

## Man Invents New Game That Combines Pool And Bowling

Love to shoot pool? Like bowling, too? Steve Wienecke has the perfect game for you. Knokkers combines the two games into one big new passtime.

Instead of using a cue stick you throw the bowling ball-sized cue ball at 15 racked balls. Then you better be ready to get out of the way of the balls that will come rolling your way.

Wienecke came up with the idea of combining two of his favorite games nearly three decades ago. Sports have always been a passion. Wienecke played semi-pro football in St. Louis and he tried a bout as a cage fighter when he was over 50.

Knokkers is a sport anyone can do, Wienecke says. His partner and cousin, Sam Sparks, has modified the bowling balls to 6 lbs. with two sets of holes for small and large hands. He's also refined the balls so they sound like pool balls when they are hit.

Since bowling balls are 4 times the size of pool balls, so is the table. "It's four pool tables wide and four pool tables long at 15 by 30 ft.," Wienecke says.

He built a Knokkers field in his rural backyard and kept it hidden until he got all the trademarks and patents in place. A portable unit that can be hauled on a 30-ft. trailer is being constructed. The pockets accommodate multiple balls and have an automatic return just like a regular pool table.

The rules are simple. The thrower's feet cannot move once the white cue ball is picked up. The shot must be taken from that stance.

The game is fun, but also challenging. "A long bang shot is over 60 ft.," Wienecke notes.



Photo by Jason Jenkins, courtesy of Rural Missouri magazine.

**Knokkers combines pool and bowling into one game. Instead of using a cue stick, you throw a bowling ball-sized cue ball at 15 racked balls.**

Wienecke, Sparks and their other partner, Ricky Skaggs (not the singer) visualize Knokkers courts on cruise ships, at casinos, amusement parks and resorts, and in people's backyards.

News about Knokkers has gone viral on the Internet, and Wienecke has heard from people all over the world. One lady wants one on her rooftop. Another thanked him for making a game that will get kids off the couch.

"People are going to be hooked," Wienecke predicts. "They can hold tournaments. I can't wait to match pool players and bowlers against each other."

People interested in distributorships are invited to contact Wienecke. Estimated cost is \$39,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steve Wienecke, Knokkers (ph 573 783-7427; stevelwienecke@aol.com; www.knokkers.com).



**"Bowling balls are 4 times the size of pool balls, so is the table 4 times bigger, too" says inventor Steve Wienecke.**

## Do-It-Yourself Poultry Processing

Back in 1996, David Schafer told FARM SHOW readers about his Amish neighbor's inexpensive chicken plucker and said, "Somebody ought to develop it."

Schafer sold \$5 plans for a few years, but no one stepped up to develop the plucker, so he did in 1999. Today the demand for his poultry processing equipment at Featherman Equipment grows by 30 percent annually.

The heart of the system is that same plucker, refined and tweaked by the Jamesport, Mo., company. The difference between their system and more expensive units is the material (plastic instead of stainless steel) and size.

"Really, all you need is the Featherman Pro plucker, which sells for \$1,049," Schafer says, adding it's how many of his customers start out. The plucker can do four birds in 30 seconds, and some home processors pluck 100 to 200 birds an hour.

The 125-lb. unit is made with a high-density, UV-resistant, food grade molded plastic tub with 119 plucking fingers powered by a 1 hp motor.

Schafer says the key is scalding the birds at the right temperature - 147 degrees. Scald 4 or 5 birds at a time; put them in the plucker, and 20 seconds later they are picked clean.

Schafer's customers are poultry growers who raise and sell anywhere from 200 to 20,000 birds a year. Committed growers invest in more pieces of Featherman Equipment, including the Featherman Set-Up Special (\$3,015), which includes a



**Offers everything needed to professionally clean and process hundreds of birds.**

plucker, scalding, dunker, shackles, kill cone stand and eight broiler cones.

As many as eight people can work together with the system, plucking, gutting, cleaning, etc. Even the kids can help, Schafer says.

He also sells pluckers for turkeys and game birds, non-electric models and chill tanks. Everything is available through the company's website, which also includes how-to videos.

"I'm real proud of the fact that we've got all these free movies," Schafer says. "I like to provide free information."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Featherman Equipment Co., P.O. Box 62, Jamesport, Mo. 64648 (ph 660 684-6035; www.featherman.net).



**Brian Steiner recreates old signs and memorabilia from gas and oil companies that operated from the 1930's to the 1950's.**

## He Sells Gas Station Memories

If you want to add colorful nostalgia to your shop or garage, Brian Steiner has the goods for you. Remember Esso, Polly, Oilzum or Husky? Those are gas and oil companies from the 1930's to the 1950's. Steiner recreates their old signs, printing with durable enamel paint on 18-gauge metal.

"I like doing gas station pieces because people's memories are tied into them. They either know someone that worked at or owned a gas station," says Steiner, who worked in gas stations and racetracks and raced at the Golden Gate Speedway in Florida.

He started making reproduction signs about 13 years ago, after he paid a lot of money for what he thought was an original sign but turned out to be a porcelain reproduction.

"I decided that since I knew how to screen print I could make my own," Steiner says. "I enjoy collecting, but I couldn't afford signs that run \$400 to \$500."

Steiner's signs start at \$49, including shipping. For custom orders he prints

signs and leaves off the brand name so customers can have a local printer put in something else.

"A lot of people put in their own number or name on the race cars," Steiner says. "The Esso tractor can be changed with someone's name, too."

In addition to signs, Steiner's sells reproduction oil cans and racks, clocks and gas pumps.

"People really love those pumps," he notes, explaining he sells many to auto, truck and tractor collectors. He has a clock face 1929 pump (\$1,479) and a 1950's pump (\$1,389), which is his most popular. He makes the 6-ft. 6-in. pumps in all colors and brands.

Steiner sells all his reproductions through his Fill-er-Up online store.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Brian Steiner, Fill-er-Up, 2613 Route 340, P.O. Box 406, Bird-In-Hand, Penn. 17505 (ph 717 397-2519; www.fill-er-up.com).