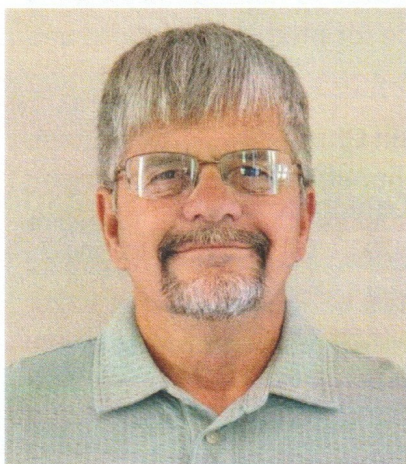


## 2026 WHPA Hall of Fame Inductee – Dave Volz



Dave Volz started pitching horseshoes in the 1980's. Dave pitched in the Baraboo area in a local tavern league on a team with family and friends, which included his dad, Larry Volz, brother, Jerry Volz, brother-in-law, Jerry Cone, and uncle, Dennis Capener. A few years later Dave put together a new team in that league that included his nephews, Mike Cone and Gary Volz, as well as other family members and friends who were new to the game. Dave started a coed league at Zim's Inn near Baraboo, and one in later years at Bronco Billy's. Dave eventually started pitching in the Portage and Lyndon Station leagues while continuing to pitch and run leagues in Baraboo. He also pitched in several festival tournaments and ran a few local non-sanctioned tournaments.

Dave is currently a 32-year member of the NHPA and WHPA. His brother, Jerry, introduced him to the WHPA in 1986. Jerry's sons, Gary and Chad, along with other family members and friends started to pitch in sanctioned tournaments around that same time. Dave pitched in his first State Tournament in 1986 at the Pitchin' Palace in Sturtevant, Wisconsin. He finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place in Class N and averaged 30.57%. Dave's best ringer percentage in a State Tournament was in 2006, in Eau Claire, as he averaged 40.36% and finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Class E. Dave also qualified once for Class A. That was in Beloit in 2020. This year marks his 26th State Tournament with 22 in a row.

Dave pitched in his first NHPA World Tournament in 1989, pitching outdoors at Spearfish, South Dakota. He took 7<sup>th</sup> place in Class R-1 and had the privilege to meet and pitch against NHPA Hall of Famer, Casey Sluys, from California. The 2026 World Tournament that was recently held in Wausau, Wisconsin, was Dave's 20th World Tournament. Dave's best finish in a World Tournament was in 2022, in West Monroe, Louisiana, where he finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Seniors Class C with 11½ wins and 3½ losses. However, Dave's proudest moments include being able to see family members pitch well in tournaments. This includes watching his son, Dan, win his class in the men's division at the age of 15, at the 1994 State Tournament in Eau Claire, and winning a World Class Champion title at the 1996 World Tournament in Gillette, Wyoming. He also enjoyed seeing his wife, Sheila, and granddaughter, Josie, place in their first World Tournaments in the 2025 World Tournament at Sandy (Salt Lake City), Utah.

Dave, along with other family members such as Jerry's daughter Julie Cone, and Jerry's sons Gary and Chad, started the Jerry Volz Memorial Tournament at the Delton Sportsmen's Club, current site for WHPA Spring and Fall Meetings, after Jerry passed away in 2003. The tournament was moved to Dave and Sheila's residence in the hills of rural Wonewoc, Wisconsin, on 12 makeshift courts in their backyard. That Jerry Volz Memorial Tournament was the beginning of the Summit Ridge Horseshoe Club with a vision in mind.

Dave retired from UPS in 2015. His retirement opened the opportunity for him to become more involved with horseshoes and the WHPA. Dave volunteered to become the new Tournament Director for the Club Team tournament held at Telfer Park in Beloit after Jim Haupt passed away on October 31, 2015. Dave changed the name to the Jim Haupt Memorial Team Tournament and has been the TD for the last 10 years.

WHPA President, Gary Volz, updated the WHPA Website in the Summer of 2016. Terry Sternberg and Heidi Poppe started and maintained the Website until then. Gary appointed Dave as the new Webmaster. Dave has done an amazing job with updating, maintaining, and adding new content to the website. He has added several features, such as a Results page with tournament results and pictures going back to 2018, a Stats page with current member averages and year end averages going back to 1987, an Awards page, a State Tournaments page, a World Tournament page and a Team World page, a calendar with information

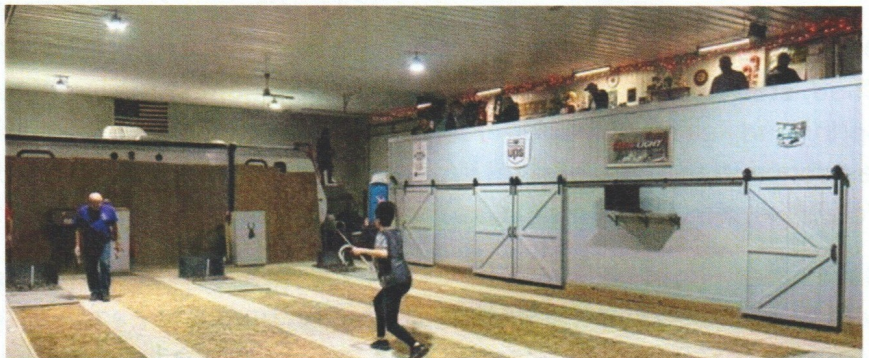
for each week's tournaments and a link with driving directions to the courts. The WHPA Website continues to grow and has become among the best and most informative websites dedicated to horseshoe pitching in the entire world. Dave also set up "Email Dodo," a new WHPA email service for members to send and receive horseshoe related information which currently has over 250 members.

Dave was also appointed as the new NHPA Regional Director for the Wisconsin Charter in October 2018. He continues to be the Regional Director for the WHPA. As RD, Dave is responsible for sanctioning all courts in Wisconsin for NHPA league and tournament play. He sets up the annual sanctioned tournament schedule, orders and distributes tournament patches to the tournament directors. He was also involved with the transition by the NHPA from the Natstats program to the newly created eShoe program in 2020. He worked with and encouraged Tournament Directors to use the HSMaster and eShoe programs to easily and more efficiently run their tournaments. He enters all the tournament information into the program, issues sanction and token numbers to the Tournament Directors, follows up to make sure all results are entered in a timely manner and addresses any issues they may have.

Dave was elected WHPA 1st Vice President in 2019, after Jane Smith stepped down after serving 30 years as 1st VP. Dave continues to serve as the WHPA 1st VP. In that role, he keeps track of points for the Pitcher of the Year Awards and comparing averages for the Most Improved pitcher awards. He runs the WHPA State Walking Doubles tournament and assists the 2nd Vice President in running the WHPA State Singles tournament. As a member of the Executive Board, he meets and works with the other officers, is on the Hall of Fame committee, and is one of the Wisconsin delegates representing you at the annual NHPA convention held each year at the World Tournament. Dave is also a staff member of the WHPA Newsletter and contributes with articles, pictures, results and forms and posts each issue on the WHPA website.

Dave and Sheila became snowbirds and head south for Gulf Shores, Alabama, for the winter months. They meet a couple days a week at Meyer Park with friends, mostly from the Midwest, and pitch some horseshoes. About 3 years ago Dave was asked to take over and run the events at the Gulf Shores Horseshoe Pitching Club. He started a sanctioned horseshoe league and is now the Tournament Director for 3 sanctioned tournaments there each year. Dave and Sheila did not lose sight of the vision they had after hosting that first Jerry Volz Memorial tournament on those 12 makeshift courts in their backyard in the township of Summit in rural Wonewoc. Somehow, with the "spare" time Dave had leftover while tending to all the other duties he took on, Dave and Sheila were able to put up a 40 ft by 70 ft pole building

next to an old granary on the property. They put 3 sanctioned clay courts in the building with an upper-level overlooking the courts. The courts have electronic scorekeeping and a huge TV monitor on the wall displaying the scores of all three courts. They converted the granary into a clubhouse with a fireplace, a bar, an old jukebox, and a shuffleboard table. They



hosted their first sanctioned tournament when the building and courts were completed in 2019. They now host sanctioned leagues and three tournaments each year. They all fill up well in advance of the deadlines. The vision Dave and Sheila had for The Summit Ridge Horseshoe Club has turned out to be one of the most popular places to pitch horseshoes in Wisconsin. Dave and Sheila continue promoting horseshoe pitching and recruiting new pitchers, including their grandchildren.

Dave received the President's Award from President Dobie Gutweiler in 2018. Dave can now add membership to the WHPA Hall of Fame to his resume. Congratulations to Dave Volz for his induction into the WHPA Hall of Fame!