

HOLE

Magazine

THE CORNHOLE LIFE

ROSIE & DAVIS STREKER

CORNHOLE'S

POWER COUPLE

SKILLCON VEGAS 2017

YOU WON'T

BELIEVE YOUR EYES



WEST COAST

CORNHOLE

IS GOLDEN!



plus... The origin of the North Georgia Cornhole Association

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THE TACO - TALKIN' ACO - WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!



OFFICIAL BOURBON

CORNHOLE XII WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS





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This couple eats, breathes, and sleeps cornhole... and it's paid off big time!

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KEEP ON PITCHIN' WITH FRANK GEERS



I've been tailgating and playing games in my backyard since I was a kid. I used to play games like whiffle ball, kickball, football, jarts, horseshoes, pickle and frisbee golf. I remember what I loved the most about those days was simply coming together with a friend or gang of friends, to enjoy the competition, the company and the day together.

While I miss those days, time has not stood still, it never does. I'm now married for 23 years to a beautiful woman, my college sweet heart, Sonya. I have three sons, my oldest Bailey, now in the Air Force. Max, a senior in high school, is trying to be the first opera singing all star rugby player. My youngest son Charlie is a junior in high school getting ready to take over the roads of Cincinnati. Soon he will start playing organized football for the first time in his life at Mariemont High School in the fall. This may make it sound like I'm an old man, but I'm not, I believe I am still a kid at heart. I still have that desire to go out and create a pick up game with my friends. I've always loved the idea of bringing people together to converse, eat, drink, compete and have fun, be it in the backyard or tailgating.

It was in the late summer of 2004 that I conceived American Cornhole, and the fall of 2005 when I finally took action to make the ACO a reality. Although I loved the idea of this business, my wife did cry when I first told her my dream about becoming the "Cornhole Dude" and taking on the challenge of making a living developing the sport of cornhole, but she didn't stop me. She allowed me to start the business and follow my dream, my passion, my love of a good party, competition, having fun and enjoying friends. The ACO created a way to do what I wanted to do, while having fun doing it. The ACO journey has not been without its ups and downs. There have been plenty of stresses along the way. But the ride has been amazing and is far from over. The ACO is a business built around the backyard game of cornhole. It is dedicated to pitchin' fun people in the backyard, tailgating or anywhere.

The ACO first introduced the HOLE magazine a decade ago. Unfortunately, at the time, the ACO did not have the necessary resources or honestly enough content to be able to make it a sustainable entity. It wasn't until 13 years later with great enthusiasm that we are able to relaunch the HOLE magazine. The magazine is powered by the ACO. However, it is being produced to support backyard fun, tailgating and cornhole in general. It will feature, but not be limited to, product reviews, player profiles, places to play, backyard renovations, cornhole and other similar sports.

I HOPE YOU ALL ENJOY THE RE-LAUNCH OF THE HOLE MAGAZINE. THANKS TO ALL THE PARTIES INVOLVED IN HELPING BRING THIS PUBLICATION TO LIFE AND ALLOW US TO SUCCESSFULLY RELEASE IT AT THIS YEAR'S ACO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS OF CORNHOLE IN OWENSBORO, KY.

KEEP ON PITCHIN' – Frank "Cornhole Dude" Geers

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WE ARE
CORNHOLE!

SEASON XII **FACES** OF CORNHOLE





THE CORNHOLE LIFE

DAVIS STREKER GIVES HOLE READERS A GLIMPSE INTO THE LIFE OF ONE OF THE MOST RIDICULOUSLY PERFECT COUPLES YOU WILL EVER MEET.

ROSIE & DAVIS

STREKER

LIVING IN

COMPETITIVE

MARITAL BLISS

We're not sure if either of us ever imagined a magazine article about cornhole, or even a magazine dedicated to cornhole. Now we (Rosie too) are writing an article about cornhole, for a cornhole based magazine, about us playing cornhole! In case the universe does not suddenly collapse, here it goes!

First off, what an amaz-

ing year this has been for cornhole (oh, and yes, we did get married last July). Each year just gets better and better! This year, once again, we had an awesome regional with top players competing from all over the sunny state of Florida. This is our third year running ACO events with South Florida Cornhole and we are very excited to have Rosie finishing the

ACO Season XII and heading to Worlds as the Top Female Player of the Year!

THE ULTIMATE CORNHOLER

Rosie started out the season strong with a "Triple Crown" in our September Regional and never looked back. Yep, she won it all! That included Women, Doubles, and Singles. Oh, and to top it off, she concluded in the same



fashion at our last regional in May! However, it wasn't just the regionals where she made her mark, she won Womens at the Florida, Georgia and Virginia Majors this year. Now she is looking forward to competing for the title at Worlds against so many other top women players that she greatly admires

(and sometimes hugs). Oh... and about those hugs... even though this is the first year she has ranked higher than me in singles, (sorry couldn't resist) I still give her advice. Before her games we talk about strategy and I always tell her, "Stay focused, believe in your shot, and keep the edge on your opponent."

“ Is our life cornhole? Yes. It is. We even spent two weeks last July for our honeymoon traveling to play cornhole and it was awesome! ”



ACO-PRO

ROSIE STREKER

Before her games we talk about strategy and I always tell her, “Stay focused, believe in your shot, and keep the edge on your opponent.”

LIVING IN COMPETITIVE MARITAL BLISS

Our neighbors become first hand spectators to loud conversations from our friends, one game after another taking cash from each other, and blurting out normal phrases like “Come on... double or nothin’, or “What’s one more game? It’s only 3:45 in the morning!” The Truth is most of the time when we play at home, it’s just to decide who gets to pick dinner, what movie to watch or who’s driving to our next out of town tournament. We don’t really spend much time at home practicing. Most of our practice comes from the tournaments that we host with our company South Florida Cornhole and the occasional break where we travel to just play.

A RIVALRY FOR THE AGES

Another question we are always asked is, “Who is REALLY the better player?” Well, we play each other all the time in head-



“...we are surrounded by all the great people of cornhole across the country.”

to-head matches, whether it's regionals, blind draws, etc. We both feel we are very evenly matched since we play against each other so often. We know each other's styles and strategies so well that it always makes for a close game. Neither of us hope to be matched up against each other in big tournaments (maybe me more than her). We are both very competitive while still being supportive to each other. Being support-

ive is what makes us great doubles partners. We encourage each other, and pick each other up when needed. Not only is it great to be doubles partners, but we also make an awesome pair when hosting our local events.

**IS OUR LIFE CORNHOLE?
YES. IT IS.**

We even spent two weeks last July for our honeymoon traveling to play cornhole and it was awesome! We make sure

to see the outside world when traveling to new places. We've made a rule now where we go on adventures at each city we visit. It's always an awesome time no matter where we go since we are surrounded by all the great people of cornhole across the country. As much as we love the competition, we could have never imagined all the amazing friendships we've made over the years in this great sport.



THE GOLDEN STATE OF THE WCC

By Ron Stokes

Once a small group of friends putting on neighborhood tournaments, the WCC is now a rising force in the world of professional cornhole.

To be honest, our early days of playing cornhole on the West Coast were fun, but finding other players interested in playing any sort of organized cornhole was a bit difficult. There were no preexisting groups or organizations to turn to. In fact, most people we spoke to knew nothing of the sport. Mentioning cornhole to others would often result in a laugh or snicker. It was usually due to the name, but some were underestimating the skill level it would take

to master the game.

Our group of friends had already realized that this can be more than a backyard game. We embraced that it required a great deal of skill, patience and practice to become a consistently good player. It was our desire to play often and compete at any level that compelled us to start a group of our own that would run small events and tournaments. In 2011, West Coast Cornhole was born.

For more than a year, we held the typical backyard gatherings and some very small tournaments. Then one day Ken Jones told me about several YouTube videos he had watched and the throwing techniques and strategies he

WEST COAST

CORNHOLE IS A

RISING FORCE

"What was fun, was when we noticed the inclusion of new throwing styles, shots, and strategies."



“What we learned from the Worlds allowed us to get even more players involved and our organization continued to thrive.”

had learned. That is when I first heard about the American Cornhole Organization. After contacting American Cornhole and speaking with Frank Geers on a few occasions, Ken was offered a Certified Official position to help grow the sport in the west and we were truly off and running. As our organization grew, we ran more tournaments and our players improvement was becoming evident.

In 2013, we held our first ACO State Championships. Ken Jones won the singles title and together we took the doubles title. Each match was competitive and we could tell the top players were here to create a legacy. At the end of the season Ken and I attended

our first World Championships. Attending the worlds, meeting players, and seeing the level of play in person was amazing. This was another turning point for WCC. What we learned from the Worlds allowed us to get even more players involved and our organization continued to thrive.

In the coming years, we brought countless numbers of players and a few CO's onboard, promoting the sport any way we could. As our player base expanded, it allowed us to promote bigger and bigger tournaments. Ken and I now run the Northern California area, and hope to soon reach into the southern CA market and rock the Cali cornhole world!



SEASON XII **FACES**
OF CORNHOLE



THE TACO TALKIN' ACO

THE #1 CORNHOLE PODCAST IN THE WORLD



THE ACO LAUNCHED THE TACO
PODCAST IN 2016

Greetings, Holeheadz! It's the same way we begin every episode of The TACO, our very own, homegrown podcast that all about all things ACO. When we're 'Talkin' ACO' we're talking about you; the engine that makes this bad boy run, the people that have come together to fly their flag and declare their love for a game that has moved from the backyard to the front page over the last 15 some odd years. It's the way we open the podcast and the way I'd like to open our first TACO Stand article here in 'The Hole'.



While the TACO is very often a place where we discuss things like ACO Major results, the business of how to become a CO or answer the question 'what is a CO (Certified Official)?', what new elements/sponsors/extras are being explored and

added or a place where we spend some time on the phone with those who make the ACO tick, it's also a place where we want to be as interactive as we can with you. Whether you're a seasoned ACO

pro, a new ACO member or a day to day player who is interested in taking your game and passion for cornhole to that proverbial 'next level', we want the TACO – and the TACO Stand – to be a place where you can ask questions, get answers and have a little fun in the process. It, like the ACO itself, truly is all about you, the ACO Family.

Every week or so Frank and I set up shop at ACO HQ, crack open a few beers (the exact number to remain a mystery) and celebrate the play and the player. The question WE have is: What can we do to make it even more interesting for you?



“ Every week or so Frank and I set up shop at ACO HQ, crack open a few beers (the exact number to remain a mystery) and celebrate the play and the player. ”



TIGHTEN UP? LIGHTEN UP? IT'S YOUR CALL.

Tighten up? Lighten up? It's your call. We love to give out results from all over the ACO universe and love saying your names as much as you may like hearing them but we also know that you have other questions. That's where my email address comes in.

Got a question about the ACO, cornhole in general or, for that matter, ANY QUESTION AT ALL (“Why, given a 50/50 chance, do I always get it wrong when I plug in my vacuum or USB drive”, etc.) ... Shoot your questions to me and we'll do our best to address them (giving you full credit of course) and, together, as always, we'll solve the problems and answer the questions that have plagued mankind since the beginning of this article. Let's have some fun....together. Remember, you can check out all episodes of the TACO Podcast in the iTunes store or at american-

cornhole.com. If you like what you hear, let me know. If you'd like to hear something added, let me know. If you'd like to borrow some money, call Frank. Lol

I look forward to more episodes of The TACO and more articles here in The Hole. It's our chance to get to know one another as we continue to pitch, party and participate in the best game on the planet.

Thanks for listening (and reading), Holeheadz. I'm Fin, The Voice of The ACO. Hit me up when you get a minute at fin@americancornhole.com and in the words of The Cornhole Dude: “Keep on pitchin'”

Rock on.



NORTH

GEORGIA

CORNHOLE

NORTH GEORGIA **CORNHOLE**

Eight bags,
four men, two
boards, and
one successful
association.

It all began in the front yard of the spring of 2016: eight bags, four men, two boards, and one successful association. Cornhole began as a social game, but the competitiveness became addicting.

Within a few short months the Hillbilly Bandits began playing every day and joined two leagues. Korey Harkins, Alan Polson, Tyler Polson, and Trever Schramm found their passion when they joined the Suwanee and Duluth cornhole leagues. Their very first year – within a few months of the formation



...the men have formed great relationships with all those who share this interest.

—the group became the champions of the Duluth League in 2016. Wanting to pursue their interests and continue the competitive streak, they sought advice from Frank Geers, Eric Hinerman, and Katherine Kennedy. Shortly after, all four men became members of the American Cornhole Organization.

Alan Polson and Korey Harkins are now certified officials who can host regional tournaments. In order to host tour-

naments, there must be an association; hence Alan and the other member's creation of the North Georgia Cornhole Association.

Words spread through Facebook announcements, events, FB Likes, and word of mouth. The NGCA began hosting tournaments at Sweetwater Bar and Grill in Duluth, Georgia. After much success, the group outgrew that location and now host regional tournaments at Tannery Row in Buford,

Georgia. Not only was success found through the tournaments, but more and more average competitors wanted to join the national ACO.

The competitive nature is just one aspect that drives people to the sport – it is also a networking opportunity and the men have formed great relationships with all those who share this interest. With the help of all the members and those who take part, this sport will only continue to grow.



SKILLCON

A CHAMPIONSHIP OF TALENTS THAT
YOU MIGHT NEVER HAVE IMAGINED



Have you ever felt as if you leapt into an alternate universe? A place in which dart boards are a story high and soccer balls are used for darts?

To your left there are jugglers who double as linebackers smashing into each other. To your right, you see you and your friends when you were kids, flipping half-filled water bottles on to the table, trying to see if you could turn it into some feat of acrobatic glory. This is the Fusion Universe, where sports and athletic feats of all kinds are melded together into mind blowing athletic competitions. Unlike alternate universes that are depicted in theoretical physics, this one is tangible and it began like many revolutions within our history, fueled by the desire of one person who wanted to do things differently.

From learning juggling basics when he was a kid in 1986, to winning low profile competitions, Jason Garfield pushed his body to extremes in order to expand the boundaries of fringe athletic competitions. He was determined to carry the idea of athletic competition to new places no one had ever dreamt of going. The further he progressed, adapting more and more complex skill sets, the further he pushed the sport until finally he broke through the glass ceiling and began producing sport juggling competition programs for ESPN. However, that was only the beginning. Now, Garfield has gathered the greatest, most diverse athletically skilled competitors in the United States for an elite tournament called SkillCon and the Moxie Games. Hang on Cornhole nation because you're not going to believe your eyes.

SkillCon and the Moxie Games showcase skills



and sports that range from combat juggling, martial arts, volleyball, pool trick shot competitions, cornhole, bottle flipping, yo-yo, foot darts, eSports, powerlifting, bodybuilding, and the list continues to grow. As the parent company, Moxie Games provides support and exposure for event organizers across the country and their athletes for local and regional competitions. Their goal is to help competitors reach the height of their sport, and bring them together in a culmination of world champion crowning events at SkillCon, which is being held this December 15 - 17 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

“Part of what we do is to provide learning opportunities that develop physical and cognitive skills, entertainment and team experiences for kids of all ages through partnerships with athletes, social media influencers, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) organizations including FIRST Nevada, Mad Science, and the Macgyver Academy.”

Garfield continued that their goal is to reward all Moxie Games athletes and event organizers for their dedication and perseverance by providing a medium where excellence in these outside-the-box-sports can be recognized and showcased to the world. Much like the American Cornhole Organization, where our approach is always to help

our players reach their full potential, Garfield and his team at Moxie want to create unprecedented opportunities for those who excel at these compelling skills and support their ambitious event organizers, breaking down the barriers preventing them from achieving their goals.

SkillCon and the Moxie Game will be held this year at the Rio Hotel in Las Vegas. Now in their fourth year, the ACO leadership is thrilled to be a part of the SkillCon ultimate skills competition for a fourth year in a row. This will be the largest event to date with unprecedented interest from previous and developing broadcast partners and social media influencers. We invite all ACO members to show your support to Garfield and the players of SkillCon by checking out some of the coolest and most compelling sports videos you will ever see. We have linked them from the Hole Magazine page at AmericanCornhole.com

You never know. All those times you spent in the backyard having fun trying to make trick shots, might just earn you a second opportunity at a world title. Good luck ACO Cornhole Nation!



FRANK GEERS TAKES ON THE ROSHAMBO CHAMP

This is the Fusion Universe, where sports and athletic feats of all kinds are melded together into mind blowing athletic competitions.



MARSHFIELD WISCONSIN

MARSHFIELD IS PROUD TO HOST THE ACO
WISCONSIN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS OF CORNHOLE!

Marshfield, located in Central Wisconsin, recently hosted the 3rd Annual Wisconsin State Championships of Cornhole and had a record year. With over 100 singles players and 50+ teams over two days, growing approximately 30% over last year, it was one of the largest cornhole events in the state. Players had a great time and were also able to take in the sights and sounds of Dairyfest, one of the area's largest festivals with fun activities and entertainment throughout the city. Wisconsin players please put the ACO State Championships and Dairyfest on your calendar for the weekend of June 1st & 2nd 2018.

The Marshfield Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) has formed a strong relationship with the American Cornhole Organization (ACO) over 3 years in bringing the event to Wisconsin. We are looking forward to being the home of the State Championships and the center of Cornhole action in Wisconsin for years to come. The ACO staff has done a great job running the event and making sure all the players have a great time in a comfortable setting, with some of the best players in the state competing. The impacts of the State Championships event have been seen throughout our community in many ways. Hundreds of players

OVER 100 SINGLES

PLAYERS AND

50+ TEAMS

OVER TWO DAYS

and fans visiting for the weekend are staying in hotels, enjoying our restaurants and attractions helping stimulate our local economy. An unintended good consequence is we are having more events, bars and restaurants, catching on and having boards and bags and tournaments growing the sport in our area. Who doesn't like to throw bags and have a good time right? Marshfield is always up for having fun tossing bags and we hope you do too. If you want to enjoy the growing sport of Cornhole in Wisconsin come visit us and check us out online at visit-marshfield.com.



PER SCHOLAS CINCINNATI HOSTS 2ND TOSS FOR TECH FUNDRAISER

PER SCHOLAS CINCINNATI CELEBRATED THE 2ND TOSS FOR TECHS CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT AT THE CITYLINK CENTER ON APRIL 25TH

Per Scholas Cincinnati celebrated the second Toss for Techs Cornhole Tournament at the CityLink Center on Tuesday, April 25th with close to 150 guests representing employer partners, community leaders and Per Scholas students and alumni.

The event succeeded in raising over \$23,000 to support future Per Scholas students enrolled in IT Support and Software Testing courses.

Per Scholas partnered with the American Cornhole Organization for the second year in a row to organize a fun tournament for supporters. Fifteen local employer partners invested in Gold and Silver level sponsorships to enter twenty-four cornhole teams into a competitive frenzy that lasted from 5pm-8pm. Returning champions from The E.W. Scripps Company defended their title going on to win the event for a second year in a row!

The race is on to see who can take down Scripps at future tournaments.

The evening's program featured 2016 Per Scholas Graduate, Angela Bedford, a Quality Assurance Analyst at Thrive Impact Sourcing. Angela shared her journey to Per Scholas, working as an Access Service Representative at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Currently working for Per Scholas' largest Cincinnati partner, Thrive Impact Sourcing, Angela shared "I'm

not dreading going to work everyday. I'm not frazzled, frustrated, or disappointed anymore."

Guests were also treated to food catered by Montgomery Inn and a live DJ, a raffle, auction items and drinks that contributed to a shared night of celebration and collaboration. Over the past year, Per Scholas Cincinnati has experienced improving metrics driving renewed interest in the trainings and support that the organization offers.

A huge thank you goes out to our sponsors for supporting Per Scholas throughout the years. Sponsor organizations have hired Per Scholas graduates, invested resources, volunteered staff hours and provided advisory support. These types of partnerships ensure Per Scholas is connected to local talent and local demand, providing improving services to the Greater Cincinnati Tech community.



HOLE



Magazine

NEXT ISSUE:

BACKYARD SHOWCASE

WE FEATURE BACKYARD SPACES BUILT BY
CORNHOLE ENTHUSIASTS AROUND THE COUNTRY.

“Do You Have The Ultimate Backyard?” We’re searching for the ultimate backyard and if you think you have it, send us your pics. You might find yourself on the cover of a future HOLE magazine issue! [Send your pics to holemag@americancornhole.com](mailto:holemag@americancornhole.com)