



The OPAL 'GEM' Express

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NLF2018-01 Sept. 4, 2018



**WESTGATE
Resort & Casino
Las Vegas**



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

August 8 — 18 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 are experiencing a new era—**The Westgate Resort & Casino**. Three and 1/2 years have now passed since APA left the Riviera which was imploded and demolished. All that remains now is a paved over 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 Third full year and beginning our 4rd 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 2016, 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 staring 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 provides 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 5 fortunate souls escaping next week's Loser's Corner as finding their numbers in the July 2nd newsletter so far were: **Ronda Stephan** (97218142) who plays for Golden Horse's "Odz N Endz" in the Far East D.J. division, **Rachael McDonald** (97219269) who plays for 3 Monkey's "Sandbaggers" in the Evergreen D.J. division, **Guy Long** (97208579) who plays for M & B's "No Deals" in the Barry Hills D.J. division, **John Barbieri** (97222611) who plays for Back Alley's "As The Cue Turns" in the Northern D.J. division, and **Sara Skukas** (97211377) who plays for Prairie's D.O.M. in the Mr.St. Helen D.J. division are the ones from that week who called in. So the other 25 people from the July 2nd and the 5 hidden number people from this week—a total of 30 numbers are out there folks just waiting and begging you to find them... **RE-MEMBER**, 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! GO LOOK...!

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 324 tables all laid out in a crisscross pattern with easy access and seating that relatively sucked for spectating.

However, Still one of the best things about World's was the new & improved 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 WEST-GATE 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...

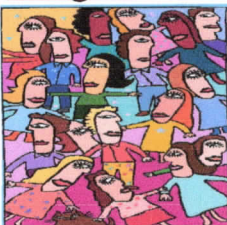


Of the over 500 teams that registered for the August 8-13th 9-Ball Open Teams discipline 4 of our teams made it into the third day, but only one team made it past last place \$350 money: Slingshot's "Slinging Around" from the Sunrise D.J. division made it to 65th place and \$500, whereas Midway's—"Pool Ball Wizards," Nite Hawk's "Wild Wranglers," Fortune Star's "Behind The 8 Ball," and McNulty & Barry's "No Deals" had an awesome time enjoying their well earned Las Vegas vacation. We had two teams competing in the August 9-12th 256 Ladies format—Both fought valiantly pushing both matches all the way up to double hill, but alas, finished just out of the money took an early vacation, and had an absolute blast..

In the 256 team pair, August 13-15th, Jack 'n Jill Scotch Doubles discipline we had one pair out of three that made it into the higher level money by placing 17th and pocketing \$300 for their efforts. They were "TNT" with combined SL-9 pair **Kristin "Tweety" Shellenberger & David Curtis.**, The other two pairs "**Hit N Miss**" with **Jim Dowers & Carol Dallman** along with "**Just For Fun**" with **Jeff Braun & Chayla Plasted** got to enjoy all that gorgeous sunny baked hot weather.

From the 13th through the 18th OPAL had 6 teams competing in the 713 team APA International 8-Ball Team Championships. Mousetrap's **Jerry's Old Kids**, Midway's **Sotally Tober**, and Pub 181's **Cue Crew** fell short of making it past last place money, and ended up going on vacation sooner then they had hoped. However, making it to 65th place and \$1500 were MaGuffy's **Why So Hard?** Making it to 33rd place and winning a cool \$2,000 was Wilshire Tavern's "**Death By Defense**" One team Sam's **Biggelbach's** from the Sunrise D.J. division broke all OPAL-APA Oregon records by going all the way to the finals undefeated and then finding themselves Tied 6-6 going into the last match race against the opposing Canadian team for all the marbles. Even though Biggelbach's ended up losing that last match race they won \$15,000 2nd in the World money, and did so by representing us all every step of the way with class and dignity.

Running in parallel with the 8-Ball team competition was the Aug. 14-17 256 team Triple Play Masters championship. We had 3 teams competing. Sam's "**Last Minute**" and Underground's **Pocket Aces** finished at 97th and went on an early vacation, but "**XXX**" with **Don Walker, Phil Bremer, Cody Johnson, and David Scarth** made it to 33rd place winning \$150 for their efforts. (Continued on Page 6)



We closed out Summer Session 2018 at Midway's Public House in Oregon City hosting the event on Sunday August 26th. 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: **Maxine Buhler, Jeff Hiatt, John Blue, Samantha McCabe** and (Not in Picture) — **John Moore & Charlie Walker** 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, Eric & Le Stedman-Falls Don Walker, & Charlie & Cindy 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. Nine heats of Survivor and eleven 9-Ball break contests were organized and completed

First, in the six \$3 entry 10-person break contests which paid \$20 for first and \$10 for second. Winning were: #1-**Charlie Walker** 1st, & **Justin Walker** 2nd; #2-**Justin Walker** 1st, & **Barry Lacelle** 2nd; #3-**Randy Barber** 1st & **Barry Lacelle** 2nd; #4-**Don "Coyote" Walker** 1st & **Chris Byers** 2nd; #5-**Chris Byers** 1st, & **Bobby Green** 2nd; #6-**Chris Byers** 1st, & **Rachael Williams** 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 [Struck Out] 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 9 heats completed. In Heat #1: 1st: **Jacob Stern**, 2nd: **Justin Walker**, 3rd: **Ed Winter**. Heat #2: 1st: **Ed Winter**, 2nd: **Keith Hanson**, 3rd: **Mr. Merle**. ☺ In Heat #3: 1st: **Kim Harmon**, 2nd: **Jacob Stern**, 3rd: **Dale Jones**. In Heat #4: 1st: **Chris Byers** 2nd: **Mr. Merle**, 3rd: **Kelly Kent-Micheau**. Heat #5: 1st: **Rachael Williams**, 2nd: **Jacob Stern**, 3rd: **Ed Winter**. Heat #6: 1st: **James Shirley**, 2nd: **Eric Stedman-Falls**, 3rd: **Michelle Hawkins**. Heat #7: 1st: **Irena Chmil**, 2nd: **Chris Byers**, 3rd: **Jacob Stern**. ☺ In Heat #8: 1st: **Eric Steadman-Falls**, 2nd: **Carossa Starreld**, 3rd: **Michael Bean**. In Heat #9. 1st: **James Shirley**, 2nd: **Rachael Williams**, 3rd: **Kelly Kent-Micheau**.

Once we got set up down in the eating area out front Merle & able bodied assistant & New Mother again **Kim Harmon** got The Tri-Cup Draws started with 9-Ball around 2:30 in the afternoon. 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 a little after 3:35 leaving John plenty of time to give out the remaining Door prizes. (Continued on Pg 4.)

