

Nor-Cal News & Views

Northern California Horseshoe Pitchers Association website address is: <http://www.NCHPA.com>.
Visit the NHPA site at: horseshoepitching.com

President

The horseshoe pitching for year 2011 has ended. It has been a very busy year. We successfully managed the State Tournament, the Team Championships and the NCHPA Championships. The closing of the Yolo Facility is behind us and we have moved on. I wish to thank all the Nor-Cal members for their patience this past year. Overall we have had a successful season.

I was very pleased to see the amount of delegates who attended our annual meeting in Sacramento on November 5, 2011. Only a few clubs failed to send delegates the meeting and the awards dinner went well. Congratulations to John Barney, Lee Roy Lassiter, and Gail Sluys for their re-election to the Executive Council.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome two new clubs to the Nor-Cal charter. Exeter and San Francisco have met the requirements for membership, and have been added to our tournament schedule. I would encourage all members to support our new clubs in any way that you can.

Thank you to all of my Executive Council Officers who have worked hard this past year to make the Northern California charter operate. I appreciate all that they have contributed during the past year. I also wish to thank all of you who have given me advice and help. You know who you are!

I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and look forward to seeing you on the courts, next year. *Harlen A. Rippetoe*

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Secretary/Treasurer

I'll start with a special **Thank You** to all of the club members who, through their delegates, voted for me to remain your Secretary/Treasurer. It's a great feeling to receive your vote of confidence in my ability to do this job in a way that makes you happy. As always I will endeavor to work with you to make our organization one you are proud to belong to and I promise to continue to help in any way I can.

We are looking forward to having the San Francisco Club on board for next year, and hope you will support their one tournament on the schedule. Who would have ever guessed we would have an active horseshoe club in Golden Gate Park again? Those of you that were pitching at the time of the original Golden Gate Horseshoe Club knows that Jack Sorg is smiling down on Peter Zeponi and his crew thanking them for all of their persistence and hard work.

Thank you to our officers for working hard to get through a challenging year, we survived that one. And a great big thank you to all of the pitchers that supported your officers by pitching in the State and NCHPA Championship tournaments with the change in location, you really have to know we were sweating it.

I've sent out about 60 - 2012 cards already so anytime your club is ready to send in the 2012 membership money, the cards are ready to go. Hope your Christmas was everything you wanted and the New Year begins to see our organization, and our country, begin to prosper again. *Gail Sluys*

**How long a minute is
depends on what side of the
bathroom door you're on.**

2nd Vice President

Pitchers, I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving and a nice Christmas as well. First I want to say congratulations to Ken Woolery for being inducted to the NCHPA Hall of Fame this year at the awards dinner. Nice job Ken, your one of my best competitors these last few years. I think you have pitched 4 80% games against me in 2011. At the meeting, all clubs present were handed out court-sanctioned papers that stated the hints and guidelines you need to make sure all your courts are correct. Stakes are 14-15 inches in height, with a 3-inch forward lean, stakes are 40 feet apart, as well as the foul lines the correct distance from the opposite stake. For those of you that received the paperwork from Casey Sluys, please fill it out and mail it to him. We could not have made it easier for you other than take all the measurements ourselves. A self-addressed stamped envelope was included with your packet. I had noticed this past year that some of the clubs I have been to courts are off as much as 5 inches further than the 40 feet apart they should be. In my opinion, our courts at Northern clubs do not have to be in perfect measurement, but within an inch of 40 feet as long as the foul lines are the correct distance from the opposing stake. In closing, in 2012 I am up for re-election for 2nd VP and Chairman of the Hall of Fame. For those of you who would like to run against me, the job as (Cont.P-3)

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**The NHPA Hall of Fame is now
open in Wentzville, MO. It's
located right off of I-70 a major
East/West interstate, *It's a great
place to visit and right on the way
to this years World Tournament in
Knoxville, TN on July 30- Aug. 11,
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**We could learn a lot from crayons:
some are sharp, some are pretty,
some are dull, some have weird names,
and all are different colors....but
they all exist very nicely in the same box.**

2nd Vice President (cont)

Assistant Regional Director is a separate job that I currently have. Thank you. See you on the courts in 2012, *Rick Bermingham*

Your printed schedule needs to show the following corrections for all Exeter tournaments:

March 3 - Code 16

April 21 - Code 16

June 2 - Codes 12 & 16

September 15 - Codes 12 & 16

November 17 Should be - Exeter Ironbenders

Annual- Codes 12 & 16

Website is correct as is the schedule printed in this issue

3rd Vice President

First, I would like to thank the delegates for the vote of confidence in me; for the position of 3rd Vice President. I will continue to do the best job possible.

Well, winter is upon us and it's a couple of months before we get to wipe the rust off our shoes; I've been looking around to pitch, and was lucky enough to be invited to a horseshoe "Turkey Shoot". It seems that Bill Virgen of the Sacramento Club, has an annual horseshoe tournament every year in his yard just before Thanksgiving. He gives turkeys to both; 1st and 2nd places. Teams were mostly family and friends, needless to say I didn't get a turkey but had a great time. Thanks Bill.

Well, the last tournament of the year was Half Moon Bay, they had a good turnout, and except for a little wind it was a great day. This was the first time I've been to Half Moon Bay, it's in a beautiful area and I'm looking forward to next year to visit them again.

And a little side note; thanks to Richard Robbins, I now know there is three different methods used for alternate pitch. I looked it up! I've always used the fairest one, thanks Richard. Guess it will be February before we see each other again, hope everyone had a good holiday and sober New Years.

Looking forward to a better year. *John Barney*

Thanks!!!

Charlie Hall, thank you for your support by taking out 3 ads in this newsletter last year. We thank you, your wife, and the Half Moon Bay Club for their support. If anyone would like to advertise in here see page 2 for details. Thanks!

1st Vice President/Statistician

It has been my pleasure to serve as 1st Vice President during 2011. There were some tough decisions to make because of the loss of the Yolo courts. Some of our members did not like the fact that we had to move the State Tournament to Bakersfield, but we really had no other choice. We could not afford the cost of our other options. There were not enough courts, lights, parking, etc. at most of the sites. The tournament at Bakersfield turned out well for the NCHPA. That tournament is now history

and we all need to come together and work something out for 2013.

I was in charge of setting up the schedule for 2012. At the annual meeting, as usual, the preliminary schedule was presented so all the clubs could check for mistakes. Several corrections were made at the meeting and the schedules have been printed. After the schedule of tournaments was posted on the web site, I got a call from Exeter stating that the codes for their tournaments were wrong. The codes are easy to change on the web site but the schedule was already printed with the wrong codes. I will send an e-mail to all the contact people with the right codes. You can also check the web site for the correct codes.

This is one of the reasons that it is important for every club to have at least one member representing them at the annual meeting. Problems like this could be avoided in the future IF each club would send a delegate to our annual meeting. There may be other things covered at the meeting that some of the clubs did not agree with, but if your club was not represented, you had no say in the decisions that were made. The only way your voice can be heard is to attend the meetings. *Lee Roy Lassiter*

5th Vice President

It has been my pleasure serving on NorCAL's executive board of directors and meeting many of you. The executive board is comprised of people who are striving to enhance our league and it has been my pleasure working with them. Please don't hesitate contacting any of your directors should the need arise.

I hope 2012 finds our amazing membership safe, happy and pitching well. In September 11th, I had the privilege of pitching in Ukiah. It was very touching as they remembered the victims who lost their lives that tragic day. Ukiah, mark it down for a "must go to" destination for 2012. First, they have the best pastries and breakfast bar none. Are Gil and Bernie doing some baking? They have amazing pears that were so delicious (*I never did get a straight answer where they came from*). You'll have to go and find out. And Lorena, she's amazing and supportive of all the pitchers. And our Ukiah members, every one of them has personality galore, go just so you can warm-up with Gil.

Thank you to the Vallejo Club under Ben and Kimmy's leadership for hosting NorCAL. They were responsive and helpful, the courts were in great shape and we had great weather. We had some fantastic people who attended from down the valley, Sierra Mountains, to far up the coast including Sheila Gardner, Delia Garza, Danny Hernandez, Michelle White and her dad Joe, Bill Paddock, Tom Webb, Mike Robinson and Robert Cocagne. And who doesn't love the locals like Terry and Danny Thompson, Cherie Sherrard and Joe Summers?

As I look back at 2011 one of my personal favorite memories will be of our membership pulling together so young Bernie could compete at the world. And Bernie did

not fail to make us proud and inspired by his accomplishment. I had the pleasure of meeting Elena Chavez at NorCAL, she's a darling little one whose eyes sparkle. And who doesn't love Travis? We can be proud of the young people who enjoy our sport. And then we have our members who by definition could be called "senior citizens" but there is nothing senior about them: Tom Webb, Audrey Winters, Walt Butcher, Don Kies, John Sylvester, Janet Parker, Lee Oliver, Tony Latino, Harry Begay and Verdán Zelmár to name a few. They are fierce competitors. And another must attend tournament is the George Greeott birthday tournament in Santa Rosa. He is a Santa Rosa's Club "senior citizen" going on 102. He provides beautiful handcrafted items for their raffle table and makes a point of thanking pitchers for sharing in his day – when in fact the pitchers are honored to meet such a genuine, caring person.

Happy New Year! **Cathy Kauffman**

Statisticians Report

In 2011 we held a total of 131 NCHPA Sanctioned Tournaments. There were a total of 2,717 pitchers in those tournaments. We made 189,004 ringers while pitching 650,650 horseshoes. That made an average ringer percentage of 29.05%.

A total of 83 NCHPA members pitched in 22 tournaments in Southern California, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, Louisiana and Hawaii. Our members made 6,488 ringers while pitching 22,594 horseshoes in those sanctioned tournaments for an average of 28.72%.

Of our 420 members in 2011 we had 364 who actually pitched in at least one tournament. Eight members, or 2.20%, had high games between 80% and 90% (2 members had a 90% game). Seventeen, or 4.67%, had high games between 70% and 78%. Thirty-one, or 8.52%, had high games between 60% and 68.75%. Fifty-nine, or 16.21%, had high games between 50% and 59.38%. Seventy-three, or 20.06%, had high games between 40% and 48%. Sixty-three, or 17.31%, had high games between 30% and 39.29%. Forty-nine, or 13.46%, had high games between 20% and 29.55%. Forty-two, or 11.54%, had high games between 12% and 18.75%. Twenty-two, or 6.04%, had high games between 3.13% and 10%.

Counting all sanctioned tournaments they pitched in, no matter where the tournament was held, the members who pitched in the most tournaments are as follows; Wayne George - 34, Travis Sluys - 30, Richard Robbins - 30, Fritz Oberst - 28, Delia Garza - 28, Ken Woolery - 26, Alan Trusty - 24, Joe Sciarra - 24 and Don Kies - 24.

The 10 members with the "ending" highest average for the year of 2011 are as follows; Ken Woolery (Elder) - 68.54%, Rick Bermingham (Men) - 67.90%, Ed Cortez (Elder) - 67.17%, Elaine Butcher (Women) - 67.00%, Don Kies (Elder) - 62.60%, Alan Trusty (Elder) - 62.30%, Leon Moore (Elder) - 61.69%, Tom Web (Elder) - 61.52%, Dave Loucks (Elder) 61.40% and Kimmy Stockli

(Women) - 60.66%. Alas, all the rest of us pitched less than 60.66%.

Lee Roy Lassiter

RECRUITING

There are some pictures posted on the NHPA Forum, of an abandoned set of horseshoe pits, they could be YOLO; they're not, but that is a stark example of what will happen throughout the NCHPA IF we do not begin recruiting some new, younger people into this sport. The following are three additional comments from that forum.

Gary Roberts, OH:

Unfortunately, in my 53 years of pitching I have witnessed the demise of many horseshoe clubs and facilities. These include Lancaster, Washington C. H., Wilmington, Leesburg, Waverly, Lakeside, and Norwood just to name a few. The reason for this is simple. There are usually two or three people who do all of the work. When these persons age and are no longer able to continue the club dies. The number of people willing to sacrifice several hours per week to make the club successful is few in number. Successful clubs are the key to maintaining NHPA membership and tournament participation.

The loss of the Lancaster club was very disappointing in that several major tournaments were held there, and the courts were in full view of a major highway. Lakeside and Norwood also hosted major tournaments for many years.

I have great respect for tournament directors and league directors I know who have spent countless hours making it possible for the rest of us to enjoy pitching.

Anonymous:

In my 36 years of pitching I have observed and heard it stated that if you have 10% of your members willing to help run tournaments, leagues or maintain your courts you are lucky. Some of the best in ground courts in MO, Kansas City, had to be abandoned because of the reasons stated by Gary plus the fact that the neighborhood became what most considered an unsafe area.

It is hard to believe that those that only want to come and pitch don't realize that certain work must be done to continue having organized pitching on their courts.

How can we recruit pitchers who are interested in the facility? Historically we would have to get 50 new ones to get 5 who would do the work. Sad!

Larry Colette, KS

No truer words spoken by all here on this topic!!! Here are some suggestions for Club officers, Tournament directors and League directors, which in many cases one or two persons are all of the above. Most new members do not have a clue what all goes into keeping a court complex up, let alone how much preparation goes into hosting events and running leagues in an orderly fashion. Good communication is a key to educating everyone in each of your clubs about these issues and no better way to do it than by having a good e-mail address group for all club members. This eliminates the number of phone calls made to contact all your membership about preparations they

can help with prior to upcoming events as well as help during the event itself.

Court complexes are no different than your home or vehicle-- they require on-going maintenance to keep them in good condition and by addressing issues as they come up it is easy to stay on top things. I would suggest that every year prior to the outdoor pitching season getting started, that each club send an e-mail to all members asking for volunteers on one or two weekends to help get the courts ready for the new season.

On large court complexes where all the courts are not used for one night of league or tournaments, directors should alternate the courts each week so that all courts get used every two or three week periods. This helps keep the clay in good playing condition throughout the season. No better way to keep clay in good condition than for it to be watered and pitched on. This saves a lot of hard backbreaking work to get courts in shape prior to your tournaments. Encourage your club members to use different courts each practice session as this also helps. Good clay must be watered to keep it in a putty like consistency. The absolute worst thing you can do on a clay court is not give it a good drink of water before you cover it back up after finishing pitching.

With a little guidance such as this through good communications the Club officers and tournament /league directors can have a positive influence on all club members without having to beg for help. You will be surprised how this approach will get folks out to help with projects that will keep your club strong well into the future. You will have members who feel they have ownership in the facility and take pride in being a member of a club that is run like a well-oiled machine. Not everyone can be there for every time, but they will be there when they can and that's what is important. It sure beats one or two individuals trying to do it all.

Just in my 26 years as a member, of the NCHPA, I have seen the demise of Colusa, Yuba Sutter, Oakland, San Francisco, Shasta, Rio Dell, McKinleyville, Lincoln, Reedley, Arroyo Viejo, Redwood Empire, Seaside, Placer and Yolo. Granted we have had new clubs spring up. Like, Tulare, Pollock Pines, Tuolumne, Madera, Exeter and now the new revitalized San Francisco club.

Thank God for the work of a few dedicated younger generation horseshoe pitchers with a true love for the game! Let's teach the younger people and train them into the inner workings of this organization. They are our future. And you 40's to 60 year olds in our organization that are reading this; please step up, take the initiative and learn the inner workings of a tournament. The future of this whole organization belongs to YOU. Us ol' farts will gladly make room for any of you that show the initiative and take some responsibility.

Those of you interested in the **NHPA Forum** should visit, sign in and participate in the various discussions there. It will take a couple of days for you to receive approval to join. The reason is that this forum was hacked

once and we need to be certain that everyone that wishes to participate is in fact an NHPA member. Here is the URL: <http://horseshoepitching.com/forum/smf/index.php>

Horseshoes for South Africa:

So far we have sent 46 pair of pitching horseshoes to South Africa. Thank you to all of you who have contributed so far: Dave Loucks, Rick Bermingham, Pat Murtha, John Barney, Glenn Rippetoe, Joe Summers Audrey Winters, Lois Edwards, Don Stephens, Verdian Zelmar, Charlie Masson, Dale Haskin, Ancil Aydelott, and the Half Moon Bay Club.

The NHPF our Foundation has offered to pay the shipping costs, which are substantial to say the least. I would like to sincerely thank the board members for their thoughtfulness and generosity! After all that is what our NHPF is all about: **Building for the future while preserving the past and showcasing the present.**

Thomas Venter, the person heading up the promotion of horseshoes in South Africa, personally thanks each and every one of you for your generous contribution. He hopes to conduct a walking doubles horseshoe tournament in conjunction with the Junior Jukskei Championships held this month in Kroonstad, SA.

Late breaking news, just received a text message from Thomas. They conducted a tournament on 2 courts with 16 teams. Prizes consisted of a pair of horseshoes for the top 8 teams. He has posted 35 pictures on Facebook.



July 30 – August 11, 2012

“A lie will travel around the world before the truth can buy a ticket” apologies to Mark Twain.

Page 6 and 7 are the 2012 schedule in all USPS copies. Emailed copies receive complete 2012 NCHPA pitching schedule.

CLUBS

Sacramento

Thank you to all the NCHPA players who ventured into Sacramento to play horseshoes. The year started with the difficult loss of one of our beloved members, Dud Setters. However, it was a nice year with new members joining like Derek Brown, Rick Daughtry, George Friend and Bill Virgen returning. It was also great to see some of our players improve so rapidly like Jessica Lichau (*watch out Sue!*), Matt Smith and Mike Hammer. And we are happy to welcome former Yolo pitchers Walt Stafford, Don and Wendell Stephens, Jay Stephens and new member, Cheri Reego to the club. We had our friends of all ages and various locations join us for tournaments including Travis Sluys, Kim Stovall, Rick Eddy, Lois Edwards, Audrey Winters, Delia Garza, Sue Lichau, Richard Robbins, Fritz Oberst, Wayne George, Dave Loucks, John Sylvester, Tom Webb, Harry Begay and Robert Cocagne to name a few. The Sacramento Club members enjoyed hosting you and hope that we'll see you in Sacramento for our 2012 tournaments. Besides, we have the best judge ever, Othal Rippetoe.

Glenn Rippetoe will serve as president of our club in 2012 with Jessica Lichau graciously stepping in for Cathy Kauffman as Treasurer/Secretary.

As we all know, the loss of the Yolo courts was a huge loss as it had ample courts and was centrally located. The closing has weighed heavily on all of our membership and officers. At the NCHPA annual meeting we had the pleasure of hearing an idea from Fortuna member, Bill Paddock, regarding building a facility that could hold a State Tournament. (see article on page 11) Our president, Harlen Rippetoe, appointed a committee to be chaired by Lee Roy Lassiter to explore the proposal. I would like to thank Bill for putting forward a suggestion to consider.

After Bill's presentation, it motivated me to look into a proposal that Tom Latino was working on to increase the number of courts at Granite Park before the economy tanked. To give you a little background, Sacramento's Granite Park currently has eight courts. The City of Sacramento has designated the land adjacent to our courts for twelve additional courts. The cost of this project was projected at \$10,000 which includes fencing and lights. We will be reviewing the documents to see if the project is still feasible. Our understanding is that the City will permit us to perform the labor and that our volunteers would sign a release of liability. This and other details would need to be verified. We have some talented NCHPA members who have offered their assistance. Thus, after we speak with the City and learn if the project is feasible - we will then put forth a plan to raise funds. Ten donors each donating \$1,000 or twenty donors donating \$500 or other fundraising efforts including grants will be explored. While this would be nice for the Sacramento Club to expand its size, a greater benefit is that the NCHPA would have a facility in Northern California that could also host the State or NCHPA Championships. Granite Park has ample parking, restaurants and camping facilities nearby, plus other recreation from the theatre to fishing. Not to

mention, geographically Granite Park is in the center of our NCHPA area making it somewhat equitable in travel time for our most southern and northern NCHPA members and is less than two miles from Highway 50 making accessible. So thank you to Bill Paddock for his presentation as we hope it inspires everyone to explore some viable alternatives and to Tom Latino for laying the groundwork. If you have ideas, please send them to Harlen Rippetoe as a strong membership working together can problem solve with success. We will keep you posted.

Cathy Kauffman

I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure

Half Moon Bay

We would like to thank everyone for the great turnout we had for the final two tournaments of the year. 28 each day, but what impressed me the most, the great distance so many traveled such as Oregon, Sierra Foothills, Santa Rosa, Sacramento, Pacifica and the Central Valley. We also want to give huge hugs to Gail Sluys for her help in the stat room. I also need to thank my doubles partner, World Champion Travis Sluys for leading us to the Doubles Tournament Championship. On April 7, 2012, the Half Moon Bay Horseshoe Club will be hosting the Horseshoe portion of the 2012 Senior Games. This is your chance to compete as an Olympian in Horseshoes and/or 25 other sports that you might be involved in. You must be 50 and up, all groups are separated by age every 5 years. Most of the games will be held at Stanford. Please let anyone you know that might want to compete in any of the sports. The web site for the Senior Games is <http://www.bayareaseniorgames.org>

If you are a NCHPA member, Skip this, You already know, but please show this to interested non members.

My Father in-law gave me my first set of horseshoes. They were picnic shoes. I placed a couple of stakes in the ground and we started playing. I soon fell in love with the game and found myself to be pretty good. My two pits consisted of dirt and beach sand. They soon developed a huge valley at the entrance of the pits, which because I throw a flip and far too short, my shoes would slide straight for the stake whether I was to the right or the left. A fouled shoe did not exist in my horseshoe world.

While working at Varian in Palo Alto, a co worker gave me information on where to buy horseshoes. That led to me finding out about organized tournaments and there was a club not far from my home. I quickly drove over to the courts and was thrilled to see them. A sign said they met on Thursday. I joined as soon as possible, it was in August, but unfortunately I did not have enough time to get me qualified for the State Tournament, so I had to wait over a year to compete in it.

I went to my first tournament in San Jose. I had butterflies and observed some of Northern Cal's best pitchers as I walked in. I soon found out what good was. My first game in organized Horseshoes was against Chet Carter. His first words to me were "let's have fun". I took the prophets advice and had a great time and haven't stopped having fun since then. My ringer average is low compared to most, but our sport is structured so that you

compete against even competition. If you like to play the game, you will fit in just fine, regardless of your ability.

What I never expected, was that I would make so many lifelong friends, of all ages, from 6 to 102. The Horseshoe community is truly a great group. If you like to play the Great American Game of Horseshoes, check out one of our tournaments, you won't be disappointed.

From Joe King, HMBHC new members director, we would like to welcome Lena Little and Eileen Moore, Eileen A. Lott, also Juan Winger, his brother Noah Winger and his wife Missy Winger. We are still working on getting Moe Winger to join.

Happy Holidays and see you all in 2012, **Rick Della Santina**

Feather River As we head into the holiday season, there is not much going on, horseshoe-wise.

However, Lee Oliver and I pitch with others at the Elks here in Paradise twice a week so we are keeping our arms in shape. There are usually 3 or 4 of us pitching and we have some great and enjoyable games.

Lois and I have been spending a lot time together since on Wed. and Thurs. mornings she brings her grand daughter up here to attend a charter school. She has even been a big help to me with my never-ending leaf raking which I truly appreciate. On Thurs. she is sometimes able to join us pitching for a short time. Earlier on she drove me to some of the Sacramento area tournaments which were fun.

Lee's wife, Becky had shoulder surgery and is doing well. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of our horseshoe friends and we wish you all the best of holidays.

Audrey Winters

Stockton This year went by pretty fast for me. I hurt my right shoulder and right arm in May and was not able to pitch horseshoes so missed a lot of tournaments this year and I was not able to do any work on the courts the rest of the year. I feel much better now.

I went to our church convention in October and was not available at our October 15th & 16th tournaments.

Thanks to Millie Schultz for helping me out with paying the NCHPA bills for our two tournaments while I was gone.

I got a call from a new potential member who wanted to practice pitching horseshoes at our courts at Louis Park. While at Louis Park one day he read our posted sign that says the public is invited to come out on Tuesday's at 5 o'clock and pitch horseshoes with us. Well, he did come out on a Tuesday and no one was there so he called me. I had to explain to him that we stop having horseshoe practice in the Fall & Winter months and don't start up again until Spring. I told him I could get a couple of courts ready the next Tuesday if he liked, he said yes and we made a date. Well the next Tuesday I started out to our courts to get two courts ready for pitching at 5 o'clock and half way there I remembered the time change and it would be dark by 5 o'clock. I went back home and called him and told him we couldn't pitch at 5 o'clock because of the time change so we made a date to pitch the next day on Wednesday at 3:00pm.

Wednesday, I got the courts ready by 2:30pm and my wife and I waited for him to shoe up. I then decided to try and see if I could pitch a horseshoe cause I hadn't pitched since May. To my surprise I was able to pitch 40 shoes without pain before he and his boss showed up and we pitch two 21 games before dark. I have a lot of practicing to do before I start pitching in March, two games tired me out quite a bit and right now I don't think I could finish 6 or 7 games.

We still do not have a President in our club and our election of Officers meeting set for Oct 15th was cancelled due to not enough members present to hold a meeting. We also do not have the Tournament Schedule for 2012.

That's all for now, hope you have a great pitching year in 2012. **Peter Chaverria**

Tri-Valley Tri-Valley roster will be taking another hit with Al and Linda Hoelscher's move to Corning and the Tim Saunders family joining a club closer to home. Losing hard working members hurts, we wish them the best and they will be missed. President Richard Robbins continues to carry his heavy load of duties with lots of club maintenance help from Bill Faler and Harvey Kooy. Those lovely grass courts require mowing all year and mowers/things are constantly breaking down! Kind of sounds a tad like some of us, however we keep on trying, ho! Ray Szczepanski will step into the secretary treasurer role with everyone helping where they can. The club thanks those of you who attended our 2011 tournaments and appreciate your patience with a few printer glitches now and then, it happens!!! Northern Officers have been truly helpful all year, Cathy Kauffman's cheerful attendance/participation is a treat, she is a KEEPER! See you all in 2012. **Fred & Marge Wood**

Fortuna Our money tournament is scheduled for Aug. 18 & 19, 2012. This year of 2012 we are encouraging pitchers to circle the wagons at our horseshoe courts. We have permission to have RV's and tents at the courts. We are even going to supply some extra tents and beds for pitchers to have an enjoyable weekend, without the extra cost of lodging. Our August weather is very comfortable and we will provide electric lights and a portable campfire with seating around. We are hoping to have the same or more prize money, Saturday night get together dinner and awards, free Sunday picnic lunch, Friday night walking double tournament and more. We have very nice and secure bathrooms and a nice spot to camp. **Bill Paddock**

San Francisco Peter Zepponi first contacted us by phone in 2008 telling us that he was going to resurrect the horseshoe courts at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. (These courts were originally built in 1922) We began an email conversation in Sept 2008. We linked his efforts on the NCHPA website so people that were interested could follow Peter and his progress.

In the beginning he ran unsanctioned tournaments for a few years after hauling truckloads of garbage, dirt and weeds out of those courts. They uncovered stuff that one can only imagine after 22 years of neglect and homeless encampments. A group called the Guardsmen assisted Peter. See their website here: <http://www.guardsmen.org/>

He held his first sanctioned tournament along with an unsanctioned event. This was an invitational and consisted of World Champion Brian Simmons, State Champions Kimmy Stockli, and Rick Bermingham, Dave Loucks (representing the Elders, and longtime ties to the Golden Gate Club) and Junior Travis Sluys. It was a 5 person round-robin just to showcase what a sanctioned tournament was about. For the sanctioned portion we were allotted 2 courts hence the 5-person RR. It proved to be a very successful effort as they are now an official NCHPA club. Congratulations to everyone who made this venture possible.

On Oct. 22, 2011 Peter, in conjunction with the Half Moon Bay Club hosted a successful sanctioned tournament on the SF Club courts. They will be listed on the schedule for 2012 and are now a new club with 16 sand courts. Welcome Peter and thank you! See the SF Club website here: <http://www.sfhorseshoepitching.com/> Great pictures on the site. *Casey Sluys*

Sonoma County Our very first weekend of the 2012 pitching season will be April 21-22. On the 21st we will celebrate the elder statesman of horseshoes George Greeott. The man will be 102 the following week. Sunday will be the Munderloh Family Open. George introduced them into the sport, so it is fitting to have those 2 together.

On May 5-6 are our next ones and the 6th is completely ours please plan on spending the weekend in Santa Rosa. We have plenty of fine motels and RV space is available at the fairgrounds. Conveniently located near the intersections of Hwy 101 and Hwy 12, the *Sonoma County Fairgrounds RV Park* 1350 Bennett Valley Road Santa Rosa, California 95404 (707) 545-4200 <http://www.sonomacountyfair.com/rv-park.php>

Then on June 23 we have an NHPF fundraiser tournament in which our proceeds will go to the National Horseshoe Pitching Foundation. Please learn more about this worthwhile Foundation their website is: <http://www.nhpf.info/index.html> On the 24th we are again alone and the tournament belongs to Travis. The club voted that he have his own tournament named after him. Not too shabby for being only 14.

Had the opportunity to see Greg Ellisen. He is doing okay, still taking cancer treatments, feeling weak, but he looks good. We all wish him and his family the best during these trying times.

We are beginning our 17th year as an NHPA Sanctioned League on Tue. nights. Our format is unique in that anyone can join at anytime. No Need to have to wait 12 weeks till league is complete. It runs continuous from March – Oct. Those with 1,000 shoes or more will qualify for year-end awards. Want details please email me? *Casey Sluys*

San Jose Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from San Jose. Our big event in December was our annual Christmas Party and Gift Game. Everyone had a great time and the food was as always delicious. Many of the recipes were from our recipe book and it is always good to try them out and remember why we put them in the book. Mike Anderson brought a crock pot for the gift game and when the game was over he had selected another gift wrapped like a “dice” and it happened to be another crock

pot. Hey Mike, try the Supreme Beef Burgundy recipe in it! It's great! Thanks to everyone that bought the recipe books.

We will be selling them at the tournaments again this year. Thanks to all of our NCHPA Officers this past year. They are very much appreciated by all of us. Members, please don't forget to send your dues in early as it sure helps the secretaries. We again want to thank everyone that comes to our tournaments, and we hope to see you again this year! *Nancy Cloutier*

Shingle Springs "Damn, did I leave my flagon of 'Christian Brothers' back in the barn again? Mercy, I've got to start making out a list of 'Hey There Dinghy---Don't You Dare Leave Me Behind' items."

Heck, I just bought that jug last week, knowing it was going to be cold at the courts Thursday, figuring to loosen up old Rich King with a swallow or two and coax him into telling us that lie again about finding some gorgeous woman at a yard sale, no less, who was concentrating on counting the beads strung on an old rosary, but who immediately took it up with him, when she saw him, and eventually followed along, found his refrigerator, drank up all his "Beefeaters and Budweiser," set up "Trail Camp" on his couch, remaining there--unable to tear herself away from quote--"My Darling, Little, Walking, Talking, Perpetual Motion, Spring Steel and Sex Appeal, Honey Bunny." (I'm not laying one on you here--that's what he told us.)

Then I was also counting on 81 year old Jack Couch, in shirt sleeves, to toss back a couple of fingers and carry on about a gal he met years ago in a "Houston Honky Tonk" with a beautiful derriere who promised to "Waltz Across Texas" with him but instead-- went on ahead and danced on every bar in El Paso while he was still in San Antone. She had his Ford pickup too and all he had left was a long sleeved "Wrangler" shirt, a pair of scuffed up, black "Justins," an old, tattered "Stetson," some wore out "501s" and a nine day old beard with a hole in it that was sucking on the very last "Lone Star" beer in the fifth, empty case.

Life around "Shingle" takes some strange turns now and then, like the day my dog "Boss" broke his collar, jumped the fence into the soccer field, rounded up the ball with his muzzle, and went to speeding around the field with two dozen little "Pele's" (Short for "Edsonmente Pelegro Pedro Arantes Dulcinia del Toboso Nascimento"----Brazilian Soccer Star) in hot pursuit and fifty irate parents, on their weekly vicarious outing, screaming----"Get that black and white, @\$%#\$%, out of here." When I finally got "Boss" rounded up and on the way to the gate-- I suffered some verbal abuse that I wouldn't have expected coming from women in such an upscale crowd.

One morning, after the pitching, old Al Hunt was telling us about the night he was coming out of Reno, way after dark, when-- as he stopped at the light at "Fourth and Keystone" he heard sort of a "Thump" but, he paid it "No Never Mind" and continued on to Truckee, where he lived at the time and went to bed. When he got up the next morning he walked around the back of his "Dodge 1500" and there was a guy and his "Harley" upside down and frozen plumb stiff in the bed.

Another time the same Al Hunt told of going home, at

closing time, during a big snowstorm in Truckee and having trouble getting into his driveway, had to put his Dodge in four wheel drive and pop the clutch a couple of times before he could get off the street. When he woke up the next morning he noticed that his wife was in a dour mood and he wondered why but-- soon found out when he looked out the window and saw that he was parked on top of their brand new "Yamaha, Apex SE Snow Mobile."

Old Al has gone on now but we all still miss him and his stories.

He once told of being pinned down by enemy fire during WW 2 and actually heard Jesus telling him----- "It's going to be alright."

Al swore and be damned that it was a true story and it just goes to show you that the wisdom in the saying---

"There are no atheists in a foxhole," rings pretty true.

Just a word of advice here-----"Shingle" is a fine place with some nice folks hanging around and all but---if you can't embellish, fabricate, prevaricate, deceive and outright lie real good---you might consider learning how-- before you come around this bunch up here.

"Merry Christmas Folks"---Yea, that's what I meant to say---"Merry Christmas!!!!"*Dave Cardinalli*

Willows Willows managed to hold 9 of the 10 tournaments we had scheduled for 2011. A total of 173 members attended these tournaments.

Many thanks to all those people who came to Willows. We now have a computer and Linda Hoelscher and Edwina Leonardo are going to be ready to do all the stats at our tournaments on the computer in 2012.

We ended up with a riding mower and other equipment from the Yolo club and it has really helped us out.

Mike Robinson had his right knee replaced and says he is going to bring his average up from 16% to 48% in 2012. That will be quite a jump, but I have a feeling that Mike can do it.

Buddy Darnold, who was not able to pitch in 2011 because of various health problems, is now in a Rehab center in Anderson. Buddy had his right foot. While at home recuperating, he stepped on a rusty nail and his heel got infected. He ended back in the hospital and discovered that his heart was beating way too fast. They tried to correct the fast heartbeat by stopping his heart and then using a shock treatment to start his heart back up. Well, they had to shock him three times to get his heart started back up. So he is back in the rehab center recovering from that and his heel problem. The doctors have told him that his heart is still beating too fast. So, they are going to have to stop his heart again and shock him with higher voltage and hope that will slow his heart down. Buddy is very lonesome at the rehab center and would really appreciate any phone calls from his friends in the NCHPA. Buddy is at the Oak

River Rehab facility, 3300 Franklin Street, Anderson, 96007. The centers number is 530-365-0025. Buddy is in room 59A and the direct number in his room is 530-776-6143. He expects to be there for the rest of December. Buddy's cell phone number is 530-921-5245. Give him a call if you can. *Lee Roy Lassiter*

Land Proposal As many of you know my working background has been as a real estate broker selling large and small parcels of land. In many cases this required the seller to carry the paper and contracts written to facilitate the sale without the customary bank loan. I have been asked by our NCHPA president to look into the feasibility of the NCHPA purchasing our own piece of property. Finding a parcel of land that is affordable, zoned properly, suitable for our needs and has a seller willing to carry paper, will be very difficult. With this News and Views letter, I am asking horseshoe pitching members to look at your local real estate offerings and if you see any property of 4 acres or more that is priced at \$50,000 or less for vacant land, give me a call. If the land has a rental like a mobile home on it the price could be as much as \$75,000. The current recession that we are in, offers us a unique opportunity to purchase at a lower price. Plus we need to find a seller willing to carry the mortgage on vacant land or land with a older mobile. Banks will not typically loan on that kind of property at this time. If we can find the right property with a rental to offset the monthly payments, taxes and insurance, the NCHPA can make the purchase without asking members for money to make the monthly mortgage payments. Al Hoelscher is helping me, look in the Corning area, Tehama County and has seen property prices and terms that might work for our purposes. That area is somewhat north but property is affordable in that area. Give me a call if you see anything that might be suitable. As discussed at the recent NCHPA end of the year business meeting, before any purchase was made, it would be subject to the approval of the NCHPA general membership.

Sincerely, Bill Paddock 1 (707) 443-1913

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