Captains Log, September 24th, 2017

The BLAST is this coming weekend Sept. 30-Oct 1st at Pockets Billiards and Brew. Saturday will be 2 rounds of 8 Ball with the first round starting at 10am and the second round starting at 2:30pm. Sunday also has two rounds with round 1 starting at 10am and round 2 starting at 1:30pm. Each team only plays one time and if you win, you become qualified for City Championships in June. We will have patches, MVP trophies and vouchers, Perfect Session trophies and team trophies and plaques for the Summer Session. Schedules and rosters are posted on our web site. Prize money checks are already being mailed out to the captain of each team, unless you specified otherwise. If your team does not qualify, you have an opportunity to qualify for the Blast again in the Fall and the Spring. Each team that qualifies will receive a <u>qualified team letter</u> that explains how you can avoid losing your eligibility, so make sure you read the material closely.

Make sure you check the <u>MVP list</u> to see if any of your teammates won the MVP. Each session, we have trophies that don't get picked up. Just about anyone can pick up these awards for the players that earned them. For some of our league members, it might be the first award they've won playing pool, so we hope that you double check the list so nothing gets left behind. We will have old MVP's from the previous 2 sessions on hand, also.

The Fall Singles Regional will take place at Pockets Billiards and Brew on October 7-8. 8 Ball is on Saturday and 9 Ball is on Sunday. Doors open at 8am and player meetings are at 9am with play beginning immediately after the meetings. Players should have received their player packets by now. We have players from San Gabriel Valley, Orange County and Riverside participating in this event along with our San Diego players. We will qualify 7 players for the Poolplayer Championships in 8 Ball and 5 players for 9 Ball. Good luck to everyone participating!

The <u>APA 9 Ball Southwest Challenge</u> has more entries this year than we have ever had before, and we didn't really get that many teams signed up from the new areas that were invited this year. I'm sure once they see how much fun it is, there will be more in the future, but we are nearly 50 teams over our highest turnout in 9 Ball previously, so we are really excited for this year's event. Once again, the event takes place at the <u>Westgate Hotel</u> on October 13-15. Rooms are for October 12-14. We have 50 tables on reserve for this event, and we will be running mini tournaments each evening of the event. We have 42 San Diego teams signed up, which is 8 more than we had last year. San Diego is the defending champion in this event. Last year's winners Nayan Tamarakar, Ducky Holt and Kim Nguyen are all back again this year, but on different teams. We will be sending out the certification forms and rules to each team very soon. Good luck to San Diego! Let's bring back the trophy again this year.

<u>The San Diego APA Junior Program</u> is now up to 30 kids strong and has been converted from a single's format to a team format because of the size. It was truly amazing to see that many kids under one roof with pool cue in hand looking for some balls to hit.

All teams are now in the 4th week of the Fall Session. In order to stay on the roster, memberships must be paid no later than week 4. If a player gets dropped, they can be added back, but membership fees must be paid. If they are added back and play, we will mark the team past due and submit the membership fees to APA. The team will then be responsible for those fees, so make sure you collect or that they <u>pay online</u> before adding.

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of San Diego APA member Gary Veronesi. Gary wasn't just a loyal member of our pool league, but he has also been one of our Junior instructors since the time we started the Junior program. Gary played APA in South Bay from the time he joined our league in 2004, and was a skill level 6 in both formats and played in 388 APA matches. Gary served in the Marines and was appreciated by everyone that got the chance to know him. He put the needs of others before his own and we are so glad that he volunteered to be a part of our Junior instructor program, because each of those kids learned a skill that will likely stay with them the rest of their lives. Gary never gave up. He showed up for tournaments and classes with his oxygen tank, and even though you could sense the pain, he never let it show as he went about his business. We will never forget you, Gary! You will live on forever as part of what made our pool league the success it is today. Gary would have been 68 on September 23. RIP Gary!

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