

# FOUR DEAD

Official Newsletter of the Idaho Horseshoe Pitcher's Association

Volume XVI, # 2

July 2005

## ***President's Message***

Well, here we are approaching the mid part of the season again and it seems like we just got started. The rain has been ongoing here in the Treasure Valley. Speaking of the Treasure Valley, our newly formed club has picked up a few new members. How is your section of the state doing in membership growth? Before we go on I must make time for a little joke as promised in the last newsletter, enjoy.

### **Roadkill**

*A truck driver frequently traveled through a small town where there was a courthouse at the side of the road. Of course, there were always lawyers walking along the road. The truck driver made it a practice to hit any pedestrian lawyers with his truck as he sped by. One day, he spotted a priest walking along the road and stopped to give him a ride. A little further along, as he approached the town, he spotted a lawyer walking along the side of the road. Automatically, he veered his truck towards the lawyer, but...then he remembered his passenger. He swerved back to the center, but he heard a "whump" and in the rear view mirror he spotted the lawyer rolling across the field. He turned to the priest and said, "Father, I'm sure that I missed that lawyer!" And the priest replied, "That's OK, my son, I got him with the door."*

Don Titcomb from Meridian has approached the fair board in Boise about conducting his "pitch and win" program that has been very successful in California. He got the ok to do it this year at the Western Idaho State Fair. This is great for horseshoes in general and especially great for our part of the state and Eastern Oregon. Don is asking club members to help him out with this event. Don also has approached the parks department in Meridian about getting some courts in one of the local parks, which is currently under construction. Everything is on the upbeat with that as well, with

the population growing like it is in Meridian; this is an untouched area right at this time and also a gold mine for horseshoe pitching. Don has had business cards made out and is handing them out on a regular basis. He commented on how easy it was to approach people around here. Go get-em Don. Many of you have seen that the Idaho website is up and running again. I have worked directly with Steve Summerlin of the NHPA to get it going again and it is looking very nice. One area on the website that is nice, is the State Champions section. This section includes All State Champions from the Men's Women, Elder's and Junior's divisions. We currently have a list that is incomplete and would like your help (if you can) to give me names of state Champions for the following years: juniors 1998-2000, and any juniors from the beginning of the association through 1996. Elder's 1998 and 1999 and any Elder from the beginning of the association through 1996. Lady's division from the beginning of the association through 1979 and the year of 1983. Men's division from the beginning up through 1951 and the following years of 1979, 1981, and 1990. If anybody has any or all of this information please email it to me at [ringone@citlink.net](mailto:ringone@citlink.net) or mail it directly to me. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Nampa's directors Gary Kollmann and Jerry Smith have recently met with Parks department on what to do with the courts, from my understanding some of the present courts will have 30' extensions added and there will also be 4 more courts added. Which will be done in two phases. Jerry Smith mentioned to me that both parties are working well with each other.

The world tournament in Bakersfield is getting closer. Idaho only has 16 people going this year and as close as it is and hearing all the excitement from last year, this is a lower number than I expected to go, what happened? Since the world in Pocatello last year, it appears from the stats that I get from Ralph Ruebel that all the tournaments are having lower turnouts.

It is worth mentioning once again that there has been a low turnout on the ballot forms from the first newsletter. Please cast your vote and let your voice be heard. Mail them ASAP to me:

David Spears  
P.O. Box 694  
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With the State Singles being held this year in Boise there are several hotels and motels to choose from. There is the University Inn near BSU, the Best Western Vista and Airport Inns by the airport and the Holiday Inn or Holiday Express and the Motel 6 as well as many others around the city. Whichever you choose please come and have a good time.

State Officer positions up for election/re-election this year are; First Vice President and the Sec/Treas. Gary Kollmann and Marge Chapin currently hold these positions. We will also be releasing the results from the ballot forms and voting on next years sights for holding the State doubles and singles tournaments.

The cost for the state singles tournament this year is \$15.00 with 50 cents per game for scorekeeping. Everybody will play a minimum double round robin, covering two days of pitching. None of the classes will exceed 8 players. If you plan on coming to the state singles tournament in Boise, we ask that you pre-register by no later than the Monday before the tournament. Check-in for the tournament will begin at 7:30 am on Saturday and pitching will start promptly at 9:00 am. The potluck and annual meeting will be held across from the courts in Julia Davis Park and we hope to get the potluck started by 6:00-6:30 and adjourn from the meeting by 9:00-9:30.

Good Pitchin,  
Dave Spears, President

\* \* \*

### **World Tournament**

NHPA Secretary-Treasurer Dick Hanson reports that only 824 people signed up to pitch in the 2005 World Tournament in Bakersfield California. The sixteen from Idaho are: Harry Chapin, Alma Clark, Bobby Faulkner, Paula King, Gary Kollmann, Carlos Marquez, Gary Oppen, Rodney Pickering, Brian and Melanie Poole, Jim Roberson, David

Spears, Don Titcomb, Brent Wood, Jeff and Robert Zausch. Good luck to everyone and bring home some hardware.

\* \* \*

### **Gate City Horseshoe Club**

Jim Robinson, a GCHPA Board Member, ran eight one and half hour horseshoe pitching clinics for kids. He introduced over 50 children to horseshoe pitching, the children were ages 6 to 12. Additional thanks goes to Eric Gilmore, Brad Gilmore, Shayne Moore, and James Price III for helping teach at the clinics.

The GCHPA has already completed 2 sanctioned singles and 1 doubles leagues this year and plans more leagues in July and August. Get out there and get involved, it will be snowing before you know it.

\* \* \*

Mail your Ballot forms in by August first or loss your power to have a voice.

\* \* \*

### **Kootenai County Pitcher's Association**

Owen Randall, President of the KCHPA, inquired to ISHPA President David Spears about whether a club is required to have a representative present at the State Meeting in order to bid on the next year's State Tournament. Article X of the State Constitution states: if possible, the State Tournament site shall be alternated between the North, East, and West.

*The question obviously stems from the fact that this year's State tournament is being held in Boise in a year that should have been the North's year.*

President Spear's reply (short version) is as follows. There is no where in the bylaws that I see that states a representative should or shall be present to bid on the State Tournament. However, I was in direct communication with Carlana Shove about Couer d' alene hosting the 2005 State Singles Tournament. I asked her to canvass your members to see if they wanted to host the event. I do not know what action she took but when I called her on the morning of the

2004 State Tournament to inquire about Coeur d' alene hosting of the 2005 State Tournament, her response was "no we are not". We would have liked Coeur d' alene to host the tournament but the response was "no", so Boise was given the 2005 State Tournament. The last two State tournaments held in Pocatello had no representation from the northern part of the state. In 2001, we got a letter requesting that the 2002 State Tournament be held in Coeur d' alene and it was accepted. No letter was received last year and with no northern representation on hand, the prospect of a northern State Tournament was very discouraging to the ISHPA Officers. The State Tournaments that have been held in Coeur d' alene have drawn pitchers from all parts of the state.

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**State Tournament Deadline for  
entry is:  
August 22, 2005**

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### **Treasure Valley Horseshoe Pitching Club**

The TVHPC is off and running holding a tournament in Nampa to kick off the 2005 season. The weather was not so good but we got started by 11:00 am and the small turn out had a good time. Newcomer to the valley, Don Titcomb won the A class marking the first tournament in Nampa in several years. The renovation of the Lakeview Park courts is to get stated in July and we hope to have a full slate of tournaments there next year. The 1<sup>st</sup> annual TVHPA Club Championship will be held in Nampa in September. If you have not joined, you need to.

The Caldwell and Boise tournaments and leagues are or have been running with weather holding them down a little. We are a growth oriented club and hope to attract more and more people to our tournaments and leagues.

**Pitching Clinic**

### **The Delivery:**

As in bowling or softball pitching, the swing of the arm and forward step must be well coordinated for balance and control. Practice and correction will develop the best delivery for each individual. The pitching arm should be swung backwards with the arm extended as high as possible (even as high as the head) without causing muscle stress or loss of balance.

A step forward with the outside foot should be started just before the arm reaches the extreme height of its backswing. The forward swing and release should come smoothly and naturally with a comfortable follow through motion.

The high point of the arc of flight should be between 7 ½ and 9 feet above the ground. A shoe thrown too low will land with too much force and may rebound. Too high a pitch makes distance judgement difficult.

Body coordination is essential for a smooth delivery. The swing should be relaxed and natural, and with careful practice the right moment of release and wrist action will be developed as best for each player.

Some points to remember:

- To vary the amount of turn of the shoe, vary the grip on the blade up or down.
- When learning, practice for the correct turn of the shoe, not for ringers. When the best turn of the shoe is mastered, remember the grip and stay with it.
- Try to throw all shoes at the same height.
- Keep your eye on the stake at all times during the pitch.
- A certain amount of wobble during the shoe flight is desirable. Wobble in flight makes the shoe settle better in landing. Ideally, the shoe with wobble lands heel calk first. A pitch without wobble tends to land hard and rebound

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NHPA WEBSITE

[www.horseshoepitching.com](http://www.horseshoepitching.com)

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Horseshoe Pitching: The ultimate family sport. Get out and pitch. Get involved.

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