



SPRING 2022 MASSACHUSETTS HPA NEWSLETTER

Thank heavens! Covid is almost done and the Spring Solstice will soon be upon us. By the time you read this, you may have turned your clocks ahead and lost that hour of sleep. Just in time to start to get ready for the outdoor pitching season! First outdoor tournament is in Coventry, RI on April 30th and Massachusetts' first tournament is the Memorial Doubles on May 7th in Lakeville. Last year we had **FIFTY** entries, 25 teams, at the Doubles Tournament. That might have been a record – we had pitchers from 5 of the 6 New England states. This year we would LOVE to FILL the courts with **30 teams!** For the Doubles tournament, the entry fee has been raised to \$25.00 per pitcher instead of \$20.00. The reason for that is that I STOLE an idea from Gary Currier in Maine – the extra \$5.00 from each entry will automatically go into the 50/50 raffle and each entry will have tickets for the raffles on the raffle tables as well. There will be some food available in Lakeville and Coventry usually has food as well, either from Club Jogues or from a food truck.

Our schedule this year in MA is: The Memorial Doubles in Lakeville on **May 7**, the Mass Open in Lakeville on **June 11th**, the State Tournament Warm-Up in Hamilton on **August 6th**, the State Singles in Lakeville on **August 13th**, the Massachusetts State Doubles in Lakeville on **September 17th**, AND a new tournament in Hamilton on **October 1st**. That will be a Salute to First Responders Charity tournament. There will be two flights. In the morning, there will be a Horseshoe Mania with local police and firefighters invited (and anyone else, of course), non-sanctioned, and in the afternoon will be a sanctioned singles tournament. SO - Get your partners ready to start the season at the Memorial Doubles!

We may have a slight glitch in Lakeville. We have been told that we MIGHT need to stop pitching for about ½ hr. IF there is a wedding ceremony outside in the gazebo at the same time. I am not sure WHY the bridal party and guests would not want to hear ringers during the

ceremony (!!!)  but there it is.

Leagues will be starting soon. The Loon Pond Horseshoe Club has Singles on Mondays, Senior League on Wed. afternoons (non-sanctioned), and the Doubles League on Wednesday

evening. St. Moritz in Quincy will continue with its Singles League and the Hamilton H.C. will also continue with its Singles League. We haven't heard from Belchertown but, hopefully, they will be holding some kind of league or tournament events AND the League in Palmer will be pitching again, under the leadership of George Vadnais. Below is the MA HPA application form which can still be sent to Dick Mah, our state secretary, OR you can get (renew or New) your 2022 membership on-line at horseshoepitching.com/EShoe. For Loon Pond members, I have also included our league application. Our leagues in Lakeville will begin on May 2nd and May 4th, weather permitting. Sign up dates are 9- 1 P.M. on Saturdays, April 9th and 23rd and on Wednesday, April 14th from 4 P.M.- 8 P.M. OR you can send in your application, etc. to me.

The annual, and very popular New England Horseshoe Championships will be held in Keene, NH on Labor Day weekend. They are re-surfacing their walkways this year which should be ready by Labor Day weekend and MAY be ready for their tournaments during the summer. Yay! Their campground will also be open for Labor Day weekend.

In the state AND in the New England associations, we are trying to obtain sponsors. Theresa Howe, our president, has already obtained 3 sponsors for our state. Red Apple Farm in Phillipston, Brazell's Package Store in Gardner, and Al Fauteux's Fire Extinguisher company are all good sponsors with businesses that make our lives better! The money that we get from these goes into the prize fund for our State Singles and Doubles tournaments - it goes without saying that we should also support these companies as much as possible.

The New England Association is providing each club in the six states with new, very nice, banners. This new banner promotes the New England Championships on Labor Day weekend.

At our State Singles tournament on August 13th, we will be "sharing" the park with a motorcycle rally AND we will have our annual general meeting. Offices up for election this year are President and Treasurer so if anyone is interested in taking on those duties, let us know. Current president is Theresa Howe and current treasurer is Shelly Martinez. We are also updating our Constitution and By-Laws so will get those potential changes published and will have some voting on that, possibly in a block, as it is just a formality to update everything. It hasn't been updated in over 20 years and there have been some major technological advances! Some of the wording is OLD!

We are hoping to send a team to Team World again this year –Rick Howe is our "leader" and there are 4 of us going at present. Each team is 4 members. Fingers crossed for that! Also, with gas prices the way they are right now, I think there will be a lot of car-pooling this year, for ALL of the tournaments!!

One note of good will. Jim McDonough of the St.Moritz club in Quincy has submitted an idea to the NHPA. The idea is to organize and encourage horseshoe pitching at military bases in a more organized way and possibly within the NHPA. "Bout time!!! Good work, Jim.

Good luck to all and I REALLY look forward to seeing many of you soon! Good pitching, stay healthy, and live in the moment!

MA HPA Officers:

Theresa Howe, president, 413-835-1810, tm0819@hotmail.com

Dave Bliss, vice-president, 508-864-3248, davebliss57@gmail.com

Dick Mah, secretary, 978-502-5799, richgmc@aol.com

Shelly Martinez, treasurer, 978-836-9859, samartinez29@verizon.net

APPLICATION FOR 2022 MA HPA MEMBERSHIP

Name _____

Address _____ Town _____ Zip _____

Age _____ Birth date required for juniors, cadets, and elders (70 & over) _____

\$33.00/ adult member renewal and for full membership _____

\$10.00/ Provisional membership FIRST YEAR ONLY, for players who do not want to enter the State Tournaments _____

\$8.00/Junior or Cadet memberships (18 & under for juniors, 12 & under for cadets) _____

Mail check (made out to: MA HPA) to: Richard Mah, Secretary, 86 Shore Drive, Peabody, MA 01960-3010