

OFF THE LANES AND ON THE TRACK, KEEPS HARTMAN'S DRIVE ALIVE

One of Taneytown's most active bowlers, Buddy Hartman, is a master of time management. He competes in leagues and open play sessions several times a week, and stays on top of his bowling game with periodic weekend tournaments in the Greenmount Lanes Duckpin Sunday Series. Being a member of the Monday Morning Seniors league at Thunderhead Bowl and Grill, he currently holds the high set in the house at a 438 clip. But Hartman also has another fascinating hobby that involves a lot of dedicated effort.

For the past 25 years or so, Buddy has been an aficionado of Radio-Controlled Racing. His recent escapades with this recreational outlet take place at Staub Brothers RC Speedway in Gettysburg (Bonneauville), PA.

Staub Brothers Speedway is owned and operated by Scott Staub, and has been serving the public since around 1990. It is an oval-shaped dirt track, which yields a truly unique and stimulating experience for enthusiasts.

The RC Racing hobby is one in which you can see the fruits of your labors, as the race car owners, usually about 25 to 35 in number, actively take part in the events from a podium above the impressive raceway.



Here we see Buddy and other enthusiasts putting their RC vehicles through their paces

Alongside the actual racing area is a modest-sized hobby shop, where car owners can buy parts and work on their vehicles.

The outdoor racing season for Hartman runs from April through September, but Buddy keeps tuned up with indoor racing in the colder months.

Hartman's efforts usually cost him about 12 hours in a single day of working with his "4-wheeled baby", as it's not unusual for a session to last from 10 am through 10 pm.

"You have to have a very understanding wife", Buddy said in a light-hearted tone, speaking in reference to the lengthy days at the speedway.

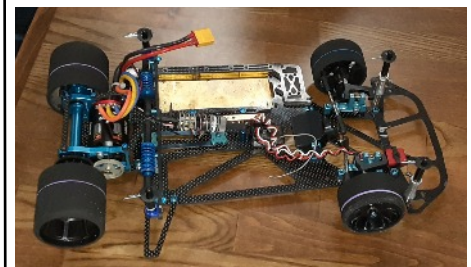
Buddy has been a long-time roller of the duckpin sport. He even appeared on the "Pinbusters" TV telecast right around the years of 1959 or 1960. Viewers from the



Radio-Controlled Racing at Staub Brothers RC Speedway

Washington and Baltimore areas will remember the long-running program, which aired on WMAR, Channel 2.

For those who like cars, RC Racing sounds like a fabulous outlet.



Shown in the photos above, Buddy, and one of his car's chassis

ANOTHER KIND OF BRUNSWICK “MINERALITE” BALL

Brunswick has been a manufacturer of many types of merchandise, from pool tables to bowling balls, and a good deal more. Many of the old school duckpinners will have noticed the Brunswick name on a variety of old rubber bowling balls. In regard to Duckpins, I've seen the Brunswick Fireball and the Brunswick Mineralite (there may be another one, but it slips my mind at the moment). But, Brunswick also manufactured a “Mineralite” ball for Lawn Bowling, as shown below.

COMPARISON

It's a little tough to tell from the photos below, but a lawn bowling ball isn't perfectly round. It's more of an oval shape, something like a tire. It's about the same general size as a duckpin ball, but narrower from a side view, as you can sort of see in the right-side picture below:



Lawn Bowling balls have a bias, meaning that they're weighted on one side, so that the ball will begin to curve when you roll it, as it begins to slow down near the end of its roll.



LAWN BOWLING:

ANOTHER VARIATION OF OUR SPORT THAT APPEALS TO YOUNGER AND OLDER PLAYERS

Lawn Bowling is in the family of Target Bowling games, internationally known as “Bowls”. Games like Bocce and the French ‘Petanque’ versions of the sport are also in this classification. And we can even consider Horseshoes in the group also, since the object is to get close to an established target post.

Lawn Bowling is popular with seniors in Florida, but the game has a following in various places on the North American continent. The pictures below are from the Youth championships of July 2022, held in Canada via the Ontario Lawn Bowls Association.



Photos provided to the Ontario Lawn Bowls Association by Phelan Niu

CROSSROADS

When we look back at our lives, we seldom think about it, but we don't run along a straight line as we progress on our singular destinies. There are inevitable turns and detours that we make. So much of what we see on a daily basis is symbolic of the way our lives actually function. Each person's life is like an overhead view of a city map, with streets and roads that run along in a hodgepodge of twists and turns. Some of these directional changes lead us down a different path than we may have originally planned.

When we think back on decisions that we have made, some of them look to be for the best, while others might have seemed like wrong choices. The ones we reflect upon in regret may not really have been the wrong selections. A person might be kicking himself or herself for not buying that piece of property or stock, that ended up soaring in value. Or a person might be downtrodden because of investing a big part of his/her savings in something that plummeted. But perhaps not making a big score was the better thing to happen. Suffering a financial setback for one person might have resulted in a positive swing for someone else, which may have resulted in saving the lives of children, for example. These "life decisions" can sometimes be notable crossroads at different parts of our lives.

But there are other parts of life that involve people, which might end up being only temporary, but are necessary.

We coordinate with different individuals that make turns on their

own path which allow them to run in the same direction as us at the same time. You might be on a road trip, when your car breaks down. A motorist going in a direction that he doesn't normally follow might be the one who gets you to safety. That would be one of those short-term intersections between people.

Bowling leagues demonstrate this 'meeting point for people' in an effective manner and last for a longer period. You can bowl in leagues for years, and then once in a while, you come into contact with new members, and enjoy quality time with them over the span of weeks or even years. This turns out to be of reciprocal benefit for all those involved, and a wonderful filling of voids in people's lives.

When these members move on to different leagues after a few years, or even out of bowling completely, they may distance themselves from each other, not by choice, but simply as a consequence of continuing on their own timeline to their next stops. These subsequent 'stopping points' are not only destinations, but also might even be designations from a Higher Authority, in places where you're better suited for the next stage of life's journey. It can be a little depressing when people go in different directions after a while, but that's why each life is filled with dozens, or even hundreds, of friends and acquaintances. When one moves on, another takes that spot. This is all part of the Divine Plan – at least, that's my take. But it's also my belief that these people will see each other again in the next part of what awaits us at a later time.

From the Editor . . .

BOOKS ON THE HORIZON

As some may have already heard, I am working on a book about bowling, that I hope to have completed by the middle of Spring 2023. It will be somewhat similar in content to these newsletters. The book will discuss the progression of the game which became a sport, but also it will have a few thoughts on life, and how the things we experience from bowling tie into everyday living.

Although my personal insights are on the subjective side, the references to bowling will be backed up by historical resources. You might find some areas to be most interesting.

Also, there is a young man from New England by the name of Brian Ewing, who will be releasing a book on Duckpin Bowling, sometime around May 2023, so this should be fascinating, as well. More on that will be reported when updates become available.

SPARETALK, THE SOCIAL MEDIA WEBSITE UPDATE

The new social media website for bowling kicked off last week, and



has picked up about a dozen members, so far. As time moves forward, with more content being uploaded to that platform, it should begin to roll right along.



BOWLING TIPS

Lean Into Your Shot

As we discussed in our recent newsletter regarding keeping the ball in front of you, that concept is actually the end result of the ideal location of the ball after you release it. But, getting the ball to that spot on the lane requires a certain amount of action from the player.

Leaning into your shot is another of those techniques that is a normal part of one's delivery of the ball. But sometimes a bowler can become docile to the point of letting his/her arm do all of the work. The approach to the foul line requires a walk-up and a stop. The releasing of the ball should be a part of the motion, but sometimes a person's entire body doesn't finish the job of the approach to the foul line. Baseball pitchers perform what seems like an exaggerated motion with the wind-up when throwing a ball. But they're basically getting their weight into a pitch, rather than just standing flat-footed and tossing a ball.

Bowling is a sport that operates on a similar principle, but with less exertion, in which timing is a lot more important than velocity. Getting your entire body involved will help to propel that small or large bowling ball in the proper direction. However, this is one of those things that should be done with moderation, and to the point of not getting yourself off-balance. The ball is going forward, and your entire body weight goes that way just long enough to assist with ejecting the ball. Just a slight bit of conscious effort in this regard might help if you get in a rut with your control.

You only need to focus on this idea for a frame or two (or three) – just long enough to get your mind and body back on your mechanics.

UPCOMING EVENTS

POP WHITTEN PRO TOUR (Duckpins)

February 3-5, 2023

"The Super Bowl"

AMF Southwest, Linthicum Heights, MD

PBA BOWLING TOUR (Tenpins)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20 2023 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 22 2023

PBA50 Odessa Southwest Open (Senior Event) - Odessa, Texas

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20 2023 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 22 2023

PBA50 Bowlero Open (Senior Event) - Chandler, Arizona

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20 2023 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 22 2023

PBA Odessa Southwest Open - Odessa, Texas

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20 2023 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 22 2023

PBA Bowlero Open - Chandler, Arizona

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29 2023 - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 2023

2023 U.S. Open - Indianapolis, Indiana

SARASOTA – AUSTRALIAN PAIRS (Lawn Bowling)

WHEN: January 21, 2023 - All-day

WHERE: Sun City Center LBC

1009N Pebble Beach Blvd

Sun City Center, FL 33573

WORTH A SECOND GLANCE

Last week, we had two stellar performances in the Monday Morning Senior league that earned billing on the Thunderhead Bowl and Grill 'Wall of Fame'.

"Cover Girl" from last week's newsletter, Barbara Childs, was on a sustained roll, tallying games of 112, 117, and 123 for a grand 352 series. And for the guys, Larry Brown opened Game 3 with 7 marks in a row, including a triple-header for a first-rate 177 game, to finish off the day with a splendid 401 set.

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

Thunderhead Bowl & Grill
4337 Old Taneytown Road
Taneytown, MD 21787
410-751-1750