

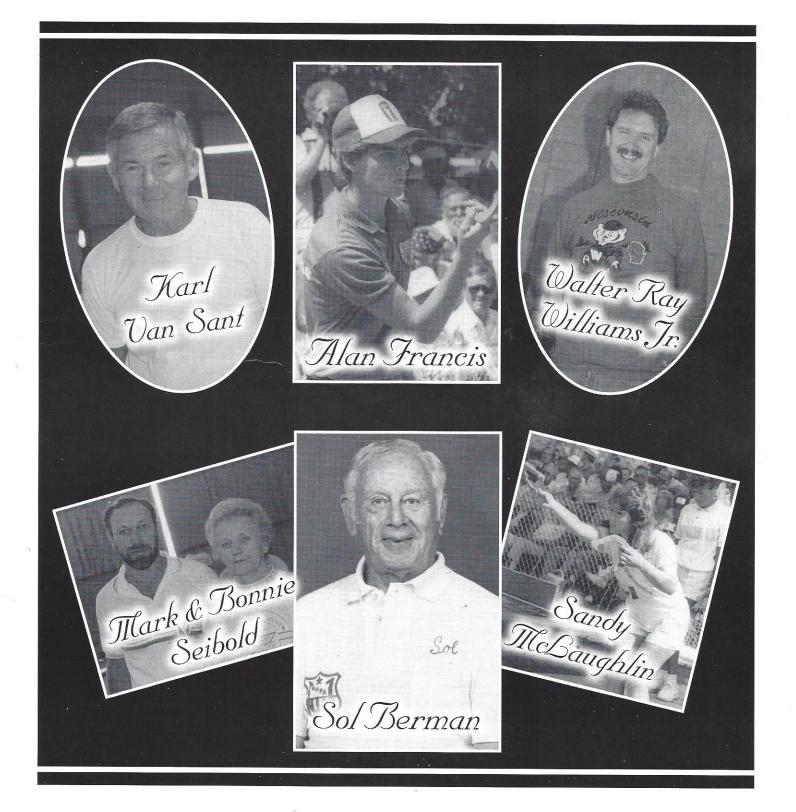
# Horseshoe Pitching

# NEWSLINE

Official Publication of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

VOL. 26, NO. 3

MAY/JUNE 2014



# 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. He 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: Photo's from Past Years!

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Stu Sipma

As I am writing this article, we have a winter storm warning with snow accumulations predicted anywhere from 8"-12" and high winds making for blizzard conditions. It makes getting motivated to start pitching horseshoes difficult. For the rest of you, I wish you a happy spring...ours should be arriving sometime maybe around July at the rate it's going!

I just attended our North Dakota State Meeting on Saturday and am very excited about getting new members signed up and getting our leagues organized to start.

Just a reminder for everyone (and I know you have heard me say this before) that it is "all" of our responsibility to get out there and sign up new members to pitch this season. My selling pitch has always been it's a family sport where everyone can participate, you get to play outdoors, in addition to getting some exercise, you get to meet new friends and create new relationships, and where can you find a sport that is so reasonable to participate in. Please try and do your part and grow your clubs. We have found in ND, our Co-Ed league is a league that has really grown due to the fact that it allows couples to participate together. For those of you who do not have a Co-Ed league, you might want to consider this. I am already looking forward to a great year of pitching shoes along with attending the World Horseshoe Pitching Championships in Buffalo, NY.

This year at the delegate meeting, we will have a large agenda with this year being our By-Law proposal changes and having four sites competing to host the 2016 World Tournament. I want to remind all the Charters that when you choose your delegates, make sure you provide the information to them prior to the meeting so they are prepared to vote and maybe speak on each topic.

After many years of serving as President on the NHPF Board, Dave Loucks has decided to step down. I want to thank Dave for all of his years of service on the board and also all his work as the past President for the NHPA. Casey Sluys has been appointed to be the new President for the NHPF. On behalf of the NHPF Board, I would like to welcome Casey. I would also like to welcome Gary Buehler to the Board as the NHPF Treasurer. The Board is looking forward to working with both of you.

This year at the World Horseshoe Tournament at Buffalo, NY, one individual will be inducted into the NHPA Hall of Fame. Glenn Jamieson will be inducted in the category for Promoter/Organizer. The NHPA Council and the HOF Committee is hopeful Glenn's wife, Shirley, will be able to attend to receive the award on Glenn's behalf.

The 2014 World Horseshoe Tournament will be held July 14–26, 2014 at Buffalo, NY. The host site, the Agri Center located at the Hamburg Fairgrounds is located 15 minutes from downtown Buffalo. The facility has onsite RV camping and for the motel/

hotel members, you will have to travel either 6-7 minutes to the closest facility or downtown which is approximately 15 minutes. The host hotel will be the Adams Mark which is located downtown and is accessible to many restaurants and entertainment. The deadline for submitting your entry is May 15, 2014. For more information, visit our website at www. horseshoepitching.com. Please be sure, 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.

The Council would like to thank all the Charters who provided nomination letters for individuals who they feel deserve to receive an NHPA Achievement Award. The NHPA Council will be reviewing the applications and the recipient will also be receiving their award at the Hall of Fame Banquet in Buffalo.

The Council is pleased to announce four sites who will be bidding to host the 2016 World Tournament. These sites include: Montgomery, AL, Spokane, WA, Wichita Falls, TX, and Cabarrus County, NC. These four sites will be hosting a booth at the 2014 World Tournament July 14-19, 2014 at the Hamburg Fairgrounds.

Montgomery, AL (July 25 – August 6)

Dawn Hatchcock Chamber of Commerce VP and Ron Simmons, Sports National Sales Manager, Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce/CVB have put together a bid package to include hosting the event at the Multiplex Facility at the Cramton Bowl.

Spokane, WA (July 18 - 30)

Eric Sawyer President/CEO of the Spokane Sports Commission has put together a bid package to include hosting the event at the Spokane County Fair and Expo Center.

Wichita Falls, TX (July 18 - 30) Lindsay Greer, with the Wichita Falls CVB along with the Texas State Horseshoe Charter are proposing to host their event at the Multi-Purpose Events Center (MPEC).

Cabarrus County, NC (July 18 –30) Michael Applegate, CDME/Sr. VP, Sales & Services, Cabarrus County CVB has put together a bid package to include hosting the event at the Cabarrus Arena & Event Center.

In conclusion, I know this year has been tough on certain regions of the US, however, I wish everyone a great and safe year. Good luck pitching, remember to get new signed up and I look forward to seeing you on the courts.

# REGIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT by Bill Marvin

All the Regional Directors have sent me their requests for patches for the 2014 pitching season and I was truly overwhelmed with the total number of patches requested. Over 13,000 patches have been sent to cover the upcoming year! That is truly a remarkable number; it shows just how many dedicated tournament directors are working on behalf of the members of the NHPA. As you can imagine, there were a couple of misfires, but I think everyone has the patches they need. I appreciate the patience that the RDs have had with me.

Regional Directors are a wealth of horseshoe pitching knowledge. Most have been in the game long enough to be able to answer any questions that you may have regarding the game. If they don't, they will know where to go to get the answer. If you haven't met the RD for your Charter, look them up, introduce yourself and thank them for the job they do.

All the information you need to enter the 2014 World Tournament can be found on the NHPA website, horseshoepitching.com. You will find not only the entry form and what it takes to qualify; but hotels, camping information, as well as interesting places to visit while you are there.

I want to promote the 2015 World Tournament Experience raffle that is taking place. This is for the 2015 WT in Topeka. This package is worth \$1,500.00. First prize includes a free entry to the 2015 World Tournament, one week free hotel, merchandise from Game Related Sales (\$100 value), free photo package from Ernie Bowdell, Hall of Fame Banquet tickets, and a local "goodie" package from the host valued at \$450.00. The winner will be drawn at the National Sanctioned League Tournament held at the NHPA Hall of Fame in Wentzville Missouri on October 4, 2014. You do not have to be present to win, and THE PRIZES ARE TRANSFERABLE!

Everyone in the NHPA is responsible for promoting our sport and to recruit new pitchers. Now that the pitching season has begun, talk to friends, neighbors, relatives; anyone who will listen. We have a unique sport that can be enjoyed by all ages. Buy them a membership card, take them to a tournament, introduce them to you club or league. Those of us who pitch can share this camaraderie and get others involved. If not you, who?

Easy does it.

# PUBLICITY / PROMOTION by Tina Hawkins

What do you want to do for vacation? I don't know... What do YOU want to do? I dunno.

Where do you want to go? I don't know... Where do YOU want to go? Hmmm... I dunno.

Does this sound like YOUR family? Many people take summer family vacations every year, but may have trouble selecting just the right destination.

Let the NHPA take that worry away! Plan your summer vacation around the World Horseshoe Tournament!

Not only will you get the thrill of competition, but you will also get to see a new area of the country, practically every year!

Louisiana, Kentucky, Utah, New York, Kansas, and who knows where NEXT! Each location has its own unique appeal, with sites and attractions you won't see anywhere else!

In addition – you will get to spend time with all those horseshoe pitching friends that you only see once a year...

So really, it is a VACATION and a FAMILY REUNION all rolled into one! (With a horseshoe tournament on the side.)

Do you have trouble funding your trips? Again, the World Tournament is the answer to your problem!

There are ample opportunities to earn some lunch money, gas money, spending money by keeping score. The NHPA's electronic scoring system makes that a simple feat. By dedicating just a few hours of your vacation time, you can contribute to the success of the event, while earning that extra cash!

DON'T WAIT!! The deadline for entry is May 15<sup>th</sup>. Fill out the form and send it in, then start making your travel and accommodation arrangements before everyone else beats you to it!

You don't want to miss out on the fun and excitement that IS the NHPA World Horseshoe Tournament!

# SANCTIONED CLUB/LEAGUE by David Sidles

As I sit down to write this, I'm looking out the window to another cold and wet day here near the end of March. The wet is actually welcomed; the cold is just more of the same. I feel very fortunate that we have indoor courts to play on here in Omaha.

2013 saw 296 sanctioned leagues reporting, which was a slight decrease from the 308 reported the year before. League member numbers also went down echoing a trend in overall membership. Sanctioned leagues are an area that should be heavily emphasized in any discussion on membership growth. A few leagues every year that apply to be sanctioned, only last one year. Others have proven to be able to survive and even thrive, bringing in new members every year. The following are the leagues that achieved milestones for longevity in 2013. My hat goes off to all league Directors and I wish you continued success with your leagues and attracting new players to our sport.

Club Name	<b>State</b>	<b>Years</b>	Director
Mountaineer Horseshoe Club	$\overline{\mathrm{WV}}$	35	Allen Withrow
Bradenton Horseshoe Club	FL	35	Paul Dumas
Close Doesn't Count Horseshoe Club	WI	30	Jane Smith
Troy Horseshoe Club	ОН	25	David Shellhaas
Try County Horseshoe Club	OH	25	Julia Shaw
Kona Horseshoe Pitcher's Club	HI	25	Reg Gomes
Danville Horseshoe Club	IL	25	Leo Bratland
Western Colorado Horseshoe Club	CO	20	Jeff McDonald
Cedar Rapids Horseshoe Club	IA	20	Larry Purcell
Rockford HSC	MN	15	Robyn Holland
Sonoma County Horseshoe Club	CA	15	Gail Sluys
Wolf River Ringers Horseshoe Club	WI	15	Ken Jaeger, Sr.
Moose Lodge #2239 Horseshoe League	LA	15	Alan Bass
St. Clair Shores HSL	MI	15	Dean Schmitz
Marshfield Horseshoe Club	WI	10	Sonia Cook
Marion County Horseshoe Club	OH	10	Gregory Betz
Crossville Horseshoe Club	TN	10	Doug Farnsworth
Whitley County Horseshoe Club	IN	10	Connie Reimer
Grand Forks Horseshoe League	ND	10	Bill Trader
Tri-Town Horseshoe League	MA	10	George Vadnais
Plymouth Horseshoe Club	IN	10	Bill Hurley
Big Island	HI	5	Carol Costa Hamilton
Horseshoe Club	MA	5	Shelly Martinez
Jim's Four Ringer Courts	AR	5	Darrell Graham

Don't forget the Thoroughbred Horseshoes League Player National Championship tournament this fall. In an effort to make it a little easier to find enough players to form a team, it was decided that the requirement that all team members had to play in the same league would be dropped. Instead, they now only have to be from the same charter. They still have to have played in a sanctioned league in 2013 or 2014. Entry forms are available on the NHPA website. Remember, with the number of courts available and the points format used, this tournament will be strictly limited to 20 teams.

As part of the sanctioned league program, the NHPA awards scholarships to several of our junior players every year. They were recognized in the last issue of Newsline. Along with their certificate and patch, I include a letter of congratulations that acknowledges their success and also asks each of them to write a brief paragraph about their involvement in horseshoes. I received a response from one of those trust award winners and would like to share that with you. This from Courtney Lampkin;

"Horseshoes for me was my get away, my Saturday fun day, a time of just me and the shoes in my hands. I didn't care about pitching in the rain, as long as I had horseshoes in my hands I was at peace. I started pitching horseshoes when I was around nine years old. I didn't care about the score or who I was playing I just loved the concept of throwing at a stake and running to pick up my shoes. Growing up with my mother I never had a lot of quality father-daughter time; pitching horseshoes gave us that opportunity. I am appreciative to being introduced to horseshoes, and I hope the process of growing up doesn't ruin what horseshoes use to mean to me. I hope in the future I can show my children to horseshoes in the hope that they will enjoy it as much as I have. "

Wow, a lot of meaningful words there. Courtney, I wish you all the success in the world with whatever you do but I also hope that you always remember that feeling of peace you have with a horseshoe in your hands.

# CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS by Jerry LaBrosse

BE CONNECTED!!

With the introduction of e-Newsline in January 2015, the scope of our communication will dramatically increase. We want you to be a part of it!

To be a part of this extensive network, we need your email address. In addition to receiving your e-Newsline via email, you will also receive important information via email "e-blasts." Announcements, obituaries, world tournament information, and much more will be coming your way. We can guarantee that your address will NEVER be shared with anyone. Also, there are easy "subscribe" and "unsubscribe" options at the bottom of everything you'll receive.

Although e-Newsline will not appear until next January, we will need to prepare well ahead of time. Spring registration is the perfect time to collect your members' email addresses. For your convenience, we have a simple form to collect and organize these records, and I will be sending it out to all charter presidents and regional directors via email.

Please make sure that your charter secretaries collect as many of your members' email addresses as possible. If they do not use the form provided, we will accept your list in any format you have. If you can, please do separate columns/fields for first name, last name, state, division and email address. Once your spring registration is complete, please email the list to Newsline@Horseshoepitching. com.

As additional addresses come along, you can email your complete updated list to this same address. (Although we prefer electronic lists, we will still accept a paper list, if that's the only option.) We'll start with lists, but eventually we'll have a place for individuals to provide their email for these purposes.

Another big benefit to building your charter email database is that you will now have a much improved statewide network of communication to use on the charter level, for all of your charter information and announcements.

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I personally feel that e-Newsline will prove to be a huge recruitment tool for our sport. The amount of people receiving information will rise immensely, and that can only be good for horseshoes. It will be super easy for everyone to share the Newsline or eblasts with anyone ... easy as forwarding an email.

If anyone needs advice or assistance in building your charter email database, please feel free to contact me.

Jerry

# FEBRUARY/MARCH 2014 Income & Expenses Statement

#### Income

TOTAL	\$69,267.86
US Bank MMKT Interest	\$25.87
US Bank Checking Interest	\$5.99
Sanctioned League Patches	\$10.00
Officers Travel Refund	\$804.00
Newsline Subscriptions	\$2,204.00
Newsline Ads	\$2,128.00
Membership Dues	\$25,836.00
Insurance Payment	\$2,354.00
Horseshoe Sanction Fees	\$2,400.00
2016 World Tournament bid payments	\$21,000.00
2014 World Tournament Bid	\$12,500.00

# **Expenses**

Newsline Printing, Supplies & Mailing	\$3,378.08
Newsline Publication, Editing & Misc.	\$877.47
Sanctioned League Postage & Printing	\$604.17
Sanction League Patches & Awards	\$1,751.13
All Junior Scholarship Trusts	\$150.00
W. T. Admin Costs, Printing, Office Supplies, Etc.	\$365.50
Regional Director Allowance	\$4,297.80
Regional Director Postage Telephone & Supplies	\$132.32
Sanction Tournament Patches	\$347.42
Equipment purchases, rentals & Repairs	\$442.92
Printing, Paper & Office Supplies	\$376.91
Postage	\$817.10
Officers Telephone	\$200.41
Officers Travel	\$2,517.69
Sec/Treas Allowance	\$3,300.00
Presidents Allowance	\$1,000.00
Publicity, Promotions & Ads	\$191.90
Direct & Indirect NHPF Donations and Support	\$10,138.00
Insurance	\$10,822.40
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From the books of

NHPA Secretary/Treasurer Dick Hansen

# FOR A HEALTHY PITCH by Debby Michaud, RN, B.S., Ex. Physiology

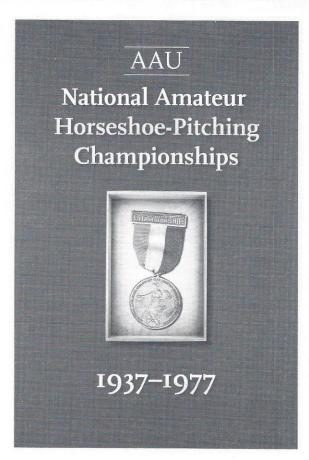
Spring is here, can summer be far behind? In most of the states, pitching is just starting up again OR is yet to start. I'd like to "reincarnate" a Health column that I used to write for the Newsline. I would actually like to have other contributors to this column as well. If you have a particular expertise in a health topic that you think would help your fellow horseshoe pitchers (or family or friends) please write it up and send it to me.

The first topic is something that would benefit ALL horseshoe pitchers. It is: Learning CPR. Almost everyone can learn CPR AND almost everyone SHOULD learn CPR. The other title for CPR is BLS, or Basic Life Support, so if you look for a course on-line or in any of your local news sources, you might see "BLS Course" as the topic. The bottom line is that the sooner someone who needs it gets CPR, the more chance of survival they have. ANYTHING that you do is a help to the victim. There are times when the victim is having an electrical problem in their heart and it is NOT a heart attack. These people might have an excellent chance of survival as they may be in otherwise good condition. An example of that is the young high school athlete who collapses suddenly while on the field. Even more important than the CPR is that, during the BLS course, you will learn how to operate an AED machine. AED stands for Automatic External Defibrillator. Defibrillating a heart that is

electrically chaotic can literally save a life, no matter what the cause. EARLY defibrillation increases their chances of survival dramatically. Every minute in which someone IS performing CPR and then using an AED machine gives a victim a much better chance of survival. There are AED machines in almost every public facility now and they are becoming more and more commonplace - when you enter a building, check on the location of the AED's.

So, cast aside your fears and sign up for a BLS course. The courses have been streamlined, are less daunting, and are almost stress free, very supportive. I know that most of the NHPA officers are CPR certified and that would be a good goal for the officers in any charter or club. Think how much better you will feel that you did as much as you could compared to the stress you will feel if you didn't do anything. Classes are routinely run at hospitals, fire stations, and EMT training facilities all of these classes are available for the public as well as for professionals and the different courses are geared to the varying experiences of those taking the course.

Next issue's topic? ADEQUATE HYDRATION! It is one of our biggest issues and one of the easiest to correct. Start practicing, OK? (Think "water"!)



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"Bob Dunn is an amazing researcher and writer. He brings the history of horseshoe pitching to the forefront in a manner that holds your interest. I always look forward to Bob's books and articles; he is captivating and so knowledgeable on the historical record of our great sport."

- Jerry D. Smith, author of The Official N.H.P.A. History of the World Tournament -Volume 2 - 1981-2011 and The Legendary Don Titcomb - His Life, His Game, His Way

"This book covers an interesting phase in the sport of horseshoe pitching, which has gone unnoticed and nearly forgotten in many quarters. This is a marvelous research project by Bob Dunn."

—Ottie Reno, author of three books on horseshoe pitching who will set a new record by participating in his 55th World Tournament in 2014

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# HORSESHOE PITCHING FACTS

# AND FOLKLORE by Bob Dunn NHPA Historian

ERNEST "ERNIE" DANIELSON By Bob Dunn

There have been many great pitchers in our sport across the country that excelled in their state or regional area, but because they had limited involvement in the NHPA during their careers; they were not involved in World Tournament competition. Many of those players have been nominated for the National Hall of Fame, and most of those nominations have not been successful, mostly because of a lack of World Tournament participation. Last issue we recognized the career of Raymond Frye, a Virginia pitcher from the 1930's. This issue we will read a letter from Ernie Danielson, a pitcher from the 1920's, 1930's, 1940's and on for a total of seven decades. Under rather unusual circumstances, Ernie Danielson actually wrote his own nomination for the NHPA Hall of Fame. As his letter tells us, he had been requested to send in a letter about his career and that letter was then submitted as a nomination for the National Hall of Fame. However, this letter is very interesting from a historic view and certainly gives us a look at a interesting character of our sport:

January 11, 1987

Mr. Barry Chapelle,

I received a letter from Donnie Roberts about getting me into the National Hall of Fame. He told me this week to write you and give you my history of pitching, as a lot of fellows don't know me.

I started pitching in 1914 at the age of 11 years old. A bunch of kids always met at my house at 627 E. Washington Street to play various games, and one day someone mentioned why don't we pitch horseshoes. It might have been me, anyway we all headed for the barn where dad had all kinds of shoes for horses. We were farming then. I came up with a pair of "never slides" that horses used on ice. At that time we stepped off about 30 feet and went to it. We only played to 11 points and counted all. At that time ringers counted 5 points, learners scored 3 points, and close shoes anywhere near the peg 1 point. I started out with the turn and a quarter. It wasn't long before I was throwing some ringers, there weren't many ringers, but I got to the point where no one could touch me.

By 1920, horseshoe pitching was all over the country and they were organizing teams all around. They went to forty feet so I had to change my turn. We built 8 courts where the Lamoine Hotel is now at Macomb, IL, where I was born on East Jackson Street. We played 3 times a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. One week we would play at Macomb, the next at Bushnell, then Bardolf and Adair, IL. We played partners and 50-point games. I was averaging in the 70's and 80's then.

At the Adair Fish Fry in 1924, I was playing Staford Smock, who later was my partner in doubles. In our game, I had 18 straight doubles and we had twelve straight four-dead. We were playing 21-point games and I had 33 ringers of 36 shoes for 91.66%.

I made the Illinois State Fair Tournament for 16 years, the best I did was 6th, of course you have to consider the outdoor conditions, wind etc. In 1922 Frank Lundin won the National with around 50% average. At that time I was pitching 75 and 80% ringers, I could of won it easy, but I was running my dad's steam engine at the time threshing grain for the farmers and besides I never gave it much thought.

In 1972, in Pittsfield, IL, I had a game of 35 ringers of 38 for 92.1%. I was 69 at the time. I also won the Quincy Open in 1971 with 85% ringers. That same year, I won a lot of tournaments: the Rapid City S.D. Open, won all 7 seven games with 70%; the Marcus, IA Open – 75%; Spencer Fair – 75%; Old Thresher's Open at Mt. Pleasant, IA - 78%.

I played in the Iowa State Fair 17 years, won the Open in 1957. I have played in over 1,400 tournaments in my career and have won over 250. During that time I have pitched 1,800,000 shoes (360 tons) and traveled over 180,000 miles. I have over 4,000 feet of film taken at horseshoe tournaments. Several years I pitched in 40 tournaments a year. My highest qualifying was at Rock Falls, IL, 261 points on 81 ringers and 15 consecutive doubles. That was also my best string of doubles. I even was publicity director for the Iowa association 1972 and 1973. I have built over 70 horseshoe courts in Burlington and Macomb. For the past twenty year, I have been called "Four High" Ernie.

I have my own shoe now, developed it about 5 years ago. Didn't have the money to go along with it. Donnie Roberts is now having the NHPA approve it.

For a few years in the 70's, I put on some exhibitions. Took on all comers, don't remember losing a game. One trick was to pitch all 4 shoes at one time – often I had 4 ringers. Some of the pitchers I played against: Ellis Cobb, Truman Standard, E.R. Baker, Mark Smock, Staford Smock, Milton Tate, Ellis Griggs, Joe Bennett, Joe High, Howard Collier, Ted Allen.

This will be my 73<sup>rd</sup> year of pitching; I hope I can pitch, I will if my legs and feet will permit.

Sincerely, Ernie Danielson

Ernie Danielson never entered a World Tournament, but there is plenty of evidence of his skills as a pitcher. Danielson was inducted into the Iowa State Hall of Fame in 1980.

# CHARTER CHATTER by Diane Ratliff

Greetings everyone! Hopefully by now we are all experiencing milder weather (you know, not too hot, not too cold!) and have gotten our pitching arms in gear. I'm sure you all have your WT entry checked off your to-do list as well.

On a personal note, I have been involved in the NHPA since 1989. I know I'm not alone when I say that I have met many wonderful people in our horseshoe world and have developed numerous treasured friendships. At the risk of boring some, I'd like to share a little story about a reunion of sorts, brought on solely by our incredible community!



Originally from Indiana, my family moved to Washington State in 1966. We lived in Seattle for two years, then moved to a "little town" roughly 100 miles North of Seattle for six years until my father received a promotion which required us to move to Maryland in 1974.

I don't recall exactly, but perhaps ten years ago or so, as I was reading the Newsline cover-to-cover (as usual), I happened across a letter-to-the-editor written by Phyl Quist of Ferndale, WA. During my six years living in that "little town" of Ferndale, I had a friend named Kim Quist, whose mother's name was Phyllis. Through the NHPA, I was able to make contact with Phyl, who was indeed that very same person! Phyl, Jim and I were able to meet up at the 2008 WT in York, PA, and I even had a chance to talk to Kim. Talk about a small world! The horseshoe world is both bigger and smaller than you think, and always full of surprises!

Please keep the Chatter coming. Send info to me at Diana. ratliff@antek.com, (717-309-7203) or via mail to 6 Retriever Trail, Fairfield, PA 17320-9213. Send info for the next issue to me prior to May 30th. Thanks! ~ Diana

#### Northern California - Casey Sluys

We have a new club in Northern California. Welcome to our Lindsay Club. The Lindsay Club has ten members and looks to increase its membership under its president's Ike Rodriguez leadership. Lindsay, California is in the southern part of our region and is an agricultural community. Although they only have four courts, they have a wealth of horseshoe pitchers to draw from, there in the Central Valley of California.

The Sonoma County Club is once again hosting the horseshoe pitching segment of the Senior Games open to all participants over 50 years old. Along with this promotion they posted an ad in the local paper also seeking new members to join them on their sanctioned league nights. The cost of an ad in your local paper is minimal; here is was \$50.00 for a 20 day run. It's in the classified and appeared on the front page. We'll let you know the results in the next issue. This club will also host a tournament in honor of George Greeott's 104th birthday. As of this writing he is due to attend.

We held the first few tournaments of the 2014 season, they were well attended and it seems as though everyone is enthusiastic to pitch, we could have pitched all winter because we did not receive but about 30% of our normal rain. Of course now that the season began we will receive more rain. Anyone travelling to Northern CA please visit our website for schedule details and places to pitch www.nchpa.com

## Colorado - Bob Champion (an excerpt from the awardwinning Double Ringer)

Colorado held 29 tournaments in 2013 boasting an overall total of 990 participants. The entry breakdown includes 515 men, 186 women, 24 elders and 48 juniors, averaging out to 34 pitchers per event (18 men, 6 women, 8 elders and 2 juniors).

#### Connecticut – Debby Michaud (with help from Jim Scully)

The Central Connecticut Horseshoe Club in E. Hartford has been VERY active this winter. In 11 tournaments (so far -2more to go) on its 6 indoor courts, they have had at least 70 entries at every tournament. Several tournaments have had the maximum 84 entries. In the winter in New England, the weather sometimes takes its toll so, to see that many entries in the bi-monthly tournaments is amazing. Part of the reason is that there are several new pitchers and there are many pitchers who are trying to get their four tournaments in to be eligible for the 2014 World Tournament which is close by. Another reason is that some pitchers are too busy in the summer to attend tournaments so tournaments in the winter are actually easier for them.

They have been scheduling three flights on Saturday and on Sunday, playing 7 pitchers on 3 courts. There are no playoffs so most flights finish well within the schedule even though most games are 35 point games. Another BIG plus is the electronic scoring – this has been a staple of the CCHC for about 15 years. Don Beck designed the program for the electronic scoring and remotely maintains the system – he takes care of any problems from his home several states away. There are two scorers, one for each class, who sit high up over the courts and there

# CHARTER CHATTER Continued

is also a platform for spectator viewing so that all courts are Don Maine, who has also been a staple visible to anyone. of CT horseshoes and has run ALL CT tournaments for many years, had a health problem last year and now the running of the CCHC has fallen on the broad and capable shoulders of Jim and Deb Scully who have picked up the reins with nary a hiccup. Don Maine comes to visit during tournaments and enjoys socializing instead of working! The CCHC has held other events there as well, such as "Horseshoe Mania" events, Karaoke, and Texas Hold'Em, all of which solidify the social and friendship aspect of the CCHC. It is no accident that the CT charter increased its adult membership by 131 from 2012 - 2013 to 544 adult members. The enthusiasm and the camaraderie are infectious!

## Idaho - Dave Spears

Idaho has a high school from the Boise area that has included horseshoe pitching into their lifetime sports program with Pep Plummer heading up the program that Don Titcomb started a few years ago. The Boise club will also this year be starting an intro to horseshoe pitching class, something that was discussed in St. George.

#### Maryland – Diana Ratliff



By the time of this publication, MD leagues and tournaments should be under way. What better recipe to get rid of the winter doldrums after a particularly long and dreary winter! Remember to recruit those new members, and bring in lots of juniors so we can grow our sport!

We are still looking for a candidate interested in serving as the Regional Director, as long-time RD Don Lawyer stepped down in the spring of 2013.

We wish much success to those who will be representing Maryland in the 2014 WT in Buffalo, as well as to our many friends from other states, near and far! Those of us unable to

attend will be following your progress closely. A reminder goes out to all pitchers to get their minimum four prep tourneys in and plan to attend the 2015 World Tournament in Topeka, KS. Don't forget to get your WT Experience Raffle tickets, available from Diana or at tournaments! Happy pitching :0)

### Michigan - Keith Schafer

After 21 years of service to our association, Steve Summerlin has stepped down as Regional Director and was replaced by Roger Higgins. Roger currently serves the MHPA as secretary/treasurer. We wish Roger much success in his new role as Regional Director.

We are all waiting for a warm dry spring in Michigan after this rough winter, and look forward to the outdoor season which begins in Lincoln Park on April 26. This will be a welcome event to get out of the four walls of indoors.

#### Minnesota - Gene Gross

A remarkable pitcher from Minnesota is Erwin Tischer from the Mankato area. Erwin has been president of the North Mankato club for 30 years and is finally getting someone else to take over. The North Mankato club has 125 members to lead all clubs in Minnesota for the most members by a big margin.

The population of the greater Mankato area is 53,000. The Twin Cities greater area has a population of about 2,900,000, more than half of the state total of 5,400,000. There are ten horseshoe clubs in the Twin Cities but to realize what Erwin Tischer and the North Mankato club has achieved one needs to compare the Mankato area with other cities in the state outside of Twin Cities. These include Rochester with 109,000, Duluth with 86,000 and St. Cloud with 56,000. Rochester has a small club. Duluth once had an active club and now is trying to form one. St. Cloud has a few pitchers but there is not an active club. There are 11 other clubs outside of Mankato and Rochester so several other smaller cities and towns are doing well. But no club has been as successful as North Mankato.

Sig Armitage, MN Southwest VP and State Elders Champ from Canby visited with Erwin recently and reported the following: In addition to being a dynamic recruiter Erwin has run the North Mankato tournament for 30 years and pitched in 37 state tournaments. The Tischer family, with the aid of his club, ran the World Tournament in Genola, MN in 1981. Over 500 Minnesota pitchers participated at that tournament, more than any other state.

Throughout all of this, Erwin's wife and sidekick, Rosie, has been with him and helping in all or most of these events. She has needed a walker in recent years and now is recovering from a shoulder replacement in a nursing home. So we are hoping Rosie recovers quickly and that Erwin is on the road to better health after a recent minor setback.

# CHARTER CHATTER Continued

#### Missouri - Dee McIntire

Hello from Missouri! I want to share a note about the generosity of pitchers in the Kansas City area. We just conducted the 13th annual Cancer Action Benefit tournament and thanks to all those who participated, raised \$1,997 for the local organization that helps people with cancer free of charge. This tournament was first started by Kent and Sharon Armstrong. Kent and Sharon have both passed away, but the shoe was picked up by Elwyn Cooper to continue this tournament.

#### Ohio - Brian Fisher

As I'm writing this on March 26th, it was 12 degrees this morning. It really seems like there is no end to winter. I am one of many who have extreme cabin fever. One thing is for sure, warm weather can't be too far off, because we just pulled up our indoor courts and stowed them away, as the building is used for fair events the rest of the year.

Our summer pitching schedule is up now with 27 tournaments from May-October. We have even added a few new tournaments this year, one being held on May 10th, the Mary Fleenor Memorial, at the famous Greenville city park courts. Mary was a long time Darke County Club president and promoter of horseshoes; we will truly miss her, and felt it would be only fitting to honor her this way. This may be needed for some who need another event ahead of the May 15th world entry deadline. So please check this out on the Ohio site and plan on attending as many of these fine tournaments as you can. Ohio is very fortunate to have so many outdoor and indoor tournaments throughout the year. I truly believe this develops and improves pitching quality. We have two open men in the top 10. Alan Francis #1 @ 90.84, Jim Walters #7 @ 74.69. One lady, Amy Francis, who just missed the top ten by one, @ #11, 70.79. Two elders, Virgil Rife #3 @82.55, and Roy Dugger #7 @77.75. Our #10 cadet is Alex Francis @ 34.67. Our junior boy @ #9 is Dayton Campbell @ 56.02. These pitchers will all be top contenders to do well at Buffalo this year.

#### Utah - Dennis Ohms

SOUTHERN UTAH HORSESHOE PITCHERS ASSOCIATION has been underway pitching almost every weekend since February 16th. Our schedule is found at utahhorseshoesblogspot.com. Awards for the year of 2013 were presented, with a small patch going to each player for their High games in 2013. Also, top ten awards went to the players that excelled this past year; a certificate went to #2-10 spots with a trophy award to first place in the top ten. The winners were: Lew Brown, leading money winner for 2013 \$1162.50; Angelo Disante, Most Improved 21.91%; Jerry

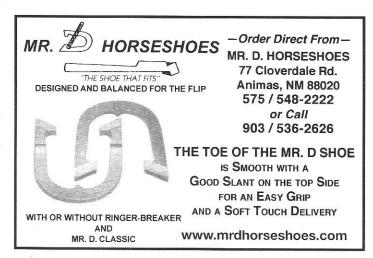
Harper, most wins, 116; Jenifer Bunker, Top percentage player counting all games, 50.88%. Junior/ Cadets also were winners. Brandon Poole a cadet for the high Ringer Percentage youth player 17.43%; Quinn Ohms, a cadet, won two groups, Most Improved 5.78% and the Most wins 65 games. The Huntsman World senior games is taking entries online for the Senior Games in St George Utah Oct 2014.

#### Washington - Jerry Clark (an excerpt from Shoe News)

Are you ready for some horseshoes? Spring is showing signs of coming out of hibernation, and the Winetrouts are now in our rear view mirrors. I don't know about you, but I am ready for a great year of pitching. As I look over the statistics sheet from the Winetrouts, it looks like the usual mixed bag, some of us are struggling to get back into the swing of things, while others are coming close to pitching their averages, and then there are a few that are leaving us all in the dust...

It's always great to reconnect with our pitching friends from all around the state and also meet and greet the new pitchers that join us every year. They are important to our future, so give them a warm welcome and an encouraging handshake and tell them we're glad they're here. .. I would encourage everyone to get around, either before or after our tournaments and get to know your fellow pitchers a little bit better. Who knows, you might start a friendship that will last for years.

As a group, our pitchers averaged 7.6 tournaments attended last year out of 32 tournaments scheduled. I hope we can improve on that number this year.



# FORTY FEET AND FRIENDSHIP

# YOU CAN LEARN A LOT FROM A GAME OF HORSESHOES By Michael T. Dolan



Illustration by Mike Carina

"Clink! Clank! Thump. Clank!"

Followed by cheers, jeers or groans.

"Clink! Clank! Thump. Clank!"

Back and forth the sounds echoed, the metal-on-metal music of men playing horseshoes. Listening and

watching from afar taught me much. Men hurling metal. A game perhaps, but so much more.

In the midst of family reunion chaos, my father and his brothers would amble away from the crowd, a slow-moving gaggle of white-haired Irishmen in search of peace. With archaic tools in hand—two long metal spikes, a hammer and four iron horseshoes—they set to work. Far from all the noise that filled their day-to-day lives, the family elders sent two orange-tipped spikes deep into the earth. They claimed their turf.

My father, his four brothers and a brother-in-law to boot—facing off both 40 feet from one another and next to each other. Two on two. One on one. Throwing steel.

The game fascinated me. I admired, envied and stood in awe of these men. From my childhood eyes, I couldn't imagine how I'd ever have the strength to launch such heavy objects so effortlessly into the air. These men hit metal each time, landing a leaner, knocking an opponent's shoe into scoreless territory, or circling the spike. It was magic. But only now, as a father myself, have I begun to discover its essence.

Forty feet and friendship.

The six white-hairs standing before me were the fathers of 28 children. My own father had seven sons. That's a lot of noisy mouths to feed. A lot of Little League games and recitals to attend. More than a handful of broken windows around the house to fix. Trips to the emergency room. Parent-teacher meetings. Perhaps a visit or two to the local precinct in the mix. In short, untold sacrifice.

Together with their wives, these fathers gave up a lot. Watching them at play during a horseshoe game was all the evidence one needed. Here brothers reconnected; fraternal friendships were renewed and recharged.

Thick as thieves throughout childhood, they began to see each other less and less when their own children came along. It made the game of horseshoes all the more blessed.

Forty feet and friendship.

At 2.5 pounds, steel horseshoes are not only dangerous to nearby onlookers—thus precluding much of an audience—but they're also too heavy for children and some women. I have a feeling most females simply have no attraction to the game. Hurling an object 40 feet to a pole, then turning around and doing it again. It's a bit like playing fetch with yourself. Two parts asinine, one part canine.

With seven brothers and an ever-growing brood of children between us, it's increasingly difficult to get together. For us, as it was for our father and his brothers, 40 feet goes a long way.

This Father's Day is our first without our dad. Behind the tears, I can smile as I remember his last game of horseshoes. August had arrived, and our father's unbeatable battle with cancer was coming to an end. For a man weeks away from his death, he stood tall against the odds. Horseshoes in hand, he launched the steel into orbit. He landed a ringer.

I envied his strength. I still do.

Tossing the horseshoes this year will certainly feel a bit empty. But if I listen closely enough, I'll hear the stuff of life.

"Clink! Clank! Thump. Clank!"

Forty feet and friendship.

Turns out a solitary game of horseshoes isn't really solitary after all.

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# **Deadlines for Grant Applications**

March 1 and September 1

# Mail inquires & contributions to:

NHPF Hall OF fame 100 Bluestem Way Wentzville, MO 63385

# JUNIOR PROMOTIONS by Aleena Cook

A Big Prize in a Small Package

Not many horseshoe pitchers can say that they have been to every World Tournament since they were one year old. Seven-year-old Warren Highley from Harrisonville, Missouri can. He goes with his grandparents and they pull him around the arena is his red wagon. He even helps keep the courts clean by picking up the clay pieces around and on the courts.

At only three days old Warren received his first toy horseshoe that he used for a teething ring. When he was able to walk he learned to pitch a rubber horseshoe. Warren was so into horseshoes that he wanted to pitch anything, he even pitches his clothes into the laundry. Victoria, Warren's grandma, has pictures of Warren playing in the pits with his horseshoes wearing nothing but a diaper.

Warren is currently in first grade. He likes school, but not that they have five extra days to make up due to snow days. His favorite class is P.E. because he gets to run around, do the crabwalk, and play games. Warren is also on the basketball team, bowls and plays soccer. In his first soccer practice he scored 13 goals and his bowling average is 61.

When Warren was the star of the week in school he brought in his horseshoes and wrote three pages for the class book on how to pitch. When asked what he likes most about horseshoes he replied, "I get to make new friends and it makes me stronger." Warren pitches in league with his family, the Liberty Jr. league, and the Liberty Jr. tournaments. He hasn't missed one day of league and he even recruited one of his classmates from kindergarten and his cousin, Guillermo, to pitch. As Warren puts it, "My cousin is my best bud!" There isn't much practice Warren can do in winter, but in the summer he goes out and pitches a few shoes every day.

Like every pitcher, Warren loves to get a ringer. However, he gets an extra perk with every ringer he throws. The MOHPA president has made a deal with Warren that for every ringer he gets she will give him a dollar. She may not want to keep this deal for too long as Warren's average keeps increasing. Warren plans on saving this money so he can buy himself a new pair of horseshoes. Warren also has a special good luck charm. He wears his favorite Buzz Light-year hat every time he pitches. He actually has two hats, one that's neat and clean for every day, and his signature lucky hat with dried clay and a few worn spots. Warren's hat may be his lucky charm, but he also has deep concentration on the courts. He thinks about where to throw his shoe to get a ringer and where his feet go. His concentration makes him shine on the courts, but his attitude and personality make everyone he meets instantly smile.

This last year at World, Warren had a blast. He met up with his friend James Webb from Kentucky and met many new kids in competition. Warren ended up taking third at World in Cadet's class D. He has also taken first place in the Jr. Liberty league, second in two state tournaments; he won the sportsmanship award in the Jr. Liberty league and rookie of the year in the league he pitches in with his family. He one day hopes to beat his grandpa.

Warren has big dreams and will one day fulfill them all. When he grows up Warren wants to be a firefighter and a farmer. When asked what his favorite farm animal is he replied, "A dog, just like my dog Sam." Warren strives to be like his hero who is his Nana, "She is always nice to me." Be sure to look for Warren in his red wagon in Buffalo. He will be the one to watch in these upcoming years.



# HALL OF FAME

By Vicki Winston

I am happy to inform you that the voting is concluded for the 2014 year and the committee has elected one deserving individual for induction into the NHPA Hall of Fame. Being honored this year is the late Glenn Jamieson, who resided in Pleasanton, California. Glenn was elected in the Promoter/Organizer category.

We will remember Glenn for all that he did in the world of horseshoe pitching stats. When someone was needed to take over the NatStats program due to the ill health of the man who started it, Glenn volunteered. He worked tirelessly and a son-in-law helped him to achieve upgrades to the NatStats program. Glenn did stats at tournaments all over Northern California and served as the statistician of the NCHPA for 11 years. Glenn was still our NatStats Guy when he passed away unexpectedly.

We will also remember Glenn, and his wife Shirley, for all of the years they were in charge of the stats room at the World Tournament. They never flew to a World Tournament; most of the time they took the train and then rented a car. I often wondered if that was so they could get a lot of rest before they got there, because they sure weren't going to get much sleep after they arrived. What with needing to print all of the round robin schedules each day, plus needing to input all of the scoresheets each day, there was never a dull moment from early in the morning until sometimes into the wee hours of the next day. Once in awhile Glenn would find time to grab a handful of Class results charts and post them on the bulletin boards. We will be eternally grateful for all of Glenn's contributions to the sport of horseshoe pitching. When I spoke with Shirley, she wasn't yet sure whether or not she could attend the

banquet on Sunday evening, July 20th, but I hope many of you will be there to enjoy an evening of fellowship and good food and help us pay tribute to Glenn and all of the other people who will be receiving various awards during the program.

In other business, an agreement has been finalized with the NHPA Council to make Hall of Fame shirts available retroactively to all past inductees who are still living. The cost to the inductee will be \$15 and the NHPA will assume all of the additional charges, including shipping. Shirts will be shipped directly to the inductee from the shirt company. It is a white polo shirt and will have a HOF patch on the front, along with the first and last name of the inductee embroidered on the front of the shirt in the same color of blue as the background of

the patch. Nothing will be put on the back of the shirt. Men may order a shirt with or without a pocket. Women's sizes are not available with a pocket. Checks should be made payable to the NHPA, but they need to be sent to me. My address is Vicki Winston, 10326 Highway D, LaMonte, MO 65337. Canadians should use Money Orders - U.S. Funds only. I am trying to get an order form ready to mail out to past inductees for whom I can find contact information, but if you are in the NHPA Hall of Fame and want to go ahead and order a shirt, send the money, tell me your size and state whether it's a Man's or Woman's size and give me the first and last name you want embroidered on the shirt. I will take care of the rest. Make sure your address is legible, so we can get the shirt shipped to the right place.

I have tentative plans to attend a few days of the 2014 World Tournament, so am looking forward to seeing some horseshoe friends. Each year I get surprised and see someone I haven't seen for a several years and it's always good to see the ones who make it an annual event. Those of us who no longer pitch horseshoes can still have a good time at the World Tournament. Come on and join the crowd.



Visit our website for up-to-date information www.horseshoepitching.com

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

> World Tournament Information Coming Events Local Contact Information

Questions and suggestions may be sent to:
Steve Summerlin
NHPA Webmaster
PO Box 536
Webberville, MI 48892-0536

Email: webmaster@horseshoepitching.com

# NATIONAL HORSESHOE HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM by Jeanette Claas

# **JOHNSON & JOHNSON VISIT THE NHPA HALL OF FAME!**

The turkey had barely digested in their stomachs when the Johnsons left Coon Rapids, Minnesota for warmer climate over the Thanksgiving weekend. Their trip was well planned. They would be meeting up with their children and grandchildren for a fun-filled week at Disney World in Florida. Their plans also included a stop at the National Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame.

Frank called a month ahead so they could arrange a visit at a time they would be coming through St. Louis. We greeted them as they arrived at the Quail Ridge Park. The Johnsons were excited to see the facility, taking a tour through the Hall of Fame room and then on to the courts to pitch a few shoes. We then went to the Jack Freeman Brick Memorial where they saw many bricks with their friends name engraved on them. Before they left they also purchased a brick which should be engraved this Frank and his wife,



Sandee, said the facility was even better than what they imagined. "Both Sandee and I thoroughly enjoyed our visit as evidenced by the fact we stayed twice as long as I thought we would," said Frank. "I have been telling my many pitching friends how much I enjoyed our visit and hope some of them will be able to share the same experience."

Frank is a 20 year member of the NHPA. Frank's friend, Bill Campbell got him interested in throwing shoes as he knew that Frank was a good bowler and would catch onto the game quickly. He joined the Fridley Horseshoe Club and quickly proved his friend wrong when he ended his first season with a 5% ringer average, in which he is still a current member. Frank was active in horseshoes from 1978 to 1992 when some health issues came about.

However, Frank loved the game, the competition, and the folks involved with the sport. In 1989, he won his class at the Minnesota State Tournament held and hosted by the Brooklyn Park Horseshoe Club entered at 20.74% throwing 22.28% having to play off four tie games winning all four and losing only one game in the match.

After retirement Frank re-entered the horseshoe circa in 2005 and has been an active member since that time. In 2010 Frank entered his first World Tournament in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and placed 2<sup>nd</sup>

in his division. He entered at 14.31% and finished with an 18.85% average. He is planning to attend the 2015 World Tournament in Topeka. Frank pitches as many as 35 tournaments a year. His current NatStats is posted as 49.13%. So you can see all this pitching has showed quite an improvement.

After leaving Florida the Johnsons traveled to San Antonio, Texas where they would attend the River Walk. Following that they would head on to Mesa Arizona to spend the winter months until mid-April when they would head back to spend the cooler summers in Minnesota. They have been Minnesota snowbirds for the last eight years.

Reaching their destination in Arizona, Frank would enjoy the warm winter months pitching shoes with the East Valley Horseshoe Club and the Apache Trail League. The Apache Trail League has about 16 clubs participating. The clubs or RV parks are located in Mesa and Apache Junction. Each week the clubs will host or be guests of one of the other parks. Everything is scheduled and well run by elected officers. The East Valley Horseshoe Club hosts many tournaments each season with the nations' oldest sanctioned tournament "Valley of the Sun" being a real draw. It is a two day affair drawing great players from all over the country and Canada. The year 2014 will mark the 56th consecutive tournament.

After returning home in April for Easter, the Johnsons are looking forward to attending the 2014 Team World Event where they will join Josh Olson, Alan and Janet Larson with a team representing Minnesota.



We enjoyed meeting the Johnsons and all our visitors who come from near and far. For all of you who would like to include the Hall of Fame in your travels, call me at 636-447-3039 and we will make connections to have the Museum open when you come through our great state. The Hall of Fame is open to the public four days a week — Saturday and Sunday from noon until 5:00 PM and also on Monday and Wednesday from

2:30-7:30 PM. We are located at the Crossroads of the Nation in Wentzville, MO. See what all your contributions have built for all horseshoe pitchers to enjoy. Keep on supporting the NHPF with your contributions and brick orders. Send to the NHPF, at the National Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame and Museum, 100 Bluestem Way, Wentzville, MO 63385. It is the only way to preserve the history, showcase the present and build the future of horseshoe pitching – the game we all love and enjoy.

# NHPF & THE NHPA HALL OF FAME by Casey Sluys

# Building for the Future While Preserving the Past and Showcasing the Present

What I meant in my last issue's article about percentages of donations per charter was this. Having the membership numbers handy along with donations, I decided to compile a list of percentages. It works like this: South Carolina for example has a membership of 46 NHPA members; of that number 13 have contributed to the NHPF. That equates 28% which is the fourth highest out of all the Charters. Virginia has a membership of 180 and 76 have contributed to the NHPF for a whopping 42% which is first in the nation. How does your Charter rank? Email me and I'll give you the numbers.

The top 12 charters all have a donation percentage of over 20%. It comes all the way down to a mere 1%. However, it remains our task to make each and every member aware that the NHPA has a Hall of Fame that everyone should be very proud of. Without the NHPF and the perseverance of Dave Loucks, we would not have the beautiful building to house our Hall of Fame, the one that Jeanette Claas has been writing about the past few years. (Jeanette fell and broke her hip, but is home and recovering.)

Within a year the online version of this magazine will go to every NHPA member with an email address. This will increase the awareness of the wonderful facility that we have. When others find out about the NHPF they might well wonder why they had not paid closer attention to it and the functions it supports. The cooperation of each charter's webmaster/mistress by adding our link directly on the front page of your local charter's website should help also. In the next year or so I hope to gather a list of all charter newsletter editors and ask them to publish a brick order form to make is easy for those without electronic devices to buy a brick. Each of you could assist me by sending me the email of your charters newsletter editor if you would. Simply email it to kcslus@sbcglobal.net

It can also be done with your help though, as word of mouth is the most efficient advertising there is. Those of you that have visited the NHPA Hall of Fame have seen first hand what a great facility it is. Won't you please assist us and spread the word about the NHPF?

We are in the process of creating a "new and improved" brochure, yeah I know you get tired of hearing that phrase, this one will be included in all World Tournament participants "goodie bags" that they receive at check-in. We hope that this will happen at all future WT's; it will certainly assist in spreading the word.

As in the past we will have a booth set up with various items that can be had for a donation. This year look for a brand new item. All extra copies of back issues of this

magazine have been donated by Dick Hansen to the NHPF. We will be asking for a donation for each issue. Complete your collection this year at the WT. Look for the plastic horseshoe key rings again this year, plus some very nice pens. Stop by, visit and chat a while.

Let's all do what we can to promote the NHPF and the NHPA.

Donating \$25-95 Robert D. Knudtson, MN

<u>Donating \$100-150</u> Charles Bunner, WV Robert & Eileen Giselbach, GA

<u>Donating \$200-300</u> William & Carol Backer, CA

Bricks Purchased By:
Kevin Smith, MI
Dale Hughes, CA
Robert & Eileen Giselbach, GA
Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club, MO (mem. Ray Nadler)
Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club, MO (mem. Harvey Wobbe)
Franklin & Sandra Johnson, MN
Eastern NE HS Pitching Foundation, NE (for HOF 2010 Strobel)
Paige (Jackie) Carson, TX



# PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES By Dan Sanders

In the last issue of Newsline Magazine, you will find nine proposed NHPA Bylaws changes (PBCs) that were published for your information and consideration. Soon after being published, it was brought to my attention that an additional change proposal had been submitted by the deadline, and which our Council agreed should be decided by our voting delegates. This PBC #10 has been added here (see below). It has also been added to the NHPA Website, has been communicated via Charter Communications. and will be included in the WT Convention packet of information, to be received by each of our voting Charter delegates. Please review all of the proposed bylaws changes, and if you have an opinion about any of them, please notify your Charter President and/or the voting Convention Delegates who will be appointed by your Charter Officers.

PBC # 10 - Article VII: Charters

# Currently reads:

Section 4. Any application for additional Charters within a State must include a description or map of the proposed area, justified reasons for creating this new Charter, and a list of at least fifty (50) new NHPA members.

Change to read:

Any application for additional Charters within a State must include a description or map of the proposed area, justified reasons for creating this new Charter, and a list of at least fifty (50) new or current NHPA members.

# **BECOME PART OF THE** USA JUKSKEI TEAM

There will be a unique opportunity for you to travel, promote horseshoes and learn Jukskei. Those interested in becoming part of the USA Jukskei Team please contact Gary Roberts at gbroberts5542@yahoo. com. The trip will be a 2-3 week stay in South Africa with one week dedicated to Jukskei. Travel timeline will be the last of March and the beginning of April. Look for more details in the next issue.

Rationale: If a charter is large geographically, it may make more sense to have two or more charters with existing members. To expect them to come up with "new" members OR to require them to drop out for a year and then return as "new" members is not in the best interests of the NHPA and its membership numbers.

# Training Sessions for Judges and Scorekeepers at **Buffalo**

One of the biggest challenges for World Tournament shift directors is to find enough qualified judges and scorekeepers for each of the four or five daily shifts, especially during the first week. In an effort to provide our WT pitchers with more qualified and experienced judges and scorekeepers, training sessions will be offered for those who are interested. These sessions will include basic information as well as a 'hands-on' experience. Those interested are encouraged to sign up for these training sessions at the WT site in Buffalo where sessions will be offered on Monday and Thursday of the first week, and also at other times as the demand and our schedule will permit. It should also be noted that there is some monetary compensation offered for helping out with judging and scorekeeping.



# **WORLD** RECORDS

By Mel Yockstick - The Statman

Who says close doesn't count in horseshoes? In August of 1956, Lee Soker was traveling and stopped for a night at a private camp for Lutheran church kids. While taking an after dinner stroll, he came across a horseshoe pit and Pastor Soker picking up a shoe, declared if he made a ringer, they'd buy the place. He did, and one year later the Lutheran Church body purchased the camp in the southern Colorado Mountains. Little did he know the impact that his horseshoe toss would have on so many kids. So as they say, "be careful what you wish for". (Story taken from 2014 Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp paper).

In 2013, I submitted Sheila Shepard's name as one of our top Colorado Horseshoe pitchers for the 2014 "SPORTSWOMEN OF COLORADO" awards program. They honor Outstanding Colorado Female Athletes for many sports. Their goal is to recognize and publicly honor women athletes and those who support athletics in Colorado. Our local TV Sport's Journalist recognized Sheila for her Horseshoe Pitching Performance. She was acknowledged for her NHPA Women's World Class Championship and four Senior World Championship titles. Sheila was the first women to be honored as a Horseshoe player since the organization was founded in 1974. It is my suggestion that if you have a Horseshoe player that deserves to be recognized as an outstanding pitcher or

service organizer, you should submit the person's name to your state Women's or Men's Athletics organization. If they qualify, you might consider submitting their name to the NHPA Hall of Fame committee chair Vicki Winston. Keeping our sport in the forefront of various state sports organization can only help.

If you were a Boy Scout or Girl Scout, you received merit badges for many activities. This made me think about our World Souvenir (State logo and year) patches we receive every time we enter the World Tournament. I believe a lot of pitchers keep or display these patches in a book binder or on their wall.

I have contacted long time pitchers (Vicki Winston, Merlin Potts, Dave Loucks, Seibolds, Ottie Reno and Casey Sluys) to help me track down when the first patch was given out/started in world tournaments. If you have any of these patches from the fifties, sixties or earlier please contact me (<a href="mailto:nhpamel@comcast.net">nhpamel@comcast.net</a>). I would like to create a NHPA website displaying these world souvenir patches to keep our past world history ongoing.

See you at the 2014 World Tournament. Remember the five "P's" Proper-Preparation-Prevents-Poor Performance.

# TO ALL CURRENT NEWSLINE SUBSCRIBERS

With the beginning of e-Newsline in January of 2015, a decision had to be made regarding what to do with the current subscriptions that expire between now and the end of the year. All subscriptions that expire this year will have their expiration dates changed to December 31, 2014. That will give them free Newsline until the end of this year. Any new subscriptions will still be taken, but only one year subscriptions will be accepted. If you send in more than a one year

subscription, no refund will be made at this time.

At the NHPA convention in July we will discuss what to do with the subscriptions out two or more years, and if refunds will be made.

Thank you,

NHPA Council

# **TOLL** OF TIME

James L. Hanson, Sr. Massachusetts

James L. Hanson Sr., 71, of Massachusetts, passed away peacefully from a brief illness on March 26, 2014 with his wife Barbara by his side. Jim was, for 20 years, the Vice President of the New England HPA and took care of the stats for all six New England states for many of those years. He also founded the NEHPA website and had been its sole webmaster for over 14 years. He worked on the website almost daily. For years, he had enjoyed playing horseshoes and was a member of the Keene (NH) Horseshoe Club. He and his wife used to travel in their RV to over 29 tournaments a year.

Jim worked hard for horseshoes in other ways as well – he started and ran a league in his back yard on only two courts – we gained many new members from this league. He made name tags for the scoreboard for every entrant (usually around 300) in the annual New England tournament, and also made large name tags for each of them for the Master scoreboard. He annually made and passed out large, colorful laminated flyers for the New England tournament to each horseshoe club in New England. There are few other people who have loved the game of horseshoes as much as Jim did and few others who have put as much time into the organization of the game as he did.

James was also a member of the National Guard, from which he retired in 2002. He leaves behind his wife of 47 years, Barbara, and one son,

James L. Hanson, Jr. also of MA, both of whom have been excellent horseshoe pitchers. His two grandchildren Jacob and Rebecca Hanson have also pitched horseshoes.

The game of horseshoes in New England has lost one of its hardest workers. We will miss him.

New England Horseshoe Pitchers Association



# TOLL OF TIME Continued

Harvey Wobbe January 20, 1930 - December 22, 2013 By Jeanette Claas



Harvey Wobbe, age 83 of Hillsboro, Missouri, passed away Sunday, December 22, 2013 at Mercy Hospital in St. Louis, MO. Harvey had been in failing health for several years following a series of mini-strokes.

Harvey was born in St. Louis, MO in 1930. As a youngster Harvey loved to play marbles; serious marbles. He established himself as the marble champion in the area that he lived.

He joined the U.S. Army in 1949, receiving the Purple Hearts for his wartime activities in Korea. Returning home married his wife, Jeanne, in 1955. The two enjoyed dancing together in ice skating events, escaping a narrow drowning until they were pulled to safety. They had a wonderful life together until her death in 1989. No children were born to the couple.

Horseshoes had been Harvey's life. He began pitching horseshoes at the age of 14. He became a member of the NHPA in 1987. During that time Harvey spent countless hours promoting the sport of horseshoes in Missouri, Illinois and throughout the U.S. He held memberships in six different clubs and pitched in six leagues for many years. As the years went by you would always see Harvey at local, state and national horseshoe events.

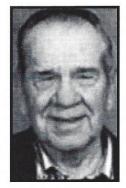
Harvey was the owner of Six Pac Horseshoes since 1992. Recently the company was sold to Bobby Thompson and Ed Pashia of Festus. He donated horseshoes, money, prizes and many other items consistently throughout the years. He sponsored both Missouri and Illinois teams to the Team World Event in Beloit Wisconsin. Harvey helped many horseshoe pitchers obtain a good pair of horseshoes sometimes adjusting the price to a level they could afford.

Harvey has supported the Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club with his extreme generosity of contributions to the Six Pac Invitational Tournament for 18 years. His monetary gifts to the Six Pac Invitational have amounted to well over \$50,000.

Harvey was not a great competitor on the courts, but he enjoyed the camaraderie of horseshoe players wherever he went. Because of his promotion and generosity for the game of horseshoes, Harvey was inducted into the Missouri State Hall of Fame in 2000 and received an NHPA Award of Appreciation at the 2006 World Tournament in Gillette, WY. The Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club honored Harvey for his contributions to game of horseshoes at the end of the 18th Six Pac Invitational in 2010.

Harvey retired from Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. Harvey joined the Army in 1949. He is a Veteran of the Korean War and a recipient of the Purple Heart Award. He was a member of the VFW #3777 in Festus, the AmVets Post #48 in DeSoto. He was also a member of the Southwestern Bell/AT&T Pioneer Club, Twin Cities Horseshoe Club (Festus) and a Lifetime Member of the Quail Ridge Horseshoe Club.

Harvey was preceded in death by his wife, Jeanne; parents, Clarence & Irene Wobbe; a brother Russell; a sister Marcella Schulze. He is survived by a nephew and some great nieces and great nephews. Harvey was buried at the Jefferson Barricks Memorial Cemetery with full military honors.



Ronald R. Schoon Spener, SD

Ronald R Schoon, 75, passed away January 8, 2014 at his home in Spencer, SD under hospice care.

Ronald Schoon, better known as Ron, was born November 7, 1938 to Walter and Margaret Schoon near Olivet, SD. He attended country grade school, 7th & 8th grade at

Lutheran day school in Freeman. He attended Scotland High School. He married Betty Vinz on September 14th, 1968. They lived in Spencer, SD and worked for Spencer Grain for 35 years. Ron was involved in church as Elder of Trinity Lutheran church for many years. He was Zoning Administrator for Spencer for 14 years after retirement. He was a volunteer fireman for several years. Ronald remained active after retirement and loved to pitch horseshoes competing in the South Dakota tournaments and National Tournaments. Ron was a member of the SDHPA for 15 years and inducted in Horseshoe Hall of Fame in 2012. He loved playing cards at the local Spencer coffee shop and attending his grand childrens many activities.

He is survived by his wife Betty of 45 years, four children and seven grandchildren. Sherri (Bryan) Schrank, of Alexandria, SD; granddaughter Joslyn. Jason (Peggy) Schoon, of Salem, SD; granddaughters Sarah, Summer and grandson Kyle. DeeAnn (Leonard) Matthaei, of Canistota, SD; grandson Austin. Jon (Pam) Schoon, of Mitchell, SD granddaughter Megan and grandson Nathan.

Preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Margaret Schoon and brother DuWayne Schoon.

# TOLL OF TIME Continued

**George St. Pierre** Submitted by Barbara Hanson

George St. Pierre passed away January 8, 2014, he was 80 years old. George was the New England Regional Director at one time, and honored by the NHPA for his many contributions. George St.Pierre taught me a lot about this game. I also learned a lot by watching him. He was truly inspiring, teaching you with determined concentration you could achieve your goals. I won my first Woman's State A Championship, on his courts in 1996. I truly owe that to Mr. George St. Pierre. While he was a part of this game, he gave it his all. I feel truly blessed for the time he gave me.

George St. Pierre Always the Gentleman (January 8, 2014)

George St. Pierre always the gentleman Of the North shore HPA, Worked with diligence and determination Giving all a place to play.

Many years of devotion George gave with his heart, Plus countless numbers of players He recruited from the start.

He'd arrange yearly exhibitions At the Topsfield Fair, Still today with players He recruited from there.

A Regional Director for New England Long time Hamilton Director too, George St.Pierre always the Gentleman In our hearts he remains.

Always With a Touch of Love The New England Horseshoe Pitchers Association

Harlan Paulsen
December 6, 1923 - December 28, 2013

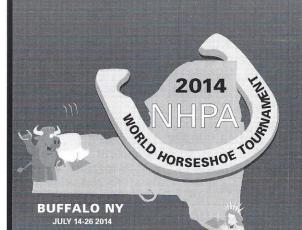


Harlan Howard Paulsen, 90, of Salem, SD, passed away on December 28, 2013. Harlan was born December 6, 1923 to Walter and Della (Jensen) Paulsen near Anthon, Iowa. He attended country school through the eighth grade and then attended Anthon High School graduating in 1942. The highlight of his senior year was playing in the Iowa state

baseball tournament, which was a single class at that time. In the semi-final game, they defeated the Dowling Des Moines team. In the championship game, they were beaten by the Davenport Blue Devils. He spent the next year and a half farming with his father.

In 1944 he was drafted into the Army. After 17 weeks of training at Fort Hood Texas, he was then sent on a troop ship to France and was assigned to the 35th Infantry Division. He began active service at the Battle of the Bulge. The 35th moved through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany before meeting the Russian army at the Elbe River. The 35th Division then returned to the United States with expectations of continuing the war in the Pacific Theatre. Japan soon surrendered and they remained stateside. Harlan was discharged in 1946, and then attended the University of South Dakota, Vermilion, SD for two years playing on the baseball team. He then rented a farm near Holstein, Iowa and began farming.

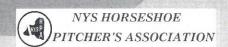
In June of 1948, he married Alice Payton of Salem, SD. In 1952, they purchased a farm near Spencer, SD. They retired from farming in 1990 and moved to Salem where they enjoyed retirement and spending time with their eight grandchildren and two great grandsons. Harlan served nine years on the Spencer School Board. In 1969 he was appointed Chairman of the Building Committee for the Salem United Church which was successfully completed in 1974. Harlan served on many committees and was an active member of the VFW and American Legion. He hand-picked corn as a youth and forty years later began competing in the state hand corn picking contest. In 1979 he won the South Dakota State title. He participated in the national contest five times, placing as high as 7th place twice. Harlan and Alice spent 17 winters as "snowbirds" in Apache Junction, AZ. During this time Harlan became an avid softball player and horseshoe pitcher and continued pitching when he returned to Salem in the spring. Harlan remained active, pitching in leagues in Bridgewater, Madison and then starting a league in Salem. He competed in state and national tournaments and was inducted into the South Dakota Horseshoe Hall of Fame in August of 2013. He was an avid harmonica player and learned to play the banjo at the age of 80. Survivors include children: Dianne (Lynn) Perry, Bancroft, S.D., Mike (Marla) Paulsen, Black Hawk, S.D., and Keith (Tammy) Paulsen, Salem; grandchildren, Heath (Nicole) Perry, Sabrina (Matt) Pribyl, Bridgett Perry, Kyndal (Mace) Luckett, Khristopher Paulsen, Jeremy Paulsen, Jenna Paulsen and Kally Jo Paulsen; two great-grandsons Jonah and Caleb Pribyl; one brother, Dennis Paulsen, Moreno Valley, CA; one sister, Connie (Frank) Hoppe, Kingsley IA; and one sister-in-law, Alice Paulsen, Cushing, IA. He is preceded in death by his parents, wife Alice, daughter, Marjorie, brother, Norman, and infant sister, Phyllis. Interment will be at Wildwood Cemetery, Salem.



# NATIONAL HORSESHOE PITCHERS ASSOCIATION WORLD TOURNAMENT HAMBURG FAIRGROUNDS

HAMBURG, NEW YORK • JULY 14-26, 2014







# THE FAIRGROUNDS IS LOCATED IN HAMBURG, NY; JUST 15 MINUTES SOUTH OF BUFFALO

The Fairgrounds is pleased for the opportunity to host the 2014 National Horseshoe Pitchers Association (NHPA) World Tournament

# **VENUE QUICK FACTS**

**Event Center** 

A full service facility with an open exhibit area spanning 314' x 148' as well as Box Office, meeting rooms, Promoter's Office, concessions and ample parking. There is also a campground with accommodations for up to 400 units offering both partial and full hook-ups.

# **Buffalo** Raceway

Experience the thrill of live harness racing at Buffalo Raceway, January through July. Enjoy the races from The Clubhouse with delicious food and drinks or watch from our grandstand. Simulcast wagering is available year round from your favorite tracks including Meadowlands, Belmont & Churchill.

#### Hambura Casino

Located adjacent to the Event Center, featuring 925 slot machines in every denomination, video poker, and big payout progressives, there's a game for everyone! Open daily from 8am-4am, the casino also offers live entertainment on weekends, several restaurants, and more to make up over 55,000 square feet of fun! **Showplex** 

Built in 2010, this 52,000 sq. ft. arena is located in the northeast corner of The Fairgrounds, just behind the grandstand and is adjacent to the existing livestock facilities. The building features a 125' x 225' show ring. This new facility hosts year round livestock as well as equine shows and sales.



Housed on 266 acres, The Fairgrounds offers all the facilities needed to make the 2014 NHPA World Tournament a memorable one. Our management, staff, in-house caterer, marketing dept. and contracted service providers offer custom-tailored programs and support that can contribute to the success of your tournament.









# www.the-fairgrounds.com

# THE TOWN THAT FRIENDSHIP BUILT....

Hamburg, is one of many unique areas that make up the Southtowns of Buffalo. Lake Erie runs through Hamburg and boasts beautiful sunsets, restaurants, water sports, and breathtaking views. An abundance of public and private golf courses, village shops and full service retail corridors, as well as top-notch dining and picnic facilities are just some of the many attributes to the area. Sports enthusiasts will feel right at home as Ralph Wilson Stadium, home of the NFL Buffalo Bills, Coca Cola Field, home of the AAA Buffalo Bisons, and First Niagara Center, home of the NFL Buffalo Sabres are all within a 15 minute drive. From The Fairgrounds to wine trails and fine culinary treasures, to prime ski areas and summer resorts, the Southtowns of Buffalo are sure to delight all who come to visit!"



The Buffalo Niagara region and Hamburg, New York will be hosting the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association (NHPA) World Tournament July 14-26<sup>th</sup> 2014 at the Hamburg Fairgrounds and event center.

Below is a list of local hotels in the area that will be available during that time at a discounted rate. The hotels are ordered by distance in miles from the event center. It would be beneficial to book soon because rooms are filling up quickly for this event! We thank you in advance for any bookings from the list below. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Lindsay Carucci at 716-852-0511 x201 or <a href="mailto:Carucci@buffalosportscommission.com">Carucci@buffalosportscommission.com</a>. Thank you!

#### Holiday Inn Express, Hamburg

2.5 Miles from Event Center

3565 Commerce Pl, Hamburg, NY 14075 \$139 Nicole Wysocki (716) 648-9200

#### Quality Inn, Hamburg

3 Miles from Event Center

5440 Camp Rd, Hamburg, NY 14075 \$129 Nicole Wysocki (716) 649-0500

#### Super 8, Hamburg

3 Miles from Event Center

5442 Camp Rd, Hamburg, NY 14075 \$119 Nicole Wysocki (716) 649-0505

#### Motel 6, Hamburg

3.5 Miles from Event Center

5245 Camp Road, Hamburg, NY 14075 \$69.99 midweek (Sunday-Thursday), \$89.95 weekend (Friday & Saturday) Jamie Beth Maragas (716) 648-2000

#### Econolodge, Blasdell

4 Miles from Event Center

4344 Milestrip Rd, Buffalo, NY 14219 \$72-82 Debbie Kinney (716) 825-7530

### Best Western, Lackawanna

7 Miles from Event Center

2500 Hamburg Turnpike, Buffalo, NY 14218 \$129 Nicole Wysocki (716) 821-0030

#### **Hyatt Regency Buffalo**

13 Miles from Event Center

Two Fountain Plaza, Buffalo, NY 14202 \$110 (716) 649-0505

#### Adam's Mark, Buffalo

13 Miles from Event Center

12 Church Street, Buffalo, NY 14202 \$119 Christa Beal (716) 845-5100 ex. 7015



NEW YORK STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS ASSOCIATION

# DINING











Whether you're looking for cutting-edge cuisine, a locally sourced organic meal or a pilgrimage to the home of the chicken wing, Buffalo has you covered!

Buffalo is a foodie paradise that mixes ethnic diversity, a vibrant agricultural sector, creative chefs and blue-collar tavern classics. With 400 independently owned restaurants, you'd better come hungry!

And we sure know how to celebrate our food! Each year, Buffalo holds the Taste of Buffalo - America's largest two-day food festival - and the National Buffalo Wing Festival, which features 85,000 people chowing down 55 tons of wings.

MEET - COMPETE - TOUR | BUFFALO NIAGARA

VISITBUFFALONIAGARA.COM





The Fairgrounds Event Center , located in Hamburg, NY prides itself on being a full-service facility. With an open Exhibit Area measuring 314x148, Box Office, Separate Meeting Rooms, Promoter's Office, Concessions, and ample parking, this facility can accommodate a variety of venues including meetings, trade shows, sports events and concerts.

#### **DIMENSIONS**

- Total Size 74,000 sq. ft.
- Exhibit Area 50,000 sq ft.
- Ceiling Height 35 ft.
- Exhibit Area: 314 ft. x 148 ft. (50k sq. ft. Free-Span)

#### **SERVICES**

- RV Parking
- Park/Picnic areas
- Wireless Internet
- Catering/Food services
- Decorating
- Marketing Package
- Sound, Lights, and Staging

#### CAPACITY

- Accommodates up to 250 10' x 10' booths
- Seats 3,000 in banquet seating
- Seats 4,500 in theater setting
- Meeting/Seminar rooms available
- Smaller adjacent buildings available

#### **OPERATION**

- Easy, ground level, move in/move out
- Large lobby area in both east and west entrances
- Electrical outlets 30 ft. on center
- Waste & Water 60 ft. on center
- Parking unlimited
- Loading Docks

#### **ACCESSIBILITY**

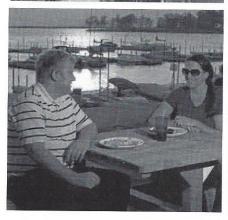
- Reached via Interstate 90, NYS 20 & 20A, U.S. Highway 62, and Routes 219, 179, & 5
- 15 minutes from downtown Buffalo
- Approximately 450 miles from New York City, 220 miles from Pittsburgh, 110 miles from Toronto, 70 miles from Rochester, 200 miles from Cleveland

# SEE & DO











Buffalo is home to some of America's greatest architecture, including works by Frank Lloyd Wright, Louis Sullivan and H.H. Richardson; world-class modern and contemporary art at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery; fascinating history, from the Erie Canal to the inauguration of Theodore Roosevelt; hip neighborhoods filled with boutiques and cafes, like Allentown and the Elmwood Village; major league sports; family-friendly attractions; and a culinary scene that includes some 400 independently-owned restaurants. Oh, and we have a natural wonder – Niagara Falls – just 20 minutes away.

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