

The Board Talk

Published Monthly by Tom & Lynda French
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Vol. 18, No. 2

February 2001

FIFTH ANNUAL HOUSTON HOLIDAY OPEN!

December 26-31, 2000

Houston Greenspoint Marriott, Houston, TX

As Reported By: Don Meehan

(Pictures Taken & Provided by: The Board Talk Editors)

No Recount Needed!

They tell us it took thirty-six extra days to pick a President and Vice President in the year 2000. Well, I'm here to tell you that the good folks at the Houston Holiday Open 2000 needed only FIVE days to pick 108 players and 25 sponsors as WINNERS at this year's tourney, held December 26-31. Those old cardboard ballots were replaced by 21 well conditioned shuffleboards and "hanging chads" turned into hanging weights [See Page 29 for the ultimate Houston Holiday Open 2000 "hanger"]. As for those "pregnant chads," well, we ain't gonna go there!

The Houston Greenspoint Marriott was again the scene of the action as 178 registered players joined organizers Jack Scott and Johnny Ballard for a week of shuffleboard action and holiday hoopla. The recently renovated hotel is situated near Houston Intercontinental Airport and is handy for many of our out of town visitors. Houston escaped

the ice and snow of the recent year-end wintry blast but not the cold weather, so the indoor pool, sauna and workout room were greatly appreciated. The discounted deluxe rooms for \$54.00 per night was a real bargain appreciated by Republicans and Democrats alike!

A new alignment in the Grand Ballroom allowed for 21 boards (the most yet) to be set up side-by-side and still allow for viewing and socializing. To be honest, despite constant "tweaking" by Johnny B. and his staff, there were a couple of stinkers (boards, I mean) that defied being tamed. But Bob Shaw, a Pro from Ft. Worth, said: "There are NO boards here that a good shuffleboard player can't handle."

Let The Games Begin!

EVENT#1: PRO/AM DRAW

(Notable: The team of Bobby Williams and Eddie Woods came back from the loser's bracket to double dip Sally Goff and Dan Hitt to take 1st)

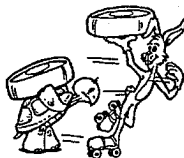


Above: Event 1 Pro/Am - 1st Place: Bobby Williams/ Eddie Woods of TX (left to right) Johnny B (tournament director), Bobby Williams, Eddie Woods, and Billy Melton, OK/TX (sponsor)

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(Continued on Page 7)

January 6, 2001



THE BOARD TALK

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Dear Shuffleboard Establishment:

George and Donna Wilber retired and we are new publishers/editors for The Board Talk table shuffleboard publication (was effective November 1, 2000). In addition to sending all The Board Talk subscribers a monthly publication of shuffleboard news, we also put out a directory of establishments of places to play across the U.S.A. and Canada. Shuffleboard players use this directory titled "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." to know what local establishments have table shuffleboards and tournaments and use this directory in their travels to other areas so that they can play in other areas in their travels.

In order for your establishment to be placed in the annual "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." directory of places to play, you must either be a subscriber to our monthly publication which costs \$25/year to subscribe (12 issues per year) and/or you have to have placed a business advertisement in our monthly publication titled "Shuffleboard Directory." The cost to have your establishment advertisement every month in the "Shuffleboard Directory" is either \$100/year (one space ad) or \$150/year (two space sized ad). Some shuffleboard establishments subscribe to the monthly publication at \$25/year and also place an annual ad in our monthly publication (which costs either \$100/year or \$150/year – very reasonable advertisement costs to get monthly exposure to the shuffleboard players through our publication).

Your establishment is receiving this letter either because you are a subscriber or advertiser already (reminder to ensure you keep it current in order to ensure you are listed in the Summer 2001 "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A.") or you were previously listed in the annual directory and/or a shuffleboard player has asked us to contact you because they enjoy playing at your establishment and you are not a current subscriber, but they would like your establishment to be listed this summer when we compile our annual "You're your Way Across the U.S.A."

Attached is a copy of the monthly subscription form and an advertisement form which you can use to subscribe or renew your subscription or advertisement to ensure being listed in our annual "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." If you have a current subscription or advertisement when the next directory is compiled, your establishment will be listed.

Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Tom & Lynda French, The Board Talk Editors

MICHIGAN PLAYER LEARNS...*(Continued from Page 20)*

As I said, I had not seen Billy Mays in three years before I drove down to the Houston Holiday Open tourney (since I had verified that my dad actually did know him). While at the tourney, I also kept hearing the name Jim Long and wondered if this was the same Jim Long I had known of through my dad 30 years ago. The Jim Long that I remembered was from Indiana and I confirmed with a fellow shuffleboard player that the Jim Long attending the tournament was, in fact, from Indiana. I then approached Jim Long and asked him if he knew my dad, Harold "Bud" Visel. Jim replied, "Yeah, I used to run with him and played shuffleboard with him alot." About that time, Billy Mays entered the conversation and said he remembered my dad well. He told me he remembered telling my dad when he had returned from a shuffleboard tour in Washington that they had just started "auctioning shuffleboard players like cattle." Billy said my dad's eyes lit up with great interest and said "Oh, really?". Billy said that my dad then started auctioning shuffleboard players in Michigan and Indiana.

I always knew my dad was an auctioneer, but after all these years, I drive to Texas to learn about my dad starting the calcutta's in Michigan and Indiana back in the mid-60's back and that it was Billy Mays who gave him the idea! My dad Harold "Bud" Visel, born on May 29, 1922 passed away on October 2, 1999. If only my dad were still alive today so that I could talk to him more about his experiences in those early calcutta auctions!

Life is so funny. I had to come all the way from Michigan to Austin (where I first saw Billy Mays at Taz Country) and then Michigan to Houston (to the Houston Holiday Open) to find out that my own dad was instrumental in making popular the shuffleboard calcutta sponsor sales that I enjoy so much today! Many thanks to Jim Long and Billy Mays for sharing with me all the stories about my dad and his shuffleboard play in our chats during the HHO 2000 tournament. It means alot to me to learn this history! -- Cliff Visel, Belleville, MI

Other Miscellaneous Errata:

Page 1, Paragraph 1, after sentence 3 should read [See Page 32...] rather than Page 29.

Page 8, Column 2, Bobby Williams (instead of Bobbie Williams)

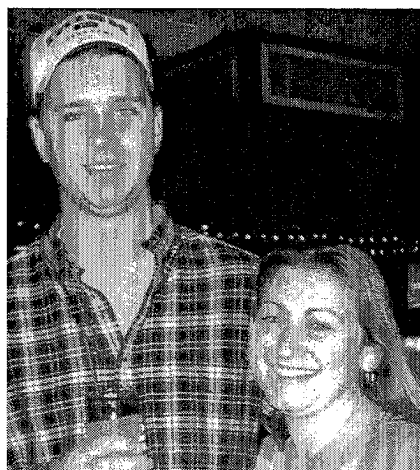
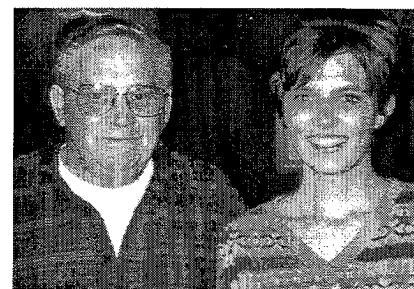
Tourney Results - Ohio & Indiana!

Submitted by: Mary Brown, Ft. Wayne, IN

MIXED DOUBLES - Bourbon, IN**(American Legion Post 424, Dec. 16, 2000):**

Left: **1st Place:** (left to right) Mary Brown/Larry Brown, Huntertown, IN.

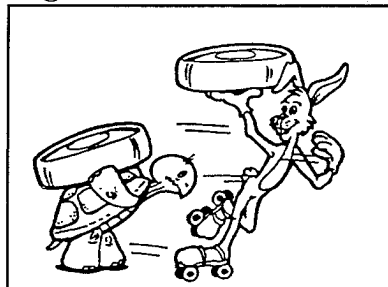
Right: **2nd Place:** (left to right) Bill Niswonger, Bourbon, IN/Mindy Sidle, OH.



Left: **3rd Place:** (left to right) Gary Anglin/Missy Rupe both from Bourbon, IN.

DOUBLES - Evansport, OH - Dec. 2, 2000):

Left: **1st Place:** (left to right) Bill Niswonger/Gary Anglin both from Bourbon, IN.
(Not pictured: **2nd Place:** Glen Ingram/Jim Long, IN; **3rd Place:** Beef Camp, OH/Gene McLeod, IN)



Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views from The World of Shuffleboard

OPEN Letter to ALL from Beverly Chaffin!

Dear Shuffleboard Family:

I can't begin to express my appreciation for your concern, prayers, well wishes, cards and the great poster signed by so many. I didn't realize I had made so many friends from coast to coast.

The brain tumor surgery was successful. So now is the recuperation period which hopefully will not be long. Nick has been a great help and has learned how to cook. I so much wanted to be in Reno to finish what I had felt was a rather successful shuffleboard year, hoping to place a little better than last year.

So again, THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH!

Much Love, Beverly Chaffin

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

PS: See ya'al next year.

(Bev, we were unable to attend the Reno tourney, but learned from friends afterwards about your brain tumor surgery. We were shocked and saddened, as we had just shuffled with you and Nick on Labor Day at the Gold Nugget in Arlington, TX. Thanks for your card, above Open Letter submission, and the kind wishes you expressed in your card to us on our new challenge. We are so happy to learn that your surgery was successful and that you are recovering well. You are No. 1 with all of us without being able to play in Reno and the Perry's dedicated their Sol Lipkin Award in Reno in your honor. So, you were in Reno after all and are No. 1 with all of us without even throwing a weight! Hope to see you at another tourney soon! -- Tom & Lynda French, Editors)

-- 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 20 for more detail)

Retired Editors Salute the Frenches and the "Shuffleboard Family"

We just received the January issue and we can say, without any reservations, that it's the best! It should make every shuffler proud to be represented by such a professional newsletter.

It would be comforting to the egos of its founders to take some credit, in our role of teachers, for your achievement. Sure, you can teach techniques and procedures, but you cannot automatically transfer love of the game and its "family." You cannot transfer commitment, willingness or self-sacrifice, and the desire to serve.

You, Tom and Lynda, already had those non-transferrable qualities and the only credit we can claim is that we made the right choice for our successors. We're very proud of you!

We're also very proud of the obvious support of the Shuffleboard Family, evidenced by the great contributions of reporters, Notebook writers, and advertisers in the January Issue. They had the "power" to put a major glitch in the transition process. Instead they rallied 'round, like any good family does, to help you continue, improve and expand table shuffleboard's communications network.

Heartfelt best wishes for 2001 and well beyond.

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

(G&D: I shed a few happy tears when I received this Notebook submission. You are our heroes, mentors, adopted parents, and the ones who instilled in us the courage and determination to take on this challenge. Our transition visit and learning session in October and the visits we made with you to Stober's and Skip's Lounge and all the shuffleboard family encouraging and helping us... gives us the strength and determination to work hard to ensure your "baby" will grow to a ripe ole age! Shuffler Hugs to you both and ALL! -- Lynda French)

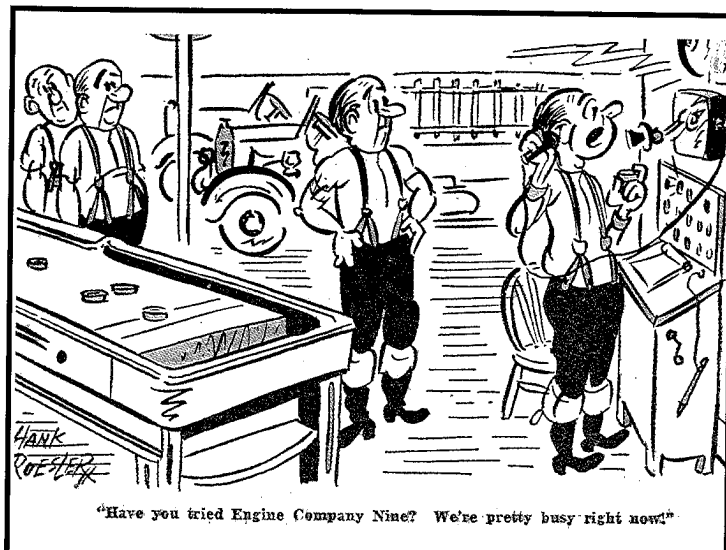
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Publication Content Information

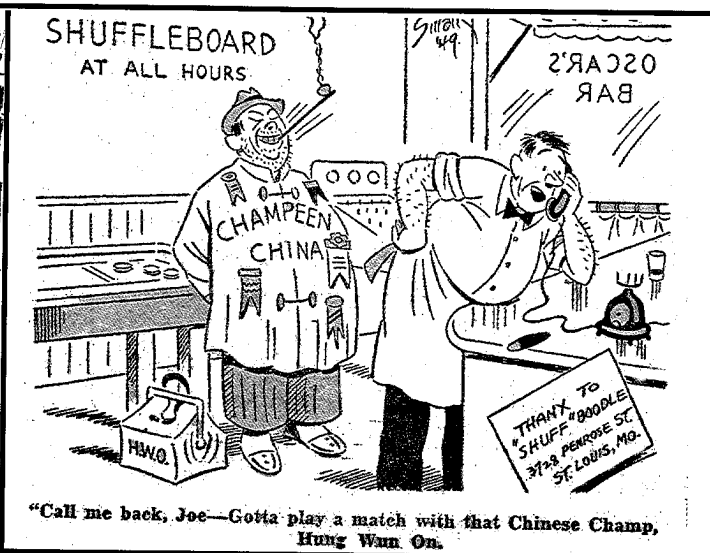
The Board Talk reserves the right to reject any advertising or editorial contributions that the publishers deem unacceptable, either because of objectionable material or inconsistency with the newsletter's general editorial and advertising policies.

SHUFFLERS' HUMOR and FUN

Humor Series #3 - Please send in your shuffler humor, jokes, or funny pictures



Above cartoon found by The Board Talk Editors in "Shuffleboard World", October, 1951, Vol. 3, No. 1, Pg. 1. (Now, our 'Firehouse Freddie' Johns from Washington wouldn't fib like this, would he?)



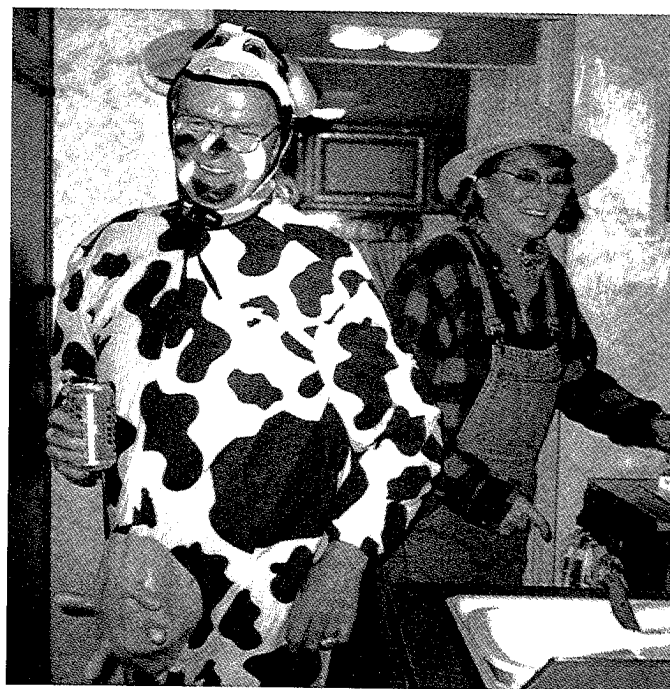
Above cartoon found by The Board Talk Editors in "Shuffleboard World", October, 1951, Vol. 3, No. 1, Pg. 2. (Could this be Oscar Ugarte in Bellflower, California? If so, then who at Oskar's Sports Bar & Grill could "Hung Wun On" be?)

Halloween 2000 in Westport, Washington - Shufflers Are Udderly Enjoying Themselves!

Below: Taking "Best of Show" in the Halloween contest were: 1st Place: PRO Shuffler, "The Bud Girl" (pictured left) and 2nd Place: TSA Hall of Famer, "The Cow" (pictured right) with his wife "Farmer Brown." Can you recognize this PRO and Hall of Famer and spouse who are taking a break from shuffleboard and letting their hair down?



G-A-R-Y-G-E-O-R-G-E-?



F-O-R-A-N-T-E-A-M-?

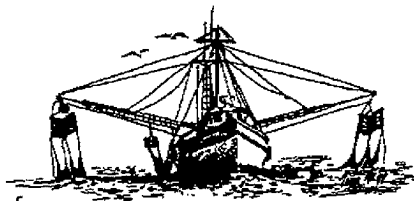
(Continued on Page 28)

Upcoming Events Across the Nation

Maryland

RENZO MEMORIAL MARKET STREET CAFE CHARLESTON, MD FEB. 9-10, 2001

A tournament honoring the memory of Nelson Renzo will be held on Feb. 10-11 at the Market Street Cafe,



315 Market Street, Charlestown, Maryland. Nelson was the former owner of the Lafayette Inn, site of many tournaments in years past. Hosts Chip and Bobbi Spangler have three busy boards and are considering a fourth for the event.

If you have any photos, stories, or special memories of Nelson and the Lafayette Inn, please send them to: Brenda Wallace, Box 228, Port Deposit, MD 21904, before the tournament.

For further information, contact the Market Street Cafe, 410-287-6374.

(Note: The Market Street Cafe is a "Shuffleboard Directory" Advertiser in The Board Talk! Thanks for your support! --T&L, The Board Talk Editors)

California

ANNUAL SWEETHEART TOURNAMENT SILVER SPUR SAN BERNADINO, CA FEB. 10, 2001



The Silver Spur in San Bernadino has scheduled it's Annual Sweetheart Tournament for February 10th. The tournament will start at 11:00 AM with a \$20/person entry fee, featuring a live country western band and an all day Bar-B-Q. For further information, call Jolene Lembke at 909-797-9685.

Spread the word about The Board Talk ... Get your fellow shufflers to subscribe!

California

10th ANNUAL "PRESIDENT'S DAY" TOURNAMENT BLINKY'S SPORTS BAR SANTA CLARA, CA FEB. 11-19, 2001



Blinky's Sports Bar will host their 10th Annual President's Day tournament Feb. 11-19, 2001. One of highlights this year will be the induction of AZ Turnbo into the California Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will start at 3 PM on Saturday, Feb. 17th (7th day of the tournament). Registration Fee for the tournament is \$20/person. Tournament will start on Sunday, Feb. 11th with a Sweetheart Doubles (Bring Partner). **For event schedule and details on this nine day tournament, refer to the flyer that was inserted into the January 2001 The Board Talk issue.** For registration information or additional details, contact the Tournament Directors: Eddie Brayman (408-615-1664) or Lorraine Bingham-Olson (408-321-5541)

TRIPLE CROWN SPORTS BAR "DRAW PARTNER" FEBRUARY 24, 2001



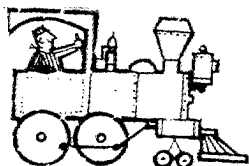
The Triple Crown Sports Bar **rescheduled** their "Draw Partner" event to Sat., Feb. 24th due to conflicts on Jan. 20th & 27th. There will be \$200 added pot! Open at 11 AM; Auction 1 PM (no -1's, 0's, or 1's can draw each other). Entry fee is \$20/ player (pays 4 places). For further information, contact Triple Crown Sports Bar at 281-870-9610.

(Note: Triple Crown Sports Bar is a "Shuffleboard Directory" Advertiser in The Board Talk! Thanks for your support! --T&L, The Board Talk Editors)

Spread the word about your upcoming events through the pages of The Board Talk! Ask the establishments where you play to Subscribe & Advertise in The Board Talk!

Michigan**THE CLUB CAR OPEN
TOURNEY****CLUB CAR LOUNGE****DURAND, MI****FEBRUARY 23-25, 2001**

The Club Car Lounge will be hosting "THE CLUB CAR OPEN" tournament from February 23-25, 2001. The tournament will start on Friday, February 23rd at 7:00 PM with a Draw Partner (no -1, 0, or 1 may draw up) with a \$25/per player entry fee. Saturday, February 24th a Handicap Doubles event will start at 10:00 AM with a \$50/per team entry fee. Sunday, February 25th will feature two Singles events (Open Singles and a Division II Singles) starting at 12:30 AM with \$40/per player Open Singles or \$20/per player Division II Singles entry fee. There is a onetime \$5 registration fee required. 10% of the sponsor sales will go toward the May 2001 Michigan Open. For more tournament details, contact: Bill Kane at (248) 334-5677 or Alonzo Cottrell at (248) 451-0329



SEE "THE CLUB CAR OPEN" flyer inserted in this February 2001 The Board Talk issue for more tournament event details.

(Note: The Club Car Lounge is a "Shuffleboard Directory" Advertiser in The Board Talk! Thanks for your support! --T&L, The Board Talk Editors)

Indiana**AMERICAN LEGION # 424****BOURBON MIXED DOUBLES****FEBRUARY 17, 2001 (and)****TRUE ROUND ROBIN****DOUBLES****MARCH 3-4, 2001**

Please mark your calendars for two upcoming tournaments planned at the American Legion Post #424, 202 S. Main, Bourbon, IN. First being the "Bourbon Mixed Doubles" being held February 17, 2001. Next will be the traditional "True Round Robin Doubles" coming up on March 3-4, 2001 (\$300 entry fee, limited to the first 20 paid entries). David Williams and Bill Melton attended the last True Round Robin Doubles and set a record by winning

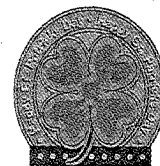
19 games! Both the February 17, 2001 and March 3-4, 2001 tournaments will be held at the American Legion Post 424, Bourbon, IN.

Contact Terry Dowell for registration information and details at 219-353-1070.

Texas**AMATEUR TOURNAMENT
HARBOR POINT CLUB &
GRILL****RICHARDSON, TX****MARCH 9-11, 2001**

Harbor Point Bar & Grill, 2121 Buckingham Rd. at Jupiter, Richardson, TX will be hosting an Amateur tournament March 9-11, 2001 (no Pro's or 0's) starting at 6 PM on Friday March 9 on six boards. They will have two Draw Partner events (1's/2's and 3's/4's) single game/double elimination. On Saturday starting at 6 PM there will also be two BRING PARTNER events (1's/2's must add to 3 or more; 2 of 3 Double elimination; and 3's/4's must add to 6 or more single game/double elimination) and a BRING PARTNER (2's, 3's, and 4's). This tournament offers a format many 1's and 2's have indicated they would like to see more of, being 1's and 2's events and having 2 out of 3 Double Elimination (such as in the "Shufflers' Notebook", January 2001 issue, page 10 by Gary Nelson). Sunday will be wrap up of prior events and open play. See flyer insert or call Harbor Point Bar & Grill for more details: 972-231-9365

SEE "AMATEUR TOURNAMENT" flyer inserted in this February 2001 The Board Talk issue for more tournament event details.

Nebraska**ST. PATRICKS DAY TOURNEY
HAROLD'S BAR****OMAHA, NE****MARCH 16-18, 2001**

Harold's Bar, 8558 Blondo St., Omaha, NE has 5 boards, door prizes, \$\$\$ Added Pot, and great food to look forward to for this St. Patrick's Day Tourney. For info, contact: Jim Payne (402) 697-9956 or (402) 676-4827

SEE "ST. PATRICK'S DAY TOURNAMENT" flyer inserted in this February 2001 The Board Talk issue for more tournament event details.

(Continued on Page 6)

Florida

8th ANNUAL FLORIDA OPEN THE SNUGGERY BAR & GRILL PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL MARCH 16-18, 2001

Florida is COUNTING on you. Join the Florida shufflers and those from other states in the sunshine state. Time to get out of the snow and ice and compete for the cash and trophies. This promises to be a big year for our tournament. Last year's participation included NY, MI, IN, MD and others. Now that we have elected the next President of the OSofA, we are ready to show other states how to play this game. The water is fine. For tournament and hotel information contact Chuck Deweese (561) 743-8846

SEE "8TH ANNUAL FLORIDA OPEN" flyer inserted in this February 2001 The Board Talk issue for more details.

Florida

2nd ANNUAL CAPE KENNEDY "BLAST OFF" FILL-N-STATION MIMS, FL MARCH 22-25, 2001



The FILL-N-STATION, Rt. 1, Mims, FL will be hosting the 2nd Annual Cape Kennedy "Blast Off" tournament March 22-25th. Thursday March 22 will kick off at 7 PM with ROUND ROBINS; Friday at 7 PM will be DRAW PARTNER (\$30/team); Saturday at 2 PM SINGLES (\$20/player); and Sunday at 12:00 Noon will be BRING PARTNER (\$40/team). Events will be 32 maximum players, three boards, and single game/double elimination with Sponsor sales. For more information, contact Larry at (321) 383-0053.

SEE "2nd ANNUAL CAPE KENNEDY 'BLAST OFF'" flyer inserted in this February 2001 The Board Talk issue for more details.

Texas

3rd ANNUAL TEXAS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS GOLD NUGGET ARLINGTON, TX MAR. 23-25, 2001

The 3rd Annual Texas State Championship will be held on March 23-25th at the Gold Nugget in Arlington, TX. Friday, March 23rd will be an Open Handicap Draw at 7 PM for \$50/person; Saturday will be Div. I Doubles (add to 0, \$150/team) and Div. II Doubles (add to 5, \$100/team) at 1 PM; and Sunday will be Div. I Singles (-1/ \$150, 0/ \$100, 1/\$50) and Div. II Singles (2/\$75, 3/\$50, 4/\$25) at 12 Noon. All events are single game/double elimination played on 9 boards. Texas residents only are eligible to play in the Singles & Doubles events. For more information, please contact Bobby Williams (817-265-7045) or Jeri Billard (817-657-7306).

Ohio

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

Mark your calendars now for the Toledo Open on March 30-April 1st, at Avon's Local 14, 5411 Jackman Rd., Toledo. There are 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.

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.

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

SEE "TOLEDO OPEN" flyer inserted in this February 2001 The Board Talk issue for details.



Indiana

INDIANA PLANS "BATTLE OF THE BARS" TOURNEY APRIL 13-15, 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 R.V. 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!

Houston Holiday Open ...

EVENT#1: PRO/AM DRAW (Continued from Page 1)



Above: Event 1 Pro/Am - **2nd Place**: Dan Hitt/Sally Goff (left to right) Johnny B (tourney director), Bill Melton (sponsor), Sally Goff, OK; & Dan Hitt, WA)



Above: Event 1 Pro/Am - **3rd Place**: Mike Taylor/Flynt Preston of TX (left to right) Johnny B (tourney director), Mike Taylor, Frank Mako, WA (sponsor), and Flynt Preston who had better things to do than pictures <grin> Just kidding Flynt, we found you later for picture (below)!



Not Pictured: Event 1 Pro/Am - **4th Place**: Don Stallsworth, OR and Darrol Nelson, OR

(Continued on Page 9)

CLASSIFIED ADS:

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Master Healer of
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Laser Reiki
Cosmic Energetic Healing

Rev. David B. Arndt

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Tacoma, WA 98408
253-474-7889

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神

Market Street Cafe "Santa's Surprise"

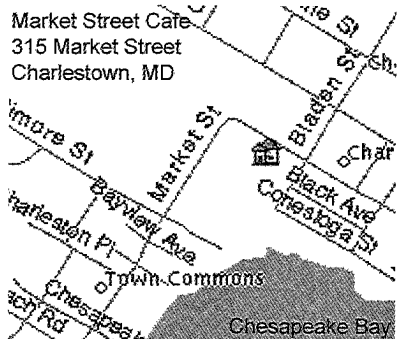
Tourney Results!

December 16-17, 2000

Market Street Cafe
Charlestown, MD

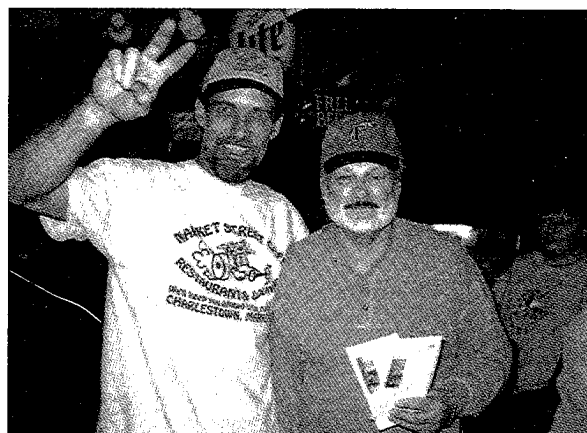
Ph#: 410-287-6374

Results & Pictures
Provided by:
Brenda Wallace



Market Street Cafe owners, Chip and Bobbie Spangler, hosted the "Santa's Surprise" tournament on December 16-17, 2000.

The winners, as reported by Brenda Wallace of Port Deposit, MD are as follows:



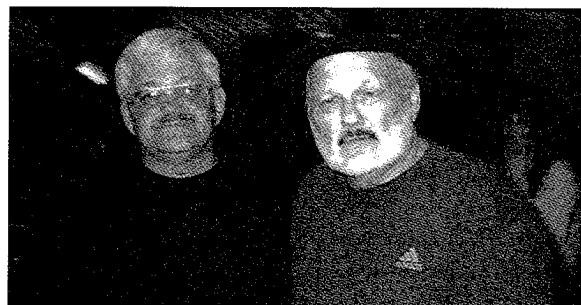
Friday night DRAW: **1st Place** (Above)
Greg Hadkey (left) and Lenny Dell (right)



Friday night DRAW: **2nd Place** (Above)
J.B. Armour (left) and Keith Leonard (right)



Saturday BRING PARTNER: **1st Place** (Above) Buddy Brammer (left) and ??? ??? (right)



Saturday BRING PARTNER: **2nd Place** (Above) Rick Niblett (left) and Lenny Dell (right)

WILLIAMS BROTHERS THANKSGIVING TOURNEY Results!

November 22-26, 2000

Gold Nugget Sports Bar

Arlington, TX

Submitted by: Jeri Billard, Arlington, TX (no pictures)

Tom Johnson, owner of the Gold Nugget Sports Bar, Arlington, TX hosted the annual Williams Brothers Thanksgiving tournament and provided a delicious dinner for all. David and Bobbie Williams were the Tournament Directors. Event winners, as provided by Jeri Billard are as follows:

Wed., Nov. 22, HANDICAP DRAW were
1st: David Williams/Eddie Woods; 2nd: Ed White/Jeff Womble; 3rd: Bill Melton/David Williams Jr.

Thurs., Nov. 23, DRAW were 1st and 2nd (split):
Diana Hagen/Jeri Billard and Billy Mays/Linda Nobles; 3rd: David Williams/Danny Green.

Fri., Nov. 24, DIV. I SINGLES: 1st: Billy Mays; 2nd: Mike Taylor; 3rd: Bill Melton. DIV. II SINGLES: 1st: Linda Nobles; 2nd: Gilbert Baird; 3rd: David Williams Jr.

Sat., Nov. 25, DIV. I BRING PARTNER: 1st: David Williams/Mitch Melton; 2nd Bill Melton/Tony Pelton. DIV. II BRING PARTNER: 1st: Jeri Billard/David Williams Jr.; 2nd: Kelly Cameron/Danny Green.

Houston Holiday Open ...

(Continued from Page 7)

EVENT#2: AMATEUR DRAW

(Notable: Fomby/Nobles finished undefeated)



Above: Event 2 Amateur Draw - **1st Place**: (left to right) Mahlon Moore (sponsor), Linda Nobles and Gary Fomby both from TX



Above: Event 2 Amateur Draw - **2nd Place**: (left to right) J.W. Crawford (sponsor); Jim Payne, NE and Trevor Wade, TX



Above: Event 2 Amateur Draw - **3rd Place**: (left to right) Johnny B (tournament director) w/James Cummings and Anna Wade (not available for picture) both of TX

Not Pictured: Event 2 Amateur Draw - 4th Place: Lorraine Bingham-Olson, CA and Doug Paben, TX; and 5th/6th Place split was Al Sanchez, Houston/ Neil Garvin, Corpus Christi, TX and Sam Lucas, Houston/David Williams, Jr., Ft. Worth, TX

EVENT#3: 6-PERSON DRAFT TEAM

(Notable: Captains draft players of different skill levels to play a best 4 out of 7, double elimination match on 3 boards)



Above: Event 3 6-Person Team - **1st Place**: (left to right) Jim Olson, CA (sponsor), Trevor Wade, TX; Jeri Billard, TX; David Williams, TX; Nickie Busing, TX; Leon Black, MI; and Len Webster, NE



Above: Event 3 6-Person Team - **2nd Place**: (left to right) Randy Rogers, TX (sponsor); Flynt Preston, Mike Taylor, Sammy Stringer, Doug Paben, Tom French, Morris Moss (all Texan team - how did that happen Mike?)

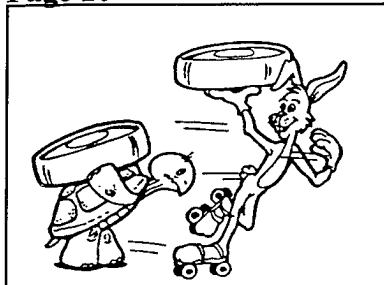


Above: Event 3 6-Person Team - **3rd Place**: (left to right) James Cummings, TX; Diana Hagen, TX; Jorge Galvan, TX; and not pictured team members also all from TX: Dave Ramold; David Williams, Jr.; and Gary Fomby

(Continued on Page 24)



Denise Klein/Mary Koteras (left); Linda Nobles/Lynda French/Eddie Brayman/Diana Hagen (right) enjoy the "Schottische" at HHO 2000 New Years Celebration!!



Shufflers' Notebook *(Continued from Page 2)*

News and Views from The World of Shuffleboard



Glen Davidson Gives Houston Holiday Open Perceptions!

The Houston Holiday Open tourney was a fantastic tournament, great party, and had a beautiful New Year's celebration.

At this time, I am back home, watching the snow and ice melt away and the sun is now shining. With that, I will say a few words on paper about some of the greatest people on Earth... being shuffleboard players and their kids. How about Mike Halstead and Lorraine Bingham-Olson winning the Division II Doubles and Eddie Brayman winning the Event #10 (1,2, 3 Singles)? May be an old hat for Lorraine, but a first for Mike and Eddie. I remember the feeling of that first major win and I'm sure alot of other players do too. The first major tourney win is a unique and special feeling... never again will you quite have that same feeling. Congratulations and hope you both have many more. Susan, you are next... I am betting on you in Oklahoma.

The Table Shuffleboard Association (TSA) staged it's first induction ceremony on December 28, 2000 at 3 PM. Ron and Debbie Bowers were the second couple team to be inducted for their Promotion of the sport, following George and Donna Wilber... both a great event for our history. Thank you, Ron and Debbie, for being involved in our progress toward victory over the trials and tribulations of the game. Your contribution is one of the best, if not the best. Congratulations and enjoy!

Don Valk and Lynda French, along with the other TSA Directors present, did a fantastic job on the TSA's first induction ceremony. There are now 21 inductees into the National level table shuffleboard Hall of Fame which includes recent inductee, Bill English (deceased), whose ceremony is being planned for this year. Thanks to those TSA Directors dedicated to make these things happen.

Then on December 30th, the Texas State Table Shuffleboard Hall of Fame announced two surprise inductions... being Bobby Williams and Johnny Ballard - two of the most deserving Pro players and promoters of the sport. Bobby said that it was

unimaginable that Johnny Wayne Crawford could keep this a secret [or anything else for that matter] from him. Bobby thanked his peers, shed a tear or two, and said this is a "humbling experience" and then sat as Bill Melton said a few words of praise. As Jeri Billard would say... "Bobby is a great big teddy bear" and "he has also won two events already during this tournament." So, I say that Bobby had a great week in Houston... enjoy ole friend. Couldn't happen to a nicer person [unless it was me].

I got to play with Linda and Mahlon Nobles for the first time at this tourney. These two are going to be the greatest some day. I really enjoyed playing with them.

I also enjoyed playing with Leon Black, Frank Mako and Don Stalsworth on the 4-person team event and through all the trials and tribulations of a few missed weights, some lagging difficulties, hammers being on the wrong end much of the time, etc. we pulled out a 4th Place [and, if I recall, a highlight was when I had to score one point without the hammer on the last game].

I announced to the tourney participants that Jim Coker, a friend of mine from the Las Vegas area [originally from the mid-west] has left us to go and be with our other departed shufflers and friends. My understanding is that he gave up the game a few years ago, but around in the 50's through 80's. He was a keep hammer player and changed over to the switch hammer play in Vegas. I am sure our friends in Vegas knew him well. Another story, another time. There are a few players leaving us to gather for that ultimate tourney in the heavens. Playing long foul line, keep hammer... my money is still on our departed friend "Earl Kelly."

Back to the Houston tourney... Darrol Nelson is still the Champ, beating Bobby V. in Pro Singles. Glen Ingram and my ole buddy Jim Long seems to like this Texas money... taking the money in Arlington and now Houston in Year 2000. Jim indicated to me that now he has retired, he thinks he'll be doing more play in Houston and Dallas [maybe he will move here soon?]. -- Glen Davidson

Spread the word about The Board Talk ... Get your fellow shufflers to subscribe!

Shuffleboard Rules!?!

As we stated in the December 2000 and January 2001 The Board Talk issues, we would like to start a section and discussion on Shuffleboard Rules, starting with rules of calling a weight safe. Johnny Ballard has provided us his description and welcomes others to refine, if needed, as follows:

Making a Weight Safe

Submitted By: Johnny "B"allard, Pro from TX

If a weight is in danger of falling off the end of the board, it may be made safe. It's the option of the opposing player/team to have the weight made safe. If all players in that match agree, then any agreed upon player in that match may be allowed to make the weight safe. If not agreed upon, then a tournament official may be called upon to make a weight safe. A weight hanging off the side of the board cannot be made safe.

If a weight that has not been made safe falls off the end or side of the board during or after player's release (without the player actually hitting the weight on his shot, of course), the weight will be put back on the board as close as possible to the original spot and the player does not get to shoot his/her weight/shot over again.

If a weight that has been made safe falls off the end of the board during or after player's release, it will be put back on the board as close as possible to the original spot and player does get to shoot his/her weight/shot over again. *NOTE: If a weight has been made safe, it cannot be outlagged.*

-- By: Johnny B

New "No Show" Rule for Houston Holiday Open

In matches other than Singles, if/when a team member does not show up for a match, the Tournament Directors have the option of selecting a substitute player with an equal to or lesser rated player than the "no show" player. -- By: Johnny B

Making a Weight Safe

Submitted By: "Board Talk" George from MI

On the subject of making a weight safe (Shufflers' Notebook, Page 10, January Issue), I use a method that may not be foolproof, but almost. When I prepare to shoot at the weight, I push hard against the table with my body, still holding the weight in my hand which I'm going to let loose. If

the hanger at the other end falls off they have to automatically make the weight safe because I haven't released my weight yet. If it stays on, I am confident it won't fall off because I don't hit the end of the frame with my body when I release the weight.

It doesn't work that way for everyone, so it may be okay to make the weight safe if they make sure it's still a hanger. Big question though in whatever methods are used to make a weight safe -- what if the tournament director/judge/player makes it "safe" and it then falls off as the opponent shoots and/or the opponent's weight becomes a deeper hanger after it's made safe? This needs attention and clarification, as it can make a big difference in \$\$ in a tournament the tournament. -- By: George W.

Johnny Wayne Crawford also suggested we form a "**Rules Committee**" that could communicate monthly with shufflers through The Board Talk and eventually the established rules could be endorsed by all tournament directors and the Table Shuffleboard Association (TSA).

Please send us your comments for the upcoming The Board Talk issue(s) on the "Safe" rule and/or Johnny Wayne Crawford's suggestion to form a "Rules Committee". -- T & L, Editors

HHO 2000 Reminds Us How Much Our Sport Is Growing!

It seems like just a year or so ago that I was a teenager and playing shuffleboard for the first time. The truth is, that was 1975 and you were lucky to find a place that had one shuffleboard and a handful of interested players and, guess what, I am not a teenage anymore. For those of us who attended some or all of the Houston Holiday Open (HHO) 2000, it was abundantly clear how far our game and table shuffleboard sport has advanced. Here we were in a plush hotel ballroom full of the best shooters from all over the country (including my doubles partner, Leon Black from Michigan, who finally let his hair down (See Page 35), pun intended, Sunday night) competing on 21 tables in nearly a dozen events over 5 days with thousands of dollars just waiting on the deserving winners to finish their competition! The logistics of such an enterprise are mind boggling, but the organizers and volunteers of this tremendous event made running it smoothly look easy. The names of them all are way too numerous to indicate here, but

Shufflers' Notebook (Continued on Page 33)

5TH ANNUAL HOUSTON HOLIDAY OPEN

Texas Shuffleboard Hall of Fame

Two New HOF Inductions Awarded!



Bobby Don Williams - Texas HOF Inductee

Johnny Wayne Crawford, one of the Texas Table Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Directors, performed the Hall of Fame ceremony. Before he actually started the induction ceremony, he emphasized to the group that there was an immediate need to establish a tournament "Rules Committee" and stated that "we have been discussing for nearly two years that we need to establish a rules committee to have standard tournament rules throughout the country. Lynda French has generously offered her skills as a focal central control to help us achieve this. There are too many discrepancies and this needs to be done immediately. We want and need representation from every State."

Then Johnny Wayne gave a brief history of the Texas Table Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, stating that three years ago [in Reno] that he and Bobby Williams decided to start the Texas HOF and that they have a need for donations to enable them to pay for the awards and other Texas HOF efforts in the future and that although Texas is behind other states in starting their HOF, it will become one of the more impressive list of names and inductees, as the years pass, including the following already inducted:

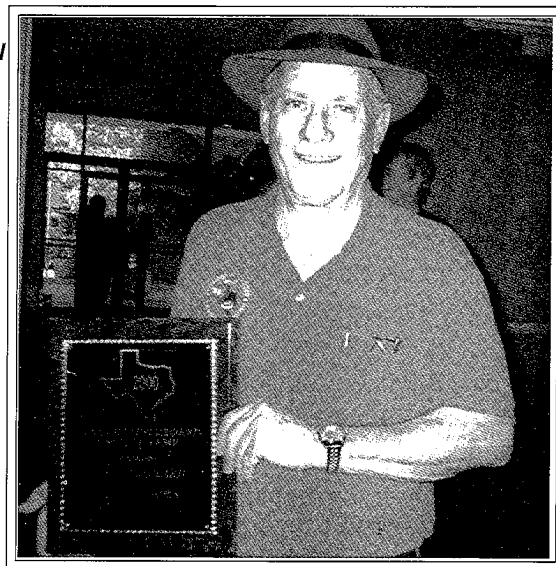
TEXAS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

(12 inductees):

Early Kelly
Rod Cameron
George and Donna Wilber
Don Valk
Harvey Kidd
Ron and Debbie Bowers
Diana Hagen
David Williams
Johnny Ballard
Bobby Williams

HOUSTON HOLIDAY OPEN
December 30, 2000
Marriott at Greenspoint
Houston, TX
Texas HOF Inductees:

**Bobby D. Williams
&
Johnny Ballard**



Johnny Ballard - Texas HOF Inductee

Johnny Ballard - Induction Overview

Johnny Wayne Crawford first presented the HOF induction award to Johnny Ballard aka "Johnny B" and talked about how Johnny B, a Pro Rated Player, has been playing the game for over fifteen years.

Johnny Wayne first met Johnny B in Dallas about eight years ago on his way to play in the Arbuckle Open in Oklahoma. It was the first of the only two years that Pros were allowed in that tournament. Johnny B came in 4th in Singles with eight of the top "-1" Pro players in the country entered into that Singles competition event and Johnny B also was ranked 7th in the Federation rankings one year. Johnny B and Brenda Moore placed 1st in Pro Doubles during one of the Del City SW Open tournaments. Johnny B has won and placed in numerous tournaments through the years.

Achievements include:

First Place: Legends Doubles, Las Vegas, NV 1990; Open Doubles, Sherburne, NY 1990; Open Doubles, Harvey's Place, MD 1990; Pro Doubles, Corporate Image, FW, TX 1992; Doubles, US Open, Austin, TX 1992; Team Event, US Open, Austin, TX 1992; Draw Doubles, Gold Nugget, Arlington, TX 1997; Open Doubles, SW Open, Del City, OK 1998; Pro Team, SW Open, Del City, OK 1998.

(Continued on Page 16)

East Coast Winter Tourney at Harvey's!

January 12-13, 2001

Harvey's Place

Street, MD

Submitted By: Dick Gorman, Wilmington, DE

Many players from up and down the east coast assembled at Harvey's Place, Street Maryland for the annual East Coast Winter tournament... some new players, many old friends, and some friends from the past. It was great to be among so many friends and fill the tournament with more entries than we have had for quite some time. We had entries from six states from as far away as Vermont! We continue to believe in, use support the Bowers Rating System as "it provides a more level playing field for our diverse ability shooters and provides a competitive atmosphere," says host Harvey Comer.

Friday night started the tournament with a Draw Partner event. Showing the way to the winners table taking first place were Rick Greider from nearby Rising Sun, MD and his partner Jonathan Harris from Perryville, MD. Second Place went to Wilmington, DE resident Don Casula and his partner Dick Lossee of Poolville, NY. Third Place was taken by Ryan Fuller, from Sherburne, NY and his partner Lindsay Hall, Baltimore, MD and fourth and final placement slot was Pete Cummins, Plattsburg, NY and his partner Joe Williams, Ridley Park, PA.

Saturday's BRING PARTNER event played on the four in-house boards was a lovely event which was won without a loss by Wendy Davis and Dick Gorman both of Wilmington, DE. Taking second were Len Dell of Baltimore, MD and partner Rick Niblett from Salisbury, MD. Third place was taken by the team of new shooter's (at least to us) Pat Bennett from Sherburne, NY and partner Dick Lossee, Poolville, NY. Fourth and final money spot went to Dave Shewbridge, Pasadena, MD (Baltimore area) and once again his partner Joe Williams, Ridley Park, PA.

A Singles Event was scheduled during the weekend for Saturday night late, but when the hour arrived the participants folded because of need of sleep. But, the Draw Partner event was scheduled as every Saturday night and played to a late night conclusion. The winners of First Place went were

Faye and Wayne Todd of Newark, DE with Second Place going to Lindsay Hall, Baltimore, MD and Gene Long, Lancaster, PA.

This was the middle event of seven scheduled tournaments all of which, so far this year, have been considered successful with "this one without a doubt being the best participation", said host Harvey Comer. A baked ham dinner with scalloped potatoes, green beans, coleslaw, rolls, etc. was prepared by our ever gracious hostess Darlyne Belcher. Harvey said our next major tournament is scheduled for February 23-24, 2001 and we hope to see you there - but call and reserve a place for yourselves. Call Harvey Comer at (410) 836-8881 for more information or reservations. We love to have new participants and love sharing good tournaments and Maryland hospitality with all our participants!

Chances "R" Results!

October 27-29, 2000

Chances "R", Laurie, MO

Reported By: Jake Riley, MO

Chances "R", PO Box 472, Sunrise Beach, MO 65079 (ph#: 573-374-8770) owner Karen Brittain, hosted another Fall Tournament at their beautifully situated establishment in Lake of the Ozarks. Fun was had by all (winners pictured below). Spring Tourney is coming April 20-22!



Above: **1st Place:** Dean Pinkton (center) & Woodie Cockrum (right) presented prize by Jake Riley (left)



Left: **2nd Place:** Charlie Riley & Rick Pittman



Left: **3rd Place:** Mike Simpson & Super Sam w/ Jake Riley (left) presenting award.

12th Annual Indiana State "Hoosier" Championships!



November 24-26, 2000
American Legion Post #424
Bourbon, IN

Winner Pictures: Submitted by Terry Dowell
(See January 2001 Issue, page 14 for Steve Hart's full report (without pictures) on the Indiana State Championship Tournament)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24th: "OPEN SINGLES" State Champs (pictured below):



(Pictured Above - Left to Right: **3rd Place:** Ricky Royal; **2nd Place:** Terry Dowell; **1st Place:** Bobby Voorhis; and **4th Place:** Brian Collins)



(Pictured Above: **5th & 6th Place:** Gene McLeod (center)/Bud Broka (not pictured); and **7th & 8th Place:** Larry Creakbaum (left)/Glen Ingram (right).

If you wish to purchase a The Board Talk shirt with silk screen logo or the NEW quality denim jacket or shirt with embroidered logo on back, contact the Editors. Thanks to Lorraine Bingham-Olson, Linda Nobles, and Mahlon Moore for the 1st three denim jacket orders!

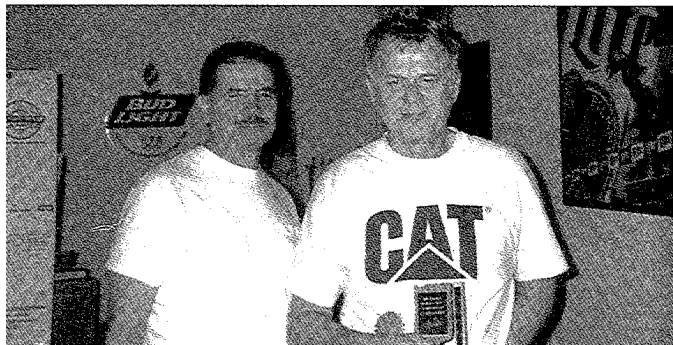
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25th: "DOUBLES" State Champs (pictured below):



(Pictured Above - Left to Right: **1st Place:** Ricky Royal and Bobby Voorhis)



(Pictured Above - Left to Right: **2nd Place:** Dennis Kinsey and Mike Koontz)



(Pictured Above - Left to Right: **3rd Place:** Jerry Knox and Larry Creakbaum)



(Pictured Above - Left to Right: **4th Place:** Jim Long and Glen Ingram)

(Continued on Page 16)



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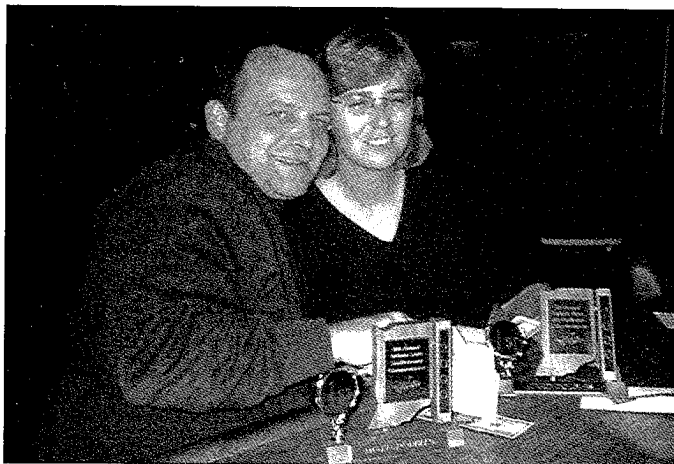
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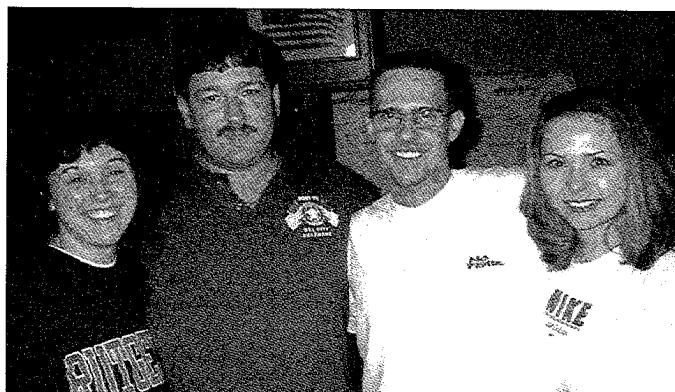
Indiana State Champs...

(Continued from Page 14)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26th: "MIXED DOUBLES" State Champs (pictured below):



(Pictured Above - Left to Right: **1st Place:** Brian Collins and Joyce Roberts)



(Above: **2nd Place:** (not pictured) Bobby Voorhis/Debbie Voorhis; **3rd Place:** Mark and Shannon McLeod (pictured right); and **4th Place:** Kristie Redman and Gary Neff (pictured left))

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26th: "WOMEN'S SINGLES" State Champs (pictured below):



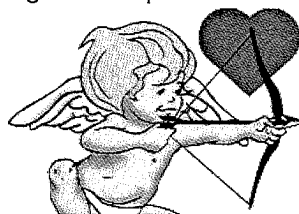
(Pictured Above: **1st Place:** Shannon McLeod (left); **2nd Place:** Sheryl Cockerill (right); and **3rd Place:** Debbie Voorhis (not pictured))

Texas HOF... (Con't. From Page 12)

Johnny B Achievements... Second Place: Open Doubles, East Coast Extravaganza, PA 1990; Pro Singles, SW Open, Del City, OK 1992; Open Doubles, Gold Nugget, TX 1994; Pro Doubles, Arbuckle Open, OK 1996; Semi-Pro Singles, Texas Open, Austin, TX 1991; A-B-C Draw, HHO, TX 1998; Pro Doubles, HHO, TX 1998; Pro Team, HHO, TX 1998; Doubles, Brook Alley, Tulsa, OK 1999; Draft Team, Texas Open, Arlington, TX 2000; Pro Doubles, Texas Open, Arlington, TX 2000.

Bobby Don Williams- Induction Overview

Johnny Wayne first started playing with Bobby six or seven years ago during the last days of the Corporate Image and the beginning of play at the Gold Nugget. Johnny reported that he told Bobby [not to boast or brag on himself, but rather to reach the point to be made] that if he was around Bobby much he had best get a better left hand or develop a heck of a free hand because Johnny would cut his right hand plum off of him if he didn't. Johnny said



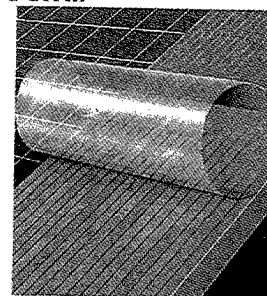
(Continued on Page 30)

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Frisko Eddie's Revenge: The Return

EPISODE 76 -- A Series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

Dear Readers: Balboa Ron said to let the readers know that this episode is a TRUE story (almost!)

*Submitted Monthly By: Balboa Ron Schweikert,
1140 Coral Desert Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89123 or
e-mail: balboaron@earthlink.net*

Eddie and Shelli were so relieved after their perceived "Lil" problems had "been solved" that they started to laugh over the whole thing, and even joked about how silly they were for even thinking such "ridiculous" thoughts. They both wondered how they could have been that foolish!

They set about with their plan to go surf fishing that afternoon. Shelli had said that she would prefer to just watch, so when they got to the nearby sporting goods store Eddie just purchased a license for himself. He inquired about which equipment would be best for what he planned to do.

The salesman told him that if he wanted to be on the "safe-side" he should get a real stout rod, with at least a 40 pound test line. He said that at this time of year if you're casting way out, the big ones would sometimes hit. Eddie's compulsive nature led him to pick out a real heavy rod, with a "50" pound test line. He got all the rest of the gear they would need, including some live bait.

There was a peer almost across the street from the store, but Eddie suggested that they walk the beach always so that they could have a little privacy. It was clouding up a bit by the time he made his first cast. It didn't take long before he started to hook a few. They weren't too big, but they were "keepers." They had no way to prepare the fish so Eddie returned them to the ocean.

After a while, Shelli waded over to Eddie and said: "Hey Lover, I'm getting a little lonesome out here. Isn't there some way you could anchor that rod of yours so we can spend a little time together?" Eddie replied: "I knew it - just like a woman." Then laughingly said "no patience for the serious things in life! I think I can figure out a plan here honey."

He spotted some big rocks nearby, and they looked okay for him to secure his rod. While Shelli watched, he hooked up a rather weird rig. He picked out the biggest hook he had and set it with a float and a real large weight, so the huge amount of bait he put on would float freely about 4 feet above the bottom. With that much weight he was able to cast it WAY out there, after wadding out up to his chest. He made it back to the beach and dug in

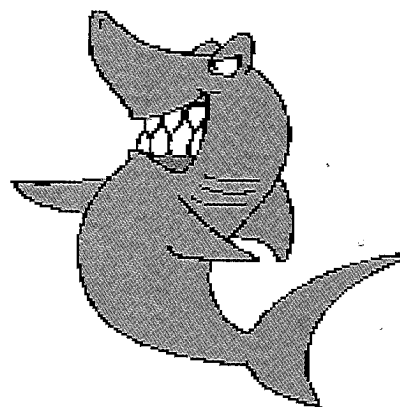
the rod behind the biggest rock, and then piled a bunch of smaller ones on the back side of the pole.

With that done, he set his concentration on Shelli. They swam in the warm water and played around together. They were really having a nice time, when quite suddenly it began to sprinkle, and the waves started to get a little bit rough. They decided to make a beeline for the shore, and head out for the Hotel.

Just as they reached the shore Eddie looked over to where the fishing gear was; and low and behold, the line was taunt, and the rig was coming loose from the rocks! He ran at top speed over to catch the now moving pole. He caught on to it in about knee high water - but found out that he not only couldn't reel what ever it was in ...it was hauling Him out to deeper water!

He was now in almost up to his neck, and could barely hear Shelli's frantic screams to: "Let go of the pole! For Gods sake let go of the pole Eddie... I see a sharks fin out there in front of you!"

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH)



Various Shuffleboard Games and "How To Play"
(e.g., Horsecollar, Crazy Eights, Knock-off, etc.)
can be found at:

<http://www.championsshuffleboard.com>

Click on "History" section or go directly to:

<http://www.championsshuffleboard.com/about.htm>

MICHIGAN PLAYER LEARNS HIS DAD STARTED CALCUTTAS IN MICHIGAN & INDIANA WHILE SHUFFLING AT THE HHO 2000!

Written & Submitted By:
Cliff Visel, Bellevue, MI

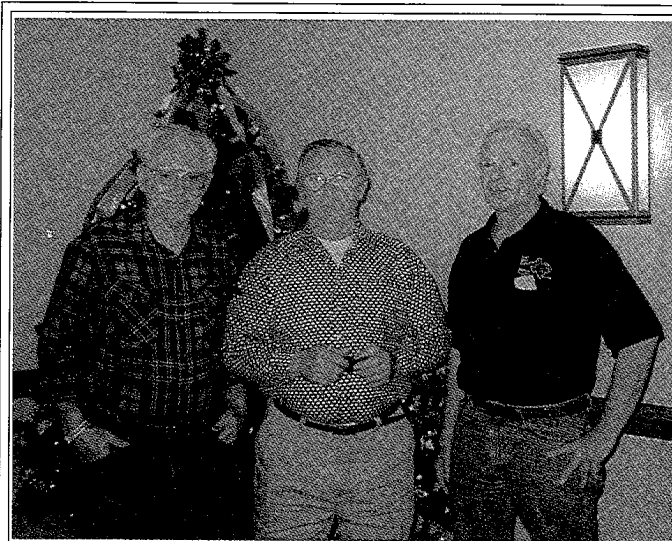
I live in Belleville, Michigan and visit my son in Austin, Texas for about four months every winter. One of the things I enjoy most about my winter visits to Austin is shuffling with the players at Taz Country. Shuffleboard players are the friendliest bunch and the people at Taz Country always give me such a warm welcome back each winter.

Three years ago when I was playing shuffleboard at Taz Country, Billy Mays came in. I didn't get a chance to really talk with him, but when I got back to Michigan that summer I asked my dad if he knew

Billy (I knew my dad enjoyed shuffleboard because from the time I can remember he had one in his basement). He replied, "yes, I used to play with

Billy, but I never beat him." He told me that Billy was "one of the great ones in shuffleboard." My parents separated when I was about six

years old and I spent time in the summer with my dad. I knew he was an auctioneer and that he played shuffleboard, but did not realize until my trip to Houston (HHO tourney) when I talked with Billy Mays and Jim Long that my dad reportedly actually started the calcutta sales in Michigan and Indiana back in the mid-60's! [See picture taken by Lynda French when I talked with Jim Long (left) and Billy



Mays (center) - that's me to the right - during the HHO 2000 tourney in Houston, Texas].

(Continued on Page 38)

-- 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 EXPIRES" date is on the back cover's address line. Please use the FORM inside back cover to renew TIMELY to avoid missing issues!

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In some cases, you may find a '-x' after the year which indicates the following:

SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRES: MONTH YEAR-x where "x" designates the following:

-x= blank (means you have a traditional one year subscription expiring on the MONTH YEAR stated when there is no "x")

x=B (means you have a full page Business Ad which includes the subscription for each month that you have an active full page ad)

x=W (means you have a complimentary one year subscription, such as one won in a raffle, which expires on the MONTH YEAR stated)

SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRES: N/A (means that you have received a complimentary issue)

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Bob Lewis, 1-602-242-6782 Mickey Lewis, 1-602-254-3447

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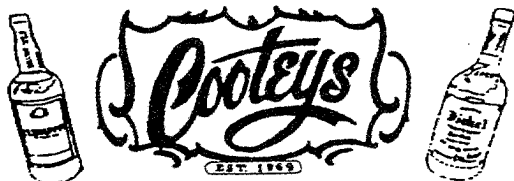
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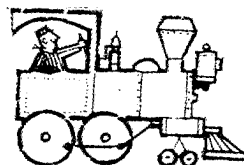


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Shuffleboard Directory

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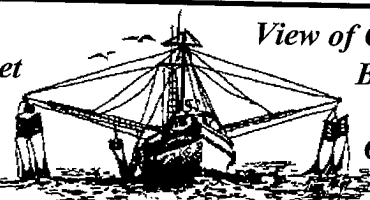
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Any shufflers traveling through the Memphis,
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The California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame
has found a few good shufflers:

- Al Stewart •Bellflower Bruce Hale
- Bobby Goldsmith •Tommy Workman
- Billy Chiles •George Lucas
- Hal Perry •Porter White
- Karl Spickelmier •Don Cox
- Jolene Lembke

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Houston Holiday Open ...

(Continued from Page 9)

EVENT #4: 4-PERSON BRING TEAM "Pro"

(Notable: Players form team in advance and select a captain. Total ratings of players cannot add to more than 3 points, with one Pro. Best 2 out of 3/ Double Elimination.)



Above: Event 4 4-Person Team (Pro) 1st Place: (left to right) Brenda Moore; Ronnie McMann; Bobby Williams, and Mike Boulanger (all Texan team)



Above: Event 4 4-Person Team (Pro) 2nd Place: (left to right) Del Ammerman (sponsor); Mahlon & Linda Nobles, TX; Billy Melton OK, and Don Valk, TX.



Above: Event 4 4-Person Team (Pro) 3rd Place: (left to right) Danny Norris, TX; Robert Duncan, TX; Todd Bowers, TX; Billy Mays, TX; and Harvey Walden, TN.
Not Pictured: Event 4 4-Person Team (Pro) 4th Place: Leon Black, MI; Don Stallsworth, OR; Frank Mako, WA; and Glen Davidson, OK.



Left: Mary & Dale Koteras jittering at the HHO 2000 New Years Bash!

EVENT #5: 4-PERSON BRING TEAM "Amateur"

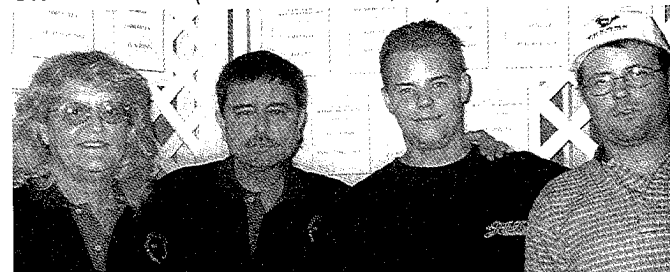
(Notable: Similar to Event #4, but total ratings of players must add to at least 10 points.)



Above: Event 5 4-Person Team (Amateur) 1st Place: (left to right) John Griffith; Oscar Villegas; Stan Stinson and Jimmy Britt (another lost soul at picture taking time - related to Flynt Preston <grin>?) Another all Texan team.



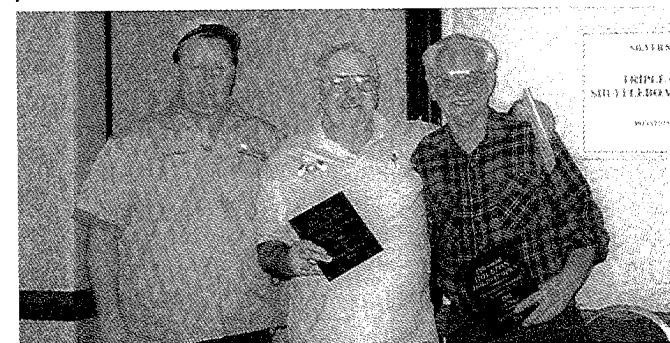
Above: Event 5 4-Person Team (Amateur) 2nd Place: (left to right) Jorge Galvan; Del Ammerman (sponsor in background); Richard Gray; James Cummings; and Steve Edwards (all from Houston, TX).



Above: Event 5 4-Person Team (Amateur) 3rd Place: (left to right) Lynda French; Tom French; Trevor Wade; and Doug Paben (all 4 from Austin, TX)

EVENT #6: 2-PERSON Bring Partner (add to 0)

(Notable: Auctioneers Steve Hart and Harvey Kidd team up to take 2nd Place! Dan Hitt/Melody Marine prove that romance and shuffleboard DO mix!)



Above: Event 6 2-Person Bring Partner 1st Place: Glen Ingram (center) and Jim Long (right) (sponsor to left)

Houston Holiday Open ...

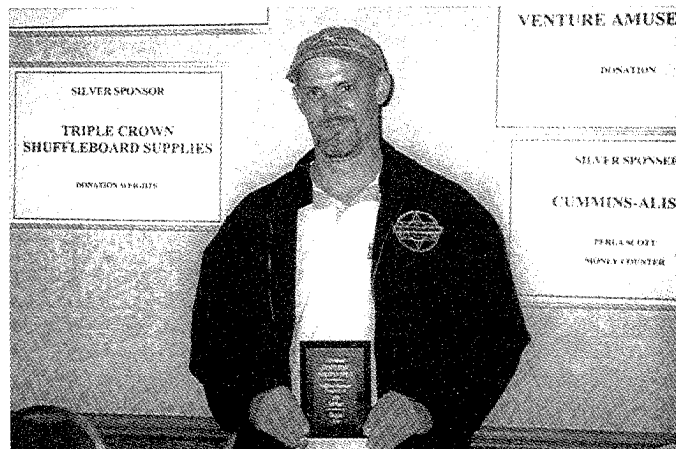
(Continued from Page 25)

EVENT #9: SINGLES "PRO"

(Notable: Best 2 out of 3. Darrol Nelson goes undefeated! See Page 32, this issue for "The Darrol Nelson Show")



Above: Event 9 Singles "Pro" - **1st Place**: Darrol Nelson, OR (right) and **2nd Place**: Bobby Voorhis, IN (left)

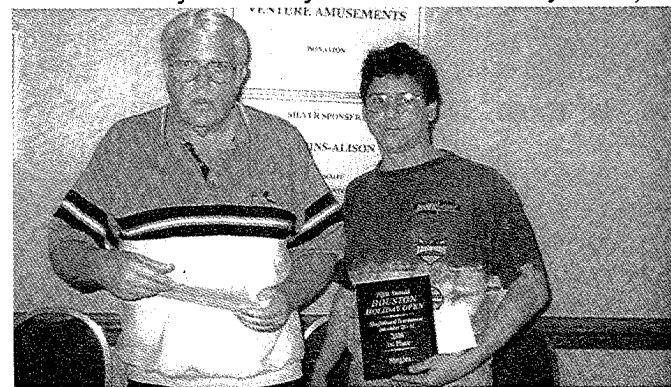


Above: Event 9 Singles "Pro" - **3rd Place**: Dan Hitt, WA

Not Pictured: Event 9 Singles "Pro" - **4th Place**: Bill Melton, OK

EVENT #10: SINGLES (1, 2, 3)

(Notable: Two Nobles placed/ did they have a face off? First major tourney win for Eddie Brayman?)



Above: Event 10 Singles - **1st Place**: Eddie Brayman, CA (right) with sponsor Bill Melton, OK (left)

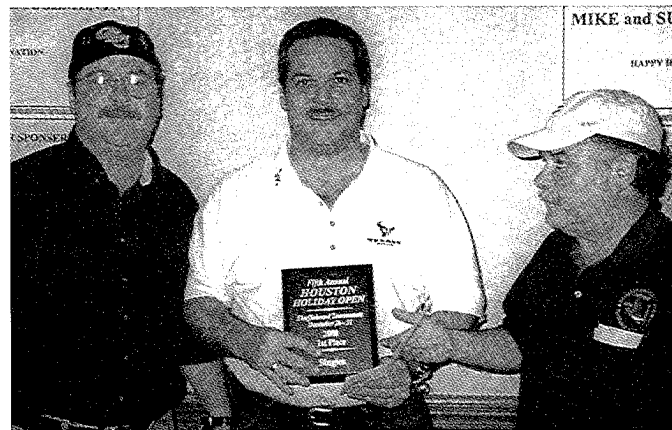


Above: Event 10 Singles - **2nd Place**: Chris Smith, D/ FW, TX (left) with Tournament Director Jack Scott (right)

Not Pictured: Event 10 Singles - **3rd Place**: Tom Johnson (Gold Nugget owner), Arlington, TX; **4th Place**: Mahlon Nobles, TX; and **5th/6th Place split**: Mike McGinty (Clear Lake), TX and Linda Nobles, TX.

EVENT #11: SINGLES (3,4,5)

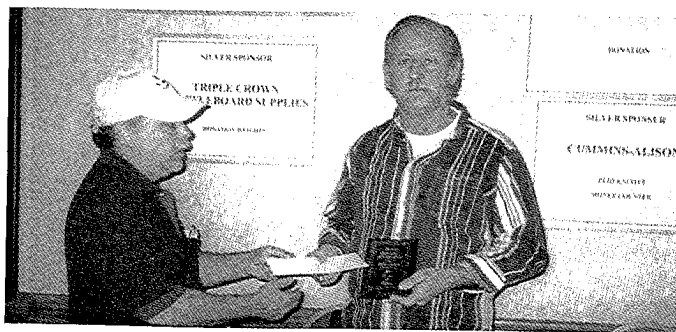
(Notable: First Big Win for Steve and strong finish for Mo the defending Iranian Champ! First major tourney and win for Jason! Who's going to be the next young upcoming Mike Taylor? If not Jason, then maybe David Williams Jr.?)



Above: Event 11 Singles - **1st Place**: Steve Edwards (center), sponsor James Cummings (left), and Tournament Director Jack Scott (right)



Above: Event 11 Singles - **2nd Place**: Mo Hassan, TX (right) & Tournament Director Jack Scott (left)



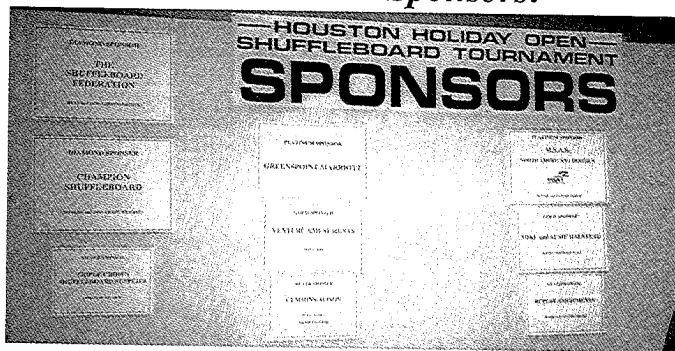
Above: Event 11 Singles - **3rd Place**: Larry Nance, TX (right) & Tournament Director Jack Scott (left)

Not Pictured: Event 11 Singles - **4th Place**: David Williams Jr, TX; **5th/6th split**: Wayne Hammond/Jason Kovarick and **6th/7th split**: Al Sanchez/Joe Parrish, TX.

It Takes A Lot of Folks To Make This Work!

Organizers Johnny Ballard and Jack Scott wish to thank the many people who helped make the 5th Annual Houston Holiday Open (HHO) 2000 a success! Johnny and Jack start early in the year, making arrangements and "discussing" how to improve the next edition. But, they'll be the first to admit that, without the help of many others, including members of the Houston Shuffleboard Community, their boat wouldn't float!

Thanks To All Sponsors!



DIAMOND SPONSORS (2)

This year, as in the past, **The Shuffleboard Federation** has come to the aid of HHO, donating high quality dust/wax and silicone spray. They also donated a set of weights to be raffled. More about that in a minute. Bill Melton won that set, by the way.

Thanks to Kelye Stites, Andy Northrup, and Don at **Champion Shuffleboard**. They donated 6 of their grand champion model shuffleboards for use at the tourney (boards 1 through 6) that performed flawlessly! [Billy Mays performed his "Exhibition Show" and Darrol Nelson and Bobby Voorhis played their Pro Singles finals on these boards - see Page 32 for more on the "Billy Mays Show" and "Darrol Nelson Show."]

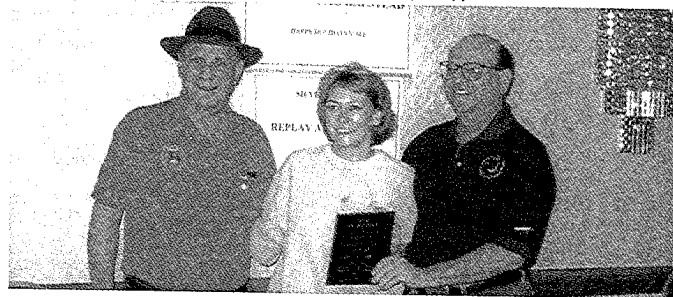
PLATINUM SPONSORS (1)

MSAS North American Logistics (formerly **Sky King Air Freight**) donated \$1,000 to the HHO cause. Special thanks to MSAS and to Ronnie and Mahlon Moore for keeping in touch with these kind, supporting, and gracious folks! (Below: Mahlon Moore (left) and MSAS receiving sponsor award)



GOLD SPONSORS (2)

Mike and Susie Halstead of Kentucky donated \$500. Thank you, folks! (Susie & Mike (right) being presented award by Johnny B (left))

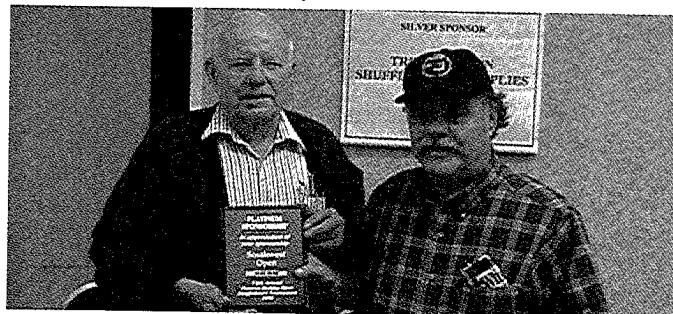


Venture Entertainment is donating \$250. Thanks!

SILVER SPONSORS (9)

Triple Crown Shuffleboard Supplies provided bracket board and donated a set of weights for the raffle (won by Mike Bradley!).

Southwest Open (Don Crall) rented the HHO 15 shuffleboards and provided load-up and supervision assistance on both ends (OK and TX) (Don Crall (left) presented award by Jack Scott (right) - Pictured Below)



(Continued on Page 35)

2001 CALENDAR OF SHUFFLEBOARD EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2001

Feb. 9-11

Sweethearts Mixed Doubles
The Blue Goose
Port Orchard, Washington

Feb. 10-11

Nelson Renzo Memorial Tourney
Market Street Cafe
Charlestown, Maryland

Feb. 10

Sweetheart Tournament
Silver Spur
San Bernadino, California

Feb. 11-19

10th Annual President's Day
Tournament
Blinky's Sports Bar
Santa Clara, California

Feb. 16-18

Oklahoma Annual State
Championship Tourney
American Legion Post 73
Del City, Oklahoma

Feb. 17

Bourbon Mixed Doubles
American Legion Post 424
Bourbon, Indiana

Feb. 23-25

The Club Car Open
Club Car Lounge
Durand, Michigan

Feb. 23-24

Mason Dixon Classic
Harvey's Place
Street, Maryland

Feb. 24

Draw Partner
Triple Crown Sports Bar
Houston, Texas

MARCH 2001

March 3-4

True Round Robin Doubles
American Legion Post 424
Bourbon, Indiana

March 9-10

Spring Fling
Market Street Cafe
Charlestown, Maryland

March 2-11

Amateur Tournament
Harbor Point Club & Grill
Richardson, TX

March 11-12

Florida Open "Warm Up"
FILL-N-STATION
Mims, Florida

March 16-18

Florida Open
Snuggery Bar & Grill
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

March 16-18

St. Patricks Day Tourney
Harold's Bar
Omaha, Nebraska

March 22-25

2nd Annual Cape Kennedy
"Blast Off" Tourney
FILL-N-STATION
Mims, Florida

March 23-24

Spring Warmup
Harvey's Place
Street, Maryland

March 23-25

3rd Annual Texas State
Championships
Gold Nugget
Arlington, Texas

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 & Open
Doubles
Sands Regency
Reno, Nevada

April 20-22

Heartland Handicap
American Legion Post 73
Del City, Oklahoma

April 20-22

Lake of the Ozarks Spring Tourney
Chances "R"
Laurie, Missouri

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

May 19

3rd Annual Bobby Schounce
Memorial Tournament
Chances "R"
Muncie, Indiana

JULY 2001

July 1-7

Southwest Open
American Legion 73
Del City, Oklahoma

AUGUST 2001

August 2-5

Grand Masters Plus
Whistling Oyster
Quilcene, Washington

Table Shuffleboard Association (TSA)

TSA Board of Directors:

Donald P. Valk, President
 Al Salazar, Vice President
 Ray Boyett, Treasurer
 Lynda French, Secretary
 David Arndt, Director
 Larry Creakbaum, Director
 Louise Freer, Director
 Cliff Goff, Director
 Bob Hunt, Director
 Harvey Kidd, Director
 Frank Mako, Director
 Hal Perry, Director



Hall of Fame

Visit TSA HOF webpage:

<http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com/nationalhof.html>

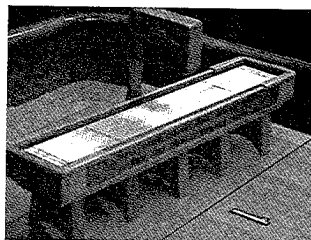
Please send State HOF Information to TSA at:

Table Shuffleboard Association
 c/o Lynda French, Secretary
 12710 Red Deer Pass
 Austin, TX 78729-6436

Phone: 512-250-0327
 E-mail: lynda@jump.net
 FAX: 512-250-9249
 Cellular: 512-751-9617

TSA Directors are trying to acquire pictures and stories about prior generation players (including ones that are not yet inducted in the TSA HOF such as Kid Spooks). If anyone has pictures, articles, etc. on any of our TSA inductees or prior generation great players not yet in the HOF, please send. We will make copies (if you don't have duplicate) and return to you. These items are badly needed for our museum.

their personal congratulations. Some pictures of the beautiful trophy and ceremony follow:



Ron and Debbie Bowers were inducted into the TSA HOF on Thursday, December 28, 2000 during the Houston Holiday Open 2000 as Promoters of the sport through founding and maintaining the Bowers Rating System and directing many tournaments throughout the year, etc... (See the January 2001 The Board Talk Issue for the Bowers' biography and history). There were near 200 players and friends at the ceremony, including six of the TSA Directors: Don Valk (TSA President and master of ceremony), Lynda French, Cliff Goff, Harvey Kidd, Frank Mako, Hal Perry and prior NSHF founder and President, Glen Davidson. The Bowers were presented the TSA HOF trophy (miniature shuffleboard with leather insert on side of table and with TSA logo on the score unit... a beautiful trophy designed and hand made by shuffler, Fritz Broka). Don Valk, Lynda French, Glen Davidson, and Harvey Kidd gave testimonials during the induction and all participants applauded and gave

Please note: the two newest inductees voted in July 2000 are: Ron/Debbie Bowers (inducted 12/28/00 at Houston Holiday Open) and Bill English (induction being planned for 2001 at Balloon Inn in Colorado - Bonnie English has asked the TSA to hold publication of Bill's biography until the actual tournament dates for the ceremony are set.) More Details & Biography On Bill English Coming Soon!

READERS: If you wish to donate to the TSA National HOF organization, make payable to TSA and mail to TSA c/o Secretary, 12710 Red Deer Pass, Austin, TX 78729-6436 Thanks!

Texas Shuffleboard Hall of Fame... (Continued from Page 16)

this was achieved - even beat Bobby in the singles right after he won Reno singles [Johnny 1st and Bobby 2nd]. When Johnny ask Bobby why it never appeared in The Board Talk, he said "you shouldn't have beat me." As Johnny acknowledged, Bobby started then working to shoot left handed, as well as free hand, making him even a better player. Johnny said he asked David (the younger brother by the way not the older), if it was just him or did David think that when Bobby released a weight that he looked like he was in total pain and agony - David agreed.

Over the years, reportedly Steve Burkett has always asked Johnny who he thought he had more respect and admiration than anyone else in the game as a player. Johnny's answer was always Bobby because he always had to work so hard and was so focused to achieve his goal and that he has felt for years that Bobby was one of the greatest ladders for the final game points, be it a 2, 3, or 4.

With a great deal of pleasure and pride and honor, Johnny Wayne Crawford welcomed both Johnny Ballard and Bobby Williams into the Texas State Table Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Bill Melton, Harvey Kidd, and others also gave testimonials and congratulated both Johnny Ballard and Bobby Williams for their well deserved award. Afterwards, many players came up to personally congratulate both of them.

Bobby Williams - Biography/Achievements

BIOGRAPHY: *(taken from the flyer provided to all players during the Houston Holiday Open)*

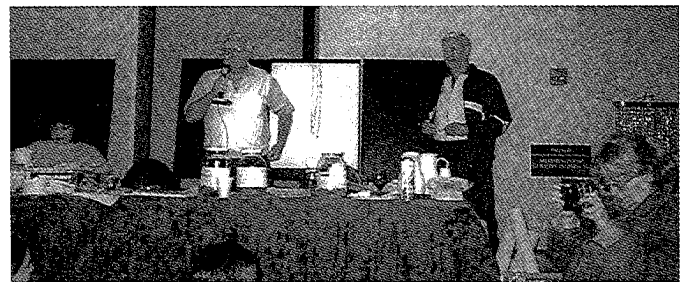
Bobby Williams began playing shuffleboard on a bumper back in 1962 at Johnny Opals and soon graduated to a long table at Harrell's Lounge in Fort Worth, TX. In 1966, he introduced the game to his brother David and taught him the game. Since then, shuffleboard has been a big part of their family's life; eventually teaching the game to his brother and sister, Gary and Linda.

In 1980, the Williams' Brothers met the legendary Bill Melton at Charlie Browns Club in Fort Worth and Bill introduced them to tournament play. Bobby played most tournaments in the amateur division, winning quite a few. In the early 90's, Bobby got serious about his game. After winning the North American Championship Pro

Doubles with David in 1996, he graduated to the Pro Level.

Bobby is a fierce competitor. Whether he is playing for \$5.00 or the finals of a major tournament, he hates to lose a game yet always remains a gentleman. Bill Melton and Diana Hagen have played with Bobby many times and both say, he's their toughest opponent. He hosts many local and state tournaments in the Fort Worth area, as well as organizes league and weekly draws. He is President of the Texas Table Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Achievements include: Mid Cities Shuffleboard League 1989-98; Corporate Image Doubles 1985; Washington's Birthday Singles 1991; Jimmy L's Open Draw 1991; NAC Championship Team Event 1991; NAC Consolidation Draw 1991; SW Open Semi-Pro Singles 1993; NAC Div. I Doubles 1993; Texas Open Draw 1993; NAC Div. I Singles 1994; Gold Nugget Open Draw 1994; Gold Nugget Open Sweetheart Draw 1994; NAC Legends Draw 1995; Thanksgiving Classic Draw 1995; NAC Pro Doubles 1996; SW Open Draft Team 1997; Thanksgiving Classic Double 1997; Thanksgiving Class 4-person team 1997; Presidents Day Open Pro Singles 1998; and Texas Open Draft Team 1998.



Above: Bill Melton (left) gives testimonial & Lynda French (far right) takes pictures of group during TSHOF induction ceremony.



Above: Harvey Kidd gives testimonial for TSHOF as Bobby Williams and his family enjoy the ceremony ... (family & friends sitting at table above)

SHUFFLERS' HUMOR and FUN

Humor Series #3 - Please send in your shuffler humor, jokes, or funny pictures (Continued from Page 3)



Okay, let's try to identify these styles with our shufflers of today ... we can have some fun putting real player names to these styles!

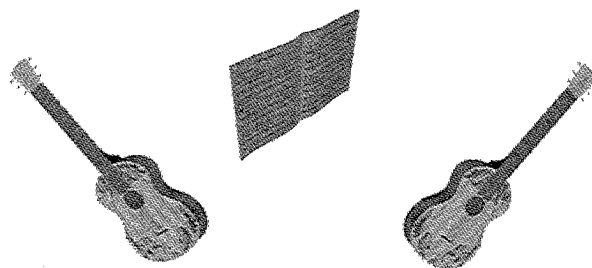
The Scientist? Could this be one of our scientific PROs that we all love, admire, and envy ... hmmm D.N. perhaps? NAY! No Way!

The Aggressor? Don't know him/her ... or do we? Never wins? NAY! No Way!

The Bystander? Do we know any of our shufflers satisfied as being a mere Bystander? NAY! No Way!

The Expert? Could this be J.W.C. or newcomer S.A.?

Shuffleboard Tunes! Be A Star!



Starlight Productions in Nashville, TN has requested The Board Talk to help get shuffleboard players to send them their poems and suggested lyrics for shuffleboard songs. They sent us a sample demo CD and cassette that includes 4 songs, thus far. They need many more to produce a full album.

Their purpose and goal for creation of this new album is to put the album on thousands of juke boxes across the Nation and to promote the game of table shuffleboard. They are seeking shuffleboard songs from talented people who play the game. All songs must be "original" and related to table shuffleboard. Starlight Productions has already contacted several interested artists to assist them with this project.

If you would like to submit poems or song lyric suggestions, you can send them to Woodie Cockrum II, Starlite Productions, 9 Music Square South #145, Nashville, TN 37203. Accepted writers will receive 100% of writer's royalties if any are received.

Woodie Cockrum II is a son of shuffling Woodie Cockrum I of MO and is owner of Starlite Productions in Nashville, TN! He is a great song writer, producer, recently put out his own CD, and has performed on the Grand Ole Opry ... So let's give him some help ... send him your poems and lyrics! Great opportunity! Any accepted songs will be recorded in Nashville, TN! Come on! Be A Star!

-- T&L, The Board Talk Editors

Above cartoon found by The Board Talk Editors in "Shuffleboard World", October, 1951, Vol. 3, No. 1, Pg. 2.

SHUFFLERS' HUMOR and FUN

Humor Series #3 - Please send in your shuffler humor, jokes, or funny pictures

The Darrol Nelson Show!



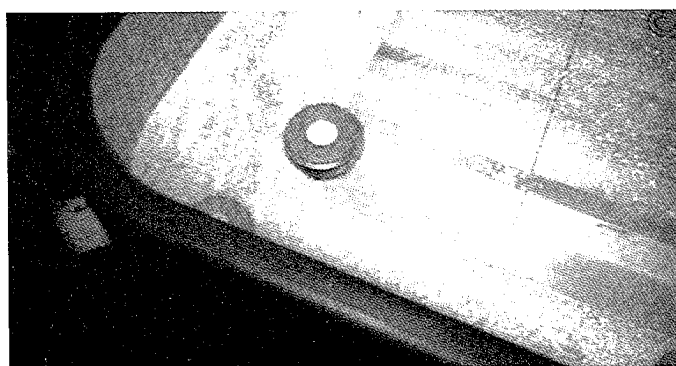
He shoots, he lags a four.
Grins and then, lags some more.

He's Beaten all the rest.
Tournaments are like a Darrol-fest.

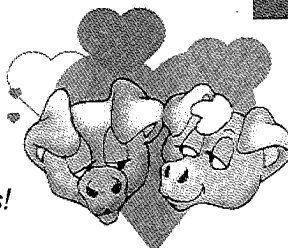
He's a... man who just knows the game.
Other players try to be the same.

He's a man of means by no means,
King of the Boards!

-- Poem Written by: Eddie Brayman



(Now the above is what we would call a REAL HANGER! Picture taken by Tom French during Darrol and Bobby V's "Singles" Championship match at the Houston Holiday Open (obviously, they had to make it safe) ... Great playing boys!
-- Tom & Lynda French, Editors)



The Billy Mays Show!

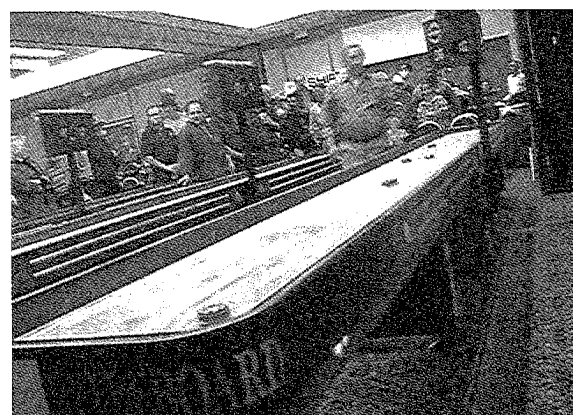


Come and listen to my story 'bout a man named Bill,
a southern shuffleboarder, on the table he's a thrill.

He baffles you with trick shots,
he's a father of the game.

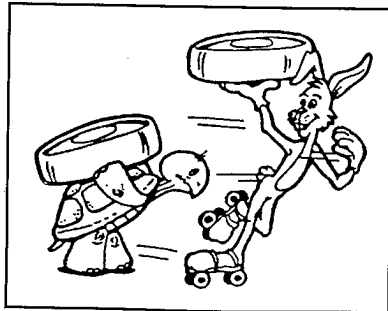
So how come this guy isn't in the Hall of Fame?

-- Poem Written by: Eddie Brayman



(Billy Mays (above & right) conducting one of his notorious 'Exhibition Shows' during the Houston Holiday Open 2000)





Shufflers' Notebook (Continued from Page 11)

News and Views from The World of Shuffleboard

Request for League Play Section in The Board Talk?

Dear Tom & Lynda, The Board Talk Editors:

I would like to see at least one page in each issue dedicated to League Player write-ups. For instance, in my area (Maryland), I would like to start with an interview in our Leagues... like one person a month! I would submit an interview and a picture (short background history). This would give some information to our younger generation league players who have already done alot of shuffling. Do you have space to consider a League Play section?

Thank you, Brenda Wallace, Port Deposit, MD
Brenda: it is strange that you should make such inquiry, as this became a discussion topic while we were attending the Houston Holiday Open in December. For instance, in Houston, TX there are 500 - 1,000 League players and/or Unrated Players (as they may not have attended any major tournaments). The Houston League Officers are in agreement that we need to get League Players more involved. I had discussions with Dan Hitt, Cliff and Sally Goff, Glen Davidson and others in attendance at the Houston tourney who are in agreement that we need to get more league play focus and involvement. So, let's try it [See Page 34 for our 1st Series] and the key to it's success is how many League Players will benefit, subscribe, and report. The new "League Players' Corner" will be limited to one page until such time the league player subscriber base increases. Don Meehan of Houston has volunteered to provide some details on how to set up a league and rules, etc. This could be very helpful to those areas who would like to start leagues, but don't know how. There are many League Players in Arizona also (maybe Bob Lewis could provide us some league input). We would like to have a The Board Talk Reporter in all areas where there is active League Play to make reports on special players, major league playoff results, etc. So, we have put you down as a Maryland Reporter and Don Meehan as a Houston, TX area Reporter. Any additional League Player Reporter volunteers? If so, please let us know.-- T&L, Editors

HHO Reminds Us... (Con't. From Page 11)

suffice it to say that I am sure that I speak for more than just myself when I say, "Thank You one and all" for a great week filled with fierce competition, deserving champions and one heck of a New Years Eve party! I don't know how y'all did it, but I can tell you this, we can't wait until year end for the HHO 2001!

-- By Bob Lee, Houston, TX

Glen Davidson's Suggestion on Ratings!

I don't know all of the raters of the Bowers Rating System personally, but would like to ask all raters to consider some of us more aged players and realize that some, such as myself [70 years young], may not be able to hold up anymore in the Pro Division events where we have to play 2 out of 3/double elimination. I can no longer last through 3-5 days of the Pro events and still play at my expected "-1" skill level. I ask that raters carefully evaluate some of us more aged players that may not play in Pro events with the same stamina that we once did and consider lowering those such as myself (when appropriate) to a '0'.

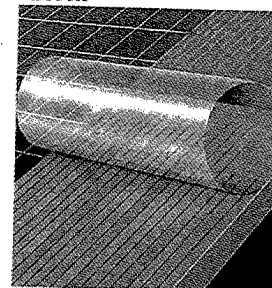
-- Glen Davidson, OK

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League Players' Corner



(League Players' Corner - Series #1: New Section First Added In The February 2001 Issue)

Great Time at My First Major Tournament!

Submitted By: James Cummings, Houston, TX -- Funhangers League Player -- Triple Crown Sports Bar

First, I want to thank Johnny B, Jack Scott, and all of the volunteers and sponsors for putting on the 5th Annual Houston Holiday Open 2000 tournament between Christmas and New Years. Great Facilities, Great Tournaments, and Great Fun!

I started playing in the Funhangers League out of the Triple Crown Sports Bar in January 2000. My wife, Darlene, and I look forward to each Wednesday night of league play. We both enjoy the competition, camaraderie, and great shuffleboard players in this league. I got to know Diana Hagen, who plays out of Danny Sport's Bar through League Play. She had urged me to go to the Holiday Open. My concern was that the tournament was going to be flooded with -1, 0 and 1's and I would just be donating my money with only a 3 rating. But, at Diana's urging I decided to try it out. Anyway, Santa Claus brought me a new set of Federation weights and I needed to try them out. (Thanks to Shuffleboard Federation for getting my weights to Santa Claus on such short notice.)

On Tuesday, the first day of the tournament, I thought I would just go take a look around. I was only planning on playing in the 2-man and 4-man team events on Thursday and Friday. When I entered the Ballroom, I was amazed! I had never seen 21 boards all lined up in a row in a beautiful carpeted ballroom, complete with chandeliers and plenty of player and spectator seating... I was so impressed and intimidated at the same time. I ran into some friends and they started pointing out the great shuffleboard players there were there: Hitt, Nelson, Williams' brothers, Hagen, Melton, Mays, Voorhis, Long, Crawford, Taylor, Ingram, Ballard, Hart, Keithahan, etc. At this time, I was planning on being a spectator and just enjoy watching the Pros and possibly learning something. Before I knew it I was in the Amateur Draw and partnered with Anna Wade from Houston's Southwest League. This was her first tournament and she was even more intimidated than I was. Anna played great and carried us to 3rd Place in the event. Wow, first real tournament event, 3rd Place money and sponsor sale! Diana Hagen and Dan Hitt both asked me if I was going to play the 6-man Pro/Am Draft. I didn't know what it was, but how could I say no ... I was hooked.

The Pro/Am Draft turned out to be my favorite event. Diana drafted me along with David Williams Jr., Jorge Galvan, Dave Ramold, and Gary Fomby. We played until 2:30 AM and had to return at 8:30 AM to finish. We took 3rd Place again. I like this event because we got to play alongside and against some of the best Pros around. Playing against 6-man teams also provides an opportunity to meet a large number of players from all over the country. Great Event!

After finishing the Pro/Am, it was time for the 4-man team (add to 10) event. I joined up with Richard Gray, Steve Edwards and Jorge Galvan. All but Jorge play on the Triple Crown Coyotes in Division I Funhangers League. Jorge and I were running on 3 hours sleep, but the others were fresh. After working our way through the loser's bracket, we took 2nd Place! It was almost as much fun as playing. It was time to get some sleep because next came the Amateur Singles. I was really ready for the Amateur Singles event. I bought 1/2 of my sponsor sale and 1/2 of Steve Edwards. After winning a couple of games I drew board 13 to play Mo from Fannin Ice House in Houston. To say the least, this board had some character and Mo got to 15 before I had come close to figuring it out. If 13 had character, board 7 had multiple personalities. Dan Debrecht figured it out first, came from behind and put me out for good. I learned a good lesson from these two matches. If you are going to play in tournaments, the speed and character of every board is going to be different and to win you have to be able to adjust to them all. All of us amateurs need to play different boards and develop speed shots that can overcome the board variations. I was down but not out, as Steve Edwards was still playing great and my sponsor sale cut was alive, so I joined the cheering section. Steve got into the losers bracket early which is not good with 40 players. He steadily worked himself back to the winners bracket and had to double dip Mo to take 1st Place! Wow, I had just won 1/2 of his sponsor sale money ... time to give Steve a hug!

So, if you haven't been to a Holiday Open start planning for it now. Get ready to meet alot of great players. Thanks to All! "Hello" to all I met. SEE YA' at the "6th Annual Houston Holiday Open 2001"!

Houston Holiday Open ...

(Continued from Page 27)

SILVER SPONSORS (Con't. From Page 27)

Harvey Kidd provided a Ryder rental truck at discount rates through his rental company.

REPLAY Amusements provided jukebox, cigarette, change and video fame machines.

CUMMINS-ALLISON provided a currency counting machine, thanks to PERLA SCOTT.

American Shuffleboard donated a set of weights for the raffle (Sherry Kelso of Washington was the winner!)

THE BOARD TALK donated 3 The Board Talk jersey golf shirts [won by Mike Taylor, Mahlon Nobles, Gary Fomby (who gave his win to his doubles partner, Linda Nobles!)]]; 3 The Board Talk annual subscriptions [won by David Williams, Gilbert Baird, and Hal Perry - all of which were already subscribers so their renewal date was moved out one year!]; and 3 Demo CD's which had 4 demo Country Western Music Shuffleboard Songs [See Page 31 for "Shuffleboard Tune Writing" opportunities] which were won by Clay Moore, Harvey Walden, and Gary Nelson!]

Lorraine Bingham-Olson of California brought 15 Christmas gifts to be raffled.

Billy Mays of Dallas performed one of his famous "Exhibition Shows" of trick shuffleboard shots and raised over \$200 for the Texas Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Note: The shuffleboard weights and other raffle donations raised over \$1,000 and proceeds were divided equally between the TSA (National HOF) and Texas Hall of Fame and Bowers Rating System. Thanks to all who helped with and donated weights and other items for the raffle!

HHO SHIRT SPONSORS (21)

The following folks purchased Houston Holiday Open shirts which also helps subsidize HHO expenses: **Jeri Billard, Ron Bowers, Mike Boulanger, Gene Criminger, Tom French, Lynda French, Danny Green, Diana Hagen, Danny Norris, Mahlon Nobles, Linda Nobles, Randy Rogers, Phil Ryder, Debbie Sexton, Mike Taylor, Bobby Williams, David Williams, Eugene Peach, Carol Peach, Trevor Wade & Ed White.**



HHO VOLUNTEERS (some pictured below)



Above: (left-right) Denise Klein, Sylvia Martinez, Johnny B, Harvey Kidd, Jack Scott, Bill Rice (standing back right)

These generous folks donated their time, effort and enthusiasm to the cause:

Denise Klein - computer and money collections

Bill Rice - bracket boards

Sylvia Martinez - clerical and board breakdown

Pete Worsnop - posters and printing

Tom/Lynda French - photography

Tom Milan - board tuning (entire tourney)

Billy Melton - board setup and adjustment

Jorge Galvan - board setup and unloading

Bruce Childs - board setup and unloading

Wayne Hammond - board cleaning/conditioning

Stan Stinson - board cleaning/conditioning

Harvey Kidd, Jack Davis, and Steve Hart - Auctioneers

Hotel Banquet Staff - for doing a fantastic job in such a friendly and helpful manner.

We offer our warmest thanks to all these generous people and our apologies to anyone who may have been inadvertently omitted!

Make Mine A Double!

The Houston Holiday Open has become famous (infamous?) for it's tourney - ending New Year's Eve Party. Lot's of folks linger to party and take one more shot at those Boards! This year was no exception. This reporter was unable to attend, but I have it on good authority that there was plenty of GREAT FOOD, DRINK, FUN AND GAMES to last a MILLENNIUM! Well, at least until HHO 2001! HAVE A SAFE AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

-- Submitted by Don Meehan, Houston, TX



Above: Madge Goff/Glen Davidson (left) and Diana Hagen/Leon Black (right) enjoying the New Years Eve Party at HHO 2000 tourney! Go Leon! Lets hair down?

6th Annual Thanksgiving Tourney!

November 23-25, 2000
The Eagles Lodge 3911
Houston, Missouri

Results & Pictures Submitted by: Charlie Riley

The Eagles Lodge 3911 hosted the 6th Annual Thanksgiving Holiday tourney which consisted of 3 Events. It kicked off on Thursday with an A-B-C Draw; Friday was a Bring Partner; and Saturday was Singles. We had winners from 4 different states. We were very happy to have first time visitors, Jay Watson and Marty Shepard of Omaha, NE. Come back again guys!

A-B-C DRAW (Thurs. Nov. 23rd) Results:



Above: **1st Place:**
Rick Pittman, Steve Lindsey, and Jerry Lawler



Above: **2nd Place:** Harvey Walden (left) and Kitty Walden (center) both from Memphis, TN and Mick Moran of Mountain Home, AR (right)



Above: **3rd Place:** Heath Melby, John Stenger, Carolyn Johnston all from MO.

BRING PARTNER (Fri., Nov. 24rd) Results:



Above: **1st Place:** Manny Lane (left), Pocahontis, AR and Harvey Walden (right), Memphis, TN!

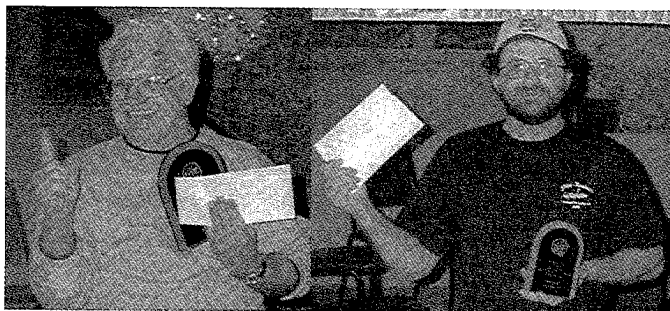


Above: **2nd Place:** Charlie Riley and Rick Pittman, MO



Left: **3rd Place:**
Mick Moran, AR
and Jack
Murphy, St.
Louis, MO

SINGLES (Sat., Nov. 25th) Results:



Above: **1st Place:** Super Sam Eveland (left, a 3 rated going to a 2?), St. Louis, MO [yes that is lipstick kisses!] and **2nd Place:** Marty Shepard (right) from Omaha, NE!



Left: **3rd Place:**
Jerry Lawler,
Houston, MO

2nd Annual Houston Warm Up Tourney Results!

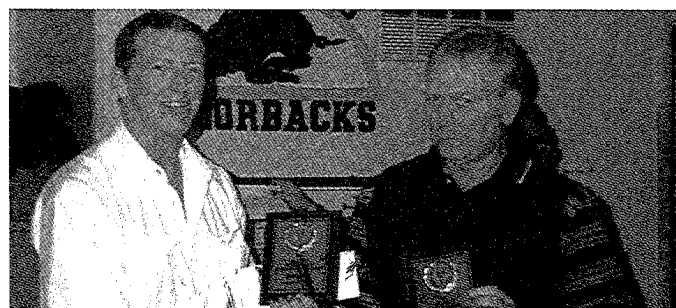
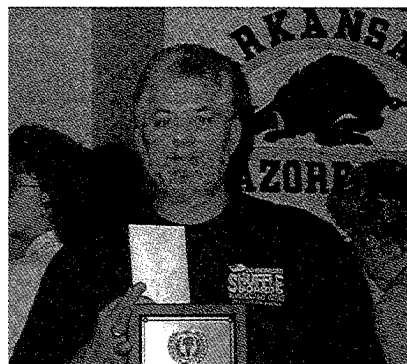
December 1-3, 2000
VFW Post 9095
Little Rock, Arkansas

Results & Pictures Submitted by: Tony Pelton

The VFW Post 9095 hosted the 2nd Annual Houston Warm Up tourney December 1-3rd, 2000. There was great local turnout in addition to out of town players (thanks to Rick Jones, OK; Pat Gainey, TX; Manny Lane (Pocahontis, AR) in addition to below mentioned out of town players who traveled many miles to support us!). With the addition of two boards [a VERY special THANKS to Don Crall who was gracious enough to bring down two additional boards for us this year] it made for much quicker play than last year!

DRAW PARTNER (Fri. Dec. 1st) Results:

Right: **1st Place:**
Tony Pelton & Don
Kinard, OK (not
pictured)



Above: **2nd Place:** Hoot Hodge & Russell Canerday

Right: **3rd Place:**
Jimmy Wallace &
Carol Ussery



BRING PARTNER (Sat. Dec. 2nd) Results:



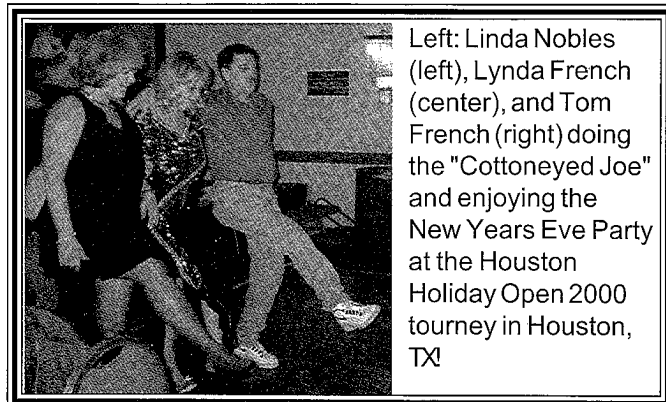
Above: **1st Place:** Bill Melton, OK & Tony Pelton, AR



Above: **2nd Place:** Gene 'Snuffy' Smith & E.T. Jensen
(both OK)



Above: **3rd Place:** C.B. Faulkner & Jimmy Wallace



Left: Linda Nobles
(left), Lynda French
(center), and Tom
French (right) doing
the "Cottoneyed Joe"
and enjoying the
New Years Eve Party
at the Houston
Holiday Open 2000
tourney in Houston,
TX!

MICHIGAN PLAYER LEARNS...

(Continued from Page 20)

As I said, I had not seen Billy Mays in three years before I drove down to the Houston Holiday Open tourney (since I had verified that my dad actually did know him). While at the tourney, I also kept hearing the name Jim Long and wondered if this was the same Jim Long I had known of through my dad 30 years ago. The Jim Long that I remembered was from Indiana and I confirmed with a fellow shuffleboard player that the Jim Long attending the tournament was, in fact, from Indiana. I then approached Jim Long and asked him if he knew my dad, Harold "Bud" Visel. Jim replied, "Yeah, I used to run with him and played shuffleboard with him alot." About that time, Billy Mays entered the conversation and said he remembered my dad well. He told me he remembered telling my dad when he had returned from a shuffleboard tour in Washington that they had just started "auctioning shuffleboard players like cattle." Billy said my dad's eyes lit up with great interest and said "Oh, really?". Billy said that my dad then started auctioning shuffleboard players in Michigan and Indiana.

I always knew my dad was an auctioneer, but after all these years, I drive to Texas to learn about my dad starting the calcutta's in Michigan and Indiana back in the mid-60's back and that it was Billy Mays who gave him the idea! My dad Harold "Bud" Visel, born on May 29, 1922 passed away on October 2, 1999. If only my dad were still alive today so that I could talk to him more about his experiences in those early calcutta auctions!

Life is so funny. I had to come all the way from Michigan to Austin (where I first say Billy Mays at Taz Country) and then Michigan to Houston (to the Houston Holiday Open) to find out that my own dad was instrumental in making popular the shuffleboard calcutta sponsor sales that I enjoy so much today! Many thanks to Jim Long and Billy Mays for sharing with me all the stories about my dad and his shuffleboard play in our chats during the HHO 2000 tournament. It means alot to me to learn this history!

— Cliff Visel, Belleville, MI

Tourney Results - Ohio & Indiana!

Submitted by: Mary Brown, Ft. Wayne, IN

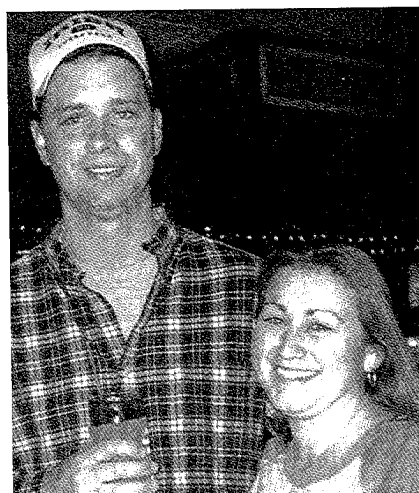
MIXED DOUBLES - Bourbon, IN

(American Legion Post 424, Dec. 16, 2000):



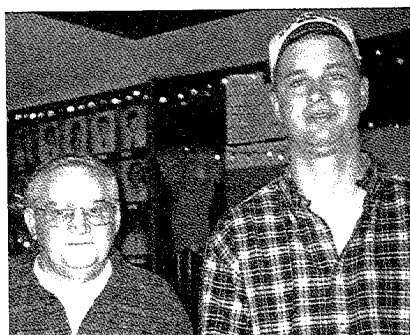
Above: Event 4 4-Person Team (Pro) **1st Place:** (left to right) Brenda Moore; Ronnie McMann; Bobby Williams, and Mike Boulanger (all Texan team)

Above: Event 4 4-Person Team (Pro) **1st Place:** (left to right) Brenda Moore; Ronnie McMann; Bobby Williams, and Mike Boulanger (all Texan team)



Above: Event 4 4-Person Team (Pro) **1st Place:** (left to right) Brenda Moore; Ronnie McMann; Bobby Williams, and Mike Boulanger (all Texan team)

DOUBLES - Evansport, OH - Dec. 2, 2000):



Above: Event 4 4-Person Team (Pro) **1st Place:** (left to right) Brenda Moore; Ronnie McMann; Bobby Williams, and Mike Boulanger (all Texan team)

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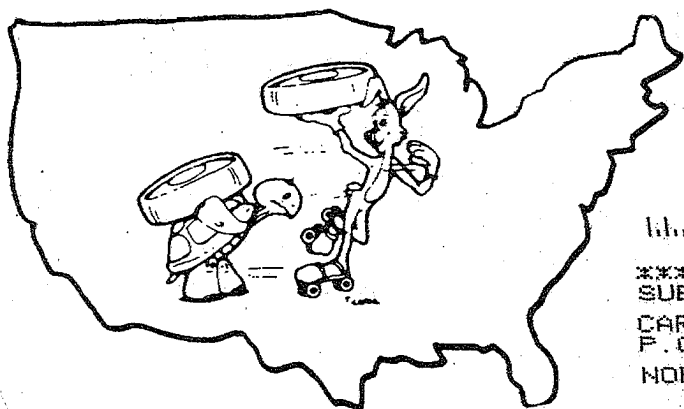
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