



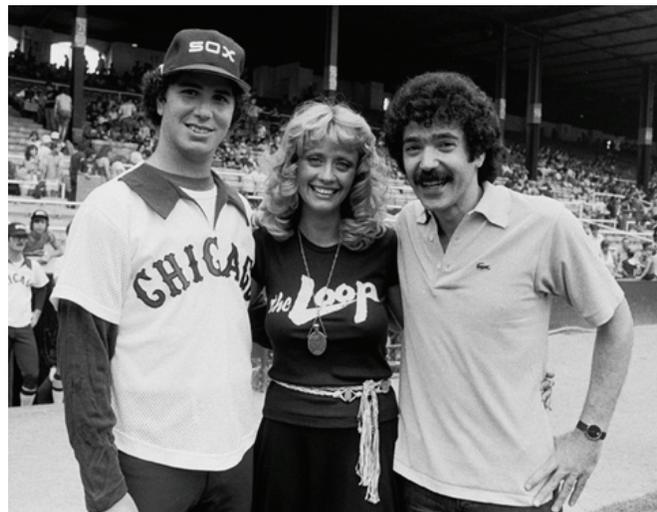
## ***Disco Demolition photo exhibit at Elmhurst museum***

*By George Castle, CBM Historian  
Posted Friday, July 19, 2013*

Disco's dead. Disco Demolition Night never dies.

The most-publicized Bill Veeck promotion of all time – and the one that most riotously got away from the Baseball Barnum – is celebrated through Aug. 4 at the Elmhurst Historical Museum, 120 E. Park Ave., Elmhurst.

The 1979 event featuring DJ Steve Dahl as ringmaster attracted some 70,000 fans to witness the destruction of thousands of disco records between games of a twinight doubleheader between the White Sox and Detroit Tigers at old Comiskey Park. Noted rock photographer Paul Natkin was there as the official shooter of Dahl's brain-storm party. His work that night, which provokes howls to this day, is part of his overall exhibit, "Shutter to Think: The Rock and Roll Lens of Paul Natkin," on two floors of the museum, just east of downtown Elmhurst.



**Sox pitcher Ross Baumgarten (left) with Steve Dahl muse Lorelei and another Disco Demolition Night participant. Copyright Paul Natkin - Photo Reserve.**

The Disco Demolition photos, all in black and white, are actually shown in a video replayed continuously on a flat-screen TV on the second floor. The presentation came about, naturally, through a connection with Dahl, who produces his own daily podcast after his decades-long career as a shock jock on Chicago radio ebbed.

"The Disco Demolition special exhibit segment to 'Shutter to Think' exhibit was put together as an idea when Steve Dahl came through the main exhibit," said Lance Tawzer, curator of the museum.

"We discussed that Paul Natkin had been the official photographer of Disco Demolition and we thought we'd put something together for a limited run."



**Fans storm the field as the disco records blow up. Copyright Paul Natkin -- Photo Reserve.**

Dahl's old camouflaged Army helmet he wore for the event is a centerpiece of the exhibit along with other memorabilia. But the star of the show are Natkin's photos, which captured the humanity of the spectacle in which thousands of fans stormed the field as the records were blown up. The second game of the doubleheader was canceled, forcing the Sox to forfeit the game to the Tigers.

Natkin's photos showed everyone tried to get a piece of the event. Assorted Sox players mug with Disco Demolition participants. Dahl's blonde muse Lorelei is shown kissing Sox catcher Mike Colbern. Harry Caray and South Holland native Steve Trout, then a first-year Sox lefty, happily pose with Dahl.

Getting into the swing of things was the WSNS-TV (Ch. 44) broadcast crew. One camera was affixed with a handmade sign, "Disco Sucks."

The museum is open from 1 to 5 p.m. daily with the exception of Monday. Admission is free. For more information, call 630/833-1457.