The Mud

Volume 33, Issue 11 May 2026

2026 Memberships

Did you forget? Renew your NHPA membership now!

Click:

- to renew on-line
- for the mail-in form

Don't Get Shut Out!

The deadline for World Tournament sign-ups is

MAY 18

State Tournament Deadlines

Qualify by 7/31
Singles Entries by 8/01
Doubles Entries by 9/07

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Spring Meeting Summary

The Spring Meeting of the NYSHPA was held on Sunday, May 3rd at the Waterloo Sportsman's Club. The following summary of meeting minutes has been provided by the Association Secretary, Cathy Snayczuk.

Officer Reports

- **President's Report:** 2026 world tournament will be held in Wausau, Wisconsin 2027 in Washington. Ellen also let us know the NHPA buy a brick program is still ongoing at the NHPA Hall of Fame & Museum and still needs our support.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Cathy Snayczuk read the financial report and a motion was made to accept by Karen Graham and Charles Reigles 2nd the motion.
- **Junior Committee**: John Kassay let us know he held a 1-day clinic and has plans to hold a 1-week clinic in Neversink.
- **Hall of Fame Committee**: Jack Stenberg let us know he had 1 nominee and received 19 of 20 ballots sent out. The person nominated would need 14 yes votes to be inducted.
- **Election Committee:** Sue Laughlin received a letter for President from Ellen Perry and a letter for Vice President from Roger Chase both seats were unopposed. Ellen cast a single vote for both.

Regional Director's Report

We have 21 sanctioned tournaments on the schedule 9 of witch are completed and 3 leagues have been completed. Jack let us know there is nothing wrong with having 3-4 person tournament every bit helps. Bottom line we need people to register.

Old Business

We discussed adding a Zoom virtual meeting capability for the spring meeting during our 2025 State meeting. It was determined that more research needs to be done into what is required. Once the requirements are determined, a proposal will be submitted for consideration.

New Business

- World Tournament Delegates will be Ken Fraser, Karen Graham and Ellen Perrry.
- The worlds now hosts a doubles tournament, last year was being the first and they will continue to have them.
- Debby Kassy is looking for an individual to learn about posting to the website and compiling and publishing *The Mud* in situations where she is unable to do so because of an emergency.

By-Law Change Proposals

The proposal was to change the wording to the NYSHPA Constitution and By-Laws to updated terminology. The sections that would be updated are:

- Article I-1 Dues
- Article I-2 Newsletter
- Article V-8

the Mud
Published by the New York State Horseshoe Pitchers Association

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A Message from Our President

Happy Spring Everyone!! The flowers are blooming, the temps are up, and it's time to play outside! Finally ! ! !

Summer tournaments are everywhere: in your yard; playing in the SHOP tournies; around the state; and at your local club. If you enjoy traveling, there's The Horseshoe Tour. Their next event is in West Virginia at the end of this month.

If you haven't already heard, the NHPA is doing a World Doubles Tourney! Their first event was last year and it was a big success. Check out the website for more info.

Have fun, stay safe, and I'll see you on the courts!! - Ellen Perry

Regional Directors Report from Jack Stenberg

So far we have 20 sanctioned tournaments registered with 9 completed as of Saturday, May 2nd. I am hoping that we will have picked up a number of new tournaments from the Spring Meeting. If you have not contacted me to register a sanctioned tournament please do so. Email jstenberg50@gmail.com or cell phone 315-651-2324.

I am also hoping that our tournament directors and club personnel are working at recruiting unsanctioned pitchers and having them enter a tournament or league. I truly believe that this is one way we can work at increasing our membership. Most people are competitors and working with them to enter our leagues and tournaments can be the beginning of a great experience.

I also would ask each club to try to have at least one sanctioned tournament each year. There are plenty of members that would be able to assist you with setting up and running a tournament.

From the Desk of NYS Youth Director - John Kassay

On 25 April, I conducted a 2-hour Beginners Horseshoe Pitching Clinic on our town courts here in Grahamsville, NY. I had advertised it in the local paper for ages 8 – 16. As it were, I was blessed with two eager young future pitchers, aged 7 and 8. Following the Junior pitchers learning curriculum, we covered and practiced the basics of the game: the swing, the step, distance and release. The 7 year old was not as coordinated as the 8 year old, but was the more motivated to learn.

As the session went on, I introduced them to an NHPA scoring sheet and had them score 20 shoes at a time. A few ringers were thrown, but they could see their point count go up the more 20 shoe rounds they pitched. This excited them, hopefully enough that I see them again in July when I have a full 1 week clinic scheduled through the Grahamsville Parks and Rec Department.

What are YOU doing this Spring to promote our sport?

Important Dates

Event	Date(s)	Contact
Deadline for World Tournament Sign-up	5/18/26	On-line entry form — Mail-in entry form
World Tournament - Wausau, WI	7/13 – 7/26	Click here to find out more
State Championship Qualification Deadline	7/31/26	To qualify: 2 NHPA tournaments from 8/1/25 - 7/31/26
State Singles Championship Entry Deadline	8/01/26	**Ron Bowerman** /**Jack Stenberg** (Alternate)
State Singles Championship - Waterloo	9/5/26 - 9/6/26	**Ron Bowerman** /**Jack Stenberg** (Alternate)
State Convention - Waterloo	9/6/26	**Ellen Perry**
Hall of Fame Inductions - Waterloo	9/6/26	**Jack Stenberg**
State Doubles Championship Entry Deadline	9/7/26	**Mike Pierce (607) 382-1367**
State Doubles Championship - Hornell	9/26/26	**Mike Pierce (607) 382-1367**

2026 NYSHPA Schedule - *Click an Event Name* to see detailed information for the event.

Date	Entry Deadline	Event Name	Host Club	Fee
5/9/2026	5/4/2026	**Dawley's Barn May Open**	Dawley's Barn	$26
6/6/2026	6/1/2026	**Waterloo Open 1**	Waterloo Ringers	$26
6/7/2026	6/2/2026	**Waterloo Open 2**	Waterloo Ringers	$26
6/14/2026	6/7/2026	**Pine Grove Memorial**	Pine Grove HS Club	$26
6/28/2026	6/17/2026	**William Hoag Memorial**	South New Berlin	$26
7/11/2026	7/4/2026	**Under the Lights**	Pine Grove HS Club	$26
7/11/2026	7/3/2026	**Friendship Open**	Friendship	$26
7/25/2026	7/19/2026	**Round Robin Open**	Machias	$26
8/1/2026	7/25/2026	**Pine Grove Open**	Pine Grove HS Club	$26
8/16/2026	8/6/2026	**Reigles/Hornbuckle Open**	Tri-County	$26
9/5/2026	8/1/2026	**NYS Singles Championships**	Waterloo Ringers	$27
9/26/2026	9/7/2026	**NYS Doubles Championship**	Hornell	$30

New York State Top Averages

MEN	
Ken Fraser‡	69.94
George Harageones	55.56
Paul Black	52.34
Mike Pierce	49.58
Peter Mauer	48.38
William Roys	46.62
Thomas Bernard	42.78
Buck Gofgosky	42.15
Robert K Berninger Jr	41.92
Eric Conrad	41.39

ELDERS - EXEMPT	
Jack S Stenberg	70.42
Glenn Davis	65.00
Linwood Standish	60.12
Gary Dawley	54.76
David Gordon	52.16
Norbert McCanney	50.90
Tim Smith	49.44
Ronald K Bowerman	48.62
John Kassay	46.22
Marty Mills	45.68

‡ = National Top 10

WOMEN	
Karen Graham	67.74
Sue Laughlin	64.69
Ellen Perry	57.80
Debby Kassay	55.40
Cindy Cornwell	48.67
Shelia Decker	46.36
Cathy Snayczuk	44.00
Delanie Hoffman	43.33
Lisa Dorrell	40.00
Diane Fisher-Mills	40.00

JUNIOR BOYS	
Mark Florance III	12.21
Tucker Carey	4.21

JUNIOR GIRLS	
—	—

2025 New York State Champions

SINGLES		
Men	Ken Fraser	70.44
Elders	Glenn Davis	61.86
Women	Sue Laughlin	64.09
Juniors	Mark Florence III	9.15

DOUBLES		
Champion	Laughlin / Bernard	5 - 1
Class A	Snayczuk / Kromer	6 - 0
Class B	Pierce / McLaughlin	5 - 1

2026 Membership Totals	
Adults	***132***
Men	51
Elders/Exempt	57
Women	23
Elder Women	1
Juniors	***2***
Boys	2
Girls	0

Welcome to our New Members

Herbert Smith III - Cameron
Damien Landon - Lansing
John Vanorder - Trumansburg
Charles Smith - Campbell
Nicholas Holland - Rochester
Garrett Thompson - Homer

Renew your membership for 2026 NOW!

Memoriam

Let us pray for and remember our dearly departed friends.

Tom Scheffler 4-11-25

Robert "Bob" Best 4-7-25

Please contact Cathy Snayczuk with the name of anyone that may has been missed over the past year.

New York State Club & Court Locations Directory

The following is a list of horseshoe clubs and courts within NY State.
Entries in **UPPER CASE** have NHPA sanctioned courts.

CLUB / COURT	LOCATION	CONTACT	PHONE	SANCTION CERTIFIED
Arcade Village Park	Clough Ave / Arcade	Arcade Parks Dept.	(585) 492-1111	NO
PINE GROVE	**8703 NY 13 / CAMDEN**	**CHERI ALLEN**	**(315) 245-5961**	**YES**
DAWLEY'S BARN	**2164 NY 96 / CLIFTON SPRINGS**	**RON BOWERMAN**	**(585) 747-5962**	**YES**
CATSKILL MTN HS CLUB	**FIREMAN'S PARK / DEPOSIT**	**ROBERT MILLS**	**(607) 467-3730**	**YES**
Leo's Court	Millard Park / Dundee	Al Buckland	(607) 292-6281	NO
East Eden	3882 Hardt Rd / East Eden	Kenneth Telaak	(716) 648-5924	NO
Ellington Rod & Gun	1045 Hagerdon Hill Rd / Ellington	Charlie Swanson	(716) 665-9837	NO
QUEEN CITY	**GROVE PARK / ELMIRA**	**GERRY BERNARD**	**(607) 425-6455**	**YES**
Floyd	Camroden Rd / Floyd	Jim Moore	(315) 271-9357	NO
FRIENDSHIP POST 1168	**29 DEPOT ST. / FRIENDSHIP**	**SUSAN PIERCE**	**(585) 610-8014**	**YES**
Neversink Park	State Rte 55 / Grahamsville	Dept. Parks & Rec.	(845) 985-2262	NO
TRI-COUNTY	**LOCKE RD / GROTON**	**ERIC CONRAD**	**(607) 321-8938**	**YES**
Seneca	Hammondsport	Al Buckland	(607) 368-6397	NO
Brongo	126 West Main St / Honeoye Falls	Joe Banker	(585) 624-2990	NO
TWIN TIER	**HOLDING POINT RECREATION**	**JERRY BERNARD**	**(607) 425-6455**	**YES**
Southern Tier	Dedrick Ave / Johnson City	Chuck Reigles	(607) 223-4355	NO
LEROY	**53 W. MAIN STREET / LEROY**	**KENNETH HIRSCH**	**(585) 703-4186**	**YES**
Lockport	150 Outwater Drive / Lockport	Lockport Parks Dept.	(716) 954-1990	NO
ROUND ROBIN	**9688 MAIN ST / MACHIAS**	**CATHY SNAYCZUK**	**(716) 258-9781**	**YES**
Moose Club	2096 Co Rd 14 / Montour Falls	Ernie Pound	(607) 742-1858	NO
Vito's Sports Bar	238 Zimmerman Street / N. To-	Stan Watkins	(716) 319-8018	NO
New Rochelle	Sharkey Park / Ft Slocum @ Harbor Lane	Parks & Recreation Dept.	(914) 654-2087	NO
Delano-Hitch Park	401 Washington St / Newburgh	Newburgh Rec. Dept.	(845) 569-7300	NO
HORNELL	**SHAWMUT PARK / HORNELL**	**STEVE CRANDALL**	**(607) 382-1857**	**YES**
Odessa	Odessa	Ernie Pound	(607) 742-1858	NO
Smithtown	Gibbs Pond Road / Smithtown	Dept. Parks & Rec.	(631) 360-7644	NO
SOUTH NEW BERLIN	**3398 NY 8 / S. NEW BERLIN**	**GARY FISHER**	**(607) 263-5479**	**YES**
CONCORD	**13000 DOWD RD / SPRINGVILLE**	**ED BROWNE**	**(716) 857-0511**	**YES**
WATERLOO RINGERS	**2654 EDWARDS RD / WATERLOO**	**RON BOWERMAN**	**(585) 747-5962**	**YES**
Wellsville Community	Island Park / Wellsville	Kevin Pierce	(585) 596-5363	NO

If you know of publicly accessible horseshoe courts that are not on this list, please contact the editor.

NHPA & NYSHPA 2026 Membership Application & Order Form

Name: _____ Telephone Number: ( ) _____

Permanent Address: Street: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail Address _____ Club Affiliation _____ or Independent Member ❑

Type of application: NEW ❑ or RENEWAL ❑ NHPA # _____ Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____
If renewing provide your current NHPA # (mm/dd/yy)

Pitching division:

Men 40' ❑	Women ❑	Junior Boy[3] 30' ❑	Cadet Boy[4] 20' ❑
Elder Men 30'[1] ❑	Elder Women[2] 20' ❑	Junior Girl[3] 30' ❑	Cadet Girl[4] 20' ❑

APPLICATION DUES & ORDER FORM

Junior State & National Dues	$0.00	$ _____
Full Adult State & National Dues	$35.00	$ _____
Provisional Membership Dues	$10.00	$ _____
Trial Membership (1 tournament)	$0.00	$ _____
Select one of the above membership types.		
NYSHPA 50/50 Drawing Entry[5]	$5.00	$ _____
NYS Shoulder patch	$3.00	$ _____
NYS Patch Logo Decal (regular)	$3.00	$ _____
NYS Patch Logo Decal (inside window)	$3.00	$ _____
Total Dollar Amount:		$ _____

Make check payable to:

NYSHPA

Mail this form with your check to:

Cathy Snayczuk, NYSHPA Sec/Treas
9561 Main Street
Machias, NY 14101

[1] **Elder Men 30':** Must be 65 years of age or have a medical exemption.

[2] **Elder Women 20':** Must be 65 years of age.

[3] **Junior pitchers:** cannot be older than 18 years of age for the entire calendar year

[4] **Cadet pitchers:** cannot be older than 12 years of age for the entire calendar year

[5] The NYSHPA 50/50 Drawing is a cumulative year long fundraiser. The winning member's name is pulled from all entries submitted during the previous 12 months at the Annual State Meeting which is held Labor Day Weekend at the State Championships Tournament. Although we strongly encourage members to attend the Annual State Meeting, you do not have to be present to win.

Our Newsletter ***The Mud*** is available on the NYSHPA website at NYSHPA.ORG

NYSHPA Treasurer's Report

10/1/2025 - 3/31/2026

INCOME CATEGORIES		
Interest/Donations Income		
Int./Donations/$1 Fee @ ###	$82.00	
Total Interest/Donations Income		$82.00
Junion Fund Inflow		
Afghan/Raffles	$0.00	
Donations	$60.00	
Total Junior Fund Inflow		$60.00
Membership Dues		
2024/2025	$70.00	
2026	$1,715.00	
Total Membership Dues		$1,785.00
Other Income		
Misc. & bad check fee	$0.00	
50/50 Draw (53) @ $5	$120.00	
Total Other Income		$120.00
Pins & Patches		
2026	$20.00	
Total Pins & Patches		$20.00
TOTAL INCOME		$2,067.00
EXPENSE CATEGORIES		
Hall of Fame		
Jackets (2) & Plaques (4)	$0.00	
Postage/Supplies/Exp	$0.00	
Total Hall of Fame		$0.00
Jr. Program		
NHPA Dues 2024 (0)		
NHPA Dues 2025 (0)		
Horseshoes/Awards	$0.00	
Total Junior Inflow		$0.00
Miscellaneous		
Reorder pins/patches, etc.		
Website Fee/Chk service	$237.87	
Total Misc		$237.87
NHPA Dues		
2026 Adult (39) @$25	$975.00	
1 Jr @ $0 - ES 33 @ $10	-$455.00	
Total NHPA Dues		$520.00

NYS Tournament		(0) Juniors
State Contribution	$0.00	(0) Adults
Doubles Contribution	$0.00	(0) Teams
Total NYS Tournament		$0.00
Office Supplies		
Printer Cartridge	$0.00	
Paper, Labels, etc.	$0.00	
Total Office Supplies		$0.00
Overpayment		
50/50 draw payout	$0.00	
Total Overpayment		$0.00
Phone		
2026	$0.00	
Total Phone		$0.00
Postage		
Newsletter	$0.00	
Stamps	$0.00	
Total Postage		$0.00
Printing	(copies)	
Mud		
Total Printing		$0.00
Stipend		
Analyst	$0.00	
Mud Editor	$0.00	
President	$0.00	
Sec/Treas	$0.00	
Tourn. Directors	$0.00	
Total Stipends		$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		$1,284.76
Previous Balance *9-30-25*		**$14,510.03**
INCOME LESS EXPENSES		$2,010.24
Junior Fund	$4,648.48	
NYSHPA	$11,175.68	
Total Current Balance		**$15,824.16**

Submitted by Sec/Treas. Cathy Stanczuk

50/50 Draw (24) $120	MEMBER PARTICIPATION

current draw pay out is $60

Lifetime Members

60 Years

Lorraine Thomas
Paul Thomas

50 Years

Ken Fraser
Richard (Dick) Pike
Michael J DiMartino
David Scott

2026 Longevity Patches

30 Years

Timothy Marks
Ronald Poorman
Timothy Stafford
James Toolan

20 Years

Edward Orourke
James Zimmerman

10 Years

Peter Mauer
Marty Mills
Susan Pierce
William Roys
James Townsend
Nathan Willet

From the Editor - Have you heard of *The Horseshoe Tour?*

One of the benefits of being retired is having the time to travel. When my husband and I travel, I look for horseshoe tournaments within close proximity to our destination. Sometimes, we plan trips specifically to attend horseshoe tournaments. In April we took a trip to Newberry South Carolina where we pitched in *The Horseshoe Tour* Sue Snyder Summer Fun tournament. It was the first time either of us had pitched in a Horseshoe Tour tournament and I found it to be an AMAZING experience! Here's a summary of the weekend.

The tournament organizers reserved Friday evening for their annual awards banquet where the Horseshoe Tour Hall of Fame inductions and awards for the previous season were made.

On Saturday, each participant pitches six rounds of 30 shoes to establish their ringer percentage for the tournament. Each round of 30 shoes is pitched on a different court which are shared with another participant.

It doesn't matter if you're sharing the court with someone that has a much higher/lower average than you because you are not competing against them. You're only sharing a set of pits with them! There **IS NO win/loss** record on Saturday. Your focus on Saturday is to just pitch ringers to establish your ringer percentage for Sunday's competition.

Each ringer is recorded and scored as a single point. For each frame, individual pitchers are responsible for reporting the number of ringers they threw to the scorekeeper. You do not need to keep track of the other pitcher's ringer count.

Another unique aspect of the Saturday format is that an "Alternate Pitching Format" is used. At the beginning of each 30 shoe round, the two pitchers "flip" to see who pitches first. The person that wins the "flip" pitches their two shoes, then the other person pitches their two shoes. The "flip" winner ALSO pitches first coming back down to the starting pit then the other pitcher goes first for two frames. This pattern is repeated until all 30 shoes are pitched.

Once Saturday's results have been compiled and participant ringer percentages established, participants are divided into classes for Sunday which is ***Competition Day!***

Sunday's format is similar to Saturday, in that the number of ringers pitched are tabulated, but there are two distinct differences.

The first difference is that **Sunday IS a win/loss** competition. The individual that wins the best of 3 games moves on. The loser is "eliminated".

The second difference is that the alternate pitching format is not used. Normal NHPA pitching sequences are used.

After each division competition has finished and the scores have been tabulated, EVERY participant receives a check comensurate with their finish standing. *Even pitchers that are eliminated during Sunday's competition receive a check!*

The competition can be intense especially when you're watching some of the best pitchers in the country go head-to-head! It was a great experience seeing Maxine Griffith, Doris Heiden, Marlene Ray and Joan Elmore competing. It felt like I was at a rock concert and had a back stage pass to meet all the rock stars!

If you have never attended a Horseshoe Tour tournament, I highly recommend it. You can learn more at TheHorseshoeTour.com.

Help Support the New York State Horseshoe Pitchers Association

Someone once said "All it takes to be successful is time and money." The NYSHPA officers, committee members and volunteers work hard to provide members with opportunities for organized, competitive horseshoe pitching. Help them be successful by entering the N.Y.S. annual 50/50 drawing.

50/50 RAFFLE
Click here & get your entry in!