

WISCONSIN HORSESHOES



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Jan / Feb 2024

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Happy New Year

When the song of the Angels is stilled,
 When the star in the sky is gone,
 When the kings and the princes are home,
 When the shepherds are back with their flock,
 The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost,
 To heal the broken, To feed the hungry,
 To release the prisoner,
 To bring peace among people,
 To make music in the heart.

Mood of Music by Howard Thurman

Christmas is a time
 Christmas is a time
 Christmas is a time
 To remember each year
 Seeing Christmas candies
 And baked goods galore
 The smell of Christmas dinner
 Has you craving for more
 Shared memories at the table
 Could a nap be far behind
 Memories of friends and family
 Oh, they were so kind
 Asking no payment
 Nothing for them was due
 Oh, how they loved
 If you only knew
 Christmas time is that time

As I wait for Charismas this year
 I am reminded of all things dear
 Friends and family, young and old
 Not the things that this year sold
 Christmas songs playing in my ear
 Make Christmas special every year
 The songs take me back to special places
 Feeling the wonder of beloved faces
 Waiting for Christmas in this way
 And hearing the children in their play
 Christmas is in the big and small
 I guess I don't have to wait after all.

Kevin Brekke Dec 2023

Ro build what I will remember
 What the Christ Child set in motion
 Chords of love that will last forever.
 Kevin Brekke 2023

WISCONSIN HORSESHOES ~ [HTTP://WHPAHORSESHOES.COM](http://WHPAHORSESHOES.COM)

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THANK YOU!!

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Submissions deadline for our next issue is
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Date	Tournament	Location	Max	Entry	Deadline	Contact
Jan 6-7	001 Tourney	Beloit	72	20	Dec 27	Dan Newkirk
Jan 13-14	Dance with Dobie	Deansville	40	20	Jan 6	Gerald Harris
Feb 3-4	Deansville Memorial	Deansville	40	20	Jan 27	Gerald Harris
Feb 10-11	Valentines Tournament	Beloit	72	20	Jan 31	Dan Newkirk
Feb 17	Deansville/Beloit Challenge	Beloit				Club Event
Feb 24	Bring a Junior	Beloit		10	Feb 14	Dan Newkirk
Mar 9-10	Klash with Kerry	Deansville	40	20	Mar 2	Gerald Harris
Mar 16-17	March with Penny	Beloit	72	20	Mar 6	Dan Newkirk
Mar 23-24	Birthday Bash	Wonewoc	42	20	Mar 9	Dave Volz
April 6	Red Ferguson Classic	Beloit	72	20	Mar 27	Dan Newkirk
April 20	WHPA Spring Meeting (1 pm)	Wisconsin Dells				
April 27-28	April Showers	Chetek	16	10	April 20	Les Karpel
May 4	Jim Haupt Memorial Team	Beloit	24	84	April 17	Dave Volz
May 5	WHPA Walking Doubles	Beloit		40	April 17	John Secord
May 11	Beloit Encore	Beloit	72	20	May 1	Dan Newkirk
May 11	Eau Claire Early Bird	Eau Claire	64	10	May 4	Paul Wiese
May 17,18,19	Team World	Beloit		200	April 10	Jeff Secord
May 18	Butternut Open	Butternut		20	May 11	Jer Wegner
May 25-26	Stevens Point Open	Stevens Point	48	20	May 18	Fred Lane
June 1	Wolf River Open	New London	48	20	May 18	Ken Jaeger
June 2	Eau Claire Open	Eau Claire	64	20	May 25	Paul Wiese
June 8-9	Eagle River Open	Eagle River	32	20	June 1	Cliff Erickson
June 8-9	Spring Fling	Beloit	72	20	May 29	Dan Newkirk
June 15	Sylvia & Dan David Memorial	Marshfield		20	June 8	Mel Cook
June 15	Muskego Open	Muskego	28	20	June 8	Tom Steinke
June 22-23	Ken Kosky Memorial	Mosinee	48	20	June 15	Kent Frailing
June 22-23	Ken Lovaas Memorial	Beloit	72	20	June 12	Dan Newkirk
June 29-30	Whiskey Ranch Open	Delevan	40	20	June 22	Gena Quaid
July 4	The Patriot	Beloit	48	20	June 29	Dan Newkirk
July 7	Platteville Open	Platteville	36	16	June 29	Mark Mauthe
July 13	Arkdale Open	Arkdale	32	20	July 6	Ray Groskinsky
July 20-21	Pitch Out Cancer	Mosinee		20	July 13	Kent Frailing
July 27	Kickapoo Valley Open	Gays Mills	32	20	July 20	Russ Brockway
July 27	Pioneer Days	Butternut	28	20	July 20	Jer Wegner
July 31	WHPA Singles Entry Deadline					
July 29-Aug 10	World Tournament	Kennewick, WA			May 15	
Aug 3-4	Merrill Open	Merrill	64	20	July 27	Lambert Narlock
Aug 10	Rozellville Lions Tourney	Rozellville		20	Aug 3	Mike Berdan
Aug 10-11	Whiskey Ranch Classic	Delevan	40	20	Aug 3	Gena Quaid
Aug 13	Carson Park Classic	Eau Claire	64	10	Aug 6	Paul Wiese
Aug 17	Fond du Lac Open	Fond du Lac	32	20	Aug 10	John Meyer
Aug 18	FDL Team	Fond du Lac	10	54	Aug 10	Jeff Secord

Aug 24-25	Warm Up	Beloit	72	20	Aug 14	Dan Newkirk
Aug 31-Sept 1	WHPA State Singles	Wausau		25	July 31	John Secord
Sept 7-8	Wet N Wild	Centuria		15	Aug 31	Toni Sloper
Sept 14	Dave and John Memorial (Doubles)	Eau Claire		22	Sept 7	Paul Wiese
Sept 14	Earl Paulson Classic	Beloit	54	20	Sept 4	Dan Newkirk
Sept 15	Don Goldsmith Doubles	Beloit		22	Sept 4	Dan Newkirk
Sept 21	Arkdale Doubles	Arkdale			Sept 14	Ray Groskinsky
Oct 5-6	Deansville Singles	Deansville	40	20	Sept 28	Gerald Harris
Oct 12-13	October Fall Singles	Beloit	72	20	Oct 2	Dan Newkirk
Oct 19	WHPA Fall Meeting (1 pm)	Wisconsin Dells				
Oct 26-27	Summit Ridge Spooktacular	Wonewoc	42	20	Oct 12	Dave Volz
Nov 2-3	Deansville Doubles	Deansville	16	22	Oct 26	Gerald Harris
Nov 9-10	Autumn Harvest	Beloit	72	20	Oct 30	Dan Newkirk
Nov 30-Dec 1	Deansville Open	Deansville	40	20	Nov 23	Gerald Harris
Dec 7-8	Snowflake	Beloit	72	20	Nov 27	Dan Newkirk
Dec 14-15	Ho Ho Horseshoe Tournament	Wonewoc	30	20	Dec 4	Dave Volz

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A fresh New Year....it always feels like such a clean slate time for me. A new year, a new beginning...blah, blah, blah. This year started with a bang didn't it? Huge snowstorms followed by a ridiculous cold spell that kept most of us housebound. I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season and can find ways to enjoy this winter wonderland we have right now.

I want to say thank you to all of you who reached out to me following my last article. I felt the love and support from so many of you. From the bottom of my heart, thank you!

Unfortunately, I am currently unable to keep up with my current pace and it is showing. I want to apologize to those whose names I forgot to add to my tournaments. Never intentional.

I have decided to step down as Tournament Director for the Deansville Club. Effective immediately, you can contact Gerald Harris to enter our tournaments, or if you have any questions. He can be emailed at jinsgpa@aol.com or by texting him at 920-342-6112. I want to thank Gerald for his willingness to step up and take this over for me. It makes me feel better.

Even though I am not physically able to pitch, I am hoping to get out and about to some tournaments to see everyone soon. Until I do....

Love to all,

Behind the Mask ... With NHPA Chaplain Ken Heinritz



Negativity spreads like wildfire. It's infectious like a cancer that spreads. Unfortunately, in our fallen human nature, we gravitate to negative thinking. It comes easy. It's natural. And it's easier just to fan the flames ... continue adding fuel to the fire, rather than attempt to quench the fire & stop the bleeding.

The difficult approach to take is to swim against the current. Go against the tide. Most of us know that our leadership, the NHPA has made some tough decisions recently. The World Tournament will be held out West, at least 4 of the next 5 years, hard to understand. But I'm sure they have their reasons. Also, the World Tournament schedule format will change drastically. Change is difficult. And because none of us are part of the inner circle of the NHPA, we cannot truly know why they are doing what they are doing. So, a lot of negative things are being spoken by pitchers, not only in Wisconsin but in several other charters also. And I am hearing that many who used to head out to World Tournaments are now calling the WT quits.

I for one, have decided to go West, to attend. I look forward to this classic event every year. The sacrifice may make it more meaningful. If you've been a frequent attendee at these World Tournaments, why not consider going again. It was a close one last year in Michigan. Some will be close & some will be far. At least we do not live on the East coast & have to travel across the country. It's your choice. But my guess is that many who don't go, will have regrets. Five years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. Hoping to see some of you there!

"Walk with the wise and become wise, but a companion of fools will suffer harm." Prov. 13:20

Top 20 Averages

Sarah Chaffee	85.16	Jeff Gustafson	61.15
Penny Steinke	76.02	John Nawrot	60.66
Jim Bilderback	72.67	Cliff Erickson	60.56
Aleena Lepak	70.08	Eugene Pribnow	60.17
Cliff Shave	69.21	Jim Larson	59.34
John Meyer	67.76	Pam Aiken	59
Ken Jaeger Sr	64.95	Ray Groskinsky	57.02
Randy Rein	63.64	Fred Eisele	56.67
Bernard Carley	61.95	Rich Bonner	56
Tammy Newkirk	61.31	Kerry Morris	55.44

Womens, Average, # of Tournaments

Sarah Chaffee	85.16	8	Kari David	31.84	2
Penny Steinke	76.02	25	Kailee Grob	30.87	5
Aleena Lepak	70.08	7	Paula Schwerdtfeger	30.41	4
Tammy Newkirk	61.31	26	Carey Jennings	29.79	2
Pam Aiken	59	1	Sonia Cook	29.33	4
Jill Peterson	52.22	20	Nancy Murleau	29.2	7
Donna Berquam	50.76	7	Diane Heilgeist	29	1
Linda Aarstad	50.68	11	Rondi Mengelt	28.85	9
Mona Lane	50.17	16	Kim Peterson	28.85	3
Susie Erickson	48.5	15	Mary Thompson	24.71	9
Deb Bestul	45	1	Leslie Mitchell	24.2	11
Cindy Castellano	43.52	11	Dobie Gutweiler	24.13	7
Rayna Bauer	43.29	19	Theresa Vlach	22.84	5
Kalena Quaid	42.88	30	Marna Galvan	22.22	3
Tonya Kaulum	41.47	5	Sandy Anderson	19.33	8
Charlotte Potter	39.69	10	Kim Briggs	17.21	4
Toni Sloper	38.06	9	Sara Schultz	16.25	2
Sandra Balz	37.92	3	Gloria Smith	13.23	1
Angie Hazen	36.42	5	Mary Sue Morris	12.62	1
Jane Smith	34.79	10	Barb Ramquist	11.72	8
Tava Cook	34.72	5	Lilli Young	8.67	1
Brenda Price	34.64	8	Carol Zervic	3.09	1
Emily Lazaris	34.17	2	Jenn Webb	2.22	1

Cadet Girls

Jazmyn Kildahl	6.76	6
Kira Williams	5.33	1
Josie Boehm	1.33	1

Cadet Boys

Owen Prasalowicz	10.68	2
Noah Chambers	8.44	2
Alan Edwards	3.21	1
Mattias Wiese	1.65	4
Logan Lepak	0	1

Mens, Average, # of Tournaments

John Nawrot	60.66	3	Glen Brandemuehl	24.78	15
Jim Larson	59.34	10	Edwin Pulsfus	24.58	4
Zak Schwartz	53.90	10	Rick Capener	24.50	2
Mike Cone	52.75	2	Ed Leverty	23.89	1
Dean Chaffee	51.87	5	Craig David	23.81	1
Rich Peterson	49.53	11	Gary Volz	23.50	2
Ken Heinritz	49.07	6	Stan Fox	23.50	1
Lonny Trangsrud	45.52	8	Chad Volz	23.00	1
Jarrod Bisch	42.67	4	Dennis Marquardt	22.08	4
Mark Mauthe	41.33	1	Steve Hauger	21.67	1
Dustin Duerr	40.83	17	Ivan Mitchell	21.45	13
Jeff Mauthe	40.67	1	Barry Haff	21.15	2
Justin Schultz	39.41	6	Brandon Peckham	20.95	1
Gary Wegner	38.75	2	Scott Linhart	20.79	8
Lambert Narlock II	38.07	15	Jason Dowidat	20.42	1
Alvin Schultz	37.50	6	Steve Kilian	19.84	8
Rick Weller	37.50	9	David Palmersheim	18.82	4
Kenneth Whitehouse	36.03	7	Thomas Mueller	18.50	1
Rich Brockway	35.00	17	Mitchell Uttech	18.09	16
Gunnar David	35.00	2	Dan Sheehan	18.00	5
Josh Smith	34.88	4	Fred Lane	17.65	10
Les Karpel	34.83	10	Thaddeus Monthie	17.36	2
Bob Kallstrom	34.79	4	Zak Rodriguez	17.06	5
Dave Quaid	33.45	35	Guy Fleming Jr	16.78	17
Dan Nalepinski	32.83	5	Sam Woolsey	16.67	6
Jer Wegner	32.62	4	Mike Berdan	16.60	5
Kent Frailing	32.36	10	Rory Balz	16.60	2
Michael Benzing Jr	31.93	4	Joe Zwifelhofer	16.54	2
Dennis Bach	31.48	6	Kevin Aarstad	16.17	8
Russell Kozlowski	31.23	6	Gene Friede	15.81	4
Brian Schoonover	31.10	20	Jeremy Studinski	15.48	8
Kevin Heckert	30.58	3	Bud Carton	15.10	2
Dan Williams	29.79	2	Mike Sheehan	14.46	3
Patrick Labarge	29.13	10	Jacob Brunette	14.42	2
Todd Thomason	28.78	2	Paul Wiese	13.93	5
Ray Cayer	28.71	8	Derek Dixon	13.44	5
Tim Sheehan	28.55	4	Jay Parizo	12.15	4
Mark Labarge	28.44	7	Jack Zane II	11.78	2
Greg Hehling	27.36	6	Mel Cook	11.33	3
Marvin Mengel	27.05	3	Brad Behrens	11.10	4
Kelly Thayer	27.00	2	Marshall Narlock	10.89	2
Russ Brockway	26.75	5	Craig Novinski	10.67	1
Scott Peckham	26.67	4	Jeff Bender	9.00	1
Dominic Saxby	26.55	6	Luke Lundquist	8.00	1
Hank Schoenbeck	26.10	4	Brian Walsh	5.88	7
Randy Mitchell	25.77	11	Erik Anderson	5.33	1
Thomas Haugen	25.71	1	Todd Sheehan	3.50	1
Mike Ezell	25.44	4	Glenn Coughlin	3.33	1
Dan Newkirk	25.23	24	Alec Marquardt	2.50	2
Mark Trepanier	25.08	2	Damien Werlein	0.67	1
Evan Schoohs	24.89	3			

Elders, Average, # of Tournaments

Jim Bilderback	72.67	23	Dave Leckwee	37.50	10
Cliff Shave	69.21	24	Jim Tollefson	37.42	7
John Meyer	67.76	10	Dale Matteson	37.18	12
Ken Jaeger Sr	64.95	18	Jim Alf	36.81	12
Randy Rein	63.64	7	Robert Conachen	36.14	6
Bernard Carley	61.95	15	Steve Wiegert	35.15	6
Jeff Gustafson	61.15	20	Steve Kulow	34.41	10
Cliff Erickson	60.56	18	Michael Benzing Sr	33.21	1
Eugene Pribnow	60.17	24	Mike Carlson	33.17	2
Ray Groskinsky	57.02	26	Kevin Brekke	33.12	14
Fred Eisele	56.67	1	George Dorn	32.66	24
Rich Bonner	56.00	9	Larry Danielson	30.79	5
Kerry Morris	55.44	17	James Duerr	30.31	8
Dan Bloom	54.49	20	David Carter	29.97	4
Larry Grabowski	53.70	5	Paul Henning	29.93	9
Roger Poutanen	52.26	15	Robert Fleege	29.53	23
John Wallace	52.24	14	Terry Sternberg	28.86	2
Glenn Bogenschneid	51.15	8	Dean Kallenbach	28.50	1
Rowen Swick	51.03	15	Kevin Hellenbrand	28.02	4
Steven Grob	48.77	5	Ken Bentzler	28.00	7
Mark Rice	48.09	16	John Orluske	28.00	1
Dick Perkins	47.95	6	Al Holloway	26.40	7
Donald Lammers	47.06	9	Gary Glover	25.97	20
Ralph Marthaler	46.83	22	Tom Steinke	25.58	20
Glenn Schultz	46.71	6	Richard Conrad	25.47	20
Jim Verstoppen	45.65	5	Kenneth Wery	25.33	5
George Moraza	44.93	5	Galen Kozel	23.80	2
Curt Panfil	43.27	5	Jack Zane	23.79	2
Gerald Harris	42.50	33	Mark Kubisiak	23.50	1
Dennis Wegner	42.50	3	John Secord	21.27	4
Rich Callaway	42.29	10	Ed Hack	19.75	6
Joe Koch	41.76	5	Robert Lawrence	18.97	4
David Volz	41.23	21	Gordy Zindler	18.75	3
Bruce Mclinn	40.64	10	Jim Menzel	17.05	24
Bob Klingaman	40.61	23	Mark Matzke	16.07	3
Ron Studinski	39.68	21	Ken Davison	16.00	2
Roger Anderson	38.97	11	Tom Bird	12.41	2
Joel Ramsdell	38.73	14	Gary Colton	11.50	1
John Drexler	38.38	3	Jim Berdan	9.03	5
Tom Leair	37.68	2			

Junior Boys

Blake Benzing	51.77	6
Bradley Benzing	37.66	5
Brandon Benzing	26.77	5
Conner Kildahl	16.08	2
Zach Secord	15.25	3
Aiden Weller	11.50	1
Gavin Wiese	8.46	3

Junior Girls

Lillyan Kildahl	39.72	8
Felicity Wiese	5.20	1
Sequoia Wiese	4.56	4

Exempt

Joe Mccrossen	45.61	2
Ben Kinjerski	26.67	1
Robert Starck	21.64	2
Reese Geier	12.80	1
Scott Shackleton	6.00	2

Snowflake
Dan Newkirk

Class A

Penny Steinke	4	1	69
John Meyer	4	1	61
Tammy Newkirk	4	1	60.5

Class B

Carty Cartwright	5	1	50
Rich Peterson	5	1	48.33
Linda Aarstad	3	3	39.58

Class C

Joe Koch	5	0	50
Roger Anderson	3	2	41
Dave Quaid	3	2	35

Class D

David Carter	4	1	28
Brenden Kane	4	1	26.5
Robert Fleege	3	2	25.5

Class E

Rondi Mengelt	5	0	30.5
Richard Conrad	3	2	28
G Brandemuehl	3	2	25.5

Class F

Chris Judson	5	0	19.5
Gary Glover	3	2	20.5
Kevin Aarstad	3	2	20.5



Class A: John, Penny, Tammy Class B: Linda, Rich, Carty, Kalena
Class C: Dave, Joe, Roger Class D: Robert, David, Brenden
Class E: Richard, Rondi, Glenn Class F: Kevin, Chris, Gary

Regional Directors Report

By: Dave Volz

The Officers positions have gone through some changes but are now all set. They are as follows: **Gary Roberts – President. Austin Bailey – 1st VP** -/By-Laws/Rules/Grievance Dir., Medical Exempt Form. **Laurie Lampkin – 2nd VP** – World Tournament Coordinator/Publicity Promotion Director. **Ben Webb – 3rd VP** – Sanction League, Junior Scholarships,, Junior Director. **Barabara Carson – 4th VP** – R.D. Director, Court Sanctioning. **Josh Olson – 5th VP** – IT Director. **Brian Poole – Secretary/Treasurer.** For those interested in submitting an rule or bylaw proposal the deadline to do so has been extended to March 15, 2024. For those who are running sanctioned leagues, Ben Webb is the new sanctioned leagues administrator.

Continued on page 10

Deansville Open

Dobie Guitweiler / Dave Volz

Class A

Gene Pribnow	5	1	53.89
John Meyer	4.5	1.5	64.44
Ray Groskinsky	2.5	3.5	54.44

Class B

Ralph Marthaler	3.5	2.5	44.44
Dave Volz	3.5	2.5	33.33
Kalena Quaid	3	3	38.89

Class C

Bob Klingaman	5.5	.5	44.44
Ron Studinski	5	1	39.44
George Dorn	3	3	30.56

Class D

Al Holloway	5	1	27.78
Nancy Murleau	4	2	23.89
Robert Fleege	3	3	23.89

Ho Ho Ho

Dave Volz

Class A

Tammy Newkirk	4	1	52.5
Rich Bonner	3.5	1.5	43
John Meyer	3	2	62

Class B

Glenn Schultz	5	0	51
Jill Peterson	4	1	51
Rich Peterson	3	2	47

Class C

Jarrold Bisch	5	0	49
Ron Studinski	4	1	40
Alvin Schultz	2	3	40

Class D

George Dorn	4	1	34.5
Rich Brockway	3	2	31.5
Dave Quaid	3	2	30

Class E

Russell Kozlowski	4	1	29.5
Mark LaBarge	3	2	29.5
Dan Newkirk	3	2	26.5

Class F

Sandy Anderson	5	0	14.5
Sara Schultz	3	2	18
Steve Kilian	3	2	17.5



Class A: Tammy, Rich

Class B: Jill, Glenn, Rich



Class C: Ron, Jarrold, Alvin

Class D: Rich, George, Dave



Class E: Dan, Russell, Mark

Class F: Steve, Sandy, Sara

Continued from page 10

You will now submit all league results and related issues to him at leagues@gmail.com. If you are planning on going to the 2024 World Tournament in Kennewick, Washington, the dates are July 29 – August 10 and the entry form, a link to enter online and other area information can be found on our WHPA website.

The full 2024 WHPA tournament schedule can be found in this newsletter as well as the WHPA website. While you are on the website, be sure to check out the Calendar, tournament results page, Pitcher of the Year under Awards and so much more.... Make sure you renew your membership before your first event of the new year! An entry form can be found on the website or you can renew through eShoe. Note: if you are renewing and changing your pitching division, you can't change it through eShoe, you must use the membership form and send it to Sec/Treas John Secord.

I think Wisconsin is one of the best charters in the NHPA: we have 54 sanctioned tournaments on our 2024 schedule to choose from, and we can pitch year-round. We bring in new members every year, but I know there are a lot more out there. What are we doing to retain our membership? Are we making them feel welcome? What are we doing to bring in new members? New members can join for \$10 and become a provisional member for one membership year, during this period they are eligible to pitch in any tournament other than a State or World tournament. They can upgrade at any time during this period by paying the additional \$25 (\$10 WHPA, \$15) to become a full member. This year the WHPA has implemented a new full member promotion. New, first-time Wisconsin members can join as a full member for \$25. The WHPA will waive the \$10 state dues. New members wishing to do this must fill out and mail in the WHPA membership form to do this. Good luck to all this year and remember Promote! Promote! Promote!



“The Cruel Shoes”

by Justin Kern

“Classics and Invention, Amid Utter Stupidity”

In plenty of obvious ways, Fredonia, New York is a small college town. Ten minutes from Lake Erie, surrounded by vineyards that fill the county with concord sweetness just as the fall semester begins

at SUNY – Fredonia, when the residential population doubles.

It’s next to not much of anything, unless you’re counting the neighboring city of Dunkirk, my hometown that, with closed factories and social clubs, felt less than collegiate. Fredonia, where the high school mascot was a hillbilly holding a moonshine jug and flailing a muzzleloader, a relic for the more current preppy population. Fredonia, a name close enough to the made-up fool’s paradise in the Marx Brother’s classic, “Duck Soup”. Where the Buffalo Bills used to practice, where you’ll occasionally spot The Flaming Lips or Sleater-Kinney while trying to record an album in the woods. The lone beacon for miles to anyone not already living in Chautauqua County.

Because so many properties were rentals for the college kids, Fredonia became a bit of a ghost town during the summer. This also meant rentals were dirt cheap, even by inexpensive western New York standards. (Note: if you are unfamiliar with central and western New York, this is hours away from New York City and much more akin to central Pennsylvania or southern Ohio, good, bad and otherwise.)

So, when I went off for my first year of college, an hour away to Buffalo, I came back that summer with a choice – move back in with a parent or grandparent *or* rent a place for a few months. With \$500 from a student loan refund check burning a hole

in my wallet (and future interest repayments), the answer was clear: me and a few buddies were getting a party house.

But which party house? Such an adult question! We reviewed our options close to the college town’s main drag, including beer stores that might look sideways at a fudged I.D. and a sub sandwich shop where I ate enough times to get a pizza bomber named after me. One place on Eagle Street clearly stood out. It had too many rooms, a faulty piano at the entrance, a disinterested landlord and, in the backyard, a horseshoe pit. Our summer palace, secured.

Readers, let me assure you this was one of the dumbest, least responsible and absolute best summers of my entire life. I mowed lawns and picked up odd jobs but would hardly call any of it “working”. We partied enough to return enough cans to pay for much of the next party. The house provided a getaway for our friends and a headquarters for whatever. There was loud music and a person fell through a ceiling and old TVs in the basement were smashed for no discernable reason.

And I pitched horseshoes, with good friends, acquaintances or the Canadian renters next door. It was maybe the one thing I was assured to do on any day that wasn’t pouring rain. For a few tosses, for a few games, morning or evening, thanks to the lights we rigged to stay on. Pitched worn shoes where you had to look for other identifying marks beyond the fading color, when it came to the score, if you were keeping score or playing anyone else. We pitched horseshoes so much that we tried to make other games out of our beloved game. Bets on hitting a ringer or throwing with your non-dominant hand. Tournaments where we lost track of, well, the tournament.

Continued on page 12

001 Tourney
Dan Newkirk

Class A

Cliff Shave	5	1	61.67
John Meyer	4.5	1.5	68.33
Penny Stenke	3	3	67.08

Class B

George Moraza	5	1	45.87
Kalena Quaid	4	2	47.92
Linda Aarstad	4	2	47.08

Class C

K Whitehouse	5	0	37.13
Dale Matteson	4	1	33.66
L Bamborough	3	2	31.5

Class D

Mary Thompson	5	0	21.5
Richard Conrad	4	1	23
Tom Steinke	3	2	24.5

Class E

Landon Morgan	4	1	23
Robert Starck	4	1	22
Hari Morgn	4	1	16.5

Class F

Chris Judson	5	0	22.5
Guy Modde	4	1	17.5
Guy Fleming Jr	3	2	11.5



Class A: Ray. John. Penny, Cliff

Class B: Roger. Linda. George, Kalena



Class C: Kenny, Dale, Loren

Class D: Richard, Mary. Tom



Class E: Robert, Landon, Hari

Class F: Guy, Chris, Guy

Cruel Shoes continued from page 11

Until, in our near-creativity, we invented a game parallel to horseshoes with other resources in that same backyard: "Brick Tree". Don't overthink it – we realized there was a stack of bricks near a door, as well as a distant tree in the corner, so we tossed bricks in an attempt to hit the tree. There was a scoring system and the intentionality to hit a certain section of the trunk of the tree. We played at least once while wearing buckets for shoes. There was a rendition called "Justin Tree" where duos of friends took turns swinging me into the tree. This also had a scoring system, possibly tallying the bark stuck in my shirt. The "Tree" games didn't take off as regularly as horseshoes and certainly called into question any fu-

ture dreams of becoming an arborist. They marked that summer just the same.

It was the only summer I spent in Fredonia during my college years, the rest spent in Buffalo until I ended up out in Wisconsin in 2005. About four years ago, I was back in Fredonia, visiting family and friends, and happened to park outside that old house. For one, it was, remarkably, standing, though retaining its noticeable lilt off the side room we used for video games and additional beer drinking space. I snuck alongside this side room for a peek at the backyard. The rusty horseshoe stakes remained, in hardened mud, as did the tree that took our idiocy in stride. No sign of any bricks.