

The Board Talk

News and Views
from the World
of Shuffleboard

Vol. 1 No. 1

The Board Talk is published by George & Donna Wilber, 3206
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January 1984

The Hammer

I think we're blazing a trail with BOARD TALK. This may be the first professional shuffleboard newsletter in the nation — or at least in Michigan. I know for sure it's our first one. . . .

But, taking first things first, an introduction is in order. George Wilber is the name. I live with my wife, Donna (co-editor of this newsletter), in Lansing. We have two daughters, two grandsons, two broken down vehicles, and two shuffleboard passions: (1) to publish a successful shuffleboard newsletter and (2) to try to make all of Michigan's shuffleboard leagues uniform in scoring and handicapping so we can have our own all-Michigan shuffleboard tournament.

To satisfy that first passion, a successful shuffleboard newsletter, we're going to need sponsor support and player contributions. It is our initial goal to put out the newsletter free to all shuffleboarders and depend upon the advertising support of sponsors to make it pay for itself (shuffleboarders, in return for this support, should be committed to patronizing the sponsors).

To keep BOARD TALK going, we're also going to need reporters and responsible persons from all corners of Michigan willing to devote time to join us in the pioneer effort. We need news, tournament notices, league standings, unique happenings in the world of shuffleboard, and personal viewpoints on the sport of shuffleboard.

To advertise or to volunteer as a reporter, please contact me at 517-321-0008 after 5 p.m., or leave a message at 517-482-8328 or 517-487-9790 and I'll return your call. Deadlines for each issue will be the 20th of each month. Send your information to George Wilber, 3206 Alfred Avenue, Lansing, Mich. 48906.

To reach that second goal of making our shuffleboard a recognized, uniform, sanctioned sport, an ad-hoc committee consisting of myself of Lansing, John McDermott of Detroit, and Jerry Zawistowski of Grand Rapids will study (during our year of infancy) ways on how to make that happen, until such time that we sanction, set up uniform league bylaws and vote on a slate of officers and committees on a statewide basis.

We want your input on this goal. Contact any of us (we're all working people, so the best time is evenings): George, 517-321-0008; John, 313-349-3893; Jerry, 616-453-0563.

Shuffleboard players are a special breed of people with a special language, one that crosses city limits and leaps state lines. We'll work hard to make BOARD TALK a reflection of you — that special kind of person who shares the camaraderie of others who speak your language, who cares about your fellow shuffleboard players and what's happening to them. Share and care — that's what the BOARD TALK will be all about.

George Wilber, Editor

Tourney Talk

Tournament play for the 1983 season was wrapped up in November with four tournaments.

The Wintergarden Cafe opened up the month with a bang, using a free breakfast promotion to attract 19 teams. Junior Lopez and Lee McDonald of Lansing took first; Mike Ruby and O.B. from Pontiac took second, and Bud Broka and John McDermott of Detroit finished third. The Wintergarden tourney featured four teams making their first appearance in competition. Congratulations to all you first-time participants.

Jim Fetter, owner of A.J.'s Saloon, Pontiac, the most recent addition to a growing list of tournament sponsors, took advantage of a two-week layoff from league play for deer season to hold two tournaments, a singles and a doubles. Bud Broka and John McDermott of Detroit won the doubles. Two local players, Gary Giegler and Richard Fabianski, took second in their very first tournament. Congratulations! Junior Lopez and Lee McDonald of Lansing placed third.

The singles tournament competition was won by John McDermott of Detroit; Neil Fetter finished second and Jim Fetter took third.

The final tourney of the year was at Stober's Lounge in Lansing on Thanksgiving week-end. Friday afternoon featured two matches between Lansing and Indiana with Lansing winning the first 5-2 and the second 5-4. Jim Long and Jerry Knox of Indiana won the doubles tourney. Junior Lopez and Lee McDonald of Lansing finished second, and Phil and Lenny McCrue from Toledo placed third.

Special thanks to Rudy Stober, owner of Stober's Lounge, for his extra contributions to the tournament and to the game of shuffleboard.

Upcoming Tournaments

- ▶ **A.J.'s Saloon, Pontiac, Jan. 7-8.** Two boards, best 2 out of 3 games, double elimination. Winner wins free trip and entry fee to world champion shuffleboard tourney in Las Vegas. (See ad in this issue.)
- ▶ **Wagon Wheel, Lake Orion, Jan. 14-15.** Mixed doubles. Starts 1 p.m. Prizes! Pays 60%-30%-10%. (See ad in this issue.)
- ▶ **Art's Bar, Lansing, Feb. 17-18.** 4-person team event. Guaranteed \$1,000 plus for first place, pays down 4 places. (More information in next issue of BOARD TALK.)

Gross' Thoughts

By Bob Gross

Staff Writer, Lansing State Journal

Someone asked me once what it was like being a president.

My immediate reaction was to say, president of what?

"The Lansing Shuffleboard League," said the guy at the other end of the table.

Well, I told him, it was really a position of feeling important without having any authority.

"What do you mean, having no authority," he said.

I tried to explain that being elected president of the league for 1981 and 1982 had its share of importance, or maybe the word should be prestige, because I got to call meetings when and wherever I wanted them to be and I actually was permitted to stand up and talk and when the banquet came, I had the honor of passing out the trophies.

"You mean that's all the president does," yet another question came.

"Yes," I chuckled. "The players and captains make the rules and really, they have the biggest input and that's the way it ought to be."

"Wow, maybe I should run for the office if there's nothing to do," the guy quipped.

When I told him about the petty little things that go on during league matches and at meetings, he couldn't believe me.

"Well, I thought it was just a fun game," he said.

"It's supposed to be," I answered.

"But how come, whenever I watch two teams play, there always seems to be so many disagreements? After all, it's just recreation, isn't it?"

I agreed. Yes, shuffleboard is supposed to be fun but the enjoyment of the game has often turned into grudge matches for some teams who load up just to beat the other. I have played a lot of sports but have never been involved in such a simple game where at times you become part of arguments and even make enemies. I asked a veteran shuffleboard player why he thought a lot of the fun was gone from the game.

"I think the case is that when one team dominates the league for so many years, it creates an air of jealousy and other teams, tired of losing, go out and pick up the best players they can to try to beat that other team. It's like the Yankees. They win and win and win and all of a sudden, nobody likes the Yankees. I also think too much beer and booze triggers a lot of the controversy. When you play a game, then sit and wait to play the next game, you can consume a lot of alcohol and at times that tends to change a person's personality and all of a sudden, one word leads to another and things get started."

In my two years as the league president, I have seen a tremendous increase in the interest in shuffleboard. We have gone from the one-division format to two division races which I honestly believe has created more enthusiasm. There are more teams and more women players competing. And, the league is much better balanced overall.

A Toast to The Board Talk

— a special publication for special people!



Come Visit Us For:

MENU

Best Cheeseburgers
in Lansing!

Luncheon Specials
Monday — Friday

Tacos Every Night

Home of the Famous
Fried Balogna Sandwich

- Good Drinks
- Good Food
- Good Fellowship, and
- Good Competition on Our Board

Two for the Price of One!

Happy Hour: 7 a.m. — 9 a.m.

4 p.m. — 7 p.m.

Monday through Friday

Art's Bar & Grill

809 E. Kalamazoo, Lansing, Michigan

517-482-8328

Your Host: Tim Grisdale



**Seasons
Greetings**

May 1984 by your best year yet!

***George & Donna Wilber
Your Board Talk Editors***

League Standings

A column will be devoted each month to league standings from throughout the state. We need reporters to submit the most current information by the 20th of each month.

INTERLAKES SHUFFLEBOARD LEAGUE

(Standings as of 12/20/83)

Women's League

1. Lakeside #1
2. Wagon Wheel #1
3. Yorks
4. Wagon Wheel #2
5. Majestic
6. Mr. B's
7. Lakeside #2
8. Green's Tavern
9. Stadium
10. Bachelor #1
11. Reel Inn
12. Sally's
13. A.J.'s
14. J.B.'s

Men's

1. Wagon Wheel
2. Glengary
3. Lakeside #1
4. A.J.'s
5. Majestic
6. Stadium
7. Lakeside #2
8. Reel Inn
9. White Lake Inn
10. Waterford John's
11. Yorks
12. Charlie's Roost

LANSING SHUFFLEBOARD LEAGUE

(Standings as of 12/14/83)

West Division

1. McCleer's Leprechauns
2. Art's W.B.A.
3. Stober's Rookies
4. Grand Ledge Red
5. McCleer's Shamrocks
6. Grand Ledge Blue
7. Shop Stop Pucksters
8. Irish Pub Puck Pushers
9. Irish Pub Wild Puckers
10. Shop Stop Stars

East Division

1. Art's A-Team
2. Stober's Machos
3. Mayfair Shooters
4. Shufflin' Sholtys
5. Bobby G's
6. Vic's Vagabonds
7. Vic's Hole Shots
8. Legion Rejects
9. Sholty's Lucky Puckers
10. Legion Hammers
11. Mayfair Barhounds

Shuffleboard Directory

Patronize These Shuffleboard Sponsors

Vic's Hole in the Wall

Your friendly stop in Holt

2004 N. Cedar, Holt

Phone 517-694-9897

Hoot Owl

Play on our new shuffleboard

Lasher & Fenkell, Detroit

McCleer's Saloon

You'll love our home-made bean soup!

910 W. Saginaw, Lansing

Phone 517-484-8656

Dublin House

Happy Holidays!

*New owners — Don & Terry
Telegraph & Grand River, Detroit*

Shop Stop

Try our brand-new shuffleboard

114 Clare St., Lansing

Phone 517-482-7228

Walt's Bar

Stop and have a holiday drink with us

21346 Fenkell, Detroit

Phone 313-534-6326

Sholty's Bar

Shuffleboarders are our favorite customers

1819 S. Washington, Lansing

Phone 517-374-0462

Happy Holidays

From George and John

Shuffleboard Tournament Organizers

Competition at A.J.'s

Win a Trip to Vegas Tournament, Jan. 7-8

I have enjoyed playing the game very much and will continue to compete as long as it's fun and when it ceases to be an enjoyment, I'll stop.

To me, Lansing has the finest shuffleboard league in the state. There are many outstanding players who have represented the league in tournaments and have succeeded. Top-notch out-of-town players have often competed in local tournaments and have repeatedly said how much they enjoy the stiff competition.

I hope the new officers of the Lansing League will do their best to promote shuffleboard and to make sure everything is above board and that good sportsmanship continues to be part of the game. We need continued communication between players and officers, cooperation and an all-out effort to keep the game on a recreational basis. We are not professionals, we are not paid to play and most important, we're no bigger than the game is itself.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Viewpoints on the game of shuffleboard are welcomed and encouraged. Send us your views by the 20th of the month. See The Hammer column for details.)

A.J.'s Saloon, 10150 Highland Road, Pontiac, will be the site of a super singles tourney, Jan. 7-8, to determine who will represent A.J.'s in a Las Vegas Shuffleboard match on Jan. 27-28-29. The winner will take all to pay for the entry fee and plane fare for a chance at the big first-place prize of \$17,500!

Fees for the Super Singles Tourney at A.J.'s will be \$75 per person and will be limited to the first 20 players to sign up. The fee must be paid to secure your entry. There will be a double elimination. The Calcutta will be held at 12 noon on Saturday. It will be a great tourney to watch, even if you don't participate.

The winner will have to become accustomed to a huge gallery because the Las Vegas tourney will be televised! A.J.'s Saloon is located on M-59, 9 miles west of Telegraph or 15 miles east of U.S. 23.

Time is short so get your entry fees in now. For more information, contact Jim at A.J.'s, 313-698-4980.

BOARD TALK reporters will be on hand to cover this big event at A.J.'s Saloon on Jan. 7-8.

A Winning Tradition...

Shuffleboard has become a winning tradition for Stober's Lounge, home of more championships than any other Lansing establishment. We are committed to this great recreational sport and the people involved in it. Come visit us — we'll treat you like the special people you are!

Stober's Lounge welcomes *The Board Talk*! May it, too, become a winning tradition.



Stober's Lounge

Home of the Tri-State (Michigan, Indiana, Ohio) Champions, 1978-79

812 East Michigan, Lansing, Michigan

Your Host: Rudy Stober

517-487-9790

A Word to Our Sponsors

Dear Shuffleboard Sponsor:

You and I both know that shuffleboard players are unique. To them, shuffleboard is not just a once-a-week sport — it's an integral part of their lives. When they plan a night out, they choose an establishment that has a shuffleboard. When they go out of town for a week-end, they search for places that offer shuffleboard. They even plan vacations around shuffleboard tournaments slated for places in a neighboring town, miles across the state, or even in another state.

That's the audience BOARD TALK will address. We hope you'll take the opportunity to target this special audience with your advertising message. Remember, this is an audience that is (1) interested in the fact that you support their sport, (2) willing to spend money in your establishment because you have a shuffleboard, (3) appreciates your welcome to anyone, from near or far, who are members of this special sport, and (4) who will appreciate (and reciprocate) your support of a communications vehicle that meets their information needs.

This new newsletter will be supported solely by the advertising support of shuffleboard sponsors. In return for your purchase of ad space, you'll be given editorial promotion of your tournaments, we'll provide you with sufficient copies of the newsletter for every shuffleboard player on teams you sponsor to be distributed from your bar (shipped UPS each month). Shuffleboard players throughout the state will be encouraged to patronize the establishments that support their newsletter.

To place an ad in BOARD TALK, call George Wilber, 517-321-0008.

Mixed Doubles Tournament Wagon Wheel

January 14-15

Two Boards

Calcutta 1 p.m. Jan. 14 — \$10 per team

*Happy Holidays
from the*

Wagon Wheel

102. S. Broadway, Lake Orion

Phone 313-693-6789

Win A Trip To Las Vegas in the *Super Singles Tourney*

January 7-8

A.J.'s Saloon, Pontiac

WHO?

will represent A.J.'s in the
National Shuffleboard
Tournament in Las Vegas
January 27, 28 & 29?

WHO?

will have the opportunity
to win first place prize of
\$17,500?

YOU?

It could be! Sign up at A.J.'s
Saloon, 10150 Highland
Road, Pontiac. \$75 player
fee. Winner take all to pay
for plane fare and entry fee.

Double Elimination — Calcutta 12 noon Jan. 7.
Limited to first 20 players who pay entry fee.

For more information, call Jim at:

A.J.'s SALOON

10150 Highland Road, Pontiac

313-698-4080

ATTENTION: Shuffleboard Sponsors

Want to have a tournament?

Let us be of service . . .

We'll

- ★ Develop and distribute your advertising
- ★ Put your board in tournament shape
- ★ Program your tournament chart
- ★ Run your Calcutta

CONTACT:

George Wilber, Lansing, 517-321-0008

John McDermott, Detroit, 313-349-3893

or 313-352-9700