

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.

George & Donna