



Shoes News

VOLUME 41 ISSUE #3

MARCH 2016

Shoes News is the official Publication of the Washington State Horseshoe Pitching Association

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Commentary: *Jerry Clark*

They say we northwesterners are lucky, because we have mild winters. That may be true, but it seems our mild winters last from October through March or April. Our one glimmer of hope is that Punxsutawney Phil came out of his hole in Gobblers Knob Pennsylvania on February 2nd, and didn't see his shadow, so we'll be seeing an early spring this year. To that, we horseshoe pitching enthusiasts say a big Baptist...Amen!

Thirty seven horseshoe pitchers were on hand on February 13th at Forest Park in Everett for Winetrou III. We had eight pitchers in Class A, B, and C, along with seven in class D and six in Class E. Because of a lung biopsy, I had done on the previous Thursday, and a hospital stay on Friday, I was only going to be a spectator on this day. So, with camera in hand, and notebook at the ready, I would spend most of the day observing our Winetrou Tournament team in action. You talk about a well oiled machine, as soon as the first round of games had been pitched, score sheets were collected by Marie Michael and brought to the stat room. Margaret Byfield and Carol Sperber went over each score sheet with a fine toothed comb. Then on to Phyl Quist to input the results in to

(Continued on page 4)



Spokane's Franklin Park Courts

Spokane and Bellingham will Host the 2016 State Championships

The Spokane Horseshoe Club will host the 2016 State Singles Championship on September 3rd, 4th, and 5th, and the Bellingham Horseshoe Club will be the hosts for the State Doubles Championship on August 21st. Keep those dates open, and challenge yourself to compete for a State title



Bellingham's Cornwall Park Courts

WASHINGTON STATE HORSESHOE PITCHERS

MENS: MATT FULLER
 ELDERS: RAY POWELL
 CADET: MICALAH RENSHAW



WOMENS: KAITI REEVES
 JR BOYS: J.T. MCCARTHY
 JR GIRLS: MEGAN STONEHOCKER

DOUBLES CHAMPIONS 2015 RAY POWELL AND MONTY MCLAUGHLIN

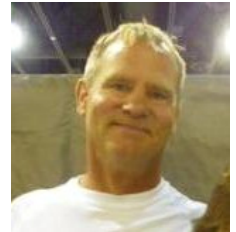




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*Message from
Dennis*



Here we are again. Another month has gone by. The 3rd Winetroust is already in the books. The Winetrousts I guess have been a big hit just judging by the turn out of the horseshoe family. I want to thank all the people who are helping out with the Winetrousts. It couldn't be done with out the volunteers. Thank you Everett and anybody else that has helped with the courts they are in great shape like always. Don't forget the board meeting Winetroust V 8am sharp. Also the junior auction Winetroust 6. Hope to see you at the courts.

The Prez

PS Paul Tutewiler has been improving every week. He hopes to be able to get out soon and visit the horseshoe family.

SHOES NEWS is published monthly except November and December. It is distributed via 1st Class Mail to all subscribers. **Copy deadline, 15th of each month.**

Advertisements:

One Tenth Page \$40; One Sixth Page \$60; Quarter Page \$80
If Shoes News does not have an ad from your community or your club, the charge for promoting your tournament will be \$10. You can collect smaller amounts from a number of businesses to make up a "composite ad" for your area.

Editor: Jerry Clark **Email:** editor.shoesnews@gmail.com
1992 Elger Bay Rd. #544 Camano Island. WA 98282 (425) 293-3438

Subscription to Shoes News: \$20.00 per year. Mail your subscription to Rhonda Davis, 16010 SE 322nd St Auburn WA 98092 (253) 735-0213.

Every Tournament Starts with...

"I pledge allegiance to the flag, of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."



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Pres: John Turnbull—360-826-5520
Vice Pres: Ross Scott—360-336-3828
Treas: Margaret Byfield—360-424-3642
Sec/Stats: Vicki Johnson



A man was applying for a job as a prison guard. The warden said, "Now these are real tough guys in here. Do you think you can handle it?" "No problem the applicant replied, "If they don't behave, out they go!"



WSHPA website:
<http://www.wshpa.com>
Web: Rhonda Davis
monstertrkdoug@aol.com
Email Rhonda with your ideas for the Web Page
Put horseshoes on subject line



Gray Wolf Design

Steve Summerlin
GrayWolfDesign.com
PO Box 536
Webberville, MI 48892-0536

Ph 517-582-1940
Email: Steve@GrayWolfDesign.com

You can see and download the WSHPA schedule, rules and bylaws, a WSHPA entry form, read Shoes News and see lots of other information on the website. The website is growing.

Webmaster: graywolfdesign.com

WSHPA News

Shoes News thanks those who contribute articles, pictures, emails, and other items. Your comments, criticism, and input is always welcome. This page is for you to share your thoughts, and concerns of our horseshoe pitching family. . Lets hear from you.



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ENTRY DEADLINE May 17, 2016

Sam Tomasevic 1-604-328-5276

santom@telus.net ENTRY FEE \$20. JRS FREE

Entry form:

www.bchorseshoe.com/forms/2016INT.pdf

- * **GOOD PRIZE MONEY ADDED**
 - * **SOME CAMPING AVAILABLE**
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Thoughts and Prayers

Keep the prayers going for Don and Rhonda...

Don did go to the emergency room on Sunday, Jan 24th. After a series of tests, including a CT scan and blood work, they concluded that he had a bacterial infection— acute hemorrhagic colitis. He was put on two strong antibiotics. He saw his PCP on the following Friday, and the doctor said this is probably a one time thing. Don did lose a lot of blood, but that was mostly due to being on blood thinners for the blood clots in his lungs.

Editor: Rhonda, thanks for keeping our horseshoe family updated. We'll keep our thoughts and prayers going.

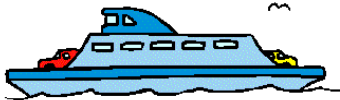
World Tournament Experience Raffle Winners

On Saturday, Oct 3rd 2015, five lucky raffle ticket holders were drawn at the Hall of Fame in Missouri:

- 1st Prize Robbin Quinn, Roseberg OR
- 2nd—5th Prizes; Larry Myers, GA; Mike Lund, ND; Bill Vaughan, WV; Leslie Currier, ME.

Second through fifth prize won free entry to the 2016 World Tournament. The grand prize winner will receive a gift basket spilling over with some gifts that make up part of the 2016 World Tournament Experience. Congratulations to Robbin Quinn, who is the Oregon Ringer Review Editor.

Kitsap County Horseshoes



Port Orchard—Tuesdays 6PM
(360-876-1055)
Silverdale—Fairgrounds
Thursdays 2PM
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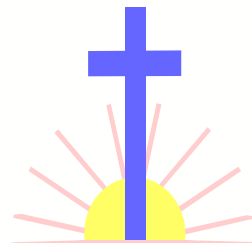
Mailing Address
1011 Bethel Ave.
Port Orchard, WA 98366

Serving Our Community Since 1970

Russ Phillips

Pitching

For Jesus



Col: 3:23

And whatsoever

as to the Lord and not unto men

ye do, do it heartily

continued from page 1

the computer. There were a couple of glitches during the day, one pitcher for health reasons, had to stop pitching near the end of the sixth game of seven, and Class D had to have a 20 shoe playoff that actually went 22 shoes to finally determine the winner, but the whole tournament had wrapped up by about one thirty. The Skagit Horseshoe Club and Lorraine Koistinen provided an excellent lunch for the hungry horseshoe pitchers. Overall, a good day and a fun time was had by all. The class champions for the day were;

Class A Russ Phillips

Class B Mark Bell

Class C Larry Barr

Class D Charlie Tapper

Class E John Adams

Special congratulations to John Adams for winning his very first class patch as a member of the WSHPA. Good job Johnny!

Our Winetrouts are half done for 2016, and we have been seeing real nice turnouts so far averaging about 35 pitchers per tournament. A reminder to the Executive Board members, our meeting will be held before Winetrout V on March 12th, and the Junior Auction and Potluck will be after Winetrout VI on March 26th. It is very encouraging for me to see a good number of pitchers coming to the tournament so far. A number of them are from Enumclaw and the Skagit Valley area, and from everything I've seen these guys are real solid pitchers.

To all our new pitchers, the six Winetrout tournaments are unique. They are scored, ringers only, and alternate pitch. When the regular season starts with the Tulip Open in Burlington on April 9th, we switch to cancellation scoring, and first pitch must be earned on each end. It's a little more challenging, but that's what makes it so much fun.

Single Points:

- This years Hall of Fame Committee Chairperson is Margaret Byfield. Send a letter to her at 17040 Brunswick, Mount Vernon, WA 98273, stating who you believe deserves consideration for the WSHPA HOF, and why. May 1st is the deadline for your nominations. When submitting someone, consider these criteria:
 - Participation (Including length of time)
 - Promotion of our sport
 - Sportsmanship
 - Ability

The inmate was aware that all prison mail passes through censors. When he got a letter from his wife asking about the family garden—"Honey, when do I plant potatoes?"—he wrote back, "Do not under any circumstances, dig up our old garden spot. That's where I buried all my guns." Within days his wife wrote back, "Six investigators came to the house, and dug up every square inch of the back yard." By return mail, she got his answer. "Now is the time to plant potatoes."



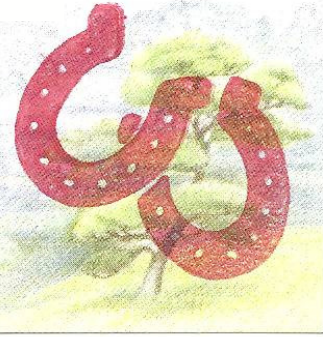
Bellingham Horseshoe Club

Join Us - Mon. & Thurs. 5:30 pm
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Call for Info:

Gene Kuiken 360-927-9893
Dale Perry - 360-733-5957
Phyl Quist - 360-384-4544

Natl. Web:
www.horseshoepitching.com



KEY WEBSITES FOR NORTHWEST HORSESHOE PITCHERS

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NHPA	www.horseshoepitching.com
WASH	www.WSHPA.com
NHPF	www.nhpf.info/index.html



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ENTRY FORM *National Horseshoe Pitchers Association*
July 25th - August 6th Montgomery, Alabama
2016 World Horseshoe Pitching Championships



Name: _____ 2015 NHPA Card # _____
(Please Print) First Last (or Canadian #)
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____
Telephone: _____ Cell: _____ Birth Date: _____
Email: _____ Local Newspaper: _____
Check One: I will print my own schedule _____ Mail my schedule to me. _____

Circle the Division you are entering - You can enter only one division (See notes near bottom of page)

OPEN MEN	SENIOR MEN	OPEN WOMEN	SENIOR WOMEN	ELDER MEN	JR. BOYS	JR. GIRLS	JR CADETS
40ft	40ft (see note #2)		(see note #2)	30ft(see note #1)	(see note #3)		20ft

All applicable information above is required. Form will be returned if not signed below or is incomplete.

Entry Deadline May 16th, 2016

No refunds will be made after May 23rd, 2016

PARTICIPANTS LIABILITY RELEASE: In consideration of participating in such activity, I hereby waive, release and forever discharge the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association, all officers, employees, agents and servants of the afore stated organization, and all fellow participants of this event, for any and all action, cause of action, damage, loss or injury, which I may suffer as a consequence of participating in the World Horseshoe Pitching Tournament. In addition it is understood that the NHPA has sole rights to any and all pictures and/or articles for publication.

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

----- mail top half only -----

ENTRY FEES: ALL ADULTS -- \$130.00 • ALL JUNIORS -- \$25.00 • U.S. FUNDS ONLY
CANADIAN ENTRIES MUST USE MONEY ORDERS ENTRY FEE INCLUDES SCORE KEEPING
MAIL THE TOP PORTION OF THIS FORM along with REGISTRATION FEES (PAYABLE TO NHPA)

TO: NHPA
17259 Jefferson St
Omaha, NE 68135

Direct Telephone & Email Inquiries to:
David Sidles NHPA Sec/Treas.
(402) 763-8882 sec.treas@horseshoepitching.com

All Entries must be on this signed form and mailed with a postmark **no later than May 16, 2016**. Entries received with a postmark after May 16th shall be put on a waiting list and entered into the tournament only as space is available. All adults must have pitched in a minimum of four (4) US/ Canadian sanctioned events in the twelve (12) months **prior to May 16, 2016**, in the same division you are entering. Only one (1) event is required for Juniors. Exceptions for US Armed Forces members and family and foreign competitors (other than Canadians) are outlined in Rule 11, Sec D.1 of the RGS Book. Contact NHPA for more information regarding qualifying exceptions. All averages used will be the average on record in NATSTATS / CANSTATS as of May 16th.

Anyone qualifying under an exception must have those scores recorded by the same date. All NHPA and any special tournament rules apply. NHPA and CANADIAN entrants must show their 2016 membership card when checking in. You may enter at anytime prior to May 16th.

READ CAREFULLY: Any adult male pitching from the full distance platform may enter the **OPEN MEN'S DIVISION** regardless of age, just as any adult female may enter the **OPEN WOMEN'S DIVISION**. To enter the **SENIOR DIVISION**, you must be 60 years of age or older before the end of 2016. Any man that turns 70 years of age in 2016, is older than 70, or has an *approved medical exemption* may enter the **ELDER MEN'S DIVISION**. Entrants in the **JUNIOR BOY** and **JUNIOR GIRL DIVISION** must be 18 years old or less for the entire 2016 calendar year. **JUNIOR CADET DIVISION** entrants must be 12 years old or younger for the entire 2016 calendar year.

Note # 1. 30ft Men with Medical Exemptions must include a copy of their NHPA Charter Acceptance letter or a copy of their NHPA card showing the ME box checked to verify your eligibility to participate in this division.

Note # 2. For class play, a minimum of 48 must enter this division or it will be canceled. All entrants will then pitch in the Open Preliminaries.

Note # 3 Junior Boys and Girls divisions will be mixed for preliminary play.

The pitching schedule will be finalized by May 31st and published on the NHPA website. If you indicated above to receive the schedule by mail, it will be mailed to the address you have listed above during the first week in June.

Please note: The NHPA reserves the right to disallow your participation for any of the following reasons; any errors on this form, if your records don't appear in NatStats or CanStats, any false or misleading information on this form, or any other reason by majority vote of the NHPA Council. The NHPA Hall of Fame Banquet will be held July 31st at the Embassy Suites Hotel Ballroom. Tickets can be purchased for \$30.00 each from the NHPA office or at the World Tournament NHPF booth. Must be purchased by July 27th, 2016.

001-16-003 / WINETROUT III / 02/13/2016			
Class A Mixed	W/L	T %	HG%
Russ Phillips	7/0	80.00	82.50
Don Davis	6/1	60.36	67.50
John Bruhn	5/2	48.57	57.50
Jerry Conklin	3/4	51.43	67.50
Keith Stull	2.5/4.5	41.07	50.00
Larry Getts	2/5	43.93	52.50
Cindy Clausen	1.5/5.5	40.36	50.00
Stan Speers	1/6	41.07	52.50
Class B Mixed	W/L	T %	HG%
Mark Bell	6/1	33.33	45.00
Bob Sperber	5/2	37.50	47.50
Gerald Stangland	5/2	35.71	42.50
Mark Young	5/2	32.72	37.50
Monty McLaughlin	2.5/4.5	30.36	45.00
Jon Turnbull	2/5	33.57	37.50
Nick Nicholson	1.5/5.5	22.14	37.50
Gene Kuiken	1/5	29.74	37.50
Class C Mixed	W/L	T%	HG%
Larry Barr	5.5/1.5	40.36	55.00
Rick Bidwell	5/2	32.86	40.00
Dennis Tutewiler	4/3	28.93	40.00
Ron Burt	4/3	28.21	40.00
Marv Herridge	3.5/3.5	38.21	50.00
Al Barcus	3/4	30.36	42.50
Bill Martino	3/4	29.64	45.00
David Brown	0/7	28.57	40.00
Class D Mixed	W/L	T %	HG%
Charlie Tapper	5.5/1.5	24.05	32.50
Vic Magnus	4.5/2.5	24.81	35.00
Wes Chase	4/2	22.50	30.00
Ross Scott	4/2	21.67	30.00
Daryl Hahn	3/3	20.42	25.00
Sharon McLaughlin	1/5	18.33	35.00
Jean Covington	0/6	15.00	22.50
Class E Mixed	W/L	T %	HG%
John Adams	5/0	25.50	35.00
Jim Quist	3.5/1.5	24.00	30.00
Justin Bryant	3/2	19.00	30.00
Darrell Koistinen	2.5/2.5	14.00	17.50
Herb Milbourne	1/4	15.50	22.50
Chris Poe	0/5	6.00	10.00

001-16-004 / WINETROUT IV / 02/27/2016			
Class A Mixed	W/L	T %	HG%
Russ Phillips	7/0	77.50	85.00
Barry Chapelle	6/1	59.64	67.50
Don Davis	5/2	64.29	72.50
Jerry Conklin	3/4	51.79	62.50
John Bruhn	3/4	51.07	62.50
Stan Speers	2/5	44.29	67.50
Edward Ludwig	1/6	45.36	57.50
Cindy Clausen	1/6	42.50	57.50
Class B Mixed	W/L	T %	HG%
Monty McLaughlin	6/1	42.14	57.50
Gerald Stangland	4/3	35.00	45.00
Marv Herridge	3.5/3.5	36.79	50.00
Keith Stull	3/4	42.50	52.50
Jon Turnbull	3/4	41.07	57.50
Mark Young	3/4	36.79	50.00
Bob Sperber	3/4	36.07	45.00
Nick Nicholson	2.5/4.5	31.43	42.50
Class C Mixed	W/L	T%	HG%
Larry Barr	5.5/1.5	32.50	40.00
Ron Burt	4/3	31.79	45.00
Jerry Clark	4/3	28.21	37.50
Mark Bell	3.5/3.5	33.57	47.50
Rick Bidwell	3.5/3.5	31.07	45.00
Dennis Tutewiler	3/4	31.79	42.50
Al Barcus	2.5/4.5	31.07	42.50
Bill Martino	2/5	31.07	45.00
Class D Mixed	W/L	T %	HG%
Vic Magnus	7/2	27.81	35.00
Daryl Hahn	5/3	31.67	52.50
Ross Scott	5/3	23.33	40.00
Kyle Leggett	4/3	18.93	30.00
David Brown	3/4	29.29	47.50
Charlie Tapper	3/4	19.29	25.00
Eddie Ludwig Jr	2/5	20.00	25.00
Mac Huson	1/6	18.57	40.00

WINETROUT IV / Continued			
Class E Mixed	W/L	T %	HG%
Sharon McLaughlin	5.5/1.5	25.71	47.50
Wes Chase	5/2	22.86	32.50
Justin Bryant	4.5/2.5	21.43	32.50
John Adams	4.5/2.5	16.79	25.00
Jim Quist	4/3	21.43	30.00
Herb Milbourn	3.5/3.5	21.79	40.00
Chris Poe	1/6	8.57	22.50
Patrick Souza	0/7	3.57	7.50

WINETROUT PICS:



Dennis Calls Meeting to Order



Morning Opening



Out On The Courts

**TWO
WINETROUTS
TO GO!**

Odessa Horseshoe Club

Loren Totusek - President
 Dave Goodwin WSHPA Representative
 & Tournament Director
 1.509.639.2547 - 1.509.431.7239

Willkommen to Odessa
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On the tournament trail with Art & Carol Sperber

Art & Carol Sperber have been married for almost 63 years, and have lived in the same house on Chico Way in Bremerton since 1961. All three of their children; Mary Anderson, Ann Almond and Bob Sperber are nearing retirement age. They have seven grandchildren; Emily Gerber, Jakob Anderson, Neil Anderson, Kara Turner, James Almond, William Almond and Elisabeth Shepherd, and six and 1/2 great grandchildren.

Carol grew up in Cosmopolis WA (near Aberdeen) and lived in Central Park (between Aberdeen and Montesano). She attended Weatherwax High School in Aberdeen. Her first employment was in her father's shoe repair shop in Aberdeen for several years. She attended Grays Harbor College and then Western Washington College of Education (now University in Bellingham). While going to college she clerked at a local dime store and Sears. Carol was an elementary school teacher in Olympia, Garibaldi OR and Silverdale plus also did some substitute teaching. Art grew up in Tillamook OR and attended Tillamook High School. Art's first employment was working for farmer's in haying and cleaning barns etc. Next he worked in sawmills and then as a helper in one of Tillamook's cheese factories where they won a Blue Ribbon for their cheese in OR and then Wisconsin. After two years at Western Oregon college (now University), in 1951 Art was drafted in to the army where he was involved with the 7th Infantry Division in the Korean War. When he was released he went to work as an elementary teacher in Giribaldi OR. During the summers he completed his BA at OCE. Four years later, he and Carol moved to Creswell OR where he was a teaching principal and coached in the Junior High. During the summers, he attended the University of Oregon to complete his masters degree. After three years they moved to Bremerton where Art was an elementary teacher and principal until he retired in 1983 to become a horseshoe pitcher.

Carol and Art have done much traveling in the US and Canada. They've also done overseas travel in Europe, New Zealand and Hong Kong. In addition, they have bicycled in England and the Netherlands several times. She has also had a lot of fun with the family history—having written several booklets about their families, and with daughter, Mary, she has researched family history in Rhode Island and in England. Carol has a number of hobbies and interests in her leisure time, including cross word and jigsaw puzzles, browsing the Web, watching TV sports, PBS TV, listening to public radio and reading—especially British mysteries. Art enjoys fishing and hunting and also does a lot of reading. Carol pitches in two Kitsap leagues during the summer and one in the winter. As a youngster, she pitched a bit with her dad, but most of her exposure to horseshoes came when Art picked up the game. Art pitched with his father and brother as a teenager but first saw league action at Cornwall Park in Bellingham in 1975 during a time when they lived there while Carol went to college during the summer. Bob Edwards of the Bellingham club showed Art the ropes and got him started pitching with them. He told him that Bremerton had a horseshoe club and league which Art looked in to when home. Carol attended many horseshoe tournaments as a spectator in the late 70's and 80's, then began keeping score. Carol started practicing at home in 1987 and started pitching in leagues at about the same time. Her beginning average in September 1987 was 11.92%. By June 1989 she was up to 21.38%. Carol has been a member of the WSHPA for 28 years. She was the Shoes News editor for six years, and WSHPA secretary for 15 years. During that time she estimates sending out more than 200 cards, get well, sympathy, cheer etc to members and their families. She couldn't remember her very first tournament, but her first State Singles tournament was in Spokane in 1988. She finished third in Women's Class A. She averaged 17.53% in that tournament and had a high game of 31%. Thirteen women pitched in the 1988 State Tournament. In total, Carol has won 11 State Women's Championships, her first coming in 1997 in Kennewick. In a remarkable coincidence Art won his first State Singles Championship at that same tournament. Art recalls pitching in his very first tournament in 1975 at Lake Padden in Bellingham.

Some of their favorite courts to pitch on are Burlington, Olympia and Bellingham. Carol pitches a flip shoe, holding her shoe just to the right of center back, caulks down. She has always pitched Gordon horseshoes, even though some of her World Tournaments opponents looked on them with disdain when they saw what she was using. Their balance seems just right for her, so she hasn't used anything else. Her best game pitching the "rolling Gordons" was an 85% game in Bellingham, skunking her and Art's good friend Glen Heistand—a shame to do that to such a nice guy. Art used to pitch a 1 3/4 turn but now uses a 1 1/4 turn and pitches Imperial Horseshoes. He has won a state championship with both. Carol's most memorable game was memorable for all the wrong reasons. It was at a State Tournament in Burlington when she lost to Carol Bonds while pitching a 13% game. It was early in the morning and she couldn't get going at all, but it didn't help that the scorekeeper kept commenting on her many misses. But she came back the next day and skunked Carol Bonds in the second game of the double round robin, pitching 78.57%. Her average over the two day tournament was 53.06%. Carol likes horseshoes because it is a form of exercise that she can continue doing as the years go by. She had to learn to be competitive, but has come to enjoy that aspect of the game too. Art and Carol enjoy the people, and have made many friends through the years. It's not quite the same as the "old days" though, when so many of us spent tournament weekends at the courts in our RVs. We had evenings, happy hours, pot lucks and musical entertainment. There were several good musicians among the pitchers and their wives. I know there are some musicians among us now, but they keep it mighty quiet. Art has pitched in 37 State Tournaments and about 15 World Tournaments. Carol has pitched in 22 State Tournaments, and 12 World Tournaments. She won Women's Class G in Gillette WY one year. To the question, tell us something about yourself nobody knows, she said, "I was a miserable math student." "I was a good student in all other subjects." Her weakness in math kept her from pursuing a scientific career. As an elementary teacher, she taught a lot of science to 5th & 6th graders, among other subjects, and was very understanding to those students who had trouble with math.

I bet even Gene Kuiken couldn't come up with an excuse that these former school teachers haven't heard before.



The Flat-Out Truth About Plateaus...

According to Clay and Sandy Pitts



Clay Pitts was at his club practice one night. A few of his fellow pitchers were sitting around talking. One of the guys who had a lot of experience was telling him that pitchers have times when their games “plateau” for a period of time, then they start progressing again until they hit another plateau. As Clay was listening to this veteran pitcher explain this phenomenon, he started taking a mental inventory of his own pitching history. His game had been improving slowly but steadily, his ringer percentage was edging upward, he was placing in a few tournaments, and even winning one now and then. He wondered if what the old guy was telling him about plateaus was true.

He went home that night and was discussing the topic with his wife, Sandy. Before they went to bed that night, Sandy said, “Clay, don’t forget the wise words of your mentor, Rusty Stake. He used to tell you a man with an experience is never at the mercy of a man with an argument.” After that, Clay didn’t think much more about it.

Fast forward a few months. The funny thing about plateaus is, you don’t know you’re on one, until you’ve been there for a while. Sure enough, Clay looked back on a few months and tournaments, and saw that his ringer percentage was hovering at a certain place, and even regressing now and then. Exasperated, a couple thoughts came to him. The first was, “maybe this is what I am, and where I’m going to stay.” The second was, “maybe what I need is a horseshoe pitchers extreme makeover, just like those television shows.” Sandy told him to stay away from those two extremes, and he’d probably be just fine. She told him, “You don’t have any serious flaws in your delivery, so just keep grinding and stay the course.”

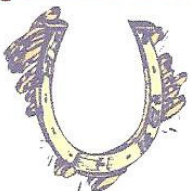
Ultimately, Clay decided to make a couple tweaks in his game. He slowed his arm speed, worked on a smoother follow through, and finally, made sure his stride was not sabotaging everything his upper body was doing, and sure enough soon he was back on track.

Clay told Sandy, “I’m finding this crazy game of horseshoes is a heck of a lot like mountain climbing, where you spend as much time moving horizontally as vertically.” Sandy laughed and said, “well you know dear, a famous mountain climber once said, when it’s been a long day of climbing, and I feel like I can’t go any farther, I concentrate on the next three feet, then the next three feet, then the next three feet, and pretty soon, I’m at the top.” Clay said, “you’re right sweetie, but you’ll have to ask Russ Phillips what the view is like from up there, I’m still dodging these lousy plateaus half way up the mountain.”

Clay and Sandy Pitts with a little help from Jerry Clark

You can view Shoes News online. Go to wshpa.com and click on [newsletter](#)

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Note : If there is more than one adult pitcher in your household, you may subtract \$20 for the duplicate Shoes News subscription. Contact Rhonda if you have any questions.

(Note : Nat'l dues and insurance \$17, WSHPA dues inc. Shoes News \$30 = Total of \$47. Deduct \$5 if lifetime pitcher.)

2016 Tournament Schedule

Entry Deadline is 9:00 pm Thursday prior to the Tournament

- MAR 12 WINETROUT V FOREST PARK, EVERETT Dennis Tutewiler / 253-472-0424
Executive Board Meeting
- MAR 26 WINETROUT VI FOREST PARK, EVERETT Dennis Tutewiler / 253-472-0424
Junior Auction and Potluck
- APRIL 9 TULIP OPEN, SKAGIT RIVERSIDE PK, BURLINGTON..... Jon Turnbull / 360-826-5520
- APRIL 16 COLUMBIA BASIN OPEN, EASTGATE PK, KENNEWICK.....Monty McLaughlin/ 509-987-4931
- APRIL 30 ODESSA SPRING FLING, FINNEY FIELD, ODESSA Ron Heutink / 509-754-5132
- APRIL 30 KITSAP OPEN, S KITSAY CNTY PK, PRT ORCHARD Bonnie Lewis / 360-876-1055



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