

THE RED BARON SPEAKS

March-April 2011 – Larry Creakbaum

I was a little tardy in getting both January and February written so I am combining March and April into one. Besides, I will only be attending local events as my travel on space available is suspended, which is a perk I receive from my son, which his benefits are not available those two months as he is on family leave for the birth of my first grandson. My perks will return in time for the trip to Las Vegas for which I already have my room reserved and selected the flights which I want to try and hitch a ride on.



The first week end in March started with a two event tournament with a 3-person add to 2 on Friday and a Pro Am add to 2 on Saturday. I missed the 3-person as my grandson made his first visit to his grandparent's home. I missed a couple in a row and all of the sudden it's the middle of April.

At one of the events the bracket boards were on a table which consisted of a piece of plywood on a pool table. A 2011 rating book was lying on the table and I picked it up and started to glance through the book. I was amazed at the number of players that had not been rated or only had one rater shown in the 2011 book and were carried over from previous years. Then I looked up the raters and found there was only one rater from Michigan and three from Indiana. Now I realize Ron cannot go out and lasso players and order them to be raters so we need more volunteers in some areas to give a broader base for the ratings. Some areas our saturated with raters as one player had 30 raters another 27 and a couple others with 26. So first I would ask players to take a look at the number of raters in your area and think about helping out. While you are at it send a donation to the rating system to help on the expenses. Quit being a cheap skate like me. Also existing raters need to take a look at some of the players to see if they need a slight adjustment. We all know shuffleboard is much better off with the rating system now let us jump in and help Ron make it better.

Just as I finished the above, our old computer pitched and I was able to do nothing. A call to number three son and he came over and said we need a bunch of new parts. My wife said a new computer which now the call went out to number two son. He obtained all new parts except the hard drive, which we had very recently replaced, and built up the new computer. This came with the latest version of word, excel and other goodies and I am off to a new learning curve. About this time a big red icon came up on the screen saying we had a virus threat, I pushed the wrong command and locked everything up. After waiting a day for number three son to return, I started punching commands in and I think it is fixed. Well now it is off to a Pro Am at Noblesville, the Bourbon Spring, and a mixed in Muncie and then find a seat to Vegas.