



WISCONSIN HORSESHOES

VOLUME 40, ISSUE 5



Sep/Oct 2026

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Chaplain's Message	3
Fall Meeting Announcement	2
HOF Inductees	10-15
In Memoriam	4
Junior Raffles	5
Membership Form 2027	5
President Message	4
Remaining Tournaments	2
State Award Winners	9
State Photos	16-17
State Tournament Results	6-9
Tournament Contacts	2
WHPA Contacts	18



104th WISCONSIN STATE HORSESHOE CHAMPIONS

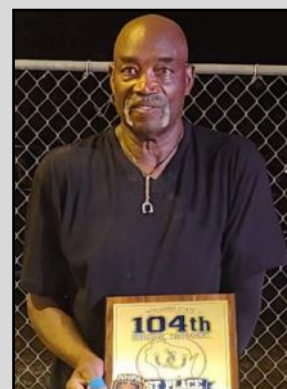
September 5-6, 2026



John Nawrot
Men's Champion (6)



Aleena Lepak
Women's Champion (8)



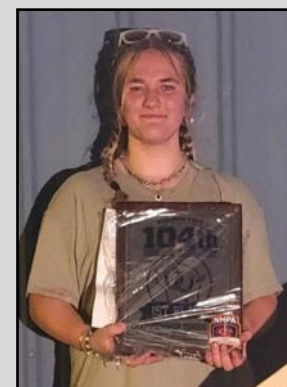
Rich Bonner
Elder Men's Champion (2)



Kathy Fleege
Elder Women's Champion (1)



Blake Benzing
Junior Boys' Champion (4)



Sequoia Wiese
Junior Girls' Champion (1)



Andrew James
Cadet Boys' Champion (2)



Jazmyn Kildahl
Cadet Girls' Champion (4)

Results for the State Tournament begin on page 6.

The number in parentheses in the captions, represents the number of times they have won this title.

2026 WHPA Tournament Schedule

Oct 10-11	October Fall Singles	Beloit	72	25	Oct 1	Dan Newkirk
Oct 17	Whpa Fall Meeting (1 pm)	Wisconsin Dells				
Oct 24-25	Summit Ridge Spooktacular	Wonewoc	48	20	Oct 10	Dave Volz
Oct 31-Nov 1	Deansville Doubles	Deansville	16	22	Oct 24	Dobie Gutweiler
Nov 7-8	Autumn Harvest	Beloit	72	25	Oct 28	Dan Newkirk
Nov 28-29	Deansville Open	Deansville	40	20	Nov 21	Dobie Gutweiler
Dec 5-6	Snowflake	Beloit	72	25	Nov 25	Dan Newkirk
Dec 12-13	Ho Ho Horseshoe Tournament	Wonewoc	42	20	Nov 28	Dave Volz

Tournament Contacts

Duane Kinjerski E3489 Krok Rd Kewaunee, WI 54216 920-255-3477 troutman6969@yahoo.com	Cliff Erickson 1178 Westown Dr Eagle River, WI 54521 715-617-0685 clifferickson47@gmail.com	Dan & Tammy Newkirk 2004 North St Beloit, WI 53511 Dan - 608-921-2834 Tammy - 608-921-3051 dnewkirk05@gmail.com	Dave Volz W7133 Geier Rd Wonewoc, WI 53968 608-547-2769 davevolz@hotmail.com
Dobie Gutweiler 10206 N Trescher Rd Milton, WI 53563 608-513-4625 dobiecanhelp@gmail.com	Fred Lane 541 2nd St North Stevens Point, WI 54481 715-347-2507 fred-lane@live.com	Gena Quaid 1477 Creek Rd Burlington, WI 53005 262-210-7180 gena.quaid@gmail.com	Jeff Secord W2805 Johnsburg Rd Fond du Lac, WI 54937 920-476-9042 jeffsecord@outlook.com
Jer Wegner P O Box 94 Butternut, WI 54514 715-661-4330 jerwegner@hotmail.com	John Meyer 500 Martin St Fond du Lac, WI 54935 920-921-2936 cell 920-204-5173 jhmey64@hotmail.com	John Secord W6868 Brown Rd Fond du Lac, WI 54937 920-922-0080 whpajs@charter.net	Ken Jaeger N3539 Knight Rd New London, WI 54961 920-982-6287 ken.jaeger1951@gmail.com
Kent Frailing 1432 Old Hwy 51 Mosinee, WI 54455 715-574-1459 horseshoeskent@outlook.com	Jill Peterson 502 E Chestnut, Box 783 Pardeeville, WI 53954 608-235-9600 jpeterson5342@frontier.com	Les Karpel 2965 9 5/8 Ave Chetek, WI 54728 715-642-2485 moreringers4me@gmail.com	Mark Mauthe 865 Eastman Rd Platteville, WI 53818 563-495-7025 imperialplus@hotmail.com
Mel Cook 128135 N Bayside Dr Auburndale, WI 54412 715-650-0639 trackgp2@yahoo.com	Mike Berdan 203165 River Run Rd Stratford, WI 54484 715-323-2779 michaelj.berdan@outlook.com	Paul Wiese 419 Oak St Augusta, WI 54722 715-456-0293 ozzyfan79@yahoo.com	Ray Groskinsky 1851 Hwy 13 Friendship, WI 53934 608-339-2466 groskinsky@gmail.com
Russ Brockway 211 W Main St Seneca, WI 54654 608-412-2633 russ.brockway@yahoo.com	Tom Steinke W343 S10062 Hwy E Eagle, WI 53119 262-349-1421 tomsteinke2004@gmail.com	Toni Sloper Box 433 Milltown, WI 54858 715-220-2284 tonisloper@hotmail.com	Rich Brockway 213 Greeno Rd Holmen, WI 54636 608-386-4271 RAB6401@gmail.com

Whpa State Fall Meeting at Delton Sportsmen's Club

E9602 Berry Rd, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

Saturday, October 17, 2026

Meeting starts at 1 pm

WHPA President — Dobie Gutweiler



I am writing this and my head is full of gratitude, so I decided to share some of that. It's been a busy few months for us here in the WHPA hasn't it? We had the World Tournament, the State Tournament and now the fall meeting on **October 17th, 1:00pm at the Lake Delton Sportsman's Club**. It's kept us all pretty busy, but when busy and craziness meet, it's time to look for the heroes in those situations. I want to take this opportunity to mention just a few of those to whom I am eternally grateful. Some of these are behind the scenes, but that doesn't mean that their contribution was any less important.

Of course, as always, the Newkirk's. Dan & Tammy worked harder than any of us at the World Tournament, and at the State Tournament. It is their dedication that makes things go as smoothly as it seems. I'll never thank them enough. I want to take a moment to thank Steve Basso for taking the time to become a certified judge at the World Tournament, and then spending the majority of his experience judging. Talk about dedication. I want to thank Ken Heinritz for always being supportive of his horseshoe family. Ken is there if you need a question answered, a tip on your pitching and always for a hug and a prayer when you need it most. I personally reach out to Ken often when life overwhelms me. He genuinely cares about me and is always there for me. I hope he knows how much I admire him.

I want to thank Kevin & Karla Brekke for their dedication to this newsletter. The work they do gathering all of the articles and results is unbelievable. After that there is laying it all out and getting it ready to be shared with all of you. It is so much work.

There are so, so many more people that I want to thank, but I would be writing for days, and even Kevin & Karla couldn't lay it all out. So, let me just say that I THANK ALL OF YOU! This membership cannot be beat. I doubt that any other state organization has the dedication and determination that the WHPA has. We are there for each other as individuals, as clubs and as a charter. My list would include each one of you if I had the room.

Until I see you again, may your ringers be plentiful.

I hope to see you at the fall meeting on **October 17th at 1:00pm at the Lake Delton Sportsman's Club in Lake Delton**.

Forever in your debt,

Behind the Mask ... With NHPA Chaplain Ken Heinritz



For every one of us, there will be changes as we go through seasons in life, the Bible says so. In Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 it says, "To everything, there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven." For us in Wisconsin, we'll soon start to see the leaves change colors. The air temperature will drop a little as the Fall season creeps in. And then we'll need to find our winter coats. We've all experienced a season as a child, a season of education, of single adulthood, for many there is marriage, and for many singlehood again & finally our home going.

Our horseshoe pitching is no different. There will be seasons of low pitching percentage, then high and then maybe back to low. If you haven't experienced the low again, just wait.

The Bible speaks of something very interesting. It speaks of our bodies slowly breaking down with age but at the same time it speaks of the inward soul of man becoming stronger & stronger. That's because God's children are becoming more & more Christlike. As we grow older, a Christian will grow spiritually and the maturing process is constantly occurring. Each of us is signifying who we belong to.

Getting older and your game going south? Don't lose heart! That's life! See you on the courts!!

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing,

Bruce George Weiler

May 18, 1962 — September 22, 2026



WHPA Member Bruce "Coyote" Weiler is pitching ringers in heaven with the best. He pitched in more than enough qualifying tournaments to compete in the 2026 World Tournament. We spent hours talking about his first World and State tournament experiences... and he told us that the horseshoe pitching people are his new family. Bruce

took up horseshoes in his characteristic dedication for athletics. He was an accomplished bowler with more than a dozen 300 games and he played countless high caliber CO-ED and men's softball leagues and tournaments. The energy he possessed drew you in-- he was life, and love, and everything in between. We encourage your reaching out to Bruce's beloved wife Branda. Bruce's smile and everything he was will be greatly missed.

Love Sonia & Mel Cook Family

WHPA is saddened to hear of the unexpected passing of new pitcher Bruce "Coyote" Weiler. He competed in the 2026 World Tournament and was looking forward to traveling to WA next year. He made many friends in the tournaments and his first State tournament in Beloit. His wife Brenda is hosting a Celebration of Life on Saturday, October 3, 2026, Dorchester Memorial Hall, 175 N 2nd Street, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with a short service at noon. Please come with memories to share as we honor "The Great One", and a life well lived. Bruce will be missed in our horseshoe family.



Sometimes No Words Can be Spoken

Sometimes no words can be spoken
No words express the grief I feel
Who can mend a heart that's broken
My fear felt deep, a fear that's real

Christ knows my pain, He has been there
His light reveals that He is here
I know I'm safe, His loving care
Will quiet my soul, dry every tear

Sometimes in silence I do ponder
I look for answers inside of me
Each passing day, I still wonder
What will my life turn out to be

I face the day, for He is with me
Knowing grief ends with sacred death
His love sustains until and finally
I join the saints, with my last breath

“Growing With Juniors” Raffle

2026

2026 “Growing with Juniors” raffle was another huge success!

Thank you to everyone who thought of this project throughout the year by collecting donations. We gave away 113 items. Some of the prizes included: wood turned mug, handmade horseshoe boxes, wine racks, blankets, tool bag with tools, decorative shoe picker-upper, horseshoe coat rack, CASH, décor items, etc.

Thank you to all donators: WHPA, Beloit HSC, Deansville HSC, Summit Ridge HSC, Linda Aarstad, Kiri Breu, Bun Carley, Mel & Sonia Cook, Tava Cook, James Duerr, Bob Fleege, Nick Gessert, Dobie Gutweiler, Shirley Halloway, Gerald Harris, Joe Montoya, Jane Smith, Visit Wausau, Rick Weller

2026 “Growing with Juniors” Raffle #2... The second raffle was a donation of an autographed football from the Green Bay Packer organization. Thank you for all ticket purchases however only one winner... Susie Erickson happily took it home to enjoy.

Become a Member/Renew Your Membership

The 2026 Memberships expire on December 31st, 2026

The 2027 Memberships are available starting October 1st, 2026, and are good for the remainder of 2026 and all of 2027.

(Mail in this form, or come to the Fall Meeting and sign up there)

2027 NHPA/WHPA Membership & Renewal Form

Name: _____ **Card #** _____

Date of Birth _____ **Street Address:** _____

City: _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Home Phone _____ **Cell Phone** _____ **Email:** _____

Circle your Division:

Men-\$40 Women-\$40 Elder Women-\$40 (65+) Elder Men-\$40 (65+) Jr. Boys-free Jr. Girls-free
Cadet Boys-free Cadet Girls-free Med/Exempt-\$40 Provisional - \$10 (mail-in only)

A Provisional membership is a reduced fees membership that allows players to pitch in all leagues and tournaments except state tournaments and the world tournament for the period beginning at their first tournament/league entry to the end of the current calendar year. During their Provisional time, a member can upgrade to Full member at any time.

(Provisional is a one-time membership and is restricted to persons who have never previously been an NHPA member)

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

(A membership card is no longer required, but you can print one at www.nhpa-eShoe.com)

105th Wisconsin State Results

September 5-6, 2026

Men's Championship

John Nawrot	7	0	68.84
Jim Larson	6	1	57.53
Rich Peterson	5	2	50.90
Zak Schwartz	4	3	46.24
Dean Groshek	3	4	44.61
Tom Hansen	1	6	40.23
Justin Schultz	1	6	38.65
Alvin Schultz	1	6	34.38



Men's Championship
Rich Peterson, John Nawrot
Jim Larson



Men's Class A
Rich Peterson, Tom Hansen
Dave Quaid

Men's Class A

Tom Hansen	7	1	50.31
Dave Quaid	6	2	34.69
Rich Peterson	4	3	41.43
Ken Heinritz	4	3	35.71
Alvin Schultz	3	4	40.00
Russ Brockway	2	5	32.86
Duane Kinjerski	2	5	31.43
Michael Benzing Jr.	1	6	31.79



Men's Class B
Fred Howard, Dominic Saxby
Hank Schoenbeck



Men's Class C
Paul Wiese, Kim Hinz
Emilio Castro

Men's Class B

Dominic Saxby	7	0	42.50
Fred Howard	5	2	36.43
Hank Schoenbeck	4	3	36.07
Gary Volz	4	3	32.50
Dustin Duerr	4	3	30.71
Rich Brockway	2	5	25.71
Ed Pulsfus	1	6	25.00
Ken Kukla	1	6	23.93

Men's Class D

Mitchell Uttech	7	0	17.86
Brian Engleson	5	2	13.57
Barry Haff	5	2	11.79
Fred Lane	4	3	7.50
Bruce Weiler	3	4	12.50
Kevin Aarstad	3	4	11.79
Will Fillback	1	6	1.79
Damien Werlein	0	7	7.50



Men's Class D
Barry Haff, Mitchell Utech
Brian Engleson

Men's Class C

Kim Hinze	5	0	25.60
Emilio Castro	4	1	23.20
Paul Wiese	2	3	20.80
Thaddeus Monthie	2	3	16.40
Dan Newkirk	1	4	18.40
Guy Fleming Jr	1	4	14.80

104th Wisconsin State Results

September 5-6, 2026

Women's Championship

Aleena Lepak	7	0	78.18
Penny Steinke	6	1	74.56
Linda Aarstad	4	3	57.19
Pam Aiken	3	4	62.44
Mona Lane	3	4	59.55
Tammy Newkirk	2	5	55.25
Jill Peterson	2	5	40.49
Brenda Weiler	1	6	53.13



Women's Championship
Penny Steinke, Aleena Lepak,
Linda Aarstad



Women's Class A
Jill Peterson, Brenda Weiler
Tonya Kaulum

Women's Class A

Brenda Weiler	7	0	47.14
Jill Peterson	6	1	44.64
Tonya Kaulum	4	3	34.25
Kalena Quaid	3	4	34.64
Toni Sloper	3	4	33.93
Dawn Twing	2	5	32.50
Cindy Castellano	2	5	25.00
Emily Lazaris	1	6	30.21



Women's Class B
Lillyan Cook, Nancy Murleau,
Rondi Mengelt



Elder Women's Championship
Kathy Fleege
Susie Erickson

Women's Class B

Nancy Murleau	7	0	34.64
Lillyan Cook	6	1	33.57
Rondi Mengelt	5	2	21.07
Brenda Price	4	3	22.86
Marna Galvan	3	4	15.71
Terri White	2	5	14.64
Valerie Monthie	1	6	6.07
Kim Briggs	0	5	9.50

Elder Women's Championship

Kathy Fleege	5	0	44.39
Susie Erickson	4	1	42.19
Mary Thompson	3	2	28.51
Sonia Cook	2	3	24.38
Sandy Anderson	1	4	23.39
Mary Ann Kouba	0	5	20.61

Junior Boys' Championship

Blake Benzing	6	0	41.59
Bradley Benzing	4	2	38.36
Aiden Weller	2	4	25.23
Conner Kildahl	0	6	9.09



Junior Boys' Championship
Aiden Weller, Blake Benzing
Bradley Benzing, Conner Kildahl

Junior Girls' Championship

Sequoia Wiese	3	0	21.33
Josie Boehm	0	3	10.67



Junior Girls' Championship
Sequoia Wiese, Josie Boehm

104th Wisconsin State Results

September 5-6, 2026

Elder Men's Championship

Rich Bonner	7	0	66.35
Cliff Shave	6	1	73.48
Jim Bilderback	4	3	60.34
Rick Weller	3	4	61.90
John Meyer	2	5	55.98
Jeff Gustafson	2	5	55.00
Cliff Erickson	2	5	53.11
Rich Callaway	2	5	52.65



Elder Men's Championships

Cliff Shave, Rich Bonner,
Jim Bilderback



Elder Men's Class A

Ray Groskinsky, Rick Weller
George Moraza

Elder Men's Class A

Rick Weller	7	0	63.57
George Moraza	5	2	57.14
Ray Groskinsky	4	3	57.04
Eugene Pribnow	4	3	54.29
Cliff Erickson	3	4	58.80
Ken Whitehouse	3	4	57.50
Les Karpiel	1	6	50.00
Dick Perkins	1	6	35.36

Elder Men's Class B

Bob Fleege	6	2	50.63
Ray Cayer	5	3	46.88
Jeffery Madison	4	3	43.93
Dan Bloom	4	3	42.50
Glenn Schultz	3	4	39.64
Steve Kulow	3	4	38.21
Bernard Carley	2	5	36.79
Roger Poutanen	2	5	36.79



Elder Men's Class B

Ray Cayer, Bob Fleege
Jeff Madison



Elder Men's Class C

Steve Wiegert, Paul Henning
Glen Brandemuehl

Elder Men's Class C

Paul Henning	5	0	47.60
Glen Brandemuehl	3	2	47.24
Steve Wiegert	3	2	37.20
Dave Volz	2	3	40.80
Mike Slowinski	1	4	40.00
Greg Kinjerski	1	4	39.37

Elder Men's Class D

Marvin Mengel	6	1	47.14
Bob Kallstrom	5	2	37.50
Steve Basso	5	2	33.57
Joel Ramsdell	4	3	34.29
Roger Anderson	3	4	35.21
Ralph Marthaler	2	5	25.00
Kevin Brekke	2	5	22.86
George Dorn	1	6	25.00



Elder Men's Class D

Steve Basso, Marvin Mengel
Bob Kallstrom



Elder Men's Class E

Ray Dowling, Gerald Harris
Dave Leckwee

Elder Men's Class E

Gerald Harris	7	1	33.75
Ray Dowling	7	2	33.06
Dave Leckwee	6	2	28.44
Robert Starck	4	3	33.21
Bob Klingaman	3	4	18.21
Reese Geier	2	5	21.07
Glen Spies	1	5	16.25

Elder Men's Class F

Derek Wenger	5	0	18.00
Richard Conrad	3	2	17.60
Al Holloway	3	2	9.20
Gene Friede	2	3	16.40
Tom Steinke	2	3	7.20
Don Hoyt	0	4	10.00



Elder Men's Class F

Derek Wenger, Richard Conrad

104th Wisconsin State Results

September 5-6, 2026

Cadet Boys' Championship

Andrew James	6	0	30.73
Owen Prasalowicz	4	2	37.26
Logan Lepak	2	4	19.50



Cadet Boys' Championship
Owen Prasalowicz, Andrew James
Logan Lepak



Cadet Girls' Championship
Zoey McHugh, Jazmyn Kildahl
Savannah Rummells

Cadet Girls' Championship

Jazmyn Kildahl	6	1	19.14
Zoey McHugh	5	2	13.89
Savannah Rummells	2	4	8.72

2026 WHPA Awards



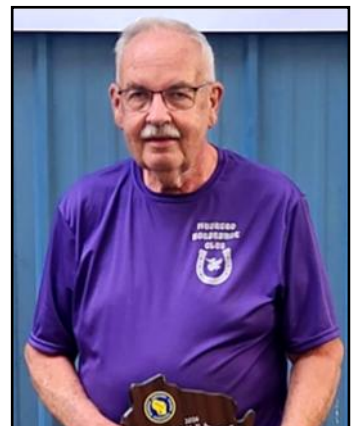
President's Award
Dan and Tammy Newkirk



Pitcher of the Year "A"
Penny Steinke



Pitcher of the Year "B"
Jeff Madison



Pitcher of the Year "C"
Tom Steinke



Most Improved Jr/Cadet
Andrew James



Most Improved Jr/Cadet
Sequoia Wiese



Most Improved Adult
Sheila Volz



Most Improved Adult
Kathy Fleege

2026 Hall of Fame Inductees

Ken Heinritz



Steve Wiegert



Dave Volz



2026 WHPA Hall of Fame Inductee

Ken Heinritz

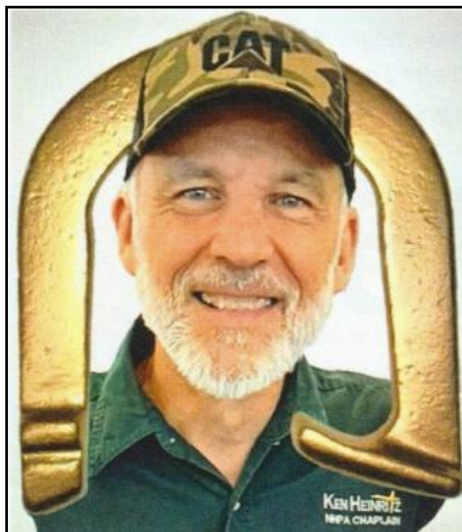
Ken Heinritz grew up as the 7th of 10 kids with 5 brothers and 4 sisters in his family. Playing horseshoes with his dad and brothers was always a good time. You might say that those 6 boys wanted to be just like their dad. He was their hero & was the best at everything he did. Beating him in horseshoes was rare but extremely rewarding for the boys.

Spending time with Ken's dad took a back seat in his life after he met a young lady and got married at the young age of 21. Pitching horseshoes was completely set aside & forgotten as well. That was until Ken took his family to the Milwaukee Sentinel Sport Show in 1995. To his amazement, horseshoe pitching was on display on a raised fenced-in platform. It immediately caught his eye & he met guys like Jim Haupt, Tony Scrima, Tom Steinke & Terry Sternberg. Ken discovered that a horseshoe club was only 15 minutes from his house, the Goldendale Club in Germantown. Ken was hooked & his dad was thrilled that Ken was coming back to the sport that they both loved. Ken and his dad joined the Goldendale Club & soon his brother Russ joined as well.

Handicapping in club play is a good thing, but Ken didn't want to be spotted points from anybody. Having the lowest handicap was a tall task because several Hall of Famers such as Terry & Lorraine Sternberg, Ralph Maylahn, Jim Haupt, and Tony Scrima were among his opponents. Tom Costa also pitched there and was a good friend of Ken's. Ken accepted the challenge and these pitchers helped him improve his game.

Along with pitching in the Goldendale League, Ken also started & ran the Menomonee Falls Horseshoe Pitching Club for 8 years. He then started and ran the Heinritz Homestead Horseshoe Pitching Club for 7 more years. Over 150 different people pitched in these leagues.

Ken's ringer percentage peaked around the mid-40% range, but late in 2004, something unusual happened that pushed his game to a higher level. He caught a



28" northern pike with a special lure in a fishing tournament and was awarded a prize for catching the biggest fish. That lure was a Ringle Single lure & the prize, of course, was a pair of Ringle Singles, awarded by another Hall of Famer, Gus Schram. Ken's horseshoe fortunes changed when he started using those shoes. He won his class and was only 3 spots away from the move-up into the Championship class at the 2005 World Tournament. Ken also won Class A & moved up to play in the Championship Men's class at the

State Tournament in 2005, while pitching with those Ringle Singles.

Terry, Lorraine & Jim were instrumental in getting Ken interested in pitching in World Tournaments. In 1998, he was off to Ainsworth, Nebraska to pitch in his first World Tournament. Ken pitched against 2 great Wisconsinites, Harry Nelson & another Hall of Famer... Bernard Carley. He finished in the middle of the pack but that didn't matter because he enjoyed the experience. The World Tournament journey became a yearly event for him. Ken's family went along with him for the first 4 World Tournaments. The weather was blistering hot each of those years & they roughed it in a little tent. His family stopped going along with Ken, but he kept making that annual trip on his own as he loved reuniting with pitchers and pitching against new people each year. Ken has participated in a total of 25 World Tournaments.

While Ken has many World Tournament highlights, one stands out above them all and is still talked about to this day. In 2010, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Ken found himself in zone while pitching against 6-time World Champion, Walter Ray Williams Jr. The game was over before he knew it as he rolled to a 42-0 victory, with a ringer % of 91.67. It was the only time Walter Ray had ever been skunked in a Championship game. That game has taken on wings as people still bring it up every year at the World Tournament.

Ken won his class at World Tournaments in 2005, 2007, 2015 & in Wausau in 2026. The first year that Ken qualified to pitch in the Open Men's Champion-

ship was in 2006. That year started a streak of 7 straight years of making the Men's Championship class, and 10 times in all. Ken's highest finish in Championship play was in 2019, ending in a 4-way tie for 7th place. Ken has also made the Championship Senior Men's Class for all three years of eligibility to play in that Division.

Ken also has enjoyed success in State Tournaments as well. Ken has competed in the Championship Men's class every year since 2005, a streak of 20 years and counting. Ken has finished in the top three places 12 times, he won the Men's State Title in 2009, where he went undefeated with a 7-0 record and averaged 64.81%. Ken won the Men's State Title again in 2016 after defeating Jeff Gustafson in a playoff game. Ken will be pitching in his 30th State Tournament in 2026, right after his induction into the Hall of Fame.

Ken earned the opportunity to be on the #1 Wisconsin Team in Team World seven times. He was a teammate on the first four Wisconsin teams that won Team World Titles in 2011, 2012, 2018 and 2019. Ken has also won one State Doubles Title with Jeff Gustafson in 2010 and was a teammate on teams that won 4 Club Team Titles. Ken is also proud to be the recipient of the Presidential Achievement Award in 2008.

Ken has also been blessed to be the WHPA Chaplain for the past 25 years & has been the NHPA Chaplain for the past 23 years. Over those years, he has officiated 96 Chapel Services at State Doubles, State Singles, Team World, & World Tournament for the pitchers. Ken has written 119 'Behind the Mask' articles for the Wisconsin Horseshoe Newsletter as the WHPA Chaplain.

Ken has been able to combine his own family with his horseshoe family as he has had 28 relatives (dad, 2 brothers, 1 sister, 22 nieces/nephews, 2 grandnephews) join the NHPA over the years. Of this group, 18 State Championships were recorded in the Cadet & Junior Divisions (6 Cadet Girls State Champions, 5 Cadet Boys State Champions, 4 Junior Boys State Champions, 3 Junior Girls State Champions). Three

World Titles came from relatives (Bethany Heinritz - 2-time Junior Girls World Champion 2010, 2011 & Steven Lazaris - Cadet World Champion 2013). That equates to very successful recruiting results for the WHPA by having a booth at the Milwaukee Sentinel Sports Show back in 1995, thanks to Ken's influence on his family members to pitch.

Regrettably, most of the accomplishments that Ken has achieved in horseshoe pitching have happened after his dad's passing in May 2008. There have been times that he could envision his dad with him, beaming with joy!

Ken would like to thank his Lord & Savior Jesus Christ, who has given him the ability to play this sport & has blessed him with countless friends across this nation.

Ken Heinritz Horseshoe Pitching Achievements

State Achievements

- 2 Men's State Titles - 2009 & 2016
- 1 Doubles State Title - 2010 (Jeff Gustafson)
- 20 straight years (last 20) being in State Men's Championship Class (Top 3 twelve times)
- Participated in 30 State Tournaments
- 4 Club Team Titles —
 - 1998 - Goldendale (Tony Scrima, Jim Haupt & Tom Costa)
 - 2010 - Heinritz Clan (Bethany & Russ Heinritz, Timmy Lazaris)
 - 2018 - Muskego (Penny Steinke, Pam Aiken & Galen Kozel)
 - 2022 - Muskego (Penny Steinke, Pam Aiken & Cliff Shave)
- Recipient of President's Award in 2008
- Started Menomonee Falls Horseshoe League (& Club President) — 8 years
- Started Heinritz Homestead Horseshoe Pitching League (& Club President) — 7 years

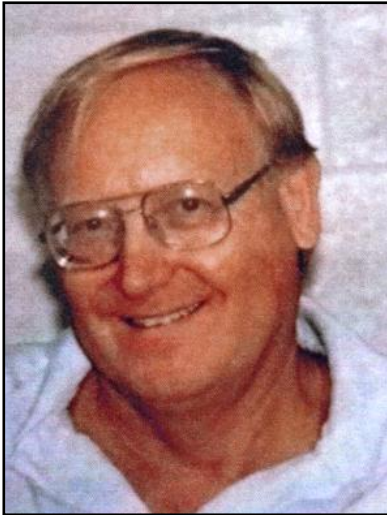
World Tournament Achievements

- 4 Team World Titles —
 - 2012 (Gert Wilczek, Pam Steinke, and Martin Papesh)
 - 2013 (Gert, Ron Button, and Martin)
 - 2018 (Jim Bilderback, Penny, and Aleena Lepak)
 - 2019 (Penny, Jim, and Aleena)
- 4 World Class Championships —
 - (2005 B-1, 2007 A-2, 2015 A-2, 2026 E)
- Participated in 25 World tournaments
- Men's Championship Class - 10 times (including 7 straight)
- Senior Men Championship Class - All 3 years eligible

**Ken officiated
96 Chapel Services
For Horseshoe Pitchers**

2026 WHPA Hall of Fame Inductee

Steve Wiegert



Steve Wiegert started pitching horseshoes in the late 1950's in his parents' backyard in Little Chute. The teenager spent many Saturday afternoons and evenings pitching shoes with his family and neighbors up until he graduated from high school. He purchased a house that happened to have sand courts in Green Bay in 1965. He

started pitching on those courts just for the exercise after not pitching at all since high school. That's when pitching horseshoes turned into a life-long endeavor. His dad, Earl Wiegert (a good pitcher himself at 53%), introduced him to organized horseshoes. His first tournament was the Green Bay Open tournament run by Swen Bowman. Steve joined the Green Bay Horseshoe Club to pitch in league play. Steve then started pitching in various singles and doubles leagues and numerous open tournaments around the State including Combined Locks, Mountain, Sheboygan, and Germantown, to name a few that are no longer around.

Steve entered his first State Tournament in 1972, which was hosted by the Green Bay Horseshoe Club. He tied for first place in Class L with John Secord as they both finished with a 6-1 record. Steve won the class and averaged a class-high 29.0% ringers. Steve threw a flip shoe back in the 1960's and early 1970's and worked his average up to about 42%. He eventually began pitching the 1¼ turn at the advice of Wally Srenaski and raised his average above 50%. In 1976, Steve ran away with the Men's Class F title at the State Tournament in Combined Locks as he went 7-0 and pitched 66.29% for the tournament. Charlie Christopolis took 2nd place averaging 41.14%, losing only to Steve. He was able to pitch in Class B and even Class A in some tournaments after that success he had in 1976. This includes 17 times in State Tournaments from 1985 to 2009. Steve averaged 50.05% with 3,143 ringers in 6,280 shoes over that

span and finished as high as 5th place with a 61.4% average in the Men's Championship Class in 1998 in Eau Claire. Steve has won over 100 games and is pitching in his 25th State Tournament this year.

Pitching in 11 World Tournaments tops the list of Steve's most memorable experiences in horseshoes. Playing in his first World Tournament in Eau Claire in 1987, and winning Senior Men's Class B in Gillette, WY, in 2006, were both big thrills for him. Steve also pitched in 3 Team World Tournaments in Beloit. His game against Alan Francis in his first Team World also ranks high as a memorable experience. Alan threw a 90% game, but Steve managed to score four points somehow! He is proud of his personal achievements in league play and in tournaments over the years. He won 26 class championship patches (that he knows of), including a tournament championship in Germantown in 1997, and another in Brothertown in 2006. Steve was also part of Green Bay teams that won the Club Team tournament at the Pitchin' Palace in Sturtevant in 1987 & 1989. However, Steve also has great memories with the Green Bay Horseshoe Club. Steve was league secretary for the doubles'/couples' league for 39 years, and the Thursday night league for over 20 years. He was co-Tournament Director for the 63rd State Tournament in Green Bay in 1985 and directed many other GBHC tournaments. Steve values those experiences as much as he values his time pitching horseshoes. The Green Bay Horseshoe Club unfortunately dissolved in the early 2000's.

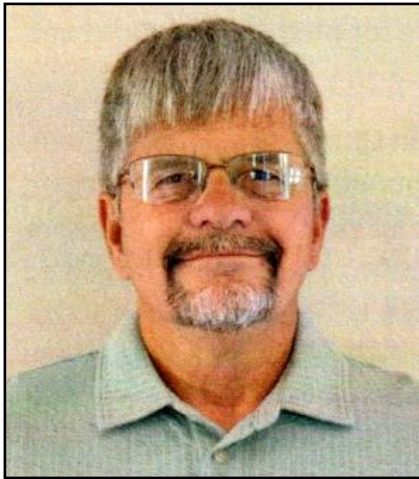
Steve has had the pleasure of pitching with and against 26 members of the WHPA Hall of Fame, including Green Bay selections Swen Bowman (1979), Carl Joppe (1986), and Wally & Cy Srenaski (1991). It's been a privilege and honor to have pitched against all of them. It has also been a real privilege to have pitched against so many state horseshoe pitchers.

Steve feels honored and blessed to be selected for induction into the Wisconsin Horseshoe Hall of Fame, and he is most appreciative to all that have given him this recognition.

Congratulations to Steve Wiegert for his induction into the WHPA Hall of Fame!

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 5th 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 3rd 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 7th 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 2nd 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!







WISCONSIN HORSESHOES NEWSLETTER (WHNL)

NEWSLETTER

Dobie Gutweiler, Editor

10206 N Trescher Rd, Milton, WI 53563
608-513-4625 dobiecanhelp@gmail.com

Dustin Duerr, Subscriptions / Publisher / Mail

N3254 Lemke Drive, Medford, WI 54451
715-965-8033 sweetabilie@gmail.com

Karla / Kevin Brekke, Layout / Proof

1802 W Lois Lane Edgerton, WI 53534
608-751-0345 karlabrekke@charter.net
608-669-1218 brekkekev3@aol.com

WHPA Officers

Dobie Gutweiler, President

10206 N Trescher Rd, Milton, WI 53563
608-513-4625 dobiecanhelp@gmail.com

Dave Volz, 1st Vice President

(See Regional Director for contact)

Dan Newkirk, 2nd VICE PRESIDENT

2004 North St, Beloit, WI 53511
608-921-2834 dnewkirk05@gmail.com

Sonia Cook, 3rd VICE PRESIDENT

DIRECTOR, JR. SCHOLARSHIP FUND
128135 N Bayside Dr. Auburndale, WI 54412
715-384-5540 cook_sonia@yahoo.com

John Secord, SECRETARY-TREASURER

W6868 Brown Rd, Fond du Lac WI 54937
920-922-0080 WHPAjs@charter.net

Jeff Secord, HALL OF FAME CHAIR

W2805 Johnsburg Rd, Fond du Lac, WI 54937
920-476-9042 jeffsecord@outlook.com

Ken Heinritz, WHPA CHAPLAIN

N95 W22107 Cty Rd Q, Colgate WI 53017
262-255-7339 heinritzken@gmail.com

Fred Lane, Publicity / Promotion

541 2nd St. North, Stevens Point, WI 54481
715-347-2507 fred-lane@live.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Dobie Gutweiler

Jeff Secord

Sonia Cook

Dave Volz

Kevin Brekke

Ken Heinritz

Submissions deadline for our next issue is

November 15

dobiecanhelp@gmail.com

Aleena Lepak, NHPA Youth Director

218 N 3rd Ave, Edgar, WI 54426
715-650-0637 aleenacook464@gmail.com

Dave Volz, NHPA Regional Director

W7133 Geier Rd, Wonewoc, WI 53968
608-547-2769 davevolz@hotmail.com

Russ Brockway, WHPA Historian

PO Box 322, Seneca, WI 54654
608-379-4948 russ.brockway@yahoo.com

Paul Weise, All Around Horseshoe GURU

419 Oak St, Augusta, WI 54722
715-456-0293 ozzyfan79@yahoo.com

On The Web

NHPA SITE: <http://horseshoepitching.com>

Email: info@horseshoepitching.com

WHPA SITE: <https://www.WHPAhorseshoes.com>

Webmaster: Dave Volz davevolz@hotmail.com

WHPA-Wisconsin
Horseshoe Pitchers
Association

