

Volume 12 #1
Jan/Feb/Mar 2009

Nor-Cal News & Views

Northern California Horseshoe Pitchers
Association website address is
<http://www.NCHPA.com> Visit the NHPA
website at horseshoepitching.com

Presidents Message Kimmy Stockli

Happy Holidays! I hope this greeting finds you all well. We have a busy year ahead of us here in the NCHPA. We are hosting the California State Tournament this year at our Yolo Club and we have 132 tournaments scheduled. That is a few more than last year. Our officers have been hard at work putting the schedule together, which is included in this Newsletter. Some of us don't appreciate all of the work that goes in to getting this schedule to print. So, I would like to take this opportunity to especially thank Linda Hoelscher and Casey for all of their hours and hours of hard work.

We held our annual meeting on November 8th and had a pretty good turnout. We elected 2 new officers and re elected 2. Welcome to Robert Cocagne our 4th V.P. handling Junior Promotions. Robert has been an advocate of Junior Promotion for some time now at the Tulare Horseshoe Club, and his experience with the Juniors will be great for our organization. We would also like to welcome Richard Robbins as our 5th V.P. and Social Secretary. Richard is a long time member, and his vast experience in every aspect of horseshoes will be an asset. Rick Bermingham and I were both re elected. As President, I look forward to working with all of the new and existing members of our Executive Committee!

Dets at the Pitts

Over the past few years we have had several incidents involving our pets at tournaments. There are 2 incidents in particular that come to mind. The first was an animal actually being killed at the Yolo Horseshoe Club, the second, just this past year involving one of our pitchers being attacked and bitten at the Norcal. We understand that all of you love your pets, and to most of you they are a part of your family. However, if you can't have full control at all times, you must consider leaving that pet at home. If you can't leave the pet at home, bring a kennel so your pet can be right next to you and in a secure area. Especially, if that pet is known to be AGGRESSIVE! As an NCHPA officer, I can't tell you not to bring your pets, as most of our Tournaments are held in public parks, but I can only make suggestions as to how to keep our pitchers safe. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. *Kimmy Stockli*

At the annual meeting this year, the delegation voted to make red the color of our 2009 plates for our 1st and 2nd place plaques. So, when ordering, please remember to ask for RED.

Sec/Treas & Regional Director Gail Sluys

Money has started to come in for 2009 dues and so far the clubs are right on the ball with the correct amount needed. Great job..... Members please remember National dues have been increased and it is \$17.00 for National (NHPA) \$10.00 for Northern CA (NCHPA) plus your club dues. Club secretaries please remember to send me \$27.00 per adult member, junior members dues remain the same @ \$7.00.

I have ordered the patches and sanction certificates and will be getting those out to you as I receive them and get them complete.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from our house to yours. *Gail Sluys*

First VP Sharon Paddock Happy New Year to All!

Listed below are the awards that will be given out for 2009 at the Nor-Cal Championships

Good Luck to every pitcher in Northern California, because you could be the TOP DOG or PITCHER OF THE YEAR.

1. PLAYER OF THE YEAR (only one person will be given this award) However the sweet part of it is that every No-Cal pitcher is capable of winning this award. Just pitch a lot and win, win, win...1st or 2nd.
Regular tournaments: 1st place = 3 points (Cont. on P-3)

2nd place = 2 points

Pitching in the CA. State Championships = 5 points, then 3 or 2 points for position.

Pitching in the Nor-Cal Championships = 5 points then 3 or 2 for position.

Pitching in the Nor-Cal Club Team Championships = 3 points. Place positions are not counted because this is a team event.

2. ROOKIE OF THE YEAR
3. MOST IMPROVED PITCHER
4. TOP DOG AWARD (Most tournaments pitched in the NCHPA for 2009, up to the NorCal cut-off date.
5. 80% GAMES AND OVER (award certificates from LeeRoy Lassiter NCHPA statistician
6. JUNIOR OR CADET PLAYER OF THE YEAR (same point system as adults with the requirement that they must pitch in a minimum of 5 tournaments to be eligible for the award).
7. SCOREKEEPER OF THE YEAR please send your nomination to LeeRoy Lassiter he will send the nominations to the 2009 officers.
8. PRESIDENTIAL AWARD (Chosen by the NCHPA President) **Sharon Paddock**

Second VP Rick Bermingham NCHPA Hall of Fame Criteria

The following criteria must be met for induction into the Northern California Horseshoe Pitcher's Hall of Fame:

1. MEMBERSHIP: The nominee must have been an adult member, in good standing, for at least 10 years. Their attitude and initiative should uphold and enhance the image of the NCHPA and NHPA
2. PITCHER: One that has an outstanding record of pitching performance and has won several titles at the class, state, or world level.
3. ORGANIZER: One who has made significant contributions to the game in an administrative capacity as a charter officer or as a promoter that has brought in new members, given of their time, and worked toward the betterment of the game, above and beyond the normal.

All nominees must meet the criteria listed above in #1, and then must have either #s 2 or 3 as additional criteria.

The Hall of Fame Committee consists of 5 members, chosen by the chairperson that has been assigned to the head of the HoF committee. Committee members will be picked that have been members of the NCHPA at least 10 years, and some that have been members for only a few years. The reason is to maintain a balance; the older members for their knowledge of past pitchers and the newer members for the future of the HoF. This will also keep the HoF selection from becoming a popularity contest. We will work together to choose the candidate(s) that fit as many of the above qualifications as possible.

An announcement for candidates will be placed in the second issue of News and Views, followed by a nomination form in the third issue of the year.

Start thinking about the people worthy of this honor for 2009.

Rick Bermingham

Third VP Linda Hoelscher

Happy Holidays to you and your families, I wish everyone Health and Happiness this Holiday Season and in the New Year.

The 2009 Schedule was printed in November and I'm sorry to say it wasn't perfect but, it is doable with a small insert to it. The printer and my computer program had a problem and I didn't catch it until it was too late. SORRY. Also after it was printed three clubs had changes. So Casey was great to work with me on this and the correct dates and names are printed in this issue. The doable schedule will be sent out to all Club Contacts to get to their current members and a new schedule will be sent out in the new member packets as new members sign up.

The Club Contacts will also be getting new maps with the GPS coordinates added to them for those who have a GPS system. Casey provided us with this information. If you want a set of maps your club contact will have a MASTER COPY to use to make more copies. Let me know if I can help any of you with anything else. See you in 2009. **Linda Hoelscher**

Fifth VP Richard Robbins

First of all I want to thank everyone for their vote of confidence to be elected as your 5th VP. I will try my best, but I will need help from all you members and club contacts with any information. Please call me at: 886 7099 anytime or you can email Linda Hoelscher at. Looking forward to seeing everyone in the new season, Think Ringers. **Richard Robbins**

Statistician Report

Results for the year 2008 are as follows; Of the 138 scheduled Sanctioned tournaments, only 3 were cancelled. Our member clubs held 135 tournaments with a combined total of 2,878 pitchers.

Our first tournament was held at Tulare on February 23 with 22 pitchers. Our final tournament was held at Half Moon Bay on December 7 with 24 pitchers. The overall average of pitchers for each tournament was 21.32 pitchers per tournament. These results are for tournaments pitched in the NCHPA only.

Our members also pitched in 42 tournaments outside the NCHPA area. A total of 164 of our members pitched in these tournaments, including 56 at the State and 11 at the World Tournament.

Also this year our members have pitched 24 games with an 80% or above average and 1 game with an 90% average. Of these 18 were Women and 7 were Men. Congratulations to these great pitchers.

Qualifying new members or members making a change in their pitching distance. It has been a standard procedure to send a copy of the qualifying score sheet to the NCHPA statistician. Actually it is not necessary to send these to me. The qualifying results are used to properly seed a new pitcher in their first tournament. Until the new pitcher pitches in his or her first tournament they do not have an average listed in the NATSTATS. Neither I nor Glenn Jamieson use the qualifying

results to determine the pitchers NHPA average. Once a pitcher has completed a sanctioned tournament and the results are posted, then that pitcher will have an NHPA ringer percentage posted in the next NATSTATS results. So please do not send the qualifying sheets to me. If the new member qualifies before the day of his or her first tournament, be sure they take a copy of the qualifying sheet with them to the tournament. Please refer to page 19 of The RGS Book at the top of the page under "1.No Current Average" and note that they must qualify within 30 days of their first tournament. *Lee Roy Lassiter*

NCHPA Supports National Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame

The 2008 economic meltdown affected several aspects of organized horseshoe pitching. Among them was financial support for the National Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame, Museum and Commemorative Brick Plaza in Wentzville, Missouri. This 21,000 sq. ft. facility, which opened in October 2007, contains memorabilia, photos and historical data on hundreds of pitchers, many of which were/are from California.

For many of the fund-raising years prior to construction, California, which is now in second place, led all States in financial contributions, due in large part to the generosity of some NCHPA members and clubs. Of course not all members contributed, in fact less than 15%, but I am pleased to say that our Charter leads all others in the number of individuals or families that over time have contributed \$500 or more. The Sonoma County and Gold Country Horseshoe Clubs have each contributed over \$2,000 and are the number 2 and 3 contributing clubs in the Country. Our NCHPA Charter however, does not fare so well when compared to other charters who send in annual donations based on membership. In this regard, the NCHPA ranks 17th.

The National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation (NHPF) is the charitable arm of the NHPA. Contributions to the Foundation enabled it to build the National Hall of Fame and Museum facility with 16 indoor and another 16 outdoor horseshoe courts. This facility is just some 25 miles west of St. Louis and only about a 2-hour drive from Springfield, IL, site of the 2009 World Tournament. So, if you have plans to attend the W.T., by all means include a stop at Wentzville to visit the Hall of Fame. While there, be sure to visit the Commemorative Brick Plaza in which every State has a specific section to remember or honor pitchers and family members. The California section is part of a unique horseshoe design in the middle of the plaza.

Please see the brick order form in this issue***** Page - 2

Our sport is self-supporting. We have no national sponsors. It is therefore up to us to see that horseshoe pitching is kept alive in the coming years and that our historical past is preserved. You can help achieve this by recruiting new members, attending tournaments and financially supporting the NHPF. Some clubs hold NHPF fund-raising tournaments. Others, clubs and charters, pledge annual donations based on membership. But by far, the bulk of contributions come direct from individuals who make a tax-deductible donation to the NHPF or purchase an engraved brick to honor parents, spouse, friend or a family member. In 2008, death took several long-time NCHPA members. The Sonoma County and Gold Country clubs purchased commemorative bricks to honor their departed members. Perhaps some of our other clubs should consider doing the same. It's a great way to support the NHPF while providing a visible and permanent remembrance of someone special.

Contributions and brick orders should be mailed to the NHPF, P.O. Box 1628, Penn Valley, CA 95946. Thank you..... *Dave Loucks*

CLUB NEWS

Tulare:

Back in 2004 Marvin Sanders had horseshoe games on Wed. evenings at \$4.00 per player per night most of the year w/ about 24 or so players when Diane & I first started playing shoes. Marvin made teams (2 players per team) w/ no handicap and we played. There was also a draw for a player's chance at a pot of gold. If you were lucky you could make some money at the end of the night. In 2008 it had declined to 2 to 4 players showing up for practice and not wanting to play any games. Diane & I thought it was time for some change because what ever Marvin was doing didn't seem to be working ("keep it simple" he says). So I thought maybe a fall city league (teams of 4 players per team w/ 2 subs) might help bring some new and or old players back w/ a handicap of 90% and keeping to 4 wed.s evening's 7:00 pm. to 9:00 pm. The league format is single games w/ each player pitching 32-shoe cancellation games against all players of the opposing team. After talking w/ the city of Tulare I was giving the green light to do what ever I wanted. The city got \$40.00 per team to help cover some costs like lights, score cards, etc. & I would not charge them to direct the league. I took out the old sand from the horseshoe courts & put in new sand donated by Don Henry (SCHPA member). Sept. 17, 2008 was our first night of league w/ 3 teams coming out to play. There was only 2 Tulare Club members Robert & Diane Cocagne that came out to play out of 12 players which is sure better than lately. I thought the league got off to a good start. Hoping to add a barbecue dinner before play. At the end of the night Lindsay team took the lead w/ "H" Boys in 2nd followed by R.C. Drafting team in 3rd. At the end of league the 1st place team will receive free shirts sponsored by Tulare Noon Kiwanis Club & the team player names on a perpetual plaque

sponsored by Tulare Horseshoe Club that will be displayed at the City Recreation Department. Maybe some day in! The future it could be an affordable NHPA sanction league after we work out the bugs & w/ some support from the local clubs like Tulare Noon Kiwanis Club & Tulare Horseshoe Club. Sure hope this gets new players & the fun back in horseshoes. **Robert Cogance**

Ukiah:

We hosted our last tournament for 2008 on September 20th and 21st. It was fun, friendly and wonderfully cool! It rained on Friday and Gil thought we might even have to cancel the weekend tournament. But thanks to Bill Paddock and Perry Huff who helped Gil rid the pits of standing water and a little wind and a little time the pits were dry and ready to go for Saturday with a nice cool overcast sky for which pitchers were thankful and scorekeepers bundled up. Sunday was sunnier but still cool and comfortable - the only complaint I had was the motorcycle racing next to our courts, it can be a bit distracting!! Tino Faustino and Ty MacDonald and Bill Paddock were so anxious to pitch on Sunday that they had the pits opened and ready to go Sunday morning before Gil and I even got there. We brought the donuts, muffins and fruit and made the coffee and were ready to go nice and early and with little effort! I am always heartened and pleased to see how helpful and kind horseshoe pitchers are - from the scorekeepers to the pit turners to the friends and relatives of pitchers who help where they can and are always ready with a smile and a kind word. Gil and I and the Ukiah Valley Horseshoe Club would like all who come to Ukiah to know they are welcome and appreciated. See the Tournament Results on line for all of the Ukiah tournament numbers.

I am not sure what the cause, but our April and September tournaments were the most well attended, with 22 pitchers showing up on April 19th and 16 on April 20th and 17 and 16 pitchers on September 20th and 21st. Could it be that cooler weather is expected in those months? Both the May and June tournaments had only 10-12 pitchers but were still fun and enjoyable.

We have had a good year of pitching in Ukiah with about eleven members staying active out of the 18 that are signed up - that's 61% participation. We have submitted our dates and are hoping for more horseshoe pitching fun and camaraderie in 2009. I would also like to share that I have been using the "Dutch" handicapping method and we like it much better, it still gives pitchers with lower percentages an advantage but the scorekeeping is so much easier with the smaller numbers and you don't need to refer to a chart, all you need is a calculator! Thank you Gail and Sharon for the suggestion.

Some highlights of our 2008 tournaments that I find interesting are: -Terri Treder entered our April tournament at 7.5% and pitched 12.33% tournament average with one game at 20% then came back in September at a whopping 23.97% NCHPA average - good job, Terri.

-Suzette Mankins, one of our own members, entered in April at 5% and pitched a 20% game and finished in 2nd place. In

May with a starting average of 15.67% she pitched a 36% game and took 2nd place again. Although she couldn't pitch in September she is on the NCPHA stat list at a whopping 21.33% - you go girl! -In April Will Facey (40.58%) pitched a 72% game, Ken Jones (9.5%) pitched an 18%, Sue Lichau (21.73%) pitched a 42% game and in September with a starting average of 33.77% pitched a 46% game.

-Sonoma County's new member, Michael Jurian entered at 3% and pitched a 14% game with a tournament average of 9.5% taking 2nd place in our June 14th tournament.

-Marlys Westphal (40.3%) finished our September 21st tournament in first place with a 53.6% average. She pitched a 64% and a 62% game on Sunday and a 62% game with a 2nd place finish on Saturday - great pitching, Marlys! -Tom Burns Jr. (25.79%) pitched a 46% game on September 20th and finished the tournament in first place. Of note during our 2008 tournaments Robert Harrall, Bran Starbuck, John Brotherton, Dot Colling, Will Facey, Dave Shelton, Aaron Mankins, Gloria Callahan, Gil Tournour, and Rayetta Warlick all pitched at least one game that was 10% higher or more than their entering average. All of these facts are interesting and fun but most important is that everyone including me had a good time and want to do it again next year! *Lorena Tournour*

Madera:

The Madera Big Valley Horseshoe League Has completed its first year with the construction of ten new horseshoe courts located at The Rotary Park in Madera. Two sanctioned tournaments were held and will expand to five sanctioned tournaments in 2009. Plans are being discussed with the Madera Parks and Community Service Department to develop after school horseshoe pitching programs that will hopefully attract junior players. The Big Valley League has expanded its Wednesday night league and now has eight teams consisting of a total of seventy-eight pitchers. A large portion of the Madera Club membership has been recruited from these league pitchers.

Winners of the September 21, 2008 tournament were: Ted Haynish group A, Harlen Rippetoe group B, and Ruben Duran group C.

The Madera Club is extremely proud of the 2008 Nor-Cal Club Team Champions, Art Burt, Jason Hernandez, and Anthony and Ruben Duran. This was a spur of the moment team put together to represent our club. Good job guys!

It's been a busy year and we hope for a lot of growth and expansion during the years to come. *Harlan Rippetoe*

Toll of Time:

Clancy Wayne Coates, Jr. passed away on 10/29/08 at the age of 86.* Born 12/24/21 in Laona, Wisconsin. * Clancy worked for Kimberly-Clark in Kimberly, Wisconsin for 31 years. * Moved to Anderson, CA in 1964. * Kimberly-Clark purchased by Simpson Paper Co. in 1973 and he worked for them 13 years for a total of 44 years in the paper mill industry. * Retired in 1985. * World War II veteran.

Sonoma County:

Frank Cmelik

Passed away on November 3, 2008 at the age of 75. He is the husband for 52 years of Nancy Cmelik; father of Michael Cmelik, Mark Cmelik and his wife Sandy, and Marlene Cummings. He has five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Frank, more commonly known as "Frank the barber", owned the Larkfield Barber Shop for 26 years prior to his retirement four years ago. He was active in the Cruisin North Car Club and the Sonoma County Horseshoe Pitching Association, and he loved old cars. Frank loved life and his grandchildren remember him telling all kinds of stories.

We also lost 19-year member Ray Parnay of Sebastopol. Many of you might remember Ray when he pitched, couldn't turn a court because of his back so he had you do it for him in exchange for a chocolate truffle or other piece of candy. Ray hadn't pitched in about 6 years, but maintained a close friendship with the NCHPA senior member George Greott. They would meet at George's home to play cribbage every Tuesday.

We sprayed our grass for weeds the other day at our courts, in hopes of killing the broad-leafed weeds that seem to take over our grass. We hope to have a beautiful well-manicured set of 16 courts for all of you to enjoy in the 2009 season.

Charlie Masson is our club champion for 2008 for the third time. He's got some fierce competition coming in Sue Lichau though. ***Casey Sluys***

Tuolumne

By the time you read this, the holiday's will probably be over with. the members of the Tuolumne Club hopes everyone had a Very Merry Christmas and a happy (and a half sober) New Years. We would also like to thank all the pitchers that came and pitched in our tournaments last year, and are looking forward to seeing you all again in 2009. Tuolumne Club will only host four tournaments for 2009. Our first scheduled tournament, to kick off the season, will be held on March 7th (weather permitting). The next tournament will be April 11th. The 8th Annual , Black Oak tournament, will be held on June 27th & 28th, and will remain a two day, same tournament as in the past. Flyers will be sent out well in advance. Our last tournament of the season will be the 7th annual Mother Lode Tournament, which will be held on September 26th. This year this will be a 1-day only tournament. Flyers will be sent out well in advance of the tournament. Again, the Black Oak and the Mother Lode tournaments will both be our big money tournaments.

Our last tournament for 2008, the Mother Lode Open, was held on Sept 27th & 28th. We only had 20 pitchers who came to pitch, which we made it into 2 groups of 10 pitchers. We advertised to pay down to 5 winners in a 10-man group, and 4 winners in a 8 man group. We set aside enough money to pay out for 3 groups. As we only had 2 groups pitching, and all that extra money, the club decided to pay down to 10th place in each group. Everyone went home with some money. We also decided instead of paying \$20.00 for high game for 2 days, that we would pay \$20.00 each day for highest game. So instead of 2 high game winners there 4 high game winners. The 50/50 raffle, ALL the money went back to the ticket

buyers. You just never know until the last minute what surprise Tuolumne Club will throw at you.

The winners of the Mother Lode Tournament are as follows. Group 1. This years tournament champion was, our own Teddy Guillotte, with 702 points, taking home \$120.00. 2nd place was Tom Munoz 696 pts for \$90.00. 3rd place, Chuck James 681 pts for \$70.00. 4th place, Mel Roberts, 671` pts for \$50.00. 5th place, Ed Engle 659 pts, for 30.00. The next 5 winners received

\$20.00 each, 6th place, Ben Ramirez 654 pts. 7th place, Bob Birge 614 pts. 8th place, Brian Jones 601 pts. 9th place Gail Kane 551 pts, 10th place John Ortega 496 pts. Group 2: 1st place was tied with Ken Weir & Robert

Morse. The play off was won by Ken Weir with 426 pts. for \$120.00. 2nd place was Robert Morse with 415 pts for \$90.00. 3rd place was Fred Reibin with 392 points for \$70.00. 4th place was Vince Isma with 386 pts for \$50.00. 5th place was Bill Willis with 367 pts for 30.00. The last 4 places received \$20.00 each. 6th place was Steve Huntoon with 354 pts, 7th place was Maurice Costales with 349 pts, 8th place was Michael Jones with 335 pts, 9th place was Mike Comer with 173 pts. 10th place was a pacer as we had 1 no show. The high game winners for \$20.00 each for group 1 for Sat. was Tom Munoz and Sun. was Chuck James. Group 2 winners for Sat was a tie between Ken Weir & Michael Jones who split \$10.00 each. Sun. winner was Vince Isma. This was our last tournament for 2008. We would again like to thank all the pitchers who came to Tuolumne to pitch this past year and hope everyone had a good time, and will be looking forward to seeing all of you, and even some new pitchers in 2009.

Fred Reibin

Kenny Weir

Kenny Weir, loves his beer
He is really a hum-dinger
He loves to throw those horseshoes
But seldom gets a ringer

He rants and raves
And threatens to quit
But always comes back
When he gets over his fit

The shoes are wrong
The pits are bad
He doesn't get too excited
But he sure does get mad

Then he yells, I ain't pitchin' no more
For I see no gain
You begin to wonder

If he is a little insane

But, hey, he's Kenny Weir
And that's his way
And that is how
He will always stay

Now that I am finished
With all that I said
Kenny says, laugh all you want
But I'll get even with Fred
By Fred Reibin

Editors note: Ken and I graduated from Thomas Downey High School in Modesto in 1962. Both of us majored in Electricity Shop. Ken stayed in the field and retired from Modesto Irrigation District.

Forebay Park:

Our club loves the idea of changing the Calif. State Championship Tournament to a cooler weekend. I do believe it will increase the number of applicants.

I would say that most of the NCHPA tournaments this year were lack of scorekeepers or lack of good scorekeepers. Scorekeepers are very important for us. If your club cannot provide scorekeepers, then the participants in the tournament should try to bring someone that knows how to keep score. (They should try that anyway) It is getting pretty bad when the participants have to keep their own score. It slows everything down.

Another thing I have noticed is that some pitchers are way to slow in pitching a game. You have 30 seconds to deliver two shoes. We need to enforce that rule to keep every game on time so as to not hold up the next game or group.

I thank the NCHPA Board on approving the logo. I have sent for three quotes on having 500 patches made. These patches will be for sewing on hats, shirts, etc.

We are looking forward to the 2009 season of pitching horseshoes with you all. Mark your calendar for June 20 & 21 and August 22 & 23 as Forebay Park tournaments.

We hope you have success in pitching shoes and improving your game ringer percentage. **Bill Harris**

Stockton:

On behalf of The Stockton Horseshoe Club we hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day as well as a great Thanksgiving Dinner. I hope all of you remembered to thank our great God for all the blessings he gave us in this 2008 year.

Now that we are in the month of December and the Holiday frenzy is beginning, be sure to spend your money wisely for you can be sure that everything will go up in price in 2009 and with our unstable economy we cannot be sure of what will happen.

The three loose stakes on our courts were fixed, one had to be re-welded and the other two needed tightening up. The Club authorized the purchase of Visquien to replace the plastic sheet covers under the rugs on our pits, which serve as a vapor barrier. Daniel Hernandez donated an eight-foot plastic table to replace the large old wooden one used by Glen Jamieson while doing our Stats,

We had the election of new Officers in October, those elected were Nadine Martin (President), Daniel Hernandez (Vice President). Re-elected Peter Chavarria (Secretary/Treasurer and Contact Person.)

So far we only have six pitching members signed up for the 2009 year and hopefully we will have more coming in as our first 2009 Tournament gets nearer.

On behalf of our Club I'd like to give our deepest condolences to the families of these members that passed on in the year 2008.

Martin Earle Dunn - Tri-Valley Club; Emil Seifert - Stockton Club; Clancy Coates - Shasta Club; Frank Spencer - Feather River; Frank (The Barber) Cmelik, and Ray Parnay - Sonoma Club. **Peter Chaverria**

Vallejo:

The year end meeting was held in Vallejo and thanks to Vern Gosney and Kimmie we had a nice lunch that included croissant sandwiches, chips and dip, veggie tray, coffee, donuts, sodas and dessert. Thanks again, we didn't have to leave for lunch break. Jim Wallace is recovering from his stroke and is working with his therapist to get his left hand operational, but like he says he is right handed, so he will keep on pitching. Bill Milligan is able to see the stake again and has already pitched a few shoes with Pat Murtha. With the Hall of Fame Building needing a new roof and the Northern being low on funds, Vern Gosney started the fund-raiser with a donation and the Vallejo club will have the 22 March tournament as a fundraiser for this. The Vallejo club wishes a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all and the best for the coming tournament season. **Ben Yost**

Indian Valley:

All I can say up here in the cold and going into winter is don't forget our money tournament in June. We only charge \$12 entry fee and a huge \$50 and \$25 payout. The people loved it last year so we are doing it again on our two June Tournaments, so come on up and win some money. **Richard McCuetcheon**

Gold Country:

The members of Gold Country Horseshoe Club would like to extend Holiday Greetings to all and best wishes for a 2009 filled with happiness, good health, prosperity and lots of ringers!

Thank you to all who participated in our tournaments this year, especially 2 of our 5 new members, Rick Burdett and Joe Rallo. Rick took 2nd place in his very 1st tournament and received one of our NCHPA plaques. We also had a few pitchers whom had never pitched at our courts and we hope to see you all again at our 2009 tournaments.

This year we tried a different format for our 1st tournament making it a pre-register, 2-day, handicapped event. The 1st day we pitched 6 groups of 6 each with the top 4 in each group (based on total points) qualifying for the final 3 groups of 8 on the 2nd day. Prize \$\$ of (1st)\$100.00, (2nd)\$60.00, (3rd)\$40.00, (4th)\$25.00 was paid to each group. Winners were: Tom Munoz, Walt Stafford, and Jim Gibbons; 2nd places went to: Don Gore, Marshall Merino & Karl Dalla Rosa; 3rd places

were won by; Kimmy Stockli, Dave Loucks, & Stacy Triano; last but not least, 4th place finishers were Gene Washoe, Larry Eastman & Linda Jessee. Congratulations to all!

Rosemary and Karl Dalla Rosa again hosted our club's "pre-opening" season party in June for about 2-dozen members and as usual outdid themselves with their hospitality. We hope it won't happen too soon, but they are planning on putting their home on the market and when it sells, moving to Arizona. Rosemary will really be missed, not only as a friend but as a scorekeeper. I don't think she has been to a tournament in the past 10 years that she hasn't kept at least 2 scores.

Andy and Maggie Loobey hosted our annual Christmas party on Dec. 6th. Maggie always has the house beautifully decorated and we all have a great time. Maggie's horse 'Shazar' died earlier this year and she was heartbroken but a short time ago found a new mare that is keeping her busy. Andy, who wasn't able to pitch this year managed to keep busy by installing 4 courts on his property. He had some help from Rick Bermingham who put in the cement walkways. Still a little finishing work to be done but Andy hopes to have a few small tournaments on them this season. The courts are all terraced and have some nice shade. They overlook a great view of a lake, hills and trees. If Casey has room in this issue, you can check out the picture. Mark your calendars now for our tournaments in 2009. Our 1st tournament will be on May 30th and will be a fundraiser for the NHPF. If you haven't already, now would be a great time to send in a donation to support our National Hall of Fame or to buy a brick for a gift, to honor a family member or friend, or for yourself. This tournament is followed on the 31st with our annual Gold Country Memorial.

On July 11th we will be honoring John Sylvester by celebrating his 80th birthday and 37 years as an NCHPA member. John had knee surgery last winter but he still pitches from 40' and maintains an average in the high 50's. He has several state titles under his belt and has been NCHPA pitcher of the year. Come on up to Gold Country and help us celebrate with John! We also hope you'll stick around for the GCN Open on Sunday, 7/12.

It seems that gas prices might stay reasonable for several months and hopefully that will bring tournament participation back up to past times when it was normal to fill courts for 2 shifts. Looking forward to seeing y'all on the courts – so until then- "ringers to all." *Cathie Loucks*

Old ain't dumb! A strong young man at a construction site was bragging that he could outdo anyone in a feat of strength. He made a special case of making fun of one of the older workmen. After several minutes, the older worker had enough. 'Why don't you put your money where your mouth is,' he said. 'I will bet a week's wages that I can haul something in a wheelbarrow over to that building that you won't be able to wheel back.' 'You're on, old man,' the braggart replied. 'Let's see you do it.' The old man reached out and grabbed the wheelbarrow by the handles. Then, nodding to the young man, he said, 'All right, Dumb Ass, get in.'

Feather River:

Seasons Greetings to all our pitchers and their families and best wishes for the coming year. Sadly, we have lost a long time member. Frank Spencer passed away in October. We will miss him as he was always a good helper at our tournaments. Linda Jessee has been a very good president but was too busy at times to keep up with things. Thank you, Linda, for all that you did for our club. Reb Billingsley has agreed to take over and has lots of ideas in mind to build up our club. Have heard from Marlys and Vern Westphal who winter in Mesa, AZ, and they are pitching a lot down there and their percentages are improving. Dues are due after January 1, and I would urge everyone to mail their dues in early instead of having them dribble in for months thus making my job and Gail's much harder. Dues are still \$27 and should be made out to FRHC and mailed to me at 730 Meyers Ln., Paradise, CA 95969. We are looking forward to another successful year of pitching and hope to see all of you back. *Audrey Winters*

Shasta:

We held our annual club meeting in November. All three of our officers were re-elected. Fritz Oberst - President; Walt Butcher - Vice-President; Lee Roy Lassiter - Secretary/Treasurer, Contact Person. We had planned to have a Club Championship Tournament, but the courts were flooded from the rain. Elaine Butcher was awarded a plaque and 2 years paid membership as our Pitcher of the year. Ed Luzier won a plaque and \$100.00 as winner of the "51" competition. Shonda Annis was awarded a plaque for Rookie of the year. Loretta Grisaffi was awarded a plaque and \$30.00 as Scorekeeper of the year.

Sadly, we lost one of our members this year. Clancy Coates passed away on October 29th at the age of 86. Clancy loved to pitch horseshoes and we all enjoyed having him as a member of our club.

All of our members wish all of our friends in the NCHPA and the NHPA a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Hope to see you all on the courts next year. *Lee Roy Lassiter*

Editor: Casey Sluys
1721 San Ramon Wy
Santa Rosa, CA 95409



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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA HORSESHOE PITCHERS ASSOCIATION

President

Hall of Fame
Kimmy Stockli
109 Lamont Court
Vallejo, CA 94591-5639
(707) 645-8951
kimitch1@yahoo.com

1st. Vice President

By-Laws & Rules
Sharon Paddock
1024 Tim Mullen Road
Kneeland, CA 95549-9061
(707) 443-1913
paddock@inreach.com

2nd. Vice President

Supplies
Rick Bermingham
1450 Kingswood Dr Apt 522
Roseville, CA 95678-7911
(916) 271-4784
rbermingham@comcast.net

3rd. Vice President

Schedule & New Members
Linda Hoelscher
27878 Thackeray Ave.
Hayward, CA 94544-5651
(510) 785-8613
linal74@aol.com

4th. Vice President

Junior Promotion
Robert Cogane
1241 E. Richard Smith Ave
Tulare, CA 93274-8032
(559) 687-9720
cocagne@aol.net

5th. Vice President

Social Secretary
Richard Robbins
22252 Ralston Ct.
Hayward, CA 94541-3336
(510) 886-7099
linal74@sbcglobal.net

Secretary/Treasurer

NHPA Regional Director
Gail Sluys
1721 San Ramon Way
Santa Rosa, CA 95409-3964
(707) 538-3128
gsluys@sbcglobal.net

NHPA NatStat Director

Glenn Jamieson
3231 Vineyard Avenue #17
Pleasanton, CA 94566-6359
(925) 462-6030
natstatguy@aol.com

NHPA Webmaster Liaison & Newsletter Editor

Casey Sluys
(707) 538-3128 or (707)477-8893
kcslus@sbcglobal.net

