

Stanley Cup runneth over world's borders

One minder of hockey's holiest tells travel tales

By Christopher Klein
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

The ice has melted and the duck boats are once again hauling gaggles of tourists, but the celebration of the Boston Bruins' first National Hockey League championship in 39 years will continue all summer as each player spends a day with the Stanley Cup. Mike Bolt of the Hockey Hall of Fame is one of four "keepers of the Cup" who will accompany the trophy every step of the way. Born and raised in Toronto, Bolt spends 250 days a year with the silver chalice named for its donor, Lord Stanley of Preston, governor general of Canada from 1888-93. Hockey's ultimate roadie, Bolt talked to us about traveling the world as Cup caretaker for 12 years.

Q. Where are some of the places you've traveled with the Cup?
A. I've been in every state except Hawaii, and I've been everywhere in Canada except Nunavut. I've been all over Europe. Probably the farthest places I've gone have been Japan, northern Siberia, the Arctic Circle in Sweden, and even to Afghanistan to see the troops. I've been with the Cup on planes, trains, automobiles, boats, even on a specially built Polaris snowmobile on a trip across Minnesota. Traveling with the Stanley Cup is the greatest way to see the world.

Q. You must have some serious frequent flier miles racked up.
A. I do. I used to have a lot more, but some of them expired. I've lost over a million miles.

Q. Before Sept. 11, 2001, you could board planes with the Cup, is that right?
A. Not on every occasion, but it did happen. Since Sept. 11, I've taken it onboard just once, last year on a United flight from Montreal to Chicago. We had it strapped into a seat and had to



Mike Bolt, a Stanley Cup keeper, shows it off on Sixth Avenue in New York two years ago, before the Pittsburgh Penguins won it.

clear customs and security.

Q. What's the typical process for flying with the Cup?
A. I'm in the airport check-in line with everybody else, and the Cup is in an oversized case. With Air Canada, we have a letter that gives us permission to travel with the oversized case. With other airlines, I tell them the Stanley Cup is inside so they understand the importance and magnitude of the case. It's a very famous trophy, and it will make the news if it doesn't show up where we're going. Even airline workers who aren't hockey fans get excited when I open the case, and that helps get it on the plane. Last year in Paris, Air France at first wouldn't let the Cup on because of its weight. Once we took it out of the case, some Americans instantly recog-

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MIKE BOLT, Hockey Hall of Fame

nized it and came over, and then the flight managers knew it was important and got it on the plane. I can watch security hand-inspect the Cup, and in some airports, the X-ray machines are big enough for the case to fit through. After the case is locked, the airline takes it away. That's usually the last time I see it, but on the way to the gate I try to

spot it on the tarmac or being loaded on the plane.

Q. Any travel nightmares where you've lost the trophy?
A. One of the bigger ones happened last year when I was flying from Newark to an event in Vancouver before flying back to Toronto. When I was checking in, I noticed the baggage tag said the Cup was going to Toronto, but

the airline assured me it was going to Vancouver first. Well, my biggest fear came true, and the Cup wasn't there when I landed. They sent it to Toronto. We travel 320 days a year with the Cup around the world, and over the course of a year something like that happens once or twice. Given how often we fly and how tight connections are, it's a really good percentage of how often it works out.

Q. When you're on the ground, how does the Cup travel?
A. It varies. It might go with me on the rental car shuttle, or sometimes we take a limo or a cab. If the case won't fit inside the vehicle, we'll take the Cup out and strap it in with a seat belt.

Q. Does the trophy stay with you

each night?
A. Yeah, it stays in my hotel room. That's where we clean it, particularly in the summer when it's with the players. We'll just put it in the hotel shower and give it a full cleaning with soap and water.

Q. Can you leave the Cup in your hotel room and get a bite to eat?
A. Yeah, I can go out for dinner and lock up the Cup if I want. We're not too concerned about someone stealing it. It's so recognizable that you can't do much with it or run around with it unnoticed. But I don't get to go out to dinner too often because the Cup is in such high demand that it's go, go, go all the time. The only free time I have is at the hotel, and sometimes I only have four to five hours to sleep.

Q. What's the worst part of traveling with the Cup?
A. Airports. They're still a little stressful. There are the long lines, and I'm wondering how checking in with the Cup is going to go. My schedule's so busy that I'm always cutting it close, and you're nervous because if you miss a flight, usually someone on the other end is getting gypped because it cuts into their time with the Cup. Once I'm sitting on that plane though, I'm pretty relaxed. The airplane is my quiet time.

Q. Any other challenges?
A. The term "changing on the fly" is often used in hockey, and it's the same thing when traveling with the Cup. It's amazing how quickly plans change. You may think that you're going to be hanging out in Boston, and then you're off to Los Angeles and "The Tonight Show" instead. Or you may plan to be on the road for five days, and it turns into a 10-day road trip. So I always know to pack plenty of underwear.

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Every Sunday in July in Honolulu, steel guitarists play as part of the Waikiki Beach Walk Sunday Showcase.

Currents

Steel guitar stars in Hawaii homeland

If you're heading to the South Pacific this month, don't miss the Hawaiian Steel Guitar Festival at the Waikiki Beach Walk, which features some of the islands' best players. According to legend, the Hawaiian steel guitar was invented in the mid-1880s by Joseph Kekuku, an 11-year-old student at a local boys' school. Its popularity spiked in the 1970s when legendary Country Music Hall of Famer Jerry Byrd moved to Hawaii and began offering lessons. The free event, held every Sunday in July starting at 5 p.m., features performances by Alan Akaka, Casey Olsen, and Greg Sardinha, all former students of Byrd. 808-931-3593, www.waikikibeachwalk.com

App will find public lands
Find out where to go camping, watch wildlife, discover historic sites, or take scenic drives with a new American Park Network app. The free Oh, Ranger! ParkFinder app gives iPhone and iPod users access to a database with thousands of national and state parks, national forests, wildlife refuges, Bureau of Land Management sites, US Army Corps of Engineers recreation areas, and other public lands. Narrow

the list based on your interests, such as hiking, hunting, fishing, and off-highway driving. Once you choose a destination, you can track down specific details like directions, pertinent phone numbers, activity descriptions, weather, lodging, and links to events. 212-581-3380, www.ohranger.com

Martha Stewart's Maine
When Martha Stewart moved into her Seal Harbor home near Bar Harbor, she began collecting new and old maps of the area. Highlights of Stewart's collection are on show at the College of the Atlantic's Ethel H. Blum Gallery in Bar Harbor. "Charting a Story: Martha Stewart's Maine Map Collection" features about 30 items, including maps that show the development of Seal Island, from the introduction and subsequent loss of the railroad, and the development of local airports to the advent of Acadia National Park. It also features topographical maps, nautical charts, and a reproduction of one of the earliest known maps of Maine's coast, as it looked in 1606, when the state was still called New France. July 8-23. 207-288-5015, www.coa.edu/blum
KARI BODNARCHUK

Destinations NIGHT LIFE

Playing from Bilbao to Tuscaloosa

JULY 7-9
BILBAO, Spain
Bilbao BBK Live Festival: It was just two weeks ago that Amy Winehouse stumbled and slurred her way through a concert in Belgrade. The soulful yet troubled singer has had difficulties over the past few years, but is that any reason for the audience to boo her off the stage? Based on video clips, I would answer a resounding yes. So it comes as no surprise that Winehouse has canceled her performance here. Although she was probably the most anticipated performer on the bill, there are several bands in the lineup that are worthy of the trans-Atlantic festivities. The festival kicks off with Coldplay, Blondie, Crystal Castles, and then continues through the weekend with a diverse string of bands, including Kasbian, Noisettes, Jack Johnson, and Chemical Brothers. www.bilbaobbklive.com

JULY 22-24
COLUMBUS, Ohio
Jazz & Rib Fest: This party combines two of our favorites things: jazz and sticky, drippy ribs. The ribs come courtesy of some of the county's finest barbecue joints, and the jazz is just as diverse. The lineup includes Dave Koz, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Christian McBride and Inside Straight, and Nick Colionne. Even better, admission is free. www.hottribscooljazz.com



Noisettes Shingai Shoniwa, Dan Smith (and drummer Jamie Morrison) will appear in Bilbao, Spain, this week.

JULY 9
GENEVA
The Lake Parade: If Mardi Gras were transported across the ocean and made just a tad raunchier, you would have the Lake Parade. This hedonistic display winds along Lake Geneva and features activities that would have parents covering their children's eyes. The Lake Parade also

sports 20 Swiss and French DJs performing on mobile platforms, along with an insane amount of al fresco dancing. www.lakeparade.ch

JULY 13-24
ZURICH
Live at Sunset: Those of you who can't afford a time machine but can afford a ticket to Zurich

are in luck. The Sunset festival features a dream lineup from another time. If you find yourself regularly shaking your head and saying, "How can kids listen to this garbage?" whenever you flip around the radio, then this is your dream concert. The shows include John Mellencamp, Paul Simon, Toto, Chicago, Joe Cock-er, and Tom Jones. www.liveat.sunset.ch

PLAN AHEAD
AUG. 19
TUSCALOOSA, Ala.
Benefit for Tuscaloosa: My Morning Jacket, Neko Case, and Phosphorescent come together to play a benefit for United Way of West Alabama. In late April, 53 tornadoes plowed through the state, destroying 7,000 homes and killing 41 people. The concert is particularly important to Phosphorescent's Matthew Houck, an Alabamian who spent several days trying to reach relatives after the destruction. "I am very lucky to have found out that they were all OK and it is devastating to think of all the people who weren't as lucky," Houck said in a statement. www.tuscaloosaamphitheater.com
CHRISTOPHER MUTHER

Events are sometimes canceled, rescheduled, or sold out; check online. Christopher Muther can be reached at muther@globe.com.

A stable space for a mobile child

StarKids' Deluxe Snack and Play travel tray makes road trips more fun: It has a surface that's solid enough to hold coloring books, small toys, snacks, and lunch, and a 2-inch-high rim that keeps everything from running away. The crash-tested, foam-filled nylon tray also safely collapses in an accident. It measures 16 inches wide by 14 inches deep, and works great on a stroller, an

airplane, and at the beach. Machine-washable, it has a waist strap that wraps around your child, two side pouches for stashing snacks and toys, and two pockets that are big enough to swallow most sippy cups. It sells for \$19.95 through One Step Ahead (800-274-8440, www.onestepahead.com), or contact StarKids Products (303-887-9017, www.starkidsproducts.com).

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