



## Down & Back Newsletter 2025 Mid-year Edition

### Note from Your President: Bill Crouse

I am excited to bring back the Down & Back Newsletter I enjoyed reading many years ago. We will strive to make this happen twice a year. So, provide any news that needs to be reported.

The NC-HPA held a winter meeting in January, with the minutes from that meeting posted on the NC-HPA website. Our next association meeting will be in November at the State Singles Championship tournament.

Obviously, it is important that we help keep the pitching courts in good shape and that requires working with the Parks & Recreation Dept. to make sure this happens. We have lost courts in Southern Pines and Statesville is planning to take about half of the courts for pickleball courts. However, on the plus side, we are back using the courts at Troy.

The 2025 NC Horseshoe pitching schedule started off with the 1<sup>st</sup> East-West Winter

League challenge, held on March 22 in Winston-Salem. We had 11 pitchers from each league compete against each other, with the "Cool" Pitchers winning out. Our leagues are very important to the success of the association. Make sure you check them out in 2025-2026 seasons.

We scheduled 38 tournaments for 2025, and mother-nature has forced the cancellation of several. Our State Doubles Tournament was well attended at Green Level, with 12 teams.

We have many tournaments remaining on the schedule before the final State Singles Championship Tournament on November 1<sup>st</sup>, at Green Level. **Pre-entry, with \$30 entry fee required by October 11<sup>th</sup>. Entry form on NC-HPA website. Send entry to the Secretary.**

We are very excited that we have had 5 new members join this year, with our current membership at 73. Keep recruiting and welcoming folks to join NC-HPA. See you on the courts!

### **Pitching News!**

#### **Leagues:**

**The Winter Leagues from Raleigh (Polar Bears) and Winston-Salem (Cool Pitchers)** had great attendance through the winter months. The leagues held the first East-West League challenge tournament at the Miller Park Courts. Lots of 'trash talking', but the Winston-Salem league won

out and captured the first League Challenge trophy. This will be an annual event.

	<b>NC-HPA</b>	
<b>WINTER LEAGUE CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT TROPHY</b>		
2025 WINNER W-S "COOL" PITCHERS	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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**The Raleigh Copperhead Summer League** braved the 'hot summer' days and concluded another year. This was the 13th year of that league. Overall, including the winter & summer league years, Raleigh has marked 25 league events. The success of this league is due to Paul Highlander's

commitment to keeping it going, with the help of Raymond Callahan.

### **2025 State Doubles Tournament:**

12 teams pitched in the State Doubles tournament in two classes, with Teddy Vernon and Clifton Jones winning the Championship Class and Janet McFarland George Rogers winning the A-Class. Congratulations to all contestants and winners for bearing the HOT courts at Green Level. We will discuss at the State meeting about holding the 2026 State Doubles earlier in the year, to avoid the hot weather.

### **NC-HPA Pitchers at World Tournament:**

This year the 2025 World Horseshoe Pitching Tournament was in Sandy, Utah. NC-HPA was well represented by 6-pitchers. Attending was, John Jeidy, Teddy Vernon, Janet McFarland, Clarence Lassiter, Jr. Judy Phillips and Bill Crouse.

Congratulations to Paul Highlander for achieving a major milestone in 2024, when he attended the World Horseshoe Pitching Tournament in Washington, it was his **20<sup>th</sup> straight** year pitching at the World's.

### **New Things for 2025!**

We are back pitching at Troy at the Lowe Warner Memorial Park. We welcome Chad Brown as a new tournament director. Chad has been pitching for a long time, including starting as a youth.

We have created a new NC-HPA Facebook page. Check it out, we will be posting updates from tournaments and any other related association news.

<https://www.facebook.com/nc.horseshoepitching>

This year was the first year that we have awarded a "Rivers Prewette" youth scholarship to a young NC-HPA pitcher, Rachel Leonhardt. She received \$250 toward her continuing education expenses.

The association voted at the annual meeting in February to recommend, for consistency, a standard entry fee of \$15 for all sanctioned tournaments. However, tournament directors may charge more at their discretion. Please continue to extend good Sportsmanship while pitching!

### **Upcoming Officer Elections:**

This year, the Vice President, Statistician and Publicity Director positions are up for re-election. New nominations and current individuals wishing to re-run for the positions should send their intent into Janet McFarland, secretary/treasurer. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the State annual meeting.

The annual meeting and elections will be held prior to the tournament to ensure we have a quorum present.

### **Important Tournament Message:**

It is very important for all Tournament directors to utilize the **NHPA HS Master** program at their tournaments! Using this program assures the pitchers that all classes are being set up correctly and that the results are accurate. Please review the NHPA for instructional videos on how to use the program, they are very helpful.

Also, make sure you announce the tournament rules ahead of starting,

including how ties will be broken and what the payout will be should it be a money tournament. NC-HPA by-laws state that all class tie for 'first place' will be decided by a pitch-off. Make sure all results are checked and confirmed, before giving out the class awards.

Pitchers play an important part in making tournaments run smoothly and by the rules. After you pitch, return and stand behind your opponent until they pitch. Walk to the next pit together. DO NOT STAND IN FRONT OR TO THE SIDE, SAFETY FIRST!

### **NC-HPA Hall of Fame News:**

We congratulate Paul Highlander for being elected into the NC-HPA Hall of Fame in 2024. On the 2025 HOF ballot we have added a new nominee, Shernetta Edwards. Shernetta had pitched for many years, until health issues forced her to stop. Other individuals on the HOF ballot are Raymond Callahan, Don Guiton, and Clarence Lassiter, Jr. The selection committee will be voting in September.

### **Remembering Our Friend!**

In the past couple of years, we have lost several fellow horseshoe pitchers and friends. Always remembering:

- Tommy Holloman, 2024
- John Elliot, 2024
- Martin (Marty) Danco, 2025

### **CHECK US OUT AT:**

[www.nc-horseshoepitching.com](http://www.nc-horseshoepitching.com)  
[www.facebook.com/nc.horseshoepitching](https://www.facebook.com/nc.horseshoepitching)