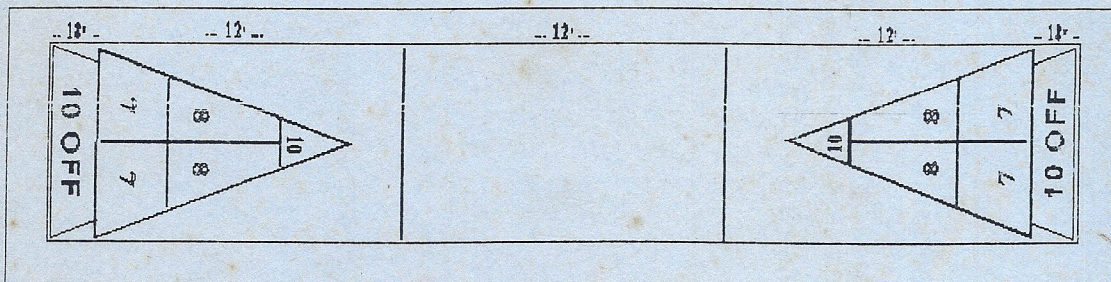


KEEP ON 'SHUFFLIN'

The First Book Ever Written For Play
On The Fast Western Court

THE PLAYING COURT



The Court size is six feet (6') wide by thirty-nine (39') long, plus a six foot six (6'-6") Standing area at each end.

By "Shuffleboard Bob"
Zaletel
10/20/2005

PROPERTY OF THE
US NATIONAL SHUFFLEBOARD ASSOC.
HALL OF FAME

CONTRIBUTED BY:

"SHUFFLEBOARD BOB" ZALETEL

Dedication

There are so many people to thank for bringing me this far in my 'Shuffleboard Life.' I've narrowed the list to what I'll call the "Big 6."

- Louis Zaletel - In 1955, my Dad got me started in this great game. He hand-painted a shuffleboard court in the basement of our home in Lorain, Ohio. It was about 15'x3'. My sister, Barb, and I played many a game on this court as did my neighborhood friends. Thanks, Dad.
- Mary Zaletel - In 1988, I officially became involved in the game on a yearly basis in Las Vegas, Nevada. My wife, Mary, has been there for me from that first championship at our Las Vegas Corporate Challenge, to this very day. Thanks, Mary.
- Russ Jacobson - In 1991, I began to really learn how to play this great game from Russ, a 4-time Texas State Champion. He came to Las Vegas and shared many of his secrets with me and other players at a Corporate Challenge Weekend. He also invited me to Mesa, AZ that fall to see the I.S.A. event at Venture Out. It was my first contact to what I call - real shuffleboard. Thanks, Russ.
- Harold Edmondson - In the fall of 1991, I met Harold in Mesa, AZ at the I.S.A. Tourney held at Venture Out. He was President of the National at the time. I was impressed with his friendliness and sincerity. He took me under his wing and introduced me to many of the players. He also gave me the inspiration and confidence to pursue my dreams. Thanks, Harold.
- Bud Walrath - In 1993, the I.S.A. came to the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas. I met Bud and we proceeded to do a lot of work readying the courts. I was impressed with his work ethic. Also, we spent a lot of time discussing the Shuffleboard Community from the I.S.A. to the National to the States and the Districts that play the game. I sure learned a lot. Thanks, Bud.
- Don Kleckner - In Las Vegas, in 1993, I had the privilege of meeting Don, who was the President of the I.S.A.. Those of you who know me know about my enthusiasm and love of the game. Believe me, it pales in comparison to what I saw from Don! He was one of the most positive and energetic people I had ever met when it came to shuffleboard. Thanks, Don.

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Introduction

A NEED

I have believed for a long time that a book has been needed that focuses on Shuffleboard Courts out West - namely, Arizona and California. In fact, of all the shuffleboard books ever written (Appendix B1 Page 39) *none* has ever been written expressly for Fast Boards. The book you are about to read, I hope, will remedy that.

FAST BOARDS

In shuffleboard, some of the terminology used tends to be confusing. The term "Fast Boards" will be described in detail a bit later. Suffice it to say at this point, that Fast Boards out West mean that the disc travels at very *slow* speed from one end of the court to the other. This text will address courts who's speed is 11 seconds to 22 seconds.

BEAUTY OF THE GAME

The game of shuffleboard is truly a wonderful sport. I believe it is one of the only games that "bridges" the generation gap; i.e., it is the only game where grandmas and grandpas, moms and dads, and children from age 5 on up can play competitively for fun, on an even basis. Size doesn't matter. Women can play equally against men. Fast Courts / Western Boards will allow this to happen.

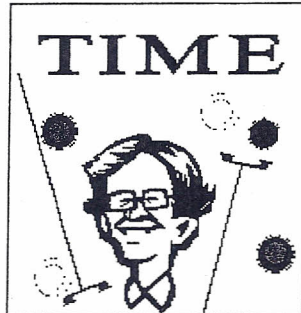
THE GAME'S PERCEPTION

Ninety-nine and one-half percent of this booklet will be positive and I hope, uplifting. This section will not. Shuffleboard has a *real perception problem*. It has been an organized entity since 1931, and yet:

- 1.) Very few people under 50 play it.
- 2.) Most of the average public think you have to be over 80 before you can/should play it.

- 3.) It's a game for people who are unable to play any other sport.
- 4.) You get little or no exercise playing it.

I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS! Many of you may be unaware that in 1962 when Del Webb opened up the Sun City Retirement Community northwest of Phoenix, Arizona he was on the cover of Time Magazine and behind him was a Shuffleboard Triangle and Cue.



What has happened since then?! I'll admit, I don't know. But I do know that a concerted effort to change the game's current image *needs to happen!*

I've said for over 10 years now that shuffleboard needs the following:

- 1.) A High-Profile Spokesperson
- 2.) Business Support / Sponsorship
- 3.) A National Newsletter
- 4.) A National Registry of Clubs / Tournaments
- 5.) Television Exposure, Nationally

I'm sure that you can think of others. Give it some clear thought, I'm open for ideas on how to change some of these negative images.

THE SHUFFLE HIERARCHY (See Figure 0 Page 44)

This brief section is intended to inform and educate the reader on how shuffleboard is organized.

A.) The I.S.A.- (International Shuffleboard Association)

In 1981, the I.S.A. was formed. It included, and still does include, the United States, Canada, and Japan. Since then, Australia and Brazil have come on board. Tournaments are held annually and there are officers and by-laws. National organizations are independent of the I.S.A..

B.) THE N.S.A.- (National Shuffleboard Association)

In 1931, the N.S.A. was formed. Since that time, states in the U.S. have joined the association. Currently, 8 states are organized with officers and by-laws. Arizona and California have Fast Courts, and Texas, Ohio, Michigan, North Carolina, New Jersey and Florida play on Slow Boards. National Tournaments are held in all states. It should be noted that Canada, Japan, Australia, and Brazil also have National organizations. State organizations are independent of the N.S.A..

C.) STATE ORGANIZATIONS-

California Shuffleboard was first organized in 1959. It has grown to 13 Districts within the State, District VII in Hemet, is the most active at this time. Arizona Shuffleboard was first organized in 1963. It has grown to 5 Districts within the State, Districts I and IV in Mesa / Apache Junction are very active - with Tucson and Yuma holding many tournaments as well. Both states hold State Singles Tournaments for Men and Ladies annually, along with State Team Tournaments. It should be noted that the other 6 states have similar organizations.

THE DISTRICTS-

Finally, as has been shown, each state has Districts. Within each district there is League Organization and District Tournaments.

THE CLUBS-

The backbone of a shuffleboard community are the parks in each district which supply the players for the leagues and tournaments. Some districts are much more active than others.

Acknowledgements

A book of this magnitude cannot be written in isolation. At this time, I'd like to recognize and thank the following individuals for their input and feedback on the material you are about to read. My special thanks to:

Allen R. Shuffleboard- Sam and Jim Allen, Polyglide- Kathy Cullop, M & S- John Rosenkrans and Judy Martinez, Dura - Dress- Mike Walker. Besides these four businesses, thanks goes to the following Web-Persons: Larry Bell, Pat Lane, and Sandy Myers. Finally, thanks to the following individuals for their efforts to this manuscript: Steph Gorsuch, Sabra Fagetan, Roy McLure, Ron Krause, Ward Dowell, and Lyman Brown.

About the Author

I would like to spend a couple of paragraphs telling you about myself and how this book came to be. In 1988, almost by accident, I played my first matches at the Sands Hotel (12 courts) in Las Vegas, Nevada for the Clark County School District in the City's Corporate Challenge. I was still playing some basketball at the time and when I went to the Captain's Meeting, they needed some shuffleboard players. I said to myself, "I can do that" and so it began. Thanks to a miracle shot by my partner, Bruce Miller, we won our first game 94-93 and went on to win the Gold Medal. Shuffleboard play for me was an annual play through 1992 - 5 gold medals with three different partners. In 1993, I played in my first of five International Shuffleboard events at the Sands Hotel. The U.S. Men were the World Champs that year, I went 8 - 3. I wanted more, so in 1994 I went down to Mesa, Arizona and played in Towerpoint's Sports Days. Gust Reinsch took me under his wing and our other 5 Las Vegas players started to play *real* shuffleboard. In the Fall of '94, I played in the I.S.A. in Edmonton and started a project with Sam Allen to make a beginner's video for shuffleboard. "Shuffleboard - The Game of Your Future" (Appendix - A1 Page 33) came to fruition in early January of 1997. Brazil and some of the newer nations have used this video for their new players.

In 1997, I retired from 30 years of teaching and my wife Mary and I headed to Mesa in the Fall. I met Kathy Cullop at that time and we collaborated on an Internet Venture. In early 2000, Shuffleboard Segments appeared on her website - polyglide.com (Appendix - A2 Page 33). This project continues to be a work in progress.

In 2002, I began teaching strategy lessons at East Mesa Parks with 'Shuffleboard' Bill Visser. Our first season we visited 8 different parks with over 250 people taking in the sessions. I had sign-in sheets. Starting in the 2003 season, I expanded our territory to include District I in East Mesa with 'Shufflin' Ward Dowell at my side. In that season we visited 13 parks. I'm proud to say that this season we had 404 shufflers who came to listen and learn.

This brings me to the summer of 2003. All of a sudden it occurred to me to do a book *for western courts!* What follows is an incorporation of what I have described to the reader in the past few paragraphs. Enjoy the text, my hope is that it will *enlighten, inform, and excite* every level of shuffler.