



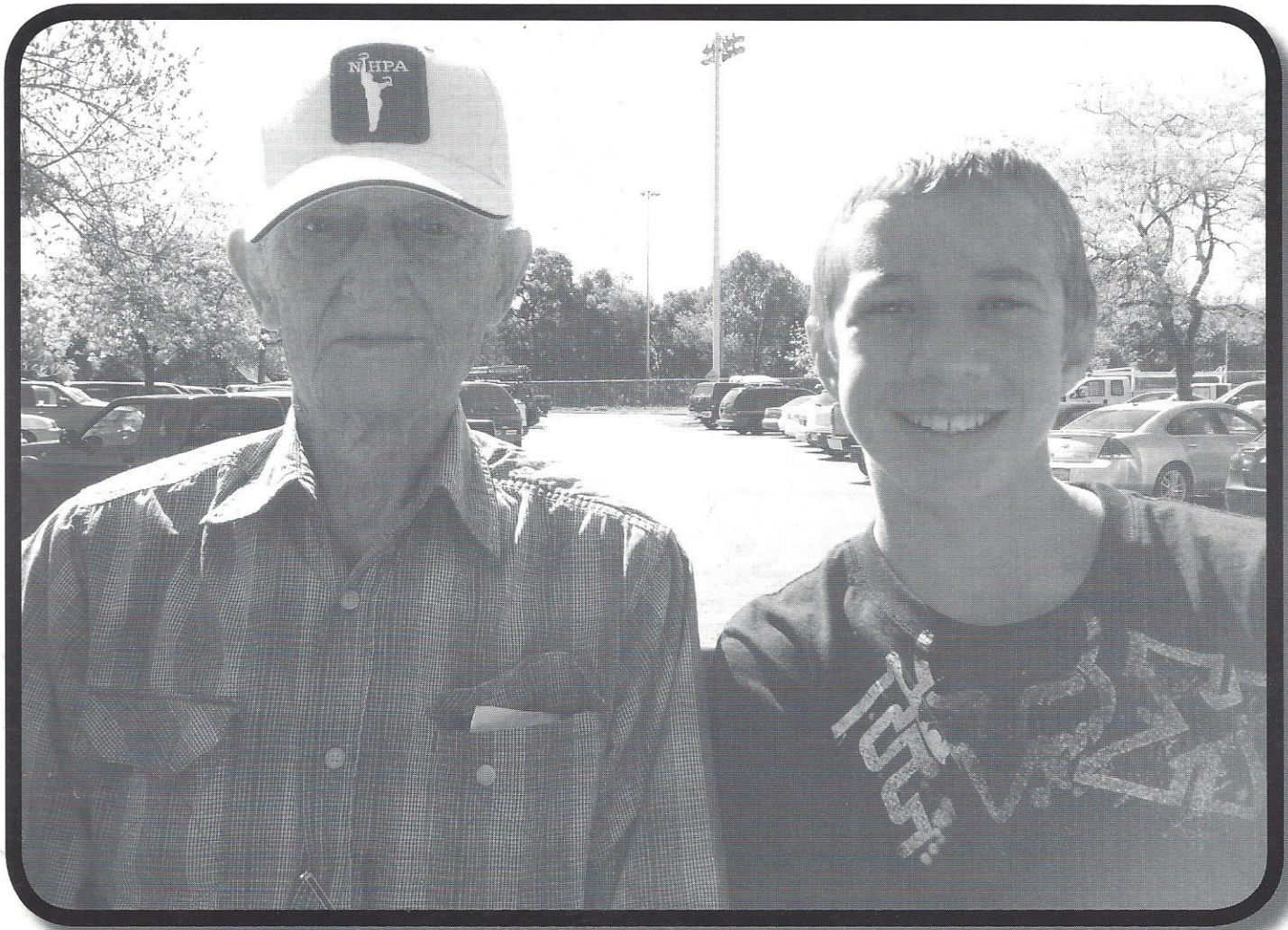
Horseshoe Pitching **NEWSLINE**

Official Publication of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

VOL. 24, NO. 3

MAY/JUNE 2012

George Greeott Turns 102!



*George Greeott and Travis Sluys
Horseshoe Pitching Narrows the Generation Gap!*

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 contact the NHPA 5th Vice-President who is in charge of all RDs. She should have copies of all the state schedules. The address for the 5th VP can be found on page 3 of this publication.

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Cover Story: See page 19. George Greeott celebrated his 102nd birthday on April 17th.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by *Stu Sipma*

Spring is here and all I can say is what a great winter we had here in the Dakota's! This is the mildest winter I can remember and we are thankful we don't have to worry about flooding and not having a horseshoe league again this year. I, along with many of you, would like to forget about last year's weather, especially with all the flooding, tornados and other disasters that affected horseshoe families throughout the US.

As we begin our horseshoe season, I would like to once again encourage Charters to assist in growing their membership. As you all know, membership is down and the NHPA Council is concerned on how to turn this trend around. Horseshoes is one of the best outdoor family sports, where everyone can participate and it doesn't break your pocket book. Your assistance in trying to promote our sport and increase our membership will be appreciated.

I am proud to announce our new NHPA Junior Director **Aleena Cook**. Aleena comes from a horseshoe family. Aleena pitched horseshoes in the junior program and has a tremendous love for the game. As the Junior Director, Aleena's responsibilities will include the following;

- Be the main contact for juniors to ask questions via email, phone or regular mail.
- Speak at the Annual Delegate meeting to update delegates on junior progress.
- Assist the NHPA Promotions Director in promotional efforts for junior events.
- Write articles for Newslines on past/present junior events.
- Attend the junior party as a chaperone at the World Tournament.
- Promote the Junior Program by utilizing ideas and going through the Council for approval.
- Assist other NHPA officers during their shifts at the World Tournament.
- Monitor the junior publicity/promotion thread on NHPA forum.

I am excited to have Aleena as part of our NHPA team and invite everyone to stop and introduce yourself to her in Knoxville, TN.

The 2012 World Horseshoe Tournament will be held July 30–August 11, 2012 at the Knoxville Convention Center. The deadline for submitting your entry is May 17, 2012. Please assure when submitting your entry, you are registering in the proper division. Parents of Cadet and Junior pitchers, this is especially important so your child will not be disqualified from the competition.

At the 2012 delegate meeting in Knoxville, I will be presenting our NHPA budget and financials. The Council will be looking for input from the delegation on some very important financial decisions. This includes the World Tournament format for 2013. We want to remind the Charters that when you pick your delegates please make sure they are prepared to discuss and are able to make tough decisions that will affect our business. Other important items delegates will be voting on include our rule change proposals, the 2014 World Tournament Site and any other business under the NHPA Good and Welfare.

I would like to thank all the Charters who provided me with their nomination letters for individuals who they would like to see receive an NHPA Achievement Award. The NHPA Council will be reviewing the applications and the recipient will be receiving their award at the Hall of Fame banquet in Knoxville, TN.

I am pleased to announce three sites who will be bidding at Knoxville, TN to host the 2014 World Tournament. These sites include: Wausau, WI, Buffalo, NY and Charleston, WV. These three sites will be hosting a booth at the 2012 World Tournament beginning Wednesday, August 1–4, 2012 at the Knoxville Convention Center.

Wausau, WI (July 7th – July 19th)

Richard Barrett with the Sports Authority and the Wausau/Central CVB has teamed up with the Wisconsin, Mosinee, Eagle River, Beloit and Marshfield Horseshoe Pitchers Association and Clubs to bring this event to Wausau, WI. The event will be held at the Marathon County Park Multi Purpose Facility.

Buffalo, NY (July 14th – July 26th)

Chuck Giglia, Director of Sports Sales for the Buffalo Niagara Sports Commission, has put together a bid package to include hosting the event at the Event Center at the Erie County Fairgrounds in Hamburg.

Charleston, WV (August 11th – August 23rd)

Samantha Carney, Sports/Special Events Manager, and Jama Jarrett, Charleston WV CVB Interim President, have put together a bid package to include hosting the event at the Charleston Civic Center.

In conclusion, I want to take a moment and ask all of you who are coming to Knoxville, TN to bring some good ideas on how we could change this sport for the better. I embrace change and am always looking at ways to improve our sport. We are hoping to have a good turnout in Knoxville and we look forward to seeing everyone!

NHPF NEWS VIEWS & DONATIONS by Dave Loucks

By the March 1st deadline, the NHPF had received three grant applications for review. Each required that the applicant provide a bit more information or some clarification, but by the end of the month, the Foundation Directors approved all three. Receiving \$1,500 grants were the Balboa Park H.C. in San Diego, CA, the Affiliated H.P.C. in Fairmont, WV and the Town of Sterling, CT. A fourth application was actually received about a week late, but it could not be considered, not only because of its lateness but because it sought to receive funds to build courts on privately owned property. As I've mentioned before, the NHPF, being a Public Foundation, cannot grant funds for improvements on private property.

The next deadline for receipt of grant applications is September 1st. The NHPF currently works within guidelines of allowing a maximum of \$1,500 per grant up to a total of \$9,000 for the year. This is not a large amount we realize, but until we see a substantial turn-around in contributions, it is the best we can allow. When our grant program started in 2003, we had a maximum of \$1,000 per grant. In 2010, we increased that to \$1,500. Overall to date, the Foundation has approved 41 grants and paid out a total of nearly \$50,000. In each case, with no legal obligation to repay the grant, the NHPF does ask that the grantee pledge to hold at least one annual fund-raiser for the Foundation. Unfortunately, the big majority of clubs that have received grants have managed to overlook their pledge, which leaves this writer questioning the sincerity of some applicants. Grantees that return some funds to the NHPF not only make good on their pledge, but they enable the Foundation to continue its work with other clubs in need.

The poor economy and high fuel prices have affected NHPA membership and donations to the NHPF. Last year, 2011, member donations and brick orders were the lowest in 14 years. Fortunately the annual one-dollar per member that the NHPA donates along with the Hall Of Fame building rent from the Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club enabled the Foundation to end the year with a net cash asset gain.

If you can't donate as an individual, how about working within your club to schedule an annual fund raising tournament for the NHPF? A few clubs already do this, but imagine how donations might increase if every charter held just one NHPF fund-raiser a year. It's not a hard thing to do, but like anything else, it takes dedication and a commitment to follow through. Remember, this is your Foundation, but without your financial support,

giving back to clubs in need becomes more difficult. Contributions to the NHPF are recognized by the IRS as tax-deductible and should be sent to the NHPF, P.O. Box 1628, Penn Valley, CA 95946. The Foundation extends its thanks to those mentioned below for the contributions and brick orders received during February and March.

Donating \$50
 Leo Bratland, IL
 Republic County Ringers, KS
 Charles Bunner, WV

Donating \$100-150
 Alex & Barbara Jean Carson, AZ
 Timothy Woodden, OR

Donating \$200-300
 William Backer, CA
 Dave & Cathie Loucks, CA
 Minnesota GSHPA

Donating \$500
 Jack McKinney, NE

Other Income
 \$10,401 - NHPA \$1per 2011 Adult members

Bricks Purchased By
 Roy Knight, FL
 Jack McKinney, NE

The Top 15 Contributing States				
	Contributors		Donations	\$
1.	CA	126	364	\$48,225
2.	MO	160	313	\$43,230
3.	MN	60	340	\$30,756
4.	NC	36	203	\$27,684
5.	OR	26	147	\$22,399
6.	TN	32	69	\$21,727
7.	WI	46	161	\$16,257
8.	MI	58	155	\$13,665
9.	WA	37	93	\$11,010
10.	IL	64	124	\$10,588
11.	FL	60	96	\$10,266
12.	CO	33	93	\$9,639
13.	OH	75	129	\$9,501
14.	NE	19	41	\$8,998
15.	TX	35	62	\$8,445

PUBLICITY PROMOTION *by Tina Hawkins*

A HEART FOR HORSESHOES

The following was sent to me by my father, Homer Cain, ten days after his quadruple bypass surgery.

“My surgery was Friday, February 17th. It started at eight o’clock in the morning and finished at about twelve thirty. They said all went well. Saturday I thought I was doomed. Everyone seemed to be standing around the edge of the room, talking in low voices and glancing at me once in a while. Sunday was better. I moved to ICU for about three hours and on to my regular room, which was nice with a good view out the window and everything. Visitors started showing up and that really felt good - afraid I wasn’t a very good host. Monday morning the honeymoon was over, showering, walking and any other get-well-soon activity they could think of. They seemed to be amazed that I didn’t complain, but jumped right into the fun and games and had a good time with them. Tuesday was more of the same, along about noon they asked me if I wanted to go home. I said if I’m ready to go home if I’m ready to go home, but I don’t want to go home and have to come back. I really liked everyone I came in contact with at the Oklahoma Heart Hospital. They really took good care of me. At four o’clock Wednesday we all said goodbye and they wheeled me to the parking lot. Ginger, who had been waiting patiently by all this time, drove me home.

I will be doing my rehab in Stillwater, but for now I’m just doing stuff at home, walking and all. This morning while walking around the yard I drifted by the practice courts, stood there a while thinking that with this new circulation maybe the muscles would perform a little better. A ninety-seven percent clog doesn’t let much blood through, and I had four of them. Then it dawned on me, two shoes five pounds, that’s my picking up limit. Shouldn’t hurt just to pick them up, they were just laying there on that old upside down plastic mineral tub. They felt good. I swung them a little then decided to just toss them that way. They both hit close to the stake so why not try the other two that were just lying there. One landed close and the other actually went on. Just seven days after four bypass open heart surgery, I had hit my average. I had to throw them back... Two were close and two were ringers. WOW! The new circulation is great! I started keeping track for a few shoes. Fifty shoes and thirty eight ringers later I thought I had better get back in the house before I got caught. I gathered the shoes and

laid them back on the old tub and started on to the house just as Ginger shook me awake and told me breakfast was ready.”

Daddy is recuperating wonderfully and feeling the benefits of his increased blood flow. Not only did he DREAM horseshoes while in recovery, but he also attempted to RECRUIT every doctor, nurse and orderly he came in contact with at the Oklahoma Heart Hospital.

His devotion and dedication to our sport and our association is an example to all of us “able-bodied” pitchers and promoters. Even when he thought he was at death’s door, he was trying to bring in new members!



Homer and Ginger Cain dancing at the Hall of Fame Awards Banquet at the 2007 World Tournament in Ardmore, Oklahoma

We all need to follow that example and spread the word about the NHPA to everyone we come in contact with. Just the simple act of handing a business card with league or club info to somebody you pass on the street will help spread the word.

My job as NHPA 2nd Vice President is to promote horseshoe pitching across the country. However, in this issue of Newslines, I want to promote something even MORE important to all the members that we already have

– being healthy. Specifically, being HEART HEALTHY. It is a subject that is (now) close to my own heart.

According to the recent NHPA survey conducted by the University of Central Oklahoma’s marketing department, the largest portion of our membership is made up of men over the age of 49. And according to the Mayo Clinic, Men who are 45 or older (and women who are 55 or older) are more likely to have a heart attack than are younger men and women.

Of course, there are many more risk factors for having a heart attack, including tobacco use, diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, lack of physical activity, obesity, stress, illegal drug use... We can all make efforts to reduce these risks by reducing or eliminating some of these factors. Lead a healthy lifestyle, exercise regularly, and maintain a regular schedule of physical checkups.

Another huge factor – one we really don’t have any control over – is FAMILY HISTORY. If you are doing everything right, maintain a healthy weight, stay active, eat a proper diet, you still may have a high risk for a heart condition. Unfortunately, most “regular” physical checkups cannot

PUBLICITY PROMOTION *Continued*

detect these hereditary conditions. This was the scenario my father portrayed.

We want to encourage all NHPA members – particularly those in the high-risk age group and those who have a family history of heart health issues to contact your closest heart hospital for information on a non-invasive heart scan.

A heart scan utilizes computerized tomography that can scan your heart and in just a few minutes, provide you with information about problems that are going to occur before they happen.

The heart scan can tell if you're at higher risk of a heart attack or other problems long before you have any outward symptoms of disease. It is also able to measure the amount of calcium in the walls of your coronary arteries. This information in combination with your health information can help your doctor to assess YOUR risk of coronary artery disease.

The Oklahoma Heart Hospital offers these scans for only \$50. WOW! I can find out if I have underlying conditions or risks for only \$50?? I can guarantee – by the time this issue hits your mailbox, I will have already had my heart scan. There are likely similar heart hospitals with similar tests near each of you. Do yourself (and your family) a favor and check it out!

2012 WORLD TOURNAMENT

Now that we've got you all healthy... Let's pitch some "world class" horseshoes! The entry deadline for the 2012 World Tournament is just around the corner. Be sure to get yours filled out and mailed in before it is too late! Only four events are required for each adult to qualify for this event.

Be sure to make your reservations for the Hall of Fame and Awards Banquet as well. The planned venue for this year's event is a bit different than those of the past. The National Women's Basketball Hall of Fame is the intended site – self-tours of the museum will be included in the cost of your banquet ticket!

Plans are to hold the Junior party at the same site, which will be very convenient for those who must

deliver their children to the party and still make it to the banquet on time.

The NHPA golf outings are again in the plans for Knoxville. More information will be available as details are confirmed. This excursion grows each year and is a fun way to enjoy your World Tournament friends away from the pitching arena.

FIND OUT WHAT TO DO IN KNOXVILLE!

A great way to find out fun and interesting things to do while you are in the Knoxville area for the 2012 World Tournament - sign up for Groupon daily deal offers NOW!

Not only will you learn about a multitude of activities and dining options, you can SAVE MONEY by purchasing the deals! Just go online and visit www.groupon.com. Fill out the simple registration and in no time you will start receiving offers for fun packages in Knoxville, TN!

Some world tournament participants have already purchased discount packages for a pottery class, golf outings, and railway tours! Even if you choose not to purchase the offers, it is a great way just to find out what there is to do – A LOT! Tennessee is a great destination for your family vacation!

Looking forward to seeing all of you on the horseshoe courts and out and about in Knoxville, Tennessee!



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SANCTIONED CLUB/LEAGUE REPORT *by David Sidles*

Wow, did it warm up nice here in the center part of the country! We could have played the last four weeks of winter league outdoors. Spring and summer leagues will be starting soon if they haven't already. I hope all you league directors have found the transition to have been a smooth one. I am always open to suggestions as far as the business end of things goes. I've had a couple of comments on the forms that are on the website and I am making some small changes on a couple of them. I hope you have all seen the 2012 Top Ten list on the NHPA website. While I am doing my best to make sure this is as close to 100% accurate as I can, there have been a couple of minor errors. One thing I'm still working on is how to better coordinate the NATSTAT database with the one in my Access program so that I can be more current on players that change divisions or perhaps change their names. Don't hesitate to contact me if you see an obvious error on this list and I'll correct it. Thanks to Steve Summerlin for being patient with me while I try to find a format that works best to do this. Maybe this list can be updated monthly instead of quarterly at some point.

over one weekend only, it is limited to 20 teams with spots filled on a first come first serve basis. If the response is large enough, there is a possibility of adding two additional teams. Only the defending champions are guaranteed a spot if they want it. I will start taking entries on May 1st. Entries received before May 1st will not be accepted. Double points will be awarded the second day this year so teams that may have started slow will still have a chance to get in the money on Sunday. Look for a banner on the Coming Events page of the NHPA website soon. It will have a link to an entry form that you will be able to print and mail or e-mail. I attempted to secure a sponsor for this tournament but was unsuccessful. Most disappointing is the fact that I never even heard back from either of the contacts I made. If you have an interest in, or a close connection to our sport, whether as a horseshoe manufacturer or anything else, and would like to be the title sponsor of this National Championship tournament, please contact me.

One idea I had for the upcoming World Tournament is to have a Sanctioned League workshop. This would be an open forum where myself, league directors, and players could discuss topics that pertain to the Sanctioned League program. We could discuss things like the different methods of handicapping that leagues are using, recruiting new players, or any other topic that comes up. I first need to see if there is a room available and the best time to have it. Look for information on this later.

In October, we will once again be having the Sanctioned Club/League National Championship Tournament. This tournament is held annually at the NHPA Hall of Fame facility in Wentzville, MO. Because we are currently running this tournament



The advertisement features two horseshoes side-by-side. The one on the left is a 'G' shaped horseshoe with 'GORDON HORSESHOES' written below it. The one on the right is a 'U' shaped horseshoe with 'LEGEND' written below it. Below the horseshoes, there is text describing the product and contact information.

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CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS by Jerry LaBrosse, NHPA 4th Vice-President

There is something I feel very strongly about and have talked about many times over the years, and I would like to mention one more time.

I recently received an email from Diana Ratliff, Maryland. In the email she talked about the idea developed by Bob Rasmussen, of attaching **emergency information** to the clipboards so the scorekeepers had instant access to it. Bob also suggested that an announcement be included about the information, and also who was on site that was trained in CPR.

As you all know, our membership is aging. The Elders division is the fastest growing division in the world tournament. You also should understand that charter and national officers have a responsibility to serve our membership to the best of our abilities, and that would include saving their life if they were having a heart attack. I want to suggest that all charters talk about this at their spring meetings. Have your charter officers and all tournament directors **seek out a community course on CPR and get certified....** it's very easy to do, and very inexpensive. Also consider purchasing an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and have it available at your larger tournaments. It's a simple machine that could save a life.

I'm sure that there are many cases of members experiencing a heart attack at a horseshoe tournament. I have seen two Minnesota members die from heart attacks at horseshoe tournaments in Minnesota over my career.

I want to thank Diana for the reminder, and thought the timing would be good to share this information with everybody to take to their spring meetings. **Get certified now** before your season gets into full swing this spring.

The life you save will be a member of your family.... your horseshoe family!!!

Email Lists

A few months ago we completed a system update of the Charter Communications email lists. I'm very happy to report that the system is working very well. I asked that I be included on all charters' email lists, so that I could see who is communicating to their members, and also to pick up good information and reminders. There are several charters who are regularly emailing their members. It is true that the charters I'm speaking of are mostly the larger and more successful charters, but smaller charters have a much greater chance to grow if they have good communication with their members.

If your charter has not yet designated a person capable of assembling an email list, I highly advise you to do so. If you need any help getting started, please contact me for help. Anybody who wishes to be on the Charter Communications network can email me a request and I will add you. Jlabro6186@aol.com

See you all in Knoxville!

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NHPA RULES AND BYLAWS *by Dan Sanders*

These additional Proposed Rules Changes (PRCs) have been approved by the NHPA Rules Committee and also by the NHPA Council, for voting by the Convention Delegates at the 2012 World Tournament in Knoxville, TN. As required by our NHPA Bylaws, these PRCs are published here so that our members and delegates can read and discuss these proposals prior to voting. Please study and review these possible changes to our Rules, discuss them with other members, and let your Charter Officers and appointed delegates know how you would like for them to vote. All accepted and approved PRCs can now be found on the NHPA Website (see direct link from the Homepage). Some were published in the earlier March/April issue of Newline, and the rest of them are published here, in the May/June issue. They may also be found in some Charter Newsletters and/or on some Charter Websites. In addition to the PRCs, the NHPA Council has unanimously approved/enacted some changes to *Requirement 4 – WORLD TOURNAMENT PLAY* (see at end). The reasons for this action are included under “Reasons for Change”. This Rule change (currently in effect) will also be voted on by delegates at the Knoxville Convention.

Additional PRCs to be voted on:

PRC12 – Rule 7 – Section D – Pacer Rotation (also see RGS page 16)

Current Wording:

If a pacer is used, the pacer will always pitch last; for all innings (see GUIDELINE 5 for additional information about pacers).

Proposed Change of Wording: (new wording is in *italic/bold* print)

If a pacer is used, the scheduled player *may* pitch first every inning, *or let first pitch be determined by the same rule as for the rest of the event, based on who scores, etc. This must be determined before the game begins, or the pacer will always pitch last.* (see GUIDELINE 5 for additional information about pacers).

Reasons For Proposed Change:

To force the scheduled player to always pitch first (or pacer to always pitch last) is a distraction to some pitchers. This should be optional, and a choice of the scheduled pitcher, before the game begins.

PRC14 - Rule 11 - Section E – Mixing and Handicapping (also see RGS, page 19)

Current Wording:

If there are not enough entrants to form a competitive Class within a given Tournament Division (see Rule 1), contestants should be placed into more competitive “mixed” Classes where the overall ringer percentage “spread” will be less. Mixed

Classes are not allowed, however, in some Championship Classes/Divisions of State Tournaments and also at the World Tournament (see also REQUIREMENT 3 “Mixed Play”, and REQUIREMENT 4 “Divisions”).

Proposed Change Of Wording: (mostly all new text information)

1. For All Charter Tournaments – When creating tournament Classes, the requests of entrants for Division placement should be strongly considered. Tournament Directors/Committees will also consider creating some *non-mixed/non-handicapped* Classes, by Division, when there are 4 or more entrants from the same Division who have a percentage spread of 10% or less. Where the percentage spread is greater than 10%, the following options can be considered, for creating more competitive Classes:

- a) Mixed Classes – Players from several Divisions are placed into Classes of 4 or more, in an effort to keep the percentage spread to a minimum. *Note:* depending upon requests, it may be important to separate 30’ and 40’ Divisions.
- b) Handicapped Classes – Players are placed into Classes and are assigned a handicap for each game played. For tournament play using cancellation scoring, a handicap of 80% is recommended. An alternate-pitch format must be used (see Rule 7.2).

Please note: It is possible for any given tournament to have some mixed Classes, some handicapped Classes, and some Division Classes that have no mixing or handicapping.

2. Special Tournaments – For *Juniors Only, Invitationals, the World Tournament*, and other special tournaments (also see Requirement 5), Mixed and/or Handicapped Classes may not be allowed, but this must be announced/posted in advance, on Charter tournament schedules, tournament flyers, and/or entry forms.

3. State Tournaments* – It is recommended that State Tournament Championship (or Class A) Division Classes not be mixed or handicapped if the number of entrants allows for reasonable competitive Division/Class play of 4 or more entrants. When mixing or handicapping may become necessary or desirable to create more competitive Championship Classes, the State Champion of each Division shall be the highest finishing player (based on ringer percentage) among all who had entered that Division. All lower Classes (than Championship/Class A) may also be mixed or handicapped if competitive Division Classes cannot be created.

Please note: If the above PRC14 is accepted by the Knoxville delegates, other existing Rules (or parts of them which have been incorporated here) may become unnecessary or may require some changes. These would include Section F – Handicapping, on RGS Book, page 19, and Requirement 3, Sec A.2 – Mixed Play on RGS Book, page 24. These kinds of necessary changes/adjustments would then be made by the Rules Committee and NHPA Council.

NHPA RULES AND BYLAWS *Continued*

*Provisional Proposal – This sub-section 3 (see above), about mixing in State Tournaments, will remain as a part of PRC14, provided it receives the required number of delegate votes. If PRC14 *does not* receive the required number of delegate votes to pass, a separate delegate vote will determine whether or not this sub-section on State Tournaments will replace the current text information, which can be found in Requirement 3, Sec A.2 – Mixed Play (see RGS Book, page 24), and which currently states that the Open Men and Open Women Divisions cannot be mixed play.

Reasons For Proposed Changes:

1. For All Charter Tournaments: In perhaps too many of our Charters/States, the “mixing” of Tournament Classes seems to have become the “default” choice for many of our TDs. This important *Section 1* is simply *suggesting/asking (not requiring)* that TDs of local tournaments take a closer look at the possibilities for creating Division Classes, especially where the entrants may have made this request, and also to consider using a “handicap system” (vs. “mixing”) to create competitive Classes for Division play. Another important consideration/observation is that in many of our Charters, our 40-foot pitchers are becoming the “*silent minority*”. Many of them, for a variety of reasons, do not like “mixed tournaments” and are not entering these “local” events, but rather are pitching in just a few larger tournaments (the State and/or World) where there *are* competitive 40-foot Classes; or some may even be giving up horseshoes or waiting until they qualify (by age) for the Elders Division. And so some serious consideration should be made, I think, for separating our 30’ and 40’ pitchers, where possible. And this *is possible*, in many cases, by “handicapping” rather than “mixing” these Divisions. In any case, it is important to include this Section 1 in our Rules, so that Charter Officers and TDs are at least reminded that there are other alternatives (and perhaps better ones, for the good of our sport) than creating all “mixed” Classes.

3. State Tournaments: For many of our Charters, it has become very difficult to create competitive Division Classes of four or more contestants, especially in the Women’s Division of the State Tournament. Since these two Divisions (Men and Women) cannot be mixed with other Divisions (the current Requirement), two or three women (and often with a very wide percentage spread) may end up having to pitch each other for the State Championship Title. It would be much better to “mix” these pitchers with the Men, Elders, Juniors, etc. to create more competitive Classes, and then determine the Division winners (including State Champions), as described in this proposed change (sub-section 3. State Tournaments, see above).

Please Note: This change (see below) has already been enacted by our NHPA Council, with a unanimous “yes” vote of all Council members. This timely change will allow us to follow our currently-planned format for this WT. To continue, however,

this Requirement change will require a 2/3rds approval of the voting delegates. If not approved by the delegate vote, this Requirement will return to the original/current wording as of January 1, 2013.

REQUIREMENT 4 – WORLD TOURNAMENT PLAY (also see RGS pages 25, 26)

Current Wording:

Section F–Playoffs

In a World Tournament, games won and lost shall determine the order in which the winners are placed. Pitchers tying for first place of a Division shall be decided the winner as follows: if two tie, a one-game playoff to forty (40) points; if more than two tie, the first place shall be decided by a ladder-type playoff based upon ringer percentages; in all others ties (second and below), trophies and prize money shall be awarded based upon ringer percentage. First place ties at the “Class” level will be determined by forty (40) shoe playoff games. Percentage ties for all move-up positions into a Championship Class shall be broken by a forty (40) shoe playoff game.

Change Of Wording: (mostly all new or revised wording)

Section F – Playoffs

In World Tournament play, games won and lost shall determine the order in which the winners are placed. If there is a tie for first place, a playoff game will determine the winner. All playoff games will follow the same format as the round-robin play for that Class. If more than two players tie for first place, a ladder-type playoff will be used, based on ringer percentages in that competition. All other ties (second place and below) will be determined by ringer percentage. If still tied, “who beat who”, and then “ringer % vs. entry %” will be used. *Note:* Percentage ties for all move-up positions shall be broken by a playoff game. If still tied, additional innings will be played (see Rule 8, Section B.2).

Reasons For Rules Change:

The current Requirement states that Championship playoff games must be 40-point games, or in some cases, 40-shoe games. This requirement is not realistic for our recently added Junior Cadets Division. These very young pitchers should not be expected to pitch 40-point games or even very many 40-shoe games. This new Rule also allows for changes that may occur in the future, including possible pitching format changes in other Divisions. It has also been determined that using “total points” as a tiebreaker may not be fair for our higher-percentage pitchers, in cancellation play. You may have witnessed some very competitive games (Alan Francis vs. Brian Simmons, for example) where the final score of a preliminary, 40-shoe game was 15 to 12, for example; *because of all those canceled ringers!* In these situations, the better players may not score as many “total points” as the other, lower-percentage pitchers, and could

NHPA RULES AND BYLAWS *Continued*

lose a tie, on this basis. The analysis of many past games/tournament summaries has actually shown this claim to be true for cancellation play. The second and third tiebreakers that have been included here are much more fair and, for these reasons, are now being used/recommended in HS Master.

Additional Related Information:

A Proposed Rules Change (PRC) regarding the availability of Medical Exemption forms was accepted/changed by the NHPA Council, and it was agreed that this action will not require a delegate vote. More specifically, the information under Rule 1, Section E.2, about where the ME application form can be obtained, will be changed from (available from Charter Secretaries), to *(the application form is available from the Charter Secretary, ME Chairman, and/or may be made available on Charter websites).*

There are several other RGS Rules and/or Requirements that have been questioned/discussed via the NHPA Forum and/or *Newsline Magazine* during the past year or so, but for which no PRCs were submitted by the December 31st deadline. Based on information that had been researched from past years, two consecutive articles on the topic of "Tournament awards/prizes for the Junior Division" were written and can be found in the Jan/Feb and March/April issues of *Newsline Magazine*. Here are the "basics" of where I think we currently stand with this:

As in the past, all money awarded to Junior winners at the World Tournament and for Junior NHPA Scholarship awards will be placed into a trust fund in their name (this is maintained by the NHPA), and will become available to them upon request, after graduation from high school.

States and their Charters will have the option (with parental guidance) of having their Juniors make the choice between paying the full tournament entry fee, or a reduced/no entry fee for Charter tournament competition.

If the Junior would like to be eligible for winning money awards (to be placed in a trust fund, Junior fund, or parent college fund), or for other awards given to adult pitchers, they would pay the full entry fee. When choosing the reduced/no fee option, they would become eligible for other awards such as a trophy or plaque, certificate of recognition, medal, patch, etc.

To remain in compliance with RGS Requirement 6, Section C, any awards with monetary value (such as a trust fund, Junior fund, or parent college fund) may be used by the States/Charters, but cash money or checks should not be presented to the Juniors, should be presented only to a parent or guardian.



The Junior and parent/guardian must accept the responsibility of making sure that their amateur standing is not jeopardized by the

choices that they make, among the above options. Checking with your State High School Athletic Associations about this is highly recommended.

All States/Charters and Tournament/League Directors are asked to develop and agree on a policy for the awarding of Junior prizes, and that they will follow for any Junior who enters their tournaments/leagues. The goal here is to provide consistency for at least the events that are contested within their State/Charter(s). It would be best if this policy is written and distributed to all who may need this information. This policy could also be adopted into State/Charter Bylaws, but is not required at this time. If/when written policies are enacted, Charters are asked to submit a copy of this information to the NHPA Secretary.

Still another item of recent discussion has to do with play-off games, as they may relate to World Tournament "move-ups" into the Championship Finals. And since no PRCs have been submitted for this, the current Requirement (see Requirement 2, Section H, page 23) will remain in effect. It reads... *"All ringers and shoes pitched under one sanction number (the preliminaries), including additional shoes for the breaking of ties and play-off games, shall be included when figuring the (ringer percentage) totals for that event."* Please see the Nov/Dec 2010 issue of *Newsline Magazine* for an article on this topic, and that explains our current policy for move-ups into the WT Championship Finals.

I hope that the above information is helpful to your better understanding of where we currently are with the NHPA Rules and Requirements. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I hope to see many of you at the upcoming World Tournament in Knoxville!

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CHARTER CHATTER by Jane Smith

Colorado - Jane Smith

Each month the *Double Ringer* publication arrives in my mail in Balsam Lake. I thoroughly enjoy reading the publication as it is an excellent source of Colorado horseshoe pitching history. A variety of tournament results are published along with recognizing "notable" horseshoe pitchers from the NHPA. This month it featured Red Henton from Iowa. What a horseshoe pitcher he is!

In the future issues, the *Double Ringer* plans to present a complete coverage of the many clubs in Colorado. This may be a challenge as memberships have changed over the many years of Colorado horseshoe pitching.

Northern California Charter - Casey Sluys

Chet Carter:

If you are considering joining the NCHPA, I would like to point out that we are not professional Horseshoe players. We are folks like you, who like to play Horseshoes. My very first opponent 19 years ago said it best. "Let's have fun!" He is Chet Carter, one of many you need to meet. Chet will be 95 this April, the perfect representative of the membership of the NCHPA, of which he has been a member of over 50 years. He has also been an associate member of every club in California and has received the award for the most tournaments in a season. If you are lucky enough to meet Chet, you will soon see through his demeanor and presence, the perfect example of what we are all about. You will be glad you joined and definitely will have fun, as I have for over 19 years, playing the great American Game of Horseshoes.

Ukiah:

To prepare for this season we have evaluated our courts according to the NHPA guidelines and sent the report to the RD, we have paid our rent to the Redwood Empire Fair, obtained our Insurance Certificate, we've ordered and received our plates, patches and certificates, fixed broken

water lines and made necessary repairs and adjustments at the pits. The pitchers are practicing and the secretary is writing this article for the newsletter, collecting dues and sending them to The Sec/Treas., researching vendors for new team shirts and evaluating her computer skills for use with HS Master.

Sonoma County:

Our first tourney of the season is the Greeott Birthday Open on April 22nd. George is still kicking, but I can't guarantee that he will make it to the tournament? He'll be 102 after all. Charlie Masson was successful in soliciting a half case of fine wine from one of our many local wineries. Look for that as an additional prize at some of our selected tourneys. We will also hold one called "Smitty's Mystery Money" you must attend to figure out how this one will work. It may be held during the "Smith Bros Open."

Increasing attendance:

These are some tough economic times we are wading through, but we will get through them just like all the other times this great country has bitten the bullet and raised its proud head and risen to a position of comfort. There's is no need to mention all those things that contribute to our tightened budgets, but fuel prices have to be the number one contributing factor that this organization has seen such a dramatic decline in participation at tournaments, Man! It's tough to justify a tank of gas to pitch some shoes isn't it? Let's everyone carpool to tournaments. Perhaps Tournament Directors and club officials could give a discount in entry fee to the driver if he/she brings three or more people to a tournament. We must come up with some innovative methods to attract people to our events! Whether it be extra prizes that you give out to the winners or more money (where would that come from?) Please come up with some ideas of your own to entice people to attend your club even we seriously need to increase participation. Another way we can

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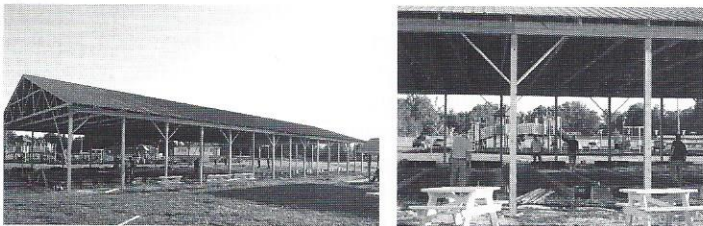
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CHARTER CHATTER *Continued*

increase participation is to find and sign up new members. It is difficult to keep people in this sport, why is that? Do our tournaments take too long, are games too long, too many rules, all these things contribute to the 30% turnover that the NHPA has. Yes, it's at least 30% in the NCHPA also by looking at the new address labels for this issue. It's obvious to the NHPA officials and should be obvious to the rest of us that this is something we need to work on. Let's change this turnover trend and hang on to our members we get. Create a sanctioned league with your club and the members; it really doesn't take a lot of effort. I will supply you with all the details, just let me know please?

Kentucky

Construction on a new cover for the 12 sanctioned courts located in Chalybeate, KY will be completed in early May. The cover will feature a lighted fourteen foot ceiling when completed. No more rainouts or sunburns! The Chalybeate courts and Edmonson County Horseshoe Pitching Association holds league night pitching from the last week of April until the first week of October each horseshoe season and will be the host site for the 2012 Kentucky State Horseshoe Tournament.



This year the Kentucky Charter will be supporting the American Cancer Society. An idea initiated by Randy Hankins; Kentucky players may contribute through donation boxes present at each tournament location. Last year Kentucky raised and donated \$1,000 for its 2011 charity, The American Heart Association. Every little bit helps! Kentucky would like to challenge other charters to implement similar programs for a good cause.

Maryland - Diana Ratliff

The courts have come to life again in Maryland! MDHPA Officers had a productive winter meeting and are working on some ideas to increase membership and to recruit more junior members. VP Bob Rasmussen brought up a concern that pitchers should know what to do in case of an emergency – including basic info like the court address should it be necessary to call 9-1-1. Bob has made labels for the clipboards of each club so that info is readily available. It was further suggested that these issues be addressed in opening remarks before events, and that we identify anyone present who is trained in CPR or has other emergency certifications. It was recommended that pitchers and officers alike consider taking CPR and basic life-saving courses. The Frederick HPA would like to thank returning member,

Lisa Huffman for her willingness to assume the duties of Treasurer. Newly elected Treasurer Donna Eichelberger found it necessary to step down to assist in the care of her father, long time NHPA member Al "Popeye" Runkles. Sincere, belated thanks go out to Jane Barthlow and Rocky Mabry for their many years of service as President and Treasurer, as well as to former Tournament Director, Wayne Mowdy.

Leagues and tournaments are under way and we hope to have a good showing in the World Tournament in Knoxville this year. Remember to recruit those new members, and bring in lots of juniors so we can grow our sport! And don't forget to get your WT Experience Raffle tickets, available from Diana or at tournaments! Happy pitching ☺.

Michigan - Keith Schafer

Michigan is having one of the better winter seasons of recent memory. For this year's winter Indoor Season in Jackson, attendance is averaging over 23 at the first nine winter tournaments, including full houses on January 28th and March 3rd. Over the previous five years, winter tournaments have averaged from 17 to 18.75 participants for the winter indoor season. Members from Charlotte, Manton and the Allegan area have brought in active new members to these indoor season tournaments.

Ron Kohn, MHPA president, is recovering from September knee replacement surgery. He is not running tournaments this year at Auburn while he fully recovers. Auburn had been the main state doubles tournament site over the past 15 years.

Jerome Zalewski, secretary/treasurer of the Berkley club, and Moses Smith, Michigan Hall of Fame member who pitched with the Lake Orion club, are two of the pitchers in the Michigan Association who have passed over the winter.

Among pitchers who have returned after a lengthy absence are Jan Decker and James Dunlap. James Dunlap has returned after three years away from pitching due to an accident and has pitched a 59% tournament and has an average over 55%. Jan Decker has hit over 33% twice in three tournaments.

Minnesota Chartern - Jerry Labrosse

Congratulations and best of luck, to our TEAM MN players who qualified for MN 1. They are; Dale Lipovsky, Gerald Stangland, Ron Craigmile and Sig Armitage. Dick Dvorak will be entering MN 2 with Dale Hustad, Bob Knudtson and Cliff Presler. Jerry LaBrosse will be entering MN 3 again, with Marlys Timm, Sara Otto, Mark Smith and Rob Hagman.

Missouri - Dee McIntire

Missouri is bursting out of its seams with Spring tournaments! All over the state stakes are clanging with ringers. One special tournament happened in early March at the Don Harris Arena in Liberty. It was the 11th annual Cancer

CHARTER CHATTER *Continued*

Action Tournament. We had people from all over MO and KS come. Yes, this was #11, thanks to our Tournament Director, Elwyn Cooper. I'm not sure how much money has been made for Cancer Action, but for 2012 we collected \$1,925. If you averaged just \$1,500 per year, with over \$2,000 in 2011, that would be a total of over \$17,500 donated to a very worthy cause. What could be better than to have fun pitching horseshoes and the money going to something so wonderful?

Cancer Action is the only local cancer-serving organization in the Kansas City area whose mission is to meet those critical needs during a critical time in their lives. Karla Nichols, Executive Director for this organization stated "I was honored to come and spend some of the day with you, enjoying the enthusiasm and support for Cancer Action! We are grateful for the hard work, dedication and participation of everyone to make this such a successful and fun event each year."

New Jersey - Jane Smith

Taken from the *Jersey's Jargon*, President Harry Demott mentions there are many tournaments- perhaps the most ever- including the addition of new courts in Paulsboro. He also mentions that the economy and gas prices may influence participation, but hopes members meet the challenge and attend as many tournaments as they can. He is encouraging membership to attend the World Tournament in Knoxville as it is closer than the past few years. Gloria Saul, Editor and fundraiser for the State, says raffle tickets are on sale for an iPad3. Monies from the raffle benefit goes back to the pitchers in some form whether banquet expenses, supplies or any number of "member" benefits.

Ohio - Brian Fisher

Ringers from Ohio: The spotlight is on the Ross County Club who has consistently provided our state tournament with the greatest participation from a club. They are currently 52 members strong and have a unique way of rewarding members that enter the state tournament. The club provides each member with a club shirt when they enter. I had to know what this club's secret to success was. The answer was simple; Tom King, who has been the clubs driven leader for quite some time. The rest is strong leadership from the officers and a positive attitude from the members. Ross County has received the award for largest club participation at the state tournament for many years now. They also use their county fair as a promotion tool every year. What a great way to promote horseshoes with this huge amount of foot traffic. This is also being utilized in many other counties around the state with much success.

Congrats go out to Jim Walters who won the championship class at the recent snowball open in Greenville. With the victory Jim has now won this tournament more than anyone else, with the temp hovering around 11 degrees and the ground covered with snow, the 46th annual snowball open is in the history books.

West Virginia - Charles M Bunner

The affiliated horseshoe pitching-MCPARC Club of Marion County has received funding for the renovation of the walkways and for installation of french drains and of fencing from the Marion County Commission in the East Marion recreation park of Fairmont.

In addition, the affiliated horseshoe pitchers-MCPARC Club received, by request, \$1,500.00 in grant funds from the National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation for the renovation of the horseshoe courts.

After several years of lobbying efforts, a valid bid has been submitted on seeking to have the 2014 World Horseshoe Pitching Tournament within the Charleston, West Virginia Civic Center. More details will be found under the interactive forum section of

The NHPA website, www.horseshoepitching.com

Wisconsin Charter - Jane Smith

The 2012 schedule for WHPA tournaments has several new and interesting ideas and formats. Jim Haupt sends word that the "unsanctioned" events - Beloit's Junior bring a Pal, two Bring a Pal doubles, and Milwaukee's The Horny Goat event- might seek out some "sand lot" pitchers and increase the WHPA membership. Jimmy Paulson and the Beloit Club are very creative in hosting and sponsoring tournament throughout the year. They have a very active membership with pitchers from both Wisconsin and Illinois! Glenn Bogenschneider, our WHPA President, along with Jimmy Paulson, 2nd VP are working with the Horny Goat center to sponsor an unsanctioned doubles event on April 21. All of these vents should create interest in "organized" horseshoes.

Another event sponsored in Beloit is the Team World event in May. This is a premier event and if you have opportunity to pitch in this tournament DO SO! There have been perfect games, games of 39 of 40 ringers and many 90% games pitched. Good luck to the Wisconsin #1 team - Gert Wilcziek, Martin Papesch, Pam Aiken and Ken Heinritz. Wisconsin pitchers enjoy this tournament as there are usually 3-5 Wisconsin teams entered! There is an advantage to "winning" the flip as opportunity then allows for a team to determine who pitches whom. Strategy reins as each team plays every team in round robin play. A step ladder playoff takes place Sunday morning for the "big Bucks." If you do not want to pitch, try to attend as a spectator - it is AWESOME!

A special THANKS to the Colorado, Missouri, and New Jersey charters for sharing their publications with me. They are wonderful sources of information for this column. Also THANKS to the charters who have shared their websites with all of us. Communications are a major part of promoting our great sport!

2013 WORLD TOURNAMENT EXPERIENCE RAFFLE *by Jerry Labrosse*

The 2013 World Tournament Experience Raffle is officially in full swing. We have ticket sellers established in 21 charters and I want to thank every one of them for their support.

These sellers will be making themselves available at tournaments and also by email and US Mail. If you wish to purchase tickets, simply send your check (made out to the NHPA) to the seller. They will fill out your numbered ticket stubs, take a close up photo of them and email it to you.

I want to propose an idea that I think worked well last year and would like to expand upon. I am asking that all Tournament Directors consider buying a block of tickets to use as prizes in their tournaments.

We did it at the "World Warm Up" tournament last year, and there were others as well. What a great prize for the winners and what a great way to generate more ticket sales.

Always remember...you need not be present to win...and all raffle prizes are transferable.

The proceeds from this raffle are divided equally between the NHPA and NHPF. The NHPA is using their portion to expand and improve the electronic scoring and eventually upgrade the entire NHPA IT system.

The following is a list of the ticket sellers we have as of March 8th. Please seek out one of these sellers and purchase some

tickets. Who knows....you may just win a free trip to the world tournament in St George!!!

Debby Michaud	MA
Casey Sluys	CA
Donna Bastel	MO
Diane Ratliff	PA
Brian Poole	ID
Joe Martin	ND
Jerry LaBrosse	MN
Dave Shreve	IL
Suzanne Miller	GA
Sharon Taylor	MO
Bill Marvin	IL
Tina Hawkins	OK
Charles Knotts	NM
Donna Dodson	WV
Trisha Hoshaw	AZ
Laura Ritchie	KY
Chris Callihan	TX
Randy Stoffel	NC
Larry Collette	KS
JoAnn Stanford	TN
Dave Sidles	NE

Income & Expenses Statement / FEBRUARY / MARCH 2012

Income

2014 World Tournament bid payments	\$28,367.00
Hall of Fame Banquet	\$60.00
Computer Scoring Donation	\$500.00
Charter Dues	\$13.00
Horseshoe Sanction Fees	\$1,800.00
Membership Dues	\$36,351.00
Motel 6 Refund	\$2.25
Newsline Ads	\$1,640.00
Newsline Subscriptions	\$3,543.00
US Bank Checking Interest	\$11.66
US Bank MMKT Interest	\$43.56

TOTAL **\$72,331.47**

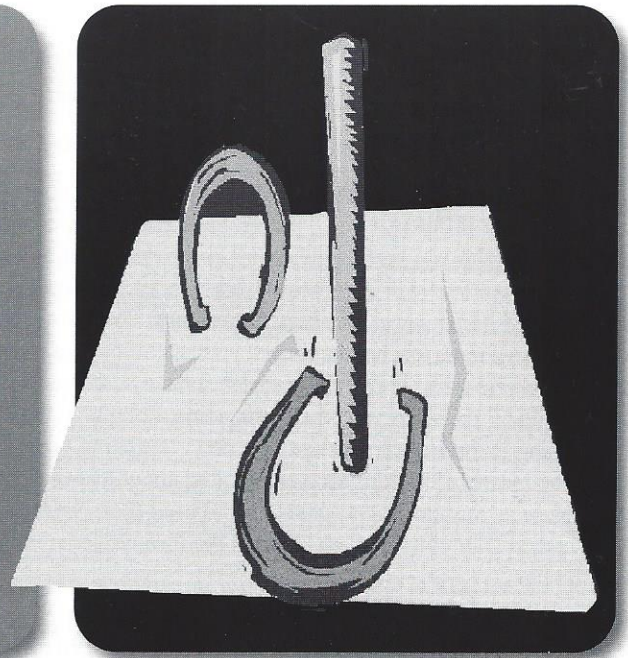
From the books of
NHPA Secretary/Treasurer Dick Hansen

Expenses

Newsline Printing, Supplies & Mailing	\$3,673.12
Newsline Publication, Editing & Misc.	\$893.13
Sanctioned League Postage & Printing	\$30.02
Sanctioned League Patches & Awards	\$1,435.84
All Junior Scholarship Trusts	\$200.00
Hall of Fame Awards Supplies & Expenses	\$2,630.85
Regional Director Allowance	\$4,380.20
Regional Director Postage, Telephone & Supplies	\$280.72
Equipment purchases, rentals & Repairs	\$193.38
Printing, paper & office supplies	\$334.14
Postage	\$355.54
Officers Telephone	\$167.98
Officers Travel	\$727.62
Sec/Treas Allowance	\$3,300.00
Presidents Allowance	\$1,000.00
Direct & Indirect NHPF Donations and Support	\$10,401.00
Insurance	\$9,845.40
Misc. Fees, Bonds, Bank Charges, Etc.	\$90.00
Special Events	\$4,600.00
NatStats	\$1,000.00
Internet Access & Web Site	\$262.13

TOTAL **\$45,801.07**

WORLD TOURNAMENT EXPERIENCE RAFFLE



YOUR 2013 WORLD EXPERIENCE COULD BE ON US

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Over \$1,300 value

2013 WORLD TOURNAMENT EXPERIENCE PACKAGE

Tournament Entry (\$125 value)
One-Week Hotel Stay (~ \$700 value)
GRS Merchandise (\$100 value)
Customized Tournament Shirt (\$50 value)
Photo Package from Bowdell Photography (\$15 value)
Two Banquet Tickets (\$60 value)

AND
Host City "Goodie" Package (~\$270 value)

Two tickets to Broadway-style show at Tuacahn Amphitheater with dinner
Two rounds of golf
Two tickets to Rosenbruch Wildlife Museum
St. George, Utah Gift Bag and Goodies

FOUR ADDITIONAL WORLD TOURNAMENT ENTRIES AS PRIZES

TICKETS AVAILABLE

• AT THE 2012 WORLD TOURNAMENT

Visit the NHPF table or any NHPA officer

• VIA MAIL BY OCTOBER 1

Contact Casey Sluys, 1721 San Ramon Way, Santa Rosa, CA 95409-3964
707.477.8893 or 707.538.3128 or kcslus@sbcglobal.net

• AND AT OTHER SELECT TOURNEYS

Hall of Fame Invitational Tournament, Team World, National Sanctioned League Tournament and others*

* Winners will be drawn at the National Sanctioned League Tournament at the NHPF Hall of Fame in Wentzville, MO on October 7, 2012. Need not be present to win. Prizes are transferable.

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OR
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REGIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT *by Debby Michaud*

Here comes Spring! Way too early this year after a mild winter for most of us, BUT that helps us get ready for the season early and that is a GOOD thing

First, we have news about some possible new horseshoe courts being built but with a different twist. Mike Parillo, a new pitcher from Rhode Island who is a math teacher in Connecticut, had an idea for a school project that will also benefit horseshoes. Read what he wrote to Dan Molineaux, RI charter president, "Make no mistake about it. I am a math teacher and I used your specifications to turn the construction into a hands-on math project. I have been the facilitator. The kids did all the math and work. It's going along well but slowly. The learning is the most important part now. Teaching how to pitch will be the reward. The kids are very excited about learning to pitch. If you know anyone willing to donate some used shoes let me know." He has asked Dan to help teach the kids the turn while he will teach them the flip.

Mike received permission from the school to start a "Horseshoe Pitching Program". Court construction has already begun. He has also applied for an NHPF Grant to continue this project to its fruition. The Sterling, CT town selectman and Recreation Board are involved. We will keep track of his progress and let you know. I think it is a perfect combination: A teacher who pitches horseshoes! He is already involved with kids and, of course, understands them AND he understands how it is to be a new horseshoe pitcher. It is also in an area near horseshoe facilities, but far enough away so that these courts will be well used.

We have also learned from RD Bruce Conord of some new courts in New Jersey. He writes that the Sons of Italy in Paulsboro have five new horseshoe courts that are now fully sanctioned. He also states they are in an area that is good to possibly bring back former pitchers and attract new ones. He sounded excited about this new complex. They already have lights for night pitching and already have ten tournaments scheduled. They are scheduling doubles tournaments on Thursday evenings – something new and different. This is a great idea to keep young parents pitching as their weekends are sometimes filled with their children's activities. Thank you to Mike Parillo, to Bruce and to the Sons of Italy in New Jersey!

All of this goes along with our most important goal – that is to increase the membership in the NHPA. There are literally millions of horseshoe pitchers out there who pitch regularly. Backyards, American Legion posts, campgrounds – they are all FULL of horseshoe pitchers. What they do might be something that we should try to do, at least some of the time. Trying new formats at least once a year, such as the Thursday night doubles as written above, at each facility might be worth a try. Good luck to all of you in attracting more pitchers to your courts. Pitching horseshoes is tough to do well consistently – new pitchers need a lot of encouragement. AND many of them do NOT like to keep score so computerized scoring or scoreboards that keep ALL of the stats on them would possibly help out. Any other ideas or reports of things that have helped in your area would be welcomed. Along that line, I had to order 75 more patches for doubles tournaments this year, a huge increase in doubles tournaments. I think the pitchers are speaking up for what they want!

AND, because pitchers seem to want more doubles tournaments, we are having what we hope will be a BIG one at the Hall of Fame building in Wentzville, MO. On July 7th, we will hold the first National Doubles tournament, the "Red, White, and Blue Walking Doubles" tournament. We are hoping to obtain a sponsor or two but we do want to take advantage of the increased interest in doubles tournaments across the country. Write or call Debby Michaud for more information – see the notice about it in another section of this Newsline. This will celebrate doubles AND our country's birthday. Hope to see you there!

More good news – at the Central CT H. C., where up to 70 pitchers pitch in their indoor tournaments every other weekend during the winter, they now have Live Web Cams to record the action. That means that you can watch the action while it is going on! Since Brian Simmons and Deb Brown sometimes pitch there, along with so many other horseshoe friends, you may be able to watch them WHILE they are pitching. This is a HUGE step for horseshoes! Go to www.ctchc.com and follow the instructions on the left to get on. Thanks go to Jim Scully, Assistant RD for the state of CT, for this. When there is no action, you can still see the courts on the webcam. Try it!

Although we are already in 2012, some of the courts in the country are still in the process of being re-sanctioned, though many have already been re-sanctioned. We have several new Regional Directors and I commend them for picking up their duties, sometimes in the middle of the year. The pitchers are letting us know which courts need work and which ones are good - we like hearing updates about courts. Remember, when you complain about courts, you can also be the first one to offer to help with any repairs or changes to those courts.

We look forward to seeing many of you in Knoxville at the 2012 World Tournament. It should be a good one. I will be seeking help for the shoe checks from any of the Regional Directors that are able to attend. Last year the shoe checks went very smoothly with a lot of help – it was excellent! One Regional Director who couldn't be there, delegated his work to another pitcher from his state which also works! Love the teamwork! This year promises to be a little busier with more pitchers so "many hands make light work" will work here. Have a great horseshoe season in 2012. Have fun out there!

"Clydesdale D. F."

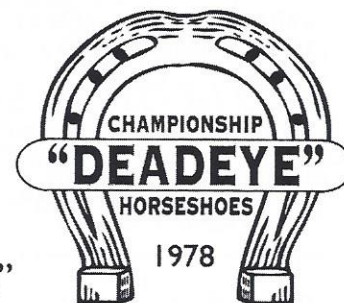
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GEORGE GREEOTT CELEBRATES HIS 102ND BIRTHDAY

by Gail Sluys

On Saturday, April 21st, the Sonoma County Horseshoe Pitching Club held George Greeott's 102nd Birthday tournament at their courts in Santa Rosa, California. George had turned 102 on April 17th.

This is George's 49th year as a member of the NHPA/NCHPA. George still lives on his ranch in Healdsburg, California where he says he became the first member of the PGA - Prunes, Grapes and Apples.

Travis Sluys is 14 and has been a member for 14 years. Although Travis didn't get to pitch in the tournament because he had drama rehearsal for his school play, he came to the courts to see George and the other pitchers on his two hour break. He took George a piece of birthday cake and

sat and talked to him about pitching, woodcarving and the horseshoe he designed.

George designed the horseshoe called the Greeott Grabber which was made at a foundry in Richmond, California and sold for many years through the NHPA. He was telling Travis about the molds he still has from when he began and then improved the shoe. They spent about an hour chatting about horseshoes; it makes your heart feel real good to see that connection.

We look forward to next year when we can celebrate George's 103rd birthday and his 50th year as a member, making him a lifetime member of the NHPA.

UP FOR THE CHALLENGE

by Aleena Cook, Junior Director



Hello horseshoe family, it's me, Aleena Cook from Wisconsin. As most of you may have heard, I am the new NHPA Junior Director. I'd like to thank everyone for believing that I am a good choice for this role. I do have some big shoes to fill, but I will try my hardest and would like to hear any ideas or suggestions any of you have.

I started pitching competitively when I was eight years old and competed in my first world tournament at ten years old. My family and

I have made it to every world tournament since, with the exception of last year due to the passing of my grandmother (who inspired my pitching career). My years in the Junior Program are some of my fondest memories of traveling to new places, earning scholarships, trophies, making new and rekindling old friendships. The highlight of my junior career was winning the Jr. Girls World Horseshoe Pitching title in 2006.

I am currently finishing up my sophomore year in college, working towards a degree in Dental Science. I still compete in as many horseshoe tournaments as I am able. This past year I took third place in the Wisconsin State Horseshoe Tournament, while still making time to go over and watch all of the junior pitchers as often as I could.

I look forward to working with Tina Hawkins on promoting the junior program and its benefits. Juniors are the future of horseshoes as we know it today, so we all must have patience with them, support their pitching, and take heart that the horseshoe pitching future is strong.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hi Paula,

Mike Erhartic and I want to thank the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association for the article that you printed in your association's publication, Newsline. We again want to acknowledge the support and interest of the NHPA in the introduction of horseshoes to Macedonia.

Dave

Dave Johnson
Peace Corps Volunteer
Local Economic Development
Municipality of Probistip

Peace Corps 50th Anniversary 2011
Be part of the legacy and join us as we honor our past and look to the future. www.peacecorps.gov/50

THE HISTORY OF THE SIX PAC HORSESHOE & SIX PAC INVITATIONAL

Written by Bob Dunn and Narrated by Joe Faron

The idea of the Six Pac Horseshoe began in 1988. The reason was out of a need by the St. Charles/Warren County Horseshoe League. It was a traveling league, had 20 or so teams where some 12 to 15 surrounding towns had the horseshoe court sites. The courts were located at taverns and community centers. New Melle had two teams in this league. The league had been formed in the middle 1960's and lasted through 1999. During its peak the league had some 250 horseshoe pitchers. It was not a sanctioned league, however it attracted a lot of top pitchers. About 80% of the members pitched Ted Allen horseshoes and the rest threw Gordons. Joe had been getting Ted Allen shoes direct from Ted and then would sell them to the pitchers without adding any cost on. So when Ted passed and prior to his nephew re-starting the shoe business, we could not get Ted Allen shoes for a while. That's when Joe Faron, Ed Holstein and Oley Burnett decided to start a new company and make a horseshoe as close to the Ted Allen shoe since there was such a demand for that style shoe.

Joe had a brand new pair of Ted Allen shoes (still in the box). Ed was a friend of Mr. Didion who owned a huge foundry. Ed took the Allens to Didion and he started making some prototypes. We then formed the "HOF Enterprises" (Holstein = H, Oley =O and Faron= F). The Six Pac Horseshoe was manufactured in 1990. We felt a good pitcher needed to use the new shoe, so we sent the shoe to Alan Francis to try and for him to make any changes. We sent the shoe to Vicki Winston and she pitched the Six-Pac shoes some in her later years.

It is interesting to note how the shoe name of Six Pac was created. Many names had been suggested but the fact remained that the St. Charles/Warren County Horseshoe League was a tavern and a beer drinking league. There was a tradition that as a player pitched a double ringer, they called it a "six pack." That name rang loud, the 'k' was dropped and the new popular shoe was called the "Six Pac."

We were pleased with sales right from the start. As in most things, when they are new, folks want to try them out or if a top pitcher throws a certain shoe, everyone else thinks that shoe will work for them. This next story proved out to be a bit of a dilemma for the Six Pac horseshoe. Alan Francis was a two time Missouri State Men's Champion when he won his first World Title in 1989. Joe Faron, member of the New Melle Community Center, went to the NMCC and asked if they would put in a bid for the 1990 Missouri State Tournament to bring the event over to the east side of the state so those pitchers could see this outstanding young pitcher. The event was highly successful with close to 400

entries, setting a record which still stands to this day, and over 3,000 spectators attending. The dilemma arrived from the fact that Alan Francis was pitching Dead Eye shoes and Bill Courtwright, the manufacturer of the Dead Eye shoes, had his trailer of game related supplies on hand. The local people that had never pitched horseshoes bought Dead Eye shoes thinking they could be as good as Alan Francis.

Another side note on the Dead Eye shoe. When Bill was introducing the Dead Eye shoe at a doubles tournament in Hecker, Illinois, all players had to pitch Dead Eye shoes. Each entry received a pair of Dead Eye shoes that was included with their entry fee.

Around 1995, Harvey Wobbe, a Missouri horseshoe pitcher and 2000 Missouri Hall of Fame inductee, approached HOF Enterprises about purchasing the Six-Pac shoe. Harvey was working for Bill Courtwright (of Deadeye Horseshoes) at that time and he was leaving that company. HOF Enterprises sold the Six Pac horseshoe to Harvey and he is still running the show. The major success of the Six Pac Horseshoe, was the development of the Six Pac Invitational Tournament. The first tournament was held in 1994 and Harvey Wobbe's Six Pac Horseshoe Company has been a sponsor ever since, donating very generously prize monies over the past 18 years. For his contributions to the sport and in his promotion of the sport, Harvey Wobbe was recipient of the NHPA Presidential Award in 2006.

The NMHC was formed in 1990 with only 32 members and sanctioned in 1992. Under the leadership of Joe Faron, the club prospered and membership grew reaching its peak of over 200 members, more than the population size of the town itself. It began with four outdoor courts and in 1991 four more courts were installed and covered with a pavilion and removable sides. An additional four more courts (totaling 12) were installed in 1995 with a concession stand and finally their own indoor restrooms. The building was owned by the New Melle Community Center, but built by its enthusiastic members. It was New Melle Horseshoe Clubs home until 2007 when they were chosen to be the caretakers of the new NHPA/NHPF Hall of Fame facility with 165 members aboard. The QRHC today boasts a total of 328 members and attracting more and more new members each day.

1994 – Walter Ray Williams contacted Joe Faron suggesting a tournament to be held for some of the top horseshoes pitchers. This tournament was called the Dead Eye Invitational. Harvey Wobbe contributed prize money, along with entry fees, to be dispersed among the top four pitchers.

THE HISTORY OF THE SIX PAC HORSESHOE & SIX PAC INVITATIONAL *Continued*

The tournament consisted of 12 players and the champion was Walter Ray Williams, Jr., with an 11-0 record and an amazing 87.43% ringer average.

1995 – The tournament name was changed to the Six Pac Invitational Tournament due to the contributions made by Harvey Wobbe. The format for the event consisted of 16 players seeded into two divisions – the American and the National. It would be a one-day tournament. The top eight players from the two divisions with the highest win-loss record qualified for the finals. There was a \$3,000 purse, \$25 entry fee, with first place winning \$1,000. Williams and Francis met in the final game. Williams pitched 121 ringers in 136 shoes for 88.9%, however, Francis, 25 years old at the time, pitched 129 ringers for 94.8%, and won the game. There were 48 four-deads in the match.

1996 – The prize money was raised to \$4,000, \$35 entry fee, with first place taking home \$1,500. Walter Ray Williams, Jr. won again in 1996 with a ringer average of 88.42%. Alan Francis missed the Six Pac due to his marriage that year in April. It was the only Six Pac Tournament that he has missed throughout the years.

1997 – The entry fee was raised to \$50. Alan Francis won in 1997 with an 86.23% including a playoff game with Brian Simmons. Francis won that game by one point as both players averaged over 90% ringers for the game. Amy Francis approached Joe Faron to see if an additional 30' tournament could be held in conjunction with the 40 foot tournament.

1998 - Art Tyson, of New York, was the Six Pac Champion in 1998, averaging 82.03%. It was the first year for the 30' Tournament and was a much added attraction to the event. The prize money for the 40' footers was now \$4,000 enabling some of that money to go to the 30 footers. Bob Diekamp became the official 30' Tournament Director. Sue Snyder captured the 30' Six Pac Invitational with a 76.06% tournament average.

1999 – A change in the format tournament play was made this year per the player's request enabling them to pitch against each player. The tournament was still a two-day tournament, 16 player round robin of 15 games. Total purse was \$4,500. Paul LaCrosse, wearing his traditional plaid shorts, beat Alan Francis in the final game to be the 1999 champion. He had a 15-0 record while averaging 78.98%. This would be the last time someone other than Alan Francis would win the Invitational until the year 2010. Amy Francis captured the 1999 30' Six Pac Title with a 69.4%.

2000 - Alan Francis again took the winner's circle in 2000, going undefeated and averaging 82.71%. His prize was \$1,500. The other players placing in the money were: Art Tyson (NY), Paul LaCrosse (CO), Tom Westbrook (SC), Dale Lipovsky (MN), Larry Knop (IL), Mark Seibold (IN), and Terry Hudson (NC). This year's event also held a 30' competition, won by Joan Elmore (TN) in a playoff over Amy Francis (OH). Elmore's prize was \$350 and she held a 75.7% tournament average.

2001 - Alan Francis repeated as champion in the 2001 event, losing just one game and averaging 81.25%. His lone loss came at the hands of Paul LaCrosse. Bob Logan won the 30' competition on a 7-1 record averaging 81.5%

2002 -The 2002 16-player field was again led by Alan Francis, winning 15 straight games and averaging 83.61%. Paul LaCrosse earned second place and a \$1,000 prize. Bob Logan won the 30' competition and the \$400 prize going undefeated in seven games and pitching 80.86% ringers.

2003 – The Six Pac Invitational celebrated its 10th anniversary. Back in 1994, no one could have foreseen the success and prestige that the tournament would enjoy. The 2003 winners were, Alan Francis (84.60%) in the 40' division and Bob Logan, had to win a playoff game over Joan Elmore, to win the 30' division, pitching an 82.4% average. Walter Ray Williams, Jr. took runner-up honors in the 40' division. In the 40' division, it is interesting to note that there were five former Junior World Champion participating: Alan Francis (OH), Walter Ray Williams, Jr. (FL), Mark Seibold (IN), Jim Walters (OH) and Tony Hankins (KY).

2004 - A certain pattern repeated in 2004 as Alan Francis again went undefeated, averaging 85.06%, to win the 40' division. What would be different is that his spouse, Amy Francis, also won the 30' competition pitching 72.8% tournament average.

2005 - Alan Francis won the 2005 Invitational (his 8th title) averaging an astonishing 90.66%. To this point in the tournament's history, Alan Francis has a record of 143 wins and 3 losses – an incredible record.

2006 – Again, the Francis couple from Ohio each won their division. Amy had a 7-1 record and pitched 71.96% to win the 30's event while Alan averaged 88.85% to go undefeated in the 40' group.

THE HISTORY OF THE SIX PAC HORSESHOE & SIX PAC INVITATIONAL *Continued*

2007 - Alan Francis pitched 88.52% repeating as the 2007 Invitational Champion, but Amy ended up as runner-up in the 30's group. Amy was the only player in the 30' group that was not from Missouri. The 30' Champion was Nick DiRaimo, pitching 59.5%.

2008 - A big change took place this year as the tournament moved to its new setting, the new NHPA Hall of Fame Arena in Wentzville, Missouri. The New Melle Club is now known as the Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club but remains the energetic host of the event. A new feature now with the new setting and the club's own giant barbeque smoker unit, a fabulous chicken and pork barbeque supper, with all the side dishes furnished by the club members. Due to more courts in the facility it allowed 16 pitchers to pitch in the 30 footers. An increase to \$60 was made for the entry fee. The total purse for the 30' was \$2,225, 1st place winner earning \$600. Joan Elmore picked up the 30' championship check of \$600.00. Elmore pitched 85.28% going undefeated in 15 games. Despite her 84.70% performance, Sue Snyder had to settle for 2nd place and a check for \$500.00. The total purse for the 40 footers was \$4,000, with first place winner receiving \$1200.00. Alan Francis again went undefeated, pitching an 88.80%. Jim Walters earned second place money (\$1,000) on a 14-1 record. Something new was added to the tournament this year. For the finale, a pitch-off game between the two champions, Alan Francis and Joan Elmore put on a great exhibition. It was a "first" as two current World Champions competed together. The game consisted of 114 shoes with 35 four-deads. Francis pitched a 91.2% game and Elmore pitched 86.8%. The score Francis 42, Elmore 28.

2009 - Much was the same in 2009 as Alan Francis went undefeated and pitched 86.05%. Joan Elmore also was undefeated in 15 games. The Tennessee Twins were next in line, as Marlene Ray was second and Maxine Griffith was third. Again there were five 40' players that were former Junior Champions: Francis, Williams, Seibold, Walters and Joseph Smith (IA). The feature of this year's event was the presence of the Reno family and the fabulous pitching exhibition they presented. Gary Roberts did the pitching, Ottie did the narration, and several family members served as props and some pitching demonstrations. The pitch-off game was played between Francis and Elmore. Each player pitched 86 shoes, having 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 total of 23 points. That win extended Francis's winning streak at the Six Pac Tournament to 132 consecutive games going all the way back to the 11th game in the 2001 Six Pac Tournament.

2010 - This year brought another memorable tournament

and a new champion as Brian Simmons pitched 86.89% to go undefeated. Alan Francis was second with just one loss and he pitched 88.81%. The final game brought Simmons and Francis together for the game to decide the championship. Simmons won 40-22 in 98 shoes. His 90 ringers gave him a game average of 91.84%. Sue Snyder finally emerged as the 30' champion, by defeating Joan Elmore in a playoff game 41-35. She had a 14-2 record, pitching 82.28%. The finale was between the two Six Pac Champions, who were also former World Tournament Champions. The game was most impressive as both had just finished huge games to win their respective tournaments. Sue just finished competing with Joan Elmore for the second consecutive game and Brian just finished a 98 shoe marathon with Alan. Sue threw 81 ringers/94 shoes-86.17%; Brian threw 77 ringers/94 shoes-81.91%. The score was 41-29. Each received extra prize money.

2011 - The final event

While most of the success must be attributed to the ongoing generous sponsorship by Harvey Wobbe's Six Pac Horseshoe Company, not enough can be said about the devoted members of the Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club that hosted each and every event. We can recognize Joe Faron for starting the Six Pac Horseshoe Company and then took his dream of an invitational tournament into reality and an extreme success. Since the 2000 event, Jeanette Class, Quail Ridge Horseshoe President, has provided a full written accounting of each event in Newslite. That has certainly helped retain the history of the Six Pac Invitational Horseshoe Tournament. Being this seemed to be the final event, a majority of the NHPA officers were in attendance, a great banquet was held and a lot of deserved honors shed upon Harvey. Alan Francis went 15-0 to win the 40-foot division, averaging 86.56% ringers and Hershel Walters had a 14-1 record and averaged 82.85% in winning the 30-foot division. Alan earned \$1,200 and Hershel \$700. The tournament total purse was \$6800.

Hummer

NHPA approved professional pitching horseshoe

Improve your percentage!

- aggressive design
- perfect weight, size, hardness, & balance
- perfect for the turn or flip pitcher
- one year warranty

Strohm's Stained Glass
1835 W. Calhoun Street
Springfield MO 65802
phone/fax 417 862-7654
made in USA



1" hooks

To: All NHPA Charter Presidents

From: Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club
Rick Haynes, Marketing Director for QRHC

Subject: Charter Sponsorship

Exciting News! The Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club is excited to offer you an opportunity to display your state Charter logo on a banner at the NHPF/NHPA Hall of Fame facility. This project will help to support the facility with your sponsorship for tournaments and special events held throughout the year.

Banner Display! Your Charter banner will be displayed in a designated area in either the north or south building where the courts are located. An 11 ½ x 7 ½ foot section will display the "NHPA Charter Sponsors" making it visible to all horseshoe members and visitors showing your support for the NHPF/NHPA facility.

Charter Logos! Your Charter logo as shown on your NHPA Charter website will be duplicated onto a 1' X 4' banner. Each 11 ½ x 7 ½ foot section will hold twelve banners. If you choose to do a banner, you will need to email your charter logo to RickHaynes90@yahoo.com. To get the special price of \$150, we will need a minimum of twelve charters. Your Charter will be on display for one year. The second year renewal would be \$100.

Purchase your Charter Banner now! Fill in the order blank below along with your check for \$150, made payable to WWC/Marketing. If you have further questions, please email RickHaynes90@yahoo.com, 636-295-0205 or contact Joe Faron bugsfaron@aol.com, 314-704-7082.

Thank You for your support! We are hoping that all Charters will participate in this exciting project at YOUR NHPF/NHPA facility. As a member of the NHPA, we feel sure you will be as excited as we are to see your Charter name and logo proudly displayed upon this banner. This banner will be comparable to having all state flags on display at World Tournaments!

Send the following information:

Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club
Attention: Rick Haynes
100 Bluestem Way
Wentzville, Missouri 63385
Make your check payable to WWC Marketing

NHPA Charter Name _____

Charter President's Name _____

Address: _____

Phone # and email address _____

HALL OF FAME PROMO

National Horseshoe Pitchers
Hall of Fame & Museum
100 Bluestem Way
Wentzville, MO 63383
(636) 327-5270

As you are traveling through Missouri this summer to the 2012 World Tournament in Knoxville, don't forget to stop by and visit YOUR NHPF/NHPA Hall of Fame. Come in and cool down with an ice-cold refreshment! And don't forget to bring your shoes and pitch a few on that good old Kentucky blue clay.



Summer Hours:

Saturday and Sunday – Noon until 5:00 PM

Monday and Wednesday - 2:30 PM – 7:30 PM



If you are traveling through on a day that we are not open, please call some of the listed numbers on the sign in front of the building and we will try our best to accommodate you. If you wish to make travel advancement time, call Norm at (636) 357-3081 to open the door for you. We'll keep the light on!

Directions to the Courts: Look for signage on Hwy I-64 (Hwy 40) depicting the Hall of Fame facility under attractions.

From St. Louis and the St. Louis International Airport, go west on I-70 and Exit 210A onto Hwy 40-61/I-64 towards Chesterfield. Go approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to Prospect Road, Exit 1C. Take Prospect Road south (1st right turn off round-about) and turn right at Duello Road, follow signs to Quail Ridge Park.

Driving west on Hwy 40, Exit 1C (Prospect Road). Follow the round-about crossing Hwy 40. Take 2nd round-about, exiting onto Prospect Road south. You will see signage on the right hand side of the road to the Hall of Fame building. Turn right onto Duello Road.





Celebrate the New & Exciting
**RED, WHITE, AND BLUE WALKING DOUBLES
TOURNAMENT**

Presented by the
National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

Tournament Director: Debby Michaud, NHPA 5th VP

- WHEN:** Saturday, July 7, 2012 @ 10AM
- WHERE:** NHPF/NHPA Hall of Fame Facility, Wentzville, MO
- HOST:** Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club
- FORMAT:** CANCELLATION, WALKING DOUBLES, 32 TEAM LIMIT
- ENTRY FEE:** \$50.00 PER TEAM,
- PRIZES:** CASH PRIZES, CERTIFICATES

(Includes prize money, scorekeeping concession help fees)

DEADLINE/NATSTATS AVERAGE ON: June 30, 2012

MAXIMUM COMBINED RINGER % AVERAGE PER TEAM: 115%

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR/MAIL ENTRIES TO:

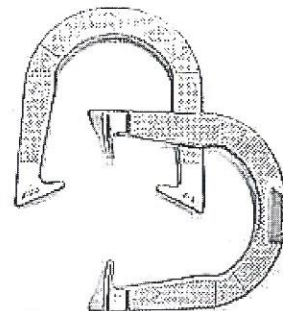
Debby Michaud, NHPA 5th VP
379 Hodges St.
Taunton, MA 02780
Tel. # - 508-822-9610 e-mail - loonpnd@comcast.net

Name # 1 _____ NHPA # _____

Name # 2 _____ NHPA # _____

Best contact address: _____

Best contact e-mail/telephone # _____ / _____



THE TOLL OF TIME

Lisa Ann Maille
New Hampshire

Lisa Ann Maille-Hume of Nashua, NH passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family on March 20, 2012. She was only 51 and was the wife of Scott Hume.

Lisa was the third oldest of nine children and was a graduate of Daniel Webster College. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Business and worked as a dedicated civil servant for the Department of Defense for 34 years.

Early on in her competitive career, she played softball for the Hanscom traveling softball team. She then became involved in horseshoe

pitching at the Dracut Civic Club in Massachusetts and at the Nashua horseshoe club in New Hampshire. She remained very active in competition and in organizing horseshoe tournaments until 2006. She was a three time NH state champion with a high ringer percentage of 76.42%, was consistently in the Championship Women's class at the New England tournament and also competed in world tournaments. She was inducted into the NH Hall of Fame in 2007 as a player, but could have also been considered as an organizer.

Lisa had a great smile, a good sense of humor, and was very business-like and capable in whatever she did. We always hoped she would make a return to competition – we will miss her.

NEWSLINE ADDRESS CHANGE REMINDER

Are you a Newsline subscriber that went south for the winter? Did you receive your Newsline magazine at your winter address? Every year many of our subscribers head south for the winter months. Are you one of them? If so read on.

I just came from the Post Office and picked up 32 postage dues, at fifty cents each, for Newslines that were not delivered. Because most Newslines are sent out by bulk mail, the Post Office will not forward them. What they do is copy the back page that contains the address, stamp it "Temporarily Away," and send it back to my Post Office where I have to pick it up and pay them 50 cents. Now the 50 cents is not a big deal of course, but it means that you did not get your Newsline and I got a piece of paper that does me no good at all, but still have to pay for it and for many of those subscribers that is the three issues from late fall to early spring! Not just a one time thing.

There is an easy way for this not to happen. Just drop me a card or send

me an email with an address change in the fall. If you know when you will return in the spring, just tell me when to move you back. I will be happy to change your address whenever needed. It will only cost you a postage stamp and you won't miss out on the Newsline.

On a related note, it is an NHPA Bylaw that all Charter Officers and Regional Directors must subscribe to the Newsline. This is done to keep all Charters informed of NHPA happenings. So if you are a Charter President or Secretary/Treasurer make sure all your officers are current subscribers. Newsline is still a good deal at just \$12 per year. Why not give your Charter Office a little perk and have the Charter cover this cost for them? Many already do just that, just so they stay informed.

Thank you for subscribing.
Dick Hansen
NHPA Secretary/Treasurer

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT *by Jerry D. Smith*

Back in 2009 in Springfield, Illinois, I approached then NHPA President Paul Stewart with an idea that I had been toying with for a few months. That idea was to write Volume Two of Gary Kline's book, *The Official NHPA History of the World Tournament Mens Championships 1909-1980*. My book was planned to cover the next 30 years or up to and including the 2010 World Tournament (WT). It seemed to me it should be a fairly easy task because the coverage only included 30 years of WT play to research and document. Paul signed off on my proposal and I started gathering data for the book.

I intended to write my book in the same or very similar style that Gary had used in *Volume One*. With the help of many great friends and horseshoe pitchers, I amassed a wealth of information and began the literary journey. Hoping to complete the book for the 2011 WT became a bit problematic when I elected to have bariatric surgery in the fall of 2010. The first six months after the surgery were intense with life changing eating and exercise habits broken and re-aligned. The book seemed hard to focus on with my new priorities. With the delay, the idea of including the 2011 WT became necessary and worked out extremely well as 2011 marked the end of the first 30 years of the "40 point era" in Championship play.

Having volunteered to work the WT statroom in Cedar Rapids with the passing of my long time friend and mentor, Glenn Jamieson, I then

arrived in Monroe in July of 2011 to begin my second year of statroom work. I happened to walk in the building with Paulette Hansen who politely spoke and looked at me like "who is this guy?" We walked clear down a long hallway in a quiet walk until someone spoke my name and Paulette's mouth dropped open as she gave me a hug. I had lost 140 pounds and hardly anyone seemed to know me!

After the WT, I was able to again concentrate on the book and by early 2012; I was putting the final touches of the book on paper. I made the decision to publish the book myself and to have Steve Summerlin place it on the NHPA website for free viewing. The book carries on Kline's style of play-by-play as well as many vintage pictures, Mens Championship records, the career tournament records of all of the *Volume Two* Mens Champions, and much more. Be sure to check out the chapter, "The Best of All-Time?" as I toss out and maybe answer the question, "just who is the best of all time?"

The book will be for sale for those who want a paper copy and will be able to be purchased on the NHPA website sometime in May. I will be at my position in the statroom at the WT in Knoxville and will have copies of the book on hand at a special WT price including autograph. Come see me and say "hi". Don't miss this World Tournament; it should be special!

Danville, Illinois' 24th Annual Open Horseshoe Tournament July 14 & 15, 2012

AWARDS:

Class "B" and below
 1st = \$110.00 *and* Plaque
 2nd = \$70.00
 3rd = \$45.00
 4th = \$25.00

Designated "A" Sponsorship brings awards to:
 1st = \$625.00 *and* Plaque 5th = \$125.00 9th = \$60.00
 2nd = \$400.00 6th = \$100.00 10th = \$50.00
 3rd = \$300.00 7th = \$ 80.00 11th = \$40.00
 4th = \$225.00 8th = \$ 70.00 12th = \$25.00

(Class "A" Mens, Womens, & Elders play Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon.)

FREE MONOGRAMMED TOWEL TO ALL ENTRANTS

COURTS: 20 Courts with full walkways. Located in Douglas Park just off I-74 at the Bowman Ave. exit (#216)

ENTRY DEADLINE: ALL PAID ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, JUNE 29th!!!

Register online also at: http://www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1999879 by June 27th

ENTRY FEE: \$25.00 (includes scorekeeping fees). Make checks payable to: Danville Horseshoe Club.
PREPAYMENT REQUIRED FOR ALL ENTRIES. Scorekeepers to be paid \$2.00 per game.

SANCTION: 29-12-001

SEND ENTRIES TO: Leo Bratland
 41 Country Club Dr.
 Danville, Il 61832
 217-443-5818 (home)
 E-mail: bratln@aol.com

- OR -

Bobby Vandivier
 Box 23
 Ridgefarm, Il 61870
 217-247-2261 (home)



The following info is required for all entries:

Name _____

Address _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail address _____

2012 NHPA Card # _____

Please Circle One: Men - 40 ft. Men - 30 ft. Women Junior Cadet

SPRINGTIME IN TEXAS & THEY CALL IT PITCHING SHOES

by Ron Murphy

If you ever find yourself wandering around Texas in the early Spring, you probably will hear a unique sound coming from a city or county park. Sometimes you hear that sound at people's homes and sometimes you can hear it coming from a few acres tucked out in the woods. It is the sound of metal hitting metal. If curiosity gets the best of you, you will probably mosey on over and see what the fuss is all about. What you will find is a bunch of folks, I mean men-women-children-old geezers-and young pretty things all gathered together chunkin U-shaped pieces of steel/metal at a pole that is stuck in the ground. Somebody had done gone to the beach and gathered up a bunch of sand and put it all around those poles stuck in the ground. Then those people would chunk those U-shaped pieces of steel and knock half that sand out on a concrete platform that somebody had put there. I'll tell you them folks must be good housekeepers, cause they would go get a broom and sweep that sand back up next to that pole. Them-thar poles stuck in the ground looked to be about 40 feet apart and the men chunked those funny looking pieces of metal from pole to pole while standing on a skinny concrete strip. There was a lot of nice men out there cause they let the women, children, and older men move up about 10 feet to chunk their metal. One elder man kept saying "WHERE'S MY SHOES" and "SOMEBODY DONE TOOK MY SHOES". I looked down at his feet and seen a brand new pair of Nike's and was just about to tell that poor man that his shoes were on his feet, when a nice-looking young lady walked up and handed him 2 of them funny looking U-shaped pieces of metal and told him "here are your shoes". Well that's when I realized them funny looking things were called "shoes" and I later found out that some people called them "horseshoes". Well I know everything in TEXAS is supposed to be big, but I done been here all my life and ain't never seen no horse that could wear one of them big-ole things.

After asking a few questions (them shoe pitchers were sure an easy-lot to talk to) I found out all them people would break-up into groups of around eight and chunk them shoes back and forth at them poles in the ground until they got tired and sat down and drank a cool beverage together. It must be some kinda friendly completion, cause them folks would shake hands before and after they chunked them shoes. I was then told that they were not chunkin those shoes, they were pitching them. Well folks, they can call it what they want, but most of them were chunkin them. They all said funny things like "RINGER" & "2-DEAD" & "4-DEAD". Well, in Texas, if you hear words like DEAD then you start looking around. I was there all day and never saw anybody laid out. Guess what? Them people yelled them funny terms to a paid accountant that was sitting close to one of those poles in the ground. Things must be worse on Wall Street than I thought cause them accountants was working for quarters and wrote everything that was said down on a piece of paper. After about 20 minutes or so,

the accountant would get tired of watching them folks go back and forth and make them quit pitching shoes. Them folks would then gather-round together and talk about what just happened. Some were happy and some were not, but they must enjoy it, cause they always get back up there and do it all over again with someone else. The accountant has filled out some kind of report card and takes it to the head accountant who had collected money from everyone who had showed up that day. The accountant also gives a copy of the report card to each pitcher. Some just look at it and shake their heads, while others that get a good grade, just smile and run around showing their report card to anybody that will stop pitching long enough to take a look.

I don't know how chunkin shoes could ever be a crime, but them folks had what looked like a bunch of "state employee's" standing around and wearing orange vests and everyone was calling them "the JUDGE". Them accountant's and the head accountant was getting paid, but I never saw them "judges" get any money. One feller offered a \$1.00 to "keep it fair", but this must have made that judge mad cause he was digging around in that sand and all of a sudden he yell'ed "4-dead" at that accountant. After that nobody bothered him much anymore except when someone would take too big a step and cross some kind of line. The judge told-em not to do that no more and everything was O.K.

???? \$\$\$\$

World "Warm up" &

Smitty's Famous Mystery Money Tournament

Where: Knoxville Convention Center

When: July 28, 2012 10:00 am

Details: NHPA Sanctioned Event, \$20.00 Entry Fee

Mixed Classes, Limited to 80 entries

100% payback less scorekeeping fees

Current Natstats will be used for seeding

8 person Classes, No handicap, 40 shoe games

Electronic scorekeeping will be used

\$\$\$ Win money each game \$\$\$war

Scorekeepers will be paid \$2.00 per game (2 courts)

Sign up on site, Registration 8:30 am to 9:30 am

Learn to keep score in prep for the WT

Pitch on the WT courts, be prepared

Tournament Director: Jerry D. Smith

SPRINGTIME IN TEXAS & THEY CALL IT PITCHING SHOES *Continued*

I noticed the folks at one end of this assembly line of poles in the ground, was pitching more of their shoes around those poles than the group on the other end. Now the first group was kind of quiet and only muttered something every now and then when their shoes took a funny bounce and landed outside of all that sand. Now that group at the other end was something to watch. Let me tell you they was having a "fine time". They would chunk a few shoes and then go drink a cold beverage and laugh and carry-on till that darn accountant threatened to call the judge if they didn't hurry up and get back to chunkin. After watching those fellers for just a few minutes, I knew what those wooden backboards and cyclone fence was for. (SAFETY) Them fellers would go back and forth and back and forth till that accountant just couldn't take it no more and made them quit.

Well after a few hours of chunkin those 2 and a ½ lb. metal shoes, sweeping sand, turning clay, putting water on the sand and clay, and having a chance to drink a cool beverage with everyone in their group, the accountant's decided they won't work no more, so them pitchers head up to see the head accountant and find out who is going to get some of their money back or maybe a trophy. Funny thing is that out of every group of 8 people, only 2 get any money or a trophy. Let me tell ya, them other 6 was none too happy about it either, but they all said they would be back next week.

Let me tell you that some of them folks chunked their shoes by grabbing the right leg while others grab the left leg and turn it like a Frisbee. Some even grabbed it in the middle and then try to flip it once in the air, while others flipped it as manytimes as they could. Some even turn and flip it at the same time. Must not be no rules on how to chunk it cause everybody seemed to have their own style. Some would chunk it high, some low, and some try to hit that concrete and bounce it on to that pole. I thought maybe some "trick-shooting" was taking place, but bouncing that shoe off the concrete must not be a good thing, cause every time that happened, somebody went down there and took that shoe from around that pole and hollered "dead shoe". One feller from Conroe chunked his shoes so high, I thought they might bring rain. Another feller from the Panhandle chunked his shoes about a foot off the ground and real hard. I thought maybe he was trying to break that pole or at least knock it over, but several folks told me that would not be a good thing because the head accountant would make them stop pitching and make them dig a hole to put a new pole in the ground.

One feller chunked his shoe so hard at that pole that it broke his shoe into several pieces. Well, he just ran out to the parking lot where another feller was selling new shoes. He bought hisself a shiny new pair and run back out there and started trying to break that one. Some folks even got mad

at their shoes and chunked them down on the ground and went and bought a new pair from that feller in the parking lot. Never could figure out if them new shoes helped or not, but that feller selling them sat there all day just a smiling. Some folks must have bad backs or just plain lazy, cause that feller also sold them a metal hook with a wooden handle, so they could pick up them shoes without bending over.

Some of them guys/gals would chunk 2 shoes and both of them would land around that pole and they would look over at the guy/gal that was chunkin with them and say : GET YOU SOME OF THAT" . One lady yell'ed "BOOM BOOM" every time she put 2 shoes around that pole. Another yell'ed "BOOYAA" quite often and practically all of them had funny looking t-shirts on. The one's that didn't chunk their shoes around that pole said some things I can't repeat. Them horseshoe pitchers sure spoke a funny language, but all seemed like really good down-home folks.

After it was all over and everybody had shook hands again and hugged everybody, they headed for their cars/trucks, but some stopped by to see that feller in the parking lot and bought a tiny little suitcase to put their shoes in. I have never seen a feller that smiled so much. Some of them folks left, but a lot of them stayed and wanted to become paid accountants that afternoon. You guessed it, there was another group of chunkers and pitchers coming in the afternoon to do the same thing as the first group. Only thing different was that there seemed to be a lot more cool beverage's in that afternoon group.

Seriously, horseshoe pitching is a great sport for the entire family. Grandparents enjoy watching their grandkids, and the kids really enjoy watching their parents and grandparents. The TEXAS HORSESHOE PITCHERS ASSOCIATION (T.H.P.A.) is an organized group of pitchers with clubs from the panhandle to the coast and from San Antonio to Kilgore. There is a tournament almost every weekend from the end of February till the end of November. Pitchers are put in those groups of eight that are pretty close in their skill level. All have a good time, so give us a call and we will set you up with the chunkers/pitchers in your area. We have our annual STATE CHAMPIONSHIP for all classes every October in a different city every year.

You can contact our V.P. of publicity and promotion at 936-827-5669.

I hear metal on metal. Gotta go! See ya in the pits!



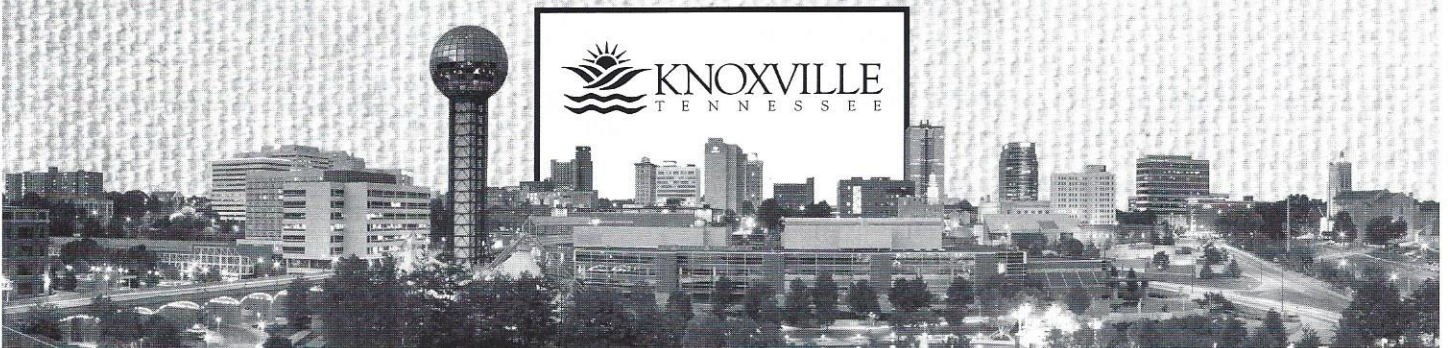
WELCOME TO KNOXVILLE, TN!

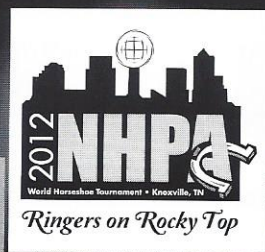
.....

Knoxville is honored to host the 2012 World Horseshoe Tournament this summer at the spectacular Knoxville Convention Center! This is sure to be an event to remember as the best in horseshoe pitching compete in a city where Southern hospitality is second to none.

Shop online for event merchandise and get additional information about the tournament and Knoxville, Tennessee at:

www.Knoxville.org/horseshoe





Over 1,500 horseshoe pitching enthusiasts from across the world are anticipated to make their way to Knoxville for the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association's annual World Horseshoe Tournament from July 30 – August 11, 2012.

If you have never traveled to Knoxville or the East Tennessee region then you are in for a wonderful and exciting adventure. Situated in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains, Knoxville offers an impressive mix of shopping, dining, entertainment, outdoor and cultural activities for all ages, and nowhere is that more obvious than in downtown.

Knoxville's downtown is thriving and serves as a central hub for entertainment, shopping, nightlife and restaurants. Whether you're looking for a great meal, a unique store to find the perfect gift to take home, or a lively music venue, downtown Knoxville has it all.

DINING

Dining is a delight in downtown Knoxville! Restaurants of any type and style are available, ranging from casual to upscale dining--and everything in between! Whether you are looking for a downtown eatery staple such as Downtown Grill and Brewery, visiting one of the many restaurants on Market Square, sampling Calhoun's famous ribs or enjoying a delicious meal at the Bistro at the Bijou, downtown has something appealing for every palate.

SHOPPING

Downtown Knoxville is the perfect place to "shop 'til you drop" as boutiques and elegant antique stores line the streets of the city's historic downtown. For many, shopping is the main attraction in this bustling downtown district. Market Square District, Gay Street, and the Old City all offer a great variety of stores. Some visitor favorites include Mast General Store, Bliss, and the gift shop in the Knoxville Visitor Center.

ARTS, CULTURE & HISTORY

Downtown Knoxville's vibrant fine arts community highlights East Tennessee's unique character and appeal. The city's downtown area is bursting with activity from art at the Emporium Center for Arts & Culture and Knoxville Museum of Art to fantastic performances at the Tennessee and Bijou Theatres.

Knoxville also has a bountiful history and numerous historic homes and museums that illustrate the deep roots of the city and the heritage of its people. With its seven homes of the Civil War and the First Frontier and historical museums, those interested in history are sure to be inspired. And, speaking of history, don't forget to visit the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame and learn all about the history of women's basketball.

BARS & NIGHTLIFE

Looking for a night out on the town? Downtown comes to life at night! There's live music on tap every night at the many nightclubs in the historic Old City and Market Square areas. Head to Downtown Grill and Brewery to experience some micro-brewery and live music, or visit Barley's Taproom and Pizzeria and enjoy tasty food and live music including national as well as local and regional acts.

No matter what you are looking for – dining, unique shopping, or events and activities, downtown Knoxville has it all...for you to enjoy.

For more information on the World Horseshoe Tournament 2012 visit www.horseshoepitching.com.



NHPA NEWSLINE

VOL. 24, NO.3

Subscription Office

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Support Your National Horseshoe Pitchers Association.

Contact a Distributor near you for the products shown in this ad and many other Game Related Items.

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www.quailridgesales.com