

MONTANA STRIKE ZONE

Issue XL

September 2013

LITTLE'S LANES - RESURRECTED

By Tom Brendgord



A New Beginning



Work in Progress



Owner, Mel Willey, supervising - broken ankle and all

On September 5, 2012, a catastrophe occurred at Little's Lanes in Great Falls. A firemain burst under the building flooding the entire premises in less than 20 minutes. A firemain is the plumbing that supplies the building's sprinkler system. The water pressure in a firemain is extremely high, as one would expect, since a sprinkler system is expected to extinguish a fire in a matter of minutes.

Little's Lanes is one of the oldest and most revered bowling centers in Montana. It is considered one of the major tournament centers in the state. It has a rich history dating to the late 1940's. It is where I grew up as a child and young adult.

For anyone not knowing what happened after the accident, I will attempt to explain. The problem wasn't immediately evident, for they had insurance, which everyone figured would cover the damages in just a matter of time and all would be well.

I spoke to owner, Mel Willey, on several occasions in the first two months checking on the status of the insurance claim and ultimate repair. Repair is not an accurate term, for in this case the place was totaled. The pinsetters were the only thing that could be repaired. Everything else needed to be replaced including the big compressors that ran the bar and casino. Still that wasn't a problem, for they had more than adequate insurance to cover everything.



New Service Counter made from lane #12

Mel's insurance company balked at paying the claim. They didn't feel that the contents were his, which was ridiculous. He had to produce documents from the 1970's proving that he owned the lanes. That didn't work and neither did involving the state insurance commissioner.

By the end of December it became evident that Little's would not be open for any part of the season. At that point they lost the 2013 Youth State tournament, which was scheduled there in April. Also, at that time I started to worry if Little's would ever be open again.

In April, the insurance company finally accepted responsibility for the damages and started the renovation process. In late August the center finally reopened nearly a year after the original incident.

In the process of rebuilding, Mel fell off a ladder shattering his ankle. He was in the process of constructing a new service counter and cabinets (shown at left).

Little's now has new synthetic lanes, new Brunswick automatic scorers, awesome masking units, refurbished pinsetters, new flooring and a first-ever - **underlane ball returns**.

To those of us, who grew up there, this is a dream come true as opposed to the alternative, which was never seeing it open again. And the best news is that we have our beloved center back for all bowlers to love.

SPARE NOTES

By Mike Evjen - MT USBC President

Welcome to the 2013-14 bowling season. Since the last edition of the Strike Zone there have been some changes to the Montana USBC Board of Directors. As of September 1st Roz Gallup is no longer our Association Manager. Roz gave us her resignation last Spring and although we will miss her, we wish her the best of luck in her retirement. More changes among the Board are that Sandy True, Elaine Wilkinson, and Greg McCannel reached their term limits for their respective positions. I know that even though they are not on the Board they will still continue their dedicated work for the bowlers. Don Warner was elected to the position of Vice President and Bert Stiles has been elected to the position of District 4 Director.

This past July my family and I had the opportunity to travel to Columbus, Ohio, where my daughter and I participated in the National Finals of the Qubica National Family Tournament. All I have to say about this experience is WOW! The staff of the BPAA was great to work with and very helpful. Taking place at the same time in Columbus was the U.S. Open and the Women's U.S. Open tournaments, so all of the bowlers in the Family tournament were able to go and watch the final round of match play on Friday night. For someone like myself who has been involved with bowling since I was knee high to a grasshopper this was very exciting. I know it was exciting for the kids as well. These professional bowlers were very receptive to the youth bowlers and had no reservations about autographs or pictures. The final day our speaker was Carolyn Dorin-Ballard. Carolyn is in charge of coaching for USBC and also competed in the Women's U.S. Open tournament. Her speech to the youth bowlers was one of the best speeches of advice I have heard to a group of kids in a long time. If you have never participated in this tournament with your child, make sure that you give yourself the opportunity to do so. Scholarships are awarded at each level and if you make it as far as the National level all youths receive scholarship ranging from \$500 to \$5,000. This is an experience that none of us will ever forget.

BOWL FOR THE CURE

By Ruth Sprankel

It's hard to believe that bowling season is upon us soon! As leagues are beginning, your officers appoint the traditional committees that must function such as the Audit Committee and the Prize Committee. This is the perfect time to also appoint a committee to host a Bowl for the Cure Fundraiser. USBC dedicates the month of February to raising dollars that are donated to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. In 2012, USBC bowlers raised \$733,535. for this very worthwhile cause. By appointing a committee early in the season, it gives them time to come up with some fun ideas.

Montana Strike Zone

The official newspaper of the Montana USBC Association

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Want tournament information?
Download entry forms? Results?

GO TO
www.BowlMontana.com

Bowl For The Cure (cont.)

One of our leagues in Billings, Thursday Night Mixed, at Sunset Bowl has always done a great job in raising money. Last year they asked each time to donate a gift basket. They sold raffle tickets for a Chinese Auction and raised \$560.00. The bowlers love the idea of winning one of the baskets and the money, of course, goes to USBC's Bowl for the Cure. Some ideas for the baskets are Restaurant Gift Cards, Movie & Dinner Tickets, Plants & Flowers, Golf Certificates, Wine & Beer, Picnic baskets, etc. It's always a fun festive event. Also, www.bowl.com has some other ideas for fundraising such as tournaments, etc. It would be great to get more Montana teams involved in this program.

Attention Montana Strike Zone recipients. Please go online to BowlMontana.com, click on the Montana USBC tab, and view page 8 of this newspaper to see other articles. Mailing requirements would not allow its inclusion in this paper.

State tournament coming soon:

State Seniors:

Oct. 4, 5, 6; 11, 12, 13; 18, 19, 20, 2013
Fat Cat Lanes - Laurel, Montana

SHELBY BOWLER DEVOTED TO THE GAME

By Ruth Sprankel

Over the past few years that I have managed the Montana State 600 Club Tournament, it seems that I have developed friendships with women that I have not yet actually met face to face & yet I feel that I know them so well. One such bowler has taught me a great deal about perseverance!

Teri Iverson lives in Sunburst, Montana and drives 52 miles round trip to bowl at the Ten Pin Alley in Shelby. That alone tells me that she must really enjoy the game. In the fall of 2012 Teri was told that she needed rotator cuff surgery on her right shoulder. She is the school's volleyball coach so she waited until the volleyball season was over and had the surgery completed. She returned to bowling soon thereafter using her left hand this time and watched her usual 150's average fall to an average in the 60's. Teri has always had a "challenge yourself" outlook and decided that if she were to quit, she would probably never go back. Teri states "if you give up and don't continue to be active, you begin to age faster. Bowling is fun, it is social and it is a good way to make myself spend time with others in the community that I like and enjoy but don't see often enough".

Shortly before the State 600 Club Tournament. Teri started using her right hand once again at bowling. However, she did not have the necessary 12 games to be able to bowl the tournament. So, once again, she challenged herself and entered the tournament bowling left handed. Many bowlers can think of 100 or more reasons to not bowl, but Teri could only think of reasons that she should bowl. She finished the season right handed and was able to bowl in the Woman's State USBC Tournament in the spring.

In addition to bowling the past 25 years, Teri is a volleyball coach at the Jr. High, teaches Driver Education and drives a school bus 6 hrs a day. Oh yes, I must tell you that her summer months have been challenging as well. Her mother passed away, she had cataract surgery and a retinopathy. Still, she is looking forward to those bowling nights in Shelby to begin the fall season! What a gal!

MONTANA USBC HIGH AWARD WINNERS 2012-13

ADULT AWARDS

HIGH SERIES – Women – Autumn Butori (801)-Butte
HIGH AVERAGE – Women – Autumn Butori (212)-Butte
MOST IMPROVED – Women – Carol Churchhill (+34 PINS)-Helena
HIGH SERIES – Men – Julian Dullinger (847)-Ronan
HIGH AVERAGE – Men – Todd Edelen (242)-Butte
MOST IMPROVED – Men – Robert Medley (+39 PINS)-Billings

11 AND UNDER GIRLS:

HIGH GAME – Samantha Willoughby (226)-Billings
HIGH SERIES – Samantha Willoughby (535)-Billings
HIGH AVERAGE – Bryana Curry (127)-Helena

11 AND UNDER BOYS:

HIGH GAME - Quinn Sullivan (232) Butte
HIGH SERIES - Quinn Sullivan (624) Butte
HIGH AVERAGE - Quinn Sullivan (176) Butte
Caylor Cox (176) Helena

12- 14 BOYS:

HIGH GAME – Koby Doherty (276)-Butte
HIGH SERIES – Emmett Moore (697)-Billings
HIGH AVERAGE – Koby Doherty (183)-Butte

12- 14 GIRLS:

HIGH GAME – Bridget Dodge (241)-Butte
HIGH SERIES – Emily Maheux (552)-Great Falls
HIGH AVERAGE – Kasidy Wagner (160)-Butte
Emily Maheux (160) Great Falls

15 AND OVER BOYS:

HIGH GAME – Steven Hanninen (279)-Missoula
HIGH SERIES – Steven Hanninen (731)-Missoula
HIGH AVERAGE – Cordell Bird (213)-Billings

15 AND OVER GIRLS:

HIGH GAME – Haley Knight (267)-BUTTE
HIGH SERIES – Caitlyn Murphy (630)-HELENA
HIGH AVERAGE – Caitlyn Murphy (181)-HELENA

NEW YOUTH MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM TO DEBUT IN AUGUST 2014

By Tom Brendgard

The Bowling Proprietors' Association of America (BPAA) and the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) are making an unprecedented investment in the growth of youth bowling by committing \$5 million in support of a new youth membership and activation program. The new program significantly lowers cost for families and establishes a bowling industry field staff dedicated to youth initiatives.

Beginning August 1, 2014, the new USBC Youth membership will be offered at a price of \$4. The new membership includes a membership card, a certified average and the eligibility to participate in USBC certified events. All current base USBC Youth membership products will be discontinued. Simple upgrade options for Bowlopolis and Junior Gold programs will remain.

Bowling centers, rather than USBC local associations, will have processing responsibility under the new program. Centers and local associations can combine to achieve this process if there is a good relationship between them, but the lead role is with the bowling center. Youth membership costs have peaked at \$17, thus, creating a barrier for introducing children to bowling.

A new online portal will be introduced by or before March 1, 2014, for bowling centers to process youth memberships. Eventually parents will be able to register their children directly into leagues and buy memberships online - a model that has proven highly successful for other youth sports.

The \$5 million BPAA and USBC investment will come over several years. Plans call for all major IBC Youth programs such as tournaments, in-school bowling, Bowlopolis, and USA Bowling to continue with a new field staff dedicated to growing those programs and membership.

Bowlers Compete in USBC Senior Championship

By Greg McCannel

Twelve bowlers from Montana took the lanes at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno, Nevada, on July 2nd and 3rd to compete in the 2013 USBC Senior Championship Tournament. The 2013 event featured 377 bowlers representing 48 states and 3 Canadian provinces in six different age categories in the Open and women's divisions.

The bowlers competed in six games of qualifying over the course of the two-day event. The top six bowlers in each division and age classification came back Wednesday night to bowl an additional three games in the medal round, with the top overall scores for nine-games being named tournament champions.

The top finisher in each age category received a crystal bowling pin, the runner-up received a clock and the third place finisher received a plaque. There were between 21 and 37 bowlers in the age categories and \$40,000 in prize money was awarded on a 1:3 basis.

Montana was represented by the following bowlers: Open 50 – 54, Timothy (Mike) Fisher, Columbia Falls, 20th place; Women's 50 – 54, Lisa Corbett, Ronan, 14th; Open 55 – 59, Jack Ahern, Dillon, 32nd; Women's 55- 59, Sue McCannel, Billings, 16th; Open 60 – 64, Vern Wingerter, East Helena, 16th; Women's 60 – 64, Alice Woodring, Butte, (tie) 21st; Open 65 – 69, William Hanley, Fairfield, 8th; Women's 60 – 69 Sharon Heiser, Laurel, 28th; Open 70 – 74, RC Fortune, Kalispell, 17th; Women's 70 – 74, Frances Briggeman, Helena, 13th; Open 75+, Larry Metzger, Bigfork, 22nd; Women's 75+, Marilyn Harshbarger, Shelby, 3rd.

Congratulations to all of the seniors representing Montana, but especially to Super Senior, Marilyn Harshbarger of Shelby, who was the highest finishing Montanan by garnering 3rd place in the Super Senior category.

Be sure to enter the 2013 Senior State tournament to be held at the Fat Cat Lanes in Laurel. The tournament runs from October 4 thru October 20 with a total of 7 shifts every weekend including one shift each Friday night at 6 pm. Entry forms are available at all Montana bowling centers or can be downloaded at bowlmontana.com.

Las Vegas Strikes a Deal to Host Many Future USBC Championship Tournaments

By Tom Brendgord

South Point Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas Events, USBC and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority have announced a 12-year deal to host several annual USBC events including the USBC Open Championships and USBC Women's Championships inside a new \$30 million bowling tournament facility at South Point in which construction already started as of May 2013. The new facility will include more than 60 lanes featuring the latest in bowling technology. South Point's current bowling center, already a world-renowned facility that annually hosts top professional and amateur events, will continue to operate.

Over the course of the agreement, USBC will host seven Championship events at the new South Point facility including the USBC Women's Championships in 2016, 2020 and 2022 and the USBC Open Championships in 2017, 2019, 2021 and 2023. There will also be more than 40 additional tournaments, conventions and short-duration events held throughout Las Vegas during the agreement, including the USBC Masters, USBC Queens, USBC Senior Masters and USBC Team USA Trials.

With South Point featuring 2,200 guest rooms, one would think that most all attendees for the seven Championship events would have the ability to stay there. However, event organizers estimate that there will be so many attendees (participants and their parties) that South Point will only be able handle 27% of attendees with the remaining 73% occupying rooms elsewhere throughout the city.

Green Bay Selected to Host Inaugural 2015 USBC Championship Series

Packer fans should be elated!

By Tom Brendgord

Green Bay, Wisconsin, will be the prime destination for competitive bowling in the summer of 2015 as host of a new multi-week USBC event series that has been branded as the new USBC Championship Series. Green Bay was selected by USBC over several top-tier destination cities following a competitive bid process.

The events include two of USBC's flagship events, the USBC Masters and USBC Queens, with the finals of both events broadcast on national television. Other events include the Senior Masters, Senior Queens, Summer Team USA Trials and **Senior Championships**.

The USBC Championship Series will take place July 17 -Aug. 11, 2015, at Ashwaubenon Bowl in Green Bay. The tentative schedule has the Queens and Senior Queens taking place July 17-23, the Summer Team USA Trials from July 23-26, the Masters from July 26-Aug. 2, the Senior Masters from Aug. 3-9 and concluding with the Senior Championships from Aug. 9-11. The Senior Championships is a national event for bowlers who have qualified through their state's senior tournament.

International Family Tournament: How The Montanans Fared

By Tom Brendgord

It doesn't seem to matter who represents Montana at the national finals of the family doubles tournament, the results are always exemplary. The 2013 edition of the IFT, conducted in Columbus, Ohio, July 24-27, featured four teams from Montana as opposed to the normal two. The parent/youth teams were Tennille Cihak and her mother, Aimee, from Billings and Sydney Evjen and her father, Mike, from Missoula. The parent/teen teams consisted of Matt Bolan and his mother, Danielle, from Helena and Daniel Murphy and his mother, Marie, from Clancy, Montana.

The reason that the Montana Bowling Proprietors Association opted to send double the teams this year is because it was such a showcase event. Competing at the same time in the same city were the U.S. Open, the U.S. Women's Open and the U.S. Senior Women's Open. These events were planned this way on purpose. The bowlers in the IFT not only were treated like royalty (as usual), but also got to watch the final round of match play of the U.S. Opens.

The Cihaks finished the highest of the Montana contingent garnering 5th place in the parent/youth. The Evjens, competing in the same division, finished 20th out of 38 teams entered from all over the United States. In the parent/teen division, the Bolans finished in 11th place with the Murphys finishing in 15th.

Every youth competing at the national finals earns a scholarship regardless of their finish. The minimum scholarship is \$500 with the winners in each division receiving \$5,000. I was unable to find out the scholarship amounts our Montana bowlers won because that information was not available as of this printing, but I am sure that Tennille Cihak won more than the minimum. Regardless of the final totals, a good time was had by all plus they all deserve a hearty congratulation.

Montana has been represented well in the last few years at this event. In 2007, Melinda Kagarise and her son, Daniel (from Billings), won the parent/youth division. And in 2008, Heather Kohlman and her daughter, Keilei (Billings), along with Tana Lambert and her son, Jake (Missoula), swept 1st place in both divisions.

2013 U.S. Open Results: How The Montanans Fared

By Tom Brendgord

The U.S. Open is one of the few major bowling events in the world where amateurs can compete. So, naturally to an amateur it is normally considered a lifelong highlight to be there and bowl alongside the world's greatest. The 2013 version of U.S. Opens may even be considered a bigger showcase than most because it was put into a venue unlike ever before.

In late July, in Columbus, Ohio, the best bowlers in the world - men, women, and senior women - converged in the same area and staged a first-ever event. At the same time in the same city, the BPAA was also conducting the national finals of their International Family Tournament, a handicap doubles event where parents bowl with their children for huge scholarships.

Montana always conducts a qualifier tournament in February to determine who will represent them at the national U.S. Opens. We actually had two men's entries in this year's event because our entry from the 2012 event cancelled at the last minute leaving us with no entry that year. So, this year we qualified Shawn Jacobs from Helena to go along with Brad Muri from Billings, who was last year's alternate. Representing the women was Kristen Dehn from Great Falls.

Their results were as follows: Shawn finished in 162nd place and Brad ended in 217th place out of 260 entries. It took a 200.08 average to make the first cut (24 games). Shawn averaged 186 and Brad really struggled averaging 176. Believe me when I tell you that both of these bowlers are fantastic in their own right, so the pressure of the national stage must have been incredible.

Kristen, on the other hand, did very well. She finished in 61st place out of 111 entries. She averaged 184.71 for 24 games while it took a 193.13 average to make the first cut.

The U.S. Open was eventually won by Wes Malott. Liz Johnson won the U.S. Women's Open and she also beat Wes in the Battle of the Sexes match at the end.

M A N Y T H A N K S

By Ginger Ward, Thompson Falls, MT

The Thompson Falls USBC had Bud Atchison from Star Lanes in Butte come do a class for the kids on January 5-6, 2013. There were over 20 kids in attendance for the two day event. He taught the beginning fundamentals as well as getting them on to the 4-step approach. He did a little more advanced class for the older kids. All attending youth and parents were very happy to see the improvement in their child's bowling skills. We would like to have Bud come back again to see how well the kids have progressed and are willing for more training. We need more "Buds" in our lives.

By Mark Hodges, Butte, MT

I have been involved in bowling for almost 40 years, all in Montana except for 5 years. I have friends everywhere in this state that all have this great game in common. This year I was honored with election to the Montana USBC Hall of Fame. This truly is an honor that would not have been possible without the many friendships I have developed. I have been fortunate to have competed at the highest level. But no matter the level that you compete, nowhere else can you find the social interaction you find in bowling. That is why this game will continue to survive and prosper. This truly is a wonderful game. Everyone involved should take the opportunity to encourage all to give it an honest chance.

2013-14 Pepsi USBC Youth Bowling Championships

By Debbie Martinich
Montana YBC Tournament Director

The tournament is sponsored by the Pepsi Company, presented by Brunswick and conducted by the United States Bowling Congress. This event is an opportunity for your area's athletes to become involved in a premier nationwide tournament for youth bowlers. League qualifying MUST be conducted for USBC Youth members! One of the benefits of being a USBC Youth Member allows the bowler to compete with no extra cost at the league level of competition. By each center conducting the league level competition you are giving your bowlers an opportunity to help finance their college education. "Play-up" Waiver forms must be completed before bowling at the league level and also sent with the entry form if he/she advances to the state level.

If you need any help on running qualifiers at your center please give me a call. Every youth member deserves the chance to qualify to the state competition to earn scholarships. Last year Montana gave out over \$6,000 in scholarships at the state level.

Since the tournament has seen major changes this past year and is now going with scratch scores, YBC has added a U10 Division. Our State YBC competition has also added an optional Handicap Event where scratch scores posted during Saturday's qualifier with applicable handicap will place bowlers for additional scholarships. There will be an additional cost to participate and Last Year's Average AND March 1, 2014 average verifications MUST accompany the entry form. Entries without the added optional Handicap Event fee AND average verifications will be rejected from this Handicap Optional Event.

State Champions in the U12, U15 & U20 Divisions will WIN a berth to the 2014 North Pointe Junior Gold Championships July 12-18 in Buffalo, NY if they meet the membership requirement for the USBC Junior Gold Program. There they will compete for additional scholarships available to all athletes at the North Pointe Junior Gold Championships. A parent, guardian or coach, at their own expense, must accompany all advancers.

Please remember: An athlete is NOT required to belong to the USBC Junior Gold Program to bowl at the league level or the state. State Champions of the U12, U15 and U20 divisions and if he/she is not a Junior Gold Program member, he/she must purchase a Gold Membership Card prior to the 2014 North Pointe Junior Gold Championships to advance. If he/she is unwilling to purchase membership, the athlete keeps any awards given from the state/zone but will not be allowed to advance to the North Pointe Junior

Gold Championships and an alternate will be chosen. Every year Brunswick donates a bowling ball for raffle purposes to help the champions of their state with travel expenses to the national championships. The tickets will be sold at Star Lanes starting in January, \$1 each. Drawing for the bowling ball will be on Sunday, May 4th, need not be present to win.

Packets with all the State Pepsi YBC information will go out to all the bowling centers and associations in October. The league qualifying windows are November 8-21 and January 10-23. State Competition, once again, will be held at Star Lanes in Butte, May 2-4, 2014. Entries and fees are due April 10, 2014. A list of submitted entrants will be posted on the Butte Association website as are the complete set of rules and entry forms at www.butteusbc.com.

Please make sure your athletes are entered in the correct divisions or they may be disqualified. Divisions are determined by AGE as follows:

Birthdate is 8/1/2005 or later: U8 Boys & Girls \$20 ea

Birthdate is 8/1/03-7/31/05: U10 Boys & Girls \$25 ea

Birthdate is 8/1/01-7/31/03: U12 Boys & Girls \$25 ea

Birthdate is 8/1/98-7/31/01: U15 Boys & Girls \$30 ea

Birthdate is 8/1/93-7/31/98: U20 Boys & Girls \$30 ea



2013 MONTANA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Shown above are Rod Lee (left) from Livingston and Mark Hodges (right) from Butte. They were both inducted into the Montana USBC Hall of Fame at the HoF banquet held at Star Lanes in Butte on May 18. Both were highly qualified and deserving of the honor.

On My Mind.....

OMG! WHAT HAVE I DONE?

By Tom Brendgord

The Montana USBC association now has a new association manager and you won't believe who it is? Yours truly! And now, as Paul Harvey used to say, "here is the rest of the story".



Most league bowlers in Montana now know the history of the merger that occurred seven years ago. In the spring of 2006, following the lead of the national association, Montana bowling leaders convened in Bozeman to elect a brand new board of directors and slate of officers to run the newly merged Montana United States Bowling Congress association. It was a merger of the men's, women's and youth organizations from the past. The merger was and still is a very good idea. It allowed organized bowling to run more efficiently and save money. Of course, this was all predicated on hiring a good business manager or state association manager as the position was technically referred to.

The new association hired Roz Gallup from Billings to be their first-ever state association manager in June 2006 and she hasn't disappointed. She took over a brand new position that had no precedent, no background and a limited job description. The only thing that was for sure was that this person had to know a great deal about bowling and accounting and be very well organized as well as a self-starter.

Well, Roz has been in this position since its inception and now is ready to retire. She is moving to Portland, Oregon, to join much of her family. All Montana bowlers will miss her. She was the perfect manager. She is an accountant by trade with a deep history of involvement in the Montana Women's Bowling Association, which was one of the merged associations. She is highly dedicated to bowling and extremely likeable. I will miss her, especially since she is going to be a couple of states away.

I applied for that position in May of this year not really expecting to be selected. It turned out that there were only three applicants for the job. At that point I began to realize that maybe somebody knew something that I didn't - that there was a lot more to the job than I thought. Actually there was, but I did know about the change in job description from the original one.

The original job description was changed to add central tournament coordinator to it. That means that the state association manager now will receive and process all entries into every state tournament - the Open, Women's, Seniors and Youth tournaments. That change has now made an already complex and demanding job into one of massive proportions.

Now don't be mislead. I am not complaining. In fact, I love and look forward to a challenge. This might be the biggest challenge of my life. The first year will be the toughest. It always is, especially in this position where every month is different.

OMG! (continued)

I am currently the executive director of the Montana Bowling Proprietors Association, which, essentially, makes me their business manager too. This is a position that I intend to keep. I guess that now I should be one of the most informed bowling figures in Montana.

A few years ago a Missoula reporter referred to me as the bowling guru of Montana. I hope that I can live up to that title. I also hope that I can fill the mighty shoes of the only state association manager that Montana has ever had.

BPAA International Family Doubles Tournament

Format: Handicap Doubles; handicap at 100% of 440 team average
Divisions: Parent/Youth (11 yrs or younger); Parent/Teen (12-18 yrs); Adult/Youth & Adult/Teen (contested at the local & regional levels only)
Parent definition: Parent, Step-parent, Grandparent, Step-grandparent, Great grandparent, Step-great grandparent, court appointed legal guardian
Levels of Competition:
Local qual: 3 games + hdcp. Score 1200 or more to advance
Regional Finals: 3 games + hdcp. 1:2 advance to state finals
State Finals: 3 games + hdcp. Parent/Youth & Parent/Teen winners awarded mostly-paid trip to international finals
International Finals: Every youth awarded a scholarship regardless of finish. \$70,000 total scholarships. \$5,000 1st.
Cost: Local qual (cost of lineage + \$2 per team), Regional (parent/child divisions \$50 per team, adult/child divisions \$35 per team), State (\$20 per team)
Eligible Centers: Must be BPAA member. Current members in Anaconda, Billings, Browning, Butte, Choteau, Cut Bank, Eureka, Fort Benton, Great Falls, Hardin, Havre, Helena, Laurel, Lewistown, Libby, Livingston, Missoula, Polson, Red Lodge, Ronan, Rudyard, Troy, Whitefish.
2013-14: Local qual. (October 1 thru Feb. 2), West Regional (Msla - Feb 8-9), East Regional (Billings - Feb. 15-16), State Finals (Helena - March 22-23).



Little's Lanes

Great Falls, MT
Presents

JOHN WILLEY MEMORIAL OPEN
October 5-6, 2013

\$3000.00 Added Money
Estimated

Top 32 Qualify for Match Play
At Least top 32 cash
Limited to 144 entries
Entry Fee \$165.00

Shift Times: 8AM-1PM-7PM
Multiple re-entry allowed

- ◆ 8 games qualifying on Sat.
- ◆ 8 rounds match play Sun.
- ◆ Cut top 16-4 more rounds match play
- ◆ Top 5 bowl stepladder final
- ◆ Free practice session Fri. 3-5
- ◆ No lineage fees on Sunday
- ◆ Optional Side Pots & Brackets

LADIES SCRATCH CLASSIC
Nov. 9-10, 2013

\$1500 Estimated Added Money

Entry Fee \$90.00

No lineage fees on Sunday for qualifiers

Qual. Shifts: Sat. 1PM & 4 PM
Re-entry allowed

First 24 paid entries will go into a drawing for a brand new reactive bowling ball donated by Little's Lanes.

- 6 games qualifying on Sat.
- All Sunday qualifiers will cash
- Round Robin Match Play on Sunday with stepladder final
- Optional Side Pots & Brackets
- Feed provided Saturday night

Phone entries to (406) 452-4116

CONNECTICUT BOWLER ROLLS 900 SERIES

By Tom Brendgord

James Williams of Pawcatuck, Connecticut, solidified his place in bowling history on April 16, 2013, by rolling a 900 series at the Old Mountain Lanes in Wakefield, Rhode Island. The 47-year-old right-hander struck on every shot he threw during the South County Classic league to become the 21st bowler in recent history to record a perfect series. It actually will become the 22nd USBC 900, but the one rolled by Glenn Allison several years ago was not approved by the ruling body at the time.

His last three strikes were all kind of iffy. In his final frame, the 4-pin fell late on his first shot, the 10-pin was the last to go on his second shot and his final delivery was an unforgettable light-mixer. Not only did he earn a spot in the most exclusive club in the sport, but he also replaced Bob D'Antuono of Lincoln, RI, who owned the previous state record with an 889 series rolled in 1997.

Williams did not roll this kind of a series by accident. He has averaged more than 240 on several occasions and consistently has rolled honor scores over the course of his career.

The first USBC-approved 900 occurred Feb. 2, 1997 by Jeremy Sonnenfeld of Lincoln, Nebraska. That makes this one by Williams the 21st rolled in 17 years. That is an average of 1.3 per year. Hmmm! There has never been a 900 rolled on Sport Bowling lane conditions.

USBC MYTHBUSTERS

By Tom Brendgord

In March 2013, I received a copy of common myths that league and tournament bowlers should be aware of. They cover a wide range of USBC rules. There were 46 myths in this list some of which were confirmed as correct and some were listed as busted. Here are a few of interest.

Myth #5: A postponement must be made 48 hours prior to the scheduled match. **Busted:** Rule 111c was changed by the delegates at the 2010 USBC Annual Meeting to allow requests for postponements to be made up to the time of the scheduled match, except for emergencies.

Myth #10: I can use a Scotch Brite pad to clean my ball during league play. **Busted:** Scotch Brite pads and other abrasive pads can be used before and after USBC competition. Once competition begins, these products cannot be used on bowling balls in competition.

Myth #14: I can clean my ball with nail polish remover. **Busted:** Acetone and non-acetone nail polish removers can never be used on a bowling ball. Both products change the hardness of the ball. For a list of products that are acceptable and unacceptable in USBC competition please visit the equipment specifications section of bowl.com.

Myth #25: If a team does not bowl at its regularly scheduled league time, its scores do not have to be shared with its opponents. **Busted:** Once scores are bowled, they are a matter of public record and can be seen unless league rules specifically prohibit the sharing of scores.

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