

Nor-Cal News & Views

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

President:

The summer pitching schedule is over, It has been a hot one. The World and State tournaments are completed. Congratulations to all the world players, and congratulations to Rick Bermingham, Kimmy Stockli and Travis Sluys, our California State Champions.

I attended the weekend long tournament in Fortuna last month and what a party. The Fortuna Club provided food all day long, and tent lodging for those who wanted to camp. I was able to meet some members from the northern clubs, and had an excellent time visiting and pitching in a cool climate. Thank you Bill and Sharon Paddock, and the entire Fortuna club for making us so welcome. This may call for a return trip.

Last week I met with the Stockton club and the Stockton parks representative to evaluate the Stockton courts for possibly holding the 2013 State tournament. Club President, George Davis has presented a request to sponsor the tournament. The courts will need some upgrades, backboard repair, lighting repair, and clay, but overall I think we will be able to get the job done. Mr. Davis will be presenting a status report, along with Stockton's bid at our annual meeting. If any other club wishes to bid, please be prepared to outline your desire at the annual meeting.

As president, I wish I had only positive things to say in my report, but lately we have had a few incidents of unsportsmanlike conduct during tournament play. Incidents, which involved use of foul language, abuse of scorekeepers and drinking of alcohol on the courts. I would like to remind the membership that this is a game, and like all games, it requires good conduct between players. Unsportsmanlike behavior is not acceptable, and

PLEASE SEND YOUR NAME IN TO HARLEN FOR THE FOLLOWING OFFICE: PRESIDENT. 2nd, 4th, and 5th are also up for re-election in Nov. Now is your opportunity to lead this charter into the future!

will not be tolerated. Poor behavior leads to intimidation of others and restricts fair play.

I would remind the tournament directors that it is your responsibility to conduct a smooth tournament, and enforce the rules and regulations. Each tournament director is responsible for the safety and security of your tournament. Enough said.

As you all are aware, I will be stepping down as your President. I have some other commitments in the next few years. I think we have moved forward in the last two years. We have survived the closing of the Yolo courts, and have fulfilled all our tournament requirements. I have been able to visit a considerable number of clubs and know that we (*the Executive Council*) have been very accessible to the membership.

I wish to personally thank all Nor-Cal members for your support and friendship. I also wish to thank my executive officers for all their hard work, during some difficult times. I will continue to assist the organization when I can.

Effective September 7, 2012, I, with the approval of the NCHPA executive council, have appointed Mr. Joe Summers, from the Vallejo Horseshoe Club to fill the 1st Vice President's position, left vacant by Lee Roy Lassiter. I welcome Joe, to the Executive Council and know that he will work hard to improve our organization.

We will be combining the awards ceremony and dinner with our annual meeting on November 3, 2012 in Sacramento (Florin). I hope to see delegates, from all of the Nor-Cal clubs in attendance. **Harlen Rippetoe**

Late news Cathy Kauffman has thrown her name in for President. Rick is running again for 2nd and Robert will run again for 4th also.

Do you have a weatherproof barn that you could store the NCHPA Hall of Fame material in? We really need a 15'X20" area that we could use indefinitely. Call Harlen for details.

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Support the NHPF

The only horseshoe pitching related Charity needs your tax-deductible donations to support many programs of the sport; including the Hall of Fame and Grants to install new or upgrade existing courts. Deadlines for Grant Applications: March 1st and September 1st. Mail contributions and inquiries to: NHPF, P.O. Box 1628, Penn Valley, CA. 95946. We need your financial support....please help?

<http://www.nhpf.info/index.html>

The NHPA Hall of Fame is now open in Wentzville, MO. It's located right off of I-70 a major East/West interstate. We still need your financial support ...please help?

****If the world were a logical place, men would be the ones who ride horses sidesaddle.****

Secretary/Treasurer:

The year is winding down quickly now. Getting set for the NCHPA Championships at Vallejo, then the team at Tri-Valley, suddenly it will be time for the annual meeting and dinner/awards on November 3rd. I hope all clubs will have delegates for the meeting, this is your organization and your club representatives will hopefully get their voices carried. We are also handing out the NCHPA Championship awards and the Year-end awards that everyone works to win all year long at the dinner. First place winners in all groups of the NCHPA championships will receive a free dinner ticket. This is something we used to do in the past and the officers decided to try it again.

The annual meeting is scheduled to start at 10:30 A.M. and be held at the Florin Rebecca Hall in Sacramento, catering provided by Big Joe's BBQ. A flyer is included in this Newsletter. Dinner and awards start at 5:00.

Don't forget San Francisco Club is hosting their sanctioned tournament on October 20th. We hope you will come out to pitch again in Golden Gate Park. Those of you that pitched there long ago will be impressed by the resurgence of the horseshoe courts. Many memories live there.

A reminder to all clubs, when you host a tournament you need to send \$2.00 per adult pitcher to me (payable to the NCHPA). These funds are used partially to fund the NCHPA championships – awards and prize money. Thanks.

Remember the team tournament is October 6th and 7th get your teams in to me ASAP. This is such a fun tournament and you get to pitch people you don't pitch all year. There is a flyer in this issue.

Welcome to Joe Summers our newly appointed 1st Vice President. **Gail Sluys**

Second Vice President:

Well, the pitching season is about over. We had some good weather at the State Tournament in Bakersfield in the 94 to 95 range, which was cool for that time of year. Congrats to Sacramento club member Matt Smith winning first place in his group with an 8-1 record, nice job Matt. Kimmy Stockli capturing her 6th title in as many years. Lisa Atwell beating Kimmy on Saturday, they eventually had a playoff on Sunday and Kimmy won. Also, winning their groups were Tim Saunders, Wayne George, Anthony Duran, Jorge Cordero, Dee Rice Women's B, Cadet State Champion Bernardo Navarro III, and Boys State Champion Travis Sluys all from the Northern Clubs.

I hope to see you for the NCHPA championships in Vallejo, then again in Tri-Valley for the NCHPA Club Team Tournament. Be sure to represent your club at the November 3rd meeting as we will also be having our

Northern Championship awards there, see you there.
Rick Birmingham

Fifth Vice President:

Another year of horseshoe pitching is ending with just a few tournaments remaining; so get out there!

I had the privilege of meeting Chet Carter this year before he passed away. Chet told me that he joined every club and I completely understand now as each club has extraordinary members many of whom work tirelessly to promote horseshoes and go beyond measure to welcome guest pitchers. The Fortuna Club provided a cake and good wishes to Sacramento Club member Don Stephens, who was at their tournament for his eightieth birthday. Best homemade cake ever – you should have went to Ukiah, Lorena can bake! Some folks packed "cake to-go" as it was that good.

Bakersfield, it was an anomaly as it was "cool" for Bakersfield. Special thanks to Bill Terry, Rich Robbins and Joe Summers who stepped up and represented NCHPA by serving as judges (*a thankless job*) at the State Tournament.

Finally, my term as 5th Vice President is ending. Thank you for the vote of confidence and allowing me to represent you. My deepest gratitude to Harlan Rippetoe for his leadership as our president. Harlan's reign came at a difficult time accented by the need to close Yolo because of the exorbitant cost being imposed by Yolo County. He was thoughtful, honest and purposeful in his efforts to steer our membership, which I value. Thank you to my colleagues on the board who I have enjoyed working with; John Barney, Rick Birmingham, Robert Cocagne and Gail Sluys. **For several months, I have fielded rumors that I was running for the NCHPA presidency. After much contemplation, I have decided to run for the presidency. It would be my privilege to continue to serve this membership. Your vote would be appreciated, as I would like to continue working on behalf of our membership.**
Cathy Kauffman

CLUBS

San Francisco

We're looking forward to our 1st NCHPA tournament at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco on Oct. 20 and hope to see many of you there. Our club is growing and we just welcomed two new members Jim & Steve Canning to the NCHPA, and we have several of our recreational members who are talking about 'tossing their 100 shoes' to qualify and sign up to play in the Sanctioned Tournament in October. We are still going through the growing pains of getting off the ground here in the City. Everything seems to be harder, more complicated and more expensive in San Francisco especially

when you're trying to resurrect a horseshoe club in world famous Golden Gate Park. It's a long ways from the simple days of pounding a bunch of stakes behind the barn at our ranch in Sonoma and having a family tournament. It's a lot of work and constant effort trying to make progress, but it's also very rewarding. I have met so many interesting people since taking on this goal of bringing organized horseshoe pitching back to San Francisco. Unfortunately I haven't been able to make it to as many NCHPA tournaments as I'd like, but I got to a few.

Our focus is still on building membership and having recreational tournaments, while restoring and maintaining the horseshoe courts at Golden Gate Park and the 8 Courts at Stern Grove. Stern Grove has the only two clay pits in San Francisco and a few of our members have taken to practicing there and maintaining them. The word is getting out in town about the courts. On Sept 1st we just co-hosted the fourth annual Lord of the Ringer Horseshoe Tournament and Skate Jam, with the owners of Blood Wizard Skateboards. These are the guys who contacted me four years ago interested in playing horseshoes. So we got their trucks and my shovels and wheelbarrow and started digging out the overgrown and abandoned horseshoe courts in Golden Gate Park. Four years later the LOTR 4 was it's biggest success to date. Half the courts get set up for the tournament and the other half are set up with skate ramps, jumps and rails. We have 16 courts with asphalt between them. They quickly filled up a 32-team double elimination bracket, and probably had 120 people in attendance. When you were not playing, you could watch people doing tricks on their skateboards. This tournament also announced a new sponsor for our recreational tournaments, Alaskan Brewing Co. They donated cases of beer and set up a tasting 'beer garden' where you could choose one of four different styles. The top three winners were all members of SFHPC. Gino Rinaldi and I won our 2nd time in four years and received cash and great prizes since they had several skateboard industry sponsors. Our recreational tournaments always bring out a good crowd, and for the last four years I've been trying to figure out how to capture them to come back. I created SFHPC 'business cards' that I gave to all our officers with the club name and website address. I hand these out to any new person I meet at the courts. This has helped with awareness since our website meter averages 15 visits per day, and over 40,000 page views since I started it 4 years ago. BUT I still wasn't able to get

people to sign up online or send me an email with THEIR contact info. So at the last LOTR 4, we made a name and email sign up sheet and asked everyone who reported their scores to sign up for a club email list. We have 15 new people signed up who want to know about other events and enjoy playing horseshoes.

On Sept 22, 2012 we are hosting our 2nd Annual Cal Poly Alumni horseshoe tournament and BBQ. Last year it was sponsored by the Cal Poly Alumni Association, but this year they backed out a few weeks ago, so our Club took over the entire event since we'd already been advertising it. I'm a Cal Poly SLO alum as well as other club members so we're still calling it an alumni tournament, but this time the proceeds will all go to our club to help maintain and improve the courts. This is the first major recreational tournament we're hosting ourselves. We've done several each year for other groups, but this one's revenue will finally benefit the club and court maintenance and not the group we're hosting. Again we have Alaskan Brewing Co donating all the beer, and we just got the Tee Off Bar & Grill, featured on the Food Networks, Diners, Drive-in's and Dives to donate and cater the BBQ! \$40/team including lunch and beer. What a great deal for an afternoon in GG Park playing horseshoes! We are changing the format from our standard double elimination tournaments to a Group Round Robin format where the winners of each group will play for the title. This is to start getting people more used to playing in NCHPA group format, as well as getting everyone to play more games and stick around. If we can get the new players to stick around that gives us more time to get them to sign up on our new email list. I just sent out an Evite, email invitation, to well over 200 email contacts I have gathered at different horseshoe related events. It's free, and gives people a chance to reserve a spot in the tournament and forward it to their friends. We looked at www.eventbrite.com to allow people to register and pay online, but it's service fees were about \$3 person. As you all know, there's not a lot of money in horseshoes, so we opted to keep every \$3 we can by on-site payment.

Coming to the end of our first year in the NCHPA, our club is growing, public awareness is growing, and members are becoming more active and taking more ownership of being a part of the SFHPC. Horseshoe pitching is back to stay in San Francisco. **Peter Zepponi**

Feather River

Hard to believe pitching season is winding down already. Seems like we just started. August here was kind of a blur with the heat and much smoke from the fires. It finally cooled off a bit and the smoke has pretty much gone away in our area. Lois made a trip to Phoenix recently. She took her grandson who will be attending a school to learn motorcycle repair. She got him settled into a dorm there so he is beginning a new adventure.

I talked to Buddy Darnold and he is still having a hard time with his foot. He has been in and out of the hospital and is now in rehab, but it is still not healing. He really wanted to pitch this year but it was not to be. He says hello to everyone and if anyone wants to call him, his cell phone number is 921-5245.

I also heard from Linda and she said Russ's trial has been postponed now until January. We are all hoping for the best for him. **Audrey Winters**

Ukiah

Hello again from Ukiah Valley –

Our September tournament was this past weekend and what a good one it was!! 12 pitchers entered our tournament on Saturday and 15 on Sunday with 2 groups each day making an interesting and challenging competition. Again our fantastic weather cooperated and the mornings were cool and pleasant and the heavy heat held off until later in the afternoon when the pitching was over.

In Group 2 there was a playoff game between Fritz Oberst and Cathy Kauffman on Saturday and the last couple of scores had to be called with some hand signals because of the roar of the car races that have returned to the Ukiah Speedway. The races are at night of course, but they begin practicing in the early afternoon so for a few minutes it bugs us but we can handle it! BTW, Fritz won the game and took 1st place and Cathy won 2nd place. In group 1 there was a playoff between Will Facey and Elaine Butcher and they tied the playoff game, so being tired and not realizing that the winner could be decided by points they tossed a coin and Elaine won 1st and Will 2nd. On Sunday Elaine won 1st in group 1 and Tony Latino took 2nd and in group 2 Tom Burns, Jr. took 1st and James Taylor won 2nd in his first and only tournament this year!!!

Some of our members did some traveling over the summer months and enjoyed the hospitality of our neighboring clubs. All pitchers who were able to attend the Fortuna Bear River money tournament had a very good time and were extremely well fed. The raffle table was so well stocked most people bought twice as many tickets as they normally do, I know I sure did! And we had a very nice dinner at the Bear River Casino after which we all tried our luck at the games of chance, some were very lucky, I sure wasn't! Each day, early risers

were treated to a huge breakfast prepared by our gracious hosts, Sharon and Bill Paddock and all their helpers then on Sunday before we left for home, everybody enjoyed a nice lunch complements of the Fortuna club and their enthusiastic members.

Robert Harrall, one of our members flew to Tennessee for the world tournament, he had a good time! A few of our members are planning to pitch in the NCHPA Championships this month and some of the guys are trying to put a team together for the team championships next month. Good luck to all the pitchers in the next few tournaments and hopefully we will keep pitching without complaining for the next few of months then look forward to seeing everybody next season.

Happy holidays to you all and may God bless you.

Lorena Tournour

Madera

If you want advice on how to pitch horseshoes, the man you want to talk to in Madera is Art Burt. Art is an avid horseshoe pitcher who is more than willing to share his skill and techniques with any up and coming shooter.

Art began pitching horseshoe with his dad and uncle in 1943. His uncle Willard Clark, was a member of NHPA club in Arroyo Grande, California and taught Art to pitch the 11/2 turn shoe. Art has been a member of NHPA for over twenty years and along with his family members, has pitched with several clubs through out Northern Ca.

Art is a charter member of the Madera, club and has worked actively as an officer and worker to increase the growth in membership. Art currently maintains an above 50% average and attends tournaments almost every weekend. Art has served as a Madera, delegate to the annual Nor-Cal meeting for the past several years. Art is extremely proud of the new Madera, horseshoe pitching complex and recently work to bring the foul lines into compliance. Whether giving advice to new pitchers or working to improve his game Art is a valued member of the Madera club and to the NHPA. **Harlen Rippetoe**

San Jose

Hello from San Jose! We have had some very exciting tournaments this year. Everyone has had a great time pitching and enjoyed all of the good food afterward. Thanks to everyone that has been here to help us celebrate.

Good news from those that went to the State tournament. Tim Saunders won 1st in Men's Class B; Mike Anderson was 4th in Men's Class K and Don Kies was 2nd in Elders Class B.

Don't forget to purchase several of our "Recipe Books" for Christmas gifts this year. They are only \$15.00 each and will be treasured by every one for the delicious and

easy recipes. Our club really appreciates all of your support.

We are all again looking forward to our annual Christmas party.

I hope that all of you have a happy, healthy and wonderful holiday season and we look forward to seeing you on the courts in San Jose in 2013. **Nancy Ann Cloutier**

Fortuna

The Bear River Casino tournament was a success. We had our nine courts full with morning and afternoon shifts. The weather was nice once the fog lifted each morning. There were 38 pitchers that made up 4 groups. In each group 1st place paid \$200, 2nd place \$150, 3rd place \$90 and 4th place \$70. The ten person groups paid down 5 places. Congratulations to Tom Webb who won the top group for the 2nd year in a row and had 3-80% games, Kimmy took 2nd, Dave Loucks 3rd and Rick 4th place. Group 2 was won by Gil Tournour, Linda took 2nd, Bernie 3rd, and Charles 4th. Group 3 was won by Wayne George, Verdan 2nd, Matt 3rd and Larry 4th. Group 4 was won by Denny Currier, Tim 2nd, Fritz 3rd and Cecil 4th.

Fortuna Club rolled out the red carpet. We had a large authentic looking Covered Wagon with a large sign on it that said "FORTUNA or BUST", plus nine tents set up with double thick air mattress, chair and lamp in each. The covered wagon had a queen mattress and lamp. All were full except one. (Just in off the ticker tape Tom Webb came in 2nd in Elder men's Championship at the State! averaged 62.6 % congratulations)

Meals were provided (free of charge) for most of the weekend. Our own Tim Sjoquist won his horseshoe membership paid for a year. We put on a huge raffle with unique items and the players supported Fortuna Club in a generous manner. Friday night we had great singing and music around the camp fire. Harlen Rippetoe was there with his guitar, Tim Warlick with his accordion, Ralph Lightner and Del Trask with their guitars and our daughter Candice Trask with her sweet voice, Steve Huntoon playing the spoons (he is good) and another gentleman with a mandolin. These guys really could play and sing, ask some of the pitchers in attendance. Candice Trask and Larry Pacheco won the doubles Friday afternoon. I believe everyone had a great time. We also had a 80th birthday party for Don Stephens on Sunday.. Sincerely, **Bill Paddock**

Sonoma County

We held a mystery money tournament that everyone thought was great fun. In fact, we'll do it again in 2013. Look for a flyer in an upcoming issue of this newsletter. If you've never experienced this type of event you really need to come and experience it.

We will again hold the Greeott B-day open only this time it will be his 103rd, (the Lord willing) in April. There will be a count-all tourney along with an NHPF benefit, plus some standard mixed events. We have numerous motels plus a great fairgrounds camping spot for those with RV's. **Casey Sluys**

Sacramento Club

Congratulations, Sacramento Club members Rick Birmingham, Wayne George and Matt Smith for their first places finish at the State Tournament. In addition, congratulations to Sacramento Club members Gil Chan and Jessica Lichau who recently became engaged. Thank you to Tony Latino who waters the Sacramento courts throughout the summer and Matt Smith for performing the necessary yard work.

The Sacramento Club was happy to see Anita and Rick Haas pitching again as Anita overcame a surgery to her shoulder. We were also fortunate to pick-up some great members from Yolo, Don and Wendell Stephens, and Walt Stafford to name a few. Thank you to those who pitched in Sacramento and braved the heat; especially those who stuck around to pitch in the afternoon. We had amazing pitchers such as Tom Webb who traveled from Fortuna and so many other wonderful people including Harry Begay, Pat Murtha, Wayne George, Gene Washoe, Delia Garza, Danny Hernandez, Kim Stockli, Rick Eddy, Fritz Oberst, Audrey Winters, Peter Chaverria, Sue Lichau and Travis Sluys to name a few. Our club is grateful for your support. As the year, winds down we would also like to thank the many volunteers who kept score and judged. These important volunteers gave the gift of their time so that pitchers can concentrate on their games. **Cathy Kauffman**

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The following went out to all NHPA Charters' email lists. It is published in this issue in the hopes of reaching all horseshoe pitchers.

With this email we, the directors of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation (NHPF), would like to inform you about the National Hall of Fame &

Museum, and how we were set up to support it. As a charitable non-profit, the NHPF, incorporated by then NHPA president Dave Loucks, raised the money to build the Hall of Fame facility now located in Wentzville, MO.

Our goal is to tell you a bit about the history of how this Hall of Fame, Museum and wonderful indoor pitching facility came to be. But first, let us give you a brief historical glimpse of horseshoe pitching.

It is accepted history that horseshoe pitching had its origin in a modification of the game of quoits which itself evolved from the Grecian game of throwing a discus. In 1869, the first rules to govern the game were set up in England and being a favorite pastime of soldiers, horseshoe pitching soon found its way to the United States.

The first organized ruling body for the game came into being on May 16, 1914 in Kansas City, KS. It was called The Grand League of the American Horseshoe Pitchers Association. With this association, leagues in many states were formed and therein began changes to the rules, equipment and scoring of the game.

On May 10, 1921, the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association of the United States was incorporated in the State of Ohio. Within two years, this new organization consolidated with the Grand League of American Horseshoe Pitchers and on February 26, 1925, changed its name to The National Horseshoe Pitchers Association of America.

The NHPA is an association of nearly 60 chapters in the United States, Canada and a few foreign countries. It is the recognized governing body for the game of horseshoe pitching. With over 100 years of pitching here in the United States, it only stands to reason that the organization sought to find a place to store and display its history and heritage.

In the 1970's the NHPA began to set aside small amounts of the association treasury to one day have the funds to build a Hall of Fame & Museum. By 1985, those funds were only about \$75,000, nowhere near the amount that would be needed to build if a location was found. The NHPA Council then authorized the deposit of these funds into interest bearing accounts, which grew to a bit more than \$160,000 when they were used in January 1997 to open the bank account of the newly formed National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation.

Jack Freeman was a prominent doctor of Pathology in Nashville and an avid horseshoe pitcher. He owned 3 parcels of land in Joelton, TN, on which 38-covered horseshoe courts had been built. Jack offered to gift the courts and land as a site for the NHPA to build their Hall of Fame. The gift was contingent upon it being tax deductible. As the NHPA is not a charitable organization, it was proposed to the convention delegates that they approve a plan that would allow the establishment of a non-profit charitable foundation. This was approved and the NHPF was incorporated in September 1996 and granted charitable status by the IRS in 1997.

Due to appraised value, the 3 Joelton parcels could only be gifted separately, each about 3 years apart. Regrettably, Jack Freeman died before the last of his intended parcels to the NHPF could be gifted. With his demise and the absence of an active club, it became apparent that Joelton, TN, was not the ideal location for the Hall of Fame. While searching for another location, the NHPF spent nearly a year negotiating with the Freeman estate to purchase the remaining ungifted parcel and then about another year before being able to sell all the Joelton property and improvements.

Fortunately, Joe Faron on behalf of the 200 members strong New Melle Horseshoe Club, came forth and offered to oversee the operation of a Hall of Fame and court facility if it could be built in their area. After much investigation and discussion of other potential sites, it was felt that no better location could be found than the Quail Ridge Park site, which would put us at the crossroads of America. Negotiations began and agreements were reached with the St. Charles County officials and on October 5, 2007, this wonderful facility was dedicated and opened to the public.

While many people were involved in specific segments of this million dollar building project, it could not have happened if it were not for the initial gifts of Jack Freeman, the indomitable spirit and support of Joe Faron and the unending fund-raising and leadership of Dave Loucks.

Now as a continuing effort to raise funds for our Hall of Fame we are asking you to become part of the heritage of the sport that has given you so many hours of pleasure.

Please contribute what you can? Send your donations or brick order forms to: **NHPF P.O. Box 1628 Penn Valley, CA 95946**

For more information please see:

<http://www.nhpf.info/index.html>

<http://www.nhpf.info/brochure/CommemorativeBricks.html>

<http://www.nhpf.info/brochure/BrickOrderForm.html>

Enjoy your winter and holiday season, I'll be asking for more input on Dec. 15th. Begin writing now we need to hear from you!

LITHUANIA TRIP

TAFISA The Association For International Sports for All conducted its 5th World Sports Games for all in Siauliai, (sholay), Lithuania.

Horseshoe pitching along with the South African sport of Jukskei, combined as Precision Throwing Sports and The International Jukskei Federation were represented at these games. The countries represented were *South Africa*; Tinus Barnard, Buks van der Berg, Karien Marais, and Elna van der Berg. *Namibia*; Gieliana Boshoff, Francois Boshoff, Erik Strauss, and Johan Botma. *United States*; Gary Roberts, Travis Sluys, and Casey Sluys.

Although we had anticipated being able to showcase our sports for multiple days we were only able to do so for one complete day at two different venues. The second of which was an hour bus ride away and in a different city of Radviliskis. This second venue proved to be more popular with the citizens of Lithuania than the first. The first venue was at the stadium in Siauliai where multiple other countries delegates had a chance to pitch horseshoes of play Jukskei. We had Japanese, Russian, Polish, Australian, Romanian, Swedish and various others pitch a few horseshoes. Each participant was handed an NHPA brochure and an NHPA pin, as were many others who did not participate.

TAFISA is high on ceremony and their grand opening was a spectacular show. Their closing ceremony was grand also with Lithuanian ceremony, costumes and dance.

My personal opinion is that the participants in TAFISA are mainly representatives of their respective countries. Whether it was ceremonial

dances, or a specific sport indigenously to that country, they all seemed to be sponsored by their governments. Their dress were costumes or uniforms, but each group representing a country was dressed alike. As we were a contingent of 3 countries all 3 groups were dressed differently.

The thing we need to hold on to is our association with Jukskei as a combined association known as Precision Throwing Sports. The reason for that association will become more apparent during the 2013 World Horseshoe Pitching Championships in St. George, Utah. We have a commitment from Namibia to participate in our WT that year we hope that representatives from South Africa will again participate also. If both those countries participate in our WT we will also hold an International Jukskei Championships during the WT. Everyone is invited to learn more about this sport at: <http://www.jukskei.co.za/>

All in all it was a wonderful cultural experience for Travis and myself though. *Casey Sluys*

2013 Pitching Schedule:

Deadline is October 15.

I have yet to hear from the following clubs regarding the 2013 pitching schedule: Forebay Park, Gold Country, Half Moon Bay, Indian Valley, Madera, San Francisco, San Jose, Shingle Springs, Stockton, Tulare, Tuolumne, Turlock. All you need to have your proposed 2013 pitching schedule in to me by Oct 15, 2012. We need the month before our annual meeting to negotiate with clubs on dates that conflict. The final printing will not occur until after our annual meeting though. It's there that we decide where the NCHPA Championships and the Club Team Championships will be held. We also need to hear a report by the Stockton Club as we are planning to host the CA State Championships there in 2013.

It looks as though we may be able to compile a manageable schedule in 2013 with only 8 clubs responding to my schedule request? The tournament sanctioning certificates and all patches for 2013 are in my hand and will be issued as soon as the schedule is completed. Please tell your club officers to compile a 2013 pitching schedule and send it in. *Casey Sluys*

State Championships

I would like to thank all the California State Pitchers for their support at the 2012 State Championships. From the Tournament Committee that held it together and made the adjustments to keep things smooth. All the

Scorekeepers that volunteered their time and filled out the score sheets completely, to the unpaid Judges that worked when they could have been sitting around, and the Pitchers that came out looking to help with anything that was needed to be done. I thought it was a very good turn out, and it couldn't have happened without your help. The heat was mild compared to normal Bakersfield summers, and that helped the family members stick around, and enjoy the sport as well. We had only a few Pitchers drop out during the day, and the one that stood out the most is still in the hospital and is expecting to have a procedure on Wednesday to see where they need to go from there. He called me a few times and was doing fine now (*under Medication*) and the competitor in him wished he could have continued.

Let's take a look at the high lights of the tournament. We had 167 Pitchers pitch 696 games. We totaled 16,748 ringers in 57,408 shoes. The (92) SCHPA Pitchers averaged 27.67% and the (75) NCHPA Pitchers averaged 30.90%. The SCHPA had (12) first place finishers and the NCHPA had (10) and the exact same numbers for second place finishers. Lisa Atwell and Charles Woolery from the SCHPA turned in an 80% game. Alan Trusty from the NCHPA hit his first 81% game. There were many pitchers on both sides that hit high 70 percent games. The one that stood out the most to me was the Ken Woolery vs. Jesse Gonzales Sr. game. They pitched in the 2nd to last Elders Championship game with 84 shoes. With 106 dead shoes and 128 ringers between the two, it looked like Jesse was going to end it around shoe 58. With the score at 35 – 21 Jesse hit a 6 pack, and Ken covered it, again, again, again..... (6) Four dead in a row. Ken then hit 3 (6) packs for 3 ringers 3 to got the score up to 31 – 39 when Ken hit one ringer and Jesse covered it with a 6 pack for the win.

There were a lot of classes with ties on the win/loss records. The Men's Championship finished with 5 Pitchers at 7-4 for second place. Four of them were from

the NCHPA. Steve Belikoff was one of them and was put in the Championship Class at the last minute when two top Pitchers dropped out. Men's B Class had a 4 way tie for 3rd Place and the same in the Men's D Class. Men's E class had a 6 way tie for 4th place. The Men's F Class had a 3 way tie for 2nd place and the same in the Men's I Class. The Elders C Class finished with a 3-way for 3rd. These were all in for the money payouts, so every ringer counts if you don't win all your games.

The stat's have been posted on the NHPA web site for you to look at. If you want a copy of your complete Round Robin emailed, then let me know. I can't express enough how much I appreciate all the support we received from both Charters. Horseshoe Pitchers and their families are the best and it's what keeps me going. My pitching is down right now, but my love for the game is over the top. The Bakersfield "Shoe Crew" has a great staff and has this State Championships thing down to a science. The shirts were awesome again this year. Unfortunate about the vendor's family having so many things going on at the same time. They still want to make things right with you, so please contact them for your shirts to be made. They are perfect to wear at any tournament. I'll see you at the pits. **Dale Hughes**
(Dale is SCHPA statistician and 5th VP)

****Is it me --or do buffalo wings taste like chicken?***

"What I am worried about is the continuing decline in membership, but I don't think you can blame the NHPA Executive council or the NCHPA executive council for that. I believe that is a grass roots problem and doesn't have anything to do with the length of games or complexity of the rules. Very few people are willing to expend any energy to see that their local club or the charter, to which they belong, is thriving. Some say they would be glad to donate more money. Many are glad to donate verbal help. The sport doesn't need more money as much as it needs able bodies willing to do something besides pitch a few shoes. The work force is getting older and dying off. If no one else is willing to take over the load, then the club dies. There are vacant court complexes all over the nation because of this. I don't think anyone can deny that fact. I think the reason those courts are vacant is what is causing the decline in membership. If nobody wants to do the work, the club dies and those members are lost. It's as simple as that and I believe this is the biggest concern at the moment. What horseshoe pitching needs is more willing workers in the local clubs, charters and at the national level." **Submitted to the NHPA Forum.**

NCHPA

CLUB TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

DATES: October 6th & 7th 2012

LOCATION: Tri-Valley Club

1. **ENTRY FEE:** \$80.00 per team. This is a **2-day event** and **pre-registration is required**. Entry deadline is Sept. 29th
2. Teams may be mixed, may include juniors (but may not be all juniors), and must have 4 players per team. Each team may register 1 alternate player to be used in case of injury,
3. All players must be NCHPA members and be a member or associate member of the club they represent. **All participants must wear a shirt of the club they represent and have their name neatly on the back.**
4. Day One Tournament play will consist of 7 - 30 shoe, count-all games using an 80% handicap. We will need to have scorekeepers therefore a final decision has not yet been made to pitch all teams at once or in two shifts. Pitching times for Saturday will be 10:00 A.M. & 12:30 P.M – depending on the number of entries a final decision will be made about the pitching schedule when we know how many teams are signed up. The finals will consist of the top 8 teams from the Saturday's rounds carrying over totals and will be played at 9:30A.M. Sunday. Finals will be 7 - 40 shoe, count-all games using an 80% handicap with 20 bonus points for each player win and 40 bonus points for each team that wins 3 or more games in any single round. The 2-day points total including bonus points will determine final standings. All teams should plan to play on Sunday because the first alternate team will replace any team not able to return for the finals.
5. Prize money will be determined by the number of teams entered and will be announced.
Each day will count as a separate tournament because they are played under different formats. Pitchers are required to pay scorekeepers 50 cents per game each day.

Deadline Sept.29th

Cut on line below and mail bottom only

Deadline Sept 29th

Club Name _____

Team Members: 1. _____ **2.** _____

3. _____ **4.** _____

Team Captain _____ **Alternate** _____

Pitching time request _____

**Send check, made payable to NCHPA, in the amount of \$80.00 per team to:
Gail Sluys 1721 San Ramon Wy. Santa Rosa, CA
Be sure to mark your pitching time request.**

NCHPA

Annual Meeting & Dinner

Saturday, November 3rd

Dine With NCHPA Friends & Honor 2012 Award Recipients

Location: Florin Rebekah Hall, 8360 Florin Road, Sacramento CA 95828

Annual Meeting: 10:30 am to 4:00 pm

Dinner & NCHPA Awards: 5:00 pm

Dinner Cost: \$20 per person

Catered by Big Joe's BBQ

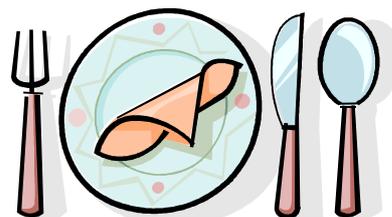
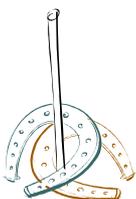
*Tri-tip, Chicken, Bread & Rolls, Garden and Potato Salads,
Wine & Soft Drinks*

Payment & Questions: Contact Gail Sluys at (707) 538-3128 or gsluys@sbcglobal.net. Deadline for payment is October 31st. Checks should be made payable to NCHPA. Mail to Gail Sluys at: 1721 San Ramon Way, Santa Rosa CA 94909.

Please Remit to Gail with Payment Enclosed

Name: _____

Number of Dinners Requested: _____ **Amount Enclosed:** _____



<http://www.nchpa.com>

<http://www.horseshoepitching.com>

Editor: Casey Sluys

1721 San Ramon Wy.

Santa Rosa, CA 95409-3964



Dates are: 7/22-8/3, 2013

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA HORSESHOE PITCHERS ASSOCIATION

President

Harlen A. Rippetoe
18865 Shore Dr.
Madera, CA 93638-0272
(559) 662-1994
ripnsharon@aol.com

1st. Vice President

Joe Summers .
231 Escondido Ln.
Martinez, CA 94553
(925) 260-0915
jwsummers55@yahoo.com

2nd. Vice President

Hall of Fame/Assist. RD

Rick Bermingham
1450 Kingswood Dr. Apt22.
Roseville, CA 95670
(916) 271-4784
rickbermingham@yahoo.com

3rd. Vice President

Paper Supplies/Social Sec.

John Barney
270 E. 8th St
Lincoln, CA 95648-2031
(916) 253-9897 or (916) 295-0344
barneyjhon@yahoo.com

4th. Vice President

Junior Promotion/By-Laws

Robert Cocagne
23532 Rd. 140
Tulare, CA 93274-9646
(559) 303-5585
cocagne@aol.com

5th. Vice President

New Members/Ast. Nwsltr Ed

Cathy Kauffman
6046 Revolution Lane
Citrus Heights, CA 95621
(916) 397-4146
catdkauffman@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer

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

NCHPA Statistician

Wayne George
1122 N. Gem St
Tulare, CA 93274
(805) 540-0842
wayne.george@yahoo.com

NHPA Regional Director

Webmaster Liaison/Newsletter Editor
NHPA Charter Communication Liaison
Casey Sluys
(707) 477-8893
kclus@sbcglobal.net