

Nor-Cal News & Views

Northern California Horseshoe Pitchers Association website address is: <http://www.NCHPA.com>
Visit the NHPA site at: horseshoepitching.com

President's Message:

I'd like to start by saying thank you to the Yolo Horseshoe Club for doing a great job hosting the State Tournament this year! A very special thanks to all of the folks that helped with the raffle, especially Carmen Long and family. SoCal took home the BBQ and our own Travis Sluys won the table saw.

Congratulations to our 3-peat men's Champion Rick Birmingham. Also, John Sylvester won the Senior Men's Championship group. I believe that is 7 for him. Great job guys! Congrats also goes out to Linda Hoelscher our Women's Champ. She and Elaine Butcher had a great playoff game for the title.

We did have one issue that I would like to bring up that occurred at the State this year. The practice time was very limited, and I know that upset some people. We officers are trying to come up with a solution that will work for everyone and will let you know what we come up with so there won't be any confusion next time. Thank you for your patience.

I want to thank everyone ahead of time for all of their time and effort at the Norcal Championships this year. I'm looking forward to the Friday Night Carnival Games especially. Thanks to Sharon and Bill Paddock for all of their hard work of the past few months getting all of the games put together. Remember the dinner is on Saturday night, we will have limited dinner tickets available at the tournament, so if you didn't order yours ahead of time, get in touch with Sharon.

We will be holding elections this November at the Annual Meeting. Positions up for this year are Secretary-Treasurer, 1st Vice President, and 3rd Vice President. As far as I know the folks that hold these offices now, are going for re-election, and I haven't

heard from anyone else interested in running for these available positions. Remember you can be nominated from the floor if you so wish, or you can contact me in writing before the meeting on November 7th, 2009.

Annual Meeting: Our annual meeting will be once again held at the Vallejo Community Center at 225 Amador St., November 7th, at 12pm. I've included directions below. We'll be looking forward to seeing all of the delegates there.

Directions: From I-80 west, heading to San Francisco. Exit at Georgia St., at the end of the ramp, turn right at the traffic light, Georgia St, turn left, follow Georgia St. until you reach Amador St., traffic light, turn right, the Vallejo Community Center is going to be the first building on the left hand side after turning onto Amador.

From I-80 East, Heading to Sacramento: Exit at Georgia St., at the end of the ramp right, at the traffic light, Georgia St., turn right, go over the overpass and stay on Georgia St., until you reach Amador St., traffic light, turn right, the Vallejo Community Center is the first building on the left hand side after turning onto Amador St. *Kimmy Stockli*

Secretary/Treasurer:

The stat room at this years State tournament could not have run as smoothly as it did without the help of a very special lady. **Julie McGowan** of our Half Moon Bay Club offered to be the "runner" for us during this tournament. Most people are not aware of what it takes to be a good "runner" at any size tournament, and at a State tournament the size of ours, it takes a lot of walking and organization.

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What does a runner do you ask? A runner picks up score sheets from each court after every game. Doesn't sound too tough right? Well the runner doesn't just pick up score sheets they check them as they pick them up looking for completion. The runner looks at each score sheet for the following things; names of both pitchers, player numbers, court number, correct game number, and handicap amount (if any) on the top. They are also looking to be sure the bottom of the score sheet is filled in which will show that the sheet is has been checked for errors. Then the runner puts the score sheets in court number order to be sure all sheets have been collected, and takes them to the stat room where the statistician inputs each group. It is very important to get the sheets in after each game so the results can be entered in the computer and posted as quickly as possible after a group is finished pitching. Sometimes it takes more than one trip to the courts, especially in point games as they finish at different times. Julie walked a lot of miles over the two days of the State tournament. I hope her legs let her sleep Saturday and Sunday nights. **Thank You, Julie Great Job!**

I will seek re-election as your Secretary/Treasurer and I appreciate your support. *Gail Sluys*

Statistician's Report:

The cut-off date to determine who will win the year end awards was September 10th. The awards are determined by the results of all tournaments held between September 10th, 2008 and September 10th, 2009. The results have been sent to the NCHPA officers so they can have time to get the awards ready to hand out at the Nor Cal Championships.

There were 199 pitchers at the State Championships. Of that total, 136 were from the NCHPA. The weather was great and the courts were in great shape. The Yolo club, with a lot of help from members of other clubs, had the whole facility looking good. It would sure be nice if we had as good a turnout at the Nor Cal Championships.

As of September 10th we have held 104 tournaments in the NCHPA with 2,473 total pitchers. We have also had 72 NCHPA members pitch in tournaments in 7 different States and in Southern California.

WHAT IS A BYE?

There seems to be a lot of confusion about reporting games where everyone has a bye. Some of the clubs who still do their stats by hand are reporting the bye as a win for each player. A bye is neither a win nor a loss. You are simply sitting out a round because you have no opponent. In some cases there are an odd number of players because of a shortage of courts and by having groups of five or seven you will use less courts and possibly avoid having an afternoon session. Those of you who do your stats by computer will note that a bye is never counted as a win. I often hear people who are going to have a bye say "well I will at least win this one". If you want to have at least one "win" you need to beat one of your opponents. If you do your stats by hand, keep in mind that in a group of seven each player will be pitching six games, unless a play-off is involved. *Lee Roy Lassiter*

1st Vice President:

MANY HANDS

Thank you to the crew who helped set-up the cooling system, Tim Saunders, Del Stockstill, Sam Godbouldt, Bill Paddock, and Fritz Obert. It works great, but thankfully we didn't have to use it. Another big thanks to the guys who tried to fix the broken toilets, Rick Della Santina, Richard Robbins, and Bill Paddock. I guess we need some special parts; the guys are looking into finding them.

Thank you to Cathie Loucks for helping each evening getting the coffee pots set for morning. And last but not least to the crew that cleaned up after 200+ people, Lee Oliver, Bill Paddock, Rick Della Santina, Sharon, Kimmy, Mitch, Richard Robbins and Fritz Oberst. Many hands made lighter work. Thank You Again!

I'd like to announce that I will be running for re-election to the office of 1st Vice President. I would appreciate your support. *Sharon Paddock*

2nd Vice President

Thank you everyone who was involved in getting the Yolo Club ready for the State Tournament. You guys really helped me out at the beginning of the year starting with the work party. All year long I had help from Glenn Rippetoe, Jay Smith, Matt Smith, Tom Latino and the Stephen Boys! I want to thank Carmen Long and April Latino for all the

help with the raffle and collecting money from the overnight campers as well. Thanks again for working together to change 3 broken stakes during the State Tournament. As far as the clean up crew on Labor Day that Monday morning, there wasn't as much as a piece of paper anywhere! The place looked great. Thanks guys.

In other happenings, The San Francisco Club had a horseshoe Tournament Saturday the 12th of Sept., all the way from Vermont was 2 time World Champion Brian Simmons, Kimmy Stockli, Dave Loucks, Travis Sluys and myself had a 30 shoe 5 person round robin tournament. Kimmy taking 1st, Brian followed with 2nd and Travis capturing 3rd place. It was a great turnout with lot spectators and 32 teams of doubles partners in a separate double elimination tournament. The mayor Gavin Newsom threw out the first shoe to start things off. The man in charge of the San Francisco Club and getting back on its feet and is doing so much for the club is Peter Zepponi. Thanks for a great Tournament, a little wind and rain, but we got through it. See you all at Nor Cal in Yolo. **Rick Bermingham**

3rd Vice President

New Members/Schedule

As of Friday 9/11 I have sent out 90 new member packets this year with just a few being returned to me with wrong addresses. Club Secretaries please double check the information you send to Gail. Thanks. I do hope the new members enjoy the packets and look over all the great information that is in them.

Next the 2010 Schedule deadline I set is Sept. 18th. Many of the clubs have sent me their dates either in the mail or emailed them to me either way is good with me. But, I do need them if you want any tournaments next year. I still need the following clubs to send them to me. They are Forebay Park, Half Moon Bay, Indian Valley, and Madera . Just in case I receive them before you get this issue of the News and Views accept my apology. :-)

As it is election time again for some of us, I'd like to announce that I again will be running for 3rd Vice President. I appreciate your support! **Linda Hoelscher**

4th Vice President

At the CA state tourney for 2009 the Jrs. displayed some positive energy of how to come together and pitch some shoes for fun like the sport should be played at the Jr. level.

It sure was nice to see the (come from behind twice at the world tourney to win thanks to the support of Steve Meyer and Lisa's family) Jr. Girls World Champion Lisa Atwell at her last state tourney as a Jr. pitcher. I would like to say thank you to all pitchers, friends and parents that supported the Jrs. at this event and all events that lead them here. It was also a joy to see a crowd watching everyone pitch in temperatures around 80 degrees making for a relaxing weekend. All the officers from NCHPA & SCHPA were at the state tourney this year (now that was cool). Hats off to ALL the people that helped prep., clean up, keeping score, judging, & running the tourney. **Robert Cocagne**

5th Vice President

Well, the season is winding down and it's been a pretty good one, seeing a lot of old friends and making new ones.

We did have some bad news in June though, Cathie Louck's mom passed away. In July my brother Donald "the duck" was killed in a motorcycle accident. We're gonna miss his 'quacking' The Hoelscher's nephew Nathan Passed away and Michelle White had a bad car wreck, but she is doing well. In August Andy and Maggie Looney's son Danny died, and we lost Charlie Connelly. Please keep all in your thoughts and prayers.

Can't we all just get along? **Richard Robbins**

CLUB NEWS

Madera Club

The Madera Horseshoe Club has continued to grow. We now have 21 members and have scheduled four tournaments for the 2009 season. We hope you decide to come out and play on the new courts. A special thanks to the Madera Rotary Morning Club and the U.S Rack Mfg. Co. for the money to build a supply storage box. The box is made of strong metal and is big enough to store brooms, rakes and score boards. A long-range goal is to build a storage shed made of building block. In June I had the occasion

to participate in the Western States Police and Fire games held in the Valencia area. Steve Myers and the Southern California Club provide statistical support and the games were excellent. Steve stated that the new Horseshoe courts located near Magic Mountain, at Stevenson Ranch will be completed soon and a new club will be formed. The Madera amateur horseshoe league completed its spring season. Ninety-four persons participated in league play over an 18-week period. We are making a recruitment effort to direct league members into the NCHPA. We hope to start some horseshoe clinics in sponsorship with the Madera Parks and Community Services Department. *Harlen Rippetoe*

Indian Valley Club

Well all I have to say is we finished up another successful year with our sanctioned league. Engelmine team won again this year. They are a very strong team with Gene Washoe, Marshall Merino and Jim Atcher. As you have seen we have a great pitcher back with us, Gene Washoe. Gene has been pitching many tournaments around the Northern and doing quite well. Gene had pitched with us years ago and now he is back and doing great again.

Our Gold Diggers tournament was one of the largest in many years. We pitched 50 people on Saturday. We also had the privilege of having two of our officer's pitch with us on Gold Diggers, Kimmie and Linda.

Feather River Club

Message from our President: Congratulations to all the members in our club who won in the State Tournament. Thank you to the Yolo Club for a very well organized tournament. Everyone knew where they were to be at all times and the place looked really good. We hope everyone will have a good time at the NorCal coming up. For possibly the first time ever our club has put two teams together for the team event, so we look forward to that. *Reb Billingsley*

We had excellent turnouts for all our summer tournaments and would like to thank the members from all the other clubs who participated. Also thanks to all our members who helped make the tournaments possible and a special thank you to all

who kept score. We look forward to next year's tournaments. *Audrey Winters*

Sonoma County Club

Some years ago when I first began horseshoes I had a barber named Frank Cmelik, well actually he was my barber before horseshoes, in fact since 1981. He'd chat about anything and everything, we found some common ground in our motorcycles. He having a Honda Goldwing and so did I at that time. He'd tell me about all the trips he and his wife Nancy took each year, wonderful trips to Canada, Yellowstone, and Glacier National Park etc etc.

We'd discuss horseshoes after I joined the NHPA and he sounded mildly interested, but it wasn't until he retired in 2004 that he showed up at our courts and became a member of our club. About that time another fellow named Reed Beaman came around having seen our ad in the Parks brochure. Reed and Frank became fast friends pitching almost every day on whichever court was the driest virtually all year long as we experienced a lack of rain in 2005. Frank would enter an occasional local tournament, but his other hobby, classic cars, didn't allow him to travel out of the area very often. Even at that Frank and Reed would do whatever maintenance there was to do at our courts, mowing edging, weeding, painting, fixing, whatever.

In late 2007 Frank's back began to ache, blaming it on old age he didn't see a doctor. Over that winter it became much worse and when league began again he'd come limping to the courts, but not pitch anymore. Well long story short, Frank passed away in August from back cancer that had spread through out his system. The entire club was devastated, but especially his good friend Reed. In July 2009 we held a memorial tournament for Frank and most of his family was there. After the remembrances the usual announcements came Gail asked if anyone wanted to sponsor a state tournament trophy? After the people were handed their round robin cards and on their way to their courts Nancy (Franks widow) asked Gail if she could sponsor one in Franks name, so she wrote the check and asked that we put on it, In Memory of Frank "The Barber" Cmelik.

When we found out that Reed had entered the state tournament we made certain that the trophy Nancy sponsored went into the group that Reed was in,

Men's I. Now either skill or some sort of divine intervention intervened and Reed won the California State Tournament in Men's I class not losing a single game and pitching one of the best tournaments of his life. He had no inkling that he'd receive a trophy that was sponsored in memory of his good buddy Frank. Yeah, it was a sentimental moment when Reed accepted that trophy on September 6th. Those that knew of that fast friendship were reaching for the tissues when it was announced who the trophy was sponsored by!

Please don't forget the **WHINE COUNTRY OPEN** on **OCT 17** in Santa Rosa.....you're in for a surprise! *Casey Sluys*

Sacramento Club

Saturday, August 29th. tournament at Yolo was a little warm. 27 pitchers in five very balanced groups, payoffs in three of them. Kim Stockli beat Elaine Butcher to be the Tournament Champion with a couple of 80% games. 15 people went home with a little extra cash in their pockets. Elaine Butcher was the COUNT-ALL QUEEN on Sunday. Ashley Long celebrated her 13th. birthday pitching in her first count-all tournament. Tom Latino baked her a cake in the shape of a horseshoe which we all got to enjoy and Ashley won \$\$\$ with a raffle ticket.

A huge THANK YOU to April Latino for all the leg work supporting our tournaments. Congratulations to Rick Bermingham on defending his title of STATE CHAMPION. Our club is proud of Juanita Haas who collected the SENIOR WOMEN trophy and to Sandi Abbott who won the WOMEN'S A division. Both of these ladies came into the NHPA qualifying at 40'. Juanita, who is now a senior, realized early on that our tournaments of 200 plus shoes on a warm afternoon took a lot of endurance and took advantage of the 10' leeway and said it took about six months to get some accuracy at the shorter distance. Sandi took a little longer persuading herself to move but worked at it this season and proved to herself that she could maintain more control over a longer period of time by moving to 30'. Our forefathers knew what they were thinking when they set the rules. Right to the end, men will always have more strength and stamina and we love them

for it. Oh shut up, Joan, and go pitch. See you all!

Joan Bryan

Stockton Club

It's that time again to let you know what been going on in our Club. First of all we picked up one more pitcher since the last News & Views report. His name is Matt Estill and he is from Discovery Bay, CA. The second item today is a correction to the last News and Views. It seems that we have or had two Tony Marino's, one in NCHPA and one in SCHPA. When Tony Marino from SCHPA joined our club in August I thought he was the same Tony Marino that had pitched and was a member of our Stockton Club back in 1994 – 2001. Not true, Tony Marino from SCHPA never pitched or as a member of our Stockton Club back in 1994-2001. My apologies to both Tony Marino's.

I'd like to congratulate all our members that pitched in the State Tournament.

Well, it has been like dead here in our Horseshoe Courts since May and I for one am longing for our next Tournaments here in Stockton on October 17th & 18th. Just remember, all you who read this, put aside Oct. 17 & 18 and come on down and pitch with us.

We finally had some backboards replaced and painted by the Parks Department and the courts are starting to look good. There is still a lot of work to be done and the new park crew is doing the best they can to get it done. When the old park crew was let go because of seniority the new crew didn't know what to do or when to do it. They have had since July 1, 2009 to catch up on what needs to be done and are getting there.

That's it for this time, but keep pitching cause we still have October, November, and December.

Peter Chaverria.

Forebay Park

Well are club play just ended last weekend, due to not having any lights. We had are league play-off on Saturday the 12th. 1st place went to Bill Lee, 2nd Kim Stovall, and 3rd was Rick Eddy. Then on Sunday was our club championship. 1st was Tom Armstrong, 2nd was Ted Rytell, and 3rd was Tammy Jackson. Our August tournaments went well. We had a full house on Saturday the 22nd. 1st place in a group going to Elaine Butcher, 2nd was Marlys Westphal. B group 1st was Linda Jesse, 2nd was Don Stephens. Then C group. 1st was Tom

Armstrong, 2nd was Joe Miller. On Sunday 8/23 a group 1st place went to Elaine Butcher again! 2nd went to Vern Westphal. Then B group 1st place was Joe Stone, 2nd was Russ Hoge. Then C group 1st was Paul Schmaljohann 2nd was Ray Donnally. On another note, our club president Rick Eddy took the gold at the summer senior games this year in the mens 50-54 class. And he also won 1st place in the mens A group at the state championships. (what a sandbagger!) We hope to get the same dates for next years tournaments, so come on up and beat the heat at 4000 feet and see you at Nor-Cal. **Rick Eddy.**

Tri-Valley Club

I want to say what a nice time we have at the State tournament. We had fifteen members who participated this year in the State. For A couple of them it was their first time at Yolo and at a State tournament. Out of the Fifteen we had several who took first or second place. Those were Linda in a playoff game, Ed Cortez, Ray Szczepanski, Richard Robbins also in a playoff game and Tim Saunders. We also had some who took home the money in their groups and they were Marge Wood, Harvey Kooy, Bill Faler, and Gail Kane. Besides the pitchers we had CB & Lee Henninger and Shirley Jamieson who helped out and kept score. What would we all do without our scorekeepers? Thanks to all who filled those seats and exercised your hands. Also we had our very own Glenn, Mr. Natstat Guy, helping out in the stat room making sure things went right in there. As the season comes to an end we wish all of you and your families a Wonderful Holiday Season. Please don't forget to send your delegates to the Northern Meeting in Vallejo on Nov. 7th. Make your clubs vote count. **Linda Hoelscher**

Shasta/Willows

Well, another State Championship has come and gone. Eight of our members attended and three finished in second place. We all had fun and the tournament was well run. We have two new members, Paul Schmaljohann and Steven Johnston. Both are from Corning and are pitching in tournaments. We plan to have two teams at the Team Tournament. Hope to see a lot of Clubs sending teams this year.

Hope to see a lot of the NCHPA members at the Nor Cal Championships. **Lee Roy Lassiter**

Just because it's the end of the pitching season let's not stop recruiting new members. Try starting a Sanctioned League Program on your courts. More information in this issue...

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Having observed our State Championships I see a need for a refresher course on these. Please read and become familiar with them, it'll make for better tournaments.

Judging Guidelines

"The NHPA Official Rules of Horseshoe Pitching" the RGS book, is the most important tool a judge can carry. The ability to be a fair and impartial judge is based upon your knowledge of these rules. As a judge, you are the most visible member of the Tournament Committee. Your presence serves as a subtle reminder to the contestants that the tournament is conducted and governed by the rules. Be sure to always position yourself where you can observe all of the contestants, the foul lines, and both ends of the court. Pay close attention to the flow of the game and enforce the rules. Your effectiveness is diminished if you are sitting in the bleachers, or chatting with the spectators. You must "walk the fence line" to improve your view, and make yourself visible. Position yourself in a central location if walking becomes distracting to the contestants.

The flow of the game is important, and every effort should be made to ensure contestants adhere to this aspect. Every effort should be made to keep the game moving from one inning to the next. The manner in which you act as a judge will ensure that any delay is minimal.

Safety on the courts should be addressed, and must be stressed. The potential for personal injury while proceeding from the court entrance to a court where you are needed is very real. You must consider, that although you need to get to a center court, contestants are still pitching on either side. Try to access your destination from behind the pitching platforms, being watchful of players pitching toward you. Wait until it is clear, do not walk in

front of the pitchers, and return by the path of least disturbance.

When you observe two players trying to determine the value of the shoes they have pitched, and it appears they may not be able to determine this without delay or intervention, simply walking in their direction may ward off an unnecessary delay. At best you are already close, if needed.

Two contestants have called for a judge, when you arrive at their pit these are the steps to follow:

1. Ask what they want determined.
2. Ask the contestants if they agree on the non-relevant shoes.
3. Remove those shoes (if practical).
4. Measure the shoes in question and make your determination.
5. Announce your decision.

When measuring for a point or a ringer there will be difficult situations. You may need to dig out the clay surrounding the shoe or the stake. Care must be taken not to move the shoe or the stake. Be certain not to lean on the stake. You will find these hints valuable when excavating the points of a shoe or the edge of the stake.

1. Pack clay around the edges of the shoe to keep it from moving.
2. Prop up a precariously leaning shoe with clay using caution not to alter its position.
3. Always dig gently to avoid disturbing the position of the shoes.

Is this shoe a ringer or just closest to the stake? This is a common question asked of a judge. You should take the following steps to make this decision.

1. Verify a shoe that is closer in the event that the shoe in question is not a ringer.
2. Using a straight edge, span from heel to heel of the shoe without touching the stake.

You may need a dollar bill, piece of cellophane, or a .001 of an inch shim to slip between the stake and your straightedge in order to determine that the shoe encircles the stake.

The foul line is perhaps one of the most frequently violated and least enforced infractions. A blanket warning at the onset of the tournament, by the tournament director, makes it more comfortable for

a judge to enforce this rule. With or without the warning, you are the judge and the penalty is forfeiture of the shoe pitched when stepping on or over the foul line.

The thirty-second time limit may cause a degree of indecision on the part of the judge. You should be observant of the existing conditions and consider what has caused a pitcher to delay their delivery. Continuous repetitive delay should be penalized.

Your role as a judge is a vital part of the game. Make your decisions based on exactly what the rules say, not on what the contestants tell you. If you fully understand the rules and are consistent with their implementation you will have diminished any potential for dispute. Once you have rendered your decision, walk away, and do not debate it. Your decision is final. If the contestant does not agree with you he may lodge a protest with the Tournament Committee.

If you encounter a situation where, after careful examination, a decision cannot be made, order the inning re-pitched. Tell the contestants and the scorekeeper of this ruling.

Generally the contestants do not feel comfortable calling a judge to reprimand their opponent, regardless of the infraction. As a judge it is your responsibility to detect and penalize rule infractions.

If you'd like a copy of these guidelines I have them in pamphlet form. Casey Sluys NHPA Regional Director

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San Francisco International Open

We attended the grand opening of the San Francisco Horseshoe Pitching Club's "new" facility in Golden Gate Park. Those of you that have been around for the last 25+ years know the facility very well they are the same horseshoe courts that we all used to pitch on when the facility was home to the Golden Gate Horseshoe Club. Since 1992 it's laid dormant. Thanks to Peter Zepponi and his tenacity to do something about the state of disrepair those courts were in, they are now fit to visit and worthwhile to pitch on. For details about this tremendous task see <http://www.sfhorseshoepitching.com/>

Peter invited Brian Simmons of New England for the grand opening on September 12, 2009. Brian is a 2-time World Champion, 7 times Maine State Champ, 4-time Rhode Island State Champ, 2-time

New Hampshire State Champ, and 1-time Vermont State Champ. Impressive to say the least, and impress he did. Even though all the courts are sand now, Brian could still drop those ringers right in there. We held a small 'demonstration' sanctioned tournament, 5-person 30-shoe games, and 80% handicapped. Brian, Kimmy Stockli, Rick Birmingham, Dave Loucks, and Travis Sluys were the NHPA members involved. It was a thrill for those folks to pitch with someone as talented as Brian. Kimmy won the sanctioned portion. This was held so we could give the SFHPC a sanctioned certificate with a specific number on it and to show them how mixed sanctioned tournaments were operated.

Getting there plenty early, Travis and I were able to take a few measurements of the distances, widths, etc etc. There are a few things that are not correct, but not enough to where I couldn't give them a "Conditional Sanction". Then at opening ceremonies I was able to present Mayor Gavin Newsom with a sanctioned court certificate. The remainder of the tournament was a double elimination 1st grp. experienced, and 2nd. grp. beginning. Other NHPA members present and participating were Bill Terry, Joe Stone, Terry Farrell, Don Reip, Michael Jurian, Jeff Rydman, and Verdan Zelmar.

All in all a great time was had despite the early morning lighting and thunderstorm. It even rained some at the courts to where they had to sweep water off the new asphalt; it helped to keep the dust down for a time though. *Casey Sluys, NHPA Regional Director*

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NCHPA Officers: Here is a copy of the email I sent to about 250 Pitchers about the 2009 State Championships. I had a really good time, and thought you folks ran a great tournament as always. Congratulations to both Rick and Linda for winning the Championships. Maybe next year I'll be able to take advantage of the "Home Courts". See you at the pits, Dale Hughes

All, here are the results of the State Championships up in Davis California this past weekend. The weather was perfect for pitching.

Maybe a little warm in the mid afternoon, but over-all the weather could not have been better. They had a water misting system setup, and never needed to turn it on. The shade trees throughout the Club grounds were doing their job. The buildings had a fresh coat of paint, and the courts had some extra green in the grass. The clay was able to stay wet for the most part. They had to replace a few stakes that broke during play, and they were right on it. When the loudspeaker system decided not to work, they found away around it. I thought the NCHPA did a great job running the big show. It's not always going to be perfect as the event runs its course, but they had the right people to take on the challenges, and made it happen. Next year it's going to be the SCHA's turn, and I hope it goes just as well.

The local News media was there again with the camera crews. They had last years Men's, Women's, and Cadet Champs throwing shoes on what seemed to be a live telecast. This is the web site where you can see it. They were on the far west side of the club, over by court 30.

<http://www.cbs13.com/video/?id=59776@kovr.dayport.com>

They also had the Tee Shirt, Hats, and **Kimmy's Shoe Shop** selling things. There was a Lunch Truck selling Burgers and Fries, or whatever you preferred. They had Drinking Water coolers everywhere, with cups for the Pitchers. The Hotel where I stayed at didn't see much of me because of the nightlife in the parking lot. Many Pitchers were there with their 5th Wheels and Motor Homes living good. BBQ's, drinking, music, and a few card games were hard to leave behind and go to a hotel room about 4 miles away. If you didn't make it out here this year, then you might have missed one of the best times. In the end, I counted 199 Pitchers. I attached the stat's that **Glenn Jamieson** gave me before I left. He has already posted them on the NHPA Site. I put them on MS Excel so I could then make some Fun Facts about the tournament. I separated the 136 Northern and 63 Southern Pitchers and ran the numbers in different ways. You will see the Northern Charter did out pitch the South this time. They had Higher Averages and won first place more, but we won the BBQ and Beer contest at night outside Jose Silva's motorhome. Yeah !!!

The drive for me is tough, but well worth the fun. Started at **Paul Hopkins** place Friday on the river for boat rides and fishing. I then finished last in my class, but was able to get a win against one of the Top Pitchers. **Carlos Delgado** was the spoiler in my class. He won against **Steve Belikoff** and that took Steve out of a play-off against **Rick Bermingham** for the Championship. Steve was Rick's only loss earlier. The Women's Championships had **Elaine Butcher** who almost changed the books when she was in the lead against **Linda Hoelscher** in a play off game. Every class has a story, and it's something you will always remember if you did something that might have changed the outcome. You can only make a difference at the State, if you sign up and pitch. They had several drop outs for one reason or another, and I'm sure this was the last thing they wanted to miss out on. There is always next year in **Bakersfield**. Many have asked me about **Bishop**

Ca. as another location. This is something that has to be voted on at the Annual Meeting, and the Bishop Club has to want it there. There has been a decrease in events and Pitchers showing up to their Tournaments. The best way to get a Bishop State Championship would be for more of the **Northern Charter** to attend the Bishop tournaments and convince the club to ask for one. It's a long way from San Diego to Bishop, and the **San Diego Club** has always made it to the annual meetings to vote on a location. Good luck pitching the rest of the season, and I'll..... See you at the pits, *Dale Hughes*

Thank You Dale!

Found....1 pr. of Cal-Flips..... identify where lost and color and they are yours. See Casey at Nor-Cal Championships.

Sanctioned Club/League Program

Recommended first step to organized horseshoe pitching

The *NHPA Sanctioned Club/League Program* introduces new and veteran horseshoe pitchers to handicap scoring in league play and provides an exciting, competitive, healthful activity for men and women, young and old and physically challenged. The handicap scoring system is designed to give everyone an equal chance to win.

NHPA sanctioned play provides leagues with NHPA insurance coverage, NHPA awards and recognitions, NHPA Junior member patches and scholar awards, full NHPA membership and eligibility to enter any open NHPA sanctioned tournament, and many more member and league incentives.

NHPA award patches include, *League Champion, Class Champions, High Game, High Average, High/Over Average, Sportsmanship, and Rookie of the Year*; also *Most Improved, League Member, and Junior League Member*. The NHPA Junior Scholar Award Program recognizes scholastic achievement and appropriate certificates and patches are awarded. High Game averages patches are for 0-5%, 6-9%, 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90% and Perfect Games. The NHPA *Top Ten* award program involves national ranking from all NHPA sanctioned leagues, with national recognition in the NHPA magazine, *Newsline*.

About Horseshoe Pitching: It is a game that can be played by one or more people. It may be played for recreation with simply two stakes driven in the ground, and/or as a sport with suitably prepared courts ([click to see Official Playing Rules](#)). Horseshoe pitching in practice, league and tournament play, is a non-strenuous, healthful activity involving bending, stretching, walking and light lifting....just what any doctor might prescribe. The pitching distance is either 27 ft or 37 ft from foul line to stake, depending upon your pitching classification (Adult Men pitch 37 ft. Women, Juniors and Elders pitch 27 ft.). The horseshoes weigh about 2-1/2 lbs. each and are manufactured specifically for pitching. Pitching styles and methods vary from individual to individual, and beginners will find help learning new or improved methods from the experienced veterans in the league.

Start or join an NHPA sanctioned league in your community NOW! Your suggestions on helping the NHPA Club/League program improve are always welcome. Organizational assistance and information is available from the NHPA Sanctioned Club/League [National Director](#)

NHPA bylaws and Official Playing Rules apply. Court construction information is given in the Rules ([click to see Official Playing Rules](#)). If your City Park & Recreation Department needs information, please provide them with NHPA information or have them contact President, [Paul Stewart](#), 1043 Old Mountain Rd, Statesville, NC 28677 (704)-528-5081.

For additional information, comments or suggestions, please contact NHPA Sanctioned Club/League. [3rd NHPA VP](#)

If any of you care to comment on this Newsletter feel free to fire me off a note, I might even print it?

NCHPA

CLUB TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

DATES: October 10th & 11th 2009

LOCATION: Yolo Club

1. **ENTRY FEE:** \$80.00 per team. This is a **2-day event** and **pre-registration is required.**
2. Teams may be mixed, may include juniors (but may not be all juniors), and must have 4 players per team. Each team may register 1 alternate player to be used in case of injury,
3. All players must be NCHPA members and be a member or associate member of the club they represent. **All participants must wear a shirt of the club they represent and have their name neatly on the back.**
4. Day One Tournament play will consist of 7 - 30 shoe, count-all games using an 80% handicap. We will need to have scorekeepers therefore a final decision has not yet been made to pitch all teams at once or in two shifts. Pitching times for Saturday will be 10:00 A.M. & 12:30 P.M – depending on the number of entries a final decision will be made about the pitching schedule when we know how many teams are signed up. The finals will consist of the top 8 teams from the Saturday's rounds carrying over totals and will be played at 9:30A.M. Sunday. Finals will be 7 - 40 shoe, count-all games using an 80% handicap with 20 bonus points for each player win and 40 bonus points for each team that wins 3 or more games in any single round. The 2-day points total including bonus points will determine final standings. All teams should plan to play on Sunday because the first alternate team will replace any team not able to return for the finals.
5. Prize money will be determined by the number of teams entered and will be announced.

It would be great to have a minimum of 24 teams fielded though at being at Yolo this year affords us the opportunity to host many more. Each day will count as a separate tournament because they are played under different formats. Pitchers are required to pay scorekeepers .50 cents per game each day.

Cut on line below and mail bottom only

Club Name _____

Team Members: 1. _____ **2.** _____

3. _____ **4.** _____

Team Captain _____ **Alternate** _____

Pitching time request _____

Send check, made payable to NCHPA, in the amount of \$80.00 per team to:

Gail Sluys - 1721 San Ramon Way, Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Be sure to mark your pitching time request.

<http://www.nchpa.com>
<http://www.horseshoepitching.com>
 Editor: Casey Sluys
 1721 San Ramon Wy.
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