

**California Shuffleboard
Hall of Fame**

Induction Ceremony

Honoring

Marion Bailey



July 3, 2004

Exeter Eagles Lodge #3608
Exeter, California

Marion Bailey



**Induction Saturday
July 3, 2004**

Marion Bailey . . .

This is Your Life

Marion was born in Russelville, Kentucky on May 20, 1934. His family moved to Carway, Arkansas in 1935, and later moved to Visalia, California, in 1944. He was a farm foreman from 1952 through 1960.

He was employed as a Research Tech in 1960 by Tulare County, and was there for the next 20 years. While working for the county he founded Bailey's Walnut Nursery in 1967 and worked both jobs until the nursery was off to a good start.

In 1999 Marion retired. However, he still works as hard now as he did before his retirement. He still farms his walnuts at home as well as in Farmersville.

Marion discovers Shuffleboarding

In the mid-sixties Marion became interested in shuffleboard. He learned to play at Bobby Goldsmith's bar, The Hut.

He started playing in 1970 at Mr. G's (also owned by Bobby Goldsmith, and later by Steve Floyd

In his younger days, Marion would average once a month starting a match with an out-of-town player on a Friday night and finishing on Monday morning, just in time to go home, shower, shave and be at work by 8 a.m.

When Mr. G's closed, he encouraged the players to go to the Eagles Lodge in Exeter. Friday nights are big shuffleboard nights at the Lodge.

Marion has been instrumental in bringing in-house tournaments to the Lodge and, along with me, has co-sponsored the Annual 4th of July Shuffleboard Shootout for the past few years.

Marion has also put an extra shuffleboard at the Eagles Lodge to accommodate those new players who are learning the game, along with the regular shuffleboard players.

Shuffleboard has always been Marion's great love. He never misses a tournament if he can help it. He has three shuffleboards at his house and two game rooms to accommodate them. He often has tournaments at his home with family and his many friends.

When shuffleboard supplies or maintenance is needed, everyone in the area calls Marion. His dedication, commitment and enthusiasm for the game of shuffleboard continues to spread throughout our community and the state.

He well deserves the honor of induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

—Steve O'Neal

From Marion's friends . . .

About 40 years ago a man named Marion Bailey walked into my bar, The Hut, and fell in love with the game of shuffleboard.

When I first got to know him, he bought the guys a lot of two-bit beers while he was learning the game. Lesser men would have given up, but he never did.

Marion has played in all the major tournaments in California, Las Vegas and Reno. During all these years he has never slacked off of the game.

He has been promoting tournaments at the Eagles Lodge in Exeter, putting in a lot of hours and also doing a lot of promoting at his own expense. This shows you how much the game means to him.

Marion possesses that rare quality of being a man of his word, honest, and a good friend. He proves it isn't the size of the man in the fight—it's the size of the fight in the man in whatever he does.

Marion is truly the mainstay of Shuffleboard in central California, and has always been dedicated to the game. He has certainly earned the right to be in the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

We have been friends for 40 years, Marion, and we will be lifelong friends.

—Bobby G. Goldsmith

Marion's Friends Speak Out

I first met Marion in the early seventies when I came to this area. Most of the shuffleboard players at that time were playing at Mr. G's Bar. Marion had a partner named Farrel and they were a tough team to beat.

Some of the players who came in to Mr. G's were: Tom Beck, Bobby and Robbie Goldsmith, Tommy Tompkins, Norman Wood, Farrel and Marion, to mention a few.

Marion was also in the shuffleboard business, placing boards in different establishments, refinishing boards, keeping the boards in good playing condition, everything from a burned-out light bulb, to messed up scoreboards, and also leveling the boards.

Marion has always been a bulldog contender. When out-of-towners came looking for action, Marion was the first to be called. I don't know of many players leaving town with local money. In recent years, he has been instrumental in keeping shuffleboard alive in this area.

In the past three years he has promoted two big tournaments at the Eagles Lodge in Exeter, also two local ones, twice a month at the Lodge. You can usually find Marion at the Lodge every Friday night, playing the game, unless he's out of town at a tournament.

What I like most about playing partners with Marion is, he'll give you all he's got. I've played against him and I've been his partners and we have always stayed friends.

I truly believe Marion belongs in the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

—Jim McDonald

More from Marion's Friends

I looked it up in the Guinness Book of World Records - it wasn't there but this has to be the man that has broken more weight caps than anyone in history.

Marion has been a player and supporter of shuffleboard in the Visalia area for as long as I can remember. He has been on the Visalia teams going to the PCSA / Las Vegas and Federation / Reno tournaments. He has participated in tournaments in Downey, Bellflower, Anaheim, Temecula, San Bernardino and countless other cities.

He has been the organizer behind the Exeter Eagles Lodge shuffleboard tournaments. He won their ABC tournament July 4th, 2002.

Marion, it is a real joy to see you inducted into the California Hall of Fame.

—Bob and Anna Brunskill

Congratulations on your well-deserved induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Without a doubt, you are one of the all-time "good guys" of our sport

*—Robert and Susan Davidson
Pacific Coast Shuffleboard News*

Tribute to Marion

I want to thank you for all the help you've given me, not just with Shuffleboard, but anything that's asked of you. You're always there.

For years I've watched you play shuffleboard and always wished I could throw a bullet as fast and accurate as you.

The first time I saw you play was at the ranch. Leslie, Warren and I were too young to go to the bars but we loved to watch you and Uncle Bobby play.

Everyone loves your cute little sayings. I know you must have a million of them—"Looks like 4 red in the bed," or "Looks like a blueberry patch to me" and many more I don't think I'll put in print. Ha!

You'll always be known for the "Bailey Bounce"—the little dance you do when you've made a good shot.

You have really helped many people with shuffleboard and you love to do it. Whenever shuffleboard is mentioned you light up and get everyone else excited about it.

I know everyone is thankful for the selfless way you take care of all our shuffleboard needs.

Once I told you that you were a shuffleboard hog because you had three boards at your house and I didn't have any, but when I bought a board in Modesto, you and Wally went all the way up there, moved the board back and set it up.

You also gave me wax, polish, my own little

starter kit and wouldn't even let me pay for gas. You just said, "That's what friends do, especially for shuffleboarders."

I just want to congratulate you for being honored. You really deserve it. And to let you know that you've always been honored by me.

May the shuffleboard gods keep smiling on you.

Love,

—Judy Morphis

*Letter of nomination written to
Bobby Goldsmith by "Bellflower Bruce"
in 2002, before he passed away.*

Dear Bobby ,

I have known Marion Bailey for eight to ten years. I have always found him to be helpful, courteous and a true promoter of shuffleboard.

I believe that he is a strong candidate to be inducted into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

He has my support and I am sure the support of many others for this great honor.

Best regards,
Bruce H. Hale

More from Marion's friends . . .

I met Marion Bailey in 1994. For the past ten years he has been a coach, mentor and true friend.

When I met Marion, I had no knowledge of how the game should truly be played.

Through the years I have learned technique and strategy, by playing against Marion and by being his partner.

Marion has a true commitment to this game. He encourages those who say they can't play and keeps encouraging even the most seasoned player.

I am very proud and excited to see Marion receive this honor. It is very well deserved.

Congrats, Bailey Boy!

—*Steve O'Neal*

Congratulations to the highest jumping, hardest hitting, most driving California Shuffleboard Hall of Famer, Marion Bailey!

With best regards,

—*Vern Booth*

More from Marion's Friends . .

Marion Bailey has been a big factor in organizing and hosting the yearly 4th of July shuffleboard tournament at the Eagles Lodge in Exeter. He has gone out of his way to make sure the Lodge has good fast boards and always makes sure they are properly cared for.

He has been very active in the game for many years and is always willing to help however he can to provide whatever is needed for the game of shuffleboard.

Bailey, as he is often referred to, throws the hardest weights I have ever seen when blasting his opponent off the board, and is pretty accurate in doing so. He has the ability to clean off boards with several weights on them, and I often wonder, "How did he do that?"

A player should never stand behind Bailey when he is ready to blast a weight or weights because he kicks like a mule when he releases and you just might get kicked.

It is always amazing to watch him play. He may dance a little jig when making a great shot on a great lag and always has something to say about different situations in a game. His sayings get a little funnier when he drinks his whiskey and shoots the game, and those of you that know him know he likes his whiskey.

All kidding aside, Marion deserves to be in the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame for all he has done in our area for the game. I can't think of a time he refused to help with an event or ever said no to anyone who asked for his help. He is a great source of information and can always be counted on for his help or direction for whatever is needed for the game.

Congratulations, Marion! Your friend,

—*Sal Reynoso*

More from Friends . . .

I have known Marion several years, and I can't begin to tell you just how he feels about the game of shuffleboard and the people that are associated with the game. Marion is the kind of person that would give you the shirt off his back, even if it was the last one he had.

His love for the game is unmatched. It has been and will always be a pleasure to have Marion Bailey as my friend.

I want to congratulate him on being inducted into the California Hall of Fame this July 4th. This is an honor he so deserves, and I wish him and his wonderful wife Jackie the very best for many more years and do look forward to seeing them both again soon.

Sincerely,
—*Jim Martin*

We first met Marion at Mr. G's in Visalia where he was "busting tops" in a tournament. Truly amazing....that was years ago and I don't think he's lost any velocity since.

Over the years we've always known Marion as a great supporter, participant and teacher of our game of shuffleboard. Together with his lovely wife Jackie, they are great hosts to everyone at the lodge and also at their home.

Congratulations, Marion on this well-deserved honor.

Your friends,—*Linda Wright & John McGinnis*

More from Marion's friends . . .

Congratulations Marion on your induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. I have enjoyed playing with you and against you.

If you don't mind, I would like to make a suggestion that may improve your game. You should learn to hit the weights a little harder!!!

Just kidding, Marion!

Seriously though, Marion, congratulations again on your great playing and promoting tournaments.

Thank you also for being my good friend.

—Paul Weber

Marion Bailey has, as my brother Woody Cochran likes to say, "Walked that extra mile for Shuffleboard."

His many years of playing and the effort he has put into our beloved game has earned him the recognition for a nomination and acceptance in the CSHF.

On behalf of the committee and all his friends, I'd like to say, "Thank you, Marion and Congratulations."

—Jolene Lembke

From Marion's Friends . . .

Congratulations, Marion!

This tribute couldn't happen to a more deserving person.

We've known Marion for about thirty years and he has always loved the game of shuffleboard. He's one of the most honest and fairest men in the game that we've ever known.

Marion has never turned down the chance to play the game with you as a partner. Whether you were an amateur or pro, he always gives you a chance to play. All he would say is, "Give me what you've got."

He's a great guy to be partners with.

I'm not one of you big-time shooters, but have learned a lot from Marion about the game, and hope to learn a lot more.

Congratulations again! We love you,

Your friends,

—*S. Floyd and H. Martin*

I have known Marion for twenty years as a player and a promoter of shuffleboard.

He deserves to be in the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Congratulations!

—*Ted Z*

More from Marion's Friends

Marion Bailey? What to say about him when just his name says it all?

He's my dad's buddy and I've known him all my life. He shoots harder and straighter than anyone I've ever seen.

He was my partner in Reno and carried me to a fourth in Division 1, and even got my picture in Board Talk.

Your shuffleboarding speaks for itself, Marion, and so does your character.

One of my oldest memories is your love of life, family, friends and shuffleboard are paralleled only by the greatest.

Just like Old Shep, get on 'em and stay on 'em.

Love ya and God bless!

Bobby Goldsmith's Boy Child.
— Warren Goldsmith

Marion Bailey has played and supported shuffleboard for many years.

His induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame is a well-deserved honor.

Congratulations, Marion!

—Rich "Bubba" Warren

Marion's Friends have the Last Word . . .

Years ago, while sitting at the Eagles Lodge, I was approached by a gentleman who asked, "Stan, do you want to play a game of shuffleboard?"

I agreed to play, only to lose, needless to say.

Some years later, I asked Marion why he called me Stan. He said I looked like a Stan and I answered to the name.

After many games and many years, we have become good friends.

Marion is a man to be respected as a man, and one terrific shuffleboard player. He is most deserving of this award being bestowed upon him.

I feel privileged to call Marion a great friend, and a great player.

Way to go, Bailey!

Your friend forever,
—*Stan (Wally Ewing)*

Marion, congratulations on your induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

This is a well-deserved recognition and honor for such a great shuffleboard player.

—*Karl Spickelmeier*