

NOR-CAL NEWS & VIEWS

Apr/May/June 2008

Volume 11 #2

The official newsletter of the Northern California Horseshoe Pitcher's Association
Northern California Horseshoe Pitching Association Website address is:
www.NCHPA.com
Visit the NHPA website at: horseshoepitching.com

See inside for the complete and latest additions to the NCHPA schedule. This copy should be used and can be considered accurate until further notice.

**Your NCHPA
Statistician is: Lee Roy
Lassiter 2525 Toyon St.
Anderson, CA 96007 (530)
365-7047 *be certain he
receives all your results***

2nd. VP Rick Bermingham

Thank you for your support
I did not get a chance to say thank you to the following people after winning the State Tournament. Thanks to everyone in the Golden Horseshoe League, especially Chuck Smith! Dean and Dud Setters, you are like family to me. You never lost faith in me. Thank you for the encouragement from Casey and Gail Sluys, Dave and Cathy Loucks. Sam and Stacy Triano, Andy Loobey, Gail Kane, Al Hoelscher, Most of all, the Rippetoe families, Glen Harlen and Othal I have known you for over 20 years, you always said I would win the State Title if I got my head screwed on straight. Since picking up a horseshoe you have all been good friends to me. John Sylvester you helped me so much by telling me to raise my shoe. Last but not least Dave Harker for practicing with me for three months every night before the state tournament.
Thanks again, see everyone this year!
Rick Bermingham

3rd VP Linda Hoelscher

I would like to welcome the new members of the NCHPA. We look forward to meeting you at the various tournaments. At this time we have forty-four new members. The breakdown is 2 jr. boys 1 jr. girl 30 men and 11 women. Everyone please help these new members with the etiquette of our sport. New members packets are being put together to be sent out. But, if you need a schedule or maps to the various clubs ask the contact person of your club or someone in your club who has access to the Internet and hopefully someone can make copies of what you need for you. A new schedule is going to be in this issue of the news and views. Thanks Casey for all your hard work in this matter. See everyone on the courts.*LindaHoelscher*

San Jose Horseshoe Club Golden

Eagles are really glad to let everyone know that after 9 years we now have a new Horseshoe Complex with 21 courts and want to invite everyone to the six tournaments that we have on the schedule for this year.

We would especially like to thank the Tri-Valley Club for all of the years that they let us host a yearly tournament so that we could stay a sanctioned club. It was a long process and many meetings with the city of San Jose to finally acquire a new location for our club. We want to thank Hugh Cloutier for the many meetings with the City and Parks & Recreation that he went to and all of the effort that he put in to keep our club going. We would also like to thank all of the horseshoe pitchers that showed up for the many city meetings that came to our aid and showed support. It was truly appreciated by everyone.

Our new complex is very visible and easily accessible. It is in San Jose on the corner of Taylor and Spring. We are just off of Fwy. 880/17 Coleman exit; Fwy 87 Taylor exit and 101 to So.880 Coleman exit. We now have over 35 members and growing. Our 2008 tournaments are April 12; June 7 & 8; August 23 & 24 and September 14. We'll see you there for lots of Food! and Fun!

Our 2008 Club Officers:

President Al Lopez, Vice President Kevin Jones, Secretary/Treasurer Nancy Ann Cloutier. *Nancy Ann Cloutier*

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Talk to your local Business's about an ad. (All ads are to be Black & White). Business Card size is \$25.00 per year. ¼ page size is \$60.00 per year. Send your check(s) & ad(s) to Gail Sluys, NCHPA News & Views, 1721 San Ramon Wy., Santa Rosa, CA. 95409. Make check(s) payable to **NCHPA**. Need information; call Casey at (707) 538-3128 or e-mail at kclus@sbcglobal.net

Support the NHPF

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

The NHPA Hall of Fame is now open in Wentzville, MO. Be sure to stop by on your way to the World Tournament in York, PA July 7-19, 2008. We still need your financial support though ...please help?

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If you, or a member of your household, were a member in 2007 and you've not yet joined in 2008 you will not receive a copy of this newsletter. It's very important that your dues are paid and as such we send this free of charge to the paid up 2008 households.

Madera Club is formed

As of February 2008 The Big Valley Horseshoe Club became the Northern California Horseshoe Pitchers Assoc. (NORCAL) newest charter member. After five years of hard work the club is finally established. Madera signed up 11 eleven members and expects to grow in the coming years. Five years in the planning, the 90K horseshoe courts are completed. The courts have state of the art lighting and cement walkways. The ten sanctioned courts are located at the Rotary Park on Gateway Drive in Madera California with easy access to the Hwy 99. The Courts are enclosed by wrought iron fencing and are located adjacent to the park pavilion and restrooms. They are already beginning to see use. The site is used frequently for family reunions and picnics. Madera has scheduled two NORCAL tournaments on June 7, 2008 and September 21, 2008. Acting Club Secretary Harlen Rippetoe indicates that the new courts will allow horseshoe pitchers from through the state to enjoy the city of Madera and appreciate the city's support for the sport of horseshoe pitching.

Indian Valley Club The only thing I have for the paper this week is that the snow is finally leaving the courts and just remember that our June tournaments are MONEY TOURNAMENTS. What a father's day gift to take home the money. First place will be a \$50 dollar pay off and second place with be \$25, so come on to Indian Valley and take home the money.

Vallejo resident heads to hall

Times-Herald staff report

Article Launched: 02/10/2008 08:04:28

Cherrie Sherrard is used to big events. There were the 1960 Olympics in Tokyo, where she competed in the 80-meter hurdles. Then there were the 1967 Pan-Am games in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, where she won the same event. Not to mention the countless track meets since then, including the 2004 Senior Games in Eugene, Ore., where she set the record for the shot put with a toss of 32 feet, 2 inches. But Saturday, Sherrard took part in another big event. She was inducted into the African-American Ethnic Sports Hall of Fame in a ceremony at the Temple Hill Theater in Oakland. Sherrard went into the hall with other Bay Area stars such as former Raider Fred Williamson and former 49er Jimmy Johnson. Sherrard, nearing 70, grew up in San Francisco and Dallas, and lived in Chico for 35 years before moving to Vallejo about 10 years ago, but hasn't slowed down her athletic endeavors. "I plan on doing this for as long as I can," she told the Times-Herald last May, "and

then it will be time for horseshoes." Sherrard holds 11 records in over 30 years competing on the Masters circuit for athletes over the age of 35.

More **Vallejo Club**

Congratulations to our own Cherrie Sherrard for being inducted into the African American Ethnic Sports Hall of Fame for her accomplishments in track and field. On Saturday, February 9th, 2008, Cherrie and several other inductees were celebrated at a Ceremony held in Oakland, CA. Other inductees included Hal Perry (USF Basketball), Fred Williamson (Raiders Football), Chauncey Bailey (Wendell Smith Media Award), Chuck Muncie (Football), Jimmy Johnson (49er Football), George Carty (Track and Field), and Dr. Harry Edward (Sports Activist). What a grand line-up for Cherrie to be included in. Cherrie, we are all very proud to have you as a member of the Vallejo Horseshoe Club and a member of the NCHPA! What an honor! *Kimmy Stockli*

You have something to say, say it here we have lots of room for articles from clubs and individuals. If the schedule, new member stuff and etiquette weren't in this issue we'd have only 8 pages!

Flash! How to become a better pitcher.

Build yourself a backyard pit. Nothing fancy or expensive. First the obvious, you must have enough area to support such. Mine is very simple in design. Three sided structure of 2" x 6" lumber 3'wide and 4' long. Poured pitching platform on the side I use only, poured to foul line only. Full-length walkways are nice, but a lot of work and added dough. My stakes I got at Van Beeber for about 60 cents an inch, 36" in length. I welded a 8" triangle of 3/16" plate steel 18" down to serve as a spade to help keep stake at proper angle, otherwise stake gets loose in dirt and will lie down and go to sleep with all the ringers you will pitch. Fill pit with about 3-5 gallon buckets of river sand or tidal sand, same stuff. Keep wet to make firm. All important specifications are in local handouts. A backyard pit will keep your distance and overall motion in check. Play for 15 or 200 minutes a day, it will definitely help. See pit construction on the NHPA website for details. *Dale Haskin*

Stockton Club

Here it is March 2008 already and there have been some Tournaments played already, but I checked the horseshoepitching.com and none of

our scheduled Tournaments in February are listed. Maybe they got rained out or something.

Our first tournaments come up on March 29 and 30 here; we hope we will have a good turn out on both tournaments.

Hopefully we will not get rained out as we have in other years.

Harvey Monk, Robert Russ, and I went out to pits to change the rugs last month on Tue. as they were in bad shape, but we didn't have enough new rugs so we didn't finish.

Harvey showed me where to pick up new rugs; we got a few to finish the pits. Harvey went home and I needed to get my window repaired on my truck so I took it to my Ford Dealer (big mistake) and I left the truck overnight so they could fix the window.

Wed. morning Harvey calls and wants to go to the courts and cut up the rugs we picked up Tue. I had to tell Harvey that I left my truck at the dealer Tue. to be fixed and the rugs were in the truck. I got my truck back Wed. afternoon, I called Harvey, went to the courts, cut up the new rugs to size, got enough for 13 more pits.

On the way home I remembered that I was supposed to meet Robert Russ at 2:00 p.m. to pitch horseshoes so I made a u-turn to see if Robert was still at the park, he was and we pitched one game of 13 then I had to get home.

So, what happens, Harvey calls me Wed. morning wants to go work on the pits, Had to tell Harvey that I had company coming Wed. and was going out to lunch. Worse yet I had jury duty on Thu.

Harvey decided that it had to be done and he didn't want to wait until Fri. to do the work. Harvey did it by himself. What a guy, that's dedication.

Tomorrow, I'll meet Harvey at the pits to finish up on what he began on Wed.. Harvey taught me quite a bit on how to take care of the pits to get them ready for our first tournament on Mar. 29th.

Sam our President asked me to try to set up our March breakfast meeting on the last week of March. This is the best week for him to make our breakfast meeting, so I notify all the members and asked them to let me know which day of the week they could not make the meeting and when I got their response I made a reservation with the restaurant and then I called Sam and let him know that everything was set for a Thursday morning Breakfast meeting, but then Sam told me that he couldn't get off work so we had to change the date to April 1st. Guess what, April 1st is April Fool's Day...nawww he wouldn't do that. *Peter P. Chavarria*

Tuolumne Club

Tuolumne Club held its first tournament of the year, its "18th Annual Tournament", on March 8. The weather was great with the temperature in the

high 60's, and the courts were in good condition. We had 20 pitchers pitching in three groups. The winners in group 1 was tied by Tom Munoz & Teddy Guillotte. but because Tom was hurting, he and Teddy both agreed to flipping a coin instead of a play off. Tom won the toss for 1st place & Teddy settled for 2nd place. Group 2- 1st place was won by David Lane. 2nd place was taken by Judy Harris, Group 3 was won by Bill Harris and 2nd place was Bob Conyers. Tuolumne Club would like to make an apology to the pitchers. It was brought to our attention that we charged a \$10.00 entry fee and it was not coded in on the tournament schedule, an oversight on our part.

Sorry people, it was the first mistake we ever made (smile). We were scheduled for 2 tournaments on April 26th & 27th, but Stockton scheduled for the same dates, so Tuolumne cancelled those dates **and re-scheduled them for August 2nd & 3rd**. Our next scheduled tournament will be the "Black Oak Casino" tournament, which is a two-day same event money tournament. Flyers will be sent to all clubs well in advance of the tournament. A big thank you has to go to Glen & Shirley Jamison for doing the stats and keeping the games moving right along. Tuolumne Club lost another member. After fighting cancer for over a year, my wife, (for 58 years), Peggy was finally called home by our good Lord on Jan. 20th. Peggy was a very loving person, she really enjoyed visiting and talking with the horseshoe pitchers and their spouses. She was always looking forward to the next tournament that she could attend. I am sure she will be greatly missed. Hope you see you all at the Black Oak Casino tournament in June. *Fred Reibin*

Tri-Valley Club

Lillian Lloyd passes:
A member of Tri-Valley since 1980 Lillian Lloyd passed away on January 8th 2008. Lillian was born on January 31.1922 in Kansas and migrated to Newark, CA. in 1940 and then moved to Pleasanton in 1992. Lillian was known for her caring personality and her warm smile. She handled the shirt orders for the world tournament held in Pleasanton in 1988. Driving across the bay several times to place and pick up the orders. Also Lillian and her husband Bob used to carry members to various tournaments in their van. That's when the club used to go to various tournaments for a weekend trip. Lillian was great for getting our club members to go out for dinner after a tournament. Even after she stopped pitching shoes she would come out and help keep score and also join us at our monthly potlucks and meetings. On February 17th several members from our club attended a Celebration of Life for

Lillian. It was a nice time to visit and remember Lil. We will miss her. On May 4th we will host a walking doubles tournament. This is a fun tournament to participate in you can bring your own partner or one will be assigned to you. The two combined averages cannot be higher than 100%. It is a handicapped tournament. And a ten-dollar entry fee per person. Hope you can come and have fun with us. The May 24, 2008 tournament named Tri-Valley Hall of Fame Recognition will have an added Five Hundred Dollars to the prize money. This money will be added to the usual prize money awarded and split among all groups, which will be announced by the tournament director before the tournament starts. The entry fee for the day is the normal fee of ten dollars. Hope you will attend. *Linda Hoelscher*

Be sure to carpool to an out of the area tournament. Not only do you save money on fuel, but also you get the enjoyment of riding with friends!

Sacramento Club

The 2008 schedule has posted that all our Sunday tournaments will be 40/30 splits but depending on attendance this could change on tournament day. We had 32 in attendance for our Holiday get together and general meeting. We catered tri-tip from a local guy (very good) and reasonable. We voted to raise our club dues to \$8.00 a year for active members and kept associate membership at \$5.00. We appreciate the support. New roster of officers is Glenn Rippetoe- President, Chuck Smith-Vice President, Joe Johnston-Secretary and Joan Bryan-Treasurer/Membership. Looking forward to seeing everyone for our April tournaments. A few added tidbits- Glenn and Judette Rippetoe spent Christmas cruising the high seas with their children and grand children.

Larry and Marilyn Thorsen have moved up to Anacortes, WA. Paul Peterson passed away on Jan. 2, 2008. We will miss his smiling face. He so loved the game.

Richard 'Pinky' Cattaneo is also recovering from surgery and extended treatments.

Ralph Carter is still on the mend and doing some weight training to build up strength for he is 'biting at the bit' to get back on the pits.

Congratulations to Harlan Rippetoe for getting the new Madera, Ca. club up and running and on the 2008 schedule. We are happy to hear that Sam Godbloude and Pete Chavarria are working to keep the Stockton Club alive and on the roster. Hope they can convince Harvey Monk out of retirement. We would miss seeing him. See you all on the circuit. *Joan Bryan*

Sonoma County Club

We would like to welcome the following new members to the Sonoma County Horseshoe Pitchers Club: John Diaz; Sue Lichau; Terri Treder.

John came to us though, Dale Haskin, a relatively new member himself, talking up horseshoe pitching with friends, and Terri and Sue came to us through Rob and Kristen Munderloh. We welcome these three new members and sincerely hope they find a long-standing friendship with the sport of horseshoe pitching and all the wonderful people involved with it. It's really great to see Kristen back pitching with us. She pitched some years ago and now that the kids are grown she is finding more time for pitching. Dale was the very first one to sign up for the California State Championships to be held in Bakersfield. That's an indication of how dedicated he has become. He will undoubtedly improve his average a great deal this year; already this year in sanctioned league play he has pitched a 38% game. Travis Sluys is no longer a Cadet, he has to move back to 27 feet and become part of the regular junior class from now on. Although it slowed him a little he is still accurate with his flip. He's qualified at 22% from his new distance. Our good humor man, Greg Ellisen, had a birthday March 5th and is now eligible to pitch from the short distance mark. Look for him to improve his game once he feels comfortable from the shorter distance. Reed Beaman and Charlie Masson were pitching in league, Charlie at 32% and Reed at 6%; they had four dead, news? You bet! I told Reed I'd write it up for him. (Smile Reed) Reed'll be improving his game this year by a bunch also. Court maintenance is always a chore, but between Frank Cmelik, Reed, Dale, and others it makes the job much easier. Thanks guys!

Our sanctioned league began with the advent of daylight savings time and we began the league with 14 dedicated pitchers. As new members join they can immediately begin pitching in this league as we simply pitch 50 shoe games, counting ringers, points, and shoes on a rack with washers on it, then writing the score on a home made sheet and turning it over to Gail for input into HS Master for a running total. As an example of last year's statistics, folks pitched anywhere from 500 shoes to 2400 shoes. We handicap the league at 80% and use alternate pitch format and it does not matter who pitches whom. Of course we try to rotate pitchers so everyone pitches each other a few times throughout the year, but there are weeks when only 6 can be there and sometimes one person will play the same person they pitched against last week. This is by far the most informal sanctioned league in the country, as most leagues will use a time limit and a set number of games a

player has to pitch. We've found our method to be most 'user friendly' (if you'll pardon the term). A pitcher can miss any number of weeks and suffer absolutely no penalty. Call or email me for more details if you think you want to begin a league like this.

Added fun at all Sonoma County Tournaments in 2008

Here's the deal.....

You pitch 6 different horseshoes. In this order:

1. A Clydesdale
2. A picnic shoe
3. One of your own
4. A steel real horseshoe
5. A pony shoe
6. An aluminum real horseshoe

At \$1.00 a try whoever gets the most points wins the pot.

Scoring will follow NHPA rules.

There'll be a short-distanced group and a full-distanced group.

Gail and I had the occasion to attend a 70th birthday party for Greg Ellisen. Generally he was roasted pretty good, coulda been a lot worse though, it was all in good taste. In attendance were George Greeott, Ray Parnay, Dan Estabrook, and Steve and Dianne Shortridge, all former pitchers in our club. They are all in good health, George says he's cutting wood at his place, Ray is operating his website, Dan is taking care of his wife, Steve and Dianne are doing a lot of traveling. Dianne says she misses horseshoes though. *Casey Sluys*

Feather River Club

After what seemed like a long, cold, wet and snowy winter, it is great to have warm weather and sunshine. It was so nice seeing many of my horseshoe friends at the Shasta tournament on Saturday, March 8, and the weather was perfect. We live in such a beautiful area the drive to Redding was great with all the spring blossoms and trees leafing out. Not much news here, but we're looking forward to another great pitching season.

Yes, we know that the numbers in the re-printed schedule do not run numerically in order. That happens when there are changes and sanctioning numbers had already been assigned.

MARCH

- 9. Sat. 3/22 Charlie Masson Open.....Sonoma County
- 10. Sun. 3/23 Jerry Wagner Open.....Vallejo
- 11. Sat. 3/29 Luzier Brothers Open.....Shasta
- 131. Sat. 3/29 Stockton Memorial 3.....Stockton
- 12. Sat. 3/29 1st Annual Exeter Junior 1,8,19.....Tulare
- Sun. 3/30 **EASTER**.....
- 132. Sun. 3/30 Chavarría Church Open..3.....Stockton
- 13. Sun. 3/30 Robert & Diane Cocagne 2,5,19... Tulare
- 14. Sun. 3/30 Elaine Butcher Open..... Shasta

To all our Feather River pitchers: If you haven't already paid your dues, please write a check for \$27 to FRHC; include your last year's card no. and mail to me at 730 Meyers Ln., Paradise, CA 95969. *Thanks, Audrey Winters*

Yolo Club

We had a successful tournament Sat., Mar. 15 at Wilson Park. The weather forecast was wrong and we had a sunny day to enjoy horseshoes. The highlights were Kimmy going undefeated in the top group and Bill Harris pulling in a second place finish in his group. Walt Stafford was on his game and took first as did Harvey Kooy. Other top finishers were Dale Haskin, Walt Butcher and my son, Dave Jr. We seen a lot of new faces that morning, mostly new members that Sacramento brought in. That is exactly what our sport needs, new interest. Once they get into it, they will be hooked like the rest of us.

Unfortunately we were not able to have our Elmer Wilson Tribute tournament on Sunday. The Yolo Bowmen had their State Shootout, and it would have been miserable for us to have to share the Stat room and parking lot with them, too many people for our small park to handle.

Thank you for coming if you did, sorry you missed it if you believed the weatherman. Never trust them, their percentages are worse than mine. Ha ha. One last note: I've persuaded Rick Bermingham to relieve me as President next year, and he is excited about the challenge. He is more than ready, knows far more about the game than I ever will and will take the job as seriously as I did. I'm not going anywhere, and will remain a Yolo member. As the season progresses, you will notice him playing a bigger part running our tournaments, and now you know why. See you on the courts. *Dave Harker*

APRIL

- 15. Sat. 4/5 Bud Grisaffi Open.....Willows
- 16. Sat. 4/5 Spring Fling 3.....Tri-Valley
- 17. Sun. 4/6 Loretta Grisaffi Open.....Willows
- 18. Sun. 4/6 Marge & Fred Wood Open 3.....Tri-Valley
- 19. Sat. 4/12 San Jose Welcome Back!San Jose
- 20. Sat. 4/12 Sacramento Club Open 3.....Sacramento
- 21. Sun. 4/13 Vern & Eldrith Gosney Open.....Vallejo
- 22. Sun. 4/13 Joe Johnston 40/30 Split 3,11.....Sacramento
- 23. Sat. 4/19 Vicki George Open 19.....Tulare
- 24. Sat. 4/19 Verdán Zelmár Open.....Yolo
- 25. Sat. 4/19 Ukiah Spring Open.....Ukiah
- 26. Sun. 4/20 Stephens Boys Open.....Yolo
- 27. Sun. 4/20 Bran Starbuck Open.....Ukiah
- 28. Sat. 4/26 George Greeott Birthday Open...Sonoma County
- 129. Sat. 4/26 Parks & Recreation Open 3.....Stockton
- 130. Sat. 4/27 Joe & Millie Schultz 2,5,6,8.....Stockton
- 30. Sat. 4/26 Willard Ashley Memorial.....Shasta
- 32. Sun. 4/27 Buddy Darnold Open.....Shasta

MAY

- 33. Thu. 5/1 Pat McGowan 3,10.....Half Moon Bay
- 34. Sat. 5/3 Richard Robbins Open 3.....Tri-Valley

35. Sun. 5/4 Linda and Al Hoelscher Walking Doubles 3,8,12
Tri-Valley
36. Sat. 5/10 Morris Miller Memorial.....Willows
133. Sat. 5/10 Anzelone Bridger Open 3.....Stockton
37. Sun. 5/11 Edwina Leonardo OpenWillows
134. Sun. 5/11 Carter DeRosa Richmond Open 3...Stockton
Sun. 5/11 **Mothers Day**
38. Sat. 5/17 Haas/Abbott Open 3.....Sacramento
39. Sat. 5/17 Ukiah Members Memorial.....Ukiah
40. Sat. 5/17 Al Crabtree & Virginia Sturla 3.....Turlock
41. Sat. 5/17 Half Moon Bay Memorial 3.....Half Moon Bay
42. Sun. 5/18 Chuck Smith 40/30 Split 3,11.....Sacramento
43. Sun. 5/18 Bernie Merchen Open.....Ukiah
44. Sat. 5/24 John Sylvester Appreciation Day.....Feather River
45. Sat. 5/24 Tri-Valley HoF Recognition 3.....Tri-Valley
46. Sun. 5/25 Ed Parish Open.....Feather River
47. Sun. 5/25 Tri-Valley Memorial 3.....Tri-Valley
48. Tue. 5/27 Jim Sample Open 3.....Half Moon Bay
49. Tue. 5/27 Glen O'Brien Open 3,10.....Half Moon Bay
50. Sat. 5/31 Gail Sluys Open 2,5.....Sonoma County
135. Sat. 5/31 Martin/Monk Open 3.....Stockton
51. Sat. 5/31 Red Bluff Open 3,11.....Willows

JUNE

52. Sun. 6/1 Ken Schulze & Eldon Bryhan Open.....Sonoma
County
136. Sun. 6/1 Birge/Stockstill Open.....Stockton
53. Sun. 6/1 Chico Open.....Willows
54. Thu. 6/5 Charlie Hall Open 3,10.....Half Moon Bay
55. Sat. 6/7 Madera.....Madera
56. Sat. 6/7 San Jose.....San Jose
57. Sat. 6/7 Forebay Park Open 3.....Forebay Park
58. Sun. 6/8 Forebay Park Open 3.....Forebay Park
59. Sun. 6/8 San Jose.....San Jose
60. Sat. 6/14 Indian Valley 2,4,11,19,20.....Indian Valley
61. Sat. 6/14 Will Facey Open.....Ukiah
62. Sat. 6/14 Bill & Marguerite Henry 3,17.....Turlock
63. Sun. 6/15 Indian Valley 2,4,11,19,20.....Indian Valley
64. Sun. 6/15 Robert Harrall Open.....Ukiah
65. Sun. 6/15 Bill Milligan Open.....Vallejo
66. Tue. 6/17 Terry Farrell Open 3.....Half Moon Bay
67. Tue. 6/17 Dale Koistenen Open 3,10.....Half Moon Bay
68. Sat. 6/21 Gold Country Special 1,2,15,18,19...Gold Country
69. Sat. 6/21 Fortuna.....Fortuna
~~ Sun. 6/22 Gold Country Spcl (Cont) 1,2,15,18,19...Gold Country
70. Sun. 6/22 Fortuna.....Fortuna
71. Sat. 6/28 Hall of Fame Recognition.....Sonoma County
72. Sat. 6/28 Black Oak Casino 1,2,15,17.....Tuolumne
~~~Sun. 6/29 Black Oak Casino (Cont.) 1,2,15,17...Tuolumne

## JULY

73. Sat. 7/5 Sutter Open .....Feather River  
*July 7-19 World Horseshoe Pitching Championships .York, PA*  
74. Sun. 7/6 Vern & Mary Westphal Open.....Feather River  
75. Sun. 7/6 Pat Murtha Open.....Vallejo  
76. Sat. 7/12 Carol Casados & Ray Looper 2,5,6,8....Turlock  
77. Sat. 7/12 Bill Terry Open 3,11.....Half Moon Bay  
78. Sun. 7/13 Keith & Foa Remillong 5 pers. Dbl RR.Half Mn By  
79. Sat. 7/19 Golddigger Days 11,19,20.....Indian Valley  
80. Sun. 7/20 Golddigger Days 11,19,20.....Indian Valley  
81. Sat. 7/26 Timothy Timm .....Willows  
82. Sun. 7/27 Mike Burke Open.....Willows

## AUGUST

### **Fri. 8/1 State Championship sign-in deadline**

83. Sat. 8/2 North Bay Open.....Sonoma County  
29. Sat. 8/2 Parks & Recreation.....Tuolumne  
84. Sat. 8/2 Reb Billingsley 2,3.....Feather River  
85. Sun. 8/3 Whine Country Open.....Sonoma County  
31. Sun. 8/3 Tuolumne Memorial.....Tuolumne  
86. Sun. 8/3 Linda Jessee Open.....Feather River  
87. Sat. 8/9 Four Dead in Davis.....Yolo  
88. Sat. 8/9 Chet Carter Open 3.....Half Moon Bay  
89. Sun. 8/10 Walt Stafford Open.....Yolo  
90. Sun. 8/10 Bill & Kay Webb 3,12.....Half Moon Bay

91. Sat. 8/16 Fortuna.....Fortuna  
92. Sat. 8/16 Ben Ramirez & Ken Weir 3,17.....Turlock  
93. Sat. 8/16 Ladies Auxillary Open 3,18,19.....Gold Country  
94. Sun. 8/17 Fortuna.....Fortuna  
95. Sun. 8/17 Gold Country Memorial 3.....Gold Country  
96. Sun. 8/17 Sherry Sherrard Open.....Vallejo  
97. Sat. 8/23 San Jose.....San Jose  
98. Sat. 8/23 Forebay Park Open 3.....Forebay Park  
99. Sun. 8/24 Forebay Park Open 3.....Forebay Park  
100. Sun. 8/24 San Jose.....San Jose  
Sat/Sun. 30/31 **California State Championships @ Beach  
Park, Bakersfield**

## SEPTEMBER

101. Sat. 9/6 Deb & Ralph Carter Open .....Sacramento  
102. Sat. 9/6 Bill & Jean Brown Open 3.....Tri-Valley  
103. Sun. 9/7 Remembrance Day 40/30 Split 3,11...Sacramento  
104. Sun. 9/7 Lee and CB Henninger Open 3.....Tri-Valley

### *Wed. 9/10 NorCal Championships sign-in deadline*

105. Sat. 9/13 Fortuna Open .....Fortuna  
106. Sat. 9/13 Glenn & Shirley Jamieson Open 3.....Tri-Valley  
107. Sun. 9/14 San Jose.....San Jose  
108. Sun. 9/14 Fortuna Open .....Fortuna  
109. Sun. 9/14 Fall Classic...3, 6.....Sacramento  
110. Sat. 9/20 Nelson Diehl Memorial.....Turlock  
111. Sat. 9/20 Autumn Cool Down.....Yolo  
112. Sat. 9/20 Ukiah Fall Open.....Ukiah  
113. Sun. 9/21 Final Fling.....Yolo  
114. Sun. 9/21 Gil Tournour Open.....Ukiah  
115. Sun. 9/21 Madera.....Madera

### **Wed. 9/24 NCHPA Club Team Championship sign-in deadline**

116. Sat. 9/27 Mother Lode 1,2,15,17.....Tuolumne  
117. Sat. 9/27 The Jim Berry Memorial 3,18.....Shingle Springs  
118. Sat. 9/27 Friendship Open.....Sonoma County  
~~~ Sun. 9/28 Mother Lode(Cont.) 1,2,15,17.....Tuolumne  
119. Sun. 9/28 Mary Huer Open.....Vallejo
120. Sun. 9/28 Shingle Springs Open 3,18.....Shingle Springs

OCTOBER

121. **Sat. 10/4 NCHPA Championships...1, 2, 15, 19.... Yolo**
~~~ **Sun. 10/5 NCHPA Championships cont.....Yolo**  
122. **Sat. 10/11 NCHPA Club Team Championships.1, 15, Tri-  
Valley**  
123. **Sun. 10/12 NCHPA Club Team Championships cont..Tri-  
Valley**  
124. Sat. 10/25 Fritz Oberst open.....Shasta  
125. Sun. 10/26 George Whipp Memorial.....Shasta

## NOVEMBER

126. Sat. 11/1 Tulare Memorial 19.....Tulare

## DECEMBER

127. Sat. 12/6 Don Reip & Dick McCall Open 3.....Half Moon Bay  
128. Sun. 12/7 Rick Della Santina 3,12.....Half Moon Bay  
**Rain Dates for above are 12/13 & 12/14**

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**Don't forget to sign up for the CA.  
State Championships there is an  
entry form in this issue**

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To: The NHPA membership March 11, 2008  
Re: New Equipment for World Tournament Play  
From: The NHPA Council

The NHPA officers are here to serve the wishes and needs of you, the members. With that in mind, we have made the decision to upgrade the equipment we use for our World Tournaments in an effort to provide you with the best possible pitching conditions for this premier horseshoe pitching event. Here is the plan: New rubber matting will cover the complete 6' x 48' area for each court. This new material has already been tested,

extensively and there is really nothing better to pitch on. The traction is perfect, thus totally eliminating any slipping. This thin matting is also very easy on the feet; acting as an "anti-fatigue" surface.

We are building new portable boxes, which will be positioned on top of this rubber matting. This pit design is a modified version of an original design by Curt Bestul of Wisconsin. The new design features a removable backstop, eliminating current storage problems. An anti-skid material will be secured to the bottom of each box to eliminate any movement.

The total cost of this new equipment is projected to be about \$600.00 per court, and we'll be building 60 new courts. We are asking all Charter Associations, local clubs, and members to help defray the cost of this project through sponsorships, in the amount of \$500.00, minimum. This is the plan for recognizing all sponsors:

1. The sponsor's name will be painted on the backside of the backstops, for one court. The space allowed for the wording is 12" tall x 20" - 24" wide, so the more words you include, the smaller the lettering will be. Also, please limit the wording to two lines.
2. All sponsors will be recognized in Newline magazine.
3. All sponsor's names will be listed on a beautiful new plaque, to be displayed at World Tournaments, and eventually at the new Hall of Fame Museum.
4. Sponsors will also be recognized on our NHPA website.

The project has been coordinated with quality and cost savings uppermost in mind. There have already been hundreds of hours of donated labor and much of the material has also been donated, but we could still use some additional help. We hope that you will consider having your Charter vote to sponsor one or more courts. Clubs, individuals, and outside entities may sponsor this project as well. Please consider this request more seriously by contacting Dick Hansen, NHPA Secretary/Treasurer.

Thanks in advance for your help with this project!  
The NHPA Executive Council.

**Let me say this about that!** There must be 100 charities looking for a contribution from you as an upstanding citizen of this fine state right? Now we have a group that is sending horseshoes to our Armed Forces personnel asking for monetary assistance, (very worthy cause I might add) we have a 'new' "Pro horseshoe pitching tour" asking for donations, there is another one called "horseshoes for life" also asking for a share of your dollar, then there's the guy producing a movie with horseshoe pitching as a theme, looking for money, and now we have the above article! You have to be asking yourself when are they gonna stop badgering me for donations?

Without a doubt the most worthwhile, tax-deductible contribution, you can make is to the NHPF (see page 2 for details) This Foundation was set up for the following purpose: **To build for the future while preserving the past and showcasing the present.** We have a beautiful new building in Wentzville Missouri that is now home to the NHPA Hall of Fame. It has a wonderful brick plaza area that you can contribute to by having your name engraved in a brick, not only your name, but your clubs as well. This building was built through the funds brought into the foundation. Those funds were primarily donations from people such as yourself, horseshoe pitchers, most all of them. Please let us continue to show our

support of horseshoe pitching by making a donation to the NHPF. Thank you in advance! The HoF address is: 100 Bluestem Way, Wentzville, MO. 63385

Have you seen the following before? It's been around for some time and can really improve your enjoyment of the game if this simple set of guidelines is followed.

## Court Etiquette

1. A player is expected to stand at the back of the court, at least 2 feet behind their contestant. When play is mixed distance the short-distanced player is expected to move back to the rear of the full-distanced platform. This holds true on adjacent courts also.
2. Harassment will not be tolerated either by opponents or spectators.
3. Loud profanity is not acceptable, (we all mutter on occasion).
4. Do not pick up your shoes until your opponent has had time to observe the position of all shoes and mutual agreement is reached regarding the point score.
5. You are encouraged to settle point determinations. If you cannot agree on a point, or a ringer, please call for a judge to come to your court number.
6. The decision of a judge is final.
7. Please observe carefully before leaving your immediate court. The courts are dangerous with flying horseshoes, and it is discourteous to walk in the line of vision of a player in the act of pitching a shoe.
8. There may be times when you disagree with the way a host club conducts their tournaments. Please take the issue to the club officers, or tournament committee, as there may be a reason not readily apparent.
9. If the conduct of one of your opponents is other than acceptable for some reason, please do not put your "brand" on him or her. Get the tournament director to straighten things out.
10. Please do not take extended breaks during round robin play, in the interest of saving time and as a courtesy to those groups who follow.
11. If you determine at 9:30 sign-in that you will not pitch until the afternoon, please ask the tournament director if there is something you can help with.
12. Each player is expected to water (if needed) and turn a court prior to commencing a game.

There's more... how about this information?  
**Structured with the new member in mind.**

## **Northern California Horseshoe Pitchers Association (NCHPA)**

### **Tournament Structure**

Tournaments are scheduled from February to November, usually on Saturdays or Sundays throughout the season.

Generally you will be placed in a 6, 7, or 8 person "round robin" according to your ringer percentage. This is established by pitching 100 consecutive shoes and counting to ringers IE; 4 ringers = 4%, 60 ringers = 60%. Your first tournament result will begin an average percent from the tournaments in which you pitch. Please be aware that round robins are made up from those who attend the event; therefore, it is possible that you may be competing against players who carry a higher or lower percentage than yourself. The results of each tournament are given to the National Statistics office ( Natstats), which keeps a record of all National Horseshoe Pitchers Association (NHPA) members.

You must sign-in no later than 9:30 AM unless otherwise stated on the NCHPA schedule. It is wise to allow ample travel time to avoid disappointment. The official starting time for most NCHPA events is 10:00 AM. It is wise to check the schedule carefully for the category of tournament prior to making travel plans. Be certain you are eligible to participate. Lower percentage pitchers may begin pitching at approximately 1:30 PM depending on the number of pitchers attending and the number of courts available.

Please be advised that a 10:00 AM start time does not necessarily mean that you will play at 10:00 AM. The groups usually begin with the highest percentage players, in attendance, in the earlier groups, working down to the lower percentage players pitching later in the day. The 9:30 AM sign-in deadline is necessary because of the limitations in the number of courts and to organize the "round robins" as quickly and fairly as possible.

If you know how to keep score, please do so. If not take the incentive to learn.

## **NorCal Championships**

If you wish to compete in this tournament, in which you will play in your own percentage group for the championship of that group, you must have competed in five (5) NCHPA sanctioned tournaments. New pitchers, after August 1<sup>st</sup>, need only three (3). *This is a pre-registered tournament*

## **California State Championships**

If you wish to compete in this tournament you must have competed in four (4) sanctioned tournaments before the August deadline. *This is a pre-registered tournament.*

## **NorCal Team Championships**

If you wish to compete in this tournament, simply gather up 4 members from your club and sign up. Each member of your team must wear his or her club shirt though. This is an 80% handicapped tournament, potentially 2 days of great fun.

## **Equipment**

The following equipment will help you be more comfortable, some is mandatory:

1. Your own horseshoes and measuring devices
2. Enough money to pay the scorekeepers, plus your entry fee. Each player must pay the scorekeeper \$.50 per game at the beginning of each game. You have the opportunity to earn \$1.00 per game by keeping score. All pitchers are encouraged to learn and help when needed.
3. An \$8.00 playing fee is charged unless otherwise stated of the schedule. Clubs purchase awards, pay for donuts and coffee from this fee. A percentage of the money goes to the NCHPA to assist with administrative expenses.
4. Neatness is encouraged. Club shirts are not mandatory, but are highly encouraged. In any case a shirt must be worn.
5. It is wise to take an ice chest with cold drinks and lunch. Often there is not a place close by to purchase food and drink. Beer is not allowed inside the courts during a sanctioned tournament.

6. Most players take folding lawn chairs and/or clamp on umbrellas. Seating in the shade is often not available.
7. It is advisable to bring a jacket when leaving your area.

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No, I do not know the answer to where the 1920 California State Championships was held, that's why I asked you. It must have been in Southern CA somewhere though?

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Advertisement space still available in the official World Tournament Program guide. The Program Guide is provided to each entrant and also available at the tournament. This year, in addition to standard ads, we're offering two-line "congrats ads" for items such as: "Good luck at the World Tournament, Joe Six-Pack, hope you come home a World Champion" "Best of luck to all pitchers from the Southwestern Anywhere Horseshoe Club" Please email me if you'd like more information on advertising in the 2008 WT program guide. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any additional info on this issue. Thank you.  
 (Ms) Lee Estep Eastern PA Webmaster  
<http://www.pennshoes.com>  
 2008 World Tournament co-Webmaster  
<http://www.2008wt.com>

## Ring it up: \$1 million for local man

By Bob Mieszerski, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer  
 March 16, 2008

His experience playing horseshoes as a boy paid off in a big way for John Placzankis on Saturday at Santa Anita.

A New York native who lives in Rancho Cucamonga, Placzankis, a warehouse manager for Old Dominion Freight Line, became an instant millionaire when he threw a ringer at the track's annual St. Patrick's Day horseshoe pitch.

One of five who got a chance to throw for riches after having their names drawn at random, Placzankis, 41, became the first person to win \$1 million in a promotion that is decades old.

Although he said he had not thrown a horseshoe since he was about 11, he pitches for a slow-pitch softball team and that's what he thought of when he got his opportunity.

"I just tried to relax and throw it just like the softball," said Placzankis, who moved to California from New Rochelle, N.Y., nearly eight years ago. "When I let it go, I knew it was on line, but I thought it might be a little short. I was hoping it would bounce on [the stake]."

Placzankis said he plans to use some of the money to go to New York and take care of his mother, nieces and nephews.

## Tips from the pros

Excerpt from "Science at the Stake" by Roy W. Smith published in 1946.

**Body and Knee-action** The body plays an important role in the delivery. A great deal of propelling power is placed into the swing by body-rhythm, which is coordinated with the swing. An expert player usually drops the shoulders as he/she starts the back swing. The body straightens up with the front swing. This body-action is virtually identical to the one used in bowling or in pitching softball.

Correct knee action is very important too, relaxing the right knee and drawing it slightly inward, behind the left knee, permits the shoe to swing close by the leg, in a straight line to the stake. The danger of fouling the shoe against the leg is reduced to a minimum.

Proper knee action helps secure a uniform trajectory and makes the delivery easier and smoother. Relaxing the right knee, and shifting the body-weight to the left foot, acts as a spring, thus checking the forward swing without an abrupt jar or jolt. As the knee straightens up to its natural position, the body rises and its weight goes into the swing.

Don't crouch too much when delivering. (I have seen some players go down so low they scraped the platform with their shoes). Bending the knees too much causes a player to lift extra body-weight when straightening up to release. That extra weight can cause body sway, which results in poor alignment.

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This publication is also online at [www.nchpa.com](http://www.nchpa.com) Just click on NEWS and you can print a copy. If you would like to receive your copy that way please let me know and we will accommodate you. You can help save the NCHPA about \$1.00 an issue. Immediately after it goes to the printer it's put online.

**Pitch Ringers in 2008 and practice, practice, practice!**