



**The USBA Newsletter**  
**3-Cushion Billiard News**

[www.USBA.net](http://www.USBA.net)

Would you like to write an article or submit a shot? email articles to: [jmshovak@usba.net](mailto:jmshovak@usba.net) or you can mail it to: Jim Shovak, USBA Secretary, 58 Hawthorne Avenue, East Islip, NY 11730

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**Regional Qualifier • Burbank Elks Lodge  
 Burbank, CA**

Gilbert Najm Wins the Burbank Elks Lodge Regional Qualifier held on November 19-21, 2010.

**Burbank Elks Qualifier  
 Players:**

I-r, Pete Folsom, Mark Hansen, Gary Cohen, Tournament Director George Aronek, Gilbert Najm, Don Schall, Peter Banyai.



**Regional Qualifier • Dick Takano Memorial  
 Tacoma Elks, WA**

**Mark Hansen &  
 Jesus Quinonez  
 Qualify for  
 2011 Nationals**

Sixteen players entered the qualifier at the Elks Lodge in Tacoma, Washington on December 3-5, 2010. Format was 2 flights of 8 with the top 3 players from each group advancing to the final flight of 6 players, with the top 2 finishers to win their spot in the nationals.

Mark Hansen went undefeated and Jesus Quinonez had just one loss.



**Tacoma Qualifier Players**  
 I-r, Jesus Quinonez, Mark Hansen, Mark Sullivan, Darrel Stutesman, Tommy Thomsen.  
 Not pictured: Walt Scott

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## Cong Nguyen & Thanh Vu Qualify at US Billiards Regional Qualifier

### US Billiards, Houston, TX

Cong Nguyen (3-1) and Thanh Vu (4-0) played the final match of the tournament to determine the top winner. Cong finished the game in 14 innings with the best game average of 1.786.



**Top 4: Carlos Palafox (2nd), Jae Hyung Cho (1st), Vicky Pineda (3rd), and Ricardo Carranco (4th)**

Negro Torres paid \$450 for an auction spot in the finals and gave the spot to Antonio Rivera. Eduardo Gomez also paid \$450 for an auction spot in the finals. Jose J. Rodriguez won the lottery but was already in the finals. He auctioned it off to Jim Shovak for \$475. Jose J. Rodriguez took \$100 of that money and generously made a donation to the USBA Tour.

Thank you, Jose, for your extreme generosity.

Jae Hyung Cho	\$2,300
Carlos Palafox	\$1,700
Vicky Pineda	\$1,300
Ricardo Carranco	\$1,000
Rick Bryck	\$800
Khalil Diab	\$600

## USBA Tour Open Edgie's Milpitas, CA

**Number of Players:** 24

**Format:** 3 groups of 8  
Top 3 from each go to finals +  
2 auctions & 1 lottery.

**Finals:** 2 groups of 6  
Top 2 from each group play single  
elimination

Salvador Diaz	\$500
Juan Delgadillo	\$350
Jose J Rodriguez	\$250
Antonio Rivera	\$250
Eduardo Gomez	\$250
Jim Shovak	\$250

\$9670 Total Prize Fund

High Run Finals = \$60 Palafox/Pineda/8

Best Game Finals = \$60 Palafox (30 in 17)

Special thanks to Tournament Director Raye Raskin & Tom Rossman. Thanks to owners Susie & Tony for their hospitality. They also were constantly laying out food for the players. They are the best!

## Secretary's Desk

This promises to be an extraordinary year for billiards. First, we are having our **National Championship** in May in Las Vegas at the *Tropicana Hotel* alongside the **American Cue Sports (ACS) National Championships**, so thousands of pool players will be in attendance, will be potential viewers and potential converts. There is also a **Champion of Champions** tournament being held at the Allen Hopkins event in Valley Forge where many pool players will be present. You can thank Paul Frankel, Dennis Dieckman, Mazin Shooni, Yura Ra, John Lewis (ACS) and Allen Hopkins for that.

Next, we will be having a **World Cup** in Las Vegas in April where all the top players from around the world will be on display. You can thank Mr. Ermanno Scalas from *Best Billiards LV* in Las Vegas for that. Next, we are implementing a Room Membership Program which will provide extensive discounts to room owners on many things and will result in increased revenue to the USBA and a major increase in the amount of USBA Tournaments being held throughout the year. The increase in the amount of tournaments will result in more USBA memberships, more sanction fees, more USBA activity nationwide and happier players. You can thank me for that. Mazin Shooni will be the contact person for the Room Members and will be in charge of any product stock and all shipment of orders. You can thank Mazin for being willing to do that job.

# Shooni, Shovak, Bishop & Frankel Qualify for the USBA Nationals

*This USBA Qualifier was dedicated in memory of Walt Harris and James Barnett*

This was the 3rd year that a 3-Cushion Regional Qualifier was held at the historic Pendennis Club in Louisville, Kentucky. The games were played on 3 heated tables with two of them being Bretons and one Brunswick. All of the tables were newly clothed with the Simonis 300 rapide, they played great.



Thursday afternoon, several players were treated with a clinic held by 2006 USBA Champion, Mazin Shooni. Mazin taught those players some solid principles for improving their game. Thursday night, the crowd at the Pendennis Club was entertained to a spectacular trick-shot exhibition by Dr. Cue, Tom Rossman. Also throughout the event Paul Frankel dazzled the players and spectators with his magic.

Twenty-Four players were scheduled for the event, but one of them was unable because of an emergency. There were 4 groups with 6 players each, going to 20 points, except for the "A" group, which only had 5 players. To add to the complexity, one of the players in that group, Bill Carrelli, got sick and left the tournament after playing 2 matches leaving 4 players. Bill Carrelli's matches were forfeited.

The top 4-ranked USBA players were seeded into each group: Mazin Shooni, Jim Shovak, Dan Kolacz (last year's Pendennis winner) and Tom Rossman.

The top 2 finishers based on W/L, total points scored, head-to-head and points against advanced to the Semi-Finals along with the 2-best 3rd place finishers.

## Preliminary Results:

**Flight A:** Dan Kolacz wins the group, going 5-0. Johnathan Anderson, one of last year's finalists, goes 4-1.

**Flight B:** Jim Shovak wins the group, going 5-0. Jim Bishop from Florida goes 4-1.

**Flight C:** Mazin Shooni (no surprise here) wins the group, going 5-0. Paul Frankel manages 2nd place going 3-2 and Ellis Lawrence squeaks in, also going 3-2 in 3rd place.

**Flight D:** Rick Kirk from Michigan wins the group, going 5-0. Last year's runner-up, Max Fisher gets 2nd place with a 4-1 record. Dennis Douberteen from South Bend, Indiana, manages 3rd place and a semi-finals berth, going 3-2..

## Semi-Final Results:

**Group E:** Paul Frankel (Professor-Q-Ball) surprises everyone, going 4-0. Jim Bishop gets 2nd place going 3-1. Dan Kolacz



left, Tournament Winner Shooni top, four qualifiers, Mazin Shooni, Jim Shovak, Jim Bishop & Paul Frankel

gets 3rd place, going 2-2.

**Group F:** Mazin Shooni surprises nobody, going 4-0. Jim Shovak gets 2nd place going 3-1. Johnathan Anderson, Max Fisher and Ellis Lawrence all go 1-3. Johnathan Anderson gets 3rd place because of his highest total points scored.

## Modified Single-Elimination Semi-Finals:

Mazin Shooni defeats Jim Bishop, 25-14, advancing Mazin to the Final Match.

Jim Shovak defeats Paul Frankel, 25-13, advancing Shovak to the Final Match.

## Modified Single-Elimination Finals

Max Fisher (9th) defeats Dennis Douberteen (10th), 25-23.

Rick Kirk (7th) defeats Ellis Lawrence (8th), 25-14.

Dan Kolacz (5th) defeats Johnathan Anderson (6th), 25-17.

Jim Bishop (3rd) defeats Paul Frankel (4th), 25-18.

Mazin Shooni (1st) defeats Jim Shovak (2nd), 25-13.

Mazin Shooni, Jim Shovak, Jim Bishop & Paul Frankel all qualify for the 2011 USBA National Championship to be held on May 9-13th, 2011 at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. The players all receive free entry (\$300) + \$200 expense money at the event. All 10 finalists also received some prize money ranging from \$75 to \$225.

We would like to thank the following:

The Pendennis Club for their warm hospitality, especially to Daron Van Vactor. Those that did commentary for the live-streamed matches; Max Fisher, Tom Rossman, Mazin Shooni and Jim Shovak. Glen Dockstader who donated \$100 for the high run, Tom Rossman (Dr. Cue) who donated \$100 for high run in the Prelims. Other benefactors such as Bob Watson and the late James Barnett.

A special thanks to Steve Elzinga and Michael Christenson (Curly).for giving their time and resources, Thanks, guys, making the live-stream possible. Please support these men by buying a DVD or two, or 10 of the live-streamed matches. Steve can be reached at: [Mi\\_billiards@yahoo.com](mailto:Mi_billiards@yahoo.com)

## 2010 USBA Rankings Champions

To see complete 2010 USBA Rankings • [www.USBA.net](http://www.USBA.net) and click “Player Rankings” on the left side menu.



“A” Rankings Champion  
Jae Hyung Cho



“B” Rankings Champion  
Jim Shovak



“C” Rankings Champion  
Gary Eake

### **USBA Annual Financial Report**

A PDF file of our annual report is available online by going to [www.USBA.net](http://www.USBA.net) and clicking “Breaking News” on the left side menu. The report reflects the total income or expense (totals with a minus (-) before them) of each category between January 1st, 2010 and December 31, 2010.

Some categories may not reflect reality such as the 2010 Nationals category. Even though it indicates an amount of -\$13,243.65, most of the entry fees were received in fiscal year 2009, before the first of the year of 2010. The actual amount spent on the 2010 Nationals was \$2,243.65 which included a large expense (over \$1,700.00) just for live-streaming.

The actual amounts available in the various funds are as follows:

Junior/Ladies Billiards Fund: \$2,286.46  
\$25,131.64

Billiard Tour Fund: \$1,293.62

Main Fund:

We have received \$9000 in entry fees for the 2011 Nationals from Regional Qualifiers. In reality, the Main Fund has \$16,131.64.

In December of 2006 when I took over as Secretary/Treasurer, we had approximately \$5,000 in the bank and approximately 150 members. The number of paid members is constantly changing since we enacted the new policy that all dues payments last one full year from the date of payment. So the actual membership numbers are not constant. At this very moment it stands at 440 members that are current, however many people are still in the process of renewing their memberships as we speak. I think it would be safe to estimate that we fluctuate between 400-550 members over the year.

Next, we are planning on implementing a Room Membership Program which will provide extensive discounts to Room Owners on many things and will result in increased revenue to the USBA and a major increase in the amount of USBA Tournaments being held throughout the year. The increase in the amount of tournaments will result in more USBA memberships, more sanction fees, more USBA activity nationwide and happier players. You can thank me for that. Mazin Shooni will be the main contact person for the Room Members and will be in charge of any product stock and all shipment of orders. You can thank Mazin for being willing to do that job.

There are many other things on the table. Too many to list and describe here. I want to thank all of you for your continued support of our organization. Without you, we do not exist. We have some very talented and motivated people on our Board of Directors. We don't always see eye to eye, but I can assure you that the organization is in great hands. Many things have been accomplished and many more things are coming.

### **Bruce Warner Resigns – Henry Ugartechea Elected**

Incoming President Bruce Warner has resigned as USBA President for personal & health reasons. Bruce spent 4 years as the Southwest Regional Director and was re-elected overwhelmingly in his region last year. He took over as President after Dennis Dieckman resigned in May.

Bruce was very instrumental in helping to get many things done over the past 5 years. If you go to the “Board of Directors” page and scroll to the bottom, you will see that so many things have been accomplished during his tenure and Bruce Warner had no small part in all of them. We wish him nothing but good health and all the best in his future endeavors.



Henry Ugartechea, the Southeast Regional Director, has been elected to the office of interim-President by the USBA Board of Directors to replace the recently vacated position held by Bruce Warner. Henry will be in office until June 1, 2011. If Henry and the Board agree to continue the arrangement, then he will serve the rest of his term until March 1st, 2014. Meanwhile, Victor Cuzzi has been elected to replace Henry in the Southeast Region.

**WELCOME TO THE**

**USBA 3-Cushion National Championship**



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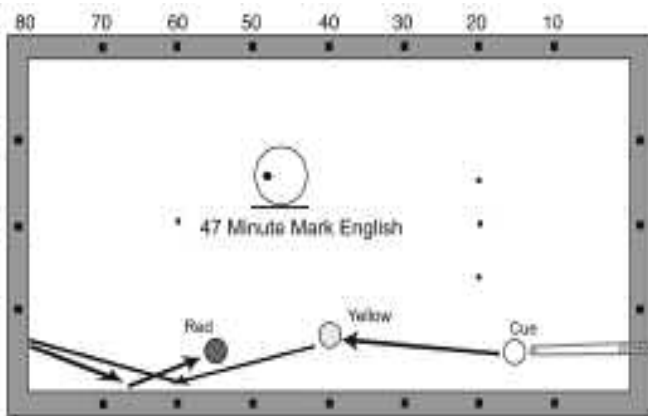
## Rip's Tips

### Test Your Accuracy



Test your accuracy on follow shots by making this beauty three times in a row. Strike the cue ball at the 47-minute mark with medium-firm stroke, aiming almost full on left side of yellow ball. Squeeze by the red ball and put the point on the wire. Great Shot!

"George Rippe is a former billiard room proprietor and artistic billiard enthusiast," He can be reached at 978 975-9958



### "USBA Membership"

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58 Hawthorne Ave. • East Islip, NY 11730.

## Upcoming Tournaments

**February 4-6:** Regional Qualifier - The Carom Club  
Wyoming, Michigan

**Contact:** Steve Andersen: 616-530-8665: zen\_steve@comcast.net

**February 11-13:** Regional Qualifier - World Class Billiards  
Peabody, MA

**Contact:** Joe DeAmato: 978-535-7000 or 617-957-2114

**February 11-13:** Regional Qualifier-Bogart's Banquet Hall-Jacksonville, IL: Contact: George Ashby: 217-440-0069

**February 20:** Regional Qualifier - Miami, FL: Contact: Victor Cuzzi: 305-219-5898

**Mar 10-14:** Champion of Champions-Allen Hopkins Expo-Valley Forge, PA

**Contact:** Paul Frankel: 901 756-2594 or Cell 901 210-7251

**April 4-10:** UMB WORLD CUP - Best Billiards LV  
Las Vegas, NV

**Contact:** Ermanno Scalas: 702-990-0502

**May 9-13:** USBA National Championship-Tropicana Hotel  
Las Vegas, NV

**Contact:** Jim Shovak: 516-238-6193: JimShovak@USBA.net

**April 29-May 1:** USBA Biathlon - Best Billiards LV  
Las Vegas, NV

**Contact:** Ermanno Scalas: 702-990-0502

### USBA National Championship to be held at Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas

The 2011 USBA Nationals will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Tropicana Hotel. Our event will be held alongside the ACS (American Cue Alliance) National 8-ball & 9-ball Championships. This venue will allow 3-cushion to receive major exposure to thousands of pool players.

The Architect of this event is Professor-Q-Ball (Paul Frankel), who had been working on this for many months with John Lewis, the Executive Director of the ACS and the table manufacturer, Gabriels, who will be providing 6 heated tables for the event.

The official dates are May 9-13. For more information, please visit usba.net and click "Tournaments-Calendar" or contact Jim Shovak at 516-238-6193.





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