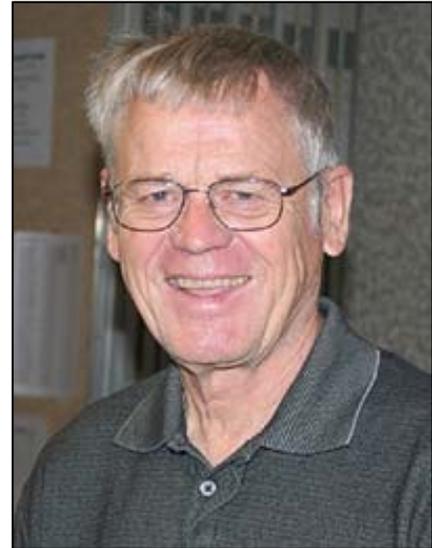


THE RED BARON SPEAKS

June-July 2009– Larry Creakbaum

My ignorance with the computer along with a crashed hard drive delayed delivery of the May issue so I am calling this the June-July issue.



Del City was a success in my opinion. The registered players were only up slightly and the sponsor sales down for the top end players but the RV's were back. There were six in my cluster at the North end of the building, three or four more just north of that, a couple down south, and several tents, pop ups, trailers and mobile RV's in what I call the north camping area. My limited mobility kept me from exploring closely. Ninety eight players were in the AB draw, ninety six in the four person bring, and then it appeared they left after the first week end. Only seventy five were in the singles and thirteen teams in the draft event. Sixty four players split up to play the three division bring partner.

Discussion around the water cooler centered on nothing. A couple comments on the need for a performance based rating system but no suggestions on how to do it. The rules popped up a couple of times but no violence. I am firmly convinced we need a written set of rules for all of shuffleboard and then if owners and directors want to make changes, they can prepare a written addendum for their location or event. That way you don't have to read the complete book every event. Where would tennis, bowling and golf be without a rule book? If we want to grow up as a sport we have to act like a sport. NASC publishes a rule book for the event. TSA is working on a set of rules. I would hope they say the same thing. It is probably too late for 2009 but maybe 2010? Written rules are probably not totally necessary for long time players, but essential for new players.

Now on to the Bowers rating system, TSA and eshuffleboard.com. Ron Bowers is not the "Perpetual man". We as players must help him prepare for the future. George and Donna did their best, but what happened to Boardtalk? To me, TSA is a players association and provides the direction for the Hall Of Fame. Eshuffleboard is a media outlet and information provider. They both have their little niche in the game. Neither has the staff to take on the Bowers rating system. I do not see how Ron does it. The backbone of our major event system is headed for doomsday if we do not do something.

Getting a list of members in TSA is harder than getting into Fort Knox, but it is very small compared to the number of players. Not buying a beverage for one day or having one less beverage per playing day could finance a membership to TSA. We all play for fun and the money, yours truly included. There will never be any money in shuffleboard until we have sponsorship. That starts with a strong players association. Join TSA now and build for the future. Also remember where you probably read this and drop a donation to eshuffleboard.com. I am sure someone is out there who would like to run with rating system and try to make a buck, but look at what happened to Boardtalk.



If in the process of writing this I have stepped on anyone's toes, move your toes.