

The Board Talk

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

Vol. 4 No. 12 December 1987

The Hammer

The movie industry has its Oscars, TV has its Emmy awards. We think, at the close of our fourth and most successful year, The Board Talk ought to pass out some awards, too. What should we call them? Well, why not the Golden Puck awards?

It's taken a lot of contributions from a lot of different people to make 1987 a successful year, so we've got a long line-up waiting to come "on stage." Some are individuals, some are states; others are companies and organizations, but all are made up of people. The orchestra is playing, "As The Saints Come Marching In," the curtain has risen, the audience is waiting in anticipation, so come on up and accept your award.....

Best Reporter — Dick Gorman of Wilmington, Delaware. He tells us what, when, where, how much, how many, and most important, the who — legibly written and with their home towns. He saves us precious editing time and long distance calls with his timely, concise, but complete reports.

Best Subscription Recruiters — Diana Hagen from Texas, Jerry Siebert and Cheryl Collins of Michigan. Each signed up 25 new subscribers to earn their own set of weights, but they didn't stop there. They keep on being great Board Talk ambassadors.

Best Company Promoter — Playfair Shuffleboard Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana. President Brian Crowl doesn't just sell boards; he goes the "extra mile" to help establishments promote the sport through advertising and promotion of their tournaments.

Best "Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is" Organization — The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc., Northville, Michigan. While the rest of us talked a lot about a national organization, Federation founders John McDermott and Phil Skover took some meaningful steps toward that goal by organizing a pro tour, and making progress in developing uniform rules and gaining national sponsors.

Best "Build The Sport for the Future" Organization — U.S.S.A., Inc., Dallas, Texas. Billy Mays is a professional who is lending his talents and experience to build a strong future for shuffleboard by teaching new players and providing them opportunities to build their skills through league and tournament play.

Best Editorial Contributor — Bill Moore from Big Spring, Texas. He provided the popular "Pro Player Profile" series, along with photos, a contribution enjoyed by everyone in The World of Shuffleboard.

Most Innovative Tournament Sponsors — The Corporate Image, Fort Worth, Texas. They're pros at staging doubles and singles, but it's for their unique Pro-Am and Co-Ed tourneys that we give them this award.

(continued on page 7)

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Tourney Talk

Maxwell Takes Singles Title at Edgewood

Three home staters took the top spots in the Edgewood's singles tournament in Bellflower, Calif., Oct. 31-Nov. 1. Bill Maxwell of Pasadena took top honors, with Billy Chiles, Highland, in second place. Eric Waldman, Temecula, captured third place.

McDermott Captures Michigan Singles Crown

John McDermott of Southfield came out in front of a field of 23 contenders to win the State of Michigan singles title at Papa's Pub & Grub, Warren, on Oct. 31-Nov. 1. John Tischler of Detroit took second place honors with Wayne Reist of Lansing placing third. Neil Fetter of West Bloomfield finished fourth.

Sparky/Emil Win at Blue Goose

The Blue Goose, Port Orchard, Washington, held a doubles tourney Oct. 31- Nov. 1. Winners were Sparky from Springfield, Oregon, and Emil from Tacoma, Wash. Mike Waters and Ron Wick of Tacoma teamed up to take second place honors, with Tom Campbell and Bill Powell of Seattle in third place. Al Pease, Tacoma, and Max Sena of Houqium, Wash., finished fourth.

"The tournament was a riot with Halloween falling on that date. We had 16 teams and lots of food and fun," reports Dorothy Hemkin.

Long/Knox Win at First and Last

Three states were represented in the winner's circle at the First & Last Stop's doubles tournament Nov. 7 in Kendallville, Ind. First place was won by Jim Long and Jerry Knox of Indiana. Second place honors went to J. R. Lopez and Jerry Siebert of Michigan, with Bud and Fritz Broka of Ohio in third place.

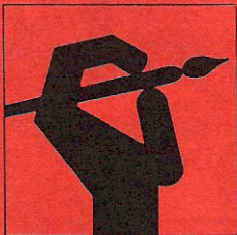
Prevento/Gorman Win at Lafayette Inn

The Lafayette Inn, Rising Sun, Maryland, initiated open shuffleboard tournaments on the first Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. Tournament manager Judy Kilgore reports that the first one on Nov. 7 drew 24 good shooters with action on the three in-house boards. The draw-partner double elimination event was won by Poncho Prevento and Dick Gorman, with Donna Smith and Wayne Nichols in second. Third place went to Catty McVey and Henry Jarrell. The double elimination single player tourney was won by Dick Gorman, with Buddy Brammer in second and Wayne Nichols in third.

Judy says come join us any first Saturday of the month and enjoy Pat and Nelson Renzo's food spread, as well as good shuffleboard.

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Merry Christmas



Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views
from The World
of Shuffleboard

What About the Leagues?

I really appreciate what you are doing and believe it to be a very good cause. I am not in a very good position in which I can play a lot of the area matches, but it isn't because I don't want to. I know many of the better players from this area quite well and have played with or against most of them at one time. Because of my family ties and work situation, it isn't practical for me to go to many of the Saturday afternoon and evening tournaments. I have, however, taken on a role with our local shuffleboard league in this area.

Our league is called the Tri County Shuffleboard League. We are in our sixth year of which I have played in every year. This is my fourth year as league president. We play on Monday evenings, and welcome you to come visit one of our matches sometime.

At our year-end meeting last year, I encouraged a reporter to be appointed from within our league to accumulate the stats and report them to The Board Talk. I would be interested in seeing them in there if at all possible. We have managed to run a league with a fair amount of success. We have maintained between 20 to 22 teams in recent years. The reporter idea was well received, but because of my workload I simply can't take any more of my time to try to do this. It seems the only volunteers we had were not too keenly interested in representing us, so it hasn't happened. If you have any ideas as to how we might accomplish this, I would appreciate it.

The rules, of which I have enclosed a copy, are a result of a lot of deliberation over the years. A few modifications have been made each year as I put them together from the remains of several old and defunct leagues and the American rules. They seem to serve us quite well, but I would be interested in joining in with or trying to unify with other existing rules as may be put together by The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc.

There are people in our league who consistently show contempt for the rules. This is disheartening to those of us who are willing to give more than just a little of our time for no pay and do it gladly to promote the game.

In this interest, I want to compliment your encouragement for compliance to rules, for without them, no one will want to try to manage at all. This would lead to chaos and before long, the league would probably fold. I have seen this happen with a once well-managed league in the Elkhart area. At that time, there were about 13 to 17 teams in a very good and quite competitive league. Some bars had multiple teams and I can remember at least 12 to 14 boards in Elkhart at that time. Today, because nobody would make the rules stick and lead the league, some of those players are now playing in our league. The league in Elkhart has been completely disbanded. I think they only have one shuffleboard left in the whole town.

I encourage you to continue to stress adherence to some organizational rules as I know you have in the past. It helps many of us to do a more effective job in a sometimes rather

thankless situation. Of course, we must love the game or we wouldn't do it.

Let me know if there is anything I can do to help your cause. I would appreciate some feedback regarding a means of reporting our standings of the Tri County Shuffleboard League.

Ray S. Miller, Shippsewana, Indiana

You've surfaced a problem that we've been wrestling with since we started publication. We are a tournament newsletter, promoting those events in which every "citizen" in the World of Shuffleboard may participate. Yet, there are thousands of leagues out there providing experience and competition, and building the skills of players. How can we help them gain the recognition they deserve?

We've recognized that if we started publishing the standings of one league, it wouldn't be long before hundreds of others would demand the same space. At that rate, it would take us about two issues to go broke! We thought about selling a page to interested leagues for notices and standings and inserting it in The Board Talk sent only to those players who were members of that particular league. However, with our third class mailing permit, each copy we mail must be identical.

You'll note that in the November issue, the Interlakes League in the Oakland (Michigan) County area started buying a half-page ad for their news and standings. It gives them national exposure and they felt the recognition and feedback they'd receive as a result made it worth the investment. They receive a discount for an eight-month paid-in-advance contract (\$50 a month instead of the regular \$60 half-page rate). We offer the same opportunity to other leagues.

We appreciate your input on uniform rules. We're certain that the Shuffleboard Federation will appreciate reading your comments, too. Even though the recognition of the need for uniform rules seems to be pretty universal, they have not exactly been diluged with responses to their invitation for ideas. We are also sending you a copy of the Greater Lansing Area Shuffleboard League rules in exchange for yours.

A Christmas Present from Glen and Madge

After reading the November issue of The Board Talk, I thought this is the time to drop a line.

I envy you getting to read all the shuffleboard news from around the U.S. first and then adding your opinion. I'm sure you get enough feedback to give a good opinion.

I think you are doing an outstanding job of passing the news on to The World of Shuffleboard. I think we all should declare December 15 as George and Donna Day! So, as of now, everyone celebrate on the 15th of December for the founders of The Board Talk. This way, good ole George will be able to get a present (ha! ha!). Seriously, everyone drop George and Donna a personal thank you, or whatever, to let them know we love and appreciate them — the King and

Queen of The World of Shuffleboard! Merry Christmas from Glen and Madge.

I enjoyed the article on board upkeep, George. If everyone who plays took part in helping keep the board up — clean it every morning with Pledge or a cleaner, then silicone (in tourney play, it should be siliconed every five games) — as you say, the board will last longer.

I will stick to my guns on the board curving in at least 3 to 4 inches. This type board will make the player crossboard span shots and thumb shots. The more shots a player has to shoot the better player he becomes. Think about the development of the player. I know because I played in the 50s when all you would run into were straight boards with falling-off rails. You already know what happened when I ran into a curved board. I say curve your boards so the players can advance in the game — not stand still. The Board Talk was not made standing still, nor any other organization. I really believe that a beginner should play on a different board every week. He will advance faster than the others.

Thank all of you for being part of the greatest indoor sport in America, as well as the greatest people.

Glen Davidson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

What a nice Christmas present, Glen and Madge! Bless you for being a part of our World of Shuffleboard. It is a better place because of you.

We've given our response to Glen's thoughts on a curved board. Let's hear from others with opinions on this subject.

Jerry D's Top Ten Picks

The October champion was Jody Slack, who defeated Gentleman George Ostrom 15-12 when George failed to stick a 3!

My top 10 picks are: (1) Jody Slack, (2) George Ostrom, (3) Travis Anderson, (4) Morey Balins, (5) Shady Grady McGovern, (6) Lucky Ivey, (7) Jerry DeNorvellis, (8) Fred Compean, (9) Kevin McGurdy, (10) Ken Howard. Honorable mention to Bob Bennett, Juan Esteve, Jorge Esteve, Dick Baird, Bill Kelter and Jay Curtis.

Don't forget the Row Boat Open at Jerry D's, January 15-16.

Jerry D, Dacona, Colorado

See Jerry's ad in this issue and plan to stop at the Nostalgia Tavern to participate in the Row Boat Open on your way to the Showboat. Meet Jerry and Susan and all the great players on Jerry's top 10 picks.

A Word From Darrol on Weights and Spinners

You two deserve all the praise you've received for filling a void for our game. I would like to add my praise as well.

Here are some of my personal opinions concerning some of the controversial rules. On whether or not we should be allowed to use our own weights, I feel that, ideally, the bigger tournaments should provide new, well balanced, sets of weights for each board and everyone use the same weights. If, however, this is not the case, then personal weights should be allowed.

(continued on page 4)

There's No Better Way to Welcome the New Year Than By Welcoming THE BLACK CAT back to The World of Shuffleboard's Pro Tournaments!

JANUARY 1-2-3, 1988

"The New World Series of Shuffleboard"
Singles \$150 entry — Doubles \$200 per team
Auction — Dec. 31, 1987, 9 p.m.

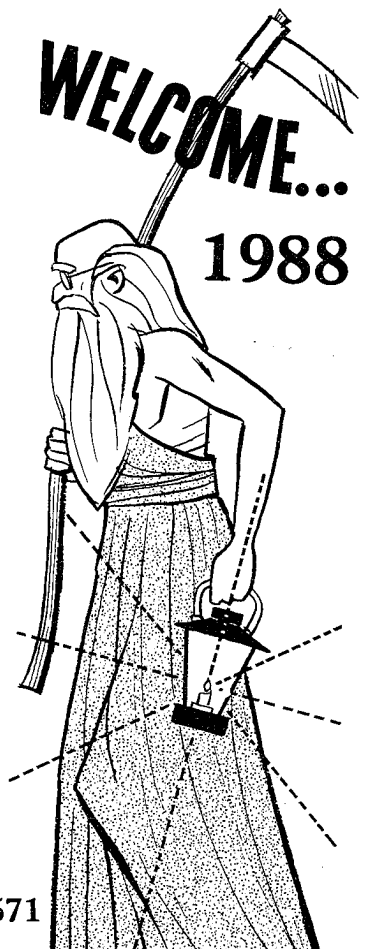
New Year's Party Following
with open play on three boards



THE BLACK CAT TAVERN
8220 SE 13th, Portland, Oregon

Your Hosts: Gene & Shirley Johnson

Phone: 503-235-3571



Notebook *(continued from page 3)*

I feel very strongly that the double release spin shot should be banned altogether. I simply feel that the game was not intended to be played with that shot. Also, the time factor would be ridiculous were each shot a "spinner."

Well, so much for grievances. Hope we keep it going and growing. Happy Holidays!

Darrol Nelson, Oregon

Your praise means a lot to us, Darrol. So do your viewpoints as a professional player and a great sportsman.

Action in the East

Sudlersville, Maryland — home of Jimmy Foxx, famous baseball player — played for the Boston Red Sox.

A small country town — two blocks long. Don't blink, you'll miss it. Jimmy Foxx, son of a farmer, is the only exciting thing that has happened in the last century.

Now — a small tavern — doesn't even have a sign outside. Looks like a garage in the middle of farm country, but it's home of four of the Top Ten shuffleboard shooters on the East Coast.

There's a tournament there, January 15, 16, 17, sponsored by Budweiser. That's Ours & Your Place, Sudlersville, Maryland. Your hosts are Art and JoAnn Ware. All 15 point games, double elimination.

Come on down, Philadelphia, Wilmington, wherever!
John Lukas, Millington, Delaware

Love your style, John! Sounds like a great place.

About Those Top Players.....

George, I know that your listing of the best 10 players in each geographical area is only as good as the input you receive. I do not know the answer to solve the problem. I only know that there are mitigating circumstances for each person's dissatisfaction.

1. I personally feel, as probably others do, that I should be included in any listing — just for the fact that I have been playing for 41 years. I have travelled all over the country and more than held my own in any area against any competition.

I have played the best players in each area on their boards, their game. Just to compete and beat the majority of players under these conditions mean you are spotting these players from 4 to 6 points per game. Also, I have been playing for 41 years at the same constant level. This is a heck of a long time to maintain a level of skill. I am sure that any player from any area I have played in will verify my points. I realize I am blowing my own horn, but I am only stating facts. In my area, for a long, long time, I have been a legend.

2. I personally don't feel that competition in local tournaments is the proper way to determine ability. I feel that the only justifiable way of determining a man's capabilities is from his peers, wherever he competes. I think players from each area should write to The Board Talk and relate who has played them from other areas and how they felt their abilities compare.

3. I think on your monthly lists of 10 best in each area, I have played personally over 85% of the players. I think I

(continued on page 5)



Catch the action at JERRY D'S ROW BOAT OPEN



JANUARY 15-16, 1988

Auction 6 p.m. Friday

(Jerry D's is just 25 miles north of Denver on I-25 to Dacona, Ft. Lupton exit, no. 235, two miles east on Hwy. 52.)

Singles: \$50 entry fee
Double Elimination
Pays 5 places

For More Information Call:

Jody Slack 303-973-6529

George Ostrom 303-455-0023

Jerry Denovellis 303-833-3469
or 833-3959

Rocky Mt. Oysters • Burritos • Chile Rollenos



Jerry D's Nostalgia Tavern

**604 8th Street on Hwy. 52
Dacona, Colorado 303-833-3469**

Notebook *(continued from page 4)*

personally have been in more shuffleboard places than anyone else with the possible exception of Billy Mays.

Ed Galke, Oakdale, New York

The Board Talk is anxious to respond to this letter, hoping it will help all to understand how we pick the Top 10 in each division.

1. I think it's a tribute to anyone who has played for 41 years, against top competition and maintained a high, constant level of play. However, in fairness to all active players, it seems only right to give credit on a current month-to-month basis, regardless of whether they have played for 40 years or for four months. I feel it's what you do on the board today that counts — not what you did five, 10 or more years ago. If Yankee superstar Don Mattingly has a poor month of June... say .200 batting average and a handful of RBIs, should he be nominated for player of the month? Should Jack Nicklaus be rated in this year's Top 20 golfers and make the Ryder Cup team because of what he did in the past?

2. I agree that competition in local tournaments is not the proper way to determine ability. Therefore, I don't recognize local tournaments, nor league play, in rating players. Depending on your peers and waiting for players to send information about other players' abilities just doesn't cut it. What's wrong with the time-tested procedure of rating them on how they perform and how they finish in tournaments? I can't think of a sport in the U.S.A. that your peers or competition do the rating.

3. It's fine, Ed, if you've played 85% of the players in each Top 10 list, but it doesn't do a thing for your rating if you haven't played them since we started the ratings. In other words, you must play and you must play well to get rated. For example, last July 4th, two fellows from your area, Mickey Mickens and Bill Lally, came to our tournament and did very well. So well, in fact, that they were rated 1st and 4th in the Atlantic Division. Since then, neither player's name has shown up in a tournament. There's no way I can justify keeping players rated if they don't play.

I've had a chance to observe almost every rated player in each division and, in my judgement, there's such a fine line between their abilities and those who are close to being rated that positions can change very easily from one tournament to another. The most difficult part is knowing that because of jobs, finances, or other related situations, some players can't make as many tournaments as others and, therefore, don't rate as high as they might otherwise.

Tennis, golf and bowling rate their players by the amount of money they make. I'm hoping when the Shuffleboard Federation gets their tournaments organized, it will work that way in shuffleboard. In the meantime, maybe I've created a monster I can't handle.

There are no ratings this month because of lack of action in most of the divisions — not because we question our criteria.

She Heard It On The Grapevine!

The Black Cat Tavern in Portland, Oregon, is once again sponsoring "The New World Series of Shuffleboard" tournament, Jan. 1-3, 1988.

This was once upon a time one of the biggest events in the Northwest, normally held in February during Washington's

(continued on page 6)

Greetings



We greet the Holiday Season with appreciation for our many valued friends and customers in The World of Shuffleboard.

**American
Shuffleboard Co., Inc.
210 Paterson Plank Road
Union City, New Jersey
Phone 201-865-6633**

Notebook *(continued on page 5)*

Birthday. Well, I heard it on the grapevine — Mr. Grape himself told me that the tournament this year will be held New Year's Eve weekend. Shirley and Gene Johnson will be the head grapes in charge and all raisins are invited to attend.

This tournament will be a singles with \$150 entry fee and doubles for \$200 per team. The auction will be New Year's Eve at 9 p.m. with play starting on Friday, Jan. 1. There will be a New Year's Eve party immediately after the auction and open play on three boards.

Motel reservations can be made by calling the Black Cat Tavern, 503-235-3571, or save a buck and call a Portland friend for a place to stay. Hope to see you all there.

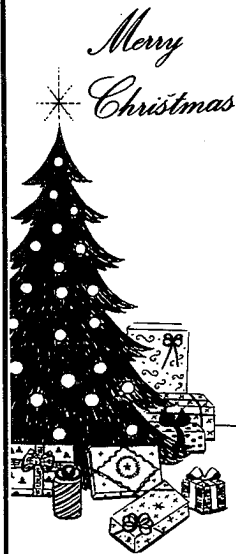
Carol Nor-Bun, Portland, Oregon

Can't think of a better place to spend New Year's Eve — or a better way to start 1988! See the ad in this issue and post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard establishment. Let's welcome the Black Cat back to the World of Shuffleboard tournaments by turning out in full force!

CLASSIFIED ADS

DON'T KNOW WHAT TO GET THAT SPECIAL PERSON FOR CHRISTMAS? Give your loved one something they would really enjoy for Christmas — a trip to the U.S.S.A. National Championship Tournament at the Showboat in January 1988. See the U.S.S.A. flyer in this issue for details of the trip.

Sudlersville's First Budweiser Open! Jan. 15-16-17



May your home
overflow with
kindness.



- Friday, Jan. 15 — Draw Partners
\$10 entry, 30
player limit
- Sat., Jan. 16 — Women's Singles
\$10 entry, 12
player limit
- Sat., Jan. 16 — Bring Partner
\$25 team entry
24 team limit
- Sun., Jan. 17 — Open Singles
\$25 entry, 24
player limit

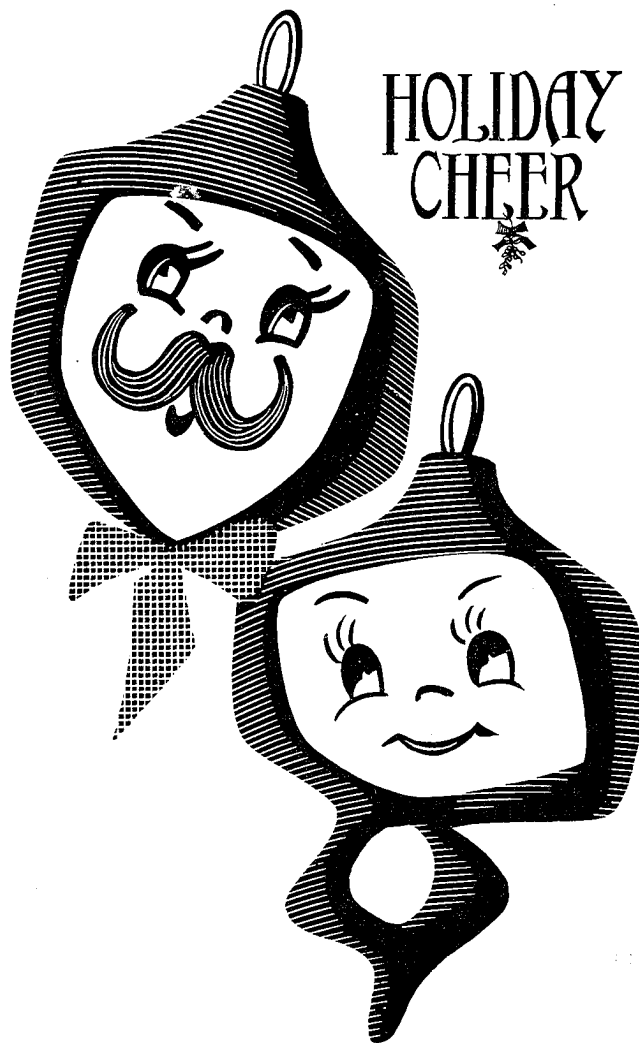
2 Boards — 15 pt. Games
Double Elimination

Ours & Your Place

Route 300, Sudlersville
Maryland 21668

Your Hosts:
Art & JoAnn Ware
301-438-3743

Dick Gorman, Tourney Dir.
302-994-0004



**To all our subscribers
across the U.S.A. and
Canada, we wish you
the very merriest of
Christmas!**

George & Donna

The Board Talk

421 East Sheridan Road
Lansing, Michigan 48906
Phone 517-371-2538

— Please Post —

We cannot tell a lie...

Our 3rd Annual Washington's Birthday

SHUFFLEBOARD EXTRAVAGANZA

Feb. 8-15, 1988

presented by Dave Williams, Bill Melton and Royce Hines

will be the biggest tournament of the year!



Doubles: 2 out of 3
Double Elimination **\$400 per team entry**

Action All Week Prior to Tournament

— HOTELS NEARBY —

Singles: 2 out of 3
Double Elimination **\$200 per player entry**

FOR INFORMATION, CALL:

Bill Melton — 405-369-2448

or Corporate Image — 817-451-0607

*Top 8 players/teams will be seeded.
Auction and starting times to be announced.
Help us by getting your reservations in early.*

The Corporate Image

5418 Brentwood Stair Road

Fort Worth, Texas

Phone 817-451-0607

Hammer *(continued from page 1)*

Leading Shuffleboard State — Michigan and Texas. They may not have more players than other states, but they have the most players who were willing to invest \$10 to become a part of The Board Talk's national network.

Leading Shuffleboard Establishment State — Indiana. Twenty-one shuffleboard bars are part of our national network, showing support for the players who help support their businesses.

Most Faithful Subscribers — Porter White and Leonard Ramos, both of California. They were our very first paid subscribers and have been on our mailing list, without lapse, ever since.

Top "Shuffleboard Heroes of the Year" — Bill Melton of Oklahoma and Al Stewart of California. The quiet, unassuming class of Bill Melton makes him a hero among players and tournament sponsors. The Golden Rule philosophy of Al Stewart makes him a hero among his many customers. Their personal integrity portrays the image of sportsmanship The World of Shuffleboard wants to project to our publics — worthy role models for all of us.

.....

While we have made great strides this past year, we've still got a lot of "virgin territory" to explore. There are 18 states where we have no Board Talk subscribers and we don't know how to reach them without your help. If you know of any shuffleboarders in any of the following states, please send us names and addresses so we can send them an introductory copy of The Board Talk:

Alabama, Connecticut, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia and Wisconsin.

.....

One of the roles we hoped to play in The World of Shuffleboard was to act as a kind of "clearing house" so tournament organizers wouldn't run into the problem of competing with each other for participants. We've been listing the major tournaments in the National Calendar as a way of doing that, and that's helped to a certain extent. However, some of the smaller tournaments that could attract players from neighboring states are still having some problems. Therefore, we're going to start listing every tournament that we know about that is open to all players on the calendar.

.....

We've been offering tournament flyers distributed to our total mailing list for just \$40 if the advertiser purchases a full or half page ad. The reason we offer that price break (and it is a price break!) is because so many subscribers like to keep

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IT'S
CHRISTMAS
TIME

Let your little
light shine,
shine, SHINE...

Playfair Shuffleboard Company, Inc.
7021 Bluffton Rd., Fort Wayne, Indiana 46819
Phone 219-747-7288 • Brian Crawl, President



Greetings

Have a happy "hollyday".

Sun-Glo Corporation
111 Heckel St., Belleville, N.J.
Phone 201-759-4474

The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc.

1988 Pro Tour

We would like to start out by bringing everyone up to date on our progress for next year's pro tour. As of press time, we have lined up eight tournaments, and are in the process of lining up one more to fit between the U.S. Open in August and the Oklahoma tourney in October.

The hosts of these events need to be recognized and applauded for their support of our game. Each of these people — be they bar owners or local players promoting a tourney in their area — have committed \$500 to a fund which will be used to reward the top players for the year.

The Federation urges all players to return this support by patronizing the establishments involved. The tour schedule is as follows:

February — 3rd Annual Washington's Birthday Classic at the Corporate Image in Fort Worth, Texas. From a money standpoint, this is the premier tournament in the country and we are happy to have the support of owner David Williams and Manager Linda Cooper for our initial tournament.

March — St. Patrick's Day Classic, Palm Tavern and Steakhouse, Springfield, Oregon. Hostess Joni Jones. Joni has an excellent facility with good food and three good boards. Don't miss an opportunity to visit the beautiful Pacific Northwest.

May — 2nd Annual Michigan Open. Although last year was the first time a tournament of this magnitude has come to Michigan, the prize money totaled over \$30,000 and improvements will be made in the location to make this one absolutely first class.

July — 4th Annual Board Talk Tourney. This tournament has always drawn a lot of players from the East Coast and the addition of a pro singles should make it one of the best tournaments of the year.

August — 3rd Annual U.S. Open, Austin, Texas. Promoter Don Valk has shown his support by adding money to the purse in the past and has held the U.S. Open during the same week as the annual Aqua-Fest in a well-spaced banquet room with good seating and lighting.

October — Bill Melton and Sam Summers will be helping us with this one and are currently in the process of finding a location. Close proximity to the Dallas/Fort Worth area should guarantee a healthy prize purse and strong competition.

October-November — 3rd Annual Colorado Open. Colorado's number one shuffleboard promoter, Jody Slack, will be in charge and promises another well run tournament. Jody says he has a

first class location picked out. The view of the Rockies alone is worth the price of the trip.

November — 4th Annual Turkey Day Tournament. Al Stewart and Ray Hogan have a great location with bleachers installed for extra seating. Four boards with an Al Stewart finish provide excellent lagging conditions. Two motels within walking distance and the chance to spend a week during the winter in Southern California is an added incentive. Also, the 1988 National Championship could be decided here.

The Shuffleboard Federation will also be in touch with the companies that manufacture shuffleboard supplies and equipment and are confident that they will be willing to do their part in supporting the players. A prize money breakdown will be forthcoming in the January issue of The Board Talk.

Point Standings Format

We have arrived at what we hope will be a fair system. However, if we receive suggestions which will improve the system before the deadline for next month's Board Talk, we will incorporate them:

First place, 100 points; second place, 75 points; third place, 50 points; fourth place, 25 points; fifth and sixth, 15 points; seventh and eighth, 10 points.

In addition, one bonus point will be awarded for each player in the tournament. The top eight players for the year will be seeded accordingly in our 1989 tour events.

"Concerned Players" Letter

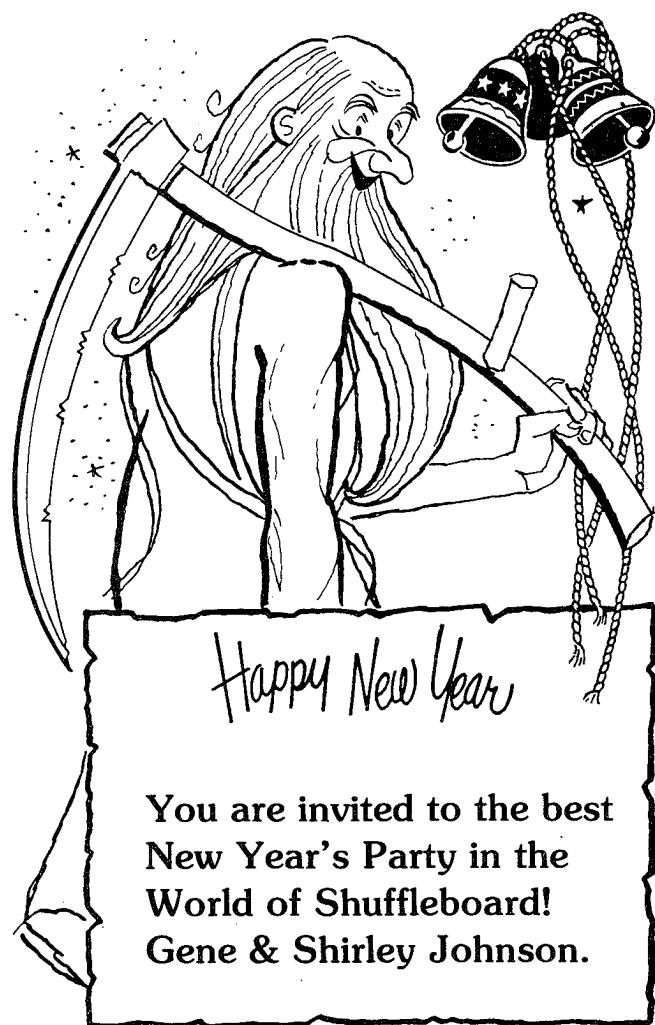
We recently received a letter from "Some Concerned Players." Many of you reading this may have also received a copy. For those of you who missed it, here is a brief explanation. The letter addressed the subject of the boards at the Stagger Inn's Thanksgiving Tournament last year. The letter stated that the boards were fast and the tournament well run, but complained about the boards being high-centered.

Although the letter was well-written and included a stamped return envelope addressed to the Stagger Inn, it was unsigned. Someone is asking players to sign their name to a petition but does not wish to be involved any further. The Federation agrees with the position taken by the Board Talk earlier this year and will not support anonymous proposals.

If you have good ideas, take credit for them. While we are on the subject of good ideas, we would like to acknowledge a couple from last month's Board Talk.

(continued on next page)

— Please Post —



The New World Series of Shuffleboard

Jan. 1-2-3, 1988

Auction Dec. 31, 1987, 9 p.m.
The Black Cat's first pro tourney
since 1984 — Be There!

Singles — \$150 entry fee
Doubles — \$200 entry fee

New Year's Eve Party Following Auction!
(Open play on three boards)



THE BLACK CAT
8230 SE 13th, Portland, Oregon
Phone: 503-235-3571

The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc.

(continued from previous page)

Last month, Glen Davidson wrote in and discussed a rule from the P.S.A. concerning the curves in the playing surface. We agree with him that we are entertainers and that a board that comes towards the center 3 to 4 inches makes the game much more exciting for both players and spectators.

Also, in last month's Board Talk was some information concerning the February tourney at the Corporate Image. We support the idea of seeding the players and agree that it will help to increase the prize money. Also, posting the board number and starting time of each match on the bracket board before the names were drawn was mentioned. This is an excellent idea and will solve one of the toughest problems we face on a consistent basis — someone playing a match against a player on the same board he just finished playing. As Glen mentioned last month, Sharon Miller of the Ace of Clubs has an excellent system of bracketing with four boards that runs like clockwork and eliminates any "playbacks." We hope that Sharon will share her ideas with other Board Talk readers.

One other idea from David Williams deserves some attention. This year he says the finals will be scheduled earlier in the evening instead of at 4 a.m., so everyone can watch the action. Advance registration would probably be necessary to make this work and we feel that is another idea whose time has come.

Player Policy Board

The Federation is in the process of organizing a group of players who will vote on rules and suggestions we receive. Last year at the Washington's Birthday tourney, a group was nominated. We will use those people as a starting point and add a couple more and make it a group that will give us a good feel for how players from across the country would like to see tournaments run. Whenever a situation arises not covered by existing rules, the Player Policy Board will vote on it and we will incorporate it into the rules. In addition, any suggestions we receive will be typed, xeroxed, and forwarded to these individuals. The Policy Board could have a short meeting before the start of each tourney to address these issues and make a decision.

It should also be noted that John McDermott was nominated to be part of this committee last year. We feel that his presence on a Player Policy Board and an officer of the Federation would be construed as a conflict of interest and, therefore, John will not be involved with the Policy Board.

Board Talk Appreciation Month

As you sit back and count your blessings this holiday season, let's not forget The Board Talk. Largely as a result of their efforts, the future of our game has never looked brighter. We know as a result of our friendship with George and Donna over the years, that they would love the opportunity to attend more tournaments out of town. Even though it has been a good year for them, finances will still not allow them to travel as much as they would like.

Therefore, we would like to make December Board Talk Appreciation Month. We are asking everyone of you to buy a subscription for someone in your area who is not a subscriber, or to sign up at least one person. We could double the subscription list in one month and give something back to two people who have given more to this game in four years than anyone past or present is likely to.

Happy Holidays!

Joe Falvey, Phil Skover, John McDermott
Shuffleboard Federation, Inc.
41761 Onaway Drive, Northville, MI 48167



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WHO'S WHO IN THE WORLD OF SHUFFLEBOARD

Rudy Stober: Germany's "Gift" to Our Sport

By Bob Gross, Sports Writer, Lansing State Journal

When Rudy Stober came to America from Germany in 1951, he knew how to lay bricks and was familiar with construction work. That became his occupation when he settled in Lansing, Mich., and continued to be until he purchased The Rustic Village in 1963, later renamed Stober's Cocktail Lounge.

From the day he signed the papers, his bar has been a focal point for recreation sports. Rudy has sponsored softball, volleyball, bowling and shuffleboard teams. In 1969, his team won the Class A state softball championship and over the years, Stober's teams have produced 37 championships in both city and state competition.

As a tribute to his dedication to the game, Rudy was inducted into the Michigan Amateur Softball Association's "Hall of Fame" in 1983, an honor few sponsors have ever experienced. "I'll always cherish that honor," Rudy said. "It's so special because that honor is always reserved for the players."

Rudy has also been among Lansing's leaders in civic events, contributing to numerous organizations and serving on various community committees. A year ago, he started a move to donate trophies his teams had won over the years to the Special Olympics (for mentally and physically handicapped) to use in conducting their own athletic contests. Many bar owners have shown this same kind of generosity.

Shuffleboard has been Rudy's biggest enjoyment and today he ranks among the leading sponsors in the nation.

"I guess I've been sponsoring shuffleboard for nearly 25 years," Rudy said. "And you know something? Those years have been some of the most enjoyable of my life. I've met so many great people and, as a player myself, have come to realize there are some outstanding players around."

"Lansing is fortunate in the number of top players we've had, many of whom have gone to major tournaments and won against the best competition. I've been honored to have staged many, many tournaments over the years where we drew exceptional teams from all over. Lansing has been on the shuffleboard map for a long time and hopefully, if we can recruit young players who are willing to take the time to learn, we'll always be in the limelight," Rudy said.

Rudy has some words of wisdom for those younger players.

"I think the biggest problem is that too many of the young players aren't willing to take time to learn the game. They don't practice enough. When we had all the good teams, players would practice the night before league competition and most of the times on weekends, too. Now I see players who show up only on Tuesday night."

"If you want to be good, you have to work at it. You have to practice and you have to take advantage of what some of the more experienced players are willing to share. Don't be afraid to lose a game. It happens to all of us. You just have to keep working on improving yourself," he said.

Rudy himself was an outstanding player and still competes on one of his two teams — The Machos and Rowdies. He twice has won the city championship in doubles, and Stober's teams have won eight city championships.

"When I came to Lansing, shuffleboard was strong but there weren't as many teams as we have today. The com-



Rudy and Heidi Stober welcome all citizens of the World of Shuffleboard to Stober's Cocktail Lounge in Lansing, Michigan.

petition back then was fierce among teams like Art's Bar, Mac's, Cozy Lounge, Paul Revere's and our own team. Today, you don't see many of those old timers competing," he said.

"Art's Bar always seemed to have the best players in the league, then the talent started to drift and we had a real competitive league. Stober's developed a real strong rivalry with Art's Bar, a rivalry that continues today."

Rudy says he has never regretted coming to America. He and his wife of nearly 40 years, Heidi, and their three children, Steve, Linda and Lisa, have built themselves a good life here, he said.

"There certainly are no regrets," he said. "We had to make a lot of adjustments and even though at times it wasn't easy, we found out the American way of life was beautiful."

Lansing and The World of Shuffleboard are thankful they came here and stayed.

(Editor's Note: Articles on people who have made special contributions to The World of Shuffleboard are welcome. Send them to: The Board Talk, 421 E. Sheridan, Lansing, MI 48906, and enclose a photo, if possible.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

BAR OWNERS AND PLAYERS: Help send someone to the U.S.S.A. Championship Tournament by having tournaments in your area to sponsor a player. Example — 10 players play 4 weeks; 4 weekly winners play off for the Las Vegas trip. Send \$100 deposit to U.S.S.A., 8124 Bambi Street, Dallas, Texas 75217, with the balance paid by Dec. 15, 1987.

Tourney Talk *(continued from page 1)*

McDonald/Lopez Win Michigan Doubles

Lee McDonald and J.R. Lopez of Lansing won the title in the State of Michigan doubles tournament at Papa's Pub and Grub, Warren, on Nov. 14-15. John McDermott of Southfield and Cheryl Collins of Davisburg took second place honors. Wayne Reist of Lansing and Neil Fetter of W. Bloomfield finished third, with Rick Boyer and Leo Daigle of Lake Orion in fourth place.

"New World Series of Shuffleboard," The Black Cat, Portland, Oregon, Jan. 1-3

Marking their return into professional tournaments, the Black Cat Tavern, Portland, Oregon, will sponsor the "New World Series of Shuffleboard" on Jan. 1-3. Entry fees are \$150 for singles, \$200 per team for doubles. The auction will be held at 9 p.m. on Dec. 31, 1987, with a New Year's Eve party immediately following.

See the ad in this issue and post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard establishment. There's also more details in Shufflers' Notebook.

Budweiser Open, Jan. 15-17, Sudlersville, Md.

Ours & Your Place, Route 300, Sudlersville, Maryland, will host the first Budweiser Open on Jan. 15-17. Events include draw partners, \$10 entry; women's singles, \$10 entry; bring-partner, \$25 per team; and open singles, \$25 entry fee. Two boards, 15 point games, double elimination.

For information, call Ours & Your Place hosts Art or JoAnn Ware, 301-438-3743, or tournament director Dick Gorman, 301-994-0004.

See ad in this issue.

Jerry D's Row Boat Open, Jan. 15-16

Susan and Jerry D invite shuffleboarders heading for the big tourney at the Showboat to stop at their Nostalgia Tavern, Dacona, Colorado, for a "Row Boat Open" on Jan. 15-16. It's a singles, double elimination, \$50 entry fee, and pays off five places. The auction will start at 6 p.m. Friday night.

See the ad in this issue and plan to participate.

U.S.S.A. World Championship Pro-Am Tourney, Showboat, Las Vegas, Jan. 21-24.

The Showboat Pavilion, Las Vegas, Nevada, will be the site of the U.S.S.A. Championship Tournament on Jan. 21-24. Action includes pro singles (\$435), women's singles (\$65), mixed doubles (\$70), 10-member amateur team event (\$825 per team) and open doubles (\$125). Entry fees include membership fees (one membership entitles you to enter all events) and the pro singles and 10-member amateur team event includes hotel.

Reservations are due Dec. 15. For information and/or to make your reservations, call Lajana Story, 214-398-0573, or Joyce Holmes, 214-826-1646.

Use the enclosed flyer to make your reservation.

Washington's Birthday Extravaganza, Corporate Image, Feb. 8-15

The Corporate Image, Fort Worth, Texas, will sponsor their 3rd Annual Washington's Birthday Shuffleboard Extravaganza, Feb. 8-15. Last year, the singles and doubles events totaled \$45,500 in prizes and auction, and this year's events are expected to exceed that amount.

Interlakes Shuffleboard League News/Standings

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, it's only natural that we take a minute to sit back and "count our blessings."

As secretaries of the Interlakes Shuffleboard Leagues (Cheryl for the Women's, Kathy for the Men's), we're often asked why we do it year after year, or more commonly asked, "Doesn't this job drive you nuts?!" If asked on a bad day, you may receive an answer not meant for the ears of young children! But, for the most part, we really enjoy our positions in the league.

It allows us the privilege of meeting and working with so

many interesting people, while opening the doors to many new friendships along the way. These are some of the opportunities we've been "blessed" with.

So, to all of you we've had the privilege of meeting (as well as those of you whose doors we've not yet knocked on), we'd like to wish you a very happy and safe Thanksgiving!

Cheryl Collins and Kathy Morgan

Standings as of 11/12/87



Men's League

Wagon Wheel I	172
Lakeside I	160½
Majestic	155½
Victors	141
Bachelors I	123
Lakeside II	120½
O'Brady's	111
Wagon Wheel II	107½
Liberty	102
Prues	89½
Bob & Elmers	82½
Charlies Roost	63
Catalina Lanes	50
Oxbow Lake	31

Women's League

Lakeside I	83
Lakeside II	76
Wagon Wheel I	75
Wagon Wheel II	60
Sports Page	55
Victors	55
Liberty	52½
Majestic	51
Bachelors I	48½
O'Brady's	35½
Charlie's Roost	31
Catalina Lanes	24½

"We want to plan the tournament so it will run in a timely manner, and so the finals of each event will conclude while all the spectators are there instead of in the middle of the night," said Dave Williams. "It would sure be a big help to us in scheduling the auction and starting time of the events if players would notify us of their intent to play."

Request your vacation time and plan to participate in this big event. For information, call Bill Melton, 405-369-2448, or the Corporate Image, 817-451-0607, and ask for Dave Williams or Linda Cooper.

Post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard establishment and encourage players to call.

Hammer *(continued from page 7)*

their Board Talks intact. They don't want to rip out a half or full page ad out of their personal copy to hang on the bulletin board of their favorite shuffleboard bar.

With the flyers to post, they've still got their Board Talk ad copy to remind them of all the details — phone numbers, costs, payoffs, times, etc. — and they've shared the tourney opportunity, through posting the flyer, with those who may not be subscribers.

Because of some requests for flyers only, we've come up with a new price to accommodate them — \$90. However, we still recommend using the half or full page ads with the \$40 flyer deal. your tournament participants and Board Talk subscribers will appreciate it.

A very Merry Christmas to you and yours!

George and Donna Wilber, Publishers

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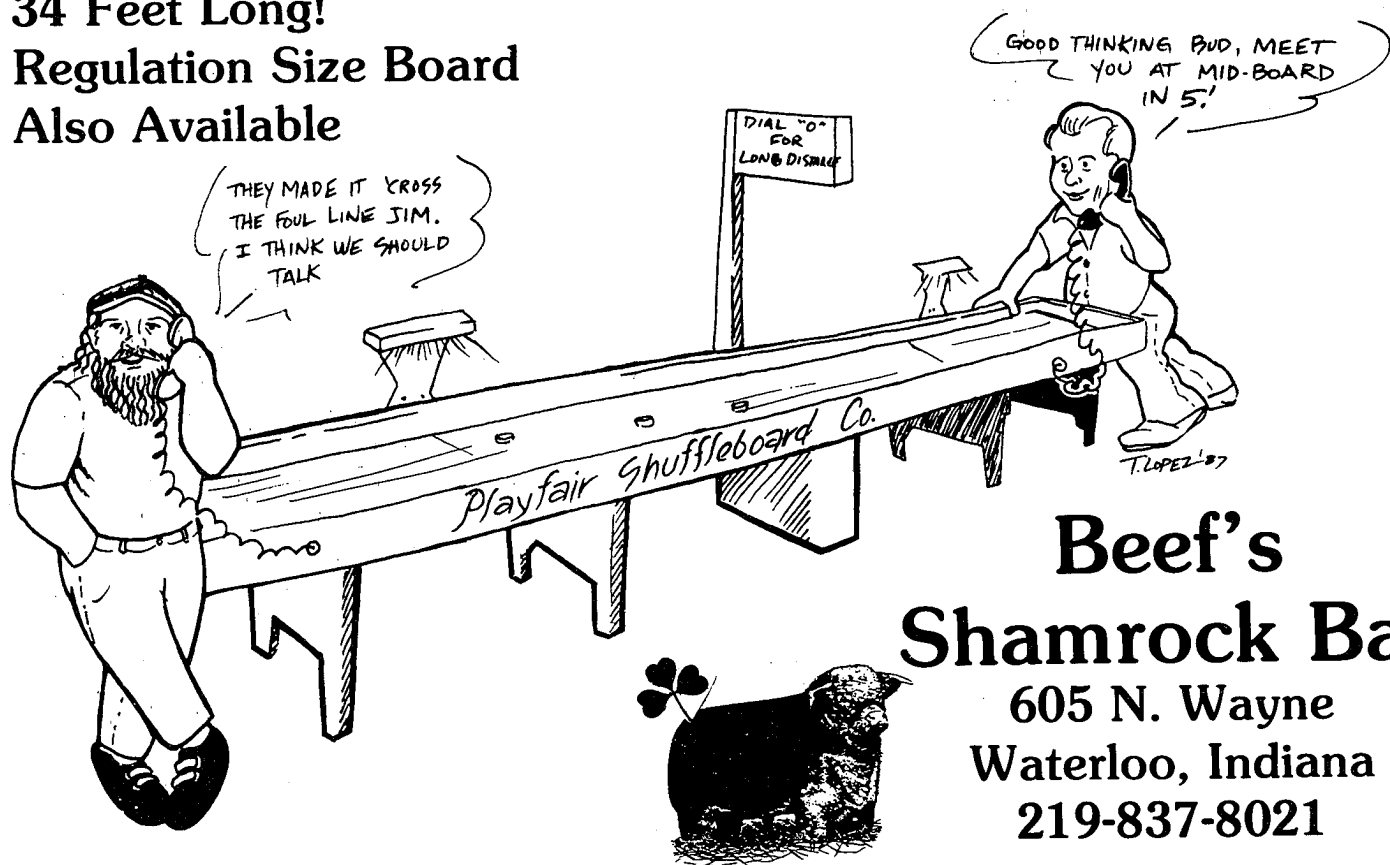
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1988 National Shuffleboard Calendar

Dec. 31 Jan. 3

World Series of Shuffleboard
Black Cat Tavern, Portland, Oregon

Jan. 15-16

Row Boat Open
Jerry D's, Dacona, Colorado

Jan. 15-17

1st Budweiser Open
Ours & Your Place, Sudlersville, Md.

Jan. 20-25, 1988

U.S.S.A. Tournament
Showboat, Las Vegas, Nevada

Feb. 5-7, 1988

Winter Tournament
Lafayette Inn, Rising Sun, Maryland

Feb. 8-15

3rd Annual Washington's Birthday Tourney
Corporate Image, Ft. Worth, Texas

March, 1988

St. Patrick's Day Classic
Palm Tavern, Springfield, Oregon

April 8-10

Spring Classic
Lafayette Inn, Rising Sun, Maryland

May, 1988

2nd Annual Michigan Open

July, 1988

4th Annual Board Talk Tournament

August, 1988

U.S. Open
Austin, Texas

October, 1988

Ft. Worth/Dallas Area

Oct.-Nov., 1988

3rd Annual Colorado Open

November, 1988

4th Annual Turkey Day Tourney
Stagger Inn, California

MISSING!

Was news of shuffleboard action in your state missing in this issue of The Board Talk? Become a part of a national communications system for shuffleboarders. Send notice of tournaments, results of tournaments, news and views about the sport to The Board Talk, 421 E. Sheridan Road, Lansing, Mich. 48906, by the 15th of each month.

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NOTICE

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SEASON'S GREETINGS