



RACQUET RACKET

JUNE 2010

Official Newsletter of the National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA)

Tucson Randolph Suites Winners

The following people all won a free night's lodging at the host hotel:

- Arthur Johnson CO
- Ruben Gonzalez NY
- Jan Warren AZ
- Fred Roe CA
- Alice Douglass-McClure IN
- Gladys Leonard VA
- Jerry Fronczak IL
- David Azuma OR
- Ottis Campbell TX
- Dorette Rynkiewicz MD



Stay at the tournament host hotel and you may win a free night too.

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Layout and design by Birgitte Designs,
KarinP@BirgitteDesigns.com

NMRA Model Racquet Revealed by *RacquetSkinz*

By Cindy Tilbury

RacquetSkinz Company has been sponsoring our last several tournaments with some racquet giveaways. Recently, though, they unveiled the new **NMRA** racquet design, and the racquet is now available for purchase at www.racquetskinz.com. Our own Jerry Northwood is featured on the RacquetSkinz website with the 'first' custom designed **NMRA** racquet. The great thing about buying racquets from RacquetSkinz is that the **NMRA** gets a small donation from each one purchased via that link. We use these funds to make the three yearly tournaments better, and to donate funds to junior racquetball.

At the Tucson **NMRA** tournament, one of our members won an auction bid to have a racquet completely customized by RacquetSkinz with his college's logo. He can't wait to play with the one-of-a-kind racquet.

If you would prefer a racquet designed by one of the top racquetball professionals in the world, you can get that, too. Each racquet you get from the company is customized to your wishes—you simply answer a few questions on the website. Your racquet arrives two days later. Customized tennis and squash racquets will be available in the near future, as well.



Special designs can be created for an event or group. President **Darjon Bittner** can help you with the design. Contact him for details. Darjon.bittner@3racquettech.com The home website of the company is www.racquetskinz.com. Check it out and consider buying the **NMRA** racquet!

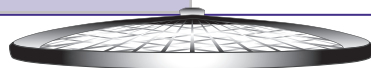
The Art of Matching Doubles Partners, or Why I Wait Until Just Before a Tournament to Give You a Doubles Partner

By Cindy Tilbury

"What? Art?," you ask! "Science? ESP? Voodoo? How hard could it be?"

For each **NMRA** tournament, I make it my boardly duty to get doubles partners for as many people as I can. I always feel like the Millionaire Matchmaker, but with more pressure. A doubles partner for an **NMRA** tournament is not just a simple date, where you say goodnight if you don't click. It is a whole four days of on-court togetherness where lifelong unions can be made or destroyed. And I'm at the heart of it! Our players have taken time out of their lives, spent travel dollars, and practiced for months. They expect to win the most gorgeous medals in racquetball. All they need is the best partner available.

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President's Corner

By Tom Curran, NMRA President

I know I always start with the same opening, but it is sincere... I hope this note finds all of you well and happy after a long, and in some cases, very cold winter. As always, it is an honor for me to be able to address the membership of the National Masters Racquetball Association. I am very pleased to have been nominated, and accepted to continue to hold the position of

President of the NMRA for the next year..... *BUT*

As I explained at the banquet in Tucson, this will be my last year serving as the President of the NMRA. I'm not doing this because I don't like being president, just the opposite is true. I sincerely believe that keeping the same person at the helm of the organization does not move it forward, but can make it stall.

At the board meeting in Champaign, a motion was passed to put term limits on board members and officers to ensure that we keep a new and fresh perspective of ideas and leadership for the NMRA.

I have no intention to leave the NMRA or quit helping with tournaments, etc. I am not quitting the NMRA. I have the commitment of the entire board to work closely with me this year so they will have someone ready to take over the position in March 2011.

Tucson...

We just closed out the NMRA 2010 National Championship Tournament in Tucson, Arizona, and what a truly great event it was. Both venues were welcoming, the hospitality was excellent, the competition was the highest level, the Tucson weather was perfect, and the banquet was a very, very special event.

Thanks to all of you who came to participate, and welcome to the 43 new members and first-time players who joined us in Tucson. We hope the experience was an enjoyable one that will have you coming back for more.

We had one of the highest numbers of registrants on Tuesday night in recent history, with over 160 of the 191 players making it to the *Tucson Racquet Club* on Tuesday night to get their goodies and enjoy great social time and hospitality. I will explain later in this article why this is so important for the organization and keeping the tournament on time.

Thanks to **Jerry Monell** for his generosity in providing the beer during the entire registration.

Without the hard work and dedication of **Paul Banales** and **Carol Stoll**, we would not have been in Tucson. Paul retired from the NMRA Board of Directors after completing his term and serving selflessly for a very, very long time. I am sure I will be corrected if I am wrong, but I believe that Paul had the longest continuous service of any Board Member in the history of the NMRA.

The NMRA board meeting in Tucson welcomed two new members (**Pat Gibson** and **Howard Walker**) and saw **Cindy Tilbury** stepping up to fill the slot held by **Thomas "TJ" Ferro**, until his death in December of 2009. The event was dedicated to his memory. Please take some time to thank these folks for their support and dedication to the NMRA. It is the members of the board who are tasked to watch out for the best interest of each of you, our members. We have one of the strongest, diverse boards in recent history. I am very proud of their service to our members.

The banquet was a wonderful night of friendship and memories. We held a special memorial for **"TJ" Ferro**. You will read more about it in another article in this newsletter, but I wanted to express my deep appreciation to the entire membership for allowing us to recognize, in such an honorable way, the memory of a person to whom Racquetball was such an influence on his life. It was the first time that the NMRA experienced the loss of a sitting member of the Board.

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Matching Doubles Partners continued from page 1

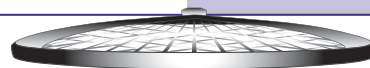
Besides playing great, my personal goal is to make sure everyone has a great time at the NMRA tournaments so they will come back again and again. One way I think I can bring that about is to make sure our players meet more of the other players. There is no better way to get to know a bunch of players very quickly than to play with and against them in doubles. If you don't mesh well with your own partner, you can scope out a partner for the next tournament or mixer. I have taken advantage of the doubles-partner generosity of many tournament directors, and am grateful for their efforts, so I volunteered to do my best to be the official NMRA matchmaker.

A few weeks before an NMRA tournament, I start a spreadsheet and list the names of all people who have asked for a partner, and then the names of all people who have not asked for a partner but have only signed up for one event. I then proceed to make about a hundred phone calls and send an equal number of emails to try to convince people to give doubles a try. That is not always easy, since our players know how physically demanding four-day round-robin tournaments can be. We can't know, until everyone signs up, exactly how much racquetball we will be playing. I usually end up with a list of people who are willing to give it a go, and a list of people who are expecting results. I am happy to have both kinds of players, because once I know the names and ages of my potential doubles players, the real work begins.

Why don't I just leave well enough alone with the people who specifically ask me for a partner? Two reasons—I believe some players don't know that I will find them a partner or they are too shy to ask other players to play doubles, and, most important, the financial success of the tournaments depends on how many people play two events (singles or doubles). I enjoy contacting them before the tournament, too, so they know I will work for any of their player friends, should they decide to travel with them and play.

When I am matching people, I keep in mind what they are already entered

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Matching Doubles Partners continued from page 2

in, what age/type of doubles they have asked for, names of people they ask for, and the ages of people in my partner pool. This tells me how to make the most teams and the best teams. I never put people together who are more than ten years apart—it makes scheduling the tournament too difficult (but scheduling and conflicts are a whole other article).

If I had my wildest NMRA dream come true, it would be to have about 40 more women players, for singles, women's doubles, and mixed doubles. I hope you've noticed that the Women's and Mixed Doubles divisions have been extremely strong lately. It's because everyone is having so much fun playing competitive matches. Word is spreading that it isn't just the Men's doubles that are tough. We love that!

I feel amazingly gratified when I can make a great doubles team and they thank me for putting them together. I live for that. But sometimes I don't do quite as well and doubles styles clash. They let me know that too. I'm not afraid to make suggestions to players to help them grow as partners, so I appreciate all of the feedback on my matchups.

Thank you all for being willing and even eager to try a doubles matchup at an NMRA tournament. Remember that you could meet a lifelong friend or partner, and have the time of your life—if not this time, then the next, or the one after that. ○

TIDBITS

By Cindy Tilbury

Videographer Needed—Cap Hiles has been taking NMRA match videos for many years, and he has asked us to find him an apprentice to help him out. In a not-too-distant tournament, he will probably opt to enjoy the competition and social scene, and let someone take the videos. Any takers? Maybe more than one? Cap can tell you what he does and show you the ropes.

Tucson Honor Guard—Thanks to the honor guard at our banquet. They were **Sgt. David Maxon** and his team of *Arizona National Guard* soldiers.

President's Corner continued from page 2

In addition, we recognized a number of award winners:

John Prigmore was honored for his long time support and participation in NMRA events. John was physically not able to play in Tucson but he has promised to return as soon as he can.

Ben Marshall was recognized as Sportsman of the Year. His award was presented by last year's winner, and Tucson tournament director, **Jim Elliott**.

Paul Banales and **Cindy Tilbury** were honored for their service on the board at the end of their regular terms.

It is the effort of folks like these that keep the reputation of the NMRA as one of the best in our sport.

2010/2011 Tournament Schedule:

The NMRA 2010 International Championships will be held in Allentown/Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. As many of you know, the NMRA had its first event in 1971 in New Castle, Pennsylvania, so this is a 'coming home' event after 39 years. The tournament information sheet and entry form are on the NMRA website (www.nmra.info) and ready for registration.

The event is scheduled for July 14 through 17, 2010, and the host hotel is the *Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center*, Allentown, PA. We have reserved 90 rooms per night. It is imperative that you make your reservations at the host hotel early because this same week, the *City of Allentown* hosts "SPORTSFEST". As the name suggests, it is a week of competition in a number of sports held in open-air parks in and around Allentown. There is no question that hotel rooms will be in demand, and at a premium rate. We secured a rate of \$99.00 (tax included) with free parking and a 10% discount on breakfast and dinner at the hotel café. Please make your reservation now to ensure you get a room at this great rate. Shuttle service will run from the host hotel ONLY to both clubs during the entire event.

The board decided on the remainder of the 2010 NMRA Tour schedule and announced that the 2010 Doubles-Only event will be held December 2 through 4, 2010, in Fullerton, California. We will be playing in one of the oldest and most established clubs in California, with 21 courts and a banquet facility under one roof. Please check our website's (www.nmra.info) tournament info page for details.

We continue to work on the 2011 schedule with the following decided and potential sites:

NMRA 2011 National Championship, Portland, OR – March 23-26.

NMRA 2011 International Championship, (possible location Minn, MN) July (TBD)

NMRA 2011 Doubles-Only Championship, (location and date TBD)

If any of you have a location that you would like to be considered for an event, please contact me at (tom1947@aol.com), or any other board member. We need a minimum of 18 courts in one or two facilities. We can discuss other details of your proposed site. We love moving our tournaments around the country, experiencing new venues, and attracting new 45+ players to our events who would not have had the chance to play in our events if they weren't close to home.

Forfeits:

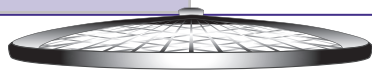
One interesting statistic at Tucson was that we had the highest number of forfeits that I can remember. There are always forfeits at events, but it is rare to see this number for one of our events.

Injury forfeits can't be helped and we hate to see those happen. We know that the intent of the player was to complete the entire event and sometimes an injury forces them to make the tough decision to drop out. This did not happen in Tucson.

In some cases if the injured player is in two brackets, they will drop one of the brackets and try to complete the other. If they are entered in singles and doubles, then singles is the one that will typically be dropped. There were at least two forfeits for this reason in Tucson.

In rare cases, first-time players who are entered in two brackets learn too late the physical demand that playing in two puts on the body. They learn their lesson and either return

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President's Corner continued from page 3

to play one event or play two doubles events, or just train to return in better condition. We had one player who had a 'pre-existing' condition that caused him to drop one of his brackets in Tucson.

Another forfeit situation is when a player arrives too late on Wednesday to play their first match or had not made travel arrangements that support the full four days of tournament play (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday). Even though we publish the fact that every bracket plays every day, and provide guidance encouraging folks to register on Tuesday night, and take personal responsibility to arrange their departure travel to ensure they are available to play on Saturday as late as 5 pm, there are still those who don't take the information seriously. As a result, we have folks who don't show up on time (or at all) for their first match, and either ask to play, or decide to simply leave early, for their Saturday match. I don't want to go into why this is an issue—it should be obvious—but I do want to remind folks who do this that the most negative result of this inconsiderate action is against those players who do take the information seriously and make the travel arrangements necessary to be at all their matches.

Although we had two players forfeit for this reason in Tucson, both on Saturday, we did have a number of players who decided on their own to play their Saturday match early. Some asked for permission, but others simply took it upon themselves to find an empty court and play the match. Although this works well at other types of tournaments, there is an inherent problem with this kind of action in our round-robin tournaments. All of the court time is accounted for when we do the schedule. If we have a court empty, it typically means that we are running early (as we did most of the time at both venues) or that we are waiting for players who are waiting for an upcoming match opponent to finish a match in progress, so they can play another scheduled match on the court that is open. If players decide that an empty court can be used to play a match early without bothering to check with the tournament staff, it could have players waiting for the court that should have been theirs. Our R2Sports.com tournament software helps us manage this situation.

I hope you can see the problems in all of these examples and accept the fact that the tournament staff carefully plans and schedules match times, brackets, and courts to ensure that every player is treated fairly. The Board is in the process of studying the issue of forfeits and will report back to the membership with our decision on how to address this important concern. We ask for your recommendations and ideas too.

We need your help to ensure that we get back to the original goals of the NMRA. When you sign up for one of our events, you should plan it as though it were a RACQUETBALL VACATION, not a modified weekend event.

Abiding by the rules:

Speaking of your help in getting back to the original goals of the NMRA, we also need to remind our players that, although our format excludes referees, that does not mean that we ignore the rules of the game. Actually, because we are centered in Sportsmanship, we should be more in tune with making the penalty calls on ourselves when we know we caused a rule infraction.

It takes a very special player to ref themselves. I believe that every one of our members is that kind of player. Please do your part to keep this great tradition alive.

During the banquet, some very interesting questions were raised regarding a change in the one-serve rule, combining brackets (especially for the 80- to 90-year-old bracket). We want you to know that each of those observations and recommendations are being addressed by the board. If you have any other questions or comments, please contact any of the board members.

In Closing:

Again, I want to thank all of you for your support and encouragement as we begin another year of events and activities as the NMRA.

We also want to remind everyone to keep the following members in your thoughts and prayers as they continue on their road to better health in 2010 and on... [more](#) ➤

➤ Joe Lambert, Ron Pudduck, Joe Goldman, Bob McAdam, Rex Lawler, Elliott Papermaster, Ron Marr, Paul Banales, Glenn Allen, Lew Edwards and Grant Morrell (Spoony).

I received a letter from Ivan Bruner recently telling me that two of our long-time members, who have not been active players for a long time, passed away this year; Sam Koanui from Hawaii, and Bill Daley from Tucson. We will honor them at our July banquet.

Thanks for your trust and friendship. -Tom

Colorado Woman Wins Lomonaco

By Cindy Tilbury



It was recently announced that 24-year-old Michelle Sikorsky from Colorado Springs, Colorado, was the

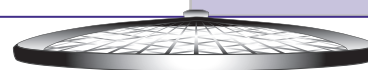
winner of the *John Lomonaco Grant* for 2010. The grant provides an all-expenses-paid trip to *National Singles*, so Michelle will be traveling with her dad to Houston to play in her first *National Singles*. Michelle entered the A and 25+A divisions, while dad Mark will play in Cs and 50+C. This is the last time *National Singles* will be held at the *Downtown Houston YMCA*, as the building will be torn down.

To participate in this contest, potential recipients had to write a short essay about why they hoped to go to *National Singles* for the first time. More than 20 essays were judged by the *USAR Executive Committee*, and the decision was extremely difficult as the essays told what the sport means to the writers.

There is no age limit on the recipient of the grant, so you are encouraged to keep it in mind as the deadline for submissions for the 2011 Lomonaco grant gets near.

There are worthy players everywhere

in our sport who could benefit from a similar grant—perhaps you would like to start your own such project to enable a racquetball player to meet his/her goal. If you would like more background on the *Lomonaco Grant* or information about starting your own, contact Cheryl Kirk, USAR President, at Cherylkirk@aol.com for suggestions. ○



Not For Ladies Only

By Cindy Tilbury

Ektelon's WAR Event

Have you heard of WAR? *That's Women And Racquetball* (Across America). Each February, Ektelon designates one Saturday for all of their sponsored players to put on an event (any type of event they want) to highlight women or entice them to try racquetball. One city might have WAR events all over, at many clubs, with a sponsored player in charge of each event. We have been putting on successful events in Denver for a few years, and we always let them know about our *Racquet For The Cure* tournament that is just for them. Here is an email report about the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, event in 2010:

Subject: WaR recap

To: Terry Rogers

The event was a success!! We had a dozen women show up or just walk on to the event. We started with an hour to an hour and a half of instruction with three Team Ektelon players/instructors. After that was some playing time and then the mini-tournament! The TE players and Open/A players had to play against the beginners with their non-dominant hand PLUS the beginners were given the option of playing multi-bounce rules against the experienced players. It was quite the spectacle. By the second round, there were no TE players and one A player left. There were only beginners in the finals. One game to fifteen.

Afterwards, the ladies decided on their own that they wanted to have a league. So we have now begun registration for the first ladies league at our facility and are very excited. Thank you for your support for the annual WaR event!!!

Johnny Reimers,
Helen G. Nassif YMCA,
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

If you would like to participate in 2011, contact your locally-sponsored Ektelon representatives and start planning your event now.

more ➤

WSMRA 35+ Ladies Racquetball Tournament Comes to Denver; Fundraiser Breckenridge Ski Trip Added



Most of our NMRA ladies know and love this singles-only tournament that is held each MLKJr weekend. We wait for winter, just to play in this tournament. Until you have participated in it, you don't quite understand how special it is.

Marcia Richards, Lori Inskip and I will be hosting the tournament in Denver in 2011, and we couldn't be more excited to have everyone come out to Rocky Mountains. We are finalizing our plans to make this tournament extra special, and the entry form is now available at www.wsmra.com with pricing and host hotel details. We recommend you get there a little early to get used to the altitude (which causes the ball to be extra bouncy and you to get tired faster due to lack of oxygen). The tournament starts on Friday morning and is done Sunday mid-afternoon. The WSMRA board of directors puts on a fun-doubles fundraiser on Thursday afternoon, before the player informational meeting, to raise money for a chosen charity (usually breast cancer research). There are always lots of prizes and dancing, with very few men around.

This year, because it is *Denver* and the *Rocky Mountains*, **we are offering a very special ski trip added on to the end of the tournament** for about

30 people. It is offered for non-skiers and want-to-learn-to-ski people, as well, but you will want to act fast with a small down payment to reserve your spot. The ski trip will be a special fundraiser for the *Susan G. Komen For The Cure* organization. We will take you up to *Breckenridge's Alpine Villa* property (www.alpinevillaretreat.com) Sunday after the tournament, and get you out on the slopes on Monday through Thursday. Friday will be checkout day and we will get you back to Denver International Airport by mid-afternoon. The Alpine Villa is being discounted for our group, and all meals, transportation, racquetball (yes, there is a racquetball court in this property), beer/wine, and lodging will be provided for you during your stay. I have also arranged for a ski or snowboard instructor and a special volunteer cook. Mildred Gwinn, WSMRA/NMRA champion and breast cancer survivor, will be our guest chef and she is excited to prepare dinners for everyone in the *Alpine Villa's* fantastic kitchen. Relaxing in the mountains and shopping in *Breckenridge* and *Frisco* will be on the list of things to do, also.

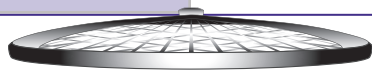
This is a really big deal, and I have already put together many of the details—now we just need to fill in the names of our group members. Contact me for details and to ask questions about skiing *Breckenridge*. If this fundraiser goes well, we can try to do it in future years, but this will be the best opportunity to take advantage of a low-cost racquetball and ski trip, because you will have already paid for the airfare. Men and younger people are welcome, but ladies will have first priority if we have too many ski-trip people. Additional accommodations can be arranged for people, but not at our discounted prices.

Send in your deposit today to reserve your spot. And bring all of your

friends with you—they don't have to ski or play racquetball. If you would like to help out during the WSMRA tournament or the ski trip, please contact me at cindy.tilbury@att.net about that, too. Marcia, Lori and I welcome the help because we will all be playing in the tournament. It's going to be a great one! ○



Tucson Ladies



NMRA 2010 International Championships

ALLENTOWN, PA TOURNAMENT INFORMATION SHEET

July 14-17, 2010 www.nmra.info Please read carefully

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS AND STAFF:

Steve Cohen 714.767.4622 nmra_treasurer@yahoo.com –
Venue Director and Mail-In Registration
Carmen Alatorre-Martin – Venue Director and Membership Director
Tom Curran – Club and Hotel Contracts
Bruce Adams – Banquet Program
Dave Warner – Tuesday Night Registration
Mike Hiles – Medals and First Timer/New Member
Jodi Eslinger – 24-7 Fitness Club Contact
Vicky Utter and Howard Walker – Rules Committee

Primary Host Club **24-7 Fitness Club** – 9 Courts (2 glass back walls)
Allentown - 601 Union Street - Allentown, PA 18101, 610.821.1300
Bring a towel and a lock; Towel service available at a fee; All club facilities are available to tournament players and paid guests.

Secondary Host Club **24-7 Fitness Club** – 8 Courts (glass back walls)
Bethlehem - 1441 Schoenersville Road- Bethlehem, PA 18018 610.691.3100
Bring a towel and a lock ; All club facilities are available to players/paid guests.

Host Hotel **Holiday Inn Allentown Center City**
904 West Hamilton St , Allentown, PA 18101
Reservations: 877 863 4780 (ask for NMRA Group Rate) \$99.00 Per Night includes all taxes and parking. Rates available until July 9, 2010, but please reserve early. Request NMRA Group Rate using code NMR
Other amenities: wireless internet, free local phone calls, fitness center, great food and bars within walking distance. Registered guests will be entered into a “free night” lottery. <http://www.ichotelsgroup.com>

Enter Online By July 8, 2010, at <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=6638>
First event--\$140; Second event--\$40; Guests \$65 for the week (Sign waiver for club use). You may request a doubles partner and/or roommate.

Enter via US Mail Fill out the entry form at www.nmra.info (Tournament Info page).
Mail completed entry form and fees payable to NMRA, by July 1, 2010, to:
Steve Cohen; 5832 E Bluebonnet Court, Orange, CA 92896
Two event limit: two doubles events OR one singles and one doubles event.

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

Nearest Airport Allentown International Airport ABE. Book flights at <http://www.lvia.org/>
10 minutes from either club

Airlines Flying Into Allentown Air Canada; Air Tran; Allegiant; American; Continental; Delta; Express Jet; United; US Airways

Alternate Airport Philadelphia, PA and Newark, NJ - both are 1-hour north

Airport Taxi / Shuttle Hotel provides Allentown Airport ONLY pick up and return service. Not provided at Alternate Airports; Airport shuttle service available for a fee; Some local shuttle companies can be found at the following link:
<http://www.airportservice.com/showmatches.aspx?Airport=3917&Mode=Z&PUZIP=18101&RegionID=39&County=4189&PickUpTime=12%3a00+PM&ReturnTrip=N&Svc=2&Veh=2&Pass=1&Dt=2%2f21%2f2010&Addr=904+w+hamilton%2c+allentown%2c+pa&EndTime=&City=&AFF=1>

Shuttle From Hotel to Clubs Shuttle van provided from host hotel between clubs for host hotel guests only. The van will run on a schedule. There will be no individual pickups and drop offs from or to the clubs other than during the scheduled runs.

Parking at Host Clubs Free – RV parking available at Bethlehem Club only (no hookups)

Directions from Airport to Host Hotel
Holiday Inn Allentown; 904 Wet Hamilton St.; Allentown, PA 18101

10 Minutes southwest (6 miles); Exit airport south going west on US 22 3.2 mi; Merge onto PA 145 south 2 mi; Right onto W Linden .3 mi; Left onto Fountain .1 mi; Left onto Hamilton; Hotel will be on the right.

[http://www.mapquest.com/maps?1pn=Lehigh+Valley+International+Airport+\(ABE\)&1c=Allentown&1s=PA&1a=3311+Airport+Rd&1z=18109&1y=US&1l=40.650677&1g=-75.43028&1v=ADDRESS&1id=2182346&2c=Allentown&2s=PA&2a=904+W+Hamilton+St&2z=18101-1109&2y=US&2l=40.60115&2g=-75.47554&2v=ADDRESS#/maps/l:Lehigh+Valley+International+Airport+\(ABE\):3311+Airport+Rd:Allentown:PA:18109:US:40.650677:-75.43028:address:1:::2182346/l::904+W+Hamilton+St:Allentown:PA:18101-1109:US:40.60115:-75.47554:address:1::/io:1:::/:/e](http://www.mapquest.com/maps?1pn=Lehigh+Valley+International+Airport+(ABE)&1c=Allentown&1s=PA&1a=3311+Airport+Rd&1z=18109&1y=US&1l=40.650677&1g=-75.43028&1v=ADDRESS&1id=2182346&2c=Allentown&2s=PA&2a=904+W+Hamilton+St&2z=18101-1109&2y=US&2l=40.60115&2g=-75.47554&2v=ADDRESS#/maps/l:Lehigh+Valley+International+Airport+(ABE):3311+Airport+Rd:Allentown:PA:18109:US:40.650677:-75.43028:address:1:::2182346/l::904+W+Hamilton+St:Allentown:PA:18101-1109:US:40.60115:-75.47554:address:1::/io:1:::/:/e)

Directions from Host Hotel to Primary Club

24-7 Fitness; 601 Union Street; Allentown, PA 18101
3 Minutes east (1 mile); East on Hamilton .4 mi; Right on Fifth .2 mi; Right onto W Union .1 mi; Club is on the right

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps?1c=Allentown&1s=PA&1a=904+W+Hamilton+St&1z=18101-1109&1y=US&1l=40.601129&1g=-75.475628&1v=ADDRESS&2c=Allentown&2s=PA&2a=601+W+Union+St&2z=18101-2308&2y=US&2l=40.599975&2g=-75.468433&2v=ADDRESS>

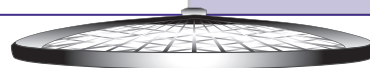
Directions from Host Hotel to Secondary Club
24-7 Fitness; 1441 Schoenersville Rd.; Bethlehem, PA 18018

15 minutes east (6 miles); East on W Hamilton .3 mi; North (left) onto N Sixth 1.3 mi; Slight right onto MacArthur Rd .4 mi; Merge onto US 22 toward Bethlehem 3.8 mi Exit Schoenersville Road; Left onto Schoenersville Road 1.6 mi; Club is on the right

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps?1c=Allentown&1s=PA&1a=904+W+Hamilton+St&1z=18101-1109&1y=US&1l=40.601129&1g=-75.475628&1v=ADDRESS&2c=Allentown&2s=PA&2a=601+W+Union+St&2z=18101-2308&2y=US&2l=40.599975&2g=-75.468433&2v=ADDRESS#/maps/l:m:map:14:40.601612:-75.471076:::1:1:::/:l:904+W+Hamilton+St:Allentown:PA:18101-1109:US:40.601129:-75.475628:address:1::/l:1441+Schoenersville+Rd:Bethlehem:PA:18018-1864:US:40.63321:-75.38815:address:Lehigh+Coun:1::/io:1:::/:en US:M:/bl:/e>

more ➤

continued on page 8...





ENTRY FORM

NMRA International Championships

JULY 14-17, 2010

24-7 Fitness Clubs - Allentown and Bethlehem, PA

Entry by mail must be POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN 7/1/2010

Online Entries Must Be COMPLETED BY 7/9/2010 at <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=6638>

You may enter a maximum of two divisions.



Please Print — Be Legible, Complete & Accurate

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: Home _____

Work _____

Cell _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

DOB: m____ / d____ / yr____ Age on 7/14/2010 _____

Waiver: I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive & release any & all rights and claims that I may have against the NMRA, USAR, and 24-7 Fitness Clubs 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 eyeguards (including prescription frames/lenses) conform with all standards specified in USA Racquetball Rule 2.5(a). By registering to compete in this event, I consent to and release all rights to the use of event photographs in which my image appears.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

FEES:

First Event \$140 \$ _____

Second Event \$ 40 \$ _____

Spouse/Guest(s)* (each) \$ 65 \$ _____

NMRA Membership ** (Total f-3yrs) \$ 45 \$ _____

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

Future Fund Donation (\$5 increments) \$ _____

Total Due: \$ _____

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

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

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

SHIRT SIZE: S M L XL 2X 3X
MENS _____ WOMENS _____

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

Mail to: Steve Cohen, NMRA Treasurer
5832 E Bluebonnet Court, Orange, CA 92869

NO REFUND OF ANY FEES AFTER 7/9/2010

DOUBLES	<u>MEN</u>	SINGLES
_____	45+	_____
_____	50+	_____
_____	55+	_____
_____	60+	_____
_____	65+	_____
_____	70+	_____
_____	75+	_____
_____	80+	_____
_____	85+	_____
_____	90+	_____

DOUBLES	<u>WOMEN</u>	SINGLES
_____	45+	_____
_____	50+	_____
_____	55+	_____
_____	60+	_____
_____	65+	_____
_____	70+	_____
_____	75+	_____
_____	80+	_____
_____	85+	_____

<u>MIXED DOUBLES</u>		
_____	45+	_____ 70+
_____	50+	_____ 75+
_____	55+	_____ 80+
_____	60+	_____ 85+
_____	65+	_____

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/Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Allentown Int'l Tournament Info continued from page 6

Directions from Primary Club to Secondary Club

15 minutes (6 miles); Northwest on Sixth St 1.5 mi; East (right) onto US 22 3.8 mi; Exit Schoenersville Road; Left onto Schoenersville Road 1.6 mi; Club is on the right
<http://www.mapquest.com/maps?1c=Allentown&1s=PA&1a=601+W+Union+St&1z=18101-2308&1y=US&1l=40.599975&1g=-75.468433&1v=ADDRESS&2c=Bethlehem&2s=PA&2a=1441+Schoenersville+Rd&2z=18018-1864&2y=US&2l=40.63321&2g=-75.38815&2v=ADDRESS>

Tournament Check-In

Tuesday, July 13, 2010, 5 pm to 8 pm at the Allentown 24-7 Fitness Club (not the hotel).

Play Begins / Ends 8 am Wednesday, July 14, to 5 pm Saturday, July 17, 2010; Every division plays every day (Wednesday through Saturday); Please show consideration for all players and remember that we play every bracket every day of the event. Schedule your travel arrangements accordingly. Courts will be available at the club 24 hours per day; ID will be required at both venues.

Practice Courts

Courts will be available for NMRA players on Tuesday afternoon at the Allentown club.

Tournament Ball Ektelon Classic Black 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 Saturday playoff matches. Playoff format will be two games to 15, tiebreaker to 11 if needed. Bonus points are awarded for winning games (2 per game) and the match (4). Ties will split the extra four match points. Points are automatically calculated by the R2sports tournament software. When any team or player must forfeit, average scores will be used to determine final results of the division or pool. If a forfeit occurs during a match, the opposing team or player will be awarded points required to finish the match.

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 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.

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.

Instructor Clinic AmPro raquetball instructor clinic will be offered July 12 and 13, all day. Marcy Lynch (215.412.3277) will be the clinician. Contact Gary Mazaroff for more AmPro clinic details gmmampro@aol.com; USA Racquetball Instructor Program information is available through the USA Racquetball website www.usra.org

Morning Hospitality Breakfast is available at the hotel with a discounted coupon, received upon tournament registration. Fruit and drinks available at both clubs.

Lunch Available at both clubs; you will need to present your tournament pass.

Evening Hospitality Available at both clubs—not a substitute for dinner. You will need to present your tournament pass.

Banquet Friday night, July 16, 2010, at the Holiday Inn Hotel; Cash bar at 6:30 pm; Dinner and program from 7pm to 10pm

Local Activities and Attractions Museums, theaters, amusement parks, zoo, canal cruises, breweries, wineries, AAA baseball games, caverns/caves, shopping, art galleries, golfing, rafting, nearby cities of New York City and Philadelphia .

Avg. Temp Allentown in July – High 84° F, Low 64° F, Rain 4.5 Inches.

RV Parking Free RV parking without hookups is available at the Bethlehem club. Other area RV parks are: <http://www.mapquest.com/maps?city=Allentown&state=PA&zipcode=18101&cat=RV+Park&country=US&latitude=40.6029&longitude=-75.4701&geocode=ZIP#/maps/m:map:6:40.518077:-75.43327:::1:1:::/:Allentown:PA:18101:US:40.6029:-75.4701:zip:Lehigh+County:1:Recreational+Vehicle+Park::/io:1:::/:/so:Recreational+Vehicle+Park:::d:25:::/bl/e> ○

Things to do in Allentown Area

By Cindy Tilbury



The Lehigh Valley area of Pennsylvania offers many exciting things to see and do. Some suggestions for your trip to the 2010 International Championships include:

Restaurants Nearby

- Brew Works
- Bon Gusto Pizza
- Ham Fam Diner
- Yocco's Hot Dog King
- Cali Burrito

Miscellaneous

- Sands Casino
- Dorney Amusement and Water Park
- Crayola Factory Discovery Center
- Wineries / Breweries
- Covered Bridges
- Golf Courses
- Antiques / Markets
- Shakespeare Festival
- Blueberry Festival
- Canal Boat Cruise
- Whitewater Rafting
- Josh Early Candies Tour

Museums / History

- Historic Bethlehem Main Street
- Liberty Bell Shrine Church
- Allentown Art Museum
- Allen Organ Museum
- America on Wheels Museum
- American Heritage Museum
- Mack Truck Museum
- National Canal Museum
- Revolutionary War / Civil War Sites

Spectator Sports

- Iron Pigs AAA Baseball at Coca Cola

Park

- Philadelphia Eagles Football Summer Training Camp

Theaters

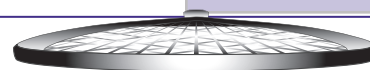
- State Theater in Easton (Haunted)
- Civic Theater in Allentown

Natural Wonders

- Bushkill Falls
- Crystal Cave
- Lost River Caverns
- Hawk Mountain
- Dutch Springs Recreation Area

Nearby Cities

- Philadelphia
- New York City



NMRA Tournament Results

DOUBLES-ONLY Pleasanton, CA

November 12-14, 2010 / ClubSport Pleasanton / Tom Curran & Steve Cohen, Tournament Directors



Division	Place	Names	State	Points
MD40	1st	Dan Diodati / Mark Nomura	CA	36.57
	2nd	Randy Long / Ron Miramontes	CA	28.43
	3rd	Armando Villa / Claude Hagopian	CA	25.86
	4th	Richard Aal / Tom Lonardo	CA	22.14
	5th	Rick Koll / Shawn Hanshaw	NV / CA	22.00
MD45	1st	Tom Travers / Tom Cain	FL / AZ	31.00
	2nd	Dennis Kaufman / John Winings	CA	29.00
	3rd	Danny Newman / Ken Stone	CA	28.71
MD50	1st	Robert O'Brien / Stan Hampton	CA	36.38
	2nd	Gil Cepeda / Gene Pare	CA	36.00
	3rd	Barry Clyde / Robbie Brown	CA	35.38
	4th	Dana Lund / Bill George	CA	28.50
	5th	Jerry Oliver / Jim Russo	CA	24.50
	6th	Johnny Blecher / Quentin Pittman	CO / CA	22.13
	7th	Cedric Colins / Harry Vernon	CA	21.25
	8th	Bruce Adams / Ty Kelly	OK / AZ	16.63
MD55	1st	Dave Azuma / Mark Baron	OR / VA	36.67
	2nd	Bert Castelanelli / Steve Cohen	CA	34.00
	3rd	Harold Jagoda / Ruben Gonzalez	CA / NY	29.83
	4th	Howard Walker / Rick Belts	TX / CA	29.67
	5th	Frank Taddonio / Joe Lee	AZ / HI	25.33
	6th	Jeff Auen / Whallen Fong	CA	25.17
	7th	Jim Gutierrez / Jim Elliott	CA / UT	10.33
MD60	1st	Bob Lewis / Bob Smith	OR	35.20
	2nd	Joe Weiss / Price Thomas	CA	33.40
	3rd	Larry Ardito / Tom Curran	FL / NC	27.80
	4th	Warren Bailey / Mike Lippitt	AK / CA	27.20
	5th	Ray Ingle / Gale Filter	CA	21.00
	6th	Roland Chan / Vincent Stantell	CA	15.20



Division	Place	Names	State	Points
MD70	1st	William Baker / Jim Harper	CA / IL	34.63
	2nd	Jerry Northwood / Ron Adams	AZ / CA	33.25
MD75	1st	Paul Banales / Bob Warren	AZ	29.88
	2nd	Clydell Kingsberry / Kenneth Herman	CA	18.00
MD80	1st	John Prigmore / Dick Kincade	KS / CO	13.88
	XD40	1st Jody Nance / Mark Nomura	CA	38.00
XD40	2nd	Celia Vigil / Tom Lonardo	CA	29.33
	3rd	Randy Long / Susan Felix	CA	25.33
	4th	Janice Murphy / Ivan Matsui	CA	15.50
	XD45	1st Anita King / Howard Walker	TX	35.22
2nd		Gilbert Cepeda / Cindy Gilbert	CA	34.56
XD45	3rd	Marni Wagner / John Winings	OR / CA	33.67
	4th	Danny Newman / Lee Hardiman	CA	30.00
	5th	Quentin Pittman / Sara Jeska	CA	29.33
	6th	Robin Brabb / Richard Aal	CA	26.67
	7th	George Clark / Pauline Kobata	CA	22.44
	8th	David Ellis / Tori Davis	CA	22.11
	XD50	1st Ruben Gonzalez / Sherron Boyea	NY	36.89
		2nd	Steve Cohen / Carolyn Hollis	CA



Division	Place	Names	State	Points
3rd		Rick Betts / Cindy Tilbury	CA / CO	31.89
	4th	Marcia Neishi / Whallen Fong	CA	31.78
5th		Janine Boscacci / Larry Ardito	CA / FL	27.75
	6th	Janice Vosika / Warren Bailey	WY / AK	23.11
7th		Rhonda Look / Ty Kelly	TX / CA	19.13
	8th	Jan Warren / Jim Elliott	AZ / UT	17.75
XD55	1st David Azuma / Elaine Dexter	OR / CA	38.00	
	2nd	Carmen Alatorre-Martin / Frank Taddonio	VA / AZ	34.67
XD60	1st Jerry Northwood / Merijeau Kelley	AZ	22.83	
	2nd	Mike Lippitt / Cece Palaski	CA	20.33
XD65	1st Nidia Funes / Price Thomas	CA	21.67	
	2nd	Ron Adam / Marquita Molina	CA	16.83



WD40	1st Margaret Demorest / Robin Brabb	CA	32.17	
	WD45	1st Celia Vigil / Marcia Neishi	CA	35.33
2nd		Denny Erardi / Lee Hardiman	CA	29.50
3rd		Cindy Gilbert / Merifeau Kelley	CA	28.67
	4th	Pauline Kobata / Marni Wagner	CA / OR	25.60
5th		Tori Davis / Michele Robinson	CA	19.80
	WD50	1st Sherron Boyea / Carolyn Hollis	CA	34.50
2nd		Julie Moueser / Susan Felix	CA	27.33
3rd		Janine Boscacci / Carla Francis	CA	26.20
	4th	Nancy Abram Johnson / Janice Vosika	CA / WY	22.83
5th		Nidia Funes / Cindy Tilbury	CA / CO	20.67
	WD55	1st Carmen Alatorre-Martin / Elaine Dexter	VA / CA	37.40



NMRA Tournament Results

NATIONAL Championships Tucson, AZ

March 16-20, 2010 / Tucson Racquet & Fitness / Arizona State Tucson / Tom Curran & Steve Cohen, Tournament Directors

Division	Place	Names	State	Points	Division	Place	Names	State	Points	Division	Place	Names	State	Points	
M45	1st	Steve Ivers	CA	37.00	M85	1st	Victor Sacco	NY	38.00		4th	Tim LaVoi /	MN		
	2nd	John Winings	CA	35.33		2nd	Bill Gencarella	CA	25.67			Michael Arnolt	IN	31.67	
	3rd	Thomas Cain	AZ	27.60		3rd	Dick Kenealy	CA	21.17		5th	Dave Briski /	CA		
	4th	Joey Egea	AZ	20.17	M90	1st	Ben Marshall	TX	19.17			Kelly Painter	CA	30.56	
M50	1st	Mike Girsz	TX	Playoff	MD45	1st	Bart Landsman /	CA			6th	Jim Verhaeghe /	AZ		
	2nd	Mike Lubbes	AZ	Playoff			Steve Ivers	CA	37.43			Price Thomas	CA	26.11	
	3rd	Glenn Leib	PA	Playoff		2nd	Scott Kraemer /	WI			7th	Raymond Bierner /	AZ		
	4th	Steve Wattz	CA	Playoff			Leon Jackson	VA	36.57		8th	Tom Curran	NC	22.22	
	5th	Patrick Gibson	TX	Playoff		3rd	Jerry Hines /	AZ				Jim Gutierrez /	CA		
	6th	Joe Hassey	NV	Playoff		4th	Ron Butler	AZ	32.14	MD65	1st	Jon Walker /	AZ		
	7th	Bart Landsman	CA	32.00		5th	Marcus Riggins	AL	26.86			Tom Lundy	AZ	38.00	
	8th	Rocky Lemmert	AZ	30.25		6th	Philippe Jean Baptiste /	VA			2nd	Tom Penick /	CA		
M55	1st	Dave Azuma	OR	Playoff		7th	Jaime Lugo	VA	26.57			Jerry Monell	CA	33.44	
	2nd	Robert Shane McAfee	MO	Playoff		8th	Jim Mackie /	AZ			3rd	Price Thomas /	CA		
	3rd	Rick Betts	CA	Playoff			Frank Finach	CO	19.29		4th	David Olson	MN	32.89	
	4th	Ron Fowler	GA	Playoff		7th	David Reyes /	OR			5th	Mike Pawka /	CA		
	5th	Dan Hirleman	IL	Playoff			Kent Hollingsworth	OR	18.29		6th	Robert Cox	OR	29.89	
	6th	Mike Robinson	TX	Playoff		8th	John Valenzuela /	AZ			7th	Howard Nellor /	FL		
	7th	Ricardo Sanchez	AZ	30.60			Roy Hare	VA	17.14		8th	Fred Roe	CA	28.00	
	8th	Gary Buckmaster	TX	20.40	MD50	1st	Hatch Saakian /	CA			6th	Steven Lavorgna /	NJ		
M60	1st	Frank Taddonio	AZ	Playoff			Ruben Gonzalez	NY	Playoff			Leonard Sonnenberg	CA	25.33	
	2nd	Joel Franklin	CA	Playoff		2nd	Patrick Gibson /	TX			7th	Joe Gellman /	NM		
	3rd	Dave Briski	CA	Playoff			Howard Walker	TX	Playoff			Gary Icenogle	AZ	25.25	
	4th	Tom Rall	WA	Playoff		3rd	Steve Waltz /	CA			8th	Donald Sperber /	FL		
	5th	Tim LaVoi	MN	Playoff			Ed Roffey	CO	Playoff			John Eliot	NC	24.22	
	6th	George Henshaw	LA	Playoff		4th	Mike Lubbers /	AZ		MD70	1st	Tom Penick /	CA		
	7th	David Rowe	WI	26.80			Rocky Lemmert	AZ	Playoff			Ron Adams	CA	37.25	
	8th	George Garcia	AZ	20.40		5th	Mike Girsz /	TX			2nd	Roger Hostetler /	AZ		
M65	1st	Donald Gunderson	WI	Playoff			Burgess Raby	CA	Playoff			Francis Florey	WI	34.50	
	2nd	Mitch Milewski	NH	Playoff		6th	Alan Baron /	AZ			3rd	Jerry Northwood /	AZ		
	3rd	Fred Roe	CA	Playoff			David Pool	AZ	Playoff		4th	Rex Lawler	IN	27.14	
	4th	Robert Lattanzio	CA	Playoff		7th	Jim Gordon /	AZ			4th	David Rogers /	IN		
	5th	Donald Sperber	FL	Playoff			Bob Wright	IN	25.80			Ralph Carito	NJ	19.50	
	6th	Michael Arnolt	IN	Playoff		8th	Alex Puchall /	FL		MD75	1st	Don Dennis /	IL		
	7th	Joe Gellman	NM	24.83			Tom Travers	FL	22.60			Herbert Rubenstein	AZ	31.75	
	8th	Gary Icenogle	AZ	22.67	MD55	1st	Mark Baron /	VA			2nd	Paul Banales /	AZ		
M70	1st	Ron Adams	CA	38.00			Dave Azuma	OR	38.00			Bob Warren	AZ	31.00	
	2nd	Bob Peterson	AZ	33.43		2nd	Hatch Saakian /	CA			3rd	Armand Matem /	UT		
	3rd	Roger Hostetler	AZ	29.14			Ruben Gonzalez	NY	34.38			Ron Dorst	CA	22.00	
	4th	Francis Florey	WI	28.86		3rd	Steve Cohen /	CA			4th	David Maitland /	CT		
	5th	Jim Calvin	AZ	24.14			Pete Chmielewski	CA	31.50			Michael Henchy	GA	19.14	
	6th	David Rogers	IN	20.86		4th	Jerry Fronczak /	IL		MD80	1st	Cap Hiles /	FL		
	7th	Michael Jackson	CT	19.00			Ricardo Sanchez	AZ	28.00			Mike Martin	CO	29.14	
	8th	Bill Baker	CA	15.86		5th	Jim Elliott /	UT			2nd	Lee Goldstein /	CA		
M75	1st	Art Johnson	CO	38.00			John Haynes	UT	23.57			Philip Dziuk	IL	25.50	
	2nd	Ron Dorst	CA	31.00		6th	Curt Alatorre-Martin /	VA			3rd	Hank Schone /	CA		
	3rd	Aaron Vederoff	WA	26.20			James Weathers	VA	20.71			Dick Kincade	CO	22.00	
	4th	Bob Baudry	LA	20.20		7th	Jim Gutierrez /			MD85	1st	Bill Gencarella /	CA		
	5th	David Maitland	CT	19.00			Donald Guggia		19.63			Dick Kenealy	CA	12.38	
	6th	Ralph Carito	NJ	17.20	MD60	1st	Donald Gunderson /	WI			W65	1st	Margaret Hoff	IL	38.00
M80	1st	Mike Martin	CO	36.80			Dave Warner	MN	35.89			2nd	Cece Palaski	NM	31.63
	2nd	Dick Kincade	CO	32.60		2nd	Barry Hendricks /	AZ				3rd	Marquita Molina	CA	24.63
	3rd	Philip Dziuk	IL	28.60			Jon Walker	AZ	35.22		W70	1st	Gloria Piscoran	OR	21.50
	4th	David Hendricks	AZ	26.80		3rd	Gary Wells /	AZ				2nd	Aileen Kucera	AZ	4.00
	5th	Dave Schlenker	CA	21.40			Tom Rall	WA	32.78						
	6th	Hank Schone	CA	11.40											

continued on page 11...



Tournament DIRECTOR'S Corner

By Cindy Tilbury and Marcia Richards

Considering offering some new racquetball programs at your club?

Try a **Swingers League!**

We think this is an original two-hour league format, native to the *Littleton Colorado YMCA*, and we bet your people are going to love it.

Assuming you have four courts, you'll want to sign up four men and four women of equal playing abilities. It will go six or seven weeks, where everyone gets a chance to play everyone else. Make sure they send substitutes if they cannot play at the scheduled time.

For the first hour, the men play singles against each other, and the women play singles against each other. Your opponent will be determined before the league starts. Everyone plays everyone else (same gender, unless you decide differently) twice.

For the second hour, the league players partner up to play *Mixed Doubles*. Again, you will play with a different partner and against different opponents each week. Everyone is working toward their own individual points in the league, even when the points are gained with a doubles partner.

The league winner is the one person with the most points. You can determine how you want to award winner points. Marcia has suggestions on that for you, if you prefer. Of course, fabulous prizes should be awarded at a league party. The *Littleton YMCA Swingers League* met once a month on Friday nights, and then went out for Old Chicago pizza afterward. Does this sound like something your club-mates might be interested in? Give **Marcia Richards** at call or email her at Marcia@coloradoracquetball.com. ○

NMRA Nat'l Championship Results continued from page 10

Division	Place	Names	State	Points	Division	Place	Names	State	Points
XD45	1st	Scott Kraemer / Gladys Leonard	WI VA	37.00	3rd	Bill Baker / Shirley Parsons	CA CO	30.29	
	2nd	John Winings / Marni Wagner	CA OR	33.86	4th	John Eliot / Vickey Utter	NC NC	17.29	
	3rd	Howard Walker / Anita King	TX TX	29.71	XD65	1st	Mary Lou Furaus / Jerry Northwood	AZ AZ	31.00
	4th	Sallie Benedict / Jaime Lugo	VA VA	27.43		2nd	Donna Backus / Steven Lavorgna	AZ NJ	25.71
	5th	Jerry Hines / Lisa Panzero	AZ AZ	26.86	3rd	Marquita Molina / Aaron Vederoff	CA WA	22.57	
	6th	Kent Hollingsworth / Kelli Beebe	OR OR	23.86	XD70	1st	Howard Nellor / Lola Markus	FL IL	21.43
	7th	Lisa Bu / Tom Lundy	AZ AZ	18.14		WD45	1st	Alice Douglass-McClure / Gladys Leonard	IN VA
	8th	Roy Hare / Debbie Lujan	VA OR	15.57	2nd		Vicky Reyes / Kelli Beeb	OR OR	32.60
XD50	1st	Rhonda Look / Frank Taddonio	TX AZ	Playoff	3rd	Kerri Garcia / Anita King	AZ TX	30.00	
	2nd	Rick Betts / Cindy Tilbury	CA CO	Playoff	4th	Thao Le / Judith Flis	PA PA	25.40	
	3rd	Sallie Benedict / Leon Jackson	VA VA	Playoff	5th	Lisa Bu / Lisa Panero	AZ AZ	25.40	
	4th	Mike Pawka / Leslie Pawka	CA CA	Playoff	6th	Debbie Lujan / Mami Wagner	OR OR	22.22	
	5th	David Reyes / Vicky Reyes	OR OR	Playoff	WD50	1st	Leslie Pawka / Carmen Alatorre-Martin	CA VA	38.00
	6th	Mike Hiles / Grace Jaworsky	MN MO	Playoff		2nd	Rhonda Look / Grace Jaworsky	TX MO	25.83
	7th	Judith Flis / James Weathers	PA VA	27.60	3rd	Cheryl Kirk / Cindy Tilbury	IL CO	24.67	
	8th	Joerg Leinemann / Dorette Rynkiewicz	MD MD	23.00	4th	Jan Warren / Mary Lou Furaus	AZ AZ	20.00	
XD55	1st	Mark Baron / Susan Hendricks	VA AZ	35.80	5th	Dorette Rynkiewicz / Melanie Newsome	MD NC	13.67	
	2nd	Steve Cohen / Carmen Alatorre-Martin	CA VA	34.60	WD55	1st	Marcia Richards / Susan Hendricks	CO AZ	34.50
	3rd	Marcia Richards / Gary Wells	CO AZ	25.20		2nd	Suanne Jones / Susan Rowe	OR WI	20.33
	4th	Terry Sue Voboril Newport / Mark Newport	MO MO	22.20	WD60	1st	Merijean Kelley / Shirley Parsons	CA CO	32.83
	5th	Tony Vargas / Suanne Jones	CA OR	19.60		2nd	Donna Backus / Vickey Utter	AZ NC	21.17
	6th	David Rowe / Susan Rowe	WI WI	15.60	WD65	1st	Margaret Hoff / Lola Markus	IL IL	34.33
XD60	1st	Barry Hendricks / Merijean Kelley	AZ CA	35.86		WD70	1st	Carol Taylor / Gloria Piscoran	IN OR
	2nd	Kelly Painter / Cece Palaski	CA NM	33.14					



NMRA 2010 DOUBLES Championships

Meridian Sports Club – Fullerton, California

December 2-4, 2010 (Thursday, Friday & Saturday)

Round Robin Age Divisions Starting at 40 Years Young

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION SHEET www.nmra.info

Tournament Directors / Staff

Tournament Director and Mail-In Registration to:
Steve Cohen 714.767.4622 scohen@nmra.info
Tournament Director - Tom Curran tcurran@nmra.info
Bruce Adams – Banquet Program
Carmen Alatorre-Martin – Membership Director
Dave Warner – Wednesday Night Registration
Mike Hiles – Medals and First Time Players and/or New Member
Mickey Bellah – Meridian Sports Club Contact
Vicky Utter and Howard Walker – Rules Committee

Primary Host Club

Meridian Sports Club – 16 courts – 2 glass back walls
1535 Deerpark Drive, Fullerton, CA 92831 714.961.0400
Bring a lock. Towel service available free.
All club facilities are available to tournament players and paid guests.



Host Hotel



Embassy Suites—Brea

900 East Birch Street, Brea, California, United States 92821
Online Reservations: http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/LAXBRES-XRA-20101130/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG
Room rate \$89 per night with free parking. Cutoff date 11/16/2010 -- Group code: XRA; Registered guests will be entered into a "free night" lottery. Located approximately 20 miles (30 minutes) from the John Wayne International Airport (SNA) in Santa Ana, CA. Amenities include:

- Complimentary Manager's Reception featuring cocktails and hors d'oeuvres every evening
- Complimentary Cooked-to-Order Breakfast every morning. Breakfast hours are Monday – Friday 6:00am – 9:00am and Saturday and Sunday 7:00am – 10:30am.
- State-of-the-art Precor® fitness center
- Outdoor swimming pool and Jacuzzi®
- Clock radio with MP3 connections
- Sofa sleeper bed
- Mini-refrigerator, microwave oven, coffee maker
- Full size desk with high-speed wired and wireless Internet access available
- ATM

Individual reservations can be made by contacting 1-800-EMBASSY or the Embassy Suites Brea directly at 714-990-6000

http://embassysuites1.hilton.com/en_US/es/hotel/LAXBRES-Embassy-Suites-Brea-North-Orange-County-California/index.do?brand_id=ES&brand_directory=/en/es/&xch=633633706,3TWBQHMP35LE0CSGBJBN2EQ

http://embassysuites1.hilton.com/en_US/es/hotel/LAXBRES-Embassy-Suites-Brea-North-Orange-County-California/directions.do#localmap

Enter Online Maximum of Two Divisions

Enter online by November 16, 2010, at <http://www.r2sports.com>
First event--\$140 Second event--\$40; Two Doubles Division Limit.
Guests Fee \$65 for the week (Must sign waiver for club use).

We can help find doubles partners and/or roommates.

Enter via US Mail Maximum of Two Divisions

Fill out the entry form at www.nmra.info (Tournament Info page). Mail completed entry form and fees by November 13, 2010, to:
NMRA c/o Steve Cohen, 5832 E Bluebonnet Court, Orange, CA 92869
Two Doubles Division Limit.

[more](#) ➤

Doubles Partners / Roommates

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

Nearest Airport Orange County/John Wayne International Airport (SNA), Santa Ana, CA -- 21 Miles from hotel, 30 minutes from the club and hotel

Directions: FWY 55 North to I-5 North to FWY 57 North- Exit Imperial Hwy – Left at light, then Right on State College Blvd, then Left on Birch Street, Embassy Suites on Left

Book flights at <http://www.ocair.com>
Super Shuttle \$20.00 – Taxi \$40.00

Airlines Flying Into John Wayne Santa Ana International Airport (SNA)

Air Canada; Alaska Airlines; American Airlines; Continental; Delta; Frontier; Southwest; United; United Express; US Airways; US Airways Mesa; Virgin America

Alternate Airports

Ontario International Airport (ONT), Drive time 35 minutes (25 Miles) Directions: I-10 West To Fwy 57 South Exit Lambert Road go Right, then Left on State College Blvd, then Right on Birch Street, Embassy Suites on Left; Super Shuttle \$30.00 – Taxi \$50.00

Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)
Drive time 55 minutes (40 Miles)

Directions: Fwy 105 East To Fwy 605 South To Fwy 91 East To Fwy 57 North Exit Imperial Hwy – Left at light, then Right on State College Blvd, then Left on Birch Street, Embassy Suites on Left; Super Shuttle \$30.00 – Taxi \$50.00

Airport Taxi / Shuttle Ground

Transportation Shuttles are available from the airport to the Embassy Suites. Ground Transportation can be found at: <http://www.ocair.com/groundtransport/shuttles.htm>

Shuttle From Hotel to Meridian Sports Club

Embassy Suites provides a complimentary shuttle for hotel guests. The club is approximately 10 minutes from the hotel.

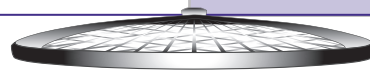
Thursday December 2nd:

7AM – 8AM (Multiple Trips to get participants to Meridian Sports Club); From 10AM until 10PM the shuttle will run every two hours from Club

Friday December 3rd:

7AM – 8AM (Multiple Trips to get participants to Meridian Sports Club); From 10AM until 6PM the shuttle will run every two hours from Club

continued on Page 14...





ENTRY FORM

NMRA DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS



DECEMBER 2-4, 2010 (Thursday, Friday & Saturday)

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

Meridian Sports Club - 1535 Deerpark Drive - Fullerton, CA - 714.961.0400

Mail-In Entry Must Be POSTMARKED NLT NOV 13, 2010

Online Entries Must Be COMPLETED BY NOV 16, 2010

Online entries at: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=7079>

Tournament Directors: Steve Cohen 714.767.4622 & Tom Curran 513.490.7472

Please Print — Be Legible, Complete & Accurate

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: Home _____

Work _____

Cell _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

DOB: m ____ / d ____ / yr ____ Age on 12/2/2010 ____

Waiver: I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive & release any & all rights and claims that I may have against the NMRA, USAR, Meridian Sports Club Fullerton 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 eyeguards (including prescription frames/lenses) conform with all standards specified in USA Racquetball Rule 2.5(a). By registering to compete in this event, I consent to and release all rights to the use of event photographs in which my image appears.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

ENTRY FEES:

First Event	\$ 140	\$ _____
Second Event	\$ 40	\$ _____
Spouse/Guest(s)* (each)	\$ 65	\$ _____
NMRA Membership ** (3yrs)	\$ 45	\$ _____
USRA Membership (required, 1 yr)	\$ 50	\$ _____
Additional Tournament Shirt(s)	\$ 25	\$ _____
Future Fund Donation:		\$ _____
Total Due:	\$	\$ _____

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

____ ****Check here if your first NMRA tournament**
First time participants do not have to join the NMRA, but we hope you do. New NMRA members receive a T-Shirt.

Registration Wednesday night 5-8 PM at Embassy Suites Brea • 900 East Birch Street • Brea, CA 92821 • Tel: 714.990.6000 • Includes complimentary reception featuring cocktails and hors d'oeuvres

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

Steve Cohen, 5832 E. Bluebonnet Court,
Orange, CA 92896, 714.767.4622

NO REFUND OF ANY FEES AFTER 11/16/2010

NMRA Official Website: www.nmra.info

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

DOUBLES

	MEN	WOMEN	MIXED
40+			
45+			
50+			
55+			
60+			
65+			
70+			
75+			
80+			
85+			
90+			

Doubles Partner(s): Please print

Name/Div/Age Bracket: _____

Name/Div/Age Bracket: _____

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

JACKET SIZE: MENS _____ WOMENS _____
 S M L XL 2X 3X

Emergency Contact Name and Phone Number:

Fullerton DOUBLES Tournament Info **continued from page 12**

Saturday, December 4th:

7AM – 8AM (Multiple Trips to get participants to Meridian Sports Club)
From 10AM until 6PM the shuttle will run every two hours from Club

Directions From Airport to Host Hotel Embassy Suites Brea

30 Minutes north (20 miles); Exit airport on Airport Way toward MacArthur Blvd; Left onto MacArthur Blvd; Merge onto I-405 N toward Long Beach; Merge onto I-5 N via Exit 10B toward Santa Ana; Merge onto CA-57 N via Exit 107A toward Pomona; Take the Imperial Hwy-CA-90 Exit 9 toward Brea; Right onto E Imperial Hwy-CA-90 E; Left onto S Associated Rd; Left onto E Birch St; Hotel is on the Left

[http://www.mapquest.com/maps?1pn=John+Wayne+Airport+\(SNA\)&1c=Santa+Ana&1s=CA&1a=18601+Airport+Way&1z=92707&1y=US&1l=33.67751&1g=-117.862&1v=ADDRESS&1id=11479311&2c=Brea&2s=CA&2a=900+E+Birch+St&2z=92821-5812&2y=US&2l=33.917829&2g=-117.886872&2v=ADDRESS#initPgSt](http://www.mapquest.com/maps?1pn=John+Wayne+Airport+(SNA)&1c=Santa+Ana&1s=CA&1a=18601+Airport+Way&1z=92707&1y=US&1l=33.67751&1g=-117.862&1v=ADDRESS&1id=11479311&2c=Brea&2s=CA&2a=900+E+Birch+St&2z=92821-5812&2y=US&2l=33.917829&2g=-117.886872&2v=ADDRESS#initPgSt)

Directions From Host Hotel to Club Meridian Fullerton

7 Minutes east (3.5 miles); East on E Birch St toward Brea Mall; Right onto S State College Blvd; Left onto E Imperial Hwy/CA-90E; Merge onto CA-57 S toward Santa Ana; Exit 8, Yorba Linda Blvd; Left onto Yorba Linda Blvd; Right onto N Placentia Ave; Right onto Garnet Ln; Garnet Ln becomes Deerpark Dr; Club is on the Right. Park in Parking Garage

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps?1c=Brea&1s=CA&1a=900+E+Birch+St&1z=92821-5812&1y=US&1l=33.917829&1g=-117.886872&1v=ADDRESS&2c=Fullerton&2s=CA&2a=1535+Deerpark+Dr&2z=92831-286&2y=US&2l=33.886198&2g=-117.878899&2v=ADDRESS#mqPgSt7>

Parking at Host Club

Free – No RV parking available in the parking ramp.

Tournament Check-In

Wednesday, December 1, 2010, 5 pm to 8 pm at the Embassy Suites

Play Begins / Ends

Starting at 8 am every day. Ends by 10 pm Thursday; Ends 5 pm Friday and Saturday; Every division plays every day (Thursday through Saturday) Please show consideration for all players and remember that we play every bracket every day of the event. Schedule your travel arrangements accordingly. Sign-In is required at club.

Practice Courts

Four (4) courts are available 24 hours “free of any charge” on November 29th-30th and December 1st, 2010.

Tournament Ball

Ektelon Classic Black 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 Saturday playoff matches. Playoff format will be two games to 15, tiebreaker to 11 if needed. Bonus points are awarded for winning games (2 per game) and the match (4). Ties will split the extra four match points. Points are automatically calculated by the R2sports tournament software. When any team or player must forfeit, average scores will be used to determine final results of the division or pool. If a forfeit occurs during a match, the opposing team or player will be awarded points required to finish the match.

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. Committee members for this event are Vicky Utter and Howard Walker.

Eligibility

USAR-sanctioned; Current USAR membership is required to participate. Your membership must be valid thru the last day of the tournament, December 4, 2010. Entries will not be accepted without payment for USAR membership.

more ➤

USAR membership is available at <https://webpoint.usra.org/wp15/IntraLock/Login.asp> Membership forms will also be available on Registration night. 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. You must be a current member as of the last day of the tournament.

Tournament Awards NMRA medals will be awarded to First through Fourth place winners for each age division. Combined divisions will be awarded medals based on separate age divisions.

AmPro Clinic To sign-up call Gary Mazaroff for more AmPro clinic [details. gmampro@aol.com](mailto:gmampro@aol.com) or 503.321.1110

USA Racquetball Instructors Certification Class To sign-up call the National Office, 719.635.5396 or go to <http://www.usra.org> for more details.

Morning Hospitality Breakfast is available at the hotel for hotel guests. Fruit and drinks available at the Meridian Sports Club.

Lunch Lunch is served at the Meridian Sports Club; you will need to present your tournament pass.

Evening Hospitality on Thursday Not a substitute for dinner. Will be served at the Meridian Sports Club. Hotel guests will also have the complimentary Manager’s Reception featuring cocktails and hors d’oeuvres every evening You will need to present your tournament pass.

Banquet on Friday Night Served at the Embassy Suites -- Cash bar at 6:30 pm; Dinner and program from 7 pm to 10 pm.

Local Activities <http://visittheoc.com/>

Sights to See Hiking trails, golf courses, Improv Comedy Club, Brea opera, Richard Nixon Library, Ducks hockey, Anaheim stadium, nearby Newport Beach, Disneyland Resort Area, Knott’s Berry Farm, Universal Studios, nearby San Diego, nearby beaches, much more.

Average Temperature Year – 62.2° F; December – High 70° F, Low 46° F; Average Yearly Rain 1.3 Inches.

RV Parks RV parks near the club are: <http://www.mapquest.com/maps?city=Fullerton&state=CA&cat=rv&country=US&latitude=33.8703&longitude=-117.9244&geocode=CITY#mqPgSt6> ○



Things to Do in Fullerton...

By Steve Cohen

The proposed location is *The Meridian Sports Club*, 714.961.0400, located at 1535 Deerpark Drive, Fullerton, CA 92831 with cross streets: between Haddonfield Loop and Windsor Lane.

Thanks go to **Mickey Bellah** for bringing this 22-court venue to the Board's attention.

Hotel and banquet arrangements are currently under consideration.

We need Sponsorships and I would appreciate our members' assistance in obtaining any donations or a reduction of expenses through in-kind donations.

Some Things To Do In Orange County, California



The *Meridian Sports Club* is located near the *California State University - Fullerton*, four miles from *Angel Stadium* and *The*

Pond, seven miles from *Disneyland* and *Disney's California Adventure* and 17 miles from *Orange County-John Wayne Airport (SNA)*.

Other airports in the area are *ONT*, *LGB*, & *LAX*.



For those who are not weak-hearted, visit *Flightdeck Air Combat Center* in *Anaheim*.

Other attractions are *Knott's Berry Farm* in *Buena Park*, *Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace* in *Yorba Linda*, the *Queen Mary* and the *Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific*.



The *City of Fullerton* boasts of **26 miles of recreation trails** for **hikers, bicyclists** and **equestrians** and two golf courses, and a golf practice center.

San Diego, miles of beaches, and *Mexico* are within a few hours, depending on traffic. There is truly something for everyone!

Three Long-Time NMRA Members Pass Away

By Ivan Bruner

Several of our members have passed away since the last newsletter. **TJ Ferro** (pictured) is our most recent loss, and he will be dearly missed. (See 'Far-Reaching Impact' on page 16).



Not everyone remembers the long-time members from the beginning of the *NMRA* organization, but they are equally important and need to be honored.



Bill Daley of *Tucson* was a member of the *NMRA* for a number of years; and in fact, during my 23 years as president of the *NMRA*, **Bill Daley** served on our board of directors, sent out the first newsletter, and played in many tournaments. **Bill** hosted one the tournaments in *Tucson* many years ago, and it was a very

successful and memorable event. **Bill** became ill about 10 years ago and passed away a few years ago. **Bill** was a life insurance representative.

Sam Koanui from *Honolulu* has also passed away. I was friends with **Sam** for many years. He was a member of our organization for many years and played in many tournaments. **Sam** and I teamed up to play a tournament in *Phoenix*, and we were defeated by **Paul Banales** and **Bill Daley**. It was at that time that I introduced **Paul** and **Bill** to the *NMRA*, which they both joined. **Sam Koanui** was very active in racquetball in *Hawaii*, and I had the pleasure of playing with him at the *YMCA in Honolulu* many times. He tried to bring an *NMRA* tournament to *Hawaii*, but the logistics were such that it didn't come to pass.

Both **Sam** and **Bill** were great individuals and both were real assets to the *NMRA*.

more TIDBITS...

Venues for NMRA Tournaments Needed—You'll notice we have our tournament venues set for at least the next year, but we are always looking for qualified venues for future tournaments. One of the keys to attracting more members and spreading the all-round-robin/self-refereed-tournament gospel is moving our tournaments to cities around the US to allow easy access to the local players. Once they try our tournaments, we believe they will travel to the next ones whenever they can.

What is a qualified venue? For our *March* and *July* tournaments, we need at least 18 courts in one or two facilities, and a hotel with banquet facilities available for about 300 people. In some instances, the racquetball facility can handle the banquet, and in that case, we just need an inexpensive hotel nearby. For our winter doubles-only tournament, we can get by with as few as nine courts, but we really like to keep that one in one facility. A hotel with banquet facilities for about 180 people will suffice for this tournament.

Our board of directors will do all of the negotiations; you just have to identify a viable city and club and we will do the rest. Colleges and universities are the best bet, but they are hard to get into during the school year. In any case, keep our group in mind as you find great clubs, and have us contact the management for future tournaments.

Female Players—It seems the ladies love the climate in *Tucson*. We had 40 ladies (21 percent of the total number of players) play in the *Tucson* tournament in *March*. We're working hard to make that number continue to grow, and that means more *Mixed Doubles* partners for you men!

Almost as many ladies (34, or 31 percent) signed up for the incredible *Pleasanton, California*, doubles-only tournament in *November*. We couldn't have asked for a greater club or nicer hosts. We can't wait to go back there!

Our record number of ladies is still our last Minneapolis tournament, with almost 50. Keep inviting your female friends, everyone, and maybe we can break our record this year!

Far-Reaching Impact

By Cheryl Kirk

We will never know the full scope of the difference we make in this world. The ripples of influence, like when a stone is dropped into a pond, go on and on.

Back in 1999, **TJ Ferro**, an *Ektelon Regional Advisor* at the time, took a chance on me, a C player who wanted to be sponsored as a way to participate more fully in the sport. He also recommended me for participation on the *ISRA Board*. From there, I never missed a *National Singles, Doubles* or *US Open*. I got to know people, and I was asked to run for the *USAR Board*. I won a Board seat in the 2006 election and the chance to make a difference on a national level. In 2008, I became *President of USA Racquetball*.



Last July in *Champaign, IL*, I attended and played in my first *NMRA* tournament, to be there as TJ played what would turn out to be his final tournament. TJ and his partner Marty sat at the back table with **Jim Elliott** and some of our Illinois players. You recognized him with a standing ovation, encouraging him to keep up the fight. It was there TJ played his last tournament match, with Jim as his partner.

Late last year I told TJ that I probably wouldn't be on the *USAR Board* if it weren't for him, that perhaps I wouldn't have experienced all the wonderful things that giving back to racquetball had given back to me. For example, TJ was responsible for introducing me to a wonderful group of *NMRA* players. The camaraderie...the fairness in competition...the strong sense of belonging...all these have enriched my life.

In March of this year, I attended my second *NMRA* tournament. TJ got me there again, although sadly, it was to be there in memory of his many contributions to our sport as well as to again enjoy the tremendous experience that the *NMRA* provides.

On behalf of the *ISRA*, I thank the *NMRA* for dedicating the *March Championships* to TJ Ferro's memory. I'd like to share with you the comments I delivered to the banquet attendees in memory of TJ the evening of March 19, 2010:

TJ would have given anything to be here with us all tonight. His words, though, are here to comfort us in his loss. Tom Curran and I had the opportunity to sit and talk with TJ just six days before his passing in the early hours of December 20th, and I present you with an excerpt of that interview here this evening.

Was there one event that you played in that you still remember as the 'best ever'?

What made it so special to you? The first *NMRA* tournament I played in. It was in Canton, OH. The most amazing tournament I've ever been to. (I loved the) sportsmanship, from then on, I was sold on the *NMRA*. People would ask, "Are you going to Nationals?" I'd say, "No, I'm doing the senior tour!"

What do you think makes our sport great and what makes it a challenge?

For me, getting more and more involved in the sport and teaching players the right way to play the game. Great, to me, is the people I've met and the friends I've kept over the years.

Were there any life lessons that you feel you gained directly from playing racquetball?

I go on the court to be competitive, but win or lose is not the big thing. If you're doing the right things, you're gonna win. (The most important thing is) to be a good sportsman on the court. Those are the things that made me a better player. Ninety percent of our tournaments are based in sportsmanship, like the *NMRA* events. It's people who call a carry (on themselves), who play rallies over. You get a bad call, you get a bad call.

What advice would you like to give to the next generation of racquetball players?

Keep it up – I hope that maybe all the racquetball players will try to get out there and get more people involved in the sport. I would like to see our sport grow. If I were still going to be here, I would definitely continue to try to make that happen. Promote the game on any level. ➤

What do you want to say to all of the people you have come to know and love through racquetball?

If it wasn't for all of them, I wouldn't still be in the game. Teaching racquetball to kids has helped my own game because it reinforces the basics I was trying to give them. It made me go over and over the basics. At this point in my life, I want to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers throughout this last year with what I'm going through.

Is there anything else you would like to say to your racquetball friends and family?

Maybe we don't fully understand and appreciate what we have in our racquetball family. We all have our separate lives but it's so funny, we come together at a tournament and we're all together.

TJ, how would you want to be remembered by our sport?

As a competitor, a good sportsman, a dedicated teacher and a good friend.

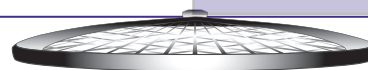
Our good friend, you achieved that and so much more. We love you and wish you Godspeak.

TJ did the right things for the right reasons, always. He was honorable, never participating in criticism of others. He coached kids, loved his family and Marty and his dog Shadow, and he served on two Boards – the ISRA and the NMRA. His absence is keenly felt, his influence never to be forgotten.

To demonstrate his loyalty to Ektelon, TJ had proudly sported for years an Ektelon flame tattoo on the outside of each calf.

When he was diagnosed with cancer last spring, he expressed his desire to be buried in his Ektelon clothing and cap (worn backwards, of course). That did indeed take place. As TJ told Ektelon VP Scott Winters on a phone call just a few days before he passed, "I can't wait to get to heaven and start a racquetball program up there!"

No doubt it's in full swing.



Treasurer's Corner

By Steve Cohen

I would like everyone to thank **Paul Banales** and **Carol Stoll** for all their hard work organizing the just-completed *National Championship* in Tucson, AZ. Due to Paul and Carol's diligence, the overall financial result was slightly positive. I would also like to thank those players who donated a combined total of \$1,800 and became sponsors to help reduce the overall facility rental. Sponsorship is extremely important to ensure the continued quality of the overall tournament facility, hospitality and banquet.

For those members who do not know all of the upfront work that goes into the initial organization of a tournament, I will quickly summarize it.

Each possible venue has to be contacted and visited to ensure:

- the facilities can accommodate 100+ players
- the courts are well maintained and cleaned throughout the tournament
- storage space is available
- Wi-Fi is available for *R2Sports Tournament Software*
- drinks and fruit/food are allowed and provided
- lunch and hospitality are available
- a club representative will be on-site throughout the tournament
- locker rooms are available
- guests are welcome
- a viewing area and chairs exists
- a tournament desk is provided
- space can be made for our Sponsors
- local players are encouraged to participate
- event notices are posted throughout the club
- parking is free
- use of the entire facility is included in the cost
- the registration night area is available
- practice courts are available for Monday and Tuesday
- *NMRA* banners and court stickers can be put up; and most importantly
- the *NMRA* is welcomed by the club's members

Multiply that by two facilities and you have a huge amount of time expended. Oh yeah, I almost forgot the numerous phone calls, answering questions and following up.

continued on page 19...

Checking In about Checking In...

By Tom Curran, *NMRA President and Tournament Director*

We wanted to take a couple of minutes from your life to review some of the finer points of why we have a check-in process on the Tuesday night before *NMRA National* and *International Tournaments* (March and July) and Wednesday night before *NMRA Doubles-Only* (December).

You have to consider the original reason that the *NMRA* was formed in order to understand the logic behind having every registered player attend the check-in night activities.

The *NMRA* was originally formed more for the social values than the competitive values of our sport. The idea of **lasting friendships is the backbone** of the *NMRA*. The Check-In represents the finest qualities of those values. The intent is to get everyone together to meet and greet, catch up on lives, eat, drink, and be thankful for being together again. The Board plans the Check-In night activities with this first and foremost in mind.

Of course, there is also a very practical reason to try to get everyone there for check in.... it verifies for the tournament staff that everyone has made it safely, and allows us to identify any brackets that may have had to be modified in the event someone had to drop out on short notice. With everyone at the check in, we can alert folks to potential first-round forfeit situations and get the entire week schedule adjusted before the first matches are played.

In addition, it allows us to get all outstanding fees paid (entry, second event, membership fees, guest fees, additional guests for the banquet, etc). We can also get every participant all of the tournament giveaway items and get everyone their schedule so the entire tournament staff can address any issues.

It is a nightmare for the tournament staff, at the end of the check in period, to have to go through all the players who did not check in, identify where their first match will be played, put together their bag (with tournament gifts, shirts, food coupons, and, most importantly, their schedules) pack it up and ensure it is brought to the correct venue. Then we have the potential delay in a person showing up for their first match just in time to play it but having to 'check in' first.

Now for the good news... In Tucson, we had over 160 of the 191 players check in on Tuesday night... That is amazing. Typically we can have up to 50% of the folks not checking in on Tuesday night and you can appreciate what a serious problem that causes for the first day of match play.

We want to thank all of you who never miss a check-in event. Thanks for all you do to help us put on a well-planned, on-time event. We encourage all of you to talk to those who are not as likely to arrive in time for check-in. We encourage all of you who don't typically show up for check-in to change and be a part of the solution.

We love to serve the membership and plan the most enjoyable 'racquetball vacation' possible. We need everyone's support to help these events be successful from the START. Please plan your travel to ensure you support the check-in process.

Thanks.... From the entire Tournament Staff.



more TIDBITS...

Advisory Committee—The *NMRA* is looking for Advisory Committee members/volunteers who would like to have input into the workings of the *NMRA* by attending board meetings and participating in email-based conversations. Our Advisory Committee members would not have a vote, so it will be a somewhat thankless volunteering effort, but we would be eternally grateful for people with ideas to share. If you are interested, talk with one of the current board members.

New Deadline for All Tournaments—To allow for better tournament setup, the *NMRA* board tournament directors will be requiring you to get your entries in one week earlier—about two weeks before the first day of play, for online entries and a little earlier than that for mail-in's. The shirt ordering and court scheduling will be done a little more smoothly now. Make a note that you'll have to finalize your plans one week earlier from now on.

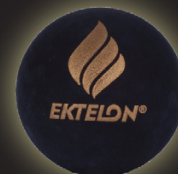
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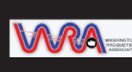


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Then there are the Hotel contracts, Catering contracts for Lunches, Hospitality and Banquet, Shirt logo design, Estimating the number of shirts required and sizes (Women's and Men's breakdown) and Vendor determination, Purchasing Bag Tags and Guest Gifts.

The *Tournament Director* and staff, with the help of *Board Members*, design the Entry Form and Information Sheet. Give thanks to **Cindy Tilbury** for compiling the Directions, Maps, Things to Do and Sights to See. Before the tournament can begin, the tournament has to be sanctioned with the *USAR*, and then set up on *R2Sports Tournament Software*. After the entry cutoff date and all doubles players are matched, the proper number of medals and disks, shirts and sizes need to be ordered.

The Treasurer then has the responsibility to review each online entry for missing information like shirt sizes, entering into *R2Sports* all mailed in entry forms (Tucson had 71 mail-ins) and checking that *USAR* and *NMRA* membership are current by following-up phone calls and emails to players, as well as completing *USAR* membership applications for new members. Then the fun starts, matching players needing partners and collecting the additional monies due.

The TD and Staff arrive on-site on Sunday or Monday morning to walk the facilities and purchase the needed supplies, enlarge the draw sheets at *Staples*, usually visit *Home Depot* for missing supplies, and inventory the shirts, medals and disks. Prior to arriving, they schedule all the matches, print and distribute the player schedules for your Welcome Bags at Registration night, and coordinate with **Carmen Alatorre-Martin** (*NMRA* Membership) First-Time Players and New *NMRA* Members.

We all know what goes on during the event and at the tournament desk, but did you know in the evenings after everyone has played, socialized in the bar, visited their favorite local restaurant, that the TD and staff booze it up and eat a salad and/or cold sandwich in their hotel room getting ready to greet the smiling faces of tomorrow's players and print all the daily results for posting at the clubs? This is usually accomplished by midnight.

If you enjoyed the tournament, I hope you will remember to thank the staff and Board Members, otherwise volunteer to get involved in the next one. ○

Why I Participate in NMRA Events

By Steve Cohen and Carmen Alatorre-Martin

NMRA stands for:

Never getting angry on the court because of bad calls. But I can make faces, right?

Making the right call when I was at fault and no one else saw it. Darn...I did it !!

Respecting the rules and opposing player's beliefs and views on the court.

Three blind mice and this guy make a quartet.

Always show true sportsmanship to your opponent. It's all about self-refereed matches. Play It Again Sam! They shoot horses don't they?

Racquetballer's Hearsay:

Are you nuts? Four Days of Racquetball! Oh My Aching Joints and Bones. Where's the Jacuzzi? Can I borrow your ICY HOT Balm?

Why am I doing this to myself? Sadistic sport, Racquetball.

I love coming to *NMRA* round robin tournaments and leaving everything on the court.

The best part is afterwards having a beer, soda or sports drink and laughing it up over evening hospitality or dinner with the same person I could have screamed at and wanted to dissect piece by piece after a horrendous call on the court. Making friends that last a lifetime, that's what it's all about.

SPORTSMANSHIP

We are all competitive, but lately we've experienced a couple of things that are becoming disturbing. This isn't JUST about winning; it's about being here to play to the best of your ability against strong competition, and doing so with integrity. The results then are the results.

The PENALTY HINDER rules are being abused to the nth degree by some members in matches. Most of us know the rules and should be able to call penalty hinders on ourselves. Yes, this is a self-refereed system, but integrity should always be on the court with us.

Also, FORFEITS were happening too much at Tucson, and it wasn't because of an injury sustained on the court. Don't enter two events if you'll refuse to complete the draw when you're losing matches and are out of medal contention. This was especially evident when players were dropping out of Singles but finishing their Doubles matches later. We don't want to have a situation where, on the last round of a pool play draw, a player loses his top 3 group position and misses going to the playoffs because his opponent forfeited. Be courteous and tell the Tournament Director (TD) as soon as possible if you do need to forfeit a match due to an injury; don't rely on a friend or just leave. The TDs stay at the Host Hotel, and you can leave them a message anytime in the evening. Or you can call the lead TD who is listed on the information sheet you receive in your packet/goodie bag. Why not be considerate of your fellow *NMRA* members so he/she doesn't need to come to the club and wait 15 minutes after the match has been called several times over the PA system to learn that you are a no-show.

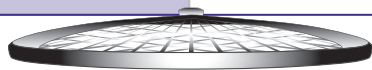
We're all about competition and winning, but more importantly, **we are for great sportsmanship, integrity, and friendship.**

People will not always remember what you say, nor always remember specifically what you did, but they will always remember how you made them feel.

Here are some useful points.

- Before starting the match, all players should agree on court hinders or the absence of them.
- If you feel your opponent is unfairly using hinders to keep you from winning points, go to the tournament desk and ask for an observer, not a referee. Finish the match and the observer will determine if the Rules Committee needs to get involved for future matches.
- Remind yourself that on Monday morning, it's the fond memories that make you smile and want to come back again and again. We all know it's the great food but don't tell your family.

So be a responsible adult, come to play and play well, and take ownership of being **"competitors with integrity."** ○



NMRA TOURNAMENT Trail 2010/2011

Tournament	Date	Location	Contact
NMRA International Championships 45+	Jul 14-17	Allentown, PA	Tom Curran www.nmra.info or 513.490.7472
IRF World Seniors 35+	Aug 31-Sep4	Albuquerque, NM	Gary Mazaroff www.internationalracquetball.com
Huntsman Senior Games 50+	Oct 6-9	St. George, UT	Jim Elliott 435.705.4144 or www.r2sports.com
US Open	Oct 20-24	Minneapolis, MN	Doug Ganim www.usra.org or www.r2sports.com
All Military National Championships	Nov 12-14	San Diego, CA	Steven Harper www.usra.org
NMRA Doubles-Only 40+	Dec 2-4	Fullerton, CA	Tom Curran www.nmra.info
WSMRA Singles 35+	Jan 14-16	Denver, CO	Kendra Tutsch kdtutsch@wisc.edu
USAR National Doubles	Feb '11	Phoenix, AZ	USAR www.usra.org or www.r2sports.com
NMRA National Championships	Mar 23-26	Portland, OR	Tom Curran www.nmra.info
USAR Regionals	Apr '11	Various, US	USAR www.usra.org
US National Singles	May '11	Fullerton, CA	USAR www.usra.org
NMRA International Championships	Jul 27-30	TBA	Tom Curran www.nmra.info

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