

# Nor-Cal News & Views

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

## **PRESIDENT**

Yikes, so many of our members have been ill or have had surgeries. Wishing good health to Jesse Castillo, James Carvallyo, Vicki and Wayne George, Tony Latino, Bob Midkiff, Barbara Persson, Tony Smullen and John Sylvester.

Please note, the Annual Meeting/Dinner date has been changed to November 5, same time, same location, so mark your calendar. Thank you Judette!

Barbara Perrson! She had been the face of the Tuolumne Horseshoe Club for more than twenty-five years. She is slowly stepping back and is working with other members to keep the club going. Barbara is honoring her time by tossing a party for the community, pitchers, and all that have helped her. Go to our web page, [www.nchpa.weebly.com](http://www.nchpa.weebly.com), and go to the "Schedule", select the "Other Happenings" tab for details. Thank you to Barbara for volunteering her time and energy over the years for the love of our sport.

Look for a survey coming from my email (catdkauffman@gmail.com) soon. It should take about ten minutes to complete. I want to know your opinion on issues, learn what we can do better, see how you can help the association and receive a ton of compliments, lol. My hopes are that we are on the right track together.

Club contacts and tournament directors, look for a memorandum being sent to you in April regarding Rules Regulations Guidelines Specifics. We want to use the rules correctly to benefit all pitchers. Sometimes things in life are as clear as mud.

Finding revenue is important to our organization. The information from horseshoe vendors Ron and Polly provided in this issues gives a small financial shot to our organization, yeah!

Recently I was asked what are the perks to being president of the NCHPA. I'm not sure if these are perks or if I've just made some great friends. Art Burt kept me cool when I was overheating with his wonder towel. Ramiro Coronado let me have my baby fix holding his adorable six-month old grandson. Half Moon Bay presented me with a Captain's Hat and Mona served me first during their barbecue. I celebrated my Italian roots with the Tournours' and four hundred others. I've stayed at hotel Lichau, O'Brien and Sluys. Luis Moreno and Donald Henry gave me t-shirts. Rich Robbins makes sure I'm hydrated. I've been treated to breakfast thanks to Don Stephens and Walt Stafford. Elaine Butcher, Linda Hoelscher and Gail Sluys give me pep talks and lead me to believe I can make ringers. And I have laughed hard with so many of you. Horseshoe people are simply the best! Now let's pitch some ringers! *Cathy Kauffman*

## **SECRETARY/TREASURER**

Hi all here we are 2016 season is underway. Yes, of course we have had some rain, its how the season begins but I hope you are all honing up your pitching skills – teaching your shoes where the stake is.

Tournament Directors – this is very important for you to remember. When you sign in pitchers at your tournament PLEASE be sure they have paid their 2016 dues. They should be able to show you a yellow card with their name and number. If they don't have their card please collect \$27.00 which is their Northern and National dues and ask them which club they will be joining. If they tell you I'm going to join Vallejo Club say I need to collect Northern and National dues to let you pitch and then tell the NCHPA secretary what club you are planning to join.

I'm sure this request sounds harsh to you. I don't mean it in that vein. The main reason to collect dues is to get an NHPA number issued for NatStats to be reported for your tournament. We are not able to use made up numbers to report stats. In reality when we send in tournament results which include people that are not yet members the stats are not correct until those dues are collected. In

fact the people without cards are not sent to Natstats until they have a number.

Think about it this way. If someone pitches in a tournament but never joins the NHPA those tournament stats should be changed removing any games they played. This in fact could change winners and percentages of the players in the group(s) they played.

We all know that 99.9% of the time new pitchers do pay their dues and we certainly love having new players join our groups. Maybe the place to start is if you have a friend that wants to join, and also wants to play in a sanctioned tournament, their money should be collected at the time they pitch their 100 qualification shoes. If you are qualifying people for a club other than your own send them a copy of the qualification sheet along with the dues, let's help our new member start out right. Thanks,  
*Gail Sluys*

### 3<sup>RD</sup> VP

WELL it was off to a slow start, I was looking forward to the NCHPA clinic in Tri-Valley, but, because of rain it was canceled. It will be rescheduled for sometime in the future. Good weather will be here soon?

It's time to get ready for our season; our state championship will be in Balboa Park, San Diego I'm sure everyone who plans on competing there, will have a good time. There's plenty to do In San Diego when you're not competing.

It's time for my usual sales pitch: score sheets and round robin cards. The score sheets are \$40 per 500 and round robin cards \$12 per 100. Good pitching and see you on the courts.

*John Barney* 3VP

### 4<sup>TH</sup> VP

I spent some time the 1<sup>st</sup> part of this year preparing for our Horseshoe Pitching Clinic in Tri-Valley!!! Of course, by now you know that we had to cancel because of rain. Canceling is never a good thing but in 2015-16 rain is always a good thing! On some of our rainy afternoons I prepared guidelines for scorekeeping so because we didn't have our clinic I have included it here. The original version is much longer and holds more details - so in the interest of your reading pleasure, I have shortened it a bit! *Please remember, having the score sheet in front of you and someone to point and explain will make learning much easier!*

#### SCOREKEEPING GUIDELINES

- ▲ Scorekeeping is a very important job.
- ▲ Scorekeeping accuracy is essential to a tournament's success.
- ▲ Scorekeeping is a skill that, with instruction, can be learned.

SUGGESTED SUPPLIES: A comfortable chair, a pen or several pencils, an umbrella or some shade if it is hot and sunny, a clipboard to hold the score sheets and enough score sheets for all the games to be pitched

#### GUIDELINES:

- 1) INFORMATION to be entered on the score sheet is found on the Round Robin card.
- 2) Before the game begins: Enter the DATE, the COURT #, the CLASS, the GAME NO., and the NAMES, SEED NUMBERS, and HANDICAPS (if any) of the two pitchers on the score sheet. The number of SHOES and the number of GAMES that will be pitched is also on the Round Robin card.
- 3) The name of the pitcher with the lowest seed number goes on the LEFT side of the score sheet.
- 4) During the game, be aware of who is calling the score that is the person/pitcher on whose side you will mark the points.
- 5) Be sure to enter your name at the bottom of the score sheet. It not only gives you credit for accomplishing that task but also makes it easy to identify the person to whom questions should be addressed.

SCOREKEEPING: look at the top of the score sheet. There's a small box which demonstrates exactly how to enter each score that is called.

Remember there can only be one score on a side, only one pitcher can earn points at each shoe (*unless the game is count all, then both scores are entered*). After writing the score on one side of the sheet, draw a line on the other side to indicate no score and to fill in the empty space so that a score isn't inadvertently entered where it shouldn't be.

ADDITIONAL NOTES: when there is a handicap, enter the handicap number (from the round robin card) in the box below the label HCP in the SCORE column and add that number to the score.

FINAL NOTES: Check with the pitchers BEFORE the game begins to see if they want to be alerted that the end of the game is 2 or 4 shoes to go. i.e. "down and back or down and out". If not, then notify the pitchers only when the game has ended. Give the score or whose turn it is to pitch or how many shoes are left, **only when asked**.

I hope these guidelines are helpful, if you have questions or suggestions call, text or email me: 707-489-6227(cell #) [latournour@gmail.com](mailto:latournour@gmail.com) (email)

Whether you are a pitcher or a spectator, keeping score is not only fun it's also very helpful and it's always good to learn something new. As you know if there aren't enough scorekeepers then pitchers have to keep their own score and it becomes a distraction from their game.

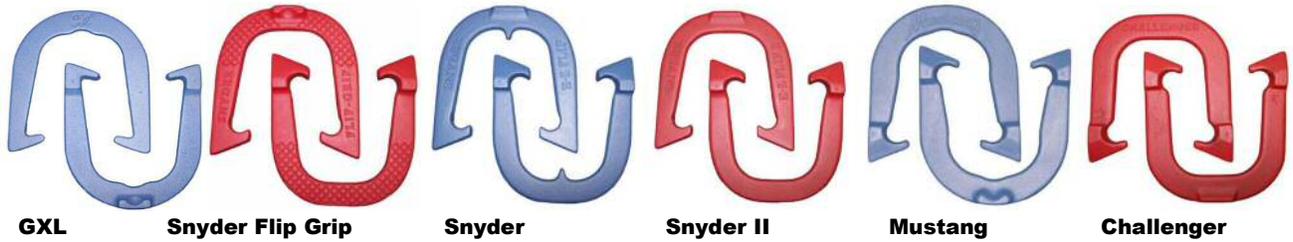
**So step up to the front; rise to the occasion; lend a helping hand! *Lorena Tournour***

## **REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

I'm happy to take on the position as the Regional Director for the NCHPA. I look forward to meeting those of you I've yet to meet and seeing all my old pitching friends as the season begins.

I have been in communication with Bill Marvin from the NHPA regarding the position, and he has been helpful as has Casey and Gail . My first task will be officially sanctioning the two new Lindsay courts. The Lindsay courts have been prepared to NHPA specifications so there should be no issues. Exeter is expected to break ground on two new courts which will be sanctioned upon completion.

Travis Sluys has been the Assistant Regional Director, and although he is a busy high school senior – I am counting on him to retain his position. He knows the sport, rules and he travels to tournaments and can help keep me informed. It will be the NCHPA's loss and the US Marine's gain when he leaves us to become a Marine. ***Frank Arroyo***



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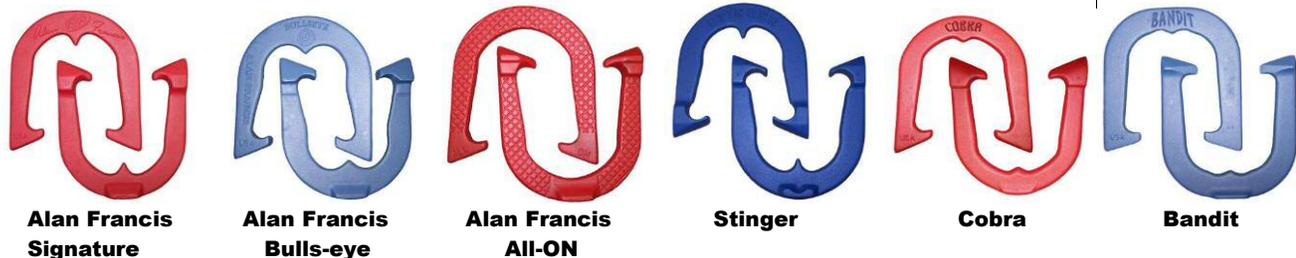


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# CLUBS

## EXETER

To the NHPF I want to say thank you from all of us here in Exeter on the grant we received from you. As of right now we have purchased all the backboard material and all of the stakes are already in buckets curing as we speak. I have looked into renting a sod cutter to remove the grass for the walkways and pits for both new courts. We will have a total of 6 courts when the 2 new courts are finished. I will keep you updated and will be sending pictures from the beginning to the end of our progress and completion. Thanks again, *Danny Kyle*.

## FEATHER RIVER

Lee Oliver has good news. After surgery and radiation treatments he is cancer free. John Sylvester is doing better after rehab but can no longer live on his own. He is in Prestige Assisted Living, 400 Executive Parkway, Oroville, CA 95966. He has kept his own phone no.: (530)534-5041. I'm sure he would appreciate cards, phone calls or visitors. We're grateful for all the rain we have had but are looking forward to good weather for our upcoming tournaments. See you all soon. *Audrey Winters*

## FORTUNA

It's been a long wet winter here in Humboldt, looking forward to Summer.. We went to Shively and played some shoes at Tom Webbs, had a nice lunch. Congratulations to our Cadet player Dakota Paddock, she received an award for cadet player of the year.

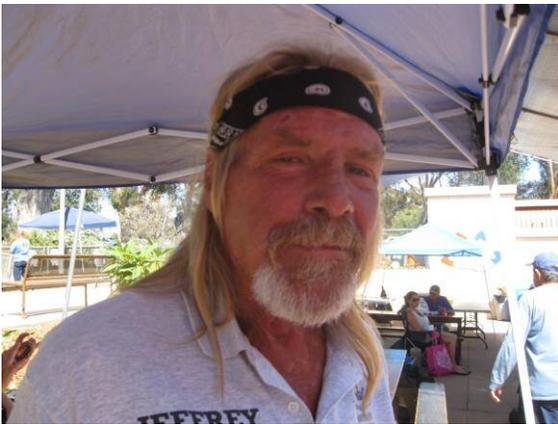
Our Money Tournament is July 11 & 12, it will be a different format than last year, see the attached flyer. Bear River Casino is not giving money but we have all the entry money going into the prize fund and eight other money

drawings for the players, always silver dollars involved as part of the surprise, money drawings. should be lots of fun. Come as early as Thursday and leave as late as Monday. It begins with a fun tournament beginning Friday at 1:00 with free dinner of hot dogs, chips and a drink around the camp fire Friday after the pitching. Bring your musical instruments. Camping is free for RV's, travel trailers and tents. We have about six extra tents and air mattresses. If you want a tent and air mattress call Bill or Sharon, all you will need is a pillow and blankets, it can get cool in the evenings. We have camp fire going in the evening and morning. Free dinner Friday evening, hot dogs, chips and a drink. Then again on Sunday, free hot dogs, chips and drink between pitching shifts. Heck you might even get to watch "Horace" the mechanical man pitch some horseshoes. We will have some unique raffle prizes, both for the ladies and the men. Hey I got a joke for you! A guy wanted out of California and bought a homestead in Idaho, out in the mountains. Well he did not realize just how bored he would get, the snow kept him confined to the cabin for over six months during the winter. One snowed in day he looked way down the canyon and saw a small whiff of smoke and thought he could put on his snow shoes and go visit. He headed down to the cabin, knocked on the door and a guy came to the door, he introduced him self and the neighbor invited him in for a cup of coffee. After a couple hours, he got up to leave and the native Idaho resident, told him that he was having a party, Saturday night and he was welcome to come to the party. The guy from Ca. said what kind of party, the other guy said, well there will be music, dancing, lots of drinking, some fighting and lots of sex. The guy from Ca. thought a minute and said, I will be there, and then he said what should I wear. The native said it doesn't matter it's just going to be you and I. Ha, Ha, Ha. *Bill Paddock and Blair Rowley*

## SACRAMENTO

Hello everyone, the Sacramento courts at Granite Regional Park looked a little rough this past month. With a wet winter there were plenty of weeds so a few gallons of round up took care of that this week. I hope everyone is as eager to pitch this spring as much as I am. An update about John Sylvester, he is living at a senior apartment facility in Oroville. This place is called Prestige. John is in room 5 and is doing quite well, his phone number is 530-534-5041. I'm sure he would love to hear from you fellow pitchers. See you on the courts, looking forward to this season. **Rick Bermingham**

## HALF MOON BAY



**Jeffrey Erickson**  
03/02/1959 – 01/03/2016

### **In Memory:**

On January 3, 2016 our club lost Jeff Erickson to cancer. He was an inspiration to many of us. Jeff knew he was ill during last summer and still continued to compete. He won 2 tournaments and had 1 second place finish at Half Moon Bay. His second to last tournament on June 27 at San Francisco was

his personal best, pitching 28%. His high game was 36%, which he was very proud of. He raised his NHPA average from 15.75% to 24.80%. Jeff found it difficult to pitch the second half of our season and could not play in his own tournament but he still showed up, kept score and helped whenever he could. I wish more members would contribute like Jeff did. We last saw Jeff at The Terry Farrell Open in December, where he kept score for the entire tournament, in typical coastal December weather.

### **Club Promotion:**

To help promote the HMB Horseshoe Club, I have been sending Newspaper Stories to our local Newspapers to let our community know when we are having the first Club activity (as well as tournament results). On March 22, I received a phone call from the Half Moon Bay local community TV Station. They came to our weekly Thursday Night Club pitching and made a video about our Club. We were asked about the history of our Club, how we fit into the community and how new members can join. They approached us because of a simple newspaper article, looked at our web site and felt we were an asset to the community. We will post the video when it's available. Charlie Hall came up with the idea to invite the Mayor of HMB to throw out the first shoe of our first tournament and with local newspaper coverage. We hope this will give you some ideas to promote your Clubs. See You on the Courts, **Rick Della Santina**

## **SAN JOSE**

Welcome to the 2016 pitching season from San Jose! Several of us gathered at the San Jose courts in February to begin prepping the courts and grounds for the 2016 season. The work in February amounted mostly to spraying Roundup on the weeds in the decomposed granite ground covering. We will follow that shortly with the cleanup of the dead weeds and any other preparations that need to be made. We expect to be in good shape for our first 2016 tournaments on April 9 and 10.

Lord willing and the creek don't rise! We will look forward to seeing you there then and later at our May 21 and 22, June 11 and 12, and Sept. 17 and 18 tournaments. San Jose has 3 long-time pitchers who joined the club this winter and will be pitching this coming season. They are Gary Nakamoto, his brother Mike Nakamoto, and Sam Fanara. Please welcome them when you see them on the courts. We wish you all the best of luck in your 2016 pitching season. *Mike Anderson*

## **UKIAH**

Hello everybody, it's nice and wet up here in our neck of the woods! I just hope that it will rain on week days and not on weekends so that we don't have to cancel any tournaments! Here in Ukiah, we have very wet clay so no practicing (on clay) has begun, however some pitchers have been practicing on sand or indoors so there's bound to be some good contests at the March and April tournaments!

Our membership is growing thanks to our Lake County pitchers. We welcome back John Brotherton who has returned this season and we welcome new members Norm Johns and Ruth Perez all three from Lake County. In all, 11 of our members are from Lake County, we are very grateful for their alliance and friendship.

We hope that you are healthy and happy and looking forward to an active and involved horseshoe pitching season. Our first tournaments this year are on April 9 and 10 and we have tournaments in May and June too. In September there are plenty of opportunities to pitch including the State tournament in San Diego so we decided not to schedule ones in Ukiah this year. Be sure to check your schedule for all tournaments and come to Ukiah for a great experience and good food too!

Our June tournaments occur during the Spring Fair at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds. The fairgrounds have agreed to allow our tournaments to continue during the fair and parking will be free for horseshoe pitchers in

the area of the courts, not the main parking lot off of State Street. The pits are in the area of the goat show! So we should be able to see lots of animalistic activity! However, the fair doesn't start until noon and we should be close to finishing by then and you would be free to explore all that Ukiah and the surrounding community has to offer at our 2016 SPRING FAIR! *-Lorena Tournour*

## **SHASTA/WILLOWS**

Elaine Butcher has been a member of the NCHPA for 23 years and she is currently the highest ranked women pitcher in California with a ringer percentage of 66.50. Elaine is also ranked number twenty two in the World. Way to go Elaine. Elaine and her daughter Terry will be flying to the Hall of Fame tournament in Wentzville, Missouri on April 29<sup>th</sup> and returning home on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Hope you both have a great time, have fun.

Shasta/ Willows was sorry we had to cancel our tournament and are hoping to reschedule that tournament. As soon as we receive word from the officers we will get the word out to everyone. We look forward to our season officially starting April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Hope you can make it to Willows. There is RV parking at the courts (dry camping) and Willows has a lot of motels near by plus many fast food eateries and Black Bear Diner. *Linda Hoelscher*

## SONOMA COUNTY

We had a few of our members feel energetic during the beautiful and dry month of February. Paul Machado, Sue Lichua and Kevin Smith redid the inside of the equipment shed. It was high time though 25 years of collecting stuff just got to be a bit messy. They did an outstanding job and with the help of **World of Carpets 3023 Santa Rosa Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95407**. Their donation of linoleum flooring will make the shed much easier to keep clean. Thank you very much World of Carpets.

You know it is rather simple to receive donations for the raffle table all you have to do is ask. Check with our new secretary treasurer Sue Lichau and she'll be happy to share her success with gathering gifts. The NCHPA Championships proved to be a successful venture for our club again many thanks goes to Sue as she procured donations of water, Gatorade etc for all the pitchers. We hope that this year will draw a larger crowd. *Casey Sluys*

## SAN FRANCISCO

We kicked off the 2016 horseshoe pitching season on Superbowl weekend here in San Francisco. El Nino cooperated and stopped raining and we were able to hold the first Gino Rinaldi tournament. We had a good turnout, and several people went on to take part in some of the Superbowl City activities. A big thanks to Rick Della Santina from Half Moon Bay who helped us run the tournament on HS Master. This was the first time Gail & Casey Sluys weren't there to run the HS Master, and our first time to bring in a laptop, printer and power and run a whole tournament with the software. We had a few technical glitches but Rick saved the day by bringing in a back-up printer and portable power supply. I recommend that everyone learn how to use the software. If only one person knows how to do it in your club, it makes it hard for them to pitch too. It's

definitely different doing it rather than looking over someone's shoulder. We're looking forward to our next tournament in June and getting some more practice.

We're starting an SF Junior Horseshoe Pitching Club! Luke Zepponi, (6<sup>th</sup> grader) is helping launch it with some of his school, neighborhood and sports team friends. After winning the CA State Cadet Championship we figured it was great time to give it a try. Part of our ongoing partnership negotiations with the SF Rec & Park department was a request for us to have a consistent day that they could advertise through their media outreach, so we are going to meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month from 4:30-6:30 PM April – October. We'll teach the rules, scorekeeping, and probably have a little BBQ. We hope some of the parents decide to help out and play too. It will also be a great opportunity for the kids to get leadership experience as Junior Club officers. We have been working on a flyer and a minor consent membership form with a PayPal online & mobile membership payment option. All we have to do is text or email this link: [PayPal.me/SFHPC/35](https://www.paypal.com/join/PayPal.me/SFHPC/35) and it takes you straight to an online payment screen. "35" represents the dues of \$35, but it can be any number or even be used for donations. Try typing it in on your smartphone or computer and see what happens! It will be way better than chasing after people or waiting for checks in the mail. We'll have more info on our website soon, so take a look or contact me if you've considered setting up a Junior Club. Another Junior promotion we are doing again this year is an elementary school auction sign up horseshoe party. We're hosting with 3 other families. Spaces were auctioned off at \$35 each for the school fundraiser, and we sold 100, plus the host families. It was a hit last year will be better this year! Cheers! Hope to see you in the pits. – *Peter Zepponi*

## STOCKTON

Stockton had a beautiful Spring day to pitch the Tony Marino Tournament on March 26. The 18 pitcher turnout was disappointing, but the 2016 season is underway! We were challenged by electrical problems since some of the neighborhood amateur electricians have been active destroying the electricity to the horseshoe facility. We had to use the old school round robin cards. and thankfully the laptop battery held up so we could do the tournament on the HS Master Program. It is still to be determined if the wire has been stripped from the new lights! Nice way to start the new season, huh?

Millie Schultz was unable to come out to the tournament. She has been continuing to have some heart problems. Keep the legendary Millie in your thoughts and prayers.

Delia Garza went undefeated to take the A Group. Delia threw two 52.5% gems on her way to taking home the Tournament Winner's Patch.

Delia's son Jose De Leon took the B class, throwing 6.38% over his average. Jose threw a

blistering 57.5 % game for the tournament's high game.

Hall of Famer Don Kies took the C Class, pitching 18 % over his average.

Isaac "Ike Chavalia is a new pitcher from Michigan who throws a nice 1 1/4 turn. Ike is in the Coast Guard and lives in San Rafael. Ike will likely be a member of the Sonoma County Club.

Bill Carcot was a new pitcher from the Sacramento Club. Bill qualified at 42% so there is some talent there!

Henry Langley pitched his first tournament at 30 feet, which included a nice 37.5% game

I hope everyone is off to a good start for the new horseshoe season. Here's hoping that all clubs attract a lot of new pitchers, that everyone stays healthy and happy, and that Ringers abound!

Please keep Stockton in mind as you plan your pitching schedule! **George Davis**



**San Luis Obispo, Kern and San Bernardino Counties are the dividing line between Northern and Southern Charters. As you can see Northern covers a huge geographic area of the state.**



**READY TO WIN !!!**

**JULY 16 & 17**

**Fortuna's money tournament will have a different format this year. The CASINO IS NOT GIVING US A DONATION THIS YEAR.**

**\$30.00 ENTRY FEE'S WILL GO INTO THE PRIZE FUND IN EACH GROUP. ALL GROUPS RECEIVE EQUAL PAYOUTS FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE.**

**ADDITIONALLY, WE WILL HAVE SURPRISE DRAWINGS DURING THE GAMES EACH DAY IN EACH GROUP FOR SOME ADDITIONAL CASH. THIS SHOULD ADD A LOT OF FUN TO THE TOURNAMENT. CASINO 5 MINUTES FROM COURTS.**

**2 DAY EVENT, 40 SHOES, HANDICAP 80%, FREE; TENT CAMPING, RV'S AND TRAILERS, CAMP FIRE.**



# NCHPA CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016 ENTRY FORM



October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>

(Two days of pitching for all groups)

**HOST CLUB – SONOMA COUNTY**

**PRE-REGISTER - \$ PRIZE MONEY & PLAQUES**

**ENTRY DEADLINE POSTMARKED September 8, 2016**

*Participants must have pitched in (3) NCHPA sanctioned tournaments before August 29, 2015.  
**New members** who joined after August 1, 2015 - **Junior and Cadet** entrants need a minimum of one (1) NCHPA sanctioned tournament before August 29, 2016.*

**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**

*Camping and Motel Information to follow*

**NO EXCEPTIONS TO NUMBER OF TOURNAMENTS WILL BE MADE.**

**NO REFUNDS AFTER SCHEDULE IS COMPLETED.**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

NHPA CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please circle the Group you are entering.**

**OPEN MEN    OPEN WOMEN    ELDERS MEN    JUNIOR GIRL/BOY  
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**\*SENIOR GROUPS NOT HAVING A MINIMUM OF 6 PLAYERS WILL BE MIXED WITH OPEN CLASSES.**

**ENTRY FEE                      \$20.00    \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

<http://www.nchpa.weebly.com>

<http://www.horseshoepitching.com>

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National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation



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