

# WISCONSIN HORSESHOE NEWSLETTER

Volume 15, Issue 8

Nov/Dec 2001

AN AWARD WINNING PUBLICATION

Jim Haupt – Editor  
Ken Kosky – Publisher

## Fall Meeting

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### Special points of interest:

**"Adventure at the Sizzle" by Terry Last  
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**Horseshoes for Dummy's pg 11**

John Secord, State Secretary, Treasurer led off the annual WHPA Fall Meeting with minutes of the last meeting and the Treasurer's report of a WHPA balance of near \$4000.

On a lighter note, VP Jane Smith told of how her club, Close Doesn't Count, had once again won the award for best club at the State Tournament. See her evasive remarks on other pages.

Tom Steinke provided a year end balance sheet for the Junior's Scholarship Fund also reproduced on other pages in this Newsletter.

Of particular note is the fact that the Fund is not keeping pace with annual award schedule.

NHPA Sec-Treas., Dick Hansen said that of the seven new rule changes, the 20 foot foul rule for Juniors under 10 years of age will probably be most important. In building a new sanctioned court to accommodate the Juniors it would require continuous concrete walkways, end to end. Rulings on existing courts have yet to be considered. The younger Juniors, it was noted, rarely exist and the ruling was thought to have been implemented to a few league situations.

Red Deer, Alberta, site of the 2002 World Tournament is thought to be

about 1600 miles for those from Wisconsin. Entry may be somewhere near May 16th, not a deadline, just a guess. The Canadian area promises to be scenic and picturesque.

Hansen will announce time and dates for the WHPA Christmas party as soon as it is scheduled

In campaigning for the WHPA presidency, Bon Berg, president of the Sandbaggers club said he would like to see surveys facilitated to find answers why a local unsanctioned tournament can be so successful even when directly following the State Tournament.

Ken Jaeger stated he would like one more term. Without further discussion slips were passed for a secret ballot.

Terry Sternberg, running unopposed retained his position as 2nd VP

Ballots counted; 29 to 17 for Jaeger over Berg. Reportedly 48 members attended this meeting.

Terry Sternberg speaking for a the horseshoe clubs of Goldendale, Kewaskum and Fond du Lac entered a bid for the 2003 State Tournament using the outdoor facilities of the Fond du Lac club. Sternberg has been in favorable contact with the old

(Continued on page 4)



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## Coming Events

**NOV 11** Sonny's Singles at Arena \$15; at cts \$17  
 Sonny Cockroft 405 Wall St Mazomanie, WI 53560  
 608-795-2573 #28-01-036 carolc24@chorus.net D/L 10/23

**DEC 10** SANTA'S SINGLES at Arena \$15; at cts \$17  
 Eddie Wheeler W9880 S Co Line Rd Lodi, WI 53555  
 608-592-4424 #28-01-037  
 eddie.wheeler@tdstelecom.com D/L 11/26

**JAN 13-14** 001 at Arena \$15; at cts \$17  
 Jim Haupt 5075 N Elkhart Av Milw, WI 53217  
 414-964-2735 #28-02-001 jimhaupt@aol.com D/L 12/30

**FEB -11** FREEZEROO at Arena \$15; at cts \$17  
 Ron Berg 5375 Blue Ridge Barneveld, WI 53507  
 608-924-5574 #28-02-002 bfarms@mhtc.net D/L 1/27

**MAR 2** THE WHY NOT; at Arena \$15 at cts \$17  
 Eddie Wheeler W9880 S Co Line Rd Lodi, WI 53555  
 608-592-4424 #28-02-003  
 eddie.wheeler@tdstelecom.com D/L 2-16

**MAR 17** WHPA Spring Meeting at Arena 1:00 PM : free!

**MAR 25** RVR at Arena 4 player team doubles \$60/team  
 Ron Berg 5375 Blue Ridge Barneveld, WI 53507  
 608-924-557 4 limit 180% #28-02-004  
 bfarms@mhtc.net D/L 3/11

**APR 28** CLUB TEAM at Beloit \$80/team  
 Jim Haupt 5075 N Elkhart Av Milw., WI 53217  
 414-964-2735 4-player teams #28-02-006  
 jimhaupt@aol.com D/L 4/14

**APR 29** WHPA STATE DOUBLES at Beloit \$40/team  
 John Secord W6868 Brown Rd Fond du Lac, WI 54937  
 920-922-0080 whpa@execpc.com #28-02-007 D/L 3/31

**MAY 11** BUSTING LOOSE at Arena \$15 at cts \$17  
 Eddie Wheeler W9880 S Co Line Rd Lodi, WI 53555  
 608-592-4424 #28-02-008  
 eddie.wheeler@tdstelecom.com D/L 11/26

**MAY 5-6** ENCORE at Beloit \$ TBA  
 Earl Paulson 7105 S Co Hwy H Beloit, WI 53511  
 608-879-2304 #28-02-009 bhc.tw@brodnet.com D/L 4/21

**MAY 18-19-20** TEAM WORLD at Beloit \$200/team  
 Earl Paulson 7105 S CO Hwy H Beloit, WI 53511  
 608-879-2304 #28-02-010 bhc.tw@brodnet.com D/L Apr 15

**KEY** Bold print date indicates WHPA approved event.  
 NHPA sanctioned tournament numbers also in bold  
 Note: Some WHPA approved events are unsanctioned.  
 Call, 414-964-2735 for free listing in this column.

The probability that we may fail in the struggle ought not to deter us from the support of a cause we believe to be just.

- Abraham Lincoln



## The President's Column

The Presidents' column in absentia;

If you know Ken Jaeger, you know what happens this time of year. The deer are in their yearly rut and Ken heads for the old family place to the north and once there he metamorphosis into a tree squirrel and hides in the tree branches for days on end waiting for that trophy buck, whose mind is on procreation, to dare show himself.

With Ken lost to the rut, I'll use his column to evaluate his performance over the last six years.

► **Promotion:** Knowing Ken as well as I do, I know that promoting the game is his single most driving passion. He wanted the World Tournament in Eau Claire in the worst way and when we lost the bid to Red Deer the first time around he was very disappointed. He worked even harder the next year and has made a personal commitment to help Jane Smith with the 2003 World Tournament in Eau Claire. This will be a good thing for WI horseshoes and our MN neighbors also. Ken also worked closely with Art Collien from Eagle River on getting another sanctioned tournament established in the north land.

► **Juniors:** Like most of the rest of us, Ken would like to see more junior pitchers involved. Efforts in that area have fallen short of his expectations but that is a very difficult row to hoe. Kids have many choices and unfortunately horseshoes is usually not one of them. Everyone of us needs to put more effort into this one.

► **Overall:** Keep up the good work.

KK



*(Continued from page 1)*

car clubs who also use the Fond du Lac fairgrounds on Labor Day weekend.

The officers, and particularly Jaeger, were relieved that there was a valid bid offered for the 2003 State Tournament. Some in this state are already committed to promotion of the Eau Claire World Tournament of 2003 and see it as an opportunity to promote the game within Wisconsin. The word is that this coming year is the time to promote new membership for the 2003 World at Eau Claire.

At recent Eau Claire organizational meetings it was learned that Jane Smith has either volunteered or been persuaded to head up the committee producing the 2003 World Tournament. In her title as the 2003 WT Host Director, she feels confident many will come forward to support the cause.

The WHPA Walking Doubles became the next hot topic. To walk or not walk during what we call the State Doubles was the issue. Ron Berg said the regular game works well at Arena and is worth a try at the State. Lorraine Sternberg, a State Doubles Champion would rather leave it the way it is. Ken Kosky would like to try for a change. Earl Paulson believes more would participate with straight doubles. Jeff Secord successfully established that the walking format was instituted by the state officers Jack Algiers, Carl Gilbertson and Dick Hansen spoke of the ability to use personal shoes. Harry Nelson prefers regular doubles

but suggested two events a few weeks apart. Jeff Secord wanted to alternate years. John Secord formally suggested for a show of hands from those who would like to try the regular doubles routine for one year and reassess the format following the trial. About half the hands showed they had played the walking doubles this year. Of the near 48 in attendance 23 or 24 voted to play regular doubles next year. This was thought to a majority and it seems we will be trying regular doubles in spring of 2002.

Edi McKinney suggested that the state association pay for the Team-World entry of the top two teams rather than for one team which is the present practice. After a bit of discussion members voted 24- 18 to pay entry for the top two teams entering Team-World.

Jim Haupt suggested that there could be some discussion on expenses for the State Tournament. Ralph Maylahn corrected the terminology calling it a P&L (profit and loss) statement. Haupt said this type of statement is often asked for but seldom seen after a State Tournament. To keep things moving, Ken Jaeger asked Haupt to write it up, perhaps for consideration at a future date. This is it in form of a question. If we ask the host club to set the entry fee for the State Tournament are we correct in asking for a profit and loss statement to justify that entry fee? We might learn where the real expenses occur.

Be not afraid of growing slowly, be afraid only of standing still.  
- Chinese Proverb

Don't think there are no crocodiles because the water is calm.  
- Malaysian Proverb

Fall seven times, stand up eight.  
- Japanese Proverb

If there is no wind, row.  
- Latin Proverb

Turn your face to the sun and the shadows fall behind you.  
- Maori proverb

Words must be weighed, not counted.  
- Polish Proverb

You can't wake a person who is pretending to be asleep.  
- Navajo Proverb

The soldiers fight, and the kings are heroes.  
- Jewish Proverb



## Adventure at the Sizzle

by Terry Last

I did not travel 1,500 miles to lose, but that's pretty much the story of my sojourn to the infamous Sandbar Sports Arena in Arena for "the Sizzle" horseshoe pitching tournament.

A Wisconsin native now living in New Mexico, I read about the Sandbar as the site of the "Border Battle" between Wisconsin and Minnesota in *Newsline*. I subsequently learned it was the site of last year's Wisconsin state championships. Some would go so far as to describe the Sandbar to me as "in essence, the horseshoe pitching Mecca in the state of Wisconsin."

When I saw there was a tournament scheduled for July 7, at these hallowed grounds while I would be back home on vacation in early July, I felt compelled to take a pilgrimage to the horseshoe pitching pits at the Sandbar. It would be a good opportunity for me to toss some iron, and get in a little friendly competition with my fellow-Cheeseheads.

To fill you in a little more about me, this is my eighth year pitching horseshoes. The game was introduced to me shortly after I moved to Albuquerque in 1993.

Gradually I improved and became more "serious" about the sport. While on another vacation to visit my sister in Ohio in 1999, I took the opportunity to play in my one and only World Horseshoe Pitching Tournament in Greenville. I didn't do very well – threw seven points below my average – so I vowed one day I would return to redeem myself. I vowed to myself I wouldn't go back to the World unless I got by ringer percentage up to 40 percent, or if it ever should happen that it was held in my home state Wisconsin.

In New Mexico, I get in about seven or eight sanctioned tournaments per year, and maybe another half dozen open tournaments. I generally throw two or three times per week – Wednesday nights in the Albuquerque city league and once or twice on my homemade pits in my backyard.

It's rare that I ever get the chance to play outside of New Mexico, where there are only about 70 NHPA-sanctioned pitchers registered in the men's open division. It's not the horseshoe-pitching hotbed Wisconsin

is with more than 300 men's players.

Like a lot of players that have come to love the game, I enjoy pitching shoes for the camaraderie and the competition. I like to win but if I don't, it's a great way to pass the time among friends – even new friends like I met in Arena.

Tournament director Eddie Wheeler was excited to hear there would be an entry coming from so far away to attend the Sizzle. "I don't think we've ever had anyone from so far away," he wrote me via e-mail. "Wait until I tell Jim Haupt. It'll be great for the newsletter."

I was flattered. But I wanted to give 'em something to write about. I was hoping this would be a story about the long-lost native son returning to his homeland to triumph, but it's not. What it's turned out to be is a story about how I fizzled at the Sizzle.

I started out well enough, winning my first game by throwing 40 percent – a few points above my average. Then I sputtered, losing to a very good pitcher, Don Burmeister, albeit with a less than heroic effort on my part.

I had a bye the next game. It was an opportunity for me to re-group. I could still win the tournament with one loss, I told myself. I just had to bear down and regain the form I had the first game. With a little luck, I could still return home the conqueror.

This break in the action might be a good time to share some thoughts on the differences between horseshoe pitching in Wisconsin and New Mexico.

I already touched on one – the difference in the number of registered pitchers. We usually draw anywhere from 20 to 35 pitchers to a sanctioned tournament. At state, we might get a total of 60 or 70 in all classes.

There are very few women pitchers – they throw with the men except at state. We don't have many juniors either, although there are a few real good Navajo boys, one of which was a world champion last year. Typically, with my 37.79 ringer percentage, I end up in the bottom half of the "B" class at sanctioned tournament in New Mexico. At the Sizzle, I was the fifth seed of seven in "C" class, which I guess shows the caliber of pitchers are better in Wisconsin.

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*(Continued from page 5)* **Adventure at the Sizzle**

I saw that Mark Mauthe was at the Sizzle. I know him to be one of Wisconsin's best with a percentage better than 70. That's way better than New Mexico's best. In fact, there are only a half dozen or so out in this dry and desolate land with percentages greater than 50. Our top pitcher is probably Ken Jones, who has thrown in the "A" Class at World before. He tops out in the mid 60s range.

You might think the season would be longer in here in the desert, but it's not. In fact, we actually have a shorter season than you do in Wisconsin.

This is the high desert. Where I live, just south of Albuquerque, we're about a mile high. The summers are hot, to be sure, but it gets cold in the winter. We don't have any indoor courts at all, so it's hard to get in a lot of practice during the winter months.

Retired people could throw all year long, I suppose, as it often does warm up to a tolerable temperature during winter days. But those of us with day jobs are pretty much limited to weekends.

I usually start my spring training by the end of February. The first sanctioned tournament is the end of April. There's a tournament somewhere in the state just about every other weekend after that. Some of them are hundreds of miles away, though. Living just south of the state's biggest city, I'm in a good location because, within an hour's drive of Albuquerque and Socorro, I can hit seven or eight sanctioned tournaments per year pretty easily.

Also in regard to the weather, one big difference I endured at the Sizzle was the stifling humidity. It's a dry heat in New Mexico. It may be 95 degrees but the humidity is often down around 30 percent or lower. I don't know what the heat index was at the Sizzle, but it was steaming!

Most of the courts in New Mexico, and only seven cities have public courts, are sand. There is only one facility with clay courts in the whole state, that in Albuquerque. The quality of the clay at the Sandbar is pristine compared to what I'm used to there. It was a pleasure to play on courts with such nice clay.

Another difference between what I'm used to and the way you folks do it is the method of scoring. I never

before played in a tournament where ringers and points were recorded the way they were at the Sizzle.

In New Mexico, we always keep a running score on a score sheet. Usually the people in the other classes who are not pitching, or volunteers, keep score. They are paid 25 cents per game for their services.

Rarely are scoreboards used. If you want to know who's winning, you have to ask the score keeper.

The other thing that took a little getting used to were those gnats -- or whatever those pesky little bugs were buzzing before my eyes and zipping into my ears as I was trying to focus on the stake. They were bugging me. But I did my best not to be distracted by my surroundings. I came 1,500 miles and I had a tournament to win.

My next game, I found the groove again long enough to win a close match against Gene Satterstrom. But my work was cut out for me now, facing the top half of the bracket the rest of the way.

Eventual class champion Jason Goldsmith was too much for me to handle and my record dropped to 2-2. My championship hopes all but lost now, I resolved to finish strong. Maybe I could still place in the money to help pay expenses for the long flight home the next day.

I started well enough against Ron Balsiger. We had a great game. We were both pitching well. I grabbed the lead early and held it most of the game, but only by a small margin. I led by two ringers going into the final four shoes, but couldn't make one catch. Ron connected on three of his last four to beat me by two points.

Grrrrr. You hate to lose one that way. But Ron made 'em when he had to, and I didn't. Sometimes missing one ringer by the width of one of those gnat's behinds can make a big difference.

Now all that was left was to try to finish an even 3-3. Fittingly, my last match was against none other than Jim Haupt, an NHPA regional director in my home state.

Unfortunately, neither of us pitched well. I won't embarrass Jim by mentioning our percentages that game. Maybe he was just trying to be a gracious host and let me win that one, but I couldn't find the stake and Jim

*(Continued on page 7)*



(Continued from page 6)

ended up pointing me to death. So that's that – the story of how I fizzled at the Sizzle. Still, I had a blast. Eddie ran a great tournament, I met some good people, and I got some great news when it was over. Chatting with Jim after we finished our last game, I learned the 2003 World Tournament is going to be up in Eau Claire. I didn't know that. It takes a while for the Pony Express to reach New Mex-

ico, you know.

So I'll be back, my newfound friends, and I'm looking forward to it. I just hope it won't be the same old story. Something like: "How I Wilted at the World."

(Terry Last is currently a sportswriter for the Valencia County News-Bulletin in Belen, NM, and the Class-C New Mexico State Champion of 1997).

## WHEELER'S FALL CLASSIC

BY EDDIE WHEELER

THE FIRST EVENT OF THE INDOOR ARENA SEASON MID-OCTOBER

FINAL RESULTS

CLASS A:

MARK MAUTHE - 75.6%

BUN CARLEY - 55.2%

ARNIE WALTON - 51.6%

CLASS B

STEVE MILLER - 45.6%

KENNY FRAME - 48.4%

TIP WIPPERFURTH - 40.4%

CLASS C:

JULIAN TIJERINA - 36.0%

DWAYNE HEIN - 37.2%

GENE SATTERSTROM - 27.2% CLASS D

CARL GILBERTSON - 45.2%

ED WHEELER - 32.4%

CHUCK HERMAN - 21.2%

WELL NEXT TO MARK MAUTHE (WHO WAS STEADY AS USUALLY), CARL GILBERTSON TOOK CENTER STAGE ON THIS SATURDAY. NOT ONLY DID HE WIN CLASS D, BUT IT APPEARED TO BE A WALK IN THE PARK FOR CARL. THIS SEASONED VETERAN PITCHED 113 RINGERS, OUT OF 250 SHOES, FOR A MERE 45.2% AVERAGE. NOW THAT'S PRETTY GOOD, CONSIDERING HIS AVERAGE IS ONLY 23.6%! IN CARL'S OWN WORDS, HE SAID "IT'S JUST ABOUT BACK TO THE WAY IT USED TO BE". I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU PEOPLE, BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE CARL MEANS BUSINESS!

IN CLASS A, MARK MAUTHE AVERAGED JUST UNDER 38 RINGERS PER GAME, TO WALK AWAY WITH THE TOP HONORS, YET AGAIN. IN MARK'S SECOND GAME, HE PITCHED 41 RINGERS OUT OF 50 SHOES. BUN AND ARNIE, BOTH GAVE MARK A RUN FOR IT, BUT MARK WAS ABLE TO HOLD THEM OFF, IN ROUTE TO HIS 5 WINS AND 0 LOSES.

IN CLASS B, STEVE MILLER, FROM SUN PRAIRIE, PITCHING IN HIS THIRD TOURNAMENT, TOOK FIRST PLACE HONORS. HE BEAT OUT KENNY FRAME WITH 4.5 WINS TO KENNY'S 3.5 WINS.

IN CLASS C, JULIO TIJERINA HELD OFF A CHARGING DWAYNE HEIN, TO TAKE FIRST PLACE, WITH A 4-1 RECORD.

I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE FOR ENTERING, AND MAKING MY TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS. ALSO, THANKS TO DAVE FORSETH, FOR BEING A PACER IN CLASS D, AND TO GENE SATTERSTROM, FOR RUNNING THE SCORE SHEETS, WHILE THIS TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR, TOOK HIS TURN AT THE PITS. I HAVE TO GIVE LINDA JOHNSON A LOT OF CREDIT FOR STEPPING UP TO CLASS A. SHE DID THIS, AT THE REQUEST OF THIS TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR, TO FILL IN A SPOT THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN FOR RON LINGARD. WHO WAS HOME RECOVERING FROM SOME KIDNEY STONES. GET WELL QUICK RON.

-EW



## 2001 State Tournament Club Championship Results

by Jane Smith

This is the 12th year the State tournament has had a side event to create a little friendly club competition. Of the 20-25 clubs in the state only about 7-10 participate each year. The entry requirements are simple: minimum of 5 pitchers, a fee of \$10.00, and a list of pitchers and classes turned in during the State tournament. There have been several repeat winners and not always the "home team" either. It is more difficult for the home team to win because they generally have more pitchers and it is important to place in the upper half of a class to help the club. Because of the responsibilities of hosting the tournament, home team members are usually tired and find it difficult to concentrate on ringers. Enough... no more excuses. It is a fun side event to the State Tournament. The results: 8th place with 13 pitchers and a point average of 4.53 **Goldendale Horseshoe Club**; 7th Place, defending

champs, **Eau Claire**, 14 pitchers, 4.57 point average, one State Champion; 6th Place, **Sandbar Sandbaggers**, 12 pitchers, 4.58 point average; 5th Place, just out of the money, **Marshfield Horseshoe Club**, 1 State Champion, 11 pitchers, 4.72 point average; 4th Place, **Beloit Horseshoe Club**, great host and most pitchers with 21, 5.19 point average; 3rd Place **Combined Locks Horseshoe Club**, 10 pitchers, 5.4 point average; 2nd Place, their best ever finish, **Kenosha Horseshoe Club**, 11 pitchers, 5.81 point average. The 2001 State Tournament Club Champion is the north of highway 8 bunch, **Close Doesn't Count** with 1 State Champion, 9 pitchers and a point average of 6.3. Each club that participated received a participation certificate with the names of pitchers listed, the State champions, and State Class champions names head the list. The clubs that finished in the top four received money back, and the winner, Close Doesn't Count, has no entry fee in 2002. Perhaps in 2002 we can have a minimum of ten to twelve clubs participating. Congratulations and thanks to those organizations competing this year.



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**Wisconsin Horseshoe Pitchers Association  
2001 Fall Meeting  
Junior's Scholarship Fund Report**

Liabilities balance as of March 17, 2001	\$5,600
Cash Balance as of March 17, 2001	\$7040.97

Receipts;

Tournaments	\$194
Clubs	0000
Personal	0000
Interest	325.68
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$518.68</b>

Liabilities	10 Scholarships @\$150
	1 Scholarship @\$200
	12 Scholarships @ \$300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5300</b>

Disbursements  
Nicole Riehle \$1200 University of Wisconsin Marshfield

Liabilities balance as of Oct 20, 2001	\$3500
Cash Balance as of Oct 20, 2001	6660.65

Respectfully Submitted, --Tom Steinke

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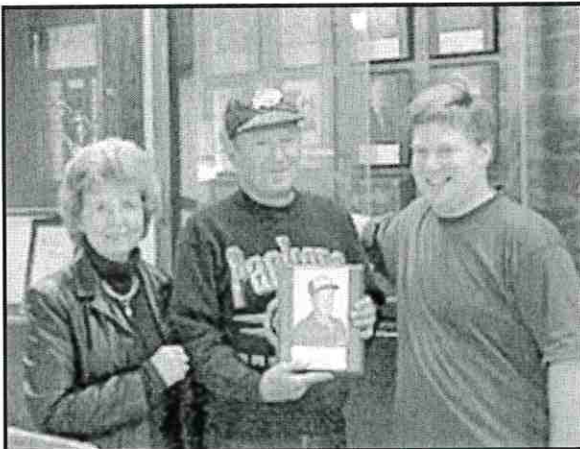
## Down and Back

with Jim Haupt

Thanks to all well wishers my health continues to improve. Expect to be back on the courts soon. Was great to receive your cards..

\*\*\*\*\*

Stepped into the Arena courts during the Fall Classic and intercepted a get well card addressed to me. Was nice to see most of the guys had already signed on, Missed Ron Lingard who was out trying to lose some kidney stones.



Earl Paulson gets his plaque placed in the Hall of Fame display cabinet. Present is HOF Chairperson Edi McKinney and committee member Jeff Secord.

## PITCHER-OF THE YEAR

The POY award is made annually to the Wisconsin horseshoe pitcher who has placed most often in the top three of the tournaments he or she has entered. This year both Randy Rein and Mark Mauthe were in hot competition for the \$50 award sponsored by the WHPA.

Rein came in first seven times; Mauthe had eight firsts. Rein also had four seconds and one third. Mauthe was second twice. Based on points awarded Rein won the duel by just 20 points (Rein 150, Mauthe 130) not much when 15 is the total award for a blue ribbon day.

Other POY leaders were:

Greg Hehling	100 pts (six firsts)
Bun Carley	80 pts (2nd x5 3rd x3)
Jim Haupt	75 pts (3-1st, 3-2nd)
Harry Nelson	75 pts (four 1st)
Ken Frame	70 pts (3rd, 5 times)
Clayton Gage	60 pts (4 firsts)
Ken Jaeger	60 pts (4 firsts)
Otis Wesley	60 pts (3 firsts)

It should be evident that the award for 1st = 15 points, 2nd = 10 and 3rd = 5. Total points are directly related to number of events entered.

If you can guess who might be the winner next year you have discovered what's wrong with the POY program. The winning guess is any top of the line "A" pitcher who will enter enough events. Plainly, it's an "A" class award.

Some others have excelled without the same chance to finish first. An example is Bun Carley in fourth position. He had five seconds, three thirds and one first. He is normally seeded in the low end of "A," one of the toughest spots in any event. He had a great year.

In the past twelve months results from 31 WHPA sanctioned tournaments were tabulated by director Jane Smith. with points awarded for a first second or third finish. She and other keen horseshoe minds have not come up with a better scoring format for the POY which might be more inclusive.



## When dad's away mom will play!

Got this phone call Thursday nite, I know I was half sleeping, the party on the other end of the line said "need President's article" by Saturday. Going hunting, paper going to print on Saturday. A total must by then! Well heaven forbid we stop the presses and hunting. So here goes.....

Saturday morning the sun wakes me up, the furnace kicks in, I roll over, my day off, what next. Oh well it's 9:00, I do have a backache anyway so I best get up, hit the shower, crank up the CD player to "Cher" ya see dad doesn't like loud music. PC is on, coffee is going. Now for the big question!

Do I, on my day to do my to do, go "Up-North" for his article or stay at home and do it myself. Well lets weigh the thought- it's cold outside already, doing dog detail, garbage detail, recycle detail. What next? Stay at home and do it myself?

Hunting, I love hunting, no laundry, no cooking, no questions, no answers, no anything, my time alone, I love it! But he will owe me big time. I laid away a new sewing machine, I'm sure when he gets back it will be off layaway. If they only knew. I love it!

Now for the article. I really don't know what's going on out there, but what I do know is that change is good but not for now, so thanks to everyone's vote on Ken's Presidency. Makes my live go smoother. I feel his term will be very needed. Working very close with Eau Clair for

I called the Jaegers the other day to see where my Presidents column was for the current issue of the Newsletter. When I learned I wasn't going to get anything from Ken in time I went ahead and used some filler. AFTER I just got the Newsletter all printed I checked my e-mail and discovered the above article. There is no way I wasn't going to print it!

This is an article written by Kathy Jaeger in her husbands absence.

Hmmm... this lady has talent. Maybe we can use her again?

the 2003 World Tournament. Why change-What could be better than a school teacher and an engineer to lead the way to the best ever or very close to it World. Just think-a fashion statement of "Green and Gold".

Breaktime -more coffee, push play next track, turn it up a little for dad, grab a cookie, cont...

For closing, thanks again to all. (I know he will continue to help you all with whatever in the future) his way of life is horseshoes and deer hunting, just check out his e-mail address.

From the top, this month, no major anything. Time to focus on the homefront, hug your kids, wife, husband, pets, neighbors, whatever, be thankful we are here.

So in my old blue Jean's, sloppy sweatshirt-now stained with coffee, hair uncombed. I bid you all good by. Just think, next month is still hunting season maybe he will owe me again.

My dishwasher dumped gallons of water all over, a shopping we will go, te-he. Thank god for hunting!

I'm no Steven King or ghost writer. Just me-the belt that holds Ken's jeans up. CD is done and so am, see you next time. Kathy

### Publishers note:

I've changed the way we keep you informed on the status of your subscription. See the following sample.

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## Horseshoes for Dummies

*A collection of horseshoe tips, some are OK, others questionable. Send in your tip for reprint in this column.*

### How to improve Your Horseshoe Game (NHPA handout)

Let's assume you are an average picnic pitcher. You don't really know how to hold or release the shoe. When you make a ringer, it's more a matter of luck than science.

If you follow these tips and practice a few times a week, you can raise your average by 25% in one year. Many beginners have gotten their averages up to 50% within that time. (That means a ringer every other throw and it will make you the star of most picnics.)

Hold the shoe on the side, with the fingers underneath and the thumb on top. The three middle fingers grip the shoe at the first or second joint, the little finger is spread a little way from the others and is there for balance only. Remember that you're striving for balance and control. Your grip should feel natural - not too tight, not too slack. You can hold the shoe on either side - with the open end facing toward you or facing away from you. (The "caulk" at the back end of the shoe is always down.) With the open end toward you, the shoe will rotate clockwise through 1-1/4 turns from the moment of release, before it reaches the stake. With the open end away from you it will go through either 3/4 or 1-3/4 turns. You have to experiment to find out what is best for you. The shoe gets its rotation from the movement of your wrist upward and to the right at the moment of release. To slow down the rotation grip it a little tighter. (This is all stated for right handers. Left handers just reverse things and give the shoe a counterclockwise rotation.)

The first thing you should practice is to get your shoe to "open up." You can worry about hitting the stake after you have mastered that.

To start your pitch stand at the left of the stake if you are right handed. This narrows your angle at the far stake and cuts an inch off the distance you

have to throw. Stand at a point where one natural stride will take you right up to the foul line.

Now sight through or over your shoe. Your goal is to have the open end of your shoe meet the lower half of the stake. **Pick a point on the stake and keep your eye on it throughout the pitch.** You are standing erect but relaxed. Your feet are parallel, an inch or so apart. You crouch slightly and bring your arm down and back - how far back depends on what feels comfortable. Your arm is straight. No cocked elbows, please. As you bring the shoe forward you step out with your left foot (for right handers). You release the shoe about 30 degrees from horizontal.

Remember that you are pitching straight ahead, with your whole body. The entire motion is much like bowling. Or think of the way a baseball pitcher throws, with a fluid, coordinated movement of his whole body. If you've done it all right the shoe will follow a gentle rainbow curve rising to a height of 7 to 10 feet some 25 feet out. Five or ten feet from the far step it should have rotated to the open position. It will come down at about a 30 degree angle to meet the stake, you hope, near ground level. (You aren't trying to skip the shoe in. This won't work at all on clay.)

**Your keys to better pitching are balance, concentration, and practice. BALANCE** means a balanced shoe, balanced grip and balanced body. **CONCENTRATION?** If you've got anything else on your mind, your average falls off. When you're out there pitching, forget your job, your spouse, everything. Think Horseshoes.

As for **PRACTICE**, an hour of pitching three or four times a week can turn you into the best pitcher in your neighborhood. Maybe the best in town. Besides it's fun great relaxation, and a great personal challenge.

*If you prefer to see this information from the source pick up Dean Schmitz's Guide Book for the Mount Clemens Indoor Horseshoe Pitchers Club, Mount Clemens, MI*



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