

The Board Talk

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Vol. 17, No. 12

December 2000

Board Talk "Torch" Has Been Received! As stated on the front page of The Board Talk's November 2000 issue, "after 16 years and 11 months as publishers of The Board Talk, George at NASC in Reno and Donna Wilber "have passed the 'torch' to a new

By George & Donna Wilber

Action sizzled on the 28 new Venture boards in Reno's Sands Regency Hotel/Casino, Oct. 28-Nov. 5. Members of the shuffleboard "family" from 19 states and Canada gathered together for The Shuffleboard Federation's 11th Annual North American Championships, all hoping for a share of the glory and prize monies.

Hitt's Team Prevails in Pro-Am Draft

The limit was reached as 32 teams of six players each (32 X 6 = 192!) signed up for the Pro-Am Draft Team event. It was a great send-off for the 14-event tournament as the top-rated players in the nation led their teams of all skill levels in a tough fight to claim the championship.



At the end of the grueling two-day battle, (from left) Don Heaton, Pauline Rock, Melody Marine, Captain Dan Hitt, Jo Cook and Don Stallsworth claimed the 2000 Pro-Am Team championship.

BIG "Family Reunion"

Shuffleboard to keep the sport going and growing." The "torch" was officially passed to us by George and Donna Wilber on November 1, 2000.

communications vehicle for The World of

generation of individuals dedicated to preserving a

There is no way George and Donna can be "replaced", but we will try very hard to continue bringing table shuffleboard news to the shuffleboard community. We are taking on this challenge because we realize that this news channel is critical to the communication and growth of shuffleboard. There is no way we ever want to read an obituary with headlines such as: "The Board Talk Will Take A Walk"! George and Donna have worked very hard to keep this "baby" alive without "personal gain" [per Kelve Stites] and we will make every effort to make them proud that their "baby", as a result of their dedication and hard work, will survive and continue to grow to a ripe old age!

We wish to thank all the shufflers who have already contacted us to welcome us aboard and provide us with helpful suggestions/comments to give us a "jump start". We sincerely thank each of you for your continued input and support.

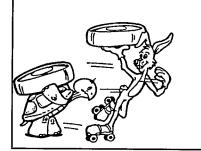
Remember, this is your publication and we are only a repository and facilitator to put your news into print -- communicating our news across the miles to our shuffleboard families!

-- Tom & Lynda French, Editors

ON THE INSIDE

- New: "Shuffleboard Humor"- Page 3
- Coming: "Shuffleboard Rules"- Page 2
- MEMORIAL FUND Page 24
- THANKS from NASC Director Page 29

(Continued on Page 6)



Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views from The World of Shuffleboard

Please send your comments and suggestions to The Board Talk to be shared with the shuffleboard community and the TSA Directors in this "Shufflers' Notebook" section each month. Comments to consider:

- 1) Do you agree such an award should be considered? If so, only for Year 2001 or annually? If not, reasons?
- 2) What is your suggested selection process criteria? (e.g., # of major events wins & establish a point system to help TSA Directors tally up the nominee submissions based upon # of wins using an established point system?)
- 3) If a point system were established would points for special playoffs such as State Championship PRO Singles count more points than placements in other in other major tournaments? Do you feel that a final playoff event of PROs as the final determination should be part of the process, if it is decided globally that this award is a good idea?

Thank you for your great suggestion Butch! We look forward to hearing from the Shuffleboard Community and TSA Directors for discussion on whether to consider starting this new award and how to organize and determine the Top 10 PROS.

SHUFFLEBOARD "RULES"?

Many of you have asked for a <u>Shuffleboard Rules</u> discussion section, so we have agreed to add a new section in The Board Talk for next month. (Coming Jan. 2001: <u>Shuffleboard Rules</u>)

SHUFFLEBOARD "HUMOR"?

Lorraine Bingham-Olson has ask to have a new section for shuffleboard humor, poems, etc...

Shufflers' Notebook (Continued on Page 27)

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.

TOP 10 PRO AWARD - 2001?

Butch Thomas (the Great Oz) of Noblesville, Indiana has sent a request to The Board Talk Editors asking that our Shuffleboard Community and the Table Shuffleboard Association (TSA) Board of Directors consider establishing a new "TOP 10 PRO Award for 2001" Turn of the Century Award. He suggests that this could be initiated by our shuffleboard players sending in their nominations to the TSA Directors with supporting documentation as to why each submitted nominee should be considered as one of the TOP 10 PROs deserving of this new award. He suggests that the TSA Directors solicit for suggestions to set the selection process criteria for final selections. He suggests the winners be determined based upon nomination submission established criteria and that the actual awards be presented during the Southwest Open 2001 tournament in Del City by the TSA Directors on behalf of the shuffleboard community!

We have shared Butch's idea with the TSA Board of Directors and comments received, thus far, indicate they would be supportive and receptive to working with the shuffleboard community to select and present these awards during the Del City tournament in July 2001. In fact, Harvey Kidd added that he thought perhaps we should consider doing this annually, not just in Year 2001. Louise Freer suggested perhaps one of the PRO single events in Del City could be a determining factors in final selections, since likely we would have more than 10 nominees to make a final determination without having a special PRO final playoff event.

-- ATTENTION --

GOOD-BYE "RED CHECK"! Due to a change in publishers and a new process required to print and ship this monthly publication, the "RED CHECK" expiration notice is NO LONGER inside your issue. Your subscription EXPIRATION DATE is on the back cover's address line. Please use the FORM inside back cover to renew TIMELY to avoid missing issues!

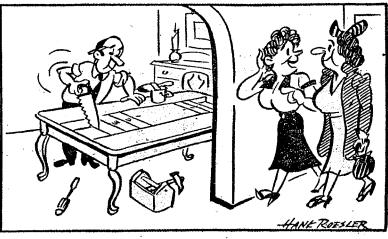
(See Page 24 for more detail)

SHUFFLER HUM®R and FUN

A New Series - Send us your humor, jokes, or funny pictures

Surely, with a big Melton family there must be one named "Julius" Melton somewhere in their family tree!?!?

(Cartoons (right) and (below) found by The Board Talk Editors in an old issue of the 'Shuffleboard World', dated October 1950, Vol.2, No.2)



"That must be Julius fixing the dining room table—he's so handy with tools."

Lorraine Bingham suggested a Shuffleboard Humor section be added to The Board Talk and sent the first submission of a poem written by one of her cohorts, Eddie Brayman for Jane Mourgos... story and poem follow below:





Lorraine Bingham said this little ditty (poem) was written by Eddie Brayman for Jane Mourgos as they set off for the Reno tournament without Jane. Jane is one of their partners in crime, but it was her husband Dan's turn to go to Reno while Jane stayed home to care for their son (they alternate who gets to go to Reno and who stays home). Lorraine says that they didn't want anyone to think that they won't be able to get in trouble without Jane, or that they would stay home because she couldn't go (farthest thing from their minds), but thought that they would let her know how much they missed having her along for the ride.

The poem is sung to the tune of the Beverly Hillbillies' theme song:

"Come and listen to my story bout a lady named Jane,

a poor young woman who was addicted to the game,

she loved to play shuffleboard, but never had the time.

so I wrote this song and made it all rhyme.

Well... next thing you know all her friends are in Reno.

some playing shuffleboard and some playing keno, Jane sat at home and dreamed of throwing weights...

and Eddie and Lorraine had the greatest time gambling and shuffling and laughing ... "

--Written by Eddie Brayman for Jane Mourgos

Upcoming Events Across the Nation

Texas

FIFTH ANNUAL "HOUSTON HOLIDAY OPEN" TOURNEY DEC. 26-31st, 2000

There's nothing better to keep one occupied after the holiday rush than to attend the 5th Annual Houston Holiday Open. It's one of the most enjoyable and fun tournaments of the entire shuffleboard year, staring on Dec. 26th and ending on Dec. 31st with a fabulous New Years Eve bash. This tournament will be held on Dec. 26-Dec. 31st at the Greenspoint Marriott Hotel and will feature 13 events played on 18 beautifully conditioned boards. As usual, activities will conclude with a gala New Year's Eve party and blind draw tournament.

The tournament kicks off on Tuesday, December 26th at 3 p.m. with a "Pro/Am Draw" (no -1s can draw each other) and an "Amateur Draw". Wednesday at 12 Noon there will be a "6 Person Draft Team" event. Thursday at 12 Noon there will be two "4 Person Bring Team" events (one add to minimum 3 points with up to one PRO allowed and another one add to minimum of 10 points). Friday there will be three 2-person "Bring Partner" events: add to 0 points; add to 4 points; and add to 6 points. Saturday there will be three "Singles" events: -1, 0, and 1; 1, 2, and 3; and 3, 4, and 5 (all 3 events have a handicapped entry fee established). Sunday will be completion of events and Blind Draws starting at 7 p.m. after events are finished. As usual there will be a wonderful New Years Eve celebration with favors and hors d'oeuvres starting at 9 p.m.

Bowers Rating Sytem will be used to determine ratings and event eligibility choices.

The Greenspoint Marriott, where the tournament is held, is near the Bush International Airport. Free transportation from the Bush International Airport to the hotel is available (call upon flight arrival to arrange "free" pickup).

For additional tournament information, contact Johnny Ballard (936) 672-2949 or Jack Scott (281) 558-0237.

For Greenspoint Marriott Hotel reservations, call 281-875-4000 (\$54 + tax w/ 2 beds, up to 4 people).

Happy Holidays!

Colorado

11TH SANTA CLASSIC, BALLOON INN, ARVADA, DEC. 8-10, 2000

The Balloon Inn, 6440 Wadsworth Bypass, Arvada, will host its 11th Annual Santa Classic on Dec. 8-10. It will be an open doubles, \$120 per team entry fee, best 2 of 3 matches, double elimination.

The sponsor sale is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 8 with \$20 blind draws following. Tournament action will start at noon on Saturday and continue on Sunday.

For information, contact Jody Slack or Kathi Lloyd at 303-421-9332.

See ad on Page 25 and post this fun event on your calendars now!

TOLEDO OPEN, AVON'S LOCAL 14 MAR. 30-APRIL 1, 2001

Looking ahead to 2001, mark your calendars now for the Toledo Open on March 30-April 1, at Avon's Local 14, 5411 Jackman Rd., Toledo. There will be four events on the tournament schedule: an A-B draw partner on Friday night, a "constant action" event (open doubles and open singles played at the same time) with graduated entry fees on Saturday, and a Bounty Hunters open doubles on Sunday.

Watch upcoming issues for detailed information and a flyer which you are encouraged to post in your favorite shuffleboard site.

In the meantime, for more information, contact tournament directors: Phil McGrew, 419-691-3798; Martha Nelson, 419-882-1298; or Jim Stockmaster, 419-343-5012.

McGrew was the "founder" of the Constant Action and Bounty Hunters events when he lived in Michigan, and now he is offering the same opportunity in Ohio.

Spread the word about your upcoming events through the pages of The Board Talk!

Indiana

INDIANA PLANS "BATTLE OF THE BARS" TOURNEY APRIL 13-15th, 2001

Indiana is issuing a national challenge to all bars and clubs in the U.S.A. and Canada to see what team and the bar they represent will be crowned "The Champion of Champions" for 2001. The big event is planned for April 13-15 at the AMVETS Post 26 in Pendleton. All bars and clubs may sponsor no more than two 2-person teams. In this challenge, bar owners or bartenders may be the sponsor of their best team or teams. At a cost of \$200 per team with a \$25 registration fee per team, this event will be limited to 64 teams. The format will be 2 out of 3 double elimination.

All entry fee money will be evenly split with first place team and sponsor. The first-place winning team will also receive first-place trophies, paid entry fee for Bourbon's (Indiana) Spring Doubles, and complimentary two days and two nights stay at the Super 8 Motel in Warsaw, just 20 minutes away from Bourbon. The winning sponsor will also receive a special hand-designed sponsor jacket, a specially-made trophy to proudly display in their club or bar, 25% of all registration money to be donated to their state Hall of Fame, and a year's subscription to The Board Talk. The sales money will be split by regular percentage breakdowns.

The Pendleton AMVETS will have over an acre of land for free RV parking and camping right behind the tournament site. An in-town motel only minutes away will also be available (phone 765-778-7679) and other motels are available just minutes away from the club. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be available at the club throughout the tournament.

For more tournament information, contact tournament director Mikel Johnson at 219-453-3312 or Sonny Harris at 765-778-7224. Watch future issues of The Board Talk for further details.

For a guaranteed spot in the event, send advanced registration and entry fees (checks or money orders made payable to Mikel Johnson) to P.O. Box 1601, Warsaw IN 46581. Along with your advanced registration and entry fees, please send the team sponsor's name and team members' names. Include the state, city, and name of the bar you're representing.

If time permits, there will be a singles event on April 15, \$100 entry, double elimination.

This should be a fun tournament for players and fans alike. Mark your calendars now!

Texas

TRIPLE CROWN SPORTS BAR "DRAW PARTNER" Event JANUARY 20, 2001

The Triple Crown Sports Bar, 13660 Westheimer, Houston, Texas will hold their legendary "Draw Partner" event on Saturday, January 20, 2001. There will be \$200 added pot!

They will Open at 11 a.m. Registration required by 12 noon and the auction starts at 1 p.m. Draw Partner, except no -1s, 0s, or 1s can draw each other. Action and tourney will start immediately after the auction. Entry fee is \$20 per player and will pay 4 places. Harvey Kidd will be the auctioneer.

If you have not attended one of the great "Draw Partner" events at Triple Crown Sports Bar then you are missing out not only on a fabulous tournament, but also their excellent FOOD! Be sure to try their burgers, pork chops, or pizza while there.

Next Up at The Blue Goose: Annual Sweethearts Mixed Doubles Feb. 9-11, 2001 Don't miss this premier event!

IMPORTANT REMINDER!
The Board Talk has a new address.....

Effective November 1, 2000, send all subscriptions, ads, promotions, tournament results, letters to the editor to:

Tom & Lynda French 12710 Red Deer Pass Austin, TX 78729

Phone: 512-250-0327 E-Mail: lynda@jump.net

"Thanks to all subscribers, advertisers and reporters who have supported The Board Talk for the past 17 years. We look forward to working with you as your new editors!"

--Tom & Lynda French

Tough Competition at North American Championships

(Continued from Page 1)

Nebraska's Tom Galvin led his team of Bill Meyer, John Canino, Pat Brennan, Harold Newbanks and George Wilber to second place honors.





Taking third was the tough team of Lilly Kidd, Georganna Brand, Captain Bob Shaw, Leon Black, Don Hopper and (not shown) Larry Brown.

Fourth place prize money went to David Keithahn's team of Jeri Billard, Bud Spier, Paulette McKinney, Brenda Kane and Sally Langlois.

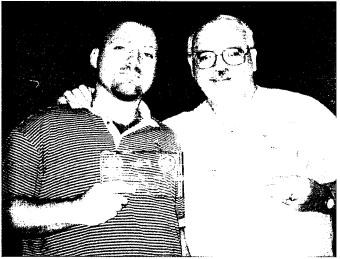
Sharing 5th/6th spots were: Captain Al Salazar, Phil Gardner, Jake Jacob, Don Kinard, Mary Lou Deering and Henry Noel Jr.; and Captain Fred Johns, Ken Simmons, Tina Olson, Richard Klanderud, Kurt Mauer and Ernie Alvarez.

Placing 7th/8th were: Captain Diana Hagen, Jim Payne, Jim Filkins, David Sexton, Jimmy Fernandez and Marilu Roberts; and Captain Billy Mays, Steve Auten, Bill Pollock, Dick Gorman, Gene Smith and Carl Holland.

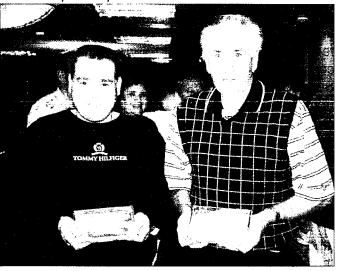
200 Players Compete in Doubles

One hundred teams participated in four doubles events with Div. 1, 2 and 3 finishing on Tuesday and the pros extending into Wednesday night.

There were 22 teams in Div. I.



Tom Nolder (left) and Glen Ingram of Indiana took the championship in the Div. 1 doubles.

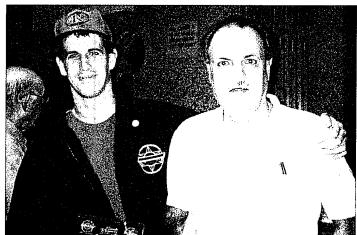


Nebraskans John Kosiske (check that smile!) and Mike Roach claimed second place honors.



Dale Pirlot and George Main of California took third place, with Marv Wilbur of Washington and Gwyn Orsi of Nebraska in fourth place.

Sharing 5th/6th places were Steve Floyd and Marion Bailey of California, and those scary Hoosier "witches" -- Debbie Voorhis and Mary Brown.



Coming out on top of a field of 32 teams in Div. 2 were Jeff Womble and Marshall Partlow of Texas. Jeff (left) also won the raffle prize of lodging at the Sands for next year's NASC.



Pete Cummings (left) of New York and Pat Brennan, lone Board Talk subscriber and NASC participant from Vermont, took second place.



Wendall Herbison of Arizona and Jim Kosiske of Nebraska finished third.

Dan Holland and Glen Redding took fourth place. Others in the Div. 2 winner's circle were: Leon Black and Terry Roberts, Richard Klanderud and Dean Kramer, 5th/6th; Bruce Splane and Jerry Widdoes, Tony Pelton and Don Kinard, 7th/8th. In the 9th/12th category were: Wendy Davis and Dick Gorman, Art Elliff and Bill Walker, Joanie Healey and Jolene Lembke, Paulette McKinney and Terry Woodward.

In Div. 3, 25 teams vied for a share of the pot, the title and the unique plaques awarded by The Shuffleboard Federation this year. The winners were Harold Newbanks (owner of Harold's Bar in Omaha) and Amy Everhart.



Jimmy Fernandez (left) and Danny Green of Texas took second place honors.

Bob Krum and Henry Noel Jr. of California finished third, with Len and Sue Webster of Nebraska in fourth place. Sharing 5th/6th were Barbara Kenney and Jo Cook, Erol Otus and Lucian Sprague.

There were 22 teams in the Pro Doubles, all working hard for a share of the hefty prize pot. In an exciting, hard-fought battle in the finals, Rick Boyer and Morey Balins of Colorado claimed the champioinship title over the determined team of Dan Hitt and Fred Johns of Washington.



2000 Pro Doubles Champs, Rick Boyer and Morey Balins.

(Continued on Page 8)

Ron & Debbie Bowers, Hal Perry Honored (See Page 9)

Shufflers of All Skill Levels in NASC Spotlight

(Continued from Page 7)



Fred Johns and Dan Hitt (shown with sponsor Diana Hagen) took second place in the Pro Doubles.

Texans Dale Koteras and Bob Shaw took third place, with Bobby Voorhis of Indiana and Al Salazar of Arizona in fourth. Sharing 5th and 6th were Diana Hagen and Harvey Kidd of Texas, and Rick Gindt of Washington and Larry Creakbaum of Indiana.

<u>Brunskill/Auten/Brayman/Noel/Thorpe Tops in Singles Events</u>

Four singles events were played simultaneously on Wednesday, Nov. 1, with the Pro division starting on Thursday.

Four women from four different states shared top honors in the Ladies' Singles.



Anna Brunskill (right) of California claimed the championship, with Kathi Lloyd of Colorado taking second place.





Lilly Kidd (left) of Texas took third, with Faye Todd of Delaware in fourth place.

With 44 players competing in Div. I and 58 in Div. 2, the finals of those events had to be staged on Thursday morning.

In Div. 1, it was Steve vs. Steve (Steve Auten of Michigan and Steve Floyd of California) duking it out for the championship. In a match that went down to the final shot, it was Auten, in his first major tournament appearance, who stole the crown from veteran Floyd.



A happy Steve Auten is congratulated by his Michigan fans: Carrie Cottrell, Jimmy Kumpula, and brother Scott Auten.



And Steve Floyd doesn't look too unhappy as he claims his second place trophy.

Taking third place in this tough field of contenders was Tom Galvin of Nebraska, with Glen Ingram of Indiana taking fourth.

Other money winners in Div. 1 were: Bob Jacobsen and Tom Nolder, 5th/6th; John Kosiske and Grant Manning, 7th/8th; Larry Brown, Cyndi Busch, Bud Spier and Doug DeBois, 9th/12th.

In the Div. II finals, that gutsy lady from Washington, Melody Marine, did her darndest to wrest the crown away from the talented Eddie Brayman of California. Despite her valiant efforts, Eddie prevailed.

Ron Graham of California took third, with Ray Olson (husband of Tina), Washington, in fourth place. Other winners were: Richard Hubenthal and Snuffy Smith, 5th/6th; Jim Payne and Mary Brown,

7th/8th; Don Heaton, Jeff Kersting, Tony Pelton and Jeff Womble, 9th/12th; Sharon Canino, Curtis Dean, Wendall Herbison and Dan Holland, 13th/16th.



Div. 2 Singles winner Eddie Brayman shows off his first place plaque.

There were 57 contenders in the Div. 3 Singles.



California dominated the Div. 3 Singles winner's circle as Henry Noel Jr. (left) took first, and Gary Johnson finished second.

Jim Olson and Robert Crum, both of California, took third and fourth respectively.

Other Div. 3 winners were Mike Halstead and Rick McFarland, 5th/6th; Lorraine Bingham and Jo Cook, 7th/8th; Ernie Alvarez, Dean Kramer, Harold Newbanks and Mike Provencher, 9th/12th; Shelly Hagen, Terry Leahy, Jim Madary and Jennifer Pickett, 13th/16th.

There was a marked contrast in the noise levels between the big ballroom, where the Amateur Team Event was underway, and the smaller shuffleboard room across the hall, where the Pro Singles finals were being played. While the teams and their fans cheered loudly with each shot in each frame, respectful quiet reigned for the pros until the end of each match.

(Continued on Page 14)

Ron & Debbie Bowers and Hal Perry Honored



The gentleman (in every sense of the word) for whom the Sol Lipkin Award is named was on hand to personally honor Ron & Debbie Bowers, and Hal Perry with his wife Shirley, for their "extraordinary" contributions to the sport of table shuffleboard.

Before an appreciative crowd of shufflers on Friday evening, The Shuffleboard Federation's Sol Lipkin Award was presented to Hal for his integrity as a player and promoter, plus his service on the Federation's Player Policy Board, state and national Shuffleboard Halls of Fame. Ron and Debbie were recognized for their hard work and dedication in maintaining the Bowers Rating System, which has done more to expand The World of Shuffleboard than any other effort.

In an emotional response, Hal said he accepted the award in honor of his friends, Nick and Bev Chaffin. The Chaffins could not attend this year's NASC because Bev was undergoing surgery for a brain tumor. A giant get-well message was signed by tournament participants. (Those of you who didn't have that opportunity may send your good wishes to the Chaffins, 308 Fig St., Roseville CA 95678.)

In his acceptance comments, Ron modestly credited Debbie for "doing most of the work" on the Bowers Rating System and saluted their nationwide network of raters. "The System is only as good as its raters," he said.

Sol delighted the crowd with his story of American Shuffleboard Company installing a board in a submarine. The 95-year-old shuffleboard legend, now associated with Venture Entertainment, invited the participants to come back to the Sands for his 100th birthday. "We'll party and dance all night!" he said.

Missouri's Sweetheart Couple

Submitted By: Woodie Cockrum, Columbia, MO



Roy Jefferies (right), age 84, and wife Jane (left), age 82, are among the top Shuffleboard players in Columbia, Missouri. If you are passing through Columbia and have the urge to play shuffleboard at the VFW, you just might find it hard to take the board from this Sweetheart Couple. When their chores are done on the farm you are just likely to find them shuffling at the VFW. Stop in -- they will welcome visitor challenges!

This Sweetheart Couple lives on a 200 acre farm where the infamous late Sam Walton who started the Wal-Mart Stores was raised. The Jefferies stay quite busy caring for up to 50 head of brood cows and calfs and a little five acre truck patch that they both take care of. Roy raises and bails his own hay and Jane cans most of their food for the winter. Then they show up at the VFW all fresh and ready to play some shuffleboard. Larry Creakaum once said "Shuffleboard players don't retire, they just expire." --- "Well, Larry, the Jefferies are not even on their second wind yet!"

Awhile back, the VFW dinner crowd was really growing and shuffleboard was being played less. The VFW management felt that it would be wise to move the shuffleboard tables out and make more tables and seating for the growing dinner crowd. Jane (all 100 pounds of her) made her stand! "You are not taking that Shuffleboard anywhere!", she demanded. Since the Jefferies have been members of the VFW probably longer than anyone else, the VFW management listened. The shuffleboard wasn't moved! So, when you visitors show up for a little shuffleboard, just remember that

Jane Jefferies is the reason that our board is still there.

Presently, we have about 40 shuffleboard players at the VFW and you will find most of them playing our "A-B Round Robin" sessions every Wednesday night. By the way, both Roy and Jane are listed as "A" players!

Stop by the VFW in your travels and tell the Jefferies you read all about them in The Board Talk!

Missouri Shuffleboard Players Association (MSPA): "The Hammer" Quarterly Newsletter

Are you aware that the Missouri Shuffleboard Players Association published their 2nd quarterly MSPA "THE HAMMER" Newsletter in August 2000? We will routinely place some highlights in The Board Talk, but you may wish to contact the MSPA for more information on how to acquire a personal copy if you are not a resident of Missouri and/or are not a MSPA member. The most recent publication includes an article titled: "Texas Billy Shuffles Through Missouri" [interview summary with "Texas Billy" Mays, by Terrie Boothe] and lots more! For more information, contact MSPA, 555 Westwood, Houston, MO 65483. MSPA current officers are: Rick Pittman, President; Chuck Muehlhauser, V.P.; Charlie Riley, Treasurer; and Terrie Boothe, Sec.. Great job MSPA team!

As The Puck Turns By Tom & Lynda French

Lost subscribers. As George and Donna stated in the November 2000 issue, please send any **lost** subscribers our way: Tom and Lynda French, 12710 Red Deer Pass, Austin, TX 78729-6436.

George & Donna had to drop a number of subscribers who had not responded to their "red checks" during their 3-month "grace period" prior to the publisher transition to us. We have sent 1st Class letters to each one that was dropped, in case they moved and have **lost subscriptions**. Since "The Board Talk" ships 4th Class Mail, please remember to send us a 'Change of Address' should you move, as the U.S. Post Office <u>does not</u> forward 4th Class Mail and it <u>does not</u> get returned to sender (so we have no way to know if you've moved unless you notify us of an address change).

As Donna stated, "the future of **your** publication depends upon a strong, faithful subscriber base." Your help and continued support are greatly appreciated! -- Tom & Lynda French, Editors



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5th Annual A-B Blind Draw at Bavarian "B" House Oct. 28, 2000 Winner Results

Submitted by: Charley Thompson, Titusville, FL

The Bavarian "B" House (Titusville, FL) was buzzing again, October 28, 2000 in a warm-up round for the 2000 Florida State Championship tournament with over 20 players participating. The calcutta was "the largest in the history of Blind Draws at the 'B' House" stated Alvis Ramey, tournament Director.

Since the World Series is over and football is winding down, the players in Florida are really gearing up for the Florida Table Shuffleboard Championship tournament being held November 24-26, 2000 at the Bavarian "B" House in Titusville. This tournament was held to give players a great opportunity for warm-up and preparation to win the Florida State Championship in November!

Chuck Dewees, the 1999 State Champion, was among the tournament competitors. Many Florida players are hoping to see a return match as exciting as Alvis Ramey v Chuck Dewees in the 1999 Florida State Championship's final "Singles" match.

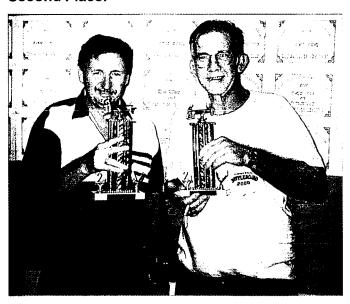
Winners of our Oct. 28th Blind Draw warm-up tournament were as follows:

First Place:



Taking first place was this tough team of Ursula Badouin (left) and Roy DeBerry (right).

Second Place:



Third Place:



Taking third place was Carol Nichelsen (left) and Alvis Ramey (not shown) pictured with Larry Cooper (right)

Charley Thompson, Florida State Championship tournament coordinator, said they are expecting a record number of entries for the upcoming Florida State Championship tournament and will also forward the Champion results to The Board Talk for publication in the January 2001 issue.



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NASC (Continued from Page 9)

There were 25 talented shufflers in the Pro Singles. Coming out on top was Mike Thorpe of

Washington.

Taking second place honors was Darrol Nelson of Oregon.

"Queen of the Jungle" Diana Hagen of Texas finished third, with her fellow Texan, Harvey Kidd, taking fourth. Karl Spickelmier of California and David Williams of Texas tied for 5th/6th, with Dan Hitt, Washington, and Hal Perry, California, in 7th/8th spots.

Hitt/Brown Tops in Crazy 8's

There were 23 players in the Pro Crazy 8's and 36 in the Amateur Crazy 8's.





Dan Hitt (left) of Washington took the Pro Crazy 8's title, and Larry Brown (right) of Indiana was tops in the Amateur Crazy 8's.

Hal Perry of California took second place honors in the Pro division, with Darrol Nelson of Oregon in third. Karl Spickelmier of California finished fourth, with Billy Mays of Texas and Paul Parks of California sharing 5th/6th places.

In the Amateur division, Eddie Brayman of California took second place, with Grant Manning of Arizona in third. Other winners were: Paulette McKinney, Larry Zahm, Jeri Billard, Bob Lewis, Bob Brunskill, Kathleen Wisdom, Don Hopper, Bill Walker, and Faye Todd.

136 Players in Amateur Team Event

There were 23 6-person teams entered in the Amateur Team Event.

Captain Glen Ingram of Indiana tapped the Texas pool of talented players: Mary Koteras, Marshall Partlow, Lilly Kidd and Jimmy Fernandez, plus Eddie Brayman of California, to take the crown in this event.

The Fir Cone Tavern (Shelton, Washington), led by Grant Manning, took second place honors. His team consisted of Melody Marine, Paulette McKinney, Jeff Kersting, Vern Gonzales, and Terry Woodward.

JC's Bar (Omaha, Nebraska), with Cyndi Busch, John Kosiske, Larry Zahm, Jim Payne, Jim Kosiske and Dawn Simants, finished third.

In fourth place was the team of Bob Lewis, Jeri Billard, Tony Pelton, Jack Davis, Jo Cook and Danny Green.

Sharing 5th and 6th places were the "Slabs" -- Pat Brennan, Curtis Dean, Pete Cummings, Pauline Rock, Doug and Betty Rombach; and "Our Team" -- Earl Cole, Ron Buckley, Marv Wilbur, Ken Simmons, Jennifer Pickett and Vicki Hunt.

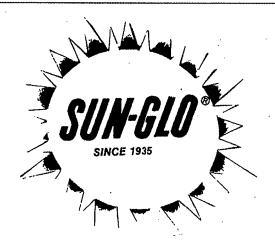


Russell McKay of Venture Entertainment, Hillside, New Jersey, manufacturers of the 28 tournament boards built to The Shuffleboard Federation's specifications, was pleased that his product got good reviews from NASC participants.

Brown/DeBois Win Legends Team Event

Larry Brown and Doug DeBois topped the field of 23 teams in the Legends event. Ken Simmons and Bob Jacobson took second place honors, with Marion Bailey and Mary Lou Deering in third; Jerry Hershman and Jake Jacob in fourth. Sharing 5th/6th places were Chuck Norris and Kathi Lloyd, Frank Mako and Tina Olson.

Deuces Wild Results and Other Observations
Next Month!



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HARVEY'S PLACE "Memorial Tournament" (Winners Oct. 6-7, 2000)

Dick Gorman (Delaware player we all know) submitted a great write-up on Harvey's Place "Memorial Tournament" event & winner results (Page 16, November 2000 The Board Talk issue), but the winner's pictures were not included. Jim and Brenda Wallace of Port Deposit, MD have since submitted some (not all, but some) of the below winner's photos for publication in this issue:

October 6th: Draw Partner event winners: (1st & 2nd Place Pictured Below)



1st Place: Wayne Todd (Newark, DE) & Dick

Gorman (Wilmington, DE)

2nd Place: Ed Hammond (Chester, PA) & Jim

Wallace (Port Deposit, MD)

3rd Place: Len Dell (Baltimore, MD) & Phil Dooman

(New Rochelle, NJ) - team not pictured

October 7th: Singles & Draw Partner winners: Singles: 1st Place: Jim Daniels (Darlington, MD); 2nd Place: Len Dell (Baltimore, MD);3rd Place:

Curtis Dean (Northeast, MD)



Jim McDaniels (left) and Lindsay Hall (right)

Bring Partner: 1st Place: Lindsay Hall (Baltimore, MD) & Jim McDaniels (pictured above); 2nd Place: Wendy Davis & Dick Gorman (both of Willimington, DE); 3rd Place: Len Dell (Baltimore, MD) & Cort Maurer (Northeast, MD)

SYD'S BAR-MIXED DOUBLES (Winners Oct. 22, 2000)



1st Place: Jody Reed (left), Hartford City, IN and Jim Harrison (right), Ingalls, IN.



2nd Place:Butch Thomas (left), Nobelsville, IN and Connie Odom (right).

(Above pictures submitted by Butch Thomas)

CONGRATS! Steve Auten



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Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return

EPISODE 74 -- A Series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

Dear Readers: As stated in the November 2000 issue, Balboa Ron took a brief vacation, but is back feeling better now after his well-deserved

After the blank stares Eddie received when he asked the question "do you think Lil could possibly still have something up her sleeve", he decided to drop the thought, and go back to enjoying the dinner. After a few more drinks they all forgot about the "foolish notion", and started to really have a good time.

After they finished their meal, Jack suggested that they take a stroll on the boardwalk at Daytona Beach. They were all in agreement, so they hopped in the car and took the short drive over. Just after they arrived, and had all gotten out of the car, Jack hollered out "take a look to the south guys!" They were in real luck, because what they were witnessing was an Apollo space launch from Cape Kennedy Space Center! It was a fantastic sight to behold on the perfectly clear night that they had. Shelli was totally flipped out, to say the least. Their honeymoon was at last turning out to be as spectacular as they had planned.

They ended up having a wonderful evening. Jack made them promise to hit a couple of the spots to play some shuffleboard before they left. Eddie said they would, and they all gave each other hugs back at the Resort when Jack dropped them off.

Jack had given them a long list of things to do and see in the area, so they looked forward to plenty of action during their Honeymoon. But for right now. It had been a very long (and very hectic) day, so when they got in the door they just dropped their clothes wherever - and crawled into bed. They had made more than enough lovemaking for the first honeymoon day while having their swim in the ocean earlier, so they just gave each other a very long kiss - and they actually fell asleep ... during that kiss!

The next morning they had a fabulous breakfast right at the Resort restaurant. After that, they purchased some new swimming gear and beach towels at the well equipped variety shop off the main lobby. The beach was just perfect! The outside air temperature was about 87 degrees, and the water about 90 degrees. As they played and swam, Shelli mentioned to Eddie: "What would you think about this as a place to retire honey?" He replied: "I honestly think that would be a great idea sweetheart - I really do."

Let Ron know you're glad he's back: Ron anytime: Balboa Ron Schweikert, 1140 Coral Desert Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89123. -- T&L

That afternoon, they took the beach highway south into Daytona again. Eddie thought it would be fun to go to the Jai-Lai games, as neither one of them had ever been. The games were held in a very large room, with a long Vegas style betting booth as you entered, then the seats in rows leading down to the players pit and enclosed game area. They had "pari-mutual" betting very similar to horse racing, so it wasn't too confusing.

Without really knowing what they were doing, they placed their bets on the first event, and returned to their seats. They watched the completion of the warm-ups. The players (who were mostly So. American) were flinging a ball out of huge gloves that they wore. It was kind of like paddle ball, only much bigger, and very much faster as far as the speed of the ball. The game began. It was really exciting to see the speed of the players and the speed of the ball! After about 15 minutes the crowd hollered out "Chulla", and the first game was over. They found out later that that call meant that the winning team had slammed the ball into the corner of the far wall, in a way that it was impossible to return. They enjoyed the games, and when it was over, they actually ended-up making around \$200!

They stopped at a nice steak house that Jack had recommended on the way back to the Resort. The food was fabulous. They were already pretty "mellow" (at least Eddie that is) from the drinks at the games, so Shelli just ordered a glass of red wine, but Eddie had to have his Wild Turkey - with a Bud wash of course. They left the restaurant in fine spirits.

After they got back, and were entering their suite, Shelli spotted a small note that had been slid under their door. She didn't say anything to Eddie about it right then. She didn't want to take a chance of anything ruining this perfect day. Eddie had to head straight for the bathroom. After he shut the door Shelli picked up the note and opened it. Her heart sunk! It was only a few hand written words that said - "Sorry I missed you. Will call ... 'L'."

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH)

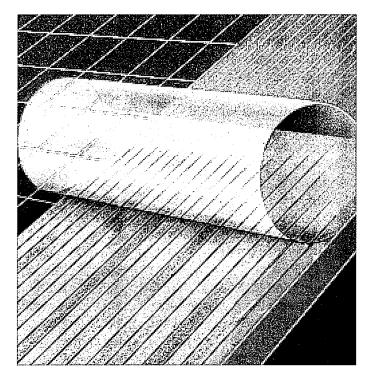
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THE BIRTH OF THE "ANNUAL LADIES OPEN SHUFFLEBOARD TOURNAMENT"

A couple of years ago, while sitting in their usual places watching the men play at one of the local tournaments, a small seed was hatched in the minds of a few women who were thinking "why am I sitting here watching instead of playing?"

It had always been the same, the women played in the ladies draw doubles which was always the opening event of the week with a \$10.00 entry fee and unless there was an ABC event, (because there had never been a ladies singles) would be content to sit and watch the men play for the other 5 days of the tournament. We wondered why this was, and being women, we asked. We were told by the tournament director that women would never pay more than \$10.00 entry fee, that only local women showed up and if they had a singles event rather than a doubles they wouldn't get any women to sign up other than us. If we pursued this all we would accomplish would be to drive away the few local women who did show up. On the other hand the men who showed up came from all over the States to compete. We didn't agree of course, but we didn't argue the fact any further then, but the seed had taken root and had started to grow. We had been to Reno the previous year and knew better than this. We had caught the fever in Reno, we signed up for and competed in every event we could enter. A couple of us did well and a couple of us didn't, I had personally been demoralized in the first event I had ever played in by Diana Hagen, but we were all there to compete and we all came away having fun and bringing with us a lot of great memories. As we watched some of the best women players there are we also knew that there was nothing stopping us from being that good some day. But you need to compete to be that good, and the one thing we knew that we had in common with them was that we were competitors too. We weren't in their category, at least not yet. What we did establish was that we weren't alone. Women are competitors also, they want to play the game and win as much as the men do. So what was holding them back? Granted there were very few in the pro category in Reno, and there were a lot of women who even thought they played, they were only there to watch. We weren't ones to watch, we wanted to play, let the men sit and watch us for once. (What an original idea). With that thought in mind we approached some of the other women competitors, and the more we talked, the more enthusiastic we became, we were out of control, why we could have a woman's only tournament, (and so that the men would have something to do while we women played), we

could hold it in Las Vegas or Reno, and of course we would have an opening event for them, a draw doubles, kind of cute and apropos. What woman wouldn't want to be there? Why it would be great. To our surprise there were a few men who were really behind the idea and offered to help us out with it. But to be really successful it shouldn't be a women's only we should have events for the men too. After all we couldn't expect them to just sit and watch as their wife's and girlfriends played, could we? I mean, they are the reason women were at the events anyway. Well it was a lot of fun while we talked about it, but the more we talked the more complicated it became. So it looked like that was all it would ever be, just a dream of ours for a while and lot of talk.

Well, try as they may, they just couldn't kill that seed once it had taken root. And so it began. Without any idea how it would turn out the first "Amateur Ladies Only Shuffleboard Tournament" was held at the Old Town Saloon in Livermore, California on Sept 17-20 1999 hosted by Ray and Sandi Comer. It had 4 events with 27 women entering, 5 from Southern California, 3 from Sacramento, 10 from San Jose and Livermore and 2 from Arizona, with \$1000.00 in prize money. What surprised us most was the number of men who showed up, what surprised them most was what a great time they had, their unanimous comment "We love watching you because you have so much fun. Win or lose you laugh and have fun. There were no fights or arguments, men could learn a lot about sportsmanship from you women."

We couldn't let the seed die now, so it was decided before final goodbyes in Livermore that if Arizona could travel to California, then we would travel to Arizona. If they would host the next one we would be there. The seed had pushed its way to the surface and was now a seedling. But would it continue to grow? We were bound and determined to make sure. So we continued to spread the word hoping to draw even more women from greater distances to the Arizona tournament. We challenged them to come, and promised if they make Arizona, we will come to their's.

With high hopes and expectations, we traveled to the MVP in Phoenix Arizona, owned by fellow shuffler Phil Gardner, the host of this year's ladies shuffleboard tournament on September 15-17. Linda Churchman, the tournament director was the driving force that brought this event Phoenix. It was Linda who was a

(Continued next Page 21)

(continued from Page 20)

competitor at the first tournament the year before in Livermore, California and who we promised we would be at her event. The MVP had 4 events with 27 ladies in attendance, 14 from out of state (12 from California and Linda Nobles and Jeri Billard from Texas), and 13 from Phoenix. There were 10 ladies in division I; 17 in division II; 12 teams in doubles. There was \$7,855.00 in prize money. New friendships and competitors were made. The laughter and good times flowed. Did it outdo the first one, I don't think that was a question that came up. It brought its own good times and memories and anticipation for next years event.

The women behind these events decided to make this a traveling tournament, and at each consecutive tournament it will be decided on where the next one would be held. In this manner it would enable local women who up till now only played in leagues or at the favorite establishment to get involved in tournament play with women in all skill levels and hopefully pass on the fever to them, bringing them into the family, hopefully joining the rest of us diehards following the competition and the tournament from State to State, making new friends and competitive enemy's along the route. There are a lot of women out there I haven't played against and a lot of States I haven't seen and I plan to be at everyone as the tournament grows and travels across this great country of ours. With the attendance at this event of Jeri Billard and Linda Nobles from Texas, it was decided that next years event would be in Texas, hopefully each time drawing more and more women to the event. The biggest thing that came out of this years event, other that a great time by all, was that it would no longer be a amateur ladies tournament. From this date forward it would be open to women in all points brackets (-1 to 4/5's) and be known as the "Annual Ladies Open" shuffleboard tournament. It was also established that if this was going to be successful and we wanted to get women to travel to these events, that we needed to make it worthwhile. Granted wherever it was held we would get the locals, which is what we want but we also want to attract the pros to the events. It is only by playing with and against better players that anyone will improve their game. This is where we would like to get some input from the women out there who are interested in keeping this event going from year to year. There are two schools of thought on this issue and would like to put them out for a vote or comments and suggestions on how to handle both sides of the issue. On one hand we have the Tavern owner and the local event coordinator who feel that they won't have any kind of a turnout if the entry fee's are higher than the \$25.00 we charged at the last event because non of their local players will pay that

much to play and they don't feel there will be much a turnout without the locals, on the other hand we have the pro's and 1 and 2 rated players who will travel to events if there is enough money in the pot to make it worth their while. Why pay \$400 airfare and hotel fees when you can only win a couple of hundred dollars in an event? You will always get a couple of us who will travel anywhere just to play and support the event, but it will never be anything more than just a local event with a couple of out of towners showing up. We know that you can't please everyone, this is evident at every tournament we have played in, but there must be a middle ground we women can agree on so that this becomes one of the major shuffleboard events of the year. One that we look forward to and plan our vacations around. So help us out and give us your suggestions, what would it take to get you to travel to this event year after year? We are waiting to hear from you.

To bring this tournament to your state you need to be at a previous tournament. Sometime during the tournament it will be voted on as to where the next event will be held. Now that you ladies know how it works we hope to see a lot more of you at the event in Texas. Be sure and watch the Board Talk for upcoming details of next year's "2001 Annual Ladies Open Shuffleboard Tournament" in Texas.

PARTING THOUGHTS FOR A FEW UNFORGETTABLE MEN

What I would like to say and keep in mind; this is from me alone, but it is a feeling I have gotten from all the women, and not just at the last two women's tournaments although it was more prominent at them, is that "we are the ones playing the game, not you". We all came to play and to win otherwise why would we be there. Just because we laugh and have fun while we are playing doesn't mean we aren't dead serious about winning the game. I have yet to see someone play better while being ridiculed for the way they play the game. If you think it is a bad shot, keep it to yourself. If you think they are about to make a bad shot or the wrong shot, keep it to yourself. It is not fair to the person you are yelling at (out loud or under your breath) or trying to coach and it is not fair to their opponents. While they are in the middle of a game, they are not your wife or girlfriend or pupil, they are a competitor and you should treat them the same way you would expect to be treated. Don't distract them and take them out of their game. If you can't do that, then you shouldn't be there and the truth be known you're not wanted there either. I don't know one of you

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Marty Scott Vermillion - MEMORIAL FUND

As many of the shuffleboard players from Oklahoma and surrounding states were aware, Carolyn Jones was forced to semi-retire from the game six and one-half years ago. Her son, Marty Vermillion (also a talented player), was severely injured in an automobile accident. Her time, attention and devotion turned to caring for Marty. It is with great sadness I let you know Marty passed away August 11, 2000.

Carolyn would like to thank her shuffleboard family for their inquiries, concern and support not only during this time, but the past six years. Marty was a fine young man with a contagious smile and wonderful sense of humor. Those of us who were fortunate enough to know Marty will remember that grin and the twinkle in his eye. Of course, we would also wonder who was going to be on the receiving end of his next practical joke! He will be greatly missed, but never forgotten.

A memorial fund has been established in Marty's memory. Contributions may be made to: Energy One Federal Credit Union, Account Number 395630, 220 W. 7th, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119-1011. For additional information or questions, you may e-mail either Sherry Fisher at ShariFishr@aol.com or Carolyn Jones at Cjones@CITGO.com

~~*Marty Scott Vermillion*~~

January 31, 1967 – August 11, 2000

--ATTENTION--

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EXPIRATION DATE: N/A (means that you have received a complimentary issue)

(Continued from Page 21)

who would tolerate someone doing that to you while you were competing in a game, and we expect no less from you while we are competing. For the men who are there in support of the players and the game, for those who do the boards, brackets, bring us drinks, and occasional back rubs, who yell and applaud us win or lose, who laugh with us and not at us, I love you for it and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. You are what makes the game great.

MVP HOSTS:
"LADIES AMATEUR SHUFFLEBOARD
TOURNAMENT"

We would like to thank our hosts Phil Gardner (owner of the MVP) and Linda Churchman the driving force that brought this event to Phoenix.

-- Lorraine Bingham

The MVP in Phoenix Arizona. It had 4 events, 30 women 29 locals, 4 from Southern California, 6 from Northern California, and 2 from Texas. There was \$1,000 in prize money. Jack Davis came from Texas to do the auction. Jim "mmmmm" and Wendell "mmmmm" did the bracket boards and wiped the tables. -- Linda Churchman

DAVID L's Hideout Lounge Long time supporters!

Pictured below are Bob and Marsha Brown (after Marsha just beat Bob in arm wrestling!), long-time supporters and organizers of shuffleboard and former American Bar owners at Portland, IN (an future Hall of Famers):



(See David L's Hideout Lounge October 14-15th, 2000 Open Doubles and Mixed Doubles events starting on this page Column 2! Thanks for your input Glen Ingram!)

DAVID L's Hideout Lounge October 14-15, 2000 Results!

David L's Hideout Lounge in Yorktown, IN had another great tournament on October 14-15, 2000, hosted by David Greer. Players report that this is a great place to play and say that owner David Greer is always a wonderful host! The below results and winner photos were submitted to The Board Talk Editors by Glen Ingram:

October 14, 2000, "Open Doubles": First Place: (Below): Jim Dewitt (left) and Glen Ingram (right) with Host David Greer (center) presenting honors



Second Place: (Below): Emmitt Wilcox (left) and Larry Creakbaum (both Indiana Hall of Famers) with Host David Greer (center) presenting honors) presenting honors



Third Place: (no pictures available): Buddy Broka and Gene McLeod.



Fourth Place: Sheryl Cockerill (left) and Lew Coulter (right)

<u>HARVEY'S PLACE</u> "Thanksgiving Shoot-out"

By Dick Gorman, Wilmington, DE

The second event of the 7 tournament schedule for 2000-2001 was held at Harvey's Place, Street, Maryland, November 10-11, 2000 on their four inhouse boards. Early signs are that there will be no dominant players this season, as the Bowers Rating System levels the playing field which produces more winners and spread of the wealth between more players.

Friday night was the traditional Draw Partner event producing some (but not all) new winners from the first event tournament which was held Oct. 6-7th (See Page 16 of the November issue and Page 16 of this issue for details and results of the October 2000 "Memorial Tournament")

First Place was taken by host Harvey Comer and his partner Jim Dennis of Perryville, MD;
Second Place was taken by Lindsay Hall of Baltimore, MD and partner Arlo Johnson of Jordan, NY (whom had not seen each other in almost 5 years - it certainly was good to see Arlo and his wife Jane!); and Third Place was taken by Curtis Dean of Elkhorn, MD and Faye Todd of Newark, DE (who had just returned from the Reno tournament).

Many got to rest up some on **Saturday**, as the **Bring Partner** event did not start until 1 p.m. But, start it did and new results again. **First Place** was won by Dave Shewbridge of Pasadena, MD and Joe Williams of Ridley Park, PA having to play hard to come back from the losers bracket and win; Second Place was won by Richie Casula of Newark, DE and Curtis Dean of Elkton, MD; and Third Place was won by J. B. Armour of Chesapeake City, MD and Pete Gitney of Northeast, MD.

Pots for both events averaged \$100 per team. After the above events completed on Saturday, we started our regularly scheduled Saturday night, double elimination, Draw Partner tournament. First place (and majority of the pot) was taken by Wendy Davis and Dick Gorman, both of Wilmington, DE; second place was taken by Herb Forster of Ridley Park, PA and Gene Long of Lancaster, PA; and third place was settled for by host Harvey Comer and one of our brand new Harvey's Place tournament players, Phil Dooman of Roselle Park, NJ. Our Hostess, Darlyne Belcher, was up to her usual 'super fine' cooking and served us all a wonderful full course meat loaf dinner. Ask Dick Gorman sometime how his tapioca pudding (which he

thought was potatoes) tasted topped with hot brown gravy! (The potatoes were in the hot pot, Dick!)

Our tourney Host, Harvey Comer, says that he continues to be pleased with the use of the Bowers Rating System and the results that it's use brings.

The next two tourneys of this 7 tournament schedule will be held at Harvey's Place on Dec. 8-9, 2000 and Jan. 12-13, 2001. Give Harvey a call for more details, as he would love to save a place for you. Contact Harvey Comer: (410) 836-8881.

DAVID L's Hideout Lounge October 15th Mixed Doubles!

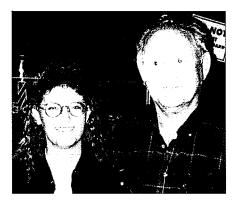
(Continued from Page 25)



First Place: Ricky Royal (left) and Marsha Brown (right)



Second Place: Mary Brown (left) and Larry Brown (right)



Third Place: Jody Berry (left) and Bob Brown (right)

(Glen, there sure are a lot of "Brown" winners! Think we need to change our last names? <grin> --T&L)

Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views from The World of Shuffleboard

(Continued from Page 2)

<u>Leon Black Responds to</u> <u>Alan Cobb & Bobby Williams</u>

RE: Handicap tournaments based on rating (See Alan's original comments in August 2000 issue and Bobby Williams response to Alan in October issue)

As a 2 rated player I take issue with limiting any amateurs access to Division I pro events (-1,0,1), especially in Singles and Special Events such as true Round Robins. If you have more money than brains, playing with and against your rated betters should be your choice.

One argument against it, is it reduces the number players in the amateur divisions. I say, very few amateurs will pay the higher entry fees -- negating that argument. Actually players may not like the format and take their money and shuffleboard play to a tournament of their liking.

A second argument against it, is the top players aren't happy drawing an amateur. Mr. Billy Mays answered that for me once saying if a Pro doesn't like the chance of playing with or against an amateur, they can get their money back and not play. As a two rated player, I don't like mandatorily drawing a 90 year old drunk off the bar stool, rated a four, not having played in the past 10 years.

Third most Pro players don't want to play the shufflers they have trained as in Texas where 2s and 3s play like God. Note: I have no formal training.

When I started playing seriously two years ago I would play any place with any format with any cash prize. Now as a traveling player, I look for bigger tournaments first; then tournaments with draws with higher entry fees followed by singles Open or Rated; Draft or ABC teams; Pro events open to all; and lastly doubles and tournament leading off with mixed doubles. I like tournaments with singles after a high entry fee drawer because I am a player without a traveling male and/or female partner. The last thing I want is mixed doubles or doubles because I don't normally have partners of quality and have to pick up partners as I can.

-- Leon Black, Box 14335, Lansing, MI 48901

(Reader comments for Leon? Send 'em in! --T&L)

Bobby Williams Challenges Terry Dowell-Virtual Tourney?

Bobby Williams challenges Terry Dowell to a 'virtual' tournament for The Board Talk readers to vote on expected winners. "Let's have a two 6player team event (Reno format) between Indiana and Texas/Oklahoma players. Players selected for TX/OK players are: Bobby Williams, David Williams, Bill Melton, Billy Melton, Diana Hagen, Bob Shaw, Billy Mays, Glen Davidson, Howard Mouton, Johnny Ballard, Mike Taylor, and Rick Jones. List your team players for the two 6-player team event and we can get the readers to vote." (Ongoing jests between Bobby and Terry - See October and November issues -- but boys, if we have a "virtual" tourney for readers to vote, will you guys & gals really play to see which readers guessed the winning teams? We think you must!) (Shufflers' Notebook --- Continued on Page 30)



TSA NEWS NOTES

(Check out the NEW "Table Shuffleboard Association" logo (above)! We had previously asked for suggestions for a new TSA logo. The above comes from a basic design submitted by Hal Perry. It looks great in color too!)

The Table Shuffleboard Association Board of Directors salutes and thanks all those that have donated to the TSA since February 2000: The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc., American Legion Post 73, Del City, Oklahoma; the Indiana Shuffleboard Hall of Fame; Bonnie English of Colorado; and an "anonymous travelling shuffler."

If you would like to make a contribution, send a check payable to Table Shuffleboard Association, c/o TSA Secretary Lynda French, 12710 Red Deer Pass, Austin, TX 78729. Your support is vital to the efforts of the TSA! One of our current projects is trying to get funds to purchase display cabinets for the HOF museum and historical items to place in the display cabinets. Watch for HOF inductions at Houston Holiday Open 2000 & at Balloon Inn 2001! Thanks for your support! -- TSA Directors

2000-2001 CALENDAR OF SHUFFLEBOARD EVENTS

DECEMBER 2000

Dec. 8-9

Holiday Classic Harvey's Place Street, Maryland

Dec. 8-10

11th Santa Classic Balloon Inn Arvada, Colorado

Dec. 9

Open Doubles Sportsman's Lounge Muncie, Indiana

Dec. 9-19

A-B-C Tourney Frankie's Sports Bar & Grill Olympia, WA

Dec. 26-31

Houston Holiday Open Greenspoint Marriott Houston, Texas

Dec. 30-31

ESA Mixed Doubles Tim's Timber Tavern Kelso, Washington

JANUARY 2001

Jan. 12-13

Snowball Handicap American Legion Post 73 Del City, Oklahoma

Jan. 12-13

East Coast Winter Tourney Harvey's Place Street, Maryland

Jan. 20

Draw Partner Special Event Triple Crown Sports Bar Houston, Texas

FEBRUARY 2001

Feb. 9-11

Sweethearts Mixed Doubles The Blue Goose

Port Orchard, Washington

Feb. 12-13

Mason Dixon Classic Harvey's Place Street, Maryland

MARCH 2001

March 23-24

Spring Warmup Harvey's Place Street, Maryland

March 30-April 1

Toledo Open Avon's Local 14 Toledo, Ohio

APRIL 2001

April 13-15

Battle of the Bars AMVETS Post 26 Pendleton, Indiana

April 18-22

1st World Championship Singles Round Robin Sands Regency Reno, Nevada

April 20-22

Heartland Handicap American Legion Post 73 Del City, Oklahoma

April 21

Open Doubles Sportsman's Lounge Muncie, Indiana

April 27-28

Maryland State Championship Harvey's Place Street, Maryland

MAY 2001

May 5

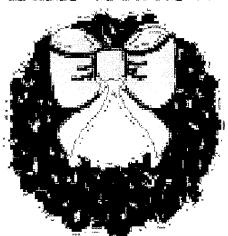
Annual Spring Doubles American Legion 424 Bourbon, Indiana

JULY 2001

July 1-7

Southwest Open American Legion 73 Del City, Oklahoma

Happy Holidays!



George & Donna Wilber!



Thanks for your years of dedication to The Board Talk

WE ALL LOVE YOU
BOTH!!!







"Thanks to All Participants" -- NASC in Reno

Submitted By: John McDermott, The Shuffleboard Federation

The 2000 North American Shuffleboard Championships™ was a milestone event for The Shuffleboard Federation and for the sport in general. The 24 new boards used for the tournament represented an investment of nearly \$100,000 in the future of the event. The new tables played great and the consensus among the players who attended the tournament is that this was the best NASC™ to date.

We appreciate all the time and effort put into manufacturing the new equipment and wish to thank Russ McKay, Bob Chapman, Leo Stelter and Sol Lipkin from Venture Entertainment which made the tables, and to Gordie Smith and Gord Ritchie from Eagle Electronics which manufactured the scoreboards. It has always been our goal to make the NASC™ the premier shuffleboard tournament in the world in all respects. We have worked very hard to run a first class tournament and now have the equipment to achieve that goal.

The NASC™ has become the tournament it is largely due to the excellent work of our tournament staff. Four days before the start of the tournament, the truck filled with more than 20,000 pounds of new shuffleboards arrived in Reno. Three days before the start of the tournament a locally hired crew of 16 people hand carried the new shuffleboards up the two flights of stairs to the tournament room.

Over the next 48 hours, some of the most knowledgeable people in the business worked together and to assemble, level and adjust the new tables. We want to thank everyone that participated in that effort. Rick Boyer, who has been our right hand on setup for the past 11 years was assisted by Lyndon Baize, Dennis Bird, Ron Bracher, Lou Decker, Jake Dunham, John Fisher, Dan Hitt, Bill Maxwell, Rick McFarland, Joe Ozanich, Gordie Smith, Fred Thumann, and Bubba Warren.

With the boards now in place, there is a tremendous amount of preparation still to be done, including leveling, cleaning and polishing. Caring for the boards is not a task that ends once the tournament starts. Most mornings, by 6:00 a.m., members of the tournament staff were back at it, cleaning, polishing and spraying the boards, vacuuming the gutters and doing additional leveling and adjusting.

As Sunday morning arrives, there are just a few hours until the start of the tournament and the rest of the tournament staff is busy getting ready. Kathy Yingst, who started working on the administrative end of the tournament months before, is finalizing preparations for the Pro/Am Draft. That task included working with the members of the Bowers Ratings Committee that were in attendance to establish ratings for the twenty or so unrated players on hand. Rob Kern is going over time projections for the week, which will include more than 2,000 tournament games. Jack Davis is warming up his voice for the more than 500 players/teams he will auction in the next few days. Meanwhile, in the tournament storage area, Lois Thumann, who took over the important role of handling the sales of all the tournament merchandise is folding and sorting hundreds of Tshirts, jackets, sweat shirts, golf shirts, etc. as she gets ready for the week long job.

In addition to the regular tournament staff were some volunteers who played an important and appreciated role. We wish to recognize Melody Marine, Jeri Billard, Lorainne Bingham, Georganna Brand, Shari Hudson, Shirley Perry, Marilu Roberts and Terry Woodward. So many people stopped and offered to help out if we needed them. We appreciate all of you and hope we haven't missed anyone.

The highlight of the week occurred on Friday night as Hal Perry and Ron & Debbie Bowers were presented with the 2000 Sol Lipkin Award by non other than Sol Lipkin. It was a tribute to these very deserving recipients that nearly every shuffleboard player in the house made sure they were on hand for the presentations. The Sol Lipkin ward is The Shuffleboard Federation's highest honor and we join everyone in the shuffleboard community in congratulating Hal, Ron & Debbie.

As usual, our to our Co-Sponsors played an important role in funding the more than \$20,000.00 in tournament expenses. Thanks to everyone who made a Co-Sponsor contribution, especially our Platinum Sponsors, Venture Entertainment Eagle Electronics and the Sands Regency and to Mike and Susie Halstead, our lone Gold Co-Sponsors. Special thanks also to our board sponsors, The Houston Holiday Open and the Southwest Open, which made donations of \$300.00 to Co-Sponsor a board.

In the North American Champion contest, three of the four decisions were decided during the last event, Deuces Wild. Even though it was the closest (Continued on Page 30)

(Continued from Page 29)

finish in the history of the tournament, no machine and/or hand recounts were necessary. In Division III, Jo Cook of Denver, Colorado finished on top, followed by Jimmy Fernandez of Houston, Texas and Henry Noel, Jr. of Modesto, California. In Division II, Jim Payne of Omaha, Nebraska finished first, followed by Lilly Kidd of Houston, Texas and Melody Marine of Spokane, Washington who were tied for second. The top spot in Division I went to Glen Ingram of Muncie, Indiana, with John Kosiske of Omaha, Nebraska in second and Bob Jacobsen of Phoenix, Arizona in third. Dan Hitt of Spokane, Washington, finished in the top spot in the Pro Division and also won a suite for the 2001 NASC™ as the top overall finisher. Al Salazar of Peoria. Arizona finished second in the pros, with Diana Hagen of Houston, Texas in third.

With 291 registered players, we came close to our and/or hand recounts were necessary. In Division III, Jo Cook of Denver, Colorado finished on top, goal of 300 and are sure that the excitement generated by this years event and the quality of the new tables will put us over that mark next year. We hope the shuffleboard community will join us in remembering the unusually large number of shuffleboard players who signed up but had to cancel due to serious illness of their own or the death or seriousness illness of one of their loved ones. Those people are: Steve Kalamarski, Bev Chaffin, Steve Walker, Jim & Marie Coulter, Rozanna Melton, Sharon Summers, Wayne Scott, Jon & Scott Mitchell, Claude & Linda Skowronek and Jack Sparagowski.

Looking to next year, the 2001 NASC[™] the Division II Doubles format will make the change in format from 15 point games, double elimination to 2 out of 3 in the winners bracket and one 21 point game in the losers bracket. As promised, we will continue to expand that to other events as we become better educated on the time requirements.

As preparations for the 2001 NASCTM continue, we welcome any suggestions you may have. The success of the NASCTM has come through working to improve the tournament every year and by listening to our participants. Everyone who attended the tournament has been sent a comment form. Please take a moment to fill it out and return it to us.

Thanks To All! --- John McDermott ---

(Continued from Page 27)

Shufflers' Notebook Billy Melton's "Thanks to Houston Shufflers!"

Anyone who knows me, knows that I am not much on weddings, funerals, goodbyes, or thank you notes, but I need to take this chance to say "thanks" to some great people, such as Danny Green, Diana Hagen, David Ramold, Dale & Mary Koteras, Harvey & Lilly Kidd, Howard Mouton, Danny Norris & Denise... you all get my drift... all of the Houston bunch! Heck, I kind of even miss Flynt Preston! Every one of you have made me proud to call Houston my home away from home. I look forward to getting back for "Johnny B. Good's" Christmas "showdown"! Anyway, I will see you guys/gals soon. "So, Get Ready!" By the way, if any of you reading this are ever in Houston, TX on a Friday, you owe it to yourself to stop in at Danny's Sports Bar. It is a special place, with a special owner, and a bunch of VERY special people! **HOW ABOUT THOSE SOONERS?**

--- Billy Melton of OK/TX!

(In case you wonder why it appears that Billy is very homesick and missing everyone... his 'real' job has taken him across the country for some time... the above note was faxed to The Board Talk from Junction City, KS on Nov. 20, 2000 --T&L)

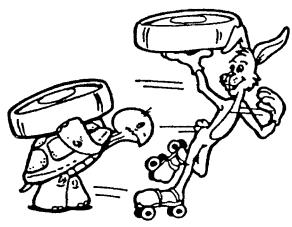
CLASSIFIED AD

ATTENTION: HOUSTON TX AREA SHUFFLERS at Danny's Sports Bar OCTOBER 8, 2000 ... HELP! ... MISSING!... Kelly Cameron's American weights during tournament. Please return to Danny's Sports Bar or call Danny's with information: 281-558-8693

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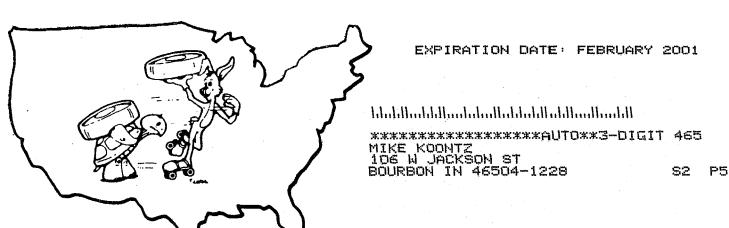
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