

AN INSIDE LOOK AT “SPLIT HAPPENS”: PART 2 OF 2



Bob Dorr

Bringing up the rear spot for SPLIT HAPPENS in this 2nd of a two-part, senior “enlightenment installment” is anchorman, Bob Dorr. Bob is a resident of Taneytown, Maryland and has been a member of the Monday Morning Seniors league at Thunderhead Lanes for the past 5 years. However, Dorr's roots are a lot farther north than many of us have traveled.

Bob grew up in Westbrook, Maine and started his bowling career at the age of 13. His primary rolling during his teen years was that of the tough game of Candlepin bowling, and he did manage to topple the pins

to the tune of a 128 game in one of his triumphs on the lanes.

But as he was in the maturing process throughout his school years, he found himself drawn toward a career in firefighting. At age 15, he enrolled in a junior reserve program, followed by attending a school for firefighters (in two parts) at the age of 18, and soon he was involved in volunteer duty for his home town – a stint of loyalty that lasted for approximately 20 years. However, even though he devoted that score of years for Westbrook, he was actually employed professionally as a firefighter for the neighboring – and much larger – city of Portland, Maine.

Among the accolades of his noble vocational choice was that at age 16, Dorr was heralded as the youngest person in the state to deliver a baby (a 2 lb. 7 oz. infant). He still receives Christmas cards from the appreciative family to this day. Since then, Bob has brought four other newborns into the world.

Also while residing in Maine, prompted by an influence from his parents at an early age, Bob developed an interest and a love for auto racing. As a part of his circle of friends in junior high and high school, he and his group would often visit the nearby track to watch the local races.

Eventually, Bob's intrigue for racing developed to the point of competition. His two main auto resources involve cars known as 'Street Stock' and 'Late Model' vehicles. Bob's early races took place in Scarborough, Maine at the Beech Ridge Motor Speedway. Although these meets may not have been at the magnitude of the popular NASCAR contests, first place in the local races ranged from \$3,000.00 to \$20,000.00.

The local races drew substantial crowds on Fridays and Saturday nights, sometimes numbering around 6,000 attendees. Because of this exposure, Bob did land several sponsors, with advertising



on his cars' hoods, fenders, and trunks. Dorr also received sponsorship for his vehicles' tires, which the sponsors required him to replace with new ones each weekend.

In his first year of racing, Bob's car had the number "63". The "6" represented the age of his oldest son at the time, while the "3" was his youngest boy's age. Afterward, his car would carry the number "60", as shown in our photos here and on page 1.

When Dorr relocated to Carroll County, he made duckpin bowling as one of the constants in his Maryland life. Bob often competes in the Pop Whitten Pro Tour and the Greenmount Sunday Duckpin Series (once a month). His most recent



conquest on the lanes at Greenmount came back in December of 2022 when he finished 2nd to John Novak in a close finale. Bob's high game in

duckpins is 179, with a robust 434 total as his high 3-game league series.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

Seeing Yourself

One of the duckpin hall-of-fame's greatest bowlers, Shorty Divver, passed along a story that one of his buddies, Jay Bernarding, told him, and is as follows.

The story is about Dave Volk, a former 'Number One duckpin bowler in the country' and one of the best

bowlers the game had ever known. Volk's occupation was that of a cab driver. One day while Dave was driving his cab, he happened to see a man on the street wearing a shirt with the name, DAVE VOLK, on the back of it, in big letters. (This was coincidental because the duckpin pro tour's shirts customarily required bowlers to have their names

displayed on the back of tour shirts in 3-inch block letters.) As Dave drove closer, he then recognized that it was one of his own pro tour shirts. It turned out that Dave's wife had donated his pro tour shirts to the Goodwill, and apparently, this stranger had bought it, and wasn't too proud to wear it in public.

10 or Less

While this story doesn't necessarily pertain to bowling, it does involve one of the bowlers I had the privilege of knowing back in the 1980s. One of the most likable guys you'd ever want to meet, Chris Tomes related an amusing occurrence that happened to him in a supermarket.

Just to lay a little foundation, Chris was a young guy, and a big guy, sort of like Jethro Bodine on the Beverly Hillbillies – always

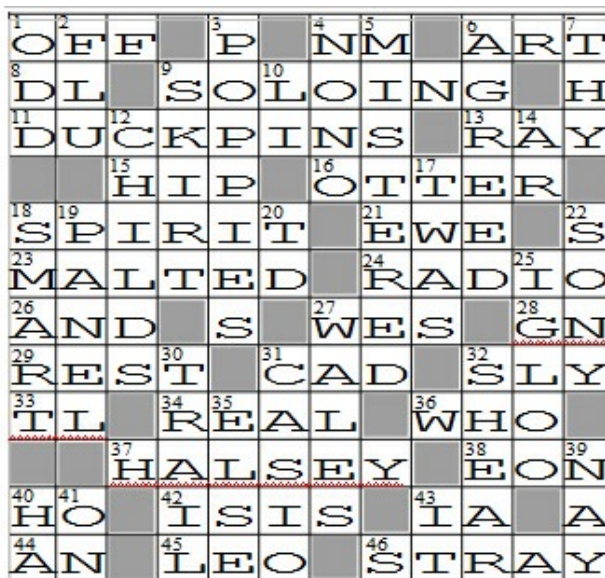
genuine, upbeat, and friendly. However, one day he got in line at the supermarket at the "10 items or less" checkout register. Chris didn't have his mind totally on shopping at the time, as he had about 18 or 19 items. The cashier didn't reject him, and as he was waiting to be rung up and checked out, he looked around, and he noticed what he termed as "an old lady" behind him who was giving him a most stern glare. He soon realized what he had done, having almost twice as many items as allowed. Chris knew that since he

was practically checked out, any explanation of his mistake would only fall on deaf ears. Embarrassed, his only thought at the time was to get out of the store as soon as possible. As he was exiting, Chris' own words as to what happened next were as follows. "I tried to hurry out of the store as fast as I could, and when I picked up my bags to leave the express line, that old lady kicked me right in my a**! I felt so guilty and I knew I was wrong. I never even looked back and rushed out of the store."

PUZZLE PAGE

Shown here are the answers to last week's crossword puzzle.

I made an oversight in which I didn't have a clue for "43 Down". Hopefully, you all were able to figure it out.



BRAIN TEASERS - II

Thank you, Barbara, for providing these!

<p>①</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 80px; margin: 10px auto;">SAND</div>	<p>②</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 5px;"> R E A D I N G </div>	<p>③</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">ECNALG</p>
<p>④</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em;">CHAIR</p>	<p>⑤</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em;">LE VEL</p>	<p>⑥</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">GROUND FEET FEET FEET FEET FEET FEET</p>
<p>⑦</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; width: 100%;"> <div style="text-align: center;">ii ○</div> <div style="text-align: center;">ii ○</div> </div>	<p>⑧</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">DICE DICE</p>	<p>⑨</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center;"> 1 3 5 7 9 <div style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 100px;"></div> </div> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">WHELMING</p>

THE GAME OF KEGEL

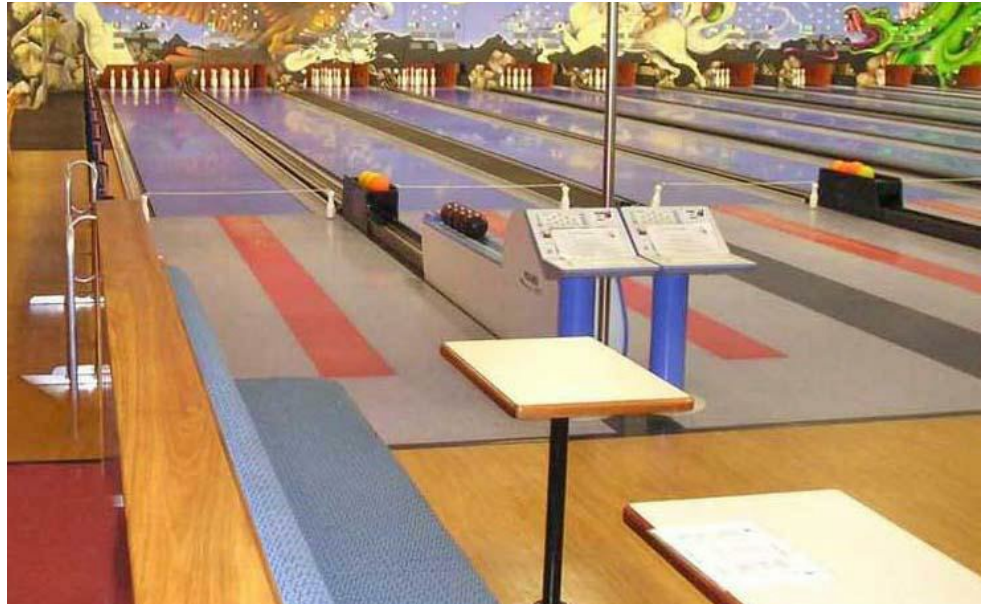
Oh, how much we learn from cartoons! Back in the heyday of duckpins, circa 1960—THAT was the age of awareness. Who would've thought that when Barney Rubble asked Fred Flintstone if he wanted to go "Kegeling", the animators of "The Flintstones" at Hanna Barbera, and the voices for said characters (Mel Blanc and Alan Reed) already knew something that we would only today just be learning? When Flintstone questioned Rubble about the term "Kegeling", Barney, just in passing, said "It's another word for bowling."

"Kegel" is indeed more than just another name for bowling. Moreover, it's an intriguing variation, ultimately to be credited with being the forerunner of ten pin bowling.

Kegel, or Kegeln, is a German variation of bowling, played on a lane that is 19.5 meters (about 64 feet) long and 1.3 meters (approximately 51 inches) wide. The pins are set in a diamond pattern, (as in the game of Skittles) but much wider spaced than tenpin bowling.

There are two types of balls, which are made of a very thick, solid wood. The most common one has two holes—one for the thumb and one for the middle finger, while the more advanced player may use a ball with no finger holes. The balls come in two basic weights: 6 lbs. and also 4 lbs (for smaller children).

The approach and foul line are similar to that of conventional



bowling, except there is a thin rope at the foul line which spans the width of the lane. The rope is 22 centimeters (about 8½ inches) off the floor, and the ball must be rolled on the lane in front of the foul line, in order to pass cleanly under the rope. If the ball does not touch the track (center delivery strip on the lane) before the line in Kegel, a foul is called, and no points will be awarded, regardless of how many pins fall.

The lane for a kegel alley is made out of hard wood that is concave in shape, that is, the lane gets wider the farther down the lane you go, which makes it more difficult to manage the ball. If your ball falls off into the gutter, or "Pudel Lane" as it is called in Kegel, you lose 1 point, instead of no points being awarded, as in conventional bowling.

A bowler rolls a maximum of 3

balls per frame. There are no dedicated bowling shoes, so a player can participate in street shoes.

There are no markings on the lane apart from a line for the foul-line on a Kegel track, unlike tenpin lanes which have the arrows. A fully automatic machine resets the pins using string setters through a computerized control system and the balls are automatically returned via a gravity fed ball return system.

There are several variations of Kegel in regard to scoring. In some methods, a player might bowl 3 balls per frame in which the pins are completely reset after each ball. Other games allow a bowler on a team only 1 ball per frame. Also used is the standard method of using 3 balls per round to completely knock down one set of pins. Most games have 9 rounds (frames).

TANEYTOWN TRIPLES LEAGUE UPDATE

The "T3 League" is projected to host a maximum of 10 teams. After officially announcing the league on my SpareTalk Social and associated

Facebook accounts, we have 6 teams lined up so far, with a couple of prospects potentially 'on the hook'. More info to come soon.

