



THE OPAL 'GEM' EXPRESS



NLF2015-05
October 5, 2015



HIDDEN (*Except when in parenthesis*)

(somewhere in this Newsletter) are "5" APA Membership numbers just waiting to be discovered. One person from the Sept 28th newsletter called in to save herself from disgrace and that was: **Rhonda Carr** (97218468) who plays for Rodder's "Monster Strokes" in the Wagon Wheel D.J. division. .

No one else from the September. 21st Newsletter called in to join Shaun in saving themselves. So, there's a Loser's Party of four for you to ridicule this week. 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 eye glasses and get hunting or else you might be found on the back page of next week's 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...So get on the ball and get to looking!

BE AN OPAL WINNER INSTEAD 97221160

OPAL: 6 out of 7 in FALL SINGLES REGIONAL



(SL 7-9) slot. In 9-Ball there was one "Green" Tier (SL's 1-3) slot, two "White" Tier (SL's-4 & 5) slots, and one "Black" Tier (SL's 6-9) slot The Format was Modified Single elimination.

The 8-Ball format started and finished at Kolby's on Sunday, and 9-Ball was started and finished at Jake's on Saturday. Both disciplines finished up around 7:00 PM on their respective days. In the 8-Ball Red (SL-5) Tier Board, both finalist's OPAL's **Kelly Kent-Micheau** of Vancouver, **T.J. Helwig** of Sherwood took the long way around to the finals. **T.J.** Started out in the first round with a double hill 4-3 win over OPAL's **Vipin Sunkari**. Then in the 2nd round went double hill again up against OPAL's **Amr Elzalabany** but ended up losing 3-4. Limping his way over to the one loss side **T.J.** went again to double hill against OPAL's **Sammy McCabe**, but squeaked out the case game to win 4-3. Then, double hill again for the 4th time in a row against **Vipin Sunkari** who he had gone double hill with in the first round. **Vipin** came out smoking taking the first 3 games to get to the hill. **T.J.** came right back taking games 4,5,& 6 to make it double hill, and then won the case game #7 for the 4-3 win the backside and gain rite of passage to return back across the board to battle **Amr Elzalabany** who had sent him into the backside in a heartbreaking double hill 3-4 loss in round 2. Revenge they say is sweet—**T.J** took **Amr** down 4-zip to advance to the finals against OPAL's **Kelly Kent-Micheau**.

Kelly's journey started with a 4-2 loss to Salem's **Kacy Trapp**. Next, **Kelly** weakly won over OPAL's **Rob Warnock 4-3** in a really hard fought double hill thriller After that narrow escape she went up against Salem's (Continued on Page 2.)

October 3-4 Jakes, & Kolby's Bar 'n Grill in Salem co-hosted the NW APA

Fall Singles Regional with **Randee Lee** 97221124 of Salem, APA League Operator as the tournament director, and **Merle & Boomer** assisting. There were 73 players (28 in 8-Ball & 45 in 9-Ball) that got qualified. All were hoping for one of 7 slots total (3 in 8-Ball & 4 in 9-Ball) to the APA National 8-Ball Singles Championship at the Westgate in Las Vegas during April 2016. In 8-Ball there was one "Red" Tier (SL-5) slot, One "Orange" Tier (SL-6) slot, and one "Purple" Tier

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SINGLES REGIONAL (Continued)



(Continued from Pg. 1) **Karsten Trapp** who had sent her scurrying through

the back side in round one. This time it wasn't Summer re-runs. She outwitted, and out played him to win the match **4-2** and migrated back over on the winner's side to face off against OPAL's undefeated Stacy Enriquez. **Kelly** took game one, but **Stacy** came right back taking a 2-1 lead by winning games 2, & 3. **Kelly** the won games **4 & 5** putting herself on the hill, and then went on to win game **6** and claim the match 4-2 and her place in the finals. **Kelly** didn't have to wait 'cause **T.J.** was already there waiting to get the show on the road.

The show got on the road alright, but it was **T.J.** who went out the door first as **Kelly Kent-Micheau** who plays for Mousetrap's "Powershots" in the Northern D.J. division after a **1-1** start, took the last 3 straight games to win the match **4-1**, claim the victory, the bragging rights to being a Red Tier Champion, and the right to compete at the Westgate Hotel & Casino in the 2016 APA National Singles Championships in Las Vegas.

Moving right along now into the 8-Ball SL-6 "Orange" tier bracket it was a match race to 5. OPAL's **Tim Higginson** took awhile to get to the finals. He began his bumpy journey with a double hill Thriller Diller 5/4 loss from OPAL's **Larry Gee**. In back side **Tim** blasted OPAL's **Dave Knight** 5-zip, then took down OPAL's **Mike Black** 5-3. **Tim** then handed the same **5-3** defeat to OPAL's **Rob Solomon** and sent him out the door and back down the road to home. **Tim**, on the other hand, found himself zig-zagging back over to the winner's side and do battle in the finals.

Meanwhile after taking down **Tim** in the first round OPAL's **Larry Gee** moved through the winner's side to the finals like a bulldozer. In Round 2 **Larry** took down OPAL's **Jeff Hiatt** 5-2 sending him into the one-loss side. In Round 3, **Larry** went double hill against **Erik Stedman-Falls**, but **Erik** "Fell" and **Larry** headed to the finals to play a re-match against his round one opponent **Tim** for all the perks & giggles. **Larry** took game 1. **Tim** took game 2. **Larry** spurted ahead and took games **3 & 4**. Perturbed at himself, **Tim** spurted right back and took games **5 & 6** to tie the race to 5 match up at **3 all**. Back comes **Larry** with game **#7** to put himself up on the hill. Back comes **Tim** taking game **#8** to bring the match to double hill and a race to 1 game for all the prestige and marbles. The case game was a nightmare, both players had their chance to win, but it was **Tim Higginson's** —(**Tim** plays for Ringo's "Rackless Behavior" in the Skyline D.J. division)—"Fight For Revenge" that ruled the day and claimed the match, the victory, and the 2nd 8-Ball singles slot into Las Vegas nationals. **Larry** & **Stacy** quietly left the building and down the road to home.

In the SL 7 8-Ball "Purple" Tier board—race to "5" it was an OPAL / Salem Civil War Match up in the finals. Salem's **Cristy Barsky** began her journey by getting her butt slapped to the loser's side **5-Zip** in the first round by OPAL's "Show No Mercy" **Adam Drew**. Focusing **Cristy** methodically put the Kabosh to OPAL's **Binh Huynh** 5-3. Next, **Cristy** took a 4-0 lead on Salem's **Curtis Collins** to put herself up on the hill, but **Curtis** answered by taking games **5,6,7,& 8** to put himself right up there on the hill with her. **Cristy** took the case game only to find that she was now facing her round one nemesis —OPAL's **Adam Drew** again. The air was thick and heavy. There was no love in this match. **Cristy** took Game **1**, but **Adam** came back taking game **2**. The tension in the room began to build, and was felt by all. **Cristy** played tough, and won games **3,4, & 5** to put herself up on the hill. **Adam** retaliated with games **6 & 7**, but then fell short as **Cristy** won game **#8** to claim the match **5-3** and gain passage back to the winner's side where she would be playing in the finals against OPAL's waiting, and still undefeated, **Tyler Hanson**.

Tyler played smart and methodical all the way. In round one he slipped past OPAL's **Binh Huynh** 5-3. Next, Tyler did a see saw double hill thriller against OPAL's **Adam Drew**. **Adam** won games **1 & 2**, Tyler took Games **3 & 4**. **Adam** took games **5 & 6** putting himself on the hill, but then **Tyler** pressed back by taking games **7 & 8** to bring the match to double Hill, and then went on to take the case game #9 to win the match—sending **Adam** into the dark side **5-4**. **Tyler** next wiped out **Milo Thomas** 5-2 to remain undefeated, and leisurely perch himself up on the winner's

(Continued on Pg. 3.)



SINGLES REGIONAL (Continued)



(Continued from Pg. 2) point to curiously await and see who would have the misfortunate audacity to emerge up out of the dark side with misguided hopes of knocking him down. Of course, that was Salem's **Cristy Barsky**. In the Finals, **Cristy** won the 1st Game, but **Tyler** then came right back taking Games 2 & 3. **Cristy** won the 4th game to square the match off at 2 games apiece. **Tyler Hanson** who plays for Falco's "Disfunction R Us" in the Farside D.J. division, put the pedal to the metal and took games **5 & 6** placing himself on the hill, and then turned right around and snarfed up game **#7** to claim the match, and the last 8-Ball slot to the National APA Singles Championship at the Westgate in Las Vegas. (Thus OPAL got the bragging rights to a total sweep of the Regional 8-Ball category)

In Saturday's 9-Ball format we had a total of 45 players playing in three skill level groups competing. We had one slot in the 9 person board "Green" Tier (SL's 1-3), Two slots in the 18 person "White" Tier category, (SL's 4 & 5) and the last slot in the 16 person board "Black" Tier (SL's 6 -9).

In the SL-1-3, Green Tier 9-Ball bracket, with only one slot up for grabs. Reaching the all OPAL final was SL-4 **Dale Mick** and SL-4 **Richard Fry** (They had both been SL-3 in the Semi Final round had risen to SL-4) In the first round **Dale** had lost a heartbreaker to OPAL's **William Burkhalter** 25-24. In the one loss side **Dale** squeaked by OPAL's **Dale Schroder** 25-22. In the next round he got by OPAL's **Sheila Jones** 25-14 to play OPAL's **Cody White** who he barely got by 25 -23 to win the backside and move back across the board to the winner's side again. In the semi final's against OPAL's **Nina Corpuz**. It was another squeaker as **Dale** narrowly got by her 25-23. Meanwhile OPAL's **Richard Fry** also had gotten upended in the opening round by OPAL's **Cody White** who had beat **Richard** 25-23. Treking into the one loss side, **Richard** defeated OPAL's **Mandy Wells** 25-20, then OPAL's **Dylan Kelsey** 25-19 to win his way back across the board into the semi's where he overwhelmed **Anna Mixon** 25-7. Next it was on to the final match against the also brand new SL-4 **Dale Mick** in a race now to 31 instead of 25. **Richard** made the finals a bit one sided as he put **Dale** down 31-15 giving **Richard Fry** who plays for River Road House's "Under8ted" in the Southeast D.J. division the win and the first 9-Ball slot into the las Vegas APA National 9-Ball Championships in April 2016.



In the SL-4 & 5, White Tier 9-Ball bracket, there were two slots up for grabs. In the first bracket it ended up being an all OPAL final between OPAL's SL-4 **John Arthur Moore** and OPAL's SL-4 **Andrew Ebalaroza**. In the very first round **John Moore** had to play **Andrew Ebalaroza**. **John** bested **Andrew** 31-29 in a real heartbreaker thriller match and sent **Andrew** to go off to battle in the dark side. **John**, on the other hand waltzed his way through the winners side to the finals undefeated by next barely squeaking by OPAL's **Jessica Duffie** 31-29, then OPAL's **Kevin** (SL-5) **Blodgett** 31-31 to place himself on the winner's point to see who would emerge from the dark side. Meanwhile, in the back side **Andrew** took down OPAL's **Todd Clement** 31-25, then OPAL's **John Swift** 31-28, and then slipped by OPAL's **Jessica Duffie** 31-28 to return back across the board to the semi's against OPAL's undefeated **Vipin** (SL-5) **Sunkari**. It was another really close match but **Andrew** won over **Vipin** 31-34 in a very tight and well played contest. When **Andrew** went into the finals he knew first hand that he had his hands full because the fact was indelibly imprinted to his mind that it was **John Moore** who had kicked him to the one-loss side in the very opening round. Would it be "Summer Rerun's" or "Revenge of the Andrew" that would be the question on the minds of all who watched. with interest. When the final tally was taken and all the dust had settled—emerging victorious, claiming the bragging rights, taking the 2nd 9-Ball slot, and plane ride to the SL-4 White Tier APA Singles National Championships with a 31 -26 win was **Andrew Ebalaroza** who plays for Mid-way's Pool Wizards in the Southern D.J. division.



In the second SL4 & 5, White Tier 9-Ball bracket it turned out to be OPAL's **Christine Bonin** pitted up against Salem's **Christina Virgin**. **Christine Bonin** jumped out of the gate in round one by defeating OPAL's **David Starr** 31-24, and sending him bouncing over to the one-loss side to lose himself. Next in round two **Bonin** trounced **Christina Virgin** sending her flying head over heels off to the backside 31-19 in a thorough defeat. **Bonin** continued on into the Semi finals with her winning ways when she sent OPAL's **Caiti Grim** 31-26 on out the door to home while she pulled up an easy chair and relaxed on the winner's point to wait and see who dared to come up after her.

Once in the one loss side **Christina Virgin** went right to work by taking down OPAL's **Nick Skellenger** 31-18 thus sending him out the door to home giving her time to hop on her motorbike and ride back across (Continued on Pg 4.)

SINGLES REGIONAL (Continued)

9 the bracket to the semi's. At the Semi's she reigned supreme over OPAL's **John Scarth** and banished him on out the door with a 31-19 ball busting defeat which woke up **Christine Bonin** from her snooze in the sofa chair on the winner's point. By the time **Christine** was fully awake the match was over and Salem's **Christina Virgin** by a score of 31-19 had claimed what would prove to be the only slot that Salem would get their hands on for the Las Vegas APA National Singles Championship from this regional battlemania.

Moving into the action packed 9-Ball SL-6-9 "Black" tier bracket, match race to 5, there were 16 players fighting for the last final slot. OPAL's SL-6 **Samantha McCabe** from Battleground Wa., and OPAL's SL-9 **Mike Grimm** from Woodburn were the two players who made it all the way to the finals. In the first round **Mike** annihilated OPAL's **Tyler Hanson** 75-22, then in round 2 he busted Salem's **Andrew Sullivan** 75-28. In Round 3 **Mike** bombarded OPAL's **Miguel Madrigal** 75-19, and then snuffed out all hopes for Salem's **Andrew Sullivan** 75-10 who had returned from the back side to the Semi's before going out the door to home. **Mike**, so far undefeated, then waited so see who would be coming after him in the finals.

Meanwhile **Sammy McCabe** started out by getting her tushy kicked to the one-loss side by Salem's **Gabe Gish** 46-28. Then piloting her way through the maze Sammy snuffed out OPAL's **Perry Mixon** 46-33. and dropped down to a SL-5. She then went on to destroy OPAL's "Mad" **Maxine Buhler** 38-23. Her stellar shooting performance raised her back again to SL-6. Next, she pulled the plug on OPAL's **Ian Miller** 46-42, and then traversed her way back across the bracket to the winner's side to the semi's. There, she faced off against **Gabe Gish**—the very same guy who had sent her wandering aimlessly through the dark side in the first round. This time though, **Sammy** squished **Gabe** 46-20 sending him out the door to home while she went **Michael Grimm** head hunting in the finals. **Sammy** was a maid on a mission and made **Mr. Grimm** roll his eyes back into his head several times with some of the fantastic shots she pulled off. **Sammy** wanted **Mike's** head but he wasn't about to give it up. **Michael Grimm** who plays for Wranglers in Canby in the Mt. Hood D.J. division put the pedal to the metal and took her down 75-24 to claim the victory, the bragging rights, and the last 9-Ball Slot to the 2016 APA Singles Nationals at the Westgate Hotel in Las Vegas.

Special Thanks to Kolby's and Jake's 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, John Blue, and Glen Shoup** who had all given up a large portion of their time from the weekend to officiate.

REMEMBER—If you want to participate and possibly get a chance to win your way into the Nationals Singles Championship in April 2015. you will only have until November 30 (That's Only about 6 weeks away) to get qualified for the Spring regional coming in February 2016.



Submitted By: Dan Bochard

Christine



Christina

Sammy



Mike

THE LOSER'S CORNER

The four persons listed below are "Losers" from the Sept 21st 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—**SHELLEY GOODELL** (97212039) who plays for Pub 181's "**Sticklerz**" in the **Gateway D.J.** division
- 2—**RON NISSEN** (97220358) who plays for Icehouse's "**Right On Cue**" in the **River City-APA** Division.
- 3—**BOB GUDMUNDSEN** (97220682) who plays for Pub 181's "**Rack 'em & Weep**" in the **Parkrose D.J.** Div.
- 4—**MATT HASS** (97221072) who plays for Aloha Station's "**Whatever**" in the **SUNSET** 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 97217814 detail, **READ THE NEWSLETTER..!**

