

Nor-Cal News & Views

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

This has been a busy summer. First, let me congratulate all the NCHPA pitchers who participated in the World Tournament in West Monroe, Louisiana. Along with my brother Glenn and his wife Judette, Sharon and I made a vacation out of our trip to Louisiana. We went on a swamp tour and toured a plantation or two. We hit Bourbon Street and were amazed at the size of the Mississippi River in New Orleans. The weather was not as hot as we thought it would be, so we were pleased. I was thoroughly trounced by players in my senior division, from thirteen separate states. When you are a bad horseshoe pitcher, you can justify your poor performance by saying “*I sure met some nice people.*” We did have a nice trip and look forward to Knoxville.

The State Tournament held in Bakersfield, was a hot one. I know the decision was not favored but with the loss of Yolo, it was our best option. Overall, the State Tournament was a success. I wish to thank all the Nor-CAL officers for all their hard work and support. I also wish to thank the Southern California membership for the use of the Bakersfield facility. Congratulations to all the players who, participated. Rick Birmingham continues to reign as the men’s champion, and Kimmy Stockli took the women’s crown.

We will now look forward to the Nor-CAL championship tournament scheduled for October 2nd and 3rd in Vallejo. **(cont. top of next column)**

2nd Vice President

Hello pitchers, we had an excellent State Tournament with some real great games including a close one with Kimmy Stockli edging out Lisa Atwell in the Women’s championship group. Kimmy won the women’s state title again winning her 5th title in 7 years with an ending average of

Our annual meeting and awards banquet will be held on November 5th at the Florin Rebecca Hall, 8360 Florin Road in (*off Florin Road east exit*) Sacramento.

The meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. and the dinner will start at 4:00 p.m. It would be nice to have delegates from all of the Nor-CAL charters in attendance. Please plan to attend the banquet. Tickets will be on sale for \$15 per person. I will be sending out an agenda prior to the annual meeting and I will ask the delegates to come prepared to discuss the items listed and refrain from getting off course during the meeting.

I have received some suggestions from some of you, as to how we should proceed in the next year, and I appreciate all of your comments. Without a thirty-court facility, it seems to me, if we are going to hold the State Tournament in the north, we will have to go to a three day pitching schedule. I would like to have some input from the members. If you have any ideas on how we should proceed, or know of any city that would allow us to build a facility, please let me know.

We now have some breathing room before we host the next State Tournament so please give me a call if you can think of any way to help.

I hope to see you in Vallejo. **Harlen A. Rippetoe**

over 62% for the tournament. Yes, it was about 100 degrees but there was plenty of cold water, Gatorade and beer. The park had nearly 50 or so canopies to keep everyone cool as possible. There were no injuries and no one dropping out because of the heat (*thank goodness for that*). Elaine Butcher received 2nd place with an average of 58%. President Harlen Rippetoe fought through adversity **(cont. Page-3)**

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Email: regina@combietrophyawards.com
Website: combietrophyawards.com

CANDIDATES
FOR OFFICE

See page 10 also.

+++++

Yes, I'm running for 3rd VP

As you know I was appointed to fill the chair of
NCHPA; 3rd vice president for the remainder of the
year. That time is up and the position is up for re-
election.

I would at this time like to let everyone know; that
I'm interested in filling the chair of 3rd Vice
President at the next election. I've enjoyed working
with the NCHPA committee this year. We managed
to accomplish a lot working together, in the short
time that we had.

Thank You, *John Barney* 3rd VP

Yes, I'm running for 1st VP again.

Thank You, *Lee Roy Lassiter*

Yes, I'm running for Secretary/Treasurer

Thank You, *Gail Sluys*

and claimed 2nd in the Senior Men's Championship Division. Way to go Harlen! Robert Cocagne pitched over his average with 36% for 4th place. Tim Saunders won his group and went undefeated 11-0 pitching 35%. Nice job Tim! George Davis

from Stockton won his group as well in the men's G class pitching 28% and went undefeated. Jason Hernandez from Madera won the men's B division going 10-1 finishing with a 40% average. The best for last, Bernardo Navarro III the world champ from the Tulare club won the Cadets group with a whopping 36% average pitching 55 ringers out of 150 shoes. His sister Genesis, however, scored 2nd place pitching 9%. Nice job Navarro family! I hope everyone has a great time pitching this year and hope to see a lot of you at the Nor-CAL Championships in Vallejo in October. Those of you who did not pitch in the state, I hope you had a good Labor Day Holiday weekend. See you in Vallejo, oh yeah, remember to buy your dinner tickets for \$15 for the Nor-CAL dinner and awards. Tri-Tip and chicken are on the menu. **Rick Bermingham.**

3rd Vice President

Well; after losing Yolo, it's been a lot of hard work, checking with different clubs and listening to quite a few complaints. But, we found a suitable substitute to hold the State Tournament; Bakersfield. Bakersfield was the best choice, plenty of courts, (26) with clay in good condition, (*a little wet but, they dried out fast.*) The Bakersfield club had the courts in good condition, before they turned them over to NCHPA. Overall, we had a good State Tournament. Some of the games were a little long, (*forty point games will do that*), and we had nothing to do with the weather (*hot*). I checked the weather back home, and guess what? It was just as hot at home in the Northern part of the state! We had 164 pitchers sign up for state, 88 from the north and 71 from the south, (*excluding the few drop outs*). It was a fair representation for both sides. The NCHPA officers worked some long hours, everyone worked together and we got the job done.

Hope to see everyone in Vallejo, October 1st and 2nd for the NCHPA Championships.

John Barney

5th Vice President

The NCHPA welcomed eighty-three pitchers thus far in 2011 from Exeter to Fortuna and everywhere in between. Our new members have become great friends to existing members and fantastic competitors.

Many of our long time pitchers and new members traveled to Bakersfield for the State Tournament in which NCHPA members did very well as you may have heard.

About the State Tournament, two competitors played in what could have been billed as "Clash of the Titans." Elaine VS. Kimmy for the Women's Championship, need I say more, amazing to watch. Kimmy went undefeated and Elaine's only losses were to Kimmy. Our young players were phenomenal, kudos to them, for many it was the first time pitching in a State Tournament and they are the future of this sport. Travis Sluys pitched way above his average for the Junior Boys. Hannah Gonzales battled for the Junior Girls. Tony Rinaldi placed first in the Mixed Class with Sergio and Sarah Sanchez, Ashley and Lilly Stacey all striving to do their best. Bernie Navarro III won the Cadets with Genesis Navarro and Zeke Merrill rounding out the field. However, what speaks volumes about the NCHPA was not the pitching; it was the camaraderie and giving nature of our members and their spouses who volunteered without being asked for assistance. You needed a judge, Bill Terry, Rick Eddy, Rick Della Santina and Rich Robbins never hesitated to go out and "*dig.*" Bill worked nearly the entire tournament except for when pitching. Scorekeepers, Jose DeLeon, Wayne George, Gail Kane, Bernie Navarro, Fritz Oberst, Don Stephens, Alan Trusty and Sally Woolery gave freely of their time. Judette and Sharon Rippetoe sat countless hours at the silent auction table – it had to be as entertaining as watching paint dry! Kimmy Stockli and Maddie Barney were always available to help. Mona Della Santina worked besides the officers the entire tournament, "*love her!*" Last the officers, another group of volunteers that worked hard as a cohesive group focusing on trying to make the tournament a special event for all. Gail Sluys did an outstanding job as tournament director and should be commended for her efforts and attention to details much of which go on behind the scenes.

Fortuna, go there if you haven't been and stay a few extra days if you can. They have refreshing

cool air and are just yards away from a beautiful Redwood Grove with many trails. The Paddock's and company were the perfect hosts, so welcoming! Tom Webb and Sharon Paddock two of NCHPA's top players are so encouraging to players of all calibers. And you had to be there, but the Fortuna Club proudly displayed their mammoth Team Tournament trophy and good naturedly made sure the former team champions from Ukiah saw where the trophy resides with some entertaining comments from both clubs that had everyone laughing. Ukiah club, Gil and company, I don't have enough space to go there now.

Peter Chaverria, Terry Farrell and Tony Latino are missed this season but hopefully they'll return in 2012. Congratulations to Fritz Oberst who became a first time great-grandfather and to Tommy and April Latino who welcomed a third grandson into their family.

Cathy Kauffman

STATISTICIAN'S REPORT

1st Vice President

The following stats cover the period from our first tournament of the year through the 91st State Tournament in Bakersfield (*a NCHPA Tournament*) held September 3rd and 4th.

We have held 103 NCHPA tournaments. In those tournaments, 2,126 pitchers made 144,216 ringers while pitching 509,252 shoes, for an average of 28.32%.

We also had a total of 83 members pitching in 22 tournaments outside the NCHPA area. These members pitched in Southern California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii and Louisiana. In those tournaments, our members made 6,488 ringers while pitching 22,594 shoes for an average of 28.72%.

It is interesting to note that our two members who made it to the Championship round at the World, Rick Bermingham and Bernardo Navarro III, made 625 ringers while pitching 1,028 shoes for a combined average of 60.80%.

Speaking of the World Tournament, thirteen NCHPA members made the trip to Monroe, Louisiana. Congratulations to Bernardo Navarro III on winning the World Championship in the Cadet Class with an average of 36.94% and a high game of 55.00%. Rick Bermingham came in 6th in the

Men's Championship Class with an average of 67.37% and a high game of 75.00%.

Our thirteen members fared as follows in the Class play. Bernardo Navarro III finished 1st in the Cadet Class with an average of 29.29%. Travis Sluys finished 1st in the Junior "C" class with an average of 35.63%. Five of our members finished in 3rd, one in 6th, two in 12th, one in 14th and two in 16th place.

At the 91st California State Championships, sponsored by the NCHPA, in Bakersfield, 160 pitchers participated.

There were 87 NCHPA pitchers and 73 SCHPA pitchers. Rick Bermingham repeated as men's State Champion. Bernardo Navarro III won the Cadet State Championship. Kimmy Stockli won the Women's State Championship. NCHPA Class winners were as follows:

- Seven 1st place winners.
- Ten 2nd place winners.
- Ten 3rd place winners.
- Eleven 4th place winners.
- Eight 5th place winners.

High games in the different groups were as follows:

- Junior Boys Champ., Marcus Santillana, S.C. 81.82% (*high game of the tournament*)
- Men's Champion, Rick Bermingham, N.C. 75.00%
- Elders A Champ., Charles Woolery, S.C. 71.43 %
- Women's Champ, Kimmy Stockli, N.C. 70.83%
- Senior Men Champ, Hal Griswold, S.C. 56.25%
- Cadet Champ, Bernardo Navarro III, N.C. 54.55%
- Junior Girls Champ, Samantha Santillana, S.C. 36.11%

Lee Roy Lassiter

Regional Directors Report:

Last Saturday we attended the 3rd annual Guardsmen SF Horseshoe Tournament & BBQ. It was a great tournament and the **San Francisco Horseshoe Pitching Club** would like to become part of the NCHPA! This means we are back pitching in San Francisco! Be sure to look at your schedule on October 22nd the Half Moon Bay Club will host an NHPA sanctioned tournament in San

Francisco. Let's all participate and make this event a huge success. The SF club will want an Oct 20, date for the 2012 schedule so look for them then.

What do your courts look like? Are the walkways level? Are the stakes at the proper angle? (*12 degree inclines toward each other*) Are there pads for short-distanced pitchers? Are the stakes all of equal length? (*14 to 15 inches above the pitching platform*) Are your foul lines clearly marked? (*27 ft and 37 ft from the opposite stake*) Evaluate your courts to see if there is some work to get your courts into compliance with the NHPA Rules Guidelines and Specification. Please develop a plan to correct anything that needs correcting. At the end of this year, I will be sending each club president a letter asking them to detail their facility as to what work needs to be done. I should have that ready by our annual meeting and can perhaps distribute it at the meeting. Overall most facilities look good, but I know some need some touch-up. *Casey Sluys*

C L U B S

Sonoma County

With the pitching season drawing to a close, 2011 was certainly not a banner year for our club. Probably the weakest year we've had since 1986, but we're going to change that. Look for some innovative tournaments here in Santa Rosa. We are planning on giving out a bottle of wine to 1st and 2nd place winners along with the usual prize money. (parent or guardian may accept this for a Jr. winner). We will have a tournament that will be unique in the history of the NHPA and still be played by the rules. There will be another where you may win more money than any of your opponents. (Details will be forthcoming on this one as well as the unique tournament) All our events will be full weekends and we will publish motel information in the next issue as well as camping information. Please plan your stay in beautiful Sonoma County and pitch with us in 2012. Look for some new and fun additions to our schedule.

Sue Lichau is our Sonoma County Champion for 2011, but she'll have her hands full with Travis this year, his percentage has risen to 43.3%. He is now ranked 29th in the nation among the top 50 Junior Boys. Late breaking news: Sue won 40-32 over Travis to win her 3rd Sonoma County Championship. *Casey Sluys*

Sacramento Club

The Sacramento Club is proud of our member Rick Bermingham who finished in 6th place at the World Tournament and clinched his 5th consecutive State Championship title. Recently Rick was featured in the Sacramento Bee and in a local newscast for his accomplishments bringing more attention to the sport of horseshoe pitching. Thank you to Rick for sharing his story with candor and grace while promoting the game of horseshoes.

We are proud to announce that two former Yolo members will join our club next year, Don and Windell Stephens. The Stephens' will make a wonderful addition to our club. All former Yolo players are welcome to join.

In August we hosted two tournaments one of which had more players than available courts for a 40/30 split tournament named in honor of the Sacramento Club's Vice President, Chuck Smith. Thank you to all who participated and especially to those who waited to play in the afternoon shift. Tournament champions were Dave Lane at 40 ft. and Wayne George at 30 ft. John Sylvester and Walt Stafford placed 2nd to the tournament champions. Gary Smith and Todd Luther (*Sac Club*) placed in the B 40 ft. group while George Friend (*Sac Club*) and Travis Sluys placed in the B 30 ft group. The following day Delia Garza was our tournament champion with Sue Lichau close on Delia's heels in second place. Mike Hammer (*Sac Club*) placed 1st in the B group with Travis Sluys placing 2nd. Rounding out the C group were two Sacramento Club members, George Friend and Jessica Lichau. Thank you to those who traveled great distances to play: Robert Cocagne, Lois Edwards, Wayne George, Pat Murtha, Lee Roy Lassiter, Sue Lichau, Fritz Oberst, Harlen Rippetoe, Terri and Danny Thompson, Travis Sluys, Rich Robbins, Audrey Winters and Tom Webb. Thanks to Gail Sluys who stepped in to manage our tournaments so that our president Glenn Rippetoe could concentrate on getting the courts prepped and equipment in place. Glenn hauls the equipment to the tournament and then packs it up to bring it again for the following day. We would also like to acknowledge the Rippetoe family for their contributions to make our tournaments successful. Glenn, recruits his wife and sister in-law to keep score and has his dear brother Othal serving as judge. *Cathy Kauffman*

Gold Country

All in all this year has been a big disappointment for our club. We are down to 7 members and can't seem to entice new ones. Had to cancel, for the 2nd year in a row, our tournament. "Swamp" was the only word to describe the courts at Pioneer Park and although we set up a tournament at the Loobey's courts, the weather didn't cooperate and we had to cancel that one also. Maybe 2012 will be kinder and gentler. We can only hope!

On another note, the courts were used for a tournament in August. The "Flyin' Irons Motorcycle Club" put on a double elimination team tournament and motorcycle show. Miles Fraser, a 4th generation mason, of Miles Masonry was the coordinator and co-promoter along with Ben Rainey of "Flying Orange Graphics" Some of the members of his club worked with Andy Loobey prior to the tournament learning how to prepare the courts, basic rules, etc. On the day of the tournament, 28 teams signed up and paid their \$20 entry fee. Andy was the official judge and Dave and I took care of the logistics. There were delicious burgers for sale and pop & water.

There was also an extensive raffle thanks to Miles' efforts in contacting local merchants who very generously donated over 70 items. The emcee for the day was Emile Janacot of Bullet Proof Production Co. who is also a professional announcer for the "X Games." It was a hot day and not everyone wore a shirt and some were even barefoot. In spite of the quantity of beer consumed, everyone was pleasant and polite throughout the day and expressed their thanks for our assistance. At the end of the day, there were 2 teams remaining, the winners of the loser's bracket, "Team Hadley" and the "Lovin Aces" who had been undefeated. Team Hadley gave them their 1st loss so another game had to be played to determine the winner for the day. "Lovin Aces" came back and took 1st \$300 in prize money. Although 2nd, "Team Hadley was happy with their \$170 as was team "Must Be Nice" in 3rd winning \$100.

This was a really fun tournament and all participants said they would do a rerun next year with even more teams. GCN will be trying to work out something we can do together for 2012.

Cathie Loucks

Forebay Park

Our season just came to an end last weekend. We play on Thursdays at 6:00 pm and we ran out of light. We had our league championship on Saturday. 1st place Rick Eddy, 2nd Bill Lee and 3rd place Tom Armstrong. On Sunday, we had our club championship. 1st place Rick Eddy, 2nd Ted Rytell and 3rd place Kim Stovall. Our August tournaments went well. We had two special visitors from Gold Country by the name of Dave & Cathy Loucks. On Saturday, A-grp winners in the 40 foot were, Mike Hammer in 1st., Rick Eddy 2nd., and Tom Latino 3rd. B-grp Dave Loucks 1st, Terri Thompson 2nd, and Don Stephens 3rd. C-grp was Fritz Oberst 1st, Joe Summers 2nd, and Dan Thomson 3rd. Then on Sunday we had two groups, A-grp 1st place was Louis Edwards, 2nd was Rick Eddy, and 3rd was Gloria Callahan. B-grp 1st place was Tom Latino, 2nd was Terri Thompson, and 3rd was Fritz Oberst. Congratulations to you all!

I have a little tip for all the clubs out there. It's about paint cans. You no longer have to buy that cheap dollar a can crap. Rustoleum Brand, has come out with a less expensive line of paint that actually works. It covers real well, lasts longer, and because of the new spray cap, it does not plug up either. There is nothing worse than getting out the paint cans for the 1st tournament of the year and having to throw half of them out, even when they're still full because they don't work! THIS DOES NOT SAVE YOU ANY MONEY! I bought 8 cans two years ago, and I still have 5 left. It covers so well it will last a lot longer than the cheap \$1.00 a can crap. It sells for about \$2.99 a can regular price and \$2.25 to \$2.50 on sale. You can find them at Home Depot and Lowe's. Again, that's Rustoleum brand, it says 2x cover on the can. That's all for now. See you in Vallejo. **Rick Eddy**

Madera

During most evening hours, if you drive by the Madera Rotary Park Horseshoe Courts, you can hear the ring of horseshoes striking the stake and see a lone figure out practicing his horseshoe pitching skills. That person will probably be Jason Hernandez

Jason, a charter member of the Madera Big Valley Horseshoe Club and current 2011, "B" Division California State Champion began his pitching career at age 16. Jason and his father Herb, would pitch in sand lot tournaments. The entire

Hernandez, family is involved in horseshoe pitching. Jason initially started pitching a flip shoe but converted to a 1-1/4 turn shoe at age 18. His biggest influence was former Jr. World Champion, Jimmy Ornales. Jason currently pitches at 50.1 %.

Jason, is involved in the operational aspects of the Madera Club, and currently serves as Vice President. Jason is one of the first on site to prepare the courts for tournament play and is regarded as a leader by other club members. Jason, indicated that his work schedule during the spring months prevent him from participating in tournament play and restricts his ability to practice on a regular basis. "I have to do a lot of make up practice just prior to the state tournament, and I believe I will do better when my work schedule is not so restrictive." Jason stated. Jason hopes to someday be a world champion. He realizes that he must develop confidence, improve his pitching skills, practice, and understand the dynamics of a champion.

There is no doubt, that Jason will someday meet his goals. He is hard working, willing to learn, and has the dedication to develop into a future champion. In my book he has already achieved most of what is required to be a world champion.

Harlen A. Rippetoe

Fortuna

Hi everyone, well we did it, had our Bear River Casino Money Tournament on August 20th and 21st. Lots of pitchers commented to Fortuna club members, telling us that they really enjoyed the tournament. We had 28 pitchers, two groups in the morning session and two groups in the afternoon session each day. We had pitchers from Klamath Falls and Grants Pass, Oregon; Fortuna, Gold Country, Half Moon Bay, Tri Valley, Tuolumne, Shasta Willows and Ukiah. There were certificates given out for high game in each division. The weather was about 75 degrees each day and the high games pitched indicated that conditions were favorable. The pitcher who won the most games over two days was the winner. With this format, a pitcher could lose quite a few games and still be in the money. In fact, there were one or more winners from each club.

We had a HUGE raffle each day and thank everyone who purchased tickets. Saturday night after the tournament, we met for dinner at the casino and there were two drawings. Karen Murphy won

10 silver dollars for score keeping and Bernard Merchen won for having his 2012 National, Northern and Ukiah club horseshoe pitching dues paid for the year. Then on Sunday, the Ladies of Fortuna Club provided a free lunch for everyone and it was delicious.

Group (A) had 8 pitchers who played 7 thirty-shoe games each day (14 games), no handicap.

1st place Tom Webb \$175, 2nd place Roy Bower \$110, 3rd place Dave Loucks \$90, 4th place Linda Hoelscher \$75, 5th place Elaine Butcher \$25.

The first day Roy Bower had high game of 73.33% and the 2nd day Linda Hoelscher had high game of 80%. Group (B) had 8 pitchers who played 7 thirty-shoe games each day (14) games.

1st place Gil Tournour \$175, 2nd place Will Facey \$110, 3rd place Pat Murtha \$90, 4th place Bill Paddock \$75, 5th place Rob Romans \$25.

The first day Robert Harrall had high game of 56.67%, the 2nd day Gil Tournour had high game of 66.66%. Someone asked if he's been tested for steroids, recently.

Group (C) had 7 pitchers, who played 6 thirty-shoe games each day (12 games). 1st place Mark Verdun \$175, 2nd place Chuck James \$110, 3rd place LeeRoy Lassiter \$90, 4th place Fritz Obertz \$75, 5th place Pat McGowan \$25. The first day Mark Verdun had high game of 46.67%, the 2nd day LeeRoy Lassiter had high game of 46.67%.

Group (D) had 5 pitchers who played 4 fifty- shoe games each day (8 games). **Bill Paddock**

Half Moon Bay

We would like to salute our two State Champions this year. **Tony Rinaldi** in the Junior Mixed Class B (also last year's State Cadet Champion) and **Joe Sciarra** Elders B. We are proud of both of you.

We have 3 more tournaments this year. On October 22 we will be hosting The Golden Gate Classic in Golden Gate Park. Our goal is to help add a new club to the NCHPA and increase the membership. The more of us they meet, the more they will want to join the NCHPA. The courts are located in Golden Gate Parks Northeast corner where the Pan Handle begins. Corner of Fulton St and Stanyan St. Located behind McLaren Lodge, take JFK Drive, the courts are accessible off of Conservatory Drive E within the park.

As always, the last two tournaments of the year will be in HMB on the first weekend in December.

Our walking Doubles is a chance to team up with friend and have some fun.

We would also like to formally welcome into our club John Hofland and Dan Magyari.

Rick Della Santina

Feather River

Hard to believe fall is in the air and I'm already raking oak leaves even though the weather is really warm. Feather River had three good tournament weekends but not quite as many pitchers as usual. Winners of our money tournament on August 13 were: Group 1: Elaine Butcher, Linda Hoelscher, Walt Stafford. Group 2: Gloria Callahan, Lee Oliver, Mark Verdun. Group 3: Michelle White, Marshall Merino, Glenn Rippetoe. August 14 winners were: Group 1: Elaine Butcher and Linda Hoelscher. Group 2: Harvey Monk and Lee Oliver. Group 3: LeeRoy Lassiter and Harry Begay. Congratulations to all.

Just a little humor here. At one Saturday tournament, someone paid with a \$50 bill. Not being used to \$50's I inadvertently gave it out in lieu of a \$20. Sunday morning when I arrived our group was laying for me asking if my ears were burning. John had gotten a call from Hal Holbrook in Reno saying he would return the extra amount. Isn't it nice to know horseshoers are honest people? But wait, that's not all. At another tournament John Sylvester paid with a \$50, making sure I knew it was a \$50. I counted out his change but that night when I counted our money, I was \$10 over and couldn't figure out what I had done wrong. In the middle of the night it came to me that I had given John \$30 in change instead of \$40. Evidently, I can't cope with \$50 bills. I kind of thought I would get fired from my volunteer job for being inept, but no such luck. As far as I know, I am still in. Oh well!

A word from our President. Lois says thanks to all who attended our tournaments. Horseshoe members are like family and we are always happy to see everyone. Our club is dwindling but John plans to join us next year. Lee will be making more improvements to our courts. He and John have already done a lot of work on them. Good luck to all who will be pitching in the NCHPA Championships. *Audrey Winters*

San Jose

Hello from San Jose. We have had some very exciting events and tournaments this year. Thanks to everyone that has been here to help us celebrate. In July, Janet and Don Kies daughter surprised them with a 52nd Anniversary celebration complete with beautiful decorations, pictures and cake & ice cream. Steve and Rachael Chavez put on a delicious Mexican lunch for their tournament in July and for Steve's birthday. Charlie Kerr's tournament in August had a special treat. In addition to our regular lunch, his mother & sister made wonderful Enchilada Casserole's to share, with plenty of it!

Congratulations to everyone that won at the World Tournament and especially to our own Mike Anderson. We have several new members this year in our club. Two of these new members are brothers Jason and Jacob Morales. Congratulations to both of them as they each had a win in our last tournaments!

Don't forget to purchase several "*Recipe Books*" for Christmas gifts this year. They are only \$15 each and will be treasured by everyone that you give them to for the very easy and delicious recipes. Our club really appreciates' all of your support in purchasing them.

We are all looking forward to the rest of the tournaments this year and our annual Christmas Party. See you at the courts! **Nancy Ann Cloutier**

Ukiah

Our members traveled around California and a little bit of Oregon during the last couple of months and earned some accolades and a few dollars to keep them interested in this wonderful game and looking forward to another year of fun and challenges. Gil Tournour and Will Facey and their wives drove to Grants Pass in June and enjoyed the trip and the camaraderie – the pitching was a little rougher than the trip!! Also in June, Gil and a few fellow club members traveled to Fortuna for the Fortuna Open. In July some of our club members traveled to Sonoma, Fortuna and Willows to take part in their tournaments and to enjoy the game, the raffle goodies and the food, fun and prizes!

In August Gil, Will, Bernie Merchen, Bob Harrall, Vance Ricks and Bran Starbuck, all from

the Ukiah Club attended the Fortuna money tournament. They had a wonderful time and won a some money too! There were some awesome handcrafted raffle prizes provided by Bill Paddock and others and on Sunday some delicious hot dogs and yummy salads and even a peach cobbler "handcrafted" by Sharon Paddock. As summer winds down and we tolerate the last few really hot days here in Ukiah, we are looking forward to the NCHPA Championships and the few tournaments left in Northern California which will give us a chance to see old friends and even make new ones.

Our September tournament was very well attended with 15 pitchers on Saturday and 16 on Sunday. We enjoyed an extremely hot day on Saturday with a breeze that kept it tolerable. Pitchers were sweating but the few scorekeepers we had were fine. There were 3 groups of 5 so each group had a bye and the pitchers were great about keeping score for their groups, some even had to learn how! Sunday began with a chill-to-the-bone breeze and an overcast sky, perfect weather for pitchers, not so perfect for scorekeepers. We had a few more scorekeepers on Sunday and divided the 16 pitchers into 2 groups of 8, handicapped.

On both days we enjoyed the splendid variety of tasty treats provided by our club, which included fruits as well as pastries. Hot coffee was welcomed on Sunday as much as the ice cold water was on Saturday!

The latest computer update and on-going technical trials saga: I tried to run the tournament on my computer on Saturday but alas, my printer didn't function very well so I ran the tournament the old fashioned way with pencil and paper! But I entered the data into my computer and was able to send it to Lee Roy via email so that's a good thing! Gail and Casey (and Travis) Sluys came up on Sunday and brought their old and trusty printer and computer and ran the tournament and printed the round robin cards and sent the stats to Lee Roy and printed copies for my files and kept score and pitched as well! I will keep working on my technical difficulties so that I'll be ready for April 2012 and in the mean time I will continue to marvel at the wonder of computers-so difficult sometimes and so wonderful when they work!

I hope you all have very happy, healthy and abundant holidays and we look forward to seeing you in 2012. **-Lorena Tournour**

Vallejo

Hello from the Vallejo Club. Well, Kimmy did it again! State Champion for the 5th time in the past 7 years. Great going Kimmy! Congrats to all of the big winners from Nor-CAL this year.

If you hadn't noticed, we sure did, Cherrie Sherrard and Lucille Ligon have missed most of the horseshoe events this season. They have been officiating and participating in track and field meets. This year, the 2011 World Master Athletic Championships were held in Sacramento. More than 4,800 athletes from 93 countries participated in the 19th annual event. The age of the athletes ranged from 35 to 101 years young. Cherrie competed in the Shot Put and placed 7th, and she placed 9th over all in the Discus. Lucille placed 15th in the Shot Put! Great going ladies. Hope to see you more next season.

As most of you know, we (VALLEJO) will be hosting the Nor-CAL Championships. Kimmy has supplied the hotel information and still has some camping available in her back yard. She will be canceling any rooms that are not reserved on September 28th so her card will not be charged. Be sure and get those reservations made to get the special rate. If you have any questions about where to stay, just give her a call at 707-644-0487. Members of the Vallejo Club, please be prepared to help! We will need to get the courts in tip-top shape for this large event. Ben will be in touch with work party info. Also, Vallejo Members, please remember to bring raffle prizes for our table. We are hosting the raffle and any proceeds will be used to pay for the expense of fixing court 12. Speaking of court 12.....A BIG THANK YOU to Joe, Danny, and their crew for the remodel. Great Job Corporal. Maybe you'll finally get that promotion after 20 years. HAAA!

Bravo Zulu: I spoke to Glenn Conner's daughter Kathy, and she said Glenn is still having therapy. If you would like to send a card, his address is: Glenn Conner 2373 Woolner Ave. Fairfield, Ca.94533. **Benjamin Yost**
(A correction even more quarters have been found lying in the dirt along courts 1-8. They won't tell us how much more they found, but it's substantial.)

Shasta/Willows

Well, so far we have held seven tournaments at Willows this year. Our attendance has been down from previous years.

We only had 20 or more pitchers at three of our tournaments. Nine of our members from last year did not renew their membership this year.

This may account for some of our low turnouts, but I have a feeling that the poor economy and high gas prices have a lot to do with it. We have two more tournaments in October and are hoping to have a lot of pitchers at them.

Congratulations to Elaine Butcher for finally getting in an 80% or above game. She had been getting so close time and again but not quite getting there. Elaine also came in at second place at the State Tournament in Bakersfield. Fritz Oberst came in third place in his group at the State. Mark Verdun came in eighth place in his group and I came in ninth place in my group. We were the only four from our club that attended the State Tournament.

Only three of our members are signed up for the Nor Cal Tournament. Hope we fare well there.

Just talked to Loretta Grisaffi and she said Bud is getting along fairly well. They hope to come out and visit with all their "Horseshoe" friends at our last tournament weekend in October.

Lee Roy Lassiter

Statement of candidacy for NCHPA 1ST Vice-President

My name is Wayne George. I have been a member of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association for the 13 years. I am currently a charter member of the Tri-Valley Horseshoe Club, associate member of Half Moon Bay Horseshoe Club. In the past, I served as Vice-President of Tulare Horseshoe Club for 2 years and President for 4 years. During that time, I converted the Tulare Horseshoe Club tournaments from manual to computerized tournaments. I also trained other members of the club to run the tournaments when I wasn't available. For the past 13 years, I have been directly involved in the promotion and support of the sport of horseshoes. I have worked with the United States Department of Agriculture as an Accountant in San Francisco since April 2010 to present. Prior experience includes Staff Accountant for United States Property and Fiscal Office in San Luis Obispo, United States Postal Service in

Hanford and Porterville, Ca. is where I taught myself how to use the computer. I have knowledge of creating forms within Excel spreadsheet program. I am a retired soldier in the California National Guard with and activation for 1 year after September 2011. My first active duty was with the U S Navy during Viet Nam 1972 – 1974. I have a total 24 ½ years of military service gaining considerable supervisor, managerial, and fiscal experience during my military and federal service career. I am married to Vicki who is a NHPA member for 18 years, charter member of the Tri-Valley Horseshoe Club, past secretary\treasurer of Tulare Horseshoe Club. We have 4 children, and 5 grandchildren. We live in the city of Tulare (*Pittsburg for Wayne while working in San Francisco*). I believe my past work experience, provides me with sound managerial and fiscal experience to serve as 1st vice-president. My past and present organizational skills in training, converting computerized tournaments, and creating easy to use forms within Microsoft's Excel software that will demonstrate my leadership abilities and commitment to our sport. I will work hard to lead the Nor-CAL charter for the next two years. I would appreciate you vote for 1st vice-president of the NCHPA. Thank You, *Wayne George*

World Tournament Info

As many of you know our grandson, Travis, and I traveled to South Africa to promote horseshoe pitching and participate in their game called Jukskei, a precision throwing sport. We went with five other NHPA members from throughout the country.

This proved to be a fruitful recruiting effort. For the first time in our one hundred year history, we had four South Africans pitching in the 2011 World Horseshoe Pitching Championships (WT) in Monroe, Louisiana. Not only did they pitch but also, two came in first and one came in second. Their names are Thomas Venter, Nic Van Stryp, Helgard Hansen, and Francois Van Zyl.

Our experience, in South Africa, showed us that the people were very gracious and went out of their way to accommodate us. Therefore, we felt that we should reciprocate that hospitality. That being said we traveled to the 2011 WT three days early to be able to pick up these gentlemen from the airport in

our van. We acted as their taxi, chaperone, guide, and coach, in all aspects particularly getting them familiar with the concept of pitching a round robin format in the WT. It was perhaps the most rewarding experience we have had at any of the 23 consecutive WT's we've attended.

Their experience with pitching consisted of three to six months of intermittent practice, 500 shoes to establish a pitching average, and a long, costly flight to the U S to participate. Their averages were: Thomas 10.5%, Nic 5.0%, Helgard 10%, and Francois 29%. All four of them pitched in the WT warm-up on the Saturday before the WT began. Helgard swept everyone with an amazing 35% average. He humbly approached me saying that he was here to make friends and not necessarily win everything and asked if he could be moved up a few classes for the WT. We spoke with Dick Hansen the NHPA Sec/Treas and tournament director. He had an opening in a 25% class so we all agreed that that would be a better spot for Helgard. He went 2-3 the first day, was somewhat frustrated but, and then practiced for a few hours and went on to win his last 10 games for a 13-2 record with a 37% average to

PLEASE NOTE:

Regardless of what you think you heard or read, I am NOT the new secretary/treasurer of the NHPA. What did happen is that NHPA Sec/Treas., Dick Hansen stepped down from the board of directors of the NHPFOUNDATION. NHPF president Dave Loucks approached me to inquire if I'd be willing to serve as a member of that board. I accepted and now serve with Dave, Stu Sipma (ND), Barry Chapelle (OR), Joe Faron (MO) as one of five members of the board of directors of the Foundation. If you're not certain of what the NHPF does or why it exists, please do yourself a favor and check out their website at: <http://www.nhpf.info/index.html>. You can learn all about it online or you may simply ask me for details. I'll be happy to share information with you.

WIN that class also. Nic won his class, going 12-1 with 18.65% with Thomas coming in second at 11-2 and 18.46% and Francois coming in 11th in his class. Helgard is a superb athlete playing Rugby, Jukskei and golf all at levels unprecedented for a 22 year old. This young man has the potential of becoming the South African equivalent of Alan Francis He financed part of his trip by selling his automobile.

One more note, they soaked up any and all instructions to become better pitchers. It was extremely rewarding for us to watch them excel at "our game" We can only hope that this international competition with blossom into a full-fledged charter in South Africa. The neighboring country of Namibia also has shown interest and we hope in future years that they will be able to participate also.

South Africa is in desperate need of horseshoes though as there is no source on the African continent for them. If you'd like to contribute a pair of shoes, new or used, to this cause please give them to me and I will send them to Thomas with notes stating whom they are from. *Casey Sluys*

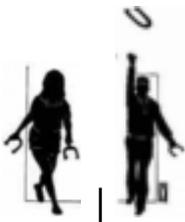
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Editor: Casey Sluys

1721 San Ramon Wy.

Santa Rosa, CA 95409-3964



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 **NCHPA Statistician**

Lee Roy Lassiter
2626 Toyon St
Anderson, CA 96007-
(530) 515-4817
leeroy@snowcrest.net

2nd. Vice President **Hall of Fame/Assist. RD**

Rick Bermingham
7221 Hedge Ave.
Sacramento, CA 95829-1005
(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) 687-9720 or (559) 303-5585
cocagne@aol.com

5th. Vice President **New Members/Assist. Newsletter Ed.**

Cathy Kauffman
8129 Clarion Circle
Antelope, CA 95843-4572
(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

NHPA Regional Director

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