



RACQUET RACKET

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Official Newsletter of the National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA) | **SUMMER 2013**



Earl Acuff Passes Away at Age 94 in Blacksburg, VA

By Tom Curran

A great competitor and *USAR* and *NMRA Hall of Fame* inductee, **Earl Acuff** was laid to rest in February, alongside his wife and fellow *Hall of Famer*, **Mary Low Acuff**. The *NMRA* wishes their family well. We will miss his shining light on and off the court. Earl and Mary Low were long-time residents of the *Asheville, North Carolina*, area, and came to many *NMRA* tournaments over the years. Earl served in the *US Army* during World War II and then returned in 1952 for a 33-year career.



Read the full story of Earl's life at the *NMRA* website. If you wish to make a memorial donation of any kind, Earl's wishes were to have you contribute to the *Wounded Warrior Project*. ○

Lucky 'Free Room Night' Winners

The *NMRA* tries to negotiate complimentary room nights into our host hotel contracts each time, and those room nights are randomly awarded to our participants who stay at the host hotel. **Congratulations to the winners!**

Pleasanton December 2012

- Charles Woodstock** WA
- Dave Kovanda** OH
- John Eliot** NC

Tucson March 2013

- Michael Chiapetta** IN
- John Eliot** NC (Hey!)
- Larry Gazelka** AZ
- Nancy Kronenfeld** IL
- David Maitland** CT
- Sandy Rios** TX
- Bob Wright** IN

PRESIDENT'S CORNER —

Another great tournament was held in *Tucson, Arizona*. Directed by **Cindy Tilbury**, scheduled by **Jim Elliot**, and aided by all of the *NMRA* board members and some local volunteers, our tourney ran very smoothly and on time the entire four days. Add that to all the great competition, food, and giveaways, it makes for one of the best tournaments in the country.

One aspect of this tournament that stands out to me was the incredible sportsmanship. As you know, the *NMRA* is self-refereed. If there is a question about a shot or call, you **PLAY IT OVER**....but in almost every tournament, there is a controversy. Being on the rules committee, I hear the situation either at the time, to make a decision, or later as it is brought to me. This tournament stands out to me in that I know of no calls that weren't decided on the court, and no complaints of poor sportsmanship. With the level of competition that was present at this tournament this is an incredible feat.

We at the *NMRA* pride ourselves in fair (but tough) play, not "win at all costs." This mentality showed in *Tucson*. We had many first-time players that came up to me and admitted they were amazed at how well the matches ran with self ref. Knowing some of the players that are pretty intense from other tournaments, I'm amazed at how well it works for the *NMRA*.

Those of you that know me know that I don't just show up, play, help a little, then leave...I love watching matches. As I watched, I saw numerous players call infractions on themselves, or at least ask their opponent if there was a hinder. I also saw more uncontested "penalty hinders" called with no questions asked. In other words, everyone was having fun but, at the same, time playing hard and giving it their all. I think this is what we are striving for at all of the *NMRA* tournaments.

I speak for the entire *NMRA* board in thanking all of the players in *Tucson* for hard, competitive play, but at the same time having fun and playing fairly. This makes for a better tournament atmosphere, and FAR fewer headaches for me....THANKS AGAIN, and see you in *Wisconsin*. ○

Howard Walker, NMRA President

New USAR Rules

By *Cindy Tilbury / Steve Cohen*

The *USAR Board of Directors* approved four rule changes that will go into effect September 1, 2013.

- In short, during play (as opposed to warming up on the court), players must wear athletic shoes (not just socks and no bare feet).
- Also during play, players cannot wear audio gear except to hear better.
- Unintentional carries are okay.
- All *USAR* division play, including "Open" divisions, will be two-serve games, except for *US Team* Qualifying events at *National Singles* and *National Doubles*. The one-serve rule for *US Team* Qualifying divisions makes that competition more compatible with international play, as the winners represent the United States in *IRF* events. ○



NMRA 2013 International Championships

July 17-20, 2013 www.nationalmastersracquetball.org

WEST ALLIS TOURNAMENT INFORMATION SHEET

Tournament Director and Staff

Steve Cohen 714.767.4622 scohen@nationalmastersracquetball.org
Bruce Adams 918.576.9753 Badams@nationalmastersracquetball.org

Tournament Registration

Tuesday, July 16, 2013, 5pm to 7pm at West Allis Club.

Tournament Play Dates

Wednesday, July 17, 2013 -- Saturday, July 20, 2013.

Tournament Banquet

Friday, July 19, 2013 -- Host Hotel -- Cocktails at 6pm.

Host Hotel

 **Brookfield Suites Hotel and Convention Center**
1200 S Moorland Rd • PO Box 1463 •
Brookfield, WI 53008-1463

Reservations Direct Line: 262-782-2900 or 800-444-6404 (NMRA Room Block)

Rate: \$99.00 plus tax per night (up to 3 in a room; \$20 extra for fourth, fifth, etc.) All Suite Room (Bedroom and Living Room) with refrigerator and microwave. Fully Cooked Breakfast and Evening Hotel Hospitality included in room rate. *Shuttle service provided to and from the hotel and clubs for Host Hotel Guests Only.*

Website: www.brookfieldsuites.com Use Group Reservation Code: **NMRA**

The Brookfield Suites Hotel will provide transportation to and from the General Mitchell Airport [Milwaukee] with 48 hour notice of arrival, at 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 4:00 pm, and 6:00 pm. Shuttle will pick-up and/or drop-off daily at designated times to the various clubs, at 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

Host Clubs



Wisconsin Athletic Club - West Allis (Main Club)
1939 S. 108th St.
West Allis, WI 53227

Wisconsin Athletic Club - Waukesha (2nd Club)
1530 E Moreland Blvd
Waukesha, WI 53186

Tournament Administration/Information

Register online at: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=10460>
Online registration ends Saturday, 06/22/2013 at 10:00 PM. (Central Time).
Call Steve at 714-767-4622 if you need assistance.

- Mail entries must be postmarked no later than Thursday 06/22/2013.
- Make check and completed entry form payable to: NMRA c/o Steve Cohen, 5832 E. Bluebonnet Court, Orange, CA 92869.
- Phone entries will be accepted through Saturday 06/22/2013 no later than 10:00 PM. (Central Time) and must be paid by credit card by calling Steve at 714-767-4622.
- Entries will not be accepted without payment for USA Racquetball membership.
- Banquet will be at the Host Hotel on Friday, July 19, 2013. (6:00 Cash Bar, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, Dinner and Entertainment).
- Current NMRA membership is required for all EXCEPT Players who are playing in their FIRST NMRA event.
- This is a USA Racquetball sanctioned event and current USA Racquetball membership is required to participate.

continued ➤

Tournament Admin/Information continued...

- Entries will not be accepted without payment for USA Racquetball membership.
- Play begins every day at 8 am. Every bracket plays every day (Wednesday – Saturday).
- We will schedule Saturday last matches to start not later than 5:00 pm.

Area Airports

International airports near West Allis, WI --

11 miles: General Mitchell International Airport - Milwaukee, WI ([MKE](#) / KMKE)

80 miles: Chicago O'Hare International Airport - Chicago, IL ([ORD](#) / KORD)

105 miles: Chicago Midway International Airport - Chicago, IL ([MDW](#) / KMDW)

Directions From Milwaukee Airport to Hotel

- Driving directions to 1200 S Moorland RD, Brookfield, WI 53005-6943
Distance: 17.47 miles - Time: 24 mins.

1. Take I-94/I-894 W/Milwaukee exit onto North-South FWY (I-94 W).
2. Take exit #316/I-43 S/I-894-BYP/Madison/Fond Du Lac toward I-43 S/I-894-BYP/Madison.
3. Take ramp.
4. Continue on Airport FWY (I-43 S, I-894 W).
5. Keep right onto Zoo FWY (I-894 W) toward I-894 N/US-45 N.
6. Take exit #1B/I-94 W/Madison to the left onto I-94 W.
7. Take exit #301A/Moorland RD south onto S Moorland RD (CR-O S).
8. Make a U-turn at Pinehurst DR onto S Moorland RD (CR-O N).
9. Your destination on S. Moorland RD (CR-O N) is on the right.

[HTTP://MAPS.YAHOO.COM/#Q1=GENERAL+MITCHELL+INTERNATIONAL+AIRPORT%2C+MILWAUKEE%2C+WI+53207&Q2=1200+S+MOORLAND+RD%2C+BROOKFIELD%2C+WI+53005-6943&LAT=36.149738&LON=-95.993332&ZOOM=12&MVT=M&TRF=0](http://maps.yahoo.com/#Q1=GENERAL+MITCHELL+INTERNATIONAL+AIRPORT%2C+MILWAUKEE%2C+WI+53207&Q2=1200+S+MOORLAND+RD%2C+BROOKFIELD%2C+WI+53005-6943&LAT=36.149738&LON=-95.993332&ZOOM=12&MVT=M&TRF=0)

Directions From Hotel to West Allis Club

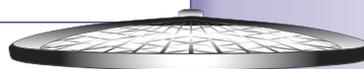
Driving directions to 1939 S 108th ST, West Allis, WI 53227-1101

DISTANCE: 4.73 miles - Time: 7 mins.

1. Head toward Hackberry LN on S Moorland RD (CR-O N). 0.2 MI/
2. Take ramp onto I-94 E. 2.8 MI/
3. Take exit #304A-B/WI-100 onto S. 108th ST (WI-100 S). 1.6 MI/
4. Your destination on S 08th ST (WI-100 S) is on the right.

[HTTP://MAPS.YAHOO.COM/#Q1=1200+S+MOORLAND+RD%2C+BROOKFIELD%2C+WI+53005-6943&Q2=1939+S+108TH+ST%2C+WEST+ALLIS%2C+WI+53227-1101&LAT=42.962608&LON=-87.941391&ZOOM=14&MVT=M&TRF=0](http://maps.yahoo.com/#Q1=1200+S+MOORLAND+RD%2C+BROOKFIELD%2C+WI+53005-6943&Q2=1939+S+108TH+ST%2C+WEST+ALLIS%2C+WI+53227-1101&LAT=42.962608&LON=-87.941391&ZOOM=14&MVT=M&TRF=0)

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2013 NMRA INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



Registration Tuesday Night, July 16th at Wisconsin Athletic Club - Play July 17-20, 2013

MAIL-IN ENTRY MUST BE POSTMARKED NLT June 22, 2013

ONLINE ENTRIES MUST BE COMPLETED BY June 23, 2013

Online entries at <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=10460>

Tournament Directors: Bruce Adams (918) 576-9753 & Steve Cohen (714) 767-4622

Host Hotel: **Brookfield Suites Hotel and Conference Center – (262) 782-2900 Group Code NMRA**

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: CELL _____

HOME _____

DAY _____

Email: _____

DOB: m____/d____/yr____ Age on 6/17/13 _____

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, 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	\$140	\$
Second Event	\$40	\$
Spouse/Guest(s)* (Each)	\$65	\$
NMRA Membership ** (3 Years)	\$45	\$
USAR Membership (1 Year)	\$50	\$
USAR Limited Event Membership	\$10	\$
Additional Tournament Shirt	\$30	\$
NMRA Junior Program increments	\$10	\$
NMRA Future Fund - increments of	\$25	\$
Total Due		\$

NO REFUND OF ANY FEES AFTER June 22, 2013

* Guest Includes daily hospitality and Friday night's banquet –

Spouse/Guest(s) Name: _____

** _____ Check here if it is your first NMRA tournament
First time participants do not have to join the NMRA, but we hope you do.

Saturday Box Lunch preference _____
(Turkey, Roast Beef, Tuna or Veggie)

PAYMENT: Send entry form and payment in U.S. dollars, made payable to **NMRA**. Mail to:
Steve Cohen
5832 E. Bluebonnet Court
Orange, CA 92869

CHECK HERE IF YOU ARE WILLING TO HELP AND PLAY DBLS OR MIXED IF SOMEONE NEEDS A PARTNER DBLS _____ MIXED _____

Players may enter a maximum of two (2) events.

<- SINGLES -> <----- DOUBLES ----->

	MEN	WOMEN	MEN	WOMEN	MIXED
45+					
50+					
55+					
60+					
65+					
70+					
75+					
80+					
85+					
90+					

Doubles Partner(s): Print partner(s) names below or "NEED" if you want us to find you a partner.

Name/ Age Div: _____

Name/ Age Div: _____

SHIRT SIZE: MEN _____ OR WOMEN _____

S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ 2X _____ 3X _____

NOTE: WE WILL UPDATE YOUR SHIRT SIZE ON YOUR USAR PROFILE www.r2sports.com/membership/login.asp

Please Provide Emergency Contact Name and Phone Number:

NAME: _____

PHONE #: _____

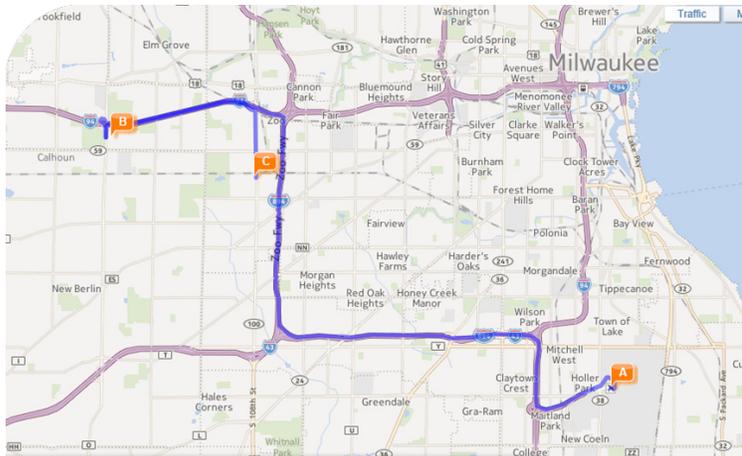
Visit us at nationalmastersracquetball.org

NMRA 2013 International Championships INFORMATION SHEET

continued from page 2...

Area Map

A is MKE Airport
B is Hotel
C is Club



Tournament Scoring / Award Rules

- *Ektelon Classic Black Ball* is the Official Ball of the NMRA.
- Every bracket will play two games to 15.
- Those 'pool play' brackets will have play off matches; two games to 15, tiebreaker to 11 if needed.
- The R2 system will automatically apply the bonus game and match points. Two extra points per game win and four extra points if you win a match. Ties split match bonus points.
- Self-refereed matches. If you can't agree then **PLAY IT OVER**. As a last resort go to the tournament desk and an observer may be assigned.
- Medals will be awarded to First – Fourth Place for each bracket. Combined brackets will be awarded medals based on individual age brackets.

Things to Do

[HTTP://WESTALLISWI.USL.MYAREAGUIDE.COM/ATTRACTIONS_RESULTS.HTML?OFFSET=1](http://westalliswi.usl.myareaguide.com/attractions_results.html?offset=1)

Within five miles of the hotel there is - *HARLEY Davison MUSEUM*, golf, zoos, State fair park, clown hall of fame, miller brewing company, horticultural conservatory, theaters, bingo, casinos, malls, joan of ark chapel, Haggerty museum of art, basilica of saint josaphat, milwaukee public museum, historical society, indoor waterpark, u.s. cellular arena, milwaukee river cruises, off Broadway theater.

Average Temps

Milwaukee in July: High 80° / Low 64° / Average 72° / 3.7 Inches Precipitation.



NMRA Tidbits

By Cindy Tilbury

There were TOO MANY MISPLACED RACQUETS in Tucson at the NMRA National Championships. Starting in West Allis, I will offer name labels for sale so you can stick them onto your racquet(s) and cell phones and get them back to you easily if you misplace them. I think all of the misplaced racquets were returned to their rightful owners in Tucson. *USAR National Singles* in Fullerton was a different story. There were many reports of cell phones and racquets and cameras being taken and not recovered. Please lock up your valuables during all tournaments!

NMRA Member Debbie Tisinger-Moore was inducted into the USAR Racquetball Hall of Fame as an amateur athlete at the HOF induction ceremony at *National Singles* in Fullerton in May. Congratulations, Debbie!

During a recent lesson, Debbie Tisinger-Moore accidentally coined an appropriate word. She told us that we needed to "defleat" our opponents. I believe I have been defleated a couple of times over the years myself.

As always, we are looking for more venues at which we could hold future NMRA tournaments. Basically, we need 17+ courts in one or two venues within about 10 miles of each other, located 45 minutes or less from a major airport. A full-service hotel should be fairly close, too. Our end-of-year doubles-only tournament can run on 10 courts. We run the tournament and negotiate the price with the club and hotel, as well as figure out shuttle service. It is quite the logistical effort, but it is all worth it to provide the best tournaments for your travel dollar in racquetball! Contact an NMRA board member if you know of a location we should consider. If you have a contact person's name, we would love that too.

You may have noticed that we will have the 2013 NMRA Doubles-Only tournament in Arlington, Texas, instead of the previously-announced Orem, Utah. We hope you will appreciate our efforts to bring this fun tournament to the center of the United States. We do plan to go back to Utah in the future for a doubles-only tournament—plan to stay and ski the Rockies afterward!



Lomonaco Grant Winner is 65+ George Goudie from Michigan

By Cindy Tilbury

This year's *John Lomonaco Grant* was awarded to **George Goudie** from *Muskegon, Michigan*. The grant allowed George to attend the *USAR National Singles* tournament in *Fullerton, California*, at no expense. The grant is awarded based on a written essay and some non-tangible factors that the committee painstakingly considers from the applicants' racquetball careers.



I spoke with George Goudie at *National Singles* and he was having the time of his life. His wife, Chris, accompanied him and she was also enjoying the California sunshine and watching the pros and amateurs. George entered the 65Bs and 60Bs. The 65Bs had a round-robin format, and George won Second Place to **Fred Baida** of Oregon.

Congratulations to George!

If you or a friend wish to apply for the *John Lomonaco Grant* for next year, watch the *USAR* website for details and deadlines!



Winings and Wagner Got Married!

By Cindy Tilbury

NMRA members **John Winings** and **Marni Wagner** were married on July 15, 2012 in *Eugene, Oregon*, by the *Willamette River*. They met in 2004 at *National Doubles in Tempe, Arizona* and spoke for five minutes. Five years later, John played a racquetball tournament at Marni's club in Eugene on a whim, invited by a buddy of his in *Lodi, California*. Marni was at the tournament desk and they remembered each other from five years earlier.

(Here is the special NMRA part...) John asked Marni to play mixed doubles with him at the 2009 NMRA tournament in Canoga Park. Since she didn't know John very well, for safety sake she surrounded herself with several Oregon players (**Kent Hollingworth, Dave and Vicki Reyes, and Linda Ellis**). John and Marni almost missed their first match because they started talking near Court 1 and were amazed at how much they had in common (racquetball, outdoors, camping, hiking, backpacking, staying in their not-so-great marriages for their children, both previously married for 19 years, career military fathers). They were both sitting there in their street clothes when **Debbie Tisinger** told them they were on a court. John's head was spinning while he suited up in the men's locker room. Could he find anyone more perfect for him?



About two months later, he drove to Eugene (an eight-hour drive) and laughed as he pulled into Marni's driveway. Just like him, she drove a forest green truck...wow! About two months beyond that, they unknowingly bought the same 'love' card to give each other. John is sure he has truly met his soul mate. They were living apart for years, as Marni and her family owned two racquetball clubs in Oregon. Marni has sold her interest and they now live together in *Valley Springs, California*. They come to every *National Masters* tournament they can!

Of Note!

Sign up on <http://www.r2sports.com> today for *West Allis!* **July 17-20, 2013**

NMRA tournaments give racquetball players the biggest bang for their tournament dollar.



NMRA TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Doubles-Only Championships

ClubSport Pleasanton / Pleasanton, CA / Steve Cohen & Tom Curran, Tournament Directors

December 6-8, 2012

Division	Place	Names	State	Points
MD40	1	Rhett Collins / John Winings	TX CA	31.33
	2	Claude Hagopian / Armando Villa	CA	30.33
	3	Carlos Contreras / Shawn Hanshaw	CA	25.67
MD45	1	Mark Nomura / Dan Diodati	CA CA	35.50
	2	Gil Cepeda / Tom Lonardo	CA	31.00
	3	Eric Robinson / Michael Limsky	MD	20.17
	4	Mark Possom / Jeff Dunaway	CA	10.67
MD50	1	Tony Krause / Dave Azuma	OR OR	37.14
	2	Doug Kite / Richard Eisemann	TX	32.71
	3	Ken Stone / Gene Pare	CA	31.71
	4	Stan Hampton / Danny Newman	CA	28.00
	5	Gary West / Ed Roffey	CO	27.86
	6	Eric Robinson / Michael Limsky	MD	20.29
	7	Bruce Adams / Ricardo Balderas	CA	19.57
	8	Bradley Yoder / John Haynes	UT	12.71
MD55	1	Gil Cepeda / Jim Durham	CA CA	Playoff
	2	Dave Azuma / Tony Krause	OR	Playoff
	3	Ruben Gonzalez / Hatch Saakian	SC	Playoff
	4	Stephen Wattz / Scott Steffen	CA	Playoff
	5	Rick Betts / Tom Travers	FL	Playoff
	6	Doug Kite / Howard Walker	TX	Playoff
	7	Joe Lee / Steve Cohen	CA	Playoff
	8	Charles Hauser / Dennis Bales	CA	Playoff
MD60	1	Ruben Gonzalez / Hatch Saakian	SC CA	38.00
	2	Dave Kovanda / Howard Walker	OH	31.40
	3	Joe Lee / Steve Cohen	CA	31.20
	4	Bert Castelanelli / Cliff McBride	CA	25.60

Division	Place	Names	State	Points
	5	Chuck Woodstock / Warren Bailey	WA AK	16.40
	6	Tom Curran / Jim Elliott	NC AZ	11.60
	MD65	1	Barry Hendricks / Tom Lundy	AZ AZ
	2	Chuck Woodstock / Warren Bailey	WA AK	35.50
	3	Mike Pawka / Tom McKie	CA TX	33.88
	4	Jerry Joyce / Roland Chan	CA	30.25
	5	Ken Herman / Fred Roe	CA	27.13
	6	Timothy Scott / Jerry Miller	CA	26.25
	7	Mitch Milewski / Robert Cox	NH OR	22.63
	8	Len Sonnenberg / John Eliot	CA NC	19.38
	MD70	1	Price Thomas / Paul Nigro	CA CA
2		John Eliot / Len Sonnenberg	NC CA	25.00
MD75	1	Francis Florey / Ron Adams	WI CA	22.50
	2	Jim Harper / Bill Baker	IL CA	18.83

NMRA Pleasanton Photos:

p6 — (Row 1) TDs Elliott, Curran & Cohen; Adams, Molina XD70 & Florey MD75; Stone & Pare MD50; (Row 2) Wagner & Morin WD40; McBride & Castelanelli MD60; Eisemann, Wiseman & Kite MD; (Row 3) Mitchell & Dexter WD55; Roland Chan; Nigro, Eliot, Sonnenberg & Thomas MD70.

p7 — (Row 1) Adams & Mouser XD50; Gonzalez & Saakian MD55; Tilbury & Betts XD50; (Row 2) Collins & Winings MD40; Contreras & Dexter XD40; Krause & Azuma MD50/55; (Row 3) Steffen & Wattz MD55; Lundy & Hendricks MD65; Carlson & Francis WD50; (Row 4) Lew & Curran XD60; Scott & Francis XD60; Bills & Balderas XD50; Funes WD65; (Row 5) Nomura & Diodati MD45; Utter & Curran; Lee & Cohen MD60; (Row 6) Willyard & Kovanda XD45; Hagopian & Villa MD40; Cepeda & Durham MD55; (Row 7) Werner, Carlson, Bills & Tilbury WD; Morin & Wong XD40; Rios & Collins XD40.





Division	Place	Names	State	Points
WD40	1	Marni Wagner / Laura Morin	OR	
			CA	34.78
WD45	1	Patty Willyard / Cindy Tilbury	TX	
			CA	34.56
WD50	1	Carla Francis / Laura Carlson	CA	
			NV	31.11
	2	Darlene Drapkin / Julia Mouser	CA	21.22
	3	Kelly Werner / Mary Bills	NV	
			CA	17.89
WD55	1	Elaine Dexter / Jill Mitchell	CA	
			CA	36.33
WD60	1	Shirley Parsons / Pat Lew	CO	
			WA	22.89
WD65	1	Merijeane Kelley / Nidia Funes	CA	
			CA	17.89
XD40	1	Elaine Dexter / Carlos Contreras	CA	
			CA	34.40
	2	Sandy Rios / Rhett Collins	TX	27.60
			TX	27.60
	3	Laura Morin / Antony Wong	CA	27.40
			CA	27.40
XD45	1	Patty Willyard / Dave Kovanda	TX	
			OH	30.80
	2	Marni Wagner / John Winings	OR	
			CA	28.20
	3	Kelly Werner / Armando Villa	NV	
			CA	18.60
XD50	1	Cindy Tilbury / Rick Betts	CA	
			CA	36.71
	2	Vicky Birkmann / Richard Eisemann	CA	
			TX	34.86
	3	Pauline Kobata / Randy Christopher	CA	
			CA	24.43
	4	Mary Bills / Ricardo Balderas	CA	
			CA	24.00
	5	Laura Carlson / Larry Hinds	NV	
			NV	23.29
	6	Julia Mouser / Bruce Adams	CA	
			OK	17.14
	7	Darlene Drapkin / Harry Vernon	CA	
			CA	14.86
XD55	1	Jill Mitchell / Scott Steffen	CA	
			CA	33.86
XD60	1	Carla Francis / Timothy Scott	CA	
			CA	37.33
	2	Shirley Parsons / Jim Elliott	CO	
			AZ	35.40
	3	Pat Lew / Tom Curran	WA	
			NC	17.40
XD70	1	Marquita Molina / Ron Adams	CA	
			CA	23.00

Dear NMRA Competitors,

The racquetball student athletes of the *University of Arizona* would like to welcome you to our recreational center and to the Tucson community and wish you the best of luck in your competition. We also would like to thank you for the role you have played in the quality of play and popularity of the sport. Time and again, our student athletes look up and are inspired by your level of play and passion for this sport.



In an effort to increase the popularity and morale of the sport, our student athletes at the *University of Arizona* have been training hard to compete at the *USA Racquetball Intercollegiate National Championship* at *Arizona State University* on March 19th through 23rd. Our goal, aside from competition, is to raise attention to and awareness of this wonderful sport and the role it has played in all of our lives. As a student-coached team with limited funding, last year we represented the *University of Arizona* for the first time ever at the racquetball *Intercollegiate National Tournament*. Our passion for the sport and the *University of Arizona* resulted in incredible finishes. **Albert Yanez** finished 4th in the 1st Seed white division, **Oscar Rico** finished 1st in the 2nd Seed red division, **Nathan Bordegaray** finished 4th in the 4th Seed blue division, and **Hunter Wilson** finished 4th in the blue division. Both Albert Yanez and Oscar Rico finished 2nd place in red division in Doubles. Also, **Elizabeth Simmons**, representing the only female for the *University of Arizona* and **Pavan Poluri** both did an excellent job and are expected to shine in this year's competition.

Unfortunately, as college students, we struggle with and are trying to find ways to overcome the adversities that come with economical disadvantages, student coaching, and lack of quality equipment. We have looked to you, the NMRA players and others representing the generation above us, for your technique and strategy in hopes of improving our play. We have used club allocations to provide resources to our students like purchasing racquetball racquets with club funding. These racquets are for general use of our club players who, unfortunately, cannot afford to purchase racquets but have the passion and talent to play at a high level.

For these reasons, we look to you and ask for your assistance in making the *University of Arizona* racquetball program one of the most recognized and wonderful programs in the nation. We appreciate all that you have done for the sport, and the potential you may have to increase the morale of the younger generation players. We ask that you visit our donations desk during the *NMRA* tournament and speak with one of our team representatives to learn more about the role you can play, financially, or as a mentor in improving the quality of play of our players.

Again, welcome to the *University of Arizona* and the Tucson community and we hope to get to meet all of you at the tournament. If you have any questions, feel free to email me, **Syna Daudfar**, *President of UA Racquetball*, or **Brent Johnson**, *Vice President of UA Racquetball*, or visit us at the tournament.

Until then, good luck, and...

BEAR DOWN!

Syna Daudfar
sdaudfar@email.arizona.edu
President of Arizona Racquetball
University of Arizona
Class of 2013

Brent Johnson
brentjohnson@email.arizona.edu
Vice President of Arizona Racquetball
University of Arizona
Class of 2015

MORE NMRA Tidbits

At our March 2013 Tucson tournament, we found out that board member Melanie Newsome is the best Medals Cop ever!

She diligently made sure everyone got their first-place through fourth-place medals and even ended up mailing them at her own expense to a few people who had gotten the wrong medal. If you win an *NMRA* medal, be sure to pick it up on the last day of the tournament. If they are not picked up, they would cost a fortune to mail, so our policy is to hold them for you until the next time we see you, or send them home with a friend. We also like to get pictures of our winners wearing their medals, so make sure you stop by the medal area to get your well-earned award!

Shuttles are just trouble. They are necessary and vital to our tournaments, but it always seems that the complaints are about shuttles. In Tucson, that was the main "correction" we could have made—more runs on a more defined schedule. They couldn't have been friendlier, but there was room for improvement. Howard Walker reports that he is making sure his shuttle service for *Arlington 2013 Doubles-Only* in December will be flawless. Or at least better than last time.

In addition to our fantastic organization sponsors of Ektelon and RacquetSkinz, we had two incredibly generous sponsors for our March 2013 Tucson NMRA tournament!

Their support enabled me to make the tournament so much better. We had a full BBQ dinner and drinks by the pool for Tuesday night check-in, so everyone was able to hang out and talk with old friends, instead of having to dash off to get dinner at a restaurant. The tournament souvenir was shorts or skirt and a shirt. The really nice thing was that their donations covered the cost of the *University of Arizona*'s eight courts, making scheduling better for everyone!
Thanks, Anonymous Donors!

A November episode of Modern Family had Matthew Broderick and Ty Burrell's characters playing racquetball. The plot was about having new male friends.

continued on page 10 ➤





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NMRA TOURNAMENT RESULTS

National Championships

Tucson, AZ / Cindy Tilbury, Tournament Director / March 6-9, 2013

Division	Place	Names	State	Points
M45	1st	John Winings	CA	38.00
Playoff	2nd	Peter Castillo	AZ	29.71
	3rd	Dave Sanderson	CA	29.57
	4th	Rick Dalessio	AZ	32.33
	5th	Alan Katz	AZ	20.57
	6th	Martin Corella	AZ	13.57
	7th	Everett Brunelle	CA	15.71
	8th	Chris Starks	AZ	22.33
M50	1st	Richard Eisemann	TX	38.00
Playoff	2nd	Steve Ivers	CA	32.83
	3rd	Bob Wright	IN	25.67
	4th	Ed Roffey	CO	31.33
	5th	Ed Shivokevich	NY	27.83
	6th	Joey Egea	AZ	22.00
	7th	Will Costanza	GA	8.67
M55	1st	Joe Hassey	NV	37.44
	2nd	Mike Lubbers	TX	35.67
	3rd	Mike Grisz	TX	33.44
	4th	Rick Betts	CA	30.33
	5th	Kevin Boerup	AZ	23.44
	6th	Chris Poucher	GA	23.22
	7th	Lorenzo Arredondo	TX	22.22
	8th	Joseph Jacob	NY	21.56
M60	1st	Howard Walker	TX	36.57
	2nd	Dave Briski	CA	34.00
	3rd	Bob Smith	OR	33.57
	4th	Karl Meisenheimer	NV	27.71
	5th	Eugene Youngman	OR	27.29
	6th	Raymond Bierner	AZ	23.57
	7th	Bruce Casella	OR	22.57
	8th	Gerald Godfrey	IN	10.86
M65	1st	Warren Bailey	AK	33.57
	2nd	Mitch Milewski	NH	32.71
	3rd	Allen Peterson	WA	31.43
	4th	Fred Roe	CA	29.29
	5th	Gordon Levy	CO	28.14
	6th	James Weathers	VA	22.57
	7th	Gary Williams	AZ	18.29
M70	1st	Kenneth Foster	TX	38.00
Playoff	2nd	Donald Sperber	FL	35.60
	3rd	Steve Covey	CA	34.80
	4th	Robert Cox	AZ	29.40
	5th	Jim Calvin	AZ	28.00
	6th	Robert Peterson	AZ	29.40
	7th	Len Sonnenberg	CA	25.60
	8th	Jerry Raddatz	MN	22.40
M75	1st	Arthur Hotchkiss	CT	46.83
	2nd	Jerry Holly	CA	45.50
	3rd	William Baker	CA	34.67
	4th	Toby Dicesare	NV	24.75
M80	1st	Aaron Vederoff	WA	44.00
	2nd	David Faux	UT	29.17
	3rd	Paul Banales	AZ	32.20
	4th	David Maitland	CT	16.50
M85	1st	Armand Matern	UT	34.20
Playoff	2nd	Mike Martin	CO	33.40



Division	Place	Names	State	Points
	3rd	Dick Kincade	CO	33.00
	4th	Hank Schone	CA	15.60
	5th	Bill Gencarella	CA	21.60
W50	1st	Debbie Tisinger	CA	38.00
Playoff	2nd	Mary Scaran	CA	33.00
	3rd	Carolyn Hollis	CA	24.40
	4th	Althea Bailey	MD	21.00
W55	1st	Sharon McNeill	MD	35.75
	2nd	Aiaga Roffey	CO	35.13
	3rd	Melanie Newsome	NC	23.75
	4th	Cindy Youngman	OR	23.50
	5th	Shelly Wepler	ND	12.63
WD45	1st	Connie Martin / Yuni Cobb	AZ WA	37.00
	2nd	Marcia Richards / Judith Flis	CO PA	28.00
WD50	1st	Debbie Tisinger / Mary Scaran	CA CA	38.00
Playoff	2nd	Gladys Leonard / Julie Flanagan	VA VA	34.40
	3rd	Lisa Bu / Susan Hendricks	AZ AZ	23.40
	4th	Vicky Reyes / Tracy Van Raden	OR OR	23.80
	5th	Althea Bailey / Sharon McNeill	MD MD	19.00
	6th	Jane Chase / Melanie Newsome	UT NC	17.60

NMRA Tucson Photos by Bruce Adams:

p10 — (Row 1) Walker & Kronenfeld XD60; Toyne & Thomas MD70; Hines & Hicks MD45; (Row 2) Bruere & Sperber MD65; Egea, Kraemer & Ivers MD50; Grisz, M55 (Row 3) Tisinger-Morre & Scaran bruise; Winings, Winings, Flanagan & Blood XD45; Scott and Leon - photo by Howard Walker.

p11 — (Row 1) Cobb stretching WD45; Cox & Guerrero MD70; (Row 2) Reyes & Chase WD50; McNeil & Bailey WD50; Hotchkiss M75 & wife; (Row 3) Flanagan & Reyes WD50; Reyes & Hollingsworth MD55; Walker MD65 (Row 4) photo of Bowtie; Sonnenberg & Florey black eye MD70; Williams models skort.





Division	Place	Names	State	Points
WD55	1st	Cindy Tilbury / Mary Keenan	CA / CO	34.40
	2nd	Sandy Rios / Vicky Birkmann	TX / CA	27.20
	3rd	Marquita Molina / Shelly Wepler	CA / ND	9.60
WD60	1st	Margaret Hoff / Nancy Kronenfeld	IL / IL	24.00
XD45	1st	Yuni Cobb / Rick Howitz	WA / WA	35.88
	Playoff 2nd	Erik Blood / Julie Flanagan	MD / VA	31.13
	3rd	Myron Hicks / Karen Key	AZ / AZ	27.38
	4th	John Winings / Marni Winings	CA / CA	24.63
	5th	Roy Hare / Judith Flis	VA / PA	17.63
XD50	1st	Scott Kraemer / Gladys Leonard	WI / VA	36.71
	Playoff 2nd	Vicky Birkmann / Richard Eisemann	CA / TX	33.86
	3rd	Carolyn Hollis / Steve Cohen	CA / CA	32.29

Division	Place	Names	State	Points	
	4th	Sandy Rios / Lars Cole	TX / VA	27.29	
	5th	Lisa Bu / Rick Dalessio	AZ / AZ	25.29	
	6th	Aiaga Roffey / Ed Roffey	CO / CO	22.29	
	7th	Kent Hollingsworth / Tracy Van Raden	OR / OR	21.71	
	8th	Hans Taala / Jane Chase	HI / UT	12.29	
	XD55	1st	Carmen Alatorre-Martin / Patrick Gibson	VA / TX	36.00
		2nd	Chris Poucher / Cindy Tilbury	GA / CA	35.14
		3rd	Bruce Adams / Marcia Richards	OK / CO	28.29
4th		David Reyes / Vicky Reyes	OR / OR	26.43	
5th		Eugene Youngman / Cindy Youngman	OR / OR	21.43	
XD60	1st	Howard Walker / Nancy Kronenfeld	TX / IL	34.14	
	XD65	1st	Marquita Molina / Bill Dunker	CA / TX	14.00

Take the QUIZ

By Fred Roe

Multiple Choice

- On a racquetball court, how many feet are there from the front wall to the first red line?
 - A. 18
 - B. 5,280
 - C. 15
 - D. Depends on who your opponent is...
- According to Wikipedia, the number of racquetball players in the United States has remained steady at
 - A. 2.6 million
 - B. 3.6 billion
 - C. 5.6 million
 - D. Not enough

True or False

- T F The service zone is 14 feet in length.
- T F A racquetball racquet can be no longer than 22 inches.
- T F This year's IRF World Seniors Doubles Tournament will be held in San Jose, Costa Rica June 12-15.
- T F According to USAR rule 2.5(c), if you warm up on the court without eye guards, the referee should give you a technical warning.
- T F Same is true if you are not wearing your wrist cord.
- T F The US Olympic Committee recognized racquetball as a developing Olympic sport in 1982.

Extra Credit

Name the oldest NMRA member.

Answers: Multiple choice answers are "C"; All True/False are True

Bruce Adams Interviews Michael Call on His Eye Injury

BAdams13@yahoo.com / MichaelCall@juno.com

After **Michael Call** (Tacoma, WA) and his partner beat me and my partner, **Joseph Jacob**, in the *Men's 55s* in *Tucson*, I was chatting with him the following day while watching another player warm up without eyeguards. I asked the player to put them on, and Michael told me about his experience getting hit in the eye WITHOUT GOGGLES. Here is his story.

Mike was in Hawaii, warming up for an outdoor event in 2007. His opponent was a 20-year-old that could really rip the ball. While warming up without goggles, Mike looked back to watch his opponent stroking a warm-up shot. The ball came off the opponent's racquet from the full outright swing, and upon hitting his right eye, the vision immediately went black! He was rushed to the emergency room of the local hospital where the doctors did not want to touch him. They referred him to a specialist and he started the treatments. Ironically, the doctor was surprised that Mike did not have a severe headache. His eyeball pressure was at 80 psi, with 15 to 20 psi being normal. The first procedure was to reduce the pressure by inserting a needle into the eyeball to remove some fluid. The first attempt did not lower the pressure after ten minutes. Mike did eventually become very, very nauseated. The doctor had to go into the eyeball a second time, but he told Mike "I will use the same hole". After the second attempt, the pressure went to a more normal level. The eye was full of blood, which is why the vision went black.

This was the first of four surgeries. Mike also had a detached retina. He had to have the lens replaced. Lastly, he had to correct macular degeneration, which is tunnel vision. The one oddity of the surgeries is that the pupil is permanently dilated. He circumvents that "minor issue" by wearing a blue contact lens that resembles a normal lens in the bad eye to cover up the dilated eye and the other (good) eye has a clear contact lens. Otherwise, without it, Mike looks possessed in one eye. But after five days of treatment in Hawaii, and not be able to fly home, he is not too concerned with his contact lens. The total recovery was over a year long. Mike says he still sometimes lose the ball in the lights, because the dilated eye is real sensitive to light.

Mike went on to tell me that the eye has some type of filtering system, with regards to the fluid in the eye. The blood went from red to pink to spots over time. He feels very fortunate to be able to see, and continue to play racquetball. When he started the recovery process, Mike thought he would become the next 'one-eyed Joe with an eye patch'.

Mike went on to state that he now gives away goggles to players that do not have them at his local court. He also carries at least two pairs, as does this author, to offer players when they want to play with him.

It is the intent of the *NMRA* and the *USAR* that everyone wears proper eyewear when playing racquetball, even when practicing by one's self. Thanks again to Michael Call for sharing this story with the *NMRA*. Pass this on to others at your club. ○



MORE NMRA Tidbits

Running tournaments is a very big job and we invite you to volunteer to help run the desk at any time. The R2Sports tournament management system is a great tool to run a tournament, and if you are interested in learning how to work the part where you are entering scores and assigning courts, we would love to have you sit at the desk with us and give us a hand. There are some little quirks about our round-robin match format divisions, but it takes us just a minute to explain them, if you have worked at a tournament desk before. If you haven't, we will show you exactly what to do and, after some practice, you will be able to step in and help us out in future tournaments. When we are short-handed, even 15 minutes of your time can be a big help!

A recently added feature of the R2Sports tournament management software is the ability to get text messages on your phone for your court assignments and for results for any player(s) you choose. You will never miss another match because you missed the tournament director's yell down the hall.

I heard so many good comments about the Tucson NMRA tournament in March 2013. I got great comments on the use of the NMRA wooden \$2 coins and the hotel and the clubs. One highlight for me was when the University of Arizona (Tucson) racquetball team members helped us help them raise enough money to send their whole team to USAR Intercollegiates. They were really grateful, but we were only the conduit—they put in the face time to meet our players and hang out with a bunch of racquetball enthusiasts who really wanted to see them excel in this sport. It was so gratifying to be able to help make that happen.

We have about 30 extra pairs of sports shorts that were the souvenir from the Tucson tournament. They are black basketball-type shorts with pockets and drawstring, and they have the Tucson tournament logo on them. If you are size XL and above, please let us know if you would like to purchase a pair or two for \$30 each. They make great workout and racquetball shorts. Your purchase will help with the profit/loss of the Tucson tournament, so thank you in advance for your purchase!



**PLAY HARD!
PLAY SAFE!**

MORE NMRA Tidbits

We have to report that our NMRA online store is not really thriving. We will probably have to do something different in the next few months. Meanwhile, though, that merchandise of mostly shirts and shorts is available for purchase at www.nationalmastersracquetball.org by using the Online Store link on the lefthand side. Our whimsical racquetball family of car window stickers is still available there too. Get yours today!



Not for Ladies Only

By Cindy Tilbury



What does the NMRA have to do with the Ladies Pro Racquetball Tour (LPRT)? Not too much, except that we are all fans of women playing this sport, and we also have a soft spot in our hearts for racquetball organizations that need a little boost.

I recently had a conversation with **Andy Kulback**, the commissioner of the LPRT, and he asked me for some ideas about how to get more of the unknown high-Open-level women playing the pro tour. There are many of them out there from all over the world—just as there are many men who are fantastic players but we have never heard of them. Well, we came up with a few ideas.

Most of us don't have the extra cash to sponsor a promising pro player outright. If you do, and just don't know how to go about it or whom to sponsor, contact the LPRT and they will introduce you to some of the current women who play the LPRT stops. Most are adults, but there are some younger ladies and junior players who need a little boost to chase that dream.

To minimize hotel/housing costs of players once they arrive to play at LPRT pro stops, players who live close to the club can let the local tournament director know they have room to host a pro player or two. The host might also shuttle them to and from the racquet club if he/she is playing in the tournament anyway. The lady players don't know that this is an option unless supporters tell the tournament director (or Andy Kulback directly).

Another idea is still in the works. We decided there should be a scholarship of some kind that can be awarded to deserving players who would not otherwise be able to play LPRT events. The details of how to apply and win this financial boost are not yet final, but I hope that if you are interested in furthering the cause of women playing high-level racquetball, you might consider checking this out. One of the first organizations to join this cause and help fund the scholarship is the *Women's Senior Masters Racquetball Association*. They had a little extra cash in their checkbook and the board agreed that this might be a worthy venture. Perhaps you might want to help get this scholarship going, as well. The LPRT would love to hear from you.



If you know of a high-level woman player who is interested in playing the LPRT stops but cannot currently make it happen financially, have her contact Andy Kulback about this future project. As this scholarship endeavor progresses, the future may be brighter for the unknown great players of our sport.

Check out this video that is kind of a highlight reel from the recent LPRT tournament in Los Angeles. **Joel Adler** is an aspiring film editor and Elite level racquetball player. If you want videos done for your event, contact him at adleryg@gmail.com http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x10Yce6Gcek&feature=player_embedded

We always need more lady friends in the NMRA, too. Make sure you invite a female player friend to play doubles with you or room with you. If they have never played in one of our events, we will do everything we can to make sure their first experience is a warm and welcoming one! ○



MORE NMRA Tidbits

In addition, from Tucson, there are a few black skorts left over for the ladies, and they are for sale too.

The sizes are not small—women's L and bigger. Contact me and I can get one to you for \$25.

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NMRA Goals and Vision...

By Tom Curran, Past President, NMRA

The history of the *NMRA* is long and distinguished and the purpose of this article is to ask that every member keep the goals and vision of the *NMRA* at the forefront of your activities with the *NMRA*.

We all want to win; we all look forward to the competition, but sometimes the concept of winning becomes too much of the focus for playing our sport. When success at an event is measured in number of medals won, rather than the sportsmanship, friendship, and memories preserved, then we have lost the original reason and purpose for the *NMRA* being established.

It was 10 close friends, whose love of the sport and desire to use that sport to stay connected, who formed the basis of the *NMRA*. They were fierce competitors for sure, but, more importantly, they were friends. They did not let their desire to compete and win overshadow their desire to keep their personal relationships connected. When they realized how much they enjoyed that connection, they wanted to see it grow. What better way to do that than to introduce this unique concept to others in the sport? From this desire and vision, the *NMRA* was born.

The first meeting in *Pennsylvania* had 10 players; the next in *Minnesota* increased participation fivefold by those original 10 inviting other friends to help them build this new organization.

One of the first rules they established, unheard of in competitive sport, was that there would be no referees. This is an amazing concept for events today in our sport. Their simplistic view was that every person who was playing the sport on a regular basis knew the rules and they knew how to keep score. So, as long as they treated each other with respect and personal accountability to abide by those two aspects of the game, what was the need for a ref? I once asked one of the charter members why this rule has been so important to the *NMRA* when other National, State, and local organizations and events used referees. He told me, for the most part, the reason for those tournaments was to win and the major reason for the *NMRA* events was to renew, refresh, and establish new friendships. "Real friendships"... he said, "were rooted in trust and respect....If you can't trust the person on the court to play by the rules and keep the right score, then you were not playing with a person you would want or need to be your friend". "Besides", he continued, "all the ref really adds to the match is someone to complain to." I think this should be part of the definition of 'Sportsmanship'.... The lack of need to have someone present whose job it is to ensure you play fair. Sportsmanship should be a natural, individual characteristic. Not one that needs to be policed.

This simple concept made perfect sense to me at the time, and over the years, it has become a major consideration for me participating in events. I have come to the point in my racquetball life that I only play those events that are 'self ref' events. I play the *NMRA*, *World Seniors*, and *Huntsman Games* whenever health and time are on my side.

Some of the other important aspects of the *NMRA* events that completely support the idea of friendships over all else, are the registration night, the hospitality, and the Banquet event every Friday night of each of the three annual events. It is these activities that add additional opportunities to enhance the overall concept of maintaining and building friendships. It is interesting to note that the *NMRA Banquet* is not held to present medals; it is held the night before the 'finals' of the event on Saturday.

Another major part of the goal and vision of the *NMRA* is the fact that all matches are round robin. Only the brackets that require a playoff division are played as a 'regulation match' (with tie breaker if necessary). Beside the desire to give as many matches as possible to players, this rule was set to ensure that you could never be 'eliminated' from an *NMRA* event before the end of the event. You sure could 'lose' but you would still be playing. No "one ➤

match and you are out" ... no consolation bracket at 11 pm on Friday night. And the reason for this format was to ensure that friends were together for the entire event... from Registration to the last matches on Saturday.

Again, my purpose in sharing this information with all of you is the hope that some of what you read here will stick and that when you come to the next *NMRA* event, you will keep these points in mind and in perspective.

Your skill and stamina will determine how many wins you get. Your sportsmanship and love of the organization will determine how many friends you make and keep. ○

NMRA Videos Available on YouTube.com

By Leon Jackson

I took some videos of the *NMRA* players and matches during our recent Tucson event in March. I thought you all might enjoy seeing them, if you have not done so already. If you are not on Facebook, you may not have known these were available. Enjoy.

Men's doubles 1 (5 min)
<http://youtu.be/KpvTAu1OdI0>

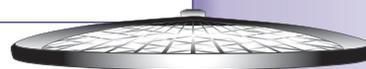
Men's Doubles 2 (5 min)
<http://youtu.be/nCofsceEuxE>

Women's doubles 1(4.5 min)
<http://youtu.be/9D8gEAn4MPs>

Snapshot compilation 1 (5 min)
<http://youtu.be/mlX1iNYaYvY>

Banquet (23 min) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_o6jfld0Ec

I have much more video footage available, but cut it down to about 5 min each because it gets tough slogging through 15 to 20 minutes of video (unless you are starring in them, of course). I had to leave the banquet as it was. I also have some footage of the *Raleigh NC State* tournament. I am open to any suggestions as to how to better use the content that I obtain. My intent next time is to take a wider variety, but shorter sequences and maybe a "best of" shots, gets, etc. This was my first editing effort for the *NMRA* and I would love to hear your thoughts. My email address is actioneod@aol.com. ○



NMRA Future Fund Update...

By Tom Curran, NMRA Future Fund Executive Director, Tom1947@aol.com

I am happy to report that the future fund is doing well and recently had just over \$800.00 deposited from the generous donations from the participants of the NMRA National Championship this past March in Tucson.

For those of you who may be new to the NMRA, the future fund was established to ensure that the NMRA would remain financially solvent for future generations of members. Use of the funds is restricted to emergencies or when supporting another racquetball organization or initiative helps ensure the continued operation of the NMRA. All requests for financial support are brought by the Board of Directors or the Fund's Executive Director only.

Annually, the interest from the fund is transferred to the NMRA general fund to be used as determined by the Board of Directors. The Principal of the fund is protected as established in the bylaws and cannot be used by the NMRA for general accounting needs.

We encourage all of our members to make donations to the fund. There are a number of ways that you can support the Future Fund:

- Make donations when registering for any of the three annual NMRA events;
- Send a Check or Money Order directly anytime;
- Identify the NMRA Future Fund in your personal estate planning;
- Direct Wire Transfer to the Future Fund account.

The fund supports and operates on the same goals and visions of the NMRA.

The NMRA Future Fund is an IRS-recognized 501(c) (3) charity. Your donation is fully tax deductible. Please contact me directly if you have any questions or to make arrangements to donate.

MORE NMRA Tidbits

As always, our Facebook page is going strong and has all of the latest updates and pictures. Like us! <https://www.facebook.com/pages/NMRA/201937559824871>



EDITOR'S CORNER

Something New in Racquetball — World Team Racquetball

By Cindy Tilbury

For the past several months, in addition to the NMRA newsletter and tournament director duties, I have been working on kickstarting the new racquetball adventure, called *World Team Racquetball*, in my area. I hope you have heard about it and have considered playing on a racquetball team in your town. It was started by **Laura Fenton** and **Dave Kovanda** as an outlet for the recreational player who wants to meet some new opponents, but serious competitors will love it too. Simply put, it is an organized way to play with your buddies as a team, against other teams at your level.

If you have friends or relatives who play on USTA tennis leagues but almost never tournaments, you will know how much they love them and put their hearts and souls into them. We think racquetball players are just as passionate, and that some of the social side of our sport of the early 1980s needs to be revived. After playing a team meet with your buddies and opponent friends, it is the perfect time to go to the club café for a sandwich and beverage. You don't have to commit for an entire weekend or even every week—four or more of your eight team members play the meet and you can skip weekends when you can't play. Each of the two yearly seasons stretches for 12 to 16 weeks so everyone will have ample opportunity to play.

I won't give all of the details of play (you can look on the www.worldteamracquetball.com site), but here are some of the highlights.

Players sign up on www.r2sports.com and indicate their captain/team. They pay only once per season. There are no extra club fees or USAR fees or membership fees. USAR limited membership is included in the league fee, and that provides liability insurance for you and the club(s) at which you play. Current USAR members get a discount.

Teams should consist of eight players who play at the same skill level so that, on any week, four will be available to play singles and/or doubles. Substitutes will be available if a team does not have enough players on a particular week. The team members are playing for their team—not their city or club or racquet sponsor. Teams can consist of men, women and juniors who all play at the same level. (*Women's Open* players might play on an A team.)

The area coordinator schedules meets at the participating clubs in the area, so that no one has to drive too far. Captains communicate with their players to determine who will be playing that week, and he/she decides who will be playing singles and doubles, and when. The goal is to fill the courts when they would otherwise be empty. Saturday and Sunday afternoon are good times to hold meets, for example.

A meet consists of two singles matches (two games to 15 with 11-point tiebreaker, if needed) and three doubles matches. The team that wins three or more matches is the meet winner. Each match is allowed 75 minutes to be played; a meet can be completed in two and a half hours, if three courts are available. The play court sheets would look like this:

Time	Court 1	Court 2	Court 3	Extra Court (If Available)
75 Min	Singles Match 1	Singles Match 2	Doubles Match 1	Warmup or Members
75 Min	Doubles Match 2	Doubles Match 3		

Doubles Match 1 players cannot play together again in that meet. They must partner with the singles match players (or other team members if more than four are representing the team that meet). With only four team members per team, they get two matches each. Most players prefer to play two matches, but they can also stay and play longer if the courts are available.

In my area in *Los Angeles*, I am the area coordinator and I have three A teams and two Elite teams so far. Altogether, we have about 50 people playing in a short-season pilot that will let us figure out if we need to make any changes to our format. We have learned a few things and I think we will have more teams next September when the first real season starts. The energy in the club when we hold the meets is electric. The guys just love cheering on their team members for that last game of the last match to decide the meet.

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NMRA Travels the World

By Sallie Benedict

My husband, Mark, and I traveled to *Beijing, China*, in September with a *Groupon*, if you can believe that! We had a really funny tour guide who told us story after story, both funny and sad, about her family and life there. We were on and off a bus every day and I couldn't be bothered with a purse. The little *NMRA* slingbag was so perfect because it was lightweight but carried everything I needed to be out all day.

After we got to know several of our fellow travelers better, it was fun to talk about racquetball and the *NMRA* because they definitely noticed my bag.

If you travel with your *NMRA*-logoed gear, take a picture and the *NMRA* board will post it in the newsletter and on *Facebook*. **Happy traveling!** ○



NMRA Sallie Benedict Climbing Great Wall of China

When Good Courts Go Bad

The following letter was written to a club manager in Taiwan by Gary Mazaroff. If you find yourself in the position of having to defend court conversions, perhaps you can use this as a template.

Dear Mr. Manager,

Over the past twenty years I have submitted many articles similar to this one. The theme is to dissuade the ownership/management of a venue from transitioning a racquetball court to another use. Three questions come to mind:

1. Has the hierarchy of the facility already made the decision? Therefore, any effort on our part is futile.
2. Is the transition supported by a logical business plan?
3. Who has contributed to the pending decision?

A little history—Racquetball (handball & squash as well) are disciplines that add to the culture and well-being of a full service athletic complex (private club, recreation center, wellness center, interscholastic athletic facility, Y's, religious affiliated complexes). Changing demographics and evolution of the court sport industry have made it difficult for these sports to stand on their own financially. Even in markets which are showing growth; especially in Latin American countries, a full cadre of wellness, athletic, and fitness options are necessary for the private sector to survive and thrive. IHRSA—International Health & Racquet Sports Association, has over ten thousand member clubs around the world. A significant percentage of these clubs have indoor court sports. Data from IHRSA justify the inclusion of these courts as a viable means for a successful business venture.

Regardless of the activity, PROMOTION is critical for success. When one reviews the many options under one roof within the fitness industry, the following components may be available: Indoor court sports (racquetball, handball, squash, paddleball, tennis, badminton, Australian Rules Racquetball), aerobics, aquatics, basketball/volleyball, cardio/fitness, cycling, martial arts, weight training, yoga/pilates, and more. Most venues are niche oriented and all of the activities listed above are typically not available at one location. Department heads need the skill set to promote their own activities and network with other departments to maximize use, keep membership happy, and generate revenue from dues and from other profit centers. [more](#) ▶

▶ **Why do members continue to pay dues?** Each location offers a personality which enhances one's lifestyle. If and when this lifestyle is negatively affected, one may consider other options; egs. terminating their membership, joining another club, or seeking replacement recreation.. A yoga program is only as strong as the facilitators who lead the classes. Most underdeveloped clubs with regard to indoor court sports hope that the courts will fill up without promotional strategies and without instructors/facilitators to spark energy, build programs, or generate income streams. The courts become cold and forgotten; lacking for safety and ambience. These are the courts which have floors not resurfaced, lights dim, non-replaceable hardware, and obsolete signage posted on the court doors. These are the courts that are candidates for TRANSITION.

Infrastructure (exercise rooms, swimming pools, gymnasias, racquetball courts, restaurants, and pro shops) all can add to the equation for financial success. Once a restaurant or pro shop becomes stale or obsolete, changing the space to something more meaningful may make sense. Pro shops in clubs are now typically LOSS LEADERS and serve mainly as a convenience for membership. In the USA, the same may be said for snack bars, cafes, and restaurants in venues.

When one hears the statement, 'Racquetball is dead', one must seek out the source. Court manufacturers like *Sports Unlimited* and *The Court Company* are still in business after 40+ years and continue to construct systems around the world. They will disagree with the statement. FEBORA (*Bolivian Racquetball Federation*) will also disagree as they are currently overseeing the construction of about 50 new courts to add to the 700+ courts which exist today. Manufacturers of racquets and accessory items will disagree as the most recent figures from the *Sporting Goods Manufacturers* indicate a double digit growth in sales. Over the past couple of decades a host of clubs experiencing a fragile bottom line have opted to transition existing courts. Most of these decisions turned the 40 x 20 x 20 foot court into an undesirable replacement; a storage room, a large trash container, or an ill-advised child care. A couple of exceptions should be noted; one court transitioned well into a multiple use fitness studio, [more](#) ▶



► and another bank of courts transitioned into studio apartments. When the infrastructure is in place, why mess with it, except to enhance its HIGHEST & BEST USE!

Before commencing on a questionable venture to compromise the infrastructure, seek out documented information and opinions from a wide range of individuals within the industry and outside the industry. Notate the advantages and disadvantages of making such a move. Include venue staff and membership in the dialogue. Most transitions have been poorly designed and poorly fabricated, and have resulted in a disenfranchised membership and unwarranted expenses. A legacy for any organization, business, or discipline is based on the BOTTOM UP, not the TOP DOWN. This means that youth is served, and youth is available to join the previous generations. Occasionally a legacy has restrictions. In Japanese clubs, access for those under the age of 16 years is rare. Contrary to this stance is in Korea, where adolescents are encouraged to participate and where full-time professionals are teaching, coaching, and promoting on the courts.

Todd, in closing, the *American Club (ACC)* in Taipei is blessed with a unique demographic, a captive audience which includes a strong youth base. Some in your tennis and squash programs can and will cross over to racquetball as a secondary activity, a new first love, or as a diversion. They need the opportunity and the encouragement. They need the 'only' racquetball court accessible in Taipei available to them. In a perfect world, we would be encouraged to transition one or both of your squash courts to movable back glass; therefore, having the best of both worlds-RACQUETBALL & SQUASH. Look internally for your solution, it is there. It will not require an infusion of dollars; just a few talented, trained individuals with some common sense and passion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Mazaroff

*Education & Technical Director
International Racquetball Federation*

PS I was part of the racquetball portion of the *2009 World Games in Kaohsiung, Taiwan*. I returned in February of 2012 to conduct a series of classes both in Kaohsiung and Taipei. We had an audience of 30 youth participate in Kaohsiung. In Taipei at the *American Club*, I had the opportunity to play, teach, and interact with membership and management. ○

General Doubles Strategy (Part 1)

By Leon Jackson

There is a national-level caliber of competition at *NMRA* tournaments, and as a new or returning *NMRA* doubles participant, a good doubles strategy is vital to tournament success and greater enjoyment of the game. Doubles in racquetball is a very different game than singles, and can be either high-speed anarchy with four people haphazardly running around the inside of the court, or an orchestrated dance where teams rotate in a choreographed ballet. Chaos or dance is dependent on your teams' strategy, ability, and execution. Although it can be less physically demanding, doubles requires more thinking and strategy to score against two opponents. Don't have a strategy? Then get one, because doubles IS NOT four-man singles, and players who don't have a strategy often have a difficult time adjusting and thriving in doubles.

The best doubles teams play with some strategy. Each is different, but is suited to the team, their individual style of play, and to their opponents' style of play. Here are a few general rules to start with:

- 1. POSITIONING:** Select one, any one, and stick to it. With the proper strategy, two mediocre players can beat more skilled players who play like individuals. Three basic strategies are (1) side-to-side, (2) front-to-back I-formation, or (3) staggered side-to-side. None of the styles is right or wrong, as during the course of a game you may very well find yourself and your partner rotating through each position format, dependent on the opponents' shot selection/execution. Regardless of which positioning style you select, each has some strengths and weaknesses, and you should choose the style that best suits your team's strengths. Court positioning requires a great deal of non-verbal communication and lots of court sense. Four quick tips on court positioning:
 - a. Stay off the wall (!) and move near center court.
 - b. After your partner serves, get out of the service box.
 - c. If your partner is shooting the ball, don't stand in front of your opponent (blocking the opponent's sight or access to the ball).
 - d. Get in front of your opponent when on defense; you need to be able to see the ball!

Playing experience with your partner is the best teacher. In Part 2 of this series I will go into greater detail on the advantages and disadvantages of each team positioning strategy, as well as court etiquette and hinders.

- 2. SERVE/SHOT SELECTION:** If you are not keeping mental note of how each opponent returns the various serves they receive and the shots they take during the rallies, you are not making best use of vital intelligence that could make the difference in winning or losing the game or match. Does your opponent usually/always hit cross court, to the ceiling, down the line or pinch/splat off drive serves, Z-serves, or lobs? Killing just one drive, lob, or Z-serve does not mean the individual has a lock on it. Make your opponent prove to you that the first return wasn't just luck and they can do it multiple times for a particular type of serve. Be sure to note whether it was a good serve you presented, as killing a poor serve doesn't prove they can do the same on a good one. Is one opponent hot or very skilled and should be avoided at all costs? Is the other opponent cold or less skilled and can be taken advantage of? You should have a fairly good idea of what shots your opponents like to hit, and how well, by the middle of the first game. Every racquetball player has tendencies and limitations in shooting the ball. Knowing those gives you an edge because nobody, not even the pros, make all of their favorite high-percentage shots. And putting yourself in the right position, and being ready, makes for a higher percentage return shot. (More on doubles shot selection in Part 3 of this series.)
- 3. COMMUNICATION:** No matter how long you and your partner have been playing together, it never hurts to yell "mine" or "yours" when retrieving and shooting. This is particularly helpful with new partnerships. Learned non-verbal communication is great, but it is better to stay in constant communication. Your partner can't get to every shot you think he/she can, and advance warning always helps. If your partner takes

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NMRA Membership Update

By Carmen Alatorre-Martin

Hi folks--

Here are just a few tidbits from the Membership Corner! Thank you to those of you who renewed this year, and a big HELLO (and thanks!) to those of you joining our NMRA organization for the first time. Our stats for this year with renewals and First Time Event members are:

For March 2013, we had membership renewals and new event players:

3 Year Masters: 6

First Time Event: 2

For Feb 2013, we had membership renewals and new event players:

3 Year Masters: 25

First Time Event: 23

For January 2013, we had membership renewals and new event players:

3 Year Masters: 14

First Time Event: 6

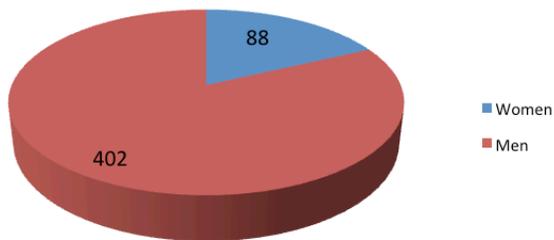
Thanks for supporting the NMRA organization!

One thought we're having is looking into a *Player Communications System*. We know many of our members travel to different states for vacations or business trips, and they sometimes have the opportunity to play a little racquetball but don't always know where to play or with whom. Since we no longer produce a directory of our membership, we're considering a method of reaching out to NMRA players to maybe replace the directory, or allow for a search of individuals, or allow for a search for NMRA members within a particular state / region / city.

I'm interested in hearing what your ideas might be for this. Please email your thoughts, concerns, and/or ideas to calatorre-martin@nmra.info.

More updates and breakdowns:

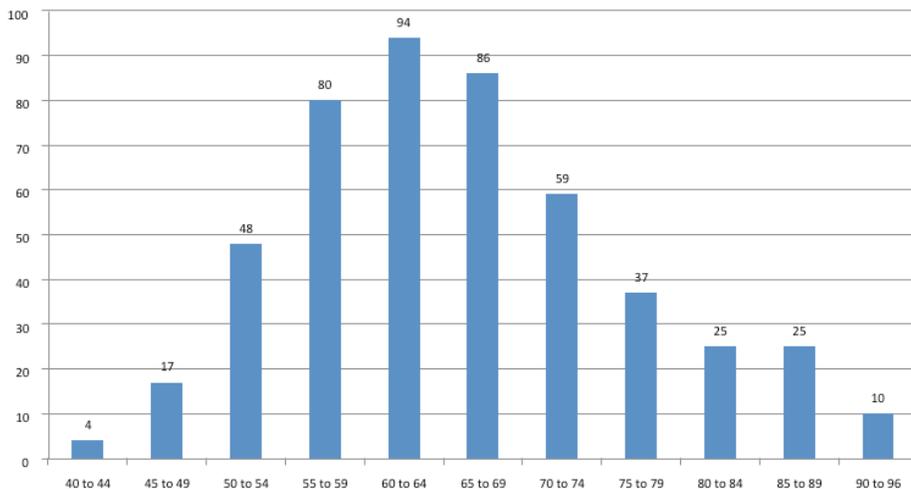
NMRA Membership By Gender



As of June 1, 2013, we have 500 current three-year NMRA members.

In addition to that number, we have about 400 players who have tried our special tournaments once and have not yet become a three-year member. We consider those to be First-Event members, and we hope to get them to join the ➤

NMRA Membership By Age



EDITOR'S CORNER *continued from page 15..*

We have met a lot of good players whom we didn't know existed because they never played tournaments. Each week, they bring a new friend to join a team. The really cool thing is that we are attracting the *LA Fitness* members to play *WTR* at private, non-*LA-Fitness* clubs and they are feeling pretty isolated as their clubs do not let in outsiders for events. They want to step up their games but the traffic in Los Angeles is so bad that the weekend is the perfect option to carpool to a *WTR* meet and compete against new players. It has been a lot of emailing and texting, but it should pay off. I will know more as players start to sign up for the September season and start forming their own teams.

If you would like to know more about becoming a *World Team Racquetball* area coordinator or joining a *WTR* team, or becoming a captain, you can contact me, or a better option is to contact **Laura Fenton** at worldteamracquetball@gmail.com. There is also a link on the *WTR* site (above) to contact Laura. I'd be happy to answer any questions you have too. ○

➤ NMRA when they play their second NMRA tournament. In Texas, there are 42 first-time members who probably played their first NMRA tournament in Arlington in 2010. We plan to get them signed up when we hold our Doubles-Only event in Arlington in December. We also plan to get back to Raleigh, where we should get another 24 first-timers to join us during their second NMRA tournament. It works well for us membership-wise to move our tournaments around the country as much as we can, and then repeat a venue every few years. We are excited to pick up a few more members from Wisconsin this summer.

Which state has the most current members? We've been on the west coast a lot lately, so you would be right if you guessed California. The *Club Sport* in *Pleasanton* and *Meridian* in *Fullerton* have been great facilities for us, and it seems the Californians are our best renewers. We have 115 three-year members there.

Arizona is next highest with 36 and Texas has 33. Pennsylvania is fourth with 23, then North Carolina and Virginia are tied for fifth with 19.

We also have 7 Canadian three-year members. ○



General Doubles Strategy (Part 1)

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the majority of shots, it is especially incumbent on him/her to let you know as soon as possible that he/she needs your assistance in getting the next shot. Don't always assume he/she has it; pay attention to the ball direction/speed and your court position, as the best shot to take maybe yours not his/hers. Be aware of your opponents' and your partner's court position, along with the ball. If your partner is pinned or otherwise out of position, you may be forced to take the shot, even if it is his/her favorite setup. Communication is the key. (More in series Part 4.)

4. **PARTNER SELECTION:** Find someone that complements your style of play and your temperament during games. You both have certain roles to play during the game and must be comfortable with that role. Your partner should be "yin" to your "yang." Does his/her back court play work well with your up front positioning? Do your shooting abilities balance each other? Does she/he shoot best while covering everything in the back court or left side, and you in the front court or right side? Ideally, your strengths and weaknesses should complement each other on the court. I have found Personality Balance can be as important, if not more so, than racquetball skills with successful teams. For example, does your partners' on-court demeanor after your bad shot provide a negative or positive reinforcement? Winning is great, but do you like playing with your partner? I have seen a number of teams that have won, but never played together again because of temperament issues. (More in Part 4 of this series.)

Winning is great, but it's not everything. Doubles is, after all, a social game, and much more satisfying with a partner with whom you win AND enjoy playing. For a lot of us, enjoyment, camaraderie, and playing well can even trump winning.

The Series will continue in subsequent newsletters.

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

Gladys Leonard

By Patrick Gibson



Gladys was born in Auburn, Alabama and currently resides in Alexandria, Virginia which is near Washington, D.C. She is a consultant for IBM on computer security for the Transportation Security Administration.

Gladys graduated from high school and enlisted in the Army and served 20 years before retiring. She spent time in Korea, Germany, Hawaii, Italy and the Middle East. During her time in the military, she worked in security of classified information. This

reporter was told if I asked anything further in that area I would be killed. (Hopefully she was just kidding, but I did not ask just in case.) Gladys graduated from the University of Maryland with her bachelor's degree and received her MBA from the University of Phoenix.

It was while in Korea in 1979 that she was first introduced to the sport of racquetball by a couple of guys. She remembers one big building that housed the courts without air conditioning but that was about all she remembers about the place. It was not until 1986 in Germany that she played in her first tournament. She was so tired and worn out that she forfeited the final match because she thought her arm was going to fall off. She was hooked on racquetball after that and began to play in the Inter Service tournaments. Gladys has

two favorite racquetball memories; the first one was her first gold medal, which she won playing mixed with **Leon Jackson** at West Allis, Wisconsin (the site of our next NMRA tournament). The second favorite memory was beating former women's pro **Chris Evon** one game in a doubles match. Gladys currently plays with the group known as the Fort Myer group. They are coached by **Curtis Alatorre-Martin** and travel together to the NMRA events. They actually play at the Fort Myer base in Washington D.C.--hence the name.



When not playing racquetball or working, she likes to socialize with friends and dance. She also volunteers with an organization called ISACA which is made up of certified auditors in the IT security field. Her favorite vacation spot is wherever the next NMRA event is being held. She uses her two weeks of vacation each year to attend the NMRA tournaments.

Gladys is a high-energy, on-the-move player on the court. She is able to hold her own and then some, no matter who is blasting the ball her way. She is gracious and kind but a fierce competitor on the court. She is one of the best female players in her age bracket and has her pick of guys that want to be on her team. In fact, **Scott Kraemer** from West Allis, Wisconsin, flew to Fort Myer to "audition" to be her Mixed Doubles partner. He got the job and they have been playing Mixed 45s and 50s for the past several years. Her nickname is the *Black Widow* and male partners better beware if they don't play up to her caliber of excellence. One of her best assets is her contagious smile, no matter if she wins or loses. Asked where she would like to be in five years, she said in Atlanta, closer to her family.

NMRA TOURNAMENT Trail 2013-2014

Check the www.nationalmastersracquetball.org website or Facebook for the latest updates.



Jul 17-20	NMRA International Championships 45+	Milwaukee, WI	Bruce Adams	www.nationalmastersracquetball.org
Aug 27-31	IRF World Seniors 35+	Albuquerque, NM	Gary Mazaroff	www.internationalracquetball.com
Oct 9-12	Huntsman Senior Games 50+	St. George, UT	Dick Morgan	www.seniorgames.net/sports/racquetball
Oct 2-6	US Open	Minneapolis, MN	USAR	www.usra.org
Oct 24-26	Men of October 75+	Sun City, AZ	Greg Steger Jan Warren	ipowerfade@yahoo.com
Nov 8-10	All Military National Championships	San Diego, CA	Steven Harper	www.militaryracquetball.com
Dec 5-7	NMRA Doubles-Only 40+	Arlington, TX	Howard Walker	www.nationalmastersracquetball.org
Jan 17-19	25th Annual WSMRA Singles Ladies-Only 35+	Fountain Valley, CA	Kendra Tutsch	www.wsmra.com or kdtutsch@wisc.edu
Feb TBD	USAR National Doubles	Phoenix, AZ	USAR	www.usra.org
Mar TBD	NMRA National Championships 45+	TBD	Howard Walker	www.nationalmastersracquetball.org
May TBD	USAR National Singles	Fullerton, CA	USAR	www.usra.org
Jul TBD	NMRA International Championships	Raleigh, NC (tentative)	Howard Walker	www.nationalmastersracquetball.org
Dec TBD	NMRA Doubles-Only 40+	TBD	Howard Walker	www.nationalmastersracquetball.org

Also on www.r2sports.com



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Cindy Tilbury, Editor
23308 Bocana Street
Malibu, CA 90265



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