

# Nor-Cal News & Views

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

## President: Kimmy Stockli

### Yolo Update:

I received a call the other day from Don Stephens and he needed me to bring up a couple of keys to him at the Yolo Horseshoe Club. He said he was painting the Hall of Fame, and needed to open the doors to paint the trim. So the next day I drove up and found that, not only was the Hall of Fame painted, so was the outside of the kitchen, stat room, and bathrooms, even the Horseshoe Shop! All is painted with a very nice enamel that Don says will last at least 10 years. I couldn't believe all of the hard work that Don and Wendell had done. They donated their time and all of the paint to complete this project. They are also replacing some of the trim that has rotted out, and repainting it. I can't wait to see the finished product. If you run in to Don or Wendell Stephens out there on the courts, be sure and give them a big "THANK YOU" for the great job they have done keeping our Yolo Horseshoe Club beautiful.

### STATS:

Please remember to send your tournament stats in immediately upon completion of your tournaments. Lee Roy has informed me that there have been a few clubs that delay sending them in for up to a month. It is very important that these stats get to Lee Roy as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

We've had some great participation this year and many new members. I understand that the San Jose Club picked up 10 new members from the Boulder Creek area! Congrats to them. Those same folks in the Boulder Creek area want to start a new charter. They are in contact with their local parks and recreation, and are hoping to build sanctioned courts very soon!

Time to vote again! I have received the delegate packages for the NHPA Business meeting to be held Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30am, at the World Tournament this year in Springfield, IL. (I still need delegates by the way) We will be voting on several rule changes, officers, and the city to host the 2011 World Horseshoe Tournament. I will email all of the information to your contact folks in the next week. In the past few years, participation in this voting process has been very low. We need ALL of the clubs to participate. You can contact your members via phone, email or snail mail. Remember, YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

Nice article about the up and coming SFHPC in here, read it. In the coming years it'll be a great place to pitch.

## Secretary/Treasurer: Gail Sluys

*Reminder to all club secretaries, please send me your raffle prize check for the state tournament, in the amount of \$25.00, so we can get prizes purchased.*

We decided to experiment with the last newsletter and send a copy to previous NCHPA members, as a result we have at least 9 people who came back after being gone a couple of years. Some people actually told me that it was the reason they came back which means our experiment worked and makes us really happy so a special "Welcome Back" to those returning members. San Jose welcomed 10 new members from a call I received about horseshoes so a special "welcome to Jim Crouch and his buddies from me, I can hardly wait to meet you guys in person.

A great big "THANK YOU" to a man of great integrity and also a great pitcher, Pat Murtha a member of our Vallejo Club. Pat recently sent me a check in the amount of \$500.00 for the benefit of the NCHPA and asked that the officers use the money where we most need it: I promise we will Pat. *Gail*

## First VP: Sharon Paddock

### Calling On ALL HORSESHOE PLAYERS:

Everyone likes to show up at a tournament and step out on the courts and have them in great playing condition. (This takes a lot of work) Did you help get them that way? Some of our clubs are in dire need of manpower to get the courts in condition for you to play on. If you're going to pitch at WILLOWS (15 courts—1 court keeper) call LeeRoy and offer to help a day ahead. Lots of you play at YOLO (40 courts—1 court keeper) call Rick Bermingham and see if you can come over a week before to help him. Take your trailer and go a day ahead. Quite a few of our members are getting to old to do this work, how about our younger men stepping in to help out. Now's the time!

If we don't start to help out these clubs we are in danger of losing these great facilities. *Sharon Paddock*

## Third VP: Linda Hoelscher

We've mailed out 63 new member packets this year and I wish to say thank you to the new members. They've all appreciated the information that's in those packets.

It's time for your clubs to begin getting your 2010 schedule together. I'll be sending, to each club contact person, a letter and 2010 calendar soon. (Cont. on pg-3)

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**Support the NHPF**

**The only horseshoe pitching related Charity  
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support many programs of the sport;  
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install new or upgrade existing courts.  
Deadlines for Grant Applications: March 1  
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***The NHPA Hall of Fame is now open in  
Wentzville, MO. Be sure to stop by on your***

***way to the World Tournament in  
Springfield, IL July 27-Aug. 8, 2009.  
We still need your financial support  
...please help?***

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*Please sponsor a trophy at the State Championships  
(see flyer)*

So watch your snail-mail boxes.

As you know it is our year to host the State Championships in Davis over Labor Day. We know how hot it can get so we are reaching out to our members for your assistance. Please bring pop-ups (shade-covers) and misters. If anyone has these items and will be willing to bring them for this tournament, please let me know either by e-mail or phone. Of course Kevin Smith we are hoping that you plan on bringing your mister for us to enjoy. *Linda Hoelscher*

### **Fifth VP: Richard Robbins**

Our season is going good with many pitchers and a lot of tournaments Good luck to those going to the World and those getting ready for the Senior Games. Have a good time.

Sharon Saunders had gall bladder surgery, Andy Loobey a new hip, Mel Roberts and Bill Parker are battling cancer, Steve Chavez, Ester Williams and Casey Sluys all had bouts in the hospital. Fred Reiben of Tuolumne Club is having more eye surgery, Good luck to all. Sorry to hear that long time NCHPA member, Pat Moore's mom passed away. She was 101 and 3 months. Don Purdom also has left us and Ed Cortez' wife passed away over Memorial Day weekend. Our prayers are with all.

**State Motels:** will run from \$59.93 at Motel 6, (530)753-3777 Comfort Inn @ \$105.00, (530)297-1500 University Motel @ \$99, (530)756-0910 and Howard Johnson @ \$89.00, (530)792-0800 all rates based on double occupancy. All are in Davis. This one's in Dixon: Best Western (707) 678-0800 no pricing.

### **\*\*Don't delay enter the State Championships today!\*\* MAKE \$\$ LEARN TO KEEP SCORE**

On a better note John Ortega's cancer is in remission. He is pitching and winning in Stockton. Way to go John!

Everyone have a great summer and a great State Championships. Look for the entry form in this issue.

The host hotel for the state is **Howard Johnson** in Davis. Phone # is (530) 792-0800 address is 4100 Chiles Rd. Davis Ca. Rates are 2 Queens \$89.00, single king \$79.00. See Ya Soon, *Richard Robbins*.

**Statistician:** We have had some great turnouts so far this year. Through the end of May last year, we had completed 53 tournaments with 1,179 pitchers, 85,960 ringers and 277,157 shoes pitched. This year, through the end of May, we completed 48 tournaments with 1,188 pitchers, 83,816 ringers and 278,302 shoes pitched. This year we had 7 cancelled tournaments and only one cancelled tournament last year.

I hate to keep bringing this up but there are still some people sending their tournament results to Gail Sluys instead of to me. **Gail gets the money, I get the results.**

I have developed some new Master Summary Charts for those of you that still do your tournaments by hand. I have a separate chart for 4 person round robin with enough room for a double round and space to record a 3 way tie. I have separate charts for 5-person and 7 person round robins with the "byes" built in and space for a 3-way tie. The 8-person chart has room for a 3-way tie also. All of the charts have a space to enter the sanction number, tournament name, class, tournament location, date, entry average of each pitcher and the

handicap for handicapped games. Any club that would like to have copies of these charts can contact me and I will send you copies.

### ***The State, Nor-Cal, and Team forms will be available online at [nchpa.com](http://nchpa.com)***

If you don't want to cut this issue up then go there to pick one up.

## **CLUB NEWS**

**Fortuna Club:** The club is grateful to the area's Bear River Casino groundskeepers. They came out to assist Henry Clark with preparing the courts for their tournaments. The club sent a thank you letter to the Casino. I'll betcha they won't loosen the slots for us though when we go to their tournaments?

**Sonoma County:** Recently some of our beautiful oak trees, along the bank of the creek that parallels the courts, contracted "sudden oak disease. This disease is not apparent on the outside of the tree, but rather eats away the tree from the inside, weakening it and causing it to fall. In a preventative measure the city of Santa Rosa has chosen to take four of them. Some other ones in the parking lot were Eucalyptus and they've been taken down also due to branches falling off during windy conditions. You'll notice the difference by simply driving in. Our courts and lawn were not affected by the entire tree removal and we hope you all come to our

**July 11, Aug. 22 and Oct. 17.** Be sure to come in October "The Whine Country Open" this tournament will be run in a unique and quite different format than any you've ever experienced. I'll give you a hint, but ya gotta ask me, my club members don't even know.

On June 6<sup>th</sup> we participated in the Russian River Rodeo. When the rodeo was finished on Saturday at 4 PM they conducted a horseshoe tournament. Stakes were driven in the ground that was recently occupied by horses, bucking broncos, and bull riding. We literally had to kick the horse manure aside. They chose a double elimination format, games to 21, had 28 teams signed in on 14 pits. We began at 4:15 and were still pitching at 10:30 PM. Two members of our club Kevin Smith and Michael Jurian finished in 2nd place. I'll recommend a shorter format next time. We may have gotten two new members out of this joint venture? We were able to hang our website banner inside the rodeo arena for all to read during the event. *Casey Sluys*

**Indian Valley:** We don't have much to say as we are just getting out of winter up here. We did get our Sanctioned League going two weeks ago. I think it is the 27th or 28th year. We had the first sanctioned league in the seven western states.

Also we have spent some money this year, I mean lots of money on needed repairs. We did get lots more clay for our courts as they were getting in need of some in many courts. Also we got all new glass for our lights and new quartz tubes for them. As most that attend know that we have had lots of kids that think it is fun to break the glass out. It is not cheap to get the tempered glass cut and hire an electrician at \$60 per hour to go up the poles to the lights and fix them for us. *Richard McCutcheon*

**Ukiah:** Hello everyone. We have had four tournaments so far this year. Two in April and two in May. In both tournaments, pitchers were able to pitch in comfortable temperatures and dry weather - no rainouts this year, so far! If we have rain in June and or September we will welcome it and pitch anyway! We've had a low attendance for both weekends, it makes stat keeping easy but we miss

everybody. Hope more of you will be able to attend our next tournaments. Not only will there be fresh donuts, but fresh fruit and muffins too . . . and instead of a raffle for prizes, we will hold a 50/50 drawing during our September tournament, a chance to win cash even if you don't take 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the tournament . . . and for those who find our neighbors at the Motocross Speedway too noisy, there are no motorcycle races scheduled for our September tournament!!!! With all those good reasons and so many nice people to connect with, come on up or down to Ukiah Valley Horseshoe Club for some pitching fun and camaraderie. *Lorena Tournour*

**Tri-Valley:** On April 4th of this year we held out NHPF benefit tournament. With 43 pitchers in attendance, pitching 6 groups and we had scorekeepers too. Thanks to all who made this a success! Special thanks to CB and Lee for donating the donuts for the weekend and again to Lee for being the TD. Can't miss Glenn, of course, he handles the stats for the club and the NHPA. We were able to donate \$358.00 to the NHPF and still manage the normal payouts. Our sympathy goes out to Ed Cortez who lost his wife in May. *Linda Hoelscher*

**SAN JOSE:** We started off the year with the election of officers. Hugh Cloutier – President; Steve Chavez – Vice President; Leon Moore – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Dick McCall – 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President; Nancy Ann Cloutier – Secretary/Treasurer. Leon Moore is the contact for our club.

We were off to a good start with two really good tournaments in April. There were 20 pitchers on Saturday and 23 pitchers on Sunday.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**\*\*Even though care was taken as to what is on the back of each entry form you still may have to make a copy.\***

\*\*\*\*\*  
Charlie Kerr is a new member and from the look of the winners I think that he had a great time! Tom Logothetti is a new member and Tex Ronning is new to our club. We also have 9 new members in our club from the Boulder Creek area, Jim Crouch, Aaron Dossett, Ed Davenport, Allen Ingram, Steve Cordoza, Joe Phares, Raymond Volis, Steve Hill and Kevin Silva.

Most of you know that the **2009 Senior Games will be here August 1 – 15**. The schedule of events is as follows: 8/8 – practice – 65 to 100+, 8/9 – 65 to 100+, 8/10 – 65 to 100+ & practice all ages, 8/11 – 65 to 100+ & practice all ages, 8/12 – 50 to 54, 55 to 59, 60 to 64 & practice all ages, 8/13 – 50 to 54, 55 to 59, 60 to 64 & practice all ages, 8/14 – 50 to 54, 55 to 59, 60 to 64

Our San Jose Complex has been selected for the Horseshoe event and we are so very fortunate to have it here and for the exposure that it will bring to our club. We had a work party and now have some new bleachers all set up. During these 2 weeks we can use some help with scorekeeping, judging and just general help. Please contact Charlie Hall of the Half Moon Bay Club to coordinate this effort. 650-726-5549

Our next four tournaments this year are Sat/Sun Tournaments and we hope that you will stay for the week-end and enjoy our San Jose area. Our club is expanding and we now have 39 members. We also have pitching on Wednesday's at 1:30 and 5:30, and if these times meet with your schedule we hope that you will join in. *Nancy Ann Cloutier*

**Gold Country:** I would like to thank all the pitchers, scorekeepers and fans that came to the Gold Country tournaments over the last weekend of May. Many thanks for the generosity of those who supported our NHPF Benefit Tournament. We were able

to send a check for \$250.00 to the NHPF. Had we not paid out any prize money we would have added another \$120.00. It has been really great to see Mel Long, Jr. and family and Thomas (TJ) Latino on the courts and it was a pleasure to have them at our tournaments. I want to thank April (Latino) for doing such a great job selling our raffle tickets on Sunday. These folks are really great people!

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Kimmy Stockli who managed to overcome the handicap both days to be our Tournament Champion. I think she likes our courts as she managed to pitch her highest tournament ever on Saturday with a 74.64% and 3 games over 80%. She will be ready for the World in Springfield! We had 4 – 8 person groups on Saturday with John Sylvester, Russ Hodge and Charlie Kerr winning groups 2, 3 & 4 in that order. On Sunday we again had 4 groups with Gene Washoe on the top of group 2, Thomas J. Latino, group 3 and Darryl Beardall, group 4.

My apologies for not having the plates to distribute at tournament time.

Club president, Andy Loobey was unable to pitch last season due to shoulder surgery and unfortunately won't be pitching this season due to hip surgery with some complications. For those of you who know Andy, you can well imagine how crazy that makes him. The man lives for pitching! He has managed to throw a few shoes in the past few weeks but tires very easily and thinks he will probably be a short distance pitcher next year.

Karl & Rosemary Dalla Rosa sold their house in a few short months, made a one week trip to the Tucson area, bought another home and moved lock, stock and barrel in mid-May. We already miss them! In their place, Sam & LeRoy Whittle hosted our pre-tournament party at which of course we had to call Rosemary to tell her how much fun we were having without her!

Bill & Ruth Padgett, the oldest and longest members of our club stay in touch with us and we're hoping they'll be down to visit with everyone during our July tournaments. They really miss seeing all their horseshoe friends. You can send them greetings anytime to: 12763 Butterfly Dr., Nevada City, CA 95959 or call just to say hi at 530-272-1669. I know they would love to hear from y'all!

As near as I can figure the NCHPA has eight members going to Springfield, IL to pitch in the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary World Tournament this July/Aug. Best of luck and good pitching to: Kimmy Stockli, Dave Loucks, John Barney, Robert & Diane Cocagne, Ray Szczepanski and last but not least, 2 juniors, Travis Sluys and Baylee Cocagne. If I missed anyone, luck to you also! I guess Gail Sluys, Mitch Stockli and Maddie Barney, and me will be their cheerleaders!

## **\*\*BIRTHDAY PARTY\*\***

**COME ONE – COME ALL  
PLEASE COME AND HELP GOLD  
COUNTRY \*CELEBRATE\*  
John Sylvester's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.**

Gold Country will be providing a free lunch for all pitchers and to all others for the nominal charge of \$2.00. Lunch will include hot dogs, chips, salad & a soft drink, not to mention, YES, birthday cake!! We will have special drawings for cash prizes; most & least single points, high game over average, high & low % game and others, including regular tournament awards. IT WILL BE FUN!!!! SATURDAY, JULY 11<sup>TH</sup> '09

In order to assist me in the quantity of food to order, I would appreciate receiving a phone call or email no later than Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup> if you plan on attending and the number of people joining you, even if not pitching. We want to make this special for John cuz he's pretty special! John, will you be there?? (HA!)

My phone # is 530-432-2103 and my email is [cathieloucks@yahoo.com](mailto:cathieloucks@yahoo.com) Thank you. **MARK**

**YOUR CALENDARS FOR JULY 11<sup>TH</sup> & 12<sup>TH</sup> for GOLD COUNTRY.** *Cathie Loucks*

**\*\*\*Forms for State, Team, Nor-Cal, Trophy Sponsor & shirt order, included\*\*\***

**Stockton:** The Stockton Horseshoe Club's Tournaments are over for now until October 17 & 18, 2009. We had some good Tournaments and only one bad one money wise, we did alright for our six Tournaments which ended May 30 & 31, 2009. I want to thank all of you who came to Pitch in our Tournaments and hope to see you in our October Tournaments. Overall we picked up five new members this year... Ross Lockhart, Tony Marino, Robert Garza, Jack Hilbert, George Davis. Welcome to the Club Guys. The last New Member to join, George Davis, did pretty good in our May 30 Tournament and his first Tournament by coming in Second Place and get this, He Qualified the Tuesday before the Tournament at 24 percent and pitched a 26.25 % Saturday. I must confess that George has pitched in the Stockton Club before from, 1994 and dropped out back in 2001, according to our records. At one time he was President of the Stockton club. The second New Member to join us, Tony Marino, it turns out that he was a member of the Stockton Club from 1994 until 1998 and now he is back. Tony is a member of the SCHPA (Southern Ca. Horseshoe Pitchers Association). Tony has moved to Roseville with his daughter and is looking to move to Lincoln shortly. We have been having some nice cool Horseshoe pitching weather this month of June and it sure feels good, but we don't have any Tournaments, darn. That's it for now; hope ya'll have some good pitching days ahead. *Peter P.*

**Yolo:** Yolo is looking better each week. A few weeks ago Matt Smith, Tom Latino, Jay Smith, and myself cut some of the dead trees out at Yolo. We want the place looking good for the State Tournament. Our last tournament we had over 50 members on Sat. and close to 40 on Sunday. Thanks guys. Also, congratulations to Kimmy on getting her average above 70% going into the World Tournament!!! She is tough to beat these days. See you guys out at Yolo on the **27th and 28th of June**. Get your State Tournament applications in by August 3<sup>rd</sup>. it's just around the corner. *Rick Bermingham*

**Feather River Club:** would like to welcome our two new members John and Teddi Hunter from Oroville. Teddi is a sister to Sandi Abbott. We are happy to have them in our group. We had a great turnout for our tournaments on Memorial Day weekend with six groups on Saturday and four on Sunday. Our next tournaments are July 4 and 5. We will be preparing the courts on Wednesday, July 1 at 4:00 p.m. Please mark your calendars and plan to be there to help. Please bring a shovel. We would like to remind our members to bring gifts for the raffle table on both days. Happy pitching to all. *Audrey Winters*

**Shasta/Willows:** As you know by now, we closed down the Redding courts and moved everything to Willows. We must have done the right thing because we have been having some very good turnouts at Willows. We have had to have afternoon sessions at two of our tournaments. In the 11 years that I have been a member of the NCHPA, we never had afternoon sessions at Redding or Willows. Some of our members are a little upset about the closing of the Shasta Club. No club can survive if everyone does not get involved and help run the club. It is depressing to go by the courts in Redding. The City

has not done anything with the courts since taking them over. The weeds are waist high in some areas.

Russ Hodge has been taking care of the courts in willows and they are really looking good. Fritz Oberst and Walt Butcher are always ready to go down to Willows if any work needs to be done. Several members of other clubs have volunteered to help any time they are needed. We usually do very well with our raffle table and as a result our club is doing very well financially. Many thanks to everyone who comes out to our tournaments. *Lee Roy Lassiter*

**Sacramento:** Our April 4/5 tournaments attracted 16 pitchers each day. Saturday 40'/30' split concluded with Rick Bermingham 1st. and Rick Eddy 2nd. at 40' and Carl Newsom 1st. and Verden Zelman 2nd. at 30'. Sunday Open, we had 3 groups. Juanita Haas, Don Jorgenson and Harry Begay all took home patches. President Glenn Rippetoe is getting ready to pitch in his 4th. World tournament and will included a visit with an old army buddy, who lives in the area, in his trip. Have fun, Glenn! Sandi and Boyd Abbott, our resident electricians, are off to Tennessee for the annual Electrician's Reunion. Don Jorgenson and his wife were involved in a head-on collision and luckily are recuperating. The jerk causing the accident drifted into their lane of traffic reaching for his cell phone. Ah, the perils of modern technology. After four years of medical incompetence our V.P. Chuck Smith finally got to a Doc that didn't ignore the growth on his nose, but by that time he had to go through six hours of surgery to remove the cancer that was growing inward. They got it all and with some skin grafts he has bounced back, is pitching shoes and almost as handsome as ever.

With a late start to summer and good pitching weather, let the games continue! *Joan Bryan*

**YES, WE'VE GOT NEW MEMBERS!**

We'd like to welcome these 63 new members to the Northern California Horseshoe Pitching

Association and the 2009 horseshoe-pitching season. If you need information or would like to ask a question please don't hesitate to call one of your officers. Addresses, phone numbers and emails on back page of this publication.

Gary Mollgaard, Sacramento;  
Kraig Lawrence, Sacramento; Douglas Johnson, Sonoma County; Herb Hernandez, Madera; Ross Lockart, Stockton; Tom Logothetti, San Jose; Alan Trusty, Turlock; Robert Garza, Stockton; Moises Olea, Tulare; Thomas J. Latino, Yolo; Joe Long, Yolo; Bob Nath, Tuolumne; Marge Nath, Tuolumne; Calvin Ross, Madera; Patrick Shepard, Madera; Jay Corner, Sacramento; Bob Cabral, Sacramento; JC Miller, Yolo; Ashley Long, Yolo; Andrew Long, Yolo; Bergie Bergendahl, TV; Vincent Galindo, Turlock; Charlie Kerr, San Jose; Tim Manning, Tri-Valley; Kevin Showen, Turlock; Vincent McIntosh, Ukiah; Mike Dunn, Turlock; Travis Padgett, Turlock; Colleen Allen, Tri-Valley; John Macias, Turlock; Lora Lewis, Willows; John Aulabaugh, Willows; Darrell Hammer, Sacramento; Ken Shepard, Tri-Valley; Keoni Andrade, Ukiah; Jack Hilbert, Stockton; Mark



Verdun, Willows; Conner McGee, Tulare; Trevor Munday, Tulare; Pete Perez Jr., Tulare; Jim Crouch, San Jose; Joe Phares, San Jose; Allen Ingram, San Jose; Eric Hammer, San Jose; Aaron Dorsett, San Jose; Kevin Hill, San Jose; Kevin Silva, San Jose; Ray Volis, San Jose; Ed Davenport, San Jose; Steve Cardoza, San Jose; Pat Wiggins, Madera; Davis Eisminger, Turlock; John Hunter, Feather River; Teddi Hunter, Feather River; Mario Chavira, Madera; Kurtis Bane, Madera; Floyd Williams, Madera; George Davis, Stockton; Sue Saunders, Tri-Valley; John Ganley, Tri-Valley; Robin Closer, Sonoma County; Nik Kocsis, Ukiah. If anyone was missed we will publish your name in our next issue.

**Due to the number of forms in this issue some results were edited out . Lee Roy posts results of all Nor-Cal tournaments on the tournament results page of the NHPA website.**

***Just because they are smaller please don't overlook the Carnival ad before the NorCal and the Shirt Order form for your State shirts!***

### **History of the San Francisco Horseshoe Pitching Club**

#### *How I got involved with the GG Park horseshoe pits.*

I have always enjoyed pitching horseshoes and grew up pitching horseshoes and playing bocce ball at all our family parties in the town of Sonoma. In the summer of 2008 I participated in my first organized recreational horseshoe pitching tournament at Donner Lake and thoroughly enjoyed it. I now live in San Francisco, where my parents were both from and wanted to play some horseshoes after coming home from my weekend tournament at the lake. So, I did what everyone does today and Googled 'horseshoe pitching San Francisco' and found NOTHING, and that was the start of my mission. I couldn't believe that in a city I consider to be the greatest in the world because San Francisco has everything you can imagine, but it didn't have a horseshoe pitching club. I continued to scour the internet search engines Google, MSN, and Yahoo! looking for something to come up on horseshoe pitching in San Francisco, and still found nothing. I looked for about a month and decided that was ridiculous and had to end. San Francisco is the second most densely populated city in America with close to 800,000 people living in 46.7 square miles or about 17,000 people per square mile. I couldn't be the only person who pitched horseshoes and since I couldn't find them, I thought I'd let them find me by creating a web page. I had recently heard of a website called [www.wetpaint.com](http://www.wetpaint.com) that allows you to set up a free website so on a whim I did just that on August 21<sup>st</sup> 2008. I had never done this before, but it was easy enough. Once I built the site I purchased the URL's [www.sfhorseshoepitching.com](http://www.sfhorseshoepitching.com) (after the NHPA example) and [www.sfhorseshoes.com](http://www.sfhorseshoes.com) (which automatically redirects to the main website). That costs about \$30/year, but it allowed me to drop the free

[www.sfhorseshoepitching.wetpaint.com](http://www.sfhorseshoepitching.wetpaint.com) URL for a more recognizable one. The next step was to register the site with the various search engines so they would find it through a process the call 'web crawling'. One day after a couple of weeks it showed up on MSN! It was several pages down, but it was there. Then the others came shortly after and have been gradually moving up the search list.

In the meantime while doing all the web research, I obviously came across the NHPA and NCHPA, where I got the email address of Casey Sluys. Casey was like the lifeline of someone trapped in a cave wondering if anyone was really out there. That was very helpful

## **Perfect form**



because I was doing all this work, put it up online and then had no idea if anyone was actually looking at it. Even though Casey was a bit skeptical when I first contacted him and told him I was going to start the SFHPC, his comment was, 'that's great...good luck with that', and not too optimistically. But that wasn't too much of a deterrent, because I wasn't planning on relying only on luck. The other glaringly obvious thing to me in my brief period of research is that organized horseshoe pitching is woefully marketed and advertised. I also knew that if I, the owner of an architecture firm, was spending a lunch hour at my desk, and typing 'horseshoes San Francisco' in google, that there were definitely others. Now that I've added a site meter to my website I know that is exactly what is happening. 11am – 2 pm and 5pm-7pm are when I get the most hits. When people are sitting at their desks wishing they were somewhere else.

Also from looking at the information I could find on horseshoe pitching I was confident I could eventually build one of the best horseshoe pitching websites in the country. Not that I'm a great website designer, but because almost nobody else had one! That was shocking. The NCHPA considers the 40 something's to be the 'young folks'. Not that I don't mind feeling like a kid again, but there seems to be several generations out there that are being ignored. Wouldn't it be nice if clubs were announcing NEW members as frequently as members who have passed away? There are hundreds of teens, 20's, and 30 something's out there twittering, facebooking and doing all their social networking and information gathering online. If clubs do not have an online presence, young people will not find them. That, I think is the key to the rapid success of SFHPC. I put it in a format where people could find it. It's created a nucleus for all kinds of people to congregate and find each other. The other thing I tried to do was pick a club name and design a logo

that is recognizable, obvious and brandable. The old club was called the Golden Gate club, but nobody would find that. You'd search for your "location, activity", i.e. "San Francisco, Horseshoe Pitching". This also gives the club regional pride. Couple that with a cool logo and you have a brand that people can identify with and hopefully want to be a part of.

The first week of April, 2009 Antonious Dintcho of BloodWizard Skateboard Company in San Francisco sent an email to Casey Sluys at the NCHPA asking questions about horseshoe pitching tournaments. Antonius is a World ranked skateboarder and grew up in Grass Valley, CA playing horseshoes. As a member of the San Francisco Skateboarder Association they had the idea of having a horseshoe tournament / Skate Jam fundraiser for building skateboard parks with horseshoe pits next to them. Casey referred him to me and my website. Blood Wizard promotes Skate Jam events so they had some sponsors and supporters, so they were responsible for the advertising to the skateboard community via web blogs, skate shops, bars, skateboard magazines and flyers. The SFHPC, (me) provided all the 'horseshoe' support. I posted their info on my site, and I provided all the tools and wheelbarrows to help them get the pits ready for the tournament. They were in terrible shape. One of my new members also came out and helped. This was the first wave of attacking the restoration of the Golden Gate horseshoe pits, but it had an impact. The local homeless residents came down and pitched horseshoes with the guys after working, and passersby would stop to see what was going on and to say good work. Community was forming. After enabling the skateboarder volunteers to work on digging out the overgrown pits, I reached out again to the NCHPA and contacted Casey, and Dave Loucks, who had also found my website online. I asked for NCHPA representation and backing and if they could get a former State Champion to come out as an ambassador of the sport. I figured if we had a world ranked skateboarder, we might as well have a top horseshoe pitcher there to represent the sport. NCHPA came through big with Kimmy Stockli and Rick Bermingham! Our tournament and club now had CREDIBILITY, that I could leverage in promoting the new club. Immediately we went from a basement computer hacker and picnic horseshoe club to a legitimate club with the power to draw State Champions. SFHPC became a real entity and the local expert resource for horseshoe pitching.

Having the NCHPA graciously support our grassroots tournament and club was the key move that has led to our next major development. The complete restoration of the Golden Gate Horseshoe Pits! This also goes back to creating an online presence and a way for people to find you, because through an act of providence, Jamie Sutton, one of the directors of the San Francisco philanthropic men's club The Guardsmen was driving through Golden Gate park and saw a small sign by the Conservatory of Flowers that said 'horseshoe pits'. Out of curiosity he searched to find the pits which is a difficult task because they are hidden and unmarked. Once he found the pits he realized that it was a beautiful spot he'd never known about and that people were trying to use them because some of pits had recently been cleared for play. After leaving with his curiosity peaked he went online to see if there was anything about horseshoe pitching in San Francisco and found the SFHPC website and saw the announcement about the Lord of the Ringer Tournament coming up that weekend. At the tournament, Jamie found me during one of my matches. I couldn't really talk since I was pitching, so I gave him one of the SFHPC business cards I'd made up for myself and all my new club members, and pointed him over to Kimmy and Rick and briefly explained their credentials to his pleasant surprise. They spoke to him for a long time and he left before I could speak to him again. That evening I sent him an email from the card he gave me welcoming to join the club. Four days later on May 21<sup>st</sup>, I received a 10:45 pm email asking if I could meet him, the Rec & Park Director of Volunteer Service, Park Director and

the Director of Park Maintenance along with two Guardsmen at 7:30 AM to following day. I called him back that night and met him at the park in the morning. He explained that the Guardsmen wanted to take the horseshoe pits on as a project and to sponsor an annual fundraiser tournament in conjunction with the SFHPC. Once the park staff began to grasp the extent of what we were discussing, and how it was being financed they were on board and the wheels started turning. Since then they have been very supportive and have followed through with work on their end and a significant amount of progress had already been made with heavy equipment moving sand and arborist clearing the overgrowth along with the first of three volunteer work days. **We have another Volunteer workday scheduled for Saturday July, 11** and I am in frequent contact with the Guardsmen and Rec & Park. There is still a lot of work to do, but all in all, not a bad start!, Peter A. Zepponi, AIA' Founder San Francisco Horseshoe Pitching Club

## Lord of the Ringers Golden Gate Park

I was given the opportunity to represent the NHPA and Northern California HPA at a very unique horseshoe tournament. It was called the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Lord of the Ringers Horseshoe Tournament, and was held at the historic Golden Gate Horseshoe Club in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. Rick Bermingham, 2 time men's California State Champion and myself, 3 time Women's California State Champion, along with Kimmy's Horseshoe Shop were asked to come out and give a hand. We were told that we would be helping with a skateboarding horseshoe tournament. Rick and I, along with my Father Terry visiting from Wisconsin, drove in to Golden Gate Park, not knowing what to expect. We'd heard stories about how the Golden Gate courts had been taken over by the homeless back in the 1990's and that they were in very bad shape. A small group of folks, headed by Peter Zepponi, (see GG article this issue) were able to get half of the courts cleaned up to hold this great event. Upon arrival to the courts, it didn't look like there was going to be much of a turnout. All that were there at the time were the sponsors, one of them RockStar energy drink, and a few pitchers. After a couple of hours the place really filled up. They were limited to 32 teams of 2 players each and were able to fill all of the spaces. They probably could have had another 32 if they had all of the courts available and more time. Each of the teams had to pick a name, and there were several creative names that we shouldn't mention here! But, the winners were the Orange Goblins. They played double elimination to 15 points per game, and leaners counted as two. The winning team received a great hand made trophy, and a pair of Diamonds, along with a good amount of cash. What was very different about this tournament was the fact that they had some great Rock and Roll going in the background and an awesome announcer keeping folks informed about what was going on. Along with the horseshoe pitching, on the other half of the courts, there were rails and ramps set up for the skateboarders to do some of their tricks. I couldn't believe the air that some of these guys were getting in such a small area. It was all very exciting to watch. By the time we were ready to leave, there had to be over 200 people there, families, with kids and pets, bbq's and ice chests. What an awesome scene.

On September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009 there will be a benefit tournament held by the Guardsmen.org (see Peter's article) at the GG Horseshoe Club. Several sponsors are on board already, including Pabst Blue Ribbon. There will be free food and drinks. They will be taking 64 teams of 2 players. This event is not sanctioned at this time. It will be basic backyard rules. However, we may hold a 5 man round robin, NHPA rules, to show the public how our organization works. When we know more, we will pass it along to the membership. There will be work parties scheduled and we will inform your contact people about dates and times. Please help to get this beautiful club back up and running. Wouldn't it be awesome to have them on the schedule next year? Special thanks to Peter Zepponi for all of his hard work. If it isn't for him, none of this would have been possible. *Kimmy Stockli*

# ENTRY FORM

California State Horseshoe Pitching Championships  
Hosted by the NCHPA September 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 2009

Please Print Clearly or Type

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ NCHPA#: \_\_\_\_\_ Club: \_\_\_\_\_ Charter: **N** or **S**  
CIRCLE YOUR DIVISION (1 only)

OPEN MEN

SENIOR MEN (40')

ELDERS short distance (30')

OPEN WOMEN

SENIOR WOMEN

JR BOY

JR. GIRL

CADETS

-----cut here-----cut here-----cut here-----

For you to keep for reference

For you to keep for reference

For you to keep for reference

◇ State Champions will be declared in the divisions described below. ◇

**OPEN:** Men (40ft.) and Women shall enter "OPEN MEN" or "OPEN WOMEN" divisions. Pitchers eligible as Seniors may also choose to pitch in the "OPEN" division. ELDERS short distance (30') cannot.

**SENIORS:** Pitchers 60 years of age and over (EXCEPT ELDERS) may participate in either the "OPEN" or "SENIOR" divisions, but not both. Senior Men/Senior Women Division entrants may be moved to open divisions if the number of entries and/or the % spread does not allow for competitive groups.

**ELDERS:** Any male 70 years and older or physically impaired person of any age who have an established short distance (30') average may enter the ELDER short distance (30') division.

**JUNIOR:** "JUNIOR BOY" and "JUNIOR GIRL" divisions will be formed for pitchers whose 19th birthday does not fall in 2009. "CADETS" are junior pitchers whose 10th birthday does not fall in 2009.

⇒ Eligibility requires **Adults** have pitched in **three (3)** California sanctioned tournaments- **Junior and Cadet** pitchers require **one (1)** since **August 1, 2008**.

⇒ Pitching averages will come from NATSTATS.

⇒ Entry **Deadline** is **August 3, 2009** (Late entrants will be used on a standby basis, and will pay an additional fee of \$10.00).

⇒ **ADULT ENTRY FEE \$25.00/JUNIORS FREE. No refunds after August 8, 2009.** .

◇

◇

◇

Mail Entry Form and check to:  
Make checks payable to **NCHPA**

**Gail Sluys**  
1721 San Ramon Way  
**Santa Rosa CA 95409**

Handicapping may be used in any group (other than championship groups) if % spread is greater than 12%.

**Hosted at the Yolo Horseshoe Courts in Davis, CA on September 5-6, 2009**

**Yolo County Grasslands Park** 30475 County Road 104 Davis, CA

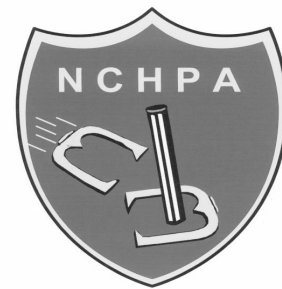
The host hotel for the state is Howard Johnson in Davis. Phone # is: (530) 792-0800 address is: 4100 Chiles Rd. Davis CA 95616. Rates are 2 Queens \$89.00, single king \$79.00

Don't forget to sponsor a trophy for the State Championships, see flyer in this issue.





# NOR-CAL CHAMPIONSHIPS ENTRY FORM



October 3 and October 4, 2009

(Two days of pitching for all groups)

## HOST CLUB---YOLO

DRY CAMPING AVAILABLE \$5.00 PER NIGHT – NON - POTABLE WATER –

**REMEMBER TO BRING DRINKING WATER FOR YOUR CAMPER**

***PRE-REGISTER - \$ PRIZE MONEY \$ TOURNAMENT***

***ENTRY DEADLINE POSTMARKED SEPTEMBER 10, 2009.***

**Must have pitched in (5) NCHPA sanctioned tournaments before September 10, 2009.**

***New members who joined after August 1, 2009 must have pitched in 3 NCHPA sanctioned tournaments before September 14, 2009***

TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEE \$20.00 FOR ADULTS NO CHARGE FOR JUNIORS OR CADETS

**AWARDS DINNER AND DANCING SATURDAY NIGHT 6:00 PM**

**TICKETS \$14.00 PER PERSON**

**Make check payable to NCHPA and mail to:** Gail Sluys  
1721 San Ramon Way,

Santa Rosa, CA. 95409

**NO EXCEPTIONS TO NUMBER OF TOURNAMENTS WILL BE MADE.**

**NO REFUNDS AFTER SCHEDULE IS COMPLETED.**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

NHPA CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please circle the group you are entering.**

**OPEN MEN; OPEN WOMEN; ELDERS MEN; JUNIOR GIRL/BOY; CADET 9 & UNDER; SR.MEN; SR.WOMEN**

**\*SENIOR GROUPS NOT HAVING A MINIMUM OF 6 PLAYERS WILL BE MIXED WITH OPEN CLASSES.**

ENTRY FEE \$20.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#OF DINNERS \_\_\_\_\_ X \$14.00 \$ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# THE NCHPA IS HOSTING THE 2009 STATE HORSESHOE PITCHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

## Trophy Sponsors

are needed to make this the best Championship of SEASON 2009

Remember a loved one, a friend, or sponsor a Trophy from your club.



PRICE: \$40.00

Make checks payable to : NCHPA Send to: Sharon Paddock 1024 Tim Mullen Rd.

Kneeland, Ca. 95549

Group: \_\_\_\_\_ SPONSORED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

I will try and accommodate each sponsor, however, if that group is full, I will USE where needed.



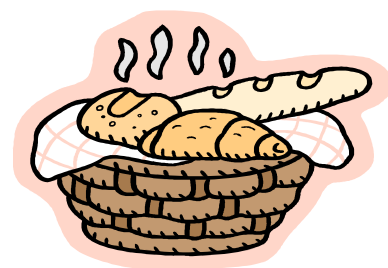


# Northern Championships



Please join in the fun!

## Carnival Night



Starts at 5:00 Friday October 2, 2009

We will have games games games (cash prizes)

Friday night potluck (bring your own dinnerware, plates also) and something to share with everyone.



Sat. Night: Northern Dinner party...same menu as last year! Tri tip, chicken, rice, beans, salad etc.

And dessert, \$14.00 per person.

Also we hope to have some live entertainment by our own talented horseshoe players.

Come early and lets PARTY, PARTY and of course play horseshoes.

<http://www.horshoepitching.com>

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



**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

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