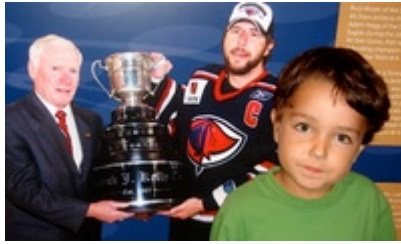


8/28/09



One of the cool things about staying with the same team for so long (since 1996) is that from time to time, ex-staff members, coaches and players check in. You will get a random phone call, an email, a visit at the game or a message on Facebook. I heard from a ton of familiar names as the Stingrays closed in on, and eventually won, the team's third Kelly Cup.

Many players that came to Charleston as young men are now fathers, business executives, coaches, teachers and much more.

I believe the fans, owners, off-ice officials, staff and others enjoy seeing and hearing from those that have helped shape the history of our team, I know I do. I especially enjoyed an email I received yesterday from a former Stingray. Chris Wheaton won a Kelly Cup Championship in 2001 with the Rays.

Chris grew up in the Maritimes (Fredricton, New Brunswick) and made the Stingrays as a virtual walk-on in the late 90's. He had a pugilistic side, didn't score a ton, but when he did score, the goals were usually highlight quality. He was known on the bus and in the room for his sense of humor and even had his own segment on our weekly TV show called Wheaton's Wonders. My favorite episode of Wheaton's Wonders was when we rigged his hockey gear with a hidden microphone and asked him to get into random conversations with his teammates on the ice.



As you can imagine, many of the "out takes" ended up on the cutting room floor. It's probably a good thing that you tube didn't exist in those days. I was reminded of this because Chris and his family recently visited the Hockey Hall of Fame and took the time to send a picture of his four year old son Vance in front of the Stingrays Kelly Cup 2009 display. I am sure Chris was proud to share with his son that he is a Kelly Cup Champion and a member of the Stingrays family.

Thanks Wheater for sharing this great photo and good luck Vance as you attempt to become the first father son Stingray combination!



A special thanks to Bob Defibaugh for delivering 14 chairs that now surround the conference room in our office. This also proves that there are people out there willing to read the Last Call.

If anyone is reading this, we like pizza too.... Less than two months til puck drop.....Hockey, Hockey, Hockey

8/21/09



Last winter, we were informed by the City of North Charleston that we would be moving offices. Those fans that are familiar with the Stingrays front office environs know that we didn't move far; in fact we only moved to the front of the parking lot. We are now on the top floor of a building about 20 yards away from our old offices.

This week, demolition crews arrived and began to gut the old building. Several of us took the opportunity to take one last stroll through the old place. It was kind of sad really, some old program books, useless equipment and some broken furniture. Some people's names were even still on the office doors.

Some fans might remember the office that we once had on the corner of International and Firestone Road. If you ask Julie, our office manager since day one, that was the best office. It was really sad to see that one go; we basically had our own building. Julie had the best office in the old place, tucked way in the back with huge windows. She did have some issues with office neighbors though, being tucked in the back with Rick Vaive and then Rick Adduono. This office also saw the team bring home two Kelly Cup Championships in 1997 and 2001. The last office didn't produce a Championship so we are knocking it down. Our new office is one for one hopefully the streak will continue as the Rays take the ice in just two months.

Our new office is big and open with a nice conference room that we use for eating and meeting. We do need some new chairs for this space though, so if you know of anyone looking to part with some old office chairs, let me know. Stop by and see us any time, we do have the Kelly Cup on display most days.

On a sad note, the Stingrays lost a dear friend when Keith Vorhis passed away last week. Keith attended nearly every practice, delivered coffee to the coaches, took numerous pictures of the team for the annual scrapbook and supported all of us in many ways. Keith grew up in Central New York not too far from where I was raised. I enjoyed and will miss our talks about the region, the Rays and family.

Thanks Keith, we will miss you....Hockey, Hockey, Hockey