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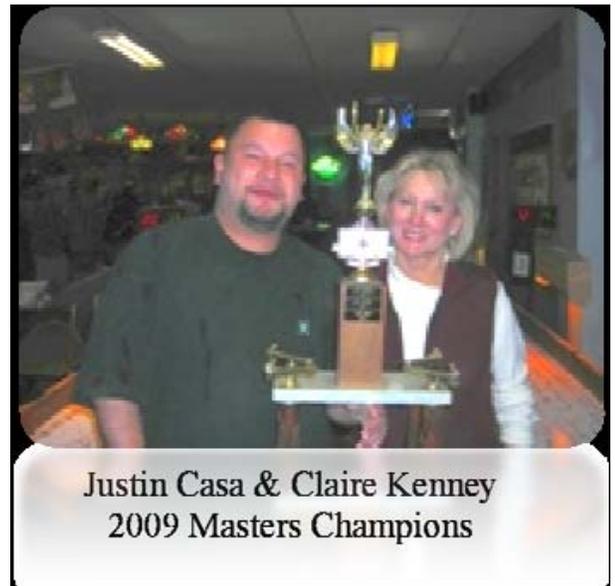
Ernie's Fir Cone Bar & Grill Shelton, Washington **27th Annual Masters** By Dwayne Dibley

At the end of February, in a small logging town in Western Washington called Shelton, a shuffleboard tournament has been going on for 27 years. That's a lot of history. For those of you who don't know, the Fir Cone Tavern was named after the hangout of the famous Three Musketeers. Yes, that is where they played shuffleboard. Just as a side note the *Declaration Of Independence* was signed in a tavern. Has anyone checked to see if Buddy Smith is one of the signatures?

In 1982, Fir Cone Owner Buddy Smith with the help of the local players thought up the Masters Shuffleboard Tournament. At that time it would have been hard to believe that the tournament would continue for 27 years. But it has, and the original trophy is still intact with all 27 winning teams inscribed. If you think about it, the only thing that has stayed the same over 27 years is that trophy. The bar has changed hands three times, the historical significance of the name has changed, and even the boards are different.

Something else is also different. If you study the names on the Master's trophy you will find that all the names are of men. This is no longer the case. In 2009, Claire Kenney made history by being the first woman to get her name inscribed on the trophy. Congratulations Claire.

Everyone who was looking forward to getting their name on the trophy competed in the Friday Night Draw to gather needed board experience and the cash to cover the weekend. Mike Strayer & Les Burt defeated all foes to win the experience and cash.



**Justin Casa & Claire Kenney
2009 Masters Champions**

The 2009 Masters Champions are Claire Kenney & Justin Casa. They had to beat out last years champions Darrol Nelson & Dino Mako, who were forced to settle for second this year. Third place went to Mike Waters and Gary George; both are on the trophy from previous years. Nels Anderson & Mike Strayer finished fourth. This was one of the best Masters Tournaments in about the last 5 years. Ernie would like to express his appreciation to the players from all over who showed up to compete. Ernie would also like to personally invite all players to the next tournament: The Forest Festival Tournament, an A-B Draw event at Ernie's Fir Cone Bar & Grill in June. Ernie was confused about a reference to riding Space Mountain, but said he would get to the bottom of it. Perhaps he should talk to TBK or research past Board Talk articles.

Blue Goose Tavern
Port Orchard, WA
REMEMBERING OUR OWN
By Michelle Foran



On January 24th 2009, we held a memorial at the Blue Goose Tavern in Port Orchard, WA for Steve Bjorn (Wilson) and Tommy Frietag. Steve's daughter, Leslie, had a memorial for her dad in Longview but many of us were unable to attend because of the weather and we just couldn't let him go without saying goodbye so we decided to have a memorial. Steve was a great shuffleboard player and a champion pool player. He won many shuffleboard tournaments and pool tournaments. He once won a big pool tournament in Las Vegas. I think he may have won a nice big motor home which he later sold for a trip to Hawaii. Steve was such a likeable person and never had a bad word to say about anyone. He loved his daughter, his friends and fishing. He is truly missed.

Some of us were unable to attend the memorial that Tommy's family had for him so we decided to include Tommy in our memorial as well. Tommy was such a sweet man who was always talking and laughing. Tommy, like Steve, never had a bad word to say about anyone. Tommy also played shuffleboard. One of the proudest moments in his shuffleboard career was when he made the winning shot (that was almost impossible to make) to win the team event at the Northwest Regional in Longview, WA. Tommy was the man of the hour and as proud as a peacock with that shot. Tommy loved his family and friends and will be missed.

Linda Steffensen and I would like to thank all who attended (and there were many) and those of you who brought food and shared stories about these two friends that are sadly no longer with us. I pray that they are resting peacefully under the wings of a special Angel.

Frankie's
A-B Draw Handicapped
January 16-18, 2009
By Dwayne Dibley

The holiday season is over bringing an end to 2008. 2009 brings anticipation with a new tournament schedule, new ratings, and new conquest. One such new conquest is Frankie's. That's right Frankie's is back in the game, and hosted the first tournament of 2009.

With Mud Bay and Nifty Fifty's disappearing from the shuffleboard scene, Olympia/Tacoma players went to the one place that had excellent boards, a great environment, and shuffleboard friendly Owners. Frankie's Sports Bar & Grill on Pacific Ave in Olympia is centrally located and has 3 boards. What else could a displaced shufflers want. Owners Frank & Cheri Schnarrs are excited about current events and willing to do whatever is necessary to ensure successful tournaments and weekly play.

Weekly play all over Washington includes players from all different skill levels. Therefore, it was only fitting to start the year off right with an A-B Draw. Getting everyone involved is not only exciting and fun, but it makes for a better payday. In addition, it evens the playing field and gives everyone a great chance to get in the money. Much better than a bring your own where the teams are stacked. The A-B Draw is a real fair sporting event where anything can happen.

Everyone who attended started the year off right and were winners, but only a few got paid and only one team will go down in history as the First Annual Frankie's A-B Champions:

Clark Kenney & Jeanette Hohn
Champions



Mike Waters & Mike Strayer 2nd. Place

Don "Jaun" Stallsworth & Linda Steffensen 3rd. Place

John Fisher & Ryan Strayer 4th. Place

Paying down to 4th. Place takes a little away from the top three places, but provides a reward for fighting so hard and playing so good. John, Ryan *thanks again*.

All in all it was a great tournament. Even the players who couldn't make it, but stopped by wished they had joined us.... Yea, we had that much fun. Just ask "Mustang Sally" Vern Gonzales.

But if you did miss this one, you have another chance in September. Frankie's is hosting a Major Tournament with multiple events on Labor Day Weekend. This will truly have something for everyone...you don't want to miss out again...do ya?

Blue Goose Tavern
Port Orchard, WA
Sweethearts

By Claire Kenney

February 14 2008 was the date this year for the 32nd annual Sweetheart Tournament. It doesn't happen very often but this years tourney did land on Valentines Day.

Dee Hudson and her Blue Goose Tavern have been hosting this event for twenty years. Its a good location. A bar with a warm feel and a view of Puget Sound outside the door attracts shuffleboard players from all areas of the Pacific Northwest and Canada.

The pre tournament draw on Friday night was a kick-off for the weekend competition. This was held at the Red Dog Saloon which is only a stones throw from the Blue Goose. As in years past both taverns are used because of the many entries and the need for all four boards. Claire Kenney and Ken Simmons drew partners Friday night and earned first place bragging rights.

Bill Walker, bracket man and tournament director had pen in hand early Saturday morning to sign up participants so the event could start on time. Bill runs a lot of tournaments. He's a fair man and his events are well ran. Good job Bill.

The Saturday night feast was just that. A feast. Players and fans brought some of their favorite dishes for everyone to try. No one leaves hungry here. The "cooks" always outdo themselves.

Claire Kenney and Ken Simmons teamed up this year and took first place but not without a fight from Mel and Jeanette Hohn. Coming from the losers bracket Mel & Jeanette beat Claire & Ken to put both teams on equal footing for a one game to twenty-one play off.

Kudos to Mike Waters. He took a relatively new player Teri Rasmussen and finished in the money.

1st place-----Ken Simmons & Claire Kenney
2nd place-----Mel & Jeanette Hohn
3rd place-----Mike Waters & Teri Rasmussen

2009 Pacific Northwest Shuffleboard Tournament Schedule

January		February		March	
Oregon	Washington	Oregon	Washington	Oregon	Washington
<u>23-24-25</u> 3 Person Bring Gooney's Coos Bay (541) 404-1404	<u>9-10-11</u> A-B Draw (Handicapped) Frankie's Olympia	Nothing scheduled	<u>13-14-15</u> Sweethearts Blue Goose/Red Dog Port Orchard <u>27-28</u> 27 th Annual Masters Ernie's Fir Cone Shelton	<u>6-7-8</u> 3 Person Draft Glasscock's Rogue River (541) 531-7024 (541) 582-0415	Nothing scheduled
April		May		June	
Oregon	Washington	Oregon	Washington	Oregon	Washington
Nothing scheduled	<u>3-4-5</u> 50 & Over Tim's Timber Longview <u>24-25-26</u> A-B-C Draw BZ's Burien	<u>2-3</u> Open doubles/singles Eagles Lodge Medford (541) 582-1623	<u>8-9-10</u> A-B Bring Whistling Oyster Quilcene <u>19-20-21-22-23-24-25</u> PNW Shuffleboard Extravaganza Little Creek Casino Shelton	<u>19-20-21</u> A-B Doubles Bring Gooney's Coos Bay (541) 404-1404	<u>5-6-7</u> A-B Draw Ernie's Fir Cone Shelton ??19-20-21?? Edison
July		August		September	
Oregon	Washington	Oregon	Washington	Oregon	Washington
<u>3-4-5</u> Multi Event Maxwell-Olson Grants Pass (541) 660-2031 (541) 955-7357	??17-18-19?? Mixed Ernie's Fir Cone Shelton <u>31 July-2 August</u> Grand Masters Whistling Oyster Quilcene	Nothing scheduled	<u>31 July-2 August</u> Grand Masters Whistling Oyster Quilcene CANADA ??14-15-16?? Canadian Masters	<u>4-5-6</u> Mixed Doubles Maxwell-Olson Grants Pass (541) 660-2031 (541) 955-7357	<u>3-4-5-6-7</u> PNW F.O.F. Multi event Frankie's Olympia <u>18-19-20</u> A-B-C Steffensen/Hudson Memorial draw Blue Goose/Red Dog Port Orchard
October		November		December	
Oregon	Washington	Oregon	Washington	Oregon	Washington
<u>2-3-4</u> 3 Person Draft Glasscock's Rogue River (541) 531-7024 (541) 582-0415	<u>1-2-3-4</u> State Tournament Tim's Timber Longview RENO NEVADA <u>31 October-8</u> November	<u>28</u> 3 Person Bring Limit 1 "A" Player Eagles Lodge Medford (541) 582-1623	RENO NEVADA <u>31 October-8</u> November ??27-28-29?? BZ's Burien	Nothing scheduled	Nothing scheduled