

# Nor-Cal News & Views

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

## President

Hello everyone

We survived the heat in Stockton during the state championships. The tournament went well. We all had fun, thank you to all that helped, the Stockton club, Southern Cal and Northern officers. Congratulations to all the winners. It was great seeing the juniors and cadets. The shirts looked great, and even had a pocket. I love pockets.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at Vallejo on October 7th & 8th and the Nor-Cal Championships. The weather should be more comfortable.

Mark your calendars for November 11th our annual awards meeting and lunch.

**Joe Summers**

## Secretary/Treasurer

This is a really important item to remember and keep on hand for the 2018 pitching season – As always 2018 cards will be available October 1, 2017 – the thing to remember is that the NHPA membership dues have increased.

Adult dues will now be at total of **\$35.00** which represents \$25.00 to the NHPA plus \$10.00 to the NCHPA. The amount your club Secretary/Treasurer will need to send to the NCHPA Sec/Treas for 2018 adult members is **\$35.00**. Your club will add whatever amount they charge for dues and retain that amount. Junior/Cadet dues remain the same \$7.00. The National dues increase was approved at the annual meeting held in St. George, Utah. The membership form has been altered to reflect this dues increase and it will be emailed to all contacts.

I know this amount sounds like a lot of money on the surface, but please think about it – A

little league fee is \$250.00 per year plus equipment. Bowling runs \$1 to \$7.00 per game or hourly \$17 to \$29.00. Belonging to a league runs from \$10 - \$20 per week for 10 to 15 weeks for adults. Children's leagues run \$6.00 to \$10.00 per week for 8 to 10 weeks. Plus you may have to rent shoes if you don't have your own. Bocce is \$80.00 per season per member. Corn Hole runs \$25.00 - \$65.00 per person for leagues plus the bar bill (that's how it was pretty much said online). Just a little information from Google. As we pass on this dues increase in a positive manner it will help us over the hump. There are a lot of sports out there, if you love horseshoes an \$8.00 per year increase isn't that much. Elections this year include Sec/Treas (Me); 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President \*John Barney will not be running to retain this position as he and Maddie will be moving out of state; 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Alan Trusty; and we also have the open position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President vacated by Andrew Ryan. If anyone is thinking of running for these positions please contact Joe Summers his phone number and email are on the front of your schedule or the back of this newsletter. **Gail Sluys**

## 1st VP

Guess this will be my last letter for News and Views. The world tournament was a success for some of us Californians, Maddie and I had a great time this year. St George planned several activities for visitors. Including trips to their beautiful canyons.

As you know our State champion tournament, was HOT. We had a few casualties having to drop out. But all games were completed.

I hope a lot of you showed up for the Doubles tournament in Willows, Linda and Sharon have been working hard preparing for a great

tournament. And NORCAL Championship will be the next tournament. The weather should be more favorable, so make plans on competing, it's the last big tournament.

Unfortunately, now the bad news. Maddie and I are planning on moving out of state. So I'm having to withdraw from being on the NorCal executive council. I'm up for re-election this year, and will be unable to make the meeting. As third and now first Vice President, I've enjoyed working with the other officers and will miss working with them. **Jhon Barney**

#### **4th VP**

Hello all you brave pitchers and pitching supporters who survived the State Tournament in Stockton at 114 degrees!!!! I'm proud of all

of you. And for those that couldn't attend, know that our sport is thriving because if we made it through that stifling and oppressive heat and still want to pitch then we have a strong membership! I saw pitchers and their family and friends do all they could to keep cool while smiling and enduring. I witnessed our officers working hard to make the tournament a success and I believe we all did a great job from the stats to the icy cold water we cheered and we sympathized and we all contributed to a successful State Tournament hosted by NCHPA.

All that is behind us for another couple of years and we can now look forward to some more realistic heat, like in the 90s or even 80s at the doubles tournament in Willows and the NorCal Championships in Vallejo. As we look to the end of summer and the beginning of fall there are more tournaments to continue pitching in Exeter, San Jose, San Francisco, Sonoma County, back in Stockton (where the heat will be more tolerable), Madera, Seaside, Tri-Valley, Tulare, Madera and finally Half Moon Bay in December. Don't forget to calendar the Annual meeting on November 11th we'll do a lunch so that we can all go home before dark! I hope to see you all there.

IT'S TIME FOR 2018 TOURNAMENT DATES to be sent to me. If you haven't already sent

them in STOP what you are doing and send them in NOW! Please? It is so difficult to assemble the schedule when there is so much missing data.

God bless you and keep you safe and healthy. Please keep me in your prayers as I work to produce a schedule for our 2018 season.

**Lorena Tournour**

#### **5th VP**

Last week I sent out welcome letters to our 63<sup>rd</sup>, 64<sup>th</sup>, and 65<sup>th</sup> new pitchers for the year! I enjoyed working with my fellow board members running the State Tournament over Labor Day Weekend; Gail did a great job as Tournament Director, and Joe was very effective in carrying out his Presidential duties. I hope everyone enjoys the NCHPA Doubles Tournament in Willows, and everyone is looking forward to the NCHPA Championships in Vallejo. See you on the courts! **George Davis**

#### **Regional Director**

In an effort to publicize sanctioned horseshoe pitching we need to reach out to those recreational pitchers who do not know about us. Every opportunity we have we need to be handing out NCHPA or NHPA flyers to those type of players. As an example see what Peter Zepponi does with his Lord of the Ringers tournaments. This will be the 7th one he has been involved with in San Francisco. He has Luke's school class pitching horseshoes, this should be used as an example of what we all need to do to promote the game we love.

The following is a website with a myriad of information about how to work with young people and teach them the game of horseshoe pitching.

<http://www.horseshoeamerica.com/>

In closing we hope that all you club presidents and caretakers of your clubs make certain that all your court are up to par. It's really nice to see all the stakes properly aligned, all the foul lines clearly marked, and nice level walkways. **Casey Sluys**

The following are the results of the delegate vote at the 2017 NHPA Convention. Winners of the election of officers were **Laura Lampkin, KY** 2nd Vice President and **Rob Hagman, MN** for 4th Vice President.

The Winners of the Championship Divisions are:

**Men's Champ is Alan Francis OH, 15-0 & 90.4**

**Women's Champ is Joan Elmore TN, 14-1 & 87.5%**

**Elders Champ is Roger Vogel KS, 14-1 & 75.1%**

**Senior Women Champ is Sheila Sheppard CO, 7-0 & 68.37%**

**Senior Men Champ is Bob Swain NM, 11-0 & 61.5%**

**Junior Boy Champ is Seth Onan KY, 7-0 & 72.86%**

**Junior Girl Champ is Cameran Edwards PA, 5-0 & 60.29%**

**Cadet Champ is Walker Forrester OK, 7-0 & 75.43%**

### **PROPOSALS FOR NHPA BYLAWS CHANGES – 2017 CONVENTION**

Proposal A: **PASSED**

Current Wording:

**ARTICLE III: Membership**

**SECTION 3.** Dues for adult members are the National dues of seventeen dollars (\$17.00) plus the amount set for State dues within their Charter. Three dollar (\$3.00) of every adult membership will be set aside for the World Tournament prize fund, for the next year.

Proposed Changes to Wording: (see underlined)

**ARTICLE III: Membership**

**SECTION 3.** Dues for adult members are the National dues of **twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)** plus the amount set for State dues within their Charter. Three dollar (\$3.00) of every adult membership will be set aside for the World Tournament prize fund, for the next year. Convention delegates may also authorize the NHPA to make an annual donation to the NHPF. This amount will be determined at the NHPA annual winter meeting and will be voted on by delegates at the NHPA Convention, later that year.

Reasons for Changes:

A dues increase is now necessary for several reasons, including an increase in our annual expenses, combined with a loss of revenue due to our steadily decreasing membership. These and other reasons will be explained and discussed in a power-point presentation before the delegate vote on this proposal. The amount of the annual NHPF donation will be based on the current/annual specified needs and comparative bank balances of each organization, but shall not exceed \$1.00 per member. *(amended to delete verbiage regarding NHPF donation)*

Proposal B: **FAILED**

Current Wording:

**SECTION 7.** A membership card must be issued by the Charter in which the member maintains legal residence as determined by the filing of federal and state tax returns, voting, and/or driver license laws. Charters collecting NHPA dues for a non-resident member should give only a receipt, and then forward the dues and address information to the NHPA Secretary-Treasurer who will advise the Charter of record. Residents of a State having no active Charter may become an NHPA member by sending their dues directly to the NHPA Secretary-Treasurer.

Proposed Additions: *(Of the two presented here, those that may pass the Council and Delegate vote would be added to the end of Section 7, above)*

**1. Exception for 'Snow Bird' members FAILED**

Pitchers who reside in the Northern United States, but who spend their Winter months living in the Southern or other states, may purchase their membership cards from that state, providing they meet the following criteria, based on NatStats results from the previous 12 months:

a. Seventy percent (70%) of their sanctioned events must have been pitched in that state during the previous twelve (12) months, with a minimum of three (3) events pitched in that state.

- b. The qualifying pitcher must also have approval of the non-resident State Officers before their Secretary can issue this membership card. This State Secretary will also be responsible for verifying the requirements indicated in section a. (above).
- c. This State Secretary must also promptly notify the Secretary of the pitcher's resident state that they have issued a membership card to this individual. If there is any question or concern (within one month of the issue date) from members of either of the states involved, the NHPA Officers will make any final decisions, upon request.
- d. This member may pitch in only one of these State Tournaments (by rule), but must meet all of the requirements for participating in that State Tournament.

**Reasons for this Addition:**

Many of our pitchers who live in the Northern US spend some or all of their Winter months in the Southern tier states of Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, etc, and enter the sanctioned leagues and tournaments of those states during these Winter months. The Officers and TD's of these states spend a great deal of time promoting their leagues/tournaments, and getting new pitchers interested in joining their Association. Currently, all of these pitchers are required to purchase their NHPA cards from the states where they reside. Many of them, who may not return to their residences in the North until early May, would like to pitch in the State Tournaments there in late April, but are not eligible based on our current Rule which requires members to pitch in the State Tournament of their legal residence. Upon returning to their home states, some of these pitchers may have no intention of pitching there due to various factors, including required long driving distances to the scheduled tournaments there, or to their State Tournament. Not only would this 'exception' allow these pitchers to pitch in the State Tournament while there, it would also help to increase the membership of those State Associations who have worked to encourage and provide pitching facilities for these members. This exception, if passed, would not result in the loss of any of our NHPA members, and might even help to increase our membership!

**2. Exception for 'State Border' members FAILED**

Pitchers who reside very near to the state borders of an adjacent state may purchase their membership cards from that adjacent state, providing they meet the following criteria, based on NatStats results from the previous twelve months:

- a. Seventy percent (70%) of their sanctioned events must have been pitched in that state during the previous twelve (12) months, with a minimum of three (3) events pitched in that state.
- b. This exception applies only to the larger US states of the Midwest, Southern, and Western states, where distances from border-to-border are at least 200 miles.
- c. Generally, this pitcher must reside within 20 miles or so of the adjacent state, and the pitching facilities and league/tournament opportunities are much closer than league/tournament opportunities within their state.
- d. The qualifying pitcher must also have approval of the non-resident State Officers before their Secretary can issue this membership card. This State Secretary will also be responsible for verifying the requirements indicated in section a. (above).
- e. This State Secretary must also promptly notify the Secretary of the pitcher's resident state that they have issued a membership card to this individual. If there is any question or concern (within one month of the issue date) from members of either of the states involved, the NHPA Officers will make any final decisions, upon request.
- f. This member may pitch in only one of these State Tournaments (by rule), but must meet all of the requirements for participating in that State Tournament.

**Reasons for this Addition:**

This exception has been a frequent member request of the NHPA for several years now. This is especially problematic for states where second Charters have not/cannot be created, such as the upper peninsula of Michigan, in Texas, and many other of our larger states, where it makes more sense for some pitchers to join and pitch with clubs and in tournaments of their nearby State, that are much closer to where they live. And most often, they do not pitch in their State Tournament because of the much greater required travel distances. Not only would this 'exception' allow these pitchers to pitch in a State Tournament closer to where they live, it would also help to increase the membership of those State Associations who have worked to encourage and provide pitching facilities for these neighboring members. This exception, if passed, would not result in the loss of any of our NHPA members, and might even help to increase our membership!

**Proposal C: PASSED**

**Current Wording:**

Article V: Officers Section 2(c)(1)

The Secretary-Treasurer shall: (1) Be custodian of all funds, property, records, and other NHPA-owned assets, except for those of the game-related sales program, which are under the direction of the Game-Related Sales Buyer.

**Proposed Changes:**

Article V: Officers Section 2(c)(1)

The Secretary-Treasurer shall: (1) Be custodian of all funds, property, records, and other NHPA-owned assets.

**Reason for Change:**

The NHPA is no longer involved in game-related sales upon completion of the 2017 World Tournament

**Proposal D: PASSED**

**Current Wording:**

ARTICLE V: Officers

SECTION 6. Eligibility of Officers

- a. All officers shall be NHPA members in good standing (dues paid and not under suspension).
- b. At least one officer shall be a woman, and, similarly, at least one officer shall be a man. No Junior may be an officer.

**Proposed Changes:** (change to a. is underlined, and section b is eliminated)

- a. All officers shall be NHPA adult members in good standing (dues paid and not under suspension).

**Reasons for Change:**

Although it is desirable to have both men and women members represented on this Council, it should not be a requirement. It is more important to elect a person who is best qualified for this position, regardless of their gender. The current rule could potentially prevent some very qualified members from running for this position. This person should also have a great deal of experience with various aspects of our sport and therefore be an adult member, at least 18 years of age.

**Proposal E: PASSED**

**Current Wording:**

ARTICLE VII: Charters

**SECTION 1.** Charters shall be organized under the NHPA and shall be known as (name of state, territory or country) Division of the NHPA. It is the responsibility of Charters to follow NHPA Bylaws and if necessary, to enact separate but non-conflicting Charter Bylaws that are in compliance with their applicable State Governmental codes. Each Charter shall have a functional Executive Council, duly-elected by the Charter membership, for minimum two-year terms, and with the President being recognized as the ranking officer.

**Proposed Addition:** (see underlined)

ARTICLE VII: Charters

**SECTION 1.** Charters shall be organized under the NHPA and shall be known as (name of state, territory or country) Division of the NHPA. It is the responsibility of Charters to follow NHPA Bylaws and if necessary, to enact separate but non-conflicting Charter Bylaws that are in compliance with their applicable State Governmental codes. Each Charter shall have a functional Executive Council, duly-elected by the Charter membership, for minimum two-year terms, and with the President being recognized as the ranking officer. Any person holding a Charter Executive Council position, or any associated Council position, must be an NHPA member in good standing (dues paid and not under suspension).

**Reasons For Addition:**

It just seems logical that anyone acting in this capacity should belong to the organization that they are representing or working for.

**Proposal F: PASSED**

**Current Wording:**

**SECTION 6.** A Charter will be entitled to NHPA convention delegates, based upon the previous year's adult membership as follows:

**Proposed Change:** (see underlined) **SECTION 6.** A Charter will be entitled to NHPA convention delegates, based upon the previous year's total membership as follows:

**Reasons For Change:** Several Charters now have significant numbers of Juniors. With more and more emphasis being placed on Juniors, it seems that they should also be represented in the governance of the NHPA. By including them as a part of the total Charter membership numbers, this will perhaps qualify another Charter delegate to vote on their behalf.

## NHPA Standing Rules – Proposed Changes **PASSED**

### **Current Wording: (introduction)**

Standing Rules are for the guidance of the Executive Council. They may be adopted, changed, or suspended by a majority vote at any meeting, without notice. Between meetings, the Executive Council may adopt, change, or suspend a Standing Rule, but to continue, it must be ratified at the next Council meeting. Standing Rules take effect immediately and are as follows:

### **Proposed Change to Wording: (underlined)**

Standing Rules are solely for the guidance of the Executive Council. They may be adopted, changed, or suspended by a majority vote at any official Council meeting, without notice. Between meetings, the Executive Council may adopt, change, or suspend a Standing Rule via e-mail/phone discussion and voting. These actions shall continue to be official unless overturned by delegates assembled at the next Convention by a two-thirds majority vote. Council-approved changes to Standing Rules take effect immediately and are as follows:

### **Reasons for Change:**

Although this policy has been followed in the past, the change of wording makes this information more clear and consistent with Article IV, Section 2 b.

**Current Wording:** 10. Regional Directors are appointed, removed, replaced, and will serve in accordance with the published RD Guidelines, developed by the NHPA Vice President who oversees the RD program. All Regional Directors must be subscribers to the *Horseshoe Pitching Newsline* magazine. **PASSED**

**Proposed Change to Wording: (underlined)** 10. Regional Directors are appointed, removed, replaced, and will serve in accordance with the published RD Guidelines, developed by the NHPA Vice President who oversees the RD program. (the last sentence has been deleted.)

**Reasons for Change:** A subscription is no longer required for receiving the *Horseshoe Pitching Newsline* magazine.

**Current Wording:** 11. All member-proposed changes to the NHPA Bylaws and RGS Book shall be submitted in writing to the respective Committee Chairperson and shall be postmarked no later than December 31st of the year preceding the appropriate Convention. **PASSED**

**Proposed Change to Wording: (underlined)** 11. All member-proposed changes to the NHPA Bylaws and RGS Book shall be submitted in writing to the respective Committee Chairperson and shall be postmarked no later than November 30th of the year preceding the appropriate Convention.

**Reasons for Change:** This will allow additional time for the processing of these proposed changes.

**Current Wording:** 14. The NHPA shall donate to the National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation (NHPF) the amount of one dollar (\$1.00) per adult member, per year. **FAILED**

**Proposed Change to Wording: (underlined)** 14. The NHPA may donate to the National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation (NHPF) an amount not to exceed one dollar (\$1.00) per adult member, per year as decided by the delegates at the annual Convention.

**Reasons for Change:** *(to be made if Bylaws Proposal A is not approved). NOTE: This Standing Rule will be eliminated if Bylaws Proposal A is approved. If the Proposal does not pass, the word shall will be changed to may if approved by the delegates at the annual Convention.*

**Current Wording:** Standing Rules last amended December 15, 2014 **PASSED**

**Change of Wording: (see underlined)** Standing Rules last amended/ratified on July 23, 2017

**Reason for Change:** To provide for the current change of date.

*Thank You Casey Sluys, Gail Sluys, John Barney & George Davis your 2017 delegates.*

# CLUBS

## San Jose

Congratulations to all the pitchers who managed to attend the 2017 World Tournament in St. George, Utah and to those who made it to the California State Championships in Stockton, CA. Both St. George and Stockton were very, very hot, but the pitching was fun as usual.

The San Jose June 17 Gary Nakamoto tournament and the June 18 Tom and Mike Nakamoto Tournament were both small tournaments, but with the pitching and the potluck lunch everyone had a good time.

Thanks to those who attended our 2017 tournaments. We hope to see you and many others at our 2018 tournaments. Best wishes for the upcoming holiday season. **Mike Anderson**

## Shasta/Willows

The Shasta/Willows horseshoe club is looking forward to hosting the NCHPA Doubles tournament being held on Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> in Willows. Here are a list of Hotels and RV's parks with phone numbers for you to use in making your reservations. There is dry camping at the courts no hookups. Rolling hills casino has two hotels and a rv park with your stay here you get a free breakfast buffet. The Lodge 530-824-3220 The Inn 530-824-8300 RV park 530-528-3586 has full hookups. Willows RV park 888-435-8237. Hotels in the Willows area Holiday Inn & suites 888-734-8507. Baymont Inn & suites 888-945-3972. Motel 6 888-673-2059. Super Eight 888-675-8872. Best Western Inn 888-724-6413. I'm happy to say that Edwina has arranged for a Taco truck to come to the courts both days from Noon until Two o'clock. This wagon usually does not travel but, they will do this special weekend. The truck will accept CASH only and will offer Chicken, Beef and or Carnitas tacos for \$2.99 each or Burritos for \$7.99 each. If possible the Taco truck would like to have a head count so please let me know if you plan on ordering from them. Thanks! (530) 824-1392.

Get well wishes are being sent out to Elaine Butcher who just had hip replacement surgery. She is looking forward to getting back on the courts in 2018.

Also a special Thanks to Bill & Sharon Paddock for donating the special awards for the NCHPA doubles tournament.

A special personal Thank you to Dave Defino and Earl Davis for coming to my rescue at the state tournament when my car was broken into. I can't thank you guys enough for what you did for me. This is what the horseshoe family does. We help each other out. Thanks guys. See you in Willows.

**Linda Hoelscher**

## Half Moon Bay

I would like to congratulate our associate members Richard Robbins for winning his class at the World Tournament and Mark Bernard for winning his class at the California State Championship. We are proud to have you as members. Foa Remillong placed second in the woman's Championship. Good Job to all.

We now have 13 courts that have all the pitcher's platforms cemented. Thanks again to the Grant we received from the NHPF. Our tournament, the John Carver Open was a fund raiser to give back to the NHPF. We had a generous tournament and were proud to give back to the NHPF.

Our club had a nice article from the HMB Review, I hope all of our clubs are in contact with their local media. This is a link to the article covered during one of our tournaments.

[http://www.hmbreview.com/sports/horseshoe-club-heads-to-tourney/article\\_9a73c542-82ba-11e7-b7e2-73ce0c36dc05.html](http://www.hmbreview.com/sports/horseshoe-club-heads-to-tourney/article_9a73c542-82ba-11e7-b7e2-73ce0c36dc05.html)

We are still expecting a story of our club on NBC Channel 11. I will send an e-mail to everyone when it will air.

I like to send a reminder out when we are having a tournament via e-mail. If you are not getting my e-mails and would like to be notified, please send me your e-mail address to [rdellasant@aol.com](mailto:rdellasant@aol.com).

**Rick Della Santina**

## Tri-Valley

Tri-Valley has been busy since we wrote last – the World was held in St. George, UT and as always a great time had by all – our President Richard Robbins brought home a 1<sup>st</sup> place in Men's K1 – not only is Richard a champion but he's the glue that keeps Tri Valley Club together – at the World everyone from Coast to Coast had a handshake or

hug for Richard – he truly loves the sport of horseshoes and spreads the word everywhere he goes.



World Tournament 1<sup>st</sup> place K1 Men's winner Richard Robbins with his buddy Tim Saunders

The State held in hot, hot, hot Stockton was a success for our Tri Valley pitcher and resident cook Mark Bernard – 1<sup>st</sup> place Men E – you made us proud Mark. KUDOS to all that pitched and completed those games in that nasty heat – you all deserve a 1<sup>st</sup> place.

We still have several tournaments at Tri Valley for the year – please try to make one: October 28 and 29 and November 18 and 19.

Special thanks to Bill Faler our resident groundskeeper – you are truly a treasure.

Special thanks to Rick, Mona and Gail for helping us with HS Master

It truly takes everyone pitching in to help, Thank you to all – good health and just keep pitching. **Tim & Sue Saunders**

## Forebay Park

It was another great season at Forebay Park. our season is short because we have no lighting. It runs from 3rd Thursday in April through the end of August. This year we started out with about 12 members. And by the time it was over there were only about 8 left. But we have 7 sanctioned members this year! Last weekend was our league play-offs. 1st place went to Ted Rytell. 2nd was Lyle Goudie. We had one member go to world, Rick Eddy he came in 4th. Then we had two go to state this year Rick Eddy and Will Gonzales they both came in 6th place. Stockton was hot this year

109 degrees both days sucky! We put on three sanctioned tournaments this year. They were small but sweet. That's are best kept secret. We never fill-up and are at 4000 feet cool here. That's all for now, see you at Nor-Cal! **Rick Eddy**

## Madera

The Madera, Horseshoe Club, continues to grow. We now have over forty members. Club members are being recruited from the 120 member, Big Valley Horseshoe League.

We are particularly, proud of Marty Montez, who won the B-1 division championship at the World horseshoe tournament held in ST. George Utah.

Marty has only been a member of the Madera Club for the past four years. He continues to improve his pitching skills and is now listed in the top 100 players in the U.S.A.

Our phenomenal Jr. pitcher Hastiin Begaye, is something to see. At eight years old he throws over fifty percent games. We believe we have a national champion in the making. The entire Begaye family has become an asset to the Madera Club.

The 2017, World Police and Fire Games were held in Los Angeles California. Over 8000 police and Firemen participated from all over the world.

Several Madera, correctional workers from the Madera, Horseshoe league, won medals in the horseshoe event. Nor Cal members, Allen Beck, Rick Searcy and yours truly, won medals in their respective divisions. Richard Stacy (Tulare) won a gold medal in the short distance division. The Stevenson Ranch Horseshoe Club provided scorekeepers and technical support.

Several female, Police Officers from the Northern Territories in Australia, participated and thought the game of horseshoe tossing was a good way to spend two days. The next world games will be held in China in 2019.

The Madera, Club, will expand our Friday Night tournament schedule next year. The nights are cooler during the spring and summer months and with the excellent lighting we can accommodate up to twenty seven pitchers. So far, we have had good results with the Friday night tournaments, and they are sure cooler. **Harlen Rippetoe**

## Sacramento

It was a great experience for me at the World tournament this year in St George, Utah. I was in



the A-1 division this year and had my work cut out for me to make the top 16 after 3 days of pitching.

So many great pitchers in that group I was lucky to make the cut a few ringers away from a 60% for the tournament. A fresh start Thursday, Friday, Saturday games to 40 points! What a grind. It literally feels like every game is a playoff game. There are no poor pitchers in that tight group let me tell you! It was a blessing and a dream come true to pitch with Alan Francis. He is in his own group all by himself. What a class act. He had one game in the tournament where he had 55 ringers out of 56 shoes! His opponent scored 3 points with a 75% average. It goes to show how good Alan really is. His low game was 83%. I was fortunate to place 11th this year at 62.5 %.

Finishing 2nd place at the California State Championships AGAIN this year. 111 degrees out at the Stockton club forecast for Saturday. A tough bunch of pitchers who stuck it out. I hope those who had to pull out are well rested. Joe Summers and the NCHPA staff ran a great tournament!

Congrats to Mike Hammer placing third in the B division. Henry Hank Langley placed second the elders group good job guys! Marcus Santillana won his fourth title in the men's A group from Orange County with a 64%, myself 62.5 % and welcome back Nathan Williams got third place with a 55% average for the day. Hope to see everyone at the NCHPA class championships in Vallejo! **Rick Bermingham**

## Stockton

The Stockton Club was proud to host the California State Tournament! We provided some good old Stockton HEAT!! It was 112 on Saturday and it cooled down to 109 on Sunday, both days were all time record highs for the date! Don't let it be said that the Stockton Club can't bring the heat! Everyone did a good job staying hydrated, and although we suffered a couple of dropouts due to the heat, we didn't need to call out the Paramedics. Those later pitching shifts, right in the heat of the day, were brutal! You have to love horseshoe pitching to be out there pitching in those conditions, or let's face it you have to be nuts!

Thanks to Stockton members Jeff Vieira, and Fay Dumont for their help in putting on the tournament. Jeff had the courts in great shape, thanks to all his watering, mowing, edging, weed eating, blowing, and clay turning, a great Pit Master! Fay painted, lettered, planned for food, waited for porta-potties, made coffee, and did her usual great job of Scorekeeping. The courts looked good to handle their 10<sup>th</sup> State Tournament! We owe thanks to Dale Hughes, SoCal 5<sup>th</sup> VP, who

showed up early Friday, and stayed until late on Sunday. Dale provided the sound system, brought a drone that got some nice bird's eye shots of the courts, and provided some good beef jerky! A special thanks to Hall of Famer Jeff Williams, who worked into the moonlit night to repair broken stakes, and had interesting videos of the tournament posted on YouTube the day after it ended. And finally, special thanks to the City of Stockton, led by Brandt Evans, who did everything we asked of them, provided everything we needed for our State Tournament. The City Electrician told us he would be on call for us day or night all weekend if we had any electrical or light problems.....incredible!

The NCHPA did a great job of running the tournament! It is a monumental task to pre-register, schedule, sign-in, pass out Round Robin Cards, keep on time, schedule Judges and Scorekeepers, enter and post Results in a timely manner, schedule Playoffs, present Awards, and deal with the heat for a Major State Horseshoe Tournament. Keeping 140 Horseshoe Pitchers happy (mostly), and doing it with a smile on your face is a challenge! Everyone on the Board did their part, led by Tournament Director Gail Sluys, and President Summers, and it turned out to be a Great State Tournament! Ringers were thrown, Champions were crowned, and pitchers created some memories, and had a good time in spite of sweating a lot! What more can you ask?!

Birmingham and Santillana had a great battle for the Men's Title. What a great rivalry has developed between Rick and Marcus over the last few years, great for horseshoes! It is a pleasure to watch those two compete. They are both gentlemen, and despite fiercely competing against one another, both seem to respect one another, and have become friends! Marcus came away with his 5<sup>th</sup> Men's Championship, but in their 4 games this summer (including two at the World Tournament), Rick has won 3 games. Both of them have to feel good about this year's competition. It was great to see Nathan Williams compete for the Men's crown again. Nathan has won the California Title 4 times, the Arizona Men's Championship 5 times, and has appeared in the Championship Group at the World Tournament, so it should be no surprise that he came up with a big game against Rick, effectively taking away Rick's chance at an elusive 7<sup>th</sup> State Title! There was some objection from Southern California about the Championship group not having the traditional top 12 men entered, but the Double Round Robin format involving the top 8 men turned out to be very competitive and interesting to watch!

Sandra Johnson of Southern California won her 3<sup>rd</sup> Women's Title against a strong field, including former State Champion Foa Remillong, and three-time Women's Champ Linda Hoelscher. Sandra was not only a worthy champion, but was on the courts at 7:00am each morning keeping score; good stuff! Sharon Paddock had to withdraw because Bill is having heart problems. All of our best to Bill; we hope he gets that heart fixed and gets it back out on the horseshoe courts soon! It would have been interesting to have Sharon in the group, a 7-time Women's State Champion, who threw an 81% tournament in 1986!

Gil Tournour is the new State Elders Champion! What a huge win! He pitched 4 points over his average, and beat number one seed John Garcia twice to take the Crown. Congratulations to Gil on a great performance! Southern California had a 6-year strangle hold on the Elders Title; Gil brought it back to Northern California!

Madera's Hastiin Begaye won the Cadet Group in a playoff over promising young Dillon Kyle. The Cadets pitched on the new extended platforms on Courts 9 and 10 (the Joe Summers platforms). My bet is that this will be the first of many championships for Hastiin! It is going to be fun to watch his horseshoe career!

San Francisco's Luke Zeponi is the new Jr. Boys Champion. Luke throws a nice  $\frac{3}{4}$  turn with the Imperial Horseshoe. He is great young man with a bright horseshoe future!

It was nice to see Travis Sluys, and Hayden Lee compete in the State Tournament. After outstanding Jr. careers, both are moving up to 40 feet, and both throw impressive  $1\frac{1}{4}$  turns. Hayden made it to Men's B group, and Travis had a nice 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in Men's C. It is great to see them staying with their sport through such busy times in their lives!

On a personal note, I had a pretty good Sunday I won my group in a playoff, over Art Burt, a pitcher I have always admired (you've got to love that turn and three he throws from 30 ft.), and I won the autographed Alan Francis horseshoes. It was such a nice day that I thought that maybe I had passed out from the heat, and was just hallucinating these things! It made it special to win the Alan Francis horseshoes since Casey had introduced me to Alan and his wife Amy at the World Tournament. What down to Earth, nice people they are! They are a credit to our sport, and role models for young and old horseshoe pitchers. To speak to Alan, you would never know that he is a multiple time world champion, and an athlete that has dominated his sport like no other has in any other sport! I have to

think of something special to do with those autographed shoes!

I hope you will all join us in Stockton for the Jeff Vieira Tournament on Sunday, October 15. October weather is great in Stockton, and I can promise you it won't be 112! **George Davis**,

## Ukiah

In my last newsletter article, I wrote "Ukiah is HOT! It reached 106 this week" - little did I know that Stockton would be even hotter during the State Tournament! We endured and we made it and some of our pitchers came home winners. Gil Tournour won the Elder's Championship and not only was I there to support him, but our daughter and son-in-law (Sherise & Gordon Bushby) were there cheering for him and making sure he had access to the misters and lots of cold water. We were all very proud and excited.

Our club is very proud of our Lake County members, Earl Davis who placed in the money in the Men's D group and Pam Mills who came in 1st in the Women's C group, it was her first State Tournament and she was so happy! Debra Belvail, also from Lake County, took 2nd place in the Women's B group. All-in-all we feel our members did very well and we are not only proud of their winnings but also of their stamina!

We are all looking forward to the next couple of months with tournaments from Sonoma County to Tulare, finishing the season in December at Half Moon Bay.

Ukiah tournaments in 2018 will be enticing you to come on up and pitch and visit and even try your luck at a local casino! We hope to see you all here!  
- **Lorena Tournour**

## Sonoma County

Our last tournament of the year will be the one you've all been waiting for. The Mystery Money Open. It's where you receive \$8.00 of your entry fee back in an envelope in varying amounts of change. Change that can be divided by 2 numerous times. When you win a game you collect 1/2 of your opponents money out of his envelope. If you win a 2nd game you win 1/2 of that opponents money and so on till the end of the tournament. There is no usual first or second place money paid at this tournament. It's all up to you to see how much money you can take from your fellow pitchers. Come on out to some of the best courts in the NCHPA and join in the fun. **Casey Sluys**



# NCHPA CHAMPIONSHIPS ENTRY FORM



October <sup>7th and 8th</sup>

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

## HOST CLUB – Vallejo Horseshoe Cub

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

**ENTRY DEADLINE POSTMARKED September 23, 2017**

Participants must have pitched in (3) NCHPA sanctioned tournaments before September 23, 2017. **New members** who joined after August 1, 2017 and **Junior/ Cadet** Entrants need a minimum of one (1) NCHPA sanctioned tournament before September 23, 2017.

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

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

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

**NO REFUNDS AFTER SCHEDULE IS COMPLETED.**

-----Cut Here-----Cut Here-----

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

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

**OPEN MEN      OPEN WOMEN      ELDERS MEN      JUNIOR GIRL/BOY**  
**CADET 12 & UNDER (20 ft.)      SR.MEN      SR.WOMEN**

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

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

Casey Sluys 20-4  
1721 San Ramon Wy  
Santa Rosa CA 95409-3964  
NCHPA.com



## **NORTHERN CALIFORNIA HORSESHOE PITCHERS ASSOCIATION**

### **President**

#### **Judges Training**

Joe Summers  
231 Escondido Dr.  
Martinez, CA 94553  
925-260-0915  
[40ftforever@gmail.com](mailto:40ftforever@gmail.com)

### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

#### **Paper Supplies/Social Sec.**

John Barney  
270 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St.  
Lincoln, CA 95648  
916-253-9897  
[barneyjhon@yahoo.com](mailto:barneyjhon@yahoo.com)

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President**

#### **Statistics**

Alan Trusty  
2734 E. Whitmore Ave  
Ceres CA 95307  
831-245-9254  
[alant\\_21@yahoo.com](mailto:alant_21@yahoo.com)

### **4<sup>th</sup> Vice President**

#### **By-Laws/Schedule**

Lorena Tournour  
PO Box 113  
Calpela, CA 95418  
707-485-7894  
[latournour@gmail.com](mailto:latournour@gmail.com)

### **5<sup>th</sup> Vice President**

#### **New Members**

George Davis  
1435 W. Vine St  
Lodi, CA 95242-3861  
209-365-1190  
[guydavis@comcast.net](mailto:guydavis@comcast.net)

### **Secretary/Treasurer**

Gail Sluys  
1721 San Ramon Wy  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

### **NCHPA Statistician**

Alan Trusty  
2734 E. Whitmore Ave  
Ceres CA 95307

### *Regional Director/Newsletter Editor*

Casey Sluys  
1721 San Ramon Wy  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

707-538-3128; 707-486-0594  
[nchpagail@gmail.com](mailto:nchpagail@gmail.com)

831-245-9254  
[alant\\_21@yahoo.com](mailto:alant_21@yahoo.com)

707-477-8893  
[kclus@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kclus@sbcglobal.net)