

The Board Talk

Published monthly by George & Donna Wilber,
421 E. Sheridan Rd., Lansing, MI 48906 Phone: 517-371-2538

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December 1995

Where Were YOU When the Lights Went Out?

By John McDermott
The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc.

For more than 100 players, the answer was: at the 6th Annual North American Shuffleboard Championships in Reno, getting ready to start the A-B Draw, the first of 11 events on 16 boards, with a total purse of nearly \$80,000.

The state of Washington turned out in force and were largely responsible for the near capacity turnout for all of the singles and doubles events. This article will address the tournament in general, along with some changes for next year. The names of all of the winners are on a souvenir keepsake flyer in this issue.

Bob Jacobsen on the Road to Recovery

Before going any further, we are happy to report that Bob Jacobsen of Seattle, Washington, who suffered a heart attack while playing a game in the Division II Singles, is doing well after having triple bypass surgery. He had another operation to go through in a few weeks and is expected to make a normal recovery.

Bob has been a friend and supporter for many years. He never hesitates to lend a hand and always insists that we give him something to do, such as putting up the bracket charts or board numbers. Bob says he'll "be back next year" and that the get-well card he received, signed by most of the tournament participants, is "the best trophy he's ever gotten." Good luck, Bob!

When the Lights Went Out.....

It's a good thing the whole week did not go the way the first 48 hours did! The Sands Regency Hotel/Casino, host and sponsor of the North American Championships for the past five years, also hosts a number of other types of annual competitions. On Sunday night, a mere 18 hours before the start of the A-B Draw, the ballroom being used for the shuffleboard tournament was occupied by the finalists in an international chess tournament. Folks, watching and waiting for the end of this gave new

meaning to agonizing!

Although Fred Thumann's kind offer to help clear out the chess players was appreciated, we did want to be invited back next year and therefore declined. Meanwhile, Billy Mays was trying to bet anyone who was interested that a Russian player would win the chess tournament.

We finally began setting up boards at 10 p.m., trying to get ready for the 2 p.m. start of the A-B Draw. Our sincere thanks and appreciation go to Bob Lewis and AZ Turnbo, who furnished the 16 boards. They, along with Lyndon Baize, Rick Boyer, Kory Hungerford and Skip McCaslin, did a magnificent job and on Monday afternoon, we were ready to roll.

Just before the start of the first event, an electrical emergency forced a power shutdown. Emergency lighting only provided sufficient light to use about half of the boards. However, the hotel staff did manage to keep the beer ice cold, averting any larger problems. The shuffleboard players certainly handled this situation better than the chess players would have.

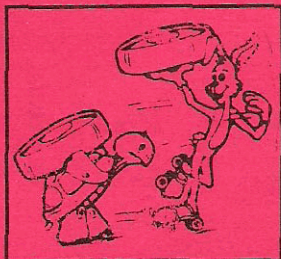
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Five in a Row for Doug and Darrol: Doug Buhl and Darrol Nelson win their fifth consecutive entry to the PCSA Extravaganza VIII doubles by taking first at the Shamrock Tavern.....**Page 9**

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Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views
from The World
of Shuffleboard

Welcome Words from our "Crazy Canucks" Friends....

Just a friendly line to clarify the proper identification of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada in your excellent publication. While other veterans' service fraternal organizations are listed as legions or posts, the AN & AF Veterans in Canada are always listed as a unit.

The correct identification for future publications is: A.N.A.F. #68, 1837 Main St., Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V5T3B8; phone (office 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) 604-874-8977, (canteen 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.) 604-874-8911.

Your publication is widely read within the unit and this was brought to my attention. Keep up the good work!

Your article on volunteers was excellent. I personally know that without them, our workload would triple and the unit would not have such a successful shuffleboard program here.

Bill Wonnacott, President, A.N.A.F. Unit 68
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Forgive these ignorant "Yankees" from south of the border, Bill, and thanks for setting us straight. If, in the future, we fail to identify your outstanding shuffleboard site correctly, you can put us in the stockade and give us 20 lashes with a dirty board wipe! We appreciate your support and patience.

Just a quick note to let you know that the license plate we sent you for your camper or office is just to say thanks for everything.

The AN & AF stands for Army, Navy & Air Force

— 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

(Use the form on inside back page to renew.)

Veterans in Canada. The motto is "Shoulder to Shoulder."

We have met and have such a good time with all the American board players that I wanted to share with you all the feelings of good will and camaraderie that we share every time we all get together.

Marg Okum, Director, Crazy Canucks Annual Labor Day Tournament

We treasure that license plate, Marg, and display it proudly. Our relationship with Canada players goes back a lot of years, when Mike Jacoby (still a faithful subscriber!) and Harvey Groleau of Winnipeg participated in our 2nd Annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion in Howell, Michigan (and took 3rd in the doubles even though they had been used to playing on 14-foot boards) in 1986. We urge your American friends to participate in your 1996 Labor Day Weekend Tournament at the A.N.A.F. Unit #68 on Aug. 29-Sept. 1. We hope you get some "first-timers" including us!

Marg also sent us the "History of Shuffleboard" presented to her from Harold Schmidt, another Canadian subscriber. Even though we have published this several times in THE BOARD TALK and every year in our annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion printed program, we realize there are a lot of new subscribers who do not know about the "roots" of the sport they have chosen. This history was originally published by the American Shuffleboard Company:....

The History of Shuffleboard

Back in jolly old 15th Century England, they played a game of sliding a "groat" down a table -- a groat being a rather large British coin of the day worth about four pence. The game was called shove-gorat and/or slide groat. Later, a silver penny was used and the name of the game became shove-penny and/or shovel penny.

The game never died. It was played by the young and old, rich and poor. It was a favorite pastime in the great country homes of Staffordshire, Winchester, and Wiltshire. There exists today a painting by John Nash, a famous English artist, done in 1839, showing the Great Hall at Littlecotes, Wilshire, England, in 1740. It is a typical scene of a gathering of the wealthy people of the day, and it shows shuffleboard being played on a massive table in the center of the hall.

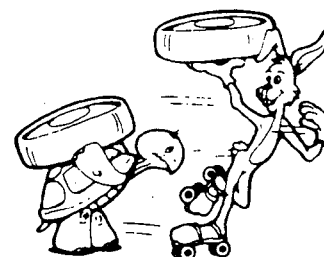
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*To all our friends
throughout the
wonderful World of
Shuffleboard, we hope
your Christmas stockings
are filled with love and
joy, peace and
prosperity!*



*We thank you for your
gifts of friendship and
continued support!*

*George & Donna Wilber
Publishers*



THE BOARD TALK

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

Upcoming Events Across the Nation

Delaware

SCRATCH TODD MEMORIAL, HARRINGTON MOOSE, DEC. 8-10

A memorial tournament honoring the late Scratch Todd, popular East Coast shuffler who directed this event for many years, will be held at the Harrington Moose, Rt. 13 S., Harrington, on Dec. 8-10. Friday night will feature horse collar, popular in that club, with a draw partner on Saturday, 11 a.m., \$10 entry. Sunday at noon will be a bring partner, \$25 per team entry.

For information and/or to save your spot, call Dick Gorman, 302-994-0004.

Florida

3RD ANNUAL FLORIDA OPEN, FEB. 16-18, HUDDLES SPORTS CAFE, PEMBROKE PINES

Huddle's Sports Cafe, 7100 Pines Blvd., Pembroke Pines, Florida, will once again host the annual Florida Open Shuffleboard Championships on Feb. 16-18. Featured events will include a bring partner on Saturday,

\$50 per team entry, single game, double elimination, and a singles on Sunday, \$50 per player entry, single game, double elimination. Sponsor sales are tentatively set for Friday, Feb. 16. Watch for a flyer in next month's issue for more details. And plan to come early for draw partner jackpots on Friday night, Feb. 16.

In the meantime, for tournament information and/or lodging recommendations, contact Marty Allen, 407-471-4053.

Indiana

14TH ANNUAL WINTER DOUBLES, AMERICAN LEGION 424, BOURBON, JAN. 6

The American Legion Post 424 in Bourbon will host its 14th Annual Winter Doubles on Jan. 6. Entry fee for the single game, double elimination event will be \$40 per team. There will be \$20 draw partners on Friday at 6 p.m. Sponsor sale for the main event will start at 11 a.m. on Saturday with play immediately following.

For tournament information and/or lodging recommendations, call Fritzi Broka, 219-858-2689.

Also, mark your calendars for the 1st Annual Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Tournament now!

1st Annual Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Tournament 35th Annual Bourbon Spring Doubles MAY 4, 1996

**National Shuffleboard
Hall of Fame**

**The longest-running annual
event in the U.S.A. is proud to
host the 1st Annual Shuffleboard
Hall of Fame Tournament!**

**\$1,000 added to tournament pot
\$1,000 donated to Hall of Fame**

AMERICAN LEGION POST 424

202 S. Main St., Bourbon, Indiana

For information, call Fritzi Broka, 219-858-2689

National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame

I would like to thank George and Donna Wilber of *The Board Talk* for all the work they're doing for us and the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. All the things that are being done in *The Board Talk*, all the people who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame were put there with all the trimmings by George and Donna working with Louise Freer. When you talk about dedication, these people will be at the top of the list. Without their free input, the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame would not be known. Keep it going and going -- your reward is just around the corner.

Except for myself, this is the final "profile" of the people on the NSHF Board of Directors. Louise Freer of Pennsylvania, our secretary, is doing a fantastic job of keeping it all going. I have known Louise for only a short time. She's a great shuffleboard player and very dedicated to the game. All her secretarial work is dedicated to the NSHF, all free because she wants it to happen and she's definitely doing her fair share to make it so.

She has won some tournaments the past two years, including placing second at Bourbon, the biggest event in the U.S. She has played in tourneys with newcomers and young players and she's at every local event. She helped to get some of the tournaments started and has been involved in running them. We need more like her to help get things going in our own neighborhoods.

I did get to play with Louise and we won one and I'm looking forward to playing with her again. As far as I'm concerned, Louise will be around shuffleboard for awhile. I would like to say to Louise: "Job well done. Thanks for helping us get it going. As far as the Board of Directors is concerned, I feel very fortunate to have you as our secretary."

On another subject, there seems to be a failure in communications. People are sending in inductee nominations with 20 signatures, but no information on them. We need all the tournaments they've played in, all the singles and doubles they've won, player status, dedication, how many years, etc. Have they ever run a tournament or co-directed? You have to try to get the information with your nominations. All this information will go into the Hall of Fame and used for appropriate recognition.

I think everyone should pitch in and get all the old stories you can about someone you think you would like to endorse for the Hall of Fame. If you know someone who is worthy of that endorsement, do it for them!

I have heard: if you want something real bad, then go out and do it for someone else and your return will be even greater. Think about it! Do It! This is the "do it" time. You see something that needs to be done -- do it!

Glen Davidson, Chairman, National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, 2807 Clanton Ct., Del City, OK 73115

No thanks to us are necessary (but appreciated) for promoting the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. To do anything less would "disqualify" us as publishers of the nation's only publication devoted exclusively to The World of Shuffleboard. A Hall of Fame for our sport is something we have talked about for years and now we have the opportunity to really make it happen. We encourage all our subscribers to give financial support to the NSHF (send contributions and nominations to Secretary Louise Freer, 189 Barry Ave., Lansdale PA 19446). We also urge every shuffler on our mailing list to participate in the 1st Annual Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Tournament and for every advertiser to contribute money and/or prizes for this worthwhile event.

The NSHF Board of Directors "profile" series would not be complete without its chairperson, Glen Davidson. He's too modest to profile himself, so let's hear from his co-directors and others.

***Put your money where
your mouth is!***

***Don't just play "lip service"
to the idea of a National
Shuffleboard Hall of Fame!
Back your convictions with a
contribution to get it going
and keep it going!***

***Send your contributions to:
Louise Freer, Secretary
National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame
189 Barry Ave.
Lansdale PA 19446***

As the Puck Turns....

By George & Donna Wilber

WHOOOPS! Those nasty little typo gremlins have been at it again (we'd rather blame them than "human error"....They sneak into your desktop publishing system in the middle of the night and screw up "perfect" copy).

First, for a number of months, the business phone of one of our faithful subscribers, Triple Crown Shuffleboard Supplies, has been wrong. Please note the correction: **402-896-0468**. Those who used the 800 number got through O.K., but others got a wrong number. Our sincere apologies to Floyd and JoAnne!

Second, in the October issue, we reported that Lonzo Knight was the winner of the singles event at the Sherburne American Legion Tournament, with Len ("second sucks!") Dell in second. It should have been the other way around. Sorry, Len and Lonzo (second really doesn't suck!).

A shuffler who could use a few words of encouragement during his long recovery from hip surgery is Mike Pond of Washington. Send him your good wishes: Mike Pond, E. 7316 Boone #1, Spokane, WA 99212. Show him how the shuffleboard network of caring really works!

We try to "practice what we preach" in terms of getting your events on the calendar so you're not competing against another event "next door." A good example is the Mississinewa Tavern's doubles tournament on April 13 at Eaton, Indiana. Now, April may seem down the road a long ways, but host Arnold Cross recognizes that there's a lot of action in Indiana and he's already reserved (and paid for, bless him!) a flyer for that event. We hope his forward-thinking will pay off in dividends of a big turnout.

It's time for us to place our 12th Annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion Tournament on the calendar. The problem is: we don't know when or where it's going to be. A word (or more) of explanation....

When we held our initial "reunion" tournament in 1985, we chose the 4th of July weekend (because there were no other events on the calendar at that time) and selected the Log Cabin Bar in Howell, Michigan,

because it was one of the few locations we knew of that had room for four boards. We announced at that first event that we would be open to invitations to hold this annual event at other locations across the U.S.A. No invitations came, so in 1986 and 1987, we held the reunion tournament at the same site.

In 1988, Beef and Marge Camp invited us to hold our 4th annual tournament at the Shamrock Bar in Waterloo, Indiana. We did and had some new names in the winner's circle: Darrol Nelson from Oregon and Janet Cook and Howard Mouton of Texas. In 1989, we accepted the invitation of The Shuffleboard Federation to join them for the 5th annual tournament in Lansing, Michigan.

In 1990, we staged the unforgettable 6th annual Reunion at Skip's Lounge and Northway Lounge in Houghton Lake, Michigan (the success of which led to an "offshoot": the annual Skip's/Board Talk tournament held each year the weekend after Labor Day).

In 1991 and 1992, we again joined The Shuffleboard Federation to stage the 7th and 8th annual reunions in Pennsylvania. And in 1993, we joined the already successful Southwest Open at the American Legion in Del City, Oklahoma.

By 1994, other sites across the USA had selected the 4th of July weekend for their events, and we decided to join Bill and Sandee at the Whistling Oyster Tavern in Quilcene, Washington, blending their 5th Annual Grand Masters Plus in August with our 10th Annual Shufflers' Reunion. It was a break in tradition, but one we'll never regret. The last reunion, our 11th, was held at Harvey's Place in Maryland in June of 1995, another step toward holding this event in various locations of the U.S.A.

What about 1996? We have some options: Nebraska ("heart" of the USA) would be interested, has no locations with sufficient boards, but is looking into clubs/hotels, the Dixie Belle in Downey, California, and Bus Voorhis' Locker Bar in Marion, Indiana.

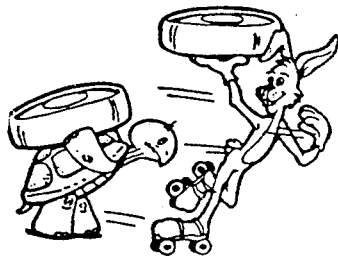
We've gone from no invitations in the '80's to three in the '90s. The decision will be made soon. Whatever it is, we hope to see you there. No. 12 might be a good time for an "invitational" -- with winners of the previous 11 events competing against each other. Something to think about....

Speaking of 12's, note on Page 1 that this is Vol. 12, No. 12, which means we've completed our 12th year of publication. To all of you who have helped us reach that landmark -- especially those who stuck with us during those difficult years when we didn't know whether we'd last another month, let alone another year -- our heartfelt appreciation!

George and Donna Wilber, Publishers

Looking Back.....

1984



Editor's Note: To mark our 12 years of publication, we are starting this new column, highlighting the winners of past major tournaments. These lists will include only those that were reported to THE BOARD TALK; consequently, there may have been some major events that are not recorded.

Showboat, Las Vegas, Nevada, Jan. 27-29, 1984, USSA

Singles:

- 1st -- Darrol Nelson, Oregon
- 2nd -- Ed Graves, Oklahoma
- 3rd -- Doug Buhl, Washington
- 4th -- K.D. Makarounis, Oregon

Black Cat, Portland, Oregon, March 17-19, 8th World

Series Singles:

- 1st -- Don Mitchell, Oregon
- 2nd -- Galen Gaunce, Oregon
- 3rd -- Darrol Nelson, Oregon

Showboat, Las Vegas, Nevada, Apr. 19-22, 1984, USSA

Singles:

- 1st -- Billy Mays, Texas
- 2nd -- Earl Kelly, Texas
- 3rd -- Doug Buhl, Washington
- 4th -- Jim Allis, Washington

American Legion 424, Bourbon, Indiana, May 5, 1984,

Doubles:

- 1st -- Ed Galke, New York; Jerry Siebert, Michigan
- 2nd -- Larry Brown; Ted Kuhn, Indiana
- 3rd (tie) -- Don Miller, Fred Kuhn, Indiana
Bobby Voorhis, Jerry Warr, Indiana

Showboat, Las Vegas, Nevada, Aug. 11-12, 1984, USSA

Doubles:

- 1st -- Sam Summers, Oklahoma; Joe Walker, Texas
- 2nd -- A.Z. Turnbo, Billy Chiles, California
- 3rd -- David Williams, Dan Baber, Texas

Singles:

- 1st -- Karl Spickelmier, California
- 2nd -- Billy Mays, Texas

American Legion 424, Bourbon, Indiana, Sept. 29,

Doubles:

- 1st -- Steve Hart, Don Criswell, Indiana
- 2nd -- Ed Galke, New York; Jeff Cottrell, Michigan
- 3rd -- Emmett Wilcox, Dale Closser, Indiana

Showboat, Las Vegas, Nevada, Dec. 7-9, 6-Man Team:

- 1st -- Gera's Lounge, Las Vegas: George Zariphes, Jim Goulden, Frank Zavala, Russ Moppert, "Sheriff" Frank, Balboa Ron Schweikert.

Other Significant Happenings in 1984:

January -- *The Board Talk* is launched, designed to be a Michigan shuffleboard newsletter, free circulation, financed by advertising. **Lee McDonald** of Lansing took first place at a qualifying tournament at A.J.'s Saloon in Pontiac to win a spot in the U.S.S.A. tournament in Las Vegas where a few non-Michigan shufflers expressed an interest in the newsletter. **Porter White** of California became the first paid subscriber (and has been one ever since!).

April -- Paid subscriptions from Texas, California and Oklahoma arrive and *The Board Talk* is now a "national" rather than state publication. The USSA and the **Black Cat Tavern** become our first out-of-state advertisers.

May -- **Mike Jacoby** of Winnipeg, Manitoba, becomes our first Canadian subscriber (and remains one today). **Sun-Glo Corporation** becomes our first national advertiser (and has supported us ever since).

June/July -- The publishers take a two-month recess for two reasons: (1) Not much is going on in The World of Shuffleboard during the summer, and (2) to evaluate if, when and how the newsletter would become financially stable.

September -- Our first full-page ad is received from **Al Stewart's A & M Amusement Service** with an order (paid in advance) for another in December, giving editors hope for the future. The publication now has five volunteer reporters: **Jolene Lembke**, Oregon; **Woodie Cockrum**, Missouri; **Balboa Ron Schweikert**, Nevada; **Sandy Jenkins**, Texas; and **Steve Hart**, Indiana.

November -- Four more state reporters volunteer: **Ben Benjestorf**, The Edgewood, California; **Jim Ferrier**, Lakewood Inn Good Times Saloon, Colorado; **Marv & Rosa White**, West One Tavern, Washington; and **Ed Galke**, New York.

December -- A special feature of the Christmas issue is an article about **Al Stewart's** 25 years in business, including a recent career highlight: renting and setting up a shuffleboard for Warner Brothers' movie, "Police Academy Two."

NEXT MONTH: Who will be the "headliners" during 1985? Will YOUR name be there?

Massies Lead Beef's Series of 5

There was a good turnout on Oct. 21 for the first in the "Series of 5" at Beef's in Kendallville, Indiana. Teams from Indiana, Ohio and Missouri competed ("none from Michigan," reports hostess Marge. "Some of the guys think the competition in Indiana is too tough for Michigan players!") (*Editor's Note: Is that a challenge or what, Wolverines?*)

Greg and Tom Massie of Summitville captured top honors with Steve Hart and Jerry Knox in second place. Jim Long and Larry Creakbaum finished third, with St. Louis, Missouri, visitors Doug Zurmuellen and Jerry Sabourin in fourth place.

"We were happy to see Doug and Jerry," said Marge. "They made the trip to find out how to run tournaments. I hoped we helped them and hope they return."

The second in the Series of 5 was held on Nov. 18 (see next issue for results) and the third is scheduled for Jan. 20. In the meantime, Beef's will host a mixed doubles on Dec. 16 and an open doubles on Dec. 30.

For further information, contact Beef or Marge at 219-347-9965.

Deadline for PCSA Extravaganza VIII, Dec. 29

Please check the enclosed flyer for the PCSA's Extravaganza VIII and note that the deadline for entries and room reservations is Dec. 29. Don't delay! Do it now! Remember that room reservations must be made through the PCSA in order to qualify for participation.

This big event, scheduled for Jan. 30-Feb. 4, will once again be hosted by the Aladdin Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Events include a bring your partner amateur doubles, \$100 per team; an A-B draw, \$50 per player; pro singles, \$300 entry; amateur team, \$300 per team; pro doubles, \$200 per team; and women's singles, \$100 entry.

If you have any questions, call the PCSA at 310-926-2152.

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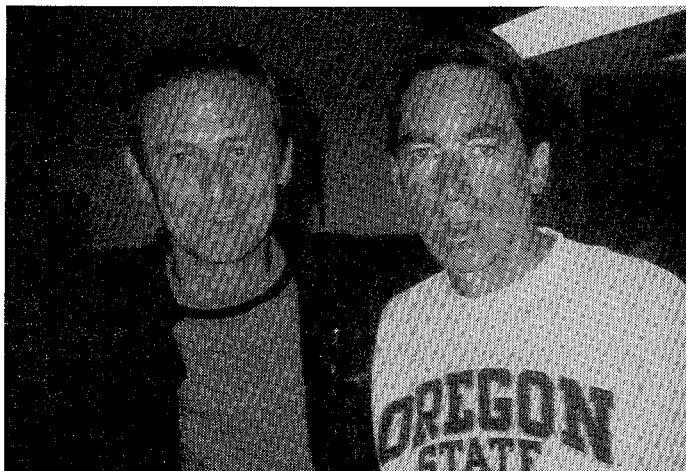
**AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL
SHUFFLEBOARD CORPORATION**

308 Railroad Ave., Hackensack, NJ 07602
Phone: 1-800-598-2881 FAX: 1-201-488-0770

Doug and Darrol Make it Five in a Row at Shamrock

Doug Buhl and Darrol Nelson of Oregon made it five in a row at the 5th Annual PCSA Open Doubles, hosted by the Shamrock Tavern in Longview, Washington, on Oct. 21-22. Not only did the dynamic duo take the biggest share of the \$2500 pot, they were also awarded entries in the 1996 Extravaganza VIII by the Pacific Coast Shuffleboard Association.

"This is beginning to sound like a broken record, but these two guys are the best there is," reports Ralph Duarte.



Doug Buhl and Darrol Nelson earned their entries in the PCSA's Extravaganza VIII doubles by taking first place.

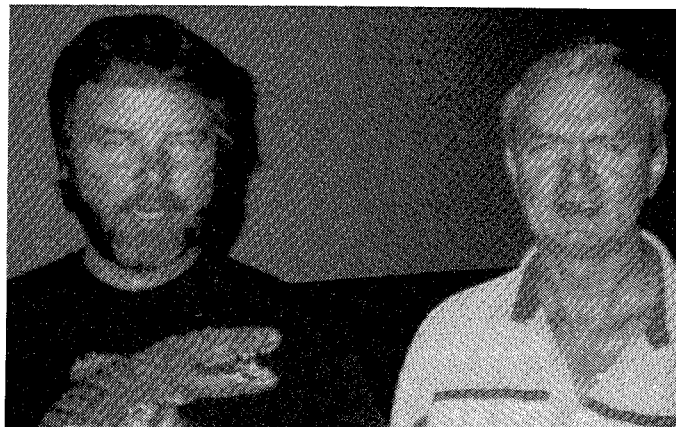


Mike Thorpe of Washington and Chuck (no Karate) Norris of Oregon took second-place honors.



Billy Chiles of California and Sparky Sparkman of Oregon finished third.

"We were honored to have a visit by Bill Chiles from California," said Ralph. "I also received a call from Fred Thumann and Hal Perry of California, who said they were going to crash our tournament. At the last minute, something came up and they just couldn't make the trip. Maybe next time."



Jim Allis and Jim Foran of Washington came in fourth.

"A lot of credit should go to Jim Allis. He was the one who made this event happen," said Ralph. "We thank him and the P.C.S.A. for their support."

"The players in this tournament seemed to be more evenly matched than in the past. It was a well-run event and Bernice's chili went over as good as ever," he said.

Host Jerry Berquist extends appreciation to all who participated.

Happy Anniversary, Henry and Georgia Williams!

Henry and Georgia Williams of Steelville, Missouri, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

The Williams may never make the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, but a tournament or league around here is not filled until you see their name on the score sheet.

Woodie Cockrum, Cuba, Missouri

Any couple who reaches that landmark deserves sincere congratulations (your editors are not that far behind!). We encourage readers to welcome these new subscribers to our shuffleboard network by sending them your salute:

*Henry & Georgia Williams
Rt. 1, Box 716
Steelville, MO 65565*



Happy Holiday

*to our friends and customers in
The World of Shuffleboard. May
1996 be the best ever!*

*A possible New Year's resolution:
"Support the National
Shuffleboard Hall of Fame!"*



When thinking shuffleboard on the East Coast, think **DICK GORMAN SHUFFLEBOARD SUPPLIES**. We stock a full line of Triple Crown supplies, including weights, tops for weights, maintenance supplies and 11 speeds of powdered waxes. When we sell a new **PLAYFAIR** shuffleboard, price includes immediate installation and delivery by us.

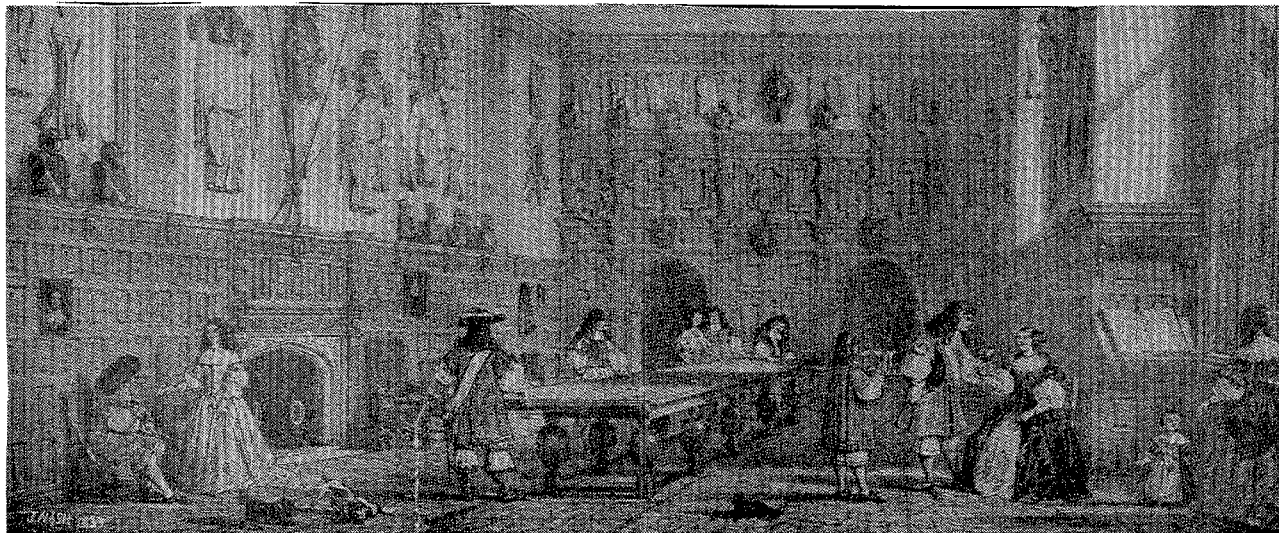
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-- Give us a chance -- You may like it -- No (???) --

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Phone: 302-994-0004

The History of Shuffleboard (Notebook continued from Page 2)



The forefather of the American Shuffleboard
Shuffleboard in the Great Hall at Littlecotes, Wiltshire, England. 1740

The game shed its rude beginnings when American cabinetmakers like Hepplewhite and Duncan Phyfe turned out some of their finest inlaid cabinet work on shuffleboard game tables for the wealthy homes of New York City.

By 1897, table shuffleboard rated as much newspaper space as prizefighting and baseball in all the New York City papers. Highly publicized tournaments played by such colorful characters as "Big Ed" Morris, Dave Wiley, Alex Scott, Ed Garland, and George Lavender drew hordes of fans. The fans faithfully followed the players to tournaments in New York City, Newark, Paterson, Hoboken, Jersey City, Bloomfield, New Jersey, and even Philadelphia. The fans included important figures of the business, theatrical, and political world.

Shuffleboard made its way across the country early. In 1904, Gentleman Jim Corbett, an avid player, had a tavern owner named Croll install a table in his Alameda, California pub. "Doc" Croll and his son claimed it was the first table shuffleboard in that part of the country.

World War II opened the "Swinging '40s" and shuffleboard really came into its own. The intrinsic appeal of the game -- skill, diversity, competitiveness, availability to young and old, strong and disabled, the serious game, the fun game, offered the kind of release needed in those turbulent years.

In the '40s, Hollywood climbed on the bandwagon and took it up, as first, as a source of good publicity. Then when the pin-up girls and bandleaders discovered they really liked the game, shuffleboards found their way into the studios and the homes of the stars. People like Betty Grable, Harry James, Merv Griffin, Alan Ladd, all had their own shuffleboards.

Shuffleboard is not just a bar room game. It is a

game that can be played in a bar, but it can also be played at the Pentagon, the White House, hospitals, and Army, Navy and Marine bases throughout the world. You can also find the game on college campuses, hotels, motels and recreations centers, Boys Clubs of America and even churches. And, you will find it in many American homes, from modest to affluent.

Table shuffleboard is no flash-in-the-pan game. It is an integral part of American industry in the field of recreation. It is not a game of the past, and though its history is a colorful one, it is not a museum piece. It is a game for the future, as recreation and leisure become more and more a way of life.

*At present, there are over 200,000 tables in use in the United States. There are about 15,000 in use in Canada.

There you have a little insight into the game that you play so often today, and enjoy so much (hopefully, even when losing).

**This was probably written sometime in the '50s and we have no knowledge about the number of boards in use today.*

A Real "Shuffleboard Man"

About four years ago, I moved back to Corpus Christi from Houston. I played in a league and wanted to keep my skills up. I met a guy at the BBQ Man Cantina during one of their Wednesday night tournaments. His name was Neil Garvin. He had recently refinished their board and it played very well. I was impressed because it was his first try. Well, a friendship developed.

(continued on Page 15)

Where Were You? *(North American Championships continued from Page 1)*

Dave Arndt: Red Hot!

On Tuesday morning, as the sponsor sales for the Division I Singles and Division II Open and Ladies Singles were taking place, we are quite sure that no one in the room knew that Dave Arndt of Tacoma, Washington, had found a crystal ball.

Dave ended up with the first and second place finishers in the Division I Singles -- and that was just the beginning. He also had the first and second place finishers in the Pro Singles, plus the second and third place teams in the Pro/Division I Doubles and the fourth place team in the Division II Doubles.

About the Team Event

The only disappointment, from an organizational standpoint, was that the six-person team event did not have more participants (only 12 teams). This may be due to the fact that many people were apprehensive about the change in the format for the team event, which was done draft-style for the first time.

There were several reasons for this change. We felt it was the best way to ensure that every participant would have a chance to win, which has always been our goal for this event. Also, there were no worries about having to find five other people with the right ratings, etc. If you wanted to play in the team event, all you had to do was show up.

Whatever uncertainty we had about this change was put to rest when we saw how evenly matched the teams were and how much fun the players who participated had. The sponsor sale made it obvious to us that some of the objectives had been met. There are usually a number of teams that go at the minimum bid in any given event. In this case, with a minimum bid of \$150, the "bottom" four teams sold for \$400, followed by a team at \$475, one at \$600, three at \$650, and one each at \$800, \$1,000, and one at \$1050.

Pros to be Team Event Captains in 1996

In a move that should get us over the hump in the team event, pro players will be eligible for the first time and will act as captains. This should certainly help to draw more amateur players. Also, the number of boards will be increased from 16 to 18 in order to accommodate the necessary change in scheduling.

We are already beginning to work on getting the pros lined up to support this event. It is our goal to have a \$50,000 team event. Some of the top players who have already agreed to support this are: Rick Boyer, Bill Melton, Sam Summers, Hal Perry, Fred Thumann, Bob Shaw, Bobby Voorhis and David Williams.

This is a fantastic opportunity for novices and average players to learn about the game from the best players in the world. Don't worry about not getting drafted; everyone who signs up gets to play. The captains will do a three round draft and then the teams will draw their final two players. All of the drafting is done in a private captains-only meeting; we're not going to make you stand up in the middle of the room until you are picked or anything like that.

Billy Mays Honored

It is a natural follow-up to the last item that we get to one of our highlights of the week -- when Billy Mays of Texas was given a Lifetime Achievement Award by Shuffleboard Federation founder Phil Skover.

Billy was honored for his unparalleled achievements as a player, and for never being afraid to help any player of any caliber, including other great players with whom he was competing on a regular basis.

"Name That Team"

What should become a very popular tradition began with the first annual prize for the team that comes up with the best name. It was won by the team captained by Michigan's "One Arm" John Myles, which came up with the top choice -- "Eleven Arms."

There will be a bigger prize for this next year (much bigger if we have at least 24 teams), so start thinking about a name for your team now.

Pro/Division I a Success

While on the subject of changes, one of the highlights of the tournament was the success of the Pro/Division I Doubles. Under the new format, the previously separate events were combined, with previous winners of the Pro Singles or Doubles at the North American Championships or the PCSA Extravaganza not eligible to play together. The result was a very competitive event, with more than \$17,000 in prize money.

Deuces Wild -- Wild!

One of the highlights for us was watching the DUECES WILD event on Sunday. The players were having so much fun that six of the teams that got beat early went over to the other side of the room (close to the bar) and challenged each other. Long after the "official" event was over, the other bracket continued having fun playing DUECES WILD.

Without Your Help.....

The tournament owes much of its success to the

people who make it happen. On behalf of everyone who participated, we would like you all to know how much we appreciate your hard work:

Rob Kern, for whom keeping track of 100 singles players on 16 boards, playing simultaneously (with no play backs) is just another "day at the office."

Veteran Lyndon Baize and first-timer Kory Hungerford, not only do a great job of cleaning and powdering the boards, they are also key people on our set-up and take-down crew.

Billy Chiles and Bubba Warren, who cleaned, polished, and sprayed the boards every morning while most people were still in bed.

Bill Wooldridge, the charming and very effective auctioneer; and Rick Boyer, who makes sure the boards are in place and ready to go in time for the first event, even under the most trying conditions.

Thanks again to Bob Lewis, AZ Turnbo, and to Skip McCaslin and Rick Thomas for your help as well.

Thank You! We'll See You Next Time

We very much appreciate the support of everyone who attended the 1995 North American Shuffleboard Championships. The large number of first-time participants who said they will be back next year leaves us feeling very optimistic about the 1996 tournament.

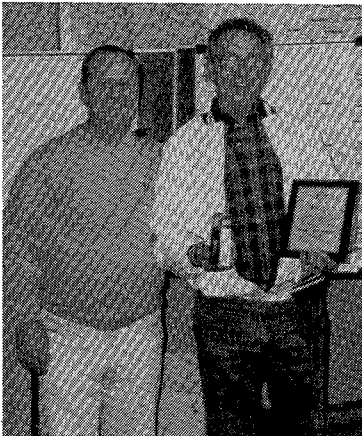
It was very gratifying to hear the many compliments about how well the tournament was run. It makes all of the work worthwhile.

However, as nice as it is to hear that kind of thing, we are even more interested in hearing about anything you did not like, or any suggestions on making the tournament even better.

All of you who participated should have already received a post-tournament comment and questionnaire form. Please fill it out and return it to us. It is our goal to make this the most well-run shuffleboard tournament in the world and to keep it that way -- with your help.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Pictorial Highlights....



Shuffleboard Federation founder Phil Skover presents a "Lifetime Achievement Award" to Billy Mays of Texas, for his unparalleled achievements as a player -- and as a teacher.



The first, second and third place finishers in the A-B Draw weren't present for the trophy awards, but Joe Spielman of Nebraska and Joan Millar of Canada weren't too unhappy with their fourth place finish.

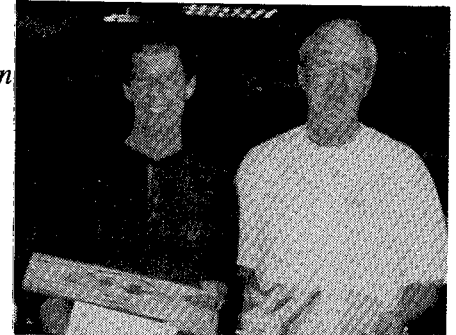
Another Canadian, Diana Madsen, finished first in the Ladies' Singles



Desi Guches of Oregon took top honors in the Division II Open Singles.



Bobby Williams of Texas and Jim Foran of Washington were winners of the Legends event.



Placing first in the DUECES WILD event were (left to right): Steve Burkett, Oklahoma; Lyndon Baise, Texas; Bill Melton, Oklahoma; and Johnny Wayne Crawford, Texas.

(continued on Page 19)

A Real "Shuffleboard Man" *(Notebook continued from Page 11)*

There are quite a few places that have boards in Corpus, but at that time, many players only played at their own bar. Wanting a challenge, Neil and I took to playing at all the places in town. People got to know Neil and he was very well liked. He wanted to start league play. There were certainly enough players, but there was not much interest. The challenge was how to get people interested and how to get them to go to other places and play.

Neil had an idea. He contacted establishment owners and started a Friday night roving tournament. Gradually a following developed. Establishments liked the business and players were exposed to new places and people. It was also fun.

It was not easy. Neil set up a data base of all players. He would call every player on the list and let them know the location of Friday's tournament. He not only did this, but he started a sideline of adjusting, providing supplies and refurbishing tables. He also found and placed tables in places that wanted them and would support them.

For well over two years, he built interest and generally promoted shuffleboard. Well, I'm happy to say this fall Neil's dream came true. He got his league started. It involves six establishments in the Corpus Christi area and over 24 players. Four of these establishments now subscribe to *The Board Talk* and he is hopeful the other two will also subscribe.

I no longer live in Corpus Christi, but Neil's story should be an inspiration to all who want league play. During Neil's trials, a nickname stuck to him. Wherever he went, they called him "Mr. Shuffleboard." I think it is well deserved because he is a real "Shuffleboard Man."

Tim Grogan, Omaha, Nebraska

We wholeheartedly agree that Neil's nickname is well-deserved and we're glad you took the time to share his story. It isn't easy to get a league started. It takes persistence, patience and a real love for the game of shuffleboard and Neil evidently has all those attributes. As your fellow Nebraska shuffler Mike Roach noted in last month's Notebook: "To quote Dick (Gorman): 'Growth is a result of a VERY FEW shufflers working hard.' Let's get more people involved within our local shuffleboard communities." We need more Neil Garvins in our World of Shuffleboard!

**Share your views with *The World of Shuffleboard!*
Deadline for each issue is the 15th of the month.**

Ken Asks: To Seed or Not to Seed?

Once again the subject of shuffleboard tournament seeding has come up, so I thought I would throw out a few words. According to Webster's dictionary: "Seeding is the arrangement of players in a tournament so that the more skilled players meet in the later rounds." In reality, what this definition means is that the more skilled players should, or are expected to, meet in the later rounds. Seeding is not new and most shuffleboard players who have been around or follow other sports are quite familiar with the term and the meaning. After all, almost every other sport seeds their tournaments, obviously to the delight of the bettors and/or spectators.

For those who are not familiar with tournament seeding, consider the simple example of an 8-player (team) tournament. The players (teams) are rated #1 through #8 with #1 seed being perceived as the most skilled player (team) and the #8 seed being the lesser skilled player (team).

Full seeded: The #1 seed plays the #8 seed and the #3 seed plays against the #6 seed in the top bracket; the #2 seed plays the #7 seed and the #4 seed plays the #5 seed in the lower bracket. Accordingly, then, the #1 seed and the #2 seed would be favored to meet in the finals of a single-elimination tournament or send all others to the loser's bracket in a double-elimination tournament where the eventual winner in the loser's bracket would meet the loser of the #1 and #2 seeds.

Partial seed: The #1 seed plays in the top bracket, the #2 seed plays in the bottom bracket, and the positions for seeds #3 through #8 would be based on a draw. This is not much different than the full-seed option.

Unseeded: (Option 1) All players (teams), regardless of skill level, draw for position. (Option 2) Top seeds #1 through #4 are placed in the top bracket; seeds #5 through #8 are placed in the lower bracket. This option is probably favored by the lesser skilled player who would not have to play the more skilled player until the final rounds.

Now, the questions, primarily with major tournaments in mind -- and also be reminded that if a tournament is to be seeded, it should be stated up front. (1) Which bracket structure is best for shuffleboard? (2) How do you seed a tournament (handicap, sponsorship sales, other)? (3) Would a seeded tournament bring in more sponsorship sales (money!), i.e., if a sponsor bought two players (teams), he would know up front that the two would not face each other right off the bat? (4) If a tournament is seeded based on sponsorship sales, i.e., the player (team) with the highest sponsor sales being the #1 seed, would there be a tendency to wrongfully "control" the seeding of players (teams)?

(continued on Page 17)

Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

(In last month's episode, Frisco Eddie and Lil had made their hasty exit from Dallas/Ft. Worth and were headed to Seattle, Washington, when the Boeing 727 on which they were flying developed engine problems just before they were to land at the Sea/Tac Airport. Before we continue this exciting series, a word from the author:

"I was a pilot in the military for 24 years and a lot of the things in this episode could -- and have -- happened to me. I realize that this episode won't be very interesting for a lot of folks, because it's pretty far removed from shuffleboard.

"I'm sure our readers know that what I'm writing about is fiction. Fiction of any kind is usually based on a slim thread of facts somewhere along the line. In order to try to make things interesting, I've added some totally unreal situations. In this effort, I'm not trying to give shuffleboard a 'bad name.' It would be easy to present a scenerio where everyone 'lags a 3 or 4' and we all have big smiles on our faces, and wear dress suits while we're playing the game! It would make for pretty dull reading after a while.

"I have a pretty good notion of how Frisco Eddie will end -- and the end will have 'redeeming value' and also carry a strong 'moral message.' Until then, I hope it is understood by our readers that this is intended to be humorous, entertaining ---- and fiction."

Editor's Note: We, along with our readers, hope that "end" will not come soon. Your unique blend of fiction with the reality of experience have kept us on the edges of our seats -- and right now, we're glad those seats are not on the same plane as Eddie and Lil.....)

Lil and Eddie were looking at one another after they had quickly put on their oxygen masks. The same thoughts were passing through both of their minds: "What the hell are we doing here....and are we going to live through this thing?" This was certainly turning into one wild trip!

The flight attendants had managed to calm down most of the hysterical passengers by now. An announcement came over the intercom: "This is Captain Johnson. We have some maintenance problems with our aircraft. We are receiving special handling from Seattle Approach Control and we'll be landing shortly. Please try to be calm and, above all, follow the instructions given by your flight attendants. Everything is under control, so please be calm. I'll keep you advised on our progress."

The situation in the cockpit was far from being "under control." It would be better described as "partially controlled chaos." The passengers could hear all the bells and buzzers going off from inside the cockpit as the captain was making his announcement. This greatly

lessened the feeling of security he had tried to convey. What they were dealing with here was an engine failure on number one (the left engine) and a possible fire on the same wing. The circuit-breakers and warning lights were going crazy on the console in front of the pilots.

Seattle Approach Control was "vectoring" them into position for a straight-in final approach and they were now cleared to "descend and maintain 6000 feet -- at pilot's discretion." The descent, however, wasn't at Captain Johnson's discretion. They were losing altitude -- and losing it fast!

Just after the captain had "re-trimmed" the controls to compensate for the dead engine, they found out why they were losing the altitude. The first officer shouted: "We've got a loss of torque on number two engine!" It was obvious that they couldn't maintain altitude now, and the landing was going to be close -- too damn close!

The turbulence eased up a bit when they reached the lower altitude. Seattle Approach came on the line then: "This is Approach Control 827. Turn left heading 360 degrees. You're approaching the glide path. You are cleared to land 827. Be advised that the active runway has been foamed and all emergency vehicles are in place. We're calling the ceiling and visibility at 200' and 1/2 mile, but it's ragged. Winds are 030 degrees at 20, gusting to 45. There is no wind-shear advisory. You are now on glide path -- do not acknowledge further transmissions."

Captain Johnson called for the landing gear to be lowered by 1st Officer James as they descended through 4000 feet. The approach flaps were already down and they were still on the glide path. They could hear the gears as they were extending into place for landing. Just when they were feeling a little better about things, 1st Officer James hollered out: "Oh, no! I've got an unsafe nose gear indication on the panel!" Captain Johnson told him to recycle the gear -- "NOW!" He did that, but the nose gear still showed that it hadn't extended, and locked into place. There was a feeling of total despair now in the cockpit. There was no possibility for a "go-around" even if they didn't break out of the overcast. The whole situation was in God's hands now. There was nothing more they could do but "ride it out." They were down to 600 feet now and the ground still wasn't in sight. As they passed 300 feet, they still didn't see the runway. "This is it," 1st Officer James hollered out, "We going in!"

Lil and Eddie were already in the "crash position," with their heads down between their knees, bracing for the landing. Eddie had been raised a Christian, and he was now saying prayers he hadn't said since his youth. Lil had a very sick feeling in her stomach. She had an

overpowering premonition of the inevitable -- there was no hope.... no hope at all!

They were now below the 200 feet minimum and passing through 100 feet and still didn't have the runway! The 1st Officer threw his arms over his face. Captain Johnson shouted: "We didn't make it! My god, we're going to....."

(CONTINUED NEXT MONTH)

If you are enjoying Balboa Ron's series, and/or have story ideas for him, write: Balboa Ron Schweikert, 8301 W. Charleston Blvd. #1050, Las Vegas, NV 89117. Remember, your positive feedback is the only "salary" he receives!



Giving the "We're No. 1" sign are the winners of the team event: (left to right): Russ Miller, Washington; Ferlin Kearns, Oklahoma; Gordy Smith, Canada; Bob Lewis, Arizona; Nick Chaffin, California; and Mike Redinger, Oregon. The name of this "international team" -- The Stroke & Jokers.

North American Championships

(continued from Page 13)



Ron Huddleston gives a "thumbs up" victory sign for taking first in the Pro/Division I Doubles with partner Sam Summers. Both winners are from Oklahoma.



Also from Oklahoma were the winners of the Division II Doubles, Ron Blalock and Tom Hendrix.

Darrol Nelson (right) won the Pro Singles, and with partner Karl Spickelmier took second in the Pro/Division I Doubles. Darrol also took first with Ken Hawkes in the A-B Draw, and Fred Thumann in the Pro Draw.



1995 North American Champions

A-B Draw: Darrol Nelson, Oregon, and Kenny Hawkes, Colorado

Division I Singles: Dan Hitt, Washington

Division II Open Singles: Desi Guches, Oregon

Division II Ladies' Singles: Diana Madsen, Canada

Pro Singles: Darrol Nelson, Oregon

Pro Draw: Darrol Nelson, Oregon, and Fred Thumann, California

Pro/Division I Doubles: Ron Huddleston and Sam Summers, Oklahoma

Division II Doubles: Ron Blalock and Tom Hendrix, Oklahoma

Amateur Team Event: Nick Chaffin, California; Bob Lewis, Arizona, Gordy Smith, Canada; Russ Miller, Washington; Ferlin Kearns, Oklahoma; Mike Redinger, Oregon

Legends Draw: Jim Foran, Washington, and Bobby Williams, Texas

Deuces Wild: Bill Melton, Oklahoma; Lyndon Baize, Texas; Steve Burkett, Oklahoma; Johnny Wayne Crawford, Texas

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF THE WINNERS, SEE (AND KEEP) THE ENCLOSED FLYER.

*Is someone on your
Christmas list hoping for
a subscription to
THE BOARD TALK?*

Royal/Brown Jr. First at Sportsman's Lounge

Even though only 11 teams participated in the doubles tournament on Nov. 4 for a pot of \$1500 at the Sportsman's Lounge, Muncie, Indiana, a good time was had by all. Once again, Rick Royal and Bob Brown Jr. came out on top, with Bob Brown Sr. and George Schounce taking second place. Steve Hart and Willis Matthews finished third.

The Sportsman's Lounge, located at 1806 Memorial Dr., has two more doubles tournaments on the schedule for Feb. 24 and May 11. Owner Rudy Parris will add \$100 to each of the tournament pots. Drawings will also be held for three free gift subscriptions to *The Board Talk*, courtesy of George and Donna Wilber. For further information, call Rudy at 317-298-0901.

Jim Long Wins Bourbon Singles

Jim Long of Osceola, Indiana, was the winner of the 2 out of 3 double elimination singles tournament at the American Legion Post 424, Bourbon, Indiana, on Nov. 11.

Taking second place honors was tournament director Fritz Broka of Bourbon, with Larry Brown of

Fort Wayne, Indiana, in third. Dave Boaz of Anderson, Indiana, finished fourth place.

The Legion and Fritz thank all the participants who braved the early Winter storm and blowing snow to come and play.

The next event at the American Legion Post 424 in Bourbon is the 14th Annual Winter Doubles on Jan. 6. See details in Upcoming Events, Page 4.

A Fellow Shuffler to Remember....

A popular figure in Indiana and a highly-respected shuffler throughout the U.S.A., Emmett Wilcox, recently lost his 46-year-old son. If you'd like to let Emmett know that your thoughts are with him, send your messages to: 1703 E. 37th St., Anderson, IN 46013.

Oklahoma State Championships to Include Texas Panhandle

Those "forgotten shufflers" in the Texas Panhandle will have an opportunity to participate in the Oklahoma State/Texas Panhandle State Championships sometime in January. Watch for further details in the January issue or call Ron Huddleston, 405-843-1615.

GAMETIME SHUFFLEBOARD INTRODUCES....

(Black) ●4-3-2-1
Novice to Intermediate Player
(Red) ●3-2-1
Expert/Pro Player

	1
1	2
2	3
3	4

....A new concept that allows "quicker play" and "instant handicap scoring."

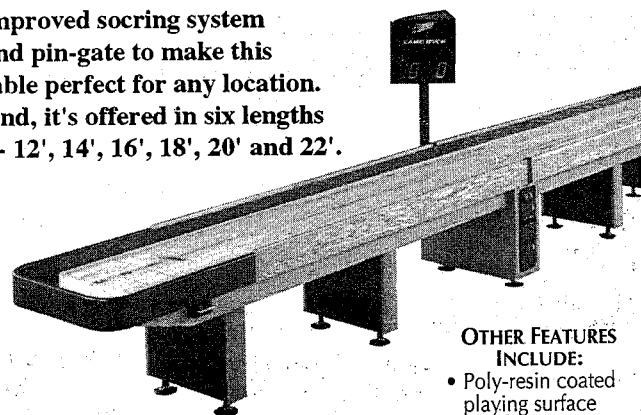
All boards are now available with 4-3-2-1 scoring. Old playfields can be refinished to accommodate this new score system.

"The new score system allows novice and pro players to compete equally in every frame. If the game is tied 13 to 13, the novice player has an equal chance to score and win."

--Bob Shaw, Fort Worth, Texas

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Bennett/Paul Tops at Riverside's Bring Partner

On Oct. 28, Roger Sawyer hosted a bring partner tournament at the Riverside Hotel in Earlville, New York. The event attracted 14 teams playing for a total purse of \$1800. Roger put an additional \$100 in the entry pot for the first place team, which was taken by Steve Bennett and Shelly Paul.



Steve Bennett (left) and Shelly Paul were winners of the bring partner tournament at the Riverside Hotel.



Ken Van Zile (left) and Ryan Fuller took second place honors.

The heavily-favored team of Dick Losee and Dale Law finished third, with Fred Traux and Lynn Nearing in fourth place.

On Sunday, eight teams entered a mixed doubles tournament. Rita Traux and Dale Law took first place, with Bob and Ellie Brooks in second. "Bob and Ellie proved to be a strong team, even though it was Ellie's first tournament," said Dale.

The Riverside Hotel thanks Service Liquor for donating shirts, hats, pins, and keychains.

"Since the last tournament, Roger has added another board -- three in all. This enables him to expand the number of teams allowed per event. Roger is doing a great job of promoting shuffleboard in the Earlville area," Dale reports.

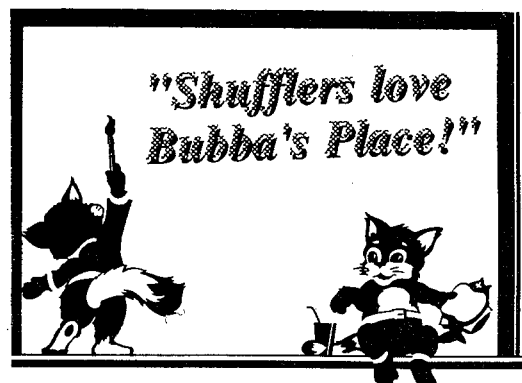
The next bring partner event at the Riverside will

be on January 13, with the sale starting at 11 a.m. There will be a \$5 round robin on Friday, Jan. 12.

For further information, contact Roger at 315-691-3081, or Dale at 607-674-6580.

***Share your Good News with
The World of Shuffleboard
through the pages of
THE BOARD TALK!***

*Information must be received by the
15th of each month to be published
in the next issue.*



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find a game of shuffleboard --
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1995-96 CALENDAR OF SHUFFLEBOARD EVENTS

DECEMBER

Dec. 1-3

Three-Event Tournament
Harvey's Place
Street, Maryland

Dec. 8-10

Scratch Todd Memorial
Harrington Moose
Harrington, Delaware

Dec. 9

"Best of Philly" Series
Singles Event
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dec. 16-17

6th Annual Santa Classic
Open Doubles
Balloon Inn
Arvada, Colorado

Dec. 16-17

5th Annual Draw Partners
Old Edison Inn
Edison, Washington

Dec. 30

Open Doubles
Beef's
Kendallville, Indiana

JANUARY 1996

Dec. 31-Jan. 2

New Year's Extravaganza
Winnipeg Hotel
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Jan. 6

Bourbon Winter Doubles
American Legion 424
Bourbon, Indiana

Jan. 13

Bring Partner Tournament
Riverside Hotel
Earlville, New York

Jan. 20

3rd in Series of Five
Beef's
Kendallville, Indiana

FEBRUARY

Jan. 30-Feb. 4

PCSA Extravaganza VIII
Aladdin Hotel/Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada

Feb. 16-18

3rd Annual Florida Open
Huddle's Sports Cafe
Pembroke Pines, Florida

Feb. 17

4th in Series of Five
Beef's
Kendallville, Indiana

Feb. 17-18

Sweethearts Tournament
Blue Goose
Port Orchard, Washington

Feb. 24

Open Doubles
Sportsman's Lounge
Muncie, Indiana

MARCH

March 2-4

Three-Event Tournament
Harvey's Place
Street, Maryland

March 23

5th in Series of Five
Beef's
Kendallville, Indiana

APRIL

April 5-7

3-Event Tournament
Avon Local 14
Toledo, Ohio

April 12-14

Three-Event Tournament
Harvey's Place
Street, Maryland

April 13

Doubles Tournament
Mississinewa Tavern
Eaton, Indiana

April 27

Open Singles
Beef's
Kendallville, Indiana

MAY

May 4

1st Hall of Fame Doubles
American Legion 424
Bourbon, Indiana

May 11

Open Doubles
Sportsman's Lounge
Muncie, Indiana

AUGUST

Aug. 30-Sept. 1

6th Annual Crazy Canucks
Labor Day Tournament
AN & AF #68
Vancouver, B.C., Canada

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any event on the calendar for
drawings, winners or helpers.*

*Just call George or
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customers across the
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Christmas Blessings

Floyd & JoAnne Stein

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SHUFFLEBOARD
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Omaha, Nebraska

ADDITIONS TO "PLAY YOUR WAY" LISTING.....

Shuffleboard establishments which have joined (or rejoined) the network this month (after publication of the "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." listing in the November issue) include:

Florida: Ice Box Bar & Grille, 225 Belvedere Rd., West Palm Beach 33406; phone 407-697-2751

Texas: Ramblin Rose, 3594 Elm Grove, Rowlett 75098; phone 214-412-2568

Crockett Club, Inc., 1355 Sheffield Hwy. Ozona 76943; phone 915-392-5689

Washington: White Elephant Tavern, 1912 Broadway, Everett 98201; phone 206-252-5200

Please make these additions to your current listing, stop in and welcome them to the shuffleboard network.

The next quarterly listing will be published in the February 1996 issue. If your favorite shuffleboard site is not a member of the network, sign them up before January 15. Their \$15 subscription fee entitles them to a free listing on the "Play Your Way" map four times a year.



*Peace and Good Will to All
BOARD TALK subscribers!*

Al & Von Stewart

**A & M AMUSEMENT
SERVICE**

El Monte, California

Vogt/Slack Defend Mixed Doubles Title at Balloon Inn

By Lou Lusero

On Oct. 13-15, the Balloon Inn, Arvada, Colorado, held its annual Mixed Doubles Bring Your Partner Tournament.

The sale was held on Friday evening, followed by that ever-increasingly popular pre-tournament event, the blind draw doubles. So popular has this event become across the shuffleboard world that more and more tournament directors are announcing this event's first-place finishers. The Crazy Canucks have even given it a name -- "The Winston Jim Blind Draw Doubles" -- and equal billing. Maybe this popular pre-tournament event ought to be advertised as a regular tournament event and wouldn't it be interesting if, across the length and breadth of Shuffleboard Land, it came to be known at all in-house tournaments as "The Winston Jim Blind Draw Doubles"? Why not? (Just thinking out loud, folks).

Anyway, beating back the challenges of several strong teams to win the Blind Draw Doubles was the duo of Jerry Reising (tough, tough home board player) and Lou Lusero, newcomer to the Denver area.

Saturday morning found 12 teams ready, each team determined to win its rightful share of the \$2800 in prize money, and each team supremely confident that, bye the bye, they would be crowned with the garlands of victory.

Then it began. Tournament play -- and the incessant chatter: Nice shot, partner. What a combo! Great lag, partner, great lag. Hang in there. We're O.K., score is only 11-4. And, of course, there were the: I'm sorry, partner, my fault. Shoulda stuck that 3. I know that rail, man -- like the back of my hand -- Damn! Hold me up, partner; I'll get it next time. Damn it, I know I know that rail! (Somebody must have cranked the boards.) I own that rail.

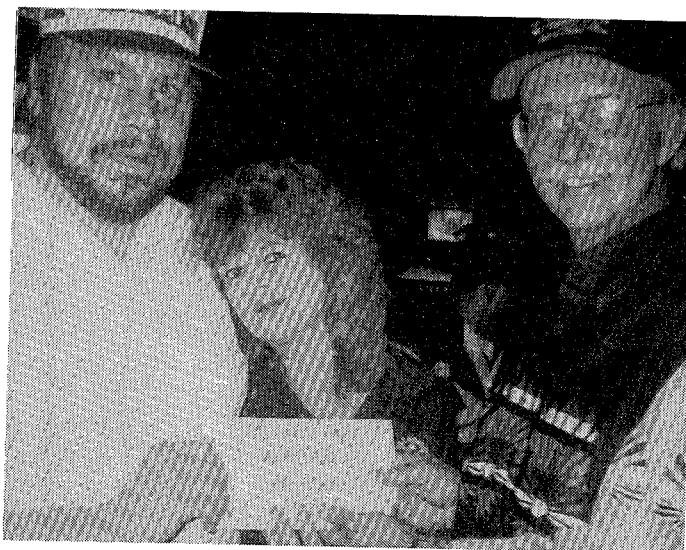
A few hours later, the losers' bracket began to fill up and, not long after that, the party bracket had its share of participants, some content that they had played their best and had simply fallen short, and there were those who had come to know, once again, that Lady Luck is both two-faced and fickle.

Late Sunday evening, when the last puck had been thrown, all had been vanquished save six. Taking third place honors was the team of Kathi Lloyd and Kenny Hawkes. The upstart team of Mabel LaChappell and Lagging Lou Lusero (cousins) made a short trip through the losers' bracket advancing to up-end the previously undefeated Gwen Vogt/Jody Slack steamroller in a tense, hotly-contested first match.

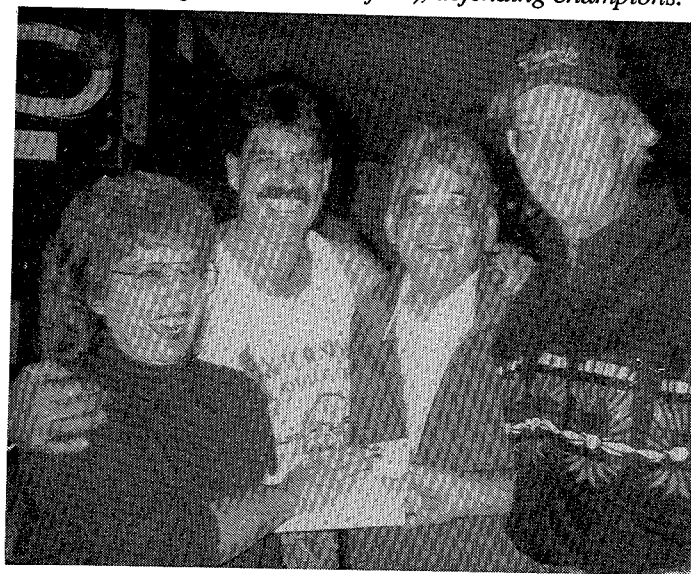
In the first game of the second set, Mable and Lou quickly found themselves on the short end of a 14-9 score. But -- Lou had the hammer. (Do we smell a Hollywood ending here? Ah, would that it were so.)

When the frame ended, the score stood at 14-14.

The unflappable Jody Slack, playing with poise and confidence and very much aware that Gwen had carried him this far, scored the game's 15th point. The second game was over rather quickly. Jody and Gwen had defended their title.



Host Ron Vogt presents the 1st place envelope to Jody and Gwen (the long and the short of it?), defending champions.



Lou and his cousin Mable settled for second place. In the Blind Draw, Lou and Jerry Reising took top honors.

The Vogts, Ron and Gwen (she of the engaging smile and quick hug, he of the slow, easy smile and quick wit) were, as usual, perfect hosts. The food (feast, actually) was delicious and the trio of beautiful bartenderesses were lacking neither in attentiveness nor affection.

The Vogts extend their sincerest thanks and deepest appreciation to all players, spectators, volunteers and employees. The next big event at the Balloon Inn is the 6th Annual Santa Classic Open Doubles, Dec. 16-17.

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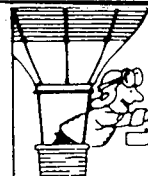
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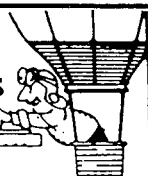


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