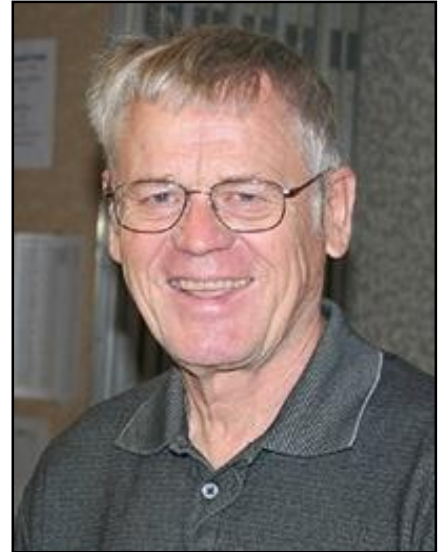


THE RED BARON SPEAKS

December 2010 ó Larry Creakbaum

Reno consumed the first week of November and there were home football games two of the three remaining Saturdays. The Indiana State Tournament was held, as always, on Thanksgiving week end and I only can say I was there. December started with an amateur event and I was a no show as snow and wind came across the state and I am to old and weak to venture into that kind of weather any more. There was a singles the second Saturday and the weather forecast was horrible along with an annual Christmas party and again I did not go. My next venture will be the day after Christmas when I Board an airplane for Houston.



In the meantime I thought about a performance based rating system and spent two or three nights going thru the TSA and eshuffleboard sites looking for results, setting up a chart, and have decided it will not work so I will probably can it. Which leads to another point, the results cannot be published if you do not send the information directly to the sites for inclusion.

Tomorrow (17th) I am having minor surgery to replace the battery in my controller for my Parkinsons. They are going to replace my existing with a digital which will give more control.

I suppose it is that time of year when I am to wish you all a good Thanksgiving (which is past), a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and Happy birthday to those I missed, which is all of you. No Electronic cards, please. They just plug up my email and I don't know that much about a computer and how to solve it.

With Reno consuming a week and a half, terrible weather, the holiday season, and little action, there is little to report so click in next month.

Reno is where the east meets the west, joined by the south and Midwest and sprinkled in by the detached states of Alaska and Hawaii. 162 players signed up for the six person draft event which started the week off and several more arrived in the middle of the week and the second week end. The number of registered players had to approach or exceed 200.

I do not recall hearing any griping about the boards except during practice on the first Friday and after I commented to the director these were corrected before the action started on Saturday. I did notice some occasional spottingness in the powder or wax which I still think is caused by the white coming to the surface during shipment and the bucket opened without remixing. The powder was generally good but occasionally a bucket seemed to slip through. One board was replaced on Friday night with a spare top which was available and one scoreboard malfunctioned toward the end of the week when being set for 21 points but could be corrected by unplugging the power temporarily which caused very little inconvenience. I am sure some will disagree, but with the number of boards on which we played, I thought the tops were adjusted the most uniformly of any tournament in which I have ever participated.

The rating system came under attack again, and I agree it is not perfect, but until someone comes up with something better it is what we use. The system started in a small region of the country and quickly spread through out the hemisphere. The rating system provides increased competition and eventually more good players. We need a performance based system which takes a lot of time and no one will donate that time. Maybe a small area, region, or state could start one that would catch on. If every region or state would do there own in a uniform way then a master committee or person could collate the system

By the Way, have you donated to the Bowers or eshuffleboard for the free service they provide? While you are at it, join The Table Shuffleboard Association where you have a chance to win a \$100 or a set of shuffleboard weights. If you want to known how to win, join and find out.

The events went pretty much as scheduled. I rolled through the crowd with my walker, running over toes and banging shins, receiving sympathy up front and I am sure angry words behind. My teammates on the draft team event managed to drag me to victory and I even got a 9-12 finish in another event. I have not figured out the combination controlling my brain implant, my medicine, and beverage intake to provide any consistency in my play. I play like a zero one game and a 5 the next, sometimes changing in the middle of the game.

Well, it's a couple of weeks of football games and then the state tournament and I hope after you read this you come back for December.