

**Little from 1B**

When you need to catch enough fish to make money for your family for the year, being close is not good enough; when you need to score the winning basket and you only get it close, you still lose.

By comparison, the sport of horseshoe pitching gives you points for being close. If you watch any war movies, then you already know about getting close with a hand grenade.

I know from playing horseshoes with my Dad and uncles that getting a "ringer" (when you get the

horseshoe around the metal stake) counts for 3 points. That's unless your opponent also gets a ringer, in which case it will cancel out your score.

Yet if your next shoe is close enough to the stake and closer than your opponent, then you get 1 point. So, at least in horseshoes, close does count.

I have seen very few horseshoe pits in my 40-plus years in Florence. The shoes tossed weigh close to two pounds. The stakes are 48 feet in distance. Given the distance the metal shoes need to be thrown, it's not a safe game to play around small children.

In fact, most young children

would be unable to toss the shoe the distance.

An alternative to this is the game of cornhole, which resembles horseshoes in terms of layout.

Two boards are placed 27 feet from base to base. The board is slightly angled, and a hole is located 6 inches from the top. The object is to toss a corn-filled bag into the hole to score 3 points.

Each player alternates throws with their opponent. Bags landing and staying on the board earn 1 point.

Because the distance is shorter and there are no horseshoes involved, it's a game that is much safer than tossing horseshoes and can be played by all ages. You can

have slight modifications on the distance thrown to accommodate young players.

If you see me wearing a Raiders jersey or a Lakers jersey, for one day only, it is because I lost two games to my son-in-law. The next day, my grandson came to play cornhole against "Bubba" (the term of endearment my grandchildren call me.)

I marked 13-and-a-half feet for his toss line, keeping in mind he is only 5 years old and feeling I needed to make it a fair concession to his young age.

I thought wrong. He won the first game, 21-4. After he beat me a second time, I moved myself to his toss point.

Though I had a commanding 16-4 lead when I moved back to full distance, I went on to become a victim to his rally, losing to him 21-20.

He then beat his "Auntie-A," coming from behind 17-4 to win 21-19.

It was clearly a good day for him.

I did beat one of my daughters to maintain at least some degree of respect; however, I must admit that, even though she was 38 weeks pregnant at the time, I showed her no mercy.

The variation of horseshoes to cornhole has fostered a new generation of activity. How big is the cornhole revelation? ESPN recently telecast the United States corn-

hole championships.

When your sport has ESPN willing to televise it, you are big time. In the middle 1990s, I purchased a rubberized version of horseshoes for my children to play in our back-yard. The shoes bounced too much and with all their other sport activities they lost interest.

Without the advent of cornhole, I would not have had such fun with my family. The cornhole boards I made with one of our other daughters; my wife is sanding them down and will soon paint a theme on each landing area.

The game can be played with two or four players.

All I know for certain is I want my grandson as my partner.

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**Fishing from 1B**

diverted to Cleawox Lake. In addition, fishing for warmwater species such as bass and other panfish should improve through June as water temperatures warm and these fish get more active. Ollala Reservoir, Mercer Lake, Siltcoos Lake and Tahkenitch Lake have warm water species available.

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**ALSEA RIVER:**  
Cutthroat trout

Trout fishing in streams and river opened May 22. Fishing is restricted to artificial flies and lures through Aug. 31.

**SALMON RIVER:**  
Cutthroat trout

Trout fishing in streams and

river opened May 22. Fishing is restricted to artificial flies and lures through Aug. 31.

**SILETZ RIVER:**  
Steelhead, spring Chinook, cutthroat trout

Summer steelhead are in the river. Fishing is good in the lower gorge. Casting spinners, drifting bait or using a bobber and jig can be effective.

Spring Chinook are available in the Siletz. Be aware of the regulations for the Siletz, 1 wild Chinook per day and two for the season through July 31.

Trout fishing in streams and river opened May 22.

• **Note:** The 3.5 mile bridge (aka Steel Bridge) in the Siletz gorge is now open to motorized vehicles, but is only open to public vehicles on the weekend.

Anglers can walk/bike in the road during the weekdays. If

anglers do walk in they can park at the one mile gate and start from there.

**SIUSLAW RIVER:**  
Cutthroat trout

Trout fishing in streams and river opened May 22. Fishing is restricted to artificial flies and lures through Aug. 31.

**WILSON RIVER:**  
Steelhead, spring Chinook, trout

Summer steelhead are present in decent numbers. Low clear water can make fishing for summer steelhead challenging, but there can be some good action at first and last light, or on those drizzly overcast days. Concentrate on deep pools and deeper riffles. Drift fishing, spinners, and flies are good choices. Light line, small presentations, and fishing the riffles and deep pools at first and last light can increase success.

There are still a few spring Chinook available in the Wilson River, although numbers will be very low, especially considering the low runs we are seeing on other basins.

Cutthroat trout can be found throughout the river, with searuns beginning to enter tidal areas. Fishing should be fair to good, with spinners or flies good bets for success.

**YAQUINA RIVER:**  
Cutthroat trout

These lakes and ponds are now listed individually in the alphabetical listing. Spring trout stocking begins around March 1.

**COOS COUNTY LAKES/PONDS:** Trout

These lakes and ponds are now listed individually in the alphabetical listing. Spring trout stocking begins around March 1 (see stocking schedule).

**RC from 2B**

"There's less and less, but isn't that the way of things?" Morales said. "It's all online. We had one here, that's closed down. There are good ones in Eugene and Corvallis, but they're having issues. Online is taking over

everything, like it did for clothes and shoes and everything else."

There's something lost in that personal exchange. You can't chat with an expert like you could before, get hands on experience, ask detailed questions.

"There's people behind the counter who have been flying for 30 years, and you can ask them anything," Morales said.

But online? "People give me information that is completely wrong," he said.

Which is what makes clubs like FARCAA so important. It gives novices like myself a chance to learn from friends about the hobby. I felt like I was in good hands.

And they have insurance covering hundreds of thousands of

dollars.

That made me feel better too.

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"How fast do these go?" I asked Wobbe, preparing to start my first flight.

"Some of them will do up over 100 mph," he answered.

"Wait, what? 100? Seriously?"

I had a vision of my editor writing the headline, "Reporter kills two with speeding RC plane."

"Most of them are flying the 50 to 60 mph range," Wobbe said.

That made me feel better, until I started taking the nose dive while flying.

"Okay, I'm going to bail you out now," Morales said as he leveled out my plane.

I just kept repeating the words "Oh, jeez" over and over again.

"See, that's what keeps you from crashing your first plane," Morales said. "You have somebody helping you. So, I'm going to bring it around again, and I'm always going to bring it around to the same place until you make a successful turn, and then you'll keep flying. You ready?"

No, but I said yes.

"Okay, you got it," he said, handing over control to me again.

"Gentle. That's it. You're making that turn. Level it out a little ... Or just finish your turn, then ... Okay, I'm going to take it. We try not to fly over people."

Oh jeez.

I took over again. There was no way I was going to crash it. I decided to go up. And up. And up some more.

"You know there's a cloud up there, right?" Morales asked as everyone laughed.

"This is hard!" I yelled while laughing. But I leveled it out.

"You've got it!" Morales said. "That was a good recovery, level the wings. Excellent! Now fly straight for a while, then start turning. Turn, turn. Perfect! Now, level the wings. Perfect! Jared, I haven't helped you for about 30 seconds."

That 30 seconds seemed like a lifetime, but I was so proud when he said that. I was flying high.

"We're getting low on battery, so I'm going to land it," Morales said.

"Oh, thank God," I quickly said. Seriously, this was nerve wracking.

"Your brain is already saying, 'That's enough, am I right?'" Morales asked me.

"Oh, yes you are!" I replied.

I imagined what it would be like if there were actual people in the plane I was flying. The oxygen masks would have been deployed 20 seconds in, the vomit bags used up by minute three.

But when Morales gently landed the plane, it was as if the terrors in the sky never happened.

"Okay, you got it down in one piece!" Morales said. "Congratulations student pilot. Nice job! I'll tell you, for your very first time, you did great."

"Great" is debatable.

I would have crashed and burned if it wasn't for their expertise and camaraderie. But to be honest, as I waved goodbye to Morales, Wobbe, Hokanson and the rest of the FARCAA fliers, all I could think about was turning right around again, picking up the remote control and getting ready for Morales to say again, "Okay, let's fire it up."

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