



RACQUET RACKET

SUMMER 2012

Official Newsletter of the National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA)

Long-Time NMRA Member Sam Harry Passed Away

By Grant (Spoony the Clown) Morrill

I met **Sam Harry** about 15 years ago. While I was one of the *AmPro Instructors* at the *Central Penn Health and Fitness center*, I used to observe these two old gentlemen playing early two or three days a week. It's funny, because one, of course, was Sam and the other guy's name was Harry. I introduced myself and became real close to both of them.

They (well, Sam) wanted me to help them with their serve, which I did, and then we played cutthroat, day after day. Soon Sam asked me about the *State tournament* and if I thought he could be competitive. Well, to make a long story short, he did well at the states, and then later we signed him up for the *NMRA* and you all know the rest. He practiced and played two and three times a week. He was a pilot and wanted to know if I was going to play at a certain place and, if so, would I fly with him? You know I could not turn that down. So yes, I used to fly to all the *NMRA* games and he was proud of me and of course I was always proud of him....

He was a great pilot, a fun racquetball player and a good friend. He is surely missed here at the club.

Editor's Note: Sam Harry of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, passed away in June 2011 of pancreatic cancer. He was married to Betty for 67 years.

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Layout and design by Birgitte Designs,
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NMRA Board of Directors Election Results

By Cindy Tilbury

Three candidates were running for the three open spots on the Board. As you may have expected, they all won! Congratulate them or bring up your ideas for *NMRA* tournaments when you see them next.

Carmen Alatorre-Martin from the *Washington, DC*, area was running for her second term. She will continue with her membership duties, while probably getting a second board member to help her, and she will also continue running tournaments. Carmen puts in many hours for our members, on top of her 60-hour-a-week job managing multi-million-dollar projects as a civilian contractor for the US Government.

Steve Cohen from *Orange County, California*, was also running for his second term. He will continue as our treasurer and tournament director of most of our upcoming tournaments. His expertise as a *Chief Financial Officer* and *Financial Consultant* is invaluable. He will be very hard to replace when his term ends in 2015. The treasurer's job also requires hundreds of volunteer hours before, during and after our tournaments to make sure the budgets are met and vendors are paid.



Our newest board member was elected when **Tom Curran's** term limit was met. Meet **Fred Roe**, your newest *NMRA* board member. Fred lives in *Santa Monica, California*, and plays in the *Men's 65 Singles and Doubles* divisions. He drives to all of the tournaments, and makes many stops along the way to stay with racquetball friends. One of Fred's favorite tournaments is the *Albuquerque IRF World Seniors Championships*, where he has not missed playing since 1985. Fred was a California parole officer for many years before retiring to play racquetball full time.

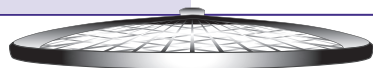
If you are interested in running for the board of directors in the 2013 election, please contact a board member and he/she can tell you what is expected and figure out a way for you to get involved now, as a sort of "trial run" to see if board of director membership is for you! ○

NMRA Board Says Goodbye to President Curran

By Cindy Tilbury

It is with some sadness that we say goodbye to our president for the past six years, **Tom Curran**. Tom will still be in the wings, running the *Raleigh 2012* tournament, helping us negotiate tournament and club contracts, advising us, and keeping the *Future Fund* safe and sound, but he will not be on the Board as of March, 2012. According to the *NMRA* board term limits, it was time for Tom to take a break from the board. He continues to serve on the *USAR* board.

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NMRA Board Says Goodbye to President Curran [continued from page 1](#)



Tom's lawyering skills and experience in negotiations were the traits we needed to set up our round-robin tournaments. He did so many great things for our organization and we are extremely grateful and lucky to have him. We hope you will take a moment to express your personal gratitude for all of the many hours he put into the NMRA. He will continue to play our tournaments, and, who knows? He may run for the board again if we need him.

Thanks, Tom!



Doubles-Only Tournament in Arlington Was a Huge Success

By Howard Walker

Pat Gibson and I brought the December 2011 *Doubles-Only* tournament to the Dallas area, where everyone had a fantastic time. The legendary *Maverick Athletic Club* hosted the matches on their ten courts, where the competition was tough and we had many first-time players get acquainted with our special brand of social tournament. Second in



Bob McAdam Leo Vasquez



Howard Walker MD55+ Works the Tournament Desk

importance was the food. It was incredible all weekend, and that included a Texas BBQ banquet at the club on Friday night. Before the tournament, long-time NMRA member **Ruben Gonzalez** put on a clinic for the junior players in the area. Players took advantage of the masseuse, club amenities and great tourist attractions. The guided tour of the *Cowboys Stadium* in *Arlington* was the talk of the tournament. If you are ever in Dallas, don't miss it!

In addition to our regular *Ektelon* and *RacquetSkinz* sponsors, we were fortunate to have two extra companies donate toward our budget. **Andy Gomer's** *Net-Center Enterprise Systems* tech consulting firm in the *Washington, DC* area and the *Arlington* area law firms of **Mike Patterson** and **Avery McDaniel** were our very generous sponsors. *Women's Doubles 40+* player **Tina Joslin** is their legal assistant.



Sandy Rios WD45+ Takes a Break

Thanks to *Maverick Club* owner **Bob Sullins**, racquetball director **Leo Vasquez**, the hospitality volunteers, the stringer, masseuse, and the tournament desk volunteers who made sure we had a fantastic tournament.

We plan to come back as soon as we have another opening in the schedule.



Supportive Wives

Bob Warren MD75+

Maverick Club Racquetball Christmas Tree



Take the Quiz

By Fred Roe, NMRA Board Member

Who is credited with inventing the modern sport of racquetball?

- A. Al Gore
- B. Marty Hogan
- C. Joe Sobek

In what year did that amazing invention occur?

- A. 1960
- B. A year prior to Kane's return.
- C. 1950

In 1952, there were how many handball courts in the United States' YMCAs and JCCs?

- A. 1,000
- B. 10,000
- C. 40,000

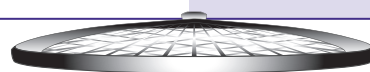
True or False

- T F The IRA organized the first professional racquetball tournament in 1974.
- T F There are three professional racquetball organizations-- the IRT, the WPRO and the CPRT.
- T F In the winter of 1975, the expanded (singles) NMRA tournament had no age brackets.
- T F The only no-show for that 1975 winter NMRA tournament was restrained from driving in the winter by the Minnesota Highway Patrol.
- T F There are over 5,000 USRA members over the age of 45.
- T F The IRF World Senior Doubles Tournament is held every June.

Answers: Multiple choice answers are all "C"; True/False questions are all True.



Rhett Collins Tom Doughty and Chris Lamakul MD45+



NMRA TOURNAMENT RESULTS

NMRA Doubles-Only Championships

December 1-3, 2011

Maverick Athletic Club, Arlington TX / Howard Walker/Patrick Gibson, Tournament Directors

| Division | Place | Names | State | Points | Division | Place | Names | State | Points |
|----------|-------|---------------------------------------|-------|---------|----------|-------|---|-------|--------|
| MD40 | 1 | Brent Sturgess / Chris Lamakul | FL TX | 35.17 | MD60 | 1 | Frank Taddonio / Tom Rall | AZ AZ | 38.00 |
| | 2 | Darjon Bittner / Jody Morris | TX TX | 33.83 | | 2 | Gary Buckmaster / Murphy Eppinette | TX TX | 34.67 |
| | 3 | Rhett Collins / Tom Doughty | TX TX | 26.67 | | 3 | Paul Clutts / Steve Littlefield | TX TX | 29.33 |
| | 4 | Bob Walton / John Tarr | TX TX | 12.33 | | 4 | Jon Walker / Tom McKie | AZ TX | 22.17 |
| MD45 | 1 | Ed Roffey / Ruben Gonzalez | CO NY | 38.00 | | 5 | Larry Brunner / Mark Newport | MO MO | 21.17 |
| | 2 | Jody Morris / Mark Malowitz | TX TX | 32.50 | | 6 | Ed Wood / Mike Carter | TX TX | 19.83 |
| | 3 | David Duscher / Jerry Sterkel | NE NE | 28.17 | | 7 | Patrick Lynch / Phil DeFalco | TX TX | 18.00 |
| | 4 | Lynn Johnson / Lee Larson | OK OK | 27.00 | MD65 | 1 | Barry Hendricks / Jon Walker | AZ AZ | 38.00 |
| | 5 | Martin McDermott / Gonzalo Castillo | TX TX | 22.17 | | 2 | Len Sonnenberg / Ottis Campbell | CA TX | 27.83 |
| | 6 | David Weiser / Rick Williams | TX TX | 20.00 | MD70 | 1 | Bob Warren / Rex Lawler | AZ IN | 24.17 |
| MD50 | 1 | Ed Roffey / Ruben Gonzalez | CO NY | 38.00 | MD75 | 1 | Bob McAdam / Roy Gaul | TX TX | 16.17 |
| | 2 | Mike Grisz / Tom Cain | TX AZ | 35.40 | WD40 | 1 | Rhonda Jenkins / Tina Joslin | TX TX | 19.80 |
| | 3 | Mark Gilmore / Mark Malowitz | TX TX | 34.40 | WD45 | 1 | Wendy Chesters / Marcia Richards | NE CO | 38.00 |
| | 4 | Murphy Eppinette / Peter Kendrick | TX TX | 31.60 | WD50 | 1 | Cindy Tilbury / Sandy Rios | CA TX | 33.20 |
| | 5 | Lee Larson / Lynn Johnson | OK OK | 25.40 | | 2 | Grace Jaworsky / Janice Vosika | MO WY | 27.60 |
| | 6 | Bruce Evans / Kenneth Davison | TX TX | 25.00 | | 3 | Ann Draudt / Traci Kourajian | TX TX | 22.20 |
| | 7 | Eric Robinson / Michael Limsy | MD MD | 23.90 | | 4 | Debbie Roberson / Rhonda Look | TX TX | 16.20 |
| | 8 | Mike Tucker / Rick Williams | TX TX | 22.50 | WD55 | 1 | Jan Warren / Terry Sue Newport | AZ MO | N/A |
| MD55 | 1 | Doug Kite / Mike Grisz | TX TX | Playoff | WD60 | 1 | Merijean Kelley / Nancy Kronenfeld | CA IL | N/A |
| | 2 | Howard Walker / Patrick Gibson | TX TX | Playoff | WD70 | 1 | Lola Markus / Marquita Molina | IL CA | N/A |
| | 3 | Rick Betts / Tom Travers | CA FL | Playoff | XD40 | 1 | Darjon Bittner / Sandy Long | TX TX | 32.00 |
| | 4 | Kim Keltner / Randy Godwin | MO AR | Playoff | | 2 | Chris Lamakul / Traci Kourajian | TX TX | 31.83 |
| | 5 | Mike Tucker / Phil DeFalco | TX TX | Playoff | | | | | |

continued on page 6...



top to bottom: MD60+ Match; BBQ Centerpiece; Ruben Gonzalez and Ed Roffey MD45+ and MD50+; Limsy, Walker and Robinson Take a Break; Randy Godwin M50+ and His Wife; Rhonda Jenkins XD55 and Supportive Wife

NMRA Doubles-Only Championships Results



Nancy Kronenfeld WD60 and Husband

Anita King XD50+ and Rhonda Look WD50+

Bob Warren and Rex Lawler MD75+

Cheryl Kirk WD55+ Gets a Massage



NMRA 2012 International Championships

North Carolina State University – Raleigh, North Carolina

July 18-21, 2012 (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday)

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION SHEET www.nmra.info

Tournament Directors Steve Cohen 714.767.4622 scohen@nmra.info
Tom Curran 513.490.7472 tcurran@nmra.info

Primary Host Club



Carmichael Sports Complex, NC State University
2611 Cates Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27607 919.515.7529
Between Hillsborough and Western off Dan Allen Drive
The racquetball courts are located on the west wing of Carmichael Gymnasium on the first floor, in rooms 1314-1320, 1323-1326, 1328-1334. There are 18 courts available for our use.
http://www.ncsu.edu/student_affairs/carmichael/gym/

Host Hotel



Embassy Suites
4700 Creedmoore Road (Crabtree Mall), Raleigh, NC 27612
Reservations are now full: 919-881-0000 (ask for NMRA Group Rate)
\$89.00 Per Night, (plus tax) free parking, free breakfast, evening hospitality
Rates available until July 1, 2012, but please reserve early
Request NMRA Group Rate
Other amenities: wireless internet access, discounted meal coupons free local phone calls, fitness center

Registered guests will be entered into a "free night" lottery.
Van Service to and from the host hotel to the campus facility.

Enter Online

NO LONGER ACCEPTING ENTRIES – WAIT LIST ONLY!
Enter online by July 9, 2012, at <http://www.r2sports.com> First event--\$140
Second event--\$40 Guests \$65 for the week
You may request a doubles partner and/or roommate

Enter via US Mail

NO LONGER ACCEPTING ENTRIES – WAIT LIST ONLY!
Fill out the entry form at www.nmra.info (Tournament Info page - soon).
Mail completed entry form and fees by July 1, 2012, to:
NMRA c/o Steve Cohen, 5832 E Bluebonnet Court, Orange, CA 92869

Nearest Airport

Raleigh Durham International Airport (RDU) Morrisville, NC

Aternate Airports

Greensboro GSO 77 Miles
Charlotte CLT 158 Miles

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 RDU

Air Canada; Air Tran; American; Delta; Jet Blue; United; US Airways

Airport Taxi / Shuttle

Hotel provides pick up and return service for registered guests on an on call basis. Raleigh Durham Airport Only

Shuttle to Clubs

Shuttle van provided from host hotel between clubs for host hotel guests only. The shuttle will run on a schedule only. There will be no individual pick up and drop off from or to the clubs other than during the scheduled runs

Parking at Carmichael Center - NC State Covered deck parking by the hour or day. \$6.00 max charge

Directions from Raleigh Airport to Host Hotel Crabtree Embassy Suites

16 Minutes; 11 Miles; Southwest on Terminal Boulevard .7 Mi; Veer right onto Aviation Parkway N ramp to Interstate 540/US 70 .3 Mi; Merge onto Interstate 540 7.9 Mi; Exit 9 NC 50 toward Raleigh/Creedmoor .2 Mi; Right onto NC 50 South/Creedmoor .8 Mi; Left onto Strickland Road; Right into Creedmoore Center [more](#) ➤

Google Link from airport to host hotel: <http://maps.google.com/maps?saddr=RDU+Airport,+Morrisville,+NC&daddr=4700+Creedmoore+Center,+Raleigh,+NC+27612&hl=en&ll=35.900827,-78.681207&spn=0.006944,0.007414&sl=35.892388,-78.706055&sspn=0.444454,0.474472&geocode=FXNvlwldnrZN-yHtdfNB0pKD4w%3BFVXNlwlwdoHJP-yk111odlPisiTHuxu4gWMJuUg&og=RDU+&mra=ls&t=m&z=17>

Directions from Host Hotel to Carmichael Center 20 Minutes; 11 Miles; South on Creedmoore Road/NC 50 3.9 Mi; Left (southeast) onto Glenwood Avenue .7 Mi; Take Interstate 440 West 4.2 Mi; Exit Western Boulevard toward NC State/ Downtown 1.5 Mi; Left onto Dan Allen Drive .3 Mi; Right onto Cates Avenue .3 Mi
<http://maps.google.com/maps?saddr=4700+Creedmoore+Center,+Raleigh,+NC+27612&daddr=2611+Cates+Avenue,+Raleigh,+NC&hl=en&ll=35.892388,-78.706055&spn=0.444454,0.474472&sl=35.84144,-78.686385&sspn=0.22237,0.362892&geocode=FVXNlwlwdoHJP-yk111odlPisiTHuxu4gWMJuUg%3BFSScIgl1ZJP-ykLbLn4k-PWsiTG7zxvmnEJM-w&mra=ls&t=m&z=11>

Tournament Check-In Tuesday, July 17, 2012, 5:30 to 7:30 at the Host Hotel.

Play Begins/Ends 8 am Wednesday, July 18 , to 5 pm Saturday, July 21, 2012
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.

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

[more](#) ➤

NC State University Tournament Info continued from page 4

event. The decision of the rules committee is final and binding on all parties concerned.

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

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.

Morning Hospitality Breakfast is available free at the host hotel. Fruit and drinks available at the club.

Lunch Available at the club.

Evening Hospitality on Thursday

Available at the club and for guests at the host hotel.

Banquet Friday night, July 20, 2012, at the Host Hotel Banquet Room; Cocktail hour from 6:00 till 6:45 pm; program starts exactly at 7 pm; reserve tables available for 5 or more guests in a party. Reservation required during Tuesday night registration or when you register for the event.

Doubles Partners Partners are already set for this tournament; however, we welcome your requests to be put on the "Available" list, in case an injury occurs to a partner before play starts. Contact Cindy Tilbury cindy.tilbury@att.net

RV Parks There are two RV Parks close to NC State University, and ten farther away.

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=rv+parks+raleigh+nc&hl=en&fb=1&gl=us&hq=rv+parks&hnear=Raleigh,+Wake,+North+Carolina&t=m&z=11>

Average Temperature Raleigh Raleigh in July – High 90° F – Low 69° F – Average 79° F Precipitation 4 Inches.

Things to Do in Raleigh Area

www.visitraleigh.com

Civil War Museums / Cemeteries;
Goodnight's Comedy Club; Downtown Segway Tours; Durham Bulls Baseball (Friday Fireworks); Concerts; Golf; Barbeque Restaurants; Shop; Art Galleries; Pub Quiz Trivia; Atlantic Beaches (Two Hours East); Blue Ridge Mountains / Parkway (Four Hours West); Biltmore Mansion (Four Hours West)

President's Corner – Changes

By Howard Walker, NMRA President

The board and officer elections at the March Utah tournament have come and gone and... I'm left standing.

I am very proud to be the new *President of the NMRA*. It is a great honor to be elected, and just as great an honor to follow **Tom Curran** and the other past *Presidents* that have made the *NMRA* the best association in racquetball.

For those of you who don't know me, I have played racquetball for almost 40 years. During that time, I have played in almost all the major tournaments in the nation. I've won some, and lost many. I've been a spectator, participant, tournament director, and club owner during that time.

Some things I've learned during this time are:

1. Players working together can come up with problems that arise.
2. The tournaments that balance players' needs, good competition, and value for the dollar are the tournaments that succeed year after year.
3. Those tournaments that abide by the rules and foster fair play, and enforce those two factors, are the tournaments that keep the players coming back.

I believe the *NMRA* sets the standard for great tournaments, incorporating all of the above. Our tournaments are far more than just competition to win a medal and national title. I didn't realize this until I played several of the *NMRA* events. The more of them I played, the more I saw the same faces that played these tournaments only, mixed with those, like me, that played many different national events. I noticed that many of the "regulars" were not always the best players, but they were the ones having the most fun, win or not. I started noticing that this attitude was rubbing off on the 'win at all cost' players... having fun at the game, fair play, and camaraderie.

After that, I was sold on the *NMRA's* style of tournament. All that, mixed with round robin-play, great hospitality and banquets, and honoring those that have passed and the Hall of Fame recipients, make them the best racquetball experience in the nation.

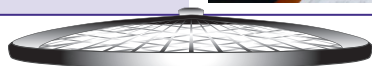
AND FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DO KNOW ME, WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE GETTING!

The strength of the organization is membership retention and recruitment of new members. I think, as a board, we are fairly aggressive in our efforts to do both of these...but all of our efforts cannot equal our members telling their friends and fellow players about the *NMRA*. **"Word of mouth" is always the best way to recruit new members.**

I cannot stress enough how much we need our loyal members to spread the word of how much fun and "bang for the buck" the *NMRA* tournaments are.

As your new *President*, I and the *Board of Directors* will do everything we can to maintain the great traditions laid down by the previous administrations. **BUT WE CAN ONLY DO THIS WITH YOUR HELP.** Talk it up at your local club and tournaments. Bring a player or two to the next *NMRA* event. Refer everyone interested to me or any *NMRA* board member—we will give them all the information on the *NMRA* and our style of tournaments.

With your help, we can make the *NMRA* bigger and better.



Men of October Tournament a Huge Success

By Jan Warren



Mike Martin

Sun City West, Arizona was proud to host the first and only event for men over 80, the 'Men of October' racquetball tournament. On October 21st and 22nd these dedicated athletes gathered to play both singles and doubles in what turned out to be a grueling competition. The tournament, sponsored by the *National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA)*, *United States Racquetball Association (USRA)*, *Gearbox Racquetball*, and *Wilson Sports*, featured players from coast to coast. **NMRA's own Dick Kincade** took home first place in singles. His longtime partner, **John Prigmore**, also played, as did **Mike Martin**, who won second in singles and third in doubles. First place in doubles was a local longtime player, **Ken Hutton**. **Hal Federman** took home second in doubles and **Joe Fjelstad** garnered fourth; both are also local players. **William Burg** packed his third place trophy in singles back to *South Carolina*.

Players were provided with lunch both days, and a fabulous awards dinner made by local club players was served Saturday night. Club members were available to get drinks and assist players. Each player received a registration bag with two tournament shirts and a few other goodies. The awards to winners were hand-crafted, stained-glass trophies made by the *Sun City West Stained Glass Club*, so each was unique as well as well-deserved.

We hope to be able to offer this tournament each year as each player attending really enjoyed the format, which was all round-robin, and there was no extra charge for the second event. These players have earned the right to be honored in this sport as their dedication to health and fitness through racquetball is worthy of such a great event. The *Sun City West Racquetball/Handball/Whisperball Club* thanks all players for participating and we are looking forward to hosting this event in October 2012. For more information please contact the tournament director, **Greg Steger**, at ipowerfade@yahoo.com or phone him at 563-271-3053.

NMRA Tidbits...

By Cindy Tilbury

We, the NMRA board, were thinking that it was a definite trend for our tournaments to be smaller. This could have been due to the economy, or the locations we were choosing or the fact that there are just so many great tournaments to choose from. The sign-ups for our *North Carolina State* tournament in July surprised us by changing that trend and filling up months before the tournament. Of course, we don't want to put a player limit on any tournament, but in order to plan better and make a little money for the operating budget, we may need to do that again in the future. Make sure you sign up early, via US mail or R2sports.com, to make sure you get in. Then make sure your doubles partner signs up too.

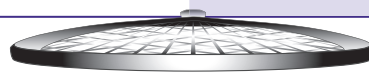
Our membership is healthy at about 500 members. We have a lot of expired members, which also includes one-time tournament players who do not join the *NMRA*, but we are pretty happy with that number. We continue to work with **Ryan Rogers** of the R2sports.com website to improve our membership accounting and tracking. One recent member-related update was the inclusion of automatic membership renewal notices sent via email and US post. That should help us ensure that no one falls through the cracks so they can renew and continue to get the newsletter via email or US mail (by profile only—contact **Carmen Alatorre-Martin** for this option).

At our March 2012 meeting, the board voted to have R2sports.com do the work to make a triple round-robin available as a tournament or league division option. Presently, we had to jump through hoops or run the division on paper if we wanted to make it a triple round-robin. This will benefit all tournament directors—not just *NMRA* ones.

If you want a paper copy of your RacquetRacket newsletter, you MUST have your member profile changed to reflect that (if you have not made that change already, of course). The *RacquetRacket* comes out twice a year, with information on the next few tournaments and results from the previous tournament(s). If you are expecting it in the mail or via email and are not getting it, please send an email to calatorre-martin@nmra.info and Carmen can check your profile.

NMRA Doubles-Only Championships Results continued from page 3

| Division | Place | Names | State | Points | Division | Place | Names | State | Points |
|-------------|----------|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|----------|--|--------------|----------------|
| | 3 | Rhett Collins / Sandy Rios | TX | 26.83 | | 7 | Dave Puma / Beth Adcock | TX | 11.50 |
| | 4 | Tom Doughty / Janice Vosika | TX | 18.00 | XD55 | 1 | Patrick Gibson / Marcia Richards | TX CO | Playoff |
| | 5 | Mark Gilmore / Tina Joslin | TX | 17.67 | | 2 | Paul Clutts / Rhonda Look | TX | Playoff |
| XD45 | 1 | Kenneth Davison / Anita King | TX | 30.83 | | 3 | Doug Draudt / Ann Draudt | TX | Playoff |
| | 2 | David Duscher / Wendy Chesters | NE | 29.17 | | 4 | Tom Rall / Rhonda Jenkins | AZ | Playoff |
| XD50 | 1 | Howard Walker / Anita King | TX | 36.33 | | 5 | David Nelson / Sue Schatz | MN | Playoff |
| | 2 | Rick Betts / Cindy Tilbury | CA | 35.83 | XD60 | 1 | Frank Taddonio / Nancy Kronenfeld | AZ IL | 38.00 |
| | 3 | Jerry Sterkel / Grace Jaworsky | MO | 30.17 | | 2 | Mark Newport / Terry Sue Newport | MO | 27.00 |
| | 4 | David Nelson / Sue Schatz | MN | 25.67 | XD65 | 1 | Barry Hendricks / Merijeau Kelley | AZ CA | 32.00 |
| | 5 | Bruce Adams / Jan Warren | OK | 22.33 | | 2 | Len Sonnenberg / Marquita Molina | CA | 21.50 |
| | 6 | Michael Hiles / Jere Luttner | TX | 20.00 | XD75 | 1 | Michael Henchy / Lola Markus | GA IL | 8.50 |



NMRA TOURNAMENT RESULTS

NMRA National Championships

March 7-10, 2012

Orem, UT / Steve Cohen/Tom Curran, Tournament Directors

| Division | Place | Names | State | Points |
|------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| M45 | 1st | Dodd Lowe | MT | 17.50 |
| | 2nd | Craig Nielsen | PA | 12.38 |
| M50 | 1st | Michael Stoner | OR | 36.75 |
| | 2nd | Ed Roffey | CO | 36.00 |
| | 3rd | Lorin Jensen | UT | 32.75 |
| | 4th | Renny Wylie | ID | 26.63 |
| | 5th | Pete Rossi | UT | 26.50 |
| | 6th | Grant Hout | OH | 22.75 |
| | 7th | Brian Pella | UT | 19.00 |
| | 8th | Michael Newman | UT | 14.00 |
| M55 | 1st | Shane McAfee | MO | 36.50 |
| | 2nd | Rick Betts | CA | 35.13 |
| | 3rd | Howard Walker | TX | 34.25 |
| | 4th | Jim Hage | AK | 32.50 |
| | 5th | Randy Strong | UT | 24.75 |
| | 6th | Bradley Yoder | UT | 24.38 |
| | 7th | John Ekizian | NV | 21.88 |
| M60 | 1st | Frank Taddonio | AZ | 38.00 |
| | Playoff 2nd | Michael Wouk | CO | 30.60 |
| | 3rd | Mike Robinson | TX | 32.20 |
| | 4th | Gordon Levy | CO | 21.80 |
| | 5th | Joseph McManus | MD | 21.40 |
| | 6th | Jack Morgenroth | OH | 12.60 |
| M65 | 1st | Barry Hendricks | AZ | 35.00 |
| | Playoff 2nd | Fred Roe | CA | 36.40 |
| | 3rd | David Atwood | ID | 26.60 |
| | 4th | David Olson | MN | 25.60 |
| | 5th | Leonard Sonnenberg | CA | 21.20 |
| | 6th | Frank Wall | OR | 10.20 |
| M70 | 1st | Mitch Milewski | NH | 38.00 |
| | Playoff 2nd | David Zabinski | MN | 38.00 |
| | 3rd | Luis Guerrero | CA | 34.29 |
| | 4th | Paul Weymeyer | NJ | 29.67 |
| | 5th | Ed Andrews | CO | 28.67 |
| | 6th | Bill Baker | CA | 24.29 |
| | 7th | Steven Lavorgna | NJ | 25.17 |
| | 8th | Allan Peterson | UT | 21.29 |
| M75 | 1st | Jerry Holly | CA | 31.83 |
| | Playoff 2nd | Toby Dicesare | NV | 26.29 |
| | 3rd | Karl Haaser | UT | 25.57 |
| | 4th | Aaron Vederoff | WA | 19.57 |
| M80 | 1st | David Faux | UT | 37.29 |
| | 2nd | Lewis Edwards | UT | 35.71 |
| | 3rd | Armand Matern | UT | 29.57 |
| | 4th | Mike Martin | CO | 24.86 |
| M85 | 1st | Dick Kincade | CO | 22.00 |

| Division | Place | Names | State | Points |
|-------------|------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| | 2nd | Lee Goldstein | CA | 20.29 |
| | 3rd | Hank Schone | CA | 15.43 |
| | 1st | Ben Marshall | TX | 11.29 |
| MD45 | 1st | John Winings / Michael Stoner | CA | 38.00 |
| | 2nd | Bruce Adams / Craig Nielson | PA | 19.38 |
| MD50 | 1st | Lorin Jensen / Randy Strong | UT | 33.13 |
| | 2nd | Renny Wylie / Steve Neighbors | ID | 32.63 |
| | 3rd | David Reyes / Brook Haws | OR | 31.63 |
| | 4th | Gary Bratt / Kent Gunderson | ID | 29.88 |
| MD55 | 5th | John Haynes / Michael Newman | UT | 22.88 |
| | 6th | John Ekizian / Rob Sandstrom | NV | 16.88 |
| | 1st | Jim Hage / Shane McAfee | AK | 36.89 |
| | 2nd | Howard Walker / Patrick Gibson | TX | 33.11 |
| | 3rd | Gary Bratt / Steve Neighbors | ID | 30.11 |
| | 4th | Bradley Yoder / John Haynes | UT | 26.11 |
| MD60 | 5th | Hans Taala / Rick Betts | HI | 18.78 |
| | 6th | Dale Collett / John McManamon | CO | |
| | 1st | Mike Robinson / Steve Cohen | TX | 35.11 |
| | 2nd | Curt Alatorre-Martin / Frank Taddonio | VA | 32.22 |
| | 3rd | Michael Wouk / Gordon Levy | CO | 25.44 |
| | 4th | Jack Morgenroth / Joseph McManus | OH | 16.44 |
| MD65 | 1st | Mike Pawka / Tom McKie | CA | 37.25 |
| | 2nd | Barry Hendricks / Thomas Lundy | AZ | 35.13 |
| | 3rd | Carl Buere / William Hughes | AZ | 32.00 |

continued on page 14...



top to bottom: Tisinger Tilbury / Mooney Miller WD50+; Aiaga Roffey Ed Roffey XD50+; UVU Coach and Wpro Kristen Bellows; Mitch Milewski Allan Peterson M70+; Jane Chase W50+ and Friend at Banquet; Bob Englund MD80+; Steve Cohen MD60+ Aiaga Roffey XD50+ and Auction Winner Hans Taala MD55+



Mike Martin Gets Journeyman Award From MD80 Partner Amos Rosenbloom



UVU Team Accepts Equipment Donations



Polynesian Participants





Get Ready to Rock in 2013!

The *National Senior Games Association* and the *Greater Cleveland Sports Commission* are excited to host the *2013 Summer National Senior Games* in *Cleveland, Ohio*! Cleveland is a world-class city that will greet the *Summer National Senior Games* with open arms and a commitment to making this a great and memorable event for all. The medal-contending competitions are free for spectators with the majority to take place in Cleveland's vibrant Downtown at our state-of-the-art facilities that include *Cleveland Public Hall, Cleveland State University, Case Western Reserve University, Victory Park Ohio* and the beautiful shores of *Lake Erie*.

Enjoy easy access and travel to the various sites through our *Regional Transit Authority (RTA)* system that will be ready to get you where you need to be with convenient connection points between sites (www.riderta.com). Don't miss out on the excitement between competitions and head over to the *AstraZeneca Athlete Village* and enjoy live entertainment, social events, food and fun while mingling with your peers from all across the United States. Be sure to keep checking our website for more details about the transportation plan and village activities!

In the meantime, we invite you to get involved! A *Year of Vitality* community programming series will also encompass the event, promoting active lifestyles for all with activities and educational opportunities. Kicking off in *July 2012* and leading up to the *Games*, the series will include mostly free activities and special events for people over age 50. For more information on how to participate, visit www.Cleveland2013.com.

Discovering Cleveland, Ohio!

Whether you're a seasoned *Cleveland* visitor or if this will be your first trip, we are thrilled to welcome you and are ready to help you discover our great city! We believe *Cleveland* has something to offer everyone and are confident you will enjoy your stay here. Whether catching an Indians game at *Progressive Field*, exploring the *Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum* or enjoying a show at *PlayhouseSquare Theater*, we invite you to take advantage of everything our community has to offer. Sightseeing opportunities are plentiful with the beautiful beaches along *Lake Erie*, hiking and biking trails in the *Cleveland Metroparks* and city tours that allow you to absorb the city's beautiful architecture and public art. *Cleveland's* outstanding entertainment options, fine dining, museums, great shopping and so much more await your arrival! Learn more at www.cleveland2013.com.

REGISTER NOW FOR A STATE GAME IN YOUR AREA TO QUALIFY FOR THE 2013 SUMMER NATIONAL SENIOR GAMES AT www.nsga.com.

NMRA World Champion Racquetball Player Owes Life to Stem Cell Procedure

By Cindy Tilbury

Last September, the local Pennsylvania paper published the story of Grant (Spony the Clown) Morrill's fight with cancer, including the amazing advances in stem cell treatment he was able to take advantage of.

If you would like to read and listen to more details about Grant's battle and comeback, please follow the link below.

In addition, Grant had his shoulder replaced recently. He hopes to be back for the July NMRA tournament in Raleigh. We wish him all the best for a speedy recovery.

http://www.whptv.com/s/WXzQ5PnOXUG20xb8FNs9Zg.csp#_TzRMRj5LII.email



Editor's Corner — Reflecting, Because I'm Not Playing

By Cindy Tilbury

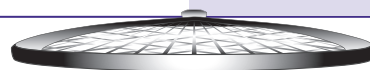
Although I hope and pray I will be ready to play again by July, I am really appreciating racquetball and all that it gives me as I spend eight weeks in two walking casts. Sitting at home, not being able to drive or use my wonderful treadmill or play racquetball, I really miss it and have plenty of time to reflect on what it means to me. I'll have a month to try to get ready for *North Carolina* and I can't wait to get back on the court.

I had scheduled bunion surgery on my left foot and then, two weeks later, the right foot. I have to wear the casts and use crutches and try not to go crazy. There is no good time to be off the court for a few months, so I had to figure out which tournament(s) I would skip. It had to be after the March *NMRA* tournament so I would be healed in time for the *July NMRA* tournament. *National Singles* could be an option again next year.

I haven't had this long a break from racquetball ever, but perhaps it's not a bad thing. I have always taken for granted my health and my sport, but lately I think I'm appreciating it more. It's been a challenge to get a cardio workout without my feet. I can lift weights, and feel as though I have ankle weights on all the time, so I'm embracing the opportunity to work on my arms a lot.

More than the physical aspect of our sport, though, is the social aspect. My weekly and yearly calendar revolve around it; my best friends have all played it at some point; I met my guy Rick through racquetball; I give my charity dollars to growing the sport; and I generally define myself as a racquetball player. Over the years, as I have worked for long periods of time in strange cities, I always knew I wouldn't be alone because I could find the racquetball players and discover a whole new group of friends—I always have someplace to go where I feel at home.

If you are taking it for granted, it's not a bad idea to take a short break from racquetball now and then to appreciate all the wonderfulness of racquetball and the people playing it. **See you back on the court in July!**



NMRA Tour Sponsor Profile:



By Andy Gomer, President and CEO of NES

Net-Centric Enterprise Solutions (NES) is a small business with a global reach. We provide network engineering and IT services to customers whose mission is dependent on highly-secure, highly-reliable networks. Founded with the hallmark of total customer satisfaction - our employees do not rest until each customer is thoroughly satisfied with our services and solutions. Our areas of expertise include:

- Network Design and Implementation
- Network Performance Optimization
- Network Operations and Service Continuity Management
- Cybersecurity

Headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, NES' highly-skilled employees work around the world delivering significant value to our customers on a daily basis.

Editor's Note: Andy and NES have sponsored our last three NMRA tournaments with a cash donation. Don't hesitate to thank Andy for his generosity which allows the tournament directors to provide a better tournament experience for all players. If you or someone you know would like to sponsor a tournament, contact a tournament director or board member. All donations are tax-deductible.



Become an NMRA Benefactor

By Tom Curran

I am writing this on the last day of 'tax filing' day and I am sure there are lots of you thinking, "Tom, this is not the best time for you to be asking for money from me"... Ah... but actually it is....

The NMRA Future Foundation Fund (short name: Future Fund) is a part of the 501(c)(3) IRS designation for our overall organization. That means that any 'donation' given to the fund is totally tax deductible. That should be good news, especially around tax time.

The NMRA Future Fund is designed to ensure the continued operation of our organization. The donations made to the fund CANNOT be used in the day-to-day operation of the NMRA. That money comes from our 'general fund,' which is funded by memberships and whatever 'profit' we may be able to save from an event. I can tell you from six years of experience as one of the NMRA Tournament Directors, after expenses, and donation to youth and US Team programs, there is rarely anything left as a 'profit'.

This is one of the reasons that the Future Fund is so important to the organization. It is designed to be there in the event that we ever have a serious financial crisis or a major loss at one of our events that could jeopardize the overall financial health of the NMRA.

In that kind of situation, the Executive Director (that would be me) of the Future Fund can release funds to the general account to cover the unexpected losses. The only other time that funds are transferred to the General Fund from the Future Fund is when the 'interest' is transferred. This is done on an annual basis.

Before you think that the interest is 'big bucks', let me explain. The interest rate these days, as you are all well aware, is very, very low. The only way that substantial interest can be realized is if the Future Fund was holding well over \$1,000,000.00. I can tell you that we are no where near that amount at this time; however, I am dedicated to doing everything possible for us to get to the point where the endowment is large enough to provide substantial annual revenue to the NMRA General Fund while it continues to support the overall mission of financial health for the NMRA.

For all of you who have donated to the fund, we say "thank you" and always provide a 'letter of contribution' to you to file with your taxes. We sincerely appreciate your dedication to the organization with each donation you make.

In addition to making a 'cash' donation anytime, you can also identify the NMRA Future Foundation Fund in your personal estate.

We have had three individuals who have done this in the past and at least one that I know of who is a living benefactor. That means that they have notified the Fund that an undisclosed amount has been designated to the NMRA Foundation Fund upon their death. Becoming a Benefactor is the easiest way to 'give' and also helps with estate tax issues for your family.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call, email, or send me a letter. Your continued support to the NMRA Future Foundation Fund is greatly appreciated.

Thomas "Tom" Curran,
Executive Director
NMRA Future
Foundation Fund
1015 Cardinal Drive NW
Wilson, NC 27896.
513-490-7472 (cell)

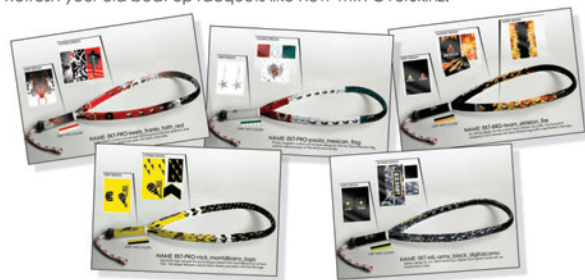
RACQUETSKINZ[®]

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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Now RacquetSkinz is offered for all major brands of racquets! With OverSkinz you send us your existing racquet and we transform it into a completely new design for only \$40. Upgrade your racquet design, bumper, grip, and tether. Refresh your old beat up racquets like new with OverSkinz.



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NMRA 2012 Doubles-Only Championships

Club Sport Pleasanton – Pleasanton, California

December 6-8, 2012 (Thursday, Friday & Saturday)

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

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION SHEET www.nmra.info

Tournament Directors Steve Cohen 714.767.4622 scohen@nmra.info
Tom Curran 513.490.7472 tcurran@nmra.info

Primary Host Club



Club Sport Pleasanton
7090 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94568
925.463.2822
There are 8 courts available for our use.
<http://www.clubsports.com/pleasanton>

Host Hotel



Hilton Pleasanton at The Club
7050 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94568
Reservation information available soon on www.nmra.info
http://www.1.hilton.com/en_US/hi/hotel/PLEPHF-Hilton-Pleasanton-at-The-Club-California/index.do

Enter Online Available soon at <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=9065>
First event--\$140 Second event--\$40 Guests \$65 for the week
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 - soon).
Mail completed entry form and fees by November 26, 2012, to:
NMRA c/o Steve Cohen, 5832 E Bluebonnet Court, Orange, CA 92869

Nearest Airport Oakland OAK 19 Miles

Aternate Airports San Jose SJC 21 Miles
San Francisco SFO 28 Miles (Train to Pleasanton with Hotel Pickup)

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 Servicing OAK All Major Airlines

Tournament Check-In Wednesday, December 5, 2012, 5:30 to 7:30 at the Club

Things To Do / Attractions Shopping, museums, golfing, wineries, visiting nearby San Francisco, San Jose, Silicon Valley
<http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/visiting/>

RV Parks There are three RV Parks close to ClubSport Pleasanton.
<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=rv+parks+near+pleasanton+ca&hl=en&fb=1&gl=us&hq=rv+parks&hnear=Pleasanton,+Alameda,+California&t=m&z=14>

Average Temperature Pleasanton December – High 56° F – Low 39° F – Average 49° F
Precipitation 2.5 Inches

Local Utah player Dave Faux won the M80s and the MD80s with Armand Matern and got a spotlight article written about him in the *Utah Valley Daily Herald*. Read it online at http://www.heraldextra.com/news/local/octogenarian-still-a-champ-on-the-racquetball-court/article_0d218aa1-d72b-5128-a8b8-84ba935c5c87.html.

more NMRA Tidbits...

Thanks to everyone who has donated to the NMRA Future Fund. Donations from the March 2012 tournament in Utah alone totaled \$850! See the article in this newsletter about the future fund!

Our treasurer, Steve Cohen, reports that the NMRA general operating fund is in fantastic shape. After buying our medals (for winners) for the next few years, we still have thousands of dollars in the bank to further the sport of racquetball. We try to add a little to this by earning a profit on each tournament, but just in case a tournament does not make a profit, we are comfortable that the NMRA is healthy enough to continue to provide the best tournaments for your travel dollar.

Don't forget to join and friend the NMRA Facebook site page. Howard Walker is the guy who updates information for you on the Facebook page. He would love to hear from you!

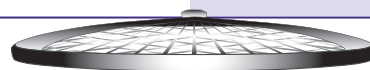
The winner of the 2012 John



Lomonaco Grant was Jessica Swartz Amezcuca of Portland, Oregon. Jessica wrote a strong essay telling the USAR committee

why she would love to visit the *National Singles* tournament in Fullerton, CA in July. Her essay was chosen as the best among this year's 20+ applicants. She wins an all-expense-paid trip to Fullerton and a VIP pass to watch the pros. I also plan to introduce myself and see if she will consider playing in the NMRA *Doubles-Only* tournament in December. Good luck in your matches, Jessica.

Join us in congratulating John Winings from northern California (Valley Springs) on his NMRA Sportsmanship award. We surprised John in March at the tournament banquet, where his acts of sportsmanship on and off the court were told to everyone. Since the NMRA is all about fair play and camaraderie, this is a very special award for us to give. If you know of someone who is deserving of this honor, please let a board member hear about it as soon as you can.





ENTRY FORM

NMRA DOUBLES-ONLY CHAMPIONSHIPS



DECEMBER 6-8, 2012 (Thursday, Friday & Saturday)

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

CLUB SPORT PLEASANTON - 7090 Johnson Dr. - Pleasanton, CA 94568 - 925.463.2822

Mail-In Entry Must Be POSTMARKED NLT NOV 19, 2012

Online Entries Must Be COMPLETED BY NOV 22, 2012

Online entries at: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=9065> Limit of 120 Players - ENTER EARLY

Tournament Directors: Steve Cohen 714.767.4622 & Tom Curran 513.490.7472

Please Print — Be Legible, Complete & Accurate

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: Cell _____

Home _____

Work _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

DOB: m____ / d____ / yr____ Age on 12/6/2012 _____

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, Club Sport Pleasanton 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 ** (3 years) | \$ 45 | \$ _____ |
| USRA Membership (1 year) | \$ 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 at Club Sport Pleasanton
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 11/22/2012

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:

Not For Ladies Only – A Short ‘Mom’ Story

By Cindy Tilbury



I'm writing this right before *Mother's Day*, and I wanted to share an apt story.

I've always been envious of athletes who can compete at high levels with their sisters or brothers—singles or doubles would be so amazingly great! My sister plays tennis and one of my brothers plays disc golf. I can never convince them to get serious about my sport, even though it was the disc golf brother who taught me to play racquetball back in about 1980. Waaa.

I recently had something even better happen, though. I was planning for the *January 2011 WSMRA tournament in Sarasota, Florida*, and making arrangements to have my Mom come down and spend the weekend with me at the tournament and beach.

It suddenly struck me that, since Mom is a really good tennis player and has actually played racquetball once or twice, she can play in the 75s and do well. I looked at the draws and, sure enough, **Lola Markus** had moved up to the 80s and everyone else was younger. Mom could win the 75s and I would try to win the 50s.

I had to convince her, and it wasn't easy, but I just KNEW it would make the weekend for both of us. If she was involved in her own matches, she would make friends and get a great workout, and not just be "Cindy's Mom." She would be "**Karen Porter, who is in the 75s.**" If you have ever accompanied an athlete to their tournament, you KNOW what I mean. She was very reluctant, so I had **Kim Roy** from *Tampa* work with her for a few hours, reviewing the rules and getting her going with the different stroke and dealing with the walls. Kim was so great! She is used to working with beginners, and Mom was an "experienced" beginner. Mom was still skeptical, but realized she could do it.

Mom had five matches, and all of the ladies in the combined divisions were great to her. She didn't win a game, but she didn't get any zeroes or incur any injuries, either. I was so proud of her. We all were. She was as cute as a bug on and off the court during the whole weekend, and she had the time of her life! She even danced a little at the banquet, because all of the ladies dragged her onto the floor—even the ones whom I didn't know.

Monday, she was back to her *USTA* leagues.

She is now "**Karen Porter, who WON the 75s,**" and she is so glad she did it! I was happy to take third place in the 50s, so we have matching trophies—mine is much smaller. I don't see her very often, but I hope I can convince her to put down the tennis racquet again for future *NMRA* or *WSMRA* tournaments and join all of her newly-made friends.

Side note: **Tina Marchie** also played in the *January* tournament. Tina had been accompanying **Jean Halahan** to *NMRA* and other tournaments for years, and finally entered the tournament. She was really glad she did, too, and now she is competing in *NMRA* tournaments. We have to recruit our ladies one at a time, but once we get them, they are hooked!



Lola Markus and Karen Porter



more NMRA Tidbits...

At the Orem, Utah, tournament, it was so amazing and gratifying to see a big number of Polynesians playing and supporting their friends! Long-time player **Aiaga Roffey** is of Samoan descent, and we knew her well, but many of the other Samoans and Hawaiians who played were first-time players. It seems there is a *Brigham Young University* campus in Hawaii, so there is a strong connection between the two states. What a small world! We know they had a great time and we expect to see them all back for the 2013 *Doubles-Only* tournament, if not before!

The *Utah Valley University* racquetball team worked the tournament desk during the entire Utah tournament. We donated several racquets, bags, gloves and other equipment to the team to help them get to Intercollegiates, where they had a strong showing. Thanks to the racquet manufacturers who donated equipment—*E-Force, Ektelon, Wilson* and *Gearbox*, along with *Racquetball Warehouse* and *Racquetskinz*. We hope to donate to the *North Carolina State Wolfpack* racquetball team in July, too.

In Utah, at the banquet, we held our usual last-registered-night-for-free host hotel winners. Those lucky people were:

- John McManoman
- Ralph Stillman
- Debbie Tisinger-Moore

The *RacquetSkinz* special tournament racquet auction winner (where the money went to *USA Adult Team*) was:

- **Brook Haws** from the Provo area

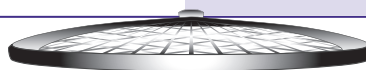
The winners of the *USAR* racquetball statue raffle (where the money also went to *USA Adult Team*) were:

- **Hans Taala** from Hawaii
- **Ed Andrews** from Grand Junction, CO

In Utah, we did well attracting new players:

- Number of first-time players: 20
- Number of new or first-time *NMRA* members: 16

If you plan to play in the *National Senior Games* in 2013 in Cleveland, you **MUST** qualify at a *State Senior Games*. Go to www.nsga.com to find a *State Games* near you and then to register for the big tournament in July 2013, shortly after the *NMRA Milwaukee* tournament.



EKTELON & RUBEN GONZALEZ HAVE DONE IT AGAIN!

Introducing a new lighter and even more powerful version of the most popular racquet of 2011!



NEW!

EXO³ RG TORON LITE

Ektelon's lightest and most powerful racquet ever!
Ultra light 160 gram frame.
4300 Power Level - *our highest level ever!*
Headcover included.



"I switched to this racquet in mid season and one week later won the first IRT Tier 1 event of my career. I feel like I have a new weapon in my hand. It feels so light and the extra power is amazing!"

-Jose Rojas - IRT #4

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AUTHORIZED EKTELON
DEALER TO DEMO AN
EXO³ RG TORON SERIES
RACQUET TODAY!**

EXO³ RG TORON

The most powerful racquet of 2011!
Awesome power and vibration dampening.
170 gram frame.
4200 Power Level.

 **EKTELON**
PLAY WITH FIRE

WWW.EKTELON.COM

Special Journeyman Award Winner Mike Martin

By Michael Rand of the Minneapolis Star Tribune



Amos Rosenbloom and Mike Martin

Golden, Colorado, resident **Mike Martin** said he was “a little surprised” to find out he was going to receive the *Journeyman Players Award* given out by the *National Masters Racquetball Association* during a tournament March 6-10 in Provo, Utah.

But when considering the spirit of the award – of which Martin was the seventh recipient – the only surprise is that Martin was surprised. The *Journeyman Players Award* is given to

an athlete who loves the game and plays for the health of the game, according to the *NMRA*.

That sure sounds like Martin, 84, who has been playing racquetball for more than three decades and, indeed, competed in the tournament at which he was honored.

“It has multiple benefits,” Martin said. “It’s good for me physically. It’s good for me mentally. I love it. Unlike going to the rec center and working on the treadmill or something, it’s a ➤

[fun] way of getting exercise and staying healthy.”

Martin has been playing racquet sports for more than 70 years. He started with tennis while growing up in *England*. During *World War II*, his family moved to *California*, where Martin attended high school. He went back to *England* for college and was a member of the *British Army* for three years.

Along the way, he picked up squash – a sport with several structural similarities to racquetball, albeit with separate rules and a smaller ball among the differences. Martin became a mining engineer – a career path that took him to Canada before eventually bringing him to the Denver area in 1980.

“I played squash really until I came to Denver, and I couldn’t find enough squash partners,” Martin said. “That’s when I switched to racquetball.”

Martin still plays racquetball three times a week – twice a week in a league at a fitness club in the *Denver* area and a session of pick-up games on Saturdays – and said he finds it easier on his body than tennis, which he gave up several years ago after experiencing shoulder pain.

He estimated that he attends three of every four tournaments put on by the *NMRA*, which was founded in 1971 and attracts an average of nearly 200 players to its events.

Martin partnered with **Amos Rosenbloom** of *Minnesota* in the doubles event at the recent competition *Utah*. He was thrilled to win the *Journeyman Players Award* in spite of feeling surprised by it.

“Exactly why they chose me for the honor, I’m not sure,” Martin said. “I’m sure there are other people [worthy].”

He paused for a moment, then added, “though I’m sure there are not too many people playing at my age.”

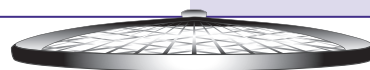
Along those lines, Martin – who also stays active by biking in the summer – said he has no plans to stop playing any time soon.

“I actually pulled a muscle on the last day of the tournament and had to drop out of the last match,” he said. “But that will heal. It will just take a little while.”

And when it does? “Racquetball is my game of choice while I can still play,” Martin said. ○

NMRA National Championships Results continued from page 7

| Division | Place | Names | State | Points | Division | Place | Names | State | Points |
|-------------|------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|----------------|------------|--|-----------|--------------|
| | 4th | David Olson / Fred Roe | MN / CA | 26.00 | WD50 | 1st | Debbie Tisinger / Cindy Tilbury | CA | 37.50 |
| | 5th | Leonard Sonnenberg / Steven Lavorgna | CA / NJ | 19.38 | | 2nd | Gladys Leonard / Marni Wagner | VA / OR | 29.83 |
| | 6th | David Atwood / Ed Cannon | ID / UT | 14.00 | | 3rd | Grace Jaworsky / Jane Chase | KS / UT | 27.83 |
| MD70 | 1st | Mitch Milewski / Luis Guerrero | NH | 32.25 | WD55 | 1st | Carmen Alatorre-Martin / Leslie Pawka | VA | 32.83 |
| | 2nd | David Zabinski / Peter Pustorino | MN / MN | 23.13 | | 2nd | Melanie Newsome / Vicky Reyes | NC / OR | 14.67 |
| | 3rd | William Gould / Karl Haaser | UT / UT | 17.13 | | 3rd | Lani Neer / Masa Fonoimoana | UT / UT | 13.17 |
| MD80 | 1st | Armand Matern / David Faux | UT | 38.00 | XD45 | 1st | Gladys Leonard / Brook Haws | VA | 30.60 |
| | 2nd | Ralph Stillman / Robert Englund | MN / MN | 31.13 | Playoff | 2nd | Marni Wagner / John Winings | OR / CA | 34.80 |
| | 3rd | Lee Goldstein / Lewis Edwards | CA / UT | 25.13 | | 3rd | Grace Jaworsky / Brian Pella | MO / UT | 27.00 |
| | 4th | Amos Rosenbloom / Mike Martin | MN / CO | 15.75 | | 4th | Deann Mooney / Dodd Lowe | MT / MT | 20.40 |
| MD85 | 1st | Dick Kincade / John Prigmore | CO | 24.13 | XD50 | 1st | Aiaga Roffey / Ed Roffey | CO | 27.40 |
| W45 | 1st | Susan Miller | UT | 27.78 | Playoff | 2nd | Julia Mouser / Bruce Adams | OK / CA | 32.00 |
| W50 | 1st | Debbie Tisinger | CA | 38.00 | | 3rd | Jane Chase / Hans Taala | UT / HI | 26.60 |
| | 2nd | Cindy Tilbury | CA | 35.44 | XD55 | 1st | Carmen Alatorre-Martin / Patrick Gibson | VA | 35.80 |
| | 3rd | Julia Mouser | CA | 27.67 | | 2nd | Vicky Reyes / David Reyes | OR / OR | 16.00 |
| | 4th | Aiaga Roffey | CO | 24.33 | XD60 | 1st | Shirley Parsons / Steve Cohen | CO | 38.00 |
| W55 | 1st | Melanie Newsome | NC | 19.00 | XD70 | 1st | Marquita Molina / Bill Baker | CO | 16.00 |
| W60 | 1st | Sharon Huczek | MI | 25.89 | | 2nd | Sylvia Sawyer / Roger Flick | UT / UT | 10.20 |
| | 2nd | Shirley Parsons | CO | 25.22 | | | | | |
| W65 | 1st | Lani Neer | UT | 17.33 | | | | | |
| W70 | 1st | Marquita Molina | CA | 15.00 | | | | | |
| WD45 | 1st | Deeann Mooney / Susan Miller | MT | 32.17 | | | | | |



more NMRA Tidbits...

More Utah news—During the March 2012 tournament, we drastically misjudged how many people would be staying at the host hotel, the Provo Marriott. This would have cost us a LOT of money, but we made a deal with the hotel to come back and use their hotel again in December of 2013 for the *Doubles-Only* tournament. Skiing, anyone? (After the tournament!) Oddly enough, our block of rooms at the host hotel filled up months before the deadline for our *Raleigh* tournament. We had to bump the number up to accommodate our players. The contract with the host hotel is only one of the details of planning our NMRA tournaments. I hope you will thank your tournament directors for all of their hard work the next time you see them!

The NMRA would still love to have a person or persons who work hard to get sponsorship deals for us. This would be a commissioned role and we would be most grateful for any sponsorships that person would bring in. Talk to Howard Walker if you would like to know more details about this.

It's time to get your application in for the Lomonaco Grant! You may remember that this grant winner gets to go to his/her first USA Racquetball National Singles in Fullerton with all expenses paid. Contact the USA Racquetball board member, Larry Haemmerle, for details on how to apply. Good luck!

Online and by US Mail, many of our members send along donations with their entry fees. We sincerely appreciate each and every dollar you all donate. Thank you!

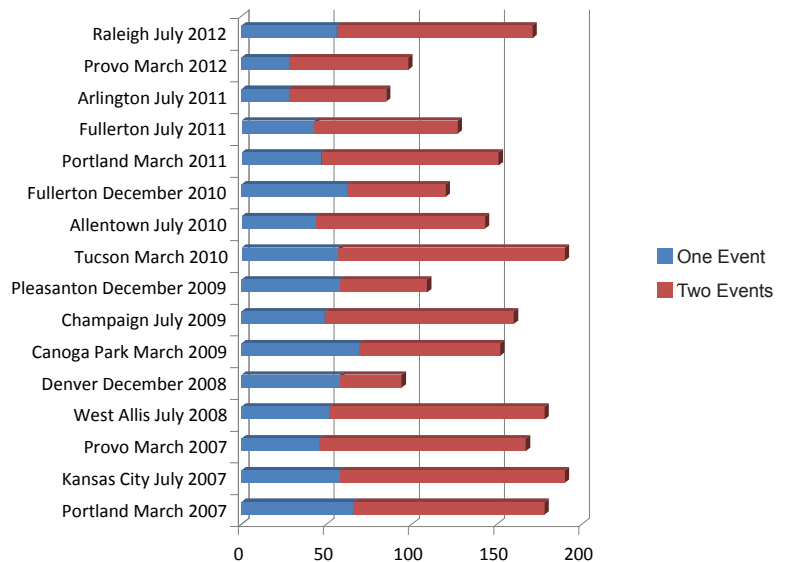
Overheard at a recent national competition, "As your coach, I recommend you take two weeks off, and then quit the sport forever." (He was just kidding!!!)

Recently, our own NMRA member Frank Taddonio was elected to the USAR Board of Directors. I'm sure you all voted for him in the online election. Congratulations to Frank! We have a LOT of NMRA people helping run USAR amateur racquetball now. Thanks to you all for donating your time and expertise to the greatest sport in the world. ○

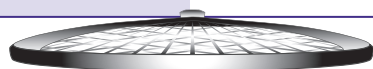
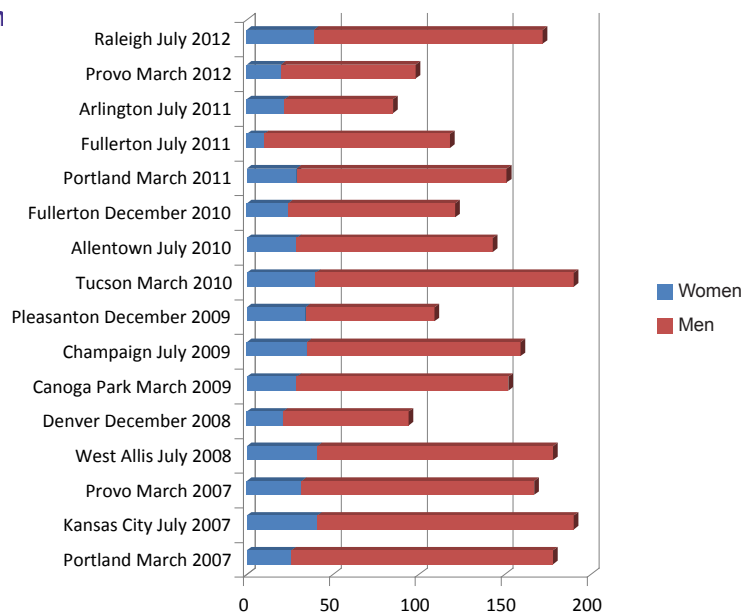
NMRA Tournament Statistics Since 2007

| Tournament | Total Players | Guests | One Event | Two Events | Women | Men |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------|-----------|------------|-------|-----|
| Portland March 2007 | 178 | 28 | 66 | 112 | 26 | 152 |
| Kansas City July 2007 | 190 | 34 | 58 | 132 | 41 | 149 |
| Provo March 2007 | 167 | 18 | 46 | 121 | 32 | 135 |
| West Allis July 2008 | 178 | 23 | 52 | 126 | 41 | 137 |
| Denver December 2008 | 94 | 5 | 58 | 36 | 21 | 73 |
| Canoga Park March 2009 | 152 | 12 | 69 | 83 | 29 | 123 |
| Champaign July 2009 | 159 | 21 | 49 | 111 | 35 | 124 |
| Pleasanton December 2009 | 109 | 5 | 58 | 51 | 34 | 75 |
| Tucson March 2010 | 190 | 24 | 57 | 133 | 40 | 150 |
| Allentown July 2010 | 143 | 24 | 44 | 99 | 29 | 114 |
| Fullerton December 2010 | 121 | 4 | 62 | 58 | 24 | 97 |
| Portland March 2011 | 151 | 20 | 47 | 104 | 29 | 122 |
| Fullerton July 2011 | 127 | 10 | 43 | 84 | 10 | 108 |
| Arlington July 2011 | 85 | 5 | 28 | 57 | 22 | 63 |
| Provo March 2012 | 98 | 10 | 28 | 70 | 20 | 78 |
| Raleigh July 2012 | 172 | 25 | 56 | 115 | 39 | 133 |

Number of Participant Events



Total Participant by Gender





NMRA TOURNAMENT Trail 2012-2013

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

| | | | | |
|--------------|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Jun 14-17 | IRF World Senior Doubles 35+ | San Pedro Sula, Honduras | Gary Mazaroff | www.internationalracquetball.com |
| Jul 18-21 | NMRA International Championships | Raleigh, NC | Steve Cohen Tom Curran | www.nmra.info |
| Aug 27-Sep 1 | IRF World Seniors 35+ | Albuquerque, NM | Gary Mazaroff | www.internationalracquetball.com |
| Oct 3-7 | US Open | Minneapolis, MN | USAR | www.usra.org |
| Oct 26-28 | Men of October 80+ | Sun City, AZ | Greg Steger Jan Warren | www.nmra.info or jpow-erfede@yahoo.com |
| Nov 2-4 | All Military National Championships | San Diego, CA | Steven Harper | www.militaryracquetball.com |
| Dec 7-9 | NMRA Doubles-Only 40+ | Pleasanton, CA | Steve Cohen | www.nmra.info |
| Jan 18-20 | WSMRA Singles 35+ | Arlington, TX | Kendra Tutsch | www.wsmra.com or kdtutsch@wisc.edu |
| Feb 6-10 | USAR National Doubles | Phoenix, AZ | USAR | www.usra.org |
| Mar 6-9 | NMRA National Championships | Tucson, AZ | Tom Curran | www.nmra.info |
| Apr | USAR Regionals | Various, US | USAR | www.usra.org |
| May 22-27 | US National Singles | Fullerton, CA | USAR | www.usra.org |

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