

# The Board Talk

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

Vol. 9, No. 3

March, 1992

## The Hammer

There's a cab driver in Las Vegas, Nevada, who has a piece of information he probably doesn't know what to do with now, but maybe someday, at the right time, he'll take it out of his "computer" and feed it to someone who cares.

That information was fed to him by "Bellflower" Bruce Hale of California. Bruce is a class act; when he's your fare, you listen to what he has to offer. And he said: "Yes, table shuffleboard is making a comeback and the reason is The Board Talk."

We sat in the back seat, a little embarrassed by that testimony. We were on our way to the airport to catch a flight back home from the P.C.S.A.'s Extravaganza IV. The only way we could have had that great experience was because of the generosity of that special person seated beside the cab driver. Yet, that wasn't enough; he still had to pay this parting salute.

We hope, someday, that the cab driver who listened with great respect will share that information with others who come to town looking for shuffleboard action. That's just one way the word spreads.

Bellflower Bruce -- not your flamboyant shuffler who makes big waves. Just always there, mostly behind the scenes, making a difference in The World of Shuffleboard. Walking softly, but carrying a big stick -- our kind of guy!

\*\*\*\*\*

We appreciate Joe Muniz of the P.C.S.A. promoting The Board Talk by handing out free subscriptions to those who weren't current subscribers. He didn't say it in so many words, but his message was: "Shame on you for not supporting the newsletter that supports your sport." He, too, is a class act.

We have received only a fraction of those coupons that were presented by the P.C.S.A. If you know of someone who received one and hasn't redeemed it, tell them to send it to us today so they'll receive the next issue.

\*\*\*\*\*

*To all the people who contributed to the success of the P.C.S.A.'s Extravaganza IV, we salute you. You did good!*

George & Donna Wilber, Publishers

## Tourney Talk

### Len Dell Wins Two at Harvey's Place

On Jan. 24-26, the second of a four major tournament schedule for the year was held at Harvey's Place, Street, Maryland, on the four in-house boards. Hosts Darlyne and Harvey Comer were on hand to extend their hospitality and hot buffet spreads on Saturday and Sunday to all shuffleboard tournament contestants and their guests and "once again, it was good -- real good!" reports Dick Gorman.

Friday night was the draw partner event and while the weather outside was real cool, the competition was hot inside this Maryland establishment near the head of the Chesapeake Bay. In the final match of the evening, host Harvey Comer and Len Dell, Belcamp, Md., emerged victorious to take the biggest share of the pot. Second place went to the hard-playing Johnny Gardner, Greensboro, Md., and Dave Shewbridge, Elkton, Md. Third and final money spot went to Don Casula, Wilmington, Del., and Don Perry, Courtland, New York.

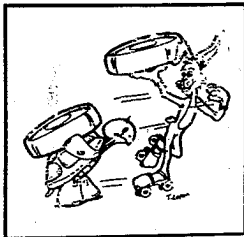
Saturday morning was time for the women's singles. While the bring partner event was being started and played, Judy Iseman of Chestertown, Md., won the last two matches to take first place over the ever-improving Brenda Wallace, Port Deposit, Md. Third place went to the strong competitor, Joyce Pyle of Church Hill, Md.



Judy Iseman (left) and Joyce Pyle hold Alvis Ramey's jacket. The jackets were awarded to the point leaders for 1991. Judy was the women's leader in the blue division and Joyce took top honors in the red division. Alvis won both the red and blue men's division.

(continued on page 4)

***Tell another shuffler about the Board Talk!***



# Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views  
from The World  
of Shuffleboard

## The Play Has Ended

On Saturday, January 11, 1992, at the Peanut House in Bellflower, California, the curtain came down and house lights were dimmed for the very last time. And, much too soon, an era in shuffleboard had come to an end.

Oh, but what a run it was! Produced by entrepreneurs Jack and Johnna Eicher and directed by the very dedicated and very talented Joanie Swenson, the shuffleboard productions were a smashing success, often playing to standing room only crowds and garnering rave reviews that would have been "two thumbs up" if only Siskel and Ebert had chosen instead to be shuffleboard tournament critics.

And the supporting cast -- what a supporting cast it was! The Brunskills, Vern and Gloria, Michele, the Lukens and the Luseros, Ron and Rick, Cadillac Joe, Dot and Tony, Vicki and Gina and Anne, Trader Jim, JFK, Chuck and Domenick and Pearl and Jay. There was Joe, Karl and Paul, Billy, Bubba, and John. There was the McFarlands and the Coulter Family. Our friends from Las Vegas and our friends from Visalia. There were more, more than can be named here. Each played a leading role, each was superb and each shone in his or her own special way.

Jack and Johnna may never again own another bar and they may never again be involved in shuffleboard in the very same way, but for awhile their star blazed across the shuffleboard skies as brilliantly as any ever there was.

From all of us to the two of you: THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!

I leave the stage now. There are no more lines to speak. The play has ended.

Lou Lusero, Carson, California

*We join the ranks of those who mourn the loss of such great shuffleboard supporters as Jack and Johnna. We were thrilled when Jim Anderson gave us Peanut House t-shirts when we were in Las Vegas. Thanks for the memories, Jim.*

## — ATTENTION —

If you have a red check below, it means your subscription has expired. To receive the next issue, you must renew by the 15th of this month.

\_\_\_\_\_ Red Check **FLYER**  
(Use the form on ~~Page 15~~ to renew.)

*We're delighted to hear that Joanie will continue her efforts to promote shuffleboard activities at the Stagger Inn. Jack and Johnna will surely treasure your eloquent tribute, Lou!*

## Reno Credits Due

You wouldn't remember, with all the people you meet, but we met in 1990 at the Las Vegas tournament. We were in Vegas for a family emergency. While I was busy with family matters, Bob had the opportunity to see many old friends and also watched some of the events.

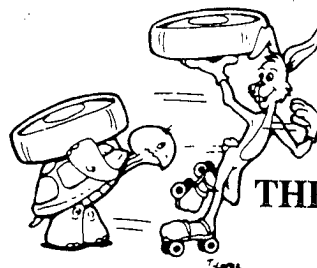
For years before retiring, due to working the swing shift, Bob had played very little. He played constantly during the late '40s through the '60s. Now, with a lot more free time, he  
(continued on page 10)

Where's YOUR  
Name?  
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be there!



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**THE BOARD TALK**

421 E. Sheridan  
Lansing, MI 48906  
Phone: 517-371-2538

# Shuffleboard — The Sport for Every Season — 1992 Calendar of Events

## WINTER

**March 6-8**

5th Annual Beaver Bowl  
Jerry D's, Dacono, Colorado

**March 7-8**

Annual Mixed Doubles  
Old Edison Inn, Edison, Washington

**March 13-15**

1st Annual St. Pat's Tournament  
Der Isenbahn Hof, Saginaw,  
Michigan

**March 13-16**

Invitational Singles  
Lafayette Inn, Rising Sun, Maryland

**March 13-15**

Jimmy L's Spring Tournament  
Jimmy L's, Tulsa, Oklahoma

## SPRING

**March 20-22**

2nd Annual King of the Hill Tournament  
Jerry D's, Dacono, Colorado

**March 20-22**

1st Annual St. Pat's Doubles Classic  
Stagger Inn, Bellflower, California

**March 26-29**

Great Arizona Open  
2 X 4 Lounge, Phoenix, Arizona

**April 3-5**

PCSA Open Singles  
Stagger Inn, Bellflower, California

**April 4-5**

Open Doubles  
Corner Tavern, Bow, Washington

**April 10-12**

Billy Chiles Benefit Tournament  
Stagger Inn, Bellflower, California

**April 10-12**

Dale Friend Memorial Tournament  
Harvey's Place, Street, Maryland

**April 10-12**

SF Mixed Doubles  
Papa's Pub & Grub, Warren, Michigan

**April 24-26**

Spring Classic  
Lafayette Inn, Rising Sun, Maryland

**May 20-25**

SF Michigan Open  
Holiday Inn, Grayling, Michigan

**May 23-27**

5th Annual Arbuckle Open  
Wynnewood, Oklahoma

**May 29-31**

Memorial Day Singles & Doubles  
Club Tavern, Springfield, Oregon

## SUMMER

**June 12-14**

Spring Tournament  
Harvey's Place, Street, Maryland

**June 13-14**

2nd Annual Draw Partners  
Shamrock Tavern, Longview,  
Washington

**July 1-5**

SF Board Talk Shufflers Reunion  
Holiday Inn, Kulpville, Pennsylvania

**Aug. 1-2**

3rd Annual Open Doubles  
Whistling Oyster Tavern, Quilcene,  
Washington

**Aug. 30-Sept. 2**

Labor Day Singles & Doubles  
Club Tavern, Springfield, Oregon

**Sept. 2-7**

SF U.S. Open  
Howard Johnson South Plaza, Austin,  
Texas

**Sept. 4-6**

2nd Annual Crazy Canucks Open  
Tourney

**Sept. 9-11**

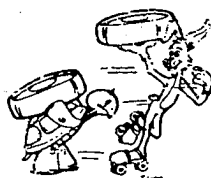
2nd Annual Skip's Board Talk  
Tourney  
Skip's Lounge, Houghton Lake,  
Michigan

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## FALL

**Nov. 9-15**

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Reno, Nevada

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# **Billy Chiles Benefit Tournament**

**April 10-12**

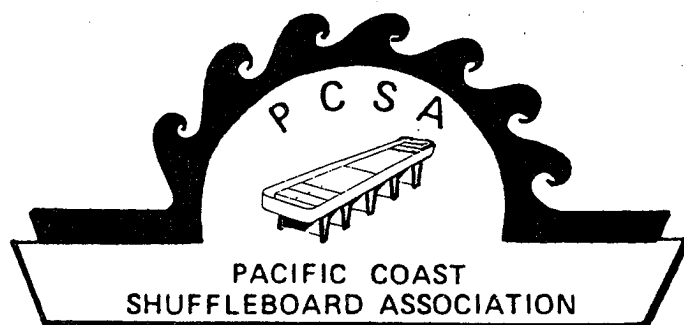
**\$25 per person A-B Draw  
at**

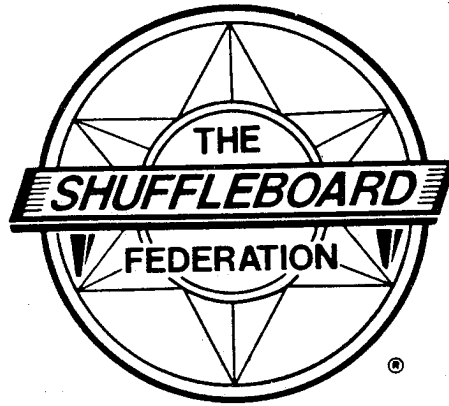
**STAGGER INN**

**9108 Alondra, Bellflower, California  
Phone 213-866-9311**

**(All entry money will go to Billy. Sponsor sale money to winners. If you cannot participate, but would like to contribute, send check for Billy Chiles Benefit to: P.C.S.A., P.O. Box 8134, Bellflower, CA 90706.)**

**For tournament information,  
and/or lodging suggestions,  
call P.C.S.A., 213-926-2152.**





*"Friendship Through Competition"*

## **Mixed Doubles Tournament**

**APRIL 10-12**

*Papa's Pub & Grub*

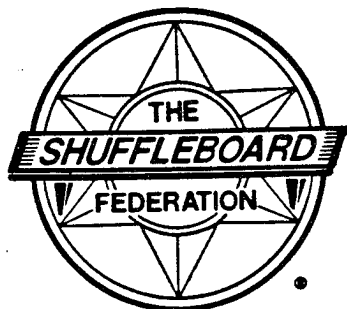
*23617 Van Dyke, Warren, Michigan*

**\$40 per team entry fee, 2 of 3 double elimination, limit 32 teams  
Payoff: 17-23 teams - 4 places; 24-32 teams - 6 places**

**Sponsor sale 9 p.m. Friday, April 10; play starts 10 a.m. Saturday**

**Mixed Doubles Draw Friday night following sponsor sale**

**For information, call The Shuffleboard Federation,  
313-380-9300**



## 6TH ANNUAL MICHIGAN OPEN MAY 20-25

### Grayling Holiday Inn

2650 I-75 Business Loop (Exit 254 on I-75 North), Grayling, Mich. Phone (800) 292-9055  
Room Rate \$53. including tax (double occupancy). All participants must be registered guests of the hotel.

### — 12 NEW DYNAMO BOARDS —

#### DIVISION I DRAW

\$25.00 per player  
Starts Wednesday, May 20, 1 p.m.  
Limit of 32 players  
Single Game, Double Elimination

#### DIVISION II/III DRAW

\$10.00 per player  
Starts Wednesday, May 20, 1 p.m.  
Limit of 32 players  
Single Game, Double Elimination

#### DIVISION I SINGLES

\$50.00 per player  
Starts Thursday, May 21, 10 a.m.  
Limit of 24 players  
Single Game, Double Elimination

#### DIVISION II SINGLES

\$25.00 per player  
Starts Thursday, May 21, 11:30 a.m.  
Limit of 16 players  
Single Game, Double Elimination

#### DIVISION III SINGLES

\$15.00 per player  
Starts Thursday, May 21, 11:30 a.m.  
Limit of 16 players  
Single Game, Double Elimination

#### DIVISION I DOUBLES

\$50.00 per player  
Starts Friday, May 22, 11 a.m.  
Limit of 16 teams  
Single Game, Double Elimination

#### DIVISION II DOUBLES

\$25.00 per player  
Starts Friday, May 22, 11 a.m.  
Limit of 16 teams  
Single Game, Double Elimination

#### DIVISION III DOUBLES

\$15.00 per player  
Starts Friday, May 22, 11 a.m.  
Limit of 16 teams  
Single Game, Double Elimination

#### N.A.S.L.<sup>TM</sup> TEAM EVENT

Starts Saturday, May 23, 10 a.m.  
\$210.00 per team  
Limit of 16 teams  
5 of 9 Double Elimination

#### OPEN SINGLES

\$100.00 per player  
Starts Sunday, May 24, 12:00 Noon  
Limit of 16 players  
2 out of 3 Double Elimination

**100% pay back in all events.**

\*\*\*All teams in the N.A.S.L.<sup>TM</sup> Team Event must include at least two ladies but not more than four\*\*\*

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** Wednesday, May 6, you must be paid in full by then and have room reservations at the Holiday Inn Grayling or you will not play.

\*\*\*Additional information is on the back of this flyer\*\*\*

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

The Saturday bring partner event turned out to be the biggie for the weekend. "We were happy to welcome a new trio of players from Western Maryland, over 3 hours away, who normally play at My Place in Ridgely, West Virginia (and don't let anybody tell you that Rhonda and Bucky Butts and Rusty McCarty can't play!)," said Dick. As in November's tournament, Len Dell and Chuck King of Dover, Del., went through the winners bracket to take first place money and give Len two first-place finishes for the weekend. Taking second place, coming out of semi-retirement, was Don Casula and his partner Dick Gorman, both of Wilmington, Del. Third place was taken by John Lukas, Millington, Md., and Alvis Ramey, Perryville, Md. Fourth place went to the co-ed team of Judy Iseman and partner Larry Kirk of Conowingo, Md., with fifth place going to home town player Jim McDaniel, Darlington, Md., and Jim Wallace (better watch Brenda, Jim). Sixth and final money spot went to another co-ed team of Barbara Dardas and Buddy Bramer, both of Queen Anne, Md.

"A mixed doubles event was scheduled for Sunday, but the gods seemed to have been against it," reports Dick. "First, unemployment is very high in this area and the national news media continue to preach scare stories which effect everybody, including shuffleboard players. Second, the many Super Bowl parties were scheduled. Third, some unscheduled trips to the hospital for families of the players. All this topped off by our first heavy snow storm. Results: not enough to have a good event, so it was cancelled. Never-say-die shufflers don't accept that, so 18 brave souls competed in two double elimination round robins and then left for super bowl parties."

The next scheduled tournament at Harvey's Place will be the Dale Friend Memorial Tournament on April 10-12. Call 410-836-8881 for early reservations.

### **Creakbaum/Massie Win at Deer Park Tavern**

Twenty teams participated in a doubles tournament at the Deer Park Tavern, Fort Wayne, Indiana, on Jan. 25, vying for a pot of \$2250. Winners were Larry Creakbaum and Greg Massie, with Jim Yard and his father-in-law Richard taking second place honors. Jim Long and Jerry Knox finished third, with Jim DeWitt and Larry Vance in fourth place.

"As always, thanks to the players for their support and participation," said host Larry Brown. "A special thanks to Mike Johnson and Judy."

### **Mixed Doubles, Old Edison Inn, March 7-8**

The 7th Annual Mixed Doubles Tournament at the Old Edison Inn, Edison, Washington, will be held March 7-8. Entry fee is \$40 per team and the format is 2 out of 3, 15-point games in the winners bracket, and one 17-point game in the losers bracket. The sponsor sale will be held at noon on Saturday, and the payoff will be 60-30-10, with more places if over 16 teams participate. The Old Edison Inn will furnish a big feed on Saturday, along with drawings.

For more information, contact tournament director Phil DePree, 206-766-6266.

### **Jimmy L's Spring Tourney, Tulsa, March 13-15**

Jimmy L's annual Spring Tournament will be held March 13-15 at Jimmy L's, 9520 E. 11th St., Tulsa, Oklahoma. Action will start at 7:30 p.m. Friday with an open draw partner event, \$50 per person entry fee, single game, double elimination. Immediately following will be a bring partner event, \$100 per person entry fee, 2 out of 3, double elimination. Sponsor sales for both events will be held prior to the draw partner tourney on Friday night.

For tournament and/or lodging information, call Jimmy L, 918-834-7544; Carolyn Jones, 918-495-4256; or Sandy Swift, 918-251-2564. The tournament director will be Cliff Goff. Jimmy will furnish food for tournament participants on both Saturday and Sunday.

### **St. Pat's Tourney, Stagger Inn, March 20-22**

The Stagger Inn, 9104 Alondra Blvd., Bellflower, California, will host its 1st Annual St. Patrick's Day Open Doubles Classic on March 20-22. This P.C.S.A.-sanctioned event is \$50 per team entry fee, best 2 out of 3 double elimination, and will be limited to the first 32 teams to sign up (there are a list of rated players who cannot pair up together so be sure to check). The sponsor sale is scheduled for March 20 at 7 p.m. with play to begin immediately following. Payoff will be: 58-28-14 for 1 to 16 teams, 56-26-12-6 for 17 to 20 teams, 52-24-12-6-3-3 for 21 to 24 teams, and 52-22-12-6-3-3-1-1 for 24 to 32 teams.

Corn beef and cabbage will be served Saturday afternoon.

For further information, contact Joanie Swenson, 310-633-9310, or Joe Muniz, 310-926-2152.

### **"King of the Hill" Tourney at Jerry D's, March 20-22**

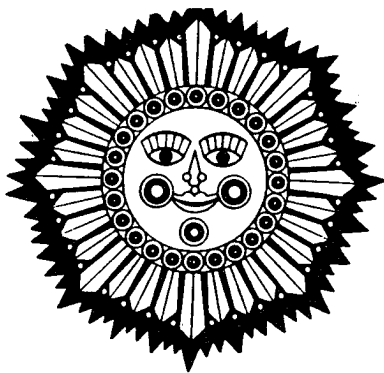
The fun-filled "King of the Hill" tournament will be held at Jerry D's Nostalgia Tavern, 604 8th St., Dacono, Colorado, on March 20-22. Entry fee is \$100 for this singles event and will pay first and second places. The sponsor sale is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday. The defending champ is Rick Boyer.

Contact Jerry D. or Susan, 303-833-3469 for more information.

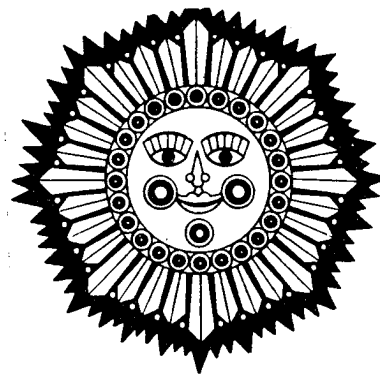
### **Der Eisenbahn Hof to Host St. Pat's Tourney**

Hosting its first major tournament on March 13-15 will be the Der Eisenbahn Hof, 6036 Dixie Hwy., Saginaw, Michigan. Action will start on Friday the 13th with \$5 and \$10 draw partner events all night long. An open singles, \$25 entry, is scheduled for Saturday, with sponsor sale at noon and play immediately following. This will be a handicap event giving anyone an opportunity to win, according to

*(continued on page 6)*



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## **Tourney Talk** *(continued from page 4)*

tournament director George Wilber. Players will be rated from 0 to +3, with touring pros rated -1. A draw partner doubles, \$20 per person entry, is on the agenda for Sunday. Sponsor sale will be at noon with play immediately following. In this event, rated 0's and touring pros will draw from the rest of the field with ratings in effect.

If time allows, and interest is shown, there will also be a women's doubles on Sunday, \$10 per person.

For further information, contact George at 517-371-2538.

### **Great Arizona Open, March 26-29**

This year's Great Arizona Open will be held at the 2 X 4 Lounge, 51st and Camelback, Phoenix, Arizona, on March 26-29. Events include an open singles, \$100 entry fee; open doubles, \$200 entry; semi-pro singles, \$50 entry; and amateur singles, \$25 entry. The tourney will be played on six boards.

For information, contact tournament director Lary Tafoya, 602-263-0034.

### **Memorial Tournament at Harvey's Place, April 10-12**

Harvey Comer, owner of Harvey's Place, Street, Maryland, has announced that his next major tournament will be

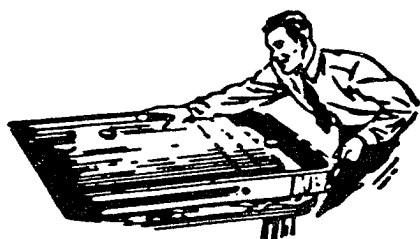
dedicated to the memory of Dale Friend. The Dale Friend Memorial Tournament on April 10-12 will be played on the four in-house boards. An early sell-out is expected so call 410-836-8881 for early reservations. East Coast reporter Dick Gorman tells why Dale Friend's memory will be so honored:

### **A Tribute to Dale Friend**

"Dale Friend was not a big name in the shuffleboard tournament world, although his name did grace the pages of The Board Talk on several occasions. He was a better than average local player and competitor, but that was not his major contribution to the shuffleboard world. First, he was a friend (as his name indicates) and he was always friendly to all players; big names and no names, it didn't make any difference to him. He always spoke even though he lost his voice to cancer several years ago. He still made his sounds and he still welcomed you. He was always there at the league matches and tournaments at Harvey's, doing the extra things that made things go smoothly -- cleaning and waxing boards and generally making things go well.

"Dale was also a fighter. When the cancer came after him, he fought and still wanted to be active. And he did come to the league matches and tournaments, and play if he could, or be a spectator if he wasn't up to it. Dale lost his battle with cancer this winter and we lost a good friend of shuffleboard," Dick said.

*(continued on page 10)*



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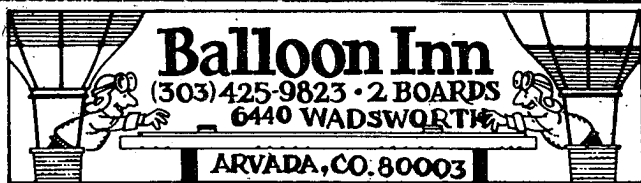
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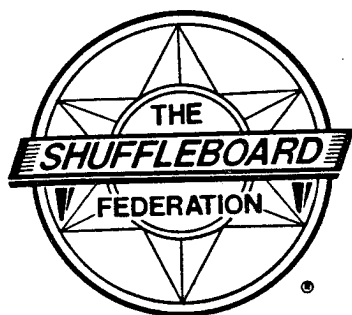
Price: \$695.00

## BEROZA ASSOCIATES

5416 E. Palo Verde Drive  
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Phone: Bob Lewis - 602-242-6782

Paul Beroza - 602-840-0118 or 602-840-8912



## How Sweet It Is!

We are very excited about something we have seen in the last few issues of The Board Talk. The letters written by a number of people, in particular A.Z. Turnbo, represent real progress for our sport.

While we did not agree with some of what he said, we think it is very good for the sport of shuffleboard that people have an opportunity to air their views and that they take advantage of the opportunity given to them by The Board Talk to share their thoughts and ideas.

One of the most frustrating and non-productive things that can happen to a promoter is when a person attends an event, sees something they don't like, but tells everyone but the promoter. For years, we've been telling people that if they don't agree with something that was done at one of our events, they should tell us. What normally happens is that they go home and complain to their friends. This is fine, and it probably makes them feel better to get it off their chest, but the problem is that if they don't tell the promoter of the event, then the next time they go back to that tournament, they are liable to have the same problem.

So if something happens at a tournament that you don't like, or if there is a rule you don't agree with, or if you have an idea you think will improve the tournament, it's okay to tell your friends; just make sure you also bring it to the attention of the people with the ability to fix it.

Of course, if you have something good to say about a tournament, promoters like to hear that kind of feedback as well. And while we are on the subject of positive feedback, we want to thank the people who are continuing to say good things about last year's tournament in Reno and to let everyone know that the 1992 tournament will be bigger and better.

We want to thank Bill Lally from Philadelphia for the nice letter he sent us recently. Bill expressed his opinion regarding a format change that we asked for

feedback on in the February issue of The Board Talk (more on this issue later on in this column).

## One Down, Three to Go

We want to thank Dottie Bastanchury from Southern California for letting us know that she and her partner, Janice Devitt from Bremerton, Washington, finished third in the amateur draw at the Reno Tournament. As we stated in the January issue of The Board Talk, the results of the amateur draw were accidentally erased prior to being recorded and asked the participants who finished in 3rd - 6th places to write us and let us know where they finished.

So, it's one down, three to go. If the players who finished 4th, 5th and 6th are reading this, please let us know so that we can mention you.

## Ask The Federation

We hope that A.Z.'s letter will encourage other people to get involved in the same fashion and we would like to take this opportunity to invite anyone who has questions or issues they would like us to address to write us with their questions and we will respond to them in this column.

In order to have the time to respond properly to your questions, please make sure your information reaches us by the 5th of the month so that we can get your question and our answer in the next issue of The Board Talk.

## Grand Slam Invitational Tour Update

In last month's column, we asked for input on whether our participants would like to see the format for the singles and doubles events switched to two out of three, double elimination, using 11 point games.

For the people in the Midwest and East Coast, it appears that they prefer to leave things just the way they are, so at the Michigan Open and Board Talk Tournaments, the format will remain single game, double elimination.

The feedback from the Texas and Oklahoma players is that they favor the two out of three, double elimination, eleven point game format. Therefore, we will be discussing with Don Valk the possibility of using this format at his U.S. Open Tournament. More information about this in future issues of The Board Talk.

No decision has been made regarding this issue for the 1992 NORTH AMERICAN SHUFFLEBOARD CHAMPIONSHIPS in Reno. We hope to get a lot more feedback from the people who count -- YOU -- in the coming months.

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## **Tourney Talk** *(continued from page 6)*

### **Draw Partner Tourney, Shamrock Tavern, June 13-14**

The Shamrock Tavern in Longview, Washington, invites you to participate in their 2nd Annual Draw for Partners Tournament on June 13-14. Entry fee will be \$20 per player and the format is best 2 of 3, double elimination, with 15 point games in the winners bracket and one 17-point game in the losers bracket. Drawing and bidding will start at noon on June 13 with play immediately following. The Shamrock has three boards and \$500 will be added to the prize money.

Call the Shamrock at 206-577-7444 for more information.

### **2nd Annual Crazy Canucks Tourney, Sept. 4-6**

The 2nd Annual Crazy Canucks Tournament has been scheduled for Sept. 4-6. Last year's payout for this popular event was \$15,000! This year, \$1500 will be added to the pot -- \$500 to the open singles and \$1,000 to the open doubles. Entry fees will be \$50 for the singles and \$100 per team for the doubles. The sponsor sale for both events will be held at 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 4.

The turnout for last year's event was outstanding, so consider getting your reservations in early. Send your

registration with money to: Marg Okum, 4103 Welwyn St., Vancouver B.C., Canada V5N 3Z1. For more information, call Marg at 604-872-5373, or Joanie Millar, 604-278-8449.

## **Notebook** *(continued from page 2)*

has taken renewed interest, in spite of heart and vision problems.

As people like to see their names in print, even if they lose, he was disappointed to be listed in the January 1992 Board Talk in the Legends draw event at Reno as Larry Meyers. His name is Bob Myers and his partner's full name is Tom Mitchell from Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Thank you for your efforts in providing a good publication, which helps keep the sport alive.

We plan to attend a family reunion in June 1992 in the Kansas/Oklahoma area and hope to see some shuffleboard friends as well.

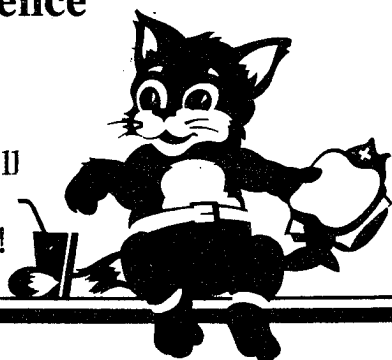
Pat Myers, Portland, Oregon

*We are very pleased to have the opportunity to correct that error, Pat. Thank you for setting the record straight. We hope your family reunion in June will be a shuffleboard reunion as well.*

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# **THE BOARD TALK**

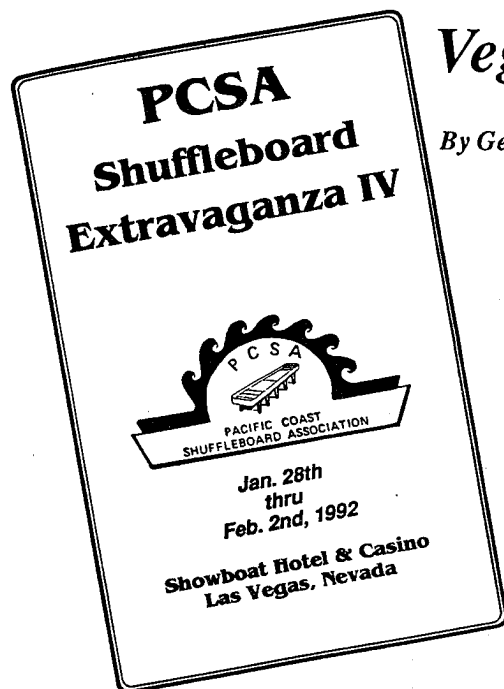
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## Vegas Diary

By George & Donna Wilber

(Straight commentary  
by George, "Color"  
by Donna)



**Tuesday, 2 p.m., Day I:** Checked in; followed Donna halfway through casino carrying four heavy bags of luggage before she found the elevator, back just a few yards from where we had started.

*Whine, whine, whine! He knows I have problems with directions. You'd have thought he would have taken the lead if he knew where the elevators were. Besides, I'd saved my quarters for a whole year and I wanted to see which machines were tinkling.*

Took elevator to our 15th floor room, put plastic card in slot every which way before door finally popped open. Unpacked.

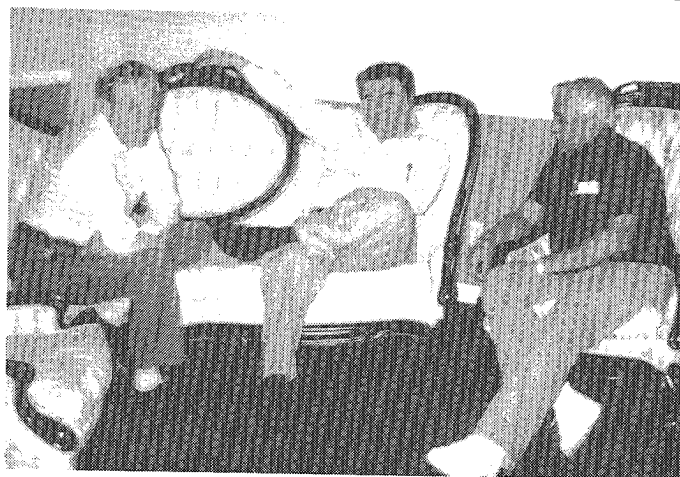
*Who unpacked? He flipped the channels on the TV looking for his first choice -- 1940's cowboy and Indians movie or those other kind that cost money -- while I unpacked.*

Freshened up. Then went to the shuffleboard room on the second floor and met good friend Al Stewart, who was leveling and making adjustments on the 12 boards he had set up.

*It was really an impressive sight. And I thought of A.Z. Turnbo's comments in our last issue: "I carry my boards in little tubes in my pocket. When I get to the tournament location, I just squeeze a tube and the board magically appears -- set up, leveled and ready to play." If it's that easy, why did Al look so tired?*

Also there early were A.Z., Walt VanderSloot of Grand Rapids, Mich., on his first trip to Vegas, Jim Anderson of California who gave us Peanut House t-shirts in memory of the shuffleboard site we had lost, Karl Spickelmier, Freddie Thumann, Chris Danke, John Fisher, Rick Curtice, and others who would play a key role in making this tournament a success.

*A.Z. and George talked for hours about A.Z.'s article in the last issue and whether we'd get some feedback from it. It was boring; let's go down to the casino. What a nice man that Walt is, and so is Jim Anderson. And Karl listened with*



Three of the principal characters in Extravaganza IV take a break: Al Stewart, who set up the 12 boards; Dick Delfino, American Shuffleboard Co., which furnished the boards; and tournament director Joe Miniz.

*compassion to our tale of woe about losing our desktop publisher and our printer all in one month.*

From there, we went down to the casino, spent a few quarters, had a bite to eat, and went back to the shuffleboard room for the draw partner auction....

*I told him to bid on Bud and Darlene, but would he listen to me?*

....before turning in for the night.

Night!

**Wednesday, 8 a.m., Day II:** We watched about three hours of the A & B tournament (a pro-am event) and I went to the room not feeling well, and Slots -- Donna's new nickname -- went down to the casino.

*Not feeling well? Would you believe this guy had the worse case of jet-lag on record? He slept for 15 hours straight and I was not down in the casino; I stayed by his bedside waiting for a sign of life, and read one whole book and started another. We missed the auction for the pro singles and women's singles, but they didn't need our money anyway. We would have had to mortgage the house to buy any of the contenders?*

Psst! I woke up three times before midnight; wasn't anyone at my bedside.

*Psst! I was over in the chair by the window overlooking the fabulous lights of Vegas, reading my book. Crawled into bed at midnight hoping the previews on the only station that gave the time would stimulate some action. zzzzz!*

**Thursday, 8 a.m., Day III:** Ran into Walt Vander Sloot in the shuffleboard room. Checked the results of the draw partner: First place: Bud Hilburn of Oklahoma and Darlene Docile of Canada...

*Told ya so, told ya so!*

Second, Qwen Orsi of Nebraska and Tom Hendrix of Oklahoma; third, Shirley Robertson of Oklahoma and Bob Shirley of Canada...

*Shirley and Shirley -- how could they lose?*

...Fourth, Cliff Goff of Oklahoma and Tom Mitchell of Oklahoma...

(continued on page 12)

**Vegas Diary** (continued from page 7)

*What a nice guy that Cliff is. We've been writing about him for many years and finally got to meet him.*

...and tied for fifth and sixth, Bill Melton of Oklahoma and Diane Madsen of Canada; and Sam Summers of Oklahoma and Joanie Millar of Canada.

*Bless those great Canadians! They are fun-loving people.*



Bud Hillburn of Oklahoma and Darlene Docile of Canada drew each other in the A-B Draw Tournament. They were a very effective combination, taking top honors.

This event paid eight places, so also in the winners' circle were Marty Atkinson of Canada and Mary Koterak of Texas, and David Williams of Texas and Gordie Richie.

Walt, Slots and I went down for breakfast and then settled down for several hours of good, exciting play on the boards. About two hours went by and Walt and I looked around for Slots because it was her turn to buy. Alas! No Slots! But I had a sneaky hunch where to find her.

*I'd had three 4 of a kind before he showed up. Then my luck went down hill.*

Some of the heavyweights were having problems as names like Denny Busch of Nebraska, Bob Shaw of Texas, John Fisher of California, and Cliff Goff of Oklahoma kept popping up on the winning side of the brackets.

*How awesome these young fellows are. They're the future of our sport.*

Slots and I had dinner and called it a night about 9 p.m. *Back in Michigan, it's midnight, way past our bed time.*

**Friday, 6 a.m., Day IV:** We got up early and ran into Al Stewart in the shuffleboard room and he invited us to breakfast. That was a mistake; he made me pay.

*Big deal! It cost less than \$6 for the three of us; the last of the big spenders, my George.*

By the time we got back to the shuffleboard room, the men's and women's singles and the amateur team event were well underway.

We watched favorite Diana Hagen of Texas beat Lisa Melton of Oklahoma (my choice for rookie of the year) in one semi-final and Janet Weidner of Texas coming out victorious in a hard-fought battle with Gwen Orsi of Nebraska in the other semi-final. In the finals, Janet came out of the loser's bracket to beat Diana and earn her first major victory in the singles. This event paid six places: Janet, 1st; Diana, 2nd; Lisa, 3rd; Gwen, 4th; with Chris Danke of California and Debbie Voorhis of Indiana tied for 5th and 6th.

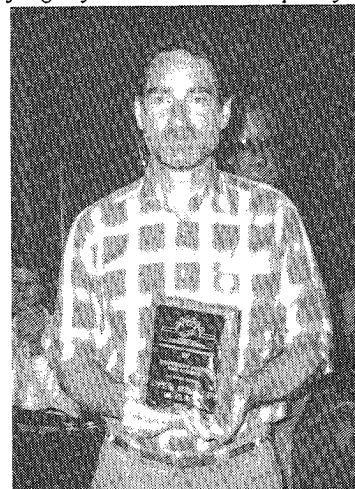
*Seldom have I seen such a happy winner as Janet. She was ecstatic! Her proud amateur team mates had a lovely bouquet delivered to her in the shuffleboard room. What a nice gesture.*



"Which do I like best — my first place trophy or my bouquet?" asks Women's Singles winner Janet Weidner of Texas. "Whichever, just get that posie out of my nose," replies P.C.S.A. promoter Paul Weber.

Meanwhile, the men's singles were narrowing down to a finals match between Bobby Voorhis of Indiana and Darrol Nelson of Oregon. Bobby won the first match in the best 2 of 3, but Darrol came back to win the third game of the last match in a real long marathon event and became the P.C.S.A. singles champ of 1992. Despite a painful toothache, Sam Summers of Oklahoma took third place, with impressive performer Denny Busch of Nebraska in fourth. Rick Boyer of California and Bob Shaw of Texas tied for fifth and sixth, and Jody Slack of Colorado and Billy Mays of Texas tied for seventh and eighth.

*Who said shuffleboard wasn't a spectator sport? The show these guys put on had a large gallery on the edge of their seats. Some spectators were reluctant to leave their seats to go to the bar because they'd be occupied when they got back. Others took that chance -- which reminds me: don't forget you owe me one, Sparky!*



In a tough-fought battle between two shuffleboard greats, Darrol Nelson of Oregon (left) and Bobby Voorhis of Indiana, Nelson prevailed in the Open Singles. We missed Bobby in the trophy presentation, so Board Talk editors' grandson, 12-year-old Kory Elkins, got his chance to draw his likeness of his hero, Bobby V.

**Saturday, 8 a.m., Day V:** This being Walt Vander Sloom's first trip to Vegas, it was important for him to see the strip. We stopped at the ExCalibur for breakfast (Walt's



treat), looked at the impressive Mirage, and did a little sightseeing on the way back to the Showboat.

The amateur team event and the pro doubles were well underway and we spent the rest of the day watching more good shuffleboard action.

*I get the biggest charge out of watching and listening to the marked difference between the amateur teams and the pro events. The amateurs cheer their team mates, hug each other when they win, pat each other on the back with an optimistic "next game" encouragement when they lose, and wear happy faces. It's obvious they're having fun! On the opposite side of the room, there's mostly a respectful quiet; even a spectacular shot gets only subdued crowd reaction. The players are serious. They sometimes wear faces of agony. If they're having fun, they hide it well -- with the exception of Sam and Billy.*

That evening, all shuffleboard action closed down for the P.C.S.A.'s traditional crazy crap caper. Forty-three shares were sold for a total of \$21,500 and when the dice quit rolling several hours later, the pot had grown to \$50,000. Those who had a stake in the outcome and other interested spectators were lined up six deep all around the table so we found other entertainment for the rest of the evening.

*No matter where we settled down in the casino, we could tell from the cheers -- or the quiet -- how the caper was going. Since this was our last night in Tinsel Town, I was determined to make my fortune. Alas, it takes more than determination and we went to bed exhausted from the effort.*

**Sunday, 11 a.m., Day VI:** The bags we hauled out to catch the shuttle bus to the airport were a little lighter because of The Board Talks we'd left behind. We discovered that the bus wouldn't be making another run until noon, but Bellflower Bruce had a taxi ready to take him to the airport and offered us a lift.

We left the tournament not knowing the results of the amateur team and pro doubles events...

*Maybe we ought to stay another day!*

...but got a report from Paul Weber when we got back home. The winners of the pro doubles were Sam Summers of Oklahoma and John McDermott of Michigan. Darrol Nelson and Jim Allis of Oregon teamed up to take second place honors, and Texans Bob Shaw and Diana Hagen finished in third. Dennis (Sparky) Sparkman and Troy Tolbert of

California took fourth place, with Fred Thuman and Don Cox, also of California, tied with Eric Waldman of Montana and Chuck Norris of Oregon for fifth and sixth.

The Bommer Sooners of Oklahoma were winners of the amateur team event. Players on this title-winning team were: Captain Ron Huddleston, Mike Melton, Dave Davidson, Al Primrose, Brenda Watts, Steve Walker, John Breathwitt, and Bettye Brantley.

Mr. G's of California took second place honors and the Balloon Inn of Colorado finished third. Other teams finishing in the money were: Oklahoma Friends, 4th; Last Chance Lagers of California and The Dunes of Arizona, tied for 5th and 6th; D.J.'s Bar of Indiana and The Sportsman of Texas, tied for 7th and 8th.

There was over \$72,000 in the total pot, down a little from last year.

P.C.S.A. official Paul Weber thanks the following people for helping to make Extravaganza IV a success: Directors Joe and Marvel Muniz, Bracketeer Karl Spickelmier, Al Stewart, Ron Vogt, George Ostrum, A.Z. Turnbo, Tim O'Brice, Chris Danke, Rick Boyer, Jim Allis, Bob Brunskill, John Fisher, Rick Curtice, Rich "Bubba" Warren, Brian "Crittter" Seney, Fred Thuman, Joanie Swenson, Lou Lusero, Jim Anderson, Ron Gregor, Manny Lopey, Bellflower Bruce Hale, Jack and Johnna Eichor, Jack Kimble, Dennis "Sparky" Sparkman, and Eric Waldman.

Also, special thanks to the Showboat staff: Lynn McCracken, Steve Waldman and Steve's secretary Norma for all their help, and Gerald and Paul for setting up the bleachers.

## More Tourney Talk

### Tune-Up at Lafayette Inn

Feb. 1 was the first Saturday of the month draw partner, which also happened to be the weekend before the Winter Board Talk Tournament at Lafayette Inn. Thirty-eight shooters descended on this popular four in-house board establishment in Rising Sun, Maryland. Hosts Pat and Nelson Renzo welcomed the shooters in their usual style and prepared some real nice food for nourishment of all the participants.

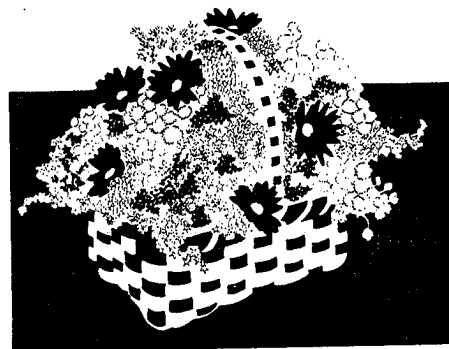
*(Continued on page 14)*

*Bouquets from us to the*

*P.C.S.A. and Bellflower Bruce*

# THE BOARD TALK

George and Donna Wilber





## **Tourney Talk** (continued from Page 13)

The competition in the draw partner event was very good with Alvis Ramey, Perryville, Md., and Jim Yank, Philadelphia, Pa., taking first place. Second was Don Casula and Dick Gorman, both of Wilmington, Delaware, repeating their performance of the previous weekend at Harvey's Place. Third place went to a first-time tournament shooter Ken Blankenship, Charlestown, Md., and Phil Neuman, Swathmore, Pa.

Pat and Nelson invite all to join in the first Saturday of the month for this great event. Call 410-975-3078 if you are on the road and can't make it by 1 p.m. "We do start on time, but will include you if you are nearby and a little late," says director Dick Gorman.

### **Good Turnout for Winter Board Talk Tourney**

One of the highlights of the season on the East Coast is always the Winter Board Talk Tournament at the Lafayette Inn, Rising Sun, Md. "Maybe it's the popularity of the Lafayette Inn or the interest in The Board Talk, but we returned to some sell-out events," reports Dick Gorman. "The economy has been tough in the Middle Atlantic States with a lot of work terminations and layoffs. The result has been unemployment and people afraid there will be more. Shuffleboard tournaments are played with discretionary dollars, and it has been having its effect on both entries and calcuttas. Hopefully, this weekend was the beginning of the turnaround."

Friday night was the beginning with a sell-out draw partner event and seven shooters on the waiting list hoping somebody wouldn't show. Unfortunately, three people arrived after the deadline time and were replaced with three of the lucky in the front of the wait list. ("We try hard to start on time, and we will start without those not letting us know about 10-15 minute late arrivals," says Dick.) The tournament was won by Don Casula of Wilmington and Mark Grove of Millington, Md., who took home the major part of the nearly \$2000. Second place went to Mopey Hasson, Perryville, Md., and Chuck King, Dover, Del., with third going to Jack Gardner, Greensboro, Md., with his partner returning to the boards from a hospital battle, Mickey Mickens, Mt. Laurel, N.J.

The women's singles was the feature event for Saturday morning. The competition was tough and the last match wasn't over on the four boards until 4 p.m., almost seven hours later. Coming out of the loser's bracket to win the last two games in hard-fought contests was Judy Gartland of Philadelphia, with Judy Iseman, Chestertown, Md., taking second place honors. Third place went to hometown favorite, Steph McNeill, Rising Sun.

The big bring partner event had a near-sellout crowd waiting to test their skills and the competition. The next morning at 2 a.m. found Jim McDaniels of nearby Darlington and first-time tournament winner Jim Wallace, Port Deposit, Md., taking the lion's share of the pot and the significant jackets indicating Board Talk Winter Tournament winners. Second place was taken by the strong team of Len Dell,

Bellcamp, Md., and Chuck King, Dover, Del., with third place going to a Pennsylvania team of Butch Kelly, Springfield, and Joe Williams, Ridley Park. Fourth place went to John Lukas, Millington, Md., and Bill Stoops, Tulsa, Oklahoma, with fifth place going to Johnny Gardner, Greensboro, and Mark Grove, Millington. Final money spot sixth place was taken by Don Perry, Cortland, N.Y., and Alvis Ramey.

On Sunday afternoon, 20 teams lined up for the mixed doubles event. "The competition was great and all the big name teams were there, but as we said the last time, you won't see all of their names here," said Dick. It was a Pennsylvania finish this time with Judy Gartland and Jim Yank of Philadelphia repeating their performance of a month ago to take first place. Second place went to first-time major tournament winner Louise Freer of Lansdale, Pa., and Al DiBella, Upper Darby, Pa. Third went to the strong local Maryland team of Brenda and Jim Wallace of nearby Port Deposit. Fourth and final money spot went to Rosalie Kaufman, Queenstown, Md. and Chuck King, Dover. "This paragraph contains a lot of surprises for East Coast folks," Dick said.

Point leaders in the East Coast value point system for the weekend were Judy Gartland and Chuck King.

"This was another outstanding tournament. Hot food buffets were provided for all participants by Lafayette Inn hosts Pat and Nelson Renzo. All participants want to join in thanking The Board Talk for their co-sponsorship of this great event," Dick said.

## **More Notebook**

### **Shuffleboard Alive and Well in Delaware County, Indiana**

This game is as good as the people who promote it and play it!

Shuffleboard in Delaware County, Indiana, has been a long-standing form of competition. When Papa Lou Coulter (Red Dog Saloon), Rudy Parris (Sportsman's Lounge), Steve Mason (Oasis Bar & Grill) and Arnold Cross (Mississinewa Tavern) decided to start the Delaware County League, it was to accommodate those players who had been around for years, but really had no organized shuffleboard competition. In the last four years, the league has become a forum for beginners and young players to compete against seasoned players from around East Central Indiana. It's a draw partner event every other Saturday starting in November and ending in March. Twelve tournaments, four taverns, three times at each location.

There is also a final tournament at the end of the season that each player must earn qualification for. A player must play at each location at least one time, plus two more of their choice, for a total of six tournaments. There is no calcutta, just entry fee of \$10 plus \$2 held back for the year-end tournament. This format is fun for the seasoned players, but more important, the beginners and young players who want to improve their game.

The one aspect that sets this league apart from other leagues is the number of women who participate. At present, there are 52 active players in the league, 17 of which are women. Jonna Reece (pictured), league register and organizer, says an average of 34 people play every other Saturday through the fall and winter season.

The four impressive players who I feel play real well are pictured -- Carolyn Holton, Jeri Dickson, Jonna Reece, and Cheryl Cockrill. I call them the Four Horseman. All four participate in three to four round robins a week and travel to surrounding cities for calcuttas and round robins. They play as good as anyone.



Steve's "Four Horsemen" are Carolyn Holton, Jeri Dickson, register/organizer Jonna Reece, and Cheryl Cockrill.

The one comment I want to emphasize is the fact that this league is well organized for all types of players. I am real happy to see more women playing the game and hopefully it will inspire more to play in the future.

Since the failure of the Central Indiana Shuffleboard League in 1987 (C.I.S.L.), which went for six years in Central Indiana, the Delaware County League has picked up the slack to keep the sport alive and well, as well as growing for all players.

Having the format of every other week gives the places on off Saturdays the opportunity to host the calcuttas, which included one on Feb. 22-23 at the Red Dog Saloon, open doubles, two boards, double elimination, and an open singles, double elimination. On March 21, The Hog House in Ingalls, Indiana, will host an open doubles, single elimination. In April, the Mississinewa Tavern, Eaton, Ind., is going to have a doubles tournament, single elimination. More on that later.

One last thought, Indiana has always been strong in shuffleboard. I think we have been a little lax in the past few years in promoting this game, including myself. We are going to try to remedy that and keep you informed.

My hat's off to Delaware County for their great efforts to the continued growth of shuffleboard. I give Jonna my applause, plus the other people involved in this league. They have done a marvelous job.

Steve Hart, Fortville, Indiana

*We add our congratulations to Jonna and the others involved in revitalizing the action in Indiana. Maybe Indiana will once again be one of our top shuffleboard states in the nation, as it once was.*

### Ratschke/Lockhart Win He/She Tourney at Texas Mist

Shuffleboard action is flourishing in Austin, Texas, home of the Shuffleboard Federation's U.S. Open. The area's first league was formed last fall and six teams were enrolled. The current winter season has increased to eight teams.

Weekly and special tournaments are also thriving. As an example, the Texas Mist (9063 Research Blvd., Austin) hosted a He/She Tournament on Jan. 18-19. The entry fee was \$15 per player and \$100 was added by the Texas Mist. Thirty-two players participated. Even with so much activity, the Mist was still able to squeeze in their weekly Saturday and Sunday night tournaments. The Saturday night tournament had 37 entries and Sunday night followed with 32. It was a very exciting weekend for all players.

Winners of the He/She Tournament were Larry Ratschke and Donna Lockhart. Ron Bowers and Wanda Knight were second, and Jimbo Grove and Lisa Melton were third.

Don McCurry, Texas Mist, Austin, Texas

*Readers, please note that the Texas Mist is part of our Shuffleboard Directory. Stop in and let them know you appreciate their support.*



Winners of the He/She Tournament at the Texas Mist were Donna Lockhart and Larry Ratschke.

## Spread the Word!

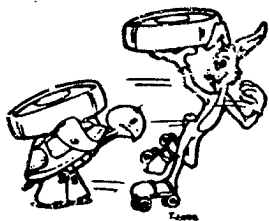
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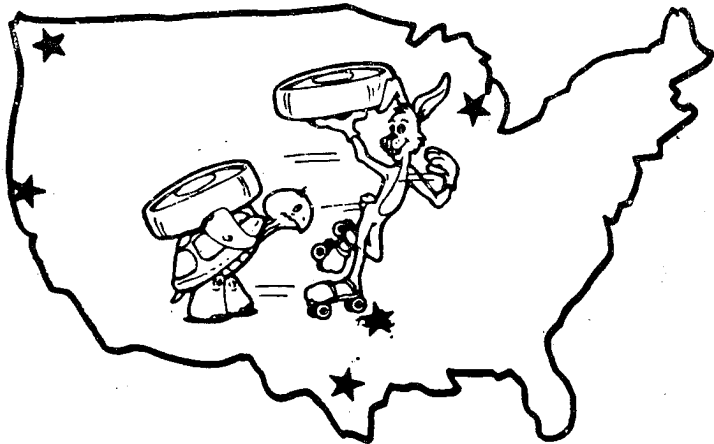
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George & Donna Wilber

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