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Nor-Cal News



Views

Northern California Horseshoe Pitchers Association website

address is: <http://www.nchpa.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/568662210169482/>

Sec/Treas.

Hi Everyone - When you receive this Newsletter the Holidays will be upon us. Spring will soon on its way with tournaments beginning before you know it. I hope the holidays treat you all well and that Rick Bermingham will have gotten his stolen truck and horseshoes back. Along with that, we hope all the news, for our members who faced surgery, during 2018 is that they are all on the mend or already recovered.

On a very sad note we have lost the Indian Valley Club. Our friends Bob and Annie Bruce lost their home in the "Camp" fire (Butte County/Paradise) and will be moving north to the Oregon area where their family lives. We are so sad to see them go. We also wish the best to Ray Szczepanski who's home did NOT burn, but surrounding neighbors and their own out buildings did. He was just last week able to enter is property. The NCHPA wished the Szczepanskis our very best in these trying circumstances. If anyone else was affected by those terrible fires please let us know.

Please remember to send all of the information needed for your new members this year. They will receive a packet from the NHPA including a shirt, grocery bag and a pen. I understand the shirts are

very nice. I really need their shirt size and choice of color to send them in (See 1st VP article), once they

pitch two tournaments their packet will be mailed out. I have added space on the new member report for this information. Welcome to 2019 let's have a great year. *Gail Sluys*

1st VP

Here is the information as I presented it to the Year-End Meeting in November. We had 55 new NCHPA members this year, which is down slightly from the 65 of last year. The Sacramento Club added 10 new pitchers to lead the way. Turlock and Half Moon Bay each added 8. Madera had 6 new members while Fortuna and Sonoma County had 4. Tulare and Seaside added 3 members, and Gold Country, Ukiah, Tuolumne, and San Jose had 2. Shasta Willows added 1 Pitcher.

The breakdown of the 2018 new members as follows:

- 35-Males (40ft. pitchers)
- 12-Women
- 1-Girl
- 2-Boys
- 4-Cadets
- 1 Elder

This year the NHPA has instituted a New Member Gift Program. Each new member, upon participation in 2 tournaments, will receive from the NHPA a T-Shirt, a writing pen, and a NHPA bag. It is important that each of the clubs, when they send in the new member information to Gail, include the new member's T-Shirt size and Color Preference. **George Davis**

The shirt colors are as pictured:



3rd VP

The 2017-18 NCHPA pitching season ended with the 2018 California State Horseshoe Tournament. That meant that the 2017-18 NCHPA award recipients needed to be determined before the Sat. Nov. 10, 2018 NCHPA Annual Business Meeting in Sacramento. The award recipients were determined using the data from files sent from all the 2017-18 tournaments. The following awards were handed out at the Annual Business meeting or sent to the recipient if they were not present:

Rich Robbins Tri-Valley Club- Player of the Year Award (based on points).

Rick Della Santina Half Moon Bay Club- Top Dog Award (most NCHPA tournaments pitched).

Gina Cyr Sonoma County Club- Rookie of the Year Award (based on points).

Pat McGowan Half Moon Bay Club - Most Improved Pitcher Award (largest ringer % increase).

Hastiin Begaye Madera Club- Cadet Pitcher of the Year Award (based on points)

Teodoro Espinola Seaside Club- Junior Pitcher of the Year Award (based on points)

Note that points are accumulated during the horseshoe pitching season as follows:

1 point for each regular NCHPA club tournament pitched

3 points for each 1st place finish in a NCHPA club tournament

2 points for each 2nd place finish in a NCHPA club tournament

5 points for pitching in the NCHPA Championships Tournament

3 points for a 1st place finish in the NCHPA Championships Tournament

2 points for a 2nd place finish in the NCHPA Championships Tournament

3 points for pitching in the NCHPA Doubles Tournament

5 points for pitching in the California State Championships Tournament

3 points for a 1st place finish in the California State Championships Tourn.

2 points for a 2nd place finish in the California State Championships Tourn.

Ringer % increase is determined by taking the difference in the pitchers Natstats ringer percentage at the beginning of the season (right after the California State Tournament) and his Natstats ringer percentage at the end of the season (right before the next California State Tournament). Please note that for the 2017-18 season Pat McGowan's beginning Natstats ringer percentage was his average from his first tournament after moving to 30 ft in December 2017.

The 2018-19 NCHPA horseshoe pitching season began immediately after the 2018 California State Tournament and through Dec. of 2018 24 NCHPA tournaments have been pitched with 1 tournament cancelled due to lack of club members to run the tournament. The remainder of the 2018-19 horseshoe pitching season will be pitched in 2019.

As always you club statisticians can make my task pretty easy if you submit your results in a timely

manner. We would like to have them within two days after your tournament is complete so that the pitchers will have their averages submitted to Natstats in time for the following weeks update. Please email results to me at: meanderson99@yahoo.com. And please be sure that the boxscore files that you send are generated in HSMaster as Tournaments, Reports, Format, Results [not Results (Brief)]. Keep in mind that I would like to see member numbers in every file that you send. That means I want the long version, not brief version, of every file. Thanks for all your help and see you on the courts. *Mike Anderson*

4th VP

Hello all, I hope you are all enjoying a wonderful Christmas season and exciting new year. 2019 promises to bring us some great opportunities to pitch, meet nice people and get involved in your horseshoe pitching organization NCHPA. Think about volunteering to run for an office or be a tournament director either for your club or for our NCHPA. Also opportunities are available for members to get involved in putting the pitching schedule together or gathering articles for the newsletter and getting it sent out or ?? so many wonderful opportunities are available for you to make your wonderful organization even better. Because any organization is only as good as the people who are involved in it.- *Lorena Tournour*

5th VP

Hello Everyone:

I am back as the 5th vice president in charge of paper products (score cards, round robin cards) and anything else I can help with. George Davis and I are going to need help this year with the State Tournament in Stockton. Please plan to come to Stockton the weekend before the state tournament and help us get the courts ready.

I am still playing at the courts in Clovis twice a week. A couple of weeks ago a woman in her early 30's came up to the courts pushing a stroller, she pulled out her horseshoes and started to pitch. She is

pitching from forty feet and she is a fair player. I played her a few games and the toddler became fussy, I looked over and she had the toddler on her left hip and throwing a horseshoe with her right

hand. I thought that was worth sharing. (Ed note: worth a picture Jeff!)

Another year has come and gone, it is time to reflect on last year and it is time to set goals for next year (better ringer percentage, more tournaments, practice more, lose weight, drink less etc...) Get inspired by watching Alan Francis videos, maybe a movie (a good movie that just came out is FREE SOLO great inspirational movie). I am hoping to improve my game in the coming year. I hope everyone has the same goal.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Jeff Vieira

The following numbers are membership numbers in the Northern CA Charter for the last 39 years.

1979-254, 1980-306, 1981-362, 1983-411
1984-452, 1985-448, 1986-438, 1987-508
1988-561, 1989-600, 1990-561, 1991-665
1992-623, 1993-619, 1994-618, 1995-610
1996-600, 1997-595, 1998-546, 1999-549
2000-560, 2001-538, 2002-515, 2003-499
2004-475, 2005-469, 2006-417, 2007-447
2008-444, 2009-417, 2010-416, 2011-393
2012-383, 2013-374, 2014-388, 2015-392
2016-378, 2017-367, 2018-355, 2019-500?

These numbers do not include Juniors.

Let's all do our part to increase our membership for 2019. Look at that red number is that achievable? Sure it would be if, **EACH ONE WOULD REACH ONE!**
Let's give it a try!?

OUR SHOES FIT EVERYONE!

NCHPA Annual Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2018

Florin Rebekah Hall

Sacramento, CA

NCHPA Officers Present: Joe Summers (President): George Davis (1st VP): Mike Anderson (3rd VP): Lorena Tournour (4th VP): Jeff Vieira (5th VP): Mike Anderson (3rd VP) Gail Sluys (Secretary/Treasurer) Casey Sluys (Regional Director) Alan Trusty (2nd VP) was not in attendance.

Delegates in Attendance: Gil Tournour (Representing Fortuna), Rick Della Santina (Half Moon Bay) Jason Hernandez (Madera) Rick Bermingham (Sacramento) Mike Anderson and Nancy Cloutier (San Jose) Cesar Espinola (Seaside) Elaine Butcher (Shasta/Willows) Casey Sluys (Sonoma County) George Davis (Stockton) Richard Robbins (Tri-Valley) Lorena Tournour (Ukiah) and Dave Lane (Vallejo).

Clubs Not Represented: Exeter, Forebay Park, Gold Country, Indian Valley, San Francisco, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Turlock.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:14 AM by **President Summers** followed by the Pledge to our Flag and moments of silence for those who passed in 2018 and those in danger of the wildfires in CA at this time. The 2017 Minutes and Financial Reports were presented by **Sec/Treas Gail Sluys** each was review and voted on for acceptance as presented. Motions carried. **1st VP George Davis** reported we had 53 new members some of them returning members and all were sent the Welcome Letter.

Delegates were reminded if you have a **brand new member** to please get the color of shirt and size they would like for the NHPA welcome program. **Statistician 3rd VP Mike Anderson** provided information on the number of tournaments, and members attending tournaments are attached. He also reported there was only one 80+% game this year and that was **Rick Bermingham** who pitched 35 Ringers in 40 shoes at Forebay Park against Jeff Williams. He asked if any 80% plus games were missed to please let him know. Mike generously donated his officer comp and statistician compensation to the NCHPA. Thank you Mike we will put it to good use. **4th VP Lorena Tournour** passed out a tentative pitching schedule for 2019 and asked everyone to review what was on there and get with her for any changes. She reminded everyone this has to be done ASAP in order to get the final schedule out for 2019. She also said we had one By-Law proposal that would be discussed later in the meeting. Lorena then donated her VP compensation toward the pizza for lunch. **5th VP Jeff Vieira** reported on supplies which he said orders were filled for score sheets and round robin cards as requested.

RD Casey Sluys reported it was passed at the convention that junior pitchers are now able to be paid when they win in tournaments. This subject has been researched deeply and has been determined it would not effect any school amateur status would not be hurt by this. The NHPA will leave it up to Charters on how they want to handle paying juniors. – No action taken at this time on the subject. Casey also reported about two amazing, generous donations to the NHPF, each one in the amount of \$5,000.00 donated at the World Tournament. Joe Summers then donated his Presidential compensation to the NHPF. Casey also reminded everyone there are still bricks available for anyone wishing to honor a deceased or living person you can do it through purchasing a brick. He spoke of the grants provided

to clubs for court improvement and let everyone know that the Half Moon Bay Club has completed the walkways on their courts. Casey also shared ideas for a Hall of Fame patch for NCHPA members and has asked if you have any design to please share it with him.

The NCHPA plaque program remains the same. Each club is entitled to 2 plaques at no charge for 2019 any over that amount will require purchase at \$20.00 each (our cost). The color of the plates for the plaques for 2019 has been chosen as Green. The delegates liked setting up a series in order of green, blue, red, black so we don't have to decide each year. We will revert to the original type/size of plate which will have double sided tape on the back.

Dave Lane announced that the City of Vallejo contacted him to give his Thank You to the Vallejo Club for taking such good care of the facility at Vallejo

Cesar Ramirez has been introduced as the new President of our Seaside Club as Rick Thompson is moving out of town. Please welcome Cesar – his email is cesar86es@gmail.com.

The 2019 Annual Meeting is expected to be located in Sacramento at the Rebekah Hall again upon their availability. This will be announced as soon as we have confirmation.

The NCHPA will host the State Championships in 2019

Stockton Club has bid and been accepted to host this tournament.

NorCal Championships – Vallejo will host this tournament

Doubles Tournament – Half Moon Bay and Shasta Willows both bid for this tournament. Half Moon Bay won the vote by majority and will host the 2019 Doubles tournament.

*By-Law Change – There was a proposal to change the Article VIII Special Tournaments Section 1 NCHPA Championships. After discussion and review of the requested change reads as follows:

f. Entry in said tournament is restricted to NHPA current members who have pitched in a minimum of one NHPA Sanctioned tournament prior to the eligibility closing date set by the Executive Council. A current Natstat Average is required. Motion and second – Motion Carried.

*Point of order the by-law that we approved should have been sent to the membership for approval prior to the delegates voting on it. Therefore the by-law proposal will be written into the standing rules for 2019 and voted on at next years meeting for inclusion into the By-Laws in 2020, provided that the membership approves the change.

Hall of Fame Report – Gail Sluys read the email sent by Linda Hoelscher regarding the Hall of Fame. Linda was unable to attend this meeting and reported in her email: “Unfortunately I did not receive any applications for consideration to be inducted into our hall of fame this year, so sad to report this.”

Thanks Linda

NEW BUSINESS – Tri-Valley Club is on hold at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. They have scheduled tournaments for 2019 and we will be informed by Richard Robbins as soon as we know for sure what the year holds for them. Some of their tournaments may be held at the San Jose courts.

Jeff and Nathan Williams presented a request to apply for a Charter Club within the NCHPA. They presented the information regarding the facility, which has 8 Clay courts and was originally organized by Don Titcomb. A list of the officers and names of 9 members making the membership 12 covered under our By-Laws as required. The EC has approved this new Club and it will take effect as soon as

the required dues are received by the NCHPA Secretary. The Club will be located at McBean Park 65 McBean Park Dr. Lincoln CA 95648 and will be known as the McBean/Lincoln Horseshoe Pitching Club. The news of this new club was welcomed by the delegates. One tournament week-end will be June 28th and 29th.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS - Joe Summers retained his position as President. When that election took place with all existing Officers again running for office a motion was made to retain all present officers by acclimation with a second this motion was approved unanimously.

*Upon the completion of this action Fay Dumont declared she wanted to run for the office of 2nd VP. A nomination was made for Fay and received a second. A vote was taken and she was elected. This process did not follow prescribed procedure. Once the vote was taken and the vote of acclimation approved there should have been no more nominations made for any position. This was not realized at the meeting. But was later questioned and reviewed through Roberts Rules of Order and found the election of Fay Dumont needed to be nullified and Alan Trusty retains his position as 2nd Vice President. The procedure was verified by the National Rules Chairperson.

2018 Year End Awards were announced and presented:

Top Dog – **Rick Della Santina**

Pitcher of the year - **Richard Robbins**

Rookie of the year - **Gina Cyr**

Most Improved Pitcher - **Pat McGowan**

Junior Pitcher of the year - **Teo Espinola**

Cadet Pitcher of the year - **Hastiin Begaye**

Scorekeeper of the year - **Sherise Bushby**

2018 Presidential Award - Rick and Mona Della Santina

Presented with sincere gratitude and deep appreciation of your outstanding contributions to the Clubs and Pitchers throughout the NCHPA. Teaching the stats program and assisting the clubs by running stats, running score sheets, keeping large tournaments moving in so many ways while being dedicated to the Half Moon Bay Club, all with a smile and a good sense of humor is greatly appreciated by all.

Meeting adjourned 11:50 AM

Respectfully Submitted

Gail Sluys

Secretary/Treasurer

News & Views history

We are entering our 22nd year of publication with this newsletter. It began as a cut-and-paste type of format by Genevieve Lavett. (Yes she also designed the present score sheets used in throughout the NHPA.) I should probably go back earlier than that though? Billie Sue Pennington had a publication that was called "Pitchers Platform" It was a newsletter that she began which is really the forerunner of this Charters newsletter. It was just the impetus needed for a regular newsletter. Genevieve made it the voice of the NCHPA. It needs to continue as the voice of the NCHPA, but it takes all of you to submit an article once every three months. That's not asking very much from you really, four articles per year. Let's all contribute each time to keep this an informative publication. I'll print most anything. Some of the editors have been; Genevieve Lavett, Seaside, Bill Harris Forebay Park, Cathie Loucks, Gold Country Kimmy Stockli, Vallejo and for the last 10 years yours truly. *Casey*

Court Sanctioning year

It's been mentioned at least once that in 2019 I will be asking all clubs to be certain their facilities meet the sanctioning requirements as prescribed in the RGS book (pages 37-41) I will be sending all club presidents a copy of the form to fill out. If questions arise during your inspection of your facility please call me. When you think your facility meets those requirement please send me a digital photo. If you can't take one yourself then seek the assistance of a club member. We will be building a library of information on the court complexes in the NCHPA. The reason for this is so this task (Regional Director) can be handed over to another person smoothly.

Do you use any of the social media groups? Horseshoes has a large presence on Facebook at:

Promoting Horseshoes

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/568662210169482/>

NCHPA

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/481228218748973/>

Backyardhorseshoes

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/212787962908231/>

National Horseshoe Pitchers Association

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/94329995114/>

National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation

<https://www.facebook.com/National-Horseshoe-Pitchers-Foundation-640095426095914/>

World Horseshoe Tournament

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WorldHorseshoeTournament/>

Horseshoe Pitching Online

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/612576172534108/?fref=nf>

Plus almost every charter has a presence there. Take a look spend some quality online time searching our various horseshoe sites.

Don't forget the run a horesehsoemania tournament this year to gain new members. This was outlined in the last issue and is also available in the files section of the Promoting Horseshoe Fb page. Seriously take a look you'll be pleasantly surprised at the amount of information available.

Do YOU want to challenge someone to a horseshoe game in another Charter? It can be done Steven Gibson has set up ONLINE HORSESHOE TOURNAMENTS the 2nd doubles tourney is now in session. Visit Stevens Facebook page and you'll be able to join the page for details. See above...

White House Horseshoes

During a window in time, there was job in the White House called the horseshoe Commissioner. You might be surprised to know such a position existed — but it did, at least unofficially, according to President George H. W. Bush.

Early in his presidency, I was the White House Horseshoe Commissioner. Twenty-one years old, fresh out of college, and a new member of the president's small personal staff, I was in way over my head. And the president, he was passionate about playing horseshoes. It was something he played with his family and friends, visiting heads of state, celebrities, and members of Congress. It was also his way to unwind, break the ice, do casual business, or just get the competitive juices flowing. The "pit" was conveniently located behind the Oval Office next to the White House swimming pool. It was his creation — something not seen at the White House since Harry Truman. And there was a whole foreign language associated with his horseshoe play. Phrases like "Vic Damone!" for a win, "Ugly Shoe!" for a bad toss, or "Power Outage!" for a horseshoe that failed to reach the clay. He was "Mr. Smooth" when he'd throw a ringer.

On occasion, I would be called by President Bush from my normal duties to officiate a match or render a ruling on whether a throw was in fact a ringer, or which shoe was closer to the stake. Calipers were used to measure which horseshoe got the coveted point. In time, I earned a moniker of affection from him, "The Commissioner," finding the president jokingly credentialing my "integrity" to his opponent of the day. He would announce regally that I was "fair and just" and that my rulings had never been reversed by the "Horseshoe Czar" — him.

The president hosted two horseshoe tournaments for the staff each year: The Fall Classic and the Sweet Sixteen Invitational. With multiple rounds and a loser's bracket, each tournament would last about a month. They were legendary. The job of the White

House Horseshoe Commissioner was to help him pull off those events. Staff teams of two competed for all the glory. But it was not the staff you might expect. At the insistence of the president, teams came from the unsung offices that make the White House tick: The White House electricians, butlers, groundskeepers, motor pool, chefs, ushers, carpenters, Marine sentries, and Secret Service details all had teams. So, too, did the president and his son, Marvin. Mrs. Bush would set the brackets, in a semi-formal ceremony, by pulling teams randomly out of a ball cap.

The president was competitive, too. He would want briefings on specific matches in the tournament and scouting reports on opponents. In 1990, only moments before he was to welcome Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at an official state-visit ceremony on the South Lawn, our small staff was standing with the president just outside the Oval Office. As he got ready to walk across the Rose Garden to meet Mr. Gorbachev, President Bush turned back to ask whom he was playing in the second round of the tournament and say he wanted me to get a scouting report on the electricians. After the president unexpectedly lost to those same electricians in a sweep, I ran into his steward, Domingo, in the hall of the West Wing. "The president very, very upset," he told me. "Bad mood. He lose at horseshoes."

The best horseshoe team was the Housemen, led by Ron Jones, a man with the swagger and physique of an NFL lineman. One evening before the big semifinals, the trash talking reached a crescendo, and the president (who was already out of the tournament) had had enough. He shed his suit coat to take on Ron *mano-a-mano* in a one-game grudge match to see who was the "King of the Pit." It lasted just 5 minutes, and the president won 21–0. The next day, the president teased him, "Ron I just want to know, did I make you nervous, you know, playing the president of the United States?" It might have been his greatest horseshoe victory. A photo from that day hung in the kitchen of his post-presidency office in Houston.

For the finals of the tournaments, he would invite the staff and their families to the White House to watch in person. Awards would be presented. I remember a “No Broccoli” shirt. More good-natured teasing might ensue. Perhaps an impromptu match with the president himself might break out. The winner had his or her name engraved on a wooden horseshoe box that would end up at the presidential library. It all had the feel of a family barbecue.

At one of the finals, as the sun went down, the president worried that the women attending were getting cold and went to find sweatshirts to warm them. At the conclusion of another, a longtime member of the ushers’ office came to me excitedly. In all his years in the White House, he had never been invited to anything but a Christmas reception. He said that afternoon was the most thrilling moment of his 45 years of service. Those were the little moments that mattered to George H. W. Bush.

Former senior adviser and friend Ron Kaufman said it best: President Bush was “master of the small gesture.” The handwritten note, a word of thanks, his endearing humor, the show of concern for a person hurting. Everyone who knew or worked for him was touched by him in a way that likely improved the trajectory of their life. It was his daily example of grace that made us want to be better people. It still does.

On my last day in the White House, he asked me into the Oval Office and presented those same horseshoe calipers mounted on a block of wood, with the inscription, “White House Horseshoe Commissioner 1989–1990: His rulings have never been reversed.” The master of the small gesture.

The president’s greatness, leadership, and generosity will be written about for years by the amazing men and women who helped him make history. The fall of the Berlin Wall, the unification of Germany, the liberation of Kuwait, the Americans with Disabilities Act. As a young aide with a front-row seat, I was a blessed observer doing my bit to help a good man, but I was not one who truly helped make history.

However, when it comes to horseshoes, well, that’s a different story. That’s a story I can write. Horseshoes at the White House was the perfect embodiment of George H. W. Bush. Competitive, yet considerate. A sense of humor and lightheartedness brought to a deadly serious job. And more importantly, a way to make the oftentimes overlooked people feel special. Every person was important to him. The definition of decency.

One of the last times I saw the president was in Houston a few years ago, when I brought my two children to his office to meet him for the first time. Parkinson’s made it hard for him to speak. My son and daughter were standing on either side of his wheelchair, just the two of them and the president. My wife and I were a few feet away talking to his aide, when the president pulled the kids down close and said in a hushed whisper, “I love your dad.” The ultimate small gesture. Today, those same kids, now young adults, pitch shoes at our cabin high in the mountains of Montana. On some nights, as the sun sets and the stars begin to emerge, I watch them from the back deck and think about him.

This week, sitting in the National Cathedral, I fought back inevitable tears as the majestic church bells tolled outside. Only the sound I heard was subtly different. It sounded more like the sweet clanking of horseshoes on a warm spring evening. It was the sound of the greatest man I ever knew.

Brian Yablonski — *Brian Yablonski is the executive director of the Property and Environment Research Center (PERC) in Bozeman, Mont. From 1989 to 1990, Brian worked in the West Wing of the White House as a personal staff assistant to President George H. W. Bush.*

Madera Horseshoe League completes its 18th season

The Madera Big Valley Horseshoe League completed 18 years of organized horseshoe pitching at the Rotary Park horseshoe pitching complex on Nov. 14.

Approximately 200 players and families celebrated the end of the season during an awards banquet held at the Madera Municipal Golf Course on Wednesday night.

The horseshoe league was formed in 2000 to encourage amateur participation in the sport of horseshoe pitching. In cooperation with the Madera Parks and Community Services the league holds two 15-week spring and fall playing seasons.

According to league president Harlen A. Rippetoe, the league has expanded from its original six teams to 12 teams, with pitchers participating from nine (9) adjacent communities.

The league is composed of 12 teams that participate in both an A and B division. Currently more than 100 players makeup the rosters of the two divisions. The league is co-ed and has more than 10 women on the roster.

Rippetoe, the league founder, said the league is one of the largest horseshoe pitching leagues in the state of California. He said the sport of horseshoe pitching goes back to the Roman Army who invented the game to past time during their long military campaigns. According to Rippetoe, horseshoe pitching is associated with picnics and family

gatherings and is an excellent pastime to improve on coordination skills.

The horseshoe league provides free maintenance to all horseshoe courts in Madera County and will provide instruction and horseshoes to any group or family who plan a group tournament.

The horseshoe league will began the 2019 season on Wednesday, March 6. It is open to all horseshoe pitchers. If anyone is interested in participating please contact the Madera Parks and Recreation Department or League President Harlen Rippetoe at 871-9504.

San Jose

Happy Happy New Year from San Jose!

Nancy Cloutier and Mike Anderson represented the San Jose Horseshoe Club at the NCHPA Annual business meeting and awards lunch on Sat. Nov. 10 in Sacramento.

The meeting moved along smoothly with little or no heated discussions. Election of officers amounted to re-electing the 2018 officers to continue to serve in 2019. Among other things that means that **2019 club tournament statisticians should send their 2019 tournament files to Mike Anderson** at email address meanderson99@yahoo.com. The meeting was adjourned, a pizza lunch was served, and awards were given out.

Saturday Dec. 1 San Jose Horseshoe Club had our business meeting/Christmas party hosted by Nancy Cloutier at her home. Remembering the passing of Larry Ryan (Nancy's son) earlier in the year made for a

somewhat different party than in past years. The club thanks Nancy for hosting this event and for all she does for the club. The evening started off with a very tasty pot luck dinner followed by the business meeting. As part of the business meeting the election of 2019 officers was held with the following results:

Mike Anderson - President
Brian Zelmar - 1st Vice President
Marisela Mauricio - 2nd Vice President
Leon Moore - 3rd Vice President and club contact at 408-867-5135
Nancy Cloutier - Secretary-Treasurer
Russell Zelmar - Groundsman
Leon Moore - Statistician

After the business meeting a Yankee Swap gift exchange took place. Everyone had fun and went home with a "nice" gift.

Larry Ryan's graveside service and celebration of life on Fri. Dec. 7 was well attended by family and San Jose Horseshoe Club members. Larry was a real asset to our club and he is sorely missed.

Again, Happy New Year to all and we look forward to seeing you at the courts in 2019.
Mike Anderson

Stockton

The Stockton Club has been awarded the State Tournament for this coming 2019 Season. We will be looking forward to hosting the event over the Labor Day Weekend. We are proud to be hosting our 11th State Tournament. On a cold December afternoon it is fun to reflect back on the Champions that the Stockton Courts have produced; truly some all-time greats have risen to claim Stockton State Titles. Among the Men's Champions we have Jerry Schneider, John Walker, Walter Ray Williams, Jr., Ron Simmons, Jesse Gonzalez and Marcus Santillana. Women's Champions include Leona Anderson, Jo Vickery, Marisella Mauricio, Yvonne

Mauzey, Vera Floyd, Sharon Paddock, Elaine Butcher, Foa Remillong, and Sandra Johnson. Elders Champions were Charles Woolery, Jesse Gonzalez, and Gil Tournour. Senior men to have been Champs in Stockton were Paul Hopkins and Donald Henry. Jr. Boy's Champions include Walter Ray Williams, Jr., Jonathan Williams, Wylie Stapp, Mel Long Jr., Hayden Lee, and Luke Zeponi. Jr. Girls winners were Cindy Williams, Roberta Lovelady, Tammie Rodocker, Lisa Gonzalez, Candace Paddock, Sarah Sanchez, Champagne Mansera, and Elissa Bishop. The Cadet Stockton Champions have been Kevin Kyle, Luke Zeponi, and Hastiin Begaye. Nostalgic fun to look back at those great champions, and it also interesting to speculate who will win titles next Labor Day on the Louis Park Courts.

We hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope all of you are looking forward to the 2019 season as much as I am. In this off season time we should all give thanks for the Great American sport of Horseshoe Pitching, and for our chance to participate in the NHPA. *George Davis*

Ukiah

As 2018 ends and 2019 begins we prepare to re-join NHPA and NCHPA and plan for our pitching tournaments. Our courts are at the Redwood Empire Fairgrounds and so far we have a comfortable relationship, hope it lasts a few more years. It is a pretty place and Gil Tournour and his helpers are trying to keep the courts in shape and the little shed we use in one piece. The weather is not kind to small wooden structures and the sun is also damaging so constant upkeep is required. We hope you all are planning to come to Ukiah for our tournaments and that you had a wonderful and blessed holiday. The new year gives us all opportunities to grow and get better at whatever we do whether it's dieting, exercising or pitching. God bless you all. *-Lorena Tournour*

Half Moon Bay

2018 was a good year for our club.

We gained 5 new members, **Vienna Klingele, Nicco Klingele, Jimmy Lintt, Bret Duncan & Anthony Stoloski.**

Our Club members had a very prosperous year of accomplishments:

At the 2018 California State Championships, Bill Terry won the Elders Men Class B Division at the 2018 California State Championships. Alex Voskes placed second place in Men's Class I. Richard Robbins (Associate Member) placed second in Elders Men Class C. He also placed 3rd in Elders Group I-2 at the World Tournament in Florence, South Carolina.

At the Northern California Championships, Richard Voskes won Class C & Larry Pacheco placed 2nd in Class B.

We did very well at the NCHPA meeting & awards luncheon. Richard Robbins (Associate Member) won **Player of the Year**. Pat McGowan had the **Most Improved Average**. I won the **Top Gun Award**. Mona & I were presented the **Presidential Award**. **Thanks, NCHPA!**

The Half Moon Bay Horseshoe Club was awarded the **NCHPA Doubles Championship** on **September 21 & 22**. We hope to see you at this tournament, especially if you have never been to HMB.

Sadly, we lost Ron Nelson, he only competed at HMB, so many members did not get to know what a great person he was. He will be missed greatly.

See you on the courts! **Rick Della Santina**

Sonoma County Club

About every three years or so I need to reiterate the fact that this club is in Santa Rosa and not Sonoma. Although it is in Sonoma County the courts are at Doyle Park in Santa Rosa. If you have not been here yet you are missing a beautiful pitching facility. Sixteen clay courts for your pitching pleasure along with computerized stats which means generally we begin before 10 am. We are once again hosting the

mystery money tournament the one where you get the majority of your entry fee back in an envelope. The winner gets half your money etc etc. Pick one of these dates April 20, June 1, June 15, July 13, August 24&25. Pick one and come on up. **Casey Sluys**



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