



THE SWAMP GAZETTE 2023/24 SEASON
THE FLORIDA EVERBLADES FAN CLUB NEWSLETTER
SEPT/OCT VOL.1

2023-24 Board of Directors

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President's Message

I hope that everyone is getting just as excited about hockey season starting as I am. I am looking for another awesome season of Blades hockey from our Back 2 Back Champions.

I wanted to take a moment to address an important change within our fan club that you are already aware of. Louise Festa, a valued member of our board, has decided to step down from her position.

I understand that any change within our fan club can raise questions and concerns.

However, I want to assure you that her departure will NOT have a negative impact on our club's operations or goals.

Our dedicated team remains committed to delivering the same level of enthusiasm and passion that has defined us. In fact, this transition provides an opportunity for new perspectives and ideas to further enhance our fan club's offerings.

We have a robust plan in place to seamlessly fill the vacancies she left and to ensure a smooth transition. Rest assured, our mission to celebrate and support the team remains intact and we will continue to provide exciting events, exclusive content, and opportunities to connect with fellow fans.

I also need to address the Meet N Greet complaints from last season regarding players bringing their significant others. Some members felt that the players did not communicate with them and paid more attention to their partner than the member. Members did not want them to attend that event this season. So, I had a conversation with Coach Ralph with regards to that. We cannot exclude their significant other from our events. I understand where he is coming from on his answer. As members of the Fan Club, we are given the privilege of these exclusive events by the Coaches. They do not have to allow us this opportunity to have these events with the team. But Coach Ralph has been all for doing what he can to support the Fan Club since he joined the Blades, and he is the one that allows us to have our Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser. None one of the previous Blades Coaches supported us as Coach Ralph does. His exact words are "I understand their frustration, but there is probably a better way to solve the problem. Find a way to engage with the players and get to know one another. We need to be mindful of the players and staff. We spend so much time away from our families, and we get so few off days that decisions/requests like this matter to the players and me." Keep in mind our events are always held on their off day.

So, we will put our heads together to think of a way to get the players involved at our Meet N Greet. Maybe getting to know their significant other as well, will make it more enjoyable for the players. If anyone has any ideas, please email me with suggestions.

We are all a bunch of Blades fans that love our team, so let's make everyone feel like family at our Meet N Greet.

Belinda A Hanley, President
FEFC
GO BLADES!

Introducing the New Assistant Coach

Anthony Peters



I had the pleasure of meeting and talking to the new assistant coach Anthony Peters. He grew up in Blyth, Ontario, Canada which is a small town of 1,000 people surrounded by farms just off of Lake Huron. He played for the Florida Everblades for 2 full seasons 2015-2017. He retired just this past summer and came right back to the Florida Everblades. He started here professionally as a player and is now the assistant coach for the Everblades.

Anthony is very happy to be back with the Everblades.

He says “that playing here from the top down is as first class as it gets. It starts with Mr. Brush and Brad Ralph and trickles into everybody else. The number of staff members that are still here with the team speaks for itself about the culture that is here. Obviously with the new ownership since I have left, they have helped take the team to new heights as well as the fans here and the fan club. I knew first-hand how supportive they are, but now in this role to see the work they do behind the scenes to help the team and players has been amazing. “

Peter's goals are to connect with each player on the team and help them maximize their potential. The players have a lot on their plates as human beings along with the pressure for them to perform. My job is to help them navigate that, setting them up for success personally and ultimately the team. There was a big turnover from the core group that has been together for the last several years and it is hard to get everyone on the same page and buying into the Everblades way!

On a personal note, Anthony has a girlfriend and a cat (that it took a while to warm up to him but now they are buddies- talking about the cat!). Anthony does not have a lot of spare time, however, when he does, he liked to golf, fish and get out on the water.

Welcome to the Florida Everblades Anthony!

Contest

The Florida Everblades Fan Club needs your assistance. Every year our club gets sponsors to support us throughout the year. Any sponsor that donates \$500 or higher gets their name on our official FEFC Sponsor T-shirt. This is where you can help.... we need a design for the front of the t-shirt, and we are asking FEFC members to submit their designs/ideas by November 15th, 2023. The Board will then vote for the best design to use for this seasons' FEFC Sponsor t-shirt. Please submit your designs/ideas to Karen McKenzie dkmckenzie2005@comcast.net

The winner will win a free sponsor t-shirt this year!



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Apartments – Jason and Kim Thompson jskathompson@gmail.com

Membership – Sandy Renne srenne@comcast.net

Breakfast/Road Supplies - Kate Falzone Kathleen_falzone@comcast.net

(239) 989-7304

Fundraising – Open

Hospitality – Carol Grubbs imagrubby@yahoo.com (239) 571-4236

Newsletter – Karen McKenzie dkmckenzie2005@comcast.net (586) 212-5808

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Karen McKenzie dkmckenzie2005@comcast.net (586) 212-5808

Shop w/Scrip/Raise Right – Belinda Hanley Starkeaton@aol.com (239) 851-0871

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Transportation – Belinda Hanley Starkeaton@aol.com (239) 851-0871

Website/social media – Kassondra “Kat” L fefcw@gmail.com

Upcoming Events



Florida Everblades Fan Club

11000 Everblades Parkway, Estero, FL 33928

SEASON 2023-2024 FAN CLUB EVENTS WITH PLAYERS & STAFF AND CLUB MEMBERS

"MEET and GREET" ... SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29th 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
GATEWAY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (12091 Gateway Greens Dr., Ft Myers, FL 33913)
BUSINESS CASUAL FAMILY EVENT
(Collared shirts, NO tank tops, NO jeans, dress shorts OK, NO flip flops)
WITH LUNCH SERVED (Deli Buffet) ...
COME HUNGRY & BE READY TO MEET YOUR FAN CLUB,
PLAY A FEW FUN GAMES, MINGLE, ENJOY!

LOCKER ROOM TOUR ... TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7th 5:35pm – 7:15pm
THIS IS A LIMITED SPACE EVENT FOR OUR MEMBERS, THE TEAM INSTRUCTS MEMBERS ON EACH "STATION" IN THE LOCKER ROOM.
QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION, with approx. 8 or 9 players

CHRISTMAS PARTY (adult) ... SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th 5:00pm – 9:00pm
AN EVENING WITH THE ADULT FAN CLUB MEMBERS,
PLAYERS, GUEST, STAFF ... DINNER, DRINKS, DOOR PRIZES& ENTERTAINMENT
AT THE ESTERO COUNTRY CLUB in the VINES (Rt41, just north of Estero Blvd)
GOOD FOOD, GOOD COMPANY, GOOD GAMES, GOOD PRIZES!!

CHILDREN'S ANNUAL PARTY SUNDAY, JANUARY 14th 10:00am – 1:00pm
MAD SCIENTIST PARTY, PLACE: TBD
A FUN TIME WITH THE CHILDREN & FAMILIES, with 8 or 9 players

SPAGHETTI DINNER ... 6th ANNUAL ... TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27th 5:45pm – 9:00pm

THIS IS THE FAN CLUB'S FUNDRAISER, open to the public. FUNDS RAISED help to support the team... PLAYERS WILL SERVE & WAIT ON THE HOCKEY FANS. LIMITED TICKETS SOLD. SPECIALTY JERSEYS ARE WORN BY THE PLAYERS, THEN RAFFLED OFF AT THE END OF THE EVENING ALONG WITH PLAYER'S HANDCRAFTED ART... FOOD, PHOTOS, "MINGLE" with HOCKEY FANS

**SPRING PICNIC and AWARDS SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH 11:00am – 2:00pm
A PICNIC WITH THE MEMBERS, FAMILY EVENT, GOOD FOOD, FUN AND GAMES, BBQ MENU**

PLEASE TAKE TIME TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.FLORIDAEVERBLADESFANCLUB.COM

OR LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AT: Florida Everblades Fan Club

From the Editor

I am very excited about our upcoming season! We have a great team and I'm looking forward in working with the FEFC to make this a great year. Thank you for all your support. Please let me know if you ever have anything you want to go into this newsletter.

Sincerely,

Karen McKenzie
FEFC Newsletter Editor & Vice President
586-212-5808

WORD SEARCH

Z	X	S	A	D	A	A	X	C	B	G
C	H	O	C	K	E	Y	N	M	C	O
	O	S	X	E	R	S	S	A	Q	A
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C	X	T	Q	W	P	E	R	I	O	D
S	N	V	S	G	N	L	G	K	Y	L

FIND THESE WORDS:

SCORE ICING HOCKEYSTICK SCAR
PUCK PERIOD GOALIE COACH
PENALTY HOCKEY FIGHT HELMET

NEXT GENERAL MEETING -TBD for November

FLORIDA EVERBLADES FAN CLUB MISSION STATEMENT

Please go to www.floridaeverbladesfanclub.org

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SEAS THE DAY!



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**Remember to Visit your Fan Club Table at the next
Blades Home Game!**

**We have opportunities to take a “chance” and
other goodies to sell!**