

Nor-Cal News & Views

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

The California State Horseshoe Pitching Championships will be held in Bakersfield, see entry form in this issue.

President

The past several months have been hectic. As all of you know by now, NCHPA has lost one of its premier facilities, Yolo. The Executive Council was scrambling to secure a site for the upcoming State Tournament. We were hoping to hold the NCHPA Championship and State Tournament in San Jose, and the San Jose officers, worked diligently to secure the site. Unfortunately, we were not successful, due to restrictions placed on us by the City of San Jose's Parks Department. We will continue to work with the City of San Jose to reduce the restrictions so that we can hold future tournaments at their facility. I sincerely appreciate all the work that was done by Leon, Hugh and Nancy. We will survive the closing of Yolo.

The State Tournament for 2011 will be held in Bakersfield. I know that selection of the Bakersfield site will not please all the members as it is in Southern California. The bad economy, high gas prices and the distance to travel will be a hardship on some. Several northern sites were considered, with San Jose being the best. Vallejo, Tri-Valley, Stockton, and Santa Rosa, were looked at but the Executive Officers decided that our best options was to go to Bakersfield until we could upgrade or secure a future site to accommodate a state tournament. Thanks to the Southern California Officers for their help. Applications for the State Tournament are in this issue of News and Views.

In May I spent part of the afternoon visiting with the Tuolumne Horseshoe Club. I toured the refurbished horseshoe courts and met with Club President, Del Stockstill and Secretary & Treasurer Barbara Pearson. Approximately ten club members were present, and I was able to update them on current NCHPA events. I appreciated the warm welcome I received, and hope to return soon.

To all those of you, going to the World Tournament, please travel safety and good pitching. This will be my first trip to the world tournament, and my first time pitching as a senior.

Hopefully my opponents will get tired, about the same time as me. I'm, looking forward to the trip accompanied by my brother, Glenn and his wife Judette.

Going to the World Horseshoe Pitching Championships in Monroe/West Monroe Louisiana from the NCHPA are:

Rick Bermingham - Men A-1

Dave Loucks – Elder B

Harvey Kooy – Elder G

Dick McCall – Elder M

Frank Arroyo – Men B-1

Robert Cocagne – Men E-1

Sam Godbouldt – Men F-2

Mike Anderson - Men J-2

Harlen Rippetoe – Sr. Men-C

John Barney – Sr. Men-C

Glenn Rippetoe – Sr. Men-F

Bernardo Navarro III - Cadet

Travis Sluys - Jr. Boys

**GOOD LUCK
TO ALL OF YOU!**

In the coming months we will need to select a site for the NCHPA Championship Tournament. We will be looking at all available facilities. If any member has a helpful plan, that could assist us through these trying times, please contact me. I would appreciate any viable suggestion.

Many thanks to Rick, Jhon, Casey, Dale Haskin, and Joe Stone for gathering up our Hall of Fame items and transporting them to storage. If any member has storage space to spare we could certainly use it for storing Hall of Fame items. We're looking for a 10 x 20 foot area to store these things indefinitely. Does anyone work for a company that could donate a raffle prize for our State Tournament? Please let me know if you can get a-hold of an item or two. *Harlen A. Rippetoe*

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Support the NHPF

The only horseshoe pitching related Charity needs your tax-deductible donations to support many programs of the sport; including the Hall of Fame and Grants to install new or upgrade existing courts. Deadlines for Grant Applications: March 1st and September 1st. Mail contributions and inquiries to: NHPF, P.O. Box 1628, Penn Valley, CA. 95946

The NHPA Hall of Fame is now open in Wentzville, MO. Be sure to stop by on your way to the World Tournament in Monroe/West Monroe Louisiana, July 18th-30th, 2011. It's located right off of I-70 a major East/West interstate, we still need your financial support ...please help.

Combie Trophy & Awards

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You folks never cease to amaze me! In the 4 yrs. I've done this publication I have never been less than 12 pages. It's a testament to good communication and I thank each of you for making this newsletter a huge success.

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******The following letter went out to members with email on May 31, 2011:***

Dear NCHPA members,
I would like to announce that the State Tournament will be held in Bakersfield although hosted and managed by NCHPA. This was a difficult decision to make. With the closing of the Yolo facility, NCHPA had to secure a site that had enough courts for a tournament of this caliber, along with having lights and that is affordable. Attempts were made by Leon Moore from the San Jose Club to negotiate with the City of San Jose to use the courts, however, the cost was prohibitive along with other conditions that would have been imposed. My gratitude and thanks to Leon for his efforts. In this economic climate, it would have been a poor business and financial decision by the Board to enter into contract with the City of San Jose. The Board evaluated other locations but none met the criteria that were needed to successfully host the tournament.

Your support and understanding is appreciated, as we know you were looking forward to the State Tournament being held in Northern California. If you will please share this email with your members via email and at tournaments it would be helpful. Furthermore, if you have suggestions for Northern California sites for future State Tournaments - please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Harlen A. Rippetoe, President NCHPA

Secretary/Treasurer

The 2011 Team Championship Tournament was a success and the teams enjoyed the format as they have in the past. I know people were disappointed that we could only pitch 7 teams in the finals but that was beyond our control. Location for 2012 Team Championship tournament will be up for vote at the annual meeting so if your club is interested in hosting this event please let one of the officers know. It is important to remember for 2012, team members are required to wear a shirt of the club they are pitching with and alternates are included in this rule. Also, if you want an alternate on your team they need to be listed on the entry form that makes it fair to all teams and of course they need to be your club member or associate member.

A reminder to the clubs, please send me your \$25.00 check to cover our costs of purchasing raffle prizes for the State tournament (Madera, San Jose, Sonoma County and Tri-Valley thanks for sending yours in already) *Gail Sluys*

First VP

By now you have probably heard that the State Tournament will be held in Bakersfield instead of in Northern California. With the loss of the courts in Davis we had to consider all of our options as to a site large enough to hold the tournament. Our chosen site, San Jose, fell through because of the high cost the City was trying to impose on us. It finally got to the point that we had to make a decision if we were going to hold the tournament. Bakersfield ended up as our best choice. I know that a lot of our members are not happy about the NCHPA holding our tournament in Bakersfield, but we had no other choice. The Shoe Crew in Bakersfield will be working with us to make this a great tournament. We all need to work together and start thinking about our options in 2013.

We have 13 of our NCHPA members going to the World Tournament. There are also 13 members of the SCHPA attending the tournament. I could not help but notice that there are no adult women from either the NCHPA or the SCHPA signed up to pitch in this tournament.

I will be sending out the information soon for each club to apply for their 2012 tournaments. Yes, it is almost that time again. Hope to see some good weather and large turn- outs in the coming months. *Lee Roy Lassiter*

Second VP

Well, we are off to a slow but good start on the count of the rain, but the warm weather is here. First, I would like to thank the following people who donated to my trip to the World Tournament this year in July. Othal, Glenn, and Harlen Rippetoe, Chuck Smith, Jay and Gary Smith, John Barney, The Sluys family, Tom Munoz, Pat

Murtha, John Sylvester, Robert Cocagne, and Bill and Sharon Paddock. Thank you very much guys, I will try to do California proud. I could not have gone without your help. Also, if anyone would like to nominate a pitcher or promoter who has at least 10 years in the NCHPA, please fill out the enclosed form for the Hall of Fame inductees. The deadline is August 1st. Only 1 pitcher and 1 promoter are permitted per year. Thus far, there are no potential inductees. Mail the form to me at my address found on the cover of the news letter. Thanks. Please show your support this Labor Day weekend in Bakersfield by attending the California State tournament. Make some history for yourself and win 1st place in your class. See you on the courts. *Rick Bermingham*

Third VP

OK; where did the time go? We waited for good weather and the right meet, and SURPRISE it's time to get ready for the World Horseshoe Tournament for some of us and the State meet for all of us. With the untimely closing of the Yolo horseshoe club, it's been pretty hectic for us; NCHPA officers. We had to finding a suitable sight to host the state tournament. We needed a site that can handle the number of pitchers and the different groups, lighting, proper runways, and a city that won't overcharge for the use of their park. The only area that met these requirements in this short of time was Bakersfield courts.

The friends of Rick collected donations to get him to Louisiana to pitch; he can fly, sleep, and drive, it's up to him to eat.

I've been checking my supplies of round robin cards and score sheets, and there hasn't been many orders from any of the clubs, so you club officers better check your supplies, making sure you don't run out before your next tournament.

I'll be looking forward to meeting you at any of the tournaments. *John Barney*, 916-253-9897

Fourth VP

Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we're here, we might as well dance. Local Strathmore California boy Bernie Navarro, 111, belonging to the Tulare Horseshoe Club who just turned 7yrs old could potentially be the next Jr. Cadet Champion at this year's World Horseshoe Pitchers Championships to be held in Monroe Louisiana. He has taken on the name "Pac Man" given to him for pitching three doubles in a row and recently pitched an incredible game of 56.25% game, while he was only 6yrs old at the D&E Yamaha Open in Tulare. It's a family affair as he pitches with his dad Bernie, his sister Genesis while his mom Jennifer keeps score. He has now moved up from being ranked 2nd to 1st with a 33.24 % average over Noah Gabel of North Dakota with a 32.33% average in the Jr. Cadet Class Division for the World Tournament. Also competing in ³

the cadets will be SCHPA Kevin Kyle from California (good luck and have fun). There seemed to be only one obstacle standing in the way of getting him to the stage; the funds. "WOW" a huge thank you to a lot of really great people because to date we have currently raised \$1,600 plus which is enough to get the boy and his father's (who will chaperone) plane tickets, along with hotel expenses to Monroe Louisiana. The family now is working to get Jennifer there too. SCHPA Steve Meyer, President of the Dead Ringers Society Club, NCHPA members Cathy Kauffman, Donald Henry, and the local newspapers (Tulare Voice and Porterville) are amongst the few who started the fundraiser.

Robert Cocagne

Fifth VP

There have been over sixty new members thus far who have joined NCHPA in 2011 enriching our membership. As I have reported previously, our members are our strength. NCHPA can proudly boast about the quality of its pitchers and it's not just as horseshoe pitchers but as caring, humorous and amazing people who make new friends easily and have lasting friendships that go on for decades.

I encourage new members and returning members to visit the various clubs as you'll meet many wonderful people and will have the opportunity to play others who love this game.

I recently attended Indian Valley's tournament and met a character, Richard McCutcheon, and I along with other non Indian Valley members were greeted warmly by Gene, Marshall and Harry. This group is serious about having fun after the tournament, nearly twenty of us pitched into the night, you had to be there. You can also find characters in Half Moon Bay and it's not just the pitchers, it's the wonderful women in the stat room, Mona and Julie, or getting lucky and having Terry Farrell keep your score. Go out to dinner after a tournament with Barney, Birmingham, Cocagne and the Narvarros, it will be an adventure. Consider joining the team tournament next year and you will find that you will be pitching with some folks who you've never pitched with. I found myself pitching with Don Kies and Kimmy Stockli...wow! I met Gil Tournour and his wife, great people. And Tri Valley, does anyone not love Marge? And Stockton, Peter and Chris, true gentlemen. Verdian Zelman, a great guy who always offer words of encouragement. Go to Forebay so you have a chance to win the homemade jelly at the raffle table.

How about Elaine Butcher? I finally was able to play her, she destroyed me and I loved every minute playing with that classy woman. Have a question, ask Gail Sluys as she will always try to help. And then there are so many more of you, Audrey Winters, love her, Linda Hoelshcer, the Rippetoes, Sue and Jessica Lichau, Joe

Summers, Meg, Terry and Danny, Don and Wendall, Isabel, Foa and Keith, Charlie Hall, Bill Terry, the George & Rinaldi & Latino families.

I hope to play in Ukiah, Tuolumne, Fortuna and San Jose as I know there are many more characters to meet. I've run out of space but trust me, I've not forgotten you. Tell me your memorable moments and about the characters you've met pitching horseshoes. **Cathy, Kauffman**

Statisticians Report

Well, Mother Nature has not been cooperating with us this year. As I write this on June 6th we have had to cancel 14 tournaments, including 4 this last weekend.

However we were able to get in 43 tournaments. In those tournaments we had 904 pitchers who made 57,618 ringers while pitching 201,052 shoes.

Only 3 NCHPA pitchers reported pitching in 6 Arizona tournaments, Fritz Oberst, David Loucks and Ken Woolery. Two of our members, Rick Della Santina and Richard Robbins pitched in a tournament in Hawaii. We had 33 members pitch in tournaments in Southern California. If anyone else pitched in out of state tournaments, you need to let me know.

Thirteen teams participated in the Team Tournament at Pleasanton. I have to mention the winning team Fortuna, not because as an associate member I ended up pitching with that team, but because of the great day Ken Woolery had on Sunday. His low game was 55.00%, a 57.50% game, a 72.50% and 77.50% game, Two 80.00% games and one 82.50% game. His tournament total was 72.10%. We should all hope for a tournament average like that. Congratulations again, Ken. **Lee Roy Lassiter**

C L U B S:

Turlock

Had a great tournament in May, we had 32 pitchers. This was one of our biggest to date. Here in the central valley we have been lucky with the weather as no tournaments have been rained out. Our June 11th tournament drew 22 pitchers, but there were 4 tournaments scheduled that day. We will be selling soft drinks at all our tournaments.

Turlock has 20 members now and has generated a lot of interest in horseshoes. Please come pitch with us. **Paul Laffoon**

READ LETTER ON PAGE 2 PLEASE?

Tuolumne

The year 2011 started out with a lot of enthusiasm in the Tuolumne County Horseshoe Club. Last year's officers Patsy James, Teddy Guillotte, Marge Nath, and Bob Nath seemed very happy to turn over the gavel and responsibilities to new officers for 2011. President Del Stockstill, 1st VP Jan Moore, Second VP Teddy

Guillotte, and Secretary-Treasurer Barb Persson were eager to start the new year off right.

The first meeting of the year was held on January 12th. The auditing committee reported that all books balanced, and the Treasurer's job and materials were handed over to Barbara Persson.

Appointed positions were announced: Del Stockstill and Doug Winters, Tournament Directors; Jan Moore, Public Relations; Refreshments, Barbara Persson; Grounds Keepers Mike Comer and Steven Huntoon.

We learned that work on the project to move the pits has been put on hold. On January 12th, Del Stockstill, Barbara Persson, and Danny Stockstill attended the Tuolumne Parks & Rec meeting, and learned that work won't be done for at least one, maybe two years. In the meantime, Tuolumne County refurbished the courts; the work was completed in February.

Our first tournament, the 21st Annual Park & Rec Open Tournament was held on Saturday, April 16th. Twenty-three participants from Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Madera, and Tuolumne Counties enjoyed a beautiful, sunny day on the season opener. The youngest pitcher was Trevor Showen, 13, from Turlock, who won 1st place in the B Division.

Steve Huntoon, three-year member of the club and grandson of club treasurer Barbara Persson, threw out the opening pitch. Steve and co-chair Mike Comer have spent many hours keeping the horseshoe pits conditioned for playing.

Tournament results are as follows: Keith Meier, Madera, A Division 1st Place; Trevor Showen, B Division 1st Place; and H. C. Cotner, Sonora, C Division 1st place. The next TCHC tournament will be the Black Oak Casino Tournament, Saturday, June 25th at Depot Park in Tuolumne.

We hope you can attend at least one of our tournaments this year. Our pits are great, and while we can't guarantee you a winning day, we will guarantee good food, good fellowship, and that you'll have a great time in beautiful Tuolumne County. Happy Pitching,
Jan Moore

Indian Valley

Well, we have not got going yet with all the weather, but are planning on having great weather for our June tournament. As you all know it is a memorial both days and we have another one for our memorial. He never pitched in the Nationals but did pitch a lot of horseshoes. I pitched him when I was just a kid. Elmer Peck passed on a couple weeks back and he was 94 years old. I am sure many will remember his kids that did pitch in the Nationals. Glen Peck pitched with our club and also the Palermo club. His sister Norma has pitched many years with the Indian Valley Club and also held an office at one time.

Indian Valley had a small turnout this weekend but we sure had some great people attend. As usual Reno

supported us very well. I think we had 8 pitchers from the Reno area. In the top 40' group on Saturday we had a first time tournament winner with the hard working Lee Roy taking it all followed by Fritz Oberst, they had a playoff for the title. Indian Valley dominated the second 40' group with Jim Atcher taking first followed by the tough Harry Begay (who will turn 82 next month) and still pitches at 40'.

The top group of short-distanced pitchers was dominated by NV. It was won by Jack Porter of Reno followed by Don Gore of Reno. The second group of was won by Michelle White of the Indian Valley Club. Glad to have you back Michelle. Michelle pitched off and on with our club since she was a junior. Second place went to Walt Butcher.

On Sunday the tournament winner in the full-distance group was Rob Roman followed by Indian Valley's Gene Washoe. The second group of full-distance was won by Fritz Oberst followed by Harry Begay. In the 30' group the tournament winner was Don Gore from Reno followed by Elaine Butcher. Elaine had some super games up in the 70's and pitched very well but the handicap got her in the last game, as that is all she lost.

Richard McCutcheon

Sacramento

The Sacramento Club was able to sneak in four tournaments in April. The Matt Smith, John Mulligan, Joan Bryan and the Glenn Rippetoe Turns 10 tournaments. Matt is one of Sacramento's hardest working club members who maintain the courts.

John Barney placed 1st followed by Verdun Zelmar at the Joan Bryan tournament as it was a small tournament with one large group. Tony Latino placed 1st followed by John Barney at the John Mulligan tournament, Mike Hammer placed 1st in the second group and Matt Smith placed 2nd. NCHPA Officer, Gail Sluys made a surprise presentation and honored Rick Eddy from the Forebay Club for his 10th year as a member. Congratulations Rick!

The Matt Smith tournament was a 30/40 split. The 30' winner was Denny Currier with Tony Latino placing 2nd. George Friend placed 1st in the second 30' group with Don Stephens placing 2nd. The 40' winner was John Barney with Mark Verdun placing 2nd. Harry Begay placed 1st in the second 40' group with Matt Smith placing 2nd.

The Glenn Rippetoe Turns 10 tournament was to honor Glenn who was surprised and received his 10 year patch. Apparently, Glenn passed the 10 year mark some time ago...better late than never. Harlen Rippetoe surprised Glenn and presented Glenn with his patch. Glen had no idea the tournament was in his honor. Tony Latino won the tournament with David Loucks placing 2nd. Rick Eddy placed 1st and Gloria Callahan placed 2nd in the next group, 1st place in the third group was Don

Stephens followed by Mike Hammer, and in 1st place in the fourth group was Gary Smith followed by George Friend. Thank you to Rick Bermingham, Joan Bryan, Tom Latino, Glenn and Judette Rippetoe, Chuck Smith, Matt Smith and Gail Sluys for their assistance. Thank you to the pitchers for attending and spending the day with us at Granite Park. **Cathy Kauffman**

Forebay Park

Our club play started the third week in April. Although Pollock Pines received a lot of rain and snow clear into June, we managed to not get snowed out one night of our Thursday night club play! Amazing! I do not know if you will get this in time, but our first two tournaments are June 25th and 26th. The 25th is the Bill Harris Memorial. Sunday the 26th will be 30- 40 split. We're looking forward to seeing you all there. We have been fortunate to welcome several new members this year, mainly due to the Pollock Pines Bowling Alley roof collapsing. It will take all summer to rebuild. So some of the bowlers came out to keep their bowling arms in shape for the fall league. We hope you will make the scenic drive up to Pollock Pines for the tournament coming up or our tournament the third weekend in August. So check your schedule and come up and enjoy our beautiful setting with a lake view, many shady trees and beat the heat at 4,000 feet! **Rick Eddy**

Fortuna

Good news, Henry Clark from our club submitted a request to Bear River Casino asking them to donate money to our club. They have graciously donated a nice sum of money, so we can hold a money tournament. The tournament will be on August 20th-21st at Fortuna (flyer in newsletter). The tournament is a pre-registered taking the first 40 entrants, \$25 entry fee must be received by 8/13/11. Generous prize money will be paid down to 4th or 5th place depending on the size of the groups. The top group will not be handicapped. Sorry, no juniors or cadets. We are providing a free BBQ on Sunday and are planning a fun dinner at the casino on Saturday night for those who wish to join. We have planned a great raffle table and some fun games Friday afternoon. We have heard that some pitchers from Oregon are coming, should be a fun time. Come and enjoy some moderate temperatures and view the sites of the redwood coast. Hope to see you there. Questions call Bill or Sharon Paddock at (707) 443-1913. **Bill Paddock**

Stockton

I would like to thank all pitchers who participated in the Joe & Millie Schultz Open Saturday March 21st, 2011. We had a great turn out! We had 29 pitchers in our count all money tournament. Stockton members provided lunch to all pitchers, family, and friends. The

Stockton members also provided items for an extra special raffle. Isabel DeLeon and Delia Garza used the items to make a very large gift basket for the raffle. The gift basket was easily worth over \$100 dollars and provided needed raffle income for the Stockton Club. Giselle Monk who kept score all day was the lucky winner. This being Joe and Millie's tournament, the Stockton Members crowned Millie the "Homecoming Queen." Millie looked beautiful with her crown and pink roses. Thank you Millie for all the years of service you and Joe have given to us who love horseshoes. The tournament winners are as follows: Wayne George \$100 Tournament Champion; Ken Weir \$75 2nd place; Charles Russian \$60 3rd place; Daniel Hernandez \$30 4th place; George Davis \$20 5th place. Congratulations Winners!

We did not have as big a turn out for Stockton Memorial tournament, but it was a great day to pitch. There were two groups of 14 die-hard pitchers. Tournament Champion Jose DeLeon with Charles Russian in a close second. In Class B Vince Eisma Champion with Wayne George taking second place honors. What a weekend for Wayne George with a Tournament Champion and next day 2nd. "Great Job Wayne!"

See everyone at our next tournament in October!

Jose DeLeon

Vallejo

Word has it that when the Vallejo Parks Department took out the pyracantha bushes on the East side of courts 1-8 they found \$8.75 in quarters when they dug up those bushes and re-tilled the soil for the present plants. Some quarters dated back to 1956! That's a lot of scorekeeping money that passed over that fence and was dropped by pitchers and scorekeepers. Wish I coulda got some of those pre-1964 quarters, they're silver! Quite an improvement with those large sycamore trees gone too, although it took quite a bit of shade from the bottom courts. **Anonymous**

Shingle Springs

Well, there he came, 7:30 AM, "White Dodge Four Wheel Drive Ram" with monster tires emitting crunching sounds on the base rock driveway leading to the Clubhouse, cigar smoke curling out the half open window on the driver's side, white whiskers apparent, even thru the heavily shaded windshield and the big 2500 Dodge motor making an ominous rumble, resembling an approaching "Union Pacific Six Unit Power Package" starting the pull thru the California Foothills, having just left the Roseville Yard with a "Eighty Nine Car Double Stack" trailing behind, like a huge Anaconda.

"Oh Marie A Lena---what in the world have we got approaching here?"

I ceased my tree watering routine, pulled the hose out of the way and walked over and turned the water off, already somewhat apprehensive over the developing situation, not knowing why, but none the less, suspecting someone was wanting something or another and I was the guy they picked to talk about it.

"Hi---What's up? "

Just a cheerful opening question to try and get a handle on the motive for my visitor's appearance at that time of the morning.

Hi, I'm Rocky. I just got elected as the new President of the Community Center. They told me I might find a guy by the name of Cardinalli over here at this time of morning and I'd like to talk to him."

"I'm Brother Cardinalli, what can I help you with?"

He offered his hand and I accepted with a firm handshake.

"You're the President of the Shingle Springs Horseshoe Club I understand."

"Yea, that's right. It's getting a little warmer now and I'm here to get some water to these trees this morning."

"Well I've been looking for, and failing to find, any written agreement as to the relationship between the Community Center and the Horseshoe Club. Do you know if one exists and if it does--can I review it?"

Now then, my ears came to point, my "Lookout LeRoy" senses started to kick in, memories, vivid memories, of J. C. Hayes and Joe Kelly nearly coming to blows over what part of the Community Center property we could use to construct our courts and clubhouse, came creeping back into my hippocampus as if I just got tangled up in a "Time Capsule" and it was 22 years earlier, with all of us stumbling around, over a big pile of rocks and debris, arguing, under a "Scorching Fireball Orb" that had the mercury well over the century mark.

I commented-----

"I can honestly tell you that I really don't know if there ever was a formal agreement written addressing this issue other than something that perhaps may be found with an intensive review of the bygone minutes from Community Center meetings."

"Well I haven't got the time for that so what I'm proposing is that you and I draft something to present to the officers of the Community Center at our next regularly scheduled meeting for their appraisal and perhaps acceptance.

By now I was getting a little "Antsy", slightly upset, so I responded-----

"The only set of rules and regulations that I know of around here are---See that fence line there on the North side of the sports field? That has been the dividing line, even tho we were major participants in the construction of that field several years ago. What we have here is sort of a tacit agreement that says----You stay over on your side and we will stay over on our side. We are all members of the Community Center however, we built this facility entirely with our own time and money and we maintain it the same way. We need some repairs to

the Clubhouse, more clay for the courts etc. but you won't be seeing any requests for financial assistance, much less advice. Speaking for our Club, we see no need to be changing the status quo. Hell, we've been getting along quite well now for 22 years."

The guy politely acknowledged our efforts and continuing commitment to maintaining a pretty darn nice Community Center facility. He didn't pursue his written agreement idea and I didn't elaborate further--in fact I kept my big mouth shut. The big Dodge turned and idled back down the driveway.

Perhaps all is well here at Shingle. I certainly hope so. We'll see. *Dave Cardinalli*

Sonoma County

It was great to see everyone come out to the Greott 101st Birthday tournament. George had a great time as those that spoke with him can attest. Poor George could hardly get out of the parking lot; all the well-wishers came out to great him. We literally rolled out the red carpet for this great man. We had 36 pitchers exactly enough for a full morning session. Everyone certainly enjoyed the festivities and the rain held off until later that afternoon. Because of that rain our courts were too wet to pitch on the next day. As bad luck or some other scheduling fubar would have it the next day was Easter Sunday anyway. Those that did not call and dared show up were told that it was rained out, but because the donuts had been ordered we each had 3 or 4.

The Sonoma County Club sincerely appreciates all your support and we will do our utmost not to schedule conflicting tournaments that have a negative impact on other nearby clubs for 2012.

Our upcoming tournaments are **June 25-26, the 25th is the Munderloh Family Open**, Rob and his wife Kris have been members for a long time and came to us through George. The **26th is the McKeay Family Open**, Roger and his wife Joyce always are at the courts before anyone else and begin setting things out and setting thing up. In fact if club members come after 8 AM there is virtually nothing left to do because Roger and Joyce have done it all. Roger is a 40+ year member of the NHPA, but does not pitch anymore. Then the weekend after that on **July 2nd** (strange eh?) we have a tournament to honor our Sonoma County Champion, Sue Lichua. Sue travels to quite a few club and is an extremely gregarious individual. Those of you that have pitched her know that she loves the game and likes to have a good time while whippin' up on you.

Some sad news for one of our members, Greg Ellisen has been diagnosed with cancer, rather severe. He will be undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatments in an attempt to suppress the spread of this dreaded disease. Let's keep Greg and his family in our thoughts and prayers as we continue to pitch. Everyone knows Greg as the cutting board man, joke man, and just all around good guy. Greg; here's to a speedy recovery! If you care to send Greg and Dixie a card their address is

Greg Ellisen 5911 Yerba Buena Rd. Santa Rosa, CA 95409 *Casey Sluys*

Feather River

It is great to be into the pitching season again. Looks like we will have good weather from here on out after such a long rainy season. Feather River was fortunate to have two non-rainy days for our May tournament weekend. We didn't have as many in attendance as usual either day but had a good time. The winners on May 21st were: Group 1, 1st place Hal Holbrook, 2nd place Mark Verdun; Group 2, 1st place Audrey Winters, 2nd place Fritz Oberst; Group 3, 1st place Harry Begay, 2nd place George Mertz. May 22nd winners were: Group 1, 1st place Lois Edwards, 2nd place John Sylvester, Group 2, 1st place Cathy Kauffman, 2nd place Audrey Winters, Group 3, 1st place Reb Billingsley, 2nd place Daryl Adams.

Lee Oliver and John Sylvester worked hard repairing two of our courts, breaking up old concrete, digging up tree roots and then replacing the cement. They did such a good job. They will probably work on the other courts to improve them also. A huge thanks to both of them!

I enjoyed the Indian Valley tournament this past weekend. That is such a beautiful area and the weather was great. *Audrey Winters*

Ukiah

Hello from the Ukiah Valley – we are all dried out and warming up so maybe we will have a summer after all? Our April, May and June tournaments were fantastic! If you missed them I am so sorry and if you were there then you know what a fabulous time we had! The weather co-operated and nothing was rained out. Some days were cool but for pitching that's not a bad thing, for scorekeeping it gets a little uncomfortable but everyone endured and the tournaments went off without a hitch.

The April tournament was the biggest with 17 pitchers on Saturday and 14 on Sunday. There was a 3-way tie for first place in group 1 on Saturday and a “normal” (2-way) tie in Group 2. In May 14 pitchers showed up on Saturday and 16 on Sunday. It was cool and cloudy but the rain held off and there was only one tie for first place so we were able to get home and warm up before the rains came. The lawn at our pits has never looked so good!

In June we had lots of donuts and strawberries, melons, apples, oranges, bananas and hot coffee to add to our enjoyment and camaraderie. Another 3-way tie struck Group 1 on Sunday but all was well and the pitchers went home happy and well fed.

FINALLY, I downloaded to my computer and learned to operate the HS Master computer program! Thanks to a fabulous tutorial by Gail Sluys and some additional advice by Sharon Paddock, I am ready to run our September tournaments on the computer, no more pencils and pens for this little horseshoe club – except of

course the scorekeeping! The program makes everything so easy and I just love it – I'm asking myself what took me so long?

Gil Tournour, our club president, is very grateful to our club members and fellow pitchers from neighboring clubs for all the help in preparing the courts for each tournament. It is very heartening to see pitchers from other clubs pick up the shovels and fill the water buckets and put out the paint cans and 'pitch' in and help with all the various tasks necessary for a successful tournament. Our thanks to: Sharon and Bill Paddock, Fritz Oberst, Ken Woolery, Tom Webb, and Cathie and Dave Loucks not only for helping but also for driving all the way to Ukiah for our fabulous tournaments! Our members are awesome too and include Tom Burns, Jr. who not only helps but also drives all the way from Concord with an ever willing desire to do what ever needs to be done including providing some great music for our listening pleasure.

Some of our members will be traveling to the Valley of the Rogue Tournament in Grants Pass, Oregon in June and the rest of the summer Ukiah pitchers will be traveling around enjoying their game and their friends and looking forward to our September tournaments, hope to see you there! *Lorena Tournour*

San Jose

The San Jose Horseshoe Club was very excited to have had Don Titcomb, who now lives in Idaho, come to visit and pitch Horseshoes on June 8th. Many of you remember Don and have pitched many years with him. We had a nice group that had a lot of fun and Don was really appreciative and surprised with how many old friends and new pitchers that were there. Don is 83 now and not only pitched several games that evening, but had also played golf earlier in the day. He is doing very well and told of the many fond memories that he had of the time that he was a member of our club.

Who would have thought that we would have had to cancel two tournaments in June due to rain, but that is what happened. These tournaments have now been rescheduled. Sept. 24 will be the Nancy & Hugh Don Kies Tournament. We will look forward to seeing Cloutier Tournament and Sept. 25 will be the Janet & you at these tournaments.

Many of you have asked about our Recipe Books “A RINGER OF RECIPES”. We will have them at the Tournaments and at the State Tournament. These make really great gifts for every occasion and are wonderful Christmas presents for every age. The cost is \$15.00 per book. Most of the recipes are really easy to prepare. All are very delicious! Our club really appreciates all of your support in the purchase of them.

Our San Jose members were all disappointed that an agreement couldn't be made with the City of San Jose for the State Tournament this year. We were looking forward to it and wanted it to be in Northern California.

Hopefully, in the future it could happen. *Nancy Ann Cloutier*

Madera

The Madera Big Valley Horseshoe Club held it's first tournament on May 21, 2011. Approximately 21 players pitched in excellent playing weather. Club Mom Sharon Rippetoe, served up biscuits and gravy to all players. The rain has so far not been a deterrent to league play.

The Big Valley Horseshoe League & Club sponsored the first annual Golf Tournament. on June 3, 2011. 23 golfers participated and approximately \$800.00 was raised. The funds will be shared with a local youth football league to help sponsor young football players to go to football camp. Hopefully next years event will be better.

Renovation was completed on two horseshoe courts at the Madera, Town & Country Park. The Madera Horseshoe Club, works with the Madera Parks and Community Services to help maintain local horseshoe courts. New stakes, backboards, and foul lines were installed and the courts can now be used by the public. All supplies and labor were provided at no cost to the city. Upon request

Half Moon Bay

Since the last News and Views, we have had a busy schedule. In April we hosted the Horseshoe portion of Bay Area Senior Games for Northern California. We will be hosting this event next year and I hope to see more NCHPA pitchers join us. This of course is a non- NHPA event, but it is the Senior Olympics and fun competing for Gold Medals. The goal of course is to find new members and let them see how much fun going to tournaments can be.

Another way to get tournament attendance up is to promote good will with members from out of state. If you are planning a trip out of state, try finding a NHPA tournament during your travels. You will be the best ambassador for out of State pitchers to join us in their travels. Richard Robbins and I competed in a NHPA doubles tournament in Kauai, Hawaii last April. We met some great people who plan to come to some of our tournaments, when they come to the mainland.

We have four upcoming tournaments before the State, July 16 & 17 and August 6 & 7. The August 7 tournament is the

by any service organization or park official the Madera. Club will refurbishes any existing horseshoe court.

Several Big Valley Horseshoe League, Peace Officers participated in the Western States Police & Fire Games over the weekend in Ontario, California. The Games are made up of police & firemen from the twelve western states. Eric Longcor, Jason Longcor, and yours truly all received medals in the two day event.

Eric, won bronze in the A division singles play and Jason, won bronze in the B division single play. Both the brothers teamed up and won a silver metal in the A division doubles event. For me it was Silver in Singles A and Gold in A division doubles.

The games will be permanently located in beautiful San Diego Ca. The horseshoe pitching event will be held at Balboa Park. The dates of the games are scheduled for June 16-24, 2012. If you are a Peace

Officer, or a fireman and love San Diego, now is the time to get involved. A special thanks to the Fortuna Horseshoe Club for providing Stats, score keeping, and assisting the police co-coordinator in the running of the events. *Harlen A. Rippetoe*

first of two doubles tournaments we host. I highly recommend all of you to team up with a friend and show up. Our doubles tournaments are always fun for all.

For the State tournament in Bakersfield, we have put aside some rooms at the Four Point Sheraton Bakersfield. The rooms are \$65. For Reservations call 661 325 9700. This is under the Half Moon Bay Horseshoe Club.

We would also like to welcome new members to our club: Sandy & Clay Pitts and their son Rocky, Horace Shuman, & Lucky & Summer Player. Thanks, also to a new member for bringing all of them in, Joe King. *Rick Della Santina*

NCHPA HALL OF FAME

Nominee Information Form

Name _____ Birth Date _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ # of years NCHPA Member _____

Bakersfield

ENTRY FORM

Bakersfield

California State Horseshoe Pitching Championships

Hosted by the NCHPA September 3, & 4, 2011

Corner of Oak St. and 21st St. Beach Park, in **Bakersfield**, California

Please Print Clearly or Type

Name _____ Birthdate _____

Address: _____ E-Mail _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: (____)____-____ NHPA#: _____ 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 2011. "CADETS" are junior pitchers whose 10th birthday does not fall in 2011.

⇒ Eligibility requires **Adults** have pitched in **three (3)** California sanctioned tournaments-**Junior and Cadet** pitchers require **one (1)** since **August 1, 2010**.

⇒ Pitching averages will come from NATSTATS.

⇒ Entry **Deadline** is **August 1, 2011** (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, 2011.**

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◇

Mail top of Entry Form and check to:

Gail Sluys (707) 538-3128

Make checks payable to **NCHPA**

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%.

Corner of Oak St. and 21st St. Beach Park, Bakersfield, California

Don't forget to sponsor a trophy for the State Championships.

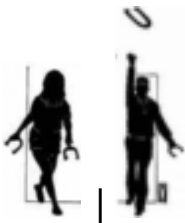
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