



Our next subject is Janet Poch. Janet is a 3-time WCBC Champion, winner of 14 WCBC events, and has appeared on television almost 70 times! Candlepin Gallery would like to thank Janet Poch for participating in the latest installment of this feature.

Why not start by telling us a little bit about yourself.

I am 49 and have do accounts receivables for State Garden in Chelsea.

What's your high single/three/five?

Single 191 thrown against Dave Hodge and I had 5 strikes in a row. 4 in the first half then 1 to start the second half. High three 457 done last year at PPL and that is a house record there. Hi 10 is 1335 thrown last year at Pilgrim Lanes in the final tour stop for the year.

How did you get started in candlepin bowling?

I got start when I was 12 and I had just moved back to the states. I was living in Spain for three years and came back in 1971 and moved to Concord NH and my grandparents were bowling in a league so I started it then.

Tell us about your home center. What lanes do you bowl out of?

My home center is Lucky Strike in Lynn. It is a house that makes you work for everything that you get. The other house I bowl out of is Park Place Lanes and that house is a lot more forgiving. It still punishes you but more breaks.

You've won 14 WCBC titles. Tell the readers what it's like to bowl on tour with some of the elite women's bowlers.

I started bowling on the tour back in 1981 with a 104 avg. I had seen some of the greats bowl at Boutwell's Bowl and I decided that I could compete and joined. It was very nerve racking the first few years because I did not know anybody but once I started cashing, I started making a name for myself.

Do you see any differences in the way men's and women's tournaments are run? Or do you see any difference in the way the bowlers interact?

The men have a week long worlds and the women have two weekend tournaments. I would love for the women to do something like the men but most women have a household to run and cannot afford to leave for a week. The men and women typically support each other when possible.

You've been on television nearly 70 times. Can you describe to the readers what it's like to go into a taping and bowl for a live television audience? Is it different from league and/or tour bowling?

Bowling in front of a live audience is not that hard. It is just a lot of people there just like league play where there are a lot of people around. I do not find it any different between any of them. I should say

the only time that an audience really bothered me was the live show. That crowd was huge. Still to this day I have not really watched the tape of the show. The entire match I never got over the nerves.

Which title do you look back on as your favorite or most satisfying victory?

I think my most satisfying win was when I beat Carol Downey on a TV show in Concord, NH for their cable show. Carol at the time was the best women bowler in the state of NH. It made me think that I was a good bowler.

Do you have a favorite opponent or one who "has your number?" Who would you *not* enjoy facing in a one game match?

I cannot say that I have a favorite opponent. You have to respect every bowler that you bowl against other wise you will get your butt kicked. I get beat by a lot of bowlers but cannot say any one in particular has my number.

Do you have any advice for the youth bowlers out there?

My advice to them would be to keep on bowling and you bowl in competition and you will only get better. I did. I started on the tour with a 104 average and now look at me!