



RACQUET RACKET



SUMMER 2016

Official Newsletter of the National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA)

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Raffle Winners St. Louis

By Cindy Tilbury

We held a fundraiser during the banquet of our *St. Louis* tournament, and here are some of the luckiest winners! To be eligible to win, at least one \$5 door prize ticket was purchased. We raised almost \$1,500 for *Missouri High School Racquetball!* Director **Dan Whitley** was very touched and expressed his gratitude for the *NMRA* and their generosity.

Fitbit –

Chris Poucher

Ektelon Racquet –

Chris Poucher

IRF World Seniors

Entry – **Ross Weinberg**

(Passed to

Wayne Toyne)

NMRA Entry –

Stu Simcox

President's Corner

By Cindy Tilbury, NMRA President

Thanks to the Board of Directors

In March at our board meeting, I was re-elected as President of the *NMRA*. I appreciate the confidence of the board, but more important, I couldn't do a decent job without their great support. If you get a chance, let the board members know how much you appreciate their efforts to make the *NMRA* better and better all the time. I suspect you know how much work it takes to put on three great events a year.

US Open Pickleball a Great Success

I recently went down to Naples, Florida, to experience the first-ever Pickleball US Open tournament as a volunteer and spectator. I am not a pickleball player, but wanted an excuse to go down and see my mother and volunteer to help out the organizers, **Terri Graham** and **Chris Evon** (excellent 45+ racquetball players). I was hoping it might be comparable to the first *Racquetball US Open* in 1996 in *Memphis*. There were about 850 players on 48 courts, so it was a huge event. As the first US Open for Pickleball, the organizers didn't know what to expect, even as



they had planned a great week. Some examples of surprises were the amount of food that the VIPs ate and the regular players bought at the snack shop. This was in addition to the regularly-scheduled lunches and dinners. That issue could be solved by heading to *Costco* each day to refill the food and drinks. But the real surprise was the amount of logo merchandise that players bought. **Jonathan Clay** from *Rollout* apparel was the supplier of the tournament dri-fit shirt and had printed up tons of logo merchandise for sale.

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New Contract for NMRA Tournament Balls!

By Cindy Tilbury

After more than a decade of working closely with *Ektelon* and using their *Ektelon Classic Black Racquetball*, the *NMRA Board of Directors* had a big decision to make before signing the 2016/2017 ball contract. We agonized over our own preferences, the long history with *Ektelon*, and the poll data we took about favorite balls. After considering everything, we voted to go with.....

Head/Penn Racquetball and the Penn Green Racquetball!

We are excited about this two-year agreement and working with **Doug Ganim** and **Ben Simons** of *Head/Penn*. In addition to racquetballs, *Head/Penn* will give us merchandise to aid in our fundraising efforts directed at local charities. These are usually done during our banquets in a raffle-drawing format and the local racquetball groups seem to really appreciate *NMRA* players' generosity.

As you plan for all of your national-level tournaments in 2016/2017, you can stock up on the *Penn Green* racquetballs for a consistent bounce. At the store, you should also buy one extra can to practice for the *US Open*—the *Penn Purple HD* racquetball is used at that event!



NMRA 2016 St. Louis Rotating- Partner Doubles

By Carmen Alatorre-Martin
and John Prigmore

We tried something a little bit different (to us, at least) in *St. Louis* and had a great result! At **John Prigmore's** insistence and with his guidance, we ran a 12-player doubles tournament-within-a-tournament where the players switched partners every game. Over three of the four days in *St. Louis*, we played 11 rounds of jackpot or rotating-partner doubles where everyone played with and against everyone. The focus was on the 75+ players, as they sometimes have trouble finding other 75+ players who will travel to play a four-day tournament with them. To round out the draw, we invited the 70+ players to give it a try too. Our tournament software is not programmed to show the scores and results, so here are the official

RESULTS ▶



He sold out all of his standard-sized merchandise the day before the tournament started. He had to have many players order online and have the shirts shipped after the tournament. The ladies all wore skirts and would have like to buy them. They will know better what to expect for next year. How exciting. I was so glad I got to be there and volunteer with my mom. It was a quality event with happy, fun players having fun in the sun. There were many similarities to the *Racquetball US Open*, but being outdoors in *Florida* in the spring really made it feel different. The professionals were highlighted on the show court, and the sponsors were incredible. Make your plans for next year. It will be at the same place—*East Naples Community Park*.

Carmen in a Cast

During the last week of April, our Vice President, **Carmen Alatorre-Martin**, crashed her bicycle on a bike path in *Washington, DC*. She crashed hard and hurt her head and snapped a finger. After surgery to try to reattach the finger and set her wrist, her right arm is in a cast and her husband,



70+ Winners

(Who were not really eligible to win over the 75+ players).

Place	Age Group	Points	Name
1st	70	187	Mitch Milewski
2nd	70	164	Steve Lavorgna
3rd	70	162	James Troutt
4th	70	144	Len Sonnenberg

Official Winners

Place	Age Group	Points	Name
1st	80	130	David Maitland
2nd	75	129	Bill Baker
3rd	80	122	Bill Herron
4th	75	122	Marquita Molina
5th	75	106	Stu Simcox
6th	90	100	John Prigmore
7th	85	99	Mike Martin
8th	80	79	Jim Funk

Curtis, now has to do everything for her for a few weeks. Carmen won't be able to play in *Portland* and her partner has to scramble (he will be fine). Send her your healing thoughts so she can join us in *Atlanta* in December!

Memberships

NMRA current membership numbers stay fairly steady, at about 500. Our email and US Post mailing list is about 1,500 players, and we get new fans all of the time. Lately, at our last few tournaments, we have had 40+ and 30+ first-time members. When we return to a tournament venue, we get our first-timers to become full three-year members. Not only does it make tournament preparation much easier to return to a great NMRA racquetball city, but we love the way the return players become three-year members. *Portland* should be an excellent example. We are happy to be returning to the area and signing up all of the *Pacific Northwest 45+* players. Tell all of your friends to check us out.

Portland and Atlanta

I am very much looking forward to seeing our regulars and some brand new players in *Portland* and *Atlanta*. Could we have found two locations farther apart? The two cities are so amazing and so different. NMRA racquetball brings them together for us like a family reunion. See you there!

Top Scorer by Age Group

Place	Age Group	Points	Name
1st	70+	187	Mitch Milewski
1st	75+	129	Bill Baker
1st	80+	130	David Maitland
1st	85+	99	Mike Martin
1st	90+	100	John Prigmore

We also offered set-partner doubles (see results for *St. Louis* in this newsletter), as we always have done, and many of these guys tried singles, doubles and rotating-partner doubles. It was a great experiment and everyone told us we need to offer it again—maybe for the younger folks, too.

**Congratulations to all of the winners!
Jackpot doubles is here to stay.**



NMRA INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

July 6-9, 2016 – Sunset Athletic Club, Beaverton (Portland), OR 97229

Entry By Mail Must Be **POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN: June 20, 2016**

Online Entries Must Be **COMPLETED BY: June 22, 2016**

<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=17029>



Please Print — Be Legible, Complete & Accurate

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: Cell _____

Home _____

Work _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

DOB: m____ / d____ / yr____ Age on 03/09/2016 _____

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

ENTRY FEES:

First Event \$ 165 \$ _____

Second Event \$ 30 \$ _____

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

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

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

Total Due: \$ _____

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

****Check here if your first NMRA tournament ****

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

SHIRT SIZE: MEN _____ OR WOMEN _____

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

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

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

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

NO REFUND OF ANY FEES AFTER JUNE 22, 2016

Limit of two events only: singles and doubles or two doubles.

Everyone plays every day; arrive Tuesday.

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

DOUBLES PARTNER(S): Please Print

Name/Div/Age Bracket: _____

Name/Div/Age Bracket: _____

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

Emergency Contact Information:

Name _____

Phone # _____



NMRA 2016 International Championships

Portland Tournament | July 6-9, 2016 www.nmra.info Please read carefully

<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=17029>

Tournament Directors / Staff	Cindy Tilbury 303.888.4461 cindy.tilbury@att.net John Winings 209.743.6487 johnwinings@hotmail.com Marni Winings 541.505.2220 marniwinings@gmail.com Paul Maduell 503.680.8502 – On-Site Host Panel of Three Members – Rules Committee
Primary Host Club	 Sunset Athletic Club – 9 Cement-Walled Courts 13939 NW Cornell Rd, Portland, OR 97229 503.645.3535 www.sunsetac.com Bring a towel and a lock; Towel service available at a \$1 fee Some practice courts available on July 5 Lunches served near the courts
Secondary Host Club	 Lloyd Athletic Club – 6 Cement-Walled Courts 815 NE Halsey, Portland, OR 97232 / 503.287.4594 Bring a towel and a lock; Towels may be available Use of club is limited to match play during the event. Warm-up should be done at the Sunset Club
Host Hotel	 Shilo Inn Suites Portland , 9900 SW Canyon Road, Portland, OR 97225 Call 503.297.2551 to Register <i>Mention National Master Racquetball, Ali Campbell, Sales Extension 549</i> \$114 + Tax Per Night Double Queen Room (Up to 4 People) \$134 + Tax Per Night Executive Double Queen Room (Up to 4 People) Rates available until June 4, 2016, but please reserve early (30 reserved) Rate includes full hot breakfast, wireless internet access, parking, mini-refrigerator, fitness center, more; RV parking is free in a designated area of the parking lot; Registered guests will be entered into a “free night” lottery
Enter Online	 Enter online by June 22, 2016, at http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=17029 First event--\$165 Second event--\$30 Guests \$70 for the week You may request a doubles partner and/or roommate and we will do our best to accommodate you (Try the “Find a Partner” list feature of R2sports) \$5 credit card convenience fee will be charged
Enter via US Mail	 Fill out the entry form at www.nmra.info (Tournament Info page). Make check payable to NMRA. Mail completed entry form and fees by June 20, 2016, to: NMRA / Cindy Tilbury, 23308 Bocana Street, Malibu, CA 90265
Refunds	Refunds are available until June 22, 2016, when shirts will be ordered, banquet dinners will be committed, and match scheduling will be completed
Nearest Airport	Portland International Airport (PDX) 7000 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR 97218 https://www2.portofportland.com/PDX I-5 or I-205 to Airport Exit – Make your flight reservations early
Airlines Flying into TUS	Air Canada, Alaska, American, Condor, Delta, Frontier, Hawaii, Icelandair, JetBlue, PenAir, Seaport, Southwest, Spirit, United, Virgin America, Volaris
Alternate Airport	None
Airport Taxi/Shuttle	Beaverton PDX Airport Shuttle Phone: 503.760.6565 One-Way \$42 Individual Make a reservation to avoid delays www.beavertonairporter.com Recommended–Metro Train red and blue lines run from the PDX airport to Beaverton, where our shuttle may be able to pick you up (more details later) Taxi \$70 one-way estimated fare Try the “Share a Ride” list feature of www.r2sports.com when registering for this tournament

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NMRA 2016 International Championships INFORMATION SHEET continued from page 4...

Shuttle to Clubs	Shuttle van provided between the host hotel and clubs. Tips appreciated
Parking at Host Clubs	<p>All tournament parking will be across the street at Sunset High School. Park in any of the lots in the front or rear of the school and use crosswalk to get to club. Please do not park in the club parking lot and leave for members use only.</p> <p>There is a small parking lot at LAC which we need to leave available for club members. There is a fee parking lot nearby Lloyd Center Towers- \$12 day until 5 PM. Night is \$6. (No in-and-out privileges). There is Pay to Park on the street near the club. Parking is free on the street north of Broadway. Most of us use the (free) Lloyd Center Mall parking garages when necessary. (We are supposed to be visiting the Lloyd Center, but it provides ample parking and is only a couple blocks away.)</p>
Directions from Airport PDX to Host Hotel Shilo Inn http://mapq.st/1SWrdAe	<p>No Car / Max Light Rail - 50 Minutes 10 Miles Take the Red Line toward Beaverton to the Beaverton Transit Station; (\$5 Per Day includes train, bus and street car); 1 Mile Away From Hotel (20-minute walk) Take a cab or Uber or the #58 bus (twice an hour) to the Walker Road Stop; Hotel will be on the left Trimet train map: http://trimet.org/schedules/index.htm</p> <p>Car / 27 Minutes 10 Miles Airport Way East to I-205 South; I-205 South to I-84 West; I-84 West to I-5 South; I-5 South to I-405 North (Stay in right lane); Highway 26 West Thru Tunnel / Up Big Hill to Canyon Road Exit; Canyon Road 2.5 Miles to Shilo Inn on Left (Parking is free)</p>
Directions from Shilo Inn Host Hotel to Sunset AC Primary Club http://mapq.st/1SWs0Bi	<p>No Car / NMRA Shuttle - 10 Minutes 5 Miles Take the NMRA shuttle</p> <p>Car / 10 Minutes 5 Miles; West on Canyon Road toward Walker Road; Right onto Walker Road; Merge onto OR-217 toward Cedar Hills; Merge onto US-26 via the exit on the left; Take the Murray Blvd Exit 67 Merge onto NW Murray Blvd; Left onto NW Cornell Road; Club is on the right</p>
Directions from Shilo Inn Host Hotel to Lloyd AC Secondary Club http://mapq.st/1SWuEqL	<p>No Car / NMRA Shuttle - Xx Minutes xx Miles Take the NMRA shuttle to the Beaverton Transit Center</p> <p>Take the Blue line (toward Gresham) or the Red Line (toward Airport) to the Lloyd Center station (.5 mile From the club); Walk thru park North toward Doubletree Hotel / Lloyd Center parking ramp; Turn left and walk one block on Lloyd to NE Ninth Avenue; Turn right and walk one block to Halsey Street; Club is on the left.</p> <p>Car / 20 Minutes 9 Miles (Not Recommended) East on SW Canyon Road toward SW 97th Avenue; Merge onto US-26 via ramp on left toward Portland; Merge onto I-405 S toward Salem; Merge onto I-5 N toward The Dalles/Seattle; Take the Broadway-Weidler Street exit 302A toward Moda Center; Take Weidler Street ramp; Turn right onto NE 7th Avenue; Turn left onto NE Halsey Street; Club is on the left.</p>
Directions from Lloyd AC Secondary Club to Sunset AC Primary Club http://mapq.st/1SWvLXp	<p>No Car / Max Light Rail - 45 Minutes 9 Miles Walk east on Halsey; Turn right on 9th. Proceed .25 mile; Turn right on Holladay. The Max station is before 7th Street. The trains run nearly 24 hours and riders should not have to wait more than 15 min (usually much shorter than that). A day pass for youth and seniors is \$2.50. Adult pass is \$5.00. Take Westbound train, the Red Line (going to Hillsboro) or Blue Line (going to Beaverton Transit Center). Disembark at the Sunset Transit Center. Take the Trimet Bus #48 (Hillsboro Transit Center) to stop in front of Sunset Athletic Club (or NMRA shuttle from the Sunset Transit Center).</p> <p>Car – 20 Minutes 11 Miles West on NE Halsey Street toward NE 8th Avenue; Right onto NE 7th Avenue; Left onto NE Broadway Street; Right onto N Williams Avenue; Merge onto I-5 N via ramp on the left; Merge onto I-405 S via Exit 302B toward St. Helens; Merge onto US-26 W via Exit 1D toward Beaverton; Take the Murray Boulevard Exit 67; Keep right and take the ramp toward Cedar Mill; Merge onto NW Murray Boulevard; Turn left onto NW Cornell Road; Club is on the right.</p>
Tournament Check-In	Tuesday, July 5, 2016, 5:00 to 8:00 pm near the courts (Check www.r2sports.com for venue changes) Let the access desk person know you are there for the racquetball tourney. Light appetizers and drinks, with early and later player meetings. Plan to stay and socialize!
Tournament Souvenir	A high-quality shirt or jacket will be given out at check-in night.
Play Begins/Ends	8:00 am Wednesday, July 6, to 5:00 pm Saturday, July 9, 2016 Every division plays every day (Wednesday through Saturday) Please show consideration for all players and remember that we play every bracket every day of the event. Schedule your travel arrangements accordingly. ID/bagtag may be required at both venues.

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NMRA 2016 International Championships INFORMATION SHEET continued from page 5...

Tournament Ball	Penn Green is the official ball of the <i>NMRA</i>
Tournament Scoring	All round robins, self-refereed matches; Every division will play two games to 15. Large “pool play” divisions will have Saturday playoff matches. Playoff format will be two games to 15, tiebreaker to 11 if needed. Bonus points are awarded for winning games (2 per game) and the match (4). Ties will split the extra four match points. Points are automatically calculated by the <i>R2sports</i> tournament software. When any team or player must forfeit, average scores will be used to determine final results of the division or pool. If a forfeit occurs during a match, the opposing team or player will be awarded points required to finish the match. You must play all of your matches in a division to receive a medal. In rare circumstances, a “watcher” may be requested of the tournament director to settle disputes.
Appeals	The <i>NMRA</i> has a rules committee that can be used by the players to submit an appeal on a rule (immediately) or issue (not necessarily immediately) that arises during the event. The decision of the rules committee is final and binding on all parties concerned.
Tournament Awards	<i>NMRA</i> medals will be awarded to First through Fourth place winners for each bracket. Combined brackets will be awarded medals based on age. No medal will be awarded for the combined division itself.
Eligibility	<i>USAR</i> -sanctioned; Current <i>USAR</i> membership is required to participate. Entries will not be accepted without payment for <i>USAR</i> membership. <i>NMRA</i> membership is required for all, EXCEPT players who are playing in their FIRST <i>NMRA</i> event. Special recognition and gift for first-time players and new <i>NMRA</i> members will be given out.
Breakfast/Morning Hospitality	Full hot breakfast is included in the price of the Shilo Inn host hotel. Fruit and drinks available at <i>Sunset Athletic Club</i> .
Lunch	Available at the <i>Sunset Athletic Club</i> only. Check for details during the tournament. Planned lunch times will be 11:30 am to about 2:00 pm. Match times may be scheduled around lunch, but please set aside a lunch if you are playing and will want to eat afterward.
Evening Hospitality	Available at <i>Sunset Athletic Club</i> only — not a substitute for dinner.
Banquet	Friday night, July 8, 2016, at the Shilo Inn ballroom Cash bar at 6:00 pm; Dinner and program from 7:00 to 9:00 pm or so. Videos, slide shows and possible awards (fun and serious) presentations are customary. Don't miss this!
Portland Activities and Attractions	Sailboarding, golf, hiking, biking, birding, horseback riding, shopping, zoo, museums, ziplining, fishing, mountain towns, white water rafting, wine country, brewery tours, waterfront festival, much more. See the separate hand-out of Things To Do in Portland at http://www.nationalmastersracquetball.org/articles.asp?articleID=21975
RV Parks	An RV park with hookups near the host hotel: RV Park of Portland, 6645 SW Nyberg Street, Tualatin, OR 97062
Laundromats	Here is a laundromat near the host hotel. <i>Continental Cleaners</i> , 11135 SW Canyon Road, Beaverton, OR 97005
Massage Therapist	Massage Therapists will be available during the tournament at a suggested rate of \$1.00 per minute. Sign-up sheets will be out if there is a wait
Racquet Stringer	Racquets can be restrung by the stringer at the <i>Sunset Club</i>
Doubles Partners	Contact Cindy Tilbury for a doubles partner or roommate cindy.tilbury@att.net or 303.888.4461 Please try the “Need a Doubles Partner” list feature of <i>R2Sports</i> when registering. There are also “Need a Roommate” and “Need a Ride” lists.
Player Profiles/ Shirt Sizes	It is extremely important that you keep your player profile, including shirt size, up-to-date in the www.r2sports.com system. The profile is used to help you enter tournaments online and, more importantly, to contact you with the latest tournament information and changes when you enter tournaments. This profile is the same as your www.nmra.info and www.usra.org profile. Contact the <i>USAR</i> staff in <i>Colorado Springs</i> at 719.635.5396 if you need a little help getting started or remembering your password for this feature.
Average Temperatures	Portland in July – High 77° F – Low 58° F – Average 68° F Precipitation 0.8 Inch Humidity 85%
Altitude	50 Feet

Things to do in Portland

By Marni Winings

Portland Zoo

www.oregonzoo.org

Vietnam War Memorial

<http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/finder/index.cfm?&propertyid=835&action=viewpark>

Rose Garden

<https://www.travelportland.com/article/portland-rose-garden>

Hoyt Arboretum

www.hoytarboretum.org

Columbia River Gorge - Waterfalls

<http://traveloregon.com/cities-regions/columbia-river-gorge>

Mt. Hood (OR) and Mt. Saint Helens (WA)

<https://goo.gl/maps/eyiHNsmo3Bu>

<https://goo.gl/maps/gmb1i6yMBG52>

Saturday Market -

Open Sunday too

www.portlandsaturdaymarket.com

Micro-Brews and Brew Pubs -

Most of any city in America

Coffee -

Almost as famous as microbrews

Nike Corporate Headquarters

www.nike.com/us/en_us/c/cities/portland

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry - OMSI

www.oms.edu

Pearl District - Stylish

restaurants, brew pubs, art galleries and shops. No sales tax! Special events on the **First Thursday** of the month, July 7th. <https://goo.gl/maps/2qKbg26xc6m>

Waterfront Blues Festival - July

1-4, 2016 - Plan early!

<http://www.waterfrontbluesfest.com>

China Town

www.oldtownchinatown.org

NMRA 2016 Board of Directors Election Results

By Cindy Tilbury, Election Chairman

This is probably not the biggest news the NMRA has reported lately, but it matters to the electees and the other six board members who will work with these directors for the next years. The results of the recent NMRA 2016 Board of Directors election are in—all three candidates were re-elected! All three nominees were running for another term on the board, and there were no other candidates, so the results were very predictable. Winners were:

- **Patrick Gibson**, Fort Worth, Texas
- **Leon Jackson**, Centreville, Virginia
- **Scott Kraemer**, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

I'd like to thank everyone who voted, both online and via *US Post*. We always appreciate your input into the direction and leadership of the National Masters Racquetball Association.

After our new board was re-convened, we elected officers. There was one slight change, and here is the list of your new officers.

President	Cindy Tilbury
Vice President	Carmen Alatorre-Martin
Secretary	Leon Jackson
Co-Treasurer	Patrick Gibson
Co-Treasurer	Mike Grisz (Previously, this was Scott Kraemer)

Don't be shy about contacting the officers and other board members if you have suggestions and comments. It should be an exciting year with a brand new NMRA venue, in addition to our March *St. Louis* event. I hope can join us.

NMRA Tidbits

By Cindy Tilbury

In December, NMRA Hall of Fame member and past NMRA board member and secretary, **Bruce Adams**, married his long-time girlfriend, **Patty Evans**. I had no idea they WEREN'T married, but then, I'm not on Facebook so I miss a lot! Bruce and Patty got married on December 12, 2015 in *Houston, Texas* and then spent a couple of days in *New Orleans*.

Congratulations to the newlyweds!



New NMRA Sponsor: Pinchshot.com

By Carmen Alatorre-Martin

We are excited to announce that *St. Louis*-based Pinchshot.com will be sponsoring the NMRA in a variety of ways. One of our most-needed sponsorship items is for player check-in bags. We think it's important to provide a handy bag to gather up your jacket, racquetballs, player packet and drawsheets so you don't lose them in the depths of your racquetball bag. Of course, if we have to buy them, they cut into the tournament profit. Going to a local grocery store is sometimes an option, but it's one more thing to worry about when setting up before the event.

Bryan Shaw of *Pinchshot.com* agreed to help us with that type of detail and the NMRA will try to send some business their way. Next time you plan to order a racquetball item online, consider www.pinchshot.com. Pinchshot will also try to sell racquets and do stringing at NMRA events, when possible. We are really looking forward to working with them.



PINCHSHOT

NMRA Tidbit

In February, Rick Betts and I were able to participate in a pro-am doubles fundraiser at Rocky Carson's racquetball club in Aliso Viejo, California. The target of the fundraising was the *Reaching Your Dream Foundation (RYDF)*, which is a non-profit set up by Mike Lippitt to encourage good players to get out and play the various racquetball pro tours (IRT, WRT and LPRT). There were 13 sponsors ready to bid a minimum of \$250 to play with a pro. With only three courts, it took a few hours, but everyone got plenty of play in. The competition was split into two flights. I bid enough to play with Rocky Carson, and Rick bid on and played with Anthony Herrera. As it turned out, Rick and I both won our flights and ended up in the final—one game to 11 points. Guess who won? Yep! Rocky and I won 11-9. The real winners were the young kids getting some expenses paid by the RYDF and getting the real-world experience on the pro tour against the best players in the world. If you want to host a fundraiser with your amateurs, contact the RYDF people and they will help you set this up soon.
<http://reachingyourdreamfoundation.org/>

Two New NMRA Board Members

By Cindy Tilbury, President

Immediately before the *St. Louis* tournament, the *NMRA Board of Directors* met as we always do. We had just invited Mike Grisz from Dallas to join us, but there was still one open board seat. We all voted to ask Bill Baker to take the board seat and make sure the 70+ members were well represented. Bill Baker agreed to join the board.



Mike Grisz is a CPA and wealth management specialist in Dallas. He works with his son and wife in his own business and has clients all over the country. He is also a board member on the Texas TXRA and brings

much experience to the position. Mike will be working with Patrick Gibson as co-treasurer, and he hopes to get involved in the financial plans for our organization, as well as work on tournaments with the current set of tournament directors.



Bill Baker is retired from Law Enforcement. Since his initial retirement he has served as President of the Board of Directors of a municipal water district, and as an appointee of Governor Schwarzenegger as a

Non-Dentist Member to the *California State Dental Board*. Bill has also led his own *Law Enforcement Management Consulting* firm, does commercial acting and is a member of SAG-AFTRA. He is a resident of *Rancho Palos Verdes, California*.

I also want to mention our “tenth board member,”



Len Sonnenberg, who has been working behind the scenes tirelessly for us for the past two years as our tax CPA, accountant, strategic advisor, *Hall of Fame* administrator and IRS liaison. Len has agreed to keep working

with us in those capacities for another year or so. We couldn't keep going without his generous help and counsel.

I hope you will all welcome Mike and Bill as your new board members.

MORE NMRA Tidbits

Number 1 IRT Pro Kane Waselenchuk recently went into the hospital for emergency surgery for a hernia. Kane is in his early 30s so it is crazy to hear of such a young guy having health issues. He is back on the court now, and winning pro stops. As a group who knows health problems, we of the NMRA wish him the best!

Another special IRF event in which we can all participate in round-robin competition is the World Senior Racquetball Championships in *Albuquerque, New Mexico*, August 30 through September 3. <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=16723> Also see the Tournament Trail on the back of the newsletter for more great events in which a 40+ player can find some great competition.

For the 2016 December Doubles-Only NMRA event, we really wish we didn't have to cap the number of players at 85, but we made the tough decision to go to the Atlanta area, and hope that we will have just the right amount of entries for the number of courts. Our December events have not been well attended in the past few years, but we have not tried an Atlanta venue. I have my fingers crossed that we will have another fine event for the players who can take three days out of their busy Decembers. Sign up early, just to be sure you can get in. <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=17447>



2016 NMRA DOUBLES-ONLY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Registration Wednesday, December 7th, Play December 8-10 at
Recreation ATL, 754 Beaver Ruin Road, Atlanta GA 30047

Entry By Mail Must Be POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN: 11/17/2016

Online Entries Must Be COMPLETED BY: 11/21/2016

<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=17447> Maximum Players 85! Sign up early!

Hotel: Sonesta Gwinnett Place, 1775 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth GA 30096 | 770.923.1775, code NMRA

Please Print — Be Legible, Complete & Accurate

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: Day _____

Night _____

Email: _____

DOB: m____ / d____ / yr____ Age on 12/08/2016 _____

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

ENTRY FEES: (NO REFUND OF ANY FEES AFTER 11/21/2016)

First Event \$ 165 \$ _____

Second Event \$ 30 \$ _____

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

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

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

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

General Fund Donation \$ \$ _____

Anything is greatly appreciated.

Total Due: \$ _____

* Guest(s) Name(s): _____

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

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

Saturday Sandwich Lunch preference:
___ Turkey ___ Tuna ___ Roast Beef ___ Veggie

Limit of two events

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

DOUBLES PARTNER(S): Please Print

Name/Div/Age Bracket: _____

Name/Div/Age Bracket: _____

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

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

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

Emergency Contact Information:

Name _____

Phone # _____

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

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

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



NMRA 2016 Doubles-Only Championships

Recreation ATL | Lilburn, GA | December 8-10, 2016 (Thursday, Friday & Saturday)

**** Round Robin Age Divisions Starting at 40 Years Young ****

www.nmra.info | <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=17447>

Tournament Directors / Staff	Mail-In Registration to: Cindy Tilbury 303.888.4461 cindy.tilbury@att.net Tournament Director - Cindy Tilbury 303.888.4461 cindy.tilbury@att.net Tournament Director - Chris Poucher 770.231.0083 cpoucher@gmail.com Membership Director - Carmen Alatorre-Martin teamalamar@gmail.com Recreation ATL Club Contact - Jason Chan info@recreationatl.com
Host Club	Recreation ATL – 7 Concrete-Walled Courts (2 Glass-Backed) www.recreationatl.com 754 Beaver Ruin Road, Lilburn, GA 30047 770.676.0435 Bring a lock. Towel service available free. All club facilities are available to tournament players and paid guests. Great club and locker room amenities available during the event.
	
Host Hotel	Sonesta Gwinnett Place www.sonesta.com/gwinnettplace 1775 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth, GA 30096 770.923.1775 4 Miles From Club; Shuttle provided every hours; Single/Double Rate with breakfast \$105 per night + tax; Triple/Quad Rate with breakfast \$123/\$141 per night + tax. Mention National Masters Racquetball when registering by phone. Online registration website for NMRA coming soon; Reserve early — Only 26 rooms (mostly two-bed) reserved for NMRA but more may be added when those are booked. Rate available through November 17, 2016 – BOOK EARLY! Free parking / Near large shopping mall.
	
Player Maximum IMPORTANT!!!	We anticipate that we will need to cap the number of players at 85, due to the great location, the round-robin format and the number of courts available. You will want to sign up EARLY to ensure your place. A waiting list will be available to allow players to get in as openings happen after the participant list is full.
Enter Online Maximum of Two Divisions	Enter online by November 21, 2016 http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=17447 First event--\$165 Second event--\$30 Card Handling Fee \$5 Two Doubles Division Limit. Guests Fee \$70 for the week. We can help find doubles partners and/or roommates.
Enter via US Mail Maximum of Two Divisions	Fill out the entry form at www.nmra.info (Tournament Info page). Mail completed entry form and fees by November 20, 2016, to: NMRA / Cindy Tilbury, 23308 Bocana Street, Malibu, CA 90265 Two Doubles Division Limit.
Doubles Partners/Roommates	Contact Cindy Tilbury for a doubles partner (cindy.tilbury@att.net) or roommate request. You may also use the list feature of R2Sports when you enter online.
Special for Ladies!	We are trying something new to the NMRA—two new B/C age divisions for ladies 59 or younger. If you feel you are not an Open/A-level player, you may enter B/C. Choose 40+ B/C or 50+ B/C
Special for 70+ Players! Rotating-Partner Doubles	We are again offering Rotating-Partner (or Jackpot) doubles as a second division for our 75+ players. If there is enough interest, we will also open up a 70+ division for the younger players. This special division is limited to 16 players and is played during at least 3 days of the event. Each player partners with and against all of the other partners. One individual winner is crowned. Come and meet other players and join the fun. If you prefer, set-partner doubles will also be offered, so grab your favorite guy or gal and sign up as a team.
Special Doubles Division for 40+ Ex-Pro-Tour Players and Amateurs	We will offer a special round-robin doubles division, schedule to be determined, where regular age-group players can pay the entry fee of and play with a 40+ ex-professional player. This will be a mini-tournament within the event—possibly 40+ and 55+ round robins and both genders, if players are willing to try this. Contact Cindy Tilbury for more details and lists of interested ex-professional players.

NMRA 2016 Doubles-Only Championships INFORMATION SHEET continued from page 10...

Nearest Airport	<i>Atlanta Hartsfield Jackson International Airport (ATL)</i> ; 6000 North Terminal Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30320; 32 Miles to Host Hotel (40 to 90 Minutes); Book flights at www.atlanta-airport.com
Airlines Flying into ATL	All major airlines fly into ATL. ATL is the busiest airport in the US.
Alternate Airport	None recommended
Airport Taxi/Shuttle Ground Transportation at ATL	Shuttles are not provided by the host hotel. More Info later.
Shuttle from Hotel to Recreation ATL Club	<i>The Sonesta Hotel</i> will be providing a shuttle on an hourly schedule between the hotel and the <i>Recreation ATL Club</i> . Between runs, if you see other players going to the club, don't be shy and ask for a ride. A schedule will be provided to all players at check-in.
Driving Directions from ATL Airport to Host Hotel	32 Miles or 40 Minutes Northeast Directions later
Directions from Host Hotel to Recreation ATL	4 Miles or 10 Minutes Directions later.
Parking at Host Club	Free. RVs may park in the rear of the lot with no hookups/utilities.
Tournament Check-In Player Meet and Greet	Wednesday, December 7, 2016, 5 pm to 8 pm, at Recreation ATL Complimentary reception with beverages and hors d'oeuvres. Pick up tournament souvenir, play schedules, etc. and socialize. Identical Player Meetings about 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm to review procedures and answer questions - STRONGLY recommended for <i>NMRA</i> first-timers but everyone is invited.
Play Begins/Ends	Starts at 8 am every day. Ends by 10 pm Thursday. Ends around 5 pm Friday and Saturday Every division plays every day (Thursday through Saturday). Please show consideration for all players and remember that we play every bracket every day of the event. Schedule your travel arrangements accordingly. Sign-in is required at the club.
Practice Courts	Courts will be available free of charge December 7, 2016.
Tournament Ball	Penn Green is the official ball of the <i>NMRA</i> .
Tournament Scoring	All round robins, self-refereed matches. Every division will play two games to 15. Larger "pool play" divisions will have Saturday playoff matches. Playoff format will be two games to 15, tiebreaker to 11 if needed. Bonus points are awarded for winning games (2 per game) and the match (4). Ties will split the extra four match points. Points are automatically calculated by the R2sports tournament software. When any team or player must forfeit, average scores will be used to determine final results of the division or pool. If a forfeit occurs during a match, the opposing team or player will be awarded points required to finish the match. USAR amateur rules will be used.
Appeals	The <i>NMRA</i> has a rules committee that can be used by the players to submit an appeal on a rule or issue that arises during the event. The decision of the rules committee is final and binding on all parties concerned.
Eligibility	<i>USAR</i> -sanctioned; Current <i>USAR</i> membership is required to participate. Your membership must be valid thru the last day of the tournament, December 10, 2016. Entries will not be accepted without payment for <i>USAR</i> membership. <i>USAR</i> membership is available at www.usra.org . <i>NMRA</i> membership is required for all EXCEPT players who are playing in their FIRST <i>NMRA</i> event. Special recognition and gift for first-time players and new <i>NMRA</i> members.
Tournament Awards	<i>NMRA</i> medals will be awarded to First through Fourth place winners for each age division. Combined divisions will be awarded medals based on separate age divisions. You must complete all matches in a division to be awarded the medal.
Morning Hospitality	Breakfast is available at the hotel for hotel guests. Fruit and drinks available at the <i>Recreation ATL Club</i> .
Lunch	Lunch is served at the <i>Recreation ATL Club</i> ; you may need to present your tournament pass or bag tag.
Evening Hospitality on Thursday	<u>Not a substitute for dinner</u> . If needed (matches could end earlier than dinner), hospitality will be served at the <i>Recreation ATL Club</i> . You may need to present your tournament pass or bag tag.
Banquet on Friday Night, December 9	<i>PVC Event Hall</i> , 745 Beaver Ruin Road, Lilburn, GA 30047. Across Beaver Ruin Road from the club; 3-minute walk. Included in your entry fee. Guests are invited for \$50, or \$70 for food all week in addition to the banquet. Cash bar at 6:00 pm; Dinner and program from 7 to 10 pm.

continued on Page 12...

MORE NMRA Tidbits

We always need and appreciate sponsors for our events, but I will let you know that we already know we specifically need a little boost for our Atlanta event budget. If you are happy the NMRA is coming to Atlanta and would like to know more about sponsoring that event (or any others), please contact me at cindy.tilbury@att.net.

In St. Louis, I was lucky enough to be able to help run the 75+ Rotating-Partner Doubles. It was a lot of fun and, after awhile, it ran itself with the players figuring out the magical partner/opponent chart that directed people to the right court. Everyone had a lot of fun playing with everyone else as their partners and opponents, and we are offering it again in Portland and Atlanta. We are checking into having the rotating-partner doubles format available via *R2Sports* and may have that done after *Portland*.

In St. Louis, we had 28 first-timers. Those players assured us that, when we go back to *St. Louis*, we will have many more because they will tell all of the local players what a great tournament we put on! That is very gratifying and we welcome the new NMRA first-timers!

NMRA 2016 Doubles-Only Championships INFORMATION SHEET continued from page 11...

Local Activities	www.atlanta.net/events/
Sights to See	In addition to <i>Stone Mountain</i> and fabulous museums, please see the separate sheet for a long list of Georgia places to visit and things to do.
Average Temperature	Year – 62° F December – High 54° F – Low 36° F. Average December Precipitation 3.82 Inches.
Altitude	1,050 Feet Above Sea Level; 250 Miles From the Atlantic Ocean
RV Parks	RV parks near the club are: Map later.
Laundromats	Laundromats near the club are: Map later.

Suggestions/Things to do in the Atlanta Area *By Chris Poucher*

Science/News

- Georgia Aquarium
 - Get Tickets Well in Advance
 - Swim With The Whalesharks
- Inside CNN Studio Tour
- Zoo Atlanta
- Delta Flight Museum

Museums/History

- World of Coca-Cola Tour
 - Try beverages from all over the world
- Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum
 - 39th President/Nobel Winner from Plains, GA
- Centennial Olympic Park
 - Site of the 1996 Summer Olympic Games
 - Fountains
 - Events
- College Football Hall of Fame
- High Museum of Art
- Peachtree Trolley Tour**
- Black History Museum
- Center for Civil and Human Rights
- Martin Luther King Junior National Historical Site/Memorial
- Atlanta History Center
- Fernbank Museum of Natural History
- Mansions / Plantations
- Atlanta Streetcar
- Historic Oakland Cemetery
- Margaret Mitchell House (Gone With The Wind)
- Children's Museum

Entertainment

- Fox Theater of Ballet and More
- Atlanta Botanical Garden
- Alliance Theater
- Atlanta Movie Tours (+ The Walking Dead Set)

- Atlanta Symphony Orchestra
- Legoland
- Porsche Experience Center
- Skyview Atlanta Gondola Ferris Wheel

Golf Courses/Outdoor Activities **

- TPC Sugarloaf National Golf Club
- Georgia Trail at Sugarloaf
- Northwood Country Club
- Atlanta Beltline Walk/Ride
- Bicycle Tours of Atlanta
- Skateparks
- Piedmont Park
- Stone Mountain Park
- Lake Lanier
- Six Flags Over Georgia Amusement Park

Shopping / Dining

- Santa Fe Mall
- Atlanta Station
 - Home of Shopping, BODIES Exhibit, Cirque de Soleil
- ATL Cruzers Electric Car and Segway Tours
- Buckhead Luxury Brand Shopping Area
- Sun Dial 360-Degree Restaurant and View

Local Eateries

- TGI Friday's
- Bahama Breeze
- Joe's Crab Shack
- Georgia Diner
- Hibachi Buffet
- Smoothie King
- Golden House Chinese
- Grapevine
- Dave & Buster's
- The Melting Pot Fondue
- Hara Ichiban Japanese
- Myung Ga Won
- Lupita's Mexican
- What The Pho

- La Madeleine Country French Café
- El Torero
- Sweet Tomatoes
- Olive Garden
- IHOP Pancakes
- Red Lobster
- Fast Food
- Farmers' Markets

Wineries

- E & J Gallo Winery

Places of Worship

- St. Patrick's Catholic Church
- Cornerstone Church of Christ
- The Bridge Church
- Kingdom Now Ministries
- St. Andrew Kim Korean Church

Breweries

- Jekyll Brewing Company
- 5 Seasons Brewing
- Monday Night Brewing
- Max Lager's Wood Fired Grill
- Red Brick Brewing

Sports

- Atlanta Falcons (Football)
- Atlanta Braves** (Baseball)
- Atlanta Hawks (Basketball)
- Atlanta Dream (WNBA)

Longer Drive

- Hilton Head, South Carolina
- Savannah, Georgia
- Augusta, Georgia (Masters Golf Course)**
- Charlotte, North Carolina (NASCAR Hall of Fame)
- Huntsville, Alabama Rocket Center
- Chattanooga, TN Train Museum
- Florida Beaches

***Seasonal/Not Available at this Time of Year*

Penn[®]

WORLD'S #1 SELLING BRAND.

To Us, The Ball Matters™



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

Paola Longoria

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

Rocky Carson



MORE NMRA Tidbits

As always, we look for perfect places to have our tournaments, and that used to be quite the hurdle to jump over. Not so much, lately! Our participant numbers have been down so we need fewer courts. If you know of a court club, relatively near a major airport, with at least 8 courts and a decent hotel nearby, have us give them a call and see if the NMRA should go there in the future. We may have already contacted them, but maybe we'll find a brand new gem!

In St. Louis, all NMRA board members were blown away at the depth and organization of the MOHSRA high school racquetball

kids. Organizers Dan Whitley and Mark Kissell worked with us on our tournament and told us about their program. They are exactly what every city needs and junior racquetball coordinators in every city could learn a lot from them. Coincidentally, we are going to Portland next and they, too, have a giant high school racquetball machine. How inspiring for those of us who love our sport and want to see the young kids coming up as we play our great 40+ matches! Think about volunteering to coach or locate equipment or transportation for the young kids—whatever they need to keep them excited and playing!

NMRA 2015 Doubles-Only Championships Results

Meridian Sports Club, Fullerton CA | December 3-5, 2015
Cindy Tilbury / John Winings, Tournament Directors



Division	Place	Name	State	Points
MD50	1	Daryle Uhrich / Sam Neer	CA / CA	36.00
	Playoff 2	John Winings / Rick Howick	CA / WA	26.75
	3	Jim Durham / Gil Cepeda	CA / CA	32.25
	4	J. Leinemann / M. Limsky	MD / MD	14.25
	5	Scott Case / Rick Hallenbeck	CA / CA	22.00
MD55	1	Sam Neer / Dennis Riggs	CA / CA	37.57
	2	Jim Durham / Gil Cepeda	CA / CA	36.29
	3	Scott Steffen / Steve Wattz	CA / CA	28.00
	4	Gary Jeral / Rick Betts	LA / CA	27.71
	5	R. Gonzalez / C. Poucher	SC / GA	27.14
	6	Bill Cottrill / Tony Alfaro	FL / CA	26.86
	7	David Nash / Daniel Kreuzer	CA / CA	23.43
MD60	1	Joe Lee / Rudy Lara	HI / CA	24.25
	Playoff 2	Gary Jeral / Rick Betts	LA / CA	36.25
	3	P. Chmielewski / C. McBride	CA / CA	26.25
	4	C. Poucher / R. Gonzalez	GA / SC	24.25
	5	Roy San Miguel / David Reyes	CA / OR	13.75
MD65	1	D. Briski / K. Meisenheimer	CA / NV	25.75
	Playoff 2	Mickey Bellah / Dean Ritter	CA / CA	35.75
	3	Tony Alfaro / Greg Kearney	CA / CA	27.75
	4	Cliff McBride / Dave Dworsky	CA / CA	24.25
	5	James Troutt / Alan Weiner	WA / CA	19.50

Division	Place	Name	State	Points
MD70	1	T. Lundy / M. Pawka	AZ / CA	38.00
	2	Fred Roe / James Troutt	CA / WA	32.50
	3	Jerry Mann / Len Sonnenberg	CA / CA	19.25
MD75	1	S. Covey / W. Baker	CA / CA	23.25
	2	Ron Adams / Francis Florey	CA / WI	17.25
WD40	1	V. Reyes / R. Rehling	OR / CA	38.00
WD50	1	M. Winings / C. Tilbury	CA / CA	33.50
WD55	1	C. Hollis / V. Birkmann	CA / CA	29.00
WD60	1	B. Fischetti / S. Parsons	DE / CO	14.75
WD70	1	M. Molina / L. Clough	CA / CA	18.25
XD40	1	R. Rehling / D. Kreuzer	CA / CA	27.86
	1	M. Winings / J. Winings	CA / CA	35.57
XD50	2	Yuni Cobb / Rick Howick	WA / WA	35.57
	3	B. Fischetti / M. Limsky	DE / MD	18.14
	1	V. Birkmann / S. Wattz	CA / CA	35.14
XD55	2	Carolyn Hollis / Bill Cottrill	CA / FL	23.86
	3	Vicky Reyes / David Reyes	OR / OR	21.43
	4	Cindy Tilbury / Joe Lee	CA / HI	19.71
	1	S. Parsons / K. Meisenheimer	CO / NV	38.00
XD70	1	Liz Clough / Len Sonnenberg	CA / CA	26.25
XD75	1	Marquita Molina / Ron Adams	CA / CA	12.00

NMRA 2016 National Championship Results

Vetta Sports Club Concord, St. Louis MO | March 9-12, 2016
Carmen Alatorre-Martin / Cindy Tilbury, Tournament Directors



Division	Place	Name	State	Points
M45	1st	Christopher Wright	MO	34.43
	3rd	Keith Yaklovich	IL	20.00
	2nd	Ruben Albert	VA	19.85
	4th	Antonio Aguirre	GUA	7.29
M50	1st	Ross Weinberg	VA	38.00
	2nd	Jerry Lis	MO	29.14
	3rd	Jon Albright	TN	28.86
	4th	Thurman Brooks	MO	18.57
M55	1st	Steve Wattz	CA	38.00
	2nd	Bob Wright	IN	34.33
	3rd	Robert Hoffman	MO	26.00
	4th	David Hogue	TN	24.83
	5th	Tony Punzo	MO	21.33
	6th	Daniel Anderson	AK	18.83
	7th	Kevin O'Leary	NJ	--
M60	1st	Doug Kite	TX	35.88
	2nd	Dane Crisp	TX	35.00
	3rd	Dennis Harris	MO	33.63
	3rd	Rick Betts	CA	33.63
	5th	Kim Keltner	MO	29.00
	6th	Dave Voeller	TN	21.00

Division	Place	Name	State	Points
7th		Al Gamble	TX	19.50
	8th	Jim London	MO	10.63
M65	1st	Thomas Ewing	MO	32.20
	Playoff 2nd	Robert Rivera	ME	32.80
	3rd	James Weathers	VA	32.00
	4th	Dave Wolfson	GA	30.80
	5th	Denny Frye	MO	18.00
	6th	Richard McKie	MO	6.80
M70	1st	Mitch Milewski	NH	38.00
	2nd	Frank Wall	OR	24.83
	3rd	Steve Lavorgna	NJ	22.17
M75	1st	Patrick Taylor	IL	33.00
	2nd	Rex Lawler	IN	22.68
	3rd	Bill Baker	CA	19.67
	4th	Stu Simcox	OH	17.50
M80	1st	William Herron	TX	35.60
	2nd	David Maitland	CT	26.60
	3rd	James Funk	CO	17.40
M85	1st	John O'Donnell	IL	35.60
	2nd	Mike Martin	CO	19.00
M90	1st	John Prigmore	KS	19.40

NMRA National Championships Results continued from page X

Division	Place	Name	State	Points
MD45	1st	J. Kleinschmidt / C. Wright	IL / MO	38.00
	2nd	Ross Weinberg / Ruben Albert	VA / VA	32.75
	3rd	M. Pangilinan / K. Yaklovich	GA / IL	25.63
	4th	Dion Lowe / Ron Fowler	GA / GA	17.88
	5th	E. Wer / A. Aguirre	GUA / GUA	13.50
MD50	1st	Jerry Lis / James DeMarco	MO / MO	35.80
	<i>Playoff</i> 2nd	Tyrone Gilmore / Lars Cole	TX / VA	34.40
	3rd	Ron Fowler / Mel Pangilinan	GA / GA	29.20
	4th	Jon Albright / David Hogue	TN / TN	26.40
	5th	Roy Hare / Mark Gutzmer	VA / MO	16.60
	6th	Mark Davinroy / Kevin Borutta	IL / MO	--
MD55	1st	Rick Williams / Steve Watz	TX / CA	38.00
	2nd	T. Gilmore / L. Jackson	TX / VA	34.83
	3rd	Lars Cole / Rick Betts	VA / CA	28.67
	4th	Mike Hiles / Bruce Adams	MN / FL	25.67
	5th	Tony Punzo / Curtis Perry	MO / DC	23.83
	6th	Mark Davinroy / Kevin Borutta	IL / MO	16.50
	7th	K. O'Leary / D. Anderson	NJ / AK	--
MD60	1st	Mark Baron / Bill Hartwell	VA / VA	35.14
	2nd	Steve Angelo / Don Kuehn	IL / IL	34.71
	3rd	Dane Crisp / Rick Williams	TX / TX	32.14
	4th	P. Gibson / H. Walker	TX / TX	32.14
	5th	Dennis Harris / Chris Poucher	MO / GA	23.57
	6th	S. Meltsner / L. Marsocci	CT / FL	22.14
	7th	Kim Kelter / Al Gamble	MO / TX	14.29
	8th	Dave Voeller / Jeff Heath	TN / KY	12.29
MD65	1st	S. Meltsner / L. Marsocci	CT / FL	37.17
	2nd	C. Curtis / J. Weathers	MI / VA	33.00
	3rd	Dan Jones / Jerry Prentiss	GA / PA	30.50
	4th	B. Hendricks / K. Weinstein	AZ / MD	26.83
	5th	David Wolfson / Robert Rivera	GA / ME	22.50
	6th	Fred Roe / James Troutt	CA / WA	19.50
	7th	Ottis Campbell / Jay Heilman	TX / TX	16.67
MD70	1st	Dan Jones / Jerry Prentiss	GA / GA	38.00
	2nd	Jay Heilman / Ken Foster	TX / TX	30.00
	3rd	Mitch Milewski / James Troutt	NH / WA	29.20
	4th	Fred Roe / Tom McKie	CA / TX	27.00
	5th	Ottis Campbell / Frank Wall	TX / OR	13.00
	6th	S. Lavorgna / L. Sonnenberg	NJ / CA	11.40
MD75	1st	Bill Baker / Rex Lawler	CA / IN	38.00
	2nd	Stu Simcox / James Funk	OH / CO	19.50
MD80	1st	J. O'Donnell / W. Herron	IN / TX	33.25
	2nd	M. Henchy / D. Maitland	GA / CT	23.50

Division	Place	Name	State	Points
MD85	1st	John Prigmore / Mike Martin	KS / CO	9.00
	W50	1st Marie Gomar	GUA	37.63
W55	1st Ann Fingerhood	MO	31.25	
W60	1st Terry Latham	TX	28.88	
W65	1st Sharon Huczek	MI	16.63	
W75	1st Marquita Molina	CA	8.50	
WD45	1st Karen Turner / Cindy Tilbury	VA / CA	31.75	
WD50	1st A. Fingerhood / S. Coplen	MO / MO	30.75	
WD55	1st C. Hollis / D. Matthews	CA / NE	27.00	
XD45	1st J. Kleinschmidt / S. Coplen	MO / MO	38.00	
	2nd	Karen Turner / Leon Jackson	VA / VA	31.14
XD50	1st Mark Gutzmer / Marie Gomar	MO / GUA	33.86	
	2nd	Debbie Miller / Roy Hare	MO / VA	23.50
	3rd	Dion Lowe / Judith Flis	GA / PA	11.75
XD55	1st Doug Kite / Cindy Tilbury	TX / CA	34.00	
	2nd	Bob Wright / Carolyn Hollis	IN / CA	33.50
	3rd	Terry Latham / Curtis Perry	TX / VA	29.75
	4th	Mike Hiles / Judith Flis	MN / PA	23.88
XD60	1st C. Alatorre-Martin / P. Gibson	VA / TX	35.63	
	2nd	D. Matthews / H. Walker	NE / TX	30.63
	3rd	Chris Poucher / Debbie Miller	GA / MO	23.25
XD65	1st S. Huczek / B. Hendricks	MI / AZ	13.00	
XD70	1st M. Molina / L. Sonnenberg	CA / CA	13.25	

Jackpot Doubles 75+		
1st	David Maitland	CT/130
2nd	Bill Baker	CA/129
3rd	William Herron	122
4th	Marquita Molina	CA/122
5th	Stu Simcox	OH/106
6th	John Prigmore	KS/100
7th	Mike Martin	CO/99
8th	James Funk	CO/79
Jackpot Doubles 70+		
1st	Mitch Milewski	NH/187
2nd	Steve Lavorgna	164
3rd	James Troutt	WA/162
4th	Len Sonnenberg	CA/144



PASSINGS

James D. Schenk II

Aug 31, 1956 - Mar 3, 2016

By Bob Wright



James D. Schenk II, 59, of Bristol, Indiana, died

unexpectedly at home on Thursday, March 3. He was born on August 31, 1956, in Elkhart, to James D. and Kathryn (Dilorenzo) Schenk. Jim had three children, four grandchildren, and his faithful hunting dog, Amica. He worked for many years in the family business with his dad and brothers, forming Plasticraft and then Plastic Form. Most recently, he was self-employed in the real estate market.

Jim was a champion racquetball player, having won many championships in various age groups from 1996 until the present time. He had only played one NMRA event (Dallas Doubles-Only in 2013), but had recently renewed his NMRA membership, ready to play more soon. He was also a member of *Pheasants Forever*, enjoyed fishing and being outdoors. His one true love was his family, especially his grandchildren, whom he adored. He will be missed but never forgotten.

To leave the family an online condolence, visit www.hartzlergutermuthin-man.com

PASSINGS

Joe Goldman

By John Prigmore

Joe Goldman from Framingham, Massachusetts, passed away in 2015

Joe was a Boston lawyer that never practiced law. He was 87 years old when he passed and suffered in later years with dementia. I believe Joe was associated with a golf course. He was a very sharp dresser and always had his shirt collar turned up. Joe's long-time doubles partner was **Joe Lambert** of the Dallas area. Lambert was an excellent player and the two of them pretty well ruled my age group until Lambert developed heart problems. This moved **Vic Sacco** and **Ivan Bruner** up to the

top spot until **Dick Kincade** and I earned that spot in 2008. Joe was a gentleman but carried a little grudge from a 2000 NMRA Air Force Academy loss to **Duane Smith** and me, which prevented Joe and Joe from getting the Gold.

Joe's last sanctioned racquetball tournament was an NMRA tournament in 2009 in Canoga Park. He played MD75 with **James Keenan** of California and they got the silver medal. I regret that I cannot find any pictures of Joe on or off the court, but perhaps some will be found for a future newsletter. Our prayers go out to Joe's loving family.

PASSINGS



Phil Dziuk

By John O'Donnell

After a long battle with cancer, Phil Dziuk died peacefully at his home in Homer, Illinois on July 8, 2015. Phil was a longstanding member of the NMRA and played his last tournament in Fullerton, California on July 17, 2010. He competed in the Men's 80 Singles and Men's 80 Doubles with **Dick Kincade** from Colorado.

Phil was born March 4, 1926 in Foley, Minnesota. After graduating from Foley High School in 1942, he worked on the family farm and attended the School of Agriculture in St. Paul, Minnesota, until he enlisted in the US Navy in 1945. There, he served as a transmitting, radar and sonar Electronic Technician's Mate Third Class on the USS Ajax. His ship traveled to Hawaii and Bikini Atoll and Phil was discharged in 1946.

Phil then went to the University of Minnesota and earned Animal Science degrees—Bachelors, Masters and PhD. Dr. Dziuk joined the faculty of the University of Illinois in Champaign in 1955 and eventually became internationally recognized as a leader in embryo transfer and

fertility research. He wrote over 150 publications in journals and books.

Phil's passions were racquetball (earning more than 250 trophies), sport fishing, woodworking and gardening. Phil was particularly active in the NMRA, winning a total of 45 medals, four gold and 13 silvers. His poems and limericks were legendary. He helped bring the tournament to the University of Illinois several times. Phil introduced me to NMRA tournament play in the early 90's in Boston, MA, as his partner in the 65+ doubles division. We had played each other several times in singles, but had never played as a doubles team. As I recall, we managed to finish 5th out of 13 teams.

His family was his dearest treasure. He was survived by his wife of 63 years, Patricia, and his seven children and 18 grandchildren.

Phil will be dearly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. We are so fortunate to have such fond memories of Phil, on and off the court.

NMRA Videos Available on YouTube.com

Just search for the words "National Masters Racquetball" and you will bring them up. Most are uploaded by **Leon Jackson**, and they were created for enjoyment at our banquets. We think you might want to see them over and over. There are lots of winner photo montages, as well. Please enjoy the work, and let Leon Jackson know how much you appreciate his efforts.

PASSINGS



Fred Letter

By Sarah Sockolof

Frederick Letter, age 74, died on Tuesday, November 10th, 2015 at his

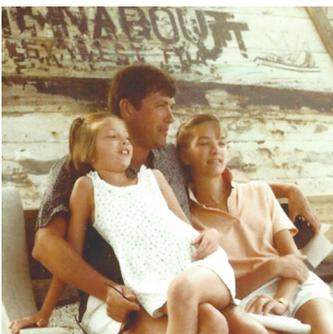
home in *Bedminster, New Jersey*. Born in *Plainfield*, Fred was a proud graduate of *North Plainfield High School* in 1959.

Fred began his professional years as an employee of the *Courier News* before moving on to a career in real estate. He was a founding partner in *Letter-Pompilio Century 21*, in *Plainfield* before moving on to a career in commercial real estate with *Jeffrey Realty*.

Fred's life-passion was sport. He was a fan of all... but in his youth excelled as a semi-pro basketball player, as well as a fast-pitch softball pitcher. His greatest athletic accomplishments, however, came on a racquetball court. He was a world-ranked player, winning numerous singles and doubles titles... most recently a *National Doubles* champion in July 2014. Since 2012, he had taken up frisbee with his cherished 3-legged canine pal, Nicky.

Besides me (**Sara Sockolof**), Fred left behind two daughters and three granddaughters, his two sons-in-law and his former wife Kathleen Smythe. Fred and his family have asked that, in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the *New Jersey Racquetball Youth Development Program*.

Fred was a sportsman in the truest sense of the word. He played varsity basketball in high school for three years and was a



co-captain his senior year. After high school, he played semi-pro ball. When

his basketball career ended, he got into the newspaper business... working in the marketing department of a NJ paper, the *Courier News*. At the *Courier*, he became an accomplished fast-pitch pitcher for the paper's softball team. He left the newspaper (and softball) to pursue a career in real-estate. He and a partner opened a *Century-21* office in his home-town of *North Plainfield*, which is where he began to play handball and eventually made the switch to racquetball.

When Fred wasn't playing sports, he was watching them. In more recent years, he would travel, nationally, to tournaments even if he was unable to play. He could watch racquetball all day long and into the night. He would often "coach" colleagues during mid-match breaks based on his assessment of their opponents' strengths, weaknesses and strategies. I'm sure most recipients of that advice would admit to being thankful for it.



In addition to racquetball, Fred would travel to local high school basketball games to watch the local talent before they'd head off to college. He also attended the state track and field tournaments. He'd watch the little league world series, women's college softball, fishing, golf and tennis on TV.

Jerry Davis was his doubles partner for a long time. But he also partnered with **Chuck Childers** (a few times) in more recent years. Fred was friendly with **Russ Mannino** for years... **Joate Camiolo** (active in NJ racquetball) commented at Fred's funeral that Russ and Fred were getting the courts ready up in heaven... Fred was friendly with **Ruben Gonzales**, **Bill Wolff**, **Ed Remen**, **Tom Travers**, **Fran Davis** and **Aimee Ruiz** all knew him pretty well.

Fred had both knees replaced in 2012/2013. He fully recovered from those two surgeries to win a few more national doubles tournaments... I think in fact, *National Masters* events.

Fred loved the game. All aspects of it. And he loved to share his knowledge of it with people he felt shared his passion. He was a soft-spoken, gentle giant. But around racquetball, you'd never know it. He would talk to anyone about the game. If he encountered people with even a little enthusiasm for the sport (kids and adults alike), he would have an instant bond them. He was not out-going in any part of his life except racquetball, where there were no strangers to him. If you loved the game too, you were family. I knew him for 14 years... and over that time, I saw him mentor a half dozen kids who seemed to show interest in the game... and he loved to get on the courts with them and teach them the game.

I met him 15 years ago... I had moved back to *NJ* (from *Washington DC* where I went to college and worked for a few years... and where I was introduced to racquetball in college) and decided to take up the game again. Fred saw me playing without eyeguards and gave me a pair of his and explained how important they were. That's how we met. After that, we played regularly. Prior to Fred, I had NO IDEA how the game was really played... the shot selection, the strategy... while I had played and enjoyed... I never really understood



the game until he broke it down for me. He even was patient enough to give his girlfriend lessons?!? How many guys can do that??? We all miss him and know that some of the *NMRA* folks will too.



MORE NMRA Tidbits

A tiny glitch in the St. Louis tournament happened with our patches.

What patches, you ask? For each tournament, we are trying to provide sew-on embroidered patches with the tournament logo so you can add them to a jacket, showing all of your NMRA trips at once. We sell the patches for about \$5. Our order never came in during the St. Louis event, so we plan to have those patches (with the *Gateway Arch*, of course) available in *Portland* and for anyone asking for them. Contact me via email if you would like to order a patch or two.

Linda Reeves, Portland area junior racquetball coordinator (and player, of course) won the Lomonaco Grant that sends her to *USA Racquetball National Singles in Denver* all-expenses-paid. Congratulations to Linda on the grant, and good luck in *Denver*.

As you are playing in the next several NMRA events, if you notice a particularly sportsman-like act or pattern of action, please nominate that person for a sportsmanship award. We need your help finding exceptional sportsmanship in an organization of sportsmanship practitioners.

NMRA St. Louis Sponsors

By Carmen Alatorre-Martin

Wow! We had a bunch of new sponsors at our *St. Louis* event! The sling bag provided by Pinchshot.com was jam-packed with more goodies than we usually provide. This was all due to the amazing hard work of **Mark Kissell**, young superstar protégé of **Dan Whitley**, the General Manager at *Vetta Sports*. Mark is much too young to play in our events, but made sure we had bags, tourist info, bandanas, pens, screwdrivers, coconut waters, cups, restaurant coupons and keychains for our players. Of course, we also included *Ektelon Classic Black* balls, a sweat towel, drawsheets, and a fleece jacket. We are a little worried that everyone will expect all of these great items in the future.

Here is the list of these generous sponsors and donors:

Ektelon Balls	Pinchshot Bags / Bandanas	MOHSRA Tourney Support	Heather Backes Catering
Coca-Cola Zica Water	Hoffman Brothers Heating	Net-Centric Enterprise Solutions	Generous Individual Donors
Anheuser-Busch / Goose Island	Sign-A-Rama	Bertarelli Paper	Lays Potato Chips
Gearbox	Longhorn Steakhouse	Texas Roadhouse	First Watch Restaurant
612 Kitchen	Gianno's Restaurant	Vetta Concord	Missouri Athletic Club

Not for Ladies Only

By Cindy Tilbury

Bring Your Lady Friends

Our number of ladies at NMRA events has been really low lately, so I hope you will consider bringing all of your lady player friends. If there is anything keeping you from coming to an NMRA tournament, give me a call and I will see if we can eliminate that problem. It was interesting to note that, at the *US Open of Pickleball in Naples*, their program claims that 47 percent of the 825 players were women. We should be able to do that, but truthfully, we are at about 20 percent ladies. Let's see if we can get the ladies out to our events.

Register Now for Chicago WSMRA

The biggest tournament of the year for all 35+ women is coming up quickly, and it will be in the great city of *Chicago* (actually, the suburb of *Lombard*) this year. The *WSMRA 28th Annual Championship* will be run by **Cheryl Kirk** and her team of lady volunteers from January 20 through 22, 2017 at the *Glass Court* club in *Lombard*. Check out www.wsmra.com for more details. Hotel and online entry procedures should be available very soon. Both singles and doubles divisions are offered.

I had hosted the *27th Annual WSMRA Championship in Tucson, Arizona* in January, and I thought it was really great. **Joe Williams** of *Colorado Springs* ran the desk and helped me with setup, and he truly made things run smoothly. I couldn't have done it without him. The whole group at the *Doubletree* and the *Tucson Racquet*



& *Fitness Club* are so great to work with. We had many requests to go back there very soon. Trips to *Biosphere* were fascinating, and we played bunko and *Pictionary* (with racquetball words). The DJ had all the right songs to keep our ladies dancing until late after the banquet. It was truly a fun event for all of the ladies.

Malibu Racquetball Camp

We are gearing up for our *2016 Malibu Ladies Racquetball Camps* so please let me know if you are interested in coming out to the ocean for some fun and racquetball. Our 2015 camps got rave reviews and I am looking forward to hosting more ladies this year to spend a little time working on their racquetball skills and lounging by the pool. Entry into a local tournament is included, if camper ladies want to play. Whether you prefer singles or doubles, we will make sure we get a great instructor for you and take plenty of time for relaxing. I hope younger girls will consider this offering too—bring your mom because she deserves a break too. Contact me for more details about how to find a good date to come out to *Malibu*.

Couples and guys are actually welcome, but first priority is the LADIES!

Come out and join the fun, for very little money.



PASSINGS

Celebrating Bobby Sanders

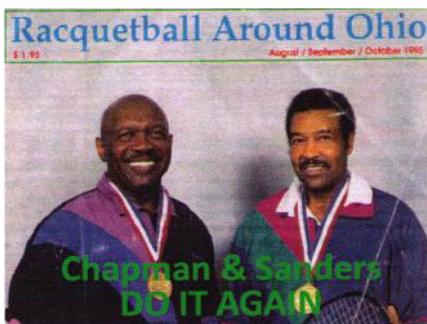
By Jerry Davis and the Sanders Family



Bobby Sanders, 77, was born May 10, 1938 in Centre, Alabama. Bobby departed this life Wednesday, October 28, 2015. He worked as a driver for Cleveland RTA for 35 years. During his career, he trained new drivers on safety and route management. Bobby's passing leaves to mourn five children, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Bobby graduated from Hatcher High School in Cherokee County and was one of the first African-American students in Cherokee County to go to college. He was awarded a baseball scholarship to attend Florida A & M.

From an early age, Bobby showed a competitive and winning spirit and excelled in all sports, but especially baseball. Bobby excelled at Florida A & M and became one of the best-known hitters; this drew the attention of the Negro League. The Birmingham Black Barons offered him a contract after his second year of college. He made the team in the summer of 1959. After playing for the Barons, Bobby went on to play for the Phillies.



Bobby retired from baseball and moved to Cleveland where he began a career in a new sport—racquetball. While racquetball was a different sport, the results were the same—Bobby excelled in it. Bobby met

Otis Chapman, who became his doubles partner and best friend. Starting out as novices to this new sport, these two men became the dominant force on the court. Together, they won over 30 Ohio State championship titles. Between 1977 and 1993, Bobby won five national championships and, before he retired from racquetball, had gained a total of nine national titles. Bobby and Otis Chapman had changed the face of racquetball forever. Bobby was inducted into the Ohio Racquetball Hall of Fame in 1990.



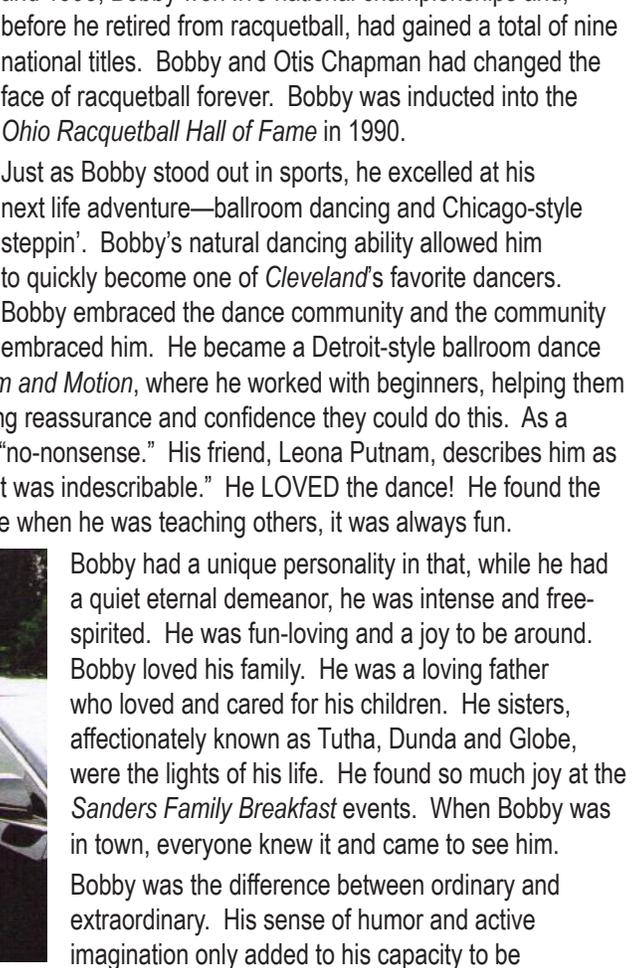
Just as Bobby stood out in sports, he excelled at his next life adventure—ballroom dancing and Chicago-style steppin'. Bobby's natural dancing ability allowed him to quickly become one of Cleveland's favorite dancers. Bobby embraced the dance community and the community embraced him. He became a Detroit-style ballroom dance instructor with *Just Us Rhythm and Motion*, where he worked with beginners, helping them learn the dance while providing reassurance and confidence they could do this. As a Chicago stepper, Bobby was "no-nonsense." His friend, Leona Putnam, describes him as having a "love for steppin' that was indescribable." He LOVED the dance! He found the dance relaxing and made sure when he was teaching others, it was always fun.



Bobby had a unique personality in that, while he had a quiet eternal demeanor, he was intense and free-spirited. He was fun-loving and a joy to be around. Bobby loved his family. He was a loving father who loved and cared for his children. He sisters, affectionately known as Tutha, Dunda and Globe, were the lights of his life. He found so much joy at the Sanders Family Breakfast events. When Bobby was in town, everyone knew it and came to see him. Bobby was the difference between ordinary and extraordinary. His sense of humor and active imagination only added to his capacity to be

compassionate, care and always supportive. He was a loyal friend, a fierce competitor and had the gift of generosity. Bobby had the "IT" factor. Once you met him, you couldn't help but love him.

As competitive as Bobby was in sports, he was equally so in life. He was intent on always being the best at whatever he did and he never wanted to lose. Bobby Gene Sanders will be missed from this earth but not from the hearts of all who knew and loved him.



MORE NMRA Tidbits

I was fortunate to again be awarded the USA Racquetball Peggy Steding Award. It's for 35+ women for playing well at the top national and international tournaments during the year. I guess I had a couple of good years in a row so they picked me. I'd say the secret is staying healthy and uninjured.

I am really proud of our players and their generosity!

You probably know that we do our major fundraising for NMRA racquetball charities during our banquets. We raised over \$3,500 for *St. Louis*, *Fullerton* and *Denver* local racquetball programs in the past year. We had a good time doing it, too, with lots of prizes and giveaways for the banquet attendees. I am so grateful that our players feel as strongly as I do about giving back to our great sport.

I hope you are all considering bringing a coach to your next NMRA tournament.

Remember that multi-day round-robin NMRA tournaments are the perfect opportunity to get some serious coaching and really improve your game. If you need some names of potential coaches, just send me an email.

Local and National Racquetball Players Compete at National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA) National Championships

St. Louis, MO March 9-12, 2016

By Leon Jackson

The NMRA recently completed its *National Championships* in *St Louis, Missouri*, earlier last month. The yearly event, a national-level, round-robin racquetball tournament for racquetball players aged 45 and above, was quite the social and competitive event this spring.

St Louis, known for its *Gateway Arch*, the *St Louis Cardinals* baseball team, and headquarters of the "Panera" bread company, can now add racquetball to that short list. The annual national singles and doubles racquetball tournament, March 9-12, was held at the *Vetta Sports Concord* and *Missouri Athletic Club* racquetball courts. Competitors included many state and national champions, as well as a player from Alaska, making the event a true national tournament.

The "Masters" format is a round robin, which requires each player or doubles team to play all other players or teams within their competitive category. This format results in the fairest determination of tournament success and mandates consistent, quality play throughout all matches over four days. The *National Masters* round-robin format is not for the faint of heart or those conditioned to only play a couple matches in a day. Some doubles teams played four matches per day in each of two competitive categories. Eight open-level matches a day—that's a lot of racquetball played within a compressed time frame. The competition was extremely tight in each category with most Gold Medal winners being determined by victory in their final matches on Saturday.

This NMRA *National* tournament was significant in that it was the 45th anniversary tournament, and had twenty-eight (28) "NMRA first timers", players who had never participated in a *National Master* round-robin format before, was very competitive, and introduced a "Rotating Doubles" category, all combined with a superb player banquet.

This special inclusion of "Rotating Doubles", for a national level event, was conducted as a trial run for age groups 75, 80, 85 and 90, with four 70-year-olds filling in the draw.

Rotating Doubles is a unique, competitive tournament category. Essentially, each player within the division plays at least one doubles match with another, different partner within the division, shifting partners between matches until all have players have partnered with each other. The final winner is determined by

delineating the individual with the most accumulated points over the course of the tournament.

The competition category was well received by all participants, with many requests to have the category offered again in future tournaments.

A collective, big thank you to the Co-Directors, **Carmen Alatorre-Martin** and **Cindy Tilbury** for putting together and conducting an exceptional tournament. Carmen and Cindy, with the help of **Joe Williams** and the *Vetta Concord* staff, provided a very smooth, well-run tournament that offered a complete line of racquetball and fitness services for all participants. Those services included light and deep massage; whirlpool and sauna; daily continental breakfast, lunch, dinner; transportation on demand; racket stringing and a complete line of racquetball equipment for sale by Pinchshot (rackets, shoes, accessories, clothing, etc).

Exceptional service for the tournament participants began at the hotel where players and guests were met with a caring and responsive staff. Players were able to start each morning with an excellent buffet breakfast and then take their scheduled transportation over the *Vetta Concord club* for the start of their matches. Friday's tournament banquet capped off the first three days of tournament play, and provided a short break in competition before Saturday's playoffs would begin. The banquet provided all with a well prepared and tasty dinner buffet (one of the better buffets I have ever had), information on scheduled future tournaments, recognition of tournament first-time players, and a presentation of event photographs and video of matches completed to date.

If you are at least 45 years old and are looking for an opportunity to play competitive racquetball in a welcoming social environment, come and join us at the next *National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA)* tournament, *NMRA International 2016* tournament, July 6-9, 2016, *Sunset Athletic Club*, *Portland Oregon*, <http://www.nationalmastersracquetball.org/articles.asp?articleID=21975> . We look forward to seeing you there.

John Prigmore 90+ Player

By Cindy Tilbury



Since John recently became eligible to play in the 90+ division, I wanted to

highlight John, his play, and his dedication to the NMRA. I went into R2Sports.com to look up his tournament history and, except for one Men of October tournament, there were ONLY NMRA TOURNAMENTS back to 2006! We don't require such loyalty, but we are very impressed by it.

John Prigmore lives in *Leon, Kansas*—not too far from *Wichita*. He retired as an architect a few years ago and now spends his time playing racquetball. Here is his background:

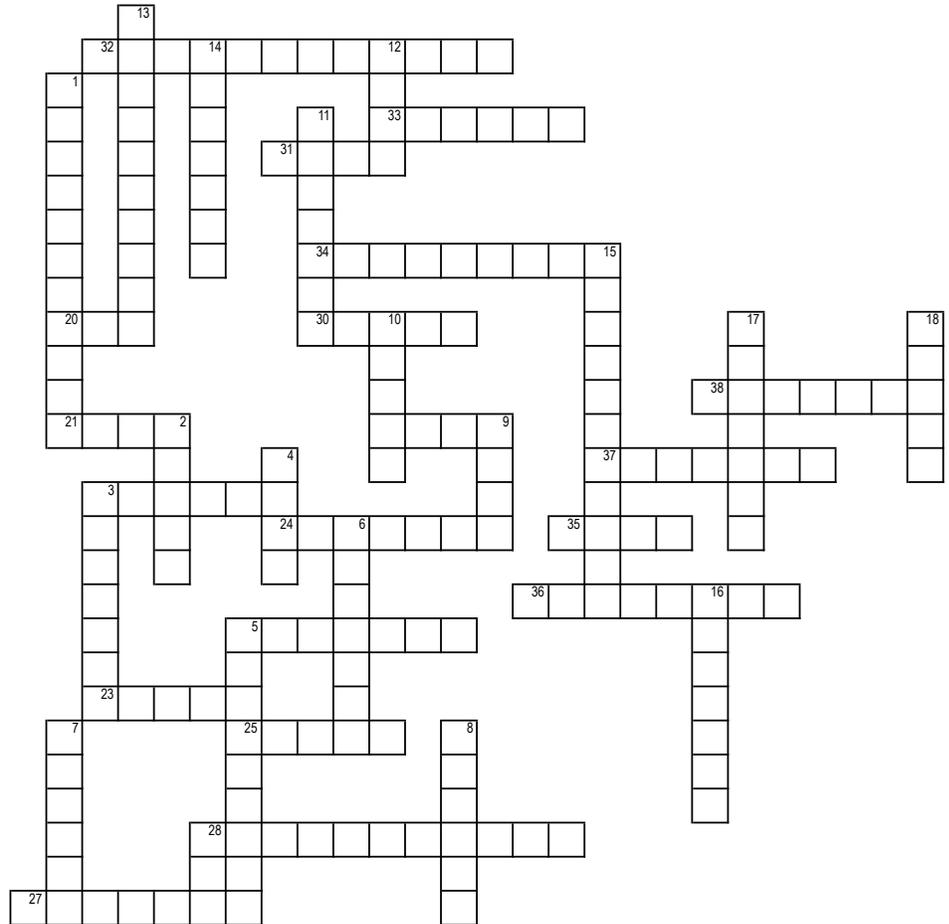
John was introduced to *Racquetball* in 1985 when a health club was started in his small town of 13,000 people and he was fairly successful in the Open age group. He began playing in the *Kansas Senior Olympics* soon thereafter and competed in the *1995 National Senior Games* in San Antonio. 1996 was his first *NMRA* tourney in Tempe, Arizona. It was a very humbling experience. He has competed in five *National Senior Games*--*San Antonio, Tucson, Orlando, Pittsburg, and Baton Rouge*.

John was playing only singles until the 2000 *NMRA* tournament at The *Air Force Academy* where he teamed with **Duane Smith** from *Fort Worth*. He continued playing both singles and doubles until heart problems caused him to give up singles in 2005. **Dick Kincade** became his partner in 2003 and he always felt blessed to have been given that opportunity. Not only were they a competing team but their wives also became a very close supporting team--a great combination. Dick and Phyllis are both gone and are sorely missed by all. **Mike Martin** graciously agreed to become his doubles partner, and they continue to

continued on Page 22...

Racquetball Trivia Crossword

By Linda Millman, Team Ektelon Pennsylvania >Reprint<



Down

- Interference with opponents play that could have been prevented.
- Kill shot that hits side wall, then front wall.
- Newest composite materials - provides racquet strength and control.
- American Amateur Racquetball Association.
- Game with three players.
- Illegal serve.
- Ektelon mid-size aluminum racquet.
- Shot that hits the juncture of any two playing surfaces.
- Portion of match completed when 15 points is reached.
- Exchange of shots until play ends.
- Unintentional interference of ball opponent does not have fair chance to return. (plural)
- It's blue!
- Racquetball game - one player opposes another.
- Number one company in racquetball.
- Visual obstruction of ball by server's body.
- Eketelon mid-sized ceramic racquet.
- Eketelon mid-sized graphite racquet.
- Period of play - two out of three games.

Across

- Ektelon oversized aluminum racquet.
- Best percentage defensive shot.
- Shot hit soft and high into the front wall - rebounds towards back wall in a high arc.
- Ball hits floor before reaching front wall.
- Area where racquetball game is played.
- Official who makes final call on disputed shots.
- Ektelon graphite oversized racquet.
- Composite material - provides stiffness and power, light weight.
- Event in a tournament - prize offered to winner of the losers.
- Serve that rebounds to back wall without hitting the floor.
- Act of putting ball in play.
- Offensive shot which hits front wall so low, return is impossible.
- Game consisting of male and female teams.
- Play-on specific day and time for set number of weeks.
- Protective-wear (plural).
- Sizes vary from super-small to flared.
- Big new concept in racquet design.
- Ektelon ceramic oversized racquet.
- Equipment used to play the game.

continued from page 21...

play. His goal with his heart repair surgery in 2010 was to play one tournament in his new 85-89 age group. That happened and he has continued to play until a new goal of playing in the 90-94 was reached. John's wife reluctantly agreed to his playing in one tournament in 90-singles and that happened in *St. Louis*. We all thank you, Louise.

John is encouraged by the inclusion of a *Rotating Doubles* category for the 75+ groups and he sees this as an opportunity to involve more 75+ players who don't normally have a doubles partner. He wanted to express his many thanks to the *NMRA* for letting him be a part of the *Racquetball* world.

John is not our only 90+ player, but he is currently our only active one.

Robert McAdam of the *Denver* area is 95 years old, but it has been since 2011 that he has been a player at one of our events. He stopped in to say hi at our July 2015 *Denver* event with his son and grandson—both good players. We lost **Colonel Ben Marshall** a few years ago, after he won several medals in the M95 singles division. Ben lived in *San Antonio* and played only a few weeks before he passed.

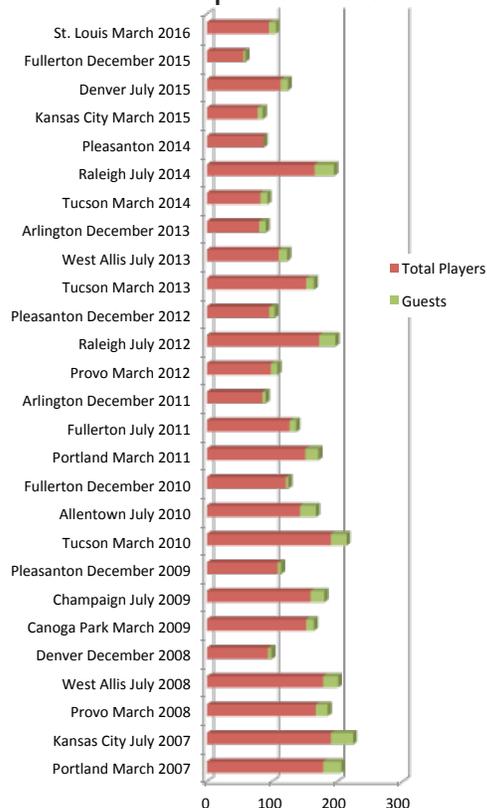
The players of the *NMRA* are really grateful to the 90+ players who show us that we can stay healthy and uninjured well into our 90s and still play the sport we love against competitors we respect and value. That's a lot of what the *NMRA* is about.

National Masters Racquetball Association

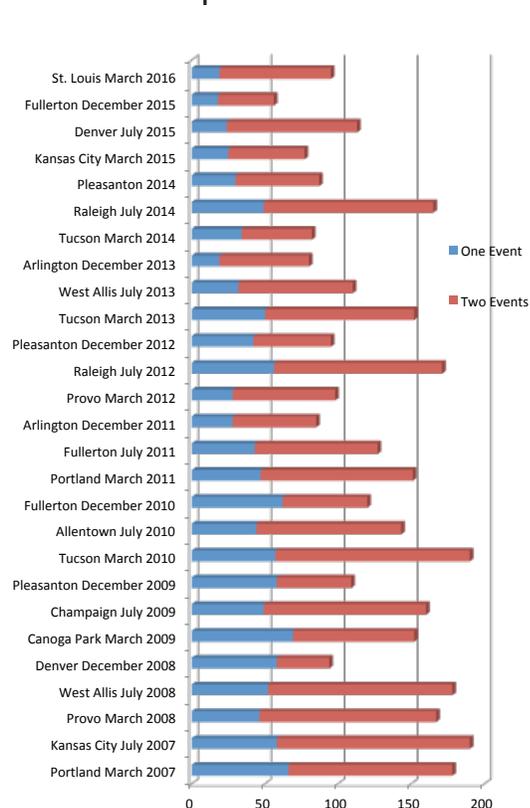
TOURNAMENT STATISTICS since 2007

Tournament	Total Players	Guests	One Event	Two Events	Men	Women
Portland March 2007	178	28	66	112	152	26
Kansas City July 2007	190	34	58	132	149	41
Provo March 2008	167	18	46	121	135	32
West Allis July 2008	178	23	52	126	137	41
Denver December 2008	94	5	58	36	73	21
Canoga Park March 2009	152	12	69	83	123	29
Champaign July 2009	159	21	49	111	124	35
Pleasanton December 2009	109	5	58	51	75	34
Tucson March 2010	190	24	57	133	150	40
Allentown July 2010	143	24	44	99	114	29
Fullerton December 2010	121	4	62	58	97	24
Portland March 2011	151	20	47	104	122	29
Fullerton July 2011	127	10	43	84	108	10
Arlington December 2011	85	5	28	57	63	22
Provo March 2012	98	10	28	70	78	20
Raleigh July 2012	172	25	56	115	133	39
Pleasanton December 2012	96	8	42	53	75	21
Tucson March 2013	152	12	50	102	121	31
West Allis July 2013	110	13	32	78	87	23
Arlington December 2013	80	10	19	61	55	25
Tucson March 2014	82	11	34	48	71	11
Raleigh July 2014	165	30	49	116	134	31
Pleasanton 2014	87	0	30	57	65	22
Kansas City March 2015	78	8	25	52	62	16
Denver July 2015	113	11	24	89	87	26
Fullerton December 2015	56	3	18	38	45	11
St. Louis March 2016	95	11	19	76	81	13

Total Tournament Participants and Guests



Number of Participant Events





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DATE	TOURNAMENT	LOCATION	CONTACT	Website www.r2sports.com
Jul 6-9	NMRA International Championships	Portland, OR	NMRA	www.nationalmastersracquetball.org
Aug 30-Sept 3	World Senior Singles & Doubles Championships 35+	Albuquerque, NM	Gary Mazaroff	www.internationalracquetball.com
Oct 27-29	Men of October 80+	Sun City West, AZ	Jan Warren, Greg Steger	ipowerfade@yahoo.com
Nov TBD	All-Military National Championships	San Diego, CA	Steven Harper	www.militaryracquetball.com
Dec 8-10	NMRA Doubles-Only 40+	Atlanta, GA	NMRA	www.nationalmastersracquetball.org
Jan 19-22 '17	WSMRA 27th Championships Ladies-Only 35+ Doubles and B/C Singles Divisions Now Offered	Chicago, IL	Cheryl Kirk	www.wsmra.com
Feb TBD '17	USAR National Doubles	Phoenix, AZ	USAR	www.usra.org
Mar 8-11 '17	NMRA National Championships	TBD	NMRA	www.nationalmastersracquetball.org
May TBD '17	USAR National Singles	TBD	USAR	www.usra.org
Jul 12-15 '17	NMRA International Championships 45+	Minneapolis, MN (tentative)	Cindy Tilbury	www.nationalmastersracquetball.org

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