

The Board Talk

Published monthly by George & Donna Wilber

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June 1999

"Little" Bourbon Scores Big Again at 39th Annual

By George & Donna Wilber

- 42 Teams Vy for \$13,130 Pot
- Long/Broka Top the Field
- Creakbaum/Long Inducted
- Dell/Knox Win Preliminary Draw

Hoosiers claim that the Spring doubles tournament at the American Legion Post 424 in Bourbon, Indiana, is the longest-running shuffleboard event in the nation. There may be some challengers for that record out there somewhere, but can they claim 39 years without skipping a beat? (If they can, we'll likely hear from them.) No. 39 was held on May Day 1999 and it attracted 42 teams, plus sponsors, from eight states (Indiana, Michigan, California, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Maryland and Missouri) vying for a hefty \$13,130 pot.

Faces have changed. Rules have changed. Hosts and directors have changed. Weights, boards and wax have changed. What has not changed in the 39 years is the desire of participants to list in their "resumes" a win at Bourbon.

And the Winners Were.....

According to the lively sponsor sale, conducted by the energetic and entertaining Mikel Johnson, the favorites were Bill and Billy Melton of Oklahoma, John McDermott of Michigan and Rick Boyer of Colorado, Len Dell and Rick Niblett of Maryland, and Terry Dowell and Bobby Voorhis of Indiana (just to give you an idea of the top talent in this event). The next tier of favored teams were Dave Boaz and Jim DeWitt of Indiana, Ron Huddleston and Steve Walker of Oklahoma, and Buddy Broka and Jim Long of Indiana.

Bidders are not always right and some of the "giants" fell by the wayside during the marathon, but the intense competition kept spectators glued to their seats until exhaustion drove them back on the road again. And, if you are concerned about the future of shuffleboard, consider this: four father-and-son teams -- "Squirrel" and Matt Westhaver of Indiana, Bill and Billy Melton of Oklahoma, Jeff and Alonzo Cottrell of

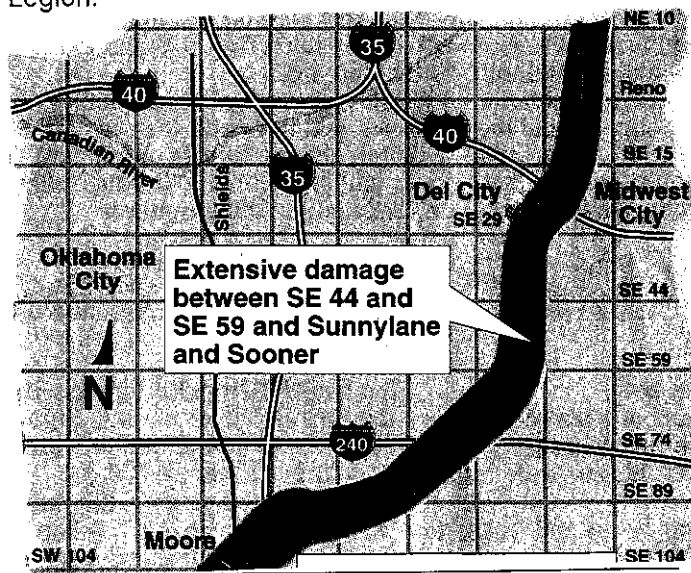
Michigan, Gene McCleod of Missouri and Mark McCleod of Indiana -- participated in this event and three ended up in the money!

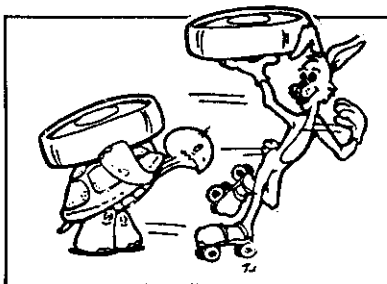
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Thank God! Shufflers O.K.!

Within hours of the departure from Bourbon of Oklahomans Bill and Billy Melton, Ron Huddleston, Steve Walker, Rick Jones, Ron Gamble, and Dave Davidson, a deadly tornado ripped through their state, leveling communities and claiming lives. Since that tragedy hit the headlines, those Oklahoma shufflers and The Board Talk have received countless calls from concerned members of the shuffleboard network. We are thankful to report that, as far as we know, all of the "family" are O.K.

We're also glad to report that the American Legion 73 in Del City, site of the Southwest Open, host Don Crall and all his boards (even though just a block away from the tornado path) are also O.K. As Bill Melton said along with this map (those of you who have been there will recognize street names): "The shuffleboard gods had to be at work to save the Legion."





Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views from The World of Shuffleboard

Lorraine Concerned About California "Family Squabble"

It seems to me that The Board Talk is a place for shufflers to speak out. I am fairly new to the game. This past year was my second time in Reno and I had a blast as always. Everyone is one big, happy family!

But, as in all families, there are squabbles, and I would like to speak out about a brewing one in California. I believe we are all in it for the good of the game. That has been a contributing factor to my interests, besides loving to play. A few months ago, I was approached about an impending 1st Annual California State Championship Tournament and whether I was interested. Interested? Heck, I would be the first one to sign up -- just tell me where and when. Well, a great many of us were looking forward to this tournament with great anticipation.

Just recently I found out why I was approached to play in the tournament; it was to be held during the Memorial Week at the same time as the 9th Annual Blinky's Memorial Tournament was to be held. Now, I have played in all the Blinky's tournaments and supported them before I started playing, as Blinky's is my home bar. I asked if there was a mistake in the timing because many of the people that had committed to playing have always played at Blinky's. The owners have always supported the game and went out of their way to make everything first class for the visiting as well as home players, and it has always been one of the largest, if not the largest, tournament in California.

If we are all in this to support the game and, as the slogan goes: "Friendship Through Competition," how can the promoters of this 1st State Championship say that is why they are in the game? How can we

promote the game when petty differences are trying to tear it apart. There are 51 other weeks in the year they could have scheduled this and everyone would be there. But to schedule it to try and hurt someone else to me is just not right. Doesn't everyone see this?

This certainly cannot help the game; it can only hurt the game. I have seen good friends arguing over which tournament to play in. If it was any other weekend (except for the North American Championships in Reno), I would be there to play in every event. It is not fair to the game; it is not fair to the players; and it is not fair to the establishments that are promoting the game for something like this to happen.

It is a shame grown men can't put their differences aside for the good of the game. Will it really be worth it to split the tournaments like this? We could have two of the biggest and best tournaments around with a great turnout at both, guaranteeing large purses to the players, instead of two mediocre tournaments that it is going to end up to be. I, as many others, won't turn our backs on an establishment that has supported the game for all the years that Blinky's, and especially the owners, have. We only ask that next time, organizers of a state tournament take into consideration the players and what is good for the game of shuffleboard.

I love this game and the people I have met and I don't like to see them or the game of shuffleboard hurt.

I also would like to note that the February Presidents' Day Hal Perry Tournament at Blinky's was one of the best, other than Reno, that I have had the pleasure of playing in. It was great to see the players from Oklahoma and Texas and Indiana come in for the induction of Hal Perry into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. What made it even greater was the friendships that have been made years before by these men and women and that have lasted through the years, all due to their love of the game.

And to see Hal Perry with partner Don Cox win the pro doubles was such a great moment. The play was top notch. To top it off, keeping it all in the family, Hal

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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.

124 Entries in Bill Gibbs Memorial Tournament

By Al Salazar

The 4th annual and most memorable Bill Gibbs Memorial Tournament was held at Family Billiards Tavern in Phoenix, Arizona, on April 23-25. With 125 entries in three events over one weekend, it made for some difficult situations, but with the help and cooperation of the participants, it was a big success.

Friday night kicked things off with a pro-am handicapped draw partner event. Handicaps were calculated using the Bowers Rating System. There were 24 teams entered in the single game, double elimination, 15 point games event. The finals were held on Sunday.



Going through the winner's bracket undefeated were Phil Gardner, Oklahoma/Arizona, and Dwayne Green, Arizona. Presenting the money envelope to the winners is director Al Salazar (left).



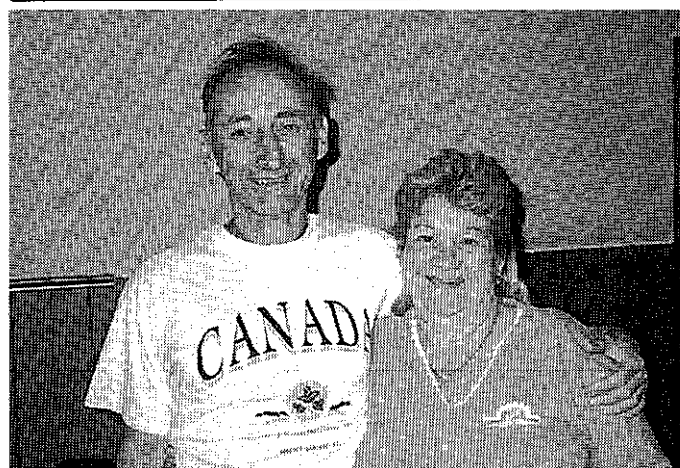
Jim Stewart of Arizona and Bev Chaffin of California took second place honors.

Bob Lewis Inducted into Arizona Hall of Fame



Mickey Lewis honors Dad Bob Lewis

On Saturday, April 24, Bob Lewis became the first inductee into the Arizona Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Al Salazar served as Master of Ceremonies for the induction and Mickey Lewis, president of the Arizona Hall of Fame, presented the award. Bob received tributes and endorsements from all over the country. Hal Perry and Bob Hunt, members of the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Board of Directors, were in attendance, along with Bob's sons, Mickey and Ben, and his daughter Robin. "It was a special moment in Arizona shuffleboard history and one I was privileged and honored to participate in," said Al Salazar.



Jim and Bev beat out Bev's husband, Nick Chaffin, and his partner, Jane Manes of California.

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**Support your state and national Shuffleboard Halls of Fame
with your ideas, leadership, nominations,
and financial contributions!**

Upcoming Events Across the Nation

Pennsylvania

PHILLY OPEN, JUNE 11-13, J & C'S TAVERN, PHILADELPHIA

J & C's Tavern, 6601 Lansdowne Ave., Philadelphia, will host the Philly Open on June 11-13. Action will start with an open singles on June 11, \$20 entry fee. A bring partner event is scheduled for June 12, \$30 per team entry. On the 13th, there will be a true round robin, \$15 per person entry.

For information, call J & C's, 215-878-7343.

Check the Calendar of Events for upcoming AB draw tournaments at J & C's.

Michigan

RUDY STOBER MEMORIAL, AUG. 6-8, STOBER'S LOUNGE, LANSING

The 4th Annual Rudy Stober Memorial Tournament will be held on Aug. 6-8 at Stober's Cocktail Lounge, 812 E. Michigan, Lansing. The event is held in honor of the memory of Rudy Stober, the first inductee into Michigan's Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Action will start on Friday, Aug. 6, with round robins. The bring partner doubles (no pros, 0's or 1's may team up together), \$40 per team entry, will start with the sponsor sale on Saturday, Aug. 7, with play immediately following. The format will be single game, double elimination.

The grand finale will be an open singles on Sunday, Aug. 8, \$20 entry. Sale and play begins at 1 p.m., single game, double elimination.

There will be drawings, 50-50 sales with half going to the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame in Rudy's honor, and a free feed on Saturday.

For further information, call tournament director Carrie Clifton, 517-482-1190.

Colorado

1ST BILL ENGLISH MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT, BALLOON INN, ARVADA, JUNE 11-13

The Colorado Shuffleboard Hall of Fame has decided to rename the June Open Doubles Tournament held at the Balloon Inn in Arvada. This

annual tournament, which is now in its 10th year, will be known as the Bill English Memorial Tournament (the late Bill English became the first inductee into the Colorado Hall of Fame in December of 1998). This year the tournament will be held on June 11-13 at the Balloon Inn.

For details regarding times and entry fees, call Jody Slack or Kathi Lloyd at 303-421-9332.

Washington

MIXED DOUBLES, SHAMROCK TAVERN, LONGVIEW, JUNE 19-20

A mixed doubles, \$20 per team entry, will be held at the Shamrock Tavern, 1131 15th St., Longview, on June 19-20. Added money, as usual, along with food by Bernice on Saturday and Sunday. Come early for the \$10 round robin on Friday night.

For information, call the Shamrock, 206-577-7444.

NORTHWEST AMATEUR QUALIFIER, FIR CONE, SHELTON, JUNE 12-13

The Fir Cone Tavern in Shelton will host its 3rd 1999 Northwest Amateur Qualifier on June 12-13. This is the final qualifying event for the Northwest Amateur championships. Action will start on Friday night, June 11, at 7 p.m. with an A-B draw, \$20 entry, single elimination.

Saturday, June 12, at 11 a.m., there will be an amateur draw doubles. Players interested in this event must be rated a 2.51 or higher by the Bower's Rating System, or be a new, unrated player. Sponsor sale will be directly after the draw with play following. \$20 entry fee per player, double elimination, 2 out of 3 15-point games in the winner's bracket and one 21-point game in the loser's bracket.

Sunday, June 13, at 11 a.m., there will be an amateur singles event, same qualifications as the doubles. \$20 entry fee with no sponsor sale. Double elimination, 2 out of 3 15-point games in the winner's bracket and one 15-point game in the loser's bracket.

The Fir Cone has three great boards and RV parking is available. Food will be served. For information, contact Mel Hohn at 360-426-2221.

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

10TH GRAND MASTERS PLUS, WHISTLING OYSTER, QUILCENE, JULY 27-AUG. 1

It's time to make your reservations for the 10th Anniversary of the Grand Masters Plus at the Whistling Oyster Cocktail Lounge, Hwy. 101 in Quilcene on July 27-August 1.

There are five events on the schedule with \$4,000 added money (based on number of teams entered). Action will start with a mixed doubles on Tuesday, \$50 entry. On Wednesday, there will be an A-B-C draw, \$25 per player entry. The open singles, \$100 entry, will be held on Thursday. An open draw, \$25 per player, is on the agenda for Friday. The BIG Grand Masters, \$150 per team entry, is set for Saturday and Sunday.

As usual (and well worth the trip) will be the Whistling Oyster's famous seafood buffet on Saturday and Sunday.

A complete agenda, along with lodging information and an entry form, is enclosed. Use it NOW to save your spot. If you have questions, call Bill Bailey at 360-765-9508 or 360-765-3436.

California

3RD BILLY CHILES ABC MEMORIAL, SILVER SPUR, SAN BERNARDINO, JUNE 12

The Silver Spur in San Bernardino will host the 3rd Annual Billy Chiles ABC Memorial Tournament on June 12, starting at 11 a.m. Entry fee is \$20 per player. An all-day barbecue and live country western music is planned. The Silver Spur has two good boards, a large dance floor and plenty of RV parking.

For information, contact Jolene Lembke, 909-797-9685, or director Bob Brunskill, 714-528-7304.

DIXIE BELLE'S 7TH ANNUAL JULY 4TH TOURNEY, JUNE 30-JULY 5, AT 3 LOCATIONS

Six events on nine boards in three locations -- that's on the agenda for the Dixie Belle's 7th Annual July 4th Tournament on June 30-July 5. Enclosed in this issue is a flyer describing all the events, lodging information, an entry form and an Early Bird t-shirt offer. This expanded tournament will be held at the Dixie Belle, 9559 Imperial Hwy. in Downey, Oskar's Sports Lounge, 13418 Woodruff Ave. in Bellflower, and the Edgewood, 10122 Rosecrans in Bellflower.

The ABC draw, open doubles and open singles will be played at the Dixie Belle. The ladies' doubles and amateur doubles I will be played at Oskar's; and the amateur doubles II will be played at the Edgewood.

On Saturday, July 3, there will be a potluck barbecue at the Dixie Belle, followed by the induction of Porter White into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

For further information, call the Dixie Belle, 562-803-4943 Tuesday through Sunday; or e-mail Dixie Debbie at DixieDebbi@aol.com or Chris Brown at ShuffleGal@aol.com

Texas

SOUTHWEST OPEN QUALIFIER, GOLD NUGGET, ARLINGTON, JUNE 10-13

The Gold Nugget, 2602 W. Division, Arlington, will host a qualifier for the Southwest Open on June 10-13. Action will start with \$20 round robins on Thursday night. Draw doubles for pros (-1's, 0's and 1's), \$50 per person entry, and amateurs (2's, 3's, 4's and 5's), \$25 per person, are on the agenda for Friday. On Saturday, there will be singles events for pros, \$100 entry; 2's only, \$50 entry; and 3's, 4's and 5's, \$25 entry. Bring partner events will be held on Sunday: pros (must add to 0 or more), \$100 per team, and amateurs (must add to 5 or more), \$60 per team. A one-time \$10 registration fee will be charged.

Winners of each event will be entered in that event at the Southwest Open.

Check the flyer that was in last month's issue for details. For further information, contact Tom Johnson, 817-226-4029, or Bobby Williams, 817-265-7045.

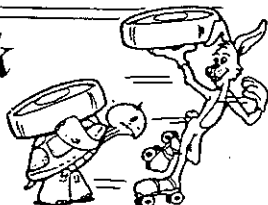
CHANGES ON HOUSTON HOLIDAY OPEN AGENDA, DEC. 26-JAN. 1

As one of the most popular shuffleboard tournaments in the nation, the Houston Holiday Open continues to make changes that will be beneficial to and appreciated by players of all skill levels. Keeping the philosophy in mind to have events which all skill levels could play and be competitive every day, changes are continuing to be made to accommodate the tremendous growth of the tournament.

This year's venue will be the Greenspoint Marriott's ballroom, which is 30 percent larger than the Hilton (used the last two years), and will easily accommodate the 16 boards (provided by Replay

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As The Puck Turns.....



By George & Donna Wilber

There's a lot of good news in The World of Shuffleboard this month....In Indiana, four father-and-son teams from four different states compete for honors in a big tournament....In Arizona, a son has the pleasure of inducting his dad into the Hall of Fame. For the skeptics who predict doom for our sport, we say -- the future looks bright!

That's not to say there isn't some problems to be addressed. Some of the letters in Notebook illustrate that. But at least, we're talking about those problems and seeking solutions through dialogue and, hopefully, action.

While we were doing some research on previous Bourbon Spring Tournament winners, we came across a piece that we ran in 1992 that still seems pertinent today:

Unity -- A Lesson from the Geese

As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an "uplift" for the bird following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds a 71 percent longer flying range than if each flew alone.

Lesson: People who share common direction and sense of community can get where they travel on the thrust of one another.

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone, and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the "lifting power" of the bird immediately in front.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed where we want to go.

The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

Lesson: We need to make sure our honking from behind is encouraging -- not something less helpful.

When a goose gets sick or wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow him down to help and protect him. They stay with him until he is either able to fly again or dies. Then they launch out on their own, either with another formation or to catch up with the original flock.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as the geese, we'll stand by each other like they do.

When a goose gets tired of leading the formation, he will retire to the rear to take advantage of the maximum lift (draft), while another goose moves forward to take a turn at leading formation.

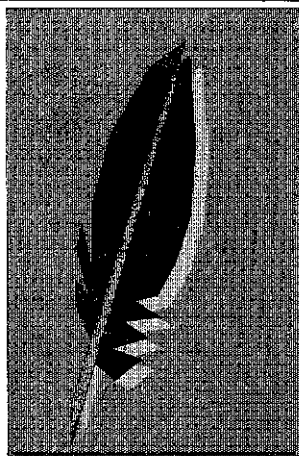
Lesson: If we have as much sense as a goose, we will take a turn in the lead when the time comes.

The author of those words of wisdom is unknown and it's unlikely that he/she had shuffleboard in mind when it was written. However, the geese (after centuries) are still flying in formation and there may still be a message there for The World of Shuffleboard. Each of us needs to ask: *Do we have the sense of a goose?*

Certainly, two people who have "taken their turn" in leading shuffleboard into the Information Age are Ron and Debbie Bowers of Austin, Texas. You know them for their rating system, but it's much more than that. In the July issue, we'll have a feature on the Bowers and Lynda French and all they have to offer to shufflers on the internet.

Remember, the Florida Table Shuffleboard Association will have a Board Talk table at the Southwest Open. Be sure to stop and talk to them and see what they have to offer.

George & Donna



Shuffleboard Northwest

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Notebook *(continued from Page 2)*

had to beat his son Steve and brother-in-law Joe Hudson. Hal threw the final weight to win the game. It was a moment in time that I will remember for a long time coming and will probably be repeated when his son gets inducted (hopefully).

Lorraine Bingham-Olson, Santa Clara, California

Thank you for your constructive letter, Lorraine. We're only sorry that it arrived after we had gone to press with the May issue. Alarm bells went off for us when we got the dates of the state championship; like you, we thought it must be a mistake. But a couple phone calls verified that it was not. The purpose of the Calendar of Events is not just to alert players about upcoming tournaments, but to serve as a clearing house for organizers so they don't conflict with events in the same area. If we do receive dates that are obviously in conflict, we will contact the organizers to make sure they know. However, we are not the "commissioners" of shuffleboard, so there is little we can do except to inform them of the conflict before we go to press with the promotions. (A good topic of discussion: does shuffleboard need a commissioner or some governing body to settle disputes?) The Pacific Northwest has solved potential problems with its Evergreen Shuffleboard Association. There has also been an informal agreement between the Bourbon American Legion in Indiana and Shooter's in Missouri to cooperate on setting dates of events. Ordinarily, we wouldn't be concerned about events on the same dates in different states, but shufflers are travelling more and more. California has set the pace for the rest of the nation as far as their Hall of Fame is concerned. Perhaps shufflers in that state should now direct their attention to forming an association to address problems such as you have described. Shuffleboard has come a long ways in the past decade, but it still has a way to go. The best way to take the next step is through dialogue and you have performed a great service to the game you love by speaking out.

Raters MUST Take Their Responsibilities Seriously

Everyone in the shuffleboard network agrees that Ron and Debbie Bowers have done a great job of developing, tabulating and publishing the rating of players. But this will be only as good as the raters. There needs to be greater consistency in how these ratings are done.

In the Houston area, some players are rated locally for league play, but not under the Bowers System.

Sometimes a player wins a tournament and their rating goes up; other times, it stays the same. Sometimes players have skills that have declined for different reasons, such as lack of play or age; yet they are carried on the ratings the same. Also, if a rater has not seen a player, I thought he/she was not to be rated by them.

I would like to give three examples and see what you raters think.....

Player #1: Plays a minimum of five nights a week. Has entered and won five of eight pro doubles; his rating is 1 (20 raters).

Player #2: No one has seen in 15 months. Was in Dallas-Ft. Worth area about a year ago and played round robin. Won singles 12 years ago in Wynnewood. He's rated a 1 (13 raters -- where did they see him and when?).

Player #3: Soon celebrates his 69th birthday. Has never won a singles or doubles. Plays one night a week, but was on a first place 4-person team event and a 6-person draft team. His rating is 1 (23 raters). How can this be?

I have been involved with shuffleboard since I was 16 and I love the game and want it to grow and flourish. But to me, the objective of a rating system is to have a means to categorize players on a level to create more competitive play. This will only happen if raters take their jobs seriously. If you haven't seen someone play, circle them; or if you see them win one game, think carefully before you rate that person on how he used to play, or maybe a reputation that has followed him -- or even who he is playing. After all, I put "Super Dave" in the loser's bracket in the Texas Championship -- but that doesn't make me a 2.

Tre Cameron, Dayton, Texas

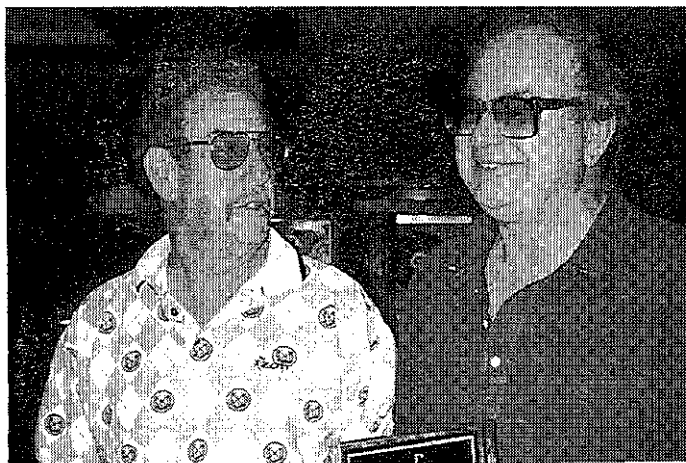
We can't speak for the Bowers, Tre, but we'll try to give you our opinions on your concerns. First, don't blame Ron and Debbie because they can only rely on the feedback they get from us out here in never-never land and we're all guilty of procrastinating and not getting our ratings in by their deadline. We agree that some raters are not taking their responsibilities seriously enough. Your example of league play is a good one. Trying to rate players in league play is super difficult in regard to tournament play; in league play, you're dealing with a limited area while in tournament play (and in national ratings), you're dealing with areas from the four corners of the U.S.A. -- Washington to New York, Florida to California and all places in between. An "A" player in league play may not be a -1, 0 or 1 in national ratings. Raters need to broaden their horizons and consider how a top league player would fare in major state/area/national tournaments and they should NEVER rate a player

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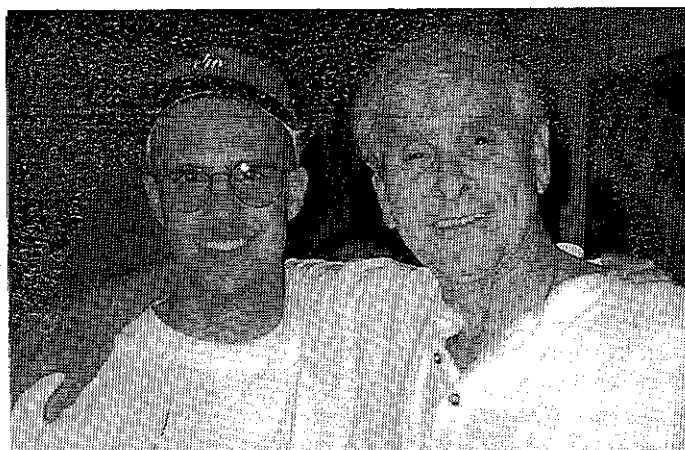
Bourbon Tourney (cont. from Page 1)



An emotional moment is shared by Bourbon No. 39 winners Buddy Broka and Jim Long. With his usual carefree style, after the big win, Jim proclaimed to the small crowd that stayed for the grand finale: "I've been inducted, I won the tournament. Drinks for everybody in the house!" However, "last call" had been issued an hour or more before. Maybe those hearty souls can collect later.



They had to beat second-place finishers Jim DeWitt and Dave Boaz, both from Indiana, to take the crown.



One of four father and son teams in the tournament, Mark McLeod of Indiana and his dad, Gene of Missouri, took third place honors.

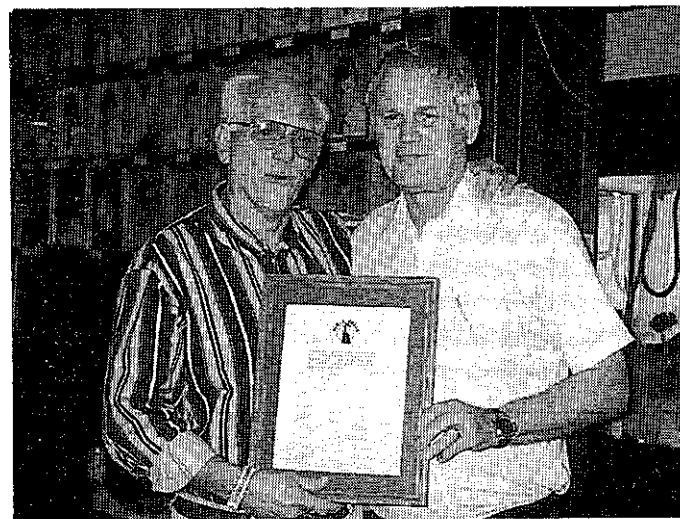


Fourth place went to Oklahomans Ron Gamble and Rick Jones.

Finishing fifth and sixth were Don Keppel and Bud Esterline, Terry Dowell and Bobby Voorhis, all of Indiana. Taking seventh and eighth were Bill and Billy Melton of Oklahoma, and Jeff and Alonzo Cottrell of Michigan.

Creakbaum/Long Inducted

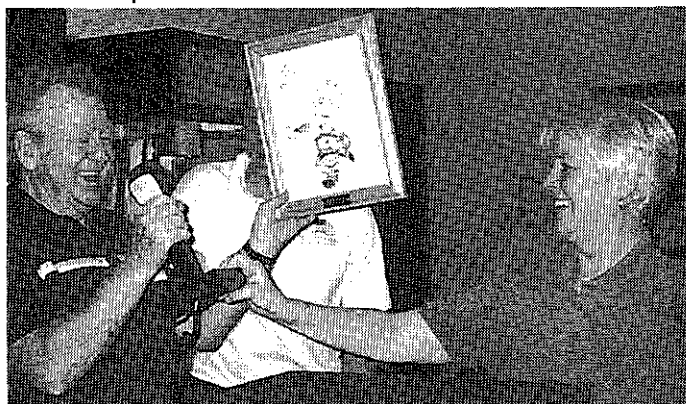
It wasn't just the tournament that attracted shufflers to this annual event. They came to pay their respects to two inductees into the Indiana Shuffleboard Hall of Fame -- Larry Creakbaum and Jim Long, affectionately known as The Red Baron and The Silver Fox. They joined the esteemed Emmett Wilcox, the first inductee, and tributes to them and more to follow will be displayed in the American Legion Post 424, now officially the "home" of the Indiana Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.



In addition to their Indiana Shuffleboard Hall of Fame plaques, the two inductees received a tribute from The Dixie Belle, Downey, California.

At the induction ceremony conducted prior to the sponsor sale for the open doubles tournament, tributes were paid to Larry and Jim by John McDermott on behalf of The Shuffleboard Federation; The Dixie Belle, Downey, California, personally delivered by Paul Weber; video testimonials taped

and hosted by Jerry Siebert of Lansing, Michigan; and a "you can't have one without the other" duet from the publishers of The Board Talk.



Larry and Jim, along with first Indiana inductee Emmett Wilcox (above), received a caricature of themselves, presented by committee member Sheryl Cockerill.

The one tribute that really reflected the sentiments of the large crowd that had gathered for the event was presented by former Oklahoman Pam Worsham in her "Ode to Long and Creakbaum."

"Oh, the stories I've heard of these two playing shuffleboard all through the night.

"The stamina they had to develop, to keep the goal in sight.

"It was never about the money, though these boys have made their share.

"It was for the 'W', the fun and the story, and because they both really care.

"We played with them and against them, saw hitting and sticking and lagging.

"A precision duet between them, with yelling and cussing and bragging.

"Each excels in his own right and always plays his best,

"But it's through their special partnership that they've out-performed the rest.

"Forty years in Indiana, they've been the cream of the crop.

"If you wanted to win in this state, this pair was the team to top.

"We can't forget to recognize those who stood by through thin and thick.

"Neither would be here today without the support of Patti and Vick.

"They stayed in and tended the home fires, raising kids and grandkids and such.

"Long and Creaky are quick to give credit to these women who sacrificed much.

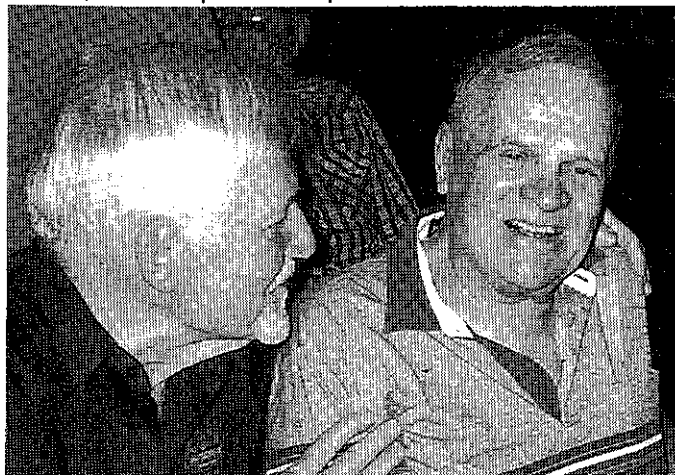
"And so we come now to honor them, as they have honored the game,

"With speeches and plaques and photos in their fifteen minutes of fame.

"When I came to Indiana, I didn't know if I'd ever belong,

"But three of the reasons I've stayed are: shuffleboard, Creakbaum and Long."

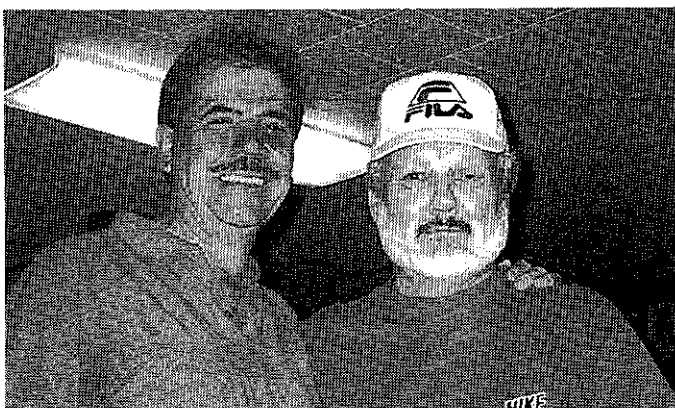
Everyone expected the honorees to team up (as they have so often since 1973) for the 39th Annual Bourbon Spring Doubles, but sadly, Larry lost one of his best friends and had to serve as his pallbearer the day of the tournament. However, "Creaky" was there in the late evening/early morning hours to cheer Jim and a different, but highly-regarded partner, Buddy Broka, in their quest to capture the 1999 crown.



Among the large crowd was Jim Long's coach and mentor, Bob Creiger, shown here with Board Talk George.

Over \$4400 in Preliminary Draw

On Friday afternoon, 48 players signed up to form 24 teams in a single elimination draw partner event, competing for a share of a pot of over \$4400. Len Dell of Maryland drew Jerry Knox of Indiana to take first place honors. Gene McLeod of Missouri and Rick Jones of Oklahoma finished second. Third went to Ray Miller and Brian Collins of Indiana, and fourth went to Rick Niblett of Maryland and Connie Langhoff of Indiana. Fifth and sixth places were taken by Carrie Clifton of Michigan and Buddy Broka of Indiana, Mark Holland of Michigan and Beef Camp of Indiana.

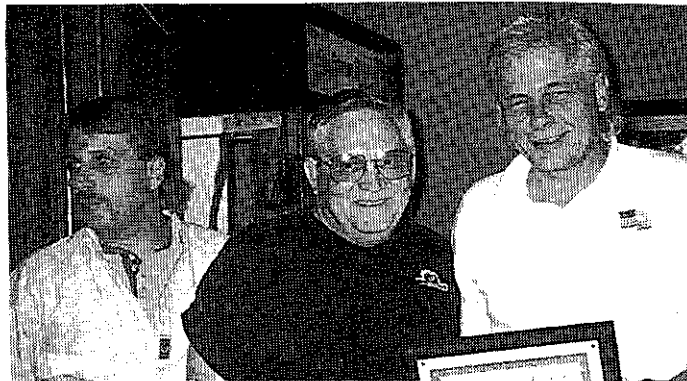


Jerry Knox of Indiana and Len Dell of Maryland drew each other to take first place in the draw. (Sorry, Lenny, your spot on Page 1 went to the tornado!)

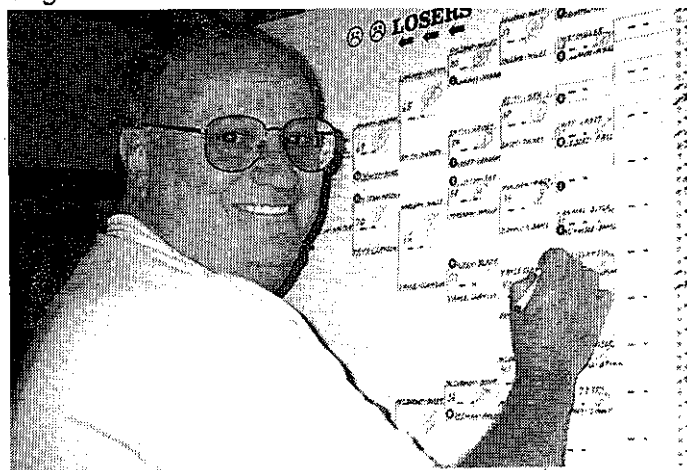
(continued on Page 10)

Appreciation from Terry and Bill:

Director Terry Dowell and host Bill Niswonger extend appreciation to all the players and their fans for their participation in the tournament and the induction ceremony for The Red Baron and The Silver Fox. "You were a great group of people and we look forward to seeing you all in the future," they said.



Three of the key people in the 39th Annual Bourbon Spring Tournament (from left): sponsor salesperson Mikel Johnson, American Legion 424 host Bill Niswonger, and tournament director Terry Dowell, who received a plaque of appreciation from the Legion.



Still smiling after many long hours of keeping the brackets straight was another key person, Larry Ross.

What's the Mystique of Bourbon?

Bourbon is a small town nestled in mid-America farmland, surrounded by Amish communities. Its main street offers a view of a buffalo operation; well-kept homes with freshly-mowed lawns and flowering trees and bushes; a walkable business district with the usual drug store, grocer, gas station, restaurant, tavern, funeral home and post office (and Moon Leather Works by Fritz, designer and creator of shuffleboard paraphanelia and more). Just across the railroad tracks that run through town, with a whistling train that rumbles through at infrequent intervals, is the American Legion 424 (few shufflers go beyond that point, so they don't know what may be on the other side of town). In the Legion's parking lot the first

week of May, you'll see cars, vans and motor homes with license plates, not just from Indiana, but several other states.

The Annual Bourbon Spring Doubles doesn't offer the amenities, attractions, number of events and boards as other major tournaments. The nearest motel is 12-15 miles away (and after a grueling day and night-long marathan, that's a long haul). So why does this annual event attract some of the top players in the nation from the East Coast to the West Coast and places in between? It's a bit of a mystique.

"I'm not sure what it is," said Bill Melton from Oklahoma. "We drove 2,000 miles for 47 and a half hours just to play for a few hours. But we'll probably be back again." Bill and son Billy, who had won No. 34 and No. 35, finished in the last money spot this year, small compensation for the long trip.

Why has Paul Weber made many trips from California to Bourbon? "We always have fun when we come here and I get to meet new people and see old friends like Beef and Marge Camp, Bobby and Debbie Voorhis, and Larry Summy and others that I wouldn't have the opportunity to see unless they come to the Reno tournament." One year Paul was among 18 California shufflers who made the trek to Bourbon. The framed tribute to the inductees delivered by Paul was signed by those Dixie Bellers who enjoyed that memorable experience.

New Faces This Year

In addition to some of the top players of the nation, there were some first-timers.



For example, out of the contingency of 12 shufflers representing Stober's Lounge in Lansing, Michigan (home of the Rudy Stober Memorial Tournament), eight newcomers had listened to the Bourbon "war stories" from the four veterans for years and decided to try their luck.

One of those eight first-timers was a lovely, fun-loving lady known as E.T., respected locally as a good player, but completely untested in major tournament events. She was a bit uncertain about

testing her talents in new territory, but decided to give it a try. E.T. didn't have a partner going in, so just put her name in, hoping to find another shuffler who was looking for one. She ended up paired with Bus Voorhis of Indiana. They didn't finish in the money, but they had a good time trying.

"The people at Bourbon were just great! They made me feel at home and I look forward to going back again," E.T. said, and perhaps it will become an annual tradition for her.

And just maybe that simple statement is the answer to the "Bourbon Mystique."

Bourbon Spring Doubles Honor Roll

(Editors' Note: The first report The Board Talk received about the results of the Bourbon Spring Doubles was in 1986, two years after we started publication. If there is information out there regarding the results of other years, please send it along and we will publish it.)

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. Teams</u>	<u>Winners</u>
1986	46	Bobby Voorhis/Dave Boaz, Indiana
1987	49	Lee McDonald/J.R. Lopez, Michigan
1988	(No Report)	
1989	51	Earl Kelly/Rick Boyer, Texas
1990	49	Bobby Voorhis/Jerry Warr, Indiana
1991	54	Jerry Siebert/Bjerne Sunde, Michigan
1992	42	John McDermott/Lee McDonald, Michigan
1993	61	Bob Perry, Illinois/Buddy Broka, Indiana
1994	64	Bobby Voorhis, Indiana/Jim Allis, Washington
1995	51	Bill and Billy Melton, Oklahoma
1996	70**	Bill and Billy Melton, Oklahoma
1997	33	Glen Davidson, Oklahoma/Mikel Johnson, Indiana
1998	40	Jerry Knox/Ray Miller, Indiana
1999	42	Jim Long/Buddy Broka, Indiana

**1st National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Tournament

Notebook *(continued from Page 7)*

they've never seen play. Reputation should not be a consideration. In our opinion, age or the number of nights a person plays is immaterial; it's the SKILL that counts. HOWEVER, if a player is rated a "1" only because he won on a 4-person team event and a 6-person draft team (and by 23 raters), that definitely should set off some alarm bells!

Nobody said the system is perfect, but with everybody's help, we'll get there!

This is just our opinion and we welcome feedback from other raters.

More on the Florida Open

The tournament (Florida Open) was held March 26-28 in Mims, Florida. Quite a few shufflers traveled from distant states (New York, Michigan, Maryland, Texas, Mississippi) to enjoy a week away playing shuffleboard and seeing old friends. This was accomplished, but with much less enjoyment than had been anticipated.

The tournament itself was run very well, but our hosts lacked southern hospitality. No food was provided unless purchased from (the host establishment) -- only microwave food -- no snacks. One can only wonder as to why 50-50 raffles were held. Each shuffleboard game cost players 50 cents. No motorhomes were allowed to park on the (host establishment) property overnight even though space was available. Sponsors were solicited for a \$75 fee for which their name was printed on a piece of paper and posted on the wall. Twelve sponsors were counted, equalling \$900. This money went where?

The topper to this whole weekend was that pool players and local patrons were charged one price for their drinks and the shuffleboard players were charged a higher price. Thursday night beer was \$2 per can/bottle to all the people in the establishment, but when the tournament began, beer was \$2.50 per can if you played shuffleboard, but \$2 to all other people. A glass of water cost \$1 and ice cost 50 cents. In New York State, this would be breaking the law. I wonder how the State of Florida handles discrimination?

I guess we assumed that the hosts agreed to host this tournament knowing what it entailed. The attitude of this establishment seemed to be one of complete indifference and rudeness to shuffleboard players, their wants and their needs. It was also assumed that the shuffleboard players would bring a significant amount of business into this tavern over several days, having a positive affect on tavern revenue. If prices had been fair and equal and good food available, we're sure profit would have been realized.

Maybe when considering an establishment as a

(continued on Page 22)

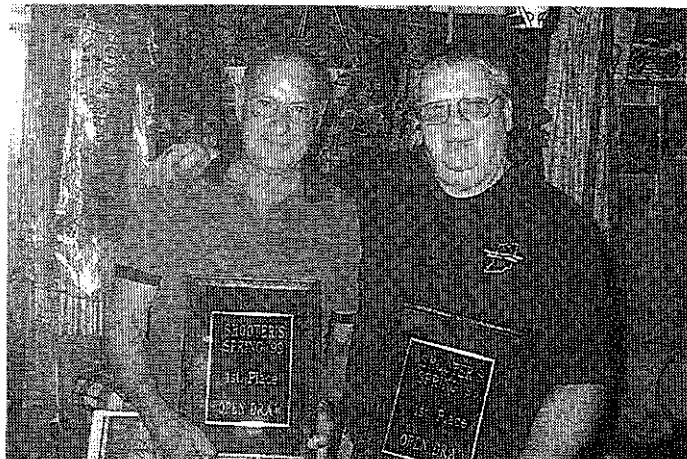
Shufflers from Seven States at Shooter's 1st Spring Shootout

By Host Jerry Sabourin

Shooter's 1st Annual Spring Shoot-Out on April 9-11 at Hillsboro, Missouri, was an overwhelming success! Players started arriving from out of state and out-state Missouri on Thursday, the 8th. By the time the tournament started, there were participants from seven different states, such as: Mike and Susie Halstead (Kentucky), Bill Niswonger, Larry Summy and Wally Dan (Indiana), Leon Black (Michigan), Tony Pelton (Arkansas), and Pat Gainey (Texas).

Included in the best out-state shooters to participate were Gene McLeod (Licking, Mo.), Connie McCall (Springfield, Mo.), Rick Pittman, John Stenger, Ray Johnston, Chris Moore, Steve Lindsey (Houston, Mo.), Jack Riley and Terry Bishop (Lake of the Ozarks, Mo.), plus a number of outstanding shooters from the St. Louis area. Thanks to all of you for your time, cooperation and participation.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, so here we go with the handicap open draw doubles winners:



First Place: Frank Edelen of St. Louis and Larry Summy of Indiana.



Second Place: Gene McLeod of Licking and Jerry Sabourin of St. Louis-Hillsboro.

**Upcoming Events at Shooter's
on Aug. 20-22 & Oct. 29-31**



Third Place: Local "boys" Jim Dunn and Robert Kaza of St. Louis.



4th Place: Bill Niswonger of Indiana and Connie McCall of Springfield. They make a cute couple, don't they?

Everything was going smoothly with this article until now! I didn't allow for Murphy's Law: what can go wrong will go wrong. The second roll of film didn't develop! My heart fell to my seat! My apologies to the individuals who placed in the other two events. Sorry, no photos!

In the handicap bring partner, the first place winners were Gene McLeod and Tony Pelton (I'm tired of looking at these guy's faces anyway after spending all weekend with them at Tony's tournament in Little Rock, Arkansas). Second place went to the team of Steve Lindsey of Houston, Mo., and Dan Kelly of St. Louis. (They don't make a good-looking couple -- take my word on this!) Third place was taken by Steve Sheridan of St. Louis and Leon Black of Board Talk Country. In fourth place was the team of Mike Simpson of St. Louis and Jerry Sabourin (these guys don't take a good photo any how; you didn't miss anything on this photo either). Fifth and sixth place money winners were the teams of Pat Marshall and Robert Kaza and the brother team of Jerry and Larry Romay (you should hear them argue!), all of St. Louis.

The third event, a handicap singles, was almost a clean sweep by the St. Louis, Missouri, area shooters. Leon Black of Michigan was the lone spoiler. First place winner was Jim Dunn with Dan Kelly taking second place. These two guys had one hell of a match I was told. It didn't end until after 5 in

in the morning and I was asleep by then! Third place went to Larry Romay of St. Louis, with the spoiler, Leon Black of Michigan, taking fourth place.

Once again, many thanks to all who attended and sorry to those who won't get their picture on a milk carton this month. Looking forward to seeing some old and new faces at Shooter's on Aug. 20-22. (Somebody else bring a camera, please!)

McDaniel Wins Maryland State Singles Championship

By Dick Gorman

The Maryland State championship singles was staged at Harvey's Place, Street, Maryland on April 23-24 for the second year. This was the finale of a long series of tournaments (eight weekends) at Harvey's for the 1998-99 season. The four in-house boards were ready and so were some new challengers.

Friday night was practice night and to be fair with practice time, a draw partner event was set up to equalize time. Some surprise winners (but it didn't do much good in the real events on Saturday) were Faye Todd, Newark, Delaware, and her partner, Dan (the) Teacher of Darlington, Md. Taking second place was host Harvey Comer and Faye's husband, Wayne Todd.

On Saturday morning, the Div. 2 (1.51 Bowers System or better) lined up to do battle. Maryland State Championships are open to competitors from any state and play they did. This year the ultimate winner was a Maryland lady, Judy Iseman of Chestertown. Judy hasn't been as active in tournaments as she once was, but we sure were happy to see her back and winning. Second place went to a Philadelphia player, Billy Pollock from Upper Darby's Knights of Columbus championship team. Third place went to another Marylander, Curtis Dean of Northeast. Congratulations to all; spend the money well.

The real biggie was the open singles' (open to all, including any who were in the Div. 2) and many competed, taking advantage of the handicap system. Long-time player Jim McDaniel of Darlington emerged the state champion. It was fitting that just three weeks ago, a tribute was paid to him by his shuffleboard friends and family. Over 100 people showed up from surrounding states to pay tribute to Jim for his dedication to the sport over so many years (nobody really knows how many years because nobody has been around that long). Fighting his way through a host of other hopefuls was Butch Kelly, Springfield, Pa., to take a hard-fought second place, while both tournaments were being played on the same boards.

As if that wasn't enough, those who had been

eliminated from the singles events joined in the regular Saturday night draw event on the boards that were available. Taking first place in the draw were Wendy Davis and Dick Gorman, both from Wilmington, Del., with second place going to Hilda Poling and Dewey Shortridge, both from Darlington.

The weekend was a great climax to a long and innovative season with more tournaments than ever before and more participants (many new). Harvey Comer and hostess Darlyene Belcher said they were happy with the new format and they believe it has turned the direction of shuffleboard in this area to help ensure its future growth. They want to once again thank Debbie and Ron Bowers for all their hard efforts.

Next season's schedule is already being planned and will be announced in the August Board Talk after contacting other tournament sites on the East Coast to reduce conflicts on dates. Meanwhile, show up any Saturday night by 8 p.m. and enter the draw partner events.



Winners of the Maryland State doubles championship, held at Harvey's Place on April 10 were Johnny Gardner of Chestertown and J.B. Armour of Rising Sun.



Taking second place honors in the Maryland State doubles championship were Steph O'Neill of Rising Sun and Steve (Ski) Lacinski of Philadelphia.

(Photos by Brenda Wallace)

1999 CALENDAR OF SHUFFLEBOARD EVENTS

JUNE 1999

June 2-6

Hall of Fame Tournament
AN & AF Club #68
Vancouver, B.C., Canada

June 4

AB Draw
J & C's Tavern
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

June 10-13

Southwest Open Qualifier
The Gold Nugget
Arlington, Texas

June 11-13

Bill English Memorial Tourney
Balloon Inn
Arvada, Colorado

June 11-13

Philly Open
J & C's Tavern
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

June 12

3rd Billy Chiles Memorial ABC
Silver Spur
San Bernardino, California

June 18-19

Warm-Up Tournament
Action Lounge
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

June 19-20

Mixed Doubles Tournament
Shamrock Tavern
Longview, Washington

June 26-27

Forest Festival Tournament
Fir Cone Tavern
Shelton, Washington

JULY 1999

June 30-July 5

7th July 4th Tournament
and Porter White Induction
Dixie Belle, Downey, California
Oskar's Lounge, Bellflower, Cal.
Edgewood, Bellflower, Cal.

July 2

AB Draw
J & C's Tavern
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

July 2-4

4-Event Tournament
The Pillars
Guilford, New York

July 4-5

Open Doubles
Town Tavern
Sequim, Washington

July 4-10

Southwest Open
American Legion Post 73
Del City, Oklahoma

July 18-19

ABC Draw
Blue Goose
Port Orchard, Washington

July 24-25

NW Amateur Championships
Fir Cone Tavern
Shelton, Washington

July 27-Aug. 1

10th Grand Masters Plus
The Whistling Oyster
Quilcene, Washington

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. 12-15

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

Aug. 20-22

3-Event Tournament
Shooter's
Hillsboro, Missouri

SEPTEMBER 1999

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

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. 29-31

Halloween Tournament
Shooter's
Hillsboro, Missouri

NOVEMBER 1999

Nov. 27-28

Rated Doubles Tournament
BZ's Sports Bar
Seattle, Washington

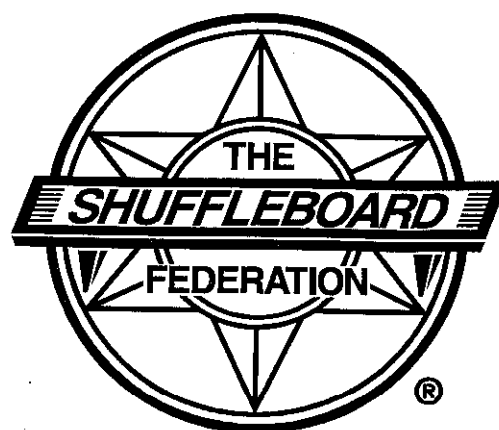
DECEMBER 1999

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!***

***Send to: The Board Talk
503 E. Sheridan, Lansing, MI 48906***



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Upcoming Events *(cont. from Page 5)*

Amusements) to be used as well as providing ample room for observation and socializing. The Marriott will provide free transportation from Bush Intercontinental Airport (15 minutes away), free health club with a dry sauna, indoor heated pool and hot tub (bring your swimsuit), coin-operated laundry facility, in-room coffee, iron and ironing board. Transportation to Greenspoint Mall and Kroger's grocery is also available.

Changes have been made in Singles, Bring Partner, and Pro-Am events which should be appreciated by all skill levels. See the enclosed flyer for details.

There are several additions to the experienced crew of volunteers that always make everything run so smoothly. Ken "Doc" Strong will join Bill Rice on the bracket boards. Denise Klein and Pete Worsnop will assist in administration, marketing and poster production.

The boards are to be set up by Dec. 25 and will not be removed before Jan. 3. As always, draws and side games will be available for those eliminated early from the main events.

Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard site to spread the word about this big event. For additional information, call Jack Scott at 281-558-0237; or Johnny Ballard, 281-759-3706 or 1-800-641-2745 pager.

New York

LABOR DAY "SIZZLER" AT BALDWINSVILLE 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. "This will be a fun time and we hope to see a lot of shufflers," they said.

Oklahoma

ALL SYSTEMS GO FOR SOUTHWEST OPEN, AMERICAN LEGION POST 73, DEL CITY, JULY 4-10

This note from your hosts of the Southwest Open in Del City -- Ron and Sharon Huddleston and Don Crall: "First of all, we want to thank everyone for the phone calls and concerns for the Oklahoma shufflers after the F5 tornado ravaged parts of the state and the metropolitan Oklahoma City. We thank God that none of our shufflers suffered injury or damage but, sadly, we all know of persons who were less fortunate.

"For those of you who have been here, the Comfort Inn, Bristol Station, Cracker Barrel and Sixpense Inn were leveled, but there was no damage to the American Legion or the motels we have recommended for this year. Entries have been arriving on a daily basis and it certainly looks to be even bigger than last year. We have gone ahead and added three more tables for a total of 27 boards this year! We look forward to seeing you soon. If we can be of assistance, please give us a call or send an e-mail."

A flyer containing information on all the events, lodging information, and entry form is in this issue. Don't be left on the sidelines of this big event. Register today!

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.

(More Upcoming Events on Page 28)



Dixie Belle's



7th Annual July 4th Tournament

June 30 – July 5, 1999

6 Events – 9 Boards – 3 Locations

Dixie Belle Restaurant & Lounge
9559 Imperial Hwy.
Downey CA 90242

Oskar's Sports Lounge
13418 Woodruff Ave.
Bellflower CA 90706

The Edgewood
10122 Rosecrans
Bellflower CA 90706

*Features: Full menu restaurant, cocktails.
Two Bars: Sports Bar - 4 shuffleboards
Lounge Bar- Live entertainment and karaoke.
Limited Motor Home Parking-no hookups.*

*Features: Steak/burger grill,
cocktails, karaoke, 3 boards.
(donuts, pizza & sandwiches
nearby)*

*Features: beer/wine,
2 boards, (Chinese food,
fish & chips, burgers
nearby)*

Event Information (*details on next page*)

Event	Entry Fee	Ratings Restrictions	Dates	Limit
<i>At the Dixie Belle:</i>				
ABC Draw	\$25 per player	None	June 30 - July 1(6pm-1am)	16 teams
Open Doubles	\$200 per team	None	July 2 - July 3	24 teams
Open Singles	\$100 per player	None	July 4 - July 5	32 players
<i>At Oskar's:</i>				
Ladies Doubles	\$60 per team	Combined ratings=4.00+	July 2 (6pm) - July 3	16 teams
Am. Doubles I	\$100 per team	1.00 – 2.99	July 4 – July 5	16 teams
<i>At the Edgewood:</i>				
Am. Doubles II	\$50 per team	3.00 – 5.00	July 3 – July 5	32 teams

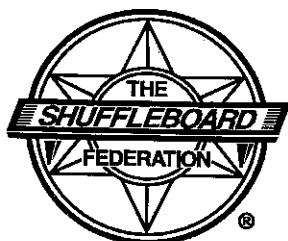
Pot Luck Barbecue and Induction

On Saturday, July 3rd, there will be a potluck barbecue at the Dixie Belle. Following the barbecue, Porter White will be inducted into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. All events will take a break during the barbecue and induction so that all players may attend.

For further information:

Call the Dixie Belle: (562) 803-4943 (open Tuesday through Sunday)

Or e-mail: Dixie Debbie at DixieDebbi@aol.com or Chris Brown at ShuffleGal@aol.com



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Points are earned based on your finish in each event. The more events you enter, the better chance you have to win. Players get two points for each eligible event they enter. The top 25% of the finishers in each of those events earn bonus points. More details are available on the other side of this page. The top three players in each division will win \$300, \$200 and \$100, respectively. The top finisher overall will be the 1999 North American Champion, and will receive a trophy and, a *free Jacuzzi suite*, for the 2000 North American Championships™. More detailed information is available on the back of this page. The following events will be used to determine the winner.

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 (12:00 noon)	Monday	192 players
Division I Doubles	\$75.00 per player	0.00 to 1.49	Tuesday, October 19	Tuesday	32 teams
Division II Doubles	\$50.00 per player	1.50 to 2.49	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	-.01 to -1.50	Tuesday, October 19	Wednesday	32 teams
Division I Singles	\$75.00 per player	0.00 to 1.49	Wednesday, October 20	Thursday	48 players
Division II Singles	\$50.00 per player	1.50 to 2.49	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	-.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	Sunday	32 teams
Pro Singles	\$200.00 or \$300.00	-.01 to -1.50	Thursday, October 21	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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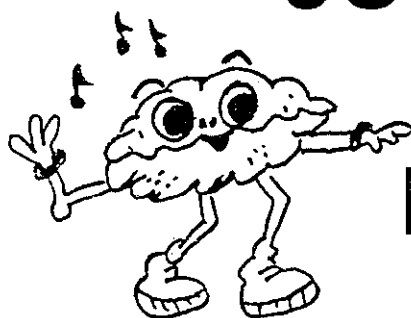
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Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

Dear Readers: Balboa Ron is taking a well-earned "sabbatical" this month. Look for more adventures of Frisco Eddie in the next issue.

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

The following shuffleboard establishments have joined The Board Talk's national network this month. Please add them to your annual listing which was published in the January issue:

Arizona: M.V.P. Sports Bar, 6001 N. 43rd Ave., Phoenix; phone 602-973-2018

Florida: Anchor Inn, 7023 Taft St., Hollywood; phone 954-981-9856

Missouri: Coach's Bar & Grill, 1667 S. Old Hwy. 141, Fenton; phone 314-343-8991

Nevada: The Bottle Collector, 1328 Las Vegas Blvd., South, Las Vegas; phone 702-382-6645

Texas: Cheers 2-U, 14023 Westheimer, Houston; phone 281-870-1735

Sansone's West Oaks Bar, 14144 Westheimer, Houston; phone 281-558-4545

If you are a new subscriber, or if you have misplaced your "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." listing, drop us a note or give us a call and we'll send you the January 1999 one: The Board Talk, 503 E. Sheridan Rd., Lansing, MI 48906; phone 517-484-4976 or 371-2538. We encourage you to keep your list in your glove compartment when you're travelling and stop in and play a game at these supporting establishments, and be sure to thank them for their support of your sport.

If your favorite shuffleboard site is not a member of our network, sign them up today. Assure them that travelling shufflers do use the list and just one visit from them will likely pay for their \$20 subscription investment.

Since the 1999 listing was published, we have lost a number of establishments because they did not respond to their Red Check. If you shufflers are concerned that your home establishment may not be included in the 2000 listing, check with the owner/manager to see if they are in good standing.

Some Surprise Wins at Dew Drop Inn Nationals

The Spring '99 National Tournament at the Dew Drop Inn on April 22-25 drew some big names from surrounding states and ended up with some surprise wins.

The Friday night mixed doubles was won by Brenda Prosser, hostess of the Honky Tonk in Sherburne, New York, and Fred Truax, also of Sherburne. Second place honors went to Theresa Gibson and Jimmy Fowler from Waterloo. Rita Traux and Dan Miner finished third.

Saturday morning started out with the singles. Taking first place was Chuck King of Delaware, with Jim Fowler taking second.

Saturday afternoon was the draw partner with Rick Meyer and Dan Miner taking first place. Fred Truax and Rob Hummer finished second, with Russ Reynolds and Chuck King in third place. Brenda Prosser and Jim Fowler took fourth place.

Sunday's event was a bring partner. John and Sharon Canino from Baldwinsville beat Rick Niblett and Chuck King to take the top spot. Taking third were Dick Losee and Bob White.

The total pot for the weekend was \$5,070.

"Everyone had a feast all weekend," reports hostess Tracie Fridley. "I want to say thank you to my mother, Elsie Fridley, for all the cooking. She's the best! Special thanks also to Rob Hummer for helping all weekend with the score and boards. We met a very special person for the first time who made the tournament for the first time. Thank you, Bill Jones, for being the auctioneer for the weekend, and we are all glad to have met someone so nice. An extra thanks to my two great bartenders, Jean Brewer and Mikki who did a wonderful job all weekend."

The next event at the Dew Drop Inn will be the nationals on Aug. 5-8. Watch for details in the July issue of The Board Talk.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

To allow us time to get the July issue of The Board Talk published and mailed before we head for the Southwest Open, the deadline will be June 15, FIRM! Material received after that date will be in the August issue. Thanks! G & D



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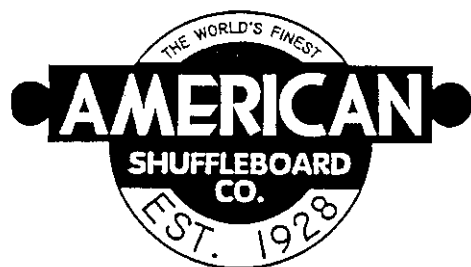
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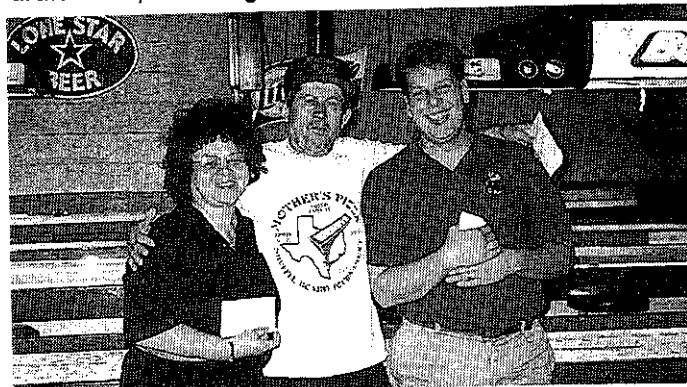
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Mother's Hosts 3rd Annual Spring Fling

The 3rd Annual Spring Fling at Mother's Pizza and Por Boys, Corpus Christi, Texas, on April 9-11 attracted 32 players. Events included a draw partner, draft team, and singles.



Mother's owner Ted Hamilton (center) congratulates Angie Snyder and James Fiebrink of San Antonio for taking first place in the draw partner.



Tommy Corry of Rockport (left) and George Best of San Antonio took second place.

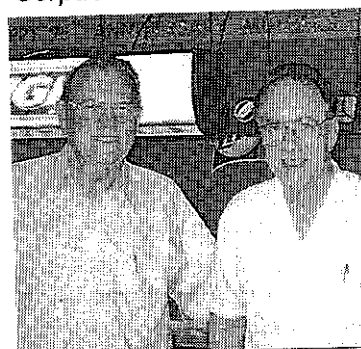
Pete Garcia of Corpus Christi and Frank Corry of Rockport took third place in the draw partner event.



Winners of the draft team event were (from left): Richard Olivo, Corpus Christi; Brenda Moore, Duane Keith and George Best of San Antonio.



Second place went to (from left): Ted Hamilton, Neil Garvin, (sponsor Edie Schwertner), Pete Garcia of Corpus Christi and James Fiebrink of San Antonio.



1st place in the singles went to Frank Corry (left), second place honors going to Neil Garvin. Wanda West of Muskogee, Oklahoma, took third place.

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"This year I was very fortunate to have two associates, Sandie Pressley and Jennifer Schmidt, who handled the signups, board preparation and charts," said tournament director Neil Garvin. "Sandie also volunteered to do the sponsor sale and did a great job of it."



Included in the generous food spread provided by Mother's were two "puck" cakes, one red and one blue. The hosts also added \$200 to the draft team event.

"Moving Up" at the Fir Cone Tavern

By Dwayne Dibley

Now that the new, updated system is in place (and according to many, working great), Division II tournaments are a lot easier to run. What many players out there must understand is that in every tier group, there are players on the top, middle, and bottom of that tier group. The greatest compliment that a player can receive is to be promoted to the next higher tier group by their peers.

Once promoted, the player is at the bottom of the higher tier group and needs to put in the extra practice time to move up. The best way to gain the experience and skills to move up is to enter the open double tournaments. The thought that "I am waiting until I am good enough" does not work. The simple fact is that you won't be good until you do. Remember that anything worth doing is worth doing poorly -- until you can learn to do it right.

On March 13, the Fir Cone Tavern in Shelton, Washington, held its first Div. II doubles. There were quite a few Div. III players entered in the event. That's what it takes to move up. This first Div. II tournament was a draw. Owner Jeanette Hohn wanted to get the Div. II off the ground while also encouraging the Div. III players to turn out. The next Div. II event at the Fir Cone will be on Oct. 9, a bring your partner event.



Action always starts off at the Fir Cone with an A-B draw on Friday night. Dino Mako and Paulette McKinney won first place.



They beat Mel Hohn and Jeff Kersting in the finals.



The dynamic team of Dean Johnson and Jim Watson outlasted the stiff competition to win the first Div. II tournament.



Jeff Kersting and Billy Walker came close in the finals, but had to settle for second.

(continued on Page 22)

Fir Cone *(continued from Page 21)*



Third place in the Fir Cone's Div. II tournament went to Alvin Orcutt and Billy Hagmann.

Fourth place went to Jim Thorton and Paulette McKinney. Bob Hurts and Dennis James tied for fifth with Terry Woodward and Bob Inman.

On Sunday, March 14, a Div. II singles was held with 72 percent of the players returning.



Alvin Orcutt (left) came from the loser's bracket to take first place against a tough field of players. Bill Walker (right) put up a valiant effort and took second place.



Paulette McKinney went a long way from losing her first match to take third place.

Dean Johnson finished a respectable fourth. Terry Woodward and Judy George tied for fifth.

Once again, many members of the Shelton shuffleboard community pitched in to create a wonderful feast on both days.

The next tournament at the Fir Cone Tavern will be the Forest Festival Tournament on June 26-27. This year the tournament will be an A-B bring your own team. For more information on this or any other tournament at the Fir Cone, contact Mel Hohn at 360-246-2221.

Notebook *(continued from Page 11)*

place to host a tournament, the Florida State Shuffleboard Association will set guidelines as to what is needed and expected.

We have an open invitation to the hosts and to all the Florida shuffleboarders to come to Central New York and try your hand at one of our tournaments: (May) Honky Tonk Saloon, Sherburne; (July) Pillars, Guilford; (August) The Dew Drop Inn, Waterloo; (September) Moose Lodge, Baldwinsville.

You will be given a warm welcome, great free food, cheap beer and, we guarantee, a GREAT TIME!

Shuffleboarders from Central New York

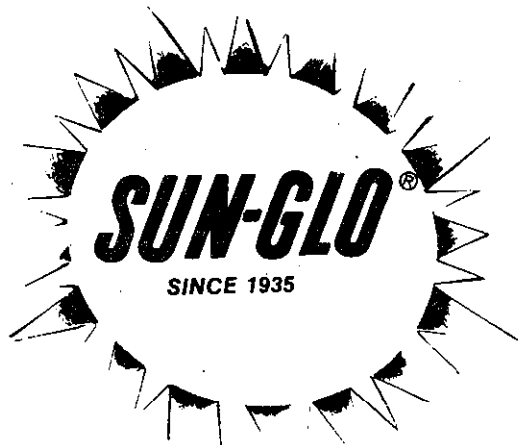
Seldom have we received as much negative feedback on a tournament as this one. However, as we did last month, we encourage participants and potential future participants in the Florida Open not to judge the Florida Table Shuffleboard Association on this one incident. We can assure you that they feel worse than you do and will take every measure to make the next event a great experience for everyone involved. While a free feed may seem like an unnecessary expense to some hosts, most have realized it is a vital attraction to participants, along with reasonable and fair drink prices. Some hosts carry the entire expense of the spreads (and some are lavish!); others pay for the main entree and depend upon their regular customers/shuffleboard supporters to bring in their culinary specialties. Either way, it works to the benefit of the host establishment. Not everybody can go home a winner, but they will remember the good food they had and will come back for the next event.

Also, as explained in the last issue, our editorial policy prevents us from identifying the host location, but they'll get the message, we're sure.

P.S.: By the time this issue is delivered, the Honky Tonk tournament will already have been held and we look forward to reporting the results next month. The Pillars tournament is listed on the Calendar of Events for July 2-4, and the Dew Drop Inn for Aug. 5-8, and the Moose Club on Sept. 2-5. We hope you all will get some Florida visitors. We know you will treat them royally, as you do all visitors from out-of-state. We were in your area of The World of Shuffleboard a few years ago and we had a great time, plus we've gotten good reports from other visitors.

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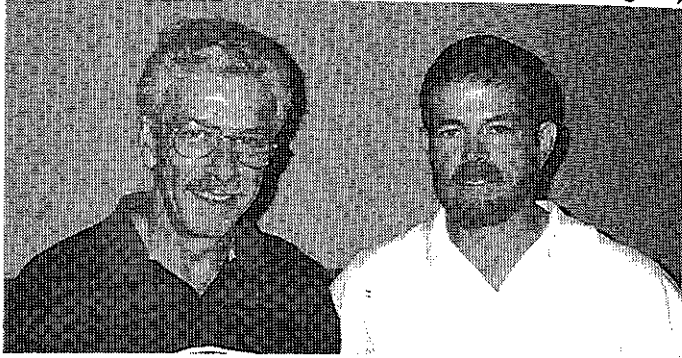
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Gibbs Memorial *(continued from Page 3)*



Bob Jacobson (left) and Dennis Bredvik, both from Arizona, took fourth place in the Pro-Am draw event.

In the 5th and 6th spots were Paul Weber of California and Manny Canada of Arizona, and Wendell Herbison and Kevin Baek, both of Arizona.

Saturday morning saw 26 teams in the A-B-C draw. Once again it was a single game, double elimination 15-point game format. The finals were concluded Saturday night after the induction ceremony.



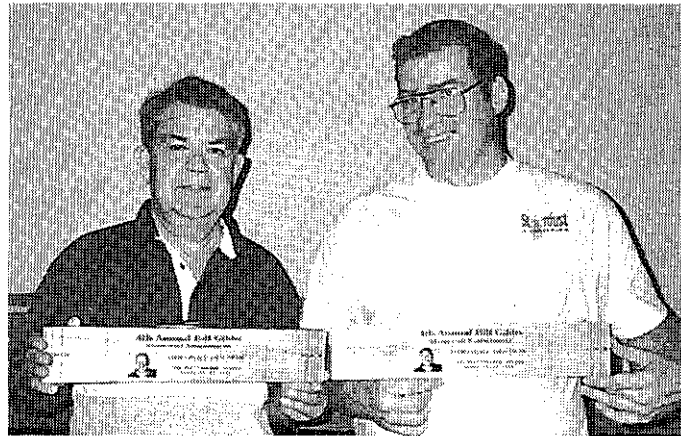
Hall of Famer Bob Lewis led his team of Wes Eades (right) of California and Dennis Bredvik of Arizona to victory in the A-B-C draw.

Taking second place honors was the team of Paul Parks, California, Tim Schwenke and Terry Leahy of Arizona. Gil Aragon, Wendell Herbison and Linda Churchman, of Arizona came in third. In fourth place were Al Salazar, Arizona; Leon Black, Michigan; and Kevin Baek, Arizona.

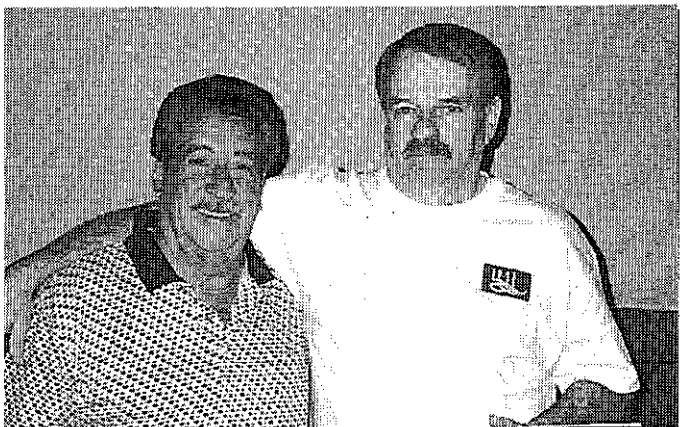
The open doubles started after the induction Saturday night and finished late Sunday night. This event was a 2 out of 3 in both the winner's and loser's brackets, all games to 15 points.



Nick Chaffin of California teamed up with Bill Thomas of Arizona, going through the winner's bracket to claim the biggest share of the pot.



Bob Lewis continued the celebration of his induction by taking second with partner Wendell Herbison.



Hal Perry (right), a recent inductee into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, and George Camara, also from California, took third place.

Marilyn Roberts and Bob Jacobson, both of Arizona, finished fourth out of the 14 teams in this event.

Congratulations, Bob Lewis, 1st Arizona Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Inductee! You deserve that great honor!

Thanks from the Directors

Under the best of circumstances, a tournament of this size over a weekend, with the induction ceremony and all its distractions, can be very demanding. The tournament directors -- Al Salazar, Alice Aredondo, and Bob Lewis -- would like to thank: Gil Aragon, Ted Behrens, Bill Bryan, Ted and Manny Canada, Cindy Clark, Wendell Herbison and the Stardust Lounge, Mickey Lewis, Joanne Leonard, Paul Messina, Linda Meyers, Marilyn Roberts, Bob Shirley, Lady Tafoya, Bill Thomas, Paul Weber, Johnny Woods, Denise Yohn, George and Donna Wilber of The Board Talk, the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, Trey Bennett of West Valley Printing, and Kevin Baek of Family Billiards.

One hundred percent of all entries and sponsor sales were disbursed to the winners, with no one receiving any compensation. These people with their time, input, support and donations, made this weekend, not only possible, but successful.

Tice/Lambert, Pitzer/Jones Tops at Heartland Handicap

The American Legion Post 73 in Del City hosted the Oklahoma Heartland Handicap Tournament on April 16-18, attracting 60 shufflers. The competitive, full-filled weekend of handicap shuffleboard once again produced a majority of 13-13 and 14-14 games. The two events of draw and bring partner produced record pots of almost \$14,000.

"Thanks to the Bower's Handicap Ratings, the format allows us to mix all levels of rated players into each event," said director Ron Huddleston. "It is a pleasure to see new faces starting to enter events as they begin to understand the Heartland Handicap format of play. Our thanks to all the players for making it a fun tournament."

Winners of the draw partner were Shannon Tice and Weldon Lambert. Second place went to Steve Burkett and Maylon Nobles. Harvey Walden of Tennessee and Rick Jones took third, with Tommy McBurnett and Euel Jensen in fourth place.

Taking first place in the bring partner were Pete Pitzer and Rick Jones, with Dino Flemming and Ron Huddleston in second place. Sue (X-Virgin) Lewis and Don Neaves finished third, with Pat Gainey and Harvey Walden in fourth place.

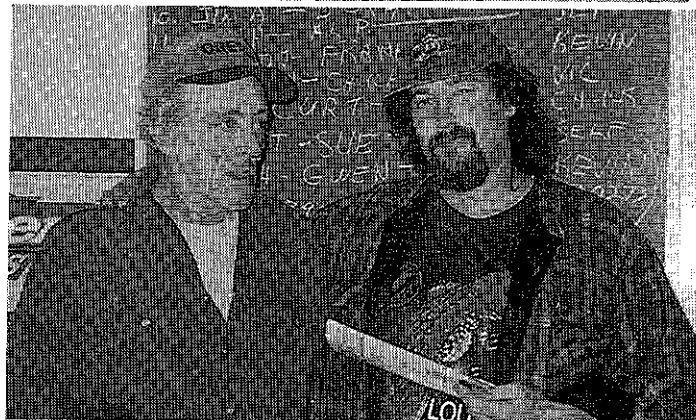
Allis/Hefflin Win at Shamrock

The Shamrock Tavern in Longview, Washington, hosted its 8th draw partner tournament on May 1-2. Sixteen teams vied for a share of the \$1600 pot.

"It was good to see Jim Allis back in the groove," said reporter Ralph Duarte. "He's too good a player

not to be winning."

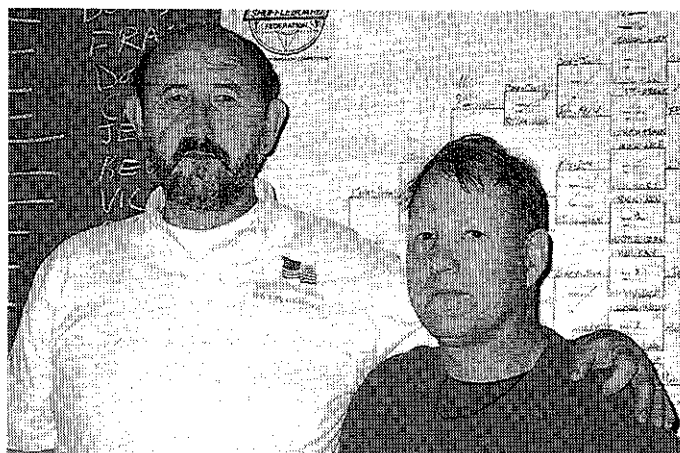
*And win he did,
with partner Dick
Hefflin. They had
to come from behind
to do it.*



Al Pease (right) and Don Heflin (Dick's brother) took second place honors.



Steve Wilson (right) and John Hight finished third.



Fred Johns and Frank Mako (the TALL one) took fourth place.

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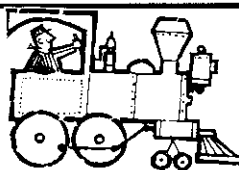
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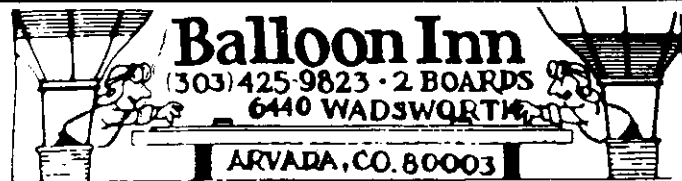
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From The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc.

Plans for the 1999 North American Shuffleboard Championships are well underway (see the enclosed flyer/registration form). Thanks to everyone who returned a comment form from last year's tournament. Because of your input, we are making a few changes.

Regarding the question of two out of three, single elimination, versus single game double elimination, in the amateur singles and doubles -- the results were almost 65 percent in favor of staying with the current format, so we will. However, we will ask for input again this year on a related idea, which we are considering for the 2000 NASC. That is, would you prefer a format of two out of three in the winners bracket, with one 21 point game in the losers bracket, over the current single game, double elimination format?

As far as changes for this year go, the main issues which have been addressed are the format for the Amateur Six Team Event (all games will be 15 points), the expansion of the amateur singles events, and a significant increase in the number of quality spectator seats. With regards to the seating issue, a change in layout and a little remodeling by the Sands Regency will allow us to expand from 22 boards to 24 boards, and still have a little more room for the players and significantly better quality spectator seating. There will also be some significant changes in the way the auctions are done and prize money is distributed, which will speed things up considerably.

Last year, the pros were only eligible for four events, while the amateurs were eligible for five (six if they were old enough for the Legends Draw). This is a result of us dropping the pro draw partners in 1997. A new event, Crazy Eights, has been added for the pros to bring their number of events back to five. This is a very exciting game to watch and should be a real crowd pleaser.

As far as crowd-pleasers go, we have a couple of other changes which should be very popular. The "small room" will go back to six boards; eight was way too crowded last year. Also, those will be the first boards dropped as events wind down. With the pro events being moved into the "big room," the small room will be available for round robins, match play, etc. by late afternoon or early evening on most days. In order to give every consideration to the players still involved in tournament play, there will be a new policy this year: tournament play only rule for the big room.

Just a reminder: there is a maximum of two players per room, and both player's names must be

registered at the front desk. As usual, even with the increased capacity, we expect most of the events to sell out well before the tournament. If you are planning to attend the 10th Annual NASC, don't procrastinate! Send in your registration form today and secure your spot now.

For all the most up-to-date news and information about the 1999 NASC, go to our web site, www.shuffleboardfederation.com, and click the "1999 NASC" link, or you may call us toll-free at 800-380-3033.

Oklahoma

SOUTHWEST WARM-UP AT ACTION LOUNGE, BROKEN ARROW, JUNE 18-19

Bud Hillburn invites you to get "warmed up" for the Southwest Open by participating in a tournament at the Action Lounge, Broken Arrow (right on your way to Del City), on June 18-19.

Events will include a draw partner on Friday and a bring partner on Saturday. Entry fees are \$20 for each event and must be paid by Friday at 7 p.m. A one-time \$5 registration fee will be charged.

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

The Action Lounge will also host its annual tournament over the Labor Day weekend.

Southern California

MEAT SHOOTS AT EDGEWOOD, OSKAR'S, DIXIE BELLE EACH WEEK

Meat shoots continue to be popular with players in the Bellflower-Downey (California) area. The Edgewood has their regular event each Saturday afternoon at 3 p.m., followed by Oskar's Saturday night action at 7 p.m. On Sunday the Dixie Belle hosts its afternoon event at 2 p.m. Each location has good shuffleboard play, usually a full house and the best in steaks, along with a good selection of beverages.

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Frankie's Sports Pub Hosts a Record-Setter

By Cheri Schnarrs

Frankie's Sports Pub in Olympia, Washington, hosted a tournament on May 7-9, an A-B draw on Friday night and an open doubles and Div. II doubles run simultaneously on Saturday and Sunday.

72 Players in A-B Draw; Locals Win!

When we started sign-ups for the A-B draw on Friday, I thought it would never end. We really had to get started or it would be Saturday. We ended up with 72 players -- WOW! and yes, we had to finish on Saturday.



First place went to locals Jeff Adams and Bob Inman (left), with second going to Mike Waters and Pualette McKinney (right).



Grant Manning and Frank Mako took third place.

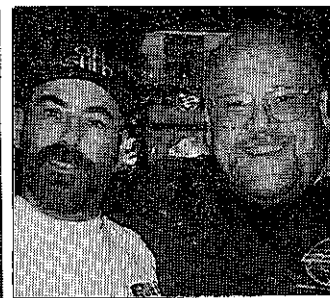
Other money finishers were: Don Stalsworth and Sharon McDonnell, 4th; Nels Anderson and Bob Freeman, 5th; Gwyn Orsi (glad you could make it) and Dean Johnson, 6th; John Martin and John Rostollan, 7th; Vern Gonzalas and Ryan Devlon, 8th.

Great job by all players -- everyone was on time and kept the puck moving. Thanks to all! Special note: Jim Foran did play Friday night and his "Elvis pelvis" is getting better!

14 Teams in Open; 19 in Division II

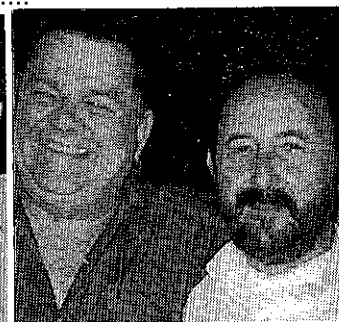
Saturday started the big events -- two run at the same time -- an open doubles with 14 awesome teams, and a Div. II doubles with 19 very competitive teams.

Cheri congratulates Darrol Nelson and Mike Thorpe, winners of the open doubles.

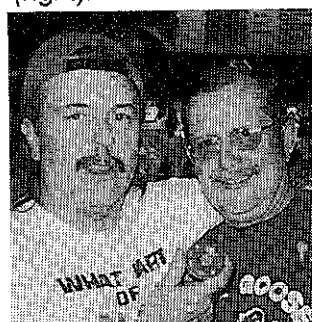


Dan Hitt and Al Pease (left) took second place honors, with Rick Gindt and Larry Pearson (right) in third.

Tim Nugent and Carl Roush were fourth, with Kevin Larkin and Kurt Grothen, Gary George and Lyle Larson in fifth and sixth. The quality and level of play was outstanding! That's why they are called the Pros. My hat goes off to the two women's teams -- Gwyn Orsi and Tina Olson, Linda Stephensen and Michelle Foran. You gals gave them a run for the money! Well, enough about the top guns....



Top honors in the Div. II doubles went to John Rostollan and Rick Shaw (left) of Spokane. Taking second were the two Franks -- Powers and Mako (right).



Gary Orcutt and Bill Walker (left) took third, with Hazel Thorpe and Judy George (right) in 4th place (note that we keep the pucks in the family).

Dean Make and Dennis MacPhearson, Cheri Schnarrs and Bob Inman (what a partner!) took fifth and sixth places.

The tournament was a great success thanks to tournament director Mike Thorpe, assistant Jeff Adams, Lyle Larson, Caveman and Mark Minium. We could not have had a better group of helpers. Thank you!

Oskar's Hosts 1st "Wally Gator" Tourney/Fund-Raiser

Oskar's Sports Bar in Bellflower, California, hosted the 1st Annual "Wally Gator" Shuffleboard Tournament on April 9-10. The double elimination, ABC draw attracted 30 players to the Southern California bar to help bring to a close a two-month fund raiser for former bar owner Wally "Gator" Rasmussen.



Wally and Audrey Rasmussen

Friends, shuffleboard players and bar patrons helped raise almost \$9,000 to assist Wally, who is battling a serious illness. The shuffleboard tournament was one of the highlights of the final weekend that also included live entertainment and a tearful presentation ceremony on Sunday, April 11. The two-month fund-raiser included a barbecue dinner, a car wash, dart tournament, weekend breakfasts, ticket raffles, a T-shirt sale, beef jerky sale, bake sales, rummage and craft sales, a shuffleboard lagging contest and weekly auto and horse racing draws. Oskar's Shuffleboard League donated half of their weekly 50/50 draws to the fund and several players were active as organizers of the benefit.

Play began Friday night and the team of Sam Blanco, Ernie Alvarez and Oskar Ugarte found themselves in the loser's bracket of the double elimination tournament early Saturday morning. The team of Paul Weber, Billy Duncan and Tom Wolfe had slipped through each round of the winner's bracket, while the Blanco, Alvarez and Ugarte combination battled through the field to finally earn the right to play in the championship on Saturday evening. Blanco's team was able to beat Weber's crew twice and capture the tournament title in two very close games. The team of Mary Lou Deering, Mick Diane and Gina Galligan finished in third place.

Ugarte, who is the owner of Oskar's, announced that the Gator Tournament would be an annual affair to be held at his bar in Bellflower. Tournament Directors Paul Weber and Joanie Swenson had

previously announced that half of the entry fees and sponsor sales would be donated to the Wally Rasmussen benefit fund.



Champions of the 1st Wally Gator Tournament were (from left) Ernie Alvarez, Oskar Ugarte and Sam Blanco.



They came from the loser's bracket to beat the team of (from left) Paul Weber, Tom Wolfe and Bill Duncan.

Oskar's is looking forward to being one of the three locations for this year's Dixie Belle 4th of July tournament (see Upcoming Events and enclosed flyer for details).

--Photos by Dottie Bastanchury

A MESSAGE TO READERS:

It's difficult to get through any deadline period without a challenge to screw up our print schedule. This month was no exception as a severe wind storm put us in the dark for close to three days! Our sincere apologies if you receive this issue late.

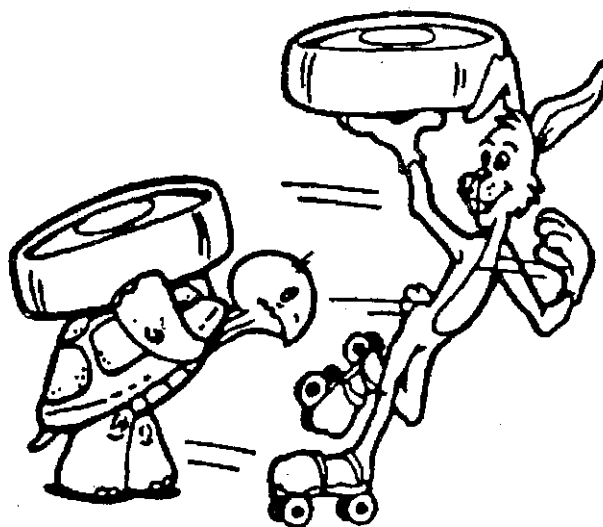
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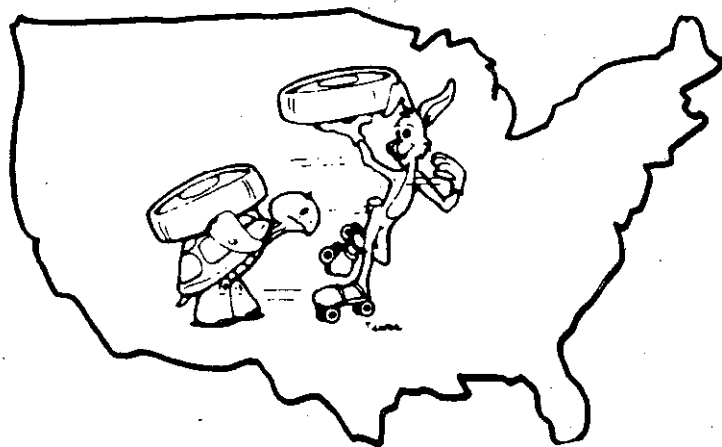
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