



RACQUET RACKET

SUMMER 2020

Official Newsletter of the National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA)

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Recent Fundraisers

At the last two NMRA banquets, we held fundraisers and here are the results and recipient causes of our generous NMRA folks: As always, we appreciate any direct donations to the NMRA and at our banquets for specific junior racquetball charities.

- **Chicago Fundraiser \$1300** – USA Team Travel + ISRA Juniors
- **Atlanta Fundraiser \$1000** – USA Collegiate Racquetball

Thank YOU!

NMRA 2019 Hall of Fame Inductee Marcia Richards

By Cindy Tilbury

Long-time NMRA player **Marcia Richards** was formally inducted into the NMRA Hall of Fame at our tournament banquet in Atlanta. It was a rather chilly December evening, but we had a great banquet at the Sonesta Hotel in Duluth/Lilburn.

With 40 total NMRA medals and many more for USAR and WSMRA competitions, Marcia is a true champion. Everyone loved hearing her stories of the old days and seeing slides of her as a young competitor. In addition to playing racquetball, as a Physical Education teacher and coach, Marcia has also taught hundreds of high school and elementary kids how to play over the years. A few years ago, Marcia got a knee replacement and felt like a new person, wishing she had done it sooner so she could play her best racquetball all along.

In her home town of Denver, she serves on the state racquetball association board, runs tournaments, and runs a huge charity tournament to benefit breast cancer research.

Join me in congratulating Marcia on her induction into the NMRA Hall of Fame.

The NMRA Hall of Fame will be receiving two more players/participants who were recently voted into the group. More about those inductions after the ceremonies take place...



Join in the FUN! Visit NMRA.info TODAY!



- ALL ROUND ROBINS
- SERIOUS FUN
- Five-Year AGE Increment DIVISIONS
- Stiff COMPETITION
- 40- to 100-YEAR Olds
- GOOD Food
- SINGLE / Double / MIXED
- No More "ONE and DONE"

2020 Venues - Missouri / Maryland / Oregon - Sign Up on R2Sports.com

NMRA Tidbits

By Cindy Tilbury

St. Louis Cancellation

You already know that we had to cancel our *St. Louis March NMRA* tournament during the Corona Virus pandemic. I was heartbroken about not seeing the players, not playing the matches, wasting a lot of effort putting it together and taking it apart. Because of all that, we have decided to go back to *St. Louis* next March and try all over again, with the same *River City Casino & Hotel*, plus (of course) *Vetta Sports Concord* racquetball club. Wish us luck on that. Plan to join us. Dates will be set in the next few months.

You also are aware that many other racquetball tournaments have been canceled, including international competitions and *IRT* and *LPRT* tournaments. If you are looking for a way to help out our sport, signing up for amateur events is a great way to let the world know we are more eager than ever to play our beloved racquetball.



President's Corner -

By Cindy Tilbury, NMRA President

Lately, I had been completely taking my sport for granted. Oh, I thought there was a lot to complain about. Our club is down to about five courts and some of the guys had the nerve to leave our group to go to a cheaper gym. Nonetheless, the players we have are skilled, safe players who love to play doubles three or four times a week with very little waiting around, so life was good.

On March 15th, the whole racquetball world changed, and our lives changed with it. Every day is the same, with no club play to get ready for, no national tournaments for which to make travel arrangements, no certainty that the *US Open* will be able to go on. I have spent countless hours cancelling tournaments and refunding entry fees. It's heartbreaking.

I imagine this is how non-racquetball and non-hobby retirees live their lives--Each day the same, and only vague thoughts about what

can be done in the void. Wanting to keep in touch, we occasionally group text, but we aren't allowed to get a party or happy hour together in person. Soon!

I hope you all take a few minutes to cherish our amazing sport and the life fulfillment it brings. We are so lucky to have found racquetball and I would like to challenge everyone to recruit new players to make sure it lasts forever. Watch for livestreaming videos as the world opens up in the next few weeks. See you back on the court very soon.



NMRA Player Profile - Marcus Riggins, Atlanta GA

By Cindy Tilbury

NMRA has a lot of characters among our members.



Since all of our members / readers have quite a bit of history behind them, you may remember Marcus Riggins from the *National Football League Pittsburgh Steelers* back in

the 1980s. I had a chance to interview Marcus Riggins recently after the *NMRA* made a stop in *Atlanta, Georgia*. Marcus played his second *NMRA* tournament, *Men's Doubles 55s*, and was happy to have us come to his home town.

Marcus' parents were both engineers in *Brooklyn, New York*. His four siblings and he were encouraged to finish school and participate in sports.

During high school, Marcus enjoyed track, football and basketball. It wasn't until his sophomore year in college that he discovered racquetball. He loved trash-talking and playing against his Economics professor, whom he swore to beat before graduating. It was also during college that he met some of the royalty of racquetball. He learned so much about the game from **Ruben Gonzalez**, **Dan Obremski**, and **Dave Sable** along the way.

He graduated from *Howard University* in

Washington DC in 1984. Marcus Riggins and **John Riggins** of the *Washington Redskins* met during the draft in 1984; he mentored Marcus and the joke was that they were twins.

A sprinter, Marcus hated to run, so racquetball was the perfect training activity during his college and pro career years. During this *NFL* years, he played in charity racquetball tournaments with his coach and many of his fellow players. He was done with pro football in 1989 and went on to graduate school at the *University of Pittsburgh*. After football, he worked in advertising at *Anheuser Busch*. Eventually, traveling got to be too much after he had children. Marcus chose Education and high school counseling as his career until he retired recently from the *Atlanta* school systems. Marcus' wife of 29 years is a professor at *Spellman College*.



Super 70s Sports @Super70sSports · May 1
"Riggins breaks into the clear! He's at the 50, the 45, the 50, the other 45! He's going in circles! Why did we buy this?"



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NMRA INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

July 30 - August 2, 2020 - Sport Fit Laurel Racquet Club, Laurel MD 20707

Entry By Mail Must Be POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN: 07/17/2020

Online Entries Must Be COMPLETED BY: 07/13/2020

<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=32053>

Please Print — Be Legible, Complete & Accurate

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: Home _____

Work _____

Cell _____

Email: _____

DOB: m ____ / d ____ / yr ____ Age on 07/30/2020 ____

Waiver: I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims that I may have against the NMRA, USAR, and Sport Fit Laurel Racquet 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 to 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 \$ 85 \$ _____

Second Event \$ 25 \$ _____

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

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

USRA Membership (required, 1 Yr) \$ 65 \$ _____

Total Due: \$ _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

NO REFUND OF ANY FEES AFTER 07/17/2020

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

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

DOUBLES PARTNER(S): Please Print

Name/Div/Age Bracket: _____

Name/Div/Age Bracket: _____

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

Emergency Contact Information:

Name _____

Phone # _____

Directions from Doubletree Laurel to Sport Fit Laurel Racquet	4 Miles North / 10 Minutes https://www.google.com/maps/dir/DoubleTree+by+Hilton+Hotel+Laurel.+Sweitzer+Lane,+Laurel,+MD/Sport+Fit+Laurel+Racquet,+Fort+Meade+Road,+Laurel,+MD/@39.0338991,-77.0742851,11z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m13!4m12!1m5!1m1!1s0x89b7dc95093638f1:0xaf84979be413abe3!2m2!1d-76.8976597!2d39.0972029!1m5!1m1!1s0x89b7dd693bfe55f9:0x568caaccf29b5e5d!2m2!1d-76.8412303!2d39.093451
Tournament Check-In	Wednesday, July 29, 2020, 5:00 to 8:00 pm in the club near the courts. (Check www.r2sports.com for venue changes) Let the Desk Staff know you are there for the racquetball tourney. Light appetizers and drinks, with player meeting at 7:00 pm. Plan to stay and socialize!
Tournament Souvenir	A high-quality shirt will be given out at check-in. Extra shirts will be available for sale.
Play Begins / Ends	8:00 am Thursday, July 30, to 5:00 pm Sunday, August 2, 2020 Every division plays every day (Thursday through Sunday) Please show consideration for all players and remember that we play every bracket every day of the event. Schedule your travel arrangements accordingly. ID/Bagtag may be required at the club(s).
Tournament Ball	<i>Penn Pro Green</i> is the Official Ball of the NMRA.
Tournament Scoring	All round robins, self-refereed matches. Every division will play two games to 15. Large “pool play” divisions will have Sunday playoff matches. Playoff format will be two games to 15, tiebreaker to 11 if needed. Bonus points are awarded for winning games (2 per game) and the match (4). Ties will split the extra four match points. Points are automatically calculated by the R2sports tournament software. When any team or player must forfeit, average scores will be used to determine final results of the division or pool. If a forfeit occurs during a match, the opposing team or player will be awarded points required to finish the match. You must play all of your matches in a division to receive a medal. In rare circumstances, a “watcher” may be requested of the tournament director to settle disputes.
Appeals	The NMRA has a Rules Committee that can be used by the players to submit an appeal on a rule (immediately) or issue (not necessarily immediately) that arises during the event. The decision of the Rules Committee is final and binding on all parties concerned.
Tournament Awards	NMRA medals will be awarded to First through Fourth place winners for each bracket. Combined brackets will be awarded medals based on age. No medal will be awarded for the combined division itself.
Eligibility	USAR-sanctioned; Current USAR membership is required to participate. Entries will not be accepted without payment for USAR membership. NMRA membership is required for all, EXCEPT players who are playing in their FIRST NMRA event. Special recognition and gift for first-time players and new NMRA members will be given out.
Breakfast / Morning Hospitality	Full hot breakfast is included in the price of the Doubletree Laurel host hotel. Fruit and drinks available at Sport Fit Laurel.
Lunch	Available near the courts at Sport Fit Laurel Racquet 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 get a lunch and set it aside if you are playing and will want to eat afterward.
Evening Hospitality	Available at Sport Fit Laurel Racquet only—not a substitute for dinner.
Banquet	Saturday night, August 1, 2020, at the Doubletree Laurel Ballroom Cash bar at 6:00 pm; Dinner & program from approximately 7:00 to 9:00 pm Videos, slide shows and possible award (fun and serious) presentations are customary. Don't miss this!
Baltimore / Washington Activities and Attractions	Golf, hiking, shopping, zoo, museums, monuments, MLB Baseball, gambling, town festivals, brewery tours, much more. See the separate handout of Things To Do in Baltimore/Washington at our nmra.info website.
RV Parks	There are several RV parks with hookups near the host hotel. https://www.google.com/maps/search/rv+parks/@39.0934756,-76.9112708,12z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m8!2m7!3m6!1srv+parks!2sSport+Fit+Laurel+Racquet,+204+Fort+Meade+Rd,+Laurel,+MD+20707!3s0x89b7dd693bfe55f9:0x568caaccf29b5e5d!4m2!1d-76.8412303!2d39.093451
Laundromats	Here is a list of laundromats near the host hotel. https://www.google.com/maps/search/laundromat/@39.0934756,-76.8499851,15z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m8!2m7!3m6!1slaundromat!2sSport+Fit+Laurel+Racquet,+204+Fort+Meade+Rd,+Laurel,+MD+20707!3s0x89b7dd693bfe55f9:0x568caaccf29b5e5d!4m2!1d-76.8412303!2d39.093451

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MORE **NMRA**
Tidbits

Racquetball in Unexpected Places

Bruce Adams reports
Young & Restless
November 2019

Two discussions on racquetball between Michael and Paul. They are at a minute three and ten.

Will & Grace show February 13 "Of Mouse and Men" About 1 minute from the end. Will is afraid of a mouse so he stands on a table and threatens the rodent with a *Head* racquetball racquet.

FBI TV Show March 31 Episode "Emotional Rescue" near the end. *New York* naturalization ceremony has a bomb in the building and the *FBI* guys have everyone go to safety by the racquetball courts. We never get to see the courts.

HQ Trivia App April 15 Trivia question asking which of three sports was NOT created at a YMCA— Racquetball, Volleyball, or Table Tennis. Answer: Table Tennis

September 2019 *Andrew Yang* interview clip. 2020 (at the time) *Democratic Presidential Candidate Andrew Yang* (\$1000 free per month for everyone) is being interviewed at a health club in front of the racquetball courts. Alas. No one is playing or hitting the ball.

NMRA Membership Update

NMRA currently has about 600 current members, including our 80+ and 79- Lifetime members. California leads for states, with 400+, and Texas is a distant second with about 200. **Let's get cracking, other states!**

Doubles Partners Contact Cindy Tilbury for a doubles partner or roommate cindy.tilbury@att.net or 303.888.4461
Please try the "Need a Doubles Partner" list feature of R2Sports when registering. There are also "Need a Roommate" and "Need a Ride" lists.

R2Sports App Free Download To better follow the tournament and get notifications for your matches and results, please download the free R2Sports app. For questions, contact Ryan or Tish at R2Sports.com. Info and download links here. www.r2sports.com/tournament-app.asp.

Player Profiles / Shirt Sizes It is extremely important that you keep your player profile, including shirt size, up-to-date in the www.r2sports.com system. The profile is used to help you enter tournaments online and, more importantly, to contact you with the latest tournament information and changes when you enter tournaments. This profile is the same as your www.nmra.info and www.usra.org profile. Contact the USAR staff in Colorado Springs at 719.635.5396 if you need a little help getting started or remembering your password for this feature.

Average Temperatures & Altitude Baltimore in June – High 84° F – Low 63° F – Average 74° F
Precipitation in June -- 4.3 Inches; Altitude is 164 feet above Sea Level.

THINGS TO DO in Washington, DC

By *Karen Grisz and Tracie Valentine*

Museums www.si.edu
One of the best things about DC is the Smithsonian museums, which are all FREE!
• See dinosaurs and the Hope Diamond at Natural History
• See Betsy Ross' flag and Dorothy's Ruby Slippers at American History
• See the Wright Bros. plane and an Apollo lunar module at Air and Space

Monuments <https://www.nps.gov/nama/index.htm>
Nice day? Walk in and around the National Mall to see the Washington Monument, Jefferson Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, the war memorials (WWII, Vietnam, and Korean), FDR Memorial and MLK Memorial.

National Zoo Like the museums, FREE! See the pandas and many other animals at this park-like zoo. <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/>

Library of Congress Take a free one-hour guided tour of America's oldest cultural institution. <https://www.loc.gov/visit/>

National Archives See the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. www.archives.gov

Shows/Music/Plays DC is home to many theatres – check out the Kennedy Center, Arena Stage, Warner Theatre, the Shakespeare Theatre.

Baseball See a Nationals game while in town! <https://www.mlb.com/nationals>

Arlington National Cemetery Honor our veterans, and see JFK's grave as well as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Iwo Jima memorial statue is nearby. <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/#/>

Jazz Free Jazz concerts on Friday night at the Sculpture Garden at the National Gallery of Art. <https://pavilioncafe.com/jazz/>

Gardens Visit the National Arboretum (if you have a car), <https://www.usna.usda.gov/> or the National Botanic Garden, <https://www.usbg.gov/>

Ford's Theatre If you are a civil war buff, take a tour of the site of Lincoln's assassination, including the house across the street where he died. <https://www.fords.org/visit/historic-site/>

Special Military / Government Mentions The Pentagon, CIA headquarters and FBI headquarters are all in the area. Not all are accessible to citizens.



Zoom with the NMRA

By Patti Adams

Have you been sitting around trying to figure out what to do with all your free time? Do you miss seeing and spending time with your friends from around the world?

Then please take out some time and explore Zoom today. Zoom is an online video conferencing database that allows you to speak with anyone, any time, and place for free if you talk for only 30 to 40 minutes. If you want to gather a bunch of your friends and talk for an hour or more then there is a small fee of only \$14.99 a month.

Just think, you can talk about how you survived COVID-19, what you have been doing to stay active with gyms closed and no racquetball tournaments, you can talk about ways to improve the game of racquetball, in short you can simply just chat. Keeping this in mind, the main thing you should do is make a decision to install the software, send a link to your friends with a meeting date and time, and start the conversation today.

No, Zoom is not FaceTime, or Facebook, or Instagram, or Snapchat, or Twitter or I could go on and on. Zoom is an interactive state-of-the-art video chatting tool that allow you to talk to 100 (or less, of course) people, and stay connected to the people you love the most.

Missing racquetball, missing the tournaments, missing connecting with the people who are passionate and enjoy the same sport you do??...then join Zoom today...and start that meet-and-greet... no time like the present!!!! Check the NMRA's Facebook page for posts about the next Zoom meeting, including the link to join in. Join in the chat and invite all of your NMRA friends. See you online, until we can meet again on the court!

Player Profile - Marcus Riggins continued from page 2...

Living in Atlanta, Marcus was able to coach racquetball at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa—a three-hour drive east. When popular assistant coach Jeff Garner passed away, the team needed support. The Crimson Tide team during those years won national championships and, most important, many of their top racquetball athletes in the nation went on to have very successful careers.

The Atlanta racquetball group is a really tight one. They go out after playing and, what we don't see everywhere is a big group of A+-level ladies. LA Fitness is where almost everyone plays, but of course, most tournaments are at Jason Chan's Recreation ATL club. Marcus finds all of the racquetball people to be the most giving, most caring, happiest people he has met.

He particularly loves the NMRA tournaments for the same reasons he loves racquetball. The friendships, family, competition, traveling, and challenges. He wakes up every day grateful to have the sport in his life. Now that his four kids are older, he enjoys traveling with his club friends in the Southeast US for tournaments.

If Marcus won the lottery, he would immediately re-open the famous Merritt Security Club in Baltimore, Maryland, venue for USA Racquetball National Doubles in the 1990s. It was the best club ever. I hope he wins the Powerball tomorrow!

THINGS TO DO in Baltimore, MD

By Karen Grisz and Tracie Valentine

Fort McHenry

Visit the fort that inspired the *Star Spangled Banner*. <https://www.nps.gov/fomc/index.htm>

Fell's Point

This charming national historic district, dating back to the 18th century, has cobblestone streets, historic buildings, craft and antique stores, coffee houses and street fairs. <https://baltimore.org/neighborhoods/fells-point>

National Aquarium

Considered one of the best of the world! www.aqua.org

Inner Harbor

One of America's oldest seaports dating from the 1600s; Follow the brick promenade through the complex of eateries, stores, museums, entertainment. <https://baltimore.org/article/baltimore-inner-harbor>

Museums

Walters Museum is free! Has a varied collection spanning thousands of years. <https://thewalters.org/> The Baltimore Museum of Art has works of Cezanne, Matisse, and Picasso (also free!) There are many others as well. <https://artbma.org/>

Edgar Allen Poe

Visit his house, now a museum, and then visit his grave and memorial is located in a very old cemetery in a church, this is worth a visit. <https://www.eapoe.org/balt/poegrave.htm>
<https://www.poeinbaltimore.org/museum/>

Baseball

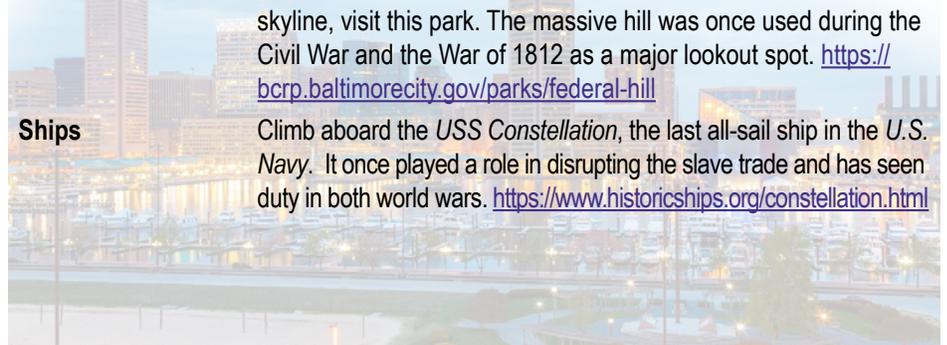
Watch the Orioles at historic Camden Yards! www.mlb.com/orioles

Federal Hill Park

For some of the best views of the Inner Harbor and Baltimore skyline, visit this park. The massive hill was once used during the Civil War and the War of 1812 as a major lookout spot. <https://bcrp.baltimorecity.gov/parks/federal-hill>

Ships

Climb aboard the USS Constellation, the last all-sail ship in the U.S. Navy. It once played a role in disrupting the slave trade and has seen duty in both world wars. <https://www.historicships.org/constellation.html>





MORE NMRA Tidbits

25th Annual US Open

There is only one more *US Open* tournament run by **Doug Ganim**. He has announced his retirement after the October 2020 event in *Minneapolis*. Watch the *USA Racquetball* website and announcements for details on how *US Opens* will be presented after Doug's retirement. If the pandemic causes the event to be postponed, it will most likely be postponed an entire year.

New Online Racquetball Shows

We have been missing racquetball, of course, during the pandemic shutdown. Well, the pro tours and the *USAR* have been too, so they did something about it. There are several new live shows each week that highlight pro and amateur and junior sectors of our sport. If you speak Spanish, there are probably a few more. Check out the *International Racquetball Tour's* and *Ladies Pro Racquetball Tour's Facebook* pages for details on when to tune in via *Facebook*. And also check the *USA Racquetball Facebook* page for their shows. You may have missed **Gregg Peck** in his last interview, then **Marty Hogan** and **Cliff Swain** and **Fran Davis**, as well as many of the pros who are currently on tour. Tune it and catch up on the full racquetball scene.

NMRA 2019 Doubles-Only Championships

Recreation ATL, Atlanta GA | December 6-8, 2019
Cindy Tilbury, Tournament Director



Division	Place	Name	State	Points
MD40	1st	Tim Baghurst / Slemo Warigon	FL / DC	36.20
	2nd	Edward Kizito / John Gyorgyi	GA / GA	32.40
	3rd	Frank Lopez / Raymond Flowers	FL / MS	29.00
	4th	Sergio Clemente / Michael Todd	AL / AL	21.60
	5th	Todd Upchurch / Eric Saghini	GA / GA	11.60
MD50	1st	CJ Frank / Frank Lopez	VA / FL	37.00
	Playoff 2nd	Jonathan Bryant / Dion Lowe	GA / GA	32.00
	3rd	Marcus Riggins / Wes Wesley	GA / GA	30.25
	4th	Luis George Sr. / Slemo Warigon	GA / DC	31.50
	5th	Tim McCloy / Raymond Flowers	GA / MS	25.00
	6th	Miguel Tavarez / Roger Carter	SC / SC	28.75
	7th	Michael Miller Jr. / Terrence Pierce	GA / GA	23.75
	8th	Joey Logan / Scott Sobel	FL / SC	24.00

Division	Place	Name	State	Points
MD55	1st	Ron Fowler / Mel Pangilinan	GA / GA	37.00
	Playoff 2nd	Eric Robinson / Michael Limsky	MD / MD	34.75
	3rd	John Chretien Sr. / Charles Knight	SC / OH	35.00
	4th	Joerg Leinemann / Rick Simmons	MD / SC	32.50
	5th	Richard Browder / Roger Carter	SC / SC	22.33
	6th	Carl Chinnery / Miguel Tavares	SC / SC	32.50
	7th	Tony Chavis / Tyrone Murray	SC / SC	17.50
	8th	Dion Lowe / David Meier	GA / GA	15.67
MD60	1st	Billy Cannon / Mike Grisz	AL / AL	38.00
	2nd	Rick Betts / James Corrigan	CA / AL	37.00
	3rd	Gus Sanchez / Tony White	TX / AL	34.50
	4th	Carl Chinnery / Christer Linden	SC / AK	37.00
	5th	John Chretien Sr. / Charles Knight	SC / OH	32.33
	6th	Torance Inman / Roger Dial	SC / SC	21.67
	7th	Richard Browder / Tony Chavis	SC / SC	26.33
	8th	Roger Luque / Philip Enteles	GA / GA	23.00



RECREATION ATL



Division	Place	Name	State	Points	
MD65	1st	Billy Cannon / James Corrigan	AL / AL	38.00	
	Playoff	2nd	Mark Baron / Rick Betts	VA / CA	36.25
		3rd	Steve Littlefield / Gus Sanchez	TX / TX	31.00
		4th	Jim Harvey / Jeff Heath	GA / KY	29.80
		5th	Frank Greenfield / Chris Poucher	GA / GA	30.75
		6th	Torance Inman / Christer Linden	SC / AK	28.60
		7th	Philip Enteles / Neil Schlossberg	GA / GA	24.60
		8th	Gerald Goebel / Thomas Goebel	FL / TX	26.00
MD70	1st	Jim Harvey / Mike Pawka	GA / CA	34.40	
	2nd	Dennis McKee / Michael Stephens	IL / MI	34.40	
	3rd	Barry Hendricks / Ralph Worthington	AZ / TN	26.80	
	4th	Jerry Prentiss / Dan Jones	PA / GA	26.20	
	5th	Greg Kearney / Tony White	CA / AL	23.40	
	6th	Glenn Allen / George Hardinger	VA / MD	12.80	
MD75	1st	Dan Jones / Jerry Prentiss	GA / PA	37.50	
	2nd	James Troutt / Danial White	WA / OR	27.83	
	3rd	William Baker / Wayne Toyne	CA / VA	10.67	



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NMRA 2019 Doubles-Only Championships continued from page 9...

MORE NMRA Tidbits

Lifetime NMRA Membership Now Available

Our 80-year-old members get a free NMRA lifetime membership. That's the least we can do for our favorite players! But we had some of our younger folks asking for a path to lifetime membership well before hitting the 80 mark, and the board voted to create just such a membership. It's the 79- Lifetime Membership and it costs \$750. If you were thinking of renewing your NMRA membership forever, this is the option for you. We won't kid you—it is basically a donation and we appreciate anyone who buys this membership. Up to this point, there have only been four members so far. Use your USAR Membership link to choose 79- Lifetime anytime. Call Cindy Tilbury with questions.

New NMRA Hall of Fame Gallery Online

Were you curious about what our Hall of Famers look like? You can now look at all of the people with their HOF plaques. Linda Mojer created a great new photo gallery and we hope you will visit it today. <http://www.nationalmastersracquetball.com/about/hall-of-fame/hof-gallery/>



Division	Place	Name	State	Points	Division	Place	Name	State	Points
WD45	1st	Robin Whitmire / Joanna Lombardi	GA / VA	29.33	XD40	1st	Timothy Baghurst / Marie Gomar	FL / GUA	35.25
	2nd	Marcia Richards / Beverly Supanick	CO / MD	22.00	XD45	1st	Ron Fowler / Felicia Green	GA / GA	33.75
WD50	1st	Marie Gomar / Karen Grisz	GUA / VA	38.00	2nd	Edward Kizito / Kelly LeBlanc	GA / GA	30.00	
	2nd	Marsha Johnson / Donna Jones	GA / GA	15.00	3rd	Francis Anum / Joanna Lombardi	VA / VA	23.50	
WD55	1st	Cindy Tilbury / Louise Winter	CA / CA	35.50	4th	Fanta David / Terrence Pierce	MD / GA	12.75	
	2nd	Tami Costanza / Janice Kennedy	GA / GA	34.25	XD50	1st	Mike Grisz / Karen Grisz	VA / VA	38.00
	3rd	Vicki Luque / Tracy Parker Hudson	GA / GA	24.75	2nd	Wes Wesley / Marsha Johnson	GA / GA	32.75	
WD60	1st	Ingrid Callmann / Michele Madeksza	DE / DE	23.50	3rd	Michael Miller Jr. / Donna Jones	GA / GA	27.25	
WD70	1st	Sharon Huczek / Marquita Molina	MI / CA	6.25	4th	John Gyorgyi / Kelly LeBlanc	GA / GA	23.50	
					5th	Fanta David / CJ Frank	MD / VA	12.50	

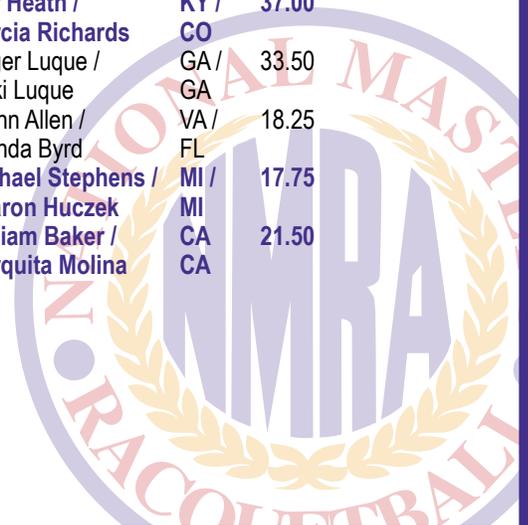


Recreation ATL



Division	Place	Name	State	Points
XD55	1st	Neil Schlossberg / Janice Kennedy	GA / GA	36.75
	2nd	Eric Robinson / Sharon McNeill	MD / MD	27.75
	3rd	David Meier / Tracy Parker Hudson	GA / GA	25.50
	4th	Michael Limsky / Michelle Madeksza	MD / DE	21.50
	5th	Gary Smarsh / Tami Costanza	PA / GA	15.50
XD60	1st	Chris Poucher / Cindy Tilbury	GA / CA	36.67
	2nd	Joerg Leinemann / Ingrid Callmann	MD / DE	28.83
	3rd	Michael Hiles / Sharon McNeill	MN / MD	26.50
	4th	Rodolpho Everett / Brenda Byrd	GA / FL	8.00

Division	Place	Name	State	Points
XD65	1st	Jeff Heath / Marcia Richards	KY / CO	37.00
	2nd	Roger Luque / Vicki Luque	GA / GA	33.50
	3rd	Glenn Allen / Brenda Byrd	VA / FL	18.25
XD70	1st	Michael Stephens / Sharon Huczek	MI / MI	17.75
	XD75	1st	William Baker / Marquita Molina	CA / CA





MORE NMRA Tidbits

YouTube NMRA Hall of Fame and Other Videos Available

There are many *National Masters Racquetball Association* videos on YouTube (and our Facebook page, of course). Within YouTube, search for *National Masters Racquetball* or **Bruce Adams** or **Leon Jackson**. Enjoy!

Follow-up from San Antonio

I believe I have finally sent all pullovers (or equivalent shirts) out to everyone who waited patiently after *San Antonio*. If I am mistaken, I trust you will all let me know.

Central/South American Masters – New Guatemala Courts

After several years of government red tape, a new public racquetball/sports complex is open in *Guatemala City, Guatemala*. With room for 10 courts, six are currently available and events will be planned very soon after the pandemic fears are eased. One such event will be a *National Masters* for Spanish speakers.

Marie Gomar and I will be putting together an event as soon as we can, with November being the goal for competition—although it might not be 2020 now. If you have ever wanted to visit *Guatemala* and *Mayan* ruins, keep an eye out for a round-robin 40+ tournament in beautiful *Guatemala*. Perhaps a whole new organization will arise to hold more events all around *Central* and *South America* for 40+-year-olds!

NMRA Passings *By Cindy Tilbury*

Since the last NMRA newsletter we have had a few of our members pass. They are always unexpected, and it always hurts. If you know of someone who has passed and we have not made everyone aware of it, please let me know. See the full list on the NMRA website in the "In memorium" page. <http://www.nationalmastersracquetball.com/news/in-memoriam/>



Joe Lambert
Plano, TX

In 2005, Joe Lambert was 77 and already billed as one of the sport's most decorated players, in the *Dallas Morning News SportsDay*

Collin County feature "Plano Resident still commands the Court". He'd picked up the sport at 52, and at the time, he'd already captured 15 national gold medals, 11 of those in singles.

Nearly 15 years later, and just shy of 92, this lauded *Master's* athlete passed away in his hometown of Plano, Texas on May 22, 2019. He'd been inducted into the *NMRA Hall of Fame* in 1996 and gone on for another quarter century of living his best life in the sport.



After a brief tour of active duty in Army service, Joe's career kept him involved in *Army & Air Force Exchange* services. A native of New York, he moved to the Dallas metro area in 1969 and retired from a career in industrial engineering in 1988. He met and married his wife **Jo Worrell** in 2001 and they settled in Plano. His son, Mike, shared the sad news of his father's passing, along with some of his favorite photos and the 2005 news clipping that celebrated his many accomplishments. Visit the *NMRA In Memoriam* page for the links: <http://www.nationalmastersracquetball.com/in-passing-joe-lambert/>



Steve Meltsner
West Hartford, CT

Steve Meltsner was a long-time NMRA doubles player, partner of **Leo Marsocci** from Tampa. Before he retired, Steve was a pilot for *Federal Express*. Information from

his obituary about Steve's life:

Col. Stephen L. Meltsner, *USAF* and *CT Air National Guard, Ret.*, a long-time resident of West Hartford, died peacefully on December 27, 2019 at the age of 73, from gall bladder, pancreatic, and liver cancer. He is survived by his beloved wife of 49 years, **Jessica**, who remained at his side until the very end, their son, **Adam** and his lovely wife, **Erin**, and of course, his two spoiled Dobermans, Noah and Sarah. Formerly of New York City, Steve patriotically volunteered to serve in the *United States Air Force* in 1966, during the *Vietnam War*, where he spent two years as a fighter and bomber weapons loader. Following his commitment to the war effort, he immediately thereafter joined the *Connecticut Air National Guard*, and he subsequently applied for and was selected to *The Academy of Military of Arts and Science* and was a distinguished graduate. He earned his *Certificate of Aeronautical Rating (USAF Wings)* on January 26, 1974. Then he went on to *Combat Crew Training at The Arizona Air National Guard* leaning to fly the F-100. He subsequently went to *USAF Sea Survival and POW Camp*. He maintained combat readiness in the *F-100 Super Saber* (1000 + hours) and the *A-10 Thunderbolt II* (over 2000 hours). He completed *Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College and National Security Management School*. He was the recipient of the *Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, USAF Commendation Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal*, to name a few. He retired from *CT Air National* in 1999 holding the position of Director of Operations, State Headquarters

NMRA Passings is continued on page 18...



2020 NMRA DOUBLES-ONLY & IRT CHAMPIONSHIP



Play the NMRA Round-Robin Tourney, then Stay for the IRT Pro Stop

Registration - Monday, Nov. 30 | Play - Dec. 1-3; Banquet Dec. 3, 2020
at Multnomah Athletic Club, 1849 SW Salmon, Portland, OR 97205



Entry By Mail Must Be POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN: 11/18/2020
Online Entries Must Be COMPLETED BY: 11/20/2020 Questions? Call Cindy at 303.888.4461

<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=36029> Sign-up EARLY!

Hotel: DoubleTree, 1000 Multnomah, Portland, OR 97232 (503.281.6111)

Please Print — Be Legible, Complete & Accurate

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Mobile Phone: _____

Email: _____

DOB: m____ / d____ / yr____ Age on 12/01/2020 _____

Waiver: I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims that I may have against the NMRA, USAR, and Multnomah 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 to 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: _____

FEES: No refunds of any fees after 11/20/2020

First Event	\$ 85	\$
Second Event	\$ 25	\$
*Guest (Food & Banquet)	\$ 70 Per Guest	\$
**NMRA Membership	\$ 45 for 3 Years	\$
USRA Membership	\$ 65 for 1 Year or \$ 30 for 1 Event	\$
General Fund Donation	Anything is greatly appreciated	\$
	Total Due	\$

*Guest(s) Name(s): _____

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

(First time players do not have to join the NMRA.)

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

LIMIT OF TWO EVENTS

MENS DOUBLES	WOMENS DOUBLES	MIXED
	40+	
n/a	40+ B/C	n/a
	45+	
	50+	
n/a	50+ B/C	n/a
	55+	
	60+	
	65+	
	70+	
	75+	
	80+	
	85+	
	90+	n/a

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 a Mixed Doubles if someone needs a partner?

Emergency Contact Information:

Name _____

Phone # _____

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

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



NMRA 2020 Doubles-Only Championship

Multnomah Athletic Club | Portland, OR | December 1-3, 2020

(Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) **Round Robin Age Divisions Starting at 40 Years Young**

www.nmra.info | <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=36029>

Tournament Directors / Staff

Tourney Director – Cindy Tilbury 303.888.4461 cindy.tilbury@att.net
 Tournament Director – Marni Winings 651.505.22 marnikac@gmail.com
 Hank Marcus – Club Contact woroutdoorball@aol.com

Host Club



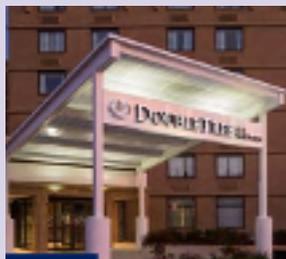
Multnomah Athletic Club

Multnomah Athletic Club – 10 Concrete-Walled Courts www.themac.com

Enter via special NMRA door! Providence Park MAX Stop
 1849 SW Salmon St, Portland, OR 97205 503.223.6251

Bring a lock. Towel service available. Lockers may NOT be available.
 Club facilities are available to tournament players and paid guests.
 Great club and locker room amenities available during the event.

Host Hotel



Doubletree by Hilton Portland *Rental car is NOT recommended.*

1000 NE Multnomah Street, Portland, OR 97232 503.281.6111

10 Miles/40 Minutes Airport to Hotel on MAX TriMetro Red Line Train Route (Lloyd Center Stop) –
 Buy a week MAX pass. 2.5 Miles/25 Minutes Hotel to Club on MAX TriMetro Red or Blue Line.

Single Queen Rate with breakfast \$149 per night + tax; Double Queen Rate with breakfast \$169
 per night + tax; Extra People in Rooms \$15 Per Person; Reference National Masters Racquetball
 Association group name when registering by phone. Call to register.

**Reserve early—Only 20 rooms (mostly two-bed) reserved for NMRA but more may be added
 when those are booked. Rate available through October 31, 2020 – BOOK EARLY!**

In&Out Parking Privilege \$37 Per Day Valet / Free internet; Near large shopping area / Steps from the
 TriMetro train.

Enter Online Maximum of Two Divisions



Enter online by November 20, 2020 <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=36029>

First event--\$85 Second event--\$25 + Card Handling Fee

Two Doubles Division Limit. **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). Two Doubles Division Limit.

Mail completed entry form and fees by November 18, 2020, to:

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

Refunds

Refunds are available until the registration deadline, when shirts will be ordered, banquet dinners will
 be committed, and match scheduling will be completed.

Doubles Partners / Roommates

Contact Cindy Tilbury for a doubles partner or roommate request (cindy.tilbury@att.net).

You may also use the list feature of R2Sports when you enter online.

Special For Ladies!

Ladies may consider playing in our B/C divisions for players 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 70+ players. This
 special division is limited to 16 players and is played whenever time is available to work it in. 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. No need to sign up online, but do tell the tournament director you plan to play.

Nearest Airport

Portland International (PDX), 7000 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR 97218

10 Miles via Car / 40 Minutes By MAX Red Line

Train info: <https://www.flypdx.com/groundtransportation/TriMet>; Book flights at www.flypdx.com

Airlines Flying into PDX

All major airlines fly into PDX.

Alternate Airport

None recommended. Seattle-Tacoma International Airport 3 hours.

Airport Taxi/Shuttle Ground Transportation at PDX

Shuttles are not provided by the hotel. MAX train is recommended (see above). Uber/Lyft are good
 options. Rental car is not recommended due to limited/expensive parking options at club and hotel.

continued on Page 15...

NMRA 2020 Doubles-Only Championship INFORMATION SHEET continued from page xx...

Shuttle from Hotel to Club	2.5 Miles or 25 Minutes by Train The Doubletree by Hilton Portland is on the MAX Red or Blue Line Lloyd Center train stop and that is the method of transportation between the hotel and the Multnomah Athletic Club. Buying a MAX multi-day train pass is recommended.
Directions from PDX Airport to Host Hotel	10 Miles or 40 Minutes By Train Take the MAX train Red Line to the Lloyd Center Stop. Walk about a block north.
Directions from Host Hotel to Multnomah Athletic Center	4 Miles or 25 Minutes by Train Walk south about a block to Lloyd Center MAX stop. Take MAX Red Line toward Beaverton & City Center or Blue Line toward Hillsboro. Ride for Eight Stops to Providence Park. Walk half a block to Multnomah Athletic Club – Special NMRA Door!
Parking at Host Club	Limited / Expensive. Don't do it. Ride the train.
Tournament Check-In Player Meet and Greet at Multnomah	Monday, November 30, 2020, 5 pm to 8 pm, near courts. 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. It is STRONGLY recommended for NMRA first-timers but everyone is invited.
Play Begins / Ends	Starts at 8 am every day. Ends by 10 pm Tuesday and Wednesday. Ends around 5 pm Thursday before banquet at the Doubletree. Every division plays every day (Tuesday through Thursday). 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	A few courts will be available free of charge November 30, 2020 for practice, before registration begins.
Tournament Ball	 Penn Green is the official ball of the NMRA.
Tournament Scoring	All round robins, self-refereed matches. Every division will play two games to 15. Larger "pool play" divisions will have Thursday 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. <i>USAR</i> amateur rules will be used.
Appeals	The NMRA has a rules committee that can be used by the players to submit an appeal on a rule or issue that arises during the event. The decision of the rules committee is final and binding on all parties concerned.
Eligibility	<i>USAR</i> -sanctioned; Current <i>USAR</i> membership is required to participate. Your membership must be valid through the last day of the tournament. Entries will not be accepted without payment for <i>USAR</i> membership. <i>USAR</i> membership is available at www.usra.org . NMRA membership is required for all EXCEPT players who are playing in their FIRST NMRA event. Special recognition for first-time players and new NMRA members.
Tournament Awards	NMRA medals will be awarded to First through Fourth place winners for each age division, no matter how many players are signed up for each 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. Light fruit and drinks available at the Multnomah Athletic Club.
Lunch	Lunch is served at the Multnomah Athletic Club from about noon to 2 pm; you may need to present your tournament pass or bag tag.
Evening Hospitality on Wednesday and Friday	<u>Not a substitute for dinner.</u> Hospitality will be served at the Multnomah Athletic Club about 5 pm. You may need to present your tournament pass or bag tag.
Banquet on THURSDAY Night, December 3	Doubletree by Hilton Portland Ballroom Area (Host Hotel) 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 about 9 pm.
Local Activities	https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g52024-Activities-Portland_Oregon.html

MORE NMRA Tidbits

Japan Masters

Just like the Spanish speakers who love round-robin play, there are many Japanese speakers who have been playing Japan Masters for years. It looks like their yearly tournament takes place in September. If you are interested in joining in the fun there, please check out their information at: <https://www.facebook.com/japanmastersracquetball/>

Zoom Meetings

During the pandemic, as we have not been able to play and say hi, we have organized several online Zoom meetings where folks can stop in and catch up a little. We plan to have more, every few weeks, until we can all be together again, and we may even continue after that. See the separate article in this newsletter by **Patti Adams**, our gracious organizer. The schedule and links will be posted on our *NMRA Facebook* page.

NMRA Survey Results

We recently asked you to fill out our online *Survey-Monkey* survey and we got great responses—about 300 players responded. Thank you so much for helping us figure out what directions to take in the future with events, locations, formats, etc. We will probably do this again in a few years to see if the preferences of the players have changed then, and try to be responsive to all of our great players.

NMRA 2020 Doubles-Only Championship INFORMATION SHEET continued from page 15..

Sights to See	In addition to the amazing downtown area and microbrews all over town, please see the separate sheet for a long list of Oregon places to visit and things to do.
Average Temperatures	December – High 46° F – Low 37° F; Average December Precipitation 6.1 Inches
Altitude	50 Feet Above Sea Level; 100 Miles From the Pacific Ocean.
RV Parks	An RV park with hookups near the host hotel: Fox Run RV Park, 9000 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Portland, OR 97211 503.285.1617
Laundromats	Here is a laundromat near the host club. Clean O Rama Northwest, 2573 NW Thurman St, OR 97201 503.662.8231
Special IRT Fundraiser / Event	For this tournament, we are kicking off the 50th year of NMRA 40+ racquetball. We are partnering with the MAC club and Wendell Pelham to celebrate with the top players in the sport—the IRT professionals. Wendell is the creator of a very special charity called Live Like John. John was his son, an avid racquetball player whom he lost in Afghanistan. Our Thursday night banquet will include a fundraiser for Wendell's charity. Live Like John details are here: https://www.livelikejohn.us/ Court stickers and dog-tag court stickers to honor your special servicemen and women are available to support this organization during the IRT livestreamed matches, as well. Please consider donating online or at the banquet.
Updates	More details and updates for this document will be provided closer to the tournament start date. A full tournament handout will be given out at the Monday night player meeting. Check the R2Sports.com site too.

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), <https://goo.gl/maps/eyiHNsmo3Bu>
and Mt. Saint Helens (WA), <https://goo.gl/maps/gmb1i6yMBG52>

Saturday Market - Open Sunday, too, www.portlandsaturdaymarket.com

Powell Book Store - Largest in the world, www.powells.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.

China Town, www.oldtownchinatown.org



MORE NMRA Tidbits

First-Timer Momentum

Before this pandemic hit, we had amazing momentum going for getting new NMRA members! Our previous two tournaments in *Atlanta* and *Chicago* had had over 50 first-timers each, and *St. Louis* was on track to do a similar number. Since we have not been to *Laurel, Maryland* before but the *Atlanta* and *New Jersey* crews are known to drive to *Baltimore* tournaments, we are pretty sure we will see some new faces there too! Of course, many players may not yet be ready to come back to tournaments, but we are cautiously optimistic.

Extra Atlanta Shirts Available

We have quite a few extra royal blue long-sleeved *Atlanta NMRA* shirts left over and would love for you to consider buying one. Contact **Cindy Tilbury** for sizes and prices. Make her an offer!

Facebook Account for NMRA Prez

I rarely post on *Facebook* for myself, but when I livestream, I post items on the *NMRA* page. Check out our organization page for all of the latest videos and announcements. *National Masters Racquetball* page is here. Give it a try. www.facebook.com/nationalmastersrb

Photos Available

If you would like a photo taken of an *NMRA* person, perhaps on the medal podium, just ask **Cindy Tilbury**. After each tournament, she catalogs each photo for names, and can easily email you a photo or two.

Reduced NMRA Entry Fees

We hope you have taken note of our recent reduced entry fees. Our goal has been to attract new players and first-timers, especially local players, wherever we go and we think reduced entry fees is the way to go. We have generous donors who are picking up the tab for you receiving this benefit, but we think it's going well and attracting new players to the *NMRA* family. Take advantage of this while it's available. We hope we can continue to offer half-price entries into the future.

NMRA 2020 Not for Ladies Only - Join Us Again Soon

By Cindy Tilbury

Hi Ladies. I miss you all. I hope you are getting in some quarantined exercise and keeping in touch with all of your racquetball friends until you can play with and against them again.

For those of you who joined us in January in St. Louis at the *Women's Senior/Masters Racquetball Association* tournament, you know how much fun we all had. Our host **Shari Coplen** let us know how much she loves St. Louis and all of its history. Shari went out of her way to serve up treats and eats made in St. Louis, and she led a special city tour for us before play started. *Vetta Sports Concord* hosted the matches, and Dan Whitley made sure we had everything we needed all weekend. Our Saturday night banquet was a beach party. The great group of *WSMRA* tournament committee ladies ran an excellent tournament with Shari. We can't wait to go back and have even more women join us. St. Louis is the home of 500 high school players so we met and played with several of those young women too. In about 20 years, they will be able to join in the fun in their proper 35+ age group. Crazy to think about.

So what about 2021 *WSMRA*? We are going to Atlanta where **Jason Chan's Recreation ATL** club will be our destination for fun. If you don't know the Atlanta group of players, you probably don't appreciate how passionate about racquetball the ladies in that part of the country are. Their regional tournaments are quite large with lots of great ladies and mixed doubles. I can't wait to have everyone out on *MLK* weekend 2021 and put on a great event with **Lynn Fonseca's** help. Call me if you have questions. Online entry will be available via R2Sports.com very soon. Suggestions and help are always appreciated.

NMRA ladies' numbers have been a little lower than expected at our last several tournaments. We have had great competition in doubles, but I have to admit that our singles numbers are lacking. I'm not sure what to do about it, but I hope a lot of us who took our sport for granted before the pandemic will rediscover their love for the sport and come out stronger than ever. In the meantime, before the next tournament, see if you can round up a few "used-to-plays" and teach a few more ladies how to play. If I can help, let me know. Racquetball ladies are so special and I don't think we convey that thought enough. Thank you all for making the world of racquetball so amazing.



IRT Summer Racquetball Fantasy Camps

By Cindy Tilbury



Before the pandemic had us all quarantined, the *IRT* was planning some special summer events for the superfans of our sport. We are still dependent on state and local pandemic plans as they relate to events and playing racquetball. Just in case we are able to put on these events, I want to let you know about our special offering. I hope you will be ready to get out of the house and join us for *IRT Summer Fantasy Camp*!

The *IRT*, **Rocky Carson** and **Alvaro Beltran** are hosting *IRT Summer Racquetball Fantasy Camps* in *Laguna Beach, California*, at the beautiful *Renaissance ClubSport* hotel and fitness club. This is Rocky Carson's home club/resort and he has some serious fun arranged for you. Activities include instruction, play, challenges, food, drinks, and sun. Two three-day weekends are available and the attendee count is limited to 16 each weekend. Of course, family members are welcome to enjoy southern *California* while their superfan is on the court. Rocky may even grill for you at his house. Contact **Cindy Tilbury** for a brochure and video commercial. July 17 to 19 or August 7 to 9. Reserve your spot today.

MORE NMRA Tidbits

Good Sleep with Good Racquetball Supporters

We hope you will continue to support *My Pillow* because they support racquetball! They make a great pillow and give people great sleep.

Mike Lindell (whose autobiography just came out) is sponsoring the *IRT* pro tour and the *United HealthCare US Open* this year, and in the years to come, we hope. During the pandemic they have converted some of their *Minnesota* factory capacity to making masks for everyone. The *Giza Dream* sheets are very nice too! If you need a great gift for friends, pets and family, look at their website.

NMRA Election Results

We had another uneventful *NMRA Board of Directors* election and I wanted to report the results. The reason I describe it as "uneventful" is because we had three candidates for three open board seats, and we really didn't get many votes. All three candidates were elected or re-elected. I, **Marni Winings** and **John Winings** were re-elected. If you are curious about being on the *NMRA* board and want to hear about the duties and time commitment, contact me or another board member TODAY! And of course, volunteer to help at tournaments anytime.

with the rank of Colonel. Because of his pristine service and contributions to our national security, Steve was promoted to the rank of *Brigadier General* by order of the *Governor of Connecticut* in October 2010. Much to his chagrin, he was not selected to serve during *Operation Iraqi Freedom*, despite the prominent use of the A-10 during that conflict. Steve selflessly volunteered to fly unarmed and unescorted civilian aircraft into the warzone to bring necessary supplies to our troops. He was awarded a *Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Support* for his efforts. Steve was a pilot for *Federal Express*, proudly retiring as a Captain of the MD-11 in 2007. An avid champion racquetball player, Steve won countless local, regional, and national singles and doubles championships. He will be dearly missed by a legion of racquetball buddies he saw several times a week for decades. E-mails to Ameltsner@gmail.com will be welcomed. To sign the guest book for **Stephen Meltsner**, please visit online <http://www.weinsteinmortuary.com/funerals.cfm?step=2&id=3870&archive=1>.



Wayne Toyne
Alexandria, VA

On January 6th, 2020, we lost a dear friend and pillar of the racquetball community. The *NMRA* time with Wayne was special, but it was his hometown folks who felt his loss the deepest. The memorial for Wayne on the state association website tells us this:

Wayne Toyne's passing came not as a shock, but still dealt a blow to everyone that knew him. A piece of us died with Wayne, but his legacy and impact will live on with everyone that remembers him. We saw the racquetball community's outpouring of memories, grief, and resolve after we lost our friend. Every person who met him is better for it. His body of work, his contributions, and all he poured into racquetball is why it was such an honor and a privilege to serve on the board that inducted him into the hall of fame on November 25th, 2019. Some memories of him by **Malia Bailey** in her nomination of Wayne for the *Commonwealth of Virginia Racquetball Association Hall of Fame* as a contributor:

The year was 1982, at the ripe young age of

40, Wayne Toyne began playing racquetball at *Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, DC*. He became infected by the racquetball bug and has never recovered. Wayne decided to try a tournament a year later at the *Security Court Club in Baltimore, MD*. Wayne was all in, he began volunteering to help run tournaments whenever possible, while assisting and running clinics to help promote the sport and help others achieve their goals. In 1989, Wayne obtained a job as racquetball instructor and programmer at the *Mt. Vernon Health and Racquet Club* where he continued there until 2005. While there, he brought in many professionals to promote the sport he loved, these included such professionals as **Fran Davis**, **Lynn Adams**, **Derek Robinson**, **Christie Van Hees** and others.

During tournaments, he would happily help others during their matches. Players of all levels respect Wayne's knowledge of the game and do not hesitate asking him for help. Wayne credits several people who had major influences: **Larry Boswell** for encouraging him to teach and run tournaments, **Ed Willis** for including him as part of team Willis which allowed him to play tournaments more often than could have otherwise, **Curtis Allatore-Martin** for teaching him how to play tournaments, and **Gary Mazaroff** for showing him a lasting devotion to the sport.

Wayne served as a two-term president for the *CVRA*. While president, he maintained a close relationship with **Kevin Joyce** and the national office establishing a central record for the *USRA* of state finances memberships. This was not an easy feat because it was pre-computers. He was essential in organizing and scheduling clinics, tournaments, and racquetball activities throughout the state of Virginia. Wayne took into consideration the entire state. Wayne was also an integral part of bringing the *LPRT* back to northern Virginia years ago. He has a passion for growing racquetball in all areas particularly with women's racquetball. It is very important to him that we grow the sport for women in racquetball. As a 26 year *Air Force* veteran, he helped establish the *Wounded Warriors* program in Northern Virginia and continues working with veterans at *Bolling AFB*. Where he first learned to play. Wayne has been a great encourager, promoter and teacher throughout his racquetball career for over 35 years. He is a lifetime *IPRO* certified instructor at the professional level, he is also a lifetime member of the *USAR*.

continued on Page 20...

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Rocky Carson

MORE NMRA Tidbits

USAR Board Election Results

You may remember that **Mike Grisz** and I (**Cindy Tilbury**) ran for the *USA Racquetball* board recently. We both were elected and will be representing the older crowd on that board (as well as our other racquetball interests of the men pros and women and states, etc., etc.). If you have concerns you want presented at a future meeting, let one of us know your ideas/concerns.

Pro Racquetball Statistics Website

You may have already tried out this site, but I want you all to know that it is AMAZING for all of the professional racquetball statistics and head-to-head information. How many pro stops has **Kane Waselenchuk** won? How far is Cliff Swain behind him (or ahead of him)? Did they meet up in International competition or at all? And what about **Paola Longoria**? Has anyone played all 24 *US Opens*? It's all in there! Try the section that reports on stats by player. Or the special *US Open* reports. Thanks to **Todd Boss** and his many hours of database design and data input, you have it all at your fingertips. Go to www.proracquetballstats.com to start your research. You're welcome.

Wayne still enjoys competing in local, national and international tournaments. He has earned numerous medals and at over 70 years young, his humility, love of the game and service is second to none. He deserves this special honor. Let's thank **Wayne Toyne** for going above and beyond serving us in racquetball and also serving our country as an *Air Force* veteran.

It should come as no surprise his induction vote was a unanimous one. We will miss you Wayne.

Jimmy Gutierrez Oxnard, CA

James Edward "YO" Gutierrez, 69 of Oxnard, CA, passed away on January 6th, 2020 in his home. James was born in *Phoenix, AZ*, to **Frances & Ted Gutierrez** on March 3rd, 1950. He went to *Cortez High* and graduated in 1968. He went on to earn a degree in agriculture. He enjoyed decades of playing softball, but his love was racquetball. He traveled the world playing in racquetball tournaments and was sponsored by *Ektelon*. He received numerous awards and medals throughout the years.



James is survived by his wife: **Veronica Prado Gutierrez** of Oxnard, his daughters and son: **Tracy Sunshine Gutierrez, Kristi Michele Pujol** and **Maggie De La Selva**, and **James Alexander Gutierrez** of Oxnard.

The family wishes to extend their gratitude to *Assisted Home Health & Hospice* and to the dedicated caregivers who helped care for our dad and husband: **Lupe Tovar** of Oxnard, **Francine Romero** of Oxnard and **Brian Hipolito** of Camarillo.

A small donation from the NMRA was sent to the assisted living home and *USA Racquetball* in Jim's name. Jim had assisted in NMRA tournaments for years before his Parkinson's illness limited his travel. He will be missed.



Our hearts go out to the families and friends of these former NMRA players.

We were lucky to have had them as members, players and supporters.



Carolyn Hollis Calabasas, CA

By Cindy Tilbury

Carolyn Hollis was one of the most-loved NMRA and USAR members in recent years. We were stunned to hear of her death from colon and liver cancer on April 3, 2020. When I first moved to *California* in 2004 and went right to the racquetball club, Carolyn was one of the first players to welcome me on and off the court. Always happy, smiling and impeccably dressed, Carolyn had not let anyone in her racquetball group know she was dying. As her chemo treatments in late 2019 weren't lessening the cancer, she decided to forego treatment. A long-time friend from *Denver* stayed with her until the end. Carolyn specifically left instructions not to have a life celebration for her, but that is definitely in the plans for when gatherings are allowed. Because of the pandemic, neither the local group nor the NMRA folks have been able to properly give a toast to our wonderful friend. The last time I saw her was mid-December 2019, when she came to the movies with me and **Rick Betts**. I'm sure she knew then that she didn't have much time left.



Carolyn was a *Vice President* banker of *East West Bank* in *Los Angeles*, where she kept documents that secured commercial loans. Her seniority allowed her to travel to many racquetball tournaments

around the country, and to visit her family in *Memphis* or scuba dive in the *Caribbean*. She earned 40 medals from the NMRA and many more from *USA Racquetball*. Of course, there were many more trophies from *California Racquetball* too.

Carolyn is survived by her half-brother, **Myron**, and his daughter, **Myra**. She was so proud of them and celebrated them on her *Facebook* page. I got to meet them after Carolyn's death. We will miss Carolyn every time we get together to play racquetball at our local clubs, and at each NMRA tournament. Luckily, we have lots of video of Carolyn playing racquetball. If you want to view those videos, visit the *National Masters Racquetball Association Facebook* page, Videos section. Rest in peace, Carolyn.

'Hogs Breath of Fresh Air'

By Gary Mazaroff, IPRO Director
Globalracquetball.com

At a time when racquetball-handball courts are being transitioned; or, demolished along with old, tired buildings, suffice to say that some forgotten complexes are still around! Recently, when I was in Los Angeles, I visited the NASC (Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex). Norwalk, a bedroom city of 100,000+ residents, sits about 20 miles east of the Los Angeles International Airport.

There, one will encounter the *Wild Hogs*, a group of 25 individuals who have an investment in our sport. Perhaps not the most technically sound athletes, they embolden a quality that is far more serving. It is called PASSION. Sparked by ringleader and drummer **Jerry Anaya**, this group, ranging in age from 50 to 85, can be seen each weekday between 8am and 10am at the venue. Mostly doubles games are played on four contiguous courts; where movement, laughter, and friendships are shared. The *Wild Hogs* are frequent viewers of the NMRA and other livestreamed racquetball matches.



Wild Hogs with Mazaroff

UPCOMING NATIONAL/ INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Aug 14-22: IRF World Championships, La Loma; San Luis Potosi, Mexico

Sept 1-5: 36th IRF World Championships, NMSW clubs; Albuquerque, NM USA

Nov 7-14: IRF Junior World Championships, Club Olimpico; Guatemala City, Guatemala

"Age cannot protect Love; but, Love can protect age." - Anon

Player Profile - Barry Hendricks History and Love of Racquetball

By Susan Hendricks, May 14, 2020



Barry Hendricks started playing racquetball in October, 1969, with his neighbor at the famous Aurora YMCA in Aurora, Illinois, about 30 miles west of Chicago. They played with short-handled tennis racquets and a brownish/pinkish kind of spongy ball. His fading memory is that the racquet felt like it weighed over a pound (454 grams). If they swung as hard as they could, it still might not be hard enough for the ball to reach the back wall. There was no terminology such as a kill shot, a ceiling ball, a splat, etc. at that time...because if they hit these shots, it was purely unintentional. The shot of choice was to guide the ball to ride close to the side wall. Passing shots were effective even then.

Being a former baseball player, he segued to racquetball pretty easily. Jim Stoltz was the Racquetball Director at the time. Jim soon started an in-house league in which Barry fared pretty well. Soon, other Ys had their own leagues and they started a travel league to compete. Sometime in the early 1970's, Barry was invited to play at the first private racquetball club in the Chicago area. It was a Court House. Soon there would be many of them. Each had 8 courts, a viewing area, and some had restaurants and bars in which to eat, drink and socialize. And during that time period, an Illinois racquetball organization formed. It governed the sport, set rules, arranged and monitored tournaments, set rankings, etc. Barry soon was playing virtually every day all around the Chicagoland area as private club construction exploded with the sport's popularity.



His first big break came when he was invited to play against Jimmy DeVito, then a many-time National Paddleball champ. He gave Barry his first formal racquetball lessons and they became dear friends. He was then 23 years old. Jimmy was able to kill the ball forehand and backhand and Barry was (and still is) amazed by his skills. Jimmy was maybe 5'6" and overweight, 58 years old, yet highly skilled. Barry has always been indebted to him.



Barry had achieved an 'A' level of play. But in 1974, he was participating in a doubles tournament and, embarrassingly, was not wearing goggles (they weren't yet a safety requirement). He was struck directly in the eye and eventually lost sight after several surgeries and hospitalizations over the next year. He could not play for almost two years. Upon his return, he entered

a tournament in the 'C' division, lost his first match and thought he would quit playing. Fortunately, he didn't, and started practicing harder to learn how to play with no depth perception. He eventually became proficient at it. He still played almost daily, played 3 or 4 tournaments a month throughout the Midwest, improved his game, and started to compete in Regional and National events.

By the time the 1980s rolled around, he was ranked in Illinois but never #1 as he could never beat Herb Grigg, who ruled his age group for years. He later hooked up with Ron Johnson, a legendary Illinois player, and won his first state doubles title. In the mid-1980s, Barry traveled to Ireland and won his first International singles title in Dublin. Many years later, he would return to Ireland in the 1990s and win an international doubles title with his wife Susan.

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Hendricks Profile

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He also participated in the *First Senior Olympics* in *Toronto* in 1985. In the early 90s, he attended the *U.S. Olympic Elite Training Camp* which helped elevate his game more. He became a student of **Dan Obremski, Chris Cole, Carol McKinney, Aaron Katz** and many others.

Barry won many *Arizona State* singles and doubles titles in the 1990s and 2000s. Although he had been teaching racquetball since the early 90s and continues to teach to this day, he became *AMPRO* certified. In more recent years, he was the assistant coach for 3 years beginning in 2015 on *ASU's* collegiate racquetball team, assisting **Darrin Schenck**. He also started to play in *NMRA* tournaments. In the ensuing years, he has won 23 singles and doubles *NMRA* and *World Seniors* titles. He has medaled in dozens more.

So this is his 51st year. He has witnessed virtually all of the changes in the game... larger and lighter racquets, faster balls, new strategies, rule changes, etc. According to Barry, *"My appetite for the sport has never diminished. The titles are passing flashes of recognition. But my love for the competitors, many of whom have blessed me as lifelong friends, shines with intensity."*

Keeping the NMRA Going

By Mike Grisz, NMRA Secretary

The *NMRA* is committed to bringing to our "master" players the best tournaments we possible can three times a year. We provide a unique round-robin format that gives everyone a lot of playing time, an atmosphere of collegiality and competition, a first-class banquet, tournament meals, and some of the best tournament souvenirs you'll find. We want to keep this going as long as we can.

Happily, for now, we're a solvent organization. But, as many of you know, tournaments are expensive to run and our options get more restricted every year as clubs remove courts or close altogether. We, the *NMRA*, feel a responsibility not only to you, our members, but also to racquetball overall. We hope you love what we do and feel that same responsibility. I personally feel I owe racquetball for the friends I've met, not to mention my lovely and talented wife, over the years. Some of the best moments of my life have happened on a racquetball court. I've been fortunate to play the sport since 1974. I've played against **Charlie Brumfield, Dave Peck, Rocky Carson**, among others. (Yes, lost every one...). I now try to give back, both by volunteering and by contributions.

I realize not everyone has the resources to contribute. For those who might have the means and the inclination, here are some suggestions:

1. We, the *NMRA*, offer a lifetime membership for \$750.
2. For those of you at or nearing 80, when your membership becomes free, you can gift us any amount at any time. It is tax deductible.
3. For all of us, consider putting the *NMRA* in your will for a bequest. For me personally, ultimately most will go to my kids and grandkids. But all of it, no way. There are many worthwhile charities that could use a donation, but I want my sport to continue after I'm gone. I'm not trying to be morbid; just honest. People leave money to college endowments and other very well-funded charities. Racquetball, all of racquetball, not just the *NMRA*, needs money.

By the way, in my prior life before I retired a year ago to do nothing but play and run racquetball organizations, I was a tax *CPA* and financial planner. I'm happy to discuss this issue with anyone.

Become an NMRA Lifetime Member TODAY!

The screenshot shows the 'LIVE LIKE JOHN' website. The header includes a navigation bar with 'DONATE', 'RACQUETBALL', 'ABOUT JOHN', and 'SHOP' buttons. The main content area features a large 'LIVE LIKE JOHN' logo and a message: 'The Live Like John non-profit is dedicated to furthering the organizations that made an impact in the life of Spc. John A. Pelham.' Below this, it says 'You can now donate to the foundation using Paypal, or contact us for more information about getting involved!' and a 'Donate' button. At the bottom, there are logos for VISA, Mastercard, American Express, and Discover. On the left side of the page, there is a section titled 'Looking for an easy way to give back?' with a 'SHOP SMILE.AMAZON' button and a message to find 'Live Like John' on Amazon Smile. Social media icons for Facebook and Instagram are also present, along with the tagline 'WEARIN THE WORLD IS JOHN' and a photo of three people.

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Check the www.nationalmastersracquetball.com website or www.facebook.com/nationalmastersrb for the latest updates.

DATE	TOURNAMENT	LOCATION	CONTACT	Website www.r2sports.com
Jul 30-Aug 2, 2020	NMRA International Championships 40+ Singles & Doubles	Laurel (Baltimore), MD	Cindy Tilbury	www.nationalmastersracquetball.org
Sep 1-5, 2020	World Seniors 30+	Albuquerque, NM	Gary Mazaroff	www.internationalracquetball.com
Sep 9-13, 2020	World Outdoor Championships	Las Vegas, NV	Mike Coulter	www.worldoutdoorracquetball.net
Oct 6-11, 2020	US Open Championships	Minneapolis, MN	USAR	mwedel@usaracquetball.com
Oct TBD, 2020	Men of October 75+ plus Women 60+	Sun City West, AZ	Greg Steger	gmsteger22@gmail.com
Oct 7-10, 2020	Huntsman Senior Games 50+	St. George, UT	Kevin Boerup	seniorgames.net
Dec 1-3, 2020	NMRA Doubles-Only 40+ with IRT	Portland, OR	Cindy Tilbury	www.nationalmastersracquetball.org
Jan 15-17, 2021	WSMRA 32nd Championships, Ladies-Only 35+, Open/A and B/C Age-Group Singles + Open/A and B/C Doubles Skills Divisions	Atlanta, GA	Cindy Tilbury	www.wsmra.com
Feb 5-9, 2021	USAR National Doubles	Phoenix, AZ	USAR	www.usra.org

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Be sure to check the www.nmra.info website for updates and immediate election results!