

THE RED BARON SPEAKS

September-October 2010 – Larry Creakbaum

Due to miscommunication between the publisher and me, August came out late, so I am combining Sep. & Oct. into one.



The first week end of September, as is every year, was Labor Day week end. Purdue played Notre Dame at South Bend in football of which I bought my allotment of two tickets but did not request handicap seating and my son took them for him and his wife. I loaded up on Wednesday night and headed for Wynnewood, OK. Why Wynnewood? I always wanted to go there and secondly the handicapped events scheduled I thought I could be more competitive. Also I do not know if anyone else noticed but in the central part of the country gas prices were as low as I have seen for several months, until my last fuel stop, which over night they had raised the price about twenty five cents a gallon. I guess we travelers are going to have to start coming home a day early from a long week end.

I arrived in the middle of the afternoon, and as I entered the facility I was greeted by old friends and started meeting new ones. I became more acquainted with some previous casual acquaintances and as the evening and week end wore on several old friends arrived so eventually there were approximately fifty three players whom registered for one or more events.



Back to shuffleboard, I was not very competitive until the singles and I won my first two games, then my legs got tired, my body got tired, my mind went to sleep and I could not have beat the drunk lying on the floor at the end of the water cooler. I left as the doubles action was in progress as I had been there for three days and I could feel I had out stayed my endurance.

The last three weekends of September were home football games and then October starts with an open date, a road game, and I will then return to shuffleboard.

The first week end of October was a pro-am at the Bourbon Legion. In the Friday night draw I drew some girl and we managed to get second. I had a good partner for the pro-am on Saturday and we lost the first game, which I should have won for us, and then won two, and lost the next which we both had a chance to win, but did not.

I played well enough that week end to venture 900 miles to Hurst, TX to see what the pucking singles was like. If you want to know more about it, find a flyer which I stumbled across on the TSA site. In the Friday night draw I was paired with a player who said he only started about two months ago. He could hit weights pretty good and I tried to get his weight placement to improve. We managed to win the middle of three games as it was a double elimination instead of a single like most Friday nights. We would have won two if I had not had my normal bad first game.

I had to leave before it was over to arrive home in time for the annual Indiana Aviation Conference which I attended for the forty fifth year in a row. The conference was held at the French Lick, IN Resort and Casino and was an endurance builder for Reno. As with any building over 100 years old, several additions had bee added at different levels and there were stairways of five or ten steps to negotiate all over the place. Recent additions had added elevators for the handicapped, or ramps that went back and forth and added several feet to the trip. The distance from the room to the conference center was considerable and I now need to walk the dog to keep the endurance improvement up.

Next is a home football game and then a doubles which my wife is gone and left me to baby sit the dog and the new sod in the back yard. After that it is on to Reno and I hope to see a lot of you there. Remember to tell me your name when I see you because my memory is getting pretty poor.

I expect there will be the normal griping about the boards and I do not know why. First there are twenty four boards or forty eight ends. I could not have practiced enough when I was young and able to learn that many let alone now that I am old and feeble. Today's powder, wax, or dust whatever you call it is the best ever especially that calfxxxx yellow from the late fifties or early sixties. Most of the facilities were not air conditioned and keeping boards the same from cold snowy northern Michigan to the dry deserts of Nevada and Arizona to moisture saturated Florida was impossible. The only powder problem that can be solved is that after it rattles around during shipment by truck, train or dog sled, is to remix at the facility location to remix the white evenly through out. Now throw in three sets of weights with two different colors with forty eight ends and it is no wonder a weight is a little erratic now and then. So quit griping. See you in Reno.

