

# The Board Talk

News and Views  
from the World  
of Shuffleboard

Vol. 2 No. 2

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

February 1985

## The Hammer

As I looked out of the press room at the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting in Hawaii with its breath-taking view of Waikiki Beach, Jan. 3-12 (tough assignment!), I couldn't help thinking, "Give this up for the financial gamble of a national shuffleboard publication that, to date, has not been considered worthy of advertising support?"

When we returned home to the sub-zero reality of Michigan's winter, we had a mailbox full of letters that warmed our hearts, if not our shivering bones. New subscribers, a couple new advertisers for the Shuffleboard Directory, some inquiries from people who just learned there was a *Board Talk*, and (thank You, God, but it means another year of commitment!) our very first renewal subscription.

There was also a very special Christmas gift, one of those "All I want for Christmas, Santa" specials that brings a lump to your throat and makes you believe — two mini *Board Talk* shuffleboards from our dear friend and supporter, Bill Melton of Oklahoma.

There was also a letter from a new subscriber and potential advertiser who was puzzled by the N/A he kept getting when he tried to call *The Board Talk*.

N/A means "no answer" and if you've experienced one when you called *The Board Talk*, it's because nobody's there. *The Board Talk*, you see, is a "kitchen office" run by two people who have full-time jobs they need to hang on to to subsidize this publication you're reading. We hope, in the near future, to be able to afford some kind of recording service that lets us know you've called.

Do you suppose it's because of this "kitchen office" situation that makes *The Board Talk* sort of suspect, causing a "let's watch and see if they make it" attitude on the part of potential national advertisers and suppliers? So far, we've had no response from the "biggies" to indicate any interest/concern/support for a national shuffleboard publication.

Until that support comes (or until we win the Michigan lottery), N/A will be the rule at *The Board Talk* office rather than the exception. It's a strange "beast" we have to conquer. If there's any product or service that probably doesn't need advertising, it's bars, booze and the locations of boards. I guess they figure customers will find them without advertising.

For example, out of the nearly 50 approaches we made for Christmas and New Years ads, only seven responded — not a very good batting average.

Reporters and readers are saying, "We want to know where the shuffleboard action is — nationwide." We do, too, and we thought the Shuffleboard Directory, with its modest advertising fee, would provide that information, along with free editorial support for news and announcements of tournaments. Even though it would take very few shuffleboard players, responding to that information, to more than pay for that small investment, few have been willing to make that commitment.

TINSTAFL is the acronym for "There is no such thing as a free lunch." Shuffleboard players are paying for their lunches. How about those at the feeding trough who are not?

## Tourney Talk

### Washington's Birthday Tourney in Oklahoma

The Spurs Club, S.E. 25th and I-35, Oklahoma City, will host a Washington's Birthday tournament Feb. 15-18. On Feb. 15, \$50 draw partners action will pay three places; single game, double elimination. The Pro-Doubles, \$500 per team (bring your own partner), will start on Feb. 16 at 2 p.m. The Spurs Club has added \$1,000 to this purse. Best two out of three, double elimination, pays four places.

Match play and round robins will be featured all week prior to the tournament. Sponsorship auctions for both the draw partners and Pro-Doubles tournaments will be held on Feb. 15, beginning at 7 p.m.

The Spurs Club has three boards. Action will be videotaped. Spurs is near the Red Carpet Inn (405-677-0521) and is surrounded by other motels and restaurants. Take your valentine with you and make this a big weekend!

For information, call Glen Davidson, 405-737-5142; Bill Melton, 405-369-2448; or Dave Davidson, 405-737-5142.

### Oregon Hosts Holiday Tournaments

A New Year's doubles tourney, hosted by Willard Hutson, owner of the Seafarer Tavern, 75 N.E. Harbor Court, Warrenton, Ore., was won by Darrell Nelson, Eugene, Ore., and Glen Davidson, Okla. Fred Johns, Longview, Wash., and Jim Allison, Tacoma, Wash., finished second, with Willard Hutson and Lee Andros of Warrenton in third place.

At the Anchor Inn Tavern, 3416 N. Lombard, Portland, owner Don Adcock hosted the North Portland first annual holiday tourney on Dec. 22. The double elimination was won by Steve Otis and Roger Caulter. Galen Gaunce and Don Adcock were in second place with Doug Debois and Walt Krob finishing third.

### Duffy's Tavern First in Las Vegas Action

The Las Vegas Shuffleboard Association League placed Duffy's Tavern as winners in both divisions out of a field of 18 competitive teams at the end of their regular season. The overall championship will be determined in a playoff following Super Bowl Sunday. Trophies and prize money will be awarded at a banquet scheduled for March 3 at the Las Vegas Chapter of the Elks Club.

### Indiana Action

Paul Pike and Jerry Knox were the winners of the Northside Tavern (2030 N. Merrifield Ave., Mishawaka) doubles tourney on Jan. 5. Bill Bauer and Bill Brucker came in second. Twenty-two teams participated in the tourney.

The winning twosome of Paul Pike and Jerry Knox also came out ahead of a field of 18 teams participating in a tournament held recently in Ligonier, with Pee Wee and Steve of Ligonier in second place.

### Tri-State Doubles in Michigan

By popular demand, the Tri-State (Michigan, Indiana and Ohio) Doubles has been expanded from 20 to 28 teams with another board added to the action at the Dublin House, Detroit, on Feb. 16-17. The auction for this action-packed tourney is scheduled for noon on Saturday.

(continued on back page)

# Best Place in the U.S. for Shuffleboard Action

Dear Readers: In the May issue of *The Board Talk*, Canadian shuffleboarder Michael Jacoby, contemplating a trip across the border, asked the question, "Where would be the best location in the U.S. for shuffleboard action?" We offered readers the opportunity to nominate their favorite locations so he could make the "right" decisions. Since that time, we've had nominations in almost every issue.

We hope this will be an ongoing column, even after Mike makes his trip to the U.S. It gives shuffleboard establishments some very effective free advertising and gives readers information they want.

We were delighted to receive a note from Mike this month, thanking us for the column and renewing his subscription for another year. He now has the distinction of not only initiating this popular column, but also of being *The Board Talk's* very first renewal subscriber. We've asked Mike to share his experiences and observations with *Board Talk* readers following his trip to the U.S.

**Lakeside Lounge**  
**9500 Elizabeth Lake Rd., Union Lake, Mich.**  
Nominated by Jeff Dugaw

I was at the Dublin House (Detroit) the other night chatting with "Jim the Cop" and he brought to my attention (or lack of) that no one has nominated the Lakeside Lounge as the "Best Place in the U.S. for Shuffleboard Action." A certain travesty of justice!

For those players and readers of your fine publication

who haven't been to the Lakeside, perhaps a short description would be in order. We're a small tavern (seating for 100) about 20 miles west of Pontiac. With two boards and plenty of space between them, it's the perfect place for tournament or league play.

For those of us with little or no talent for "flatball," we have a nice flat pool table with a small cueball. There is also a pinball machine and a video game (indoor sports for the feeble-minded?).

With all due respect for the other taverns, the thing that distinguishes Lakeside from the others is the hospitality of the owners, Emmanuel and Mary Moracas. Their consideration for the needs of their patrons is unequalled in my travels. Really, to know them is to love them.

I could ramble on forever about their decency, but I'm sure you're pressed for space. So, in closing, just send any prize or award directly to "Papa," Lakeside Lounge, 9500 Elizabeth Lake Rd., Union Lake, Mich.

*Shame on you, Jimmy the Cop, sitting there in Florida getting a tan while we freeze, for giving Jeff a bum steer! In the September issue of The Board Talk, Elly Canterbury eloquently nominated the Lakeside Lounge as the "Best Place in the U.S. for Shuffleboard Action." There's nothing wrong, however, Jeff, in seconding a nomination. We're sure Emmanuel and Mary will appreciate the well-deserved accolades you've given them. We know they're well-deserved because we've been the beneficiaries of their hospitality.*

## Letters to the Editor

Elwood is giving prizes to the winners — best players, most improved player and other accomplishments. The tournament has been well run by the president, Helen Dawkins.

The most improved player is a tie between Kim Rebello and Joyce Clayton. The best individual player is Bernie (Teach) Dawkins and runner-up is Al Carver.

Woodie Cockrum, Missouri Reporter

We think the idea of a directory is great, Woodie. In fact, we thought that's what the *Shuffleboard Directory* would be, with listings every month. However, we've found few taverns willing to pay the \$12 a month or \$100 a year for the space. Do you think they'd be willing to underwrite the cost of printing a directory (like a telephone directory) and distributing it to shuffleboard players throughout the U.S.? If so, how do we find them? We truly believe that shuffleboarders would use such a directory. We know some who build their vacations around shuffleboard locations. How do we convince shuffleboard establishments and their suppliers and distributors that it's worth the investment?

### Look! It's Grandma!

My husband, Mike, received a unique gift for his November birthday. From your Oregon reporter and my mother-in-law, he received a gift subscription to *The Board Talk*.

Mike and I are very proud of the work she (Jolene Lembke) has done for *The Board Talk*. The January issue was a real highlight in our home, especially for her grandchildren, Michael Jr. and Kelly. They loved showing off her pictures to friends.

(continued on page 5)



### Let's Have a Directory

The information furnished to the shuffleboard players of the USA by Ed Galke, covering the East, and Jolene Lembke, covering the Northwest, was outstanding, to say the least. Ed and Jolene, this Missouri reporter commends you for a job well done!

I would like to see all the names of the places to play shuffleboard being furnished by everyone, put into a file, and once or twice a year have a *Board Talk* of nothing but names and locations of taverns that have shuffleboards.

I recently took a trip to south St. Louis and found a couple of places to add to the collection: Anchor Room Lounge, 3100 Cherokee, St. Louis, Mo. 63118; Round-Up, Inc., 3026 Cherokee, St. Louis, Mo. 63118. Both places have a well-kept shuffleboard and have just finished their 1984 tournaments.

The tournament sponsored by Elwood's Majic Lounge, 9871 Monarch North, St. Louis, Mo., is in the last week.



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## **The Board Talk**

George & Donna Wilber, Editors  
421 E. Sheridan Road, Lansing, MI 48906  
Phone 517-371-2538

# Shuffleboard Has Interesting History

*From the American Shuffleboard Company*

Back in jolly old 15th Century England, they played a game of sliding a "groat" down a table, a groat being a rather large British coin of the day worth about four pence. The game was called shove-groat and/or slide-groat. Later, a silver penny was used and the name of the game because shove-penny and/or shovel-penny.

The game never died. It was played by the young and old, rich and poor. It was a favorite pastime in the great country houses of Staffordshire, Winchester and Wiltshire. There exists today a painting by John Nash, a famous English artist, done in 1839, showing the Great Hall at Littlecotes, Wiltshire, England in 1740. It is a typical scene of a gathering of the wealthy people of the day, and it shows shuffleboard being played on a massive table in the center of the hall.

The game shed its crude beginnings when American cabinetmakers like Hepplewhite and Duncan Phyfe turned out some of their finest inlaid cabinet work on shuffleboard game tables for the homes of New York City's wealthy.

By 1897, table shuffleboard rated as much newspaper space as prizefighting and baseball in all the New York City papers. Highly publicized tournaments played by such colorful characters as "Big Ed" Morris, Dave Wiley, Alex Scott, Ed Garland and George Lavender drew hordes of fans. The fans faithfully followed the players to tournaments in New York City, Newark, Paterson, Hoboken, Jersey City and Bloomfield, New Jersey, and even to Philadelphia. The fans included important figures of the business, theatrical and political worlds.

Shuffleboard made its way across the country. In 1904, gentleman Jim Corbett, an avid player, had a tavern owner named Croll install a table in his Alameda, Calif., pub. "Doc" Croll, his son, claimed it was the first table shuffleboard in that part of the country.

World War II opened the "Swinging Forties" and shuffleboard really came into its own. The intrinsic appeal of the game — skill, diversity, competitiveness, availability to

young and old, strong and disabled, the serious game, the fun game, offered the kind of release needed in those turbulent years.

In the Forties, Hollywood climbed on the shuffleboard bandwagon and took it up, at first, as a source of good publicity. Then when the pin-up girls and bandleaders discovered they really liked the game, shuffleboards found their way into the studios and homes of the stars. People like Betty Grable, Harry James, Merv Griffin and Alan Ladd all had their own shuffleboards.

Shuffleboard is not just a barroom game. It is a game that can be played in a bar but it can also be played at the Pentagon, the White House, hospitals, and Army, Navy and Marine bases throughout the world. You will also find the game on college campuses, hotels, motels, recreation centers, Boys Clubs of America and even churches. And, you will find it in many American homes, from modest to affluent.

Table shuffleboard is no flash-in-the-pan game. It is an integral part of American industry in the field of recreation. It is not a game of the past and though its history is a colorful one, it is not a museum piece. It is a game for the future as recreation and leisure become more and more a way of life.

At present, there are over 200,000 tables in use in the United States and about 15,000 in use in Canada.

There you have a little insight into the game that you play so often today, and enjoy so much (hopefully, even when losing).

*(Editor's Note: Thanks to the American Shuffleboard Company for this interesting bit of history. Just recently, we had the pleasure of enjoying an in-home shuffleboard when Jerry and Marcia Zawistowski of Grand Rapids invited Art's Bar A-Team of Lansing to play a match against their home team. Jerry is the former owner of Our Tavern in Grand Rapids. Even though Jerry's team beat the sox off the A-Team, we all appreciated their hospitality, good food, comfortable atmosphere and our first experience of playing a serious game of shuffleboard "at home." Made us wish!)*

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# Who Makes *The Board Talk* Happen?

*(Editor's Note: In the November issue we introduced your editors, George and Donna Wilber. In the December issue readers met graphic designer/typesetter Cathy Kirvan and printer Mick Montgomery. Last month we introduced you to three of our state reporters, Woodie Cockrum, Mo.; Jolene Lembke, Ore.; and Steve Hart, Ind. This month we're pleased to introduce two more of our state reporters, who play a vitally important role in The Board Talk's information network.)*

## Reporting from Nevada: Balboa Ron Schweikert

Balboa Ron, a retired U.S. Army pilot, has been playing shuffleboard for 30 years. Today his shuffleboard action is centered around Las Vegas at Duffy's Tavern and Gera's Lounge. He retired to Las Vegas about 18 months ago after serving 24 years as a chief warrant officer and instructor pilot.

"I totally enjoyed my career," said Ron. "While on active duty, the Army afforded me the chance to earn a bachelor's degree in aeronautical science and a master's degree in human relations. I recommend the military to any young man who might be so inclined."



**Nevada reporter Balboa Ron Schweikert with his son, four-year-old Jon. The retired U.S. Army pilot has three other children, ages 19, 16 and 11.**

The handle, "Balboa Ron," was earned through his play at the Balboa Club in El Monte, Calif., where he started his shuffleboard career. He was 19 years old at the time and he remembers his role models there — Al Stewart, Bob Miles, Porter White and Billy Mays.

"I did everything I could to emulate their play," he said. "Oregon reporter Jolene Lembke can remember the old Balboa days, too. Hi, Jolene!"

Ron reports that there are 21 shuffleboards in Las Vegas, where you have the benefit of being able to play 24 hours a day. In addition, he boasts, his town offers water sports, fishing, fair hunting and, of course, the unequalled night life.

"For anyone contemplating retirement, come on in," Ron recommends.

"I enjoy writing for *The Board Talk* and try to promote it whenever I can. You guys have 'lagged a four' with this publication," he said.

That's the greatest tribute *The Board Talk* editors could possibly earn, Ron. As a reporter, you also "lag a four."

## Reporting from New York: Ed Galke

Board Talk editors were pleased when veteran shuffleboarder Ed Galke broke the communications barrier in the East and offered to become a reporter for that area. Ed, a general contractor, lives in Oakdale, N.Y., with his wife, Teresa, and 10-year-old daughter Kelly. He also has four older daughters, Linda, Kathy, Diane and Janice Ann, and a son, Michael.

Ed has been playing shuffleboard for 40 years and finds his action "wherever I hear there are players of good caliber."

He believes shuffleboard is on the upswing in areas where interested people are promoting it. He pays tribute to Billy Mays for doing that job in Texas.

"I think *The Board Talk* is a much needed vehicle to help promote the continuance of shuffleboard," said Ed. "As you can see from almost all your letters, the same general theme applies — unless the location of a board has an owner or bartender who loves the game, the board usually is not well maintained and gets very little play."

"If only these people realized the income potential a properly maintained board gives them! I am sure they would not drive their cars around without oil and the same applies to the care and maintenance of their boards. This is a major investment and so many are just sitting abused and unused."

"I would very much like to see you and your staff draft a form letter that asks of tavern owners: the hours of play their boards get; the age brackets of their players; the types of games played; if there are house or travel leagues; the names of their major beer distributors and the locations of all the shuffleboards known to them," Ed said.

All we can say, Ed, is "Amen!" However, our "staff" consists of the two of us, both with full-time careers that aren't necessarily 9 to 5 jobs. We could handle the form letter, but where do we get the list of tavern owners? Reporters like you are helping us develop such a list, but so far it's just a drop in the bucket. We hope your thoughts give readers something to ponder.

## Letters to the Editor *(continued from page 2)*

In hopes that this will be printed, we wish to give Jolene an extra special "thank you."

Mike & Karen Allen, Whittier, Calif.

*Bless you, Mike and Karen, for giving us a good excuse to fill a void we left in the January issue. Because we had Jolene's pictures and because we felt it was appropriate to use the brother and sister team of Jolene and Woodie to kick off our series on Board Talk reporters, we wrote the feature before receiving her response to our questionnaire. Consequently, we missed some information about her, such as those proud grandchildren.*

*We know now, for example, that Jolene and Roy have 12 grandchildren between the two of them, ages 17 to 2 years. Our two grandsons are the most important people in our world, so we gladly add that information to Jolene's biography.*

*We also learned that Jolene is a worrier. She worries because she spelled shuffleboard great Ruthie Miles' name wrong and called the Village Inn the Friendly Inn a couple issues ago. We hope this eases her concern.)*

## 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.

**California:** Ben Benjestorf, *The Edgewood*, 10122 E. Rosecrans, Bellflower, Calif. 90706, phone 213-866-9268

**Colorado:** Jim Ferrier, *Lakewood Inn Good Times Saloon*, 1251 Wadsworth Blvd., Lakewood, Colo. 80215, phone 303-233-3257

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

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

**Nevada:** (Balboa) Ron Schweikert, 1582 Amapola Dr., Las Vegas, Nev. 89122

**New York:** Ed Galke, 87 Chateau Drive, Oakdale, NY, 11769, phone 516-589-4392

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

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

**Washington:** Marv & Rosa White, *West One Tavern*, W. 1 Spokane Falls Blvd., Spokane, Wash. 99201, phone 509-747-9453

If you're a shuffleboarder from one of these states, send your news to your reporter by the 10th of each month.

## Tourney Talk *(continued from page 1)*

The Dublin House is located at 23906 Grand River, Detroit. Owners Terry and Don Urquhart have added \$500 to the pot. This tourney site is in the middle of Michigan's "hot spot" shuffleboard action, so participant or observer, join us for the weekend.

Any players wanting to take advantage of special motel rates for the weekend of the tournament should call Terry at the Dublin House (313-531-5590). He must know by Feb. 9 to make reservations.

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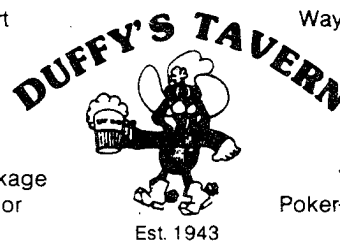
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