 BAY STATE RINGER REPORT

 Happy Spring to All! The sun, the warm air, the flowers popping up out of the SNOW! It all means that we are moving closer to pitching horseshoes. The Executive Board has met, the schedule for 2017 is posted, and the sign up dates are almost here!

 Hope you all had a good winter, which was more like a late, long Fall followed by a quick late winter but Summer ALWAYS comes.

**NEWS**: The “new” New England HPA website is up and running. Click on: [newenglandhorseshoes.net](http://newenglandhorseshoes.net/)  and find all kinds of information. Ken LaCoille from NH is adding to the website, building it one section at a time. There is a section for Massachusetts which is where you can find the 2017 Membership Application, the 2017 state schedule, and, soon, information about all of the clubs in our state.

 As you may remember the 2016 Tournament of Champions tournament was postponed due to inclement weather – it will be held on Saturday, June 17 in Lakeville. If you were eligible last October, then you are still eligible – Let Ray Bedard know that you are entering – e-mail him at cnr33@verizon.net OR call him at 508-943-5017.

 Special, NEW type of tournament being held in Belchertown – on June 24th, there will be a Pro-Am Doubles tournament, the Franco Vadnais Memorial Doubles. The “Pro”means a sanctioned player, and the “Am” means a non-sanctioned pitcher. Each doubles team **must** be comprised of an NHPA pitcher and a non-NHPA pitcher. As they have 6 courts, two flights of doubles competition can have 48 pitchers, 24 NHPA pitchers and 24 non-NHPA pitchers. We hope to introduce the NHPA”experience” to many new pitchers so invite your buddy from the campground or your annual family barbeque to pitch with you. The Belchertown VFW Horseshoe Club may be able to come up with some extra “Ams” but let’s try to get those new players out there to see this great area of the state and these great new courts. We also talked about incentives for new members – free membership the second year IF they pitch in 2 sanctioned events the first year. The more competition we have, the more fun it is to compete!

 Belchertown will also host a World Tournament Warm-Up on July 15, to be run the same way the World Tournament is run – 40 ‘shoe cancellation games.

 FIRST tournament in MA is the Steve Kruczek Memorial Doubles in Lakeville on May 6. (Actual first tournament in New England is in Coventry, RI on April 29). In quick succession, we will hold the Friday Night Challenge on Friday, May 12th in Lakeville, then the Hamilton H.C. will hold the Hamilton Open on May 20. If you cannot get at least one of those tournaments in, you are working too much!! (Easy for me to say – I am now retired!)

 Full schedule is listed at the end of this newsletter, along with an entry form, and the 2017 membership application.

 Per our By-Laws, the State tournament will still have 8 men in the championship class while the Women’s Championship class will be decided after the entries are in. Let us know what you think is best. Mostly, we need MORE women pitchers!

**SURVEY:** What do you all think about Walking Doubles? Let us know. We would like to be sure that the formats we use are popular- (there are no walking doubles scheduled this year). You can talk to any officer to let them know how you feel about the Walking Doubles format OR suggest anything new. This may be written on our new Facebook page as well, the Massachusetts Horseshoe Pitchers Association, which new president Theresa Meshnick, has opened up. Facebook is a very popular way to communicate our info and updates, although not used by everyone.

**CLUBS:** St. Moritz in Quincy is still pitching singles on Mondays, beginning May 1st. Their small club had 8 members in 2015 and increased that number to 13 in 2016! Excellent!

 The Hamilton H.C. still pitching singles AND they are working toward that upgrade on their courts. Good luck to them with this work!!

 The Loon Pond H.C. has a singles league on Mondays and a doubles league on Wednesdays. Starting dates TBD, possibly the last week of April OR the first week of May. It always seems to be cold and rainy when we start in April……Sign up dates will be in April 8th, 12th, 15th, and possible others.

 The Belchertown VFW H.C. pitches Sunday and Monday evenings in non-sanctioned leagues BUT they have several very active, very competitive pitchers who ARE sanctioned. They may add another singles league.

 The Palmer H.C. has one sanctioned league – they did lose a long time member when Al Cardinale passed away in November after a very short illness. He was 86 and did not look it. We will miss his pleasant countenance at tournaments.

 We are looking forward to seeing many of you this summer. We have some stressful things happening in the world so getting together with our horseshoe friends is what we NEED, now more than ever.

 Welcome to our first time horseshoe pitchers in 2016. They were mostly league players but some showed some talent!

Jay Baker Gerry Chicoine

Nate Chicoine Craig Costello

Peter Curran Joseph DiNicola

Jamie DiStefano Richard Gould,Jr.

Timothy Harris Shelagh Johnson

Mike Lenihan Patrick Piemonte

Dan Silva Teri Souza

Paul Stearns Jay Warner

Most Improved Pitcher of the year will be announced at the State Tournament as will the Rookie of the Year if any of these new pitchers participated in tournaments – we hope!

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ENTRY FORM (generic)

Name of entrant\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_NHPA#\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Tournament\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Entry fee\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Tournament\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Ringer%\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_E-mail address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Need to be notified?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Or will check pitching schedule on-line\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2017 MA HPA pitching schedule (full schedule on newenglandhorseshoes.net)

Date Name of tourney location TD

May 6 Steve Kruczek Memorial Doubles Lakeville Wendy Kruczek

May 12 Friday Night Challenge Lakeville Scott Bedard

May 20 Hamilton Open So. Hamilton Bob Martinez

June 11 (Sun) Bonani/Brunson Memorial Lakeville Scott Bedard

June 17 2016 Tournament of Champions\*\* Lakeville Ray Bedard

June 24 Franco Vadnais Pro-Am Doubles Belchertown Randy Thomas

July 16 World Tournament Warm-Up Belchertown Randy Thomas

Aug. 5 Roli Morin Memorial Hamilton Bob Martinez

Aug. 19 State Singles Championship Lakeville Debby Michaud/Scott Bedard

Sept. 16 State Doubles Championship Belchertown Randy Thomas

Sept. 30 2017 Tournament of Champions\*\* Lakeville Ray Bedard

Oct. 14 Ringers Only – Pro Tour style Belchertown Rick Howe

**TD’s**

Wendy Kruczek, 542R Berkley St., Berkley, MA 02779 berkleybiker@hotmail.com 508-345-5671

Scott Bedard, 890 ArcadeAve., Seekonk,MA 02771 s1bedard@comcast.net 774-563-1068

Bob Martinez, 49 Green St., Danvers, MA 01923 hamiltonhorseshoeclub@verizon.net 978-777-0165

Ray Bedard, 6 Riebe Ave., Webster, MA 01570 cnr33@verizon.net 508-943-5017

Randy Thomas, 39 North St., Belchertown, MA 01007, droptinebuck1@gmail.com 413-885-5154

Rick Howe, 39 Norman St., Gardner, MA 01440, 508-918-5364

WRITE CHECKS OUT TO:

Lakeville tournaments: Checks to: Lakeville H.C.

Hamilton tournaments: Checks to: Hamilton H.C.

Belchertown tournaments: Checks to: Belchertown VFW

\*\* 2 Tournaments of Champions: Checks to: Raymond Bedard

Officers:

*President*

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Some things to think about……….

How is it that we put a man on the moon before we figured out it would be good to put wheels on luggage??!

Why do people PAY to go up to the top of tall buildings and then PAY for binoculars to look at things on the ground???

If the professor on Gilligan’s Island was so smart to make a radio out of a coconut, why couldn’t he fix a hole in a boat???!

If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons???! (I think not!)

If a doctor gives you six months to live and you don’t pay your bill, do you get another six months??

We SHOULD listen to farmers and ranchers -

 Life is simpler if you plow AROUND the stump.

 A bumble bee is considerably faster than a tractor.

And a little wisdom to impart:

 Forgive your enemies – it messes up their heads!

MASSACHUSETTS H.P.A. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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 2017 MAHPA/NHPA membership card. Keep it in your wallet or your horseshoe box to show at tournaments.

Adults\_\_\_\_\_$25.00\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 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 2017 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 #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

CATEGORY: Men 40 ft.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Men 30 ft\*.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_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 - $17.00, 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.)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_