



the
alabama
horseshoe pitchers
association
ESTABLISHED 1964 AT ROBERTSDALE, ALABAMA

WINTER 2016 NEWSLETTER

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2016 SCHEDULE MEETING

The 2016 Tournament Schedule meeting was held at TNT Courts in Eclectic on January 23. Officers present were Ron Kindrick, Keith Poston, Jim Ellison, and Don Hathcock. Tournament Directors present were Mike Harrison and Danny Floyd. Others present were Mark Stevens, Tim Segrest, Tammy Floyd, Adam Amos and Dale Browning. Ron Kindrick opened and welcomed all to the meeting. Don Hathcock gave the invocation. The schedule was then set for 2016, which includes 24 open tournaments in addition to the state doubles and singles.

The 2016 pitching schedule is attached to this newsletter.

Once the schedule was set, the state meeting began and various issues were discussed. The meeting minutes are included in this newsletter.

2016 STATE OFFICER ELECTIONS

The office of 2nd Vice President and Secretary/ Treasurer are up for election this year. These positions are currently held by Barry Goree and Don Hathcock respectively. If you wish to run for office, you must notify President Ron Kindrick by the end of June. Each office consists of a two year term, terms to begin January 1, 2017. Elections will be held at the state meeting following the state singles tournament in August 27 in Gadsden.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership dues are \$25.00 for adults, \$7.00 for juniors and we now have a family membership for \$50.00 that is for 2 adult parents and their dependent children who would be classified as juniors or cadets. In an effort to not overload tournament directors at early season tournaments, please send your dues to me. I will send your card back within a few days. We have several new members, if you know of other potential first time members, please give them my address so they can purchase their cards prior to the season, also.

All new memberships and renewals **must** be sent with the new membership application form including your birth date and preferences on how to receive your newsletter. List all longevity patches and awards you have received and/or believe you are eligible for on the bottom of the form.

MONTGOMERY, AL 2016 WORLD TOURNAMENT HOST

Now is the time to get out and recruit new pitchers and bring old ones back!!!

The entry deadline for playing in the NHPA world tournament is May 16, 2016. All adults must have pitched in a minimum of four (4) US/Canadian sanctioned events in the twelve (12)

months prior to May 16, 2016, in the same division you are entering. Only one (1) event is required for juniors. Exceptions for US Armed Forces members and family and foreign competitors (other than Canadians) are outlined in Rule 11, Sec D.1 of the RGS Book. Contact NHPA for more information regarding qualifying exceptions.

**ANNUAL AHPA OFFICER'S AND TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2016
TNT COURTS**

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

**RON KINDRICK PRESIDENT
DON HATHCOCK SECRETARY-TREASURER
KEITH POSTON 1st VICE PRESIDENT
JIM ELLISON 3rd VICE PRESIDENT**

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE

**RON KINDRICK OAK PARK, MONTGOMERY
MIKE HARRISON TNT COURTS, ECLECTIC
DANNY FLOYD MORAGNE PARK, GADSDEN**

The tournament directors got down to the business of putting the schedule together. Wayne McGehee sent an e-mail with the dates of the Huntsville and Hazel Green tournaments. Danny Floyd was given permission to amend the schedule provided by Wayne if necessary. Efforts were made to make sure that the AHPA has enough tournaments scheduled for new members to qualify for the world tournament in Montgomery. Extra tournaments can and will be scheduled as wanted or needed to insure that we get as many members as possible qualified for the world tournament before the world tournament cut-off date, which will be sometime in mid-May. The exact date will be announced as soon as possible. Once the schedule was planned and agreed upon, President Ron Kindrick opened the officer's meeting. Don Hathcock gave the invocation. Several issues were discussed.

The website, that the world tournament links on the NHPA and AHPA websites and AHPA Facebook takes you to, does not have any information about the AHPA or NHPA or how to join and how to qualify to pitch in the world. This issue will be addressed ASAP.

Some members have voiced the desire to have all of the championship matches at the State Singles and Doubles tournaments played last. This is not really an issue with the doubles tournament because of the format we ran last year that provided for move-ups from preliminary matches to a championship class. However, at the singles last year, some of the championship classes had pitched and were decided before all of the class play was done. Instead of a provision for move-ups from class play to a championship class, a members seeding into the singles is determined by that member's pitching history. The scheduling of when the classes were played was determined by how long it was estimated that it would take to pitch the class. All division championship classes must pitch to 40 points. We want to have 8 pitchers in the championship class and an 8-man round robin, 40 point tournament can take some time to complete. We understand that members want to see the championship matches or at least some of it. It is a timing issue that depends on variables such as how much time other class-play takes and when courts become available. We strive to schedule the start of class and championship class play to keep the tournament from running "overly late" and having time for our award presentations and for the AHPA state meeting. One item that was returned to the table was the idea of having our state meeting first so that after the tournament, we would have the awards presentations and be done. Some awards will be made during the state meeting such as most tournaments played, highest ringer percentage, most

improved, etc. We encourage any and all members to let the officers know of your opinion or ideas on this and all matters.

The entry fees for juniors and cadets at tournaments were discussed. Juniors and junior cadets are not to receive monetary awards as it would nullify their amateur status. The entry fees into the state singles and doubles were at one time \$5.00 for juniors and cadets. The last few years we have been charging all members the same fee. The \$10.00 per member entry fee at the local venues is not a “carved in granite” fee, but more of a guideline. The tournament directors can set the entry fees for the tournaments that they host at any amount. Every effort should be made by the tournament directors to get this information out to the membership in a timely fashion. The secretary-treasurer is the tournament director for the state singles and state doubles tournament.

The NHPA and the city of Montgomery have given the AHPA permission to sell 50/50 tickets during the world tournament. There are 3 sessions per day at the world and we could have 3 drawings per day. This will raise a good deal of money for the AHPA. In order to do this for the entire world tournament, we will be needing members to volunteer to conduct ticket sales during the time that they are not pitching. The NHPA said that they would announce the winners for us and also put it on the leader board.

The issue of all tournament directors using the same HorseshoeMaster database for their tournaments was discussed. This allows the tournament directors to have all updated member information such as pitching class, membership status, etc. Also, if a new member shows up to join, unused card numbers can be accessed and issued by the tournament directors on the spot. Some are having problems downloading the HSMaster.mdb file from their e-mail server. This seems to be a problem only with Outlook. There is a way to unblock .mdb files in Outlook but it is a long, drawn out process. I think that I have found the solution. I am sending Danny Floyd the HSMaster.mdb in a zipped folder. I believe this will resolve the issue.

The issue of Committee Chairpersons and committee member make-up was raised. This information needs to be published so that all members will have the correct contact information and know what the flow of information is and have an understanding of the process. Ron Kindrick said that he would address this issue.

The idea of dividing the state into 3 geographical areas so that each of our 3 vice-presidents will know who they are representing and the members know who their representative is was raised. The state’s postal zip code system could be used for this purpose. We will be working on this issue and notify the membership of exactly how this will be done. Any and all suggestions from the membership are sought after for this issue.

It was discussed about Ron Kindrick passing the torch, so to speak, of being NHPA Regional Director, to Keith Poston. This issue will be discussed further.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and was seconded.

Great food was prepared by Harry Scroggins. Fresh fried crappie, hush puppies, French fries and coleslaw.

Once the meeting was over, several stayed to pitch in a horseshoe tournament and all had a great time. All smaller issues that came up were resolved before everyone left.

Prepared by:

Don Hathcock

AHPA sec/treas

January 23, 2016

UPDATE:

Sending the HSMaster.mdb database in a compressed file format resolved the issue some were having with Outlook Express.