

# The Board Talk

Published Monthly by George & Donna Wilber  
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Vol. 17, No. 11

November 2000

## The Board Talk "Torch" Has Been Passed!

After 16 years and 11 months as publishers of The Board Talk, George and Donna Wilber have passed the "torch" to a new generation of individuals dedicated to preserving a communications vehicle for The World of Shuffleboard to keep the sport going and growing.

Effective November 2000, the trio of Kelye Stites, owner of Champion Shuffleboard, Richland Hills, Texas, and Tom and Lynda French of Austin, Texas, will join forces to continue bringing table shuffleboard news and views to shufflers and their various support systems.

### Back in 1984....

After years of shuffleboard locations depending upon mailed flyers, phone calls and word of mouth to attract players to their events, the Wilbers decided to introduce a Michigan publication to fill the communications void. George had been playing since 1975 and Donna was a writer, so it seemed like an ideal team to provide a needed service and hopefully be a modest source of income to supplement their full-time jobs. They had no subscribers, no paid advertisers, no mailing permit -- just an idea they thought was worthy of their time and effort. George climbed into his battered old van and started peddling the "new baby" to shuffleboard sites in the Lansing and Grand Rapids area. John McDermott offered his assistance to deliver it to the Pontiac/Detroit area sites.

The Wilbers took that first issue, a meager 4-pager, to Las Vegas for a "World Champion" shuffleboard tournament. They passed out a few to

the participants, along with a sign-up sheet if they wished to receive the next issue which would contain a report of this "big" event (*the winners were Darrol Nelson of Oregon, 1st; Portland Eddie Graves of Oklahoma, 2nd; Doug Buhl of California, 3rd; and Mac the Greek Makarounis, 4th*). They got a few names and overnight, The Board Talk became a "national" publication.



*Retired editors George and Donna Wilber turn over the reins to Tom and Lynda French with a great deal of confidence in their abilities to carry on the tradition of service to The World of Shuffleboard.*

By the time the Wilbers published the fourth issue in April of 1984, they *almost* told readers they were strongly considering aborting the "flight" because of the expenses involved. They had even come up with a farewell headline: "The Board Talk Will Take a Walk." However, because of a packet of paid subscriptions from Texas, California and Oklahoma, and a handful of letters to the editor encouraging them to "hang in there," that obituary was never printed.

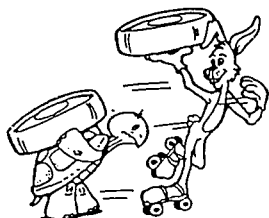
Finally, tournament sponsors across the nation began to realize the value of advertising their events  
(continued on Page 24)

### **ON THE INSIDE....**

**\*A brand-new shuffleboard support system introduced. See ad on Page 11.**

**\*More TSA Directors on Page 6.**

**\*New editors indoctrinated at 11th Skip's/ Board Talk Fall Bash. See Page 7.**



# Shufflers' Notebook

*News and Views from The World of Shuffleboard*

## Butch Wishes Wilbers Well

The state of Indiana and myself wish the best to Board Talk George and Donna in your retirement! I know all of your fishing buddies are lining up to go ice fishing, George. And Miss Donna, have all the garden tools ready for next spring.

Man! Retirement is fun!

Butch Thomas (the Great Oz), Noblesville, Indiana

*Thank you for your good wishes, Butch. We look forward to seeing you at future tournaments. Thanks also for the autographed program. We will treasure it!*

## Betty Salutes Kane and Company

Kane and Company met the Houghton Lake challenge with undaunting success! At this year's 11th Annual Skip's/Board Talk Fall Bash, George and Donna Wilber turned over the tournament direction to Bill and Brenda Kane and helpers from Pontiac with a "You CAN do it!" and "We WILL do it!" attitude and it "floated" right in there down to the last game.

Michigan players are so proud to have Bill and Brenda and all their helpers who contributed in making Houghton Lake 2000 the success it has always been in the past. Skip's has been a favorite location for players for several years, drawing competition from many areas and states.

Michigan is fortunate to have Kane & Company and Alonzo Cottrell and Theresa Stephens going

forward with new ideas and continued shuffleboard play. We are looking forward to see some of their future plans go to the "bracket board." We have new blood, desire, and ambition flowing through the Michigan shuffleboard community and are proud of the outstanding way these young people have handled themselves, not only here, but out-state as well.

That's what we need, folks -- desire, hard work and the camaraderie we witnessed first-hand at Houghton Lake.

Betty Parrish, Waterford, Michigan (Michigan Shuffleboard Hall of Fame)



*Betty, along with retiring George and Donna, salute Bill and Brenda Kane for taking over the job of directing the annual Skip's/Board Talk Fall Bash.*



*50/50 salesperson Theresa Stephens "hustles" Hoosier Jim Long to buy some tickets. The Michigan Hall of Fame earned \$453 for its coffers.*

## --ATTENTION--

If you have a red check below, it means your subscription has expired. Use the form inside to renew NOW so you won't miss next month's issue!

## 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.*



## Michigan Shufflers Remember Marie with Generosity

**By George & Donna Wilber**

Michigan's pride and joy, Marie Sweeney, who lost her long and valiant battle with cancer in July, was remembered for her years

of generosity to fellow shufflers with open hearts and wallets at a memorial tournament in her honor. Held at the Majestic Cafe in Pontiac on Sept. 15-17, the tournament featured three events with 10% of each entry and sales going to Marie's favorite organizations: Hospice of SE Michigan, which helped Marie through her final months, and the Michigan Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, which inducted her in April for her outstanding achievements and many years of support and promotion of the sport.

In addition to the 10% contribution, local businesses provided prizes for drawings for "Lots of Goodies," a booze basket, and Shuffleboard Federation weights, plus 50/50 tickets, and individual donations (including a member of a rock group that travels across the nation, who had lost his Mom to cancer). Sales for the set of weights donated by The Shuffleboard Federation were brisk and the lucky winner was Roland Harkless. Add it all up and the effort netted \$1417, half going to Hospice and half to the Michigan Hall of Fame.



Majestic host Charlee Magoo presented a check for \$708.50 to Rob Kern, member of the Michigan Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Committee. A check for the same amount was sent to Hospice of S.E. Michigan in Marie's memory. A Board Talk salute to Charlee, not only for hosting and directing a great memorial tournament, but for all her efforts in staging such a successful raffle ticket sale. A

salute also goes to all of her volunteers who aggressively worked the crowd to bring the grand total to such an impressive figure.

### Kern/Hershman Win Draw Partner

When Marie's daughter, Sue, and her husband Maurice, stopped by at the Majestic on Friday evening, they were impressed by the turnout for the tournament's opening event, the draw partner. Marie had some credits on her favorite poker machine, which Charlee turned over to Sue. She doubled the winnings and turned it over to the memorial benefit.



Winners of the draw partner were Rob Kern, who managed that while doing the bracketeering, and Jerry Hershman, long-time friend and shuffling partner of Marie. "She's looking down and cheering us on," said Jerry.

Martha Hall and Vic Matteson took second place honors, with O.B. Brim and Jeff Schubert in third place.

### Auten/Kern/Genez Tops in 3-Person Team



We didn't mean for this to be a Rob Kern issue, but once again he found himself in the winner's circle, this time on the first-place team of captain Steve Auten (right) and Dan Genez.

(continued on Page 10)

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## *Upcoming Events Across the Nation*

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### Texas

## **GLOBAL WARNING MAKES HOUSTON THE CHOICE FOR HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS**

Recent warm weather trends have Houstonians laughing at the ice and snow! Clear skies and balmy temperatures invite one to don a short-sleeve shirt and head out for some golf or fishing -- even in December! "We've even had some inquiries about deep sea fishing trips," one of the organizers of the Houston Holiday Open was heard to say. "And we can turn them on to a little golf or fishing if we have enough interested people."

Of course, there's a little matter of the 5th Annual Houston Holiday Open to keep one occupied! It's one of the glamour and fun tournaments of the entire shuffleboard year. This one promises to be no exception. Held on Dec. 26-Dec. 31 at the Greenspoint Marriott Hotel, the tourney 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.

Check out the Houston Holiday Open flyer in this issue and make plans. Golf clubs optional; snow shoes not required!

### Michigan

## **STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS, CLUB CAR LOUNGE, DURAND, NOV. 24-26**

The 15th Annual State of Michigan Championships will once again be held at the Club Car Lounge in Durand over the Thanksgiving weekend, co-sponsored by The Shuffleboard Federation and the Michigan Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Action will start on Friday, Nov. 24, with a mixed doubles. On Saturday, there will be three singles events played simultaneously: open, ladies' and Div. II. An open doubles is on the agenda for Sunday.

The Club Car is a spacious facility with four boards, located in a friendly small town with easy accessibility from major roadways. In past years, Santa and Christmas carolers have made appearances.

For tournament information, call John at The Shuffleboard Federation, 248-380-9300. For

lodging/RV recommendations, call Dennis at the Club Car, 517-288-9910.

Open to Michigan residents only.

### Florida

## **STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS, BAVARIAN HOUSE, TITUSVILLE, NOV. 24-26**

The Bavarian House, 5424 Riveredge Drive, Titusville, will host the Florida State Championships on Nov. 24-26. Open to Florida residents only, the tournament will include: an open doubles at 6 p.m. on Friday; women's singles on Saturday at 9 a.m., and men's singles at noon the same day; and a mixed doubles on Sunday, starting at noon. Round robins will precede the tournament on Wednesday and Thursday.

For further information, contact Charley Thompson at 321-269-3914, or Ursula at 321-264-1390.

### Ohio

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

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.

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

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Indiana**INDIANA PLANS "BATTLE OF THE BARS" TOURNEY IN 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**WILLIAMS BROTHERS' THANKSGIVING TOURNEY, GOLD NUGGET, NOV. 22-26**

The annual Williams Brothers' Thanksgiving Tournament will be held at the Gold Nugget Sports Bar, 2602 W. Division, Arlington, on Nov. 22-26.

Action will start on Wednesday at 7 p.m. with a handicap draw, \$50 entry, 3 point maximum negative spot, and no two pros may draw.

On Thursday, Nov. 23, there will be a draw partner for Div. I (-1's, 0's and 1's) and Div. II (2's, 3's and 4's), both starting at 5 p.m. Entry fee for Div. I is \$100 (no two pros may draw), and \$50 for Div. II (no two 2's may draw).

Singles for Div. I and Div. II will start at 3 p.m. on Friday, with a graduated entry fee. Div. I: -1's, \$100; 0's, \$75; 1's, \$50 (2 out of 3 in the winner's bracket, 21 point game in the loser's bracket). Div. II: 2's, \$75; 3's, \$50; 4's, \$25 (single game, double elimination).

On Saturday at 3 p.m., Div. I and II bring partner events will begin. In Div. I (add to 0), the entry is \$200 per team, 2 out of 3 double elimination. For Div. II (add to 5), the entry is \$100 per team, also 2 out of 3 double elimination.

A one-time \$20 registration fee will be charged. For further information, contact Bobby Williams, 817-265-7045, or Jeri Billard, 817-536-5952.

Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard site.

California**THANKSIVING TOURNEY AND INDUCTION, OSKAR'S, BELLFLOWER, NOV. 23-25**

Oskar's Sports Bar & Grill, 13418 Woodruff Ave., Bellflower, will host the annual Southern California Thanksgiving Tournament on Nov. 23-25. The event will feature the induction of Troy Tolbert into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 25, 2 p.m., with a buffet to follow.

An ABC draw event will begin on Thanksgiving

*(continued on Page 18)*

Houston Holiday Open Update

By popular demand, the Draft Team Event has been changed to 4 out of 7 played on three boards.

Please note that change on the enclosed flyer.

## Who's Who on the TSA Board of Directors

(Editor's Note: In the September issue, we started a series of biographical sketches of those who serve on the Table Shuffleboard Association Board of Directors, formerly the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. We introduced you to President Don Valk and Directors Larry Creakbaum, Bob Hunt and Dave Arndt. In the October issue, we presented Vice President Al Salazar, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer Ray Boyett, Secretary Lynda French, and Director Frank Mako. In this issue, meet directors Harvey Kidd, Cliff Goff and Louise Freer.)

**Director Harvey Kidd**  
2103 Marnel  
Houston, Texas 77055  
Phone: 713-827-8727  
E-Mail:  
SHUFFLEBOR@aol.com



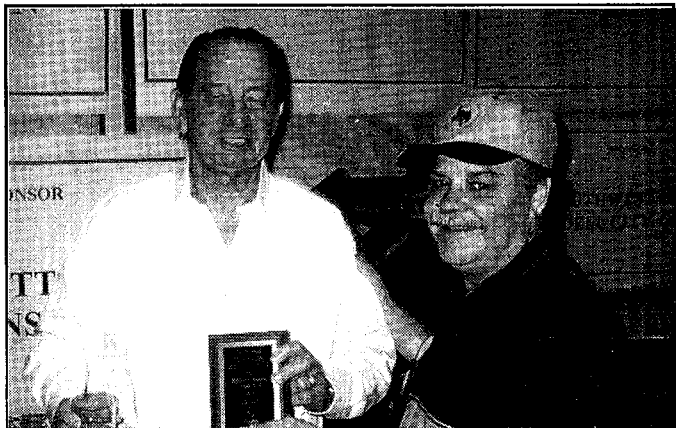
Harvey and Lilly were married in 1955 and have five daughters and nine grandchildren. They operate a Ryder Rental Truck Service 7 days a week, but manage to fit in all the local and national shuffleboard events

they possibly can. When they retire, Harvey, who has earned himself a "0" rating, and Lilly, who has proven herself a force to be reckoned with on the boards, plan to play shuffleboard full-time.

Even when Harvey isn't in the actual winner's circle (not often!), he's oftentimes a successful, freewheeling sponsor. He's a key promoter of the game and is a popular auctioneer for sponsorship sales.

His evaluation of the future status of shuffleboard? "With the help and good work of The Board Talk, the Bowers Rating System, the state and national shuffleboard Halls of Fame, I think

shuffleboard is doing well and headed in the right direction."

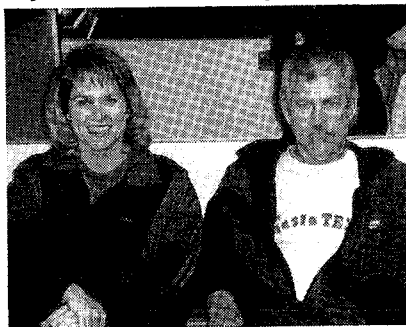


Harvey, who took third place in the pro singles at the 1999 Houston Holiday Open, receives congratulations from director Jack Scott.

**Director Cliff Goff**  
4902 Redbud Drive  
Sand Springs, Oklahoma 74063  
Phone: 918-245-8298  
E-Mail:  
Phillips4902@prodigy.net



Cliff, project superintendent for a mechanical contractor for 35 years, is the newest member of the TSA Board of Directors, appointed to replace Glen Davidson. He served as director of the Tulsa Spring Open for 14 years, was co-founder of the Tulsa Shuffleboard Association and served as league president for seven years. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Shuffleboard Hall of Fame in 1998, and has been a rater for the Bowers Rating System since its beginning.

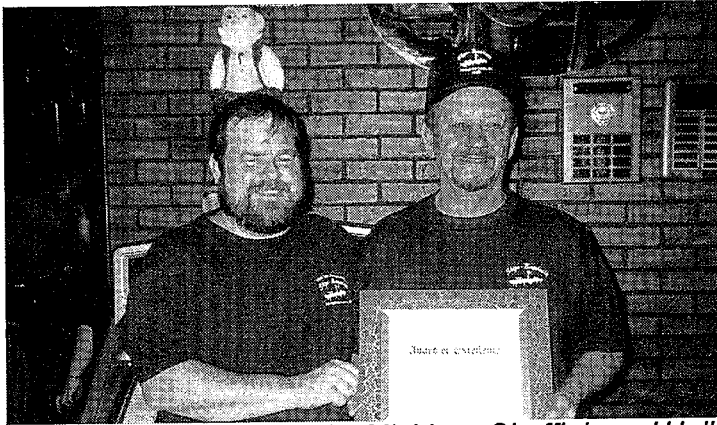


Cliff and wife Sally, who is fast becoming one of the top women players in the country, have one daughter, Courtney, age 9.

Cliff's personal goals for the TSA: "To induct more of the older players who have helped the game over the years, and to continue the vision for which the TSA was formed." And how to make that goal a reality?: "Be able to accept criticism from being involved and use it to help the TSA get more players to give their total support."

(continued on Page 29)

# "Thanks for the Memories...."



Sincere appreciation to the Michigan Shuffleboard Hall of Fame for the Award of Excellence. That was awesome!

## HAPPY RETIREMENT....



Happy retirement to George and Donna Wilber, who started it all 11 years ago.

## Come Back in 2018....



Six-month-old Leland, grandson of Coco and Cindy Brown, great-grandson of Carolyn Perry, and nephew of Theresa Stephens, will carry on the family tradition.

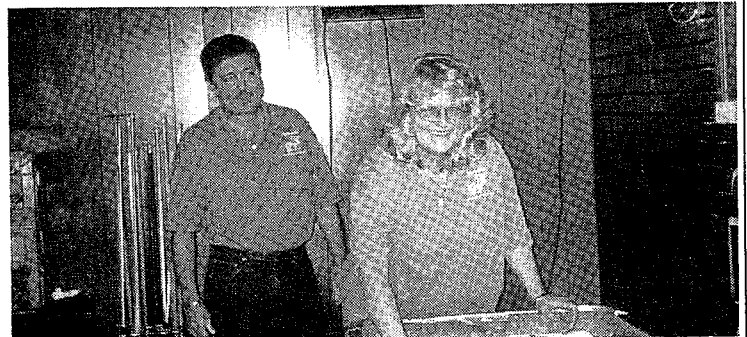
To all the participants of the 11th Annual Skip's/Board Talk Fall Bash, we say thanks for your fellowship, your good sportsmanship, and competitive spirits. We look forward to seeing you next year.



Skip and Carole Sliwa  
Skip's Lounge

*Special thanks to Bill and Brenda Kane for taking over for George and Donna.*

## AND WELCOME....



And welcome to new Board Talk Editors Tom and Lynda French of Texas. Come back again!

## Spanning the Generations...



Veteran Jim Long (left) wishes new generation shufflers Theresa Stephens and Alonzo Cottrell best wishes for the future of shuffleboard.

# SKIP'S LOUNGE

8895 W. Houghton Lake Drive, Houghton Lake, Michigan

Phone: 517-422-5631

"In the heart of Michigan's Vacation Wonderland"

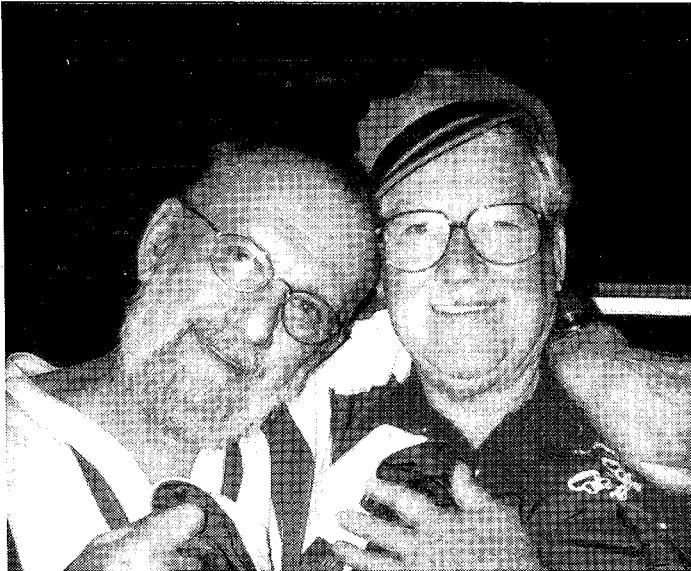
## A Colorful Michigan Fall Bash at Houghton Lake

Northern Michigan put on a classy show for visitors to Houghton Lake on Oct. 13-15. The wooded landscape leading to Skip's Lounge proudly displayed its awesome red and gold Fall colors to welcome shufflers from Texas, Arkansas, Nebraska, Indiana, and all parts of Michigan, to the 11th Annual Skip's/Board Talk Fall Bash. (That's No. 12 if you count the annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion in 1989.)

Even though the Bash was held a month later than usual because Board Talk George and Donna had retired from directing tournaments, participation did not suffer. By popular demand, the event came back on the calendar with new directors Bill and Brenda Kane of Pontiac. The "same old, same old" hosts Skip and Carole Sliwa and bracketeer Rob Kern were there to make it another shuffleboard highlight of the year.

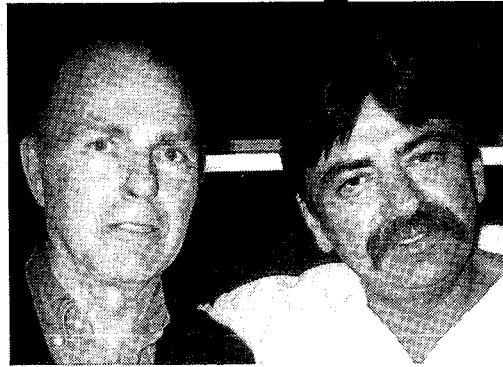
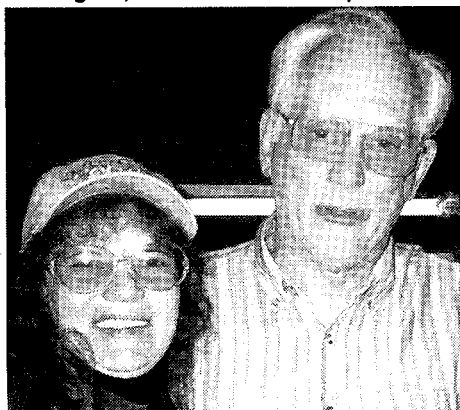
### Morgan/Earl Win Draw

There were 22 teams in Friday's A-B draw, vying for a share of the \$3930 total pot.



A happy winning duo, Sonny Morgan (right) and Jim Earl, owner of the Stop Spot (a shuffleboard bar in Ferndale), both of Michigan, clutch their first-place jackets.

Second place honors went to Jim Long of Indiana and Kathy Francisco of Michigan.



Roland Harkless and Canadian Chris LeMieux of Michigan finished third.

Martha Hall and J.R. Lopez of Michigan took fourth.

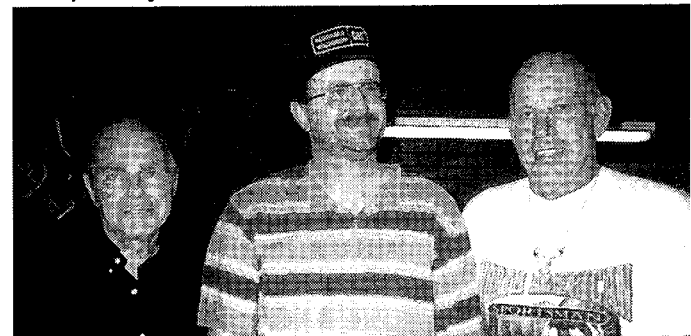


### Spielman/Black/Perry Tops in ABC

Sixty-three players signed up for Saturday's ABC draw, forming 21 teams competing for a pot of over \$6,000.



Captain Joe Spielman (left) of Nebraska, Carolyn Perry and Leon Black of Michigan show off their first-place jackets.



Marty Shepard of Nebraska (center) took his team of Roland Harkless and Bill Haskins of Michigan to second-place honors.



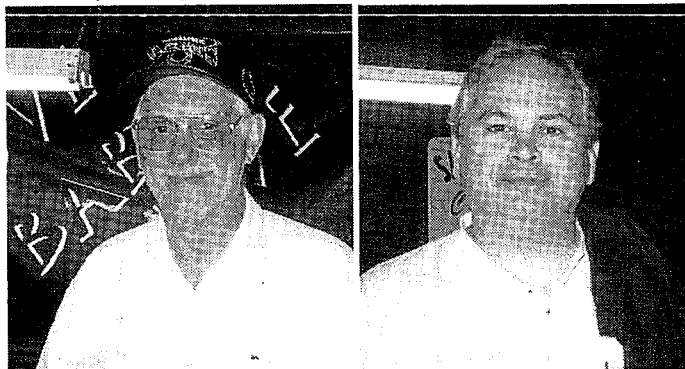
Captain J.R. Lopez (center), Mike Syts (left) and Manny Lane of Arkansas finished third.



The all-Michigan team of captain Roland Metivier (right), John Addington and Lisa Hedding took fourth place.

### Long Takes Singles Title

Twenty tough players were on the register for Sunday's singles with a pot of \$3190 at stake.



Hoosier Jim Long (left) took top honors in the singles, with Cornhusker Joe Spielman (right) in second place. Jim claimed the jacket and Joe settled for a t-shirt (he already earned a jacket).

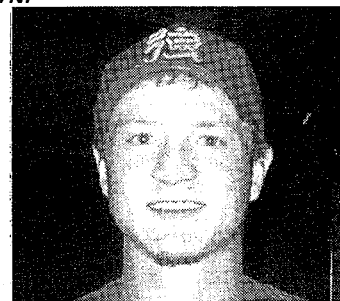
**THANKS TO SKIP & CAROLE  
AND YOUR FINE STAFF  
FOR THE GREAT SERVICE AND  
HOSPITALITY!**

**Your Saturday Spread was tasty as usual,  
and the "leftovers" on Sunday most welcome.**



For taking third in the singles and doing his usual fine job of bracketeering, Rob Kern of Michigan received a bikini brief from host Skip Sliwa. It matches his "Skip's Lounge/Board Talk 2000" t-shirt and Rob's fans are waiting to see him model it at an upcoming tournament.

Travelling Michigan shuffler Alonzo Cottrell took final money spot in the singles.



There were some interesting side-lights in the singles event:

Incoming Board Talk Editors Tom and Lynda French of Texas banished outgoing Editor George Wilber from the singles by beating him in the first two games.

Marty Shepard and Joe Spielman travelled all the way from Nebraska to meet each other in the finals. Joe prevailed, but Marty made out O.K. in the sale.

### Skip Honored by Michigan Hall of Fame

The Michigan Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Committee, represented by Betty Parrish and Rob Kern, honored Skip's Lounge owner Skip Sliwa with an Award of Excellence (see photo on Page 7).

The plaque read, in part: "We appreciate all you have done as you lead the way toward the advancement of shuffleboard in Michigan and in providing the ideal place for players to converge for friendly games, round robins and tournaments.... The hard work you do for shuffleboard, your patrons and your guests is unparalleled and has earned you the highest respect."

(Editor's Note: Skip's wife Carole deserves equal recognition!)

## Marie Memorial *(cont. from Page 3)*



*Taking second place honors was the team of captain Leon Black (left) and Cassie and Jeff Schubert (boy! has she done a good job as teacher!).*

Finishing third was the team of captain Jerry Hershman, Mike Odell and Carolyn Perry.

This was the first time a 3-person team draw event had been held at the Majestic and host Charlee deemed it a success. "We got some new people involved, some amateurs who didn't think they had a chance of winning. And even if they didn't win, they were thrilled to have a chance to play with and against some of the 'biggies,'" Charlee said.

### **Auten/Blade/Auten Take Singles Pot**

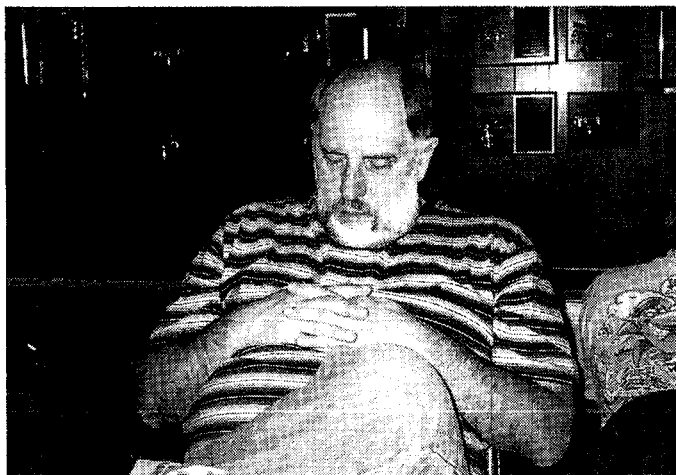
Our "adopted sons," the big, bad Auten boys, took a share of the healthy singles pot, with Frank Blade (too old to adopt) sandwiched in between.



*Steve Auten (left) took first place in the singles, with Frank Blade (center) in second. Rounding out the winner's circle in third place was Scott Auten (right).*

As Marie's daughter Susie said in her letter to The World of Shuffleboard in the last issue: "She so loved the game and all the wonderful friendships she had made over the years.....I thank all of her shuffleboard 'family.'"

Board Talk editors join Susie in saluting the Shuffleboard Family. We know Marie would be very proud!



*No, Leon Black is not imitating Cass Grubbs. He's simply conserving his energy for the next event.*



*The shy, quiet Ouy Durfee and Bill's better half, Brenda Kane, wish Board Talk George much happiness in his upcoming retirement.*

### **As The Puck Turns**

*By George & Donna Wilber*

**Lost: 41 subscribers.** If found, return to new editors, Tom and Lynda French, 12710 Red Deer Pass, Austin, TX 78729.

As we worked to turn over a "clean" mailing list to the new editors, we had to remove 41 subscribers from 13 states last month who did not respond to their "red checks" during their 3-month "grace period." More will be removed this month unless they respond.

If someone is looking over your shoulder reading The Board Talk you paid for because they didn't receive theirs, tell them to pay up now! The future of your publication depends upon a strong, faithful subscriber base. Do your part to ensure that future by paying your subscription when due and encouraging others to do the same.

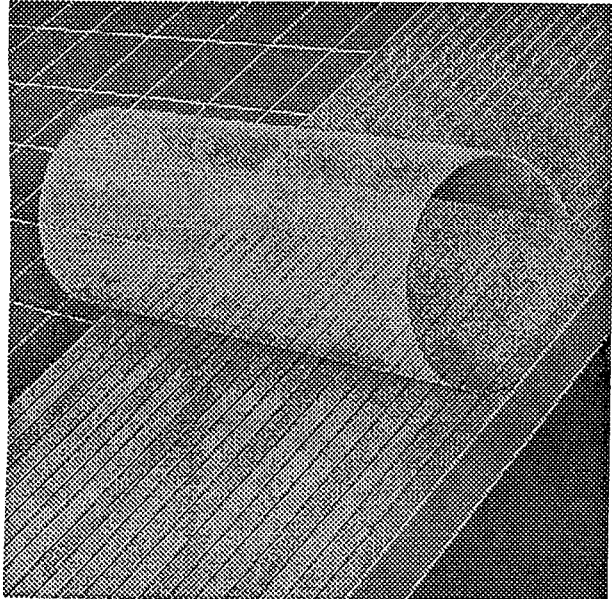
Several of the "lost" subscribers were shuffleboard locations which will not appear on the next "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." listing unless they renew now!

# COMING SOON!!!

**NEW!! NEW!!! NEW!!!!**

## **SHUFFLEBOARD SURFACE**

- EASY TO APPLY**
- NO MESS**
- NO FUMES**
- NO ODOR**
- NO FIRE HAZARD**
- NORMAL MAINTENANCE**
- FAST APPLICATION**
- IMMEDIATELY READY FOR PLAY**



This peerless finish is a blended polymer film with a unique pressure sensitive adhesive. It protects the board; it will not chip; it resists denting, and prolongs the life and beauty of the board for years to come.

*In the very near future, we will hold application training sessions in Omaha, Nebraska. If you would like to attend a training session, contact us by mail, phone, E-mail ([suitco@home.com](mailto:suitco@home.com)), or FAX (402-926-3381.)*

Please visit our website:

<http://intheomahaarea.com/SUITCOSALESSERVICE>

When our domain name is registered, our website will be:  
[www.suitcosurface.com](http://www.suitcosurface.com)

## **SUITCO SALES & SERVICE**

2030 North 104 Circle  
Omaha, Nebraska 68134

Phone: 402-926-3381

E-Mail us! [suitco@home.com](mailto:suitco@home.com)

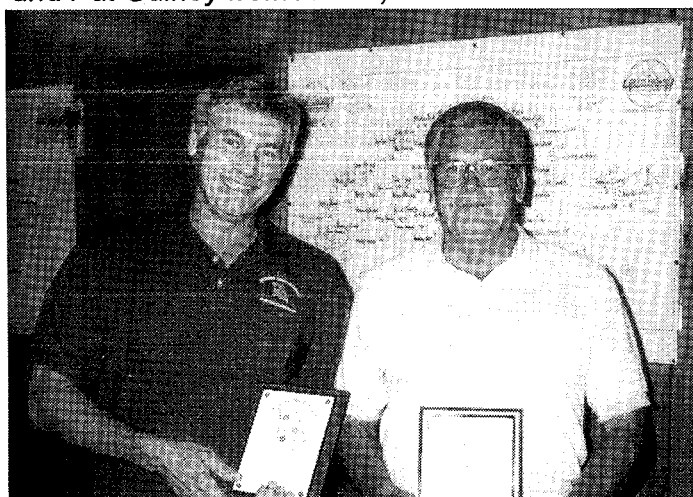
## Muehlhauser/Gainey Win 3rd Missouri Hall of Fame Tourney

By Charles Riley

Twenty-four teams from six states gathered at the Eagles Lodge 3911 at Houston on Sept. 22-23 for the Missouri Shuffleboard Players Association 3rd Annual Hall of Fame Tournament.



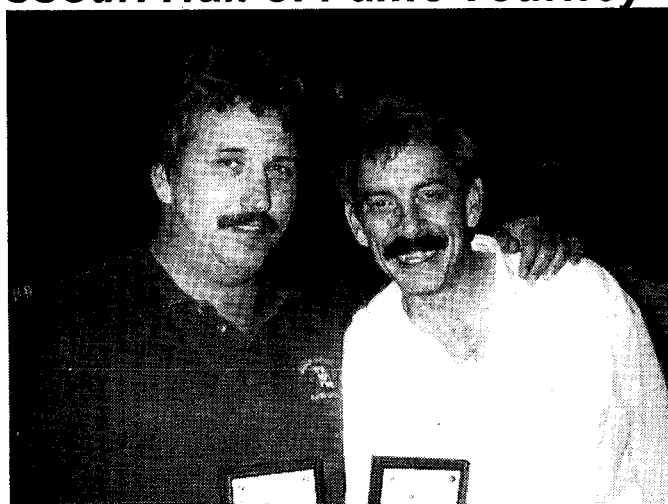
*Going undefeated and taking first place was the team of Chuck Muehlhauser from St. Louis, MO, and Pat Gainey from Austin, Texas.*



*Local Dean Pinkston and Francis Waters of Salem, MO, gave them a good run, but settled for second.*



*Third place went to Missouri's first Hall of Famer, Woodie Cockrum of Columbia, and Jim (JFK) Kennedy of Tulsa, Oklahoma.*



*The St. Louis team of Mike Simpson and Dan Kelly took fourth place.*

The tournament was played on three good boards under the direction of Rick Pittman. Charlie Shea and Carol Pittman headed the food detail and made sure no one left hungry. Great vittles, guys and gals. Thanks!

Congratulations to Bill ("Thunder Bill") Hill on his induction into the Missouri Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Bill, who has been playing and promoting shuffleboard for more than 55 years, is the sixth inductee in Missouri.

Congratulations also to Gene ("Gino") Smith, who along with Bill, for being recognized as "Legends" in the World of Shuffleboard in Missouri. Gino has also been playing the game for many years. Although the complete criteria has yet to be decided to qualify for this honor, there is no doubt these two will surpass all requirements.

Hope to see you all back at our Thanksgiving Tournament, Nov. 23-25. Call the Eagles Lodge 3911, Houston, 417-967-2169, for information.

## Players from Several States Enjoy Dew Drop Inn's Hospitality and Competition

The Dew Drop Inn, Waterloo, New York, hosted its annual summer nationals in August, attracting participants from several states.

In Friday's mixed doubles, Texans C.W. Walker and Sam took top honors. From Michigan, Theresa Stephens and Alonzo Cottrell took second place. The popular Dew Drop visitor, G.H. Richardson of Pennsylvania, teamed up with Theresa Cornell to take third place.

*(continued on Page 16)*



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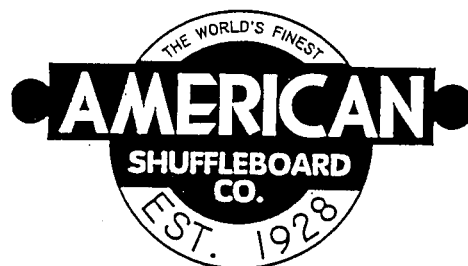
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## Stober's Hosts 1st Annual Open Tournament

Tournament director Carrie Clifton threw out all handicap systems for the 1st Annual Open Tournament at Stober's Lounge, Lansing, Michigan, on Sept. 29-Oct. 1, and pro players from Michigan and Indiana responded.

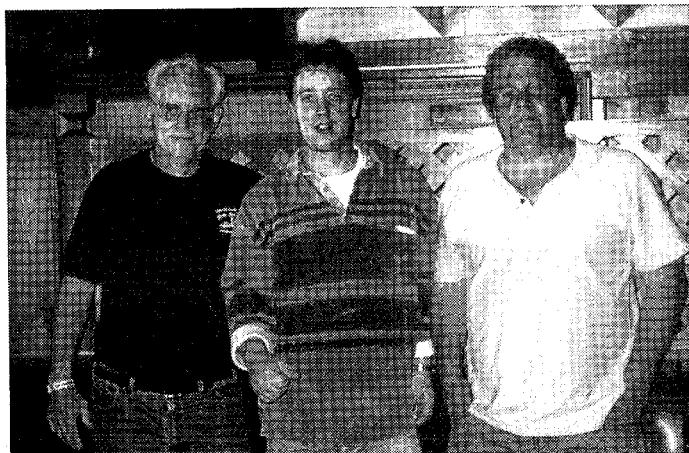
*In the first round robin, Stober's own Robbie Ravelo (right) walked the board against the doubles partners and finished second. The team of Greg Humbert and J.R. Lopez took first place.*



In the second round robin, Jerry Siebert and Greg Humbert took top honors, with Jimmy (the cop) Kumpula and Ron Bown in second place.

Twelve teams competed in the open doubles for a total pot of \$2850. In first place were two Hoosiers who had never played at Stober's before -- Mikel Johnson and Larry Brown. Second place went to the team of "Co-Kane" -- Coco Brown and Bill Kane. Third went to the great J.R. Lopez and Ron Palmer.

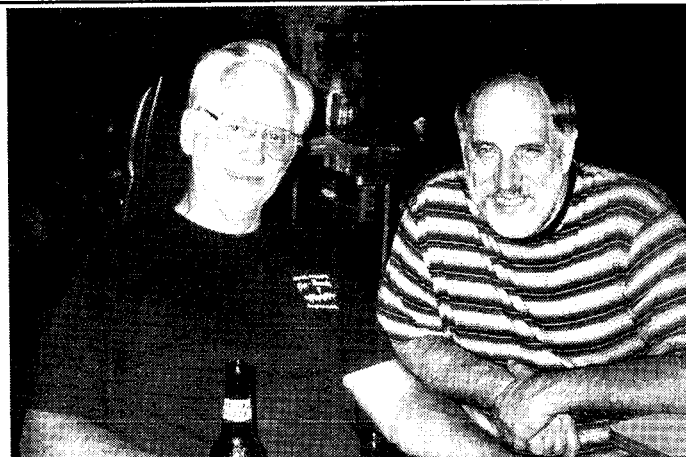
There were 18 entries in Sunday's open singles, vying for a pot of \$1540.



First place went to "double-dipper" Frank Blade (right), with second to Steve Auten (center), and third to "Mr. Silver Fox" Jim Long of Indiana.

**Tell The World of Shuffleboard  
about events in your location through  
the pages of  
THE BOARD TALK**

*(Reports must be received by the 15th of the month  
to appear in the next issue)*



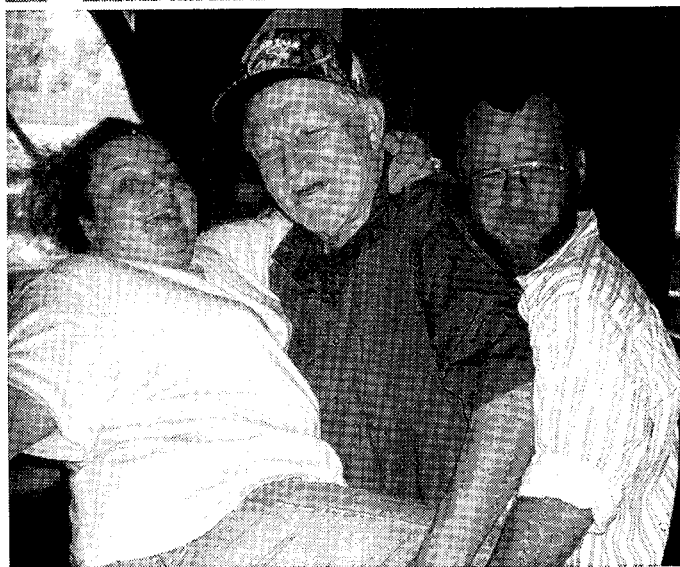
Fourth place went to Stober's own Leon Black, shown here with the "Silver Fox."

Honorable mention for fifth went to Stober's Carlos Capote who has been playing for two years and beat Mike Johnson of Indiana for honorable mention.

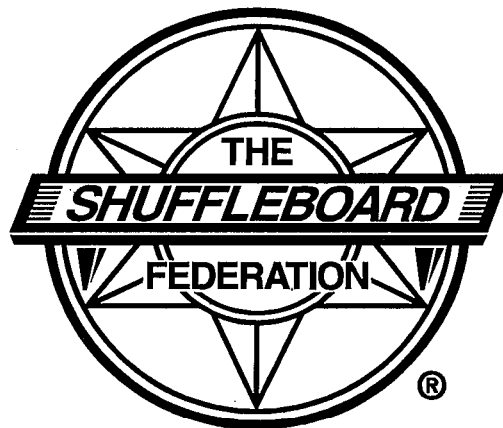
"We all had a great time and I hope more of you will be here next year for this tournament," said Director Carrie Clifton. "Special thanks to Butch Thomas and Connie Odum for coming all the way from Indiana for Sunday's singles."



Stober's tournament director Carrie Clifton is planning a women's singles and a mixed doubles at Stober's in the near future. Watch for details.



Theresa Stephens and Bill Clifton give Board Talk George (center) a big send-off into his upcoming retirement.



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## 2000-2001 BEGINS AT HARVEY'S PLACE

*By Dick Gorman*

The 2000-01 season began at Harvey's Place, Street, Maryland on October 6th and 7th with the annual Memorial Tournament which starts out each year with a small appreciation service dedicated to the memory of former players and supporters of Harvey's Place tournaments. This year, the service included memory of former participants: Dale Friend, John Grace, Mickey Mickens, Pete O'Neil, Nelson Renzo, Elmer Roblenheir, Scratch Todd and Art Ware. All were very important to the history of shuffleboard in the Maryland area, especially to Harvey's Place. We miss every one of them for their own special reasons.

The tournament started Friday night with a Draw Partner event using the Bower's Rating System. First place was finally won early Saturday morning by Wayne Todd (Newark, DE) and Dick Gorman (Wilmington, DE); second place was taken after some very tough matches by Ed Hammond (Chester, PA) and Jim Wallace (Port Deposit, MD); third place was won by Len Dell (Baltimore, MD) and Phil Dooman (New Rochelle, NJ - first time tournament who brought 5 playing friends with him to play their first tournament - they played all weekend and said they would be back for the next tournament - we hope so!).

It was up early on Saturday morning for the Open Singles which started at 9:30 a.m. Jim Daniels (Darlington, MD) took first place; Len Dell (Baltimore, MD) took second place; and Curtis Dean (Northeast, MD) took third place.

During the afternoon after the Singles Event was completed, the Bring Partner event started and continued until the late hours. Lindsay Hall (Baltimore, MD) and Jim McDaniels took first place; Wendy Davis and Dick Gorman (both of Wilmington, DE) took second place; and Len Dell (Baltimore, MD) and Cort Maurer (Northeast, MD) took third place.

Darlyne Belcher and Harvey Comer hosted this great tournament and were particularly pleased with the great turnout, especially having a number of new participants. They provided participants and guests with a fantastic roast pork dinner and all the trimmings. The next scheduled tournament will be the Thanksgiving Shootout, November 10th-12th, 2000. To reserve a spot or get tourney details, contact our great hosts at: (410) 836-8881.

## Dew Drop Inn *(continued from Page 12)*

In Saturday's singles event, first place went to Rick Meyer from Liverpool, New York, with Alonzo Cottrell of Michigan taking second place. Third went to Ryan Fuller and fourth to Bob Hanes from Waterloo.

Linda Meyer of Liverpool and Ryan Fuller were winners of the draw partner event. Taking second were Marv Smith and Rick Meyer. David Coleman and Dennis Leehive were third place finishers, with Jerry Hershman of Michigan and Ken VanZile taking fourth and final spot.

In the bring partner event, Jerry Hershman and Alonzo Cottrell of Michigan were tops. Pat Bennett and Dick Losee took second, with Brian Lounsbury and Dan Miner in third place.

Total pot for the weekend was \$6,806.

"I want to thank everyone for coming to the Dew Drop Inn," said hostess Tracie Fridley, who also did all the cooking for the weekend, for which she received many compliments. "Thanks also to my bartenders, Jean and Mikki, who did a great job as always. I hope to have everyone back in April."

## Johnson/Boaz Win Bourbon's 33rd Annual Fall Doubles

*By Bill Niswonger*

Forty-two players from Ohio, Michigan and Indiana gathered at the American Legion Post 424, Bourbon, Indiana, for Bourbon's 33rd Annual Fall Doubles on Oct. 7. For 33 years, shuffleboard players from around the United States have come to this small mid-western town in hopes to be crowned champions of this event. Some have played here for 20 or 30 years. This year was no different.

With shooters like Bobby Voorhis, Frank Blade, Alonzo Cottrell, legendary Hall-of-Famers Jim Long, Larry Creakbaum and Steve Hart, Glen Ingram, Ray Miller, Mike Koontz, Dennis Kinsey, Tom Massey, Greg Massey, Buddy Broka (the most knowledgeable player in the world), Dave (Fluffy) Boaz, Terry Dowell, and many more, the competition was a tough field.

Going through this tough, competitive field without losing a game was the team of auctioneer Mikel Johnson and Dave Boaz. Second place went to Tom and Greg Massey. Third went to tournament director Terry Dowell and Larry Brown, with fourth going to Buddy Broka and Tom Nolder.

*(continued on Page 21)*

**LETS SHUFFLE**



**December 26-31, 2000**

# **FIFTH ANNUAL HOUSTON HOLIDAY OPEN**

*To be held at the Greenspoint Marriott*

**13 EVENTS - ALL LEVELS - ADDED PRIZE \$\$ - 18 BOARDS**

Date	Event #	Time	Format Description	Rating Bracket	Entry Fees
Tuesday 12/26	1	3pm	Pro/Am Draw (-1's cannot draw together)	-1, 0, 1	\$50
	2	3pm	Amateur Draw	2, 3, 4	\$30
Wednesday 12/27	3	Noon	6 Person Draft Team. 4 of 7 Double Elimination 3 boards. Mark 4 and play to 15.	All	\$50 each
Thursday 12/28	4	Noon	4 Person Bring Team - Add to 3 (1 Pro) 2 of 3 Double Elimination	-1, 0, 1, 2, 3	\$400/Team
	5	Noon	4 Person Bring Team - Add to 10 2 of 3 Double elimination	2, 3, 4, 5	\$160/Team
Friday 12/29	6	Noon	2 Person Bring Partner - Add to 0	All	\$300
	7	Noon	2 Person Bring Partner - Add to 4	1, 2, 3	\$100
	8	Noon	2 Person Bring Partner - Add to 6	2, 3, 4	\$60
Saturday 12/30	9	11am	Singles - Handicapped Entry Fees 2 of 3 Double Elimination	-1, 0, 1	\$300/200/100
	10	11am	Singles - Handicapped Entry Fees	1, 2, 3	\$120/80/40
	11	11am	Singles - Handicapped Entry Fees	3, 4, 5	\$30/20/10
Sunday 12/31			Completion of Events 9, 10 & 11 if needed		
			New Years Eve Special Event Party with Favors and Hors D'ouvres (9pm)		Open play until 7pm
	12	7pm	Blind Draw - Single Elimination - No auction	-1 0, 1, 2	\$50
	13	7pm	Blind Draw - Single Elimination - No auction	3, 4, 5	\$10

**A one time \$25 Tournament Registration Fee.  
Includes New Years Eve Buffet and free practice  
time (NO pin gates).**

**All events single game, double elimination except  
Events 3, 4, 5, 9.**

**Current Bowers Rating System is in effect.**

**Sponsor shirts \$50 and Caps \$15 (Order by Dec.1<sup>st</sup>).**

**Sponsorships available:- Bronze \$150, Silver \$250,  
Gold \$500, Platinum \$1000, Diamond \$2000.**

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***Oskar's Annual  
Thanksgiving ABC Draw  
and Induction of Troy Tolbert  
NOV. 23-25***

**Thursday, Nov. 23**

**ABC Draw, \$25 per person entry**

**8 p.m. sponsor sale - Play starts after sale,  
continuing on Friday and Saturday**

***2 out of 3, double elimination***

***--THREE FAST ACTION BOARDS--***

**Saturday, Nov. 25**

**Induction of Troy Tolbert into California  
Shuffleboard Hall of Fame**

***Induction ceremonies at 2 p.m., with buffet following***

**Tournament Director: Chris Brown**

**Oskar's Specials: Cocktails, cold beer, soft drinks, 16-oz. ribeye steak dinner (with baked potato, salad and garlic bread) for \$7.00. Don and E.J. Marshman host Friday and Saturday night  
*Karaoka in the bar's lounge.***

**Lodging: Several nearby hotels for out-of-town players and families.**

**For Tournament Information/Lodging Recommendations: Call Oskar's, 562-925-4915**

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# **Williams Brothers' Thanksgiving Tournament NOVEMBER 22-26**

- **Wednesday, Nov. 22, 7 p.m.: HANDICAP DRAW**  
*\$50 entry, 3 point max. negative spot, No 2 pros may draw*
- **Thursday, Nov. 23, 5 p.m.: DIV. I AND II DRAWS**  
*Div. I: (-1's, 0's and 1's) \$100 entry, No 2 pros may draw*  
*Div. II: (2's, 3's and 4's) \$50 entry, No two 2's may draw*
- **Friday, Nov. 24, 3 p.m.: DIV. I AND II SINGLES**  
*Div. I: -1's \$100; 0's \$75; 1's \$50. 2/3 winners, 21 pt. losers*  
*Div. II: 2's \$75; 3's \$50; 4's \$25. Single game, double elimination*
- **Saturday, Nov. 25, 3 p.m.: DIV. I AND II BRING PARTNER**  
*Div. I: (add to 0) \$200 per team, 2/3 double elimination*  
*Div. II: (add to 5) \$100 per team, 2/3 double elimination*

*-- \$20 registration fee --*

For more information, contact: Bobby Williams, 817-265-7045  
or Jeri Billard, 817-536-5952

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# **Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return**

*A Series by Balboa Ron Schweikert*

*Dear Readers: Balboa Ron is taking a brief, but well-earned vacation this month. Catch up with the honeymooners, Eddie and Shelli, next month to see if Long Beach Lil makes another appearance.*

*In the meantime, drop Ron a line to let him know you miss him: Balboa Ron Schweikert, 1140 Coral Desert Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89123. Or, if you see him in Reno, shake his computer-weary hand.*

## **Upcoming Events** (cont. from Page 5)

Day, Nov. 23, with the sponsor sale at 8 p.m. and play immediately following and continuing through Saturday. Entry fee is \$25 per person, 2 out of 3 double elimination, played on Oskar's three fast action boards. 100% payback!

Tournament director will be Chris Brown, who ran several successful events at the Dixie Belle before it closed.

Oskar's features karaoke, cocktails, cold beer and soft drinks and serves a 16-oz. ribeye steak dinner with a baked potato, salad and garlic bread for only \$7.00. There are several nearby hotels for out-of-town players and their families. For recommendations, call Oskar's, 562-925-4915.

Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard site to spread the word about this event and the induction of Troy Tolbert, who is well-known and respected across the nation.

*While you're in Reno, look for the six-person team sponsored by Oskar's: Jolene Lembke, Mary Lou Deering, Joanie Healey, Chris Brown, Ernie Alvarez and Al Healey. They will also be competing in other North American Shuffleboard Championship events.*

## Colorado

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

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!

## Nevada

### **1ST ANNUAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SINGLES, SANDS REGENCY, RENO, APRIL 18-22, 2001**

The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc., will sponsor its 1st Annual World Championship Singles on April 18-22, 2001. It will be held at the Sands Regency in Reno, site of the North American Shuffleboard Championships.

It will be a "true" round robin event, with an entry fee of \$1,000.

For further information, contact John McDermott at 800-380-3033 or visit with him at the NASC 2000.

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE!**

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## Heartland Handicap Attracts Good Participation

The American Legion Post 73, Del City, Oklahoma, home of the annual 4th of July Southwest Open, hosted another exciting Heartland Handicap Tournament on Oct. 6-8, with players shuffling in from across the country including Nebraska, Arkansas, Tennessee, Texas, and Oklahoma players from around the state. The tournament opened on Friday with a draw partner event with 48 player entries (34 teams) participating.



*Dino Fleming of Oklahoma and Stephanie Seligman of Arkansas took second place honors.*

*Winners were Jim Payne of Nebraska and Johnny Ballard of Texas.*



*Billy Melton and Rick Jones, both of Oklahoma, took third place.*

*Dave Fleming of Oklahoma and Gary Nelson of Texas finished fourth.*



Saturday's bring partner event attracted 44 players (22 teams).



*Bruce Splane and Jerry Widdoes (right) of Oklahoma took second place.*

*And the winners (left) were Euel Jensen and Dave Fleming, both from Oklahoma.*



*Jeri Billard and Billy Mays of Texas took third place.*

*Tournament official Rena Fleming presents fourth place envelopes to Gerald Wood of Oklahoma. His partner was Don Kinard.*



American Legion 73 and host Don Crall, always looking ahead and planning improvements, have set their calendar for the Year 2001:

- Jan. 12-13: Snowball Handicap
- Feb. 16-18: Oklahoma State Championship
- April 20-22: Heartland Handicap
- July 1-7: Southwest Open
- Oct. 12-14: Heartland Handicap

These dates are on the Calendar of Events. Mark your own personal calendars to highlight these events.

Looking ahead to July 1-7 and the popular Southwest Open, Don Crall has announced that they are working on some minor changes, including adding one more amateur event. The American Legion has recently added two five-ton air conditioning units on the roof of the main hall and plan to add one more unit in the far area. They have also completed building a storage area outside of the main building to store their shuffleboards and free up the prior storage area on the west side of the building to give more spectator seating and possibly enough space for two additional boards for use in the larger tournaments such as the Southwest Open.

**Mark your calendars now!**  
**SOUTHWEST OPEN**  
**American Legion Post 73**  
**Del City, Oklahoma**  
**July 1-7, 2001**

## **Bourbon Fall Doubles** *(continued from Page 16)*

Tournament director Terry Dowell and assistant Bill Niswonger thank all the players who competed this year and hope that, in future years to come, other states will participate in these annual events. (We really missed our Oklahoma and Texas players who have attended past tournaments.) Please remember the first Saturday of May is

Bourbon's Spring Doubles and the first Saturday of October is always Bourbon's Fall Doubles.

*P.S.: A small response to Bobby Williams. Noticing in the October Board Talk, you made it kind of plain that Indiana players don't par up to the playing abilities of Texas and Oklahoma. But you most graciously gave us a possible tie for second place running. Well, to you, sir, I say: we invite you and your crew to join us at the Spring Bourbon Doubles in the Year 2001. Hope to see you there!*

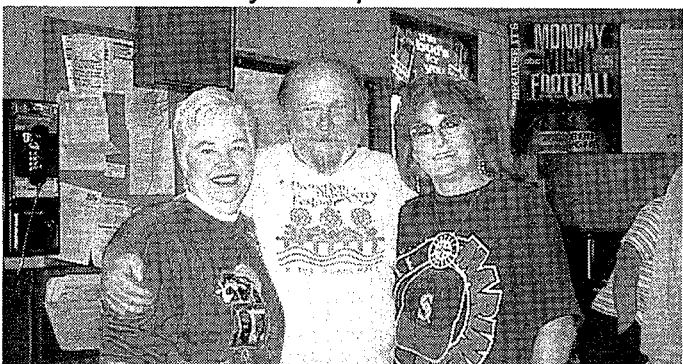
## **Al Pease Team Reigns at Blue Goose ABC Draw**

The Blue Goose in Port Orchard, Washington, hosted an ABC draw tournament on Oct. 7-8.

Al Pease, a man who has been one of the most formidable players in the Pacific Northwest over the last 15 years, teamed up with locals Chuck Anthony and Larry Hudson to win the lion's share of the pot, losing only one game over the entire weekend (and that was to runners-up in an early best 2 of 3 match).



*Al Pease (center) took his team of Larry Hudson and Chuck Anthony to first place honors.*



*Les Burt of Bremerton captained a team which included Michelle Foran (right) and Kathy Keevil to take second place.*



*Mike Waters (right) did a masterful job of teaching and leading his team of Jim Watson and newcomer Trina Hague to the third place finish.*



*The irrepressible Rick ("Want some of this?") Gindt (right) and team mates Bob Armstrong and tournament sponsor Dee "Mother Goose" Hudson finished fourth.*

As has become tradition at the Blue Goose, a magnificent feed was put on by Sharon, Lin, Janice, Nancy, Dee, and all the rest of the "lady geese."

On Friday, 26 participants teamed up in a single elimination open draw tournament to warm up for the main event. Local Chuck Anthony made it a big weekend with two first places as he teamed up with John Martin. Another Northwest favorite, Gary George and partner Bob Armstrong finished second. Tied for third place were the teams of Mike Waters and Lin Walker, and Bill Walker and Judy George.

"I think it's great that a new group of unrated players who are becoming interested in the game have a chance to play with our experienced Pacific Northwest stars," said reporter Bill Walker.

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

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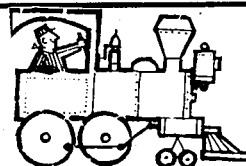
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## "Torch" Passes (cont. from Page 1)

in The Board Talk, and a few businesses that provided shuffleboard products and services discovered that the publication was a pipeline to potential customers. "Good Will Ambassadors" from many states continued to spread the word about a newsletter devoted exclusively to table shuffleboard, and the subscription list began to slowly -- very slowly -- grow.

In an editorial in the first issue of The Board Talk, the Wilbers said: *"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 THE 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."* For the next 17 years, they endeavored to keep that pledge.

They plan to continue shuffleboard activity, attending tournaments, occasionally serving as reporters, and maintaining the many treasured friendships formed during their years of service.

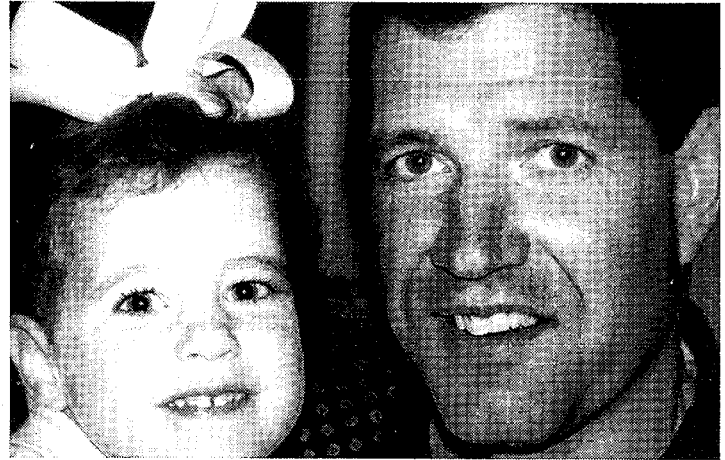
### Introducing Kelye....

Born in Ft. Worth, Texas, Kelye Stites is 42 (that's 52 in shuffleboard years, he says!). He and his wife, Cindy, have two children, daughter Madisen (7) and son Troy (4). He started playing shuffleboard in 1976 while attending Texas A & M. He played almost every day for two years at Farkelberry's Tavern (currently the Dixie Chicken) where they had two American tables. Finally, because he didn't have much time for school, A & M asked him to move on to a new college. He transferred to TCU in Ft. Worth and although he did manage to find more time for studying, he played shuffleboard daily at the Hi-Hat Lounge (currently The Cellar, which has a Champion board). He played on the city shuffleboard league from 1987 to 1994 and again from 1998-2000.

"Bob and Sheryl Shaw have always been on our team, but we've had to play against the Williams boys, so we have finished second every year but one," said Kelye. "They show no mercy for manufacturers. I've also played in three tournaments and I'm still waiting for my first win (not a tournament win, just to win a game!)."

In 1990, Kelye helped his father-in-law's company, Dynamo, start making shuffleboard tables. The product never had the sales volume expected, so in 1992, he talked Dynamo into

letting him take over the shuffleboard business, and he formed his own company, Champion Shuffleboard. The next three years were difficult and Kelye thought perhaps he had made a mistake giving up a secure job at Tokai Financial Bank. His father-in-law advised him to stay the course and in about 1996, things started to turn around. Champion now has its own 40,000 square foot building with about 25 employees.



*Entrepreneur, shuffler, and family man Kelye Stites with daughter Madisen.*

Kelye hopes to get more tables into home game rooms, which will encourage younger players to develop a loyalty to the game.

"We have teamed up with Lynda and Tom French to make sure The Board Talk will continue as long as shuffleboard is around," Kelye said. "The Board Talk fits into our plans to help unite all players, grow the organization, and set up a permanent museum. Over the past six months, I've talked with several people involved in shuffleboard in one way or another and I've been amazed at the number of people who are putting forth a personal effort to help the game. I'm awestruck that George and Donna have published The Board Talk for 17 years without ever expecting any personal gain.

"Hopefully, Lynda and Tom and I can help The Board Talk continue for at least another 17 years," he said.

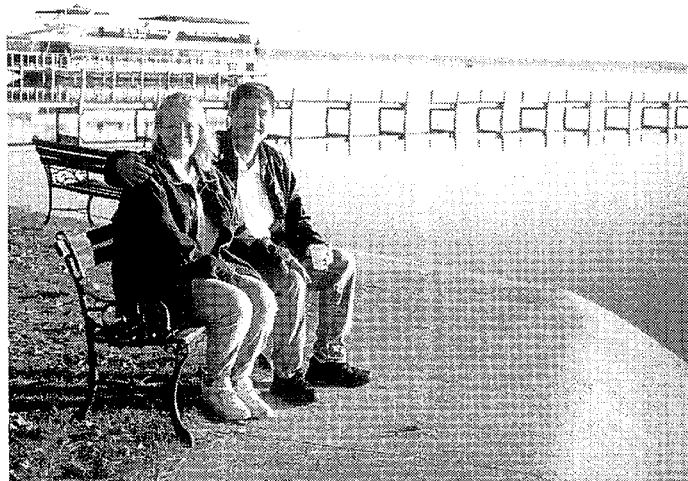
### Introducing the Frenches...

You met Lynda last month in the feature regarding the Table Shuffleboard Association (formerly National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame) Board of Directors. She retired in February after 23 years of service with IBM. In addition to serving as TSA Secretary, she is the Bowers' Corner "webmaster."

Tom has been working for IBM in Austin, Texas, in the field of computer engineering since 1974 and is looking forward to retiring in 2004 after reaching 30 years of service.

Tom was born and raised in Little Rock, Arkansas. After graduation from Little Rock High School, he joined the U.S. Army and was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. He received electronic and helicopter maintenance training while in the Army and had two tours in Vietnam. After serving seven years in the Army, he settled in the Austin, Texas, area where he received a technical degree in resident and commercial air conditioning and heating. He also retired from the U.S. Navy Reserve in 1994, giving him a total military service time of 24 years.

Tom and Lynda began their shuffleboard "careers" in 1994 and currently play several nights a week at Taz Country in Pflugerville. You often see the Frenches playing in the Houston and Dallas/Fort Worth areas, and as many out-of-state tournaments as possible. One of their most memorable shuffleboard moments was when they first started playing. They stopped at the Third Base in Clear Lake, Texas, one weekend where "Crazy Eight Multipliers" was being played. Tom and Lynda had barely started to learn long-board "knock off" but wanted to play this foreign multiplier game anyway. They recall the tournament hosts and players recognizing this "green" couple walking in the door. The group had a meeting of the minds, then voted graciously to let this "green" couple play for half price. ("We left with some 'hickies,' but only about half as much as we should have," said Lynda.) Diana Hagen, Dale Williams, Howard Mouton, John Wiggs, et al, made a great sporting impression on the Frenches that evening and they will forever have a great respect for the Houston shufflers.



A part of Tom and Lynda's "orientation" trip to Michigan was participating in the 11th Annual Skip's/Board Talk Tournament at Houghton Lake, the state's Vacation Wonderland. Tough job, but somebody's gotta do it!

Tom is now looking forward to working on The Board Talk. "There is no way to ever replace George and Donna, but I hope we can carry on the great publication work they founded, and keep this valuable communications channel going in the shuffleboard family," he said.

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**THE BOARD TALK  
HAS A NEW ADDRESS!**  
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**Tom & Lynda French  
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# Lucky's 1st Labor Day Tournament is Big Success

Lucky's Tavern in North Webster, Indiana, hosted its 1st Annual Labor Day Tournament on Aug. 29-Sept. 4. The full week of events started off with round robins on Aug. 29-30 with lots of new faces participating.

In Thursday's open draw, the team of Mikey Grimes and Brian Collins took first place monies and trophies, with Mikel Johnson and Dale Gushman taking second place honors.

There were 22 players in Friday's open mixed doubles.



*Topping the field of contenders were Sheryl Cockerill and Terry Dowell (left), with Bobby Voorhis and Tonia taking second.*

Third place went to Gary Neff and Kristie Redman, with fourth going to Mike Koontz and Robin Creekbaum.



*Lucky's owner/hostess Carol Westerman presented long-time auctioneer and tournament director Mikel Johnson with a special plaque for his enthusiasm and love of the game and for his continuous promotion and teaching new players for the past 20 years.*

On Saturday, Sept. 2, 22 players came to play the open doubles.



*Winners were Bobby V and Tom Nolder, shown with sponsor Jim Hamilton. Second place honors went to Mike Koontz and Dennis Kinsey (right).*

On Monday, Sept. 4, the open singles began with the presence of two of the great Indiana Hall of Famers Larry Creakbaum and Steve Hart in contention.



*First place went to Mikel Johnson (left). Cheryl Cockerill gets a hug, a trophy, and a money envelope from hostess Carol Westerman.*

Third place went to Brian Collins, with "Long Time No See" Steve Blue in fourth.

There was a total pot of \$7500 for this first event. Carol thanks everyone who played, sponsored, or just came to sit and watch the action all week.

"Special thanks and congratulations to tournament director and auctioneer Mikel Johnson for running this tournament so smoothly," Carol said. "Mikel not only did the sale, but also took care of the tables, worked in the kitchen, waited tables, did most of the brackets, took care of registrations, and tip boards. Without him, a tournament of this magnitude could not have been possible. Special thanks also to Larry Brown for setting up the brackets."

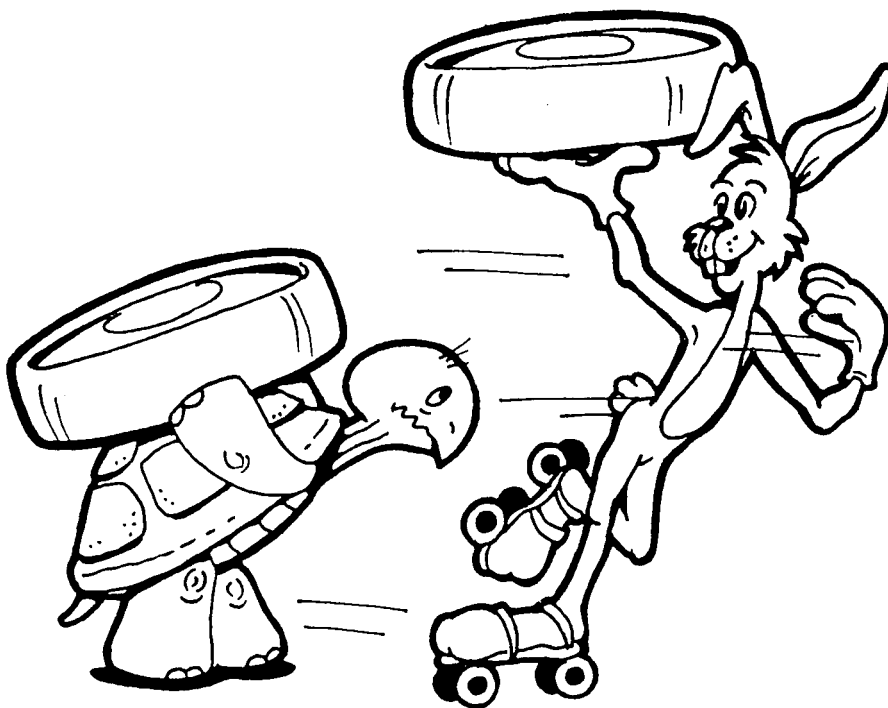
## Don't Forget....

**The Board Talk  
has new editors and  
a new address:**

**Tom & Lynda French  
12710 Red Deer Pass  
Austin, TX 78729  
Phone: 512-250-0327  
E-Mail: [lynda@jump.net](mailto:lynda@jump.net)**

**"Be good to them!" -- G & D**

**To  
Bellflower Bruce Hale....  
A Board Talk Salute**



***You have been the “battery” that has  
energized us and The World of  
Shuffleboard. God Bless You!***

***George & Donna Wilber  
Publishers, The Board Talk  
1984-2000***

# ***2000-2001 CALENDAR OF SHUFFLEBOARD EVENTS***

## **NOVEMBER 2000**

**Oct. 29-Nov. 5**

11th NASC Tournament  
Sands Regency Hotel/Casino  
Reno, Nevada

**Nov. 10-11**

Thanksgiving Shootout  
Harvey's Place  
Street, Maryland

**Nov. 11**

Handicap Singles  
American Legion Post 424  
Bourbon, Indiana

**Nov. 11-12**

Mixed Doubles  
Fir Cone Tavern  
Shelton, Washington

**Nov. 18-19**

55 and Over Tournament  
Shamrock Tavern  
Longview, Washington

**Nov. 22-26**

Williams' Brothers  
Thanksgiving Tournament  
The Gold Nugget  
Arlington, Texas

**Nov. 23-25**

9th Thanksgiving Tournament  
Eagles Lodge  
Houston, Missouri

**Nov. 23-25**

Thanksgiving Tourney and  
Troy Tolbert Induction  
Oskar's Sports Bar & Grill  
Bellflower, California

**Nov. 24-26**

Michigan State Championships  
Club Car Lounge  
Durand, Michigan

**Nov. 24-26**

Florida State Championships  
Bavarian House  
Titusville, Florida

## **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. 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

## **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

**Feb. 16-18**

Oklahoma State  
Championships  
American Legion Post 73  
Del City, Oklahoma

## **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

## TSA Who's Who *(cont. from Page 6)*

**Director Louise Freer**  
**189 Barry Avenue**  
**Lansdale, Pennsylvania 19446**  
**Phone: 610-940-2148**  
**E-Mail: lfreer@rational.com**



Louise was born and raised in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania area. She is divorced and has a tall, handsome 15-year-old son who just started high school. She is currently employed as a corporate account representative for Rational Software, which provides software development tools that help organizations develop and deploy software for e-business, e-infrastructure, and e-devices. Louise has BS degrees in Psychology and Business Administration. Hobbies, other than shuffleboard, include cooking (she used to have her own catering business), movies and books, and spectating at her son's many sports activities.

She was first introduced to shuffleboard in 1990. After watching for a couple months, she threw her first weight at a local league match. She recalls she shot "absolutely horribly," but discovered she was also "absolutely hooked" on the game. From that time on, her shuffleboard education included learning from many great East Coast "teachers," including National Hall of Famer Mickey Mickens.



*The person Louise credits the most for teaching her the game of shuffleboard was her friend and partner, Al DiBella. "Al taught me the basics of the game, practiced with me relentlessly, and played with me when few other people would," she said.*

Louise has helped organize and promote many tournaments in Pennsylvania, Maryland and New York. She has been active in organizing and promoting leagues in her area and served for five years as secretary for the Eastern Delco Shuffleboard League, receiving the President's Award of Excellence for her efforts. She became one of the original members of the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Board of Directors, serving as secretary for five years. She is also a rater for the Bowers Rating System.

Louise's career wins are many, including the women's singles title at the PCSA Extravaganza IX in Las Vegas and second (with Fritz Broka) in the open doubles at the huge Hall of Fame tournament in Bourbon, Indiana.

*Louise and partner Bob White had five consecutive first place finishes in the open doubles at Sherburne, New York.*



Her goals are to promote the game of table shuffleboard, get as many new players involved as possible, and teach new players how to play the game with skill and integrity. Her primary focus with the Table Shuffleboard Association is to promote integrity within the game and the recognition of all deserving players and promoters of the sport. *"I feel very strongly that being inducted into the Table Shuffleboard Hall of Fame is the greatest honor that can be bestowed on a person involved with shuffleboard, and it is my goal to uphold the high standards we've worked so hard to bring about so that it remains the ultimate honor," Louise said.*

**Next Month: Meet Director Hal Perry**

## TSA NEWS NOTES

The Table Shuffleboard Association Board of Directors thanks The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc., for its recent generous donation. A salute to all those who have made donations since February 2000: 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, Secretary Lynda French, 12710 Red Deer Pass, Austin, TX 78729. Your support is vital to the efforts of the TSA!

\*\*\*\*\*

Producers of the Martha Stewart Show have approached the TSA Board regarding a possible segment on table shuffleboard. This opportunity is being pursued! Even though you're not a regular Martha Stewart viewer, better start watching.....

# Hopkins, Boaz, Ingram Share Top Spots at Amvets Fall Tourney

**By Sonny Harris**

AMVETS Post 26 at Pendleton, Indiana, hosted its 6th Annual Fall Tournament on Sept. 16-17.

On Saturday, 11 teams showed up for the doubles, shooting for the \$2090 pot.

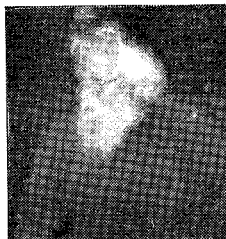


First place went to Joe Hopkins (left) and Dave (Fluffy) Boaz.

Host Sonny Harris (left) congratulates second place winners Tm Holder and Jim Hamilton.



Half of the third place team, Bill Rudy (right). His partner was Jim Harrison.



There were 16 teams in Sunday's singles, vying for a share of the \$2060 pot.



First-place money and trophy went to Glen Ingram. Larry Creakbaum took second place honors.



Third and fourth place winners, Joe Hopkins and Dave Boaz. Are they overcome with emotion, or is that just a hug?

Special thanks to the bartenders and all of the people who helped get this tournament going. Without these people, the tournament would not be the success that it is.

Keep in mind that our Spring Tournament will be in April 2001. We are also putting together a bar sponsor tournament with the winning team taking home as much as \$3200. This will also be in April. (Editor's Note: See details in Upcoming Events.)

Thanks again to all the players who participated, and those who are going to in the future. We hope to see everybody in April.

## More Notebook

### Kudos from "Fish"

I hear through the grapevine that you are passing the Board Talk torch to someone else. Not having been in the tourney circle for awhile, I never took the time to express how much you have done for shuffleboard. The consensus is unanimous.....the game would not have progressed like it has the past decade or two without The Board Talk and your efforts. The best I can describe would be: "UNIFIED THE GAME." Before Board Talk, everyone was reading completely different BOOKS. Now, except for some very minor differences, we are all on the same PAGE.

KUDOS to you!

Steve "Fish" Fisher, 99 Tavern and Willee's Cafe, Winston, Oregon

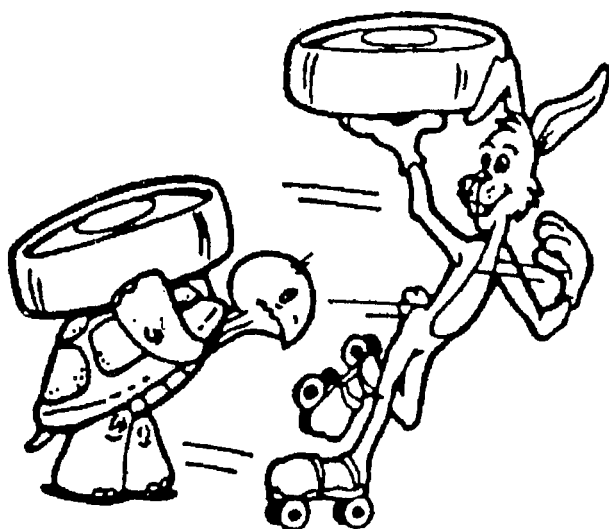
We appreciate very much your kind words, Steve. Be assured you will be pleased with the new editors/publishers. The toughest part about retiring (and it's time) is recognizing that someone else will do it better! Maybe one day we can come to your Rural America Tournament. Best wishes for its continued success.

### BLESS YOU ALL!

Our sincere appreciation to all of our many supporters for your friendships and goodwill. We urge you to continue making The World of Shuffleboard a special place to live and work and play!

George & Donna Wilber

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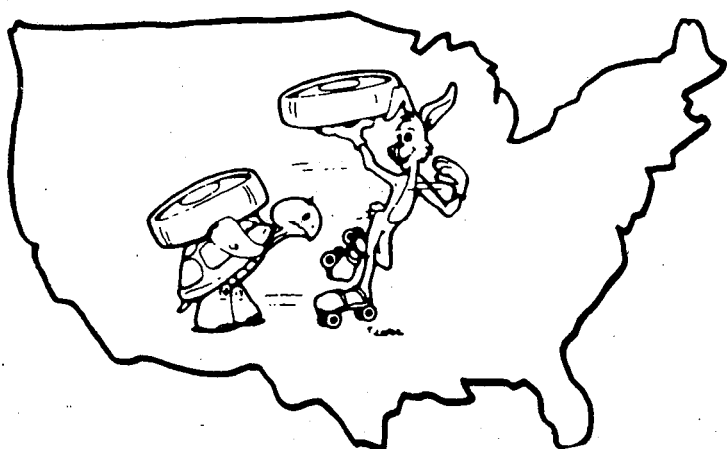
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