

CRIBBAGE

... WORLD ...

VOLUME XVIII - NUMBER 1 - JANUARY 1997

AMERICAN CRIBBAGE CONGRESS

Record Crowd

John Blowers Tops In Florida

John Blowers, a pegger from Casselberry, FL came away the winner at the record-breaking Jim Arblaster/Florida Open November 17. Blowers is a member of the local Grass Roots club, and by topping the field of 136 players came away with 170 MRPs (after qualifying 7th) and \$830.

Ken Cambell, a pegger from Modoc, SC, is the ACC's Historian...and he can add his name to cribbage history books with his 2nd place finish (and after qualifying 4th his MRP take was 168!). He garnered a nice \$700.

Chip Digiiovanni, Deltona, FL, and Justin Gorman, Englewood, FL finished 3rd and 4th.

Curtis Lien, Davenport, FL, had the hot hand in the qualifying round, taking honors. He continued on to finish in the 9-16 bracket and earned a combined 93 MRPs.

"Snowbirds" warned to the task in the 90-pegger Consolation. Doug Page, a Master pegger from Appleton, WI took home the marbles, followed by Roy Ellis, a pegger from Englewood, CO. Local Betty Schaeffer nailed 3rd, and Aggie Mikulsky, Sobieski, WI took 4th.

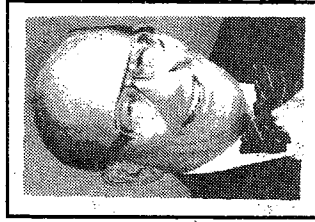
Director Paul Barnes had a full array of satellite events, beginning with Friday singles. With some 102 peggers kicking off this event, Jack Allison, Smyrna, GA began the weekend in grand style by winning (and taking home \$436). Saturday night had a fine crowd (90) and Jack Ledbetter, Hialeah, FL came away the winner (and \$474). Victor Struminger (Atlanta, GA) nailed the Last Chance.

In addition to these satellite events, Barnes also had a unique Grass Roots Challenge. GR 147 Port Charlotte, FL edged GR 22 Greater Orlando, FL by a combined score average of 24.62 to 22.74 (qualifying round scores).

Bruce Corson (FL), Neal Burkett (FL), and Roy Ellis (CO) played 28-hands, but no 29's showed.

Grass Roots Commissioner Eugene Mikulsky was on hand to "inspect" Florida cribbage, but his wife Aggie brought home the most "travel money."

Cribbage World awards director Barnes "Director of the Year" for his detailed (and easily read) tournament report. Barnes will be the director of Grand National XVII. This annual event will be played in Daytona Beach in September, 1998.



The President's Column

Everett "Ev" Bey

Cribbage Players Are Always Interested In Numbers

We're talking about 15-2s and 29s and best 3-out-of-5...not the 32-24-36 shemalé variety.

Comes the wind-up of 1996 and the beginning of the new year 1997, we're at the halfway mark in our ACC '96-'97 fiscal and record-keeping year.

According to Membership Secretary Jeff Monroe, we're heading into the new calendar year with a paid membership of 6,620.

California leads with 1,305 members, Oregon is second with 645; Wisconsin has 614 members; Massachusetts, 432; and Washington, 407.

Grass Roots statistician Joe Ramos tells me we have 127 active Grass Roots clubs playing a regular schedule of weekly and bi-weekly games, with 3,000 cribbers participating in this nationwide local activity. There's another 100-plus Grass Roots clubs who have their programs "on ice" for various reasons, since Commissioner Gene Mikulsky has chartered 232 Grass Roots clubs all over the U.S.A.

The Grass Roots five Regional tournaments drew 1,419 participants and the Grass Roots National tournament topped that with 1,421 entrants, Ramos reports.

Statistician Bob McCabe gave me the following tournament data:

Tournament-wise, the four ACC Tournament Commissioners sanctioned 136 tournaments last year, drawing 15,570 players, an average of 114.5 persons in each tourney. There were also 120 Consolation tournaments, with 9,299 participating, an average of 77.5 per tourney.

The largest sanctioned tournament of the year was the Joseph Petrus Wergin Open in Reno, Nevada, which drew an all-time high of 1,020 players. The Consolation event played the same weekend drew 790 players, to win honors as the second largest tournament.

Other major tournaments included the MGM in Green Bay, WI, 440 players; Veteran's Day in Reno, NV, 394; the 25th Annual World Championship in Quincy, CA ("the granpappy of 'em all"), 372; and the Massachusetts Grand National, 342.

A new, faster computer has been obtained for Statistician Bob McCabe and will be installed with the new tabulation software right after the Board of Directors meeting in Reno, NV, January 30, when a final decision is to be made on the revised Master Point system.

See ya down the Tournament Trail...keeppegin'!

...Ev Bey

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104 In Northfield, MN

Helen Railsback Tops

Jesse James Open

Helen Railsback, a newly crowned Grand Master from Syracuse, NE, copped the recent Jesse James Open in Northfield, MN. In topping the 104-pegger field, Railsback took home a nice bundle of MRP's (145 total, after qualifying 6th) and a sizeable cash prize.

Newly crowned Life Master Russell Adams, of the Minneapolis professor, came close, but was mesmerized by Railsback's multitude of peg combinations (see story, this issue), and settled for 2nd. His 109 MRP's earned: have propelled him into the national MRP race for this cribbage year. He has topped the 500 mark and is among the leaders.

Robert Chase from nearby Crystal, MN took 3rd, and the travelling Master pegger from Colorado...Roger Wilson...took 4th.

Chase was also top qualifier (34 16 +96) and took home a combined 139 MRP's.

Todd Schaefer (MN) nailed 8 for 9 in the Consolation qualifying round to take honors (and finished 5th in the playoffs), but Les Kvien, Minneapolis, came away the champion in this 52-pegger event. Nicky Kritch (WI) nailed 2nd, followed by two ACC All-Stars in 3rd and 4th...Bob Julian and Joe Bernard. Julian is 11th all-time and Bernard ranks 4th all-time.

The Satellites:

Friday Early Bird: Myron Schmidt (MN)
Saturday \$20: Norb Upton (MN) 9/9 18 +74
Saturday \$50: Marlene Lazacek (WI)
All Events: Norb Upton (MN) 57 GP's

Bill Erickson (IL) nailed a 29-hand in the Saturday night game. Oops! Not sanctioned, no \$100.

Director Jerry Gruber reported four 28-hands: John Stamschror, Robert Hanes, Jack Miller, and Shelly Vadnais. These gems paid \$28 each. Gruber also reports this popular event will be played again next November 21-23.

ACC Info: 1-888-PEGGING

ACC's Board of Directors Meet In Reno January 30

The ACC's Board of Directors will meet at 11 AM, Thursday, January 30, at the Sands Regency Hotel Casino for their semi-annual meeting. ACC members may attend this meeting if they wish.

play winning

CRIBBAGE

Written, illustrated by
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Grass Roots Corner

Standings as of December 9, 1996

Division 1 (Club number in parenthesis)

- 133 Brian Heroux, Woonsocket RI (31)
- 84 Albina Parrish, Woonsocket RI (31)
- 82 John Croce, Cranston RI (31)
- 72 Beatrice Cook, Punta Gorda FL (147)
- 72 Bernard Whitfield, Raleigh NC
- 70 Bill Medeiros, Shrewsbury MA (31)
- 69 Robert Mills, Englewood FL (29)
- 69 J. C. Turner, Roseburg OR (62)
- 67 Eleanor Bernstein, Baltimore MD
- 67 Jack Barrett, WI Rapids WI (120)
- 66 Don Hess, North Miami FL (85)
- 64 John Manner, Crystal Lake IL (3)
- 63 Bruce Parham, Atlanta GA (119)
- 63 Joseph Beaulieu, Longwood FL (22)
- 62 Thomas Nohrden, Sacramento CA
- 61 Richard Van Hall, Lake Suzy FL (147)
- 61 Larry Walton, Boardman OR (2)
- 60 Albert Podewels, Colby WI (199)
- 59 Larry Gould, Raleigh NC (58)
- 59 Ernie Parker, Hawthorne CA (164)
- 59 Joseph Lusignan, Salinas CA (82)
- 58 Carl Stone Jr, Arcata CA (194)
- 58 Jerold Bremner, WI Rapids WI (120)
- 58 Lee Bodkin, Salem, OR (46)
- 58 Ted Dick, Raleigh NC
- 58 Curt Shawkey, Madison WI (1)
- 58 Martin Leppala, Englewood CA (29)

Division 2

- 49 Alvin Lokita, Ormond Beach FL (230)
- 47 Frank Rozwadowski, Ormond Beach FL (230)
- 47 Barbara Rhodes, Sisters OR (88)
- 46 Edward Kren, Sonoma CA (86)
- 45 Joe Remlinger, Sonora CA (140)
- 44 Dennis McNurlen, Grinnell IA (17)
- 42 William Larson, Rapid City SD (96)
- 40 Leroy Preszler, Rapid City SD (96)
- 39 Jim Meriman, Ft. Orchard WA (204)
- 37 Ralph Triple, New Underwood SD (96)

Division 3

- 31 Richard Price, Camarillo CA (193)
- 28 Cy Madrone, Santa Barbara CA (193)
- 28 Art Cox, Ventura CA (193)
- 24 John Gallagher, Hickory NC (20)
- 24 Elaine Billow, Hickory NC (20)
- 24 Ralph Heslop, Mooresville NC (20)
- 17 Mel Kranz, Ventura CA (193)
- 17 Wayne Myers, Paulsboro NJ (115)
- 16 Nancy Roncetti, Wyncote PA (115)
- 16 Robert Gilligan, Philadelphia PA (115)

1996-1997 Grass Roots 29 Hands

- 1- Bob Hemond, Grand Rapids MI, 9-24-96
- 2- Judy Bucheger, Greenwood WI, 10-9-96
- 3- Bob Lambert, Muskegon MI, 10-14-96
- 4- Shirley Carr, Chehalis WA, 10-24-96

GRASS ROOTS BRONZE LEVEL

For compiling 1,000 Grass Roots Rating Points, the following players are awarded the

BRONZE AWARD

167- Zeke Veradt
Taunton, Massachusetts

168- Jean Cervantes
Green Bay, Wisconsin

169- Betty Jean Capper
Hermiston, Oregon

170- Richard W. Pigeon
Green Bay, Wisconsin

171- John H. Mohler
Seaside, California

172- Ginny Danielski
Little Chute, Wisconsin

173- Robert L. Gillette
Rodeo, California

Region VI Rolling!

Patrick Barrett is GR Region VI's Statistician and in addition to this job he also publishes a "Wisconsin Grass Roots News."

This newsletter covers seven clubs in the Central Region (6, 61, 90, 120, 196, 197, and 199).

One of the highlights of the last issue described new Grass Roots Commissioner Gene Milkulsky awarding retiring Commissioner Jerry Dickinson a very nice plaque at Grand National XV in Napa, CA last September for his service and contributions to the National Grass Roots Program.

Another issue discussed was the new computer program designed by Denny Moore (CA) that will make statistical work much easier. Editor Barrett calls it "a BIG-time saver, a super program!" The ACC is getting organized!

Charm City Draws 90 Alkas Tops in Baltimore Richard Kerr Scores "29"

Rit Alkas, the "Connecticut Bomber," is at it again! This 1995 National Champion from Manchester won the recent Baltimore Charm City Classic. In topping the 90-pegger field, Alkas throws his hat into the ring for yet another try at national honors. His 1997 MRP totals have topped the 500 mark and he is among the leaders.

John Wortley nailed the 1987 National Open...and he came close in this event as well. This Burlington, NC pegger finished a nifty 2nd this time around...and picked up some 105 MRPs (after qualifying 7th)

Loren Wakeling from nearby Sterling, VA finished 3rd, and 1992 National Champion Phyllis Schmidt, Williamstown, MA took 4th. Schmidt qualified 3rd and took home an even 100 MRPs.

Larry Phifer, Raleigh, NC, had the hot hand in the qualifying round, and a 9-16 finished garnered some 41 MRPs.

29-hand number six for this cribbage year made Richard Kerr \$100 richer. The ACC pays any bonafide member \$100 for this 216,580 to 1 rarity. Kerr hails from Newtown, PA.

Joyce Bryant from nearby Jarrettsville won the 60-pegger Consolation. Richard "Chaz" Meniak (NY), Marvin Lewis (VA), and Kate McNemar (DC) finished 2-3-4.

Director Steven Sattler plans on renewing this event again next November 7-8-9. Mark your calendars.

Bruce Wridge 1-1 in Oregon

Bruce Wridge continues his winning ways as this Portland, OR, pegger has won yet another sanctioned event. Beginning last February with his \$10,000 win in Reno, Wridge has had many fine tournament performances the past few months. This time around he qualified first, and then captured the playoffs as well in winning the 66-pegger Prineville Lions Open in Prineville, OR. Peggers finishing 2-3-4 were Clair Morse (OR), Doug Brown (WA), and George Rasmussen (WA). Jerry Blackman from nearby Bend won the 48-pegger Consolation. Rod Schott (WA), Susan Chambers (OR), and Margery Clark (OR) finished 2-3-4. Director Bob St. Yves will play this event again next November.

29-Hand In Doubles

Dave Proctor, E. Longmeadow, reports that a young lady scored a 29-hand in doubles...and that's with **ONLY FIVE CARDS!** Proctor reports he will buy her a special board as a Christmas present! According to Russell Adams, the odds of this rarity is 649,740 to 1! With only four cards? 1,949,220 to 1! Keep pegging!

Shoemaker, Michaelis, Heroux Long Match Finalists

Master Bill Shoemaker, W. Hartford, CT, edged 1995 National Champion Rit Alkas, another Connecticut pegger (and Life master), in the semi-final match of the National Long Match event recently and he now awaits the winner of the other semi-final match.

This match pits One-Star Mick Michaelis, Marinette, WI vs. Brian Heroux, the ACC's youngest Grand Master from Woonsocket, RI. Michaelis, a Hall of Famer, won this National Long Match play last year. This match...and the finals should be exciting, as all three players are highly ranked and very experienced.

The 1997 tournament is already off and running, with a few adjustments. Entry fees have been lowered to \$250 to insure a full field of 64. Entry is limited to first 64. Drawings will be by blind draw, by Regions in early rounds. Full applications will be available in Reno (ACC Open) or from Larry Samet, 5 Westminster Circle, Wellesley, MA 02181. (617) 237-1256. You may call Warren Sondericker (414) 964-5599, or Jeff Monroe (1-888-PEGGING) for information.

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Spokane War Zone Draws 38 Eldon Schwilke Tops In Washington

Eldon Schwilke, pegging on his home turf, ripped through the 38-pegger crowd at the recent Christmas Tournament in Spokane, WA. In this one-day event (a rarity in the Northwest), Schwilke won 12 of 14 games, scoring a top-qualifying 26 +153. His hot streak continued on into the playoffs and he came away with the championship. Schwilke, hampered by multiple sclerosis, employs a helper to deal the cards, but his play remains on a high level as he decimated the crowd.

Gerald Baird from nearby Post Falls, Idaho, finished 2nd, as he, too, was unable to cope with Schwilke's long run. Local Gil Johnson, nearing his Grand Master rating, finished 3rd. Keith Forrest, Stevensville, MT took 4th.

No Consolation was played but the director Don Bain had two satellite events. The winners were Mike Haggerty, Missoula, MT, and Bruce Gentry, Kennewick, WA.

Spokane resembled a war zone as an ice and wind storm a week earlier had decimated the landscape. Trees were down over a wide area, and many were denuded of limbs. Electrical power was still off in surrounding areas, as many power poles were snapped and lines down for miles at a stretch. The local Eagles Lodge was without cable TV, as that line was down, also. This situation keep many peggers at "home by the fire." Those that showed were dedicated peggers, attested to by the low qualifying score...two 16's qualified (with a 14-game card!)

Hermiston, OR is Peggers "Safe Haven"

For the second time in ACC history, Hermiston, OR has come to the aid of a director in need of a place to play...after a scheduled event was abruptly cancelled.

In 1982, the late Joe Nelson had his Washington Championship in Pasco, WA cancelled at a late date by an over-zealous local sheriff, and he was forced to play in Hermiston (some 30 miles away).

This time around, Bob Brumley had his Washington State Open in Sunnyside cancelled at the last moment...and he, too, had to make a quick change. He opted for the Eagles Lodge in Hermiston, and the show went on!

Rasmussen "Off and Running"

George "Ras" Rasmussen is a newly appointed Regional Commissioner (Region II), and this Chehalis, WA pegger is off and running with his new job.

He is also club director of the Chehalis-Centralia Grass Roots club in Western Washington, and this up-and-coming club has already signed on 21 new members for the American Cribbage Congress.

Skunk Bank Broken in Florida
Paul Barnes is club director of GR #22 in Winter Garden, FL.

This club pays \$25 for a 28-hand and \$100 for a 29-hand. On November 14th, with 26 players in attendance, the bank was broken!

First, Bill Sams scores a 28-hand for a nice \$25! Shortly thereafter, Betty Schaefer plays that elusive 29-hand...\$100! Russ Fisher, not to be outdone, then scores another 28-hand and collects his \$25.

Director Barnes reports this action "Really put the pinch on the skunk bank!"

The Wages of Cribbage Don Tuttle, LaGrande, OR

Old MacDonald loved to play;

Ee-I-Ee-I-O.

He'd play all night

And play all day;

Ee-I-Ee-I-O.

Here a peg, there a peg,

Everywhere a peg-peg.

Don, old pal, I think you have pegged one game too many! Ed.

First Poems...Now Puns!

Did you hear about the skunk that went to church and sat in his own PEW!

P-U-U-U!

*Joyce Jorgenson
Greenacres, WA*

No, but I've heard about all the skunk stories that I ever want to hear. I think our membership is starting to crack from all the peggin'. Ed.