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Ohio Horseshoe Newsletter - Spring 2019



OHIO HORSESHOE NEWSLETTER

Volume 21, Issue 1 - Spring 2019

Amy Miller, Editor

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

[Link to 2019 Summer
Sanction Tournament Schedule**](#)**

2019 NHPA World Tournament
July 22 - Aug 3, 2019 - Wichita Falls, TX
TIME IS RUNNING OUT!!!
Entry Deadline -- [May 13, 2019](#)

[Link to 2019 World Entry Form](#)

Will Ohio have the Most World Entries??

As of April 14, 2019, Ohio only 5 pitchers have entered. Those of you going, please mail your entries soon. You can also apply online (link below). So far, Texas leads the way with 32. Please encourage others to enter so Ohio pitchers will dominate participation at the 2019 World!!

World Links:

[2019 World Prize Fund](#)

NHPA Website (apply to World online)**2019 Official World Tournament Website*****Pins for World***

For your World Tournament opponents or personal enjoyment.

\$1.50 per pin.

Place your order with Amy Miller at
ohpasecretary@gmail.com or
614-507-2468



President's Message

By: Gary B. Roberts

As we move forward with the 2019 pitching season, we must pause to remember all of the members we have lost during the past year. My uncle, Ottie W. Reno was one of them. Ottie died at the age of 89 on February 11, 2019. My involvement with horseshoe pitching would not have happened without Ottie. We traveled thousands of miles together participating in various tournaments and exhibitions. In those early days, we had very little money but we enjoyed every minute of our travels. When we

attended our first Ohio State Championship in 1958 in Greenville, we slept on the ground under an oak tree. In these modern times, we would probably have been arrested for vagrancy. Ottie would want us to move forward with a smile on our face.

I would like to thank all of our OHPA Officers for their hard work. As you know, Amy Miller has published our summer pitching schedule, and has taken the initiative in organizing a sanctioned tournament in Bremen. This tournament will be known as the Ottie Reno Memorial. Brian Fisher has been busy planning for the Ringer Classic and the State Tournament. His work has resulted in continued financial support from the City of Greenville. We welcome Carol Sanford as our newest officer. I'm sure she will be an asset for the Association.

I recently spoke with a tournament director about a tournament that was canceled because of low entries and a large spread in percentages. I suggested that in the future, he might consider handicapping the tournament and proceeding with holding the tournament. Most all of the tournaments in Florida are handicapped. We have been handicapping the State Warm-up Tournament and most of us have enjoyed it. I think in some situations handicapping could be appropriate.

I will be participating in the Hall of Fame Invitational Tournament in Wentzville, Missouri on May 4th and 5th. It is an honor to pitch against these great pitchers. If you have never visited the Hall of Fame, you should do so if possible.

The Reno Family will once again be performing at the Bob Evans Festival on October 12th, 13th, and 14th at the original Bob Evans Farm in Rio Grande. This will be our 49th consecutive year to perform there! My son, Ryan Roberts, will be the emcee. Ottie's daughters, Jennifer and Lorna, will be participating. Our cousin, Josh Brooks, is also a participant.

It is with regret that I recently received the resignation of Dan Sanders as 3rd Vice

President of the OHPA. Dan has served on the Charter Council for approximately 27 years. Dan's accomplishments are many. Dan was inducted into the NHPA Hall of Fame and also was the recipient of the Arch Stokes Award for his extensive contributions to the game. The RGS book that we rely on would probably not exist without Dan's efforts. I am sure Dan will still offer his advice and wisdom as we move forward. In the interim, I have appointed Mike Byers to finish Dan's unexpired term. We welcome Mike and look forward to working with him.

As officers, one of our most important duties is to listen to the members to allow us to improve and to make changes as needed. If you have ideas or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time. The future of our sport is in jeopardy as membership continues to decline.

Applications for Upcoming Events

[Ringer Classic - July 6-7, 2019](#)

[Friday Night Warm Up - Friday, August 30, 2019 at 7pm](#)

[State Doubles - Saturday, August 31, 2018 at 5pm](#)

[State Singles - August 31 - Sept 2, 2019](#)

[Membership Application](#)

HORSESHOE TRIVIA

By Gary Roberts

In the last issue of Newslines, I addressed the subject of the greatest horseshoe pitcher that never won a Men's World Championship. Predictably, the first name to appear was Casey Jones who averaged 87.5% at the 1948 World Tournament in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and finished second to Fernando Isais. This was a World record at the time. Before you decide who was the greatest in this category, let me detail the exploits of Ray Martin of Philo, Illinois. Ray pitched a one- and three-quarter turn with Ohio O's.



Ray's first appearance in the World Tournament occurred in 1960 in Muncie, Indiana. It was not an impressive start as he finished 27th averaging 70.4%. He returned to Muncie in 1961 and performed a little better finishing 16th with a 72.8% average. Ray came to Greenville, Ohio in 1962 and finished 12th with a 78.5% average. Ray did not participate in the 1963 World Tournament but returned to Greenville in 1964. The 1964 Tournament was one of the greatest of all time with thirteen (13) pitchers averaging over 80%. Ray was one of them finishing 6th with an average of 82.9%. He established his reputation of fighting to the end in every game. He also started the trend of losing heart breaking games. In this Tournament, Ray lost to Ralph Maddox by a score of 52-48 in 176 shoes! Ray threw 87% against Harold Reno only to lose by a score of 52-43 in a 162-shoe match! Martin finally won a titanic match against Curt Day by a score of 52-46 by pitching 88% for 150 shoes! These games were a sign of things to come in future years.

Ray came to Keene, New Hampshire in 1965 for no other reason than to win the World Championship. He came up short by one game while finishing second with an average of 85.7%. His history of heart-breaking losses continued. The great Ted Allen was in the twilight of his career but was still dangerous and defeated Ray by a score of 52-49 in 132 shoes. In Round 18 of the Tournament Ray tangled with Glen "Red" Henton of Iowa, in what is arguably the greatest game ever pitched. In this 194-shoe game, Red had 175 ringers for 90.2% while Ray had 174 ringers for 89.7% while losing by a score of 52-49. If this was not enough, Ray then had to play Danny Kuchinski, the 17-year-old future World

Champion. Danny defeated Ray 51-47 in 160 shoes! Ray managed to defeat Marines Tamboer of Kansas by a score of 52-49 in 180 shoes! A final loss to Jim Solomon ended Ray's title hopes. If he had won even one of the close games, he would have been tied for the Championship.

In 1966, Ray traveled to Murray, Utah and finished 4th with an 82.8% average. This set the stage for Ray's most heart-breaking Tournament of all in Fargo, North Dakota in 1967. Pitching conditions in Fargo could not match the conditions in Keene. The clay was gritty and irritated the fingers of some of the pitchers. Ray won his first 22 games before losing to Paul Focht in a poorly pitched game. He then lost to the great Curt Day. Going into the last game of the Tournament, Ray had to beat Danny Kuchinski to create a playoff situation. On the last pitch Ray threw only one ringer. Dan's first shoe was on, but he missed the second shoe which landed in the box and rolled close to the stake for a 50-49 victory. Ray was devastated by this loss. He ended up third with an 81.0% average.

TROY HORSESHOE CLUB FREE CLINIC

The Troy Horseshoe Club is holding a free clinic to anyone wanting to learn how to pitch horseshoes. Ages 8 years and up. All kids and adults welcome! Join us and enjoy learning the great sport of horseshoes!

Location:

**Miami Co Fairgrounds
650 N County Road 25A
Troy, Ohio 45373**

Dates:

**April 27-28 (1pm to 4pm)
May 4-5 (1pm to 4pm)**

Contact:

**Doug Singer 937-212-5879 or
Tom Kirk 937-573-7900**

Secretary Notes

I'm glad the cold weather is behind us and we can start pitching outside again. Those of you that can pitch indoors during the winter months, I envy you.

While horseshoe pitching nationwide continues to decline every year, I was glad to see three Provisional New Members (\$10) joined this year with hopefully more new pitchers to come. We are grateful to those that are bringing in these new members. Please continue to do so. Ask your neighbor, friend, people at church, if they would like to pitch. Too many fellow pitchers/family have passed away. They will all be greatly missed. We are losing pitchers faster than we are gaining. Please help to keep the great sport of horseshoe pitching alive!

The Hardin County Horseshoe Club has recently moved from the Fairgrounds to the Moose Lodge #428, 801 W Lima, Kenton. I also hear that the new courts in London at the Union Co Fairgrounds are coming along nicely. Hopefully I will be able to add another sanctioned tournament to the schedule.



To the Tournament/League Directors – I would like to thank each and every one of you and your club members for doing all that it takes to run a tournament and/or league. It is a lot of work but absolutely well worth the effort. Please continue to turn in your results to Tod and pay the \$1 Sanction Fee per pitcher to the OHPA and mail it to me. At this time, I have not been made aware of who or when the new HSMaster will be available. I will keep you posted on any news.

A couple of personal notes. The Bad News - my Mother's esophageal cancer has returned, so I will be traveling to IN often and will likely get behind on my horseshoe duties. I will do my best but family comes first. The Good News – the law firm where I work is hiring someone to help with the workload. This will be a much needed relief and will hopefully allow me to promote horseshoes even more!

I look forward to seeing everyone on the courts for another season of horseshoe pitching!
Amy Miller, Secretary/Treasurer
614-507-2468 -- ohpasecretary@gmail.com

WELCOME
new members

Jeremy Barr, New Concord
Charlene Campbell, Cincinnati
Chris Ehrnfield, Zanesville
Chris Forey, Zanesville
Morgan Hockinberry, Columbus
Vic Monnin, Russia
Maricia Overly, Caldwell
Samantha Park, Circleville
Dusty Puterbaugh, Zanesville
Clay Ross, Zanesville
Mike Rowlee, Gratiot
Mike Wilson, New Concord



Welcome
Back
We Missed You

Brian Burwell, Zanesville
John Hawk, Chillicothe
Larry Hittle, Zanesville
Roger Hunt, Union City
Rod Paisley, Adamsville
Kurt Proegler, Dublin
Gary Shull, Hicksville
Raymond St John, Oregon



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

Links to Recent **OBITUARIES**

[Steve A. Brown - Nov 8, 2018](#)
[Robert "Mike" Hall - Nov 14, 2018](#)
[Beverly M. Burkitt - Nov 15, 2018](#)
[Boyd Stonerock - Nov 28, 2018](#)
[Gregory L. Betz - Dec 27, 2018](#)





[Joe Harold Orihood - Jan 23, 2019](#)
[Ottie Wayne Reno, Sr. - Feb 11, 2019](#)
[Richard L. Kale - Feb 16, 2019](#)
[Jesse G. Rodriguez - Feb 18, 2019](#)

[Link to 2018 Tournament Results](#)

[Link to 2019 Tournament Results](#)

**Portable Court Donators
Thank you for your Support!!**

Tom King, Chillicothe
Darke County Horseshoe Club, Greenville
Randy Shoemaker, Chillicothe
Ross County Horseshoe Club, Chillicothe
Greene County Horseshoe Club, Xenia
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
Jim Knisley, Zanesville



**Newsletter Submission Deadline is [September 19, 2019](#)
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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