

The Board Talk

News and Views
from the World
of Shuffleboard

Vol. 1 No. 8

The Board Talk is published by George & Donna Wilber, 421 E. Sheridan Road, Lansing, Michigan 48906; phone 517-371-2538.

October 1984

The Hammer

Guest Editorial By Woodie Cochrum
Missouri Board Talk Reporter

Shuffleboard is on its way back — or is it?

Recently, I took an afternoon and evening to do a survey on how many shuffleboards I could find in a neighborhood that one might travel if there were tavern-to-tavern tournaments set up. Like in the old days when Joe's Bar played Pete's Tavern and returned the match the following week. I traveled no more than five miles in either direction and found eight shuffleboards.

During my conversations with the customers, I found that only a couple of these shuffleboards had been there more than two years. I was disturbed at the lack of use those boards were getting and the poor condition of some of the boards. Only one out of the eight was holding round robin type tournaments. In that bar, the board was in good shape and I was able to get a match.

I said that shuffleboard was on its way back. But the question is — with the lack of interest shown by both the players and owners — will these boards still be there two years from now?

I'm sure that north St. Louis is not the only place that has this same problem. I would like for you readers to please take a little time and write *The Board Talk* a letter telling what your city or town does to keep shuffleboard active.

I am a truck driver and I have had the opportunity to play shuffleboard in almost every state. Twenty-five years ago the hot spots were Yakima, Wash.; Lake Charles, La.; Phoenix, Ariz.; in and around Dallas, Texas; and southern California. I'm sure if we ran a survey today, we would find those same places still rank among the top 10 hot spots.

Just what does keep the interest going from year to year? Your letter may play a big part in the progress of shuffleboard.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Because Woodie's article dealt with such a pertinent topic, we felt it warranted this front-page editorial spot. He has issued a challenge to all dedicated shuffleboarders to recognize and address a problem that may be threatening the future of the sport. Give it your best thinking, share some of your success stories and give us your ideas: The Board Talk, 421 E. Sheridan Road, Lansing, Mich. 48906.

NEW BOARD TALK SERVICE:
Tournament Promotion
Flyer Service

See details on page 4.

Tourney Talk

Bourbon, Indiana — Bourbon's fall doubles tournament had 29 entries with first place going to Steve Hart and Don Criswell, both of Anderson, Ind. Second place winners were Ed Galke of New York and Jeff Cottrell of Michigan. In third place were Emmett Wilcox and Dale Closser, also of Anderson, Ind.

Central Indiana Action — Indiana reporter Steve Hart reports lots of tournament action in central Indiana.

At the Triangle Bar, Anderson, a Sept. 22 doubles tournament with prize money of \$1,030 was won by Ron Henis and Brian Valentine, with second place going to the hosts, Bob and Tom Vorndram. Third place honors went to Steve Hart and Sonny Hedrick and fourth place was won by Steve Johnson and Randy Valentine.

Tournaments for October include: Triangle Bar, Anderson, Ind., Oct. 13, doubles; Hog House, Ingalls, Ind., Oct. 20, doubles; Palace Bar, Fairmont, Ind., Oct. 27, doubles. All are Saturday tournaments with auctions starting at 12 noon. Anyone is welcome.

Dublin House, Detroit — Open doubles tournament on Oct. 13-14. 23906 Grand River, Detroit; phone 313-531-5590.

The Boardwalk, Tacoma, Wash. — Doubles tournament starts Oct. 19. 3511 McKinley, Tacoma, Wash.; phone 206-627-9436.

Chit Chat Lounge, Detroit — Oct. 27-28, 22641 Fenkell, Detroit; phone 313-537-0338.

The Edgewood, Bellflower, Calif. — 1st Annual Fall Tournament, Oct. 27-28, singles, \$50 entry fee. Players auction Friday night, Oct. 26.

For further information, contact Patti Rhodes, 11752 Coldlerook, Downey, Calif. 90241.

Wagon Wheel Tavern, Lake Orion — Nov. 10-11, 102 S. Broadway, Lake Orion, Mich.; phone 313-693-6789.

Papa's Ace Lounge, Warren — Dec. 1-2, 23617 Van Dyke, Warren, Mich.; phone 313-757-6760.

Showboat, Las Vegas — Don't forget the U.S. Open Amateur Shuffleboard 6-player team event tournament, Dec. 7-9, Las Vegas. A His and Hers Doubles Tournament is scheduled for Dec. 6. Site for this big event will be the popular Showboat Hotel/Casino. For more information, contact Billy Mays at 214-498-2415 or 214-887-6138, or write USSA, Rt. 1, Box 117-G, Kemp, Texas 75143.



California Board Talk Booster

Dear George and Donna:

Everyone here at the Edgewood loves *The Board Talk*, especially when we read about someone we know like Detroit Jim and Roy and Jolene from Oregon. We sure miss them!

We got our shuffleboard league started and it's going great. It's the Southeast Los Angeles Shuffleboard League. We have 11 bars, 20 teams. We are very proud of the league because it belongs to the players. We've had to fight to keep it that way.

Our league consists of: Edgewood, Bellflower, 4 teams; Darts, Downey, 2 teams; Stagger Inn, Bellflower, 2 teams; Ranch House, Bellflower, 2 teams; Shery's, Long Beach, 2 teams; Franks, Long Beach, 2 teams; Redwood, Long Beach, 2 teams; Suede Saddle, Carson, 1 team; Viking Inn, Long Beach, 1 team.

Letters to the Editors

We are really pushing *The Board Talk*. BB and Ben, the owners of the Edgewood, take the newsletter to all our meetings to get the other bar owners to subscribe. I am the president of our league and a barmaid at the Edgewood. On the back of all my envelopes I mail every week, I write "SUPPORT SHUFFLEBOARD — SUBSCRIBE TO BOARD TALK." I hope it helps.

The Edgewood is also having its 1st Annual Fall Tournament, Oct. 27-28, singles, \$50 entry fee, players auction Friday night, Oct. 26. Our tournament directors are Carl Spickelmier and Joe Muniz. All players are welcome to try to beat our best. I have to say we do have the best! I would like to tell all those players who have stopped by the Edgewood that we have two brand new Al Stewart boards.

Thank you for reading all this — and to think I didn't know what to say. Thank you for a great paper.

Sincerely,
Patti K. Rhodes
SELA President
Edgewood Barmaid

It's hard to write with a lump in your throat! Thanks for the beautiful letter, Patti. We'd like to crown you "Board Talk Booster of the Month."

Best Place in the U.S. for Shuffleboard Action

EDITOR'S NOTE: We're pleased that since we offered an invitation to shuffleboarders last May to nominate the best place in the U.S. for shuffleboard action, we've had one or more nominations each month. We hope it keeps going indefinitely. Each nomination has been a convincing sales pitch and if Canadian visitor Mike Jacoby can't get them all on his travel schedule, we're sure other shuffleboarders will keep the nominees in mind when they visit other states. Keep them coming!

SPRINGFIELD, OREGON

Nominated by John Ressler

The Palm Tavern, 136 N. 4th St., Springfield

The Palm Tavern is one of the best facilities in the country for good shuffleboard action. It is within easy traveling distance from all points.

If you're looking for competition, you'll find all you can handle right here at the Palm. Some of the best players in Oregon play at the Palm, including the February '84 Las Vegas tournament winner, Darrell Nelson.

You can find competition here any day of the week. With three fast boards and plenty of good players, you'll never lack for a game here. We play all the time!

For those players who are interested in statistics, the Palm shuffleboard team won the Eugene-Springfield Shuffleboard League with an undefeated season. We went 90 games without a loss!

Seconded by Jolene Lembke
Oregon Reporter

Taking my job of reporter seriously, Roy and I decided to check out the boards in the Eugene-Springfield area. I called Darrell Nelson and got the names of some "hot spots." We toured some of them but decided the Palms was the place to play. It's all John says it is and more. I just wish we lived closer. We are approximately 130 miles from Springfield.

Board Talk Reporters

We're still looking for volunteer reporters. If you're interested, let us know. Send your news to your state reporter or directly to *The Board Talk*, 421 E. Sheridan Road, Lansing, Mich. 48906.

Oregon: Jolene Lembke, 20356 Shahala Ct., Bend, Ore. 97708, phone 503-389-4888

Missouri: Woodie & Jean Cockrum, 54 E. Cardigan Dr., St. Louis, Mo. 63135, phone 314-524-1024

Nevada: (Balboa) Ron Schweikert, 1528 Amapola Dr., Las Vegas, Nev. 89122

Texas: Sandy Jenkins, 3947 Lenel, Dallas, Texas 75220, phone 214-741-5171, ext. 378 (weekdays), 214-353-9548 (evenings)

Indiana: Steve Hart, 4503 Princeton Dr., Anderson, Ind. 46014

75 Years Young Novice & Veteran Love the Game

By Bob Gross, Writer
Lansing (Mich.) State Journal

Okay, for today's trivia... name the two players in the Greater Lansing (Mich.) Shuffleboard League who are the same age, one is married, the other single and who both are set in their ways.

If you haven't already guessed the answer, how about a couple more hints?

One is captain in the shuffleboard league in her fourth season while the other has played on nine city championship teams during his career.

Okay, no more tips. The two players are Ruby E. McGraw and Frank Harger. Both are 75 years young.

Ruby McGraw captains the American Legion Hammers team in Haslett. Her husband, John, is captain of the Legion's other team called The Rejects. Ruby says four years ago a captain was needed so she volunteered.

"I knew absolutely nothing about the game and I had never even picked up a puck," she said. "I'm still learning a lot but I think what I enjoy most about Tuesday nights is meeting all the different people at the different bars. I'm getting educated. I'm a prohibitionist. I don't drink, but I still have a lot of fun, if it's possible to have a good time when you don't drink."

Ruby and John were married in Frankfurt, Germany, 36 years ago. "I was in the Army and so was John and we met and that was it," said Ruby. "We've managed to hang on all those years, have had a lot of fun and we have a wonderful family. What else is there when you have those things?"

Like many players in the shuffleboard league, Ruby was disturbed when she found out a second league was being formed this year in Lansing.

"I hated to see it happen," she said. "We should never have split and besides, there was nothing wrong with the set up we had last year. I just don't like it and I've talked to other players who feel the same way."

Ruby also talked about some of the rules of the league and the classification of players.

"You've gotta have rules, like anything else," she said. "It's not the rules that stir up so many controversies but it's the people who are so picky. Heavens, it's just a game."

While Ruby admits she's still learning shuffleboard, Frank Harger can't recall just when he first started to play.

"Heck, it was long ago, back when the old Eaton County League first started," he said. "I was just a young man then and started out watching the games, then became interested and started in. I came into Lansing and played with Sevy's, then joined up with Stober's Bar and have been there 15 years. I'll always be grateful to Jr. Lopez and Jerry Seibert for taking me under their wings and giving me the chance to play on a good team and in a lot of tournaments. I've really enjoyed the game."

Since Stober's Machos decided not to compete this year, Harger joined Stober's Rookies.

"Rudy Stober has been such a wonderful man to so many shuffleboard players and I'll always play on his teams as long as they're in the league," said Harger. "The Machos won a lot of city championships and I'm happy I had the chance to play with them. A lot of people can thank Rudy Stober for being such a generous sponsor all these years. The league owes him a great deal of gratitude."

Frank recalls playing on plastic boards when he first started. "That's right, a real plastic board," he said. "A lot of



Rudy McGraw and Frank Harger have something in common other than their age and love of shuffleboard. Neither like the "petty bickering" often associated with the game.

things then were different. We'd play to 21 instead of 15 and there was always one league then and full of a lot of great players. Things haven't changed all that much today but we didn't bicker over silly rules and all that stuff. That makes me mad. I go out to play and have fun and when people start arguing, it takes the enjoyment out of it. That shouldn't happen."

Frank not only plays in the Tuesday league, but is a sub on Monday nights for Vic's Hole in the Wall Bar in Holt.

"I live close to the bar and I'm usually in there so they asked me to play and I said I would as long as I could sub," he said. "I'm used to playing Tuesday. I'm not so sure I like this other league because one is enough if you ask me. But what the heck. If they've got enough teams to make it go, why not!"

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Enclosed is my check for \$10.00. Please start my subscription to *The Board Talk* immediately!

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Board Talk Offers Flyer Service

Setting up a tournament is no small task. There's the physical arrangements to make, keeping track of the entry fees, arranging the food service, ordering the trophies, doing the charting, and the promotion. Promotion — what a drag! It usually goes like this:

You take the handwritten information to a printer and tell him to "make it look good." You then find out there's a hefty fee attached to making it look good. So, you decide to letter it yourself. An artist you are not and you hope the barowners won't tuck your notice in some dark corner for fear it will ruin their decor. But first you have to get it to them.

You either hop in your car and burn up a tank of gas delivering your notices to the local shuffleboard taverns, or you give the U.S. Post Office a share of the pot to mail them in the hopes of attracting some outstate players. Now, where are those addresses? What was the name of that player you met at the tournament in Indiana?

We can help simplify that task for you. We can typeset, design and print your flyers and distribute them by inserting them in our regular monthly mailings of *The Board Talk*. Shuffleboard players in states across the nation will post your tournament notices in their home bars. Your host bar will "look good" and you'll get national exposure — all for less than the cost of mailing. Give us a try. Write or call *The Board Talk* for cost and deadlines.

Report From Las Vegas

By Balboa Ron Schweikert
Nevada Reporter

Our Sunday afternoon open doubles tournaments are still alive and well here in Las Vegas. Recent winners include: first — Frank Dumala and Balboa Ron, second — Humdinger Jerry and Jim Golden, third — Bob Muller and Fred Cowlshaw. Two weeks prior, it was Frank Dumala and Dan Keating as winners and last Sunday, Dan Keating and Balboa Ron took first place. Duffy's Tavern sponsors the action and a good time is had by all.

Las Vegas will definitely be well represented in the USSA Doubles Tournament. We have six players "ready to go" and would like to put out a challenge to one and all for the events which will be held at the Showboat Casino in December (see Tourney Talk).

An interesting sidenote is that for the first time a lot of us "non-pros" will have a chance to compete in a tournament of this size. Las Vegas will provide nice weather and won't be so crowded in December and we're all hoping for a really good turnout for the games.

Let's not forget the "His and Hers Open" games on Dec. 6. For the first time, the good looking ladies will get to show their stuff.

We're looking forward to seeing you all in December.

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Owner: Dan O'Malley

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