The California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame

proudly inducts

Karl Spickelmier



Presented at

The Dixie Belle

Downey, California

November 27, 1999

CONGRATULATIONS KARL SPICKELMIER



THIS IS YOUR LIFE!

KARL SPICKELMIER — THIS IS YOUR LIFE by Marilyn McCracken

Karl Spickelmier was born in Denver on October 18, 1942. He attended elementary and high schools in Lakewood, Colorado.

After graduation in 1966, from Western State College of Colorado, in Gunnison, Colorado, with a B.A. degree, he joined the Coast Guard. He was on active duty, performing search and rescue missions.

Completing his tour of duty, he went to work in the publishing industry for a magazine publisher, then for a national book publisher, as a book salesman in the industry for 25 years.

In 1969 Karl was introduced to the love of his life— Shuffleboard! It happened at "The Place" in Lakewood, Colorado. The player who influenced Karl most, helping him to learn and enjoy the game, was to become the first inductee into the Colorado Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, Bill English.

Karl's career took him to Los Angeles in 1971, where he was a lost soul for six months, not finding a place to play shuffleboard. Then he met Ted Zariphes, otherwise known as Ted Z, who showed him the best shuffleboards in the area, for which Karl has been eternally grateful.

Between 1972 and 1980, Karl met and played against many top players, including Troy Talbert, Billy Mays, Portland Eddie Graves, Billy Chiles, Jack Ahern, Vern Jones, and A.Z. Turnbo.

There were too many players for challenge play, so Round Robins became popular at the Edgewood Tavern, in 1981.

Ever seeking ways to refine and improve the game of shuffleboard, Karl suggested and promoted the idea that with 12 to 14 players, the Second Place player would get his entry back, and with 16+ players, it would be double the entry back. His idea has become standard practice today. Karl and Ted Z. organized and ran tournaments at Ted's bar in Temecula from 1987-1992 each 4th of July weekend, drawing players from all over the country.

In 1988, the Pacific Coast Shuffleboard Association was formed by Joe Muniz, Paul Weber, and Karl Spickelmier. This trio, sometimes referred to as "the big three" of shuffleboard, organized and ran tournaments in Las Vegas. These tournaments were held for nine years, and were the forerunners of the very successful multi-board tournaments being held in Del City, Oklahoma, and Reno, Nevada.

During these tournaments, Karl came up with another innovation now used in all major tournaments, adjusting the percentages to pay up to eight places.

In 1990, Shuffleboard Federation's® Player Policy Board chose Karl and 9 other players from all over the country to make up the first National Rules Committee to develop a uniform set of shuffleboard and tournament rules.

Karl was chosen by the Bowers Rating System to become one of their 60 Raters for the purpose of rating shuffleboarders all across the country. Players are scored by a number of raters, not just one, and the ratings are averaged. The very top players can be rated as a +5, while the lowest rating is a -1.5. When discussing the system, Karl said, "Not many players are rated at either the very top, or the very bottom."

When asked about his other hobbies and interests, Karl had to think hard for a few minutes, and finally came up with, "Well, for the past 20 years, I have run 30 miles a week."

Very few people have made shuffleboard so large a part of their lives as this modest man, Karl. His love of shuffleboard has led him on an insatiable quest to find ways to improve the game and make it more enjoyable for all, and he has been very successful.

Karl Spickelmeir's Tournament Accomplishments

Year	PLACED	DATE HELD	TOWN
1980	2nd Singles	Memorial Day	Ace of Clubs
1981	3rd doubles -Karl & A.Z. Turnbow	Labor Day	Ace of Clubs
1982	3rd Singles	Labor Day	Ace of Clubs
1984	1st singles - (Doug Buhl took 2nd)	Memorial Day	Ace of Clubs
	3rd doubles - Karl & Jack Ahern	Memorial Day	Ace of Clubs
	1st singles - (Billy Mays took 2nd)	August	Las Vegas NV
1985	1st Karl & Glen Davidson	October	Ft. Worth TX
	3rd doubles - Karl & Billy Chiles	Labor Day	Ace of Clubs
1986	3rd Karl & Leroy Ledford	Washington B/day	Ft. Worth TX
	2nd Karl & Darrol Nelson	March	Eugene OR
	2nd Karl & Ted Z. (Zariphes)	July 4th	Best Little Warehouse
	2nd Singles	July 4th	Best Little Warehouse
	1st Singles	July 26	Denver CO
	2nd Karl & Joe Muniz	Labor Day	Ace of Clubs
1987	3rd Karl & John McDermott	Washington B/day	Ft. Worth TX
	3rd Karl & Eric Waldman	June	Denver
	2nd Karl & Eric Waldman	Memorial Day	Ace of Clubs
	1st Karl & chris Danke	July	Amatos
1988	1st Karl & Sam Summers	Washington B/day	Ft. Worth TX
	3rd Karl & Troy Tolbert	March	Phoenix
	2nd Karl & Eric Waldman	January	Portland OR
	1st Singles (John McDermot took 2nd)	Thanksgiving	Stagger Inn
1989	2nd Karl & Ted Z	July 4th	Best Little Warehouse
	3rd Karl & Chris Danke	Memorial Day	Ace of Clubs
	2nd Singles	July 4th	Best Little Warehouse
	3rd Karl & Gregg McFarland	Labor Day	Ace of Clubs
	1st Singles (2nd Bill Maxwell)	True Round Robin	Best Little Warehouse
	2nd Karl & Bill Maxwell	September	Amatos
	2nd Karl & Bobby Voorhis	October	Holiday Inn, Denver CO
1990	3rd Karl & Ted Z	April	Temecula
	1st Karl & John McGinnis	June	Covered Wagon, Anah.
1991	1st Karl & Troy Tolbert	Washington B/day	Santa Clara CA

	2nd Singles	March	Phoenix AZ
	1st Karl & Rick Boyer	May	Edgewood
	3rd Karl & Billy Chiles	July 4th	Best Little Warehouse
	1st Karl & Dudley Hutcherson	August	Amatos
	1st Karl & Dudley Hutcherson	December	Balloon Inn, Denver
1992	1st Karl & Fred Thurnan	Thanksgiving	Stagger Inn
1993	1st Singles	July 4th	Dixie Belle
	1st Karl & Don Watt	July	Amatos
	3rd Karl & Pat Bayless	Labor Day	Dixie Belle
	2nd Karl & Joe Muniz	Thanksgiving	Dixie Belle
1994	1st Singles	Memorial Day	Blinky's
	3rd Karl & Jim Allis	July 4	Dixie Belle
	2nd Karl & Dudley Hutcherson	Labor Day	Blinky's
	2nd Karl & Joe Muniz	Thanksgiving	Dixie Belle
1995	2nd Singles	Washington B/day	Blinky's
	3rd Karl & Rick Thomas	Washington B/day	Blinky's
	1st Karl & Paul Elliott	Labor Day	Blinky's
	2nd Karl & Darrol Nelson	Pro Doubles	Reno NV
1996	1st Karl & Joe Nino	March	Edgewood
	1st Karl & Dudley Hutcherson, (Bill &		
	Billy Melton came in 2nd)	May	Blinky's
	2nd Karl & Nick Chaffin	Thanksgiving	Dixie Belle
	3rd Singles	Washington B/day	Blinky's
	3rd Karl & Bob Shaw	December	Balloon Inn, Denver
1997	1st Karl & Mary Lou Deering	January	Dixie Belle
	2nd Karl & Steve Perry	Washington B/day	Blinky's
	3rd Singles	Washington B/day	Blinky's
	3rd Karl & Hal Perry	Washington B/day	Blinky's
	3rd Karl & Dudley H.	Memorial Day	Blinky's
1998	3rd Singles	Washington B/day	Blinky's, S.Clara
	3rd Karl & Nick Chaffin	July 4	Dixie Belle
	2nd Karl & Ted Z.	Thanksgiving	Dixie Belle
1999	3rd Karl & Dave Keithan	Washington B/day	Blinky's
	1st Karl & Loren Maxham	Memorial Day	Blinky's
	2nd Singles	Labor Day	Blinky's
	3rd Karl & Paul Elliott	Labor Day	Blinky's

The Board Talk

George & Donna Wilber, Publishers 503 E. Sheridan Rd., Lansing, MI 48906

To: The California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Committee Re: Induction of Karl Spickelmier

We are pleased to endorse the induction of Karl Spickelmier into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Before we met this gentleman, we based our placement of him on the Top Players in the U.S.A. on the reports we received. When we finally met him in person at the corporate Image in Ft. Worth, Texas, in 1987, we discovered how and why he had earned this reputation. We learned that not only was he a professional player, but he was a professional promoter. Because he cared about the growth of the sport and not just the high rankings he had already earned, he was assigned to serve on a committee to at long last, organize shuffleboard and bring a degree of professionalism to the sport. That was the beginning—and he was part of it.

That meeting in 1987 was the beginning of a treasured friendship with Karl, and a long-lasting admiration of what he has done to promote the game locally and nationwide. Whether it was as a key figure in the PCSA tournaments in Las Vegas or "at home" in California, he has always contributed his talents to make the game a competitive, enjoyable, and professional sport for people of all skill levels.

It is people like Karl who have made shuffleboard what it is today and we believe we will see the day when he earns himself a spot in the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

George and Donna Wilber

NICE GUY FINISHES FIRST!

The toughest thing about Karl, for me, is spelling his last name. The choice is as good as it gets for C.S.H.F. Nice guy, great player, steady as a rock...a "no brainer" choice.

I'e known Karl since the game was played for a nickel. He has been a top player for a long time. He has been a great guy since birth. I played with Karl in a tournament in Oklahoma once, and we were playing very well on the board that was chosen for the finals. They moved that board downstairs and changed everything. I bitched. Karl didn't. We ended up third. That was one of the few times that I played with Karl. I really enjoyed the experience. He's a good competitor and lets you play your own game. In doubles, that is very important.

This is another great pick for the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. The list just keeps getting better. Congratulations, Karl!

An "old" friend and competitor-Hal Perry

P.S. Amazing Stat: I have never seen Karl get mad or upset. That's why I always check his pulse at any tournament to make sure he's still with us

Congratulations, Karl, on your induction. I have known you for years, and you've been a great credit to the game, and one of the best players in the world. Your great play, dedication and sportsmanship is recognized by many. You richly deserve this honor and recognition.

Sincerely-Bob Lewis

Karl's contributions to the game are well documented as a player, promoter, and good will ambassador. If he's involved in staging a tournament, send in your entry, because it will be organized and well run. Then you only have to worry about playing him. More important, he's a class act. He's dependable, fair, and with that ever-present smile on his face, you gotta love him. I feel very proud of him for getting this well deserved honor, and I'm even more proud to call him my friend.

-Larry Tafoya

The California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Committee supports the nomination and induction of Karl Spickelmier because—well—he's our local hero and we love him!

—Jolene Lembke

More from Karl's friends

Congratulations, Karl, you are a great promoter of the game, and also a very deserving person. We all appreciate the time and effort you have extended to shuffleboard, from working on the rules committee to much hard work on the bracket system.

One of the most impressive things I remember is that Karl is the only man who could figure out a triple elimination bracket in Las Vegas at the Show Boat. Good work, Karl. That was no easy feat.

Commendations also go to Karl for his participation in so many tournaments. We could always count on Karl to be there.

Karl, I have one favor to ask of you: The next time my son and I are at Blinky's, will you please take it a little easier on us?

Best of luck, good friend. You are a great player and person, and you have truly earned this award.

Sincerely-Bill Melton, Davis Ok

Karl's tireless efforts in Vegas insured that the tournaments were always a success. But his contribution to the game was simply being Karl. His cool, calm demeanor, his professionalism, and his gentlemanly manners set him apart. If we all could be like, and act like Karl at the boards, there would never be a problem, be it a \$2 or a \$2,000 game. Good luck and keep on shooting, Karl.

-Bob, Deb, and Buss Voorhis

It's a rainy night in Washington and Sparky and I are in a lounge, having a V.O. trying to find words to congratulate you. We can only say that whenever we met, you were always ready to play—for \$5, \$10, \$50 or even a honeybee. If all the tournaments ran as smoothly as when you did the brackets, us old guys would still be having some fun. Congratulations!

Seeya-Jim Allis and "Sparky" Sparkman

Congratulations to a good friend on your induction. The first time we met was in Portland at the Black Cat. It was a long time ago, but we sure showed Billy Mays the game (ha ha). Hope to see you soon.

Your friend-Fred "Firehouse Freddy" John:

More from Karl's friends . . .

I can't remember when or where I first met Karl Spickelmier, but it's been a number of years. He is a great player whose board play and lag are equally strong. His thought processes and focus on the game are great. I've played a few tournaments with Karl, and you always have a chance to win if you're playing with him. When I think of Karl, I think of what a perfect gentleman he is at all times. You never hear anything derogatory from him. He has also been a tireless player, promoter and organizer of many shuffleboard tournaments. The world of shuffleboard would be better off if we had a few more Karl Spickelmiers. He is certainly a fine addition to the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. It is an honor he richly deserves.

—Nick Chaffin

If I were to take as long to think about what to say about Karl as Karl takes to shoot a critical game-deciding shot, I wouldn't have had this finished by press time. Now, let me say this about Karl. To me, Karl means a lot of things, a good friend and a true competitor are just a couple. But the one thing I think of most about Karl is his willingness to devote his time (and God knows he has plenty) to the many past tournaments, taking charge of the all important bracket boards. One can not imagine the number of complaints that a brackets board-man gets at almost every tournament. I myself have complained. So, I ask myself, how many of us would be willing to work the bracket boards and do it as well as Karl? His induction into the California Hall of Fame is most deserving not only for his caliber of play, but also the many hours he has given back to the game. To me, that's a true genuine champion. I would like to thank you, Karl for helping make the game of shuffleboard better and to congratulate you on your induction.

-The Marlin

Here is a player who has done so much for shuffleboard behind the scenes. All the tournaments run in Vegas, Temecula, Downey, Bellflower, and other places were a success, thanks to Karl and his talent with the bracket boards. Karl has spent many hours braacketing or giving people advice, which has gone unnoticed for many years. Karl has also been a great ambassador for California, and has traveled to many tournaments all over the United States. Congratulations Karl, on your well deserved Hall of Fame induction.

-Joan Swenson Healey

Karl Spickelmier—a gentleman of a shuffleboard player

One thing that stands out about Karl is what he has given to the game without asking anything in return. When asked to help run tournaments as far away as Texas, he didn't hesitate, he readily and willingly gave his time in a professional manner.

Another thing is his sportsmanlike conduct when playing a tournament—a gentleman on the boards as well as off them.

Karl is always up front. If he felt something wasn't right, he voiced it in a very diplomatic way. He abided by the rules, helped form them, and made sure we followed them. For this, he gained my total respect and the respect of the shuffleboard world. A standout who brought the game forward, provided leadership to new players—an instrument in being part of what I called the *Big Three*, in arranging for all the players in the U.S. to come to Vegas for some of the biggest and best tournaments ever. This was an impossible task, people thought, but with Karl, Paul and Joe, it came off with rousing success.

The tournaments in Vegas helped turn shuffleboard around. For all the years of dedication to shuffleboard, Karl has played a giant part in its revival—we thank you, Karl. He's also a great shuffleboard player, to give to the game, run tourneys, and still play well is really something. He's won numerous tourneys and is always willing to play for a little cash. Karl, it is my pleasure to say Congratulations on your induction to the State Hall of Fame. You are very deserving of this honor, and being put there by your peers must give you a great feeling.

-Freddie Thuman

Sincerely and always your friend,

Karl Spickelmier, a gentleman of shuffleboard! I met Karl over 20 years ago and have yet to see him lose his temper. If you didn't watch the end of his game, you had to ask him who won, because his expression is the same. Win or lose, he is a gentleman.

He promoted the game and supported it with his participation. He is the only Southern California player to participate in all of the Northern California tournaments, every year.

Thanks Karl, for your support for Northern California. You're a true sportsman.

Your friends-Don and Donna Cox

More from Karl's Friends . . .

Looking back at my shuffleboard past, I was surprised at how much influence Karl had in my shuffleboard development. I remember his s-l-o-w, deliberate release as I suffered my first open tournament loss to Karl and Ted Z. at the Best Little Warehouse in Temecula, July 4, 1986. Karl took second in doubles and second in singles. Watching Karl and Darrol Nelson play in the finals, I remember thinking, "What am I doing here?" but later, Karl gave me enough encouragement to come back the next year. I received more lessons and more losses as the years rolled by. I've been involved with California ever since.

In 1988 Karl finished in the money at our first Arizona Open at the Dunes II. He finished in the money in Texas, at the Corporate Image several times, and also in Colorado, Washington, and Oregon, and a great number of places. I remember Karl for his work with the PCSA tournaments in Las Vegas and every Fourth of July tournament I participated in. He taught many of us the art of the bracket board.

Karl Spickelmier is one of the most highly ranked and regarded pros locally and nationally. I'm honored to endorse him for the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

> —Al Salazar, Director, National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Director, Arizona Shuffleboard Hall of Fame

First of all, Karl is a very dear friend of mine. We are very close to the same age, and our shuffleboard careers have covered about the same span of time. To my mind, Karl is one of the best players in the country. Karl is always a gentleman, and he is always more than willing to do whatever it takes to make this game of ours keep going. Karl is more than deserving of the honor of induction into our Hall of Fame.

—Darrol Nelson

I am glad to see Karl inducted into the California Hall of Fame. He has been a great ambassador for California, representing us at tournaments all over the west. He is always a good sport, not only while playing, but bracketing in Vegas for 9 years, and then teaching others. Congratulations, Karl, you deserve it!

—Al Stewart

Lagger, analyzer, comboer, advisor, freeboarder, top game player, bracketer, lover of the game, tournament organizer, Round Robiner, good friend—Karl Spickelmier. Congratulations!

—Tim O'Brien

More from Karl's Friends . . .

I first met Karl about 16 years ago when I started a Saturday singles tournament in the Shelter. He drove from Malibu to Placentia to play in my little in-house tournament because it seemed important to him to help improve shuffleboard. He told us Orange County yokels about the "action" going on at the Edgewood and got several of us very interested in the game. More than just an ambassador of the game, he would twist arms till we became involved in far-away tournaments, like the Ace of Clubs in Marysville. Often, I would wonder what I was doing there, only to remember that Karl made me come there.

Karl has taught countless numbers of people how to run or improve their tournaments. He has analyzed many tournaments after they were over (and nobody else cared any more) to see if any improvements could be made.

Karl never felt that it was OK to just pay the entry fee and play. In addition to all the bracket boards he has run in Bellflower, Marysville, Temecula, Las Vegas and elsewhere, he has also been on several Players Rules Committees and has been a rater for the Bowers System and its predecessor, the Federation System. When things weren't going too good on the Shuffleboard tournament scene in 1989, Karl and his friends Joe and Paul formed the Pacific Coast Shuffleboard Association (PCSA) and ran an annual tournament in Vegs for 9 years. Karl singlehandedly did all the bracket boards for these multi-event tournaments and would enter in the Pro events too.

With such a long preamble, one might think I had no respect for Karl's shooting ability. That simply is not true. The first year I played against Karl, I couldn't score more than 5 points. Rather than make it easier, Karl just played harder until could get past my 5 point barrier on my own. Everyone has always respected Karl's honesty, whether it was a weight call or a question or rules.. If you wanted an answer, you went to Karl.

I can't think of anyone more deserving of this honor than Karl
(with a K) Spickelmier.

—Bob Brunskill

More from Karl's friends . . .

Karl has represented the sport of shuffleboard for many years. As a player or as a tournament official, his talent is second to none.

Congratulations on your induction, Karl. —Rich "Bubba" Warren

As long as I've known Karl, he has been a hard-working, tireless promoter of shuffleboard. He is to be commended for his work with the PCSA in organizing and running excellent tournaments. He's a good player too, always calm, cool and collected—gracious to his partners and opponents, and a very good lagger. Karl has aided the progress California has made on the tournament scene, too.

Never one to blow his own horn, it's great to see that he's getting recognition for his efforts and dedication. He's a very nice person—fair, diplomatic, kind, and last, but not least, quite charming! Karl, keep on doing what you do best.

—Louise Freer

Congratulations are long overdue. You're finally a first to be elected to the Hall of Fame for being the best in charge of the bracket boards.

-Troy Tolbert

Don't let Troy get your goat! I've enjoyed knowing you, playing with and against you and, yes, you re a good bracket board keeper.

Congratulations and good luck.

—Evelyn Hughes

For more than 20 years, Karl has distinguished himself as one of the best players in the game. He is also one of the true gentlemen in the game. And also a man with a long history of giving back to the game in many different ways. California has been fortunate to have Karl, and shuffleboard in that state has benefitted from his contributions. A well-deserved honor, congratulations!

—Phil Skover & John McDermot

Congratulations to Karl on his induction. He is a great guy and so helpful to everyone.

—Connie & Frank Zavala

Karl is a true professional in every sense of the word. I feel proud and privileged to have played with and against him. Congratulations, Karl. Your induction is truly deserved.

—John Fisher

Karl's Friends have the last word:

As a relative newcomer to the sport of shuffleboard, having played only for five years or so, I don't always get to see our "Hall of Famers" in action. I have been privileged to not only play shuffleboard with and against Karl, but I had Karl as one of my teachers in bracketing. I made the fatal mistake during my first tournament of letting Karl see I could actually read and understand the bracket board, and he and Bubba Warren decided then and there that I should learn bracketing.

To this day, I always rest easier when Karl is around at a tournament that I am bracketing, as I know he will be looking over the board.

At a recent tournament, I tracked Karl down at midnight and he cheerfully accompanied me back to the bar where where play was to start early in the morning, to help me with a sticky situation that had come up concerning the bracket. He is always kinds, always gracious, and always puts up with my teasing. Congratulations, Karl!

Sincerely-Chris Brown

I've known Karl since about '83-'84, and seen Karl contribute a lot to the game: as a teacher to new players, a promoter and official of PCSA, expert bracketer, and most of all a great player and partner. I know that when I draw Karl for a partner we'll never be far out if it no matter how many weights I miss. Karl is a gentleman and a credit to the game—a true "Hall of Famer." I'm proud to call him my friend.

-John McGinnis

Congratulations, Karl, on your entry into the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. I can't think of anyone more deserving or dedicated to the game.

—Jack Ahern

I met Karl 19 years ago in Portland. Over the years he has traveled to most all the major tournaments over the U.S. and Canada, and also Texas. He was instrumental in creating and running the Las Vegas tournament, along with Joe Muniz and Paul Weber. He is a true ambassador to the game of shuffleboard. His ability speaks for itself, however it is his conduct and sportsmanship that truly stand out. Through the years, I've never seen him conduct himself, but as a true gentleman in every sense, win or lose.

Congratulations on an honor well deserved.

-Dave Williams, Ft. Worth, Texas

Karl's Friends have the last word:

We met Karl, one of the first shuffleboarders we knew, about 10 years ago at the Ace of Clubs in Marysville. He was very gracious about explaining some of the finer points of the game to us.

We began to hold tournaments at Blinky's in Santa Clara three times a year about eight years ago, and to our knowledge, he has never missed one. He won a few, and was in the money in many others. Karl has always been supportive, has helped with tournaments, and always been a gentleman. He deserves any and all accolades bestowed upon him.

Karl, thanks for your support and for being a friend as well as a great shuffleboard player.

-Rick and Kathy Thomas

Shuffleboard in California would not be the same today if Karl hadn't chosen to be a player and worked hard at promoting the game. As a player, Karl shoots hard, straight and is a great lagger. He's among the top pro players in the country and probably best known for his ability at making combination shots. He's one tough competitor.

Karl has never missed a Labor Day or Memorial Day tournament in the last 20 years, no matter where the tournaments were—Karl was right there.

Karl has also brought tournament action to what it is today. He was instrumental and a founding father of national tournaments. As a director of the great Las Vegas tournaments, he brought together players from over the U.S. and Canada, and did it successfully—a predecessor of today's giant national tournaments.

When nobody had even heard of an "ABC" Karl was putting them together at the Dixie Belle. He had the foresight to recognize that amateur player involvement was critical to keeping the game alive, and taught young players, as well as teaching the better players to give something back to the game.

Karl has selflessly given to the game and all of us players benefit from his contributions.

He's a very fine gentleman, a terrific ambassador for shuffleboard and a very good friend. Congratulations, Karl!

-Bob Hunt (and Vickie, too)