

Nor-Cal News & Views

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

Secretary/Treasurer

Gail reminds everyone to remember we (our Charter) host the California State Horseshoe Pitching Championships this year in Stockton.

Don't forget the NCHPA and the Doubles Championships in Vallejo also. All entries in this issue

1st. VP

The weather is warming up and the rain is slowing down, marking the end of one of the stormiest winter/springs we have had in a long time. I think we are all ready to get out on the courts and pitch some horseshoes! It is also the time to recruit new members for the NCHPA! I think there are a lot of people ready for good weather and outdoor activities, including a lot of non-horseshoe pitchers. Let's encourage people around us to become involved in the traditional and thoroughly American sport of horseshoe pitching. We all know the fun, enjoyment, competition, moderate exercise, moderate cost, and the addictive nature of our sport! It is time to turn non-pitchers into card-carrying NHPA horseshoe pitchers!

I enjoyed my recent trip to Arizona to the historic Valley of the Sun horseshoe tournament! I pitched simply awful, but it was a great weekend! The weather was way cooler and stormy than the typical Phoenix weather for that time of the year. The tournament is organized and well-run! It was incredible how alive that Phoenix area was with the Super Bowl, and the PGA golf tournament just wrapping up, and major league baseball spring training starting! The Valley of the Sun area is the place to be in mid-February!

Marlene Ray of Tennessee, won what would be considered the top group with a 9-1 record and an impressive 77% ringer average. I believe this

would be the first time that the "Tournament Champion" for the Valley of the Sun Tournament would be a woman, and a 30 ft. pitcher.

Congratulations to Marlene on her accomplishment.

My article in the last News and Views was about the history of the Valley of the Sun Tournament and how California pitchers have fared over the years. Dave Lane of Vallejo did a great job representing the Golden State! Dave pitched in the top Men's 40-ft. Group. Dave finished in 3rd place in a very competitive group including several pitchers that have routinely pitched in the Men's Championship group at the World Tournament. Lane went 7-2 with a 52% ringer average, just a couple of points below his entering average. Jacob Fimbres of Arizona, and Matt Fuller of Washington went to a playoff game to determine the group winner with Jacob coming out on top. Congratulations to Dave Lane on a great performance, Dave you did us proud!

There are many things to see and do in the Phoenix area! My brother Steve from San Diego joins me on these "horseshoe trips," and we toured the Arizona State Capitol and Museum, visited the Barry Goldwater Memorial, went to the Phoenix Museum of Instrumental Music (the MIM), and visited Waylon Jennings' grave. We would have loved to tour the Ping Golf Factory, but there were no openings! Maybe I should switch to Callaway!

Truly one of the highlights of the trip was to see Richard Robbins at the Tournament. Richard was wintering in the Phoenix area with his family, and recovering from a recent health setback. It's fun to watch Richard "work" the tournament crowd. Richard, having pitched in numerous world tournaments, and with that world-class personality of his seems to know every person at the tournament! My brother says, "Richard is like the Mayor of the World Tournament!" And they all seem to love him as much as we do! Richard Robbins, a horseshoe treasure! My brother and I love eating at Cracker Barrel, so we ate there three

nights in a row...so much for sampling the local cuisine!

In the last News and Views, I wrote a lot about James Lecky the historic Arizona horseshoe pitcher that had been the Arizona State Champion and had appeared on the old TV show "You asked for it." I wanted to pay my respects while I was in the area so it took a bit of doing, but I was able to figure out where he was buried. As you recall, he had died suddenly of a heart attack not too long after he appeared on that TV show pitching horseshoes. I put a little sign on his grave "RIP Champ, 22-time Arizona Champion."



I hope everyone has a great 2023 horseshoe pitching season. See you on the courts. Let's all get behind putting on a great California State Horseshoe Pitching Championship this Labor Day weekend in Stockton! **George Davis**,

3rd.VP

The NCHPA 2022-2023 season started immediately after Labor Day 2022 and as of early April 2023 NCHPA has pitched 25 tournaments and cancelled/postponed 14 tournaments. Four hundred twenty NCHPA pitchers and 12 non-NCHPA pitchers have pitched in our tournaments to date. Stay healthy and keep on a' pitchin'!

Now that we are using eShoe you club statisticians may now upload your tournament statistics directly to eShoe any time after your tournament is complete, but you still must email me (meanderson99@yahoo.com) the comma-separated-values Results file (1 per tournament), the Class Boxscore files (1 per tournament class), and the All Class Standings Results file (1 per tournament) for my work. If you do not care to upload your tournament statistics to eShoe yourself then I will be glad to do it for you.

Just let me know that you would like for me to do it. The files that you send me are the same files that I have always asked for you to send me. 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 to see member numbers in every file that you send. That means I want the long version, not brief version, of every file. Note that for doubles tournaments HSMaster will produce only the brief version of the Class Boxscore files and the All Class Standings Results file.

These files can be produced in HSMaster by:

- 1) Open HSMaster (Version 1.1.232 or newer)
- 2) Create comma-separated-values Results file (Results03-<2 digit year>-<3 digit tournament number>.txt)
Tournaments, Play Singles (or Play Doubles), <select desired tournament>, Clean Up, in Post Results to Player Stats box <select desired tournament>, Results File when the window pops up
<select desired destination folder>, <select desired file name>, Open
(A common destination folder is C:/HSMasterData)
- 3) Create Class Boxscore files (03-<2 digit year>-<3 digit tournament number><TournamentName>-<Class>.txt)
Tournaments, Play Singles (or Play Doubles), <select desired tournament>, <select desired class>, Load, Standings checked, Box Scores checked, [Brief NOT checked], (Preview if desired), <select Path to desired destination folder>, <select desired file name>, Export Produce a
boxscore file for each class in the tournament. (A common destination folder is C:/HSMasterData) Note that for doubles the class boxscore files do not have pitcher member numbers.
- 4) Create All Class Standings Results file (03-<2 digit year>-<3 digit tournament number><TournamentName>.txt)
Tournaments, Reports, <select desired tournament>, <All Classes>, Results selected [NOT Results (Brief)], (Preview if desired),

<select Path to desired destination folder>,
<select desired file name>,

Text File (A common destination folder is
C:/HSMasterData) Note that

for doubles the class standings results file does
not have pitcher member numbers.

Thanks for all your help. If you have any questions
about how to produce these files then please contact
me by email or phone 408-738-4661.

For those pitchers who pay their membership dues
using NHPA eShoe and are not new members of
NHPA be sure that you select that you are an old
member and not a new member. Also for all
pitchers who pay their membership dues using
NHPA eShoe remember to be an NCHPA member
in good standing you must pay local
club dues (if your local club requires it). NCHPA
rules require all pitchers to be a member of a local
club. Contact your local club representative to find
out how much local dues are and where to send
them. Thanks. *Mike Anderson*

4th. VP

It's April and hopefully the rain showers
have stopped and summer time is just around the
corner (felt it today). In January 2023 I filled out
the NHPF grant application for horseshoe pitching
court repair and upgrades. The National Horseshoe
Pitching Foundation NHPF was very quick to reply
with a check for \$3000 for the McBean/Lincoln
Horseshoe Pitching Club improvement projects.
We will be leveling some of the horseshoe pitching
platforms, purchasing portable lights, shade
coverings, and other things to make our horseshoe
pitching tournaments and practice here in Lincoln
CA., a more enjoyable experience. The NHPF
gives these grant's out to sanctioned clubs, it does
need to be paid back over time by having
tournaments (at least 1 time a year) in their benefit!
The purpose of that is to keep the program going so
it can assist other clubs throughout the nation. \$\$
Money doesn't go as far as it used to...

The 2023 California State Championship is
going to be held in Stockton Ca, it's the NCHPA's
turn to run the state, every other year we get it on
Labor Day weekend (entry deadline August 1st
2023). We need to make a great showing from our
Northern Horseshoe Pitchers' in entries and being
the Host Charter to show everybody how awesome
we are, so let's do this pitchers of the NCHPA.

What do you/pitchers think of having a Ca State
Doubles Championships? It would be depending
upon how many entries and the court availability.

The NHPA 2023 World Horseshoe Pitching
Championships being held in Lansing, Michigan,
only 2200 miles from Lincoln. I was thinking of
going, but still thinking. Entry deadline is May
15th 2023, so we still have time to decide. World
Tournament entry can be done on-line, as well as
paying for yearly NHPA membership. Go to
www.horseshoepitching.com *Jeff Williams*

5th. VP

Finally we are getting a break from Mr. Winter . It's
been a slow start for our 2023 Horseshoe season
with all the rain but we are finally getting a break
from Mr. Winter and it looks like we are going to
have a beautiful Spring. Love all the Green and wild
Flowers on all the hills and fields . As of Horseshoe
Supplies Score Sheets, Club Plaques please let me
know before your tournaments if you are in need so
I can plan on bringing them with me if I go to your
tournament or can try to reach out to someone who
is planning on going to your tournament . We are
trying to save on the Postage So please try to give
me as much time to get the supplies to you and your
club . Thanks, *Dave Lane*.

Regional Director

The general decline in membership over the last
20 years can be attributed to a myriad of things,
in particularly age. When you witness a club in
decline because of age doesn't it make you
wonder why those folks haven't recruited some
younger members? Everyone of us needs to get
off our asses and find someone that can take
over your responsibility. Personally it pains me
to no end to see clubs fading into sawdust and
weeds because someone got too old to care for
it. We must do our part to assume the reigns of
a club and us older folks need to step aside.
Just look at Madera as an example that group
now has Turlock blooming again. How about
Danny, he lives in Bakersfield and keeps 3 of
out NCHPA clubs working. Thos are examples
of what MUST happen with the rest of all
facilities, not only in this Charter, but
Nationwide. Thanks for your time, *Casey*

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The following pages are the NHPA rules change proposals along with 5 By-Law proposals. On the preceding page is a ballot for you to fill out. Each club should poll their members and then put their answers on this form. Our delegates to the NHPA Convention during the 2023 WT will be instructed to vote our votes according to YOUR decisions. If a proposal is altered on the floor then the delegates will be instructed to vote with the question in mind, "is this change good for horseshoe pitching?" If the answer is yes then vote yes, if the answer is no then vote no.

PRC #1

Add to Rule 1 - Pitching Divisions

Section G - Elder Women (become eligible to pitch in the Elders Division upon purchase of an NHPA card dated for the calendar year that they become seventy (70) years old).

1. Elder Women may pitch from any place on either the extended or full-distance platform, ~~and shall observe the twenty-four foot (24') foul line.~~ **but they must start behind the 27 ft foul line and take one step forward while releasing the shoe.**

Elder Women 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 herself a short-distance pitcher, she must remain in that Division until the next year's membership card is purchased. At that time, she may switch back to the Open Women's Division, but must remain in that division until the next year's membership card is purchased.

2. Physically Challenged Women - Physically challenged, Female pitchers less than seventy (70) years old may be given permission, by their governing Charter, to move onto the extended platforms in the Elder Women Division ~~observe the twenty-four foot (24') foul lines~~ **but they must start behind the 27 ft foul line and take one step forward while releasing the shoe.**

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 Women Division.

Reason:

I feel that these women deserve as much consideration as the men. Some of these elder women have enjoyed the sport of horseshoe pitching for many years and would like to continue to do so. However, due to their physical inability it is becoming impossible for them to do so at the thirty foot (30') distance that these women are required to observe. Also, keep in mind that many of these women are caregivers for younger children that witness the love and enjoyment these elderly women have for this sport. No doubt many of these children will gravitate toward the sport of horseshoe pitching. This activity will help keep the women physically and mentally healthy.

PRC #2

Current Wording:

Rule:

REQUIREMENT 3 - CHARTER/STATE INFORMATION

Section A - State Championship Play

3. Residency

State Championship Tournaments are open only to those NHPA members who legally reside in that State and meet the regular eligibility requirements imposed for the event. An exception to this shall be active-duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their immediate family (if married) who may pitch in the State Championship event of any State in which they are stationed/reside, provided they meet the other eligibility requirements of that Charter. No one will be allowed to pitch in more than one State Championship Tournament per year.

Proposal:

REQUIREMENT 3 - CHARTER/STATE INFORMATION

Section A - State Championship Play

3. Residency **Eligibility**

“State Championship Tournaments are open to those NHPA Members who meet the residency eligibility requirements imposed for the event by the State Charter. An exception to this shall be active-duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their immediate family (if married) who may pitch in the State Championship event of any State in which they are stationed/reside, provided they meet the other eligibility requirements of ~~that the~~ Charter. No one will be allowed to pitch in more than one State Championship Tournament per year.

Rationale:

There are several reasons this adjustment for State Tournament eligibility should be made. The advent of eShoe allows anyone from any location to join any charter of their choosing, regardless of any residency definitions. Additionally, individuals in neighboring states may geographically have greater proximity and/or social-community connectivity to a charter not of their home state, including snowbirds who reside in two states (or more) for several months of the year. There is a history of NHPA granting such exceptions extending 3-4 decades in some instances. Rather than the NHPA dictating to the charters who may and may not participate in their state championship, this change codifies that the charters set all eligibility requirements to participate in their respective state tournaments.

PRC #3

Rule 11; Section D; 1:

Current Wording:

1. No Current Average - Any contestant without a current ringer average at their pitching distance shall pitch a minimum of one hundred (100) consecutive shoes on a sanctioned court to establish their tournament seeding percentage. This qualifying must be scored in writing and witnessed by two (2) NHPA members no more than thirty (30) days prior to the entry deadline. Note: This 100-shoe qualifier is not a sanctioned event. Alternately, NHPA Sanctioned League ringer percentage averages may be used if they are based on one hundred (100) or more shoes.

Proposed Wording:

1. No Current Average - Any contestant without a current ringer average at their pitching distance shall pitch a minimum of one hundred (100) consecutive shoes on a sanctioned court to establish their tournament seeding percentage. This qualifying must be scored in writing and witnessed by ~~two (2)~~ one (1) NHPA members no more than thirty (30) days prior to the entry deadline. Note: This 100-shoe qualifier is not a sanctioned event. Alternately, NHPA Sanctioned League ringer percentage averages may be used if they are based on one hundred (100) or more shoes.

Reasoning:

I would change from two NHPA players viewing to one (1) on the hundred shoe toss. Even if the stats were fudged, it would only affect the players first tournament.

PRC #4

Under “III Guideline”, “Section A Regular Doubles”

Current Wording:

Section A - Regular Doubles

In regular doubles, both team members use the same pair of shoes and all contestants stay at the same end of the court for the entire game. To begin the game, the highest-rated contestants will decide on the first pitch and pitch their shoes, just as in singles competition. Their partners, at the opposite end, will decide on and call the

score, retrieve the shoes, and pitch them back following the same procedure. The decision on who pitches first in each inning depends upon the scoring system being used, following the rules of singles play. A single score sheet should be used that clearly shows the ringers and shoes pitched by all contestants.

Proposed Wording:

Section A - Regular Doubles

In regular doubles, both team members use the same pair of shoes and all contestants stay at the same end of the court for the entire game. To begin the game, the tournament director will determine who starts the pitching and how the pitching rotation continues. ~~the highest-rated contestants will decide on the first pitch and pitch their shoes, just as in singles competition.~~ Their partners, at the opposite end, will decide on and call the score, retrieve the shoes, and pitch them back following the same procedure. The decision on who pitches first in each inning depends upon the scoring system being used, following the rules of singles play. A single score sheet should be used that clearly shows the ringers and shoes pitched by all contestants.

PRC #5

Under “III Guideline”, “Section B Walking Doubles, 1. Shoe-limit games”

Current wording:

Section B - Walking Doubles

In walking doubles, all contestants will pitch their own shoes. A single score sheet should be used that clearly shows the ringers and shoes pitched by all contestants. 1. Shoe-limit Games - The lower-rated contestants will decide on the first pitch and pitch their four (4) shoes. The higher-rated pitchers will then pitch their four (4) shoes and all pitchers will then walk to the opposite end, decide on the scoring, and pick up their shoes. The scores of the highest rated team should be recorded first and they will also pitch first for the remainder of the game. Which one of them (and their opponents) pitches first depends upon the scoring system (cancellation or count-all) being used, following the rules of singles play. This procedure will continue until the game is over.

Proposed Wording:

Section B - Walking Doubles

In walking doubles, all contestants will pitch their own shoes. A single score sheet should be used that clearly shows the ringers and shoes pitched by all contestants.

1. Shoe-limit Games - ~~The lower-rated contestants will decide on the first pitch and pitch their four (4) shoes. The higher-rated pitchers will then pitch their four (4) shoes and all pitchers will then walk to the opposite end, decide on the scoring, and pick up their shoes.~~ The tournament director will determine who starts the pitching and how the pitching rotation continues. The pitchers at both ends will pitch their four shoes and then walk to the other end and decide the scoring and pick up their shoes. ~~The scores of the highest rated team should be recorded first and they will also pitch first for the remainder of the game.~~ Which one of them (and their opponents) pitches first depends upon the scoring system (cancellation or count-all) being used, following the rules of singles play. This procedure will continue until the game is over.

PRC #6

Under “III Guideline”, “Section B Walking Doubles, 2. Point-limit games”

Current Wording:

The tournament director will determine who starts the pitching and how the pitching rotation continues. The higher-rated contestants will decide on the first pitch and pitch their four (4) shoes. The lower-rated contestants

will determine the scoring for these shoes. The partner of the pitcher who scores (or the partner of the contestant who pitched last, in case of a no-score situation) will call or record the score and will pitch first in the next inning. All pitchers will now walk to the opposite end. The highest-rated contestants will pick up their shoes (already scored) and step back. The scoring of the last four (4) shoes pitched will be determined and called or recorded. The contestant calling the score always pitches first. This procedure is continued until the game is over. For safety or other reasons, the Tournament/League Officials may select an alternative walking sequence, as long as the scoring sequence remains the same.

Proposed Wording:

Section B - Walking Doubles

2. Point-limit Games -

The tournament director will determine who starts the pitching and how the pitching rotation continues. ~~The higher-rated contestants will decide on the first pitch and pitch their four (4) shoes. The lower-rated contestants will determine the scoring for these shoes.~~ The partner of the pitcher who scores (or the partner of the contestant who pitched last, in case of a no-score situation) will call or record the score and will pitch first in the next inning. All pitchers will now walk to the opposite end. The highest-rated contestants will pick up their shoes (already scored) and step back. The scoring of the last four (4) shoes pitched will be determined and called or recorded. The contestant calling the score always pitches first. This procedure is continued until the game is over. For safety or other reasons, the Tournament/League Officials may select an alternative walking sequence, as long as the scoring sequence remains the same.

Reasoning:

The reason for the above changes is that The NHPA does not need to suggest who pitches first in doubles.

PRC #7

Under “Requirement 1 – Tournament/League”, “2. During the Event.”

Add a second line to “a.”

~~“Leagues can pitch non-members as pacers to encourage new players to participate.”~~

PRC #8

Under “Requirements 2 – All NHPA Tournaments/Leagues”, “Section B”

After the word “Pacers” add:

~~“except in league play where non-members can be used as pacers”~~

Reasoning:

The reason for these changes is to allow non-members a chance to pitch and participate and perhaps join the NHPA.

PBC #1

By-Law changes

Under “Article IV: Executive Council”, “Section 3. Meetings”, “c.”

Add before the word “or”, “Electronic Meetings”

~~... by any means available~~

Reason:

Just the modern way we do things.

PBC #2

Under “Article V: Officers; SECTION 5:

Current Wording:

All NHPA positions listed above in section 3 (a-f), who attend the World Tournament will receive a travel allowance in accordance with the current Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) guide of the NHPA. Those with dual responsibilities receive only one travel allowance.

Proposed Wording:

Replace the whole section with:

“All NHPA positions listed above in Section 3 (a-f) who attend the World Tournament may request a travel allowance in accordance with the current Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of the NHPA. The President, with council approval, has full authority to grant a request, modify the request, or deny the request. Those with dual responsibilities receive only one travel allowance.”

Reason:

It was never intended to be open to any position without regards to WT duties.

PBC #3

Current wording:

SECTION 8. Terms of office

- a. All officers shall serve a three-year term.

Proposed wording:

SECTION 8. Terms of office

- a. All officers shall serve a three-year term.

ADD

- b. All officers shall serve a maximum of three (3) consecutive elected terms.

Footnote: Those currently in office shall go retro beginning the first year they were elected in office.

Rationale:

Our officer team is the head of our organization. Our organization is struggling to keep membership and have more involved players. This gives members a chance to become more involved. The sayings “incumbents are almost NEVER beat” or “why should I run against an incumbent, they will win” is no longer an excuse. Having these terms limits put the organization back in the memberships hands and give a voice to those wanting to take the leap to become officers but not strong enough to run against someone with experience. We need change at the top. It is the epiphany of insanity to “do the same thing over and over and expect different results.” We elect the same officers each three years and expect different results. Some of our officers have been in for almost 10 years and we are expecting different results and have not seen numerical growth or added value. Even in US politics there are term limits for our President and elected officials. We should be taking matters into our own hands as members and giving the opportunity for a fresh voice to come in and serve us.

PBC #4

Article V; Section 8

Add:

- F. All Officers who have been elected to an NHPA officer position three consecutive times may not run for that office until after one election cycle for that position has been completed. If they were appointed to the position, they may not run after a third Elected consecutive term. They may not be appointed back into that position in either of these circumstances.

PBC #5

By Laws; Article III; Section 7

Current Wording:

SECTION 7. A membership card must be issued by the Charter in which the member maintains legal residence as determined by the filing of federal and state tax returns, voting, and/or driver license laws. Charters collecting NHPA dues for a non-residence member should give only a receipt, and then forward the dues and address information to the NHPA Secretary-Treasurer who will advise the Charter of record. Residents of a State having no active Charter may become an NHPA member by sending their dues directly to the NHPA Secretary/Treasurer.

Proposed Wording:

SECTION 7. A membership card **can** be issued by **eShoe or** the Charter in which the member maintains legal residence as determined by the filing of federal and state tax returns **or** voting, ~~and/or driver license laws.~~ *The NHPA Executive Council can grant exceptions to the residency rule on a case by case basis following established council guidelines.* Charters collecting NHPA dues for a non-residence member should give only a receipt, and then forward the dues and address information to the NHPA Secretary-Treasurer who will advise the Charter of record. Residents of a State having no active Charter may become an NHPA member by sending their dues directly to the NHPA Secretary/Treasurer.

Reasoning:

There are some cases in which the residency rule doesn't make sense. There is an elder who resides in Texas for 6 months and has his legal residency there for tax purposes. He plays no sanction horseshoe in Texas but plays all of his tournaments and leagues in his home state. He should be allowed to buy his membership card in that state where he plays, and play in that state tournament. Another case is a player who lives very near the border of a state and pitches all of their horseshoes across the state line because there is no horseshoe activity where they live. These situations are already happening and folks see that it's common sense and it is not questioned. However, there are some small minded folks out there that will press this issue to the letter of the Bylaws and that is why I feel that the NHPA council should have the authority to grant exceptions to this requirement.

Circle your answers

Rules

PRC #1 Y N
PRC #2 Y N
PRC #3 Y N
PRC #4 Y N
PRC #5 Y N
PRC #6 Y N
PRC #7 Y N
PRC #8 Y N

By-Laws

PBC #1 Y N
PBC #2 Y N
PBC #3 Y N
PBC #4 Y N
PBC #5 Y N

I should receive, from each club, this page with your clubs answers to all these proposals. A picture of this page will do also, no need to spend \$\$ on a stamp. Text me or IM either way. Casey

CLUBS

Tuolumne

As the winter rain and snow has hopefully come to an end in Tuolumne county now is the time to have fun again.

Tuolumne Horseshoe club has been pitching for 32 years thanks to Barbara Pearson, which has officially retired. We have new board members Karen Bucci - President, Tony Moreno - 1st Vice President, Byrlyn McCormick - 2nd Vice President, Ron Gonzales - Tournament Director and Linda Whitney and myself - Secretary/Treasurer. As a whole new board and new year we are hoping everything goes well.

Unfortunately we now have only 9 sand courts, the others were removed by Tuolumne Park & Recreation for a planned amphitheater.

Our March tournament was cancelled due to 6" of snow on courts we will be rescheduling at a later date.

Excited for our 4 upcoming tournaments.

JoEllen Lagg

Stockton

It was quite a job getting the courts ready for our first tournament of 2023 on April 8th. The rainy winter took a toll on the pits, destroying the covers, and filling the pits with debris and water. Wayne McGhee donated clay and carpet pit covers so we cleaned everything up, added clay, and new covers and thought we were ready to go. Unfortunately, we had 3 hours of rain on Friday morning, the day before the tournament! When I went to evaluate the pits on Friday there was a lot of water on the clay, but we were determined to hold that first tournament. When I arrived at Louis Park on Saturday at 7:30 am Greg Padilla was already there mowing the lawn. Early pitchers grabbed shovels and dry clay, and started working on the courts. Joe Summers brought his propane torch, "the old persuader," and that really saved the day! It's incredible how that torch just evaporates standing water, and just sucks the excess water out of the clay.

The Stockton Park and Recreation Tournament, in honor of all the effort that the City of Stockton puts into the Stockton Club and the NCHPA, got

under way right on time! Before the tournament began, Stockton Club member Delia Garza was awarded her 20-year NHPA longevity patch. We had 21 Pitchers divided into 3 Groups. We actually had 22 Pitchers, but NCHPA President and newly-elected NCHPA Hall of Famer Joe Summers decided to pull out to score for the lower group. Russ Watkins, an Oregon Pitcher from, Hillsboro, Oregon joined us to pitch as he traveled back to Oregon after wintering in Arizona.

Mike Anderson of San Jose got the season started right by winning the "Tournament Champion Patch," taking the A Class with a 5-1 record. Mike was the only pitcher in the class to pitch over his average! He lost the first game in a close 39-35 match to Wayne McGhee of the Stockton Club, but then won the tournament title by winning 5 straight games! High game in the group was pitched by Vallejo's Dave Lane, a 47.5% effort. There were four 45% games pitched on the day, the most notable one was pitched by Lincoln's Josie Tellers as she surprised second place finisher Wayne McGhee 41-24.

Class B was won by Stockton's Fay Dumont with a perfect 6-0 record! Michael Contreras, a new pitcher from the Madera Club was second in the class with a 5-1 record. The Class hinged on a showdown in the final game between Fay and Michael, since both were undefeated going into the game. Fay rose to the occasion with a clutch 32.5% game which was her best of tournament and it was also the group high game. The final score in the winner-take-all game was 34-20.

Class C was won by Dee Rice of the Turlock Club. Dee pitched over her average and had an undefeated record of 6-0. David Goldstein of Stockton was second at 4-2. Matt Flaherty, a new pitcher out of Tuolumne also had a 4-2 record, but David had a better ringer percentage earning him the runner-up spot. High games in the group were 22.5% games, one by Dee Rice and one by David Goldstein. The C Class had a decidedly Stockton flavor with 5 of the 7 pitchers being from the local club, but it was Dee Rice the veteran pitcher from the revitalized Turlock Club that left with a smile on her face.

It was good to have a "Stockton Park and Recreation Tournament" this year. It is a traditional

Stockton Club Tournament with a long history, but we haven't held it in recent years. In the book The Don Titcomb Story by Ottie Reno, it shows that Don won the Stockton Parks and Rec Tournament with a 75.1% ringer average on May 12, 1979 which was nearly 44 years ago! I think Don's 75.1% would have held up pretty well in this year's version of the Park and Rec Tournament! Don Titcomb was the 1960 World Champion, and was a 9-time California State champion between the years 1951 and 1982. I will close my article with some words of wisdom and inspiration from Don that come from the same book I referred to earlier. Titcomb writes, "How does one go from a beginner, to advanced, to a player considered world class? Many have practiced as many hours as I have. Many have had the same dreams as I had- a world championship and you are in the finals. So what or where is the difference between an average player and one who will win a world title? Let's list the ingredients necessary:

1. Love of the game
2. Learning the basics
3. Learning how to win and learning how to lose
4. Learning the art of complete concentration
5. Setting your goals

When all of this comes together the game is then simple; all it demands is complete concentration. But there is a catch the concentration is the most difficult to find, hold, and keep. With hours of practice, hundreds of games, I progressed to the point of top level competition and to be able to put it all together when you're playing *that* game or the *big* tournament."

The next Stockton Tournament will be on Saturday, May 20th. It will be the Joe and Millie Schultz Memorial Tournament. Please join us, we will do our best to put on a good tournament in honor of Joe and Millie. *George Davis*

Half Moon Bay

I would like to know if any Clubs are interested in forming a Facetime league. The idea is to play one club at a time with count all handicap games. Structured like a softball league with 2 divisions and playoffs.

How many games played, the amount of shoes pitched, when games are played and all other details could worked out as we form the league. Any club in the NHPA could be included. I'm thinking of one or two doubles games and no more than 4 singles games. All 20 shoes count all. This is meant to be a weekday league that takes place when your club meets during the week.

Half Moon Bay Horseshoe will be hosting all the San Jose Horseshoe Clubs tournaments as they wait for a new facility to be built. That will be 18 tournaments this season in Half Moon Bay. We are currently the only sanctioned facility in San Francisco, Santa Clara, and San Mateo counties. There has been some talk about changing the finals at the World Tournament. The idea is to showcase the Championship Games. I have suggested keeping the same 600 shoe qualifying tournaments leading to a final 16 bracket in each division, that would consist of 40-point elimination games. The 16 player brackets would be played down to the 2 who lose in the final four and let them play for third place. The Championship games would be played on a separate day, back-to-back in a center stage arena. Move the bleachers right on top of the courts. The courts should also be placed as close to the arena seating as possible. These games could easily be televised and be edited for a reasonable time allotment.

I hope these talking points will stir up some conversation as we try to grow our sport of Horseshoes.

See you on the courts. *Rick Della Santina*

San Jose

Welcome to the 2023 pitching season from San Jose! San Jose Parks & Rec still has not finalized plans for the new park design for the Columbus Park location and still has not begun demolition of the old Columbus Park. Therefore, thanks to the further generosity of Half Moon Bay Horseshoe Club all San Jose 2023 horseshoe tournaments will again be held on Half Moon Bay courts. Note that some SJ tournaments are shown on the NCHPA 2023 Tournament Schedule as being held at San Jose, but are really being held at Half Moon Bay. San Jose's first scheduled 2023 tournament Sat. Mar. 18 San Jose Memorial was cancelled due to weather. We hope to get our other 4

tournaments of the year pitched without any problems. Those tournaments are:

03-23-024 Sat. Apr. 22 Colleen Marone & John Flores

03-23-049 Sat. June 3 Jimmy Vega

03-23-090 Sat. Sep. 23 Kevin Boyle

03-23-099 Sat. Oct. 28 Nakamoto Family

We hope to see you there and best of luck in your pitching. Stay healthy. *Mike Anderson*

Ukiah

NEWS from UKIAH VALLEY HORSESHOE CLUB Hello all you eager NCHPA pitchers. I've been lazy the last two issues of the Newsletter, so I thought I had better write something before you all forget we are here! The rain has been wonderful and our rivers and lakes and water tables are getting full. We probably need more but for now we feel like we can do with some dry weather. Our pits aren't too bad, Gil and Scott have been weeding and pumping water out of the clay so they will be ready for our April 15-16 tournaments. With any luck at all we will be able to have our April tournaments without rain and it won't be too hot either! I've been signing up some of our members using Eshoe and it sure is Easy and quick. Gil has not only been getting the courts ready but he is also trying to manage his vineyard - pruning, disking, weed eating and getting stuck in the mud. We were able to travel to Willows for their first tournament and it was good meeting people we hadn't seen for a while and getting used to pitching and scorekeeping for the first time in a few months. Our Redwood Empire fairgrounds has an RV park and the ride to Ukiah is very pretty because of the time of year and all the rain - the trees and grass are green and the flowers are starting to bloom all over the place. So hop in your autos or on your motorcycles or in your RV and drive up to see us and of course, pitch some shoes.

Easter Sunday was a beautiful day and hopefully everyone had family and friends with which to enjoy and feast and of course, to attend church. Speaking of church, I found a few church jokes on my computer and some of them made me laugh so I'll share them with you. One particular four-year-old prayed, "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets." A Sunday school class was studying the Ten Commandments. They were ready to discuss

the last one. The teacher asked if anyone could tell her what it was. Susie raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted, "Thou shall not take the covers off the neighbor's wife." Blessings, *Lorena Tournout*

Sonoma County Santa Rosa

We have our first tournament on April 29th and expect to see a young man who is an Army Special Forces Officer, Chris Loranger. Twenty of so years ago he was a junior pitcher in our club along with his dad and brother. When Chris joined to Army they drifted away from horseshoe, but now Chris has kids, lives in North Carolina, has joined the NHPA again, plus has both his boys signed up. All three pitch in a sanctioned league in NC. Chris is coming to Santa Rosa for a few days to visit his mom & dad. I invited him to pitch with us and he said he'd be there. Come on over and meet the man, he'll have some interesting stories I'll bet?

We have 16 courts (2 on the end are sand) and you can almost play croquet on our grass thank to Marv Ahler our lawn has never looked this good, at least not for 10 years or so. Marv painted all our backboards, the place really looks sharp, even casual passersby comment on how nice the courts look. It's a privilege to be part of the club and with helpers like Tim Brady, Sue Lichua, Brian Wainwright, Paul Machado, Chris McDonald and Marv they keep the place looking good. Our May tournament is on the 13th, out June in on the 17th, in July one is on the 8th the other on the 23rd. Those July events are both by themselves. Come on over to Santa Rosa, make a weekend out of it and zip over the ocean one day, it's only 33 miles away. *Casey Sluys*

McBean/Lincoln

Here at McBean/Lincoln Horseshoe Pitching Club we raised the entry fee into our tournaments to \$20. As of so far no real complaints, and the winners like getting more cash back for winning. I keep forgetting to have change for big bills, everyone needs a change!!! The last tournament we had April 1st 2023, we did 2 tournaments in 1 day, because we had a rain out Feb 25th, wow. If you pitched in both squads it was a long day of pitching, Josie Tellers, Bobby Bartell, Nathan Williams, Wayne Lockhart, and me, Jeff Williams. Larry King is back pitching in tournaments; he has been

pitching a long time, he pitched in the 1988 World Horseshoe Pitching Championships held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, oh I've been pitching longer than he has.... Bobby Bartell has been showing off his double flip ringers, and had his highest % tournament ever at 65%, nice pitching Bobby, moving on up. Bobby Bartell is our clubs new President. Our Sanctioned League pitching on Thursdays winter season ends at the end of April. Summer League start in May. The GSHL Golden State Horseshoe League will be starting up every Sunday morning in the Sacramento area, VFW Antelope, Folsom Moose, Roseville Moose, Elkhorn Moose (Rio Linda). Lincoln team came in 1st last season!!! The format of pitching is 6 singles games, 21 points, 12 doubles games 21 points.

I've been pitching "Live" on Facebook "SHOP," Sanctioned Horseshoes Online Pitching. I've been pitching on it for almost 2 years now and have placed or broke even on the payouts and entries, Stan Cummings also is pitching in the "Live" on Facebook. SHOP is basically 20 X 20 shoe, count-all games, pitching 4 shoes from 1 end by yourself, 1 way so the phone camera can see what your pitching score is, plus where your shoe landed and that it is actually me pitching it. Entry fee \$10 for a event, there are 2 events

(Doubles/Singles) & (Singles Round Robin), getting in both events is easy, you have 4 weeks to complete your games at your leisure, that's just 100 shoes per week.

Our next tournaments are on May 29th, June 17th, July 2nd and then on July 4th we are hosting a non-sanctioned, doubles. *Jeff Williams*

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA HORSESHOE PITCHER'S HALL OF FAME GUIDELINES

Purpose:

The purpose of the Northern California Horseshoe Pitcher's Association (NCHPA) Hall of Fame is to recognize deserving members who have made significant contributions to the sport of horseshoe pitching at the state level.

Mission Statement:

To seek out worthy people who have set aside years of their personal time to build, organize, promote, fund, and better the sport of horseshoe pitching within the Charter of Northern California whether through their pitching abilities, organizational skills, or promotional efforts.

Committee: *

A Hall of Fame Committee shall consist of a committee chairperson along with four other adults chosen by the chairperson and approved by the Executive Board who are active members of the NCHPA in good standing with a minimum of ten years of membership in the NCHPA. The committee chairperson is appointed by the NCHPA Executive Board. The committee chairperson and committee members shall be appointed to terms of three years. There is no limit to the number of terms the committee chairperson or the committee members may serve.

Committee Chairperson and Committee Duties:

The committee and the chairperson shall have the following responsibilities:

- 1) To appoint an additional 4 members of the committee,
- 2) To communicate candidate information in a timely manner,
- 3) To coordinate any discussions
- 4) To distribute the ballots for voting on nominees,
- 5) To collect and count the ballots and communicate the results to the committee,
- 6) To assume leadership in the preparation of any awards and/or certificates and perform the induction into the Hall of Fame,
- 7) To ensure all recognitions are conducted in a fair and impartial manner,
- 8) To solicit each club in the charter for their prospective candidates,
- 9) To submit the NCHPA HoF nomination form for publication to the Charter's newsletter editor for the 2nd and 3rd issue of a particular year, and to,
- 10) Obtain additional information from the person submitting a name for clarification and enhancing the nominees qualifications.
- 11) To select qualified candidates for the Hall of Fame on an annual basis.

Hall of Fame Nominations:

Membership: Anyone may nominate another person by completing a nomination form, which is available upon request from the committee chairperson. The nominee must have been a member in good standing of the NCHPA for a minimum of 10 years. His/her attitude and initiative should uphold and enhance the image of the NCHPA.

Hall of Fame Categories:

Player – Anyone who has won multiple State Championship titles while pitching in the Men’s, Women’s, or Elder’s Championship Divisions while displaying good sportsmanship and bringing prestige to the sport.

Player/Organizer – Anyone who has won a minimum of one State Championship title while pitching in the Men's, Women's, or Elder's Championship Divisions and has become a worthy and respected Tournament Director, Promoter, Organizer, or Officer at the state level.

Promoter/Organizer – Anyone who through his or her devotion to the sport has made a significant contribution through time and effort to the advancement of the sport of Horseshoe Pitching in an administrative capacity such as Promoter or Organizer of events or as an Officer at the state level.

All nominees MUST meet the criteria listed above in the Membership category and also the criteria requirements in a Hall of Fame category.

Soliciting Nominations:

Each spring issue of the state newsletter will have an announcement of the Hall of Fame nomination process inviting nominations through the use of the nomination form.

Frequency of Inductions into the Hall of Fame:

Inductions of qualified members into the Hall of Fame shall occur at least annually, with frequency at the discretion of the committee chairperson.

Voting Procedures are as Follows:

Each completed nomination form is to be sent to the committee chairperson as soon as possible. Once received by the chairperson, he/she will distribute the nomination information by way of email to the other committee members for review, discussion, and a vote.

Each committee member has a total of 15 points they can use for voting on a 5-4-3-2-1 basis, with a “5” indicating the strongest candidate. No candidate can receive more than 5 points from a single committee member. One’s first choice does not have to be a “5” if the nominee is not a strong candidate. The highest score a candidate can receive is 5 points from each committee member for a total value of 25 points. Then we take 51% of the 25 points. Thus, it will take a minimum of 13 points for the candidate to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. In the event of one individual not receiving enough point a re-vote will occur until a member receives the minimum votes. It is possible to induct 2 (two) candidates a year into the Hall of Fame, though under special circumstances more than two may be inducted during one year. The Hall of Fame committee will attempt to induct a minimum of one person regardless of the category, into the Hall of Fame every year at the Charters' annual meeting.

* This committee is not implemented yet, but the NCHPA Executive Council hopes to have this committee in place by mid 2023. In the meantime the *Executive Council* has assumed the duties of the HoF committee.

Northern California Horseshoe Pitchers Association **Hall of Fame**

Nomination form

Any member in good standing may nominate any NCHPA member for consideration to be inducted into the NCHPA Hall of Fame. Nominees must have ten years of consecutive membership and may be nominated as a Pitcher or Promoter.

This form must accompany any and all supporting documentation concerning your nomination. Tell us all you can about the person that you are nominating so as to assist the selection committee in considering your nomination for induction. You may use the back of this page and/or include as many additional pages as needed for you to justify why your nominated person should qualify for induction. All submitted documentation must be type written to be considered. Provide copies as materials will not be returned.

Return form: Joe Summers 231 Escondido Dr. Martinez, CA 94553 (925) 260-0915 40ftforever@gmail.com **By 8/13/23**

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------|------|
| Nominee Name: | | # of yrs. member (min 10): | |
| Address: | | City: | Zip: |
| Phone: | Email: | Nominated By: | |
| Nominated as a Pitcher or Promoter: | | | |

Highlights of Pitching Career

| Tournaments Won | Where | Date | Average |
|-----------------|-------|------|---------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

NCHPA or Club Offices Held

| Office Held | Where | Date |
|-------------|-------|------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Provide example of promotional efforts, write them up, use the examples in News & Views issue 26-1, it can be found on the website. www.nchpa.com

Intentional blank page..... for your candidates achievements.

2023 California State Championships

Sponsor: Northern California Horseshoe Pitchers Association (NCHPA)

Host Club: Stockton Horseshoe Club

Sept. 2-3, 2023

Louis Park 3121 Monte Diablo Ave
Stockton, California

2023 State Championships Entry Form

NHPA #: _____ Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ CA ZIP: _____

Birth Date: _____ E-Mail: _____

How do you want your pitching schedule sent? Please circle one: E-Mail US Postal Service

Select Your Entry Division (circle one)

Open Men (40ft) Sr. Men (60+)(40ft) Elders or Med Exempt (30ft) Open Women Sr, Women (60+)
Jr. Boys Jr. Girls Cadets (20ft)

PARTICIPANTS LIABILITY RELEASE: In consideration of participating in such activity, I hereby, waive, release and forever discharge the Northern CA Horseshoe Pitchers Association, all officers, employees, agents and servants of the afore stated organization, and all fellow participants of this event, for any and all action, cause of action, damage, loss or injury, which I may suffer as a consequence of participating in the California State Horseshoe Pitching Tournament. In addition, it is understood that the NCHPA has sole rights to any and all pictures and/or articles for publication.

SIGNED: _____ DATE _____

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(Keep this section for future reference – Calif. State Championships, Stockton, 9/2-3, 2023)

Adult entrants MUST have participated in at least 3 sanctioned California tournaments during the 12 months prior to the below entry deadline date; for junior entrants, at least 1 sanctioned California tournament.

For a division with less than six entries, the tournament committee reserves the right to combine the division with another division with the same pitching distance.

Entrants must wear shirts with their name professionally printed on the back; do not rely on purchased shirts at the tournament because the vendor cannot guarantee timely deliveries.

Entry fee is \$40.00 for adults. No refunds after the entry deadline date. Adult and Junior prize money based on entry fees & any sponsor funds received.

Entry deadline date (or post mark date): **1 August 2023** (Late entries require an additional \$10 entry fee and will be used on a standby basis only.)

Make checks payable to: **NCHPA**

Send entries to: Gail Sluys (707-538-3128 or 707-486-0594 nchpagail@gmail.com)
1721 San Ramon Wy
Santa Rosa CA 95409

If you must drop out, please immediately **notify** Gail Sluys (707-538-3128 nchpagail@gmail.com).

2023 CALIFORNIA STATE HORSESHOE PITCHING CHAMPIONSHIPS



Awards Sponsorship Form

Northern California Horseshoe Pitcher's Association



The Northern California Horseshoe Pitchers Association (NCHPA) will host the 2023 California State Horseshoe Pitching Championships tournament in Stockton, CA Louis Park 3121 Monte Diablo Ave Stockton; over the Labor Day weekend Saturday Sept 2nd & Sunday 3rd 2023. Please consider sponsoring an award for this prestigious event! Both plaques and cash are awarded to the winners of 20-30 groups of players from throughout the state. This tournament establishes California State Champions for both men and women of all ages plus boys and girls under 19 years old. If you wish to sponsor a first or second place plaque award, each plaque costs about \$50. If we receive your plaque sponsorship by August 15th, the award plaque will reflect your support, and if you have a specific group you wish to sponsor please let us know, we will do our best to accommodate your request based on first come – first served.

Sponsor's Name (business, club, or person): _____

Sponsor's Address: _____

Sponsor's phone and/or E-mail: _____

Division/Class requested _____

Donation Amount: \$50.00 (make check payable to **NCHPA**)

Please send this completed form with your check to the NCHPA awards coordinator:

Gail Sluys
1721 San Ramon Wy
Santa Rosa CA 95409



NCHPA CHAMPIONSHIPS ENTRY FORM

September 30, 2023



HOST CLUB – Vallejo Horseshoe Cub

PRE-REGISTER - \$ PRIZE MONEY & PLAQUES

ENTRY DEADLINE POSTMARKED September 17, 2022

Takes just one sanctioned event to enter!

Participants must have pitched in (1) NHPA sanctioned tournaments before September 11, 2023. New members who joined after August 1, 2023 and Junior/ Cadet Entrants need a minimum of one (1) NHPA sanctioned tournament before September 17, 2023.

TOURNAMENT is open to all NHPA Members with Natstats Average
ENTRY FEE \$20.00 per pitcher

Mail Entries 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.

-----CUT HERE----- CUT HERE-----

Name: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Address _____

City _____

NHPA Card # _____ Birth Date: _____

Phone # _____

Please circle the Group you are entering.

OPEN MEN OPEN WOMEN ELDERS MEN JUNIOR GIRL/BOY CADET 12 & UNDER

SR.MEN SR.WOMEN

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

ENTRY FEE \$20.00 \$ _____



2023 NCHPA DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Held in conjunction with the NCHPA Championships at the Vallejo Horseshoe Courts

Entry Fee \$50.00 per team. Team Cap = 110% closing date September 17th. The 2023 NCHPA Doubles Championship Tournament will be held at the Vallejo Horseshoe Club on October 1, 2023.

Pick your partner from any NCHPA, SCHPA, NEVADA Member. Send \$50.00 per team plus completed entry form in by September 17th. Each team will pay the scorekeeper \$2.00 per game (\$1.00 per player). The cap on a team is 110% combined. (Example player A is 65% player B cannot be more 45%) These are Championships – No Handicapping. Groups will be formed based on the number of entries, with a minimum of two (2) groups. Prize money and awards in each group will depend on number of entries.

Send entry form and entry fee to Gail Sluys 1721 San Ramon Way Santa Rosa CA 95409. Phone 707-538-3128.

More information to follow as the tournament nears. **This tournament is subject to move, location and date, depending on the amount of entrants we receive for the NCHPA Championships.**

Player A _____ % _____ Charter _____

Phone# _____ Email _____

Player B _____ % _____ Charter _____

Phone# _____ Email _____

RULES As a pitcher do you know what your duties are regarding the pit?

Rule 2 - Game Preparation

Section B - Pit Preparation and Maintenance

Contestants (or designee) are responsible for preparing one of the pits of their assigned courts before each game. This preparation includes watering and turning of the clay (if needed), to keep it in a soft, putty-like condition. Upon completion, the pit material shall be level with the pitching platforms, with no evidence of a “dome” or “pocket” within the scoring area. For raised pits, the pit material should be prepared in the same way as above, except that the pit material shall be level with the side rails, and at a depth of four inches (4”), within the scoring area. Once a game has started, clay pit material within the scoring area may not be moved or altered without consent of the opponent. Sand or dirt pit material, however, may be re-leveled during the game, without consent of the opponent. Any pit material moved for the measurement of a shoe or for the removal of a “buried” shoe may be replaced.

www.nchpa.com

President

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231 Escondido Drive
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40ftforever@gmail.com

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nchpagail@gmail.com
(707) 538-3128, (707) 486-0594
Send tournament fees to Gail.

Send Tournament Statistics to: NCHPA Statistician

Mike Anderson
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Regional Director, Charter Communications Liaison, Newsletter Editor, NHPF Director

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Buy a brick and support the NHPF!