

Volume 11 # 3
July/Aug//Sep. 2008

NOR-CAL NEWS & VIEWS

Northern California Horseshoe Pitching
Association Website address
Is: www.NCHPA.com Visit the NHPA
website at: horseshoepitching.com

Presidents Message

The horseshoe season is finally in full swing! I've noticed some pretty good attendance at the tournaments so far. I pitched at Forebay Park over this past weekend and they had record attendance. If you haven't been there, it is set amongst redwood and pine trees and is very beautiful. It was my first time and I'm definitely going back! Thanks to the club members for throwing a great tournament!

The World Tournament is just around the corner. Can you believe that it is less than a few weeks away? There will only be 14 of us attending from Northern California this year. I imagine that the gas and transportation prices are keeping us home. However, it looks like over 1300 pitchers will attend. It has been a long time since the NHPA has had those numbers attend a World Tournament. Once again, we will have a delegation representing our Norcal membership, and I will be emailing the information we will be voting on very shortly. Please, club contacts, when you receive the information, be sure and give it to your membership and vote on it as soon as possible. Then email your votes to me at kimitch1@yahoo.com We then take those votes to the World Tournament and vote the way the membership wants us to! Remember, your vote counts!

Speaking of delegates, right now we only have 2 delegates that will be at the meeting on Sunday, July 13th. If any of you attending the World Tournament, are interested in being a delegate, please contact either Gail Sluys or myself.

November is coming up fast, and not only will we be voting on a new President of the United States, we will also be voting for the President of our Association, along with, 2nd Vice President, 4th Vice President, and 5th Vice President. If any of you are interested in running for any of these positions, please contact me by August 1st, 2008 so we can get your info in the newsletter. Also, those officers planning on re-running for your position, please let me know. See you all on the courts! **Kimmy Stockli**

NEW PITCHERS

Welcome to all of our new pitchers, we hope you enjoy your first year on the courts. Remember practice, then practice some more, it really does make you a better pitcher. Listed below are a few court etiquette ideas that you should also practice.

Short-Distanced Pitchers should always return to the 40ft. platform after pitching their shoes. This keeps you out of the full-distanced pitchers line of vision, even if you are in an all short-distanced group, you could still have full-distanced pitchers on the court next to you.

Stand still while you are waiting for your turn to pitch. Do not move forward until the second shoe has left your opponents hand. If you find it necessary to talk to your opponent please do so in a quiet manner.

Please shut off your cell phones when you are watching a play-off game, respect the concentration that it takes for the 2 players involved in the play-off game.

Please turn off your cell phones when you are on the courts pitching.

Keep the games moving, turn your court and be ready to play your next game as soon as possible.

Have your own measuring tools for judging your shoes. Kimmy Stockli will sell you a set. Please do not engage the scorekeepers in long conversations, they really need to be able to hear the score when it is called. Learn to keep score and take your turn.

Scorekeepers: please do not repeat the score or the pitchers name each time the score is called. It's distracting to the other players on the adjoining courts. Ask before the game starts if the pitchers want to know when its "down and back" (last 4 shoes) Some players would rather not know. If a player wants to know what the score is, show him or her the score sheet. Don't say it out loud. When keeping score, if you do not hear the call please raise your hand or stand-up and have the player repeat the score. It is also good to acknowledge with a nod of your head or hand that you have heard the score.

TO ALL OF YOU THAT KEEP SCORE "WE REALLY DO APPRECIATE YOUR TIME AND ARE THANKFUL THAT WE HAVE YOU" I know this sentiment comes from every pitcher who has ever had to keep their own score.

Clubs: When you have pitchers who have driven several hours to pitch at your club, and the groups are full...it is common courtesy to let the people from out of town play and have your club members sit out.

Pitchers: Please call the score according to NHPA guidelines when relaying your score to the scorekeeper. This is found at the top of your score sheet.

To all the veteran players, lets help the newbie's.
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Talk to your local Business's about an ad. (All ad's to be Black & White). Business Card size is \$25.00 per year. ¼ page size is \$60.00 per year. Send your check(s) & ad(s) to Gail Sluys, NCHPA News & Views, 1721 San Ramon Wy., Santa Rosa, CA. 95409. Make check(s) payable to NCHPA. Need information; call Casey at (707) 538-3128 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 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 ...please help?

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***Friday Night Fun at the
NorCal - Special "Carnival
Horseshoes" Watch for
details to follow in the next
edition of News & Views or
flyer.***

Teach them how to measure a ringer, how to call the score etc. I hope this helps everyone enjoy the pitching experience. (It's not a ringer if the straight edge is touching the stake, you must have clearance)

Ringers to All, Sincerely,
Sharon Paddock 1st.VP

Sec/Treas Report

I hope everyone is out there pitching well and having a good time practicing for tournaments. It's been a bit of a weird year so far but at least we have had good pitching weather, well except for Sharon and Bill Paddock who have had to try to practice in the snow! Of course even our hot weather has yet to come and traveling certainly won't be cheap with the price of gas, but don't forget horseshoe pitchers are a tough group and we love a challenge! Hopefully as you are planning which tournaments you want to attend, you will car pool sharing the cost of gas with your club members and friends. Car-pooling can accomplish two things, number one being save money and the other is make more friends by getting to know people better. Casey, Travis and I haven't been out much yet because Travis is playing Little League, that season is almost over. We still won't be around too much as we are driving to the World Tournament in York PA – as Willie Nelson sings, "On the Road Again – just can't wait to get on the road again."

If you are planning to pitch in the Nor Cal Championships this year, we are planning to have pitching 2 days this year. Using both days to pitch has been requested quite a bit with the idea of pitching less games each day so we have decided to try it again. We are also having **DINNER AND MUSIC** following Saturday's pitching!!!! The dinner will be served at 6:00 PM catered at the Yolo Courts, Saturday night and will include chicken, tri-tip, salads and wine. Cost for dinner is \$14.00 per person. I'm not sure yet if the music will be live or canned but I promise not to sing. Remember you need 5 NCHPA tournaments to pitch in the Nor Cal Championships. Special annual awards will be presented at the dinner and pitching awards will be presented following Sunday's pitching.

All clubs remember to bring 2 prizes, minimum value of \$10.00 each or send your \$20.00 to me, early, so we can get the raffle prizes for the Nor-Cal Championships.

Those of you planning to attend the State Championships at Bakersfield, remember the cut off for entries is August 1st. As a reminder adults need 3 tournaments and juniors need 1 (since last years State) to enter this Championship tournament? For those of you with computer access you can get all of the information about the State tournament, camping and motels by going to www.pitchwithus.com and clicking on Southern California Horseshoe Pitchers Association.

Hope to see you all soon, on the courts. **Gail Sluys**

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Statisticians Report

We have held some 56 tournaments so far this year. I have made a few mistakes that had to be corrected along the way, but I think I have pretty much figured out how to do this job now. I try and am mostly successful in posting the results the same day I receive them. Some of the clubs are slow about getting the results to me. The results need to be sent to me as fast as possible. The quicker I get the stats to the NHPA NatStat Director, the quicker your averages will be updated.

There seems to be some confusion about the information that needs to be sent to me. I need to receive all of the information that is recorded on the Master Summary Sheet for each tournament. The Master Summary Sheet shows the results for each game every player pitches. Wins, losses, score, ringers, shoes and the ringer % for each game. One of my jobs is to keep track of people who pitch 80% or above games. Some of the clubs are sending the results without the game by game ringer percentages listed. If a pitcher, in those tournaments, has an 80% or above game, he or she may not get credit for it. Pitching a high game like that is quite an accomplishment and anyone who does so should get credit for it. So far this year we have logged 15 games with 80% or above ringer percentages. If it is your responsibility to get the results to me, please be sure that I get the complete results as soon as possible.

I want to thank Sharon Paddock and Glenn Jamieson for working with me and teaching me how to do this job.

Lee Roy Lassiter

CLUB NEWS

Indian Valley Club

Harry and Gloria Begay. Gloria lost her son just a few weeks ago. He was only in his 40's and had been suffering from diabetes.

A reminder for anyone with pictures of our lost members to send them to me to post on that page. As now our June tournament is always a Memorial for all our pitchers we have lost in the past.

Richard McCuetchen

Gold Country Club

Gold Country tournament scheduled for August 16th will NOT have food. Check your schedules and remove #'s 18 & 19. Number 3 is valid. Hope to see some of you that weekend. In the meantime "think ringers"

Turlock Club

Our club has had a wonderful overhaul by the city parks and rec department. Our courts now have new cement walk ways all the way down on both sides and the clay is now been replaced with a combination of sod and sand. This has greatly helped our members who have worked so hard keeping that clay in top condition. Also, we are proud to announce that we have brand new bathrooms. This is the best thing of all as anyone who has come to our tournaments in the past; know that we desperately needed these improved. The park also replaced the entire playground equipment. A local artist has done a wonderful carving of bears in a base of a tree that was removed except for the trunk. It is a clever addition to the playground and a must see when you come. We have three more tournaments this year, one in each month for July, August and September. Please see your schedules for details or feel free to call me directly at 209-723-8465. We also have 8 new members who have joined this year and look forward to more joining hopefully. Out of these 8, 4 of them are junior members. Since we all know that in order to continue our game and clubs forward, juniors are the single most important factor in keeping our sport alive. They are the future for the continuation of our clubs and the sport in general. We hope to see some of you at our remaining tournaments, we understand that the cost of gas is greatly affecting all aspects of our lives and know that a lot of pitchers are sticking closer to the clubs around their area but all our clubs need support and we hope to see you come pitch with us soon.

Ringers to all, **Carol Casados**

Tulare Club

On March 30, 2008 the Tulare horseshoe club had a tournament at Centennial Park in Tulare Ca. (10 sand courts) with the money raised from the reverse drawing tickets which Danny Kyle sold the most tickets. The club raised \$6000.00, paid back \$2100.00, and applied \$2100 for this event. Special thanks to all those people that help sell and buy the tickets. The weather started off with clouds and a drop or two of rain but by 10:00 am. game time it was in the 70's with no clouds making for a great day. After setting up we started off the morning with a free breakfast (eggs, bacon, toast, or flour tortillas, breakfast rolls, orange juice, and coffee) to everyone at the tourney donated by Robert Cocagne D.B.A. R.C. Drafting. Signed up 43 players from all over Ca. We handicapped all 6 classes, had 40 shoe games, deleted any and all play off games to save on time (broke ties by head to head 1st, total points 2nd and total ringers 3rd if needed) and ran 2 fights. All 1st place winners received \$200.00, 2nd places \$100.00 and 3rd places received \$50.00 payouts to each class. CLASS A results are: (3 way tie) 1st place- Bill Davis (62.08% ringer average), 2nd place- Ben Ramirez (46.25%), 3rd place- Del Stockstill (65.0%). CLASS B: 1ST place- Tom Morris (48.33%), (2 way tie) 2nd place- Ted Haynish (49.58%), and 3rd place- Frank Arroyo Jr. (48.75%). CLASS C: (2 way tie) 1st place- Joseph

Sledge (30.0%), 2nd place- Martha Griffin, 3rd place- Perry Huff (40.83%). Dan & Martha Griffin served lunch (sandwiches, and extras) at the tourney in between fights. Marvin Sanders and Robert Cocagne were tournament directors. Second fight results are CLASS D: (2 way tie) 1st place- Harlen Rippetoe (33.21%), 2nd place- Gerald Patterson (37.5%), 3rd place- Efre Bravo (36.07%), CLASS E: 1st place- Marco Olea (36.67%), 2nd place- Robert Schiller (28.75%), 3rd place- Scott Wine (27.92%). CLASS F: 1st place- Jose Lopez (24.58%), 2nd place- Ty Holscher (20.35%), 3rd place- Bill Bianchi (16.25%).

Exeter courts/Tulare Club

On March 29, 2008 the Tulare horseshoe club sponsored its 1st annual Jr. horseshoe tournament at the new and approved Exeter, Ca. (Exeter City Park) horseshoe courts with the money raised from the reverse drawing tickets. There are a total of 4 courts with good shade from some old trees and lots green grass at your feet. The weather was in the 70's making for a great day. After setting up we started off the morning with a free breakfast (eggs, bacon, toast, or flour tortillas, orange juice, and coffee) to everyone at the tourney. Signed up 8 players, 1 existing Jr., 5 new Jrs. and 2 new cadets. 6 played in the NHPA division and 2 played in a class (not recognized by NHPA) called the rec. class, because they had to throw from a shorter distance to be able to get the shoe in the pit. NHPA division Class A results are: 1st place- Rusty Muncy (39.17% ringer average), 2nd place- Baylee Cocagne (2.5%), 3rd place- Tristan Wentworth (7.5%), 4th place- Krystal Herrick (1.67%), 5th place- Devin Velasquez (0.83%), and 6th place- Evanthomas Gayton (2.50%). Rec. division Exeter Class Rec. A (not recognized by NHPA) results are: 1st place- Joey Goins (10%) and 2nd place- Kevin Kyle (7.5%). Dan Griffin and Frank Jr. Arroyo served free lunch (barbecued hamburger and chicken sandwiches, and extras) to everyone at the tourney. After lunch the club members drew all 300 tickets for the reverse drawing. Special thanks to Kelly Gayton, NCHPA members Mavin Sanders, Dan & Martha Griffin, Robert & Diane Cocagne, Ted Haynish, and SCHPA members Frank Jr. Arroyo, Scott Wine, Danny Kyle, Donald Henry, Jeff Hale, Robert Ober, and anyone I may have forgotten at the event for the support and help to make this event happen.

Robert Cocagne

Fortuna Club

A reminder of their June 21 and 22nd tournaments and it's still nice and cool up here in Fortuna. **Bernice Larson**

Sonoma County Club

One of our newest members had a terrific high game of 65%, congratulations Dale Haskin. On Sat. the 31 of May we held a tournament to honor the NCHPA sec/treas. and NHPA RD, Gail Sluys. The attendance

was a mere 25 pitchers, although there were 2 other tournaments that day. On Sun. we attempted to honor Ken Schulze and Eldon Bryhan and only 12 pitchers showed up. What a poor turnout huh? Do we attribute this to being out of the way, off the beaten path, fuel prices, church, or what? It seems to me that these two fine gentlemen deserved a much better showing than what turned out! We made it fun though and pitched all 12 in one group. The format was 80% handicap and 20 shoe games, with a 12 person RR. Most people loved it!

Did you realize that in the 12 years Ken pitched he played in 600 tournaments! That's most likely a record that will stand for a long, long time. Especially with the poor pitching turnout at all the tournaments lately. I'll save you getting out your calculator, it's an average of 50 tournaments per year! Beat that anyone!

All Sonoma County results are posted on the Tourney Results page of the NHPA website. Rather than take up valuable space here with results we prefer to post them for all NHPA members to see.

Just on the 9th of June we received a call from a local man, Michael Jurian, he happens to be a disc jockey for a local country music radio station. His dad was about a 60-70% pitcher, but never was associated with the NHPA. Anyway, he got interested in joining our club and did so on the 10th. Travis told him he knew the K106.3 jingle by heart and sang it to him. Michael says to Travis, "Hey common down to the radio station, sing it and I'll tape you." I suggested that at the same time he could interview Travis about horseshoe pitching. Michael agreed to it, gave me his card, and we'll set something up soon. Michael can pitch a flip or a 1 ¼ turn, he's going to be a great addition to the Sonoma County Club for sure! He went to Ukiah on the June 14th and won 2nd place in his first ever NHPA sanctioned tournament. Congratulations Michael!

Casey Sluys

Shasta/Willows Clubs

I did not get an article to Casey in time for the last Nor Cal News & Views so I will try to bring you up to date about our club.

First let me introduce you to our newest members. Shonda Annis and Niki Spece, Elaine Butchers daughters, are now active members and have pitched in several tournaments. Their averages are not quite as high as Elaine's yet, but they seem to enjoy pitching horseshoes. Niki's husband Greg Spece and Randy Leonard have also joined our club and the NHPA.

After being in severe pain from his hip for several years, Fritz Oberst finally went in and had his hip replaced. The operation was a success and he is recovering very well. Fritz tells me he is completely pain free now. He plans to be at the Indian Valley Tournaments on June 14th and 15th. He doesn't know whether he will be able to pitch or not but he will be there.

Mike Robinson had an accident on his four wheeler and was out with a broken foot. He did pitch in our last tournament in Willows but is still having trouble with his foot. Cecil Braswell injured his hand and has not rejoined yet this year. Jack Bradford has indicated that he will be taking a year off and probably return next year.

We have been having some fairly good turnouts at our tournaments so far this year in spite of the bad economy and high gas prices. I want to thank those members of the other clubs for coming out to our tournaments.

Lee Roy Lassiter

Feather River Club

Feather River hosted two successful tournaments over Memorial weekend and we would like to thank everyone who participated. Weatherwise, we ran the gamut. On Saturday it was cold, blustery and damp. However, Sunday could not have been nicer. We had 30 pitchers on Saturday and 25 on Sunday.

Our next tournament will be July 5 and 6 and we look forward to having another good turnout. See you there!

Audrey Winters

Stockton Club

Well, the Stockton Club had it's last Tournament on June 1, 2008 and for the most part all our Tournaments went well although some where short of pitchers but it all worked out.

We want to thank Casey Sluys for helping us get all our eight Tournaments on the 2008 Schedule. Hopefully we will not run late getting our dates in for the 2009 Schedule.

We also want to thank the Yolo Club for returning the material assets that we gave them when we thought we would disband our Club.

I want to thank Sam Godbouldt for keeping our club alive in 2008. I am sorry that it didn't work out with Sam as our President but something good did come out it after all. Our Vice-President jumped in to act as our President and became our Tournament Director and did a great job directing the last four Tournaments. We also got some needed help from our members in setting up for our Tournaments. Thanks guys, girls too.

I personally want to thank Joan Bryan from the Sacramento Club for coming to be our Club's Tournament Director for two or three of our tournaments at the start of the season when we needed her most and I want to apologize to Joan for asking her to come to direct a tournament and then she was not allowed to. Sorry Joan.. I failed to notify our members that you were coming to direct the Tournament and our members directed the tournament and you were left out.

We picked up three new members this year, Carlin Serra from San Andreas, Delia Garza from Newman, and Paul De Fayette from Seaside. Carlin qualified at a

Saturday Tournament and tied for first on the Sunday Tournament and in the play-offs he came in second and earned his Wall Plaque on his first Tournament. Congratulations Carlin. Delia Garza has been pitching real well and already has several 1st Place finishes. Keep it up Delia. Paul De Fayette has had back problems and wasn't able to come and pitch in any of our tournaments in 2008. Hopefully he will in 2009. Daniel Hernandez had a close call in May, thought he might be having a heart attack, paramedics rushed him to a hospital, had an overnight stay, the next day the doctor told him he didn't have a heart attack but rather water around his heart. Doctor told him take it easy and don't even mow your lawn. I guess being slowed down helped Danny for he has been pitching real well and has some 1st Place finishes.

Our acting President called for a courtside meeting June 1, 2008 after our Tournament and it was unanimously agreed at that meeting The Stockton Horseshoe Club would continue to function as a Club in 2009 and will be lead by our Vice-President Nadine Martin.

With the gas prices going up and up with no end in sight will surely curtail some pitchers from traveling to distant Clubs to pitch, however, please remember that all the Clubs need our support in order to survive. This is something to try, budget to be able to go to a distant Club to pitch maybe once or twice in 2009.

Peter P. Chavarria Secretary/Treasurer

Sacramento Club

We sure have had some good pitching weather. Couldn't ask for better. Our April tournaments brought out a nice compliment of pitchers. We had 5 groups on Saturday. Taking top honors were Dave Loucks, Denny Courier, Bill Harris Al Shaffer and our new girl Lori Nevarez. Sunday was our first 40/30 split tournament and we had 2 groups of 40' and 2 groups of 30'. Taking 1st. place at 40' were John Barney and a first year member of our club Dean Setters. Taking 1st. place in the 30' groups were Denny Courier and Sacramento Club member Sandi Abbott.

The sun shone down kindly for our tournament weekend in May. Saturday we again had 5 groups and going home with patches were Kim Stockli, John Sylvester, Bill Harris, Windell Stephens and one of our Sacramento Club member bouncing back from a medical leave Carol Pappas. Sunday was our second 40/30 split tournament. We had 2 groups of 40', 1 group of mixed 40' & 30' and 1 group of juniors. The top group at 40' brought out the HEAVIES! Rick Bermingham, Walter Ray, Nathan and Jeff Williams. Really fun for the fans. The patch went to Rick Bermingham. Mother Williams escorted the Williams brothers and her grandchildren. Walter Ray pitched left handed and Nathan is still healing from injuries received in his other sport, racing. Patch in the 2nd. group went to Dean Setters who is on the rise. Larry Eastman prevailed in the mixed group and Lauren Williams got her brother with her handicap. So now we rest until September and run around enjoying being hosted by our other clubs.

We must all start wishing for no higher than 90 degrees in Bakersfield. If we all wish hard the forces will be with us! **Joan Bryan**

Forebay Park

Our 10 pits are in great shape now with the lawn planted by Rick Eddy and Kim Stovall. Everyone this year that has played here; have said WOW (no more dust). Everything is just great looking and we have the best kept-up clay courts in Northern California. Thanks a lot to Rick Eddy and Kim Stovall for all their hard work.

We hope that our August tournament will be as successful as this June tournament. If you want to camp-out at our site (No hookups) bring your fishing gear, for the lake is within walking distance, before or after you pitch. You can figure that our temperature will be at least 10 degrees cooler than Sacramento.

Sunday June 8, 2008, our club completed the best tournament we have ever hosted. Thanks to all the satisfied players that attended. We hope they pass the word to other pitchers and return to our August Tournament.

Saturday we had a morning session and an afternoon session. The afternoon session, we lost three players; as they had other afternoon commitments. We wish we had more pits to play everyone in the morning.

The morning session: (8 player RR) **A Group (handicapped)**: Denny Currier earned 1st. Place pitching 47.86%--Kimmy Stockli, pitching 64.64% & John Sylvester pitching 49.64% tied for 2nd. Place. John won by points.

B Group (handicapped): Morning session (8 player RR) Sue Lichau earned 1st. Place pitching 32.50%. Windell Stephens pitching 23.21% and Gene Washoe pitching 32.14% tied for 2nd. Place. Wendell won by total points.

C Group: Afternoon session (6 player RR) Play-off between Bill Lee, of Forebay Park Club pitching 18.85% and Rob Munderloh pitching 18.44%. Bill Lee won the Play-off game by 3 points.

D Group: Afternoon session (4 player Double RR): Dane Neves (Junior Boy) of Forebay Park Club earned 1st. Place pitching 11.67% and Ted Rytel of Forebay Park Club took 2nd. Place pitching 12.78%.

Sunday everyone pitched in the morning.

A Group (handicapped): (5 player RR). Denny Currier earned 1st. Place pitching 51% and 2nd. Place went to John Barney pitching 41.5%.

B Group: (5 player RR) Bran Starbuck earned 1st. Place pitching 34.5% and 2nd. Place went to Sue Lichau pitching 28%.

C Group: (5 player RR). Ted Rytel & Bill Lee of the Pollock Pines Club tied, so there was a 40 shoe play-off game. Ted pitching 13.33% won 1st Place and Bill Lee won 2nd. Place pitching 12.5%.

Bill Harris

TRI_VALLEY - - ADDED MONEY

At the Tri-Valley Tournament on Saturday September 13, 2008 - Glenn & Shirley Jamieson Open – there will be EXTRA added money over and above the normal payout for 1st and 2nd place.

Each and every pitcher will be able to win extra money according to how many games they win. EVERY pitcher will receive \$3.00 for each game they win. If you win 3 games – that will earn you \$9.00. If you win 4 games – that will earn you \$12.00 dollars. If you win 5 games that will earn you \$15.00 and so on. So get in your practice and come pitch on Sept 13 and win some extra money. Scorekeepers will also earn extra money.

For all the newer people and those that have never been to Tri-Valley before, the courts are located at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton - Bernal turnoff from Hwy 680 – turn left on Valley Ave – enter thru Gate 12. If there are other events going on at the fairgrounds that day there may be a guard (ticket taker) at Gate 12 to collect a parking fee of \$8.00. As a horseshoe pitcher you tell the ticket taker you are GOING TO THE HORSESHOE COURTS and they will let you thru with no parking fee. Turn right and go past the RV parking lot and then turn left – at the end of the RV storage lot is the horseshoe courts.

SO - - - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SATURDAY - SEPTEMBER 13

TRI-VALLEY HORSESHOE CLUB

The following are excerpts from an article entitled “How to Pitch Ringers” found on the NHPA website at: horseshoepitching.com It relates to “*the choke factor.*”

Nervous Tension (Pressure)

Public enemy Number One for all tournament pitchers is that old mental devil, "tension" -more commonly called "pressure." When two champions meet in a title match, the air becomes charged with tension that grips the players and spectators alike. Endurance, nerve control and the "breaks of the game" are the factors that decide the winner. Under such circumstances, it is common to see some players become the victim of "pressure." When that occurs, they become easy marks for their opponents. Pressure plagues all players at times. Those who deny it are dishonest with themselves. It is no disgrace to be afflicted by pressure. It is natural. Boxers, football players, opera singers, public speakers - even race horses can be seen to tremble, breathe rapidly, perspire and become rigid with suspense before going in to action. However, insofar as a successful public performance is concerned, tension is fatal, unless ways and means are devised to conquer it.

A tournament pitcher must mentally condition themselves to overcome pressure. He/she may be in the peak of condition and capable of playing well under ordinary circumstances. But, if he/she has neglected the mental training, this omission instantly becomes apparent when engaging strong competition. A good player does not become tense because of being afraid. He/she is afraid because he/she becomes tense.

The first step toward conquering pressure is to recognize it for what it is. Pressure is a self-created enemy that destroys co-ordination and deprives one of physical and mental endurance. All successful public performers (I mean horseshoe pitchers here) have devised methods of combating pressure. Because it affects each individual in a somewhat different manner - but always adversely they may solve their problem in their own way. It is not easy, however, it can be done by: (1) Preparation or training; (2) Physical Control; (3) Proper Mental Attitude.

When you find yourself growing tense during a game, slow down and take plenty of time delivering. Walk from stake to stake with slow, measured strides. Let your arms hang loosely at your sides. Shake your fingers and wrist occasionally to relax the muscles of your delivery arm. Raise your arms above your head and breathe deeply and evenly from your diaphragm. This will relax your muscles and help restore your mental composure. Tension causes fatigue, in turn, causes tension. Don't let a few bad breaks rattle you. Once you acquire the power of "mind over muscle," you will become a better player.

Relaxation is the secret of success in all sports

Although horseshoe pitching is one of the most healthful of all sports, tournament pitching builds up more pressure than most other sports. A golfer has plenty of time to relax between strokes. A baseball pitcher can miss the plate any number of times and still pitch a fine game. But to get anywhere in a big horseshoe tournament a player must throw an average of 70 to 80% ringers. Over 75% of these ringers will be canceled by the opponents. After two players pitch their shoes they walk 40 feet to the other end and pitch the shoes back to the other stake. This is continuous action over a long period of time. Players pitch as many as 3,000 shoes during the course of a National Tournament. The pressure and competitive tension is on every pitch.

Please see message on page 8. If you'd like to assist with the Senior Games coming to Stanford University! Let's show them what the NHPA is all about.

From: bkrogman@nsga.com
To: director3897@aol.com
Sent: 5/22/2008 3:29:37 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: NSGA Horseshoes competition manager

I work with the NSGA and we are looking for a horseshoes competition manager for the 2009 National Games in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Could you please let me know if you think you would be interested or not? We can then follow up with more details if you would be. Thanks so much, Bethany Krogman
Assistant Manager of National Games & Athlete Relations
National Senior Games Association
225.766.6800 ext. 14
225.766.9115 (fax)
bkrogman@nsga.com
www.nsga.com

2009 Summer National Senior Games
- presented by Humana - Aug. 1 - 15,
2009 - **San Francisco Bay Area, CA (Stanford University)**

It would be really nice for the Half Moon Bay Club and the San Jose Club to get together and assist with the segment of horseshoe pitching in these Senior Games. You folks might end up with a few new members for your clubs by assisting with this endeavor. Plus, you'll be promoting horseshoe pitching as an organized sport!

Please email her at bkrogman@nsga.com if you can help with this event.

New Map to TRI-VALLEY

Editorial comment:

So far only two people have chosen to save the NCHPA some money! I'd like to thank those two for sure, but the rest of you can save your organization some money too. Here's how! Simply go the NCHPA.com to receive your newsletter. It's there the day I mail these hard copies out. The approximate cost per issue is \$1.00. Based on 375 address labels, (read households) this equates to \$1500.00 per year. That's a significant amount and this probably cannot continue without hurting our financial situation.

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

WHOOOPS did I say \$4 in the first issue?? I meant \$5..... I think? I really have no idea where this will end, but it's impacting our tournaments attendance in a big way. It would be nice to have 200 individual clubs so everyone could stay close to home to pitch. But that ain't so folks. What all this is going to take, on your part, is some sacrifice. In order for this charter to remain one of the best in the NHPA we need to pick up attendance at every tournament.

In the 80's there were very few tournament to choose from. That meant you'd have to travel 200 miles to pitch. That could become the case again if some of the clubs with very low attendance begin to fail and fall by the wayside. *Perhaps it should become the case* to where we hold one tournament per weekend in order to draw more participation to a club. At a maximum we would hold only 2 tournaments per weekend with a prescribed distance of 150 miles apart. Presently the NCHPA uses a non-written guideline of 100 miles distance apart for scheduling purposes.

In my 22 years as a member I've seen numerous clubs disappear, Golden Gate, (San Francisco) Mosswood, (Oakland), Yuba-Sutter, (Yuba City), Rio Dell, (up north by Fortuna), Colusa, Reedley, and had it not been for the Shasta club Willows would have been gone also, this year we lost Seaside.

This is a constant dilemma in all charters throughout to U S. As members of a club get older, eventually too old to do the work, or pass on, who is there to take the helm of that facility? Especially if no one has been taught how to

operate it. It is imperative to the survival of a club or horseshoe pitching facility that all members learn the workings of that group. That is to say, make yourself familiar with how to put on a tournament, how your league works, what it takes to set up the courts for a tournament, and so on.... The more you know the more valuable you become to your club and the NCHPA. As you begin to realize the inner workings of the club you'll build up your confidence and be ready to take the lead as time takes its toll on others.

If some of us, that have led the way for the last 20+ years, would teach the rest of the members about what it takes to run an active club it would benefit the charter as a whole.

Enough of this I suppose. Let's all have fun and participate in as many tournaments as we can.

FLASH!!!! Computers are here. WOW.

After going to several tourneys last year and a few this year, I am very surprised that some clubs do not post tourney results on line. All this takes is a laptop, a disc and 10 fingers. Don't ignore the computer and rely on the Ticonderoga # 2 method. Which is fine if you are counting bales of hay or cars. Get with it folks, there is a plus in seeing results at the end of a tournament. You see how friends and foes are doing. You mean to tell me that at least one club member of these covered wagon clubs does not have a laptop? Come on, you probably have a GPS system in your truck or car. Ask your kids if you could borrow the laptop for the tourney. They would probably even show you how to use it. Or, better yet, will do the work for you hey might even see the tourney enjoy it, then join the club. I, for one, really enjoy looking at the results. I have talked to several members and we agree that all these clubs, and the entire sport, want and need more members. Why not give them more information. Your club presidents do not ride horses anymore you drive modern age stuff give the people a modern age result.

Signed: **Dale Haskin** proud member of the "WITH IT" Sonoma County Horseshoe Pitching Club.

Note:

There is free software available from the NHPA website all you need to do is download it and begin. Simply try a make believe tournament and see the results. It's well worth it and enhances the results of your club.

2008 California State Championships

Sponsor: Southern California Horseshoe Pitchers Association (SCHPA)

Host Club: Bakersfield Shoe Crew

30-31 August 2008

Beach Park, Bakersfield, California

Tournament Entry Form

NHPA#: _____ Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ CA ZIP: _____

Birth
Date _____ Email _____

Championship Divisions: (circle one)

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

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, it is only one (1) sanctioned California tournament.

For divisions with less than six entries, the tournament committee reserves the right to combine divisions for playing purposes only.

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.**)

Make checks payable to: **SCHPA**

Send entries to: Hal Griswold (949/496-0577 or setibird@yahoo.com)
32612 Balearic Road
Dana Point CA 92629

If you must drop out, please immediately **notify** Hal Griswold (949/496-0577 or setibird@yahoo.com).



NOR-CAL CHAMPIONSHIPS ENTRY FORM



October 4 & 5, 2008

HOST CLUB---YOLO

DRY CAMPING AVAILABLE \$5.00 PER NIGHT – NON - POTABLE WATER –
REMEMBER TO BRING DRINKING WATER FOR YOUR CAMPER

PRE-REGISTER - \$ PRIZE MONEY \$ TOURNAMENT

ENTRY DEADLINE POSTMARKED SEPTEMBER 10, 2008

Must have pitched in (5) NCHPA sanctioned tournaments before September 10, 2008. *New members*
who joined after August 1, 2008 must have pitched in 3 NCHPA sanctioned tournaments before
September 10, 2008

TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEE \$20.00 FOR ADULTS NO CHARGE FOR JUNIORS OR CADETS

AWARDS DINNER AND DANCING SATURDAY NIGHT 6:00 PM

TICKETS \$14.00 PER PERSON

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-----

Name: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

NHPA CARD # _____ Birth Date: _____

Please circle the Group you are entering.

OPEN MEN OPEN WOMEN ELDER MEN JUNIOR GIRL/BOY CADET 9 & UNDER SR.MEN SR.WOMEN

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

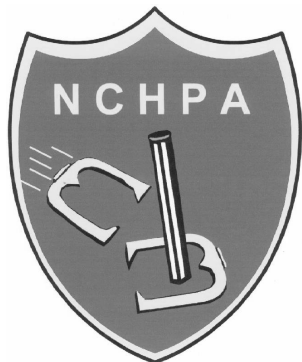
ENTRY FEE \$20.00 \$ _____

#OF DINNERS _____ X \$14.00 \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

<http://www.horseshoepitching.com>

Editor: Casey Sluys
1721 San Ramon Wy
Santa Rosa, CA 95409



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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA HORSESHOE PITCHERS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT

Hall of Fame
Kimmy Stockli
109 Lamont Court
Vallejo, CA 94591-5639
(707) 645-8951
kimitch1@yahoo.com

1ST. Vice President

By-Laws & Rules
Sharon Paddock
1024 Tim Mullen Road
Kneeland, CA 95549-9061
(707) 443-1913
paddock@inreach.com

2nd. Vice President

Supplies
Rick Bermingham
1450 Kingswood Dr Apt 522
Roseville, CA 95678-7911
(916) 271-4784
rbermingham@comcast.net

3rd. Vice President

Schedule & New Members
Linda Hoelscher
27878 Thackeray Ave.
Hayward, CA 94544-5651
(510) 785-8613
linal74@aol.com

4th. Vice President

Junior Promotion
Dave Lane
500 Poppy Crl.
Benicia, CA 94510-3741
(707) 746-5433
davidlane@sbcglobal.net

5th. Vice President

Social Secretary
Bill Terry
PO Box 2365
El Granada, CA 94018-2365
(650) 726-7714
mrbt@netscape.com

Secretary/Treasurer

NHPA Regional Director
Gail Sluys
1721 San Ramon Way
Santa Rosa, CA 95409-3964
(707) 538-3128
gsluys@sbcglobal.net

NHPA NatStat Director

Glenn Jamieson
3231 Vineyard Avenue #17
Pleasanton, CA 94566-6359
(925) 462-6030
natstatguy@aol.com

NHPA Webmaster Liaison & Newsletter Editor

Casey Sluys
(707) 538-3128 or (707) 477-8893
kcslus@sbcglobal.net