



The Illinois Billiard Club

"America's Country Club of Pocket and Carom Billiards"

Founded on the Love of a Game ... Evolved on the Friendship, Honor, and Integrity of its Membership.

8446 Archer Avenue - Willow Springs IL 60480 - 708-839-1331 - www.IllinoisBilliardClub.com

Lesson, Leagues, Tournaments, Memberships, Private Dining, Banquet & Billiard Functions

1975 - 30th Anniversary - 2005

The Oldest and Largest Billiards Family on Earth

When a man achieves success and reaches the highest rung on his ladder of self-goals, through love of his fellow man he honors his responsibility by nature to reach down and help others still struggling beneath him find their success. ...Always with hope they also shall one day repeat the gesture for those struggling beneath them. With that thought in mind, the

following article has been prepared to help educate those among us interested in raising the game of billiards to higher social, mental, physical and spiritual levels by encouraging further involvement of our nations greatest wealth ...the American family.

by Jim Parker

The greatest waste of our nation's natural resources are people that never achieve their potential. It's difficult to imagine any other table game in America other than billiards (all cue games) that suffers such similar statistics. Even today, after some 150 years of potentially offering the public such an array of social and physical benefits, the games commercial side (primarily taverns and pool halls) still remains generations away, if ever, from boosting the game to its full potential.

Negative and self-serving attitude, complacency, indifference, and lack of positive energy have always led the endless list of reasons why success and potential levels go unachieved. For over a century the commercial side of billiards has eked out a roller-coaster existence while the games more consistently successful private side...schools, fraternal organizations, private clubs, and primarily, when bringing billiards into their homes, the American family, have all remained the core of our nations billiards consumers.

The far greater number of billiard tables found in homes and other private facilities, in contrast to those found in public facilities, are more than proof of what little positive influence billiard trade organizations and public facilities have had on popularizing the game itself. Proving further, that today, the future of billiards in America remains exactly where it has been for more than the past century...in the hands and hearts of the American family. ...Not public facilities renting pool tables, trade organizations,



Top Photo: Fourteen years ago 64 fathers and their sons from Chicago's St. Rita H. S. came together to host the first family IBC father and son team dinner and billiards tournament.

Lower left photo: St. Rita H. S. theology teacher Mr. Stanley Kastelic, in 1989 organized the now 100 year-old Catholic High Schools first "St. Rita Cue Club," that through his efforts is still flourishing today.

Right center photo: St. Rita alumnus Mr. Joseph Fanelli (right) and his four sons (from left: Vince, Tony, Dan and Joe) organized the schools first event at the IBC.

Lower right photo: Mr. & Mrs. Paul and JoJo Strandquist organized the IBC's first St. Laurence H. S. (Burbank, IL) father and son dinner and team billiards tournament. A family event that through their efforts has grown into a 100-plus father and son two-day event.

or scads of come-and-go associations claiming to represent various forms of authority figures, or acting out their self-appointed rolls as governing bodies of whatever their chosen segments of a game that's proven itself far more enduring than themselves.

As most always the case of successful endeavors they're seldom the result of "quantity" as they are "quality"...of product, personnel and clientele. Therefore, far more positive energy and sound marketing can and most often does come from "one" billiard table in the home of the American family than a public facility offering "fifty" billiard tables. While knowing this as a time-proven fact it's pointless to fault the commercial side of a game for its generations of shameful under servicing of the American family in lieu of servicing the sales and consumers of the alcohol and tobacco industries. After all, the business of renting billiard tables has been a business seldom financially supported only through the integrity of the game itself ever since its clientele first traveled by horseback, wore six-shooters, and galloped their horse-drawn carriages by the crack of buggy whips.

A pioneering dream my wife Bonnie and I have long since achieved when combining our banquet facility and private billiard club is bringing together people of all ages by means of family, friend or business-associate supported dining and billiard functions. Functions ranging from family members joining together in various formatted team tournaments ...to hosting for all of society,

the celebrations of life (weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, etc.). Whereas, and within an environment of grandeur, a billiard table is the centerpiece of the event's entertainment.

Of all the successful pioneering improvements we've given to the game of billiards in America over the past 30 years, none have been more satisfying or inspiring than using the game to bring together parents and their children. And of all our various concepts and formats, it's been a sheer delight to design and catalyst our ever-growing family tournaments. ...Amateur competition involving grandfathers, fathers and their sons joining together as family teams to compete in pocket billiard tournaments with other fathers and their sons. A concept that in my mind and personal design, is the pinnacle of billiards contribution to humanity. And further, an act that can be encouraged by anyone of integrity, within any clean and wholesome environment, and, with as few as "one" single billiard table within one's own home.

There has never, ever, been one single thing wrong or socially, mentally or spiritually harmful associated with the game of billiards, other than its history of scattered public facilities where the game has been exploited and kicked about by a small clientele of often under-achievers and social dropouts. Today, on the games more popular private side, to promote family billiard functions no one is required to own a two million-dollar banquet facility or private billiard club. To become an active promoter of the IBC's family team tournament concept and bring it to life within one's immediate area, is simply to have the desire and determination to make something of ineffable beauty become a reality through one's own physical and financial means.

At this time my wife Bonnie and I would like to further extend our family billiard activities to a national level and without asking anyone to join any organization or subscribing to any set conditions or rules other than abiding by the 10 Commandments and common sense. To become part of our IBC's oldest and largest billiards family on earth is as easy as one having the desire of becoming a humanitarian and helping others help themselves. Simply design and use your

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Over 1,000 family members have joined in the IBC's father and son family of dinner and billiard tournaments since the program first began. Lower photos, Top: After dinner at Bonnie's Dining and Banquets, IBC tournament director Mr. Tom Sarna (standing on right) hosts a well informative rules and protocol meeting before beginning all family tournaments.

Three lower photos: Over 130 fathers and sons came to eat and compete in the Illinois Billiard Clubs "Spring of 2005" family billiard tournaments. St. Rita students and their fathers and grandfathers (second from top photo) put together and unequaled performance of "Families sharing time together stay together." While the St. Laurence H. S. Father's Club (two lower photos) all teamed up with their sons, sold out two days of family billiards... and together racked-up some impressive runs!



own tournament format, bring together 20 or more people interested in teaming-up within a family based function, use your favorite billiard game and host a tournament within a clean "family suitable" location. Then once you've set all of this in motion take scads of photographs and watch the excitement and family fellowship begin to unfold. It's all about networking amongst those of us that care enough about a wonderful game that's been exploited and kicked about far too long and...encouraging family values to become more wide spread and... strong!

To encourage the growth of family involvement in billiards and until further notice the Illinois Billiard Club shall pledge itself to the following. ...Without obligation or cost, the IBC shall forward a complimentary one hundred and fifty dollar 2005 "Certificate of Family Membership" (suitable for framing and giving recognition of achievement), to each of the families who actively support a 20 contestant (or larger) family team billiards tournament anywhere throughout the United States. Also, after a group photograph and short story are both submitted to the IBC by the function host, the IBC shall select for national publication one photograph and 200 word (or less) story that best images the IBC's concept of "Billiards and the American Family." Either one, or both, shall be published nationally, along with the names and locations of each family member competing in the event.

...A few words of advise... Billiards is a respectable indoor game, so please, while you don't have to wear formal gowns or tuxedo's, appearance is extremely important, no hats, jackets or "T" shirts.

Mail questions, results, stories and photographs to the address listed in our heading above, or, E-mail to PJimandBon@aol.com. Without this information the IBC can not forward the above mentioned items. If sent by U. S. Postage and you wish your information returned, please include a postage-paid envelope.