

Nor-Cal News & Views

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

President

I have completed my first several months as your President of Nor-Cal. during the last week of January I met with the San Jose Club officials. My purpose was to get acquainted with Leon Moore and Hugh and Nancy Cloutier and to see if the San Jose Club could provide us a backup facility if we should have to vacate the Yolo facility. During my four hour visit I was warmly received and given a tour of the Outstanding horseshoe pitching facility. There are nineteen clay courts and two sand courts available. I was assured the two sand courts could be changed to clay courts and the club officials would be more than willing to sponsor any tournament that Nor-Cal requested. There would be minor problems that would have to be worked out with the city officials such as parking, permits etc. Overall I was impressed with the facility and believe we would have a viable backup game plan. I sincerely appreciated the warm reception I received. The San Jose Club is in some very capable hands.

I was very impressed by the excellent article in the News line magazine submitted by Casey Sluys featuring our own Rick Birmingham. Rick is a rising star in the horseshoe pitching world, and continues to improve. But above all of that, Rick is a hard working executive officer in our Nor-Cal organization. He has been our ace negotiator to secure the Yolo courts for future horseshoe pitching. Did I mention a nice guy? Congratulations to both Casey and Rick for an outstanding profile of one of our own.

On 2-5-11, I attended the Memorial service for long time Turlock Club member, Bill Lawson in Oakdale Ca. Approximately 100 people came to pay their respects to Bill. Bill passed away on December 15, 2010 in Smithfield, North Carolina. I was impressed to learn that Bill was a Hall of Fame Runner in his college days, and was involved in an assortment of sports throughout his life. Whenever, I have pitched in a Turlock, Tournament, I was greeted by Bill and made to feel welcome. I know his family and Club members will miss him.

Nor-Cal may soon be welcoming a new horseshoe club. Thanks to Danny Kyle (Bakersfield) the city of Exeter is seeking to form a new club. Danny has been working with Nor-Cal officials to sanction six courts and has recruited 15 new members. Sanctioned tournaments will be held in the near

future. Tournament dates will be published in the News and Views. Good job Danny and welcome to the city of Exeter.

To all who are going to the world tournament in West Monroe, Louisiana, travel safe and good pitching to all of you. **Harlen A. Rippetoe**

Secretary Treasurer

We have a new club to welcome aboard. The Exeter Club which has come on board with 13 members 3 of which are the club officers. The club is located in Exeter City Park – there is no address but it is across the street from Lincoln Elementary School, which is at 333 South D Street Exeter 93221. The Contact for the Exeter club is Amy Carter PO Box 237 Exeter CA 93221, here phone number is 559-592-5262 and email is acarter@exetercityhall.com

The following are the 2011 tournaments approved by our board so please add them to your current schedule:

April 16, 2011 -Wanted: Dead or Live Open - tournament #143 with codes 1 and 13

June 4, 2011-Central Valley Classic Open-tournament @144 with codes 1 and 13

August 27, 2011-California State Warm Up-tournament #145 with codes 1, 11 and 13

November 19, 2011-Exeter Iron benders Annual-tournament #146 with codes 1,11 and 13

All of these tournaments will have start times of 8AM, 11AM and 2PM, they will have a maximum of 26 pitchers and all will be pre-register.

We hope you will join your officers in welcoming the members of the Exeter Club. **Gail Sluys**

1st Vice President

SCHEDULE CHANGES

As you probably know by now, the Yolo Club is being shut down because of the high cost of operating at that facility. All of the tournaments scheduled there (10 plus the State and Nor Cal) have been cancelled. You need to mark your schedule to reflect these changes. The State tournament will be held at San Jose. The tournaments scheduled for April 16/17 and September 24/25 at Yolo will be held at the Sacramento Club. At this time the rest of the Yolo tournaments will be cancelled unless some other club wants to hold tournaments on those dates. **Lee Roy Lassiter**

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The deadlines for submitting articles are: MAR. 15TH, JUNE 15TH, SEPT. 15TH DEC. 15TH Mail to Casey Sluys, or Cathy Kauffman

Talk to your local Business's about an ad. (All ads to be Black & White). Business Card size is \$25 each per year, ¼ page size is \$125 per year. Send your check to Gail Sluys, NCHPA News & Views, 1721 San Ramon Wy. Santa Rosa, CA. 95409. Make check payable to **NCHPA**. You can email the advertisement to the editor directly. (see below)

Need information; call Casey at (707) 538-3128 or (707) 477-8893 or e-mail at kclus@sbcglobal.net

Support the NHPF

**The only horseshoe pitching related
Charity needs your tax-deductible**

donations to support many programs of the sport; including the Hall of Fame and Grants to install new or upgrade existing courts. Deadlines for Grant Applications: March 1st and September 1st. Mail contributions and inquiries to: NHPF, P.O. Box 1628, Penn Valley, CA. 95946

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

Combie Trophy & Awards

Regina Madenford

10556 Combie Rd. PMB 6408

Auburn, CA 95602

(530) 268-8350 Fax (530) 268-8365

Email: regina@combietrophyawards.com

Website: combietrophyawards.com

This is your voice to all members! Please submit any article that you feel the members would find interesting and send it via email if possible. Pictures are difficult to print unless they are received via email.

There are three kinds of men:

The ones that learn by reading.

The few who learn by observation.

The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence and find out for themselves.

If you're ridin' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.

2nd Vice President

In my opinion, the reason why we lost the Yolo facility is the economy is going south in a hurry and has been for a while. The County of Yolo was spending too much money out at Yolo and no revenue coming back. So the County decided to divide all of the costs 3 ways, The Horseshoe Club, The Bowman and the Soaring Society. I am really going to miss pitching out at Yolo. That facility has a lot of history and I am glad that I was a very small part of that. We need to stay strong as the NCHPA can get through these hard times we face in this economy. I am pleased that San Jose has stepped up to host the State Tournament in September and the Class Championships in October. Also, I hope most of us as Yolo members, will join a club next year and keep pitching. See you on the courts. If anyone would like either stakes or clay from Yolo, please call me at (916)271-4784. Thank you. I really hope some of you can use those items. You can drive your truck right on the courts and help yourself. **Rick Bermingham**

Long ago, when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today it's called golf.

Everything is changing. People are taking their comedians seriously and the politicians as a joke.

[Will Rogers](#)

3rd Vice President

I'm sure; like me, you have been looking forward to the start of the 2011 horseshoe season! Unfortunately we're off to a slow start; you know: rain, wind, and canceled meets. Now is a good time for your club officers to take inventory of your club's supply of round robin cards and score sheets. I have these supplies on hand, so give me a call to place an order for your club. A few of us have been meeting with members of the Sacramento club, to pitch on Tuesdays and Friday at a couple of bars.. Everyone is welcome to join us, just give me a call for times and directions. We even get the likes of Rick Birmingham practicing with us. Rick's pitching percentage, places him in the top ten pitchers in the world.

In fact; a bunch of us are passing the hat for donations to send Rick to the World Tournament in Monroe, Louisiana this year. If you're willing to donate to this worthy cause please send the donation to me, (address on last page)

Well; as soon as the weather gets better I'll be looking forward to meeting many of you at our upcoming tournaments. **John Barney 916-253-9897**

5th Vice President

Hopefully you had a wonderful holiday season and are finding time in between the storms to pitch shoes. On behalf of the executive committee, welcome new members and returning pitchers. We hope you have a great season, stay healthy and improve your average.

I am pleased to report that the NCHPA has thirty-eight new members as of March 15th and a new club, the Exeter Club in the southern part of our region. Thank you to the Exeter Club for enriching the NCHPA's presence with another wonderful club in the making. Each new member should have already received a welcome packet which includes a schedule, maps, NCHPA bylaws and other information. If you are a new member and did not receive a packet please contact me and I can forward information to you (my contact information is on the front of the newsletter) or you may go online to www.nchpa.com/nca-html/happen.html for the schedule or peruse newsletters, check out stats, etc. **Cathy Kauffman**

Statistician

Several times last year I informed our members that if they pitched in tournaments outside the State of California they needed to send the information to me. Since November of last year, I have received two reports from Fritz Oberst on two tournaments he pitched in Arizona. I did not receive any information from any other members. I do not know if no one else pitched in other states or if they just forgot to send the information to me.?????

Sometimes keeping the stats for the NCHPA gets to be very frustrating. When I send results of tournaments to NATSTATS I have to make sure that all of the membership numbers are correct. I cannot send any results for people who pitched but do not yet have a membership number. Sometimes people join the NCHPA and pitch in their first tournament the day they join. This will slow the process of posting the results until membership numbers are obtained for those new members. That is why it is important to get their dues and information to Gail Sluys as fast as possible.

So far this year we have added 38 new members and have had 26 members change clubs. When they change clubs, their membership numbers change. All these corrections need to be made before I send information to NATSTATS. I think we all got spoiled when Glenn Jamison was running NATSTATS. I could assign a fictitious number to the member with no number yet and when Gail assigned the number Glenn and I would change our records. This is no longer possible.

I want to relay a problem I had with the first tournaments of the year in Tulare. It is not my intent to give the Tulare Club a hard time about the problems we had. They have worked with me trying to get everything fixed. When I received the results there were 10 new members who pitched and did not have a number yet. There were 4 members whose numbers were wrong. There were a man and woman whose numbers were switched. Of the 10 new members, I have received numbers for nine of them and Gail has never received dues for one of them who pitched in both tournaments. Two of the new members were from the SCHPA and it took some time to get their numbers. I am going to post the results of these tournaments with NATSTATS today (3/15/11) and just leave out the person who still has not paid his dues. We should all try to get the dues of new members to Gail as soon as possible. **Lee Roy Lassiter**

**The NCHPA would like to welcome
the following new members for 2011:**

Teresa Burt Madera
Michael Doucette Sebastopol
Tyler Arroya Lindsay
Bob Gragg Stockton
Paul Eller Ukiah
Mike Hayes Rohnert Park
Henry Bern Sacramento
Andrew Estrada Valley Springs
Hanah Gonzales Hanford
Wayne Houston Tulare
Mary Houston Tulare
Joel Excinia Fresno
Ancil Aydelott Coarsegold
Javier Franco Dos Palos
Robert Freiberg Moss Beach
Duane Eickson Sonora
Douglas Ele Columbia
Douglas Winters Tuolumne
Joanne Verhauz Sonora
Clifford Kendall San Jose
Paul Ward Santa Cruz
Gino Gianotti Modesto
Ed Luzier Shasta Lake
Angel Macias Coalinga
John Hofland Redwood City
Angelo Antincio Greenville
Amy Carter Exeter
Linda Wachter Exeter
Neil Fisher Exeter
John Bettencourt Porterville
Bob Sperry Exeter
Carl Roberts Exeter

Stan Gibbons Porterville
Joel Lopez Selma
Art Garcia Selma
Jeff Merrill Visalia
Don Daniel Visalia
Richard Buell Visalia
Jim Powers Visalia
Adolfo Ibarra Visalia
Lance LeGrande Visalia
Ron Pratt Sonora
Sue Plants Columbia
George Friend Sacramento
Jason Morales San Jose
Larry Ryan Boulder Creek

We wish you all lots of ringer!

OFFICERS DUTIES

This is an update as to who is in charge of what with the new officers:

Harlen Rippetoe – President – leader and overseer of all jobs

Gail Sluys – Secretary Treasurer – Issue cards, send funds to National, pay bills and pretty much anything else that comes my way.

Lee Roy Lassiter – 1st VP – Stats, schedule preparation for the 2012 schedule. Send any requested changes on the 2011 schedule to Lee Roy who will in turn send the request to all officers for their approval. Don't forget any tournament addition requires 30-day notice.

Rick Bermingham – 2nd VP – Hall of Fame Chairman. In charge of coordinating all court activities at state – Pit Boss.

John Barney – 3rd VP- Supplies and club welfare. If you need score sheets or round robin cards call or email John. If you know of an illness or the death of a member, please contact John so he can send out the proper card. When you do, please have all of the pertinent information for him to pass on to the Officers and Club Contacts.

Robert Cocagne – 4th VP – Junior Promotion/By-Laws.

Cathy Kauffman – 5th VP – New members welcome packages, assistant editor for News and Views.

Casey Sluys – NHPA Regional Director, NCHPA News and Views Editor, Webmaster liaison, Charter Communications Coordinator.

The 2011 pitching schedule 1st edition had two emails that were wrong. The following emails have been corrected on the 2nd edition

Sharon Paddock is: sbpaddock1024@gmail.com

Benjamin Yost is: benjaminyost8@comcast.net

If you need more schedules for your club members please call Gail

Alexander Hamilton started the U.S. Treasury with nothing, and that was the closest our country has ever been to being even. [Will Rogers](#)

If advertisers spent the same amount of money on improving their products as they do on advertising then they wouldn't have to advertise them.

June 4th

**RODEO GRAND ENTRY-OPENING
CEREMONIES - 1PM**

"Bill Parmeter Field"

Duncan's Mills, CA

!! Horseshoe Tournament !!

Saturday

After Rodeo in the Arena until 9pm

\$20 per Team sign-up at Rodeo

SAN JOSE

ENTRY FORM

SAN JOSE

California State Horseshoe Pitching Championships In San Jose

Hosted by the NCHPA - September 3rd – 4th, 2011

Please Print Clearly or Type

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

OPEN MEN

SENIOR MEN (40')

ELDERS short distance (30')

OPEN WOMEN

SENIOR WOMEN

JR BOY

JR. GIRL

CADETS

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

Keep for your reference

Keep for your reference

Keep for you reference

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

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

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

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

JUNIOR: "JUNIOR BOY" and "JUNIOR GIRL" divisions will be formed for pitchers whose 19th birthday does not fall in 2011. "CADETS" are junior pitchers whose 10th birthday does not fall in 2011.

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

⇒ Pitching averages will come from NATSTATS.

⇒ Entry **Deadline** is **August 1st, 2011** (Late entrants will be used on a standby basis, and will pay an additional fee of \$10).

⇒ **ADULT ENTRY FEE \$25/JUNIORS FREE. No refunds after August 8th, 2011.**



Mail Entry Form and check to:

Make checks payable to **NCHPA**

Gail Sluys

1721 San Ramon Way

Santa Rosa CA 95409

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

It's in *SAN JOSE* for 2011. Corner of Spring and W. Taylor Sts.

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

EARLY EARLY EARLY EARLY EARLY
*******GET YOUR TEAM TOGETHER NOW!*******
NCHPA CLUB TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

DATES: May 28th/ 29th, 2011 LOCATION: Tri-Valley Club

1. ENTRY FEE: \$80 per team. This is a **2-day event** and **pre-registration is required**.
2. Teams may be mixed, may include juniors (but may not be all juniors), and must have 4 players per team. Each team may register 1 alternate player to be used in case of injury.
3. All players must be NCHPA members and be a member or associate member of the club they represent. **All participants must wear a shirt of the club they represent and have their name neatly on the back.**
4. Day One Tournament play will consist of 7 - 30 shoes, count-all games using an 80% handicap. We will need to have scorekeepers, therefore, a final decision has not yet been made to pitch all teams at once or in two shifts. Pitching times for Saturday will be **10:00 A.M. & 12:30 P.M.** – depending on the number of entries a final decision will be made about the pitching schedule when we know how many teams are signed up. The finals will consist of the top 8 teams from the Saturday's rounds carrying over totals and will be played at 9:30 A.M. Sunday. Finals will be 7 - 40 shoe, count-all games using an 80% handicap with 20 bonus points for each player win and 40 bonus points for each team that wins 3 or more games in any single round. The 2-day points total including bonus points will determine final standings. All teams should plan to play on Sunday because the first alternate team will replace any team not able to return for the finals.
5. Prize money will be determined by the number of teams entered and will be announced.

It would be great to have 24 teams fielded. Each day will count as a separate tournament because they are played under different formats. Pitchers are required to pay scorekeepers .50 cents per game each day.

Cut on line below and mail bottom only

Club Name _____

Team Members: 1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

Team Captain _____ **Alternate** _____

Pitching time request _____

Send check, made payable to NCHPA, in the amount of \$80 per team to:
Gail Sluys - 1721 San Ramon Way, Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Be sure to mark your pitching time request.

CLUB NEWS

Ukiah

Hello from the Ukiah Valley Horseshoe club. We are drying out and looking forward to our first Tournaments in April. In January when the weather was so nice, Gil Tournour and Vance Ricks worked to fix the cement in one of our pits. It turned into a major job and the tree root they pulled up was HUGE! But now the pit that was questionable is almost perfect and will be more than ready for our 2011 season.

Gil Tournour and Will Facey drove to Willows for the March 13th tournament and met fellow club member Bran Starbuck there with nine other pitchers. They had a great time in spite of a little rain which did not cancel the tournament but made the trip home wet but not wild.

We are so sorry to hear of the closing of the Yolo Club, it will be a gaping hole in our system for a while and that's why it is good to hear of San Jose and Sacramento stepping up to fill the space. Thank you to those clubs.

We are looking forward to some good tournaments this year and hoping for lots and lots of pitchers to show up. There will be happy faces, yummy sweets and fruit to eat, and awards to win, so come on up or down, whichever the way you need to travel! **Lorena Tournour**

Feather River (Palermo)

It is great to be getting into the new tournament season but I do hope spring arrives before too long. I am ready for warmer and drier weather. Although the weather was pretty unpredictable, Willows did manage to hold their tournaments and it was really great to see all our horseshoe friends back in action.

It is truly sad that we have to give up the Yolo Club since it hosted all the major tournaments for Norcal. We all have fond memories of such a wonderful club.

Welcome to the new club in Exeter. We hope they do well.

We barely have a handful of members in our club so far. For those who haven't yet signed up, please send me your \$32.00 dues soon. Lois Edwards is our new president and I am still their secretary-treasurer and contact person.

Hope to see lots of people at the courts during this new season. **Audrey Winters**

Shasta/Willows (Willows)

Well we managed to get in our first two tournaments of the year. The weather looked bad when we started pitching on Saturday but we did not get rained on and the sun actually came out several times. Before the tournament started we handed out the yearly awards for the Shasta/Willows Club. Rookie of the Year award went

to Theresa Hodge. The high percentage game award went to Elaine Butcher. The most improved award went to Mark Verdun. Fritz Oberst (still in Arizona) won the player of the year award.

Theresa Hodge thanked all the members of the NCHPA who wrote letters of support for her husband, Russ Hodge. Over 20 letters of support were sent to the family from his horseshoe friends. Theresa has lost her home and everything else because of the hateful activities of some of the people in the area because of the accident. We should keep Russ and all his family in our prayers.

We had 21 people pitching on Saturday. Jose DeLeon won the championship group after defeating his mother, Delia Garza in a play-off game. Tony Latino won first place in the second group after defeating Walt Butcher in a play-off game. Cathy Kauffman won first place in the third group without having to defeat anyone in a play-off game.

The weather was bad on Sunday. We almost cancelled the tournament because there was a light rain just before starting time. The rain stopped and being the hardy folks we are we went ahead with the tournament. There were only 12 pitchers. We divided into one group of 5 and one group of 7. This way we had at least one scorekeeper for each group. There was no rain but the wind was blowing and it was very cold. Gil Tournour defeated Jose DeLeon in a play-off to win the Tournament Championship badge. In the second group, Blair Rowley was undefeated. The cold weather did not seem to bother him as much as it did the others.

Lee Roy Lassiter

Sacramento

The Sacramento Club would like to acknowledge Joan Bryan for her ten years of dedicated service as the club's secretary. Joan performed many tasks from dealing with the city, collecting fees, organizing tournaments and raffles to assisting with our annual holiday luncheon. Thank you to Joan for a job well done!

Congratulations to Glenn Rippetoe, Sacramento's President, who now is in his tenth year as a member of NCHPA. Glenn continues to advocate for the sport of horseshoes and has guided the club with his leadership and his recruitment of members to help the club flourish. Thank you to Glenn and his wife Judette for all that they have done and continue to do for the Sacramento Club and the NCHPA.

Sadly, in January, Dud Setters from the Sacramento club passed away. He will be missed. The Setters family thanks everyone for their support.

The Sacramento Club was trying to add additional courts as the City of Sacramento had approved plans for an expansion; however, there is no funding available. Tom Latino was speaking with the City trying to get their assistance to fund the expansion as volunteers were

secured to perform the labor, however, with the economy in such disarray, the City would not fund the hard costs. Thank you to Tom for his efforts.

A columnist from the Sacramento Bee featured an article on horseshoe pitching in March. Over 17 readers contacted the club for more information. In addition, the reporter from the Bee was interested in covering the State Championship Tournament and local resident, Rick Bermingham, who will be defending his championship. The club will contact the reporter as the tournament nears to encourage tournament coverage.

The Placer Horseshoe Club recently disbanded but was kind enough to donate \$300 to the Sacramento Club which Sacramento is grateful to receive and invites Placer members to join the Sacramento club if interested.

The Sacramento Club will host four tournaments that were not on the schedule. The dates are April 16/17 and September 24/25, Granite Park, sign in by 9:30 a.m., with a start time of 10 a.m.

Beginning in April, every Thursday, from 4 pm to sunset, club members are encouraged to come to Granite and practice with other members. If you are not a Sacramento member but find yourself in Sacramento on a Thursday, please feel free to join us. And Sacramento members please send your (\$35) member dues to Cathy Kauffman (*Cathy's address is on the front of the newsletter*). **Cathy Kauffman**

San Jose

HOT OFF THE PRESS! "A RINGER OF RECIPES" is now available! This recipe book is a fundraiser for our club and is filled with 299 delicious and really easy recipes for everyone! It makes a wonderful wedding gift, Christmas or birthday gift and don't forget the young people that are starting out at college or in their own homes. Several of the members of the club have these books and will be bringing them to the different Tournaments. The cost is \$15.00. If you want to order you can also call Nancy Cloutier at 408-374-1117. I know that you will really enjoy this book and thank you so much for your support.

Don Titcomb will be coming to San Jose June 7th, for some horseshoes and golf with his friend Bob Belshaw. He called and is excited about visiting our area and our new courts. We will be pitching at our courts and would like to have anyone that can, come here and join the time with him on the 7th. Hopefully we will have enough participation for several courts of playing.

We will all look forward to another exciting year of horseshoes! **Nancy Cloutier**

Fortuna

Well it's April already and hopefully the rainy season is over and we can get our courts in shape. Willows.....

Blair Rowley has been working on his pitching technique and has recently made some vast improvements that he hopes to carry on through the pitching season. Sharon and I have been going to Tom & Marilyn Webb's for some indoor pitching. We have only pitched with Tom about three times, but it sure helps keep some of the feel. Some days we think we are figuring it out, but then the next time reality sets in. Henry Clark and I went out into Humboldt Bay to catch crab and caught enough for a good feed in mid-December. This summer Fritz Oberst might make it over for a couple of days before a tournament, we plan of fishing the bay for Halibut. Our boat has room for another if you like to fish, let me know. A couple of months ago Sharon and I stopped by to visit Tino Faustino, he is doing good, while there we visited with Joe George and Brian Pezzoli.

We plan on doing a little work on the courts this spring to bring them into compliance with the new rules for Cadet pitchers. Henry has been working with the Bear River Casino to see if they will sponsor a money tournament for the Fortuna Club this summer. It sounds promising, Henry has worked with them over the past several years helping them put on employee horseshoe pitching tournaments each summer. We will keep you updated on this. **Bill Paddock**

Stockton

Hello and welcome to 2011.

Hope you all will have some good Horseshoe pitching tournaments and some great games.

There has not been too much to do during the winter months. We had quite a bit of rain and we had quite a mix of weather in February. We are still having rain a day or two each week and our weather report says we will have some more rain this Saturday and Sunday.

I went out to our courts today to see what needs to be done before our tournaments on March 26 & 27, the courts are still have full of water from the rain we had last Tuesday and we need to start weeding the pits and changing the old rugs & liners and replacing clay that kids have thrown away and stolen, but we have to wait until it stops raining. Hope fully we will be able to start working on the courts next week on Monday.

I went and got a load of rugs three weeks ago and I had to stop and rest often because the rolls of rugs were so heavy for me lift.

I cut only three rugs today and my arms felt like they were going to fall off and had to quit. Enough of that but there is not much to report.

Take care and have a great pitching year.

Peter P. Chavarria

Sonoma County (Santa Rosa)

We would love to invite all of you to the GREEOTT Birthday tournament to be held on 4/23. George will be celebrating his 101st birthday this month! Make a whole weekend out of it in the beautiful Sonoma County wine country and pitch with us again on Sunday, the 24th at the Mauzey Schulze Memorial. Both tournaments are open to all NHPA members.

Our sanctioned league began a few weeks ago. On the second week we had 16 pitchers for our league plus a potential new member Carol Ferrari. She came to us through Michael Jurian (MJ) our local radio personality. A fellow from Oregon, working in the area used to belong to the NHPA in Oregon. He hung around and pitched a little with us, said he'd see us next week.

Our Sonoma County Champion for last year is Sue Lichau. We had numerous postponements for our championships because of wet weather, but managed to get it in finally.

On a personal note, Travis and I had the unique opportunity to travel to South Africa and Namibia. We were there with 5 other NHPA members from around the country. At last year World Tournament in Cedar Rapids a group of South Africans were here to demonstrate the sport of Jukskei, a precision throwing sport indigenous to South Africa and now played in various other countries on the African continent. As of this year, thanks to the NHPA, and our efforts, the United States now is officially a country that has a Jukskei team that is part of the Jukskei Federation.

Our doubles team won a silver medal, the team was Gary Roberts, OH and Floyd Hix, VA, they beat Namibia and lost to South Africa. The other 5 of us played as a team and placed 13th out of 18 teams. Not a terribly bad showing for a group that has never played the game. During our competition we had a South African coach who stayed with us faithfully throughout to competition giving us pointers as to where to throw the skeys. The NHPA was kind enough to supply us with some pins and patches, which we were able to put to good use.

Namibia and South Africa will be sending people to our World Tournament in July. At the WT we will also hold a Jukskei tournament with 4 US teams plus the other two countries. BTW, in case you're wondering, we paid for this trip out of our own pocket, and it was well worth it!

Casey Sluys

Half Moon Bay (Senior Games)

Bill Webbe took a step and tossed his horseshoe. It flew effortlessly across the field, hit the stake and landed right there.

Ron Grenier, who was scoring the match, said quietly that the match was over. Webbe and opponent Glen O'Brien finished tossing their horseshoes, walked the 40 feet to the other side of the pit at Smith Field, totaled their points for the round, and reported back to Greiner.

Greiner announced what he already knew, Webbe's fourth counted ringer of the match put him over the top. Webb defeated O'Brien, 22-19, to win the men's 55-59 age group of California Senior Games horseshoes tournament Sunday.

It was one of nine age groups to participate. The women's groups and two men's groups had only one participant. They competed among themselves for the love of the sport.

There were four participants in the men's 55-59 group. The four knew each other as they are also members of the Half Moon Bay Horseshoe Club.

The fun started during the check-in portion of the day and never stopped. The competitions were close, especially in the 59-59 semifinal between O'Brien and Grenier. O'Brien prevailed, 22-20.

"That's when it was the most fun," Grenier said. "Glen was leading 17-11 when I made a come back. He got one final ringer to win it."

The final match was just as close. Webbe recorded four ringers, including two in one set, also known as a six-pack. O'Brien had five, including a six-pack.

"When he got that six-pack, I thought I lost it," Webb said.

Three other times, both got a ringer, only to be cancelled out by their opponent, who got one as well.

"This was a great day," O'Brien said. "All those ringers made the match a lot of fun."

Sunday's other winners were Kay Webbe (female, 50-54), Foa Remillong (female, 55-64), Gail Kane (female, 65-69), John Mendoza (male, 60-64), Richard Robbins (male, 65-69), Dale Koistinen (male, 70-74), Anthony Latino (male, 75-79) and Layton Van Etten (male, 90-94). **Mark Foyer; Half Moon Bay Review**

On account of being a democracy and run by the people, we are the only nation in the world that has to keep a government four years, no matter what it does.

2011 CALIFORNIA STATE HORSESHOE PITCHING CHAMPIONSHIPS



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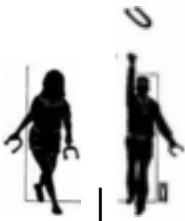
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