

The Texas Shuffleboard Hall of Fame

is proud to announce the Induction of...

W. Jackson (Jack) Scott

**during the Houston Holiday Open 2005 tournament held
December 26-31, 2005**

Overview

Jack has been involved in shuffleboard for 13 years since 1992. In 1996 Jack started and promoted the first Houston Holiday Open Tournament with Johnny Ballard. The tournament is held between Christmas and New Years, has grown for 10 consecutive years up to 200+ players. In 2000, Jack started the Houston Memorial Open, which has run for 6 years. He has been an active player, officer and promoter of the Houston Fun Hangers Shuffleboard League. Under his direction, the league has grown to one of the largest in the country with 200 to 300 active players each season.

Jack's love for the sport and his promotional abilities have added many new shuffleboard locations and 100's of new players to the sport. Jack continually promotes the sport to new players and encourages novice and average players to become involved in league and tournament play. He has been a staunch proponent of the handicap system. Jack was influential in bringing handicapped play to the Fun Hangers League and the structure of his Tournament events has encouraged many new tournament players over the last 10 years. According to Ron Bowers, "Over the years, Jack has been the top supporter of the Bowers' Rating System with his monetary donations." Jack was also an avid supporter and promoter of "The Board Talk" national shuffleboard publication until its' closure in February 2005.

Jack's Early Days

Jack was born in Fort Worth, Texas on September 9, 1942 and moved to Houston when he was 14. In Houston he grew into a private businessman. At one time during the 70's boom he had a swimming pool company, a tennis court company and a landscaping company. His focus was on commercial work and he was soon contracted to completely design and install many of the new neighborhood recreation centers. With the 80's economic bust he moved into the insurance business for 4 or 5 years. Jack can tell many interesting stories about the 25 or so salesmen he had selling insurance for him in Kansas. In the 90s Jack retired and shuffleboard was in his future.

Getting Started in Shuffleboard

Jack was first introduced to shuffleboard at Frank's off Hwy 1960 in North Houston. As a beginner, playing with Flynt Preston and Bill Rice he says he was quickly hooked on the game but was consistently the worst player in the house and losing most money games to the locals. He then made one of his best decisions and asked Diana Hagen to help them with their game. After several lessons, their games improved and they started winning. Jack says the other players soon quit playing them for money.

Now that Jack was hooked on the game and acquiring skills he entered his first tournament "The Texas Open" put on by Ron Bowers at the "Texas Mist" in Austin. Playing as a 4 he teamed up with Lilly Kidd to win 3rd place and also won some sponsor sale money. Jack says, "...at the time this was the most fun I had ever had". Jack soon started thinking of having a major tournament in Houston.

In the meantime Jack had become acquainted with many of the Pros who were playing at Franks and convinced them to come and try out Danny's Sports Bar. Asked, "Why Danny's"? Jack says he originally wanted them to move to Danny's so he wouldn't have to drive so far, but Danny turned out to be a great promoter and player himself. It was the best move they could have made. Danny's remains the place where the Pros meet to this day.

The Houston Holiday Open

Jack was still formulating his thinking about a major tournament in Houston. He recalls "I envisioned a tournament setting at a nice hotel with the actual play in a grand hotel ballroom". He also decided that the week between Christmas and New Years was a perfect time for the event. There were no other tournaments and it was a time when many players were already taking off work. Hotels were slow during the holidays and he figured he could negotiate better rates for player's rooms and the ballroom. He spoke to many of the Pros but could get no solid support. It just so happens, there had been a previous Houston Tournament where the promoter had lost all the money in a poker game and the players all left empty handed. Even with this stigma, Jack being the "bulldog" that he is continued to look for support. Finally he and Johnny Ballard came to terms and decided to promote the 1st Houston Holiday Open at Danny's in 1996 on 7 boards. With help from Danny Norris, Diana Hagen, Bill Rice, Dickey Wooten and Johnny B the first Houston Holiday Open was a success. After the first year, Jack and Johnny followed the original concept and moved to the Hilton Inn on the Southwest Freeway. At this location, the tournament grew from 7 to 12 and then 14 boards supplied by Replay of Houston and Don Crall of Oklahoma City. The tournament was then moved to a larger ballroom at the Marriott North of Houston, as the tournament grew to 16 and then 18 boards. During this time Champions began to provide as many as 24 boards to the tournament with additional boards by Replay. As the attendance reached 200+ and the board count increased to 33 boards, the tournament was moved to the Sheraton Brookhollow Hotel where it stayed for the last 4 years. In 2005 the tournament moved to the Marriott By the Galleria. Today the Houston Holiday Open is considered to be one of the top three major tournaments in the country.

After the 2nd Holiday Open at the Hilton ended on December 30th, they couldn't get the boards moved until Jan 1. Jack and Johnny took \$250 and all the leftovers the hotel would offer and had a makeshift New Years Eve Party. This was the beginning of the now famous Holiday Open New Years Eve Party. The men dress up and the ladies dawn their new dresses. The music begins, the dancing starts and one of the truest nights of shuffleboard camaraderie comes to life. It is a very unique shuffleboard experience.

The Houston Memorial Day Open

Jack started the Memorial Day Open at Danny's Sports Bar with 8 boards in 2000. The tournament was originally designed for players from Houston and the Texas Oklahoma region. It was 3 days long with 8 events. The tournament was successful and grew to around 75 players each year. In 2004 Jack added handicapped events. He promoted the tournament heavily to 3s and 4s and players that normally do not attend tournaments. He increased the number of boards to 13 with the addition of Triple Crown Sports Bar. The tournament has now grown to 120 players with many of the new players willing to play in this and other tournaments.

Fun Hangers League

In the early years of the Houston Fun Hangers League, Jack was elected Vice President. He was instrumental in convincing the league to adopt the handicapped format for its games. This has been a key factor in the league's success and membership growth. Jack has continued to hold Officer Positions in the League and has held the position as President since 2002. He has influenced many new sponsor locations to join the league and continually promotes the league and local tournaments to new players.

Closing

Jack has been a key player in promoting the sport and bringing in new players in the Houston area. He has developed both of his tournaments into great events with players of all abilities attending from around the country. He has always looked out for the average to beginning player while modifying his formats to meet the needs and requests of the Pro players. His involvement in the Houston Fun Hangers League has helped it to grow to one of the largest shuffleboard leagues in the country. He has been willing to invest an enormous amount of time to the development and growth of shuffleboard. He has taken significant financial risks to provide quality shuffleboard tournaments in a classy atmosphere. He has always been generous and compassionate for fellow shuffleboard players down on their luck or short of funds. He has been and continues to be one of the largest contributors to the Bower's Rating System. Jack has been and continues to be a valued asset for the great Sport of Shuffleboard.

Memory Lane Photos...

