

Captains Log, February 3rd, 2019

Posted this week on our [San Diego APA Facebook page](#) was an [article](#) published by the director of media relations at the APA (Jason Bowman). Jason is the guy who does most of the APA streams with one of Jeannette "The Black Widow" Lee, Ewa "The Striking Viking" Lawrence or Tom "Dr. Cue" Rossman. Seems like Jason needs a nickname. LOL It's a well written short article that documents the history of the American Poolplayers Association from the time it first started in 1979. I didn't start playing APA until 1991 when I jumped on a team in Champaign IL. I took over as team captain of that team in week 2 when I realized just how much fun I had missed by not getting on a team sooner. I actually ran into an APA match probably sometime in 1987 or 1988 in Peoria IL. When they showed me the ball in hand and slop rules they were playing in their league, I immediately did what a lot of our current APA members did the first time they saw our league and said "Nah, those rules aren't rules I want to play by." But back in 1988, no one was playing ball in hand rules anywhere. Those rules in a bar room weren't even fathomed. You played "call shot" and you liked it whether you wanted to or not and then arguments or fights would break out about whether the shot was played exactly like you said you would. I didn't have time for a pool league that had "made up rules" that changed the way we played the game. After I was convinced to join an APA team in Champaign years later, I played that first night at a bar I had never been to before. I liked the bar and the people. Then my opponent played a safety on me that just blew me away. As an old style barroom player that only played offense, because offense was all you were allowed to play back then, I had never really seen a defensive shot. Before the defensive shot was played, I was down to my last ball and my opponent had almost all of his balls still on the table and my ball was blocking several of his. That safety shot was him hitting his own ball into my ball and making my ball and leaving me completely tied up behind another one of his balls where I had zero chance of hitting the 8 Ball. After I gave up ball in hand, he proceeded to run out the rack and won that game. I actually shook his hand at such a crafty move to completely swing the game into his favor with one quick move like a chess piece in the game of Chess. From that point I was completely hooked on APA and it's why I was willing to take over as Captain. For the remainder of my 5 years of APA in Champaign, I only ever missed a league night twice and that was because of conflicting rock concerts. The fun I had with the team I played on was better than anything else going on in my life at the time by a long shot. Nothing could pry me away from playing APA.

I see that same passion in many of our league members today, and that's nearly 30 years later. League night was actually only offered one night per week in the small town I lived in at the time. 9 Ball leagues were still pretty unheard of, so we just played 8 Ball. Here in San Diego, we have people playing on a team all 7 days of the week. There aren't many actually doing that, but that's how passionate some of our league members are. October of 2018 was the first month in San Diego APA history where we had league play scheduled all 31 days of a single month. We now offer 8 Ball Open divisions, 9 Ball divisions, Ladies 8 Ball divisions, Masters divisions, Junior divisions, 8 Ball Doubles divisions and 9 Ball Doubles divisions. On top of the team formats, the SDAPA Pool League qualified more than 186 players for the Singles Regional qualifiers to qualify for the 2019 Poolplayer Championships. We've already qualified 6 players for the 2019 PPC and there are 11 more spots up for grabs on the first weekend in March at Pockets. Our league boasts nearly 400 teams today playing out of almost 70 host locations throughout San Diego County, more than \$350,000 in annual cash and prizes paid back locally, and new members joining APA for the first time every session. We are very proud of our organization and we are very thankful for all of our helpers along the way. We have people who volunteer to work the single's program, junior instruction, referees and so much more. That article even mentioned our Southwest Challenge tournament, which we sent more than 100 San Diego 3 person teams to in 2018 alone. We are very proud to be able to bring you these events and we are very happy to see so many people taking advantage of these events that aren't just always about how much money you might win. The biggest draw to our league has always been more about the fun than anything else. The memories created on league night will stay in your memory for a lifetime. Some of my favorite APA memories as an APA player and as a League Operator have nothing to do with a pool table at all. In fact, as a player, none of my teams was ever good enough to qualify for APA Nationals. Living in the Midwest, we hardly even knew what Nationals was. In that small Midwest town, before internet and cell phones and web sites, league night was what it was all about. We didn't even know any of the league members in the next town over (the difference between Poway and Escondido, but corn fields in between instead of freeway and a million people) unless they were tournament players.

What we all have created here is a community. One community. There is no North or South or East County. We are one San Diego community that gets together to play pool. Whether it's at league night or at a tournament, it won't take long, even for our newest APA league members to make some new friends and create some new memories that last a life time. Speaking of the [Southwest Challenge](#), we have posted the [entry forms](#). We did email them to the people who were signed up, but if you didn't get one, be sure to download it off of our web site. The deadline for entries is February 23rd. I'm not expecting us to break our record of more than 70 San Diego teams last year, but the signup sheet is filling up pretty good.

Shoot Pool Good! Brian, Jill and Lindsay

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