

BAY STATE RINGER REPORT – WINTER, ALMOST SPRING (!) 2019

Here we are again – winter is giving us its all (snowing as I write!) but March is almost here. March with the promise of warmer, sunnier, longer days – the promise that we WILL be pitching horseshoes soon – outdoors! The summer schedule is now up on the New England and Massachusetts' websites, at newenglandhorseshoes.net Here it is.

April 27- first tournament of the year in Rhode Island (this tournament is already full and any more entries will be put on the waiting list).

May 10 (Friday) – Horseshoe Mania in Lakeville at 7 P.M.- Open to all (non-sanct.)

May 11- Hamilton Open, So. Hamilton, MA (on their NEW courts!)

May 24 – Friday Night Challenge, Loon Pond H.C. in Lakeville

June 1st – The Memorial Doubles, Loon Pond H.C., Lakeville

June 8th- The Franco Vadnais Memorial Doubles, Belchertown VFW H.C.

June 15th- Tournament of Champions from 2018 – Loon Pond H.C.

July 12th – Horseshoe Mania in Lakeville - (tentative)

(Congrats to Randy Thomas and Samantha DeJesus getting married July 13th!!)

July 14 – World Tournament Warm-Up, Loon Pond H.C.

August 3 – Pre-State Warm-Up - Belchertown VFW H.C.

August 24 – Massachusetts State Singles, Hamilton H.C.

August 31 – September 2- New England Championships, Keene, NH

September 14 - Massachusetts State Doubles – Belchertown VFW H.C.

September 21- Percy Howe Memorial Doubles- Belchertown VFW H.C.

Indoor horseshoe pitching is really gaining traction with two facilities in CT, E. Hartford and Thompson, one facility in Gardner, MA, another in Lewiston, ME.

WELCOME to our new members –we already have 9 new members, 7 of them already pitching indoors in CT. Welcome to: Anthony and Jacob Cacace, Rich, Ian, and Zack Grzembski, Bob Tarsky, David Elsner, Joseph Brodeur, and Melanie Eno. We wish them all the best!!

KUDOS! Excellent pitching at the 2018 New England championships (2nd largest tournament in the world) by pitchers from Massachusetts:

Champions in their classes: Bob Williams in Class H, Tom Murphy in Class G

AND - Dave Bliss is the new Elders' Champion, pitching almost 70% ringers

Runnersup or third in their classes were: Roy Kurra in Elders' D, Theresa Howe and Shelly Martinez in Ladies' Championship, Samantha DeJesus in Ladies' C, Regina Bedard in Ladies' D, Eric Medeiros in Men's C, Ken Corrigan in Men's G, Randy Thomas and Dennis Stebenne in Men's Class GG, and Rob Kuczmiec in Men's H.

Super Stuff! If you haven't been to the New England Championships in Keene, NH, it should go on your Bucket List – 24 courts filled with pitchers – 3 days of good competition, at a beautiful park, and a Friday Night Luck of the Draw with 100 pitchers filling the courts while a Karaoke is going on under the Pavilion. To be in it you DO need to have two sanctioned events (a sanctioned league counts as one) so get those entries in to your favorite (or new to you) tournaments.

MORE KUDOS! There are some very generous people in our organization. Thank you to the BOOSTERS - Alan Fauteux, Eldon Goodhue, Hugh McCabe, Barbara Hanson, Frank Barros, and Donald Lindberg. We **thank** you very much – this money will be put to good use.

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD – We will again award a Sportsmanship Award to a worthy pitcher from our state. This award is named in honor of Al Cardinale who personified the word sportsmanship. Voting will take place on the Belchertown VFW H.C. website and the winner will be announced at one of the State tournaments. So many deserving! Rick Howe was the “inaugural” winner last year. Thanks go to Alan Fauteux for his Booster and for this idea. NICE!

MEMBERSHIP incentives- new this year. This year for the first time, a new pitcher can enter one tournament without being an NHPA member (does have to pay the normal entry fee) OR a new pitcher can become an NHPA member for their first year for only \$10.00. These players will not be able to enter the state tournaments but can enter any other open tournaments. They will be covered by the insurance. That is one of the reasons that we are having more doubles tournaments than previously – many players prefer doubles, at least in the beginning.

BANNERS- Each club in the country was able to buy a very nice banner to hang at their club for a nominal price. Over 350 clubs across the country bought these banners and they DO look very good. Each of our state clubs has one.

TEAM WORLD – Five Massachusetts players will be travelling to Wisconsin in May for the Team World Tournament. They have been holding this team tournament for many years and it is hailed as one of the most interesting, fun tournaments to be in. I have wanted to go to this tournament FOREVAH but was never able to get a team together. This year Rick and Theresa Howe DID IT! They have a team of 4 pitchers and a cheerleader (me). Shelly Martinez (the most travelled pitcher from our state) and Scott Bedard will round out the team and hopefully I will be a good influence. We are really looking forward to it! All cheering for this team will be gladly accepted!

NEW IDEA for this year: Many tournaments ask their pitchers to pay their scorekeepers \$1.00/game. This seems to help GET more scorekeepers AND it helps keep the prize money right up there. We give 80-90% of our entry money back in prize money and now maybe we will have more scorers. We are suggesting that it happen, we are hoping that it will happen. Earn back some of your entry fee by keeping score!

Some sad news: We are sorry to report that Larry Kiff's partner, Joyce, did pass away after a long illness. Larry, we are sad for you and send our condolences.

Just a note: I did let the Executive Board know and now I will let you all know. This will be my last year as secretary. I am putting all of the membership information on HS Master as well as on my own Excel spreadsheet and all of the info will be ready to pass on to the next secretary. So if you have been thinking about being an officer, and if you want to be one who gets to know almost everyone (!!), then think of running for this office. It is fun and interesting! The vote will take place at the General meeting at the State Singles tournament.

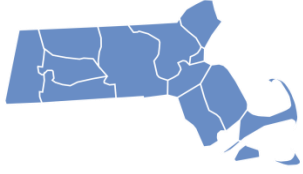
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Next page is the Massachusetts HPA application- entry forms for all tournaments are on the newenglandhorseshoes.net website. If you are receiving this in paper form, I will include some entry blanks for you.

SEE YOU ON THE COURTS!



Welcome to the **Massachusetts Horseshoe Pitchers Association!** The following application is to renew your membership or to join for the first time. When this is completed and received by the State Secretary, you will receive your 2019 MAHPA/NHPA membership card. Keep it in your wallet or your horseshoe box to show at tournaments.

Adults \$33.00 Juniors (18 & below) \$8.00

Please make the check out to : MA HPA Ck. # (sec. to fill in) _____

Send to Sec: Debby Michaud, 379 Hodges St., Taunton, MA 02780 508-822-9610

Check out the New England website: newenglandhorseshoes.net for more information and for the 2019 tournament schedule/entry forms in Massachusetts and the other 5 New England states.

Name(first) _____ (MI) _____ (Last) _____

Address: _____ MA _____ Zip _____

Telephone (_____) _____ E-mail address: _____

Winter address(if different) _____

Applying as: New member _____ Renewal _____ Years as member? _____ NHPA # _____

Provisional Membership - \$10.00 First Year Only _____ (see below)

Birth Date _____ (required for Juniors and Elders, age requested for others)

CATEGORY: Men 40 ft. _____ Men 30 ft*/Med.Exemption*. _____ Women _____

Junior Girl** _____ Junior Boy** _____ Cadet*** _____

*Men 70 and older or with a physical limitation. **Juniors = 18 years of age or less for the entire calendar year & under – ***Cadet is 12 yrs. of age or less for the entire calendar year.

Breakdown of Adult Membership Fees NHPA - \$25.00, MA HPA - \$8.00 Breakdown of Junior Membership Fee (**FREE** if new or if previous yr. member **and** participated in 2 sanctioned events) NHPA - \$5.00, MA HPA - \$3.00

BOOSTER (contribution for publicity, 1st yr. Juniors, etc.) _____

NEW THIS YEAR:

Provisional Member – Dues for Provisional adult members are the National Provisional dues of ten dollars (\$10.00). Provisional Members are allowed entry to regular tournaments/leagues (upon paying their full entry fee) for the period beginning at their first entry to the end of the current calendar year. At which time they must become Full members in order to continue participating in NHPA tournaments/leagues. During their provisional time, a member can upgrade to Full member at any time by paying the remainder of their National Dues (\$15) and their state charter dues. Provisional Member tournament/league statistics are reported to the NHPA and the member is provided an NHPA membership card number with a “P” at the beginning of their charter-assigned membership number (e.g., P095001) for tracking purposes. Provisional members cannot vote and do not count toward the awarding of charter delegates, but are reported on charter membership reports to the NHPA.

Trial Member – All dues for Trial members are waived and the member is allowed entry to one regular tournament/league (upon paying their full entry fee). Trial Member tournament/league statistics are not reported to the NHPA. Trial members cannot vote and do not count toward the awarding of charter delegates, but are reported on charter membership reports to the NHPA.

