

Nor-Cal News & Views

Northern California Horseshoe Pitchers Association website address is: <http://www.nchpa.com>

Secretary/Treasurer

NCHPA had great Championship tournaments this year. First the State with 147 pitchers on beautiful days and on great courts in Stockton. Thank you, George Davis, for putting together a great crew to get the courts in shape to host the prestigious State Tournament. Then for taking on the NorCal Championships and the NCHPA Doubles championships. We had a great turnout for all of our events—though we would love to have more pitchers in the Nor Cal competition. We had 18 teams pitching in the doubles competition – Three (3) Classes of six (6) teams each, it was a competitive tournament.

Everyone said they will be back next year for that competition. Thank you to all for signing up -it was fun.

OUR ANNUAL MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED TO SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12TH AT 10:00 AM.

The place remains the same = Joe and Mary Summers home 231 Escondido Drive Martinez 94553. We will have lunch after the meeting ends which should be about 12:30. Zoom will be available for those that are unable to make the trip and want to join us on computers. We hope to have a good turnout. I will be sending the Zoom log in via email as we get closer to the meeting. If you plan to attend on Zoom, please let me know so I can be sure to get the log on information to you. Hope to see you at the annual meeting. *Gail Sluys*

Personally I watched some very good people working their butts off to make our California State Championship one of the best in recent memory. Thank you everyone! It was a pleasure to witness a Charter come together as you all did. Then to turn around a few weeks later to do the exact same thing at the Norcal and Doubles! You deserve all the accolades you receive. Thank You! *Casey*

1st. VP

The NCHPA was the host charter for this year's California State Horseshoe Pitching Championships. This was the 104th edition of the State Tournament. Historic Louis Park Horseshoe Courts in Stockton was the host for the event. This was the 14th time that the "State" has been held in Stockton. 147 pitchers came from all over the Golden State to participate. State Champions were crowned in 7 Divisions. It was quite a project to get the 19 Courts prepared at the 51-year-old Louis Park Horseshoe Facility. Over half of the 38 Stakes had to be replaced, repaired, or adjusted, and tons of new clay were trailered in to replenish the pits. Joe Summers, George Davis, David Goldstein, Dave Lane, Wayne McGee, Terry Jones, Christina Cordova, and Rick Padilla

all played a role in readying the facility. The NCHPA Charter can be proud of the facility preparation; the courts were in great shape, worthy of hosting a major State Horseshoe Pitching Championship. The weather over the Labor Day Weekend was beautiful in Stockton, a far cry from the record 112 - degree record temperatures we experienced for the 2021 State Tournament.

We have a new King of California Men's Horseshoe Pitching! Bobby Bartell, of Yuba City came into the Championship with the highest ringer percentage, and after 2 days of pitching Bobby emerged with a perfect undefeated record of 10-0 and was crowned the 2023 Men's State Champion.

The California State Men's Championship Title has historically been one of the most prestigious titles in Horseshoe Pitching. Fernando Isais, Ted Allen, Guy Zimmerman, Don Titcomb, and Walter Ray Williams, Jr., all were California Men's Champions and went on to become the Men's World Champion. Bobby Bartell becomes just the 31st man to win the California Men's Title in the 104-year history of the State Tournament. 16 men have won the Championship one time. Three men have won twice and two have won three times. Dean Brown, John Walker, and Nathan Williams have won 4 Titles. Jerry Schneider was a 5-time winner. Marcus Santillana won 6 times. Rick Bermingham has 7 State Titles. Fernando Isais won 8 times. Don Titcomb was a 9-time winner.

Guy Zimmerman won 10 State Championships, and Walter Ray Williams, Jr., won an astounding 17 Times! How many State Championships will Bobby achieve in his promising career? Time will tell.

The Men's Championship Group promised to be very competitive, and it did not disappoint. Bobby Bartell averaged 60.84

ringers to achieve his clean 10-0 record. Bobby's high game for the tournament was a sizzling 76.9% effort, which he used to humble Allen Jackson, the defending Champion 45-1. Most of Bartell's games were lopsided wins, with his closest game being his final game against Dalton Rakestraw, a 45-32 win. Nathan Williams took second place honors with an 8-2 record. Nathan pitched 57.39 % for the tournament with a high game of 65.7%, ironically in a loss to Rick Bermingham. Nathan's only other loss was to Bartell, 42-17. Rick Bermingham finished in third place with a 7-3 record, and a 59.62% ringer average. Rick had won his first seven games (including a blistering 79.1% game which was the Group high game) when he lost 40-39 to Dalton Rakestraw. In his next game against Bartell, he was flat in a 42-19 loss, then had a closing loss to Dave Lane, 41-38. Dalton Rakestraw, ranked second in the group, finished 4th with a 7-3 record, and a ringer percentage of 57.87. His low game for the tournament resulted in a 40-37 loss to Daniel Jeff in game 5 which kept Dalton out of final contention. Dave Lane finished in 5th place with a 6-4 record, including a 70% game. (*Continued on page 4*)

3rd.VP

The NCHPA 2022-2023 pitching season officially came to an end on Labor Day 2023. The COVID-19 pandemic was still with us in the 2022-23 season, but did not seem to impact our 22-23 season as much as some of the seasons before. After cancelling the first 2 tournaments of the 22-23 season (Willows) due to high temperatures the 2022-2023 pitching season got off to a start with our first NCHPA tournament on Sep. 17, 2022. During the course of the 22-23 season no tournament was cancelled due to COVID-19, but 20 tournaments were

cancelled for various reasons. A total of 85 tournaments were pitched to completion. With luck we will have fewer cancellations in 23-24. I hope to see you on the courts.

As always you club statisticians can make my task pretty easy if you send your HSMaster files (boxscore files, one file per class, tournament class standings file, and comma-separated-values Results file) to me in a timely manner. I would like to have them as soon after your tournament as is convenient. Please email your HSMaster files to me at: meanderson99@yahoo.com. And please be sure that the boxscore files that you send are generated in HSMaster as Tournaments, Reports, Format, Results [not Results (Brief)]. Keep in mind that I need member numbers in every file that you send. That means I want the long version, not brief version, of every file. (Note for Doubles tournaments HSMaster does not produce class boxscore files or tournament class standings file with member numbers.) Create the HSMaster files as follows:

1) boxscore files, one per class: Tournaments, Play Singles or Play Doubles, Tournament (your tournament number and name), Class X, Load, Standings checked, Box Scores checked, Export; repeat for each class in place of X

2) tournament class standings: Tournaments, Play Singles or Play Doubles, Tournament (your tournament number and name), Reports, Results [not Results (Brief)], preview if desired, Text File.

3) comma-separated-values Results file: Tournaments, Clean Up, Post Results to Player Stats set to (your tournament number and name), Results File. You may put these files in any folder you like, but C:\HSMasterData is a pretty common folder to put them in. Thanks for all your help. **Mike Anderson** NCHPA 3rd. VP

The 2024 World Horseshoe Pitching Championships will be held in Kennewick, Washington. Tri Cities, Washington (Three Rivers Campus)

July 29th-August 10th.

Look for more details at www.horseshoepitching.com

4th. VP

What has happened this Summer 2023!

Adventures at the "World Horseshoe Pitching Championships in Lansing Mich. July 22nd 2023 thru July 29th 2023. Unusual events seem to happened to me, next stop Sacramento Airport to Chicago Airport. Arriving late the airline had to give me a room. I was very upset, but after getting the room, top floor penthouse looking out over Chicago. 1st time ever to this place, had a great view, fun. Getting up early the next morning to catch airplane to Lansing, MI. Got here in the afternoon, needed to have a smoke outside, the airport was vacant. Then a person comes up to me and ask for a cig!!! It was a horseshoe pitcher from Texas...Rodney Crow. I still needed to get to the World Horseshoe Pitching site? And caught a ride with another Texan, Ed Posey, to the facility! Carrying 2 bags, didn't even pack my horseshoes. I now had to find a place to sleep!!! Ah, but 1st need to check out the horseshoe pitching facility. I called Wayne from the airport, he said he was practicing

with the guys, he was suppose go to the World Championships, didn't even tell me he wasn't going to be there in MI. He is now a Hawaii member... glad I didn't take him up on the offer to ride to the airport!?! As I was getting ready to pitch my qualifying squad, I find out that something happened at home, at the horseshoe pitching Club courts.... Upset now, but managed to pitch through the disappointed of event. Sleeping on a picnic table the first couple of nights was kinda fun! At the campgrounds other pitchers were very nice to me. A pitcher from WI., Fred Lane gave me 2 sleeping bags and more, rides to the facility. He was camping also on the other side of the park. Every night had fireflies around, cute.... Every day it rained while I was there! Taking a break, rethinking! I'm back after practicing just a little bit. Every day I was in MI, it rained, said that already. 1st night was in a nice hotel top floor. 2nd night spent the night outside next to the arena, under the bridge downtown Lansing. 3rd night at the campgrounds, sleeping on the picnic table. Had very little luggage, Drew Becker lent me horseshoes to pitch with... Just had cameras and battery packs and tripod, couple changes of clothes, 4th day it rained pretty good and all my stuff was wet. The next morning I had to do laundry and who shows up to do laundry also, the Goat "Alan Francis". Got to do laundry and talk to the Champ!!! All the pitchers were very nice to me, except some pitchers don't know who I am??? Hard to fathom, with my reputation. By the 3rd night sleeping on the picnic table, which was actually very fun. The owner manager said that I needed to hav a tent, looked bad in the eyes among us. Paying \$35 a night for the picnic table was fine with me, but he let me borrow a tent for the last couple of nights. And even people that were just camping and

not with the horseshoe pitching championships, were donating things to me. So I had to explain that I was just here for horseshoe pitching, I'm from California... It's a small world! Every morning a gentlemen would be walking his dog by my campsite, it was Homer Cain, parked across the drive way , Ron Murphy from Texas (had good talks with him, about other horseshoe related events??? Amazing when pitchers find out that Walter Ray, my brother is only 1 year older...than me...Cause he is a bowler.. Goat... I didn't like what would happen after each day of pitching, 8:00pm finishing, we could not practice, they would hurry us out of the arena no practicing or sticking around... It was a distance to go outside and have a smoke, access doors were very few and far between! So I would make them wait between games to walk all the way to the other side of the building to smoke! Shouldn't smoke I know, but I have set way of doing things. Well I pitched like a beginner! Tripped a couple of times from the plywood that was taped down.... Couple of the courts were out of alignment so I decide to pitch a game on a vacant court, they didn't like my idea? I pitched the last squad every day starting at 5:00pm. I did "Live" video on Facebook , so people could watch via internet. That's a lot of Giga bites... Last day of the Tournament, my plane kept getting delayed, that was cool with me! Going home at the airport, took an Uber with Rodney, we were on the same flight to Chicago, and then at the airport met up with the Jr. TJ & the other man's name elods me, they have been waiting all day for the flight we were on, it was a small plane. Wait we did, got to Chicago and they gave me a direct flight to Sacramento, because late again... Thank you everyone that helped me out with this adventure. Jean Brown, Richard Robbins,

Bobby Bartell, Dave Lane, Lori Pipkins (ride to the airport, Stan Cummins (picking me up at the airport), Mother Esther Williams, and all the rest of the horseshoe pitching world "Thank You". That high profile horseshoe pitching court case start today in Auburn Ca. *Jeff Williams*
NCHPA 4th VP, Lincoln Ca

Regional Director

I have opted to let go of some of my responsibilities. I am no longer the NCHPA schedule director. Corinna Mills has graciously accepted that responsibility and has proven to be a great person for this task. Along with that I have resigned from the Board of Directors of the NHPF. I am choosing to let a younger generation assume some of the leadership roles and take over the reins.

If you hear of someone wishing to do this newsletter please give them my contact information. I'll gladly steer them though a few issues.

As for Regional Director I'll hang on to that for a bit longer.

I'll continue to keep up our Facebook page and the other 2 that I am an Administrator of. It's been, and continues to be, a labor of love folks. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. *Casey Sluys*

(Continued from Page 2)

In the Women's Championship Group, Diane Luiz of Tulare won her third Women's State Championship! Diane finished with a 6-1 record, losing only to Alva Ramirez in her second game, 40-38. Diane had a 49.34% ringer average for the tournament with a high game of 58.7%.

Corinne Cook of the Madera Club had an impressive tournament and finished in 2nd place at 5-2. Corinne had the highest ringer

average for the Women's Championship Group at 51.84%, and had the three highest games pitched in the Group, a 62.5 game, an impressive 73%, and a smokin' 78.5% performance! Corrine lost her first game, and then her final game showdown with Diane Luiz the eventual Champion.

Corrine may have a State Championship in her future! Alva Ramirez, Sabrina Johnson, and Jose Tellers all finished with 4-3 records, with Alva taking 3rd place on a better ringer percentage.

Coy Halsted of Willows won the Men's Elder Championship with a perfect 9-0 record and a 56.08% ringer average. Coy had the high game for the Group, an impressive 78.1% against John DeMello. Rick Della Santina finished 2nd at 7-2. Rick got off to a sluggish start losing his opening game, and also lost to eventual Champion Halsted, but he had a strong tournament which included his high game 61.9% to beat defending Elder Champ John Garcia. Gil Tournour was third at 6-3.

Ramiro Coronado was the defending Senior Men's Champion and he won the title again this year. Ramiro went undefeated at 7-0, averaging 53.17% ringers. Coronado pitched all his games at 50% and above, and also had the high game for the group with a 59.3% against Roy West. Frank Arroyo was 2nd with a 6-1 record. Ruben Rodriguez and Gene Washoe finished at 4-3, with Ruben getting 3rd place on ringer percentage.

Hastiin Begaye was the prohibitive favorite in the Junior Boys Division, and Hastiin had a most impressive tournament. Hastiin won his 3rd Junior Boys State Championship going undefeated at 6-0. He pitched 77.27% for the event, the highest ringer average pitched at the State Tournament. Only 3 single points were scored against Hastiin in the whole tournament. He pitched four shut-

out games, and had two 83.3% games; impressive to say the least!

Lily Strong of Lancaster successfully defended her Junior Girls State Championship. She went undefeated with a 52.08% ringer average, some 15 points above her entry average. Lily had a 61.5% game, and a great 70.8% performance. Kaidence Begaye was 2nd, and Evelyn Espinola was 3rd. Adakai Begay won his 3rd Cadet State Championship. He had a perfect 8-0 record with a 42.65% ringer average. Adakai had the group's high game with a sweet 59.0% game against his brother Gavin Begaye, Jr. Tah-dsoka Jeff was 2nd, and Eben Begaye was 3rd.

Elders Class B was won by Les Smullen of Hawthorne in a playoff over Efrem Bravo of Bakersfield. Les and Efrem both had one loss going into their final showdown match of the day, and the game ended in a 26-26 tie! Les prevailed in the playoff 44-22. High game for the group was 50%. Les pitched 50% against George Davis, and Efrem had 50% against Joe Summers! George Davis, Richard Robbins, and Mike Anderson finished at 8-3, with Davis getting 3rd on ringer average. A playoff was required to determine the winner of Men's Class B.

Pete Perez had lost to Able Coronado and to Javier Espinola. Javier Espinola had lost to Paul Machado and to "giant killer" Able Coronado. Perez and Espinola, therefore, both had two losses and were tied for the Men's B Title, necessitating a playoff game. Although Pete Perez had lost to Javier in the early going, he was able to beat him in the playoff, 36-29, giving him the Men's B win. The irrepressible Bernie Cook finished in third place. Only a game 7 tie to Jeff Szczesny kept

Bernie out of a 3-way tie for the Class. Bernie is just going to have to relax and start

having fun! The high games in Men's B were pitched by Javier Espinola, a pair of 50%ers against George Garcia and Frank Rodriguez. Brennon Jeff of Lemoore went 10-1 to win Men's Class C. Jeff pitched 37.05% which was some 7 points higher than his entry average. Brennon lost only game 2 to Sean Downing. In second place was Stephen Sharp at 9-2. Lance Taylor was 3rd with an 8-3 record. High game for Men's C was pitched by Brennon Jeff, an impressive 57.5% against Harry Jeff.

Men's Class D was won by Teodoro Espinola of the Half Moon Bay Club in a playoff over Mike Jones. Teo had beaten Mike in game 10, 35-22, and was able to beat him again in the playoff 29-14. Madera President Nick Balderama was 3rd place at 7-4. Group high game was pitched by Teo Espinola, a 42.5% against Bryan Strong.

Jeff Edgar beat Johnny Armenta 27-24 in a playoff game to take Men's Class E. Jeff had lost to Johnny in regulation, but beat him when the chips were down in the playoff. Kevin Boyle was the 3rd place finisher. High game in the group was pitched in Game 1 by Rick Eddy, a 37.5% effort against Geary Miller. Joe Ruiz of Fresno went clean at 11-0 to win Men's Class F. Tony Smullen and Efrain Aldaz both finished at 9-2 with Smullen getting second with a higher ringer percentage. Stockton's David Goldstein was in 4th at 7-4. High game in Class F was pitched by Joe Ruiz, a 30% against Tony Smullen. Dee Rice, the Grande Dame of Turlock horseshoes won Women's B Class. Dee pitched 35.28% for the tournament which was 15 points above her entry average, giving her an 8-1 record. Dee's only loss was to Jasmine Brady in Game 7. Jasmine Brady, Byrlyn McCormick, and Claudia Espinola all finished with a 6-3 record. Ringer percentage was used to award 2nd,

3rd , and 4th places as the ladies are listed. High game for the group was a great 52.5% that Dee Rice pitched to beat her daughter Byrlyn. Stockton's Delia Garza took Women's C Class with an 8-1 record. Elena Lee, Jo Ellen Lagg, and Gina Cyr finished just behind at 7-2. Ringer percentage gave Elena 2nd , Jo Ellen 3rd , and Gina 4th . Delia's only loss was 22-18 to Jo Ellen Lagg. High game for the group was a 32.5% pitched by Jo Ellen Lagg against Dawn Jones.

We had two great days of horseshoe pitching for the 2023 State Tournament. The weather was great, the courts and clay were in championship condition, and the competition was outstanding! The Northern California Charter of the NHPA can be proud of the State Tournament that we hosted!

A month later the NCHPA Championship, the "Norcal," was held at Louis Park in Stockton. The tournament was originally scheduled to be held in Vallejo, but the NCHPA Board decided that since there was a great deal of work needed to get the Vallejo Courts in playing condition, and since the Stockton Courts had recently been refurbished for the State Tournament that it would make sense to hold the Norcal Tournament and the Doubles Tournament at Stockton.

On Saturday, September 30th , the 2023 Norcal Championships got underway at the Louis Park Horseshoe Courts. The first shift was greeted by early morning showers which left some wet pitching platforms and clay. Shovels, dry clay, brooms, a squeegee, and the "old persuader," a butane torch wielded by President Joe Summers, allowed the tournament to get off to a dry, on-time start.

The Championship Group was pretty remarkable, in that 5 of the 8 players were

Men's, Women's, or Elder State Champions. Bobby Bartell, the recently crowned California Men's State Champion, went undefeated to take the Championship Group. In the same month, on the same Courts, Bartell has won 2 major championships without losing a game! Bobby averaged 58.67% to put together the 7-0 record. Only Diane Luiz with 26 points, and Nathan Williams with 32 points, were able to score over 20 points against Bartell in the 40-point games.

Women's Champ Diane Luiz and 4-time California Men's Champ Nathan Williams had a 5-2 record; Diane was awarded 2nd by virtue of ringer percentage. 7-time Men's Champ Rick Bermingham finished 4th at 4-3. Bermingham, had the high tournament percentage for the group with 60.40%, and had the group high games with a pair of 75% gems against Wayne McGhee, and Gil Tournour. Sue Lichau of the Sonoma County Club won Class B with a perfect 7-0 mark, averaging 47.81%. Corrine Cook and Javier Espinola each had 5-2 records, with Corrine getting 2nd on ringer percentage. Pete Perez was 4th. High game was pitched by Corrine Cook, a cruel 60% against me, of all people, in the first game of the day. Even though I had spent the last hour and a half running all over Stockton with Joe Summers looking for a propane weed torch to dry the wet clay, I thought I was ready for a good day, I had a plan. Then after running into the Corrine buzz saw, I knew exactly what Mike Tyson meant when he said, "Everybody has a plan until they get punched in the mouth!" In my opinion, once Corrine eliminates those occasional low games, she is going to be a force in the Women's Division!

Alva Ramirez pitched 5 points over her average to take Class C with a 6-1 record, losing only to Mike Anderson in a 29-25

contest. Richard Robbins and Mike Anderson finished 5-2, with Richard taking 2nd on ringer average. Lance Taylor was 4th. Alva had the group's high game with a 52.7% against Gene Washoe. Mike Anderson had a 50% against Roy West. Marshall Merino's 6-1 record was good enough to win Class D.

Codie Nelson had the highest ringer percentage for the day with 33.84%, but her 5-2 record placed her in 2nd. Codie gave Marshall his lone loss in the final game. Teodoro Espinola and Ray Szczepanski were at 4-3, with the nod for 3rd place going to Teo on ringer percentage. Teo had the group high game when he threw 42.5% at Joe Summers. Class E went to Claudia Espinola at 6-2. Byrlyn McCormick came in 2nd at 5.5-2.5; her 21-21 tie with Alex Voskes kept her out of a tie for 1st.

Karen Bucci and Deanna Balderama were at 5-3, with Karen taking 3rd on ringer percentage. In an interesting side note, Alex Voskes tied two games; two tie games in one tournament IS unusual!

Class F had Stockton's Delia Garza and Rick Padilla finishing with 6-1 records. Delia won the Class based on a slightly higher ringer percentage. Rick did go away with the satisfaction of having beaten Delia 42-10 in the opening game. The tie-breaker in the class was ringer percentage, not head to head competition, therefore Delia was Champ. San Jose's Steve Nakamoto was 3rd. High game in the class was 28% pitched by both Delia Garza and Jeff Vieira in their Game 5 match, won by Delia 38-34. Stockton's David Goldstein won Class G. The only blemish on David's record was a 26-26 tie in the final game against Byrum Swinford. Marcus West finished 2nd at 6-1, with his only loss to Goldstein. Byrum Swinford was 3rd. High game in the class went to Marcus West who posted a 32.5%

game in beating Byrum Swinford 40-11 in the opening game.

The Norcal Tournament for 2023 turned out to be a good tournament with some competitive classes and plenty of interesting twists and turns. It was a wise choice to move the tournament to Stockton from Vallejo. The number of pitchers in the tournament was a nice increase over recent years.

The day after the Norcal Tournament the NCHPA Doubles Tournament was played on the historic Louis Park Courts. 18 Teams competed in three Groups of 6 Teams. Longtime doubles partners Rick Della Santina and Richard Robbins teamed up to win the Doubles Championship with a 4-1 record. Gil Tournour and Sue Lichau finished at 3-2, the same record as Corrine and Bernie Cook. Gil and Sue had a 1% higher ringer average so took 2nd. Tournour and Lichau, notably, had beaten Della Santina and Robbins in their game, but lost to Lane and Teller, and to the Cooks. Corrine Cook had a great individual performance within the team format. Corrine averaged 59% for the tournament with games of 60%, 70%, and 75%! As I said earlier in the article, lookout for Corrine!

Corrine was heard to say, "I love that Bernie, but he gets HEAVY when you have to carry him around all day!" Marshall Merino and Gene Washoe were a great team, and were undefeated in winning Class B. Alva Ramirez and Claudia Espinola were 2nd at 3-2, but actually had the high team average for Class B. Mike Anderson and Steve Nakamoto were 3rd. Alva Ramirez had a nice 55% individual effort in her teams opening game. The tag team of Davis and Summers finished dead last, 10 points below their entry average. The NCHPA President and 1st Vice President were so

busy with their Executive Duties, that they were understandably unable to pitch up to their normal stellar pitching level.

Class C was a wild one! The Vern Brannum and Dee Rice team ended up tied with the DeAnne and Nick Balderama Team at 4-1, which led to a playoff game. The Balderamas beat the Brannum/Rice team in the last game of regulation 28-19 to force the playoff, but Brannum and Rice came back to take the playoff game with the identical 28-19 score. Dee Rice stepped up to throw 50% ringers in the playoff game and heroically carried the day! Nick and Deanna could take heart in the fact they had the high team ringer percentage for the day in Class C. McCormick and Swinford finished 3 rd .

The NCHPA Doubles Tournament was a big success. 18 Teams was a great turnout. Doubles is a fun and social format for horseshoe pitching. We probably should do more of it. Most people start playing horseshoes in their backyards and at family functions by playing doubles. If we had introductory double competitions, new pitchers might be more likely to join the organization or try the NHPA with a friend rather than venturing in by themselves.

What a great job was done by Gail Sluys in putting together the State Tournament, the Norcal Tournament, and the NCHPA Doubles Tournament. It is an overwhelmingly difficult, and often thankless job to manage the entry forms and payments, put together competitive groups, establish pitching schedules, assign courts, and then to deal with the inevitable changes that come with protests, complaints, and dropouts. We all should hope that Gail knows how thankful we are for all that she does to support and promote Northern

California Horseshoe Pitching! Gail, we appreciate your love of our sport, and we appreciate all you do that allows us all to enjoy our great game!

George Davis, NCHPA 1st VP

CLUBS

Tuolumne

We had a makeup tournament on September 9th for the annual Tuolumne Park & Recreation. Jenn Taylor (secretary for Park & Rec) and James Wood (head supervisor) came out and threw the ceremonial first shoes. This was our smallest tournament with only 4 pitchers, Vince Eisma, Ray Looper, Steven Hunton, and myself. Vince placed 1st and Ray took second.

Our local paper The Union Democrat reached out to me and has written an article to promote our 8 sand courts and advertise for more members.

Tuolumne, we are a small community but has a lot to offer, fishing, camping, hiking and gambling and so much more, so come on and play some horseshoes then go enjoy the other amenities.

I can't say enough, that every tournament is such a joy to play in, the camaraderie, the meeting of familiar faces and the introduction of new faces, which in turn become friends. The State and Northern California tournaments that were held in Stockton was such a joy. Thanks to everyone who had a part in making these tournaments such a success.

Tuolumne going to make it another year, looking forward to 2024.

Happy Holidays and Good wishes to each and everyone. *Jo Ellen Lagg*

San Jose

Congratulations to all the pitchers who managed to attend the 2023 World Tournament in Lansing, Michigan and to those who made it to the 2023 California State Championships and the 2023 NCHPA Championships Singles and Doubles in Stockton, CA. I am sure that fun was had by all the World Tournament pitchers and I know that we had a good time in the pleasant weather in Stockton.

The 2023 pitching season is coming to an end. San Jose tournaments are still being held at Half Moon Bay (Thank you HMB!) as San Jose Parks and Recreation works on their plan and schedule for Columbus Park demolition, reconfiguration, and renaming. The latest word is still that San Jose Horseshoe Club will not be holding tournaments at Columbus Park until at least the spring of 2025!!!! :(

So all San Jose tournaments for the foreseeable future will be held at Half Moon Bay.

The San Jose Sep. 23 Kevin Boyle Tournament had a 6 pitcher A Class and a 5 pitcher B class. Richard Robbins finished 1st in A Class and was Tournament Champion. Efrain Aldaz finished 1st in B Class. On Sat. Oct. 28 please join us for the Nakamoto Family Tournament, our final 2023 San Jose at Half Moon Bay tournament.

Thanks to those who attended our 2023 tournaments. We hope to see you and many others at our 2024 tournaments. Best wishes for the upcoming holiday season. *Mike Anderson*

ChromaGraphics
Personalize Your Print

ChromaGraphics
is a unique
one-stop
commercial
printing
organization

Delivering Quality
to the Bay Area
since 1975

(888) 839-0954
(707) 528-2644 local

chromaprints.com

Gold Country

Our club is little and we are trying to find ways to get the local pitchers to come on out. As far as I know, the club has met on Tuesdays since 1978 but until recently there have only been 5 people there. Well, since Sunday tends to be a hard draw for sanctioned tournaments. We are going to try our hand at doing unsanctioned tournaments

after our Saturday ones. Then maybe from there, they will join us on Tuesdays.

Marshall and I do try to make it to as many tournaments as we can. This year we finally made it up to Ukiah Valley. The drive around Clear Lake with all the beautiful flowers on the hillside was such a lovely journey. Marshall threw a really good game against Gil which made the trip worth it. We also were able to make it to one of Big Valley Madera's Friday night tournaments. They're always welcoming and fun to be around. We had fun then headed to Stockton on the way home. We enjoy traveling to see everyone. Hopefully, we'll be able to hit a few more out of our area clubs next year. Still trying to make it to Half-Moon Bay by year's end.

We did go to the state in Stockton which I always enjoy. I kept score for some great matchups. So many back-and-forth games. The men's championship had some nail-biting moments. Our club member Rick Birmingham came in 3rd. I'm looking forward to him getting that 8th state title. I know the other pitchers aren't going to make it easy for him. I do have a suggestion for when we host the state. I usually only see a few people working it. My suggestion is we have 18 clubs. (Yes, some are very small) Why can't they all take shifts for different flights? Like one club in charge of finding scorekeepers/judges, one picking up score sheets, one checking on trash, and whatever the little job is. Anyways food for thought, we have 2 years.

Marshall had a great weekend in the NCHPA tournament. He won his group, the 50/50, and doubles the next day with Gene Washoe. He says it's because he's throwing M&M's and quit over thinking it. Hopefully,

he can keep the momentum into next year. *Corinna Mills*

Feather RiverNEW

Years ago the club closed for various reasons. Marshall and I live just as far from that club as we do Gold Country. The biggest difference is elevation. Gold Country can't start having tournaments until April and sometimes if it's a cold year that is tough too. Well, Palermo doesn't have that problem. So we thought well why not see about opening it up again? We've been putting feelers out about it for a while to see what others thought. Old club members are excited about it and other people who didn't even know that there was a club there are excited to since it's close to them as well. The pits need a little TLC. A few backboards need replacing, a stake is missing, the grass has overgrown the pitching pads, and just gathering all the stuff; like shovels, water jugs, and clipboards. Overall, we're excited by the possibility of it. We're thinking of a Wednesday league night which would be between Gold Country and McBean/Lincoln. We have the first meeting soon so we can begin the work of getting it ready for our first tournament in March. *Corinna Mills - interim Secretary*

Half Moon Bay

I would like to congratulate the Northern California pitchers for doing so well at the State Tournament. We swept the Cadet Boy / Girls Junior Boys divisions. NorCal also took the top three spots in the Men's, Women's; Elder Men's Championship divisions. Ramiro Coronado won the Men's Senior Championship division. Teo Espinola won the Men's D Group. HATS OFF TO

THE Half Moon Pitchers, as every member placed high enough to receive a check from the State Tournament.

Half Moon Bay did very well during the NorCal Championships as Alva Ramirez won Group C and Claudia Espinola won Group E. Javier Espinola place third in Group B and Teo Espinola finished third in Group D. Richard Robbins Rick Della Santana won the Northern California Doubles Championship and the team of Alva Ramirez and Claudia Espinola placed second in Group B.

The Half Moon Bay Horseshoe Club will be hosting our final two tournaments of the year on the first weekend of December. The Terry Farrell Open on December 2 ; the Rick Della Santana Doubles on December 3. We hope You can make our tournaments.

The Half Moon Horseshoe Club would like to Wish All of Our Horseshoe Community and Friends Happy Holidays and Good Health. *Rick Della Santana*

Stockton

It was a busy summer getting ready to host the 2023 California State Tournament. We are happy that our courts at Louis Park have been given some much-needed improvements. Replacement of loose or out of position stakes was a major project that had become critically necessary. Replenishment of the clay was long overdue. With those two issues dealt with, we still need to do some painting of the platforms, and repainting foul lines. We need also to make improvements in our pit covers. The City of Stockton removed the burned out remains of the old courtside “dog house” storage shed, which has been a big improvement. It was our pleasure to work with the NCHPA to host this year’s State

Tournament, as well as the NCHPA Championship, and the NCHPA Doubles Tournament. We look forward to hosting these events again in the future. The success of the tournaments made all the hard work well worth it. As the off-season approaches, the Stockton Club wishes all NCHPA members a Happy Holiday Season with your friends and family. We look forward to seeing you on the courts next year, and we hope you will plan to attend Stockton Tournaments in the coming year!

George Davis,

Sonoma County aka Santa Rosa

I add that heading because you will notice on the 2024 schedule that we are listed as Santa Rosa. This is intentional as we've had folks looking in the town on Sonoma for horseshoe courts. Even though it says specifically that we are in SR not everyone reads everything. You'll also notice we have a new contact person for our club. It's Tim Brady and his number is (707) 328-5567 please note this change.

We recently signed up 2 new members and one of them lives in Sonoma! He says there's a group that pitches there so perhaps we found a feeder group? Maybe a satellite club who knows what we might work out. He's already pitched his first tournament and both newbies are paid up for 2024. We had a deal like that working with the group in Novato, but we're slowly losing them. Granted coming to league from Novato is a pain with Hiway 101 construction and commute time, but we made it pretty simple for them by allowing them to pitch in their own league right in Novato. We might do something similar with the group in Sonoma, who knows for now.

We hope that you all make room on your calendar for us this year. We are just 25

miles from the coast, there are over 150 wineries just in this county let alone our neighbors to the East. Come over and pitch with us then take a drive over to our scenic coast. Those of you who remember the Alfred Hitchcock movie, "The Birds" will recognize the name Bodega Bay right? Any way we wish all of you the most pleasant Holiday Season. *Casey Sluys*



WHAT ARE THE RULES:

If there are any questions about the various ages and distances pitchers can pitch, here are your answers.

Section A - Juniors (See REQUIREMENT 6, for exceptions and additional information)

1. Junior Boys (any male pitcher eighteen (18) years old or younger for the entire calendar year) Junior Boys may pitch from any place on the extended or full-distance platforms. They shall observe the twenty seven-foot (27') foul lines. Note: Junior Boys may choose to move into the Open Men Division prior to the age guidelines, but cannot return to the Junior Boys, once this declaration has been made.

2. Junior Girls (any female pitcher eighteen (18) years old or younger for the entire calendar year) Junior Girls may pitch from any place on the extended or full-distance platforms. They shall observe the twenty seven-foot (27') foul lines. Note: Junior Girls may choose

Section B - Cadets(See REQUIREMENT 6, for exceptions and additional information) 1.

1. Cadet Boys (any male pitcher twelve (12) years old or younger for the entire calendar year) Cadet Boys may pitch from any place on the extended or full-distance platforms. They shall observe the twenty foot (20') foul lines. Note: Cadet Boys may choose to move into the Junior Boys Division prior to the age guidelines, but cannot return to the Cadet Boys, once this declaration has been made.

2. Cadet Girls (any female pitcher twelve (12) years old or younger for the entire calendar year) Cadet Girls may pitch from any place on the extended or full-distance platforms. They shall observe the twenty foot (20') foul lines. Note: Cadet Girls may choose to move into the Junior Girls Division prior to the age guidelines, but cannot return to the Cadet Girls, once this declaration has been made.

Section C - Open Men (no age restriction) Open Men contestants shall pitch from on or

behind the full-distance platforms and shall observe the thirty-seven-foot (37') foul line.

Section D - Open Women (no age restriction) Open Women contestants may pitch from any place on the extended or full-distance platforms and shall observe the twenty-seven-foot (27') foul line.

Section E - Seniors (become eligible to pitch in the Senior Division at any time during the calendar year that they become sixty (60) years old) Note: Seniors may choose to remain in the Open Men or Open Women Divisions.

1. Senior Men shall pitch from on or behind the full distance platforms and shall observe the thirty-seven-foot (37') foul line.

2. Senior Women may pitch from any place on the extended or full-distance platforms and shall observe the twenty seven-foot (27') foul line.

JUST ADDED THIS YEAR:

NHPA Standing Rule for Senior Women October 2023 to July 2024

NHPA Members,

NHPA Standing Rule for Senior Women October 2023 to July 2024

Approved on October 3, 2023 at October Council Meeting

The following Standing rule was approved by the NHPA Council for Charters to use at Local, League and Regional Tournaments. This rule is being adopted so that all charters can use it at their discretion in Local and Regional Tournaments. Charters must identify which tournaments they will allow pitchers to participate using this standing rule and announce to all players at the start that it will be adopted for each tournament.

The NHPA Council is specifying that this rule will not be allowed in the following tournaments:

- Team World
- Sanction League Tournament
- 2024 World Tournament Warm Up Tournament
- 2024 World Tournament Prelims.

For State Tournaments this rule can be used if there are 4+ pitchers using it and they are put in their own class. They cannot be mixed in any women's class.

This Standing Rule will be presented at the 2024 Delegate meeting for review, modification and vote for approval by the Delegates.

Standing Rule for Senior Women at 65 years old

Senior Women turning sixty-five (65) during the calendar year may pitch from any place on the extended or full-distance platform and shall observe the Twenty foot (20') foul line.

These stats will be saved into eShoe to calculate their current average.

Anyone switching that wants to enter the 2024 World Tournament (WT) in the Senior Women category will have to observe the twenty-seven foot (27') foul line per the current adopted rule. Their average will be whatever is calculated upon entry deadline for the WT.

NHPA Council

Section F - Elder Men (become eligible to pitch in the Elders Division upon purchase of an NHPA card dated for the calendar year that they become sixty-five (65) years old) .

1 . Elder Men may pitch from any place on either the extended or full-distance platforms, and shall observe the twenty seven-foot (27') foul line. Elder Men must notify their Charter Membership Director, in advance, of the date that they intend to begin pitching from this shorter distance. Once a member declares himself a short-distance pitcher, he must remain in that Division until the next 9 PLAYING RULES year's membership card is purchased. At that time he may switch back to the Open Men's division, but must remain in that division

until the next year's membership card is purchased. Note: See Rule 11, Section D.1 for additional information about re-qualifying.

2. Physically Challenged Men - Physically challenged, Male pitchers less than sixty-five (65) years old may be given permission, by their governing Charter, to move onto the extended platforms in the Elders Division and observe the twenty-seven-foot (27') foul

lines . The prior completion and approval of a Medical Exemption Application form (available from Charter Secretaries and on some Charter Websites) is required . At the World Tournament and at State Championship Tournaments, they shall compete in the Elders Division.

<https://www.horseshoepitching.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/RGS2022BookletLayout.pdf>

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA HORSESHOE PITCHERS ASSOCIATION

Come pitch with us www.nchpa.com

President (HoF)

Joe Summers
231 Escondido Drive
Martinez, CA 94553
(925) 260-0915
40ftforever@gmail.com

(Not really anymore LOL)

1st VP (New Member Packages, HoF)

George Davis
1435 W. Vine St.
Lodi, CA 95242-3861
(209) 365-1190
guydavis@comcast.net

2nd VP (Club Welfare, HoF)

Jasmine Brady
91 Leisure Park Circle
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
(707) 483-0070
jasminebrady7@gmail.com

Send website updates to Jaz

3rd VP (Statistician, HoF)

Mike Anderson
1614 Longspur Ave.
Sunnyvale, CA 94087
(408) 738-4661
meanderson99@yahoo.com

4th VP (By-Laws, HoF)

Jeff Williams
743 Violet Lane
Lincoln, CA 95648
(530) 786-1646
ringerjeff@outlook.com

5th VP (Paper Supplies, HoF)

Dave Lane
500 Poppy Circle
Benicia, CA 94510-3714
(707) 208-4649
movingdave@yahoo.com
Order scoresheets & plaques from Dave

Secretary/Treasurer (HoF)

Gail Sluys
1721 San Ramon Way
Santa Rosa, CA 95409
nchpagail@gmail.com
(707) 538-3128, (707) 486-0594
Send tournament fees to Gail.

**Send Tournament Statistics to:
NCHPA Statistician**

Mike Anderson
1614 Longspur Ave.
Sunnyvale, CA 94087
(408) 738-4661
meanderson99@yahoo.com

Regional Director, Newsletter Editor,

Casey Sluys
(707) 477-8893
kclushorsesho@gmail.com
NHPF www.nhpf.info

Buy a brick and support the NHPF!

Photo Credit to Dee Balderama

