Oct. 2, 7 PM**  
Tsongas Arena - Club Room - (Use the East Entrance)
- ◆ **Booster Club General Meeting: Mon., Nov. 6, 7 PM**  
Tsongas Arena - Club Room - (Use the East Entrance)
- ◆ **Booster Club General Meeting: Mon., Dec. 4, 7 PM**  
Tsongas Arena - Club Room - (Use the East Entrance)

## Booster Club Thoughts and Expressions

Please continue to get in those renewals in for this new 2006-2007 year!!! The Booster Club needs members like you to continue our great support this coming season!!!

Let's all welcome LDBC member Arlene Huard as our new LDBC Secretary!!!

Welcome all members to the LDBC. This is the same fun club– just a different name!!! It was a great seven years as the LLMBC but time to help support a new team now!!!

Good Luck to the Lowell Devils Team as they prepare for a great season here in Lowell at the Tsongas Arena, let's bring the Calder Cup to home this year!!!

## NJ Devils add another piece to the puzzle...

It was reported on the Lowell Devils website September 21, 2006 that the New Jersey Devils purchased a majority interest in the Trenton Titans ECHL Team. With this purchase, the Devils now own two minor league development teams as well as their own NHL Team. In the article, it sounds as if the NJ Devils want to make this ownership of the ECHL Titans a long term investment and they have a commitment to the people of NJ in doing so.

The Devils are looking forward to adding Trenton to their minor league development system. This ownership is not that much different from the NHL Carolina Hurricanes that had owned both an OHL Junior Team, the Plymouth Whalers as well as an ECHL Team, the Florida Everblades in addition to their own NHL Team. With direct ownership in a development system, it gives the parent team greater control in the development of their players as well as greater resources to draw from and a more steady lineup of players being called up.

This new purchase of an ECHL team could mean a greater benefit to Lowell as far as where their 'AA Hockey' players come from in the system.

### **The LDBC needs your help!!!**

**Members are needed to join committees to help plan events, fundraise or help keep our club running.**

**We need help at the Club Table on game nights at the Tsongas for 50/50 raffles, give-a-ways and helping to run the table during the season.**

**All members are encouraged to get involved and sign up to help out!!!**

**Please email Joan Marais or Tricia Dwornick if you are interested in getting more involved in your club!!!**