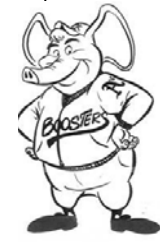


# Oakland A's Boosters Newsletter



JULY 2018



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE OAKLAND ATHLETICS AND THE OAKLAND A'S BOOSTER CLUB!



## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW...

Please reserve 7 days before the luncheon. Doors open at 11am, lunch starts at 11:30, and the speakers commence around noon. Our luncheons always feature someone from the Oakland A's organization, plus an A's memorabilia raffle, and a great lunch! There is no luncheon in July. There are two luncheons in August. All of this is due to the A's schedule.

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
Jul 27	Reservation Deadline for the August 3rd Luncheon	Email Shannon at <a href="mailto:oaklandasboosters@gmail.com">oaklandasboosters@gmail.com</a> , call her at (916) 934-9443, or log onto <a href="http://www.oaklandathleticsboosterclub.com">www.oaklandathleticsboosterclub.com</a>
Aug 3	Luncheon - Friday	East Side Club, Coliseum
Aug 31	Luncheon - Friday	East Side Club, Coliseum
Sep 7	Luncheon - Friday	East Side Club, Coliseum

## President's Message By Shannon Starr

Are you as excited as I am!!! Love our boys and the never give up attitude they have. We have a legitimate shot at making the World Series --- Yeah, yeah, I know all the negative people are making snide remarks right now, but even with hurdles to jump I choose to believe in our boys. Besides isn't the saying go big or go home?



We need to have faith in our team and help them have faith in themselves. I firmly believe that when someone struggles you lift them up, let them know that you believe in them. Nothing good comes from being hateful or mean when a player is struggling. Trust me they know. They don't need fans to tell them or belittle them. They need fans to support and cheer them on. Making sure they know we believe they will succeed and when they do we celebrate their success with them. Remember - **We Achieve What We Believe!**

For a change of subject -- I am happy to announce that we now have a special limited edition Oakland Athletics Booster Club 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary jersey. The jerseys arrived last Friday and will be available for purchase at the August 3<sup>rd</sup> luncheon. There are two options

#1 – White with Green print

#2 – Gold with Green print

Jersey's are \$20 each and you may purchase both colors. Because this is a special edition jersey and we only have limited numbers, initial purchases are for **members only**. We are considering letting non-members purchase; at a later date, for a higher cost but I will have to get back to you on that one.

An order form and payment option will be available soon on our website for those of you that cannot make the one of our last three luncheons. There will be a small shipping charge for orders not picked up in person.

(below) taken at Fitch Park Facility. Thank you to Nancy -- Coordinator, Player Development for the tour and modeling the new jersey --- photo credit Carlos Soria



## Seattle Travels

My friend Debbie and I met in Seattle to go to three A's games in the beginning of May; she flew in from New York, while I had the easier trip from Oakland. All three games were at night, so we played at tourist stuff during each day (e.g., Pike Place Market, the Museum of Pop Culture) and went to some fabulous restaurants. Our raison d'être, however, was to see the A's play the Seattle Mariners, who were hot and about to take over second spot in their division, or so they hoped.

**(Photo, r: Linda & Debbie)**



A little background, as we were in Seattle three days. We were always in A's gear, because we would go directly from our day's activities to the ballpark at Safeco Field. Everyone, and I mean everyone!, in Seattle would stop us to say, in a joking manner, "You're rooting for the wrong team!" or "You need to go home right now!" Then they would smile and talk about some of their players or ours and we would all laugh. The entire city is composed of Seattle Mariners fans, desperately hoping that THIS YEAR, this year is the year their team will go to the playoffs.

Our first game was on a cold but dry Tuesday night. If anybody complains again about the freezing cold Coliseum at night, I will politely tell them to go to Safeco. It has a roof on top, not a dome, and the cold wind comes in off the bay with a fierce vengeance. The Seattle fans seem to be used to it, but the cold makes each game challenging for visitors.

Andrew Triggs was good in the first game on Tuesday night until about the fifth, but then the Seattle hitters – a mighty bunch they are – figured him out. The A's went down, 6-3.

The next night was much warmer, much more pleasant, but Brett Anderson was taking the mound for the Green-and-Gold, and we had no idea how he would do in his debut – again – with the Oakland A's. He was great! The team held their own with the M's, trailing by one run until the 8th. Jed Lowrie's homer tied the game in the 8<sup>th</sup> and Mark Canha's dinger won it, 3-2 in the 9th! The very few A's fans in the cavernous stadium were jumping for joy as the Mariner fans quickly left the stadium.



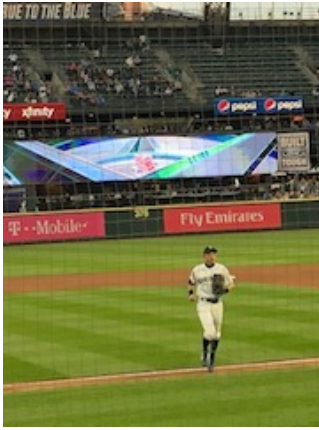
Ichiro Suzuki was actually in the lineup (he wasn't in the first game), so that rumor was true. Seattle's James Paxton had 16 Ks against A's hitters, but the A's bats came alive when the bullpen came in. And Mark Canha's bat flip after his home run was a little bit too high and enthusiastic for some Mariners' fans.

In the third game on Thursday night, I was looking forward to seeing Sean Manaea pitch. Sean had just been named The Pitcher of the Month for the American League. Sean had control problems early on, especially with his secondary pitches. The Mariners came out to an early 4-0 lead, despite the fact that Sean retired 9 batters in a row after the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning. Stephen Piscotty hit a homer, but it wasn't enough. A's go down 4-1, and lose the series to the Mariners.



A big side note: The second game on May 2<sup>nd</sup> turned out to be Ichiro Suzuki's final game in a Mariners' uniform and perhaps in a baseball uniform. The Mariners announced the next day, on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, that Ichiro would be given a front office job, and then would transition into a new job as the President's Assistant in 2019.

I did not know that this would be the big story of our series with the Seattle Mariners, but it became the story. The 44-year-old Ichiro ended his American career that night, going 0-for-3, but with a walk and a run, an average of .205. He made a couple of spectacular defensive plays in the field that night, showing that he still has that burst of speed. I remember watching him in many games, expecting a slap-hit every time he came to bat. He obviously wasn't that player any more.



MLB news talked about Bob Melvin's relationship with Ichiro. Bob called Ichiro "the most committed player that I've ever had. His whole day, his whole night, and everything he thought about was about the next day's game." Player and manager had a special relationship. Bob and Ichiro and their wives would have dinner together most times when the two teams played each other.

Jonathan Lucroy said that it was very special that he, Lucroy, was behind the dish during Ichiro's last bat. While they were in different leagues during most of each player's career, they did have occasion to play against each other. "Hey, Luke," Ichiro would say as he came up to bat. "Konichi-wa, Ich," replied Lucroy in return.

The Oakland A's will meet the Seattle Mariners in Japan for the opening series of 2019. I find it impossible to think that Ichiro wouldn't play for the Mariners. I mean, in Japan?? What do you think? What a great player, what a great career both here in the U.S. and in Japan. It was a pleasure, an honor, to see him play.

## June Luncheon! Catcher Josh Phegley

It's always a pleasure to hear from a catcher, because they're the manager of the game on the field. Josh Phegley was no different. Josh, however, had just returned from Triple-A, and before that, was injured and on the disabled list. Dick Callahan asked Josh, What's it like to go back and forth? What are your emotions?

"It's nice to be needed," he said, wryly. But he framed the demotion as a chance to get better. It's a different situation for him, being a platoon catcher and, to be truthful, a "back-up catcher," as he called it, to Jonathan Lucroy. "I took it as an opportunity to work on my swing. Go down there, play, and get my swing back."

Who calls the pitches? "It's a collective. I'll suggest it, the pitcher picks. It's a collective between pitcher and catcher. Between innings, we get advice from Emo (Scott Emerson, the pitching coach)." The next pitcher Josh will be working with is Trevor Cahill. "BoMel has a plan, and we'll go over every hitter. It's up to me to judge how (the pitcher's) stuff is and go from there."

"You don't want to give up on a pitch if, say, his curveball isn't working. That curveball may not be working early. If you give up on it, that gives the hitter one less thing to worry about. So you might come back to it later."



Catching base stealers: "A lot of times you hope the first baseman will yell when the guy takes off, cause it's hard (for me) to see. I have a lot of confidence in my arm. I just let it fly. (Throwing out baserunners) has kind of been my trademark. I've thrown guys out my whole career."

Umpires – do you ever get into an argument with one? "I've seen a lot of guys ejected, complaining. I need that guy (the umpire) on my side. It's kind of wasted energy (to argue). There's a right way to ask, like, 'that looked a little borderline.'"

Josh and his brother were urged by their father to take up baseball. Josh became a catcher in high school when, as a freshman, the varsity needed a catcher. We acquired Josh Phegley in a trade (along with Marcus Semien) for Jeff Samardzja. We're glad to have this veteran catcher on our club.

## Boosters at the Stockton Ports!



On June 24<sup>th</sup>, the Stockton Ports honored Coco Crisp before their game. And, of course, he threw out the first pitch. The Boosters were there! We love Coco! Thanks to Kris Burgett and Mike Barnbaum for contributing the photos.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Luncheons are in the East Side Club. And the entrance fee for the luncheon is \$22 for members, \$27 for non-members (\$1 discount for cash or check payments). You'll get a delicious buffet lunch, which includes a choice of two entrees, salad, starch and a dessert. Rolls/butter, soft drinks, iced and hot tea are free. Doors open at 11am, buffet lunch begins at 11:30am.

When attending the luncheons, **park in Lot K** (under the BART bridge – see the map below), and use the elevator up to the East Side Club entrance on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

Please remember to **RSVP one week prior** to each luncheon so that the East Side Club can have enough food on hand. You can RSVP at the Booster website, [oaklandathleticsboosterclub.com](http://oaklandathleticsboosterclub.com), and even pay in advance. Or contact Shannon directly at [BoosterStarr@gmail.com](mailto:BoosterStarr@gmail.com) or (916) 934-9443.

Check out our new and improved Booster website!

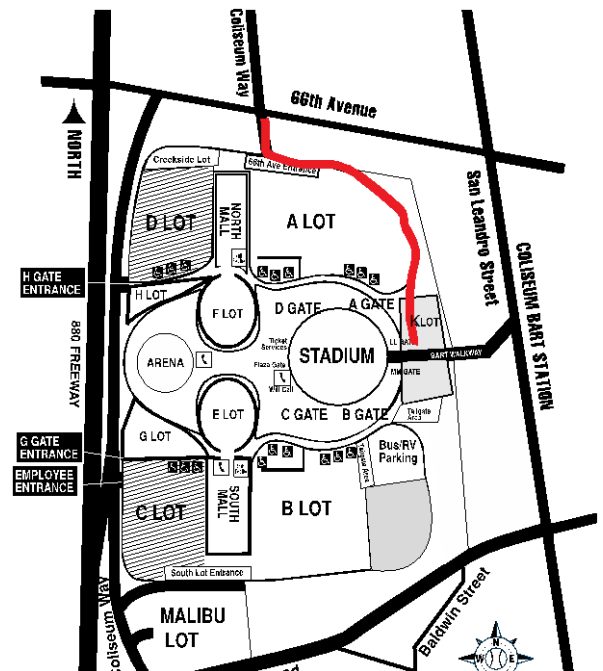
[www.oaklandathleticsboosterclub.com](http://www.oaklandathleticsboosterclub.com)

We have a new section called "History," which tells newcomers all about our Booster past. Thanks to members Nancy Marshall, Glenn LaFleur and Don Murphy for lending us their old photos so that we could colorfully illustrate our history!

Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/AthleticsBoosterClub](http://www.facebook.com/AthleticsBoosterClub)



## STADIUM PARKING MAP





**Congratulations to former A's outfielder Josh Reddick on his engagement! He proposed at the Johnson Space Center in Houston on his day off from the Astros just a few days ago. His fiancée is Jett Elkins, a professional snowboarder and professed "adrenaline junkie."**

**We wrote about Dick Callahan's mishap at Rossmoor a few months ago. The Rossmoor News (thanks to Staff writer Cathy Tallyn) featured this article.**



*Rossmoor's Lassie*

# Hero dog saves his human

**By Cathy Tallyn**  
Staff writer

**T**hey say that a dog is a man's best friend. And, that's a good thing for Rossmoor resident Dick Callahan who has Prince, a 13-year old Lhasa Apso/poodle mix.

"He saved my life," said Callahan.

And, Callahan has the experts to back up his statement. It's the kind of a story you can't make up.

Callahan's U-shaped therapeutic neck pillow, which he warmed in the microwave as per instructions, apparently smoldered on his mattress after he pushed it aside one night.

He was awoken by Prince. Flames shot up from the middle of the bed as the pillow, mattress and bedding caught fire. After Callahan doused the fire, the bed was left with a 5-inch deep hole about 7 inches wide.

It cost his insurance company some \$6,000 to replace the mattress, box spring and bedding, to clean the carpet and get the smoke out of his manor.

He said he's not looking to sue the pillow company, just let people know what might happen.

Callahan is so grateful Prince woke him up.

"It's remarkable he knew to do that," he said. "Right now, if he wants me to rent him a villa in the south of France, I will."

Callahan was given the handmade natural buckwheat heat pack for an ailment. He followed the instructions that

**Continued on page 9A**

# Resident's dog saves his life after a fire starts in his bed

Continued from page 1A

said to heat the pillow up in a microwave oven for 60 seconds and if it wasn't hot enough, heat it for another 20 seconds and then, if necessary, another 20 seconds, which he did.

Then he went to bed at about 11:30 on that Thursday night. Prince settled in at the foot of the bed, just as he does every night. Callahan pushed the neck pillow aside after it cooled down.

Uncharacteristically, Prince jumped on Callahan at 3:30 on that fateful Good Friday morning, waking him up.

"I thought he needed to go outside," he said. "I walked him outside. I usually walk with him because I'm afraid of coyotes."

A few minutes later, it was time to go back inside. Prince didn't want to go back in. Eventually, he did.

"I sat down on the side of the bed. He sat at my feet," he said

Prince wouldn't climb back

on the bed, which Callahan thought odd. He turned on the bedroom light.

"Flames were coming out of the middle of the bed," he said. "I thought I needed to do something quick. I pushed the bed linens and pillow into the hole."

He poured water on the spot that was burning and the fire died out.

"The smoke detector never activated and it was 15 feet from my bed," he said.

He added that he doesn't smoke and if he did, he wouldn't smoke in bed.

Not wanting his neighbors to be awoken by sirens and flashing lights, Callahan waited until about 8:30 a.m. to call the fire department.

Firefighters admonished him for waiting so long. They also said he owed his life to Prince.

"They said I could have easily died of asphyxiation. ... They said I was lucky."

Incidentally, a little while

later, Callahan was the guest speaker at a firefighter luncheon at Cache Creek.

Callahan is the public address announcer for Oakland A's home games. Known as "The Voice of the Oakland A's," he receives many invitations to speak. He told his story to the firefighters.

"I knew they were going to tell me I should have called the fire department first. I knew I should have called the professionals," Callahan said. "A firefighter came up and said, 'I'm not going to criticize you, but if it happens again - call.'"

Callahan likes to tell the story of his hero dog. That's not bad for a dirty stray who 10 years ago was caught running the streets of Richmond and taken to the Martinez animal shelter. Callahan saw him and immediately knew Prince was the dog for him.

"He's been a great dog with a marvelous disposition," Callahan said. "He's been my buddy for a long time."



Prince gives Dick Callahan a kiss.

News photo by Mike DiCarlo

Fire/Medical Emergency:  
911 or 925-933-1313

HEARING AIDS  
Custom Fit



If you ever watched **The Simpsons**, perhaps you recognize this. In the car are these A's players/owner/coach:

Front passenger = **Rollie Fingers**

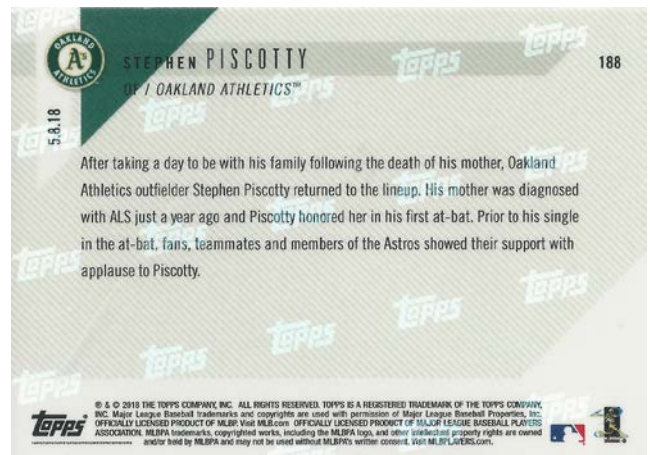
Driver = **Charlie Finley**

Back Seat = **Joe Rudi, Reggie Jackson, Alvin Dark**

## The Topps Stephen Piscotty Trading Card



Thanks to Booster member Barbara Sacks, the club sold several of these Stephen Piscotty trading cards at the luncheon to benefit ALS, the disease Stephen's mother died from recently. The back of the card is to the right.



## What is your most memorable moment regarding the Oakland A's?

**Loreen recalls:** Currently, my most memorable Oakland A's moment is Scott Hatteberg's home run that won the 20<sup>th</sup> Win Streak Game. That was a wild and crazy game. I would not mind replacing it with the next Oakland A's World Series Championship win some day soon!!!



**Valerie Jo:** Without a doubt, the most memorable moment was Dallas Braden's perfect game. My husband, Richard, has been a baseball fan all his life and had never witnessed one. He was awestruck. He told our son that it may be the only time he witnesses one.

I had traded our tickets for another day to Mother's Day because that's where I wanted to be on that day. I never made a better decision! Dallas' grandmother being there to celebrate it with him just made for the most touching and perfect Mother's Day. It made this perfect game unique in baseball.

Want to weigh in with your most treasured A's memory? Email Linda at [catattack77@yahoo.com](mailto:catattack77@yahoo.com).

## Farewell to Booster Club Membership Chairperson Don Murphy (1929 – 2018)

By Linda Burnett



I didn't know Don Murphy the longest, and I certainly didn't know him as well as many Boosters. But I've spent maybe 100 board meetings with Don, and we've exchanged many words in between.

Two weeks before Don passed away in early June I went over to his house and talked with him and his partner, Betty Lanfri. I wanted to return some "vintage" printed material he had loaned me as I worked on the

Booster Club's website. Don and Betty greeted me warmly, and then Don showed me his prized bobbleheads, all behind glass. In fact, the den was festooned with sports pictures galore.

He picked one bobblehead up and showed it to me. I believe this is broadcaster Bill King, even though it didn't look like it to me. Don knew of Bill's work with both football and basketball as well as baseball; my memory of the great Bill King doesn't go back that far.

I appreciated his common sense approach to finding solutions to problems in the Booster Club, and for his sage advice. I appreciated his sense of humor and passion for the team we all love. We'll miss you, Don. We already do.

