

# 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.

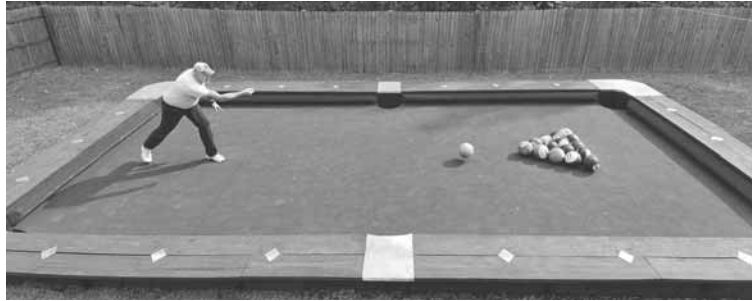
Instead of using a cue stick you throw the bowling ball-sized cue ball at 15 racked balls. Then you better be ready to get out of the way of the balls that will come rolling your way.

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



**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.**

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.

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; stewelwienecke@aol.com; www.knokkers.com).

## Dodge Ram Nears 1.7 Million Miles

Howard Clayton's Dodge Ram 3500 is heading for the record books. Purchased new in 2000, people tell him it looks like it might have 80,000 miles on it. When FARM SHOW caught up to him, he had just passed 1,688,676 miles. In all that time, he's never touched the inside of the 5.9 Cummins engine, and it's not because he follows the book.

"The book says change the oil every 3,000 miles, but if I did that, I would be stopping every other day," says Clayton. "I change the oil and filter every 10,000 miles. That's two trips from Indiana to California."

Clayton lives in Iowa, but he tows trailers for an Indiana company, putting on more than 160,000 miles a year. Most of his trips are west. The 70-year-old has been trucking for the past 20 years. The first 10 years were in a semi, and the last 10 in the Dodge 3500.

Forest Cunningham is Clayton's mechanic, though he lives in Missouri. Cunningham himself is sort of a legend with those who know him for his work on fuel pumps and high mileage engines. When FARM SHOW contacted him, he said another customer had just left with 400,000 miles on his engine.

"That one is just a baby compared to Howard's," says Cunningham, who gives credit to Clayton for taking good care of his

rig. "Once a year we clean out all the fluids and refill with fresh synthetics. He has a custom-built set of injectors, stock injection pump and an after market device that alters injection timing. He gets more than 300 hp with that engine, and I've no idea how much torque."

Clayton has had to replace the battery, alternator and lift pumps. The closest he has been to engine problems was replacing a head gasket, though he has had a couple of oil leaks over the years.

"Howard was nervous when he stopped recently," recalls Cunningham. "He was using a quart of oil every 200 miles, but it was the vacuum pump that was leaking. We resealed the oil cooler, changed oil and sent him out the door again."

Clayton says there are no secrets to what he and Cunningham do. "I try to keep an eye on maintenance, and if anything goes wrong, I take care of it immediately."

Clayton relies on synthetic Rotella 1540 for engine oil and Fleetguard oil filters. Transmission and rear end fluids are also synthetic. He gives them at least part of the credit for never having touched the 6-speed transmission or the rear end.

Clayton also uses a fuel treatment year round to keep his injectors clean, as well



**Howard Clayton has put almost 1.7 million miles on his 2000 Dodge Ram 3500 pickup, without ever touching the inside of the 5.9-liter Cummins engine.**

as using Lucas Oil Additive. He adds half a quart of the thickening agent with every oil change.

"It thickens the oil just enough for better oil pressure," says Clayton. "You don't want it too thick, especially in the winter."

"The mechanic couldn't believe it when he saw the odometer and called the manager out to see it," says Clayton. "I told them to add a million. I had to show them an article about my truck in Diesel Power magazine for them to believe me."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Howard Clayton, 3212 Ryan St., Waterloo, Iowa 50701. *This article first appeared in Vol. 35, No. 2.*