



The OPAL 'GEM' Express

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NLF2016-01 Sept. 5, 2016



**WESTGATE
Resort & Casino
Las Vegas**

SERVING YOU:	OPAL-APA
Merle Humphreys Boomer Humphreys	League Operators
Cindy Saunders, And Carolyn Burgdoff	Office Staff
John Blue: 503-481-0323	Area Manager
Office: 503-243-6725	Cell: 503-381-6725

August 11 — 20 TH 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 for over 23 consecutive years. Now we were experiencing a new era—**The Westgate Resort & Casino**. One year has now passed since APA left the Riviera which has now been completely demolished and all that remains is an empty space void of the fabulous icon of what once was, but it will live on in the hearts and cherished memories of those who were privileged, and lucky enough to have witnessed it's proud place in Las Vegas history.

Completing our first full year and beginning our 2nd year at the Westgate has been met with overwhelming approval and acceptance by both the Westgate & APA staff as well as the tournament participants. Still, when the last two towers of the Riviera were imploded at 2:30 in the morning of August 16th there were a lot of tears in the eyes of those who had really fond memories of days now long gone and the final chapter, and end of the book for the Riviera.

Arriving at the front entrance to the Westgate and going through the huge majestic glass doors starring you straight in the face from the Casino floor below—is a super sized oval shaped "SPLASH" bar with 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 is totally awesome.

To the left of the doors is the massively staffed Hotel Room registration area which can accommodate large groups of people relatively quickly. Once you've got your room key in hand it's a relatively quick walk to your tower elevator, then up to your room floor, and to your nice comfortable spacious room.—the majority of which also had a very nice view of the Las Vegas scene.

Going to the tournament room from your room was an easy walk of 8 to 10 minutes depending on the time of day and the crowd. You simply took the elevator to the first floor, and headed left down the main hallway. All 3 towers merged into that hallway which emptied out onto the carpeted main casino floor At that point you could take a left **(Continued on Pg. 2)**

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 6 unfortunate souls taking up residence in the Loser's Corner on the back page. From the July 11th newsletter 3 people called in **Patti Deitz** (97212919) who plays for Mouse-trap's "Classic Cruisers" in the North Port 9-Ball division, **Michael Restivo** (97200814) who plays for 2 Monkey's "Hot Pockets" in the Clark County-APA division, and **Marissa Youker-Small** (9721) who plays for Sellwood Inn's "Just The Tip" in the Southeast division. From the July 18th division **Allison Namba** (97211389) who plays for Fortune Star's "Get Shafted" in the Parkrose D.J. division is the only one from that week who called in. So 2 people from the July 11th and 4 people from the July 18th is who you'll be laughing at on the back page this week.

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 you'll be taking up residence in the loser's corner !

BE AN OPAL WINNER -- FIND YOUR NUMBER!

(Continued from Pg. 1) 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 seating that relatively sucked for spectating.



However, one of the best things about Nationals 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...

Of the 476 teams that registered for the August 11-15th 9-Ball Open Teams discipline not a single one of our teams made it into the higher level money, but all had an awesome time enjoying their well earned Las Vegas vacation. The same was true of the two Ladies teams who competed in the August 14-17th 256 Ladies team discipline as well.

In the 256 team pair, August 14-17th, Jack 'n Jill Scotch Doubles discipline we had only one of the two competing pairs make it into the higher level money pocketing **\$300** for their efforts. That team pair was "**Chalk 'n Roll**" who were the combined SL-9 pair **Steve Kemp** with **Karen Gjerner** who both play out of Scotty's "**Chalk 'n Awe**" in the Mid-West D.J. division. However the other "Jack 'n Jill" pair—"Inappropriate Behavior" with **Terry Mason & Crysta Rankin** were also on an 8-Ball Team that won \$1,000. so they didn't go away totally empty handed.

From the 14th through the 20th OPAL had 7 teams competing in the 713 team APA National 8-Ball Team Championships. Of the 7 teams 4 of the teams fell short of the extra money, and ended up going on vacation sooner than they had hoped, but making it to 129th place and **\$1000** were two River Road House teams: (1) the **Little Monsters** and (2) **Rac A Tac**. Coming in at 65th place and winning a cool **\$1500** was the Timber Pub's "**Timber Cutters**."

Running in parallel with the 8-Ball team competition was the Aug. 15-19 256 team Triple Play Masters championship. We had 3 teams competing. "**Chalk is Cheap**" finished at 129th and went on an early vacation "**Good Shot Dummies**" made it to 9th place winning **\$575** for their efforts, and "**Once Was**" made it to 5th place pulling down **\$1,200**.





We closed out Summer Session 2016 at Midway's Public House in Oregon City hosting the event on Sunday August 28th. Midway's staff, hosted the event very well and were very accommodating and had reduced beverage prices for everyone's benefit.

Greeting all the people with Hi's and smiles at the door was **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, a group of volunteers namely: **Crystal Taylor, Maxine Buhler, Jeff Hiatt, Dan & Cynthia Fendall, Steve, Becky, and Christine Chandler**, and **Samantha McCabe** all pitched in with their efforts to beautifully organize and set up the immense 3 table team trophy display in just under an hour. [Great job folks]

Merle, Don Walker, Dan Fendall, Jeff Hiatt, Maria Argueta, Kim Norn, & Brittanny Featherstone and 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 four \$3 entry 10-person break contests which paid \$20 for first and \$10 for second. Winning were: #1-**Justin Walker** 1st, & **John Prah** 2nd; #2-**Lyman Reed** 1st, & **Ted Baden** 2nd; #3-**Don Walker** 1st & **Mick Shullingford** 2nd; #4-**Justin Walker** 1st & **Don Walker** 2nd;

In the \$5 entry Survivor games, there were always 12 contestants in each game paying out \$30 for 1st \$20 for 2nd and \$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: **Aaron Platenberg**, 2nd: **Tyson Croonquist**, 3rd: **Dan Fendall**. Heat #2: 1st: **Steve Chandler**, 2nd: **Mr. Merle**, 3rd: **Eric Stedman-Falls**. In Heat #3: 1st: **Kim Norn**, 2nd: **Aaron Platenberg**, 3rd: **Eric Stedman-Falls**. In Heat #4: 1st: **Kim Norn**, 2nd: **Troy Blackman** 3rd: **Allison Namba**. Heat #5: 1st: **Aaron Platenberg**, 2nd: **Eric Stedman-Falls**, 3rd: **Kelly Kent-Micheau**. Heat #6: 1st: **Aaron Platenberg**, 2nd: **Eric Stedman Falls**, and 3rd: **Justin Walker**.

Once we got set up in the dining area and the microphone finally hooked up we were able to get The Tri-Cup Draws started with 9-Ball around 2:45 in the afternoon. Merle with able bodied volunteer **Kimmie Norn** ran the show. 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 8-Ball draw and we were off and running once again with the teams that had common 8-Ball players. We finished up with about a quarter to 4 leaving Merle and Steve Chandler to rush (Continued on Pg 4.)



Registration



Boomer



The Trophies



The Trophie Set Up Crew



(Continued from Page. 2) through giving out the last of the allotted door prizes. There was a lot of extra door prizes to give out other than the normal pool accessory stuff that we normally give out as we had a whole bunch of APA items such as Knapsacks, Hats T-Shirts, crying towels, and many other sundry items both for the player and the game of pool to give out as well

The award recipients were read off by Boomer and her numerous helpers passed them along to those receiving the awards...despite Boomer having broken her wing and

having to have it stuck in a sling, the awards were distributed in rapid fashion. The whole process went off very smoothly. Approximately 1500 Special Awards, Certificates of Merit, and Trophies were handed out.



Bruce

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: **Bruce Micheau—winning the Black Viper Cue, Panda Winters who won the Rose colored Viper Cue, and Mr. Greg Williams who won the Green Viper Cue.**



Panda

Greg

Special thanks to the extraordinary 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.



THE GOVERNING BODY OF AMATEUR POOL®



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. Rodders in Oregon City hosted the 29 player turnout. With the \$15 per player entry, and \$80 in added money from Rodders and OPAL we had a total payout purse of **\$520** that was paid to the top '12' finishers in the field.

The 32 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 Rodders. Then, drawing the board and getting it filled out, having the players meeting, we didn't get started until after 1-1:30 —Having to draw the board twice didn't help speed things up either, but it flew by fast after we finally got started. Using all of the tables front and back the event progressed quickly. The final match started right about at 6:00 PM. Everyone had a great time. **Special kudo's to Rodder's Staff & Crew who did a great job as hosts, Special thanks to Don Walker & John Blue** for pitching in to officiate and help out where needed. (Continued on Page 5)

Capt.-Co-Captain Tournament



The race to the "bragging rights" was not an undefeated journey for both finalists. For **Brian** (SL-5) **Hilliker**, Captain of "Give Me A Minute" who plays out of Coach's in the Midwest D. J. division, he began by sticking "**Cari** (SL-5) **Tooley**" off to the back side 3-Zip. In Round 2 **Jenny** (SL-3) **McCabe** got to the hill in game 2, but **Brian** prevailed by winning the next two games to send her to the dark side 3-1. Next he 3 zipped **Chris** (SL-3) **Parra** sending him out the door to home. **Brian** next 3-Zipped **Pauline** (SL-3) **Fox** when she emerged back out of the Dark Side, but left her going out the door with \$35 5th place money. In The Semi's **Brian** barely squeaked by **Adam** (SL-7) **Drew** in a double hill thriller when he won the case game bring the score to 3-3 and sent him down the road with \$60 in 3rd place money. Now it was off to the finals to see who he would face..

Meanwhile, **Don** (SL-7) "**Coyote**" **Walker** who Captain's Legend's "Coyote's Pack" in the River City 9-Ball division whipped up on SL-4 **Claudine Elzey** 4-1 in the first round. That changed however, in the second round when "**Coyote**" met **Le** (SL-3) **Stedman-Falls** who took him down 2-3 in a case game double hill thriller. Now in the one loss side "**Coyote**" came up against **Anthony** (SL-3) **Gerardot**. **Anthony**, right out of the gate won the first game of 8-Ball to put himself right up on the hill. "**Coyote**" won the 2nd game of 8-Ball and they then switched to 9-Ball. "**Coyote**" then won 3 straight games of 9-Ball to claim the victory and the match. 4-1. Next "**Coyote**" came up against his long time arch rival —his wife, SL-5 **B.J.** He focused and wasted no time in taking her down 4-zip to win the match and move back across to the winner's side again. There he met and continued on with his winning ways knocking down **Allen** 4-Zip to leave out the door with \$35 5th place money. In the Semi's **Coyote** had to face **Eric** (SL-7) **Stedman-Falls**. It was a race to 4. "**Coyote**" won the first 2 games of 8-Ball, **Eric**, won the 3rd game of 8-Ball and the first game of 9-Ball. "**Coyote**" won the 2nd game of 9-Ball and put himself up on the hill. **Eric** came right back to tie the match up again 3-3 and double hill. **Eric** ran down to the 6 ball but dogged it, and "**Coyote**" ran out to claim the victory 4-3 leaving **Eric** the door to outside and \$60 3rd place money. Now it was off to the finals and the awaiting **Brian Hilliker** for "**Coyote**."

The Finals was a race to 4 for "**Coyote**" and a race to *3" for **Brian**. "**Coyote**" won the lag and named 9-Ball. **Brian** Broke. "**Coyote**" ended up winning the first game of 9-Ball and **Brian** won the 2nd game—match tied 1-1. "**Coyote**" won the next two games of 9-Ball putting himself on the hill, and then they switched to 8-Ball. "**Coyote**" then won the first game of 8-Ball to claim the 4-1 victory, the bragging rights to being the 2016 Summer Session Captain's Champion, and the top money prize of \$100 leaving **Brian** with \$80 dollars in 2nd place money.

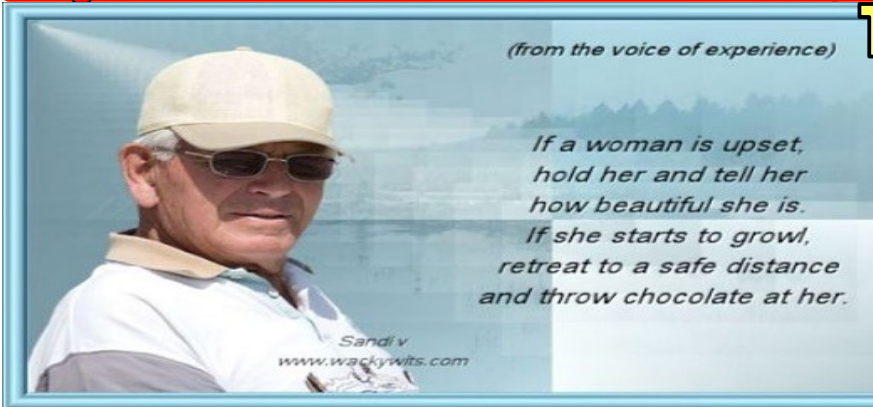
Special kudo's to Rodders Staff & Crew who did a wonderful job as hosts for this event and were very accommodating to our every food and beverage need.. As for **Don Walker** 97218523 maybe in a couple of weeks his excitement will diminish enough to where he'll be able to come back down to earth and walk on the ground again. Many thanks to all those who attended and participated in the tournament event

"Coyote"

Brian



This Page Submitted By:
Jim Elphick



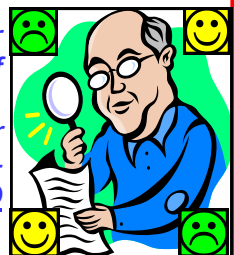
THE LOSER'S CORNER

The first 2 people listed below are verified losers from the July 11th and the last 4 are from the July 18th 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—CARLOS McCALL (97218446) who plays for Maui's "ZZ Topless" in the North-Port 9-Ball division.
- 2—NICOLE HESS (97213934) who plays for Mouse-trap's "Knuckleheads" in the North-Port 9-Ball division
- 3—JESSE TAYLOR (97219708) who plays for Vogie's "Challengers" in the Southeast D.J. division.
- 4—GEOFF LESCH (97211692) who plays for Auto's "Better Under Pressure" in the Clark County D.J. div.
- 5—MARK GRIFFIN (97211930) who plays for Sell-wood's "Just The Tip" in the Southeast D.J. division
- 6—NANCY ROSS (97211405) who plays for Mouse-trap's "Huh Who?" in the North-Port 9-Ball 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 anytime. Therefore, pay attention to detail. **READ THE NEWSLETTER**



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