



NORCAL NEWS & VIEWS

Editor: Bill Harris

Volume 9

Issue 2

April 2006

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE by: Kimmy Stockli

Here is the question of the year, **ARE WE EVER GOING TO PITCH A TOURNAMENT????** Hopefully by the time you all get to read this, we have had a tournament or two and shook off the cobwebs from our horseshoe boxes and bags. We've been lucky here in Vallejo. Ben Yost and I have been able to get in quite a few practices at our courts. Pat Murtha and Bill Milligan showed up a few times also. We are there every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:30 a.m. for all of you that are looking to get out and practice. The more the merrier.

We had a great time in Quartzsite this year. It was a little windy from time to time, but over all, the weather was good. We had several of our NorCal members there again this year. Just to name a few: Tom Munoz, Richard Robbins, Bob Birge, Marlene Carr, Bernie Merchan, Charlie Russian, Rick Thompson, Jim Gibbons, Ken Woolery, Estrellita and Bill Boggess, Jim Collins, Bob Tuscany, Denny Currier, Bill Terry, Duane McGrath, Charlie Hall, Ted Harden and several more. There were 37 of us in all. You can see the results on horseshoepitching.com on the tournament results page. Total turnout for the tournament was 147 pitchers. Way short of last years 180 +. I think the fuel prices had something to do with that.

On a more serious note, there was an incident involving some of our members and alcoholic beverage consumption, leading to very bad behavior. Granted, the problem didn't occur during the tournament, and we have no jurisdiction over what occurs in the campgrounds; we still don't like to see the NorCal membership look bad. Please, if you are going to party, and I'm one of those that is known to indulge, please follow the campground rules and control you're behavior. I'd hate to loose members because of this type of incident.

The World Tournament is in Gillette, Wyoming this year, for all of you that have been hiding under a rock. The dates are July 10th. thru the 22nd.. They are expecting a very large turnout, so get your hotel or RV reservation in ASAP. Rooms are filling up fast. All of the information you will need is available on the horseshoepitching.com website.

During the World Tournament, we would like 5 volunteers to be our NorCal delegates for the National Meeting. It is a 1-day meeting on Sunday, July 16. We will be voting on several items, including By-Laws and Officers. If any of you are interested in representing the NorCal membership, or have any questions, please contact me. A packet with all of the items to be voted on will be provided to the NorCal Clubs. So we can all get a chance to vote. When the contact person for your club receives that information, make sure you hold a meeting to get those votes heard. Your votes will then be passed on to the delegates and the delegates will vote your decisions. You can check out all of the proposed changes on the horseshoepitching.com website or you can find them in this month's Newsline. See ya on the courts!!

1st. VICE PRESIDENT: Sharon Paddock

Hi Everyone, looks like pitching season has started! Remember to play in at least 5 N.C.H.P.A. Tournaments to be eligible for the NOR-CAL Championships.

HIGH GAMES IN ALL GROUPS FOR THE TULARE TOURNAMENT:

2/25/26

Group A; Ray Santana-72.5%--**Group B;** John Ortega-62.5%--**Group C;** Diane Cocagne-47.5%--**Group D;** Harold Revels-45%--**Group E;** Rodney Tidwell-20% and Kent Macgregor-20%.

2/26/06

Group A; Ray Santana-75%--**Group B;** Harlen Rippetoe-47.5% and **Group C;** Rod Mattas-45%.

That is all I have till the next issue....pitch a high one and see your name in print. We have now had 6 canceled tournament. We have quite a few pitchers playing in Arizona, so maybe we all need to make a trip over there, I understand the weather has been in the 70's...I hope that the bad weather here is over and we all can get some practice and start playing in tournaments....Hope you have a good season and pitch a high game in your group.

3rd. VICE PRESIDENT: Bill Harris

NCHPA By-Laws: Any changes to the By-Laws are done in even numbered years. The deadline for proposals to be in my hands is July 7, 2006. Send proposals to Bill Harris; via Postal mail at : 4949 Rainbow Trail, Pollock Pines, CA. 95726 I will not accept proposals through e-mail.

News & Views Editor: This year the E.C. has agreed to allow AD's in the newsletter to help offset the cost of printing & publishing. See Page 2.

4th. VICE PRESIDENT

Tournament Schedule & Junior Promotion: Charlie Hall

Thank you very much to the Delegates at the 2005 Annual NCHPA meeting for the confidence to elect me into office. As it relates to next year's schedules, hopefully our rainy years are behind us. I regret that we have not had one scheduled tournament in the 2006 calendar year not be rained out.

Please make note:

When a new member qualifies (100 consecutive shoes) for being seeded in tournament play, the score sheet **must be signed by two (2) NHPA card holding members.** The qualifying pitcher gets a copy (of which he/she must hand over to the tournament director of the tournament he/she is signing up for, (for seeding percentage) and a copy goes to the Charter Statistician. The Club should keep a copy just in case one of the other two are lost.

NHPA By-Law—Article XII: Sec. 3a.

New Banners for NCHPA Clubs by: Gail Sluys-
Sec./Treas. & Regional Director.

For those of you that haven't heard, Casey has designed a new banner to be used by clubs throughout the country. The NHPA will pay for all of the new banners. In February I e-mailed all of the NCHPA contact people to find out which clubs would like to have one of these banners. Many responded and therefore I took it upon myself to order one for each of our NORTHERN CLUBS. Why not, I'm sure you'll agree, no reason to turn down something that looks great and someone else is paying for...right?

The banners not only look great, but they advertise our clubs and the National web site at the same time. They are 2' x 4' with the NHPA logo on the left side, to the right of that is your club name, under the club name is Horseshoe Pitching Club with "Join Today" beneath that. The last line is the National Web site address. This banner is very colorful and should draw the attention of anyone walking by during a tournament. I would like to see each club bring their banner to the state tournament. I think it would look very professional to see all of the same colorful banners hanging side by side.

Casey had a very large response from around the country. Many banners have already been produced and distributed. I have all of the banners for Northern CA clubs and to save us money, will be giving them out at tournaments, if we ever get to pitch. When the monsoons and snowstorms pass, look me up at a tournament because I will be carrying them in the van.

2006 MEMBERSHIPS As a reminder to Club Secretaries, get those 2006 memberships in. You don't want to have one of your club members be unable to pitch because they don't have their 2006 cards.

Attention 2005 members, if you haven't paid your 2006 dues, please get them in. We sure would love to have everyone ready to pitch if the rain/snow ever stops! Remember March, "comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb", so there is hope for tournaments soon.

Also a reminder to all tournament directors, please check for 2006 cards; especially at the beginning of the season, last year we had a few slip by who never did pay dues.

We have 310 members right now ready to pitch....*Think Sun!*

Combie Trophy & Awards
Regina & Charles Madenford
10594 Combie Road, Suite 1
Auburn, California 95602
(530) 268-8350

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NCHPA NEWS & VIEWS

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The rest of the 2006 deadlines for submitting articles are June 16, September 15 & December 15.

Advertise & Support Your Club Events &

NCHPA. Talk to your local Business's about an AD. (All AD's to be Black & White). Business Card size is \$25.00 per issue. 1/4 page size is \$60.00 per issue. Send your check(s) & AD(s) to Bill Harris, NCHPA News & Views, 4949 Rainbow Trail, Pollock Pines, CA. 95726. Make check(s) payable to NCHPA. Need information; call Bill at (530) 644-8473 or e-mail at tooringers6@yahoo.com.

Shasta Club by: Lee Roy Lassiter

Not much going on up here. Just one rainy day after another. We did manage to get some much needed work done on our courts during one of the short dry spells. We replaced some of the concrete on four of the courts and replaced several of the backboards before the rain started again. We still have some more repairs to do but the rain just will not let up long enough.

Fritz Oberst finally had his cataract surgery on both eyes. He now has 20/20 vision in both eyes and can actually see the stake when he pitches shoes. He should be able to raise his ringer percentage quite a bit this year. Fritz, Buddy Darnold & I are trying to get our courts dried out enough to hold our tournaments on March 25 th. and 26th.

We hope to see many of you at our tournaments this year or at some of the other locations.

Indian Valley Club by: Gloria Begay

We all hope everyone is still in shape. We will be holding our tournaments in June and July. Hope we don't get rained out. Indian Valley is one of the few clubs that have a split tournament; that is where the 30 ft's. and 40 ft's. pitch in their own groups. So if this is the way you like to pitch, come on up. This time I will not forget the paint. Ha, ha.

Feather River Club by: Audrey Winters

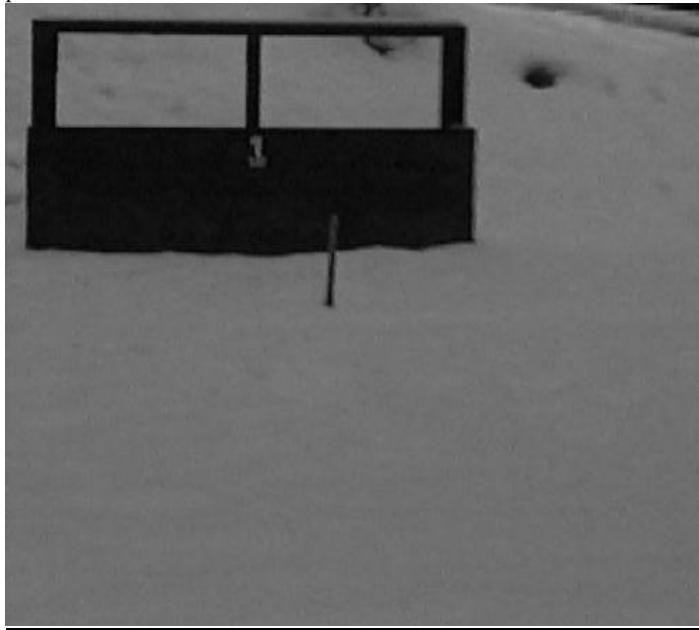
Feather River Club is looking forward to another great season. Our President, Jim Thorp is on the mend after last year's accident and is hoping he will be back pitching before too long. We have one new member; Lee Oliver. He had previously belonged to the Yolo Club and is now living in Magalia. He is an avid pitcher and we are happy to have him in our club. Feather River Recreation and Park District has had a change in administration and is now going by the book. Our fees have increased and we are no longer permitted to have alcohol on the premises, at Palermo Park without having \$1,000,000 insurance coverage.

We're hoping the rainy season will be over before long and we look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming tournaments.

NOTICE: There is an error in the 2006 NCHPA Tournament Schedule. On page three (3) under **SEPTEMBER;** The **CALIFORNIA STATE TOURNAMENT....in Bakersfield:** The dates are printed as: **9/2, 9/3 & 9/4.** **Please change the dates to 9/1, 9/2 & 9/3.**

Forebay Park Club by: Bill Harris

Congratulations to all the NORCAL members that won at the Quartzsite "La Z Daze Classic", special congrats to Ted Harden of our club. *He entered with a 25.88% and pitched 29.75 to win his class.* Our club is still working on the pits. Follow up on the White Fir stump at the north end of pit 9, the stump has been cut and is ready to pull out. The stump weighs about three (3) tons, now we are looking for someone to lift it out of the hole so we can fill the hole with dirt. We still have snow on the ground and therefore cannot even get to the pits.



We have four sanctioned tournaments this year; June 17 and 18 and August 19 and 20. (Just before and then after the World Tournament.) We sure hope we get a great turnout.

"Forebay Park" Horseshoe Club

In
Pollock Pines
Invites you to pitch with us on
June 17 & 18.

We have lots of shade and the coolness of the waters edge of Forebay Reservoir, at 4000' Elev.

Bring your fishing poles.

We will pay twice the normal prize monies.

Coffee & Donuts & Water for everyone.
Donations welcomed

Lots of RV Parking...no hookups, but at the reasonable rate of \$5.00 for each night.

Phone Bill Harris at 530-644-8473 for
Further information

Shingle Springs Club by: Dave Cardinalli

Well now---J.C. Hays has left us. Voluntarily discontinued dialysis, checked out of the nursing care home, went back to his home and passed away exactly two weeks later. It's a sad story and all, but—the life he was living there at the end wasn't worth it. We all wish "Hank" the best. I guess she is moving to Southern California to be closer to her family.

The roof gutters have been running pretty full for the last three weeks. Water runs to the hole left in the gutter after the \$#@%\$#@&\$ tore the downdrains off. Pours out in a big cascading flourish and pounds down upon the sidewalk with a splash that resembles 'Ralph Kramden falling on his --BLANK--in the bathtub.

I woke up last week & just about had a stroke when I looked in the mirror & saw me looking back. I immediately got in my truck & went to the Emergency Room at Marshall Hospital. The Doc asked me what my problem was. I told him...."Man—look at me. My face is red, my tongue is swollen, my hair is falling out, my ears have grown to twice their normal size, my nose looks like Rocky Marciano caught me with a 'Lollapalooza', my two front teeth are loose andThe Doctor just said---Well at least there's nothing wrong with your eyes.

Rich King had to go get a Colonoscopy. He told the Doc. that was the closest thing he has had to sex since his wife died fifteen months ago. Told the Doc. he was falling in love again....The Doc threw off his mask like a "Catcher" and ran clear out of the hospital. **Jack Couch** bought another new pickup. It's a green one. Ford! That makes seventeen pickups Jack has now. One for every day of the week and ten spares. If he misses checking the mail for one day, the letters from DMV start spilling out onto the street.

Dan Sorensen said he was watching the news last Friday morning and some guy jumped off the Hyatt Hotel down in Sac. Dan said he was watching again on Friday evening and "I'll be darned if the dumb SOB didn't jump off again". **Al Hunt** fell off his porch and broke his arm and popped all the wax out of his ears and everything. Blew all the hair out of his nose and other places too. His porch is four inches high. God only knows what would have happened if the porch would have been eight inches high. **Mauri Hautaniemi** went to Finland for a visit and left a pretty nice stock account here at home. Mauri was margined right up to the hilt on his equity account. He had a lot of Yahoo at \$42.50. Yahoo reported bad and went to \$32 while Mauri was in Finland eating fish. When he got back to town and checked his account he found that he'd missed three margin calls and **Ameritrade** had sold off his stock. Mauri told us that was the most expensive halibut he'd ever eaten. He said he should have ordered a whale.

I'd go on with this, but I've run out of members to report on. That's all six of us her at Shingle.

We're OK tho. We are still with the program. If we need more members; there are lots of Winos down on 47th street. Ripple is only \$2.65 a jug at Payless. We've got a pretty good bankroll gathered up. I can round up a quota real easy if need be. "Hasta Porto Rico----"

Just a reminder: The 2006 World Championship Tournament at the CAM-PLEX in Gillette, Wyoming will be July 10 thru July 22. Entry form within this issue.

Tri-Valley Herald –Tuesday, March 14, 2006--
Luke Braun (62 year member in Horseshoes.) passed away on March 9 at the age of 92. Luke was a member of the Mosswood Club in Oakland, CA for many years. When the Mosswood Club folded, Luke joined the Tri-Valley Club in Pleasanton, CA. Luke had not pitched horseshoes for the last 15 or so years. Submitted by Glenn Jamieson.

Sonoma County Club by: Casey Sluys

Many of you have, no doubt, heard of the NHPA's effort to re-write the Official Rules of Horseshoe Pitching. This is a multi-year effort to clarify some of the rules that were interpreted as vague. There are no earth shattering changes with this re-write, merely some re-structuring and re-phrasing. It will also include a table of contents, an index, a guidelines section and a glossary. Personally I would encourage that the members adopt this; then over the course of the next few years, streamline the document to everyone's liking.

It will become a much more useful document than the existing rules pamphlet. Presently, things are difficult to find and at times it takes a long time to locate various rules particularly when one is in the middle of a tournament. The new re-write will speed this process up ten fold.

Sure, many of you believe that there are too many rules in our fine sport already, but how many of them do you really understand? Do you know the definition of a "scoring radius"? How about the definition of "scoring area"? These two things will be defined in the upcoming re-write. Did you know that it's illegal to step into the scoring area without your opponent's permission? The penalty is supposed to be one shoe. It states that when this occurs, the contestant guilty of this infraction shall only pitch one shoe the next inning! Have you ever been penalized for this infraction? I suppose not, but that's because the scoring area had never been adequately defined in past rules pamphlets.

If you have concerns or questions regarding the re-write, please don't hesitate to ask me. First though, I need you all to be aware that the 2006 printed schedule has my e-mail address wrong and you'll never reach me if you use that address. It is kcslus@sbcglobal.net. Hmmmmm you ask; what's the difference? It's an intentional misspelling of my last name. My address is SLUS, Gail's e-mail is SLUYS, don't be fooled, type carefully. Yes, we have 2 computers and things sent to Gail, for me, will reach me as we forward to each other when this occurs.

Have you seen the Northern Calif. website lately? WOW, Steve Summerlin has done an awesome job reconfiguring some of the pages. They look very professional and the NHPA is very fortunate to have a fine gentleman like Steve in the organization. Steve is responsible for the NHPA website also at: <http://www.horseshoepitching.com>. Our website address can now be accessed using <http://www.nchpa.com>. Try it and see how simple it is, fairly easy to remember also. Remember to send any changes to the website directly to me please, and I'll see that they are put up. It's much easier for Steve to deal with one person in the charter than with 22 different clubs.

Oh yeah, Steve lives in Michigan and you can meet him at the upcoming World Tournament in Gillette, held July 10-23, 2006. Be sure to thank him for his efforts! Deadline for signing up for the '06 WT is May 18th., so get your entry in quickly! You can print it directly off the NHPA website.

How's your promotion going? Have you used all those flyers we made a year or so ago? How's the response been? What are your plans for hosting an amateur event for your area? Usually these amateur events will garner 2 or 3 new members, try it, you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Don't forget to support the Sonoma County Horseshoe Pitching Club. Our tournaments are on Sat. and while you are in the North Bay, stick around and pitch in Vallejo on Sunday. What could be more pleasant than a weekend in the wine country?

Tulare Horseshoe Club by: Wayne George

Come and pitch in the most southern part of the Northern California Horseshoe Pitchers Association. No rain in the sandy pits of Tulare, just ringers and good fun.

This will be my last year as Club President and the last year for Vicki as Sec./Treas.; as we have moved to the beautiful Central Coast. We still love the game of horseshoe pitching and visiting with all our friends and family, we are not giving up on the wonderful game of horseshoes and we hope to see all of you real soon.

Tri-Valley Club by: Linda Hoelscher

Tri-Valley had seven of it's members travel to Quartzsite for the La Z Daze Classic. Out of the seven, three of them placed in their groups. Bill Boggess took first place in the C-40, Richard Robbins took fourth place in E-40 and Art Anderson took first place in F-30. Way to go guys.

Tri-Valley would like to Welcome their new member for this season; Adrienn Huffman. So, please help her if you get to pitch against her and make her feel welcome.

Tri-Valley's upcoming tournaments will be April 1st. and 2nd.; that is if this rain ever stops and let's get this season started. Think Sunshine and Ringers.

Placer County Club by: Jenny Hoy Goodacre

We have had four dedicated players all winter and with signing two new members we now have six to seven players on Mondays and Thursdays at 3:00 P.M. in Folsom using our sand courts (thank heavens for them or we wouldn't be practicing). We welcome players from other clubs to join us. We have three sand courts. Our clay courts are flooded.

Our mascot, John Terry aka "One Point John", will be 93 November 2nd. and is one of the dedicated players and he also plays shuffleboard and bowls. Since his hip replacement he can't walk as much, so when he is not playing doubles, he uses his motor scooter between courts. He and I play each other quite often and he lives up to his name of "One Point John". He never misses a practice except for a medical appointment.

We had three members who did not re-sign this year, but Barbara Berry is re-joining.

We welcome two new members; Elaine Massey and Spero Pappas, who attends practice faithfully and are looking forward to their first tournaments if the courts ever become playable.

We are all looking forward to a great 2006.

Chet Rasmussen is our new Club Sec./Treas.

The following was supposed to be in the Jan. edition.

I, as editor apologize to Martha Dunn; for I misplaced it.

"Long time Tri_Valley Horseshoe Club Members were saddened by the recent death of former member, Jerry Pawloski. A fine builder and construction Supervisor during his working years, he put his talents to work for our club. Our Little "Stat Office" building is a result of his handy work and he helped gather material for and lead the construction of the 1988 WT Courts in Pleasanton, Calif. Jerry's friendly, good humored and generous personality will be remembered by all who knew him."

Half Moon Bay Club by: Charlie Hall

In an article of the News & Views prior to the Aug/Sept. 2005, there is an article of the work party getting ready for the State Tour. and several people were singled out for helping. Those omitted were Bill Terry, Terry Farrell, Jeff Williams and I believe Rich Robbins.

The results for **our** Dec. 3 & 4, 2005 tournaments are:

Saturday

Group 1-----1st. -Hugh Cloutier----- 2nd. -Kimmy Stockli.

Group 2-----1st. --Jim Saunders--- 2nd. -Rick Della Santina.

Group 3-----1st. --Dennis Andrews----- 2nd. -Doug Jones.

Group 4-----1st. --Don Reip----- 2nd.---John Bettencourt.

Sunday

Group 1-----1st.-Rick Della Santina--- 2nd. -Mary Ten Kate.

Group 2-----1st. -Doreen Elkins----- 2nd. -This was a 3 way tie between: Kay & Bill Webbe & Ray Elkins. Results not available at this time.

Group 3-----1st. -Doug Jones----- 2nd. -Dick McCall.

The HMB Club is pleased to note that 3 of our members were recognized with the Year End Awards at the NCHPA Annual Meeting. Kay Webbe as Most Improved (2nd. consecutive Year), Don Reip as Most Improved Elder, & Bill Terry was inducted into NCHPA Hall of Fame.

A special Thanks to all clubs that have supported us in HMB this past year.

A bit of good news for all those folks that prefer clay vs. sand pits. We've been selected to be one of the venues in a new 22 acre park site recently acquired by the City of HMB. We have participated in a 40 person Committee of local area representatives with varied "Park Interests" for the past year. The final design was approved by the HMB City Council on November 15, 2005, which included plans for 20 competition horseshoe pits.

It is our intention to build clay pits when we are allowed to develop our area. The other good news is; we'll be right next to the restrooms with running water. We will be asking for help from other clubs & individuals with our design & construction.

We've already received many offers to assist; which we appreciate. Questions on the new park can be directed to Charlie Hall, Committee Representative or alternate Committee member Bill Terry.

We had 14 HMB members @ the World Tournament in Bakersfield with Terry Farrell winning his Class Championship & I finished 4th. in my group. I went in seeded 15th.

We had 11 or 12 that competed at the Sate: Charlie Hall-2nd. Place in his division.

HMB had two teams @ the Team Championships in Santa Rosa. Team captains Bill Terry & Charlie Hall.

Only one advanced to the second day. Charlie Hall's team: which consisted of Jim Samples (first year member & highest point total for the first day of all participants), Dale Koistinen, John Bettencourt and Charlie Hall. They finished in 8th. Place overall.

Bill Terry, Charlie Hall & Steve O'Dell from HMB went to Quartzsite in Arizona in January.

Bill Terry & Charlie braved the 22 degree desert temps & winds in a tent. Only ones there in a tent. Charlie finished in the money, had a high game of 42.5% against Rich Robbins of Tri-Valley. Bill Terry & Steve O'Dell finished further down in their groups. There was a very large number of NCHPA participants in Arizona @ Quartzsite.

Our 2006 Officers are:

President-----Charlie Hall,
1st. V.P.-----Pat McGowan,
2nd V.P.-----Keith Remillong,
3rd. V.P.-----Terry Farrell,
4th. V.P.-----John Bettencourt,
Treasurer-----Glen O'Brien,
Secretary----- Bill Terry,
Statistician---- Julie McGowan.

Our club participated in the NHPA Sanctioned League for the 2nd. yr. & here are the results:

Bill Terry-League Champion, Foa Remillong-High Average, Foa & Rick Della Santina-High Games & High Game Over Average, Pat McGowan-Sportsmanship Award, Jim Sample-Rookie of the Year, Kay Webbe-Most Improved.

SACRAMENTO HORSESHOE CLUB By: Larry

Thorson and Joan Bryan.

Hi from Sacramento: I hope everybody had a great holiday and didn't get too far out of shape...Hopefully this spring the NCHPA won't have as many rain outs as we've had in the last two seasons so, clean off those shoes and let's start another great year of pitching shoes.

There's some news about work done on the "Sac. Courts: #1. We have had some people tell us that they have had problems pitching on our courts, because of our backboards being too high for as close as they are to the pitching platform. Well, we have cut'em down enough so as not to be a problem anymore. #2. We have fixed our four loose strakes. #3. We have also added more clay to our pits, put new cap boards on top of our backboards and finished the last three courts, putting rubber guards in front of the pits. We should be in good shape for the 2006 season, that's if Mother Nature will just cooperate.

Well, that's it for now. Hope you can make it to some of our tournaments.

Throw the steel and feel the fun and bring a friend to a tournament!! -Larry—

We had our year-end luncheon and meeting at Glenn and Judette Rippetoes home. Judette is the silent partner that gets the job done. We all thank her for her support and contribution. Harlen Rippetoe was "Santa" with his very generous donation to the club. Members at the annual meeting voted to keep our club officers in place. Glenn Rippetoe-President, Rick Bermingham-V.P. and Joan Bryan-Sec/Tres.

Congratulations to Rick Bermingham for becoming a V.P. in the NCHPA. Good to see the enthusiasm.

We welcome three new members to the club: Richard Wells of Bridgeport, CA.; Hope we will be seeing him west of the Sierra Nevada competing and Chuck Smith and Butch Knight of Newcastle, CA. who have been active in the Bar Leagues and now want to get active in the NCHPA and all our wonderful tournaments.

Ralph Carter had a bout in the hospital in Feb. and is home recuperating and working on getting his strength back. He is always anxious to get pitching!

Paul Peterson also had some successful intricate surgery and has bounced back and is practicing when the weather permits.

Larry Thorsen had surgery to repair a heart valve and is holding his own in recovery.

Very sad news from the Stockton club that Paul Anzelone is fighting for his health. Peace and comfort to you, Paul, and know we are focusing our energies asking for a miracle.

Waiting for the sun to shine so we can get the season underway, Don't forget April Fools Day at Granite Regional Park in Sacramento. I still don't like changing the NORCAL TOURNAMENT from 40 point games to 40 shoe games. It was the only tournament of it's kind in our area. --Joan—

TUOLUMNE COUNTY

HORSESHOE CLUB By: Fred Reibin

The May 13th. & 14th. tournaments will have an entry fee of \$12.00. The payouts will be: 1st. Place \$40.00 and 2nd. Place of \$25.00. These will be by groups and handicapped.

The "Black Oak Casino" tournament to be held on June 3rd. & 4th. and the Mother Lode Tournament on September 30th & October 1st. is still being finalized, flyers will be sent out well in advance of the tournaments. These being our two "BIG MONEY" tournaments, watch again this year for a surprise additional pay out of some sort (that Dell Stockstill, our tournament director can dream up).

This year we will again be raffling off another BBQ (\$349.00 value). This again was donated by ANDY'S HOME CENTER in Sonora. All raffle money collected will go for the payouts in the Mother Lode Tournament. The more tickets sold the higher the payouts. Lets all get out and sell tickets, you pitchers that will pitch in the Mother Lode tournament will benefit from this.

The club again will be offering free donuts & coffee in the morning, and lunch in the afternoon, donations are welcomed. Hoping to see you all at the pits and wishing everyone a healthy and an exceptionally good pitching year.

The new Club officers for 2006 are: President—Teddy Guillotte, 1st.VP—Peggy Reibin, Sec.—Phil Harvey, Treasurer—Fred Reibin, TD—Del Stockstill, Publicity Chairman—Fred Reibin.

Note from Ray Elkins: From HMB

Hi you all, well, old Ray has heart problems again, I'm going into the hospital Wednesday morning (22nd.) for an angiogram and if possible a stint. If that doesn't work, the Doc. is talking about another bypass. Number 8. I'm not looking forward doing another open heart. Hop it doesn't come to that. One of my first 4 bypasses is about 90% clogged. So will keep in touch. If this works; I will be in for one day. If not; will have to go back in soon. Later, Ray

Lets all wish him well.

HORSESHOE CORNER BY: Kimmy Stockli

I have received new information regarding some of the horseshoes that we all pitch. First, the Queen City Forging Company has sent us this letter regarding Gordon Horseshoes.

Dear Distributors,

As you know we have been out of stock on the Gordon shoes since last summer. We are not aware of any of our retail customers still having any stock. We have pulled our advertisement from the NHPA magazine because we are out of stock and currently have no production scheduled.

Producing Gordon horseshoes has always been a marginal business. We traditionally used horseshoe production as "fill-in" work during our slower seasons. We have gotten very busy with new work and new forging technology since late 2004 and simply have not been able to schedule any production time to make horseshoes.

Whether we will ever make Gordon shoes again is still up in the air, but the way our business is evolving, I have to say that it is doubtful. Unfortunately, one of our problems may be that we made them too good. Cast shoes, "throwaways" and product from China have increasingly captured the market with lower prices that we simply cannot compete with. It is likely that we've manufactured our last Gordon pitching horseshoe.

Should the situation change, please be assured that the NHPA would be the first to be notified. We've appreciated **YOUR** business over the years and have enjoyed our good relationship. Paula Keller—Queen City Forging.

This is not the best of news for those of you that love your Gordon's. I do have 1 pair, in stock, at this time. They are probably the last pair available retail in the U.S.. However, I have found some Gordon's available on E-Bay from time to time, new and used.

Good news from the M&M Horseshoe Company!! They are once again manufacturing horseshoes. I should have them available on my website within the next 30-45 days.

If you pitch Condor, Can Am, VIP, Simmons XL, Pro Star or Yankee shoes, (Bill Vandenberg), and you have to replace a horseshoe that is still under warranty, please notify me. The horseshoe replacement will be handled by the NHPA main distributor, in Wisconsin.

Lastly, there are new bags being made and should be ready for distribution in early summer. From what I understand, they are heavy duty and can carry 2 sets of horseshoes, all of your tools and misc. other items.



KIMMY'S NCHPA HORSESHOE SHOP

NHPA Game Related Sales Distributor

TOLL FREE (866) 644-0487

kimmymhorseshoes@sbcglobal.net

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

I will be attending these tournaments in April

and May: Tri-Valley 4/4-4/5, Vallejo 4/9,

Vallejo 5/14, HMB 5/20. On June 3rd and 4th

I will be at the Black Oak Casino Tournament.

Please call me ahead of time for any of your equipment needs, and I will bring your items

to you!! Or just order on-line with secure Pay Pal.

Hall of Fame by: Kimmy Stockli

As newly elected President, I have also been given the privilege of heading up the Hall of Fame Committee. It is time to start thinking of eligible candidates. If you have someone you want to nominate, there will be a nomination form in the next issue. Nominees must meet at least one the following criteria:

1. MEMBERSHIP—The nominee must have been an adult member, in good standing of the NHPA/NCHPA for a minimum of 10 years. His/her attitude and initiative should uphold and enhance the image of the NHPA/NCHPA.

2. PITCHER—One that has an outstanding record of pitching performance and has won several titles at the class, state or world level.

3. ORGANIZER—One who has made significant contributions to the game in an administrative capacity as a charter officer or as a promoter that has brought in new members, given of their time and worked towards the betterment of the game, above and beyond the norm. The committee consists of 5 NCHPA members, and they are chosen for their knowledge of past and present members and for their fairness and sportsmanship. Make sure when you choose a nominee all of the above criteria has been met. To be elected to the Hall Of Fame is a great honor!