

The Board Talk

Published monthly by George & Donna Wilber,
503 E. Sheridan Rd., Lansing, MI 48906 Phone: 517-484-4976

Vol. 14, No. 7

July 1997

Hoosiers Host Board Talk Shufflers Reunion No. 13

By George & Donna Wilber

For 12 years, *The Board Talk* hosted an annual Shufflers' Reunion Tournament in various parts of the U.S.A. Who would offer to be host for the dreaded No. 13?

Casting any superstitions aside, the Voorhis Family opened their hearts and The Locker Bar in Marion, Indiana, on June 11-15 for this event and it turned out to be a Lucky 13 for a number of shufflers. This year's event was held in memory of Marisa Voorhis, beloved daughter of Buss and Martha Voorhis, sister and sister-in-law of pro shuffler Bobby and Deb Voorhis. Marisa, a delightful young woman who captured the hearts of all who met her, passed away earlier this year after a long and valiant battle with cancer.

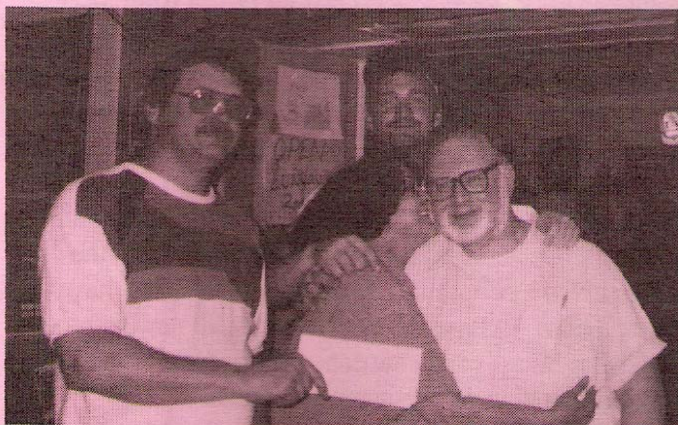
With \$1,000 added by the Locker Bar, The Palace Bar in Fairmount, and *The Board Talk* for the open doubles and singles, the pot for the four scheduled events and two "spontaneous" competitions totalled over \$21,000. Add to that door prizes awarded to more than half of the participants, the expertise of director/bracketeer Rob Kern to keep things running smoothly, hospitable hosts and staff, and a fun-loving crowd, and the result was a Lucky 13!

ON THE INSIDE.....

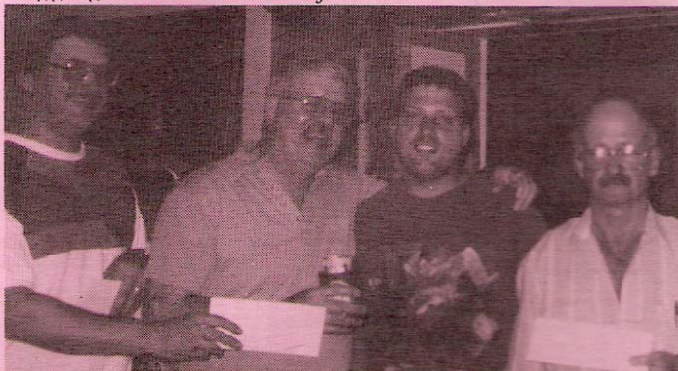
Shuffleboard Needs a P.R. Campaign -- Jim Manders believes shuffleboard must "clean up its act" before gaining sponsorship.....Page 2
Some of us are only in it for fun -- Some people take the "silly game" too seriously, according to Tony Howard.....Page 15
Our Sport Loses a Gentle Man -- Pro shuffler Billy Chiles of California dies.....Page 6
Eddie Versus "The Man" -- Balboa Ron's Frisco Eddie finally encounters the dreaded "Man" and scores -- or does he?.....Page 18

Camp/Ingram/Goodman Win A-B-C Draw

Thirty shufflers signed up for Wednesday's A-B-C draw and it was Hoosiers all the way in the winners' circle.



Host Bobby Voorhis (left) waits patiently to present the winners' envelope while Jeri Ingram gives her captain, Beef Camp (owner of Beef's in Kendallville), a hug. Third member of the winning team was Jason Goodman, hugging both Jeri and Beef.



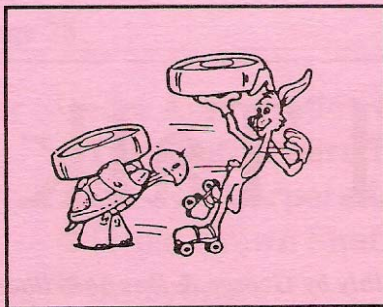
Second place finishers were Glen Ingram, Tom Nolder and Orris Hughes.

Taking third in the ABC draw were Emmet Wilcox, Steve Schuyler and host Buss Voorhis.

McDermott Tops Field of 30 in Singles

John McDermott of Michigan took top honors in the graduated entry open singles which attracted 30

(continued on Page 24)



Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views from The World of Shuffleboard

Bob and Cindy: A Boon for Shuffleboard

Bob Houchin and Cindy Yarbrough have purchased the Gold Nugget in Arlington, Texas, and are dedicated to making this the very best club for shuffleboard in America. They maintain five good boards all the time and have the capacity to bring in eight additional boards for big tournaments.

They host the Presidents' Day tournament, the Lone Star Classic, the Texas Open, and David Williams Thanksgiving Classic. These are all major tournaments with participants from across the nation. They work with others such as Alan Primrose, Ron Huddleston and Jimmy L. so there is no conflict of time for any tourney.

Unlike some bar owners who only want to take and prosper from shuffleboard, Bob and Cindy are givers. They have worked hard and poured money into the club to make it a better place for the shooters. They have installed new carpeting, new ceilings, all new bathroom fixtures, murals and shuffleboard pictures for the walls, plus other items too numerous to mention.

In addition to all this, they provide food for the weekly weekend tournaments, put in added money and have been known to sponsor a player who is down on his luck.

These are caring, giving folks and shuffleboard is lucky to have patrons like these.

Bobby Williams, Fort Worth, Texas

In our dealings with Bob and Cindy, via phone, mail and fax, we have found them to be real professionals and are looking forward to visiting with them in person some day soon. We hope shufflers across the nation will reward the personal and monetary investments they have

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made to serve those involved in our sport with their support and patronage. They deserve it!

We salute them for working with other major tournament sponsors in the area to avoid conflicting dates. It will probably surprise Bob and Cindy that they did conflict with an event held hundreds of miles away in a little tiny town in Indiana with their May 1-4 tournament. Sponsors of the 36th Annual Bourbon Spring Doubles say the reason participation was down this year -- from 70 teams in 1996 to 33 in 1997 -- was because of the Lone Star Classic. That speaks well for both locations and the general "health" of shuffleboard.

Woodie Says: It's Folks Like Shelly Who Keep the Game Alive

I liked the Shelly Myers story on Page 1 of The Board's June issue. All she did was describe all of us. I have been playing this game for 45 years and the hand-sweat is still there.

Talking about shuffleboard being dead, it's folks like her who keep it alive. It's the "little people" who keep it alive. The shuffleboard that set in the Musette Bar for 30 years and was pulled out for darts -- the reason for that is that no one was pushing shuffleboard.

The pros have their place in The World of Shuffleboard, but without folks like Tim and Shelly who push the game, it would die.

Shelly is a good writer. We need more of her kind of stuff in The Board Talk.

Woodie Cockrum, Cuba, Missouri

We agree wholeheartedly, Woodie. Thanks for your response to the "good news" in our World.

Shuffleboard Needs a P.R. Campaign to Gain Sponsorship

I just finished reading Ed Galke's interesting essay on local and national shuffleboard sponsorship. Ed is right in his assertion that shuffleboard needs to be able to sell itself in order to obtain the kind of local and national help that has been earned by golf and bowling. I think it would be better to leave golf out of the correlation, comparing shuffleboard to pool and bowling.

In addition to a demographic study of shuffleboard, we need to find out what would make the game more

(continued on Page 19)

Dan Hitt/Al Pease Win BZ's 5th Annual Classic

Eighteen teams braved the Pacific Northwest's cold, rainy weather to vie for \$3,500 in prize money at BZ's 5th Annual Shuffleboard Classic on April 19-20 in Burien, Washington.

Dan Hitt of Spokane and Al Pease of Pacific Beach took home winning honors with BZ regulars Dave Arndt of Tacoma and Mike Thorpe of Seattle earning second.



Dan Hitt and Al Pease (right) took top honors at BZ's 5th Annual Shuffleboard Classic. Dave Arndt and Mike Thorpe (left) finished second.

Mel Hohn, owner of the Fir Cone Tavern, and Grant Manning, both of Shelton, took third place. The Buhl Brothers, Doug of Springfield, Oregon, and Jim of Bremerton, settled for fourth. Doug and his partner, Darrol Nelson, were unable to defend their three-year running championship due to Darrol's inability to play after he suffered injuries in a motorcycle mishap.

John Hyatt and Kevin Larkin of Kelso, and Mike Waters, Tacoma, and Sparky Sparkman, Portland, Oregon, shared fifth place honors.

In addition to providing a tasty chicken feed on Saturday night, BZ owners Craig and Lisa Sherwood added \$500 to the prize money, according to reporter John Musgrave.

In Friday night's A-B draw, Dick Doak of Shelton and newcomer Dennis Smith of Tacoma were the winners. Dave Arndt and Dennis McPherson, Burien, were second. Dan Hitt and Mark Minium, Burien, finished third, with Jerry Madson, Des Moines, and Mike Waters, in fourth.

(Editor's Note: BZ's has extended an invitation for The Board Talk's 15th Annual Shufflers' Reunion to be held at their location in 1999. Our 10th "reunion" was held at the Whistling Oyster in 1994 and we had a great time in the Pacific Northwest. Stayed tuned for updates.)

Lone Star Classic: Tough Shuffleboard, Good Times!

The 1st Annual Lone Star Classic, held at the Gold Nugget in Arlington, Texas, on May 1-4, provided participants with four days of tough shuffleboard and good times (see Bobby Williams' tribute to new owners Bob Houchin and Cindy Yarbrough on Page 2).

In the Division I singles, Bill Melton double-dipped Billy Mays for first place. Third went to David Williams and fourth place to Bobby Williams. In the Division II singles, first place went to Bob Houchin, with Mark Spielman in second, Teri Hyman in third, and Teri Walker in fourth.

The Division I draw was won by Bill Melton and Tammy Denson, with Teri Billard and Tommy McBurnett taking second place honors. Fred Boyd and Tony Howard finished third. In the Division II draw, Teri Walker and Rob Houchin took first place, with Kay Nelson and Trish Remick in second, and Dan Bell and Carol Audett in third.

Winners of the team event were David Williams, Tammy Denson, Rob Houchin and Jack Snell. Ron Huddleston, Lee Duncan, David Veasey and Cindy Yarbrough took second place, with Bill Melton, Mark Melton, Teri Walker and Bob Houchin in third.

In the Division I bring partner event, first and second place monies were split by the teams of Johnny Wayne Crawford and Bobby Williams, and David Williams and Tammy Denson. Third place went to Bill Melton and Lee Duncan. In the Division II bring partner, first place went to J.K. Plyer and David Veasey with Jack Davis and Mike Rial in second, and Dan Bell and Lee Guthrie in third.

There was an additional pot for MVPs and the winners were: Bill Melton, 1st; David Williams, 2nd; with Bob and Rob Houchin tied for 3rd.

"It was nice to see some out-of-towners who had not been to The Nugget in some time: John Cason from Tulsa, Danny Hersom from Amarillo, Brenda Moore and Duane (who is developing into a shooter) from San Antonio, and Doc from Houston," said Bobby Williams. "Thanks to Bob and Cindy who put out great food for the tournament."

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Upcoming Events Across the Nation

New York

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT AT DEW DROP INN, WATERLOO, JULY 31-AUG. 3

The Dew Drop Inn, Waterloo, located in the beautiful Finger Lakes Region of New York State, just two hours drive east of Niagara Falls, will host their 1997 National Tournament on July 31 through Aug. 3.

Action will start on Thursday night with the weekly \$10 round robins. Friday at 6 p.m. will be the mixed doubles, \$20 per team entry, with the open singles, \$25 entry, starting at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday. The draw partner tourney, \$10 per person entry, is scheduled for Saturday at 4 p.m., with the open doubles, \$30 per team, starting at noon on Sunday. All events are single game, double elimination, with a sponsor sale before each.

If you haven't sent in your entry form, which was in the June issue, better call Tracie Fridley at 315-539-5729 to see if there are still openings. These events have sold out early in past years. All play is on four boards. An open buffet will be served to all participants.

Indiana

OPEN DOUBLES, SPORTSMAN'S LOUNGE, MUNCIE, JULY 26

The Sportsman's Lounge, 1806 E. Memorial Drive in Muncie will host an open doubles on July 26. Entry fee is \$30 per team with a payout of 55-25-10-10 for 16 or more teams. It will be a double elimination event played on two boards. The sponsor sale starts at 11:30 a.m. with play immediately following. \$100 will be added to the payout.

For further information, call the Sportsman's Lounge, 317-289-0701.

Michigan

2ND ANNUAL RUDY STOBER MEMORIAL, STOBER'S, LANSING, JULY 25-27

The 2nd Annual Rudy Stober Memorial Tournament has been scheduled for July 25-27 at Stober's Lounge,

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."

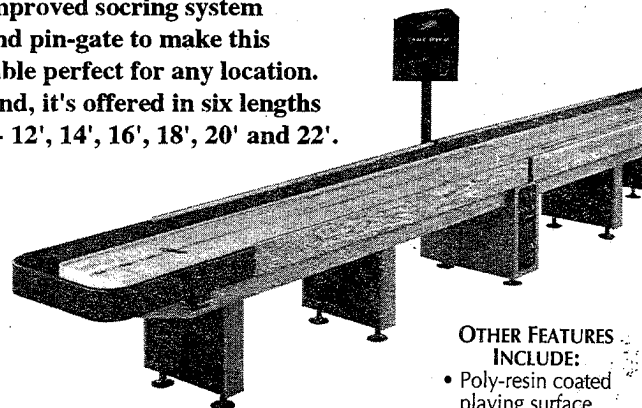
All boards are now available with 4-3-2-1 scoring. Old playfields can be refinished to accommodate this new score system.

"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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Gametime has taken the best in shuffleboard and made it better! We've added an improved scoring system and pin-gate to make this table perfect for any location. And, it's offered in six lengths -- 12', 14', 16', 18', 20' and 22'.



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- Poly-resin coated playing surface
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GAMETIME

7100 Burns, North Richland Hills, Texas 76118; Phone: 817-284-3499 FAX: 817-595-1506

812 E. Michigan, Lansing. The event will include round robins on Friday night, a doubles on Saturday with a \$40 per team entry, and a singles on Sunday, \$20 entry.

For further information, contact Carrie at 517-374-7042.

SKIP'S/BOARD TALK FALL BASH, HOUGHTON LAKE, SEPT. 4-7

Everybody came on Thursday anyway, so Skip and George have extended this 7th Annual Skip's/Board Talk Fall Bash another day. Details are still to be ironed out, but mark your calendars now for Sept. 4-7 at Skip's Lounge, Houghton Lake, in the heart of Michigan's Vacation Wonderland.

This is the FUN-FUN-FUN tournament of the year, and the money isn't too bad either. The Red Baron will be there along with many of the other characters who make this annual event an experience you'll never forget!

For information, call George at 517-484-4976. For lodging information, call Skip at 517-422-5631.

Missouri

2ND SW INVITATIONAL AT BARBARA'S BEER GARDEN, SPRINGFIELD, SEPT. 25-27

Barbara's Beer Garden, 2109 N. Glenstone, Springfield, will host the 2nd Annual Southwest Missouri Invitational Shuffleboard Tournament on Sept. 25-27. Events include a singles on the 25th, \$20 entry fee, and a bring partner event on the 26th and 27th, \$30 per team entry, with \$100 added. In the bring partner, -1's through 1's must bring a partner with a 2.5 or higher rating. This event will be limited to the first 20 teams paid so reserve your spot. Connie McCall will be the director.

For information, call Barbara's at 417-866-9871.

Washington

GRAND MASTERS PLUS! WHISTLING OYSTER, QUILCENE, JULY 30-AUG. 3

The Whistling Oyster Cocktail Lounge in Quilcene, Washington, will host its 8th Annual Grand Masters Plus! on July 30-August 3. The "Plus" will include an A-B-C Draw on Wednesday, July 30, \$25 per player entry; an open singles, \$100 entry, on Thursday; and a draw partner doubles, \$25 per player on Friday. All this leads up to the Grand Masters on Saturday and Sunday, \$150

per team entry.

Another "Plus" will be Bill and Sandee's famous seafood buffet, worth the trip in itself!

Check the enclosed flyer for more details. Questions? Call Bill Bailey, 360-765-9508 or 765-3436.

9TH ANNUAL "AFFAIR" AT TOWN TAVERN, SEQUIM, JULY 18-20

The Town Tavern in beautiful downtown Sequim will host its 9th Annual Shuffleboard Affair on July 18-20. The open doubles, \$50 entry, is a double elimination event, 2 out of 3 in the winner's bracket and one 17-point game in the loser's bracket. The sponsor sale starts at noon with play following. Draw partners, \$10 per person, will be held on Friday night. Door prizes and a tavern feed on Saturday night are added features.

For further information and/or lodging recommendations, call director Jim Manders, 360-683-4799.

Oregon

1ST SOUTHERN OREGON DOUBLES, EAGLES 2093, MEDFORD, AUG. 15-17

The Eagles #2093, 2000 Table Rock Rd., Medford, will host the 1st Annual Southern Oregon Doubles Tournament on Aug. 15-17. The event will start with a Friday night draw partners at 7 p.m. sharp, \$20 per person entry. The sale for the open doubles will start at 10 a.m. on Saturday, with play immediately following on four boards. Entry fee is \$50 per team.

"The members of the Eagles #2093 are very excited about this upcoming tourney," said auxiliary member Georganna Brand. "We have RV parking, good food, dancing, a hard liquor bar, friendship, and motels that are close by. Come and join us. Meet new friends and acquaint yourselves with old friends you have met over the years and haven't seen for awhile. We are looking forward to seeing each and everyone of you."

Tournament director is Mike Kinney, 541-826-7793, or for more information and lodging suggestions, you can call John King at 541-734-7254, or your hosts at the Eagles Lodge #2093, 541-773-9056.

This is an Evergreen Shuffleboard Association sanctioned tournament.

***More Upcoming Events
on Page 23.....***

As The Puck Turns.....

By George & Donna Wilber

After we had mailed the June issue, we received a call from Jolene Lembke with the sad news that Billy Chiles, one of our favorite people in The World of Shuffleboard, had died of a heart attack on May 21. While we were agonizing over words for an appropriate tribute to Billy, the mail carrier delivered this letter from Darrol Nelson:

"The Shuffleboard Family has lost another great. Billy Chiles has passed on.

"Billy was the first 'road player' I ever met and played. We met where I then lived in Roseburg, Oregon. It was the beginning of a friendship that lasted and grew for 30 years. Bill was one of, if not the kindest, most gentle human beings I have ever had the pleasure of knowing and calling friend.

"In a eulogy given at a recent tournament, where we received the news of Billy's passing, it was said by Fred Thuman that in all the years of knowing Billy, he had never once heard him raise his voice! We all thought about it and no one else had either.

"Our love and deepest sympathy go out to Billy's wife, Chris, and their children, Eric and Lauren.

"Billy was a great shuffleboard player, perhaps overshadowed only by his kind, gentle, and giving nature.

"Go with God's speed and all of our love."

Thank you, Darrol, for sharing your beautiful tribute to a man who will be sorely missed by The World of Shuffleboard.

Jolene informed us that a benefit tournament for Chris will be held at the Silver Spur in San Bernardino on June 14. What was planned to be a local event grew into more than that, with the always-generous, compassionate Bellflower Bruce planting a good-sized "seed" for the Chiles love packet and Al Stewart coming to the rescue with his expertise and giving spirit. Look for the results of this effort in the next issue.

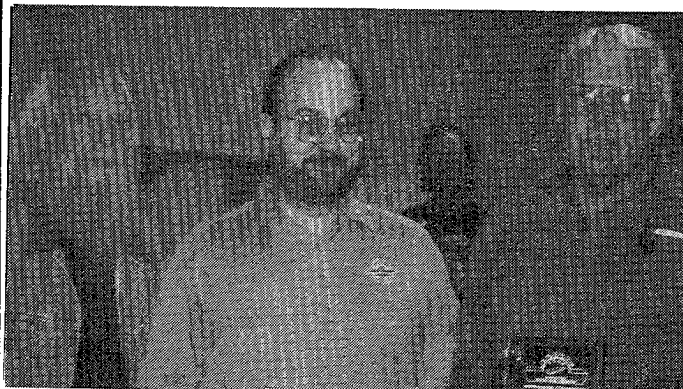
Those of you who didn't know until now about this great loss, you may send your messages of sympathy and/or donations to Chris Chiles, 7591 Cunningham, Highland, CA 92346. We know, from personal experience, that those notes and cards ease the grief.

California shuffleboard leaders have been talking for some time now about forming a state Hall of Fame. Billy certainly deserves consideration for induction. Perhaps his untimely death will spur efforts to get that project underway.

Some Memories of Billy.....



Billy was a very serious guy, but one event that brought a smile was his doubles win at the PCSA Extravaganza in 1989 with partner Bobby Voorhis of Indiana



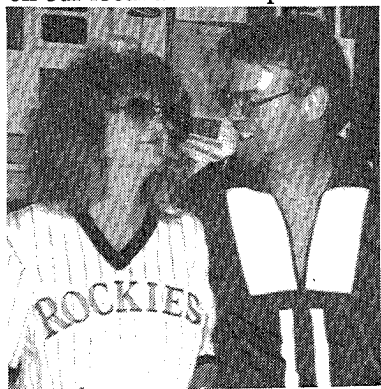
It was a personal victory, after a heart attack, to take third in the PCSA singles in 1993. His friends Bill Melton of Oklahoma and John McDermott of Michigan took first and second.

Just coming back from our 13th Annual Shufflers' Reunion at the Locker Bar in Marion, Indiana, where we had an ABC draw and a graduated entry singles, we have a more personal respect for the Bowers Rating System. Compared to last year's Skip's/Board Talk Fall Bash, where a group of area representatives had to meet in director/bracketeer Rob Kern's room to make some crucial decisions for the ABC draw (and were accused of making some wrong ones), it was a piece of cake and really speeded things up. There were just a few of the entrants who were not rated. Thank you, Ron and Debbie! Once again, we urge you to offer to compensate the Bowers for their countless hours of research and postage for a system that makes tournament directors' jobs much, much easier. And for those of you who are serving as raters, please provide feedback to them on new players. We saw a lot of shufflers who only play locally now, but with their talent and a little encouragement, they'll be a force to be reckoned with on a much broader scale.

George & Donna Wilber
Publishers

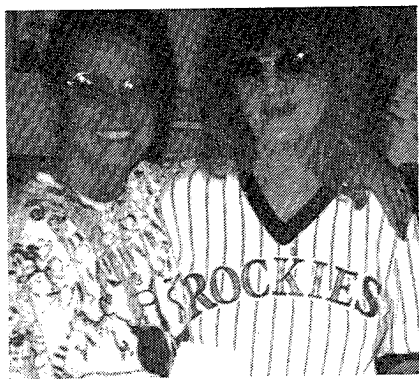
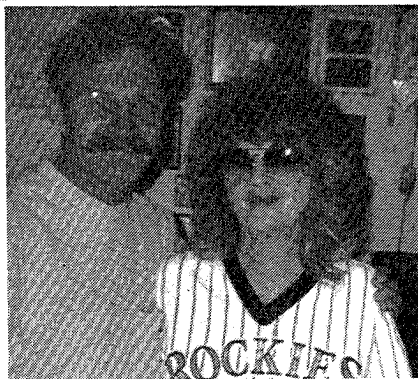
Hawks/Longwell/Lloyd Tops at Balloon Inn's Div. I (& under) Event

The Balloon Inn, Arvada, Colorado, held its Division I (and under) singles and doubles tournament in April. "It was a great success," reports host Ron Vogt. "We have started handicapping all players in the Denver area based on our local area of experience."



Singles winner Kenny Hawks accepts congrats and first-place money envelope from Balloon Inn hostess Gwen Vogt.

Jerry Van took second place honors in the singles.



....and a happy Gail Cowan settles for third place in the Division I singles.



In the doubles, Gary Longwell and Kathi Lloyd finished first, with Mike Hedges and Gwen Vogt taking second place honors.



Gail Cowan and Char Wagaman give each other a congratulatory hug for finishing third in the doubles.

The 8th Annual Balloon Open was held on June 19-22; see next month's issue for results. A Pro-Am Draw and Singles is scheduled for Aug. 14-17. For information, call Ron or Gwen at 303-425-9823.

Riverside's Memorial Weekend Event Tops \$12,000

The Riverside in Earlville, New York, hosted a Memorial Day weekend tournament, attracting shufflers from several states and netting a total \$12,000 purse. Action started on Thursday night with \$5 round robins. The first was won by Dennis Leehive, New Jersey, and Cindy Miner, New York. Jimmy Kumpula of Michigan and Ryan Fuller of New York took the second one.

The mixed doubles started Friday night, with 26 teams entering (good thing host Roger Sawyer brought in a fifth board, reports Dale Law) and finished on Saturday.

Roger Sawyer (the guy in the black hat) congratulates mixed doubles winners Al DiBella and Louise Freer of Pennsylvania.



Jeff Davies and Terry Morgan of New York took second place honors with John and Sharon Canino of New York finishing third. Lynn and Deb Nearing of Ohio took fourth. Fifth and sixth spots went to Arlo and Jane Johnson of New York, Rick Niblett of Maryland and Pat Chase of New York.

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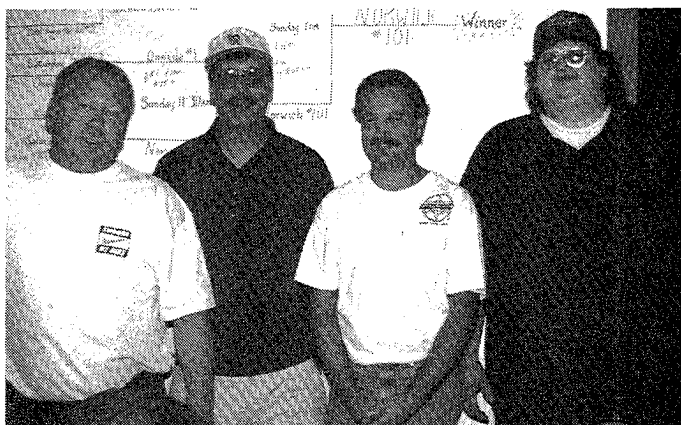
Riverside (continued from Page 7)



Jeff Davies and Terry Morgan (left) of New York took second place, with John and Sharon Canino (right) in third.

Doug Fridley Jr. of New York captured first place in Saturday's singles with Louise Freer taking second. Finishing third was Ed Galke of New York. Dave Shewbridge of Maryland took fourth place. Lonzo Knight and Sam Jones, both from Maryland, tied for fifth.

While the singles event was still going strong, the draw partner was started with 42 players tossing their names in a hat.



Dale Shewbridge of Maryland (left) and Bob White of New York were tops in the draw partner. Dale Law and Ryan Fuller (right) of New York took second place.

Nineteen teams entered Sunday's bring partner event. Top winners were Len Dell and Rick Niblett of Maryland, with Jim Wallace, Maryland, and Butch Kelly of Pennsylvania in second place.



Len Dell and Rick Niblett (center) took first, with Jim Wallace and Butch Kelly finishing second.

Third in the bring partner went to Lonzo Knight and Sam Jones of Maryland, with Dick Losee and Dale Law of New York finishing fourth.

Players from eight states participated in this tournament, with G.W. Richardson of Arizona making the longest trip.

"A special thanks to Louise Freer for all her help Bob White for the sales, Dick Losee, Bob Carpenter and Marv Smith for lending me a hand with the brackets, and everyone participating to make this tournament a big success," said Dale Law. "Thanks also for the suggestions for improving future events."

During the bring partner event, it was noticed that the set of old American weights was missing. Riverside host Roger Sawyer has spent a lot of time and money to support shuffleboard. Adding \$500 to an event and then having your weights come up missing is NOT the kind of thank you he deserves. If anyone has any information or ideas on where the weights are, please call Dale Law at 607-674-6580.

Mother Nature Howled, But Didn't Dampen 1997 Arbuckle Open Spirits

The 1997 Arbuckle Open, held over the Memorial Day weekend at Prim's Wagon Wheel, Wynnewood, Oklahoma, once again proved to be a "one of a kind" success (no pros allowed in this big event). However, this year, Mother Nature was the star attraction with some 80-miles-an-hour winds and tornadoes in the area.

"Huge elm trees just one block away were pulled out of the ground; some landed on houses with flying objects everywhere," reports host Al Primrose. "The lights were out for two hours and everyone sat around in candle light and flash lights. Not one scratch was suffered by anyone in the parking lot, which was full of campers and cars. Even Herb's tent was still standing, with Herb in it! What a time we had here in this valley."

There were 28 teams in the sweetheart draw with Linda Nobles of Texas and Larry Barthell of Oklahoma taking top honors. Pam Worsham and Ken Storck of Oklahoma finished second. Other winners were: Penny McHarg, Texas, and Lynn Tice, Oklahoma, 3rd; Brenda Watts, Oklahoma, and Dave Ewing, Texas, 4th.

In the open draw, Fred Boyd of Texas and Fred Washington of Oklahoma came out ahead in the field of 35 contenders. Dino Fleming of Oklahoma and Eddie Wood of Texas took second place. Fred Harris of Texas and Mike Roach of Nebraska finished third, with Kathy Yingst and Sally Goff of Oklahoma in fourth. Other finishers were: Lois Lambrecht of Oklahoma and Gary

(continued on Page 10)



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Arbuckle Open *(continued from Page 8)*

Kennedy of Texas, 5th; Tom Hendrix of Oklahoma and Chuck Dewees, Florida, 6th.

There were 31 entries in the Division I Singles, with Ed White of Texas coming out on top. Rick Jones of Oklahoma took second place honors with Gary Kennedy of Texas in third, and Mike Roach of Nebraska in fourth.

There were also 31 players vying for a share of the pot in the Division II Singles. All players in the winner's circle were from Oklahoma: U.J. West, 1st; Weldon Lambert, 2nd; Shane Summers, 3rd; and Bobby (the Flash) Kimbro, 4th.

There were 12 teams in the doubles (after the storm) and it was the Nebraska visitors, Dan Perrigo and Mike Roach, who took top honors. Second went to Kenny Hawks of Colorado and Tom McBurnett of Texas.

"Thanks to The Shuffleboard Federation for donating a set of weights, won in a drawing by Dino Fleming. Thanks also to all the -1's and O's who attended even though they couldn't compete," said Al. "Thanks to C.W. Walker, Bill Wooldridge, Brenda Watts, and the employees of the Wagon Wheel, who worked hard to make the Arbuckle Open a great time for everyone."

Al and most, if not all, of the Arbuckle Open participants will be at the Southwest Open at the American Legion in Del City over the 4th of July weekend and look forward to seeing you there.

Last Hurrah (for the season) at Harold's, Omaha, Nebraska

Harold's held the season finale in Omaha, Nebraska, on June 6-8 with 21 teams participating in the handicapped event.

"Thanks to Harold Sr. and Harold Jr. for adding money to the pot and supplying all the hungry players with food," said Annie Sloger. "Special thanks to Larry Laws and Don Zahm for running a great tournament."



Scotty "Dog" Steinmeyer and Bob Greig took top honors in this tournament.

Miller/Wilson Winners of Shotze's 3rd Everett Invitational

By John C. Martin

We changed the format for Shotze's 3rd Annual Invitational Tournament from a bring your partner to an A-B draw in an effort to attract greater participation from the many shufflers to the North of us in Skagit County and Canada, but they still didn't show. Only Richard Larson and Russ Miller ventured away from their home boards. We still had a good event with 13 very evenly matched teams battling it out for a share of over \$2000 in prize money.

After buying themselves for only \$50 in the sponsor sale, the "colonel," Russ Miller (in spite of an extremely painful rotator cuff) and Steve Wilson won without losing a match. Steve said to be sure and tell The Board Talk: "I'm back," as he was heading to Alaska. Dave Arndt (the Wizard) drew Dennis McPherson and brought him to the finals for the first time in his life, but couldn't quite handle Steve and the Colonel. Mike Thorpe and Frank Mako, an old timer who recently started playing again, took third. Chuck Norris and Mark Minnum came in fourth. Darrol Nelson tried hard but couldn't quite hold up Lyle Hunnicut, another old timer who came back for his first tournament in about 10 years without prior practice. They came in just one game short of the money.

Shotze's provided \$200 added money, plus a fantastic feed of pizzas, made from scratch, that left us all stuffed.



Terry Roberts and Linda Ritter(left) took second place. Don Zahm and Tim Regan finished third.

Fourth place was taken by Mike Rooney and Chuck Matherly. Tied for fifth and sixth were Jay Watson and Larry Zahm, Kim Merchen and Annie Sloger.

"I ask everyone to say a special prayer for Billy Vandeberghe, a great person and a great player," Annie said. "Billy had a recent stay in the hospital and we all wish him the best. WE LOVE YOU, BILLY!"

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Mr. G's 1st Memorial Tournament is Smashing Success!

By Sal Reynoso

Imagine having your first tournament and not knowing what to expect. It was incredible! There were 21 teams for the ABC draw and 16 teams for the bring partner event at Mr. G's in Visalia, California, over the Memorial Day weekend. A total of 79 players in the two events played for a share of the prize money which exceeded \$10,000. With all the motorhomes and trailers set up in the parking lot, Mr. G's looked like an RV park. The place was filled wall to wall with a great group of very friendly shuffleboard players and friends. What a weekend!

Entry fees were \$25 per person in the ABC draw and \$100 per team in the bring your partner event. The format was best 2 out of 3 double elimination in both events with the loser's bracket in the ABC draw playing a single game to 21.

Many very close games were played in the ABC draw until the team consisting of Nick Chaffin, Judy Baker and Debbie Merhoff finally prevailed in the championship match over the team of Donnie Cox, Robbie Gann and Bev Chaffin. Nick's team won this event without losing even one game. The team led by Donnie lost their very first match of the tournament and then steadily knocked

off one opponent after another in the loser's bracket until finally running out of gas in the finals.



Winners of the ABC draw at Mr. G's were: Captain Nick Chaffin, Judy Baker (left) and Debbie Merhoff from the Dixie Belle. (Read Dixie Debbie's observations of this tournament following this report.)

Other teams placing in the money were made up of Larry Bailey, Bob Ruiz, Joe Scott, 3rd; Tony Soza, Sandy Flood, Marie Coulter, 4th; Sal Reynoso, Evelyn



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Hughes, Doug Panceroon, 5th; Jerry Davis, Steve Oncil, Linda Wright, 6th.

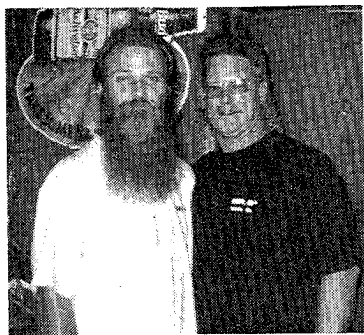


Captain Donnie Cox congratulates his team members Bev Chaffin and Robbie Gann for their second place finish.

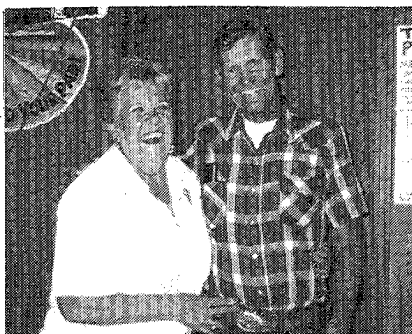
Host/owner Steve Floyd and Nick Chaffin (winner again) took top honors in the bring your partner event. They were undefeated and won a tough championship match after losing the opening game to...



Second place finishers Larry Newell and David Keithahn.



Jim McDonald and Evelyn Hughes took third place in the bring partner event at Mr. G's.



Bobbie Goldsmith and Russ Lankston took fourth place.

Special thanks to A.Z. Turnbo and Marion Bailey who brought and set up boards for the tournament and assisted with keeping the boards ready to play during the tournament. Mr. G's usually has just one shuffleboard in

the house. This tournament would have been impossible without their boards.

Special recognition also to Joanie Swenson and Paul Weber, Joanie for her expertise in setting up the brackets and Paul for supplying the brackets, his assistance to Joanie, and for running the sale on Friday. Thanks also to Wes Martin for his hard work helping me keep the matches going and preparing the boards for play, and to Janet Barbee and George Stinson for their outstanding deep pit barbecue. The bartenders also did a great job of keeping everyone satisfied and supplied with their favorite libations.

Thanks to all participants and those who assisted with our 1st Annual Memorial Day Tournament. We look forward to seeing all of you again next year.

On the Road Again With The Dixie Bellers....

By Dixie Debbie Merhoff

This time it was to the heart of California, gateway to the Great Sequoia National Park, beautiful Visalia. The Dixie Belle (Downey, California) contingent was over 20 strong with players and spectators converging on Mr. G's ready to play shuffleboard and party. Eileen brought along our official head party animal, Wes Eades, and Gary brought along first runner-up head party animal, Susie Jones, and we commenced, everyone in their own way, to PLAY.

Steve and Patricia Floyd's 1st Annual Memorial Day Tournament was fabulous! They kicked off the event with a huge round robin which started as an A-B draw, but turned into an ABC due to the large turnout of enthusiastic players. The winners were "Superman" Nick Chaffin, my long-time friend (who is still 361 days older than I) Chris Brown, and the soon-to-be infamous Branden Coulter.

Thanks to Nick and Judy for being wonderful team mates in the official ABC draw. Bobby Golightly said recently that "winning is the ultimate" and I'll tell you, if it isn't, it sure is darn close. I found out afterward that people say Nick isn't a patient man. Wrong! I should have called him Saint Nick instead of Superman. As our A player captain, he asked nothing more than for us to do the best we could. If a shot was missed, bless him, he didn't come down with apoplexy -- just stayed calm, steady and kept us playing a smart game.

Judy has been with Mr. G's since Mr. G. himself put the first shuffleboard in this bar. Judy told me he said if she was going to work there, she should learn to play shuffleboard so she set about doing just that.....with her right hand. Well, that wouldn't do for Mr. G, so to facilitate her game, he just tied that right hand behind her

(continued on Page 14)

Dixie Bellers *(continued from Page 13)*

back until she learned to play left-handed. I found this just a little extreme but, let me tell you, it worked! Judy, it was nice to meet and have you as a team mate.

Marie Chaffin (on second place team), bless her heart, rooted for our team right up to the last match when it was her team against her husband's. Needless to say, our cheering section quit right then.

When Joe Muniz plays shuffleboard, he says: "It's time to go to work, you know? This is kind of like a job." He's absolutely right. It is hard work, but winning is worth it.

Dixie Bellers Chris Brown and Susie Jones played in the bring partner event and even though they were knocked out, Steve says their match against these women was the toughest one they played.

This tournament was so much fun! It was well-organized, on time, the boards in excellent condition. The bracketeers kept them all in play at all times, which is not always an easy task, but is so important to a good tournament.

The food, always important to shuffleboarders, was done in a pit barbecue and very delicious, eclectic in nature, but delicious. What was that I ate again, Steve? I want the same thing next year.

We are already talking about next year's tournament. Steve has promised us another great Memorial Day weekend and I know "Wild Man" Floyd won't let us down.

On the side: Dixie Belle's new owner, Mike Woo, was seen at the card table in Mr. G's. He was also spotted participating in the sales, plus I understand he and a few D.B. cohorts were spotted fishing for Coors Lite in one of Visalia's local fishing spots. What kind of bait were you guys using anyway?

Mike, co-owner Steve, and all of us at The Dixie Belle, especially me, hope to see you here soon. Come fishing or.....be caught at The Dixie Belle in Downey, California.

Good Turnout for Tolo Tavern's Memorial Weekend Tournament

The Tolo Tavern in Central Point, Oregon, held a three-event tournament over the Memorial Day weekend attracting good participation.

There were 38 players in Friday's draw partner event. The winners were Mike Kinney of Eagle Point, Oregon, and Mike Redinger from Portland. Second place honors went to Frank Mako and Ray Olson, both from Longview, Washington. Another pair of Longview players, Don Mitchell and Mike Olson, took third place. Frank Powers of Longview and Sparky Williams of

Springfield, Oregon, finished fourth.

Thirty players participated in Saturday's singles, with Lyle Larsen of Gold Hill, Oregon, coming out on top. Desi Guches of Central Point took second. Steve Fisher (back on the tournament scene again) of Winston, Oregon, finished third, with Don Mitchell of Longview in fourth place.

There were 19 teams in Sunday's doubles and it was Mike Kinney and Desi Guches taking the biggest share of the pot. Jim Cockrell of Winston and Sparky Williams took second with Joe Lavin of Longview and Steve Fisher in third. Butch Robinson of Central Point and John King of Medford, Oregon, finished fourth.

Locals Clean Up at Fir Cone's Forest Festival Tournament

By Mel Hohn

On an almost nightly basis, you can feel the tension in the air and see the determination on the faces of the local players in the Fir Cone, Shelton, Washington. The entire tavern goes silent as Billy Hagman yells "BITE!" at the top of his lungs. Yes, shuffleboard is a very serious sport in Shelton. The rattle of the pea bottle is the war cry, the weights come out, the wax does down, women and children are put to bed, and the war begins. There's no telling how many players will show up or how long they will play, but you can bet your bottom dollar that Dennis James, Vern Gonzales, Grant Manning, and Bill Shanahan will be there until (if they can talk the bartender into it) well after closing.

In Shelton it's hard to find someone who has never played shuffleboard. It seems to be a household name in a time when pool and darts seem to dominate tavern activities. The Fir Cone Tavern runs weekly draws, league play, meat shoots, and three full-blown tournaments, all of which attract out-of-town players and local spectators.

The Forest Festival Tournament started seven years ago as a local event, pitting one tavern against another. Well, the word got out and the Forest Festival Tournament quickly turned into an event which has supported as many as 23 teams. Of course, as with a lot of tournaments, attendance seems to be decreasing.

Forest Festival is a big event in Shelton with clowns,

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parades, street dances, car and bike shows, and shuffleboard. This festive atmosphere puts people in the mood for spring. Of course, this has its problems. Blocked streets, no parking, and hard to get motel rooms, can add up to disasters for a shuffleboard tournament. However, local support over the past seven years has turned this potential disaster into a wonderful event.

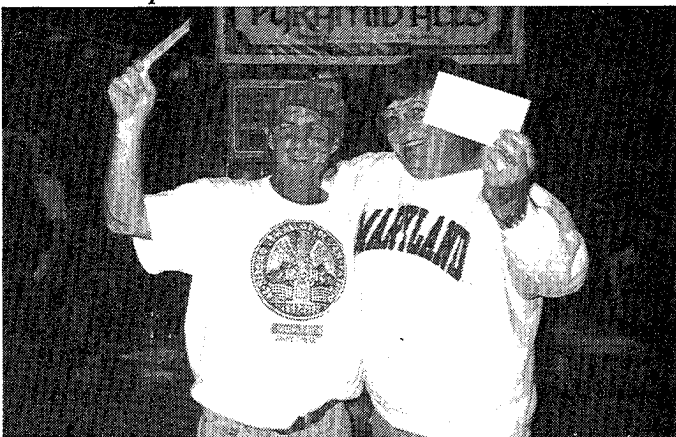
The Fir Cone, noted for its magnificent Saturday night feast, once again provided a feast fit for a king, thanks to Jeanette Hohn, Vicki Gonzales, Tammy Neese, Debbie Hurst, and Gloria VonBargen. In fact, the food may attract as many players as the tournament itself.



To the delight of the local crowd, first place honors went to local players Nels Anderson and Dennis James (DJ).



Local player Dick Doak and Jeff Adams from Olympia took second place.



Locals Bill Shanahan and Mel Hohn finished third.

Fourth place finishers were Grant Manning from Shelton and John Hyatt from parts unknown.

This was an historic event in that it was the first time in the history of the Fir Cone that outside sponsors supported a shuffleboard tournament. The Shelton 40 et 8, a shoot off of the American Legion (which has its own shuffleboard table) contributed the entry fee for two lucky players. The Hungry Bear Steak House contributed food discounts for players and a free ham steak breakfast for two. Thanks to concerned business owners and managers, this support will help reverse the low attendance trend and make shuffleboard the sport it once was. Thanks!

MORE NOTEBOOK

Tony Says: "Some of Us are Only in it for Fun!"

So many people who play this silly game take it far too seriously. Sure, there can be bunches of money made or at least you can supplement your income a little. And you can definitely bet that most players strive for the respect of their peers.

But for a great majority of us out here, we are only in it for the people and the kicks. If I want more money, then maybe I will get a second part-time job. If I want the respect of my peers, then I might just run for city council. But if I want to have a rollicking good time, then there is no doubt where I am headed. Me and my beer cozy are going straight down to the shuffleboard joint, where the debauchery and the decadence await. When Friday afternoon comes around and I get in my car to drive down there, the music always sounds good coming out of the car radio and all the problems at home and work are suddenly forgotten. Forgotten because soon I will be surrounded by charismatic friends and 22 foot long planks. Man, I have had more good times associated with shuffleboard than any amount of money could ever buy.

I have been playing this goofy sport for over 20 years and during that time, I have had the pleasure of playing at some of the most fun-packed bars. These would include Amato's, PT's, The Corporate Image, The White Room and The Texas Mist. After a recent business trip to Houston, I am going to have to add Danny's Sports Bar to that list.

When I first walked into Danny's on a run-of-the-mill Friday night, I knew it was gonna be good: ●4 in-house shuffleboards ●great looking women on both sides of the bar ●Delbert McClinton on the jukebox ●the sweet sound of cracking pucks, cracking poolballs and cracking laughter ●slo gin ●fast pucks ●and best of all, a room

(continued on Page 16)

More Notebook *(continued from Page 15)*

half full of old friends and half full of potential new ones.
HOW SWEET IT IS!!

They already had 32 people signed up for the draw. The lineup included well-knowns Harvey and Lilly Kidd, Brian Walker, Diana Hagen, Dale and Mary Koteris, Lee Brady, the Rices, Flintrock and many others, but wait, local pro Howard Mouton is missing.

Kelly Cameron was back from a long shuffleboard hiatus and I had not seen this old friend in six years. Kelly and I had plenty of war stories between us, many of which cannot be divulged here and many that have little to do with shuffleboard.

Across the room, I spotted Tammy Denson of Fort Worth who was in Houston for a radiology convention. Tammy was looking mighty fine. Whoa! Darling, you can X-ray me any time. Tammy brought along some entertainment (Shelly Crosby) from the convention. Tammy's friend, Shelly, was quite a character and on top of that, she was drop dead gorgeous. Hell, I was thinking of not playing shuffleboard just so I could scam on Shelly. Admittedly that thought passed me by quicker than a downhill weight. A man does have to have his priorities, so I got in the draw.



Showing newcomers the basics of shuffleboard is a responsibility that shouldn't be taken lightly, Tony tells friend Kelly Cameron.



Diana Hagen also made visitor Shelly feel welcome.

Somebody bought me a beer. Somebody bought me a shot of schnapps. I started a tab and proceeded to pickle my brain. But, where the heck is Howard Mouton? Somebody said he was sick. Man, he may really be sick when he realizes he missed this one.

We ended up finishing the draw and then played match games 'til 4 a.m. A stranger drove me home. I woke up the next morning in a hotel room with a deadly hangover, three single women and another night at Danny's Sports Bar still ahead of me. It just doesn't get any better than this. Did I win or lose money that night? Who cares? Was it a blast? Yeh, baby, it always is!

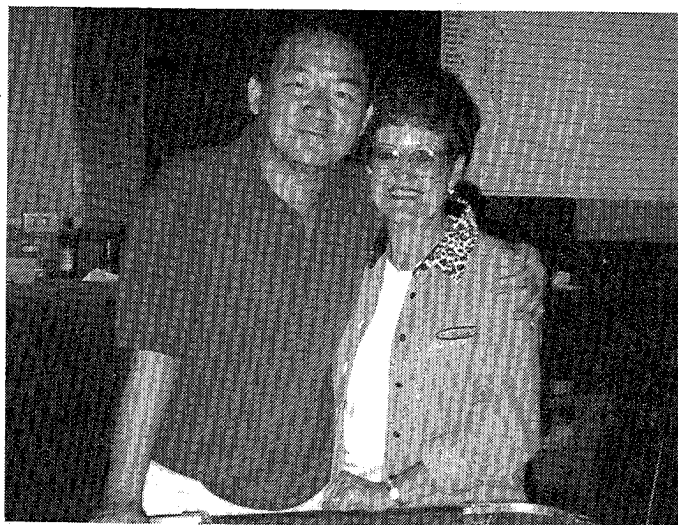
Tammy, next time you are in town for a convention, be sure and remember to bring some more friends. Howard, you really should have gotten well for this one. Danny, keep up the good work.

Tony "Maroni" Howard, Austin, Texas

Thanks, Tony, for "The Other Side of the Story." Sorry, in keeping with our "family publication" status, we had to crop your photo!

Dixie Belle League Finishes Season

A special thanks to all the league players at the Dixie Belle. It was a fun league with seven teams and a season that started Feb. 9 and went through June 7 with our playoffs. On June 2, the A Allstars winners were Gary Jones, 1st, and Jay Kimble, 2nd. On June 3, the B Allstars winners were Sandy Flood, 1st, and Patrick Perkins, 2nd. On June 4, the C Allstars winners were Sam Blanco, 1st; Mike Woo, 2nd; and Ruben Aozano, 3rd. Our "marathon" was held on June 7 and was a draw partner event.



Mike Woo, co-owner of The Dixie Belle, and Marylou Deering took first in the Marathon.

(continued on Page 20)

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Sale at noon, play immediately following.

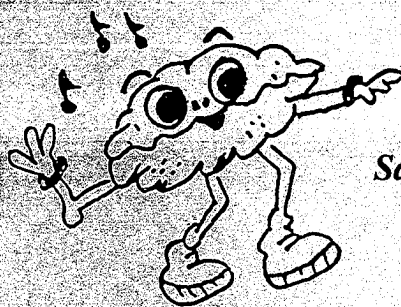
◆ Friday, Aug. 1, DOUBLES DRAW, \$25 per player

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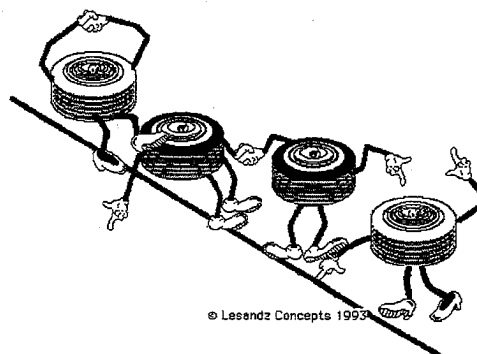
Saturday August 30th, 1997

Sale - 10:00 a.m. (Cdn. Funds)

Starting Time - 11:00 a.m.

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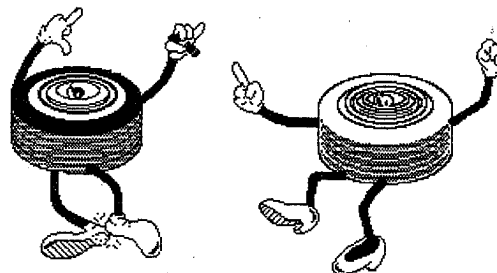
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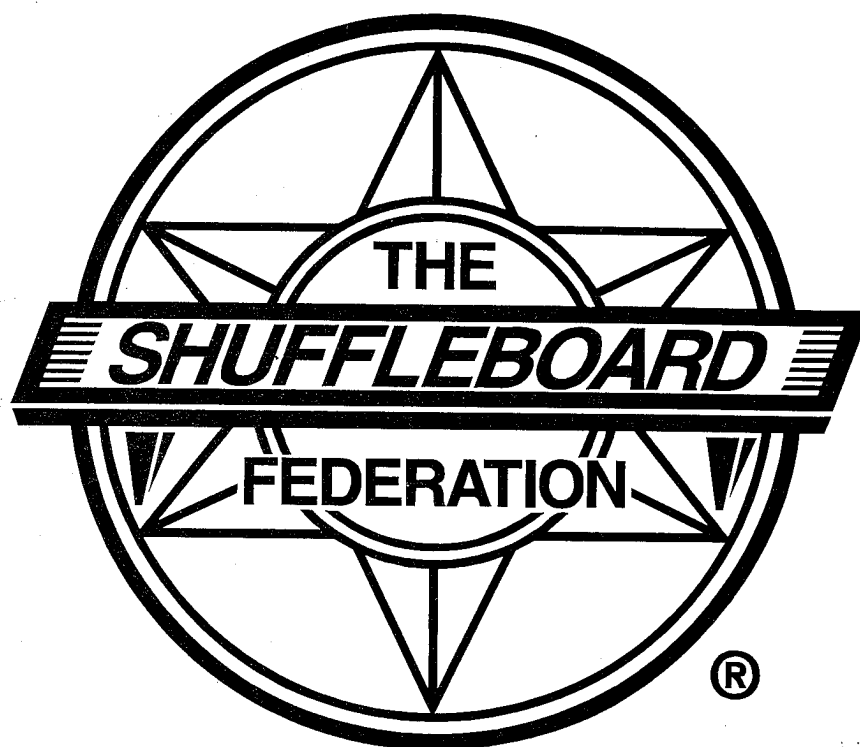
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Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

(In the last episode, Frisco Eddie and Long Beach Lil had arrived in Longview, Washington, at a place called "O'Brian's Pub." Lil had warned Eddie that "The Man" might be there and she wasn't sure he was ready for him. Eddie had played some money games with Portland Pete and then -- in walked "The Man.")

Lil spotted the moderately tall, slim built player they called "The Man" just after he entered the front door of O'Brian's Pub. She had been expecting his arrival, probably because Portland Pete and he teamed up a lot, and the word was out.

Lil waved to him after he entered, and his smile widened as he made his way over to her spot at the bar. They shook hands and even gave each other a short hug. After they exchanged all the greetings and introductions, along with some small talk, "The Man" looked at Eddie and said: "I've heard a little about you, Eddie. I understand you made a pretty good showing in Seattle. I guess you're here to repeat that show. Am I right in that, my man?"

Now, Eddie had shot pretty good against Portland Pete, but had only been able to break even after six games. He knew there was more depth to his game if he really "got on." He was obsessed with the notion of beating this legendary "Man," so he replied: "Your guess is right, my friend. How about we get this board in shape and play a little serious shuffleboard?"

The man looked intently into Eddie's eyes then and said: "I'll be glad to accommodate you, Eddie, but understand this: I know precisely what's going through your mind, because I've been exactly where you are now many years ago. I'm not going to play you for peanuts here, because I know you have something to try to prove.....and so do I, I guess. So, if you want to begin for \$500, best out of three, to start with, O.K. Otherwise, I won't bother opening up my case here and Lil and I and the rest of us can all get drunk and tell 'war stories.' O.K.?"

Eddie looked over at Lil then. Before he could say anything, she reiterated her earlier statement: "This is your show, Eddie. I'm going to sit this one out. You're on your own, Champ." Eddie felt let down, even though Lil had made it clear beforehand how the action would go.

Eddie gave Lil a look of disdain then, and turned to face "The Man." Eddie looked him squarely in the eye as he remarked: "O.K. We'll do this thing, but I won't play someone without a name. What's yours?" "The Man" smiled at him then and replied: "Well, now, I guess that's fair. My given name is Glen....Glen Dawson."

The patrons started to close-in now, when they saw that some very serious shuffleboard was about to take place. The crowd was very quiet, but you could hear whisperings of side-bets and other muffled conversations as well. The board was spray-waxed, and then sprinkled with Jet Lightning Fast powdered wax. It was decided that both men would play with their own personal weights. After the coins were in, the two approached the window side of the table and flipped for the hammer. Eddie called "heads" and won the toss.

Both men were very cautious for the first several frames. It was strictly weight-for-weight, but Eddie was ahead due to the strength of his lag. He ended up winning the game 15 to 10. The next game was a little different. Glen started to zero in on his lag and was also able to "wrap" a couple of weights on Eddie as well. It was very close, with Eddie losing 15-13. The third (or "rubber") game saw both players amazing the silent onlookers with spectacular shots. It was a great game to watch. The score was 13 to 12 in Eddie's favor. Eddie left a very short deuce on his last weight.

Glen sized up the board, sprinkled some wax on the rails, and picked up his hammer weight with his right hand. Eddie's deuce was in the center of the board. There was utter silence in the room then. Glen opted to shoot his shot freehand and, after his release, it became obvious that he wasn't trying for a "hit and slide" -- he was going for the three lag! Eddie's heart was pounding as the weight hung momentarily in the four zone, then gently toppled off the end! Eddie gave out with a loud "Yes!" and went over to Lil, as she was holding the "stake" -- and he also wanted the expected accolades she would certainly give.

She did smile and congratulate him. The Glen man wasn't smiling when he came over though. He said he should have made that lag and won the game. With a look of disgust on his face, he snapped: "O.K. Frisco, this is the way it is. I think I'll stand a better chance if you have some pressure on you. We'll jack it up to \$1500 for the next series. Take it or leave it."

He walked away as Eddie turned once more to Lil. He said: "Man! What a stroke of luck! I was going to try to kick the ante up some myself. I can beat this guy! I'm better than him; he might even be starting to go 'over the hill.'"

Lil gave him a whimsical look then and said: "Don't you even think that way, sonny boy. I won't tell you what to do, but, if it was me, I'd be curious about why your opponent there just lagged off the board on his last shot."

--CONTINUED NEXT MONTH--

Notebook (continued from Page 2)

attractive to the public and those at the large corporations who decide where advertising/promotional dollars go.

I think one of the things going against shuffleboard is its somewhat seedy reputation because it's a game played predominantly in bars. Pool and bowling have also had to wage a public relations campaign to get the public to see more than a "drinking person's" pastime. One of the things these two sports have done is to put on their best "bib and tucker" when it was time for the television lights to come on. Professional bowlers wear neat sports attire on television and sometimes you'll see a professional pool player in a tuxedo.

Image is very important in public relations. If the public perceives shuffleboard as something in some other light than it has in the past, we will have made some steps toward the kind of sponsorship many of us talk about.

I believe a national professional shuffleboard tour -- with televised championships -- would help to bring sponsorship at all levels. To get to this place, I think we would have to make some changes in the way we think.

First and foremost, I think we would need to get the drinks and cigarettes out of our hands when the TV cameras come on. Please don't get me wrong. Although I'm a recovering alcoholic and smoker, this isn't an anti-drink or smoke message. I feel those are decisions each person must make on their own. I do feel that we would enhance our reputation if we were willing to forego drink and smoke for the possibility of gaining sponsorship.

"We don't want anybody to know we're here, that we're out in the alley smoking dope."

I think we also need to open ourselves to publicity. Once I was talking with a player about the possibility of getting local (usually non-daily) newspapers to do a story about an interesting local player before a big tournament. I remember this player responded, "We don't want anybody to know we're here, that we're out in the alley smoking dope."

He was right; we don't need to share that kind of information with the public, but we do need to get the word out about the people who play the game. When you look at shuffleboard players as a whole, we're a pretty darn interesting group of people. Being in the newspaper business, I can see a number of interesting feature stories at any shuffleboard tournament.

Recently, *The Olympian* -- a daily newspaper in Olympia, Washington -- did a good story on some of the players at the Fir Cone in Shelton. Although the reporter knew nothing of the game, calling weights "stones," it

was an interesting piece.

Another thing I perceive is that players don't really want the government to know how much we might be making at our sport. I'd venture a guess that not very much of the shuffleboard winnings in this country end up reported on income tax forms. Obviously, if there's big sponsorship money out there, it won't remain "under the table."

Having been involved in the formation of the country's first (current) shuffleboard association, I believe that other regional associations and, eventually, a national association, are vital to the growth of our sport. These groups could be charged with rating of players and making play even for everyone.

Obviously, this is just some additional grist for the mill and I'll be looking forward to reading what others with more experience and shuffleboard savvy than I have to contribute.

Jim Manders, Sequim, Washington

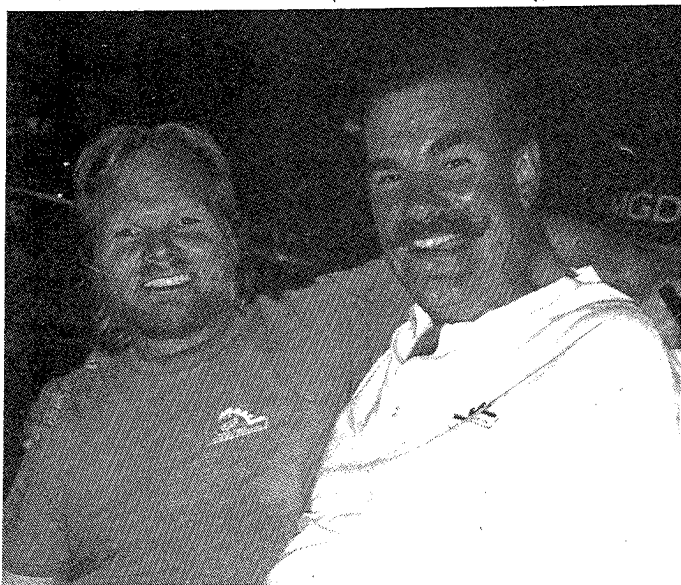
Wow! Have you struck a nerve, Jim, and we'd be awfully disappointed if we don't get some feedback on your contribution. There have been some efforts to upgrade our image. You'll remember a few years ago when PCSA officials donned tuxedos for their awards ceremony. The Shuffleboard Federation, in its rules adopted by the Player Policy Board (which many tournament sponsors are currently using), clearly states: "No drinks, cigarettes, or any other foreign objects in hands or mouth while shooting." This rule is for the protection of the boards as well as image and it's a good one.

You've also touched on a phase of our sport that's concerned us for a long time. As our tournaments get larger and the money gets bigger, eventually it's going to attract the attention of the government. We're flirting with danger with our auctions/calcuttas (we call them sponsor sales for that very reason) and gaining sponsorships would put an end to this practice.

We believe we've come a long way in cleaning up our act, but we've got a long way to go yet. Shuffleboard is still perceived as a "bar" sport. Back in the '50s, when the sport was in its heyday, boards were (thanks in large part to Hall of Famer Sol Lipkin of American Shuffleboard) found in churches, boys' and girls' clubs, military bases, etc. Perhaps we need to concentrate on expanding shuffleboard into those arenas. That would take a concerted grassroots effort on the part of everyone interested in making the sport grow.

The question remains: how many of today's shufflers are willing to invest that effort to be part of a national public relations campaign? And who has the human and financial resources to take leadership in that campaign? We think it's a "life and death" decision for the sport.

More Notebook *(continued on Page 16)*



Gary Jones and Doug Pancerev took second place honors in The Dixie Belle's league marathan.



Susie Jones and Donna Iarussi finished in third place.

We'd all like to win, of course, but since that's not possible, congratulations to those who did.

I've been a player now for a little over two years and have met a lot of wonderful people. I don't think I'll ever be a pro, but I have a lot of fun and always play my best.

Sincere thanks to Mike and Steve, new owners of The Dixie Belle, for keeping shuffleboard going here. They've both become pretty good at the game.

Hello to all shuffleboard friends. Hope to see you at our 4th of July tournament.

Jan Manes, The Dixie Belle, Downey, California

We join you, Jan, in saluting Mike and Steve for keeping a priority on shuffleboard at The Dixie Belle. Wes and Eileen were a tough act to follow, but it appears they are doing a great job.

We look forward to receiving a report from your 4th of July tournament.

A Belated Recognition of Full House '96 Labor Day Winners

This may be unusual, but I am asking you to publish the results of my 1996 Labor Day Tournament. These people deserve recognition and I apologize for these late results.

Winner of the ladies' singles was Nancy Tice of Pauls Valley, Oklahoma. Second place went to Betty Brantley of Davis, Oklahoma, with Pam Worsham of Oklahoma City in third.

Dave Davidson of Tupelo, Oklahoma, was winner of the handicap men's singles, with Shanon Tice of Pauls Valley in second place. Mark McLeod of Killeen, Texas, took third.

In the Sweetheart draw, Ron Blalock of Oklahoma City and Lisa Melton of Davis were tops. Skip McCaskill of Wynnewood and Betty Brantley took second, with Tom Hendrix of Norman and Rhonda Cook of Wynnewood in third place.

Tom Hendrix and Alan Cobb of Oklahoma City won the open draw. Mike Melton of Davis and Lynn Tice of Pauls Valley took second place honors. Bob Kimbro of Wynnewood and Shanon Tice finished third.

In the bring your partner handicap, Gene McLeod of Licking, Missouri, and Mark McLeod finished first. Rena and Dave Fleming of Oklahoma City took second, with Tommy McBurnett and Fred Boyd of Fort Worth, Texas, in third.

The 1997 Labor Day Tournament at the Full House will be Aug. 28-Sept. 2. Watch The Board Talk for details.

Pat Kinard, Full House, Wynnewood, Oklahoma

Additions to "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A."

We have two new members of our national shuffleboard network for you to add to the "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." listing that was published in the June issue:

Indiana: Portside Lounge, 1571 Goshen Rd., Fort Wayne; phone 219-484-8602

Missouri: Diane's Lounge, 406 E. Washington, Cuba; phone 543-885-6804

Please welcome them to the network and let them know you appreciate their support of shuffleboard.

We have also been informed by Terry Smith that shuffleboard stalwart Bob Perry has purchased a bar called Our Place, located on the corner of Garden and Westford in Peoria, Illinois. If you're in the area, be sure to stop in and wish him well in his new endeavor.

1997 CALENDAR OF SHUFFLEBOARD EVENTS

JULY 1997

July 1-6

Southwest Open
American Legion Post 73
Del City, Oklahoma

July 2-6

5th Annual 4th of July Tourney
The Dixie Belle
Downey, California

July 5-6

ABC Draw
Blue Goose
Port Orchard, Washington

July 11

A-B Draw
J & C's Tavern
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

July 18-20

9th Annual Shuffleboard Affair
Town Tavern
Sequim, Washington

July 25-27

2nd Annual Rudy Stober
Memorial Tournament
Stober's Lounge
Lansing, Michigan

July 26

Open Doubles
Sportsman's Lounge
Muncie, Indiana

AUGUST 1997

July 30-Aug. 1

8th Annual Grand Masters Plus
Whistling Oyster
Quilcene, Washington

July 31-Aug. 3

National Tournament
Dew Drop Inn
Waterloo, New York

Aug. 1

A-B Draw
J & C's Tavern
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Aug. 14-17

Pro-Am Draw and Singles
The Balloon Inn
Arvada, Colorado

Aug. 15-17

1st Southern Oregon Doubles
Eagles #2093
Medford, Oregon

Aug. 25-31

Labor Day Tournament
Blinky's
Santa Clara, California

Aug. 27-Sept. 1

Texas Open
The Gold Nugget Club
Arlington, Texas

Aug. 28-31

Crazy Canucks Labor Day
Weekend Tournament
AN & AF Club #68
Vancouver, B.C., Canada

SEPTEMBER 1997

Sept. 4-7

Skip's/Board Talk Fall Bash
Skip's Lounge
Houghton Lake, Michigan

Sept. 5

A-B Draw
J & C's Tavern
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Sept. 13-14

3rd Annual Open Doubles
Old Edison Inn
Edison, Washington

Sept. 19-21

3rd Annual Ladies' Weekend
Wetlands Bar & Grill
Royal Oak, Michigan

Sept. 20-21

Weekend Tournament
Amvets Post 26
Pendleton, Indiana

OCTOBER 1997

Oct. 4

30th Annual Fall Doubles
American Legion
Bourbon, Indiana

Oct. 9-12

Division I Singles & Doubles
Balloon Inn
Arvada, Colorado

Oct. 18-19

Nelson/Buhl Bring Partner
Shamrock Tavern
Longview, Washington

Oct. 27-Nov. 2

North American Championships
Sands Regency Hotel/Casino
Reno, Nevada

NOVEMBER 1997

Nov. 15-16

Over 55 Tourney
Shamrock Tavern
Longview, Washington

Nov. 26-30

13th Annual Thanksgiving
Classic
The Gold Nugget
Arlington, Texas

Nov. 28-30

Pennsylvania State
Championships
J & C's Tavern
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Nov. 28-30

A-B Draw Tournament
BZ's
Burien, Washington

DECEMBER 1997

Dec. 11-14

9th Annual Santa Classic
Balloon Inn
Arvada, Colorado

Dec. 12-13

3rd Annual Deuces Wild
Wetlands Bar & Grill
Royal Oak, Michigan

Dec. 27-30

2nd Houston Holiday Open
Location TBA
Houston, Texas

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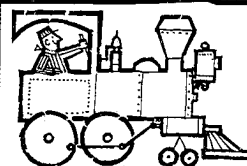
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Upcoming Events (continued from Page 5)

Canada

CRAZY CANUCKS 7TH PRO TOURNEY, AUG. 28-31, AN & AF 68, VANCOUVER, B.C.

The A.N. & A.F. Unit #68, 1837 Main Street in Vancouver, British Columbia, will once again host the Crazy Canucks annual pro tournament. No. 7 is scheduled for Aug. 28-31 and will kick off with the popular "Winston Jim" open draw doubles on Thursday night, \$20 per person entry (Canadian funds).

The singles, \$50 entry fee (U.S. funds), is set for Friday, with entries closing at 5 p.m. and the sale at 5:30 p.m. and play immediately following.

There will be \$1,000 added to the doubles, which starts on Saturday with a 10 a.m. sale. Entry fee is \$100 per team (U.S. funds). The loser's bracket must come back and win 2 out of 3, 2 out of 3 to win over A.

Entries should be mailed to: Marg Okum, 4103 Welwyn St., Vancouver, B.C. V5N-3Z1 (Phone: 604-872-5373).

See enclosed flyer for more details and lodging recommendations. Spread the word about this fun tournament, which is an ESA sanctioned event.

Nevada

NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS, SANDS REGENCY, RENO, OCT. 27-NOV. 2

The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc. has completed plans for the North American Shuffleboard Championships, scheduled for Oct. 27-Nov. 2 at the Sands Regency in Reno, Nevada. Check the enclosed flyer for details and make your plans now to participate (last year's total purse was \$185,000!). A complete sell-out is expected by Labor Day. Questions? Call John McDermott at The Federation, 810-380-9300.

J & C's A-B Draw Builds Game

By Jim Wolf

"Build the field and they will come!" Jim Yank and Joe Orfanelli believe that and that's why there are three tables at J & C's Tavern, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Who came for the A-B draw on the first Friday of June? Maryland - 1, Chester County - 1, Northeast Philadelphia - 2, Delaware County - 2, West Philadelphia - 5, and 5 shooters from the EDSL.

The eight teams were drawn, the limited calcutta completed and the first games began at 8:15 p.m. By 10:45 p.m., Ed Hammond and Renee Hogan had taken the winner's bracket and were waiting to play the winner of a game between Pete Skye and Al Pinner versus Joe Krause and Izzy Rodriguez. Izzy and Joe won that game but lost to Ed and Renee in the finals.

Don't recognize many of those names? That is the point of these A-B events. Provide "the field," link it to a format that allows all to be competitive....."and they will come!" Grow the game.

Double elimination A-B draws with limited calcuttas are scheduled for J & C's on July 11, Aug. 1, and Sept. 5. Be there at 7:30 p.m. Start time is 8 p.m.

Johnson/Passariello/Tischler Winners at Wetlands

The 4th Annual Memorial Weekend at the Wetlands Bar & Grill, Royal Oak, Michigan, was a first for that area, the first handicap singles and doubles. The singles was played with a graduated entry fee, while the doubles format required the combined ratings of the two players to add up to at least 1. This made for a very competitive event and, based on the favorable reaction from the players, Wetlands plans on doing more handicap tournaments, as well as weekly handicapped draw partner events.

First up was the doubles event, which saw Mike Johnson and Chris Passariello cruise through the winner's bracket on the way to the finals. There the team of Alonzo and Jeff Cottrell won the first match two games straight and the first game of the second match before Chris and Mike knew what hit them. With their backs firmly against the wall, Johnson and Passariello made some big lags and won the next two games and the tournament. In third place was John McDermott and up-and-comer Ron Monville from Bay City, Michigan.

In the singles, it was John Tischler who started and finished strong on his way to claiming the singles title. Credit lagging solid threes, with an occasional four, for Tischler's win. Not only did he not lose a match, he didn't lose a game. In the battle for second and third, it was Jeff Cottrell coming out on top of John McDermott.

Please Remember!

The Board Talk's new address is:

503 E. Sheridan Rd.

Lansing, MI 48906

Phone: 517-484-4976 or 371-2538

NATIONAL SHUFFLEBOARD HALL OF FAME

By Glen Davidson, Chairman

As this is written, we are preparing for the Southwest Open and the induction of Bill Melton to the Hall of Fame. I have a few things to do; by the time this is read, we'll all know if I got them done or not. This tournament is likely to be the biggest ever in the U.S. and hopefully I will get a few more people involved in forming state Halls of Fame.

Our condolences to the Billy Chiles family in California. I first met Billy at a tourney in 1967 in Dallas, Texas. He and Tom Galvin came as partners. I teamed up with Billy in the early '70s and we took a trip to Washington, Oregon, and back to California. I played partners with him at the Dearborn, Michigan, tournament where we finished second. Also at the Happy Hour in the '70s, we finished second.

I remember Billy being very devoted to the game and he played as a pro since the early '70s. He will be remembered by many as "Moses" or "The Hippie," easy going, slow walking, low talking. He talked so low that when he "shouted" at someone, they would always say: "What was that you said?" A nicer guy you'll never meet! Rest in peace, my friend. I'm sure all your friends will see that you get into the Hall of Fame this year. California players, friends and neighbors: You're being called upon to do something, give something back. Get going with your Hall of Fame.

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BT Reunion No. 13 (cont. from Page 1)

contenders. John had to double-dip Terry Dowell of Indiana in the finals to claim his plaque. Even though it was a partisan gallery, the skills of both players earned them respect. That respect soared as the two announced that they would donate their share of the added \$500 in the entry pot to the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. John's share of \$260 and Terry's share of \$120 made a slight dent in their winners' envelopes.

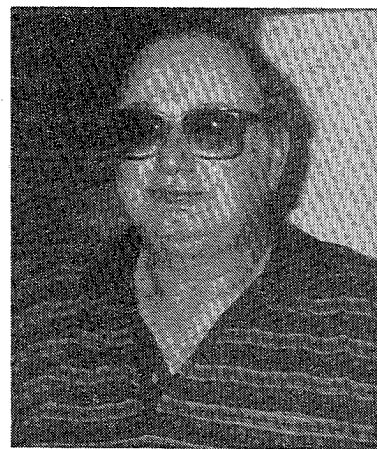


Hard to tell who is happier -- winner John McDermott or buyer Board Talk George!



Terry Dowell (hard to believe he's a grandfather!) accepts congratulations for taking second place in the open singles.

Camera-shy Dave Boaz (right) from Indiana finished third. Other winners were all Hoosiers: Larry Vance, 4th; Larry Creakbaum and Steve Schuyler, 5th and 6th.



Nebraska Visitors Capture Mixed Doubles Title

On Friday the 13th, 13 teams signed up to compete in the mixed doubles event at the 13th Annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion. All those 13s failed to put a hex on Gwynette Orsi and Dan Perrigo of Omaha, Nebraska, as they made their way to the top of the field. Dan is owner

of D's Frontier in Omaha, a member of our national shuffleboard network.



Bobby V presents Gwyn and Dan with their first-place plaque and money envelopes.

Another out-of-state pair, Al DiBella and Louise Freer from Pennsylvania, took second place honors in the mixed doubles.



In yet another class act, Gwyn and Dan, Al and Louise each made a generous donation from their winnings to the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame (and there was no added money in this event).



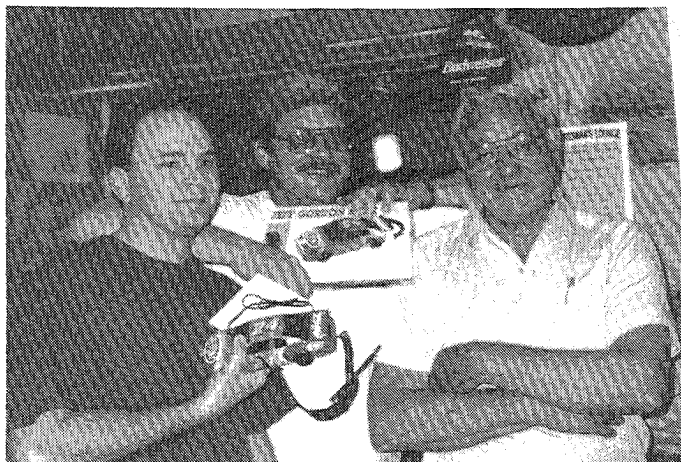
Jim DeWitt and Sheryl Cockerill put Indiana back in the winner's circle by taking third in the mixed doubles.

Voorhis/Massie Win Open Doubles Title

There were 18 teams in the open doubles and it was pro Bobby Voorhis and the tough, young Tom Massie who brought honor to the Hoosier State.

Giving Bobby and Tom a run for their money (\$500 added to this entry pot) were John McDermott and Chris Passariello of Michigan, who settled for second.

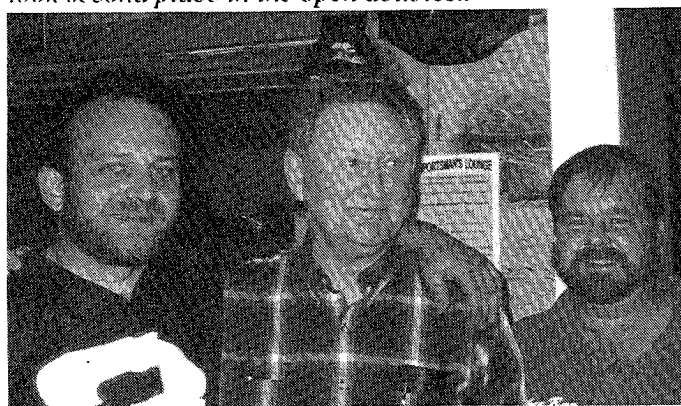
Bob Brown and Brian Collins, both of Indiana, finished third. Mike Johnson of Indiana and John Myles of Michigan rounded out the winner's circle.



Doubles winners Tom Massie and Bobby Voorhis (Buss says: "It's about time, Son") received not only plaques and fat envelopes, but a car telephone, courtesy of Orris Hughes' ("Mr. Shuffleboard") Video & Tanning, Chesterfield, Indiana.



Chris Passariello and John McDermott of Michigan took second place in the open doubles..



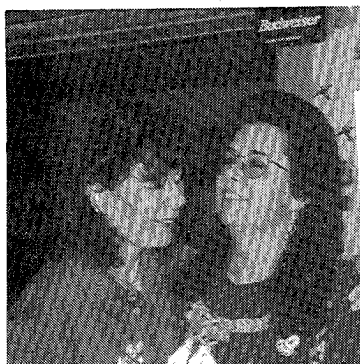
Director/bracketeer Rob Kern (right) congratulates Brian Collins and Bob Brown for their third place finish.

Louise Freer Wins Women's Singles

There was a disappointing turnout for the women's singles, but the seven competitors had a good time while they worked diligently to try to capture the crown.

(continued on Page 26)

Reunion 13 (continued from Page 25)



Louise Freer of Pennsylvania took first in the women's singles. She is congratulated by hostess Deb Voorhis, who finished third.

Marcia Brown of Indiana took second place. She closed her eyes for the "official" photo so we used this one of her doing the boogie. She's as talented on the dance floor as she is on the boards!

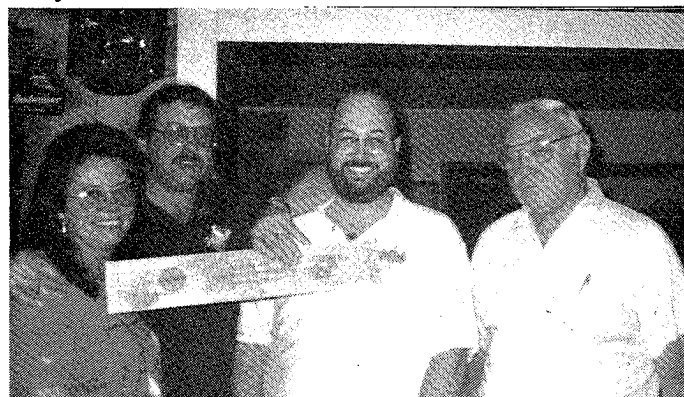


"Spontaneous" Draw Partners

This crowd had one thing on their collective minds -- shuffleboard -- so they filled up any spare time with draw partner events, one on Saturday night and another on Sunday.

Winners of the first draw were: Bob Brown and Brian Collins, 1st; Louise Freer and Steve Blue, 2nd; Deb Voorhis and Rick Royal, 3rd.

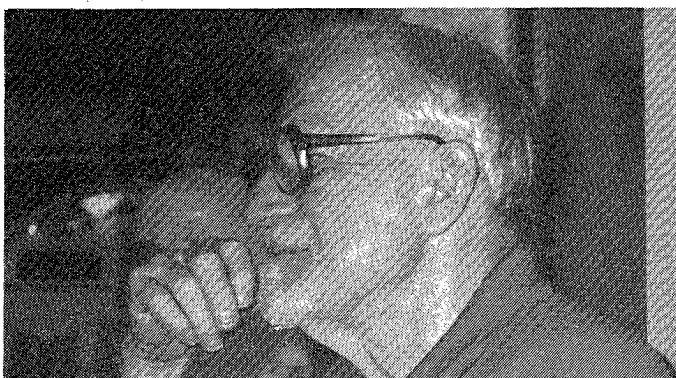
Winners of the second draw were: Bobby Voorhis and Steve Blue, 1st; Robert Brown and Sheryl Cockerill, 2nd; Gwyn Orsi and Jason Goodman, 3rd.



With the help of John McDermott of The Shuffleboard Federation, Deb Voorhis presented Marisa Voorhis Memorial board wipes to hubby Bob for The Palace Bar and father-in-law Buss for The Locker Bar.

The Board Talk editors thank the Voorhis Family, the Locker Bar staff, Rob Kern, and all participants for making Reunion No. 13 a memorable event. Special

thanks to Bobby V for hustling up some advertisers for our printed program. When the printer deadline approached, we had one \$35 ad from Carol Westerman's Lucky's Tavern and we anguished over how we would pay the printing bill, buy the door prizes and make a donation to the Hall of Fame. Super salesman Bobby came through!



Board Talk George contemplates the chain of command at this tournament: (1) Rob Kern (2) Donna Wilber (3) Buss Voorhis (4) Deb Voorhis (5) Locker Bar Manager Ginger and the waitresses (6) auctioneer Mike Johnson, (7) the bar full of participants, fans and regulars (8) Bobby V and, finally, (9) "Lonesome George."

"Our Pleasure"

The girls at The Locker Bar would like to let everyone know it was a pleasure meeting and serving you all during your Board Talk tournament. Good luck to all our new friends!

Ginger - CJ - Barb - Lynn

"Sincere Thanks"

The Locker Bar thanks all the shufflers for a great fun week -- a fine group of players, good sportsmanship and some great board play!

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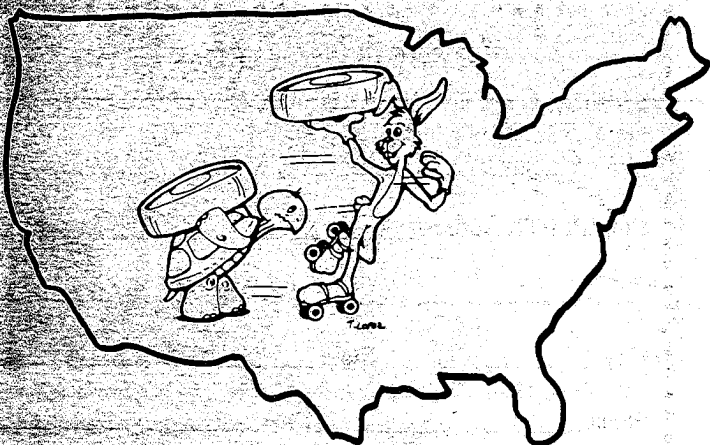
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