



# The OPAL 'GEM' Express

OPAL: "A real 'GEM' in YOUR Community!"

**NLF2015-01 Sept. 7, 2015**



Riviera Hotel & Casino



**SERVING YOU:**

**OPAL-APA**

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Boomer Humphreys**

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**HIDDEN** (Except when in parenthesis) somewhere in this Newsletter are "5" APA Membership numbers just waiting to be discovered. Starting out this session we have 4 unfortunate souls taking up residence in the Loser's Corner on the back page. Only one person called in from the July 13th newsletter and that was: **Mark Fisher** (97215433) who plays for Pub 181's "Sticklerz" in the Far-side D.J. division. The other 4 you'll be laughing at in the Loser's corner on the back page of this newsletter this week.

From the July 23rd newsletter calling in was: **James Shelton** (97290403) who plays for River Road House's "Here To Have Fun" in the Mid-Valley D.J. division.

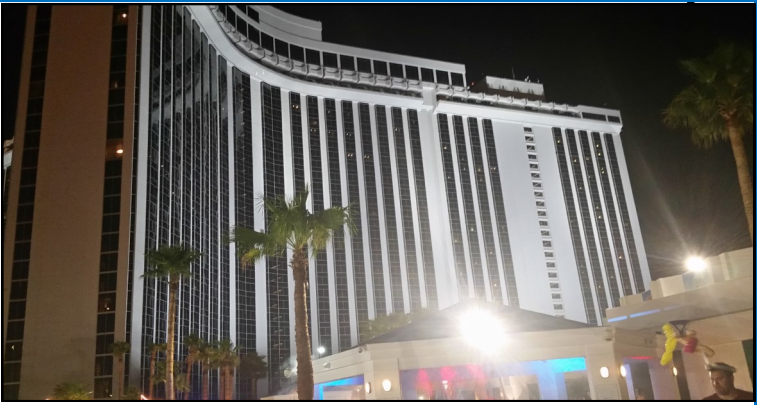
**REMEMBER**, You have only until the writing of the 2nd Newsletter following the one your number is in So, if you find your number, call the league office with the magic words "**Gimme My Shirt**" or the rest of you from July 23rd will be seen in the loser's corner ! **BE AN OPAL WINNER -- FIND YOUR NUMBER!**

**THE WESTGATE...  
A NEW BEGINNING !**

**August 13 — 22nd** For 23 consecutive years The Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas had been our home away from home and the host of all our National APA team and singles events. When it was announced that the Riviera site was being purchased and taken over by the Las Vegas Convention Center group and our national arena was abruptly coming to an end it was bitter-sweet. A few years back, the casino management removed the extremely popular large, oval, "SPLASH" bar (*affectionately known as the office where everyone used to meet, congregate, and hang out*). After that removal, the "Riv" had steadily been on the decline. Kady's had cut their hours more and more until they finally closed. Other restaurants and businesses came and went. Registration was moved to the emporium, The sports book was closed, and large areas were partitioned off. The Big Head Line acts began to diminish, staff were cut, services discontinued and it didn't go unnoticed by the patrons who missed nickel town, the big poker games, and the specials that made the Riv unique. So when the League Operators were told the end was near, and that WESTGATE (*Formally the Hilton*) was going to be taking over where the "Riv" was leaving off—it was truly bitter/sweet. None of us knew what to expect although there were some who had gotten to preview the new facility, most of the rest of us had not. I was among the "Had Not's," Boomer had seen the pool and the tournament room, but had gotten separated from the group when she saw a slot machine with her name on it...

Going into the unknown yet with some hopeful anticipation Boomer and I flew off on SW Airlines to Vegas on August 12th and arrived at the huge double glass doors of the Westgate with our bags in tow about 9 PM. Just after we had gotten inside the majestic doors and began walking across the polished marble floor looking around to see (*Continued on Pg. 2*)

(Continued from Pg. 1) where the check in desk might me I suddenly stopped dead in my tracks, and my mouth popped open in total shock and disbelief....For there staring me splendidly right in the face from the Casino floor below—was a super sized new and improved, impressive oval shaped “SPLASH” bar. I couldn’t believe my eyes, but there it was. There was a ton of belly up to the bar stools, with poker machines to play at each stool, tons of Sofa Chairs and couches and little tables surrounding the entire perimeter of the bar for people to relax in and get comfortable, or congregate with their teams after a match, a place to meet with friends, or just sit down, kick back, and enjoy a cocktail. It was totally awesome. I can hardly wait until each and everyone one of you get to see it for yourselves.



The room registration desk was to the immediate left of the main entrance glass doors. The walk was all on marble floor so it was easy to drag your bags along on their wheels. After getting our room key for one of the over 3,000 rooms our walk continued down wide marble floor hallways on to either the North, Central, or East Towers. The central tower was across from the Registration Desk about 70 feet next to the hallway that led to the North and East towers. Passing the Central tower on down the hallway about 50 feet the hallway forked and to the left it led to the North Towers, pizza hut, several shops, and the Elvis Presley Museum and show. But, continuing on down the hallway straight taking the right fork about 200 feet passing shops and restaurants you came to the east tower elevators. Super neat on the wall was an electronic display telling you where each elevator was located and whether they were heading up or down. Boomer and I were on the 29th floor as far away from the tournament room as one could be.—yet we were only about 10 brisk walking minutes time away from the tournament area.

Going to the tournament area was a snap. Everybody went down the elevators to the first floor, and headed left down the main hallway. All 3 towers merged into that hallway which emptied out onto the main carpeted casino floor... At that point you could take a left and go down toward several bars, Sid’s Café, and the Sportsbook, OR you could continue straight on ahead past the splash bar across the casino floor and down the hall way past the Sushi Place, Noodle factory, Benny Hanna’s The Edge Steak house, and the Buffet and on ahead into the Pavilion where the Mini tournaments were being held on one side, and the Scotch doubles and pre-registered events (Triple Play Masters, Scotch Doubles, Women’s Teams, etc, were being held on the right side. If you took an immediate right upon entering the Pavilion you’d head past all the Vendors and the pro exhibition area where Jeanette Lee, Florian “Venom” Koehler, or Dr. Cue would be performing, and straight on into the Main Team tournament arena. Between the two huge pavilion rooms there were approximately 360 tables all laid out in a crisscross pattern with easy access and ample spectator seating.

The real bonus however, was the newly developed App that everyone could download onto their Cell phone which would tell you which team of your teams were playing at the moment, and on what table their match was playing and against who.... That was pretty cool. The App would also tell you when and where a team not playing would be having their next match too. No more walking across the room to the big boards to stare at a wall trying to figure out who was going to be playing and when. Another Bonus was out in the smoking area outside the WESTGATE had set up a Bar=B-Q arena where tasty, hot dogs, chicken, hamburgers, and cheese burgers were being cooked and served with condiments at a very reasonable price along with Beer and soft drinks...

From August 13–16th Running parallel to each other were the 466 APA National Team 9-Ball Championships, The Ladies APA National 8-Ball Team Championships, and the APA open 8 & 9-Ball Scotch Doubles championships. From the 16<sup>h</sup> through the 22<sup>th</sup> it was the 710 team APA National 8-Ball Team Championships competing.

Running in parallel with that was the Aug. 18-21st 256 team Triple Play Masters championship. “**Zakira**” placed 97th just two spots out of the money.

Aug. 13-16th OPAL had six 9-Ball teams representing our Portland/Vancouver area. Three Teams finished in 65th Place and won \$500. They were: “**Pool Ball Wizards**,” “**The Wolf Pack**,” and “**The Who?**” “**Grade A Fools**,” “**Cheap Dates**,” and “**Under8ted**” each received last place money and enjoyed a tremendous Las Vegas vacation.

We had seven 8-Ball teams competing in the Aug. 16-22nd Championships. “**Under8ted**” made it to 129th Place and won **\$1,000**. “**8’s & A’s**,” and “**Shot Effect**,” both made it to 65th Place and won **\$1,500**. The other 4 teams however received their last place money of **\$350** and enjoyed themselves a fantastic Las Vegas vacation.

In the Aug. 17-19th Jack ‘n Jill Scotch doubles category, both “**Soloden**” (**Rob Solomon & Jordan Walden**) and “**Let’s Go**” (**Zach Enriquez & Delores Petrich**) finished in the money at 33rd place winning **\$150**.

In the Women’s 256 team 8-Ball Pre-Registered Team Category OPAL’s “**Silver Belles**” finished outside of the money in 129th place, but thoroughly enjoyed their Las Vegas Vacation.





We closed out Summer Session 2015 at Midway's Public House in Oregon City hosting the event on Sunday August 31st. **Kraig & Carol Pauli**, and staff, hosted the event. There were very accommodating and had reduced beverage prices for everyone's enjoyment.

Greeting all the people with Hi's and smiles at the door were **Rod Bahr & Cindy Saunders** who ran the registration booth, taking money, answering questions etc, while **Boomer**, and assorted helpers perched themselves down in the lower pool room area handing out the new session folders.

From 8:30 AM till about 9:30 AM, **John Blue** spearheaded a group of volunteers namely: **Charlie Walker, Maxine Buhler, Jeff Hiatt, John Blue**, and **Samantha McCabe** Those people beautifully organized and set up the immense 3 table team trophy display in just under an hour. [Great job folks]

**Merle, Dan Fendall**, and **Don Walker** organized and ran two tables of "Survivor APA" and a 9-Ball break contest. until it was time to give at the awards at 4 PM. Six heats of Survivor and eleven 9-Ball break contests were ran.

First, n the Seven \$3 entry 10-person break contests which paid \$20 for first and \$10 for second. Winning were: #1-**Charley Walker** 1st, & **Cindy Fendall** 2nd; #2-**John Prah** 1st, & **Charlie Walker** 2nd; #3-**Buck Campbell** 1st & **Bo Hyder** 2nd; #4-**Buck Dale Jones** 1st & **Don Walker** 2nd; #5-**Bo Hyder** 1st & **Buck Campbell** 2nd; #6-**Phil Sanders** 1st & **Don Walker** 2nd; and last #7-**Charlie Walker** 1st & **Justin Walker** 2nd;

In the \$5 entry Survivor games, there were always 12 contestants in each game paying out \$30 for 1st \$20 for 2nd & \$10 for 3rd. The rules were simple—it was a 12

person ring game. When your turn came all you had to do was make a ball—any ball—in any pocket! If you missed 3 separate times during the course of the game you were eliminated. Last 3 people standing after everyone else had been eliminated made it into the money. There were a total of 6 heats completed. In Heat #1: 1st: **Dan Fendall**, 2nd: **Tyson Croonquist**, 3rd: **Tim Higginson**. Heat #2: 1st: **Mr. Merle**, 2nd: **Tyson Miller**, 3rd: **Mike Howland**. In Heat #3: 1st: **Eric Stedman Falls**, 2nd: **Tyler Hanson**, 3rd: **Greg Taylor**. In Heat #4: 1st: **Eric Stedman Falls**, 2nd: **Mr. Merle** 3rd: **Dan Fendall**. Heat #5: 1st: **Phil Sanders**, 2nd: **Mike Howland**, 3rd: **Gerrie Molar**. Heat #6: 1st: **John Prah**, 2nd: **Eric Stedman Falls**, and 3rd: **Mike Howland**.

The Tri-Cup Draws went off with 8-Ball first around 2:30 in the afternoon with Merle and able bodied volunteers Maxine Buhler, assorted volunteers assisting. Once we got through drawing out of the teams with common players the rest of the draw went smoothly and quickly. A brief recess to prepare the bingo squares for the 9-Ball draw and we were off and running once again with the teams that had common players. We finished up with about 20 minutes to spare which allowed John Blue plenty of time for Door Prize give-a-ways (Continued on Pg 4.)



Rod Cindy

Registration



Boomer



The Trophies



The Trophy Set Up Crew





(Continued from Page. 2) Emcee'd by **Boomer** and **John Blue** with assistance from some helpers the awards went off very smoothly. . Approximately 1500 Special Awards, Certificates of Merit, and Trophies were handed out.

League play trophies included: Male & Female MVP, Most Improved, Sportsmanship, 1st place host location, and first and second place individual team trophies. Certificates of Merit were given for shutouts, Break & Runs, Table Runs, and 8, or 9 on the break.

Meanwhile, as the awards were handed out Merle was set up for digital pictures out the back disarmed emergency door to the alleyway for anyone wanting team pictures.

Winning Cue stick's given to OPAL on a great discount from the Cue Ball in Salem were: **Cherry Kleven—winning the Black Viking Cue, Joe Dubanski who won the Red Viking Cue, and Mr. Tim Higginson who won the Blue Cue Tec Cue.**

About \$300 in additional door prizes were given out which included a Measle Cue Ball won by Greg Taylor, Red Circle Cue balls, bat wings, pocket chalkers and other Accessory items for the player and the game of pool as well

**Special thanks to Carol & Kraig Pauli, and crew of Midway for all their hard work in hosting this session end party event, and to all the people who helped out with the trophy display setup, special activities, and registration. It was truly most appreciated. Thank you one and all—you really helped to make the day special.**



## Capt.-Co-Captain Tournament



The first Saturday beginning the new session is the OPAL day of appreciation for all those who commanded teams the previous session. The Midway in Oregon City hosted the 34 player turnout. With the \$15 per player entry, and \$100 in added money from Midway and OPAL we had a total payout purse of **\$610** that was paid to the top '16' finishers in the field.

The 64 player tournament chart was modified single elimination which meant that every player was guaranteed to play at least two times, but beginning the 3rd round in the winners side it then became single elimination. The format was patterned similar to that of the US Amateur in that both 8-Ball and 9-Ball games were usually played. The winner of the lag had first choice of either to break or to name the game. If the lag winner chose to break then the opponent chose what game to play first. If the lag winner chose to name the game then the opponent got to break. Skill level 2 & 3's had to win 2 games; Skill Level 4 & 5's had to win 3 games; and Skill level 6 & 7's had to win a total of four games.

Probably due to heavy opening College Football season traffic several players had trouble getting to the Midway. Then, drawing the board and getting it filled out, having the players meeting, we didn't get started until about 1:15 Pm — but it flew by fast after that. Using all of the diamond tables the event progressed quickly. The final match started a little after 6:00 PM. Everyone had a great time. **Special kudo's to the Midway's Staff & Crew who did a great job as hosts , and also to Don "Coyote" Walker for officiating and helping Merle with setting up the tournament. (Continued P. 4)**

## Capt.-Co-Captain Tournament



The race to the "bragging rights" was an undefeated journey for both finalists. For **Tarek** (SL-7) **Zaher**, Co-Captain of "Sotally Tober" who plays out of KC's Midway in the Southern D. J. division, he began slicing a "Bye" off to the back side. In Round 2 he wiped out **Karen** (SL-5) **Ronning** 4-1 sending her to the dark side. Next he 4 zipped **Virginia** (SL-4) **Shoberg** sending her out the door to home. Emerging back from the loser's side, Next he 4-Zipped **Mike** (SL-5) **Talviste** when he emerged from the Dark Side, but left him with \$15 9th place money. **Tarek** then wiped out **Gary Grim** 4-1 to send him down the road with \$30 5th place money. In the Semi's **Tarek** barely defeated "Slammin'" **Samantha** (SL-5) **McCabe** in a double / double hill thriller 4-2 to move into the finals. Slammin' Sammy received \$60 for her 3rd place finish.

Meanwhile, **Glenn** (SL-6) **Maresh** who Co-Captain's Falco's "Rulerz" in the Parkrose D.J. division whipped up on a "Bye" in the first round. That changed however, in the second round when **Glenn** met **John** (SL-5) **Swift** who took the first two games and put himself on the hill forcing **Glenn** to take the next 3 games straight to reach the hill with him, and then **Glenn** barely got the case game for the 4-2 win. **Glenn's** next match started out pretty much the same against **Tom** (SL-3) **Moler** who jumped to the hill in the 2nd Game. **Glenn** put the pedal to the metal and came back with 3 straight game wins to take the double hill match 4-1 and send **Tom** down the road to home. In the money round, **Glenn** lost the first game, but came back taking the next three games in a row to put himself up on the hill. **Don** stepped up to the plate and took game 5. But it was all for nothing as **Glenn** snarfed up game #6 for the win.

In the next round **Glenn** went up against SL-6 **Tim Higginson**. Glenn took games 1 and 2, but **Tim** came right back and took games 3 and 4. **Glenn** took game 5 to put himself on the hill, and then closed the deal in game 6 with a 4-2 win leaving **Tim** to count his \$30 dollars. In the Semi's **Glenn** knew he had a handful with "Mad" **Maxine** (SL-5) **Buhler** who would be showing him no mercy. **Max** came out of the gate taking game 1, **Glenn** got game #2, **Max** got game #3, but **Glenn** managed to tie it up 2-2 with game #4. , Then, to his surprise, he got on the hill with game #5, and he then sealed the deal by taking game #6 leaving poor "Max" behind \$60 buckaroones richer. Now, the light at the end of the tunnel began to shine and **Glenn** SL-6 **Maresh** was moving on to the finals against the waiting (SL-7) **Tarek** "The Terrible" **Zaher**.

The Finals was a race to 4 for both players.\*4 games of 9-Ball 3 games of 8-Ball could be played) **Tarek** won the lag and **Glenn** chose 8-Ball. **Tarek** came out of the closet smoking. He took games 1,2, and 3 to put himself up on the hill. **Glenn**, having had this sort of predicament before, managed to buckle down and take game #4 —

- the first game of 9-Ball. **Tarek** came right back taking game #5 to claim the victory, the bragging rights to being the 2015 Summer Session Captain's Champion, and the top money prize of \$120 leaving **Glenn** with the \$90 dollars in 2nd place money.

**Special kudo's** to Midway Public House's Staff & Crew who did a wonderful job as hosts for this event. Also, to **Don** "Coyote" **Walker** for officiating and helping **Merle** to get the tournament organized and underway ..





### Quite Possibly the Best Ethnic Joke yet:

An Englishman, a Scotsman, an Irishman, a Welshman, a Latvian, a Turk, a German, an Indian, several Americans (including a Hawaiian and an Alaskan), an Argentinean, a Dane, an Australian, a Slovak, an Egyptian, a Japanese, a Moroccan, a Frenchman, a New Zealander, a Spaniard, a Russian, a Guatemalan, a Colombian, a Pakistani, a Malaysian, a Croatian, a Uzbek, a Cypriot, a Pole, a Lithuanian, a Chinese, a Sri Lankan, a Lebanese, a Cayman Islander, a Ugandan, a Vietnamese, a Korean, a Uruguayan, a Czech, an Icelander, a Mexican, a Finn, a Honduran, a Panamanian, an Andorran, an Israeli, a Venezuelan, an Iranian, a Fijian, a Peruvian, an Estonian, a Syrian, a Brazilian, a Portuguese, a Liechtensteiner, a Mongolian, a Hungarian, a Canadian, a Moldovan, a Haitian, a Norfolk Islander, a Macedonian, a Bolivian, a Cook Islander, a Tajikistani, a Samoan, an Armenian, an Aruban, an Albanian, a Greenlander, a Micronesian, a Virgin Islander, a Georgian, a Bahaman, a Belarusian, a Cuban, a Tongan, a Cambodian, a Canadian, a Qatari, an Azerbaijani, a Romanian, a Chilean, a Jamaican, a Filipino, a Ukrainian, a Dutchman, a Ecuadorian, a Costa Rican, a Swede, a Bulgarian, a Serb, a Swiss, a Greek, a Belgian, a Singaporean, an Italian, a Norwegian and 2 Africans,—all walked in as a group to a fine dining restaurant...

"I'm sorry," says the maître d', after scrutinizing the group--"but *You can't come in here without a Thai.*"



Submitted by:  
Bill Zeh

OLD PEOPLE AT WEDDINGS  
ALWAYS POKE ME AND SAY  
"YOU'RE NEXT."

Submitted by:

Jeff Clohessy



The 4 people listed below are verified losers from the July 14th and the last 3 are from the July 13th Newsletter. If you see any of these people let 'em have your best razzing. and then give 'em the old "L" sign,—all the while thanking 'em for leaving a shirt in the box just for you!

1—RAY OZIAS (97218042) who plays for MaGuffy's "The Mafia" in the SUNSET D.J. division.

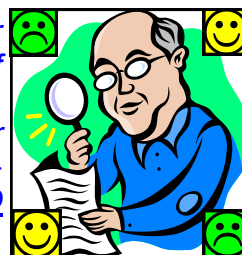
2—STACY ROYSE (97220794) who plays for Checkerd Flag's "Get Some" in the Midnight D.J. Division

3—KIMBERLY MARRONE (97218564) who plays for McAnulty & Barry's "Rawhide" in Mt.Hood D.J. div.

4—CHRIS NEMEC (97220215) who plays for Sling-shot's "Slinging Around" in the Sunrise D.J. 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 detail, READ THE NEWSLETTER..!



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