

Nor-Cal News & Views

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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/481228218748973> The NCHPA Facebook page.

Sec/Treas.

Reminders; please get your entries in for the State (deadline Aug 1st), Nor Cal Championships (deadline Sept 23rd) and the Nor Cal Doubles Championships (deadline Sept 14th) in by the due dates shown above. The State Championships and Nor Cal entry forms are available in this Newsletter and online on the www.nchpa.com website. The doubles will have a flyer and signup sheet out to Club contacts: on the website and Facebook pages this week. We are working on the final touches. Start looking for a partner for the doubles tournament which will be open again to S. CA and those in Nevada because they support our Northern tournaments during the year. We hope to have a big turnout for this fun tournament.

Welcome to the new members that have joined the NHPA/NCHPA since the last newsletter. We hope you are all pitching and having fun at tournaments.
Colter, Tryden and Deanna Rice: Chris Scott: Donna Recker: John Fraher: Dennis Milton: Jacob Quintana: John Prellwitz: Cayden Roland: Rodney Dashiell: Paul George: Debbie Pilafas: James Roche: Nick Bladerama: Troy Hudson: Philip Hernandez: Will Strak: Lori Belvail: Jordan Gallegos and Scott Anderson.
Welcome back to CA Jerry and Diane Smith.

Gail Sluys

1st VP

To date the NCHPA has added 37 new members for the year. The Turlock Club has 8 new pitchers to lead the way; Sacramento with 6, and Madera with 5 round out the top three club builders. Turlock's gain has come largely from the Rice Family. How great it is to see the Rice Bunch, young and old enjoying our sport, showing what a great family sport horseshoe pitching can be!

I was at Forebay Park for a tournament a couple of weeks ago....just about the most beautiful place I've ever pitched horseshoes! The courts are paired on different levels, surrounded by forest, the clay is beautiful, and the sound the horseshoe makes when it hits the stake, shattering the silence and loudly echoing through the trees, is amazing! Unfortunately I didn't shatter the silence enough with my horseshoe! Rick Eddy is doing a great job....Forebay Park is a place to put on your list of must-play clubs.

Rick Bermingham and Mike Hammer put on a couple of great tournaments over Father's Day weekend at the Sacramento Club. Rick had the clay in great shape, and the trees are maturing nicely around the Granite Park Courts providing shade. There were some horseshoe greats in action! Foster Kenton, a Nevada State Champion, came to California pitching a smooth full-fisted 1 ¼. Foster is pitching in the World Tournament in Men's A2, and I'd be surprised if he doesn't end in the Championship Class before the week is out. Multiple State Champion Nathan Williams was in good form on Sunday, attacking the stake with every shoe. Nathan had a nice 70-something percent game against Bermingham. Cadet superstar Hastiin Begaye made the trip up from Madera, and looks to be in fine form as he gets ready to head back to the World Tournament in South Carolina. Watching Hastiin, the youngster with such a promising horseshoe future, pitch against Rick Bermingham, the established and polished horseshoe star, is guaranteed to warm your Horseshoe Heart! Hastiin pitches with simple joy and exuberance, and Rick obviously enjoys encouraging the young phenom. It is nice to see a great pitcher like Rick take the time to mentor and inspire Hastiin, similar to the way he helped Travis and Hayden in the past. Rick has often spoken about his appreciation of pitchers such as Monte Latino, and Don Titcomb that took the time to teach

and encourage him, and it is clear that Rick wants to help those that follow him.

Best wishes to the 11 NCHPA pitchers that will represent Northern California at the World Tournament in South Carolina. Have a great trip, enjoy the tournament, and throw a lot of ringers!

3rd VP

We have been working steadily entering data into our Norcal Statistics spreadsheet as the results from our Norcal tournaments come in. To date we are 45% through the 2018 Norcal pitching season with 53 of 119 sanctioned tournaments behind us. Of the 53 tournaments 4 were cancelled due to rain/wet conditions and 1 was cancelled due to host club member surgery. Two tournaments were postponed due to wet conditions and both have now been made up. Of the 49 tournaments actually pitched there were 777 entries with 718 being Norcal pitchers and 59 being non-Norcal pitchers. Most of the non-Norcal pitchers were from Nevada, but Idaho, Oregon, and Wisconsin were also represented. And of course there have been a few SoCal pitchers entered in our tournaments too.

We have some pretty gung-ho pitchers out there pitching in lots of tournaments so far this year. The Norcal pitchers who have pitched in 10 or more tournaments to date are: Rich Robbins 14, Rick Della Santina 12, Jeff Vieira 11, and Bill Terry 10. Everybody keep on pitching!

As always you club statisticians can make our task pretty easy if you submit your results in a timely manner. We would like to have them within two days after your tournament is complete so that the pitchers will have their averages submitted to Natstats in time for the following weeks update. Please email results to me at: meanderson99@yahoo.com. And please be sure that the boxscore files that you send are generated in HSMaster as Tournaments, Reports, Format, Results [not Results (Brief)]. Keep in mind that I would like to see member numbers in every file that you send. That means I want the long version, not brief version, of every file. Thanks for all your help.

Mike Anderson

Even though the State entry and trophy sponsor forms are small in this issue they are on the website, in full size, as is the NCHPA Champs.

4th VP

Hello again everyone! 2018 pitching season is well under way and everyone I've seen this year seems happy, healthy and raring to go! Don't forget to check with your club members for potential by-laws changes since this is the year to submit suggestions for changes at the annual meeting (which will be held on November 10th this year.) Keep on pitching and I hope to see you all somewhere on or around the courts. God bless you all. *Lorena Tournour*

5th VP

Hello everyone. I hope all is well and those with medical issues are on the way to recovery. It has been an interesting spring for me. This April was my first tournament in Exeter, Ca. I called a couple days before the tournament and the tournament was full, so thinking nothing of it that Sunday I took my dog out for a walk around 6:30 am and at 6:45 I get a call for Danny Kyle say that some people had dropped out of the tournament. It is about an hour drive so I load up and hit the road from Fresno to Exeter. I get to the turn of at hwy 99 and 198 and it seem like I am driving forever. I get almost to the base of the Sierra's and finally find the turn-off to Exeter. I get there and there are about 25 people for six pits but everything was worked out into a nice doubles tournament. The park where the pits were located were in a quaint part of town (close to downtown) surrounded by homes that were built in the early 1900s.

The April 14th tournament in Turlock was interesting. There were 30 players for 10 pits there. So to avoid an afternoon session Mike Jones divided it up into five groups, 8 games with 3 bye's and 30 shoes. One way to get all the players to play (good job Mike). The rest of April went fine we put on a Saturday and Sunday tournament in Stockton not a large turnout, but good enough.

May started the Friday night tournaments in Madera throughout the summer. The lights in Madera are wonderful. Just like playing in the day time. Great place to play horseshoes.

Then we get to the middle of May and we are preparing for the Stockton tournaments and we find out about the passing of Mille Schultz. Joe and Millie Schultz were instrumental to the Stockton club and to horseshoes in general. We dedicated a court to Millie during the Joe and Millie Schultz tournament with a rose tied to the stake at each end.

We hope she will rest in peace. The next day in Stockton was an interesting tournament. There were eight of us, five over 70, one woman and two under 70. In other words six 30 footers and 2- 40 footers. I think that this would be a nightmare for some people, but we had a real good time.

Can anyone out there tell me about their worst story preparing for a tournament? I can tell you mine. I go to the storage in Stockton where I have the stuff for the tournament, I unlock the storage and set the lock with the keys to the lock and the keys to my truck on the back of the bed of the truck, I am four feet away. I load the truck and I go to get the lock and the lock and the keys are missing. I look all around thinking I placed them somewhere else, I crawl under the truck thinking they had fallen in the frame, I unload the stuff out of the truck and go through the stuff. No lock or keys, no extra set of keys so I had to call a locksmith to come out and re-key the truck and purchase a lock to lock up the storage. My conclusion is that someone came by when I was inside the storage and grabbed them.

As I am writing this the World Tournament in Florence S.C. is only one month away. There will be a few people that will make the trip clear across the United States to play horseshoes and visit the sites on the way. I hope everyone that is going will have a good trip, enjoy the sights and win a trophy at the World Tournament.

September 1-3 is the State Championships in Bakersfield, Ca I am looking forward to the State Championship. It will be nice to play and not have to do the work to prepare for it and the work it takes to keep it going for the two days. Hopefully it will not be too hot like last year in Stockton but don't count on it. I have never played there and I am looking forward to playing in the State Championship.

Thanks to all of you that put on the tournaments I know how hard it is being there a couple days before, being the first to get there and the last to leave the day of the tournament. Don't forget to contact me if you need score sheets or round robin cards. *Jeff Vieira*

CLUBS

Tuolumne

I would like to say that we had a great crowd at our annual Black Oak Casino tournament and everything went great. All the people were so nice, it's really a pleasure to host an event like this. We had plenty of food and it seems that most were happy with their play when they received their awards and money. It was a really good feeling to have such a great group of pitchers.

There was construction going on and around the park, but the parks department did a good job in getting most of it cleaned up before our tournament.

It makes me proud of our parks department that they went out of their way to assist us by cleaning it up. Keep us on your calendar please, thanks.

Barbara Persson

Half Moon Bay

We have started the season with great success, with 7 National and 3 club tournaments. we would also like to welcome new members, **Chris Scott, Dennis Milton & John Fraher,**

Our season highlights: **Pat McGowan** pitched a 55% game at the tournament honored in his name, he placed second behind Bill Terry. The Chet Carter Memorial was won by **Roy Ebbel**, who pitched two 60 % games. Group 2 was won by **Teodoro Espinola** beating his father **Javiear** who took second, his sister **Claudia** & mother **Alva**. Our best highlight was **Evelyn Espinola**, a cadet who won all her games in group 4, going over her average by 2.19%. Evelyn who may be the youngest cadet in the NCHPA played **Dick McCall** who is the 2nd oldest active in the NHPA. **Daniela Espinola**, placed second in group 4, pitching 2.23 % over her average. **Jim Sample** won the tournament honored in his name pitching 5.78 % over his average. He has not lost a game this season (He has 2 ties). **Dale Koistinen** won the **Koistinen/Pacheco** tournament pitching 3.41 % over his average.

The new Best Western on the corner of HYW 1 & Wavecrest, HMB, is very close to being completed. I will announce when they are open in our reminder flyer. See you on the courts! *Rick Della Santina*

San Jose

As usual San Jose held its first tournaments of 2018 in April and May. The Memorial Tournament on Sat. Apr. 14 was well attended with 19 pitchers in 3 classes of 6, 7, and 7. We were pleased to have Mona Lane from Wisconsin in town and pitching. She did not finish in 1st place as she did on her first visit some time back, but I think she enjoyed the pitching. The Tex Ronning Tournament on Sun. Apr. 15 had 13 pitchers in 2 classes of 7 and 6. Tex came away with the Class A 1st place money and Rich Robbins got the Class B 1st place winnings. The Brian & Russell Zelmar Tournament on Sat. May 19 had 19 pitchers in 3 classes of 6, 7, and 6. No big money for Brian and Russell, but each finished 2nd in their classes. Brian was feeling extra generous and upped each 1st and 2nd place finish by an additional \$10. Which I am sure was enjoyed by all the winners. The Edward Moore Tournament on Sun. May 20 had 14 pitchers in 2 classes of 7 pitchers each. Edward Moore generously increased the prize money by an additional \$20 per each 1st and 2nd place finish. Bill Terry was 1st in Class A and Marisela Mauricio was 1st in Class B. Edward made a run for his money, but didn't quite make it into the Class A money. Better luck next year Edward. :) All tournaments were followed by our usual pot luck lunch. Much thanks to Nancy Cloutier and all the others for bringing the dishes to share.

Please join us for our June tournaments on Sat. June 16 and Sun. June 17. Also don't forget about our last 2018 tournaments on Sat. Sep. 29 and Sun. Sep. 30. I hope to see you there.

And best of luck to all those going to Florence, South Carolina to pitch in the 2018 World Horseshoe Tournament.

Late breaking news: The San Jose Club shed was broken into for the second time. This break in happened sometime between Sunday 6/10 and Tuesday morning 6/12. The portion of the hasp on the door had been broken to gain entry. The shed had obviously been searched, but was not ransacked. Items found missing so far are a bag of a dozen or so cans of brand new spray paint, all the old spray paint except

for 1 can that was nearly empty, and 2 old frozen hamburgers from the refrigerator freezer. It could have been much worse. We will have to try to improve our shed security. *Mike Anderson*

Sacramento

Well, here it is already almost July and the California state tournament is almost here. We had a good turnout in Sacramento last weekend, 18 pitchers both days. Nevada state champion Foster Kenton Jr. pitched Saturday won the top group with a 64% ringer percent, great to see him back pitching again. We go waaaay back. Sunday, Nathan Williams took the A group with a 59% for the day and his brother Jeff won the B class against Gene Washoe from Indian Valley in a playoff game. Marshall Merino won the C class group.

We try and promote new members by talking to the Golden State Horseshoe League to try to convince them to play in the NHPA. So far we have a few new members and it seems positive that we will get more. I hope to see all of you pitchers at the Bakersfield State Championship tournament! See you on the courts. Sacramento has 2 more tournaments at the end of July so get your tourneys in before August first deadline. *Rick Bermingham*

Stockton

On May 26, 14 pitchers gathered to honor Joe and Millie Schultz. This year's "Joe and Millie" Tournament was an emotional one since Millie passed away in February. Millie was a very special person, as was Joe who passed away in 2003. I wrote a tribute to Millie that I will ask Casey to include in this issue of News and Views. The Club, and all who knew Millie will be sad to hear of her passing, but you can't think of Joe and Millie and all the pleasant horseshoe pitching memories that surround this special couple without a smile coming to your face. They loved the sport and its people, and they worked tirelessly for our game. A fitting tribute to Joe and Millie would be for all of us to enjoy pitching horseshoes, to promote horseshoe pitching, and to work wherever possible to better the sport we all love.

Sonoma County

We have almost 2 full months before our next tournament and our president Kevin Smith has promised a nice green lawn and great clay to pitch on. That tournament will be the only one on the schedule on August 25-26. Sunday will be a money tournament with a \$15.00 entry and payouts will be decided by game time. Sat. is the "R UR EARS Ringing" tournament to honor our rookie of the year for 2017, Chris Benson. If you've never been to our club we are located in Santa Rosa, so on your way through Sonoma don't ask for the horseshoe courts keep traveling to Santa Rosa for our courts. On August 18th we will host a community "First Responders" horseshoe tournament. It is for all the emergency personnel that so bravely saved people's lives during the raging wildfires that consumed swaths of Santa Rosa. We are inviting all people who have been affected by this tragedy. With free food for all participants. *Casey Sluys*

Ukiah

Ukiah tournaments were awesome this year, if you didn't make it up here you missed some good ones. We didn't have a hot day among them, in fact some of the days were so cold we were all wondering what the heck we were doing out there!! We've attended some tournaments in Sonoma and Willows as well as our own in Ukiah and we are looking forward to traveling to Half Moon Bay and Fortuna as well as Indian Valley, Tri-Valley, Vallejo and so many more to choose from. Look at your schedule, choose a tournament and get on the road!

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I experienced a heart attack in February so I have been slowly getting back up to normal (whatever that is) and I would like to thank Gail Sluys and Casey for being so helpful at our tournaments. I was not able to do the stats so Gail (and Casey) drove up, brought their computer and printer and ran our tournaments for us. At least one of the days was so bitterly cold that, I'm sure they were wondering what the h--- they were doing here! They are some of the most wonderful people in the world and I want to thank them and let everyone know that without them, Ukiah would have been in a world of hurt! They saved our bacon - which I cannot eat anymore :(Thank you and God bless you all. *Lorena Tournour.*



On the following day we held the Fay Dumont Scorekeeper Appreciation Tournament. 8 pitchers showed up to pitch, but ironically there were no scorekeepers! So Fay, who was an NCHPA Scorekeeper of the year had a chance to show off her skills! The small tournament was played as one eight man group on four courts. Fay kept score on all four courts herself, then logged the whole tournament into the computer herself, and had all the pitchers happy and on their way home right on time! It was the Fay Dumont Scorekeeper **Appreciated Tournament.**

I'll finish with a final farewell to our Sweet Millie! George Davis, Stockton





NCHPA CHAMPIONSHIPS ENTRY FORM



October 6th and 7th

(One or Two Days of Pitching depending on number of Entries)

HOST CLUB – Vallejo Horseshoe Club

PRE-REGISTER - \$ PRIZE MONEY & PLAQUES

*ENTRY DEADLINE POSTMARKED **September 24, 2018***

Participants must have pitched in (3) NCHPA sanctioned tournaments before September 24, 2018. **New members** who joined after August 1, 2018 and **Junior/ Cadet** Entrants need a minimum of one (1) NCHPA sanctioned tournament before September 24, 2018.

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

Mail Entries to: Gail Sluys 1721 San Ramon Way Santa Rosa, CA. 95409

No refunds after schedule is completed.

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

Name: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Address _____

City _____

NHPA CARD # _____ Birth Date: _____

Phone # _____

Please circle the Group you are entering.

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

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

ENTRY FEE \$20.00 \$ _____

Hall of Fame Nomination

Northern California Horseshoe Pitchers Association

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

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

Return form: Linda Hoelscher: 24334 Hoag Road, Corning CA 96021 (530) 824-1392, linal74@aol.com

Nominee Name:
Number of Years as NCHPA Member:
Nominated By:
Nominated as a Pitcher or Promoter:

Highlights of Pitching Career

Tournaments Won	Where	Date	Average

NCHPA or Club Offices Held

Office Held	Where	Date

Provide Example of Promotional Efforts

Tribute to Millie Schultz Stockton Horseshoe Club

The Stockton Horseshoe Club and the sport of Horseshoe Pitching has lost a cherished friend and devoted patron, a woman who had been a member of the NHPA for almost 47 years. Millie Schultz died at age 92, on February 13, at her home in Stockton, California. Millie and her husband Joe, who passed away almost 15 years ago in 2003, formed one of the most potent husband and wife teams in the NHPA. Joe was President of the Stockton Club and Millie was the Club Secretary and Contact for many years, it just seemed like that was the way it always was. Joe and Millie were the Heart and Soul of Stockton Horseshoes!

Millie was born in Jay, Oklahoma on August 30, 1925. Jay is a small town in the Northeast corner of the state. The city is celebrated as the Huckleberry Capital of the World due to the wild huckleberries that thrive in the area. Millie came to California in 1933, at the age of 8 with her parents and four siblings. The family arrived in the Los Angeles area, eventually settling in the San Joaquin Valley town of Delhi. Millie married Herman "Joe" Schultz in 1965, and the two became longtime residents of Stockton. Millie was Tax Preparer for H & R Block for over 30 years in Stockton, eventually becoming the Office Supervisor.

Millie and Joe were members of the Stockton Rod and Gun Club, where they became involved in one of the club's activities, horseshoe pitching. Millie wrote in a short club history that on January 24, 1971 the Rod and Gun Club's horseshoe pitchers met with representatives of the Northern California Horseshoe Pitching Association to discuss forming a horseshoe pitching club which would be part of the NCHPA Charter. The Stockton Horseshoe Club became a reality with 25 Charter Members, and so began Millie's NHPA involvement. She was there right from the beginning at the birth of the Stockton Horseshoe Club.

Millie wrote that at first the club pitched on four courts at the Rod and Gun Club, which can still be seen today on your left when you arrive at Stockton tournaments on Mt. Diablo Ave. The Club needed a place to hold NCHPA tournaments, so Joe and Millie were instrumental in the City of Stockton installing 12 Courts at the current Louis Park location. Millie wrote that the grand opening of the

Courts was held on April 9, 1972 with a record number of 62 NCHPA pitchers participating. Millie proudly recalled that the new Stockton Club hosted the California State Horseshoe Pitching Championship over Labor Day Weekend in 1973 on the 12 Louis Park courts, the 4 courts at the Rod and Gun Club, and two portable courts borrowed from Sacramento. The State Tournament was hailed as a success, and the Stockton Park and Recreation Supervisor was so impressed with the Club's efforts that they added 7 courts to the existing 12 Louis Park Courts, giving the 19 courts we have today. Joe and Millie were rightfully proud of Stockton Courts, a fine horseshoe pitching facility to this day. The Stockton Courts were featured on the front cover of the NHPA News Digest issue of December, 1975. Wally Shipley, the NHPA President at the time, felt the Stockton Courts would be a good place to host the World Tournament.

The young Stockton Club needed members, so Joe and Millie set out to build the membership role, and succeed they did! In 1974 and 1975 the Stockton Club led the NCHPA in membership, with 200 members in 1975!

The State Tournaments that were held in Stockton in odd years from 1973 to 1985 held a special place in Joe and Millie's hearts. Both of them put in a tremendous amount of effort into making arrangements and preparing courts, but Millie had a tremendous task on her hands in order to keep the Statistics for those tournaments. In those days the pitchers qualified for their spot in the tournament. In 1975, qualifying started on Friday morning at 9:00am and continued until 8pm that night, resuming on Saturday morning, and finally ending at noon. So Millie and her crew had to perform the work intensive task of recording qualifying scores for a day and a half, tabulating results, and creating the tournament groupings, and being ready to start the tournament proper at 1:30 sharp on Saturday! They must have been exhausted by the end of qualifying, but that was just the start. The tournament scorekeeping, compiling of on-going win loss records, and completing the final tournament Statistics all had to be done by hand! What dedication and hard work under stress it must have taken for Millie and her team to produce a successful State Tournament! Those tournaments produced some memorable moments in California horseshoe history. Champions in those tournaments included Jerry Schneider, John Walker, Walter Ray Williams, Jr. three times, Ron Simmons, and Jesse

Gonzalez, Leona Anderson, Jo Vickery, Marisella Mauricio, Yvonne Mauzey, Vera Floyd and Sharon Paddock twice; quite a list of pitching greats!

The Stockton Horseshoe Club twice produced the Men's World Champion while Joe and Millie led the club. Walter Ray Williams, Jr. represented Stockton when he won the World Title in 1991 in Biloxi, MS, and in 1994 in Syracuse, NY. I know that those were special moments for Joe and Millie!

Joe and Millie were always ready to share their love of horseshoe pitching with the rest of the world. They were instrumental in 1987 in bringing the California Police Olympics Horseshoe Pitching Event to the Stockton club courts in Louis Park. Joe and Millie were both listed in the Official Program as Event Coordinators, and the horseshoe pitching event set a record for participation.

Joe and Millie's efforts in horseshoe promotion involved many appearances at the San Joaquin County Fair where they worked with other club members and former World Champion Don Titcomb, in the Pitch and Win Program.

Millie served our sport on the Charter Level, when she was on the Northern California Board as the NCHPA Secretary/Treasurer. The position of Secretary/Treasurer on the State level is one of the most challenging positions in all of horseshoes, and Millie was up to the task! Joe and Millie also arranged through their membership in the Rod and Gun Club, to make available the hall at the club for the annual year end meeting and dinner dance.

On the national level Joe and Millie served as Co-Regional Directors of the NHPA; as though their work on the local and state level were not enough! Their love and effort that they put into our sport seemed to know no end!

Joe and Millie were able to attend two World Tournaments. They were excited to go to the 1973 tournament in Eureka, and to the 1988 event held in Pleasanton. Millie had a program from the 1973 tournament that was signed by Ted Allen, Elmer Hohl, and many other stars of the game. Her memorabilia collection included a program and a T-shirt from the 1988 World. Millie was sweet enough to give those items to me, and I'm taking care of them to go in the NCHPA Hall of Fame one day.

Millie not only loved the sport of horseshoe pitching, she just loved horseshoe pitchers and horseshoe people. I spent many pleasant hours hearing horseshoe stories; Millie knew all of the pitchers, their wives, and their kids. She could tell

you who threw a high shoe, a low shoe, who was fun to watch, and who had a bad temper, who was naughty, and who was nice. Joe and Millie both thought a lot of Walter Ray, and of Jesse Gonzalez. Millie liked to tell the story of how at practice one night Walter Ray suggested to Joe that he should "learn to throw a turn shoe, that he would lose less ringers with bounce-offs by throwing a turn." Joe famously replied that he threw a flip shoe, and "that if a flip shoe was good enough for Jesse Gonzalez, it was good enough for him!" Jesse and Millie remained good friends through the years, talking on the phone probably once a month; in fact Jesse was the first horseshoe person to hear of Millie's death, since her son returned Jesse's call giving him the news of Millie's passing. I don't think I ever ran into a horseshoe person that didn't love Millie; she was one of the most beloved people in the sport. Millie was one of those people that you loved, or you just hadn't met her yet!

Millie and Joe were inducted in to the NCHPA Hall of Fame in 1993, a fitting tribute for the couple who gave so much to Northern California Horseshoes!

In 2000, then NHPA President Dave Loucks, presented Joe and Millie with the NHPA Presidential Achievement Award at the World Tournament in Bismark, North Dakota. In honoring them he wrote, "I have selected you for your continuing service to the game at both the club and charter level." Loucks also wrote, "It is not often that we find a husband and wife who for so many years have unselfishly devoted their time and energy to the sport of horseshoe pitching. I realize you are now beginning to curtail your activities. Since service to an organization is often without reward or proper recognition, I want you to know that the NHPA has noticed and does care." This well-deserved honor by the National Organization meant a lot to Joe and Millie. Joe would pass away within 3 years of this great recognition.

In recent years Millie remained a club member. We often had meetings at her house; Millie served, as I liked to say, as "club advisor, and club sweetheart." In 2013, I know Millie enjoyed having the State Tournament return to Stockton after a 28 year absence, and she especially enjoyed watching Jesse pitch again! She regularly attended the annual Joe & Millie Schultz Tournament, the club's premiere event of the year; Millie, never seeking to be in the spotlight, liked to call it "Joe's Tournament." I always enjoyed introducing Millie

to the newer members in the NCHPA, telling these pitchers all Millie had done for our sport. I used to love telling people that “the pretty little lady, with the curly hair, dark glasses, and big smile standing over there is a horseshoe legend!” Before her last “Joe and Millie” tournament, she called me to tell me that she had spent the previous night in the emergency room with a bad nose bleed, the result of blood thinners she took for her heart condition. She told me that she was exhausted, and she probably shouldn’t come out that day, but typically of Millie, she wanted me to give everyone her love, and she wanted to thank everyone for coming out to “Joe’s Tournament”

I would like to invite everyone to come out to pitch this Saturday, May 26 in the “Joe and Millie Schultz Memorial Tournament.” We will celebrate the many contributions that Joe and Millie made to Horseshoe Pitching, but most importantly we will celebrate the horseshoe life of Millie Schultz, the sweet little spirit that had an undying love for the sport of horseshoe pitching and for horseshoe pitchers.

In honor of Millie and her horseshoe accomplishments, I think it would be fitting to make a donation in her name to the NHPF. If you can come to the tournament, we will be taking donations on Saturday toward a brick to be placed at the National Horseshoe Pitching Hall of Fame in Missouri in Joe and Millie’s honor. In the past the Club has discussed naming the courts at Louis Park for Joe, and Millie; I think it is time to take the steps to make that happen! On Saturday, Court 1 will remain unplayed upon in remembrance of Millie, symbolizing our loss. The Horseshoe Legend of Joe and Millie will live on forever in our hearts! I hope to see you at “Joe’s Tournament!” **George Davis, Stockton Horseshoe Club**

Have you seen the "Promoting Horseshoes" Facebook page? It is a nationwide network of things other charters are doing to increase participation. Take a look it may just stimulate some ideas for your club.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/568662210169482>

Casey Sluys 21.3
1721 San Ramon Wy
Santa Rosa CA 95409-3964
NCHPA.com



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/568662210169482/>

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