

# Bowling Road Trip

*Plotting your next vacation?*

The November issue of *Bowlers Journal International* celebrated that magazine's 95th anniversary. To mark the occasion, editors and contributors selected "95 Bowling Centers You Must Visit," a theme borrowed from Dave Freeman's 1999 book, *100 Things to Do Before You Die*. The BJI list is eclectic, to say the least. Picks range from a century-old facility that still uses pinboys to ultra-modern "bowling lounges" and family entertainment centers, including a number outside the U.S. It's a list that melds bowling's rich history with its high-tech present and future. Here are a handful of selected centers.

## HOLLER HOUSE

*Milwaukee, Wis.*

It's not really a bowling center; it's a bar. There are only two lanes... in the basement. And those lanes don't have automatic pinsetting machines, let alone electronic scoring. But the Holler House celebrated its 100th birthday over the summer, and continues to host league play on a regular basis. You also can bowl open play there... as long as there's a pinboy in the house.

## PINSTRIPES,

*Northbrook, Ill.*

The concept of this 45,000-sq.-ft. facility is to offer "sophisticated fun." Toward that end, it utilizes

quirky marketing and features 18 tenpin bowling lanes, six bocce courts, an outdoor patio with fireplace, and an Italian/American bistro. The restaurant hosts regularly scheduled themed wine tastings (\$30 per person) and wine dinners (\$60). Sophisticated? Indubitably.

## 300 NEW YORK AT CHELSEA PIERS,

*New York, N.Y.*

AMF recently "reimagined" its 40-lane Chelsea Piers location, which now boasts an 8-lane VIP space dubbed "Club 300," an enhanced sound and lighting system, and super-sized video screens for watching sports.



Milwaukee's famed Holler House is one of bowling's national treasures, a two-lane basement setup void of automation.



La Habra 300, in Orange County, Calif., still refers to itself as the house in which Glenn Allison rolled a 900 series in 1982.

## La Habra "300"

*La Habra, Calif.*

A bowling shrine, as evidenced by the marquee. Glenn Allison's infamous 900 series still takes center stage 26 years later. "Mr. 900" still bowls in the Frank's Gold Cup five-man league at La Habra.

## TOKYO PORT BOWL

*Tokyo, Japan*

This center, situated on the seventh floor of a building that's an easy stroll from the city's sprawling port, hosted the Japan Cup for many years. Parker Bohn III won the tournament there three years in a row and four times in all, but has not won since the Cup was moved to other venues. Tokyo Port Bowl features a display case of PBA player memorabilia.

## BLUEFUSION ENTERTAINMENT

*Marion, Ohio*

Upscale bowling shares the spotlight with other recreational

activities, but the centerpiece is Poppy's Sports Pub & Grill, a memorabilia-packed space named after the owners' father and grandfather — baseball hall of famer George "Poppy" Sisler.

## COACHLITE LANES

*Rolla, Mo.*

Home of the USBC women's series record (Karen Rosenberg's 878, rolled in 2001). Its masking units depict local historical scenes, including both the old courthouse (circa 1850) and Maramec Spring Park.

## LINBROOK BOWL

*Anaheim, Calif.*

Recently celebrated its 50th birthday, and its venerable sign is a striking example of "Google" architecture, which swept Southern California during the 1950s and into the '60s. As others centers in the county have succumbed to skyrocketing real estate values, Linbrook endures.