

# The Board Talk

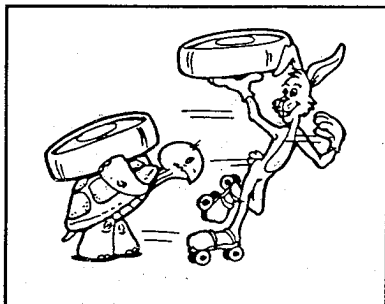
*Published monthly by George & Donna Wilber,  
503 E. Sheridan Rd., Lansing, MI 48906 Phone: 517-484-4976*

Vol. 15, No. 1

January 1998

## **World of Shuffleboard Poised for Great '98**





# Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views from The World of Shuffleboard

## Thanks and Congrats from The Stewarts.....

Greetings! And we truly hope that each and every one of you had the most blessed and happy holidays possible!

We felt the need to drop a "Thank You" and "Congratulations" note.....

First, how do we possibly begin to thank such great people. Eight-and-a-half years ago, when Von had her triple heart bypass, shuffleboard players and fans pulled together with fund raisers, cards, telephone calls and prayers to get her through it. Since then Von has had two additional heart procedures and, once again, you were all there. Now, Von struggles with what has to be one of the toughest battles of her life -- CANCER. And, once again, the shuffleboard community has overwhelmingly shown love and support.

We have received numerous cards, phone calls, and offers to help with the business, or wherever we had a need, from people such as Joe Muniz, Bill Maxwell, Jay Kimble, Bob Ruiz, Jim Anderson, Fred and Lois Thuman, just to name a few. We realize there are so many more of you and we do apologize for not naming you personally. But, what can we say? Memory's not what it used to be!

We also feel a need to tell you that we have not only been blessed with the support of the Shuffleboard World, but a great family -- our children and grandchildren who keep the door and the phone going constantly. And relatives such as Von's daughter, Jolene, who after half a day at school comes by to check on us. Thanks to our daughter Tina and granddaughter Chrystal for coming over every Friday night after working five days in her office and stays until Sunday night doing the washing, cooking,

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shopping, and cleaning. She has been doing this for three months without a day off. What would we do without all this love and caring?

And then there is our George and Donna (whom we believe have stock holdings in the Hallmark Corporation). So many cards giving us just exactly what we need at that moment, whether it be humor or compassion.

Which brings us to our "Congratulations" to George and Donna for their induction into the Hall of Fame. We cannot think of two people who deserve it more. There are few people who not only put in as much time, but put as much of themselves into our World. Our only regret was that we could not be there to share this joyous occasion with them. Without George and Donna and The Board Talk, we would all be a lot farther apart than the miles of the United States.

Thank you! Thank you all!

Al and Von Stewart, 11415 Cherrylee Drive, El Monte, California 91732

*You shouldn't be surprised with the response of the shuffleboard community, Al and Von. Not only are they special, caring people -- many have also been on the receiving end of your compassion in times of need. We, too, wish you could have been at our induction because we love you and recognize the role you played in that achievement with your prayers and support throughout the years. We also wish we weren't half a continent away from you during this challenging time. George isn't as agile at moving boards as the ageless Al any more, but Donna can still cook up an edible meal and do laundry and clean, but probably not half as well as Tina does. Like you, we thank God for family and friends, both in good times and bad. Von is one gutsy lady and we bet the "Big C" has never had such a formidable foe.*

*Readers: If you haven't already done so, please fortify Von with your thoughts, prayers and/or cards. As a tribute to this special couple, we reprint an article about the two that we first published in 1984. See Page 6.*

## Publication Content Information

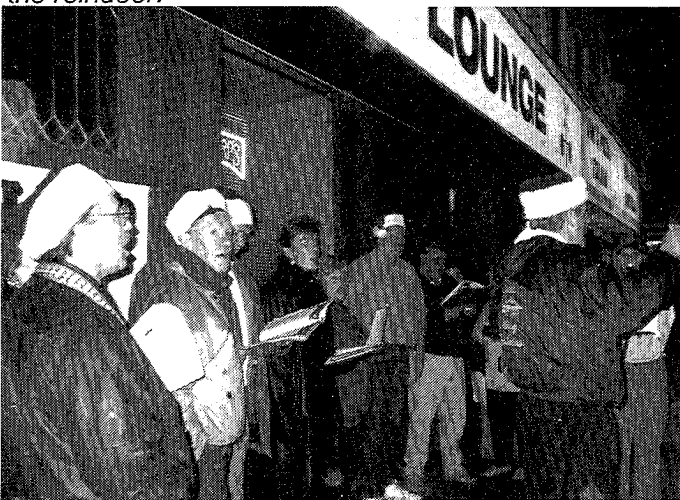
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## Michigan Shufflers Believe in Santa Claus!

Is there really a Santa Claus? Of course there is, Virginia -- if you believe! The nearly 70 Michigan shufflers who gathered at the Club Car Lounge in Durand for their 12th annual state championships over the Thanksgiving weekend believe there is because he was there, along with his sleigh, Donner and Blitzsen, Mrs. Claus, even some of his elves.



While Santa ho-hoed his way through the big crowd in downtown Durand, Mrs. Claus and the elves tended to the reindeer.

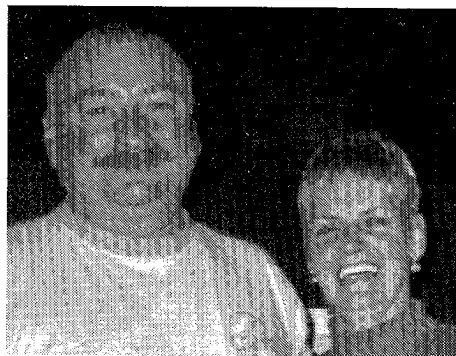


Then a group of carolers came across the street to the Club Car Lounge to serenade the visiting shufflers.

It was cold and drizzly outside, but inside the action on the four boards was hot and the hospitality of hosts Dennis and Sue Bittner and their staff was warm. Friday's mixed doubles drew a record-breaking 22 teams.



And when it was over, John McDermott and Claudia Goszczynski (yes, George, John can spell it!) were declared the 1997 Champions.



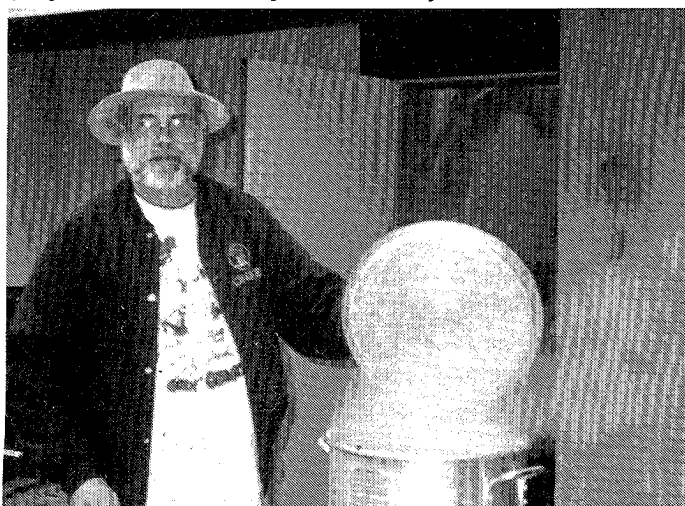
Eugene Wendling and Linda Mitchell took second place honors.



Tournament Director Rob Kern and his right-hand woman, Debbie Turk, finished third.

Others in the winner's circle for the mixed doubles were: Bill and Betty Kuebler, 4th; Slick and Betty Parrish, Steve Auten and Carrie Cottrell, 5th and 6th.

There were 14 players in the open singles, 15 in the ladies' singles, and 24 in the Div. II singles, all played simultaneously on Saturday.



A welcome break in the marathon was provided by local Charlie Stewart in the form of a "Georgia Low Country Boil" with red-skinned potatoes, shrimp, polish sausage, and corn-on-the-cob, cooked to perfection in the parking lot, then brought inside and served with a spread of salads and other goodies.

(continued on Page 8)

## Upcoming Events Across the Nation

### Washington

#### 1ST AMATEUR DRAW, FIR CONE, SHELTON, JAN. 14-15

The first of four amateur draw tournaments will be held at the Fir Cone Tavern, Shelton, on Jan. 14-15. This event is open to all new players rated a 3 or higher. Entry fee is \$40 per team with no sponsor sale. Trophies will be awarded to the top three finishers, and the top six will earn an invitation to the 1998 Amateur Championship at the Fir Cone. There they will have a chance to win entry fee to the Division II doubles at the North American Championships in Reno, plus round trip air fare and one week's lodging at the Sands Regency.

Come early for Friday night's \$5 round robin draws. A free feed will be served on Saturday night. For further information, contact Mel Hohn: 360-426-2221.

#### 17TH ANNUAL MASTERS, FIR CONE TAVERN, SHELTON, FEB. 21-22

The 17th Annual Masters Tournament, the first big Evergreen Shuffleboard Association event of the 1998 season in Washington, is slated for Feb. 21-22. Action will start with a single elimination \$20 A-B draw at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Entry fee for the Masters is \$50 per team, two out of three 15 point games in the winner's bracket and one 21 point game in the loser's bracket. Sponsor sale is at noon on Saturday, with play immediately following. A Saturday night feed will be served.

For further information, contact Mel Hohn: 360-426-2221.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR TO THE WORLD OF SHUFFLEBOARD!

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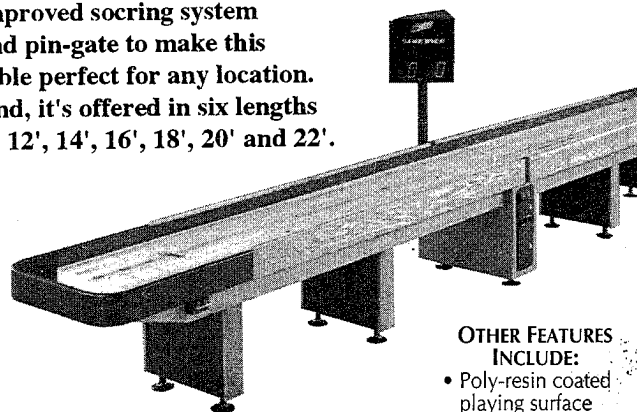
*"The new score system allows novice and pro players to compete equally in every frame. If the game is tied 13 to 13, the novice player has an equal chance to score and win."*

--Bob Shaw, Fort Worth, Texas

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1	2
2	3
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Florida**5TH ANNUAL FLORIDA  
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BEACH, MARCH 27-29**

The 5th Annual Florida Open will be hosted by the Snuggery Bar & Grille, 2556 PGA Blvd., Palm Beach, on March 27-29. This event promises to be another great Southeast "shootout" and shufflers from across the nation and Canada are invited to participate.

Action will start on Friday with a draw partner, \$25 entry fee. An open bring partner doubles is scheduled for Saturday, \$100 per team entry. The grand finale will be an open singles on Sunday, \$50 entry fee.

For further information, call Marty Allen, 561-471-4053. Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard site.

Michigan**DEUCES WILD, WETLANDS,  
ROYAL OAK, JAN. 3-4**

The Deuces Wild Tournament at the Wetlands Bar & Grill, 28028 Woodward Ave., Royal Oak, which was originally scheduled for Dec. 12-13, has been changed to Jan. 3-4. A draft syle format will be used to determine the 4-person teams, with top players serving as captains. Entry fee is \$25 per player, with a \$5 registration fee for tournament director Rob Kern. The draft will start at 1:15 p.m. on Saturday with the sponsor sale following and play starting at 2:30 p.m.

For information, call The Shuffleboard Federation, 248-380-9300.

**2ND SAGINAW VALLEY  
OPEN, McCABE'S,  
SAGINAW, FEB. 20-22**

M.J. McCabes Food & Spirits, 54 E. Morley Drive (M-46), Saginaw, will host its 2nd Annual Saginaw Valley Open on Feb. 20-22.

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, 11 point games in the draw partners, 15 points in singles and doubles. 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.

There are several hotels near McCabe's. The Knights Inn (517-754-9200) is offering a special tournament rate of \$32.95 plus tax for one or two people.

For further information, contact Dave at McCabes, 517-754-3621.

Indiana**OPEN DOUBLES, LOCKER  
BAR, MARION, JAN. 31**

The Voorhis Family will host an open doubles at the Locker Bar, 100 S. Branson, Marion, on Jan. 31. Entry fee for the single game, double elimination event is \$40 per team. The sponsor sale is scheduled for noon with play immediately following.

For information, call Bus at the Locker Bar, 765-662-0041.

California**PRESIDENTS' DAY  
TOURNAMENT, BLINKY'S,  
SANTA CLARA, FEB. 8-16**

The 7th Annual Presidents' Day Tournament will be held at Blinky's, 3145 El Camino Real in Santa Clara, Feb. 8-16.

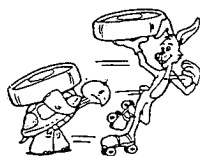
The first event is the Champagne & Roses ladies' doubles draw, \$10 entry, at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 8. The amateur doubles draw, \$20 entry, is on Monday, Feb. 9, at 6 p.m., followed by the amateur singles, \$20 entry, at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 10. All these events are single game, double elimination.

The ABC draw, \$20 per person, will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, starting at 6 p.m. The format will be 2 out of 3, double elimination.

Sponsor sale for the pro doubles is set for 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, with play beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, \$75 per person entry fee. A barbecue will be served on Saturday from 5 to 7 p.m., with the sale for pro singles also on the schedule. The singles may start on Saturday night. Otherwise, it will start at 9 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 15. Entry fee is \$75 and both the

(continued on Page 19)

## As The Puck Turns.....



By George & Donna Wilber

Like many of you, we unwrapped brightly-wrapped Christmas packages and admired and appreciated their contents, with enough shorts, socks, sweaters, colognes, etc. to last us throughout 1998. The one gift that stands out for us didn't come in Christmas wrappings and bows. It was an unadorned video cassette presented to us by John McDermott at the Michigan State Championships, a video of our induction into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame in Reno, Nevada. Since then, we have relived that great experience for just the two of us, for friends, relatives, the mail man, the UPS delivery person, for anyone we can grab off Sheridan Road in Lansing, Michigan.

It's a priceless gift to us because in the "heat of the moment," overcome with emotion, we missed (or didn't fully comprehend) many of the tributes which were so eloquently presented by John, Louise, Bill, Larry, Freddie, Bob, Glen, and Irish songbird Joanie. Every time we play it, we hear something new and wonderful, and delight in each and every person who went through the "receiving line" to receive hugs and kisses. We tell every viewer: "That's Bill Melton from Oklahoma -- he's raised a whole family of shufflers." "That's Darrol Nelson from Oregon -- the greatest player in the world." "That's Sol Lipkin from New Jersey -- he's 92 years young and still planning John's 100th birthday."

It's a Christmas gift that will be passed down through the generations of our family. Thank you, John, and each of you who were part of this grandest moment of our lives.

\*\*\*\*\*

When you enter a 15th year of business, it's natural to look back to see where you began to fully appreciate how far you've come. One of the things we found in the 1984 volume was a feature in the December issue about Al and Von Stewart. That fit perfectly with the recent letter to shufflers that we received from them (see Page 2 of Shufflers' Notebook). We thought you would find it interesting, from wherever your shuffleboard experiences began, to review Al's viewpoints of the sport in 1984.

For that reason, and because Von is currently challenged by the biggest fight of her life, we are reprinting that article. Enjoy -- and respond!

Happy 1998!

G & D

## Al Stewart Has More to Celebrate Than 25 Years in Business

Reprinted from the December 1994 Board Talk

'Twas the day before Christmas and in bars across the nation, people were toasting each other with glasses held high and hustling to get one more game of shuffleboard in before Christmas Eve closing.

That will be the scene in a lot of bars in just a few short weeks and many of us will be there when it happens. One person who won't be there is Al Stewart, owner-operator of A & M Amusement Service, El Monte, California, for the past 25 years.

Not that Al doesn't have a lot to celebrate: a successful business, a vocation he loves and a wife he describes as "the sweetest thing God ever created." But the former shuffleboard hustler won't be celebrating with a drink. Instead, he and his "partner, friend and wife," Von, will celebrate Christ's birthday in church that evening. It's been that way for 12 years now, since Al and Von became "born again" Christians.

Before that, the Stewarts didn't have much reason to celebrate. Booze and shuffleboard hustling had taken their toll. Drunken fights threatened their marriage; Al's shuffleboard refinishing business was on the brink of failure because of lack of attention. But all that changed and, according to Al, "Thanks to God. He saved our marriage and our business."

So how does a born-again Christian reconcile his "new life" with a business where 99% of his work is in bars? Isn't there a conflict of interest?

"Absolutely none," Al said. "I'm completely at ease with what I do and how I live. I made up my mind from the first that I would not preach to those people sitting in the bars. I've had some people who knew me before and have asked me about the change. I'm more than happy to tell them how it all came about but I don't throw it at them. Now the people who used to bring me a scotch and water or bottle of Coors come up with a cup of coffee."

### Learning Through "Trial and Error"

Al got into the shuffleboard business by "pure coincidence." He was working for an insulation company when his shuffleboard hustler partner, Freddy Anderson, broke off a key in the money box and asked Al to go with him to Los Angeles to pick up a screw lock from the American Shuffleboard Company.

"While I was there, a couple people called and wanted shuffleboards moved from one bar to another. I told John Weiss, who was the West Coast manager

for American Shuffleboard, that I had a pick-up and could handle it. That's how I started -- just moving boards," Al said.

Then came the demand for refinishing the boards. Since he had neither the facilities nor the expertise to do that, he hauled them to San Bernardino, had them refinished there, picked them up 8 to 10 days later and then delivered them. There had to be a better way, he thought.

"I quit my other job, rented a building, bought all the sanders and spray guns and started from scratch, knowing nothing. I opened the shop in 1962. I was dumb, green," he said. "The first board I refinished was so slow, you practically had to hit the weight with a golf club to get it to the other end of the board. I did seven boards in San Diego and had to redo them all because all the finish peeled off.

"It was trial and error for a period there, but I just kept working at it. But I loved it and I still do. I love to get those old boards and when I get them fixed up all nice and pretty and someone asks, 'is that a new board?' -- that really does something to me," Al said. "I've built up a pretty good reputation and I'm proud of that."

Al refinishes boards in nine western states and has gone as far as 1,700 miles to Idaho. He averages about eight refinishing jobs a month.

### The Biggest Change is Speed

Al has seen a lot of changes in shuffleboard during the 25 years he's been in business and since 1949 when he first started playing.

"The biggest change is speed. They want them faster, faster, faster. We never used to use any silicone or magic glaze. We just used regular powdered wax. Then they came up with what we call half-and-half, then they went to American speed. Now they've gone to the super-glide which is a can of roller bearings and they've got all kinds of silicone and everything else to put on the boards that you can imagine.

"They want the boards faster and straighter and you can't have both. You have to throw the weight so slow that any type of imperfection in the board is going to show. With the slower wax we used in the old days, you had to throw it so hard to get it down there, you didn't notice any of the hooks or crooks in the boards."

Al believes the game of shuffleboard is, without a doubt, on the upswing. "It died out in the 60s when the pool tables came in. Nobody was promoting shuffleboard then. They stuck the boards in a room, sometimes the back room, and just let them set. It picked up a little in the mid-60s, then died out again and stayed pretty low until about five years ago. The last three years, I've been busy, busy, busy," he said.

One of the high points of Al's 25-year career

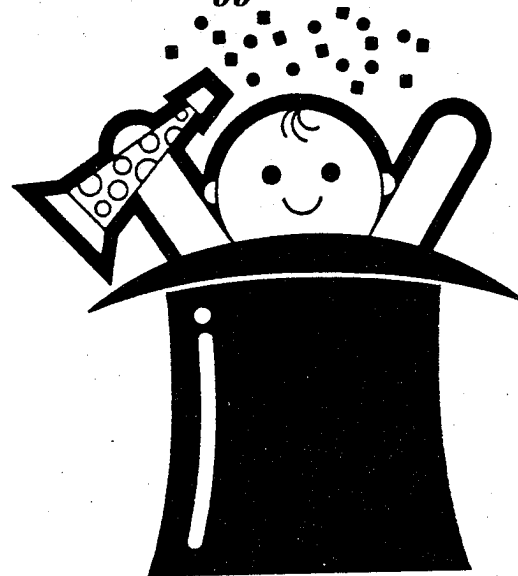
happened just this past month when he rented a board to Warner Brothers movie studio for a sequel to "Policy Academy." Al got to deliver the board on location, a bar set up in a warehouse in downtown Los Angeles.

"That was quite an experience -- to think that I'm going to have a shuffleboard in a movie that will be shown all over the country," said Al. "I don't go to movies, but I'm definitely going to see 'Police Academy Two.'"

*(Editor's Postscript: In 1989, Al and Von were recognized for their years of distinguished service to shuffleboard with a plaque from The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc. at the Pacific Coast Shuffleboard Association's Extravaganza in Las Vegas.)*



***Happy New Year  
to  
All our many friends  
in The World of  
Shuffleboard!***



***Al & Von Stewart  
A & M Amusement Service  
11415 Cherrylee Drive  
El Monte, California 91732***

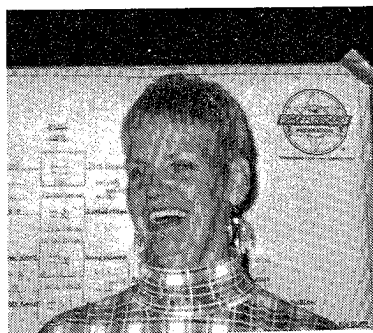
## Michigan Championships

(continued from Page 3)



The Kuebler "Cookies" -- 72-year-old Bill and his wife, Betty, believe in Santa! Host Dennis Bittner presents championship plaques to Bill for the Div. II singles and Betty for the ladies' singles.

Betty had to beat the always-tough Linda Mitchell to take the ladies' singles crown for 1997.

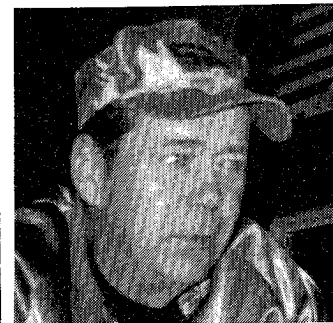
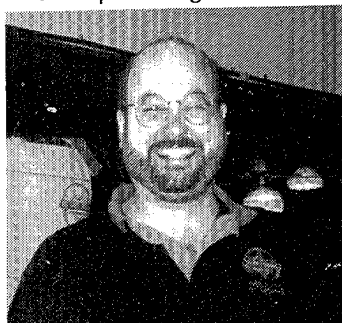


Becky DeWaard and Dawn Brookins made it a clean sweep for Saginaw by taking third and fourth respectively.



A newcomer to the tournament scene, Carl Harris, took second in the Div. II singles. Other winners were: Dale DeWaard, 3rd; Chris LeMieux, 4th; Scott Auten and Eugene Wendling, 5th and 6th.

There was a tough and determined field of players in the open singles.



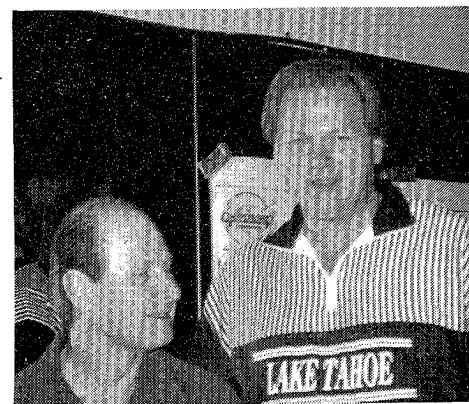
As he did last year, John McDermott (left) came out of the loser's bracket to successfully defend his open singles crown. For a while, it appeared as though Jerry Hershman (right) might topple the champ as he went undefeated to the finals. But he ran out of steam -- and John didn't! Other winners were John Myles, 3rd, and Bill Meyer, 4th.

There were 18 teams in Sunday's open doubles. In an exciting finals, it was Auten/Bolt vs. Papa/Meyer, and the winners were.....



.....Steve Auten and Bob Bolt, 1987 open doubles champions.

Mike Papa, host of Wetlands in Royal Oak, and partner Bill Meyer took second place honors.



Other winners were: John McDermott and Chris Passariello, 3rd; Ron Palmer and Ron Bown, 4th; Frank Parrish and Bill Kuebler, Chuck Ricklifs and Dave Willett (host of McCabe's), 5th and 6th.

Payout for the four events totalled nearly \$9,000. Door prizes were awarded throughout the weekend, courtesy of the Club Car Lounge, The Board Talk and The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc.





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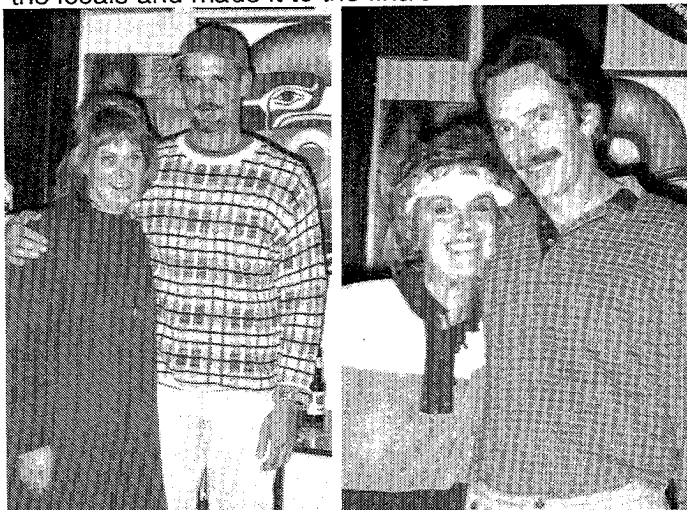
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## Marine/Hitt Win Mixed Doubles at Fir Cone Tavern

By Mel Hohn

With the North American Championships at Reno, Nevada, less than two weeks before, the Fir Cone Tavern in Shelton, Washington, held its 2nd Annual Mixed Doubles Tournament. That Reno tournament is a tough act to follow! So tough, in fact, that only one tavern would dare follow so closely. It is clear that good competition, great boards, and excellent food keep the players coming back, regardless of previous events. Or, could it be that The Shuffleboard Federation Tournament in Reno fires people up about playing the game? For whatever reason, this year's mixed doubles was the best of all mixed doubles at the Fir Cone in recent history. Fourteen teams (two better than last year) showed up to battle for the \$2150 in prize money, including \$210 added by the Fir Cone.

As with all shuffleboard tournaments in Shelton, a crowd gathers to cheer on the local favorites. This year's event featured more locals than past mixed doubles, which gave the spectators more to cheer about. However, it was the out-of-towners who beat the locals and made it to the finals.



Melody Marine and Dan Hitt (left) of Spokane, Washington, won first place honors by beating Gwyn Orsi, Omaha, Nebraska, and Kevin Larkin of Longview, Washington, two straight in the finals.

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About the Events at  
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Giving the locals something to cheer about were Loren Lampley and Paulette McKinney (left) of Shelton, who finished third, and Mel and Jeanette Hohn, (right), also of Shelton, fourth place finishers.

Special thanks to all the people behind the scenes that make each and every tournament a success.

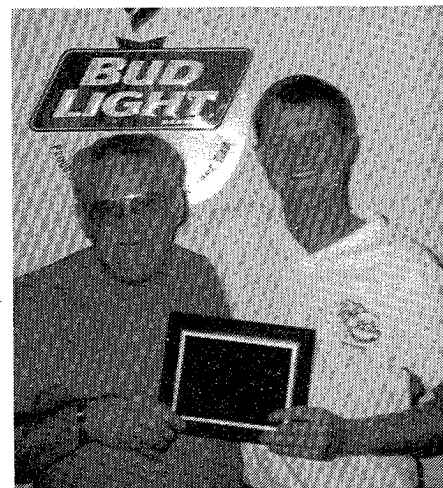
Remember these upcoming events at the Fir Cone: 1st 1998 Amateur Draw Tournament on Jan. 24-25, and the 17th Masters Tournament on Feb. 21-22. (See Upcoming Events and Calendar.)

## Ricky Royal Tops at Bourbon

By Pam Worsham

Unseasonably cold temperatures and falling snow accumulating to six inches didn't deter the 22 players who participated in the recent Bourbon (Indiana) American Legion Singles Tournament.

Bourbon host Bill Niswonger gives Ricky Royal of Muncie, Indiana, the first place plaque after he stormed through the winner's bracket to take first place honors and the lion's share of the over \$3600 total pot.



Jim Long of Osceola graciously accepts second place honors. Terry Dowell of Mentone finished third, with Greg Massie of Summitville in fourth place.

Just out of the money, but playing strongly, were newcomer Mark McLeod and back-in-action Steve Blue. Mark and his wife, Shannon, recently transferred, courtesy of the U.S. Army, to Ft. Wayne, Indiana, from Austin, Texas.

"This kid is for real," commented Bobby V. after their tough match. "Like we need another strong player in Indiana!"

The cold outside contrasted with hot action inside before and after the tournament as all five boards were put into play.

"It was great to see the state so well represented," noted Director Terry Dowell. He and Bill Niswonger kept play running smoothly, aided by auctioneer Mike Johnson.

Pleased with the successful turnout, Bill promised that the tournament will become an annual event.

## MORE NOTEBOOK

### ***Sue Loses Her "Virgin" Status as She Wins, Places and Shows!***

I've been running around Texas and Oklahoma playing shuffleboard and seeing people that I've met at other tournaments. I played at Del City American Legion on the 4th of July and didn't play so good. I did get a chance to meet Donna and George of The Board Talk. Donna, you are a real peach, and George, you seemed very inquisitive about my virginal status in shuffleboard, so here we go.....

I lost my virginal status at the Full House in Wynnewood, Oklahoma, where Weldon Lambert and I came in third in the Sweetheart Draw. Then I went to Richardson, Texas, and played at Harbor Point. I drew Johnny Wayne Crawford and we split first and second place there. Then I came back to Midwest City where I live and played at Bristol Station where I drew Kenny Heardman and we took first place. Then I won on the football pot!. At the next tournament at Bristol Station, I drew Pete Humphries and we took first place. Then, the same week, I went over on a Sunday evening to Del City American Legion and drew Bill Melton and we took first place there. Oh! Yeh! Could anyone hope to have a week of drawing partners like that! Hope I didn't use up all my luck! Everyone was teasing me about my rating was going to go up, and I said: "Well, even the old Blind Sow finds an Acorn once in awhile," and Bill Holly said: "Sue, I didn't know you were blind." Funny, funny, Holly!

Over the last three or four years, I've met so many nice people in this game and I have enjoyed it so much. I guess I would have to say it is the most fun you can have with your clothes on. So, all you players

in Midwest City, Del City, Tulsa, Wynnewood, Richardson, and Amarillo, get your clothes on because the ex-virgin will be there soon.

By the way, I haven't seen John Cason with my own eyes since the 4th of July at Del City American Legion. But thanks to all my volunteers, I know where you have been and what you have been doing. So, John, don't forget, you are being watched and reported on.

Sue Lewis, formerly known as The Virgin, Midwest City, Oklahoma

*Keep your clothes on, Sue, and keep on winning. But beware, once you have lost your "virgin" status, you are fair game for all serious shufflers.*

### ***Transplanted Wolverine Now a Part of the Pennsylvania Shuffleboard Scene***

The 1997 Pennsylvania State Championships are over. Christine and I had a great time -- loads of laughter, music, and impressive shuffleboard.

I want to thank Jim Wolf and Rita Yank and also apologize to them for my rusty play. I need to practice.

A big congratulations goes to Al DiBella and Louise Freer. One word sums them up -- CLASS! Thank you to Regina Smith and Jim Wolf, Jim and Rita Yank, Mike Kennedy and Mary Ann Watson, and of course, to Joe, who is part owner of J & C's Tavern in Philadelphia. You made Christine and me right at home. Thanks again!

Michael Tobin (formerly of Michigan), Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

*We're sure your words of thanks will be appreciated by the key characters in the 1st Annual Pennsylvania State Championships, who invested so much time and effort to make this "first" a success. We missed you at Michigan's No. 12, Mike and Christine. Michigan's loss is Pennsylvania's gain.*

### ***From Travelling Glen....***

I arrived home in Oklahoma City on Dec. 12 after a few thousand miles and a tourney or two.

Congratulations to Bobbie Voorhis -- a real pro all the way -- for his singles win in Reno. Just when you're about to give up on him, he somehow manages to luck out and win one. Debbie probably gave him a good finger-shaking before he left Indiana. I mean the index finger right in his face. "Good show," my man; you never shoot that good when you're playing with

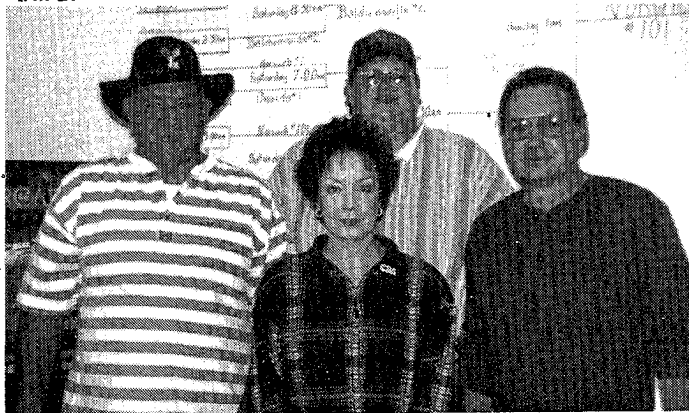
*(continued on Page 24)*

## Riverside Hotel, Earlville: An Action Place in New York

The Riverside Hotel in Earlville, New York, hosted two recent tournaments. The first was an A-B tournament using the Bowers Rating System.



Twenty-two players participated in the A/B Draw, with Dick Losee and John Scott (left) capturing first place, and Dale Law and Ryan Fuller (right) taking second place honors. John Canino and Rick Meyer finished third.



In the A/B Bring Partner event, John and Sharon Canino (right, center) went undefeated to take first place. Ken Van Zile (left) and Ryan Fuller (back) took second place. Finishing third were Dale Law and Bob Brooks.

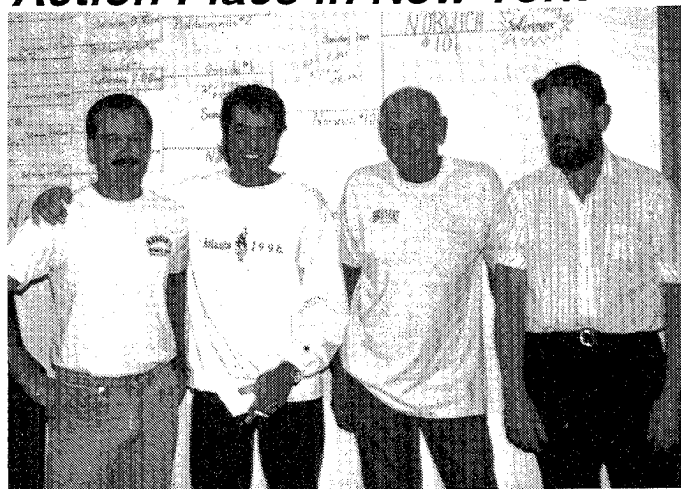
In a pre-tournament round robin, Brenda Prosser and Bill Morgan took first place, with Dale Law and Rita Traux in second. In a second round robin, Dale Law and Brenda Prosser (Moo Moo) took first, with Pat Chase and Angra Jones in second.

"For the first A-B tournament, things went well, but improvements will be made before the next one," said director Dale Law. "A-B tournaments are a good way for less advanced players an opportunity to cash."

On Oct. 23-26, the Riverside hosted a three-event tournament.

Action began with a Thursday night round robin, won by Ryan Fuller and K. Prosser. Dale Law and Ryan Fuller finished second.

On Friday night, an open draw was held with 24 players tossing their names in a hat.



Dale Law (left) and Arlow Johnson (second from right) came through the loser's bracket to capture first place. Al DiBella and Bob Brooks (right) finished second, with Bill Jones and Pat Chase in third place.



In Saturday's bring partner, Dick Losee and Bill Jones finished in first place, with Ken VanZile and Ryan Fuller taking second. Louise Freer and Rita Truax finished in third place.



Sunday's mixed doubles attracted 13 teams with Louise Freer and Al DiBella taking first place. Dale Law and Rita Traux (center) came in second, with Helen Fuller and Bill Jones in third place.

"Special thanks to the people who helped out with the tournament, collecting money, auction, brackets, etc." said Dale



## Pre-Thanksgiving Shootout at Harvey's Place

By Dick Gorman

No turkeys here! These were real shuffleboard players who came to Harvey's Place, Street, Maryland, for the pre-Thanksgiving Shootout on the four in-house boards on Nov. 20-22. Lots of rain two days; hopefully, it was to prepare us for nice holiday weather. The rain contributed to a slight delay for Friday night's event because of road conditions. Not knowing the locale, most people wouldn't realize that the average player in these events travels over 150 miles round trip -- and that includes a good number of local shooters.

Friday night's format was what is the now standard draw partner. The activity was intense as many "name" players went down in smoke before the money spots were decided. Finally emerging from the smoke to take first place were Ryan Fuller, Sherburne, New York (over 500 miles round trip) and Chuck King, Greenwood, Delaware (over 200 miles). Second place went to Judy Iseman, Chestertown, Maryland (over 200 miles) and Rick Niblett, owner of Rick's Place, Salisbury, Md. (near 300 miles). Third place went to Brenda Wallace, nearby Port Deposit, and Dave Shewbridge, Pasadena, Md.

Saturday morning it rained again but plenty of shooters showed up -- a little late again -- bad driving conditions. Street, Maryland, isn't exactly in a densely populated area. The city folks enjoy standing on the back deck looking at and watching the cows. (Actually the local folks don't have the heart to tell them they aren't cows -- they are beef cattle.)

Although they have played many times together and finished in the money, the bring partner event was the first first-place finish for Louise Freer and Al DiBella of Philadelphia, Pa. Second place went to the visiting buddies from New York -- Ryan Fuller, Sherburne, and Ken VanZile Sr., Oxford. Third place was won by Wayne Nichols, nearby Conowingo, and his partner, Dave Shewbridge, his second third for the weekend.

Saturday evening's weekly draw partner event was won by Gene Long, Lancaster, Pa. and Mike Kennedy, Avondale, Pa.

Sunday morning was reserved for the open singles and the response was the best we have seen for some time, with 13 entries. The money was divided by Chuck King, 1st; Len Dell, Baltimore, 2nd; and Dick Gorman, Wilmington, Del., 3rd.

In Sunday's mixed doubles, first place money went to Louise Freer and Chuck King. Judy Iseman and Len Dell took second, with Brenda Wallace and host Harvey Comer in third.

The tournament was considered a success and

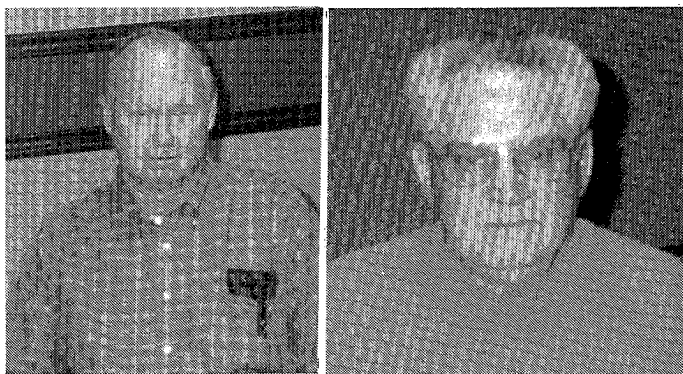
gave a temporary reprieve to the idea of eliminating Sundays from the weekend tournaments. This Sunday was a success after a long period of not enough activity. Hosts Darlyne and Harvey said no final decision yet, but things look better. Hopefully, it will continue at the next weekend tournament, scheduled for Jan. 16-18. For reservations or information, call Harvey or Darlyne at 410-836-8881.

## Reno Memories....

(These are photos which were not available when we went to press with last month's issue in which the North American Championships tournament was reported.)



"We're delighted to be in such good company," George and Donna Wilber tell Sol Lipkin (center) at their induction into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, which took place at the NASC in Reno.



Andrew Brorsen (left) of California was winner of the Division II singles, with Bill Niswonger, Indiana, taking second place honors.

**Happy New Year, Shufflers!**  
**May all your hammers**  
**be 4's in 1998.**  
**George & Donna**

## Losers (Bracket) Become Washington State Champions

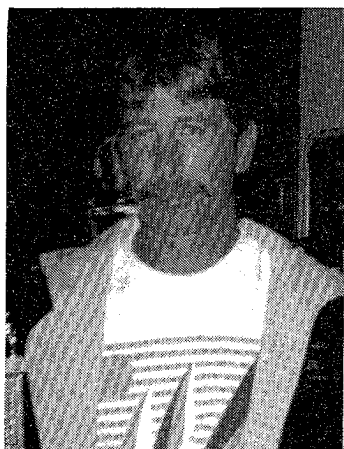
All of the 1997 Washington State Champions came out of the loser's bracket to earn their crowns this year. The event was hosted by Jerry Berquist, owner of the Shamrock Tavern in Longview, who also provided the awesome trophies. "Jerry has been and continues to be one of the finest promoters of this game," said Larry Pearson, editor of *Shuffleboard Northwest*.



Tina Olson (left) is the 1997 Ladies Champ. She outlasted Jackie Anderson in a grueling match to win the event. Maralee Thomas (right) finished third.



For the second year in a row, Dan (The Hitt Man) Hitt (left) proved to be the best singles player in Washington State. Mike Thorpe (right) took second place honors in the open singles.



Rich Miller finished third in the open singles. This event attracted 25 players this year.

(Information and photos provided by Larry Pearson)



Nels Anderson and Loren Lampley came a long way through the loser's bracket to win the Washington State doubles title.



They had to beat the big, mean team of D.K. Kerr and Gary (Puddleside) George two times in the finals. Mike Waters and Jim Manders took third place.

## Pennsylvania Stages 1st State Championships

By Louise Freer

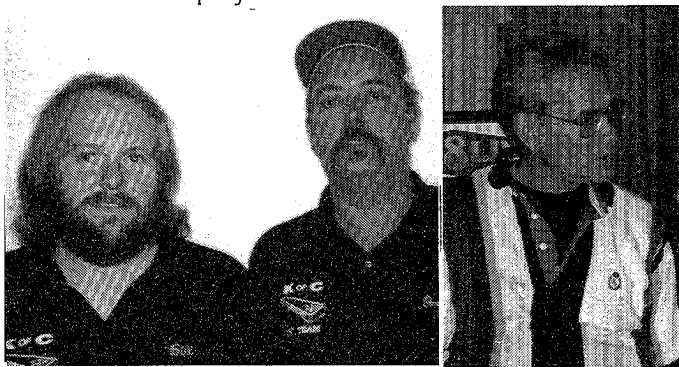
The 1st Annual Pennsylvania State Shuffleboard Championships were held on Thanksgiving weekend. It was the hope of the tournament committee that shufflers from all corners and areas of the state would join in the fun and competition, meet new friends, renew old friendships, and become a part of history. The committee worked very hard at making the tournament a success. Close to 200 flyers were mailed out to shuffleboard establishments and fellow shuffleboard players. A program was designed and advertising support sought to provide the revenue needed to purchase custom-engraved plaques for the winners. Host establishments provided added money so that each of the five events had \$100 extra given

directly back to the players. The Board Talk provided their usual generous help, as did Sun Glo Corporation when they donated the wax, silicone, and a set of weights to be raffled off. Was all the hard work and effort worth it? You bet it was! It was agreed by all that the first Pennsylvania State Shuffleboard Championships were a successful start for a new tradition.

The tournament directors showed up bright and early at J & C's Tavern on Friday morning for last-minute preparations, only to discover two "earlier" birds. Mike and Christine Tobin from Pittsburgh were already there, rarin' to go, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed despite their all-night, and often rainy, six-hour drive. (*Editor's Note: See Mike's letter in Notebook.*) Two events were scheduled for that morning: the mixed doubles and the "B" doubles. After the sales of these two events, handled capably by Jim Wolf and Al DiBella (with Regina collecting the cash), we all got down to some serious shuffleboard.

The mixed doubles, played at Gambol's Cafe, was a true round robin format. Winners of this event were Al DiBella of Philadelphia and Louise Freer of Lansdale. Jim Yank Sr. of Philadelphia and Judy Gartland of Northeast Philadelphia finished second, and Mike Tobin of Pittsburgh and Rita Yank of Philadelphia finished a strong third.

The "B" doubles were hosted by J & C's Tavern, Callahan's Tavern, and McFadden's Tavern, and were played in a single game, double elimination format. Bill Pollock and Greg Hager, both of Upper Darby, took top honors in this event. Herb Forster of Ridley Park and Albie Pinner, Upper Darby, finished second, and Regina Smith of Darby and Chris Stillwell of Philadelphia played well enough to place third. By the way, Bill Pollock and Greg Hager will not be considered "B" players in the future.



Bill Pollock and Greg Hager took top honors in the "B" doubles. Herb Forster (right) and his partner, Albie Pinner finished second.

The marathan continued with the open draw at J & C's Tavern on Friday evening. Bill Pollock took his second first place of the tournament with the very determined Linda Marchell of Philadelphia. Finishing a strong second (after losing their first game) were Butch "Hollywood" Kelly of Springfield and Jim Yank

Jr. of Philadelphia. Does Hollywood EVER take off his sunglasses? Kevin Ward of Philadelphia and Greg Hager finished a close third. It was also Greg's second showing in the tournament. As usual, the fun and games continued into the wee hours of the morning.

Saturday morning came much too soon. The open doubles were again hosted by J & C's, Callahan's and McFadden's. After the fast-paced sale, handled by veteran Mike Kennedy, the games got under way. The competition was grueling all through the day and into the night. Louise Freer and Al DiBella survived some tough games (ask Joe Williams and Butch Kelly!) and took their second first place finish of the tournament. Finishing a tough second were Dave Milano and Joe Orfanelli (J & C's owner) of Philadelphia, with Mike Kennedy and Mary Ann Watson of Avondale in third.



Mike Kennedy and Mary Ann Watson, long-time shuffleboard boosters and Board Talk supporters, took third in the open doubles.

The final event, the open singles, was held on Sunday at J & C's. Finishing first for the third time that weekend was Al Dibella (his first singles win ever). Others in the winner's circle were Mike Kennedy in second, and the always competitive Joe Williams of Ridley Park in third.

The success of the 1st Annual Pennsylvania State Championships lies not only with the winners of each event, but with each and every participant. Every tournament usually has its "regulars," i.e. people who usually play in tournaments, but we feel this one was successful because of the first-time tournament players, too. A good portion of the players were "first-timers" -- and it was clear it wouldn't be their last!

Determination is one of the keys to success, and players like Greg Hager, Ike O'Reilly, Bernadette Carey, the Tom McFaddens, Kevin Jackson, Allen Merrin, Mark Loro, Kevin Ward, Bryon Econrode, Chris Stillwell, and Linda Marchell have that quality in abundance.

Also necessary to the success of an event is the  
(continued on Page 16)

## Pennsylvania 1st *(cont. from Page 15)*

strong support of the host establishment's personnel. It seemed like each establishment had its "best crew" on hand to warmly welcome the shuffleboard players and efficiently serve the crowds on hand.

Dedication to promoting the game of shuffleboard is often a thankless task for bar owners. Here in the Philadelphia area, space is at a premium, and shuffleboards take up a lot of square footage. Joe Orfanelli of J & C's Tavern has committed much of his precious square footage to the three in-house boards, and deserves a lot of credit for his efforts with both tournaments and leagues. Mike Gambol of Gambol's Cafe also offers strong support of the game with year-round league and tournament support. Tom McFadden Sr. has established McFadden's Tavern as one of the "hotbeds" of shuffleboard and his well-maintained board is one of the best in the area. Thanks also to Callahan's Tavern for jumping into the fray and providing their support as well.

While it is often not considered polite to discuss financial matters, without the support of the program advertisers, it would not have been possible to provide the 1st and 2nd place finishers with impressive, custom-engraved plaques to commemorate their wins. Thanks especially to John McDermott of The Shuffleboard Federation for unhesitatingly taking two full pages of the program book. Special thanks need to go to all of our other supporters, both near and far, as well. Many, many thanks to Ed DiCipoli of the Sun-Glo Corporation for the generous contribution of wax, silicone spray and a set of weights to raffle off to the players (won by Joe Orfanelli). George and Donna Wilber's continuous and generous help to the world of shuffleboard was felt here, too, in the form of ad space, free subscriptions, and additional copies of The Board Talk for distribution.

Same time, same place next year? Well, if what "Hollywood" says is true about a shuffleboard god....we hope he (or she) is listening! We will certainly do our best to make the Pennsylvania State Championships a continued success in the years to come.

*(The Pennsylvania State Shuffleboard Championships Committee consisted of Al DiBella, Louise Freer, Regina Smith, Jim Wolf, Jim and Rita Yank. A Board Talk salute to you for your dedicated efforts on this "first."*

*We now have six states -- Michigan, Indiana, Florida, Washington, Pennsylvania, and Oklahoma -- that are holding state championships. We encourage other states to do the same, so that some day, we can stage a "battle of the states," pitting the winners against each other. Wouldn't that be an exciting event?!*

## More Action at J & C's

By Jim Wolf

Nov. 7th's A-B draw at J & C's Tavern in West Philadelphia drew a good turnout. The teams were drawn, the limited sale completed and play began. Once again, Wayne Todd drew Jim Yank and, again, they were in the hunt, finishing third. Chris Stillwell finished second, repeating his October performance, teamed with Jim Wolf on this occasion. Butch Kelly finished first with Faye Todd without dropping a game. Faye won the October A-B draw for back-to-back wins in this event.

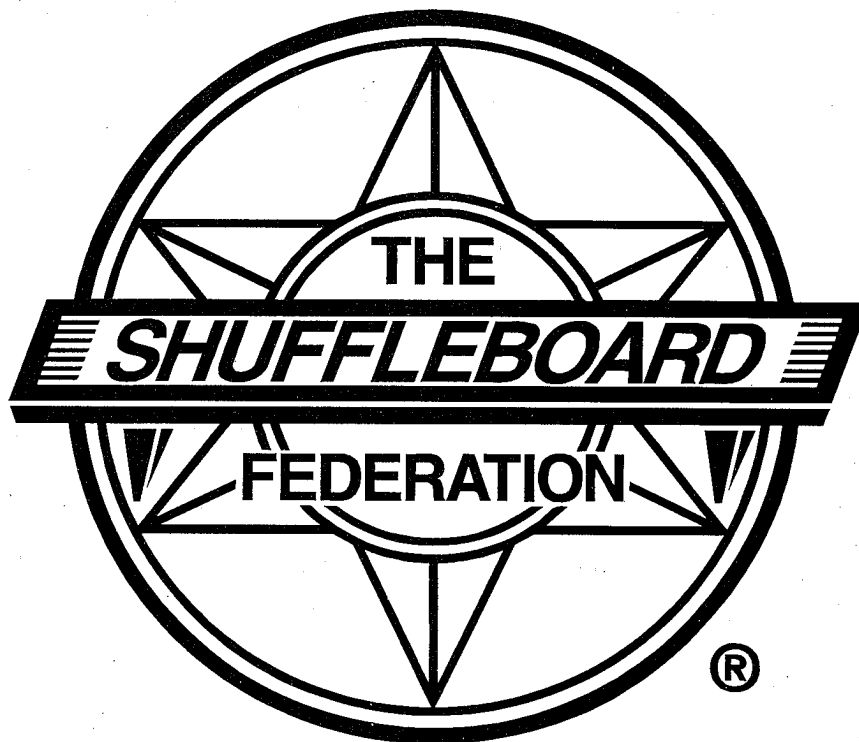
On Thanksgiving Eve, J & C sponsored an A-B turkey shoot round robin, and 22 players competed for the "birds" added to the pot by our hosts, the Orfanelli family. The shooters got in the holiday mood, running a 50-50 and adding that to the pot. Four hours after play began on J & C's three boards, Jim Yank and rookie Marilyn Lunari were squaring off against Dave Milano and first-timer Ron Pierce to represent the loser's bracket in the finals. For the second time on this night, Dave and Ron prevailed in a hard-fought game. Regina Smith and Pete Skyler had swept the winner's bracket and the battle was joined with Dave and Ron. Regina and Pete won the game, the turkeys and the gobbler's share of the pot. Special kudos to Ron and Marilyn for competing in this event so early and so well, in what we trust will be a long and fun-filled shuffleboard experience.

The holiday mood of the turkey shoot and a great Pennsylvania State Championships Tournament was very prevalent in the happy mood of the Dec. 5th shooters for the A-B draw. Play was fast, and the dust began to settle, as the witching hour approached to find Mike "Slim" Kennedy teamed with Robert Morgan (see Nov. '97 Board Talk) locking up with Faye Todd (seeking a 3-peat) and Butch Kelly to represent the loser's bracket. Faye and Butch won that game, moving a step closing to continuing their string, but waiting for them was a surprising winner's bracket team. First-time "A" shooter Kevin Ward and first-time in the winner's bracket John Casher were determined to win this one. A fast ensued game, an opening five drew a response of one, a follow up seven was answered with a deuce, and mercifully, the end was swift. First-timers Kevin and John had their win!

### REMINDER!

*Reports, advertising, and other information must be received by the 15th of the month to appear in the next issue. Send to: The Board Talk, 503 E. Sheridan Rd., Lansing, MI 48906*





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# **Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return**

**A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert**

*(In the last episode, Frisco Eddie and Lil were participating in the big Reno tournament. Eddie was in the finals of the pro singles....)*

The score was 14 to 12 in Eddie's favor, and it was his last shot of the frame. Eddie released what could be the final shot for the Pro Singles title. It was a right-hand thumb shot, aimed at hitting and going on a right rail deuce that Robby D had put up. Everything Eddie had hoped for was riding on this shot. It really looked and felt good as it sailed down the board. His heart skipped a beat, when just before the weight made contact -- it started to pull out and drift left. It did touch the weight, but there wasn't enough contact there to knock it off the board! Eddie's weight exited the board on the far end.

The game was history now -- all Robby had to do was lag any kind of a one. He did that, and then moved a few steps to where Eddie was to shake his hand. Eddie had a look of astonishment and disbelief on his face as he held out his hand. He didn't even hear what Robby said to him. He was in a state of shock at that point!

Lil came over to him and said: "I know how you feel, Champ. I know because I've been there before. It was a tough break, Eddie, the worst kind. You'll get over it, Honey, believe me." She gave him a big hug then -- but no kiss. Eddie could hear Lil's words but, again, they didn't sink in. He was so sure of that last shot that he still couldn't comprehend the fact that he was not going to be the Pro Singles Champion!

Lil knew what Eddie needed now, and she said: "Come on, Champ -- let's go downstairs to the lounge and down a few. It'll ease the pain for you and make us both feel better." Eddie just nodded his head and began to follow her as she started for the stairway.

Eddie ordered a double Wild Turkey with a water wash. He was starting to come around now and so were some of the other players. They came to congratulate Eddie on his fine showing. This, of course, made him feel a whole lot better about things and after a couple more drinks, he was feeling better over just about everything!

After a while (and a few more drinks), Eddie noticed that Lil wasn't with the group. He figured that she may have had to visit the ladies' room or something, so he continued the march. After about fifteen minutes, she still hadn't showed. Eddie was starting to get a little curious now. They usually told each other where they were headed if they had to separate. He waited a little longer, then excused himself. He decided to take a little look around. He wanted to be with her then and have a private (and

intimate) celebration of their own.

He ran into Robby D at the head of the stairway leading into the tournament rooms. This time they shook hands, exchanged a few complimentary sentences, and even gave each other a short hug. After that, Eddie explained that he was looking for Lil and asked if Robby had seen her. He said he thought he had seen her just a few minutes before in the main game room, and that she was talking to Dick Moyer.

That name got Eddie's attention! He quickly excused himself and headed for the main room. He was suspicious of this guy from the first time he saw him embrace Lil right after they had arrived. He didn't buy that "Oh, he's just a good old friend" routine he was given then, and those feelings were getting stronger now.

He turned right in the crowded room and headed for the area where they both spent a lot of time. He was on the far side of the room now and he turned to scan around just in time to see Lil, AND her "kissing cousin" Dick heading out the door.

By the time he made his way to the main entrance they were nowhere in sight. He noticed that one of the elevator doors had just closed. He gave a look around the stairway area and the first floor, but couldn't spot them. They had to have gone up in the elevator. The other elevator opened while he was waiting, so Eddie held it open until he could check to see which floor the other one would stop on. The light revealed that it was stopping at floor #12.

He jumped into his elevator then and quickly pushed the button for floor 12. He let the door close even though a couple of people were running to get on. It seemed like an eternity before the elevator got to #12. He was lucky, as no one stopped it enroute. He quickly looked to the right, then left, after he left the elevator. He spotted them on his left, clear down the far end of the hallway. He saw them just as they were rounding the corner of the hall.

The emotions of jealousy and anger were pumping him up now as he ran down the long hallway. He rounded the corner just in time to see the back of the baseball cap that Dick wore disappear into the doorway of a room about 10 numbers down.

He didn't have to hurry now -- he knew where they were. When he got to the door, he followed his first impulse and raised his fist to bang away and settle the thing right then and there!

His senses caught hold though, and he lowered his arm. His brain rationalized that to barge in now would be a mistake. If there really wasn't something bad going on in there, he would look like a fool. And, if there was, not enough time had elapsed to find that

out either! He would have to play this smart -- really smart.

He took a minute or two, and his conclusion came to him just like clockwork. It was a great plan! He would.....

--TO BE CONTINUED--

*(Editor's Note: What devious plan has Eddie devised? Join us next month to find out. If you're enjoying Balboa Ron's Frisco Eddie series or have story ideas for him, let him know: Ron Schweikert, 1140 Coral Desert Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89123.)*

## Upcoming Events *(cont. from Page 5)*

pro doubles and singles will be 2 out of 3, double elimination.

For more information, contact Rick Thomas, 408-578-0822. Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard site.

### Texas

## PRESIDENTS' DAY TOURNEY, GOLD NUGGET, ARLINGTON, FEB. 12-15

The Gold Nugget, 2602 W. Division St., Arlington, will host a Presidents' Day Tournament, Feb. 12-15.

Action will start on Thursday, Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. with a Div. I and II singles. Entry fees for Div. I are: pros, \$100; 0's, \$50; 1's, \$25; and 2's, \$15. This event is 2 out of 3, double elimination. Entry fees for Div. II (3's, 4's and 5's) is \$15, single game, double elimination.

On Friday the 13th, a draw partner for Div. I and II starts at 7 p.m. Entry for Div. I is \$30 per player and \$15 for Div. II. Single game, double elimination for both. No pros or 0's may draw up.

A 6-person draft team event is on the schedule for Saturday at 1 p.m. Entry fee is \$200 per team, 4 out of 7, double elimination.

On Sunday will be bring partner events for Div. I, \$75 per team entry, and Division II, \$30 per team, starting at 1 p.m. In Div. I, pros must play with a 2 or higher, 0's with 1 or higher; 2 out of 3 if time permits. The format for Div. II is single game, double elimination.

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

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

Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard site.

## Rick Gindt Missed at Gold Nugget's Thanksgiving Classic!

Bob and Cindy Houchin's Gold Nugget hosted the annual Dave Williams Thanksgiving Classic in Arlington, Texas, and a "grand time was had by all," reports Bobby Williams.



Wednesday's 4-person bring team event was won by Carlos Guzman, Bobby Williams, Rob Houchin and Harvey Kidd.

Second place went to the team of David Williams, Fred Boyd, Tammy Denson and Bob Houchin, with Billy Mays, Lee Duncan, Eddie Wood and Penny Mahar in third place.

Thursday's Div. I singles was won by Harvey Kidd, with Steve Burkett in second, and David Williams in third.



*(pictured here)*  
Eddie Guy and Rost Kaune were first and second in the 2's only singles.

In Div. II singles, Don Roper was first with Mahlon Nobles in second and Oscar Villagas in third.

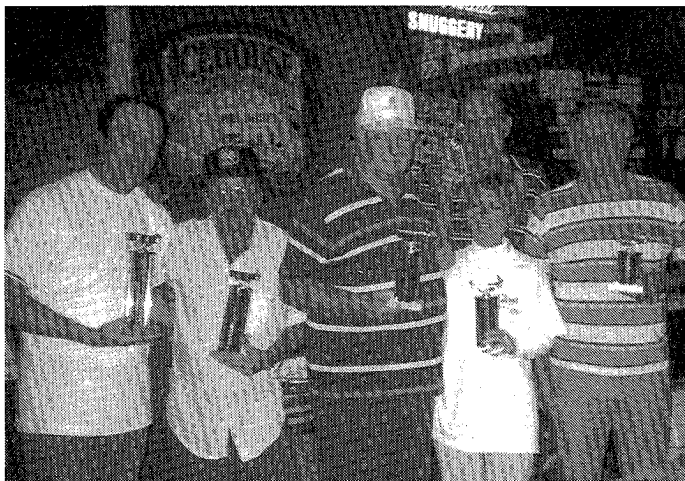
In Friday's Div. I draw partner event, first place went to Johnny Ballard and Harvey Kidd with Ken Strong and Flynt Preston taking second place honors, and Danny Hersom and Bob Houchin in third. In the Div. II draw, Kay Nelson and Gilbert Baird took first, with Jimmy Britt and Nancy Rice in second, and Randy Glover and Mahlon Nobles in third.

The draft team event was on Saturday's schedule and it was Bill Melton's team who came out on top.

*(continued on Page 26)*

## Florida Crowns New State Champions

The Snuggery Bar & Grille in Palm Beach Gardens hosted the Florida State Championships over the Thanksgiving weekend. The 1997 Florida Champs are: Open Doubles -- Doug Fridley Jr. (formerly of New York) and Alvis Ramey, both of Titusville; Men's Singles -- Doug Fridley Jr.; Women's Singles -- Robin Mickelson, Jupiter; Mixed Doubles -- Coletta Stanley of Palm Beach Gardens and Marty Allen of West Palm Beach.



First in the open doubles were (left) Doug Fridley Jr. and Alvis Ramey. Second were Marty Allen and Coletta Stanley (center) and third were Cass Grubbs and Dave Macko (right), both from Titusville.



Men's Singles winner was Doug Fridley Jr., congratulated by second place Marty Allen. Alvis Ramey (right) finished third.

### Marty's Dream

"At present, Michigan, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Florida, Washington and Oklahoma have state tournaments. Some time in the future we will have a national tournament composed of the individual state championships. That is our dream!"

Marty Allen, Florida

Ours, too, Marty; see Page 16 -- G & D



Robin Mickelson of Jupiter Moose Lodge #2237 is the 1997 Women's Singles Champ. Coletta Stanley of Palm Beach Gardens took second place honors, with Paula H. Orlando of Boca Raton in third. Angela Petriello (not pictured) of Ft. Lauderdale finished fourth.



Mixed Doubles Champs are Marty Allen and Coletta Stanley (left), with Chuck DeWees and Robin Mickelson of Jupiter in second, and Paula Orlando and Fred Scholz, Palm Beach Gardens, in third.

### A Look Back, A Look Ahead

"We started with Titusville in 1995, West Palm Beach in 1996, Palm Beach Gardens in 1997, and Mims, Florida, will host our state championships in 1998 at the Fill-N-Station," said Marty Allen. "Owner Larry Cooper will have two in-house boards and a third off-site board will be available on as 'as needed' basis. The Mims-Titusville area is one of the best shuffleboard areas in the state of Florida and we can expect a large turnout in 1998.

"We plan to keep rotating our tournament sites and in 1999, we will swing across the state to Pensacola Beach in the Northwest sector. Beyond 1999, we are not firm, but we know Sarasota and Naples are great shuffleboard areas on the West Coast of Florida and we will talk to them in the near future. Of course, any city can bid to host our state tournament. The

(continued on Page 24)



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# ***1998 CALENDAR OF SHUFFLEBOARD EVENTS***

## **JANUARY 1998**

### **Jan. 3-4**

Deuces Wild  
Wetlands Bar & Grill  
Royal Oak, Michigan

### **Jan. 9**

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

### **Jan. 16-18**

East Coast Winter Tournament  
Harvey's Place  
Street, Maryland

### **Jan. 16-18**

3rd Annual Round Robin Singles  
Wetlands Bar & Grill  
Royal Oak, Michigan

### **Jan. 23-26**

Oklahoma State Championships  
American Legion Post 73  
Del City, Oklahoma

### **Jan. 24-25**

\*Amateur Draw Doubles  
Fir Cone Tavern  
Shelton, Washington

### **Jan. 31**

Open Doubles  
Locker Bar  
Marion, Indiana

## **FEBRUARY 1998**

### **Feb. 8-16**

7th Presidents' Day Tourney  
Blinky's  
Santa Clara, California

### **Feb. 12-15**

President's Day Tournament  
Gold Nugget  
Arlington, Texas

### **Feb. 13-15**

Sweetheart Tournament  
The Blue Goose  
Port Orchard, Washington

### **Feb. 14**

Open Doubles  
Sportsman's Lounge  
Muncie, Indiana

### **Feb. 21-22**

17th Annual Masters  
Fir Cone Tavern  
Shelton, Washington

### **Feb. 20-22**

2nd Saginaw Valley Open  
McCabe's  
Saginaw, Michigan

## **MARCH 1998**

### **Feb. 28-March 2**

Mason-Dixon Classic  
Harvey's Place  
Street, Maryland

### **March 7-8**

Mixed Doubles  
Old Edison Inn  
Edison, Washington

### **March 14**

Open Doubles  
Sportsman's Lounge  
Muncie, Indiana

### **March 27-29**

5th Annual Florida Open  
Snuggery Bar & Grill  
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

## **APRIL 1998**

### **April 4-5**

Open Doubles  
Corner Tavern  
Bow, Washington

### **April 17-19**

Heartland Handicap Tourey  
American Legion Post 73  
Del City, Oklahoma

### **April 17-19**

Spring Tournament  
Avon's Local 14  
Toledo, Ohio

### **April 18-19**

Amateur Draw Doubles  
Fir Cone Tavern  
Shelton, Washington

### **April 18-19**

Open Doubles  
BZ's Bar & Grill  
SeaTac, Washington

## **MAY 1998**

### **May 3**

37th 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 23-24**

Open Doubles  
Rod's Drive In Tavern  
Spokane, Washington

### **May 23-24**

Open Doubles  
Tolo Tavern  
Central Point, Oregon

### **May 22-25**

Memorial Weekend Tournament  
Honky Tonk  
Sherburne, New York

## **JUNE 1998**

### **June 6-7**

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

### **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 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

## July 28-Aug. 3

14th Annual Board Talk  
Shufflers' Reunion  
Avon's Local 14  
Toledo, Ohio

## **SEPTEMBER 1998**

### Sept. 2-6

Texas Open  
Gold Nugget  
Arlington, Texas

### ***"Bits & Pieces"*** ***From The Editors***

Because of the Holiday Spirit and because we know everyone is busy this time of year, we've been a bit lenient with accepting late reports the past two months. If we are to get your Board Talks to you in a timely manner, that practice will have to cease. We'll be making a New Year's resolution to be firm on our 15th of the month cut-off date. Please help us help you!

\*\*\*\*\*

Heartfelt thanks to all of you who have sent congratulatory messages on our induction into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame and Season's Greetings. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated!

\*\*\*\*\*

Get out your latest "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." listing, published in the December issue, and make this addition: the phone number for a new member of our national shuffleboard network, **West Avenue Ice in San Antonio: 210-341-4227**. Also, we know that some area codes have been changed, so we urge establishments to check the listing and let us know if corrections need to be made. The next "Play Your Way" listing will be published in the March issue (deadline Feb. 15) and a bunch of them will be dropped off that list unless they respond to their red checks. Give a "nudge" to your favorite shuffleboard site!

## Sept. 26-27

Amateur Draw Doubles  
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

## **NOVEMBER 1998**

### Nov. 25-29

Thanksgiving Classic  
Gold Nugget  
Arlington, Texas

**Corrections/Additions to the Calendar:** Note the change in dates from March 11 to March 14 for the doubles at Sportsman's Lounge, Muncie, Indiana. Add the St. Pat's Tournament at Wetlands, Royal Oak, Michigan, on March 20-22.

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## **THE BOARD TALK**

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## Florida Champs *(cont. from Page 20)*

requirements are very simple. You must have at least two in-house shuffleboards and play to the tournament rules and regulations of the Florida (Table) Shuffleboard Association. If you would like more information or a copy of our rules and regulations, please call me at 561-471-4053," said Marty.

### "Thanks for Your Help!"

"The Snuggery Bar & Grille and owner/host Bernie Kirchner is always cooperative and gave us great support," Marty said. "Thanks also to our pretty co-hosts -- Laurie, Amy, Lovee and Sue -- for the great service. The following deserve a special thanks for volunteering or just stepping in to help out in a particular situation: Ray Boyett and his computer-generated flyer and mailing (thanks, old buddy); Alvis Ramey on tee-shirt sales and 50/50 raffle (super salesmanship); Doug Fridley Jr. on the bracket board and sponsor sales (very experienced, great job, No. 1); Chuck DeWees, Dave Maco and Bill Pelliter are always helpful and it's greatly appreciated; Colletta and Bob Stanley contribute in many ways during the year and I give them my thanks."

The next big event at the Snuggery is the 5th Annual Florida Open on March 27-29. See enclosed flyer and plan to join those friendly Florida folks.

## Welcome to The World of Shuffleboard and the Board Talk Network!



*The Harris Family -- Carl, Jeff, Denny and Richard. All played in the Michigan State Championships for the first time (Carl took second in the Div. II Singles) and all joined The Board Talk's national network, thanks to "Santa" John McDermott.*

## THE BOARD TALK

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## Glen Reports *(continued from Page 11)*

me. Hope you have many more wins!

We had a meeting at the Dixie Belle for the California Hall of Fame. Jolene Lembke was elected president, Joanie Swenson is secretary, Paul Weber is a director. Others on the committee are Jan Manes, Chris Brown, Hal Perry and Bob Hunt. They will have some players and promoters in their state Hall of Fame in the next few months. Thanks to all of you for getting involved.

So far this year, Bill Melton, Jim Foran, George and Donna Wilber have been inducted in state and national Halls of Fame. Hopefully the states will induct at least five this coming year and the national will do the same. Get a committee together and do something for your fellow shufflers. I'm headed to Houston and we hope to get someone inducted there this year.

My apologies to Jack Ahearn (*Editor's Note: In the November 1997 issue, Glen paid tribute to him after what he thought was his death.*) He's very much alive and still beating me when I play him. He did tell me it was a nice letter, except I didn't put in all his wins. He did win a major tourney at Visalia in the early '70s with Bobby Goldsmith and one in San Diego with Troy Tolbert. This is the first time I've gotten corrected by a "ghost." Jack did say, now with his eulogy in order, he will be ready -- or will he? Jack is indeed a pro and I'm real happy that he's still with us and still winning.

Thanks to John Fisher and Criss for a great Thanksgiving and thanks to Dixie Debbie, Jim Anderson and the rest of the staff at the Dixie Belle for a good show. It was also nice to see all the old gang at the Edgewood -- B.B., Jack Ahearn and Joe Nino.

Hope all of you have a happy holiday season. Get all your predictions and goals in order and see if you can make them happen.

Glen Davidson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

*It's not often that a person gets to read their own eulogy, Glen, and have a chance to "correct" it! We join you in rejoicing that Jack is still alive and winning.*

## Hey There, Folks! Read Our Lips!

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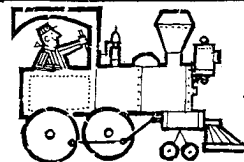
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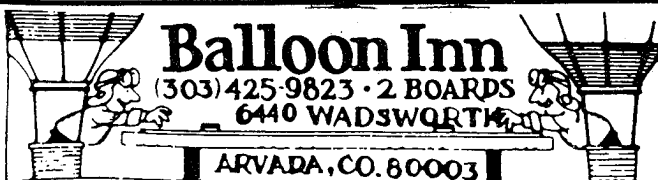
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## **Rick Missed** *(continued from Page 19)*



*Winners of the Draft Team event were (left to right): David Veasey, Bill Nichols, Eddie Guy, Captain Bill Melton, Steve Burkett and Betty Baumgardner.*

Second place went to David Williams' team of Jeff Williams, Rob Houchin, Eddie Woods, Terri Hyman, and Bob Houchin.

Saturday's Div. I bring partner event was won by Harvey Kidd and Bobby Williams, with Bill Melton and Bob Houchin in second, and Dave Williams and Bo

Hyman finishing third. In Div. II, Tommy McBurnett and Jack Snell were the winners, with David Veasey and J.K. Plyer taking second place, and Penny Mahar and Pam Lee in third.

"While this was a big tournament and a big success, there was one major disappointment," reports Bobby Williams. "Night after night, three scantily-clad, beautiful, young girls attended hoping to see Rick Gindt (Washington) whom they had heard would be participating (seems they had heard of his sexual prowess). They left weeping, but vowed to return to the tournament in February in hopes that Rick would overcome his fear of shooting against Texas and Oklahoma players.

"Many thanks to Bob and Cindy for a wonderful feast, to KK Rosa for keeping the bar flowing, and Elizabeth who waited on tables when she was not shooting good board. Thanks to Johnny Wayne for handling the boards and Jack Davis and Bill Wooldridge for the sales, Tammy Denson and Jeri Billard and Rudy Wedgeworth for handling the dollars. Special thanks to Sharon Huddleston for the bracket boards and special thanks to Tina Wade who did everything to keep the tournament rolling," Bobby said.

## **Hoosiers Earn Indiana State Champion Titles**

**By Pam Worsham**

1997 was the year of validation for the winners of the Indiana State Championships, held at Chances "R" in Muncie over the Thanksgiving weekend.

Bobby Voorhis proved he was "King" in the singles event, not only in Reno, but back home in Indiana, as he beat his doubles partner, Ricky Royal (second) and Bob Schounce (third) for the title. Fourth place went to Buddy Broka; fifth was Greg Massie, and rounding out sixth place in the field of 42 players was Ady Snyder.

The Massie brothers, Tom and Greg, proved they were no longer perennial bridesmaids by winning the doubles after placing second for the last three years. The second place team was Jim Long and Larry Creakbaum, followed by Steve Schuyler and Dave Vorndran in third. Fourth in the money were Terry Dowell and Jim DeWitt.

Ady Snyder proved that not only was she the best in the women's singles event, but that she could compete with anyone by placing in the open singles. Second was Cheryl Cockrill and third was Deb Voorhis, who celebrated her 40th birthday during the tournament.

The small but mighty Mary Brown proved that she was big enough to carry husband Larry to the title in the mixed doubles event. Second in the money field were Bobby and Deb Voorhis, followed by Terry Dowell and Pam Worsham in third.

Director Steve Hart noted that the tournament continues to grow each year and thanks all the players for their support. Steve and co-directors Bob and Marcia Brown kept the sales and matches running smoothly with none of the four boards idle for very long.

Chances "R" owners Bob and Karen Schounce and staff provided their usual great food and service. They look forward to hosting the 10th Anniversary tournament in 1998.

### **Apologies to Bobby and Darrol....**

No sooner had we collected National Hall of Fame honors in Reno when we made a major goof in journalism ethics, printing a "hearsay" report on the Pro Singles Championship finals between Bobby Voorhis and Darrol Nelson instead of checking it out. What we reported did happen in an earlier game, but in the final match, final game, the score was 12-14, Bobby's favor, Bobby's hammer. Darrol had a 1 on the board and Bobby had the choice of hitting and staying or outlagging, which he did - and won!

D & G

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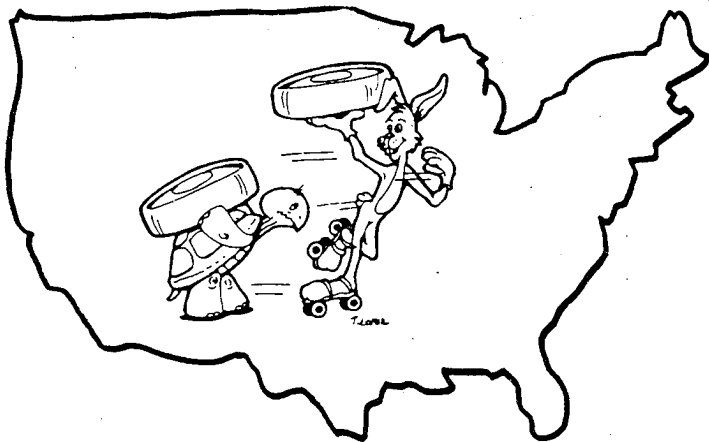
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