

The Board Talk

News and Views
from the World
of Shuffleboard

Vol. 1 No. 7

The Board Talk is published by George & Donna Wilber, 421 E.
Sheridan Road, Lansing, Michigan 48906; phone 517-371-2538.

September 1984

The Hammer

We hope we never get so complacent about this business that we fail to get a thrill out of every letter, every new subscription and every ad that comes addressed to *The Board Talk*. A trip to the mailbox after our August issue was circulated was a bigger high than drawing a hanger! Thanks to all of you who responded.

Each one of those responses is interpreted by us as a "show of faith." The one that really sent us into orbit was a paid-in-advance order for a full page ad for September and December from Al Stewart in California. He probably can remember, when he started his shuffleboard business nearly 25 years ago, how he felt when someone put money on the line to show their faith in the service he had to offer. You can help us show our appreciation to him by responding to his ad on the back page.

The big news for your editors this month was a move from a small apartment to a big house. *The Board Talk* and George's Shuffleboard Supplies/Services had us bursting at the seams and a place that has room for an office and facilities large enough to accommodate not one, but several boards in various stages of refinishing, will make us a lot more efficient — and comfortable. Unless you've tried entertaining with a big, honkin' typewriter and file folders taking up three-quarters of your dining room table and shuffleboard wax sharing shelf space with your cereal, you can't appreciate what this move has meant to us.

Unfortunately, the move called for some sacrifices. The biggest was missing the Michigan visit of our Missouri Board Talk reporters, Woodie and Jean Cockrum. We hope we can make that up during their next visit. We missed some tournaments and we're certain we missed some phone calls.

We hope all of you will pin up our notice of new address and phone number in this issue on your bulletin board or tape it to your refrigerator.

We're still looking for reporters. We've added one this month — and it's an important one because California is such a vital shuffleboard state:

California: Ben Benjestorf, The Edgewood, 10122 E. Rosecrans, Bellflower, Calif. 90706.

Oregon: Jolene Lembke, 20356 Shahala Ct., Bend, Ore. 97702, phone 503-389-4888

Missouri: Woodie & Jean Cockrum, 54 E. Cardigan Dr., St. Louis, Mo. 63135, phone 314-524-1024

Nevada: (Balboa) Ron Schweikert, 1528 Amapola Dr., Las Vegas, Nev. 89122

Texas: Sandy Jenkins, 3947 Lenel, Dallas, Texas 75220, phone 214-741-5171, ext. 378 (weekdays), 214-353-9548 (evenings)

Send your news to your state reporter or directly to *The Board Talk*. Bless you all!

George and Donna Wilber
Editors

Tourney Talk

The Showboat, Las Vegas — The USSA Pro-Am Doubles Tournament was held on Aug. 11-12. Winners of the event were Sam Summers of Oklahoma City and Joe Walker of Dallas, 1st place; A. Z. Turnbo of San Martin, Calif., and Billy Chiles of Los Angeles, 2nd place; David Williams and Dan Baber, both of Ft. Worth, Texas, 3rd place.

The singles contest prior to the tournament was won by Karl Spekelmier of California with Billy Mays, Texas, finishing second.

The Chit Chat, Detroit sponsored a doubles tourney on Aug. 18-19. John McDermott and Bud Broka were the winners, with Jerry Siebert and Merv Hughes in second place. Third place honors went to Doug Stewart and Jimmy the Cop, and John Leach and John Melson finished fourth. Chit Chat owner Jim White made a bid for "best tournament host of the year" by serving free steak and egg breakfasts to participants. Five dozen eggs and 42 steaks were devoured at the Sunday morning breakfast. Jim also served a ham sandwich plate to players on Sunday afternoon.

Lakeside Lounge, Union Lake, Mich. — An August mixed doubles tourney was won by John McDermott and Cheryl Collins (sound like a broken record?) with Gordie Collins and Tee Wilson in second place. Bud Broka and Mary Lysle came in third and Jerry Hirshman and Marie Sweeney were fourth place winners.

Bourbon, Indiana's fall tournament will be held Saturday, Sept. 29, with action beginning at 1 p.m.

Dublin House, Detroit — A doubles tournament is planned for the weekend of Oct. 13-14. Two boards will be available if the second one comes in on time. More details in the next issue.

Attention: Women Shuffleboarders — Is the man in your life worrying about what to get you for Christmas? Make it easy for him... tell him what you want for Christmas is four days in Las Vegas to play in the U.S. Open Amateur Shuffleboard 6-Player Team Event Tournament, Dec. 7-9. Take him along and play together in the His and Hers Doubles Tournament on Dec. 6.

Site for this big event will be the popular Showboat Hotel/Casino. Each women's event, Class B and C, is \$700 per team if you enter by Oct. 31 (\$100 extra after that deadline). That includes six rooms for three days and membership in the USSA!

There will be a \$2,000 per event prize money with all other proceeds going to Muscular Dystrophy (the spirit of Christmas!). If you take "him" along, it will cost \$50 per person entry fee for the His and Hers doubles tourney.

For further information, call Santa Claus at 214-498-2415 or 214-887-6138, or write USSA, Rt. 1, Box 117-G, Kemp, Texas 75143.



Live to Play — Work to Live

Dear George and Donna:

Was so glad to get a copy of *The Board Talk*.

I have been involved with shuffleboard one way or another for 35 years. I started playing shuffleboard in March 1949 in San Diego, Calif. I used to just live to play shuffleboard — now I work on shuffleboards just to live!

I started my business in December 1959. My sales and service has more than doubled in the last five years. (See ad on the back page.)

I'm sending you one of my copies of the American Shuffleboard newspapers. They started printing the "Shuffleboard World" news in September 1949 and I still have that copy.

Keep up the good work.

Al Stewart, California

We hope you get so many responses to your ad, Al, that you have to hire extra help. We plan a feature on your years in the world of shuffleboard to celebrate your anniversary in December and we're sure that will be of real interest to all our readers.

We appreciated your sending a copy of "Shuffleboard World." We're using some excerpts from that issue for a contest. Whoever can guess what year these shuffleboard spectacles occurred will win a Board Talk T-shirt.

A Productive Trip Home Again

Dear George and Donna:

Boy, if you two play shuffleboard as good as you write, I don't want to play you! Anyone who can make something intelligent out of something I scribble is really put to the test.

Roy and I are here in southern California. We came down to re-list our house for sale. Soon as we got the yard cleaned up, we headed for our old stomping grounds and former home board, The Edgewood in Bellflower. Karl Spekermier had brought the August *Board Talk* in and they were all atwitter about seeing my name. Everyone wanted to subscribe to it and get their name in print.

We were lucky to find two of southern California's top players in a heads-up game for big bucks, Joe Maniz and Ron Cash. Joe recently won The Edgewood's annual singles tournament.

We also saw Jim Kennedy there. Jim is a merchant seaman. He stuns me the way he goes off to sea for months and comes back and picks up his game so fast.

Jolene Lembke, Bend, Oregon

Don't sell yourself short, Jolene! You hit the nerve when you said people like to see their names in print. We know that and that's what you give us. Editing is our job; supplying the names is your job and you do it well!

Letters to the Editors

You score even more points by supplying us with subscribers and a reporter for that important shuffleboard state of California. You've earned more than the paltry salary we can afford to pay. You keep up the good work!

We sincerely hope when your brother, Missouri reporter Woodie Cochrum, makes a return trip to Michigan that you'll arrange to be here too. Maybe we can convince reporters from other states to come, too, and we'll have an editorial conference that will make The New York Times reporters green with jealousy!

P.S. Donna writes 100% better than she plays shuffleboard; George plays shuffleboard better than he writes, so he'd be a better match.

A Concerned Subscriber

Dear George and Donna:

Received your August 1984 issue this morning with a note stating that you were not giving away any more free *Board Talks*. I wonder if you knew that I had sent a check dated 3/14/84 for the amount of \$10 for a year's subscription.

Probably you are just telling everyone the same thing, but I did wish you to know that I had paid and I do enjoy the publication.

Luther Olney, Niland, California

You guessed right, Luther, and rest assured, we recognize you as one of our charter members. You are appreciated!

It's kind of a tough situation we're in. To become recognized, we almost had to circulate sufficient "free" copies to gain subscribers. Yet, there comes a time when we can't ask faithful subscribers like you to subsidize that free circulation. Hence, our notice that was mailed with all copies of last month's *Board Talk*.

Someday, somehow, we're going to make it up to subscribers like you who gave us that all-important "go for it" signal that's kept *The Board Talk* going.

Can You Beat This?

Hello, George and Donna:

Hope you've had a nice summer. I've sure been enjoying mine, but now that shuffleboard season is about to begin, it's time to go back to work again.

What is the most points you know of being scored in one frame of a game? In the Michigan Women's State Doubles Tournament in which I played, the score was 3 to 3. My opponent missed a 4, 3, 2, all unblocked.

I looked at the score and knew I needed another 3 to win the game, so I drew a 3. The 12 points I made in that frame was the most I know of in my 30 years of playing. I just thought it might be some record.

My partner, Trish Turner, said, "Gee, Elly, I'd like to play, too." That made me feel good because a lot of players consider me "over the hill." I'm keeping the address of The Friendship Manor (see August issue on "Senior Citizens

(continued on page 5)

Best Place in the U.S. for Shuffleboard Action

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the May issue of *The Board Talk*, Canadian shuffleboarder Michael Jacoby, contemplating a trip to his neighbor across the border, asked the question, "Where would be the best location in the U.S. for shuffleboard action?" We offered readers the opportunity to nominate their favorite locations and Mike will have to make some tough decisions.

This will be an ongoing column, as long as we receive nominations, so if you have a favorite location, write to *The Board Talk*, 421 E. Sheridan Road, Lansing, Mich. 48906. Tell us the location you nominate, along with such details as number of boards, quantity and quality of players, hospitality and sportsmanship of establishments and players, availability/affordability of area motels and restaurants, easy access to surrounding shuffleboard communities, tournament action, etc.

UNION LAKE, MICHIGAN

Nominated by Elly Canterbury
Lakeside Lounge, Union Lake, Mich.

Of course, Lakeside Lounge is the number one shuffleboard establishment in the USA! Emmanuel and Mary Marakis are the number one sponsors in the USA. Not only just shuffleboard, but pool, softball and bowling. They have men and women's teams in all those sports.

The Lakeside is the only bar to have two men's and two women's teams in shuffleboard and we could have more. Players play for other bars because we don't have room for more teams. When players are finished on league nights lots of them come back to the Lakeside because that is where the fun is and they can always get a game.

Lakeside has two big Mixed Doubles Tournaments a year. We had the Women's State Singles and Doubles Tournament this year. We have a lot of round robins; almost any

night of the week we have enough players to make a round robin that will fill the evening with good shuffleboard.

Lakeside's teams have always finished at the top or very near the top, of the leagues, playoffs and tournaments. All the trophies in the bar testify to that.

The players want to win not only for themselves, but for Emmanuel and Mary, because of the faith and generosity they shower on all of us. The out-of-towners and out-of-staters have been shown this same generosity when they come to the Lakeside Lounge.

Emmanuel and Mary are truly loved and respected by their customers. In all my years of playing for different sponsors, I've never known anyone like them.

When all the votes are in and counted, it will be a landslide victory for the Lakeside Lounge, Union Lake, Mich. 48085.

News From Ohio

By Shirley Harris

Bill's Bar, Toledo, Ohio, sponsored a doubles tournament on July 28. Bob Harris and Gene Newman took first place; Shirley Harris and John Shaddy came in second. Good prize money for a small tournament.

There were some tough sets, especially Jim Stockmaster and Phil McGrew, the team Shirley and John defeated twice to capture second place honors.

Hats off to a great sponsor, Billy, and good barmaids. Bill supplied hot dogs with all the trimmings and Shirley made a delicious seashell and tuna salad. A great time was had by all.

Everyone is welcome to the next tournament (watch *The Board Talk* for details). Bill's Bar is located at the corner of Tremainsville and Gaskey Roads next to the D & J Carry-Out, Toledo, Ohio.

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Future issues of *The Board Talk* will be sent only to paid subscribers, reporters and advertisers. Fill out this subscription form and mail with your check or money order for \$10, made payable to *The Board Talk*, to: *The Board Talk*, 421 E. Sheridan Road, Lansing, Mich. 48906.

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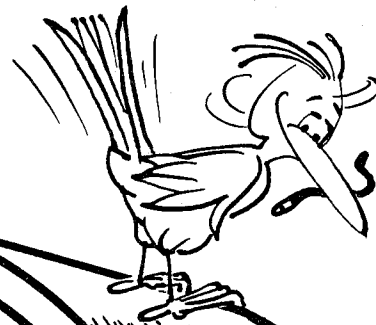
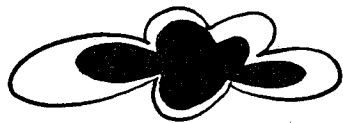
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Can You Remember When?

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Board Talk is not the first national shuffleboard publication. Al Stewart of California recently sent us a copy of "Shuffleboard World," dated... well, we're not going to tell you! An excerpt from that publication follows. Some of the names and happenings may ring a bell with you. Can you remember when? If you guess the year it happened, we'll send you a Board Talk T-shirt. Send your guesstimates to The Board Talk, 421 E. Sheridan Road, Lansing, Mich. 48906.

State Tourney Victors Share \$16,453 Purse

Wrapping up its first season of operation with a flourish that spelled "success," American Shuffleboard Leagues, Inc. last month wrote checks totaling \$16,453.45 as prize money to the leading teams in 14 state championship tournaments. This marked the first time in the 90-year history of shuffleboard in this country that such a broad program of nationwide tournament activity had been conducted.

Most of the tournaments were played over the weekend of May 6 and 7. Nearly 300 teams participated and thousands of spectators watched in 14 different cities around the United States. From Dallas, Texas, to Schenectady, N.Y., from Philadelphia, Pa., to Phoenix, Ariz., the sport of shuffleboard enjoyed its greatest day in the sun.

Not the least significant achievement of ASLI's state weekend was the attention it received in the press and over the airwaves. At long last shuffleboard had been recognized as a sport, to take its place in sports journalism along with baseball, football, bowling, tennis, golf, etc.

Fair Prize Breakdown

Of the total of \$19,357.00 received in entry fees from the players, 85% or \$16,453.45, went back to the state prize winners, while the other 15% went to the United States Tournament prize fund. Not one penny was deducted for expenses of any nature by ASLI, all the cost of promotion and administration — more than \$30,000 worth — being borne by the American Shuffleboard Company of Union City, N.J. Even the glamorous trophies, valued at \$11,700, were contributed by the same company.

Wisconsin and Illinois, currently the hottest shuffleboard areas in the country, had the largest tournaments. Seventy-three men's and women's teams took part in the three-day longboard marathon at LaCrosse, Wisc., while 63 crack sextets went into the Peoria, Ill., whirl. The Embassy Club of Racine, Wisc., and the Glass Hat of Springfield, Ill., were crowned the men's champions of their states, while the Stork Club Gals of West Salem, Wisc., and the 615 Club of Peoria took the women's titles.

Michigan and Ohio were next in order of size, with Tom's of Grand Rapids, Mich., and Greenwood Night Club of Toledo, Ohio, winning the men's championships. Greenwood pulled a double, its women taking the state diadem as well. Perkin's of Detroit were crowned Michigan women's titlists.

Enthusiasm Runs High

Elsewhere around the country enthusiasm was equally as high, although the entry lists were proportionately smaller. In Philadelphia, Currie's Tavern of that city won the Pennsylvania championship. Riverview Gardens of Decatur, Ind., took the Indiana title, while Schenectady's Rupsis Grill copped the New York state trophy. Dutch's Tavern of St. Louis was the Missouri state winner.



Phoenix, Ariz., was the scene of the cactus state playoffs in which Tucson's Gay Nineties won men's laurels and the Helenettes of Phoenix took women's honors. Al Jarvis' powerful South Jersey team of Camden won the New Jersey cup.

Other state tournament results were: Kansas — Gibson's Shack, Kansas City; Utah — Carlos' Billiards, Ogden; Idaho — Mac's Bar, Boise; Texas — Easyway Grill No. 4, Dallas.

First Year for Cushions

This year, incidentally, marked the first time that cushion-rebound devotees were given tournament accreditation. Playoffs on the 12-foot American Cushion-Rebound boards were held in Wisconsin, Illinois and Missouri. Eddie's Second Avenue Bar of Wausau, Wisc., took the dairy state trophy, while Evey's of Decatur, Ill., won Illini honors. I'm Inn of Overland, Mo., brought home the Missouri bacon.

Probably one of the most important results of the state tournaments was the unqualified acceptance of uniform rules which applied in every playoff. All ASLI play was conducted according to the rules established by the organization.

Letters to the Editor

(continued from page 2)

Keep on Shufflin'"). That sounds like the place for me in a few years. I love the game.

Elly Canterbury, Union Lake, Michigan

Sounds like a pretty good record to us, Elly, but we'll let our readers be the judges. Can anyone beat 12 points in one frame? Let's hear from you.

What Elly means by going back to work when shuffleboard season starts is that she has a sportswear business offering jackets, shirts and uniforms with silk screening, embroidery and transfers. We're satisfied customers who can testify that the T-shirts we bought at the Union Lake Mixed Doubles Tournament passed the Donna Tough Wash Test with flying colors!



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