

The Board Talk

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JANUARY 2004

Michigan State Tournament Returns to Durand, Michigan...

November 28-30, 2003

Kane's Club Car Lounge, Durand, Michigan

Report By: Coco Brown; Photos By: Brenda Kane

Durand, Michigan: Another successful turnout occurred at Kane's Club Car during this year's *Michigan State Tournament*. A total of 53 shuffleboard patrons participated in this three day tournament, including the following events: Mixed Doubles on Friday, Women's Singles, Division II Singles, and Open Singles on Saturday, and Open Doubles on Sunday. Just under \$9,000 was up for grabs.

On Friday, 15 teams participated in the Mixed Doubles event. First place victory went to Steve Auten and Carrie Siple (sponsored by Jerry Siebert). Second place winners were Jerry Siebert and Brenda Kane (sponsored by Steve Auten), and third place recipients were Bill Kane and Jackie Meagher (sponsored by Bob Querback).

On Saturday, a combined total of 27 players battled in the three singles events. First place in the Open Singles went to Steve Auten (sponsored by Bill Kane). Second place winner was Frank Blade (sponsored by Doug Queen), and third place to JR Lopez (sponsored by Mark Holland). In the Division II Singles, first place went to Tom Schultz (sponsored by Jerry Herschman). Second place victor was

Bobby Auten (sponsored by Wayne Atkinson), and third place winner was Roland Harkless (sponsored by himself). In the Women's Singles, first place went to Linda Mitchell (sponsored by Jerry Herschman). Second place victor was Sandy Blade (sponsored by Frank Blade), and third place went to Brenda Kane (sponsored by Martha Hall).

Sunday heat continued, as 12 teams competed in the Open Doubles. Finishing in first place were Steve Auten and Alonzo Cottrell (sponsored by Neil Fetter). In a close second place were John Tischler and Jerry Herschman (sponsored by Steve Auten), followed by Rich Lily and Mark Holland (sponsored by Doug Queen) in third.

GREAT NEWS..... In efforts to make next year's tournament bigger and better, there will be many 50-50 raffles throughout the next year with ALL proceeds to be added to next year's purses!

Several 50-50 drawings were held with proceeds going to The Michigan Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Owners Bill and Brenda Kane also donated many door prizes for "additional chances" to win.

On Sunday, thanks to the generous donation from John McDermott, a brand new set of Federation weights were raffled off. Congratulations to winner John Tischler!

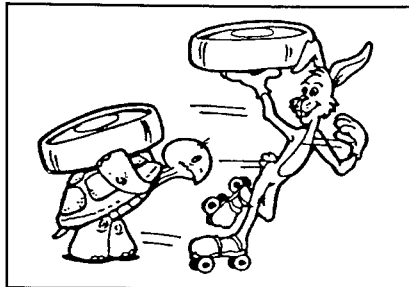
Tournament Directors CoCo and Cindy Brown would like to give special thanks to Bill and Brenda Kane (owners of Kane's Club Car Lounge) and the rest of the staff for their generous hospitality, including a great food spread prepared by the entire staff (and Melinda Flynn of course for her wonderful Mexican dip!).

Special thanks are also extended to Bracketeer Rob Kern, Carolyn Perry, Theresa Stephens, and auctioneers Steve Auten and Bill Kane.

If you are interested in the complete break down of events and sponsor sales in Excel format, please feel free to email your request to CoCo699@aol.com.

(Michigan State... Continued on Page 8)

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Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views from The World of Shuffleboard

Bowers Ratings, Board Talk & TSA

(By: Ken "Doc" Strong)

The Bower's Ratings, Board Talk and Table Shuffleboard Association

I mention these three non-profit activities in the same breath because the people involved in these activities give a lot of their free time and effort toward the betterment of shuffleboard. These are people who, at times, have also been willing to spend some of their own money just to keep things afloat and running smoothly. Firstly, I will address the Bower's Rating System.

Bowers' Rating System: I am and have been a rater since the inception of the Bower's rating system; I have witnessed its maturity over the years. Lately I have heard comments that some of the ratings are not right, hurt some players and favor other players. This may be true in rare instances, and in my opinion, certainly less than one percent of the current rated players are affected; we are talking about 3500 or so players in the rating database. Additionally, several players do not even know who their raters are. Also remember, ratings come out once a year and some players will develop their skills over a 12-month period and become better players than their year-old ratings indicate. Time and money probably preclude an interim update to the yearly ratings. I know too that occasionally a few players are 'sandbagged' by some raters for reasons that I am not going into at this time.

Bower's Rating System is a compilation of the raters' input. Be advised the Bower's ratings are not exact and are only GUIDELINES and should be used as GUIDELINES. Note too, that the player ratings are only as good as the raters who rate them on a yearly basis. Yes, occasionally

we raters may misjudge a player's capability but not very often if we are truly judging a player on what we see. In my opinion, what we have today is the best available; I truly believe that the Bower's rating system is a significant contributing factor for the growing popularity of shuffleboard. One can imagine the confusion that would exist at the major tournaments if every state or region brought their own rating system. Ask any tournament director and they will tell you the current rating system is priceless when putting together their tournament formats. Dick Gorman was recently awarded the Sol Lipkin award at the recent Reno NASC tournament and spent a few minutes during his speech praising the current rating system in helping the players that he is involved with on the East Coast.

I have known Ron and Debbie before they formulated the rating system. And believe me they did a lot of research into developing a meaningful system. They of course remain open for improvement suggestions. The list of players and the number of raters has steadily grown over the years and so have Ron and Debbie's work and expense in compiling the numbers and publishing the results every year. It has become a mid-October thru mid February task compilation task. Remember too, that updating the necessary computer software can be expensive. Past contributions from the shuffleboard community have been very helpful; contributions are essential for the continued success of the Bower's Rating System. As with most of us, Ron and Debbie cannot make every tournament to be available to answer questions, etc.

To this end I would like to suggest the following in support of Ron and Debbie Bowers' letter to the Board Talk [Oct./Nov. 2003 issue, page 2]: (a) Major tournaments (or any tournament) contribute a minimum of \$1.00/player from their registration fees or at least provide a tracking donation, (b) Bower's rating system prepare a years-end "monies in", "monies out" statement to be published in the Board Talk and/or circulate to the raters and tournament directors for posting, and (c) Bower's rating system prepare the list of current raters and where they are from for publication in the Board Talk and/or for posting.

Continued (See Page 3): The Board Talk and the Table Shuffleboard Association (TSA)

(Shufflers' Notebook... Continued on Page 3)

-- URGENT ATTENTION --

Your subscription EXPIRATION DATE is on the back cover (top of your address line.)

Please use the FORM inside back cover to renew TIMELY to avoid missing any issues and to report CHANGE OF ADDRESS!

(See Page 14 & Back Cover for more details)

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 & advertising policies.

(Shufflers' Notebook... Continued From Page 2)

The Bower's Ratings, Board Talk and Table Shuffleboard Association (By: Ken Strong) (Continued from Page 2)

First (on page 2) I talked about the Bower's Ratings; below I will address the Board Talk and Table Shuffleboard Association. *The fact that all three of these activities are primarily based in Texas is coincidental.*

Board Talk: Recent negative comments regarding the Board Talk overheard at the 2003 NASC in Reno have prompted me to say a few things on behalf of the Board Talk. These comments included "where are the Board Talk people, I never see them at tournaments", "I might as well drop my subscription, many of the tournament news are old." I believe Tom and Lynda are like many of us: we simply cannot make every tournament because of time, money, family obligations or our other life. Most of the articles/pictures in the Board Talk are reported by the various tournament directors or their representatives. Most probably if the tournament news is published late it is because the news has been sent in late and did not make the Board Talk deadline (14th of each month deadline for the following month's issue). This is true now and was true with the original Board Talk founders/publishers, George and Donna Wilber.

Tom and Lynda French took on a monumental task as editors of the Board Talk; I suspect they knew it would be a time-demanding task to meet monthly publishing deadlines when they took on the activity. But I'm not sure they knew it was going to be a thankless job. I am not privy to the affiliation/financial details of the Board Talk and Champion Shuffleboard but I believe the Board Talk relies primarily on subscriptions and advertising to defray expenses. What I can't understand, according to the Board Talk, is why so many subscribers and advertisers have had to be dropped because they failed to renew. I personally look forward to reading every issue of The Board Talk. I know postage rates have increased substantially during the past few years leading to increased subscription rates. I also know that costly updates to computer software and hardware are necessary at times to enhance publishing. *Damn, a shuffleboard establishment must really be in financial straits if it wants to promote shuffleboard and cannot afford \$110 per year advertising (which is I believe one of the lower-priced rates) in the Board Talk. Sounds like pretty inexpensive advertising to me.*

Bottom line: The shuffleboard community needs a stable publication; it needs the Board Talk. Come on people, thank Tom and Lynda, renew those subscriptions; \$40 per year, hell that's only \$3.33 per month! That is less than a pack of cigarettes or a brew for crying out loud!

Table Shuffleboard Association (TSA): Don Valk, the current TSA President, along with the TSA Officers and Directors have done a fantastic job of establishing the TSA, providing direction and a plan in support of what I understand is the TSA's primary function, viz., the Table Shuffleboard

Hall of Fame activity. It is my understanding too, that a building or space in a building in Fort Worth has been provided for table shuffleboard Hall of Fame memorabilia and that presently cabinets are being made to install in the building. Various parts of the country are represented by the Officers and Directors. I do not know how many times the officers and directors meet but I do know that they target major tournaments to hold business meetings. I believe these meetings are also open to the shuffleboard community in an "Open Session".

This appears to be a low budget activity; membership to the TSA is only \$25.00 per year. The TSA also relies on the sale of TSA shirts and donations from the shuffleboard community. What amazes me is that so few shuffleboard players are members. At least it appeared so the last time I saw the membership list which hasn't been very long ago. Where are you people? If my memory serves me correctly, I believe the TSA has in the past published a financial statement in the Board Talk. This I believe should continue on a yearly basis. As with the Bower's Ratings, I would also suggest that the shuffleboard tournaments continue to find methods to contribute monies to this organization.

--By: Ken Strong (New Braunfels, TX)

email: ken_str@msn.com or 281-380 6258 (cell)

"Thanks" from Bill & Myra Meyer

Thanks, for the kind words and hugs our shuffleboard family gave Myra and myself in Reno during the NASC 2003 tournament for the passing away of Myra's father. The card and flowers were beautiful.

--From Bill (and Myra) Meyer, Sterling Height, Michigan

(Shufflers' Notebook... Continued on Page 7)

CLASSIFIED ADS:



**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
BAR AND RESTAURANT
LOTS OF SHUFFLEBOARD**

<http://www.whistlingoysterbar.com>

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Nebraska

**DEVENEY MEMORIAL
MUSETTE BAR
OMAHA, NE
JANUARY 16-18, 2004**

The Musette Bar will host the Bill and Jolene Deveney Memorial Tournament January 16th - 18th.

For those of you who do not know the reason behind this tournament, both Bill and Jolene were members of the Musette Bar mixed shuffleboard league team. On their way home from a night of league play in 1998, they were involved in an accident where they were both killed. They left behind their four sons, Shaun, Doug, TJ and Timmy. Some of you are familiar with their eldest son Shaun, who is married to Linda Ritter's daughter Amy. Shaun and Amy are now proud parents of a son, Aiden. Bill and Jolene's second son Doug is showing great potential for shuffleboard and currently plays league with Shaun for the Musette Bar. The two younger boys are still minors yet to be introduced to the game.

Bill and Jolene have left behind many friends and family members that still find it hard to play and not remember the good times with them. For those of you that did not know them, they were wonderful, good-hearted people that would do anything for you.

We will have three events using a minimum of our 4 house boards. New this year is the elimination of handicapping games by adding separate divisions for the bring partner and singles. If the singles event has a low turnout, we may need to combine divisions I and II. That decision will be made Saturday by the number of entries.

A/B Draw: \$25 entry Friday @ 6pm

Bring Partner (2 Divisions) Saturday @ 1pm:

Open \$100/team
Division II \$50/team (2003 Bowers used-must add to 4.0 using decimals)

Singles (3 Divisions) (starts immediately following doubles)

Open singles \$100
Division I \$50 (1.50+)
Division II \$25 (3.0+ averages)

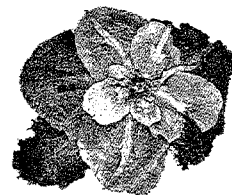
Sign ups will be taken up until brackets are drawn for each event. Call for more information or to sign up:

Shelly Hagen 402/699-0550
Shane Hagen 402/618-6301
Shaun Deveney 402/981-6919

We hope to see you here!!

Washington

**24th ANNUAL MASTERS
FIR CONE TAVERN
SHELTON, WA
FEBRUARY 28-29, 2004**



The Fir Cone Tavern Shelton is hosting the 24th Annual Masters "Open Doubles" on Feb. 28-29. Weekend action starts of on Friday night at 7:00 PM with an A-B Draw. The entry fee is \$10; this is a single elimination, 15-point game event. The Masters will start at 12:00 PM Saturday the entry fee is \$60 per team. Play will start immediately after the sale. The Masters is double elimination, 2 out of 3 15-point games in the winners bracket and one 17-point game in the losers bracket. The winner's bracket will be played out on Saturday, with loser bracket games starting at 10:00 AM Sunday. The Fir Cone has the three best boards in the Northwest. For more information call the Fir Cone (360) 426-2221. For hotel reservations call the Shelton Inn at 1-800-451-4560.

**NASC 2003
Tournament Result
Status**

John McDermott of The Shuffleboard Federation (and NASC Tournament Director) wishes to thank all who attended the 2003 NASC tournament and for making it another successful year of competition and fun. NASC 2003 Results are awaiting the winners' photos from the photographer and will hopefully be received in time for result reporting in the next (February 2004) issue. Thanks to all! —John McDermott

**"Thanks" from Tom & Lynda French, Editors/
Publishers extended to two new
Shuffleboard Directory Advertisers:**

**Rumpus Room
Bar & Grill**

10555 SE Division Street, Portland, Oregon
Phone: 503-254-9212 Owner: Cliff Carpenter
--2 Shuffleboards--

--Scheduled Shuffleboard Tournaments every
Wednesday (6:45pm) & Saturday (1:45pm)

**The Indiana Shuffleboard Hall of Fame
Recognizes the following deserving inductees:**
Emmitt Wilcox - Jim Long - Larry Creakbaum - Steve
Hart - Skip Jackson - Doc Slabaugh - Jim DeWitt - Bobby
Voorhis - Les White - Larry Paxton - Charlie Thompson

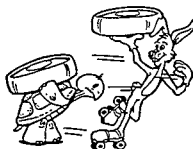
Texas

3RD ANNUAL BOARD TALK OPEN

VFW POST#5076

GARLAND, TX

MARCH 26-APRIL 4, 2004



The 3rd Annual Board Talk Open 2004 has just been confirmed to be held at the VFW Post # 5076, 1906 E. Miller Rd., Garland, Texas 75041 on March 26-April 4, 2004. An official flyer with preregistration form is inserted in this issue.

The events are basically the same as the Board Talk Open 2003, but different event sequences. For instance, in 2003 we started with the 4-person team events; the 2004 tournament ends with 4-person team events (which allows time for those that do not have a full team at the start of the tournament to get a full team together by the end of tournament - this change was based on suggestions from those attending the 2003 tournament). Another suggestion was not to start Singles immediately after the 6-Person Team event (two long events, back to back) and to make the 6-person team event 5/9 games. These suggested modifications have been made to incorporate prior year attendees suggestions. Event entry criteria is based upon the Bowers 2003 ratings (no decimals used), whole number rating (e.g., -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4) to be used. The reason that the 2003 versus 2004 ratings are to be used is because the Bowers project the new ratings are not to be available until some time in February (which would be too late to start getting teams together and preregister). Any unrated player(s) should contact the tournament directors to get a temporary rating for playing in the tournament. We welcome all players!

Below is a summary of the event schedule/plans (See flyer insert for more details and preregistration form):

3/26 (Fri.) ROBINS start at Noon (Registration Desk Open from 6pm-10pm; must be pre-reg. or registered for Saturday's 6-Person Draft by 10pm - *only those that play in Saturday's 6-Person Draft team event will qualify to compete for the added Bonus \$\$.*)

3/27 & 3/28 (Sat. & Sun.) 6-MAN DRAFT- start 9am Draft Teams (3/27), sponsor sale and play immediately after; Finals on Sunday 3/28 (open to all players; highest rated registered players will be team captains - limit 32 teams)

3/29 (Mon.) A/B DRAW (2 Divisions); start 9am - Singles Sponsor Sale starts at 6pm)

3/30 & 3/31 (Tues. & Wed.) SINGLES (3 Divisions) (Finals on 3/31 & Sponsor Sale for Bring Partner held 3/31)

4/01 & 4/02 (Thurs. & Fri.) BRING PARTNER (3 Divisions); start 9am

4/03 & 4/04 (Sat. & Sun.) 4-PERSON BRING TEAM (2 Divisions); start at 9am (finals on Sunday if needed)

The 6-Person Draft Team, A/B Draw Div. II, Bring Partner Div. III, Singles Div. III and Bring 4-Person Bring Team are great events for newcomers to tournament play, including those not yet rated in the Bowers Ratings.

Food and drinks will be available throughout the tournament. The Ladies Auxiliary will be serving breakfast, lunch, dinner (food throughout the day) with all proceeds going to the Ladies Auxiliary. The VFW is open from 8am-1am daily. Motels nearby. There are two airports: Dallas Love Field (DAL) which is the closest if you can get a connection to fly in on SW Airlines. Other airlines use Dallas Ft. Worth Airport (DFW). We are not certain if we can locate nearby RV parking, but will publish if/when known.

Mapquest searches for some hotels nearest to the VFW zip 75041: (sorted by distance from zip 75041) ** Indicates potential preference based on Group Rate & amenities offered.

1) Days Inn, 3645 Leon Rd., Garland, Tx 972-840-0020 all rooms have internet connections, 25" tv w/ 74 channels, microwave, refrigerator, Ironing boards and free cont. breakfast. One King Bed (up to 2 people) \$44.95/night; Two Queens (up to 4 people) \$54.95/night. Group Rates under Board Talk Open (any problems, ask to speak to Peter) **BOOK EARLY (at least 6 weeks prior to tourn.; there are only up to 45 rooms avail. at this group rate but hotel will try to help find another hotel when they fill up).

2) Garland Inn & Suites, 3625 Leon Rd., Garland, Tx 972-926-4949. Group Rate under Board Talk Open is \$45 single king bed/\$50 two queen beds (per night); no breakfast or other notable amenities.

4) Ramada Limited, 1821 NW Highway, Garland, Tx 972-278-5070 cable tv, cont. breakfast, microwave/refrigerator, \$50 single bed; \$55 two beds (make reservation at least 6 weeks prior as they only have 45 rooms total).

3) Delux Inn, 3635 Leon Rd., Garland, Tx 972-864-1803

5) Microtel Inn, 1901 Pendleton Dr., Garland, Tx 972-270-7200

6) Comfort Inn, 12670 NW Highway, Garland, Tx 972-613-5000

7) Red Roof Inn, 13700 Lyndon B. Johnson Fwy, Garland, Tx 972-686-0202

8) Budget Inn, 12425 E. Northwest Hwy, Dallas, Tx 214-327-3278

9) La Quinta Inn, 12721 Interstate 635, Garland, Tx 972-271-7581

Airport Shuttles to Garland Hotels (if you need a shuttle, call for price when flight/hotel are known): Super Shuttle 817-329-2000 or Discount Shuttle 214-352-9700

Hope to see many of you there! -- Tom & Lynda French,
Tourn. Directors

Florida

5TH ANNUAL "BLAST OFF" & 11TH ANNUAL "FLORIDA OPEN" VFW POST#4228

TITUSVILLE, FL

MARCH 12-14, 2004 ("Blast Off")

MARCH 19-21, 2004 ("Florida Open")

The CFSA (Central Florida Shuffleboard Association) will again present two weekends of back-to-back shuffleboard tournaments. The host this year will be the VFW Post 4228 at 4411 Capron Rd., Titusville, FL. We hope this will be a long-term tournament site, as this VFW has ample space. We will have 5 boards available for play and we will have our own private entrance to the Rec Room with a 4 board setup along with our own bartender. Free food will be served Friday, Saturday and Sunday both weekends.

The Bowers 2004 ratings will be used and format is the same for both weekend tournaments: **Friday (12th & 19th)** at 1pm is the Draw Partner; **Saturday (13th & 20th)** 9am is Mixed Doubles; and 4pm is Open Singles; **Sunday (14th & 21st)** at 11 am is Bring Partner

Please see the flyer insert in this January 2004 Issue for event entry fees and full particulars on both tournament events and/or call our Tournament Director Barrie McClean at 321-264-9581 or email Kathy Ring at kring@cfl.rr.com for information on lodging, directions, registration. Hope to see many of you there for these two back-to-back tournaments.

16th Annual Mixed Doubles

November 8-9, 2003

Fir Cone Tavern, Shelton, Washington

Report By: Dwayne Dibley & Photos By: Sharon Nugent

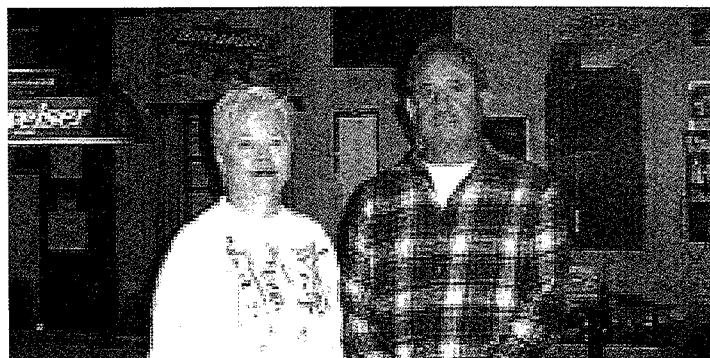
Shelton, Washington (Fir Cone Tavern; Nov. 8-9, 2003):

The Fir Cone Tavern in Shelton, Washington is a very popular place to play shuffleboard with almost all Northwest players. This is evident due to the number of teams that show up, year after year, for a mixed doubles that is the very weekend after the North American Championships in Reno. Many of these players not only like the Fir Cone but actually got their introduction into shuffleboard there. This year was no exception, Penny Jorgensen from Shelton played in her first tournament with Northwest Hall of Famer Dick Doak and National Hall of Famers Clark and Claire Kenney return to tournament action with a respectable finish (tied for 5th). All and all this was an excellent tournament and a fun weekend.

Tournament weekends at the Fir Cone always start off with an A-B Draw on Friday night. This is a single elimination event that is designed to give some practice to the competitors. It is a lot of fun and can be quite profitable for the winners. This is the part of the weekend that usually attracts a lot of unknown local players who usually do quite well. That is until this year. It should come as no surprise that this year's A-B winners turned out to members of the first and second place mixed doubles teams. Mike Waters and Kathy Keevil fought through the field of competitors to win. Winning must be contagious, because they didn't stop until the weekend was over.

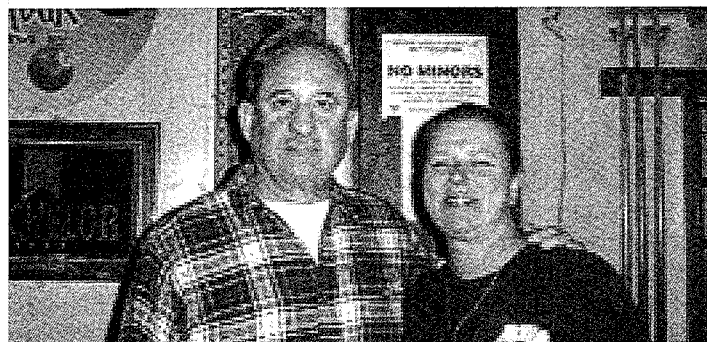
Mike and Kathy Keevil are the 2003 Fir Cone Mixed Doubles Champions. Mike Waters and Cheri Schrum were second. Third place went to Vern Gonzales and Jennifer King. Alvin Orcutt and Judy George finished fourth.

The Fir Cone tournament director did a good job of keeping things moving and as always there was another excellent feed on Saturday sponsored by the Shelton Shuffleboard Community. The next tournament at the Fir Cone is the 24th Annual Masters, February 28th & 29th. For more information contact the Fir Cone at (360) 426-2221.



A-B Draw 1st Place (L-R above):
Kathy Keevil & Mike Waters

Mixed Doubles Winners:



1st Place (no photo): Mike & Kathy Keevil
2nd Place (L-R above): Mike Waters & Cheri Schrum



3rd Place (L-R above): Vern Gonzales & Jennifer King



4th Place (L-R left):
Judy George &
Alvin "Chipmunk" Orcutt



Mixed Doubles
5th Place - tie (L-R above):
Hall of Famers Clark & Claire
Kenney return to tournament
action with respectable finish!



Mixed Doubles
5th Place - tie (L-R above):
Mel & Jeanette Hohn

(Shufflers' Notebook... Continued From Page 3)

Paradigm Shift & Ratings

(By: Mahlon Nobles, Houston, Tx)

Linda (my wife) and I've enjoyed playing shuffleboard for about seven years now. We both started playing tournaments within a few months and if it weren't for the Bower's rating system we probably would have quit after the first. In the past seven years or so the amount of rated players has grown by several thousand. We have witnessed numerous new players every year at each major and local tournament. My understanding that in many areas, leagues have had major growth. I've watched beginner players play single game draws and are so intimidated that they will go about their way pursuing another hobby. Perhaps a few and I mean a very few will try to improve if the draws are handicapped, and some will join a league if they hang around the sport long enough. I will admit that I don't like to draw a novice even if it's handicapped, but I would much rather draw the weaker player if the player was properly handicapped and I think the negative spot is as close as we will get, with a few exceptions, more about exceptions on a later date.

Change is always an ongoing part of any major sport. To begin with baseball, football, etc. and even the number one in the world family sport of bowling would not be as successful without change. I'm sad to admit that I'm old enough to remember when bowling was a very small public sport and few were interested in the hobby until it was organized for the whole family to participate. After the organization of American Bowling Congress, sanctioned members requested that bowling allies provide a child care area for children too young to play and lessons for the children old enough to learn how to play and the successful registration of sanctioned players are now in the multimillions. The way they all got to be a major sport was by organization and I think it's time for shuffleboard to be added to the list. This will not be easy and will take time, but the lovers of the game must help get it started. The first step is to organize a nonprofit organization with sanctioned members. Perhaps the Table Shuffleboard Association (TSA) organization (which already exists with a non-profit organization status) could expand the organization's scope to accommodate such an effort. Members would include players, tournaments, leagues and associate members such as businesses (bars, suppliers, sponsors, etc.). The organization could utilize Parliamentary Procedure for rulebook, addendums, amendments, officer elections, committee elections, etc. In time each player, tournament, league and major tournaments would have to be sanctioned members to participate and tournament and leagues could amend certain rules as long as, it's voted on by sanctioned players. The monies required for this is not much... for example each player registers annually for the sanctioned year. Sanctioned tournaments and leagues provide a fixed

amount for each player in each event to the organization. The monies would always be held accountable to all sanctioned players with an open book policy. A percentage of the monies could be set aside for local areas, such as qualifiers, achievement awards, etc. I suggest that at the latest, this 4th of July tournament could be a good time to set the Paradigm Shift in motion, by electing officers, adopting rules, etc. and within a few months to a year begin seeing the benefits of the great sport of Shuffleboard being organized.

I have one more idea/suggestion that I'm ready to propose. In no way am I knocking the existing Bower's system. In my opinion the game of shuffleboard wouldn't be were it's at today if it wasn't for the Bowers' Rating System, but I believe in modifications from time to time is an asset. Keep in mind that this is only a suggestion on a potentially simpler way for raters to know and accomplish their job. One way this may be less of a headache is to split the ratings and raters into two groups. First there should be a rating committee for all major tournaments. This committee would include only a few annually elected (by existing raters) -1s and 0s and a few alternates incase one of them is not able to be at the tournament. Their efforts could be rewarded. The next step would be at the beginning of the first event at all major tournaments, all raters would receive a list of players. And with draft team events, each captain (best rated player) wouldn't have to pay an entry fee. His/her duties would include receiving a player's sheet (ballot) and rate his and opponent players on the basis on each game they witnessed. After the event is over they would hold onto that sheet and divide up any additional players at the tournament and that didn't play in the draft team event. At least 2 captains per each additional player should do the ratings. Remember rating of a player is by there ability, not just on one shot, game or board and sometimes a bad hair day. Team captains should make sure that if any of the names he has on his list is different than his last rating to make sure of his decision. On the last day of the tournament these sheets should be turned over to the rating committee for use in determining tournament players ratings and should be made pubic within a week after the tournament is over. A captain failing to accomplish this will forfeit his monies. This will make ample time for teams to be put together for the next tournament and be a much fairer rating for each player. Next local players such as leagues should be rated by local raters and can even amend an individual player's tournament rating for the use in local league ratings. However, tournament committee rater's decisions are final at any tournaments (sanctioned tournaments) in the future.

--By: Mahlon Nobles (Houston, TX)
email: mpnobles@sbcglobal.net

Michigan State... *(Continued from Page 1)*

Mixed Doubles Winners: (Fri.)



1st Place (L-R above):
Steve Auten/Carrie Siple



2nd Place (L-R above):
Brenda Kane/Jerry Siebert



3rd Place (L-R left):
Bill Kane/Jackie Meagher

Singles Division I Winners: (Sat.)



1st Place (above):
Steve Auten



2nd Place (above):
Frank Blade



3rd Place (above):
JR Lopez

Singles Division II Winners: (Sat.)



1st Place (above):
Tom Schultz



2nd Place (above):
Bobby Auten



3rd Place (above):
Roland Harkless

Ladies' Singles Winners: (Sat.)



1st Place (above):
Linda Mitchell



2nd Place (above):
Sandy Blade



3rd Place (above):
Brenda Kane

Open Doubles Winners: (Sun.)



**1st Place
(L-R left):**
Steve Auten &
Alonzo Cottrell



**2nd Place
(left):**
John Tischler (left)
& Jerry Hershman
(right) pictured w/
sponsor Steve
Auten (center)



3rd Place (above):
Rich Lilly (left) and Mark Holland (center)
pictured w/ sponsor Doug Queen (right)



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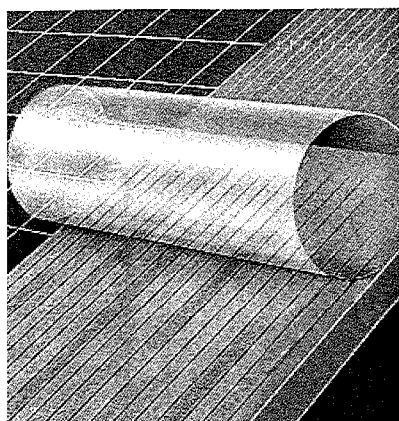
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9th Annual Florida State Championships

November 28-30, 2003

Eagles Aerie #4257, Merritt Island, Florida

Report & Photos By: Kathy Ring, Titusville, Florida

Merritt Island, FL: The CFSA held their 9th Annual Florida State Championships on Nov. 28-30, 2003 at the Eagles Aerie #4257 in Merritt Island, Florida on three boards. Enthusiastic players came from various parts of Florida including Bradenton, Cocoa, Jacksonville, Merritt Island, Miami, Miramar, Mims, South Daytona, Spring Hill, and Titusville.

18 eager shufflers got an early start on the tournament with a blind draw on Wednesday. Marty Allen & Kathy Ring came in 1st. Barrie McClean & Jennifer Ashbury took 2nd.

On Thursday, we enjoyed a fine Thanksgiving dinner put on by the Eagles. We still managed to play three single-elimination, draw partner events. In the first event, the winners were: Chris Boyett & Jerry Gray. Larry Cooper & Rusty Nowakowski were 2nd. In the second draw, Chris Boyett & Jimmy Kumpula came in 1st, with Ray Boyett & Rusty Nowakowski coming in 2nd. In the third draw, Andrew Lindemann & Carol Komark took 1st and Marty Allen & Larry Cooper took 2nd.

Sponsor sales were held prior to the Friday, Saturday & Sunday events and events started on Friday, Nov. 28th with the double-elimination, Bring Partner event (11 teams).

Bring Partner Winners: (Fri.)



1st Place (above):
Marty Allen & Jerry Gray



2nd Place (above):
Jimmy Kumpula &
Dennis Bittner



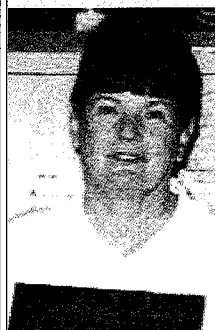
3rd Place (left):
Dick Smedberg &
Harold "Moose" Whitt

In Saturday morning's Women's Singles event, Kathy Ring took 1st Place and became Florida State Women's Singles champion for the second time, with a close two-game finish over 2nd Place Carol Michelson. Sue Swindle came in 3rd.

Marty Allen took 1st Place becoming the Florida State Men's Singles champion again, with a one-point win over 2nd place Chris Boyett. Dick Smedberg came in 3rd.

Marty Allen & Carol Komark, took 1st Place in Sunday's Mixed Doubles when they double dipped the 2nd Place team of Kathy Ring & Barrie McClean. The newly wed team of Tonia & Larry Cooper finished 3rd.

Ladie's & Men's Singles Winners: (Sat.)



1st Place (above):
Kathy Ring



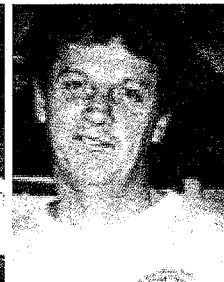
2nd Place (above):
Carol Michelson



2nd Place (above):
Sue Swindle



1st Place (above):
Marty Allen



2nd Place (above):
Chris Boyett



3rd Place (above):
Dick Smedberg

Mixed Doubles Winners: (Sun.)



1st Place (above):
Marty Allen & Carol Komark

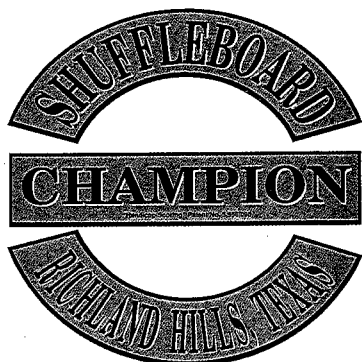


1st Place (above):
Kathy Ring & Barrie McClean



3rd Place (left):
Tonia & Larry Cooper
(newly weds)

Thanks to everyone for their participation and support.
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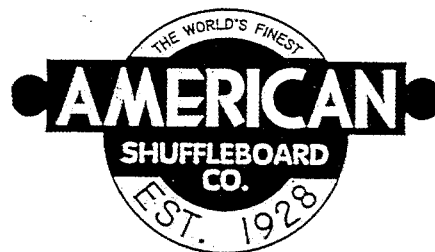
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Williams' Thanksgiving Classic 2003

Gold Nugget, Arlington, Texas (Report by Bobby Williams):

We had decided not to have a Thanksgiving tournament this year, as it is a lot of work and the attendance had not been great. However, we received many phone calls and emails requesting a tournament (most of those did not show). But, thanks goes to Tom Johnson, our host, who provided a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner for all and a delicious Saturday rib cookout. We are grateful to C.W. Walker and his crew moved to set up the boards, to Johnny Wayne Crawford who adjusted the boards, and to Jeri Williams and Sally Goff who ran the registration/payout desk. A large welcome to Bill Wooldridge who flew in from Tacoma, Washington for the tournament and to Harvey Walden who drove in from Tennessee. Thanks also to Gerald Wood and John and Jett Williamson, Oklahoma tournament directors, who came down for our tournament. They add a great deal because of their cordiality and great competition. Winners were... **Draw Partner:** Dave Williams Jr & Sally Goff (1st); Bobby Williams & Kenny Manchiell (2nd); Gary Nelson & Johnny Newell (3rd); and Bill Melton & Carlos Guzman (4th). **Singles:** Jeri Williams and Bill Melton (split 1st/2nd); Phil Gardner (3rd); and David Williams Sr (4th). **Bring Partner:** Mike Taylor & Harvey Walden (1st); Bill Melton & Johnny Newell (2nd); Bobby Williams & Jeri Williams (3rd). [no winners' photos]

Many thanks to all who attended!

Market St. Cafe's Turkey Shootout!

Market Street Cafe, Charleston, MD (By Jim Dennis):

Market Street Cafe held their annual Turkey Shootout on Nov. 28-20, 2003. On Friday there was a large turnout for the Draw Partner Event; Saturday's Bring Partner was again a big event; and Sunday brought the first time 3-Person Team event which all enjoyed... so more to come in the future. Our next event will be at Harvey Jr's in Darlington, MD on Jan. 9-11. Contact: Jim Dennis, 410-642-6238 or email: vilseck@erols.com



1st Place Bring Partner (above):
Rick Niblett & Lenny Dell



1st Place Draw (above):
Jen Pickett & Louise Freer



*1st Place 3-Person Team
(L-R left):*
Kurt Mauer, Stan Postus, &
Lenny Dell

*THANKS TO ALL!
HAVE A GREAT 2004!*

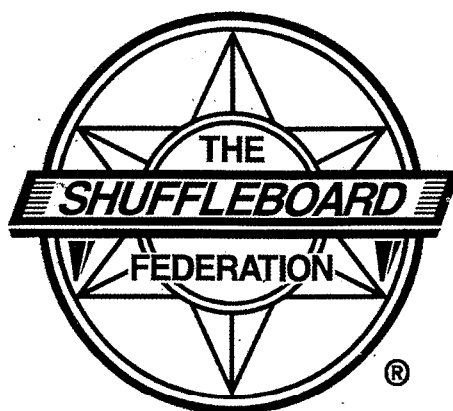
*This January 2004 issue is
the start into our 4th Year as
The Board Talk Editors since the
'torch' was passed to us by
George and Donna Wilber
(Founders and Prior Editors).
Our first issue as Editors/Pub-
lishers was December 2000 and
this January 2004 starts into The
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Year is filled with love, peace,
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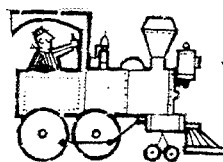
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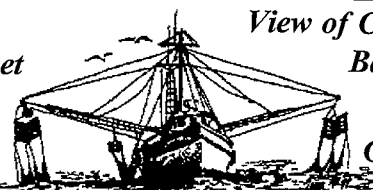
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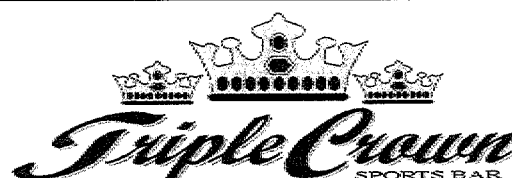
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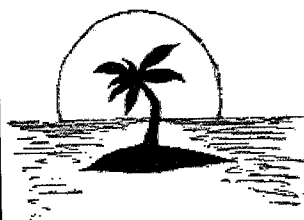
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405-670-9120 or E-mail: doncrall73@aol.com

For Tournament Details Visit: <http://www.geocities.com/swopen>

Island Club



10834 Ferguson Road
Dallas, TX

Phone: 972-279-9993

Owner: Mike Blohm

--2 Shuffleboards--

--Friday & Sunday Night tournaments--

Come Play Shuffleboard at the Island Club!
Join our Shuffleboard, Dart, and/or City Pool League too!

Rumpus Room Bar & Grill

10555 SE Division Street, Portland, Oregon
Phone: 503-254-9212 Owner: Cliff Carpenter

--2 Shuffleboards (Best Boards in Town)--

--Darts, Games, Full Service Bar--

Scheduled Shuffleboard Tournaments every
Wednesday (6:45pm) & Saturday (1:45pm)



Eagle Lodge # 3608

555 Visalia Rd., Exeter, California

Annual 4th of July Shuffleboard Tournament
Questions - Call Marion Bailey at
559-798-0800



Moose Lodge #1832



Be Our Guests at:

Moose Lodge #1832

7453 Lorge Circle

Huntington Beach, CA

(Gothard & Edinger)



Join the Shuffleboard Competition & Fun - 2 Boards!

For Shuffleboard Tournament Information, Contact:
Bubba Warren 714-536-0172 or Jim Coulter 714-840-1825

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Missouri Shuffleboard Players Association (MSPA)

"We are very proud of our MSPA Hall of Famers":



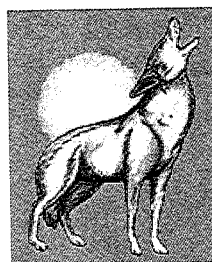
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•Charlie Riley •Dale Gettys •Bill Hill



MSPA Contact: Charlie Riley 417-967-4394 or E-Mail: criley@pcis.net

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509-327-9790



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The Board Talk and it's Editors!"**

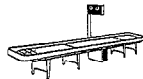
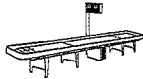
-- The Players of Spokane, WA (Home of Dan Hitt)

Shuffleboard Directory

Use this economical advertising opportunity to reach your key consumer audience.

Elmo's Sports Bar

183 & Buttercup Creek
in Commons Center
Cedar Park, TX



2 Shuffleboard Tables

Tournaments Sun. Afternoon & Tues. night

Live Music - Karaoke - Open Mike

Pool - Darts - NTN Trivia

Call: (512) 257-2342 or Email: carol255@juno.com



Barbara's Beer Garden



2109 N. Glenstone, Ste. H
Springfield, Missouri

Phone: 417-866-9871

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--Shuffleboard, Pool, Karaoke, Games & More!--

Come enjoy the competition & scheduled tournaments!

For Tourney Info. Visit: www.geocities.com/barbarasbeergarden



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405-665-2715
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Michigan Shuffleboard Hall of Fame (MSHOF)

Jerry Siebert, MSHOF Director, *WELCOMES ALL*
to the "2nd Annual MSHOF Tournament"
to be held at Club Car Lounge, Durand, MI
the 1st weekend of August 2004!

Bill & Brenda Kane, New Owners of Club Car Lounge say
"You all come! We'll be awaiting!"

MSHOF Contact: Jerry Siebert, Dir. at 517-694-4652



Fun Hangers Shuffleboard League Houston, TX (West)

*Fun Hangers League supports "The BoardTalk"
and challenges all other leagues to do the same.*

4 Divisions - 32 Teams - 250 Players

We Welcome all - Beginners thru Pros - call for more info

League Sponsors:

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Duke's Tavern

Hot Dog Shop

Nick's Sports Bar

Triple Crown Sports Bar

Sansones

Hot Shots Bar and Billiard

Westside Pub

President - Jack Scott (281-558-0237)

Vice President - James Cummings (281-550-5011)

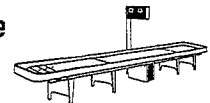
Secretary - Andrea Dickson (281-531-9260)

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5 Quality Shuffleboards - Pool & Darts

Wed. Night Draws w/ Added \$\$

Fri.-Sat. Nite Draws-Action Anytime!

Call 253-538-0280

2004 CALENDAR OF SHUFFLEBOARD EVENTS

JANUARY 2004

January 3

Open Singles
David L's Hideout Lounge
Yorktown, Indiana

January 16-18

Deveney Memorial Tournament
Musette Bar
Omaha, Nebraska

January 16-17

New Years Start
Market Street Cafe
Charlestown, Maryland

January 17-19

Heartland Handicap
American Legion Post# 73
Del City, Oklahoma

January 24-25

Mud Bay Masters
Open Doubles (no two -1's)
Buzz's Tavern
Olympia, Washington

FEBRUARY 2004

February 7

Open Doubles
David L's Hideout Lounge
Yorktown, Indiana

February 13-16 (See flyer insert)

Annual President's Day 2004
T's Cocktails
Modesto, California

<http://home.comcast.net/~ebrayman01/shuffle2004/presdayflyer1.htm>

February 14-15

Sweetheart Mixed Doubles
Blue Goose Tavern
Port Orchard, Washington

February 22-24

Mason Dixon Classic
Harvey's Place
Darlington, Maryland

February 27-29

Nelson Renzo Tournament
Market Street Cafe
Charlestown, Maryland

February 28-29

24th Annual Masters
Fir Cone Tavern
Shelton, Washington

MARCH 2004

March 12-14 (See Flyer Insert)

5th Annual Cape Kennedy Blast Off
VFW Post #4228
Titusville, Florida

March 19-21 (See Flyer Insert)

11th Annual Florida Open
VFW Post #4228
Titusville, Florida

March 20-21

Open Doubles (no two -1's)
Red Dog Saloon
Port Orchard, Washington

March 26-April 4 (See Flyer Insert)

3rd Annual Board Talk Open 2004
VFW Post #5076
Garland, Texas

APRIL 2004

April 2-4

Maryland State Championships
Harvey's Place
Darlington, Maryland

April 3

Open Doubles/Open Singles
Red Dog Saloon
Muncie, Indiana

April 8-11 (Easter Weekend)

6th Annual Canadian Open 2004
Esquimalt Legion
Victoria, B.C., Canada

April 24-26

Heartland Handicap
American Legion Post# 73
Del City, Oklahoma

April 16-18

April Showers Tournament
Market Street Cafe
Charlestown, Maryland

MAY 2004

May 8

Bring Partner
Journey's End Bar & Grill
Bourbon, Indiana

May 14-16

May Flowers Tournament
Market Street Cafe
Charlestown, Maryland

JUNE 2004

June 11-13

Hoosier Hall of Fame
David L's Hideout Lounge
Yorktown, Indiana

JULY 2004

July 4-10

SW Open 2004
American Legion Post# 73
Del City, Oklahoma

AUGUST 2004

August 6-8

2nd Annual Michigan HOF
Club Car Lounge
Durand, Michigan

August 14-15

2nd Annual "Hot Summer Nights"
Rosewood Pub
Bellflower, California

OCT./NOV. 2004

October 15-17

Heartland Handicap
American Legion Post# 73
Del City, Oklahoma

October 30-November 7

2004 NASC
Sands Regency Hotel/Casino
Reno, Nevada

5th Annual Wandering the World Women's Tournament

September 18-21, 2003

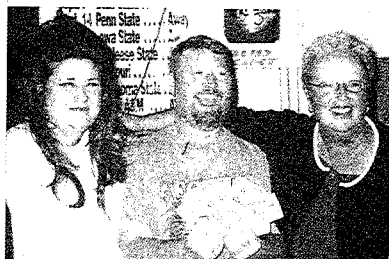
Musette Bar, Omaha, Nebraska

Report & Photos Submitted By: Shelly Hagen (Musette Bar Owner)- Received Nov. 21, 2003

Musette Bar, Omaha Nebraska: The 5th Annual Wandering the World Women's Tournament was held in Omaha, Nebraska at the Musette Bar on Sept. 18-21. It was a great time with participation from 8 states. Thanks to all that played, watched and cheered into the early hours. Champion Shuffleboard donated the use of the extra tournament shuffleboards. Triple Crown and The Shuffleboard Federation each donated a set of weights for the raffle and The Shuffleboard Federation provided the dust and silicone used throughout the tournament... thanks to these vendors!

I'd like to thank everyone for their support of the tournament. All participation, board maintenance, food, and sportsmanship were appreciated. See you all in Indiana next year for the 6th Annual Wandering the World Women's Tournament!

Ladies Draw Partner Winners:



1st Place (left):
Lorraine Olson (Ca-left)
& Maggie Worley (Ne-right)
let Ron Campbell
(sponsor-center)
show them the money after
them winning 1st place!

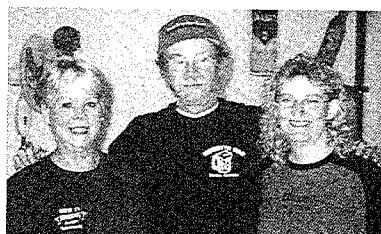


2nd Place (above L-R):
Sheryl Cockerill (In) & Linda
Churchman (Az) w/ sponsor
Don Landrie (right)



3rd Place (above L-R):
Linda Nobles (Tx) &
Shelly Hagen (Ne)

Ladies Bring Partner Winners:



1st Place (left):
Sheryl Cockerill (In-left) &
Jody Berry (right)
pictured w/ sponsor Don
Landrie (center)



2nd Place (left):
Oklahoma's Ruth Atherton
(center) & Sally Goff (right)
pictured w/ sponsor
Lorraine Olson (Ca-left)

Ladies Singles Winners:



1st Place (left):
Linda Nobles (Tx-right)
pictured with Kathy Yingst



2nd Place (left):
Sheryl Cockerill (In-left)
pictured w/ sponsor
Lorraine Olson (Ca-right)



**THANKS to Jeff Womble & Rick McFarland for driving the
Champion Shuffleboards to Nebraska & doing board setups!**

There was a men's tournament run concurrent with the annual Ladies' tournament. Winners were: **Draw Partner:** 1st Place: Ron Sosovec (Co) & Joe Little (Ne, his 1st win); 2nd Place: Ron Campbell & John Henry (Ne); 3rd Place: Mahlon Nobles & Larry Zahm (both Ne). **Bring Partner:** 1st Place: Jeff McFadden & Gary Anglin (both In); 2nd Place: Morey Balins (Co) & Steve Hansen (Ne). **Amateur Singles:** 1st Place: Dave Dickerson (Ne) and 2nd Place: Justin Voychecke (Ne). **Open Singles:** 1st Place: Mike Roach (Ne) & 2nd Place: David Williams Sr. (Tx).

Bellflower Bruce Hale Memorial



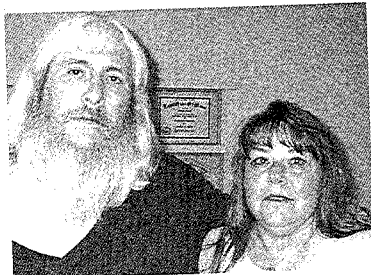
Huntington Beach Moose Lodge #1832
Huntington Beach, CA

November 8, 2003

Report By: Bob Brunskill, CA (See Dec. 2003 Issue, pg. 16)



[California Shuffleboard News sent below photos too late for December 2003 issue, Pg. 16 (Nov. 14th deadline) inclusion:]



1st Place (above):
Huntington Beach team of
Richard "Bubba" Warren
& Gale Cole



2nd Place (above):
Dave Brennan
(Los Alamitos) &
Robert Davidson (Bellflower)



3rd Place (above):
Jeff Davis (Huntington Beach)
& Bob Flake (Bellflower)



4th Place (above):
Mina Bischara (Downey) &
Billy Joe Hunt (Temecula)



California lady shuffleboard players pay tribute to the memory of "Bellflower Bruce" Hale during memorial services at the Huntington Beach Moose Lodge on November 8



Jean Cockrum (A Shuffleboard player)
died on her birthday Nov. 25th, 2003
in Columbia Missouri

Jean was given a great send off. She rode in the first class section all the way to heaven. There were flowers from everywhere... so many the funeral home had to send some of them to my home because they had no room. There were phone calls and e-mail from shuffleboard players from everywhere, people came from miles around to say good by.

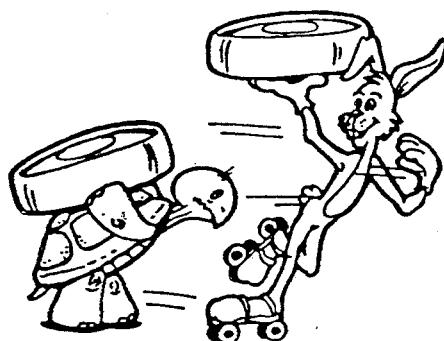
Jean followed me around the bars for 50 years and never picked up a weight. Back in 1983 George and Donna Wilber pulled Shuffleboard out of the gutter with the birth of The Board Talk. It allowed players to know where tournaments were being played.

In the early 90s Ron and Debbie Bowers added the Rating system, and that's when Jean got her chance to play. Her one and Only major tournament was the Missouri State Championship last Oct, in Kansas City, Mo. Jean was rated a "4" by the Bowers rating, but a "-1" in the Shuffleboard Family. She went to the tournament in Vegas in 1989 and a couple of tournaments in Reno and a number of tournaments in Del City, Okla. Jean will be greatly missed.

I, being the standing mate, would like to thank our many Shuffleboard friends for remembering her as she passed thru.

-- Woodie Cockrum Sr., Missouri

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UPCOMING EVENTS: | ☐ Shuffleboard Directory (sm) (\$110/yr)

☐ 1/2 Page \$40 | ☐ Shuffleboard Directory (lrg) (\$160/yr)

☐ 1/4 Page \$20 | ☐ Classified Ad (\$10/mo-up to 25 words)

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- 2004 The Board Talk Open (flyer insert)
- Florida "Blast Off" & "Florida Open" (flyer insert)
- President's Day Tournament, T's Cocktails, Modesto, Ca (flyer insert)
- Play Your Way Across the USA, January 2004 Edition (flyer insert)
- Rumpus Room Bar & Grill, Portland, Oregon (new "Shuffleboard Directory" Advertiser)
- Indiana Shuffleboard Hall of Fame organization (new "Shuffleboard Directory" Advertiser)
- ALL "Shuffleboard Directory" Advertisers!

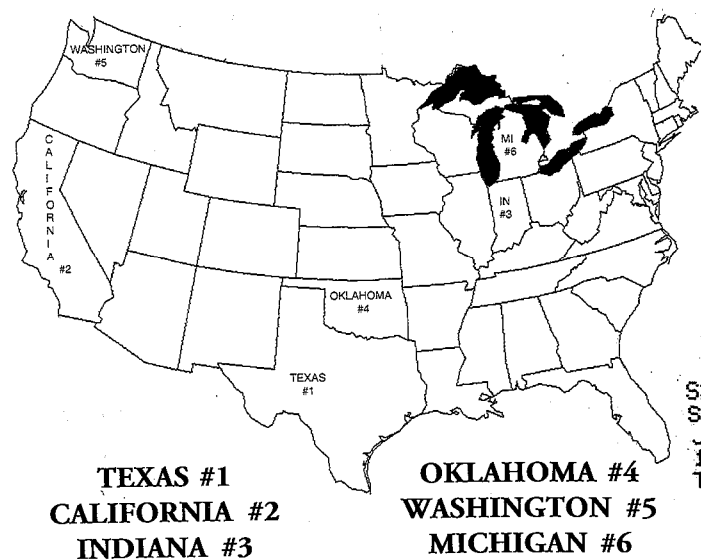
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—Thanks, Tom & Lynda French, Editors/Publishers

THE BOARD TALK

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