

# Larry Creakbaum & Jim Long



Jim Long & Larry Creakbaum's Day  
May 6<sup>th</sup> 6:00p.m

May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Jim & Larry will be inducted into  
TSA. Hall of Fame

7:00p.m. Single Elimination Draw Partner \$20 entry

44<sup>th</sup> Spring Open Doubles May 7<sup>th</sup> 12:00p.m. \$50 entry

May 8<sup>th</sup> Open Singles 1:00p.m. \$50 entry

Legion opens at Noon Fri., 8:00a.m. Sat., Noon Sun.

5 Great Boards

Using Federation Wax

Plymouth Holiday Inn 574-836-2444, Paradise Inn 574-836-4013

Wabash Economy Inn 574-269-5831, Days Inn 574-267-9344, Super 8 574-289-2888

Tournament Information: Legion 574-342-8100, Gary A. Inglis 574-288-6764, Gary Hoff 574-342-8821



Bourbon American Legion Post 424

## Table Shuffleboard Association

May 6, 2005



The Table Shuffleboard Association's Board of Directors and the shuffleboard community, friends, and family proudly present the TSA Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Induction Award to Larry Creakbaum & Jim Long on this 6th day of May 2005!

-- TSA Directors & Members, Table Shuffleboard Association, Inc.

Table Shuffleboard Association (TSA), 12710 Red Deer Pass, Austin, TX 78729

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<http://www.tableshuffleboard.org>

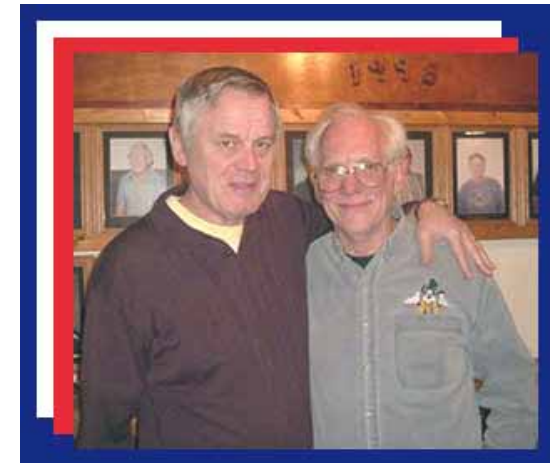
# Larry Creakbaum & Jim Long

## Table Shuffleboard Association

## Hall of Fame Induction

May 6, 2005 - TSA HOF Inductee Ceremony

American Legion Post 424, Bourbon, Indiana



Larry Creakbaum (above left) saw his first shuffleboard when he was about 12-13 years old in Mentone, Indiana where he would go into town with his father to sell farm products, buy livestock and groceries. Their last stop was always Lake Trail Cafe (which had a shuffleboard and the best chocolate malts in the state) where he would throw weights on Saturday afternoon.

Larry Creakbaum's shuffling was temporarily interrupted when Indiana passed a law that you must be 21 years old to patron a bar. Lake Trail Cafe, where he

frequently went with his dad as a young man, had to petition the serving areas when the laws changed (unfortunately the shuffleboard was on the 21 and over side).

Jim Long (above right) first started playing shuffleboard in 1960 after getting out of the Army. Jim thought he was getting pretty good until he ran into a guy named Billy Mays about 1964. He says, "Billy gave him a pretty good beating," but after healing he practiced the shots that Billy showed him and that gave him a jump start forward on his game.

# Creakbaum & Long

Creakbaum & Long TSA HOF (con't.)

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By the time Larry was 17, he and his friends came across a combination bar and grocery store at Beaver Dam Lake where, luckily, the shuffleboard was located outside the bar area. The owner was more interested in these kids paying for their pop and sandwiches than explaining the shuffleboard rules, so they made up their own. This is when the "seed" was planted for Larry.

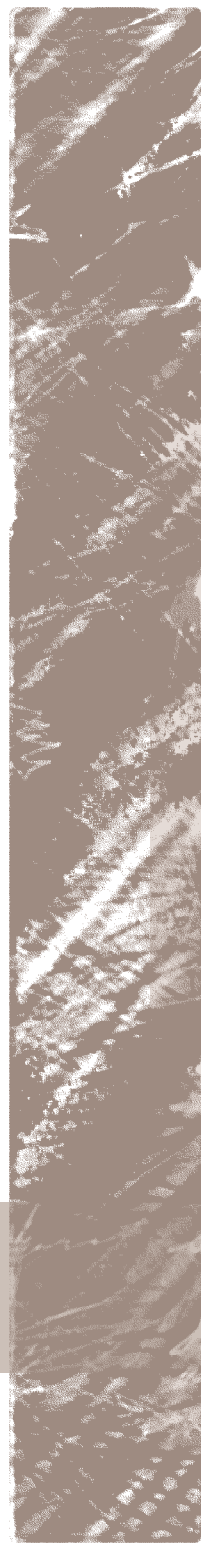
At age 20, Larry and some friends found a bar with a shuffleboard in Warsaw that was owned by a gal named Thelma (who never thought of them being under 21). Thelma taught them rules and strategy on her long board, hammer stays. Since there were typically 3 boys there to play, Thelma was always glad to be the 4th in a game of doubles. By age 21, both bars in Mentone (Lake Trail Cafe & Broadway) became Larry's shuffleboard training ground. The two local strong players were Ned Igo and Dean Nellans - both left-handed naturals. Larry soon learned the left hand needed to be part of the game and by the time he graduated from Purdue University in 1957, he was actually offering some fair competition for Ned and Dean. The U.S. Army requested Larry's employment in July and after basic training he went to the Yuma Test Station in Arizona. The NCO club had an old shuffleboard in the back room, and after a lengthy search, the sergeant running the club even found a case of powder! In the 21 months that he was in Yuma, he only lost one game, but says that "even Thelma could have won."



Larry's tournament career started slowly as he was working and living in Indianapolis where he bowled in the winter and played fast pitch softball in the summer. He met the softball group where he was playing shuffleboard in Indianapolis at the Hoosier Pal Tavern on W. 10th Street. He played at several west side neighborhood bars, as they all had shuffleboards. He even traveled to the east side to Sherman bars a few times. Competition was limited and a lot of times they played frames or horse collar.

Larry and Junior played in only two tournaments in 1960, but one was at the Royal Cafe in Mishawaka, where he learned what competition really was like. Jim Long was likely the bar tender and also played, but neither Larry or Jim recall meeting that night.

In 1961, Larry played in only one tournament with Etna-Green old-timer, John Sparrow.



# TSA HOF

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## MEMORY LANE (con't.)



## TESTIMONIALS

**Congratulations to the Silver Fox and the Red Baron!**

Jim and Larry have been my friends and shuffleboard mentors for over 30 years. I have competed with them and against them all over the country. They have been good ambassadors for shuffleboard, and they are very deserving of induction to the TSA Hall of Fame. GREAT JOB GUYS! All my respect, -- Jerry Siebert of MI

**"The Dynamic Duo"**

Jim Long has played everyone that will get up to the table in Indiana, Michigan or anywhere else. The one thing that stands out in Larry Creakbaum is his commitment to the game.

CONGRATULATIONS! -- Glen Davidson, Founder & Past Pres. NSHOF

**Player Comments:**

"Deserving for sure!!" -- John Modglin

"True Gentlemen" -- Larry Brown

"Good Company" -- Emmitt Wilcox

"None Better" -- Terry Dowell

"I love these guys!" -- Deb Voorhis

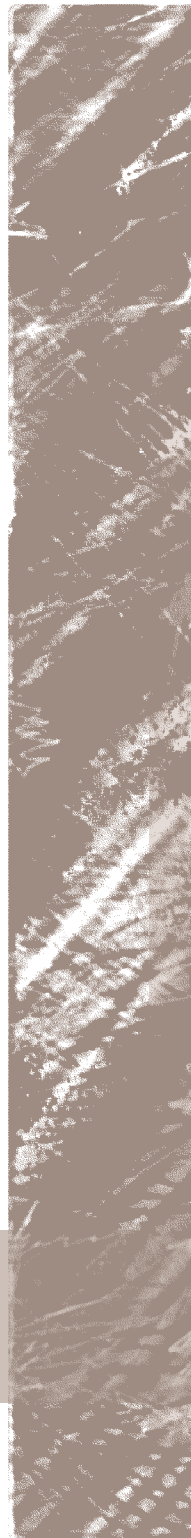
"The Red Baron & Silver Fox are The Best!" -- Mikel Johnson

"My heros" -- Pam Worsham

"Two of the toughest Hoosiers to ever pick up a weight" -- Bobby V.

"These two shuffleboard legends are linked and bonded forever. They were inducted into the Indiana HOF together and now this deserving honor of TSA HOF induction together -- an appropriate and excellent decision. Congratulations! -- George & Donna Wilber, Board Talk Founders & Prior Editors/Publishers (1984-2000)

"Two dedicated longtime tough players, great mentors, and dear friends! Wish we could be there personally for the ceremony and celebration." -- Tom & Lynda French, Prior Board Talk Editors/Publishers (2000-2005)



In 1962, Larry played in two tournaments with Jim Bayne (owner of Lake Trail) and the one at Royal Cafe with Jim was Larry's first time to even win a game at a tournament -- not only did he win a game, but they took 3rd place money!

In 1963, Larry played 10 of 12 tournaments with free-hander John Boganwright (Broadway Bar owner). In 1964, he played in only 5 tournaments, all five with different partners. From 1966 to 1975, Larry played partners regularly with Ron Reichert and their first tournament was at Lagrange, Indiana.

Larry and Ron would have taken 1st place in the Lagrange tournament if only Larry could lag a one past the long foul line (long board rules). The excitement was too much and Larry threw it off the board, taking 2nd. The next week Ron & Larry won their first tournament at the Boat Club in Columbia City. They went on and over time the two of them won twenty tournaments!

In 1968, Larry met his future (and present) wife, Patti. She was his girlfriend only a few months when he took her to a tournament in Columbia City where he and John Boganwright won. Patti thought the adventure was great until Larry informed her they were going up the road a couple miles (actually 15 the wrong direction) to Kimmel to play for money. Unhappy, she drove 3 hours back to Indianapolis at 3am, waking Larry twice to find out where to turn, and she has not attended a shuffleboard tournament since!

In 1969, Larry played 5 tournaments with Bill Knox of Mishawaka and they won 3 in a row. This is also when Larry first encountered two pesky players from Elkhart and Osceola named Jerry Smith and Jim Long. When Jim and Larry became a constant team, Jerry and Skip Jackson of Bourbon did the same. The foursome, wagering on the side and buying calcuttas soon became known as "The Cartel."

Larry learned if he was going to be a consistent competitor, he had improve his game and lag. So he rented a house from the Indianapolis airport and put a shuffleboard in the basement.

Larry and Patti married in 1972 and in 1973 went house shopping. Anything without a place to put his shuffleboard was quickly removed from the list.

1970 was the year of the reemergence of 6-Person team events. Carl Dittmar of Niles, Michigan asked Ron Reichert and Larry to play in a 5 out of 9 format 6-Person team event at the Eagles Lodge in Lansing, Michigan. The team also included Bill Knox, Skip Jehrue of Niles, and Dick Raymond of Battle Creek, Michigan. In the final match they played against the team captained by Jim Long -- Long's team won.

In 1971, Dick Raymond was replaced by Glen Davidson of Oklahoma, and Carl's team won.

Then in 1972, 8 teams entered the event with play starting on Friday night. Carl's team had replaced Glen Davidson with Bill Knox's younger brother, Jerry.

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By Sunday afternoon, it was determined the tournament needed to be switched to a 3 out of 5 format in order to finish before the lodge had to close. Again, the teams of Jim Long and Carl Ditmar were in the final match. At 1:30am the match was tied at one game each and not enough time left for a third game. It was decided to set an alarm clock (how one was found, who knows?) for 2am and when it rang the frame in progress would finish and the game would end. The alarm sounded two shots into a frame with Carl's team leading by 2 points with the hammer. Jim Long wrapped a two on Skip Jehrue and 3 hrs of play ended in a tie.

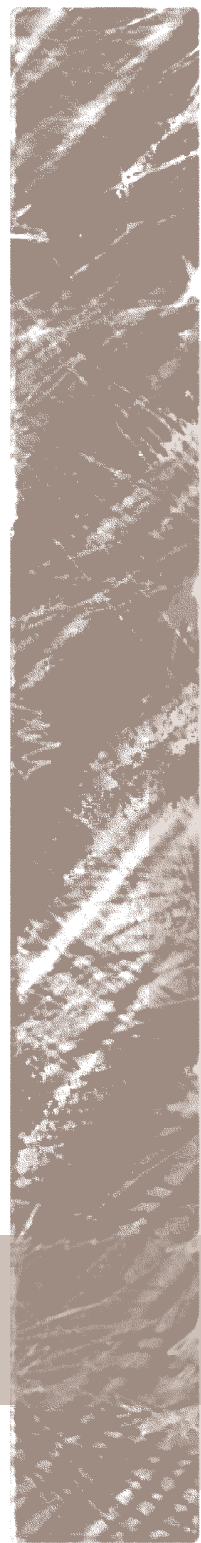
Player attrition eventually made the teams merge, and there were no future matches between the teams. Larry and Bill Knox had agreed to be regular partners when tournaments resumed in the fall, but tragedy struck in July when Bill Knox and Butch Visel of Niles (brother of Cliff Visel who currently resides in Austin, Texas) were killed in a car accident. Both are still greatly missed today.

The first time Larry and Jim Long played on the same team was in 1973 when they traveled to the Wagonwheel in Lake Orion, Michigan for a 6-Person team event. Larry teamed with Carl Ditmar and Jim with Jerry Smith. Their other two players were Larry Lent of Elkhart and Skip Jehrue. It was a long ride home in the airplane.

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The first doubles tournament for Larry and Jim was in March of 1973 when they played at the VFW in Rochester, Indiana and won their first tournament as partners! They played 4 times together in 1974. 6-Person match games with teams from Lansing and Pontiac were scheduled to begin in 1975, so Jim and Larry teamed together.

By the fall of 1975, Larry Creakbaum and Jim Long started the beginning of a longtime partnership and started off the year in 1976 with four consecutive tournament wins! They won the last two in 1980 and the first two in 1981 for a second four tournament win streak followed by a third four tournament win streak in 1982. By year end 1986, they won 43 of the 118 tournaments they played and 5 of those wins were held at the Bourbon Legion (the location of their TSA Hall of Fame induction ceremony on March 6, 2005). Jim and Larry played and won many more tournaments over the years. In fact, Larry and Jim (along with Jerry Knox) played together until Jim retired from work (not shuffleboard) in 1999. Glen Ingram (also retired) and Jim partnered up and started playing and traveling ... to New York, Florida, Texas, Indiana, Oklahoma & Michigan and winning their fair share. Soon Jim and Glen were rated as Pros (-1's) Bowers' Rating status. This bump limited their opportunities to partner in events due to formats where no two -1's can partner up.



# TSA HOF

Creakbaum & Long TSA HOF (con't.)

In 1975, Larry Creakbaum and Larry Summe (owner of Keg Tavern in Leesburg, Indiana) teamed up to print a tournament schedule. Due to tournament overlap from others doing their own schedules, Larry started producing a more extensive schedule, which is still being printed and used in 2005.

After 1986, when "The Cartel" realigned with Jim & Jerry and Skip & Larry playing together, both teams went on to win several more tournaments. By the early 90's, Skip Jackson retired from playing and a few years later Jerry Knox stopped playing regularly. Jim & Larry continued to play briefly together, but it was obvious that Larry's skills were waning until he was eventually diagnosed with Parkinsons in 1999. Larry still prints the Indiana schedule and does brackets, attends many tournaments and TSA meetings.

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Larry, a retired pilot, has sold his airplane due to the Parkinsons, but is still very active and supports many tournaments. In fact, you still see him in the winner's bracket when he does play. Larry continues to compete when someone wants to play with an elder statesman like him.

Larry won 76 of 317 tournaments through 1986 and by year end 2003 he had played in at least 700 tournaments (more since then too, such as taking 2nd in Singles in the Indiana State Championship 2004 and 2nd BTO 2004 4-Person Team). He had been a Director of the TSA (pka NSHOF) since it's inception and never misses a director meeting.

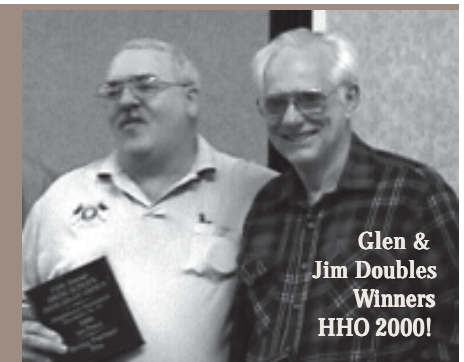
Jim Long has played in 850+ tournaments.

Larry Creakbaum and Jim Long are most deserving of the TSA Hall of Fame induction! Congratulations to both!

### MEMORY LANE



Jim Long playing in his younger days!



Glen & Jim Doubles Winners HHO 2000!



WHO & WHY & WHERE?