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ISCONSIN HORSESHOES



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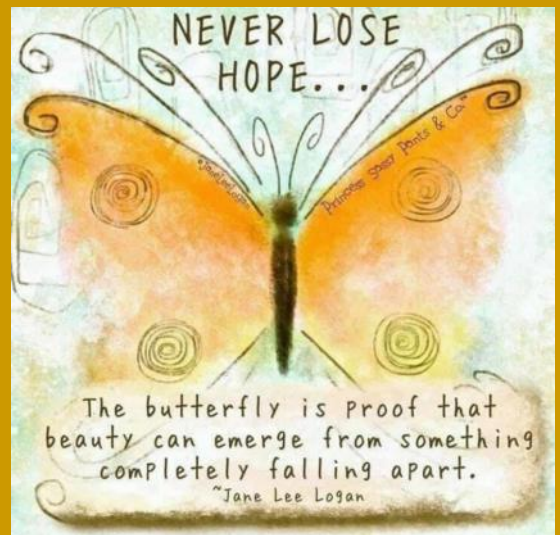
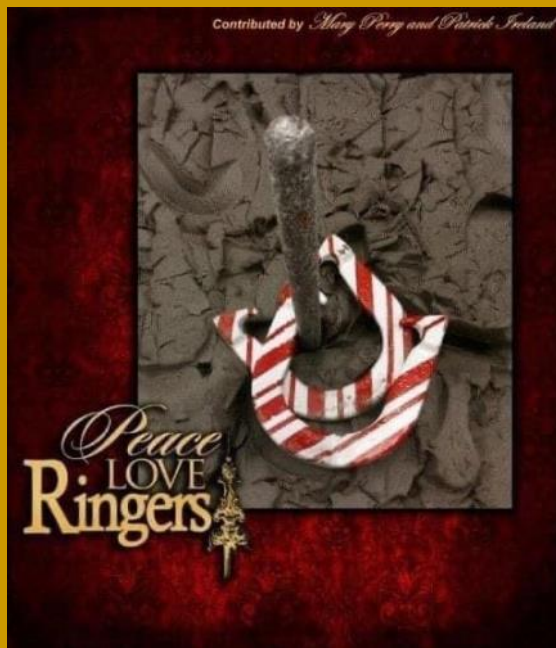
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2021 IS ALMOST HERE!
My 2021 New Years Wish for you
12 months of *happiness*,
52 weeks of *fun and laughter*,
365 days of *success*,
8,760 hours of *good health*,
525,600 minutes of *blessings*, &
31,536,000 seconds of *Joy*.
Amen.
**HAVE A BLESSED &
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR
2021.**

The meaning of life



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

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Date	Tournament	Location	Max	Entry	Jr Class	Deadline	Contact
Feb 6-7	Deansville Memorial	Deansville	40	\$20	No	Jan 30	Gary Volz
Feb 13-14	Valentine Tournament	Beloit	72	\$20	No	Feb 3	Dan Newkirk
Feb 20	Deansville/Beloit Challenge – Deansville						
Feb 27	Bring a Junior Dbls	Beloit		\$10		Feb 17	Dan Newkirk
Mar 6-7	Klash with Kerry	Deansville	40	\$20	No	Feb 27	Gary Volz
Mar 27-28	Birthday Bash	Wonewoc	30	\$11	No	Mar 20	Dave Volz
April 10-11	Red Ferguson Classic	Beloit	72	\$20	No	Mar 31	Dan Newkirk
April 17	Whpa Spring Meeting Delton Sportsman's Club						
April 24	Telfer Park court set up Beloit						
April 24-25	April Showers	Chetek	16	\$10	No	April 17	Les Karpel
May 1	Jim Haupt Memorial Team	Beloit	28	\$84	No	April 21	Dave Volz
May 2	State Walking Doubles	Beloit		\$40	No	April 21	John Secord
May 8	Beloit Encore	Beloit	72	\$20	No	April 28	Dan Newkirk
May 8	Eau Claire Early Bird	Eau Claire	64	\$10	No	May 1	Paul Wiese
May 14-16	Team World	Beloit		\$200	No	April 10	Jeff Secord
May 15	Butternut Open	Butternut		\$15	No	May 9	Jer Wegner
May 17	Telfer Park court removal Beloit						
May 22	Kewaskum Open	Kewaskum	48	\$20	No	May 15	Ken Heinritz
May 29	Platteville Spring Singles	Platteville	36	\$16	No	May 22	Mark Mauthe
June 5	Wolf River Open	New London	48	\$16	No	May 29	Ken Jaeger
June 6	Eau Claire Open	Eau Claire	64		Yes	June 5	Paul Wiese
June 12-13	Spring Fling	Beloit	72	\$20	No	May 29	Dan Newkirk
June 12-13	Eagle River Open	Eagle River	32	\$180	No	June 2	Cliff Erickson
June 19	Sylvia & Dan David Mem.	Marshfield		\$20	Yes	June 12	Mel Cook
June 19	Muskego Open	Muskego	48	\$20	Yes	June 12	Tom Steinke
June 26-27	Ken Kosky Memorial	Mosinee	48	\$20	No	June 19	Kent Frailing
June 26-27	Ken Lovaas Memorial	Beloit	72	\$20	No	June 16	Dan Newkirk
July 4	The Patriot	Beloit	48	\$20	No	June 23	Dan Newkirk
July 10	Arkdale Open	Arkdale	32	\$18	Yes	July 31	Ray Groskinsky
July 17-18	Stevens Point Open	Stevens Point	72	\$20	Yes	July 10	Fred Lane
July 19-31	World Tournament Winnemucca, NV May 15						
July 24	Pioneer Days	Butternut	28	\$15	No	July 17	Jer Wegner
July 31	Wisconsin State Singles Tournament Entry Deadline						
July 31	Kickapoo Valley Open	Gays Mills	32	\$20	No	July 24	Russ Brockway
Aug 7	Lox Classic	Combined Locks	48	\$20	No	July 31	Fred Lane
Aug 7	Summer Shindig	Rozellville		\$15	No	July 31	Mel Cook
Aug 10	Carson Park Classic	Eau Claire	64	\$10	Yes	Aug 3	Paul Wiese
Aug 14	Fond Du Lac Open	Fond Du Lac	32	\$20	Yes	Aug 7	John Meyer
Aug 21	Warm Up	Beloit	72	\$20	No	Aug 11	Dan Newkirk
Aug 21-22	Mosinee Open	Mosinee	48	\$20	No	Aug 14	Kent Frailing
Aug 28	Goldendale Open	Germantown	36	\$20	No	Aug 21	Ken Heinritz
Sept 4-5	State Singles Tournament	Eau Claire		\$25	Yes	July 31	John Secord
Sept 11-12	Wet N Wild Tournament	Centuria		\$15	No	Sept 1	Toni Sloper
Sept 18	Arkdale Doubles	Arkdale	32	\$22	No	Sept 11	James Wicklander
Sept 18	Earl Paulson Classic	Beloit	54	\$20	No	Sept 8	Dan Newkirk
Sept 19	Don Goldsmith Doubles	Beloit		\$22	No	Sept 8	Dan Newkirk
Oct 2	Junction City Singles	Junction City	24	\$20	Yes	Sept 25	James Wicklander
Oct 2-3	October Fall Singles	Beloit	72	\$20	No	Sept 22	Dan Newkirk
Oct 9-10	Summit Ridge Fall Singles	Wonewoc	30	\$11	No	Oct 2	Dave Volz

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2021 Schedule continued

Oct 16	WHPA Fall Meeting	Delton Sportsman's Club					Oct 16	Gary Volz
Oct 23-24	Deansville Singles	Deansville	40	\$20	No		Oct 30	Gary Volz
Nov 6-7	Doubles at the Barrell	Deansville	32				Nov 3	Dan Newkirk
Nov 13-14	Autumn Harvest	Beloit	72	\$20	No		Nov 27	Gary Volz
Dec 4-5	Deansville Open	Deansville	40	\$20	No		Dec 1	Dan Newkirk
Dec 11-12	Snowflake	Beloit	72	\$20	No			

Jr Class Yes or No (Yes = They will have their own class if enough entries. No = They will be in mixed classes)



Well, it is finally here, the end of 2020 and the fresh slate that is 2021. There are no words that express my happiness at seeing the Freezaroo schedule out and I am thrilled to announce that the Deansville Memorial will be held in February and we needed this didn't we? I feel as though many of us are hanging on by the scruff of our necks looking for any good around us.

Losing Allan Huizenga recently was a huge blow to so many of us. It was so quick and while that is a blessing that he didn't have to suffer, it made losing him so much more difficult. Al was an absolute unique and wonderful human being wasn't he? He had a smile that

could light up a room and a love for pitching deeper than many of us will ever even see. I will miss him forever. I am eternally grateful to those who helped us to pray for Al on Zoom and on Facebook Live and for those who came to my house during the service so we did not have to grieve alone. Al loved you all, and so do I.

It didn't help of course that January is already a tough month for me. Losing my Rudy two years ago on January 19th changed my life, but three years before losing Rudy I lost a long time pitching partner and friend in Don Illgen on January 24th. Not a fan of January as a rule.

But now, for this brief moment, January has brought news that tournaments are coming back and I am too grateful for the chance to see all of you in the pits again soon. What a joyous reunion that will be. Maybe we won't hug like we usually do, but there will be love and laughter again and I, for one, can hardly wait.

I look forward to seeing all of you again soon.



Behind the Mask ... With Chaplain Ken Heinritz

2000 years ago Jesus said "In the world you shall have tribulation" and He wasn't kidding.

Covid 19 has affected every horseshoe pitchers life in some form during 2020. But this article is not about Covid but CANCER, yes cancer. We just received word that my wife has breast cancer and that she most likely has had it for at least seven years, which was never picked up by her yearly mammogram appointments. So where do we go from here? How does one deal with this? How far has it spread? Will she get through this? Should we get a second opinion? What does the future look like? Questions, questions, advice, opinions, advice & more opinions. Everybody has input and a story to tell and sometimes they are in opposition to another's counsel. Who do we listen to? Which doctor should we go with? How soon can we get this over with? What about chemotherapy? Or radiation treatments? When can we schedule surgery? What

about my job? Can I be with my wife?

Suddenly losing 'that game' in the State tournament doesn't really matter! Waiting for sanctioned tournaments to begin again is not a concern for me. The situation we find ourselves in has a way of pulling us back and bringing everything into perspective. Take a moment & imagine if you were given that dreadful news today? Some of you know exactly what I'm saying because you have gone through it. From experience I can say that it turns your world upside down. Everything in life changes. Now what?

Though I don't have many answers, what I do know is that we have a wonderful God who loves us beyond our wildest dreams. He knows the mental anguish you are currently facing, the physical pain you feel in your body & the spiritual barrenness of your thirsty soul. Oh yes God cares. He understands your heartaches and feels your pain. He patiently waits for us to come to Him and find that His grace is sufficient for every need. And while He won't force us to trust Him, He will bless us when we do. What does that mean? He'll put a new song in your mouth. He will give life where there is no life. He will enable you to continue on with His strength when there is nothing left in the tank. And there will be meaning & purpose for living.

So what is next? Don't know? But He does and has everything under control. And that's enough for me.

To my horseshoe pitching friends, please pray for courage, wisdom, peace, comfort and faith for me and my wife Kelly as we travel through this dark valley. Thank you!

Top 20 Averages in Wisconsin

Sarah Chaffee	85.00	Ken Heinritz	58.63	Tammy Newkirk	55.63
Penny Steinke	74.58	Bernard Carley	58.21	Glenn Bogenschneider	55.30
Jim Bilderback	67.12	Jeff Pagel	58.19	Bruce McLinn	53.97
Aleena Lepak	66.86	Cliff Erickson	57.86	Veronica Groshek	53.93
John Meyer	66.79	Eugene Pribnow	56.62	Kerry Morris	53.34
Lonny Trangsrud	63.02	Jim Larson	56.07	Mona Lane	52.80
Ray Groskinsky	62.17	Zak Schwartz	55.95		

Most Tournaments Played

Jim Menzel	48	Ray Cayer	14	Tom Steinke	11
Ray Groskinsky	31	David Volz	14	Melanie Kasun	11
Fred Lane	24	Jim Bilderback	13	Lonny Trangsrud	10
Kerry Morris	22	Ken Heinritz	13	Susie Erickson	10
Bob Klingaman	21	Bernard Carley	13	Paula Schwerdtfeger	10
Mona Lane	20	Zak Schwartz	13	Jim Tollefson	10
Greg Smith	20	Bruce McLinn	13	Dobie Gutweiler	10
George Dorn	19	Al Huizenga	13	Dave Quaid	10
James Wicklander	18	Ralph Marthaler	13	Rayna Bauer	10
Tammy Newkirk	17	Gerald Harris	13	Sandy Anderson	10
Dan Newkirk	17	Sarah Chaffee	12	Dave Leckwee	9
John Meyer	16	Penny Steinke	12	Rick Weller	9
Eugene Pribnow	16	Cliff Erickson	12	Kevin Brekke	9
Cliff Shave	16	Mike Ezell	12	Gary Volz	9
Jill Peterson	16	Dean Chaffee	11	Steve Wiegert	9
Dustin Duerr	16	Al Holloway	11	Paul Wiese	9

Cadets

Blake Benzing	37.08	6
Mason Chambers	29.15	4
Conner Kildahl	16.07	6
Sequoia Wiese	12.67	7
Adin Weller	7.40	5
Chevy Dunaway	6.00	1
Noah Chambers	3.60	3
Noah Wicklander	2.67	1
Hailey Kuester	2.50	1
Owen Prasalowicz	1.60	2

Junior Boys

Bradley Benzing	39.81	6
Jedidiah Sowatzke	37.46	8
Steven Lazaris	35.87	1
Brandon Benzing	31.03	6
Gabe Burgin	30.00	2
Zach Secord	20.96	7
Tory Weller	13.11	3
Gavin Wiese	10.00	7
Ryan Fugate	4.64	1
Kane Kuester	4.00	1

Junior Girls

Sarah Chaffee	85.00	12
Brooke Lazaris	27.27	1
Lillyan Kildahl	25.19	6
Krystal Lazaris	9.68	1
Felicity Wiese	5.63	7
Sarah Henningfield	2.00	1
Emma Henningfield	1.00	1

What's New?

Jane Smith

We remember 2020 as quite a year with happy times as well as sad times. Our happy times; we were able to pitch shoes in leagues and tournaments; we held several Zoom meetings (learning new technology.) The Mason's have been married 55 years! We learned our horseshoe family is strong and supportive. The sad – we lost

several horseshoe family members; some of our family are facing health concerns. On to 2021...

Welcome to new WHPA members: Alvin Schultz, Steve Kilan, Patrick LaBarge, Wally Schmidt, Stuart Goldsmith, Brenda Price, Curt Panfil, Kim Peterson, Jim Schraufnagel, Justin Schultz. When you see them, welcome them with open arms and minds to our very special family. Be Safe! Wear a Mask! Social Distance!

Elders, Average, # of Tournaments

Jim Bilderback	67.12	13	Norm Beckius	41.50	1	Ed Hack	31.08	7
John Meyer	66.79	16	George Dorn	39.85	19	Josh Gibson	30.83	5
Ray Groskinsky	62.17	31	Jerry Niemuth	39.56	5	Richard Conrad	30.78	3
Bernard Carley	58.21	13	Jim Tollefson	38.58	10	Steve Wiegert	30.25	9
Cliff Erickson	57.86	12	Greg Smith	37.37	20	John Secord	26.62	4
Eugene Pribnow	56.62	16	Roger Anderson	35.67	6	Kelly Thayer	24.48	3
Glenn Bogenschneider	55.30	8	Craig Cox	34.79	1	Ken Davison	24.17	3
Bruce McLinn	53.97	13	Dave Ninnemann	34.66	3	Terry Sternberg	24.17	3
Kerry Morris	53.34	22	David Carter	34.58	2	Leo Linhart	22.00	1
Rowen Swick	50.83	8	Harold Ballmann	33.68	3	David Tellier	20.33	1
Dick Perkins	50.65	5	Ed Bonebright	33.32	4	Jerry Kamps	19.00	1
Dave Leckwee	50.16	9	Tom Steinke	33.29	11	James Duerr	18.52	4
Steve Mielke	48.57	2	Joel Ramsdell	32.96	3	Stan Fredrickson	16.70	3
Dennis Wegner	47.40	5	Donald Lammers	32.86	1	Dan Klingaman	14.89	2
Galen Kozel	47.01	7	Tom Leair	32.70	3	Jim Berdan	13.56	4
Curt Panfil	45.60	1	Jerry Schroeder Sr	32.65	7	Tom Bird	13.50	1
Bob Klingaman	44.48	21	Kevin Brekke	32.43	9	Reese Geier	12.22	4
Dan Bloom	43.06	2	Jack Zane	32.35	2	John Olson	12.08	2
Ron Brownell	42.46	3	Don Goldsmith	32.00	1	Charlie Goldsmith	11.00	1
Al Holloway	41.98	11	Jim Menzel	31.15	48	Scott Shackleton	5.17	2

Womens, Average, # of Tournaments

Penny Steinke	74.58	12	Emily Lazaris	33.33	1	Alexandra Ezell	22.50	1
Aleena Lepak	66.86	5	Melanie Kasun	32.14	11	Eva Skrobis	21.62	1
Tammy Newkirk	55.63	17	Kim Peterson	31.50	1	Cassi Williams	19.66	2
Veronica Groshek	53.93	7	Tianna Lincoln	31.23	4	Mary Sue Morris	16.71	2
Mona Lane	52.80	20	Dee Esberner	30.76	3	Barb Peters	16.56	1
Cindy Castellano	50.31	7	Kari David	29.75	5	Gloria Smith	14.98	2
Susie Erickson	49.87	10	Sonia Cook	29.61	5	Tricia-Ryan Tellier	14.87	1
Glenda Lawver	48.86	4	Mary Thompson	29.51	6	Stephanie Morgese	9.15	1
Linda Roeber	47.95	6	Nicola Denucci	28.79	1	Barb Ramquist	8.82	4
Donna Berquam	47.19	3	Rondi Mengelt	26.71	5	Pat Kaczor	8.73	1
Paula Schwerdtfeger	47.14	10	Rayna Bauer	25.76	10	Karen Henkel	6.33	1
Deb Halvorson	43.50	1	Tava Cook	25.62	5	Sierra Jones	6.18	2
Jill Peterson	42.40	16	Bev Hans	25.52	5	Rebecca Hoeffler	4.54	1
Tonya Kaulum	40.00	4	Sandy Anderson	25.00	10	Beth Prasalowicz	4.00	1
Toni Sloper	39.53	5	Brenda Price	24.50	1	Korinne Wiese	3.26	3
Jane Smith	37.22	7	Trisha Pennoyer	23.55	4	Carol Zervic	2.44	2
Heather Sowatzke	35.80	5	Elaine Troullier	23.25	4	Tiffany Potter	1.33	2
Dobie Gutweiler	34.31	10	Nancy Murleau	23.21	1			

Mens, Average, # of Tournaments

Lonny Trangsrud	63.02	10	Greg Hehling	29.97	3	Evan Schoohs	20.91	2
Ken Heinritz	58.63	13	Mike Ezell	29.53	12	Jason Goldsmith	20.67	2
Jeff Pagel	58.19	2	Joe Koch	29.50	1	Jim Bird	20.00	1
Jim Larson	56.07	1	Mark Rice	28.80	7	Jason Dowidat	19.09	3
Zak Schwartz	55.95	13	Tim Sheehan	28.54	2	Tom Fischer	19.00	1
Dean Chaffee	51.67	11	Paul Wiese	28.33	9	Jason Hatlan	18.50	1
Mike Cone	51.05	2	Jerremy Wegner	28.04	7	Patrick LaBarge	18.08	2
Cliff Shave	50.34	16	Paul Henning	27.97	7	Guy Fleming Jr	17.93	2
Rich Peterson	49.69	6	Robert Reinhart	27.90	5	Dave Hilgart	17.68	3
Dean Groshek	44.21	8	Bj Marty	27.79	9	Brian Kasun	17.46	4
Rick Weller	41.52	9	Randy Mitchell	27.63	8	Dave Carpenter	16.67	1
Jarrold Bisch	41.20	1	Bob Kallstrom	27.50	1	Sam Woolsey	16.07	2
Dustin Duerr	40.00	16	Mike Stabenaw	27.50	1	Kenny Rentz	15.72	4
Jeff Gustafson	39.81	8	Robin McDonough	26.58	3	Dennis Marquardt	15.65	3
Michael Benzing Jr	38.95	4	Scott Linhart	26.44	5	Kevin Aarstad	15.52	3
Todd Sheehan	38.33	2	Wally Schmitt	26.43	1	Craig Hans	15.23	5
Gunnar David	37.97	4	Kevin Hellbrand	26.38	3	Craig David	15.21	3
Fred Lane	36.39	24	Larri Saari	26.36	3	James Wicklander Sr	15.00	1
Kent Frailing	36.32	8	James Wicklander	26.00	18	Mike Sheehan	13.70	4
Dan Williams	34.97	2	Ben Kinjerski	25.83	2	Jeremy Studinski	13.66	4
Jason Villwock	34.86	6	Alvin Schultz	25.71	1	Mitchell Uttech	13.59	3
Dan Newkirk	34.52	17	Brandon Ferguson	25.70	1	Will Fillback	13.17	8
Ray Cayer	34.38	14	Gerald Harris	25.53	13	Steve Kilian	13.17	2
Dennis Bach	33.62	3	Ed Leverty	25.25	2	Joe Zwifelhofer	11.79	1
David Volz	33.42	14	Marvin Mengel	24.98	4	Dean Kallenbach	11.51	3
Justin Schultz	33.27	3	Tom Jacobson	24.92	1	Larry Danielson	11.50	1
Edwin Pulsfus	32.57	8	Russell Kozlowski	24.26	4	Gary Glover	11.00	1
Dave Quaid	32.06	10	Russ Brockway	23.82	6	Mike Berdan	9.00	1
Al Huizenga	31.97	13	Ron Studinski	23.72	9	Dave Skrobis	8.94	1
Andrew Potter	31.88	2	Chad Volz	23.50	3	Eric Mueller	8.17	2
Gary Volz	31.81	9	Brian Herbst	23.26	2	Tony Morgese	8.12	1
Les Karpel	31.62	3	David Palmersheim	22.78	8	Tom McTavish	7.91	1
Scott Peckham	31.53	8	Eddie Wisniewski	22.51	4	Mike McTavish	7.33	1
Ralph Marthaler	31.32	13	Dan Sheehan	22.19	4	Luke Lundquist	7.10	3
Isaac Wegner	30.55	6	Greg Bergles	21.75	8	Chris Perdzoch	4.58	2
Brandon Peckham	30.38	8	Mike Perdzoch	21.38	2	Steve Schwartz	3.93	1



LeRoy "Moose" Meyer

Moose, a mere 95 years young, joined our horseshoe family in Heaven pitching ringers and perfect games! He was a veteran, who served in the US Navy. He led a very active life after retiring from Hydrite Chemical Company in 1987. He was an avid Brewer, Pack-

er, Bucks and Badgers fan. He enjoyed playing cribbage and was an accomplished horseshoe pitcher. He played at the Jerry Kanps courts and was inducted into the WHPA Hall of Fame. On his 93rd birthday, he was honored as "Hero of the Game" at Miller Park. He had a weekly routine which included golf on Mondays; Horseshoes on Tuesdays; Cards on Wednesdays; card subbing on Thursdays; and fishing with Kaye on Fridays. He was also a member of the St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church and Combined Locks VFW Post #10544. He is survived by his wife, Kaye, children, grandchildren, great grandson; and many special friends and family members. Our horseshoe family will miss his smile, laugh, and wonderful sense of humor. Prayers of sympathy and comfort to Kaye and their family.

Gene Mason (Mr. Horseshoe) Tribute to Moose:

Moose found us 34 years ago. He was not just a card member but a "worker", a judge, a bar team member, Pit boy. Besides caring for a garden, which he shared with us, he decided to travel the State to pitch. He and Kaye bought a truck camper, They traveled to State events and to many World Tournaments. When he turned "70", he moved up to pitch at 30'. He LIKED that! His favorite saying was "Get em up", telling his competitor. Well, Sailor, time to sail into the sunset.

Team World

Jeff Secord, TW Committee / Coordinator

Team World is currently scheduled to be held at Telfer Park in Beloit May 14, 15, & 16. I use the term "currently" as the tournaments scheduled to be played at Telfer Park this Spring is contingent on the City of Beloit Parks Department allowing activities to be held there. Telfer Park, along with all other parks within the city, are currently closed for public activities due to the COVID-19 restrictions that are in place in the city of Beloit. These restrictions are scheduled to remain in place until April 1, 2021. We are anticipating that these restrictions will not be extended but that decision is completely dependent on how the city of Beloit and the



Al Huizenga

Al, 76 years young, passed away after a courageous battle with a brain tumor. He was prepared to meet his Maker because of his deep faith, which he shared with many. He was a veteran, having

served in the US Army; a social case worker; a Christian Bookstore owner; a man who loved studying the Bible and worshipping the Lord. He was friendly, jovial and loved visiting the sick and elderly. He was an enthusiastic University of Illinois basketball fan. He was also passionate about horseshoe pitching having pitched in local leagues, Wisconsin horseshoe tournaments and World Horseshoe pitching Tournaments across the US and Canada. He is survived by his wife, June, sibling and nieces and nephews. It was always a pleasure visiting with Al as he was a mild mannered, well spoken man loved by many. He was a gentleman our horseshoe family was fortunate to have known. He joins many of our family members pitching ringers in Heaven's Horseshoe league. Prayers of comfort and healing to June and family; missing Al already.

Beloit Parks Department determines COVID-19 protocol for after April 1. The Beloit Horseshoe Club will continue to plan for the Telfer Park tournaments for as long as the restriction to use the facility is not extended beyond April 1.

This means that planning for Team World is continuing to take place. The Wisconsin #1 Team has already been assembled. The 5-member team consists of: Penny Steinke, Jim Bilderbach, Lonny Transgrud, Ken Heinritz, and Sarah Chaffee. Start assembling your team if you are interested in participating in Team World this year. An entry form can be found in the WHPA website under the Team World section at the top of the home page and the entry deadline is April 10, 2021.



“The Cruel Shoes”
by Justin Kern
**“End the Worst Year
with a Ringer”**

“I want to know the same thing / we all want to know / how’s it going to end?” –Tom Waits

Pandemic, unrest, political turmoil, climate catastrophes ... such a deadly, challenging year called for something positive.

I needed to end 2020 with a ringer.

It was a small gesture, nothing in the way of making people any safer or settled. But it was something I felt like I could control and enjoy. I could go out and toss a shoe.

Thing was – it’s December in Wisconsin.

Freezing cold and dark were just the things to overcome so that I could get one last ringer in before the calendar turned.

In recent years, I had begun to grouch about the winter. Ahead of my 40s, my grumpiness had become cemented from cumulative time spent shoveling out of blizzards in my youth growing up in western New York and then chipping away the ice during adulthood in southeastern Wisconsin. A visit to Puerto Rico in February a few years back planted a seed of moving, where it’s always hot, or at least recognition that people were able to go to the beach somewhere while I was getting frost-nip on my fingers from a couple minutes spent refilling a deflated car tire in January. In truth, it was a trip to California this past fall, in work helping people displaced by wildfires, that jarred me enough to consider how good we’ve got it in Wisconsin. We have variety in our four seasons (insert DOT/construction joke here!). We have fresh water. We have the opportunity to experience that word I can’t pronounce that Norwegians use for embracing the “open air life,” especially during winter. And, if you’re not there mentally in Wisconsin during winter, there’s always brandy.

On another front, September was the last time I had thrown a horseshoe. In consecutive days after having returned to Milwaukee from work at the wildfires in Cal-

ifornia, I had my greatest afternoon of horseshoes – effortless ringers, something resembling what I’ve seen actual good pitchers do! – followed by one of those days so frustrating that I resorted to taking tosses with my non-dominant left hand because it couldn’t’ve been worse. (It was.)

October and November predictably turned cool, wet and dark, so no horseshoes at my usual outdoor pits. No trips to New York or Texas this year, either, family visits on hold and with them trips to local pits. Plus, I still hadn’t taken up Dobie on that generous offer to throw indoors at their club in Marshall. Checking the calendar, my days were running short.

So, at around 4 o’clock on Tuesday, December 29th, with the sun behind the clouds retreating further still, I got myself ready for a few pitches of that rare and bracing wintertime game of horseshoes. Grabbed rough work gloves usually reserved for shoveling or my infrequent attempt at chores associated with masculinity (i.e. tightening screws, turning levers). Layered clothes but ditched my toque, as I had just read it untrue that most of your body’s heat leaves through your head. (I can be a hot-head when games aren’t going my way, so figured that’d make up the difference.) Poured a special “internal warmer,” Mexican beer into a Thermos. My 15-minute walk from house to pits was replaced by a drive, didn’t want to feel the effects of the 25-degree temperature any longer than I had to.

A winter storm was making its way from La Crosse to Milwaukee, just hours before a certain seasonal shift. At Humboldt Park, my pits of choice, the park lights hadn’t kicked on even as Christmas lights sparkled from surrounding homes. As I clanked down my horseshoes carrier, a father walking with his kid re-routed their path to avoid whatever the heck was planned by this strange man standing at the horseshoe pits in December. You couldn’t break up the sand or icy fallen leaves around the posts, one of which had a trickle of ice on it. In my coat and gloves, and with a few sips of beer, I took a breath that I could see, then wound up to toss. It took five innings, with shoes bouncing all over the place from the unforgiving post and sand. Eventually, one shoe took my preferred form, a single in-air backward flip that left its open side headed toward the post. And then, elegantly ... on. A ringer to close out 2020.

Cruel Shoes cont. from page 10

In honesty, the ringer wasn't the last throw. I had made it on the end of the pits opposite where my shoes bag and Thermos of "internal warmer" sat. It made sense to toss them back, rather than just carry them. More than that, I was struck with a stupid sort of gratitude – to be able to stand here and do this dumb thing, once more, as it seemed the rest of the world was collapsing. No, not a dumb thing – something normal, joyous, free. Something I can't wait to do and watch in that near future when it's warm and we're all able to get together again. I pitched my last four shoes of 2020, cold and clanging and none perfect.



Photos to the right: What horseshoe pitcher do off season—fish (Kari, Craig David, Ivan Ruzic. Ivan and Ed Hack! Use their time creating new items from used bicycle rims—Dave Volz showcasing Jim Menzel's work. Mel Cook—retiring . Congrats and what positive and exciting activities. Way to go Guys!! The bricks displayed are a few of the many that have been purchased by Wisconsin Pitchers to support the Hall of Fame Museum and courts.



Regional Directors Report By: Dave Volz

Player stats are now on eShoe as of January 1st. The Natstats page link on the top of the home page on the WHPA website is now called STATS. If you click on that link you can access all player stat information for Wisconsin pitchers. If you click on Stats on the eShoe link you can access a player stats list from any State you wish as well as a list of the top pitchers by pitching division. On Player Search you can look up any sanctioned pitcher by name or number and get their past years tournament stats as well as renew their memberships. On Event Search you can get tournament information and results for sanctioned tournaments throughout the United States. There is a link on the WHPA home page to eShoe instructional videos as well.

For Tournament Directors, the updated version of HSMaster is also available to download on the WHPA website. There is a link to HSMaster instructional videos there as well. For those of you who have been using HSMaster for your tournaments, getting updates for player info and Ringer % is much easier, just the click of a button. And to send in player stats and tournament results to eShoe after the event, all you have to do is enter a six-digit

token number and hit send. After you send the information, player stats will be automatically updated on eShoe. There has been a lot of positive feedback from those who have used it so far this year. For those of you who haven't been using it, again I encourage you to download it and start using it. It will make running your tournaments and sending stats in so much easier.

The 2021 WHPA sanctioned tournament schedule and contact list is in this issue as well as on the website. You can also find tournament information on eShoe under Event Search and on the calendar on the website. On the calendar you can also find driving directions to the courts through google maps.

The 2021 World Tournament is scheduled to take place in Winnemucca Nevada on July 19-31. The NHPA council has extended the entry deadline to June 8, 2021 and lowered the required qualifying events from four events to two events. There is information on the home page on the WHPA website to help you make your plans. Click on the banner for all kinds of information. There is even a town tour video to show you around. There will be an entry form and online entering information there too when it becomes available. The entry form will also be available on Facebook.

2021 /WHPA Membership & Renewal Form

Name: _____ Card # _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email: _____ Date of Birth _____

If new member, referred by: _____

Circle your Division:

Men-\$35 Women-\$35 Elder Men-\$35 (70+) Jr. Boys-\$5
 Jr. Girls-\$5 Med/Exempt-\$35 Cadet Boys-\$5 Cadet Girls-\$5

If renewal is after June 30th 2021, \$2 is added to dues

I would like to donate to the electronic scoring upgrade fund .

Just add \$2 \$5 \$10 Other \$_____ to the total

Send to: WHPA W6868 Brown Rd. Fond du Lac, WI 54937

(Note: If you want a printed membership card you can go to [www.-eShoe.com](http://www.eShoe.com) to print one or include a self-addressed, stamped envelope to have one mailed to you.)

WHNL Renewal Form

\$15 Black / White copy per year

Mail the subscription fee to

WHNL

1483 180th Ave,
Balsam Lake, 54810

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

The WHNL is also available at no cost on our Web Page:
<http://WHPAhorseshoes.com>

HOF Report

Jeff Secord, Committee Chairperson

I am so glad that we were able to hold a State Tournament in 2020. There were many states that had to make the difficult announcement that their State Championships had to be canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions. This also allowed us to hold our annual Hall of Fame induction ceremony "live and in person". Dave Forseth's induction with Ron Berg's introduction was a great look back at the WHPA events that were hosted in Arena. It's hard to believe that horseshoes at the Sand Bar has been gone for so many years already.

I am looking forward to participating in this year's Hall of Fame Committee selection process for this year at the Spring Meeting. Please consider making a nomination for someone you know that deserves recognition for their pitching or promotion activities with a Hall of Fame nomination and sending it to any member of the committee which includes the WHPA Executive Board, Jane Smith, Ray Groskinsky, and Jeff Secord. Nominations need to get to the committee by the end of February to be included in this year's selection process .

Pitcher of the Year

Dave Volz

The Pitcher of the Year award is determined by the number of points accumulated in tournaments from August 1st through July 31st. There are 3 Divisions which are determined by pitcher averages as of August 1st 2020. Division A is 45% and over, Division B is 30% - 44.99% and Division C is below 30%. Pitchers receive 15 points for a 1st place finish, 10 points for a 2nd place finish and 5 points for a 3rd place finish in open WHPA sanctioned tournaments. Bonus points are awarded for attending the WHPA Spring and Fall meetings in the amount of 15 points each. The current leaders are Division A - Ray Groskinsky, Penny Steinke and John Meyer. Division B – Tom Steinke, Jill Peterson and Fred Lane. Division C – Kevin Brekke, Rayna Bauer and Melanie Kasun. If you would like to see the current standings, go to the website at www.whpahorseshoes.com/awards The site is updated as the results come in from the tournament directors.