

# The Board Talk

News and Views  
from the World  
of Shuffleboard

Vol. 2 No. 1

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

January 1985

## Hammer

One year ago, January 1984, Vol. 1, No. 1 of *The Board Talk* rolled off the presses. It was, in retrospect, a rather modest effort to develop a communications vehicle for the hundreds of shuffleboard players in Michigan. To introduce the new "baby," we used these words in the first Hammer column:

*"Shuffleboard players are a special breed of people with a special language, one that crosses city limits and leaps state lines. We'll work hard to make The Board Talk a reflection of you — that special kind of person who shares the camaraderie of others who speak your language, who cares about your fellow shuffleboard players and what's happening to them. Share and care — that's what The Board Talk will be all about."*

A lot of things have changed during this first year — except the objective outlined in that paragraph.

Little did we know that we would, indeed, "leap state lines" and become a so-called national publication. It's been a year of decision and oftentimes indecision, of personal sacrifices and moments of glory, of struggle and learning through successes and failures.

Frankly, we're not really sorry to see old 1984 closed and filed in the book of memories. As we do that, we find a lot of reasons to celebrate the New Year and our First Anniversary with some toasts:

(Sip 1) Here's to the surfacing of the NEED and the DESIRE for a national shuffleboard publication.

(Sip 2) Here's to state reporters like the brother and sister team of Woodie Cockrum (Missouri) and Jolene Lembke (Oregon) who hustle *The Board Talk* as if they're getting paid for their volunteer jobs.

(Sip 3) Here's to supporters like Bill Melton (Oklahoma) for recognizing *The Board Talk* must have subscribers if it is to "live."

(Sip 4) Here's to subscribers like Patti Rhodes (California) who care so much and let us know they do.

(Sip 5) Here's to Ed Galke and others like him who help us break new ground and blaze new trails.

(Sip 6) Here's to Sun Glo and American Shuffleboard Company for their support and guidance.

(Sip 7) Here's to Cathy, our graphic designer and typesetter, and Mick, our printer, whose care and patience and generosity of time and talent got us through this first year.

(Sip 8) Here's to advertisers like Al Stewart (California) who puts his money where his prayers are.

(Sip 9) Here's to each and every one of you who cheer for us, suffer with us, and tell your shuffleboard buddies about us.

(Sip 10) Here's to a 1985 filled with good things for you, your family and for the game of shuffleboard.

If we failed to mention you by name, find assurance in the word "like" meaning "such as." You'll know, in your heart, that you're included in that toast.

Bless you all! Join in our celebration. Our original statement of purpose stands because of YOU!

George & Donna Wilber

## Tourney Talk

*Note to readers, reporters and tournament sponsors: one of the financial management decisions we've had to make is switching from first-class mail to a lower-class mailing. This means it will take longer for The Board Talk to reach our shuffleboarders. Please keep this in mind when you are promoting your tournaments. To reach your target audience and receive optimum participation, please send us your announcements early.*

### Las Vegas Team Wins National Tourney

Our Nevada *Board Talk* reporter, Balboa Ron Schweickert, told you readers how much he was looking forward to having the U.S. Open Amateur Tournament in "his" town, Las Vegas, and that enthusiasm carried his team to victory at the Showboat Casino, Dec. 7-9.

It was a six-man team, sponsored by Gera's Lounge, that won the tournament. The winning players were: captain George Zariphes, Jim Goulden, Frank Zazla, Russ Moppert, "Sheriff" Frank and Balboa Ron. Second place was captured by what Ron calls "a fine and very competitive team" from Phoenix, Arizona, sponsored by the "That Place" Lounge.

The \$2,000 prize money was split 70%-30%. The His & Hers Tournament was won by the Billy Mays family.

"The new frame system was used as opposed to 15 points — 10 frames of play per game, double elimination (except for the final playoff game which was single elimination)," Ron reports. "There are a lot of pros and cons regarding frame play. However, it does lend itself to more timely scheduling of teams in a long tournament of this type."

Ron reminds shuffleboarders of the 32-player Open Pro Singles Championship at the Las Vegas Showboat in January. "We hope to see many players here," he said.

### Central Indiana Action

Recent tournament action includes the Town Tavern, Summitville, on Dec. 1 with 24 teams participating and prize money of \$1,365; 1st, Rom Hennis and Brian Valentine; 2nd, Tom and Bob Vorndram; 3rd, Wilson Connors and Bob Rummel; 4th, Ron Welborn and Curley McNalley. At Bus's 504 Tavern in Marion, Dec. 9 with 15 teams and prize money of \$685, winners were: 1st, Bob Brown and Dennis Borgerding; 2nd, Ron Welborn and Curley McNally; 3rd, Bob Voorhis and Jerry Warr; 4th, Emmett Wilcox and Star.

At the Hog House on Dec. 15, 19 teams vied for prize money of \$1,385. Winners were: 1st, Steve Hart and Emmett Wilcox; 2nd, Tom and Bob Vorndram; 3rd, Bobby Brown Jr. and Mel Sanders; 4th Dave Boaz and John Hume.

Upcoming tournaments are: Jan. 5, Palace Bar, Fairmont; Jan. 12, Hide-A-Way Inn, Anderson; Jan. 19, Sportsmans Bar, Muncie; Jan. 26, Weltz's Place, Anderson; Feb. 2, American Bar, Portland; Feb. 9, Town Tavern, Summitville; Feb. 16, Red Dog, Muncie.

All are Saturday calcuttas. Auctions start at noon. Anyone is welcome. For more details or for directions to the tournament sites, contact Steve Hart, Indiana *Board Talk* reporter, 4503 Princeton Dr., Anderson, Ind. 46014.

(continued on page 5)

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all over town  
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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. This month, we're pleased to start our introductions of a very vital part of our shuffleboard information network, our state reporters.*

## Reporting from Missouri: Woodie Cockrum

Woodie Cockrum is a truck driver, a shuffleboard player, a fisherman, an artist, and last but not least, a faithful and articulate contributor to *The Board Talk*.

He lives in Ferguson, Missouri with his wife Jean. They have four sons, Wayne, Don, Paul and Shawn, and a daughter, Kelly.

Woodie has been playing shuffleboard for 25 years. His favorite action spots are located in the north St. Louis area and include Meyers Tavern, Elwood's Majic Lounge and the Nice and Easy Tavern.



"Woodie has been a staunch supporter of *The Board Talk* since it was born," said Editor George Wilber. "If we don't hear from him every month, we worry that something's wrong. Whether it's an editorial, a letter to the editor, a cartoon, or a phone call, he keeps letting us know he's with us all the way."

**Woodie Cochrum, a fisherman as well as a shuffleboarder, caught this bass at Duck Lake near Traverse City, Mich.**

## Reporting from Oregon: Jolene Lembke

Woodie's sister, Jolene Lembke, lives in Bend, Oregon, with her husband, Roy, a retired civil engineer from Los Angeles. Jolene has two sons, Roy has two daughters and between the two of them, they have 12 grandchildren. When *The Board Talk* editors first met the Lembkes, they lived in California. A move to Oregon made them the only *Board Talk* subscribers in that state, a fact that Jolene soon rectified by hustling subscribers.

She and Roy are "movers and shakers" in the world of shuffleboard and everywhere they go, Jolene represents *The Board Talk*. Not only does she bring readers news from the Great Northwest, she also hustles subscribers in Oregon, Washington and her home state of California. A birthday present from Roy this year were business cards identifying Jolene as a *Board Talk* reporter and she wears a jacket that proclaims, "I read it in *The Board Talk*."

Both Woodie and Jolene have had recent misfortunes, Woodie badly shaken up in an accident and Jolene with a broken leg, but that doesn't stop their continual support of *The Board Talk*.

"A lot of people would use broken and bruised bodies as an excuse to sort of sit back and let the world of shuffleboard go on without them for awhile. But not Woodie and Jolene," said Donna. "It's shuffleboarders like them who are the real heart of *The Board Talk*."



**Jolene Lembke promotes shuffleboard and *The Board Talk* wherever she goes. She and Roy play for the Eagles Lodge League and also like the boards at the Westside and Century West taverns in Bend.**

## Reporting from Indiana: Steve Hart

Steve Hart from Anderson, Ind., who sells swimming pools and supplies, has been playing shuffleboard for 22 years. His "home" bars are the Triangle in Anderson and the Sportsmans Lounge in Muncie, but you'll often see his name on the list of winners at tournaments throughout the Central Indiana area.

Steve believes that after a 15 year decline, shuffleboard has been on the upswing for the past four years. "Even though it's on the upswing, we still need more organization from sponsors on the regional and national levels," he said.

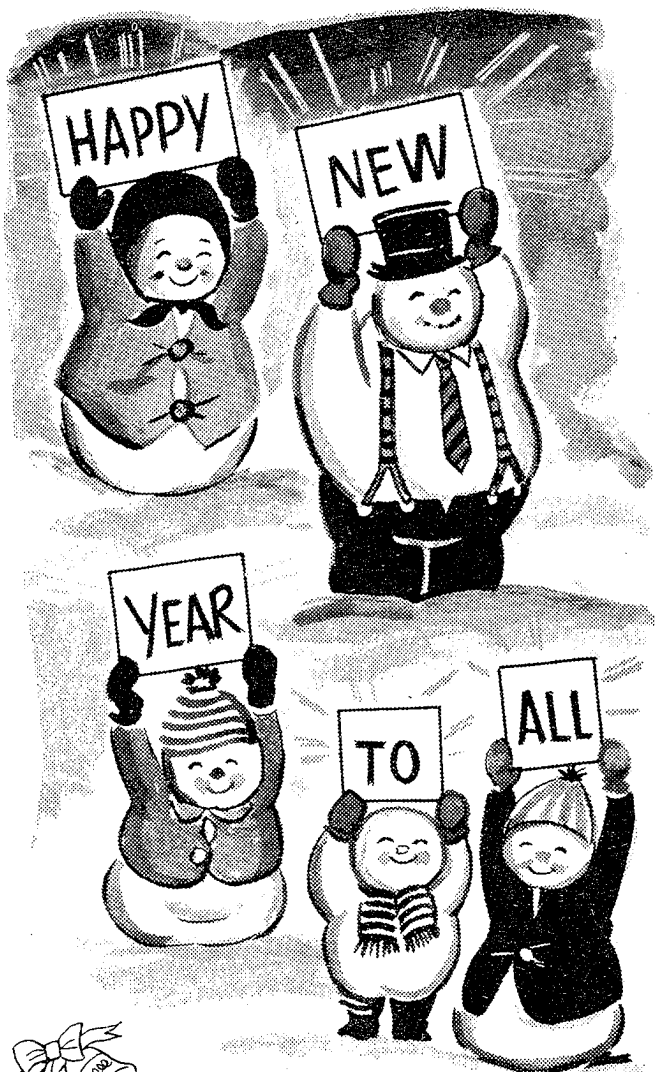
"If the players, along with distributors and companies, continue promoting and supporting shuffleboard, it can only get stronger," he said. "If your monthly newsletter — which I think is just fantastic — continues its publication, the vital information link will continue to grow. However, it's only as good as the monthly information we, as reporters, send you. We need more reporters from around the country."



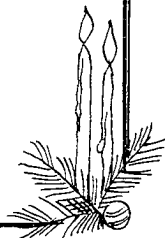
As one of the loyal reporters who never misses his "beat," *The Board Talk* editors think Steve is "just fantastic."

**Steve Hart believes shuffleboard will get stronger with support from distributors and suppliers as well as players.**

*(Meet more Board Talk reporters in the next issue.)*



May all the signs point  
to a bright New Year  
for you and yours.



*Terry & Don Urquhart*

## Dublin House

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# Happy New Year!



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Editors, The Board Talk*

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## Seniors Keep Game Alive in Portland, Oregon

By Evie Wechter

The Rip City Women's Shuffleboard League in Portland, Oregon, has lots of good leaders. You can always count on the senior citizens from Hal's Tavern in Portland. When it comes to shuffleboard, that's their game.

The remainder of a small group of senior citizens, realizing if they didn't get together, their league would be gone, took action. Each old-timer took a tavern and started to build a new team, getting some new blood and the younger kids interested in the game.

The Rip City League is playing every Saturday afternoon. All players in this league have developed a relationship of respect for each other. It's going to take more hard work and great commitment on the part of all players to keep the league going.

The league consists of Fostser Gardens, Hal's Hi-Time, Lil Johns, Rileys, Rumpus Room, Village Inn.

## 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. The kind of news your reporter needs:

- Results of recent tournaments.
- Details of upcoming tournaments. Be sure to include name, address and phone number of host establishment or contact person, type of tournament, entry fees, payoffs, deadlines, hotels/motels near tourney site, establishments in area that offer shuffleboard action, etc.
- Comments of general interest to shuffleboarders in other states, responses to editorials, leads on individuals worthy of national recognition for contributions to the game of shuffleboard.

If you're a shuffleboarder from a state that does not have a reporter, consider taking on that position yourself. The pay, frankly, is lousy, but the visibility is great.



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

(Editor's Note: Last April, Canadian shuffleboarder Mike Jacoby asked where in the U.S. were the best places for shuffleboard action. Since then, we've had several nominations. You're welcome to nominate your favorite establishment for Mike's and other shuffleboarders' consideration. Not only does your nomination let Board Talk readers know where the action is, it's also a free ad for the shuffleboard establishment.)

## THE BLACK CAT TAVERN

8230 SE 13th, Portland, Oregon

Nominated by Evelyn Wechter

There's no question that The Black Cat Tavern shuffleboard action is very much alive. Even during the recent recession, shuffleboard is doing quite well. When you're not working or sleeping, the main recreation in Portland, Oregon, is a good game of shuffleboard.

The players and owners all work together, keeping the boards in top shape. You won't find the Cat's three boards in poor condition!

At one of The Black Cat's big national tournaments in 1979, TV cameras televised the last game with first place going to Bill Melton and Dave Williams and second to Galen Gaunce and Billy Chiles. In 1980, the national tournament was once again televised with first place going to Darrell Nelson and Galen Gaunce.

The Black Cat's Trailpuckers League is lucky to have Al Slechmesser helping out. Players in this league have a handicap. The in-house league starts in September and continues for 10 weeks each Tuesday night, six teams, four players per team. Money from the league is used to help people in need.

Shuffleboard players travel up to 150 miles to play in The Black Cat in-house league on Friday nights, Nov. 9 through Feb. 8, with the owner drawing for each player out of a pea pod. The three-person teams are made up of A, B and C players. Each team plays two Fridays a month, leaving one board open every Friday night. Shuffleboard players traveling to Portland, Oregon, are welcome to drop in and try to beat the best on the open board.



Shirley and Eugene Johnson have worked for 20 years to make The Black Cat Tavern the best shuffleboard establishment in the country.

The Black Cat also plays in the Circle Invitation Shuffleboard Portland League. Galen Gaunce is captain of a 10-person team made up of Dick Freer, Eugene Johnson, Bob Miers, Jody Bashaw, Red Foster, Lee Vachter, Lee Stewart, Shirley Johnson and Dole Murphy. You'll find lots of action every Wednesday night.

The Black Cat has won many city championships and has a beautiful display of trophies. When the leagues are over for the year, the tavern holds round robins every Friday night.

The success of The Black Cat Tavern is due to the wonderful owners, Eugene & Shirley Johnson. They both love the game and play in the leagues. Both have worked hard for 20 years maintaining the boards and are dedicated to making their tavern one of the best in the country.

The Black Cat is located on the southeast side of Portland, with the Willamette River about one-half mile from the tavern. To get there you have to go over the Sellwood Bridge, which gives you a beautiful view of the river. At Christmas time, people drive to see "the city of house boats" all lighted up for the holidays under the Sellwood Bridge.

The street in front of The Black Cat is called Antiques Row, with lots of shops filled with antiques, gifts, handicrafts and woodworking. It's a very interesting street.

All these Black Cat in-house league players wish everyone a very Happy New Year:

Darrell Nelson  
Charlie Gates  
Galen Gaunce  
John Ryan  
Max Makarounis  
Rick Steel  
Don Kerr (D.K.)  
Chuck Norris  
John Mull  
Bob Loganbill  
Jody Bashaw  
Doyle Murphy

Bruce Wechter  
Dick Freer  
Barry Francise  
Bill Conklin  
Shirley Johnson  
Gary Mullen  
Eugene Johnson  
Lee Stewart  
Trish Manary  
Ted White  
Rilsco Kerr  
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## Tourney Talk (continued from page 1)

### Indiana Doubles, Jan. 5

The Northside Tavern, 2030 N. Merrifield Ave., Mishawaka, Ind. 46545, will host a doubles tournament on Jan. 5 starting at 2 p.m. Entry fee, \$10 per team, 70-30 payback. The bar will make a donation after 15 entries are received. Send your entries to Jerry Knox at the Northside or call 219-255-0463 to reserve your spot.

### Michigan Mixed Doubles, Jan. 27-28

A MSA-sanctioned mixed doubles tournament is scheduled for Jan. 27-28 at the Wagon Wheel, 102 S. Broadway, Lake Orion. Auction starts at 1 p.m. on Saturday. Two championship boards. \$10 per couple entry fee, pays four places with trophies for top three teams. Call 313-693-6789.

### Tri-State Set for Detroit

The Dublin House in Detroit will host the first annual Tri-State Doubles on Feb. 16 with players from Indiana, Michigan and Ohio vying for guaranteed prize money of \$1,000. The tourney will be limited to the first 20 teams signed up and paid. Entry fee is \$25 per team and Dublin House is putting up an additional \$500. First place will pay 50%, second place 25%, third 15% and fourth 10%.

As we go to press, 18 teams have already entered, which means there's another two spots left. To enter, send your check, payable to *The Board Talk*, 421 E. Sheridan Rd., Lansing, Mich. 48906.

**Shuffleboarders from other states are cordially invited to attend** the tournament, get in on the auction which starts at noon on Saturday, watch the action and take advantage of some of the friendly shuffleboard spots in the

vicinity. The Dublin House is located at 23906 Grand River, Detroit. From Indiana and Ohio: 80/90 Indiana Toll Rd., 80/90 Ohio Turnpike to Toledo; take 75 North to 275 North to I-96; take I-96 East to Telegraph (24), then north to Grand River. Dublin House is on the NE corner of Telegraph and Grand River. After crossing intersection, take immediate alley to right for rear entrance. From the Grand Rapids area, take I-96 East, 102 to Grand River exit. From north of Detroit, take 75 to 8 Mile Rd. (102), west to Telegraph (24), south to Grand River.

Other immediate vicinity shuffleboard establishments include the Chit Chat Lounge, 22641 Fenkell, Detroit; Wintergarden, 22909 W. 8 Mile Rd., Detroit; and Walt's Bar, 21346 Fenkell, Detroit.

Nearby area shuffleboard hot spots include: Wagon Wheel, 102 S. Broadway, Lake Orion; Papa's Ace Lounge, 23617 Van Dyke, Warren; A.J.'s Saloon, 10150 Highland Rd., Pontiac; Lakeside Lounge, 9500 Elizabeth Lake Rd., Union Lake; and Charlie's Roost, 759 Baldwin Ave., Pontiac.

## In Memoriam

Frank Harger, who was the subject of an October Board Talk feature, "75 Years Young, Novice and Veteran Love the Game," passed away in December. He will be fondly remembered as a strong competitor, great sportsman and gentleman by his teammates at Stober's Lounge, Lansing, Mich., and everyone in the world of shuffleboard who had the opportunity to know him.



**A FLASH of good cheer by yours  
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*From  
Ruth  
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