



# THE OPAL 'GEM' EXPRESS



**NLF2013-06**  
**October 14, 2013**



**HIDDEN** (Except when in parenthesis)

(somewhere in this Newsletter) are "5" APA Membership numbers just waiting to be discovered. One person from the Sept 30th newsletter called in to save himself from disgrace and that was: **Ryan Todd** (97219644) who plays for Mousetrap's "Powershots" in the Northern D.J. division which means there's going to be a Loser's Party of four for you this week.

From the October. 7th Newsletter **Mike Peterson** (97219667) who plays for The Timeout Pub's "Invincibles" in the Midnight division also called in to save his ass and win a shirt. There are still 4 numbers out there from this past week, plus the "5" new one's from this week. So that's 9 numbers. Grab your magnifying glasses and get hunting or else maybe you'll be seen on the back of the very next newsletter like those silly loser's you can see this week.

**REMEMBER**, You have only until the writing of the 2nd Newsletter following the one your number is in to call the league office with the magic words "Gimme My Shirt" Otherwise, you'll find yourself in the Loser's Corner for all to see, and minus a shirt that'll go to someone else! So, don't let that happen to you...Grab your glasses & Magnifying lens and get to looking! **BE AN OPAL WINNER INSTEAD 97219512**

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## OPAL SWEEPS FALL SINGLES REGIONAL

**October 12TH** Jake's Bar 'n Grill in Salem hosted the NW APA Fall Singles

Regional with **Randee Lee** of Salem, APA League Operator as the tournament director, and **Merle & Boomer** assisting. There were 55 players that were qualified. All were hoping for one of the total of 5 slots —3 in 8-Ball and 2 in 9-Ball—to the APA National 8-Ball Singles Championship at the Riviera in Las Vega during April 2014. In 8-Ball there was one "Yellow" Tier (SL-4) slot, One "Red" Tier (SL-5) slot, and one "Orange" Tier (SL 6) slot. In 9-Ball there was one "White" Tier (SL's 4 & 5) slot, and one "Black" Tier (SL's 6-9) slot. The Format was Modified Single elimination.

Both formats were started and finished in the one day. 8-Ball started at 9:00 Am, and 9-Ball was slated to begin around 2:30 PM. In the 8-Ball Yellow (SL-4) Tier Board, One finalist OPAL's **Jonathan Swanson** of Portland took the long way around while OPAL's **Courtney Corda** went straight away to the finals undefeated. **Jonathan** started out in the first round getting his ass kicked royally 3-Zip by **Courtney Corda**. Limping his way over to the one loss side **Jonathan** first drew a "Bye" then went on to defeat Salem's **Cindy Jones** 3-1. Next he took on OPAL's **Claire Lewis** who took him to double hill before making a crucial miss in the case game which allowed **Jonathan** to run out the last couple of balls and win the match 3-2. With that win **Jonathan**, returned back across the board to come face to face against **Courtney Corda** in the finals.

After **Courtney's** slaughter of **Jonathan** in the first round, she went straight into her 2nd match against OPAL's **Claire Lewis** who she literally destroyed 3-Zip just like she did **Jonathan**. However, in so doing **Courtney** found herself receiving a promotion to Skill Level "5," now in single elimination, and playing the semi-final 4/3 race against OPAL's "Alexander the Great"—**Jason Alexander**. No cake walk this time...**Courtney** found herself fighting for her life at 3/2 double hill. When the dust settled "Alexander" was re-titled "almost great" and **Courtney** was off to play a rematch in the finals against **Jonathan Swanson**. Would it be Summer ReRun's or **Jonathan's** revenge?

The Yellow Tier's Final turned out to be **Jonathan's** revenge. He took two of the first 3 games and put himself on the hill. Then **Continued on Page 2.)**



## SINGLES REGIONAL (Continued)

🎯 **Jonathan** went on to take game 4 to seal the deal. Thus, claiming a 3-1 Victory, revenge, and the bragging rights to scoring the "Yellow" Tier bragging rights, and the slot into the APA Singles National Championships to be held in April 2014 at the Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

Meanwhile over in the SL-5 8-Ball "Red" Tier Both OPAL players **Jodell Broaddus** and **Bill Backman** were getting ready to face off against one another in their board final after both players had taken the long and perilous journey through the back side only to return back across and continue to win their way into the finals. (**Jodell**, started his journey with a double hill Thriller Diller 3/4 loss to OPAL's **Sarah Mixon**, and now in single elimination he had a "Bye" in his first round on the Loser's side giving him a chance to lick the wounds of his hurt pride. In the next round **Jodell** took out OPAL's **Susumu Migaki** 4-2 only to come face to face against his reason for being on the one-loss side—OPAL's **Sarah Mixon** who this time he 4-Zipped her right out the door to home. Moving back across the board to the Semi Final he discovered he was now facing last year's 2012 "Red" Tier champion OPAL's **Nick Skellenger**. It was a tight match with both players tied at 2-2, but then **Jodell** won game 5 to put himself on the hill. In the case game **Nick** had an easy out to tie the match up at 3-3, but ended up "jawing" his next to last ball, and **Jodell** seized the opportunity to run out to claim the 4-2 victory, which gave him passage into the finals against "Smokin" **Bill Backman**..

**Bill's** journey was a bit more anxiety ridden then was **Jodell's**. **Bill** started out of the gate by upending **Jodell's** brother "**Karrar Mayweather** 4-2. Then, in the next round, **Bill** hit a wall and saw stars...OPAL's **David Starr** that is... **David** and **Bill** stressed all the way to double hill before **David** managed to get the best of him and send **Bill** over to the Loser's side. In the one loss side—**Bill** bombed Bend, Oregon's **Brad Mattson Jr.** 4-1 sending him out the door to the long road home. Next **Bill** 4-Zipped another Bend Oregon player **Ron Webb** out the door to follow after **Brad**. **Bill** then was propelled back across the board to the Semi's and his awaiting nemesis who had sent him off to the loser's side in the first place— **David Starr**. Apparently this was not going to be a day for "Summer Re-Runs" 'cause 'ol "**Bill**" beat the crap out of **David** 4-Zip and it was immediately off to the finals against **Jodell Broaddus** for **Bill**.

Seven straight games, and double hill later and it was finally all over. What a match it was indeed. **Jodell** had come firing right out of the gate by taking games 1, 2, & 3 to put himself straight away dead on the hill. With his back to the wall, **Bill** came roaring back and took games 4,5, & 6 to bring the match to double hill. Last game winner take all. They both had the opportunity to win, but it was **Jodell** who ended up with the bragging rights and the slot to the Las Vegas nationals..



In the SL 6 "Orange" Tier board it was two OPAL players in the final—**Steve Kemp** and **Alexander Willett**. 97218529 **Steve** went to the finals undefeated. He jumped out of the gate defeating OPAL's **Dana Minor** 5-2, then went on to meet OPAL's **Rob Solomon**. **Rob** took games 1 & 2, but then **Steve** came back taking games 3,4,5, & 6 to put himself on the hill. **Rob** chalked his cue and came back with games 7 & 8. to bring the match to double hill. **Steve** managed to win the case game and move on to the semi-finals while **Rob** went on to tour the back side. In the Semi's **Steve** came up against **Dana Minor** again who had blasted through the backside, and returned across to face **Steve** again. Apparently **Steve** didn't get the message that this was the day of the "Revenge" because he beat **Dana** again, but not as bad—this time it was 5-3.

Meanwhile **Alex Willett** took a different type of journey to the finals. **Alex** got spanked in the first gate by OPAL's **John Woolen** 5-3 and it was immediately off into the one loss side for **Alex**. Salem's **Glenn Shoup** was waiting like a pouncing vulture for **Alex**. **Glenn** won the first game, and **Alex** apparently didn't like that very much because he came back and took the next 5 games straight to win the match — defeating **Glenn** 5-1. Next, **Alex** put the stops to Salem's **Don Ryan** 5-2, and sent him down the road to home. **Alex** then really met his match in OPAL's **Rob Solomon**. **Alex** won game 1, **Rob** won games 2 & 3. **Alex** won game 4, but then **Rob** won game 5 to go ahead 3-2. **Alex** came back with games 6 & 7 to put himself on the hill and one game up. **Rob** came back with game 8 to tie the match up at double hill. **Alex** won the case game to move across the board into the finals, and **Rob** hit the road to home. (Continued on Page 3.)





SINGLES REGIONAL (Continued)



In the Semi Finals, Alex defeated OPAL's **Joshua Boelter** 5-3 to move into the finals against OPAL's "boy wonder" **Steve Kemp**. **Steve** came out aggressive taking games 1,3 & 4. **Alex** replied by taking games 2, 5, & 6. tying the match up 3-3. **Alex** won game 7 & 8 to take the hill, the match 5-3, the bragging rights, and the very last competing slot into the April 2014 National Singles Championships at the Riviera Hotel and casino in Las Vegas. **Steve** so close yet so far.

In the 9-Ball format we had two skill level groups competing. The "White" Tier (SL's 4 & 5), and the "Black" Tier (SL's 6-9) In the (SL-4 & 5) "White" Tier we had two OPAL players competing in the finals—**Mihkel Talviste** and **Jodell Broaddus**. Both players took a straight away undefeated parallel path to the finals. **Mihkel** started out as a SL-4 in the opening gate and defeated OPAL's **Bruce Micheau** 31-22, That win gave him a promotion to SL-5. Next **Mihkel** wiped out **Courtney Corda** 38-27. Next, he squished **Gerrie Moler** 38-9 and then he just barely got by **Bill Backman** by the skin of his teeth 38-37, to move on into the finals.

Meanwhile, SL-5 **Jodell Broaddus** started out by wiping the floor with **Michael Choe** 38-10. He then defeated **Bill Backman** 38-28. Much to **Jodell's** surprise here came **Michael Choe** again freshly returning back from the one loss side hell bent for revenge for the semi-final match. **Michael** almost got his revenge too, but an untimely miss in the case rack made him come up just a little bit short barely losing the match 38-36—however, in the process it's pretty sure that he possibly made it necessary for **Jodell** to have to take a trip to the bathroom and change his underwear!

The final's match was a bit lop sided as **Jodell** excelled, and **Mihkel** had difficulties. **Jodell** emerged victorious and won the match 38-22 to become one of the rare lower skill levels in OPAL history to win simultaneous Regional slots into both the 8-Ball and the 9-Ball disciplines. Now let's see if he can do something great with them.

One thing's for sure he's going to be one hell of a busy camper rushing from match to match down in Las Vegas... It will be both a test of endurance and stamina providing he continues to stay up-right, hydrated, and energized.



In the SL-6-9, Black Tier 9-Ball bracket, there was just one more slot up for grabs. Reaching the Finals were two OPAL players SL-6 **Miguel Madrigal** and SL-8 **Andrew Dalbey**. **Andy** made it through to the finals quite undefeated. He was slotted to play OPAL player SL-8 **Evan Smelser** in the very first round, only Evan didn't show up at the site to play so Andy won a tough forfeit. In the second round Andy played James Huse a SL-7 OPAL player who Andy demolished 65-31. Andy was now in the Single elimination phase of the tournament—lose now and it was out the door and go home. Coming back from a trip around the world in the One-Loss side to the Semi-Finals was OPAL's SL-6 Robert Solomon. It was a 65/46 point match race. Andy just barely squeaked out the win 65-43 as Rob just needed 3 points when Andy made his final ball which meant it was off to the Finals for Andy, and out the door to home for Robbie.

Meanwhile, also making it into the Finals match was SL-6 OPAL Referee Miguel Madrigal. Miguel began his day by getting took out 46-42 in the first round by OPAL's SL-6 Robert Solomon in a very close and tight contest. Miguel absolutely wailed on two consecutive "Byes" in the one-loss side, and then went on to a real underwear changer against OPAL's SL-6 Tyson Croonquist. Both players needing to reach 46 points to claim the victory, the match was tied 43-43 when Tyson got a break and had the chance for an easy out and the win. Tyson made two balls to put him at 45 then somehow missed a super easy shot leaving the ball "jawed" in the pocket. Miguel hopped to the table like a jumping bean in heat, made the jawed ball and the next two shots to claim the victory and the opportunity to keep on competing. Tyson, on the other hand, found the door to the outside and down the road to home. For the loser's point and the chance to move back across the board to the (Continued on Pg 4.)

SINGLES REGIONAL (Continued)



Semi Finals Miguel was caged up with OPAL's SL-7 James Huse. Miguel rallied to eliminate James out of his misery, and out of the gene pool with 15 point win 46-40 as James needed to reach 55. Moving across the board to the Semi-Finals Miguel had to play undefeated OPAL SL-6 player—Joshua Boelter in a 46/46 race. Miguel managed to get the best of Josh by a full rack—46-36 and head for the finals against waiting SL-8 Andrew Dalbey.

It had been a long day, but the end was near and in sight. Andy had to reach 65 before Miguel reached 46. Unfortunately for Andy that didn't happen. All day long Andy had played practically flawless whereas Miguel had been extremely fortunate, and lucky, just to have survived from match to match. The only thing perfect about



Miguel was his charm and winning smile. Other than that, the only thing consistent about Miguel's game throughout the day was it's inconsistency. However, be that as it may, the Finals match revealed a story to the contrary. Andy played well and made some great shots, but he also missed a few easy run outs that normally he wouldn't have. Miguel on the other hand, just couldn't miss. He got out from anywhere and everywhere. He made shots that he'd normally miss. He'd get buried and still figure out a way to make a good hit—It was simply amazing to watch. Miguel played like a champion, and not only that—he is a champion—He defeated Andy 46-54 to claim the 5th and last slot into the Singles Nationals in Las Vegas along with all the bragging rights, and the title of 2013 Black Tier 9 -Ball Fall Regional Champion.

Special Thanks to **Scott McComas** & Staff for being such gracious and generous hosts for this event. The tables were all in great shape, the food was great, and there was plenty of cold liquid refreshment to be had! Also Kudos' and gratitude's to Referee's: **Morey Marks**, **Larry Hande**, and **Glen Shoup** who donated some of their time to officiate.

**REMEMBER**—If you want to participate and possibly get a chance to win your way into the Nationals Singles Championship in April 2014. you will only have until November 30 (That's Only about 6 weeks away) to get qualified for the Spring regional coming in February 2014.

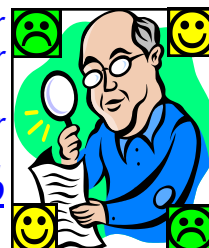


The four persons listed below are "Losers" from the Sept 30th Newsletter. If you happen to see these individuals, give 'em your best razzing. And don't forget to give 'em the old "L" sign,—while thanking 'em for leaving a shirt in the box—possibly just for you!

- 1—**MARK FISHER** (97215433) who plays for Pub 181's "**Sticklerz**" in the Gateway Double Jeop. division.
- 2—**VERNON KYLE** (97218746) who plays for Sam's "**Sofa Kings**" in the Sunrise Double Jeopardy Division.
- 3—**KATIE WILLIAMS** (97219056) who plays for Sam's "**Tabula Rasa**" in the Central 9-Ball Division.
- 4—**DAVID DAY** (97219207) who plays for Bink's "**F.G.P.P.**" in the No-Po Division.

If you don't want to be caught here for everyone to see, then look to see if your number isn't hidden somewhere.

**REMEMBER**, it is possible for your number to come up at anytime. Therefore, pay attention to 97215647 detail, **READ THE NEWSLETTER..!**



THE HAIRCUT

Submitted by:  
Jeff Clohessy

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car. His father said he'd make a deal with his son: 'You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car.'

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it. After about six weeks his father said, 'Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed that you haven't yet gone had your hair cut.

The boy said, 'You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair ~ and the evidence shows that Jesus even had long hair.

**YOUR GOING TO LOVE THE DAD'S REPLY**

"Did you also notice that they all walked everywhere too?"