

July 11, 2008

ATTENTION: NEWS, EVENTS, SPORTS EDITORS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**“FOOS” FANATICS COMPETE IN BENEFIT FOR HOSPICE
- Local Table Soccer Tournament is Virginia’s Oldest and Longest Running -**

STAUNTON, VA – Popular locally as a family restaurant and bar, the Byers Street Bistro in Staunton will also be host to the 25th annual Virginia State Championships table soccer tournament. To be held July 18-20th, with categories for men and women from beginner through Master, the tournament is expected to draw local table soccer (a.k.a. “foosball”) enthusiasts and even internationally ranked players from throughout the region, with proceeds benefiting the Shenandoah Chapter of Hospice.

Also known as the “Thunder in the Mountains” tournament, the event annually raises funds for area charities such as Hospice. Hospice is a charitable organization dedicated to a special concept of care designed to provide comfort and support to patients and their families when a life-limiting illness no longer responds to cure-oriented treatments. The goal of Hospice care is to improve the quality of a patient's last days by offering comfort and dignity, provided by a team-oriented group of specially trained professionals, volunteers and family members. In its first few years, the tournament raised a total of over \$12,000 for Hospice, thanks to local business sponsorships. In a combined, nationwide effort by local event organizers and Bonzini™ USA, a Division of Cribbs, Inc., benefit foosball competitions such as this one have raised more than \$125,000 for this and other charities.

Each year, this particular tournament takes place on “French-style” foosball tables provided by Bonzini™ USA. The Bonzini™ table is one of five different styles of table soccer tables currently endorsed by the International Table Soccer Federation (ITSF) for use in international competition. With the tournament recently recognized as an ITSF “Pro Tour Series” event, the event has now been elevated to international status. Particularly exciting will be the Open Doubles and Open Singles events beginning at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, which will feature returning doubles champions Xavier Harvey and Mark Gilbert as well as defending singles champion and U.S. National Team member Bruce Nardoci.

The tournament area is open to all press and spectators and there is no admission fee to view the matches. Registration begins at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, July 18th, with most finals held on Sunday the 20th. Sponsors of the event include Byers Street Bistro, WACL-FM 98.5 Rock and more, while the host hotel for the event is Howard Johnsons at 268 Central Ave., also in Staunton (reservations: 540-886-5330).

Other ITSF 2008 World Tour events are planned for Florida, Oklahoma, North Carolina, Texas Wisconsin and even Las Vegas. Meanwhile, table soccer players all around the United States are gearing up for further ITSF competition in Austria, Germany, Japan, Lithuania, Mexico, Poland, Switzerland, UAE and the UK, among others. In fact, this year’s five continent, 55-tournament tour is the largest worldwide table soccer pro tour ever!

For additional details about the event and the sport of table soccer, please see the following websites:

www.bonziniusa.com	- Tournament/charity information site
www.ustsf.org	- USTSF official website/Pro Tour & U.S. National Team sponsorship opportunities
www.table-soccer.org	- ITSF official web site/international rankings/news
www.foosball.com	- General information about the sport of table soccer

For more information, photos, or for an electronic version of this release, please contact:

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