

# The Board Talk

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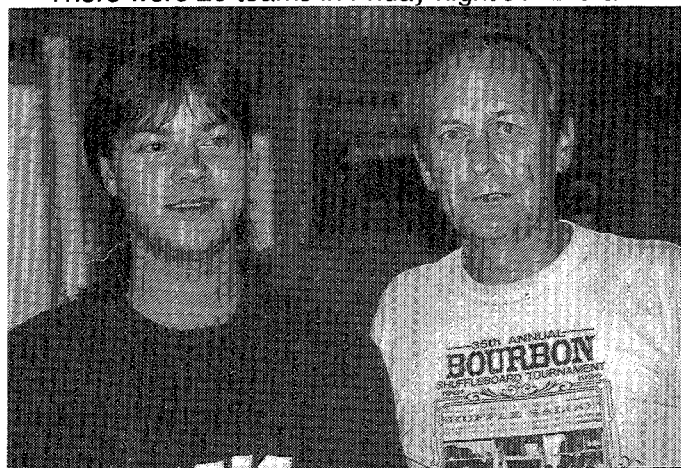
Vol. 14, No. 11

November 1997

## Good Participation at 1st Southern Oregon Doubles

The Crater Lake FOE 2093 in Medford, Oregon, hosted its first (but certainly not last) Southern Oregon Doubles on Aug. 15-17. The event attracted participation from California, Nebraska, Washington and Oregon vying for a total pot of over \$7,000.

There were 29 teams in Friday night's A-B draw.



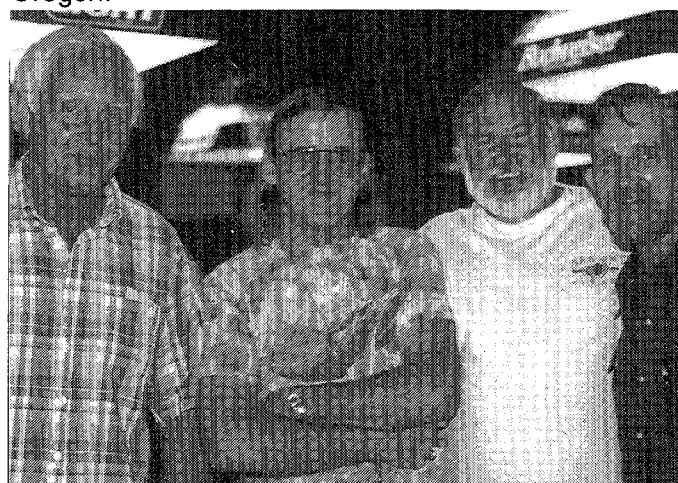
Doug Buhl (right) of Springfield, Oregon, drew local Matt King to take first place in the A-B draw.



Steve Fisher of Winston, Oregon; and local Grace Combs took second place honors.

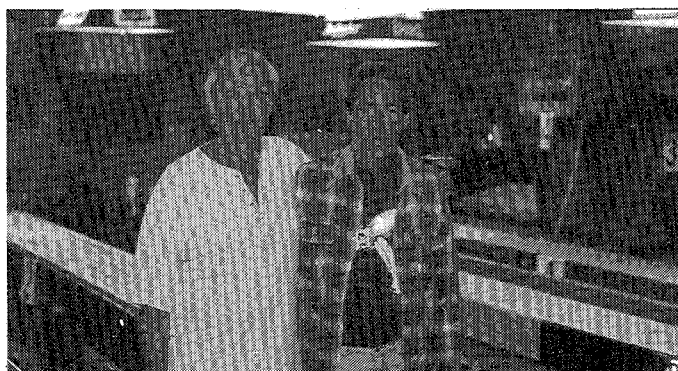
Dick Heflin of Washington and local Carl Barker took third place, with Dick Heflin of Washington and local Everett Perry finishing fourth. Taking fifth and

sixth were Jim Foran of Washington and Art Elliff of Oregon, Joe Hudson of California and Larry Balzer, Oregon.



Third place winners Dick Heflin and Carl Barker (right), with fourth place finishers Everett Perry and Dave Arndt.

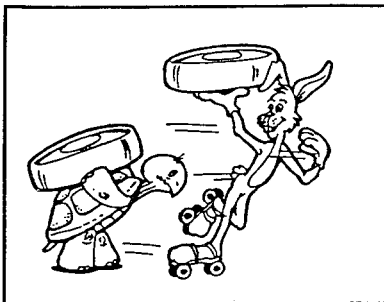
There were 24 teams participating in the open doubles.



Doubles winners were Jim Foran (left) of Washington, a recent inductee into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, and a sure future Hall of Famer, Darrol Nelson of Oregon.

(continued on Page 7)

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**  
from George & Donna



# Shufflers' Notebook

*News and Views from The World of Shuffleboard*

## **The Rating System: Where is it Going? How Will it be Financed in the Future?**

The Bowers Rating System -- it's not a lot of expense to those of us who do the ratings. We simply add the names of the new players we feel should be rated and rate the players we have seen in action and mail it to the Bowers.

At this time, there are 65 raters. We are rating almost 2,000 players. The last ratings I received from the Bowers had 37 pages. The postage was \$1.80. I rated my players and mailed it back.

All or any of the 65 raters can rate you. Once that has been done, the Bowers mail the new ratings back to the raters. The postage is another couple of bucks per copy. They furnish free copies at all the big tournaments.

I, like most of you, don't personally know the Bowers. They have never asked for any financial help from me. However, if those of us who reap the benefits don't help financially, what will happen to the rating system?

This is what I am going to do. I am going to pass the hat and ask my league and tournament players to throw in a buck or two. How about you?

Mail it to: Ron & Debbie Bowers, 1111 Byers Lane, Austin, TX 78753. If you want a copy of the ratings, I suggest you send them a donation of \$5 to cover the printing and mailing costs.

Woodie Cockrum, Cuba, Missouri

*You are not the only one who is concerned about the huge amount of resources (time, work and money) the Bowers have invested into this effort that has done so*

## **--ATTENTION--**

**If you have a red check below, it means your subscription has expired. Use the form inside to renew NOW so you won't miss next month's issue!**

much, and will continue to do, to expand participation in the sport of shuffleboard, and what will happen when those resources run dry. One of your fellow "Show Me State" shufflers stopped by the other day (our first subscriber visitor to our "new" office) and he was on a "mission" to make sure the Bowers are reimbursed, at least in some small way, for their efforts. We promised him anonymity until he makes his presentation at a future tournament, so we won't mention his name now, except to say that he was getting good reception in his travels.

We heartily endorse your suggestion to order a rating book for \$5. It is well-worth that investment, particularly if you're among the growing number of sponsors who are holding rated events. The time and hassles (after all, it's not YOU, but their peers, who have rated them) you save is worth much more than that! At the same time, you can pat yourself on the back for expanding the World of Shuffleboard and ensuring its future!

And, speaking of expanding the World of Shuffleboard, we salute the Fir Cone Tavern in Shelton, Washington, for focusing on surfacing the "stars" of the future (see Page 3); The Shuffleboard Federation for offering amateurs the opportunity to "shine" in Reno along side their pro counterparts; BZ's in Washington, the Dixie Belle in California, the Gold Nugget in Texas, and all the many others noted in this issue who have recognized and accepted their responsibility to make our sport grow.

Without apology, we admit that we have a vested interest in all this. We recognize that the reason most people subscribe to *The Board Talk* is to see their names and photos in the newsletter. If we focussed solely on the pros, our mailing list would be pretty meager and we'd last maybe a month or so (and then probably have to use our Social Security checks to get it printed and mailed). Like all the others who have a vested interest, we're looking down the road, the long-term health of this sport, and we know, without taking any spotlight away from the pros who share our goals, that the future lies with the people who have been given opportunities to participate -- and to win!

(More Notebook on Page 14)

### **Publication Content Information**

*The Board Talk reserves the right to reject any advertising or editorial contributions that the publishers deem unacceptable, either because of objectionable material or inconsistency with the newsletter's general editorial and advertising policies.*

## ***Fir Cone Tavern Committed to "Future Stars"***

**By Mel Hohn**

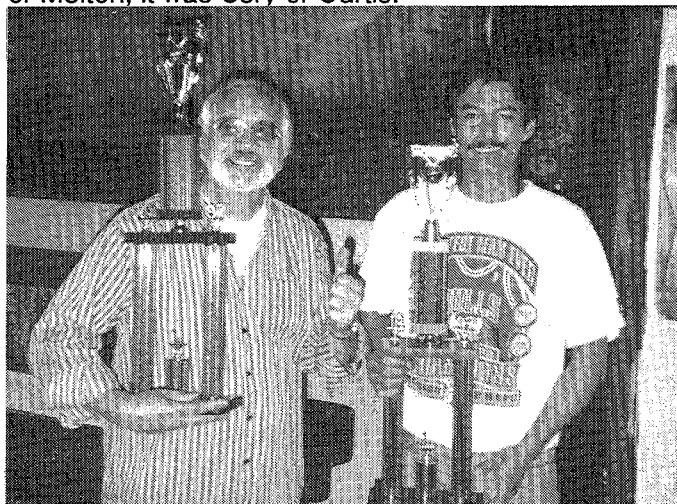
How many times have you heard: where are the new players -- the future stars? The same faces show up at every tournament. You can count the number of new players who played competitively over the last three years on one hand. These are important questions. But, where are the answers?

So, what would happen if you had a tournament and none of the regulars showed up? Your first thought is that the event would be a flop. Would you believe 14 new players who never played in a tournament would show up?

Shuffleboard is basically a single-tiered sport. You learn to play and then you are thrown to the wolves, so to speak. We at the Fir Cone Tavern, Shelton, Washington, believe that the sport needs an intermediate level -- a tournament where new players can play on a competitive basis with other players at approximately the same skill level.

The Fir Cone Tavern did exactly that. Based solely on the thought of getting new players into the game, the Fir Cone held its first "Amateur Only" Tournament. Any player that placed in the top three in any tournament was not allowed to play. The entry fee was kept low by not having a sponsor sale. The prize: first, second, and third place trophies. The result was a huge success.

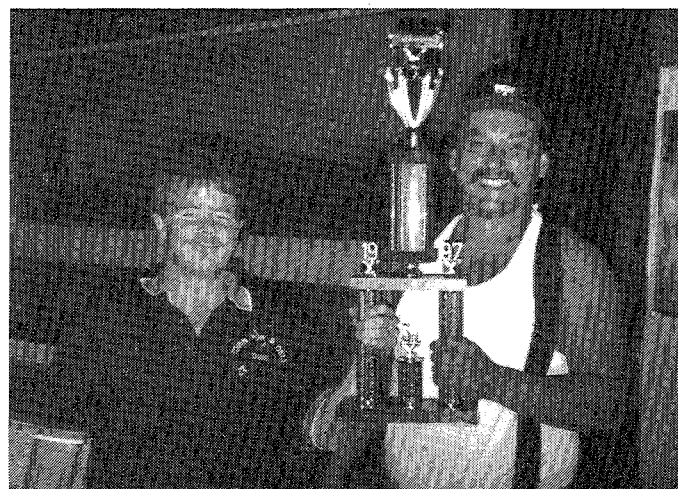
The tension was thick in the air. The smell of baby powder to dry sweaty hands permeated both ends of the boards. Wax jobs were challenged, weights were called, and straggly meetings were held in the center of the board. This had the look and feel of a big time event, but the names were different. Instead of Nelson or Melton, it was Usry or Curtis.



*You had to be there to appreciate the competitive atmosphere as Jim Thorton and Jack Usry (first tournament) won first place by beating every team they faced by a narrow margin.*



*The second place team of Bob Herst and Jeanette Hohn lost their first game and fought back through the loser's bracket to the finals.*



*Third place finishers were Ruben Gonzalas and Dave Curtis (first tournament).*

Leroy Austin and Ken Blurgund (first tournament) finished fourth. Fifth place was a tie between Gloria Vonbargen and Danny Owens (first tournament for both) and the team of Billy Hagman and Rocky Harvey (first tournament for both). Seventh place went to Greg Alva and Dwayne Finley (first tournament for both).

In an effort to create an Intermediate Level of Shuffleboard, the Fir Cone Tavern presents its 1998 Amateur Tournament Schedule: Jan. 24-25 Amateur Draw Doubles; April 18-19 Amateur Draw Doubles; July 25-26 Amateur Draw Doubles; Sept. 26-27 **Amateur Draw Doubles Championship** (you must have placed in the top six in any of the three preceding events to be eligible. Winner gets entry fee paid to Division II doubles at the North American Championship in Reno, round trip air fare and one week's lodging).

## Upcoming Events Across the Nation

### Texas

## 12TH THANKSGIVING CLASSIC AT GOLD NUGGET, ARLINGTON, NOV. 26-30

The 12th Annual David Williams Thanksgiving Classic will be held at the Gold Nugget in Arlington, Texas, on Nov. 26-30.

Action will start on Wednesday with a 4-person bring team event, \$200 per team entry, 2 out of 3, double elimination. Team handicap must be at least 5, with only one pro or 0.

A free Thanksgiving Day dinner will be served on Thursday, followed by singles for Division I, 2's Only, and Division II. Entry fees are: (Div. I) pro's, \$150; 0's, \$100; 1's, \$50; (2's Only) \$50; (Div. II) 3's, 4's and 5's, \$25. Format is 2 out of 3 for Div. I, and single game, double elimination for Div. II and 2's only.

Draw partner events are scheduled for Friday. Entry fees are \$50 per player for Div. I and \$25 per player for Div. II. Single game, double elimination, and no pro's or 0's may draw up.

Saturday features the 6-person draft team event,

\$300 per team entry, 4 out of 7, double elimination.

Bring partner events for Div. I (\$100 per team) and Div. II (\$50 per team) are scheduled for Sunday. In Div. I, pro's must play with a 2 or higher and 0's with a 1 or higher, 2 out of 3 if time permits. In Div. II, the format is single game, double elimination.

A one-time \$10 registration fee will be charged.

For information, contact: David Williams, 817-451-9583 or 817-473-4029; Bobby Williams, 817-496-8972 or 817-265-7045; Bob and Cindy Houchin, 817-277-4029 or 817-295-9488.

### California

## 5TH THANKSGIVING TOURNEY, NOV. 27-30, THE DIXIE BELLE, DOWNEY

The Dixie Belle, 9559 Imperial Hwy. in Downey, will host the 5th Annual Thanksgiving Tournament on Nov. 27-30. The first event will be an open doubles, \$100 per team entry fee, 2 out of 3, double elimination. The sale is scheduled for Thursday at 8 p.m. with play beginning on Friday at 11 a.m.

## 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."

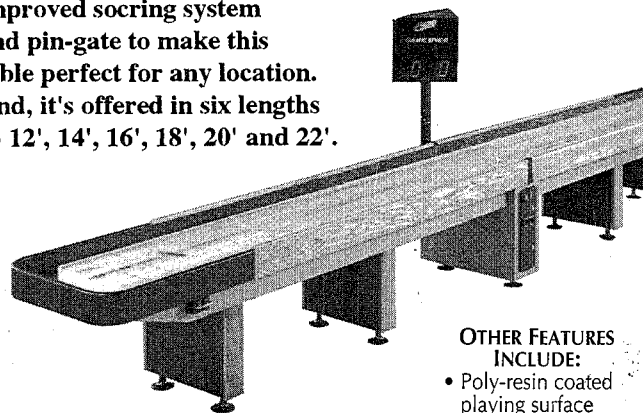
All boards are now available with 4-3-2-1 scoring. Old playfields can be refinished to accommodate this new score system.

*"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

## Take Your Best Shot!

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'.



### OTHER FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Poly-resin coated playing surface
- Fine furniture finish
- Revolutionary scoring system
- Optional light kit

We refinish all brands of shuffleboard. Call for details.

# GAMETIME

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

The second event will be an ABC Draw, \$25 per player entry fee. The format will be 2 out of 3, double elimination, with a 21-point single game in the loser's bracket. The sale for this event will be held at 8 p.m. on Friday with play beginning at noon on Saturday.

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

For further information, call the Dixie Belle, 562-803-4943.

### Washington

## **THANKSGIVING TOURNEY AT BZ'S, BURIEN, NOV. 28-30**

BZ's Sports Bar, 17730 DesMoines, Burien, Washington, will host its annual Thanksgiving Tournament on Nov. 28-30. The format for this Evergreen Shuffleboard Association event will be an A-B rated bring partner. "A" players are those rated 1 or below and must bring partners rated above 1. If you need rating verifications, call Dave Arndt, 253-474-7889, or Jim Foran, 253-474-2724. Entry fee is \$50 per team and BZ's will add \$20 for each team. You must be an ESA member to enter. If you haven't paid your dues yet, contact Dave now. The double elimination, 2 out of 3 in the winner's bracket, event will be played on four boards and payout will be 52-24-12-6-3-3. The sponsor sale is scheduled for Saturday at 11 a.m.

Action for this fun-filled weekend will begin on Friday at 7 p.m. with an open draw, single elimination, \$20 entry.

For further information, contact Craig at BZ's, 206-243-6018, or Jim Foran, 253-474-2724.

Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard site.

### Maryland

## **THANKSGIVING SHOOTOUT AT HARVEY'S PLACE, STREET, NOV. 21-23**

Harvey's Place, Street, Maryland, will host a Thanksgiving Shootout, Nov. 21-23. Action will start at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 21, with a draw partner, \$12 entry fee, followed by a bring partner on Saturday, \$30 per team; an open singles on Sunday morning, \$25 entry; and a mixed doubles Sunday afternoon, \$25 per team.

All events are 15 points, straight, double elimination, with payoff of 1 in 4.

For further information, call Harvey's Place at 410-836-8881.

## **FOUR STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS SET FOR THANKSGIVING WEEKEND**

As we go to press, four states have set championship tournaments, for players in their states only, over the Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 28-30.

### Indiana

Chances R, 3421 S. Walnut, Muncie, Indiana, will host the 9th Annual Indiana State Championships on Nov. 28-30. **There are some changes in the schedule published last month.** The double elimination events, played on four boards, will start with an open doubles on Friday, \$50 entry. The sale for the open singles will be held at 9 p.m. Friday, with play on Saturday. A mixed doubles, \$30 entry, and the women's singles, \$15 entry, are scheduled for Sunday. With the exception of the open singles, sponsor sales will be held at 11 a.m. each day.

Hosts are Bob and Karen Schounce, 765-284-0855, and the co-directors are Bob Brown and Steve Hart.

The Ramada Inn is just two blocks west of the tournament site. Call 317-288-1911 to make your reservations.

### Michigan

The Club Car Lounge, 111 N. Saginaw, Durand, will host the 12th Annual State of Michigan Championships on Nov. 28-30. This spacious facility is located just off I-69 with easy access from all parts of the state.

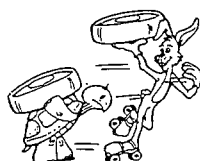
There is limited lodging and RV parking in Durand, so call host Dennis Bittner as soon as possible (517-288-9910) to make your reservations. There is also a multiple choice of lodging just 15 miles away in Flint. You're also just 7 miles from the Swartz Creek Race Track (but remember you're on the clock!).

Events will include: a mixed doubles on Friday, \$15 per player entry; three events on Saturday -- an open singles, \$40 entry; ladies' singles, \$15 entry; and Division II singles, \$20 entry, all played simultaneously -- and an open doubles, \$20 per player entry on Sunday. All events are single game, double elimination. A one-time registration fee of \$5 will go to tournament director Rob Kern. The Club Car Lounge will be open at noon on Thanksgiving Day so come early to check out the boards.

For tournament information and/or to save your spot, call John McDermott at The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc., 248-380-9300; or George at The Board Talk, 517-371-2538.

*(Continued on Page 16)*

## As The Puck Turns.....



By George & Donna Wilber

For us, there's more to prepare for the North American Championships in Reno than simply packing. Our top priority has been to get this November issue in the mail before we leave. To meet that challenge, we had to be extra-tough on our 15th of the month deadline. If we received your reports after Oct. 15, look for them in the December issue.

It's expected that this year's NAC will be the biggest yet and we look forward to seeing many of our subscribers and advertisers there. Some of you have been friends and supporters for many years and it's always a treat to see you again. Others look familiar and we rack our brains to put a name to the face (that's embarrassing, but there are hundreds of you and only two of us). There are others who are still only names on a mailing list, without faces or personalities, and we'd like to change that. Please take a minute to introduce (or re-introduce) yourselves to us. That will help us reinforce our motto: "Big enough to serve you -- small enough to know you."

\*\*\*\*\*

In the December issue will be our next quarterly "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." listing of shuffleboard sites that are subscribers of The Board Talk. Travelling shufflers faithfully use this listing, stopping to visit and play with kindred souls (and bring added revenue to the hosts). If your favorite place to play is not currently on that listing, sign them up by the 15th of November. They'd have to look hard to find an advertising buy like four free listings a year, plus 12 issues of news and views from The World of Shuffleboard, for \$20!

\*\*\*\*\*

If you'd like to send Season's Greetings to your shuffleboard "family," consider doing so through the pages of The Board Talk instead of buying cards, stamps, addressing and mailing. See the enclosed ad and note the deadlines for Christmas and New Year's messages.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Your prayers and good wishes gave Von Stewart, a dear friend of ours and many others in The World of Shuffleboard, the strength and courage to make a comeback following serious heart surgeries several years ago. Now, she's fighting a battle with cancer. Please let her know you're thinking of her: Von Stewart, 11415 Cherrylee Drive, El Monte, California 91732*

*Von, the "child bride" of Al Stewart (A & M Amusement Service), has always responded to the needs of others. Now, she's the one in need. A card or note from you will brighten her day.*

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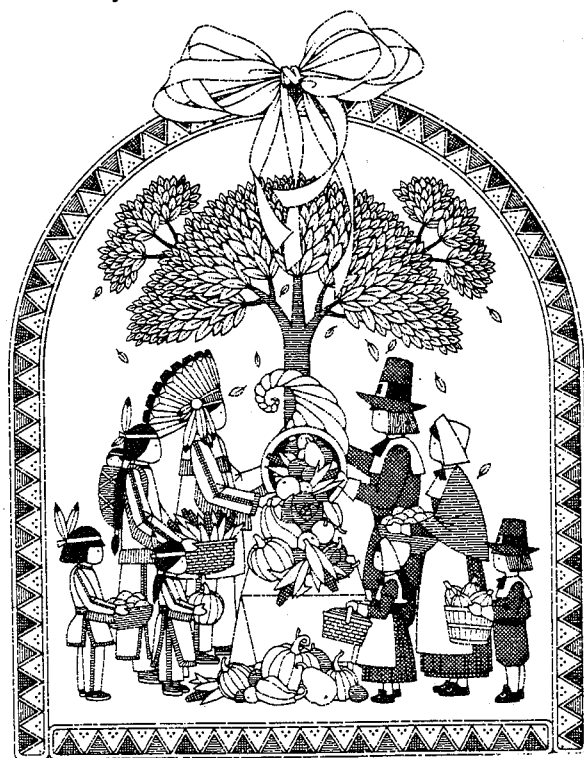
We received a call from one of our long-time supporters, Dan Kelly of St. Louis, Missouri. He had read of Mike Tobin's frustrations in finding a shuffleboard establishment in the Pittsburg area after moving there from Michigan (September and October Notebooks). Dan had a couple leads for Mike and wanted his phone number to share that information. Thanks, Dan, and keep us posted, Mike.

Dan also passed along an "endorsement" of Bob's Our Place, 1900 W. Garden, Peoria, Illinois, and its owner, Bob Perry. "I called ahead and told Bob I was going to be in the area and would like to stop in for a game or two," said Dan. "When I got there, he had several local players ready for me. They went out of their way to make me feel welcome and at home. I would highly recommend this friendly place to any shufflers who are travelling in that area."

Bob has a lot of friends in The World of Shuffleboard and we encourage them to stop in at his new place of business.

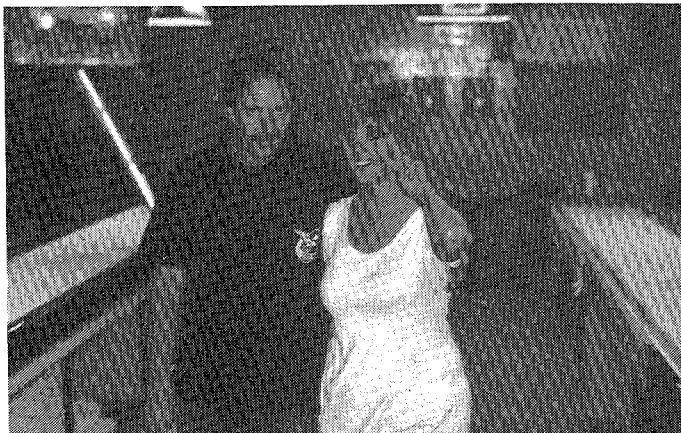
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Shufflers across the nation have a broad choice of Thanksgiving tournaments to participate in (see Upcoming Events, the Calendar and flyers) this November. Wherever you are, please know that we wish you well, and on this special holiday, we are very thankful for you!



George & Donna  
Publishers, The Board Talk

## Oregon First *(continued from Page 1)*

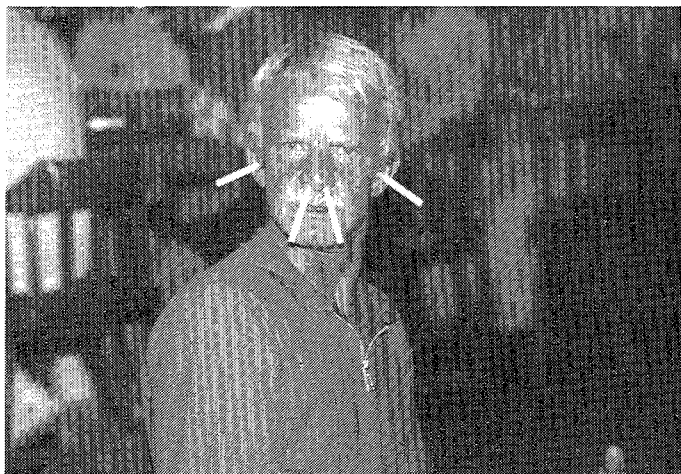


Kevin Larkin of Washington teamed up with Gwynette Orsi of Nebraska to take second place honors in the open doubles.

Others in the winner's circle were: Doug Buhl, Oregon, and Jim Allis, Washington, 3rd; Steve Fisher and Winston Jim Cockrell, both of Winston, 4th; father and son Ray and Mike Olson of Washington, 5th; and Hal Perry and Bob Hunt, California, 6th.



Mike Kinney (left) served as director of the 1st Southern Oregon Doubles. He thanks California visitors Hal Perry and Bob Hunt for their participation.



Another Californian, Freddie Thuman, provided the entertainment for this first.

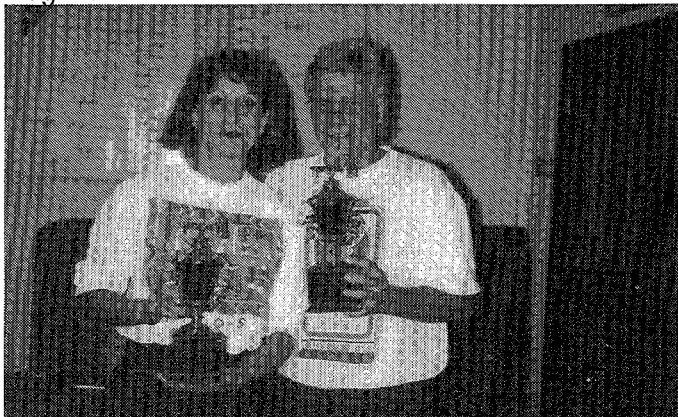
"FOE #2093 thanks everyone who attended or participated, either by helping, being a spectator or playing the game. It was all of you who made this tournament a success," said Georgiana Brand, auxiliary member.

"Thanks to The Shuffleboard Federation for the donation of the bracket board and to Don Stallworth for the wax, and to Mike Kinney and all his helpers for a job well done.

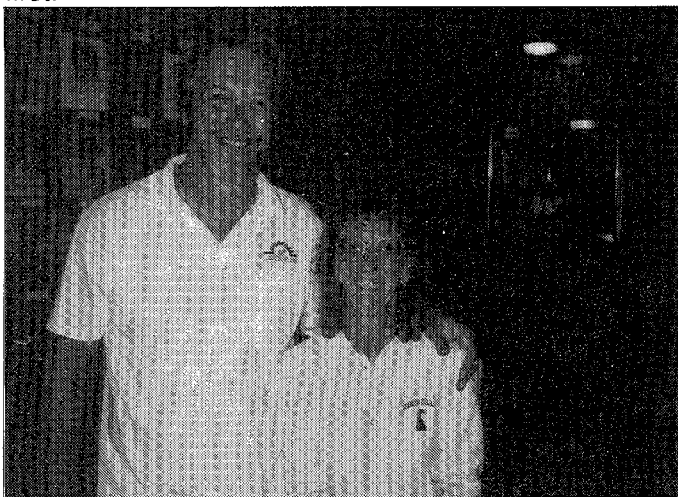
"We all had tons of fun meeting new friends and renewing old friendships. Hope to see you in the near future at other tournaments and next year," she said.

## Worsham/Dowell Winners of Bourbon Mixed Doubles

The American Legion Post 424 in Bourbon, Indiana, hosted its first mixed doubles tournament on Aug. 23.



Pam Worsham and Terry Dowell were winners of this first.



"The Long and the Short of It" Larry and Mary Brown (Deer Park Tavern, Fort Wayne) took second place.

### REMINDER!

**Reports must be received by the 15th of the month to appear in the next issue.**

## Another Okie Stars at Balloon Inn

Oklahoma shufflers have been good supporters of events at the Balloon Inn in Arvada, Colorado, often taking home the biggest share of the pots. The August tournament was no exception when Ron Huddleston travelled from Oklahoma City to take first in the singles division.



Balloon Inn host Ron Vogt (right) presents the fattest envelope to singles winner Ron Huddleston.



Local Kevin Kelly took second place. "Missing in Action" Kenny Hawkes finished third.



(Editor's Note: We found the missing Kenny at One Hour Photo several months after the SW Open.)



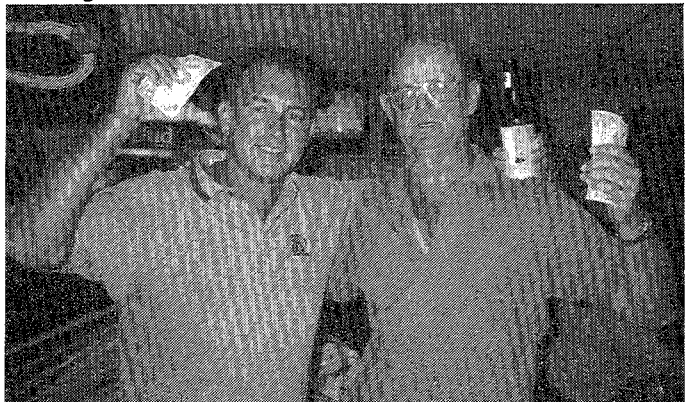
It was Colorado all the way in the draw doubles handicap tourney at the Balloon Inn. Tied for first and second were Morey Balins and Troy Sayers, Gail Cowan and Harlan Martell.



Jerry Van and Dave Cowan finished third in the draw doubles handicap.

## Young/Barr Winners at Rendezvous Club

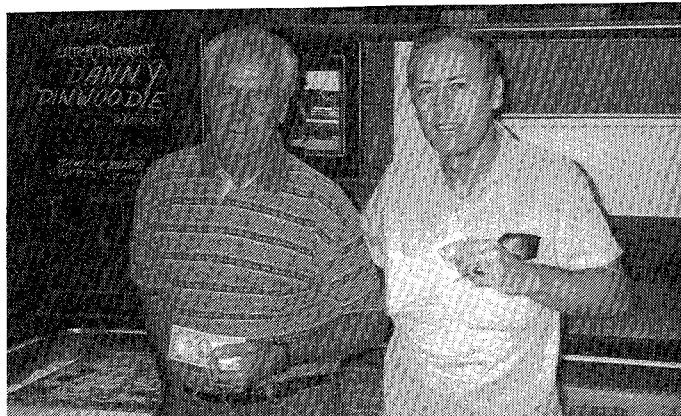
The Rendezvous Club, 2111 Texoma Parkway, Sherman, Texas, hosted a Tournament of Champions (a tournament for winners of all their weekly events) on Aug. 25.



Showing off their first-place winnings are locals Charlie Barr and Gary Young.

(continued on Page 10)

## **Rendezvous** (continued from Page 8)



Local Richard Bolen and out-of-towner David Veazey of Van Alstyne, Texas, took second place.

"The Rendezvous Club has had new ownership for about a year and they are promoting shuffleboard in the area," reports Dave Veazey. "Owners Shirl and A.J. Burgers did a good job with this tournament. There was plenty of good food, added money, plus very nice trophies for first and second place."

(Editor's Note: The Rendezvous Club is a new member of our national network. Please stop in and give them a warm welcome.)

## **Schuyler/Vorndran/ Creakbaum Winners at Amvets Fall Tournament**

Amvets #26 in Pendleton, Indiana, hosted its 2nd Annual Fall Tournament on Sept. 20-21. There were 21 teams and a purse of \$3190 in the doubles, with 15 players and a \$1430 pot in the singles.

In a long and grueling doubles contest that began on Saturday at 1 p.m. and lasted until Sunday at 4:30 a.m., Dave Vorndran and Steve Schuyler emerged as first-place winners, never losing a game all day. Glen Ingram and Dave Boaz took second place honors, with Mike Johnson and Buddy Broka in third.

"If you see Buddy, ask him about the nine points he scored in one frame. It was awesome," reports Sonny Harris.

On Sunday, Larry Creakbaum came out of the loser's bracket in the singles contest to take first place by beating Brian Collins. Glen Ingram finished third.

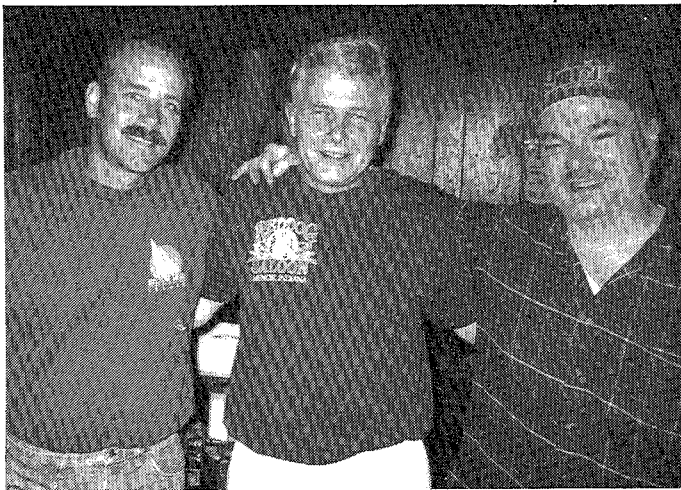
"Thanks to all who participated. Hope to see you at the next one," said Sonny.

Watch The Board Talk for upcoming tournaments at Amvets #26, a member of our national shuffleboard network.

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**  
**From George & Donna**

## **Dowell/Hartman/Riley Star at S.W. Missouri Invitational**

Barbara's Beer Gardens, Springfield, hosted the 2nd Annual S.W. Missouri Invitational on Sept. 25-28.



Terry Dowell (center) came from Indiana to take first place in the singles. Arkansas' best, Mickey Moran (right), took second, with Chuck Muehlhauser of St. Louis in third place.



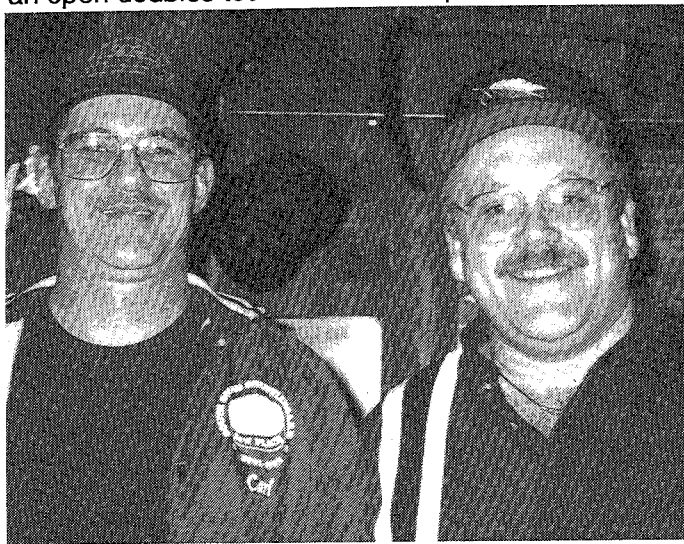
Hostess Barbara congratulates the bring your partner winners: Julie Hartman and Charlie Riley (right) of St. Louis, 1st; Moe Miller and Dean Pinkston (center), Houston, Mo., 2nd; and Roy Wadell and Gale Tuter (left) of Springfield, 3rd place.

"Bill Melton of Davis, Oklahoma, sold Barbara one of his famous boards and everyone played it like it was set up just for them," reports Woodie Cockrum. "There were no easy games. Barbara, along with the ladies, covered the pool table and loaded it up with food. If the tournament doesn't fill the house, the free food will.

"Tournament Director Connie McCall always gets a good turnout, second only to the Miller Lite City-wide that will play its 16th annual in March of '98. Connie was diagnosed with cancer in January, but thanks to the prayers and help from her many friends, her cancer is now in remission," Woodie said.

## Pearson/Roush Team Up for Old Edison Inn Win

The Old Edison Inn, Edison, Washington, hosted an open doubles tournament on Sept. 13-14.



Larry Pearson (right) of Burlington and Carl Roush of Shelton took first place and the top money.

The pair survived some close games with second-place finishers, Larry Sawyer, Anacortes, and Sherm Anderson, Edison, who were runners-up for the second straight year. "I feel like a bridesmaid," said Sherm.

Third place went to Make and Hazel Thorpe of Kent, with Nels Anderson, Shelton, and Mike Waters, Tuhuyca, landing in fourth. Dave Arndt and Jim "Caveman" Ward, Tacoma, tied for fifth with Terry Burns and Don Hudson of British Columbia.

Friday night's A/B draw was won by Nels Anderson and Moose Fahey of Mount Vernon. "Thank you, Cave and Dave, for setting up and running the Friday event," said tourney director Phil DePree.

Hosts Mini and Sandy also extend thanks to co-director Russ (the Colonel) Miller, to auctioneer Sherm Anderson, to Jim Foran, who came in early on Saturday to help Phil get the boards ready in Hall-of-Fame fashion, and to Jim Kyle, who assisted in wiping and powdering the boards all weekend.

A huge pot of cajun-style seafood gumbo, prepared by chefs Mini and Dennis Morsalais, was finally polished off toward the end of the tournament on Sunday.

"I also want to acknowledge the great job by the Edison bar crew of Cecil, Clara, April, and Mike," said Phil, "and a big thank you to donors of door prize items: Blau Oyster Company, the Edison Cafe, world-famous Kesselring Gun Shop, and George and Donna Wilber for subscriptions to The Board Talk. Thanks for contributing to a fun weekend."

## Nelson/Arndt Winners at Tim's Timber Tavern

There were 20 teams participating in the 4th Annual Open Doubles at Tim's Timber Tavern in Kelso, Washington, on Sept. 27-28.

First place honors were earned by Darrol Nelson of Springfield, Oregon, and Dave Arndt, Tacoma, Washington. Second place went to the team of Don Kerr (D.K.) of Longview and Gary George of Tacoma.

Gwynette Orsi of Omaha, Nebraska, teamed up with Kevin Larkin of Longview to take third place. Mike Bonner and Frank Powers, both of Kelso, finished fourth. Tom Henry of Longview and Jim Foran of Tacoma, owner Tim Bonner and Dick Heflin of Rainier, Oregon, took fifth and sixth places.

"Everyone had lots of fun and everything went real smooth," said host Tim. "Thanks to all who participated."

The next big event at Tim's Timber Tavern will be the 6th Annual Mixed Doubles on Dec. 27-28. Entry fee is \$30 per team and the sponsor sale begins at noon on Saturday. Last year's winners were Darrol Nelson and Michelle Foran.

Suggested lodging is the Kelso Inn, 360-636-4610. Tournament director will be Kevin Larkin. For more information, call the Timber Tavern, 360-636-2627.

## Harvey's Place Memorial Tourney Honors Departed

By Dick Gorman

Oct. 10-12 marked the first of five weekend tournaments for the 1997-98 tournament schedule at Harvey's Place in Street, Maryland. The first was what will become an annual future event -- a memorial tournament in memory of our departed shuffleboard friends. The opening ceremonies included a remembrance of Dale Friend, John Grace, Dave Lambert, Mickey Mickens, Elmer Robischaud, Sam Sech, Scratch Todd, and Art Ware -- all of whom were former competitors at Harvey's. Host Harvey Comer announced that it would be future practice to name an event for one of our departed friends. In the past, those memorialized were Dale Friend, Mickey Mickens and Scratch Todd.

Friday night saw 30 players lined up at 6:30 to play on the four in-house boards. The draw partner event was named in honor of John Grace, long-time participant at Harvey's Place. First place money was taken by Louise Freer, Lansdale, PA., and Jim Wolf, Darby, PA. Second place was won by Wendy Davis and Dick Gorman, both from Wilmington, DE. All

(continued on Page 15)

## More Notebook

### **Glen Suggests a Handicap Division for the Hall of Fame**

Madge and I just got back from the annual Fall Doubles at Bourbon, Indiana, where John (One-Arm) Myles and Terry Dowell were the winners. Congratulations to both of them.

John Myles deserves a place in the history of shuffleboard for the handicapped -- a great player as well as a determined one. I think he deserves to be in the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame for the handicapped, don't you?

I just got word that my old friend and competitor, Jack Ahearn, died a few months ago and there was no story about him. He was a man who was handicapped all of his career and was from California, one of the biggest shuffleboard states. This guy was definitely a shuffleboard family member and paid his dues and supported the game for at least 40 years. Jack was definitely a pro player and always played to win. He and Troy Tolbert teamed up for years and won their fair share. Troy, being handicapped himself, still won a lot of tournaments. Jack Ahearn (known as "Crippled Jack") worked as a machinist for 30-40 years and was also a great musician and pianist. I got to play with Jack a few times; we didn't win them all, but we won our share. In the '80s, Karl Spickelmier won a singles at Vegas. He walked the board on Jack and me and never won a game. Remember that, Karl, at the Stagger Inn in Bellflower, California? I think all of you in California should write The Board Talk and send in a story about Jack Ahearn, a great human being and a great shuffleboard player. Rest in peace, my friend. I'm sure by now there is a gathering "up there" for the great shootout: Bob Miles, PeeWee Ramos, Earl Kelly, Billy Chiles, Mickey Mickens, Scratch Todd, Art Ware, and other shuffleboard greats who have passed on.

I was honored to visit with Jerry and Sarah Siebert at the Bourbon tournament. They now have the winningest horse in Michigan history. She's a trotter and has won \$100,000 this year. Jerry, you're in the wrong business; you can win that much in one shuffleboard tournament. I hope your luck stays a while -- I need to borrow a thousand or two for the next two tournaments. Congratulations from all of us to the Sieberts and their horse from Lansing, Michigan. Madge and I went out to the stables our last trip and met their horse. She's a real beauty! Jerry has finally hit the big time!

Glen Davidson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

*While we share your admiration of John Myles as a player and especially his determination to compete against the best in spite of his handicap, we hope you and the NSHF Board of Directors will use a great deal of thoughtfulness and compassion before setting up a special division for the so-called "handicapped." Most of those in that category are very proud people and don't expect special consideration (in fact, they would be offended to be referred to as "crippled"). They are quite used to overcoming great odds in their everyday lives and do the same when playing shuffleboard. A case in point: At one tournament not too long ago, George (who has lived with his "handicap" since he was 13 years old and sometimes has a "warped" sense of humor) said to John -- "With your one good arm and my one good leg, maybe we ought to team up and we'd have one hell of a handicap." John did not see the humor. Would Billy Mays, for example, who once told us he is legally blind, want to be inducted in the Handicap Division? While we appreciate your good intentions, please tread carefully.*

### **An Ode to "Bill"**

What do you know 'bout this fellow named Bill,  
'cept he'll beat you at shuffleboard, almost at will?  
Much more to the man, in case you don't know,

He has a heart that's as good as gold.  
He accepts collect calls from this prison cell,  
when I feel like talking to someone out there.  
When my sweet darling wife said, "good-bye there honey,"

There was old Bill with some cigarette money.  
My subscription to The Board Talk came one day,  
Guess who it was who sent it this way?

I stayed at his home once, too drunk to drive,  
Having only met the man once or twice.  
That has been such a long time ago,

The things he's done since, God really knows.  
He gets embarrassed when I call him The King,  
But that's what he is, in and out of the ring.

Let me say, "Hello to Bill and Rosanne,"  
Role models to us all in "Shuffleboard Land."

Thanks, Bill, for being such a good friend,  
When I needed it most, that's when!

Ferlin Kearns 202383, P.O. Box 220, Hominy, OK 74035

*Bill Melton received a lot of accolades when he was inducted into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, Ferlin, but your tribute illustrates so eloquently just what kind of man he is. We're certain he will treasure it. We hope The Board Talk will help shorten your long days and nights and we encourage your friends to drop you a note now and then at the address printed above.*

## **Harvey's Place** *(continued from Page 12)*

who play for Gambol's, Drexel Hill, of the Philadelphia league. Third place went to Roland Dawson, Darlington, MD, who returned to the game after over a 20-year absence, and his partner, Rick Niblett (Rick's Place), Salisbury, MD.

The big participation bring partner tournament, named in memory of Sam Sech, formerly of Glasgow, Delaware, started Saturday afternoon. A crowd of great players was ready to go, and after some excellent playing, the results were: Buddy Brammer, Rising Sun, MD, and Chuck King, Greenwood, DE., 1st; Jim Yank Sr. and Jr. of Philadelphia (wife and mom Rita was there to coach and cheer), 2nd; Louise Freer and Al DiBella, Upper Darby, PA, 3rd.

On Sunday, Len Dell and Wendy Davis were winners of an unscheduled draw partner event. In the A-B Draw, the winners were Darlyne Belcher, Harvey's Place hostess, and Len Dell, Baltimore. Second place went to Faye Todd, Wilmington, DE, and Chuck King, Greenwood, MD. Third place went to Roland Dawson and Dick Gorman.

It was Judy McManus' birthday and the shufflers passed the hat to wish her a happy one. Judy's food preparation was up to its normal high enjoyable standards.

The next scheduled tournament at Harvey's will be the Thanksgiving Shootout, Nov. 21-23 (see Upcoming Events).

Harvey has announced that we have done everything possible to draw a crowd large enough to justify having 3-day tournaments. However, the Sunday participation has been disappointing. If the numbers do not increase on Sunday for the Thanksgiving Shootout, strong consideration will be given to elimination of Sunday from future tournaments.

## **J & C's A/B Draw (and Robert)**

Shooters from three states and five leagues were represented by the nine teams drawn for the Oct. 3 edition of this first Friday of each month, limited calcutta event at J & C's, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Chris Stillwell and Rita Yank beat Wayne Todd and Jim Yank to come out of the loser's bracket for the final. The winner's bracket team of Faye Todd and Jim Wolf took the win in a see-saw game against Chris and Rita.

"In our Shuffleboard World, Billy Mays is a well-known person for his success over adversity," said Jim Wolf. "There is a freshman attending 'Yank Shuffleboard University' at J & C's on an accelerated program. Without hesitation, Robert Morgan will tell

you that he was born blind in one eye and an accident took away his good eye's vision. To date, Robert has accumulated 'University' credits in Hitting 101, Basic Lag, In-House League 1, Fundamentals of Money League and Introduction to A-B Draw. Robert is looking forward to the time when he will complete his basic course work and begin his field studies. We will keep you informed."

*(Editor's Note: Please do keep us informed, Jim, and be sure to check Notebook on Glen's idea of a Handicap Division in the Hall of Fame and give your feedback.)*

## **Women Enjoy "Their Own" Shuffleboard Weekend**

The Wetlands Bar & Grill in Royal Oak, Michigan, hosted its 3rd Annual Ladies' Weekend on Sept. 19-21. There were three events on the fun-filled agenda.

In the draw partner event, Cassie Kern of Pontiac and Bonnie Morgan of Saginaw drew each other to take top honors. Betty Parrish of Waterford and Linda Mitchell of Saginaw finished second, with Debbie Turk of Waterford and Kris Chandler of Clawson in third place.

The mother-and-daughter-in-law team of Kim and Betty Parrish teamed up to take top honors in the doubles. Linda Mitchell and Bonnie Morgan finished in second place, with Penny Cottrell and Cassie Kern in third.

In the singles, it was Bonnie Morgan who took first, with Linda Mitchell in second (worth the trip from Saginaw, ladies!), and Penny Cottrell in third place.

There will be a 4th Annual Ladies' Weekend at Wetlands (women from other states are encouraged to take a look at this opportunity). Watch the Calendar of Events for dates.

The next event at the Wetlands will be the Deuces Wild Tournament on Dec. 12-13, \$25 per person entry. For information, call The Shuffleboard Federation, 248-380-9300, or Mike Papa at the Wetlands, 810-543-2626.

## **Dowell/Myles Tops at Bourbon Fall Tournament**

The American Legion Post 424 in Bourbon, Indiana, hosted its 30th Annual Fall Doubles on Oct. 4, attracting 28 teams from eight states vying for over \$8,000 in prize money.

It was the team of Terry Dowell of Indiana and John Myles of Michigan who came out on top, beating the team of Bobby Voorhis and Ricky Royal, both of Indiana, in a hard-fought duel of precision lagging and skillful play.

*(continued on Page 20)*

## **Upcoming Events** (continued from Page 5)

### **Florida**

The 3rd Annual Florida State Championships will be held at the Snuggery Bar & Grille, 2556 PGA Blvd. in Palm Beach Gardens on Nov. 28-30. Events include an open doubles on Friday, \$40 entry; a ladies' singles, \$15 entry, and men's singles, \$25, on Saturday; and a mixed doubles, \$30 entry on Sunday. Sponsor sales are scheduled at 11 a.m. each day. Format is single game, double elimination, 15 point games.

Boards will be open for practice on Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. and from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

For tournament information and/or lodging recommendations, call Marty Allen, 561-471-4053.

### **Pennsylvania**

In the 1st Pennsylvania State Championships, the site is the popular J & C's Tavern, in Philadelphia. Pennsylvania shufflers can call J & C's, 215-878-7343.

### **New York**

## **1ST ANNUAL FALL TOURNEY, HONKY TONK, SHERBURNE, NOV. 6-9**

The Honky Tonk Saloon, 20 Classic St. in Sherburne, New York, will host its 1st Annual Fall Tournament on Nov. 6-9.

Round robins will start at 7 p.m. on Thursday night.

On Friday at 7 p.m. will be a draw partner event, \$15 entry, limited to the first 40 paid entries.

A mixed doubles, \$30 per team, is on the agenda for Saturday at 10 a.m., limited to the first paid 16 teams.

On Saturday at 4 p.m., there will be a bring partner event, \$30 per team, limited to the first 24 paid teams.

The final event will be the singles starting on Sunday, Nov. 9, at 11 a.m., \$20 per person.

All events will be single game, double elimination, 15 points straight, played on four boards.

For more information and/or lodging recommendations, call: Dale Law, 607-674-6580; Brenda Prosser, 607-674-4810; or Dick Losee, 315-691-2708.

To enter, send checks, payable to Honky Tonk Saloon, to: Dale Law, P.O. Box 848, Sherburne, NY 13460.

**Spread the word about your events  
through the pages of  
The Board Talk!**

## **HOUSTON HOLIDAY OPEN, HILTON HOTEL, DEC. 26-31**

**By Jack Scott**

The huge success of last year's inaugural Houston (Texas) Holiday Open inspired organizers to make this annual event one of the most enjoyable shuffleboard experiences in the nation. No effort was spared in procuring and organizing the best facilities, lodging, boards, and events.

The arrangements of the tables, chairs, boards and bar in the Hilton's Grand Ballroom will provide a comfortable atmosphere for playing, spectating and socializing. The 12 boards, supplied by Replay Amusement, will all be newly refinished for this tournament by Joe Spratt and adjusted by Johnny Ballard. The public address system, juke box and speakers will be installed by Replay with an automatic PA cutoff. For those who wish to relax in their room between play, a house phone will be installed at the bracket boards. The Hilton will install a convenient bar in the Grand Ballroom with special drink prices for shuffleboard guests.

The Hilton Southwest has just completed a \$1.5 million remodeling project and is one of the finer convention hotels. Houston Holiday Open guests will receive a special room rate of \$49 per room (multiple occupancy) and two free breakfast buffets per room (this is a substantial savings from their usual \$130 per room corporate rate). Each room will have free in-room coffee maker and hair dryer. Sixty rooms have been reserved, so call early (preferably by Dec. 1). For reservations, call 1-800-HILTONS and request the Houston Holiday Open group rate.

Several events have been added this year to ensure that players of all skill levels will be competitive. Friday, Dec. 26, round robins will start at 7 p.m. On Dec. 27, there will be two different draws -- an A/B draw for -1's, 0's, 1's and 2's for \$50, and an open draw for 3's, 4's, and 5's for \$25. Sunday, Dec. 28, two different 4-person bring team events are on the schedule. Event #1: minimum of 5 points, \$120 per team; and event #2, minimum of 11 points per team, \$100 per team entry. On Monday, Dec. 29, there will be three singles events: Event #1 (-1's, 0's and 1's), \$100; Event #2 (2-rated players), \$50 entry; and Event #3 singles handicapped (3's, 4's and 5's), \$25 entry.

On New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, two round robins will run simultaneously: -1's, 0's and 1's for \$50 and a handicapped draw for \$10.

We hope to have some boards open throughout the tournament for challenge games and robins. The Bowers Rating System will be used.

Your sponsorship will be greatly appreciated to help defray expenses and add prize money to the tournament. Sponsor shirts are \$55; silver sponsors,

\$120; gold sponsors, \$200; platinum, \$500 or more.

Make checks payable to Houston Holiday Open, c/o Jack Scott, 1014 Oak Stream Dr. #5, Houston, Texas 77043.

The organizers promise to do everything possible to make this a most enjoyable shuffling vacation and Happy New Year!

Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard establishment to spread the word about this fun-filled Holiday shufflers' vacation. For information, call Johnny Ballard at 281-922-1346, or Jack Scott, 281-398-3999 or 281-558-0237.

## **Thorpe Gets Double Win at Crazy Canucks Tournament**

**By Marg Okum**

The 7th Annual Crazy Canucks Pro Tournament was held at the A.N. & A.F. Unit 68 in Vancouver, British Columbia, over the Labor Day weekend. We didn't have as many entries as we would have liked, but a good time was had by all who were there. It was great to see all our old friends and to make some new ones.

Our "Winston Jim" fun night on Thursday was a filled event, with our own Gordie Ritchie and Mike Billings winning it.

We had 22 entries in the singles event on Friday. First place went to Mike Thorpe of Washington, with Larry Pearson of Washington taking second place. Doug Buhl of Oregon finished third and Kabel Bimb of Victoria, B.C. was fourth. Mike Billings and Gordie Ritchie of Vancouver finished fifth and sixth.

Mike Thorpe and Larry Pearson teamed up to take first place in the doubles event. Doug Buhl and Loren Lampley of Washington were second, with Frank Mako of Washington and Lyle Larson of Idaho finishing in third place. Fourth place went to Joanie Millar and Theresa Cartwright of Vancouver. Mike Kinney and Don Stallsworth of Oregon were fifth, with Winston Jim of Oregon and Don Heaton of Winnipeg in sixth place.

A special congratulations to Mike Thorpe on his first-ever double win. He was quite a happy guy. It was a hard-fought and well-earned win for him.

I had the pleasure of meeting three new people this year and welcoming them to Vancouver: Joe and Randa LaFontaine and Frank Mako. Frank was a big winner in our meat draws and was also the winner of the food hamper raffled by our Ladies Auxiliary. In fact, he won so much, I understand he supplied the food for an early Sunday morning breakfast in the underground parking lot after Loren's Bar closed.

With the hospitality kitchen of Don and Georgeanna's camper, we had a cold buffet on Saturday night for all the players so they could eat in

between games or at their leisure. Which, in turn, leads me to again thank so many people who lend a hand at this job: Bill Wonnacott, Shirley Gillis, Sandi Greenfield, Emelia and Wally for doing the shopping for the buffet.

A special lady who somehow has become my right hand, Georgeanna Brand, takes pictures and writes down the names of the winners, takes care of money and anything else that comes along while I'm running around in circles. A big thank you to you. Another big thanks to Loren Lampley for being my auctioneer, tournament chairman Gordie Smith and his helpers, chairman Brian Burchnsky who did his usual excellent job and his helpers, to the ticket sellers and everyone who helped in any way.

I've saved my final great big thank you for last, because without their generosity and support, help and donations, where would tournaments be? This is to The Shuffleboard Federation. They are very special to the game we all enjoy.

This anonymous poem about volunteers says more than I ever could:

### **VOLUNTEERS**

*Many will be shocked to find, when the Day of Judgement nears,*

*That there's a special place in Heaven, set aside for volunteers.....*

*Furnished with soft recliners, satin couches and foot stools,*

*Where there's no tournament to run and no shuffleboards to move,*

*No eager team that needs a captain, no fund raiser and no bake sale,*

*Not a single thing to organize, not one thing to post or mail.*

*Phone lists will be outlawed, but a finger snap will bring*

*Cold beer and gourmet dinners, rare treats fit for a king.*

*You ask "Who will serve these privileged few and work for all they're worth?"*

*Why, all those who reaped the benefits and not once volunteered on earth.*

It was good to see Lyle Larson again after a few years, also Donnie Heaton of Winnipeg, and our friends from Victoria, B.C.: Jake Jacob, Dorothy Jacob, Kabel Bimb, Chucky Boustead (who by the time you read this will be getting ready for her Oct. 25th wedding). These people are short board players year round, as they only have short boards in Victoria, but they come across the water by ferry every year for our tournaments, as does Don Heaton from Winnipeg where they only have short boards. In fact, everyone here is off to Victoria to compete in the Canadian Short Board Championships.

# Frisko Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

*(In the last episode, Glen "The Man" Dawson did not accept Lil's challenge to play her for \$2,000 a series, so she and Frisko Eddie left O'Brian's Pub for the Sea-Tac Airport. It wasn't until they were headed toward the departure area that Lil told Eddie where they were headed: Michigan.)*

Lil and Eddie were rushing to the departure area to catch Flight #716, which would be taking them to Michigan. They just held up their tickets and were waved on by the final boarding clerk, and then ushered through the plane's entrance door by the flight attendant, and finally found their seats.

They breathed a sigh of relief after they were airborne and underway to Detroit. Both of them fell asleep after the 767 leveled off at 39,000 feet. They didn't even wake up for the in-flight dinner, and it was only after the plane began its descent that they "came to."

The landing at Detroit Metro was uneventful. After they departed the airport area, Eddie came out of his "haze" a little and started asking some questions about what the game plan would be. Lil started by saying: "After we get set up in a room, we're going to contact a man who can help us plan our action. He's called 'Johnny Mac,' and he's THE man to know in this part of the world."

They found a Holiday Inn on the outskirts of the city. After they checked in and got settled, Lil got on the phone. She was able to get right through to her contact. Although he was a busy man, he took the time to give Lil a very thorough briefing, and also agreed to help them get all set up for some really good action. He made several valuable suggestions which they would certainly follow.

Eddie was still kind of out-of-it, so he decided to "crash" for awhile. Lil made some more calls while he was "resing his eyes" -- calls that Eddie wouldn't know about.

The wheels started to turn then, and the following day found them headed for a place just outside the city which was called the Wet River Bar and Grill. If things went as planned, they wouldn't have to go much further. As they pulled into the parking area, Lil gave Eddie his final briefing: "O.K., honey, this is it. The singular most important thing we get out of this is to get you seasoned for the Reno Tournament. It'll be nice if we score on some major money in the process, but this time that's secondary. Just follow my lead, Champ....We should be in for a good ride here."

The bar proved to be very nice, inside and out. Eddie noticed that there were three in-house boards in the place. Eddie mentioned to Lil, "Hey, Babe, we're moving up in class," as they found their seats.

A friendly-looking man came up from behind the bar to take their order. He introduced himself as Nick Papalosa and he turned out to be the owner. After hearing the names, "Lil and Eddie," and observing the weight cases and all, he remarked: "Well, I'll be -- you're Long Beach Lil and this must be Frisko Eddie." Lil smiled then as she said: "Yup -- that's the name....now where's the game?"

Nick gave a big grin then and said: "The action is on the way, guys, but in the meantime, how about I give one of you a whirl?" Lil replied: "Well, you sure don't waste any time, Nick." He explained: "Well, I want to get in a few with you two before the others arrive. I like a little action now and then myself, and I'll be tied up later on." Lil looked over at Eddie then and said: "Unbuckle your weights, hot rod....it's show time."

Eddie had no concept of the grind that was in store for him as he shot his first weight against Nick. Lil knew exactly what would transpire though and she just kicked back and relaxed. Nick was a pretty skillful player, and he and Eddie ended up even after four games of play. About that time, Eddie noticed some new faces arriving, and all had weight cases in hand. Nick shook hands as he excused himself then and said: "It was a pleasure, Eddie. Good luck -- and I mean that."

Lil was busy, really busy now, shaking hands and exchanging greetings with some of the newcomers. She introduced Eddie as "a young upstart who THINKS he knows something about the game of shuffleboard." They all had drinks then, and exchanged a few "war stories" and updates on mutual friends and the latest gossip. Eddie started to get a little "antsy" after a short time, though, and made an announcement: "This 'soap opera' stuff is great, guys, but I came here to play. Which one of you wants to shed first blood?"

The conversations came to an abrupt halt then, and all eyes turned to Eddie. One of the men broke out in a knowing grin. He raised up a six-foot, very athletic build, and said: "Well, now, my man; I think I can just accommodate you on that. Let's play!" Lil just smiled, shook her head, and waved Eddie on.

The man's name was Hulk Passamino and his nick-name was "No Fear." This guy would play anyone, any time. If he lost 15-1, he'd have the quarters in for the next game before you could finish counting your winnings! He also had a strategy of showing up just before he was supposed to play. Today was no exception.

While they were getting set up to play, one of the other guys approached Lil and asked if she'd like to

start a game. His name was Barry Creakbottom -- tall and slender. He was nearing his 60's, if not already there. His handle was "Sky King." He owned his own plane and loved to fly but, ironically, he carried his weights in an old (really old) shaving bag! Lil said she'd love to play. She selected the board closest to Eddie's, so she could keep track of his action as well as her own.

The games were tough on both boards. All of the players were excellent shooters. The word had spread by now and the bar was starting to get packed with fans, other players, and also some "backers" and side-betters. If one didn't know better, he'd think he was watching the semi-final singles matches at Reno or Las Vegas!

There were a couple more who showed up, too. Lil knew these, as she did the other players. One was a former hustler who used to hang with the two best players in Texas. His name was Frank Slice and although he didn't hustle as much as in the old days, he was still a top player. He was fun to have there because of his wisecracking and comical mannerisms. He challenged Lil after she won her game.

Eddie had won his game and was then challenged by an exceptional opponent. He was about 6'2" (with no beer belly) and he wore glasses. He and Eddie played for hours, with the result being a stand-off. He was good. It was rather interesting to see him stand at the end of the board, straighten up, adjust his glasses (almost before every shot) and then let go. Eddie thought it was a little odd, too, that after a few games, the guy took off his shoes and played with his socks on! His feet didn't stink, though, so Eddie didn't mind. He was the best rail-shooter Eddie had ever seen, and he was glad when the action changed to another challenge.

There was electricity in that room. The focus on each weight that was shot was tremendous. At critical junctions, you could hear a pin drop. What a sensation to play, and also to observe, this shuffleboard at its finest!

After almost two days, the session came to an end. Everyone -- even those who weren't shooting -- were exhausted. The players were totally done in. It was an event that would not soon be forgotten.

There were a bunch of hugs, compliments, promises, and "see ya' in Reno's" passing as a wave through the room as things broke up and they started to leave. What great people -- players and fans alike who had gathered here. As Lil and Eddie left the room, she gave her compliments to Nick, the owner -- it was a warm handshake along with a hug, too.

Eddie was too exhausted to drive, so Lil took the wheel. They didn't know exactly how the finances had come out, except that they were ahead. Lil handed her stake to Eddie, who counted it out. They were a little

under \$5,000 to the good! Eddie knew right then that he had truly "Been there...and Done that!" This was exactly what Lil had planned for and, indeed, what Eddie had now received.

They got to the Holiday Inn and crashed for about 12 hours. They checked out the next day and made it to the airport. There were about 10 days before Reno. They made two stops on the way -- one in Oklahoma and the other in Denver. Eddie went head-and-heads against a great player in Oklahoma. After several hours of play, Lil pulled Eddie up before they might start to go down the tubes. This was HIS board and he was just too strong that day. Things went smoother in Denver. They met some great people, played some great games, and made some great money! They took a couple days to relax and tour the Great Rocky Mountains. Eddie said he had never seen anything as beautiful as this!

It was time then to leave for Reno. As the 727 made its descent into the airport, Eddie started to get a little tingling feeling in anticipation of what lay ahead. They checked into the Sands Regency Hotel/Casino after a short cab drive. After they got settled into their room in the Tower, showered and got dressed, it was time....the time Eddie had waited for, and prepared for, over several years.

The excitement level continued to build as they made their way to the nearby elevator. On the way down, Lil looked over at Eddie, smiled, and said: "This moment is what we've been waiting for. Just try to kick back and enjoy it, Champ."

The elevator came to a stop and the doors opened to reveal the large entranceway to the Tournament Room. After they made their way inside and Eddie saw all those shiny boards lined up in a row, he was totally peaked out. He turned to Lil and looked at her with an excited awe in his eyes, and said: "Sweetheart.....I have arrived."

\*\*\*\*\*

*Will all those years of preparation pay off for Eddie in Reno as he meets most of the top players in the world? Don't miss next month's exciting episode to find out. Author Balboa Ron will be in Reno (to record Eddie and Lil's adventures, of course, and play a little himself), so please take a minute to shake his hand and tell him the efforts he invests in this series (even when he has the flu) is worthwhile.*

**Balboa Ron  
wishes you a very  
HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING!**

## Bourbon Doubles *(cont. from Page 15)*



Bourbon American Legion host Bill Niswonger (center) congratulates doubles winners John Myles (left) and Terry Dowell.



Bobby Voorhis (left) and Ricky Royal took second place honors in the field of 28 teams.

The Indiana duo of Bud Broka and Mike Johnson finished third, with fourth place going to Rick Boyer and Morey Balins, both of Colorado. Oklahomans Bill and Billy Melton and the local team of Robbie Stouder and Dennis Perrin settled for fifth and sixth spots.

"The Ladies Auxiliary of American Legion 424 spent many hours preparing meat loaf and ham sandwiches, potato salad and baked beans for the hungry participants," reports Pam Worsham. "The menu also included the always-anticipated grilled chicken cooked by the Legion members."

Tournament director Terry Dowell and Legion Club Manager Bill Niswonger applaud the Auxiliary as well as Mike Koontz, Larry Creakbaum, Gary Neff and John Cowan, who assisted with the brackets, and Mike Johnson, who did a bang-up job as auctioneer, and Jo Bates, who kept track of the entries and sponsor sales.

"Thanks also to The Shuffleboard Federation for the donation of silicone, which enabled us to keep the five boards in tip-top condition," said Terry. "We

appreciate all the players, many of whom travelled great distances, and the local supporters who helped make this historic tournament a success."

Terry and Bill encourage everyone to return to Bourbon in May 1998 for the 38th Annual Spring Doubles Tournament.

## Take Note, Bill Melton.....



In the June 1996 issue, we printed a photo of Bill Melton's 8-month old grandson, Maddox, showing his prowess on the boards. Here is Terry Dowell's 5-month old grandson, Dylan, ready to lag a 4. Maybe we can plan on a playoff in 2015? Bets, anyone?

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

The following are shuffleboard establishments which have joined (or rejoined) the national network recently. Please add them to the latest "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." listing published in September.

**California:** Mary Lou's Tavern, 15425 Chatsworth St., Mission Hills; phone 818-892-9936

**Florida:** Bavarian House, 5424 Riveredge Drive, Titusville; phone 407-264-1390

**Nebraska:** Sam Piccolo's, 13328 Millard Ave., Omaha; phone 402-895-9987

**Nevada:** Gabby's Saloon, 2303 E. Lake Mead Blvd., Las Vegas; phone 702-642-8443

**Texas:** Rendezvous Club, 2111 Texoma Parkway, Sherman; phone 903-892-3678

Jean's Club, Melissa; phone 972-838-4614

Please stop in tell these folks that you appreciate their support of shuffleboard.

The next quarterly listing will be published in December. If your favorite shuffleboard site is not currently listed, sign them up and send us their subscription before Nov. 15.

**Our Sincere Appreciation to:**

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- Sun-Glo Corporation
- Triple Crown Shuffleboard Supplies
- Gametime
- BZ's Sports Bar
- Houston Shuffleboard Community
- Shuffleboard Directory Businesses

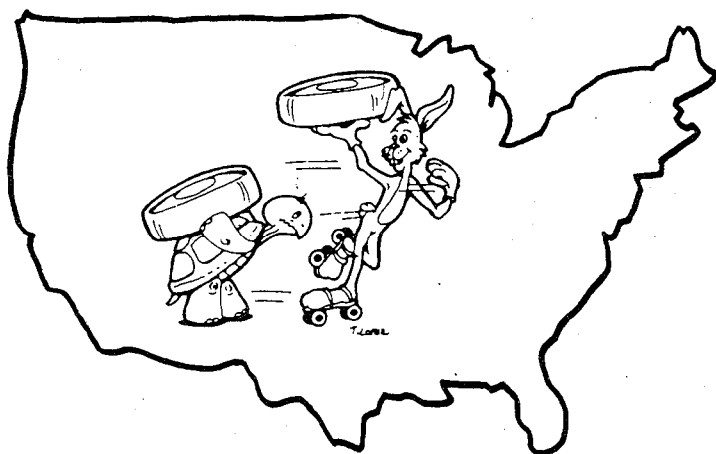
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