

JULY 4, 2024

# CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS

7502 Florence Ave, Downey, CA 90240 • Website: CaliforniaBowlingNews.com • Email: news@californiabowlingnews.com • Office: (626) 252-2985 Fax: (562) 807-2288

## Independence Day For Bowlers

by Frank Weiler

It's JULY 4<sup>th</sup> and "From sea to shining sea" every bowler I know will be celebrating **INDEPENDENCE DAY**.

It is the date that marks the birth of the United States of America.

It's the date our first leaders acted to declare we have "**GOD GIVEN RIGHTS**" which no King, no leader and no government can deprive us. Rights including Freedom to speak, Freedom to worship and Freedom to pursue happiness as we choose. Oh yes, and **FREEDOM TO BOWL!**

Independence Day is celebrated by bowlers nationwide so let us understand why we do celebrate and how we should.

Independence Day celebrates the **signing of the Declaration of Independence** which was signed on July 4, 1776.



### INDEPENDENCE DAY



It was the **first document in history to recognize that our rights come from GOD**, not from a King or from any government.

This written recognition of our rights being inalienable make the Declaration of Independence **one of the most important documents**

**in history.**

So how did Independence Day come about and what is its history and traditions?

The American colonies

were part of the British Empire since the seventeenth century. The colonists were content for decades under English rule. *continued on page 5*

## ANTHONY SIMONSEN: BOWLING PROFESSIONAL

*Simonsen is perhaps the most accomplished 27-year-old bowler the world has ever seen — and he hasn't scratched the surface of his full potential*

by Nolan Hughes

Ten years into his professional bowling career, Anthony Simonsen has built a résumé on par with any great who has come before him. After winning the PBA Tour Finals earlier this month, the 27-year-old now owns 15 career PBA Tour titles and five major championship crowns.

At the time of their 15th title, only Mark Roth was younger and only Jason Belmonte had won more majors than *continued on page 2*



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## Simonsen

continued from page 1

Simonsen.

Last season, Simonsen won three titles and finished top 10 in all 17 title events, the latter being a feat of near-incomprehensible consistency that grows more impressive as time passes. This season, the two-handed, Texas-born product has won two titles (so far) and led two majors; with three title events left, he ranks top-three in virtually every statistic.

Simonsen's 2016 USBC Masters title earned him the moniker of "youngest PBA major champion" at just over 19 years old. His 2019 PBA Players Championship victory, which denied Belmonte his record-breaking 11th major title, made Simonsen the youngest player to win two majors. His 2022 U.S. Open title... Well, you get the picture.

It's fair to say that no one in the history of the sport has been this accomplished, this young.

Simonsen has developed a reputation as a bit of a hot head, as Rolling Stone dubbed him in a January feature. His fiery demeanor is reminiscent of the legend Pete Weber, which Simonsen himself acknowledged after winning the PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic earlier this season.

"I think me and Pete are alike at times," Simonsen said. "Sometimes it seems like we need to bowl angry to bowl better. Sometimes it comes out the way it should; sometimes it's a little unprofessional."

The combination of Simonsen's occasionally cantankerous personality with his unparalleled bowling prowess and creativity creates another parallel between himself and Weber, best exemplified by a quote from Weber himself during his 2021 retirement:

*"Hate me or love me, you watched. That's all you could do."*

While Weber demanded eyeballs with his showmanship, Simonsen is a magnet for bowling fans obsessed with the nuances of the game, a.k.a. the nerds. On any given shot, you never truly know what Simonsen will do.

He could switch from reactive to urethane on a 46-foot pattern in the deciding frames of a title event; that's how he won the PBA Tour Finals earlier this month. He might throw normal and back-up balls in the same game; he did that in the PBA Playoffs last month.

Simonsen put his captivating creativity on full display during this year's World Series of Bowling XV.

After finishing 39th and 36th in the Cheetah and Scorpion Championships, respectively, he ranked 34th in the World Championship through six of nine qualifying rounds. While it's unreasonable to expect elite players to perform at their best every single week, those placements were a far cry from Simonsen's 2023 season — and far below Simonsen's own expectations.



Simonsen accepts the PBA Pete Weber Missouri Classic trophy from Pete Weber

With his back against the wall, and amidst a dominant week from the south-paws, rumblings spread across the iconic Thunderbowl Lanes on the morning of Shark Championship qualifying.

*Is he going to throw a back-up ball?*

Why yes, yes he would.

Simonsen said at the time that his decision to invade the left side of the lane was not based on what he saw in practice but based on what he saw during the previous four days of competition. Left-handers averaged 17 pins better than righties during the Scorpion Championship; that difference ballooned toward the end of qualifying blocks.

While there was a tactical element to Simonsen's decision to throw a back-up ball — he famously won a title doing so in 2018 — Simonsen would be hard pressed to deny the underlying act of defiance.

Again, Simonsen's performance did not meet his expectations. He shot 192 before reverting back to his side of the lane during the second game.

After games of 258, 228 and 192 — while watching left-handed Nate Stubler shoot 247, 279, 237 and 246 on his pair — Simonsen flip-flopped to the left side again. He shot his tournament-low 169.

With a round of 1,039 (+39), Simonsen sat in 88th place and 152 pins out of the Shark Championship cut, as well as 48th place and 244 pins out of the World Championship cut.

During the intermission ahead of another five-game qualifying round on tap that night, the curiosity of how Simonsen would regroup rekindled.

Would he try back-up again with new balls and/or a new gameplan? Would he commit to the right side? Would he pick up his ball and go home, so to speak?

continued on page 4

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# Bowling On The River

by Dave Williams

A recent article at Dr. Jake's Bowling Blog got me to thinking about what a glorious time it must have been in the 1930's and 1940's along the Russian River resort area in Northern California, when popular movie stars of the day would gather at the bowling centers located in Rio Nido, Guerneville and Monte Rio during the summer months.

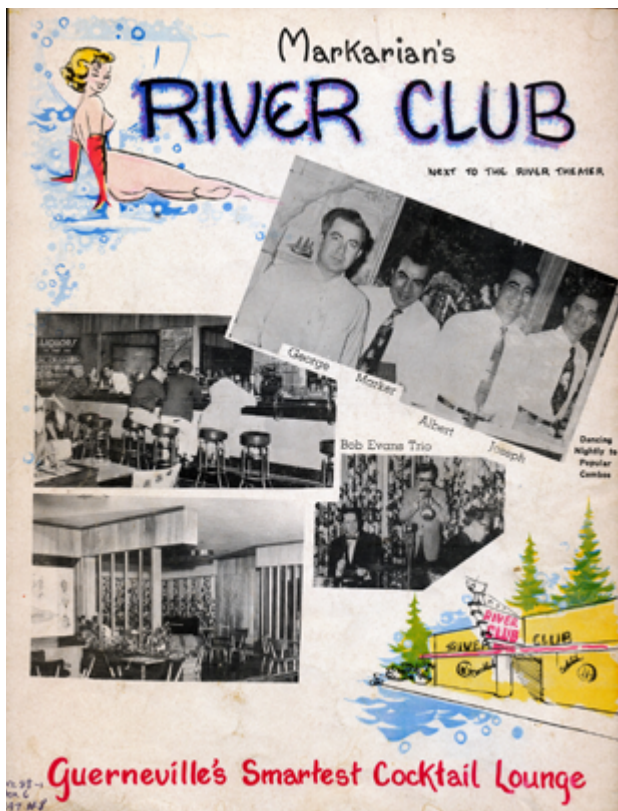
There was Fred MacMurray, Raymond Burr, Ronald Reagan and Jane Wyman, to name a few of the frequent stars to visit the bowling lanes along "The River." MacMurray and Burr even had summer homes there. Somewhere in my bowling museum warehouse I have a shot of Reagan, Wyman and two other young silver screen stars sitting at a score table that was believed to be taken at River Bowl in Guerneville. Perhaps one of you has this shot, or can find it on the internet?

Dr. Jake's article features the St. Paul House Hotel in Shakopee, Minnesota, with 8 bowling lanes. Founded in 1854, the hotel operated for more than 111 years in the popular resort area located southwest of Minneapolis. The lanes were added in 1936 when a major renovation was undertaken by a new owner, Frank Wampach, according to [scottcountyhistory.com](http://scottcountyhistory.com). Fire destroyed the hotel and bowling lanes in 1965, and the building was never restored.

The bowling center along the Russian River resort area that I remember so well was River Bowl, located on the main drag (River Road). It also featured 8 lanes and a coffee shop. The back of the building butted up against the Russian River. Almost every winter the entire building (and most of the town) would be flooded by the notorious Russian River and featured on television newscasts from coast to coast.

But in the summer, it became quite the meeting place for teens in the 1960's and 1970's, including our ragtag bunch of bowlers from Santa Rosa, Windsor and Sebastopol. On Friday we would meet up at L & L Lanes in Sebastopol and catch the Greyhound Bus for Guerneville. The round trip ticket was only 50 cents! Although we went to play all of the pinball games and hang out on the beach along the river, we usually wound up at River Bowl.

The center was managed by Elmo, who spent most of his time preparing for a lunch trade almost every day of the week. He was famous for his soups. While he was busy in the kitchen, he would let us shadow bowl (without the pins) during the daytime hours. River Bowl had quite a history, even before Elmo's famous soups. It reportedly opened in 1923, and played host to many dignitaries that came to rub elbows with the movie stars, or visit Bohemian Grove in Monte Rio.



Markarian's River Club Advertisement

## Markarian's River Club

Another interesting connection that we would make on those weekend excursions to the Russian River was with Teri Markarian and her younger brother Mark. They were the offspring of George and Pearl Markarian, who owned the popular Markarian's River Club at the intersection of the Gravenstein Highway and River Road, next to the town's only movie theater. It was a real family affair, with George's three brothers sharing in the ownership of the club.

Pearl was one of the top woman keglers in the area. She bowled every Tuesday night in the Analy Bowlerettes league at L & L Lanes and entered her children in the Saturday youth bowling leagues. Teri's friends Robin, Sue and Marlene would accompany her to L & L Lanes every Saturday to bowl in the junior leagues, and the girls became another reason for our frequent visits to Guerneville during the summer months.

Although we brought sleeping bags and thoroughly intended to sleep on the beach along the river, Pearl would have nothing to do with that, and insisted that we stay in the basement of their tri-level home. I can still remember her making each of us call home to let our parents know we would be staying at the Markarian's for the weekend. We had many fun times at "The River," and became very familiar with

the movie theater next to Markarian's River Club, as well as all the businesses on the main street that featured nothing but pinball machines, skee-ball and other amusement games.

Our motley crew went looking for some of those other bowling centers that were once located along the Russian River. The only other location besides River Bowl that we could find was the location in Monte Rio, although it had been closed and boarded up for many years.

What about you... Do any of you remember River Bowl, or any of the other locations that provided so much bowling enjoyment to so many people in the summertime?

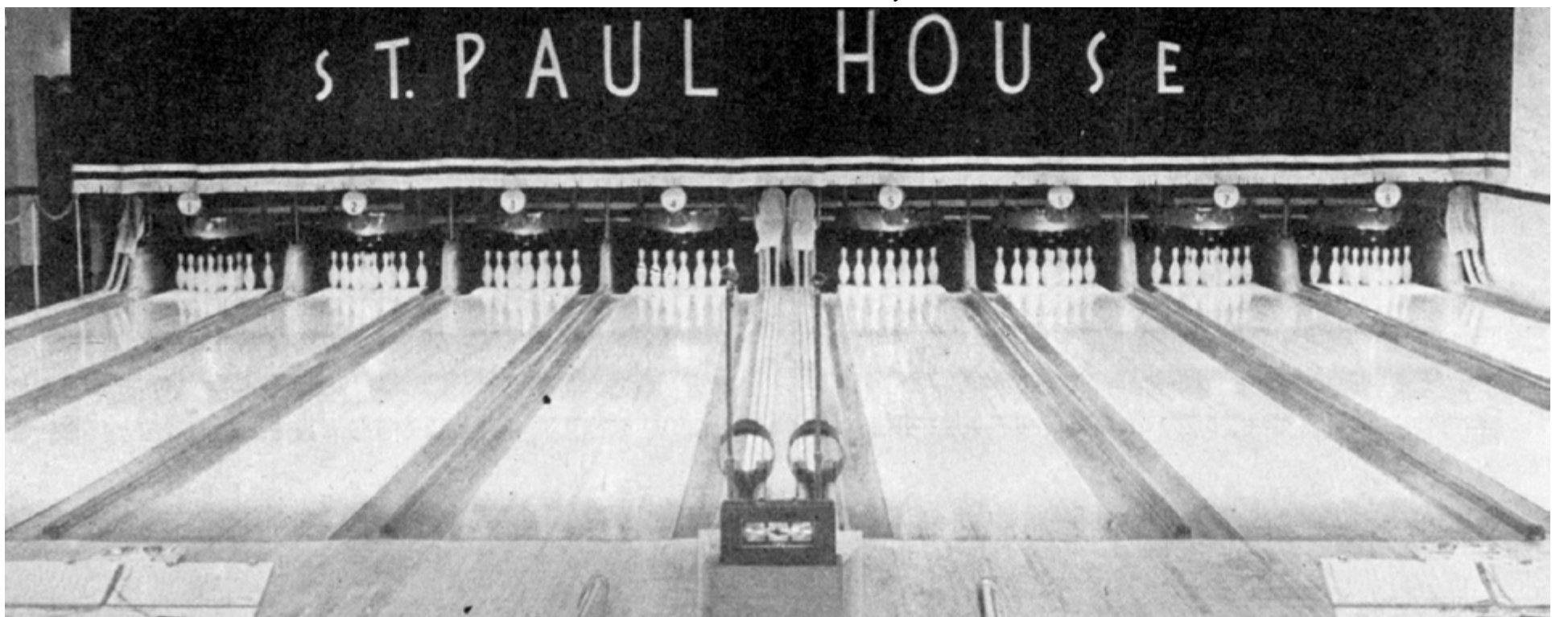
• St. Paul House Hotel Bowling Lanes provided by Dr. Jake's Bowling History Blog

• Photo of Ronald Reagan and Jane Wyman bowling provided by Dr. Jake's Bowling History Blog


• Markarian's River Club advertisement provided by Russian River Historical Society



Ronald Reagan & Jane Wyman on a Bowling Date



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**Simonsen** continued from page 2

Simonsen chose the second option and shot 277, 279, 266 — an 822 start — 238 and 223, rising to within striking distance of both cuts. He went on to make the Shark Championship finals, finishing fifth, and came up 76 pins shy of the World Championship match play cut.

Did those pins he “wasted” in the first round on Shark cost him the World Championship cut? Perhaps. But would he have scored as well without his unsatisfactory scores, possible regrets and definite frustrations culminating in an overflowing level of motivation? Perhaps not.

Simonsen’s Tour Finals victory earlier this month made him the fifth player to win multiple titles this season, along with Kyle Troup, Marshall Kent, EJ Tackett and David Krol. With three title events left, including the Storm Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles that he won with Danielle McEwan last year, Simonsen sits firmly within a crowded Player of the Year race.

But he has never been one to rest on his laurels.

“It has been a pretty good season, like it’s kind of hard to complain. I won two titles. I led two majors. That alone is a good season I feel like regardless of how the rest of the year went,” he said after his Tour Finals win. “But some people have higher expectations than others.”

As Simonsen reflected on his season, he noted that he did not practice as much prior to this season as he did before his illustrious 2023 campaign. That certainly contributed to his 30th-place performance in the season-opening PBA Players Championship. He said he plans to recommit to practicing more often, adding that even just “30 or 40 shots” will help him be sharper all the time in the long run. But the physical game is only part of the battle, the part that Simonsen has largely already won. It’s the mental game that he has yet to conquer, if such a thing is even possible.

Back in 2019, Belmonte described a then-22-year-old Simonsen in the Flo-Bowling’s Simonsen: Leave It Behind:

*“The version of Anthony I’m really looking forward to seeing is 35 years old when he’s learned so much more, where he’s able to control his temper. I think, once he learns to control those inner thoughts, those inner demons that just want to explode out of him at times, with his skillset and versatility, he’s gonna be one of the best ever.”*

Simonsen, who turned 27 in January, is showing signs of beginning that maturation process. During his Tour Finals victory, he scratched his back on a pole and joked with the crowd.

Whether it’s helping friends with the installation of lanes at their house, or making a cameo when his friend Chris Hunichen won a World Series of Poker gold bracelet, Simonsen said he is discovering how to better decompress from the intense competition of the tour.

“I’ve been bowling well, and I think I’m finding more appreciation to life outside of bowling, little things that let me appreciate and enjoy competing a little bit more,” Simonsen said. “I’m getting out of that (survival) mindset and trying to get myself more involved in things off the lanes.” Note Simonsen’s phrasing: He said “off the lanes” not “outside of bowling.” Because the man can’t escape the alley.

He enjoys the mechanical side of the game as much, if not more, than the competitive side. Rather than professional bowler, Simonsen prefers “bowling professional,” a term he picked up in recent weeks and wants to embrace.

As Simonsen lets go of his bowl-to-survive mentality, one he perhaps needed to achieve his current accolades, he gains access to a more sustainable psyche.

Five years ago, Simonsen may not have bounced back like he did in the 2024 WSOB. Five years from now, he might not put himself in that hole to begin with.

Who knows what number title Simonsen will be chasing in 2029, or which direction he will contort his ball in pursuit of it. Here’s what we do know: Hate him or love him, we will be watching.



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## Independence Day For Bowlers continued from page 1

rule and considered themselves to be loyal British citizens. In the latter part of the eighteenth century England fought the French and Indian War on the American continent. The war was fought to determine if England or France would be the dominant force in North America. The colonists were loyal English citizens and fought as part of the British army. The English won the war but the war was very expensive.

To pay off the war debt and pay for the large standing army sent to protect the colonists Parliament raised taxes. Legislation such as the Sugar Act, the Stamp Act and the Townshend Act taxed the colonists without representation in the English Parliament. These actions angered the colonists. The colonists protested with **SAMUEL ADAMS** (1764) and **PATRICK HENRY** (1765) declaring “**No taxation without Representation**”.

Notwithstanding colonial discontent, Parliament went on to pass more unpopular legislation including the Coercive Acts, known as the Intolerable Acts to the colonists. These acts included closing Boston Harbor, banning town meetings, the forced housing of British troops in colonist homes (the Quartering Act) and land confiscation (the Quebec Act). Seeing the Coercive Acts as truly intolerable the colonies sent representatives to Philadelphia in September 1774 to decide how to respond. This meeting was the **First Continental Congress**. The First Continental Congress was the first time delegates from all over the colonies met.

The Congress decided to escalate boycotts against English goods. They also **petitioned King George III** informing him of the “rights to life, liberty and property” they deserved as Englishmen. When England continued to ignore colonial rights, representatives from the thirteen colonies formed the **Second Continental Congress** meeting in May 1775. This Congress formed the Continental Army and appointed **GEORGE WASHINGTON** as Commander.

On June 7, 1776 Richard Henry Lee of Virginia introduced a Resolution in the Second Continental Congress calling the colonies free and independent states. Congress then created a committee to draft a **Declaration of Independence**. That committee included **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, JOHN ADAMS** and **THOMAS JEFFERSON**.

Jefferson, the primary author of the draft declaration, had the document completed in two weeks. On July 2, 1776 Congress unanimously passed Lee's resolution. Then on July 4, 1776 Congress adopted the written document drafted by Jefferson encapsulating the principles of the Lee Resolution, the **DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**. The United States of America was born.

Independence Day and the first celebration of the Declaration of Independence took place on July 8, 1776 in Philadelphia. The celebration included a public reading of the Declaration of Independence after people were summoned by the ringing of the liberty bell.

Massachusetts became the first state to recognize July 4<sup>th</sup> as an official holiday on July 3, 1781. On July 4, 1801 the White House held its first fourth of July party. Then on June 28, 1870 Congress made Independence Day an official holiday for federal employees who worked in Washington, D.C. Most nineteenth century Independence Day celebrations included parades, picnics and speeches.

In 1938 Congress formalized Independence Day as an official paid federal holiday nationwide. After World War II fireworks became the biggest part of this wonderful holiday.

Of course, **Bowling has long celebrated Independence Day** with a variety of tournaments and fund raisers. Many bowling centers dress their premises with flags, balloons and posters. Some play patriotic music.

What about Independence Day customs? It is customary to fly the flag nationwide. Unlike Memorial Day, which requires the flag be flown at half-staff in the morning, on Independence Day the flag may be flown at full-staff all day. Remember, the flag should never be lowered from a poll from a half-staff position. The flag is always raised to full-staff before lowering and removing it from a flag poll.

**Bowlers are patriotic**, they love our country and love what America stands for. So please remember to honor our nation and our flag by playing the National Anthem prior to the start of all bowling tournaments.

**GOD BLESS AMERICA and HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY.**



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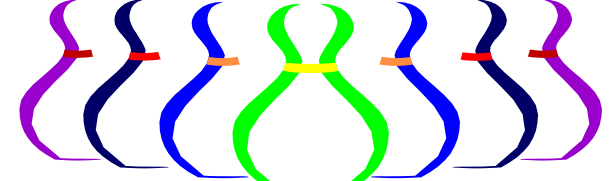
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<p><b>CANYON LANES - 24</b>            49750 Seminole Dr.,            Cabazon, CA 92230            (951) 572-6120 Fax: (951) 922-2385            Located next to Morongo Casino</p>	<p><b>CALIFORNIA USBC ASSOCIATION</b>            Association Manager - Lynn Matsubara            3673 Industry Ave. #102, Lakewood, CA 90712  <a href="mailto:info@calusbc.com">info@calusbc.com</a> • <a href="http://calusbc.com">calusbc.com</a>  <a href="http://www.californiayouthbowling.com">www.californiayouthbowling.com</a>            (562) 449-4527</p>	<p><b>GREATER LA COUNTY USBC</b>            Association Manager - Lynn Matsubara            3673 Industry Ave. #102, Lakewood, CA 90712            E-Mail: <a href="mailto:info@glacusbc.com">info@glacusbc.com</a>  <a href="http://glacusbc.com">glacusbc.com</a>            (562) 426-2030 Fax: (562) 426-2032</p>
	<p><b>NORTH COUNTY USBC</b>            Association Manager - Ross LaBar            306 W. El Norte Pkwy #95, Escondido, CA 92026  <a href="mailto:ncusbcmanager@gmail.com">ncusbcmanager@gmail.com</a>  <a href="http://www.ncusbc.com">www.ncusbc.com</a>            (714) 322-2780</p>	<p><b>ORANGE COUNTY</b>            Association Manager - Stacie Osborn            PO Box 4396, Garden Grove, CA 92842-4396            E-Mail: <a href="mailto:assnmgr@ocusbc.org">assnmgr@ocusbc.org</a>            (714) 554-0111</p>
	<p><b>VENTURA COUNTY USBC</b>            Association Manager - Debbie Brickell  <a href="mailto:vcusbc@gmail.com">vcusbc@gmail.com</a>            (805) 339-9334</p>	<p><b>SAN GABRIEL VALLEY</b>            Association Manager - Annette Anderson            1832 Greenacre Rd., Pomona, CA 91768            E-Mail: <a href="mailto:sgvusbc@gmail.com">sgvusbc@gmail.com</a>            (909) 326-1201</p>
	<p><b>SAN DIEGO U.S.B.C.</b>            Association Manager - Donald Way            7840 El Cajon Blvd. Ste 203, La Mesa, CA 91941            E-Mail: <a href="mailto:sandiegousbc@gmail.com">sandiegousbc@gmail.com</a>  <a href="http://www.sandiegobowling.com">www.sandiegobowling.com</a>            (619) 697-3334</p>	<p><b>SAN DIEGO U.S.B.C.</b>            Association Manager - Donald Way            7840 El Cajon Blvd. Ste 203, La Mesa, CA 91941            E-Mail: <a href="mailto:sandiegousbc@gmail.com">sandiegousbc@gmail.com</a>  <a href="http://www.sandiegobowling.com">www.sandiegobowling.com</a>            (619) 697-3334</p>

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