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CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS

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DENMARK'S THOMAS LARSEN WINS 2021 USBC MASTERS

by Matt Cannizzaro – USBC Communications

RENO, Nevada. – Denmark's Thomas Larsen said he was excited to return to the National Bowling Stadium because he'd bowled well there in the past, and he was able to continue that success Sunday with a win at the 2021 United States Bowling Congress Masters.

The 31-year-old righthander defeated top seed Jesper Svensson of Sweden in a see-saw match, 197-176, for his third Professional Bowlers Association Tour title and the first major victory of his career. He became the first bowler from Denmark to win the USBC Masters.

The Masters stepladder was broadcast live Sunday on Fox Sports' FS1 as part of the 2021 PBA Tour television schedule. The event was the fourth of five majors on the 2021 PBA Tour calendar, and the win earned Larsen a \$30,000 top prize.

"Coming to Reno is big-time bowling, and it's such an awesome venue, where I always seem to be able to match up and bowl well," Larsen said. "There were a lot of nerves today and a few shots where I couldn't even feel my legs. Even with five minutes, I don't know if that would've been



enough time to calm myself down, but I'm glad I was able to throw enough shots to come away with the win."

Though Larsen fell behind early in the final against Svensson, leaving a 4-6-7-10 split in the third frame, back-to-back splits from Svensson in the seventh (4-6-7-10) and eighth (3-7) frames, the second of which he was able to convert, allowed Larsen to rally back for a chance to lock up the game and title.

After striking in the ninth frame, a double and one pin would've sealed the victory. He struck on his first 10th-frame offer-

ing but missed left on his second, leaving a 3 pin.

Following the conversion from Larsen, the 26-year-old Swedish two-hander could've thrown three strikes in his final frame for a single-pin victory. The 10-time PBA Tour champion, who was look-

ing for his second major title, left a 7 pin on his first shot to fall short.

While Sunday's win did mark Larsen's third PBA Tour title, it was his first on United States soil. His best finish previously was a runner-up effort at the 2017 PBA Cheetah Cham-

pionship, also at the NBS in Reno, where he lost a lopsided final to Svensson.

Larsen's other victories came in Abu Dhabi and Kuwait in 2013 and 2014, respectively, so, along with some redemption against Svensson, he saw a long journey back to the win-

ner's circle conclude in one of the world's most iconic bowling venues.

"This is a dream come true," Larsen said. "You can win all kinds of stuff overseas and have a great career, but if you can come over here and win, that's like a stamp of approval. The Masters is an event I always enjoyed watching. To win it means so much, not only to me, but to everyone back home for all they do to help us succeed. There's only about 100 people who bowl in our local center, and this shows that all the time and hard work are paying off, and we're headed in the right direction."

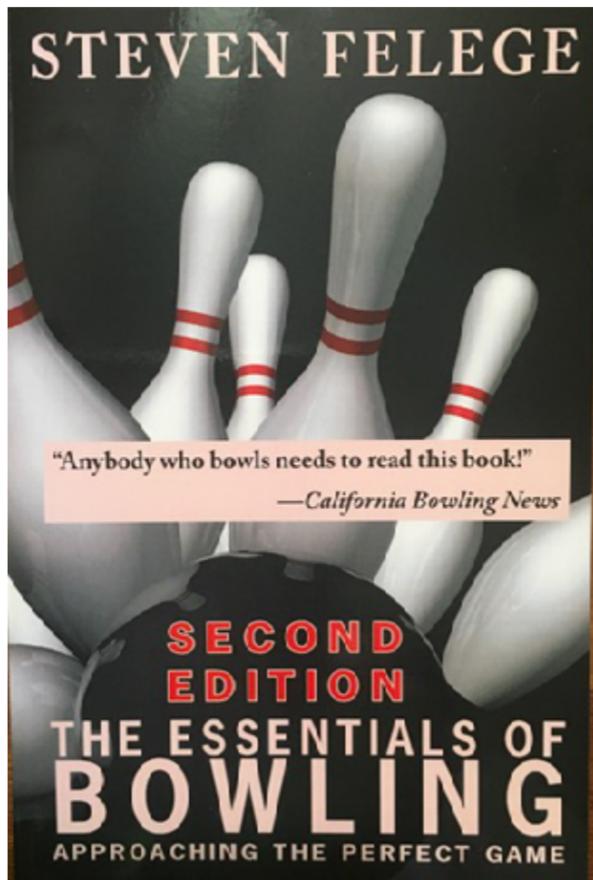
To set up the all-European final, Larsen used four consecutive strikes, starting in the fourth frame, to pull away from Junior Team USA's Spencer Robarge of

continued on page 6

Another One Bites The Dust...

The Lanes At Sea Girt Permanently Closing

by Dave Williams



Carol has 20 copies she's giving away to the next 20 people that email her and ask. FREE.

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A couple of weeks ago I received an email from Jon Matunas, via Lynn Matsubara at the California USBC Newsletter. In Jon's message, he comments on how much he enjoys our recollections of bowling centers from the past; and he was wondering if we had heard that a prominent bowling center along the Jersey Shore, The Lanes at Sea Girt, would be closing on May 17th?

Since I was not familiar with the closing, I decided to call Don Corcione, the manager of The Lanes at Sea Girt, to see what was up. After attempting to reach Don a couple of times with no success, I just decided that it must have been a false alarm, and that the lanes were still open, but on a very limited schedule. Just to be sure, I typed in "The Lanes at Sea Girt will be permanently closing" on my computer search bar, and was greeted with the following:



This massive road sign has greeted bowlers since the name change in 1995

The legendary Lanes at Sea Girt, NJ, closing forever. A very big piece of Jersey Shore history will cease to exist later this spring. The location will be closing its doors on May 17. The bowling center/music venue has been a popular destination for decades, going all the way back to when they opened as Hyway 35 Lanes in the early 1960's.

The first article following the announcement on the internet was from The Point Radio (94.3FM). I remember the station because they were involved in our grand reopening of Hyway 35 Lanes, after the acquisition by Nationwide Bowling Centers in 1995. We involved a few of the local stations in our contest to rename the bowling

center. The winner was to receive \$300 and a year of free bowling!

We also conducted an event that included a live remote broadcast on a morning drive show called "Breakfast With Benson." I had used this same approach when working for American Recreation Centers (ARC) in California, continued on page 5



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California's COVID-19 Tracking System and Our Bowling Centers

by Frank Weiler

Why are CALIFORNIA Bowling Centers closed? It doesn't make sense. Bowling Centers in Nevada and other states have been open for business for months now and there has been no calculable adverse COVID consequences as a result!!! Also, Canyon Lanes Bowling Center on the Morongo Indian Reservation in Cabazon, California has been open since last summer. I have several friends who have been bowling in leagues there since last September! There have been no reported adverse COVID events as a result. I repeat, WHY ARE OUR BOWLING CENTERS IN CALIFORNIA CLOSED?

CALIFORNIA BOWLING CENTERS SHOULD BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS.

The justification for their closure lies in the "MUMBO-JUMBO" language of Governor Gavin Newsom's California Color Coded County Tracking System. I could find no scientific study justifying the numerical standards used by the tracking system to regulate and close businesses in California. The numbers used to keep Bowling Centers closed appear to be arbitrary.

In an effort to clarify why our Bowling Centers are closed I will describe Governor Newsom's Color-Coded County Tracking System. The Governor introduced his "Blueprint for a safer economy" in August of 2020. It was an attempt to provide concrete justification for closing down our economy. While the system provides numeric standards, it does not provide any supporting data or justification for such standards.

Prior to the Color-Coded County Tracking System (CCCTS) the Governor acted on the opinion and advice of his "medical experts" without providing any empirical data for doing so. The CCCTS is an attempt to provide some empirical support for otherwise unsupportable government standards. None of the Governor's CCCTC standards guarantee the reduction in the loss of lives due to COVID-19. It is just another example of government overreach.

When I say the Governor and his advisors have not provided any scientific basis or empirical evidence for the CCCTS numeric standards I am saying the state has not provided evidence of any scientific experiments or observations they have conducted to support the CCCTS numeric standards. Empirical evidence is based on experimentation and observation. The State is throwing numbers against a wall and hoping they stick.

Anyway, I will now proceed to describe the CCCTS tracking standards the State of California is imposing on its citizens, it's businesses and its communities.

The CCCTS includes four color coded tiers. The color-coded system tracks counties by the number of COVID-19 cases recorded each day and the percentage of positive cases out of the total number of tests administered, both averaged over seven days.

The four CCCTS color tiers are purple, red, orange and yellow. Each tier represents a COVID-19 risk level with purple representing the most serious threat to the population, then red being the next serious threat followed by orange and yellow.

The **PURPLE TIER** represents a COVID-19 risk level described as "widespread". This means the county is experiencing more than 10 daily new cases per 100,000 people and/or more than 8% positive COVID-19 tests.

The **RED TIER** represents a COVID-19 risk level described as "substantial". This means the county is experiencing from 4 to 10 daily new cases per 100,000 people and/or 5 to 8% positive COVID-19 tests.

The **ORANGE TIER** represents a COVID-19 risk level described as "moderate". This means the county is experiencing from 2 to 3 new cases per 100,000 people and/or 2 to 4% positive COVID-19 tests.

The **YELLOW TIER** represents a COVID-19 risk level described as "minimal". This means the county is experiencing no more than 1 new case per 100,000 people and/or less than 2% positive COVID-19 tests.

So, what does all this "MUMBO-JUMBO" mean for our Bowling Centers? We know from experience that most businesses, including Bowling Centers, will be closed when a county's CCCTS numbers reside in the PURPLE TIER. That is where the vast majority of California counties have been stuck since the Governor has instituted the CCCTS. Now many counties are moving into the RED TIER.

As counties are moving into the RED TIER businesses, including restaurants, are opening for limited indoor business including dining. However, while my county (San Bernardino) is moving into the RED TIER our local Bowling Centers are still closed. It may be that the county will have to remain in the RED TIER for two to three weeks before our Centers open. Otherwise, we may have to wait until the county enters the ORANGE TIER before we will be bowling. I hope the first scenario is what will happen.

California is approaching the time when our Bowling Centers will be reopening. A few more weeks in the RED TIER or a month or so when we enter the "moderate risk" ORANGE TIER should do it.

I believe we may see San Bernardino County Bowling Centers open as early as April 1, 2021. However, if we have to wait until the county enters the ORANGE TIER we may not be bowling until June or July!

Fellow Californians, keep an eye on your counties CCCTS status and you will know how close you are to seeing your Bowling Centers reopening. If your county is in the RED or ORANGE TIERS, you should be bowling in the near future. Night-mare over!

Every day my local newspaper reports on our COVID-19 statistics. I am watching the numbers closely and waiting with bated breath for the glorious day when we can GO BOWLING again.

California's All-Time Winningest Female Pro Bowlers

by Frank Weiler

"CALIFORNIA BOWLERS ARE THE BEST BOWLERS IN THE WORLD". It would be an OPEN AND SHUT CASE if that proposition was ever argued before the Supreme Court of the United States. It would be a 9-0 decision in favor of California bowlers, declaring that our bowlers are the best in the world.

California's bowlers have proven they are the best in the world over and over again. Over the decades our female professional bowlers have proved that they are the best female bowlers in the world. They have proved that they are the best female professional bowlers in the world.

I have assembled a list of California's top female professional title winners. The number of professional titles is not the sole gauge of greatness but are something worth examining when judging California's best.

I do not intend to opine who may be the greatest California female bowler of all-time. That would be for a panel of experts to determine. I will say that I believe California has produced more great female bowlers than any other state and more great female professional bowlers than any other state.

Here is my list of California's female professional bowlers with the most National Professional Titles won as reported by "Google":

- | | | | |
|--------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Leanne (Barrette) Hulsenberg | 27 Professional Titles | (2 Majors) |
| 2. | Tish Johnson | 25 Professional Titles | (4 Majors) |
| 3. | Wendy MacPherson | 21 Professional Titles* | (6 Majors) |
| 4/5. | Nikki Gianulias | 19 Professional Titles | (Not Available) |
| | Donna Adamek | 19 Professional Titles | (5 Majors) |
| 6/7. | Robin Romeo | 17 Professional Titles | (1 Major) |
| | Betty Morris | 17 Professional Titles | (Not Available) |
| 8. | Anne Marie (Pike) Duggan | 15 Professional Titles | (3 Majors) |
| 9. | Pat Costello | 13 Professional Titles | (2 Majors) |
| 10/11. | Vespa Grinfelds | 10 Professional Titles | (Not Available) |
| | Kim Terrell-Kearney | 10 Professional Titles | (3 Majors) |
| 12. | Dede Davidson | 9 Professional Titles | (3 Majors) |
| 13. | Virginia Norton | 8 Professional Titles | (Not Available) |

Other California greats and the number of National Titles won: Cheryl Robinson (4), Missy Parkin (4) including 1 Major, includes 2 PBA Women's Challenge Titles and 1 World Bowling Tour Finals Women's Championship), Lynda Barnes (3 including 2 Majors), Helen Duval (2), Cindy Mason (1), Michele Silver (1), Laura Hardeman, Tori Romeo and Paula Vidad (4 Senior Majors).

*Includes 20 PWBA and one PBA Women's Series Title. Wendy also won 10 JPBA (Japanese PBA) Women's Titles not included.

Note: These totals were researched on Google. Some numbers vary with the numbers reported on other lists. Also, PBA Women's Series wins are included in addition to LPBT and WPBA wins.



The 2021 TAT Amateur Classic will be held at The Orleans Hotel & Casino June 28th- July 4th Sponsored by Roto Grip.

As always this event will feature a \$20,000 1st Place Singles prizes with a \$220 Entry fee or \$310 with a new Roto Grip bowling ball. Both Entries will also get you \$100 Orleans Match Play, 1 three Game main event Qualifying squad, and 2 two Game VIP tournament entries making it the best deal in bowling!

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(L-R) Dave Symes (Storm President), Ki Ho Kyun, Tony Pascua, Trent Marner, Darrel Ratliff, Elaine Weaver-Purdy, and Jamie McWilliams (TAT Owner)



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Verity Crawley: Back in the USA

by Gianmarc Manzione - BowlersJournal.com

PWBA Tour star Verity Crawley's long, and at times frustrating, experience trying to get back to the U.S. from her native U.K. to bowl her first PWBA Tour event since 2019 finally has come to a happy conclusion.

The former Webber International standout announced on social media March 28 that she officially was back on U.S. soil. As we reported [here](#), Crawley previously had announced in late February that her visa application had been approved. That cleared the way for her return, but Crawley's optimism still was tinged with a dose of caution.

"There's just always that nervousness of never knowing what's going to happen when you show up at border control," she said in February.

Little more than a month later, she was back at what she described as her "happy place," shooting some practice at Kegel Training Center in Lake Wales, Florida, on March 29.

Crawley's visa application had been rejected in December, forcing her to leave the U.S. for her native U.K. while she sorted out the issue.

"After 77 days at home, I am back in the United States!" she posted, adding that she is "very thankful to the PWBA who helped make it possible to get back into the US. There are a lot of rules and restrictions regarding travel to the US right now, especially when coming from the UK. I can't believe I'll get to bowl again soon!"

Crawley had returned to widespread shutdowns in the U.K., including bowling centers, when the rejection of her visa application in December forced her to head home. She had been posting videos on Instagram demonstrating drills one can do at home to stay sharp.

In a post of her own on March 28, Crawley's former Webber teammate and fellow PWBA Tour standout Daria Pajak, who has been fighting her own visa battle from her native Poland, said she hopes to be back in the U.S. "towards the end of April."

Pajak's visa application was approved on Feb. 17.

SEA GIRT continued from page 1

while utilizing the popular Robins and Cowan show on KGBY radio in Sacramento in what became an annual event known as "Bowling for Breakfast."

An interesting exchange took place during the course of his show, when Mr. Benson asked the question, "Where did the term for three strikes in a row, or 'Turkey,' come from?" I told him that I really didn't know, but that the term had been around for as long as I could remember. This resulted in Benson issuing a challenge to all the listeners... "The first person that brings in a frozen turkey and rolls a strike will receive \$100!"

Within a few minutes, a young gentleman came in with a frozen Cornish Hen. He said it was the closest thing that he could find to comply with Benson's request, because there were no frozen turkeys at the supermarket. I don't remember if the man threw a strike, but Benson awarded \$100 to the listener based upon his ingenuity!

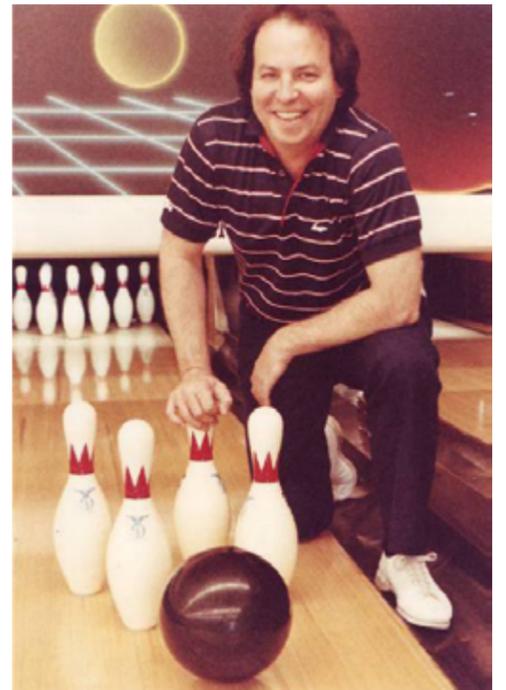
Not long after that, Benson began inviting listeners to come in and try their luck knocking over the pins for other prizes that were donated by local merchants. That's when the floodgates were opened and we began receiving multiple items for prizes from a bagel shop, a pizzeria and even a local dairy, all looking for free publicity for their business. Benson obliged.

Another claim to fame for this Jersey Shore bowling center, located just a couple of blocks from the Atlantic Ocean, is that it was the home of PBA Hall of Fame kegler Mark Roth, during the years that he lived in Spring Lake Heights and Wall Township, two communities just north of Sea Girt. I remember Mr. Corcione saying on numerous occasions regarding Mark Roth's practice bowling, "As long as I'm the manager here, he's not paying!"

Jon Matunas added, "I do remember Mark coming in to practice all the time, watching the Classic League and sharing stories about the tour. He even had his own set of heavy pins that he would bring in occasionally to practice on before PBA events."

As I continued reading the article from The Point Radio, they provided a list of Jersey Shore businesses that have met a similar fate to The Lanes at Sea Girt, after being shuttered for the major part of one year due to the COVID-19 restrictions:

- Acme Draft House
- Applebee's
- Bed Bath & Beyond (2 locations)
- Berkeley Diner
- Charlie Brown's Steak House
- The Disney Store
- Fit Kidz
- GNC (3 locations)
- Kmart
- The Lanes at Sea Girt
- Lord & Taylor
- Lorton's Bay Avenue Deli
- Modell's Sporting Goods (2 locations)
- Pet Valu
- Pier 1 Imports (2 locations)
- Ruby Tuesday
- Smash Burger
- Social 37 Restaurant
- Sugar Rush Cupcakes
- TD Bank
- Tuesday Morning (2 locations)
- White Rooster Cuban Cuisine
- XScape Theatres
- Zin Burger



Mark Roth with some of his Heavy Pins
Photo compliments of PBA, LLC

The consolation provided from the above list is reassuring because it highlights the fact that bowling centers are not being singled out to the degree that we in the industry perceive. That being said, it does not appear that other retail are being treated as severely as bowling when it comes to occupancy restrictions and hours of operation. That's just an opinion... and many say that it is not without merit.

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MASTERS continued from page 1

Springfield, Missouri. Larsen won the match 213-200.

Robarge fell behind early in the semifinal after leaving, and failing to convert, the 4-6-10 split in the first frame. Larsen locked out the young left-hander when he narrowly clipped off the 8 pin from the 2-8-10 split he left in his final frame. The 18-year-old phenom was looking to become the youngest Masters winner, youngest bowler in history to win a PBA Tour event and the first amateur to claim the Masters title since Arizona's Brett Wolfe accomplished the feat at the National Bowling Stadium in 2002, the same year Robarge was born.

Anthony Simonsen of Las Vegas, the 2016 Masters champion, was 19 years and 39 days old when he won.

Robarge's spot in the semifinal Sunday came with a clean game against three-time PBA Tour champion Jason Sterner of Rochester, New York, who had three opens in the match, including a washout and split in the sixth and seventh frames, respectively. Robarge advanced with a 224-166 win. Sterner was making his first TV appearance in a major. His route to the show included surviving eight consecutive three-game matches after losing in the first round of match play Friday.

In the opening match Sunday against Chris Via of Springfield, Ohio, Robarge started with four consecutive strikes and owned a lead of more than 20 pins halfway through. Via, who has become a familiar face in the major finals over the past two years, left a pair of splits and never gained any traction in the game.

Via, the 2016 U.S. Amateur champion and a team gold medalist at the 2017 International Bowling Federation World Championships, still is looking for his first PBA Tour title. He recently finished fourth at the 2021 PBA Guaranteed Rate World Championship.

All rounds of qualifying and match play from the 2021 Masters were broadcast live on BowlTV.com and simulcast to FloBowling.

Competition this week for the more than 200 players included three five-game blocks over three days, with total pinfall determining the 63 bowlers who joined defending champion Jakob Butturff of Tempe, Arizona, in the bracket.

The Masters last was held in Reno in 2011, and this week's event is the first of two major championships being held in the Biggest Little City in the World.

The U.S. Open will take center stage beginning Sunday afternoon with a pre-tournament qualifier. The long-format tournament will conclude live on FS1 on April 11 at 2 p.m. EDT. Australia's Jason Belmonte is the defending champion at the U.S. Open.

The 2021 U.S. Open will be a collaborative effort between USBC and the Bowling Proprietors' Association of America, and the limited field will include the sport's best bowlers, most of whom earned their spots in the event based on their recent on-lane performances. The list includes leaders on the PBA Tour points list and top performers at USBC events and PBA majors.

Drive Underway To Help Save California Bowling Centers

CALIFORNIA – The Southern California Junior Bowling Foundation was founded with the goal of growing and supporting youth bowling in Southern California. The group has found a new emergency goal- trying to raise funds to help bowling centers reopen in California.

Bowling, including many prominent nationally recognized youth bowlers, have been unable to participate in the game they love due to the overbearing restrictions placed on bowling centers by the State of California. While other businesses have been permitted to open, bowling proprietors have seen their doors closed and lights off since mid-March. The frustration was escalated when bowling centers in 49 of 50 states were permitted to open while Californians lanes sat dormant in the dark.

Bowling is a big part of many people's daily lives. Seniors are suffering from missing their weekly exercise and social activity. Many junior bowlers are missing their opportunity to earn college scholarships due to their inability to practice. The SCJBF has recognized that it has become essential to help open bowling centers immediately.

The SCJBF has started a Go Fund Me campaign to help raise money for the fight to open bowling centers in California. At a time when many proprietors are struggling and centers are on the brink of closing forever, you can help with the fight.

We would appreciate any donation big or small to help with the cause. Log on to www.gofundme.com/helpbowling and help today!



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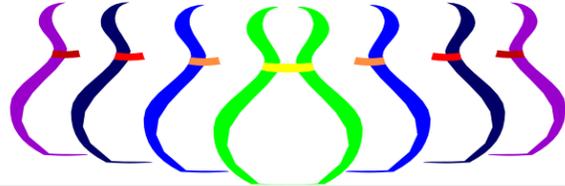
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<p>KEYSTONE LANES - 48 11459 E. Imperial Hwy., Norwalk, CA 90650 (562) 868-3261 • Fax: (562) 929-0701 www.keystonelanest.com • Mgr: Dave Piazza Email: Dave@keystonelanest.com</p>		<p>SOUTH POINT - 64 9777 Las Vegas Blvd. South Las Vegas, NV 89123 (866) 796-7111 Fax: 702-797-8081 64 Lanes, Snack Bar, Pro Shop</p>
<p>OAK TREE LANES - 36 990 N. Diamond Bar Blvd., Diamond Bar, CA 91765 (909) 860-3558 oaktreelanest.net</p>		<p>SUNCOAST - 64 Hotel, Casino, & Bowling Center 9090 Alta Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89145 (702) 636-7400</p>
<p>PICKWICK BOWL - 24 921 W. Riverside Drive, Burbank, CA 91506 (818) 845-5300 Ext. 350 or Ext. 351 Pickwick Gardens Bowl and Ice Center "Where The Fun Never Stops"</p>	<h2>San Diego</h2>	<h2>Ventura County</h2>
<p>SANTA CLARITA LANES - 32 21615 W. Soledad Canyon Rd., Saugus, CA 91350 (661) 254-0540 • Fax (661) 254-7562 www.santaclaritalanest.com Email: scl4usc@aol.com</p>	<p>MIRA MESA LANES - 44 8210 Mira Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA 92126 (858) 578-0500 miramesalanest.com</p>	<p>BUENA LANES - 42 1788 S. Mesa Verde, Ventura, CA 93003 (805) 677-7770 buenalanest.com Email: buenalanest1@earthlink.net</p>
	<h2>BOWLING CENTERS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA</h2>	<p>CITRUS BELT Association Manager - Elise M. Hamner 667 West 2nd Street, San Bernardino, CA 92410 citrusbelt@verizon.net (909) 381-4599</p>
<h2>Riverside & San Bernardino</h2>	<p>Executive Director - Gary Forman PO Box 4396, Garden Grove, CA 92842-4396 ed@socalbowling.com www.socalbowling.com (657) 210-2695</p>	<p>NORTH L.A. COUNTY Association Manager - Tom Leigh 15600 Devonshire St., Suite 212, Granada Hills, CA 91344 email: nlabowling@gmail.com website: nlabowling.com (818) 810-6263</p>
<p>BOWLIUM LANES - 32 4666 E. Holt Blvd., Montclair, CA 91763 (909) 626-3528 • Fax: (909) 626-2144 www.bowlium.com Facebook.com/Bowlium</p>	<p>CALIFORNIA USBC ASSOCIATION Association Manager - Larry Peppers 55 Mitchell Blvd. Suite 2, San Rafael, CA 94903 larry.peppers@calusbc.com • www.calusbc.com www.californiayouthbowling.com (415) 492-8880</p>	<p>ORANGE COUNTY Association Manager - Andrea Fredericks PO Box 4396, Garden Grove, CA 92842-4396 E-Mail: assnmgr@ocusbc.org (714) 554-0111</p>
<p>CANYON LANES - 24 49750 Seminole Dr., Cabazon, CA 92230 (951) 572-6120 Fax: (951) 922-2385 Located next to Morongo Casino</p>	<p>NORTH COUNTY USBC Association Manager - Karen Salazar PO Box 5987, Oceanside, CA 92052 ncusbcamanager@gmail.com www.ncusbca.com (760) 213-4997</p>	<p>SAN GABRIEL VALLEY Association Manager - Linda Johnson-Piliros 4020 Shadydale Ave., Covina, CA 91722 E-Mail: thumpr2@verizon.net (626) 337-6270 Fax: (626) 960-9260</p>
	<p>VENTURA COUNTY USBC Asst. Manager - Cheryl Smith vcusbc@gmail.com (805) 339-9334</p>	<p>SOUTH L.A. COUNTY Association Manager - Lynn Matsubara 3673 Industry Ave. #102, Lakewood, CA 90712 E-Mail: info@slacusbc.com • slacusbc.com (562) 426-2030 Fax: (562) 426-2032</p> <p>SAN DIEGO U.S.B.C. Association Manager - Donald Way 7840 El Cajon Blvd. Ste 203, La Mesa, CA 91941 E-Mail: sandiegousbc@gmail.com www.sandiegobowling.com (619) 697-3334</p>

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