

The Board Talk

News and Views
from the World
of Shuffleboard

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The Hammer

Guest Editorial By Woodie Cochrum
Missouri Board Talk Reporter

Shuffleboard is on its way back — or is it? Recently, I took an afternoon and evening to do a survey on how many shuffleboards I could find in a neighborhood that one might travel if there were tavern-to-tavern tournaments set up. Like in the old days when Joe's Bar played Pete's Tavern and returned the match the following week. I traveled no more than five miles in either direction and found eight shuffleboards.

During my conversations with the customers, I found that only a couple of these shuffleboards had been there more than two years. I was disturbed at the lack of use those boards were getting and the poor condition of some of the boards. Only one out of the eight was holding round robin type tournaments. In that bar, the board was in good shape and I was able to get a match.

I said that shuffleboard was on its way back. But the question is — with the lack of interest shown by both the players and owners — will these boards still be there two years from now?

I'm sure that north St. Louis is not the only place that has this same problem. I would like for you readers to please take a little time and write *The Board Talk* a letter telling what your city or town does to keep shuffleboard active.

I am a truck driver and I have had the opportunity to play shuffleboard in almost every state. Twenty-five years ago the hot spots were Yakima, Wash.; Lake Charles, La.; Phoenix, Ariz.; in and around Dallas, Texas; and southern California. I'm sure if we ran a survey today, we would find those same places still rank among the top 10 hot spots.

Just what does keep the interest going from year to year? Your letter may play a big part in the progress of shuffleboard.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Because Woodie's article dealt with such a pertinent topic, we felt it warranted this front-page editorial spot. He has issued a challenge to all dedicated shuffleboarders to recognize and address a problem that may be threatening the future of the sport. Give it your best thinking, share some of your success stories and give us your ideas: The Board Talk, 421 E. Sheridan Road, Lansing, Mich. 48906.

**NEW BOARD TALK SERVICE:
Tournament Promotion
Flyer Service**

See details on page 4.

Tourney Talk

Bourbon, Indiana — Bourbon's fall doubles tournament had 29 entries with first place going to Steve Hart and Don Criswell, both of Anderson, Ind. Second place winners were Ed Galke of New York and Jeff Cottrell of Michigan. In third place were Emmett Wilcox and Dale Closser, also of Anderson, Ind.

Central Indiana Action — Indiana reporter Steve Hart reports lots of tournament action in central Indiana.

At the Triangle Bar, Anderson, a Sept. 22 doubles tournament with prize money of \$1,030 was won by Ron Hennis and Brian Valentine, with second place going to the hosts, Bob and Tom Vorndram. Third place honors went to Steve Hart and Sonny Hedrick and fourth place was won by Steve Johnson and Randy Valentine.

Tournaments for October include: Triangle Bar, Anderson, Ind., Oct. 13, doubles; Hog House, Ingalls, Ind., Oct. 20, doubles; Palace Bar, Fairmont, Ind., Oct. 27, doubles. All are Saturday tournaments with auctions starting at 12 noon. Anyone is welcome.

Dublin House, Detroit — Open doubles tournament on Oct. 13-14. 23906 Grand River, Detroit; phone 313-531-5590.

The Boardwalk, Tacoma, Wash. — Doubles tournament starts Oct. 19. 3511 McKinley, Tacoma, Wash.; phone 206-627-9436.

Chit Chat Lounge, Detroit — Oct. 27-28, 22641 Fenkell, Detroit; phone 313-537-0338.

The Edgewood, Bellflower, Calif. — 1st Annual Fall Tournament, Oct. 27-28, singles, \$50 entry fee. Players auction Friday night, Oct. 26.

For further information, contact Patti Rhodes, 11752 Coldlerook, Downey, Calif. 90241.

Wagon Wheel Tavern, Lake Orion — Nov. 10-11, 102 S. Broadway, Lake Orion, Mich.; phone 313-693-6789.

Papa's Ace Lounge, Warren — Dec. 1-2, 23617 Van Dyke, Warren, Mich.; phone 313-757-6760.

Showboat, Las Vegas — Don't forget the U.S. Open Amateur Shuffleboard 6-player team event tournament, Dec. 7-9, Las Vegas. A His and Hers Doubles Tournament is scheduled for Dec. 6. Site for this big event will be the popular Showboat Hotel/Casino. For more information, contact Billy Mays at 214-498-2415 or 214-887-6138, or write USSA, Rt. 1, Box 117-G, Kemp, Texas 75143.