

The Board Talk

News and Views
from the World
of Shuffleboard

*The Board Talk is published by George & Donna Wilber, 421 E.
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Dear Friends:

The reason your BOARD TALK looks a little different this month is because of the unexpected hospitalization of one-half of your editorial staff. We'll be back next month with the usual format. For now, bear with us.....we have some good things to share, thanks to our faithful reporters. We hope the form in which it's delivered will not detract from its significance to the World of Shuffleboard.

George & Donna Wilber, Editors

THE HAMMER

(Editor's note: Obituaries are seldom appropriate subjects for editorials. However, when the tribute written by Larry Tafoya of Arizona to the memory of shuffleboarder Richard Kennedy was read by your editors, it touched some heartstrings. Perhaps it was the timing, when we ourselves had to recognize that there is an alternative to life here on earth with our friends and loved ones. But, we'd like to think that, more than that, it touched the heartstrings of THE BOARD TALK itself, because it started and has continued dedicated to the many people like Richard Kennedy who may not often find their names in the winner's column, but without whom, there would be no World of Shuffleboard.)

Shuffleboard lost a friend this month. I lost a friend. You lost a friend. Richard Kennedy died suddenly on the 22nd of May.

Who was Richard Kennedy? Forget about looking in the Who's Who of Shuffleboard. Richard had recently won a singles tournament in Phoenix, but he won't be remembered for his playing ability. He didn't have the finesse of a Karl Spickelmier, the showmanship of a Billy Mays, the daring of a Ted Z, nor the spirit of an Eric Waldon.

Richard Kennedy, the man, possessed all of those qualities. He was the face in the crowd you're happy to see and glad he's around. Richard was that special type of person who would smile and maybe utter a word of praise for a good shot (even if he was the opponent) and suffer with you for that lag that slowly drifts off the end of the board.

Richard worked tirelessly to organize the Northern League last year when no one else wanted the job. He persuaded a sponsor to contribute trophies and prizes. He listened to the complaints and mediated the disputes and did it well.

There are a lot of people playing shuffleboard and enjoying a new game, thanks to his efforts, and due to human nature, memories of those accomplishments will soon fade. Someone will pick up where he left off and life goes on.

But, one thing is certain. If there is a shuffleboard in the heavens, Richard will be looking for it, and I and many others who knew him will be rooting for him, and the next time we shoot that long, slow drift into the corner, maybe he'll put in a good word for us.

So long, good buddy.

Larry Tafoya
Phoenix, Arizona

(Editor's Note: For the August issue only -- to give your editors a much-needed vacation break -- the deadline for news and views will be the 10th instead of the 20th. If you're planning on attending the BOARD TALK's 1st Annual National Shuffleboard Tournament in Howell, Mich., July 4-7, bring your tourney news along. Otherwise, call or write us before July 10.)

From California

The Ace of Clubs, Marysville, California, hosted a Memorial Day singles and doubles tourney. Don Cox and Leroy Ledford of Sacramento took first place in the doubles, which had a \$2200 entry pot plus \$3905 calcutta. Second place honors went to Jerry Miller and "Lagging" of Sacramento. Ron Haroldson of San Jose and Don Mitchell of Portland took third. The singles was won by Darrol Nelson of Eugene, Oregon, with Loren Maxham and Eric Waldman the top contenders.

From Oregon

Captain Jolene Lembke, Lois Walter, Coloma Hollister, Laurie Niemi, Sally Sanders and Evelyn Wechter of the Northwest Team took top honors at the Tolo Tavern's Memorial Day double elimination women's team event in Central Point. In the single elimination men's team event, the America's six-man team sponsored by Steve Fisher, owner of the 99 Tavern in Winston, captured first place. Second place went to the Tolo Tavern team, with Palm's Tavern, Springfield, in third place. After prizes and trophies were distributed, a pig roast and potluck dinner was enjoyed by all the players. Evie Wechter reports that Doreene and Dennis Detering did a great job of directing the tourney and that Tolo Tavern owner Pat, as usual, was a super hostess.

The consistently good playing of husband and wife team Lee and Nancy Vachter in the Mixed Doubles Tournament at the Black Cat Tavern in Portland on June 8-9 earned them first place (and hopefully a lower handicap). Also showing a lot of skill, Galen Gaunce and Jody Bashaw of Portland took second place and Dave and Gail Barnbrook from Washington took third. Reporter Jolene Lembke says this was a real fun tourney!

(Watch for photos of these two tourneys in next month's BOARD TALK.)

From Nebraska

Barratta's Bar was the site of the last tournament of the season in Omaha. Lou and Mary Lou Barratta hosted the Open Doubles Double Elimination Tournament and treated players to barbecued feather bones, shaved ham, cheese and relish tray. Twenty-one teams played for \$1050 with Dan Forehead and Denny Busch taking home the winner's share. Tom Galvin and Tim Piccolo placed second with Jeff Gaylord and Jim Keller taking third. Tournament play resumes in November.

Denny Busch reports that the Omaha Men's Shuffleboard League tried a new format this past season. Teams were grouped by location rather than team strength. Fifty-eight teams were divided into five leagues. Brown Derby, Cappy's, First Stop, Leonard's and Piccolo's were league champs. The top three finishers in each league took their 6-man teams and had a playoff to find the best team in the city. Piccolo's Bar and Sparky's Lounge met in the finals with Piccolo's winning on the last match. First Stop was third. Denny says over 140 men's, women's and mixed teams will begin league play in September. The best action in Omaha, according to Denny, is at Piccolo's.

From Arizona

Larry Tafoya reports: "Brad Lemon from Wichita, Kansas, came through town recently and stopped off long enough to show us why he was so well respected in San Diego before he left for the Midwest.

"It's nice to see that Bob Lewis is back playing. Bob has been the premier player in Arizona for many years, but he had recently been in a self-imposed exile. He's back now and smooth as ever. The Young Turks are trying to knock off the Old Master and they are getting better, but bet on Bob to hold them off!"

Larry says for those of you who plan to travel through Arizona on vacation this summer, stop off in Phoenix to cool off and play awhile. During the week, the action is at That Place on 16th Street. On Friday nights and the week-ends, The Misque on 43rd Avenue is the place to go. They have been attracting more and more people for \$5, \$10 and \$20 per man pot games, he reports. Ask for Willie Moynhan, Bill Weaver, Gil Aragon, Bill Gibbs or Jim Richards. Any one of these people will be happy to introduce you to the players and make you feel at home.

BOARD TALK NATIONAL SHUFFLEBOARD TOURNAMENT UPDATE

A tip of the editorial hat to Al and John Ryan of Brooklyn, New York! They were the first ones to return the reservation form for the 1st Annual Board Talk National Shuffleboard Tournament on July 4-7 at the Log Cabin Bar, Howell, Michigan. They're bringing a party of five to participate in the various activities. It really helps us in the planning of this event to know if you're coming (especially where food is concerned!), so please use the form that was in last month's BOARD TALK, or give us a call, 517-371-2538, or drop us a note along with your reservations if you used last month's issue to line the bottom of your bird cage.

There's been only one major change from the tentative schedule we sent you last month and that's the replacement of the 6-man Best in the Nation team event with a 4-person team event with a lower entry fee. Here's a recap:

Thursday, July 4--9 to 11 a.m.--The first thing to do when you get to the Log Cabin is to go to the registration table. Everyone in your party should register. Our list of contributing sponsors isn't nearly as long as we would have liked, but the ones we have are generous. The sound of the bell at various times during the tournament will announce the drawing for prizes and spectators as well as players are eligible. If you have pre-registered, you will also confirm your entries in the various events and pick up your meal tickets. If you have not pre-registered, now is the time to sign up for the events you want to participate in and to purchase your meal tickets. Once this task is completed, order a half-price "eye-opener" special if you're so inclined, practice the boards, check out the horseshoe pits, or just sit and visit with old and new shuffleboard friends.

At 11 a.m., our Shuffleboarders Family Reunion Picnic and Pig Roast will start. Hopefully, the sun will be shining so we can enjoy the private patio the Log Cabin has reserved for us. During this activity, we'll introduce your hosts and tournament officials, discuss tourney rules and answer any questions you may have. Cost of this shuffleboarder special is \$3 per person.

At 1 p.m., the Draw Your Partner Tournament will start. \$10 per person entry fee, calcutta, double elimination, pays three places, 60%, 30%, 10%.

At about 5 p.m. (depending upon finish of previous tourney, number of boards used, entries, etc.) the Doubles Tournament will start. \$20 per team entry fee, calcutta, double elimination, pays three places, 60%, 30%, 10%.

Friday, July 5--9 to 11 a.m., start your day with the Rise & Shine breakfast buffet special for \$2 per person. Boards open for practice or participate in a horseshoe tournament under the direction of BOARD TALK printer Mick Montgomery.

At 11 a.m., the Women's Doubles Tournament will start. \$20 per team entry fee, calcutta, double elimination, pays three places, 60%, 30%, 10%.

At about 3 p.m., the 4-Person Team Event will start. \$400 per team entry fee, calcutta. three subs allowed. Depending on the amount of entries, it will be open for discussion whether this event will be double elimination or round robin.

Saturday, July 6--9 to 11 a.m., Continental Breakfast available at \$1 per person. Boards open for practice--and another horseshoe tourney.

The Singles Tournament will start at 11 a.m., \$20 per person entry fee, calcutta, double elimination, pays three places, 60%, 30%, 10%.

At about 2 p.m., the 4-Person Team Event will continue.

The Recognition Program Buffet Dinner (\$5 per person) will start at 8 p.m. During this activity, we'll recognize our BOARD TALK reporters, the contributing sponsors to this tournament, and the winners of the tourneys held to date. We'll also accept nominations for the site of the 2nd Annual Board Talk National Tournament, put those nominations in a hat for a drawing, and announce the location for next year's tournament. Nominations must be made by someone in attendance at this tournament. If no one from your favorite site is able to be here, send us a "sales pitch" and we'll find someone to make the nomination for you.

Sunday, July 7 --A 4-Person Mixed Tournament will begin at 2 p.m. (bar opens at noon). \$40 per team entry fee, calcutta, double elimination, pays 60%, 30%, 10%. In this tournament, at least one of the four persons must be of the opposite sex, i.e., 2 men and 2 women, 3 men and 1 woman, or 3 women and 1 man. Sorry we did not indicate this on the tentative schedule last month. We'll make refunds for those of you who registered for this event and can't meet the criteria.

At 3 p.m., enjoy a "Have a Safe Trip Home" sandwich board for \$2 per person.

The Log Cabin Bar is located on Grand River Avenue between Howell and Brighton. Take the Grand River exit off I-96.

If you haven't made your reservations for a place to stay yet, do so now. In case you've misplaced last month's BOARD TALK, here's suggestions and phone numbers:

Brighton Recreation Area, 6360 Chilson Rd., Howell, Mi. 48843, phone 313-299-6566
Burroughs Farms, 5341 Brighton Rd., Brighton, Mi. 48116, phone 313-227-1381
Burk's Woodland Lake Motel, 8029 W. Grand River, Brighton, Mi., phone 313-229-7093
Grand View Motel, 5474 E. Grand River, Howell, Mi. 48843, phone 517-546-2690
Smith's Motel Briggs Lake, 11290 E. Grand River, Brighton, Mi., phone 313-227-7441
Lexington Motel, 1040 S. Old U.S. 23, Brighton, Mi. 48116, phone 313-227-1271
Island Lake Resort Motel, 6269 Academy Dr., Brighton, Mi. 48116, phone 313-229-6723
Holiday Inn, 125 Holiday Lane, Howell, Mi. 48843, phone 517-546-6800
Best Western Motel, 1500 Pinckney Rd., Howell, Mi. 48843, phone 517-548-3900

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