



RACQUET RACKET

FALL 2020

Official Newsletter of the National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA)

INSIDE This Issue:

- | President's Corner 2
- | Player Profile..... 2
- | Doubles-Only Champ's.... 3
- | Results..... 8
- | NMRA Passings 12
- | Nat'l Championships.. 13
- | NMRA Ladies 17
- | Player Profile 21
- | Tournament Trail..... 24
- | NMRA Board..... 24

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Maryland NMRA/LPRT Tournament

Don't Miss Out!!!
Severna Park, Maryland,
Doubles-Only,
December 9-11, 2020.

The LPRT Pro Ladies start their round of 32 matches just after.

Show your support by entering, or watching the tournament!

See details in NMRA 2020 Update article to the right.

Register TODAY!

NMRA 2020 Update

By Cindy Tilbury

Hi 40+ Racquetball Players! Even if you read the Summer 2020 newsletter carefully, I hope you will also take time to read (maybe even print out) this **REVISED** newsletter that has new information since the last one was sent out. Rather than create a whole new edition, I just wanted to update all of the tournament information sheets and entry forms. Things To Do pages are also updated.

The US Open has been postponed a year; references to those dates have been changed. There have just been so many changes since the summer that I HAD to update you all.

I also knew that our Maryland postponement might not have been effectively communicated. We are ON for Severna Park, Maryland, doubles-only, December 9-11, 2020. Corona Virus procedures will probably be implemented so that we can't have the club full of watchers, but we know it will be a successful event and we

are excited to be back competing in a socially-distanced environment. As soon as we finish our last match, the LPRT pro ladies will be starting their round of 32 matches, and you are invited to watch (or enter that tournament). Singles players will definitely want to consider the LPRT pro stop divisions. Call me if you have questions on all of that. The banquet is set for Friday, December 11.

Also mark your calendars for March 10-13, 2021, in St. Louis. Summer will be in Chicago again!

NMRA 2019 Hall of Fame Inductee Marcia Richards

By Cindy Tilbury

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

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

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

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



Congratulations

NMRA Tidbits

By Cindy Tilbury

Racquetball in Unexpected Places

Parks and Recreation Season 1 Episode 1 "Pilot" original air date, April 9, 2009 -

Amy Poehler's character Leslie Knope muses about creating an amazing park from a dirt lot pit that it should have tennis courts and racquetball courts.

Parks and Recreation Season 6 Episode 5 "Gin It Up!" original air date, October 17, 2013 -

20 Minutes in, **Rob Lowe's** character, Chris Traeger, says to Amy Poehler's Character, Leslie Knope: "I like thinking...and racquetball." A minute later: "Language is fun, like racquetball for your mouth."

Dennis Miller *Option Podcast July 14, 2020* - About 9 minutes in, Dennis Miller jokes that they should have kept the Berlin Wall and turned it into racquetball courts.

Discovery Channel series game show *Dodgeball Thunderdome*. Every episode's last ten minutes has an awesome racquetball-shooting Gatling gun with about 200 blue racquetballs loaded. They are blue, so they don't count toward elimination on the show—only red ones do—but they are lots of fun when they are blasting at the other team.

President's Corner -

By Cindy Tilbury, NMRA President

Hey everyone! I hope you are back on the court after a long absence and hunkering down. Here in *Los Angeles County*, our club is the only one open, as *LA Fitness* has not tried to make racquetball available. As you can imagine, we have quite a few new members—so great to know there were all of these players that I had not even met.



It's time for our regular NMRA business of electing board directors.

Usually, I have three candidates for three director openings, so the actual election is not much of a nail-biter. This year, however, is a little different—I only have one candidate, **Mike Grisz**, for three director openings. If it were a normal year, I would have my team scour the membership to find two candidates and wait until I had them. But this is not a normal year and I am just going to proceed with NOT having an election and hope that this article inspires someone to volunteer so I can appoint him/her. If you are interested in serving on our board, learning how we do things, and maybe

even become an officer like President in the future, give me a call at 303.888.4461 and I can talk to you about the time/skill commitment. For now, there is no ballot in this newsletter and no online election on *R2Sports*. Next year.

You'll see in the back pages of this newsletter that one of our board members has passed away. I will be forever grateful to **Bruce Adams** as he steps in yet again to support our organization. Bruce is filling in as a temporary board director until that term is up. Bruce already helps us in so many ways, and now he will also vote and keep us at an odd number of directors for important votes. **Thank you, Bruce!**

NMRA Player Profile - Marcus Riggins, Atlanta GA

By Cindy Tilbury

NMRA has a lot of characters among our members.



Since all of our members / readers have quite a bit of history behind them, you may remember Marcus Riggins from the *National Football League Pittsburgh Steelers* back in the 1980s. I had a chance to interview Marcus Riggins recently after the NMRA made a stop in *Atlanta, Georgia*. Marcus played his second NMRA tournament, Men's Doubles 55s, and was happy to have us come to his home town.

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

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

He graduated from *Howard University* in

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

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



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



111

143

1.5K



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Penn.

2020 NMRA DOUBLES-ONLY CHAMPIONSHIP



Registration - Tuesday, Dec. 8 | Play - Dec. 9-11, 2020

Severna Park Racquetball & Fitness, 8514 Veterans Hwy., Millersville, MD 21108

Entry By Mail Must Be POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN: 11/24/2020

Online Entries Must Be COMPLETED BY: 11/28/2020 Questions? Call Cindy at 303.888.4461

<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=32053> Sign-up EARLY! Stay longer for the LPRT tourney.

Hotel: DoubleTree Laurel, 15101 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD 20707 (301.776.5300) Code NMA

Please Print — Be Legible, Complete & Accurate

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Mobile Phone: _____

Email: _____

DOB: m ____ / d ____ / yr ____ Age on 12/09/2020 ____

Waiver: I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims that I may have against the NMRA, USAR, and Severna Park Racquetball & Fitness Club and their staff, and all sponsors or their respective agents, for any and all injuries or damages of any nature which I, my spouse or my guest(s) may incur as a result of my participation in this tournament. I also acknowledge the potential risk of eye injury during competition, and can certify in writing that my protective eye guards (including prescription frames/lenses) conform to all standards specified in USA Racquetball Rule 2.5(a). By registering to compete in this event, I consent to and release all rights to the use of event photographs in which my image appears.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

FEES: No refunds of any fees after 11/28/2020

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

*Guest(s) Name(s): _____

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

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

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

Friday Sandwich Lunch preference:

____ Turkey ____ Tuna ____ Roast Beef ____ Veggie

LIMIT OF TWO EVENTS

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

DOUBLES PARTNER(S): Please Print

Name/Div/Age Bracket: _____

Name/Div/Age Bracket: _____

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

__Yes __No Would you play a 2nd Doubles if someone needs a partner?

__Yes __No Would you play a Mixed Doubles if someone needs a partner?

Emergency Contact Information:

Name _____

Phone # _____

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

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

The National Masters Racquetball Association is a not for profit 501 (c)(3) organization of men and women racquetball players who are age 45 to 95+ years young. Visit us at nationalmastersracquetball.org.



NMRA 2020 Doubles-Only Championships

Millersville, MD | December 9-11, 2020 (Wednesday - Friday)

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

Tournament Directors / Staff	Cindy Tilbury 303.888.4461 cindy.tilbury@att.net Karen Grisz ktracquetball@gmail.com Steve Graham - On-Site Host Panel of Three Members - Rules Committee
Host Club	Severna Park Racquetball & Fitness – 7 Panel-Walled Courts 204 8514 Veterans Highway, Millersville, MD 21108 / 410.987.0980 http://sprfc.com Bring your own lock; Bring a swimsuit; Towel service available. Some practice courts available on December 7 and 8. Lunch and fruit available near the courts. Stay the weekend to watch (or play in) the LPRT Pro Stop!! Same club!
	
Secondary Host Club	Check R2Sports.com Tourney Site for Updates If required, we will line up more courts nearby. Lunch will be available ONLY at the primary club.
	Doubletree Laurel 15101 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD 20707 Call 301.776.5300 to Register (or Link on R2Sports Site) Use Code NMA \$109 + Tax Per Night King Room (Up to 2 People); \$119 + Tax Per Night Two-Bed Room Rates available until July 1, 2020, but please reserve early (30 reserved) Rate includes FULL HOT BREAKFAST, wireless internet access, free happy hour drinks, mini-refrigerator, fitness center, and more. RV parking is free in the parking lot, without hookups.
Enter Online	Enter online (best option) by November 28, 2020, at http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=32053 First event--\$85 Second event--\$25 Guests \$70 for the week We will help you find a doubles partner and/or roommate. (Try the "Find a Partner" list feature of R2sports). Credit card convenience fee will be charged.
	
Enter via US Mail	Fill out the entry form at www.nmra.info (Tournament Info page). Make check payable to NMRA. Mail completed entry form and fees by November 24, 2020 to: NMRA / Cindy Tilbury, 23308 Bocana Street, Malibu, CA 90265
Refunds	Refunds are available until November 28, 2020, when shirts will be ordered, banquet dinners will be committed, and match scheduling will be completed.
Nearest Airport	Baltimore/Washington International Airport (BWI) www.baltimore-airport.com 10 Miles South of Baltimore / 32 Miles Northeast of Washington DC; I-95 and 295, Baltimore, MD 21240 Make your flight reservations early.
Alternate Airport	Ronald Reagan National Airport (DCA). Only recommended if sightseeing in Washington DC 2401 Smith Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22202
Airlines Flying into BWI & DCA	Most major airlines fly into both BWI and DCA.
Airport Taxi / Shuttle	Joe Williams will be our transportation concierge. He can provide airport rides for less than other options. Uber and Lyft are good choices. Taxi No reservations necessary / \$100 one-way estimated fare Try the "Share a Ride" list feature of www.r2sports.com when registering for this tournament.
Shuttle to Club(s)	Shuttle van driven by Joe Williams, provided from host hotel to club. Call Joe at 402.309.4260. Tips are appreciated.
Parking at Host Club(s)	Free.
Directions from Airport BWI to Doubletree Laurel	20 Miles (Non-Toll Road) / 23 Minutes https://goo.gl/maps/wgsjBCZab72tuvUAA

continued on Page 5...

NMRA 2020 Doubles-Only Championships INFORMATION SHEET continued from page 4...

Directions from Doubletree to SPRFC	24 Miles North / 30 Minutes https://goo.gl/maps/rqNt8GwZrqHday9F8
Tournament Check-In	Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 5:00 to 8:00 pm in the club near the courts. (Check www.r2sports.com for venue changes) Let the Desk Staff know you are there for the racquetball tourney. Light appetizers and drinks, with player meeting at 7:00 pm. Plan to stay and socialize!
Tournament Souvenir	A high-quality shirt will be given out at check-in. Extra shirts will be available for sale.
Play Begins / Ends	8:00 am Wednesday, December 9, to 2:00 pm Friday, December 11, 2020 Every division plays every day (Wednesday through Friday) Please show consideration for all players and remember that we play every bracket every day of the event. Schedule your travel arrangements accordingly. ID/Bagtag may be required at the club(s).
Tournament Ball	<i>Penn Pro Green</i> is the Official Ball of the <i>NMRA</i> .
Tournament Scoring	All round robins, self-refereed matches. Every division will play two games to 15. Large “pool play” divisions will have Friday playoff matches where the format will be two games to 15, tiebreaker to 11 if needed. Bonus points are awarded for winning games (2 per game) and the match (4). Ties will split the extra four match points. Points are automatically calculated by the R2sports tournament software. When any team or player must forfeit, average scores will be used to determine final results of the division or pool. If a forfeit occurs during a match, the opposing team or player will be awarded points required to finish the match. You must play <u>all</u> of your matches in a division to receive a medal. In rare circumstances, a “watcher” may be requested of the tournament director to settle disputes. Because of the number of courts and days available, some round robins may have fewer matches than previous <i>NMRA</i> tournaments. Two matches per day for six matches per division is customary. Pool play playoffs may have three matches. Everyone will get plenty of racquetball.
Appeals	The <i>NMRA</i> has a Rules Committee that can be used by the players to submit an appeal on a rule (immediately) or issue (not necessarily immediately) that arises during the event. The decision of the Rules Committee is final and binding on all parties concerned.
Tournament Awards	<i>NMRA</i> medals will be awarded to First through Fourth place winners for each bracket. Combined brackets will be awarded medals based on age. No medal will be awarded for the combined division itself.
Eligibility	<i>USAR</i> -sanctioned; Current <i>USAR</i> membership is required to participate. Entries will not be accepted without payment for <i>USAR</i> membership. <i>NMRA</i> membership is required for all, EXCEPT players who are playing in their FIRST <i>NMRA</i> event. Special recognition and gift for first-time players and new <i>NMRA</i> members will be given out.
Breakfast / Morning Hospitality	Full hot breakfast is included in the price of the Doubletree Laurel host hotel. Fruit and drinks available at Severna Park Racquetball & Fitness.
Lunch	Available near the courts at Severna Park Racquetball & Fitness only. Check for details during the tournament. Planned lunch times will be 11:30 am to about 2:00 pm. Match times may be scheduled around lunch, but please get a lunch and set it aside if you are playing and will want to eat afterward.
Evening Hospitality	Available at Severna Park Racquetball & Fitness only—not a substitute for dinner.
Banquet	Thursday night, December 10, 2020, at the Doubletree Laurel Ballroom Cash bar at 6:00 pm; Dinner & program from approximately 7:00 to 9:00 pm Videos, slide shows and possible award (fun and serious) presentations are customary. Don't miss this!
Baltimore / Washington Activities and Attractions	Shopping, museums, monuments, NFL Football, gambling, brewery tours, much more. See the separate handout of Things To Do in Baltimore/Washington at our nmra.info website.
RV Parks	There are several RV parks with hookups near the host hotel. https://www.google.com/maps/search/rv+parks/@39.0936042,-76.9112708,12z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m8!2m7!3m6!1srv+parks!2sSport+Fit+Laurel+Racquet.+204+Fort+Meade+Rd.+Laurel.+MD+20707!3s0x89b7dd693bfe55f9:0x568caaccf29b5e5d!4m2!1d-76.8412303!2d39.093451 .
Laundromats	Here is a list of laundromats near the host hotel. https://www.google.com/maps/search/laundromat/@39.0934756,-76.8499851,15z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m8!2m7!3m6!1slaundromat!2sSport+Fit+Laurel+Racquet.+204+Fort+Meade+Rd.+Laurel.+MD+20707!3s0x89b7dd693bfe55f9:0x568caaccf29b5e5d!4m2!1d-76.8412303!2d39.093451 .

continued on Page 6...

MORE **NMRA**
Tidbits

Racquetball in Unexpected Places

Bruce Adams reports
Young & Restless
November 2019

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

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

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

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

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

NMRA Membership Update

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

Doubles Partners	Contact Cindy Tilbury for a doubles partner or roommate cindy.tilbury@att.net or 303.888.4461 Please try the "Need a Doubles Partner" list feature of R2Sports when registering. There are also "Need a Roommate" and "Need a Ride" lists.
R2Sports App Free Download	To better follow the tournament and get notifications for your matches and results, please download the free R2Sports app. For questions, contact Ryan or Tish at R2Sports.com. Info and download links here. www.r2sports.com/tournament-app.asp .
Player Profiles / Shirt Sizes	It is extremely important that you keep your player profile, including shirt size , up-to-date in the www.r2sports.com system. The profile is used to help you enter tournaments online and, more importantly, to contact you with the latest tournament information and changes when you enter tournaments. This profile is the same as your www.nmra.info and www.usra.org profile. Contact the USAR staff in Colorado Springs at 719.635.5396 if you need a little help getting started or remembering your password for this feature.
Average Temperatures & Altitude	Baltimore in June – High 84° F – Low 63° F – Average 74° F Precipitation in June -- 4.3 Inches; Altitude is 164 feet above Sea Level.

THINGS TO DO in Washington, DC

By *Karen Grisz and Tracie Valentine*

Museums www.si.edu	One of the best things about DC is the Smithsonian museums, which are all FREE! • See dinosaurs and the Hope Diamond at Natural History • See Betsy Ross' flag and Dorothy's Ruby Slippers at American History • See the Wright Bros. plane and an Apollo lunar module at Air and Space
Monuments https://www.nps.gov/nama/index.htm	Nice day? Walk in and around the National Mall to see the Washington Monument, Jefferson Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, the war memorials (WWII, Vietnam, and Korean), FDR Memorial and MLK Memorial.
National Zoo	Like the museums, FREE! See the pandas and many other animals at this park-like zoo. https://nationalzoo.si.edu/
Library of Congress	Take a free one-hour guided tour of America's oldest cultural institution. https://www.loc.gov/visit/
National Archives	See the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. www.archives.gov
Shows/Music/Plays	DC is home to many theatres – check out the Kennedy Center, Arena Stage, Warner Theatre, the Shakespeare Theatre.
Baseball	See a Nationals game while in town! https://www.mlb.com/nationals
Arlington National Cemetery	Honor our veterans, and see JFK's grave as well as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Iwo Jima memorial statue is nearby. https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/#/
Jazz	Free Jazz concerts on Friday night at the Sculpture Garden at the National Gallery of Art. https://pavilioncafe.com/jazz/
Gardens	Visit the National Arboretum (if you have a car), https://www.usna.usda.gov/ or the National Botanic Garden, https://www.usbg.gov/
Ford's Theatre	If you are a civil war buff, take a tour of the site of Lincoln's assassination, including the house across the street where he died. https://www.fords.org/visit/historic-site/
Special Military / Government Mentions	The Pentagon, CIA headquarters and FBI headquarters are all in the area. Not all are accessible to citizens.



Zoom with the NMRA

By Patti Adams

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

THINGS TO DO in Baltimore, MD

By Karen Grisz and Tracie Valentine

Fort McHenry

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

Fell's Point

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

National Aquarium

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

Inner Harbor

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

Museums

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

Edgar Allen Poe

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

Baseball

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

Federal Hill Park

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

Ships

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



MORE NMRA Tidbits

25th Annual US Open

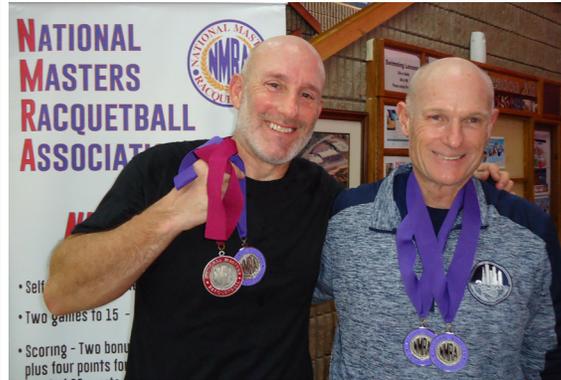
The word came down from on high in July that the 25th Annual US Open will be postponed one year and will be held in Minneapolis at the Target Center the first week of October, 2021. It is somewhat disappointing; yet, the attendance would have been smaller and spectators would have been fewer. Although it is a year away, it was the right decision, and we certainly hope that the sports world will be back to near-normal by then. Reserve the dates on your calendars now! Because of the extra year to plan, **Doug Ganim** promises to make the event bigger and better than it would have been in 2020. I, for one, can't wait!!!!

New Online Racquetball Shows

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

NMRA 2019 Doubles-Only Championships

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



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

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



RECREATION ATL



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



continued on Page 10...



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

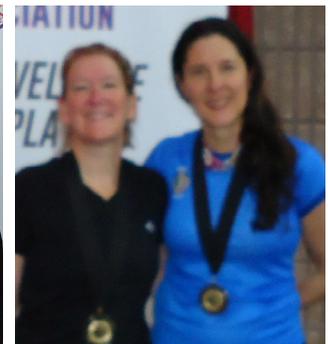
MORE NMRA Tidbits

Lifetime NMRA Membership Now Available

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

New NMRA Hall of Fame Gallery Online

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



Division	Place	Name	State	Points
WD45	1st	Robin Whitmire / Joanna Lombardi	GA / VA	29.33
	2nd	Marcia Richards / Beverly Supanick	CO / MD	22.00
WD50	1st	Marie Gomar / Karen Grisz	GUA / VA	38.00
	2nd	Marsha Johnson / Donna Jones	GA / GA	15.00
WD55	1st	Cindy Tilbury / Louise Winter	CA / CA	35.50
	2nd	Tami Costanza / Janice Kennedy	GA / GA	34.25
	3rd	Vicki Luque / Tracy Parker Hudson	GA / GA	24.75
WD60	1st	Ingrid Callmann / Michele Madeksza	DE / DE	23.50
WD70	1st	Sharon Huczek / Marquita Molina	MI / CA	6.25

Division	Place	Name	State	Points
XD40	1st	Timothy Baghurst / Marie Gomar	FL / GUA	35.25
XD45	1st	Ron Fowler / Felicia Green	GA / GA	33.75
	2nd	Edward Kizito / Kelly LeBlanc	GA / GA	30.00
	3rd	Francis Anum / Joanna Lombardi	VA / VA	23.50
	4th	Fanta David / Terrence Pierce	MD / GA	12.75
XD50	1st	Mike Grisz / Karen Grisz	VA / VA	38.00
	2nd	Wes Wesley / Marsha Johnson	GA / GA	32.75
	3rd	Michael Miller Jr. / Donna Jones	GA / GA	27.25
	4th	John Gyorgyi / Kelly LeBlanc	GA / GA	23.50
	5th	Fanta David / CJ Frank	MD / VA	12.50



Recreation ATL



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

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





MORE NMRA Tidbits

YouTube NMRA Hall of Fame and Other Videos Available

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

Follow-up from San Antonio

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

Central/South American Masters – New Guatemala Courts

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

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

NMRA Passings By Cindy Tilbury

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



Joe Lambert
Plano, TX

In 2005, Joe Lambert was 77 and already billed as one of the sport’s most decorated players, in the *Dallas Morning News SportsDay Collin County* feature “Plano Resident still commands the Court”. He’d picked up the sport at 52, and at the time, he’d already captured 15 national gold medals, 11 of those in singles.

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

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



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Steve Meltsner
West Hartford, CT

Steve Meltsner was a long-time *NMRA* doubles player, partner of **Leo Marsocci** from Tampa. Before he retired, Steve was a pilot for *Federal Express*. Information from his obituary about Steve’s life:

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

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NMRA Passings is continued on page 20...



NMRA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

March 10-13, 2021 - Vetta Sports Club Concord, Concord (St. Louis) MO

Entry By Mail Must Be **POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN: 02/22/2021**

Online Entries Must Be **COMPLETED BY: 02/26/2021**

<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=31392>

Please Print — Be Legible, Complete & Accurate

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: Home _____

Work _____

Cell _____

Email: _____

DOB: m ____ / d ____ / yr ____ Age on 03/10/2020 ____

Waiver: I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims that I may have against the NMRA, USAR, the Vetta Sports Club Concord and their staff, and all sponsors or their respective agents, for any and all injuries or damages of any nature which I, my spouse or my guest(s) may incur as a result of my participation in this tournament. I also acknowledge the potential risk of eye injury during competition, and can certify in writing that my protective eye guards (including prescription frames/lenses) conform to all standards specified in USA Racquetball Rule 2.5(a). By registering to compete in this event, I consent to and release all rights to the use of event photographs in which my image appears.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

ENTRY FEES:

First Event \$ 85 \$ _____

Second Event \$ 25 \$ _____

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

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

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

Total Due: \$ _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

NO REFUND OF ANY FEES AFTER 03/12/2020

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

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

DOUBLES PARTNER(S): Please Print

Name/Div/Age Bracket: _____

Name/Div/Age Bracket: _____

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

Emergency Contact Information:

Name _____

Phone # _____

Tournament Check-In Player Meet-and-Greet	Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 5 pm to 8 pm, at Vetta Sports Concord. Complimentary reception with beverages and hors d'oeuvres. Pick up tournament souvenir, play schedules, etc. and socialize. Early and later Player Meetings will be held about 5:45 pm and 7:00 pm to review procedures and answer questions. STRONGLY recommended for NMRA first-timers; everyone is invited
Practice Courts	Courts at the Vetta club will be available free of charge March 8 and 9, 2021, except that they will NOT be available during tournament check-in (5:00 to 8:00 pm Tuesday)
Play Begins / Ends	Starting at 8 am every day. Ends by 10 pm Wednesday and Thursday. Ends around 5 pm Friday (banquet night) and Saturday. 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. Sign-in may be required at club.
Tournament Ball	Penn Green is the official ball of the NMRA. 
Approved Eyewear	Eyeguards are mandatory. The USAR has established strict criteria for approved eyeguards. This document represents those products which meet or exceed the USAR's criteria. Approved Eye Guard List .
Tournament Scoring	All round robins, self-refereed matches. Every division will play two games to 15. Larger "pool play" divisions will have Saturday playoff matches. Playoff format will be two games to 15, tiebreaker to 11 if needed. In round-robin matches, 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. USAR amateur rules will be used.
Appeals	The NMRA has a rules committee that can be used by the players to submit an appeal on a rule or issue that arises during the event. The decision of the rules committee is final and binding.
Eligibility	USAR-sanctioned; Current USAR membership is required to participate. Your membership must be valid through the last day of the tournament. Entries will not be accepted without payment for USAR membership. USAR membership is available at www.usra.org . NMRA membership is required for all EXCEPT players who are playing in their FIRST NMRA event.
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. You must complete all matches in a division to be awarded the medal.
Morning Hospitality	Breakfast is available at the hotel for hotel guests. Fruit and drinks available at the Vetta Sports Club.
Lunch	Fabulous lunches will be served at the Vetta Sports Club; you may need to present your tournament pass or bag tag.
Evening Hospitality on Wednesday and Thursday	<u>Not a substitute for dinner.</u> Evening hospitality will be served at the club. You may need to present your tournament pass or bag tag.
Banquet on FRIDAY Night	River City Casino & Hotel Ballroom Included in your entry fee. Guests are invited for \$50, or \$70 for food all week in addition to the banquet. Cash bar at 6:00 pm; Dinner and program from about 7 to 10 pm. Don't miss this!

Local Activities

www.explorestlouis.com Included is a list of 25 things to do in St. Louis



This is a shortened version of this Information Sheet. For the long version of this document, download it from www.nmra.info in the Tournament Entry Information link.

MORE NMRA Tidbits

Japan Masters

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

Zoom Meetings

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

NMRA Survey Results

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

NMRA 2021 Doubles-Only Championship INFORMATION SHEET continued from page 15..

Special for Ladies	This is becoming more popular—two B/C Singles age divisions for ladies 59 or younger. If you feel you are not an Open/A-level singles player, you may enter B/C. Choose 40+ B/C or 50+ B/C. The two divisions may be combined to provide enough matches.
Sights to See	In addition to the Gateway Arch, please see the separate sheet for a long list of St. Louis places to visit and things to do.
Average Temperatures	Year – 60° F March – High 55° F – Low 34° F Average 45° F Average March Precipitation 4.5 Inches (Mostly Snow)
Altitude	465 Feet Above Sea Level
RV Parks	RV parks near the club are: https://goo.gl/maps/YnZAEKHPScEbKxX97
Laundromats	Laundromats near the club are: https://goo.gl/maps/h1saWo4jQL65wuVR6
Special For Ladies!	This is becoming more popular—two B/C Singles age divisions for ladies 59 or younger. If you feel you are not an Open/A-level singles player, you may enter B/C. Choose 40+ B/C or 50+ B/C. The two divisions may be combined to provide enough matches.
Special Doubles Division for 40+ Ex-Pro-Tour Players and Amateurs	We will offer a special round-robin doubles division, schedule to be determined, where regular age-group players can pay the entry fee of and play with a 40+ ex-professional player. This will be a mini-tournament within the event—possibly 40+ and a 60+ round robins and both genders, if players are willing to try this. Contact Cindy Tilbury for more details and lists of interested ex-professional players.

THINGS TO DO in St. Louis

Museums

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g44881-Activities-c49-Saint_Louis_Missouri.html

Entertainment

ExploreStLouis.com
<https://explorestlouis.com/25-things-to-do-in-st-louis/>

Historical Neighborhoods

<https://explorestlouis.com/things-to-do/neighborhoods/>

Dining and Nightlife

<https://explorestlouis.com/things-to-do/dining-nightlife/>

Golf

<https://www.golfadvisor.com/destinations/84-st-louis-mo/>

Shopping

<https://explorestlouis.com/things-to-do/shop/>

Wineries

https://www.yelp.com/search?cflt=wineries&find_loc=Saint+Louis%2C+MO

Shopping

<https://explorestlouis.com/things-to-do/shop/>

Places of Worship

- Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis
- Jericho Christian Center
- Mary Queen of Peace
- South County Baptist Church
- South Pointe Church
- St. Thomas Holy Spirit Lutheran
- World View Community

Breweries

- Anheuser-Busch Brewing Company
- Schlafly Bottleworks Brewery
- 4 Hands Brewing Company
- Urban Chestnut Brewing Company
- Morgan Street Brewery
- Perennial Artisan Ales
- Square One Brewery and Distillery



MORE NMRA Tidbits

First-Timer Momentum

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

Extra Atlanta Shirts Available

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

Facebook Account for NMRA Prez

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

Photos Available

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

Reduced NMRA Entry Fees

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

NMRA 2020 Not for Ladies Only - Join Us Again Soon

By Cindy Tilbury

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

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

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

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



IRT Fantasy Camps

By Cindy Tilbury



I know we have some super fans of racquetball in our great NMRA membership. Since I have a great relationship with the *International Racquetball Tour (IRT)* pros, I asked them to help me create a great fan offering for this group. The *IRT Fantasy Weekend Camps* are now available to everyone to help you spend time with your favorite *IRT* (or *LPRT*, if you prefer) pro for lessons and social time on and off the racquetball court. I suggest you get a few player friends together to choose a few weekend options and list your favorite pro players, then give me a call at 303.888.4461 to have me get it set up for you. I think you will love a warm beachy

location like Southern California, but you may have a different idea. Summer is best for this type of vacation, because the pro players are quite busy during the regular season, but options are open. Call me for prices and possible court locations. The *IRT* guys are looking for creative ways to earn a living—you can help and have fun doing it.

MORE NMRA Tidbits

Good Sleep with Good Racquetball Supporters

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

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

NMRA Election Results

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

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



Wayne Toyne
Alexandria, VA

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

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

The year was 1982, at the ripe young age of

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

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

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

continued on Page 20...

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Rocky Carson

MORE NMRA Tidbits

USAR Board Election Results

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

Pro Racquetball Statistics Website

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

NMRA Passings continued from page 18...

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

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

Jimmy Gutierrez Oxnard, CA

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

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

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

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

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

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



Carolyn Hollis
Calabasas, CA

By Cindy Tilbury

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



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

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

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

NMRA Passings

Chris Poucher, Atlanta GA



On September 8, our great friend and NMRA board member, **Chris Poucher** passed away after a stroke. Chris was a great 65+ lefty player with so many fun stories. He was always a great help during our tournaments, and he brought several tournaments to his home of Atlanta.

Our hearts go out to his family and girlfriend as they go through this unexpected passing. Chris will be missed—what a shock!

MORE NMRA Tidbits

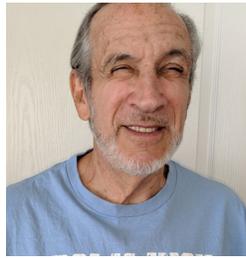
USA Racquetball Magazines Searchable Online

Ever wonder what happened in amateur racquetball in a certain year or whatever happened to Player X when he was playing? It is now much easier to find out. **Jim and Dianne Easterling** or Michigan spent hundreds of hours scanning in the old *Racquetball Magazines*, including when it was published under different names, to allow you to read it all. It is all searchable with links to more sources. Only about 12 magazines from way back are missing. **Help us find them**, if you have old copies. What a treasure trove from our sport! **Thank you Easterlings!**

- MISSING: March 1975 January 1978
- March 1979 April 1979 June 1979
- July 1980 November 1981 January 1982
- April 1982 March/April 1991
- March/April 1992

Player Profile - Barry Hendricks History and Love of Racquetball

By Susan Hendricks, May 14, 2020



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

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



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



Barry had achieved an 'A' level of play. But in 1974, he was participating in a doubles tournament and, embarrassingly, was not wearing goggles (they weren't yet a safety requirement). He was struck directly in the eye and eventually lost sight after several surgeries and hospitalizations over the next year. He could not play for almost two years. Upon his return, he entered a tournament in the 'C' division, lost his first match and thought he would quit playing. Fortunately, he didn't, and started practicing harder to learn how to play with no depth perception. He eventually became proficient at it. He still played almost daily, played 3 or 4 tournaments a month throughout the Midwest, improved his game, and started to compete in Regional and National events.

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

continued on Page 22...

Hendricks Profile

continued from page 21...

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

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

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

Keeping the NMRA Going

By Mike Grisz, NMRA Secretary

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

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

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

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

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

Become an NMRA Lifetime Member TODAY!

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

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Check the www.nationalmastersracquetball.com website or www.facebook.com/nationalmastersrb for the latest updates.
2021 - All tournaments will be held or cancelled subject to pandemic guidelines.

DATE	TOURNAMENT	LOCATION	CONTACT	Website www.r2sports.com
Dec 9-11, 2020	NMRA Doubles-Only 40+ with IRT	Severna Park, OR	Cindy Tilbury	www.nationalmastersracquetball.org
Dec 16-19, 2020	World Seniors 30+	Albuquerque, NM	Gary Mazaroff	www.internationalracquetball.com
Jan 15-17, 2021	WSMRA 32nd Championships, Ladies-Only 35+, Open/A and B/C Age-Group Singles + Open/A and B/C Doubles Skills Divisions	Atlanta, GA	Cindy Tilbury	www.wsmra.com
Feb 5-9, 2021	USAR National Doubles	Phoenix, AZ	USAR	www.usra.org
Mar TBD, 2021	NMRA National Championships 40+	St. Louis, MO	Cindy Tilbury	www.nationalmastersracquetball.org
Jul TBD, 2021	USAR National Singles	College Station, TX	USAR	www.usra.org
Jul 8-11, 2021	NMRA International Championships	Chicago, IL (Lombard)	Cindy Tilbury	www.nationalmastersracquetball.org
Nov 30-Dec 2, '21	NMRA Doubles-Only	Portland, OR	Cindy Tilbury	www.nationalmastersracquetball.org

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