



2015 Hall Of Fame Inductee – Tom Steinke

Tom Steinke was born on September 5, 1947. He married his wife, Sharon, on June 21, 1969. They have three children, Mike, Pam and Penny, along with three grandchildren, Mary Ann, Abby and June. Tom's hobbies include horseshoes, bowling and dartball. He is a lover of all animals, which he has many of including dogs, chickens, pigeons, peafowl, geese, ducks and parrots.

Tom was raised on a farm by his dad, a farmer, and his mom, a registered nurse. They had eight children of which Tom was the oldest of five boys and three girls. He has spent his entire life in Wisconsin. He grew up in Eagle and lived there in 1947 and 1948. He then moved to Waukesha and was there from 1948 to 1955. He spent time in Mukwonago from 1955 to 1969. He made another trip back to Waukesha, living there from 1969 to 2001. Currently he resides in Eagle.

Tom began pitching horseshoes at Lake Camelot in 1980 with Galen Kozel at Bernie Schmitt's place on the lake. He began pitching in leagues in 1982 and then joined the NHPA in 1983 after meeting Howie Voiles. He met Tony Scrima in 1983 and they have been doubles partners ever since.

Horseshoes, by far, is his favorite hobby. He has made a lot of friends through the years. Tom enjoys going to tournaments and visiting with everyone. He feels extremely lucky to have children that still like to pitch horseshoes, which adds a lot to the game.

In 1987, Tom entered his first World Tournament held in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He finished 6th in his class. Since that time he has pitched in 20 World Tournaments, finishing first in 1991 and 1995. He also won third place and fifth place at World Tournaments. He has pitched in approximately 450 tournaments finishing first 36 times! He earned Pitcher of the Year four times and was awarded the Ken Kosky Award and the Presidents' Award.

As an organizer and promoter of Wisconsin Horseshoes, he has made a great contribution to our state. He served on the WHPA board for 16 years, eight years as President and eight years as Third Vice President/Junior Scholarship Director. He helped to increase WHPA membership by being the director of the Muskego Moose Open Tournament since 1989. He took this tournament over with help from Wayne Franzen who ran it for many years. He also ran four Junior Scholarship Tournaments at the Arena Indoor Horseshoe Courts. He was the Director of the Wisconsin State Moose Tournament three times. He has organized and managed several leagues in Pewaukee, Muskego and Waukesha.

Tom would like to thank everyone for this honor of being inducted into the Wisconsin Horseshoe Pitchers' Hall of Fame!