

James "Long Beach Jim" McDonald

James was born in Arkansas on July 29th 1934. He went to school there and played high school football and loved to fish.

In 1955 he moved to Kansas and met Bob Tile who introduced him to shuffleboard. They played a game called "frames". Back then they carried hammer. James learned to shoot hard and admitted he wasn't very good at that time. He and Bob played at almost every bar that had a shuffleboard and joined leagues. They played twice a week and had shirts with their names and the name of the bar. The fee was \$2.00.

Sometimes James would attend a tournament, not to play but just to watch. It was at one of these tournaments that he met Billy Mays and Rod Cameron. He thought these two guys were the best ever!

Shortly after that, James relocated to Long Beach, CA. It was at this time that James was dubbed with the name of "Long Beach Jim" This is where he first played on a board that kept score and he learned "switch hammer." Here he first met Tommy Workman. Tommy taught Jim and was very careful who he let play against him. The big action was at the Blue Star in El Monte, CA. Tommy would tell Jim; "not yet!" In the meantime they played every weekend all around town. Jim was getting stronger and stronger, but they didn't play tournaments or round robins. Finally, the day came for them to play at the Blue Star. That weekend Tommy and Jim did not lose a game, they even beat Billy Mays and Bob Miles. Jim felt pretty good about that....