

The Board Talk

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Shuffleboard Dead? No Way, say Enthusiastic Beginners!

By George & Donna Wilber

Ordinarily, the following two letters would have been placed in Shufflers' Notebook. However, as we celebrate our 14-1/2th birthday, they struck a chord with us. While we're primarily a publication that highlights the promotion and results of tournaments, large and small, we still have always recognized league play as the backbone of our sport, and applaud those "veterans" of our sport who take the time and effort to nurture the beginners who will one day take their place and keep the game of shuffleboard going and growing.

These letters come from hundreds of miles from each other -- one from Nebraska, the other from Pennsylvania. Yet, they have something in common: first, they represent the future of the sport; second, they have become committed because somebody special gave them encouragement and help; third, they will follow that example to encourage and help others along the line as they progress from beginners to veterans.

We could say it, but they say it better.....the future of shuffleboard is in good hands because of YOU who have nurtured and encouraged, and YOU who have listened and will follow their example.....

That's why they're our lead story!

From Omaha, Nebraska:

My husband Tim and I bought the Musette Bar, located in Benson (Omaha), Nebraska, in February of 1996. Within two weeks, Tim, an avid shuffleboard player, had located, purchased and installed a classic shuffleboard. The shuffleboard now occupies the same space where a shuffleboard had been located for over 30 years. The previous owner had sold the board, declaring: "Darts are the game of the future; shuffleboard is dead." Talk about having to eat your words!

I have played in various pool leagues and tournaments over the last 20 years, but have been lacking the enthusiasm needed to enjoy the game. It seemed logical for me to focus my attention on shuffleboard. I had been a spectator for years, watching shuffleboard tournaments

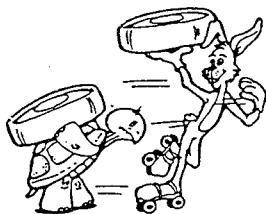
that Tim would compete in, so at least I knew how to keep score!

This year we formed a solid mixed team which includes four rookies and two experienced players. We are currently in the running for seventh place out of 16 teams. The Musette Bar took second place in the men's league after being out of the league for over five years. While playing leagues, there is a sense of community among the players. The players seem willing to help the less experienced and give advice on certain shots, sometimes without encouragement to do so. Many of the folks on the leagues have welcomed the Musette back into The World of Shuffleboard while exclaiming that the Musette had once been nationally recognized as the place to find a good game. Of course, being the novice that I am, I wouldn't have been aware of the legends that may have played at the Musette, but hope that some of their expertise may come my way.

"I felt like a child scared to play alone, or possibly with a stranger...I was intimidated as well as in awe of the ...talents that we would face....I got my first shuffleboard trophy and am now hooked on the game."
-- Shelly Myers, Omaha, Nebraska

I played in an A-B draw tournament recently at the My Way Lounge here in Omaha. It was my first tournament without Tim as my partner (my third shuffleboard tournament). What excitement! My hands were shaking the whole time. Before I left the Musette to play, I told Tim that I was nervous and didn't want to make a fool of myself. I felt like a child scared to play alone, or possibly with a stranger. I drew Terry (a stranger) as my partner. I was intimidated as well as in awe of the local talents that we would face. I must say, all the players were a gracious bunch, always saying good shot or nice try, lending encouragement, and making

(continued on Page 3)



Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views from The World of Shuffleboard

"The Virgin" Gets Help Tracking "The Shadow"

I played in a tournament at the American Legion in Del City, Oklahoma, on April 18-20. In the blind draw, I drew a guy named Merle. In my opinion, Merle is just a bad-tempered old guy who doesn't like Virgins. When play was called at 11 o'clock, Merle just didn't show up. I had to forfeit and there went my entry fee and the money I spent on the Calcutta (Merle didn't buy any of the calcutta; don't you wonder why?).

I put that behind me and started to look for someone to play with in the bring partner event. I hooked up with my friend Pat Kinard (Full House) from Wynnewood, Oklahoma. We didn't place, but we did go a long way and had a blast doing it. We were put out of the tournament by Ron Blaylock and Tom Hendrix. We stood at 13 to 13 and Ron lagged out and took the game. What a heartbreaker! But still we had a great time.

While all this was going on, I had many volunteers coming to tell me where John Cason was and what he was doing. That way, I could concentrate on my playing instead of watching him myself. John and his partner were supposed to play at 11 o'clock and about 10 minutes to 11, Ron Huddleston called out: "Sue, do you know where John Cason is?" I answered back, "He is on his way and will be here in just minutes." Sure enough, about five or six minutes to 11 o'clock, the door swung open and there in the back light stood the shadow of John Cason. He swept through the door and went straight to his table and prepared to play.

I knew where he was at all times that week-end, but I'm not telling. I sure will miss John at Alan Primrose's Wagon Wheel for the Arbuckle Open at Wynnewood

this year. I guess all my "Shadow Spotters" will miss him, too.

Sue Lewis (still remaining The Virgin), Midwest City, Oklahoma

Shame on Merle! We hope you have better luck drawing at the Arbuckle Open. Maybe that will be the place where you lose your virgin status.

Sue Salutes "Unsung Heroes"

There are a lot of people who do a lot to promote shuffleboard. Maybe they don't go out and win a lot of major tournaments, so you don't hear much about these unsung heroes. They are the ones who organize and direct local tournaments for various establishments. Some of the players do a lot of complaining and belly-aching about every little thing to the director, but he/she hangs in there for the love of shuffleboard. Sometimes it gets very frustrating for them, but they stay in there and make it work.

I for one would like to point out one of these heroes and ask everyone at Bristol Station in Midwest City, Oklahoma, to give a BIG, BIG thanks to Charlie Sawyer for all he has done for the love of the game. Keep up the good work, Charlie. We appreciate you so much!

There are many others in cities and towns across the nation that deserve thanks, too. I encourage players to take the time to tell them they are appreciated.

Sue Lewis and All the Gang at Bristol Station

We've been preaching that sermon for years, Sue, and hope the entire population of The World of Shuffleboard will heed your message. It's our contention that if you put the most consistent and vocal belly-achers in the shoes of the tournament director just once, they would flee in frustration and panic, never to return again. Or, at least, keep their lips zipped at the next event. Most directors welcome constructive suggestions and ideas for improvement and appreciate player input. But there's a big difference between constructive suggestions and just plain complaining. And the time for that feedback is not during a tournament, when the director is doing hers/his best to keep things on track, but after the event for consideration at the next tournament. A thank-you won't buy their next meal, but it helps keep them in the important role they are playing.

(Another "Unsung Hero" on Page 19)

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issue!

Shuffleboard Dead? (cont. from Page 1)

sure that powder was available for my sweaty hands! We took third place in a field of 17, I got my first shuffleboard trophy and am now hooked on the game.



Shelly Myers (front and center) earned her first shuffleboard trophy at My Way Lounge in an A-B draw, taking third with partner Terry Roberts (second from left). Winners were Kevin Higbee and Art Busch (right), with Art's son, Denny Busch (left) and Larry Zahm in second (see report on Page 8).

Some players have called to congratulate me in the tournament. I think my enthusiasm was fun for the long-time players to experience. I had forgotten the thrill of being a novice at a sport and the fun that goes along with it. I have told Tim that since I am a beginner, I am not good enough to be frustrated about a missed shot, only happy when I make a good shot. I hope the seasoned veterans of shuffleboard can recapture the level of excitement I felt as I received my first shuffleboard trophy.

Shelly Myers, Omaha, Nebraska

We hope you don't lose that enthusiasm, Shelly, even when you become a veteran. It's because of the willingness of Nebraska veteran shufflers to nurture beginners in the sport that has put your state in the ACTION column and its players a force to be reckoned with on the national scene.

We're proud to have the Musette Bar on our national shuffleboard network and wish you continued success in proving its previous owner was way off base when he said: "Shuffleboard is dead." We encourage some of those "legends" who once found the Musette a place to find a good game to make a return visit. Check the enclosed "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." listing for the address.

From Darby, Pennsylvania:

On Friday, May 2, there was an A-B draw held at J & C's Tavern in Philadelphia, and usually I am put in the "B" category, but since they didn't have enough "A" players, I was put in as an "A." I drew Renee Hogan, a first-year shooter, who has played in several round robins and in last month's A-B draw, going out quickly, swearing her first oath to never play again. Jim Yank, Jim Wolf and I convinced her to come out. I haven't had much luck in the A-B draws, but I approached this night with an "attitude" determined to achieve a good experience for Renee and myself.

"That is what the Game of Shuffleboard is about: the game and its growth by teaching and encouraging new players, and involving them in events they can compete in." -- Regina Smith, Darby, Pennsylvania

Renee and I won the first game, and Renee's reaction was the best part of the winning. She was so excited: her first win in this type of event! We had to wait a while for the second game and, of course, she was nervous. We won that game. Well, you might have thought Renee won a National Event!

We needed to win one more to take the winner's bracket, but we lost and were both disappointed. Since this was double elimination, we still had a chance, so off we went to win the game that would get us in the money and to the finals. WE WON and watching Renee's face when she realized what we had accomplished made my night and got all those present into our happiness.

The winner's bracket team of Jim Wolf and Kevin Ward (another new shooter from J & C's) won that game, but I had the unique experience of shooting, helping and sharing with Renee her first competitive win. And that is what the Game of Shuffleboard is about: the game and its growth by teaching and encouraging new players, and involving them in events they can compete in!

Regina Smith, Darby, Pennsylvania

You have had one of the best teachers in the nation, Regina, and we're delighted that you are following Jim Yank's example. He's recruited a host of new players for the game and, like you said, that's what the game of shuffleboard is all about. We salute J & C's (another member of our national network) and other locations across the nation that are hosting events that novice players can compete in and have a chance to win.

Upcoming Events Across the Nation

Washington

3RD ANNUAL EVERETT INVITATIONAL, SHOTZE'S, JUNE 7-8

The 3rd Annual Everett Invitational will be held at Shotze's Rack 'n Roll, 9602 Evergreen Way, Everett, on June 7-8. It's a draw partner, \$50 per team entry with \$200 guaranteed added money, with \$500 if there are over 20 teams. Sponsor sale for the 2 out of 3 in the winners bracket, single game 17 points in the losers bracket, event is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Saturday.

A \$10 A-B draw will be held on Friday night.

Shotze's features three Dynamo boards, pool, darts, and outside beer garden, cocktail lounge, excellent homemade pizzas and a terrific expanded menu. They will serve a free feed for shufflers on Saturday night.

A Motel 6 is located just two blocks from Shotze's; phone 206-347-2060 for reservations.

For further information, call director John Martin, 206-513-1053 or 206-348-9788, Ext. 270.

(Editor's Note: Our apologies to Shotze's for receiving their flyer too late for the May issue.)

ANNUAL MIXED DOUBLES, SHAMROCK TAVERN, LONGVIEW, JUNE 21-22

The Shamrock Tavern in Longview will host its 2nd Annual Mixed Doubles Tournament on June 21-22. Entry fee is \$20 per team, 2 out of 3, 15 point games with one 17 point game in the losers' bracket. The Shamrock will add \$5 per player to the pot. Last year's winners were Jim and Michelle Foran.

Sale starts at noon on the 21st with play immediately following. Come early for the round robins on Friday night, \$10 entry.

Food by Bernice will be featured on Saturday and Sunday. Some RV parking is available and there are motels nearby. Tournament directors will be Doug and Norma Debois.

For information, call the Shamrock, 360-577-7444.

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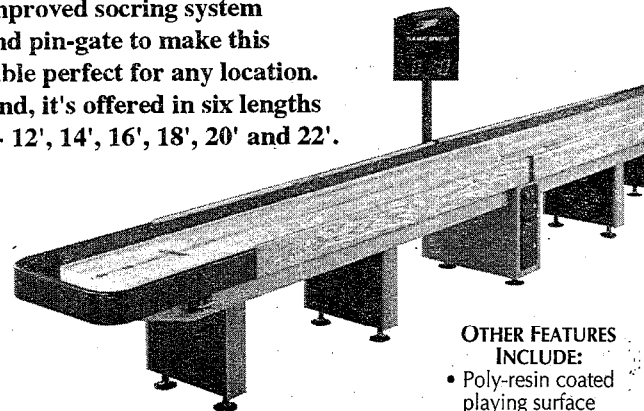
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--Bob Shaw, Fort Worth, Texas

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Indiana

BOARD TALK "REUNION" AT LOCKER BAR, MARION, JUNE 11-15

This is "Last Call" for the 13th Annual Board Talk Shufflers Reunion at The Locker Bar in Marion, Indiana. June 11-15, hosted by the Voorhis Family. This year, the annual event will be held in memory of Marisa Voorhis, daughter of Buss and Martha, sister and sister-in-law of Bobby and Debbie.

All events are single game, double elimination. There will be \$1,000 added to the open/pro singles and open doubles. A one-time \$5 registration fee will go to director-bracketeer Rob Kern.

For information, call Bobby V at The Palace Bar, 765-948-9102, or Buss at The Locker Bar, 765-662-0041. Use the enclosed registration form to save your spot for BIG NO. 13! Check the flyer for lodging information and a campgrounds special for those with RVs. As always at Board Talk Reunions, there will be door prizes every day, plus a printed program listing winners of the previous 12 tournaments.

Oklahoma

RECORD TURNOUT EXPECTED AT SOUTHWEST OPEN, JULY 1-6, DEL CITY

"We are looking forward to seeing all of you over the 4th of July weekend for what we hope will be a fun-filled shuffleboard vacation," said American Legion Post 73 host Don Crall and directors Ron and Sharon Huddleston. "Since we do not ask for advanced registration, we never know just how many players are coming but, from all the phone calls, our best guess at present is to expect close to 200 players. We have 21 boards and are in the process of trying to secure three more for a total of 24. For those of you coming for the first time, we know you will enjoy this facility, the park, the smoke eaters, the air conditioning and the friendly staff.

"You will also enjoy the fact that once we get an event started and lined out, we will be calling players to start new games every 5 minutes or less. If you happen to lose out of an event early, you can expect to have the opportunity to enter round robins while the tournament continues. Most of you are taking vacation time to be here and we will try to see that you get to play as much shuffleboard as possible. We will certainly surpass last year's 1100 games," they said.

Detailed information about all the events and the opportunities to win cash and round-trip airfare to Reno

for the North American Championships, Oct. 27-Nov. 2, is on the enclosed flyer.

For further information, call Ron Huddleston at 405-843-1615 or E-mail: RHUDD@worldnet.att.com. or the American Legion, 405-677-9393.

California

5TH ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY TOURNEY AT DIXIE BELLE, DOWNEY, JULY 2-6

The Dixie Belle, 9559 E. Imperial Hwy. in Downey, will hosts its 5th Annual 4th of July Tournament on July 2-6. Three events -- an open doubles, open singles, and A-B-C draw -- will be played on five boards. The Dixie Belle, site of the 12th Annual Board Talk Reunion last year, is now under new ownership, but will offer shufflers the same warm hospitality and good food.

The open doubles, \$200 per team entry, 2 out of 3 double elimination, will start on Wednesday following the sale at 11 a.m. At 8 p.m. on Wednesday, the sale for Thursday's open singles is on the agenda. The open singles, \$100 entry, is also a 2 out of 3 double elimination event and starts at 10 a.m. Thursday.

The sale for Saturday's A-B-C Draw will be held on Friday night at 8 p.m. Entry fee is \$25 per person, also 2 out of 3 double elimination, and will start at 9 a.m. Saturday morning. A free buffet will be served starting at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Nearby motels include the Best Western (562-929-8831); Empire Motel, (562-923-5511); and Downey Inn, (562-862-5050).

For further information, contact Jim Anderson at 562-803-4943.

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, 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.

*More Upcoming Events
on Page 19.....*

As The Puck Turns.....

By George & Donna Wilber

In the June 1994 issue of *The Board Talk*, we shared the sad news that Bob and Vicki Hunt of California had lost their beloved grandson, Franco. The two-year-old who had captured the hearts of his family and all who knew him was the victim of a drowning accident. Fellow shuffler and friend Hal Perry announced the establishment of the Franco Joseph Bilotta Memorial and asked The World of Shuffleboard to help fund that cause.

If you were one of those who responded, you'll be glad to know that on May 17, 1997, the opening of Franco's memorial, "Jack and the Beanstalk" at Fairy Tale Town (across from the Sacramento Zoo) was celebrated. Fairy Tale Town is a theme park for children and Franco's "Jack and the Beanstalk" set consists of a large giant's foot for climbing and a beanstalk slide. His family reports: "It's awesome!" A bench in Franco's memory had already been placed at Fairy Tale Town, and many other worthy causes have benefitted from donations to his memorial fund.

If you're ever in the Sacramento area, be sure to stop and admire Franco's memorial at Fairy Tale Town, located at 1501 Sutterville Road. And be sure to let Bob and Vicki know that you made that visit.

A Board Talk salute to those of you who responded to the loss experienced by your fellow shufflers. You did good!

Because of our move, we missed the Spring Doubles at Bourbon this year. We thank free-lance writer and photographer Ida Chipman for sending us a clipping from the *South Bend Tribune* in which she gave readers her views of this big event. It was interesting to read the observations of one not closely-involved in the sport, such as describing the boards and their "dressing," the pucks and carrying cases. We would never have thought of focusing on carrying cases, but she did so and it made for fascinating reading. After describing the felt-lined wooden ones and Fritz Broka's hand-tooled leather cases, she zeroed in on Larry Creakbaum's weight carrier:

"Larry Creakbaum, 61, of Indianapolis, a Purdue University graduate and a professional pilot, uses a disreputable nylon kit issued to pilots for shaving gear. 'It's almost a rag,' Niswonger (Bourbon American Legion official Bill) said, 'but it's good luck to Larry, who's a helluva player.'"

Anyone who has admired Larry's "disreputable" puck carrier will get a chuckle out of that!

We salute the participants Ida interviewed for sharing their expertise so she could spread the word about our sport to those who know nothing about shuffleboard.

There was just one thing that puzzled us about the article. Who is John McDermott from Louisiana? If you find him, sign him up! We don't have any subscribers in Louisiana.....

We've almost completed our move across the street. Still have to have a garage sale to weed out the "stuff" accumulated over the past 13 years that we simply don't have room for in our new location. Weeding out that stuff is the hang-up; George has a lot of worthless "artifacts" that he can't bear to part with (he has no problem putting Donna's treasures in the garage sale pile). But, somehow or other, we'll make it, hopefully in time so we'll be able to really enjoy our 13th Annual Shufflers' Reunion/Marisa Voorhis Memorial Tournament at The Locker Bar in Marion, Indiana, June 11-15.

Remember, our new address is 503 E. Sheridan Rd., Lansing, MI 48906 (the only change is the number). We finally convinced the phone company to allow us to keep our old number (517-371-2538), along with our new number (517-484-4976). You can reach us at either number now and we will soon be on-line for Fax and E-mail. We'll keep you posted.

There are still many finishing touches to be made at the new location, but you're welcome to stop by any time you're in the Lansing area.

Sincere thanks to all of you who sent your messages of sympathy following the death of Donna's Mom (this is written on Mother's Day, so she's very much on our minds).

A very special thanks to a good friend of ours from Stober's Lounge in Lansing, Joyce Willian. Because of our involvement in Hospice, we were the subjects of a special series in the *Lansing State Journal* on "Living and Dying." It contained some precious 4-color photos of Mom during her final days, as well as some photos of us sitting in our un-used motor home and at the cemetery following Mom's death. Joyce had the clippings from that article matted and mounted in a huge frame.

This wonderful gift from a wonderful friend is now hanging in the room that was to be Mom's and is now the new office of *The Board Talk*. When you stop in, you'll have to take a look; (like Franco's family says) it's awesome! Thank you, Joyce, from the bottoms of our hearts.

George & Donna

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"I Did it My Way" at My Way in a Snow Storm

Frank Sinatra wasn't the only one to do it "My Way" and he probably didn't have to brave a snow storm in Omaha, Nebraska, that left 10 inches of that white stuff on the ground, to do it! Many of the great shufflers of the Cornhusker State did just that on March 11-13 to see if they could do it "their way" at the My Way Lounge in an A-B draw and open doubles tournament.

Thirty-two players braved that snowstorm to make it to the A-B draw. All 16 teams fought to the finish, but in the end, the only team left standing was Kevin Higbee and Art Busch (yes, that's Denny's Dad). Denny and Larry Zahm finished second, with Terry Roberts and Shelly Myers in third. (See Page 1 article by Shelly and photo of the winners on Page 3).

Following the A-B draw, all the "big guns" came out to play in the open doubles. Seventeen teams entered this event with first place going to Jay Watson and Mike Roach. Tim Piccolo and Don Zahm took second place honors, with Denny Busch and Gwyn Orsi in third. Billy Vandeberghe and Doug "Cuz" Speckman finished fourth.

"Thanks to all the great players who entered and to Kevin Higbee, owner of My Way, for adding money to both tournaments," said Annie Sloger. "Special thanks to Jim Keller and Don Zahm for running great events."



Jay Watson (left) and Mike Roach congratulate each other for taking first in the My Way's open doubles.



Tim Piccolo (left) and Don Zahm took second place.

Lags Determining Factor in Events at Piccolo's

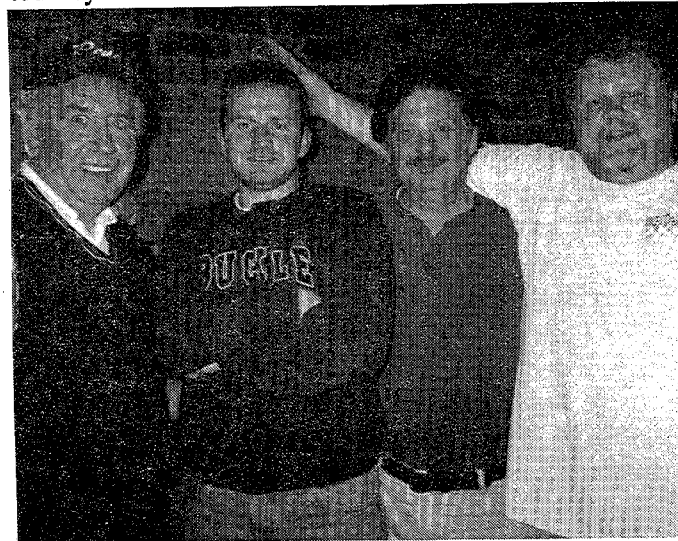
Can there be such a thing as too much action in Omaha, Nebraska? Doesn't seem so! Just a week after the My Way tournament, there was another at Piccolo's on March 19-21 with a good turnout.

Action began with an A-B draw with 26 players participating. A lot of rookies entered the tourney and most were lucky enough to draw some great players. Matt Hansen was; his partner, Ron Campbell, lagged a "4" in a very close game to go out.

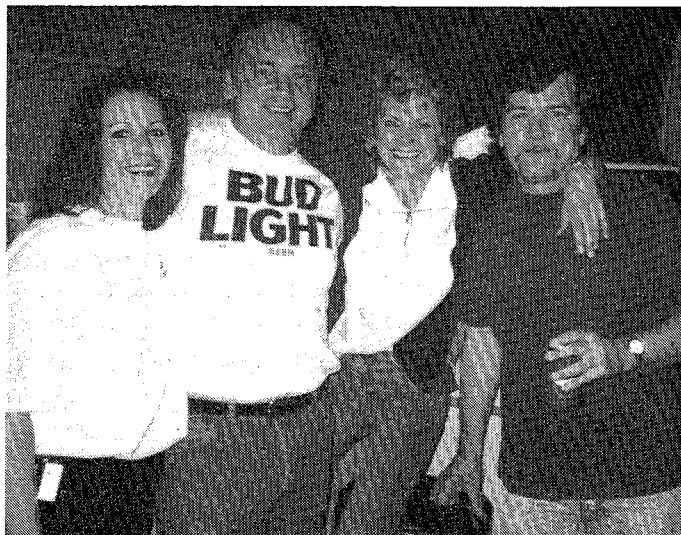


Winners of the A-B draw were Matt Hansen (with the Butch Kelly sunglasses) and Ron Campbell, (second from left). Annie Sloger (center) and Eddie Styles (left) finished second, with Char Rahn and Jr. Butler in third.

When the A-B draw was over, the 4-person team event started with eight teams (32 players) competing for top honors. Once again, four lags on each of the two boards during the championship match brought the tourney to an end.



Winners of the 4-person team event were (left to right) Mike Roach, Tom Harvat, Jr. Butler and Scotty Steinmeyer.



Taking second place honors in the 4-person team event at Piccolo's were (left to right): Annie Sloger, Phil Sutko, Vicki Simants and Larry Laws.

Since the "B" players decided they hadn't had enough shuffleboard, tournament director Gwyn Orsi arranged a "B" singles. With an entry fee of \$20, 14 players decided to enter -- and yes, once again, a 4 was lagged to win the event.



Winners of the "B" singles were (left to right): Annie Sloger, first; Tom Harvat, second; and Char Rahn, third.

"Congratulations to everyone who participated, especially to all the rookies who played," said Annie Sloger. "It takes courage to play against the 'big boys.' Thanks to Char Rahn for handling all the money, and special thanks to Gwyn Orsi for running the entire weekend and for trying to keep everyone happy."

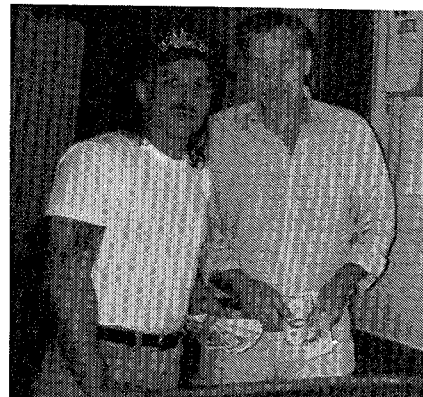
New Hoosier Location Attracts Good Participation in Inaugural

Eagles 1339 in Warsaw, Indiana, hosted a three-event shuffleboard tournament, plus a singles open 8-ball pool tourney, on April 11-13. Hosts Adrian and Brenda

Owens called it "one of the most action-packed weekends ever offered." Casino action with dice, black jack and stud poker was offered to tournament participants all weekend long.

Mikel Johnson and Adrian Owens took first place in Friday's open draw. Roger Barton and Nickie took second place, with Dave Arnette and Art in third. Mike also took first in the pool tournament, with Art Tillberry in second and Earl Shaeffer in third.

Mikel Johnson and Adrian Owens show off their first-place monies earned in the open draw.



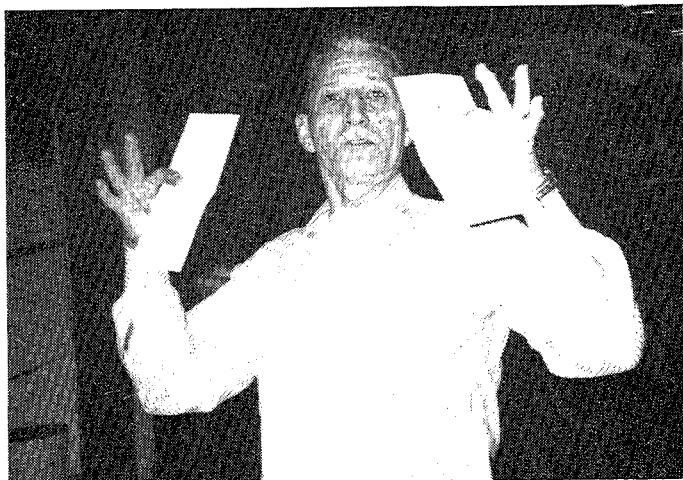
In Saturday's bring partner event, Mikel and his Dad, Claude Johnson, took top honors. Roger Barton and Danny Baker finished second, with Adrian and Brenda Owens in third place.

Being knocked into the loser's bracket in Sunday's open singles didn't bother the always-tough Steve Blue. He came out of the loser's bracket to double-dip the talented Larry Brown who settled for second place.



After a tough battle in the singles, first and second place finishers Steve Blue (right) and Larry Brown take a break. Larry and Mary (center) are owners of the Deer Park Tavern in Fort Wayne, Indiana. A very respectable third place went to Claude Johnson with son Mikel in fourth.

(continued on Page 10)

Hoosier Action (continued from Page 9)

"Nothing wrong with No. 3," says Claude Johnson, third place finisher in the open singles at the Eagles, especially when you take No. 1 in the bring partner with your son.



Hostess Brenda Owens and Alice Johnson, wife of Claude and mother of Mikel, enjoy some munchies during the action. Alice says she's been around shuffleboard for 35 years and has never been in The Board Talk. Here you are, Alice!

"We thank our friend Mikel Johnson for sharing The Board Talk and showing us how to run a shuffleboard tournament and the sales of the players," said Adrian and Brenda. "We have a brand new club here in Warsaw, Indiana, and can easily seat up to 200 guests and have up to six shuffleboard tables. We would like to have another tournament in our club again because this was a great time and great fun to share. We hope to see many new faces at our next tournament."

More Indiana Action.....**Lucky's Tavern, North Webster:**

Two open doubles tournaments were held recently at Lucky's Tavern, North Webster, Indiana, hosted by Carol

Westerman. The first was won by Larry Huffer and Mikel Johnson, with Jim Long and Steve Blue taking second place. Third went to Terry Dowell and John Cowan, with fourth won by Larry Brown and "Beef" Camp, owner of Beef's Bar in Kendallville.

The second open doubles was won by Terry Dowell and John Cowan, with Steve Blue and Mikel Johnson taking second place honors. Third place went to Jim Long and Larry Creakbaum, with Larry Brown and Carol Westerman in fourth.

"Carol puts a lot of work into her tournaments and always buys the players a free drink and puts out a nice free luncheon for players," reports Mike Johnson. "Don't miss her next tournament and if you're ever close to North Webster, stop in and play a game. Carol would really enjoy it!" (Travelling pro Glen Davidson can vouch for that.)

Deer Park Tavern, Fort Wayne:

A mixed doubles tournament at Deer Park Tavern in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on March 8 was won by Mike Johnson and Vicki Morgan, who came out of the loser's bracket to take top honors. Second place was a team from Ohio, Terry Wolfrum and Dorothy Depew. PeeWee Fleshman and hostess Mary Brown finished third.

Mary reports that although it was a small turnout, the tournament was a lot of fun.

(Editor's Note: Mary & Larry, use the Calendar of Events to spread the word. It's open to large and small, local, statewide or national events -- no charge -- and you might be surprised who turns out!)

IMPORTANT NOTICES

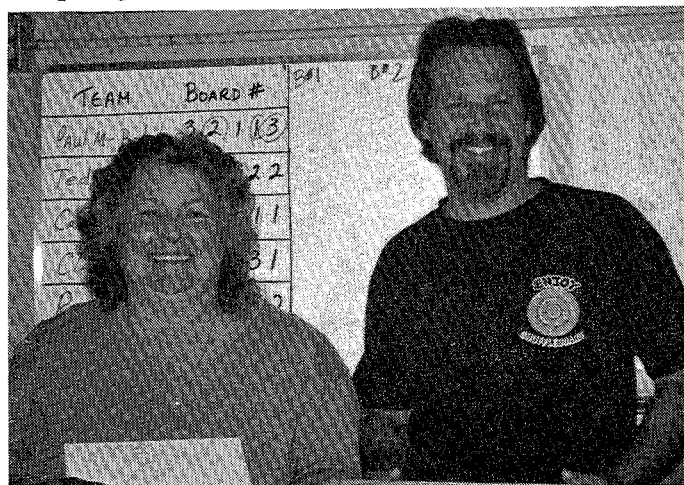
Correction: In the May issue Shufflers' Notebook, under the title of "Believe It or Not: It Happened," Larry Kirk, winning captain of the Cecil-Harford League, was identified as being from Harvey's Place. He is from George's Restaurant. Our apologies to Larry and George's Restaurant's first-place Bulldog Team.

Correction: On the last couple Calendar of Events, the Tolo Tavern has been listed as having tournaments on Aug. 28-31 and Nov. 28-30. The Tolo is a member of the Evergreen Shuffleboard Association and would not sponsor events that conflict with other ESA-sanctioned tournaments. We have no idea where we received that information and apologize to Pat at the Tolo Tavern and the ESA. While we do accept phone calls for events to be listed on the calendar, written information is much preferred and will help eliminate errors.

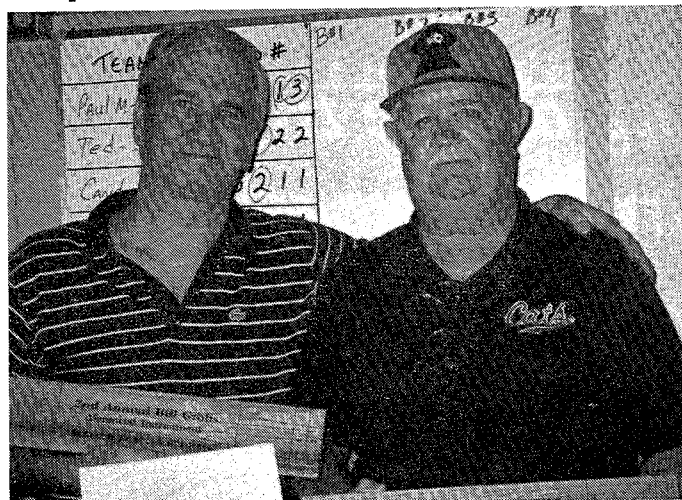
2nd Annual Bill Gibbs Memorial Held in Phoenix

On Friday, April 25, Phoenix kicked off its 2nd Annual Bill Gibbs Memorial Shuffleboard Tournament at Family Billiards. Three events on the four in-house boards, a visit from California's Dixie Bellers, some multiple winners, some repeat winners, and a barbeque highlighted the weekend event.

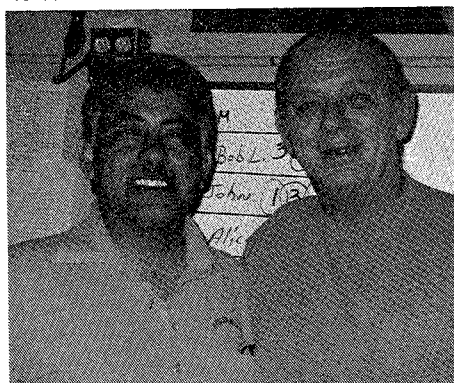
The first event was the A-B draw with 18 teams competing in the single game, double elimination contest.



Winners were Mickey Lewis and Linda Myers (repeat champion), who had to withstand a real effort from....



...Bill Thomas (left) and Bill Bryan, taking second place honors.

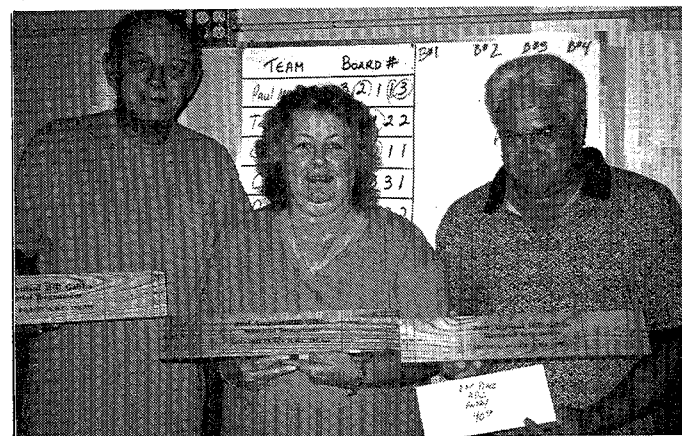


Al Salazar (left) and host Bob VanAlstyne took third place, with fourth going to Wayne Scott and Clay Chance.

Next up was the A-B-C event with crowd favorite Paul Weber from the Dixie Belle doing the auction. Twelve teams entered this double elimination contest vying for a share of the almost \$4,000 in prize monies.



Bill Thomas couldn't double-dip in the A-B but his team of Beverly Chaffin and Tim Meeds did in the A-B-C.



They beat out (from left) Bob VanAlstyne, Linda Myers, and Gil Aragon, who settled for second.

Third place trophy went to the team of Frank Monarrez, Denise Yohn, and Doug Pancerev.

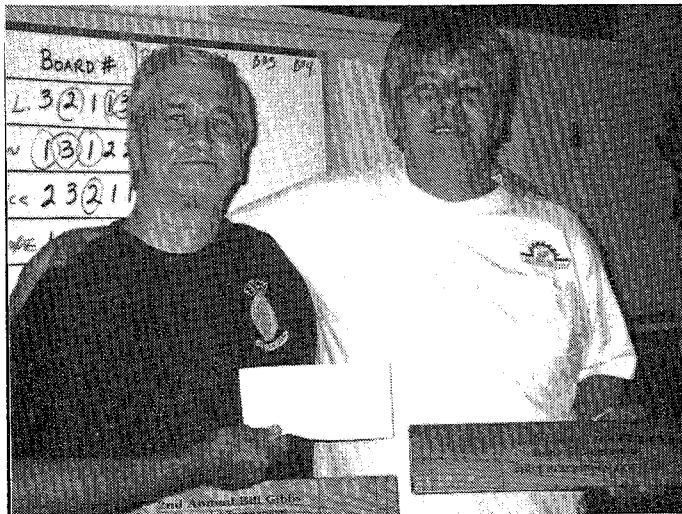
After Saturday night's barbeque came the start of the open doubles with Paul Weber again auctioning off the nine teams in the 2 out of 3, double elimination games.

(continued on Page 12)

We've Moved!

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Gibbs Memorial *(continued from Page 11)*

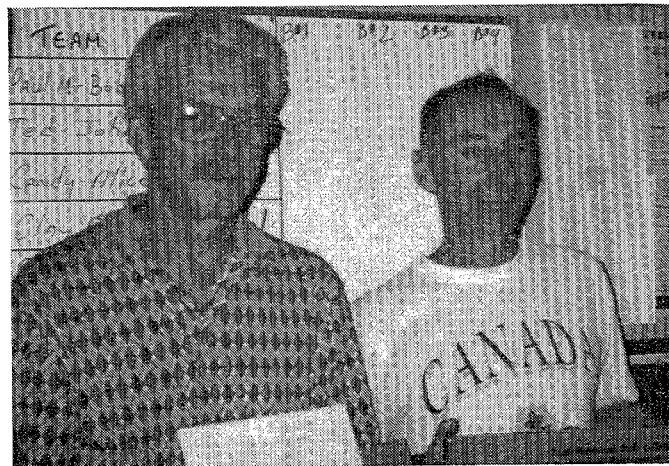


A winner again was Bill Thomas, this time with open doubles partner Frank Monarrez (right).

Nick Chaffin from California teamed up with Bob Jacobson to take second place honors. Al Salazar and Bob Hunt, also of California and a member of the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Board of Directors, had to settle for third.

Tournament directors Alice Arredondo, Al Salazar and Bob Lewis thank the Dixie Belle and the PCSA for

their continued support. "Many people contribute to these events with their time and money and we would like to thank them all: Mickey Lewis, Nancy Salazar, Marilyn Roberts, Denise Yohn, Bob Jacobson, and everyone who gave of their time to make things go a little easier for their shuffleboard friends," they said.



Bob Jacobson and Nick Chaffin (right) took second in the open doubles event.

This annual event is held in honor of the memory of Bill Gibbs, a popular Phoenix shuffler who died suddenly in July of 1995.

Family Billiards is a member of The Board Talk's national shuffleboard network.

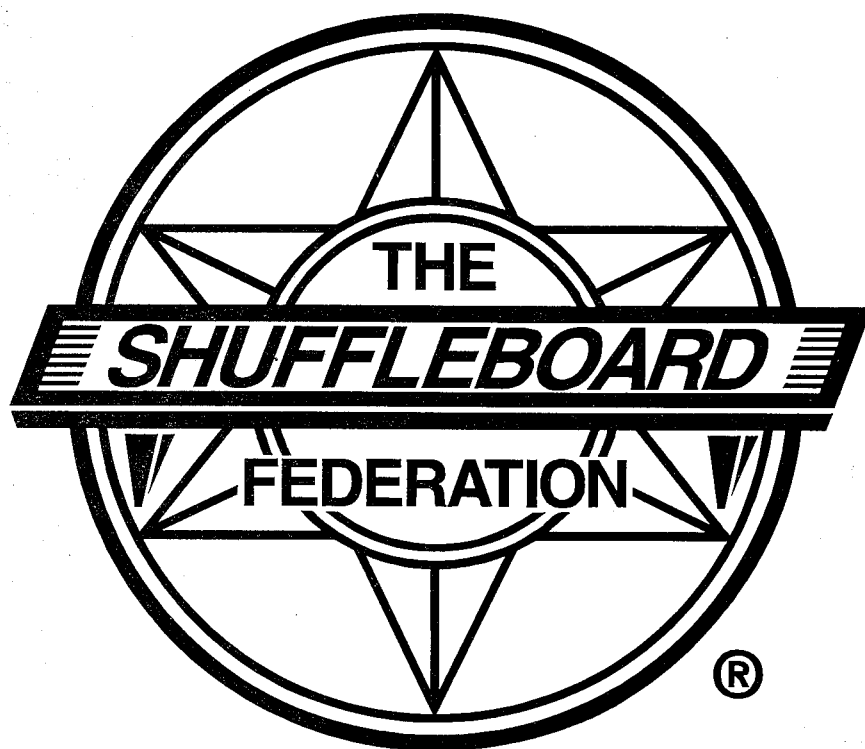


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Walden/Vessels, Miller/Pinkston Tops at Woodie's Double-Dipper

Sonny Boys in Cuba, Missouri, hosted a double-dipper tournament on April 18-19.

For the A-B draw on Friday, Harvey Walden came in from Memphis, Tennessee, and drew one of Cuba's top "B" players, Ed Vessels, and after a hard fight with Jim Stanley of Cuba and Bill Frame from St. Louis, took top shares of the \$800 pot. Third place went to Bill Green of Springfield, Mo., and Cooky Lock of Steelville, Mo. "Thanks to Ron and Debbie Bowers, all of the A-B draw players were rated," said organizer Woodie Cockrum.



Hostess Judy Mull congratulates winners Ed Vessels (left) and Harvey Walden.

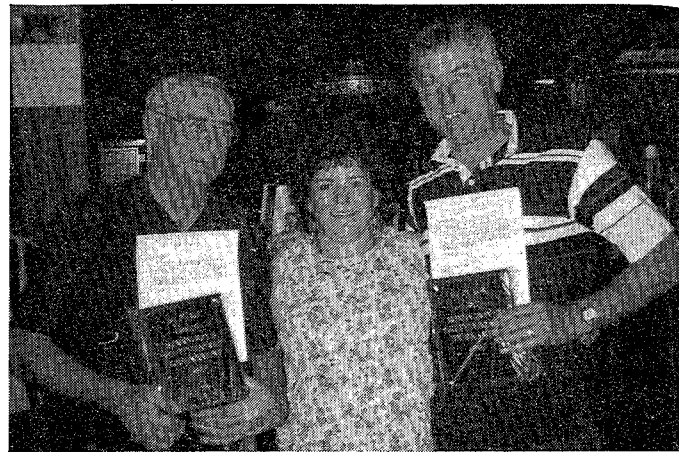


Jim Stanley (left) and Bill Frame took second in the A-B draw at Sonny Boys.

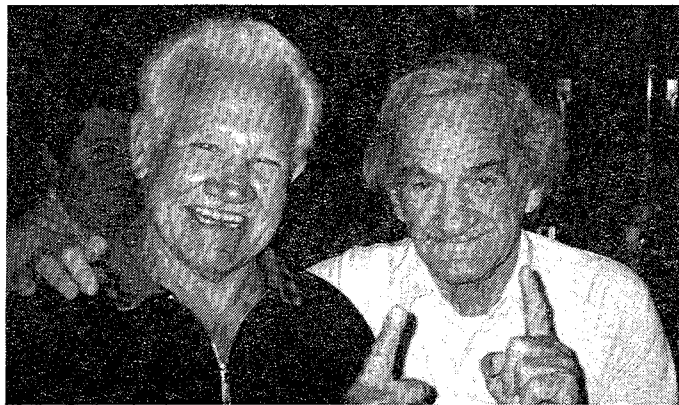
The "Big Guns" came in with their own partners on Saturday, looking to take home first-place shares of the \$1400 pot. Dean Pinkston and Moe Miller of Houston, Mo., had to play two games in the finals to beat "Super Sam" Eveland and Paul Casula from St. Louis to take first place. Third went to Charlie Riley and Julie Hartman of Houston.

"Thanks to Judy Mull of Sonny Boys for the added money and beautiful plaques," said Woodie.

A Mid-Summer Double Dipper will be held at Sonny Boys, located at 121 W. Main St., Cuba, on June 6-7. Entry fee for the A-B draw is \$10 and \$15 per person for the bring partner (players with a rating of -1, 0, or 1 must bring a partner rated 2.5 or higher).



Judy congratulates Moe Miller (left) and Dean Pinkston on their first-place finish in the bring partner event.



Even though they finished second, "Super Sam" Eveland (left) and Paul Casula consider themselves No. 1.

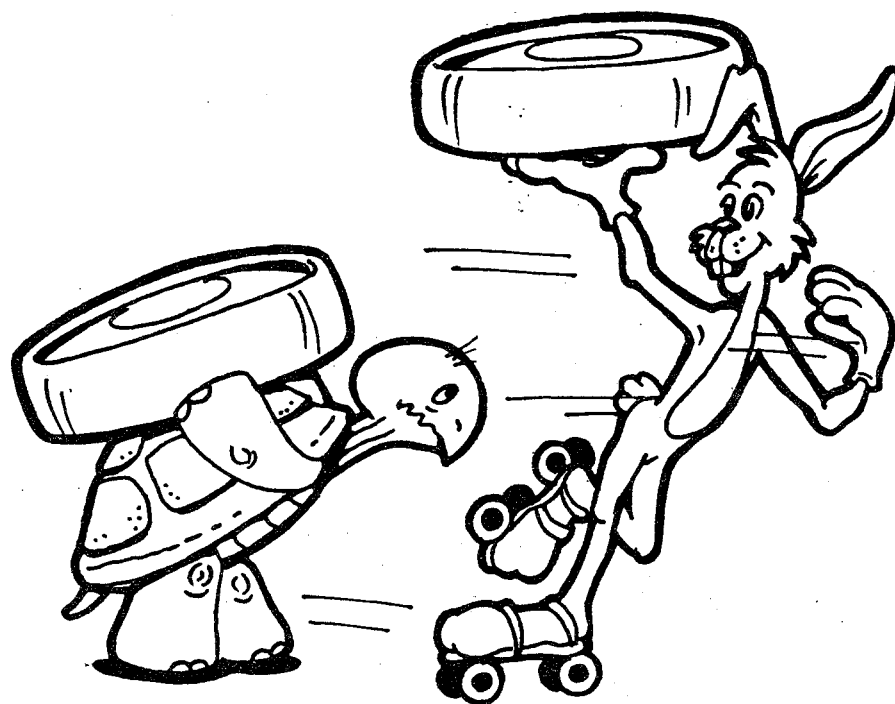


Julie Hartman and Charlie Riley took third in the bring partner event.

REMINDER

***Your news, views, promotion of upcoming events and advertising must be received by the 15th of the month to appear in the next issue of
THE BOARD TALK***

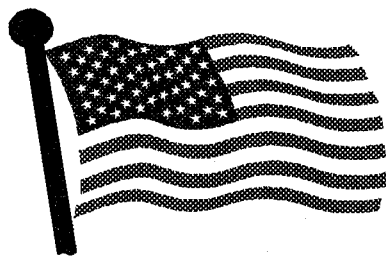
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WARM-UP EVENT:

TUESDAY 6:30 p.m.

For those coming in early. Bring your own 4 person team, 2/3 double elimination. Team handicap must be at least 1 or more. No more than 1 pro per team. \$200 per team entry fee

*** OPEN SINGLES:** (2 events)

WEDNESDAY 6:00 p.m.

- I** 2/3 double elimination \$300 entry
- II** Handicap Entry - Single game double elimination
(0) \$100 (1) \$50 (2s and up) \$25

*** DRAW PARTNER:** (2 events)

THURSDAY 7:30 p.m.

- I** No two pros draw together - \$50 entry
- II** Beginner/Pretty Good (3s, 4s, 5s) - \$30 entry

*** DRAFT TEAM EVENT:**

FRIDAY 6:00 p.m. FREE BAR-B-QUE

Everybody gets in this one, especially this year with added money. Pros and 0s captains, 4/7 games, mark 4, double elimination - \$40 entry fee

*** 3 EVENTS:**

SATURDAY ASAP

- I** Bring Partner Handicap total 0 or more - \$100 team entry
- II** Singles for 2 rated players - \$40 entry
- III** Beginner/Pretty Good Singles (3s, 4s, 5s) - \$30 entry

Entry into ***** events earn points toward the added money. Each event entered earns at least 3 points. A 7th or 8th place earns 4 points. A 5th or 6th place earns 5 points. A 4th place 6 points, 3rd place 7 points, 2nd place 8 points, 1st place 9 points. The winner will probably have a good finish in the draft team event.

All events are single game/double elimination unless otherwise noted, as well as subject to mark 4 in losers bracket. No need to send advance \$ as entries accepted up to posted event time, but a quick telephone call of your plans would be appreciated. \$10 registration.

For information call Ron Huddleston (405) 843-1615 E-mail address RHUDD@worldnet.att.com
AMERICAN LEGION POST 73 5000 S.E. 24th, Del City, OK Phone (405) 677-9393

MOTEL INFORMATION - The most convenient motel is a newly remodeled Super 8, the manager has blocked off 40 rooms for "Shuffleboard Players". Rooms are a flat \$40 plus tax up to 4 people per room. These rates are good for reservations made before **June 15**, you must call them direct at (405) 737-8880 for this rate. We suggest you make reservations now and alter later if needed. The Legion has a 5 acre park with electric & water hook-ups, self-contained RVs and campers welcome. Other motels nearby are Hampton Inn, Comfort Inn, Holiday Inn, LaQuinta and Motel Six.

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JULY 31-AUG. 3

THURSDAY, JULY 31 -- ROUND ROBINS

\$10 draws, 7 p.m., limited to 36, pays 3 places.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1 -- MIXED DOUBLES

Entry fee, \$20 per team, drawing and bidding at 6 p.m., with play immediately following; limited to first 16 paid sign-ups, prizes to first three places.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2 -- OPEN SINGLES

Entry fee, \$25 per player, drawing and bidding at 9 a.m., with play immediately following; limited to first 24 paid sign-ups, pays 1 in 4, maximum 6.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2 -- DRAW PARTNERS

Entry fee, \$10 per person, drawing and bidding at 4 p.m., with play immediately following, limited to first 40 sign-ups, prizes to first four places.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3 -- BRING PARTNER

Entry fee, \$30 per team, drawing and bidding at 12 noon, with play immediately following; limited to first 24 paid teams, payout 1 in 4, maximum of 6.

All games 15 points straight, single game, double elimination. Open buffet to all participants.

Advance registration suggested and must be accompanied with entry fees.

These events have sold out in past years, so call ahead! All play is on four boards.

RESERVATION FORM

Open Singles _____ Mixed Doubles _____ Draw Partner _____ Bring Partner _____

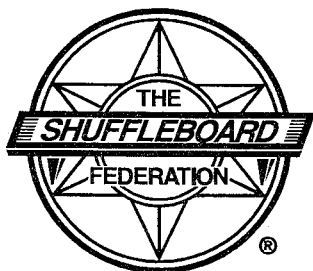
Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Mixed Doubles Partner: _____

Bring Partner's Name: _____

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Division I Pro/Am Draft Team Event, Division I Singles, Pro/Division I Doubles, Amateur Team Event & Deuces Wild®.

Division II Pro/Am Draft Team Event, Division II Open or Ladies Singles, Doubles, Amateur Team Event & Deuces Wild®.

The top three players in each division will win \$300, \$200 and \$100, respectively, the top finisher overall will be the 1997 North American Champion, and will receive a trophy and, *a free Jacuzzi suite*, for the 1998 North American Championships™.

Event Information (more details on the back of this page)

Event	Entry Fee	Starts	Finishes	Limit
Pro/Am Draft Team Event	\$50.00 per player	Monday, October 27 (2:00 pm)	Tuesday	144 players
Pro/Division I Doubles	\$100.00 per player	Wednesday, October 29	Thursday	32 teams
Division II Doubles	\$50.00 per player	Wednesday, October 29	Wednesday	32 teams
Division I Singles	\$100.00 per player	Thursday, October 30	Thursday	32 players
Division II Open Singles	\$50.00 per player	Thursday, October 30	Thursday	48 players
Division II Ladies Singles	\$25.00 per player	Thursday, October 30	Thursday	24 players
Pro Draw Partners	\$50.00 per player	Thursday, October 30	Thursday	32 players
Amateur Team Event	\$50.00 per player	Friday, October 31	Sunday	28 teams
Pro Singles	\$300.00 per player	Friday, October 31	Saturday/Sunday	32 players
Legends Draw	\$50.00 per player	Saturday, November 1	Sunday	32 players
DeucesWild®	\$25.00 per player	Sunday, November 2	Sunday	128 players

- All participants *must* be registered guests of the Sands Regency Hotel Casino. Room rates are \$53.41, including tax. Room/airfare packages are allowed, as long as you stay at the Sands Regency. To make room reservations, call the Sands Regency at (800) 348-6553 and tell them your group code number is SHU1026.
- Entries for each event will be accepted until that event is full, or until the day prior to that event, whichever comes first. Entries postmarked after October 10 are subject to a \$5.00 penalty for registration, and for each event entered.
- For more information, contact The Shuffleboard Federation at (248) 380-9300, 41761 Onaway Drive, Northville, Michigan 48167-2411.



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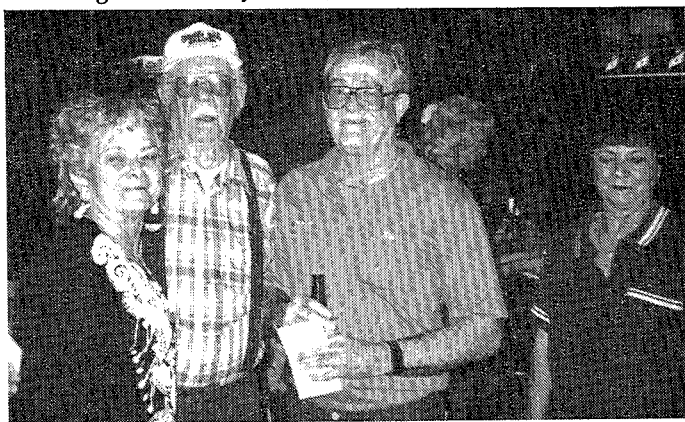
Phone: 201-759-4474 or 201-759-3321 FAX: 201-759-6157

Valk/Brooks Winners at Mother's 1st Spring Fling

Mother's Pizza & Por Boys in Corpus Christi, Texas, hosted its 1st Mother's Spring Fling on March 22. This first attracted 30 entrants: 13 from Corpus Christi, four from Rockport (3 of the 4 finished in the money), two from Canyon Lake, one from Houston, seven from Austin, plus Wanda West from Muskogee, Oklahoma, and Jim Stanley from Cuba, Missouri.



Don Valk of Austin and Rachael Brooks (right) of Rockport took the biggest share of the \$1400 pot. They are congratulated by Gail (Mother) Sheets.



Ron Bowers of Austin and Sam Thompson of Rockport took second place honors. (Wanda West of Muskogee, OK, on the right awaits her turn for the fifth place money envelope she earned with partner Neil Garvin.)



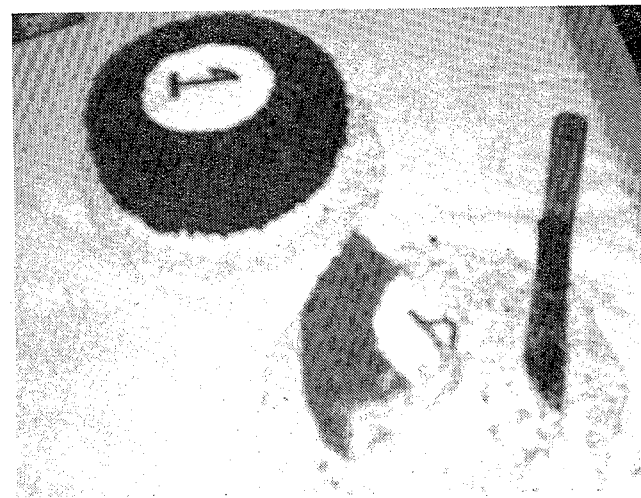
"Mother" presents third place winnings to Ronnie McMahan of Canyon Lake and Sharon Olivio of Corpus Christi.



Fourth place went to Tom French (left) of Austin and Tommy Corry of Rockport.

"Jerry and Gail Sheets, owners of Mother's Pizza, and I thank all the players who participated and we're looking forward to another, larger tournament soon," said director Neil Garvin. "I am very thankful to all the participants for their help and patience with me throughout the event, especially Johnny Ballard, Don Valk and Pat Gainey."

"Gail (Mother) was extremely nervous for several days prior to the tournament since this was the first BFL tournament with much higher caliber players than most the Corpus Christi players had ever seen before," said Neil. "But after it was over, she said: 'These are really good, down-home people. When can we do this again?'"



Included in the refreshments served at Mother's were "puck" cakes. While No. 1 is still intact, No. 4 is nearly gone!

Voorhis/Humes/Johnson Winners at Pendleton AMVETS

Bobby Voorhis and John Humes were the winners of an open doubles at the AMVETS Post 26 in Pendleton, Indiana, on April 12. Bobby and John came back from the loser's bracket to win.

Dave Welch and Steve Schuyler took second place honors, with Jim Long and Larry Creakbaum (he with the "disreputable" puck carrier) finishing third.

Mike Johnson was the winner of the open singles held on April 20. Bobby Voorhis was second and Rick Royal was third place winner.

"Thanks to everyone who made this tournament a success," said director Sonny Harris.

The next tournament at the AMVETS will be on Sept. 20-21. Watch for details.

J & C's A-B Draw Results

J & C's Tavern, 6601 Lansdowne Ave., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is sponsoring first Friday of the month A-B draw tournaments.

In April, Rita Yank of Philly and her partner, Wayne Todd of Delaware, took first place. Joe Williams and Kevin Ward finished second.

At the May event, the strong team of Jim Wolf and Kevin Ward were the top winners, with Regina Smith and her partner, Renee, a new shooter, taking second (see Regina's letter on Page 3).

"A big thanks to the Orfanellis for matching the pot and to all the shooters who lent a hand in running the tournaments," said Rita Yank.

On the Road with National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Chairman Glen Davidson

As this is written, Billy Melton and I are at The Board Talk's new location, 503 E. Sheridan Rd., Lansing, Michigan, visiting with George and Donna. We started out from Oklahoma City on a Tuesday and thought we would play in Tulsa for expense money. When it was over, our expense money was in the pockets of John Cason and Cliff Goff. I told Billy we'd better go on to Bourbon while we still have enough money to get there.

The Bourbon Spring Tournament was a good one with 33 teams. Mike Johnson and I downed Debbie Voorhis and Steve Blue for the first place spot. Third went to John McDermott and Billy Melton. The tourney was over early, around 10 p.m. There was some playing going on afterwards. The Delaware duo beat Billy and John a couple of games and Chris and Chuck from Saginaw took on the after-hour expertise of Larry Creakbaum and Jim Long that lasted until closing time.

Billy and I headed to Muncie for the doubles at the Sportsman's Lounge. Marcia and Bob Brown ran a great tournament with 20 teams in the single game, double

elimination event. We lost our first game at about 1 a.m. and had to deal with Glen Ingram and Terry Dowell. We got real lucky to win, then we had to beat Larry Vance and partner Dan, and got lucky again to win two in a row. So it was Billy and Glen, 1st; Larry and Dan, 2nd; and Glen and Terry, 3rd. Thanks for all the good service from the waitresses and bartenders as well as Rudy.

Billy wishes the best for Mikey, who stood him up twice in a row. Billy's hopes are high for the next meeting.

I talked to Cheryl, Terry and Bob and they're interested in forming a state Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. They said they would get with Secretary Louise Freer for more information.

We are now headed to the old reliable Liberty Bar in Pontiac for some action. I know we will get all we want. Read your Board Talk for an update on "Action Across America!"

Glen Davidson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

It was a pleasure to welcome Glen and Billy into our new home, visit with them over the hammering and sawing of a construction crew, lend them a hot shower (which they needed) and wash Billy's socks (which they needed). While we were delighted to see Billy, Glen's new travelling companion, we did miss Madge. As we said farewell to them before they headed to Pontiac, we hoped that Glen would take Billy safely home again. He was suffering from sinus problems (Michigan weather doesn't help) and refused Donna's home remedy of a hot whiskey sling. A few wins at Pontiac will probably work better than her home remedy!

NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

***Elections for positions on the
Board of Directors of
The National Shuffleboard
Hall of Fame***

***will be held during the July 1997 board
meeting in Del City, Oklahoma.***

For further information, contact:

President Glen Davidson

405-733-4430 or

Secretary Louise Freer

215-661-0108 or 610-397-7586

or E-mail:

Louise_Freer@Merck.com.

Frisko Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

(In the last episode, Frisko 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.)

After they made their way through the entrance to O'Brian's Pub, Eddie and Lil selected a couple of stools which gave them the best view of the two shuffleboards, both of which were being used. There were actually a number of patrons, considering it was a late Sunday afternoon. Eddie mentioned this to Lil and she replied: "Most of these guys aren't in here to play shuffleboard, Champ. They're here to get well from the Sunday morning blues and to nurse their hangovers. They'll drink just enough so they can still make it into work on Monday morning. The place will be practically empty by 8 o'clock tonight."

The bar was pretty large and very well kept. Lil didn't recognize the bartender, a good-looking blond girl who was also quite young. She was wondering if the place may have changed hands. Eddie introduced himself and Lil when they ordered and found out her name was Candice, but that everyone called her "Candy." Lil didn't appreciate the sly look in Eddie's eyes when they made contact with hers.

Lil canvassed the area and then said: "Well, Eddie, there doesn't seem to be any of the real hustlers here now, but that's probably good though. What we'll do is challenge these 'fish' on the board to the right and get in a little practice. You're going to need it, Hot-Shot."

Eddie kind of resented that remark (maybe because his confidence level was higher now -- and maybe because the big-time shooters weren't there yet). He had downed his second shot of Wild Turkey with a water "wash" before they were able to start on the board they had challenged.

After Eddie put the quarters in, they introduced themselves to their opponents. It was a younger man, about Eddie's age, and a much older woman. They learned that these two had held the board all afternoon. The kid's name was Randy and the older lady was called Annie. She laughingly remarked that most of the players called her "Annie Oakley" because she was from Oklahoma.

The board was in excellent condition. When Lil asked what they were playing for, Annie said: "It's usually for \$10 an end for a challenge around here, unless we have a round robin or some really good players show up." Lil said: "It's a little steep, but we'll go for the \$10 an end."

By now Eddie knew what she was up to. They would

get in their practice but make the win very close so they would keep the board. The pair didn't look too shabby during their last game.

They started out weight-for-weight for several frames and their opponents were turning out to be pretty darn good. They knew this table like the backs of their hands and were giving Lil and Eddie a real run for their money. A gathering of customers had formed now to watch the action. Ironically, the game ended up 15-13 with Lil and Eddie as losers!

There were other challengers but they backed off so they could watch another game between these four. The tide began to change in the second game. Lil and Eddie won it 15-12. While they were playing their third (or rubber) game, Annie asked Lil: "Could you be the gal from L.A. they call Long Beach Lil?" Lil said that she was. Then Annie asked her if they had come to go up against the "pros" that came in there.

Lil answered: "Well, now, my partner there is hell-bent on playing whoever may come through that door." Annie replied: "The way you guys shoot, you should be able to mix it up with just about anyone -- except the player who comes in here the call 'The Man.' I don't think your kid there can take him. If he shows, you'd be smart to leave. He knows every inch of this board and all the rest of them in this whole state."

A man entered the door then. He was about 5' 11" tall with a chunky body and graying black hair. Lil knew him. His handle was "Portland Pete." He was a tough customer and good hustler -- but not as good as "The Man."

He came up and shook hands with Lil and gave her a warm greeting. When she introduced Eddie, he said: "So you're the young man that caused all the excitement in Seattle yesterday. Nice to meet you, Frisko Eddie." They shook hands then, both of them with knowing twinkles in their eyes.

The second board was empty now and Portland Pete walked over and began to throw some weights. After a short while, he remarked: "Well, Eddie, want to get your feet wet over here? I'd like to give you a spin if you're up to it." Lil and Eddie's game had just ended. Eddie looked over at Portland and responded: "Frisko Eddie's my name and shuffleboard's my game. Let's get it on!"

They got the board all set up and it was decided to start for \$100 a game. Lil kind of sat back on the sidelines while all this was going on. After all, she did that Eddie could "steer the ship" on this one.

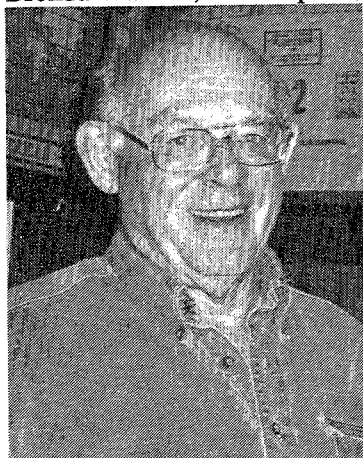
They played six games, and the only winner was the quarter slot. It was level at three games each. They were evenly matched and the games were close. As they were

(continued on Page

Brenda Salutes Another "Unsung Hero" -- Dick Gorman

I would like to thank Dick Gorman for the many years and hours, tears and laughter, highs and lows, he has invested to promote shuffleboard on the East Coast. He has given so much and really made me stay in shuffleboard for the past 11 years.

Brenda Wallace, Port Deposit, Maryland



Thanks, Brenda, for recognizing Dick for all he does for shuffleboard.

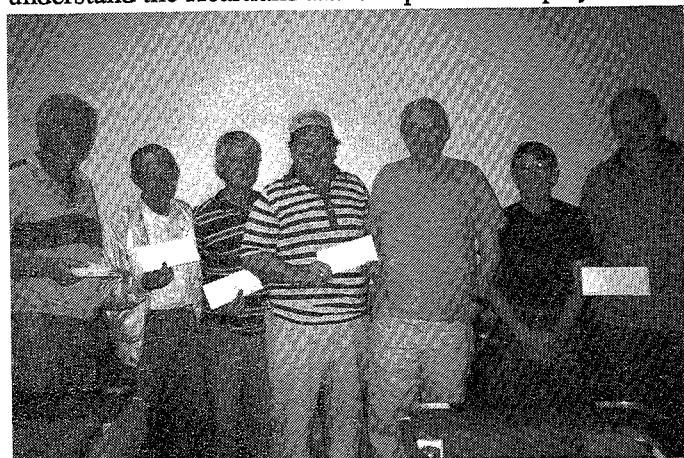
There have been many nights (or early mornings) when, after he does all that, he comes home and writes the results of tournaments to help us meet our deadlines. What would our sport be without the likes of him and others who

contribute their talents to The World of Shuffleboard.

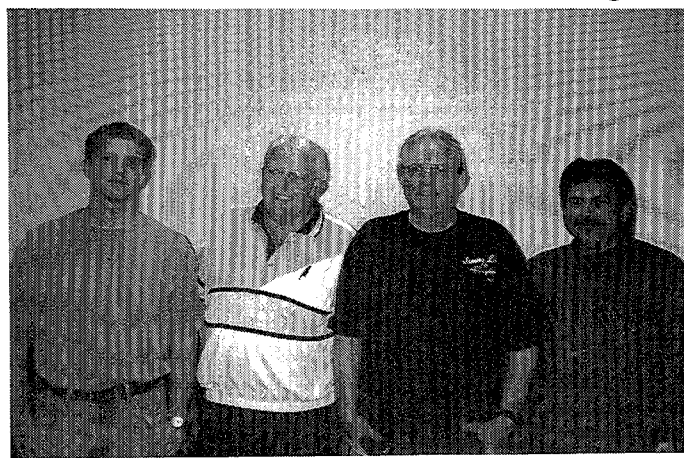
Heartland Handicap Another Success for Oklahoma

Sixty shufflers gathered at the American Legion Post 73 in Del City, Oklahoma, for the "Heartland Handicap" tournament, April 18-20. The two events of draw and bring partner produced record pots of almost \$12,000.

"Thanks to the Bowers Handicap Ratings, the format allows us to mix all levels of rated players into each event," said director Ron Huddleston. "It is a pleasure to see new faces starting to enter events as they begin to understand the Heartland Handicap format of play."



Draw partner winners were: Steve Walker and Kenny Brewer, 1st; Ron Huddleston and Cliff Goff, 2nd; Dino Fleming and Shannon Tice (not pictured), 3rd; Charlie Sawyer and Jim Kennedy, 4th.



Bring Partner winners were: (right) John Cason (alias "The Shadow") and Jim Kennedy, 1st; Mark and Bill Melton, 2nd.



Mike Brousa and Sally Goff took third place. Lynn and Nancy Tice finished fourth.

"Thanks to all the players for making this a fun tournament," said Ron.

Upcoming Events *(continued from Page 5)*

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 round robins. Friday at 6 p.m. will be the mixed doubles, with the open singles starting at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday. The draw partner tourney is scheduled for Saturday at 4 p.m., with the open doubles starting at noon on Sunday. All events are single game, double elimination, with a sponsor sale before each.

Post the enclosed flyer in your favorite establishment. Questions? Call Tracie Fridley at 315-539-5729.

1997 CALENDAR OF SHUFFLEBOARD EVENTS

JUNE 1997

June 6

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

June 6-7

Mid-Summer Double Dipper
Sonny Boys
Cuba, Missouri

June 7-8

3rd Annual Everett Invitational
Shotze's Rack 'N Roll
Everett, Washington

June 11-15

13th Annual Board Talk
Shufflers' Reunion Tournament
Locker Bar
Marion, Indiana

June 19-22

8th Annual Balloon Open
The Balloon Inn
Arvada, Colorado

June 21-22

Mixed Doubles
Shamrock Tavern
Longview, Washington

June 27-28

1st Grey Eagle Open Draft Team
Family Sports Bar
St. Louis, Missouri

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 25-27

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

AUGUST 1997

July 30-Aug. 3

Grand Masters Plus
Whistling Oyster
Quilcene, Washington

July 31-Aug. 3

National Tournament
Dew Drop Inn
Waterloo, New York

Aug. 14-17

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

Aug. 22-23

3rd St. Louis Shootout
Family Sports Bar
St. Louis, Missouri

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. 13-14

3rd Annual Open Doubles
Old Edison Inn
Edison, Washington

Sept. 19-20

Open Draw Partner
Family Sports Bar
St. Louis, Missouri

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. 10-11

1st Missouri Doubles Champs
Family Sports Bar
St. Louis, Missouri

Oct. 18-19

Nelson/Buhl Bring Partner
Shamrock Tavern
Longview, Washington

Oct. 24-25

Fall Double Dipper
Sonny Boys
Cuba, Missouri

Oct. 27-Nov. 2

North American Championship
Sands Regency Hotel/Casino
Reno, Nevada

1997 CALENDAR OF SHUFFLEBOARD EVENTS

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

More Upcoming Events.....

8TH ANNUAL GRAND MASTERS PLUS! WHISTLING OYSTER, QUILCENE, WASHINGTON, JULY 30-AUGUST 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!

Watch next month's issue for a flyer with complete details. In the meantime, call Bill Bailey at 360-765-9508 or 3436; or Jim Foran, 206-474-2724.

SKIP'S/BOARD TALK FALL BASH, HOUGHTON LAKE, MICH., 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 be 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 an annual event an experience you'll never forget!

Watch next month's issue for details.

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.

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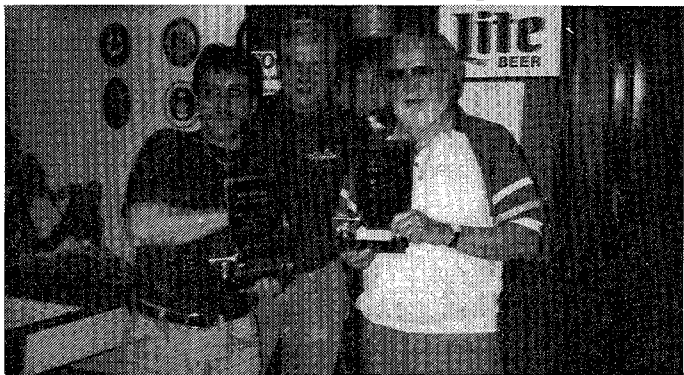
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share your opinions and your ideas with others. To ensure that you
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those businesses/tournament sponsors who advertise in***

THE BOARD TALK

Davidson/Johnson Win 36th Bourbon Spring Doubles

Thirty-three teams from eight states -- Maryland, Oregon, California, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri and Oklahoma -- came to the American Legion Post 424 in Bourbon, Indiana, on May 3 for its 36th Annual Spring Doubles.

Hall of Famer Glen Davison of Oklahoma teamed up with Hoosier Mike Johnson to take first place.

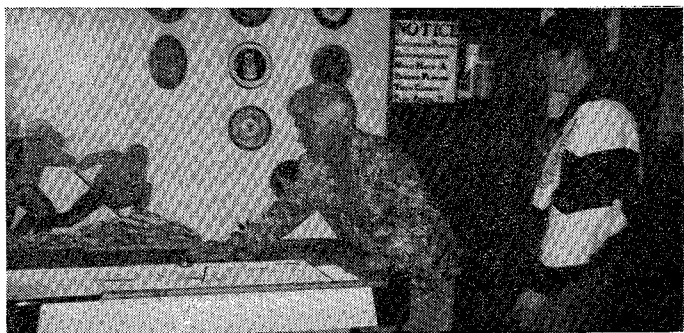


Director Terry Dowell (center) presents first-place plaques to Mike Johnson and Glen Davidson.



Host Bill Niswonger (center) congratulates Steve Blue and Debbie Voorhis for taking second-place honors.

Billy Melton from Oklahoma and John McDermott of Michigan finished third, with Lee McDonald of Missouri and J.R. Lopez of Michigan in fourth. Other winners were: Jim Allis, Washington, and Bobby Voorhis, Indiana, Jim Long and Larry Creakbaum, Indiana, 5th and 6th; Dave Boaz and Glen Ingram, Indiana, Chuck Ricklefs and Chris Passariello, Michigan, 7th and 8th.



Free-lance writer Ida Chipman was there to cover the event for local papers and tried out the board.

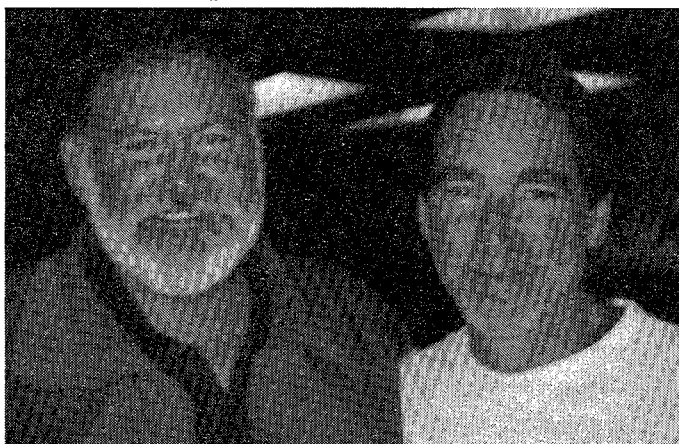
The Bourbon American Legion Auxiliary's barbecue chicken and swiss steak cook-out was its usual big attraction, along with prizes awarded throughout the tournament.

Hosts/directors Bill Niswonger, Terry Dowell and Mike Koontz thank all participants for making this 36th event a success.

Nelson/Heflin Prevail in Shamrock's Draw Partners

Did Bernice's famous Taco soup have an impact on the outcome of the annual draw partner tournament at the Shamrock in Longview, Washington, on May 3-4? Reporter Ralph Duarte thinks perhaps it did! With 24 teams vying for a share of the \$4500 pot, Darrol Nelson and Dick Heflin from Oregon finally prevailed -- but it wasn't easy.

"Maybe Bernice's taco soup was too much for Darrol and Dick," said Ralph. "They went right down to almost the end and then Chuck Norris of Oregon and Mike Waters of Washington -- all souped up -- sent them down so they could rest and wait for them to come back. Lo and behold! Come back they did. They had to beat Chuck and Mike two straight games to come out on top. It must have been the soup!"



Dick Heflin (left) and Darrol Nelson were tops in the field of 24 teams at the Shamrock's draw partner event.



Chuck Norris (left) and Mike Waters took second place.



Mike Denny of Oregon and Dean Mako of Washington finished third at the Shamrock.

Fourth place went to Vic Johnson and Dick Hanly of Washington.

May 3rd was also the birthday of Jim Foran of Washington, a member of the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Board of Directors. "He said he was 60 years young, but I think he meant 16," said Ralph. "As always, he did a fine job on the sale of the players. This guy is strictly Hall of Fame material."

Wetlands 2nd Annual Mixed Weekend is a "First"

The 2nd Annual Mixed Weekend, April 18-20, was a typical Wetlands (Royal Oak, Michigan) tournament in that there were three events, which is the norm there. What made this one unusual is that, for the first time in more than 20 tournament weekends, there were no players/teams that came out of the losers bracket to win an event. Even though there were no double dips, all three events went the distance, with the winner of the losers bracket winning the first game of the finals to force a sudden death game.

The lead-off event was the mixed doubles, in which Claudia Goszczynski and John McDermott successfully defended their title by beating Sher Blessing and Jeff Cottrell. This was a rematch of the 1996 State of Michigan mixed doubles finals, with a different winner this time. Both teams are looking forward to the rubber match. Third place went to Roland Metivier and Linda Mitchell who defeated Bonnie and Sonny Morgan (who manage to do something most people cannot -- play successfully with their spouse).

The ladies' and men's singles were played simultaneously. Sher Blessing continued her tough shooting to take first place over Penny Cottrell after two extremely tough games with many lead changes. Third place finisher Linda Mitchell beat defending champ Kim Parrish, who finished fourth.

In the men's singles, a miracle frame kept John McDermott from being double-dipped for the second year in a row, as he beat Jeff Cottrell in the finals. Jeff forced a second game by lagging a four to go out after being down 14-11. In third place, it was Roland Metivier avenging a previous loss by beating fourth place finisher, Alonzo Cottrell, before bowing out.

"Special thanks to Claudia Goszczynski and Tracey Stanley for their help with the entries and sales, and to Dave Willett, owner of M.J. McCabes (Saginaw) and all of the players from McCabes for their support," said John McDermott.

Oklahoma Visitors Winners at Sportsman's, Muncie, Indiana

Following the Bourbon tournament, Billy Melton and Glen Davidson of Oklahoma stopped at the Sportsman's Lounge in Muncie, Indiana, and participated in the doubles event there on May 10. The visitors came out of the loser's bracket to capture first place in a field of 20 teams. Second place went to Larry Vance and Danny Clausen, with Terry Dowell and Glen Ingram in third, and Ady and Orris Hughes in fourth place. The total purse was \$4,100.

"NOTE TO BILLY AND GLEN AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES: We want a chance to get even! Come back to Muncie for our July 26 tournament," said Marcia Brown.

"Frisco Eddie" (continued from Page 18)

contemplating whether or not to either "jack it up" or give it up, the door opened. Eddie looked over to see a man in his early 50's enter. He was about 5'10 or 11" tall with black hair and a slim build. He had a weight case in one hand.

The imposing looking man put on a smile after he entered. He made a visual sweep of the room and it was obvious from the glint in his eyes that he knew exactly who was there -- and what his task would be.

Lil leaned over to Eddie then and whispered: "Well, Champ, your time has come. That guy you're looking at is.....The Man."

--TO BE CONTINUED--

How will Frisco Eddie fare against the likes of "The Man"? Will Lil's fears that Eddie is not yet ready for this challenge prove true? Don't miss the next exciting episode by Balboa Ron Schweikert. Again, we encourage you to let Ron know you enjoy his monthly contributions: Ron Schweikert, 1140 Coral Desert Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89123.

Ed Galke Has Ideas for Gaining National Sponsorship for Shuffleboard

Some time ago, John McDermott expressed an interest in what I felt should be used to try and determine methods for both rating systems and national sponsorship, which is needed to keep this game viable. The following is just some sort of an outline that can be adapted to local usage and conditions.

Shuffleboard Survey for Potential National Sponsorship

Dear Sister or Brother Shuffleboard Players:

If you are a fairly active player in leagues and tournaments, you are well aware of the appalling lack of local or national sponsorship by the manufacturers of products we all use either to and from these activities and most definitely at these functions. I think it is time that the sport or game of shuffleboard and its players finally make a concerted effort to attract this local and national sponsorship to further promote our mutual interests.

Without taking the individual time and effort to assemble the statistics and demographics to knowledgeably collect and present these figures to any potential sponsors, we will never achieve the stature of all the other competing sports, all of which at one time faced the same situation that shuffleboard faces today. As you know, these sports all started out without any serious sponsorship and with that sponsorship came local and finally national recognition. Golf and bowling are two activities that started out like shuffleboard and now, if you follow these sports on TV, you know that pool and dart leagues and tournaments are becoming very successful.

Would you please take the personal time and effort to fill out this questionnaire so that, for the first time, we can collectively present to manufacturers and distributors of the products we all use a true picture of the use of these potential sponsors' products. Some of the following information could be optional if you prefer to remain as an unidentified person, or if you feel this is an invasion of your personal privacy. I have been at this game for over 52 years with no gaps in between and I know that the major companies making and selling products we all use have no idea of the potential for business that we as a sport or hobby or form of recreation represent for them in potential sales. Without this awareness, we will never get the sponsorship needed to make this become a truly recognized game. I can envision a genuine professional sport with the proper funding and sponsorship of teams and individuals just as all of the other sports have become. Thank you.

- (1) Name, mailing address, telephone number
- (2) Are you a participant in any organized leagues?
- (3) Have you played in any local, regional or national tournaments?

(4) What is the farthest distance you have travelled to play? (5) How far would you be willing to travel to compete in a truly recognized tournament, with local or national sponsors?

For League Players:

(1) How many teams or players in your league? (2) Is it a house league -- how many players? (3) Is it a travel league -- how many teams, players per team? (4) If you play in a travel league, what is the farthest you travel to any location? (5) Is there any form of sponsorship or monies put up by anyone other than actual players? (6) How many times a year do you participate in your league? (7) What sort or brand of product do you normally use? (8) Do you drink beer -- what brand? (9) Do you drink liquor -- what brand? (10) Do you smoke cigarettes - what brand? (11) Do you smoke cigars -- what brand? (12) What brand of gas do you use in your car? (13) Do you have food at your league? (14) What sort and brand of shuffleboard products do you use? (15) Is there a league requirement for certain waxes or sprays? (16) What is the manufacturer of your board? (17) What weights do you use? (18) Do you have league weights?

Tournament Players:

(1) Have you played in any tournaments other than local? 25-mile radius? (2) How far would you travel to play in a nationally sponsored tournament? (3) How far have you travelled to play in the past? (4) How many times have you travelled to play? (5) What sort of format interests you the most: singles? doubles draw partner? doubles bring partner? mixed doubles? team events and what kind? (6) When you play in any of these tournaments, how do you get there? Do you fly -- what airline? Do you take bus or train -- name? Do you drive? What gas do you use? (7) Which motels do you normally use? (8) What restaurants do you normally use when travelling? (9) Do you eat in local restaurants when playing at tournaments? (10) What other services do you use locally when you play in tournaments? (11) What is the farthest distance you have travelled to play in tournaments? (12) What is the farthest you would travel to play in major nationally sponsored tournaments? (13) Would you play in a tournament that was only sponsored by one brand of beer or any other product? (I feel that a tournament sponsored by a specific product should only sell that sponsor's product for the duration of the tournament. I think this would add more incentive for a particular sponsor to participate. When I say sponsor, I am not only referring to trophies and jackets, but actual cash monies to make it worthwhile for players to travel to play in these sponsored tournaments. This would also lead to companies sponsoring individuals and teams to participate in these events.)

All or any of the previously mentioned questions can be adapted or changed depending on local situations by anyone who truly has the interests of shuffleboard in mind. I will tell you that without your interest in furthering the game, it will stay as it is or it will once again recede as it has done in the past.

As you all know, one of the primary reasons that the game of shuffleboard is still viable is the appearance of The Board Talk, with the addition of Shuffleboard World, The Shuffleboard Federation, the Evergreen Shuffleboard Association, as well as others I am not even aware of. I feel this game can be promoted to the extent that all sponsors and participants can mutually benefit. As one of the requirements necessary to the fair and equal conditions for play, I think the following is necessary:

Rating Systems:

There should be detailed official scores kept of each game at any league or tournament events. This includes players' full names and scores of each game played and against who. Any information gathered should be sent to one central location to be categorized so as to form a true picture of every player's capabilities for future handicap ratings.

All players in any tournament or league, to the best of their knowledge, should rank or rate the quality or ability of the players known to them, either by 1-2-3-4 or A-B-C-D-E. This would assist the various rating and handicap systems being devised in various parts of the country to arrive at a more equitable way for players of varying degrees to compete against one another. This would definitely promote a greater interest in this sport. With the efforts of people such as Ron and Debbie Bowers and Ron and Sharon Huddleston, this game is progressing. But we can all make their jobs easier by furnishing as much specific input as we can to speed up the process. For too long, only certain people or groups have carried the game to where it is now. With the concerted efforts of all truly interested players and sponsors, this game has every chance to be a nationally-recognized entity.

In Conclusion:

For anyone interested, please revise these general outlines to suit your individual needs. I am sure that with the proper documentation, these very reluctant sponsors can be brought on board. As you all know, everyone is just interested in what you can do for them. I think we can convince them just exactly what we can do for them.

I also feel that with the power to boycott certain products at specific tournaments or leagues, we can exert pressure that would be beneficial to us as participants.

Ed Galke, Oak Dale, New York

We look forward to responses to your ideas, Ed.

Snyder/Greer Winners at the Get-A-Way

The Get-A-Way in Anderson, Indiana, hosted a doubles on April 5.



Get-A-Way host Steve Henderson (with the Butch Kelly sunglasses) congratulates first-place winners Ady Snyder and Doyle Green.



Flexing his muscles after a second-place finish is Dave Boaz, along with partner Glen Ingram.



Host Steve gives a thumbs-up signal for third-place finishers Steve Schuyler and Ray McFadden.

The next tournament at the Get-A-Way will be sometime around September. Watch for details.

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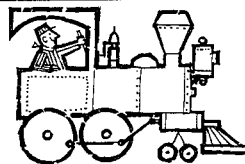
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