

TOURNAMENTS GALORE! IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR

By Tom Brendgord

U.S. Open Qualifier Continues Its Great Tradition.....

A philosopher once said that the only thing we can count on is death and taxes. But I have one more thing to add to that. We can always count on the U.S. Open Qualifier to occur the last weekend in February and, for the last several years, we have been able to count on Michelle Scherer, proprietor at Sleeping Giant Lanes in Helena, to conduct a superb and successful event.

On February 23rd and 24th the U.S. Open Qualifier was again held in Helena. Once again the men arrived in large numbers (105 entries to be exact) to compete for a prize fund of nearly \$12,000 and the opportunity to represent Montana in the 2009 U.S. Open. Unfortunately, the women's entries were down (18 total), but they too enjoyed a nice tournament with the champion offered an entry into either the Queens tournament or the U.S. Women's Open.

Last year's champions, Marcus Mosness (Helena) and Doris Kimmerle (Great Falls) both attempted to defend their titles, but each came up a little short with Mosness finishing in 16th place and Kimmerle just missing the stepladder getting 6th.

However, the men's title stayed in Helena, as Tony Woodward captured first place and the \$1,500 that went with it. He defeated another Helena bowler, several time champion John Broderson in the final match 224 to 165. Billings' Julie Redfern won the ladies event with a victory over Kristen Dehn of Great Falls in the final match.

U.S. Open Qualifier - Men

1. Tony Woodward - Helena
2. John Broderson - Helena
3. Jon conger - Missoula
4. Joe Seaman - Bozeman
5. Mark Hodges - Butte
6. Craig Hohn - Bozeman
7. Arnie Diaz - Missoula
8. Mike Judd - Great Falls
9. Monte Baker - Bozeman
10. Chris Knudsen - Col. Falls
11. Jim Orham - Bozeman
12. Todd Edelen - Butte
13. Dave Martinich - Butte
14. Bernie Kkuhns, Jr. - Msla
15. Willie McGee - Great Falls
16. Marcus Mosness - Helena
17. Mike Reed - Helena
18. Wayne Blomquist - Blgs
19. Tracy Potvin - Anaconda
20. Bruce Hruska - Gt. Falls
21. Jason Barker - Missoula
22. Terry Adolph - Roundup
23. Mike Christiansen - Gt. Falls
24. Paul Dehn - Great Falls

According to the Sleeping Giant Lanes proprietor, "The lane conditions were tough with a different shot on both days. All bowlers really earned their scores and titles".

U.S. Open Qualifier - Women

1. Julie Redfern - Billings
2. Kristen Dehn - Gt. Falls
3. Mary Porter - Missoula
4. Karen Bockemuehl - Boz
5. Katie Brumbaugh - Msla
6. Doris Kimmerle - Gt. Falls
7. Tina Davis - Missoula
8. Jenny Scott - Missoula
9. Jamie Webster - Bozeman
10. Guyla Streit - Ft. Benton
11. Shawna Lane - Gt. Falls
12. Nilda Zacher - Anaconda
13. Staci Williamson - Kalispell
14. Brenda Rathbun - Msla
15. Jill Zimbric - Bozeman
16. Dawn Hanninen - Msla

State Tournaments Are Just Around The Corner. Don't Miss Out On A Good Time.

Some go for the fun. Some go for the competition. Some go because of tradition and some go just because it is there. But regardless the reason, state tournaments are a huge and integral part of bowling in Montana. If you are planning a road trip to one of these tournaments, here is some helpful information.

It all starts with the Montana USBC Open state tournament. This year's event is being held in Missoula and runs for six big weekends starting March 29th. The team event is scheduled for Westside Lanes and the doubles & singles will be at Five Valley Center. Since Easter is falling at the second earliest date (March 23, 2008) possible, it will not interfere with any state tournament scheduling. Thus, the Open will run for six consecutive weekends ending May 4th. The reason this event was decreased to six weekends (from 7 or 8 in the past) is because it is being held in 36-lane and 24-lane bowling centers, which are able to handle a larger amount of entries in lesser time because of their size, and also because motel rooms in Missoula are extremely hard to find the second weekend of May due to the U of Montana graduation. Entries close on April 14, 2008. Ken DeYoung is the tournament director with assistance from Jason Barker.

The 2008 Women's State tournament starts on April 12th and runs for five weekends ending May 11th. It will be held in Butte this year with the team event scheduled for King Pin Lanes and the doubles & singles at Star Lanes. Some changes were made this year. Some optional scratch events have been added, some payoff ratios have been changed and the All Events now has an optional cost and will pay a lot more places than just first. Kathy Davis is the tournament director and entries close April 21, 2008.

The Montana USBC Youth state tournament will be held on three big weekends starting April 5th and ending April 20th. It is scheduled for Anaconda with the team event at Cedar Park Lanes and the doubles & singles at the Copper City Bowl. The entry deadline is March 15, 2008. The tournament director is Blake Hempstead. He is being assisted by Tom Simkins.

The Pepsi YBC state finals is being held the first two weekends in May, specifically May 3-4 and May 10-11. It will be held at the Town & Country Lanes in Billings. This event has undergone an extreme makeover because of the provision that the state final must not only be held in a BPAA-member center, but also that center must also have an exclusive Pepsi post-mix contract. That is also the reason that there are no YBC regional contests this year. Jane Crowder is the tournament director.

The 2008 High School State Championships will be held at Little's Lanes in Great Falls on April 26-27. Tom Brendgord is that tournament manager and entries will be allowed up to the start of the final qualifying shift (6pm) April 26th.

Go to BowlMontana.com (tournament tab) for more information and to download entry forms.

SPARE NOTES

By Laurel Walker, President MUSBC

Here we are with the Open and Women's tournaments just around the corner! If you haven't gotten a team together, there is still time to join in the fun. These tournaments always seem like a real sign of spring on the bowling calendar, and this year is no exception. Many leagues will be finishing in the next few months, and some of the summer and in-between leagues will be looking for bowlers. Note that the 600 Club tournament information is out, and if you need an entry form, please contact Ruth Sprankle.

USBC Headquarters has sent out packets with convention information to those who are already registered as delegates. It will be a pleasure for me to be one of the Montana delegates who attends this year in Kansas City in May. Guy Rolison, Roz Gallup, and I will do our best to participate in as many workshops as we can, so that we will be able to bring back useful information to you. Since we will attend after our own annual meeting, we will plan to offer what we learn at the Jamboree later this year.

Please double check to make certain that your association has voted for delegates who will attend this year's Montana USBC annual meeting on April 20, 2008, in Butte at the Copper King. The business meeting is always enhanced by your attendance, plus the advice and concerns you bring before the meeting. Nearly half of the officer and director positions will be voted on, and your input is needed for that, as well. If you have any agenda items, please let me know between now and the beginning of April so that I can add them to the business list. I enjoy hearing from you and appreciate the direct contact of emails and phone calls from so many of you. Keep up the good work!

Women's State opening ceremonies will be held at King Pin Lanes in Butte at 11:45 Saturday morning, April 19. Please feel welcome to attend. The state board of directors will be there and would be glad to see you there, too.

I'll look forward to visiting with you and/or your delegates in Butte. Thanks for all you do for the benefit of bowling in Montana.

MONTANA BIG SKY SCRIBES

By Elaine Lohrenz, President

Congratulations to Lynne Corneliusen who is the new Secretary/Treasurer for the Montana Big Sky Scribes. Lynne is a youth director out of Billings and is on the board for Greater Yellowstone Valley USBC Association. Please send your dues of \$5.00 per year to Lynne at 416 Glee Pl., Billings, MT 59102. Her phone is 656-1671. Your dues help pay for the plaques we give to recognize bowling writers around the state. These dues will also help pay for postage to update those without e-mail about newspaper deadlines.

We need news from all of the bowling centers in Montana. There should be lots of good stories out there. Let us hear from you.

Montana Strike Zone

The official newspaper of the Montana USBC Association

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\$ 75	1/4 page	\$ 90
\$ 40	1/8 page	\$ 50

This publication is distributed quarterly in March, June, September and December. Ads need to be submitted to Tom Brendgord 10 days prior to the month of distribution .

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Hall of Fame Banquet, Delegate's Meeting/Board Election Headline Huge Weekend in Butte April 18-20

By Tom Brendgord

It starts with a few committee meetings on Friday, April 18th and ends with the Annual Delegate Meeting and MUSBC election on Sunday, April 20th. In between there will be a state Hall of Fame banquet on Friday night, and a Montana USBC board of directors meeting plus Opening Ceremonies for the Women's State tournament on Saturday morning. This will all happen at the Copper King Inn in Butte except for Opening Ceremonies scheduled for King Pin Lanes at 11:45 Saturday morning.

The Hall of Fame Dinner starts at 6pm Friday with cocktail hour. Dinner will be served at 7pm. Tickets cost \$22 if purchased by April 11th or \$25 at the door. Tickets can be obtained from either Roz Gallup (652-5141, email: mtusbc@bresnan.net) or Bert Stiles (667-2258, email: fatalbert@mtintouch.net). Subject to Montana USBC board approval, which will occur after this article goes to print, the slate of inductees approved by the MUSBC Hall of Fame Committee includes Jack Shulte (Anaconda), Joe Pirami and Jane Crowder (Billings), and Frankie Jansma (Laurel).

The Delegate Meeting will start at 9am on Sunday. Among other business, the delegates will elect new board members and some officers totaling about half of the board. Call the Copper King at 1-800-332-8600 for reservations. Room rates are \$73.99 plus tax until April 8. Specify MT USBC.

On My Mind.....

High School Bowling

By Tom Brendgord

All attention will be in Great Falls April 26-27, 2008 for the 4th Annual Montana High School State Championships. A major change in the format is being made this year for a couple of reasons. First, this event has always been a one-shift affair meaning that the entries have always been limited to the size of the host center. Second, the format, albeit very fair, has had its share of confusion because team's scores were matched against all of the other team's scores throughout the center meaning a team was actually competing against several opponents who were not on their lanes. Thus, team members and their fans were not very aware if they were winning or not except for the team that was on their pair of lanes.

This year's format is much simpler plus will allow for many more entries. Team qualifying will happen on Saturday, April 26th. There will be three qualifying shifts - at 11:00 am, 2:30 pm and 6:00 pm. The tournament will be conducted at 16-lane center, Little's Lanes meaning that up to 48 teams will be allowed to enter, which is more than double the amount of team entries last year in Helena. High school bowlers who do not have a team to bowl on will be allowed to enter as a Singles-only bowler. The singles event will use the four regular games of the team qualifying on Saturday to determine their final positions. Thus, there will be no singles competition on Sunday.

The new format consists of trio teams bowling their qualifying on Saturday consisting of 4 games of regular bowling and 4 games of Baker bowling. Based on scratch scores the top 8 teams of boys and the top 8 teams of girls will advance to double elimination match play on Sunday. All matches on Sunday will consist of 3 Baker games with total pins for the three games determining the winner.

This is a true double-elimination tournament with all qualified teams being guaranteed at least three matches. When two teams drop out in the same round, they will then bowl against each other to determine who finishes higher.

All players on a team must be from the same school. Boys and girls will have separate award funds. Medals will be awarded to the top three teams in each division. There will be plaques for the school and individuals for each first place team plus jackets for the Singles champions. Numerous other awards will be presented in the form of merchandise and gift certificates.

Last year's champions were Hardin High (boys) and Butte High (girls) in the team event and Josh Link (Hardin) and Amanda Mulcahy (Butte) in the singles.

See the flyer in this newspaper or go online to BowlMontana.com for more information. Send paid entries to me at 521 23rd Ave. NE, Great Falls, MT 59404.



JAMBOREE MOVING BACK TO SEPTEMBER

By Tom Brendgord

The Montana Bowling Jamboree will be held in Anaconda this year and is scheduled for September 19-21, 2008. The 2007 Jamboree was held in Butte in July in conjunction with the Montana Bowling Proprietors Association. In spite of a very good turnout it seems that the majority of the attendees preferred returning to the September format. The 2007 Jamboree was classified as a trial run only. Other than the date and location the details at this time are quite sketchy. However, reliable sources say that there are lots of exciting things planned. There will be more to follow in the June issue of this newspaper.

International Family Tournament Smashes Record

By Tom Brendgord

The regional qualifying for the BPAA International Family Tournament recently ended and for the 2nd year in a row a new record for entries was set. 154 doubles teams rolled for a chance to advance to the state final in Great Falls on March 29-30. The eastern regional in Billings had a whopping 107 entries (up from 87 in 2007) and the western regional in Missoula had 47 (up from 37 in 2007). Kudos to all participants and helpers, but especially to Lynne Corneliussen (Blgs) and several centers that participated this year, who didn't last year including Five Valley Center (Msla), Town & Country Lanes (Blgs), Snowy Lanes (Lewistown) & Little's Lanes (GF) all helped this 26% increase.

Calendar of Upcoming Bowling Events

- MARCH:** Mr. Peanut Tourney-Helena (Sleeping Giant)-3/29-4/20 weekends
Little's Lanes (GF)-Family Tourney State Finals 3/29-30
- APRIL:** Little's Lanes (GF)-Glenn Rose Scholarship Tourn. Apr 5-6
MUSBC Open Championship-Msla-Mar. 29-May 4
MUSBC Youth State Championships-Anaconda-Apr. 5-20-weekends
MUSBC Women's Championships-Butte-Apr. 12-May 11
MUSBC Hall of Fame Banquet-Butte (Copper King)-Apr. 18
MUSBC Board Meeting-Butte (Copper King Inn)-Apr. 19
Montana Annual Delegate Meeting-Butte (Copper King)-April 20
Little's Lanes (GF)-High School State Championships 4/26-27/08
- MAY:** Pepsi YBC State Finals-Blgs (Town & Country Lanes)-May 3, 4, 10, 11
- SEPT:** MT.Bowling Jamboree-Anaconda-Sep 19-21

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

STATE 600 CLUB TOURNAMENT

By Helen Johnson

The annual Montana State 600 Club Mail –a-Graphic tournament will be held from March 8-15, 2008. There will be 2 handicap Divisions. Division I – 165 average & over. Division II – 164 average and below.

You may enter in each league in which you bowl in which you have 21 games bowled prior to the entry deadline of March 7, 2008.

The tournament chairman is Ruth Sprankel, 2026 Parkhill Drive, Billings, MT 59102. Phone 252-5090 or 661-6153. E-mail: iluvbeaches@msn.com.

Please contact Ruth to take part in this tournament or – to join the Montana State 600 Club with a membership fee of \$5.00 (one time only). This entitles you to bowl in the 600 Club tournament and receive a pin, patch and membership card.

OLDEST ACTIVE BOWLERS

By Lynne Corneliusen

Otto “Babe” Krueger of Forsyth is 98 years old and still bowling. The owner of the Evergreen Lanes where Babe bowls says that Babe never complains about lane conditions or the equipment. If something goes wrong, he blames himself.

Krueger uses a wooden cane when he walks in the door and is usually accompanied by his 66 year old son, Omer, who is a teammate. The cane is cast aside when Babe approaches the lanes. Babe says, “As long as I can keep the ball on the lanes, I think I will keep trying to bowl.”

The Yellowstone Valley USBC Association has 80 bowlers over the age of 80 and at least 4 of those are 90. Laura Burkart at 92 bowls at Fireside Lanes and carries around a 120 average.

How many bowlers over 80 do you have in your Association???

BUDWEISER TOURNAMENT AND MORE

By Jo Laughlin

Lewistown held another successful Budweiser tournament at Snowy Lanes on January 19-February 17, 2008. Teams came from Circle, Big Timber, Great Falls, Belt, Billings, Harlem, Forsyth, Winifred, Bozeman, Sidney and Stanford to join Lewistown bowlers for this great competition.

There were 114 teams and 248 singles entered. Nineteen places were paid in singles with a total pay out of \$5,275.00. A total of 31 places were paid for the team event with a pay out of \$3,480.00.

Bowlers are now gearing up for the Lewistown mixed tournament which will roll March 2 & 3 and March 8 & 9. Next issue we will answer the challenge to list the number of older bowlers in our association.

BILLINGS NEWS

By Elaine Lohrenz

Left hander Josh Hale from Billings has bowled his 37th perfect game this season. Josh is 34 years old and bowls in only one league. He currently carries a 228 average. Last season he carried the state highest average of 229.

TFUSBC HOLDS FUND RAISER

By Ginger Ward

On February 9, 2008 the Thompson Falls USBC held an 8 pin no-tap, with a touch of Monte Carlo, tournament to raise funds for the Western Montana Mental Health Center in Sanders County. This entity is a not for profit agency. They provide a variety of mental health services for children, adolescents, teens, adults and their families in Sanders County.

Prizes for the tournament were provided by local businesses. A total of \$482.50 was raised for this good cause.

Our city association tournament will be held March 8 & 15.

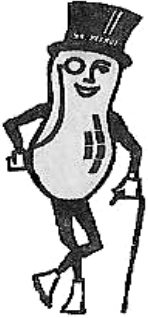
Happy Spring from Thompson Falls!

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4 Big Weekends Mar 29-30 Apr 5 - 6 Apr. 12-13 Apr 19-20	Team Shifts Sat. 1:30 & 6:30p Sun. 10:00a-3:00p Doubles: Sat 11a, 4p, 6:30p Sun 12:30p & 3:00p	SPECIAL MR. PEANUT PRIZES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All games ending in same dbl. digits• All converted splits/washouts• Women’s 175+ and Men’s 200+ games
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More info. on www.BowlMontana.com

Sleeping Giant Lanes-3355 Highway 12 E.-Helena, MT 442-1004

Montana High School Bowling 2008 State Championships

BOYS 3 PERSON TEAMS	Little's Lanes 517 1st Avenue North Great Falls, MT April 26-27, 2008 Qualifying Shifts: Sat. 11AM-2:30PM-6PM (Lanes will be reconditioned before each shift) \$60.00 Per Team (\$20.00 per person) \$10.00 Per person if entering Singles only	GIRLS 3 PERSON TEAMS
4 GAME SINGLES USING SCORES FROM TEAM EVENT		4 GAME SINGLES USING SCORES FROM TEAM EVENT
May enter Singles only if unable to bowl team ENTRY FEE - \$10.00		May enter Singles only if unable to bowl team ENTRY FEE - \$10.00

Entry Fee breakdown (per person): Lineage \$13.00 Awards \$ 7.00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A total of 48 teams may enter. 2. Multiple team entries allowed per school per gender. 3. At least 8 team spots will be held for girl's teams. 4. Entry fees must accompany entry form to ensure entry confirmation. 5. May enter only once. Re-entries not allowed. 6. Award ratio 1:5 or better (team), Top 3 (Sgls & Team) guaranteed medals
Entry Deadline Start of last qualifying shift on April 26, 2008	

<u>FORMAT</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Team Qualifying: Consists of 4 regular games and 4 Baker games bowled consecutively. ◆ Top 8 teams (boys & girls) advance to match play. ◆ Match play starts at 10AM Sunday, April 27 ◆ All matches consist of 3 Baker games with total pins for the 3 games determining the winner. ◆ This is double elimination match play. ◆ All teams advancing to match play are guaranteed at least three matches on Sunday. ◆ Match play 1st round opponents determined by qualifying position (#1 vs #8, #2 vs #7, etc.) ◆ Ties: <i>For qualifying positions #1 thru #7</i> - broken by coin toss; <i>For qualifying position #8</i> - broken by one-game Baker match preferably on Saturday after qualifying; <i>For Sunday matches</i> - broken by 3-frame Baker rolloff. ◆ All scoring on a scratch basis

<u>Rules</u>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 3-member teams from same high school and of same gender. Current school Activity Cards required to show proof of enrollment and same-school status. High schools are not liable. 2. Boys compete only against boys and girls against girls. 3. This event is certified by the USBC. However, no membership card is required to compete. Current USBC membership is only required for High Score Recognition Awards. 4. Singles champions determined by their 4-game scratch total rolled during the regular games of the team matches.

<u>AWARDS</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A sizeable award fund is expected as a result of excess carryover funds from 2 previous high school satellite tournaments. That money coupled with some sponsor money plus the award fund portion from this event (total entry fee minus lineage) should create an award fund capable of including additional awards such as Gift Certificates. ◆ School and Individual plaques for winning teams (each division) ◆ Jackets for both Singles Division champions (boy & girl) ◆ Numerous other places awarded with Merchandise & Gift Certificates

Contact Tom Brendgord, check your local center, or go online to BowlMontana.com for an entry form.

Tom Brendgord, Event Manager
 521 23rd Avenue NE
 Great Falls, MT 59404

Telephone: (406) 453-2599

e-mail: t.brendgord@att.net

**Make a photocopy before mailing. Entry fee must be paid with entry form. Make checks payable to:
 Montana Bowling Proprietors Assn. (MBPA).**

USBC & BPAA TO INTEGRATE

By Tom Brendgord

Wow! Just when you thought there couldn't possibly be any more big news happening to organized bowling, along comes this bombshell. Most of us still haven't gotten over the "merger" that combined all of the bowling integers (men, women, youth) two years ago. A lot of people probably don't know that Roger Dalkin is no longer the CEO of the USBC. He was out before some people even knew he was in. And some old timers still haven't realized that urethane and reactive resin bowling balls **really are better** than rubber and plastic bowling balls.

Less than two years ago, Florida made a pitch to move Bowling Headquarters from cheeseland to gatorville. Fortunately, the Florida legislature, in very short order, made sure that didn't happen. But this move from Wisconsin to Texas appears to be on the fast track to success and is much more palatable.

Make no bones about it. This is not a merger. Integration is a matter of efficiency and bringing together ideas, sharing and growing and developing programs jointly. "The BPAA isn't going to have an equipment and specification department" commented current USBC president Jeff Boge. But the USBC is going to have a new, state-of-the-art, 16-lane testing and training facility added to this International Bowling Campus.

Both the USBC and the BPAA boards of directors have already endorsed this integration of facilities in Arlington, Texas, which will abut the Six Flags Amusement Park and be only a Barry Bonds homer away from the Texas Rangers stadium and a Brett Favre pass from the new in-process Dallas Cowboys football stadium.

For those weak-at-heart bowlers who have a hard time adapting to change, get used to it. This could be the tip of the iceberg!

USBC MODIFIES AWARDS PROGRAM STARTING WITH THE 2008-09 SEASON

By Tom Brendgord

The USBC has modified its awards program for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 seasons in a continuing effort to shift focus toward credibility in recognition of exceptional accomplishments. Many honor score and special achievement awards, currently awarded on an annual basis, will be replaced with once-in-a-lifetime awards.

"Organized bowling has wrestled with its awards programs for more than a decade", said USBC Chief Operating Officer Kevin Dornberger. USBC leadership has concluded the awards program of the past simply does not serve the interests of our members today. "We are going to continue recognition of excellence, but rather than offering a token reward for individuals who accomplish the same feat year after year, we are going to recognize the fact that once a player has accomplished a feat, the special nature of that accomplishment has been realized."

Starting with the 2008-09 season, the only major modification involves changing adult and youth honor score awards (300 game, 800 & 900 series, 11-in-a-row game) to once-in-a-lifetime awards. For the 2009-10 season, USBC's wide range of emblem and pin awards all will become emblem awards and all also will become once-in-a-lifetime awards. The list of special achievement awards ranges from 7-10 split conversions, all-spare games and Dutch 200 games to a variety of average-based high game and high series awards.

While bowlers will no longer earn awards for multiple 300 games, 700 or 800 series, etc., all of those accomplishments will be compiled as a part of their ongoing career files stored in the database.

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