

To all Shuffleboard players,

The NASC Tournament held at the Sands Regency Hotel and Casino in Reno Nevada was a great success. John McDermott and crew did such a fantastic job with this tournament that enough cannot be sad for their efforts.

I have only been to this venue once before in 1996. At that time, I had no real appreciation for shuffleboard. I played only to party, and for no other reason. I was not a nice person then and have since apologized to many people for my actions. Needless to say, I have made many positive changes in my life and truly enjoy this sport. I have also made many friends and met so many people that make up a family in this sport that I am very thankful to be a part of.

I told you that so you have an opportunity to understand where I am from and what this game means to me. In Reno, I played terrible. I couldn't hit a weight if it fell on me. My self and Lewis Bailey of Arizona made a side bet that I couldn't drop my weight case from the balcony and hit someone standing still below me. We didn't try, but based on my performance he would have won. Through all of that, none of the teammates I had ever got on me for poor play. I am sure the disappointment was there, but in true sportsmanship, everyone just understood. My doubles partner I feel especially bad for. Wendell Herbison of Arizona took a chance on me and I did not live up to my end of our effort. For that I am sorry.

So, from that I can tell you that I learned a lot about the game and myself. I learned that no matter what, there are people in this game that understand and are willing to help. I found out that the best players in the world are willing to help if I only ask. I sat with several of the top players and talked to them about playing methods and strategies, and all of them were willing to talk. I learned that all of the players in the game are good people and willing to help if only we ask. I also learned that no matter what, everyone has fun in Reno. This is one great party.

Not having been to Reno in many years, I had to rely on word of mouth about the boards. From what I understand, the boards last year were not in good condition. I can tell you this, from my experience, the boards this year played incredible. I enjoyed the way the boards were set up. The guys that worked so hard on this project deserve thanks from all of us. I know some people complained about boards being flat. I can say that I played on all the boards and found them a challenge. I think that is what makes them so good. It is too easy to play on a board that curves to the middle. The way these boards played made everyone think through their games, and that is what we are supposed to do.

Watching Rob run the boards was a great experience for me. He did such a super job with this that I know I have a lot to learn about this job. If anyone watched how hard he worked and how much effort he put in to this, you would have to be amazed.

I had the pleasure of finally meeting Ann Harrell. I have been writing and speaking to her via email for a couple years, but have never met her. Ann is relentless in her contributions to our sport. Her website, [www.eshuffleboard.com](http://www.eshuffleboard.com) is a great tool for all of us to keep up on the action and keep informed. Of course there are other websites that are in use for us as well. I can tell you that Ann's efforts and spirit is an inspiration to all of us. Please help support Ann and her website if you can. Maybe take a collection at a local tournament for her. She does her site free. This is a lot of work, and she could use any help we can offer. Ann also worked at the NASC taking pictures. She is so willing always to help that we cannot thank her enough. Ann, it was a great pleasure to meet you, and I hope we continue to work together for a long time.

I know that many people were involved with this event. It is not my intention to name all of them, just to make a point that I always stress and that is, without all of the volunteers and workers none of this would be possible. So be sure to thank anyone you can that helps at any event. Don't get down on them as this is how our sport endures, through the hard work of people that work behind the scenes.

A final note to all is the announcement made by myself and Eddie Brayman in regard to the Southwest Shuffleboard organization working together to promote events. There was some mis-understandings about what we are doing. I want you all to keep up on [eshuffleboard.com](http://eshuffleboard.com) as I will be writing to you all about the exact nature of what we are doing so everyone has a clear understanding of our intentions. I will have that out in the next week to ten days.

Many old friends and many new friends were at Reno. I am so grateful to be a part of this I cannot tell you. I know that I will be looking forward to next year and hope to be a part of this for years to come.

Until we speak again, thank you all for keeping our sport alive and well.

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