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Ohio Horseshoe Newsletter - Spring 2017



OHIO HORSESHOE NEWSLETTER

Volume 19, Issue 1 - Spring 2017

Amy Miller, Editor

A PUBLICATION OF THE OHIO HORSESHOE PITCHERS ASSOCIATION, AN OFFICIAL NHPA CHARTER

****2017 Summer Tournament Schedule****

Revised as of 4-14-17

2017 NHPA World Tournament
July 17-29, 2017 -- St. George, Utah

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!!!

Entry Deadline -- May 15, 2017

2017 World Application

2017 World Prize Fund

<http://www.horseshoepitching.com/>



Newsline Article by Tina Hawkins
NHPA 2nd VP Publicity and Promotion Director

Stay-to-Play?

There is a common practice in the sports industry of "Stay-to-Play" competitions. This means participants **MUST** stay at designated hotels in order to play in the event. There is a very positive element



in this format – ACCOUNTABILITY. In other words, a stay-to-play event can say with all certainty how many room nights they bring to town.

Why does that matter? Because ROOM NIGHTS are how the host city profits from the event. Higher numbers make the event more attractive and more worthwhile. The NHPA brings a very high number of room nights with our World Tournament, but we do not have the accountability of a stay-to-play event – we don't have concrete numbers to prove our worth.

Don't worry – the NHPA is not inclined to deny entry based on your hotel choice! However, if World Tournament participants book rooms with the "host" or other recommended properties, it would be quite beneficial in the quest for future hosts.

Those rooms will be reported and will be the concrete numbers that World Tournament bidders are looking for. Higher numbers draw more bidders and more destinations for our premier event!

In the future, housing agencies may be utilized to negotiate the best possible room rates at a wide variety of properties with a range of room rates. (Something for everyone!) Booking through them will enable better, more accurate reporting of the actual room nights generated by the NHPA World Horseshoe Tournament.

Actual room night reports will more clearly show the value of hosting our event and draw more prospective bidders to the table. Thanks to all members for understanding the need for accountability and helping to increase the numbers by utilizing the host and recommended hotels!

NHPA Member Discount: Red Roof Inn - Nationwide

The member discount has been re-negotiated and extended! NHPA members can receive 15% discount at ANY Red Roof Inn nationwide, through 6/30/2018.

For more details or to book a room, access the NHPA reservation portal through this link: [Red Roof Inn](#) or by clicking the member benefits Red Roof link on the NHPA website.

USE VP# 620270 WHEN BOOKING TO RECEIVE THE 15% DISCOUNT!

If you need a group block for a specific event and city please contact Jim Greenhalge - National Account Executive at 614-359-7167 or via email at jgreenhalge@redroof.com to coordinate.

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President's Message

After a very mild winter, spring is fast approaching. This year will be an eventful one for me. Before you read this I will have departed for South Africa on March 24th. Kevin Lewis and Seth Ohms will accompany me on this trip. Our primary goal is to invite both South Africa and Namibia to come to the World Horseshoe Tournament in



St. George, Utah. We will also be promoting horseshoe pitching. In fact, there will be a horseshoe tournament in Kroonstad, South Africa on April 2nd for men, women, and seniors. We will also participate in the National Jukskei Tournament in Kroonstad.



I hope Ohio will have good representation at the World Tournament in St. George, Utah. Although the distance is great, there are very reasonable airline tickets to Las Vegas. From there it is an easy two hour drive to St. George. You will never find a better location for a family vacation. There are very affordable hotels and many fine restaurants.

Another highlight this year will be the 50th Carolina Dogwood Festival Tournament in Statesville, North Carolina. This may be Paul Stewart's last year as Tournament Director. I know several Ohio pitchers are planning to attend. Paul has been a great friend and a great promoter of horseshoe pitching.

One of the highlights in Ohio was the recent renovation of Sarbaugh's Indoor Courts in Adamsville. I enjoyed pitching there in the last two tournaments. Great competition and great people are to be found there. In addition to winter tournaments, they are planning to have summer tournaments. Congratulations to Elden, Larry and Julia Shaw, Mary Green, and all of the other club members.

The biggest problem facing our sport is the continuing decline in membership. It is no secret that very few younger pitchers are pursuing the sport. The Elder's Division continues to grow as other Division's decline. There are no easy answers to this problem. All reasonable ideas must be considered to stop the steady decline. The loss of local clubs is directly related to membership decline. We have seen the closing of several clubs in Ohio as the people who do all of the work get older.

I am proud to serve as President of the Ohio Horseshoe Pitcher's Association. I hope I can contribute in some small way to the survival of our sport. I am also proud to serve with the current OHPA officers who have contributed many hours of work to the OHPA. I will look forward to a successful summer pitching season

Happy Birthday!!! to Joe Pillion of the Troy Horseshoe Club who will turn 90 on May 9, 2017! Joe is a lifetime member of the OHPA having pitched for 53 years.



Happy 90th Birthday Joe!!!



DOGWOOD FESTIVAL: Best horseshoe pitchers to showcase skills at 50th annual tournament
By Donna Swicegood dswicegood@statesville.com

Eighty-six-year-old John Brown missed the very first Carolina Dogwood Festival Horseshoe Tournament. But that would be the only one he would miss for nearly five decades.

Brown, of Lancaster, Ohio, will be back at the tournament Saturday, just in time to pitch horseshoes in the 50th annual event. "That old southern hospitality. I just had to come," he said. The tournament is scheduled to take place Saturday and Sunday at the Jack Springer Horseshoe Courts on Lakewood Drive. The tournament is sponsored by the Statesville Recreation and Parks Department.

Tournament Director Paul Stewart said there are 110 entries into the 50th annual event. "There will be 13 states represented this year," he said. This is the 48th time Brown will pitch at the Carolina Dogwood Festival Tournament. He missed the first one because he found about it too late to compete. He wouldn't miss another one until 2016 when his health prevented him from making the trip from Ohio.

Brown said he got into horseshoe pitching as a youngster. "I was raised on the farm and most of those old farm boys had a couple of pegs out and would pitch horseshoes," he said. "We didn't know there was such a thing as competition."

Once he realized horseshoes could be more than just a way to pass the time on the farm, Brown said, he realized what a great sport horseshoe pitching was. "It's a family sport. It doesn't cost a fortune. You can buy a pair of horseshoes that will last you all your life," he said.

After missing the first year and learning about the tournament from other pitchers, Brown made the drive down for the second event. It was a much different Statesville than he visits today, Brown said. "There wasn't hardly any place to stay when I first came to Statesville," he said. There just a couple of choices for a motel and restaurants were also few and far between. "It was slim pickings at that time," Brown said. But, he said, out-of-towners discovered Troutman's in downtown Statesville and, later on, Julia's Talley House in Troutman. "We came to enjoy it a lot," he said.

Brown said he and Stewart and others involved in the sport are disheartened by the lack of interest from younger people. But, Brown said, he believes he knows why. "It's a sport that you're not an instant success at," he said. "You have to work at it, and many people won't take the time to develop. Young people go from one sport to another and they don't have the time to put in the work." And the Dogwood Festival Tournament attendance reflects that decline, Brown said. In the early years, he said, the tournament drew so many pitchers that it took three days to complete. It was limited to 240 participants and there was often a waiting list. "Now they're having trouble getting 150," he said.

Despite the lower number of participants, the tournament is still a boon for Statesville, Brown said. "It brings a lot of attention to Statesville and a lot of people. It's not just the number of pitchers, but family members are involved," he said. One of his children will be driving him to the tournament.

Brown said much of the reason the tournament is still going on in Statesville can be attributed to Stewart. "Paul has been a real worker for the town and the whole country as well as in the horseshoe field. The whole country has looked to him," he said. Stewart is in his 28th year as tournament director. Springer, who headed the Statesville Recreation and Parks Department, and was an avid advocate of the sport of horseshoe pitching, ran the tournament for more than two decades. Stewart said Springer asked him to become director in the early 1990s. Stewart said the tournament will feature junior and adult divisions and trophies and cash prizes will be awarded to the top pitchers in the adult division. Trophies only will be awarded in the junior division.

Brown said the ability of all ages and sexes to compete in horseshoes is one of the sport's biggest selling points, and he hopes more people will discover a sport he's taken part in for more than 70 years. "It may come back again," he said. "I hope so." The 50th Annual Carolina Dogwood Festival Horseshoe Tournament will start at 9 a.m, Saturday and Sunday, April 22-23, 2017 at the Jack Springer Horseshoe Courts on Lakewood Drive.



Secretary Notes

Announcement: The OHPA is now a 501(c)(3). What this means? A nonprofit corporation that has been given 501c3 status by the Internal Revenue Service is not only tax exempt, but it also allows donors to write off donations. This will be highly beneficial to the OHPA when seeking sponsorship for our juniors, tournaments and clubs.

Congratulations to Gary Roberts for being elected to the NHPA Council as 1st Vice-president. He also represents Ohio as a Board member of the Ohio Senior Olympics and as Chairperson of the newly formed Southern Ohio Senior Games. Please speak with Gary if you are interested in attending the Senior Games. A special thanks to Gary and all the other officers who spend many hours supporting our great sport of horseshoes.

Please remember, when you shop with Amazon, use the AmazonSmile link. It costs nothing to participate. When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to *National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation*. Bookmark this link smile.amazon.com and support them every time you shop. An absolutely harmless way to help the National Horseshoe Pitchers Foundation Hall of Fame and Museum.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the Courts!

Amy Miller, Secretary/Treasurer

Upcoming Events

[Ringer Classic Application - July 1-2, 2017](#)

[State Warm Up - Friday, Sept 1, 2017 at 7pm](#)

[State Doubles - Saturday, Sept 2, 2017 at 5pm](#)

[State Singles - Sept 2-3-4, 2017](#)

[Membership Application](#)

WELCOME
new members

John Brady, Cincinnati
Michael Carsey, Zanesville
Regan Christ, Arcanum
Jaxson Christ, Arcanum
Ava Dehart, Bradford
Ryan Fourman, Arcanum
Donald Fox, Zanesville
Noah Hammond, Mason
Roger Kincaid, Byesville
Melissa Mullins, Logan
Randy Parcell, New Concord
Margaret Potter, Piketon
Robert Roesler, Toledo
Tony Slattery, Hicksville
Warren Strunk, Loveland
Joey Williams, Marshalville



Welcome
Back
We Missed You

Michael Lallathin, Beallsville
Oscar Manns, Painesville





[Link to OHPA State Officer Contact Info](#)



Links to Recent **OBITUARIES**

[Robert Garrett - Oct 19, 2016](#)

[Amy Ott - Nov 3, 2016](#)

[Roger Kinnamon - Nov 8, 2016](#)

[Rudy VonDach - Jan 10, 2017](#)

[Ralph Androsac - Feb 2, 2017](#)

[Ralph Owens - Mar 1, 2017](#)

[Sharon Jones - Mar 10, 2017](#)

Link to Tournament Results

[2016 Tournament Results](#)

[2017 Tournament Results](#)

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Ray Welsh, Louisville
Bremen Horseshoe Club, Bremen
Hershel McCollister, Frankfort
Dan Sanders, Powell
Irvin Fraley, Vermillion
Harry Menegay, Sterling
Harley Thomas, Bremen
Fulton County Horseshoe Club, Wauseon
Whetstone Horseshoe Club, Columbus
Dick and Dianna Guill, Mansfield
Hilliard Horseshoe Club. Hilliard
Ron Cook, Chillicothe



Newsletter Submission Deadline is **September 13, 2017**
Please send me your articles and pictures and I will add it to the Fall
Newsletter. Amy Miller 614-507-2468

Amy Miller, Editor
Ohio Horseshoe Newsletter

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