



# RACQUET RACKET

JANUARY 2008

Official Newsletter of the National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA)

## Treasurer's Corner NMRA Finances

By Steve Cohen, Treasurer

**Introduction.** I was first introduced to the *NMRA* by a friend at the 2006 Canoga Park tournament. I have been a sponsored player with *Ektelon* for awhile through *World Outdoor Racquetball*.

In 2006, after viewing [www.nmra.info](http://www.nmra.info) and seeing that the Treasurer's position was vacant, I volunteered to assist in the bookkeeping requirements for the *NMRA*. The current board met with me during the Portland tournament and, at a special meeting after the banquet, voted me in as Treasurer.

Currently the Chief Financial Officer for an apparel company located in Los Angeles, CA, I have over 30 years experience in the accounting field. Since becoming the *NMRA Treasurer*, I spearheaded the effort to use the *R2Sports tournament software* used to run the *Kansas 2007* event allowing the use of credit card processing for the convenience of our players.

**General Financial Report.** The *NMRA's* current financial picture is strong. We have approximately \$29,000.00 in the general fund to support future operations and contributions. This amount assures the *NMRA* of its ability to cover all contingent liabilities if a tournament had to be cancelled for any reason. During 2007, the *NMRA* made contributions totaling \$4,500 supporting various Junior Racquetball events, and has committed \$1,000 to support the *Junior USA Teams* trip to Bolivia in December.

Our next major project is to update and automate the membership database using the *R2Sports* server and add email capabilities to reach our members. Before we start the cutover in a few months, please update your personal information, email address, street address and telephone numbers (including cell phone, if applicable). You can do this using your Orem, UT, entry form or by emailing me at [nmra\\_treasurer@yahoo.com](mailto:nmra_treasurer@yahoo.com) or writing me at 5832 E Bluebonnet Ct., Orange, CA, and I will forward the information to the appropriate individual.

## UTAH Here We Come!

By Tom Curran and Jim Elliott, Tournament Directors



Historically, our *March National Tournaments* have been held west of the Mississippi River. We are happy to keep with that tradition and provide specific information on the upcoming event in Provo/Orem UT. All of the information in this article is also available on the **Official NMRA Website:** [www.nmra.info](http://www.nmra.info). Just click on the 'Tournament' page.

We will start the event with registration from 5 pm until 8 pm at the host hotel, the **Marriott Hotel Conference Center** in Provo, UT. You can contact the hotel via phone for reservations at: 1-801-377-4700 and ask for the special *NMRA Rate*. You can also register at the hotel by going to a special website they have set up just for the *NMRA*. That website address is: [https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcom\\_e\\_gi\\_new&groupID=110038](https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcom_e_gi_new&groupID=110038)

The per-night room rate for our event is \$89 plus tax. In addition to registration on Tuesday night, March 4, 2008, the hotel will be the location for each of the *NMRA* evening hospitality setups (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday). It will also be the location for the Tournament Banquet on Friday night, March 7, 2008.

The reason we are holding all of our 'events' at the hotel is because the clubs are located on either City or College property and thereby cannot permit offering alcohol. Since the hotel is going to be the central location for everything except our matches, **we strongly recommend that you make your reservation at the host hotel and do it NOW.**

We have set aside 90 rooms for the event. We cannot guarantee that any other rooms will be available at the *NMRA* rate as of February 1; however, the hotel has agreed to increase those rooms **ONLY** if we fill the original block within 30 days of the event. For your travel and planning purposes here is the address for the hotel:

**Provo Marriott Hotel & Conference Center** / 101 West 100 North, Provo, UT 84601

The host hotel will be offering regular shuttle service to and from the hotel and each of the two clubs. This is another great and practical reason for staying at the host hotel. No other shuttle service will be provided.

The hotel does not have a shuttle from the airport. Here are the numbers for shuttle services to and from the airport and hotel:

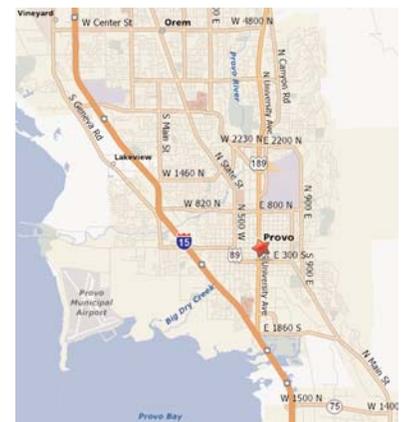
**Medallion (hotel preferred)** — 801.364.8788

\$85 total for up to four people

**American Taxi** — 801.427.9448 \$65 per person

**Express Shuttle** — 801.596.1600 \$30 per person and \$14 for each additional person in the same party.

For matches, we have contracted with the *Orem Fitness Center* and *Utah Valley State College*. Both are located in Orem, UT and are less than 4 miles apart and from the host hotel. The *Orem Fitness Center* has 12 courts and *UVSC* has 8. Lunch will be catered at both locations daily by the *UVSC Catering Service* to each of the facilities.



*continued on page 3...*



## Bob Fennell - A Great Friend to Racquetball

By Tom Curran, President, NMRA



Dear Friends,

It is with great sadness that I have to report that **Robert (Bob) Fennell** passed away peacefully on September 6, 2007 at his condo in Houston.

In his passing, Bob leaves us all memories of his complete dedication and love for the sport and for all those who had the honor and pleasure to be called his friend.

There are many of us who love Racquetball, but few who managed to affect it at every level of the sport. Bob's active support of the *National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA)*, *USA Racquetball (USAR)*, *International Racquetball Tour (IRT)*, *International Racquetball Federation (IRF)*, the *US Open* and his beloved *Texas Racquetball Association (TXRA)* touched every level of player in our Sport. His unselfish nature allowed many junior players the joy of competing in the PRO/Am and many master players a lifelong friend.

As you move along your day, I hope that each of you will remember Bob in your own way.



## US Open Bob Fennell Memorial Table Fundraising Event



In his will, Bob Fennell donated his box (two tables) at the US Open to the *NMRA* for the 2007 event. We had chairs at these tables that we could sell to raise money for the *NMRA* to support *Junior Programs* in 2008. The two tables cost \$10,000.00. They were identified as "*NMRA - In Memory of Bob Fennell*". We had hoped to collect as much as \$500.00 for a seat. The seat included a VIP Pass for the

entire event, VIP Hospitality (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner), and the Banquet on Saturday night. Bob's tables were the best in the house for watching matches.

The *NMRA* is proud to announce that over \$3,000.00 was raised for junior programs because of Bob Fennell's table. Thank you to all of the very generous donors who gave to this worthy cause and got to see the pros up close and personal. We will try to do this fundraiser again next year, in Bob's name. Plan your 2008 US Open trip now.

## A Personal Note about Ross Filippone

By Paul Banales,  
Vice President, NMRA

It is with sad regret that another member of the *National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA)*, **Ross Filippone** from Canada, has passed away. Ross was one of the Canadian team that was instrumental in hosting the second *NMRA International Tournament* in Vancouver many years ago. It was a great tournament, in a great location. Ross believed in the *NMRA* and attended most of the tournaments. He was a gentleman and competitor at all times. The *NMRA* was privileged to have him as a member. Ross was a personal friend and I will miss him.



## Ross Filippone Passed Away

By Cindy Tilbury

**Crystal, Ross'** sweetheart of 18 years, called to say that Ross had passed away on Sunday, October 28, at the age of 84 when his heart stopped suddenly. His first love was racquetball, and he was just coming back from less than a month from surgery in August.

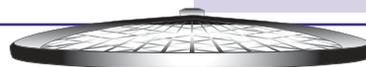


Ross had just hooked up with a brand new doubles partner and was looking forward to entering many tournaments. The Friday before he passed, he came back from playing, all excited because he and his partner had won every game that day. He was sure they were going to be winning a lot in the future, as well.

One of the proudest moments of Ross' life was during the *2000 World Senior Doubles* event in Paris, France, where he got his picture taken with **Ruben Gonzalez**. That framed picture is hanging on the wall in Ross' house and will be given to his children.

If Ross' *NMRA* and other racquetball acquaintances would like to do something to remember Russ, Crystal recommends they donate in Ross' name to the *NMRA Future Foundation* fund. Crystal will be moving near her children and grandchild in British Columbia, Canada. If you would like to contact Crystal, please contact me for her information.

I know many of you have enjoyed Ross' company and his skill and friendship on the court. **He will be dearly missed.**



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Here is the specific information on both facilities:

#### **OREM FITNESS CENTER**

580 West 165 South / Orem, Utah / Phone:  
801.229.7154 / 801.229.7156

[http://www.orem.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=292&Itemid=27](http://www.orem.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=292&Itemid=27)

#### **UTAH VALLEY STATE COLLEGE**

800 West University Parkway / Orem, Utah  
84058 / <http://www.uvsc.edu/>

We have had the registration for this tournament up and running on [www.r2sports.com](http://www.r2sports.com), and you can either send in your entry form or enter online. To mail in your entry, address it to:

**Steve Cohen, NMRA Treasurer**

5832 E Bluebonnet Ct., Orange, CA 92869

**Make your check out to NMRA.** Mail-in entries must be postmarked by February 15, 2008.

You can also enter online at: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=3203>

The *Utah Valley Convention and Visitors' Bureau* is one of our sponsors and will be providing information and special offers to our players during the event. You can visit them at their website to get a better idea of 'where' you'll be visiting in March.

[http://www.utahvalley.org/p\\_locations.asp](http://www.utahvalley.org/p_locations.asp)

Contact: Julia Currey, Sales Manager  
111 S. University Ave., Provo UT 84601  
801-851-2106, [juliac@utahvalley.org](mailto:juliac@utahvalley.org)

You'll find an entry form included in this newsletter (page 11). Detailed information sheet and additional entry forms are available to download at: [www.nmra.info](http://www.nmra.info).

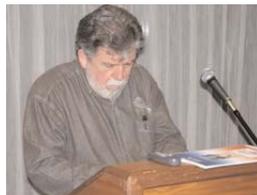
We look forward to seeing you in UT in March. Bring a guest and a doubles partner!! If you cannot find a doubles partner, we will be happy to find one for you. As always, if you would like to contact either of us directly, here are our numbers and email addresses:

**Tom Curran**, 513.490.7472

[Tom1947@aol.com](mailto:Tom1947@aol.com) or

**Jim Elliott**, 435.313.6570

[JmFrn2@msn.com](mailto:JmFrn2@msn.com)



## **President's Corner**

*By Tom Curran, President, NMRA Board of Directors*

**Wow... time is flying!** I can't believe it's been seven months since my last President's Corner article. So much has been happening in the NMRA since March of last year.

The *NMRA Board of Directors* has come together as a dedicated team whose sole purpose is to provide the best support to the members and tournament players as possible. Here are some examples of their individual activities that allow the *NMRA* to enjoy its great reputation.

**Cindy Tilbury** designed and created a totally new look for the *NMRA Newsletter*. She also worked tirelessly to 'create' doubles teams for our July event by identifying and putting together folks in every age category whom she thought would make great doubles teams. Her efforts drove **Jim Elliott** and me (the *KS Tournament Directors*) nuts for a few days during scheduling, but her actions were a great example of serving the players.

**Bruce Adams**, in his role as *Secretary*, has written and submitted some of the most effective articles for the *USAR Magazine* in recent years. He has taken over the job of audio visual guru (with the expert assistance of **Cap Hiles**), during our events. And, what each of you doesn't see is the endless number of emails he has to administer to during the *BOD Email Motions and Votes* during the time between tournaments.

**Steve Cohen**, in his role as *Treasurer*, has designed the most effective and efficient methods of keeping our finances in order and fully documented. Steve's efforts to consolidate all of the finances and his dedication to be the point of contact for tournament entries are nothing short of amazing. His efforts also resulted in establishing an *NMRA Credit Card* account so that all expenditures are controlled and documented with one monthly statement.

**Paul Banalas** continues to be the eyes and ears of the *NMRA*. His extensive knowledge of the history of the organization and his expertise regarding the *NMRA Constitution and Bylaws* make his involvement imperative to the success of the *NMRA*. He has cultivated friendships with vendors who provide our tournament shirts and other items at great savings. Paul also took on the responsibility (along with **Carole Stoll**) as *Tournament Director for the Portland, Oregon*, event in March of 2007.

**Mike Hiles** continues to provide support at every tournament by ensuring we have all of the medals we need. He also is always there early and stays late at every event. His personal dedication to the *NMRA* shines through this actions.

**Dave Warner** has taken on the responsibility for managing and directing the upcoming *BOD Elections*. I'm sure he would be asking you to please vote in the upcoming election. We have a great field of candidates.

**Ron Adams** has been very active in helping with plans for the 2009 March event which we are hoping to hold in Canoga Park, California. More about that soon.

**Elliott Papermaster** has been persistent in getting the folks in West Allis, Wisconsin, to make decisions regarding keeping clubs open so we'll be able to return for another great event there in July of 2008.

*You should all be proud of your representatives. We are lucky to have those who are working for the best interests of the members and players of the NMRA.*

We had a great time at the *National Championship Tournament* in Overland Park, Kansas, last July—excellent clubs, hotel, and hospitality, not to mention the Banquet. That event also marked our first event administered by the *R2Sports Tournament Software* program. It provided us a way to streamline our registration time and have a single, direct management of all funds to our Treasurer. In July, over 30% of the players registered online. I'm hoping to see an even higher percentage of players entering the March 2008 *National Championships* in Orem, Utah.

Many of you are old hats at using the R2 system. It is the *Official Tournament Management System* for the *USAR*. Players who participate in the *US Open*, *National Singles and Doubles*, and *Pro Stops* know that R2 has set the standard. The *NMRA* contracted with **Ryan Rogers** (ah...R2), the owner, to upgrade his program to better serve the needs of our tournament format. The changes worked exceptionally well in Kansas, and when they did not, Ryan fixed the problems immediately. Ryan is now working with **Dick Lowell**, our *Webmaster* for the *NMRA Official Website* ([www.nmra.info](http://www.nmra.info)) for upgrades to the site that will include email capability with all of our members.

*continued on page 4...*



## President's Corner continued from page 3...

He also worked with **Merjean Kelly**, *NMRA Membership Coordinator*, to have the *NMRA Membership* data base updated automatically during our tournament entry and registration.

With all of this talk about websites, and upgrades, it is important to remember how we got here. If it was not for the dedication and actions of **Jim Emerson**, we would not be involved with the technology the way we are today. Long before it was 'cool,' Jim provided a website to the *NMRA*. His development and design of the *NMRA* page on [www.myfamily.com](http://www.myfamily.com) introduced all of us to the usefulness of the internet. We all owe a great debt of gratitude to Jim for his vision and service to the *NMRA*.

Over the past year, the *NMRA Board of Directors* has approved providing funding support to *Juniors* and *Womens Programs* in the name of the *NMRA*. We felt this is the most direct way to ensure the future of our sport. The *NMRA* enjoyed recognition for its service and support to these groups during the banquet at *National Singles*. The presentation included announcements that the *NMRA* was the Event Sponsor for the *2007 Junior Elite Training Camp*.

In addition to the Junior Camp donation, the *NMRA*, at the *Junior Championship Tournament* held in Tempe, Arizona this year, provided a donation that sponsored an evening hospitality for all of the junior participants. If you played in Kansas, you saw the court decals from the *Junior Association* thanking the *NMRA*.

In our continued support of the junior programs, the *NMRA* has partnered with the *Classic Tour* and is matching the tour's donation to juniors at each of their stops (up to \$300 per stop). This is an excellent way to achieve our support goal for the juniors while getting some National Recognition as well.

In the area of Womens programs support, two members of the *NMRA*, who want to remain anonymous, donated \$1,500 to the *Women's Association* at their annual *'Ladies Night' Event* at *National Singles* in Houston. The donation was the amount the women had hoped to raise from a special painting donated by *Pro Player, Artist, and NMRA Member, Ruben Gonzales*, to the *Women's Association* to be auctioned off during at the event in Houston. With the \$1,500 seed money donated at the kick-off meeting, the auction raised well over \$5,000 during the remainder of the year.

The *NMRA* also funded the changes in the R2 software program now used by the *Women Senior / Master Association* as a show of our support to Women Players.

I hope to see you in Provo, UT... and, make sure you stay at the host hotel this year. Tuesday Night Registration and all evening hospitality will be held at the *Marriott, Provo Convention and Conference Center* (the Friday night Banquet too). We are doing this since we will be playing at a college and city-owned recreation center—neither of which will permit alcohol. The tournament website is up and ready for your online (or mail) entry. All of the tournament information is available now at: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=3203&showNavForDirector=YES>

I want to sum (no pun intended) everything up by saying how proud I am of the *NMRA* and how much I enjoy working for and with all of you. **Please remember that the Board works for YOU**, not the other way around. But in order to be effective, we need your input, your ideas, and your insights. I encourage you to get involved with the *NMRA* on any level you can. **We always need and welcome your help.**

## KC ROOM WINNERS

### Free Night Stay Winners at the Overland Park Marriott

Some of the tournament participants who stayed at the host hotel during our Kansas City tournament in July were chosen in a random draw to receive one night free. Here are the winners.

Vickey Utter	Julian Finkelstein
Carmen Alatorre-Martin	Ronald McElwee
Mike Hiles	Parris Woodbury
Josine Haustermanns	James Weathers
Jane Worden	

In addition to hotel rooms, *Ektelon* donated racquets to the tournament. The *Boy Scout troop* members from *Stanely, Kansas*, who opened our banquet with the *Pledge of Allegiance* received those racquets. The *Junior Team Kansas* members and lucky racquet winners were:

**Luke MacKenzie, Andy Romisch and Matt Schmitz.**

Look for more giveaways from our tournament sponsors in Orem, Utah! **See you there!**

## Editor's Corner Fun With Fitness

By Cindy Tilbury, Editor

*If you love racquetball, you know that fitness can be a blast.* This article is for people who play all the time, but it is especially for those who don't.

I had thought about this for a long time and knew it would be a good idea, but hadn't tried it until the beginning of the summer. I was not getting in enough racquetball or cardio workout time, but I wondered really how much exercise I was getting. I went to *Target* and bought an \$8.00 pedometer/clock, and I am so glad I did!

The standard exercise goal for an adult is to get in 10,000 steps each day. That number roughly equates to five miles of walking, but walking isn't the only way to get in your steps, of course. Jogging, dancing, jumping rope, and working out on a machine are all great ways to get in your steps. They all take a little longer than playing racquetball, of course. I found that about 90 minutes of singles or two hours of doubles can easily rack up 10,000 steps, and you get more steps throughout the rest of the day.

When I think about watching TV at the end of the day, I look at my pedometer to see if I can relax. If I need a few more steps to reach my goal, I jog in place until I have 10,000. If I have done over 15,000 steps in a day, I feel I can have a dessert. It's not only useful for helping me gauge my level of activity toward my daily goal, but it's also pretty fun. My pedometer lets me know if I've gotten a decent workout—even on the days I haven't played racquetball.

Try a pedometer for yourself, and give one as a gift. Keep track of your steps and compare numbers at the end of the month. Maybe even make a friendly wager.

**Happy stepping!**



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Karin Poswilko  
[BirgitteDesigns@comcast.net](mailto:BirgitteDesigns@comcast.net)



# NMRA 2007 International Championships

By Bruce Adams, NMRA Secretary

The 2007 National Masters Racquetball Association's (NMRA) International Championships were held July 25 through 28, 2007 at the beautiful Athletic Club of Overland Park, Kansas. The facility has nine courts on three levels; a full-service Pro Shop; spacious locker rooms; full-service bar with viewing of two courts with full back glass wall. There is also a sister club, the Fox Hill Club, about two miles away with six courts. Both venues handled 192 participants in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles. There were 24 divisions from 45 years young to 90+ years younger, with 14 divisions in doubles. Additionally, there were about 50 first-time NMRA players in the tournament.

There was the usual celebratory banquet, but this year, the theme was based on *The Wizard of Oz*, since we were in Kansas. The theme included the video of the movie on two large screens and sound clips throughout the evening. Everything was top-notch. Our sponsors included *Ektelon*, the *IRT Pro Tour*, *Lamar Donuts*, *Marriott Hotels*, *Overland Park Athletic Club*, *OneShot*, *Liberty Fruit*, *Miller Brewing Company*, and the *Overland Park Visitors Bureau*. We thank them once again, and look forward to *Ektelon* and others sponsoring our March 2008 tournament, as well.

For more details on the Kansas City tournament and photographs, please visit the [www.nmra.info](http://www.nmra.info) website. And join us in Orem, Utah, in March for another great NMRA tournament.

## Utah To-Do's

While in Utah for the March National Tournament, the Utah Valley Convention and Visitors' Bureau recommends these "don't miss" attractions:

- Skiing at several resorts 45 minutes away
- Fly fishing in the Provo River canyon
- Boating on Utah Lake
- Hiking in the red rocks of the Wasatch Mountains
- Thanksgiving Point gardens and attractions
- Watching college basketball at BYU
- Touring dinosaur fossils at several museums
- Visiting the Mormon Tabernacle 40 minutes away in Salt Lake City
- Visiting Bryce Canyon or Zion National Park hours away in southern Utah

## Tournament Thoughts

By Mike Hiles

Hi to all of you, I would like to have you think about our tournaments.

The USAR national organization has changed two major tournaments for the coming season. The first is the *National Doubles*. The USAR has decided to move this one to February, which will put it within three weeks of our March tournament. This raises two questions for us. First, will we need to move the March tourney to April or should we leave it as it is now played in March? For now, the board has decided to leave it in March. Second, will the *National Doubles* move impact the *Women's Senior Master Tournament*?

The NMRA board is considering having a third tournament during the year. This third one would be run only offering doubles or as a regular tourney with the three events. The other thing that we could also do is incorporate a *Classic Racquetball* tour in with this third tourney. In order to do this, we would offer a special division for the 40-year-olds at this event. This is because the Classic tour starts with the 40s. This tour is run like a pro event, except that there is no prize money involved, and only four *Senior Pros* (retired from the IRT-Tour) come to the event. The 40-year-olds would have to play into the pro division. The three major things that would come out of this are:

1. One of our members would have a chance to play against the pros if they so desire.
2. The pros would do free clinics or appearances for the junior programs in the area where we hold the tournament. And, the pros would help us make a money contribution to the state junior program.
3. More visibility will be generated for our sport and for the *Masters* organization in particular.

All of these add up to a win-win for us and racquetball. This is something I would like every member to think about and let us (the board) know what you feel we should do. If you like the idea of a third tournament as a doubles or as a regular tourney, give us that feedback.

## Not for Ladies Only

By Cindy Tilbury

Hi Ladies! I hope you all know I'm here behind the scenes trying to make our NMRA tournaments and organization a great place for women! One of the ways I can do that is to encourage you all to talk up our round-robin tournaments all during the season and to bring your female racquetball friends to the tournaments with you. Room with them, hang out with them, introduce them to all of the other ladies, and watch their matches to encourage them.

Our next tournament in Utah in March will be telling as far as participation by ladies goes. The *National Doubles* for 2008 will be in February, and, with the *Women's Senior/Master tournament* in Kansas City in January, some ladies will not (or cannot) travel quite that often for major tournaments. For you singles-only ladies who won't be going to *National Doubles*, I urge you to arrange your trip to Utah now, and get all of your friends on board to travel with you. Arrange an extra day of skiing with them, too, as long as you are so close to the world-class ski resorts near *Park City*. For the rest of you, we hope you can squeeze in one more big tournament before spring, and we are working very hard as board members to make sure you have a fantastic tournament.

If you have never played in the *Women's Senior/Masters tournament* before, we strongly encourage you to try it. It is the same round-robin/self-refereed format as our NMRA tournaments, but only for women, and only singles. No doubles events are offered. This tournament even offers lower-skill divisions (55B/C, as an example) and, in the past, they have been the most popular divisions, with several round-robin flights necessary to accommodate all of the players. You must be at least 35 years old to play in this event and you will find top-level competition in any division you enter. Again, I encourage you to **BRING YOUR LADY FRIENDS** and make a special week of it. This year, the tournament is in Kansas City, Kansas, and the *La Quinta Hotel* is within walking distance of the main club. Try it once, and you'll want to come back year after year.

Sign up online for both tournaments at [www.r2sports.com](http://www.r2sports.com). Mail-in entries are available, as well.

I look forward to seeing you all in Kansas City, Kansas, and Orem, Utah. If there is anything I can do to make 45+ racquetball a little better for you, please contact me with your ideas.



# NMRA Board Candidates Vie for your Vote

By Dave Warner

It's that time again—*NMRA Board of Director elections!* Who do you want to work for you for the next three years? To make your vote official, you must cut the ballot out of this newsletter, including your member label on the back, vote for three candidates, put your ballot in an envelope, and **send it to Dave Warner, 15681 Caldosa Creek Circle, Fort Myers, Florida 33908, by February 1, 2008.** We do not have our voting process online yet. Candidates will be notified via telephone of the vote results shortly after the voting is final. The first duties of the new board members will be to attend the Board of Directors meeting in Orem, Utah, in March, and to help at the tournament.

Here is the list of candidates, in no particular order, and their words about why they are running for the *NMRA Board of Directors*. I encourage you to contact each of the candidates before casting your vote.



## Bruce Adams, Tulsa, Oklahoma

I would like to submit my name as a candidate for the *National Masters Racquetball Association Board of Directors* position. I have a thirty+-year racquetball career consisting of:

- Shooting photos and video, and writing articles for the *Oklahoma Racquetball Association (ORA)*, plus the *RACQUETBALL Magazine* over the past nine years
- ORA Board member for nine years and Hall of Fame inductee
- *AmPRO* certified for eight years
- Team Head sponsored player for ten years
- Director of leagues, clinics and tournaments at the local, state and regional levels for many years
- Participant in the last four summer International events of the *NMRA*, winning medals in two of them, both in doubles
- *NMRA Secretary* for the past year, recording minutes at the two Board meetings and tabulating votes throughout the year in between meetings. Additionally, I have put together several slide shows and submitted articles to the *NMRA* website, newsletter and national office.

I am active in church, with active memberships in Sunday School and the Senior Usher Board. My work currently is for a medium-sized oil company as a regional manager in operations, with annual \$10 million expense and \$2 million capital budgets. My family consists of a 17-year-old son and wife of over twenty years. They both play racquetball.

My vision and belief for racquetball and the *NMRA* is that we must remember the grassroots players and nurture them. We should not only applaud the honed athlete, but we must encourage the lower level/recreational players to continue to understand the game and promote the sport in any and all ways possible. The short-term goals for the *NMRA Board of Directors*, if re-elected, would be to continue assisting in the scheduling of the matches at the events, plus grow the membership and popularity of masters racquetball!



## Gary Cowger, Des Moines, Iowa

I would like to serve on the *NMRA Board* because I believe I could bring the same kind of energy and commitment to getting the job done that the current Board has successfully demonstrated. I believe in the *NMRA* and appreciate what it has done to promote racquetball and camaraderie, and would like the opportunity to serve and give back to a great organization. I recently retired after 38 years with the same company, and now have the time to adequately fulfill the commitment that the Board would require.

Some of the things I have to offer are:

- I began attending *NMRA* events in the early 1990s (as soon as I met the age requirement!)
- I am a lifetime member of *USRA Racquetball Association*
- I am on the State Board of Directors for the state of Iowa
- I have played racquetball for 30 years, in which I have attended a wide variety of regional, state, and national tournaments
- I attend National Singles in Houston annually

**continued on page 7...**

## Tidbits

By Cindy Tilbury

- **You don't have to be a board member to help our organization.** If you have time or skills to spare, let us know. Feel free to arrive early at a tournament and help with the setup and last-minute details. Let the tournament director (Tom Curran for Utah) know you are available.
- **Calling all clubs!** If you know of a 20-court facility that we don't know about, let us know where it is! Finding facilities large enough to host our special round-robin tournaments is no small feat. If you know of one or two racquetball courts within a few miles of each other that have at least 20 courts—even if they don't hold tournaments—we would love to know about them. Paul Banales is currently the keeper of potential tournament sites.
- **Racquet Found!** A racquet was found at the Kansas City tournament in July and is being held for the person who can identify it. Contact Cindy Tilbury to identify it.
- **Did you notice?** The *NMRA* is now listed in the Official Racquetball Rules booklet. Specifically, the special *NMRA* rules pertaining to forfeits, eligibility and using average points per match to decide the winner/places of each division. Check it out at the March, 2008 tournament, where we will have copies available.
- **The *NMRA* currently had 930 members.**
- **In Kansas City, 42 women participated.** This is our second-highest participation of women ever—Minneapolis in 2006 was the highest with 48.
- **Are you interested in being the tournament director at an up-coming *NMRA* tournament?** Please contact Tom Curran and he will get you the information you need to get the process started.
- **Do you have ideas on how to promote racquetball?** We would love to hear your ideas, as we will be discussing this at the next board meeting in March. Bob McAdam has donated funds budgeted specifically for that purpose, and we want to spend the money the wisest way possible.
- **The new four-glass-wall portable court is coming very soon.** Keep your eye on the [www.irt-tour.com](http://www.irt-tour.com) website for its debut in Chicago.



### **Gary Cowger continued...**

#### *Professional experience:*

- 38-year career with the same company; achieved position of Division Manager, in which I supervised 400+ employees, and controlled \$25 million in sales annually.
- Worked and lived in Oklahoma, St Louis, Missouri, Atlanta, Georgia, and Des Moines, Iowa.
- I am good at vision and planning
- I have attention to detail
- I have an excellent work ethic
- I am a team player
- I am results oriented

I would love the opportunity to serve and would welcome the challenge.



**Gary Mazaroff,  
Albuquerque,  
New Mexico**

My goals as a board member are to help enhance racquetball's growth world-wide; and to encourage more communication between

all interest groups. I have been deeply involved in racquetball for almost 40 years. Here are some of my qualifications in all aspects of this great sport:

#### *Player accomplishments*

- Member of *NMRA* since 1995
- Lifetime member of the *USAR*
- Over 250 titles
- Two National Championships
- Six International Championships
- USA National Team member; 1985-86

#### *Coaching achievements*

- USA National Team; 1986-1990
- Coach of four Latin American federations
- Intercollegiate Coach; University of Albuquerque

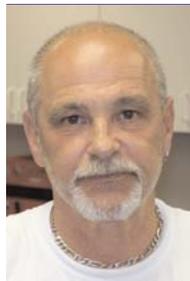
#### *Administrative activities*

- Executive Director; *World Senior Racquetball*; 1985-present
- Tournament Director; World Senior Doubles; 2000 (Paris), & 2007 (Hamburg)
- President of *New Mexico Racquetball Association*; 1977-1980, 1984-present
- Director *International Professional Racquetball Organization (AmPro/IPRO)*, the certification body for instructors and coaches world-wide; 1997-present
- Operations Director and Educational Director for *International Racquetball Federation*

### **Gary Mazaroff continued...**

#### *Club experience*

- Manager of Athletic Club; 1980-84
- Owner; 1983-85
- IHRSA presenter (two times) at National Convention



**TJ Ferro, Chicago, Illinois**

I attended my first *NMRA* event at Canton, Ohio, in 2004 and was impressed beyond words with the fabulous play, and knew I had to belong. The players were great sportsmen and the competition was fantastic. I knew I was part of something special. My desire to serve as a member of the *NMRA Board* is sincere. I want to continue to see the *NMRA* be successful by bringing fresh energy to a board that is doing great things and helping take the *NMRA* into the future. My main goal is to be a voice for the members. Here are some of my qualifications.

- *NMRA* member since 2004
- *Illinois State Racquetball Association Board* member since 1998
- *Junior Racquetball Association*, providing no-charge lessons weekly since 1998 and coach of *Junior Team Illinois* since 2000
- *Tattooed Team Ektelon* sponsored player since 1998; Advisory Staff member since 2000

When people ask me if I am going to Memphis or Houston, my reply is "No, I am on the *NMRA* Master Tour—the best racquetball tournaments around." Let me help you by helping me get elected to the *NMRA Board of Directors*. I am asking for your support and vote in the upcoming election.



**Mike Hiles, Bayfield, Minnesota**

Hi, my name is Mike Hiles and I am running for a seat on the *National Masters Racquetball board*. I have served on the board for six years. I have attended every tournament and board meeting since I have been elected to represent you these past six years. I am not afraid to get my hands dirty and will jump in wherever we need a helping hand. I see the changes that have taken place and feel that we are on the right track as a board and as an organization. I would like to keep on helping this board move forward and to promote this organization. I need your vote to make this happen. With my experience and desire, I would hope you would vote for me for one of the three open board positions. So please vote and remember to vote for Mike Hiles as your board member to represent you.



**Mike Lippitt, San Francisco Bay Area, California**

Since retiring in 2003, I have been actively playing in *NMRA*, *USAR*, *IRT* and *Classic Pro Racquetball Tour* events; I am very passionate about and committed to racquetball and the racquetball community. I am currently on the *California State Racquetball Association Board of Directors*, the *USAR President's Advisory Council* and am an official sponsor of the *Classic Pro Racquetball Tour* when it comes to *Concord California* in April of 2008.

I have thirty years of experience working in and for non-profit agencies, as well as sitting on various non-profit boards. I believe my passion, experience and expertise would be valuable to *National Masters* and it would be my honor to serve on the *NMRA Board of Directors*. Thank you.

**VOTE NOW!!**

**Ballot is on page 15!!**

# Tournament Results

## NMRA Overland Park, KS

JULY 25-28, 2007 Tom Curran, Tournament Director

### Place/Division State Avg

Place/Division	State	Avg
<b>M45</b>		
1 Dave Negrete	IL	38.00
2 Bob Wright	IN	34.89
3 Lance Hodgkinson	OH	30.11
4 Chuck Calvert	OH	29.11
5 Philippe Jean-Baptiste	VA	28.78
6 Dan Scott	MO	27.67
7 Gary Gwaltney	KS	22.22
8 Bob Blair	KS	18.56

### M50

Place/Division	State	Avg
1 Tom Travers	OH	Playoff
2 Patrick Gibson	TX	Playoff
3 Jim Durham	CA	Playoff
4 Ben Roy	MN	Playoff
5 Randy Godwin	AR	Playoff
6 Dan Malone	IL	Playoff
7 Bruce Dubois	CT	24.40
8 Greg Cummings	MN	22.20

### M55

Place/Division	State	Avg
1 Tony Upkes	SD	Playoff
2 Frank Taddonio	AZ	Playoff
3 Dennis Healy	IL	Playoff
4 Howard Walker	TX	Playoff
5 Jim Brown	NE	Playoff
6 TJ Ferro	IL	Playoff
7 Bruce Nelson	IL	31.43
8 Randy Hisey	IA	28.83
9 Robert Born	MN	24.86

### M60

Place/Division	State	Avg
1 Dennis McKee	IL	Playoff
2 Dan Jones	GA	Playoff
3 Donald Gunderson	WI	Playoff
4 Dave Warner	MN	Playoff
5 Terry Albright	MO	Playoff
6 Gary Cowger	IA	Playoff
7 Warren Bailey	AK	21.20
8 George McKay	OH	18.60

### M65

Place/Division	State	Avg
1 Robert Large	KS	Playoff
2 Mitch Milewski	NH	Playoff
3 Ed Sword	KY	Playoff
4 Patrick Taylor	IL	Playoff
5 Joseph Capozzoli	PA	Playoff
6 Bob Maher	NY	Playoff
7 Luis Guerrero	CA	27.20
8 Thomas Sharum	MI	25.83

### M70

Place/Division	State	Avg
1 Michael Jackson	CT	Playoff
2 Sunny Zimmerman	CAN	Playoff
3 James Weeks	SC	Playoff
4 Jerry Northwood	AZ	Playoff
5 Ron Dorst	CA	Playoff
6 Ken Moore	CA	Playoff
7 Bob Baudry	LA	25.80
8 Francis Florey	WI	23.20

### M75

Place/Division	State	Avg
1 John O'Donnell	IL	36.50
2 Jim Stahl	TX	34.29
3 Donald Alt	OH	32.50
4 James Dunn	OR	23.86
5 Kenneth Pattison	CO	22.00
6 Mike Martin	CO	14.00

### Place/Division State Avg

Place/Division	State	Avg
<b>M80</b>		
1 Victor Sacco	NY	27.14
2 Philip Dziuk	IL	20.14
3 Bob Miller	MI	6.33

### W45

Place/Division	State	Avg
1 Shari Coplen	MO	36.56
2 Lucy Delsarto	KS	36.11
3 Cheryl Jones	MN	25.56
4 Susan Acoymo	IA	21.22

### W50

Place/Division	State	Avg
1 Lynnette Froelich	NE	30.56
2 Diana Matthews	NE	28.67
3 Jere Lutner	TX	28.44
4 Melanie Newsome	NC	19.44
5 Donna Ripperger	OK	16.44
6 Jan Warren	AZ	12.22

### W55

Place/Division	State	Avg
1 Sharon Huczek	MI	36.17
2 Shirley Parsons	CO	32.50

### W60

Place/Division	State	Avg
1 Merijeane Kelley	CA	35.17
2 Jeannie Van Winkle	MO	27.50
3 Donna Backus	TX	24.67
4 Cece Palaski	NM	20.33
5 Aurora Bocanegra	KS	5.83

### W65

Place/Division	State	Avg
1 Sharon Hastings-Welty	OR	38.00
2 Mildred Gwinn	NC	32.75
3 Iona Baldwin	MO	23.88
4 Marquita Molinda	CA	20.25
5 Josine Haustermanns	OK	12.50

### MD45

Place/Division	State	Avg
1 Mark Domangue / Terry Pett	NE/NE	36.13
2 David Stein / Bob Wright	KS/IN	35.38
3 Vince Tomlinson / Richard Bocanegra	NE/KS	34.63
4 Roy Hare / Philippe Jean Baptiste	VAVA	26.25
5 Gary Beeman / Mike Wedel	MO/KS	25.88
6 Dan Edmonds / Harry Glover	OH/OH	25.13
7 Chuck Calvert / Bruce Adams	OH/OK	24.38
8 John McManamon / Dale Donat	COMO	22.75

### MD50

Place/Division	State	Avg
1 Tom Travers / Troy Stallings	FL/SD	37.11
2 Howard Walker / Patrick Gibson	TX/TX	35.89
3 Brian Ahern / Jim Brane	KS/MO	33.80
4 Mark Domangue / Terry Pett	NE/NE	30.89
5 Charles Curtis / Wes Goth	MI/SD	25.89
6 James Weathers / Leon Jackson	VAVA	24.00
7 Steve Cohen / Jim Gutierrez	CA/CA	23.56
8 Michael Hiles / Jerry Manor	MN/MN	23.22

### MD55

Place/Division	State	Avg
1 Jim Brane / Rich. Bocanegra	MO/MO	Playoff
2 Ken. Weinstein / Steve Cohen	MD/CA	Playoff
3 TJ Ferro / Jim Elliott	IL/UT	Playoff
4 Chuck Childers / Randy Hisey	IN/IA	Playoff
5 James Carothers / Jim Brown	LA/NE	Playoff
6 Larry Brunner / Mark Newport	MO/MO	Playoff
7 Bob Sullivan / Joseph Reno	TN/TN	27.80
8 Bob Maher / Phil Defalco	NY/NY	22.83

continued on page 9...

## NMRA Futures Foundation Update

By Tom Curran, Executive Director,  
NMRA Future Foundation

As we close out 2007, the NMRA Future Foundation has a balance through September of \$38,911.97.

So far in 2007 we had 20 donations from the following members:

Harold Hiles	\$1,000
Bruce Adams	\$100
Bob Maher	\$100
Antonio Pineros	\$100
Duane Russell	\$100
Rick Betts	\$60
Tom Penick	\$50
Charles YaQub	\$50
Alan Krivelow	\$40
Bill Wening	\$40
Grace Jaworsky	\$20
Duane Russell	\$20
Aaron Vederoff	\$20
Jim Brown	\$10
Joseph Capozzoli	\$10
Darrell Crocker	\$10
Charles Curtis	\$10
Jeffrey Edwards	\$10

In addition, we recently raised another \$3,000 at the US Open through individuals donating to the Future Foundation for the privilege of sitting at Bob Fennell's memorial sponsor table at the back of the court. We plan to continue that program for the next years, too.

We want to sincerely thank everyone who donated this year and in past years. Your financial support ensures the 'future' success of the NMRA for generations to come.

In order to keep the foundation fresh in our members' minds (and pocketbooks) we have added a "donation to the fund" option on each of our tournament entry forms. If you want to donate, you simply put in a number--1 to 100. The number you choose represents a donation multiple of \$10.00. So, for example, if you put in 5, your donation is \$50.00.

During the year, we hope that each of you will take this simple way to make a donation that keeps the NMRA financially solvent for both present and future members. The principal (dollars donated) cannot be touched. Only the interest in the account can be used as a part of the general expenses of the NMRA.

As you can see, the more we have in the fund, the more interest the fund makes, and that interest can be used by the NMRA General Fund in the case of an emergency. To date, no principal or interest from the Future Foundation account has been used.

Also consider adding a gift to the NMRA during your estate planning. This is the ultimate way to show your support for a sport and organization that has helped provide a healthy, social, and competitive life.

If you have any questions on the foundation or about making donations, please feel free to contact me directly.





Place/Division	State	Avg
<b>1 Dave Warner / Don. Gunderson</b>	<b>MN/WI</b>	<b>34.80</b>
2 Chuck Childers / Dan Jones	IN/GA	34.60
3 Jerry Davis / Fred Letter	OH/NJ	33.20
4 Michael Honea / Ottis Campbell	TX/TX	21.40
5 Leland Rients / Rex Lawler	MN/IN	17.00
6 James Weathers / Wayne Toyne	VA/VA	14.60

Place/Division	State	Avg
<b>1 Jerry Davis / Fred Letter</b>	<b>OH/NJ</b>	<b>36.29</b>
2 Luis Guerrero / Mitch Milewski	CA/NH	32.86
3 Ed Sword / Leland Rients	KY/MN	32.71
4 Jerry Northwood / Rex Lawler	AZ/IN	31.14
5 Lee Graff / Leon Stanley	OR/AL	23.71
6 Jack Fredine / Robert Large	TX/KS	18.29
7 Morris Dodson / Donald Sperber	OH/NY	18.00
8 Charles Cliff / John Fortkamp	OH/OH	17.29

Place/Division	State	Avg
<b>1 Francis Florey / Otis Chapman</b>	<b>WI/OH</b>	<b>33.80</b>
2 Jim Phillips / Ken Moore	CA/CA	33.75
3 Ronald McElwee / Paul Banales	AL/AZ	30.00
4 Bob Warren / Ron Mattice	AZ/SD	25.50
5 Duane Smith / James Dunn	TX/OR	9.50

Place/Division	State	Avg
<b>1 Donald Alt / Otis Chapman</b>	<b>OH/OH</b>	<b>38.00</b>
2 John O'Donnell / Philip Dziuk	IL/IL	33.17
3 Amos Rosenbloom / Harold Hiles	MN/FL	28.17
4 Duane Russell / Marvin Schinagle	MI/OH	27.80
5 Dick Kincade / John Prigmore	CO/KS	26.40
6 Duane Smith / Mike Martin	TX/CO	15.80
7 Bob Miller / Kenneth Pattison	MI/CO	12.50

Place/Division	State	Avg
<b>1 Ivan Brunner / Victor Sacco</b>	<b>WI/NY</b>	<b>32.00</b>
2 Duane Russell / Marvin Schinagle	MI/OH	30.75
3 Dick Kincade / John Prigmore	CO/KS	24.75



Place/Division	State	Avg
<b>1 Gladys Leonard / Carmen Alatorre-Martin</b>	<b>VA / VA</b>	<b>35.00</b>
2 Cindy Tilbury / Shari Copen	CO/MO	33.86
3 Carolyn Foster / Grace Jaworsky	NE/MO	25.86
4 Cheryl Jones / Susan Schatz	MN/MN	25.00
5 Renae Lampkin / Susan Acoyma	IA/IA	24.63

Place/Division	State	Avg
<b>1 Diana Matthews / Lynette Froehlich</b>	<b>NE/NE</b>	<b>33.57</b>
2 Jane Worden / Penny Urman	FL/WI	24.71
3 Melanie Newsom / Rita Belanger	NC/NC	14.00

Place/Division	State	Avg
<b>1 Nancy Kronenfeld / Shirley Parsons</b>	<b>IL/CO</b>	<b>38.00</b>

Place/Division	State	Avg
<b>1 Carol Taylor / Donna Backus</b>	<b>IN/TX</b>	<b>25.67</b>
2 Marquita Molina / Vickey Utter	CA/NC	23.00

Place/Division	State	Avg
<b>1 Lola Markus / Mildred Gwinn</b>	<b>IL/NC</b>	<b>21.67</b>

Place/Division	State	Avg
<b>1 Troy Stallings / Laura Fenton</b>	<b>SD/KS</b>	<b>38.00</b>
2 Gladys Leonard / Leon Jackson	VA/VA	33.14
3 Lucy Delsarto / Bill Severns	KS/KS	30.83
4 Roy Hare / Judith Flis	VA/PA	25.57
5 Harry Glover / Page Kern	OH/MN	24.50
6 Grace Jaworski / Vince Tomlinson	MO/NE	22.57
7 Dan Edmonds / Cindy Tilbury	OH/CO	17.00
8 Bob Blair / Renae Lampkin	KS/IA	14.14

Place/Division	State	Avg
<b>1 Carmen Alatorre-Martin / Frank Taddonio</b>	<b>VA / AZ</b>	<b>38.00</b>
2 Charles Yaqub / Nancy Abrams	CA / CA	33.44
3 Dan Morales / Carolyn Foster	MO / NE	30.63
4 George Heidelmeier / Page Kern	TX / MN	30.38
5 Michael Hiles / Jere Luttner	MN / TX	29.56
6 Jerry Manor / Penny Urman	MN / WI	27.11
7 James Carothers / Fita Belanger	LA / NC	20.33
8 David Nelson / Susan Schatz	MN / MN	18.67

Place/Division	State	Avg
<b>1 Tony Upkes / Nancy Kronenfeld</b>	<b>SD/IL</b>	<b>38.00</b>
2 George Heidelmeier / Merijeane Kelley	TX/CA	31.00
3 Terry Newport / Mark Newport	MO/MO	28.60
4 Jane Worden / Frank Stevens	FL/MA	16.00
5 Richard Halpin / Vickey Utter	PA/NC	13.75

Place/Division	State	Avg
<b>1 Terry Albright / Cece Palaski</b>	<b>MO/NM</b>	<b>35.00</b>
2 Iona Baldwin / James Weeks	MO/SC	15.00

Place/Division	State	Avg
<b>1 Lee Graff / Sharon Hastings-Welty</b>	<b>OR/OR</b>	<b>33.83</b>

Place/Division	State	Avg
<b>1 Ron Dorst / Lola Markus</b>	<b>CA/IL</b>	<b>17.29</b>



NMRA 2007 International Championships - Kansas City, KS: 1-80 year old Mike Martin, is surprised by his children attending and watching him play for their first time; 2-What is your pulse???: 3-Checking in with R2Sports.com, and NO LINES!!!; 4-Sportsperson of the Year Amos Rosenbloom with partner Cap Hiles; 5-Lucy DelSarto takes time out from play to pose near her business flyer; 6-Judy Flis and her broken toe (OUCH!); 7-The women of the NMRA (we love you); 8-Lee Graff; Hall of Fame Inductee Ken Moore; Claudia Moore; NMRA President Tom Curran; 9-The AFTER PARTY in the lobby with Laura Fenton. Entertainment in UT?; 10-George Heidelberg prepares for a down-the-line pass.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Steve Lerner  
614-361-7162

## National Masters Racquetball Association to Support Classic Professional Racquetball Tour Junior Initiatives

### NMRA to Match Funds Raised at CPRT Events

**Columbus, OH (November 12, 2007)** – The National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA) has committed to a matching funds program with the contributions raised at Classic Professional Racquetball Tour (CPRT) events earmarked for Junior Racquetball. NMRA President Tom Curran stated that the NMRA is committed for the entire remaining 2007-2008 CPRT Tour.

"Like the CPRT, the NMRA understands that the longevity of our sport lies in the continued development of Junior Racquetball programs across the nation. We have chosen to partner with the CPRT and match the funds that the CPRT raises at each of their events so that Junior programs in those and other markets will continue to flourish", said Curran. In addition, the NMRA sponsors various Junior programs throughout the year and has contributed over \$6,000 to Junior Racquetball in 2007 including \$1,000.00 to the 2007 IRF 19th Junior World Racquetball Championships, December 14-20, 2007 in Cochabamba, Bolivia. The NMRA runs two major round robin tournaments in different states every year. More information can be found at [www.nmra.info](http://www.nmra.info).

Steve Lerner, CPRT Commissioner added, "the professionals and promoters of the CPRT built our Tour on the premise that it was time for those of us who were fortunate to compete in professional racquetball to now give back to our sport, it's a great honor to share this mission with the NMRA and their support is greatly appreciated."

CPRT is a professional tour featuring racquetball's greatest stars who are 40 years of age and older. Classic Professional Racquetball Tour is "Stars of the past supporting the future of Racquetball".

[classicproracquetball.com](http://classicproracquetball.com)

## Social Director Stuff

By Cindy Tilbury

As I did for the Kansas City tournament, I am again offering my services to be a focal point for three very important services:

1. Finding roommates for players/guests staying at the host hotel
2. Finding doubles partners for players in any division
3. Maintaining a list of people who are interested in sightseeing in the Orem/Provo area so that our members can get out and see the Utah Valley with others

Please contact me if you would like to be added to any of these three lists.

I may also contact you to see if you would like to play doubles with someone who needs a partner—especially you, Ladies, since many of our members love to play Mixed Doubles and you are definitely in demand. If you do not currently play doubles, but would like to learn how for a future tournament, let me know that and we can plan to put on a doubles clinic, with plenty of advance notice.

See you in Utah!

## Racquetball Shoes Going to a Museum

By Tom McAdam, Colorado

Some of you know that I have used a single pair of shoes for every racquetball game that I have played since I was at the *University of Illinois* in 1974 -- so 33 years. (Yes, I have often run them through the washing machine to clean and deodorize them.)

I recently replaced the shoes, and my son Matt and I were reflecting on how unbelievable it was that the shoes had lasted so long. I suggested to him that the company was probably long since out of business, as I didn't recognize the name *Bata*. I got on the computer, searched the internet, and readily found out that I was wrong—the international company is headquartered in Switzerland and has a very interesting and well-documented history, particularly during the World War II era. It even had over 100,000 employees at one point. Go to this site for more background: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bata\\_Shoes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bata_Shoes)

It turns out that the *Bata* shoe museum in Toronto is the largest shoe museum in the world. They have tours, school field trips, and quite a collection from around the world, including from royalty. Museum information: <http://www.batashoemuseum.ca/collectindex.html>

I contacted the Curator of the Museum, told her about my shoes, the estimated number of games played over the 33 years (unfortunately quantity, not quality), sent pictures of the shoes, told her that I used them when my Dad, Matt, and I all played in the *Houston National tourney* this past May, etc. It seems that there are actually very few *Bata* brand shoes in the museum. The curator said that *Bata* had discontinued sports shoes many years ago and that she was not very familiar with them. Since these were actually *Bata* brand, the curator contacted Mrs. Bata directly. I received an email from the curator saying, "Mrs. Bata loved the racquetball shoe story. I am opening a new exhibit next week. Can you send them to us using our Fed-X account?"

If you visit the Toronto museum, look for the enduring *Bata* racquetball shoes and think back to the era of wooden racquets, short shorts and marvel at the changes in our equipment and the sport. What a fabulous legacy.



# NMRA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRY FORM

MARCH 5 – 8, 2008 at the OREM FITNESS CENTER / UVSC

MAIL IN ENTRY MUST BE POSTMARKED NLT 2/16/08

ONLINE ENTRIES MUST BE COMPLETED BY 2/24/08 (www.r2sports.com)

Please Print---Be Legible, Complete, & Accurate

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_

Work \_\_\_\_\_

Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: m \_\_\_ /d \_\_\_ /yr \_\_\_ Age on 3/5/08 \_\_\_\_\_

**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, Orem Fitness Center and Utah Valley State College, or their respective agents and staff, and all sponsors 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 eyeguards (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	\$140 \$	_____
Second Event	\$ 40 \$	_____
Spouse/Guest(s)* (each)	\$ 65 \$	_____
NMRA Membership ** (3yrs)	\$ 45 \$	_____
USAR Membership (required, 1 yr)	\$ 35 \$	_____
Future Fund Donation:	\$	_____
Late Fee (After 2/24/08)	\$ 45 \$	_____
Total Due:	\$	_____

\* Spouse/Guest(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*This is my first NMRA tournament

(First time participants do not have to join the NMRA, but we hope you do)

**SHIRT SIZE: S M L XL 2X 3X**

**MEN** \_\_\_\_\_ **WOMEN** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Steve Cohen, NMRA Treasurer**  
5832 E Bluebonnet Court, Orange, CA 92869

**NO REFUND OF ANY FEES AFTER 2/27/08**

You must be a current USA Racquetball member to participate in this event. Your USAR membership must still be current as of 3/8/2008, the tournament end date. Please renew your membership with USA Racquetball first before entering this event. Players may enter a maximum of two (2) events: Only one (1) singles event may be entered. A player may enter two (2) doubles events, OR a player may enter one (1) singles event AND one (1) doubles event.

MEN		
SINGLES		DOUBLES
_____	45+	_____
_____	50+	_____
_____	55+	_____
_____	60+	_____
_____	65+	_____
_____	70+	_____
_____	75+	_____
_____	80+	_____
_____	85+	_____
_____	90+	_____

WOMEN		
SINGLES		DOUBLES
_____	45+	_____
_____	50+	_____
_____	55+	_____
_____	60+	_____
_____	65+	_____
_____	70+	_____
_____	75+	_____
_____	80+	_____
_____	85+	_____

## MIXED DOUBLES

_____	45+	_____
_____	50+	_____
_____	55+	_____
_____	60+	_____
_____	65+	_____
_____	70+	_____
_____	75+	_____
_____	80+	_____
_____	85+	_____

Doubles Partner(s): Please print  
Name/Div/Age Bracket: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Div/Age Bracket: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Check if you need us to find a doubles partner.



# Finding the Right Doubles Partner

By Cindy Tilbury

*Finding a doubles partner can be pretty easy, but keeping one is a little more difficult.*

Some players want to find a “permanent” partner, and since styles and attitudes don’t always mesh, you have to decide for yourself the most important reason to play doubles.

In most cases, you can ask a tournament director to keep an eye out for someone else in the tournament who needs a partner, and match you up. If you have played doubles a lot with other partners, a short conversation with your new partner before you start should help you get in synch. During that tournament, you can decide whether or not you want to play with that player again in the future. Of course, make sure you get his/her phone number and email address, if you plan to ask him/her to play.

**To have players want to play doubles with you, though, you might want a longer conversation. Some of the considerations are:**

**Skill Level** – It’s not fair to ask a C player to play Open Doubles against skilled Open Doubles teams, and it’s not acceptable to have higher-level players enter a lower division. Pair up with someone who plays doubles at the same level you do.

**Age Group** – The National Masters organization will let you play opponents younger than yourself, but not older. If your potential doubles partner is quite a bit older, it may not be as fun for him/her to play in the younger division.

**Doubles Style** – Do you like to play the front? Shoot from the back? Keep to the forehand? Always take the backhand side? Serve lobs up the middle? Rely on the cross-court pass? Never hit a ceiling ball? Play with a left-handed person? Cling to the wall? Think about the way you like to play and let your potential partner know what shot you will probably hit when certain setups come your way or it is your turn to serve. If your style is causing your partner to be out of position, you might want to test-drive a new style or a new partner.

**Match Attitude** – Do you believe in drilling five times a week? Winning at all costs? Arguing every call? Taking your partner’s shots? Not holding up? Accusing your opponents of cheating? There is a chance that you might not be the right doubles partner for anyone. Most players I know want to play great racquetball against skilled players with cheerful (and sometimes intense) attitudes. If you can’t find anyone to play doubles with you or against you, it’s possible you could need an attitude adjustment.

**Communication** – Even if your style and attitude are perfect matches, you may still not be the perfect doubles partner until you define your communication style. Every match has lots of shots that can be effectively taken by either partner. Signals or verbal calls between partners will keep you from letting a ball drop, cracking racquet frames as you both hit a shot, or (the worst) both running to the same shot and letting the other team easily pass your uncovered court. I was taught to yell “Me” or “You” to let my partner know if I was or was NOT going to try for a shot, but there are other great ways to work with your partner, too. If your partner won’t communicate, find one who will.

**Longevity** – There are some of us who enjoy playing with different people almost all of the time, but the security of having a go-to partner can be exactly what makes you happiest. After you find someone to match your level, style, attitude and communication approach, ask that person if he/she is interested in playing most tournaments with you. If you are playing more tournaments than your partner, make sure they don’t mind your picking up an occasional temporary partner for a weekend.



*I hope to see you on the doubles court this year—as your partner and as your opponent.*

## Tidbits continued...

By Cindy Tilbury

- Visit the [www.nmra.info](http://www.nmra.info) website for pictures and slideshows from past tournaments.
- As always, if you know of an **NMRA member** who has passed away, please inform NMRA Secretary, Bruce Adams, so they can receive proper mention.
- For something different, play **outdoor racquetball**. Contact Hank Marcus or visit [www.worldoutdoorracquetball.com](http://www.worldoutdoorracquetball.com) for more information.
- The **Classic Pro Racquetball Tour (CPRT) is in full swing!** See your favorite men’s pro tour stars from the 1980s, including **Ruben Gonzalez, Bret Harnett, Dan Obremski, Mike Ray, Steve Lerner and Woody Clouse**, compete at a tournament near you. Visit [www.classicproracquetball.com](http://www.classicproracquetball.com) for details.
- **Grow the sport**—sponsor a junior racquetball player’s next tournament.
- **Is your old equipment sitting unused?** Donate it to a junior program coordinator near you.
- **Get on the “special interest lists”** by emailing **Cindy Tilbury**. Cindy will try to set you up with a doubles partner or tournament roommate.

## Keep Your Game Young

By Cindy Tilbury

Last week, I was told I play like a 21-year-old. I chose to take that as a compliment, because I think it’s very important to keep your game young. Some suggestions for doing that include:

- Beating a young player regularly
- Learning a new serve at least once a year
- Losing 10 pounds
- Getting a new racquet
- Buying brand new sneakers
- Teaching a younger person how to play
- Sponsoring a young player’s tournament entry fee
- Playing in an age division lower than your current age
- Buying some new racquetball clothes—maybe cargo shorts
- Traveling to an out-of-town (or out-of-country) tournament where you’ve never played before to meet some new people



# NMRA NEW MEMBERS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	DOB	ADDRESS	CITY, ST ZIP	HM PHONE #	WK PHONE #	FAX PHONE #	CELL PHONE #	EMAIL
AGUGLIA	JOE	06/15/10	1970 DORY COURT	NAPLES, FL 34109	630-212-4629	630-212-4629	239-597-9880	630-212-4629	lkeprop@aol.com
CARLBERG	DANIEL J.	09/01/10	550 E CHAPMAN AVE SUITE C	ORANGE, CA 92866	714-348-3203	714-774-8129	714-992-9220	714-348-3203	djcarlberg@sbcglobal.net
CROCKER	DARRELL	07/25/10	P.O. BOX 10091	SPRINGFIELD, MO 65808	417-581-7830				dcrocker@centurytel.net
CURTIS	CHARLES	07/25/10	13821 108TH STREET	FREESPORT, MI 49325	616-765-5449			616-262-5965	sitrucbc5@yahoo.com
DODSON	MORRIS A.	05/20/10	15075 RUSSELL ROAD	CHAGRIN FALLS, OH 44022-2656	440-338-6455			216-258-7189	morrisdodson@hotmail.com
ELDRIDGE	CHARLES L.	10/30/10	8432 XYLON CIRCLE SOUTH	BLOOMINGTON, MN 55438	952-942-6645	952-897-6406	952-897-6495	612-830-9105	chuck_eldridge@nwcia.org
GOTH	WES	07/25/10	310 WEST 26TH STREET	SIoux FALLS, SD 57105	605-376-2800				wgrtpalyer@yahoo.com
HALVERSON	KAY	11/01/10	709 HAZELTINE AVENUE SE	SALEM, OR 97306				503-881-0609	kayhalverson@comcast.net
HAMPTON	STAN	11/15/10	P.O. BOX 1214	NEWCASTLE, CA 95658-1214				916-595-6116	stan_ham@msn.com
HARE	ROY D.	07/25/10	6101 EDSALL ROAD #401	ALEXANDRIA, VA 22304	703-823-1806			703-395-9916	roy.hare.cfr@osd.mil
JONES	CHERYL	07/25/10	2319 HAMPTON RHODES CT NW	ROCHESTER, MN 55901		515-266-4921	515-283-4534	507-269-457	jones.cheryl@mayo.edu
LAMPKIN	RENAE	07/25/10	1711 S SHADYVIEW BLVD	PLEASANT HILL, IA 50327		585-388-7186	585-613-4310		rdlampkin@dmgov.org
MACRI	CHRISTI	05/15/10	4 WHITE OAK LANE	FAIRPORT, NY 14450					camacri@aol.com
MIERA	RICK	09/25/10	5816 VULCAN VISTA NE	ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87111	505-856-1663				mierar@hotmail.com
MOLZ	PHILIP J.	07/30/10	11930 STEARNS STREET	OVERLAND PARK, KS 66213	913-897-0428	913-897-0428			molzpmpint@aol.com
MOORE	GREGORY	10/15/10	449 DRINKER STREET	BLOOMSBURG, PA 17815-8364	570-204-3856				gmoore@ptd.net
NEWSOME	MELANIE	07/25/10	38 ETHEL LANE	WAYNESVILLE, NC 28786			250-838-7056	828-421-8911	news0303@bellsouth.net
POIRIER	FRANK	05/15/10	759 MABEL LAKE ROAD	ENDERBY, BC V0E 1V4				250-550-6888	brashcreek@telus.net
SAMIOS	JESSICA	09/15/10	292 NILES ROAD	NEW HARTFORD, CT 06057	860-379-5999	860-626-6419			jessicasamios@ogind.com
SEVERNS	BILL	07/25/10	7535 FONTANA	PRAIRIE VILLAGE, KS 66208	816-392-1220			816-392-1220	bseverns@larkin-grp.com
SHAFFER	DON	05/15/10	151 LAKESIDE DRIVE #209	OAKLAND, CA 94612	510-465-2433			530-409-1709	ofrasquel2@aol.com
SHEWFEELT	VAL	09/20/10	P.O. BOX 7132	PROVO, UT 84602	801-422-3902			801-369-3674	val_shewfelt@byu.edu
TOYNE	WAYNE	07/25/10	8007 PANTANO PLACE	ALEXANDRIA, VA 22309			314-892-3250	703-678-3353	wtoyne@gmail.com
TRAPASSO, JR.	MICHAEL	08/15/10	2516 RIVER WINDS COURT	ST. LOUIS, MO 63129	314-846-2923	314-892-2501		314-974-1418	trapassojr@aol.com
VAN WINKLE	JEANMIE	08/15/10	2409 SOUTH WHITNEY AVENUE	INDEPENDENCE, MO 64057	816-373-6049			816-699-1970	jeannieww@yahoo.com
WARREN	BOB	07/25/10	12303 PROSPECT COURT	SUN CITY WEST, AZ 85375	623-214-3760				bobnjanto@cox.net
WARREN	JAN	07/25/10	12303 PROSPECT COURT	SUN CITY WEST, AZ 85375	623-214-3760				bobnjanto@cox.net
WOUK	MICHAEL	10/30/10	14364 WEST BAYAUD PLACE	GOLDEN, CO 80401-5339	303-279-3768	303-271-8021		623-810-5511	mikewouk@comcast.net
YOUNG	MICHAEL	07/25/10	861A OLD TAXVILLE ROAD	YORK, PA 17404	717-792-0123			303-808-1764	youngmra@verizon.net

# NMRA Member Changes

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	DOB	ADDRESS	CITY, ST ZIP	HM PHONE #	WK PHONE #	FAX PHONE #	CELL PHONE #	EMAIL
BRUNER	BURNADETTE		N 1988 W ROLLWOOD ROAD	ANTIGO, WI 54409-9021					
CHERTOFF	PAUL		400 GALIES POINTE LANE	CHESAPEAKE, VA 23322-7447	757-410-3820				
CURRAN	THOMAS		1015 CARDINAL DRIVE NW	WILSON, NC 27896					
DE SANTI	JOHN A.		108 VALHALLA DRIVE	NEW CASTLE, PA 16105	724-658-5420				
EMBRY	SUSAN C.		2224 EAST 34TH STREET	TACOMA, WA 98404					
GROSS	DAVE		2493 EAGLERIDGE LANE WEST	CORDOVA, TN 38016-5011	901-382-1705	901-333-8804		609-410-2498	
HARM	KEVIN		3921 14TH STREET	COLUMBUS, NE 68601-4614	402-562-7500	402-562-7500			
JERAL	GARY		170 VISTA DRIVE	ELKTON, MD 21921-3516	609-234-1730				
JUSTMANN	THOMAS J.		N 2791 COUNTY ROAD	WAUPACA, WI 54981-9181					
KELLY	TY		P.O. BOX 882	RANCHO CORDOVA CA 95741-0882	916-365-5815				
KOLLER	JOHN R.		13341 W. DESERT GLEN DRIVE	SUN CITY WEST, AZ 85375	623-546-8586			505-259-6209	
OLMSTED	MICHAEL N.		5450 ROYAL AVENUE	SLINGER, WI 53086	262-644-6369			262-506-8247	
PALKO	BOB		401 PALMETTO DRIVE	GEORGETOWN, TX 78633-5285	512-240-5052				
PAPIRANSKI	RON		2951 SILVER SPRINGS BLVD APT 404	COQUITLAM, BC V3E 3S4					
SCHULSINGER	ROBERT		34 LINDER ROAD	HOHOKUS, NJ 07423	201-857-5002				
SMITH	G. DUANE								
VINLOVE	DON		2965 TIMBERLINE	EUGENE, OR 97405					
WAYNE	MARK		420 SMITH FLAT ROAD	ANGELS CAMP, CA 95222					
WILKING	JAMES H.		1622 EAST 6480 SOUTH	MURRAY, UT 84121					
YORK	RON		P.O. BOX 178	BLUEMONT, VA 20135-0178					

# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

PLEASE SEND membership renewal or contact information to:  
Merijeau Kelley / 959 Matadero Avenue / Palo Alto, CA 94306 / [mkelley959@aol.com](mailto:mkelley959@aol.com)

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## NMRA Tournament in West Allis, Wisconsin July, 2008

Mark your calendars and reserve your rooms now for the July 2008 NMRA tournament in West Allis (Milwaukee area), Wisconsin at the Wisconsin Athletic Club and another nearby club. Many of you remember the fabulous job they did several years ago, and they have invited us back.

The tournament hotel will be the same hotel as before, but it is now called the Brookfield Suites. The rate is still not final, but it will be under \$100 per night.

**Date of registration:**  
Tuesday, July 14, 2008 -  
5pm to 8pm at the club.

**Dates of the tournament:** July 15-18  
(Wednesday through Saturday)

**Club address and phone number:**  
1939 South 108th Street., West Allis, WI  
53227 414-321-2500

## NMRA Players Honored in Kansas City



At the July 2007 Kansas City tournament, former marathoner, locomotive fireman and NMRA Board member **Ken Moore** (left) of California was inducted into the Hall of Fame as the 33rd inductee. Ken had eight guests witness this historic moment, including his lovely wife Claudia.

Minnesotan **Amos Rosenbloom** received the Sportsman Award from his doubles partner Cap Hiles. Amos' sportsmanship, commitment and dedication to the NMRA are legendary.

**Mike Martin** from Colorado celebrated his 80th birthday on Friday while at the tournament. His four children had not seen him play before Thursday of that week.



So they got to see him play, attended the banquet and had a surprise cake rolled into the ballroom while the 220 banquet attendees sang "Happy Birthday".

*Congratulations to these gentlemen,  
and all of the winners of the July NMRA tournament!*

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## Official NMRA Board of Directors Election Ballot

Vote for a maximum of three (3) candidates

Review the candidates' qualifications in this newsletter, or online at [www.nmra.info](http://www.nmra.info).

- Bruce Adams, Oklahoma
- Gary Cowger, Iowa
- TJ Ferro, Illinois
- Mike Hiles, Minnesota
- Mike Lippitt, California
- Gary Mazaroff, New Mexico



### To make your vote count:

1. Cut this ballot out of the newsletter
2. Keep the address label on the back of it
3. Put it in an envelope by February 1, 2008
4. Send it to Dave Warner, 15681 Caldosa Creek Circle, Fort Myers, Florida 33908



# Masters TOURNAMENT Trail 2008

<b>Women's SR/Mstrs Trny</b>	Jan 25-28	Kansas City, KS	RR 35+, Women Only	<a href="http://www.nmra.info">www.nmra.info</a>
<b>USAR National Doubles</b>	Feb 13-17	Phoenix, AZ	Draw/AllAges	<a href="http://www.usra.org">www.usra.org</a>
<b>NMRA National Champ.</b>	Mar 5-8	Orem/Provo, UT	RR 45+	<a href="http://www.nmra.info">www.nmra.info</a>
<b>USAR Regionals</b>	Apr 11-13, 23-27	Various*	Draw, All Ages	<a href="http://www.usra.org">www.usra.org</a>
<b>USAR National Singles</b>	May 21-26	Houston, TX	Draw, All Ages	<a href="http://www.usra.org">www.usra.org</a>
<b>World Senior Doubles</b>	Jun 11-14	San Luis Potosi, MX	RR 35+, Dbls Only	<a href="http://www.internationalracquetball.com">www.internationalracquetball.com</a>
<b>NMRA International Championships</b>	Jul 15-18	West Allis, WI	RR 45+	<a href="http://www.nmra.info">www.nmra.info</a>
<b>IRF World Champ.</b>	Aug 26-30	Albuquerque, NM	RR 35+	<a href="http://www.nmracquetball.com">www.nmracquetball.com</a>
<b>Huntsman World Senior Games</b>	Oct 17-20	St. George, UT	RR 50+	<a href="http://www.hwsg.com">www.hwsg.com</a>
<b>US Open</b>	Oct 22-26	Memphis, TN	Draw, All Ages	<a href="http://www.usra.org">www.usra.org</a>

\*Chicago, IL recommended



## Board of Directors

**Tom Curran, President**  
Wilson, NC Tom1947@aol.com

**Paul Banales, Vice President**  
Tonopah, AZ banstoll@peoplepc.com

**Bruce Adams, Secretary**  
Houston, TX badams@citgo.com

**Steve Cohen, Treasurer**  
Orange, CA Scohen5832@yahoo.com

### BOARD MEMBERS

**Mike Hiles, Bayport MN** Splat\_57@hotmail.com

**Dave Warner, Fort Myers, FL** Daw4labs@aol.com

**Ron Adams, Camarillo CA** ronandjoan@verizon.net

**Elliott Papermaster, Mequon WI** rmejp@excite.com

**Cindy Tilbury, Denver CO** Cindy.tilbury@att.net



NMRA RaquetRacket Newsletter  
*Cindy Tilbury, Editor*  
3131 East Alameda, #205  
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