

Volume 11 # 1  
Jan/Feb/Mar 2008

# **NOR-CAL NEWS & VIEWS**

Northern California Horseshoe  
Pitching Association Website  
address

Is: **www.NCHPA.com** Visit the  
NHPA website at:  
horseshoepitching.com

**See inside for the latest addition to the  
NCHPA schedule.**

**The Stockton Horseshoe Pitching Club is  
one of our oldest clubs and has a mention  
in a 1928 issue of "Horseshoe World"**

**The first Calif. State Championship was  
held in 1920. Do you know where?**

**Monte Latino one of our all time greats  
passes away, more on page 10**

## **STOCKTON CLUB**

The Stockton club had our annual October  
Election of Officers Meeting on 10-23-07.

We had eight members present and some  
business was conducted but because of the  
lack of members present the President said  
that we needed to have another meeting in  
November to elect New Officers.

The club held another meeting on November  
07, 2007.

There were 12 members present.

The President presented three options for  
the Club to decide.

1. The Club cannot operate without a  
President.
2. The Club may take a bye for a year with  
the minimum of two Officers.
3. Glenn Jamison is committed to other  
Clubs and could not do the Stats for us on  
four of our tournaments.

After much discussion no one volunteered  
for the President's Office.

They did not want to take a Bye and there  
was no one that could do the Stats.

The President asked for motion to dissolve  
our Club. The motion was made and  
passed. The Club then gave part of our  
material assets to the Yolo Club and Dave &  
Janet Harker came to pick up part of our  
material assets. For all purposes we all  
thought our Club was gone for good.

The Club secretary notified NHPA and  
NCHPA that the demise of the Stockton  
Horseshoe Club would be on December 31,  
2007.

We needed to get out all of material assets  
before December 31, 2007, and notify the  
Parks & Recreation of the City of Stockton  
that The Stockton club was no more.

Then a God sent appeared in the name of  
Sam Godbouldt who had left Sacramento  
Club several years ago to go to Texas. He  
came back to Sacramento just before  
Thanksgiving and heard that we were going  
to die and he contacted Millie Schultz and  
she gave Sam our President's phone  
number. Millie Shultz our Contact Person  
called me and I called Harvey. I then called  
Millie for Sam's phone number but she didn't  
have it, I then called Joan Bryan of the  
Sacramento Club and got Sam's number.  
When I talked to Sam he was ready, willing,  
and able to take the Presidency of the  
Stockton Club.

We are alive once again and Sam and I will  
be communicating to get things going and  
ready for 2008.

The Yolo Club has notified me that they will  
give us back the material assets that we  
gave them.

The Stockton Club is thankful to the Yolo  
Club and grateful to get our material assets  
back.

*Peter Chavarria, Secretary/Treasurer*

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**Your new NCHPA  
statistician is: Lee Roy  
Lassiter 2525 Toyon St.  
Anderson, CA 96007 (530)  
365-7047**

## Presidents Message

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful and safe Holiday Season. We did around the Stockli house. Lot's of party's and too much food! I'd like to start out by welcoming our 2 new officers, Linda Hoelscher and Dave Lane. Linda will be our new 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President taking over the duties of schedule and new members. Dave is taking over the 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President job and will be handling Junior Promotion. I'd like to thank you both, on behalf of all of the officers, for stepping up to the plate and we'll be looking forward to working with you this year!

Another person that we would like to thank for stepping up is Casey Sluys. We want you to know how much we appreciate all that you have done and will do taking over the schedule and newsletter duties. I know personally that Casey spent many, many, many hours working on this years schedule to make it work. Thank you Casey for all of your hard work!

The World Horseshoe Tournament this year will be held July 7<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> in York, PA. I'd like to encourage our members to attend this year. It isn't often that we get the opportunity to go to the East coast, and there are many, many historical sites to visit in the area including Gettysburg, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., and New York City. The info you need is available at this website <http://www.2008wt.com/> Get your reservations early! This is a tourist area so hotels and camping spots fill up fast. I'll look forward to seeing you there!

This year the Annual Quartzsite Main Event tournaments have been cancelled, but I have heard through the grapevine that there will still be some pitching going on. Check with John Sargent at [jlsarg41@yahoo.com](mailto:jlsarg41@yahoo.com) and he should be able to tell you when and where there are going to be tournaments for you to attend. Mitch and I will not be making the trip down to Quartzsite this year. We'll be celebrating our 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and decided to head to Hawaii instead! We'll be gone from January 28<sup>th</sup> to February 11<sup>th</sup>. Maybe we'll get in a tourney at the Hilo Horseshoe Club while we're there!!

A happy WELCOME BACK to the Stockton Club and WELCOME to the new Madera Horseshoe Club! Please support these

clubs by trying to attend at least one of their tournaments. Also, remember to bring a friend! Let's get those membership numbers up! See you all on the courts! *Kimmy Stockli*

## Secretary/Treasurer

Are you ready for some horseshoes? Winter will be over quickly now that the holidays are gone and that means it's time to begin reminding those horseshoes how to make ringers. Remember horseshoes forget how to play from season to season and you have to start the re-training while it's not raining. I know Frank, Dale, and Reed keep calling Casey to go out to play in the clay at Doyle Park, so hopefully they are teaching those shoes where the stake is.

A reminder and a little nudge - **PLEASE** pay your 2008 dues early this year. To Club Secretaries – **PLEASE** send memberships to me – don't wait until May or June if you have them before, and remind your members to join early.

To all Tournament Directors – **PLEASE** check cards when signing up players entering your tournaments. Write the card number on the tournament stat sheets – that will make life much easier for LeeRoy and Glenn as they input your tournament results. This years NHPA cards are RED so it won't be hard to see if people have been issued the 20 08 card or still have their old one; also if you have someone entering your tournament from a different state or country, please make a note of where they are from for our statisticians. I'm sure you are wondering why I bring this up getting cards early and checking the entrants to our tournaments mainly to insure the quality of our organization. When someone pitches in our sanction tournaments, we want to be sure they are members of our organization. I have asked all clubs to send me the amount of their local dues, when I have them all I will send them to the club contacts, by having club dues information, if someone from another club needs to buy their 2008 card, you can collect club dues along with the \$22.00; send it to their club, who then can send me the member information along with NCHPA and NHPA dues.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:

Hope Everyone Had a Wonderful Holiday!

So I am now doing the Rules and By-laws for Northern. This should prove to be a good experience.

I have already received some suggestions about changes that could be coming up for vote at our annual meeting this year.

1. Revise how many members are needed to form a club.

Change from 10 members to 6 members (the same amount needed to maintain a club)

2. Should the Northern continue to pay National and Northern dues for all Northern World Champions: and should we pay for Jr. Champions even when they become Adult members???

These are questions that I'm throwing out there for you to think about.

If you have something that you would like us consider, please put in the section # you would to see changed and the new wording

Please remember any changes made to the by-laws must not conflict with the National rules and the Northern will have to re-print the By-Laws booklet...could be expensive. Anyway, looking forward to the up-coming pitching year. Hope everyone pitches more ringers in 2008. *Sharon Paddock*

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President

Happy New Year to all. I'm looking forward to serving Northern CA. as your Third Vice President. It sure was sad to see the low club interest at our Annual meeting. I hope this doesn't mean we are losing interest in our sport. May every one have a healthy new year and I look forward to the start of the season.

*Linda Hoelscher*

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**Praise the Lord!!!!!! Bill is in remission and his pacemaker has helped all his other problems.**

**Thank you for all your prayers and thoughts. We are looking forward to resuming our lives and normal activities after the 1st of the year.**

**Thank you again and thank you Jesus!!!! Love to all,**

**Judy & Bill Harris**

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**Feather River Club** had a very successful year and we are all looking forward to the new year. We had our first annual BBQ Potluck on Sunday, October 21, and all enjoyed a good day of pitching and eating. Thanks to Lee Oliver who brought is wonderful BBQ along; we had tasty hamburgers, hot dogs and chicken. Awards were given out to Robert Lewis for the most overworked scorekeeper, Reb Billingsley for being the most enthusiastic and John Sylvester in appreciation for all the work he did for the club. Linda Jessee should have received one for attending the most tournaments, but since she was the one giving them out she was shorted. We matched up pairs to pitch putting the highest percentage pitcher with the lowest, etc., and had a lot of fun pitching. First place winners where Vern Westphal and Dave Edmonds and second place went to Marlys Westphal and Ed Parish. We wish everyone the best of holidays and will see you all next year.

*Audrey Winters*

### Yolo Club

Another year is coming to an end and I guess it's true what my Grandma always said. "Time goes faster the older you get." No doubt about it. Another favorite of hers was, "I could read this if I had longer arms." As a six-year-old boy I had no idea what she meant, as a 54-year-old man, it is very clear.

Anyway, it was a great year for me and for the horseshoe world in general. Lots of tournaments to remember, faces I won't soon forget. We almost lost one of our better clubs when Stockton almost folded, but as I write this, I'm told it will not close after all. Been there, done that. And we gained two new clubs with San Jose and Madera starting up.

Alan Francis and Joan Elmore successfully defended their world titles while Rick Bermingham dethroned Nathan Williams as our State Men's Champ. It was Kim Stockli's turn to reign as Women's State Champ. She and Linda Hoelscher swap that honor back and forth. But watch out for Sharon Paddock, she's due for another State title also.

Our first two tournaments of 2008 at Yolo are on March 15 and 16. I plan to have 30 courts ready for action, so I'm hoping for a

good turnout. Bring extra friends and scorekeepers if possible. See you there.  
*Dave Harker*

## Vallejo Club

### 50 Years Membership

Congratulations to Vern Gosney for 50 Years of Membership in the NCHPA! Vern has been an intricate part of the Vallejo Horseshoe Club since joining in 1975. He is a member of the NCHPA Hall of Fame and played a pivotal role in the 1988 Pleasanton World Horseshoe Tournament. Over the years, Vern has also been one of our most generous members. Donating time and money to many in our organization. He has also served as an NCHPA officer.

In recognition of Vern Gosney's 50<sup>th</sup> year as an NCHPA member, the Vallejo Horseshoe Club will be increasing our payouts for the Vern and Eldrith Gosney, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Tournament. We will be handing out \$25 for 1<sup>st</sup>, \$15 for 2<sup>nd</sup>, and \$10 for 3<sup>rd</sup>. The entrance fees will remain the same at \$8. Please come out and celebrate with us! *Ben Yost & Kimmy Stockli*

## SHASTA/WILLOWS

Please join us in welcoming new member Matt Stannard to the Shasta Club. Matt is Mike Robinson's son-in-law; he lives in Truckee, CA

We held our Shasta/Willows Club championship tournament on Nov. 17 at Redding. Thirteen of our members pitched in the tournament, including 4 of our junior members. David and Ed Luzier tied for first place in the top group and David won the championship. He won the last of our Bob Proctor trophies. This trophy was hand made by one of our original club members, Bob Proctor. Ed Luzier won the high percentage patch by pitching 10.14% over his entering average in the fifth round of the tournament.

Mike Steele won first place in the second group and his son Joel Steele won the high percentage patch by pitching 11.67% above his entering average.

David Luzier won the "51 tournament" trophy and the \$100.00 cash prize; he ended up winning first place in 4 of the tournaments.

Our annual Shasta/Willows awards went to the following members:

Junior rookie of the year = JOEL STEELE; adult rookie of the year (TIE) = MIKE STEELE & MIKE BURKE; most improved = DAVID LUZIER (16.45% increase); scorekeeper of the year = ROBERT LEWIS; player of the year = FRITZ OBERST (2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row).

Each of these winners won a plaque and the players or the year will have their local and national dues paid by the club for 2 years.

Trophies were also handed out to the winners in the benefit tournament held for Grace Webster. Trophies went to Joey Doelker = junior champ; Davis Luzier = adult champ; and Elaine Butcher and Buddy Darnold = team champs.

We held a brief election of officers for 2008. President = Fritz Oberst; Vice President = Walt Butcher; Secretary/Treasurer = Lee Roy Lassiter.

Unfortunately I have an injured back. I have 3 herniated disks in my lower back. The bulging disks are pressing against the sciatica nerve going down my left leg. I am taking several pain medications for the constant pain. I can only hope I will be able to continue pitching horseshoes, only time will tell. All of us at the Shasta/Willows Club hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Lee Roy Lassiter*

## 2007 Annual Meeting

The 2007 NCHPA Annual meeting was held on November 10, 2007 at The Vallejo Community Center, Vallejo CA. It began at 1:28PM when President Stockli called the meeting to order.

Clubs not represented at this meeting were: Feather River, Gold Country, Tuolumne, Indian Valley, Stockton, Tulare, Seaside, Turlock, Fortuna, Placer County, and Shingle Springs. The number attending made 13 the number needed for the 2/3 majority and 10 for a simple majority.

Officers in attendance: President: Kimmy Stockli, 1<sup>st</sup> VP: Sharon Paddock, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP: Rick Bermingham, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP Bill Harris, 5<sup>th</sup> VP Bill Terry, and Secretary/Treasurer-Regional Director: Gail Sluys.

Following the roll call, Pledge to our flag, introduction of visiting VIP's and a moment of silence were complete the 2006 minutes were reviewed. Bill Harris asked for correction of the spelling of Gill Tournour's name and motioned the minutes be accepted with correction. Bill Terry seconded and the motion carried.

The delegates reviewed the 2007 financial statements after which time, Ben Yost motioned to accept as presented, Bill Harris seconded and the motion carried.

1<sup>st</sup> VP Sharon Paddock reported: The tournament stats are now being input by LeeRoy Lassiter of our Shasta/Willows club. She reminded everyone to send tournament stats to him and money for tournament fees to Gail Sluys.

2<sup>nd</sup> VP Rick Bermingham – announced he is changing his membership to the Yolo club where he will become 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and work with Dave Harker and Verdan Zelmar to get the Yolo club back to it's previous strength. He also reported that he is in charge of the Hall of Fame and Supplies so contact him with any needs in this area. He then donated his \$100 compensation allowance for NCHPAVP to the Yolo Club treasury.

3<sup>rd</sup> VP Bill Harris – Reported he has enjoyed his tenure as 3<sup>rd</sup> VP and he has now passed the CD of By-Laws to Sharon Paddock.

3<sup>rd</sup> VP Bill Terry- reported he sent out new member packets to about ½ of the new members this year.

President Kimmy Stockli – We have a new club forming in Madera, the courts are finished and Casey Sluys (National 2nd VP) has volunteered to make a trip to sanction the courts. She has attempted to contact Seaside Club but has not had any response. She will continue to attempt to contact them as to what they intend to do for 2008.

Motion by Linda Hoelscher that NCHPA continue to provide the plaques for the clubs – Richard Robbins seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary/Treasurer Gail Sluys reported that a couple of people pitched in 2007 and their cards

had not been purchased. This was not caught during the year because there is no crosscheck set in motion now. Gail will research a better way to review pitchers vs. tournament players to be sure they have cards. **All clubs are asked to look at 2008 cards**, especially at the beginning of the year tournaments.

Harlan Rippetoe has reported that the Madera club courts are complete. They are in the process of completing their requirements to have a legal NCHPA club able to host sanctioned tournaments. The courts are located at Rotary Park in Madera.

Nor Cal Dinner – Dave Harker to look into catering at the Yolo courts to be held Saturday night following the pitching of the Nor-Cal tournament. Madera (Harlan Rippetoe) volunteered use of a very big BBQ Duane McGrath said he would talk to his lady about catering a dinner, Pauline said they would all talk about it and let us know. Some discussion as to the tournament being one day or two day – no decision has been made at this time.

We are looking for a new newsletter editor volunteer – Casey Sluys has offered to do the newsletter until someone else steps up because he doesn't want it to go away, nor do we. We will still accept ads from companies and the deadline for articles to go into the next newsletter is December 15<sup>th</sup> so please everyone send articles/information to him and to help him out.

Redneck Games – Casey reported the redneck games were fun last year and we have been asked to do them again. We would like more NCHPA members to join in the fun and help us out. Please think about it.

Yolo will be the Nor- Cal site – Pauline McGrath motion – Casey Sluys 2<sup>nd</sup> Carried.

Team Tournament – Tri-Valley members want to host it again, Yolo said that was ok with them so Richard Robbins motion to have Tri-Valley host the 2008 Team Tournament Gail Sluys seconded. Motion carried Gail then asked Glenn Jamieson if he was willing to run the stats for the 2008 team tournament and he agreed to do so.

Election of officers

Ben Yost nominated Dave Lane to fill in the missing 4<sup>th</sup> VP position for one year and run a junior program. Sharon Paddock seconded. Dave Lane elected for one yr term as 4<sup>th</sup> VP. LeeRoy Lassiter and Bill Harris will help Dave

with some of the ideas they have used in their junior programs.

Secretary Treasurer – Gail Sluys was elected for another term by acclamation.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Ben Yost nominated Sharon Paddock for another term – Pauline McGrath 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried Sharon remains 1<sup>st</sup> VP.

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President – Richard Robbins nominated Linda Hoelscher for the position, Pauline McGrath seconded. Motion carried Linda Hoelscher will serve as 3<sup>rd</sup> VP for a 2-year term.

Bill Terry made a \$200 and Rick Bermingham another \$100 donation to the Yolo Club.

LeeRoy Lassiter reported that Marshall Merino received \$1,697.00 plus other household needs after losing everything in the fire. He thanked everyone, from Marshall, for the generosity.

Verdan Zelmar thanked everyone, especially the Vallejo club members, Casey Sluys and Glenn Jamieson for their help to get the Yolo courts to a point that they can now be maintained.

Motion to adjourn was made by Linda Hoelscher with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sharon Paddock. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 4:08PM.

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## **Tuolumne County Club**

Members of the Tuolumne Club hopes everyone had a very Merry Christmas and are looking toward to a happy, healthy, and a great pitching year in 2008.

Tuolumne Club is again planning on holding five tournaments.(weather permitting). We will kick off with March 8, and then April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> (two separate tournaments). And then our two big money tournaments. June 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, The Black Oak Casino Tournament and September 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. The Mother Lode Tournament (both will be a 2-day same event tournament) These 2 day tournaments are still in the planning stage, and when

finalized, flyers will be sent out. (well in advance of the tournaments)

The Mother Lode tournament that was held last Sept. We had 24 pitchers, 3 groups of 8 pitchers. There were 2 surprises announced, just prior to the start of the pitching. (1) All pitchers would go home winners. We would pay down to 8 places instead of the 5 that were originally planned. (2) The 50-50 raffle tickets that were sold, ALL the money would go back for prize money. (no money to the club). The reason for paying down to all 8 pitchers was: We expected, and allowed for, 4 groups of 8 pitchers. As we had only 24 pitchers we had the funds to make all pitchers “winners”. We never had one complaint on either surprise.

The pay out for all groups were: 1<sup>st</sup> \$120.00-2<sup>nd</sup> \$90.00-3<sup>rd</sup> \$70.00 4<sup>th</sup> \$50.00 5<sup>th</sup> \$30.00 6<sup>th</sup>,7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> were \$20.00 each.

Winners Group 1: 1<sup>st</sup>- Ed Cortez, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ray Looper, 3<sup>rd</sup> Mel Roberts, 4<sup>th</sup> John Ortega, 5<sup>th</sup> Linda Hoelscher, 6<sup>th</sup> Jack Casey, 7<sup>th</sup> Del Stockstill, 8<sup>th</sup> Ben Ramirez.

Group 2: 1st Diane Cocagne, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chuck James, 3<sup>rd</sup> Fred Reibin, 4<sup>th</sup> Ken Weir, 5<sup>th</sup> Larry Eastman, 6<sup>th</sup> Bill Willis, 7<sup>th</sup> Manual Costilla, 8<sup>th</sup> Gail Kane.

Group 3: 1st George Parson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Maurice Costales, 3<sup>rd</sup> Charles Prince, 4<sup>th</sup> Vince Eisma, 5<sup>th</sup> Richard Robbins, 6<sup>th</sup> Dan Griffin, 7<sup>th</sup> Paul James Sr., 8<sup>th</sup> Rod Miller

Plus, another \$20.00 for the highest game pitched in each group.

Hope to see you all at our 2008 scheduled tournaments. Dec. 28, 2007 by: *Fred Reibin*

## **INDIAN VALLEY**

We had another great season with completing another year with our league. I am sure you remember we were the first sanctioned league in the seven western states. That is what has kept our club going. We just completed our 25th year.

The winners this year were the team of Marshall Merino, Gene Washoe and Jim Atcher. Their sponsor was Engelmine.

Also we are proud to announce that we had a Jr pitcher that placed in the top ten in the U. S., finishing 9th for the highest point game over his average. His name was Nick Garcia and he pitched 29.08 points over his average, congratulations Nick, keep up the good pitching.

## **Forebay Park**

We look forward to the 2008 season, attending many tournaments.

Rick Eddy and a very hard working crew installed our sprinkler system then raked and planted grass on all the pits and surrounding area.

**No more dust.** It looks great. We hope you will study the 2008 Tournament Schedule and plan on attending some of our tournaments here in Pollock Pines.

Our 2008 Club Officers are: President, Rick Eddy; Vice President, Tammy Jackson; Secretary/Treasurer, Bill Harris. *Bill Harris*

## **Stockton Club 2008 schedule of tournaments**

May 29, Stockton Memorial....3

May 30, Chaverria/Church Open....3

April 26, Parks & Recreation Open... 3

April 27, Joe & Millie Schultz... 2,5,6,8

May 10 Anzelone Bridger Open... 3

May 11, Carter DeRosa Richmond Open.. 3

May 31, Martin/Monk Open... 3

June 1, Birge/Stockstill Open...3

***Please make a note of these additions to the 2008 NCHPA tournament schedule you all received in the mail last month.***

## **Sonoma County Club**

We cordially invite all of you to attend some of our tournaments in the beautiful wine country of California. Our schedule has room for all pitchers. There is camping available at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds. Call Casey at (707) 538-3128 for more info. Congratulations to our Sonoma County Champion Charlie Masson his 2<sup>nd</sup> county championship. Our new member Dale Haskin is a real go-getter. I gave him my cell phone number and on any sunny day he'll call to pitch at our facility. If it's too wet we might pitch here in the backyard, regardless we need 200 more members as enthusiastic as Dale is!

## **GOLD COUNTRY CLUB**

We here in Gold Country had a pretty good year in 2007 and hope to do better in 2008. We wish a Happy & Healthy New Year to all NCHPA members. I'd like to start off by welcoming our new members for 2007 and say we hope to see you all back in 2008! Thank you to all the pitchers and

scorekeepers who made our tournaments successful.

Dave and I traveled to Bullhead City, AZ in January and parked our RV at a small RV resort on the Colorado River for several weeks. In late February 7 other couples from our club joined us for a week of horseshoe pitching, sightseeing, gambling, partying and just all around fun! The weather was great (except for a little wind-ha!) and we all had a wonderful time. We met some fellow pitchers from a neighboring resort and they shared their courts with us for some great pitching fun.

Over the past several years we have started a few traditions in our club. Karl & Rosemary Dalla Rosa host a party at their lovely home the afternoon/evening prior to our first tournament. It's usually a potluck but Rosemary always provides many extras. In 2007 our 1<sup>st</sup> tournament was the end of June and on the heels of that the Loobeys hosted the 2nd tradition, which is a July 4th party. Andy & Maggie live above Lake Wildwood where an awesome fireworks display is held each year so we party & eat potluck for several hours then watch the fireworks. Great Fun! In July as many as are able travel North to Greenville/Indian Valley for their Golddigger tournament. We then have our August tournament and then of course, the STATE.

When we get through with pitching for the year, the holidays are upon us and Andy & Maggie host a Christmas party in early December. Maggie always has the house beautifully decorated and has tables all set for the guests. Everyone brings a dish; usually a hearty hor d'ouerve and we all eat too much! We also do a little business as everyone pays his or her dues for the coming year and sometimes we elect new officers but mostly keep the ones we have. I'm not sure who they really are because ALL the club members pitch in whenever or wherever needed. I think Andy is still the Prez and I'm the Sec./Treas. That's not the end of the celebrations because in mid-Dec. Leroy and Sam Whittle host yet another party where we have a "Pirates" gift exchange. As if all this isn't enough, the "ladies" (and I use the term loosely) of the club get together once a month all year long for lunch and the couples go to dinner together the first Monday of every month at a great Mexican restaurant in Nevada City. Wow! I didn't

realize we had such a great time so many times!

HORSESHOE PITCHING! Can you believe we actually have time for that? Yes we do. Once our courts aren't flooded we meet every Tuesday during the season. We signed up several new club members late in 2007 and are keeping in touch with them in hopes of getting them as full members in 2008. We did sign up 2 new NCHPA members, Leroy Smith of Colfax and Randy McCaleb of Grass Valley, and we look forward to pitching with them this year.

Dave and I took off in July for San Antonio, TX to visit recently married oldest son on our way to Oklahoma and the 2007 World Tournament. We arrived in Ardmore on Tuesday but unfortunately, the next day Dave had to drive me to Dallas to catch a plane back to San Jose to take care of my mother. He stayed for the tournament and then had to drive the RV by himself back home. He was home for 2 weeks before I had everything with my mom under control. This included hiring a 24/7 caregiver for her. Not a fun time.

October 5<sup>th</sup> found Dave and I in Wentzville, MO for the dedication and opening of the most AWESOME NHPA Hall of Fame and indoor pitching facility. I personally thank those of you who have contributed over the years to the NHPF and urge anyone who hasn't to do so, either with a dollar contribution or by buying a brick in the memorial plaza. This facility is YOURS and it needs your support. This is a million dollar facility and showcases the care and support our pitchers and their families give to our sport. We need to maintain it as such. Please support the NHPF in any way you can.

In early November, Dave and I made a trip to a tournament in St. George, UT. The folks there are trying to establish an annual tournament to take the place of the gone but never forgotten Vegas tournament and the just this year lost Quartzsite tournament. They had a pretty decent turnout for a 1<sup>st</sup> time with pitchers from Idaho, Colorado, California, Nevada and of course, Utah. Dave took 4<sup>th</sup> place in the top group. The awards, which included a nice prize fund, were presented at a buffet dinner at a local restaurant. Maybe some of you who travel to warmer climates for the winter will put this on your pitching schedule for next year.

**Hope to see you at our Gold Country tournaments 6/21-22 and 8/16-17. Ringers to all!** *Cathie Loucks*

### **Newsletter Editor:**

As a first attempt at being an Editor of a publication you're going to have to bear with me as I learn MS Publisher. It's a nice program, but with little or no experience with it, it seems difficult. It'll get better as the rain sets in and I gain more experience.

We're still looking for advertisers and as a courtesy to those who were part of our support group last year I chose to put them in again. But it's time to pay for those who would like to continue advertising in here. We're always looking for new folks too, so please do what you can to garner a sponsor for our newsletter. Explain to potential advertisers, who we are, and ask them to check out the website. We will even run the sponsors ads on the website version of this publication so they are going to receive national exposure.

***If there is anyone that is willing to become the NCHPA webmaster please let me know as Steve Summerlin is looking for US (the NCHPA) to take it over.***

**EDITORIAL COMMENT:** We had some serious lack of participation in the NCHPA annual meeting. What's happening? How can we fix this dilemma? Do we need to get back to a combination all-day meeting and then a dinner? Seems like more people showing up then. Not sure what the answer would be but, 2007 was undoubtedly the most poorly attended meeting in my 22 years of attending them. This is your organization and it can't function without your support. We need to hear how you think and these meetings are an important part of a fluid organization. Please name some representatives for this year's meeting and I'll attempt to influence those that make these decisions, to hold it in a more central location.

### **Sacramento Club**

Our old friend and competitive horseshoe pitcher, Paul Peterson, passed away Jan. 2, 2008 at 9 P.M. in his home after a long



battle with serious health problems. He will be missed. *Joan Bryan*

**Be sure to carpool this year to various tournaments cuz we hear gas is going to 4 bucks a gallon!!**

*This space available for your articles, write a biography of yourself or one of your club members. We want to know more about you?*

#### Obituary

Sacramento Bee 12/7/07

By Robert D. Davila

#### **Gifted athlete was a real ringer**

Monte Latino, a lifelong Sacramento athlete who won Hall of Fame honors in baseball, softball, soccer and horseshoe pitching, died 12/03/07. He was 90.

The cause was complications of Alzheimer's disease, said his son Tom Latino.

Monte capped a legendary athletic career with three world championship titles in horseshoe pitching in the late 1970's and early 1980's. He won in the 60-65 age class as a nationally ranked player and member of the Sacramento Horseshoe Club. In 1975 he was elected to the Northern California Hall of Fame.

"At times, I feel a ringer in my bones," he told The Bee after hitting 3,250 times in 5,000 pitches in competition in 1971.

Success at the horseshoe pit came decades after Mr. Latino starred on sports teams sponsored by Pacific Western Railroad Co., where he spent 46 yrs. as a painter and shop foreman.

He made his name in soccer, playing for the Pacific Western's 1938 state championship team and for Broadway Gardens, which won the title in 1948. He scored 40 goals in 1948, The Bee reported, including seven in one game. In 1980 he was inducted into the Central California Soccer League Hall of Fame.

There was a story in the Chronicle when they beat San Francisco, and the headline read, "Latino beats SF," said another son, also named Monte Latino.

The elder Latino also played third base on a city championship team and other clubs during the 1930's in baseball and softball. A local sports hero, his picture was hung in many businesses, Tom Latino said. He was named to the Sacramento Fastball Hall of Fame and Honor in 1979 and the La Salle Club Baseball Hall of Fame in 1990.

Mr. Latino was a naturally gifted athlete, blessed with speed and quick eyes and hands, his sons said. He also believed in practice and built a horseshoe pit in his backyard in addition to playing regularly at Tahoe Park.

"He was good at bowling too," Tom Latino said. "He could do anything."

He was born Mariano Joseph Latino in 1916 in New Orleans to parents who ran a grocery store and moved to Sacramento when he was a baby. After teasing from other children, he later formally changed his name to Monte.

He graduated from Sacramento High School and followed his father and other relatives to work for the railroad company. Starting at \$3 a day, he worked as a painter and rose to foreman at the Pacific Western Depot near Sacramento City College.

He married Mildred Mason in 1940 and returned to the railroad after serving in the Army during World War II. He took pride in pointing out the signature Pacific Western feather he painted on passing trains with the company's slogan, "Rides like a feather," his sons said.

He was an outgoing man with a fun sense of humor, his sons said. He coached his children's sports activities and enjoyed

playing and giving tips at his grandchildren's practices.

"When they were playing football, he'd go out there and have a kid hold the ball for a field goal, and he'd kick it 80 yards soccer style" Tom Latino said. "That was when he was in his 50s and 60s."

Personal note: **Monte used to stop by the Yolo courts at least once a year to simply watch a few games and encourage some of the pitchers that he was familiar with. He had a kind word for everyone and will be missed.** Casey

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Official Publication of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

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### Support the NHPF

The only horseshoe pitching related Charity needs your tax-deductible donations to support many programs of the

sport; including the Hall of Fame and Grants to install new or upgrade existing courts. Deadlines for Grant Applications: March 1 and September 1---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 York, PA July 7-19, 2008. We still need your financial support though ...please help?*

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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 **\$25.00** for adults and **FREE** for juniors; no refunds after the below entry deadline date.

Entry deadline **date (or post mark date):** 1 August 2008 (**Late entries require an additional \$10 entry fee and will be used on a standby basis only.**)

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