

# QUBICAAMF TO BE PRESENTING SPONSOR OF THE 2025 PBA ALL-STAR WEEKEND

QubicaAMF's EDGE String will become the official string pinspotter of the PBA for the 2025 season

Powered by QubicaAMF's EDGE String pinspotter, QubicaAMF will serve as the presenting sponsor of next season's PBA All-Star Weekend.

The event will be the first televised PBA event to utilize certified string pinspotters.

PBA All-Star Weekend powered by the QubicaAMF EDGE String pinspotter will be held April 4-5, 2025, at Foxx View Lanes in Waukesha, Wis.

"As presenting sponsor of the 2025 All-Star Weekend, we look forward to the exciting format and head-to-head competition on this fastgrowing technology," Jay Buhl, Executive Vice President of QubicaAMF Worldwide, said.

The first show of PBA All-Star Weekend, airing April 5 at noon Eastern time on FS1, will feature a clash of styles that has defined the modern game and sharply divided bowling fans. Traditionalists take on the revolutionaries as onehanded stars go headto-head with two-handed talents.

"Any time you showcase the top stars in the world at one competition, sparks will fly," PBA Commissioner Tom Clark said. "Couple that dynamic with a platform featuring the most controversial talking points in the sport today string pins and the twohand vs. one-hand styles — one thing is certain: anything can happen."

For decades, onehanders monopolized the PBA Tour and bowling at large. Over the continued on page 8









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# In The World Of Bowling, Las Vegas Could Be Number Two

#### by Dave Williams

A few weeks ago we wrote about the incredible league membership in the Metro Detroit USBC association. Although it is down considerably from the glory years of the 60's and 70's for league membership, it's still the largest of the 3,000 local associations that make up the United States Bowling Congress (USBC), with approximately 32,000 members.

In my quest to locate other local associations that might be knocking on the door of the Metro Detroit USBC, I reached out to the Southern Nevada USBC, the "new" capital of bowling with no less than 9 bowling establishments touting more than 50 lanes.

During the week I heard from Vern Vernazzaro, president of the Southern Nevada USBC, encompassing all of the greater Las Vegas bowling centers, totaling 14. Vern reported that two locations, including a 50-plus lane facility in a casino, were shuttered in the past few years, but there are reportedly plans for another three mega centers to open soon.

Of the locations currently in operation, the South Point Casino Bowling Center, with 64 lanes, has the highest number of league members, with 5,895. That's an impressive number, rivaling many of the top bowling centers of all time during the 60's and 70's. It should be noted that another bowling center under the same roof, South Point Plaza, with 60 bowling lanes, has no leagues and is used only for tournament play (no leagues or open bowling).

The highest league bowler count that I can remember during my days at AMF was at Wallington Lanes, a 48 lane center that still operates today in Wallington, New Jersey. When AMF purchased the amazing location from Jules Okonowsky, there were a total of 5,400 league members. That's more than 112 league bowlers per lane.

It's also interesting to note that while I was living in Las Vegas almost fifty years ago, the bowling centers from that era have all closed, with the exception of Sam's Town. Of course, everyone knows about the famous Showboat (later known as Castaways), with 106 bowling lanes, that permanently closed on January 29th, 2004. But also gone are Charleston Heights Bowl, West Hills Lanes and New College Park Bowl.



In terms of overall league membership in Las Vegas, there are 24,344 bowlers. That could be second to Detroit's 32,000. Vernazzaro mentioned that there used to be a list with the top local associations in terms of league members. He mentioned the Nation's Capital USBC (Washington D.C. and Northern Virginia) as a local association that frequently appeared among the top ten. I've put out feelers to some of the larger groups that I can remember but have not yet heard back from any of them.

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While surfing the internet, I was able to obtain the number of current bowling centers in some of the larger USBC membership locations from the past. Here's a list of those totals:

- Metro Detroit USBC 60 bowling centers
- Twin Cities (Minneapolis/St. Paul) USBC 39 bowling centers
- Chicagoland USBC 38 bowling centers
- Pittsburgh USBC 32 bowling centers
- Long Island (Nassau/Suffolk) USBC 26 bowling centers
- Dallas/Ft. Worth USBC 26 bowling centers
- Milwaukee USBC 25 bowling centers
- Los Angeles USBC 24 bowling centers
- Houston USBC 23 bowling centers
- Nation's Capital (D.C. and Northern Virginia) USBC 22 bowling centers
- Cincinnati USBC 22 bowling centers
- St. Louis USBC 22 bowling centers
- Buffalo USBC 21 bowling centers
- Atlanta USBC 20 bowling centers
- Cleveland USBC 20 bowling centers
- Denver USBC 17 bowling centers
- San Antonio USBC 15 bowling centers
- Phoenix USBC 14 bowling centers
- Las Vegas USBC 14 bowling centers

And for those of you that are statistic freaks (like me), here are the incredible lanes and league bowler numbers from Vern Vernazzaro at the Southern Nevada USBC:

- Boulder Bowl (8 lanes) 0 league members
- Gold Coast (70 lanes) 2,391 league members
- Pahrump Nugget (24 lanes) 1,346 league members
- Red Rock Lanes (72 lanes) 1,535 league members
- Sam's Town (56 lanes) 1,390 league members
- Santa Fe Station (60 lanes) 1,919 league members
- South Point (64 lanes) 5,895 league members
- South Point Plaza (60 lanes) 0 league members
- Strike Zone (72 lanes) 2,075 league members
- Suncoast (64 lanes) 4,340 league members
- Sunset Lanes (12 lanes) 124 league members
- The Orleans (52 lanes) 1,101 league members
- Virgin River (24 lanes) 1,021 league members
- Wildfire (18 lanes) 583 league members

Be on the lookout for the corresponding league bowler counts from the preceding list of the larger USBC membership locals nationally. It should provide for an interesting comparison. Until that time, enjoy the holidays...

IT'S BAAAACK! — Stelton Lanes, originally opening as Brookside Lanes in the early 60's, has reopened as Circle Bowl-Piscataway in New Jersey. The cen-

### **Circle Bowl-Piscataway**

ter had been scheduled to become an Asian supermarket after being shutdown for more than a year because of the COVID-19 crisis. Watch for an in-depth article in an upcoming issue of BCM Magazine. (Photo provided by Circle Bowl-Piscataway)



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### All Star Weekend continued from page 1

past 15 years, a mutiny akin to the NBA's ceaseless three-point barrage has transpired on the lanes.

Two-handers like Jason Belmonte and Anthony Simonsen have set the PBA record books ablaze and the next generation has taken notice: 16 of 18 boys on this year's Junior Team USA bowl with two hands.

On April 5, the one-handers have an opportunity to prove the one-handed style is a treasured antiquity — not a decrepit relic in a battle for the ages between the two styles. The top five one-handers and top five two-handers in PBA Tour points through the PBA World Championship will compete in baker competition.

A Strike Derby will make up the second half of PBA All-Star Weekend, airing April 6 at noon ET on FS1. In a race against the clock, players are put to bowling's most rigorous test of power and stamina. From March 23 through March 28, fans will be able to vote for their favorite players to compete in the Strike Derby.

In an event that places such great emphasis on power, it's no surprise that two-handers have won three of the past five events, including three straight. That's not to say the one-handers haven't kept pace: EJ Tackett set the record with a 16-strike round in 2023, while Andrew Anderson hurled 13 consecutive strikes this year.

Earlier this year, the PBA conducted testing on the USBC-Approved version of QubicaAMF's EDGE String pinspotters found it suitable for professional level competition, and approved it for use in official PBA competition beginning in 2025.

Foxx View Lanes hosted one of three PBA Regional Tour events contested at bowling centers utilizing QubicaAMF's USBC-Approved, enhanced pinspotting technology last season.

"We appreciate the opportunity to work with the PBA during 2024 to evaluate and ultimately approve EDGE String for competitive play at the highest level beginning in 2025," Buhl said. "We are excited about the value EDGE String delivers for the sport and enthusiastic that the PBA's approval and use of EDGE String will drive awareness and a more accurate understanding of USBC-Approved string technology within all levels of the sport bowling community."

For the latest information and updates about the 2025 PBA Tour, including ticket sales for PBA All-Star Weekend, visit PBA.com and follow the PBA on Instagram, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), TikTok and YouTube.

#### About the Professional Bowlers Association

The Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) is the world's premier organization dedicated to the sport of bowling and its professional competition. The PBA has thousands of members from over 30 countries, competing in events including the PBA Tour, PBA Regional Tour, and PBA50 Tour. The PBA also serves casual and league bowlers through its membership programs, offering access to statistics, awards, and certified tournaments. With millions of fans worldwide, the PBA continues to grow the sport of bowling and inspire the next generation of bowlers.



# **Senior Bowler Gets a New Ball**

by Nancy Johnson

Rick Tibben purchased a new ball going down to 14 lbs. He was worried it would not hit as hard. It seems to be working as he recently rolled a 715-scratch series. The 81-year-old has bowled a number of 600 series with the new ball.

Rick has been bowling since he was 13-years old when he got his first ball, bag and shoes (which he still has). He was the best bowler in high school,

The veteran took about 25 years off due to doc-

Apparently he can. Rick hopes to bowl as long as





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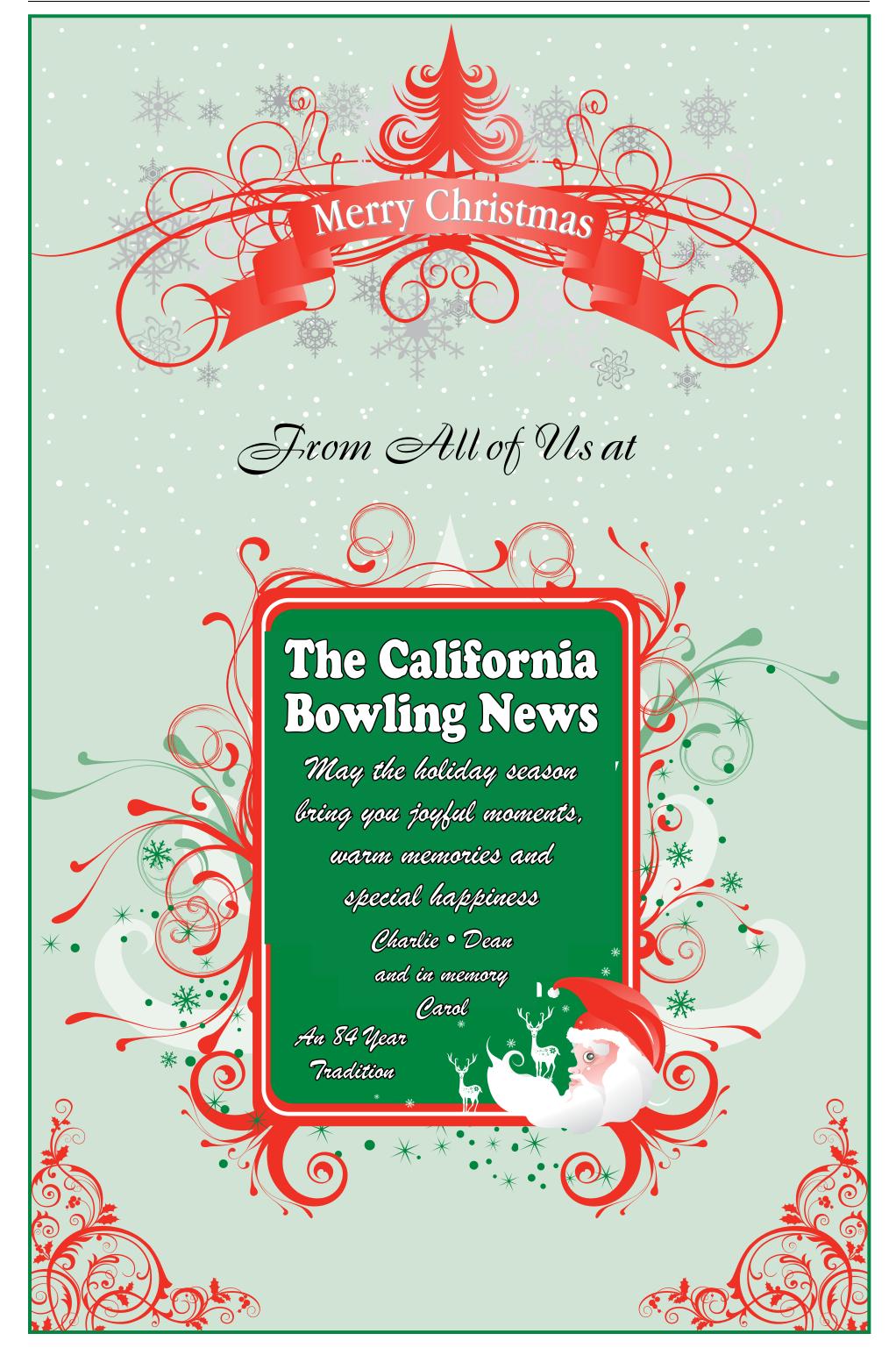


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### Sat, January 25, 2024 – 1pm

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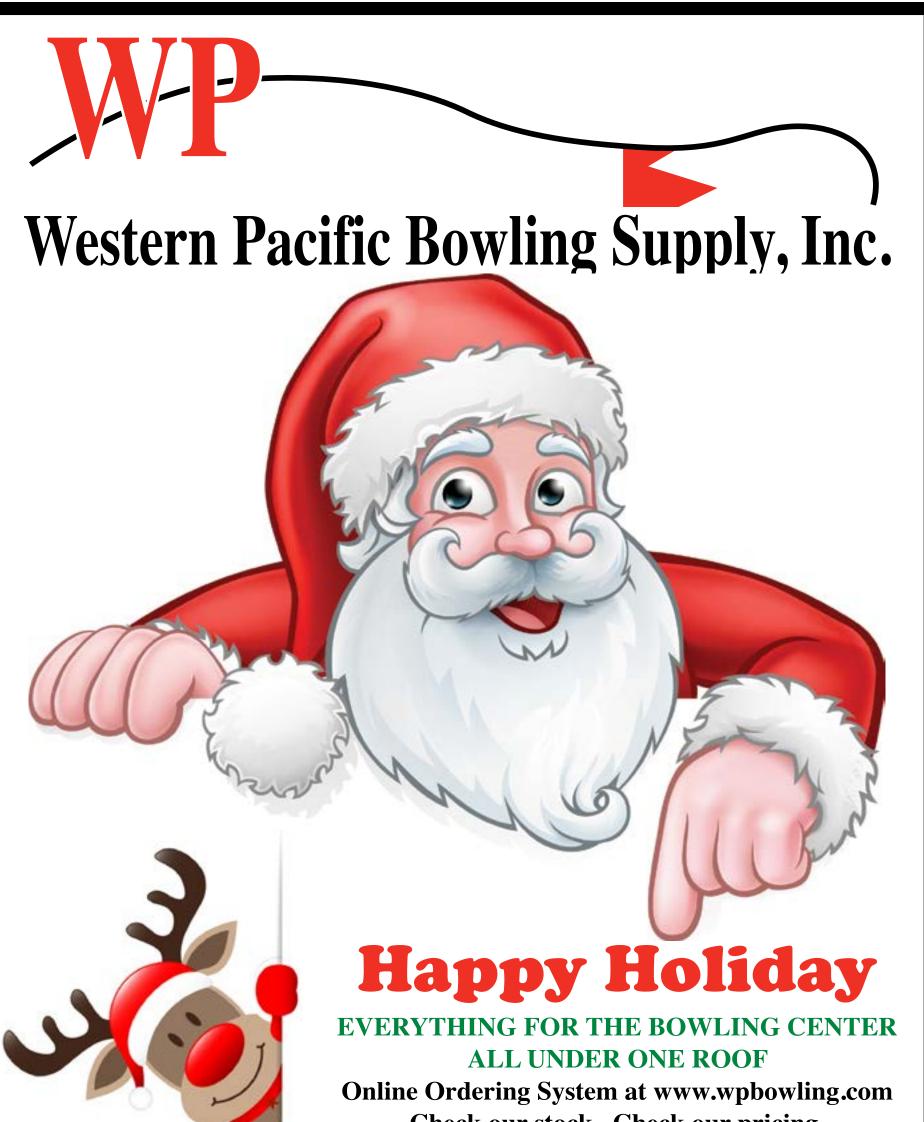
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