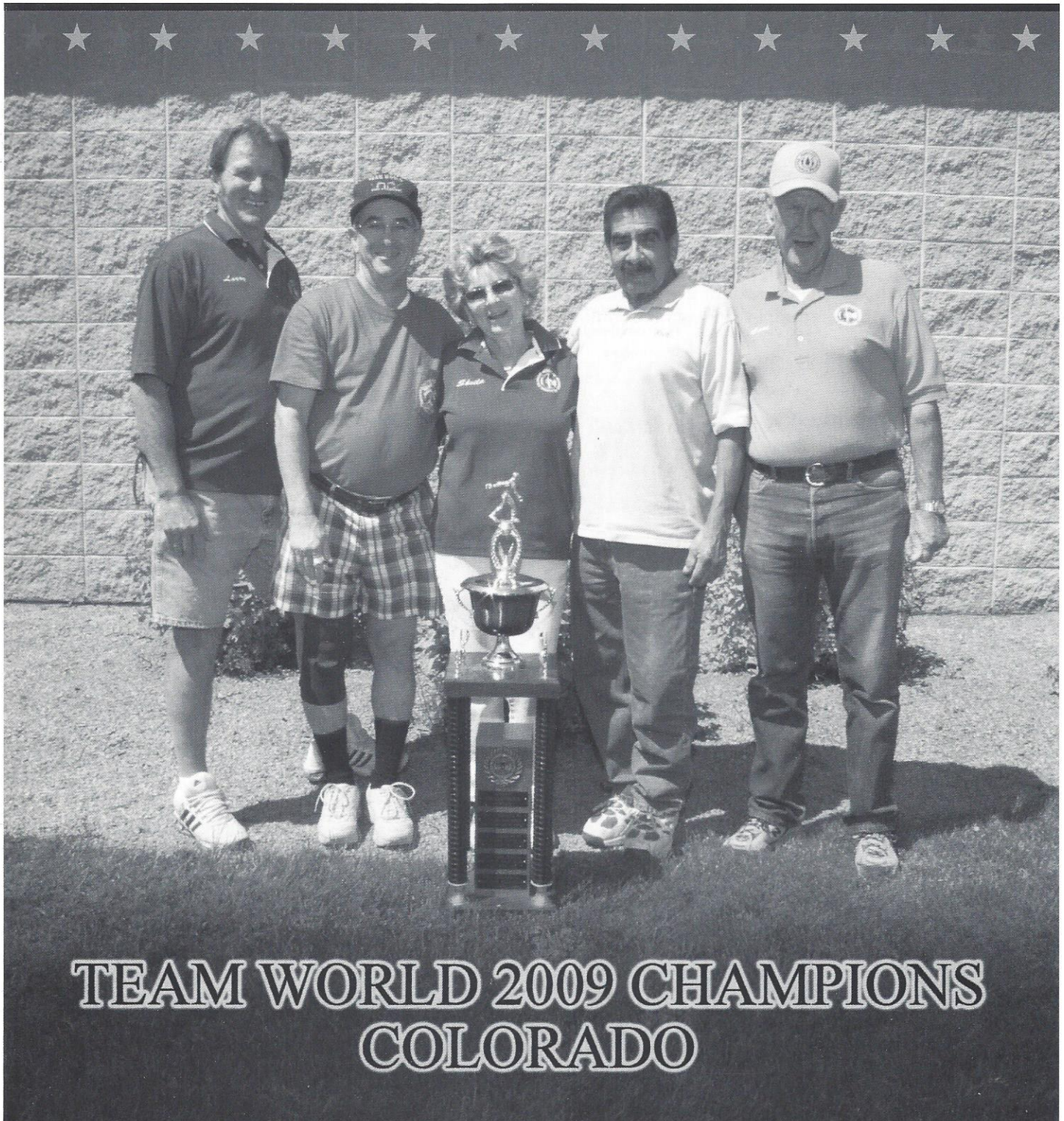




# Horseshoe Pitching NEWSLINE

Official Publication of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association  
VOL. 21, NO. 4

JULY/AUGUST 2009



TEAM WORLD 2009 CHAMPIONS  
COLORADO

# TOURNAMENT TRAVEL CONTACTS

The following is a list of all NHPA Regional Directors and the states or territory they cover. Those of you who travel and want to get out-of-area tournament information, are encouraged to contact the appropriate Regional Director. Each RD maintains a full list of all NHPA sanctioned tournaments in their area. If your travel plans call for stops in several states and you need multiple site information, you might want to write the NHPA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President who is in charge of all RDs. He should have copies of all the state schedules. The address for the 1<sup>st</sup> VP can be found on page 3 of this publication.

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**Horseshoe Pitching  
NEWSLINE**

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Cover: Team Colorado took control and won the Team World this year.  
From left to right: Larry Chaney, Paul Lacrosse, Sheila Shepard,  
Rich Pintor and Carl Carlton

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Paul Stewart*

The National Horseshoe Pitchers Association is celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its World Horseshoe Pitching Championships, July 27 through August 8, 2009 at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois.

We are pleased and happy to report a total of 1,330 entrants for the 2009 World Tournament.

Here are a few WT odds and ends.

2009 WT cash prize fund: Championship Classes, \$52,510; All Class Play, \$112,900; TOTAL \$165,410.

Youngest pitcher: Keith Jones, Springfield, IL, Cadets, just 6 years old.

Oldest pitcher: Donald Boyer, Martinsville, IL, Sr. Men's 92 years old and still pitching 40 feet.

There are 538 pitchers that are pitching in their first World Tournament this year.

Again, we are excited about this year's tournament and would like to remind those not attending the tournament that you can check the NHPA website, [www.horseshoepitching.com](http://www.horseshoepitching.com), for daily tournament results, class pictures, game of the day, a breakdown of entrants by location, an alphabetical listing of all entrants, a pitching schedule, a listing of entrants by class and much more. However, class listings may change from this website listing by tournament time due to cancellations and replacements. Please make a note of this year's contact information: World Tournament e-mail address: [wt2009@horseshoepitching.com](mailto:wt2009@horseshoepitching.com); World Tournament Press Room e-mail address: [press-info@horseshoepitching.com](mailto:press-info@horseshoepitching.com); NHPA World Tournament telephone number: (217) 753-8825 starting July 24, 2009.

A reminder to all Charter Presidents: The Charter President must provide to the NHPA President, at least 72 hours prior to the start of the convention, a written and signed list of delegates which names the delegation Chairman. I will accept a list of your delegates by e-mail provided it is sent by the Charter President. I will be leaving for Springfield, on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. If submitting your list by US Post mail, please allow sufficient time for the mail to reach me before my departure date. Once again, you can e-mail your delegates list to me at [nhpapaul@yahoo.com](mailto:nhpapaul@yahoo.com) at least 72 hours prior to 8:30 AM on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Times and dates for all meetings; Regional Directors, State Officers, Club/League Directors meeting, will be

posted on location at the tournament. Church services are scheduled for 3:00 pm on Sunday afternoon August 2<sup>nd</sup> and the location will be posted at the tournament. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to having you at our World Tournament Church services this year.

Plan to attend the NHPA Hall of Fame Awards Banquet the evening of August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ticket cost is \$30 a person. Purchase tickets at the tournament up to 72 hours prior or contact the NHPA office to reserve tickets for later pickup. All tickets reserved are considered sold and must be paid for whether you attend or not. This year's event will be held at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel. Awards will be presented at our annual Hall of Fame Awards Banquet. This year's awards are as follows: The Stokes Award will be going to Kurt Whaley, of South Dakota; the President's Award will go to Bill Marvin, of Illinois; and Achievement Awards will be going to Tina Press, of Illinois and Leonard & Georgia Burke, of Oklahoma. Membership and league awards will be announced at the banquet. The Regional Director of the Year Award is listed in Dan Sander's article in this issue of Newsline. This year's Hall of Fame inductees are: Joan Elmore, of Tennessee; Frank Bohun, of Pennsylvania; and Jack Freeman, of Tennessee/Kentucky.

For all of you attending this year's World Tournament either as a player or a fan, we are excited that you're coming! As always we hope and pray that your journey to and from the tournament is a safe one and wish each of you not only success on the courts but an unforgettable visit to Springfield, Illinois.

See you on the courts!

 NATIONAL HORSESHOE PITCHERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
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Visit our website for up-to-date information  
[www.horseshoepitching.com](http://www.horseshoepitching.com)

Natstats updated every Wednesday evening  
Individual Stat Search updated at least once a month

World Tournament Information  
Coming Events  
Local Contact Information

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PO Box 536  
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Email: [webmaster@horseshoepitching.com](mailto:webmaster@horseshoepitching.com)

# NATIONAL SANCTIONED CLUB/LEAGUE REPORT

by Lorraine Sternberg

Yes, you did read the National League Tournament entry form correct in the last issue of Newslines. The tournament has been moved to the NHPA Hall of Fame Building in Missouri. Earlier I had reported that the tournament would take place at the Atterbury Facility in Edinburgh, Indiana. Because of some problems with the building at the Atterbury Facility, all tournaments that were to be held there for 2009 had to be cancelled. This left me with having to make a quick change, so the tournament will go back to Missouri. The tournament will now be limited to 20 teams rather than 24 teams. The dates for the tournament will remain the same, October 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Holiday Inn Express is the host motel for all sponsored events at the NHPF & NHPA Hall of Fame building. The address is Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites, 1175 Technology Drive, O'Fallon, MO 63368. The phone number for the Holiday Inn Express is (636) 300-4844.

When making your reservations you will need to mention Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club and you will get the special rate of \$69.95. This includes breakfast. The Holiday Inn Express is a new motel in the area and is less than 15 minutes from the Hall of Fame Facility. The deadline for the tournament is August 24th. The entry form was in the last issue of Newslines and is posted on the National Website. If you need more details on the tournament you can call me at (262) 677-3300 or (262) 707-8164.

The World Tournament is fast approaching. It's looking to be a great tournament. Springfield has been working hard to make this event the best ever. I look forward to seeing everyone once again. Hope you all can make the Sanctioned League Meeting that will be held on Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Sanctioned League Director Award for 2009 is being given to Earl Paulson. Earl has been the league director for the Beloit Horseshoe Club in Wisconsin for the past 24 years. The Beloit HSC runs leagues year round. Earl is also the tournament director for all of the tournaments that are held in Beloit, including the Team World Tournament that is held every spring. Earl is very deserving of this award. I would like to thank Earl for his many years as a league director. Congratulations Earl!

I look forward to seeing everyone in Springfield, Illinois.

May you all have a safe trip and a great tournament with many ringers!

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# NEWS VIEWS & DONATIONS

by Dave Loucks

Clubs or Charters that hold benefit tournaments for the NHPF provide an enormous service for the Foundation. It is especially so during times of economic hardship when many of our members have to make some tough financial decisions. Like any charitable organization, the NHPF needs donations to function. If you cannot send an individual check, take part in an NHPF benefit tournament where much of the proceeds are sent to the Foundation. If your club or charter doesn't have an annual benefit tournament, ask the officers to schedule one.

While several states have had fund-raisers for the NHPF, three charters are worthy of mention for holding annual tournaments that benefit the NHPF. The Dogwood Tournament in Statesville, NC, under the direction of Paul Stewart and the Emerald Club in Eugene, OR, with its annual NHPF Benefit Open under the direction of Jerry Gorton, have each contributed over \$5,000. For the past two years, a major NHPF benefactor, Tim Woodden, has been matching the total raised by the Emerald club. Three clubs of the Northern California Charter, Gold Country, Sonoma County and Tri-Valley have combined to also donate over \$5,000 raised through NHPF benefit tournaments.

At the Springfield World Tournament, the NHPF will have available a limited quantity of a special towel commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the W.T. These 15" x 18" towels, with a hook and grommet attachment will be available to individuals who make a \$10 donation at the NHPF booth. Also available for cash contributions of a smaller amount will be two or three commemorative items from the NHPA Hall of Fame. Be sure to stop by the NHPF booth to select the item of your choice.

The NHPF, which owns the production rights, recently up-dated and converted to DVD, the Basics of Horseshoe Pitching video. This DVD is for the relatively new pitcher as it covers all the fundamentals of the game and shows in slow motion, how to hold and throw the flip, 1-1/4 & 1-3/4 turns. Every club is encouraged to purchase this DVD to lend out to new pitchers or have on hand when giving demonstrations to schools or others not familiar with the sport. It is a valuable training tool available from your favorite GRS distributor for the very modest price of \$14.00.

A monetary contribution sent to the NHPF is tax deductible if you itemize and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are giving back something to the sport and association. Send your contributions and/or brick orders to the NHPF, P.O. Box 1628, Penn Valley, CA 95946.

During the months of April and May, \$3,728 was received from member contributions and brick orders. Another \$3,795 was received through sales of the new DVD and the 1st quarter HOF building rent from the Quail Ridge H.C.

## Donating \$10-50

Billy C. Barnett, AL  
Wayne George, CA  
Chuck Bishop, KS  
Art Moran, MN

North Carolina HPA  
Jim Haupt, WI  
Charles Bunner, WV

## Donating \$100-250

Dave & Cathie Loucks, CA  
LeRoy Law, IA  
Maryland HPA  
Luella Cave, MN  
Calvin Jaeger, MO

Rivers & Buck Prewette, NC  
Paul & Pat Stewart, NC  
Tim Woodden, OR  
Pork's Shoe Shack, SC  
Bellingham H.C., WA

## Donating \$350-500

Tri-Valley H.C., CA  
Dogwood Tournament, NC

## Other Income

HOF Donation Box, \$80  
NHPA GRS, \$175  
Independent Horseshoe Distributors Ass'n, \$620

QRHC 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr.

Building rent, \$3,000

## Bricks Purchased By

Revis McKee, CA  
Sarasota H.C., FL  
Donald & Shirley Roberts, MO  
Floyd Roberts, MO (2)  
North Carolina HPA  
Freelene Herring, OR

Jim & Phyllis Quist, WA  
Jim Haupt, WI

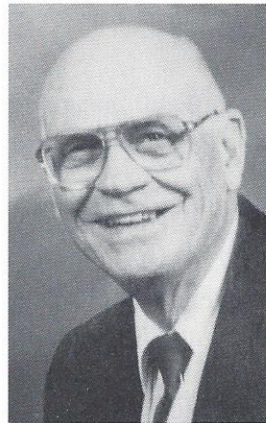
## HOW YOUR STATE RANKS

	Contributors	Donations	\$	
1.	CA	120	305	\$38,370
2.	MO	144	269	\$38,112
3.	MN	54	294	\$24,355
4.	NC	33	183	\$23,646
5.	TN	32	68	\$21,677
6.	OR	26	120	\$17,412
7.	WI	40	140	\$14,017
8.	MI	54	140	\$12,290
9.	WA	36	85	\$9,260
10.	IL	59	110	\$9,243
11.	CO	30	85	\$9,129
12.	FL	56	87	\$8,891
13.	OH	71	114	\$8,091
14.	GA	21	27	\$7,570
15.	PA	34	71	\$7,525
16.	TX	32	52	\$6,710
17.	KS	25	52	\$5,596
18.	IA	26	48	\$5,556
19.	NE	18	37	\$5,548
20.	MA	12	19	\$5,430
21.	NJ	23	46	\$4,709
22.	WV	14	98	\$4,093
23.	ID	10	37	\$4,007
24.	NY	39	47	\$3,705
25.	ND	9	26	\$3,655
26.	MD	26	42	\$3,514
27.	IN	27	37	\$3,353
28.	VA	59	111	\$3,197
29.	LA	10	21	\$3,152
30.	KY	17	34	\$2,760
31.	SC	12	29	\$2,570
32.	CT	16	28	\$2,422
33.	SD	16	28	\$2,314
34.	NV	12	18	\$1,936
35.	OK	15	21	\$1,808
36.	AZ	12	20	\$1,389
37.	AR	9	13	\$1,125
38.	MT	6	11	\$1,020
39.	AL	7	10	\$925
40.	VT	4	13	\$665
41.	WY	7	7	\$632
42.	UT	4	6	\$580
43.	NH	4	5	\$550
44.	CAN	1	2	\$400
45.	IRE	1	1	\$300
46.	HI	4	4	\$250
47.	NM	2	4	\$235
48.	ME	2	3	\$150
49.	AK	1	1	\$120
50.	DE	1	2	\$107
51.	RI	1	1	\$100
52.	MS	1	1	\$5

## TOLL OF TIME

**Ralph Milton Warthen**

**Idaho**



Ralph Milton Warthen, 87, of Caldwell, Idaho entered into rest on March 26th, 2009. Ralph was born on April 11th, 1921 in a farmhouse in Hubbell, Nebraska to Laura Ada Corwin and Charles Calvin Warthen. Ralph was known as Mr. Horseshoes and was the backbone behind the building of the 18 court complex in Caldwell, ID at Memorial

Park. Ralph, after retiring from Bayview Lumber Company of Washington State in 1982, moved him and his wife LaRene to Caldwell.

One of the first things Ralph did after his move to Caldwell was to look for a park with a horseshoe court and he found one. Ralph recalls while he was pitching a guy came along who was cutting the grass and asked if he would like a box around the pits to keep the sand in and he replied yes. He suggested Ralph talk to Kevin Holley who was running the parks department at the time. During conversation Ralph mentioned that he had been pitching horseshoes for over 40 years. Upon hearing that, Kevin said "You're the man for running our 4th of July tournament" and when asked if he would, Ralph replied "Yes". Ralph was also asked to draw up some plans for some new courts and they were then constructed. Ralph started the Monday night league officially in 1983 and the club has hosted three to four tournaments per year since that time and also two State tournaments.

Ralph had mentioned at the peak of his competition years he averaged around 70%. Ralph had pitched for 70 years and made many friends through the sport and was liked by all. Ralph is survived by three daughters; Connie Oberly and son-in-law Skip of Mesa, Arizona; Gayle Towery and son-in-law Randy of Caldwell, Idaho and Barbara McKnight and son-in-law Paul of Caldwell, Idaho. He also leaves behind 16 grandchildren and 44 great-grandchildren.

Ralph will be missed by all who knew and loved him; he was a gentleman of the highest caliber.

# CHARTER CHATTER

by Debby Michaud

## MINNESOTA

Annually, the Minnesota Gopher State HPA participates in the Minnesota Horse Expo – held in the month of April. They set up a horseshoe court; call the event “Pitch and Win” and people of all ages try their hand at pitching horseshoes – from any distance, to win prizes. This year, they also held a coloring contest for the kids. Hundreds of people visit the Horse Expo for numerous and varied exhibitions relating to horses. Potentially, this gives the MGSHPA an opportunity to gain many new members for the coming year AND to increase awareness of our sport.

Minnesota is also looking forward to the largest state tournament in many years – this year to be held in Mankato, MN. They are now building 25 new portable courts for the event and anticipate that it will be the best state tournament in their history. Having seen one of the new portable courts, I can vouch for how professional they are.

## HAWAII

Hawaii has a very successful annual doubles tournament with a BIG payoff (how do they DO that??!) Here is what RD Myrtle May Komoku sent.

ALOHA;  
THE ANAHOLA HORSESHOE CLUB JUST HOSTED OUR 14TH ANNUAL HORSESHOE DOUBLES TOURNAMENT HERE ON KAUAI, HAWAII. WE HAD A PURSE OF \$2,000 SPLIT AMONG 8 DOUBLES TEAM WINNERS. WINNING PITCHERS CAME FROM KAUAI AND OAHU.

I think a vacation to Hawaii is in the offing!

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Our most heavily used horseshoe courts were upgraded with full-length concrete walkways. At the urging of Jim Atwell, Burbank Club President, and cooperation of the Joslyn Senior Center management, the City of Burbank extended the short distance walkways on the facility’s six horseshoe courts to support our junior cadet players. Jim is very pleased with the results and says that the project was done within weeks of its approval. These courts are used year around with weekly sanctioned league play and monthly sanctioned tournaments.

*Continued on page 9*



The advertisement features two horseshoes, one labeled 'GORDON' and one labeled 'LEGEND'. The 'GORDON' horseshoe is on the left and the 'LEGEND' horseshoe is on the right. Below the horseshoes, there is text describing the product and contact information.

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## COLORADO

Colorado's latest Double Ringer newsletter has several paragraphs on Colorado horseshoe history dating back to 1920. It traces the origin of some of the clubs – the Denver Metro Club was formed PRIOR to 1920 and the first state championship was held in 1921. Ted Allen won the first of his ten state titles at the age of 14 in 1922 and then began his World Tournament victory march in 1933. Paul LaCrosse started a horseshoe league in the Denver area in 1974 – it is a guess, but this league may have been the first league of sanctioned pitchers in NHPA history and was one of the charter members of the NHPA Sanctioned League program in 1978. The historic paragraphs flow through the newsletter: they chronicle the start of the CO Hall of Fame in 1982, the beginning of the indoor Knaub arena in 1985, some Colorado milestones, and several of the awards that have been initiated over the years. Also, in 88 years, there have been only 30 presidents in the Colorado Association. It is a fascinating newsletter to read.

## NEW YORK

An interesting photo was sent to me – in a 2008 doubles tournament in Lockport, NY, a 40 ft. pitcher's 'shoe hit a horseshoe in the pit and bounced up to rest, or hang, on the top of the horseshoe stake. It stayed there long enough for everyone to see and for photos to be taken. Paul Thomas has been in horseshoes for 50 years and had never seen anything like this.

## IDAHO

Meridian, Idaho is the newest horseshoe pitching site in Idaho with its new 16 court complex. Don Titcomb has been instrumental in getting the courts built by the Meridian Parks & Recs. with help from Jerry Smith and Gary Opper. This site recently held the Don Titcomb Grand Opening tournament to kick off the new facilities. The complex features twelve sand and four clay courts and has synthetic turf covering the entire area within the fences which are not concrete. At a cost of over \$600,000.00, phase 1 includes two shelter houses and two tennis courts. Phase 2 will feature overhead covers for ten of the courts along with lights. The

facility has full length walkways with the concrete being poured a full eight inches thick throughout. Don states he has been waiting three years for this to become a reality. The new facility is in Settler's Park in Meridian, Idaho and will feature several tournaments throughout the year along with lifetime sports horseshoe pitching classes held by Don. To date Don has had nearly 200 high school kids participate in his program, four schools have been involved in this program and two of the four have committed for the next school season as well. A new tournament called The Treasure Valley Open will be one of the main attractions this summer and will include added money. They will also host the state singles tournament there in September. The new complex is being touted as the nicest facility in the Northwest.



**Ron & Polly's**  
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**We sell a wide variety of NHPA Sanctioned Horseshoes.**

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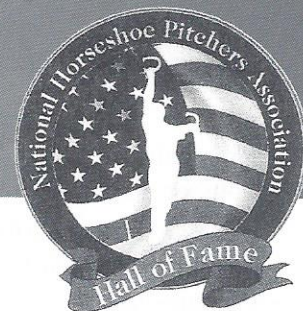
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Ron & Polly Murphy

# THE NATIONAL HORSESHOE PITCHERS HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM

## JACK FREEMAN'S MEMORIAL BRICK WALKWAY PLAZA



*by Jeanette Claas*

There is nothing more impressive at the National Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame facility than the Jack Freeman's Memorial Brick Walkway Plaza. Whenever visitors arrive at the Hall of Fame, the first thing they want to see is "The Brick." This simple sentimental brick with their name on it represents many things to individuals who purchase a brick bringing many memories to mind. For those who haven't purchased a brick and they walk upon the brick plaza, they feel the desire and need to buy one. It makes a person feel proud to be a part of the organization showing their support for the game of horseshoes, as if we have all come together at this certain place showing our representation.

As you can tell by the picture, the Jack Freeman Memorial Walkway is surrounded by beautiful landscape which flowers from early spring until the frost bites late in October. Even in the winter time it is impressive with the American and NHPF Flags waiving in the breeze with a constant light shining upon it. At tournaments held by the QRHC and weather permitting, we sometimes gather around the flagpole to hear our National Anthem sung by someone's beautiful voice.

Some of the bricks are very unique. Some are purchased as a memorial to a horseshoe pitcher or to a loved one of a horseshoe pitcher. I counted 28 bricks dedicated to the memory of Burly from Iowa. What a wonderful tribute to him! Some bricks are quite humorous, one reading: "Owen Moore and Paying Less". Another reads: "Just Pitchin' My Life Away for a Six Pac". A lot of them are honoring Hall of Famers, or someone who has dedicated a lot to the sport of horseshoe pitching. We have some Happy Birthdays, some Happy Anniversaries and Happy Father's Day bricks. Many horseshoe clubs purchase bricks to represent their clubs.

The brick plaza was an idea that Dave Loucks and Joe Faron came upon while Dave was visiting Missouri in 2005 looking for potential sites for the Hall of Fame. At the St. Charles County Amateur Sports Hall of Fame complex, they noticed their brick walkway and they quickly decided that would be a good thing to have one at the new NHPA/NHPF site. After some investigation with different brick companies, it was decided to work with St. Louis Monu-

*Continued on page 11*



# BRICK WALKWAY *Continued*

ments (STM). The bricks are all in place, all they need is an order for engraving. Once Dave receives a minimum of 25 brick orders, he prepares two lists: one for small bricks (\$100) and one for the larger bricks (\$200) by state. That list is faxed to STM who in turn works the engraving into their schedule, weather permitting. They must have dry conditions so all moisture is out of the clay bricks, meaning that virtually no engraving takes place at the plaza during winter months when snow and frost is in the ground or during a weather pattern that is bringing in rain.

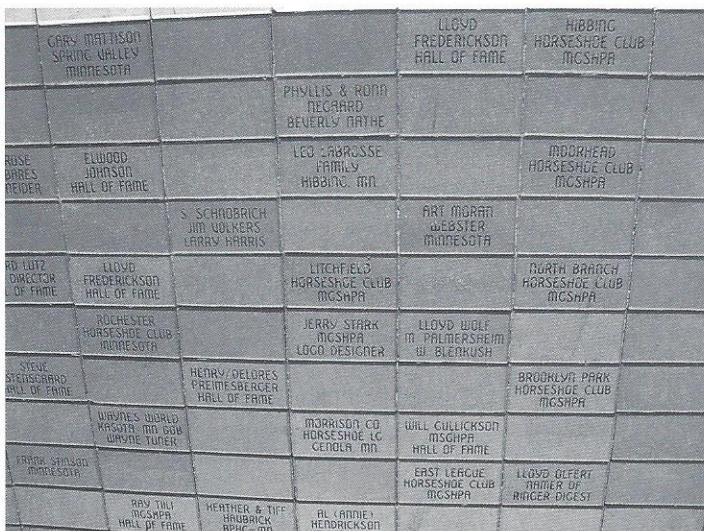
The brick plaza contains approximately 4,000 bricks, some 3,300 small 4"x 8" and 700 large 8"x 8". There are 38 different sections within the plaza, each assigned to different states. In the center is a large horseshoe shaped design of some 540 bricks, about one-third being the large size. The bricks in this horseshoe design are for orders from three states, Missouri, Wisconsin and California as it was initially projected that members from these states would send in the most orders, especially for the larger bricks. That has held true for MO and CA who are the number one and two buyers of large bricks. Missouri also leads in number of small bricks sold with Minnesota #2 and California #3. Most of the other sections have nine large reddish color bricks surrounded by some 90 small bricks. There are four sections of 18 large bricks. These are assigned to IL, PA, NC, and TX. Three states MI, FL and OH have sections with 30

large bricks. Thirteen sections are set up to be shared by two states.

As of today May 5, 2009, 852 bricks have been purchased, 838 of which are already engraved. Oregon is the first state to purchase all of the large bricks in their section. There is an overflow section to catch any more large brick orders from this state or others that fill-in their section. Three states (AK, MS, NM) have yet to purchase their first brick. Four others (DE, HI, ME, RI) have purchased only one brick. Twelve states have purchased fewer than five bricks. The top five states in total bricks purchased are Missouri 156, Minnesota 91, California 73, Illinois 38 and Wisconsin 37.

We had some visitors from South Dakota, the Jacksons, who came to Kansas City to visit relatives. Mr. Jackson, a horseshoe pitcher, wanted to see the new NHPA Hall of Fame. His son drove him the extra 250 miles to visit it. He was overjoyed by what he saw. The QRHC hostess for the day was JoAnn Wall, who took him to the brick walkway. Mr. Jackson couldn't believe all the people that he knew as he was glancing over the engraved bricks. He hadn't purchased a brick but he said, "I will be purchasing one in the near future." He wanted to be a part of the brick walkway as his friends were.

*Continued on page 12*



# BRICK WALKWAY *Continued*

I have received several letters and requests from people who have purchased a brick, but due to illness or whatever reasons will never be able to get to Missouri to see the brick they bought. I have taken some pictures and emailed it to them. Not being a computer genius I had to learn how to do this procedure. My granddaughter was glad to show me. I now have a whole file on my Image Zone with nothing but bricks, which I have had to label by state. Some of these bricks will be printed in the Newsline, so look closely; your brick may be making its appearance there.

Now you know about as much as I know about the brick program. If you have questions about the brick walkway that I can help you with, please email me at [djclaa@sbcglobal.com](mailto:djclaa@sbcglobal.com). These bricks have become a part of my life. And I hope that at least one of these bricks will be a part of yours. Keep on supporting the NHPF with your donations and brick orders – it is the only way to preserve the history, showcase the present and build the future of horseshoe pitching – the game we all love and enjoy. Donations and brick orders to the NHPF can be sent to P.O. Box 1628, Penn Valley, CA 95946.



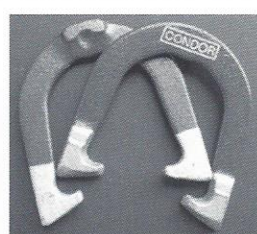
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YANKEE

# HORSESHOE PITCHING FACTS AND FOLKLORE

by Bob Dunn, NHPA Historian

## The 1951 World Horseshoe Tournament

This issue, we will revisit a World Tournament from over 50 years ago. To most readers there may not be great interest in reading the names that few of us remember, but that is not the significance of this 1951 event. A whole book could be written on this tournament alone – I will spare you and try to simply highlight what this tournament means to present-day members.

Back in the day, pitchers qualified on site to earn their way into the championship competition. There was no pre-registration, no listing of ringer averages, and believe it or not, no Class B, Class O or Class Z. A player traveled hundreds of miles on the chance that he would pitch potential in the qualifying, score among the top 36 players to gain seeding into the Championship Class, or simply have to turn right around and go back home. So for all those NHPA members that have participated in recent World Tournaments, there has been tremendous change to the tournament format that enables any pitcher who wishes, at any skill level, to simply register and be scheduled to participate in the showcase event of our sport. Anyone who has felt the need to voice complaint or argue about how the current World Tournament is conducted should really take a good look at how it used to be and then re-think their position.

The first article reprinted from the February 1951 issue of THE HORSESHOE PITCHER announces that the 1951 event will include a Class B. This was a beginning to the format the NHPA presents today. It is mind boggling that it took over three decades to include more classes than the Champion Class. But this tournament didn't stop there, a Junior Boys Championship was also held. Why should this be big news, there are Junior divisions every year? Not so. In 1951, the first Junior Boys championship was held since 1924. That's a span of 27 years. In fact, just one Junior championship was held prior to 1951, that being the 1924 event. No Junior Girls competition was held in 1951, or previously; the first event was still 16 years in the future. No Junior Girls World Championship was held until 1967. Today's World

Tournaments are looking better all the time!

The winner of the Junior Boy's Champion is also a significant piece of information. The 1951, as well as 1952 and 1953, Junior Boy's World Champion was none other than our recently retiring NHPA President, Dave Loucks.

The results article is reprinted as it appeared in September issue of THE HORSESHOE PITCHER.

## THE 1951 WORLD TOURNAMENT

*First an editorial comment by editor and NHPA Vice President Byron Jaskulek....*

### EDITORIAL

Have attended every world's championship since 1946. Each year there appeared a glaring injustice to dozens of prospective pitchers who in some instances traveled thousands of miles to try to qualify as an entrant, only to fall short of a few points that caused their traveling and expense to be for naught. This gave rise to much bitterness. Now, thanks to your officers and particularly our First Vice President, Arch Stokes, this situation will not occur this year. There will be a "B" tournament. Due to this fact, I am sure we can look forward to many more entries than we ever had before. And there will be also a teen-age tournament and Ladies tournament.

The dates for the tournament have also been changed so as to enable a man to use only two weeks instead of the three weeks it usually took to cover the one-week of play. An expression of thanks is due our officers and the good folks of Murray who have made these plans for our enjoyment. And there will be eighteen scoring devices, made by Mr. E.O. Beller, which were purchased by the same good folks of Murray who are furnishing the prize money of \$5,000.00. All this should tend to really place horseshoes on the map of Sports.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (NHPA)

It is now possible for you to begin to make plans to attend the national tournament. The date has been tentatively set from August 8 to 14. Beginning the

*Continued on page 14*

# HORSESHOE PITCHINGS

## FACTS AND FOLKLORE *Continued*

tournament in the middle of the week will give the eastern pitchers an opportunity to travel and play in the tournament without taking more than two weeks of their vacation time. And in addition, a day of rest during the tournament will be provided, as we will not play Sunday, August 12.

Tentative plans include a more varied program for this year. We would like to have a tournament for teenagers, women, Class B and Class A groups, so that there will be a greater opportunity for participation. It seems a shame that many good players have traveled

thousands of miles to come to the tournament and failed to qualified and have been eliminated from play because we have no B tournament. A teenager tournament is a necessity if we are going to encourage more young people to enter the game. There is a great need to encourage youth if we wish to continue to increase our activities in the game in the years to come.

Naturally I am looking forward to seeing all of you at Murray for our biggest and best horseshoe tournament.

LOUIS DEAN

### 1951 WORLD TOURNAMENT

#### MURRAY, UTAH – August 8-14, 1951

		Qual	W L	R	Sp	Pct
1. Fernando Isais	Los Angeles, Cal.	D.C.	35 0	2233	2604	85.7
2. Ted Allen	Boulder, Colo.	519	33 2	2102	2644	83.2
3. Marines Tambor	Wichita, Kansas	509	29 6	2123	2790	76.0
4. Edie Packham	Los Angeles, Cal.	515	25 10	2035	2710	75.0
5. John Lindmeir	Broadview, Ill.	493	25 10	2067	2760	74.8
6. Casey Jones	Waukesha, Wis.	524	23 12	2063	2656	77.6
7. Ray Gatewood	Lennox, Cal.	486	23 12	2132	2766	77.0
8. Dean Brown	South Gate, Cal.	508	23 12	2160	2826	76.1
9. Louis Dean	Pomona, Cal.	499	23 12	1928	2662	72.4
10. Dale Dixon	Des Moines, Iowa	490	22 13	1909	2602	73.3
11. Ellis Cobb	Aurora, Illinois	486	22 13	1971	2706	72.8
12. Stan DeLeary	Phoenix, Ariz.	497	22 13	2051	2828	72.5
13. John Monasmith	Yakima, Wash	497	21 14	1980	2722	72.7
14. Merel Palmer	Cheyenne, Why.	389	20 15	2038	2826	72.1
15. Roland Kraft	Lawrence, Kan.	481	20 15	2087	2742	76.1
16. Dean McLaughlin	Ontario, Canada	458	20 15	2106	2866	73.4
17. Glenn Anderson	Moline, Ill.	496	20 15	2038	2828	72.0
18. Tommy Bartlin	Milwaukee, Wis.	524	20 15	1945	2740	70.9
19. Alvin Gandy	Topeka, Kansas	495	18 17	2024	2800	72.2
20. Cletus Chapelle	Portland, Ore.	488	18 17	1938	2770	69.9
21. Harold Shaw	What Cheer, Iowa	497	17 18	1797	2548	70.5
22. Ervin Hosier	South Gate, Cal.	486	17 18	1881	2681	70.1
23. Lowell Gray	San Gabriel, Cal.	472	16 19	2065	2864	72.1
24. Frank Stinson	Minneapolis, Minn	487	14 21	1998	2848	72.1
25. Richard Allen	Boulder, Colo.	464	13 22	1688	2470	68.3
26. Henry Knauff	Spokane, Wash.	476	13 22	1817	2664	68.2
27. Ron Cherrier	Northfield, Minn	463	12 23	1742	2556	68.1
28. John Paxton	Ottumwa, Iowa	458	11 24	1778	2636	67.4
29. Ray Ohms	Salt Lake City, Utah	472	10 25	1843	2674	68.9
30. Gerald L'Abbe	Englewood, Cal.	485	10 25	1753	2600	67.4
31. Lewis Getchell	Tacoma, Wash.	473	10 25	1750	2594	67.4
32. Paul Mori	San Francisco, Cal.	468	10 25	1666	2516	66.2
33. Cherry Bennett	Kaysville, Utah	462	9 26	1583	2446	64.6
34. Eugene Patrick	Poppenish, Wash.	467	2 33	1347	2236	60.2
35. Lindza Greenlee	Springfield, Ill	473	2 33	1312	2204	59.5
36. William Hill	San Francisco, Cal	479	1 34	1003	1902	52.7

*Continued on page 15*

# HORSESHOE PITCHINGS

## FACTS AND FOLKLORE *Continued*

### CLASS B HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

		Qual	W L	R	Sp	Pct
1. Roy Getchell	Tigard, Oregon	455	21 2	983	1448	67.8
2. John Elkin	Stella, Mo.	458	19 4	964	1460	66.0
3. Alvin Dahlene	Lawrence, Kan.	446	18 5	993	1434	67.9
4. Harold Darnold	Burlington, Iowa	436	18 5	1032	1518	67.9
5. Arner Lindquist	Morganton W. Va.	425	17 6	934	1522	61.4
6. George Callas	San Francisco, Cal	446	16 7	949	1534	61.2
7. Alen Van Iten	Green Bay, Wis.	401	15 8	970	1578	61.5
8. George Hook	Ontario, Calif.	439	15 8	900	1538	58.5
9. Hugh Rogers	Cedar Fall, Iowa	416	14 9	822	1458	56.4
10. Ralph Dykes	Chicago, Illinois	431	13 10	929	1502	61.8
11. Harry Page	Waterloo, Iowa	397	13 10	899	1526	58.9
12. Earl Winston	LaMonte, Mo	442	12 11	861	1492	57.7
13. Marion Lange	Bondurant, Iowa	427	12 11	824	1476	55.8
14. Marvel Bean	Patterson, Iowa	420	11 12	717	1396	58.5
15. Nelson Vogel	Manito, Illinois	445	11 12	717	1396	58.5
16. Louis Larson	Mankato, Minn	439	10 13	772	1444	53.4
17. Leonard Millsbaugh	Portland, Ore	418	10 13	790	1550	50.9
18. C.V. Palm	Cheyenne, Why	396	6 17	672	1412	49.0
19. Ralph Phipps	Portland, Ore	406	6 17	680	1412	48.2
20. A.M. Eames	Pomona Park, Fla	398	5 18	681	1432	47.1
21. Hubert Galpin	Salt Lake Cty, Utah	404	5 18	658	1354	48.6
22. Archie Gregson	Crestine, Calif	422	3 20	689	1424	48.4
23. W.D. Hubbard	Baker, Mont	359	3 20	571	1336	42.6
24. Jesse D. Edwards	Portland, Ore	354	3 20	535	1292	41.4

### WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

#### WOMEN'S HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

		W L	R	Sp	Pct
1. Sarah Byers	Portland, Ore	7 0	166	374	44.3
2. Pat Deleary	Phoenix, Ariz	5 2	157	380	41.3
3. Anna Lindquist	Morgantown, W. Va	5 2	193	404	47.7
4. Katie Gregson	Crestline, Calif	4 3	165	400	41.2
5. Rosa Froyen	San Francisco, Calif	4 3	165	480	34.3
6. Viola Hilton	Murray, Utah	2 5	89	436	20.4
7. Daisy Hilton	Portland, Ore	1 6	74	412	17.9
8. Mary Lou Lindmeir	Broadway, Ill	0 7	63	342	18.4

*Continued on page 16*

# HORSESHOE PITCHINGS FACTS AND FOLKLORE *Continued*

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

### JUNIOR HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

		W	L	R	Sp	Pct
1. Dave Loucks	San Francisco, Calif	15	0	162	338	47.9
2. Sharon Hilton	Murray, Utah	14	1	157	396	39.6
3. Gordon Larson	Murray, Utah	11	4	118	502	23.5
4. Jim Healey	Murray, Utah	11	4	120	460	26.0
5. John Benvegnu	Murray, Utah	11	4	109	534	20.2
6. Jerry McCleary	Midvale, Utah	10	5	136	524	25.9
7. Larry Edmondson	Unior, Utah	9	6	97	498	19.4
8. Howard Larson	Murray, Utah	9	6	80	490	16.3
9. Harold Paxton	Ottumwa, Iowa	8	7	103	510	20.1
10. Gene Merrill	Murray, Utah	6	9	84	520	15.4
11. Larry Birch	Murray, Utah	5	10	59	446	13.2
12. Carl Benvegnu	Murray, Utah	5	10	60	554	10.8
13. Jack Merrill	Murray, Utah	3	12	25	428	5.8
14. Gary Brown	South Gate, Calif	Withdrew				
15. Garr Lundquist	Murray, Utah	Withdrew				
16. D. Gile	Murray, Utah	Withdrew				

### Folklore Jottings *by Bob Dunn*

What a trivia question. The NHPA Hall of Fame had not yet been formed in 1951. The Hall of Fame did not begin until 1965. How many of the players in Class B were eventually inducted into the NHPA Hall of Fame?

Add to that, Bryon Jaskulek, who was the editor of THE HORSESHOE PITCHER, and also served as 1st Vice President, is also a member of the NHPA Hall of Fame, being inducted in 1979.

Have you made a contribution to the NHPF in 2009? If not, here is your reminder.

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## Junior Scholarship Award Recipient

I would like to thank the Association for awarding me with a Junior Scholarship Award.

I live in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota and attend Champlin Park High School. I am currently a freshman there and I typically maintain a 3.5 or higher (A) average. I have been pitching horseshoes for four years now, and, including this, have won the scholarship two years in a row. Outside of horseshoes, I enjoy tennis and golf with friends.

Sincerely,  
Tyler Thell





NHPA

# PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION

by Tina Hawkins, NHPA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President

The NHPA was given a wonderful opportunity in May. We were invited to provide an “expert” horseshoe pitcher to instruct the crew of NBC’s Good Morning America to pitch horseshoes for their “Battle of the Anchors” competition. Fourteen-time NHPA World Champion, Alan Francis and wife, Amy, were selected as ambassadors for this event.

Two temporary, one-ended horseshoe courts were set up in front of the GMA studios on Times Square in New York City. Throngs of people gathered around to watch the action.

Alan and Amy were able to show three of the GMA anchors how it was done. Diane Sawyer and Robin Roberts stepped up to the 30-foot foul line and gave it their best. Robin showed some natural skill and ability and threw several shoes. And the crowd went WILD!!



Movie star, Ewan McGregor enjoyed throwing several shoes.

Actor Ewan McGregor also pitched with Amy and wound up with a ringer, which earned Amy a high-five... And the crowd went WILD!!

Alan had the privilege of instructing former football player Chris Cuomo. He threw several shoes and once again, the crowd went WILD!!

There was a lot of activity going on during the segment. People were pressed against the barrier fence. Police horses were standing at Alan’s shoulder. Bomb dogs were strolling around the set. Stage managers were shouting direction every second!



Alan Francis demonstrates proper technique to anchor, Chris Cuomo.



Horseshoe enthusiast, Debby Michaud, in the NYC crowd.

A lot more pitching action happened than was shown on TV. The people in Times Square were given a wonderful horseshoe exhibition, which also included two-time Women’s World Champion, Debby Michaud who, along with husband, Leo and son Hans, made the trip to town for the show.

The focus of the Good Morning America segment was the “battle of the GMA anchors,” not Alan or the NHPA. Unfortunately, time constraints and weather prevented the horseshoe competition from being held on the final day, but we feel that we gained valuable exposure from

*Continued on page 18*

# NHPA PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION *Continued*

the venture, regardless how small it may have seemed at the time.

Alan and Amy Francis pitched horseshoes on Times Square on national television with renowned celebrities who appeared to be having a great time! And the crowd went WILD!! We have yet to see the impact of that opportunity.



*Alan and Amy Francis, NHPA 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P. Tina Hawkins, NBC anchor, Robin Roberts on GMA set.*

This segment has opened the door for us to work on getting a future appearance on GMA (or other network shows) that will focus more on horseshoe pitching and the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association.

The NHPA would like to take this time to extend our appreciation to everyone who helped make this opportunity happen with less than one week's notice.

Alan and Amy Francis took the time from their lives, their jobs and their son, Alex.

Leo Michaud spent time looking for portable courts and clay in the area that could be used on the set.

Debby Michaud corresponded with Ed St. Pierre about obtaining horseshoes.

St. Pierre Manufacturing thus donated sixteen pair of American horseshoes to be used for the segment. They will in turn be donated to U.S. troops.

Jerry LaBrosse hurriedly finished a brand new set of NHPA World Tournament style portable courts and shipped them to the Good Morning America studios.

Countless emails and phone calls were exchanged in order to make this happen. If you did not have the opportunity to watch the show, you can still view the segment on the GMA website by searching on Alan Francis in the archive videos.

We would like to thank the Good Morning America staff and crew who were all very friendly and helpful during our visit to their studio.

Now on to the topic of the 2009 World Tournament! Your NHPA officers will be hosting several Open House sessions for you to meet and visit with us. Times, days and location will be prominently posted around the tournament site. We are working out a schedule that will enable the majority of pitchers to attend. We are looking forward to meeting all of you face to face!

In addition, Jerry LaBrosse and I are attempting to organize a casual golf outing in Springfield for all participants and family members who are interested. This will give an opportunity to socialize away from the setting of the horseshoe courts. No matter your skill level (or lack thereof!) this is purely FOR FUN!! Jerry is making arrangements with a local course. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jerry at [jlbro6186@aol.com](mailto:jlbro6186@aol.com) or myself at [tinahawk@msn.com](mailto:tinahawk@msn.com) or call either of us.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you in Springfield, Illinois! Have a safe trip!

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16TH ANNUAL SIX PAC

# Invitational Tournament

MAY 2-3, 2009 • WENTZVILLE, MO

by Jeanette Claas

If April showers bring May flowers what do May flowers bring? The correct answer to that would be PILGRIMS, but here in Missouri when the May flowers bloom, it brings some very skillful horseshoe pitchers into our state. We know it's time for another exciting Six Pac Invitational Tournament. Thirty-two of the top horseshoes pitchers traveled across the U.S. to meet at the Crossroads of the Nation – Home of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame. It is the scene of excitement and the sound of horseshoes ringing as the pitchers warm up the courts in anticipation of the \$6,225 prize money. The greeting of old friends and the meeting of new friends – what horseshoes is all about.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Six Pac Tournament was made possible by the generosity and sponsorship of Harvey Wobbe, owner of the Six Pac Horseshoes, and the Holiday Inn Express – O'Fallon. Tournament Directors Joe Faron, Gary Buehler, Tim Henderson, Bob & Rose Diekamp made introductions of each participant as Harvey Wobbe placed a medallion around each contestant's neck. Special guests included: Paul Stewart, NHPA President; Dave Loucks, NHPF President and Bob Dunn, NHPA Historian.

Those participating in the 40 foot contests were: Alan Francis OH 89.56%; Jim Walters OH 77.77%; Elbert Shifflett MD 73.22%; Gale Green VT 65.96%; Charlie Webb IL 72.12%; Tom Williams MI 71.58%; Rick Howe MA 66.27%; Walter Ray Williams FL 72.68%; M.O. Turner MO 71.37%; Tom Westbrook SC 67.30%; Art Tyson NY 65.80%; Gary Roberts OH 66.94%; Chan Herrell MD 66.57%; Lester Dumstorff IL 68.76%; Raymond Bedard MA 68.81%; Larry Joe Lucas MO 66.94%. All the way from California to New York to Florida they came representing 13 states. "It's like a mini World Tournament," was a comment made by many of the spectators.

Those entering in the 30 foot Division were: Sue Snyder KY 86.62%; Joan Elmore TN 83.98%; Marlene Ray TN 83.18%; Bobby Fields TN 78.23%; Maxine Griffith TN 75.59%; D.W.Story TN 75.31%; Nick DiRaimo MO

71.05%; Barbara Taylor SC 68.91%; Rick McEntire MO 68.44%; Jim Spidle IL 68.25%; Amy Francis OH 68.10%; Mary Lee Claise IN 67.04%; Elizabeth Furner MO 66.17%; Terry Beagle MI 65.71%; Dennis Reid IL 64.56%; Dave Loucks CA 62.92%.

Making their first appearance in the Six Pac Tournament were: Lester Dumstorff, Gary Roberts, Joe Lucas, Barbara Taylor, Jim Spidle, Mary Claise and Elizabeth Furner. After introductions, Jim Kinney, of Drexel, MO, volumsciously sang the National Anthem, and, now, it was time to "Play Shoes!"

The format of the two-day tournament was a 16-man round robin for the 40 footers – and the same for the 30 footers. Eight games were pitched on Saturday. At the conclusion of the Saturday competition, three pitchers in the 40' contest were undefeated: Alan Francis, Jim Walters and Charlie Webb. Leading the pack for the 30 footers and undefeated were: Sue Snyder, Joan Elmore, and Marlene Ray.

The Reno Family, of Ohio, traveled to the Hall of Fame for their first time and put on a great horseshoe exhibition that was enjoyed by all the spectators. A lot of daring shoe tricks was done by family members, Oattie Reno, Gary

*Continued on page 20*

"Clydesdale D. F."

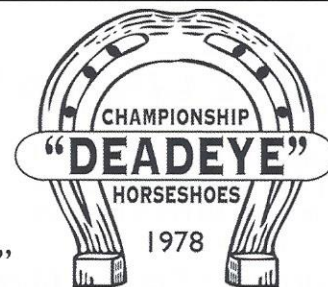
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Roberts, Karen Dudley Reno, Lorna Hawk, Josh Brooks, and Blake Roberts. The different styles of turning shoes were demonstrated by Gary Roberts, who was also a participant in the Six Pac competition. A story of the Reno Family will be featured at a later date.

The Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club members brought in covered dishes for a delicious smorgasbord Saturday evening meal and served approximately 100 guests for a small donation. After the meal, Jeanette Claas, president of the QRHC, introduced Ray Nadler, a QRHC member and WW II Veteran, as he recited several long poems by memory that left the audience spellbound. It was an enjoyable, relaxing evening for all.

Back to the Holiday Inn Express for a good night's rest and it was time for the final completion of the tournament to be held on Sunday. Once again the National Anthem was sung by our MO baritone, Jim Kinney, and it was time for the "shoes" to get underway.

In the 40 foot competition, Francis and Walters' met in the final game of the day. Walters missed the first two shoes – score Francis 6-0. Walters retaliated by pitching 28 consecutive ringers while Francis pitched 27/28 – score 6-3. At the end of 30 shoes the score was tied 6-6. After 32 shoes, Francis had nine, Walters six. After 34 shoes Walters gained the lead of 10-9. At the end of 50 shoes Francis had 12 points, Walters 13. From that point until the

## 40 FOOT CLASS SIX PAC TOURNAMENT



end of the game Walters would not capture the lead again. Final score after 92 shoes - Francis 42, Walters 22. Francis had an 86.95% while Walters pitched an 80.43%.

The high game in the 40 foot division was 96.42% pitched by Jim Walters against Lester Dumstorff, score 45-3. Walters pitched 27 ringers/28 shoes. Francis had the second high game of 94.25%. At the conclusion of the 40 foot competition, Alan Francis captured his 12th Six Pac Title with a record of 15-0 and a tournament average of 86.05%. During the 40 foot competition there were 12,120 shoes pitched, 7,867 ringers, for a total average ringer percentage of 64.90%!

In the south courts the 30 footers were "pitching a fit." Sue Snyder threw the high game of the 30 foot tournament with a 91.66% against Mary Lee Claise pitching 44 ringers/48 shoes. Marlene Ray pitched the second high game with an 89.28%. The TN Twins had a most exciting game as the sisters competed against each other. The final score - Maxine 40 and Marlene 39 – giving Marlene her first loss in the tournament. Each threw the same amount of ringers (54) for a ringer percentage of 69.23%. Amazing how identical they really are! Marlene Ray and D.W. Story were battling it out on Court 9 pitching the longest game of the tournament - 102 shoes. Marlene had 87 ringers while

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*Continued on page 21*

# 16TH ANNUAL SIX PAC Invitational Tournament *Cont.*

D.W. had 82 ringers, 85.29% and 80.39% respectively. The final score was 40-25. Joan Elmore sailed through the tournament with a record of 15-0 with the high percentage tournament average of 80.25% to capture her 3rd Six Pac Championship Title. The twins, Marlene placed 2nd and Maxine placed 3rd. In the 30 foot competition there were 12,292 shoes pitched, 8,285 ringers were recorded. The average ringer percentage was 67.40%!

For the grand finale, a bragging rights game between the two division winners took place between the 2007 World Champion Joan Elmore from TN and the current 2008 World Champion Alan Francis from OH. The game was played to 40 points, cancellation scoring. Each player pitched 86 shoes, both players had 61 cancelled ringers. Francis had 14 live ringers for a total of 42 points and Elmore had seven live ringers and two single points for a total of 23 points. That win extended Alan Francis's winning streak at the Six Pac Tournament to 132 consecutive games going all the way back to the eleventh game in the 2001 Six Pack Tournament held at New Melle, MO.

At the completion of the tournament it was time for the raffle drawing. Joe Faron had made and donated the beautiful walnut mantel clock and the horseshoe pitcher silhouettes. The Beagles from Michigan were the lucky winners of the clock for the first drawing. Don Claas of MO won the "horseshoe box" for the 2nd drawing. During the 3rd drawing, the lucky Beagles were howling with joy as they also won the horseshoe silhouette. Carol Howard won the 4th place drawing and took home the 2nd horseshoe pitcher silhouette. Our thanks to Joe Faron for his handcrafted items.

After weeks of preparation, the QRHC members managed to pull off another successful tournament. Many of the out-of-town guests remarked how nice everything was and most thankful for the hospitality shown to them by the QRHC members. The QRHC acknowledges the following volunteers:

- The Tournament Directors whose months of preparation made this tournament possible.

- The generous sponsorship of Harvey Wobbe and the Holiday Inn Express
- The Cleaning Crew under the direction of Jim Riley
- Julia Jaeger and her Scorekeeping Crew
- The Concession Workers under the direction of Ginny Weiss
- Larry Langewisch and his outdoor grill cooks
- The QRHC members who brought in covered dishes
- Rich Altis, our stats man, who made sure the scores were correct
- Mary Ann Ell, who made and donated the new vests sported by the judges
- Thanks to judges: Kenny Pogue, Sam Carter & Dennis Greisbaum
- Andy Foulds, who kept our 50/50 drawing up and running for two days
- Our poster boy, Larry Volo and poster girl, Jeanette Claas
- To all spectators and horseshoe pitchers who traveled many miles to be a part of this great tournament!

*Continued on page 22*

## 30 FOOT CLASS SIX PAC TOURNAMENT



# Invitational Tournament *Cont.*

The final results for those in the prize money in the Men's Division were:

							Prize
		W/L	H/G	Rgrs	S/P	Percent	Money
1. Alan Francis	OH	15-0	94.23%	580	674	86.05%	\$1,200
2. Jim Walters	OH	14-1	96.42%	612	770	79.48%	\$1,000
3. Elbert Shifflett	MD	11-4	80.35%	584	848	68.86%	\$ 600
4. Gale Green	VT	10-5	83.33%	538	810	66.41%	\$ 400
5. Charlie Webb	IL	10-5	77.27%	493	764	64.52%	\$ 300
6. Tom Williams	MI	9-6	80.55%	530	770	68.83%	\$ 200
7. Rick Howe	MA	9-6	74.00%	534	794	67.25%	\$ 175
8. Walter R. Williams	FL	8-7	80.95%	602	878	68.56%	\$ 125

The final results for those in the prize money in the 30 Foot Division were:

							Prize
		W/L	H/G	Rgrs	S/P	Percent	Money
1. Joan Elmore	TN	15-0	88.00%	687	856	80.25%	\$ 600
2. Marlene Ray	TN	12-3	89.28%	685	904	75.55%	\$ 500
3. Maxine Griffith	TN	12-3	84.61%	614	834	73.62%	\$ 325
4. Sue Snyder	KY	11-4	91.66%	663	844	78.55%	\$ 250
5. Bob Fields	TN	11-4	84.09%	631	854	73.88%	\$ 175
6. D.W. Story	TN	10-5	86.95%	742	982	75.56%	\$ 150
7. Rick McEntire	MO	9-6	83.33%	472	740	63.78%	\$ 125
8. Dennis Reid	IL	8-7	76.47%	513	792	64.77%	\$ 100

## Income & Expenses Statement

April - May 2009

### Income

Bank Card Refund	\$ 171.20
Horseshoe Sales	\$ 66.00
Membership Dues	\$ 54,789.00
Newsline Ads	\$ 434.00
Newsline Subscriptions	\$ 3,441.00
Charter Dues	\$ 13.00
Sanction Club League Patches	\$ 44.00
US Bank Checking Interest	\$ 206.51
US Bank MMKT Interest	\$ 16.98
World Tournament 100 Year Pins	\$ 572.50
World Tournament Entry Fees	\$ 159,775.00
World Tournament Court Sponsorship	\$ 1,000.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$220,529.19</b>

### Expenses

Newsline Printing, Supplies & Mailing	\$ 1,057.00
Sanctioned League Postage and Printing	\$ 172.78
World Tournament Admin. Costs, Printing Office Supplies, Etc.	\$ 134.84
World Tournament Refunds, Fees, Dues & Overpayments	\$ 1,150.00
Hall of Fame Awards Supplies & Expenses	\$ 3,420.75
Regional Director, Postage, Telephone, Supplies & Printing	\$ 39.28
Equipment Purchases, Rentals & Repairs	\$ 810.69
Printing, Paper & Office Supplies	\$ 119.25
Postage	\$ 533.36
Officers Telephone	\$ 456.64
Officers Travel	\$ 644.32
Sec/Treas Allowance	\$ 3,400.00
Presidents Allowance	\$ 1,038.00
Publicity, Promotions & Ads	\$ 1,921.58
Insurance	\$ 8,309.44
Misc. Fees, Bonds, Bank Charges, Etc.	\$ 452.00
Special Events	\$ 1,399.94
Refunds	\$ 27.00
Internet Access & Web Site	\$ 271.98
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 25,358.85</b>

From the books of NHPA Secretary/Treasurer Dick Hansen

# REGIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT

by Dan Sanders

## Regional Director Award

The Gene & Mary VanSant Memorial Award is given each year to the Regional Director whose attitude and initiative best fulfills his or her responsibilities to uphold and enhance the image of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association. This year I have selected Leo Michaud from Massachusetts as the recipient of this award. This selection is never easy as we have a lot of very hard-working Regional Directors out there who are promoting our great sport, assisting Tournament Directors, and fulfilling many other Charter duties. The next time you see Leo, be sure to congratulate him on this award which will be presented during the World Tournament at the Hall of Fame Awards Banquet in Springfield, Illinois.

## Regional Directors at the World Tournament

The date and time of the Regional Directors and Assistant Regional Directors' meeting will be posted at the World Tournament site. It now looks as if this meeting will be held on Saturday afternoon, August 1st. Please plan to attend this important meeting. Also, please contact me about times that you may be available to help out with shoe checks, etc.

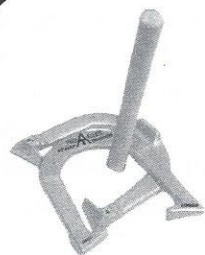
## Sanctioned Events and Reporting

Have you ever pitched in two different classes at the same tournament? Is this allowed? Well, there's nothing in the RGS book about this, but if there is a "no show" in a certain class, a pitcher who has already entered the tournament can be allowed to pitch in this vacant spot if his NatStats ringer percentage is lower than all others in that class. And if they are willing to pay the additional entry fee for that class, they should also be eligible for any prize awards. Otherwise, this pitcher would be considered as a "pacer".

But what about the stats? Since this person has pitched in two different classes, can it count as two different

events? The answers to these questions are based on how tournaments are sanctioned. All Charter tournaments are assigned a different sanction number, which is included in the stats report for the event, so even though a pitcher may have pitched in two different classes, it is still considered the same event. And for reporting to NatSats, the total number of ringers pitched and shoes pitched, for the two classes, should be added together. As for pacers, these stats cannot be included since they were not officially entered into that class.

If you have any other questions that you cannot find the answers to, please contact your Charter Regional Director. I hope to see many of you at this year's World Tournament in Springfield, Illinois.



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# A NEW OPPORTUNITY


*by Jerry D. Smith, Idaho State HPA, Secretary/Treasurer*

Looking for a way to increase interest in horseshoe pitching, particularly with the younger set? Well here's a way. Let me start in the beginning. I first met Don Titcomb (you knew his name had to come up when talking about promoting horseshoes) back in the mid 1980s. I watched him pitch, served under him as an officer in the NCHPA (Northern California), and listened to him preach endlessly about promoting the sport. He moved east and I moved north and we didn't see each other until 2004 at the World Tournament in Pocatello. He asked me to send him some housing information for the Treasure Valley in western Idaho so I did. He moved to Meridian in 2005 and immediately started working on getting the Parks Department to build new facilities which is another story, one that I will report about at a later time when the facility is complete. Don set up five temporary courts in a local park and began giving lessons and holding a weekly league of sorts. He began bowling in a couple of afternoon leagues and as always was looking to spread the word about his and our favorite pastime, horseshoe pitching. One afternoon he noticed a group of young people gathered down the alleys and was beginning to bowl some games. Since it was during school hours, Don wandered over to see what they were doing. He talked to the adult that was leading the group and she informed Don that it was actually a school activity, a class called "Life Time Sports".

The teacher was ecstatic and a marriage was formed. The school bussed the class over to the courts twice and Don and members of the Treasure Valley Horseshoe Club brought pairs of shoes and helped the teacher introduce the kids to horseshoes. Don gave a short demo and explained the rules. We then divided the kids into doubles teams and pitched shoes for an hour or so. We used a "king of the hill" format where the winners move to the right and the losers move to the left. The kids loved the class and the competition and were encouraged to pitch in our weekly leagues. This coming year, Don has four high schools lined up and we hope to get more schools involved.


The effort consists of a few hours of time by a few members with about 12 to 15 pairs of shoes. The school must commit to transporting the kids, but that goes with the class. If "Life Time Sports" or whatever it may be called in your area exists, it is an easy way to expose a lot of interested kids to horseshoe pitching. Check into it, it could be the spark our sport needs.

She went on to explain the program. It is a class for juniors and seniors in high school and they participate in sports that the kids can enjoy the rest of their lives, unlike basketball, football, baseball and the normal high school sports that tend to run their course for the average person shortly after high school or college. Some people continue these sports, but most do not. The "Life Time Sports" class exposes the kids to many other activities such as; golf, bowling, tennis, jogging and what ever else the teacher can find or dig up. This was like throwing gas on a bonfire for Don. He invited the class out to the courts for exposure and lessons.




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# NHPA RULES COMMITTEE

by Jerry LaBrosse

## World Tourney Golf Outing

By now you've heard of the golf outing being arranged by Tina Hawkins and myself for this year's world tournament. Basically, we just wanted to create a fun event to give everyone a chance to mingle with the officers and other pitchers, away from the courts. The final details aren't worked out yet, partly because we have no idea of how many of you may be interested. We will select a course of average price and difficulty level, and maybe set up a tournament format. The only cost to anyone will be the green fees. We're thinking about doing one each week of the tournament, in the middle of the week. Please contact Tina at [tinahawk@msn.com](mailto:tinahawk@msn.com) or me at [Jlabro6186@aol.com](mailto:Jlabro6186@aol.com) or give us a call if you're interested in taking part. Golfers of all abilities are welcome!!!

## World Tournament Thoughts

It appears that our forecast was pretty accurate for this year's world tournament; we have about the same number of pitchers as we did in York last summer. This is going to be another great tournament, and it's very likely that more world tournament records will be broken. Keep in mind that we are working with eight less courts than last year, so scheduling will be a little different, so please consult the schedule carefully. Also, please show understanding if you are pitching the early or late shift. I myself will most likely be playing at 8:00 p.m. (if we're on time), but I know that this can't be avoided.

A lot of preparation and hard work goes into this tournament by all the officers and host personnel. Please show understanding and courtesy if something doesn't go the way you think it should. It's ok to ask questions and to point out where improvements can be made, but please do it in a fair and courteous way. Also, please follow the rules and regulations of the sport. Study the notes on the schedule and accept them. The officers work themselves to

the bone during this tournament, and we want everything to go as smooth as possible....and have fun doing it!!!

## Charter Communications

In the last Newsline, you read about the new position I'm accepting called Charter Communications. I have been putting a lot of thought into this project and will be starting soon. I will be contacting all charter presidents eventually, but reality tells me to begin with a few at a time. So some charter presidents will be hearing from me soon, and others a bit down the road. If you are a charter president, and have an urgency to discuss something with me, please feel free to do so. Remember, my new position is not to solve your charter issues for you, but to help you with guidance and whatever resources I have available to me. I look forward to working with all of you.

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Minnesota	7	2002
Colorado	6	2009
Kentucky	2	2008
Ohio	2	1999
Tennessee	1	2004
Missouri	1	1991
Indiana	1	1990
Indiana-Kentucky	1	1989
Illinois	1	1988
Years	22	

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**Deadline for Grant Applications: March 1<sup>st</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup>**

### Mail inquiries & contributions to:

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# SPECIAL WORLD TOURNAMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Visit the NHPA Hall of Fame during the 2009 World Tournament

The Illinois World Tournament Committee has scheduled two bus trips to the NHPA Hall of Fame in Quail Ridge State Park. Busses will leave from the Prairie Capital Convention Center on July 30th and August 6th at 7:00 A.M., returning at 3:00 P.M., spending four hours at the Hall of Fame. If you have never seen the Hall of Fame, this is a perfect opportunity to do so, and to participate in the Hall of Fame Classic Tournament. Details of this Tournament are available from Joe Faron bugsfaron@aol.com or by telephone at (314)704-7082; or Gary Buehler gbuehler@sbcglobal.net or by telephone at (636)328-1201.

There are a limited number of seats available on each bus. To make reservations, contact Bill Marvin via email ilshpa@aol.com or by telephone at (217)364-5563. Cost is \$30.00 per person. Don't miss the opportunity to visit this great tribute to horseshoes and see the rich history using state of the art technology.

## Two Junior Parties to be held at the 2009 World Tournament

In order to include more Junior Pitchers in World Tournament activities, a meet and greet mixer will be held for all Junior Pitchers on Wednesday, July 29 from 6:00 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. at the Prairie Capital Convention Center. There will be food, games, prizes, and lots of fun activities to calm the nerves as well as to get acquainted with the other Junior Pitchers before the pitching begins. No sign up required; look for details and location when you get to Springfield. This party is in addition to the Annual Junior party held at the same time as the Hall of Fame Banquet.

Sign up is required (along with a permission slip from parent/guardian) for the annual party during the Hall of Fame Banquet. Transportation will be provided to Kicks (kind of like Dave and Busters) for endless food, video games, go carts, laser tag, and much more. We hope to see you at one or both of the above events!

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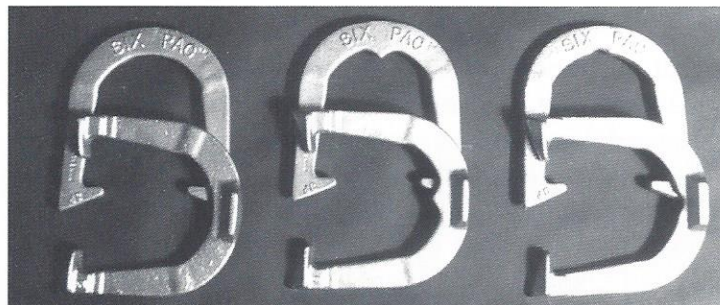
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# CONNECTICUT

*by Bill Choser, Secretary-CT HPA*

Although a small state, Connecticut is large on horseshoe pitching with leagues in New Haven, Shelton, Norwich, Danbury, Thompson, Windsor and Morris. Each club has sanctioned courts for league and tournament play. Most have twelve or more courts with the exception of Morris with only six. The Valley HS League (Shelton) has over 175 players making it the country's largest horseshoe club. The outdoor season is from April until October with twelve scheduled tournaments including one Junior Tournament.

East Hartford is the home of the Central CT HS Club with six indoor courts having computerized scoring. From November to April there are nightly leagues. Tournaments are held every other weekend. The CCHC attracts players from all over New England, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland.

Connecticut is a member of the New England Horseshoe Pitchers Association which holds a championship

tournament annually on Labor Day weekend, attracting up to 360 players who compete on 24 courts at the Keene HS Club in Keene, New Hampshire.

Normand Rioux had been the perennial state champion, winning the title thirty three (33) times from 1970 to 2006. Norm and his family relocated to Florida in 2007. The current state champion is Bill Navratil.

The CTHPA Hall of Fame was founded in 1991 and boasts some of the pioneers of horseshoes such as Sam Bartram and Lester Lane and also some contemporary greats such as Norm Rioux, Jim Pagliarulo and Catherine Hansen.

All are welcome to pitch in one of our tournaments.

Check the Connecticut link to website [www.newenglandhorseshoes.com](http://www.newenglandhorseshoes.com) for complete schedule.

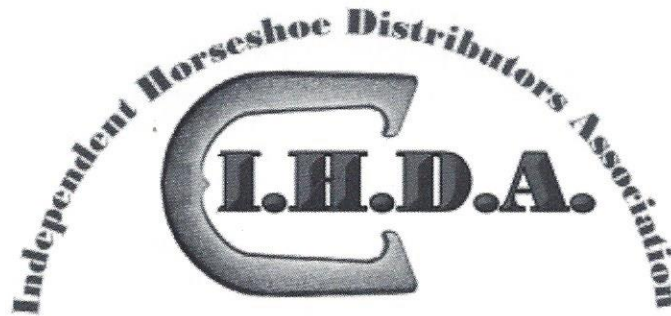
## CONNECTICUT LEGEND *(in his own time)*

Normand Rioux (Norm) has been pitching horseshoes in Connecticut since 1960, pitched in the champion class 44 times and won his first state championship in 1970. He was state champion a total of 33 times until he retired and moved to Florida in 2007.

The most memorable match was against Art Tyson in 1974, winning a playoff game with 15 straight doubles and averaging 88%. Tyson averaged 76,6% and there were 23 "four-deads" in the game. Rioux has been New England Champion eight times with seven second places and six third place finishes. Norm was also CT Moose Champion and World Moose Champion. He is a charter member of the Connecticut HPA Hall Of Fame.

He has a great sense of humor, even on the courts, but when the match gets close, he stares through his horseshoe, taps his foot, steps off on his right foot "bocci style" and throws another ringer. Off the courts he can be seen wearing a long, ponytail wig or silly hat and is constantly telling stories and jokes to his circle of friends.

Norm worked as a short order cook at Vic's Restaurant for most of his adult life, cracking and flipping millions of eggs. In his spare time he pitched countless horseshoes in the pits out back of the restaurant. Since Vic's closed, Norm has worked as a baker and auto salesman and is now retired.



**Region 1 Distributor Info:**

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**Region 2 Distributor Info:**

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# 2009 World Tournament Pitching Schedule

## July 27th – 29th

7:00 a.m.  
Men's K3, L1, L2, L3,  
M1 & M2

10:15 a.m.  
Men's I3, J1, J2, J3,  
K1 & K2

1:30 p.m.  
Men's G3, H1, H2, H3,  
I1 & I2

4:45 p.m.  
Men's E3, F1, F2, F3,  
G1 & G2

8:00 p.m.  
Men's C3, D1, D2, D3,  
E1 & E2

## July 30th – August 1st

7:00 a.m.  
(Thursday & Friday Only)  
Juniors A, B, C, D, E & F

10:15 a.m.  
Elder's M, N, O, P, Q & R

1:30 p.m.  
Women's G, H, I & J;  
Men's C1 & C2

4:45 p.m.  
Elder's I, J, K & L

8:00 p.m.  
Elders S & T; Women's K & L

## August 3rd – 5th

7:00 a.m.  
Elder's G & H;  
Sr. Men's G, H, I & J

10:15 a.m.  
Elder's A, B, C, D, E & F

1:30 p.m.  
Women's A, B, C, D, E & F

4:45 p.m.  
Sr. Men's A, B, C, D, E & F

8:00 p.m.  
Men's A1, A2, A3, B1,  
B2 & B3

## August 6th & 7th

8:00 a.m.  
Championship Elders,  
Sr. Men & Sr. Women

1:00 p.m.  
Championship  
Men & Women

## August 8th

8:00 a.m.  
Championship Women

1:00 p.m.  
Championship Men

# Attention all Charter Newsletter Editors!

Bob Champion, editor of Colorado's newsletter, would like to exchange complimentary copies of charter newsletters.

If you are a charter newsletter editor and would like to send your newsletter to Bob and in turn receive their newsletter, please contact him via mail at: Bob Champion, 5505 Valmont RD #176, Boulder, CO 80301-2932



On May 31, 2008 Hollis Morris and his four grandsons pitched in the "Columbia Basin Open" horseshoe tournament in Kennewick, Washington.

The four brothers Austin (18), Ian (14), Truman (12) and Reuben Hopper (10) pitched in the Junior Class.

Is there any other club in the NHPA that has had four brothers pitch in the Junior Class in the same tournament?

Austin and Ian have pitched in three World Tournaments, Truman has pitched in one World Tournament and Hollis has pitched in seven World Tournaments.

Austin is now in the United States Navy.

# RUSSIAN RIVER RODEO

*by Casey Sluys*

These pictures were taken at the Russian River Rodeo in Duncan Mills, CA. The Sonoma County Horseshoe Pitching Club assisted in holding a double elimination team horseshoe pitching event in the arena after the rodeo. Twenty-eight teams signed up; 56 pitchers! The winners were awarded some nice chairs and sweatshirts both embroidered with "Russian River Rodeo Horseshoe Champs 2009" along with a nice cooler. The club's team finished in second place; them cowboys can pitch! The event lasted until 10:30 p.m. We were able to hang our banner inside the arena for the two-day event. It looks as though we may have gotten four new members out of this venture.



# HAWAII TRIP

*by Stu Sipma*

I traveled to the island of Oahu, Hawaii on April 9, 2009. The purpose of the trip was to work at one of our Tesoro refineries in Kapolei; however, I managed to find time for some horseshoes (thanks to Myrtle May and Anne Mizuta). They put together a last minute horseshoe tournament at the Waianae horseshoe courts in Waianae.

Upon my arrival at the horseshoe complex Saturday morning, I was greeted and welcomed with a Hawaiian lei. It really surprised me to see such a warm welcome by all. The people there are a great group who get along very well, so the camaraderie was great!

After the announcements by Anne, the Tournament Director, I found out I was placed in class "A" which was a six-person round robin handicapped setup. I was a little bit worried about my horseshoe pitching ability because this time of year in North Dakota does not allow much time to pitch/practice. I managed to get approximately ten minutes of practice, which I really needed as I was eventually able to get them in the pit before we started! After completing all the games, I found out I was tied for second, but since I had a higher ringer percentage (38%), I ended up placing second. The highlight of my tournament was the fact I was able to beat the 2008 Hawaiian Champion Keith Correa. However, the next week he got revenge on me even though it was pitch dark! I am thinking he was just being a "real" friend and this was part of their Hawaiian hospitality. I would also like to thank Kelly Somildam and Tommy Kahoonei for letting me win.

The next week I managed to find time to sneak down to the Oahu horseshoe courts in Kapolei where I was able to visit with their President Al Edselmen and many of the horseshoe pitchers at their club. Again, I can't say enough about the warm welcome and hospitality I received from all.

It has now been six years serving on the NHPA Council and as I travel around the country, the horseshoe people are some of the greatest people you will ever meet. That is one of the main reasons why I love this sport; it is the people who make the difference.

If you get the chance to visit the islands of Hawaii, I encourage you to make sure you get in contact with the horseshoe charters and visit with them. Trust me when I say, they will go out of their way to make you feel welcome! Special thanks again to Anne Mizuta and Al Edselmen for taking such good care of me while I was there.

In conclusion, I again want to encourage people when they are travelling to look up any Charter to check on any upcoming tournaments or just stopping on a league night to visit.

I have included a picture of the pitchers and helpers who were involved in the horseshoe tournament I pitched in. Thank you very much Oahu and all the horseshoe members, you touched my heart! If you ever come to Bismarck, ND please look me up and I will try and return the hospitality.



# NHPA NEWSLINE

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