Shuffleboard's premier event, the North American Shuffleboard ChampionshipsTM, returns to the Sands Regency Casino Hotel in Reno, Nevada from October 28 through November 5. For the most up to date tournament info, please visit the tournament web site, www.2006nasc.com.

The first 25 people who sign up for the 2006 NASCTM will receive a \$100 rebate on their entry fees. With lots of momentum from the very successful 2005 NASCTM, which attracted more than 250 players, and set new prize money record for all 13 events, we are looking forward to a great tournament. If you are planning to attend the 2006 NASCTM, we strongly recommend that you send in your registration early or you are running the risk of getting shut out.

We are happy to announce that we recently signed a contract extension with our long time host and sponsor, the Sands Regency, which means that the tournament will be held there through at least 2010. The Sands has continued to make improvements to their facilities. Following the renovation of all the hotel rooms, which was completed in 2004, a complete renovation of the casino began last year and is almost complete.

Under the new contract, we will be able to begin setting up the tables a little earlier, which will help us to do an even better job of preparing. The tournament will continue its recently added tradition of including an anniversary party on Friday evening (November 3). We will be the first to admit that the food at the anniversary party was disappointing the past two years. That issue has been addressed and we think that everyone will be pleased with the quality and variety of the food. The party will also continue to feature a two hour open bar. The anniversary party, which is free of charge to all players and spectators, is is just one of the many ways that the Sands shows their appreciation for the support the shuffleboard community has given to the NASCTM over the years.

The Sands Regency is the number one sponsor in the history of our sport. Between the money they donated to buy the tournament boards, and their donations to the prize money, the Sands has contributed nearly \$250,000 to the NASCTM since they began hosting the event in 1991. One of the biggest reasons for the long term success of this tournament is that we and the Sands have sought to continue to improve the NASCTM on an ongoing basis. None of that success would be possible without the suggestions from our participants, which help us to get better every year.

As we celebrate the 17th anniversary of the NASCTM this year, we will also celebrate Sol Lipkin's 100th Birthday. Music and dancing, among other things, will be added to Friday night's festivities. Emmett Wilcox, of Anderson, Indiana, will be receive the Sol Lipkin Award at the 2006 NASC™. Although Emmett is not well known outside of the Midwest, his contributions to the sport have been very significant. He was the first person to polish weights for better performance and consistency. He later developed polishing and speed testing equipment for The Shuffleboard Federation. This equipment was instrumental in the success of The Shuffleboard Federation's Pro Series Weights TM. Emmett also invented calibration equipment which allows more precise leveling and adjusting of shuffleboard tables. Nicknamed "Pappy" by his fellow Hoosiers, Emmett was the first person inducted into the Indiana Shuffleboard Hall of Fame in 1996. He is also credited with teaching the game to many of Indiana's fine players. The Sol Lipkin award is given in recognition of extraordinary contributions to the advancement of our sport. Emmett Wilcox meets that criteria in every regard. For more information on the history of the Sol Lipkin Award, including the names and pictures of past recipients, and a copy of the inscription on their plaques, click Sol Lipkin Award.

To print Tournament forms and information, please use the following links: Registration Form, Schedule of Events, and General Information. If you have never been to the NASCTM, there has never been a better time to find out why, over the past ten years, more players have attended the NASC than any other tournament.

Congratulations to Bill Walker, from Port Orchard, Washington, who was the first person to register this year. As one of the first 25 players to sign up for the 2006 NASCTM, Bill will receive a \$100 rebate on his entry fees. There are still a few of the \$100 rebate spots left, but they are going fast. In order to qualify for one, your Registration Form must be mailed on or before August 1.

If you have not yet made your airline reservations, remember that the Sands will allow you to book a room and airfare package, which can sometimes save even more more over their already cheap room rates. The airline which has traditionally had the best packages is American Airlines. To get a quote, visit www.aavacations.com. America West has also had some great fares, their web site is www.americawest.com. Other recommended travel web sites are: Orbitz.com, Yahoo Travel, Expedia.com, Southwest Airlines.com and Hotwire.com.

If you need help making air or hotel reservations, or have any questions about the tournament, please call The Shuffleboard Federation at 800-380-3033.

John McDermott, Tournament Director

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