



# THE OPAL 'GEM' EXPRESS



**NLF2018 - 06**  
**October 8, 2018**



**HIDDEN** (*Except when in parenthesis*)

(somewhere in this Newsletter) are "5" APA Membership numbers just waiting to be discovered. From the September 24th Newsletter another person, **Jerry Brazie** (97222527) who plays for Sam's "Senvoy" in the Sunrise D.J. division called in to join **Steve Gonzalez** in avoiding the Loser's Corner. So there'll be a party of three (3) for your viewing and ridicule pleasure this week—have fun!!!

From the October 1st newsletter, haven't heard a word yet from anyone so far, but they've got another week before future ridiculing lol. However, this means that there are still 5 numbers out there from this past week, plus the "5" new one's from this week. So that's 10 numbers to be found. 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 snooze 'n lose...Go check out the newsletter and see if it's not you.

**BE AN OPAL WINNER – FIND YOUR NUMBER 97295921**

## OPAL: 8 out of 9 in FALL SINGLES REGIONAL

### Wichita Town Pub



"Purple" Tier (SL 7) slot. In 9-Ball there was one "Green" Tier (SL's 1, 2, & 3) slot, one "White" Tier (SL's-4 & 5) slot, and one "Black" Tier (SL's 6-9) slot The Format was Modified Single elimination, and OPAL swept all 3 of the 9-Ball Slots..!

The 8-Ball format started at approximately 9:00 AM and finished up Saturday Night around 10:45 PM. 9-Ball Started just after 9:30 AM on Sunday and was completed by 6:45 PM Sunday evening.

In the 8-Ball (SL-2 & 3) "Blue Tier" Board, both were OPAL girl finalist's. **Laurie Noah** who plays for Leo's Lair's "Um Your Team" in the West Hills D.J. division, and **Desiree Dixon** who plays for Big Al's "XXXCues Us" in the Sunset division. Right out of the blocks **Laurie** started her journey by zapping **Desiree** to the dark side 2-1. In round 2, **Laurie** went double hill against **Lisa Upshaw** before knocking her to the backside 2-1. In the quarter finals **Laurie** 2-zipped her way through **Larry Draper** knocking him through the door and down the road to home. Now, perching herself undefeated on the winner's point Laurie waited to see who would emerge out of the dark side to come after her. Meanwhile, after **Laurie** had blasted **Desiree** to the dark side in the opening round **Desiree** breezed through two "No Show Forfeits" in a row then pounced on **Elizabeth Ingram** 2-1 to find herself being flown back across the board to face off once again up against the lady who **Continued on Pg. 2.)**

**October 6-7** Wichita Town Pub in Milwaukie hosted the NW APA Fall Singles Regional with Portland (OPAL) APA League Operators **Merle & Boomer Humphreys** along with **Randee Lee** of Salem, (MY PLAYERS). There were 105 players (58 in 8-Ball & 47 in 9-Ball) that got qualified. All were hoping for one of 9 slots total (6 in 8-Ball & 3 in 9-Ball) to the APA World 8-Ball Singles Championship at the Westgate in Las Vegas during May 2019. In 8-Ball there was one "Blue" Tier (SL-2/3) slot, one "Yellow" Tier (SL- 4) slot, two "Red" Tiers (SL-5) slot , One "Orange" Tier (SL-6) slot, and one



## SINGLES REGIONAL (Continued)

(Continued from Pg. 1) had sent her through the dark side to wind up facing her again in the winner's side finals. This time, however, **Laurie Noah** had her hands full because the match went to double hill where **Laurie** barely defeated **Desiree Dixon 2-1** to claim the victory, the first plane seat to Vegas and the **APA 8-Ball Classic World Championships**—as well as—all the bragging rights to being the 2018 Fall Regional Blue Tier Champion.

Moving to the 8-Ball (SL-4) "Yellow" tier bracket it was a match race to 3. Both were OPAL finalist's. **Alija Whitebird** who plays for Silver Star Saloon's "Ramble On" in the Columbia D.J. division, and **Charles Creighton** who plays for Buffalo Gap's "Animals" in the Downtown division. Right out of the blocks **Alija** started her undefeated journey by winning over a "Bye" and then defeating a "No Show." In round 3, **Alija** went double hill against OPAL's **Gia Davis** to slip her into the dark side 3-2. Then in the round 4 Semi's **Alija** thumped **Michelle Solden 3-1** who had valiantly fought her way out of the dark side to the semis. Now all **Alija** had to do was wait and see which fool would have the audacity to try and get between her and Las Vegas.

**Charles Creighton**, meanwhile, had begun his undefeated journey in round 1 by squishing OPAL's **Sandra Oesterblad 3-Zip** over into the dark side. In round 2 **Charles** kicked Opal's **Brian Tomlinson's** butt 3-Zip straight into the dark side. Next, in round 3 **Charles** blasted OPAL's **Peter Baker** into the dark side 3-Zip and moved forward into the Semi-finals to play **Sandy Oesterblad** who had just fought her way back out from all the dark side trouble that nasty old **Charles** had put her into in the first place. By a final score of 3-1 **Sandy Oesterblad** was done for good this time, and **Charles** was off to the Semi's against the patiently waiting and undefeated **Alija Whitebird**. Both OPAL players were undefeated, but **Charles** was on a mission and showed no mercy taking her down 3-1 to claim the victory, the second plane seat to the **APA 8-Ball Classic World Championships** in Las Vegas as well as—all the bragging rights to being the 2018 Fall Regional Yellow Tier Champion.

There were two race to "4" Red Tier (SL-5) Boards. In Red Tier Board "A" bracket we again had 2 OPAL Finalists. **Dwayne Lord** who plays for Big Al's "XXXCues Me" in the Sunset division, and **Chris Lytsell** who plays for Mad Hanna's "Wyld Stallions" in the Northeast division. **Dwayne** went straight away to the finals undefeated. In round one Opal's **Irina Chmil** knocked Opal's **Chuck McGill** into the one loss side 4-3 after a double hill thriller-diller. However, in the next round she lost to **Dwayne 4-2**. In round three **Dwayne** threw OPAL's **Michael Choe** into the loser's pit after a hard fought double hiller match where he won 4-3. Now in the Semi's **Dwayne** came back up against **Irina Chmil** who had just valiantly fought her way through the graveyard of the back side. **Dwayne** put a cork in her bottle 4-1, and sent her out the door to home.

Taking practical an identical undefeated journey to the finals was OPAL's **Chris Lytsell**. **Chris** won his opening double hill thriller diller match 4-4 against OPAL's (SL-6) **Kevin Blodgett**. In round 3 **Chris** bested **Brad Hall 4-2** and then in the semi-finals **Chris** took down **Michael Choe 4-2** who had just returned from a round-trip journey through the dark side. Then it was off to the Finals and the intimidating **Dwayne Lord**. In the finals it seemed **Dwayne** could do nothing right, and **Chris** could do nothing wrong. **Chris** ended up on top 4-1.

In the 2nd Red Tier bracket we found Salem's **Phil Abrams** pitted up against OPAL veteran **Rick Hall** who plays for Scotty's "Island of Misfit Toys" in the Sunset division. **Rick's** journey to the finals was straight away undefeated. In round one **Rick** punted **Mike Gallucci** off to his eventual demise 4-2. In Round 2 **Rick** broadsided **Bree Drew 4-2**, and then in the Semi-Finals **Rick** barely escaped from a double hill thriller against big **John Moore 4-3** to take his spot on the winner's point.

Meanwhile, Salem's **Phil Abrams** had first knocked off OPAL's **Dale Mick 4-2**, then got blasted to the dark side himself by **John Moore Jr. 4-1**. Next **Phil** composed himself by kicking the stuffing out of a "No Show" **William McCarther**. Next **Phil** eradicated Opal's **Dale Mick** from the tournament 'Gene Pool' 4-1. Then, **Phil** gave **Bree Drew** the old "Heave Ho-ana-out-de-do" 4-1. After that, **Phil** returned back across the board to the Semi-Finals against OPAL's **Jeremy Gandee** who **Phil** kicked to the curb 4-2 on his way to the final—which went straight away to double hill 3-3. Both players had chance's but sinking the winning 8-Ball was Salem's **Phil Abrams** defeating the seasoned past champion **Rick Hall 4-3!** **Phil**, along with **Chris Lytsell** each claim their victory, the third & fourth plane seats to the **APA 8-Ball Classic World Championships** in Las Vegas as well as—all the bragging rights to being the 2018 Fall Regional Red Tier SL-5 categorical Champions. (Continued on Pg. 3.)





SINGLES REGIONAL (Continued)



(Continued from Pg. 2) In the 8-Ball SL-6 "Orange" tier bracket it was a match race to 5 and a OPAL vs. OPAL final. Only **Shane Hungerford** who plays for Silver Star Saloon's "Devil's Rejects" in the Mt. St. Helens D.J. division made it to the finals undefeated. **Shane** began by sending **Eric Arndt** off to lose himself in the dark side **5-1**. In round 2, **Shane** went double hill against **Justin Walker** then took the case game to finally win the match **5-4**. Now going into the Semi-Finals **Shane** barely squeaked out another double hill win **5-4** over **Alex Willett**, to head for the finals....

Meanwhile, **Justin Walker** who plays for the Spot's "Go For It" from the Columbia D.J. division took a slightly different path to the finals—. **Justin** started his journey by knocking OPAL's **Rob Crossen II** to the Dark Side after a **5-4** thrilling-last-ball-on-the-table-win. In round 2 **Justin** sharpened his focus and put the hammer down on OPAL's **Alex Willett** — taking him down river to the dark side **5-2**. In round 3 **Justin** ran into a brick wall with **Shane hungerford**. He ended up losing that double hill heartbreaker **5-4**. **Justin** was flung deep into the bowels of the dark side—right into a collision pathway with the dreaded **Rosemary Dunn** train that had just destroyed the ego dream's of OPAL's **Paul Soldan**, and Salem's **Bill Knotts**. **Justin** and **Rosemary** went at each other with the fury of two bull mice. Each wanted the win, but in the end it wasn't **Rosemary** who got it—**Justin** claimed the match **5-3** to advance himself back across the board to the winner's side Semi-Finals where the undefeated and tired-of-waiting **Kelsey Joe** was sharpening her nails.

**Justin** took off running right out of the gate and wound up getting Kelsey's goat **5-2** and winning the match enabling him passage into the finals against his old Arch Nemesis—the man who sent him on a wild goose chase through the one-loss side—**Shane Hungerford**. So, would it be Summer Re-runs??? Or would it be "Revenge of the Nerds?" Both warriors were up for the challenge and they both came out playing the "A" game, and wouldn't you just know it there we were again at double Hill. —One game left for all the marbles and the accolades—OR—the agony of defeat! Winning the case game, claiming the victory, the fifth plane seat to the **APA 8-Ball Classic World Championships** in Las Vegas as well as—all the bragging rights to being the 2018 Fall Regional Orange Tier Champion was **Justin Walker**.



In the SL 7 8-Ball "Purple" Tier board—race to "5" it was once again an OPAL / OPAL Match up in the finals. The two finalists were: OPAL's **Todd Speakman**, who plays for Back Alley's "Shot 4 Shot" in the Columbia D.J. division, and **Cole Gibbons** who plays for Puff's Pub's "Valley People" in the Parkrose D.J. division. **Cole** started out in round one by helping REDMOND's **Gavin Roderick** find his way into the dark side 5-2 while **Todd** began his undefeated journey by taking advantage of a "Bye" in round one. In round two **Todd defeated OPAL's Cole Gibbons 5-3** sending him off to maybe get lost in the Loser's side. In the round 3 Semi-Finals, **Todd** uprooted **Eric Stedman-Falls 5-2** right on out the door and down the road to home while **Todd** perched himself in an easy chair on the winner's point to see who would be emerging out of the dark side with the delusion of possible coming at him. It really wasn't that long of a wait..! However, in the meantime we'll go check on **Cole Gibbons** who had just recently been blasted to the Dark Side by **Todd**. Upon arrival in never never land **Cole** first got acquainted with **Jacob Stern**. It was sort of a lesson in brevity as **Cole** quickly took down **Jacob** in rapid fashion **5-1**. Next **Cole** reacquainted himself with **Gavin Roderick** from the Redmond-Bend area who he had already met and defeated in round one. This time however, **Gavin** was not to be caught unawares. **Gavin** fought valiantly all the way to double hill before **Cole** was able to put him down and out **5-4**. With that win, **Cole** moved back across the board to the winner's side final for a final show down against **Todd Speakman**.

In the final, **Todd** must have gotten too much rest and gotten too comfortable because his game wasn't quite as sharp as it had been earlier in the day. On the other hand, **Cole** played exceptionally well, and proved to be the man on a mission. **Cole** dominated **Todd** in the match **5-2** to claim the match, the bragging rights to being the 2018 Fall Regional Purple Tier Champion, and secure the bragging rights to the final 8-Ball slot into the World APA Singles Championships in Las Vegas at the Westgate during April 2019. The final 8-Ball Tally was OPAL "GEMS" "5" Slots and the rest of the world "1" Slots..!



In Sunday's 9-Ball format we had a total of 47 players playing in just three skill level brackets. We had a slot in the "Green" Tier (SL's 1-3), a slot in the "White" Tier category, (SL's 4 & 5) and a slot in the "Black" Tier board (SL's 6 -9).

In the SL-1-3, Green Tier 9-Ball bracket, there were 15 people playing for just one slot . Reaching the OPAL / OPAL final was OPAL's SL-2 **Karla Stender** who plays for Cascade Bar's "Land Sharks" in the Northern D.J. division; and SL-2 **Johanna Altuzarra** who plays for Fortune Star's "Lovely Ladies" in the Ladies of the East division. (Continued on Pg. 4.)

SINGLES REGIONAL (Continued)

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(Continued from Pg. 3)

It was so uncanny how parallel the two finalist's journey was. In round one **Karla** (SL-2) **Stender** kicked OPAL's **James Reinsch** into the dark side 19-10, and **Johanna** (SL-3) **Altuzarra** knocked OPAL's **Suzane Jensen** off into the deep end 25-15. In round two **Karla** lost to OPAL's **Desiree Dixon** 19-12 & **Johanna** lost to OPAL's **Ashley Hancock** 25-17. Now they were both waist deep in the tournament dark side.

**Johanna** ended the day for OPAL's **Monica Vanderpool** by beating her 25-20. For the right to travel back across the board to the Semi-final match **Johanna** first had to go through OPAL's **Lorelei Butterfield**—which she did 25-18.

Meanwhile, **Karla** destroyed OPAL's SL-3 **Larry Draper** 19-18. Then next she wiped out **Jessica Kellar** 19-8 sending **Jessica** out the door and down the road to home. Now it was off to the Semi-Finals for **Karla & Johanna**. In the Semi's **Karla** had to play **Desiree Dixon** who had previously beat her and sent her into the dark side prison.. This time though **Karla** rose to the occasion and beat her 19-11. **Desiree** went out the door and **Karla** went to the finals. Meanwhile on the lower part of the bracket **Johanna** appeared early on to have her hands full with OPAL's **Clarice Burkhart** but she hung in, persevered, and prevailed to win 25-14. Now it was to the finals for SL-3 **Johanna** & SL-2 **Karla**—NOW THEY HAD TO PLAY EACH OTHER!!!

Last year **Karla** had been "Runner-Up" but not this year... **Karla** wiped the table with **Johanna**: 19—7. Everything that **Karla** did was right, and for poor **Johanna** not-so-right. If **Karla** didn't buy a lottery ticket that day she quite probably would have made herself an absolute fortune. Anyway, **Karla Stender** emerged victorious and claimed the first World APA 9-Ball slot to Las Vegas, the 7th plane seat, and all the bragging rights to being the 2018 APA Fall Regional OPAL-APA Green Tier Champion.

In the SL-4 & 5 White Tier 9-Ball bracket there was 16 people going for one slot up for grabs. Reaching finals were two OPAL players: SL-4 **Ettione Dixon** who plays for Lu's "Drop Shots" in the Midwest D.J. division; and SL-5 **James Shelton** who plays for the Wichita Town Pub's "Shoots & Giggles" in the Southern D.J. division. **James** went straight away to the finals undefeated. **Twiz**, on the other hand took a different path. In **Jame's** first round he barely got past **Chad Hepler** 38-36. In round two **James** slithered out of the clutches of Opal's **Paul Soldan** 35-35. In round 3 **James** slipped past **Robin McVicker** 38-21. Then, in the Semi-Finals **James** blew **Paul Soldan's** boat clear out of the water 38-24 to put himself on the point and wait to see who would be coming back out of the swamp to get him.

Meanwhile, **Twiz Dixon** never got out of the gate against **Dale Mick** as he lost to him 31-17 in the first round. Now finding himself knee deep in dark side muck he struggled, but somehow still succeeded in getting past **Tina Peralta** 31-25. Next in round 2 of the loser's side **Twiz** squeaked by **Bobbi Wilson** 31-27. Then, for the Loser's point **Twiz** succeeded in beating **Deanna Copeland** 31-28 to gain transport back across the board to the semi's to play **Alisha Hepler** who he succeeded in destroying 31-16. Now, for **Twiz**, the long awaited moment was it hand. He flew across the board and into the Finals match for all the marbles against the undefeated **James Shelton**. **Twiz Dixon PROCEEDED** to go for the gusto taking down **James Shelton** 31-19 in the process and emerging victorious. He Therefore, claimed the second World APA 9-Ball slot to Las Vegas, the 8th plane seat, and all the bragging rights to being the 2018 APA Fall Regional OPAL-APA White Tier Champion.

Moving right along, now for the action packed 9-Ball SL-6-9 "Black" tier bracket. There were 15 players fighting for the last allocated slot to Las Vegas. OPAL's SL-9 **Todd Speakman** from Vancouver Wa. Who plays for back Alley's "Shot 4 Shot" in the Columbia D.J. division, and OPAL's (SL-6) **Brian Messner** who plays for Timber's "Shot Effect" in the Gateway 8 division were the two players left standing that made it all the way to the finals. Their respective journey's couldn't have been more different. **Todd** came firing out of the gate and never looked back as he made his way straight ahead, and completely undefeated, all the way to the finals **Todd** began his undefeated journey in round 1 by taking down OPAL's SL-7 **Shane Hungerford** 75-52. Then, in round two, **Todd** got a "No Show" forfeit from OPAL's **Cole Gibbons**, In



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(Continued on Page 5)



## SINGLES REGIONAL (Continued)

(Continued from Page 4.) round 3 he pulverized OPAL's **Robert McVicker 75-20** then, in the Semi-Finals **Todd** upended **Jacob Stern 75-29**. Then **Todd** waited on the Winner's point rim for **Brian** to show up.

**Brian**, on the other hand, started out in the very first round by getting a can of "Whoop Ass" dumped on him by OPAL's **Robert Taylor** which left him with no other choice other than to either brave the muddy waters and venomous critters of the dark side, or to take his lemons and try and make some lemonade. **Brian's** next opponant was against OPAL's SL-6 **Jeff Guymon** who he thoroughly destroyed **46-20**. Next in round two of the dark side, **Brian** clobbered Opal's SL-6 **Evan Moore 46-22**. **Brian** next found himself standing at the Loser's point taking on Salem's SL-6 **Bill Knotts**. The loser would be going out the door to home, and the winner would be traveling back across the board to the Semi-Finals to fight still another match. **Brian** wasted **Bill 46-33**, and headed across the board to the Semi-Finals against Opal's SL-6 **Kody Geertz** —(**Brian's teammate from "Shot Effect" of all people..!**) Consequently, **Brian** had to put on his game shoes, put the pedal to the metal, to wind up spanking **Kody 46-31** to to claim his rite of passage and move forward and take on OPAL's **Todd Speakman**.

In the Black Tier 9-Ball final, **Todd** was a man on a mission. He dominated **Brian Messner 75—22** to repeat & defend **Todd's** 2017 title, claim the match, the bragging rights to being the 2018 Fall Regional Black Tier Champion, and to claim the last 9-Ball slot to the World APA Singles Championships in Las Vegas at the Westgate during April 2019. The final 9-Ball Tally was OPAL "GEMS" "3" Slots and the rest of the world "0" Slots..!



*Special Thanks to Wichita Town Pub's Staff and Crew 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: **Glen Shoup**, **Stephen Schneringer**, and **John Blue**. Who, for the most part, had all given up a large portion of their free weekend time to officiate.

**REMEMBER**—If you want to participate and possibly get a chance to win your way into the World Singles Championship in May 2019. you will only have until November 30 (That's Only about 7 weeks away) to get qualified for the Spring regional coming in February 2019. Boomer's going to host a play 'till you win 9-Ball blowout at the Midway Saturday October 20th, and an 8-Ball blowout at the Midway the following Saturday October 27th..There'll be competitions for all skill levels so come and throw your hat into the ring. **YOU** could be the next winner.

**During labor,  
the pain is so  
great that a  
woman...  
can almost  
imagine what a  
man feels like  
when he has a cold.**

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## THE LOSER'S CORNER

The Three people listed below are "Losers" from the Sept 24th Newsletter. If you happen to see these individuals, give 'em the old "L" sign,—while thanking 'em for leaving a shirt in the box—possibly just for you!

- 1—BRIAN CULLEN** (97211794) who plays for Underground's "**Triple Threat**" in Triple Play Mstr W. div.
- 2—MICHELLE COOK** (97213923) who plays for 2nd St. Bar's "**Drunken Warriors**" in the Gateway8 Division.
- 3—NANCY LOCKWOOD** (97218691) who plays for Back Alley's "**Poolplayers Anon**" in Columbia DJ div..

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 97219237 detail, **READ THE NEWSLETTER..!**

