

The Board Talk

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April 1998

Al Stewart is California's First Hall of Fame Inductee

Al Stewart, who has served The World of Shuffleboard through his A & M Amusement Service in El Monte since 1959, is the first inductee into the California Hall of Fame. Appropriately, because he is known by many as "Shuffleboard's Sweetheart," his induction took place at The Dixie Belle's (Downey, California) Valentine's Tournament on February 14. By his side for the moving induction ceremony was his "child bride" of 28 years, Von, who has had more than her share of health challenges during the past few years, and their two daughters.



Testimonies from admirers across the country were part of Al's induction:

"He is a living example of what we all should be like. We can look at him and say, 'This is how it is done.' His values, responsibilities and priorities are all in order. How many of us can say this about ourselves? If I could be reincarnated, I would come back with a father just like Al." Freddie & Lois Thuman, California

"Anyone who is familiar with Al Stewart's ad in The Board Talk may recall that it states, 'For Experience, Integrity and Care -- You can't beat Al Stewart.' This is no mere advertising slogan, it's who Al Stewart is." Phil Skover & John McDermott, The Shuffleboard Federation, Michigan

"Al's honesty, integrity, both personal and in business, and his generosity are an inspiration to all of

us. His induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame is a recognition that is certainly in order....in fact, it is absolutely necessary!" Louise Freer, Pennsylvania

"Al is the most devoted, hardest-working shuffleboard fan-player that I know. If there is work to be done or help needed concerning our game, Al is the one that people turn to and can count on." Darrol Nelson, Oregon

"Al Stewart -- four words: Honesty, Integrity, Dedication and Loyalty." Paul Weber, California Hall of Fame Committee member and master of ceremonies for the induction

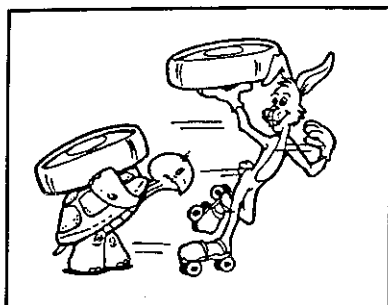
These and many more tributes are part of a printed program that will be a lasting keepsake for the Stewarts.



Al Stewart accepts his California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame plaque from chairperson Jolene Lembke. Al became the state's first inductee. Bellflower Bruce Hale and Bobby Goldsmith will be Nos. 2 and 3.

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dm



Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views from The World of Shuffleboard

More and more tournament organizers across the country are realizing the value of rated/handicapped events to the future of our sport. We salute them!

Thanks from the Stewarts

There is not enough ways to say THANK YOU for the wonderful program put on for Al's induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. It could not have been more perfect or wonderful. A lot of work and thought went into it. We were so glad Von felt well enough to attend.

Our thanks to Jolene Lembke, Joanie Swenson, Chris Brown, Paul Weber, Jan Manes, Rich Warren, Marilyn McCracken and Jim Martin (who did a great job on the video), and good friend Balboa Ron Schweikert, who brought back some wonderful memories. Thanks also to all the wonderful people who wrote tributes for the printed program, which we'll always treasure. Our thanks also to Dixie Debbie for the dinner they bought us. It was so good!

Al and Von Stewart, El Monte, California

From all reports, the folks involved feel almost as good about the induction as you do, as well they should! We might have known that the group of talented, dedicated people would do it up right. Of course, as Jolene says -- it helps to have a "sweetheart" subject.

Thanks to Houston

In April of 1996, I wrote an article on the future of shuffleboard and was advised by you that if I wanted to shoot A-B type events to go to Texas, etc. Well, I did (for about \$700). The Houston Holiday Open '97 was a real great tourney. They even had a handicap AND an A-B event.

Thanks, Houston!

Dennis H. MacPherson, Elmira, Idaho

--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!

Thanks to McCabe's

"Friendship Through Competition" reigned high in Saginaw, Michigan, on Feb. 20-22 when Jim Baker and I attended the 2nd Annual Saginaw Valley Open at M.J. McCabe's.

While we did not "bring home the gold," we did make a lot of friends and had a wonderful time. Jim was dubbed "the Reverend" and a lot of jokes were told about "the Baker." We came away with a lot of addresses for future competitions and many happy memories.

A special thank you to ALL the staff at McCabe's, especially Wannita and Tracy, and everyone else whose names I can't remember. Excellent job, ladies!

While I didn't participate, I learned a great deal by watching. I witnessed some amazing shots and held my breath with the others as some shots made their way down the board. Perhaps next time I will be brave enough to play.

With thanks from Ontario, Canada!

Sharon McIvor, Kingston, Ontario

We are very disappointed we weren't there to see you and Jim. Our plans to be at McCabe's had to be cancelled when a particularly mean and persistent flu bug put us behind on our Board Talk schedule. Maybe we'll see you at the 3rd Saginaw Valley Open. In the meantime, you'd better get brave enough to play!

Another Parrish Added....

My daughter-in-law, Kim Parrish, gave birth to a third son on March 11. Baby Justin, following a tradition set by older brothers, Levi and Matthew, was born three days after helping Mom win the Pontiac Ladies League doubles with her partner, Debbie Turk. On his due date, son Levi gave mom a "kick or two" to help win the City of Pontiac Mr. and Mrs./Ms.

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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.

Arregers Honored by Players at Blinky's Tournament

By Rick Thomas

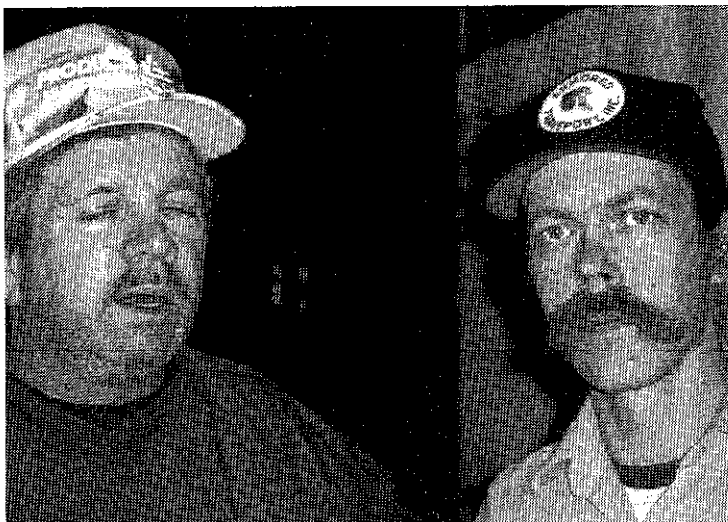
Blinky's Sports Cafe in Santa Clara, California, hosted its annual Presidents' Week Tournament on Feb. 8-16.

On Sunday, Feb. 8, the Amateur Ladies' "Champagne & Roses" (or, as the ladies called it, "Mad Dogs & Tulips") singles event got underway. The ladies always find a way to get this week-long tourney off to a roaring start. This very spirited event got everybody in a positive mood that carried on throughout the week.



The results of this opening event: Jane Mourgos (center), 1st; Lorraine Bingham (right), 2nd; and Kathy Thomas (left), 3rd.

On Monday, the Amateur Doubles Draw got started, also with very spirited play. Excellent play through the night determined the outcome of the finals. Talk about a shoot-out!



And the winners were Chris Wayt (left) and Pete Craven.

Eddie Brayman and Ray Williams took second place, with Teresa Manfredi and Bob Crum in third.

There were 16 players participating in Tuesday's Amateur Singles, insuring that this was going to be a shoot-out and it was! When the smoke clared, four players were left and all were locals. First place went

to Eddie Brayman, with Don Davidson in second. Third place went to Ted Fowler and fourth to Pete Craven.



Amateur Singles Champ Eddie Brayman and his happy sponsor, Lorraine Bingham.

The A-B-C event was held on Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 11-12, with eight teams (24 players) participating. As always, this very popular event was one of the highlights of the week. The 2 out of 3 format produced some real exciting play and shot making, and the amateurs held their own.



In first place was the team of Paul Parks (right), Steve Cathey and Teresa Manfredi.

Second place went to Don Cox, Don Davidson and newcomer Steve Heidenrich. Coming in third was the team of Larry Pearson, Pete Craven and Shari Bussey.

The Pro/Open Doubles Event got underway on Saturday, Feb. 14, with 12 teams vying for a prize fund of \$8,450. Excellent board play all day determined the finalists. Going through the winner's bracket to grab first place were locals Rick Thomas and Dan Mourgos. John Fisher of L.A. and George Camara of Stockton teamed up to get second place, with Joe Hudson of Sacramento and Fred Thuman of Auburn in third.

The Pro/Open Singles started on Sunday and

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Upcoming Events Across the Nation

Ohio

4TH ANNUAL TOLEDO OPEN, AVON'S LOCAL 14, TOLEDO, APRIL 17-19

Celebrate Spring by checking out one of the best shuffleboard sites in the Great Lakes area, Avon's Local 14, 5411 Jackman Rd. in Toledo. Spacious facilities, lots of parking, good food, friendly hosts. Their 4th Annual Toledo Open is set for April 17-19.

A draw partner event is scheduled for Friday night, \$25 per player entry fee, with sale at 7:30 and play immediately following. Players with a -1, 0 or 1 rating cannot draw each other.

For Saturday's handicap doubles, the combined rating of both players must be at least 1 (-1's cannot play with other -1's or 0's and 0's cannot play with each other). Entry fee is \$25 per player, limited to 20 teams. The sale will be at 2 p.m. or after the conclusion of the draw, whichever is later, with play immediately following.

There will be a progressive entry fee for Saturday's handicap singles: \$100 for -1's, \$80 for 0's, \$60 for 1's, \$40 for 2's, \$20 for 3's, 4's and 5's. Sponsor sale

will be held at 2 p.m. or after conclusion of the draw, whichever is later.

All events are single game, double elimination. A constant action format will be used for the singles and doubles.

Entry deadline is 6 p.m. Friday night for the draw and 1 p.m. Saturday for the doubles and singles. There will be a \$5 registration fee which will go to tournament director Rob Kern.

Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard site to spread the word about this big event. For further tournament information, call The Shuffleboard Federation, 248-380-9300. For lodging recommendations, call Avon's at 419-472-6978. Boards furnished by Decker Shuffleboard, Toledo, Ohio.

Arizona

3RD BILL GIBBS MEMORIAL, FAMILY BILLIARDS, GLENDALE, APRIL 24-26

The 3rd Annual Bill Gibbs Memorial Tournament will be held at the Family Billiards (The Bar), 5814 W.

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.

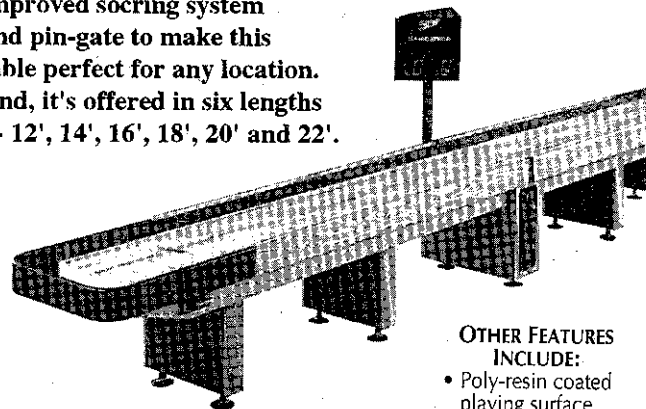
"The new score system allows novice and pro players to compete equally in every frame. If the game is tied 13 to 13, the novice player has an equal chance to score and win."

--Bob Shaw, Fort Worth, Texas

GAMETIME

Take Your Best Shot!

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

Camelback, Glendale, on April 24-26.

Three events will be played on four boards, starting with an A-B draw on Friday at 7 p.m., \$10 per person entry. An A-B-C draw, \$30 per team, will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, with an open doubles, \$50 per person, beginning at 6 p.m. The finals for the A-B-C draw and open doubles is scheduled for Sunday at 10 a.m.

This annual event is held in memory of popular shuffler Bill Gibbs, who passed away on July 26, 1995.

For tournament information and/or lodging recommendations, call: Bob Lewis, 602-242-6782; Al Salazar, 602-583-7035; Alice Arredono, 602-849-1845; or Family Billiards, 602-939-4000.

California

2ND MEMORIAL WEEKEND TOURNEY AT MR. G'S, VISALIA, MAY 22-25

Mr. G's Bar & Cardroom, 15742 Ave. 296, Visalia, will host its 2nd Annual Memorial Weekend Tournament on May 22-25.

Action will start with an A-B-C draw, \$25 per player, on Friday, sale at 7:30 p.m. and play immediately following.

For Saturday's handicap doubles, \$100 per team entry, teams must have a combined rating of at least two or more (Bowers rating system in effect).

All events, played on three boards, will be best 2 out of 3, time permitting. For further information, contact Steve Floyd, 209-739-9926.

Bobby Goldsmith will be inducted into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame at this tournament.

BILLY CHILES ABC DRAW MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT, SILVER SPUR, JUNE 13

The 1st Annual ABC draw tournament dedicated to the memory of Billy Chiles will be held at the Silver Spur, 25041 East 9th St., San Bernardino, on June 13. The sale starts at noon with play beginning at 1 p.m.

For directions and/or information, call Jolene Lembke, 909-797-9685.

ABC DRAW AT OSKAR'S, BELLFLOWER, APRIL 17-19

Oskars, 13418 Woodruff Ave., Bellflower, a new member of the shuffleboard network, will host an ABC

Draw tournament on April 17-19.

For information, call Oskar's, 562-925-4915.

Bellflower Bruce Hall will be inducted into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame at this event.

4TH OF JULY TOURNAMENT, THE DIXIE BELLE, DOWNEY, JULY 1-5

The Dixie Belle, 9559 E. Imperial Highway in Downey, will host their annual 4th of July tournament on July 1-5. Events will include an ABC draw on Wednesday and Thursday evenings (sponsor sale Wednesday prior to play), an open doubles on Friday and Saturday with sale on Thursday night, and an open singles on Saturday and Sunday with sale on Friday night. All events are 2 out of 3, double elimination.

The 4th of July festivities on Saturday will include a barbecue in the afternoon.

For further information, call The Dixie Belle, 562-803-4943, or e-mail Dixiedebbie@AOL.com.

Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard site to spread the word about this fun event.

7TH HAL PERRY TOURNEY, BLINKY'S, SANTA CLARA, MAY 17-25

Blinky's Sports Cafe, 3145 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, will host its 7th Annual Hal Perry Memorial Week Shuffleboard Tournament on May 17-25.

Action will start on May 17 with a ladies doubles draw, \$10 entry. An amateur doubles draw, \$20 per person, is scheduled for Monday, followed by an amateur singles, \$20 entry, on Tuesday. All these events are single game, double elimination.

An ABC draw, \$20 per person entry, is on the agenda for Wednesday and Thursday. This event is 2 out of 3, double elimination.

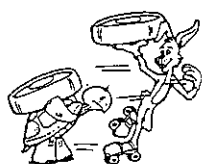
The pro doubles, \$100 per person entry, starts on Saturday (sale on Friday night), with the pro singles, \$100 entry (sale on Saturday night) on Sunday and Monday. These events are 2 out of 3, double elimination. A pig barbecue is scheduled for Saturday from 5 to 7 p.m., and the singles may start that evening.

For further information, call Rick Thomas, 408-578-0822, or Blinky's, 408-241-3933, or e-mail Tweetyb1@ix.netcom.com.

Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard site.

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As The Puck Turns.....



By George & Donna Wilber

Before you read any further, take a minute now to look at the back page..... It contains more than your address. Even though it may look the same every month, it's not! On the upper left is a listing of all the advertisers in the current issue, advertisers who have made it possible for us to bring you The Board Talk this month -- and some of them last month, the month before, last year, the year before, ad infinitum. Believe us, without them, there would be no Board Talk!

Now look at the lower left hand corner. True, this listing doesn't change often, but it represents the "life blood" of The Board Talk, our subscribers.

For almost seven years, California has led the nation in the number of Board Talk subscribers. That distinction is currently being challenged by Texas, which only lacks six subscribers to take the lead.

The Board Talk's home state, Michigan, holds a shaky third place, with Indiana only one subscriber behind. Washington hangs onto a strong fifth place, with Oklahoma rounding out the top six states.

Next comes New York, followed by Missouri. Pennsylvania, Maryland (thanks to Art Cassata, editor of the league newsletter "On The Board", for his consistent promotion) and Arizona are tied with very modest numbers, considering the number of shufflers in those states.

Where does YOUR state stand?

Then, in the upper right-hand corner is something that does stay the same every month, but that doesn't make it any less important. It tells our subscribers that if they move, they must let us know. Notifying the Post Office is not sufficient with our bulk rate permit. We're not notified and The Board Talk, which we continue to send every month to the old address, is not returned to us. Time and time again, we receive complaints about subscribers not receiving their Board Talks. Then we discover that the subscriber has moved and neglected to let us know. We try to accommodate those "movers" by sending back copies, but it is expensive -- an expense we really can't afford. Please help us spread the word.

Another page that may look the same every month, but is not, is our Shuffleboard Directory. Please take a moment now to look at that..... We have a new listing this month -- Rickey's World Famous Sauce. In all of our 15 years and 4 months in business, this is a first! Never before have we had a "hot sauce" listing in our directory and we encourage you to give it a try.

Bill Mitchell, creator of this world-famous sauce, is also owner and operator of Rickey's Restaurant and Lounge, 220 NW 18th Ave., Pembroke Pines, Florida. He has a new shuffleboard and is enthusiastic about becoming a part of the tournament scene in that part of our country. We encourage you to stop in and welcome him to our shuffleboard network -- and order a six-pack of hot (or mild) sauce while you're there.

A couple of corrections.....

In our coverage of the 1997 North American Championships, we reported that it was Kay Hardon of Alaska who played on Darrol Nelson's second place team in the Deuces Wild event. It was Marcia Walker of Alaska who earned that honor. The seven-member contingency from Anchorage made a lot of friends during their stay in Reno and Marcia reports that the group has been practicing, practicing, and practicing in preparation for the 1998 NASC. They were great people and we look forward to seeing them again.

In the last "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." listing, we had the Fill-N-Station in Mims, Florida, located on U.S. 2. It should be 2685 N. U.S. 1. Please make that correction on your list and stop by and play a game or two with the friendly folks there. They will be the host of this year's Florida State Championships over the Thanksgiving weekend.

D & G

Michigan's First Handicap Weekend is a Big Hit -- Metivier Gets Double Win

M.J. McCabe's in Saginaw hosted one of the biggest turnouts in recent tournament history in the state of Michigan at the 2nd Annual Saginaw Valley Open on Feb. 20-22. An extra board had already been added for the weekend, but in the days leading up to the tournament, it became obvious that another board was going to have to be added or they would be turning away players.

Host Dave Willett called Lou Decker (Decker Shuffleboard) for help. Lou immediately committed to installing the fourth board on less than 24 hours notice, but there was a hitch. Lou had no refinished tops ready. He could provide a decent board, but not one of the same quality of the other three. It was then decided that if a top-notch board could not be found, the entries would just have to stay at the posted limits and the tournament played on three boards.

A late night phone call to Dennis Bittner of the Club Car Lounge in nearby Durand provided the solution. Lou Decker, on a last-minute 400-mile round trip, brought one of his beautifully restored old American

frames and one of his new scoreboards. On the way, he made a detour to Durand to pick up the playing field from a board he had recently installed at the Club Car Lounge. As a result, there were four great boards and a super tournament.

Dave Willett admitted being a little nervous as to what all of this was going to mean in terms of added expense. As it turned out, the growing spirit of cooperation between bar owners in this area came into play as Dennis Bittner donated his new board at no charge. Lou Decker in turn donated the frame, scoreboard, delivery and set-up. The players responded by taking up a collection for Lou to show their appreciation. Pretty classy performance by all involved!

The tournament led off with a handicapped draw in which the 2's through 5's drew the -1's through 1's, with the remaining players drawing amongst themselves. First place honors went to the team of Jerry Hershman and Gene Wendling, who edged out the second place team of Bud Spier and Debbie Turk. Third place went to Bill Meyer and Bill Kuebler. In fourth place was the team of Dale DeWaard and Mary McClaren. Tied for fifth were the teams of Walt Cannell and Carrie Cottrell, and Becky DeWaard and Chris Passariello.

The doubles format required a team rating total of 1 or higher. Twenty-five teams entered the event and Roland Metivier and Bjerne Sunde went undefeated en route to winning the event. Second place went to John Myles and Bud Spier, who advanced by knocking off Ron Monville and Bobby Voorhis in a game that provided enough great shots to fill a highlight film. In fourth place was the team of John McDermott and Dave Willett, followed by the teams of Linda Mitchell and Gene Wendling, and Bill Meyer and Mike Papa, tied for fifth.

When you go undefeated in the doubles, there is only one thing you can do for an encore -- going undefeated in the singles. That is what Roland Metivier did, beating favorites John McDermott once and second place finisher Bobby Voorhis twice in the process to come out on top of the field of 31 players. Third and fourth places went to Mike Papa and Alonzo Cottrell respectively. Tied for fifth were Jeff Cottrell and Bill Kane.

The only negative note of the entire weekend was that a couple of players chose to whine and snivel about the few players whose ratings they thought were incorrect, and about the tournament format (which was on the flyer). John McDermott took the microphone and read those players the riot act, telling them, in no uncertain terms, that people who don't read the flyer or who choose to bitch about the ratings of a few players instead of appreciating the great job the ratings committee does on a great majority of the players, could hit the road. After the scathing rebuke

directed at the few snivilers, quite a few of the other players in attendance clapped and voiced their support. The message was loud and clear: It is not just the tournament promoters and directors who do not care for this type of behavior -- the vast majority of the players do not want to put up with snivelers either.

Hopefully, these people will clean up their act, or stay home.

Blinky's *(continued from Page 3)*

ended on Monday with 16 players shooting for a prize fund of \$4375. In this very trying event, spectators were treated to a high standard of play and, at the conclusion, the winners were: Darrol Nelson (Oregon), 1st; Larry Pearson (Washington), 2nd; Don Cox (California), 3rd; and Fred Thuman (California), 4th, after an early morning narrow escape in a match with local amateur Lorraine Bingham.

The grand total for entries plus sponsor sales for the week was \$18,765. Good show! Thanks for everyone's support.

Thanks to all the out-of-town players for their continued support of the tournaments held at Blinky's, namely: Darrol Nelson, Don Cox, Rich (Bubba) Warren, John Fisher, Paul Elliott, Karl Spickelmier, Larry Pearson, Joe Hudson, Fred Thuman, George Camara, Andy Brorsen, Loren Maxim and, as always, Hal Perry. Also, thanks to all the many locals who always support this tournament.

Many thanks go out to the shufflers who helped with the little things that are a big help during the tournament. Thanks to Bubba Warren, Fred Thuman, Eddie Brayman, Chris Wayt, Don Davidson, Paul Parks, Dan Mourgos, Jane Mourgos, Lorraine Bingham, and Dale Pirlot. Special thanks to Kathy Thomas, Stevie Parks and Cori Brown for their continued support with collecting entries and sponsor sales, drawings, and distribution of money, etc.

Super thanks to Don Melampy for the always-great food fest that he prepares for the Saturday BBQ, etc.

Last, but certainly not least, profound thanks to Dick and Barbara Arreger, owners of Blinky's, for their continued support for this great game of shuffleboard!



In a ceremony to thank Barbara and Dick Arreger for their support and love of shuffleboard, Fred Thuman presented them a trophy on behalf of the players.

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Stewart Inducted *(cont. from Page 1)*

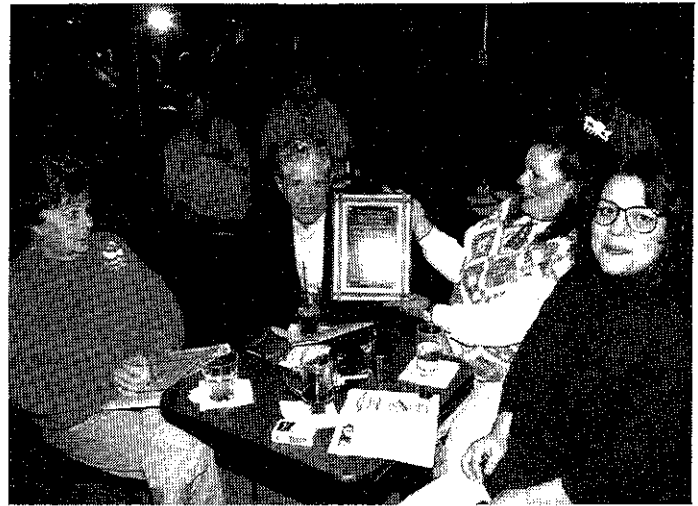
"The California Hall of Fame was formed in order to showcase worthy individuals and their achievements, and create a platform for us to honor them," said President Jolene Lembke. "The induction ceremony was professional in appearance, sentimental and interesting. I credit the hard work and devotion of our committee, the good luck of knowing Jimmy Martin who is a genius with his video camera, our creative consultant Marilyn McCracken who went above and beyond our expectations, guest speaker Balboa Ron Schweikert, and last, but not least, the subject we had to work with -- Mr. Al Stewart!"



The two "creative geniuses" who helped the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Committee make the Al Stewart induction a memorable affair were Marilyn McCracken and Jimmy Martin.



Balboa Ron Schweikert, author of the "Frisco Eddie" series, served as guest speaker, asking Al: "Remember when.....?"



Al's proud family -- "child bride" Von, daughters Tina and Jolene -- admire his plaque.



Seldom at a loss for words, inductee Al Stewart was overwhelmed by what he called "an unexpected and totally awesome honor."

What many did not know at the time, this was a fitting grand finale to the nearly 40-year career of Al's A & M Amusement Service. The "old man" who puts so many of us to shame will finally retire on April 1. His business has been sold to another well-known shuffler, Billy Maxwell. Watch for further details.

The active California Hall of Fame Committee will induct Bellflower Bruce Hale during an ABC Draw Tournament at Oskar's in Bellflower on April 17-19, and Bobby Goldsmith during the Memorial weekend tournament at Mr. G's in Visalia.

(Editor's Note: If you would like to send a congratulatory note to these inductees: Al & Von Stewart, 11415 Cherrylee Dr., El Monte, CA 91732; Bellflower Bruce Hale and/or Bobby Goldsmith, c/o California Hall of Fame Chair, Jolene Lembke, 11050 Bryant Rd., Sp. 45, Yucaipa, CA 92399.

Brunskills Top Sweethearts at The Dixie Belle

By Chris Brown

Our Sweethearts Tournament began on Friday the 13th with 17 teams competing for a total of \$3380. Play began Friday night following the sponsor sale. Returning Saturday morning at 11:00, the serious business of elimination began. With five boards to play on, no one waited very long between matches. A luncheon buffet was served with the Dixie Belle and various shufflers contributing, until a break was called at 3 p.m. for the induction of Al Stewart into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Valentine's Day 1998 was a perfect choice for Al's induction, as he is truly one of shuffleboard's sweethearts. You cannot find one person in California who will not say that *there* is a man deserving of being the first inductee into the State Hall of Fame. A caring, giving man whose handshake is his word, Al and his lovely wife Von sat smiling and laughing as the California shuffleboard community paid tribute to him.

Al's acceptance speech didn't leave many dry eyes anywhere in the room, so it was a good time to lower the lights and watch a video put together by Jim Martin (one of his famous Marlin Productions). Jim didn't miss many shuffleboarders in his efforts to get them all on film with their own personal congratulatory messages and, for a few who were too far away to attend, recorded phone messages did the trick. Scenes of Al and Von at various tournaments over the years were especially touching. A segment showing the best of the best players accepting trophies at various tournaments around the country (with the song "We are the Champions" playing in the background) reminded us all that without people like Al who give their all to the sport, there would be no tournaments and no champions.

Following the induction, all the ladies attending were presented with a red rose and a box of candy, courtesy of one of shuffleboard's kindest gentlemen, Bellflower Bruce Hale. Many of the ladies playing seemed to perk up after that, and the smiles were abundant. Play was called at midnight, with three teams left in the competition, with Frank and Connie Zavalas from Las Vegas taking an Honorable Mention in fourth place.

When the third place playoffs began Sunday at 11 a.m., it was like *deja vu*. There I was with my partner, Jack Eicher, again facing Greg McFarland and Michele Lamo on board two, exactly how we had started off on Saturday morning! But where Jack and I had taken Saturday's match in two games, Sunday morning was a different sort of tale. Greg and Michele were out for revenge. When I started off the match

lagging a four, Greg let me know right from the start that it wasn't going to be that easy as he lagged a four in return. Greg and Michele took the first game, Jack and I rallied and took the second. In the third game, before we knew it, the score was 10-5 and Jack and I were down. We pulled off every shot we knew and came within one point at 12-13 of our opponents, but Greg and Michele held on and took the game and match.

After a brief rest, they headed off to board one to face Anna and Bob Brunskill, fresh from their win the previous weekend at the Silver Spur. Due to the excessive moisture in the air, board one was lower-centered than usual, and everyone either loved it or hated it, depending on their preferences. Neither the Brunskills nor Greg and Michele loved it. The games were well played, but Bob and Anna pulled out the match in a two-game victory.



Winners of the Sweetheart Tournament were: Bob and Anna Brunskill (right), 1st; Michele Lamo and Greg McFarland (left), 2nd; Chris Brown and Jack Eicher (center), 3rd.

I was especially pleased with the turnout, as the rains have not been kind lately, and to have so many people drive in from Las Vegas, San Diego, San Bernardino, Visalia, Santa Rosa (George Lucas), and elsewhere for the tournament and induction. It made all of the Dixie Belle Gang proud.

Thanks to Bob Brunskill and Vern Booth for keeping an eye on my bracketing and helping me out. The "old-timers" around this area are especially well known for working with new players, but there are not an abundance of "behind the scenes" people. The tournament organizers, the bracketboard people, the people who take care of the boards, etc. can never be praised enough for their work (most of it volunteer). When they are willing to take the extra time to pass along their knowledge, it is a truly remarkable thing. I have been very fortunate in that, over the last two years, Rich (Bubba) Warren, Karl Spickelmier, Joanie Swenson, and Bob Brunskill have been teaching me, letting me watch over their shoulders, and have kept an eye on me while I have learned.

Hoping to see you all at our 4th of July Tournament (see enclosed flyer).

(Editor's Note: Chris's e-mail address, listed incorrectly in February, is 'ShuffleGal@aol.com',)

Upcoming Events (cont. from Page 5)

Indiana

3RD SPRING OPEN, AMVETS POST 26, PENDLETON, APRIL 17-19

The Fall Creek Valley AMVETS Post 26, 939 S. Pendleton, will host their 3rd Annual Spring Open Tournament on April 17-19. Action will start with round robins on Friday night.

An open doubles, \$20 per player entry, double elimination, is on the schedule for Saturday, with an open singles, \$20 entry, double elimination, on Sunday. The sponsor sales will be held at 11 a.m. both days, with play immediately following on three boards. AMVETS will open at 7 a.m. each day and they have plenty of parking, with electrical hook-ups for campers.

For information, call Sonny Harris at the AMVETS, 765-778-7224.

ARNOLD CROSS MEMORIAL DOUBLES, MISSISSINEWA TAVERN, APRIL 18

The Mississinewa Tavern, 125 W. Harris in Eaton will host the annual Arnold Cross Memorial Doubles on April 18. Entry fee is \$30 per team, limited to the first 24 teams signed up. The double elimination event will be played on two boards, 11 a.m. sponsor sale with play immediately following. Payoff will be 60-30-10.

For further information, call the Mississinewa Tavern, 765-396-9371.

37TH ANNUAL SPRING DOUBLES, AMERICAN LEGION, BOURBON

The 37th Annual Spring Doubles will be held on May 2 (not May 3 as published in the past several calendars) at American Legion Post 424 in Bourbon. This year, taxi service will be available from Bourbon to your lodging in Warsaw and Plymouth for a nominal charge.

As we go to press, no other information is available. For details, call the American Legion, 219-342-8100.

REMINDER:

The deadline is the 15th of each month.

Washington

2ND AMATEUR DRAW, FIR CONE TAVERN, SHELTON, APRIL 18-19

The second of four amateur draw tournaments, open to all new players rated a 3 or higher, is scheduled for April 18-19 at the Fir Cone Tavern in Shelton. Entry fee is \$40 per team with no sponsor sale. First, second and third place trophies will be awarded. The top six finishers earn an invitation to the 1998 Amateur Championship at the Fir Cone and a chance to win entry fee to the Div. II doubles at the North American Championships in Reno, plus round trip air fare and one week's lodging at the Sands Regency. Come Friday night for \$5 round robins. A Saturday night feed is also on the agenda.

For more information, contact Mel Hohn, 360-426-2221.

8TH ANNUAL DRAW PARTNER, SHAMROCK, LONGVIEW, MAY 2-3

The 8th Annual Draw Partner Tournament at the Shamrock Tavern, Longview, is scheduled for May 2-3. \$20 per team entry with \$5 per player added by the Shamrock. 2 out of 3 in the winner's bracket, one 17 point in the loser's bracket. Sale at noon on Saturday. Come early for Friday night's \$10 round robins. A surprise from Bernice will be served on Saturday. For information, call Jerry Berquist at the Shamrock, 360-577-7444.

10TH ANNUAL FOREST FESTIVAL, FIR CONE, SHELTON, MAY 30-31

The event for this year's Forest Festival tournament at the Fir Cone Tavern in Shelton on May 30-31 will be an A-B draw. Action will start on Friday night with a \$20 A-B draw, single elimination. The main event will start at noon on Saturday with the draw and sponsor sale and play immediately following. \$25 per person entry. Format will be double elimination, two out of three 15-point games in the winner's bracket, single game to 21 points in the loser's bracket. A Saturday night feed will be served at around 6 p.m.

For further information, contact Mel Hohn at the Fir Cone, 360-426-2221.

(continued on Page 20)

Thorpes Top of 28 Teams at Blue Goose Sweetheart Tourney

Dee and Larry Hudson, owners of the Blue Goose, Port Orchard, Washington, added \$1,000 to the pot for their 1998 Sweetheart Tournament and a field of 28 teams turned out to capture a share of it.



Taking first-place honors and the biggest share of that pot were Mike and Hazel Thorpe. (Is Mike panting or is he about to lick his wife's cheek?)



A happy Tina Olson and Tom Henry took second.



Linda Steffenson and Chuck Norris finished third.



Nancy Johannson and Mike Waters took fourth.



Melody Marine and Dan Hitt took fifth place.

Rounding out the winners' circle were Jackie Anderson and Rick Gindt.



"Host Larry was ill so Mike Thorpe was a great help with all the tourney works," report Vera and Gene Brown. "There was lots of good food for both days. Thanks to many busy hands and good cooks. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. They left saying, 'See you next year.'"

Brunskills Win at Silver Spur's Sweetheart Tourney

A one-day sweetheart tournament was hosted by the Silver Spur in San Bernardino, California, on Feb. 7. In spite of the heavy rain that day, the event attracted 18 couples.

"Thanks to everyone for coming," said tournament organizer Jolene Lembke. "Special thanks to the bar owners who showed up to support our efforts: B.B. from the Edgewood in Bellflower, Ted Z and Erlene from ET's in Temecula, Steve and Dixie Debbie from the Dixie Belle in Downey, and Wes and Eileen Eades. Bellflower Bruce made sure no one was thirsty and our own Don Pope and his crew made sure no one was hungry. The food lasted from 1 p.m. until midnight.

"Another special thanks to Bob Brunskill for helping with the brackets, cleaning the boards, etc.," said Jolene. "We got together and tried to think of a way to show our appreciation to Bob and finally decided to just let him win the tournament. Just kidding, Bob, just kidding! Wife Anna was all the help he needed."



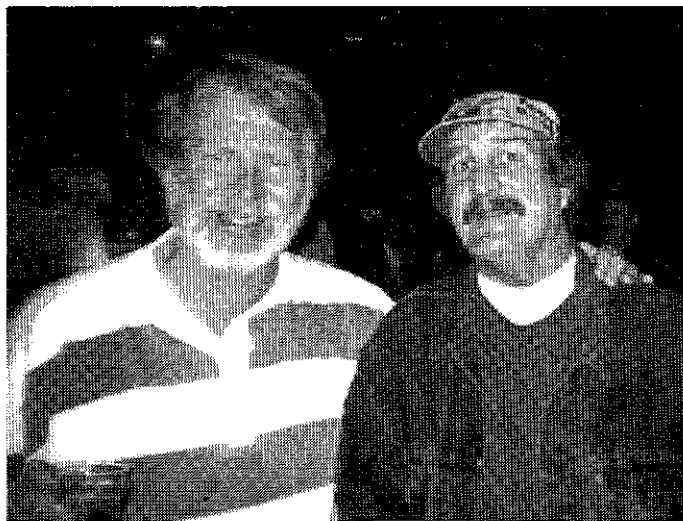
Anna and Bob Brunskill took top honors at the Silver Spur's Sweetheart Tournament. They were also winners of the Sweetheart Tournament at The Dixie Belle in Downey, site of the Al Stewart induction into the California Hall of Fame.

Dave Brennan and Sandy Flood took second place honors, with Eric Chiles and Jean Mays finishing third.

The Silver Spur, located at 25041 E. 9th St. in San Bernardino, now has two permanent boards, so look for more action there (see Upcoming Events).

Sabourin/Gainey First in Missouri's Miller Lite Tourney at Barbara's

Because of its unique format, this tournament is the most sought after for a spot to play in the state of Missouri. Players must be sponsored to enter and it's never played at the same tavern two years in a row. This year the event was hosted by Barbara's Beer Garden in Springfield.



Pat Gainey (left) and Jerry Sabourin took first place.



Locals Bucko Singer and Bill Green finished second.



Asst. Director Terry Gregory congratulates third place winners Jack Murphy and Mick Moran.

Finishing fourth and winners of a year's subscription each to The Board Talk were Dean Pinkston and Moe Miller.

In addition to local Springfield teams, there were three from St. Louis, two from Cuba, two from Houston, and one team from Mexico, Missouri, entered in the over-max tournament.

"Thanks to Jim and Ralph of the Rendezvous in Mexico for breaking the ice, being the first team north of I-70 to enter any of our so-called traveling tournaments in Missouri," said Woodie Cockrum. "Thanks also to Premium Beverage and Director Mike Arthur for their input in this tournament over the past 16 years."

This was the last year that Miller Lite will sponsor this tournament. Connie McCall will seek a new sponsor for 1999.

REMINDER!
Reports, Notebook contributions,
promotions and advertising
must be received by the 15th
of each month to appear in
the next issue. Send to:
The Board Talk
503 E. Sheridan, Lansing, MI 48906

Hitt/Pease Retain Masters Crown

By Mel Hohn

The 17th Annual Masters Tournament was held at the Fir Cone Tavern in Shelton, Washington, on Feb. 21-22. If you come to the Fir Cone, you come to play. Home to the 1997 Washington State Champions, Loren Lampley and Nels Anderson, all you have to do is show up and you'll find a match. All the action you want is only a phone call away. This year's Masters was no exception to the knock-down, drag-out matches expected at the Fir Cone.

This was the most exciting shuffleboard finish I, and many others, have ever witnessed. Vern Gonzales and Mike "the lagging machine" Waters go unbeaten to take the winner's bracket. Dan Hitt and Al Pease, last year's winners and this year's high calcutta, are favored by many to win it all, get knocked into the loser's bracket early, and struggle to get to the finals.

There they beat Vern and Mike by one spectacular shot in the last game of a six game series to become the first team to ever repeat as Masters Champions.



Dan Hitt and Al Pease, 1998 Masters Champions, first repeaters in the 17-year history of this event.



Second-place finishers Vern Gonzales and Mike Waters came close to an upset as the contest went down to one shot in the last of a six-game series.

Chuck Norris and Jimmy Allis finished third (no photo available).

Larry Pearson and Carl Roush took fourth place.



Grant Manning and Mel Hohn tied for fifth with Curt Gothers and John Hyatt.

This was the 17th Masters and, as far as anyone around these parts can remember, the most exciting. Tournament director Bill Shanahan did an excellent job and, if we're lucky, we'll get him back next year. Wonderful food was provided by Jeanette Hohn, Vickie Gonzales, and Mary Simmons. These ladies and a few more have been providing terrific feeds for all our tournaments. It is difficult to put into words how much we all appreciate your hard work. Greg Alva provided assistance wherever needed and proved to be a real asset in running a successful event. Bartenders Jack Usry and Flint Pattison worked long hours providing excellent service to all the guests. Thanks, guys.

As a side note, I witnessed what I believe to be the classiest event of the tournament. Dan Hitt and Al Pease, after winning it all, shook hands with their victims, congratulated each other, took pictures, and collected their money; then they went up to the bartenders and generously tipped them both. That is a class act. These guys are winners.

The Fir Cone Tavern is a tough place to learn to play shuffleboard. You barely get the basics down before a fierce rivalry develops. For example, mild-mannered Leroy Austin can barely contain his blood pressure at the sight of Billy Hagman. This continuous rivalry has been going on for so long that they have developed affectionate nicknames for each other -- Billy "Fat Boy" Hagman and Leroy "Old Fart" Austin.

Upcoming events at the Fir Cone include the 2nd Amateur Draw Tournament on April 18-19 and the 10th Forest Festival Tournament on May 30-31.

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Waller/Linder Tops at Hart's Sweetheart Tournament

By Annie Sloger

If you had no place to take your sweetheart for Valentine's Day, you could have taken him/her to the 2nd Annual Sweetheart Tournament at Hart's Tavern in Omaha, Nebraska. This event, held Feb. 13-15, brought 19 mixed doubles together (obviously, these people had nothing better to do on Valentine's Day). It was a handicapped tournament with some teams having to give up as many as 7 points.

Last year, Joanne Waller was out of the tournament Thursday night, before the tourney actually started. This year she dumped her old partner and obviously found a better one.



Joanne Waller and Bob Linder captured first place honors in the 19-team competition.

Vicki Simants and Larry Laws settled for second, after Joanne and Bob beat them twice in the finals.



Deb Meyers and Tommy Arellano took third place.



Special thanks to Jackie and Harry for adding money to the pot and for running a great tournament. Thanks to anyone else who helped and thanks to Todd Noonan for just being there.

Since we finished league play, congratulations to the Observatory Lounge for coming in first, with Arnold's taking second, and the Elbow Room in third. Thanks to Bill and Dru Fredrick and Mike Roach for helping the season run so smoothly.

Mason-Dixon Classic Draws Tough Field to Harvey's

By Dick Gorman

Mason/Dixon -- North vs. South, Maryland vs. New York, Delaware vs. Pennsylvania, New Jersey, etc. They met to battle on the boards at Harvey's Place in Street, Maryland, on Feb. 27-28, March 1, where it wasn't winter. The guys in New York left 27 inches of snow and came to Maryland's 65 degree temperatures. The news might have been out because Darlyene Belcher was back in the kitchen temporarily because of some staff changes -- and it was especially good.

Forty people showed up for the traditional Friday night draw partner event to divide up \$2400. Action started at 6:30 p.m. and finished at 5 a.m. on the four in-house boards. Outlasting everyone to take first place were Judy Iseman, Chestertown, Maryland, and Dave Shewbridge, Pasadena, Md. (one for the South). Second place was taken by Dale Law, Sherburne, New York, and Dick Losee, Poolville, NY (one for the North). Third place went to Al DiBella, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, and Dick Smedberg, Long Island, New York, with fourth and final money spot going to Wendy Davis and Wayne Todd, both from Wilmington, Delaware, another team from the Mason-Dixon line.

The battle was not settled yet and a record crowd showed up for Saturday's bring partner event. Showing the way to first place for the over \$3000 pot were Len Dell and Rick Niblett of Maryland (another one for the South). Giving them a big battle and taking second place was the (North) New York team of Dick Jeffries and Dick Losee. Third place went to Chuck King (South) and Louise Freer (North). Fourth place went to Al DiBella (North) and Dave Shewbridge (South). Fifth and final money spot went to host Harvey Comer (South) and Jim Wolpe (North). The battle wasn't settled yet....

Every Saturday night, a draw partner event is held at Harvey's. This week's event was enlarged with the losers (party bracket) folks entering the local event, played on the open boards while the bring partner tournament was being finalized. It was won by two local players not intimidated by all of the hot shots. Hilda Poling and Bob Overbay from nearby Darlington took first place (South). Finishing in second place were Greg Hager of Philadelphia and Dan Miner from the Pillars, Guilford, New York. The South is getting a slight edge.

Sunday morning, with their tails slightly between their legs after two late nights in a row, the singles began and went on until almost 9 p.m. (sharing the boards with the 2 p.m. mixed doubles). After a long

(continued on Page 21)

Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

(In last month's episode, after Frisco Eddie found Lil in a compromising situation with Dick Moyer, he told her he was leaving Reno. Before he checked out, he called the Blue Moon hoping that Shelli was still waiting for him.)

When Eddie heard Shelli say: "I'm sorry, Eddie, but...", his heart fell into his stomach! The phone he held in his hand was trembling. After another pause, he heard Shelli again. This time she was hollering out in a loud voice: "Quiet down, you guys. It's Eddie and I can't hear a word he's saying!" Then he heard her say: "O.K., Sweetheart, go ahead, I can hear you now."

Eddie felt a torrent of relief pass through his whole being! He replied: "Honey, I just wanted to tell you that I'm coming home! I'm going to catch the first flight out. I'll call you back and let you know what time I'll be in. Do you think you'd be able to pick me up?" He heard her say: "Oh, Eddie, you don't know how long I've been waiting for this call! Of course, I'll be there, Darling." Eddie replied: "I love you, Sweetheart. I'll get right back to you. Bye."

Eddie let out with a loud "YES" after he placed the phone in its cradle. He didn't care about anything that could happen to him now -- as long as he had Shelli! He quickly took care of business then. He booked the next Reno to San Francisco shuttle flight, called Shelli back, and gathered up his things and took the elevator to the main floor. After he checked out, he went to the back bar in the Casino as he had told Lil he would. He had enough time for one drink. If Lil didn't show up, or contact him, he would assume that she had found everything to her satisfaction in their room, and he would be on his way.

There were still a bunch of players at the bar. They were pretty well oiled up by now, and Eddie got several slaps on the back and "you should have won it" from the gang. There was one thing for sure....he had made quite an impression at the tournament, and on the entire road trip for that matter. Needless to say, it felt good -- but not as good as the prospect of seeing Shelli and getting back to the Blue Moon. His emotional dilemma over the split with Lil was completely suppressed by what lie ahead for him.

He gave her another few minutes and no one showed. He took that as a sign that his business here in Reno was finished. He walked back to the bell hop desk and picked up his bag and then made his way out the entrance.

The flight from Reno to San Francisco International only took about 35 to 40 minutes. Eddie just laid back and relaxed, until he heard the pre-landing instructions. He couldn't wait to get on the ground!

The landing was uneventful and soon he was walking into the terminal area with bag in hand. He figured that Shelli would probably be picking him up outside of the baggage pick-up area, so he didn't look around too close. Just as he turned to head for the main terminal, he heard a voice say: "Hi, stranger -- care for some company?" It was Shelli!

He dropped his bag and rushed over to her. They embraced so long that a crowd was actually starting to gather! This was a wonderful moment for both of them -- one they wouldn't soon forget.

They both couldn't stop talking on the drive through the city. Eddie was describing his shuffleboard adventures, and Shelli was telling about the Blue Moon and all that had happened there. She told him almost everything, anyway!

They decided to stop off at the bar to arrange things so they could both have the next day or two off. Shelli pulled into the owner's space at the rear of the place. They were both beaming when they entered the bar. A big cheer went up when they came in, and everyone came up to hug and shake hands.

After a couple of drinks, and things had settled down, Eddie suggested that they head for the apartment. He whispered to Shelli: "We've got a lot of catching up to do, Sweetheart!" She whispered back: "I know, Precious, but I want you to do something first. O.K.?"

He asked, "What in the world could it be?" She said: "Just put two quarters in the shuffleboard, O.K.?"For me."

(Just what does Shelli have on her mind? Could it have something to do with the ALMOST everything she had told him? Don't miss the next exciting episode.)

**If you are enjoying
Balboa Ron's monthly
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McLeod/McLeod Top Bourbon's 20-Team Mixed Doubles

The 2nd Annual Mixed Doubles at the American Legion 424 in Bourbon, Indiana, on Feb. 21 attracted 20 teams, nearly double the participation of the first event. American Legion bar manager Bill Niswonger (partnered with Lynn Collins) was tickled by the turnout.



Bill congratulates winners Gene McLeod of Missouri and his partner, daughter-in-law Shannon McLeod of Fort Wayne, Indiana, for their first place finish.



Mary and Larry Brown of Huntertown took second place honors.

Third place went to Terry Dowell and Pam Worsham of Mentone.

"We're pleased that Oklahoma players Lou Reed and Annette Reynolds made the trip, playing with locals Jr. Burcher and Andy Scott, respectively," noted Bill. "We also appreciate the continued support of Ohio travelers Dale Gushman, Carolyn Walsh, and Marge Camp, who teamed with Larry Creakbaum to take fourth place. Deb Voorhis came in from Fairmount to play with Dennis Kinsey and always-competitive Jim Long and Vickie Morgan travelled from South Bend."

"But it's the support of the local and area players who made this such a fine tournament," said director Terry Dowell. "Mike Koontz, Jo Bates, Gary Neff, Joyce Roberts, Mike Johnson, Carol Westerman, Tom Lovechio, Dennis Perrin, Lisa Reiwaldt, Kristie Redman, Robbie Stouder, Missy Rupe, and Jamie and Squirrel Westhaver all played and gave financial support."

"It was also great to see first-time tournament players Angie Westwood, Matt Reiwolt, Helen Redman, Chris Taylor, Jody Pranger and Gary Angland," said Bill. "With over \$2700 in prize money and the gratifying support, we'll schedule many more mixed doubles tournaments in the future."

The next big event at the Bourbon American Legion is the 37th Annual Spring Doubles on May 2. See Upcoming Events for more details.

Take advantage of the opportunity below to pay tribute to your departed shufflers and support your state or national Shuffleboard Halls of Fame!

In Memory of Shufflers Past

If you would like to pay tribute to the memory of a shuffler in your area who has passed on, this space is available to you at \$5 for each memorial. Send to: The Board Talk, 503 E. Sheridan Rd., Lansing, MI 48906.

We suggest you match that \$5 with a donation to your state or national Hall of Fame



In Memory of Ron MacDonald

My first shuffleboard teacher, fondly remembered with gratitude by

John McDermott, Northville, Michigan

In Memory of Scratch Todd

This "gentle giant" made our tournaments memorable.

George & Donna Wilber, Lansing, Michigan

Upcoming Events (Washington)

continued from Page 10)

6TH ANNUAL CLASSIC, BZ'S, APRIL 17-19

BZ's Sports Bar, 17730 Des Moines Memorial Drive in Burien, will host their 6th Annual Classic on April 17-19. This ESA sanctioned event is a doubles, \$50 per team, double elimination, 2 out of 3 in the winner's bracket, played on four boards. The sponsor sale, with auctioneer Hall of Famer Jim Foran, will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday with play following. Come early for the A-B draw, single elimination, \$20 entry, on Friday at 7 p.m.

For further information, call Craig at BZ's, 206-243-6018, or Jim Foran, 253-474-2725. Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard site.

Texas

2ND LONE STAR CLASSIC, GOLD NUGGET, ARLINGTON, MAY 7-10

The Gold Nugget, 2602 W. Division, Arlington, will host its 2nd Annual Lone Star Classic on May 7-10. Action will start on Thursday night with three singles events: (1) Division I -- Pros, \$150 entry; 0's, \$100; 1's, \$50; (2) 2's only -- \$50 entry; (3) Division II -- 3's, 4's and 5's, \$25 entry. Single game, double elimination for all three.

Friday will be draw partner events for Div. I (\$50 per player) and II (\$25 per player), with no pros or 0's drawing up. A 6-person draft team event (\$300 per team entry) is scheduled for Saturday, 4 out of 7, double elimination.

On Sunday is a handicap draw partner, \$30 entry, with the stipulation that pros must play with a 2 or higher, 0's with a 1 or higher.

For further information, call Bob or Cindy at 817-277-4029 or 817-295-9488. Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard site.

Y'ALL COME TO THE GRAND SLAM, VFW POST 5076, GARLAND, MAY 16-25

This new tournament will be held at the spacious, air-conditioned VFW with RV hook-ups, motel shuttle, food, beverages, and more. Organizers are planning on 20 boards for a full week of events for shufflers of all skill levels. Check the enclosed flyer for details and mark your calendars now for this exciting first.

For further information, call Greg Hixon, 972-644-4855; Mahlon Nobles, 972-496-6112, or C.W. Walker, 214-351-3308.

New York

MEMORIAL TOURNEY AT HONKY TONK, SHERBURNE, MAY 21-25

The Honky Tonk Saloon in Sherburne will host a Memorial Weekend Tournament with four events, plus round robins on Thursday night. Mixed doubles, \$40 entry, on Friday, 7 p.m., limited to the first 30 paid teams. Draw partner, \$20 entry, on Saturday, 3 p.m., limited to first 60 paid entries. Open doubles, \$40 entry fee, on Sunday, 11 a.m., limited to first 30 paid teams. Open singles, \$20 entry, on Monday, 9 a.m.

For further information, call Dale Law, 607-674-6580; Dick Losee, 315-691-2708; or Brenda Prosser, 607-674-4810.

Oregon

MEMORIAL TOURNEY AT TOLO TAVERN, CENTRAL POINT, MAY 22-25

The Tolo Tavern's annual Memorial Weekend Tournament will include a draw partner event on Friday night, \$20 per person entry; a singles on Saturday, \$25 entry; and an open doubles on Sunday and Monday, \$50 per team. For further information, and/or lodging recommendations, call Pat at the Tolo Tavern, 7878 Blackwell Rd., Central Point, 541-664-2656.

Oklahoma

SOUTHWEST OPEN, AMERICAN LEGION, DEL CITY, JUNE 28-JULY 4

This big tournament starts on Sunday this year and all events will be finished on Saturday night (see enclosed flyer). You'll also note that there are two days where no new events are scheduled. They will be used to finish events started the previous day and if you have lost out early, you might choose to take the day off or play in one of the many round robins or pea games.

Directors Ron and Sharon Huddleston and host Don Crall recommend the LaQuinta Inn (800-531-5900 or 405-672-0067). When you call, ask for the "Shuffleboard rate of \$49 plus tax for the Del City, OK hotel." This rate is for a room with two beds and up to four people per room and has a swimming pool. Transportation to the motel will be provided in the event of too much partying.

Use the enclosed flyer to make pre-register for the tournament. Questions? Call Ron at 405-843-1615, or the American Legion, 405-677-9393.

Maryland**DRAW PARTNER TOURNEY,
THE RENDEZVOUS,
PERRYVILLE, APRIL 19**

The Rendezvous, 362 Front St., Perryville, will host a double elimination, limited calcutta, draw partner event on April 19. Entry fee is \$10 per person, limited to the first 40 players paid. Teams drawn and play begins at 11:15 a.m. A buffet dinner will be served to all players.

For information, call The Rendezvous, 410-642-0045.

Come early and enjoy the Sunday brunch, available at 10 a.m. with prices ranging from \$3.95 to \$8.95.

Mason/Dixon (continued from Page 16)

ordeal, the ultimate winner was Len Dell of Baltimore, with Chuck King, Greenwood, Delaware, a strong second. We have a feeling that this battle will be repeated at the Open Maryland State Championships on April 3-5.

A mixed doubles was also played on Sunday afternoon which concluded with Len Dell and his partner Judy Iseman taking first place over Chuck King and his partner, Bobby Spangler, co-operator of Market Street Cafe, Charlestown, Maryland, her first tournament.

Watch for the September Board Talk for the announcement of next season's scheduled tournaments at Harvey's Place. A lot of new, innovative ideas will be included. Not in concrete yet, but believe we will go to the Bowers Handicap System. Also, we think there is a new way to promote open singles tournaments, says host Harvey Comer. Want to contribute an idea? Call Harvey at 410-836-8881.



Winners of the draw partner event at Harvey's Mason-Dixon Tournament were Judy Iseman and Dave Shewbridge.

Michigan State Hall of Fame

By Betty Parrish

Not all "Shufflers Past" came into the gold playing the game -- but many of them were worth their "weight" in gold for what they did for the game.

As soon as players get together, we begin to reminisce about "the old days," remembering family, friends and partners who brought us fun and enjoyment through the game of shuffleboard.

Many of the folks we think about were not necessarily the pros and the most accomplished players who will never make it to a roster of a State Hall of Fame, but were the home board players who taught us the game, put us in our first round robin, and cheered us on. These people were the do'ers who organized and collected, set up and cleaned up. Always there when we needed them, they became the designated drivers who made sure we made it home safely. They're gone now and we miss them.

If you care to send in a name(s) for a Memorial Day tribute to "Shufflers Past," you still have time. Just send in your names and \$5.00 for each one before the April 15 deadline for the May issue of The Board Talk.

Not all of us have Donna's ability to compose the beautiful and moving tributes that she does, so if you choose only to send a name, it's quite all right. You, the sender, can even remain anonymous if you want to.

Operating funds are very necessary for State Halls of Fame, but for those of us who can't send in both names and a donation to your Hall of Fame treasury, donate when you can and become the do'ers in your home state. There are many ways to do your part.

In Michigan, a \$4.95 roll of 50/50 tickets has been meeting our Michigan State Hall of Fame budget almost 100%. Thank you to the buyers and sellers and the owners for letting the Hall of Fame sell the tickets.

Michigan also sends special thoughts to fellow shuffler Cassie Kern who lost her mother in February.

(Editor's Note: Thanks, Betty, for calling attention to our new feature on Page 19. We agree that May would be a very appropriate time for shufflers to pay tribute to those who left their mark on our lives in such a positive way. If shufflers respond, we could have a full page of tributes to those worth their weight in gold for what they did for the game.)

**SUPPORT YOUR STATE
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1998 CALENDAR OF SHUFFLEBOARD EVENTS

APRIL 1998

April 3-5

3-Event Tournament
Dew Drop Inn
Waterloo, New York

April 3-5

Maryland State Championships
Harvey's Place
Street, Maryland

April 4-5

Open Doubles
Corner Tavern
Bow, Washington

April 17-19

ABC Draw/Bellflower Bruce
Hall of Fame Induction
Oskar's
Bellflower, California

April 17-19

Heartland Handicap Tourey
American Legion Post 73
Del City, Oklahoma

April 17-19

4th Annual Toledo Open
Avon's Local 14
Toledo, Ohio

April 17-19

Singles/Draw Doubles
Balloon Inn
Arvada, Colorado

April 17-19

3rd Annual Spring Open
AMVETS Post 26
Pendleton, Indiana

April 18-19

Amateur Draw Doubles
Fir Cone Tavern
Shelton, Washington

April 18

Arnold Cross Memorial Doubles
Mississinewa Tavern
Eaton, Indiana

April 18-19

Open Doubles
BZ's Bar & Grill
SeaTac, Washington

April 19

Draw Partner Tournament
The Rendezvous
Perryville, Maryland

April 24-26

3rd Annual Bill Gibbs Memorial
Family Billiards (The Bar)
Glendale, Arizona

MAY 1998

May 2-3

8th Annual Draw Partner
Shamrock Tavern
Longview, Washington

May 2

37th Annual Spring Doubles
American Legion Post 424
Bourbon, Indiana

May 7-10

Lone Star Classic
Gold Nugget
Arlington, Texas

May 9-10

Open Doubles
Frankie's Sports Pub
Olympia, Washington

May 16-25

Texas Grand Slam
VFW Post 5076
Garland, Texas

May 17-25

Memorial Week Tournament
Blinky's
Santa Clara, California

May 23-24

Open Doubles
Rod's Drive In Tavern
Spokane, Washington

May 22-25

Memorial Weekend Tournament
Tolo Tavern
Central Point, Oregon

May 22-25

Memorial Weekend Tournament
Honky Tonk
Sherburne, New York

May 22-25

2nd Memorial Tournament
Mr. G's Bar & Cardroom
Visalia, California

May 30-31

10th Forest Festival Tournament
Fir Cone Tavern
Shelton, Washington

JUNE 1998

June 6-7

A/B Draw Partners
Shotze's Rack-N-Roll
Everett, Washington

June 12-14

9th Annual Open Doubles
Balloon Inn
Arvada, Colorado

June 12-14

Singles, Bring Partner, AB Draw
J & C's Tavern
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

June 13

Billy Chiles Memorial ABC Draw
Silver Spur
San Bernardino, California

June 20-21

Mixed Doubles
Shamrock Tavern
Longview, Washington

JULY 1998

June 28-July 4

Southwest Open
American Legion Post 73
Del City, Oklahoma

July 1-5

4th of July Tournament
The Dixie Belle
Downey, California

July 18-19

Open Doubles
Town Tavern
Sequim, Washington

July 25-26

Amateur Draw Doubles
Fir Cone Tavern
Shelton, Washington

July 28-Aug. 2

Grand Masters Plus
Whistling Oyster
Quilcene, Washington

1998 CALENDAR OF SHUFFLEBOARD EVENTS

AUGUST 1998

Aug. 7-9

Mixed Doubles Draw
Balloon Inn
Arvada, Colorado

Aug. 13-16

Crazy Canucks Tournament
AN & AF
Vancouver, B.C.

SEPTEMBER 1998

Sept. 2-6

Texas Open and 14th Annual
Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion
Gold Nugget
Arlington, Texas

Sept. 3-7

West Coast Hall of Fame
Tournament
Medford Eagles
Medford, Oregon

Sept. 5-7

ABC Tournament
The Dixie Belle
Downey, California

Sept. 26-27

Amateur Draw Championships
Fir Cone Tavern
Shelton, Washington

OCTOBER 1998

Oct. 3

Annual Fall Doubles
American Legion Post 424
Bourbon, Indiana

Oct. 9-11

Heartland Handicap
American Legion Post 73
Del City, Oklahoma

Oct. 9-11

Bring Partner Doubles
Balloon Inn
Arvada, Colorado

Oct. 10-11

2nd Annual Mixed Doubles
Fir Cone Tavern
Shelton, Washington

Oct. 17-18

Nelson/Buhl Doubles
Shamrock Tavern
Longview, Washington

NOVEMBER 1998

Nov. 1-8

North American Championships
Sands Regency Casino/Hotel
Reno, Nevada

Nov. 14-15

5th 55 & Over Tournament
Shamrock Tavern
Longview, Washington

Nov. 26-29

Florida State Championships
Fill-N-Station
Mims, Florida

Nov. 26-29

Michigan State Championships
Club Car Lounge
Durand, Michigan

Nov. 25-29

Thanksgiving Classic
Gold Nugget
Arlington, Texas

DECEMBER 1998

Dec. 11-13

9th Annual Santa Classic
Balloon Inn
Arvada, Colorado

Dec. 27-31

Houston Holiday Open
Hilton Hotel S.W.
Houston, Texas

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A Message from Your Editors

Our calendar and Upcoming Events column keeps growing and growing and that speaks well for the well-being of our sport. To help ensure the success of your events, we strongly urge you to PLAN AHEAD and get your tournaments listed early. The calendar is not just to alert shufflers of upcoming events, it's to serve as a "clearing house" so organizers in the same area don't compete with each other.

It is very frustrating to us to receive notices of tournaments too late to promote them. After we close the pages on the 15th of each month, it takes another couple days to set late copy, five working days for the printer to get it printed, two days for us to get it stuffed, stapled, addressed, sorted and bagged, and another one to two weeks for the Post Office to get it delivered.

The most successful events are those that have been promoted well in advance. Organizers of those events know that it takes time for potential participants to make their travel plans, request time off from work, arrange for someone to take care of kids and pets and water the plants, etc., etc. Take a lesson from the seasoned tournament organizers/sponsors, who have learned that it pays to promote events early -- the earlier, the better.

George & Donna, Publishers

Notebook *(continued from Page 2)*

championships with dad Frank. Levi made his appearance just two days later. Many of you at Reno two years ago will remember Kim winning the Ladies' Singles when she was six months along with son Matthew. I guess you could call it "carrying" along your own cheering section, "under the wing," so to speak. At any rate, these kids are sure to love the game of shuffleboard as much as Mom does and, one thing is certain, they already know how to HANG IN THERE!

Other Pontiac (Michigan) League winners were in order: (women's) teams -- Liberty Bar, Majestic Cafe, Broken Arrow; singles -- Marie Sweeney, Laurene Paul, Cassie Kern; doubles -- Kim Parrish/Debbie Turk, Marie Sweeney/Laurene Paul, Jackie Meagher/Charlotte Gilmore; (men's) teams -- Prues, Majestic Cafe, Broken Arrow; singles -- Bill Kane, O.B. Brimm, Mike Ruby; doubles -- Michael Zukowski/Bob Bolt, Frank Parrish/Steve Autin, Bill Canterbury/O.B. Brimm.

Many Pontiac players are now venturing out to statewide tournaments and they're winning. There's some good shuffleboard to be played in Pontiac as many of the traveling pros already know because they stop in for a few games quite often.

It's a changing city with factories closing and bars being sold and torn down for development, yet organizers such as Patrick (Pepper) Glynn and Ron Kage work hard to keep the game going. Currently Pepper and Ron are heading a rotating round robin in the city. For \$5.00 you can play the round robin and also receive two free drinks. The games are held at league bars, but for players like myself who do not play on a city team, don't worry; everyone is welcome. Ron and Pepper, keep up the good work. The game needs more like you.

Betty Parrish, Waterford, Michigan

Blinky's *(continued from Page 7)*

Barbara and Dick added a special thanks to Rick Thomas, tournament organizer. His continued support and organization make this the tournament what it is, said Lorraine Bingham.

This was supposed to be the last tournament held at Blinky's, as this prized establishment was sold. However, hear ye! hear ye! -- two weeks later, it was learned that the deal fell through (to the smiles of all shufflers). **Blinky's is NOT sold!**

The Memorial (Hal Perry) Tournament will be held as always at Blinky's on May 17-25. See enclosed flyer for details. See you there!

Late, But Important

(Editor's Note: The following two reports, submitted by Dennis MacPherson, are of events that occurred in November. While we hesitate to publish "old news," it is important to recognize the people involved. We strongly urge tournament sponsors or their designated reporters to submit results in a timely fashion.)

BZ's A-B Draw is a Winner!

On Nov. 28-30, 1997, BZ's Sports Bar in Burien, Washington, held what is believed to be the first in modern recorded history, an A-B rated bring your partner tournament sanctioned by the Evergreen Shuffleboard Association.

Friday night's A-B draw event found newcomer Dennis Smith and Loren Lampley playing just great enough to emerge in first place out of 24 teams.

With 18 teams in the main event over the weekend, national contender Dan Hitt of Spokane found playing with Dennis H. MacPherson of Elmira, Idaho, suited him well enough to win the first place title. Darrol Nelson and Vern Gonzales almost lost against Loren Lampley and Melody Marine early on Sunday, but Vern lagged a 4 at 12-14 to get out of that game and move on to capture second. Mark Minium and Steve Wilson finished third, with Chuck Norris and Tina Olson in fourth place. Loren Lampley and Melody Marie tied for fifth with Larry MacPhearson and Paulette McKinney.

"Thanks, Craig and Lisa Sherwood of BZ's for a great A-B tourney. We appreciate your efforts and hope for more A-B type tournaments in the future," said Dennis MacPherson.

Sandpoint, Idaho, New Shuffleboard Capital?

The Pend Oreille Brewing Company of Sandpoint, Idaho, held its first annual singles tournament in late 1997. There were 12 entries and it was run over a six week period. The 2 out of 3 format event in both winners and losers brackets was played on a new board owned by local resident Fred Palmer.

The winners were: Fred Palmer, 1st; Dennis H. MacPherson from Elmira, 2nd; and Dennis Schafer, Prist River, 3rd.

"It was a fine tournament and thanks to all concerned," reports Dennis MacPherson. "We expect it to be bigger and better next year. Sandpoint may very well become the shuffleboard capital of the world. Roxy's Tavern in Sandpoint, has two boards."

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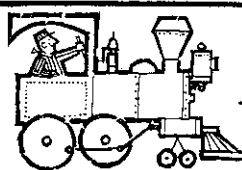
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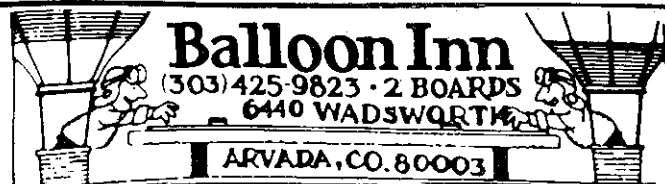
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New "Stars" Surface at Taz Country's Handicap Tourney

Taz Country in Pflugerville, Texas, hosted a handicap tournament on March 6-8, with some new "stars" emerging on the scene.

Action opened with Friday night's handicap open draw event that attracted 31 players. Craig White of Austin drew the walker and played his way all the way to the top, taking first place all by himself.



Craig White, winner all by himself in the handicap open draw, has only been playing for six months.

"Mike Taylor has been working with Craig and has created a great future player," said Debbie Bowers. "It's nice to see such nice, polite young men interested in shuffleboard."

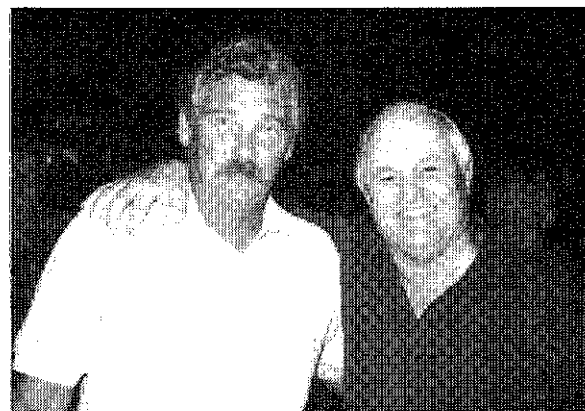
Rost Kaune of Austin and Gene McCleod of Missouri took second place, with Randy Rogers and his partner, Dale, both from Austin, in third. Debbie reports that Dale is another new player who has come a long way since he picked up his first weight.

In Saturday's bring your own partner handicap event, it was once again Craig White (who had to have his baseball cap adjusted to fit his big head) with mentor Mike Taylor who took top honors.



Craig and Mike celebrate their first-place finish in the bring partner event.

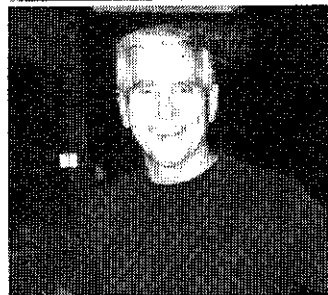
Second place went to Ronnie McMann of Cannon Lake and his partner, Rick Pieper. Third place went to two locals from Austin, Lyndon (Coach) Baize and his friend, Bubba.



Rick Pieper and Ronnie McMann took second in the bring partner event.



Lyndon Baize and Bubba took third place.



Gene McCleod of Missouri (left) came in first in the handicap singles, with Ron Bowers taking second.



Third place went to Rost Kaune of Austin.

"Ron and I thank all participants for coming and hope they enjoyed themselves," said Debbie. "Thanks to Gene and Sarah, owners of Taz Country, for the food and getting the boards re-carpeted in time for our tournament. Thanks also to Tom and Lynda French for all of their help in setting up the ratings on the web."

Anyone who is interested in receiving the Bowers Rating on the web can find them at www.jump.net/ronbowers.