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CALIFORNIA

BOWLING NEWS

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Santa Barbara's Russ Johnson Passes

Written By Sharon Angulo / Santa Barbara USBC

Sadly, in June of 2023, our close bowling community of family & friends lost one of it's very best Russ Johnston.

Russ was well known for being the one to get you to sign up in leagues & also be a part of some of the largest contingencies of Santa Barbara bowlers for Local, State & National Tournaments, as well as Harry Grants Tourney in Encino & the popular Pismo Singles at Pismo Bowl with a busload of bowlers to head out to eat as a huge group afterwards.

At San Marcos Lanes



he hosted the highly popular Holiday Doubles Tournament attracting bowlers far & wide.

They'll never be another one like him...

Our heartfelt thanks, Russ for everything you did for all of us throughout the years...

We'll never forget you.

Simonsen & McEwan Win



When qualifying concluded on Saturday evening at Copperfield Bowl in Houston, Anthony Simonsen and Danielle McEwan sat in 30th place, more than 250 pins behind the tournament leaders.

But rather than run from the massive deficit, they ran straight at it.

"Hey, I get it was a rough day, but tomorrow's a new day," Simonsen said he texted McEwan on Saturday night. "And it's more enjoyable to run the lead down than it is to lead and try to hold on."

Simonsen and McEwan embraced the challenge and emerged with



the 2023 Storm PBA/PWBA Striking Against Breast Cancer Mixed Doubles tournament title.

This marks Simonsen's 13th career PBA

Tour title and third of the season. McEwan earns her eighth career PWBA Tour title and first of 2023; she also won the last time she competed

in this event in 2021 with EJ Tackett.

"We have heart," McEwan said. "That's what we kept saying all continued on page 6

HALL OF FAME



Toby Lee

Toby Lee is Inducted Into Citrus Belt USBC Hall of Fame

by Frank Weiler

REDLANDS – Toby Lee, long time tournament competitor and champion, has been inducted into the Citrus Belt USBC Hall of Fame for Superior Performance. Toby has been competing in and winning tournaments

for three decades and has been scoring high in certified leagues during those three decades.

Tournament wise Toby has a Citrus Belt Title to his credit and several "KING OF THE HILL" titles. He is one of the few to win "back-to-back"

KING OF THE HILL titles. League wise Toby has averaged above 200 for the past 32 years with many of those seasons averaging above 230. His HIGH BOOK AVERAGE is 247!

In addition to his tournament exploits Toby

has earned a reputation as a high scoring, record breaking league bowler. He is known to roll 700 series in leagues week after week when others struggle to bowl 600. Toby has rolled sixteen series of 800 or higher, continued on page 6



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What's Up With All The Classic Bowling T-Shirt Designs?

by Dave Williams

It has been almost a year since I ordered one of those classic t-shirt designs from a company called m00nshot.com, so I decided to take a look at the offerings and possibly add to my collection. As anyone in the senior set can attest, the memory begins to fade when it comes to information... not so much for faces or images, but definitely for names.

How I could not remember a name like m00nshot.com is beyond me, but as a result of doing a word search for "old bowling center t-shirts," I was quite surprised at all of the internet sites that are now including bowling as part of their vintage t-shirt offerings. The list was headed by m00nshot.com, followed by fineartamerica.com, redbubble.com, etsy.com, and many, many more.

Most of these new offerings are not just old bowling centers, but general listings of bowling nostalgia applied to t-shirts, including retro photos of people bowling in leagues, as a family, date night, etc. There are even many shots of former president Richard M. Nixon, who made the bowling lane in the White House popular with its renovation, and subsequent visits during the 1960's and 70's as America's number one bowling fan.



Golden Gate Lanes T-Shirt Design

And any list of bowling nostalgia would not be complete without The Big Lebowski (starring Jeff Bridges) and Kingpin (starring Woody Harrelson, Bill Murray, Randy Quaid, and so many more). One of the sites had at least four pages of t-shirts devoted to nothing but the Big Lebowski. As I reviewed the



Lucky Lanes T-Shirt Design

pages of m00nshot.com, there were new listings for Walnut Bowl in Walnut Creek, Calif., "The Magnificent" Millbrae Bowl, in Millbrae, Calif., and Lucky "60" Lanes in San Pablo, California.

Lucky Lanes was a part of the American Recreation Centers chain that I remember so well. It originally opened in July of 1960 as a 40 lane center, but like so many others added an extra twenty lanes to the split house within a couple of years. Unlike most bowling centers, Lucky was an "A" frame construction, with all of the amenities (bar, snack shop, billiards, reception desk and pro shop housed within the giant "A" frame, and the lanes constructed on either side.

One of the ads that ran in the Oakland Tribune in 1960 announcing the grand opening of the bowling center included an innovative new "Electronic Micro-Wave Snack Bar... with hot sandwiches prepared in seconds, at 99¢. Good to eat, and inexpensive!" One of the downfalls of Lucky Lanes was its prime location at an I-80 exit. In spite of ARC's efforts to save the location with a massive renovation and petitions in the 1990's, it eventually succumbed to a wrecking ball to make room for a new casino, providing more tax dollars than a bowling center for the city and state.

Continuing my search in the m00nshot.com listings for vintage bowling centers, I found a new entry for Zangs Bowl in Dallas, and another for Pee Wee Reese Lanes in Louisville, Kentucky. Reese was another in a long line of famous baseball players that became bowling proprietors. You can check out some of the others in an article that appeared in most publications in either October or November of 2022: *'It Ain't Over Til It's Over'... Many Famous Baseball Players Became Bowling Proprietors.*

The m00nshot.com selections are still dominated by California locations, with a total of 65! No other state has more than ten vintage tees, which is a further testimony to the sad loss of so many iconic bowling centers worthy of veneration in the Golden State.



Lucky Lanes Grand Opening - July 2, 1960



This postcard was used to announce the remodeling of Lucky Lanes in 1992. Note the all glass "A Frame" interior to the right adorned in pink and teal neon lights.

Play It Again, Matthew

The Etsy website has an interesting feature that allows you to custom make your retro style two-tone shirt (the ones that Chandler, aka Matthew Perry, made popular in the sitcom *Friends*) with your text or logo. The corresponding price, like that of m00nshot.com, is quite high. There were no vintage bowling center designs offered at etsy.com, but fineartamerica.com did provide a couple of new locations, including Ray Bluth's Crestwood Bowl in St. Louis, Celebrity Lanes in Denver, Paris Lanes in Paris, Texas, and the Pro 300 Lanes sign that we wrote about a few years ago, appearing in most publications in August or September of 2021: *Target Stores Takes Unique Approach In Memorializing Bowling Center.*

Then I stumbled upon teepublic.com, another website offering a myriad of bowling center art from yesterday, and today. As I went through the pages of offerings, I noted many new designs, including: Midtown Bowl (Los Angeles), Midway Bowl (San Leandro, Calif.), Beacon Bowl (Southgate, Calif.), and Gnoles Bowl in Chicago. There were also some other interesting logos available, including: the Fresno Bombers bowling team from the National Bowling League, "I Bowl At Gil Hodges Lanes" (the famous bowling center in Brooklyn - now closed), and Bowling for Dollars on WJKW-TV 8 in Cleveland.

I had gone through about 8 of the 10 pages of bowling memorabilia on the teepublic.com site when a pop-up ad announced that all t-shirts were reduced to \$16.00, plus shipping and handling, for the next 14 hours. This was about one-third the price of the other websites, so I decided to continue to the end. The very last entry under the bowling nostalgia was a t-shirt design for Golden Gate Lanes, one of the most famous bowling centers in history!

Golden Gate Lanes was also a part of the ARC chain. Like Lucky Lanes, it was the victim of eminent domain, when a Target Store was recommended as a replacement for the bowling shrine, primarily based upon the additional tax dollars that would benefit both the city and state. I spent more than a year of my life trying to defend the recreational benefits of Golden Gate Lanes (in addition to my other duties at ARC). In the end I learned that it's really hard to fight city hall (and win).

My new Golden Gate Lanes t-shirt is due to arrive in 6-8 days. I'm sure that it will be the impetus for another article about Golden Gate Lanes, Queen Prentice, Rod's Hickory Pit, Tony Rosano, and of course the incredible lane conditions that confounded the experts. If you have any memories of this wonderful facility, let us know and we will try to incorporate them into the next installment.

- Full page ad announcing Grand Opening of Lucky Lanes from Oakland Tribune Archives, July 1960
- Lucky Lanes t-shirt design provided by m00nshot.com
- Golden Gate Lanes t-shirt design from teepublic.com
- Lucky Lanes post card announcing remodeling provided by Dave Williams



PBA REGIONAL RECAP: JANAWICZ, KNOWLES COLLECT WINS

by Chase Kaufman

Over the past few weeks, the PBA Regional Tour crowned champions of all ilks, from ascending talents, Senior Tour stalwarts, to collegiate stars. John Janawicz, while 50 years old, could fit in each of the first two categories. His brilliant debut campaign continued in Illinois, detailed in this week's PBA Regional Recap:



PBA50 BEVERLY LANES MIDWEST/CENTRAL OPEN

Beverly Lanes, that's where I want to be! Scores were sky-high in qualifying, mainly from John Janawicz and Tom Hess. The pair each averaged 253 to top the leaderboard heading into the advancers round.

But as the tournament went on, Janawicz pulled away from the field. In the final advancers round, Chris Barnes needed to top Janawicz by 118 pins, but after a 234 from Janawicz in Game 1, the second game was just a consolation. Janawicz never shot a game below 200 for the entirety of the tournament en route to winning his second regional title of the season.

PBA50 Beverly Lanes Midwest/Central Open Final Standings

John Janawicz, 2,500 points, \$2,200
Chris Barnes 1,500, \$1,400
Tom Hess 1,150, \$1,000
Dan Knowlton, 950, \$1,000

[PBA50 Beverly Lanes Midwest/Central Open Full Results](#)

PBA ST CHARLES LANES MIDWEST OPEN

From a suburb of Chicago to a suburb of St. Louis, the sub-age-50 region bowled a match play event at St. Charles Lanes in Missouri. The cut landed at +42, giving many young guns a chance at a title if they placed inside the top 12. Jorge Rodriguez did just that, qualifying first, then staying on top after the first 11 games of match play. Rodriguez defeated his opponent Timothy Curran in the position round and held off the rest of the field to grab the win and \$3,000.



PBA St Charles Lanes Midwest Open Final Standings

Jorge Rodriguez, \$3,000
Brady Stearns, 1,500 points, \$2,000
Benjamin Martinez, 1,150, \$1,500
Timothy Curran, 950, \$1,250

[PBA St Charles Lanes Midwest Open Full Results](#)

PBA BOWLERO SPRING HILL OPEN

St. Charles enrolled many PBA Tour PTQ participants, and so did the Bowlero Spring Hill Open. Carlos Granados smashed the field in qualifying, going +171 for his eight games. He held the lead after each of the first two advancers rounds, but Nate Garcia took over the lead after the third.

Round 4 put the two within just one pin of each other, but a winner-take-all final game would determine the champ. Both bowlers went spare, four-bagger in the first half, but back-to-back single pins from Granados allowed Garcia to pick up a big lead. After an eight-bagger, Garcia converted a 10-pin in the final frame to seal the deal and pick up his second career title and first in five years.

PBA Bowlero Spring Hill Open Final Standings

Nate Garcia, 2,500 points, \$3,000
Carlos Granados, 1,500, \$1,475
Toby Sambuono, 1,150, \$1,100
Colin Champion, 950, \$1,100

[PBA Bowlero Spring Hill Open Full Results](#)



PBA THOUSAND OAKS SOUTHWEST OPEN

Dallas started with the lead in San Antonio at the Thousand Oaks Southwest Open — Dallas Leong, that is. He eventually wound up with the two-seed, Deo Benard took the top seed, while Eric Jones and Garrett Andrus squared off in the first match as the three and four seeds. Andrus won the first match 236-215 and followed that up with another 236 to top Leong's 226 in the second match. Andrus was one win away from winning his first regional title, but Benard spoiled the day by grabbing his fourth title with a 224-203 victory.

PBA Thousand Oaks Southwest Open Final Standings

Deo Benard, 2,500 points, \$2,800
Garrett Andrus, 1,500, \$1,900
Dallas Leong, 1,150, \$1,500
Eric Jones, 950, \$1,175

[PBA Thousand Oaks Southwest Open Full Results](#)

PBA PLEASANT DAY SCHOOLS/SUBURBAN LANES CENTRAL OPEN

The Salvino pattern was amiable to the bowlers in West Virginia, as it took a 214 average to make the single-elimination bracket. Graham Fach qualified first and won his first two matches to advance to the finals. He faced off against Zac Tackett, who had just knocked off the Aussie Sam Cooley in the semifinals. Excitement filled the final match: after the pair tied at 257, Tackett took home the title via roll-off. That makes title No. 4 for Tackett, who also took home \$2,700.

PBA Pleasant Day Schools/Suburban Lanes Central Open Final Standings

Zac Tackett, 2,500 points, \$2,700
Graham Fach, 1,500, \$1,400
Sam Cooley, 1,150, \$1,150
Nolan White, 950, \$1,150

[PBA Pleasant Day Schools/Suburban Lanes Central Open Full Results](#)

PBA MEMBER/NON-MEMBER DOUBLES HAZEL DELL

Just a short drive over the Oregon border in Washington, Vancouver hosted a doubles tournament bringing in 37 teams. The Holman pattern played quite difficult for the pairs, as a 202 average was good enough to make the cut. In a match play setting the next day, Warren Crawford and Lanndyn Carnate absolutely annihilated the field, to the point where they could have sat out the position round game. Finishing in first by over 160 pins, the duo earned \$1,800 apiece and a title to their names.

PBA Member/Non Member Doubles Hazel Dell Final Standings

Warren Crawford/Lanndyn Carnate, 2,500 points, \$3,600
Marcus Winklepleck/Ryan Nikolas 1,500, \$2,400
Andy Kinney/Nick Borgaro, 1,150, \$2,000
Jacob Dobkins/Shawn Horenberger, 950, \$1,800

[PBA Member/Non Member Doubles Hazel Dell Full Results](#)



PBA50 RUTH FROBERG MEMORIAL/BRUNSWICK CENTRAL/MIDWEST OPEN

Brad Angelo woke up ready to hurt some pins in St. Joseph at the tune-up for the PBA50 World Series of Bowling. A +390 set was good for the one-seed by almost 100 pins. Robert Manning meanwhile snuck into the 16th seed by striking out in the 10th frame as nine guys sat within 25 pins of him after eight games. Fast-forward to the semis and the top four seeds were eliminated to leave Larry Verble, Walter Ray Williams Jr, Rick Galpal, and Steven Badovinac. There, Verble defeated Williams Jr., and Badovinac took down Galpal. Searching for his first title, Badovinac got it done 245-231 to earn a banner and \$3,000.

PBA50 Ruth Froberg Memorial/Brunswick Central/Midwest Open Final Standings

Steven Badovinac, 2,500 points, \$3,000
 Larry Verble, 1,500, \$1,600
 Walter Ray Williams, Jr., 1,150, \$1,150
 Rick Galpal, 950, \$1,150

[PBA50 Ruth Froberg Memorial/Brunswick Central/Midwest Open Full Results](#)



ç PBA MIKE EATON SR. MEMORIAL CENTRAL/MIDWEST OPEN

Despite finishing 29th on the PBA Tour in points this season, Justin Knowles was not selected during last week's PBA League Draft. It appears he took out his frustration on the pins at Spectrum Entertainment Complex in Wyoming, Mich. last weekend.

Knowles averaged over 244 to lead the eight-game qualifying round. The two-handed lefty maintained his lead through 15 games of round-robin match play, then held off Gerald Marrs in the position round to bring home the title. This marks his third career regional title and first since 2019.

PBA Mike Eaton Sr. Memorial Central/Midwest Open Final Standings

Justin Knowles, 2,500 points, \$2,600
 Gerald Marrs, 1,500 points, \$1,350
 Nick Pate, 1,150 points, \$1,200
 Daniel Farish, \$1,100

[PBA Mike Eaton Sr. Memorial Central/Midwest Open Full Results](#)



PBA SPOKANE OPEN PRESENTED BY SALAS REAL ESTATE

While there were no reported bigfoot sightings at either of the regionals in Spokane last weekend, there was a Payden Stumpf breakthrough. The 30-year-old has earned three runner-up finishes over the past three seasons, but got over the hump and secured his first career regional title.

Stumpf qualified in fourth place, averaging over 228 across eight games of qualifying on the 46-foot Petraglia oil pattern; fellow Puyallup native Austin Gratzler led the way. Stumpf slipped to fifth after the next four games, but surged into the lead during the three-game second advancer round.

After nine more games across three advancer rounds, Stumpf settled in the No. 2 seed for the three-player stepladder finals. He defeated Shawn Horenberger and top seed Cameron Weier to claim that elusive title.

PBA Spokane Open presented by Salas Real Estate Final Standings

Payden Stumpf, 2,500 points, \$2,500
 Cameron Weier, 1,500 points, \$1,800
 Shawn Horenberger, 1,150, \$1,400
 Tyler Cruz, 950, \$1,100

[PBA Spokane Open presented by Salas Real Estate Full Results](#)



PBA50 SPOKANE OPEN PRESENTED BY STEVE JONES - WINDERMERE VALLEY

Back up in the Pacific Northwest, Chuck Harns paced the PBA50 field during seven games of qualifying at the one-day event in Spokane. However, Harns fell to No. 8 seed Blaine Weninger in the first round of the eight-player bracket.

Weninger then took down Spokane native Michael Hanson to meet Michael Kennedy in the finals. Kennedy, who also beat a Spokaneite in the semifinals, defeated Weninger 196-180 for his second career PBA50 regional title.

PBA50 Spokane Open presented by Steve Jones- Windermere Valley Final Standings

Michael Kennedy, 2,500 points, \$1,800
 Blaine Weninger, 1,500 points, \$1,200
 John Green, \$900
 Michael Hanson, \$900

[PBA50 Spokane Open presented by Steve Jones- Windermere Valley Full Results](#)

PBA BOWLERO MANASSAS OPEN

The next generation of the PBA South Region put on a show last weekend in northern Virginia. Eighteen-year-old Ethan Fiore outscored the 88-player field by 12 pins per game, leading the eight-game qualifying round by almost 100 pins. Fiore maintained his lead through the first advancer round, but slipped into third after the second.

Oklahoma Christian University star CJ Petrin maintained a top-four standing for the duration of the tournament, finishing fourth. Fiore fought back to reach the title match where he faced Julian Michael Salinas, who fired 264 and 279 to jump into the lead during the third advancer round.

Salinas, a multi-time Junior Team USA member and SCAD-Savannah student-athlete, defeated Fiore 193-183 for the win.

PBA Bowlero Manassas Open Final Standings

Julian Michael Salinas, \$3,000
 Ethan Fiore, 1,500 points, \$1,300
 Zachary Tackett, 1,150, \$1,050
 CJ Petrin, \$1,050

[PBA Bowlero Manassas Open Full Results](#)

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Mixed Doubles

continued from page 1

day.”

Simonsen led all match play advancers by averaging 243.15 for his 12 games during the semifinals and finals, while McEwan paced the women with a 208.46 Sunday average. That’s how they turned a 252-pin deficit into a 118-pin victory.

Despite the final margin, two teams were within striking distance heading into the position round. The defending champions, EJ Tackett and Diandra Asbaty, trailed by 82 pins in third place; Tommy Jones and Shannon Pluhowsky sat just 61 pins back with a head-to-head matchup and 30 bonus pins in front of them.

Moreover, Jones and Pluhowsky had just defeated Simonsen and McEwan by 20 pins on the same pair where the position round would be held. And McEwan’s ball reaction had disappeared — she clawed out a 186 that game while never knocking down more than eight pins on any of her final four first-balls.

The 11-time Team USA member remained resilient, starting the final game with a spare and three consecutive strikes.

“I definitely thrive off bowling with a team and having a teammate,” McEwan said. “Especially in today’s situation, even when I was lost, I had somebody to pick me up and to talk to when I wasn’t seeing it clearly instead of having to listen to your own thoughts. I was able to have a conversation with somebody and figure it out and that helped me tremendously.”

“I felt like I had a really good ball reaction, so as long as she can keep us close, I can keep us moving up,” Simonsen said.

Simonsen’s ball reaction was illustrative of how the 26-year-old has rewritten the PBA record books over the past 10 years.

While other players chased the lane transition on the 41-foot pattern left of the sixth arrow, Simonsen did the opposite. He moved nearly 20 boards right and fired his fill ball about four miles per hour faster up the 8-board to close the fifth game of match play. He told McEwan he was going to commit to that move the next game.

“I had full trust in him,” McEwan said. “It goes back to our familiarity bowling around the world with each other for at least six years. When he knows what he’s doing, he knows how to make it work.”

Simonsen shot 298, which propelled them into the lead for good.

With the first-place finish, Simonsen earned his 16th top-10 finish in 16 PBA Tour title events in 2023. He’ll have one final test at the Storm Lucky Larsen Masters in September.

McEwan closes out the 2023 PWBA Tour next month in Iowa.

Toby Lee

continued from page 1

with a high of 858. He has rolled 47 perfect 300 games.

Congratulations to Toby and his family on his selection and induction into the Citrus Belt USBC Hall of Fame. Toby is another example of why “CALIFORNIA BOWLERS ARE THE BEST BOWLERS IN THE WORLD”.

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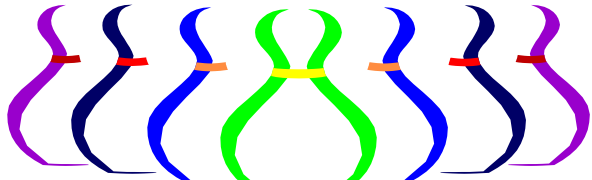
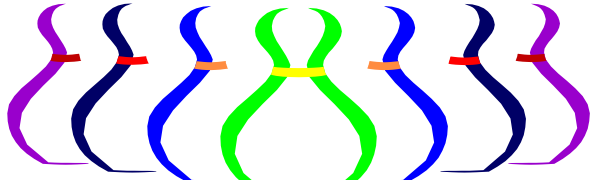
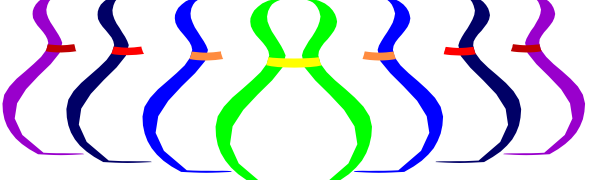
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<h2>Riverside & San Bernardino</h2>	<p>CALIFORNIA USBC ASSOCIATION Association Manager - Lynn Matsubara 3673 Industry Ave. #102, Lakewood, CA 90712 info@calusbc.com • calusbc.com www.californiayouthbowling.com (415) 492-8880</p>	<p>GREATER LA COUNTY USBC Association Manager - Lynn Matsubara 3673 Industry Ave. #102, Lakewood, CA 90712 E-Mail: info@glacusbc.com glacusbc.com (562) 426-2030 Fax: (562) 426-2032</p>
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