



RACQUET RACKET

SUMMER 2017

Official Newsletter of the National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA)

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2018 World Racquetball Championships in Shanghai, China

By Cindy Tilbury

Hey everyone! This is a BIG DEAL! There are some avid *Asian Racquetball Association* leaders making things happen in China leading up to the 2024 (or 2028) *Olympic Games*. You already heard about the Central and South American countries that have embraced our sport with open arms and now it is time to concentrate on Asia and Europe. Anything could happen, but definitely keep your eye on the *International Racquetball Federation*, the *USOC* and the *LA2024* organization for announcements.

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NMRA Members Tie the Knot



David Nelson and Susan Schatz, Fergus Falls, Minnesota

During Thanksgiving 2016, NMRA Mixed 60+ doubles team Sue Schatz and David Nelson got married! Sue and Dave were friends and

travel companions for many years, and after they became single a few years ago, started dating—including NMRA tourneys all over the country. We couldn't be happier for them and are looking forward to having them at many future NMRA tournaments.

Dave told me, "I am sending you a photo from our wedding on November 26th, 2016. Although the wedding was very small with only our closest family and friends in attendance, it was a very big event in our lives. My youngest daughter got married in October and although Sue and I had talked about marriage for some time and even though our event was a much smaller event, Sue being Sue, she did not want to steal any of Lexi's thunder and get married before her wedding.

"Sue and I met in 1979 because of a round steak bone that got stuck on her Springer Spaniel's jaw. That emergency call changed my life forever. Sue and I have been friends ever since. I was only a

novice racquetball player at the time and Sue was a much more accomplished player. After I was convinced to give tournament racquetball a try, Sue and I became doubles partners in the early nineties. That would be the decade not our ages at the time. After all these years of being racquetball doubles partners, we are finally partners in life."

Janice Vosika, Riverton, Wyoming

Janice Vosika and Eric Foote were married on January 13, 2017 in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Janice is a long-time racquetball player, president of the *Wyoming Racquetball Association*, and reigning *Wyoming Women's Open Champion*. During her working career in the oil and gas business, Janice lived and played racquetball in Colorado, Illinois, Texas and Alaska, as well as Wyoming. Eric played racquetball many years ago in Michigan, and Janice convinced him to get playing again. He's since played a few Wyoming tournaments and traveled with Janice to a number of other local and national tournaments. They spend a lot of their fun time in Hawaii, in between NMRA and Wyoming racquetball events.



President's Corner - 80+ Focus

By Cindy Tilbury

Thanks to everyone who has been playing and supporting and publicizing our events. We do not take that commitment lightly and we cherish all of our players. We have been thrilled to get more than 30 first-time NMRA players for each of the past six NMRA events. Most have been on the younger side of our 40+ target audience as they discover our special family or retire and take some me-time, but we have been struggling to delight the long-time 70+ members. We especially want the 80+ players to be happy and reunite with all of their fellow octogenarian players.

We think we have an enticement for all of our 80+ (as of July 12, 2017) men and women players to get you to join us in the next year. **Your entry fee will be \$0.00 for your next two events.** That is a \$200 (or more) savings!!!

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In Memoriam

2018 World Racquetball Championships in Shanghai, China

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The site of the 2024 Olympics will be announced in September 2017 and demonstration sports will be chosen shortly thereafter by the host country. If Los Angeles hosts that Olympic Games, cross your fingers for racquetball!

Please keep in mind that, even though it is very early for details, the USA Racquetball Executive Director, Jason Thorne, told me that it is going to be a massive undertaking to raise the extra travel dollars to get the Team USA players to China. If you would like to spread the racquetball gospel to Asia and make sure our country is well-represented at the 2018 World Championships, be assured that there are other donors out there who will match your contribution.

Contact Jason at the USAR headquarters if you want to know more or can help out in any way.



President's Corner - 80+ Focus *continued from page 1*

Our finances are strong and we cannot think of a better way to make our events better than to strengthen the 80+ draws. If you need your NMRA membership paid as well, we will take care of that. Although they aren't trivial, transportation, hotel and food are your only expenses.

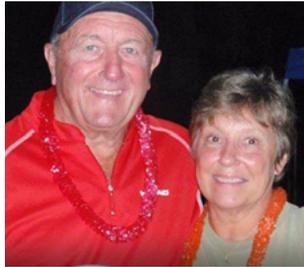
Mike Martin from Colorado may have called you already and discussed the offer with you. He will be 90 soon and is looking for some competition. Let's not disappoint him. An extra Jackpot (Rotating Partner) Doubles division will also be available to 75+ players.

To take advantage of this offer, ask questions, or get a doubles partner, call me at 303.888.4461. Don't miss out!

NMRA Passings *By Cindy Tilbury*

Grant "Spoony" Morrill, Pennsylvania

I found out about Spoony's death by reading the January 2017 Racquetball Magazine. I knew he had battled cancer but had no idea he was so ill again.



Daron Morrill, Spoony's nephew, spoke with me in February about Spoony's passing on October 8, 2016 at age 79. Daron plays racquetball in Harrisburg and plans to do a special fundraiser in Spoony's honor for the Children's Hospital in the Spring. There will be many red noses. Travis Aldinger, the York Athletic Club pro, will be involved, as well. Another of Spoony's nephews, Mike Corrigan, is an Open level player in Florida.



Many of Spoony's clown friends were at the funeral and lightened the mood of the event. On October 14, 2016, PennLive.com had a story called "Remembering Spoony" that is available here, in

addition to his Patriot News (local newspaper) obituary. Please take a minute and read them. http://www.pennlive.com/life/2016/10/remembering_grant_morrill_jr_a.html

<http://obits.pennlive.com/obituaries/pennlive/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=181915102>

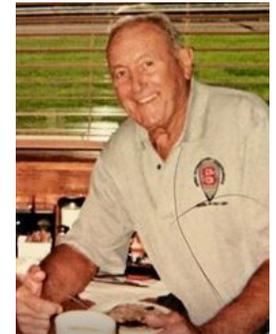
Spoony had beaten cancer several times in the past with stem cell and other



treatments, but finally succumbed to blood sepsis/poison. He had been having trouble with infections, partially due to his artificial joints. The doctors had even been talking about amputating his leg(s) from the knee up. Somehow, those joints allowed the blood sepsis infection to spread. He had been going to Boston regularly to have treatments. His heart was not strong and, in the end, he quit the ventilator that he was on and gave up fighting.



In addition to playing many racquetball tournaments and being an avid NMRA supporter with nine NMRA medals, Spoony was a serious Steelers and Yankees fan and accomplished golfer. His career included being in the Navy and Air Force, professional clown and rodeo clown, and serving as Deputy Sheriff in Dauphin County. His long-time wife, Joan, is doing well, still living in Hershey, Pennsylvania. You can still see Spoony's Facebook (search for Grant Morrill) page



and post a note in memorium. Daron can be reached at daron.morrill@comcast.net if you want more details of Spoony's life and passing.



NMRA INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

July 12-15, 2017 — Wisconsin Athletic Club, 1939 S 108th St., West Allis, WI 53227

Entry By Mail Must Be **POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN: June 26, 2017**

Online Entries Must Be **COMPLETED BY: June 30, 2017**

<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=18834>

Please Print — Be Legible, Complete & Accurate

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: Home _____

Cell _____

Email: _____

DOB: m____ / d____ / yr____ Age on July 12, 2017

Waiver: I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims that I may have against the NMRA, USAR, the Wisconsin Athletic Club and their staff, and all sponsors or their respective agents, for any and all injuries or damages of any nature which I, my spouse or my guest(s) may incur as a result of my participation in this tournament. I also acknowledge the potential risk of eye injury during competition, and can certify in writing that my protective eye guards (including prescription frames/lenses) conform with all standards specified in USA Racquetball Rule 2.5(a). By registering to compete in this event, I consent to and release all rights to the use of event photographs in which my image appears.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

ENTRY FEES:

First Event \$ 165 \$ _____

Second Event \$ 30 \$ _____

Spouse/Guest(s)* (Each) \$ 70 \$ _____

NMRA Membership ** (Total for 3 Yrs) \$ 45 \$ _____

USRA Membership (required, 1 Yr) \$ 50 \$ _____

Total Due: \$ _____

* Spouse/Guest(s) Name(s): _____

____ ****Check here if your first NMRA tournament ****
(First time players do not have to join the NMRA, but we hope you do.)

NO REFUND OF ANY FEES AFTER 06/30/2017

SHIRT SIZE: MEN _____ WOMEN _____
S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ 2X ___ 3X _____

PAYMENT: Send entry form & payment in U.S. dollars, made payable to **NMRA**.

Mail to: Cindy Tilbury - NMRA
23308 Bocana Street
Malibu, CA 90265

Limit of two events only: singles and doubles or two doubles. Everyone plays every day; arrive Tuesday!

DOUBLES			AGE	SINGLES	
MEN	WOMEN	MIXED		MEN	WOMEN
			40+		
			45+		
n/a	n/a	n/a	45+ B/C	n/a	
			50+		
			55+		
n/a	n/a	n/a	55+ B/C	n/a	
			60+		
			65+		
			70+		
			75+		
			80+		
			85+		
	n/a	n/a	90+		n/a
			75+ Jackpot		

DOUBLES PARTNER(S): Please Print

Name/Div/Age Bracket: _____

Name/Div/Age Bracket: _____

___ Check if you need us to find a doubles partner.

Emergency Contact Information:

Name _____

Phone # _____



NMRA 2017 International Championships

Wisconsin Athletic Club West Allis (Milwaukee Area) | July 12-15, 2017

(Wednesday through Saturday) ** Round Robin Age Divisions Starting at 40 Years Young **

www.nmra.info | <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=18834> Please read carefully.

Tournament Directors / Staff

Cindy Tilbury 303.888.4461 cindy.tilbury@att.net
 Scott Kraemer 209.743.6487 scott.kraemer@bmo.com
 Trish Beatty - On-Site Host
 Panel of Three Members – Rules Committee

Primary Host Club

Wisconsin Athletic Club West Allis – 10 Cement-Walled Courts
 1939 W 108th Street, West Allis, WI 53226 Phone 414.321.2500 www.thewac.com
 Club is open 24 hours a day. Bring a towel and a lock. Some practice courts available on July 11.
 Lunches served near the courts or bar area.

Host Hotel

Crowne Plaza



Crowne Plaza Wauwatosa

10499 W Innovation Drive, Wauwatosa, WI 53226 414.475.9500
 Call 414.475.9500 to Register Mention National Master Racquetball
 Online Registration at https://www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/us/en/wauwatosa/mkemr/hoteldetail?qAdt=1&qBrs=6c.hi.ex.rs.ic.cp.in.sb.cw.cv.ul.vn.ki&qChld=0&qFRA=1&qGRM=0&qGrpCd=NMR&qIta=99801505&qPSt=0&qRRSrt=rt&qRef=df&Rms=1&qRpn=1&qRpp=20&qSHp=1&qSmP=3&qSrt=sBR&qWch=0&srb_u=1&icdv=99801505
 Sue Walton, Sales
 \$124 + Tax Per Night Double Queen Room (Up to 2 People)
 \$124 + Tax Per Night King Room (Up to 2 People)
 \$144 + Tax Per Night For Four People
 Rates available until June 17, 2017, but please reserve early (30 reserved). Rate includes full hot breakfast, wireless internet access, parking, mini-refrigerator, fitness center, more.
 RV parking is free in a designated area of the parking lot, without hookups.
 Registered guests will be entered into a "free night" lottery.

Enter Online



Enter online by June 30, 2017 <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=18834>
 First event--\$165 Second event--\$30 Card Handling Fee \$5
 You may request a doubles partner and/or roommate and we will do our best to accommodate you (Try the "Find a Partner" list feature of R2sports). \$5 credit card convenience fee will be charged.

Enter via US Mail



Fill out the entry form at www.nmra.info (Tournament Info page). Make check payable to NMRA.
 Mail completed entry form and fees by June 26, 2017, to: NMRA / Cindy Tilbury, 23308 Bocana Street, Malibu, CA 90265

Refunds

Refunds are available until June 30, 2017, when shirts will be ordered, banquet dinners will be committed, and match scheduling will be completed.

Special Doubles Division for 40+ Ex-Pro-Tour Players and Amateurs

We will offer a special round-robin doubles division, schedule to be determined, where regular age-group players can pay the entry fee of and play with a 40+ ex-professional player. This will be a mini-tournament within the event—possibly 40+ and a 60+ round robins and both genders, if players are willing to try this. Contact Cindy Tilbury for more details and lists of interested ex-professional players.

Special for 75+ Players!

In the event that there are not enough singles and doubles matches for 75+ players, a special no-charge Jackpot Doubles will be offered where players switch partners every round and the one player with the most points at the end of the event wins the division.

Special for Ladies!

We are trying something new to the NMRA—two new B/C Singles age divisions for ladies 59 or younger. If you feel you are not an Open/A-level singles player, you may enter B/C. Choose 45+ B/C or 55+ B/C. The two divisions may be combined to provide enough matches.

Nearest Airport

Milwaukee General Mitchell MKE
 Make your flight reservations early / Book flights at www.mitchellairport.com
 13 miles or 20 minutes from the hotel

Airlines Flying into MKE

Air Canada	American Airlines	OneJet	Southwest Airlines
Alaska Airlines	Frontier Airlines	United Airlines	

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NMRA 2017 International Championships INFORMATION SHEET continued from page 4...

Alternate Airport	Chicago O'Hare ORD or Chicago Midway MDW 2 Hours from Milwaukee Club area
Airport Taxi/Shuttle	First try Uber or Lyft and then airport ground transportation. Try the "Share a Ride" list feature of www.r2sports.com when registering for this tournament.
Shuttle to Club	Shuttle van provided by the hotel between the host hotel and clubs. Tips appreciated.
Parking at Host Club	There is a large parking lot at the WAC, free to all players and guests.
Directions from Airport MKE to Host Hotel Crowne Plaza	No Car / Max Light Rail - 50 Minutes 10 Miles Hotel will be on the left Car / 27 Minutes 10 Miles
Directions From Crowne Plaza Host Hotel to Wisconsin Athletic Club West Allis	No Car / NMRA Shuttle - 10 Minutes 5 Miles Take the NMRA shuttle Car / 10 Minutes 5 Miles Club is on the right
Tournament Check-In Player Meet and Greet	Tuesday, July 11, 2017, 5:00 to 8:00 pm near the courts (Check www.r2sports.com for venue changes) Let the front desk person know you are there for the racquetball tourney. Light appetizers and drinks, with early and later player meetings. Plan to stay and socialize!
Tournament Souvenir	A high-quality shirt or jacket will be given out at check-in night.
Play Begins / Ends	8:00 am Wednesday, July 12, to 5:00 pm Saturday, July 15, 2017 Every division plays every day (Wednesday through Saturday) Please show consideration for all players and remember that we play every bracket every day of the event. Schedule your travel arrangements accordingly. ID/bagtag may be required at both venues.
Practice Courts	Practice courts are available Tuesday, July 11, at no charge. Come practice before the tournament check-in event.
Tournament Ball	Penn Green is the official ball of the NMRA.
Approved Eyewear	Eyeguards are mandatory. The USAR has established strict criteria for approved eyeguards. This document represents those products which meet or exceed the USAR's criteria. Approved Eye Guard List
Tournament Scoring	All round robins, self-refereed matches. Every division will play two games to 15. Large "pool play" divisions will have Saturday playoff matches. Playoff format will be two games to 15, tiebreaker to 11 if needed. Bonus points are awarded for winning games (2 per game) and the match (4). Ties will split the extra four match points. Points are automatically calculated by the R2sports tournament software. When any team or player must forfeit, average scores will be used to determine final results of the division or pool. If a forfeit occurs during a match, the opposing team or player will be awarded points required to finish the match. You must play all of your matches in a division to receive a medal. In rare circumstances, a "watcher" may be requested of the tournament director to settle disputes.
Appeals	The NMRA has a rules committee that can be used by the players to submit an appeal on a rule (immediately) or issue (not necessarily immediately) that arises during the event. The decision of the rules committee is final and binding on all parties concerned.
Tournament Awards	NMRA medals will be awarded to First through Fourth place winners for each bracket. Combined brackets will be awarded medals based on age. No medal will be awarded for the combined division itself.
Eligibility	USAR-sanctioned; Current USAR membership is required to participate. Entries will not be accepted without payment for USAR membership. NMRA membership is required for all, EXCEPT players who are playing in their FIRST NMRA event. Special recognition and gift for first-time players and new NMRA members will be given out.
Breakfast / Morning Hospitality	Full hot breakfast is included in the price of the Crowne Plaza host hotel. Fruit and drinks available at Wisconsin Athletic Club.
Lunch	Available at the club near the bar. Check for details during the tournament. Planned lunch times will be 11:30 am to about 2:00 pm. Match times may be scheduled around lunch, but please set aside a lunch if you are playing and will want to eat afterward..

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NMRA 2017 International Championships INFORMATION SHEET

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The NMRA Future Fund

By Mike Griz

I have been fortunate to serve on the NMRA Board the last two years and have been recently selected to be the Director of the NMRA Future Fund.

The Future Fund (FF) is an endowment fund set up to provide for the future growth and perpetuation of the NMRA. Currently we have in excess of \$50,000 in the fund.

The FF Advisory Board consists of myself, **Chris Poucher**, and **Bill Baker** and we report to the NMRA Board. We have two tasks:

1. To grow the fund through member contributions and investing the funds appropriately, and
2. To use the fund income, and principal as necessary, to promote the goals of the NMRA – which are to promote the health and vitality of the NMRA and to provide quality tournaments to our members.

In the past couple of years, our tournament numbers have declined. We have the FF. We would like to know what we can do to strengthen and increase our membership, the quality of our tournaments, and the sport of racquetball. This issue is front and center of the Advisory Board. Let me hear from you if you would like to comment. Email me at mgrisz@aol.com

Thanks.

Evening Hospitality	Available at club near the bar—not a substitute for dinner. Feel free to hang out in the bar and watch matches.
Friday Banquet	Friday night, July 14, 2017, at the Crowne Plaza ballroom Cash bar at 6:00 pm; Dinner and program from 7:00 to 9:00 pm or so Videos, slide shows and possible awards (fun and serious) presentations are customary. Don't miss this! Guests are invited for \$50 (or all-week hospitality with the banquet is available for \$70)
Milwaukee / Chicago Activities and Attractions	Sailboarding, golf, hiking, biking, birding, horseback riding, shopping, zoo, museums, ziplining, fishing, mountain towns, white water rafting, wine country, brewery tours, music festivals, much more. See the separate handout of <i>Things To Do in Milwaukee</i> .
RV Parks	RV park with hookups near the host hotel: https://www.google.com/maps/search/rv+parks/@43.0089706,-88.1879521,11z/data=!3m1!4b1
Laundromats	Here is are some laundromats near the host hotel. https://www.google.com/maps/search/laundromat/@43.0090573,-88.065378,14z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m8!2m7!3m6!1slaundromat!2sWisconsin+Athletic+Club,+United+States,+1939+S+108th+St,+West+Allis,+WI+53227!3s0x880505796fa0be9:0x90fa21595880cb98!4m2!1d-88.0478684!2d43.0090587
Massage Therapist	Massage Therapists will be available during the tournament at a suggested rate of \$1.00 per minute. Sign-up sheets will be out if there is a wait.
Racquet Stringer	Racquets can be restrung by the stringer at the Wisconsin Athletic Club.
Doubles Partners	Contact Cindy Tilbury for a doubles partner or roommate cindy.tilbury@att.net or 303.888.4461 Please try the "Need a Doubles Partner" list feature of R2Sports when registering. There are also "Need a Roommate" and "Need a Ride" lists.
Player Profiles / Shirt Sizes	It is extremely important that you keep your player profile, including shirt size, up-to-date in the www.r2sports.com system. The profile is used to help you enter tournaments online and, more importantly, to contact you with the latest tournament information and changes when you enter tournaments. This profile is the same as your www.nmra.info and www.usra.org profile. Contact the USAR staff in Colorado Springs at 719.635.5396 if you need a little help getting started or remembering your password for this feature.
Average Temperatures	Milwaukee in July – High 81° F – Low 63° F – Average 74° F Precipitation 3.5 Inch Humidity 85%
Altitude	617 Feet

Just Plain Cute!

By Cindy Tilbury

As I was looking at the Participant List for a few racquetball tournaments on *R2Sports.com*, I saw the cutest thing. The whole **Denler** family had done something clever with their pictures so they look extra cool when they all sign up for a tournament. Here is the example. I'd give them three points for enthusiasm.

	Elizabeth Denler Champlin, MN USA Plymouth Creek Athletic Club	Girl's Singles: 10 and Under Junior Singles: Junior 10 / 12
	Ron Denler Champlin, MN USA La Fitness	Men's Singles: B Men's Age Singles: 45+ B

NMRA Tidbits

By Cindy Tilbury

Results on R2Sports

In addition to reading the recent results in this newsletter, check NMRA scores and the detailed results on R2Sports. The March 2017 Arlington results can be found here: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/viewResults.asp?TID=18874> The December 2016 Atlanta results can be found here: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/viewResults.asp?TID=17447>

Next NMRA Events

Although there are about ten great racquetball events for players 40 and over each year, I'll highlight the next three that the NMRA hosts, and you can go to the back page to find the rest. Mark your calendars now so you can join us at the 2017 NMRA events:

July 12-15, 2017 in West Allis

(Milwaukee), Wisconsin. Everyone had been asking to go back to Milwaukee and we made it happen. The R2Sports online tournament website is [here](#), and the Info Sheet and Things To Do (available soon) are on the www.nmra.info website. The tourney deadline is June 28 but the hotel rate/room deadline is June 13—make your reservation today! 40+ singles, doubles and mixed doubles are offered.

December 1-3, 2017 in Pleasanton, California.

Sign-up is not yet open, but please set aside the dates and plan to stay longer to drive up to Napa Valley and the wine country, or over to San Francisco and Alcatraz. There is so much to do in the area that it is hard to list them all. One special note about this event—we are going to try something different by having it on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, instead of our normal Thursday, Friday, Saturday, with Sunday as a travel day. We think we will get some great local players and we think that may help them play without taking more days off work. Wish us luck. 40+ doubles and mixed doubles are options—no singles for this tourney. We can't wait to get back to Northern California!

NMRA Passings continued from page 2

Ralph Stillman, Minnesota



Ralph was all set to accept his induction into the NMRA Hall of Fame in Dallas in March. He called us a few months before then to let us know that he had to have surgery on an aortic aneurism so he might not be able to play in Dallas. The surgery went well, and Ralph was planning to travel to Dallas. He died suddenly from complications associated with the surgery and was not able to accept his Hall of Fame plaque in person. We were devastated and hope to honor his memory the best we can when we have a surrogate from his local racquetball group

tell us more about Ralph and his history at an upcoming NMRA Hall of Fame banquet. Keep Ralph's wife, **Faye**, in your prayers as she goes through this difficult time.

Ralph was 86. He had earned 21 NMRA medals (6 gold, 4 silver, 3 bronze and 8 pewter) and many more from the USAR in his 40+-year racquetball career. His Minnesota friends, including me, and his national NMRA friends will miss him dearly.

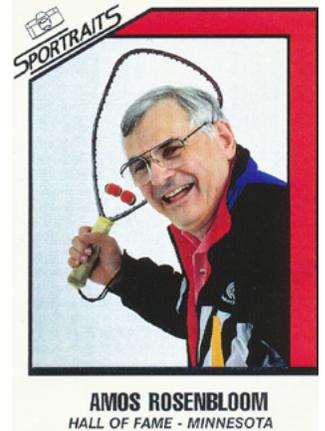
<http://m.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/189014/?fullname=ralph-paul-stillman>



Amos Rosenbloom, Minnesota

Amos Rosenbloom, 89 years old, was an NMRA Hall of Famer, inducted as a Contributor for his dedication and many hours of service to the NMRA in the 1980s and 1990s. He passed peacefully on April 19, 2017 after a protracted battle with cancer, which he had beaten three times already.

Amos was a central figure in Minnesota racquetball and junior racquetball programs. He was one of the original 1971 NMRA group of friends who decided round-robin social racquetball was the only way to go. He could tell stories for days. If you see Marsha, Amos's wife, I think she would appreciate a sweet Amos racquetball story or remembrance.



MORE NMRA Tidbits

March 28-31, 2017 in Warren, New Jersey.

This will be a first for us and we expect to attract a lot of Northeast US players. Details will be posted soon on our nmra.info website.

Check out the back page Tournament Trail for more great 40+ racquetball action. As always, we are interested in hearing about potential new venues for NMRA events—have us give them a call.

Fall/Winter 2016 NMRA RacquetRacket Newsletter

Click [here](#) for the full-color online version of the last newsletter, or refer to our www.nmra.info website. You will also want to print out some of the newest newsletters and give them to a 40+ racquetball friend to let them know that they are MISSING OUT! If you opt out of email (and please consider opting back in via your *USA Racquetball* profile), you may ask for a printed-paper copy through the US Mail.

Patches

It is a recent tradition that we create sew-on patches with the tournament logo and make them available for sale at each tournament. NMRA logo patches are also available. If you would like to get a patch from past tournaments, just send me a quick email and we'll get it out to you right away.

Things To Do in the Milwaukee Area

By Lee Kimball / Shelly Ashton / Scott Kraemer



Central Milwaukee Area	Online Link
Milwaukee County Zoo	www.milwaukeezoo.org/
Discovery World	www.discoveryworld.org/
Milwaukee Brewers vs Phillies MLB Baseball @ Miller Park 1982 Reunion Ceremony / Game Saturday July 15th	www.milwaukeebrewers.com/
Milwaukee 8th Annual Lakefront Air & Water Show 2400 North Lincoln Drive Sunday July 16th 11 am to 4 pm	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/milwaukee-air-show-tickets-33998213572?ref=enivtefor001&invite=MTE5NTE4MjAvc2NvdHQva3JhZW1lckBibW8uY29tLzA%3D&utm_source=eb_email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=inviteformalv2&utm_term=eventpage
Brewery Tours - Miller / Coors / Milwaukee / Pabst / Schlitz	www.milwaukeebrewerytours.com
Golf Courses - 8 top Milwaukee golf courses	www.golfwisconsin.com/
US Open (June) Golf Course in Erin - Reserve Your Tee Time Before Your Trip	www.erinhills.com
Music and Town Festivals	www.travelwisconsin.com
Bastille Days - July 13-16	www.easttown.com
Comedy Clubs	www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g60097-Activities-c20-t108-Milwaukee_Wisconsin.html
Lake Michigan Shoreline / Night Boat Trip	www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g60097-Activities-c55-Milwaukee_Wisconsin.html
Much more...	

Central Wisconsin (Two+ Hours West)	Online Link
Wisconsin Dells Tourist Area	www.wisdells.com www.dells.com
Much more...	

Northern Wisconsin (Two+ Hours North)	
Hunting / Fishing (In Season)	Hiking / Cabin Renting
Canoeing / White Water Rafting / Boating	Lake Superior Waterfront / Duluth Port

Chicago Area (Two Hours South)	Online Link
Sightseeing	www.chicagotraveler.com/things-to-do.htm
Major League Baseball Cubs / White Sox	www.mlb.com
Other Chicago Sports	www.choosechicago.com/things-to-do/sports-and-recreation/sports-and-recreation-calendar/
Shedd Aquarium	www.sheddaquarium.org
Restaurants	
Museums	www.chicagotraveler.com/chicago_museums.htm
Shopping	
Zoos	
Comedy Clubs	www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g35805-Activities-c20-t108-Chicago_Illinois.html
Broadway-Quality Theaters	www.broadwayinchicago.com/
Lake Michigan Waterfront	
Much More...	

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WORLD'S #1 SELLING BRAND.

To Us, The Ball Matters™



"I love the Pro Penn Green ball. The fast crisp action off my racquet helped me win GOLD Medals at the 2011 Pan American Games and 2012 World Championships. No other brand compares to Penn!"

Paola Longoria

"All the Pro's on the IRT know that the Pro Penn HD ball is second to none. With today's lightweight racquets this is the only ball to play with. Its lightweight design and softer feel offers players of all levels the most comfortable experience on the court, even with shots exploding over 180 mph!"

Rocky Carson



MORE NMRA Tidbits

Jackpot Doubles for 70+ Players (and Anyone Else)

In the upcoming year in every NMRA tournament, we will offer a free *Jackpot (Rotating Partners) Doubles* division for players 75+ and above. If there is room, we will also recruit 70+ players. To make this happen, I need your input and help. As a free event, with a medal for the winners, we offer *Jackpot Doubles* where all players change partners every game. We need a minimum of four players, but 16 is much better. Try to make your plane and dinner arrangements accordingly so that you can play later on Saturday. Ideas to make this a better tournament-within-a-tournament? Let me know.

Consider a Coach

You may not have thought about this, but our four-day (probably eight-match) tournaments are perfect for being coached. Consider bringing a coach to watch your matches, suggest changes, video-record the action, and work with you before and after. Playing great is much more fun than playing badly, and each coaching session can get you a couple more points until you are beating players you could not beat before. Single-elimination tourneys just don't provide that opportunity. If you need some suggestions for great coaches, just contact us. If you are like me, each tourney I do poorly at is a huge motivator for me to work on my shots and fitness.

NMRA National Championship Results

Maverick Athletic Club, Arlington, TX | March 22-25, 2017

Patrick Gibson / Mike Grisz / Cindy Tilbury, Tournament Directors

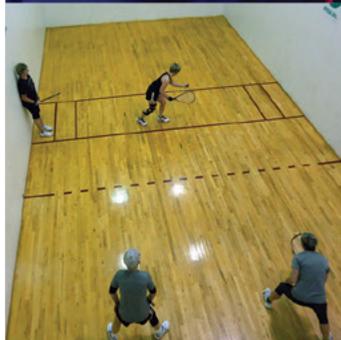
Division	Place	Name	State	Points
M45	1st	Brian McCann	TX	8.33
M50	1st	Glenn Martineau	VA	33.57
	2nd	Antonio Aguirre	GUA	16.14
M55	1st	Tomas Munoz	TX	38.00
	2nd	Gus Sanchez	TX	34.33
	3rd	Bob Wright	IN	33.44
	4th	Philippe Jean-Baptiste	MD	27.67
	5th	Stanley Golob	TX	25.56
	6th	Fernando Batista	TX	25.44
	7th	Robert Kramer	TX	19.11
	8th	Dan Britt	TX	--
M60	1st	Mike Grisz	TX	38.00
	2nd	Steve Wattz	CA	32.57
	3rd	Ray Redelman	IL	27.14
	4th	George Heidelmeier	TX	20.00
	5th	Johnny Boyd	TX	11.71
	6th	Mitch Smith	MD	--
M65	1st	Frank Taddonio	AZ	37.57
	2nd	Joe Clinton	TX	32.43
	3rd	Mike Robinson	TX	31.00
	4th	Frank Greenfield	GA	29.00
	5th	Jim Barrett	AZ	23.86
	6th	Robert Rivera	ME	20.86
	7th	Les Conrad	IN	12.14
	8th	Ron Bayless	TX	6.29
M70	1st	Gordon Levy	CO	33.11
	2nd	James Weathers	VA	32.11
	3rd	Fred Roe	CA	32.00
	4th	Terry Albright	KS	30.67
	5th	Greg Kearney	CA	27.56
	6th	Bob Stoyko	WA	16.89
M75	1st	Mitch Milewski	NH	37.00
	2nd	Wayne Toyne	VA	22.33
	3rd	Bill Baker	CA	18.00
	4th	Stu Simcox	OH	8.11
M80	1st	Jack Schoeppey	AR	35.50
	2nd	William Herron	TX	34.83
	3rd	James Funk	CO	17.33
M85	1st	Mike Martin	CO	14.33
MD45	1st	Brian McCann / John O'Neill	TX / TX	7.43
MD50	1st	Patrick Gibson / John Wignings	TX / CA	35.29
	2nd	Scott Schafer / Rick Williams	TX / TX	34.29
	3rd	Jody Morris / Mark Malowitz	TX / TX	33.29
	4th	Lars Cole / Tyrone Gilmore	MI / TX	31.43
	5th	John Tarr / Charles Cotton III	TX / TX	21.43
	6th	Stanley Golob / Steve Standish	TX / X	17.71
	7th	Antonio Aguirre / Estuardo Wer	GUA / GUA	16.71



Division	Place	Name	State	Points
MD55	1st	Scott Schafer / Rick Williams	TX / TX	38.00
	2nd	Lars Cole / Glenn Martineau	MI / TX	32.00
	3rd	Mike Hiles / Bruce Adams	MN / FL	21.13
	4th	John Tarr / Charles Cotton III	TX / TX	20.50
	5th	Fernando Batista / Robert Kramer	TX / TX	16.88
MD60	1st	Bill Hartwell / Mark Baron	VA / VA	38.00
	2nd	John Els / Steve Wattz	NE / CA	35.14
	3rd	Mike Grisz / Mike Robinson	TX / TX	32.57
	4th	Gary Jeral / Rick Betts	LA / CA	29.71
	5th	Al Gamble / Fred Foster Sr	TX / TX	20.57
MD65	1st	Joe Clinton / George Heidelmeier	TX / TX	22.86
	2nd	Robert Rivera / James Weathers		17.00
	3rd	Les Conrad / Ron Bayless		6.14



Division	Place	Name	State	Points
MD70	1st	Tom McKie / Terry Albright	TX / MO	35.71
	2nd	Greg Kearney / Fred Roe	CA / CA	35.57
	3rd	Bob Stoyko / Mike Honea	WA / TX	34.00
	4th	Don Conte / Paul Lowe	TX / TX	22.00
	5th	Robert Sullins / George Moore	TX / TX	21.14
MD75	1st	Bill Baker / Stu Simcox	CA / OH	21.29
W45	1st	Lynn O'Neill	TX	--
W50	1st	Olivia Bower	TX	19.00
W55	1st	Ingrid Callmann	DE	15.38
W75	1st	Mildred Gwinn	NC	13.00
	2nd	Marquita Molina	CA	8.13
WD45	1st	Marcia Richards / Michiele Stapleton	CO / CO	29.17
	2nd	Karen Turner / Cindy Tilbury	VA / CA	29.00
	WD50	1st	Marni Winings / Marie Gomar	CA / GUA
	2nd	Olive Curtis / Olivia Bower	TX / TX	27.17



Division	Place	Name	State	Points
WD55	1st	Carolyn Hollis / Sandy Rios	CA / TX	31.33
	2nd	Carmen Alatorre-Martin / Vicky Birkmann	VA / TX	20.17
	3rd	Ann Draudt / Traci Kourajian	TX / TX	14.67
WD60	1st	Linda Moore / Diana Matthews	AZ / NE	35.50
	2nd	Dotti White / Judith Flis	TX / PA	28.83
	3rd	Barbara Fischetti / Ingrid Callmann	DE / DE	18.83
WD75	1st	Marquita Molina / Mildred Gwinn	CA / NC	11.67
XD45	1st	Steve Strahler / Michiele Stapleton	CO / CO	34.33
	2nd	Bob Wright / Vicky Birkmann	IN / TX	32.00
	3rd	Philippe Jean-Baptiste / Karen Turner	MD / VA	23.67
	4th	Lynn O'Neill / John O'Neill	TX / TX	--
XD50	1st	Mark Malowitz / Marie Gomar	TX / GUA	33.50
	2nd	Jody Morris / Sandy Rios	TX / TX	31.00
	3rd	John Winings / Marni Winings	CA / CA	28.00
	4th	Steve Strahler / Marcia Richards	CO / CO	23.88
	5th	Gus Sanchez / Olive Curtis	TX / TX	11.25
XD55	1st	Carolyn Hollis / Tyrone Gilmore	CA / TX	34.83
	2nd	Cindy Tilbury / Frank Taddonio	CA / TX	30.17
	3rd	Fred Foster Sr / Traci Kourajian	TX / TX	16.50
XD60	1st	Carmen Alatorre-Martin / Patrick Gibson	VA / TX	38.00
	2nd	Rick Betts / Linda Moore	CA / AZ	35.33
	3rd	Diana Matthews / John Els	NE / NE	28.83
	4th	Leon Jackson / Judith Flis	VA / PA	27.33
	5th	Mike Hiles / Barbara Fischetti	MN / DE	23.50
	6th	Doug Draudt / Ann Draudt	TX / TX	19.33
	7th	Al Gamble / Dotti White	TX / TX	12.83



MORE NMRA Tidbits

Pedometers Pedometers Pedometers

Are you wearing your pedometer every day to make sure you get a minimum of 10,000 steps? If not, get to *Dick's Sporting Goods* and pick up some (or other *Fitbit*-like devices) for you and your friends. You'll be amazed at how many steps one game of singles or doubles generates—I estimate 1,800 and 1,300, respectively. Unlike an elliptical or treadmill that gets you about 7,000 steps per hour, it doesn't take much time to reach your goal. Ask me about mine!

Dallas (Arlington)

Tournament Warm-Up

You may have heard that we had a very special tournament souvenir for the *March 2017 Arlington* event. A full warm-up suit was given to each player and we had many great comments. We try to do our best and mix up our giveaways, so let us know if you have ideas for us. We love the input. We also have a few leftover warmup to sell for \$50. Contact me via email if you are interested. Sizes are XL (quantity 5), L (quantity 3), and M (quantity 2). I have also ordered some Smalls and XSmalls for the ladies who contacted me. I will send those when they are ready.

NMRA 2016 Doubles-Only Championship Results

Recreation ATL, Atlanta, GA | December 8-10, 2016

Cindy Tilbury / Chris Poucher, Tournament Directors

Division	Place	Name	State	Points	Division	Place	Name	State	Points
MD40	1st	Frank Bantell / Michael Engle	MD / MD	33.80		6th	Harold Lloyd / Kenneth Joy	SC / NC	25.33
	2nd	Darryl Lewis / Jeffrey Thompson	GA / GA	8.60		7th	Roy Daigle / Tyrone Tony White	AL / AL	19.67
MD45	1st	Steven Szabo / Mark Goodman	GA / GA	32.17		8th	Charles Erban / Mike Collins	MA / MA	13.00
	2nd	Russ Bruns / Michael Engle	SC / MD	32.17		MD70 1st	Leonard Marsocci / Steve Meltsner	FL / CT	34.25
	3rd	Edward Kizito / Bryan Parker	GA / GA	31.00		2nd	Dan Jones / Jerry Prentiss	GA / PA	29.50
	4th	Jeffrey Thompson / Darryl Lewis	GA / GA	6.83		3rd	Leonard Sonnenberg / Roy Daigle	CA / AL	11.50
MD50	1st	Alan Nichols / Carl Chinnery	GA / SC	31.60	WD45	1st	Janice Kennedy / Terri McWilliams	GA / GA	35.38
	2nd	Tom Adkins / Bryan Parker	GA / GA	31.60		2nd	Lisa Bogus / Diane Clayton-Anderson	GA / GA	20.63
	3rd	Steven Szabo / Mark Goodman	GA / GA	30.40	WD50 1st	Thao Le / Lynn Fonseca	VA / GA	33.63	
	4th	Will Costanza / Michael Miller Jr	GA / GA	23.60	2nd	Vicki Luque / Tracy Parker	GA / GA	22.50	
MD55	1st	Billy Cannon / James Corrigan	AL / AL	37.50	WD55 1st	Carolyn Hollis / Gladys Leonard	CA / AL	36.13	
	2nd	Ron Fowler / Mel Pangilinan	GA / GA	33.33	2nd	Cindy Tilbury / Tami Costanza	CA / GA	27.63	
	3rd	John Els / Steve Wattz	NE / CA	31.67	WD60 1st	Debbie Chaney / Deb Stefandel	IN / IN	25.13	
	4th	Gary Jeral / Rick Betts	LA / GA	26.17	WD65 1st	Jane Snyder / Laurie Kitchen	TN / NY	17.38	
	5th	Carl Chinnery / Tyrone Tony White	SC / AL	21.50	WD70 1st	Marquita Molina / Karen Crownover	CA / FL	9.50	
	6th	Curtis Perry / Tyrone Gilmore	DC / TX	20.50	XD40 1st	Terri McWilliams / Frank Bantell	GA / MD	30.75	
MD60	1st	John Els / Steve Wattz	NE / CA	31.75	XD45 1st	Lynn Fonseca / Edward Kizito	GA / GA	38.00	
	Playoff	2nd	Billy Cannon / James Corrigan	AL / AL	38.00	2nd	Sherron Boyea / Terrence Pierce	CA / GA	24.00
		3rd	Rick Betts / Gary Jeral	CA / LA	33.00	3rd	Thao Le / Russ Bruns	VA / SC	20.00
		4th	Mark Baron / Bill Hartwell	VA / VA	38.00	4th	Tracy Parker / Bruce Adams	GA / FL	14.25
		5th	Tony Caristi / Keith Tidd	GA / MI	23.25	XD50 1st	Janice Kennedy / Alan Nichols	GA / GA	38.00
		6th	Stephen Fox / Rick Bearfield	TN / TN	24.75	2nd	Sharon McNeill / Michael Miller Jr	MD / GA	32.60
		7th	Jim Harvey / Chris Poucher	GA / GA	21.75	3rd	Sherron Boyea / Terrence Pierce	CA / GA	26.60
		8th	Frank Greenfield / Kevin Prochaska	GA / GA	12.75	4th	Tami Costanza / Will Costanza	GA / GA	24.40
MD65 1st	Jim Harvey / Jeff Heath	GA / KY	38.00	5th	Robin Whitmire / James Caristi	GA / IN	18.40		
Playoff	2nd	Leonard Marsocci / Steve Meltsner	FL / CT	36.00	6th	Diane Clayton-Anderson / Rodolpho Everett	GA / GA	18.40	
	3rd	David Wolfson / Jerry Wickliffe	GA / FL	30.33	XD55 1st	Gladys Leonard / Tyrone Gilmore	AL / TX	35.50	
	4th	Dan Jones / Jerry Prentiss	GA / PA	26.67	2nd	Robin Whitmire / Tom Adkins	GA / GA	30.50	
	5th	Kevin Prochaska / Frank Greenfield	GA / GA	23.33	3rd	Cindy Tilbury / Mark Baron	CA / VA	26.17	
					4th	Carolyn Hollis / Curtis Perry	CA / DC	15.33	



Division	Place	Name	State	Points
XD60	1st	Deb Stefandel / Chris Poucher	IN / GA	38.00
	2nd	Sharon McNeill / Kenneth Joy	MD /	34.50
	3rd	Kathryn St. Juste / Brian McDermott	NY / NY	31.17
	4th	Jane Snyder / Rick Bearfield	TN / TN	26.00
	5th	Vicki Luque / Roger Luque	GA / GA	22.33
XD65	1st	Laurie Kitchen / Stephen Fox	TN / NY	17.50
XD70	1st	Marquita Molina / Len Sonnenberg	CA / CA	11.50

Comments on anything at all:

WAS AN ABSOLUTELY WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE AS A FIRST-TIME PLAYER OF AN NMRA TOURNAMENT! LOOKING FORWARD TO PLAYING FUTURE EVENTS WHEN I AM ABLE!



MORE **NMRA** Tidbits

Color is Better

I recommend you print the *NMRA RacquetRacket* newsletter in COLOR and leave it at the club for all of your 40+ players to peruse.

First-Timers

We have had an amazing number of first-timers in the past two years as we move our tournaments around the country. More than 30 first-time *NMRA* players have been joining our group each event. We couldn't be happier and hope they return many times. To get a few of these first-timers, we have also been quietly dropping our minimum age requirement to 40. Although we don't get many "young" players, we've found a few by doing so. Our goal is to provide a very special and social tournament experience for our players and guests. Let us know what would make your tourney better.

Men of October 80+ Tourney

NMRA enjoys sponsoring a very special tournament in Sun City West, Arizona—the *Men of October Racquetball tournament*. You have to be 80 years old to play in this event, and the guys come from all over the country to compete at that age group level. The *NMRA* sent a case of racquetballs and some fun giveaways. If you are 80+, plan to play in this October event in 2017.

NMRA Hall of Fame Inductees Honored *By Bruce Adams*

Over the past year, the "class of 2017" *NMRA Hall of Fame* inductees have been accepting their well-deserved places in the Hall. There are a few left to take the spotlight, but we were fortunate to hear the acceptance speeches of two inductees since the last newsletter. You may know that the *NMRA* has three categories of *Hall of Fame* recipients—amateur athlete, contributor, and, the newest type, (ex-) professional athlete. We value all three types of dedication and fair play in our organization and these two individuals are excellent examples of our values.

Carmen Alatorre-Martin, Arlington, Virginia

If you were at the banquet in Arlington in March, you saw Carmen's history, slide show and speech. Our current *NMRA* Vice President, Carmen was inducted into the *NMRA Hall of Fame* as an Athlete, due to her many medals and championships (including 23 gold), but we value her as a contributor, as well. **Patrick Gibson**, her long time mixed doubles partner, introduced her with a presentation of fun pictures and tidbits—one of the stories we heard was about how her coach (and husband Curtis) started Carmen's racquetball career with the practice of landing 100 perfect lob serves into a bucket before she could play a game. One of Carmen's favorite memories is of playing doubles with her daughter, an exceptional singles player who is



not fond of doubles but plays with her mom on Mother's Day. (Carmen loves it!) Carmen's son Quinton and daughter Kristy made a special effort to attend the banquet to partake in the induction and proudly congratulate her, along with husband Curtis.

Dan Jones, Atlanta, Georgia



In his home town, during the first time the *NMRA* has been to the *Recreation ATL* club, 70+ player Dan Jones regaled us of stories from his past, on and off the court. **Jerry Prentiss** has been Dan's doubles partner for the last several

years. It was a pleasure listening to them recall their triumphs and near misses.

Dan says his favorite memory from his induction into the *Hall of Fame* was his wife, Rita; his four children, three grandchildren, other family, and so many friends being there at the Banquet for him. The whole experience humbled him and will be an unforgettable moment in his life. He says he is certain that racquetball was a divine intervention that changed and helped save his life.

Dan has earned 26 *NMRA* medals—12 in singles and 14 in doubles—and has many more in his future. We are very proud of Dan.



Atlanta and Arlington Videos/Slideshows *By Bruce Adams and Leon Jackson*

We recently got the photos and videos organized and shared. *NMRA 2017 Arlington Tournament* YouTube Photos from Leon Jackson <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WnJ8khXTmiY&feature=youtu.be>
NMRA 2017 Arlington Banquet Slides from Leon Jackson <https://youtu.be/jcKDBjbvTio>
Also search www.youtube.com for Leon Jackson and *NMRA* to find all of Leon's great videos.
NMRA 2017 Atlanta Tournament YouTube Slideshows and Videos from Bruce Adams
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=nmra+atlanta+2016+bruce+adams

More great videos and slideshows are available on YouTube.com and you can find them by searching for *National Masters Racquetball* or Bruce Adams or Leon Jackson. Enjoy!



2017 NMRA DOUBLES-ONLY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Registration Thursday, November 30, Play December 1-3

at ClubSport Pleasanton, 7090 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588

Entry By Mail Must Be POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN: 11/10/2017

Online Entries Must Be COMPLETED BY: 11/13/2017

<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=21765>

Maximum Players 100! Sign up early!

Hotel: DoubleTree Hilton, 7050 Johnson Dr., Pleasanton, CA 94588 | 925.463.2822, code NMRA

Please Print — Be Legible, Complete & Accurate

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Day: _____

Phone Night: _____

Email: _____

DOB: m____ / d____ / yr____ Age on 12/01/2017 _____

Waiver: I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive & release any & all rights and claims that I may have against the NMRA, USAR, and ClubSport Pleasanton and their staff, and all sponsors or their respective agents, for any and all injuries or damages of any nature which I, my spouse or my guest(s) may incur as a result of my participation in this tournament. I also acknowledge the potential risk of eye injury during competition, and can certify in writing that my protective eye guards (including prescription frames/lenses) conform with all standards specified in USA Racquetball Rule 2.5(a). By registering to compete in this event, I consent to and release all rights to the use of event photographs in which my image appears.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

ENTRY FEES: (NO REFUNDS OF ANY FEES AFTER 11/21/2017)

First Event \$ 165 \$ _____

Second Event \$ 30 \$ _____

Guest(s)* (Daily hospitality & banquet); per Guest \$ 70 \$ _____

NMRA Membership** (Total for 3 Yrs) \$ 45 \$ _____

USRA Membership (1 Year) \$ 50 \$ _____

USRA Membership (1 Event) \$ 20 \$ _____

General Fund Donation \$ xx \$ _____
Anything is greatly appreciated.

Total Due: \$ _____

*Guest(s) Name(s): _____

____ ****Check here if your first NMRA tournament**
(First time players do not have to join the NMRA)

SHIRT SIZE: MEN _____ OR WOMEN _____
S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ 2X _____ 3X _____

Saturday Sandwich Lunch preference:

____ Turkey ____ Tuna ____ Roast Beef ____ Veggie

Limit of two events

DOUBLES		AGE	MIXED
MEN	WOMEN		
		40+	
n/a		40+ B/C	n/a
		45+	
		50+	
n/a		50+ B/C	n/a
		55+	
		60+	
		65+	
		70+	
		75+	
		80+	
		85+	
		90+	n/a
Rotating Partners			

DOUBLES PARTNER(S): Please Print

Name/Div/Age Bracket: _____

Name/Div/Age Bracket: _____

____ Check if you need us to find a doubles partner.

__ Yes __ No Would you play a 2nd Doubles if someone needs a partner?

__ Yes __ No Would you play Mixed Doubles if someone needs a partner?

Emergency Contact Information:

Name _____

Phone # _____

PAYMENT: Send entry form & payment in U.S. dollars, made payable to **NMRA**.

Mail to: Cindy Tilbury - NMRA
23308 Bocana Street, Malibu, CA 90265

The National Masters Racquetball Association is a not for profit 501 (c)(3) organization of men and women racquetball players who are age 45 to 90+ years young. Remember to visit WWW.NMRA.INFO.



NMRA 2017 Doubles-Only Championship

ClubSport Pleasanton | Pleasanton, California

December 1-3, 2017 [***New*** Friday, Saturday & Sunday ***New***] www.nmra.info

Round Robin Age Divisions Starting at 40 Years Young | 100-Player Max

Tournament Directors / Staff

Tournament Director - Cindy Tilbury 303.888.4461 cindy.tilbury@att.net
 Tournament Director - John Winings 209-743-6487 johnwinings@hotmail.com
 Carmen Alatorre - Martin – Membership Director teamalamar@gmail.com
 Elaine Dexter - ClubSport Pleasanton Contact rbqueen@gmail.com

Host Club



ClubSport Pleasanton – 8 Panel-Walled Courts www.clubsports.com/pleasanton
 7090 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588 925.463.2822

Bring a lock. Towel service available free.
 All club facilities are available to tournament players and paid guests.
 Great club and locker room amenities available during the event.

Host Hotel



Doubletree By Hilton Pleasanton at the Club

7050 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588 925.463.8000

Attached to the club so no shuttle needed.

Single/Double Rate for **Friday, Saturday and Sunday** with breakfast \$129 per night + tax.

Triple Rate \$139 / Quad Rate \$149.

Single/Double Rate for **Thursday** \$179 per night + tax

Mention NMRA when registering by phone

Reserve early—Only 25 rooms reserved for NMRA but more may be added when those are booked
 Rate available through November 6, 2017. Free parking / free hot breakfast

Enter Online Maximum of Two Divisions



Enter online by November 13, 2017

<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=21765>

First event--\$165 Second event--\$35 Credit Card Fee \$5

Two Doubles Division Limit. Guest Fee \$70 for the week.

We can help find doubles partners and/or roommates.

Enter via US Mail



Fill out the entry form at www.nmra.info (Tournament Info page).

Mail completed entry form and fees by November 10, 2017, to:

NMRA / Cindy Tilbury, 23308 Bocana Street, Malibu, CA 90265

Two Doubles Division Limit

Player Maximum IMPORTANT!

We anticipate that we will need to cap the number of players at 85, due to the great location, the round-robin format and the number of courts available. You will want to sign up EARLY to ensure your place. An online waiting list will be available to allow players to get in as openings happen after the participant list is full.

Doubles Partners / Roommates

Contact Cindy Tilbury for a doubles partner (cindy.tilbury@att.net) or roommate request. You may also use the list feature of R2Sports when you enter online.

Special For Ladies!

We are trying something new to the NMRA—two new B/C Singles age divisions for ladies 59 or younger. If you feel you are not an Open/A-level player, you may enter B/C. Choose 40+ B/C or 50+ B/C.

Special for 70+ Players! Rotating-Partner Doubles

We are again offering Rotating-Partner (or Jackpot) doubles as a second division for our 75+ players. If there is enough interest, we will also open up a 70+ division for the younger players. This special division is limited to 16 players and is played during at least 3 days of the event. Each player partners with and against all of the other partners. One individual winner is crowned. Come and meet other players and join the fun. If you prefer, set-partner doubles will also be offered, so grab your favorite guy or gal and sign up as a team.

Special Doubles Division for 40+ Ex-Pro-Tour Players and Amateurs

We will offer a special round-robin doubles division, schedule to be determined, where regular age-group players can pay the entry fee of and play with a 40+ ex-professional player. This will be a mini-tournament within the event—possibly 40+ and 55+ round robins and both genders, if players are willing to try this. Contact Cindy Tilbury for more details and lists of interested ex-pro players.

continued on Page 17..

NMRA 2017 Doubles-Only Championship INFORMATION SHEET continued from page 16...

80+-Year-Old Free Entry	This is the best special of all! We are trying to encourage all 80+ players to join us for the 2017/2018 tournaments by offering FREE entry. To sign up and avoid paying, you MUST call Cindy Tilbury and she can do this with you over the telephone. We hope you will take advantage of this great offer.
Nearest Airport	San Francisco International SFO. 90 minutes by BART train to Pleasanton Station or \$170 by cab Book flights at www.flysfo.com
Airlines Flying Into SFO	40 Major airlines fly into SFO
Alternate Airport	Oakland International OAK. Book flights at www.oaklandairport.com
Airlines Flying Into OAK	11 Major airlines fly into OAK
Airport Taxi / Shuttle Ground Transportation	Airport-to-hotel shuttles are not available, but the Doubletree will send a shuttle to get you from the Pleasanton BART station.
Shuttle From Hotel to ClubSport Pleasanton	Host hotel is attached to the club property so no shuttle is necessary. At certain hours, a walkway door will be opened to provide indoor access to/from the club.
Driving Directions from SFO to Host Hotel	39 Miles East / 50 Minutes With No Traffic Click Link for Directions: http://mapq.st/10-dSzyNfC
Driving Directions from OAK Airport to Host Hotel	21 Miles East / 25 Minutes With No Traffic Click Link for Directions: http://mapq.st/1-UMtRKXhY
Directions From Host Hotel to ClubSport	Walk out the hotel front door and turn left Walk five minutes through the parking lot to the ClubSport entrance
Parking at Host Club	Free. RVs may park with no hookups/utilities
Tournament Check-In Player Meet and Greet / Player Meeting	Thursday, November 30, 2017, 5 pm to 8 pm, at the ClubSport Pleasanton Club; Complimentary reception with beverages and food. Pick up tournament souvenir, play schedules, etc. and socialize Early and later player meetings will be held for new players' benefit.
Play Begins / Ends	Starting at 8 am every day. Ends by 10 pm Friday. Ends around 5 pm Saturday and (probably earlier) Sunday. Every division plays every day (Friday through Sunday) Please show consideration for all players and remember that we play every bracket every day of the event. Schedule your travel arrangements accordingly. Sign-in is required at club.
Practice Courts	Courts may be available free of charge November 30, 2017 Special guest fee \$5 for tournament-related guests may apply
Tournament Ball	Pro Penn Green is the official ball of the NMRA.
Tournament Scoring	All round robins, self-refereed matches. Every division will play two games to 15. Larger "pool play" divisions will have Sunday playoff matches. Playoff format will be two games to 15, tiebreaker to 11 if needed. Bonus points are awarded for winning games (2 per game) and the match (4). Ties will split the extra four match points. Points are automatically calculated by the <i>R2sports</i> tournament software. When any team or player must forfeit, average scores will be used to determine final results of the division or pool. If a forfeit occurs during a match, the opposing team or player will be awarded points required to finish the match.
Appeals	The NMRA has a rules committee that can be used by the players to submit an appeal on a rule or issue that arises during the event. The decision of the rules committee is final and binding on all parties concerned.
Eligibility	USAR-sanctioned; Current USAR membership is required to participate. Your membership must be valid thru the last day of the tournament, December 3, 2017. Entries will not be accepted without payment for USAR membership. Limited Event Membership is available for \$20 if you do not want to join for a whole year. USAR membership is available at www.usra.org . NMRA membership is required for all EXCEPT players who are playing in their FIRST NMRA event. Special recognition and gift for first-time players and new NMRA members. You must be a current member as of the last day of the tournament.
Tournament Awards	NMRA medals will be awarded to First through Fourth place winners for each age division. Combined divisions will be awarded medals based on separate age divisions.

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MORE NMRA Tidbits

Recent Phone Charger Gift

Some people reported trouble with



their purple cell phone charger that was given to player at the last two tournaments. They needed a first-time full charge to store up energy to power a cell phone. I charged mine directly from the wall outlet and had no trouble at all. I heard others who used a computer to try to charge them, and they had trouble. Give them another try if you can. Get the USB wall outlet attachment and plug it in for a few hours. Sorry for the trouble. We still have some left if yours gave you trouble. We are interested in your ideas for player and guest gifts. If you have seen something at another tourney, tell us what you liked.

Representing the NMRA to the USA Racquetball Board

I was recently elected to the USA Racquetball Board of Directors. I plan to represent the 40+ players of the country and make sure they are kept in mind during decisions and votes. Contact me if you would like me to bring up any topics or programs to the board.



NMRA 2017 Doubles-Only Championship INFORMATION SHEET continued from page 17...

Morning Hospitality	Breakfast is available at the hotel for hotel guests. Fruit and drinks available at the <i>ClubSport Pleasanton Club</i> .
Lunch	Lunch is served at the ClubSport Pleasanton Club; you will need to present your tournament pass or bag tag.
Evening Hospitality on Thursday	<u>Not a substitute for dinner.</u> Will be served at the ClubSport Pleasanton Club. You will need to present your tournament pass.
Banquet on Saturday Night	Doubletree Pleasanton ballroom, included in your entry fee. Guests are invited for \$50, or \$70 for food all week in addition to the banquet. Cash bar at 6:00 pm; Dinner and program from 7 to 10 pm
Local Activities	http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/community/visiting/index.html#things
Sights to See	See the separate sheet for a long list of northern California places to visit and things to do. San Francisco and Napa Valley are only a short drive away.
Average Temperature	Year – 50° F December – High 65° F – Low 42° F Average March Precipitation 2.58 Inches
RV Parks	RV parks near the club are: https://www.google.com/maps/search/rv+parks/@37.6995324,-121.9180463,13z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!2m4!3m3!1srv+parks!2s7090+Johnson+Dr.+Pleasanton,+CA+94588!3s0x808fec0945be7d65:0x2d69490e157eb6b0
Laundromats	Laundromats near the club are: https://www.google.com/maps/search/laundromat/@37.6995324,-121.9180463,14z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!2m4!3m3!1slaundromat!2s7090+Johnson+Dr.+Pleasanton,+CA+94588!3s0x808fec0945be7d65:0x2d69490e157eb6b0

Things to Do in Pleasanton/San Francisco Area

By Elaine Dexter, ClubSport Pleasanton Racquetball Program Director

Welcome to *Pleasanton* and the NMRA Doubles-Only tournament! There are so many things to do in and around *Pleasanton* that we suggest you take a few extra days to see them. Below is an abridged list, but please ask me and the other local area players for suggestions on sightseeing and dining for your non-court hours. Below are some excellent ideas you might want to check out during the tournament.

Climate - Average high temperature 65, average low 42 for December

City of Pleasanton -

There are several local web pages for visitor information.

<http://www.trivalleycvb.com/> <http://www.pleasantondowntown.net/>

Downtown *Pleasanton* is about a 10-minute drive from the club and host hotel, but the hotel has a shuttle, of course. My personal choices would be the walking downtown self-tour, which will feature most of Pleasanton's best restaurants, <http://www.pleasantondowntown.net/pdfs/WalkingTourGuide.pdf>

an interesting museum in downtown *Pleasanton*, <http://www.museumonmain.org/>

and the Saturday morning *Pleasanton Farmer's Market*, also right downtown.

There is a great comedy club right near the hotel. <http://www.tommyts.com/>

The *Pleasanton/Livermore* area has several local wineries:

<http://www.mitchellkatzwinery.com/>

<http://www.rubyhillwinery.net/>

<http://www.wentevineyards.com/>

Fremont is only a 20-minute drive to see the *Mission San Jose* (or the *Tesla* plant for *Tesla* owners)

<http://www.missionsanjose.org/>

BART (*Bay Area Rapid Transit*) is less than 5 minutes from the club and host hotel. This train conveniently takes travelers to many destinations, including San Francisco.

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City of San Francisco

There are endless attractions to see in the city of *San Francisco*, and for those who have never been to SF, this would be the city to see while visiting this area, a few highlights listed below:

- The *Forty-Niners* host the *Miami Dolphins* on Sunday, December 9 at *Candlestick Park* at 4:00 pm!
- *Alcatraz* • *Pier 39*
- *Coit Tower* • *Chinatown*
- *Golden Gate Bridge*
- *North beach and more...*

Napa Valley Wine Country

Beyond *San Francisco* to the north are the *Napa* wineries.

San Jose and South

San Jose and the *Silicon Valley* are less than a one-hour drive south of *Pleasanton*.

South of *San Jose* is *Santa Cruz*, a well known beach site and refuge of many hippies still living in the 1960's.

The *Pacific Coast Highway* is a legendary drive that leads down past *Los Angeles* and to *San Diego* and beyond. It is best enjoyed when you take two or three days to enjoy all of the scenery, *Monterey*, *Carmel*, *Big Sur*, the *Hearst Castle*, *Pismo Beach*, *Morrow Bay*, *Solvang*, the *Sideways Wine Country*, *Ventura*, *Santa Monica*, and all of the beaches down to *Orange County*.

With so much to do, you will definitely want to come back soon. Make sure you bring your racquet.

USAR Limited Event Membership News

The *USAR* just announced a special program where the players who purchased \$20 *Limited Event Memberships (LEMs)* can upgrade to a *USAR* full-year \$50 for only \$30. That may not seem like a bargain, but it used to be \$50. If you bought the *Limited Event Membership* and plan to play two more tournaments in the next year, you will definitely want to take advantage of this opportunity. Online purchase is available on the www.usaracquetball.com site, under *Memberships*. **Renee Gundolf** is the contact for this program at *USA Racquetball*.

Not for Ladies Only

By *Cindy Tilbury*

Women's Senior/Masters 35+ in Chicago

In *Arlington*, we had 11 *Women's Doubles* teams, so that was pretty special, and the *Mixed Doubles* were exceptional. *Atlanta* had 9 *Women's Doubles* teams and 22 *Mixed* teams. Our tournament directors really appreciate all of our ladies and the great doubles competition. Keep it up.

Consider a *Malibu Ladies Racquetball Camp* to work on your game and elevate your spirits. *Rick Betts* and I promise to take good care of you.

I signed up to put on the *Women's Senior/Masters Racquetball Association* tournament for 2018. It will be in *January* during *Martin Luther King Junior* weekend and it will again be in *Tucson* at the *Tucson Racquet & Fitness Club*. There is no better ladies-only tournament during the year, and if you have not yet tried us, I invite you to give me a call and get your questions answered.

If there is anything at all that you can suggest we do to make the ladies happier, email me.



Download the R2Sports App for your Phone and Tablet!

By *Cindy Tilbury*

Take a moment and download the *R2sports.com* app to your phone or tablet. It is available on most web pages and tournaments presented by www.r2sports.com.

I had a few converts during our *Dallas* tourney as I explained how it is perfect for following your favorite players and even the whole tournament. **Curtis Alatorre-Martin** coaches the *Fort Myer* players and found how nice it was to get pop-up (like text) messages telling him when players were assigned to courts and when they got done, with scores. He and *Carmen* had been spending a lot of effort to make notes to ensure he did not miss any player coaching opportunities.

Even if you aren't a coach, you might have a favorite player (*Kane* or *Paola*?) and you want to know when they sign up and when they play different events. You can know to watch online when you get the message that they are playing the quarters.

There is also a non-paper scorecard available that reports scores right to the tournament desk after helping you referee a match (not a feature for *NMRA* events, but great nonetheless).

Ryan Rodgers at *R2Sports* is quite proud of his new piece of art, so give it a try today. Online tutorials and guides are available if you need a little help.

MORE **NMRA** Tidbits

Peggy Steding Award Winner

A committee of *USA Racquetball* noticed I had a pretty good year last year and awarded me the *Peggy Steding Female Athlete of the Year Award*. It was a great honor to receive the shadow box award at *USAR National Singles* and I will keep working on my game because I know all of the other 35+ ladies in the US will, as well.

Join the NMRA

If you have not already done so, we invite you to join the *NMRA* as a full three-year member at a total cost of \$45.

Membership dues help us cover newsletter and medal costs, as well as award plaques and other organizational expenses.

First-timers do not have to join to try us out. We had about 70 first-timers in Atlanta and Arlington together—a great accomplishment for us!

If you first-timers want to join, simply bring up the *USAR* website (www.usra.org is one way) and click the Membership link, then Join *USAR*.

The list shown is *USAR* memberships, but below that on the left is the link to purchase an *NMRA* membership. Direct link is as follows, but please call if you have any trouble: <http://www.usaracquetballevents.com/cartProduct.asp?productGroupID=45&categoryId=172&brandID=0&modelID=984&cartID>

NMRA Election Results

New Board Member Marni Winings / Leaving Board Member Chris Poucher

By Cindy Tilbury

I know all of our current *NMRA* member voted in the recent online election, with a few of you sending in your paper ballots cut out of the newsletter. The results were a bit predictable, but here they are.

Re-elected for another term were **John Winings** and myself. We appreciate your vote and plan to work hard to do what we can to make your tournament experience better and better.



New to the board, but not new to the tasks involved in putting on *NMRA* events is **Marni Winings**. She and John are married and they have been working for us as a team. They have been invaluable during our western-USA

tournaments and usually play in the others. She will now be able to vote on *NMRA* issues and have more influence on our direction. Marni and her

family used to own racquetball clubs in Eugene, Oregon, where she put on local and statewide events. The Winingses have a great group of Open (and other, of course) players in the Lodi area of California—all of whom we look forward to hosting in December in Pleasanton.

Chris Poucher from Atlanta had decided not to run for the board as his term ended. I really appreciated all of Chris' advice and direction.



He sponsored many of our tournaments and worked the desk. He will be missed, but these days, everyone is only a phonecall or text away. He also

plans to keep playing our events when he can.

If you are interested in finding out more about being on the *NMRA* board of directors or working on a committee/project, give me a call at 303.888.4461 to find out the level of commitment required. We appreciate your consideration.

Racquetball in the Press By Cindy Tilbury

Positive Press

There have been several instances of positive press coverage for racquetball.

The May 25 *Sports Illustrated* magazine featured Dane Elkins as a Face in the Crowd.

Rhonda Rajsich had two big honors—one was on her local Phoenix news after she won the *World Championships* over **Paola Longoria** in Costa Rica and another was being included in the *USOC's* election for Female Athlete of the Year.

Then, in the HuffPost.com site recently **Alyson Renaldo** had two long articles on racquetball. She is a Canadian writer and had a long chat with Kane Waselenchuk. Then, here other article examined the state of racquetball, starting with finding a great court club at which to play. I hope you will read both!

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/kane-is-able-us_591a09c3e4b0f31b03fb9e1f

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/the-state-of-racquetball-a-players-survey_us_591a6a37e4b03e1c81b00872

SL (**Sly Young**) Podcast/Radio Show Interview with **Jason Thoerner** and **Doug Ganim** <https://www>.

mixcloud.com/beyondjusttalk/beyond-just-talk-with-s-l-young_100216/

Bob McAdam (90+) Ran a Turkey Trot in Denver / Interviewed with *NMRA Shirt* on <http://www.9news.com/life/96-year-old-runner-finishes-turkey-trot-in-4819/35577789>

Article in *LA Times* discusses *Living Longer via Racquet Sports* <http://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-sports-long-life-20161129-story.html>

Shoulda Been Racquetball

This *Wall Street Journal* article broke my heart because it highlighted squash instead of racquetball. This was especially true as it came out the day after our amazing Arlington *NMRA* event. Enjoy, and do everything in your power to get racquetball into the media before the 2024 *Olympics* (in Los Angeles, we hope)! In fact, email the author directly and tell her about our 90-year-olds who still play and how racquetball is a sport for life that gets no love. I plan to do that. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/to-stay-in-shape-just-add-squash-1490439604>

Japan National Masters Update

By Cindy Tilbury



At the *US Open* last November, I handed off a big bag of racquetballs to be used by the *Japan National Masters* in their upcoming tournament. They had asked me to help them out a little, and I was more than happy to do so, since we had recently switched from *Ektelon Black Classic* to *Pro Penn Green* balls for our official tournament ball. I had no idea how to ship them to Japan, so I arranged

to give them to one of the many Japanese players who had come for the *US Open* in Minneapolis. They sent along some winner pictures — I hope you will enjoy them as much as I did.



Special Thanks to...

By Cindy Tilbury

Sponsors / Other THANK YOUs

We can't put on these tournaments without our sponsors and the friendly club owners and staff. We had individual donors in Dallas and Atlanta, plus our ball sponsor, Head/Penn. A million thanks to all of you who sponsored recent events. If *you* want to join the sponsor list in the future, call me or another *NMRA* board member right away.

Arlington

Head Penn Balls / Backpacks / Bags – Doug Ganim, Columbus, OH	Volunteer Banquet DJ Michael Scrivner – Arlington, TX	Chiropractor/Taper Dr. Jeremy Brown, Airrosti Rehab, Grapevine, TX
Tour Sponsor Net-Centric Enterprise Solutions – Andy Gomer, Alexandria, VA	Sahale Cashews + Stringing – Ottis Campbell, Arlington, TX	Other Generous Individual Donors Who Prefer to Remain Anonymous
Maverick Athletic Club – Bob Sullins and Leo Vasquez, Arlington, TX	TXRA Junior Donors – Volunteer Sandy Long, Arlington, TX, + Small and Large Donations at the Banquet and in Entry Fees Totaling Over \$2100	Massage Therapy -- Mary Oblak, Cockrell Hill, TX

Atlanta

Head Penn Balls / Backpacks / Eyeguards	Pinchshot Sling Bags	Recreation ATL / Jason Chan & Family & Staff
Net-Centric Enterprise Solutions	Bruce Adams Videos / Photos	Other Generous Individual Donors

Donations / Tax Deductions in 2017

At our March Arlington banquet, we did a little fundraiser with lots of prizes given away. We are very proud to have helped raised over **\$2100 for the TXRA junior racquetball programs**, represented by **Sandy Long**, at the banquet. It is so gratifying to take a few minutes to concentrate on and acknowledge junior programs and the selfless volunteers who do all the work. I am very proud to have been able to help out by asking our banquet attendees if they want to join in. Thank you to everyone who donated. Our organization is a non-profit and we would be happy to send you a letter detailing your tax-deductible donation. Perhaps you are looking for 2017 charitable opportunities to bring down your tax bill. We would love to speak with you. ☺ Thanks in advance for considering us in your donation plans.

Special note: One of the prizes was a free entry into a future *NMRA* tournament and the Maverick Club's own **Bob Sullins had the winning ticket!**

In addition, at our Atlanta banquet, we raised about **\$600 for the Recreation ATL** high school junior efforts just being started by the club owner, **Jason Chan**.

Long Lost Co-Worker By Cindy Tilbury

In Atlanta, for a brief moment, I got to say hi to **Karin McReynolds** who is the faithful producer of our *RacquetRacket* newsletter (and the *Colorado Rollout* newsletter before that). She and I have worked together for ten years and have only seen each other about 15 minutes total in that time. She is the best at laying out the newsletter, so we have worked remotely for all of this time. She stopped in at the *Recreation ATL* club while I was playing in December and it was such a treat to see her!

If you have a professional document to produce and need help, contact Karin at karinbirgitte@gmail.com.



MORE NMRA Tidbits

Court Hinders

It never hurts to remind people that court hindlers are still valid, except that the professionals have decided not to allow them. In NMRA and other amateur events, if the ball changes direction due to something in the court, the rally should be replayed. That is also the case if the ball hits a wet spot on the first surface of contact (floor for serve, basically). Other wet spots, like walls, don't get a replay.

Penalty Hinders

I don't know why penalty hindlers are forever so difficult in self-refereed games, but they are. This is a long discussion, but in general, of course, if you take away from your opponent an offensive opportunity (primarily defined by a straight-in or cross-court pass) or otherwise interfere in the swing of your opponent's racquet, you should call the penalty hinder on yourself. It shouldn't cause controversy, anger or awkwardness, but somehow it usually happens. Do your best and call them when they happen.

IRT on Facebook Live!

John Scott, owner and commentator extraordinaire of the *IRT Network*, decided to boost his pay-per-view racquetball broadcasts by using *Facebook Live* to get out and find some people new to racquetball. All of the normal *IRT* lovers shared the feed and within about an hour, he had over 10,000 watchers.

Player Profile - Lars Cole, Ada, Michigan

By Cindy Tilbury

Lars, where do you live and what do you do?

Since moving to Michigan from the Washington DC area in June 2016, I have had the luxury of not having to work. I am currently finishing our basement with oak wood furnished by a sawmill from Virginia. Prior to moving, I had a business doing retail store build-outs across the country. My last job in Virginia was working at the *Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture* installing all of the brass and acrylic lettering.



What do you do for fun?

Poker? Yes, I love poker! I go a couple of times a week to a local casino. I'm always searching out casinos to play when I'm traveling. I would love to make this my next job.

Where do you play racquetball during the week?

Found a club called MVP up here in the area. It has only two courts and the guys I play with are younger and have to play at 7 am before they go to work. I also do league play at the YMCA; they have three courts. Slim pickings around here.

Do you miss the Fort Myer group?

Fort Myer crew—WOW!! I miss the crew. Been with them since 2011 but knew about them about five years prior. First time I went there, I was sold. It's like one big family. Where have I been?

Which racquetball players influenced you early on?

Who do I admire as a racquetball pro? I'd have to go old school. Since I saw his picture up at the

Maverick, our last NMRA stop, it would have to be **Steve Strandemo**. First racquetball instructor that made me switch from tennis to racquetball. I'd also like to give credit to **Billy Redman**, an amateur who showed me ways to create space by walking around shots, and opening up alleys to shoot.

Tell me about your family.

My wife, Pat, and daughter, Kenzy, are avid tennis players. Pat plays around five times a week and plays USTA travel leagues, and Kenzy does varsity field hockey and tennis in high school. MSU is looking like the choice of college for Kenzy, but that is subject to change.

Do you like our NMRA tournaments and the round-robin format?

Love NMRA! Again, if I knew the Myer crew earlier, I would have known about NMRA earlier. Enjoy the format of playing everybody over single elimination. The competition with old friends and new ones made at new venues is an experience that is quite different than the day-to-day play at the gym.

Anything else you'd like to share?

I will see everybody at the WAC in July!



New Website Look Soon / Social Media Too

By Marni Winings

Linda Mojer has been working on a new look and feel and organization structure for the www.nmra.info website (www.nationalmastersracquetball.org also gets you to our site). It will be rolled out soon, and will be easier for our board and staff to update with news and tournament info, as well as photos and video links. You will see it mentioned in a blast email soon. Linda is also advising us on our social media presence so you will know where to follow us and communicate easily with us.

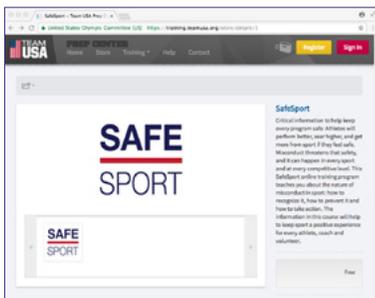
We are already on Twitter @NMRAPrez and there is a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/191509017552909/>



SafeSport Online Training / CPR Training

By Cindy Tilbury

If you work with children and young people in your racquetball and sport efforts, you should consider taking the online *SafeSport* course that provides for video education to keep the kids and yourself out of difficult positions. After taking the video course modules, there are tests and a certification at the end. Then, for \$20, you are able to have yourself background-checked and offer that as an assurance to parents and coaches that you are serious about keeping kid athletes safe.



Contact **Renee Gundloff** at the *USAR* for more information. All state association board members are required to get certified.

For our older *NMRA* athletes, seek out a *CPR* class in your area that will give you life-saving skills in a heart-related emergency.

MORE **NMRA Tidbits**

Challenge Ladder and Jamboree League Software from USA Racquetball

Free Online Challenge Ladder signup and progress software is available to you and your friends—just contact the *USA Racquetball* guys for a little help. In addition, *Jamboree Leagues* are available for a small fee. Those leagues are very flexible where you can match up different partners for doubles and have more than one match per entrant each time the league meets. Be the person at your club who gets players organized! Nick Irvine at the *USAR* will tell you all the details.

National Senior Games / Racquetball

By Joe Williams

Currently, all 200+ racquetball players of the *National Senior Games* are qualified and ready to start playing June 7 through 11, 2017, The *University of Alabama at Birmingham* has five beautiful courts, in addition to many other athletic venues. To play, these participants had to qualify by playing racquetball in their *State Senior Games* in 2016/2017.

If you are in the Birmingham, Alabama, area, please feel free to drive over to the University, find the courts at 1501 University, and cheer on our competing senior players. Follow their progress online here. https://www.topdogtennis.com/pages/tournaments/information.asp?tournament_id=427

According to the <http://nsga.com> website, 20 sports are available to players ages 50 and over, over the course of two weeks. Entrants can compete in multiple sports, and some popular co-sports for racquetball are pickleball, table tennis, tennis, softball and track and field.

If you are interested in participating in the next *National Senior Games*, it will be in June of 2019 in lovely Albuquerque, New Mexico. Of course, you will want to identify your qualifying state games event early so you don't miss it in 2018. You don't have to live in the qualifying state--any state *Senior Games* is a qualifier. Doubles players must qualify by playing doubles, but your actual partner in 2019 does not have to be the one you qualified with. I, **Joe Williams**, will be running the racquetball event this year and also in 2019. If you have any questions, contact me at rballjoe@gmail.com or 402.309.4260.

Special Opportunity for Your Used Racquetball Equipment

By Patrick Gibson

Every player has lots of used shoes, gloves, bags, racquets, bandannas, shirts and socks that are still good but will go into the donation bin. Dallas-area player **Andy Gomez** and I want you to wait on that, and instead, send your sports equipment to us. No, we don't need it for ourselves, but for some cute kids in Costa Rica who are excited about the game and don't have access to equipment. These kids are being taught by **Ramon Torres** and love the game of racquetball.

A group of guys that play at the *Rec Center* were asked to bring equipment, even if it was used, for Andy to take to them. Andy sent back pictures of these kids wearing used shoes and gloves with big smiles on their faces. They were thrilled to get any new equipment.



Andy (who is a flight attendant) and I will freely admit that it is not a simple thing to get equipment to a foreign country, BUT if you get your used goodies to us, Andy will bring it on the plane with him as he goes to Costa Rica regularly. You may also want to buy new equipment for these kids, and you can ask Andy for more information on that. Meanwhile, pack up a gently-used racquetball bag, put a few pairs of old shoes and gloves and balls and shirts in it, and send it off to Andy or me.

Contact me at prgibson5@hotmail.com for more info.



Check the www.nationalmastersracquetball.org website or [Facebook](#) for news and updates.

2018 2017

DATE	TOURNAMENT	LOCATION	CONTACT	Website www.r2sports.com
Jul 12-15	NMRA International Championships 45+	Milwaukee, WI	NMRA	www.nationalmastersracquetball.org
Aug 29-Sep 2	World Seniors 35+	Albuquerque, NM	Gary Mazaroff	www.internationalracquetball.com
Oct 4-8	US Open	Minneapolis, MN	USAR, Doug Ganim	www.usra.org
Oct 11-14	Huntsman Senior Games	St. George, UT	Kevin Boerup, Mark Ottenshot	www.seniorgames.net
Oct TBD	Men of October 80+	Sun City West, AZ	Greg Steger	gmsteger@gmail.com
Dec 1-3	NMRA Doubles-Only 40+	Pleasanton, CA	Cindy Tilbury	www.nationalmastersracquetball.org
Jan 12-14	WSMRA 29th Championships Ladies-Only 35+ Doubles and B/C Singles Divisions Now Offered	Tucson, AZ	Cindy Tilbury	www.wsmra.com
Feb 7-10 TBD	USAR National Doubles	TBD	USAR	www.usra.org
March 28-31	NMRA National Championships 40+	Warren, NJ	NMRA	www.nationalmastersracquetball.org
May 23-27	USAR National Singles	TBD	USAR	www.usra.org

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