

The Board Talk

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

Vol. 7, No. 1

January 1990

The Hammer

To those of you who recently joined us, the Vol. 7, No. 1 on the nameplate probably has little significance. But to us and the scores of loyal friends we've made over the past six years, it's quite an achievement. More than once, the high hopes we had when we published Vol. 1, No. 1 in January 1984, wavered and a couple times were nearly extinguished. But thanks to the encouragement of those loyal friends, we're ready to charge into the 90s.

In a lot of ways, we haven't changed much. We're still a "kitchen table" operation, we still have our full-time jobs, and we're still confident in the future of table shuffleboard. In other ways, we've experienced significant change. We're bigger (and better, we hope) and financially healthier and although our circulation growth is much slower than we anticipated, it is nevertheless growing.

We're proud of Vol. 7, No. 1 because it reflects the many facets of The World of Shuffleboard -- from coast to coast, young and old, amateur and professional, troubled and triumphant. Hopefully, it sets a positive tone for our sport in the 90s. It will if you respond to its many voices -- with your participation, your expertise and ideas, your hand of friendship.

Our sincere New Year's wish is that "7" will be our lucky number, that this will be a year of growth and prosperity for shuffleboard and everyone associated with the sport.

For that growth and prosperity to become reality, there's going to have to be a spirit of unity out there in The World of Shuffleboard that's a bit lacking today. Its population is going to have to work to erase its "chronic complainer" image by replacing criticism and rumors with open communication and active involvement in making things better.

It is very unusual to attend a tournament without hearing complaints about the event itself, the directors, officials, facilities, boards, wax, rules, or other players. You hear criticism of manufacturers, suppliers, The Federation, P.C.S.A., The Board Talk, the Player Policy Board -- nobody is immune, it seems. Remember, it was this internal strife that led to the downfall of this sport before and we must not let it happen again.

Let's all make New Year's resolutions to knock off this kid stuff. Shuffleboard needs responsible adults to keep it alive and growing!

George & Donna Wilber, Publishers

*A red check here
means your subscription
has expired. Renew today!*

Tourney Talk

Mulholland/Hughes Win at Amato's

Amato's in Huntington Beach, Calif., hosted an amateur blind draw, best 2 out of 3, double elimination tournament in November. Top honors went to the team of Brian Mulholland and Evelyn Hughes, with Tim Lockhart and Dot Bastanchury in second, and Jim Alford and Siobhan Coulter in third. The total prize money was \$800.

"We are getting a lot of new, upcoming players in our area," reports director Chris Danke. "This was a first for some of the players and I'd like to congratulate them on their first tournament. It was a first for Siobhan, who came in third. We hope to have another one soon."

Brunskill/Kimble Win Amateur Fall Classic

Bob Brunskill and Jay Kimble came through the loser's bracket to take top honors at the Peanut House's 1st Annual Amateur Fall Classic over the Thanksgiving weekend in Bellflower, California. Rick Curtice and Jim Maudlin took second place honors with Vern Booth and Dot Bastanchury in third.

"We planned to limit this first tourney to 24 players, but because of the overwhelming response, we went to 32, with 14 of those women, and still had to turn people away," reports Joanie Swenson. She extends special thanks to English John Goodwin and Burt Lucas for videotaping portions of the action and sharing it with the players to add even more fun to the great event. A Thanksgiving dinner was also served. Thanks to the expertise of auctioneer "Loose Lips" Lou Lusero, the total prize pot was \$1700.

Look for more action at the Peanut House, site of one of the Al Stewart Benefit Bashes. They'll have two teams in the amateur event in Las Vegas. And it will be the site of a Jack and Jill Sweetheart Tournament on Feb. 17-18.

Warren/Sparkman Win Thanksgiving Tourney

Twelve teams played for a pot of \$5800 at Amato's in Huntington Beach, Calif., over the Thanksgiving holiday. Top honors went to the team of Rich (Bubba) Warren and Dennis (Sparky) Sparkman. Second place went to Troy Tolbert and Billy Chiles, with Gregg McFarland and Bob Clark taking third place.

"Fun was had by one and all, and on Sunday we had a nice buffet," reports Chris Danke.

Kenny/D'Angelo "Gobble Up" a Win at Acme

Nancy Hiller, owner of the Acme Tavern in Tacoma, Washington, was the host for a Thanksgiving weekend tournament. Giving thanks for a first place win were Clark Kenny and Mike (the hook) D'Angelo, followed by Gary George and Mike Waters. Third place was won by Jim Foran and Rick Gindt. This tourney paid six places so next on the win list

(continued on page 4)

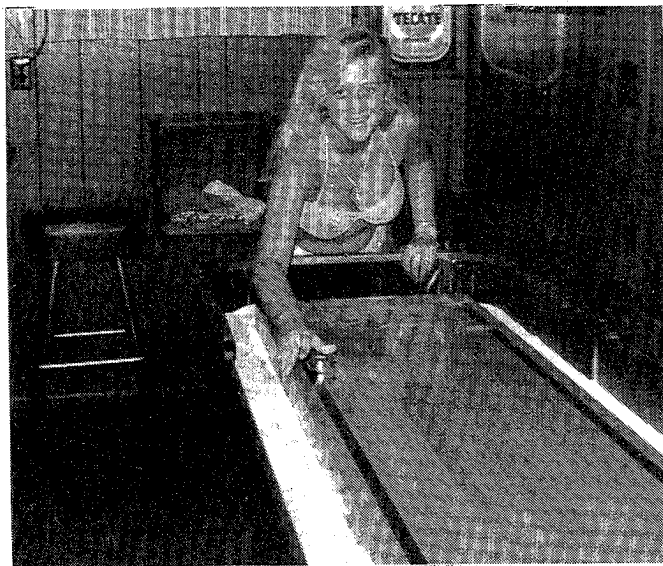


Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views
from The World
of Shuffleboard

Subscriber's "Classic" Board Still Gets Lots of Play

I'm sending a snapshot of my dear granddaughter, Rachel. She was born Dec. 6, 1974, here in Vista, California. When she was little, I would put a chair at the end of "the board" and she would love to slide 'em down the plank. Such fun she had. Over the years, she's kept her hand in the game and still enjoys it. She was 15 this Dec. 6.



Richard Barrington's granddaughter Rachel.

I bought this board from Duke Snyder, the left-handed slugger from the Brooklyn Dodgers era. He lives about 20 miles from Vista. His team mates back in the late 50s and early 60s had this board custom made for him. I understand that he liked the game very much. How I came to be the proud owner of this fine board is a long story. I won't go into it now. And I'm not even sure how I got in touch with Al Stewart, but I did.

Al came to my place and took my board top back to his place in El Monte and refinished it. I also bought an old, beat-up electric scoreboard from him that goes to 15 for two players and 21 for four, dime-fed if you so charge, or you can open the front of it and flip the lever. I bought the board from Duke on Nov. 17, 1972. I still have the canceled check and a note of thanks from him. I also have Al's canceled check from the job he did for me back in March of 1974.

I have a few friends who really enjoy the game. Most of them had never heard or seen a table shuffleboard before, only the deck-type game, which is no comparison. We have a lot of good times at it.

My best regards to you. Keep up the good work and thank you for it all.

Richard L. Barrington, Vista, California

Thanks so much for the interesting letter, Richard. You have every right to be proud of your lovely granddaughter.

Dick Salutes Those Who Make Shuffleboard Grow

I think from where I sit over on this edge of the country that the contributions of shuffleboarders all over the nation have made our sport even better than it was in '88. These efforts are hard work on the part of a lot of people. I don't want to name them because we always think of the names of the folks who take the lead and they are called tournament directors, managers, owners, sponsors, suppliers, etc.

It is all the people who help and work hard behind them -- the people who take care of boards (when they don't have a financial interest), the people who spread the word about our sport, and the "get togethers" and the tournaments. It's the people who work at places where there are boards and try to help people enjoy themselves. Most of all, it's all the supporters -- the wives and husbands, girlfriends and boyfriends and just plain good friends who come and encourage the participants.

And, of course, it's the shooters. The winners -- they are important -- but most of all it's those players who are not the consistent winners, who sometimes must get discouraged, but keep on trying and eventually get their just dues by becoming more proficient.

So, hats off to shufflers of all types. Let's be thankful for all of them, particularly at this time of the year.

You might say I left one group out -- the most important cog in this association of ours. I saved the most important, the hub of the wheel 'til last -- The Board Talk. Without this little special interest Michigan newsletter that has become the voice of World Shuffleboard, these communications would not have existed. We would not be having the success we enjoy. We wouldn't need new shuffleboards, weights, wax, etc. Even the bar supply business would be lower. George and Donna -- we owe you -- THANKS!

Happy New Year!

Dick Gorman, Wilmington, Delaware

We'd like to respond to that beautiful tribute, Dick, but can't get the words past the lumps in our throats. Bless you!

No Patti Kay Yet, But....

Billy Mays of Texas and some of the players from Tulsa and St. Louis have asked me where they could find a shuffleboard on I-44 between St. Louis and Springfield, Missouri.

The Indian Hills Marina Lounge has just installed a new Playfair shuffleboard. It's located on the outskirts of Cuba, Missouri. Any of the motels or gas stations can direct you to it. The food and cocktails are great. The owner, June Derton, is no Patti Kay yet, but give her time! She thought shuffleboard was a slab of concrete. I put the shuffleboard rules up on the wall so there are none of those long foul lines and keep hammer stuff. We throw wax around just like the big boys do.

Coming along pretty good are Cary Luke, Jim Stanley and Rick Carpenter. We are starting round robins on Wednesday and Friday, 7 p.m. We are trying to set up a handicap system

on Wednesday nights. If anyone out there in The World of Shuffleboard knows how to set up a running handicap system, let us know through The Board Talk.

Woodie Cockrum, Cuba, Missouri

The Indiana Hills Marina Lounge will be on the "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." map next month and we encourage readers to stop in, play a game or more, and welcome them to The World of Shuffleboard. Patti Kay sets the standards for shuffleboard hosts, June, so what Woodie says is a real compliment. Hope you get some responses on your handicap system, Woodie.

Michelle Salutes Washington Promoters

I would like to thank Nancy Hiller, owner of the Acme Tavern in Tacoma, Washington, for all she does to promote shuffleboard. Her attitude and deep respect for the game and for the players is greatly appreciated. Thanks from all of us, Nancy.

I would also like to thank Linda Steffenson for her efforts in coordinating a shuffleboard league in the Tacoma area. We used to have several types of leagues, but in the past few years, it fell apart. We are now enjoying Tuesday nights behind the plank with a 3-person team format. I am pleased to say that we have one team consisting of all women. The 3-person team is working very well. Thank you, Linda!

Looking forward to seeing many of you in Vegas.

Michelle Foran, Tacoma, Washington

We're glad you saluted Nancy, Michelle, because it gives us an opportunity to strongly endorse that salute. Of the over 100 shuffleboard taverns we have on our "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." map, she is the only one who took advantage of our advertising offer to send Christmas and New Year's greetings to her customers. That not only shows great respect for her shuffleboard crowd, it also shows that she is a good business woman. She knows that this publication (1) reaches her target audience, and (2) that it takes more than a Christmas wish to get this publication delivered to The World of Shuffleboard. We appreciate her advertising support and we appreciate your giving us a chance to tell her so publicly. As far as Linda is concerned, all we can say is that we need more like her in our World, people who are willing to invest something in the game -- not just take from it.

A Recovering Alcoholic's Question

I've just gotten out of an alcohol and drug rehabilitation center. My second love, after the aforementioned, is shuffleboard. I can only give up so much so I'm keeping on shuffleboarding. My problem is this: I can go into bars without much problem, but I'd like to go with other non-drinkers.

I don't mind paying regular prices for soft drinks. I'm aware that clubs don't need all non-drinkers. We'll be glad to pay to play. My question is -- how many others are there like me?

Can you give me an idea on how to find and make an all non-drinker team here in Dallas?

Dave L. Gale (an Earl Kelly student), Forney, Texas

Bless you, Dave, for "going public" with a problem that is probably shared by more people than you realize. Being an
(continued on page 4)

1990 National Shuffleboard Calendar

Jan. 12-14

Row Boat Open
Jerry D's, Dacona, Colorado

Jan. 17-21

2nd Annual Shuffleboard Extravaganza
Showboat Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada

Feb. 3-4

Hall of Fame Mixed Doubles and
Women's Singles Championship
Stober's Lounge, Lansing, Michigan

Feb. 9-11

Winter Board Talk Tournament
Lafayette Inn, Rising Sun, Maryland

***Feb. 9-18**

5th Annual Washington's Birthday Extravaganza
Holiday Inn, Arlington, Texas

Feb. 10-11

4th Annual Sweetheart Mixed Doubles
Edison Tavern, Edison, Washington

Feb. 10-11

5th Annual Chili Day &
Valentines Mixed Doubles
D.J.'s Bar, Warsaw, Indiana

Feb. 17-18

Jack & Jill Sweetheart Tournament
Peanut House, Bellflower, California

March 9-11

Invitational Singles
Lafayette Inn, Rising Sun, Maryland

Mar. 14-18

Western Open
Purple Turtle Lounge, Phoenix, Arizona

March 21-25

Doubles Tournament
Blue Coat Inn, Tulsa, Oklahoma

***March 30-April 8**

3rd Annual Great Arizona Open
Holiday Inn Financial Center, Phoenix, Arizona

April 6-8

6-Person Team Championship
Stober's Lounge, Lansing, Michigan

***May 18-20**

4th Annual Budweiser Michigan Open
NASL Handicap Team Tournament

***July 4-8**

5th Annual U.S. Open

***Shuffleboard Federation Pro Tour**

Notebook (continued from page 3)

Earl Kelly student is an advantage for you. He's the first recipient of The Shuffleboard Federation's annual "Pee Wee Ramos" award in recognition of sportsmanship and professionalism, and we believe he is worthy of that award. We're going to do something we don't usually do and that's to publish your phone number: 214-552-3047 -- because we know there are people out there who share your problem but don't quite have the courage that you have displayed. We hope your phone rings right off the hook. Keep us posted on your progress. Another person you should communicate with is Al Stewart of A & M Amusement Service, El Monte, California -- you'll find his address and phone number in the directory. While he probably can't help you form a league in Dallas, Texas, he can give you the moral support to stay on track.

Tourney Talk (continued from page 1)

were Marv White and Dave Arndt, Chuck Norris and Don (Mitch) Mitchell, and sixth to Steve Brazier and Fuzz.

The Golden Turkey award was captured hands down by Jimmy Allis. "These people need to be recognized for their fine efforts," reports Michelle Foran.

Seventeen teams participated in the tournament with entries coming from Spokane, Portland, Longview, Seattle, North Bend, Shelton and Purdy. "I'm pleased to report that the Acme's entire amateur team also participated in the tournament," said Michelle. "A Thanksgiving potluck was provided by Nancy and the thoughtfulness of the lovely ladies who brought salads, snacks and main dishes for everyone to enjoy." (See Notebook for more comments from Michelle.)

Michigan Champions Celebrate Thanksgiving

The Shuffleboard Federation hosted the Michigan Championship Tournament over the long Thanksgiving weekend at the Holiday Inn, Southfield. Four events were on the agenda.

Twenty players vied for the singles crown with John McDermott coming out on top. Second place honors went to Neil Fetter, with J.R. Lopez in third, and O.B. Brimm in fourth.

In an exciting doubles, Bill Meyer and Mike Poppas were tops in a field of 11 teams. The tough team beat out determined contenders, J.R. Lopez and Dana Gray. Bernie Sunde and Phil McGrew finished third.

Not enough women signed up to hold the ladies' singles, but there were seven teams in a mixed doubles event. John McDermott and Cheryl Collins were the winners, with Phil McGrew and Gail Crane in second place. Bernie Sunde and Cassie Kern came in third.

Spickelmier Wins Ted Z's "True" Round Robin

Ted Z's True Round Robin Singles attracted 12 of the top southern California players to his Best Little Wherehouse in Temecula, Calif. The tourney was won by Karl Spickelmier with a 10-1 record, his only loss coming from host Ted Z who didn't place in the money. Second place honors went to Billy Maxwell, 9-2, with Sparky Sparkman, 7-4, in third place.

Other participants were Troy Tolbert, Ted Z, Gregg McFarland, Billy Chiles, Chris Danke, John Fisher, Frank Bentley, Joe Muniz, and Bubba Warren, finishing in that order with Gregg and Billy tied for sixth.

Thanksgiving Action in Indiana

The Palace Bar in Fairmount, Indiana, and nearby Town Tavern in Summitville, held back to back tourneys over the Thanksgiving weekend. In the doubles at The Palace, Beef Camp of Beef's in Kendallville and the Shamrock in Waterloo and Buddy Broka of Toledo, Ohio, teamed up to take first place honors. Host Bobby Voorhis and Blaine Yeagy took second place. Gregg Massie beat his "little" brother Tom to win the singles event at the Town Tavern. Rick Stocker finished third with Tony Bright in fourth place.

Trip East Pays Off for Peggy

Peggy Richards of Phoenix, Arizona, combined a visit to her sister near Washington, D.C. and a visit to the Lafayette Inn, Rising Sun, Maryland, for the first of the month draw partner event on Dec. 2. Along with Peggy and her sister, Patty, were 28 other shooters who joined in the two double elimination events. "Instead of our normal four in-house boards, we also initiated a new 22' Playfair, so we had five boards to use for the tournament," reports director Dick Gorman. "Not much time was spent waiting to shoot!" The first event was won by Buddy Brammer, Rising Sun, and Phil Neuman of Swathmore, Pennsylvania. Second place was taken by Jim McDaniels, Darlington, Md., and Bob Overbey, Street, Md. Alvis Ramey of Perryville, Md., and Lee Rutherford, Port Deposit, Md., took third place.

(continued on page 6)



May 1990
be a great
year for
our loyal
shuffleboard
friends and
those we've
yet to
meet...

Happy New Year
from
ACME TAVERN

Owner: Nancy Hiller

1310 Tacoma Ave., Tacoma, Wash.
Phone: 206-272-1892



**Ring the Bells
and
Spread the Word
FEB. 9-11
is the date for the
Lafayette Inn
Winter Board Talk
Shuffleboard Tournament**

Tournament Hosts: Pat & Nelson Renzo, 301-658-9075

Tournament Manager: Dick Gorman, 302-994-0004

Register for any or all events!

**All games 15 points, straight, single game, double elimination
Jackets for all first place winners**

FRIDAY, FEB. 9 – DRAW PARTNERS

- * Drawing & Bidding, 7 p.m.
- * Games start at once
- * Will finish Friday night
- * Entry Fee – \$10/per person
- * Limit first 30 sign ups
- * Prizes – first 3 places

SATURDAY, FEB. 10 – WOMEN'S SINGLES

- * Drawing & Bidding, 9:30 a.m.
- * Games start at once
- * Will finish Saturday afternoon
- * Entry fee – \$10/per person
- * Limit first 16 players
- * Prizes – first 3 places

SATURDAY, FEB. 10 – BRING YOUR OWN PARTNER

- * Drawing & Bidding, 1:30 p.m.
- * Games start at once
- * Will finish Saturday
- * Entry fee – \$25/per team
- * Limit first 32 teams
- * Prizes – first 6 places

SUNDAY, FEB. 11 – MIXED DOUBLES

- * Drawing & Bidding, 12 noon
- * Games start at once
- * Must finish by 9 p.m.
- * Entry fee – \$25/per team
- * Limit first 24 entries
- * Prizes – first 4 places

LAFAYETTE INN

1524 Conowingo Rd., Rising Sun, Maryland

Phone: 301-658-9075

Tourney Talk *(continued from page 4)*

The evening was capped off with the second draw partner event and the wait paid off for the traveler. Peggy Richards teamed up with Catty McVey, Peachbottom, Pa., to take first place honors. Second place went to Butch Kelly, Springfield, Pa., and Alvis Ramey, with Phil Neuman and Jim Wallace, Port Deposit, in third.

"A good time was had by all, highlighted by Peggy's visit. You all come to our first of the month tournaments. You never know who the guest celebrity will be," said Dick.

Mixed Doubles Challenge Continues at Lafayette Inn

December 3 brought the second of a series of six mixed doubles tournaments at Lafayette Inn, Rising Sun, Md. Points are accumulated for the six tournaments and an eventual champion will be crowned in both the men and women categories. After the Dec. 3 event, the current overall champions are Judy Gartland and Conch Cacciavillani, both of Philadelphia.

The teams vied for about \$1300 in the most recent tournament. Winners were Joyce Pyle of Church Hill, Md., and Len Dell, Baltimore, Md. Second place went to Mary Wagner of Milford, Del., and Bob Hall, Red Lion, Pa. Judy Gartland and Conch Cacciavillani finished third, with the husband and wife team of Rita and Jim Yank of Philadelphia in fourth.

The next scheduled mixed doubles tournament is Jan. 12 as the race for the championship continues.

Hilltop Inn Prevails Over Snowstorm

On Dec. 8, the snow fell all day. Schools closed early, offices and businesses sent their employees home early, the Har-

ington Moose postponed their shuffleboard tournament -- but Hilltop Inn, Fairhill, Maryland, a brand-new comer to the tournament scene, said we are going to go, and go they did under the direction of tournament promoters Billy McCulley and Chuck McKenzie. Owner Frank Stezzi cancelled his band for the normal Friday night dance, but Billy and Chuck said shufflers are different. And they proved they were.

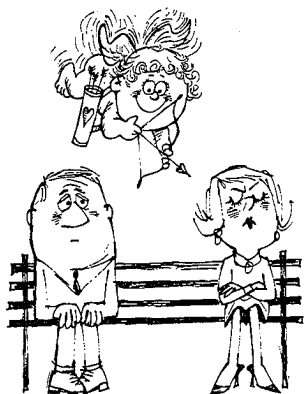
They drove down from Philadelphia, two and a half hours on the snow piled roads, and up from lower Delaware and the eastern shore of Maryland. The East Coast biggies showed up.

Friday night was a draw partner event on the two in-house boards, which was won by Mickey (I'm married now) Baugh of Perryville, Md. and Dave Shewbridge (Hilltop Inn) of Elkton, Maryland. Second place honors went to Larry Kirk, Northeast, Md. and Harold Matthews, Port Deposit, Md. Third place went to first year shooter and first tournament ever, Rick Durkin of Fairhill and Dick Gorman, Wilmington, Del.

Saturday morning kicked off at 10:30 with a double elimination bring partners event which ended late Saturday night. First place went to Chuck King, Dover, Del. and Scratch Todd, Denton, Md. Second went to the favored Hilltop Inn team of Markey Magaw, Fairhill, and Dave Shewbridge. Hilltop captain Don Casula, Wilmington, and Mark Grove of Rising Sun, Md. took third place, with the Robinson brothers, Bill from Woodlyn, Pa. and Mike of Wildwood, New Jersey, in fourth.

"This was a very well run tournament by two dedicated guys who worked very hard to make it happen -- Chuck McKenzie and Billy McCulley," said owner Frank Stezzi. Bill and Chuck thought you could win a few dollars. Both found

(continued on page 8)



Saturday, Feb. 10:

Double elimination, \$25 per team, pays 4 places, auction at 1 p.m., D.J.'s homemade chili, all you can eat -- no charge.

Sunday, Feb. 11:

Mixed Doubles, single elimination, \$20 per team, pays 4 places, auction at 1 p.m.

Is your Love Life on the wane? Spark it up by taking her or him to... D.J.'s 5th Annual Chili Day and Valentine's Mixed Doubles Tournaments



D.J.'s Bar

1360 Center St., Warsaw, Indiana Phone: 219-269-1913

— Two Boards —



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Big Events — Mark
Your Shuffleboard
Calendar...**

Flash

Feb. 3-4

**1st Annual Prestigious Hall of Fame
Mixed Doubles & Women's Singles
Championship Tournament**

Mixed Doubles, \$50 per team, auction at 11 a.m., Saturday
Women's Singles, \$25 entry, Sunday, auction time to be announced
Trophies for first place — **FREE BUFFET!**



April 6-8

**Tournament of Champions
Team Classic — 6 person
Team Tournament**

\$300 per team entry, best 5 out of 9, double
elimination, auction at 10 a.m., Saturday, Trophies
for first place

— FREE BUFFET —

NOTICE:

Information regarding inductions
to the Michigan Shuffleboard Hall of Fame
will be provided at the tournaments.

Stober's Lounge

812 E. Michigan, Lansing, Mich.

For information, call Jerry Siebert, 517-485-0184 or Stober's, 517-487-4464

Tourney Talk (continued from page 6)

out that running a tournament of this size takes a lot of concentration away from your game. Hats off to a new tournament spot and two new tournament organizers, says Dick Gorman.

Jerry D's Row Boat Open, Jan. 12-14

The friendly people at Jerry D's Nostalgia Tavern in Dacona, Colorado, invite you to stop in on your way to the P.C.S.A.'s Shuffleboard Extravaganza at the Showboat and participate in the Row Boat Open on Jan. 12-13. \$50 entry fee for the singles tournament, double elimination, limited to the first 16 teams to sign up.

For information, call Jerry or Susan at 303-833-3469 or 303-833-3959.

P.C.S.A.'s Shuffleboard Extravaganza II, Las Vegas, Jan. 17-21

It will be another big shuffleboard family reunion at the P.C.S.A.'s Shuffleboard Extravaganza II at the Showboat Hotel/Casino in Las Vegas on Jan. 17-21. As we go to press, all four events -- the pro singles, pro doubles, women's singles and amateur team -- are all filled up. If you were too late to participate, it will still be a great show to watch. To verify the situation, call the P.C.S.A., 714-761-2765 or 213-926-2152.

Hall of Fame Mixed and Women's Singles at Stober's

Stober's Lounge, 812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, Michigan, will host the 1st Annual Hall of Fame mixed doubles and women's singles championship tournaments on Feb. 3-4. The mixed doubles, \$50 entry fee, is scheduled for Saturday with the auction at 11 a.m. The women's singles will be held on Sunday, auction time to be determined. Trophies will be awarded for first place. Free buffet will be available courtesy of the Stober family.

For information, contact Jerry Siebert, 517-485-0184, or Stober's, 517-487-4464. See ad in this issue and plan to participate.

Lafayette Inn/Board Talk Winter Tournament, Feb. 9-11

The annual Lafayette Inn/Board Talk Winter Tournament is scheduled for Feb. 9-11 in Rising Sun, Maryland. Four events, all one-day tourneys, are on the agenda. On Friday, 7 p.m., the draw partner event, \$10 per person entry fee, is limited to the first 30 sign-ups and will pay three places. The women's singles start at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, \$10 entry, limited to the first 16 players, with prizes to the first three places. The bring your own partner event is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Saturday. Entry fee is \$25 per team, limited to the first 32 teams and paying six places. The big event winds up Sunday with a mixed doubles starting at noon. Entry fee is \$25 per team, limited to the first 24 entries and paying off four places.

All games are 15 points, straight, single game, double elimination. Jackets will be awarded to all first place winners. Play will be on the Lafayette Inn's four in-house boards.

Advance registration is urged and must be accompanied by entry fees. For information, call hosts Pat and Nelson Renzo, 301-658-9075, or tournament manager Dick Gorman, 302-994-0004. See ad in this issue and get your entries in early. This one will fill up fast!

4th Annual Edison Sweetheart Tourney, Feb. 10-11

The Edison Tavern, 583 Cain's Court, Edison, Washington, will host its 4th Annual Mixed Doubles Sweetheart Tournament on Feb. 10-11. \$30 per team entry fee, double elimination on two boards, with a 60-30-10 payoff. The auction will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday. A spaghetti feed is on the agenda for Saturday night.

This tournament was previously open only to the "locals" but this year is open to all comers. Your hosts are Jim and Roxanne DePree and directors are Sherman Anderson and Phil DePree. Edison Tavern is located near Bow, Washington, the state's "shuffleboard capitol."

For more information, contact the Edison Tavern, 206-766-6266.

Western Open, March 14-18

The Western Open will be held at the Purple Turtle Lounge, 4944 W. Indian School Road in Phoenix, Arizona, on March 14-18.

"Due to the feedback we have gotten from the out of state players who have supported this tournament so faithfully in the past, we have decided to change the dates back to the original St. Patrick's Day weekend from the previously listed February dates," reports Lary Tafoya. "We have a great place to play, food and drinks at reasonable prices, and our host Phil Gardner is planning a Ted Z style feed on Saturday, March 17. The boards will be supplied by Bob Lewis, so you know they will be in good shape. It will be a week of fun and games, with plenty of action."

The action will include a "skins" game on Wed., March 14, and a Pro-Am on Thursday. The sponsor sale is set for Thursday, March 15, at 8 p.m. The open singles, \$100 entry fee, will start at noon on Friday and the women's singles, \$50 entry, will start at 9 p.m. The open doubles, \$200 per team, will start on Saturday, March 17.

The deadline for entries is Sunday, March 11, but you are urged to get yours in early because this one will fill up fast. Motel rates at the Regal 8, 1-800-851-8888; and Motel 6, 602-272-0020, range from \$30 to \$35.

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WATCH OUR LIPS!



The deadline for THE BOARD TALK is the 15th of each month. To make sure your news, views, ads and tournament dates are published in the next issue, send them by the 15th of the previous month, i.e., November 15 for the December issue. Send to:

THE BOARD TALK

421 E. Sheridan Road
Lansing, MI 48906

**MAY WE
ADD A
LITTLE
BRIGHTNESS...**

**in your home,
your place of
work, in every
part of your life.**



**And may
1990
be filled
with happy
shuffleboard
experiences
for you!**

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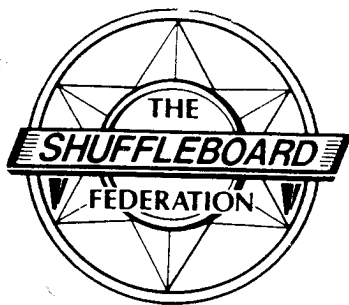
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1990 INVITATIONAL TOUR

Plans for the 1990 tour have been finalized (see enclosed flyer) and we would like to make some clarifications about the tour and how it will be run.

Some of the information here was in last month's Board Talk, but there have been some updates as well. Please make note of the changes.

There will be a **registration deadline of two weeks prior to the first event of each tournament.** Registration form must be accompanied by a 25 percent deposit for each event you will be entering.

We want to do a good job for the players who are supporting us. Pre-registration will insure we have the right number of boards and officials, and provide the participants with exact starting times.

As per the Player Policy Board's decision, on a request made by The Shuffleboard Federation, all participants in future Federation events must subscribe to The Board Talk. We do not feel that we can afford to spend time and money promoting events for people who will not invest a few dollars back into the game.

Additionally, it is very frustrating for us to not be able to get our message out to players who do not support the game, and then have to spend time explaining things and answering questions that have been explained and answered in The Board Talk previously.

There will be a \$10.00 annual registration fee for each player, payable at the first Federation event you play in each year. This will give you membership in the Federation's players association, which makes you eligible for a variety of benefits (see February issue of The Board Talk for more information).

All out of town participants must be a registered guest at the hotel that is hosting the tournament.

Any taverns which are interested in hosting a qualifying tournament for any of the 1990 Invitational Tour events should contact us as soon as possible. We will help you any way we can.

Of course, all suggestions on how to improve existing events or on different types of events that you would like to see are welcome. The only way we can continue to improve is through input from the players. We urge you to send your thoughts to the Player Policy Board, c/o The Shuffleboard Federation.

NASL HANDICAP TEAM TOURNAMENT FORMAT

This format will be used in all NASL Team Tournaments, including the National Amateur Championships in Las Vegas in October of 1990:

All teams will have six players, four men and two women.

All matches will be best four of seven. Teams will draw before each match to determine who will be partners for that match.

In the event two teams are tied after six games, each team will select two players to play the last game.

All teams will submit rosters for approval at least two weeks prior to the start of the tournament.

Each amateur player will be assigned a rating between 1 and 4; pros will have a handicap of -1. Handicaps will be determined by a committee appointed by The Shuffleboard Federation and will assign handicaps on the following basis: players considered to be in the top 15 percent of all amateur players will have a 1 handicap; players considered to be in the next 35 percent will have a 2 handicap; players considered to be in the next 35 percent will have a 3 handicap; players considered to be in the bottom 15 percent will have a 4 handicap.

The combined handicap of each team's players must be between 14 and 16. There are no points spotted under this handicap system, rather the event is structured so that each team has as equal a chance to win as possible.

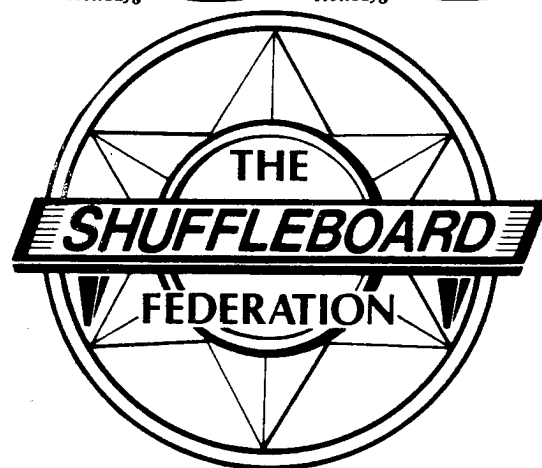
As always, we welcome any suggestions you may have.

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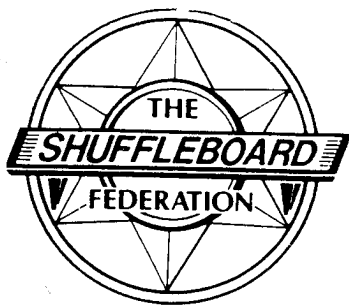
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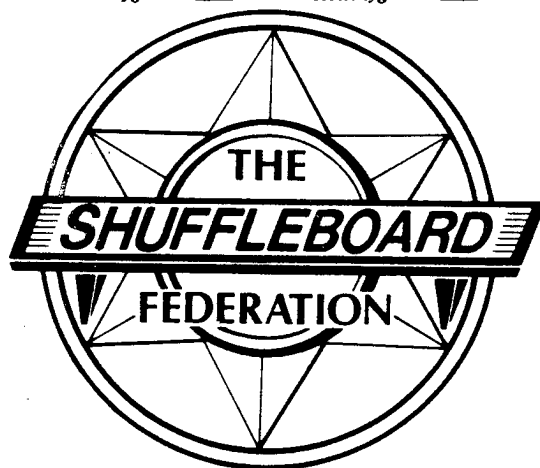
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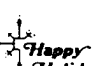
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Who's Who in the World of Shuffleboard:

No. 2 in National Rankings - No. 1 in Class!



Bobby Voorhis and Debbie Somers

Tough, consistent, cool under pressure, strategically smart - this young shuffleboard couple fits all the criteria that put each in the No. 2 spots of nationally-ranked players for 1989. It was these qualifications that earned Bobby Voorhis and Deb Somers of Indiana that recognition and the dollars involved in winning. Their involvement in Shuffleboard Federation and other tourneys always give a boost to the total pots, but it's their demeanor, their class act, their willingness to give back to the game, that make them highly-respected and popular figures in today's shuffleboard movement.

Bobby comes from a shuffleboard family. His dad, Bussy; his sister, Marisa, and his cousin, Jerry Warr, are all active players. Dad Buss is a tavern owner and Bobby started bartending at 20 (he now also runs a shuffleboard refinishing business) and "you had to know how to shoot," he said. He became known locally as a force to be reckoned with and when The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc., was founded, Bobby was tapped as a member of the prestigious Player Policy Board, representing players from throughout the nation. During the past year, he has participated in every Shuffleboard Federation sponsored event and placed in every tournament except Phoenix. He finished first in the Fort Worth, Texas, and Fort Wayne, Indiana, singles, and first in the Las Vegas doubles.

According to Bobby, the highlights of his 15-year (10 "hardcore") shuffleboard career were winning his first major singles in Fort Worth last year by beating Billy Mays of Texas once and Bill Melton of Oklahoma twice, and winning the Las Vegas doubles with Billy Chiles "shooting around the clock and playing the finals while they tore down the boards around us."

What does he think lies in store for shuffleboard in the years ahead? "It will grow in some areas and decline in others. It goes in cycles. The pros need sponsor money and the

amateurs need good organization," Bobby said. He believes The Shuffleboard Federation is making strides in both of those areas.

And what does he enjoy most about the sport? "The competition, the people, and the paycheck after beating everyone they send against you!"

Debbie, a technical support representative for a data processing company, has been playing for six years. She doesn't come from a shuffleboard family, but was introduced to the game by watching it at a local bar. She went to a tournament and met Bobby, who taught her the basics of the game.

Up until this past year, she played twice a week in leagues, and is now concentrating on the tournament trail, where she is doing very well. She played in seven major tournaments this past year and placed third in Las Vegas, second in Fort Wayne, second in Detroit, and second in Austin, Texas. The highlight of her shuffleboard career, Debbie says, was winning the women's singles event at The Board Talk's 1988 tournament.

Deb thinks the sport of shuffleboard will grow in the future "because there are so many good people involved." What she enjoys most about the game are "the competition and the good friends I've made."

If these two players are representative of the people involved in the sport, the future of shuffleboard is in good hands.

Tourney Talk (continued from page 8)

The rules committee for the tournament will be Bob Lewis, Bill Gibbs, Al Salazar, Bob Jacobson and Tony Appel. Transportation will be available to and from the airport. For further information, contact Lary Tafoya, 602-263-0034, or Bob Jacobson, 602-274-3424. See ad in this issue and spread the word.

D.J.'s Chili Day and Valentine's Mixed Tourneys, Feb. 10-11

It will be tough to keep your mind on your game with the aroma of homemade chili simmering in the old iron kettle at DJ's Bar, 1360 Center St., Warsaw, Indiana on Feb. 10. It's time for DJ's 5th Annual Chili Day doubles tourney, \$25 per team entry fee, double elimination. Pays four places plus all the chili you can eat! Auction starts at 1 p.m.

The next day, the Valentine's mixed doubles is on the agenda -- \$20 per team, single elimination, pays four places. Auction at 1 p.m.

See ad in this issue and make your reservations for this fun weekend.

6-Person Team Championship, Stober's, April 6-8

A 6-person plus team tournament will be held at Stober's Lounge, 812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, Michigan on April 6-7. \$300 per team entry fee, best 5 out of 9, double elimination. The auction will start at 10 a.m. on Saturday. Trophies will be awarded for first place. The winners will be recognized as the State of Michigan Team Champions. Free buffet, courtesy of the Stober family.

For information, call Jerry Siebert, 517-485-0184, or Stober's 517-487-4464.

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— For More Info —

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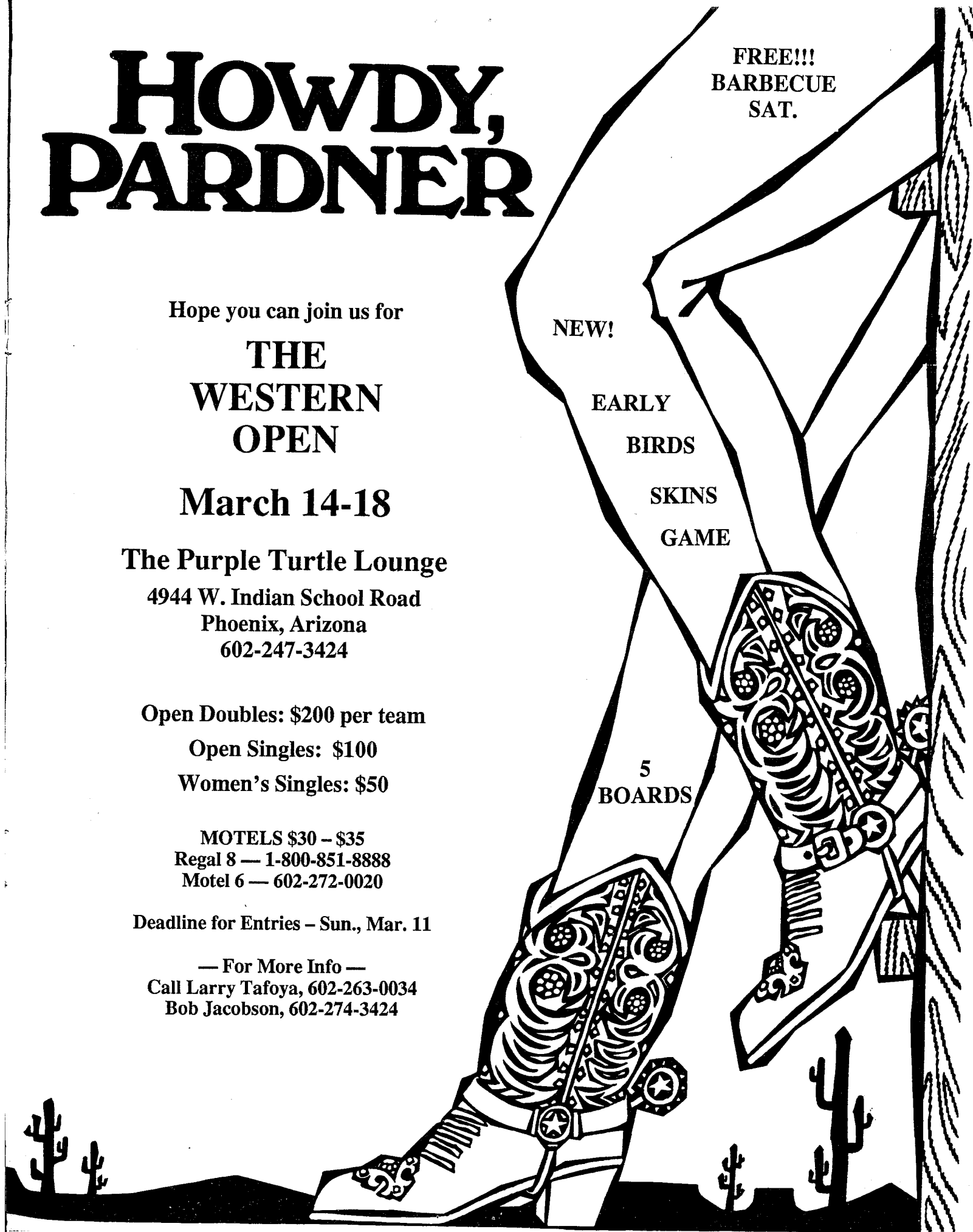
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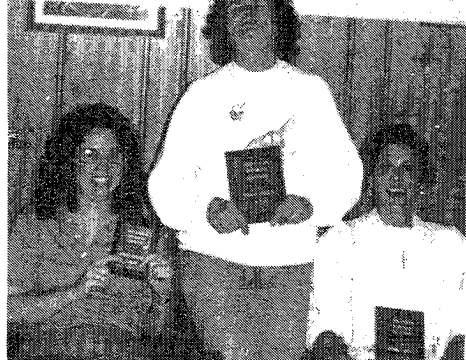


1989: A Great Shuffleboard Year —



Winning the doubles at the P.C.S.A.'s Las Vegas tourney brought smiles to Californian Billy Chiles and Hoosier Bobby Voorhis.

1989 SHUFFLEBOARD CHAMP



Deb Somers, Marie Sweeney, and Val Borja show their glee at winning the Women's Championship at Stober's Lounge, Lansing, Mich.



JoAnn and Art Ware hosted several tourneys at their Ours & Your Place, Sudlersville, Maryland.



Chuck King of Delaware, shown here at Benedict's Classic in Sherburne, N.Y., was a frequent winner in East Coast Tourneys.



Neil Fetter of Michigan showed winning style to place in the nation's "Top 10" this year.



Bill Melton, Oklahoma, top-ranked player in the U.S.A., and Cheryl Collins of Michigan, No. 3 in the women's standings.



Jerry D hams it up with some of the "beavers" at the annual Beaver Bowl at his Nostalgia Tavern in Dacona, Colorado.

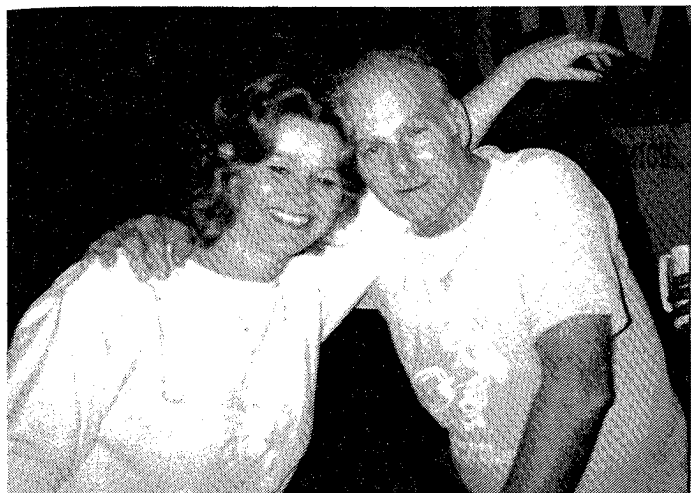


Amy of Amy's Checkered Flag in Waterloo, N.Y. shows her approval of a Board Talk t-shirt.



Fans want to know: Where is that walkman, John McDermott?

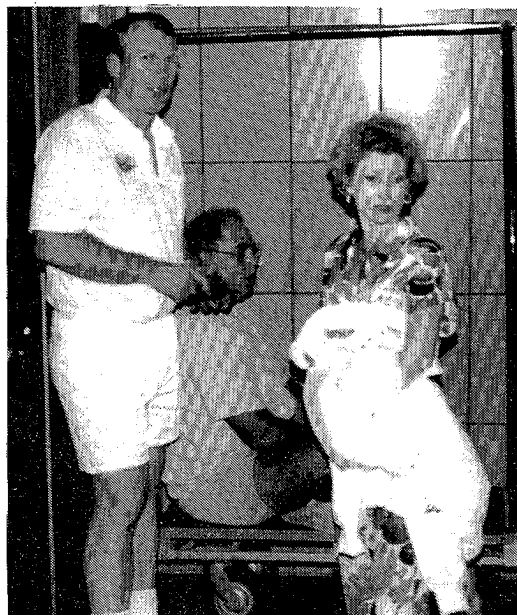
A Pictorial Review of the Good Times



Sandy Jenkins and Earl Kelly of Texas teamed up to tie for 5th and 6th places in the Michigan Open's mixed doubles event.



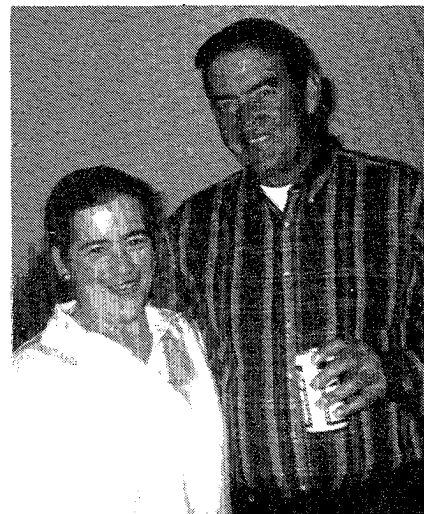
Dot Bastanchury and Bubba Warren of California are happy with their 3rd place win in the Al Stewart Benefit Bash at the Covered Wagon.



U.S. Open Director Don Valk loads Sam Summers of Oklahoma onto a caddy after Sam's singles win in Austin, Texas.



Fritz and Buddy Broka of Toledo, Ohio, took second place honors at The Board Talk 4th of July tourney.



Cassie Kern and Bernie Sunde finished third in the Michigan Championship mixed doubles.



Denny Busch and Gwynette Orsi were key figures in the Nebraska Open.



David Williams of Texas won the East Coast Extravaganza singles in Pennsylvania while Gordy Collins of Michigan collected the money.



"How about a game of basketball?" Goat Voorhis suggests to Board Talk Editor George Wuber.

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Weight...**Counter-Weight**

By Phil McGrew & Jeanie Broka

Weight/Counter-Weight will be a bi-monthly feature column in The Board Talk. The column was created to serve as an open forum to show opposing viewpoints on subjects that are frequently discussed among shuffleboard players nationwide. The purpose is not to change anyone's personal viewpoint on a particular topic but rather to show that on most issues, there are valid points to each side. Greater understanding among players is the goal.

Should there be separate events for women players only?

YES!

Even though at many tournaments there are not enough women to have separate events, there still should be a concentrated effort to do so. In order for the female population of shuffleboard players to grow, they should be able to compete against one another so the competition remains somewhat equal.

Most women have just started enjoying the game of shuffleboard at the competitive tournament level. If allowed to learn the finer points of the game while competing against each other, they would be less inclined to get discouraged as is possible when forced into competition with the generally more accomplished male players.

All one has to do is compare the auction selling price of a top female player when she is competing in a field comprised exclusively of women, against the amount that is bid when she plays in open competition, to realize that there is a need for separate events.

There are a handful of women who can and do play the game on the same level as the men but, at this point in time, that remains the exception rather than the rule.

NO!

Sincere there is no physical advantage for one sex over the other in shuffleboard, why should there be separate event? Besides, most of the time not enough women show up to have a good tournament. Women should be treated as equals in the game and that will not happen as long as they compete only amongst themselves.

Competitors should be separated by the talent level that they have reached, rather than gender. What in the world does a person's sex have to do with shuffleboard anyway?

If anyone has a topic they would like to see appear in Weight/Counter-Weight, or if you would like your opinion included in our next topic, "Is Shuffleboard Headed in the Right Direction?", please send the information to: Phil and Jeanie, 5394 Seaview L-3, Pontiac, Michigan 48054.

Anyone wishing to express their opinion on this month's topic, please send your views to: The Board Talk, Shufflers' Notebook, 421 E. Sheridan, Lansing, Michigan 48906.



We bid fond farewell to 1989; it was a good year and we thank all of you who made it so. We welcome the beginning of a new era with confidence that the World of Shuffleboard will enjoy growth and prosperity. God bless each and every one!

George & Donna

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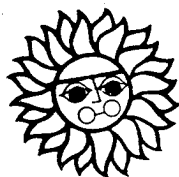
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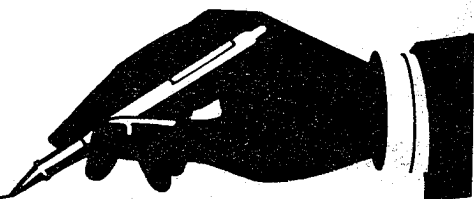
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