



The OPAL 'GEM' EXPRESS



NLSU2014-02

May 26, 2014



9 Spring 9-Ball Tri-Cup Results

May 16-18, KC's Midway and Rodders in Oregon City graciously co-hosted our OPAL-APA Spring Session 9-Ball Tri-Cup. KC's Midway hosted the Sunday finals. The Hosts and crews of both places did a nice job making sure their provided service was both quick and excellent, and the food and drink was both plentiful and refreshing.

There were 47 division 9-Ball finalists teams competing in the Modified Single elimination format,— which is double elimination through the first 2 rounds transcending into single elimination beginning the third round. It was a weekend of close competition with many of the team matches going right down to the last rack to decide a winner. However, if a team reached 50 points with three match wins, or 51 points the match was declared over.

We had a total payout fund of \$19,630 (Up a little over \$800 from this time last year) which was dispersed throughout the entire field. 70% of the total matches came down to double hill and almost 65% of those came down to the last rack. We ran one round on Friday night, three rounds on Saturday, and concluded on Sunday with four rounds finishing up at 7:30 PM.

An amazing statistic this time around was that 59% of the teams that lost on Friday won their next match whereas 60% of the teams that won on Friday lost their next two matches in a row to be put out of the tournament. Statistically translated this means the competition was both keen and evenly matched (Continued on Pg. 2.)

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HIDDEN (Except when in parenthesis) somewhere in this Newsletter are "5" new APA Membership numbers just waiting to be discovered. From last week's May 21st newsletter one brilliant observer so far has found his number and called in. Ta Daaah! It was: **Rod Bair** (97230182) who plays for Midway's "Diamonds In The Rough" in the Wagon Wheel D. J. division.

There is still one more week and four unfound numbers still yet to be found. That is, *plus the 5 new ones from this week's newsletter which for you mathematical genius's makes a grand total of 9 numbers to be discovered!*

All you have to do if you find your hidden number is to call the league office with the magic words "**Gimme My Shirt**" and you'll avoid the week-long camping trip to the back page where you'll be in full visibility of all your peers. Certainly that would mean, that they'll be able to point their fingers, laugh & snicker, giggle & snort, at you — 'cause they will know that there will be a shirt waiting for them in the box simply because YOU weren't observant enough to find yours & avoid the embarrassment!

BE AN OPAL WINNER INSTEAD



SUCCESSION: 8-Ball Busters



SUCCESSION: Coney Dawg

TRI-CUP (Continued from Pg.1) The results are as follows:

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FINISHING 33-47th and winning \$170 were: Pit Stop's "Chalked 'n Loaded;" Ickabod's "Maybe Next Week;" Gator's "Lemonheads;" Red Fir's "Fir Balls;" Pub 181's "Pub Crawlers;" Wichita Town Pub's "Kiss Kiss;" Fortune Star's "Fugetaboutit;" Timber's "Timber Cutters;" Star House's "Hugh Jazz Ballers;" Jo Saloon's "Stix & Chix;" Sam's "Roast Beef Sammich;" Nite Hawk's "Wild Wranglers;" Ringo's "Scratch 'n Sniff;" River Road House's "8's & A's;" and River Road House's "Balls 'N Hand."



BRONZE -- BROKE AGAIN

FINISHING 25-32nd and winning \$250 was Western 9-Ball Division's "Big Red's;" Timber Pub's "Shot Effect;" Pub 181's "Money Shots;" Ice House's "Ice Breakers;" West Union's "Spicy Pickled Taco's;" Prairie Inn's "Chalk Is Free;" Sundowner's "Nine Hangin'" and River Road House's "Boomer Said No!"



BRONZE -- LADIES & THE TRAMPS

FINISHING 17-24 and winning \$370 was: Legend's "Keep It Simple;" Hart Rd. Pizza's "Demi Gods Of The Felt;" MacAnulty & Barry's "Shooting With Dad;" Fortune Star's "City Hunters;" Underground's "Band Of Misfits;" Cascade Bar's "Breaking Bad;" Northern Division's "Cliff's Tavern;" and Midway's "Pool Ball Wizards."

FINISHING 9-16 and winning \$520 was: Sweet Home's "Sticks Like Jesus;" Fortune Star's "Devil's Rejects;" Mike's Place "Clean Up Crew;" Coney Island's "Coney Dawgs;" Falco's "8-Ball-Busters;" Back Alley's "Blackbird;" Wrangler's "Motorboatin';" and Midway's "Diamond In The Rough."



BRONZE -- MARK IT ZERO DONNIE

Special Note: Though the "8-Ball Busters" and the **Coney Dawgs** both missed out on winning a medallion, they still earned a spot in Regionals by right of succession. Both of the teams that beat them in the Sunday morning medal round- "Mark It Zero Donnie and Time Out For Hugs"- were already regionally qualified from a previous Tri-Cup. Therefore, by the right of succession, (since a team cannot win two regional spots and deprive another team from going and competing in regional play) **Falco's "8-Ball Breakers"** from the Mt. Hood D.J. division— with Team Captain: **Chris Spear**, and teammates-- **Jose Angulo, Angela Dunning, Michael Yourk, David Dueck, Chris Paulus**, and **James Newland**—along with **Coney Island's "Coney Dawgs"** from the Southern D.J. division with team captain: **David Solana, Joseph Danmyer, Randall Parsley, Mary Wiltshire, Arthur Moore Jr., Jay Curwick**, and **Jason Stewart** will get to continue on to regionals and compete for one of the coveted \$4,000 slots and plane ride to Las Vegas Nationals.

FINISHING 5—8th and winning "Bronze Medallions" while taking home \$750 were: **McAnulty & Barry's "Broke Again"** from the Southeast D.J. division with Team Captain: **Jason Knutson**, and teammates-- **Jessica Day, Craig Knutson, Brick Engstrom, Jessica LaDuke, Nathan Osborn, Jamie Smothers**, and **David Scarth**; The **Shamrock's "Ladies & The Tramps"** from the Mid-Valley DJ division— with Team Captain: **Anthony Gerardot**, and teammates--**Dan Schweizer, Aaron Zook, Jazmine Gerardot, Chris Elliott, Jonathan Arnold, Ashley Johnson**, and **Mary Babcock**; **Sam's "Mark It Zero Donnie"** from the Sunrise D.J. division with Team Captain: **Christopher Parra**, and teammates--**Andrew Hoffman, Jason Stabe, Paul Marquez, Claudine Elzey, Eddie Bickle, Katie Hoffman**, and **Kimberly Engh**; and **Balladtown's "Time Out For Hugs"** (Continued on Pg. 3.)



BRONZE -- TIME OUT FOR HUGS

TRI-CUP

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(Continued from Pg. 2) from the Skyline D.J. division with Team Captain: **Dave Switzer**, and teammates-- **Kirstin Stanley, Daniel Adams, Brent Baron, Will Ford Jr., Elizabeth Chamberlain, Bill Ford Sr., and Karen Ford**.



SILVER -- SUPER SHAFT

FINISHING 3-4 and winning Silver Medallions and **\$1,000** was: **Fortune Star's "Super Shaft"** from the Far East DJ division with Team Captain: **Lyssa Henin**, and teammates-- **Steven Medaris, Chad Jones, Daniel Meyers, Chris Dille, Robert Mastne, Michael Dubendorf, and Adam Delfel**; AND **Underground's "Works For Us"** from the Skyline DJ division— with Team Captain: **Steven Lambert**, and teammates--**Doug Best, Daniel Weeks, Deana Copeland, Roger Pinder, Brandon McIntyre, Karen McDougall, and Dave McDowell**.



SILVER -- WORKS FOR US

FINISHING 2ND and winning Gold Medallions and **\$1,300** from the Central 9-Ball division was **Sam's "Tabula Rasa"** with Team Captain: **Tony Altman**, and teammates: **Joy Pierson, Randall Luson, Kate Williams, Haili Graff, and Aaron Campbell**.

FINISHING 1ST and winning the bragging rights—the coveted Platinum Star Medallions— and the top money prize of **\$1,700** was **Tabula Rasa's** sister division and host location team... Also from **Sam's** in the Central 9-Ball division was: **"Not League Material"** with Team Captain: **Blake Fierro**, and teammates--**Robert Anderson, Stacy Carnahan, Elizabeth Lachman, Will Ullman, Kris Knutson, and Nicholas Bostwick**.

"**Tabula Rasa**" made it a long journey to the finals. They started out Friday night at the Midway in Slot #30 and ended up getting their balls busted by the "8-Ball busters." They didn't play again until 1 PM Saturday where they took command and snatched "Balls In Hand" to the street and home. In the 5 PM round the weren't affected by "Shot Effect" and found themselves moving on to the bridesmaid / medal round on Sunday morning. Against an undefeated "Clean Up Crew" from Mike's Place.



GOLD -- TABULA RASA

Sunday morning they cleaned up on the "**Clean Up Crew**" to guarantee themselves both a Medallion, and a spot in the 2014 June Regionals. In the 1 PM round "**Tabula Rasa**" left "**Time Out For Hugs**" behind holding the Bronze to go on and face Underground's "**Works For Us**" in the 3 PM team match-race for the Silver/Gold. That match worked out exceptionally well for "**Tabula**" because "**Works For Us**" ended up leaving the building with the Silver. "**Tabula Rasa**" on the other hand was headed to the finals against their sister team from Sam's in the Central 9-Ball division.

Whoever came up with the team name "**Not League Material**" certainly came up with a clever oxymoron because their journey was short—straight away—undefeated all the way to the finals. The "**Notes**" began at the Midway on Friday night by breaking the ice —literally—in great big little pieces—against their opponents "**The Ice Breakers**" sending them to Saturday's 1 PM round over in the one-loss side. Next in the Saturday 9 AM round they drew a straight— that's straight to the 5 PM round —after beating the **8's and A's** hand. Coming back at 5 PM they decided to simply keep it simple and proceeded to just bear down and pummel "**Keep It Simple**" on out the door to home while the "**Notes**" received their Sunday 9 AM pass to compete in the bridesmaid / medal round.



PLATINUM -- NOT LEAGUE MATERIAL

In the Sunday 9am round the "**Notes**" took a crash course in Diamond mining and found it to be a bit of a rough go. However with a little bit of polish, patience, and perseverance they overcame the already regionally qualified team of "**Diamonds in the Rough**" and sent them out the door with a **\$520** check while they (Continued Pg. 4.)

TRI-CUP (Continued from Page 3.) had legitimately earned for themselves at least a Bronze Medallion and an earned spot for themselves in the June 2014 9-Ball Team Regionals.

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In the 1 PM Sunday the **"Nots"** trampled on the **"Ladies & The Tramps"** leaving them behind holding the Bronze. In the 3 PM round the **"Nots"** dirtied the shafts of their **"Super Shaft"** opponents sending them out the door with the Silver, in search of some "Blue Shaft Cleaner," and so now it was off to their journey's end—the finals—with only their sister team—**"Tabula Rasa"** standing in the way between the **"Nots"** and the glory of the coveted Platinum Star Medallions plus the title of 2014 Spring Session Tri-Cup Champions.

The finals started out on 5 tables simultaneously with a simultaneous **"Color of Money"** break, and the double hill final results between Central 9-Ball division Sam's **"Tabula Rasa"** and **"Not League Material"** are as follows:

On Table 1: Rasa's SL-5 **Joy Pierson** upended Not's SL-7 Captain **Blake Fierro** 38-39 for a 14-6 sliding scale score.

On Table 2: Not's SL-5 **William Ultman** got squished by Rasa's SL-5 **Randall Lusson** 26-38 for a sliding scale score of 5-15 bringing the two table total to 31-9 in favor of the Tabula Rasa.

On Table 3: Not's SL-2 **Elizabeth Lachman** smerfed SL-3 **Haili Graff** 19-14 for a sliding scale score of 16-4 bringing the overall match now to 35 to 25 still in favor of Tabula Rasa.

On table 4: Rasa's SL-3 **Katie Williams** got trounced by Not's—SL-4 **Robert Anderson** 31-9 for a sliding scale score of 2-18, bringing the comeback total to 43-37 flipping the favor to the Not League Material side.

Last, On table 6: to decide the match—Not's SL-5 **Kris Knutson** put the last nail in the coffin for Rasa's SL-5 team captain **Anthony Altman** 38-34 for a 12-8 sliding scale score for the "Nots" for a total match score of **57-43** in favor of Sam's Hollywood Billiard's **"Not League Material"** who were all grinning from ear to ear and absolutely delighted to find out that they were able to claim the victory, along with the coveted Platinum Star Medallions, a **\$1,700** check, and all the bragging rights to being crowned the 2014 APA Spring Session 9-Ball Team Tri-Cup champions.

The next step will be at KC's Midway on June 6-8th 2014 for the 9-Ball Team Regionals where all of the pictured winners will compete along with the other finalists from both the Summer and Fall 9-Ball Tri-Cups to compete for one of 6 possible team slots that we are allocated for the APA National 9-Ball Team Championship at Las Vegas August 14-18, 2014.

*Special Thanks again to **KC's Midway**, and to **Rodders** for being such Gracious hosts! Also, our many thanks to the hard work and dedication put in by our OPAL Referees: "Derby" **Dan Fendall**, **Maxine Buhler**, **Miguel Madrigal**, **Shannon Young**, **Anton Renz**, and **Don "Coyote" Walker**, and the man of many hats—**John Blue**.*



Spring Session Awards Party



We closed out Spring Session 2014 with the Session end party on May 11th at Rodders located in Oregon City. Rodder's staff worked continuously providing excellent food and beverage service to everyone's enjoyment and satisfaction.

Donna Kingsbury, Shannon Young, & Jack Spring greeted approximately 250+ people at the door while **Boomer** and **Cindy** were in by the shuffleboard area handing out new team folders for the next session.

The trophy Crew organized and set up the trophy display. Helping were: Back L-R: **Jeff Hiatt, Shannon Young, Don "Coyote" Walker, and John Blue**, Front L-R: **Joe Dubanski, and Anton Renz**. They did a fantastic job setting up—the display was nothing less than spectacular—and it covered the entire stage area.

Meanwhile **Merle, & Coyote** ran fun events for everyone. **Don & Charlie Walker** ran eight \$3 entry 10-person break contests, and **Merle, Kim Norn, & Richard Kiltz** ran 7 - \$5 entry 12 person heats of Survivor APA. The break contest paid \$20 for first and \$10 (Continued on Pg. 5)



Donna

REGISTRATION



Boomer Giving out New Folders



for second. Winning in the **Walker Brothers Break Contests** were: **#1-Andy Winslow** 1st, & **Mike Black** 2nd; **#2-Andy Winslow** 1st, & **Coyote** 2nd; **#3-Joe Dubanski** 1st, & **Andy Winslow** 2nd; **#4-Coyote** 1st, & **Aaron Plantenberg** 2nd.; **#5-Buck Campbell** 1st, & **Mike Black** 2nd; **#6-Tyson Croonquist** 1st, & **Eric Harmon** 2nd; **#7-Mike Black** 1st, & **Andy Winslow** 2nd; and lastly, **#8-Tim Sexton** 1st, & **Cory Bananto** 2nd.

Paying out: **\$30** 1st, **\$20** for 2nd, & **\$10** for 3rd, the winners in Survivor APA were: **#1 Kim Norn** 1st, **Dan Fendall** 2nd, & **Todd Clement** 3rd; **#2 Merle** 1st, **Jonathan Hahn** 2nd, & **Andy Winslow** 3rd; **#3 Paul Mullins** 1st, **Ben Antonio** 2nd., & **Merle** 3rd; **#4 Jonathan Hahn** 1st, **Kim Norn** 2nd, & **Michael Black** 3rd. **#5 Andy Winslow** 1st, **Dan Fendall** 2nd, & **Terry Luke** 3rd, **#6 Steve Chandler** 1st, **Bryan McPherson** 2nd, **Tim Higginson** 3rd, and finally— **#7 Tim Baden** 1st, **Tyson Croonquist** 2nd, & **Eric Harmon** 3rd.

John Blue gave out a ton of door prizes including a couple of red circle Cue Balls and 3 Cue Tec cues. Winning the Red Cue Tec was **Debbie Reitan** who plays for the Underground Sports bar's team of "Horizontal Possibilities" in the Skyline D.J. division. Winning the Blue Cue Tec was **Sherry Addington** who plays for Silver Star Saloon's "Chalk It Off" in the Mt. St. Helens D. J. division; and winning the Black Cue Tec was **Wyndy Michaels** who plays for the 6 Point Inn "Shooters" in the Lombard division.

During the Award Ceremony approximately 2500+ Special Awards, Certificates of Merit, and Trophies were handed out. League play trophies included, MVP, Most Improved, Sportsmanship, 1st place host location, and first and second place individual team trophies. Certificates of Merit, or Patches, were given for shutouts, Break & Runs, Table Runs, and 8, or 9 on the break. **WRANGLERS Jeff & Katie Haight** (Team Captain **Ron Mehner** holding the award at right) were presented with the Host Location of the Year Award. **Michael O'Jones** who plays for Rodder's "Kellar's Clowns" in the Southeast D.J. Division, and **Kristen Shellenberger** who plays for Fortune Star's "It's All About Me" in the Farside D.J. division were named most outstanding Male and Female League Members of the Year award for 2013-14.



WRANGLERS - Host Location of the Year



League Members of the Year



POOL FESTE

Capt.-Co-Captain Tournament



The first Saturday beginning the new session is generally the OPAL day of appreciation for all those who commanded teams the previous session, but this time around it was scheduled for the 2nd Saturday to avoid Memorial Day weekend for the Tri-Cups. KC's Midway in Oregon City hosted the 31 player turnout. With the \$15 per player entry, and \$82 in added money from KC's Midway and OPAL we had a total payout purse of \$555 which was paid to the top '12' finishers in the field.

The 32 Board 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. After the first game was completed, thereafter, it was always winner racks and loser breaks. 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. So, for example, if a "3" played a "6" it would be a race to "2" for the SL-3 and a race to "4" for the SL-6.

We got started around 12:30 Pm just after everyone was registered, the board drawn, and a brief player's meeting. We used all of the tables that were made available and the event progressed quickly. The final match ended a little bit after 6:00 PM. Everyone had a great time.

The race to the "bragging rights" was a back 'n forth journey for both finalists. **Mark** (SL-6) **Griffin**, Co-Captain of "Raxnballz" who plays out of River Road House in the Super Double Jeopardy division, **Met Mark** (SL-7) **Bussiere** in the starting gate of round #1. The two gladiators battled fiercely. **Bussiere** won the lag and chose 9-Ball. **Griffin** came out firing taking 3 of the first 4 games to land himself on the hill. Switching to 8-Ball **Bussiere** won the (Continued on Pg. 6)

**Capt.-Co-Captain
Tournament**



next two games to bring the match to double hill. **Bussiere** then managed to squeak out the case game for the miraculous come-back-win leaving **Griffin** behind to do battle in the one-loss side.

Griffin's first match in the loser's side was against **Rick** (SL-5) **Hoyle** who won the lag and chose 9-Ball. **Griffin** won 3 of the first 4 games to perch himself on the hill. Switching to 8-Ball **Griffin** won the first game—match over. In round 2 of the loser's side **Griffin** faced off against **Soren** (SL3) **Winslow** who won the lag and chose 8-Ball. **Griffin** won the first 2 games of 8-Ball and then took two straight games of 9-Ball to claim the match victory and to move on to the Loser's point against **Tyson** SL-6) **Croonquist**. **Griffin** won the lag so **Tyson** Chose 8-Ball. **Griffin** won 2 out of the 3 games then they switched to 9-Ball where he also won the first game to put himself up on the hill. **Tyson** won the 2nd game of 9-Ball to bring the match to 3-2, but then **Griffin** won the next game to claim the match victory and move back to the winner's side while **Tyson** headed out the door one out of the money.

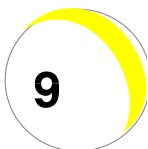
Back in the winner's side **Griffin** got a real scare from **Scott** (SL-4) **Shoberg**. Scott won the lag **Griffin** chose 8-Ball. **Scott** won both games of 8-Ball and put himself on the hill. Switching to 9-Ball **Griffin** got lucky and took the next 4 games straight to claim the match victory leaving **Scott** with a \$35 fifth place finish. Next up came the charity match against (SL-7) **Don** "Coyote" **Walker**. **Don** played lights out perfect shape the whole match, but would either miss a super easy shot, or make some ridiculous scratch somewhere. The result was that with Coyote's help—**Griffin** took him out 4-zip to claim the match and make his way to the finals against his old arch nemesis from the first round **Mark** SL-7) **Bussiere**—leaving "Coyote" with a \$65 3rd place finish.

Meanwhile, after kicking "Griffin's" butt in a double hill thriller way back in the first round **Mark** (SL-7) **Bussiere** who captain's the Back Alley "Alley Dogs" in the Triple Play Master's –East division, went grinning ear to ear into round two only to get that smile ripped off his face by **Adam** SL-7 **Drew** in a 4-zip slaughter. Finding himself upended to the one loss side facing **Nancy** (SL-3) **Ballotta** he retaliated on her with a 4-Zip win. **Bussiere** next took on **Tarek** (SL-7) **Zaher** for the hopes of getting back to the winner's side. After being down 2-zip **Bussiere** rallied for a brilliant 4-2 comeback win.

Moving back to the winner's side **Bussiere** registered another dramatic 4-2 win after defeating **Ray** SL-5) **Ewert** who was already on the hill after 4 games. **Ray** went out the door with a \$35 5th place finish. In the last match before the finals **Bussiere** 4-Zipped undefeated **Virginia** (SL3) **Shoberg** leaving her with a \$65 3rd place finish. Now it was show time—would it be Summer Re-runs, or **Griffin's** revenge?

In The race to 4 Finals, **Griffin** won the lag, and took 8-Ball. **Bussiere** Took Game 1, **Griffin** took game 2. **Bussiere** took game 3 — then they switched to 9-Ball. **Griffin** took the first game tying the match up 2-2. **Bussiere** won the next game to put himself on the hill He also won the game after that to claim the match and victory 4-2, the top money-\$130, and all the bragging rights to the title of: 2014 Spring Session Capt & Co-Capt Tournament Champion. For 2nd place **Griffin** got \$95.

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



Virginia



Coyote



Griffin

Bussiere



THE LOSER'S CORNER

Listed below are 8 losers: the 1st three are from the April 1st newsletter, & the last five are from the April 7th, Newsletter Give 'em the old "L" sign, & your best Razzing.

2—RHONDA TODD (97207793) who plays for Prairie's "What's Next?" in the **River City 9-Ball** division.

8—JAY CURWICK (97208992) who plays for Coney Island's "Coney Dawgs" in the **Southern D.J.** division.

7—STEVEN LECKIE (97216378) who plays for Sam's "You Again?" in the **Central 9-Ball** division.

9—JULEE ALBERT (97200270) who plays for Aloha Station's "Be The Ball" in the **Sunset D. J.** division.

1—JOHN HOWARD (97201932) who plays for Scotty's "Respect My Authority" in the **Southwest D.J.** division.

2—STEVE ALBERTS (97217926) who plays for Cascade Bar's "Billiard Ballers" in the **Columbia D.J.** division.

7—FRANK BRANDENHORST (97218719) who plays for Quimby's "Buck 58" in the **Downtown D.J.** division.

9—LORI WARNER (97218719) who plays for Shamrock's "Drunken Wanderers" in the **Sunrise D.J.** division.

If you don't want to be caught here for everyone to see, then look and see if your number isn't hidden somewhere. **REMEMBER**, it is possible for your number to come up more than once. Therefore, pay attention to detail, **READ THE NEWSLETTER..!**

