

The Board Talk

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August 1999

Southwest Open: "You've Come a Long Way, Baby!"

By George & Donna Wilber

- \$315,000 total pot!
- 253 Shufflers from 19 States + Canada
- Colorado's Ron Sosovec is 1999 MVP

Back in 1992, Alan Primrose, Dave Davidson, and Ron Huddleston sat around a table at the American Legion Post 73 in Del City, Oklahoma, with manager Don Crall. With its spacious facilities, it would be a good place for a shuffleboard tournament, they decided, but when? How about the 4th of July weekend? "I don't think so," said Ron. "That's a family holiday." Ron, an up-and-coming shooter but untested as far as running tournaments, got outvoted and the first Southwest Open was held July 2-5, 1992.

There were six events played on eight "junkie" boards, found in barns, sheds, back rooms, etc., refinished by Bill Melton with cradles built by master carpenter Don Crall. This first endeavor was called a "roaring success" attracting 80 players from seven states and total prize monies of \$23,570.

In 1993, The Board Talk joined the 2nd Annual Southwest Open with its 9th Annual Shufflers Reunion. That year, there were 10 Dynamo boards plus Don's two in-house boards, eight events, participants from 12 states and a total pot of nearly \$40,000.

Each year since then, the Southwest Open has grown to become, along with The Shuffleboard Federation's North American Championships, a top tournament of the year in terms of participation and prize money. The 1999 totals were 253 participants from 19 states and Canada, and a total payout of \$315,000 for events played on 27 boards.

There have been a number of reasons that the Southwest Open has become a "4th of July Tradition" for so many shufflers. First, host Don Crall was determined, since No. 1, that this would become the biggest and the best. He travelled to Las Vegas, Reno, Bourbon, to find out the "secret formula" for hosting a successful tournament. He also determined that the "front man," the director, should have -- not

just talent and willingness to spend countless hours before, during and after the event -- but "integrity," someone players across the U.S.A. would trust.

That person was Ron Huddleston (we should say *persons* because Ron says he could never do it without wife Sharon -- and everyone agrees). Under Ron's leadership, a number of good things happened. He insisted that the amateurs and beginning players become an integral part of the event while still catering to the pros, and he built a finely-tuned support staff that would work their buns off to ensure that players had fair and enjoyable competition. For the years he has invested, he earned the title of "Saint," so proclaimed by John McDermott, the only other person in the wall-to-wall shuffler-packed American Legion who knew what that investment really was. Ron has the unique ability to be tough ("If you're going to use cups for a spittoon, please dump them" and "Be here for the sale on time or you're out") and have his audience applaud.

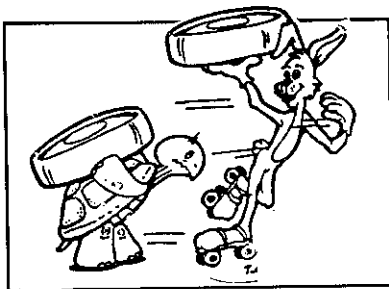
Niblett/Fleming Teams Tops in 4-Person Event

In the so-called "warm-up" event, there were 19 teams in Div. I and 24 in Div. II of the 4-person team competition (172 players!). Potential sponsors got the tournament started with a healthy \$51,000!



Div. I winners were Rick Niblett's team of Lenny Dell, Johnny Wayne Crawford and Whiz. Our apologies to Johnny Wayne and Whiz; the photos for the first and last events are not yet developed, but we didn't dare risk the wrath of Lenny by not putting the East Coast on the front page! See missing photos next month.

(continued on Page 6)



Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views from The World of Shuffleboard

Jerry Sabourin Calls it Quits

Due to the lack of cooperation from certain individual shuffleboard participants, it has become necessary for me to cancel all future activities scheduled at Shooter's. Since my operation, I no longer posses the energy necessary to withstand all the (unprofessional, destructive actions/attitudes) of a limited few shuffleboard people in the St. Louis metropolitan area and out-state Missouri.

The articles in the June 1999 issue of The Board Talk by Lorraine Bingham-Olson and Tre Cameron are minor compared to what has happened in the state of Missouri over the past several years. I am not a quitter, but neither am I a fool! I have learned in my lifetime that at some point it becomes necessary for an individual to cut their losses!

In the past several months, it has entered my mind to step down to these people's level of thinking in order to combat them and continue participating in the game of shuffleboard. In order to preserve my personal integrity, credibility and overall love for the game, I choose to retire completely as my alternative choice. The professional turns the reins completely over to the amateurs!

Teamwork?

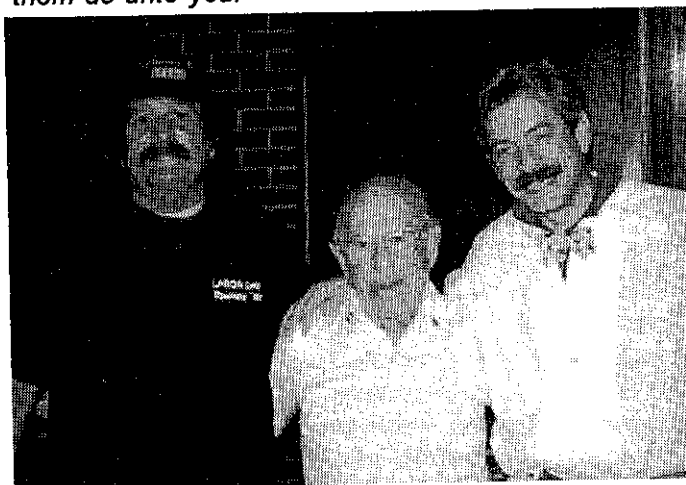
Jerry Sabourin, Shooter's, Hillsboro, Missouri

We know nothing about what problems you have been experiencing and prefer not to. However, we do know that the exit of Shooter's from the tournament scene will be a loss to a lot of players who have enjoyed your hospitality. We appreciate your faithful support of The Board Talk and wish you the very best in future endeavors. Readers: please note the change in Jerry's Directory ad offering equipment

--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!

and supplies. Those of you who have enjoyed events at Shooter's are encouraged to send a note of encouragement to Jerry: 1233 Tinhouse Rd., Hillsboro, MO 63050-4707. And to all members of the shuffleboard family, we encourage you to remember the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."



In June of 1999, Jerry Sabourin (left) and Dan Kelly (right) helped Hall of Famer Sol Lipkin at the grand opening of Dave and Buster's in St. Louis. This three-acre "kiddieland" offers four quality 22-foot regulation shuffleboard tables.

OKC Loses Favorite Player

James Kemble "Short" Edgman was killed in a car wreck on June 15, 1999. All shuffleboard players in Oklahoma City will miss his gravelly voice hollering out "Atta, Boy/Girl!" Or, when he had a tough shot, he would yell: "Rosa Lee, what cha want me to do now?" If someone made a good bump-up shot, he would throw his fist up and holler: "Howard Mouton shot!" If you were his partner and you made a good shot, he would yell: "Ima tolen you!" If he made a bad shot, he yelled out: "Say damn it for me, I don't cuss!"

Pete Humphrey always ordered a blackberry brandy or an Old Dirty Tennis Shoe for him and Short to drink a toast to shuffleboard or anything else that hadn't been toasted for awhile. They would toast anything and everything they could think of.

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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.

Joanie Millar Inducted into National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame

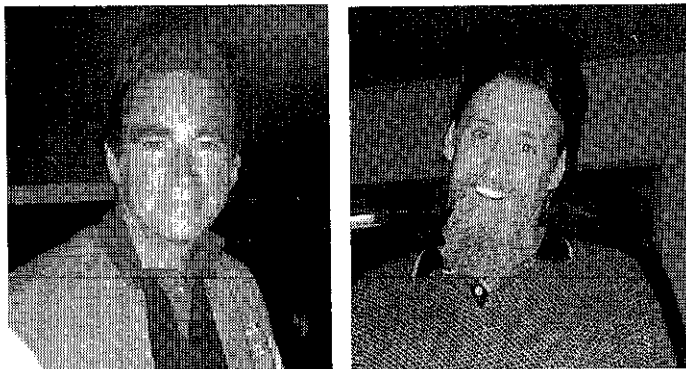
By Lorraine Burchynsky

Canadian and American players, friends, relatives and others gathered at Army, Navy & Airforce Unit #68, Vancouver, British Columbia, on June 5 for the induction of Joanie Millar into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

The tournament started off with an A-B-C draw on Wednesday, June 2. For most of the Canadians, this was the first time they had participated in such an event. There were great comments with many requesting to do this format again. Winners were Loren Lampley, Eric Kolsrud and Don Friesen. Taking second were Dick Doaks, Brian Burchynsky and Linda Harkness. The team of Jake Jacob, Harry Oda and Ollie Beaumont finished third.

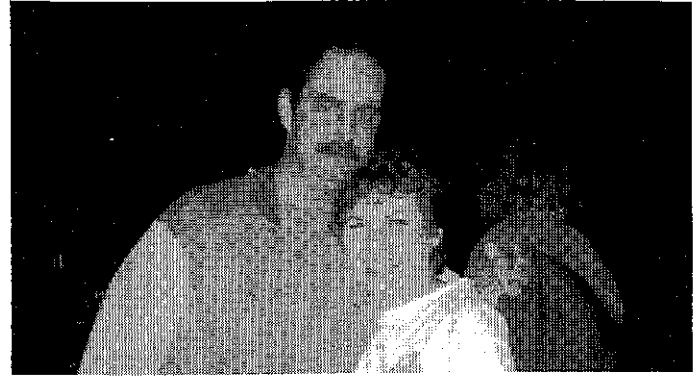
Thursday, June 3, was the draft team event and, once again, new to most of the Canadian players. There was some confusion at the start with the Canadian league sheets, but it wasn't long before the strategy was brewing and the competition got tougher. The event did not finish Thursday night and was continued on Sunday evening. It got too late to finish and the first and second place teams agreed to split the money. The winning teams were: Darrol Nelson and his teammates -- Desi Guches, Frank Mako, Bill Wonnacott, Eileen Elliott and Tony Lilly; and Glen Davidson's team of Don Stalsworth, Gordie Ritchie, Mike Billings, Trish Champagne and Ken Griggs.

Friday evening was the start of the Div. I and II open singles. There was great competition and lots of close games with the event finishing Saturday afternoon. Congratulations to the winners:

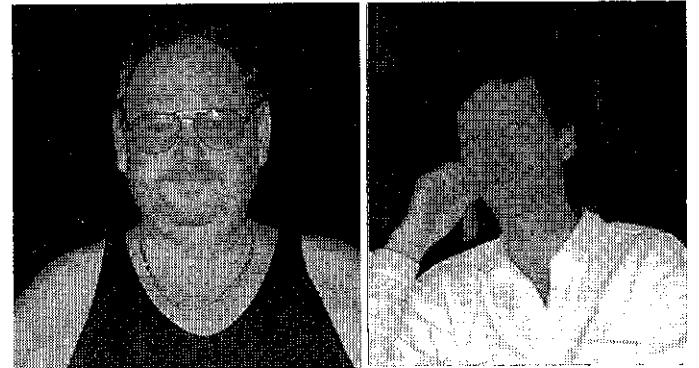


In the Div. I pro singles, Darrol Nelson (left), first; Loren Lampley (auctioneer), second....

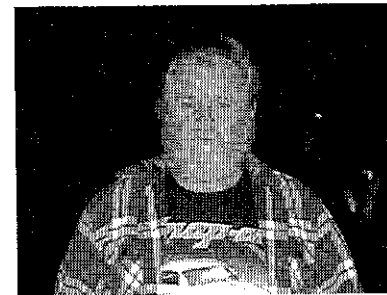
**Support your state and national
Shuffleboard Halls of Fame
with donations, input and
nominations.**



.....and John Fisher, third, rewarded with a hug from Pat Preymak.



In Div. II singles, Dino Mako (left) was first and tournament drawmaster Brian Burchynsky was second.



Don Stalsworth took third place in the Div. II singles.

More people arrived Saturday afternoon for the Hall of Fame festivities. All shuffleboard came to a halt at 4 p.m. to honor Joanie Millar.



Joanie Millar cuts her cake at ceremonies inducting her into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

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Upcoming Events Across the Nation

Indiana

TRUE ROUND ROBIN AT BOURBON AMERICAN LEGION, AUG. 20-21

The American Legion Post 424 in Bourbon will host a true round robin singles on Aug. 20-21. The sale is scheduled for noon on Friday with play immediately following. Entry fee is \$200 per player, plus a \$15 registration fee. The event will be limited to the first 20 PAID entries. **Entries will be accepted by mail only with check or money order made payable to the American Legion (none accepted before July 1).** Send to American Legion Post 424, 202 S. Main St., Bourbon, IN 46504, Att.: Bill Niswonger or Terry Dowell.

For information, call Terry at 219-353-1070, or Bill at 219-342-8100.

Washington

OPEN DOUBLES AT OLD EDISON INN, SEPT. 18-19

The Old Edison Inn, 583 Cain's Ct., Edison, in rural northwestern Washington, hosts its 5th Annual Open Doubles event on Sept. 18-19. There will be an A-B draw Friday night starting at 7 p.m. Entry fee for this event is \$20; at least four places will be paid. The format is single games to 15 and single elimination.

The bring partner event will follow the 11 a.m. sponsor sale on Saturday. Entry is \$50 per team, and the format is 2 out of 3, 15 point games, in the winner's bracket and single 17-point game in the loser's bracket.

Cajun-style seafood gumbo will be served to the shufflers and their guests on Saturday night, and various barbecue specials, including Friday night steaks, will be available in the Edison's brand-new beer garden, complete with horseshoe pits.

This is an Evergreen Shuffleboard Association points tournament. Previous winners read like a "Who's Who" of Northwest shuffleboard. Hosts Mini and Sandy hope to see all their old friends from around the region and make many new ones.

Some RV parking is available (electrical hook-ups only). For more information, call 360-766-6266.

**IT PAYS TO PROMOTE YOUR
EVENTS THROUGH THE PAGES OF
THE BOARD TALK!**

New York

LABOR DAY "SIZZLER" AT BALDWINVILLE MOOSE, SEPT. 2-5

The Baldwinsville Moose Lodge will again host a Labor Day shuffleboard tournament Thursday through Sunday, Sept. 2-5, at the lodge in Baldwinsville. Play will begin on four boards on Thursday night with round robins starting at 6:30. On Friday evening, Sept. 3, at 6 p.m., the open singles will be held with a \$20 entry fee. Saturday, the mixed doubles will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a \$40 per team entry. Saturday afternoon, the draw partner event will begin at 2 p.m. with a \$40 per team entry. Sunday, the bring partner will begin at 11 a.m., with a \$40 per team entry. The drawing and sponsor sale will start at the listed times for the beginning of each event and you must be present at the posted time to enter each event. Events will be single game, double elimination, 15 points (straight) played on four boards.

Lodging is available at many surrounding motels, but since it is State Fair Week in Syracuse, New York, reservations need to be made early.

For information, contact John Canino at 315-695-7025, or Rick Meyer at 315-451-5435.

ADIRONDACK OPEN, RIVERSIDE, KEESVILLE, SEPT. 10-12

The Riverside Tavern in Keesville, New York, will host the Adirondack Open on Sept. 10-12. There will be three events on the schedule. For information, call the tavern at 518-834-5953.

Oklahoma

BUD'S 4TH LABOR DAY TOURNEY, ACTION LOUNGE, BROKEN ARROW, SEPT. 3-5

Bud Hillburn will stage his 4th Annual Labor Day Tournament at the Action Lounge, Broken Arrow, on Sept. 3-5. A draw partner, \$20 per player entry, starts on Friday; you must be signed up and paid by 7 p.m. A handicapped bring partner event, \$50 per team, is on the agenda for Saturday. On Sunday, there will be a bring partner handicap sweetheart draw, \$40 per team. All events are single game, double elimination. A one-time \$7 registration fee will be charged.

Trophies will be awarded in all events and there will be a free food spread on Saturday.

For further information, call Bud at 918-258-1773.

12TH LABOR DAY TOURNEY, FULL HOUSE, WYNNEWOOD

The Full House, 111 W. Robert S. Kerr St., Wynnewood, will host its 12th Annual Labor Day Tournament on Sept. 2-6. Action will start on Thursday with a 4-person team event for Div. I (add to 1), \$50 entry, and Div. II (add to 10), \$25 entry. On Friday, there will be a sweetheart handicap draw, \$25 entry. Saturday's open draw handicap is \$25 for entry, and Sunday's open handicap singles is \$30 entry. On Monday, there will be a bring your own partner event, \$30 per person entry. All games will be handicapped except the team event. A one-time \$10 registration fee covers all events.

RV parking is available at the Wynnewood City Park, just seven blocks from the Full House. Nearby motels are also available.

For information, call Don or Pat Kinard at 405-665-2715.

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

Michigan

10TH SKIP'S/BOARD TALK FALL BASH, HOUGHTON LAKE, SEPT. 10-12

The 10th Annual Skip's/Board Talk Fall Bash will be held on Sept. 10-12 at Skip's Lounge, 8895 W. Houghton Lake Dr., Houghton Lake. There are three events on the schedule: a draw partner on Friday at 1 p.m. (no pros or 0's may draw each other), \$20 entry; an A-B-C draw (sign-up deadline 10 a.m. Saturday), \$20 per person entry, and an open singles on Sunday, \$40 entry. All events are single game, double elimination. A one-time \$5 registration fee will go to director/bracketeer Rob Kern.

For tournament information and/or to save your spot, call Board Talk George at 517-371-2538, and for lodging information in this vacation wonderland, call Skip, 517-422-5631.

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

***Is somebody looking over your shoulder?
Tell them to buy their own
BOARD TALK!***

Texas

LABOR DAY TEXAS OPEN, GOLD NUGGET, ARLINGTON, SEPT. 1-6

The Gold Nugget, 2602 W. Division, Arlington, will host the 1999 Labor Day Texas Open and induction of David Williams into the Texas Hall of Fame on Sept. 1-6.

A "warm-up" event on Wednesday will kick off the six days of action. It will be a 4-person team event, 2 out of 3, double elimination, with sale starting at 7 p.m. Entry fee for Div. I (add to 1) is \$50 per person and \$25 per person for Div. II (add to 10). On Thursday, the singles events will start at 5 p.m. For Div. I (2 out of 3, double elimination), entries will be \$200 for -1's, \$150 for 0's, \$100 for 1's, and \$50 for 2's. For Div. II (single game, double elimination), entries will be \$100 for 2's, \$50 for 3's, and \$25 for 4's.

On Friday, the draw partner events will start at 7 p.m. Entry for Div. I (-1's, 0's, 1's and 2's) is \$50, and for Div. II (2's, 3's, 4's and 5's) is \$25. No pros or 0's may draw in Div. I and no 2's may draw in Div. II. Both events are single game, double elimination.

The 6-person draft team event will be held on Saturday, \$50 per team entry, best 5 of 9. The doubles will start on Sunday at 1 p.m. Div. I (add to 0) is \$100 per person, 2 out of 3 in the winner's bracket and single game in the loser's bracket. In Div. II (add to 5), entry is \$40 per person, single game, double elimination.

On Monday, Labor Day, there will be an open singles for 1's and above, \$50 entry, entry deadline at noon, single game, double elimination.

A one-time \$20 registration fee covers all events.

Tournament directors are Bobby Williams, 817-265-7045; David Williams, 817-451-9583; and Jerry Billard, 918-688-7260.

Use the registration form that was in last month's Board Talk to save your spot and order your personalized sponsor shirt.

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

We have two Omaha, Nebraska, shuffleboard sites to add to your current listing:

My Way Lounge, 2425 N. 84th St., Omaha;
phone 402-393-9890

JC's Bar, 4971 Q St., Omaha

Please add these shuffleboard locations to your 1999 listing and in your travels, stop and play a game or two and thank them for their support of shuffleboard.

Some New Faces Emerge in SW Open Winners' Circle

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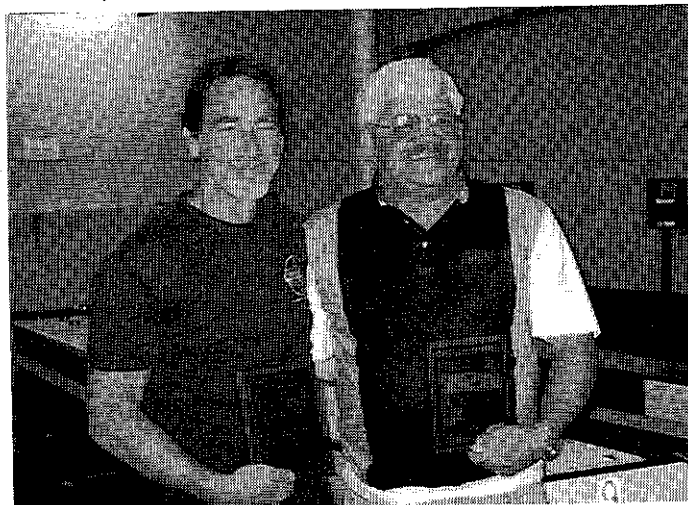
John McDermott's team of Larry Creakbaum, Chris Passariello and Ron Monville took second place honors in Div. I. Third place went to Loren Lampley's team of John Fisher, Grant Manning and Russ (The Colonel) Miller.

For the Div. II 4-person team event, Dave Fleming took a break from his "official" tournament duties to lead his team of Alan Cobb, Gary Eichlor and Weldon Lambert to first place. Taking second was the team consisting of Danny Green, Donny Garner, Desi Guches and Shane Summers. Finishing third were Mahlon and Linda Nobles, Carol Audett and Joyce Holmes. Taking fourth and final money spot were U.J. and Wanda West, Ruth Atherton and Dee Downey.

Nelson/Melton Firsts in Open/Amateur Singles

There were 38 entries in the open singles (2 out of 3 double elimination) and 102 in the amateur singles (single game, double elimination).

With the top pros in the nation, from East to West and parts in between, entered in the open singles, it was a spectator's pleasure to watch the skill and determination the players invested to claim a share of the \$42,800 pot. In the end, it was East versus West as Rick Niblett of Maryland and Darrol Nelson of Oregon battled for top honors. With the deciding match scheduled just before the draw partner sale on Wednesday morning, there was an appreciative crowd on hand to hail the two warriors. Unless you had a monetary investment in the outcome, there was really no sentimental favorite because both men display a professional demeanor on and off the boards that demands respect. The major difference between the two is that Darrol is a veteran and Rick has only earned pro status in the past year.

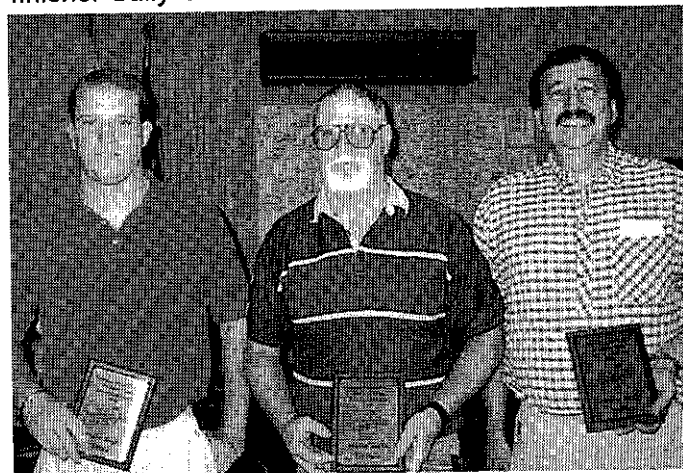


East Meets West: Darrol Nelson of Oregon, the 1999 open singles champ, congratulates his worthy opponent, Rick Niblett of Maryland.

Other top winners were Bobby Voorhis, Indiana, No. 3; and Dan Hitt, Washington, No. 4.

Diana Hagen and Bobby Williams of Texas finished fifth and sixth, with John McDermott of Michigan and John Fisher of Washington in seventh and eighth.

The amateur singles was open to 1's through 4's and drew 102 players vying for a total pot of \$37,220. With that many competitors, there is bound to be a few unknowns. One of the "knowns" certainly was Mitch Melton of the famous Melton Clan in Davis, Oklahoma. He didn't disappoint his backers as he took top honors. A mild surprise was Tom Galvin of Nebraska, second place finisher who sold for a modest \$350. The really big surprise was Ron Sosovec of Colorado who finished third. Few in the big crowd knew him and those who did evidently didn't have faith in his ability. He bought himself for the minimum bid of \$100 and got \$3,000 in return (want to bet he'll be back and go for more?). Another surprise (at least to the men) was fourth place finisher Sally Goff of Oklahoma.



The Top Three in the Amateur Singles were (left to right): Mitch Melton, Oklahoma; Tom Galvin, Nebraska; and Ron Sosovec, Colorado.

Other finishers were: Dino Fleming and Don Stallsworth, 5th and 6th; Dennis Bird and Mary Koteras, 7th and 8th; Glen Ingram and Lenny Webster, 9th and 10th; Tommy McBurnett and Deb Voorhis, 11th and 12th.

Melton/Gardner, Nobles/Womble Win Div. I and II Draw Partner Events

There were 31 teams in Div. I draw partners, and 43 teams in Div. II, with a combined pot of over \$51,000.

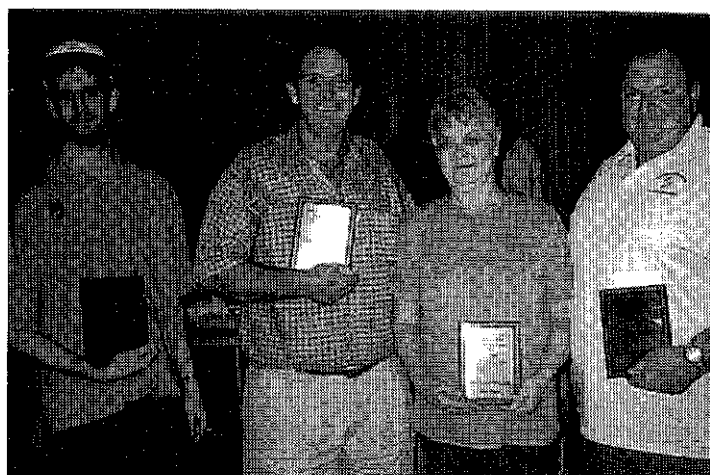
Finishing first in Div. I was Billy Melton and Phil Gardner, with Dave Williams and Don Valk taking second place honors. Lenny Dell and Greg Broka took third place, and Darrol Nelson and Mike Melton

finished fourth. Tied for 5th and 6th were Cliff Goff and Rena Fleming, Ken Storck and Steve Burkett.



First and second place finishers in Div. I draw: Billy Melton and Phil Gardner (right), 1st; Don Valk and David Williams, 2nd.

It was a long and grueling battle in the Div. II draw and the top contenders didn't finish their final match until the next morning, which gave them an appreciative audience.

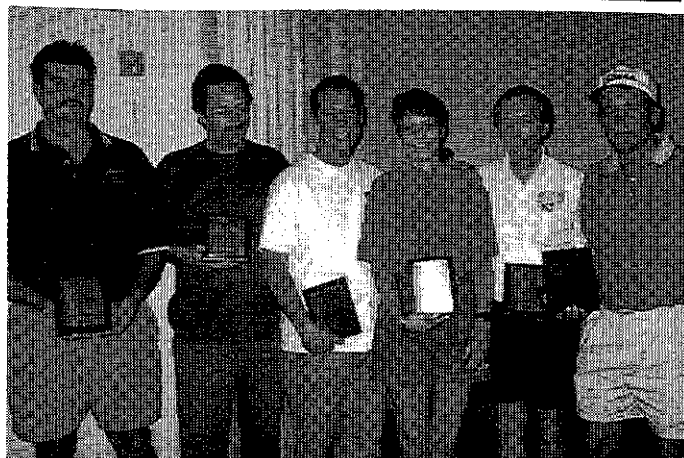


In the end, it was the team of Jeff Womble and Mahlon Nobles who prevailed over Char Rahn and Rick Pittman.

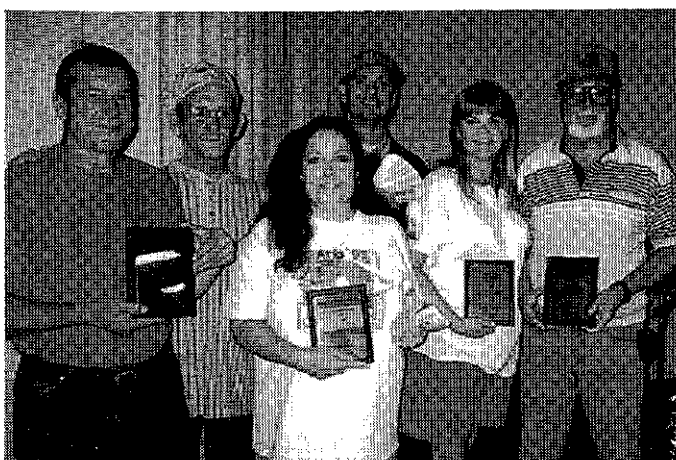
Others in the money were: Gilbert Baird and George Best, 3rd; Alan Cobb and Danny Norris, 4th; Tommy McBurnett and David Veasey, Billy Poole and Kim Andrews, 5th and 6th; Ruthie Atherton and Carol Audett, Ron Sosovec and Jason Webb, 7th and 8th.

Bobby Williams Crew Tops in Draft Team Event

There were 26 teams (156 players) in the popular draft team event vying for a share of the \$42,700 pot. When the captains went behind closed doors to go through the draft process, evidently Bobby Williams made the smartest choices (or was it his leadership skills?) because it was his team that took top honors, followed by Rena Fleming, whose valiant team members fought to the finish.



Bobby Williams (center) celebrates first place honors with teammates Kevin Larkin, Bill Nichols, Jay Mayhall, Joyce Holmes and Jim Payne.



Rena Fleming (front and center) tells her teammates Tom Galvin, Weldon Lambert, Linda Nobles, Brent Walton and Jim Kosiske: "You did good!"

Other winners were: No. 3 -- Diana Hagen's team of Grant Manning, Annie Walker, Rick Pittman, Mike Piper and Joyce Pelton; No. 4 -- Morey Balins team of Cliff Goff, Ron Sosovec, Char Waugaman, Kevin Kelly and Jason Webb; No. 5 and 6 -- Lenny Dell's team of Greg Broka, Jeff Womble, Ray Johnston, Leon Black and Paul Obermiller, and Darrol Nelson's team of Desi Guches, Kenny Hawkes, Gordie Smith, Mike Halstead and Frank Edelen; No. 7 and 8 -- Rick Jones' team of Dino Fleming, Pat Gainey, Pete Pittse, Connie McCall and Walter Smith, and Johnny Wayne Crawford's team of Flynt Preston, Dave Fleming, Danny Norris, Tighe Levan and Steve Lindsey.

Williams/Melton No. 1 in Div. I Bring Partner

There were 27 teams and a pot of \$28,950 in the Div. I bring partner event. Some in the huge gallery were confused when the usual partners didn't team up. The reason was the entries had to be a handicap total of 0 or more. Consequently, pro David Williams could not team up with pro Bill Melton. However, he could and did team up with Bill's son, Mitch, a 1-rated

(continued on next page)

SW Open *(continued from Page 7)*

player. A good choice as this team went all the way to take top honors. Second place went to John McDermott and Greg Broka, with Dan Hitt and Russ Miller in third, and the "dark horse" team (as far as bidders were concerned) of Chuch Muehlhauser and Harvey Walden in fourth place.

Mike Piper Takes 1st in 2's Singles

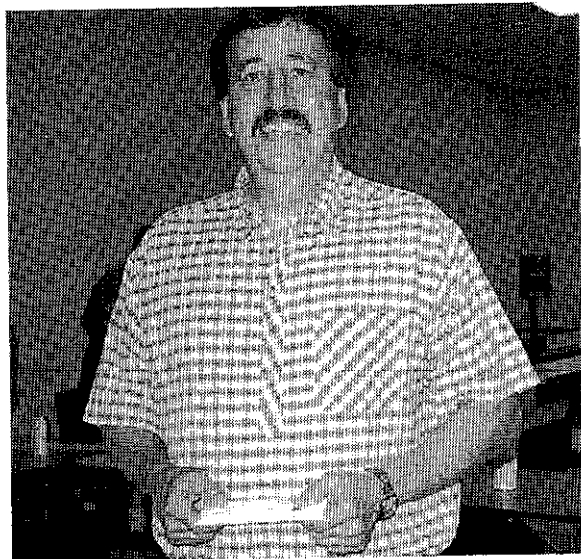
There were 44 players signed up for the 2's singles event and a total pot of over \$20,000. Top honors went to a last minute sign-up, Mike Piper of Arizona. Here's that name again -- Ron Sosovec -- took second place. Mahlon Nobles was third, with Gerald Wood in fourth spot. Others in the money were: Linda Nobles and Jeff Womble, 5th and 6th; Rick Pittman and Wally Dan, 7th and 8th.

Paul Obermiller Tops in 3's & 4's Singles

Forty-six 3 and 4-rated players participated in this event with Paul Obermiller taking first place. Jerry Davenport was No. 2 finisher, with Don Neaves in third, and Jim Payne is fourth place. Other finishers were Leon Black and Tighe Levan, 5th and 6th; Gene (Snuffy) Smith and Donny Wilkerson, 7th and 8th.

(Editor's Note: Photos of the first and last day's events will be published in the next issue.)

Fifteen round robins were held whenever boards were available, netting another \$16,450.



The 1999 Southwest Open MVP was Ron Sosovec from Colorado. He earned a round-trip airfare to Reno in October for the North American Championships, courtesy of Aspen Travel in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and a specially-designed weight case, courtesy of Fritz Broka, Bourbon, Indiana.

"Hot" News!

More Money for Top Point-Earners

This news is so new that even the winners don't know about it! There was such a super pot for the Southwest Open this year that probably most people forgot about the \$1500 added for those who earned points for finishes in eight of the events. Everyone who attended the tournament noted that Sharon Huddleston has one speed -- **FAST!** But even she could not determine the winners before the big event was completed. So, pay attention, folks: here are the players who earned an extra \$300....

Pro Division: (split) David Williams and Darrol Nelson

O's: Rena Fleming (repeat from last year)

1's: Greg Broka

2's: Ron Sosovec (in addition to his MVP prizes)

3's: Jim Payne

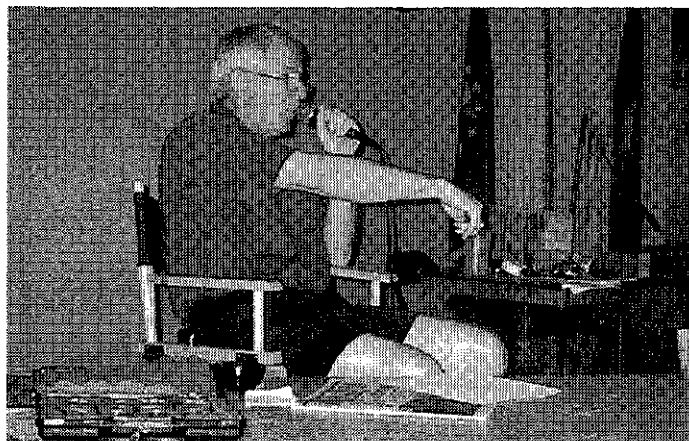
The money will be awarded to recipients at an upcoming tournament, i.e., Texas Open or North American Championships.

A Finely-Tuned Team Makes it Look Easy....

People like the Southwest Open because it runs like clockwork, everything on time, no "down time" or vacant boards, big money, nice facilities, good people. They may think that "Saint" Ron Huddleston and his talented crew have it down to a science with no real hard work involved anymore. Such is not the case, as any director will tell you! The hours invested before, during and after such an event is so astronomical that no one has had time to figure it out! Since Ron started out as an assistant director in 1992 and was "upgraded" to a full-fledged director the next year and ever since, he's learned by trial and error, and by listening to the players. He gives top credit for his success to wife Sharon (of course!) and to two fellow Okies, Bill Melton and Ron Blalock who have served as his "sounding board" and support system throughout the years.

Always ready to share his success, Ron took time to publicly acknowledge his team: Sharon and Kathy Yingst for the bookwork and tremendous task of handling capably over \$300,000 in prize money, auctioneer Jack Davis who finally lost his voice after selling 150 teams at one sitting; Johnny Wayne Crawford, spotter and board setter-upper who spent an entire week before the tournament getting those boards ready; Dave Fleming, spotter and "do whatever needs doing" expert; and Rena Fleming,

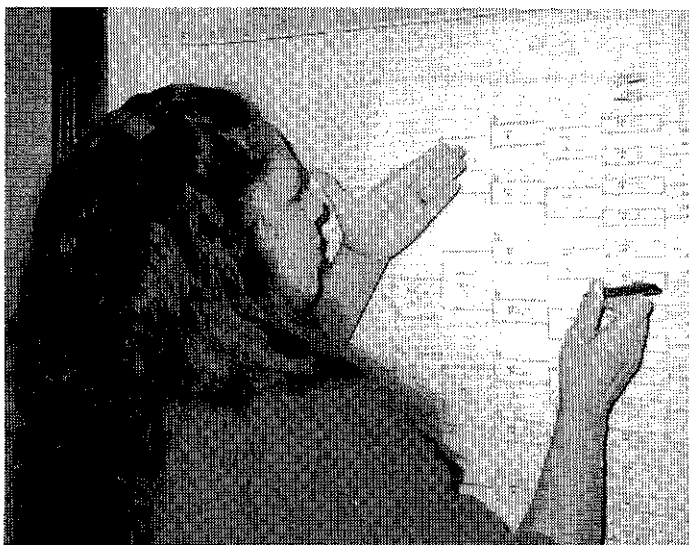
bracketeer, the only member of the team to be locked in the closet while she does her thing. That's for privacy and protection from anxious and curious participants and only after the drawings have been done on stage with the bingo balls in front of God and everybody.



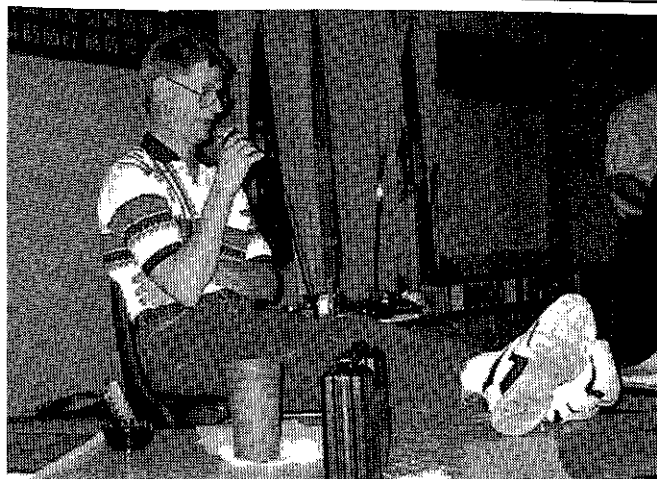
Director Ron also thanked The Shuffleboard Federation for supplying 40 buckets of wax for the tournament, and all participants for "paying attention" and cooperating.



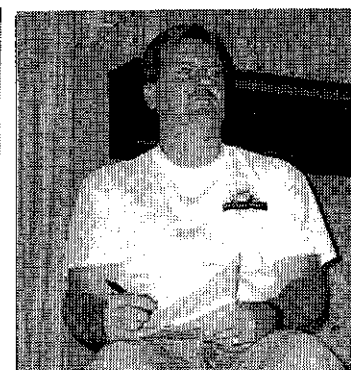
Sharon Huddleston and Kathy Yingst at work.



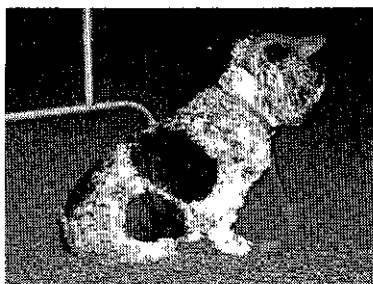
Rena Fleming, locked in the closet to do her thing.



The talented auctioneer Jack Davis at work.



With the help of spotters Johnny Wayne Crawford (left) and Dave Fleming.

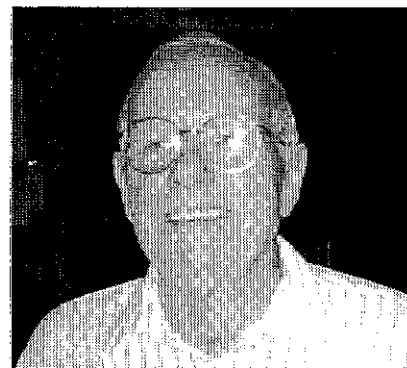


And on stage to make sure everyone does their job is the ever-present Maggie Huddleston.

Behind the Scenes....

With Ron and crew taking center stage, American Legion Post 73 host Don Crall, thankful that the tornado that ripped through Oklahoma City missed his facility, heads up the behind-the-scenes crew.

Make sure the air-conditioning and the smoke-eaters work, arrange the free barbecue chicken and fish (with help from Dino Fleming) buffet, see that the 5-acre park surrounding the Legion is ready for motor homes and tenters. Stock the bar and kitchen.

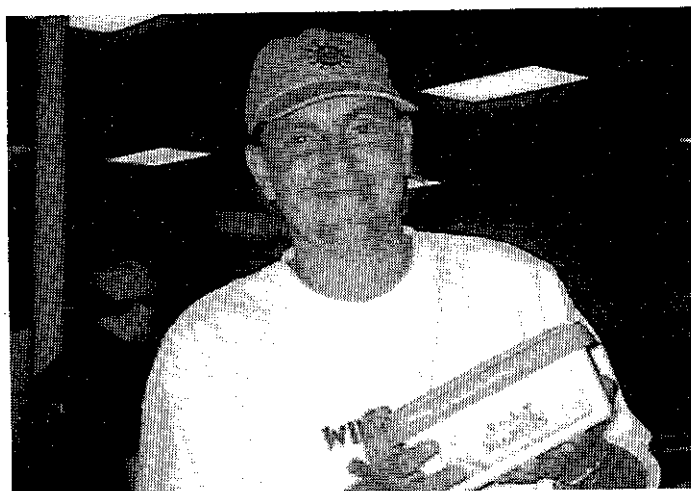


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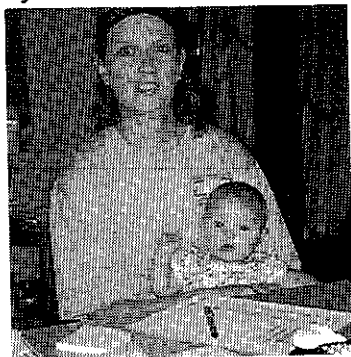


The American Legion Post 73 support staff: Bennie Frensley, Debbie Allinder, Eileen Stremlow, Norm Allinder, Coretta West and Verda Rollins. They thanked participants for their patience and generosity and look forward to seeing them again next year.

On the Sidelines.....

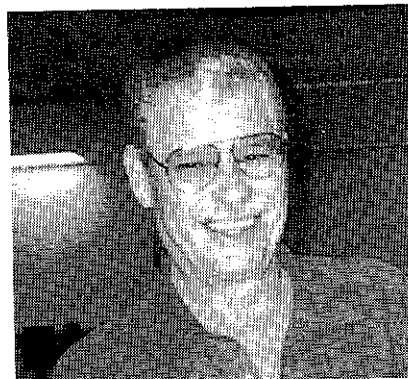
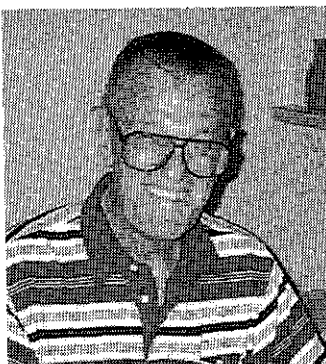


A runner-up to Don Stallsworth's Velveeta cheese box as a weight case was a baby wipes box carried by Brent Walton of Oklahoma City.



His daughter, Lindsey Marie, stopped by to check out her baby wipes box and to make sure Kathy Yingst was counting the money right.

Ray Boyett of the Florida Table Shuffleboard Association signed up 30 subscribers for The Board Talk! He'll be back for the same mission at Reno.



Milford Parker, No. 1 sponsor bidder, got scared when a mock auction in the 3's and 4's singles sent his sale soaring to a hefty \$3,500!

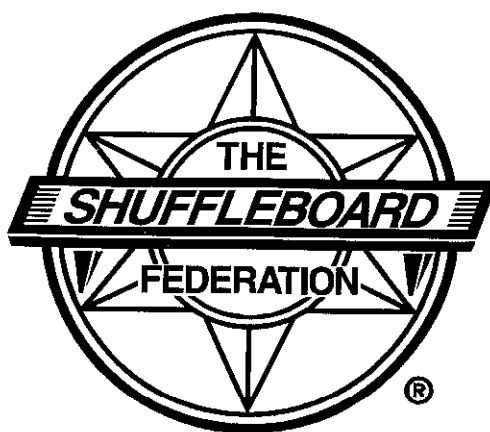
Pete Humphrey, owner of the Bricktown Central Plaza (Ramada Inn), who offered rooms to SW Open players for \$25 a night, holds bi-weekly tournaments in his lounge. "Ex-Virgin" Sue Lewis is the director.



Viewpoint from First-Timers....

We just returned from the Southwest Open in Oklahoma. We congratulate tournament director Roy Huddleston and his assistants for managing a great 4th of July tournament. This was our first time in attendance and we were very impressed. Events started on time and all events, including auctions and constant action draw partner tourneys, were efficiently run. Players from many states were there and we were able to see old friends and make new ones. **This tournament should be on all shuffleboard players "must go to" list.**

Jerry & Sara Siebert, Lansing, Michigan



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Joanie Inducted *(cont. from Page 3)*

The induction ceremonies began with Mike Thorpe welcoming everyone and presenting special achievement plaques.



Receiving plaques for "Outstanding Achievement for Dedication and Commitment to Our Game" were (from left): Gordie Smith, Bill Weir, Brian Burchynsky, Marg Okum and Lorraine Burchynsky.

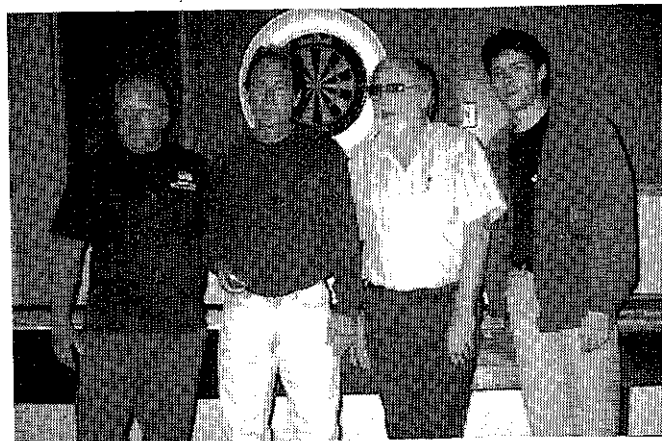
Mike then spoke of Joanie's three "firsts" to her credit: (1) the first person to sing both the Canadian and American anthems at a Hall of Fame tournament; (2) the first Canadian inducted into the National Hall of Fame; and (3) the first woman inductee.

The microphone was passed to Frank Mako who spoke on the revitalization of the Longview tournament -- watch for notices. Brian Burchynsky, president of the Canadian Shuffleboard Congress, spoke of Joanie and the many fun times, her camaraderie, dedication to the game, entertainer through Canada and the United States with her "No Florum" song. He thanked Joanie for being a good friend, great partner, and our ambassador to shuffleboard.

Glen Davidson, chairman of the National Hall of Fame, then spoke of how individuals are inducted and how Joanie was a well-deserving candidate. He reaffirmed Joanie being the first Canadian and woman inducted and read off the names of the 15 previous inductees. Joanie then sang "Moments to Remember" while pictures of Joanie from a little girl to her many special moments in shuffleboard played on the TV monitor. Glen presented Joanie with her National Hall of Fame plaque and Shufflers' Elite Award, which is a miniature shuffleboard made out of wood. Joanie took over the microphone and thanked everyone for making this day very special to her; she thanked all her partners over the years and friendships she cherishes. Everyone then stood, applauded and an assembly line began with each person congratulating Joanie and giving her a hug. The ceremonies were followed by a fantastic cold buffet dinner put on by the B.C. Shuffleboard Association, Rio Meats and many other individuals

and music by Mike Daniels of CISL Radio sponsored by Eagle Enterprises and Eagle Electronics.

Saturday evening and Sunday was the Div. I and Div. II open doubles. Once again, there were many close matches in both divisions.

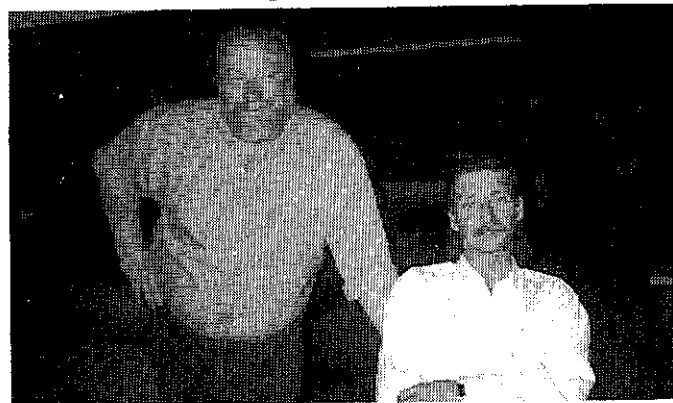


Darrol Nelson and Glen Davidson (center) were winners of the Div. I doubles. Desi Guches (left) and Nick Billings (right) finished second.



John Martin (left) and Marvin Wilbur took third place in Div. I doubles.

The Mako Brothers, Frank and Dino, took top honors in the Div. II doubles.



Canadians Joe Burry and Brian Burchynsky took second place.

(continued on Page 14)

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Joanie Inducted *(cont. from Page 12)*

Mike Billings and Gordie Smith came in third.

Many thanks to: Tournament Director Brian Burchynsky and his assistants Lorraine, Paula and Crystal, and helpers Marg, Joanie and Theresa; Gordie Smith and his helpers for the set-up of the shuffleboards, to all those individuals who contributed food dishes for the Hall of Fame buffet; to Loren Lampley for his expertise with the sales; and to ANAF #68 and their members for their support.

The Canadians are looking forward to the return of the American players and hopefully many more for our annual Crazy Canucks tournament being held Aug. 12-15, also at A.N.A.F. #68.

Viewpoints on the Hall of Fame Tournament

From Marg Okum

Our Hall of Fame Tournament was an event that no one here will ever forget!

Glen Davidson, Hall of Fame chairman, and Billy Powell were our first out-of-town arrivals on Monday. We put Glen to work right away by asking him to spare in our Monday Seniors Shuffleboard League. He accepted, which in turn kept him at the end of a shuffleboard all week. Being the nice guy he is, he never turned us down when needed. Much thanks, Glen.

From Monday on, the board players started arriving, friends from our Crazy Canuck tournaments and some new ones as well. First time for Paulette McKinney, John Fisher, Dino Mako, and I hope not the last time to see them. Dick Doak and Bill Powell, back again after a few years of absence -- both of you, welcome back. Desi Guches also, wearing sandals as reported by Don Stalsworth. Desi kept us well entertained with his dancing at the end of the boards.

"The Colonel" Russ Miller, the shuffleboard diplomat: thank you for my pep talk, Russ! I needed it. Frank Mako, John Martin, Mike Thorpe who didn't get here until Saturday due to graduation ceremonies. Marvin Wilbur was also a first time participant. Mike Kinney, Loren Lampley, Jack Jacobs from Victoria, Canada, Darrol Nelson, who everyone in the club can't wait to watch play. Every day I was asked: "Is he here yet?" Dave Arndt, always gracious. If I missed anyone, sorry, but it was so nice to see you all again.

We had a good turnout of our Canadian players also: Joanie Millar, Darlene Docile, Teresa Cartwright, Lorraine Burchynsky, Gord Smith, Joe Burry, Brian Burchynsky, Gord Ritchie, Harry Oda, Nick and Mike Billings, Eric Kolsrud, just to mention a few.

We all had great fun on Thursday night in the draw team event, with Div. I players being captains and filling their teams with Div. II and III players. The highlight for me was watching the faces of the American captains trying to select unknown to them Canadian players. It was a hoot!

Keeping Joanie on an even keel as Saturday drew closer was an accomplishment on everyone's part. What a great lady she is, and has made us very proud to be part of her life and her accomplishments. It was a beautiful ceremony on Saturday. With no one in the club ever having witnessed an induction before, it was quite an experience. The parade of men in her life, as she called them, was awesome. These men were her shuffleboard partners over the years, Canadian and American alike. Quite a list!

It was with great surprise during the ceremonies that my name was called. When I went to see why I was needed, I was presented with a Hall of Fame Achievement Award. I knew Brian and Lorraine were getting one, which they so richly deserve, but when they also included Gordie Smith, Bill Wier and myself I was speechless (hard to believe by some people, but true). No words could describe my feelings at that moment. Thank you so much to all for a special time in my life.

I would like to give special thanks to my pal, Loren Lampley, for being our auctioneer (promised him a drum for next time). Thanks to our draw master Brian Burchynsky and Gordie Smith with the boards, and The Shuffleboard Federation for giving us everything Gordie needs to do such a great job. Thanks to the B.C. Shuffleboard Association and all the ladies who helped make our buffet a success. Lorraine, in her report, thanked all the helpers by name. To all of you my added thanks. Without all these people, this kind of event couldn't take place. They're called volunteers. You all have a special place in my heart.

To Glen Davidson and the Hall of Fame, Frank Mako and Mike Thorpe, Russ Miller from the Pacific Northwest, and anyone else, thanks so very much. See you all in August for the Crazy Canucks Tournament.

Crazy Canucks Tournament

AUGUST 12-15

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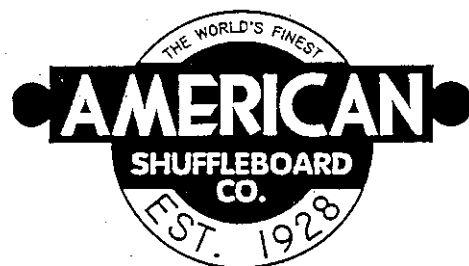
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2nd Annual Texas Grand Slam is Big Hit!

By Greg Hixson

The 2nd Annual Texas Grand Slam, held at Harbor Point Club and Grill, Richardson, Texas, May 27-30, was four days of good shuffleboard with 90 players, seven events and over \$28,000 in prize money. The opening events were the singles -- Semi-Pro (1's and 2's) and Division II (3's, 4's and 5's).



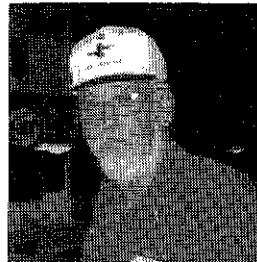
In the Semi-Pro Division, Carlos Guzman rose to top honors. He receives his plaque from host Greg Hixson.



Mahlon Nobles (left) took second place, with Mitch Melton (right) in third. Vaughn Chavoya finished fourth.



Michael (Todd) Bower, a newcomer to the tournament scene, stepped right up and took first place in Division II. The happy winner receives congratulations from Greg.



Mahlon Moore took second in the Div. II singles and Connie McCormack took home third place honors.

On Friday the draw partner event began with 15 teams competing in the Pro Am and nine teams in Division II; oops! make that 10 teams. Big D and Russell Dotson drove in from Houston, arriving after the teams had been drawn, but with unanimous consent, the team of Big B and Russell joined the roster.

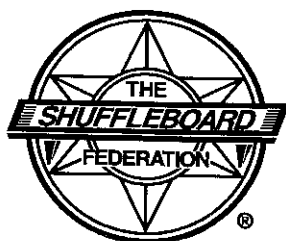


Billy Melton (right) and Mike Renick shuffled their way straight through to top honors in the Pro Am.

Flynt Preston (right) and Bill Nichols (Whiz) took second place.



First place in Division II was taken by the team of Jerry Boyd and Kory Hungerford.



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Pro Division	Rating between -.01 and -1.50	Pro/Am Draft Team Event, Pro Singles, Pro Doubles, Crazy Eights and Deuces Wild®.
Division I	Rating between 0.00 and 1.49	Pro/Am Draft Team Event, Division I Singles, Division I Doubles, Amateur Team Event & Deuces Wild®.
Division II	Rating between 1.50 and 2.49	Pro/Am Draft Team Event, Division II Open or Ladies Singles, Division II Doubles, Amateur Team Event & Deuces Wild®.
Division III	Rating between 2.50 and 5.00	Pro/Am Draft Team Event, Division III Open or Ladies Singles, Division III Doubles, Amateur Team Event & Deuces Wild®.

EVENT INFORMATION - MORE DETAILS ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE

Event	Entry Fee	Who Can Play	Starts	Finishes	Limit
Pro/Am Draft Team	\$50.00 per player	Everybody	Sunday, October 17	Monday	192 players
Division I Doubles	\$75.00 per player	0.00 to 5.00	Tuesday, October 19	Tuesday	32 teams
Division II Doubles	\$50.00 per player	1.50 to 5.00	Tuesday, October 19	Tuesday	48 teams
Division III Doubles	\$30.00 per player	2.50 to 5.00	Tuesday, October 19	Tuesday	40 teams
Pro Doubles	\$100.00 per player	-1.50 to 5.00	Tuesday, October 19	Wednesday	32 teams
Division I Singles	\$75.00 per player	0.00 to 5.00	Wednesday, October 20	Thursday	48 players
Division II Singles	\$50.00 per player	1.50 to 5.00	Wednesday, October 20	Thursday	64 players
Division III Singles	\$30.00 per player	2.50 to 5.00	Wednesday, October 20	Thursday	64 players
Ladies Singles	\$30.00 per player	1.50 to 5.00	Wednesday, October 20	Thursday	40 players
Crazy Eights	\$50.00 per player	-0.01 to -1.50	Thursday, October 21	Thursday	40 players
Amateur Team Event	\$50.00 per player	0.00 to 5.00	Thursday, October 21	Saturday/Sunday	32 teams
Pro Singles	\$200.00 or \$300.00	-1.50 to 5.00	Thursday, October 21	Saturday/Sunday	32 players
Legends Draw	\$50.00 per player	0.00 to 5.00	Saturday, October 23	Sunday	48 players
Deuces Wild®	\$25.00 per player	Everybody	Sunday, October 24	Sunday	128 players

- All participants *must* be registered guests of the Sands Regency Hotel Casino. Room rates are \$53.41, including tax, maximum of two players per room. Room/airfare packages are allowed, as long as you stay at the Sands Regency. To make room reservations, please call the Sands Regency Hotel Casino at 800-648-3553 and tell them your group code number is SHU1015.
- Entries for each event will be accepted until that event is full, or until the day prior to that event, whichever comes first. Entries postmarked after September 15 are subject to a \$5.00 penalty for registration, and for each event entered.
- More information is available on the tournament web site - www.shuffleboardfederation.com/shuffleboard/1999nasc.html - or by contacting us at 800-380-3033, or 21476 Lujon Court, Northville, Michigan 48167.

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 3 -- DRAW PARTNERS

HANDICAP, \$20 entry, *Single game, double elimination.*

Entries must be in by 7 p.m.



SATURDAY, SEPT. 4 -- BRING PARTNER

HANDICAP, \$50 per team entry, *Bowers 1997 shuffle board players' handicap rating system will be used. Single game, double elimination.*



SUNDAY, SEPT. 5 -- BRING PARTNER

HANDICAP SWEETHEART DRAW, \$40 per team entry. *Single game, double elimination.*

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12th Annual Labor Day Tournament SEPTEMBER 2-6

- Thursday, Sept. 2, 7 p.m.: **FOUR PERSON TEAM EVENT**
Div. I (add to 1), \$50 entry; Div. II (add to 10), \$25 entry
- Friday, Sept. 3, 6 p.m.: **SWEETHEART HANDICAP DRAW**
\$25 entry
- Saturday, Sept. 4, 5 p.m.: **OPEN DRAW HANDICAP**
\$25 entry
- Sunday, Sept. 5, 12 noon: **OPEN HANDICAP SINGLES**
\$30 entry
- Monday, Sept. 6, 10 a.m.: **BRING YOUR OWN PARTNER**
\$30 per person entry

All games will be handicapped except team event. Negative spot, maximum 4 points.

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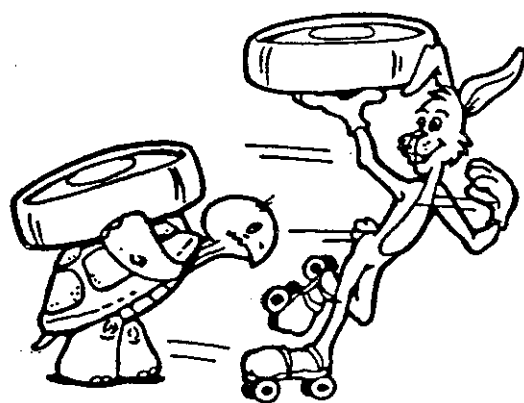
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SEPTEMBER 10-12

☞ **ROUND ROBINS THURSDAY NIGHT!**

☞ **Draw Partner*, Friday, \$20 per person entry**

**No Pros and 0's may draw each other. Sponsor Sale at 1 p.m., with play immediately following (we want to be done by 9 p.m. to free up boards for late arrivals so, depending on entries, may be mark 4, play to 15). Single game, double elimination.*

☞ **A-B-C Draw, Saturday, \$20 per player**

*(Each 3-person team will have an A, B, and C player. "A" players will serve as captains.)
YOU MUST BE SIGNED UP AND PAID BY 10 A.M. (NO EXCEPTIONS!) Sale at 11 a.m.,
with play immediately following. Single game, double elimination.*

☞ **Open Singles, Sunday, \$40 per player**

*Sale at noon sharp, with play immediately following. Depending upon number of entries,
may be mark 4, play to 15. Single game, double elimination.*

-A one-time \$5 registration fee will go to director/bracketeer Rob Kern.-

.....
: For tournament information and/or to save your spot, :
: Call George at The Board Talk, 517-371-2538 :
: For lodging recommendations, call Skip, 517-422-5631 :
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"In the heart of Michigan's Vacation Wonderland"

Doug Paben and Todd Bower took second in the Div. II draw.

While we finished the round robins and shufflers consumed their fare (Ronnie Moore and gang said they probably ordered at least one of everything on the menu), the sale for the Div. I and II bring partner teams got underway. When the preliminary business was done, the teams went to their assigned boards and the fun began.

Ken (Doc) Strong and Jeri Billard were victorious in Div. I. Second place went to Mike Taylor and Randy Rogers.



Harbor Point regulars swept Div. II with George Leigh and Chris Smith taking top honors.

Morris Moss (Moss) and Whiz took second place, with Mike Renick and Pam Lee in third place.

Sunday morning presented a dilemma....get that extra hour of sleep or go for the free breakfast buffet. Let's just say, the "latecomers" went hungry...After counting noses, we realized there were not enough teams for the scheduled 4-person bring team, but everyone wasn't ready to go home. So we started signing up players for a handicapped blind draw. Nineteen teams were sold, the boards readied, and the action began.

Good shooting, sound strategy, and pure stamina saw George Leigh and Don Roper take first, Mahlon Nobles and Jorge Galben, second; Kim Andrews and Pat Counigan, third; and Greg Hixson and Kimberly Smith, fourth.

A special thanks to the staff at Harbor Point for their great, tireless service; to Jack Davis for his superior auctioneering skills, and to all the participants for making this event so successful. It's comments like: "This has been the smoothest run tournament I've ever been to, so why should I go anywhere else?" (Johnny Skipworth) that made it all worthwhile.

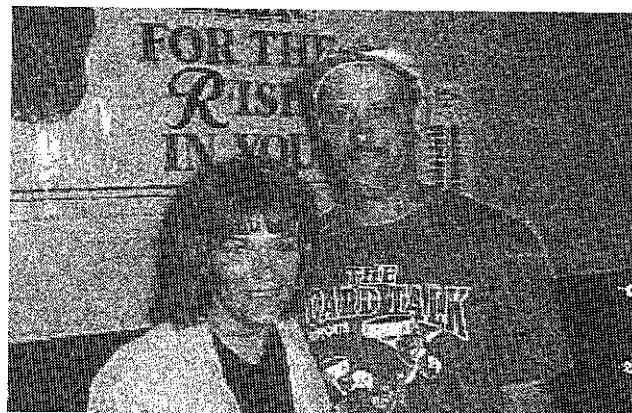
Harbor Point now has four American house boards with tournaments the first Sunday of every month (blind draw, double elimination, sponsor sale), Thursday nights (8 p.m. blind draw, handicapped, 16 weeks with \$1500 guaranteed for the finals), Saturdays (1 p.m., blind draw, money added).

Gindt/Anderson Tops at Shamrock's Mixed Doubles

The Shamrock Tavern in Longview, Washington, hosted a mixed doubles tournament on June 19-20. The event attracted 28 teams vying for a pot of over \$2,000.



Taking first place honors were Rick Gindt and Jackie Anderson.



Dan Hitt and Melody Marine took second place.



John Fisher and Lisa Langston were third.

Others finishing in the money were: Chuck Norris and Lindy Steffensen, 4th; Mike Waters and Judy George, Jim and Michelle Foran, 5th and 6th.

Jerry Berquist, host of the Shamrock Tavern, recently lost his wife to cancer. Reporter Ralph Duarte says "we will all miss Hattielou." Send your sympathy to Jerry: Shamrock Tavern, 1131 15th, Longview, WA 98632.

Frisko Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A Series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

(In last month's episode, during the match between Eddie's and Lil's Pro-Am teams, Dollar Dan and his Ape Man were about to challenge the tournament director's ejection when they got out of hand. Suddenly, a scar-faced man who worked for Lil's ex, Tony, and two other men escorted the trouble-makers from the room. The final game resumed and now it's down to the last shot....)

Eddie's partner was so nervous when he made his release that his hammer (which was supposed to be a right rail center board lag) made contact with the deep 1, which was sitting just off the left rail! He boosted it into a deep deuce, which was hanging off the left side of the board. Just as the cheers were starting to go up for Lil's team, two strange things happened. First, no one bothered to call "SAFE," and second, Lil watched (with total disbelief) as her partner's weight suddenly slipped off the side of the table -- and into the gutter. Now the hammer weight had slid off to the right after making contact, and was in the 2 zone, but very close to touching the 1 line!

Needless to say, there was quite a bit of commotion, confusion, and arguing starting up among the players and the fans over what the final outcome of the game should really be. Once again, an official was called in to make the final determination. This was a different official from the last call, and he had no idea of whose team was shooting the blue weights. First, he eyeballed it, from a straight-down perspective. Then he got out his t-square and made a very precise measurement with that. There was silence in the area as he went about his task. Finally, he removed the t-square, eyeballed it one more time from the top, and made his announcement: "I see daylight between the line and the weight -- I call it a 2. Whoever is shooting the blue weights has won this game!"

A big cheer went up by the team members and supporters of Eddie's team. There was a lot of handshaking and congratulating going on as well. A rather unusual thing occurred (which went unnoticed) shortly after things started to calm down. The young man who had bid for Eddie's team (on behalf of Dollar Dan, the Money Man) came up to Max Dermmot and handed him a note. A few minutes later, Max made an announcement over the intercom:

"Let me have your attention, please! I'm very happy to announce that Mister Dan Goldman, who was the top bidder in the auction for Frisko Eddie's team in the Pro-Am draw, has asked me to announce that all of his winnings on the Pro-Am team event -- including the names of the betters and dollar

amounts of several side-bets he had, be donated in total to the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame!"

A huge cheer went up now, but Dollar Dan wasn't there to take a bow, because he had long since left the hotel area and was being escorted to the airport...to be put on the first flight out, back to his home in Texas! Lil was alerted over the inter-phone and left the room to take a cell phone call from the scar-faced man in the sleek black sedan that was "helping" Dan get to the airport. He explained the whole situation (to her delight) and told her "she owed Tony -- one more!"

She went back to the main room and told the others. Everyone was very relieved and elated when they got the news! The tournament went smoothly from there on out. They were all doing well in the events they were entered in, but the time was almost upon them for the Big One. This was the one where Long Beach Lil and Frisko Eddie might just be facing off...in the Pro Singles event!

--TO BE CONTINUED--

Dear Readers: As we went to press, Balboa Ron was about to go into the hospital for yet another operation on his hip. You can help keep up his spirits and speed his recovery by dropping him a note: Ron Schweikert, 1140 Coral Desert Dr., Las Vegas NV 89123.

Notebook *(continued from Page 2)*

So I guess at the next tournament, we will all drink a blackberry brandy toast to Short (and then we will do it again!).

Short and Rosa Lee were married over 50 years. By the number of kids, grandkids and great-grandkids they have, I say they went forth and multiplied. We will be thinking about Rosa Lee and all of the family, and we will talk of Short. He never missed a tournament, unless he got there early and had too many blackberry brandies. Then he would say: "I don't think I'ma gonna make the tournament." He did love the game and we hope that they have shuffleboard where he is now -- and they never ask him to wipe and wax when he wins!

He was our Buddy.

Sue Lewis, Midwest City, Oklahoma

We didn't have the pleasure of knowing Short, but we're sure he was worthy of your tribute, Sue. We join you and the other OKC players in extending sympathy to Rosa Lee and family.

Hoosier Inductees Jim and Larry Say "Thanks" for Honor

During all the years we have been involved in shuffleboard, there have been a lot of memorable moments and highlights. None, however, can match the honor we experienced at this year's Bourbon Spring Doubles when we were inducted into the Indiana Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. It's difficult for us "tough guys" to express our "lump in the throat" feelings about that great honor, so we won't even try.

We would like to extend our special appreciation to Cheryl Cockrill for all the work she did to make this a special occasion, to Terry Dowell who got the whole thing started, to Pam Worsham for the wonderful poem she wrote, to Bill Niswonger who has made the American Legion Post 424 the home of the Indiana Hall of Fame, to Jerry Siebert for the video salute (especially nice coming from our friendly rivals in Michigan), to family members and friends who have supported us through thick and thin, and to everyone attending the induction ceremonies.

You are all great people and we extend to you our heartfelt thanks!

Jim Long and Larry Creakbaum, Indiana
Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Inductees

While we didn't have a vote, we applaud the Indiana Hall of Fame Committee for selecting such a well-deserving pair -- two of our favorite people. Yahoo!

Travelling Glen's Journal

Friday, May 1999 -- Madge took me to the airport. I left at 6:45, changed planes in Phoenix, Arizona, and 2 hours and 10 minutes later, we landed in Portland, Oregon. Darrol Nelson picked me up at the airport. We stopped and had dinner and proceeded to the Longview-Kelso, Washington area. We played at the Our Tavern and Don Kerr's Village most of the night and the next day. Jim Allis and Nelson Jennings beat up on us. Then Gynn started playing and for the first time, Darrol started winning; Jim and Nelson had finally gotten tired. So Darrol and Gwynn about got even for the two days.

I left and went to Frank Makos and stayed until the following Saturday, which is six days. Frank and Maxine were great hosts! Maxine cooked some real country cookin' just like Mom used to make. Frank took me down to their 4-acres plus on the river and was going to take me frishing, but the river was muddy. So we postponed that for a future date. Frank took me to Shelton, Washington, for the first time. A lot of good young players and they play double elimination on a \$10 draw. I finished about

12:30. We hit a third which paid nothing, but quite a night.

Frank took me by the Timber Tavern in Kelso on the way out to the airport. I flew to Spokane to play with the "Hit Man" Dan. Dan picked me up at the airport. I went down to the tavern where a tournament was to be held and practiced the three boards some. Billy Powell was there and drove me around.

Tuesday, May 25 -- Dan Hitt and Melody Marine are working on their motor home, a shuffleboard, remodeling their house, plus helping run their dent business and paint business. They are a working couple of people. They furnished me a room and transportation to and from the tournament, and breakfast. I never was treated any better.

Wednesday, May 26 -- Billy Powell took me on a scenic tour of Spokane. A beautiful river runs through it from downtown on East toward Utah. John Fisher picked me up and we went to the tavern and practiced for two or three hours. Then he took me to dinner, a great meal at an Italian restaurant plus they make a great Brandy Alexander. I got to see Willie, John's dog, again. He weighs about 100-120 pounds. I last saw him two years ago at Orange, California.

Vancouver, Canada -- Thanks to Billy Powell for the trip to Canada from Spokane and the use of his motor home while in Canada for the Hall of Fame Tournament at A.N.A.F. #68. Joanie Millar is now in the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Welcome aboard, Joanie! I know she will help to keep the NSHOF alive. Mike Thorpe has helped me the last two tournaments when we had an induction. Thanks, Mike, for your help again. We need more like you in each area.

After the tournament, Darrol, Mike Kinney and I headed back to Oregon. I stayed with Darrol for a week or 10 days, a great experience on the coast line of Oregon. We went to Coos Bay and played for a few days and then dropped by Winston Jim's and visited with him.

I left Eugene on an Amtrack and headed for California for the Dixie Belle's 4th of July tournament and the induction of Porter White. Bob Hunt picked me up at the station in Sacramento. I spent a couple of days with Bob and Vicki and then Don and Donna Cox picked me up and took me to the hills for six or seven days. A garbage bear ran off with the garbage. It woke everyone up in the house! This is a beautiful setting in the wilderness. Bruce Hale has a shack up in the hills, also. I just missed him while he was there, but I did see him at the Dixie Belle in Downey. He donated his winnings to both halls of fame from the 50/50 draw.

Porter White is now in the California and National Halls of Fame. He is one of the pioneers of the game, starting at age 17 across country. He has some great

(continued on Page 25)

1999 CALENDAR OF SHUFFLEBOARD EVENTS

AUGUST 1999

Aug. 5-8

National Tournament
Dew Drop Inn
Waterloo, New York

Aug. 6

AB Draw
J & C's Tavern
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Aug. 6-8

4th Rudy Stober Memorial
Stober's Lounge
Lansing, Michigan

Aug. 6-8

Handicap Tournament
Taz Country
Austin, Texas

Aug. 12-15

Crazy Canucks Annual Tourney
AN & AF
Vancouver, B.C., Canada

Aug. 15

No. 2 Super Slammin' Summer
Sunday Doubles
Majestic Cafe
Pontiac, Michigan

Aug. 20-22

True Round Robin Singles
American Legion Post 424
Bourbon, Indiana

SEPTEMBER 1999

Sept. 1-6

Labor Day Texas Open and
Induction of David Williams
The Gold Nugget
Arlington, Texas

Sept. 2-5

Labor Day Tournament
Baldwinsville Moose Lodge
Baldwinsville, New York

Sept. 2-6

Labor Day Tournament
Action Lounge
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

Sept. 2-6

Labor Day Tournament
Full House
Wynnewood, Oklahoma

Sept. 2-6

Potter's Wheel Charity A-B-C
The Dixie Belle
Downey, California

Sept. 5

No. 3 Super Slammin' Summer
Sunday Doubles
Club Car Lounge
Durand, Michigan

Sept. 10-12

10th Annual Skip's/Board Talk
Fall Bash
Skip's Lounge
Houghton Lake, Michigan

Sept. 10-12

Adirondack Open
Riverside Tavern
Keeseville, New York

Sept. 26

Super Slammin' Summer
Sunday Doubles Play-Off
Club Car Lounge
Durand, Michigan

OCTOBER 1999

Oct. 8-10

Heartland Handicap
American Legion Post 73
Del City, Oklahoma

Oct. 17-24

North American Championships
Sands Regency Hotel/Casino
Reno, Nevada

Oct. 23-25

Open Doubles Tournament
J & C's Tavern
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

NOVEMBER 1999

Nov. 25-28

Thanksgiving Tournament
Dixie Belle/Oskar's
Downey/Bellflower, California

Nov. 27-28

Rated Doubles Tournament
BZ's Sports Bar
Seattle, Washington

DECEMBER 1999

Dec. 26-31

Houston Holiday Open
Houston Marriott North
Houston, Texas

*It's never too early to post
the dates of your events on this calendar!*

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SEPTEMBER 2-6

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A Great Time at 7th Dixie Belle Fourth of July Tri-Bar Tourne

By Dixie Debbie

I had so much fun! I kept hearing these words: "What a great tournament." "What great people." "What great players." "Three bars, nine boards -- what a great idea."

Oskar Ugarpe of Oskar's listened to my tournament proposal months ago, hopped on the tourney wagon and did his all to make the ladies doubles and the Amateur I doubles at his bar a roaring success. The women in the ladies doubles, which was the hit of the tournament, had a ball whether winning or losing. The men finished playing matches in their events and could hardly wait to watch some very exceptional play by some very exceptional women. Chris Brown says we had the 10 top-rated women players in California in this event.

Not to make less of the Amateur Division I doubles. Each game was a battle. No easy wins. My favorites, Chris Brown and John McGinnis, came in first and when the pictures were developed, you could tell it was a grueling feat.

The Edgewood was the site of our Amateur Division II doubles, with player ratings of 3.0 and over. The competition was just as fierce, though not as polished as between the pros playing at the Belle, but each player used the utmost of their ability throughout the event to defeat their opponents.

To the out-of-towners, you know who you are. You made it all worthwhile. We couldn't have had the tournament without you. When I drove into the back parking lot each morning and saw everyone's motor homes, it gave me a warm feeling with which to start each day. Those of you who know me at all know I am not a very warm person in the morning. Therefore, this seemingly small thing grows in importance. It also made me feel I was entering "The Jungle" of the Whistling Oyster.☺

When I have attended tournaments away from the Dixie Belle, I have always had more fun when there was an event in which I could participate. Watching is good; playing is better. This concept is what made the Vegas tournament a success and what makes the Reno tournament the mega event that it is. I am grateful to Oskar and Bebe for their enthusiastic participation with the Dixie Belle's 1999 4th of July Tournament. Together, we made our tournament a roaring success.

Now down to the Belle. The Belle loves shuffleboard -- the open doubles, open singles, ABC events, all events. We love shuffleboard and shuffleboard players. The Bellers will go to great lengths to play shuffleboard, any shuffleboard -- fast, slow, flat, beat-up boards, boards in perfect condition. If there is a board, Dixie Belle players want to play it. Simple as that.

It takes a lot of work to make a tournament go as I am sure most of you know. This tournament with no exception. I am lucky to have so many talented people helping run this tournament. My many thanks to those special people. Without their talents and hard work, this tournament would not have been.

Chris Brown: formatting, bracketing, treasurer, organizer, player, dear 361 days older friend;
Rich (Bubba) Warren: bracketing, advisor, teacher;

Karl Spickelmier: bracketing, fussing over us so we'd get everything right (advisor);

Doug Pants r Off: bracketing, general helping o

Joe Muniz: auctioneer, advisor;

Paul Weber: auctioneer, advisor;

Wes Eades: Head Party Animal;

Eileen Eades: gave up Wes to chauffeur;

Larry Coles: gave up Budweiser to chauffeur;

James Anderson Jr.: board maintenance, advisor;

Evelyn (Evie) Werner: primo bartender, friend;

Dixie Belle Staff: Jimmy, Evie, Jody, Julian, Joleen Summer, Sally, Carol, Mike;

Sandy Flood: Sandy, Chris and I got "hammered" one morning and formatted this tourney (the hangover was worth it);

Oskar and Bebe's Staff: you guys were great!

You will notice that Chris and I had a lot of advisors. All along, we have been listening to their wisdom. We have learned. Chris Brown is an awesome woman. I would like to especially thank her from the bottom of my heart for being the friend she is and for running this tournament in a professional, fun and friendly manner.

To the Northern California women: thanks for the great competition. We are looking forward to beating you on your own boards soon. See you up there.

Thank you all!

AND THE WINNERS WERE....



ABC DRAW, 1ST PLACE: Steve O'Neil, Oskar Ugarpe, Eric Chiles.



ABC DRAW, 2ND PLACE: Anna Brunskill, Pat Bayless, Fred Flynt.



ABC DRAW, 3RD PLACE: Al Salazar, Mick Diana, Wes Eades.



ABC DRAW, 4TH PLACE: Jean Mays, Paul Parks, Vicki Hunt.

The teams of Steve Floyd, Donna Cox and Joe Hochgurtel, and Jay Wilson, Pearl Minard and Tom Wolfe shared fifth and sixth places.

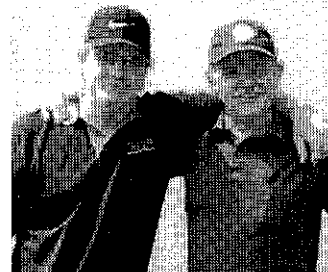


OPEN DOUBLES, 1ST PLACE: Joe Muniz and Bill Maxwell.



OPEN DOUBLES, 2ND PLACE: Steve Perry and Dave Keithahn.

OPEN DOUBLES: 3RD PLACE: Joe Hudson and Don Cox.



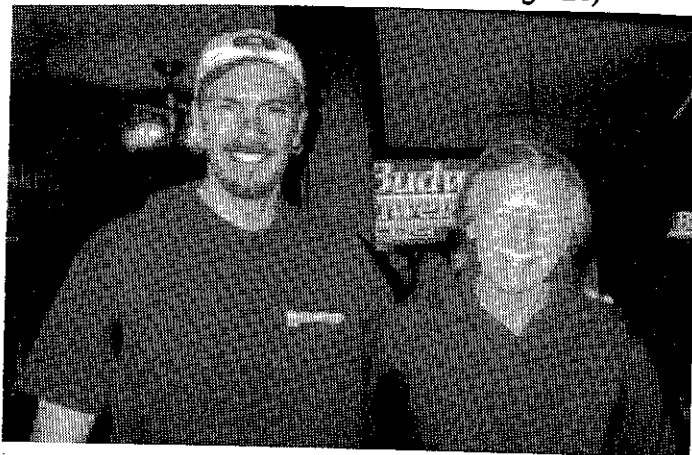
LADIES DOUBLES, 1ST PLACE (left): Joan Swenson and Mary Lou Deering; 2ND PLACE (right): Sandy Flood and Chris Brown.



LADIES DOUBLES, 3RD PLACE: Sherri Hudson and Jane Mourgos.

(continued on Page 24)

Dixie Belle (continued from Page 23)



OPEN SINGLES, 1ST PLACE: (left) Steve Perry; 2ND, Paul Parks (right).



OPEN SINGLES, 3RD PLACE: Bob Hunt.



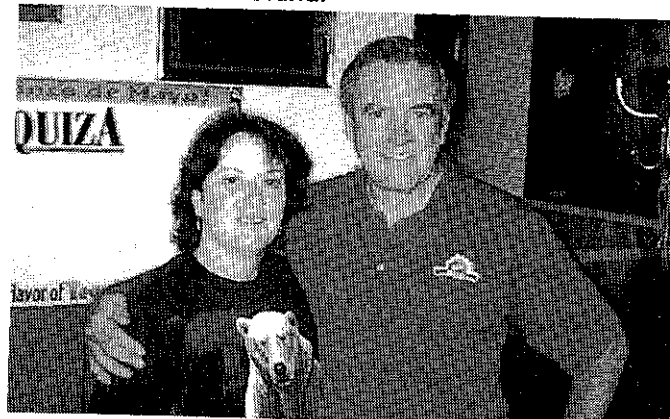
AMATEUR DIV. II DOUBLES (3.0-5.0), 1ST PLACE: Alan Healey and Les Burdette.



AMATEUR DIV. II DOUBLES, 2ND PLACE: Oskar Ugarpe and Bob Davidson.



AMATEUR DIV. II DOUBLES, 3RD PLACE: Ernie Alvarez and Mick Diana.



AMATEUR DIV. I DOUBLES, 1ST PLACE: Chris Brown and John McGinnis.



AMATEUR DIV. I DOUBLES, 2ND PLACE: Jay Wilson and Bob Flake.



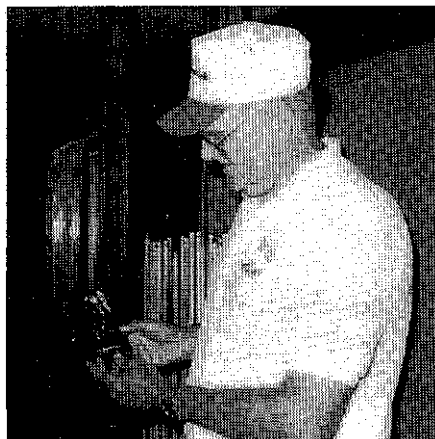
AMATEUR DIV. I DOUBLES, 3RD PLACE: Jimmy Kumpula and Bryan Lounsbury.

Bud's SW Open "Warm-Up" Tourney is Big Success

Bud (Hamburger Helper) Hillburn's idea to get "warmed up" by participating in his tournament at the Action Lounge, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, two weeks before the Southwest Open brought out a bunch of players hungry to get in the winning mode. The first event was a single game double elimination open draw and the second event was a bring partner, 2 out of 3 in the winner's bracket and one loss in the loser's bracket. Both events were based on the Bowers Rating System. As Bud has said in the past, some of the best players in the nation reside in the Tulsa area and he was once again honored to have a lot of these players in the tournament.

Jerry Widdoes barbecued brisket, served with all the trimmings on Saturday. After devouring the finger-lickin' good food, some of the players complained that it took awhile to get back the "killer" instinct. During the feast, Bud announced that he had conducted a poll of his customers and there was unanimous consent that Jerry Widdoes deserved his first annual "A-- Hole of the Year Award." When Jerry was presented the trophy, he said that he worked harder than anyone to get this prestigious award and he was very proud of this accomplishment.

Jerry Widdoes admires his "special" trophy.



In the open draw, Jerry Widdoes and Zane Porter (their fighting slogan was "Senior Citizens kick a--") were the winners. Shirla Porter and Keith Oyler (center) present them with their plaques.

The "senior citizens" fought to a showdown with Bud Hillburn and Kevin Talley, who settled for second place.



Bud Hillburn and Fred Washington were winners of the bring partner event. They show off their trophies to John.



Jerry Widdoes and Keith Oyler fought hard but had to settle for second. It was a good weekend for Jerry!

Bud gives a big thank you to all the players and attendees for making this tournament a big success. He extends special thanks to Keith Oyler and Shirla Porter for their time and patience in running the brackets.

The next big event at the Action Lounge is Bud's 4th Annual Labor Day Tournament, Sept. 3-5. Events will include a draw partner on Friday, a bring partner handicap on Saturday, and a bring partner handicap sweetheart draw on Sunday. See details in Upcoming Events and plan to participate.

Notebook *(continued from Page 19)*

stories of Granville Humphreys, Rod Cameron, Ray Hartness and all the others of that era.

Congratulations, Porter, long live the King!

Bubba and Chris did a great job running the show. Thanks to Don and Donna for the ride down the hills to the Dixie. Wes, Eileen and Larry took good care of me. Thanks to all of you for a great time.

Glen Davidson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

How well your journal speaks of members of the shuffleboard family who open their homes and hearts to a travelling shuffler!

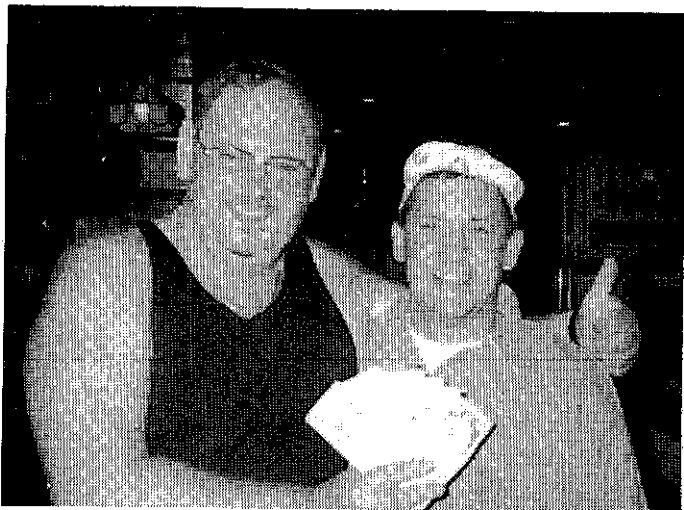
A-B Doubles Format Revives Forest Festival Tourney

By Dwayne Dibley

The A-B doubles tournament held at the Fir Cone Tavern in Shelton, Washington, on June 26-27, was originally called the Forest Festival Tournament and has been around for 10 years. Because of Evergreen Shuffleboard Association (ESA) scheduling, the tournament date was changed. However, the Fir Cone still considered this the Forest Festival Tournament even though it was the weekend after the Forest Festival. The tournament has suffered in the past and the tournament format has changed several times over the past four years. Finally we hit upon a format that looks like a winner -- an A-B bring your own team doubles. Twenty-five teams showed up, the best turnout in the past four years. It is apparent that this is a great format. All things are made equal in this event and everyone has as good a chance as everyone else.

Weeks before the tournament, the calls started coming in. Owner Jeanette Hohn said: "I knew it was going to be a good turnout based on the number of calls we received." By Tuesday the boards were full from open to close. The Fir Cone Tavern, under the leadership of Jeanette Hohn, is constantly striving to give the players what they want and to improve the game. The players I've talked to appreciate Jeanette staying on top of changes and constantly providing exciting tournaments.

By Friday night, 58 shufflers were ready for the draw, a single elimination event that lasted until 3:30 a.m.



Grant Manning (right), in possibly his last victory at the Fir Cone, and Dino Mako won the draw and cashed in on the \$580 first-place money.

Action started on Saturday at 11 a.m. **sharp**, an important word at the Fir Cone. Usually with 25 teams and only three boards, tournaments will run until well after 2 a.m. (Washington state required closing time). However, tournament director Mel Hohn changed the

obsolete bracketing board which allowed action to be stopped at 2 a.m. Sunday. Everyone returned Sunday and the finals were done by 2 a.m. Everyone liked the way the tournament was run, except one player (you can't please everyone).



John Rostollan (left) played exceptionally well and along with his exceptional partner, Dan Hitt, won the event.



Russ Savage and Carl Roush put up a valiant effort and earned a lot of respect, but had to settle for second.



Paulette McKinney and Al Pease were the third place finishers.



Kevin Larkin (left) and Ray Olson ended up fourth.

Fifth place was a tie between Frank Mako and Desi Guches, and the team of Russ Miller and Don Stallsworth. Seventh place was also a tie between Vern Gonzales and Jeff Kresting, and John Hyatt and Gary Thompson.

Once again the Shelton shuffleboard community pitched in to create a spectacular feast on both days. Owner Jeanette Hohn said: "There are so many wonderful people that pitch in at all the tournaments. I hope they understand how much we appreciate their hard work."

More Notebook

Common Courtesy Vs. Rules

I saw something at the Dixie Belle tournament on the 4th of July that disturbed me very much. It's called common courtesy. This is what happened....

One player said that he was going to use his own weights, and the other player said, O.K., I'll use your weights also. The first player said: "No, you cannot use my weights."

To me, this is wrong. It was taken to the tournament director (Bubba) and he said that it is common courtesy that whoever owns the weights should let the other person use them. To me, this is a two-way street, as it seems common courtesy to let the other player use his weights. If a person does not want the other person to use his weights, he should keep them off the board.

Bubba called The Shuffleboard Federation and asked them about it. As much as I like the people of The Federation, they do not make all the rules. The people who play the game should be the rule-makers.

The Federation said that he did not have to loan his weights to anyone, but I feel this is wrong. I asked the person who owned the weights why he did that. He said that he bought and paid for the weights and that it was up to him.

If that is the case, we ought to throw all courtesy out of the whole game!

I own a new set of Federation weights (very good ones) and I always ask my opponent if he wishes to use them.

I hope other shuffleboard players will write some letters and give The Board Talk some input on this. Or do we throw common courtesy out the window?

Frank Bentley, Santa Ana, California

Like you, Frank, we have the highest regard for The Shuffleboard Federation and know that their rules were written by a board of respected players. However, we heartily disagree with that particular rule and do not use it at our tournaments. It is common courtesy to allow your opponent to use your weights if he/she desires. And there are times when common courtesy should supercede the rules (the rules can be construed as wrong, but common courtesy cannot!). Let's hear from others on this subject.

Honky Tonk Gets Rave Reviews from Visitors

We are writing to express our warmest thanks to Brenda, Chris, Dan and Cindy, Louise, Rita, Sharon and John, and all the other wonderful people who made our "virgin" tournament tour so memorable. We spent two years preparing to sample a tournament before settling on the Honky Tonk Memorial (Sherburne, New York). Brenda and her crew treated us so regally that we decided to try the Pillar's (Guilford, New York) as well.

Never have we seen a group of people who compete against one another, yet have such a fine understanding of themselves and the feelings of others. Long live shuffleboard hospitality!

The Four P's: Pat Brennan, Pauline Rock, Pat Cummings and Penny Everest

We know Brenda and her crew will appreciate your salute, folks! It's positive feedback like yours that will keep them dedicated to that shuffleboard hospitality! Readers please note: these writers are from the Riverside Tavern in Keesville, New York, and they are hosting a 3-event Adirondack Open on Sept. 10-12. We bet they will roll out the hospitality carpet for any visitors who attend that event!

Your Viewpoints are Welcome!

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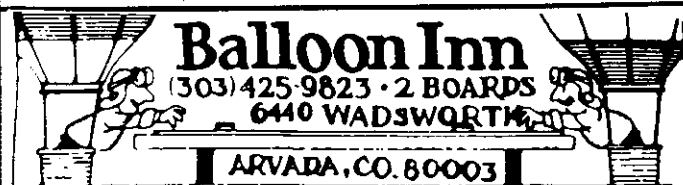
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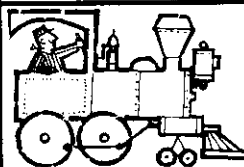
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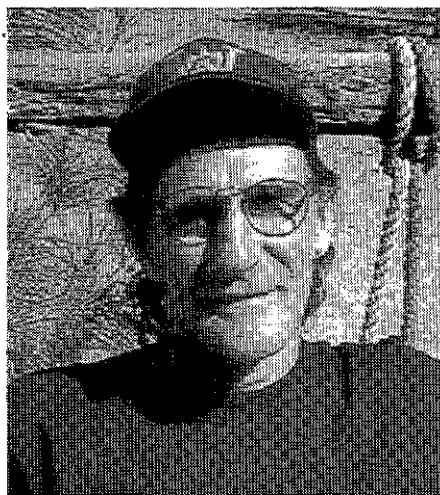
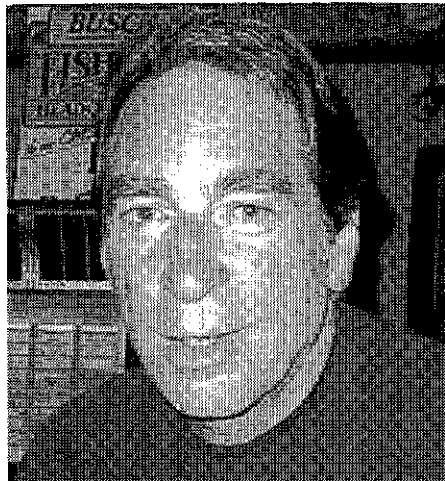
"Come shuffle with us!"

Triple Crown for Darrol Nelson at Tolo Tavern

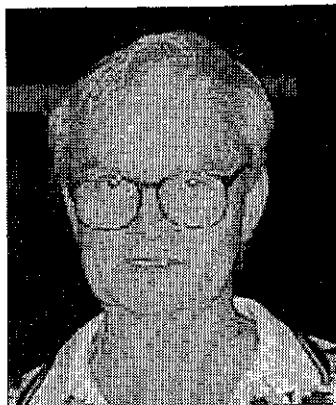
The Tolo Tavern in Central Point, Oregon, hosted a three-event tournament over the Memorial Day weekend and Darrol Nelson scored first in all three. There were 22 teams in Friday night's draw partner, 31 players in Saturday's singles, and 18 teams in Sunday's doubles.

Winners of the draw partner were: Darrol Nelson and Jimmy Allis, 1st; Jim Foran and Kevin Larkin, 2nd; Dick Heflin and Bill Walker, 3rd; and Tom and Jeanette Henry, 4th.

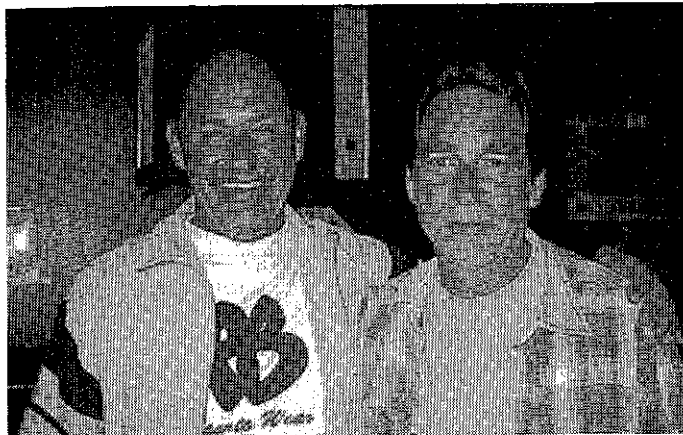
Darrol Nelson was winner of the singles event.



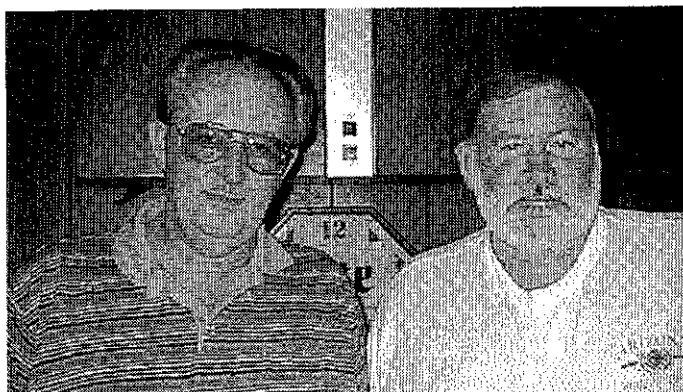
Don Mitchell took second place honors.



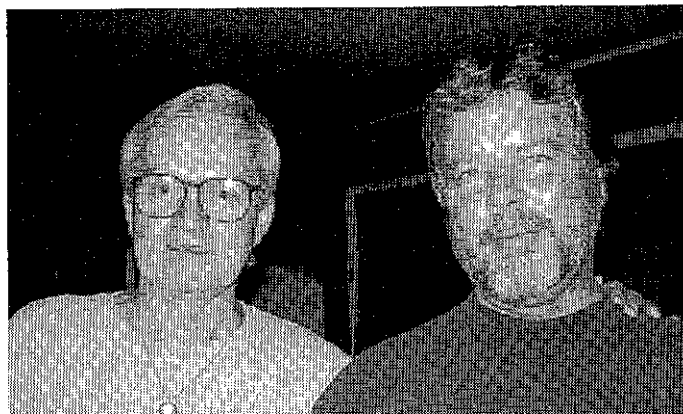
Dick Heflin (left) finished third, with Jim Foran (right) in fourth place.



Darrol Nelson and Joe Lavin took top honors in the doubles.



Chuck Norris (left) and Dick Heflin finished second.

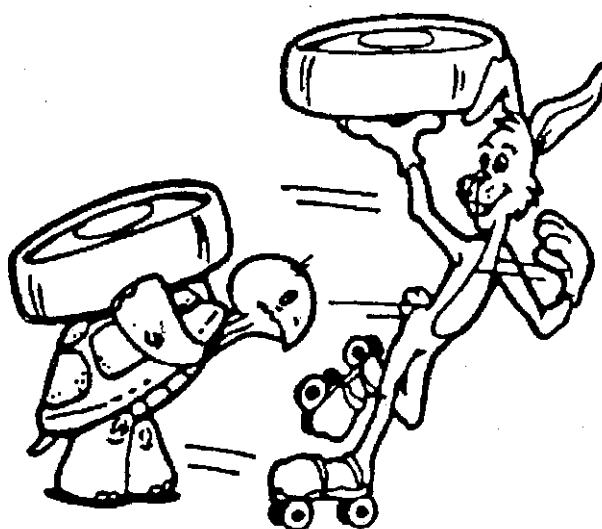


Jim Foran and Jimmy Allis were third place finishers.



John Hyatt and Tom Henry took fourth and final money spot in the doubles.

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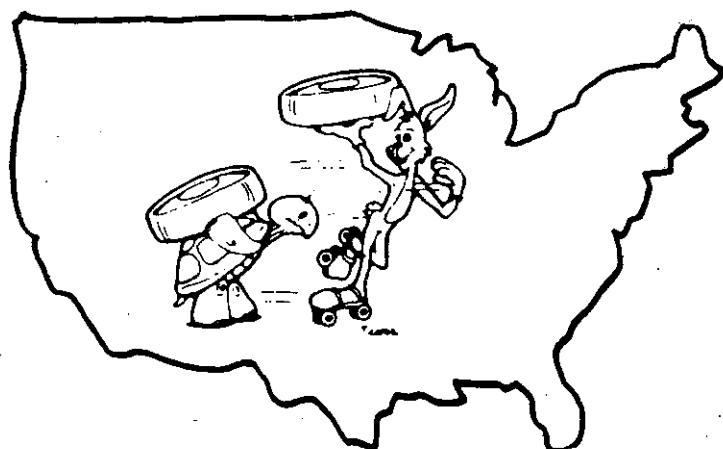
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