



**THE CALIFORNIA SHUFFLEBOARD HALL
OF FAME**

Induction Ceremony Honoring

Russ & Leslie Lankton

Presented at
Exeter Eagles Lodge
Exeter, California

April 28, 2023



5th Annual Bobby Goldsmith Pro-Am Memorial Shuffleboard Tournament

April 27 - 30, 2023
\$\$\$ 10,000 Added \$\$\$

CALIFORNIA SHUFFLEBOARD
HALL OF FAME

Exeter Eagles Lodge
555 West Visalia Road
Exeter, CA 93221

Twelve (12) Boards
\$50 Registration Fee &
Board Fee.

For questions or
additional information
Please Contact:
Tournament Directors
JOEL ATKINS
(559) 805-0334
ERIC JONES
(559) 731-6567

2023 Bowers Ratings
TSA rules in effect
Preregister on Scoreholio

PRO EVENTS

Doubles: April 28-29 \$ 500 per team
2/3, Double Elimination – Auction 6pm
Bring your partner, no minus 1's to play together.

Singles: April 29-30 \$ 500 per player
2/3, Double Elimination
Six (6) Boards

PRO-AM EVENTS

4-Person Draft: April 27-28 \$ 50 per player
Draft 5pm Auction 6pm

AMATEUR EVENTS

ABC: April 28-29 \$50 per player Auction 6pm
2/3 - 15, Single game to 21 losers Open to all
players.

Doubles Add to 2: April 29 - 30 \$200 per team
2/3 - 15, Single game to 21 losers.

Doubles Add to 5: April 29-30 \$100 per team
2/3 - 15, Single game to 21 losers.

PAYOUTS

Pro Events & Amateur Event
\$10,000 added money
Minimum \$8,000 Pro Events
90% pay out
Standard Payout Schedule

California Shuffleboard
Hall of Fame
Russ & Leslie Lankton
Induction Ceremony
04/28/23 @ 6pm

TSA National Hall of Fame
Jim Martin
Induction Ceremony
04/29/23 @ 5pm

Travel Information

Kawah Motel (559) 592-2961
319 S. Kaweah Ave
Exeter, CA 93221

Best Western Inn (559) 592-8118
805 S. Kaweah Ave
Exeter, CA 93221

Various local AirBNB Options
Various Visalia, CA Hotels

Nearest Airport: (FAT) - Fresno, CA

Format subject to change based upon participation.

LESLIE AND RUSS LANKTON



Leslie has lived on the same ranch near Visalia her entire life and attended Exeter High School. The daughter of legendary shuffleboard player Bobby Goldsmith, Leslie threw her first weights when she was 5 or 6 but didn't start playing in tournaments until after she met Russ. Bobby and his sister Robbie Goldsmith Gann have both been inducted into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Bobby's father Curly was a horse collar champion, and his mother Euvah fed any player that came to the house.

Bobby owned The Hut and then Mr. G's which drew legendary players from all over the country. His location midway between Northern and Southern California was ideal for many weekend sessions for California players and Bobby always promised action for anyone who came there. As a child, Leslie would sit on the porch and listen to the stories told by the likes of Glen Davidson, Billy Mays, Troy Tolbert and Jim McDonald to name a few. She also watched her then 10-year-old brother Warren play a game against Billy Mays. Billy won and then advised Warren: "You better work on your left hand son." Warren did.

Russ grew up in nearby Goshen, CA and attended Visalia High School. Russ and Leslie met at the home of one of Leslie's many cousins. They watched movies and immediately hit it off. They have been married almost 36 years and have only spent 2 nights apart; once when Russ went to Reno with his father-in-law to play shuffleboard, and the other on the night when son Jake was born, and Russ wasn't allowed to stay overnight at the hospital.

Russ started playing shuffleboard after he met Leslie. Her father, Bobby Goldsmith, was his mentor. He is currently rated 0.84 and ranked in the top 14% of the country.



Their sons Bobby Kulow, Jake Lankton and Cody Lankton all play shuffleboard. Bobby, who is a frequent tournament player is rated as a 1, Jake and Cody are strong 2's but play less often. The couple has 6 grandchildren.

Leslie is very proud of her extended family, cousins, children, grandchildren, and her brother Warren. Of Warren, Leslie says: "We have a special bond that goes beyond the game of shuffleboard. I am proud of the player he has become. He is also a big force behind shuffleboard in the area."



Some of the extended Goldsmith/Lankton family

After the passing of Bobby and then Charlene Goldsmith, Leslie and Russ continued the tradition of supporting the sport of shuffleboard and its players. Any player from out of town is welcome to the ranch to play shuffleboard, eat or just visit. During tournaments, they buy several calcuttas to help players out and have also paid some of their entry

fees. They also house as many players as they can at the Ranch to help cut out hotel costs.

Besides providing much of the food for the dinners and potlucks, the Lanktons also put up some of the added \$ for the Bobby Goldsmith memorial tournament which has become a major tournament for pro players from around the country. And, besides all of that, Leslie has continued her mother Charlene's tradition of donating jewelry for the raffles which provide funds to the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

The family received the Sol Lipkin award at the North American Shuffleboard Championships on Nov 1, 2019. The plaque states in part:

*We proudly present the
Sol Lipkin Award
in recognition of your
extraordinary contributions to
the advancement of our sport.
November 1, 2019*



Joe Scott, Warren Goldsmith, Leslie and Russ.
John McDermott standing in back. NASC, Reno, 2019

Writeup for the CSHOF induction from Summer Larios

There's something to be said about that moment of anticipation, all eyes waiting to see where the puck will stop. Shuffleboard brings together groups of people from all walks of life but mostly people who enjoy a good time. Russ and Leslie Lankton happen to be prime examples. They are stewards of the sport and have tried to carry on the legacy laid out before them.

Shuffleboard has been a major part of Leslie's life and after meeting Russ, he became just as involved. Leslie's parents set an example of how important it is to help out the shuffleboard community in order to keep it going. It is often said to be a family sport, but probably more so to Leslie's family. So many of them play shuffleboard, it just seems to be in their blood.

From providing food, donations and often most of their free time, Russ and Leslie have been the driving force that helps keep the pucks rolling. It's not only the local community that benefits from their dedication. They have supported tournaments around California and in other states as well. Their financial and moral support has helped many players reach their goals.

Friends and fellow competitors will agree that Leslie and Russ are truly deserving of this honor. Their love for the sport is undeniable. Because of people like them, the integrity of the sport will continue to flourish.



Testimonials for Russ & Leslie Lankton

I'm so excited for Russ and Leslie. No two people are more deserving of being inducted to the hall of fame as promoters of the game. Not only do they give so much to the California shuffleboard community, but their generosity, hospitality and love of the game and its players is extended Nationwide!

Congratulations!!!
#ranchshuffleboard
Love, Katie Steel

Congratulations, Cousin Russ and Leslie, on your induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. I don't know of anyone that is more deserving of this honor. If it were not for the two of you, I would never have become involved with shuffleboard. Time spent with you has improved my game tremendously. Thank you for all you have done and will do for Shuffleboard.

Terry Lowe



Russ & Leslie with Phyllis & Terry Lowe

Congratulations to Russ and Leslie Lankton for their induction into the CSHOF. They have been an integral part of shuffleboard in California for a long, long time. Their love for the game is unquestionable and their hospitality for traveling players is legendary. The Ranch is a shuffleboard oasis, and the Lanktons are wonderful hosts. I personally mostly say thank you for not only inviting me into their house, but for making me feel like I'm part of the family. Russ and Leslie once again, thank you for all you do for shuffleboard.

Lance Lohr

Congratulations Russ and Leslie on your Induction into The California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. You both have contributed so much to shuffleboard, the jewelry you donated for raffles to help support The California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, and people in our shuffleboard community that needed help financially to help with expenses for many different reasons. For years you have supported tournaments at Oscar's, The Royal Room, The Downey Elks, The Rosewood Pub, The NASC in Reno, Stingers in Phoenix Az, and of course The Eagle's in Exeter, CA.

Thanks to your generosity with the added money you donated you have put Exeter, CA on the map as being a major tournament which has brought in many players from all over the United States to play at The Exeter Eagles. You both are great people, and we are honored to call you our friends. Thank You again, for all you have done for shuffleboard and congratulations on this very well-deserved Hall of Fame Induction.

Allan and Joanie Healey



Thank you for all the inspiration, love and support for the Ringer Girls! For keeping the shuffleboard dream alive for my sister and I, and of course so many others. You have done this for an entire shuffleboard community!

THE RANCH: So many people love and respect you for all you do for shuffleboard. Just remember that Pam and I love you for so much more! Thank you for giving us:

unlimited practice=confidence=pride+inspiration+love+support=the Ranch=Russ 'n Leslie Lankton!

Great Combo!

Sweet People!

Thank you and congratulations!

Love, Pam 'n Tawny Ringer

PS: A special thank you to Mr. Warren Goldsmith for playing endless shuffleboard sessions with any of us who wanted to take him on the original board that started it all.

Russ and Leslie Lankton: How can you describe this couple? I've known Leslie for a long, long time – High School days. The last 14 years I have known the both of them through shuffleboard and working at the Eagles. They have helped more people get into this game by their stories, stories of Bobby Goldsmith, Aunt Sitter and Warren. The love they share for each other goes out to everyone. Without their love, smiles and encouragement, I would never have stayed playing this game. They make this shuffleboard game fun, and you know they have your back. They are the reason I love this game. They are the hope to make this game bigger and better for the future players.

They are family! Without them I really don't think as many people would be playing, nor would the game be known around the USA. Everyone knows "The Ranch." They know Leslie and Russ. They are my heroes. I love you both. Thank you for making me a part of this great family.

Love,
Debbie Wilson-Miller



Bobby G, Leslie, Dan Mourgos, John Bernal, Debbie Wilson-Miller
1st place 4-person draft, Bobby Goldsmith Memorial 2022

Leslie & Russ,

Thank you for promoting and maintaining the popularity of shuffleboard in California. With your support, tournaments in Exeter continue to attract top talent from across the nation and have kept shuffleboard thriving in California.

Congratulations on your induction into the CA Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, well deserved.

Love you both,
Dan and Jane Mourgos

Where do you start with two amazing people! How about when I first met Russ and Leslie about six or seven years ago.

Everyone always told me about them, but I hadn't met them yet. Then one day everyone was talking about an upcoming shuffleboard tournament, and it would be a potluck. Everyone said to just bring a side dish Russ and Leslie will handle the rest. I asked how will you know what they are going to bring, and they said oh you will know when you start seeing the roaster ovens coming through the door. Well low and behold, the day of the tournament those roaster ovens started coming through the front door just like everyone said they would. First here comes one guy with a roaster full of smoked tri-tip, next comes a roaster full of smoked ribs and then a final roaster oven with beans carried by this very, very tall man in a t-shirt, shorts and sandals. Behind him came this smiling beautiful lady. I elbowed somebody and asked, "Who are they"? They gave me a crazy look and said, "Are you kidding, that's Russ and Leslie from the ranch."

Everyone in the place greeted them and of course Russ just smiled with that big old mustache and Leslie smiled hugged and waved at everyone. I just stood back and watched and thought I guess I should go introduce myself to Leslie first. I know I am not the most personable person especially when I don't know you. Well, I mustered up enough nerve to go over to Leslie, so dumb I went up to Leslie when she finally quit talking and said "Hello my name is Karen", which of late I hate saying my name because their first thought is "Oh, a Karen." Anyhow it took off from there and the next thing I know she is buying rounds of Lemon drops for all who wanted one. I looked over at Russ who I had not met yet and he was just shaking his head and laughing saying: "That's my wife and she doesn't take no for an answer."

To this day they have made me feel like I have known them my entire life. I have a complete wardrobe of Ranch clothes, which I have been stopped by complete strangers asking where I got that cool jacket or hat. I just smile and say, "From a very good friend of mine." Well to make a very long story short these two are so deserving of this award; from their amazing generosity to their encouragement to play the game of shuffleboard.

When you hear the words: The Ranch, lemon drops or roaster ovens you know two amazing people will be coming through that front door! When you hear it's time for the Bobby Goldsmith tournament, always think of Leslie (Bobby Goldsmith's daughter) and Russ and all they have promoted and donated to the game of shuffleboard!!!

Karen Barnett

I could not think of a more well deserving couple to receive this honor. I am not blood family, but I married into the Langton/Goldsmith family. From the day I met Russ and Leslie I have always felt like nothing but family. That also was the day I started playing shuffleboard and have loved it ever since.

Shortly after I had met them, I asked Lisa "Do they like me?" Lisa said yes and the words of Leslie " I just Looove her!!!"

Well, the rest is history, and I am proud to call them my family. But.... I also blame them for my addiction to shuffleboard!!

There is so much more to say but I will end in: CONGRATULATIONS and we Love you!!

Michelle Garcia



Michelle Garcia and Lisa Morphis

Very well deserving honor. To the most giving family around, if someone is in need, they are there to help. They open their doors when tournaments come to Exeter, and they feed the players. Thank you for living in Exeter.

Wesley (Wes) Martin



Leslie and Wes Martin

Well, how do you put 50ish years on one page? I've known Leslie all my life, seeing how she's my cousin; spending my summers working next to her on the Ranch and then our reward was floating down the river on our pool rafts..... cruising up and down Mooney and Pops Tacos. Leslie is so much like her momma, beautiful inside and out, with a little crazy streak. I know no one more caring, generous or more deserving of this award. I am in awe of her shuffleboard skills. The first women's tournament I played in, my first match was with Leslie. I was so nervous I couldn't shoot so we just sang at the top of our lungs and had fun with it. I will always remember that as one of my favorite moments. Yes, there is a video out there somewhere.... I know family has connections, but mine and Leslie's has always been special. I cherish every moment we are together. And then came Russ, what an addition to the family. Leslie and Russ have contributed more to shuffleboard than anyone I know. You can't see a picture of shuffleboard players without seeing someone wearing a Ranch hat or shirt!! They have sponsored more tournaments and players than I can count. I don't know of any two individuals that are more deserving of this award than they are. I am so proud that they are my family and proud they are receiving this well-deserved honor.

Love you guys!
Lisa Morphis



Leslie and Lisa Morphis

It's hard to imagine California shuffleboard without Russ and Leslie Lankton. Their contributions, presence and gregarious attitude bring so much to the community. They have supported all the west coast tournaments that we have been to. Always a kind word, a smile and a hug when you see them. And always supportive; donating t-shirts, items for raffle and money to keep things going! We need to clone them, and our game would thrive. California got this right. Well-deserved and we all owe you a big debt of gratitude!

Doug Hynes and Cindy Clark

Leslie is my cousin so needless to say I've known her my whole life and even though I grew up in San Diego and she here in Visalia, our families always got together at least once a year or so. Some of my favorite childhood memories are when my family came up here to the ranch, it was excellent because we had cousins, trains, chickens, hogs and of course Shuffleboard. All fun things to play with, good times! My wife Liz some 40 years ago when she was pregnant with her first child, I brought her up to meet the up-north part of the family and she fell in love with Leslie and the whole Visalia vibe.

As the years passed, we found ourselves coming up north more and more, whenever we had the opportunity to get away for a few days and Leslie and Russ became more than family, they became our dearest friends. And anyone that's around these two more than five minutes is going to end up with a weight in their hands like it or not. Even though over the years I had goofed around playing Shuffleboard here and there, after Russ and Leslie built their shuffleboard room I started playing more and if you're reading this you already know it's a really fun game and as it turns out addicting as well. So, when retirement came, because of Russ and Leslie and all my other wonderful family I have here, we decided this was where we wanted to spend our retirement and then the shuffleboard bug really bit me hard in the butt. So, thank you Russ and Leslie for introducing me to a game that is truly entertaining and has been such a great source of fun and aggravation, and along with the shuffleboard game the nicest friendliest group of people you could ever hope to meet.

When we first moved up here, I joined the Eagles Lodge. It's not easy when you're in your sixties and all your friends and your connections that were built over a lifetime are left behind and you find yourself the new kid on the block. Trust me, it was not a great feeling and one that I had never experienced before because of growing up and living my entire life in the same town. But because of the love and respect everyone has for Russ and Leslie, it made it pretty easy to meet and be accepted by everyone up here because when you tell people: "I'm Russ and Leslie's cousin" it gives you instant credibility. If you think I didn't plop my butt down on and firmly ride on their coat tails you would be mistaken. It was one of those times in your life you can say, "Don't you know who I am?" and it actually means something.

It's really great when people get things right and inducting Russ and Leslie into the Hall of Fame is one of those times. No two people could be more deserving of this honor because of their love, skill, knowledge and promotion of the game. Ranch gear has become something you see people from across the country wearing at tournaments. I'll never forget at my first Reno tournament, the calcutta for Division III singles I'm standing up there all alone feeling very

conspicuous and nobody knows who I am. The bidding started at \$50 and stayed at \$50 in this huge room full of people and dead silence, and then the announcer said; "He's related to Russ and Leslie and a product of the Ranch," and it went from dead silent to people shouting out bids and that in my opinion, shows the weight these two have earned in this game to take a complete unknown and turn me into someone who's worth gambling some money on. Turns out whoever it was that bought my calcutta totally wasted their money, but the man talked about my connections, he didn't say anything about my skill level! Russ and Leslie, I'm so very proud of you, you are two of the nicest, warmest, loving and generous people a person could ever hope to meet and you will never fully understand just how much love and respect I have for you and how much you mean to me and Liz. This honor is so very well deserved, so congratulations!

Russ and Liz Peterson



Front row: Lisa Morphis, Liz Peterson, Leslie
Back row: Judy Morphis, Russ Peterson, Russ

Leslie & Russ are just two of the nicest and most thoughtful people I have ever met! Rick and I started going to 4th of July tournaments in Exeter in the mid 2000's. At the time, the turnout wasn't anything like it is today, but I always felt so welcome there and always looked forward to returning. They have always been a huge supporter of the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, and it is only fitting that they will now forever be honored members!

Congratulations!
Kathy Thomas

I actually knew Leslie's mother and father (Charlene and Bobby Goldsmith), before I met Leslie and Russell. Bobby and Charlene were pillars of the community for several years. There's an old saying that the acorn doesn't fall far from the tree. Ever since the passing of Bobby and Charlene, Russ and Leslie have continued to carry the torch and supported the game we all love so much. They have not only supported shuffleboard in the state of California, but many other venues on the west coast. Without their support, it is this person's opinion that shuffleboard in the Exeter area would not be even close to where it is today without Russ and Leslie's kindness, thoughtfulness and foresight. We need more people like the Lanktons.

It is with great pleasure, not only to consider them the best of friends, but to welcome them both into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Jim Martin



Joel Atkins, Leslie & Russ

I have known Leslie since I was born because she is two months older than me - which she loves to hear, LOL! She's more like my sister than my cousin. She and Russ have maintained the traditions of my Uncle Bobby and Aunt Charlene in supporting the California shuffleboard community; providing added money to the Bobby Goldsmith Memorial tournaments, housing as many people as their place will fit, helping out with calcuttas and entry fees, and feeding people, non-stop. Russ does 90% of the cooking and after I heard Leslie's doctor call him the kitchen bitch, that has been my favorite name for him. Leslie has also tried to keep with the donation of a ring, or some type of jewelry which Aunt Charlene started years ago to support the CSHOF.

There are far too many wonderful things about Russ and Leslie to list here, but needless to say, this honor is well-deserved. Congratulations cousins!

Love ya,

Cousin \$pike

More years than I prefer to remember have passed since I first met Bobby Goldsmith. I do remember being brought into that circle of love. Love for the game, family, people and ultimately the love of people that love the game and therefore ARE family! Russ and Leslie have seamlessly picked up where Bobby left off. These two people (whom the stars created to be together) have not only been the biggest supporters and promoters of the game but even more so, they have been promoters of the people that love to play.

To witness the joy they bring into so many lives and the bonds they make all through the game of shuffleboard is an incredible experience I feel honored to be a part of. The generations that follow will have even larger shoes to fill than they themselves had. I thank them both for generously opening their arms, hearts and even their home, to me and to my family.

Whether it's food, a ride, a cheering voice, purchasing a Calcutta, contributing to a tournament pot [anonymously], a handshake or even someone that not only offers the seat next to them but will go find a chair and bring it just to make sure no one feels left out! All of these things describe these two incredible people. But their contribution to humanity and the respect they show to each other makes them extraordinary beings. The kind so many strive to be but so few truly achieve.

California still has big time shuffleboard and continues to produce great players thanks to Russ & Leslie's encouragement and support. They are an asset to the game wherever they are and make us proud to call them "ours"! Ranch Shuffleboard makes everyone feel welcomed and loved at the most genuinely unconditional level. You know wherever they are, there will be laughs, love and shuffleboard!!

My family and I raise our hats to thank them both and to congratulate them for their recognition and induction to California's Table Shuffleboard HOF.

- Hal Perry & Family



Shirley & Hal Perry, Leslie & Russ

More Photos

