

JOIN US in Kansas City July 25-28, 2007!

Our NMRA International Championships will be held at the Overland Park Athletic Club (OPAC) in the Kansas City area from July 25 through July 28, 2007. **Ektelon** will again be our major sponsor for our famous round-robin-, self-refereed-format event. Fifteen courts will be available for our use throughout the week (two clubs).

Some of the area attractions in the Kansas City area include the *Nelson Atkins Art Museum*, the country's only *World War I Memorial*, the New Theater dinner theater, the Negro League Baseball Museum, the *Jazz District in Old Downtown, Hallmark Card* corporate tours, *Royals Stadium* (home games all week against the NY Yankees and the *Texas Rangers*), and the Plaza shopping center. Downtown Kansas City is famous for its fountains and BBQ. Locals recommend Oklahoma Joe's and KC Masterpiece (more famous). More information is available at the *Convention and Visitor's Bureau* (www.opcvb.org).

Register online at <a href="https://www.r2sports.com">www.r2sports.com</a> or send in your entry (included in the newsletter and on the <a href="https://www.nmra.info">www.nmra.info</a> website) by <a href="https://www.nmra.info">July 1</a> to ensure your spot. Kansas City is in the center of the country, so in addition to our players from other countries, US players from both coasts are expected to vie for the international titles.

SEE PAGE 6 FOR ALL THE INFORMATION YOU WILL NEED TO PLAN YOUR TRIP.

SEE PAGE 7 FOR ENTRY FORM!



## **President's Corner**

By Tom Curran, President NMRA Board of Directors

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of the Members and Officers of the NMRA Board of Directors for nominating and voting

me into the position of President. It is an honor and responsibility that I do not take lightly.

Since the organization was created in 1971, the *NMRA* has grown into one of the most respected associations of our sport. Our success can be traced back to the leadership and dedication of those who came before this sitting Board and to the solid backing and support of the general membership.

I know that no organization is the reflection of one person. It can't be. It takes a diverse group of concerned volunteers to steer an association like the *NMRA* to their stated goals and mission. We have a proud tradition and goal of growing the sport of Racquetball. We continue to accomplish this mission by keeping our focus on those areas that will ensure the success of the sport. Those, simply stated, are:

- Our Junior Player Programs that will ensure the sport continues
- Our National presence as a major competitor which sets the world standard of good sportsmanship. This is evidenced by our National Team and our Parent organization, USA Racquetball (the USAR).

Our continued financial support to these elements of our sport is the cornerstone for our continued success.

As you are aware, we recently had elections to the *NMRA Board of Directors* and election of Officers. The new board and officers held their first meeting in March of 2007 during the *NMRA National Championships* in Portland, Oregon. If you missed the tournament, you missed another great one.

I would like to take a few minutes to introduce the 2007 NMRA Board of Directors. You can find their pictures and contacts on our website (<a href="www.nmra.info">www.nmra.info</a>). I'm sure that most of you already know and/or have competed against them. A term on the NMRA Board of Directors runs for a 3-year period. Every year there are elections with (typically) two to three positions up for election.

For 2007, the 'Old Guard' or returning Board Members are myself, (NC - 55+), **Paul Banales**, (AZ-70+), **Ron Adams** (CA - 65+), **Mike Hiles** (MN, 50+), and **Elliott Papermaster** (WI-60+).

Paul Banales, our past President and current Vice President, and Ron Adams, our past Secretary, have the distinction of being a part of the original group who organized the *NMRA*. Their commitment and dedication to the *NMRA* and the sport of Racquetball is evidenced by the fact that they are Members of the *NMRA Hall of Fame*. Paul has also taken on the responsibility to continue to find new locations for our future tournaments.

Mike Hiles has served on the Board for the past three years and has been instrumental in the planning and administration of past tournaments. Elliott Papermaster is a long-time member of the *NMRA* and in his second year on the Board. He is also the 2006 winner of the *NMRA Sportsman of the Year Award*.

The newest members of the NMRA Board are **Bruce Adams** (OK - 45+), **Cindy Tilbury** (CO - 45+), **Dave Warner** (MN -- 60+) and **Steve Cohen** (CA - 55+).

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# NMRA 2007 National Championship

By Bruce Adams

The National Masters Racquetball Association's (NMRA) 2007 National Championship was held in Portland, Oregon from March 7 to March 10, 2007 at the Multnomah and Sunset Athletic Clubs. Over 180 players above the age of 45 years young participated in singles, doubles and mixed doubles in divisions that were in five-year increments from 45 to 90 years old. Entrants came to the tournament from Florida to Alaska. The NMRA is devoted to self-officiated, round-robin play, for its 1,200 members at its two annual events. No More One Round And Out! The National Championships are typically west of the Rocky Mountains, and the summer (July) International Championships are normally east of the Rockies. See www.nmra.info for more details on the organization.

The event sponsor for the event was Ektelon. The Oregon Racquetball Association's Junior Team ran the tournament desk at both sites. The 10 courts at *Multnomah* needed the most assistance; the seven at Sunset were closer and essentially within eyesight of the tournament director's desk.

Mr. William "Bill" Gillio (right) is 85 years young and has been playing racquetball for 40 years. He lives in California and played in the 85 Singles and 80 Doubles at this event. His words of wisdom are "Be thankful for another day, and for being above ground."



Mr. Ben Marshall (left) of San Antonio, Texas, at 90 years old, had nine singles matches in this year's event. He had to play down ten to 15 years, since he was the only entrant in the 90+ age group. His goal, at 80 years young, was to make it to the 90+ division, and Ben is the first entrant in the history of the NMRA to enter the 90+ division. Ben has been playing for over 20 years. He played handball in the Army, where he was a fighter pilot in World War II. He was also a gymnast in high school (Mobile, Alabama), and participated in water polo. Mr. Marshall has been an NMRA member for about nine years, but stated this is only his third event. He is a proud graduate of the University of Alabama in 1941.

He won two of 18 games against the youngsters. He received the gold medal in the 90+; and he told me that he scored better this event than he has in the past. He was not even tired after the last match. What is that expression about "getting better with age?" Mr. Marshall is very proud of his game, his age and his ability to compete. We are very proud to have him in the NMRA.

Some of the other champions in this year's event are: Joe Hassey (Men Singles45); Tom Travers (Men Singles50); Ben Marshall (Men Singles90); Bill Gillio (Men Singles85); Cindy Tilbury (Women's Singles45); Marcia Richards (Women Singles50);

Richards/Tilbury (Women doubles45); 2007 Geezer Jock of the Year Rueben Gonzalez and Hatch Saarian (Men's doubles45). Check out the website for a full listing of tournament results.



There were also a few past champions that participated in the event: Tom Travers, (left) has numerous titles in singles and doubles. David Azuma, (right) has won 16 National Doubles titles. His mixed doubles partner, Elaine Dexter, has been playing with him for over 20 years. Gene Pare has won seven National Doubles titles.



The Multnomah Athletic Club was one that you had to see for yourself. Being that it was constructed the way I imagine a military bunker would be, it has ten courts - three levels below ground. The entire facility has eight levels, including tennis on the top of the building, and its own minor league baseball stadium adjacent to the club. There were times we found ourselves in a "no athletic attire" area of the building, yet the staff members were really nice, and patient with us. Thanks to former pro Hank Marcus for working the many issues during the event and letting the NMRA use their very fine MAC facility.

Four new board members were presented at the banquet on Saturday night. Also at that time, we memorialize those members that have passed on since the last event. The attendees raised over \$1,400 for Team USA. Coach Dave Ellis was the speaker and he also played in the event. The evening ended with a light-hearted slide show presentation of the past week. This year's banquet was held at the beautiful Multnomah Athletic Club.

The NMRA would love to have you join us in Kansas City, KS from July 25 to 28, 2007 for the International Championships. There is plenty of racquetball, hospitality and touristy things to do in the Heartland of the United States. Check out the website www.nmra.info for the upcoming application and other information about the tournament. We hope to see you there!

### **Editor's Corner**

By Cindy Tilbury

Editor's Note: As your new newsletter editor, I'd like to say hi to all of the NMRA members. If you have information you would like printed in the RacquetRacket, email it to me and I'll try to print it in the next newsletter. Carol Stoll did a fantastic job in the past and I'll try to live up to her legacy. I usually have something to say to readersyou'll find that here in the Editor's Corner.

Like many racquetball players, I had been carrying a few extra pounds around the court, and, although I knew it wasn't from lack of exercise, I wasn't able to shed them. I finally did something about that and I wanted to share it, just in case any NMRA members need a little inspiration before the swimsuit season is here.

A year ago October 1, I started a new job, so the Saturday before, I walked into the local Jenny Craig office and signed up. I wish I had done it years ago, but I thought it would be too expensive or the food would taste terrible, and I only had about 20 pounds to lose, so I would work out a little harder. My assumptions were wrong, and it ended up being a really great idea for meworth twice the price!

I had to make minor adjustments to the regular Jenny Craig menu during tournaments so I had extra energy to play whenever my matches were scheduled, but it was pretty easy and the routine is very simple. Each morning, I would grab a yogurt, a breakfast, some apples, a lunch and a few snacks out of the refrigerator and bring them to work. That, along with a small salad and water or diet soda, was all I needed to keep me happy all day until I would get home late after racquetball-just in time to heat up a dinner and have one last snack/dessert before bed.

I know this might not work for everyone, but I was down 20 pounds in about six months and I feel I am now playing a little better and moving a little faster. If anyone wants to get some details on this program, please email or call me, or stop into a Jenny Craig office to ask the experts (it's free, of course). You already have the exercise part of the program built into your life, when most people find that to be the hardest change to make. Email me with other programs that work for a racquetball player's lifestyle and I'll publish them in a future newsletter. Good luck to everyone in the 2007/2008

tournament season-on all of your goals!





RESULTS		Portland Results continued	
Portland		MENS SINGLES 75+ WOMENS SINGLES 45+	
March 2007		1 Jim Railey CA 284 28.40 1 Cindy Tilbury CO 228	38.00
Diago / Diagon / Chata /		2 Lewis Edwards U1 272 27.20   WOMENS SINGLES 50+	
Place / Player / State /	St. (A. D. D.)	3 Armand Matern UT 211 21.10 1 Marcia Richards CO 205	34.17
Total points in round rob	oin / Avg. Points	4 James Dunn OR 159 15.90   2 Debby Holley Can 181	30.17
<b>MENS SINGLES 45+</b>		1 1 Michael Martin CO 150 1500 1	25.33
1 Joe Hassey	NV 254 28.22	6 Antonio Pineros FL 114 11.40	20.00
2 Dan Pischke	WA 251 27.89	WOMENS SINGLES 55+	
3 Paul Whitten	WA 237 26.33	MENS SINGLES 80+ 1 Carla Francis CA 167	27.83
4 Bob Wright	IN 210 23.33	1 Victor Sacco NY 270 30.00	
5 Mike Lubbers	AZ 204 22.67	2 Lee H. Goldstein CA 247 27.44 WOMENS SINGLES 60+	00.00
6 Dean Selmer	WA 156 17.33		23.83
7 Joseph Craig	OR 146 16.44	4 Dick Kincade CO 204 22.67 2 Junko Geddes NY 32	5.33
8 Mark Hess	WA 137 15.22	5 Sam Harry PA 183 20.33 <b>WOMENS SINGLES 65+</b>	
o Ividik ness	VVA 137 13.22	$\blacksquare$ 6 Manua Sahinada $\Box \Box \Box$	29.30
MENS SINGLES 50+			23.10
1 Tom Travers	FL 266Playoffs		
2 Shane McAfee	AK 295 Playoffs	3 Iona Baidwin - Ino 216 .	21.60
3 Dave Milazzo	IL 283 Playoffs		17.20
4 Pat Gibson	TX 285 Playoffs		15.30
5 Howard Walker	TX 225 Playoffs	MENS SINGLES 90+ 6 JoAnne Tressler OH 103	10.30
6 Stan Myers	OR 212 Playoffs	1 Ben Marshall TX 87 9.67	
7 Rick Betts	CA 236 29.50		
8 Ben Roy	MN 235 29.38	DOUBLEC	
•	WIIN 200 25.00	DOUBLES —	
MENS SINGLES 55+		PLACE PLAYER (STATE) Points Avg	
1 Darryl Warren	CA 345 28.75	MENS DOUBLES 45+	
2 Mike Robinson	TX 341 28.42	1 Ruben Gonzales (NY) / Hatch Saakian (CA) 225 28.13	
3 T.J. Ferro	IL 292 24.33	2 David Azuma (OR) / Gene Pare (CA) 217 27.13	
4 Bob Smith	OR 287 23.92	3 Joe Hassey (NV) / Mike Lubbers (AZ) 195 24.38	
5 Joel Franklin	CA 276 23	4 Rick Howick (WA) / Paul Whitten (WA) 191 23.88	
6 Pete Chmielewski	CA 275 22.92	5 Dan Pischke (WA) / Dean Selmer (WA) 189 23.63	
7 Gary Buckmaster	TX 217 18.08	6 Joseph Craig (OR) / Bob Smith (OR) 129 16.13	
8 Robert Born	MN 216 18.00	7 Bruce Burgess (CO) / Dave Letsche (CO) 128 16.00	
MENS SINGLES 60+		8 Bob Wright (IN) / Steve Wright (IN) 98 12.25	
	MNL 220 Dlaveffe	MENS DOUBLES 50+	
1 David Warner	MN 229 Playoffs	1 Dave Azuma (OR) / TomTravers (FL) 246 27.33	
2 Michael Call	WA 219	2 Ruben Gonzales (NY) / Hatch Saakian(CA) 289 26.27	
3 Robert Lattanzio	CA 191	3 Rick Howick (WA) / Gene Pare (CA) 312 26.00	
4 Gary Jones	CA 214	4 Jim Hage (AK) / Shane McAfee (AK) 272 24.73	
5 Warren Bailey	AK 150	5 Pat Gibson (TX) / Howard Walker (TX) 289 24.08	
6 Kent Allison	CA 189	6 Greg Campbell (OK) / Paul Reed (OR) 215 23.8	
7 Brandt Bower	WI 161 20.88	7 Jon Christ (CA) / Steve Cohen (CA) 207 20.70	
8 Ron Papiranski	Can 137 19.57	8 Bruce Burgess (CO) / Dave Letsche (CO) 182 18.20	
<b>MENS SINGLES 65+</b>			
1 Mitch Milewski	NH 240 30	MENS DOUBLES 55+	
2 Dave Zabinski	MN 197 23.63	1 Jon Christ (CA) / Steve Cohen (CA) 218 Playoffs	
3 Patrick Taylor	IL 191 23.88	2 Warren Riecke (MD) / KenWeinstein (MD) 204 Playoffs	
4 Hal Price	CA 188 23.5	3 Barry Clyde (CA) / Mike Lippitt (CA) 197 Playoffs	
5 Steve Covey	CA 159 19.88	4 Gary Buckmaster (TX) / Mike Robinson (TX) 197 Playoffs	
6 Atanacio Untalan	WA 144 18	5 Dave Briski (CA) / Kelly Painter (CA) 181 Playoffs	
7 Don Sperber	FL 117 14.63	6 Dwayne McKnight (MD) / Dennis Misal (MD) 198 Playoffs	
8 Charles Erban	MA 114 14.25	7 Mike Amolt (IN) / Chuck Childers (IN) 177 29.50	
	IVIA 114 14.25	8 Pete Chmielewski (CA) / Darryl Warren (CA) 176 29.33	
MENS SINGLES 70+		MENS DOUBLES 60+	
1 Ron Ciccone	Can 197 Playoffs	1 Mike Arnolt (IN) / Chuck Childers (IN) 287 28.70	
2 Charlie Hamon	WA 228 Playoffs	2 Jerry Davis (OH) / Fred Letter (NJ) 260 26.00	
3 Francis Florey	WI 187 Playoffs	3 Dave Warner (MN) / Tom McKie (TX) 260 26.00	
4 Michael Jackson	CT 220 Playoffs	4 Carl Bruere (NM) / Bill Hughes (NM) 225 25.00	
5 Jerry Northwood	AZ 197 Playoffs	5 Dave Ellis (CA) / Mike Lippitt (CA) 206 22.89	
6 Toby DiCesare	NV 186 Playoffs	6 Brandt Bower (WI) / Fred Roe (CA) 203 20.30	
7 Charles Welby	CA 177 29.50	7 Robert Cox (OR) / Mike Wolfe (CA) 172 17.20 <b>continu</b>	ued
8 Sunny Zimmerman	Can 176 29.33	8 Roland Chan (CA) / Bob Kelley (CA) 160 16.00 <b>on page</b>	
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PLACE PLAYER (STATE)	Points	Avg
MENS DOUBLES 65+	004	00.00
1 Jerry Davis (OH) / Fred Letter (NJ)	224	28.00
2 Luis Guerrero (CA) / Mitch Milewski (NH)	220	27.50
3 Fritz Camp (OR) / Carl Goebel (OR)	202	25.25
4 Don Sperber (FL) / Dave Zabinski (MN)	185	23.13
5 Jerry Monell (CA) / Tom Penick (CA)	181	22.63
6 Dan Furman (WA) / Atanacio Ultanan (WA)	133	16.63
7 Allan Holley (Can) / Tony Woodward (Can)	104	13.00
MENS DOUBLES 70+		
1 Charlie Hamon (WA) / Aaron Vederoff (WA)	101	12.63
2 Ron Ciccone (Can) / Jack Pritchard (OR)	36	4.50
MENS DOUBLES 75+		
1 Lee Goldstein (CA) / Armand Matern (UT)	240	30.00
2 Jim Dunn (OR) / Tony Pineros (CA)	157	19.63
3 Harold Hiles (FL) / Amos Rosenbloom (MN)	126	15.75
4 Philip Dziuk (IL) / Michael Martin (CO)	124	15.50
MENS DOUBLES 80+	121	10.00
	210	26.25
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	203	
		25.38
Jack McAfee (OR) / Marvin Schinagle (OH)	145	18.13
4 Ross Fillipone (Can) / Norm Skanchy (UT)	145	18.13
5 William Gillio (CA) / Sam Harry (PA)	62	7.75
WOMENS BOURIES 45.		
WOMENS DOUBLES 45+	204	00.40
1 Marcia Richards (CO) / Cindy Tilbury (CO)	281	28.10
2 Carol Loomis (OR) / Marni Wagner (OR)	273	27.30
WOMENS DOUBLES 50+		
1 Marlane Hope (OR) / Sheila Schoonover (OR)	223	22.30
WOMENS DOUBLES 55+		
1 Vickey Utter (NC) / Kay Halverson (OR)	141	14.10
vickey offer (NC) / Ray Haiverson (OR)	141	14.10
WOMENS DOUBLES 60+		. 5
1 Junko Geddes (NY) / Gail Schaefer (MD)	103	10.30
WOMENS DOUBLES 65+		
1 Marquita Molina (CA) / Gloria Piscoran (OR)	151	15.10
i marquita monna (OA) / Olona i iscoran (OK)	101	13.10
MIXED DOUBLES 45+		
1 Paul Maduell (OR) / Carol Loomis (OR)	225	25.00
2 Kent Hollingworth (OR) / Marni Wagner (OR)	208	23.11
	200	20.11
MIXED DOUBLES 50+	270	20.00
Paul Reed (OR) / Connie Martin (CO) Charles YaQub (CA) / Nancy Abrams (CA)	<b>270</b> 244	<b>30.00</b> 27.11
3 Sal Gonzalez (OR) / Carla Francis (CA)		
	203	22.56
4 Russell Simmons (OR) / Vickey Utter (NC) 5 Ty Kelley (CA) / Denise Smeltzer (CA)	169 167	18.78 18.56
	121	
	115	13.44 12.78
John Steel (CA) / Stephanie Thornton (OR) Robert Franklin (CA) / Marlane Hope (OR)	85	9.44
	00	3.44
MIXED DOUBLES 55+		
1 George Heidelmeier (TX) / Gail Schaefer (MD		26.70
Pete Sagisi (WA) / Sharon Hastings-Welty (OR)	176	17.60
MIXED DOUBLES 60+		
1 Bob Kelley (CA) / Merijean Kelley (CA)	266	26.60
2 Robert Cox (OR) / Kay Halverson (OR)	114	12.67
MIXED DOUBLES 65+		
1 Jerry Northwood (AZ) / Mildred Gwinn (NC)	203	22.56
2 Luis Guerrero (CA) / JoAnne Tressler (OH)	199	19.90

#### continued from page 1...

Bruce is the new Secretary and has also taken responsibility, along with Cindy Tilbury, to work on our PR and Technology needs. Together they produce the *NMRA Newsletter*, and write articles for the *USAR Magazine* and help with the content on the NMRA Website.

Dave has agreed to use his past life experience in Money Management to find some new ways to grow the NMRA Future Fund investments. He will be working closely with Steve, who is our Treasurer, to ensure our financial security and accountability.

As you can see, this Board represents a diverse group by age, gender, and geographic location. I encourage you to seek them out if you have any questions. In the very near future, you'll be able to contact them via email directly from the *NMRA* Website on our Board of Directors page.

Beside my duties as President of the Board, I've also taken the responsibility as Tournament Director for the NMRA. I'll be working with **Jim Elliott**, past NMRA Vice President, Director of the Huntsman Games' Racquetball Tournament in St. George, Utah. Jim and I will be co-directors of the upcoming NMRA International Championships, July 25 through 28, 2007, in Overland Park, Kansas.

In July, we'll be using the R2 Sports Tournament Management Software system for the first time with an NMRA event. R2 has been the standard used for National and Local events for the past two years. We recently had them customize their program to run our round-robin format tournaments. The R2 system provides our members a choice for registering for a tournament either by mail or online for those who would like to use their credit card to register. The use of R2 will provide us much easier registration, scheduling of matches, and financial accountability of our tournaments. It also automatically checks for membership with the USAR and updates our players' national ranking by reporting each match result directly to the *USAR*. The tournament is ready for entries now. Hope to see you in Kansas in July.

In closing, I want to again thank my fellow Board Members and Officers, our volunteers and the general membership for their commitment, dedication, and focus in ensuring the continued success of the NMRA.





# Breakfast, Lunch Dinner or Hospitality?

By the NMRA Board of Directors

It has been discussed and debated, "what food do I get for my money at this NMRA tournament?" Is it breakfast, lunch, dinner, all of the above or some other type of hospitality? Sometimes, we even wonder as Board members. Here is a brief explanation of what is going to happen at Overland Park, Kansas, at the International Championships July 25 through 28, 2007, and why.

For the breakfast mealtime, the host hotel will allow us a 15% discount in *Starbucks* and *Allies* for attendees of *NMRA* staying in the hotel over the dates of July 23 through 29.

We are extending the hours for lunch/hospitality at no additional cost to the membership over what we provided at Portland! The NMRA policy is to schedule matches one right after the other so players can plan social activities in the morning, afternoon and/or evening. Some tournament players wanted more time to take advantage of the lunch hospitality and we try to listen and fix complaints if we can-especially pertaining to food offered. The best policy is money books issued to all players, as was done in Canoga Park, where food could be bought all during the tournament, and we will do this again; however, both clubs in Overland Park will not have food facilities.

At Portland, it was the first time we had lunch/hospitality at two clubs. At the *Sunset Club*, lunch hours were extended until 2:30 or longer at no additional cost. There was plenty of food and drinks. At the *MAC*, to do the same thing, there would have been an additional cost. (Bah!) It is our intention to provide lunch for players/spouses/guests. Scheduling matches around lunch would create a real problem for the tournament director, but we feel a solution can be reached.

Many of our folks think that we are providing food for players who are playing 'late'. The reality is that the only dinner we provide for the week is the Banquet. We all should be scheduling our dinner meal to match our playing schedule. If we are playing late, then we should eat something early; if we are playing early, the hospitality should be enjoyed as a social hour with dinner out later with friends. The hospitality is designed to provide a fun environment for the social side of the tournament. Some even call the evening hospitality "heavy hors d'oeuvres".

We hope this short explanation will clarify the meal situation at the NMRA events and we can all plan accordingly. **See you in Overland Park!** 

# **Not For Ladies Only**

By Cindy Tilbury

Did you know that about 15 percent of *NMRA* members are women? I hope we can bump up that percentage a little in the next several years. Of course, we need your help.

- One of the easiest things you can do is to INVITE lady players in your state/area to come with you to an NMRA tournament. Share a room and car with them. Make them feel special and welcome. Stay an extra day and do some sightseeing with them. Contact me to find them a doubles partner, if you already have signed up for two events.
- If they aren't quite 45, make sure they are invited to the January Women's Senior/Masters tournament (2008 will be at the Overland Park Athletic Club) so they get a taste for roundrobin, self-refereed matches.
- A second option is the World Senior/Masters Championships in August in Albuquerque.
- Of course, non-round-robin tournaments are great too-*National Singles* and *National Doubles* and regionals are a good place to start for any age.

#### Get them out once, and they may get hooked.

A group of women players were talking at the *Oregon* tournament about why serious women players might not want to come to *NMRA* tournaments, since some of the draws are small. I suggested that they might actually take advantage of the lopsided ratio of men-to-women if they are looking for new male friends, or for mixed doubles partners. Most men feel more comfortable playing mixed doubles with a woman if they have seen her on the court already. Point that out to your stay-at-home player friends.

We need more women playing our sport, too, and I have a request of all of our members.

- · Seek out athletic women, such as softball teams and bowling league members.
- Offer them (or their team) a free lesson.
- · Tell them the top five reasons you love this sport.
- · Hook them up with a beginner buddy to call and play with.
- · Hand them a newsletter and racquetball magazine.
- Take them with you to watch the pros/open players.
- Have them bring their kids with them when they come to the club.
- Introduce them to a few players who will welcome and encourage them.

In *Colorado* (and previously in *Minnesota*), we have monthly social get-togethers for the ladies where we play at different clubs, and bring food to share for lunch. All levels are invited to get on the invitee email list, and play is designed to make sure everyone gets on the court with everyone else. It only takes a few minutes to set up, and the ladies love it.

If your racquetball community has special events for women that you encourage other areas to try, send me a description and I can publish the best ones.

See you in Kansas, Ladies!

## Portland Room Random Draw Winners

From a total of 93 NMRA guests, the following names were pulled from the room list provided by the *Doubletree Hotel*, Portland, Oregon on February 19, 2007. They each received one (1) free night at the *Doubletree*, including room charge and tax.

- Vickey Utter
- Francis Florey
- Larry Gazelka
- Ben Marshall
- Michelle Henchy
- Tevie Smith
- Paul Whitten
- Dave Milazzo
- Louise Doran

**Congratulations to the lucky winners.** All host hotel guests at the *Kansas City* tournament will have the opportunity to win a free night's stay at the *Marriott*. Winners will be announced at the Friday night banquet.







# Join us in Kansas City July 25-28, 2007!

Following is some information you will need to plan your trip:

Primary Club Overland Park Athletic Club

10440 Marty Street, Shawnee Mission, KS 66212 913.383.9060 www.athleticclubop.com Mike Wedel

Second Club Fox Hill

10727 El Monte, Overland Park, KS 66212

913.642.2872

**Tournament Directors Tom Curran** 513.490.7472

**Jim Elliott** 435.313.6570

Shuttle ServiceProvided between clubs and host hotelRegistration / Check-inOPAC, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, July 24, 2007Play Begins8:00 am Wednesday, July 25, 2007Play Ends5:00 pm Saturday, July 28, 2007

**Banquet** Friday, July 27, at 6:00 pm, starting with cash bar

At host hotel ballroom

Host Hotel Overland Park Marriott

10800 Metcalf Avenue, Overland Park, KS 66210

913.451.8000

Mention NMRA by July 6 to get the \$89.00 rate

Breakfast 15% discount at the Overland Park Marriott for hotel guests

Major Airport Kansas City International MCI

**Directions From Airport** Take I-29 south for about 12 miles to exit 3B, I-635.

**to Club** (40 Minutes) Take I-635 south for 12 miles and exit 1A, I-35. Go south for 8 miles to exit 225B, Highway 69.

Go south for 8 miles to exit 225B, Highway 69.

Take 69 south for about 2 miles to exit 103rd Street.

Turn left at the end of the exit ramp onto 103rd Street and go 2 miles.

Turn right onto Marty. The club is on the right-hand side.

Rental Car You will probably want to rent a car, especially to sightsee.

Towels / Lockers Available at the clubs, but bring a lock

Café / Food Available at the Club's, but bring a lock
Available at the OPAC while the club is open

Hospitality Tournament dollars will be used

Hospitality from the OPAC Café will be brought to Fox Hill

**Sports Drinks / Fruit** Available during the tournament at the clubs

Pro shop / Stringing Stringing available

OPAC offers a 15% pro shop discount to players

Courts Available Before tournament at OPAC on Tuesday, July 24, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Contact Tom Curran or Jim Elliott with questions. See you in July!

### **WE NEED YOU!**

- **⇒** Bruce Adams would like photos and short video clips during the tournament for addition in the slide show. He also would like funny and unusual shots to keep the evening "light". Contact Bruce at <a href="mailto:BAdams@citgo.com">BAdams@citgo.com</a> or 918-576-9753.
- ➡ Please post a copy of the newsletter in your local club. Make copies of the application and the *Masters TOURNAMENT Trail* and post them at the club. It is an easy, easy way to increase membership and exposure. Also TALK IT UP!
- **⇒ Grow the sport –** sponsor a junior racquetball player's next tournament!
- **▶ Is your old equipment sitting unused?** Donate it to a junior program coordinator near you.
- ➡ Get on the "special interest lists" by emailing Cindy Tilbury. Cindy will try to set you up with a doubles partner or tournament roommate.

# New "Social" Director — Partners & Roommates Wanted!

As a new board member, I was hoping to provide some service that hasn't been available to our members before, and I had a few ideas after speaking to some players at the *Portland* tournament.

First, if you have ever considered playing mixed doubles before, but didn't know how to find a partner, I'd like you to email me at <a href="mailto:cindy.tilbury@att.net">cindy.tilbury@att.net</a> with the information below.

**Second**, if you have ever considered playing men's or women's doubles and don't know where to start, email me at the same address.

Then, **third**, if you would love to cut expenses at the current or future tournaments, email me and let me know if you are interested in locating a roommate.

I'll put you on my official list and you may get a call or email message from me long before the next tournament as I try to match people up. If you already have two events or a roommate at that point, I'll check again for the next tournament.

#### Interested in -

Mixed / Women's / Men's / Male Roommate / Female Roommate

Name —

Phone —

Age —

Email Address —

Skill Level of Play — Open / A / B / C / D / Novice

Right/Left-Handed —

**Level of Mixed Doubles Experience** — None/Some/Lots/Expert

**Level of Non-Mixed Doubles Experience** — None/Some/Lots/Expert

After you are all signed up for the tournament, you can email me to find people who want to do some area sightseeing. I can contact people, or post that information on the messages boards at the tournament clubs to allow people with similar interests to find each other.

#### Newsletter design:

Karin Poswilko, BirgitteDesigns@comcast.net





# ENTRY FORM NMRA INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

JULY 25 - 28, 2007
THE ATHLETIC CLUB OF OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS
DEADLINE — ENTRY MUST BE POSTMARKED NLT JULY 4, 2007

Please Print — Be Legible, Complete and Accurate

			SELECT DIVISION(s)				
Name:			Players may enter a maximum of two (2) events:				
Address:			Only one (1) singles event may be entered. A player may ente				
City/State/Zip:			two (2) doubles events, OR a plate event AND one (1) doubles event only one (1) doubles.				
Phone: Home			• ( )	·N			
Work			ME SINGLES	DOUBLES			
Cell			OHIOLLO				
Fax:			50-				
Email:			55-				
DOB: m/d/yr Age on			65- 70-				
Waiver: I hereby, for myself, my heirs, exec			75-				
administers, waive & release any & all rights and have against the NMRA, USAR, Athletic Club of 0			80-				
Fox Hill & their staff, & all sponsors or their respe	•		85-	+			
and all injuries or damages of any nature which I, guest(s) may incur as a result of my participation			WON	IEN			
Signature:			SINGLES	DOUBLES			
	Date		45-				
FEES:			50-				
First Event		\$	55-				
Second Event	\$ 40	\$	60-				
Spouse/Guest(s)* (each)	\$ 65	\$	65- 70-				
NMRA Membership ** (3yrs)	\$ 45	\$					
USRA Membership (required, 1 yr)	\$ 35	\$	80-				
Future Fund Donation:		\$	85-	+			
Total Du	ле: \$		MIXED DO	OURI ES			
* Spouse/Guest(s) Name(s):			45+	70+			
**Check here if this is your first NMRA to			50+	75+			
(First time participants do not have to join the NMRA, to			55+	80+			
SHIRT SIZE: S M L XL	•	3X	60+	85+			
			65+				
<b>PAYMENT:</b> Send entry form & payment no credit cards) made payable to NMRA.	t (in U.S.	dollars,	Doubles Partner(s): Please print				
Mail to: Steve Cohen, NMRA Treasu	urer		Name/Div/Age Bracket:				
5832 E Bluebonnet Court			Name/Div/Age Bracket:				
Orange, CA 92869	07/04/0	7					
No refund of entry/spouse/guest fee afte	r U//U4/U	1	Check if you need us to find a d	oubles partner.			





# **Snapshots**



- Tom, David, Rick and Gene discuss their match at *The Sunset Club*.
- **Jeff Edwards** gets some ice after a lot of diving in the 45s, with knee pads!
- Racquet display at The *Sunset Club*.
- Which ones did you use?
- 4 Father and son, Cap and Mike Hiles.
- George Heidelmeier poses.
- **a** Hatch Saakian and Ruben Gonzalez in the *Mens 50 Doubles*.
- Bob and Merijean Kelley.
- **B** Gloria Piscoran, on her way to her assigned court.
- ☐ Vicky Utter is exasperated after losing her driver's license.
- Marcia Richards pokes fun at another member who got in the way of a moving racquetball.
- Marquita Molina at the banquet.
- All the women of *NMRA* pose during the banquet.
- Paul Banales (I) speaks with **Jimmy "Yo"** and **Ronnie** after the banquet.
- Newly elected President **Tom Curran** goes through the banquet agenda.
- Bruce Burgess enjoys the beer during player registration.
- **Bill Cooper** explains the rules of the game to his granddaughter.
- Larry Gazelka starts the banquet with a prayer.



# Racquetball Confucius Say...

Racquetball Confucius lived in ancient racquetball times (the 1970s) and became very wise about both racquetball and life.

Below are some of his wisest musings:

- S All years Year of Court Rat
- ■ Racquetball club is temple; Racquetball gods must be appeased
- \$\square\$ If tree fall in forest, use lumber for new court floor
- ■ Way to Pro Tour finals practice, practice, practice
- S Big player who dive for ball may high-center
- ■ One shouldn't cry over broken ball; Broken racquet okay, though
- Shafter tying shoe, pause to enjoy headrush before serving
- ■ Portable court actually semi-truckable court
- 5 If date on shirt older than ten years, leave shirt outside court
- Too many avoidable hinders lead to bruising and swelling
- Some-wall player spend much time chasing ball
- No one win when adult beat junior player
- Some cannot play in sporting goods store; Buy equipment from club
- All weather is best weather for indoor racquetball
- \$\square\$ If missing many backhands, make visit to barber
- Latin America player numbers growing; Learn "pelota"
- Shandball guys should buy new wardrobe
- ■ Wallyball players should take down net when done
- S Eight racquetball courts fit into one tennis court (four on top, four on bottom)
- ■ Spinning very "last year"; Restore studio to racquetball court
- \$\sqrt{\text{S}}\text{ Tournament desk have no trouble finding ref for cute young female player match
- ■ Courteous player toot before stepping through court door; Most courteous player play outdoor
- S Player who die mid-rally, die happy

# **NMRA FYI**

- → Join us in Kansas City July 25 through 28, 2007! Entry is enclosed Deadline is July 1!
- ➤ We are looking for a CPA volunteer to help us file our taxes and audit the books. If you are willing or know someone who is willing, contact Tom Curran.
- ➤ The NMRA is always looking for qualified tournament venues. If you know of a great club (or two clubs fairly near each other), contact Paul Banales to investigate the possibilities of bringing the NMRA to your area.
- ➤ We welcome and appreciate tournament sponsors! A detailed tournament sponsorship information packet is available. Contact Tom Curran
- → Like to volunteer? We always need tournament workers-including the Kansas City tournament. Consider helping with setup the Monday before. See Tom Curran.
- Make your Kansas City hotel reservations at the Overland Park Marriott by July 6 to get the tournament rate of \$89 per night.
- ➤ Visit the <a href="www.nmra.info">www.nmra.info</a> website for pictures and slideshows from past tournaments.
- → As always, if you know of an *NMRA* member who has passed away, please inform *NMRA* Secretary, **Bruce Adams**, so they can receive proper mention.
- → The NMRA has a general operating fund to help run tournaments and an endowment fund to further our sport. If you have questions or would like to contribute to the endowment fund, please contact Tom Curran or Steve Cohen.
- ➤ For something different, play outdoor racquetball. Contact Hank Marcus or visit <a href="https://www.worldoutdoorracquetball.com">www.worldoutdoorracquetball.com</a> for more information.
- → The Classic Pro Racquetball Tour (CPRT) is in full swing! See your favorite men's pro tour stars from the 1980s, including Ruben Gonzaelz, Bret Harnett, Dan Obremski, Mike Ray, Steve Lerner and Woody Clouse, compete at a tournament near you. Visit www.classicproracquetball.com for details.

## NMRA Membership Survey

Please let us know your thoughts on the following questions. Feel free to email <a href="mailto:cindy.tilbury@att.net">cindy.tilbury@att.net</a> with your answers to these questions, and any other opinions you wish to share.

If you prefer, you can fill out our survey questions on paper at the *Kansas City* tournament.

- What was your all-time favorite NMRA tournament venue/club?
- 2. What was your all-time favorite racquet brand and model?
- 3. Would you like to see an NMRA International Tournament played Overseas and where (Europe, Asia, South America)?
- 4. How would you make registration night go smoother?
- 5. Would you like to help out during the *NMRA* tournaments?
- 6. Do you have a preference on what tournament souvenir is given out (collared shirt, sweatshirt, sweatpants, tee-shirt, etc.)?
- 7. Do you know of someone the board should contact to help sponsor a tournament or donate goods (food, prizes, etc.)?
- 8. How would you prefer *NMRA* profits be used?
  - to enhance tournaments (hospitality or souvenir) or reduce entry fees
  - to add to the NMRA Future
     Foundation as financial security for
     the NMRA
  - to support other organizations (Juniors, Collegiate Scholarships, Team USA, USAR, others)

•	Other	
		_
		_
		_
		_





# **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

PLEASE SEND membership renewal or contact information to: Merijean Kelley / 959 Matadero Avenue / Palo Alto, CA 94306 / <u>mkelley959@aol.com</u>

						Meri	jean k	Celley	/ 959 Ma	atade	ro	Aven	ue /	Palo A	lto, CA 9	4306 <i>/</i>	<u>mkelle</u>	y959	@ao	l.com	1
	# EMAIL	jackburns@tds.net	wg2k@terragon.com	pduboise@duboiseelectric.com tonyfischer@gci.net	wilson-me@maine.rr.com	tykelly@frontiernet.net flow@molocompanies.com	hnellor@aol.com pete@pocassetmachine.com	Jonnpurreil@yanoo.com mcq1040@comcast.net kroberts@agcenter.lsu.edu	schabetc@muohio.edu dpiraleigh@aol.com mwedel@hughes,net	zivicj@aol.com		# EMAIL geneva42@cox.net		c2cash@comcast.net	henshawg@saints.nfl.com			don@imagenavigators.com	ftrask@roadrunner.com	utterkos@bellsouth.net mwayne0388@comcast.net	divessive@eiibalqiiaii.coiii
	CELL PHONE # EMAIL	360-909-0967		907-830-1086	207-632-1810	916-365-5815 563-529-2491 916-316-6260	310-702-2201 508-360-9327	610-304-2223 225-892-2376	919-949-3912 913-219-4420	702-355-7749		CELL PHONE # EMAIL	518-446-1901	707-694-4869				919-274-0494 860-593-0240		209-969-4181	
	FAX PHONE #		541-474-9606	479-638-8620	207-221-1147	563-285-1616		610-384-6886 225-769-0799	919-363-2983			FAX PHONE#		707-585-2774							
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	CITY, ST ZIP INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46208	LAKE OSWEGO, OR 97035 WOODLAND, WA 98674	GRANTS PASS, OR 97526	HACKETT, AR 72937 ANCHORAGE, AK 99508	MONIEKEY, CA 93840 N YARMOUTH, ME 04097	SAN GABRIEL, CA 91773 ELK GROVE, CA 95758 ELDRIDGE, IA 52748 MORGANTOWN, WV 26505	MASHPEE, MA 02649 MASHPEE, MA 02649	LINCOLNWOOD, IL 60712 COATESVILLE, PA 19320-1261 BATON ROUGE, LA 70808	EDEN FRANKE, WIN 35347 OXFORD, OH 45056 RALEIGH, NC 27606 LOUISEURG, 85 66053	PHOENIX, AZ 85022 MESQUITE, NV 89024		CITY, ST ZIP	ANCHORAGE, AK 99524 PLEASANT LAKE, NY 13470 LITTI ETON CO 20128	STONE HARBOR, NJ 08247 ROHNERT PARK, CA 94928-3618707-585-7813 PHOENIX, AZ 85004-1337	EL MIRAĞE, AZ 85335-3104 LAS VEGAS, NV 89105-1017 STOCKBRIDGE, GA 30281-6828 MANDEVILLE, LA 70471-6763	FAYETTEVILLE, NC 28303-5099 IRVINE, CA 92612 BLITETON SC 29909	OLIVE BRANCH, MS 38654-814 PITTSBURGH, PA 15208 ROCHESTER. MN 55906	CARY, NC 27513 RIVEORLANDO, FL 32828 ANADARKO, OK 73005-0129	EAST VASSALBORD, ME 04935 WEST BEND, WI 53090-2401	KLAMATH FALLS, OR 97601	BRANDON, FL 33511 BIG BEND, WI 53103-9412
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<b>EW Members</b>	FIRST NAME DOB MICHAEL 03/07/10	03/07/10 E LEE 03/15/10	L		CONSTANTINE P. 03/07/10		RD 7 G.	02/15/10 HIA 01/01/10 ETH J. 03/17/10		200			I'ND II	ын Р. ОS D.	R W. R W. AS L. GE	5 O	₹.0	۵ ,	- ~	:∀ M.	B. VEL
NMRA NEW	LAST NAME FIRST NA ARNOLT MICHAEL	AZUMA DAVID BURNS JACKIE LEE	. =	OISE HER	GIFTOS, II CONSTA		2	PURIELL JOHN QUINN CYNTHIA ROBERTS KENNETH	SCHABER TOM STOLTENBERG SHIRLEY WOODWARD TOWN	ZIVIC JOHN		LAST NAME FIRST NA ALLEN GLENN R.	BAILEY WARREN L. BATTISTI EDWARD BLIDGESS BDLICE	LI AS	EMERICK WAYNE B. GEOPFARTH ROGER W. GWYNN THOMAS L. HENSHAW GEORGE	HUNTER, MD JAMES C. KENEALY DICK		NO O	NER	UTTER VICKEY M WAYNE MARK	. A

## **Masters TOURNAMENT Trail 2007/2008**

<b>USAR National Singles</b>	May 23-28	Houston, TX	Draw All Ages	www.usra.org
NMRA International Championships	Jul 25-28	Kansas City, KS	RR 45+	www.nmra.info
IRF World Seniors Championship	Aug 28-Sep 1	Albuquerque, NM	RR 35+	www. nmracquetball.com
<b>USAR National Doubles</b>	Sep 26-30	Phoenix, AZ	Draw, All Ages	www.usra.org
Huntsman World Senior Games	Oct 17-20	St. George, UT	RR 50+	www.hwsg.com
US Open	Nov 14-18	Memphis, TN	Draw, All Ages	<u>www.</u>
			uso	penracquetball.com
Women's Senior  Master Championships	Jan 25-27	Kansas City, KS	RR 35+ <u>~tuts</u>	my.execpc.com/ ch/wsmra/main.html
NMRA National Champsionships	Mar	TBA	RR 45+	www.nmra.info

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5 Proces

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**Bruce Adams, Secretary** 

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