

Ernie's Fir Cone Bar & Grill
Shelton, Washington
27th Annual Masters
By Dwayne Dibley



Justin Casa & Claire Kenney
2009 Masters Champions

*A*t the end of February, in a small logging town in Western Washington called Shelton, a shuffleboard tournament has been going on for 27 years. That's a lot of history. For those of you who don't know, the Fir Cone Tavern was named after the hangout of the famous Three Musketeers. Yes, that is where they played shuffleboard. Just as a side note the *Declaration Of Independence* was signed in a tavern. Has anyone checked to see if Buddy Smith is one of the signatures?

In 1982, Fir Cone Owner Buddy Smith with the help of the local players thought up the Masters Shuffleboard Tournament. At that time it would have been hard to believe that the tournament would continue for 27 years. But it has, and the original trophy is still intact with all 27 winning teams inscribed. If you think about it, the only thing that has stayed the same over 27 years is that trophy. The bar has changed hands three times, the historical significance of the name has changed, and even the boards are different.

Something else is also different. If you study the names on the Master's trophy you will find that all the names are of men. This is no longer the case. In 2009, Claire Kenney made history by being the first woman to get her name inscribed on the trophy. Congratulations Claire.

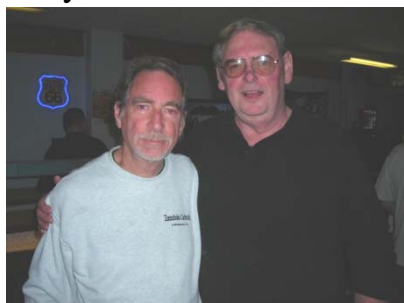
Everyone who was looking forward to getting their name on the trophy competed in the Friday Night Draw to gather needed board experience and the cash to cover the weekend. Mike Strayer & Les Burt defeated all foes to win the experience and cash.



Mike Strayer & Les Burt

The 2009 Masters Champions are Claire Kenney & Justin Casa. They had to beat out last years champions Darrol Nelson & Dino Mako, who were forced to settle for second this year. Third place went to Mike Waters and

Gary George; both are on the trophy from previous years. Nels Anderson & Mike Strayer finished fourth.



Darrol Nelson & Dino Mako
2nd Place



Gary George & Mike Waters
3rd Place



Mike Strayer & Nels Anderson
4th Place

This was one of the best Masters Tournaments in about the last 5 years. Ernie would like to express his appreciation to the players from all over who showed up to compete. Ernie would also like to personally invite all players to the next tournament: The Forest Festival Tournament, an A-B Draw event at Ernie's Fir Cone Bar & Grill in June.

Ernie was confused about a reference to riding Space Mountain, but said he would get to the bottom of it. Perhaps he should talk to TBK or research past Board Talk articles.



