

The Board Talk®

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The Board Talk Comes to an End... "A Sad Day.."

"A Sad Day in Shuffleboard History" Reported By: Tom & Lynda French, The Board Talk Editors/Publishers

We are saddened and regret to report that Champion Shuffleboard (owners of The Board Talk) has informed us on the afternoon of Thursday, January 13, 2005 that this issue would be the last printing of The Board Talk publication. They have asked us to stay employed with them until we get it all closed out. We have committed to Champion to remain on their payroll at least until March 1st (longer if needed) to help them process the close down, but this is the last Board Talk issue.

As you all know, we have done extensive "beta" testing of distribution options that might have allowed us to keep a printed issue affordable by considering bi-monthly, semi-annually, and/or potentially offering an electronic subscriber option supplement or replacement. For those with internet access, we have provided both online softcopy and hardcopy during this lengthy testing period to gather needed statistics on all test options. Beta test participants included both current subscribers who have provided email addresses, non-subscribers, and potential subscribers.

Unfortunately, the subscriber base has not grown, indicating a diminishing player, establishment, and business interest in the publication. The beta test on "electronic"

option over the past year has yielded surprising results which made it not a viable option to continue long-term either. With a subscriber base of approximately 1/6 of the rated players (does not count all the league players and unrated players out there) and less than 1/2 of those subscribers having email addresses and less than 10% of those that do have email addresses being able to successfully view emails with html code in them (which is required to even view photos in an email -- where the majority can only view "text only" even in an email) and/or those who were unable to view Adobe PDF files, it did not make the work and costs for "electronic" option a viable sole option either.

A shuffleboard news of pure text to such a small subscriber base would not be a long-term solution. Most do not subscribe or advertise to support a printed publication (there's probably 6 or more "piggy backers" for every valid subscriber), so the assumption is that very few would be willing to subscribe or advertise and pay the maintenance for doing an electronic news either. It seems electronic is expected to be "free", not subscriber based and advertisement for electronic only (if you can't get \$40/year for subscriptions or \$110/year for ads for printed and softcopy over the past year, obviously electronic only would not be financially supported) then it's not viable either.

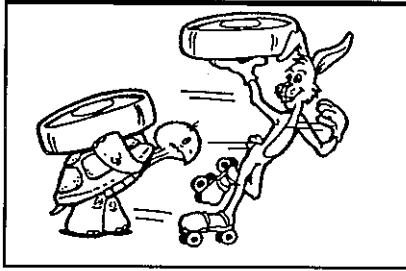
The internet and electronic news is a great thing for the few of us that have or fully use it. We are a "blue collar" sport and not a group of computer techie "gurus" (no reason or need to be either). It's a wonderful sport of competition and fun for all age groups and professions, but it is not a sport with a player base of computer "gurus". This may improve some day in the far future, but likely not in the near future. So, Champion, understandably, would not want to keep us on their pay roll to distribute a "free" electronic or a struggling hardcopy publication. We have been unsuccessful at building a subscriber and advertiser base that made it worthwhile for them to continue paying for our services out of their company's pocket because The Board Talk has never, and will never (without the subscriber and advertiser base required), provide enough to even pay someone the minimum wage we have received from Champion for compiling the publication since Dec. 2000.

(Continued on Page 8)

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NOTE: This last issue printed issue will only be mailed to subscribers paid current to 12/1/2004



Shufflers' Notebook & Ads

News and Views from The World of Shuffleboard

Demise of The Board Talk

(From: Mahlon Nobles, Houston, Texas)

The demise of The Board Talk is similar to the death of an old friend who just drifted away. We all saw it coming but we have been too complacent to help out or to visit our old friend and keep this invaluable resource for shuffleboard.

I've always looked forward to receiving each copy and to sit back and enjoy reviewing just what's going on in the numerous shuffleboard communities throughout our nation and Canada, it just will not be the same without it.

Hats off to Lynda French. In a nut shell, she deserves recognition from all of us, for (far less than minimum wage) her tireless dedication to "The Board Talk" over the past 4 years. In our hearts we know she is feeling responsible for the loss, but we all know that without her, the publication wouldn't have lasted this long. Lynda French will always be known as one of the best and most sincere promoters of Table Shuffleboard.

We all need to realize Champion Shuffleboard Co. too, deserves thanks from all of us for keeping the publication alive for the past 4 years. It's not rocket science; this publication and most other sports publications are not profit centers. It is however, a means of communication for sport enthusiasts which benefits players and businesses alike.

Without a means of communication, our sport will decline back into the Stone Age. Players will have limited ways to form tournaments and introduce novice players for competition in other than local tournaments. Vendors are less likely to expand their business on leasing and selling their supplies. Manufacturers will likely decrease production and the improvement on their products, not only for Bars but individuals and home owners that want to install a board at home. Bar owners will have limited ways to compare the success or decline in other areas.

All in all, everyone is going to lose without an avenue of communication and I don't mean online publications. Don't take me wrong, online publication is no doubt the future, but I believe it's still in the future and not near future or now. Currently less than 10% read online publications and less than 1% print out publications for others to review. The only advertisements that are worth paying for are pop-up ads. If you don't stop pop-up adds your computer is most likely to crash or lock-up.

A number of us have vigorously attempted to persuade players, tournaments, bar owners, leagues and the Table Shuffleboard Association to organize for the betterment of the Shuffleboard Players. This may or may not have kept "The Board Talk" alive. My thoughts have always been that the magazine should have been eventually inherited by a non-profit organization such as T. S. A. Sanctioned organized players then would run it and associate members would include bar owners, vendors, manufacturers and tournaments.

I am saddened, that we (the players) continue to allow **Tournaments and Bars to charge \$20 to \$35 registration fees, take up to 5% entry fees, up to 5% sponsor sales, 15 % Para mutual, keep the monies if no one buys the winners, a lot of free advertisement in The Board Talk, and then have the gall to send numerous pictures, results and details for the free publicity for their Tournament or Bar.** It makes me sick that we, the players, have allowed this to happen.

Linda (my wife) and I have been considering, either quitting or slowing down on the number of tournaments in which we participate. Now we think **the straw or should I say bails of straw, have just broken the camel's back.** Just a rough estimate, we have spent an average of about **\$15,000.00 a year** just for tournaments and at least another **\$7,000 on recreational shuffleboard at bars.**

I realize proprietors (not just bar owners) need to make a profit. But, now do your math and tell me why proprietors (not just bar owners) couldn't take some of this out of their pockets and use it to develop an organized sport and if they are smart enough, in return put even more back into their pockets, while possibly even keeping things like The Board Talk publication closure from happening.

I hope this will be a wake-up call for those of us who want to preserve and improve this great game.

We desperately need participation, promotion, an active national organization and financial and other support from bar owners, shuffleboard table manufacturers, shuffleboard product suppliers, and others...

Will you work with me to get this done? If you wish to make any comments about this, feel free to do so, if you're not chicken. However, I will not accept collect phone calls, lol.

Respectfully Submitted,

-Mahlon Paul Nobles, Houston, TX

Email: mpnobles@sbcglobal.net

(Shufflers' Notebook Continued... on Page 14)

Basics Shots & Releases Used By Players

(Table Shuffleboard "Basic Shots" Overview)

There are several basic shots used by players of table shuffleboard. Typically players start learning the basic shot called "rail guided shot" and then learn additional type of releases to enable better execution of more complex shots or position a puck into a desired area of the board. One must practice and find the shot(s) and releases most comfortable for each individual to execute shots with the most stability at hitting their target or intended final position of their weight(s). There is no one way that a weight must be held, guided, or executed. Styles and grips and shots used are individual preference and as players become more skilled, they are apt to use various shot releases depending upon the situation and end result they wish to achieve on their final shot position.

Basic Shots (See Bowers' Corner Talk website for more info... <http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com> "Basic Shots")

- **RAIL GUIDED SHOT** - (Straight Rail, Cross Board, Span, Thumb Shot releases)

The most common shot is where you use the rail as a guide to place your shot or hit your opponents weight/puck. Slide the weight/puck with either hand along the edge of either rail usually in order to knock off an opponents weight. You can shoot straight down the rail (typically referred to as a STRAIGHT RAIL SHOT) or across board left-to-right or right-to-left (whichever works best to place your puck or to hit your opponents weight - typically referred to as a CROSS BOARD SHOT) using the rail as your guide by holding one or more fingers along the rail to give you the stability and guide of your aim. Every player must find their comfort zone in various releases.

There are several execution positions that one might use while using the rail as your stability and guide for your aim. Most use two fingers (pinky and ring finger) to guide their puck's aim on the rail and use the thumb and forefinger (next to the thumb) to grip the puck as they release the puck off the rail. However, the SPAN release and THUMB shot release are also used along with using the rail as the shot execution guiding force. In the SPAN shot, player typically uses the pinky finger to guide on the rail and spreads hand holding the weight with the thumb and forefinger. In the THUMB shot execution, the thumb is placed in center of weight (versus typical pinky/forefinger grip) to guide the puck in the direction desired (down the rail straight or across the board).

- **FREE-HAND SHOT** - This is simply a shot carried out without the use of the rail as a guide from any desired location on the board. This shot comes in handy in situations where the use of a rail shot would be difficult to hit or pass your opponents weight/puck with use of solely coming off the rail. Free-hand is also one of the preferred lag shots by some players.

- **DOUBLE TAKEOUT SHOT** - Removal of two of your opponents weights/pucks with one shot.

- **NUDGE/BUMP SHOT** - Pushes another weight/puck further up the board. This shot is typically used to bump one of your weights/pucks into a deeper scoring position on the board or to pass your opponents weight/puck by nudging or bumping your weight/puck further up the board to pass your opponents weight/puck.

- **GUARD/COVER SHOT** - Shot that positions your weight/puck into the guard zone to protect another one of your weights/pucks that is in the scoring zone and you are attempting to make it difficult for your opponent to hit your deepest weight/puck by placing a shallower cover on your existing weight/puck.

- **GO-AROUND SHOT** - When using the go-around/come-around shot, you attempt to curl your released weight so that it comes to rest behind one of your opponents pucks in the scoring area.

- **SPLIT SHOT** - Using a puck to strike another so they both come to a stand-still in the area of play (without either puck falling off the board). For instance, you might be able to hit one of your existing pucks that is sitting near a higher scoring line so that the existing puck and the one being shot will remain in the scoring area or possibly have one or both weights come to a stand-still in the higher scoring area. Example: you might slide an existing one or two scoring weight into the next scoring zone and have one or both weights split apart into the scoring area. By splitting your two weights, then the opponent may have to make choice of which one to shoot at because they are split in such a way that would make it difficult for the opponent to execute a double takeout.

- **HIT & ROLL/WICK SHOT** - Shot where a puck touches another stationary puck just enough to change the played puck's direction.

- **STUN/STICK SHOT** - The purpose of this shot is to knockoff your opponent's puck from the board while leaving the puck that you have shot at a stand-still in the scoring area.

- **HIT & GO SHOT** - The purpose of this shot is to knockoff your opponent's puck from the board while your puck also goes off the board (both pucks leaving the board and scoring area). Typically, this shot might be desired because you do not want to stick your released weight and leave your opponent a go-around shot or on your last shot before your opponents hammer where you wish to leave your opponent a clear board to lag against and potentially give you the hammer coming back in the next frame.

- **FREEZE (ROLL & FREEZE)** - Using one puck to strike another so they both come to a stand-still in the area of play.

NOTE 1: ANIMATED EXAMPLES: You can view some of the above described "animated shots" at the below Shuffleboard Co. UK website (macro flash media player formatted) by clicking on the following URL link (click on below link): (These examples are shown on the 4 zone lined handicap board (1-2-3-4 handicap lines versus 1-2-3 lines found on most boards), but the concept of the shot(s) is the same whether playing on a 4-line or 3-line scoring surface. Visit: <http://www.shuffleboard.co.uk/shuffleboard/flash/menu.html>)

NOTE 2: The Macromedia Flash Plug-In is a plug-in that allows you to view animation on the internet. It is likely that you already have this installed, but if clicking on above UK site URL fails to display the shot animation menu, you can download a macromedia player at below URL (and then try above UK Site link again after installing the macromedia player) from the macromedia website at: <http://www.macromedia.com/software/flashplayer>

California

**"PRESIDENT'S DAY" & CSHOF
VFW POST #1051
RIPON, CALIFORNIA
FEBRUARY 17-21, 2005**

The "Annual President's Day Shuffleboard Tournament" is being held on February 17-21, 2005 at the VFW Post 1051 in Ripon, California (correction: this tournament was previously advertised to be held at T's Cocktails, 710 North 9th Street, Modesto, CA and is changed/corrected in this issue). Bob Hunt and Nick Chaffin will be inducted into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame during this tournament. Contact Lorraine Olson at Lorraine.Olson@vta.org or Eddie Brayman at etheb@aol.com for further info or flyers.

The flyer is also posted on TSA & Bowers' Corner sites: <http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com> and <http://www.tableshuffleboard.org> "Upcoming Events" links.

Nebraska

**6TH ANNUAL O'HAROLDs
ST. PATRICK'S DAY TOURNAMENT
O'HAROLDs BAR
OMAHA, NEBRASKA
MARCH 17-20, 2005**

The 6th Annual O'Harold's St. Patrick's Day tournament will be held at O'Harolds Bar in Omaha, Nebraska on March 17th-20th. See flyer inserted into this issue for details or contact Jim Payne at: 402-676-4827.

The flyer is also posted on TSA & Bowers' Corner sites: <http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com> and <http://www.tableshuffleboard.org> "Upcoming Events" links.

Florida

**"BLAST OFF" & "FLORDIA OPEN"
ANNUAL TOURNAMENTS
MOOSE LODGE #1962
MIMS, FLORIDA
MARCH 17-19, 2005 (BLAST OFF)
MARCH 24-27, 2005 (FLORDIA OPEN)**

The CFSA presents it's annual back-to-back tournaments this year at the Moose Lodge #1962, 3264 N. US1, Mims, Florida this year. The "Blast Off" will be held March 17-19, 2005 and the "Florida Open" will be held on March 24-27, 2005. These dates have been revised since the last Board Talk Issue. For additional information, please see the flyer inserted into this issue and/or contact: Marty Allen at 321-385-0117 or 321-536-7740 or email: areal8741@msn.com or contact Barrie at 321-264-9581.

The flyer is also posted on TSA & Bowers' Corner sites: <http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com> and <http://www.tableshuffleboard.org> "Upcoming Events" links.

Indiana

**TSA HOF INDUCTION TOURNAMENT
AMERICAN LEGION POST #424
BOURBON, INDIANA
MAY 6-8, 2005**

The American Legion Post #424 will be hosting an Open Draw, Open Doubles, Open Singles tournament in conjunction with the Table Shuffleboard Association (TSA) Hall of Fame Induction ceremony for Larry Creakbaum and Jim Long. The TSA HOF ceremony will be held on Friday at 6 PM, followed by a \$20 Open Draw (single-elimination).

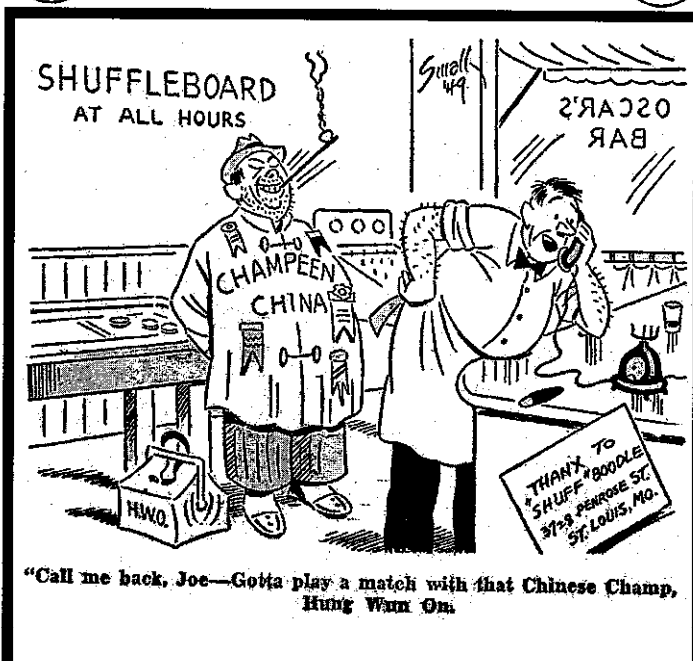
Saturday at noon will be an Open Doubles event, \$50/team, single-game/double-elimination.

Sunday at noon will be an Open Singles event, \$50/player, single-game/double-elimination. Contact Gary Anglin at 574-286-6744.

The flyer is also posted on TSA & Bowers' Corner sites: <http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com> and <http://www.tableshuffleboard.org> "Upcoming Events" links.

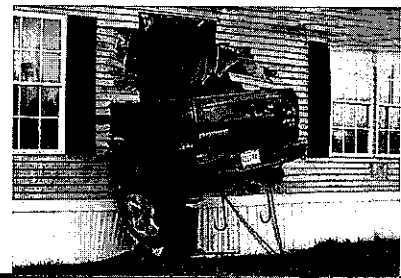


Humor Column



(Humor: received in an email note from our "Okie Cousin Bill"): "Dear Billy Bob, My wife and I have divorced and in the divorce settlement she was awarded the double wide mobile home and the pickup truck. As per my copy of the court order, I delivered the truck before 2 pm, yesterday! So, how's your day going?"

See you, Junior"



Oklahoma

**HEARTLAND HANDICAP
AMERICAN LEGION POST 73
DEL CITY, OKLAHOMA
APRIL 8-9, 2005**

The "Heartland Handicap" will be held at the American Legion Post 73, 5000 SE 24th, Del City, Oklahoma on April 8-9, 2005 on 8 boards (phone# (405) 670-9128 or (405) 670-9120).

Friday, April 8th at 7pm will be a Draw Partner, \$25/person, single game/double elimination, No Pros or 0's may draw together.

Saturday, April 9th at 3pm will be a Bring Partner, \$60/team, 2/3 winners bracket (if time permits, depending upon number of entries) and single game in loser bracket.

The latest "Bowers' Ratings" will be used. Maximum spot will be negative 4.

Area Motels: LaQuinta (405) 672-0067, Motel 6 (405) 737-6676, Studio 6 (405) 737-8851, Comfort Inn (405) 733-1339. The Legion has a 5 acre park with electric and water hook-ups. Self-contained RV's and Campers welcome.

(NOTE: Detailed flyer is posted on both the Bowers' Corner <http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com> and

Table Shuffleboard Association

<http://www.tableshuffleboard.org>

websites under "Upcoming Tournament Events" links)

Oklahoma

**DON CRALL INAUGURAL MEMORIAL
SW OPEN 2005
AMERICAN LEGION POST 73
DEL CITY, OKLAHOMA
JULY 3-10, 2005**

The "Don Crall Inaugural Memorial - SW Open 2005" will be held at the American Legion Post 73, 5000 SE 24th, Del City, Oklahoma on July 3-9, 2005 (phone# (405) 670-9128 or (405) 670-9120).

The latest "Bowers' Ratings" will be used to meet the advertised entry criteria.

Area Motels: LaQuinta (405) 672-0067, Motel 6 (405) 737-6676, Studio 6 (405) 737-8851, Comfort Inn (405) 733-1339. The Legion has a 5 acre park with electric and water hook-ups. Self-contained RV's and Campers welcome.

(NOTE: See flyer insert in this issue for details... flyer is also posted on both the Bowers' Corner

<http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com> and

Table Shuffleboard Association

<http://www.tableshuffleboard.org>

websites under "Upcoming Tournament Events" links)

Nevada

**16TH ANNUAL NASC RENO 2005
SANDS REGENCY HOTEL/CASINO
RENO, NEVADA
OCTOBER 29-NOVEMBER 6, 2005**

The 16th Annual NASC Reno 2005 tournament will be hosted at the Sands Regency Hotel/Casino, Reno, Nevada, October 29-November 6, 2005. Be sure to keep the flyer inserted into this last printed The Board Talk issue for future use. Make copies for your yourself and friends and plan early to attend. Should you misplace the flyer inserted into this issue, please visit The Shuffleboard Federation website at: <http://www.shuffleboardfederation.com> or contact tournament director and host; John McDermott.

(NOTE: See flyer insert in this issue for details... flyer is also posted on both the Bowers' Corner:

<http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com> and

Table Shuffleboard Association:

<http://www.tableshuffleboard.org>

websites under "Upcoming Tournament Events" links)

"IN MEMORY OF..."

We are sad to report the passing of **Jerry Gibson** on December 16, 2004 (a Washington player). He was a great friend to all who knew him. He had leukemia and started having lung fluids which they apparently could not get under control. We will keep his wife and family in our thoughts and prayers.

Editors Note: Sorry for the delay in reporting on Jerry's passing, as the prior issue deadline was Dec. 10th and was already in print when we received notice.

**GET WELL WISHES
EXTENDED TO...**

Ray Boyett, TSA Financial Officer, from Miami, Florida. Ray has been bedridden with poor circulation on one leg and his wife has been injured too. Their son and others have been coming in to help care for both of them. We wish Ray and wife a speedy recovery.

Jim Manders of Washington is having chemo and radiation treatments for his throat cancer, but will continue to work at least part-time during his treatments. Reports treatment effects, thusfar, have not been too bad. Wishing him a quick recovery.

ERRATA: (Skip's Fall Bash 2004...

Error Replacement for 3 photos from The Board Talk Dec. 2004/Jan. 2005 Issue - Pg. 5 had 3 incorrect photos overlaid when printer compiled files for printing... corrected photos below...

Event #1: A-B Draw (Friday - 22 Teams)

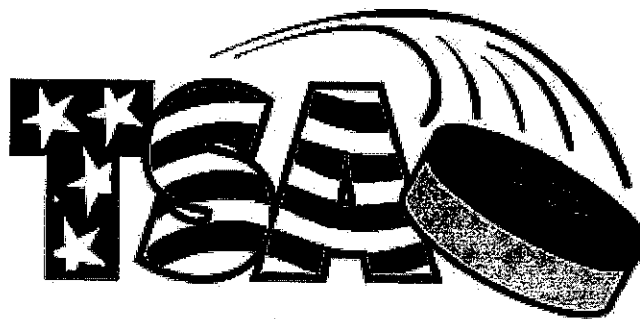
1st Place (Left L-R):
Bill Kane &
Slick Parrish
(this photo was wrong
in prior issue)



2nd Place (Left L-R):
Bill Niswonger &
Coco Brown
(this photo was wrong
in prior issue)



3rd Place (Left L-R):
George Nelson &
Bill Niswonger &
Jim Earl Madary
(this photo was wrong
in prior issue)



PLEASE NOTE: The TSA has a membership form (TSA Membership flyer insert in this last issue). If it's time to renew or if you are not yet a member, you might consider joining. Membership is only \$25/year and more members are needed to consider expanding the scope of player services into a national-level players association. Some have asked if the TSA could put out a shuffleboard newsletter to members (in the absence of The Board Talk). Most organizations do have their own periodic newsletters and this has been discussed in past meetings, and is also again being discussed by the TSA Directors and members, but the membership level is small at this time and any electronic or printed newsletter would not reach many players... but the discussion continues. Many would like to see a player owned organization and newsletter, etc., but membership is not of a volume at this time to consider much in expansion of services.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: There will be a **TSA HOF Induction Ceremony** for Larry Creakbaum and Jim Long **May 6-8, 2005 at the American Legion Post 424 in Bourbon, Indiana.** These are two long-time supporters and promoters of shuffleboard for many years that most all of you know well. If you can attend and join in their celebration to honor this deserving induction, I am sure they would love to see you there! There is a flyer posted for this induction ceremony for Larry & Jim which includes the details for the coinciding tournament on the **"Upcoming Tournament Events"** section of the TSA & BOWERS' CORNER websites:

<http://www.tableshuffleboard.org> (TSA Site)

<http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com> (Bowers' Corner Site)

Both sites have the "Upcoming Events" & many have sent in flyers to post on this calendar section too (some are printed in this final Board Talk issue and some are only posted electronically). So, send your upcoming State & National Hall of Fame induction plans (date, location, etc.) and upcoming tournament events by just clicking on email webmaster or email TSA Secretary from above two sites.

The above two websites also have a "Sign-Up" form that you can click and submit that will automatically put you on distribution for periodic electronic table shuffleboard news, state and national HOF news, league player news, etc. So, for now, the TSA may put out periodic electronic news and are discussing the financial aspects of considering a periodic printed newsletter for TSA members only (however, the membership level currently is such that a printed newsletters would not reach many players for the effort and cost). **WE INVITE YOU ALL TO JOIN/RENEW TSA MEMBERSHIPS!!** Thanks, TSA Directors & TSA Members

CANADIAN OPEN 2005**Canadian Short Board Open 2005**

March 24-17, 2005

Esquimalt Legion #172
Victoria, BC CANADA

Canadian Long Board Open 2005

Aug. 18-21, 2005

Royal Canadian Legion #83
Burnaby, BC CANADA

Flyers & Details Posted on: Bowers' Corner:

<http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com> and

Table Shuffleboard Association:

<http://www.tableshuffleboard.org>

websites under "Upcoming Tournament Events" links

Bill Melton Honored by Board Talk - "Tops" in 2004

Like a fine wine some things only seem to get better with age. That label certainly describes 69 year-old Bill Melton who closed out an already impressive year with yet another pro singles title at the 2004 Houston Holiday Open this past December. In just nine tournaments in 2004, Bill finished in the money twenty-three times including eleven first place finishes and three pro-player MVP awards. Bill, already a member of the National and Oklahoma Shuffleboard Halls of Fame and long recognized as one of the best players in the history of the game had such a dominating year in 2004 that even Darrol Nelson acknowledged that Bill deserves to be considered the top player in the country for 2004. Other players and pros agree with Darrol (quotes follow...):

"Bill was the best. Bill has always been a great competitor and an especially tough one for me to play. We've played some great matches over the years. Based on his record last year, I think he deserves to be recognized as the number one player in 2004". ...Darrol Nelson, January 2005

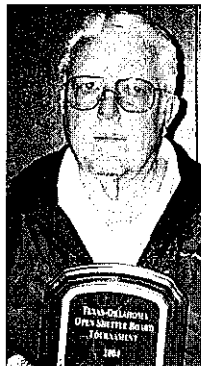
Other top pros such as Houston's Diana Hagen of Houston, Texas, who calls Bill, "the smartest player in the game," echo similar sentiments.

".....there is a lot more to shuffleboard than just banging weights. The ability to not only make a shot, but make the right shot....the strategy involved is what distinguishes truly great players, like Bill Melton. In 2004, whether it was singles, doubles or team events, Bill Melton was always in the money." ...Diana Hagen, January 2005

A quiet soft-spoken man, Bill Melton has been playing shuffleboard for fifty-six years and has been among the elite few for most of that time. He got introduced to shuffleboard at the very young age of 12 and has been blasting weights ever since. As a young boy of 12 years of age, Bill started collecting and selling pop bottles (that was before the "can" packaging days) for spending money. The grocery store offered him 2 cents per bottle and a local bar in Pearson, Oklahoma where he lived offered him 3 cents per bottle. Bill was no dummy, he did the math and of course cashed in for the highest offer. The bar owner took a liking to Bill and invited him in to watch wrestling on a television and their friendship blossomed. The bar had a shuffleboard in it and that was how Bill got started playing and loving this game. This bar owner had so much caring and trust in Bill that he even turned the bar over for Bill to run while he was on errands, etc. on occasion as Bill got a little older. When the bartender passed away, his wife came up to Bill and said "Bill, I want to show you something." She took him to a store room where her husband had saved and kept every single pop bottle that he had bought off of Bill in those early years. The bar owner simply loved Bill and was helping him out as a young man while not letting Bill know for all those years.

Although Bill is not one to seek the limelight, Bill's tournament record, with the exception of Darrol Nelson's is unmatched. When asked how many tournaments he had won over the years, Bill genuinely claims he doesn't really know. He just plays the game to have fun and perhaps win a few bucks. Well, not only has he taken home more than a few first place trophies and prize envelopes, he has also played the game with unparalleled style and grace.

Unfortunately, for the rest of the shuffleboard world Bill Melton shows no signs of slowing down. In addition to being a fixture at most regional events in the Oklahoma and Texas area, Bill continues to travel to all the big tournaments around the



country. And if one Melton is not enough, his son Billy is a top-ranked player in his own right. In fact, one of Bill's second place finishes last year occurred when Billy topped his dad for the pro singles title at the Board Talk Open 2004.

Not one to rest on his laurels, I'm sure that Bill is looking forward to 2005 and an opportunity to continue his winning ways. In fact, Bill has already got a jump start in 2005 with taking two first places in the January 2005 Heartland Handicap Open, grabbing first in both the Bring Partner and Draw

Draw Partner events. Way to go Bill! Keep on slamming!

On a personal note (from Tom & Lynda French), Bill has been one of our idols and mentors since we started playing this great game and one of the strongest The Board Talk supporters and promoters since it's founding in 1984. He is the one responsible for us having a home board when we first started playing. We're very proud of our "Melton" board. The Board Talk, as most of you know, has had many struggles for survival over the years. Bill many times, since 1984 has beat the bushes to get supporters, subscribers, and advertisers. As Bill told us recently, "Closure of The Board Talk is very sad. I can recall the days before 1984 with no formal means of communications and I truly know how much The Board Talk pulled this sport together at a national level and helped the growth of the sport when prior to 1984 the sport itself was headed the wrong direction at a fast pace."

In fact, at our first Board Talk Open 2002 tournament in Vegas, Bill received a The Board Talk "Pioneer Recognition Award" as "Subscription Hustlers" that were awarded to Bob Lewis of Arizona, Bill Melton of Oklahoma (who was unable to attend the ceremony, but joined us in Vegas a couple days later), Glen Davidson of Oklahoma, and Diana Hagen of Texas.

There were several times during The Board Talk's first struggling years that George and Donna Wilber (The Board Talk Founders and prior publishers) were ready to declare: "We just can't do this another month." Then, in the next day's mail would come a packet of subscriptions from Mr. Shuffleboard himself, **Bill Melton of Oklahoma**. This happened several times and being the modest guy he is, he probably didn't recognize that the fate of The Board Talk rested in his hands many times. How many of those initial subscriptions were paid from his own pocket is unknown (like the pop "bottle" story in reverse), but renewals were not a problem in most cases. In fact, after Bill returned from Vegas in 2002, he sent us the very first The Board Talk subscription from China (now that's what we call "hustling" subscriptions)! Obviously, Bill is one of many of us that are very distraught about this final closure of The Board Talk. He has been a dedicated supporter since it's inception. Thank you Bill from the bottom of our hearts for always being there and supporting us (and the Wilbers). We only wish we could have cloned more like you and all the others, such as yourself, along the way. Bill, we admire you for not only your shuffleboard skill and mentorship, but we admire you tremendously for being the wonderful, honest and caring person that you are and always will be, both within the sport and otherwise!

-- From & By: Tom & Lynda French, The Board Talk Editors/Publishers, and the Houston Texas "cartel", and the entire shuffleboard community!

(Board Talk... Continued from Page 1)

Champion Shuffleboard stepped up to plate in 2000 in a final effort to keep The Board Talk alive because none of the other interested parties at the time could or would step up to the plate. It has never been a profit center and never would be, not even enough to pay a minimum wage to someone to physically do the work involved to compile the data for a hardcopy or electronic news without some way to massively seek out additional advertisers. There is little you could cut from content or distribution options and still maintain a timely and meaningful publication. We exhausted all ideas in an attempt to keep it alive long-term.

Champion committed in 2000 to give it a try for up to 4 or 5 years. In turn, when they asked us to work for them, we committed to the same time-frame. December 2004 was 4 years. No progress or testing results could show that continuing any longer would change anything, only postpone it's demise to year end 2005.

At least Champion's efforts gave us all one last opportunity to save our national communication channel. We, as Editors/Publishers, feel that we have failed all of you who have been 100% dedicated to our efforts and would continue to support us and the publication indefinitely, but we were totally out of ideas that could be financially justified that would give Champion a viable business reason to continue to keep us on their personal pay roll because proceeds from The Board Talk would never be able to support or pay even a minimal wage for someone to do the work. There simply is insufficient volume of support and interest from the shuffleboard community, players, establishments, and businesses to give Champion the data to justify a business decision other than the one they have just made with more "piggy backers" than supporters.

In January when we did a cleanup of delinquent subscribers and advertisers, we were down to less than 400 "paid current" supporters (with an optimistic view that the subscriber and advertiser base might average 500 per year if/when delinquents get back on board - which has been a trend since 1984). The beta test that we ran on bi-monthly and electronic option over the past year would put the supporters down by at least 1/2 of that number with a very small margin (approx. 1/3 or less of those) that would have benefited from an "electronic" subscriber and advertiser base where most of those would not have been willing to pay for an electronic or bi-monthly service option anyway.

Anyone that is not willing or able to pay even \$40/year for hardcopy (a mere \$3.33/mo, no more than the cost of one bar drink per month)... and clubs, establishments, and businesses profiting off of our players who are not willing to pay even \$110/year (\$9.17/mo) for a Directory Ad simply means that there is no chance to keep a hardcopy alive and stand a chance to pay for even the printing/mailing and bare minimal operating costs (much less any chance of paying someone such as ourselves to do the physical work to compile a hardcopy or softcopy publication). To provide a meaningful content hardcopy, these low rates would have to be up to double the current rates and be bi-monthly versus monthly. Obviously, with so few supporters at the current low subscriber and advertiser rates, it is unreasonable to

expect up to double financial support for less frequency.

There are at least a couple of entities that have started their own private ventures publishing various shuffleboard news which anyone has a perfect right to do. But, unfortunately the limited number of shuffleboard news supporters (subscribers, advertisers, vendors, establishments, etc.) is small and there simply is not enough volume of support for one news publication, much less two or more. When we are struggling to get low cost subscribers and advertisers with a short timeframe to make it work (at most 5 years to evaluate), competitors do not help the situation at all. If a player is paying \$40/year or others paying for advertising in a publication, they are not likely to pay multiple shuffleboard subscriptions or ads. It's hard enough to get the volume needed for one and we wish all efforts had been toward saving the national publication in existence since 1984. Two have even asked to run ads for their competitive efforts (like Ford sending out ads for Chevy to their Ford customers). The competitive efforts, whether intended or not, is just one more contributing factor to The Board Talk demise. These competitive entities are not Board Talk subscribers, their publications are not associated with any formal shuffleboard organization, they never attended a Board Talk Open, etc. We tried multiple times to talk with those with competitive ventures, in hopes they would understand the problem of splitting up such an already small supporter base, but our pleas apparently fell on deaf ears or they simply did not understand and/or care to. Just one of many contributing factors, but all factors add up to one big negative impact and hurdle to try to overcome.

For any persons out there that somehow think that Champion or the Editors/Publishers have financial gains from The Board Talk, they are wrong. George & Donna Wilber (founders of the publication) had the same struggles. Therefore, the reason it was tough for the Wilbers in 2000 to find an interested party to commit to these challenges and expenses to keep our national communication channel alive. George & Donna Wilber never received any payroll check for their many years of dedicated service and we have received minimal pay for our services (and that pay came from Champion Shuffleboard, not The Board Talk proceeds and included more work than just Board Talk). During our employment with Champion, we compiled The Board Talk (which had no pay roll or travel funds), maintained the Champion site, fielded their site's daily inquiries, helped format/host/sponsor 3 BTO tournaments, took Sun-Glo orders for months until Champion moved equipment from New Jersey and got order procedures and staff trained in their HQ office, etc. So, employment (Lynda) with Champion (\$1500/mo pre-tax, but no travel funds) included more than publishing the The Board Talk and Tom's work and weeks of vacation used on this effort had no compensation at all. Some travel was occasionally paid by caring tournament directors that wanted our physical reporting help, but we had no travel funds otherwise. Look at the situation from a business perspective, owning/publishing The Board Talk is equal advertisement for all shuffleboard vendors and suppliers (total impartial vendor ad content). Champion had no business advantage there.

(Board Talk... Continued from Page 8)

Champion never tried nor wanted to control vendor ad content. They did quit paying their 2 full page ads several years ago, probably to help compensate for my (Lynda) pay roll expense. We can relate to this action, but it did hurt our Board Talk budget to have only 2 1/2 pages of paid page ads left. We have not seen eye-to-eye on all matters with Champion, but we have full respect for them giving us all an opportunity to see if we could build enough revenue from The Board Talk to cover payroll/printing/mailling/supplies (bare basics of operational expenses) and give us all the opportunity to pitch in and save it long-term. We have failed to be able to do that and they were left with one option... to terminate printing The Board Talk and remove us from their pay roll. Champion tried in 2000 to get one other interested party vendor to partner with them when the final closure plans were announced by George & Donna Wilber, but were declined, so Champion took it on 100%.

Champion knew from the beginning that The Board Talk publication would have never been a profit center, as all interested parties were provided detailed finances from George & Donna Wilber. We know this first-hand too, as we were also on the interested parties at the time. In fact, we did an in-depth analysis with Mike & Susie Halstead of Kentucky, as the four of us thought perhaps we could team up in some way -- but the business evaluation we jointly conducted showed the unlikeliness of recouping the original investment of buying it from George & Donna with minimal chance to break even on the pure cost each month (excluding any pay roll or travel). Well, the financial picture looks the same in January 2005 (no change) as in 2000.

Another factor... we may not have signed up for this challenge in 2000 working for Champion at all had we known that the additional promotion Champion implied was in-plan did not materialize. Champion presented some plans that we thought might really help... such as promoting The Board Talk at their many trade shows, having us design a customer survey for their customers which included free product sample and free board talk issue when completed and returned, plans to put a full Board Talk sample issue with each board or product shipped, etc. Although we printed and sent extra issues, designed and sent them the requested surveys, they had a business decision change which excluded this promotion. So, we lost the primary promotion channel that we thought might have helped gain home board owners, league players, outside advertisers to support us in both the subscribing and advertising aspects. Basically without that added promotion, we ended up with our hands tied to business-as-usual, which the Wilbers can vouch was not a long-term solution. We do not question Champion's rationale at all, as those are business decisions only they should make, but it was a huge disappointment to us... when in 2000 we hoped these additional promotional avenues might open up the desperately needed advertising channels that the Board Talk so badly needed for a long-term solution. But, no guarantee it would've helped. All printed matter publications are struggling now... so who knows and electronic just isn't there yet with many groups.

We thank all who have participated in our "beta test"

(both subscribers and non-subscribers) over the past year and we wish the stats had been more positive in the electronic and/or bi-monthly option results. We will continue our effort to provide "free" periodic electronic "League Players' News" and "Shuffler News" that we put in-plan in mid-Dec. 2004 for starting 1Q2005. There is a League Players' section from the Bowers website and discussion forum link from the Bowers' and TSA websites. We have players signed up to receive and share periodic "League Players" & "Shuffler" News Flashes.

For obvious reasons, there will not be a Board Talk Open 2005 tournament either since there is no longer a Board Talk publication. There is a replacement tournament on those dates being hosted in Garland, Texas by Williams' Shuffleboard (see flyer insert for details). Champion reportedly will provide boards and some supplies for this effort. We will not be attending (or any major event for some time), but wish all who do a great time. Once we recover from our emotional shock and disappointment, we'll be attending some tournaments down the road, but likely not in the near future. Please keep in touch, as we need our communication channel as much or more now than we did in 2000 when we almost lost The Board Talk. We extend our love and thanks to each and every one of you who have supported The Board Talk over the years.

On a personal note, we wish to thank each and every one of you who have been so supportive personally, including my (Lynda) surgery in 2002, treatments, and recovery. January 2005 brings in many mixed emotions: three years since that surgery, birthday (Lynda), wedding anniversary, and now the closure of Board Talk. Through it all, we can say that the demise of The Board Talk cannot and will not ever take away our family (immediate and extended) and we are very thankful that we are blessed with such a wonderful and caring family, extended family, and friends. There are no words to describe the value of friendship, caring, and supporting each other in the good and bad times that pass our way. We love this game, we love all of you who have stood by us and supported us for 4+ years, and we deeply apologize that we were unable to find an acceptable solution to keep our national publication communication channel alive long-term, but were only able to help give it 4+ more years.

We extend our love, thanks, and regrets to all of you. Each one of you will always be considered part of our extended family and we will continue to do anything we can personally to keep our sport alive... despite the absence of our national printed Board Talk publication. -- Tom & Lynda

Those interested in receiving electronic news updates just need to fill out the "Sign-Up Form" which is located on both the Bowers' Corner & TSA websites. Tournament information, results, flyers may be sent to: lynda@jump.net for posting on or links from the Bowers & TSA sites: (email, fax, or call us) --Tom & Lynda French

Bowers' Corner website:

<http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com>

Table Shuffleboard Association (TSA) website:

<http://www.tableshuffleboard.org>

Bowers' & TSA websites Shuffler Discussion Forum:

<http://tsaorg.proboards31.com>

Sign-Up Form for "free" Shuffleboard News Flashes!:

http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com/electronicnews_signupform.htm

15th Annual Cancer Memorial Benefit

Submitted By: Sal Mancuso (GDSA Chairman), Dallas, Texas (received Jan. 9, 2005)

Dallas, Texas: September 10-12, 2004

15th Cancer Memorial Benefit a Huge Success!

In December the Greater Dallas Shuffleboard Association brought to a close its annual fund raising efforts on behalf of its adopted charity in a large way.

The 15th Annual Cancer Memorial Benefit was held on September 10-12, 2004 at One Nostalgia Place, 6521 Abrams Rd. in Dallas. 60 players from the greater Dallas area entered the event, a 6-man draft team tournament. Through the usual hard efforts and excellent services of the ONP staff along with the active participation of the league executive committee, the GDSA presented a check to Children's Medical Center of Dallas for \$6,350.00.

This event was first organized in 1990 as a way for the league to remember one of our sponsors, Bobby Jones, who died of cancer. Since that time, we have dedicated the tournament to all of our friends of shuffleboard that have passed away, and remember them by our participation and generosity in this event, which to date has raised close to \$100,000.00 for cancer research and treatment for "our kids".

The tournament itself ran smoothly from start to finish. In addition to shuffleboard, there was also a blackjack tournament to give waiting players and bar patrons other ways to pass the time while helping our kids at Children's. First Place and Grand Prize for this tournament went to Steve Dunegan, who won a 2 night stay in one of the casino hotels in Bossier City/Shreveport, LA along with a trophy.

A great many items were donated by members and local businesses in the community for raffle prizes. While everyone on the staff at One Nostalgia Place went out of their way to assist with this weekend event, Cindy Boyd decided to really step up and take charge of this event. Through her determined efforts the raffle raised well over \$1000 for the cause.

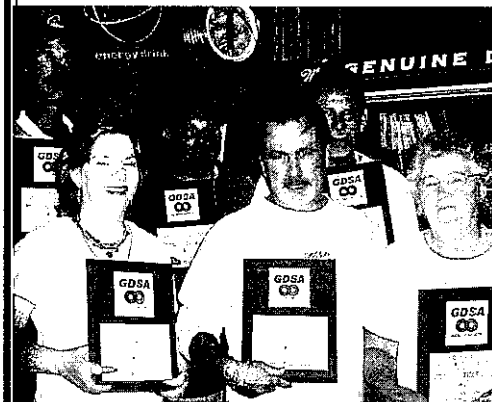
Congratulations to the First Place team that was led by Dave Ewing (who also won last year as well) and his teammates Terri Robertson, Gary Michael VanZant, Dorothy Henderson, Dennis Buchert and Roy Applegate. Second Place went to the team led by Herb McClain. Third Place honors went to Connie McCormack and Fourth Place went to the team led by Sal Mancuso. (see pictures).

There are a great many people and businesses to thank for the success of this event, and there isn't enough room here to list them all. I do, however, want to express my gratitude to the principals involved in our continued success. First, to the members of the executive committee of the GDSA, without whose participation and support this could not have been a success - Johnny Perez- President, Sandy Eddy- Secretary and Brenda Denney - Treasurer. Next, I thank Alma Fancher and her staff for both financial and moral support during the event. This was the first time they have hosted this, and I hope they will do it again in the future. As usual, C.W. Walker for his continued support of the league and this event thru his donation of 2 tables for us to use. My appreciation to Jimmie Mitchell for his diligent maintenance of the boards throughout the tournament.

Special thanks to Cindy Boyd and Connie McCormack for supplying the drive behind our raffle. Most importantly, my gratitude goes to the 60 players that continue to believe that what we are doing here makes a difference in the lives of the kids we help by playing in this years' event.



LEFT:
Dave Ewing (right)
gives team mate
Dorothy Henderson (left)
a shirt with her
new title on it:
"Dave's Ultimate Weapon"



1st Place Team:
(bottom) Terri
Robertson,
Gary Michael
VanZant,
Dorothy
Henderson;
(top) Dennis
Buchert,
captain: Dave
Ewing, Roy
Applegate



2nd Place Team: Herb McClain (ugly guy, bottom center),
(L-R Back row): Amy Breeding, Barbara Balusek,
Ron Holder, Bob Stellmach, Pablo Blanco



3rd Place Team: (L-R) Candy Gohl, Jason Thomas, Connie McCormack, Shanon Hastings, Allen Clark, Robert Hoffman



Event Hosts:
Alma & Joe
Fancher

LEAGUE PLAYERS' CORNER

Greater Dallas Shuffleboard Association (GDSA)

January 2005 Report on GDSA League Format (Dallas, Texas area)
Report & Photos Submitted By: Sal Mancuso (received Jan. 9, 2005)

DALLAS, TEXAS (GDSA):

Greater Dallas Shuffleboard Association

The GDSA has operated in its current format with minor changes since 1995, when it was reorganized from its old method of operation under the name of the United States Shuffleboard Association. Under these two names we have been in existence since 1984, making us Dallas' oldest and largest league, with 3 stated purposes:

- 1) To promote the shuffleboard through its members in and around the greater Dallas area;
- 2) To provide a profitable return for sponsoring bars/clubs that enter teams into our league, and
- 3) To give back to our community through charitable contributions to our adopted charity – The Cancer & Blood Disorders Unit at Children's Medical Center of Dallas.

The league is administered through a Board of Directors. Each team elects a Captain at the start of the season, and this person becomes their elected representative on the board of directors. In addition, the membership elects a President, Secretary and Treasurer. Together with the Board Chairman they form the Executive Committee, which oversees the daily operation and administration of the players.

The adopted method of play for us on Tuesdays is a best-of-nine match that pits Pairs of players from each team in a game to 11 points. This shortened game is necessary in order to give each player the chance to play a reasonable amount of games (3) and still get them home at a decent hour, safely. The league also employs a handicap system, using a rating system not unlike the Bowers System in use today for tournaments. Ratings are done through the team captains and by ballot, twice yearly.

Weekly cost to the players is \$5.00, and if their team wins the match they get \$6.00, and \$2.00 for a loss, payable at the end of the season. A 2 division system is used for standings, but all teams play each other at least once. The Divisions become important at playoff time, as the playoffs are seeded, with the top 8 teams playing in Division 1 and all others playing in Division 2 in a double-elimination format.

To briefly summarize what makes this system work here – in part or in whole – is that it has been designed for the overwhelming majority of our members. These are just average people that want to get together with their friends on Tuesday and enjoy themselves by socializing, playing shuffleboard and being given a measure of fair hope that they can win a match, no matter who they are playing against. They will spend \$5.00 to play, but will not usually play \$10.00 tournaments or travel to one. Since these players are the same people that make prize packages possible for the better teams, it only makes sense that our program be tailored around this player without over handicapping the more

one, to the mutual benefit of the organization and its sponsors. If you ask any bar/club owner in greater Dallas, they will tell you what I already know and we believe: that the Greater Dallas Shuffleboard Association is the best bargain in the city for business, and 24 teams and 160 members-at-large will agree with them.

GDSA Executive Committee



Bottom Center (Above): Sandy Eddy (Secretary)

Back Row (Above: L-R):

Brenda Denny (Treasurer)

Johnny Perez (President)

Sal Mancuso (Board Chairman)

If you would like more information on how we operate, just drop us a line (email addresses follow):

Sal Mancuso, GDSA Chairman

email: boardChrm2@sbcglobal.net

Johnny Perez, GDSA President

email: johnny_perez2000@yahoo.com

Sandy Eddy, GDSA Secretary

email: seddy1@sbcglobal.net

Brenda Denney, Treasurer

email: rdenny110@aol.com

Editors' Note: For more "League Player News", or to sign-up for "free" periodic electronic news flashes, view league rules and league standings, etc. visit "League Players' Corner" on the Bowers' Corner "League Players' Corner":
<http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com>

Shuffleboard For the Uninitiated ... Lamentations of an Unaccomplished Player

"New Shuffleboard Player's Story" By: Robert L. Hoffman, Dallas, Texas (January 2005)



Editor's Note:

*(above, Robert Hoffman getting
with that watermelon, big time!)*

Robert L. Hoffman (above) is a Dallas, Texas bankruptcy lawyer and litigator who recently took up shuffleboard and is considered irreverent even by lawyer standards. He penned the following story in response to our (Editors) request that he write something from the standpoint of a "new player", in an effort to get "new player profiles", "league players profiles", "player profiles", etc. for publication in The Board Talk. Those of you that have been participating in our "beta test" are familiar with these extended efforts to acquire more player profiles, print them, and post them.

Shufflers who are offended or aspersed by the article may spam him at hoff-law@swbell.net or call him collect at 214-969-5400.

Robert, many thanks for a great "new player" profile story! [Note: See Page 10, column 2 for another mug shot of our up-and-coming pro "new player": Robert Hoffman of Big D.]

--T&L French, The Board Talk Editors

Gregg Hixon's Harbor Point Bar & Grill:

Richardson, Texas had an excellent field for its' Bring Partner and Draw Partner tournament on November 26th and 27th.

I had a good week at the law office and cleared enough to put up the two \$25 entry fees. I also was excited because this was a handicap event and I fantasized that my "four" rating might even give me a chance.

First Event - The Draw Partner

In the Draw Partner, I got a sweet lady named Laverne who had been playing all of two weeks and scratched the board with her bracelets and necklace when she shot. Laverne had a local "0" on her end of the board, so, in order to avoid embarrassing myself, I cagily moseyed to the other end to work over an unimpressive looking old man from Oklahoma named Melton.

I told Laverne to hit weights and let me handle Melton by trying the outlandish shots that 27 time world champion Billy Mays taught me by mopping me up for \$20 a game and playing only with his left little finger while spotting me 4 points positive and playing to 11 points. I had gained good experience from Billy and this one-fingered lesson cost me only a little more than I paid for my first car.

Melton seemed a little testy when I told him that he seemed to have potential and asked him if he knew how to shoot with his left hand just as his right hand started forward with a rail shot, but I'll be damned if the old man didn't have the dexterity to stop his stroke and tell me that my advising him on shuffleboard was about as useful as the "Neutered Eye for the Straight Guy" talking about procreation and that if I kept entering tournaments, I'd be the only lawyer in America with a net worth roughly equivalent to that of my hero Billy Mays.

But Melton doesn't stay mad long and even seemed to be proud of my suggestion that he has potential because he smiled and complemented me that my game shows about as much potential as the Horns have demonstrated against the Sooners in the last five years.

Even though Laverne played a lot better than I did, the match was over in four minutes so I had plenty of time to get back to the bar, eat two Macho Grande plates and regale complete strangers with my football stories from Slaton High School out on the high plains of West Texas. No one seemed particularly interested but at least I didn't get beer poured on me like I did the week before.

The Draw Partner was won by Evelyn Harris, the wildest of Billy Mays' nine siblings, who carried C.W. Walker up from the losers' bracket to double dip a big nosed banker

("New Player's Story"... Con't. from page 12)

pro from Ft. Worth named Bobby and his brother's "other" Sally. Evelyn is playing lots better now that she has that newer, lighter oxygen tank and can stand up straighter when she shoots. Given that Evelyn's 2 handicap has credibility roughly equivalent to the 0 handicap of her brother, Billy, the result surprised no one.

The game drew lots of attention because Sally is a drop dead gorgeous blonde and a gaggle of men and bi curious ladies gathered behind her to watch her reach way out over the board and shoot. That was the highlight of the tournament for me.

Second Day Event - The Bring Partner:

Sally's other, a pinassed little fender bender fixer pro from Ft. Worth named David, Sr., became number one on my hit list because I paid the highest price in the sponsor sale to buy him and Sally in the Bring Partner and they got dusted early on by other players of suspicious consanguinity and affinity. My lawyer's instinct told me that the result suggested that the woodpile was not entirely unoccupied and that the Calvinist shuffleboard concept of preordination may be alive and well, especially since they haven't lost by ten points since Lassie was a pup. Big David's gonna learn how dangerous crossing lawyers is because I'm sending in 1099s for all his wins this year following which I'm going to scavenge the body shop and maybe Sally at the IRS foreclosure sale and fix him from sucking eggs.

I did better in the Bring Partner event with my own play because I got to drink up the \$25 entry fee instead of entering.

I had been assured by that prevaricating Greg Hixon said that if I'd show up early, lots of people would be delighted to be my partner. I followed his advice and even believed him until just before play started.

About three hours before the event, I was delighted to learn that a good player named Carol also had no partner, but when I asked her, she hesitated and then said she did not plan to play. I am sure that this had nothing to do with my ability, hygiene or personality, but five minutes later she exercised the feminine prerogative to change her mind and signed up with Hixon's girlfriend, Penny, who walked in the door right after our conversation. This brought to mind Betty Davis' comment that "I'd love to kiss you but I have to do my nails." But I felt flattered that Carol at least hesitated nearly as long as my ex-wife endured me and this experience was a lot cheaper.

Then I asked a one rated Ft. Worth machinist named Iggy whose partner no-showed if he'd like to join me bein' as how this was a handicap event and I'd be playing as a big 'ole 4. He said he'd really like to partner up with me some time, but he only drove over to say hello and needed to get home in time to watch his favorite tee vee show, Mr. Ed.

So I wound up giving a pretty good imitation of the fat girl at my 8th grade dance who spent the evening sitting against the wall and looking pitiful. I remember exactly what she looked like because I stared hard at her

after she turned me down when I finally mustered the courage to ask her for a dance. Because I was and still am fatter than she was and is, I guess I can't really blame her and I still admire her for thereby demonstrating that she nevertheless maintained some self respect.

Besides, she knew that I couldn't dance anyhow and the mental picture of our being unable to get ahold of each other even during the slow tunes because our arms were short relative to our bellies would have been inelegant and she knew I only asked her because her daddy had a 20,000 acre ranch nearby with quail and oil all over it.

I am a little bitter because I never got to hunt that ranch except a few times when my buddies and I poached and because I damn near ripped off my left testicle when I slipped on the bob war (pedants say barbed wire) fence as the Garza county sheriff was chasing us and I wound up leaving all 24 quail which I had already cleaned right there on the ground. At least I had the presence of mind to put my shotgun in one hand and my left nut in the other and high tail it in to the mesquite bushes where I spent the night huddled against a 40 mile hour West Texas wind at about 35 degrees.

The good news is that her daddy is tight as Dick's hat band, has a personality about like that of a soon-to-be pro from Ft. Worth known as Little David and at age 95 shows no signs of slowing down so I'd had no chance to get her to support me anyhow. **Note:** I'm a careful lawyer and took pains to use the word "personality" and not "common sense" so as not to slander the litigious old man and would note that if he instead had little David's maturity level, the ranch would have been gone long before his daughter hit puberty which would have been sad because I was not out of law school then and didn't know how to steal it yet.

I was a bit miffed at Carol at first and told Billy Mays I considered telling her off but he cautioned me not to start a fist fight I had no chance of winning. Because Billy used to live with her and has been married 10 times, I figured he oughta know so I'll instead honor Carol not only as an outstanding shuffler, but also as one who has developed her body so well that, given a sturdy teeter totter, she could send that West Texas girl to the moon.

Lest I be accused of digression I'll get back on the subject and conclude my report by telling you how the Harbor tournament ended for me: While my inability to get a partner was a little embarrassing, fortunately I enjoy talking and playing with myself so I just amused myself that way before Hixon threw me out. (No, dear reader, I was playing shuffleboard with myself on the extra board and they wound up needing the board. Shame on you!)

I did manage on the way out to show the players how I felt about them when I put \$20 in the juke box and played, in absentia, all 60 of Dimebag Darrell Abbott's Greatest Heavy Metal Hits which I understand was loudly and appropriately received by all. Rumor has it that, while I was sleeping it off and hiding in my car, Tammy Morgan wound up carrying that old white haired geriatric who lucked out against me and they won the Bring Partner event at 2:30 a.m. -- By: Robert L. Hoffman, Dallas, Texas

(Shufflers' Notebook... Con't. from page 2)

NASC 2004 "Rocks"!..

From: Mike & Susie Halstead of Kentucky

Letter to the Editors (Jan. 4, 2005): Dear Tom and Lynda, Wanted to share with you and the shuffleboard world what a great event the 2004 NASC was in Reno. It had been a few years since we had the opportunity to attend, but it will now become a yearly tradition again! It is a very well-run tournament. We would like to thank the whole staff for the professionalism and effort put forth.

It is always great to see old friends and we even made some new ones along the way! Special thanks to Lorraine Olsen for driving us to Reno from our visit to California. That was an adventure in itself! She is truly an angel on earth. I am not sure if shufflers are aware of the diligence and sweat she puts into everything she does...including the top-notch brochures she designed and assembled for John McDermott's induction into the TSA Hall of Fame.

John's induction was a real tear-jerker and a very well deserved honor for a hard-working man. John's love of shuffleboard is so apparent. John is one of those with a vision for the future of our beloved game. We are so proud of his achievement. Thanks to you too, John for making our week a very special memory.

The list of kudos is so long I would need a whole issue of Board Talk to fill it. Would like to give a pat on the back to Danny Holland and Trish for all the intense research put forth to investigating the history of the sport. You think you know shuffleboard? Take their quiz and you may be surprised!

A special thanks to all the shufflers we teamed up with in various events. What an adventure!

Truly, this thanks goes out to every shuffler who attended the 2004 NASC in Reno. We enjoy every one of you and feel this event defines the motto of the Shuffleboard Federation... "Friendship through competition". Love and blessings for the new year,

-Michael and Susie Halstead, Kentucky

BOARD TALK OPEN 2005 4th Annual Tourney Status...

Obviously, with the closure of The Board Talk publication, there is no **4th Annual Board Talk Open 2005** planned (plans have been cancelled). We had just received acceptance (day after we received the notice to shut down Board Talk) from the facility in downtown Austin which I know many of you were already excited about potentially being able to host the 4th year BTO tournament in Austin, Texas and several of you even from out-of-state visited this facility in December on your way to the HHO 2004 tournament in Houston. For those that recall the good-ole-days of the US Open & Texas Open held in Austin, TX previously at various hotels and then at the Texas Mist until it's closure, we know this is disappointment too, but for obvious reasons we cancelled the BTO 2005 plans in Austin that we had already discussed these potential plans with many of you... "No More Board Talk", means "No More BTO".

We wish to thank all the prior year BTO tournament staff, volunteers, and participants for not only supporting us in our efforts to save The Board Talk publication, but supported our efforts intensely with the BTO tournament for three years (too many to list, but you know who you are and we love and thank you immensely for your dedication and support for the publication and three year tournament and your contribution and support in our personal lives!).

Williams' Shuffleboard is hosting a replacement tournament in this same time-frame. Champion is reportedly supplying boards and some supplies to this effort (See flyer insert for details).

We (Tom & Lynda) will not be able to personally attend this new tournament (see page 9, column 2), but have assisted them with the flyer and format information previously used, etc. We are certain that they will appreciate player support for their efforts at organizing a new replacement tournament during this already anticipated BTO 2005 time-frame. "Happy Shuffling to all!"

- Tom & Lynda French, Prior BTO Tourney Directors

Table Shuffleboard Association (TSA) Hall of Fame News..

Larry Creakbaum & Jim Long
will be inducted into the TSA National HOF
during the TSA HOF Draw & Singles
tournament being held at the American Legion
Post #424, Bourbon, Indiana on May 6-8, 2005.
Congrats to Larry & Jim... Well deserved honor!
-- Tom & Lynda French & Shuffleboard Community!

California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame News..

Bob Hunt & Nick Chaffin
will be inducted into the CSHOF
during the President's Day tournament to be
hosted at the VFW #1051, Ripon, California
(tournament being held February 17-21, 2005)
Congrats to Bob & Nick... Well Deserved!
-- Tom & Lynda French & Shuffleboard Community!

"Pucks a-Slamming Again" at Journey's End

December 17-18, 2004

Journey's End Bar & Grill, Bourbon, Indiana

Results & Photos Submitted By: Ann Harrell

Bourbon, Indiana: December 17-18, 2004 **Journey's End Bar & Grill A/B Draw & Mixed Doubles**

Gary Anglin and Jodie Berry topped six other teams on Dec. 18 to win the Mixed Doubles tournament at the Journey's End Bar & Grill. Mike Koontz and Kristie Redman finished in second place with Dennis Creighbaum and Ann Harrell finishing third. Also competing in mixed doubles were Larry and Mary Brown, Mike Johnson and Sheryl Cockerill, Terry and Pam Dowell, Jim Long and Vicki Morgan. A rousing round of crazy eights was enjoyed after the tournament.

Anglin and Ron Merrill won the A/B Draw Partner event in an eight-team field on Friday night. Second went to Mike Koontz and Mark Stevens. Also competing were Pam Dowell-Dave Arnett, Sheryl Cockerill-Jim Koontz, Jan Morlan-Bob Reyes, Mike Johnson-Kelith Spencer, Terry Dowell-Mark Roahrig, Robie Stouder-Ann Harrell.

Ann Harrell at Journey's End Bar & Grill in Bourbon, Indiana, 26 people from Indiana and Michigan participated in an A/B draw partner event. Jimmy "the cop" Kumpula and Vickie Morgan fought their way to 3rd place. Gary Neff of Bourbon and Roland Harkless of Michigan placed 2nd. Dave Arnett from the Warsaw Eagles, home of the Indiana State Tournament (held November 26-28, 2004 -- see Indiana State Championship 2004 [Tournament Winners on pages 13 & 14 of the Dec. '04/Jan. '05 The Board Talk Issue for winners photos](#)) drew Mike Johnson and they played their way to first place. The odds finally caught up with owner Mike Koontz and he drew his sister, Ann Harrell as his partner. They managed to play four whole games without killing each other!

Mixed Doubles Winners



1st Place Mixed Doubles
(Above L-R):

Jodie Berry & Gary Anglin

2nd Place Mixed Doubles
(Above L-R):

Kristie Redman & Mike Koontz

"Bells-A-Ringing" at Market Street Cafe

December 17-18, 2004

Market Street Cafe, Charlestown, Maryland

Results & Photos Submitted By: Dave Shewbridge

Charlestown, Maryland: December 17-18, 2004 **Market Street Cafe, Charlestown, Maryland**

Friday night started out the weekend with "Bells-A-Ringing" at Market Street Cafe. Santa stopped in with stockings as they were awarded to the first the winning teams were awarded their winnings.



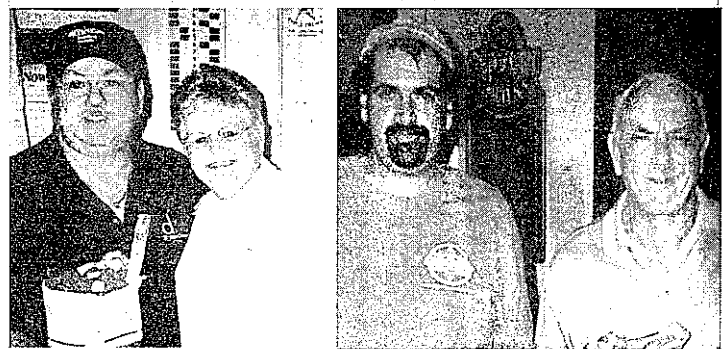
1st - 3rd Place Singles (Above L-R)

1st: Mike Miller (DE/PA); **2nd:** Dave Shewbridge (MD);
3rd: Chuck King (DE); **4th:** (no photo) Louise Freer (PA)



1st Place Bring Partner
(Left L-R):

Dave Shewbridge (MD) &
Brian Rutherford (MD)



2nd Place Bring Partner
(Above L-R):

Chuck King (DE) &
Flo Carlisle (MD)

3rd Place Bring Partner
(Above L-R):

Johnny Gardner (MD) &
Stan Postus (MD)

The turn outs have been great so far for the year, thanks to all! The food and hospitality is always great too! Special thanks to Archie for the great job on the board prep. Hope All Had a Happy Holiday and may 2005 be the best yet!

-- Dave Shewbridge, MD

(Editors' Note: See Photo Page 20 - Reno 2004 "East Coast Shufflers" group photo.)

BALLOON INN'S - 2004 YEAR END RESULTS

Balloon Inn, Arvada, Colorado

By: Char Waugaman

BILL ENGLISH TOURNAMENT HOSTS TRAVIS ANDERSON COLORADO HOF INDUCTION

June 18-20, 2004

The Sixth Annual Bill English Memorial Tournament hosted the Colorado Table Shuffleboard Hall of Fame induction of Travis Anderson, a long time friend of Bill English and fellow National and Colorado Table Shuffleboard Hall of Fame inductee. Congratulations, Travis, on a well deserved honor!

This year for the "Bring Partner" event we had two divisions, an Open and Division II Doubles. First place honors for the Open Doubles went to Morey Balins and Marty Shepard with Dennis Bird and Mickey Moy finishing in a close second. Candy Lepore and Barb Kenney won the Division II. Congratulations to all the winners!

We would like to express our thanks to all the people who joined us in honoring Travis' Hall of Fame induction and to those out-of-state players, Ryan Devlin, Gary Thompson, Karl Spickelmier, Bob Hunt, Marty Shepard, Mickey Moy and Gwyn Orsi for making the trip.

CO.NE.Head Classic VI

August 13-15, 2004

Always a fun time, this year's CO.NE.Head proved to be no different with 36 players from CO, NE, and CA comprising our biggest field yet in this annual tournament.

After the ABC draw out, several shots, plenty of laughs and lots of competitive shuffleboard, Tom Galvin's (NE) team with partners, Pete Martinez (CO) and Davey Dickerson (NE) claimed first place. Second went to Randy Nusser (NE), Lorraine Olson (CA), and Mike Tramutolo (CO). Steve Hamilton (NE), Candy Lepore (CO) and Phyllis Raia (CO) finished in third.

Congratulations to all the winners! Hope to see everyone back next year at the CO.NE.Head. We missed you Harold. Your \$\$ is still hanging from the ceiling.

OCTOBER A/B DRAW ROUND ROBIN

October 15-16, 2004

When the round robin wins and losses were finally tallied, first place went to Ron Sosovec and Brendon Colter. Bendon moved to Colorado from California this past year and this was his first 1st place win at one of our tournaments.

Another new Colorado resident, Gwyn Orsi and her partner, Mike Richardson, finished in a close second.

We also welcomed back to our state, after living a few years in St. Louis, one of our good friends, Kenny Reeves. Great to see you back and playing shuffleboard, Kenny.

15TH ANNUAL SANTA CLASSIC

December 10-11, 2004

At this years Santa Classic we held a Handicap Blind Draw and it resulted in many competitive teams and matches formatted as 2 out of 3 in the winners and one game to 21 in the losers.

The final match between the doubles team of Gwyn Orsi and Gene Davis vs Dave Cowan and Mike Hedges went to the wire with Gwyn and Gene coming out on top. Travis Anderson and Char Waugaman finished in third.

Congratulations to all! Great to see Gene Davis playing again.

Thank you Russ Brown, Bill Wolfe and the Balloon Inn for all your support of Colorado Shuffleboard in 2004.



1st & 2nd Bill English Bring Partner (Above)

1st: Marty Shepard & Morey Balins; 2nd: Dennis Bird & Mickey Moy



1st Div. II Bill English Bring Partner (Left L-R)

1st: Candy Lepore & Barb Kenney



1st & 2nd A-B-C "CO.NE.Head Classic VI" (Above L-R)

1st: Tom Galvin, Davey Dickerson, Pete Martinez
2nd: Randy Nusser, Lorraine Olson, Mike Tramutolo



*A-B-C
"CO.NE.Head Classic VI"
(Left L-R)*

3rd: Candy Lapore,
Steve Hamilton, Phyllis Raia



1st & 2nd Place A/B "October Robin" (Above)

1st: Ron Sosovec (left) & Brendon Colter (left center);
2nd: Mike Richardson (right center) & Gwyn Orsi (right)



1st - 3rd Place Blind Draw -- "Santa Classic" (Above L-R)

1st: Dave Cowan & Mike Hedges;
2nd: Gwyn Orsi & Gene Davis;
3rd: Travis Anderson & Char Waugaman



*Colorado HOF Award
Presented By Dave Cowan
to Travis Anderson!
(Pictured Left L-R)*

Dave Cowan, Travis
Anderson and wife Tommie
(and Soso in background)



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*New air conditioning and smoke eaters

Wednesday: Aug. 30, 7 p.m.: 4 PERSON BRING TEAM -- Div. I (add to 1), \$200 entry; Div. II (add to 10), \$100 entry, 2 of 3, double elimination.

Thursday, Aug. 31, 6 p.m.: DIV. I AND II SINGLES -- Div. I (-1's, 0's, 1's), \$200 entry for -1, \$100 for 0, \$50 for 1, 2 of 3 double elimination. Div. II (2's, 3's, 4's), \$75 entry for 2's, \$50 for 3's \$25 for 4's, single game, double elimination.

Friday, Sept. 1, 7 p.m.: DIV. I AND II DRAW PARTNERS -- Div. I (-1 through 1), \$100 entry; Div. II (2 through 4), \$50 entry. Both single game, double elimination.

Saturday, Sept. 2, 2 p.m.: SIX-PERSON DRAFT TEAM EVENT -- EVERY-ONE PLAYS! \$50 per person entry, best of 7, double elimination.

Sunday, Sept. 3, 3 p.m.: DIV. I AND II BRING PARTNER -- Div. I (add to 0), \$100 per team; Div. II (add to 5), \$50 per team; both single game, double elimination.

Monday, Sept. 4: Finish doubles if necessary. \$20 draws and match play.

-- Sponsor sales for all events --

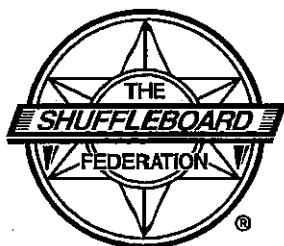
-- A one-time \$20 registration fee will be charged --

--FREE food on Saturday -- Beautiful sponsor shirts sold at tournament --

For Information: Bobby Williams, 817-265-7045 or 817-496-8972; Jeri Billard, 817-536-5952; David Williams, 817-451-9583

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Points are earned based on your finish in each event. The more events you enter, the better chance you have to win. Players get two points for each eligible event they enter. The top 25% of the finishers in each of those events earn bonus points. More details are available on the other side of this page. The top three players in each division will win \$300, \$200 and \$100, respectively. The top finisher overall will be the 2000 North American Champion, and will receive a trophy, and a *free Jacuzzi suite*, for the 2001 North American Championships™. More detailed information is available on the back of this page. The following events will be used to determine the winner.

Pro Division	Rating between -.01 and -1.50	Pro/Am Draft Team Event, Pro Singles, Pro Doubles, Crazy Eights and Deuces Wild®.
Division I	Rating between 0.00 and 1.49	Pro/Am Draft Team Event, Division I Singles, Division I Doubles, Amateur Team Event & Deuces Wild®.
Division II	Rating between 1.50 and 2.49	Pro/Am Draft Team Event, Division II Open or Ladies Singles, Division II Doubles, Amateur Team Event & Deuces Wild®.
Division III	Rating between 2.50 and 5.00	Pro/Am Draft Team Event, Division III Open or Ladies Singles, Division III Doubles, Amateur Team Event & Deuces Wild®.

EVENT INFORMATION - MORE DETAILS ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE

Event	Entry Fee	Who Can Play	Starts	Finishes	Limit
Pro/Am Draft Team	\$50.00 per player	Everybody	Sunday, October 29	Monday	192 players
Division I Doubles	\$75.00 per player	0.00 to 5.00	Tuesday, October 31	Tuesday	32 teams
Division II Doubles	\$50.00 per player	1.50 to 5.00	Tuesday, October 31	Tuesday	48 teams
Division III Doubles	\$30.00 per player	2.50 to 5.00	Tuesday, October 31	Tuesday	40 teams
Pro Doubles	\$100.00 per player	-1.50 to 5.00	Tuesday, October 31	Wednesday	32 teams
Division I Singles	\$75.00 per player	0.00 to 5.00	Wednesday, November 1	Thursday	48 players
Division II Singles	\$50.00 per player	1.50 to 5.00	Wednesday, November 1	Thursday	64 players
Division III Singles	\$30.00 per player	2.50 to 5.00	Wednesday, November 1	Thursday	64 players
Ladies Singles	\$30.00 per player	1.50 to 5.00	Wednesday, November 1	Thursday	40 players
Crazy Eights	\$50.00 per player	-0.01 to -1.50	Thursday, November 2	Thursday	40 players
Amateur Team Event	\$50.00 per player	0.00 to 5.00	Thursday, November 2	Saturday/Sunday	32 teams
Pro Singles	\$200.00 or \$300.00	-1.50 to 5.00	Thursday, November 2	Saturday/Sunday	32 players
Legends Draw	\$50.00 per player	0.00 to 5.00	Saturday, November 4	Sunday	48 players
Deuces Wild®	\$25.00 per player	Everybody	Sunday, November 5	Sunday	128 players

- All participants *must* be registered guests of the Sands Regency Hotel Casino. Room rates are \$53.41, including tax, maximum of two players per room. Room/airfare packages are allowed, as long as you stay at the Sands Regency. To make room reservations, please call the Sands Regency Hotel Casino at 800-648-3553 and tell them your group code number is SHU1025.
- Entries for each event will be accepted until that event is full, or until the day prior to that event, whichever comes first. Entries postmarked after September 10 are subject to a \$5.00 penalty for registration, and for each event entered.
- More information is available on the tournament web site - www.nasc2000.com - or by contacting us at 800-380-3033, or 21476 Lujon Court, Northville, Michigan 48167-9035.

2000 NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS™

N.A.S.L.™ TEAM EVENT - TEAM ROSTER FORM

Please Print!

This form must be filled out completely (addresses, phone numbers, Entry Fee *and* Registration Fee for all players) or it will be returned to you!

**PLAYERS RATED -.01 THROUGH -1.50
ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THIS EVENT**

Team Name _____ Team Captain _____

Name _____ Name _____

Address _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ Phone () _____

Name _____ Name _____

Address _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ Phone () _____

Name _____ Name _____

Address _____ Address _____

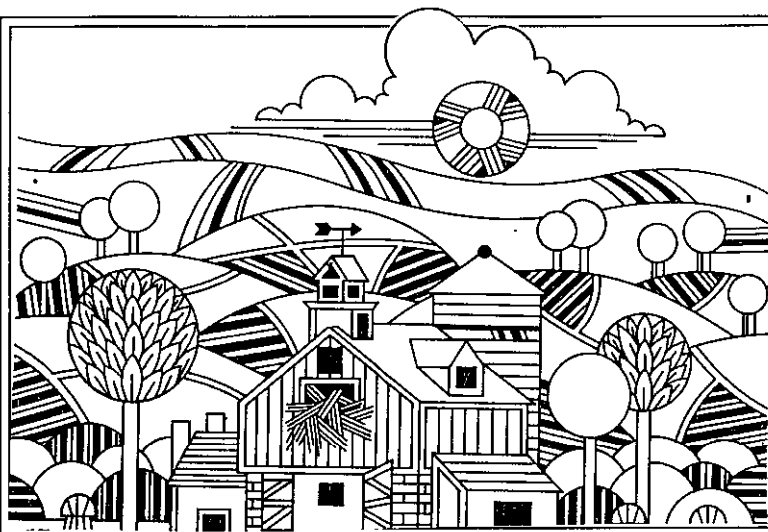
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ Phone () _____

Each player on the team must fill out a registration form. All teams must include at least two ladies, but not more than four.

The team Entry Fee and Registration Fee for each player (if they have not already paid it) must be sent, along with this roster form, or it will be returned to you. If you have any questions, please call The Shuffleboard Federation at 800-380-3033 before sending in your registration form.

The Bower's, 2000 ratings will be used, with the exception that anyone who is rated a five must play as a four in this event. For a copy of the Bowers Ratings, contact The Shuffleboard Federation or, if you have access to the Internet, go to www.jump.net/~ronbowers to download a copy.



Rural America 2000

**Labor Day Weekend
Aug. 31-Sept. 3**

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***6 Boards *2 Locations *Saturday Chow**

♣ Thursday, Aug. 31: ROUND ROBINS

♣ Friday, Sept. 1: A-B-C DRAW, \$25 per player entry
7 p.m. sale, 2 out of 3 in the winner's bracket; 1 game to 15 in "B" bracket

♣ Saturday, Sept. 2: OPEN DOUBLES, \$100 per team entry
Sale at noon, 2 out of 3 in the winner's bracket, 1 game 15 in "B" bracket

♣ Sunday, Sept. 3: OPEN SINGLES, \$200 per player entry
2 out of 3 in the winner's bracket, single 15 game in "B" bracket

LODGING INFORMATION

- *Free RV parking available at both bar locations*
- *Umpqua Safari RV Park (5 blocks away), 541-679-6328 or 800-818-8580*
- *Safari Inn Motel (next door), 541-679-6736*
- *Sweet Breeze Inn (3 blocks away), 541-679-2420*

Tournament Information/Reservations

Call Steve Fisher at the 99 Tavern, 541-679-7068, or Willee's, 541-679-9248. Call in the mornings for best results. RESERVE EARLY!

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SINGLES

Division I (1.00-2.99) \$30 entry

Division II (3.00-5.99) \$20 entry

DOUBLES

A-B Draw, \$30 per player

- *All events 2 out of 3, double elimination*
- *\$10 registration fee for all participants*

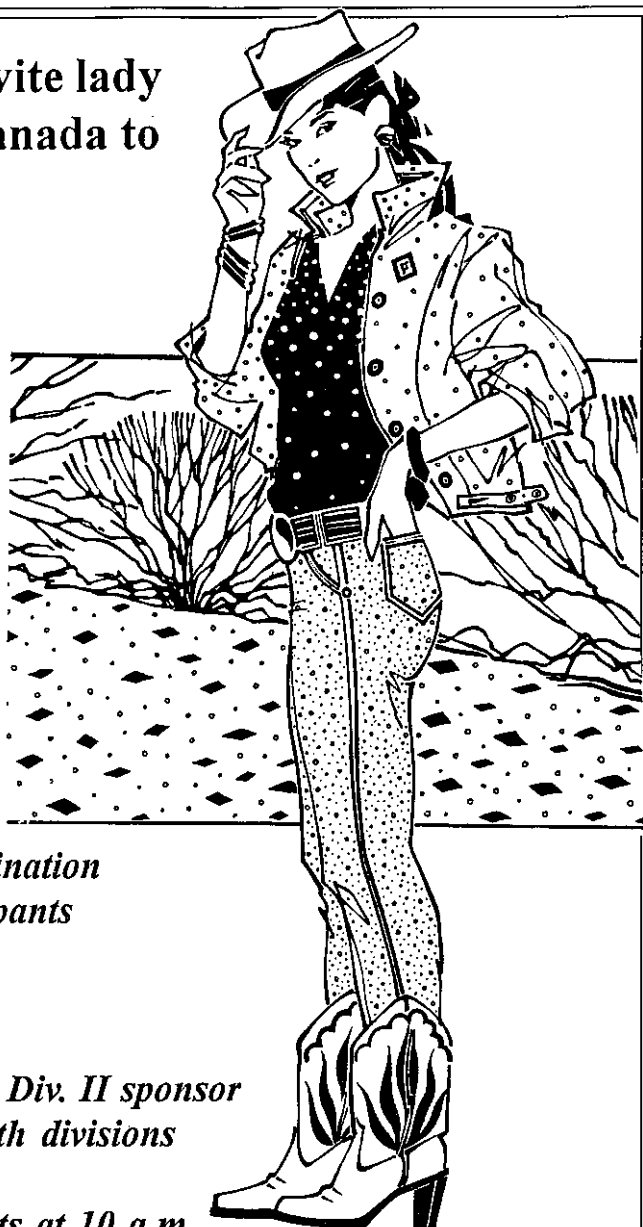
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, Sept. 15: *Div. I sponsor sale at 7 p.m.; Div. II sponsor sale approximately 7:30 p.m. with play for both divisions immediately following.**

Saturday, Sept. 16: *Ladies' Singles finals starts at 10 a.m. Sponsor sale for A-B draw partner starts at 7 p.m. with play immediately following.**

Sunday, Sept. 17: *Ladies' Doubles finals start at 10 a.m.*

**Format and start times subject to change depending on turnout.*



Questions? Contact Linda Churchman, 623-412-8006 or e-mail: ljcphx@aol.com

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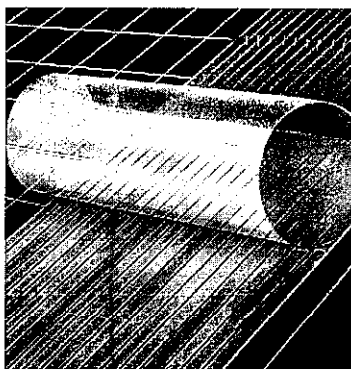
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Thanks Again! Phil McKenna FDNY, Engine 68.

E-mail Address: philpwm@usa.net

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Bill Niswonger, Plymouth, IN;
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Sincerely, Michelle Glandon

E-mail Address: C24IMP@aol.com



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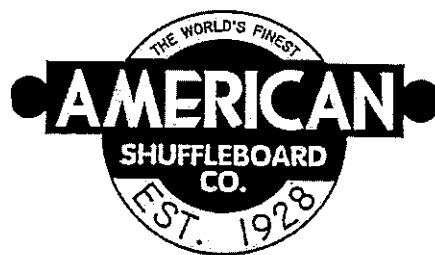
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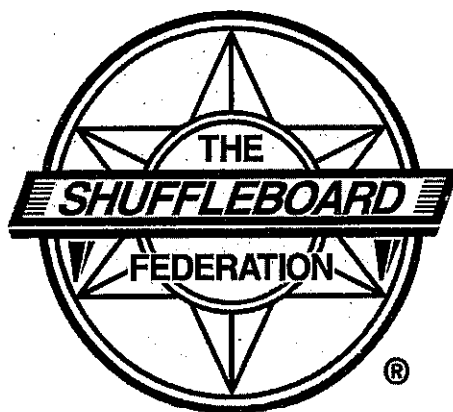


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2005 CALENDAR OF SHUFFLEBOARD EVENTS

Visit website: <http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com> for up-to-date calendar of events!

FEBRUARY 2005

February 5 (Cancelled)

Open Doubles
Sportsman Inn
Muncie, Indiana

February 11-13

28th Annual Sweetheart Tourn.
Blue Goose Tavern
Port Orchard, Washington

February 11-13

Al Deboer 6th Annual Memorial
Risky's Sports Bar & Grill
Lincoln, Nebraska

February 12

Mixed Doubles
Warsaw Eagles #1339
Warsaw, Indiana

February 12-13

Doubles: Mixed/Open/Div. II
Kane's Club Car Lounge
Durand, Michigan

February 17-21

President's Day Tournament &
CSHOF Induction (See Page 11)
VFW Post #1051
Ripon, California

February 18-19

Draw & Singles Tournament
Journey's End Bar & Grill
Bourbon, Indiana

February 18-20

A/B Draw & Bring Partner
Bavarian House
Titusville, Florida

February 18-20

Nelson Renzo Memorial
Market Street Cafe
Charlestown, Maryland

February 26

Mixed Doubles
Lucky's Tavern
N. Webster, Indiana

MARCH 2005

March 3-6 (See Flyer Insert)

7th Annual Texas State Champs
Danny's Sports Bar & Grill
Houston, Texas

March 4

Open Doubles
Palace Bar
Fairmont, Indiana

March 11-12

Irish Send-Off
Market Street Cafe
Charlestown, Maryland

March 11-12

True Round Robin
American Legion #424
Bourbon, Indiana

March 17

A-B Draw Tournament
Kane's Club Car Lounge
Durand, Michigan

March 17-20 (See Flyer Insert)

O'Harolds St. Patrick's Day
O'Harold's Lounge
Omaha, Nebraska

March 17-20 (See Flyer Insert)

Cape Kennedy "Blast Off"
Moose Lodge #1962
Mims, Florida

March 18-20

Lee's Spring True Round Robin
The Brook Alley Bar
Tulsa, Oklahoma

March 19

Doubles & Singles Tournament
Pendleton Am Vets #26
Pendleton, Indiana

March 24-27 (See Flyer Insert)

Florida Open 2005
Moose Lodge #1962
Mims, Florida

March 24-27

Canadian Short Board Open
Esquimalt Legion #172
Victoria, BC CANADA

March 26-27

Bring Partner & Open Doubles
Kane's Club Car Lounge
Durand, Michigan

APRIL 2005

April 1-2

Amateur 1.5> Doubles/Singles
Journey's End Bar & Grill
Bourbon, Indiana

April 2

Send A Kid to Camp (MDA)
A-B or A-B-C Events
Madison Park Bowl
Madison Heights, Michigan

April 2-10

Champion Shuffleboard Open
VFW Post 5076
Garland, Texas

April 8-9

Heartland Handicap
Draw Partner & Bring Partner
American Legion Post 73
Del City, Oklahoma

April 15-17

Draw/Singles/Bring Partner
Kane's Club Car Lounge
Durand, Michigan

April 15-16

Draw Partner & Doubles
Journey's End Bar & Grill
Bourbon, Indiana

April 23

Round Robin
Warsaw Eagles #1339
Warsaw, Indiana

April 30

Doubles & Singles
Lucky's Tavern
N. Webster, Indiana

2005 CALENDAR OF SHUFFLEBOARD EVENTS

MAY 2005

May 6-8 (See Upcoming Events)

TSA HOF Draw & Singles
(Larry Creakbaum & Jim Long
TSA Induction Ceremony)
American Legion Post #424
Bourbon, Indiana

May 13-15

Mud Bay Mixed Doubles
Buzz's Tavern
Olympia, Washington

May 14-15

Doubles & Singles Tournament
Pendleton Am Vets #26
Pendleton, Indiana

May 27-30

Michigan Club Car Open 2005
Mixed/3-Person/Singles/Dbles
Kane's Club Car Lounge
Durand, Michigan

May 27-30

6th Annual Memorial Day
A-B-C & Open Doubles
Oskar's Sports Bar & Grill
Bellflower, California
Phone: 562-925-4915 for info.

JUNE 2005

June 10-12

Hoosier Hall of Fame Classic
Location: To Be Announced
Indiana

June 25

Brenda's Birthday (A-B Tourn.)
Kane's Club Car Lounge
Durand, Michigan

JULY 2005

July 3-10 (See Flyer Insert)

Don Crall Inaugural Memorial
SW Open 2005
American Legion Post #73
Del City, Oklahoma

July 16-17

Singles True Round Robin
Kane's Club Car Lounge
Durand, Michigan

AUGUST 2005

August 6-7

Michigan Hall of Fame
Kane's Club Car Lounge
Durand, Michigan

August 18-21

Canadian Longboard Open
Royal Canadian Legion #83
Burnaby, BC CANADA

SEPTEMBER 2005

September 9-11

2nd Annual Larry Hudson Mem.
Open Doubles (no two -1's)
Red Dog Saloon
Port Orchard, Washington

Email: williamwalker1@comcast.net

September 9-11

Skip's Annual "Fall Bash"
Skip's Lounge
Houghton Lake, Michigan

September 15-18 (See Flyer Insert)

7th Annual Wandering Ladies
Elk's Lodge #2088
Grandview, Missouri
Email: sandytubbs@sbcglobal.net

OCTOBER 2005

October 7-8

6th Annual Columbus Day
Ulena's Sports Bar
St. Louis, Missouri

October 28-30

Monster Board Tournament
Kane's Club Car Lounge
Durand, Michigan

Oct. 29-Nov. 6 (See Flyer Insert)

NASC Reno 2005
Sands Regency Hotel/Casino
Reno, Nevada

NOVEMBER 2005

November 25-27

Michigan State Championship
Kane's Club Car Lounge
Durand, Michigan

November 25-27

17th Annual Indiana Champions
Pendleton Am Vets #26
Pendleton, Indiana

DECEMBER 2005

December 26-31

Houston Holiday Open 2005
Location: To Be Announced
Houston, Texas

December 31

New Years' Eve Draw
Kane's Club Car Lounge
Durand, Michigan

"IN MEMORY OF..."

With great sadness, we inform the shuffleboard community of the passing of **Freddie Thumann** on January 26, 2005 who was known and loved by many across the US & Canada. He was a caring person and said that we all need to take care of spend time with our family, taking top priority over shuffleboard. He was one of the first to contact me (Lynda) in 2002 after learning of my breast cancer and he and Lois followed up with calming words for months. Never missed a Christmas card from them either. If you would like to send a card to Lois McCabe, Fred's longtime companion, her address is: Lois McCabe, 160 Kellie Lane, Auburn, CA 95603

For HHO 2004 Photos & Results, visit:

(site posted too late for inclusion/printing in this issue)

HHO 2004 Tournament Story:

http://shuffleboard.cc/holiday_open_story_2004.htm

HHO 2004 Results & Photos:

http://shuffleboard.cc/holiday_open_2004_results.htm

HHO 2004 Staff & Setup Photos:

http://shuffleboard.cc/holidayl_open_2004_pictures_staff_setup.htm

HHO 2004 Miscellaneous Tournament Photos:

http://shuffleboard.cc/holidayl_open_2004_pictures_Tourney.htm

HHO New Years Eve Party Photos:

http://shuffleboard.cc/holidayl_open_2004_pictures_party.htm

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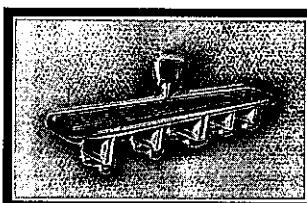
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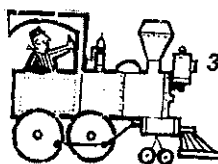
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**In Appreciation of The Board Talk,
God Bless America
and the entire Shuffleboard Community!**

Michael & Susie Halstead
Shelbyville, Kentucky
Phone: 502-633-6768 E-mail: ishmaelmph@aol.com

**Houston, Texas
Shuffleboard "News":**

Visit: <http://www.shuffleboard.cc>

- Tournament & League Info. ■ Photos
- Houston Holiday Open
- Houston Memorial Day Weekend
- League Supplies

For More Info. Contact : Jack Scott 832-788-1845

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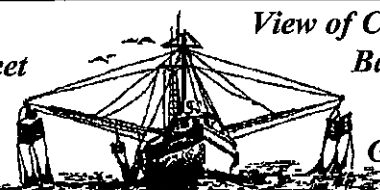
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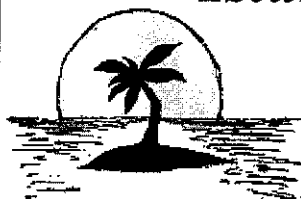
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For Tournament Details Visit: <http://www.geocities.com/swopen>

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Missouri Shuffleboard Players Association (MSPA)



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Establishment, Address, City, Phone, Contact Name

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Eagles Club #3911	6954 S. Hwy 63	Houston	417-967-2169	Rick Pittman
Elbo Bend	12402 Blue Ridge Ext.	Grandview	816-765-7070	Charita
Johnnie's Bar	225 N. Jefferson	St. James	573-265-8223	Russ Bullock
Murphy's Pub		Humansville	417-624-0188	Jeanie or Allen
O K Bar & Billards	1516 Main St.	Jeplin	417-624-4884	Gretchen Crown
Fitz's Doghouse	11801 Blue Ridge Blvd	Kansas City	816-966-0802	Cliff or Janie
Liz's Place	2817 Watson Rd.	St. Louis	314-645-4033	Dan Kelly
Super's Bungalow	5623 Leona @ Bates	St. Louis	314-481-8448	Dan or Matt
Ulena's Sports Bar	5412 Ulena St.	St. Louis	314-352-7969	John
Barbara's Beer Garden	2120 N. Glenstone	Springfield	417-866-4356	Vicky
Steeleville Country Club	269 W. Hwy. 8	Steeleville	573-775-5992	Kathy Anderson
Doc's Shuffle Inn	11685 E. Hwy 32	Stockton	417-276-6936	Doc or Todd

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Vice President -- Richard Gray (832-961-0840)

Secretary -- Andrea Dickson (281-531-9260)

Michigan Shuffleboard Hall of Fame (MSHOF)

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"You all come! We'll be awaiting!"

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

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Future of the Evergreen Shuffleboard Association

(Editors' Comment: More Unfortunate 2005 News... ESA closes & so does Board Talk)

THE FUTURE OF THE ESA

REVISED (Dec. 27, 2004)

As of January 2005 the Evergreen Shuffleboard Association (ESA) will be dissolved. The Association has fulfilled its obligation to help set up shuffleboard tournament dates. This was the main reason for forming the Association many years ago. As the ESA evolved it became a source of income to the financially struggling Northwest Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. It then was a source of news about the Northwest ESA shuffleboard events via the ESA newsletter. The ESA also sent gifts or cards to ailing members or when there was a death. The point money was a way of encouraging people to attend tournaments. With the dissolution of the ESA this all goes with it. It was great while it lasted but there seems to be no future involvement from its members. We would like to thank all of the loyal members and past and present officers for all of their hard work.

We will be dispersing the points money to the members and raffling off 3 sets of Federation Shuffleboard weights which were donated by John McDermott of the Federation and a weight case donated by Fritz Broka at the Masters tournament at Buzz's in Mud Bay the last weekend in January. There will be NO general meeting. Thank You.

Sincerely,

Gary George, President

Tim Nugent, Vice-President

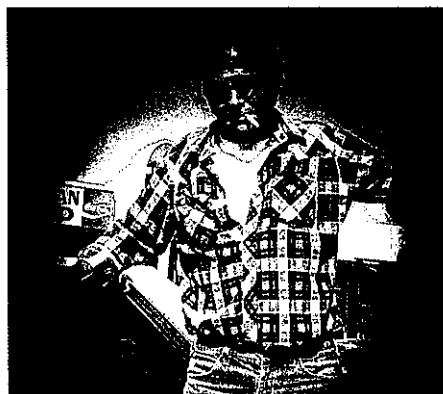
Sharon Nugent, Sec./Treas./Newsletter Editor

P.S.: This has been the consensus of the people who were going to take over the officers' roles for the ESA, but if anyone else wants to step up; please do so before it all ends.

*"It was a great ride,
tell them all goodbye for me."*

Jimmy Olson

11/18/1945 to 03/31/2004



"It was a great ride, tell them all goodbye for me." This was one of the last things he said to me before he died and I thought it would be fitting for the last printed issue of The Board Talk. I was going to write an article, but it was too hard for me to do at the time.

I do though want to thank each and every one of you who sent cards and letters. Reading them everyday as they arrived really helped me through the first couple of weeks. The flowers at the funeral that were sent from all over the country were just beautiful

Thank you all for being so supportive these last nine months. I don't know how I would have gotten through if it weren't for all of you.

I would especially like to thank Hal Perry, who must have called me everyday or two for the first couple of months. He and Freddie and Lois Thumann were my guardian angels.

Words can say so little when someone cares so much..... Thank you,

Lorraine Olson



Buzz's Tavern Hosts First B-C Tournament

December 10-11, 2004

Buzz's Tavern, Olympia, Washington

Results & Photos Submitted By: Ruby Mitchell

We had a great time at our first B-C Tournament with the encouragement of Paulette McKinney. She is a wonderful person who loves the game of shuffleboard and wants to see it grow.

Our tournament was kicked off with a Friday Night A-B Draw, December 10, 2004. We had a few pros come to compete with us, and we would really like to give them a big "Thank You" for your support. We had 14 teams with single elimination games so we were done by midnight. Paulette McKinney and Ruby Mitchell won first place by playing against Dick Doaks and our own local player, Mike Irvine. They played tough but luckily we won the game leaving them with second place.

Once again, Mike Waters, who Mitch considers the Godfather of Shuffleboard in the Pacific Northwest, showed up for the B-C Tournament. Unfortunately, very few A players came to support us on Friday night. We want to thank the few that did come to give their support for our tournament like Dick Doaks, Mike Waters, Jim Tribble, Mike Keevil and my own pro, Donald Mitchell. Thank You Guys!

Saturday, December 11, 2004, we started at noon with 13 teams then we broke for a wonderful potluck dinner. We ended early to allow for some competition play then resumed Sunday morning. Paulette McKinney raffled off some prizes to help with the Northwest Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Fund, as we watched games winding down.

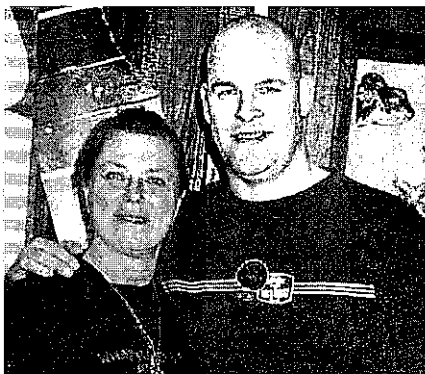
The Shelton team of Jeanette Hohn and Jeff Young won the honors of First Place with this being Jeff's first win. They beat out some wonderful teams with the Canadian team of Marty Atkinson and Elaine Hill coming in second place, but what a team to watch. They have so much fun playing together and wonderful to watch. Cheri Schrum and Joe Paszkowski took third place by beating out Justin Kasa and Rob Issa. What a wonderful weekend of competition and sportsmanship. Thank you to everyone who showed up and participated as we had fun. Look forward to the next one! We also need to thank our wonderful hosts, Jim and Laura Tribble.



1st Place B-C:
Jeanette Hohn &
Jeff Young
(Shelton, WA Team)
Note: Jeff's first win!
Congrats, Jeff!



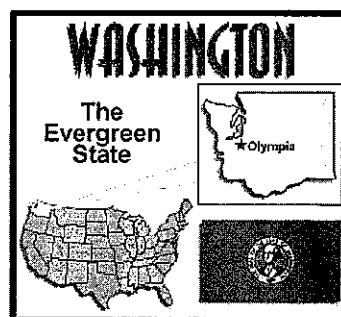
2nd Place B-C:
Marty Atkinson & Elaine
Hill
(Canada Team)



3rd Place B-C:
Cheri Schrum &
Joe Paszkowski



**Group Picture of
Those Left on
Sunday!**



Our Sincere Appreciation to all of our Advertisers & Subscribers Over the Years!

We hope that each subscriber will keep a list of those in this final issue that have supported the Board Talk over the years. Please continue to support them although this is the final issue. Make note and personally thank them next time the opportunity arises. Without Advertisers, this publication could not have survived this long. Without subscribers you cannot market advertisement (a "catch 22", can't have one without the other!). If only we could have cloned all our faithful subscribers, advertisers, and supporters, perhaps we would not be saying "bye" to The Board Talk now.

Page or 1/2 Page Advertisers: The Shuffleboard Federation has been the longest faithful advertiser with a full page ad in each issue. Sun-Glo and Triple Crown Supplies (our dear buddies and dedicated supporters, for sure) have been faithful full-page advertisers in each issue for years too. Then later came two new companies: Champion Shuffleboard (who took on a challenge to help us save Board Talk in 2000) and then Suitco Surface (Jim Suiter, owner of Suitco & his wife who have become dear friends & sincerely dedicated supporters since 2000 and also very saddened about this final issue).

Shuffleboard Directory Ads: Check out every establishment and business currently on the Shuffleboard Directory Ads and please continue to support these establishments and businesses, as they have supported our only "national" shuffleboard publication over the years.

Although the Shuffleboard Directory Ads are not that costly [less than \$10/mo for the small ad), every bit helped! We desperately needed more page and directory advertisers. So many have supported us through Shuffleboard Directory Ads [even note the individuals in the Shuffleboard Directory Ads such as Mike & Susie Halstead of Kentucky (BTW Mike & Susie are going to be first time grandparents in the near future - their daughter will be having her first baby - so when you see them, congratulate them and welcome them to their future of grandparenting!) and the Players of Spokane, Washington (Home of Dan Hitt), with little to gain from personal ads except to support our efforts to save the only "national" printed communication channel that they cherished].

So many have worked very hard and pitched in to help over the years. Too many to list on one page.

Please continue to help and support them, as they have supported our ONLY "national" shuffleboard publication from birth to death!

If you have to make choices of where to play or buy products or services, I hope your choice will be to choose those that have struggled with us and tried to help us from 1984 to February 2005!

Personal Thanks for a "Special Memory": Last but not least, thanks to the Missouri Shuffleboard Players Association (MSPA) for composing the best song ever "It's In the Board Talk" and surprising the four of us (French & Wilber foursome) that memorable day in Houston, Missouri...

with the personal presentation of the song's debut - what a special memorable day!

It's posted on the Bowers' Corner Website "Home Page" for anyone to download and enjoy and is one of the greatest memories the four of us will cherish forever!

<http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com> (right side menu bar - click on "Board Talk Song")

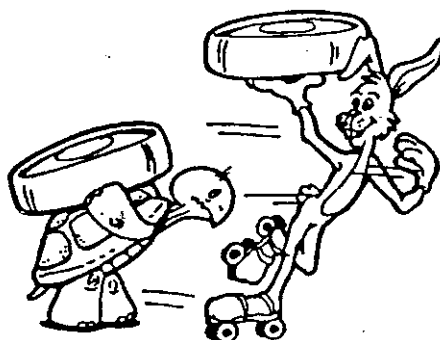
Missouri may not have the largest shuffleboard population in the U.S., but they have big hearts, caring and love of this great game equal to or greater than other larger populated shuffleboard community states! The clubs in the State of Missouri even united and placed an oversized Shuffleboard Directory Ad!

MANY THANKS TO ALL!

-- George & Donna Wilber, The Board Talk Founders & Editors/Publishers (1984-2000)

-- Tom & Lynda French, The Board Talk Editors/Publishers (2000-2005)

*Many Thanks to All of our
dedicated subscribers, promoters,
and advertisers since 1984
who have fully supported
THE BOARD TALK*



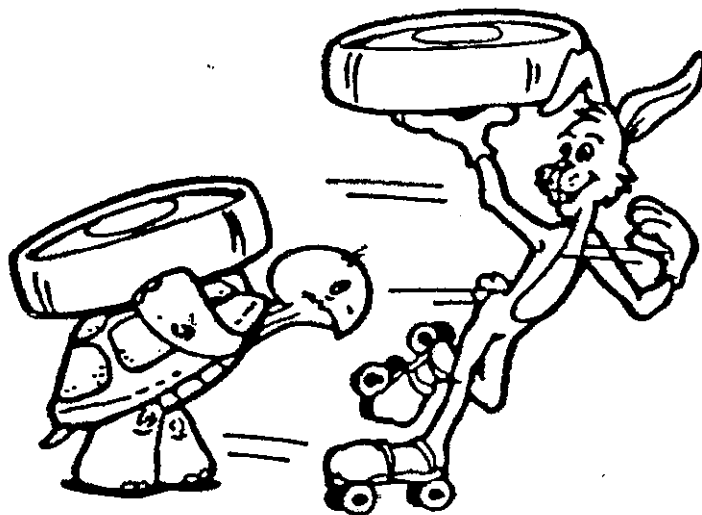
*We wish you all the best and,
of course, Happy Shuffling!
We'll value your support and
friendship for eternity!
Friendships last Forever!*

-- George & Donna Wilber, The Board Talk Founders & Editors/Publishers (1984-2000)
-- Tom & Lynda French, The Board Talk Editors/Publishers (2000-2005)

Our Sincere Appreciation to our Advertisers in this final issue:

- The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc. (full pg. Ad)
- Sun-Glo Corporation (full pg. Ad)
- Triple Crown Shuffleboard Supplies (full pg. Ad)
- Champion Shuffleboard, Inc. (full pg. Ad)
- SUITCO Surface, Inc. (1/2 pg. Ad)
- Longboard Products, Inc. (upcoming "new" product flyer insert)
- NASC Reno 2005 & Shuffleboard Federation (our longest full-page advertiser has a NASC 4-page flyer insert)
- Don Crall Inaual Memorial SW Open 2005, Del City, OK (flyer insert)
- Florida's "Blast Off" & "Florida Open" Tournaments, Moose Lodge, Mims, Florida (flyer insert)
- Texas State Championship Tournament, Danny's Sports Bar, Houston, Texas (flyer insert)
- Wandering the World Ladies' Tournament, Missouri (flyer insert)
- Champion Open 2005, Garland, Texas (flyer insert)

Your advertising support made this issue possible. We, and our subscribers, thank you! Readers: please continue to patronize the businesses and support the tournaments of those who have supported your communications vehicle with advertising dollars over the years. PLEASE thank all of the above personally when you have the opportunity and continue to support them!
--Thanks, Tom & Lynda French, Editors/Publishers

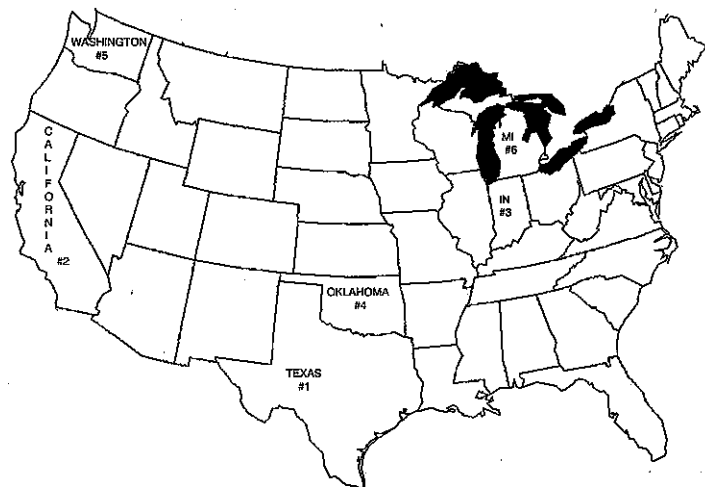


THE BOARD TALK ©

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The Nation's Top 6 Shuffleboard States:



"USPS CRYOVAC FSM 1000
 APPROVED AUTOMATABLE POLYWRAP"

S1 P4 *****3-DIGIT 465
 SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRES: FEBRUARY 1, 2005
 MIKE L. KOONTZ (JOURNEY'S END BAR & GRILL, OWNER)
 106 W. JACKSON STREET
 BOURBON, IN 46504-1228



SUBSCRIBER STANDINGS "TOP 5": FEB. 2005

TEXAS #1
CALIFORNIA #2
MICHIGAN #3

OKLAHOMA #4 (tie)
INDIANA #4 (tie)
WASHINGTON #5