



the  
alabama  
horseshoe pitchers  
association  
ESTABLISHED 1964 AT ROBERTSDALE, ALABAMA

# 2017 Post Season Newsletter

We are at the end of another great season of horseshoe pitching for the AHPA. There will be some more tournaments before we get the new schedule together. TNT is hosting a tournament on December 9 and Jim Ellison will have some winter tournaments in Gulf Shores.

Your 2017 membership card is good until January 1. I have the 2018 cards available at any time. The dues for 2018 are \$35.00 for adults and \$7.00 for juniors. New members can join for FREE! Let's get the word out and boost our membership! A family membership is available for \$70.00. Family memberships are for a husband and/or wife and their dependent children who would otherwise qualify as juniors.

We are always looking for ways to make horseshoe pitching more fun and competitive. There have been some great ideas brought up by some of our members and I want to encourage all members to voice their opinions and bring those ideas to the table. Our tournament directors do a great job of making up the classes and formatting the tournaments that they run. It is a tough and sometimes thankless job so I want to take this time to thank them for the hard work that they do all season.

We had 46 members enter into our 2017 AHPA state singles championship this year. Unfortunately, there were some members that didn't participate for various reasons. Our total membership for 2017 was 88. There were 41 Men, 26 Elders, 15 Women, 4 Boys and 2 Cadets.

Our officers and tournament directors will be meeting in Eclectic at the TNT Courts January 20, 2018 to set the new schedule and discuss issues such as Ron Kindrick's resignation and Steve Franklin's installation as President and who is going to replace Steve as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President. We will also talk about the new Hall

of Fame induction requirements. We had an unfortunate incident this past year that was a BIG misunderstanding and should never have happened. I admire all those involved greatly and appreciate all that they do for the AHPA. I sincerely hope that we can move forward and continue to work together in the upcoming year. All members are encouraged to come and participate or at least voice your opinion to an officer or tournament director so that your concerns can be heard. We did run into some technical difficulties during the AHPA State Championship. I called Rob Hagman, the IT expert with the NHPA, during the tournament to help find a solution to no avail. And how a horseshoe can bounce and hit just perfectly to cut the power wire for the Wi-Fi as if you had used wire cutters is beyond me! I believe that I have these problems remedied (crossing my fingers).

AHPA officer positions that will be coming up for election in 2018 are 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president, currently held by Barry Goree and secretary/treasurer, currently held by Don Hathcock.

## **Your 2018 Officers**

### Regional Director

**Ron Kindrick**  
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### President

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### Junior Promotions Director

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### North (Second) Vice-President

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### South (Third) Vice-President

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### Secretary-Treasurer

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## AHPA 2017 State Champions



**Mens Champion: Dan Watson**



**Womens Champion: Kathy Brazier**



**Elders Champion: Jim Ellison**



**Juniors Champion: Cole Maples**

**Congratulations to all of our 2017 State Champions!!**



## **Kathy Brazier**

### **Inducted into the AHPA Hall of Fame**

**Kathy Brazier has been an active member of the Alabama Horseshoe Pitchers Association (AHPA) for the past 10 years. She has maintained an excellent ringer percentage throughout her pitching history. Kathy has won 8 straight AHPA women's singles championships with a pitching average during her last 6 years of approximately 63%. She has been ranked in the top 10 female pitchers in the world since 2015. During the current 2017 pitching season, Kathy has a NATSTAT pitching average of 77.57%, placing her as the number 3 female pitcher in the world.**

**During the World Horseshoe Tournament in Montgomery, AL in 2016, Kathy finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the women's A class preliminary tournament with a 71.94 ringer percentage. Her success in the world preliminaries qualified her to pitch in the world championship class where she finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place. This was an outstanding accomplishment for a first appearance in a World Tournament.**

**Since 2015, Kathy has pitched in 7 professional horseshoe tour tournaments finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in three tournaments and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in three tournaments. She has also pitched in two National Horseshoe Pitchers Association (NHPA) Hall of Fame (HOF) invitational tournaments and finished 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> respectively with a ringer percentage of 70 percent or more. The Hall of Fame tournaments were mixed men and women 30 feet.**



## **Wayne “Gus” McGehee**

### **2017 AHPA Achievement Award**

**Wayne “Gus” McGehee has been largely responsible for the success of the North Alabama Horseshoe Club/League. Having been active in local horseshoe pitching for several years and hosting non-sanctioned tournaments at his home and other venues, he has encouraged non-state association pitchers to become members of the Alabama Horseshoe Pitchers Association (AHPA). He was instrumental in the upgrade of the Lacey Springs coon hunter’s club horseshoe courts resulting in a covered 9 pit facility which was sanctioned and used for state tournaments.**

**The clay courts in Huntsville, Al have been used for several years and have hosted at least 3 world tournaments. Prior to 2010 there was a 2 year period when the courts were not used and fell into a significant state of disrepair. Through his leadership, Gus encouraged the parks and recreation board to reopen the courts for sanctioned AHPA tournaments. As a result of his actions, the board sent vehicles to Kentucky to purchase and haul sufficient clay to insure that all 24 courts were full and ready for competition, thus bringing back to life the Brahan Spring Park horseshoe courts.**

**The courts have been in continuous use ever since with several state championships and numerous weekend tournaments being pitched there. He has also improved the scorekeeping process in North Alabama by personally insuring that proper equipment was purchased for computerized scorekeeping. His considerable actions and efforts were not done in a vacuum. Through his positive approach to the game of horseshoes and his leadership skills and abilities he has had the unwavering support and help of the entire North Alabama horseshoe pitching community.**

**One of his early non-sanctioned efforts in pitching was the advent of the annual Dennis Martin Classic Horseshoe Tournament which was initially a charity event. One of the charity recipients was the Jerry Lewis Telethon for Muscular Dystrophy. The Dennis Martin Classic is still being held annually as it has been for more than 20 years. Many of those pitchers joined the AHPA.**

**In the meantime, through all of these efforts, his influence and zeal for the sport of horseshoes and the success of the North Alabama horseshoe clubs, one AHPA member of the North Alabama club has constructed 8 covered outdoor sanctioned clay courts. These courts are now an integral part of the tournament rotations in North Alabama and were the site of the 2017 Alabama State Doubles Tournament. These courts are known as Dan’s Courts.**

Gus has held state leadership positions during his membership in the AHPA. He was elected as 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President and ultimately President of the AHPA and served in these positions from 2004 until 2012 for a total of 8-plus years. This was in addition to directing all tournaments in the Huntsville area. Gus is directly and critically responsible for the success of the AHPA in North Alabama. His energy, motivation, considerable expertise, personal integrity and positive approach to the game of horseshoes are beyond significant.

His leadership has encouraged many pitchers to become members of the AHPA and has earned their support in keeping the sport alive in North Alabama and in other parts of the state as well.

It is therefore both fitting and proper that Wayne (Gus) McGehee is hereby awarded the first AHPA Achievement Award for his contribution to the sport of horseshoes in the state of Alabama.

## Other Awards



**Dan Watson**  
**Highest Ringer**  
**Percentage**  
**79.87%**



**Cole Maples**  
**Most Improved**  
**Percentage**  
**From: 29.11%**  
**to: 48.63%**



**Chuck & Joan**  
**Garrison**  
**Most**  
**Tournaments**  
**Pitched: 21**

**10 Year Patches:** Kathy Brazier  
 Frank Billingsley  
 Dan Watson (2010)  
**20 Year Patch:** Lyle Dorler  
**30 Year Patch:** Orville McElroy (2011)  
**40 Year Patch:** Jim Harris

**Patches for 1<sup>st</sup> AHPA State Singles Tournament:**  
 Lyle Dorler  
 Anthony Roper  
 Michael Ledbetter  
 Nicklaus Ledbetter  
 Christian Pitts  
 William T. Pitts  
 Jerry McDonald  
 Robert Turner

**Congratulations and Keep up the Good  
 Work!!!**

### **A Word from Jim Ellison, South Region (3<sup>rd</sup>) Vice-President**

Jim Ellison, Third Vice-President

Don has put together a fall newsletter and had asked for input. So here goes. Since this is the season of thanksgiving, as I attempt to write this, I will begin by thanking all who pitched in tournaments this year as this is the foundation of our sport. I thank all the spouses or significant others of those who pitched because without their patience and understanding we might not have pitched. I thank all the scorekeepers. You make a game go so much better. I thank all the tournament directors because I now know what it takes to conduct a tournament. I wish to thank Lee Campbell for his efforts to locate a place for us to pitch in Gadsden and for all the other unknown things that he does. I thank all the unknown people that prepared the food at the tournaments and only asked for contributions. I thank everyone that made the trip to the Gulf Shores-Orange Beach area to participate in our tournaments. I thank Don Hathcock for his untiring efforts as Secretary-Treasurer to make the AHPA a viable organization. If I have missed thanking anyone for their contributions, I do so now.

Now, as you know we held our first ever tournaments in Gulf Shores this year. Even though our courts are SAND we had 5 very successful tournaments with 4 different tournament champions. I invite you back next year as we will start early in order to allow some of the visiting Snowbirds a chance to participate in an AHPA tournament. I will try to tie some of the tournaments in with some local happenings even though the Beach and Restaurants are a great side attraction at any time.

An organization is only as good as the people who make it happen. I beg you to participate in the management of the AHPA. Run for one of the offices that will be up for reelection this year. Serve on one of the committees. We especially need someone to help Don Hathcock with the Secretary-Treasurer duties. There are some health issues involved and we could be in dire straits if we had no one available to take over.

We need some of the younger members to step up and take responsibility for some of the duties of the organization. I am 74 and most of the other officers are getting on up in age also. You do not have to be a pitcher in order to participate. I travel to Clubs in Florida and some of their officers are not pitchers but Significant Others of pitchers. If you have talents that can make the AHPA a better organization, then please do so.

OK, I have had my say. Have a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and a Great Pitching Season in 2018. Always be SAFE.

## 2017 AHPA State Meeting Minutes

- 1) Ron Kindrick called the meeting to order
- 2) Invocation given by Hershel Foster
- 3) Orville McElroy played the national anthem
- 4) Ron Kindrick congratulated all the AHPA Participants in the 2017 world tournament and the Gadsden Club for their work in putting together the State Singles.
- 5) State Awards were presented.
  - a) State Patches for 1st State Singles were given to Lyle Dorler, Anthony Roper, Michael Ledbetter, Nicklaus Ledbetter, Christian Pitts, William T. Pitts, Jerry McDonald and Robert Turner.
  - b) Most tournaments played: Chuck and Joan Garrison (21)
  - c) Highest ringer percentage: Dan Watson (79.87%)
  - d) Most improved: Cole Maples (29.11% to 48.63%)
  - e) Longevity Patches Awarded.
    - i) 10 Year Patches: Kathy Brazier, Frank Billingsley and Dan Watson (2010)
    - ii) 20 Year Patch: Lyle Dorler
    - iii) 30 Year Patch: Orville McElroy (2011)
    - iv) 40 Year Patch: Jim Harris
- 6) 2016 meeting minutes presented by Don Hathcock. Motion and second made to accept the minutes as read, all in favor
- 7) 2017 Financial Report given by Don Hathcock. Motion and second made to accept the financial report as read, all in favor
- 8) Officer Reports:
  - a) 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President and Grievance Committee Director, Steve Franklin, was absent. Grievance Committee Chairman Joe Waggoner gave report. No news.
  - b) 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Hall of Fame Director and Chairman, Barry Goree, was absent. Don Hathcock gave a report of the Hall of Fame Committee. Kathy Brazier was nominated for induction into the AHPA HOF and Wayne (Gus) McGehee was chosen for the AHPA Achievement Award for outstanding service.
  - c) 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President and By-Laws and Constitution Director Jim Ellison talked about the work being done with the committee.
  - d) Sec/Treas. Don Hathcock gave the membership report. (88 members)
  - e) NHPA Delegate, Jim Ellison, gave a recap of the voting at the World Tournament in Utah.
- 9) Officer Election Results:
  - a) Ron Kindrick to serve as President as ran without opposition. Term ends 12/19.
  - b) Steve Franklin to serve as Central (1<sup>st</sup>) Vice-President as ran without opposition. Term ends 12/19
  - c) Jim Ellison to serve as South (3<sup>rd</sup>) Vice-President as ran without opposition. Term ends 12/19.
- 10) Unfinished business: We are still working on the committees. We need members on committees. We are still working on regionalizing the state membership
- 11) New Business: No new business. A motion and second were made to adjourn the meeting. All in favor.

## 2018 AHPA Membership Form

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To join or renew membership in the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association (NHPA) and the Alabama Horseshoe Pitchers Association (AHPA), please print this form and complete the following information:

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_, AL

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to receive my newsletter by \_\_\_ mail \_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_ neither (will get it on-line)

Category in which you expect to pitch (Circle One)

Men's 40 ft. Men's 30 ft. Women's Junior Boys' Junior Girls Cadet

If you otherwise qualify as a 40' pitcher:

Do you have a medical exemption to pitch from less than 40'? \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

Do you require a medical exemption to pitch from less than 40'? \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

Circle One: New Member\*\* Renewal

\*\*\*\*

Mail a check or money order for membership dues, (\$35 adults -- \$7 juniors or \$70.00 for family\* membership), payable to the AHPA along with this completed form.

\*Family membership is for husband and/or wife and any dependent children who would otherwise qualify as a junior or cadet pitcher. List all family members and their relationship, date of birth and category.

\*\*New members will receive their 1<sup>st</sup> year membership at no cost to them.

A.H.P.A. Secretary-Treasurer

Don Hathcock

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