



RACQUET RACKET

JUNE 2011

Official Newsletter of the National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA)

NMRA is Now on Facebook

By Howard Walker



Our very own NMRA Vice President, **Howard Walker**, reports that updates and NMRA information can now be found on the NMRA Facebook page. You will not need to join Facebook to take advantage of this great tool, but you may want to in order to post information and comments. Texas racquetball players have embraced their state's Facebook racquetball page, and it is now the place to go for all things racquetball in Texas.

You can search for "National Masters Racquetball Association" if you are already a Facebook member, or you can go to the www.nmra.info website and find the link. Here is the direct link--give it a try right now: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/NMRA/201937559824871>

If you have information that you think should be posted to the NMRA's Facebook page and you have questions, contact Howard Walker via the www.nmra.info page, email hwrball@aol.com, or [Facebook](#).

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EYEGUARD SAFETY

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Thirty-five years ago, I foolishly played without eyeguards. I was hit in the eye during a doubles match and never regained my vision. I never wanted to draw attention to my condition. Since I never spoke about it, only my closest friends knew. I wanted to keep it that way.

Now I am faced with the realization that had I spoken out, maybe some of the players who have experienced horrible eye injuries would have worn protective eyewear and therefore would not have been injured.

When I was hit, I went down like I was shot. I had a burning sensation in my eye and could not see anything....not light, not images, not movement. I was ambulated to the hospital emergency room where painkillers were administered. I was then sent home and directed to see an eye doctor in the morning. I never made it to the morning. The effects of the painkillers subsided within a few hours and I awakened with screams. I had the sensation that someone was driving a hot spike through my head. I summoned an ambulance again and remained in the hospital for one week.

What I had experienced was a massive internal hemorrhage. Over the next eleven months, I underwent seven operations. The last operation was for the removal of my eye. I was away from work, had no social life, and sports participation and physical activity were out of the question. Six months later, I walked back into a racquetball court, could not perform basic skills, and thought about quitting the game.

In closing, there are dozens of objections as to why people will not wear protective eyewear when playing racquetball or other court sports. Each objection is no more or less important than the next. None of them have any merit.

Editor's Note: Barry lives in Phoenix and is a Professional Level Certified Instructor under IPRO. He asks that each of you share this article with someone you know who has an objection to wearing protective eyewear. He strongly urges you to NEVER get on the court with anyone who isn't wearing eyeguards. You don't want to be the one to cause an injury to others. And if you see others playing without eyeguards, step up to the plate and warn them of the dangers.

IMPORTANT RacquetRacket NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENT!!!

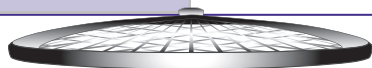
After this issue, in order to save printing and mailing costs, **this newsletter will now be primarily distributed via an email link** to all of our members and former members. If you want to receive a paper copy of the newsletter in the U.S. Post, rather than going to www.nmra.info and reading it online (in color), please send an email to calatorre-martin@nmra.info or send a note **Carmen Alatorre-Martin**, 1600 S. Eads Street, Apt. 1123N, Arlington VA 22202. Carmen will update your www.r2sports.com profile. Thank you.

Portland Room Winners

By Bruce Adams

The following individuals received their last night free at the Doubletree Hotel in Portland in March. Stay at the tournament host hotel and you may win a free night at the next NMRA tournament.

Ron Adams John Haynes Glenn Leib Ben Marshall Tom McKie Price Thomas





The President's Corner

By Tom Curran, NMRA President

SURPRISE, I'm back...

Believe me, it was a surprise to me as well. As you may all remember, in 2009 (in Tucson), I made the announcement that 2010 would be my last year to serve as President of the NMRA. My President's Corner article sounded like President Johnson's televised speech where he said "I will not seek and I will not accept the nomination of my party for another term as President".

But, life is what happens when we are making all these grand plans. During our board meeting this past March in Portland (and what a great event that was!!!), at the point where the old board members (Mike Hiles) leave and the new board members (Melanie Newsome) are welcomed, the 'new' board nominates the officers of the board.

Bruce Adams was nominated and accepted to continue as Secretary. Steve Cohen was nominated and accepted to continue as Treasurer. There were two nominations for Vice President, and, to make a long story short, the majority of the board members agreed that the best course of action was to have Howard Walker remain as Vice President. Howard was nominated and accepted. There were two members of the board who said they would run for the position of President, but that they preferred that I serve out my last year on the board as the President. The board asked that I continue in this last year of my term and begin to delegate responsibilities to other board members with the purpose of them gaining insight into the day-to-day responsibilities of the position of President. I was nominated and accepted based, on the fact that this was the last year that I would be on the board.

Don't get me wrong. I am honored to serve out my last year on the board as the President and look forward to my new role as mentor. The idea, when presented during the meeting, made a lot of sense. Next March I will leave the board as both a member and officer. There will be another round of elections for all of the positions and I am confident the right people will be both on the board and serving as officers.

One of the concerns voiced by many of you after my announcement in Tucson that 2010 would be my last year as President, was that I would leave the NMRA and no longer support the organization. I want to take this opportunity to dispel those concerns. I have no intention of not continuing to help the NMRA grow now and in the long-term future. I will continue to volunteer to be a tournament director and negotiate the contracts for hotels and facilities where we play. I will continue as the Executive Director of the NMRA Future Fund. And, I will continue to participate as a player at our three annual events; otherwise how else would we be able to keep the matches on time?

Okay, enough about all that...

Tournament Locations:

If you were in Portland and attended the banquet on Friday night, you heard me explain some issues that we have been dealing with regarding tournament planning and administration. We have often discussed the issue of not having as many options on venues due to club closures and/or courts removed. For example, our event last year in Allentown, PA, was a great success and we were counting on having it as a future "EAST COAST" location; however, a week after our event, the Allentown Club closed, ending the possibility of returning. We have been trying, without success, to negotiate with the Hall of Fame Club in Canton, OH. The issue there is the rental price that the owner is not willing to negotiate.

We continue to explore other possibilities while keeping with the requirement to find locations that provide at least 16 courts, in no more than two clubs, that are relatively close to each other. Room rates are another huge consideration for us. We know that hotel costs can add up quickly when you are attending an event that has you playing every day from Wednesday (arriving on Tuesday) through Saturday.

We are also working on locations in Texas, North Carolina, Wisconsin, and Utah. We keep Minnesota as a possibility but have a number number of logistics issues that some local

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Rodriguez Wins the 2011 Lomonaco Award

By Cindy Tilbury

NMRA tournament players tend to be seasoned travelers. We take for granted that we will play in our favorite tournaments and that we almost always have to travel to get there. But we all remember our first national tournament experience vividly—it was the one that got us hooked on this sport for good.

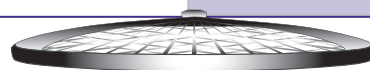
The *Lomonaco Award* allows one player per year to travel to the *USAR National Singles* tournament in May, with all expenses paid. This grant was set up by a friend of one of our NMRA players, John Lomonaco of West Hills, California, to keep his memory alive, and to provide to one player each year the experience that John had shared with some of the California players as he encouraged them to play in national tournaments. Applicants for the award must write about their experience and why they would love to go to the *Nationals*—possibly their first big tournament ever. It can be a dream come true, and the winner is determined by a committee made up of *USAR Board* members.

The 2011 *Lomonaco Award* winner is 60-year-old **Danny Rodriguez** from Rustburg, Virginia. Danny wrote a great essay about how much racquetball means to him. He is currently the *CVRA President*, and is very involved in putting on tournaments and programs for the *Lynchburg YMCA*.

If you see Danny Rodriguez at the *Fullerton USAR National Singles*, congratulate him, and invite him to play in the next NMRA tournament! ○



Danny Rodriguez



Al Holley Passed Away

By Barry Hendricks

It is with great sadness that I must inform you that **Al Holley** of Vancouver, BC, passed away this Easter Sunday. He suffered cardiac arrest 10 days prior while playing tennis with his wife Deb in Sun Lakes, Arizona.



Al was a lifetime racquetball enthusiast. He and Deb traveled throughout Canada and the USA playing both singles and doubles for decades. He was an ardent supporter of the NMRA.

For those of us who were lucky to be counted as Al's friends, we have lost an irreplaceable titan. There was simply no more genuine guy. He was a gifted husband, businessman and sportsman. His marriage to **Deb Holley** could be used as a model of what the rest of us married folks should aspire to.

On a lighter note, Al was one of the few racquetball players who came out of the court looking better than the rest of us looked before a match. How did he manage that??

Al never asked for your respect. But you found yourself thinking that there was no one you respected more. We won't see the likes of Al Holley any time soon. He was an elegant man. ○

TIDBIT...

I used to take racquetballs for granted. Balls from new cans were bouncy and could be counted on to be bouncy for a few days of hard-hitting racquetball. This is still true of the black NMRA Ektelon Classic ball—a great ball and a great value. We are lucky to have Ektelon as the official ball of our tournaments.

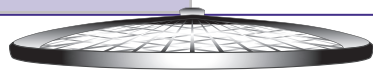
NMRA Tournament Results Doubles-Only

December 2-4, 2010

Fullerton, CA / Steve Cohen, Tournament Director

Division	Place	Names	State	Points	Division	Place	Names	State	Points
MD40	1st	Joe Hassey / Rick Koll	NV	36.20	4th	Mike Pawka / Tony Alfaro	CA	Playoff	
	2nd	David Grolman / Geoff Holmes	CA	17.67		5th	Mickey Bellah / Darryll Keene	CA	Playoff
MD45	1st	Kevin Watson / Alan Weiner	CA	Playoff	6th	Alan Weiner / Tyrone Tony White	CA	Playoff	
	2nd	David Tedeschi / Ramon Valerio	CA	Playoff	7th	Dave Warner / Ernie Dominguez	MN	29.67	
	3rd	Paul Thiel / Mike Baham	CA	Playoff	8th	Bill Orr / Homer Ferguson	CA	29.50	
	4th	Brett Elkins / Steve Ivers	CA	Playoff	MD65	1st	Mike Pawka / John Walker	CA	38.00
	5th	Mike McCarthy / Dana Cornelius	CA	Playoff		2nd	Dave Ellis / Warren Bailey	CA	28.50
	6th	Bart Landsman / George Barrera	CA	29.40	3rd	Fred Roe / Jerry Monell	CA	24.00	
	7th	Ron Castillo / Jim Fernandez	CA	23.50	4th	Art Johnson / Bob Cox	CA	21.50	
	8th	David Grolman / Geoff Holmes	CA	18.40	5th	Len Sonnenberg / Bill Dunker	CA	20.25	
MD50	1st	Ruben Gonzalez / Hatch Saakian	NY	37.29	MD70	1st	Jerry Northwood / Ron Adams	AZ	37.00
	2nd	Guy Texeira / Sam Neer	CA	34.00		2nd	Steve Covey / Mike Nelson	CA	32.83
	3rd	Bart Landsman / Dave Briski	CA	29.71		3rd	Bill Baker / Jim Harper	CA	22.17
	4th	Claudio Medina / Hank Estrada	CA	28.86		4th	Armand Matern / David Faux	UT	16.67
	5th	Dean Ritter / Mike Plattner	CA	28.71		MD75	1st	Art Johnson / Jerry Holly	CO
6th	Dave Stevens / Rich Delperdang	CA	22.14	2nd	Toby Dicesare / Paul Banales		NV	34.33	
7th	Bruce Adams / Daniel Rhodes	OK	13.86	3rd	Armand Matern / David Faux		UT	30.00	
8th	Eric Carranza / Jeff Powell	CA	13.57	4th	Michael Henchy / Ralph Carito		GA	25.67	
MD55	1st	Troy Stallings / Gene Pare	SD	37.33	MD80	1st	Dick Kincade / John Prigmore	CO	18.17
	2nd	Ruben Gonzalez / Hatch Saakian	NY	32.50		2nd	Hank Schone / Ray Picard	CA	10.17
	3rd	Rick Betts / Howard Walker	CA	30.17	MD85	1st	Bill Gencarella / Dick Kenealy	CA	5.33
	4th	Dennis Riggs / Mike Alderson	CA	29.20		XD40	1st	Kris Kaskawal / Michael Cram	CA
	5th	Steve Cohen / Pete Chmielewski	CA	28.83	2nd		Solanna Taragan / Rick Koll	CA	20.67
	6th	Bob Lerow / Larry Goff	FL	19.00	XD45	1st	Sherron Boyea / Steve Ivers	CA	33.20
MD60	1st	Joe Capozzoli / Russ Montague	PA	Playoff		2nd	Marni Wagner / John Winings	OR	32.60
	2nd	Dave Briski / Kelly Painter	CA	Playoff		3rd	Suzanna Fast / Mike McCarthy	CA	28.17
	3rd	Barry Hendricks / Jon Walker	AZ	Playoff		4th	Julia Mouser / George Barrera	CA	19.80

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President's Corner - June 2011 *continued from page 2*

players continue to try to work out. If you remember, the last time we played in Minnesota, the Highway 100 Club announced it was closing the week after we left.

Keeping all of this in mind, we continue to ask each of you to provide potential locations for our events. Please remember that we need no less than 16 courts in no more than two clubs that are within the approved driving distance for the *Host Hotel Van Service*. The reason for this dependency on the hotel van service is that it would cost not less than \$3,000 to have a van and driver provided for the event--not to mention the liability issues with our players as passengers.

Our 2011/2012 Tournament Schedule:

The 2011 NMRA (July) *International Championship* tournament will be held in Fullerton, CA. This is the same location that we played the 2010 *Doubles Championship*. You will find the entry form and information sheet with this newsletter. The tournament information sheet, entry form, and online registration link are on the NMRA website (www.nmra.info) too.

The board is still working on the remainder of the 2011 NMRA *Tour* schedule. Howard Walker and I are working with the folks at the *Arlington Texas* club to host the 2011 *Doubles Championship*. It looks fairly certain that March 2012 will see us back in *Provo/Orem, UT*.

We continue to work with the locations listed above for the 2012 tour schedule. 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.

Early Registration and Hotel Reservations:

I wanted to ask each of you to help us put on the best events possible. The way you can do that is to enter early and make your hotel reservations as soon as reservations are available. The reason these two items are so important in putting on a great event is that it helps us identify early on how many folks are coming and also lets us know if we have enough hotel rooms reserved.

You may not realize this, but when we do a contract with the hotel, we have to guarantee a certain percentage of the room block we request is filled. If we don't make that number, we get charged for rooms that were not reserved. By making your reservation early, we can estimate the actual number of rooms we will use from those we have requested and have time to change as needed, either up or down. After the cutoff date, we have no control over the number of rooms or the rate the hotel will charge those who reserve a room after the cutoff date. At every event, we have players who call us up to the day of the event asking if we can make special arrangements for them for a room. Unfortunately, since we can't, it is not unusual for the person to be upset with the NMRA rather than taking the responsibility for not making the reservation early.

Another issue with hotel reservations is that a few of you reserve two rooms when you only need one. I'm not sure why you do that, but what happens is we end up losing one of those rooms when it is canceled after the cutoff date. We don't have the ability to use that 'extra' room. Players had been trying to reserve host hotel rooms but had been told our block of rooms was full. It also affects the number of rooms that we get for free that are used in our room lottery. As an example, in *Portland*, we started out having eight free room nights to give away, but we had five rooms canceled two days before the event. This dropped our free room nights to five. Then, on the day of the event, another room was canceled and that brought our occupancy percentage below the required number and cost us another free room.

The same holds true for entering the event. We have folks who call us and say "I don't think I'm going to play because there are so few folks signed up".... And they don't realize that they are one of the reasons the draw looks so low. If you are going to play, sign up. As you all know, it is rare that we don't have a full complement of players at an NMRA event. The fact that folks wait until literally the last day to enter the event could actually contribute to the fact that we have fewer players. Those who 'check' early and don't see enough in their bracket, may not check back later in the registration period to see if the numbers have changed.

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Corrections and NMRA History

By Ivan Bruner

Dear NMRA Board of Directors:

In the November 2010 *Racquet Racket*, you reported that Amos Rosenbloom was one of the original ten men who gathered in *New Castle* to start the NMRA almost 40 years ago. Amos was not a member of the original ten, and he has never played a tournament in *New Castle*. In fact, Amos was not a part of the NMRA until 1973. The NMRA has never played a tournament in *Allentown* until this year.

The original ten included the following, and they finished in the order they are listed.

Dr. Bud Muelhiesen, California
Gene Grapes, Pittsburgh, PA
Dr. Bill Sellers, Dallas, TX
Joe Zelson, St. Louis, MO
Earl Dixon, Indianapolis, IN
Chet Howard, Madison, WI
Ivan Bruner, Madison, WI
Dr. Hal Price, Phoenix, AZ
Sam Ciazza, New Castle, PA
Dr. Ray DePue, Knoxville, TN

Sam Ciazza was responsible for organizing the tournament in November 1971, and he invited the ten players mentioned above.

In 1975 our doubles tournament was not held due to poor organization. I had a very capable secretary, so we set up the tournaments with different clubs in different cities, sent out invitations, and prepared an organization program. I served as president from 1974 to 1997 with the help of many great friends and players.

It is disturbing to me that there have been many misleading articles published in the *Racquet Racket*, and I have no idea how to avoid this. I believe history should be accurate.

I attached a history that I prepared in 1998. I did not keep records after resigning in 1997, but I assume Tom could provide information beyond 1997 with the help of Paul Banales, Carol Stoll, and other members.

Editor's Note: I sincerely apologize for the incorrect information regarding the *New Castle* tournament and for causing confusion. I want to thank Ivan for taking the time to set us straight. Ivan's history is quite long and detailed, so I had Tom Curran post it on the www.nmra.info website. I hope you will take the time to read it and come to appreciate all of the hours expended on our behalf to make this organization the great one that it is and keep it growing over the years. Thanks, again, Ivan. -Cindy Tilbury



NMRA Doubles-Only Results
continued from page 3

Division	Place	Names	State	Points	
XD50	1st	Anita King / Howard Walker	TX TX	Playoff	
	2nd	Debra Tisinger-Moore / Troy Stallings	CA SD	Playoff	
	3rd	Cindy Tilbury / Rick Betts	CA CA	Playoff	
	4th	Carol Loomis / Daniel Rhodes	OR OR	Playoff	
	5th	Carolyn Hollis / Tyrone Tony White	CA AL	Playoff	
	6th	Vicky Birkmann / Pete Chmielewski	CA CA	26.25	
	7th	Sandy Rios / Bruce Adams	TX OK	19.50	
	8th	Carla Francis / Forrest Shafer	MD CA	14.00	
	XD55	1st	Rhonda Look / Steve Cohen	TX CA	27.50
		2nd	Kim Cameron / Rick Ramirez	CA CA	26.50
XD60	1st	Vicky Utter / Warren Bailey	NC AK	33.33	
XD65	1st	Nidia Funes / Price Thomas	CA CA	31.00	
	2nd	Cece Palaski / Fred Roe	CA CA	24.67	
XD70	1st	Marquita Molina / Ron Adams	CA CA	15.33	
WD40	1st	Christie Noller / Suzanna Fast	CA CA	37.38	
	2nd	Julia Mouser / Kris Kaskawal	CA CA	28.71	
WD45	1st	Cindy Tilbury / Solanna Taragan	CA CA	30.75	
	2nd	Anita King / Marni Wagner	TX OR	25.00	
	3rd	Debbie Tisinger-Moore / Mae Varon	CA CA	-	
WD50	1st	Carolyn Hollis / Sherron Boyea	CA CA	29.86	
	2nd	Rhonda Look / Sandy Rios	TX TX	24.13	
	3rd	Vicky Birkmann / Kim Cameron	CA CA	17.50	
	4th	Carla Francis / Carol Loomis	CA OR	17.50	
WD60	1st	Vickey Utter / Cece Palaski	NC CA	22.50	
WD65	1st	Merijean Kelley / Nidia Funes	CA CA	38.00	
WD70	1st	Marquita Molina / Gloria Piscoran	CA OR	15.50	

Mike Hiles Finishes His Board Term

By Cindy Tilbury



After many years of service as a *Board Member* for the *NMRA*, **Mike Hiles** of Minnesota has finished his term and turned over his duties to the current board members. Mike was recognized at the banquet in *Portland, Oregon* in March, and was awarded a glass trophy from the *NMRA* thanking him for his time and efforts. Mike will continue to help us, especially as a contact for acquiring our beautiful medals.

When you run into Mike at a future NMRA tournament, let him know how much you appreciate his board service.

President's Corner - June 2011 continued from page 4

The solution to this is simple. If you know you are going to come and play, enter as soon as the registration is available. Case in point is our July, 2011 *International Championship*. The registration for that event has been open for two months and we have 12 folks signed up... and two of them are the tournament directors. Please help us help you.... Get entered early and get your hotel reservation made early. Entering late affects all of the plans for gifts, hospitality, and the banquet. We have to 'project' how many will attend and that has the potential for the *NMRA* to incur debt that is unnecessary.

Abiding by the rules of the game:

I want to remind our players that, although our format excludes referees, this 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 had a rule infraction.

It takes very special players to ref themselves. I believe that every one of our members is that kind of player. In some cases, we know that is not the case. We sometimes have players that push the limits of 'Play it Over' and we have, through our *Rules Committee* (usually **Howard Walker** and **Vickey Utter**) a means to bring those situations to our attention. It is the player's responsibility to inform any one of the board members or tournament directors when they know of a situation where a player is not being consistent with the great tradition of sportsmanship that defines the *NMRA*. Please do your part to keep this great tradition alive by letting us know, WHEN IT HAPPENS, so we can take immediate action. We had exactly that situation in *Portland*. We had a contentious Semi Finals and Finals match where the tournament director was told that one of the players had been this way all week. It was never reported to the tournament staff until these two critical matches. We can't take action on something we are not made aware of.

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*. I especially want to thank my fellow members of the *Board of Directors* for their vote of confidence in my leadership.

I 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 2011. If you know of someone who should be added to this list, please get his/her name to one of the *NMRA Board of Directors*.

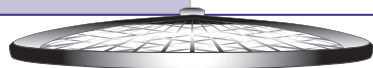
Joe Lambert, Cap Hiles, Ron Pudduck, Joe Goldman, Elliott Papermaster, Ron Marr, and Lew Edwards.

I am looking forward to sharing a great 2011/2012 tournament season with you all. See you at "MICKEY'S HOUSE" in July.

2011 NMRA INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



MICKEY'S HOUSE - MERIDIAN CLUB FULLERTON, CA



NMRA 2011 International Championships



MICKEY'S HOUSE - MERIDIAN CLUB
FULLERTON, CA

Meridian Sports Club – Fullerton, California
July 27th - 30th, 2011
Registration - Tuesday 5-8pm at Meridian Sports Club
* *Round Robin Age Divisions Starting at 45 Years Young* *

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION SHEET

www.nmra.info

Tournament Directors / Staff

Tournament Director
Steve Cohen 714.767.4622 scohen@nmra.info
Tournament Director - Tom Curran tcurren@nmra.info
Mickey Bellah – Meridian Sports Club Contact
Vicky Utter and Howard Walker – Rules Committee

Primary Host Club

Meridian Sports Club – 20 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.
Practice courts (4) available July 24th-26th



Host Hotel



The special room rate will be available until July 7th or until the 40 room group block is sold-out, whichever comes first.

DO NOT BOOK MORE THAN ONE ROOM.

Embassy Suites—Brea (Free Parking)

Reservation Cutoff Date 7/7/2011

900 East Birch Street, Brea, California, United States 92821
Individual reservations can be made by contacting 1.800.EMBASSY or the Embassy Suites directly at 714.990.6000 - use the NMRA Room Group Code of **XMR** http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/L/LAXBRES-XMR-20110726/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG
Group Name: NMRA INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
Group Code: XMR
Check-in: July 26, 2011
Check Out: August 02, 2011
Room rate \$99 per night for Single King Bed; \$109.00 per night for 2 queen bed suites; with free parking.
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 for a fee
- ATM

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

Enter Online Maximum of Two Divisions

Enter online by July 10, 2011, at <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=7959>
First event--\$140 Second event--\$40; Two Division Limit.
Guests Fee \$65 for the week (Must sign waiver for club use).

Doubles Partners/ Roommates

We can help find doubles partners and/or roommates.
Contact Cindy Tilbury for a doubles partner (cindy.tilbury@att.net) or roommate request.

[more](#) ➤

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.

Wednesday & Thursday, July 27 & 28: 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 & Saturday, July 29 & 30: 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 8...



NMRA INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

JULY 27 - 30, 2011



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

Mail-In Entry Must Be POSTMARKED NLT JULY 8, 2011

Online Entries Must Be COMPLETED BY JULY 11, 2011

Online entries at: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=7959>

Tournament Directors: Steve Cohen 714.767.4622 & Tom Curran 513.490.7472

Registration Tuesday night 5-8 PM at Meridian Sports Club featuring drinks and hors d'oeuvres

Please Print — Be Legible, Complete & Accurate

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: Cell _____

Home _____

Work _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

DOB: m____ / d____ / yr____ Age on 7/27/2011 _____

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 eye guards (including prescription frames/lenses) conform with all standards specified in USA Racquetball Rule 2.5(a). By registering to compete in this event, I consent to and release all rights to the use of event photographs in which my image appears.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

ENTRY FEES:

First Event	\$ 140	\$ _____
Second Event	\$ 40	\$ _____
Spouse/Guest(s)* (Each)	\$ 65	\$ _____
NMRA Membership ** (3 Years)	\$ 45	\$ _____
USRA Membership (1 Year)	\$ 50	\$ _____
Additional Tournament Shirt(s)	\$ 25	\$ _____
NMRA Junior Grass Roots Program (\$10 increments):	\$ 10	\$ _____
Future Fund Donation (\$25 increments):	\$ 25	\$ _____
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 an embroidered logo NMRA T-Shirt.

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 JULY 10 2011

NMRA Official Website: www.nmra.info for Information Sheet and Tournament updates.

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

SINGLES

DOUBLES

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

Doubles Partner(s): Please print partner(s) names below

Name / Age Div: _____

Name / Age Div: _____

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

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

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR SHIRT SIZE ON YOUR USAR PROFILE

www.r2sports.com/membership/login.asp

Please provide Emergency Contact Name and Phone Number:

Name _____

Phone # _____

Fullerton Tournament Info continued from page 6

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?pn=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?pn=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

Four 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=92831-2-286&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 / Registration Night Tuesday, July 26, 2011, 5-8 pm at the *Meridian Club*; hospitality (not a dinner) provided at the club.

Play Begins/Ends Starting at 8 am every day. Ends by 10 pm Wednesday & Thursday. Ends by 5 pm on Friday and Saturday.

Every division plays every day (Wednesday through Saturday)
Please show consideration for all players by checking-in 1 hour before your scheduled match time. Schedule your travel arrangements accordingly. You must play all matches to medal.

Practice Courts Four (4) courts are available **free of any charge** beginning July 26, 2011.

Tournament Ball *Ektelon Classic Black* is the official ball of the NMRA.

Tournament Scoring All round robins, self-refereed matches; Every match 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.

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.

Eligibility NMRA membership is required for all EXCEPT players who are playing in their first NMRA event. Your membership must be current through the last day of the tournament. Special recognition for first-time players and new NMRA members receive an official embroidered NMRA logo t-shirt.

more ➤

USAR-sanctioned; Current USAR membership is required to participate. **Entries will not be accepted without payment for USAR membership.** USAR membership is available on Registration night.

Tournament Awards NMRA medals will be awarded to 1st through 4th place winners for each age division. Combined divisions will be awarded separate medals based on each age divisions.

Morning Hospitality NMRA medals will be awarded to 1st Free 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 wooden nickel that you received at registration. Additional nickels are available at \$10.00 each.

Evening Hospitality on Wednesday & Thursday **Not a substitute for dinner.** Will be served at the *Meridian Sports Club*. Hotel guests 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 6:30pm; dinner and program from 7-9:30pm

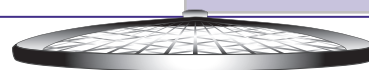
Local Activities <http://visittheoc.com>

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 Temperatures - Average is 75° F; High 80° F – Low 55° F – Average Yearly Rain 1.29 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!

Keep Your Game Young — Get a Coach

By Cindy Tilbury

I, like many of us, was pretty happy with my game. I wasn't the best 50+ woman player in the country, but I was in the top 20 or so and didn't have much hope of moving up because the ladies in my division were so incredibly tough to beat. I enjoyed playing the game and was willing to put in time for cardio training, but it never occurred to me to spend time and money on lessons to improve my skills. Being "good" was keeping me from being "great."

Then I noticed that lots of people were getting coaches. At the September *Albuquerque* tournament and at all of our *NMRA* tournaments, player/coaches were advising 45+ players on what to do and how to fix trouble areas. Other players were going to coaching camps and drilling classes. It used to be only the very top racquetball players who had coaches. This was something new.

I knew that taking lessons right at the beginning would have saved me years of bad habits, but didn't realize it was an even smarter move after improving my skills to a higher level, too. What keeps us all from figuring this out?

According to teaching pro and coach **Tom Travers**, people don't get coaches because:

- They don't realize how much they can help.
- They don't want to put in the court hours it will take to improve.
- They aren't confident the coach will be able to teach them anything.
- They don't think the expense will be worth it.
- They think they might not be coachable.
- They have been playing forever and do not think they can get any better.
- They do not think they can change because of how long they have been playing.
- They think lessons will complicate their game.

No one ever coached in racquetball before because everyone just got in there and played. It does not happen because people do not expect it to. We have to change that stigma that racquetball has, because, coaching and lessons will, in fact:

- Give them a second insight to what they are doing right and wrong.
- Help them improve because practicing a short time the right way rather than practicing the wrong way a long time will actually give them more time to do something else.
- Provide insight with filming so athletes can actually see for themselves their mistakes. Seeing is believing.
- Provide a second set of eyes and pick up things the athlete does not. This is why most professional athletes have coaches.

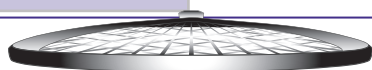
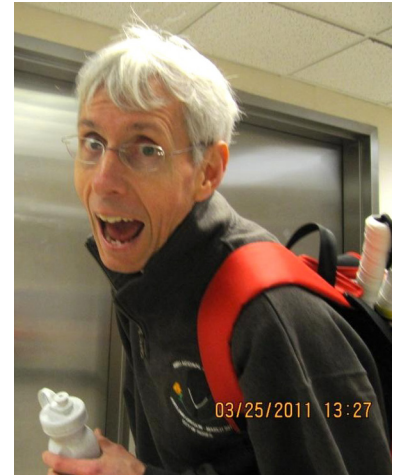
NMRA and other round-robin events are perfect for being coached at a tournament, since you can have your coach help you all week. That gives you more value for your coaching dollar.

"Even a few hours to add or correct one thing can add two points to your game—two points that could win you a match! Correcting another issue—especially on your serve—can add another two points. Small steps make a big difference."

Coaching has to start with teaching (lessons) so that communication is fast and clear during a timeout correcting a problem. Thirty seconds is not enough time to learn a new skill or dig out a shot that has not been thoroughly practiced. It is just enough time to remind you of something you know but are not using to beat your opponent.

Videotaping and the review of that tape with the coach are crucial. You look very different on tape than you do in your mind's eye. A coach can find a better way for you to do something in a matter of minutes, and capturing your flaws on video will allow you to truly see them, and then compare your game improvements in the future.

continued on page 16...





Editor's Corner: IRF International Junior Championships

By Cindy Tilbury

The *International Racquetball Federation* annually puts on the *World Juniors Championships*. For many years, it was held in southern *Florida*, but has been moving around the world as more and more countries have the court capacity to hold such a large tournament. For 2010, the *US* and *California* were lucky enough

to be able to host the tournament at my home club, the *Canoga Park Spectrum* in *Los Angeles*. I got to do a small part by volunteering, and it was an amazing event!

About 300 young racquetball athletes from 17 countries arrived prior to the event and immediately filled the 20 courts practicing and playing. The players ranged in age from 6 to 19 and it was evident that they had been working hard all year for this week. The *US* team was a slight favorite over the tough *Mexican* and *Bolivian* teams. Along with individual achievement medals, two team trophies were awarded—the *Esprit Cup* for the 10- to 15-year-olds, and the *World Cup* for the 16- to 18-year-olds (a player could be 19, depending on his/her birthday). One overall team championship was awarded, based on the combined scores of the *Esprit* and *World Cups*. It was so exciting to watch the matches and cheer for the *United States!* In most matches, you know both players and don't want to cheer against someone, but in this case, everyone understood the patriotic fervor.

I saw many young superstars as I watched and refereed matches for four days. One ten-year-old girl from *Guatemala* was amazing, as was a 10-year-old boy from the *Dominican Republic*. I saw *Open-level* doubles being played by 12-year-olds and pro-level matches by many of the older kids. The coaching was excellent and, in many cases, unpaid. The logistics and behind-the-scenes details were handled with very few noticeable glitches, making this a spectacular event success for the *IRF*.

The title went down to the wire, as the 14-year-old boys from the *US* were some of the last kids playing. The *United States* barely squeaked by *Mexico* to win the overall *World Championship*. The medal ceremony was long, with much picture-taking by parents and teammates. *Tournament Director Gary Mazaroff* of the *US* announced that next year, the tournament will be held in the *Dominican Republic* **July 24 through 30, 2011** (early due to the schedule of the *PanAmerican Games*). If you are in *Santo Domingo* during that week, cheer on the *US Junior Team*. Find the details at www.internationalracquetball.com. ○



Membership Update

By Carmen Alatorre-Martin

Hi Members.

Thanks for your patience as we upgrade our membership database. We've moved from a manual spreadsheet to a solid database with the membership data and we're improving each month with various items. Lately we're putting in place the automation for sending membership renewal notices to those whose memberships are about to expire. We also plan to hold *Board of Director* elections online. We're working on those details now and some of you will be our first recipients of this new upgrade.

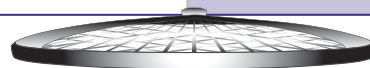
Another new upgrade is that you can now renew your membership online, either through the *USAR* website or the *NMRA* website. On the *NMRA* website, just click on the "Membership / Join" link on the left side of the page and it will take you to the *Membership* section. There you can click on the link to renew and manage your membership with us. And there are two ways to accomplish this:

1. If you want to renew by mailing the form and check, as we've always done the renewals, click on "Click here for *NMRA* Membership/Renewal Application." Here you can print the form, fill it out, mail it with your check to me.
2. If you'd like to renew your membership online, just click on the link called "Click here for *NMRA* Membership Account" and this will take you to your membership login screen. Type in your User ID and password, and on the far righthand side you'll see a link called "Renew Membership Here." It is also on this page that there is now a link where you can print your *NMRA* Membership Card!

You can also update your profile here as well. This is the place to make changes if you have a change in your mailing address or phone or email address.

I would have a request: We're looking for ideas to improve our membership and looking for suggestions on how to increase our membership. If you have ideas, please send them to me or any of our board members. We'd appreciate your suggestions!

Hope you enjoy the upgrades as we provide them. If you have any questions or experience any problems, just let me know (calatorre-martin@nmra.info). ○



NMRA Tournament Results National Championships

Portland, OR / Pat Gibson & Carmen Alatorre-Martin, Tournament Directors

March 23-26, 2011

Multnomah / Lloyd Athletic Club

Division	Place	Names	State	Points
M45	1st	John Winings	CA	35.33
	2nd	Steve Michener	OR	28.29
	3rd	Robert Allen	WA	26.57
	4th	Joey Egea	AZ	17.60
M50	1st	Steve Wattz	CA	Playoff
	2nd	Glenn Leib	PA	Playoff
	3rd	Mike Grisz	TX	Playoff
	4th	Dean Sowards	WA	Playoff
	5th	David Szafranski	OR	Playoff
	6th	Michael Stoner	OR	Playoff
M55	1st	Patrick Gibson	TX	37.00
	2nd	Rick Howick	WA	35.22
	3rd	Tony Krause	OR	34.67
	4th	Rick Betts	CA	31.00
	5th	Gary Buckmaster	TX	26.56
	6th	George Brewer	WA	24.11
	7th	Gary Bratt	ID	22.11
	8th	John Haynes	UT	15.11
M60	1st	Dave Briski	CA	36.29
	2nd	James Harvey	GA	34.00
	3rd	Bob Smith	OR	32.29
	4th	Dave Warner	MN	31.14
	5th	Bob Born	MN	24.29
	6th	James Weathers	VA	17.43
	7th	Fred Pietrzak	OR	13.57
	8th	Jim Gutierrez	CA	10.29
M65	1st	David Edwards	GA	Playoff
	2nd	Allen Peterson	WA	Playoff
	3rd	Kenneth Foster	TX	Playoff
	4th	Gary Olson	WA	Playoff
	5th	Mitch Milewski	NH	Playoff
	6th	Keith Powell	OR	Playoff
	7th	Ed Andrews	CO	25.67
	8th	Fred Roe	CA	25.20
M70	1st	Steve Covey	CA	36.11
	2nd	Donald Sperber	FL	31.56
	3rd	Ed Andrews	CO	29.88
	4th	Paul Wehmeyer	NJ	28.25
	5th	Francis Florey	WI	24.22
	6th	Jerry Raddatz	MN	19.56
	7th	Bill Baker	CA	17.78
M75	1st	Jerry Holly	CA	35.89
	2nd	James Weeks	GA	23.33
M80	1st	Armand Matern	UT	38.00
	2nd	Mike Martin	CO	30.00
	3rd	Hank Schone	CA	15.88
M90	1st	Ben Marshall	TX	14.13
MD45	1st	Leon Jackson Sr. / Scott Kraemer	VA / WI	36.00
	2nd	Daniel Pischke / George Brewer	WA	34.20

Division	Place	Names	State	Points	
	3rd	Glenn Martineau / Roy Hare	DC / VA	30.80	
	4th	Scott Morrill / Joey Egea	OR / AZ	25.20	
	5th	Benjamin Doniego / Jesus Villahermosa	WA / WA	21.80	
	6th	Farzin Guilak / David Moyle	OR / OR	18.40	
	MD50	1st	Ruben Gonzalez / Hatch Saakian	NY / CA	38.00
		2nd	Patrick Gibson / Steve Wattz	TX / CA	34.33
3rd		Mike Grisz / Thomas Cain	TX / AZ	31.50	
4th		Daniel Pischke / Roguer Crouse	WA / WA	25.50	
5th		Glenn Martineau / Leon Jackson Jr	DC / VA	22.00	
6th		Bruce Adams / Dave Warner	OK / MN	18.50	
MD55	1st	Ruben Gonzalez / Hatch Saakian	NY / CA	38.00	
	2nd	Steve Cohen / Dave Azuma	CA / OR	34.25	
	3rd	Bert Castelanelli / Cliff McBride	CA / CA	31.00	
	4th	Bob Goldenberg / Bob Smith	OR / OR	23.00	
	5th	Gary Bratt / John Haynes	ID / UT	11.00	
	MD60	1st	Bert Castelanelli / Cliff McBride	CA / CA	37.40
2nd		Dave Briski / Kelly Painter	CA / CA	32.40	
3rd		Richard Barrieau / Warren Bailey	CA / AK	27.40	
4th		Bob Goldenberg / Glenn Cunningham	OR / OR	27.00	
5th		Mike Lippitt / Bob Born	CA / MN	23.60	
6th		Jim Gutierrez / Tom Curran	CA / NC	16.00	
MD65	1st	Mike Pawka / Tom McKie	CA / TX	Playoff	
	2nd	Glenn Cunningham / Mitch Milewski	OR / NH	Playoff	
	3rd	Bill Hughes / Carl Bruere	NM / NM	Playoff	
	4th	Kenneth Foster / Michael Honea	TX / TX	Playoff	

continued on page 15...



NMRA 2011 Doubles-Only Championships

Maverick Athletic Club – Arlington, Texas

December 1-3, 2011 (Thursday, Friday & Saturday)

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



TOURNAMENT INFORMATION SHEET www.nmra.info

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS AND STAFF:

Tournament Directors / Staff
Mail-In Registration to: Steve Cohen 714.767.4622 scohen@nmra.info
Tournament Director – Howard Walker 682.365.3655 hwrball@aol.com
Tournament Director – Patrick Gibson 817.451.3380 prgibson5@hotmail.com
Bruce Adams – Banquet Program
Carmen Alatorre-Martin – Membership Director
Melanie Newsome – Medals and First Time Players and/or New Member
Leo Vasquez – Maverick Athletic Club Contact
Vickey Utter and Howard Walker – Rules Committee

Primary Host Club



Maverick Athletic Club – 10 Panel Courts - www.themav.com

1919 W Pioneer Parkway, Arlington, TX 714.961.0400

Bring a lock. Towel service available free. All club facilities are available to tournament players and paid guests. Great club and locker room amenities available during the event.

Host Hotel Host Hotel TBD soon - within three miles of the Maverick Club; rate under \$100 per night.

Enter Online Enter online by November 17, 2011, at <http://www.r2sports.com>
Maximum of Two Divisions 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 Fill out the entry form at www.nmra.info (Tournament Info page).

Maximum of Two Divisions Mail completed entry form and fees by November 14, 2011, to: NMRA c/o Steve Cohen, 5832 E Bluebonnet Court, Orange, CA 92869
Two Doubles Division Limit.

Doubles Partners / Roommates

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

Nearest Airport Dallas Fort Worth (DFW); Twenty minutes north of the Maverick Club; Book flights at www.dfwairport.com; Super Shuttle Approx \$20.00 – Taxi Approx \$40.00

Airlines Flying into Dallas Fort Worth Airport (DFW)

Air Canada; Air Tran; Alaska Airlines; American Airlines; Continental; Delta; Frontier; Spirit; Sun Country; United; US Airways; Virgin America

Alternate Airports Dallas Fort Worth (DAL); Five miles northwest of downtown Dallas; Southwest Airlines Flies Here

Airport/Taxi Shuttles may be available from the airport to the host hotel.

Shuttle Ground Transportation Ground Transportation can be found at: <http://www.dfwairport.com>

Shuttle from Hotel to Maverick Athletic Club

Host hotel will provide a complimentary shuttle to the club for hotel guests. The club is approximately 5 minutes from the hotel.

Directions from Airport to Host Hotel

Less than 30 Minutes south; TBD after Host Hotel Contract is signed.

Directions from Host Hotel to Maverick Club TBD after Host Hotel contract is signed.

Parking at Host Club Free.

Tournament Check-In Wednesday, November 30, 2011, 5 to 8pm; location TBD [more](#) ➤

Play Begins/Ends Starting at 8am every day. Ends by 10pm Thursday; ends 5pm 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 Courts may be available free of charge November 28-30, 2011. Special guest fee \$5 for tournament-related guests.

Tournament Ball Ektelon Classic Black is the official ball of the NMRA.

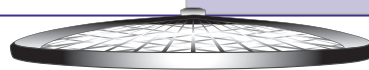
Tournament Scoring All round robins, self-refereed matches. Every division will play two games to 15. Large "pool play" divisions will have Saturday playoff matches. Playoff format will be two games to 15, tiebreaker to 11 if needed. Bonus points are awarded for winning games (2 per game) and the match (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 3, 2011. Entries will not be accepted without payment for USAR membership. 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.

AmPro Clinic To sign-up call Gary Mazaroff for more AmPro clinic details. gmampro@aol.com or 503.321.1110.

continued on Page 14...





ENTRY FORM

NMRA DOUBLES-ONLY CHAMPIONSHIPS

DECEMBER 1-3, 2011 (Thursday, Friday & Saturday)

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

MAVERICK ATHLETIC CLUB - 1919 W Pioneer Parkway - Arlington, TX - 817.275.3348

Mail-In Entry Must Be POSTMARKED NLT NOV 14, 2011

Online Entries Must Be COMPLETED BY NOV 17, 2011

Online entries at: <http://www.r2sports.com>

Tournament Directors: Howard Walker 682.365.3655 & Pat Gibson 817.319.0080



Please Print — Be Legible, Complete & Accurate

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: Cell _____

Home _____

Work _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

DOB: m ____ / d ____ / yr ____ Age on 12/1/2011 ____

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, Maverick Athletic Club Arlington 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 Jacket	\$ 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, location TBD
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 11/17/2011

NMRA Official Website: www.nmra.info and [Facebook](#)

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:

Help Wanted: Banquet Presentation Services By Bruce Adams



The presentations at our NMRA tournament Friday night banquets have turned into quite a production. There are audio sources; both analog and digital video sources; DVD excerpts; plus the anchor, Microsoft PowerPoint; onsite camera; two MP3 players; audio mixers; various microphones; two video projectors; packaging of the Hall of Fame induction; one PC with music on the hard drive; lighting to manage it all; agenda for the evening (programming); keeping track of award winners; notes for the Town Hall meeting; etc.. For me, it has been a work of passion and love, as I started out ten to 12 years ago being self-taught in PowerPoint. I have taken various classes to improve my skills and furnish a nicer product.

I would like to move the entire package to the Macintosh platform, but have not taken the time to do that yet. This is why I am requesting help with the Banquet Presentation. I would like someone, or even more than one, to assist with different ideas on the layout, colors, type of photos (and maybe videos)-- just the entire package. I am open to receiving comments, ideas and help, plus I would welcome passing the baton to anyone to take over the entire package permanently or on an alternating basis. The membership REALLY enjoys the funny section of the presentation--locals enjoy seeing themselves; new members are somewhat embarrassed; the rest of us are not shocked by any and all captions and shots!

Yet, with all of the fun, I would like to assist in taking this to the next level. I would like to see better videos; better graphics; possibly capture video of the banquet itself; possibly post the banquet on YouTube or Facebook for members unable to attend. I will be compiling notes on how I do things – the next person(s) could do it the same way or produce their own product. Tom Curran started this activity in about 2005. I have a few of the presentations that need to be posted.

I also have quite a few shows that I have produced with the NMRA and even some older ones from www.OklahomaRacquetball.com slideshows.

Regarding obtaining/taking photos that go into the presentations, I believe we are getting pretty good response from members "volunteering" their prized digital shots for submission into the banquet slideshow. During the recent *Portland 2011* event, over 600 photos were submitted for inclusion into the slide show. This is probably the most during my time working with the banquet. We found out that giving a camera to a teenager or younger racquetball player saves time, keeps them busy, but we get a really different perspective from the younger player than from the older player. We will do much more of this in the future. It would likely make guests a little more "part of the team" and experience the NMRA camaraderie.

If you have some ideas, want to help out, or want to take over the entire production wholly or part-time, please feel free to contact me at BAadams@nmra.info. I look forward to your suggestions! Shoot Low. Shoot Hard. Shoot with a good camera. ○



Arlington Tournament Info [continued from page 12](#)

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.

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 *Maverick Athletic Club*.

Lunch Lunch is served at the *Maverick Athletic Club*; you will need to present your tournament pass.

Evening Hospitality on Thursday **Not a substitute for dinner.** Will be served at the *Maverick Athletic Club*. You will need to present your tournament pass.

Banquet on Friday Night Location still TBD, but most likely, served at the Host Hotel; Cash bar at 6:30 pm; Dinner and program from 7 pm to 10 pm

Local Activities www.arlington.org

Sights to See Pro Sports Stadium Tours, Six Flags Amusement Park, Comedy Club, Museums, Shopping, Ice Skating, Billy Bob's, Stockyards, Zoo, Restaurants, JFK Dealey Plaza Museum, Dallas Aquarium, American Airlines Center (NBA Mavericks Arena and Nightlife Area). Austin is a three-hour drive; Houston and San Antonio are four-hour drives; Mexico and other Texas historical cities are longer drives.

Average Temperature Year – 77° F
December – High 56° F – Low 37° F
Average December Precipitation 2.57 Inches

RV Parks RV parks near the club are: KOA Kampground, 2715 S Cooper, Arlington, TX 817.277.6600; Lakeview RV, 4793 E Loop 820 S, Fort Worth, TX 817.457.6771 ○



TIDBIT...

The NMRA would like to make a special thank-you to Julia Mouser. After entering the *Portland* tournament, Julia found out that she could not play. Rather than asking for a refund of her entry fee, she asked us to donate that money and create a fundraiser out of it. We had a raffle for a free entry into a future NMRA tournament, and raised money for *Portland Junior Racquetball*.



Things to Do in Arlington...

By Howard Walker

Arlington, Texas, is considered "the entertainment district" of the Dallas/Fort Worth area, due to the malls, sports arenas and amusement parks. It is about 20 minutes south of the airport, and is centrally located between Dallas and Fort Worth. Make sure you check out the attractions in both cities while you're in Arlington for the tournament.

Arlington Area

- Hyena's Comedy Club
- Six Flags Amusement / Roller Coaster
- Dallas Cowboys NFL Stadium Football Tour
- Texas Rangers MLB Stadium Tour
- Shopping / Ice Skating at Parks Mall
- Wax Museum
- Movie Theaters
- Restaurants



Dallas Area

- JFK Dealey Plaza Site / Museum
- Dallas Aquarium
- NBA Mavericks American Airlines Arena / Shops
- Restaurants

Fort Worth Area

- Billy Bob's
- Stockyards
- Dallas Fort Worth Zoo
- Restaurants

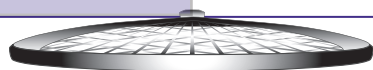
FORT WORTH



NMRA Nat'l Championships Results continued from page 11

Division	Place	Names	State	Points	Division	Place	Names	State	Points
	5th	David Zabinski / Joe Capozzoli	MN PA	Playoff		4th	Beth Bernardo / Linda Ellis	OR OR	22.10
	6th	Michael Motte / Robert Cox	OR OR	Playoff		5th	Suanne Jones / Vicky Reyes	OR OR	14.20
	7th	Jim Verhaeghe / Thomas Lundy	AZ AZ	29.83	WD55 1st		Carmen Alatorre-Martin / Leslie Pawka	VA CA	34.00
	8th	Warren Bailey / Mike Lippitt	AK CA	26.17	XD45 1st		Marni Wagner / John Warnings	OR CA	35.14
MD70 1st		David Zabinski / Joe Capozzoli	MN PA	36.00	2nd		Gladys Leonard / Scott Kraemer	VA WI	33.57
2nd		Carl Goebel / Fritz Camp	OR OR	35.67	3rd		Polly Reuther / Benjamin Doniego	WA WA	33.14
3rd		Donald Sperber / Francis Florey	FL WI	35.11	4th		Yuni Cobb / Rick Howick	WA WA	30.57
4th		Steve Covey / Bill Baker	CA CA	28.00	5th		Beth Neff / Robert Allen	WA WA	26.71
5th		James Weeks / Rex Lawler	GA IN	27.56	6th		Tracy Van Raden / Scott Morrill	OR OR	21.29
6th		Jerry Holly / Paul Wehmeyer	CA NJ	21.25	7th		Judith Flis / Roy Hare	PA VA	18.86
7th		Jerry Mann / John Eliot	CA NC	20.25	8th		Julie Flanagan / James Weathers	VA VA	17.29
MD75 1st		Armand Matern / David Faux	UT UT	25.67	XD50 1st		Sherron Boyea / Dave Azuma	CA OR	Playoff
MD80 1st		Ralph Stillman / Bob Englund	MN MN	36.50	2nd		Linda Ellis / Michael Stoner	OR OR	Playoff
2nd		Philip Swartz / Alan Adirim	BC BC	34.17	3rd		Aiaga Roffey / Ed Roffey	CO CO	Playoff
3rd		Benjamin Schimer / Dave Roddan	BC BC	21.33	4th		Carolyn Hollis / David Szafranski	CA OR	Playoff
MD85 1st		John Prigmore / Dick Kincade	KS CO	17.00	5th		Vicky Reyes / David Reyes	OR OR	Playoff
W50 1st		Cindy Tilbury	CA	38.00	6th		Grace Jaworsky / Bruce Adams	MO OK	Playoff
2nd		Aiaga Roffey	CO	24.00	7th		Suanne Jones / Daniel Rhodes	OR OR	21.25
3rd		Beth Bernardo	OR	18.67	8th		Greg Taylor / Michele Robinson	OR CA	10.67
W55 1st		Melanie Newsome	NC	24.67	XD55 1st		Carmen Alatorre-Martin / Steve Cohen	VA CA	35.40
W60 1st		Shirley Parsons	CO	38.00	2nd		Vickey Utter / Tom Curran	NC NC	13.80
2nd		Barbara Powell	OR	28.75	XD60 1st		Shirley Parsons / James Harvey	CO GA	38.00
3rd		Pat Lew	WA	24.25	2nd		Pat Lew / Thomas Lundy	WA AZ	35.80
W70 1st		Marquita Molina	CA	20.00	3rd		Barbara Powell / Paul Burr	OR OR	19.80
2nd		Gloria Piscoran	OR	16.50	4th		Vickey Utter / Michael Honea	NC TX	16.20
WD45 1st		Gladys Leonard / Julie Flanagan	VA VA	36.70	XD70 1st		Marquita Molina / Irwin Brody	CA BC	26.20
2nd		Beth Neff / Yuni Cobb	WA WA	34.50	2nd		Gloria Piscoran / John Eliot	OR NC	18.40
3rd		Cindy Tilbury / Tracy Van Raden	CA OR	26.80					
4th		Grace Jaworsky / Marni Wagner	MO OR	24.80					
5th		Polly Reuther / Melanie Newsome	WA NC	22.50					
WD50 1st		Carolyn Hollis / Sherron Boyea	CA CA	32.70					
2nd		Judith Flis / Karin Sobotta	PA WA	24.00					
3rd		Tori Davis / Michele Robinson	OR CA	23.70					

See PORTLAND 'EVENT STATS'
on page 16



Keep Your Game Young [continued from page 9](#)

George Brewer from *Seattle* had a tough *NMRA* match in 2010 against **Rick Betts** in the 55s. Rick's nick lob serve was successful in keeping George's returns weak. George worked hard with coach **Dan Pischke** to attack the nick lob and turn it into a strength for *Portland* in 2011. During that same time, Rick had been working on his drive serve with his coach, so he had an alternative weapon when his nick lob was no longer as effective.

Other players enjoy playing doubles with their coaches as their partners. **Ruben Gonzalez** has played with and coached several different partners over the years. **Dan Pischke** and **Tom Travers** make themselves available for doubles coaching, as well. **Curtis Alatorre-Martin** in the *Washington, DC*, area is a doubles specialist. As our *NMRA* players age, doubles can become their game of choice and perfecting their play becomes important.

Although there are too many to list, some of the current people giving lessons and coaching players during their tournament matches include:

- **Debbie Tisinger**, Southern California
- **Tom Travers**, Southern Florida
- **Dan Pischke**, Seattle Washington
- **Dave Azuma**, Portland Oregon (Works with many junior players)
- **Curtis Alatorre-Martin**, Washington DC (Doubles specialty)
- **Jim Winterton**, Upstate New York
- **Jo Shattuck**, Denver Colorado
- **Dave Negrete**, Chicago Illinois

Choosing your coach can be a bit stressful, but the main criterion is your confidence level in him/her. Don't be afraid to work with more than one coach, since you can learn a few things from one, and then pick up more skills from the next. A third coach might be great to play against on a regular basis. One more coach might be best at teaching you winning doubles strategies.

days of working with **Tom Travers**, I learned how and when to cut off lob serves, how best to do drive serves, and how to do a few new serves. The serve coaching has made a big difference in the confidence of my game. I also love trying to cut off lob serves.

I recommend giving coaching a try in the near future. Contact me if you need help finding someone to work with you. If cost is a concern but you are sincere in wanting to work on your game, get a few players together to split the expense, and wait for the coach to be in your area, or at a tournament where you will be playing. You might be able to schedule some court time before or after the tournament and work on your weaknesses before the next major event. I plan to keep taking lessons for a long time, so I'll see you on the practice court! ○

Portland Event Stats

By Cindy Tilbury

Here are some numbers that we watch. We thought you might also be interested in them.

We would like to see more women playing—both number and percentage of the total players—and we would like to see more people enter online using www.r2sports.com. Another goal is to have about 70% of all players enter two divisions, since this makes the tournament profitable. And, of course, we LOVE to see first-time players and lots of guests at every event!

Total Players	150
<i>About as many as other March NMRA tourneys</i>	
Total Men	121
<i>About 80%</i>	
Total Women	29
<i>Almost 20%</i>	
First-Time NMRA Players	12
<i>Fantastic!</i>	
Total Players Playing Two Divisions	93
<i>64%—A little lower than other tournaments lately</i>	
Total Paid Guests	20
Total Entries Online Using R2Sports	90
<i>60%</i>	
Total Entries Via US Post	47
<i>31%</i>	
Total Entries of Other Types	13
<i>9%</i>	

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WHAT IS RACQUETSKINZ

RacquetSkinz are vibrant high resolution graphics, light weight and tear resistant skinz that covers 100% of the racquet frame offering complete customization of your racquet. Select from hundreds of designs, add your signature, customize your grip, tether color and string for the ultimate custom racquet. Complete customization for **only \$10 more** than the stock frame.

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Recently, I got a chance to try taking lessons and being coached with two of these coaches. The first was **Debbie Tisinger** and we drilled very hard on setups off the back wall and making shots happen automatically. We added a few skills like a splat and nick lob, too, but we concentrated mostly on shotmaking during a rally.

Then, with **Tom Travers**, I started small by having the goal of adding two or three things to my game—whatever my coach suggested is what I would be happy to learn. In two ➤



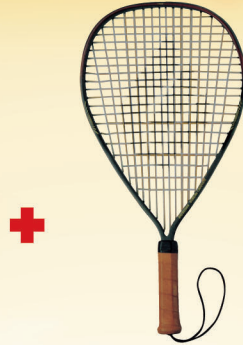
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TORON
THE MOST REVOLUTIONARY RACQUET OF ALL TIME. RUBEN'S RACQUET WHEN HE WAS #1 IN 88

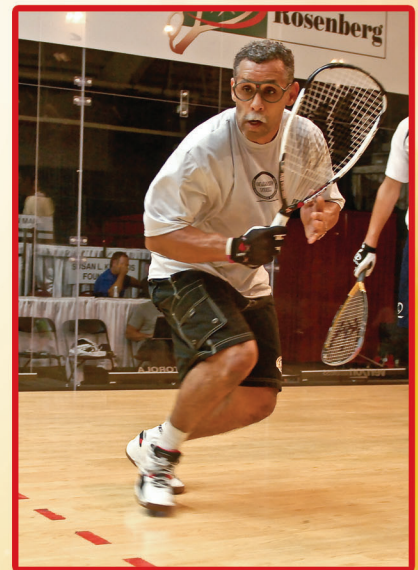


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EKTELON'S NEW REVOLUTIONARY O³ RACQUET TECHNOLOGY



EXO³ RG TORON

**AVAILABLE
MAY
2011**



EXO³ RG TORON
Ektelon's most powerful racquet ever, combined with soft thermo plastic inserts for a feel so soft vibration dampeners are optional.

Power Level - 4200
Weight - 170g
Headshape - New Modified Teardrop
Headsizes - 106 sq in
Balance - 1 pt HH
String - Premier Power 17
Grip - Vision
Grip Sizes - SSR, SS, LG
SRP - \$310

Military Racquetball Federation (MRF) RRC Program a Success at Fort Jackson

By Tom Curran

The MRF has expanded its program to South Carolina.

MRF continues to expand the reach of the RRC (Rehabilitation Racquetball Clinic) as an accepted program within the Army's Wounded Warriors Regiments. Steven Harper of MRF made the trip last week and had the opportunity to give a two-day racquetball clinic to the Wounded Warriors at Fort Jackson, Columbia SC. Fort Jackson is the United States Army Training Center who trains the Trainers in support of full spectrum operations; receives and transforms volunteers into Soldiers who are able to function effectively in their first unit of assignment. This base is the home of Drill Sergeant School and the NCO Academy of the Army.



The RRC clinic included 30 Wounded Warriors. Thanks to the Cadre of CPT Troy, 1ST Miller, SSGT Bell, SSGT Laureano and our local instructor Jack who all made this event possible. MRF is definitely focused on the Mission of Helping our Troops injured in combat, and thanks to those at Fort Jackson - this vision is becoming a reality!

We look forward to continuing on our progress with the RRC and our Wounded Warriors as more bases come onboard!



TIDBITS...

We had outstanding junior racquetball player volunteers at the Portland tournament.

Many of the kids were from the family of Ed and Tami Boyle, and they worked hard to help make our tournament run smoothly. They also attended the Tuesday night clinic with Ruben Gonzalez, held during tournament check-in/registration at the Lloyd Athletic Club. Thanks, kids!

Update your www.r2sports.com profile—especially your shirt size, phone number, and email address.

As always, we need nominations for future sportsmanship awards. We know you are all out there experiencing heroic acts of fair play and on-court decency, and we want to hear about them! Let one of the board members know about players in your life who impress you with their sportsmanship.

Where does my NMRA Tournament entry fee go?

By Tom Curran

In this time of overall economic concerns, this is a question that members are asking each other.

The NMRA Board wanted to explain exactly what the entry fee pays for during an event so we put together this list of the 'cost of doing an NMRA tournament'.

NMRA \$140 Entry Fee Break-Down:

Court Fees	\$13.00
Lunch For 4 Days	\$30.00
Evening Hosp For 3 Days.....	\$20.00
Souvenir Shirt.....	\$25.00
Banquet	\$43.00
Tourney Director	\$10.00
Misc (Printing, Desk Help).....	\$4.00

Sub-total: \$145.00

Profit/Loss..... (\$5.00)

Profit/Loss For \$180

Two-Event Entry Fee

NMRA \$65 Guest Fee Break-Down:

Lunch For 4 Days	\$30.00
Evening Hosp For 3 Days.....	\$20.00
Souvenir	\$7.00
Banquet	\$43.00

Sub-total: \$100.00

Profit/Loss..... (\$35.00)

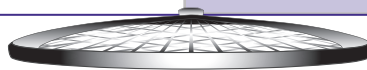
As you can see, the fee does not actually cover the full cost of the event. This is one reason why sponsors and donations are so important to our continued financial health as an organization. There are some clubs that host our events for a very low or no fee. When that happens, we have additional revenue to make donations to our Junior Scholarship Program.

Some would ask why don't we raise the 'guest' fee to cover the actual costs and the answer to that question goes to the core of the NMRA mission and goal. We are a social organization that encourages including the family at our events. Of course, we are there to compete as well, but the desire to keep connected with our friends and sharing that social time with those most important to us is vital.

We thank each of you who always 'kick in' a bit more than the published fee. We appreciate the support we have had to our Future Fund over the past few years, as well. We have that fund in reserve. Only the interest is transferred to the general fund on an annual basis.

We are proud of our tour sponsor, Ektelon, who, without their support, would increase the cost of our events by having to pay for balls.

We hope you agree that our tournaments provide great value for your dollars spent and we hope you'll keep coming back because of that.



Views and Observations from the New Board Member on the Block

By Melanie Newsome

Before the NMRA tournament in *Portland, Oregon*, I attended my first *Board of Directors* meeting (an all day affair).

Thanks for your votes during the end-of-the-year election. Some of you may be thinking of running for the Board in the future, so I wanted to share my new-board-member impressions.

During the meeting, it's amazing how quickly time passed as we rehashed old business, wordsmithed descriptions of forfeits, discussed problems and found solutions, relayed new information, and generally tried to improve our organization. We kept to the agenda and got to registration on time.

During the tournament, my areas of responsibility were to help **Bruce Adams** with getting pictures of first-timers and new members (beginning at registration and continuing throughout the tournament), help at the tournament desk(s) when not playing, shoot candid shots for laughs at the banquet, and present and photograph medal winners on Saturday.

I got just a taste of what's involved in presenting a national tournament. I saw how hard it is to spread our resources out over two venues and be fair to all players.

I am a behind-the-scenes type of board member. You will probably be unaware of my NMRA activities, but I do plan to contribute to improving our organization and making sure you have great tournament experiences.

Adding members to our ranks is important to me. Knowing what's important to each of you and why you keep coming back is important to the entire board. Improving communications from the members by using surveys, tournament evaluations, emails, etc., will hopefully accomplish this goal.

I am striving to have many happy members and lots of new members on the block!! Contact me through the [NMRA.info](http://www.nmra.info) website if you have ideas for me.

Not For Ladies Only

By Cindy Tilbury



In January, I had the pleasure of being Co-Tournament-Director with **Marcia Richards** and **Lori Inskip** of the *22nd Annual Women's Senior Masters Racquetball Association Championships* in Denver. We had been working on this all-round-robin, self-refereed tournament for over one year, and it was incredibly gratifying to finally have it happen.

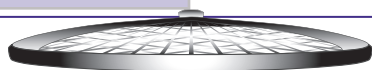
Almost 100 ladies joined in the fun at the *Highlands Ranch Recreation Center* in *Littleton, Colorado*. Entrants had to be a minimum of 35 years old to enter. The surprise division was the 70s, where we had eight participants from all over the country. The 75s and 80s also played in that combined division, providing incredible competition for our "most experienced" ladies. The WSMRA is a little different from the NMRA, where it added some B (below Open/A level competition) divisions a few years ago. Twenty-five players entered the three B divisions—many of them first-time WSMRA players. Everyone competed for special windcatcher hanger trophies, commissioned from an area artist.

The amazing thing about this tournament was the all-male volunteer tournament staff. *Denver* happens to have a few retired men players who volunteered to run the tournament all weekend. They ran the desk, met the ladies at the court door to get scores, input match results, printed draws and match cards, collected memberships, worked with the hospitality provider, shuttled ladies and took photos. The main two workers are closely associated with the USAR—**Joe Williams** and **Larry Haemmerle**. If you ever need help at a tournament, give them a call, as they were invaluable. They let us, as the Tournament Directors, play our matches and not worry about running things. It was truly amazing.

The WSMRA tournaments are well known for their banquets. NMRA banquet fans will wonder how the WSMRA banquets could be any better, but our ladies LOVE TO DANCE and we close the place down with the DJ playing classic dance songs. We don't often have men join in the fun, but this year we had a few die-hards who couldn't believe how much (good, clean) fun we have.



After a full last day of matches and collecting our awards, while most of the ladies headed back home, the week was just beginning for 15 of us. We boarded a big passenger van and headed up to *Breckenridge, Colorado*, where we had rented an eight-bedroom vacation house in the mountains. We skied four days and snowshoed and shopped in *Breckenridge* and *Vail*. We were treated to the amazing cooking of **Mildred Gwinn**. Mildred is not only a 70+ champion NMRA/USAR/WSMRA/IRF player, but she is also an expert skier and regionally-renowned cook from *Charlotte, North Carolina*. Her dinners and desserts are still being talked about, and we are hoping the 2012 WSMRA tournament organizers in *Sarasota, Florida*, will ask Mildred to cook for us on a tournament side trip involving beaches, amusement parks and golf courses. NMRA ladies, if you can squeeze in one more tournament in the winter, we recommend you try the WSMRA Championships at least once. Contact me or go to the www.wsmra.com website if you have questions or need more information.



NMRA TOURNAMENT Trail 2011-2012

Check the www.nmra.info website or Facebook for the latest updates.

Jun 15-18	World Senior Doubles	Santa Fe, NM	Gary Mazaroff	www.internationalracquetball.com
Jul 27-30	NMRA International Championships	Fullerton, CA	Steve Cohen	www.nmra.info
Aug 31-Sep 3	IRF World Seniors	Albuquerque, NM	Gary Mazaroff	www.internationalracquetball.com
Oct 5-8	Huntsman Senior Games	St. George, UT	Jim Elliott	www.hwsg.com
Oct 5-9	US Open	Minneapolis, MN	Doug Ganim	www.usra.org
Nov 11-14	All Military National Championships	San Diego, CA	Steven Harper	www.usra.org
Dec	NMRA Doubles-Only 40+	Arlington, TX	Pat Gibson	www.nmra.info
Jan 13-15 '12	WSMRA Singles 35+	Sarasota, FL	Kendra Tutsch	www.wsmra.com or kdtutsch@wisc.edu
Feb '12	USAR National Doubles	Phoenix, AZ	USAR	www.usra.org
Mar '12	NMRA National Championships	TBD Orem, UT?	Tom Curran	www.nmra.info
Apr '12	USAR Regionals	Various, US	USAR	www.usra.org



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