

West Contra Costa Senior News

By: Robert L Brown

Highest Year To Date Scores

As usual, the scores printed under this heading are a bowler's highest game or series for the season. This far into the season means you had a good day on the lanes. Congratulations.

Tuesday's Alley Queens: Darlene Fray 206/555, welcome back to bowling Darlene. It's been quite a few years since you last bowled league.

Tuesday's Sirettes: Mary Linton 186 and Dorothy D. Davis 512.

Tuesday's Eagles Scratch Doubles: Nan Kavanaugh 599, Al Louie 664, Denise Coleman 233/643, Emmett House 225/640, Lobertha Melton 248/635.

Tuesday's SIRS: Art Whitehead 605, Chuck Williamson 248/631, Chuck Kavanaugh 532, Harley Colbert 267, Roy Rodrigues 288/623, Joe Minix 254, Marvin Jackson 629, Ben Hirano 504, Rod Ramos 577, Jack Nicholas 185, Rafael Mariscal 186/538, Gerald Gardenhire 603, Robert Mulder 235/604, Rene Millado 232/666, Gene Valdivia 231/584.

Wednesday's Wild Bunch: Gary Amantite 708, Frank Colangelo 198, Art Robeson 231/623, Dave Jones 265, Tony Limos 241/594, Marco Martin 248/646, Michael Shankar 237.

Wednesday's Housewives: Lynette Robbins 168, Winona Leal 176, Alice Treu 180, Martha DeLaTorre 507, Helen Palmer 136, Jean Olech 215/521.

Wednesday's Gutter Dusters: Jean Gayer 205, Shirley Simon 204, Dennis Elliott 175, Virginia Wilson 162, Bill Renwick 196.

Thursday's Holi Rollers: Jan LaVigne 502, Eva Christiansen 149, Helen Diaz 178, Connie Torretta 189/516.

Friday's SIRS: George Mattos 634, Hernan DelValle 224/566, Gerald Gardenhire 248/621, Tom Sha 620, Art Robeson 224/594, Chuck Kavanaugh 224/576, Jack Nicholas 213/568, Art Whitehead 529, Roy Rodrigues 223/608, Gene Valdivia 633, and Vern Heihn 524.

Barbara McBride

Several months ago, as Secretary of the Friendly Bunch League, I went to the Control Desk to pay the league fees and met for the very first time a new employee of the Bowl. My initial reaction was, 'Well, here's a new person – I wonder if she knows how to take the money and separate the lineage from the deposit?' I need not have worried as she most efficiently handled the transaction and gave me my receipt.

Since that day, I have been pleased to get to know her. Barbara McBride is a valued employee of the Bowl and has become appreciated by the bowlers of AMF Pinole Valley Lanes. Barbara was born at Hamilton Air Force Base in San Rafael during the time her Army Father was stationed at Two Rock Ranch in Petaluma. During her childhood years, the family moved quite a bit. Most of her elementary, middle and high school years were in Virginia. She graduated from Fauquier High School in Warrington, Virginia in 1966. The summer after graduation, she moved to California to live with a friend and started at Riverside City College in Riverside, CA. Barbara received an AA degree from there. The next summer she married and in 1969 had her daughter, Dyan, who now lives in Vallejo and is a teacher at U.C. Davis as well as being an actress and director mostly in musical theater, mainly in San Francisco.

In 1973, after a divorce and hard work as a single parent, Barbara graduated from Cal State Los Angeles receiving a degree in Recreation Administration. She then worked 8 years for YMCA, starting as Program Director and where, in time, she became Executive Director. Her next employment was for 8 years as a Probation Officer for Juvenile Probation in Riverside. Subsequently she had a small fund raising company which saw her traveling all over the U.S. During this time she remarried and became a mother once again. Her son, Robert, currently resides in North Carolina. Again divorced, Barbara lives with her daughter but is looking forward to renting a place of her own. A special grandson, 3 year old Azrieal Elijah Hays-Lairy lives with his mother in Denver. According to Barbara, he is the cutest and sweetest baby in the whole world.

How about her bowling history? Well, she has bowled since she was about 8, starting when her Army Dad's family was living on Okinawa – no modern facilities there – pin boys and you kept your own score. At one time, very serious about bowling, she bowled 4 leagues a week, kept score, bowled tournaments, ran pot games and was secretary for a couple of leagues.

In 1978 she won the Citrus Belt Princess Bowling Tournament, received a Crown and if you ask, will show you the pictures. She has worked at many bowling centers across the country, Oregon, Arizona, North Carolina, New Mexico and California and has bowled at many more. While never having won any special ABC, WIBC or USBC awards, she is certainly a very good bowler, maintaining a 170 average and for a few years being a 190 big strike bowler. She says, 'while not a big strike bowler, she is a pretty good spare shooter. She has coached bowling but sometimes is not as patient as she should be. Barbara has had a high game of 255 and series of 634. In her 'off time', she has found a

(Continued next column)

recent interest in bird watching and is really enjoying Wild Life Refuges in this area.

Special things about Barbara are her ability to remember names, being most approachable and will listen to bowler concerns. A special interest and encourage youngsters to become bowlers. Barbara McBride is a Pinole Valley Lane employee who is making her presence felt through dedication to performing her job well. Next month, I hope to write a profile for the Pinole Valley Lanes manager.

California State Senior Association Meeting

On the weekend of March 7th and 8th, the California State Senior Association met for their mid-winter meeting. Attending from Pinole were AMF Pinole Valley Lanes bowlers Pat Brown as recording secretary and Robert Brown as Past President. The 2009 Senior's Tournament will be held again in Fresno. The decision to hold the 2010 Tournament also in Fresno came about because of the success of holding the tournament there for several years. The 2008 tournament was one team shy of having 400 teams which was quite an increase in participation over previous years. The original method of selecting the placement of this tournament was to alternate from north one year to south the next. Past history shows a decline in participation each succeeding year and a trial of having the tournament stay in the middle of the state was instituted. This tournament is open to all bowlers of 55 years and older and welcomes men teams, women teams, or mixed teams. A misconception by some seniors is this is a men's only tournament. Not so! So ladies, consider this a state tournament as much for you as for the men. Going into office were the following: D.C. Williams, President from Bakersfield, Al Hopson, First Vice President from Watsonville, Paul Ringler, Second Vice President from Torrance, and Vic Harris, Third Vice President from San Jose. Gina Moura from Antioch will manage the tournament starting in October and November.

USBC Open Tournament – Las Vegas, NV

The USBC National Open Tournament is now underway and runs from February 21st through July 23rd. Still remembered by many as ABC Tournament, this tournament got its new name several years ago when ABC (American Bowling Congress) and WIBC (Women's International Bowling Congress) merged. This prestigious tournament is open to all sanctioned adult bowlers. While there is a scratch division for the 'better' bowlers, lower average bowlers still have a chance to shine nationally as a handicapped format was instituted a few years ago. This handicapped division is designated as Classified and gives lower average bowlers a chance to win some of the prize fund. As previously stated for the California State Senior's, this also is a tournament where women can compete either as separate entities or as mixed team members. The format is Team Event, Doubles Event, and Singles Event. For those with computers, go to BOWL.com and see for yourself some videos which are there showing some of the action. While the 2009 Tournament may be a bit far for some to travel, a special two year hiatus will occur when the tournament is slated for Reno for years 2010 and 2011. It's not too early to think about this. In fact all Team Captains for the Las Vegas USBC Tournament have already received entry application forms for the 2010 Tournament. Soon, the forms will be available for others wishing to enter the tournament. Once a team competes, the following year's tournament forms are mailed to the team captain so he can get preferential dates. I personally am looking forward to the Las Vegas tournament as I will be receiving a plaque for 25 years of participation. I have been to Syracuse, New York and Jacksonville, Florida and many places between those sites and California. Great memories for sure.

(Continued from page 33)

55 And Holding

Frank Cruz 214, Alan Randall 214, Tommy Bridgers 212, Sam Loftus 210, Jean King 210, Roger Carlson 209, Jim Christensen 206, Joe Ballesteros 204, Barbara Begnaud 204, Joe Stone Jr. 203, Clarence Hattley 201, Fred Meri 201.

Wednesday

Lucky Seniors: Lyal Beeskau 226 and Jim Jackson 225.

Thursday

Thursday Seniors: Tim Taggart 235, Jim Paul 233, Frank Klo 233, Larry Niskern 227, Les Price 227, Jack Keller 222, John O'Dell 220, Merle Frades 219, Roger Webb 219, Barbara Begnaud 217, Frank Hinojosa 214, Ina Davies 214, Ron Delucchi 213, Joe Stone Jr. 213, Alva Copeland 211, Linda Calvert 210, Dave Morgan 210, Charlene Graves 209, Tom Guido 208, John Peterson 208, Larry Ortiz 205, Dan Halliday 205, Bill Clavin 205, David Persinger 205, Dee Price 204, Roy Castellon 202, Roger Carlson 202, Millie Niskern 202, Joe Bernstein 202, Gladys Jackson 200.