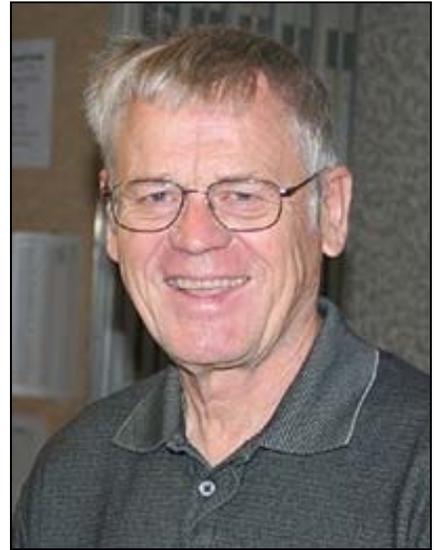


# THE RED BARON SPEAKS

August 2010 – Larry Creakbaum

The first of August was on Sunday which met the change from the previous month was on the week end. I called my son and had him book me space available on a non-stop early morning flight to Las Vegas. I managed to squeeze in the first row with five other passengers and even though it was a three and one half hour flight, I arrived at the hotel and the location of that week's action before ten in the morning. I was given what I was told the only room available that early in the morning, room 307. That was a shorter walk than room 211 from last year but it was on the third floor instead of the second, This involved after walking to the door, opening a door which opened from the left and gong into a small landing at top of the stairway, thru a door opening from the right if I could reach over my walker and not fall down the stairway, into a small cubicle to get on the elevator and go down one floor to the shuffleboard room. The floor outside the elevator was  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch higher than the elevator and on a 45 degree bevel was difficult to push my walker across. The return trip to the room was on an outside walkway and if the 104 degree temperature was not hot enough the hot air from the individual room air conditioners blowing on the walkway made it feel like a blast furnace.



Not having slept much the night before and being a long trip for my legs, I welcomed the early arrival and the opportunity to rest. In the middle of the afternoon I went to the tables, practiced, shook hands with friends and talked. Finally about six, I was told the AB drawing would not start until after seven and I told the director I was going to my room to rest. Leaving my walker in the playing area and using my cane to lesson travel time I went to my room. Sometime after eight o'clock with the phone ringing and someone beating on the door I was awakened and told I was up. Half asleep I was told it was my practice and I shot my four weights. The game started and without the hammer on my third weight I put deep deuce or light three on the end and my opponent missed it. Although I had noticed it in my early practice, weights did not always go where you intended my attempted block went off center leaving the weight wide open. My opponent cut loose with a speed demon, hit the weight square and drove his shooting weight to a four. We never recovered. The second game I played worse and I began to wonder if it was worth waking up.

The next event was the four person draft. Our "A" team had already lost and we appeared headed for victory with me playing an acceptable game, when my partner's opponent made the same hard shot and drove his shooting to a four on the same board and the same end as the day before. We set forever for the next match and were finally told the doubles auction for tomorrow's event would be held first. As I was ready to go to my room to rest and it was suddenly changed that we would play first. By this time I was tired, my medicine was out of sync, and I might as well have thrown my weights in the lake.

The way I was playing, I did not even try for a doubles partner and waited for the four person-bring which was changed to an ABC draw. I was too heavy even for two partners to carry. Dejected I could not wait until I was on the airplane and headed home the next day.

The first full week end in August was open except for something on the west coast which was not feasible for me to travel too. The second week end there was an open doubles scheduled forty five miles from my home and I arrived to find it had been cancelled weeks before. I guess I am going to have to return to my business policy of calling ahead the day of the event to check and see if any thing has changed.

The next week was a Pro Am event at Bourbon and for the first time in over a year I arrived with a partner lined up in advance. I had a good first game, terrible second game and a so-so third game. Two bad frames did us in. If I could just remember to follow thru, then and open date except for the annual birthday party.

The first week end of September is Labor Day week end. Checking the TSA web site and [eshuffleboard.com](http://eshuffleboard.com), I find seven different events listed. How many more are held that are not listed? The seven listed are Fairmount, IN, 75 miles; Durand, MI, 330 miles; Pottstown, PA, 634 Miles; Wynnewood, OK, 793 miles/ Cedar Park, TX, 1100 miles, Bellflower CA, 2069 miles; and Olympia, WA, 2258 miles. All of these events require a rating system to be held and the assistance of TSA or [eshuffleboard.com](http://eshuffleboard.com) to publish their existence. Have any of these events provided any financial assistance to these organizations to insure their longevity?

Which one am I going too? Click in next month and find out.

