

TANEYTOWN SENIOR AUTHORS CHILDREN'S STORY



*Carroll
Vista's
Barbara
Childs*

Thunderhead Bowl and Grill in Taneytown, Maryland has long been a cornerstone for duckpin bowling in the Maryland area. Bowlers outside the immediate vicinity of Thunderhead traditionally referred to the bowling center with the weekend tournaments of the 1980s as simply, "Taneytown".

Always having the feel of a quaint, friendly bowling center whenever a player visited the recreational outlet, it seems quite apparent that the bowling center was not only a reflection of the people who ran the establishment, but more so of the people who actually bowled there.

The Monday Morning Seniors league at "Taneytown" is a prime example of this phenomenon. Each member who comprises the substantial league of 8 teams of triples has his/her own story. And these stories are very much noteworthy. One such member of

the Monday league is a player on the appropriately named team, "Have Fun". Barbara Childs is the team's lead-off bowler, and it's only fitting to begin this series of senior features with her as a lead-in. A resident of nearby Carroll Vista, Barbara is an exceptionally active individual, with a lot

going on in her agenda during each week. Staying fit with the bowling and being a member of her garden club meetings, Barbara has an additional sideline that is a most interesting project. She is currently in the process of producing a children's story that she authored to honor St. Patrick's Day, entitled "Lucky Leprechaun". Childs actually wrote the story after a burst of enthusiasm, amazingly, in only one evening while working at her former career as a School Nurse/Instructional Assistant at the Uniontown Elementary School. But a plan for making the story publicly available didn't really develop until after she retired from her job.

Without giving away too much of the plot here, the story is about a mischievous elf who gets involved with a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow. The story is intended to be in the format of a mini-book with a series of attractive

illustrations. Barbara has enlisted the services of a talented friend who is an artist, and thus will be providing compelling images to go along with the story, although coordinating a block of time with her friend's busy schedule is one of the challenges that Childs has faced with getting the book finalized. However, it's very close to completion. Barbara is also in contact with a printing company in Thurmont, Maryland to assemble and bind the book, so she's been busy with those meetings, as well. The plan is to have the product ready for a modest distribution by the upcoming St. Patrick's Day of 2023.

As if the book production wasn't enough of a story, a most astonishing event occurred earlier in the autumn of 2022 for Barbara, when she and her husband, Roland, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. A 70-year milestone is undoubtedly remarkable, but what's even more jaw-dropping is that all of the original wedding party, except for the best man, is still around and was present at the celebration!

Oh, and by the way, Childs is no slouch on the lanes either. In the opening week of the 2022-2023 season, Barbara made it on Thunderhead Lanes' "Wall of Fame", with a fabulous 134 game, and her name is still on the Ladies' Leader Board with the closing of the year 2022. Cheers to you, Barbara!



SPARETALK SOCIAL TO ARRIVE FOR THE BOWLING PUBLIC ON JANUARY 12TH

As we all basically understand, a website is a place on the Internet that has pages of information relating to a specific topic, whether it be a plumbing company, a news service, or an opinion page. But the term "Social Media" can seem vague to those who have never had a desire to see what it's all about, and the whole idea might seem to be just one of those things that's there for the new generation that can't seem to live without it.

Essentially, when you break down the phrase "social media site", it's probably easier to understand it in reverse order. A site is simply a place where people convene – such as a construction site, being a place where workers go to erect a building. Then, the term "media", refers to the broadcasting or providing of information. And obviously, "social" refers to people interacting. So, a social media site is simply a place where people go on the Internet to exchange personal ideas or opinions on a variety of subjects.

For a while, the only social media websites you would ever hear about, were the ones like Facebook and Twitter. But there are others, and more and more are popping up every day.

My idea is to expand on the status quo of 'just a social media site', to merge a typical website with the social aspect, and thus I've come up with a 'combination unit', so to speak, with two websites that interact with each other – one being "SpareTalk", and the other being "SpareTalk Social".

SpareTalk was originally a series of video interviews that I conducted with some of the more iconic players of the duckpin game. SpareTalk, the websites, are an extension of such, but with a decided emphasis on the everyday player.

To get to both of these sites, you'll just need to start out at "<http://www.sparetalk.com>", and a link to the social media site will be on this site's home page. SpareTalk Social will have a link that takes you back to the primary SpareTalk site.

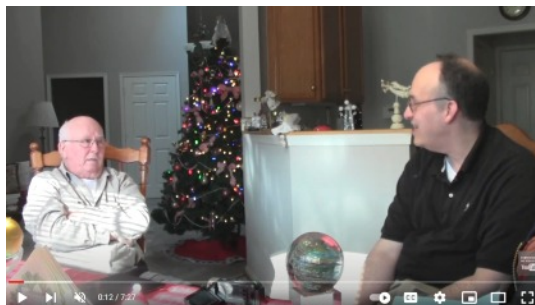
Most of the social media websites, like Facebook and Twitter, require people to sign up and become members before they can navigate those applications. The SpareTalk pair of websites won't force this type of thing. You'll be free to browse each one to read information. Regarding SpareTalk Social, it will be more of a 'blog post', or mini-article website, but there are

locations within the website for special groups for member interaction, such as forums for Tenpins, Duckpins, Seniors, Left-Handed bowlers, and there will be other groups in which members can actually create and invite friends to participate in chats and exchanges of information. In order to be in those groups, however, you will need to join as a member, but doing so won't invade your privacy. You'll only need to provide your name, a separate Username, and a Password.

Although SpareTalk is about bowling, it won't be entirely about the sport. Mini-articles will be published that, in some cases, have nothing to do with bowling, but will be more inspirational and to express my own personal insights on life in general. Members also can create topics within forums that don't necessarily pertain to bowling. For example, if you're a member of several groups, and you want to create a topic within the "Seniors" group that relates to playing bridge, you'll be free to do so, and then subsequently invite other seniors to exchange thoughts on your new topic.

In the event that you haven't heard of the "SpareTalk" Video Series . . .

One interview segment you might find interesting is when Duckpin Hall of Famer, Shorty Divver, discussed in 2019 the time he bowled blindfolded when invited to participate with blind bowlers. This was during a period when local duckpin professionals would put on



exhibitions at VA hospitals and similar events. He recalled that he did roll one strike, during that event. But the aftermath included it being difficult for him to adjust back to normal. The bowling center set up handrails along the side of the 'alleys' to use as a guides.

Things I've Learned . . .

A SMILE IS ALL IT TAKES

Smiles. Everybody's got one, and it's probably one of the most overlooked features of one's spirituality.

We all come into this world with nothing material. But we're given a smile. And because it takes less muscles to use it than a frown, we're inherently encouraged to use it. It doesn't cost anything, yet, it's the currency for the most important transactions in life, which is in the 'trade' of establishing friendships. A smile is the most genuine possession you can offer to someone, and touches the widest scope of people:

- Whether it be between strangers or friends, when people meet each other, sometimes for the first time, a smile is the best ice-breaker. The exchanging of smiles upon greetings is the basis, and a reminder, toward looking for the good in people.

- To the person down on his luck, a smile can help to uplift him – at least a little.

- To the executive who's stressed out, attacked from all sides and at his breaking point, a smile from a complete stranger can help him realize that the whole world isn't against him.

- To the lonely, a smile brings a moment of togetherness

- To the unloved, a smile instills hope

- For the children, a smile welcomes them

- From the children, a smile touches your heart

- For the elderly, a smile shows care

- A smile can help to ease someone else's pain, for it takes their mind off their anguish for a moment

- In competition, a "game face" might be a form of offense, but a smile is a strong defense, for it shows that you're not worried about the outcome

- For your pets, they know you mean them no harm if you give them a smile.

- Just remember, angels are all around us, but we don't recognize them – we're not supposed to. But that special gleam in an eye from an unfamiliar smiling face might be a Divine Gift to you. Feel good about it.

But, we're all human, and sometimes we can't summon a smile. That's okay, too. People will understand.

TOURNEY JOURNEY

Novak Edges Dorr in 2022 Climax Event at Greenmount Bowl

John Novak made local headlines in Carroll County when he captured the December 2022 Sunday Duckpin series title at Greenmount Bowl in nearby Hampstead, Maryland. Novak defeated local favorite of Taneytown, Bob Dorr, of the Monday Morning Seniors league in a thrilling end to the spectacle. Dorr was within a whisker of capturing the Sunday Series title, after a rousing pair of bracket victories prior to the championship. But the ultimate victor, Novak, made every ball count in a tough struggle, including clearing 2 of the final 3 pins off the deck on his 3rd ball in the 10th frame to come away with a handicap score of 139-137 over Dorr in the championship game.

The runner-up in the event, Bob Dorr, rolls on the team, SPLIT HAPPENS, in the Monday senior league, and pitched an impressive 414 set (3 games) to qualify for the bracket finals.

Late Breaking News . . .

Andy Welling of the AMF Dundalk Monday Night Triples league claimed the Pop Whitten Pro Tour



championship on Sunday, January 8, 2023 by defeating Steve Dyer in a tightly contested 140-137 battle. The event was held at Pinland Lanes in Dundalk, Maryland.

ON THE LOCAL FRONT . . .

One for the Price of Two

A very entertaining game was rolled by Jan Neil of Thunderhead Bowl and Grill's Wednesday Night All-Stars tenpin league at the end of December. Experiencing troubles with the pesky 10-pin in the early going, Neil, who carries a 162 average, started the night slowly with a 122 game, but then improved on it a bit with a score of 144. However, in Game 3, Jan turned the tables with a "thunderous" 8-bagger, but got tapped in the 9th frame by the nemesis "#10" again. However, Jan finished solidly to roll a score of 268 – a game that outscored her combined first two offerings of the night.

BOWLING TIPS

Keep the Ball in Front of You

In the sport of bowling, everyone has a method of delivery that's all their own. In the "small ball" variations of the game, these styles are about as unique as fingerprints. You can pretty much identify a person in a crowd of 100 players from behind, just by watching her or him deliver the ball. Some might approach the foul line fast, while others are more methodical and deliberate. And because of these different nuances of each player's game, not all 'pointers' will work for everyone. "What's good for the goose isn't always good for the gander". However, in this ongoing series of Bowling Tips, I will outline and explain what has worked for me, throughout my tenure in bowling.

While the point made in the headline above might serve as a 'no-brainer', there are times when even the simplest of concepts are taken for granted. When a ball goes off target, often it's because a person's release is either early or late in conjunction with his/her footwork, or it's because a person's torso may not be 'straight on' with the target pin. If you can consciously keep it in mind to keep the ball directly in front of you as a normal bi-product of your release, you'll eliminate a lot of problems that are often related to timing.

It's true that some people get the ball out on the lane, while others roll it at the foul line, but the objective is the same for all – to send the ball on a path directed at your target. This even applies to those who roll a hook ball — you've got to do your part by hitting your mark if you're depending on the ball to move for you at the right time.

EDITOR'S CHOICE:

"WORLDLEAGUES WATCH" CONTESTS TO BEGIN NEXT WEEK

For those leagues (about 14 of them) that are a part of the "Automatic Evelyn" online league secretarial system, I will be creating a pair of "just for fun" contests to involve all the bowlers under that 'umbrella'. The leagues that are a part of this repository are found at the link, "<http://www.worldleagues.net>".

The contests will be in the form of tournaments that progress over the course of approximately 4 to 6 weeks.

The ELIMINATOR tourney is a pretty simple concept: the field of around 400 bowlers will bowl their league matches, as normal. The tournaments use the scores of these weekly league proceedings. If you bowl 10 pins or more under your average in any of the games of your weekly set, then you're eliminated from the tournament. The last person remaining, which usually takes about 4 weeks or so to establish, is declared the winner.

The BRACKET MADNESS tournament is a little more involved, but pretty easy to understand. In Week 1, the field of 400 is narrowed down to the best 256 players, with full 100% handicap from a base average of 160 (or whatever is the highest average in the field). These 256 qualifiers will be spread into 4 separate divisions of 64 players each. These members of the 14 leagues, which spans across the states of Maryland and Minnesota, will be paired against one another, head-to-head with full handicap, using their league scores for a nightly 3-game total. This total when matched against your opponent, will determine if you win or lose your bracket game to advance to the next round, much like the NCAA March Madness college basketball tournament and its bracket advancement. At the end of approximately 6 weeks, the ultimate winners of each of these 4 bracket divisions will advance to a Final Four, and will continue the competition against each other, until a final winner is crowned as champion. Full details can be found at "<http://www.sparetalk.com>".

THUNDERHEAD'S THURSDAY NIGHT MIXED DOUBLES LEAGUE TO START ITS 2ND HALF THIS WEEK

- Cost is \$20.00 a week
- Start Date: Thursday, January 12, 2023
- Practice usually starts around 6:50 pm.
- Players should arrive at the lanes at around 6:30 pm on opening night (this week) for a kick-off league meeting

HOUSE SPECIALS FOR JANUARY 2023 at THUNDERHEAD BOWL & GRILL

For senior citizens, the special rate of \$3.00 per game is in effect on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays, up until 6:00 PM. This is for both Tenpins and Duckpins

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