

Bowlers' Buzz

News and Resources For Bowlers

January 2012 Vol. 7, Issue 1

Mission: To provide the bowling community with an unbiased resource

Welcome 2012! Happy New Year!



Cynthia Blankenship pictured with her husband of sixteen years, David Blankenship

Houston Bowlers Mourn the Passing of A Bowling Pioneer

By Evelyn Peoples, Publisher

This is a really tough article to write due to Cynthia being a very close friend of mine for over thirty years. We have been through some tough times as well as a lot of good times together. She will be remembered as the kind of neighbor and friend that never let you down—if she was your friend—she was your friend.

Sometimes people talk about the dash between someone's birth and death. This is a tribute to her dash. It was well filled by the woman loved by so many. She was a devoted homemaker, mother, wife, and grandmother—all roles she thoroughly enjoyed in life. She wanted the very best for her family *AND* she was a bowler.

Cynthia Hudek/Balch Blankenship began bowling as a teenager at Bellaire Lanes. She loved bowling from the first time she threw a ball. She became a high averaged woman bowler listed in the front of the Greater Houston Bowlers' Average Book. I remember when she looked in the front of the book and said she was going to be listed there the next year. She set her goal of joining that elite group and she went for it. She was coached by the famed Roy Yama and worked hard on improving her game. The next year she proudly pointed to her name being listed with the rest of the accomplished women bowlers in the Houston Area. She became a strong, seasoned bowler and avid competitor to be reckoned with on the lanes.

Cynthia founded the Traveling Classic Bowling Associations of America's Women's Independent North League. She was the secretary of the league for over thirty years. She made sure that the women's schedule was set on the same Sundays as the men's league. She bowled in the Top Ten League at Palace Lanes until it folded. Cynthia's belief in the importance of women being afforded competitive leagues in which to bowl held her interest in the ladies traveling league. She also served as secretary of the Wednesday Guys and Dolls League at AMF Diamond Lanes for one year. She bowled in the Monday Night Affair League at AMF Woodlands. Each summer she would bowl in the Summer Scratch league at Delmar Lanes where she loved the competitiveness of the bowlers.

Cynthia was active with the Houston women's annual tournament for several years and donated her time to ensure the success of the events.

She was a member of the Ladies' Professional Bowling Tour and was very sad when it folded. Cynthia enjoyed the competition and friendships which she forged with bowlers everywhere. She brought joy to bowling with her big, quick smile. Cynthia was fast to make friends on and off of the lanes. She loved to bowl and laugh with her teammates.

The TCBA Men's Independent League have submitted her name into the TCBA to be inducted into their Hall of Fame. The men's league admired her and held her in the highest regard. Many of them have bowled in leagues and tournaments with and against her. ERT office workers said they are going to miss her smile and laughter as well.

Cynthia will be missed by her family, bowling family, ERT family and the many friends that knew her.



John Harper Inducted in Houston Bowling Hall of Fame

By Evelyn Peoples

John Harper III is being inducted into the Houston Bowling Hall of Fame! He is a very deserving bowler. His stats on bowl.com reflect his many accomplishments. To his credit there are numerous 300, 299, 298, and other highly scored games. He also has many 800 and high 700 series documented.



John is quick with a smile and a string of strikes as well. He is the Facilities Manager at AMF Humble. He knows bowling from the front to the back. He is a member of the High Rollers League at AMF Humble and the TCBA Men's Independent League. He cannot be described as a "house bowler" because he can be seen bowling high scores at any time, in any house, in any town—he just does. He loves to bowl and has a competitive spirit. He participates in tournaments in the Houston Area and any that are within driving distance from Houston on the weekends.

Make plans to come out and celebrate with John at the Hearthstone Country Club on February 11, 2012. Tickets will be on sale through a Houston Hall of Fame member or see John Harper to get your ticket—don't miss the chance to make this a night he and you will not soon forget!

Congratulations, John, you so deserve the recognition!



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Ask Bea!



Dear Bea: I broke up with my boyfriend right before Christmas because I didn't have money or the desire to buy him a gift. Do I need to wait until after Valentine's Day to get back together with him? Will it be too obvious? *Player*

Dear Player: No, and to think you might have missed out on a good Christmas present from him! Hmm...maybe you should wait until after Easter. What's his name?

Dear Bea: My wife bought me a 16-pound ball for Christmas. It is a really nice one. However, I use a 15-pound ball. I took it to a pro shop and asked if they could take one pound off of it. The guy started laughing and said no. I didn't take it to the shop where she bought it because I didn't want her to know it wasn't perfect. Is it true that a pound cannot be taken off of a ball? *Embarrassed*



Dear Embarrassed: Seriously, no one can take a pound off of a bowling ball. If they did it would not be considered useable. Suck it up and take it back where she bought it and trade it in for a 15-pound ball. After all, she wants you to be happy!

Dear Bea: I got a really crummy Christmas gift from my boyfriend. I want to get him a really yucky bowling ball for his birthday. Do you have any suggestions? *Sick of Santa and this Jerk*

Dear Sick: I don't know why you would want to waste your money on a yucky bowling ball for him. Why not buy yourself one of the new ones and give him a pair of your old bowling glove—you know the one that is stinking up your bag!

Bowlers: Please send in your questions for totally useless advice. It probably won't resolve them—but it could help you (and all of us) to laugh at them. Life is too short to take it all seriously—let us laugh with you.

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Italian Cream Cake



Gather:
5 eggs, separated and at room temperature
2 cups sugar
2 cups flour
1/2 cup shortening
1/2 cup butter at room temperature
1 cup buttermilk
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 teaspoon baking soda (not baking powder)
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 cups angel flake coconut
1 cup chopped pecans

Directions:
Preheat oven to 350. Separate eggs and whip egg whites until very stiff. Set aside away from heat.
Cream together sugar, shortening, butter and egg yolks until light and fluffy. Add vanilla, buttermilk, flour, soda and salt. Mix thoroughly. Add coconut and pecans and mix well. Fold in egg whites.
Spray three 9-inch round cake pans with non-stick spray or coat lightly with butter or margarine. Divide batter evenly into the three pans.
Bake for 25-30 minutes until golden brown on top. Cool.

Cream Cheese Frosting for Italian Cream Cake

Gather:
1 package 8 ounces of cream cheese
1 stick butter (or margarine)
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 box powdered sugar sifted

Directions:
Cream together cream cheese, butter, and vanilla. Add sugar a little at a time until ready to spread on cooled cake. Frost between layers and top and sides of cake.

Note: this cake is very rich and habit forming!! Enjoy!

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Chuck Pezzano

For 49 years the Metropolitan Bowling Writers Association has been honoring bowling greats, and the 2011 award winners added luster to the list, and maybe some surprises too.

The Landgraf Award, annually presented to someone in bowling who has contributed to the sport in above and beyond ways went to Carolyn Dorin-Ballard, now a resident of Teas, but a native of New Jersey, growing up in Linden, starring as a junior, collegiate, amateur and pro. The award, established to honor the life of Bill Landgraf, a pioneer bowler, league and tournament official, and a close friend and associate of the men who founded the American Bowling Congress in 1895, usually salutes top officers of bowling groups, major innovators, sponsors and super star bowlers.

Dorin-Ballard has been successfully involved in competition, exhibitions, business, broadcasting, developing high school and collegiate programs and in March took on the major position as United States Bowling Congress director of coaching with all the enthusiasm of a 16-year-old, not a tireless worker of 46. It turned out that she couldn't make the official presentation during the East Coast

Bowling Proprietors' Convention in Atlantic City and the Met Bowler of the Year in the female category, Kelly Kulick did the substitute role. The pair have been the nation's most recognized stars in the past decade. Kulick was and still is a resident of Union, New Jersey.

Kulick's appearance brought up the question as to whether she would mention her being included in ESPN the Magazine's photo display of top athletes, female and male, in intimate poses. Kulick handled the subject with frankness and humor, explained how it all came about, that she had major input all the way, and now that the large audience might have seen her, how the audience might look in similar circumstances. She received a large laugh and a warm, loud ovation.

Kulick has long been rated as one of the finest bowlers in the world and one of the sport's premier ambassadors in every way. She continues to enhance that role model designation.

Bill O'Neill was named Met Male Bowler of the Year. The Southampton, Pennsylvania four-time collegiate All-American, three year Team USA star, and PBA Rookie of the Year, continues to impress. He was the only player to cash in all 12 Tour events and made the top five in three of four majors.

The writers selected Leanne Hulsenberg as the nation's bop female bowler, based mostly on her win in the 2011 Open when she bested Kulick in the final game. Fans will probably recognize her easier by her maiden name of Barrette, a top star on the women's pro tour for almost twenty years. She won 26 titles, was Player of the Year twice and elected to the SBC Hall of Fame in 2007. When the women's tour was suspended in 2003, she cut her bowling and spent her time as a homemaker and a mother. She picks her spots and hope the tour can return. The Open was the first time her husband saw her win since they didn't meet until after the tour sputtered.

For the first time ever, a senior tour bowler was elected male national bowler of the year as Ron Mohr of Eagle River, Alaska piled up performances that the writers felt could not be overlooked. He tied the record for one year tournament titles, winning four of 10 starts. Mohr qualified for the match play portion in all ten events he rolled, then proceeded to rack up a 69% win ratio in the head-to-head matches. In addition to his four wins, one of them being the Senior U.S. Open, Mohr finished second twice, third twice, fourth and thirteenth.

Though senior prizes are modest, he pocketed \$56,100 to lead the money winning list, and ran away with the point list based on tournament position finishes.

What Mohr can you ask of any bowler, even though many feel that PBA winners of the Open, the Masters, and the Tournament of Champions should be given more acclaim than seniors. They usually do but what Mohr did was a once in a half century performance well worth special notice.

USBC Announces Executive-Level Promotions And Restructuring

By Jason Overstreet, USBC

United States Bowling Congress Executive Director Stu Upson announced he will expand and restructure the USBC executive team, promoting three staff members to newly-created roles. The changes will be effective January 1, 2012, and include a position designed to oversee logistics and operations of USBC programs.

Eric Kearney will assume the role of Managing Director of Operations and Administration, Mike Spridco is promoted to Managing Director of Rules and Association Services and Jason Overstreet will become Managing Director of Communications.

Kearney, who recently earned his master's degree in business administration, now will oversee operations and project management for the organization in addition to his duties managing diversity, education, affinity relationships and staffing of the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame.

"Improving USBC's organizational efficiency needs to be a key priority," Upson said. "Eric has proven his ability to manage complex projects, making him a great fit for this role."

Spridco will continue to manage USBC's rules and bonding department, while gaining new oversight related to association operations. Overstreet continues his responsibility overseeing public relations and publications and will play a major role in USBC's live streaming initiative.

"Expanding our executive team will bring new perspective to the leadership group," Upson said. "It also allows for more executive focus on some of our most important programs."

As part of the restructuring, Pete Tredwell's role will change to Managing Director of Media and Events. Tredwell will continue to manage BOWL.com and video production, while adding oversight of USBC Convention and several short-duration tournaments, including the USBC Masters and Queens. Chad Murphy's title will become International Bowling Campus Managing Director of Youth Development, reporting to both Upson and Bowling Proprietors' Association of America Executive Director Steve Johnson.

PBA Spare Shots

Preview New Espn/Pba Tour Promotional Spots On Youtube

A series of new "Read Between the Lanes" promotional spots for PBA Tour events are ready to begin airing on ESPN, but you can preview them now on [YouTube.com](http://www.youtube.com/user/PBAProBowlersAssn). To check out the new spots, visit the PBA's official YouTube.com page: <http://www.youtube.com/user/PBAProBowlersAssn>.

In addition to the new ESPN spots, you can find a wide variety of additional PBA video clips on PBA's YouTube page.

The new ESPN spots include a "How To" advice clip (in 15- and 30-second versions), and clips on Majors, Majors' Strategies and one devoted to Jason Belmonte's two-handed style.

"We're proud of these spots, which accentuate virtues of our sport and the PBA through the words of some of our greatest stars," said PBA Commissioner Tom Clark.

Shafer Wins Hardwick Division

Four-time Professional Bowlers Association title winner Ryan Shafer of Horseheads, New York, earned another chance to win his first major title on January 15 after advancing to the finals of the PBA World Championship in the Billy Hardwick Division finals that aired Sunday on ESPN.

Shafer, who has made a PBA-record 12 championship round appearances in major tournaments without a title, defeated Andres Gomez of Colombia, 191-177, to win the second of four PBA World Championship elimination rounds at South Point Hotel Exhibition Hall. The divisional finals consist of three one-game rounds, starting with four players, and eliminating the lowest-scoring player after each game.

Shafer will join Finland's Osku Palermaa, winner of the Don Carter Division, and the winners of the Johnny Petraglia and Mike Aulby Division finals in the World Championship finals on ESPN on Sunday, January 15, at 2 p.m. The PBA World Championship offers a \$50,000 first prize and the first major title of the 2011-12 PBA Tour season.

Shafer, who is celebrating his 25th season as a PBA Tour competitor, established command in the opening game, recovering from a missed split conversion in the second frame to reel off nine consecutive strikes for a 267 game.

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PBA Senior Tour Begins 2012 Season in Florida

By Bill Vint, PBA

The Professional Bowlers Association has announced its nine-stop 2012 PBA Senior Tour season will begin April 21-24 at Spanish Springs Lanes in The Villages, Florida.

The PBA Senior Tour's 32nd season will again feature two majors that will be conducted back-to-back in Las Vegas in June. The Etonic Senior U.S. Open presented by the Suncoast will be conducted at the Suncoast Bowling Center June 3-8 and it will be followed by the United States Bowling Congress Senior Masters at the South Point Bowling Center June 10-15.

The 2011 season was highlighted by one of the most dominant performances in Senior Tour history with Ron Mohr of Eagle River, Alaska, winning a record-tying four titles supported by a 67-30 record in head-to-head matches and an equally impressive qualifying record. In 10 tournaments, Mohr was the leading qualifier twice, No. 2 twice and he qualified lower than seventh only one time.

In addition to his four titles – which included his first major championship in the Senior U.S. Open – Mohr finished out of the top four only one time.

Among those becoming eligible for the 2012 Senior Tour season will be PBA Hall of Famer Amleto Monacelli and Tour veteran Mike Edwards.

The PBA will accept entries for the 2012 season for qualified players 50 years of age and older beginning March 1. Entry information may be found by visiting pba.com or by calling PBA headquarters at (206) 332-9688.

2012 PBA Senior Tour Schedule

April 21-24 - PBA Senior Sun Bowl In The Villages presented by Storm, Spanish Springs Lanes, The Villages, Florida.

April 28-May 2 - PBA Senior Don Carter Open presented by Ebonite, Carter Family Bowl, Winter Garden, Florida.

May 6-9 - PBA Senior Miller High Life Classic presented by Columbia 300, George Pappas Victory Lanes, Mooresville, N.C.

May 14-17 - PBA Senior Dayton Classic presented by Roto Grip, Capri Lanes, Dayton, Ohio

June 3-8 - Etonic PBA Senior U.S. Open presented by Suncoast, Suncoast Bowling Center, Las Vegas

June 10-15 - USBC Senior Masters, South Point Bowling Center, Las Vegas

June 17-20 - PBA Senior Northern California Classic presented by Track, Harvest Park Bowl, Brentwood, California.

August 6-9 - PBA Senior South Shore Open presented by DV8, Olympia Lanes, Hammond, Indiana.

August 11-14 - PBA Senior Decatur Open presented by Brunswick, Spare Time Lanes, Decatur, Illinois.



Showcase Lanes Newest Addition To USBC Open Championships

Bowlers headed to the 2012 United States Bowling Congress Open Championships in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, will have the opportunity to practice on the same oil pattern and lane surface being featured on the main tournament lanes at the Baton Rouge River Center.

In addition to the 48 lanes that will be constructed on the ground floor of the River Center for the USBC Open Championships, USBC will build four showcase lanes on the venue's second level.

Competitors will be able to book one-hour practice sessions, so they can loosen up and try out their equipment or game plans before their nine games of Open Championships competition.

At the start of the tournament each year, the lane condition traditionally is posted on BOWL.com and is available for download and use in bowling centers across the country to help bowlers prepare. But matching the oil, lane machine, lane surface and environment are proven challenges. Being able to practice on lanes maintained by the event staff, and so close to the tournament action, will provide a one-of-a-kind opportunity.

As a bonus for 2012, the tournament lane condition will be unveiled and discussed live on BowlTV as part of the Open Championships Kickoff 2012, a live streaming event from the River Center on Friday, Feb. 10.

"We are always looking to enhance the tournament experience, and we're excited about adding these unique elements to the Open Championships landscape," said Brian Lewis, USBC's Managing Director of Tournaments. "It's like a putting green at a golf course or a batting cage at a baseball field. This is something our bowlers have asked for, and we're happy to be able to deliver. And being able to reach out to our bowlers through BowlTV has been a great addition to the tournament coverage."

Along with being able to simply practice on the tournament condition, bowlers will have the chance to receive feedback from international coach Bill Hall, who also has found success as an inventor, ball driller and bowling writer.

Hall will be available by appointment from 1-9 p.m. each day for the duration of the Open Championships (schedule subject to change), which will run for 151 consecutive days from February 11 until July 10. Each one-hour coaching session will include game and equipment analysis and tips on how to succeed at the 2012 Open Championships.

"Being able to work for USBC is quite an honor in every aspect of the word, and to have the chance to help and be with the bowlers who really want to take advantage of being at the tournament and competing at their best is a huge compliment in my opinion," Hall said. "I am extremely excited about this opportunity, and not only having them hopefully learn from me, but for me to also learn as much from them."

Bowlers who purchase the new Open Championships VIP package will enjoy a one-hour individual session with Hall as part of their VIP membership. Memberships must be purchased at least 30 days prior to competition to allow time for scheduling. VIP members will have preferred access and will be contacted directly to schedule practice times.

Other interested bowlers will be able to use the lanes by reservation or based on availability. Pricing for one pair of lanes for one hour (up to 10 bowlers) is:

- \$200: one-hour session with international coach Bill Hall (based on availability)
- \$125: one hour of practice during "peak" hours (no coach)
- \$90: one hour of practice during "off-peak" hours (no coach)

To reserve your coaching or practice times, call (866) 977-7433, email.

NOTICE: Haven't received your USBC sanction card? Not to worry—as of 12/15/11 they notified the Bowlers' Buzz that they are behind in getting them shipped out. They are including a special treat for each bowler and it is taking a little longer than anticipated. You can go online and print out your card if needed. They apologize for any problems it may have created for you.


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Houston Area Bowlers Selected As USBC Youth Ambassadors

Ashleigh Calcote of Friendswood, Texas, and Dominick Savage of Missouri City, Texas, have been selected as the United States Bowling Congress Youth Ambassadors of the Year by the USBC Youth Committee. The award annually recognizes one female and one male USBC Youth bowler for exemplary contributions to the sport, academic accomplishments and community involvement.

With both from the Houston area, the USBC Youth bowlers are very familiar with one another. "Ashleigh and I have worked together on numerous occasions," Savage said. "Over the last few years we have closely worked together on creating new Youth Leader programs across the state."

Calcote, 17, began bowling in a league with her family at age 8 and soon after started attending Youth Leader meetings. She was appointed to the Greater Houston USBC Board of Directors as a Youth Director in 2008 and currently serves as president of the GHUSBC Youth Leaders. When her brother, Kyle, was selected as a USBC Youth Ambassador four years ago, she set her mind on also earning the award.



"I have always been involved in the service side of bowling but after he won this award, it made me strive to get it as well," Calcote said. "When I found out that I received the honor of this award, I was ecstatic."

Calcote currently is homeschooled and in her senior year. She takes dual credit courses at San Jacinto Community College and plans to attend college next year and major in Dietetics. She works in Carol Norman's pro shop UCanBowl2, which she calls "an education in and of itself." Norman said Calcote is very motivated to achieve whatever goals she sets. "Ashleigh is definitely going to be somebody in our sport; in fact, she already is," Norman said in her recommendation letter. "She is what's good about our youth and upcoming leaders."

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Savage, 17, started bowling at age 4. He has been on the Texas State USBC Board of Directors since 2008, serving on several committees including the Hall of Fame/Hall of Honor and Adult Recognition Awards committees. He also has been on the TSUSBC Youth Committee.

He currently serves as president of the TSUSBC Youth Leaders Association and met with youth bowlers in the Dallas, San Antonio and Austin areas to assist them with starting their own Youth Leader programs.

As one of the most prestigious awards offered by USBC for youth bowlers, winning this award has sparked my drive to continue on the path that my wonderful advisers have set for me," Savage said. "After the hard work I've invested into the Youth Leader program, it is phenomenal to receive recognition for the amount of time put into helping better youth bowling across my city, state, and nation."

Savage, a senior at Thurgood Marshall High School, is in the Triple A Music, National Honor, International Thespians Honor, and National Spanish Speaking Honor societies. He is on the student council, in the Speech and Debate Club, and has been an officer in the Book Club the last three years.



Robbie Fravel, a former Adult Advisor for the Greater Houston USBC who worked closely with Savage, said Savage is "truly an ambassador in every aspect of the word." "He loves the sport of bowling and will talk your ears off on how great the sport is, as well as always finding a way to talk about the Youth Leader program," Fravel said in his nomination letter.

Savage will attend Newman University in Fall 2012 and plans to major in Communications and Political Science with a minor in choral music.

As an award for being selected as the USBC Youth Ambassadors, both Calcote and Savage will receive \$1,500 scholarships and a trip to the awards ceremony held in conjunction with the 2012 USBC Convention in Arlington. One of the winners may have the opportunity to be selected to serve on the USBC Youth Committee.

Congratulations!




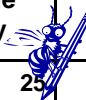



Attention League Secretaries: send in your bowlers' high scores to the Bowlers' Buzz. The deadline is the 25th of the month. They will be printed as space allows.

Bowlers' Buzz

Mission: To provide the bowling community with an unbiased resource

Bowling Bug Got *January 2012 Calendar* Try One of these! these events!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
New Year's Day January 1, 2012 Mummer's Parade	2 Rose Bowl Game & Parade  Nat'l Chocolate Covered Cherry Day	3 J.R.R. Tolkien Day United Nations Day 	4 Tom Thumb Day Trivia Day Dimpled Chad Day	5 Bean Day Bird Day Elvis' B'day Celebration	6 Epiphany or Twelfth Night Three Kings Day	7 Super No Taps AMF Humble Reserve Your Spot By 6:00. Bowl 7:30 pm Sign up in Pro Shop, Text Names: 713-253-1582 Earmuff Day
8 Bubble Bath Day Women's Day	9 Nat'l Clean Off Your Desk Day	10 Cut Your Energy Costs Day United Nations Day 	11 Cigarettes are Hazardous to Your Health Day	12 Send in your Valentine—show the world how much you care!	13 Friday the 13th Blame Someone Else Day Rubber Duckie Day	14 Miss America Pageant Organize Your Home Day Dress Up Your Pet Day
15 Religious Freedom Day Humanitarian Day	16 Martin Luther King Day Robert E. Lee Day	17 Cable Car Day Judgment Day	18 Heads Chili Days Do Dah Parade Day Winnie The Pooh Day 	19 Tin Can Day Popcorn Day	20 Inauguration Day Send in Your Happy Valentine Day Ads—Only \$5 for three lines! Don't Miss Out This Year!	21 No Taps AMF Humble Reserve Your Spot By 6:00. Bowl 7:30 pm Sign up in Pro Shop, Text Names: 713-253-1582 Nat'l Hugging Day
22 Celebration of Life Day PBA Cheetah Open Finals Ebonite 4-Brand Demo @ Emerald Bowl By Dead Wood Pro Shop See Ad P5	23 National Pie Day Chinese New Year	24 Beer Can Day Nat'l Compliment Day	25 Send in Your Happy Valentine Day Ads—Only \$5 for three lines! Don't Miss Out This Year!	26 Nat'l Peanut Brittle Day	27 Auschwitz Liberation Day Halocaust Memorial Day	28 Super No-Taps @ AMF Diamond Text Your Entry to: 713-253-1582 Seed Swap Day
29 Freethinkers Day Nat'l Puzzle Day Seeing Eye Dog Day U.S.B.C. Masters Final	30 Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day	31	February 1	2 	3 PBA Southwest Regional Carol Stormin' Norman Pro Shop UCanBowl2 Del Mar Lanes Open Begins	4 Super No Taps AMF Humble Reserve Your Spot By 6:00. Bowl 7:30 pm Sign up in Pro Shop, Text Names: 713-253-1582

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Saturday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm.

