

News to Spare

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Mission Statement

The Greater Houston USBC Association ensures the integrity and protects the future of the sport, provides programs and services and enhances the bowling experience

YOUTH LEADERS GIVE THANKS

The GHUSBC youth leaders gave their "THANKS" by being servers and helpers on Thanksgiving Day. They joined past youth leaders at the 30th Annual Thanksgiving Food Feast at the George R. Brown convention Center.

The group that met at 7am on Thanksgiving morning were Terence McQueen, Charles Smoot, III, Robbie Fravel, Emily Fravel, Dominick Savage, Tory Brown, Nicholas Dennis and Charles Smoot, II. Their duties included setting up tables and chairs for guests, setting up tables for donated clothes, setting up tables and sorting donated food for the food basket give a-ways.

Our second group of youth leaders and parents arrived at 10am,

Kyle Kahlden, Emily Fravel, Ellen Farber, Shane Weikel, Robbie Fravel, Ashleigh Calcote, Jarrett Grant, Kyle Calcote, Ed Calcote, Amy Calcote and Betty Kahlden. A group from the University of Houston Cougar Bowling Club joined us as well, Michael Krup, Angela Guevara, Rebecca Saenz, Ariel Cruz and Claudio Saenz. The 10 am group assisted in serving food and assisting guests to tables.

As a group, we had never participated with this annual event and I'm sure this won't be our last time either. Although, there were times that we actually didn't have anything to do, I truly believe our time was not wasted. Just being part of such a massive gathering of people giving of their time and

Robbie Fravel

witnessing people who were truly grateful for a hot meal was an eye opening experience for all who participated. The 10 am group assisted in serving food and assisting guests to tables.

We have an "awesome" group of youth leaders who are giving, responsible and respectable young people that I am proud and honored to know. Not only will they be future leaders within the community of bowling, but in our world as a whole.

In the coming year the GHUSBC Youth Leaders will be supporting a local "soup kitchen"; I'll keep you posted on the event.

HOW SWEET IT WAS

Husband and wife team mates, Kenny and Lauren Garcia, bowling in the 2 and 4 positions respectively, paced each other strike for strike in the third game in the Scramblers league at Copperfield, January 13th. Kenny left three pins in the ninth frame but Lauren continued to strike. They were talking and joking with each other between

their turns but when they got up to bowl they were all business. Kenny struck the rest of the game for a 277. Lauren had never had a 300, could this be her night? And her night it was! Lauren threw strikes the rest of the game to get that elusive 300. What made it even better was that Kenny and Lauren's two college age children, Dustin and

Kendra were there to see it. Kendra left the next day to go back to school.

Not to be outdone, on the following week Dustin bowling on the same team bowled a 300 also, although this was not his first.

From the President.....Donna Hall

I trust all of you enjoyed a happy holiday season and you are ready for some tournament bowling in the New Year!

Once the New Year arrives, it means only one thing for bowlers...tournaments and more tournaments. Traditionally, the spring part of the year has been the busiest time for these tournaments and this year in Houston is no exception.

In January, the Association will hold the Men's Invitational Tournament at Copperfield Bowl. This tournament is often referred to as the "Men's City Tournament" and it is in its third year of existence, growing in

popularity each year. During three of the four weekends in February, the women will compete in their city tournament at Max Bowl North. Reserve date for women to enter the tournament is February 6, 2009. We will hold a Tournament of Champions Luncheon in March for our tournament winners, prior to the Annual Meeting.

Deadlines for the State Tournaments are approaching in February. Entries can be found in the centers or on the website at www.texasbowling.com. We are happy to be hosting the Open Tournament this year, which will begin in mid April and continue for nine weekends. The center

for the Team event is Armadilla II and Alpha Bowl will host the Doubles and Singles event. Be sure to bowl with us!

Just a reminder, February is "Bowl for the Cure" month. Think Pink and Support the Komen Foundation with a donation from your league. Monies can be turned into the bowling office or forwarded to bowling headquarters in the name of your league for recognition.

Be sure to visit our website to stay up to date on the latest in bowling in Houston.

FROM THE ASSOCIATION MANAGER.....Cheryl Polak...

My wish for you in 2009 is for a very happy, prosperous and high scoring year. There is something that can help make your year a little more prosperous and take a little stress off your life.

Have you ever filled out a tournament entry into a national or state event? If so, you know that they require book or ending averages to be verified by the local association manager. This means you have to make a trip downtown to our office to do this. Now this can be done from your computer at home or work and is a lot less expensive and time consuming.

You can now log onto the internet at www.bowl.com and click on "member". This will lead you to a section in which you can look up an individual bowler by name or member number. After you put in the necessary information and click on "go" it will take you to a page that lists the years you bowled. There is a tab at the beginning of this web page that is named "Leagues/Averages" and by clicking this it will bring up a web page that will list your average in every league you have bowled back to the 1998-1999 season. You can print this web page and send it in for each of your bowlers. This is accepted by the national and state tournament manager



HIGH SCHOOL BOWLING.....Charles Smoot III

The Houston area high school bowling season is near the halfway point. You can find current information on Texas high school bowling at the Texas Bowling Center Association website texasbowlingcenters.org. The Houston area districts that have reported their standings are Katy, Houston NW and Houston SE. The top varsity teams in these districts reported are Mayde Creek, Katy, Seven Lakes, Texas City, Clear Brook, Pearland, Cy-Falls, Langham Creek, Jersey Village, Dawson, Cy-Ridge and Cy-Woods. Unfortunately, most districts do not choose to list individual averages because they fluctuate so much during the regular season.

My school, Clear Brook, has won matches against all seven teams in our district except Texas City. This puts the Texas City varsity teams in the lead for the district title and the Clear Brook varsity teams a close second. Both teams should fare well at regional this year.

In my continuing quest for district bowler of the year, I am currently winning 90% of head to head competitions and lead the district with a 222 average. If successful, this could be my third consecutive year to win the Bowler of the Year title.

On January 9 we had an exciting match against Pearland High School. They're lead by youth travel league bowler Dylan Paddison and Alex Strickland.

The Clear Brook boys' varsity led 5-2 after individual match play, but Pearland made a strong push at the end. The score was 7-4 going into the third game of team competition. Brook was up by only 18 pins total with one game to go. We needed to either win total pins or the last game to win the match. Our team fell flat in the last game with 7 opens. Luckily, Pearland struggled as well and Clear Brook was able to win the final game 136-131 with marks by travel league bowlers Tim McDaniel and Charles Smoot. The final match score was Clear Brook 11, Pearland 4. The girls' varsity won 15-0 bowling unopposed, lead by travel league bowler Amy Rutherford with a 191 in match play. Our next opponent will be Alvin on 1/16

High School Bowling Facts

1. Bowling is the largest growing high school sport.
2. More than 50,000 students bowl in high school competitions each year
3. The average high school bowler has a 171 average. Most have family who bowl; over half are in leagues. Seventy percent of high school bowlers are USBC members. Bowlers follow UIL rules and must maintain good grades. Bowling is a letter sport in over 20 states but Texas is not one of them.
4. The Texas High School Bowling Club is part of the Texas Bowling Centers Association, and provides competition between high schools for boys and girls on a varsity and junior varsity level.
5. Special needs students can participate.
6. Texas has 30 bowling districts with over 150 schools participating from all over the state - Houston, Dallas, Austin, Central Texas and San Antonio
7. Some of the Houston area state team champions in the past are Alvin and Texas City. Houston area singles champions were from Alvin, Pasadena, Fort Bend, the Woodlands and Cy-Falls.

GALVESTON IN THE AFTERMATH OF IKE.....Larry Caldwell

Who would have thought that four months after my wife & I left Galveston with our bowling equipment and other "can't live without personal effects" that our beloved Galveston would still look like a war zone in many parts of the city & county. According to the Galveston Daily News, two huge debris piles were assembled in Galveston with one estimate that 1.5 billion cubic yards of debris will have to be hauled from Galveston. It is estimated that it will take 3 years to remove at a cost of approximately \$50 million. There are still boats grounded all over the bay and along the roads with one area near the south end of the causeway looking like a "boat grave yard". Hurricane Ike was the most expensive hurricane in Texas history.

In regard to the clean up that is the responsibility of the City of Galveston, they have done a yeomen's job in this effort and in bringing the City back to life. However, the issuing of building permits has been very slow and that apparently has had an affect on the private sector's ability to rebuild. Although, I believe the major problem that the private sector has had is the difficulty in dealing with the various insurance companies. In addition there aren't enough reputable contractors available.

Not so long ago, we had reports that FEMA had spent upwards of \$400 million in our area. However, when pressed for support for these expenditures, they could only substantiate approximately \$29 million. The "red tape" involved with dealing with FEMA is the only thing more frustrating than dealing with the insurance companies. And from the reports that we have seen, there are still several hundred displaced citizens awaiting FEMA facilities. The University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston, a 500 plus room hospital, has reduced its capacity to 200 rooms due to the damage it sustained and as a result has laid off approximately 3,500 employees. As far as we know, there is no plan to bring the capacity back pre Ike anytime soon.

It appears that several businesses have opted not to rebuild. However, most of the restaurants are open again and appear to be doing a booming business. The jury is still out on the Balinese Room. In an article in the Galveston Daily News, they write that the Balinese may have seen its last memories. An interesting tidbit in this article is that among the many celebrities that performed there over the years was Peggy Lee. It seems she really liked a cocktail invented for her by the Balinese bartender. He named it after the Spanish version of her middle name (Margaret) and thus the "Margarita" was born.

Another interesting thing about Hurricane Ike is that its path was almost identical to the path of the great storm of 1900 in which approximately 6,000 people perished. After that storm, the citizens of Galveston had the foresight and fortitude to rebuild the City into a bigger and better place. I certainly hope that our generation has the vision and grit to do the same.

Triplicate Achievement

Kitty Wages bowling in the Girls Time Out League at Armadilla Lanes II carries a 112 average. On January 5th 2009 Kitty bowled a triplicate score. She had a 336 series, which consisted of games of 112, 112, 112.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the Greater Houston USBC either as a board member or an association representative please call the association office at 713-874-1277 or email www.bowlhouston.com.

Special Olympics Athletes have a Ball.....Kimberly Baird

On December 5th - 6th, Special Olympics Texas- Greater Houston Area hosted the area bowling tournament at Copperfield Bowling Center. The athletes' ages ranged from 8 years on up. The tournament offered several different events; assisted and unassisted ramp bowling, singles, doubles, mixed doubles, unified doubles, and team. The athletes were divided into divisions based on gender, ability and age. This year, the tournament had a great turnout of 611 athletes, an increase of almost 100 bowlers from last year. These athletes came from 35 schools and delegations from around the Greater Houston Area.

The tournament could not happen if it weren't for the dedicated volunteers and groups that provide the athletes with a safe place to compete. This 2008 tournament was hosted by the wonderful staff at Copperfield Bowling Center and led by Co-Competition Directors, Mark McAllister and Sidney Shaver. The Tournament Committee included Becky Havelly, Belton Lim, Bill Clemens, Gerry Schwartz, Lindsey Laskowski, and Chuck Houston. The Color Guard was provided by the Father Emil Kapun #2027. The Opening Ceremonies Staging Area was led by the Knights of

Columbus Council 8096 from St. Elizabeth Anne Seton Catholic Church. Sponsors for this year's event included: Sterling Bank, Hess Corporation, St. Mary Land Exploration Company, Aaron's, Cardinal Health, Weingarten Realty, Chevron, and CGGVeritas. These sponsors not only donated funds, but also provided volunteers to assist the athletes throughout the tournament. The tournament could not happen without the leadership of our local Special Olympics staff: Renee Klovenski, Greater Houston Program Director, and Sam Hodapp, Greater Houston Program Associate. The Tournament Staff would like to thank all the volunteers for their help and dedication throughout the tournament.

Please remember Special Olympics when you are done with your bowling balls you no longer want. Athletes are appreciative for the donation of bowling equipment that is gently used. Also, Special Olympics programs are in all bowling centers around the Greater Houston area. If you would like to volunteer or know of a individual that qualifies to participate as a Special Olympics athlete in bowling or any number of the different sports, please contact the Special Olympics office at (713) 290-0049.

Houston's Youth Volunteer for Special Olympics.....Lauren Rankin

On December 6, 2008 the Gulf Coast Chapter of the Special Olympics of Texas held their annual bowling competition at AMF Alpha Lanes in Webster, TX.

There were a total of 357 bowlers comprised from an adult division and a youth division. Ashleigh

Calcote, Charles Smoot, David Seanor, Kimberly Rutherford, Naasiha Buksh, Rosie Charles and Steven Yospur were the youth bowlers and Youth Leaders from AMF Alpha volunteering between 7:30 am and 4:00 pm that day.

Special Needs Child Scores

Greater Houston USBC is a service organization that takes care of the needs of the bowlers in their jurisdiction. Service comes in many ways. Our administrative assistant, Penny Shannon came across a Mom who had lost her job and was looking for a bowling ball for her 11 year old special needs son. Penny told her she might be able to help. A Greater Houston Associate Representative was in the office and heard about this Mom's desire to do something for her son. The AR told the story to a local Houston

bowling center proprietor. The proprietor was so moved by the story he donated a ball. Knowing there would be a charge for drilling, the bowling office took up a collection to cover the cost. When the Mom took the ball to a pro shop at another bowling center she related the story of how the boy received the ball. As a result of hearing the story the pro show owner drilled the ball free of charge and used the donated money to get the boy a ball bag. His Mom says he is so proud of the ball he even sleeps with it!

Greater Houston Youth Tournament

The Houston youth bowling season was in full swing in November, as over 300 bowlers converged on Emerald Bowl to participate in the 2008 Greater Houston USBC Youth Championship Tournament. This season's tournament saw 78 teams competing in seven divisions. Competition was also held in doubles and singles with 140 doubles teams entered.

For the first time ever, the official title of Greater Houston USBC Youth Champion was awarded to the male and female youth bowlers firing the highest all events scratch totals. Tory Brown, of Emerald Bowl, took advantage of the home field, toppling 1,965 pins,

.....Ed Calcote with a tournament-high 747 series, to claim the male championship. Madison Williams, hailing from Copperfield, was on her game, toppling 1,908 sticks in her three events to claim the female title. Amanda Lopez, from Palace Lanes, fell short of the championship, but did roll the highest overall scratch game, and highest female scratch series, with scores of 288 and 706, respectively.

In addition to the awards given to Tory and Madison, the first-place winners of the other all-events divisions earned scholarships:

- Jose Lazo, Armadilla II, Boys 161-184 Handicap - 2,043 pins
- Julia Freeman, AMF Humble, Girls 141-169 Handicap - 2,027 pins
- Daniel Meza, Armadilla II, Boys 141-160 Handicap - 2,235 pins
- Sarah Bell, AMF Woodlands, Girls 111-140 Handicap - 2,034 pins
- Nick Waskow, AMF Humble, Boys 126-140 Handicap - 2,037 pins
- Carissa Zamora, Armadilla II, Girls 76-110 Handicap - 1,965 pins
- Carl Cline, Times Square, Boys 111-125 Handicap - 2,236 pins
- Kaylynn Crawford, Armadilla II, Girls 75 and Below - 1,962 pins
- Jonathan Loving, AMF Humble, Boys 95-110 Handicap - 2,351 pins
- Austin Boozer, AMF Willow, Boys 76-94 Handicap - 2,188 pins
- Joseph Correa, Armadilla II, Boys 75 and Below Handicap - 2,086 pins

Complete standings are available in the Tournaments section of the Greater Houston USBC Association website, www.bowlhouston.com.

YOUTH HAPPENINGS.....Lauren Rankin

The Youth Leaders had their merchandise table open both weekends of the city tournament. There were three bowling balls. auctioned off. Teams were awarded for Looking Good. All teams that were dressed a like and had on team/center shirts received this award. Thanks to all the youth leaders that helped during those two weekends. A special thanks to all the youth leaders that worked both weekends.

The Youth Leaders website has been updated and we have also made a Facebook and Myspace page. If you would like to join either one please contact Ashleigh Calcote, <http://www.orgsites.com/tx/ghusbcyouthleaders>. You will find her name listed on the left side of the page.

The Youth Leaders will have a Youth Leaders meeting, January 17, 2009 @ Alpha Lanes @ 2:00. We would like for more Youth to attend the meetings and be involved.. One of the topics that will be about the Hall of Honor. Please try to attend the meeting and give your opinion.

IT'S TOURNAMENT TIME IN TEXAS

GREATER HOUSTON USBC
2009 WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT
FEBRUARY 14TH & 15 ~ FEBRUARY 21ST & 22ND ~ FEBRUARY 28 & MARCH 1ST
Host Center - Max Bowl North - 2390 Wilson Rd - Humble, TX 77396 - (281) 540-2800

2009 TEXAS PEPSI USBC YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS
MARCH 14 & 15, 2009
Highland Lanes 8909 Burnet Road, Austin, Texas (512) 458-1215

12TH ANNUAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP TOURNAMENT AND
AND JUNIOR GOLD QUALIFYING EVENT
SPONSORED BY TEXAS STATE YOUTH LEADERS ASSOCIATION
MARCH 14TH & 15TH, 2009
Host Center - Dart Bowl 5700 Grover, Austin, Texas 78756 (512) 452-2518

TEXAS STATE USBC
72ND WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS TOURNAMENT
APRIL 18 THRU JUNE 28, 2009
Host Center Team - AMF Richardson 2101 N. Central Expressway, Richardson, TX 75080
Host Center Doubles & Singles Event - Plano Super Bowl, 2521 Avenue K, Plano, Texas (972) 881-0242

TEXAS STATE BOWLING ASSOCIATION
77TH ANNUAL OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS TOURNAMENT
APRIL 18 THRU JUNE 28, 2009
Host Center Team - Armadilla Lanes II, 10055 Fuqua, Houston, Texas 77089 (713) 944-7100
Host Center Doubles & Singles AMF Alpha Lanes, 318 West Bay Area Blvd., Webster, Texas 77598 (281)338-1272

TEXAS STATE USBC YOUTH
2009 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT
EVERY WEEKEND STARTING JUNE 13, THRU JULY 19, 2009
Host Center Team Longview Lanes, 408 N. Spur 63, Longview, TX (903)758-9961
Host Center Doubles & Singles Oil Bowl, 1102 W. Cotton, Longview, TX (903)758-9961

GREATER HOUSTON USBC ASSOCIATION
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Copperfield Bowl – Michelle Phillip
Cougar Lanes (U of H)
DelMar Lanes – Betty Griffin, Carolyn Lake
Emerald Bowl
Grand Event
Main Event
Max Bowl North – Neilia Gallien
Palace Lanes – Tom O’Dell, Glenda Millar
Times Square Entertainment
Tomball Bowling Center
Associates-at-Large – Bob Beck, Joe Thompson

(If you would like to volunteer at the center where you bowl, please e-mail us at ghusbc@bowlhouston.com.)