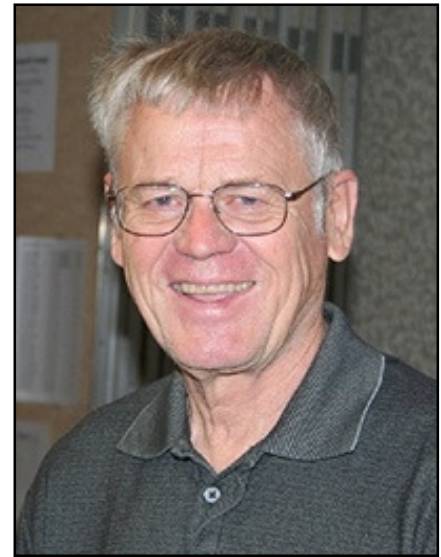


# THE RED BARON SPEAKS

May 2011 – Larry Creakbaum



The month started with the annual spring event at the American Legion in Bourbon, Indiana. This used to be one of the largest events in the Midwest and was at one time billed as the biggest one day event being held with one year having eighty four teams sign in. I probably have participated for the last time because the facility is an old two story building and climbing the stairs tires my legs so much that the rest of my body is effected and after a couple of games I cannot execute or think correctly.

The second week end four of us piled in my van and headed for Steelville, Missouri for a two event tournament which was a three person draw and a bring partner handicap. I managed a second in the three person draw as my two partners carried me to a win of the winner's bracket but we were double dipped in the finals. Although in the bring partner my partner and I managed to win a couple of games, my body used too much energy the first day and I wore out late.

Somewhere in the two days a line call was asked for on a weight being a two or three and the weight belonging to a team on twelve. Three individuals were chosen and a unanimous decision made that the weight was a three. I then asked what rules we were playing and was informed the Federation rules. I then commented that call was unanimous and it made no difference but the rules called for five on a game call. Later it was said we used TSA rules and they only call for three.

I then thought about how the weight was called. A couple of the individuals leaned on the board to get into position to see the line and the weight. Also spectators were pushing their way in to look at the weight and a couple of them even leaned on the board to look. With the speed of the powder and weights the weight can easily move under these conditions. Other players and spectators need to be courteous and officials and the players involved need to be able to control the situation. Weight callers should not touch the board when calling a weight.

The third week end nothing in the Indiana area was scheduled and I could lie around the condo and watch baseball and the NCAA Women's softball tournament. If I try to take out the trash, I fall flat on my face trying to push those two wheeled monsters. Trying to use the electric lawn mower to mow the 12' by 45' area we have fenced for the dog, I am afraid of falling in the blades. If I try to use the weed whacker to trim under the fence, I would lose my balance and end up whacking my feet. So I end up watching CNBC and control our meager investments which our shrinking to the point where someday my travel is going to end.

The last week is Memorial Day and I see by TSA and eshuffleboard there are six regional or local events, and the first timer at Las Vegas. The Vegas promoter has already explained why that week was chosen. The six regionals are California, Oregon, Indiana, Michigan, Texas and Oklahoma. I did not find anything on the east coast or the south, but it is approximately a 12 hour drive to IN or MI from the east and both probably could probably find a nonstop to Vegas. There is plenty of action this week so pick one and go. Promoters do not forget to submit your results eshuffleboard or TSA so I can see where you went and how you did. But for now it is the fourth week and time to go to the airport and find a seat to Las Vegas.