

May 2009

The Cowbell



The Newsletter of the Lancaster Barnstormers Baseball Booster Club Volume 1 Number 6

The Barnstormers Spring into the Season!

The season began on April 23rd with a great win by our Barnstormers, and while we're not in first place *yet*, we've got confidence in the team and are enjoying it all – being back at “The Clip” each week, seeing good friends, and of course, watching our new and returning Barnstormers play ball! If you're not a member of the Booster Club yet, please do consider joining us – for some fun bus trips to away games, members-only on-field opportunities, chances to attend batting practices, and socializing with other devoted Barnstormers fans throughout the season and the off-season, too. Membership forms are available online (www.barnstormersboosters.org), and at any of the many games where the Club has a table on the concourse, see the smiling face who's manning (or woman-ing) the table for a form and any other info you seek! ★

Committee Reports

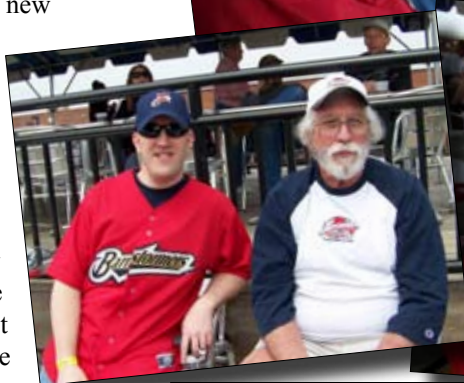
Each edition of the newsletter highlights a variety of committees and their activities, depending on what's going on that month. The Committee Chairs, or their designated representatives, provide the reports.

Activities

Greetings from the Activities Committee! 66 Booster club members and friends attended a Preseason Spring Training Picnic at Clipper Magazine Stadium on April 19th. It was great to be back at the stadium and watch our boys win. Attendees at the Picnic had a good time consuming ballpark food, socializing with old friends and making new friends. Following the game the Booster Club members participated in a meet and greet with the players. The players were introduced to the officers and the chairpersons of the player liaison committee. We used this opportunity to let the players know that we are here to support them.

If you did not get a chance to participate in the Spring Training Picnic, we hope that you will join us on one of our other activities. On May 19th after the General Membership meeting all members in attendance at the meeting will have the chance to participate in a tour of Clipper Magazine Stadium. We hope to see all members at the meeting.

On June 28th the Booster Club will be taking a bus trip to Southern Maryland. The price of this trip includes



A great time was had by all at the Spring Training Picnic!

the transportation, 2-hour all-you-can-eat picnic, stadium tour, and the chance to meet the Maryland Booster Club. The deadline to order tickets has been extended to June 12th. This trip is open to the public, and you may invite your friends to go along. This will be a wonderful opportunity to for them to see what it's like to be a Booster.

On July 25, the Booster Club will be taking their first evening bus trip to see the ‘Stormers play in Camden. Our first Field of Dreams opportunity will take place on May 26th. Please see Vicki Sauders or sign up at the Booster Club table so that we know how many Boosters will be taking the field that night with our players.

A calendar listing all Club events can be found on the Club web site. If you do not have access to a computer, please stop by the table to pick one up.

The activities committee would love to hear your ideas for future events. If you would like us to check into something, just let us know. We look forward to seeing you at one of the upcoming events.

Wes Kurtz,
for the Activities Committee

Committee Reports... continued

Membership

As of 4/25/09 we have 96 members. Michele Keller was the winner of the drawing for the free individual membership at Fan Fest. The Membership committee would like to thank all the members that braved the wind and cold to help man the Booster Club table at Fan Fest. Thank you for helping to make the day a success.

The Booster Club will have a table at the stadium on the following dates: May 9th, May 15th, May 27th, June 6th, and June 18th. Please stop by and say hello. If you haven't picked up your membership card you may do so at the table. We would love some volunteers to help work the tables at the stadium. If you have time, please see Vicki Sauders.

Wes Kurtz, for the Membership Committee

Finance

The Finance Committee reports that new and renewal membership fees and money from purchases of Booster Club gear and sign-ups for bus trips, etc... is being deposited regularly.

Please also note that there are new instructions for making out checks for the purchase of tickets to Booster Club events – bus trips, the 2009 Christmas dinner, picnics, etc... We now have to keep those funds separate, banking-wise, from the general operations fund where membership fees are deposited. Anything that's "profit" from these events is then placed in the general account, as a donation by those who bought tickets, to the general operation of the Club. All sign-up

forms have been updated, so if you download a form from the website, the correct "Make checks payable to:" info appears there.

Speaking of the website, it also provides links to all meeting minutes, which you can review online to find out exactly how much money has been taken in and how much has gone out to cover expenses. You can send questions to our general email address, info@barnstormersboosters.org, and they'll be forwarded to me for a timely response.

Deb Heisey, Finance Committee Chair

Player Liaison Committee

The Welcome packets for the players were put together at the social event March 28th. These packets contain lots of local information for the players as well as coupons to area restaurants.

The first home-cooked meal of the season, "Welcome To Lancaster," was on April 19th. The players really appreciate all the good home cooking we do for them. The next "home-cooked" meal will be May 8th. The theme is Mexican. If you don't know what to make, just go to www.foodnetwork.com for some tasty ideas.

The committee will place a **Helping Hands** calendar in the locker room with information for the players, such as meal dates, offers of babysitting services, rides to the doctor's office, and such. If you would like to offer help, let a committee member know.

As always the players are enjoying the **Snack Basket** in the locker room. Don't forget while you're out shopping to pick up individually-wrapped snacks for the team. These items can be brought in to the box office on your way in to the game. Just be sure to mention that they are for the team basket in the locker room.

*Olivia Lancaster,
Co-Chair, Player Liaison Committee*

Website & Communications

Now that the season is underway, these two committees are primarily concerned with keeping members up-to-date with regard to upcoming Club events, members-only opportunities for fun at the stadium, and publishing the newsletter to entertain current members and market the Club to those considering joining.

In addition to keeping people informed of upcoming events, however, I'd love to see more coverage – especially in the newsletter – of the season as it progresses, from *regular members*, not just the Club's board and officers. If think you're not a great writer, don't worry – I'm a good editor, and I'll whip your text into shape if you ask me to. If you want your words to appear "as is," I can do that, too, so it has your tone and says exactly what you wanted to say, just as you wanted to say it.

What could you write about? A great game, a fantastic play you caught on camera, a shout-out to your favorite player or coach (or another Club member!) – anything (of any length, from 200 - 750 words) is welcome, and you can send it (text and any images) to me directly, at laurie@limehat.com.

Get writing, people!

Laurie Fuller, Website & Communications Committees Chair



The Ultimate Recycling: the "Cell Phones For Soldiers" Campaign



Over the years we've all upgraded our cell phones, and each time, we wonder: what do we do with the old phones? Well, in my house, they sit in the kitchen drawer, piling up, upgrade after upgrade – but now there's a better way to deal with these items, even better than taking them to the Solid Waste Authority for environmentally-safe disposal.

The Cell Phones for Soldiers Campaign is a great and honorable way to help out our men and women serving overseas. Just place your old phone in the Postage Paid envelope, and off it goes. Pending Board approval, the Booster Club will have envelopes in the Stadium front office and at the box office at during games, and also at our Booster Club table at various games. Please feel free to take a supply of envelopes to your office and hand them out to your co-workers and tell your family and friends, too. The LBBBC does not receive any money for the cell phones sent in, so this is entirely charitable and nobody but the soldiers will benefit. Our military personnel also receive pre-paid calling cards to keep in touch with loved ones back home.

Thank you for your support of our troops! ★

If you'd like to learn more about this program, visit www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com.

*Olivia Lancaster
Charitable Committee Co-Chair*

Cardboard to Leather: Bringing Baseball to Kids in Developing Countries

What should you do with that baseball and softball equipment that's taking up space in the garage now that the kids are grown or that you don't use any more? The Orioles Advocates know what can be done with it. They can use it for their Cardboard to Leather (C2L) program whereby new and used baseball and softball equipment is lovingly donated to underprivileged children in developing countries, such as Belize, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Nicaragua. For the second year, your Booster Club is a supporter of the program.

The Cardboard to Leather program was developed out of an inspiration of a sportswriter for The Baltimore Sun who was on assignment in the Dominican Republic.

While he was there, he noticed that children were playing baseball with makeshift equipment, such as tree limbs for bats and cardboard

wrapped with tape for gloves. The writer shared what he saw in an article for the paper and the Orioles Advocates decided to do something to help. Since that time, over 50 tons of equipment has been distributed. The distribution is based on the greatest need. Most of the equipment is provided to schools, orphanages and community groups to allow the largest number of youth access to the proper tools to play baseball and softball.

What equipment is needed? Anything related to baseball or softball! Don't forget umpire gear, catcher's masks/protection, cleats, bats, baseballs, softballs, bases and so on.

What can we do to help? Other than cleaning out your own garages, basements and closets, get the word out to your friends, family members and other community groups that you may be involved in. Also, check out the yard sales in your area or even check with the recreational leagues in your area. The equipment is out there! If you or someone you know has a large amount of equipment to be picked up, please contact the Club via the C2L info link on the website and we will arrange for a time and a place to collect everything. ★

Mindy Reed, Charitable Committee Co-Chair



Booster Club Members BIRTHDAY LIST!

April

April's birthdays appear again in order to remedy some errors in the list as published in last month's edition. We apologize for the errors!

May

- Bill Bair
- Connor Bair
- Jane Bratz
- Justin Breniser
- Donald Erb
- John Fritz
- Peter Geib
- Brian Gossman
- Diane Greenawalt
- Deborah Greenwood
- James Hannah
- Wesley Kurtz, Jr.
- Jason Pollack
- Daniel Ranck, Sr.
- Barbara Rule

- Darlene Bair
- Jere Chapman
- Kenneth Getz
- Frank Greenwood
- Wade W. Henry
- Stephanie Hurt
- Charles Miller
- Bordon Mumshaw
- Linda Stauffer
- Valerie Stewart
- Dale Stewart

We thank Mindy Reed, Club Secretary, for assisting the Membership Committee in providing the Birthday list/s.

Meetings!

The next two Board and General meeting dates are always listed on the website, but here's a list for the rest of 2009 – please retain this for reference, so you never miss a chance to attend a meeting and get involved! We look forward to seeing a strong turnout at General meetings, and hope more members will volunteer for committees. ★

General Meetings

- May 19
- July 17
- September 22
- November 17 (Elections)

Board Meetings

- May 12
- June 9
- July 7
- August 11
- September 15
- October 13
- November 10
- December 8

All meetings will be held at Clipper Stadium, and begin at 6:30 pm.



Electronic production of *The Cowbell* and hosting for the Booster Club's website are happily donated by Limehat & Company. Visit their website at www.limehat.com.



Visit us online at
www.barnstormersboosters.org

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PO Box 2135
Lancaster, PA 17608-2135

