

Bowers' Corner & TSA Website E-news

Featuring: "Dick Smedberg's June Road Trip Report"

Newsletter Issue: July 13, 2005 (Electronic e-News)

<http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com>

<http://www.tableshuffleboard.org>

DICK SMEDBERG'S JUNE ROAD TRIP REPORT:

"MIXING IN 'PLAY YOUR WAY' WITH CIRCLE TRIP THRU MID-AMERICA"

by: Dick Smedberg, Florida Shuffler

"Rich & Rosi Smedberg here..." We are just a couple of diehard shuffleboard addicts (me anyway and my wife Rosi is getting there) relating to the shuffleboard community our recent 3 week (3,600 miles) road trip and how we incorporated a little "board" along the way.

Our two main objectives were a reunion in Branson, Missouri with longtime friends coming down from Nebraska and then a visit with longtime friends from Long Island, New York who now live in San Antonio, Texas. We decided to drive rather than fly to get a real feel for the country in areas we had been to before, but never driven to.

Besides our road atlas and some mapquest printouts we had our trusty complete printout from the newly remodeled Bowers' Corner website's "[Places To Play](#)" which webmaster, Lynda French, has been diligently updating (and hey, we had Lagging4's & eshuffleboard's list with us as well).

To sum up the non-shuffleboard playing parts of the trip... it started with an overnight in Tupelo, Mississippi (Elvis' birthplace and early family home)... then 5 nights in Branson, Missouri with some great shows (We find Branson to be a super family oriented entertainment city!)... an overnight in Wynnewood, Oklahoma... then 2 days in Austin, Texas as guests of Tom and Lynda French... then 8 days in San Antonio, Texas with visits to downtown Central Market Place and nearby Fredricksburg before heading home where we visited Houston and Biloxi along the way on our return trip.

Now, not wanting to go "boardless" for 3 weeks... while in Branson, I checked out several shuffleboard bars in Springfield, Missouri (but didn't come up with any players). Luckily, at the suggestion of Charlie Riley (Missouri player) before we started on our road trip, we checked out a place 13 miles outside Branson in Rockaway Beach -- "Kwick Draws Saloon" and I entered their Thursday night draw and

won. I went back to Kwick Draws Saloon and played some more on Saturday and found I might have been kind of lucky that first night (Thursday), as several patrons skill level of play was high.

OKLAHOMA-BOUND

When we left Branson, we headed for Wynnewood, Oklahoma, as I wanted to visit Gerald Wood's "Full House Bar" which I had never had the opportunity to do on my prior trips to Del City. As we approached Tulsa, Oklahoma, I had my wife keep an eye out for any road signs that mentioned any of the streets of Tulsa bars and luckily we came across a S. Peoria exit and found "Brook Alley" only a couple blocks away. We stayed a couple hours, eating lunch and having a few beers, while getting soundly drubbed by Sally who had just undergone a severe tummy-tuck. She couldn't lean up against the board, but she took her time, concentrated and executed each shot to perfection. Sally was in the process of beating me a second time when she had to go, so she arranged for Stevie Burkett to come down and continue the drubbing. We waited awhile for Stevie to show up, but when he didn't show, headed on to Wynnewood where we got to meet Don Kinard and see Gerald Wood again and played a couple of games and finally, had the pleasure to win the final and only game in Oklahoma by "sticking a deep two"!

While the "Full House" has some nice boards and a very congenial and shuffleboard-minded bar owner (Gerald Wood), I must confess that when approaching the town at dusk during a thunderstorm with oil rigs pumping a few blocks away, oil fumes permeating the air, and the "Full House" seemingly the only place open in town and the adjacent storefront collapsed, it conjured my vision of how a town in a war zone like Iraq might look with the oil rigs and collapsed buildings (sorry, but that was my first impression). I was disappointed that I did not get lucky and find the Melton's or Williamson's there during my stop, as I understand they live nearby.

[*Editors' Comment:* Below is a photo of Wynnewood's war zone missile that Dick speaks of... causing havoc at times]



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TEXAS-BOUND

After overnighting a little further down the road from Wynnewood, we headed for Austin, Texas in the morning. We had been invited to spend a couple nights at the home of Tom and Lynda French. We had a great time at their place as they are a lot of fun and great hosts. They took us to play some "board" both nights.



Smedbergs' arrive at French Home - Austin, TX

Our first was play in the weekly Tuesday night Draw Partner (handicap) tournament at "The Post" in Cedar Park, Texas where Tom French and his partner won first place. The Post has a very congenial and interested bar owner, Ronnie McMellon, and had two good boards and a number of players (I hear they have since added a 3rd board and bring in additional board(s) for special tournament events when needed). I think we all be hearing a lot more about "The Post".

Wednesday afternoon, we had the catfish lunch at "Shoal Creek Saloon" where we were also joined by Don Valk and Rick McFarland (Austin area players that many of you know). I had met Don Valk originally at one of his early "US Open" tournaments held in Austin (which has since been renamed "Texas Open" and occurs on Labor Day week each year). After the lunch crowd cleared out, we moved aside the lunch table/chairs and played a couple of Draw Partner games on their shuffleboard and Don and I won both matches.

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Shoal Creek Saloon - Austin, TX
Dick Smedberg, Don Valk, Rick McFarland

Wednesday evening, we visited "Taz Country" in Pflugerville, Texas (Austin suburb) and we were extremely impressed with the spaciousness. There's a lot going on at this club including some good country western music singers and bands. There we met several more players from the area. I drew the club owner, Gene Criminger, and we took 1st place. Rosi (my wife) drew Lynda French and they took 2nd place.



Taz Country - Pflugerville, TX
Gene Criminger & Dick Smedberg - 1st Place

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Taz Country - Pflugerville, TX
Lynda French & Rosi Smedberg - 2nd Place

The next day we were off for San Antonio, but again we had a great time at the French's and meeting their super grandkids and playing some on their excellent "Melton board" in their new sun/game room. The one downer at the French's place was that is where we heard about Jim Manders's just passing away. I had a lot of E-mail dialogue with Jim regarding his Lagging4's e-magazine and highly respected his efforts. His efforts were ground breaking and really appreciated by all that read them.

In San Antonio, we were near "Fiasco Cocktails" and I was lucky enough to walk in on their final multiplier game and actually win it. Everyone was having trouble scoring and a "6" that I had was the high score, so that should tell you a thing or two about the board. At Fiasco's, I met a very strong (unrated) player by the name of Al McKay who lives in San Antonio but company is based in Newburg, Oregon. Al's a good player, so keep an eye out for him.

Also while we were in San Antonio, I got over to Rookie's Bar and played a few friendly games with Mike Boulanger (bar owner and player), Lane Quick, and Debbie & David Sexton. I had met Mike and Lane a couple years ago, but was happy to meet personally for the first time the Sextons.

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FLORIDA HOME-BOUND

On Wednesday, June 22nd, we left San Antonio and started heading back home. We decided to stop in Houston, Texas and try to find either "Danny's Sports Bar & Grill" and/or "Triple Crown Sports Bar & Grill" (which we noticed were both on Westheimer only a few blocks apart from our "[Places To Play](#)" list and mapquest map). After having followed the street numbers in the wrong direction (and I mean traffic like I haven't seen since I left Long Island, New York and moved to Florida) we ended up at Danny's Sports Bar. We spent an enjoyable afternoon there and Jimmy Britt (what a funny guy!) gave me a few lessons on one of the boards. Then Kelly Cameron did the same. Finally, Kelly got me and partially backed me in a money game against a local '2' where I just barely pulled it out with some defense. My offense/lag never did kick in. I got to see some of shuffleboard's "greats" including Diana Hagen, Howard Mouton, and others whom I had met in the past such as Johnny "B" Ballard and Harvey Kidd. Billy Mays was supposed to show, but I didn't get to see him again (he taught me a few things in the past that have certainly helped my game over the years).

That wrapped up the shuffleboard part of our trip. We got to hold our own at the casino in Biloxi and made it home early in the morning on June 24th. Part of the greatness of our game is the people you meet along the way. We met several new shuffleboard friends and visiting with those we had not seen in awhile.

"LAG ON YOU ALL!"

-- Dick Smedberg, Florida Shuffler

[Response from Tom & Lynda French: *We had a great time seeing Dick again and getting to meet Rosi personally for the first time. We have since started a joint genealogy project with Dick, Rosi and their daughter, Marianne Lee who lives in New York area. I (Lynda) have become very good friends with Marianne too and have recently setup a scrapbooking website for her (non-shuffleboard related) at: <http://www.makethememory.com>). Dick is soooo right that one of the best parts of this great game is all the people you meet along the way - making new friends and renewing friendships with those we have not seen in a while. Thank you Dick & Rosi for a great time too! Hope we can make this an annual event! We invite others to visit us too!]*

(More Shuffleboard News... Page 4)

Bowers' Corner & TSA Website E-news *Need a "Free" Classified Ad or Home Page?*

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<http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com> <http://www.tableshuffleboard.org>

FREE CLASSIFIED ADS: Did you know that you can have a "free" Classified Ad listed or even a graphical page of your free ad?

Below is an excerpt of one of the newest Classified Ad pages added to the Bowers' Corner website's "Free Classified Ads" page. To view all of the classified ads, click on below URL link: (then, Click on one of the League Home Pages for examples of what we will host "free" for leagues that do not have their own websites):

<http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com/freeads.html>

FREE HOME PAGES: In addition to free classified ads, we also host "free" Home Pages for Leagues and shuffleboard establishments or shuffleboard businesses that do not have their own website, etc. Any league, shuffleboard establishment, or shuffleboard related businesses that do not have their own website and would like to have a Home Page hosted on the Bowers' Corner website, please contact the Bowers' Corner webmaster at:

lynda@tableshuffleboard.org

NOTE: We should have the first sample of a "Free" Shuffleboard Establishment Home Page hopefully in our next newsletter issue, as the template is awaiting further input from the club owner before final posting.

FREE HOME PAGE EXAMPLE OF SHUFFLEBOARD NEWS: ("Cushion Shuffleboard News")

http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com/Cushion_Newsletters.html

Order Now! Custom Made! 10K Yellow Gold Shuffleboard Pendant or Lapel Pin!

Contact Jim French at
918-437-7967 or 918-906-9530 to place your order!



Available in 2 Sizes:

Small \$125 + shipping approx. 1 3/8" long

Large \$180 + shipping approx. 1 5/8" long

Pendant can accommodate up to 6 mm chain
(not included)

Great Item for Tournament Raffles
or other shuffleboard promotions!

Great gift for any player!

View online Ad:

<http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com/JimFrenchJewelryAd.htm>

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***Send Webmaster Items of Shuffleboard Humor or any
Shuffleboard Media Articles to Post on the website...***

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<http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com> <http://www.tableshuffleboard.org>

Email Bowers' Corner & TSA website's webmaster: lynda@tableshuffleboard.org

Note: Below is an example of both a media article & humor!

BEST SHUFFLEBOARD

GOLD RUSH BAR & GRILL

493 10th Ave. (between 37th & 38th Sts.)
Manhattan, New York
Phone: 212-244-5165

Senior citizen's game, our ass. Along a barren stretch of 10th Ave. sits a saloon with a watermill wheel out front and working-men's manna inside: beer, bartender babes and a couple televisions. A favorite drinking hole among nearby Javits Center's union workers, Gold Rush is one of the West Side's best-kept secrets. There're several varieties of beer served up cold and cheap by flirty, no-nonsense bartenders baring midriffs. The eats are good, if pricey for the décor.

More important, there's shuffleboard. With 20-plus feet of well-smoothed maple wood smothered in sawdust, Gold Rush's table may be New York's longest. The pucks are well-used, but the table is flat and has few—if any—dead spots. There's even a scoreboard for those who can't count above 10.

Note: Above is an excerpt from New York Press about Gold Rush Bar & Grille in Manhattan, (NY, NY):
<http://newyorkpress.com/17/39/bestof/entertainment.cfm>

Bowers' Corner & TSA Website E-news

Some Key Links to Shuffleboard Information

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<http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com> <http://www.tableshuffleboard.org>

To Get the Latest in Shuffleboard News visit our website(s): (Click on Subject Matter Below)

- **BOWERS' CORNER WEBSITE** (bringing the latest news since the 1990's):
<http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com>
- **TABLE SHUFFLEBOARD ASSOCIATION WEBSITE** (Hall of Fame Information & Contacts):
<http://www.tableshuffleboard.org>
- **UPCOMING TABLE SHUFFLEBOARD TOURNAMENTS & EVENTS** (U.S. & Canada):
http://www.tableshuffleboard.org/Latest_Calendar.htm
- **LATEST TABLE SHUFFLEBOARD TOURNAMENT RESULTS** (U.S. & Canada):
http://www.tableshuffleboard.org/Latest_Results.htm
- **VISIT AND/OR REGISTER THE "FREE" SHUFFLEBOARD DISCUSSION FORUM:**
<http://tsaorg.proboards31.com>
- **SIGN-UP FOR "FREE" ELECTRONIC E-NEWS:**
http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com/electronicnews_signupform.htm
- **OFFICIAL WEBSITE FOR BOWERS' CORNER PLAYERS' RATINGS** (U.S. & Canada):
<http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com/ratings1.html>
- **OFFICIAL LIST OF 2005/06 BOWERS' RATERS** (Names, location, contact info for raters):
<http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com/ratersnames.html>
- **"PLACES TO PLAY" TABLE SHUFFLEBOARD** (U.S. & Canada):
<http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com/playusa.html>
- **SHUFFLEBOARD PLAYER'S PROFILES & STORIES:**
<http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com/spotlightmonth.html>
- **LEAGUE PLAYERS' CORNER** (INFO & LEAGUE CONTACTS & DETAILS):
<http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com/League2002infoupdates.html>
- **BASIC GAMES PLAYED** (Table Shuffleboard "Basic Games" Played):
<http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com/basicgames.htm>
- **BASIC SHOTS** (Table Shuffleboard "Basic Shots" Used in Play):
<http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com/basicshots.htm>
- **BASIC RULES & GUIDELINES** (Table Shuffleboard "Basic Rules & Guidelines" Used in Play):
<http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com/basicrules.htm>
- **LINKS TO SHUFFLEBOARD PLAYERS' & COMMERCIAL WEBSITE LINKS:**
<http://www.shuffleboardcorner.com/links.html>

Email Bowers' Corner & TSA website's webmaster: lynda@tableshuffleboard.org

Email Bowers' Corner website owners (Ron & Debbie Bowers):

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