

# Al Salazar

**Table Shuffleboard Association  
Hall of Fame Induction  
January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Stingers Sports Bar  
Glendale, AZ**



**Categories: Player & Promoter**



## **GENTLEMAN IN RED**

AL "SALAD BAR" SALAZAR, "BIG AL" or the "GENTLEMAN IN RED" was born in Phoenix, AZ on September 27th, 1948. He grew up in the "Valley of the Sun" with his mother, stepfather, one brother and two sisters.

He graduated from Pioneer High in 1966. His yearbook tells the story of a very active and involved student who played football, was in the Typing Club, History Club, Law Club, Inter Club Council and Varsity Club. Seems he could've chosen several paths for his life.

As a young man, he attended the University of Arizona, Mesa Community College and finally graduated from Arizona State University in 1984. During his college career, he worked full time, raised a family, was an active officer in the JC's and still managed to learn and play the game of shuffleboard.

After working several retail management positions, he began a very successful career as a European Automotive Technician in 1974 and is currently retired and living in Peoria, Arizona with his lovely wife Nancy, whom he met playing shuffleboard at the CBS Lounge in Phoenix in 1990. They eventually married in 1993.

Along the way his two children Shannon and Trey gave him 5 grandchildren. Three of the grands live in New York City: Lauren, Matthew and John. Two grands live in Anchorage, AK: Brittany and Trey, Jr (TJ).

Al learned the game of shuffleboard from a guy named Baird at the Pueblo Bar in Tempe in 1970. He has actively participated in the game since 1974. After winning his first game at the Instant Replay Tavern, he became a regular there and began bar play or hustling a bit. In 1979, he met Bob Lewis and Larry Tafoya at the Dilly Dally Bar and impressed them enough that they asked him to play on a team in league play. His first partner was Gil Aragon. They took first place that year and the following year. He also met Alice Arredondo in these early league years. She owned several bars in that era: the Oxbow, The Mill Inn and Tiny's Tavern. She will tell you that Al taught almost everyone in her bars to play and encouraged them to join leagues. All through the 80's, Al continued his participation in leagues and became a Director and Officer in the Valley Shuffleboard League.

The decade of the 80's became the time when Al started playing in national tournaments. He will tell you that playing against better players was what gave him the fire in his belly to LOVE this game and to continue to learn and excel. Gil Aragon approached him to go to a Temecula tournament to play. His eyes light up when he tells you that everybody who was anybody in shuffleboard was there. Mexican Tommy Workman, Porter White, Darrol Nelson, Bill Melton, Don Cox, Bob Hunt, Karl Spickelmier, Joe Muniz and more. This first tournament

experience propelled him to learn by watching and then practicing to be the player he became in the subsequent decades. He also is very proud that he attended every Temecula, Dixie Belle, PCSA, Las Vegas and Reno NASC (except 2021). He also traveled to several SW OPEN tournaments and a couple Michigan Tournaments. And, of course, he could definitely be counted on for all Arizona tournaments.

While promoting amateur and team play at national tournaments, he also played singles and doubles moving up in the national ratings! He played successfully with greats such as AZ Turnbow, Glen Davidson, Billy Chiles, Dan Hitt, Billy Maxwell, Bob Hunt, Nick Chaffin, Bobby Voorhis, Bob Lewis, Kelly Cameron, Phil Fridley, Bob Crum, Bubba Warren, Karl Spickelmier, and Dwayne Maxwell. Impressive group! Ranked by his peers nationally, he was rated a pro for 14 of 15 years and in the top 2% for 20 years. My guess is that very few in our game's history can claim this.

Oh, and by the way, during these decades of league and tournament play his contributions were many to promote, preserve and advance our game. There aren't many who agree to do the thankless and overlooked jobs of board members, committee members and raters, etc. The following is a list of how he participated in the other arenas of shuffleboard:

- ***Co-founder and Board member, AZ HOF for over 20 years***
- ***Nomination committee member AZ HOF, for over 20 years, current member***
- ***2000 Inductee, AZ Hall of Fame***
- ***Elected Vice President of TSA and continues on as a Director, from inception up until present day***
- ***He has been on the TSA Rules Committee since its inception contributing to the way we play the game today***
- ***Director and driving force for the Bill Gibbs" Memorial Tournament for 17 years. His blood, sweat and tears made this the largest non-holiday tournament in the country for many years. Never collected a registration fee or board fee. (This tournament became the Tony Appell Memorial tournament in Arizona)***
- ***According to Ron and Debbie Bowers: A long time Bower's rater***
- ***All these endeavors led to his being awarded the prestigious Sol Lipkin Award in 2005***

Never complaining of his health issues, Al has maintained his quiet, unassuming demeanor, his competitive spirit and outstanding ability for a long, long time. Into his 6th decade. Talk about love and compassion! His contributions put him in a very small group of the elite in our game. Knowing Al for 35 years, I assure you (and many will confirm) he did it all with no ulterior motive: love, passion, heart and hard work. A true "Gentleman in Red". I thank you.

**Cindy Clark**

## Al Salazar's Highlights and Awards

1983	PCSA Las Vegas	Team	2 <sup>nd</sup>
1987	Ted Z's 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Tournament	Singles	3 <sup>rd</sup>
1988	Temecula 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Tournament	Doubles	5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup>
1990	NASC Reno	Team	2 <sup>nd</sup>
1991	PCSA Las Vegas	Team	4 <sup>th</sup>
1991	NASC Reno	Doubles	5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup>
1992	PCSA Las Vegas	Team	4 <sup>th</sup>
1993	NASC Reno	Singles	3 <sup>rd</sup>
1993	NASC Reno	Deuce's Wild	1 <sup>st</sup>
1993	NASC Reno	Team	3 <sup>rd</sup>
1993	PCSA Las Vegas	Team	4 <sup>th</sup>
1993	Dixie Bell / 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Tournament	Singles	4 <sup>th</sup>
1994	PCSA Las Vegas	Doubles	1st
1994	PCSA Las Vegas	Team	4 <sup>th</sup>
1994	Dixie Bell / 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Tournament	Singles	5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup>
1994	NASC Reno	Singles	3 <sup>rd</sup>
1994	NASC Reno	Team	5 <sup>th</sup>
1995	PCSA Las Vegas	Team	2 <sup>nd</sup>
1995	Phoenix / Pro Lounge	Open Doubles	1 <sup>st</sup>
1995	Michigan-Wetlands	Singles	3 <sup>rd</sup>
1995	Michigan-Wetlands	A/B	4 <sup>th</sup>
1995	Dixie Bell	Singles	3 <sup>rd</sup>
1996	PCSA Las Vegas	Team	2 <sup>nd</sup>
1996	Bill Gibbs Memorial	Open Doubles	2 <sup>nd</sup>
1996	Dixie Bell / 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Tournament	Open Doubles	3 <sup>rd</sup>
1996	NASC Reno	Pro Doubles	2 <sup>nd</sup>
1996	NASC Reno	Am Team	1 <sup>st</sup>
1997	Bill Gibbs Memorial	Open Doubles	3 <sup>rd</sup>
1997	Bill Gibbs Memorial	A/B Draw	3 <sup>rd</sup>
1997	Dixie Bell / 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Tournament	Open Doubles	2 <sup>nd</sup>
1997	PCSA	Am Doubles	4 <sup>th</sup>
1997	PCSA	Team Event	1 <sup>st</sup>
1998	Bill Gibbs Memorial	ABC	1 <sup>st</sup>
1999	Bill Gibbs Memorial	ABC	4 <sup>th</sup>
1999	Dixie Bell / 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Tournament	ABC	3 <sup>rd</sup>
1999	Dixie Bell / Thanksgiving Tournament	Open Doubles	4 <sup>th</sup>
2000	<b>Induction into the State of Arizona HOF</b>		
2000	Bill Gibbs Memorial	ABC	1 <sup>st</sup>
2000	Southwest Open	Bring Team	4 <sup>th</sup>
2000	NASC Reno	Pro/AM Team	5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup>

2000	NASC Reno	Pro Doubles	4th
2001	NASC Reno	Crazy 8's Pro	3 <sup>rd</sup>
2002	NASC Reno	Pro/AM Team	2 <sup>nd</sup>
2002	NASC Reno	Pro Doubles	2 <sup>nd</sup>
2003	Las Vegas – LaPiazza	Team	2 <sup>nd</sup>
2004	Southwest Open	Team	4 <sup>th</sup>
2005	<b>Sol Lipkin Award / NASC Reno</b>		
2007	NASC Reno	Pro/AM Team	6 <sup>th</sup>
2007	NASC Reno	4 Person Team	4 <sup>th</sup>
2007	NASC Reno	Pro Doubles	1 <sup>st</sup>
2007	Las Vegas – LaPiazza	AB Draw	4 <sup>th</sup>
2007	Las Vegas – LaPiazza	Doubles	2 <sup>nd</sup>
2007	Southwest Open	Pro Singles	3 <sup>rd</sup>
2008	NASC Reno	4 Person Team	4 <sup>th</sup>
2009	Modesto President's Day	Pro Singles	2 <sup>nd</sup>
2009	Oskar's Memorial Day	ABC	2 <sup>nd</sup>
2009	Southwest Open	AB Div 1	3 <sup>rd</sup>
2009	NASC Reno	Pro/AM Team	5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup>
2009	Las Vegas – LaPiazza	Team	2 <sup>nd</sup>
2010	Oskar's Memorial Day	Doubles	2 <sup>nd</sup>
2010	Bill Gibbs Memorial	Open Doubles	3 <sup>rd</sup>
2010	Southwest Open	AB Draw	1 <sup>st</sup>
2010	Southwest Open	Pro Singles	4 <sup>th</sup>
2011	Southwest Open	AB Div 1	5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup>
2011	NASC Reno	Pro/AM Team	5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup>
2011	Marlin Open	Open Doubles	2 <sup>nd</sup>
2012	Bellflower Memorial Day	AB Draw	4 <sup>th</sup>
2012	Bellflower Memorial Day	ABC Draw	3 <sup>rd</sup>
2012	Bellflower Labor Day	ABC Draw	1 <sup>st</sup>
2012	Bellflower Labor Day	Doubles Add to 1	1 <sup>st</sup>
2012	NASC Reno	Pro Doubles	5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup>
2013	Bellflower President's Day	ABC	1 <sup>st</sup>
2013	Bellflower Memorial Day	Doubles / Add to 1	2 <sup>nd</sup>
2013	Southwest Open	AB Div 1	5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup>
2013	NASC Reno	AB Div 1	5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup>
2014	NASC Reno	Pro Singles	7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup>
2014	NASC Reno	4 Person Team	5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup>
2018	Tony Appell President's Day	Open Doubles	4 <sup>th</sup>
2018	Tony Appell President's Day	ABC	5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup>
2019	Tony Appell President's Day	Open Doubles	4th

## Testimonials

### **Nancy Salazar**

I first met Al in 1990 @ CBS a local shuffleboard bar, introduced by Peggie Skaggs. Our next meeting at the Phoenix courthouse jury room where we spent our waiting time getting acquainted. Actual first date 9/9/90 and married 9/4/93, phew 32 years later here we are. During this span of time an outstanding aspect has been his continued participation in shuffleboard and together being embraced and welcomed members of "This Shuffleboard Family". I'm grateful to Al and all members of this family for allowing me to be his tag along. On this journey we have loved, laughed, celebrated, and sadly grieved together. Al stubbornly and quietly blazed the path. Thank you, hubby!

### **Bill Melton**

#### **(TSA Hall of Fame Inductee 1997)**

Bill wrote his for Al's induction packet before his passing and we felt it needed to be included:

I certainly would endorse Al Salazar into the National Table Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. I really can't believe he is not there already. He belongs there 100%, and I have known him and his beautiful wife Nancy for about 100 years.

He has modified his game in the decades that he has played to accommodate different shots and his medical issues (and I know how that works), and still maintained his Pro ranking for several years. Sign of a great Player!



## **Hal Perry**

### **(State of California HOF 1999 / TSA Hall of Fame Inductee 2000)**

Keeping the game in a good place! This hits close to my heart as I have a lot of love for the game of (tabletop) shuffleboard! It's apparent, Al Salazar also shares that love.

Not only has he demonstrated his talent but even more important to note he has demonstrated his true passion by placing the game/tournaments above and before his own agenda. It's easy to show up and play as a top-rated player but to generate the continued interest of the players means someone is willing to set up and generate that interest, so that those players not only generate money but most importantly the talent and willingness to travel. Al's love of the game does both.

The drive to keep the game alive be it in Arizona or any other state in which he traveled and played in shows his love of the game. His talent has more than demonstrated his worthiness for this induction. Congratulations on being the 40<sup>th</sup> Player & 9<sup>th</sup> Promoter to be inducted into the National Table Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

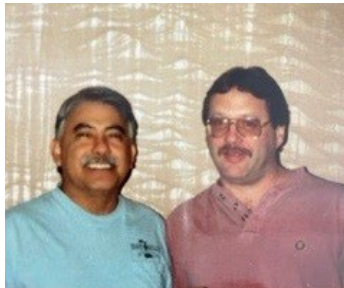
## **Joanie Healey**

Congratulations Al on your Induction to the National Table Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, and for making history for being the first person to be inducted as a player and promoter. You have made so many contributions to the game not only as a player, but you have also been a rater for many years, and currently serve as a director on the Table Shuffleboard Association. Thank you for all that you have done, and again, congratulations, so very well deserved.

## **Bobby "V" Voorhis**

### **(State of Indiana HOF 2003 / TSA Hall of Fame Inductee 2007)**

Al Salazar is a true ambassador of the game. A true gentleman, he is always gracious in winning or coming up short. He is the only player ever that played me 2 perfect games. In Del City he never missed a weight, never lagged off and lagged a 2 or 3 every time and stuck every 2 or 3 I put up there when he had the hammer. I still remember it vividly. Congratulations on your induction into the National Table Shuffleboard Hall of Fame!



**Tom & Lynda French**  
**(both State of Texas HOF 2007 / TSA Director)**

Al Salazar has been playing, supporting, and promoting table shuffleboard for many years at both State and National level tournaments. When we first started playing shuffleboard and later running some local and then national tournaments, Al was always one of the first to step up to help and support the game and tournament. For instance, when we ran the Board Talk Open, sponsored by Champion Shuffleboard, for the first two years in Las Vegas, Al was there early, during the events, and after the tournament was over helping with board adjustments and then supporting and helping there throughout the week until all boards were broken down and moved out for travel of the boards back to Champion Shuffleboard in Hurst, Texas.

Al has always been very knowledgeable and more than willing to pitch in on all aspects of shuffleboard from board adjustments, resurfacing, tournament wax, etc. Al was a great supporter of the Board Talk publication before it closed and Table Shuffleboard Association (TSA Inc) where he has been a member and served in multi-capacities ... as a TSA Director from AZ area and TSA Officer position over the years.

Congratulations on being the 40<sup>th</sup> Player inducted into the TSA National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame and the 9<sup>th</sup> Promoter!

**Barry Holmes**

So good. Al's the best in so many ways. Congrats AL my friend. It doesn't matter how long ago you should have been inducted. What matters is that now it'll be in the books forever. I salute you as a player, a promoter, a friend, and a gentleman of the highest caliber. A blackjack player.....not so much. But then, I'm only foolin' about. A much-deserved honor.

**Kathy Yingst**

We have many great players and many great promoters in this game of shuffleboard we play and Al Salazar fits in both categories. He is the definition of integrity, is a class act and an inspiration to all of us. Congratulations Al on your induction into the National Hall of Fame as a player and a promoter. It is so well deserved! I am honored to call you, my friend.

**Jane Mourgos**

I never really played with or against Al, but I attended several of his Bill Gibbs' Tournaments in Arizona. I have always admired his game and tenure at shuffleboard. Congratulations!



**Bill Loos**  
**(State of Nebraska HOF 2012)**

Well, I just wasn't around AL enough for a funny story but around him just enough to respect ol' red shirt, for his talent on the boards. His subtle and quick wit that always caught a person off guard was just a plus, something extra to just enjoy. AL, always a gentleman's gentleman.

I do remember one time at Soso's and Greg's little tournament. Morey Balins was the director. Sandy Tubbs and I had just won a game and Morey says to us that they thought to keep the tournament rolling they would just play 1<sup>st</sup> available board. So, we were up on the same board against him, and Big AL. AL was sitting right there, and I glanced at him thinking I didn't make that rule. No, I didn't. Did not. A couple of slow seconds go by, and AL says he thought he remembered Soso telling him that if this happened the team coming off the board had to change ends. I look at AL and chuckle out that's a good one buddy. AL says I really do remember Soso telling me something. Morey hears this and AL the instigator, pot stirrer has the ladle churning and testing the concoction he has whipped up this time. I grab Sandy, and Morey and AL grabs Soso. Poor Soso must remember 12 hours earlier and be a fair and impartial part of Al's instigated plot. Soso in mostly slurred uncertain incoherent terms says I told everyone that you could play to 15 or 21, one game or 2 out of 3. The rule is there are no rules. AL has the biggest grin on his face and says see, I was pretty sure I remembered that right. Never a dull moment around Big Al.

My only wish is I could have been around, hanging with the big guy more often. You Al are one of the pillars that built this house making shuffleboard fun not just for some but for all. When I look up Hall of Fame Shuffleboard in the dictionary, there it is a picture of ol' red shirt. The definition is of you, the award should go to you. Congratulations, can't be happier, wish I could be there. Love ya buddy.

**Bob & Vickie Hunt**  
**(State of California HOF 2005)**

I will always remember Al as a great player and an even greater friend. Vickie and I attended almost all 17 years of his 'Bill Gibbs' Memorial Tournaments', which Al always held after April 15<sup>th</sup> for us accountants! Haha. A strong competitor (one I'd rather play with than against), a solid tournament director and supporter of the game, Vickie and I congratulate you on your well-deserved induction to the TSA Hall of Fame.

### **Ron Sosovec**

Al Salazar has been a friend of mine for many years. As a pro, Al was willing to help me with my game. I never wanted to play up a division until Al asked me to. I have such respect for his game and him as a person that he was the first pro I ever played with. He was a leader by example. Many would not know of the effort he put in behind the scenes with wax, board adjustments and tournament direction. He did it all, not for recognition, but for the sheer love of the game and all that goes with it. I could name several of the greats of this game that have a lot of respect for him as a player and person; Bill Melton, Morey Balins, Bob Perry for example. He deserves this. Congratulations on your induction into the National Table Shuffleboard Hall of Fame!

### **Ron & Debbie Bowers**

**(both State of Texas HOF 2000 / TSA Hall of Fame Inductees 2000)**

Al Salazar has been a rater for the Bowers Rating from the early beginning. He has always been available to help us with any problems if it concerned the betterment of shuffleboard. He has always been a great example of good sportsmanship and honesty for the game. Even though he has been ranked a top professional from the beginning of the ratings, he has always related to the beginning players as an equal and always available to help them improve. New players should use him as an example of what a good shuffleboard player should be. Congratulations and well Deserved, Al!

### **Dan Hitt**

I met Al Salazar in the early 1990's, playing board in Phoenix, AZ. Al and I thought enough of each other's "game" that we teamed up for the bring your own partner, amateur doubles event at the P.C.S.A. tournament in Las Vegas, NV. 1995. We took the TITLE going away!

Al and I captured another title together in 2001, at the N.A.S.C. tournament in Reno. We bested the field in the Pro draw doubles.

Besides being a great doubles partner, Mr. Salazar has given countless hours, any way he can, to the game he loves. Al has played the game with great respect for it, and his opponents, in competition. And now Mr. Salazar has gained the respect of his peers enough that he has landed in the Hall of Fame himself. Congratulations Al!  
Al "Mr. Saladbar" Salazar!

## **Dwayne Maxwell**

I first met Al Salazar in the mid to late 80's. He was in the top 2-3 players in the state, and I looked up to his smooth release and his competitive spirit. I remember that Al sat quietly between games or frames, never saying much, but his observations gave him recall of every shot in the game. If you wanted help with a shot or strategy, Al was ready and willing to offer his advice. But you had to ask! He was the one you were trying to emulate, and he set the bar high.

Over the years, Al has been instrumental in developing lesser players and formed teams for amateur events, until competing at a higher pro level. Many skill levels of players were encouraged by him to compete nationally. Growing the Arizona presence at national tournaments across the country.

Arizona wouldn't be on the shuffleboard map without the 17 years he spent directing and promoting the Bill Gibbs' Memorial Tournament and eventually turning it over to myself.

You can't leave this man out of the National Table Shuffleboard Hall of Fame as a player, promoter, and sportsman. No one is more worthy overall.



## **Harvey Kidd**

**(State of Texas HOF 1998 / TSA Hall of Fame Inductee 2015)**

Al is a great player. Bought his Calcutta in Del City one year, he took 1<sup>st</sup> Place, shot extremely well, and made me lots of money. Congratulations!

**Billy Melton**  
**(TSA Hall of Fame Inductee 2022)**

Al Salazar is one of the best shuffleboard players in the country and has competed at a high level for the 30 years I have been a pro. As good of a shuffleboard player as Al is he is probably a better person. I always looked forward to watching him play as I grew up and I know how much my dad respected him. Al has earned his way into the shuffleboard hall of fame.

**Lary Tafoya**

Al Salazar and Bob Lewis carried the banner for Arizona shuffleboard and helped make AZ a destination for topflight players. Al went on to distinguish himself in Major tournaments. We should all be very proud of his many years of devotion to the game. I'm sure his fighting spirit will prevail over his recent medical issues. We are all in your corner my friend.

**Don Cox**

**(State of California HOF 2000 / TSA Hall of Fame Inductee 2013)**

Al Salazar, Mr. Shuffleboard, deserves to be in the hall of fame. Gentlemen of the game has traveled state to state playing shuffleboard. You better be on your "A" game to beat Al. He is not just a home board player. Congratulations you deserved to be in the Hall of Fame years ago.





**George & Donna Wilber**

**(both State of Texas HOF 1998 / TSA Hall of Fame Inductees 1997)**  
(taken from Al's Arizona State HOF Induction)

You have our unqualified and hearty endorsement of Al Salazar as a very worthy inductee into the Arizona Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

We have known him as a player for many years, admiring his skills on the boards in Arizona, Las Vegas, Reno, California and even Michigan. In every arena, he conducted himself with sportsmanship that set the example for other players.

In recent years, we have watched Al grow into a leadership role in Shuffleboard enhancement, both at state and national levels. His recent election as vice-president of the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame (now the TSA), in our estimation, will set a positive course toward a goal all of us committed to our sport want to achieve.

**Larry Creakbaum**

**(State of Indiana HOF 1999 / TSA Hall of Fame Inductee 2005)**  
(taken from Al's Arizona State HOF Induction)

Al, we have known each other for more than a decade now. We have never played with each other, only met in competition. I have always admired your quiet demeanor towards the game, and you have been a great ambassador to the sport.

Congratulations to your honor and induction which is well deserved.

**Rich "Bubba" Warren**

(taken from Al's Arizona State HOF Induction)

I support the induction of Al Salazar to the Arizona Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. His reputation as a top player and a top tournament director is known nationwide.

## **Gary & Kay Nelson (TSA President)**

When we started playing shuffleboard, David Williams Sr. told us to do two things, 1) subscribe to The Board Talk and 2) join the TSA. Both of which we did (early 90's). We felt like we knew Al long before ever meeting him at a Southwest Open in Del City thru all the pictures and articles he was in from "The Board Talk". Over the years we have watched him win across the country. His contributions to the game and his never-ending sportsmanship make him a wonderful addition to the TSA National Hall of Fame as a "player" and "promoter". Congratulations Al!



### **A little bit of history about Al: "The Board Talk July 1995"**

"Royal Oak, Michigan, is a long way from Glendale, Arizona. There are not many wetlands in Arizona, whereas in Michigan, almost the whole state could qualify as a federally protected wetland (much to the consternation of the Great Lakes State agricultural industry). But there's only one Wetlands in Michigan spelled with a capital "W" and that's located at 1008 N. Woodward Avenue in Royal Oak, owned by Mike Papa."

"Nancy, wife of Al Salazar of Arizona, had relatives in Southeast Michigan she wanted to visit, so why not coincide that visit with the Wetlands' Memorial Weekend Shootout? Why not, indeed! Buy the winning team in the A-B Doubles, finish third in the singles, and you've paid for your trip! That's exactly what Al Salazar did, and hopefully, he'll remember Michigan with fondness. Don't ever underestimate this "visitor" from Arizona, Al Salazar, who finished first with his partner Dan Hitt of Washington/ in the PCSA 's Extravaganza VII amateur doubles in Vegas last February – and didn't do too bad in Michigan over the 1995 Memorial Weekend!"

### **Diana Hagan**

**(State of Texas HOF 1999 / TSA Hall of Fame Inductee 2002)**

Congratulations Al Salazar, a welcome addition to the Table Shuffleboard National Hall of Fame. Always a gentleman behind the board, and years of hard work and dedication to the sport.

**David & Debbie Sexton**  
**(both State of Texas HOF 2017 / TSA Director)**

**AL SALAZAR, THE MAN, THE PLAYER, THE PROMOTER**

Al has contributed to the game and its growth as TSA Director, Pro Player, and Promoter of events in Arizona and California.

Al, you supported this national community with your contributions to the original rules committee which helped standardize the way this game is played today, so many decades later.

On a personal note, you helped us through the years by sharing your unique league formats and league building ideas. We greatly appreciate and value your and Nancy's friendship.

**CONGRATULATIONS** on this well-deserved recognition!



**Paul Obermiller**

(taken from Al's Arizona State HOF Induction)

When you talk Arizona shuffleboard, Al is one of the names that is always there. He promotes the game in Arizona and is always there to help with tournaments. As a competitor the thing I admire most, no matter what the score, I have never seen Al quit on a game.

# Al Salazar – 2005



## **AL SALAZAR**

The integrity and sportsmanship for which you are well known have made you a role model for your fellow players, both amateur and professional, and puts you in a small group of the most respected names in the shuffleboard community.

As one of our sports greatest ambassadors, your efforts to promote our sport have always been done behind the scenes, for the good of the game, not for personal gain or acknowledgment. In recognition of your efforts as a teacher, tournament promoter and Vice President of the TSA,

We proudly present the

## **SOL LIPKIN AWARD**

in recognition of your extraordinary contributions to the advancement of our sport.

**November 4, 2005**



**Rick Pittman**  
**(State of Missouri HOF 2003)**

Congratulations Al!!!! An Honor Well Deserved. I have known Al for well over 20 years, as a Friend, Player, Teacher, and Players Pro. Always willing to listen, talk, give advice, Oh, and by the way, that Big Smile. Again, Al, Congrats!!!! And Thanks for the Memories.

**Jim Martin**  
**(State of California HOF 2018 / TSA Director)**

Can't remember exactly when I first met Al, but I do remember several times that I watched him play and played against him. He not only was a fierce competitor that had all the determination to win, he also was a class act with all of his sportsmanship like attitude. Al is certainly known across the country for his ability to play the game of table shuffleboard. His record certainly speaks for that. But as long as I've known Al, I come To learn that without his tenacious attitude, shuffleboard would not have thrived in the Phoenix area without him. Unfortunately, Al had a very serious health problem that throttled his career at the sport of table shuffleboard. But being the person that he is, and to find out that his wonderful mate, Nancy, was a perfect match for a kidney transplant, Al found a way to make his way back and become competitive once again. Not many would have achieved what he has. Knowing the determination that Al has, I expect to see a lot more of him in the future.

It is my pleasure and honor to congratulate Al for his well-deserved induction into the TSA National Table Shuffleboard Hall of fame.

**Tim Manley**

My grandpa always said, there's a lot to learn from a quiet man! I've always been appreciative of your kind words when needed and your ability to point out my shortfalls even when I didn't really want to hear them! Most importantly, I've learned a lot from watching you play and listening to your strategies and all of the great history you have shared with all of us. Congratulations on your induction into the Table Shuffleboard National Hall of Fame!

**Marilyn Roberts**

After all these years, I am happy to see you acknowledged for all your dedication and hard work in shuffleboard. It is a well-deserved honor for your work behind the scenes: bracket boards and running tournaments that have gone back almost 40 years for me. That's dedication! And besides, you have made your mark by taking part in and competing on a high level in many tournaments across the country. All for the love of the game!

**Nick Chaffin**  
**(State of California HOF 2005)**

I don't remember where or when I first met Al Salazar. It was probably at one of his tournaments that I attended in Arizona. Over the years, I got to know Al pretty well. What a wonderful man you are: Always upbeat, with a smile on your face. You have done so much for the game. From helping players, to running tournaments, to doing boards; you name it, Al did it. I richly congratulate you on being inducted into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Not only are you a great player, but also a great man. Congratulations!

**Connie K Fore Kerrell**

I met Al through my late husband, Frank Zavala over 30 years ago and he was such a sweet person, very welcoming. Well-deserved Al!

**Lorraine Olson**

Al is truly deserving of induction into the Table Shuffleboard National Hall of Fame. Al is a great player and one, if not the best from Arizona. Al is a true gentleman and great for the game. I count myself truly lucky to call him my friend. Congratulations!



**Linda Meyer**

Congratulations, Al, for being the first player/promoter to be inducted into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. You definitely deserve this well-earned award for your skill, dedication, and your willingness to share your knowledge of the game. Also, have you googled "Al Salazar Shuffleboard" lately? Holy Shuffleboard, You're famous! Thank you for all of the pointers you have given throughout the years that I've known you (1998-NOW)!

**Doug Hynes**

I have been playing shuffleboard since 2010 and have had the pleasure of knowing Al Salazar as a friend and mentor. Al is so deserving of his induction as player and promoter. Al has always been a person of few words but when asked a question on a shot, board condition or rules he has an answer! You may not like the answer, but it is always thought out and more often than not it is the correct answer. Al knows rules...Al knows boards...Al knows how to play shuffleboard...more importantly Al has been a great ambassador to Shuffleboard! Congratulations, Al, you deserve this great honor!

**Wendell Herbison  
(State of Arizona HOF 2020)**

I have known Al since 1982. After 40 years he can still beat me with his lag! In addition to his skill on the boards, his support of leagues and tournaments in Arizona and across the country has not waived. His experience, knowledge and hard work helped us to start and keep the AZ HOF a working organization. Congratulations, Al, on an honor well deserved.

**Denise Vohn**

I first met Al Salazar around 1988. I was just learning how to play shuffleboard and Al was already an accomplished player. I have had the opportunity to play with him over the years in leagues and on national teams. I always admired him as a person and thought he was such a great shuffleboard player. I am very glad to see him inducted into the TSA National Table Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. What a well-deserved honor! Congratulations, Al!!!

**Mark Gray  
(State of Missouri HOF 2014 / TSA Director)**

Congratulations Al for being inducted into the National Hall of Fame a well-deserved honor. Great to see your efforts haven't gone unnoticed!

**Alice Arredondo**  
**(State of Arizona HOF 2020)**

Al Salazar: a patient teacher, a ferocious competitor, and my very close friend of 40 plus years. Not many are more deserving of the highest honor in table shuffleboard. The untold and largely unrewarded hours of teaching new players, forming leagues and partnering with me on the Bill Gibbs' Memorial tournament are just a few of the highlights of his shuffleboard career. He is a model and master of the game-excellent skills, strategist, perfect gentleman, scholar of the game, steady participant, hard worker and always displaying sportsmanlike conduct in his usual quiet and gentle manner. Thank you, Al, for all you have done for this game we love. You are one of a kind!



**Dave Shewbridge (TSA Director)**

Congratulations Al, this is a well-deserved honor, to be inducted into the TSA HOF alongside the other greats of our game. I feel proud to have been in many battles, as well as playing as your partner over the years. I'm not sure if you realize the amount of respect there is for you as a player, and a true gentleman of life. Job well done!  
Enjoy this ride my friend!



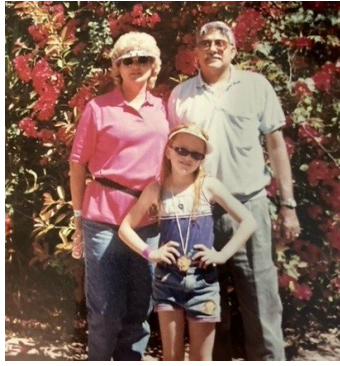
### **Helen Roberston**

Thank you to All Salazar for all he's done for the game of shuffleboard. I first met Al when I started playing shuffleboard in the early 2000. He always welcomed new players and was generous in sharing his knowledge of the game. I for one am very grateful for his encouragement.



### **Gary & Judy George (Pacific Northwest HOF 2007)**

I believe that Al Salazar is more than deserving of being inducted into the National Hall of Fame. He's been a shuffleboard ambassador for the state of Arizona for a very long time. Congratulations Al!



### **Brittany**

I used to go to my Papa Al's (as I know him) house after school every day as a kid. In addition to providing ample supplies of cool ranch Doritos, pepperonis, and chocolate milk for me to consume as soon as I walked in the door, he also provided spitfire conversation, ruthless checkers competition, and unwavering patience as I drew pictures in the sand of his shuffleboard table.

I was never much of a shuffleboard player myself, but that endlessly long table was the perfect canvas for stars, hearts, and "Brittany was here" type notes. Once I was tired of doodling, I would rocket the weights to the other end of the table, my only concern being speed and impact, with zero regard for scoring. Every school day for years I held reckless, destructive disregard for this game that was so integral to my Papa Al's life, and every school day for years he would laugh in that classic Al Salazar way and offer to teach me to play. Occasionally, I'd take him up on a short lesson, but mostly I'd draw pictures in the sand.

Now, at 31 years old, I occasionally play shuffleboard at the bar with friends. While I'm still not much of a shuffleboard player, I do always tell the people I play with that my grandpa is a champion player, world class, probably olympic-level if it were an olympic sport, building up the hero-status of a man in the way that only a grandkid can. To hear that he's being inducted into the Hall of Fame is no surprise at all. Eight-year-old Brittany knew he was Hall of Fame worthy, and 31-year-old Brittany brags about it to intimidate her friends at the bar.

For as long as I can remember, shuffleboard tables have been ever present in my life via my Papa Al. And for as long as I can remember, the game, the competition, and the people of the shuffleboard community have been steadfast in my Papa Al's life.

Papa Al, congratulations! You deserve this recognition and so much more for your passion and dedication to the game and the shuffleboard community. Whoever else may be reading this - would you please write "congrats, Papa Al!" in the sand for me? I'd appreciate it.

**With love from Alaska** ❤️ ❤️ ❤️

## **Kelly Cameron**

### **(State of Texas HOF 2016 / TSA Hall of Fame Inductee 2016)**

I ran into AL at Amato's in Huntington Beach CA. In 93'. I don't believe we were formally introduced (there was a lot of players there) but I remember Bubba kept calling him "AL Saladbar". I'm always interested in learning where players are from, where they played and who they played against. But I never sat down and talked about that with AL. I think AL started playing around the Phoenix area, probably leagues and weekend tournaments or money games. Obviously, AL improved enough to venture out and started playing pro tournaments. Imagine a young player going to California and trying to beat all those Hall of Fame players. He must have been crazy. No Div 1 or 2 just a pro singles and doubles against the greatest generation of players ever. Fearless, steady, solid, unshakable. Hell of a lagger. Great player, better person. Looking forward to this induction. Well deserved. Congratulations AL Salazar.

## **Glen & Sandy Tubbs**

### **(State of Nebraska HOF 2021)**

We did not know Al much before Moving to Arizona for the winters. We got to play against him many times at Stingers. He is a great player! Enjoyed his company and playing against him. Congratulations on the honor.



## **Rob Kern**

### **(State of Michigan HOF 2005)**

I would like to congratulate Al Salazar on his induction to the National Hall of Fame. I was running a local tournament, by local I mean Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana, when in walks this guy from Arizona who was in town visiting relatives. As I recall he had a pretty good showing against the likes of Frank Blade and Bobby V and John McDermott. Shortly after that tournament I noticed he had reached pro status. So, I have always told myself I was there the day he turned pro and stand here proudly applauding as they put him in the Hall of Fame. Congratulations my friend.





**Dan Mourgos**  
**(State of California HOF 2019)**

AL SALAZAR – Hall of Fame worthy!

Al Salazar is one of the great players of shuffleboard. He was among the top players in the country for decades. Al is one of the best board players I have ever seen – and he could lag. That is a difficult combination to beat.

I had the pleasure of many tough battles with him over the years. When you play Al Salazar, you better be ready to scrap.

Al is truly worthy of the National Table Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

**Bill & Linda Walker (TSA Director)**

We first met "The Man In Red" over a card table during the early years of the NASC in Reno where he displayed a cool, calculating demeanor, assessing the options available before making a decision. The next day we made it a point to observe him in action on the boards and found that he approached the game of shuffleboard in the same manner.

Since we have taken up winter residence in Arizona, we have had the opportunity to observe him in action much more frequently and have concluded that he is one of the stalwarts of the sport. As well as being a great player he has been a constant supporter and promoter of our sport for many years in the greater Phoenix area.

It is our great pleasure to see him receive the recognition he so richly deserves after all he has given to his chosen sport over the years. Congratulations Al on your inclusion among the greats with your induction into the TSA Hall of Fame, an honor that we feel is long overdue in coming.

**Ryan Pearson**

Your contributions to the game are far reaching. You are not only an outstanding player, but a great mentor and supporter of the game. What better way to commemorate your dedication and accomplishments than with this award. Congratulations, Mr. Salazar!

**Alfred (Trey) Salazar III**

"Congratulations! In addition to being an excellent player, you gave a lot to the sport for decades. Very well deserved! Us Alaskans are proud of you.

**Brandon Glasscock**

My pal Al, congratulations on your induction into the TSA National Hall of Fame. It's well deserved and frankly, overdue. Thank you for all you do and have done for the game we love. Congrats buddy!

## **John McDermott**

### **(State of Michigan HOF 1998 / TSA Hall of Fame Inductee 2004)**

Where to begin? Al is a great player, Table Shuffleboard ambassador, Arizona Hall of Fame member, and Sol Lipkin Award winner (2005). His contributions to the game as a teacher, promoter, TSA Vice President, and Rules Committee Chairperson add up to one of the most impressive résumés in the history of the game.

That list of accolades, which is impressive by any standards, doesn't tell the whole story. Al, by virtue of his well-known integrity, has been one of the most respected people in the Table Shuffleboard community for decades.

Also impressive, and much appreciated, is his unrivaled support of the NASC, which he attended for a record setting 30 straight years!

It's an honor to have him as a friend and I'm delighted to see him recognized for all of his accomplishments as a player and for a lifetime of giving back to the game. He continues to be a role model to everyone in the Table Shuffleboard Family.

Congratulations on your induction into the TSA Hall of Fame.

## **Phil Gardner**

Al, congratulations on your INDUCTION INTO THE NATIONAL HALL OF FAME. Thanks for sharing your skills and love of shuffleboard.

## **Trey Jr**

"Congratulations, Papa Al. What a great accomplishment. Now I know where I get it from!"

## **Jack Davis**

Hey Cindy, Ron the Soso just called me about making a testimonial for Al Salazar. I asked why, and he said for an induction into the Hall of Fame. My first thought was that Ron had been drinking! In all the years I've been playing, I was certain that Al had been inducted years ago. Not only as a player, but promoter, goodwill ambassador and several other aspects of being very good for our game, as well as a good citizen of the human race.

I'm extremely surprised that he is not already there. Unfortunately, I don't know a lot about his history as a player because of our locales. He and I have always been friendly when we had the chance, but our chances have been too few for my liking. He's such a quiet, humble man that I was sure had received every accolade possible and had no need to talk about it. I believe he will remain so after being recognized as a Hall of Famer! Congratulations Al!

### **Steve Burkett**

“Al Salazar is a very nice guy and a great player and supporter of shuffleboard across the country. He has come from AZ to OK to support and attend the SW OPEN in Del City for many years.”

### **Travis Ward**

Al Salazar is one of the most professional and gracious shuffleboard players I have had the pleasure to be associated with. His contributions to and promotion of the game over the years have been invaluable. Congratulations Al on your induction into the Table Shuffleboard National Hall of Fame.

### **Louise Freer Williams (TSA Director)**

Congratulations Al on your induction into the TSA National Hall of Fame in two categories. It's been an honor and a pleasure watching you all these years. Your hard work has paid off. Well done!



**The Red Barron and The Red Shirt!**

*Years of memories, friendships made across the country, monies won and monies donated. This sport has a history of sportsmanship and a wee bit of hustle. Through it all, this group of shuffleboard players are a diverse community that enjoys the camaraderie the game brings. We stand by each other and offer a hand when needed. ❤️💙❤️💙gn*



The Table Shuffleboard Association Board of Directors, TSA Associate Shuffleboard Community, friends & family proudly present the Hall of Fame Induction Award to:

AL SALAZAR



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