

## ART VOGEL

Art (Artie) Vogel is one of the Zephyrhills Shuffleboard Club's most senior members and has been playing this great game for well over thirty years. Recently, I had a conversation with Art and would like to share some interesting things I learned about him.



In 1941 during WWII, Artie was drafted and inducted into the Army. He served in Europe, was a Specialist 5 courier, landed in Normandy shortly after the initial invasion, and was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service beyond the call of duty.

Art and his wife Irma have been married for 32 years and moved to Winters Park in Zephyrhills in 1980 after Art retired from owning and operating a dry cleaning business in Andover, Ohio for over 30 years.

After residing for a year at Winters Park, Art and Irma were crowned King and Queen of the Park. Both enjoy dancing and are often seen on the dance floor at the Tourist Club. Artie is a very sensitive and religious man and is most proud of his involvement in organizing a new Christian church in Andover, and serving as its First Elder, in 1962.

Art was introduced to shuffleboard at Winters and in 1981 he began playing in local, District and State tournaments. He often partnered with his neighbors, Bob and Mary Christensen. Artie progressed rather rapidly through the amateur ranks on his way to the pro level. Because of his tenacious style of play, he acquired the nickname, "bulldog" at tournament competition.

George Darwin, another Winters resident, has played with and against Art since the mid-eighties and considers Artie his very good friend. Together they have probably played more matches together than anyone in the game. In recent years, Art and George have been teamed up quite regularly in State tournaments. Earl Ball stated they are very formidable opponents and coined them, "The Twin Towers of Power."

George remembered a Singles tournament they attended years ago at St. Petersburg. They arrived at the tournament 45 minutes early and after waiting and finally lining up for their court assignment, Art realized he hadn't signed in. It was obviously past the registration deadline and after conferring with the tournament director, Art was told the tournament had exactly 64 entries and he couldn't participate. Artie had to spend the rest of the day watching the tournament and waiting for a ride home.

Things got better for Art though, and he continued to win at the State and District level. In 2008, after 25 years, Artie finally accumulated the required 100 District points and was inducted into the Central District Hall Of Fame.

Art and Irma still spend their summers in Ohio and Art stays sharp by playing in many of the Ohio Shuffleboard Association tournaments. Art is a charter member of our Club and usually competes in morning play and frolics on a daily basis.

We are fortunate and happy that he is a part of our ZSC family, and congratulate Artie for all his many accomplishments.

Chuck Moulton