

ISRA

NEWS

AUTUMN . 2009 . VOL 27 . NO 4

Racquetball: Two Thumbs Up!



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From the PRESIDENT

Recently, several of us (Cheryl Kirk, Geoff Peters, Michelle Halverson and I) attended a Leadership Conference at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. The conference has not been held for the last couple of years, so it was good to see it reinstated. It's a great way to find out what we are doing well as a state and where we have gaps in our programs and service to our members. It is also a great place to get ideas.

Illinois has always done a great job when compared to the other states – generally performing at a Top 5 sort of level. This year, however, we found we have slipped a bit in how we are perceived because we do not currently have a formal, active referee certification program. A formal referee program would provide members easy access to referee clinics and provide opportunities to take the certification tests. This is something that we previously had but has fallen by the wayside. Therefore, we are hoping to get a program reinstated soon and have some potential candidates identified to head up that effort.

Here in Illinois we have reached the point where all tournament directors are now using the R2Sports system to manage tournaments. It makes all of the work connected to running a tournament so much easier to handle. One of the additional discussions we had in Colorado Springs was the ability to use the software for leagues. R2 has now been set up for clubs to use for regular leagues. Leagues can be sanctioned and matches included for ranking points.

As a state, we realized that we are behind in promoting and populating our ISRA Hall of Fame. We inducted two members in the last year (Diane DeArmas and TJ Ferro), but there are many more deserving folks out there. So, we have established procedures for defining candidates for the Hall of Fame as well as creating a

method for members to nominate individuals. Listed below is some information regarding the Hall of Fame.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the ISRA Hall of Fame is to recognize and honor those individuals who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in many areas of the sport. Those areas include, but are not limited to, playing ability, sportsmanship, leadership and development. The award is based upon years of consistent excellence in one or more of these areas. Only two individuals shall be inducted in a calendar year.

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION

The person must have been involved in Racquetball on a State, Regional or National level for a minimum of ten years from the time they either became a USAR or ISRA member and must have maintained their membership during the ten years. Minimum age for induction is 35 years as of the date of induction at the ISRA State Singles Tournament. Accomplishments that would make an individual eligible for nomination include successful amateur performance at the State, Regional and National levels; teaching, coaching or innovations; promotion of the game; administration/representation for the sport; and working for the good of racquetball.

Full criteria and nomination procedures can be found on www.illinoisracquetball.com. Please review these and consider nominating a deserving individual. Hall of Fame members will be inducted during the Annual Awards ceremony each year.

The new tournament season is upon us. ISRA State Singles and Doubles will be held at Glass Court in 2010. In 2011, we will be heading south to Peoria for the State Doubles tournament. Plan to be there – a road trip is always fun!

— Laurel

On the Cover...

At the IVAD tournament, Dave Negrete and junior player Tristan Bush provide pictorial commentary on the future of racquetball!



ISRA

Family News

Editor's Note: A warm thank you to Dolores Lamberson for her assistance with this issue!

Four Attend USAR Leadership Conference



In September, Illinois was well represented at the USA Racquetball Leadership Conference in Colorado Springs at the US Olympic Training Center. Twenty-two states attended to collaborate with USA Racquetball on present and future initiatives.

Above, L to R: Geoff Peters, Laurel Davis, Michelle Halverson and Cheryl Kirk bask in the glow of the Olympic Torch.

Remembering Bill Schram

In early September, we lost a long-time member of our racquetball family. William R. "Buzz" Schram, who was very active in racquetball in



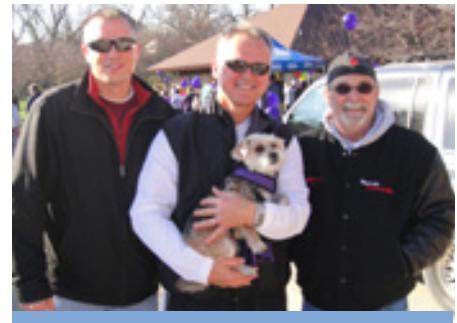
the '80's and '90's, recently passed away at 72 years old. Bill, also known as "The Buzzard," started playing racquetball in 1978 at the age of 42 and by the early 1980's, he was starting to place in the state and regional master's tournaments. By the 1990's, he was winning singles and doubles events, taking first place in the 55+ State Singles four years in a row. Dave Milazzo remembers, "Bill was a humble and good man who played a lot of ISRA events in the '70's and '80's. I always enjoyed playing and talking with him."

Bill's wife, children and stepchildren remember him as someone who loved to tell jokes and riddles. In addition to racquetball, he also played golf and tennis. They have fond memories of watching Bill at tournaments and were amazed to meet some of the Chicago Bears at a Revie Sorey tournament. The family will plant a tree at Glass Court in memory of Bill. Dan Jaskier, owner of Glass Court, remarked, "Bill was a long-time member who played in many tournaments and also taught lessons, clinics, and donated a lot of his free time."

May Bill rest in peace alongside his son Bill, Jr. who passed away in the mid '80's.

Trolley for TJ

On the first weekend in November, a team of supporters represented racquetball in a fun walk for cancer as they rolled into Naperville in style. The Lungevity Foundation held its 7th annual Lung Cancer Walk and Rally dedicated to those who are fighting lung cancer and to the 150,000+ people who die of



John Thorson, Joe Silius (with Hayley), and TJ Ferro arrive for The Walk

lung cancer each year. Nearly \$60,000 was raised through the efforts of many individuals and teams.

Barbara Curran organized a team of walkers, and Jim Wehrli arranged for the trolley. They named the group "Trolley for TJ" in honor of TJ Ferro, who is currently fighting the battle. It was a beautiful Saturday as the walkers met at LA Fitness and



Will and Ellie Haak walked to support Papa TJ

boarded the trolley, bells ringing, to ride downtown and make an entrance as a team. A very special thank you goes to Annette Wehrli Kennedy (aka Trolley Chick) of Naperville Trolley & Tours, Ltd. (www.napervilletrolley.com) for her hospitality. Other sponsors included Prudential (Phil Curran), Marriott (Mary Metcalf), LA Fitness Naperville (Dominic Serpe), and Trader Joe's Naperville.

*Trolley for TJ team members in-
continued on next page*

ISRA Golf Outing



Duffers Andy Pitock, Tom Barr, Lynn Yeazell and Glen Bero

Fox Run Golf Course Elk Grove Village August 29, 2009

It seems like only yesterday that we were out playing golf a couple times a week, some more often than that. This summer was too short and there weren't enough rain-free days

to enjoy all of our outdoor activities. But we beat the odds on holding the ISRA Golf Outing this year with a pretty nice day and a decent turnout of all-around good golfers. The rain held off and everyone finished their rounds with plenty of time left to attend the banquet that followed. Dennis Negrete and Janet Christie were on hand to ensure a successful outing and were able

to join us on the course. The food was fantastic, and all golfers received a nice souvenir for their participation.

The men's foursome that won Low Net consisted of Doug Halverson, Dan Flood,

Ron Calloway and Rob Lee. The women's foursome winning Low Net was Laurel Davis, Nancy Amaro, Connie Arvia, and Barb Utterback. Men's Closest to the Pin was won by Ron Calloway (who also traveled the farthest) and Women's Closest to the Pin was claimed by Nancy Amaro. Men's Longest Drive went to Dan Flood



Winning Women — Laurel Davis, Barb Utterback, Nancy Amaro and Connie Arvia

and Women's Longest Drive to Barb Utterback.

Although the turnout was fewer than in past years, everyone had a good time and many expressed interest in having future outings. The ISRA will certainly attempt to make that happen in 2010!

Special thanks go out to our corporate sponsors: Cheryl Kirk and Kit Lawson (C. Kirk Consulting), Tom Barr (Platinum Restoration – see ad this issue), Golf Clubs Fore Less (www.golfclubsforeless.com) and Ektelon. I also could not have accomplished this without help from our ISRA President, Laurel Davis, and ISRA Treasurer, Michelle Halverson. We all worked hard in a short amount of time to put together a fun time for all our "racquetball" golfers!

— Marla Cusano

ISRA Family News *continued from page 3*



Jim Wehrli (with Wesley), Deb and Geoff Peters get ready to board the Trolley

cluded Barbara Curran, TJ Ferro, Marty Haak, Jim Wehrli, Mike Mahon, Andy Bonanno, Vicki Bonanno, Cheryl Kirk, Kit Lawson, Dan Musgrove, Lynda Fuller, Laura Brennan, Dave Haak, Sue Haak, Ellie Haak, Will Haak, Phil Curran, John Curran, Sean Curran, Owen Curran, Geoff Peters, Deb Peters, Joe Silius, Marla Cusano, Kerry Spix, John Thorson, Dennis Sieron, Judy Sands, Mary Metcalf, Norreen DeYoung, Terri Ingals, Laura Felde, Krissie Hassels, Laurel Davis, and John Burke. Pups were there, too — Toby Curran, Hayley Kirk-Lawson,

and Wesley Wehrli contributed twelve paws in total. Some folks couldn't make it to the Walk but donated to the team – thank you. Here's to TWO Trolleys for TJ next year!

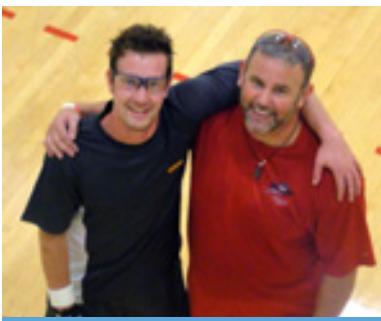
3rd Annual Illinois Vest-A-Dog Racquetball Fundraiser



Mark Coleman, Paul Shafar, WPRO #3 Cheryl Gudinas, Rick Seaberg, WPRO #5 Kristen Bellows, Tristan Bush and Cheryl Kirk



Moses Elias, Aaron Pace, Kristen Bellows and Paul Shafar finish their doubles match



Battle of the TD's! Jim Thurber and Rick Seaberg

October 2-4, 2009 ; Tournament Director — Rick Seaberg

RESULTS

Division/# entered: First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Open (6): Cary Slade; Juan Martinez III; Alok Mehta, Dean Hamiti

Men's A (8): Jim Thurber; Rick Seaberg; Aaron Pace, Jake Ryan

Men's B (6): Jim Bush; Jim Thurber; Dave Wielgus, John Provan

Men's C (6): Tom Barr; Gary Stone; Dale Willenbrink, Bill Galloway

Men's Open/A Doubles (4): Dave Negrete/George Pappas; Alok Mehta/Scott Fauque; Aaron Pace/Moses Elias (3rd), Mark Coleman/Matt Rowland (4th)

Men's B Doubles (3): Jose Alberto Acosta/Ranseri Salgado; Douglas Stein/Paul Shafar; Dale Willenbrink/Dave Wielgus (3rd)

John LoMonaco Memorial Grant

Reminder: For players who have never been to National Singles in Houston, check out the most recent USA Racquetball eNewsletter. An all-expenses paid trip (up to \$2,000) to the USAR National Singles Championships in Houston, Texas, May 26-31, 2010 has been anonymously donated by a friend of John LoMonaco of West Hills, California. Mr. LoMonaco, an avid racquetball player, passed away on May 5, 2009 at the age of 57.

The recipient of the John LoMonaco Memorial Grant may be male or female and must be at least 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen. He/she will submit an application and write an essay of 500 words or less expressing why he/she wants to attend National Singles next May.

Full details and the application form can be found at usaracquetball.com. The deadline for submissions is December 31, 2009, with the recipient announced on or before February 28, 2010.



The 2009

Halloween Classic

October 29-November 1, 2009

**Forest View Racquet Club
Arlington Heights
Tournament Director –
Dave Negrete**

The 2009 Halloween Classic was held at Forest View Racquet Club, Halloween weekend and a great time was had by all. Although the turnout was low, the competition was great. The tournament was an IRT satellite and the pro division was taken by Juan Martinez III. Juan defeated Alok Mehta in a hard-fought final. It was Juan's first IRT professional win. Scott Fauque took the Men's A title in a come-from-behind victory over Josh Cohen. Both players displayed Open level racquetball skills and it won't be long

before they're both regularly competing in that division. The Men's B crown was claimed by Antonio Vasquez as he beat Shane O'Connell in a tough 11-7 tie breaker. Both players are very quick and needed to play four matches to get to the final. The Men's C division was a battle of LA Fitness Naperville competitors as Dan Musgrove won an 11-10 tiebreaker to take the first place win over Brian Lien. The Men's D was a round robin victory for Alcides Gutierrez. This tournament will be on the calendar again next year and hopefully will regain the following of years past. A special thanks to Diane Bunker for her help during the weekend.

Check the ISRA calendar for upcoming events at Forest View Racquet Club

— *Dave Negrete*

RESULTS

Division/# entered: First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Pro/Open (10): Juan Martinez III; Alok Mehta; Dave Negrete, Dean Hamiti

Men's A (11): Scott Fauque; Josh Cohen; John Richier, Pete Schmeichel

Men's B (15): Antonio Vasquez; Shane O'Connell; Dan Musgrove, John Bertholomey, Jr.

Men's C (10): Dan Musgrove; Brian Lien; Tony Giarrappa, Jonathan Hennek

Men's D (4): Alcides Gutierrez; Jay Mooncatch; Joe Davern (3rd)

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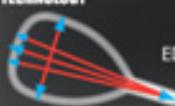
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SLAM IT for SUSAN



The Lattof YMCA began Breast Cancer Awareness Month by hosting the *Third Annual Slam it for Susan*. There were over 60 participants who turned out to play in this event and for their donations received lots of pink goodies: pink socks, pink water bottles, pink headbands, pink keychains and Race for the Cure shirts.

It was a night for remembering Susan Mertes and all the other women who have, and have not, survived their fight against breast cancer. Challenge courts were set up for every level of racquetball enthusiast with three set aside for women only. Wilson Sporting Goods donated Pink Hope Balls for the event, and that was the ball being slammed around all evening.

Janet Leet, Art Michael, Margaret Hoff, Dave Kronenfeld, Ray Markus



Illinois Women Gather for the Cure in Memory of Susan Mertes

and Nancy Kronenfeld checked in all the players and endeavored to make sure everyone got in lots of playing time or, if a court wasn't available, made sure they had plenty to eat! Dennis Negrete strung racquets, giving back a generous donation to Susan G. Komen for the Cure from what he collected that evening. Chris Evon was there representing Wilson and her new personal training business. Thanks to Wilson Sporting Goods, Gearbox, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Pam Grace, Geoff Peters, Dave Kronenfeld and Dennis Negrete for providing silent auction

items. Also, a huge thanks goes to Rick Colletti for donating awesome pizza from his restaurant, Colletti's.

When the night was over, \$2,400 had been raised with \$1,600 donated to Susan G. Komen for the Cure and \$800 donated to the Lattof YMCA in Susan Mertes' memory. We are so grateful for the support we received from everyone this year and we hope you'll come on out next year for the 4th Annual "Slam it for Susan!"

— Nancy Kronenfeld



Janet Leet dons her boxing gloves to intimidate Joan Vande Kieft!



Larry Stein to son Doug: "Hey, they let men play this tournament, too!"

Illinois

Deaf Racquetball Tournament

Sponsored by West Suburban Association for the Deaf

The Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard
October 17, 2009

How many of us in "mainstream" Illinois racquetball are aware of this brotherhood and sisterhood known across the country as the National Racquetball Association of the Deaf? In fact, Illinois resident Jim Fleming (along with Co-Chair Steve Horwich) is preparing to act as

host to the NRAD's 25th Anniversary Tournament scheduled for May 14-16, 2010 at Schaumburg Tennis Plus (Woodfield) and Forest View Racquet & Fitness Club (Arlington Heights). This Chicagoland location is fitting since the very first NRAD tournament took place here in 1984 at the Charley Club in Palatine.



Jim Jones traveled from Kansas City for the event!

Following a committee meeting in the morning, players took to the courts to compete in the three divisions. The love of the game was evident as fingers flew and scores were declared via hand signals on the courts. Below are the winners and runners-up, which conveniently serve as captions (left to right, notice the fingers) for the three pictures!

Event Results

A

1st: Steve Turcsany, IL
2nd: Ron Tkachuk, WI
3rd: Jim Fleming, IL

B

1st: Jim Jones, KS
2nd: Rita Marchuk, IN
3rd: Mike Kartheiser, IL

C

1st: Claude Swoverland, WI
2nd: Gustavo Diaz, IL
3rd: Donna Rose Kartheiser, IL

—Cheryl Kirk



Tournament organizers and sponsors prepare for a great day of racquetball



A Division



B Division



C Division



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2009 US Open Racquetball CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Racquet Club, Memphis, TN

October 21-25, 2009

Tournament Directors –
Doug Ganim and Jim Hiser

Pro Results

Men's Pro Singles

Kane Waselenchuk def. Jack Huczak,
10, 1, 3

Semifinalists: Jason Mannino, Ben
Croft

Womens' Pro Singles

Rhonda Rajsich def. Paola Longoria
(1), 8, 3, (2), 7

Semifinalists: Kerri Wachtel, Cheryl
Gudinas

Men's 40+ (Classic Professional Racquetball Tour – CPRT)

Woody Clouse def. Ruben Gonzalez
1, (7), 7, 8

Semifinalists: Doug Ganim, Brad
McCunniff

Team Illinois at the US Open

Men: 14

Women: 6

Team Illinois Medal Count — 13

Gold (5): Krystal Csuk, Chris Evon/
Scott Cullins, Juan Herrera/Andres



Juan X 2 = 2 MAD Bronze Medals!



Ladies' Night: Jackie Paraiso (USAR Hall of Fame), Lola Markus, Mildred Gwinn, Shannon Wright (USAR Hall of Fame) and Nidia Funes

Herrera, Lola Markus, Kathy Ruzicki,
Silver (1): John O'Donnell, Jr.
Semifinalists – Bronze (7): Ben Croft,
Don Davis, Geoff Goldblatt, Cheryl
Gudinas, Greg Hasty, Juan Martinez/
Juan Martinez III, Dave Milazzo

Team Illinois Divisions

(** denotes Top
Finishers –
Quarterfinals or
better)

Men's Singles

Ben Croft (Lake
Bluff) – MPro**
Mike Davern
(Naperville) –
M45+, M50+
Don Davis (Peo-
ria) – M70+**
Geoff Goldblatt
(Chicago) –
MPro, MO,
M24**
Greg Hasty
(Peoria) –
M60+**

Juan Herrera (Aurora) – MPro
Leo Klimaitis (Barrington Hills) –
M55+A
Juan Martinez (Aurora) – M45+A
Juan Martinez III (Naperville) – MA
Dave Milazzo (Gurnee) – M50+**
Keith Minor (Channahon) –
M40+**, M45+
John O'Donnell, Jr. (Champaign) –
M75+**
Geoff Peters (Chicago) – M50+
Cary Slade (Naperville) – MPro, ME,
M40+**

Women's Singles

Krystal Csuk (DeKalb) – WPro/
Women's Open**
Cheryl Gudinas (Naperville) –
WPro**
Lola Markus – W75+**
Kathy Ruzicki – W55A**

Men's Doubles

Juan Herrera/Andres Herrera (COL) –
MOD**
Juan Martinez/Juan Martinez III –
MAD**

continued on next page

2009 US Open Racquetball **CHAMPIONSHIPS** *continued from previous page*

Women's Doubles

Cheryl Kirk (Naperville)/Kathy Ruzycski – WAD

Mixed Doubles

Chris Evon (Wheeling)/Scott Cullins (GA) – MX40**

Cheryl Kirk (Naperville)/Jeff Elder (Washington, DC) – MX40

Team Illinois Cheerleaders

Bringing their enthusiasm to Memphis were Keith Brown, Terri Graham, Pat and Bill Gudinas, Kit Lawson, Shelly Milazzo, Adrian Montes de Oca, Dave Negrete, George Pappas, Wil Rounsville, Len Ruzycski, and Stacy Dickshes. Thanks to each of you for making the trip...it's great to have the support!

— Cheryl Kirk



Court-side at the Pro Finals: Leo Klimaitis and George Pappas



Keith Minor prepares for a match



Cary Slade and Mike Davern — Knock it off, you guys, you weren't even in the same division!

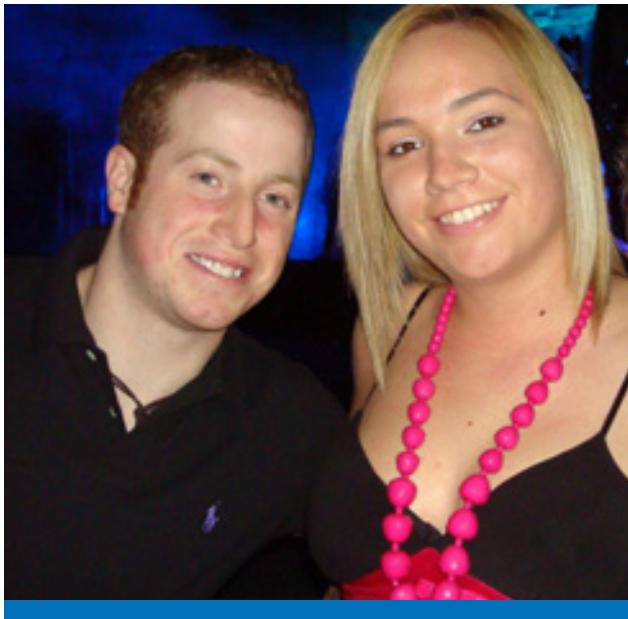


Shelly Milazzo made the trip this year to support bronze medalist/hubby Dave



Gold medalists Krystal Csuk and Juan Herrera

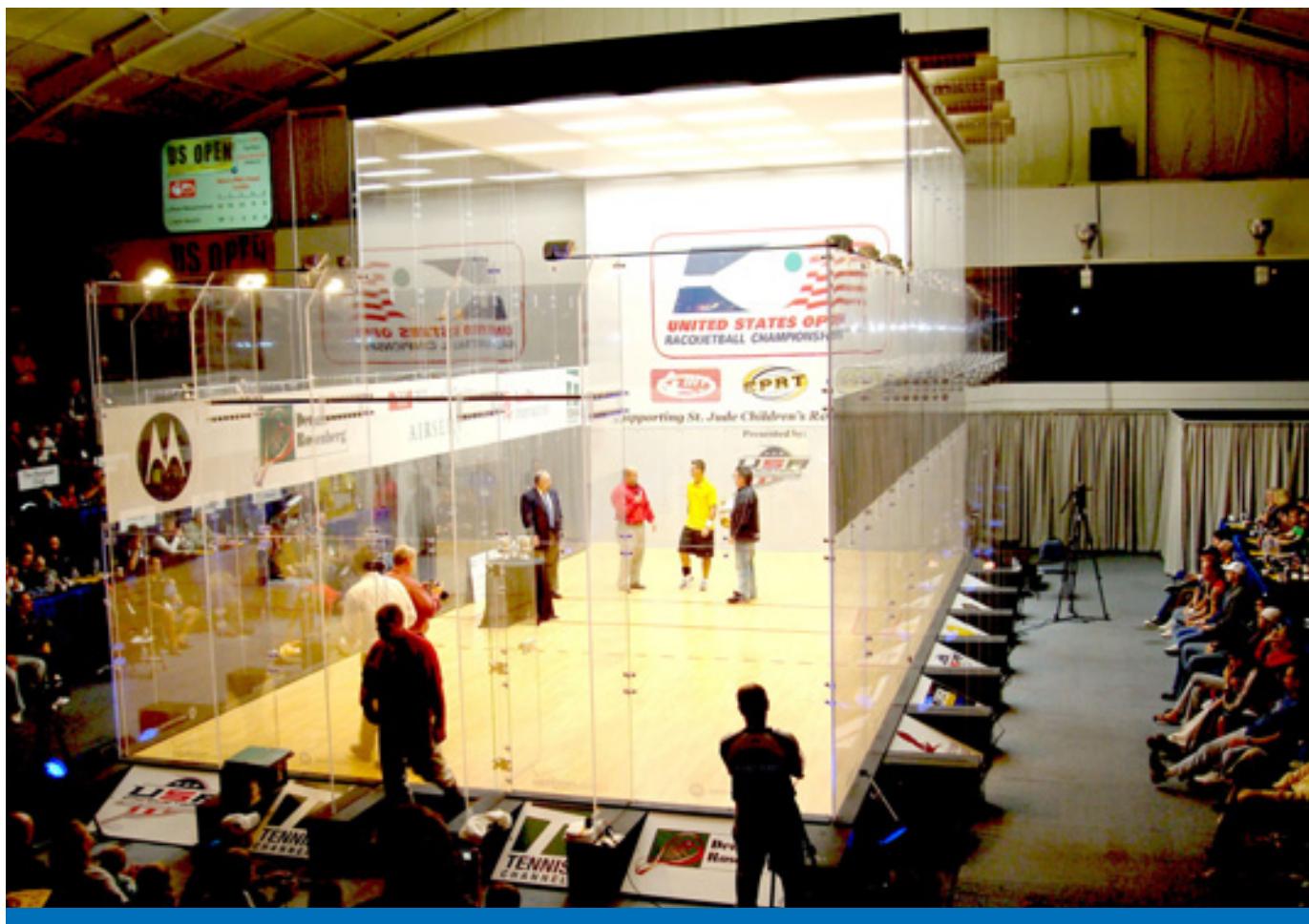
2009 US Open Racquetball **CHAMPIONSHIPS** *continued from previous page*



Geoff Goldblatt and Stacy Dickshes at Party with the Pros



Len and Kathy Ruzicki gussied up for the Party



History is made as 4-time US Open winner Sudsy Monchik prepares to present this year's trophy to 5-time winner Kane Waselenchuk

Retrospective View of the History of Racquetball

by Philip Dziuk

Editor's Note: I caught up with Phil Dziuk in Champaign/Urbana at the NMRA International Championship in July. At my invitation, Phil graciously provided this account of his memories of racquetball that go right back to the very beginning! Enjoy... ck

In 1969 I had been playing paddleball for several years in the very small courts in the basement of Huff Gym on the University of Illinois campus. The courts were about 20 feet long and 12 feet wide and the ceiling was about 8 feet high. The ball was a tennis ball with the fuzz removed and the paddle was about 15 inches long and 8 inches wide. I noticed in the Sunday paper that there was to be a tournament of racquetball to be played in St. Louis at the Jewish Center. One of my fellow paddleball players and I decided to enter to see what it was like. We had never played on a regulation court or seen any other players or games. The courts seemed gigantic. To prepare for this new experience we had bought some cheap tennis racquets and cut off the handles. We paid our entry fee, about \$10, and entered. In that first tournament, every player had been playing with different rules and different balls and different racquets. Some reported that a tournament had been played earlier in Milwaukee.

Our first opponents were two young fellows who knew what they were doing and had played before (we had not). We got a few points and learned some pointers. Joe Sobek has been credited with inventing the game earlier by modifying handball rules. Former paddle players such as Charlie Brumfield and Bud Muehleisen dominated the game and the tournament.

We returned home and licked our wounds. At the nearby Chanute Air Force Base there was a standard-



sized court and some players so we would drive up there about once a week and play. Several persons in the Chicago area and St. Louis and Madison began developing interest and arranging tournaments. Soon the game with some local modifications was being played throughout the USA. The handball association took racquetball under its wing and news of racquetball and handball were published in one magazine. Some of the persons involved in handball were the first officers of the racquetball group. Chuck Leve was the editor of the racquetball section.

Courts were being built in the '70's and '80's, and it appeared that money could be made in connection with racquetball. As a consequence, this attracted those who were interested in promoting racquetball but also those who thought they might make money by some means. The outcome of games was often the subject of considerable wagers, particularly in tournaments. It was disconcerting to learn that a considerable sum had been bet on you and you lost.

The money sometimes influenced the bias of the referees in officiated matches. In one instance of which I am familiar, a doubles match was not going the way the potential losers wanted it to go. One of these signaled to a friend in the gallery to remove the young (hon-

est) referee and take his place. Because of political and financial considerations involved, the game turned around 180 degrees and the (former) potential winners could not score another point. The game was over before the potential winners (aka eventual losers) knew what happened.

Most of the courts had been designed for handball and were in YMCAs or private clubs. Equipment has improved tremendously over the years. Early balls broke at the slightest provocation. Bounce varied and there were balls that could be pumped up. Some were quite heavy and inflicted a very nasty bruise if you happened to stop it in flight. Racquets were of plastic and aluminum and were really disposable.

Tournaments were arranged by interested groups. Everyone was thrown into the same pot without regard for age or experience or skill. Tournaments were single elimination, so one might enter, play a match, be put in the consolation and then be a spectator or go home. Games were to 21 points and the match was 2 out of 3. You could play a lot of racquetball in a three-day tournament. Trophies were large and showy. Playing strategies and skills were very basic — hit the ball to the front wall by skill brute force or by chance. Rules have not changed significantly but have only been fine-tuned to adjust to changing circumstances. Some players screened the ball or deliberately took the ball in the back.

In general, racquetball has developed into a reasonably gentle game considering the close proximity and contact in a confined area. The Masters tournaments have evolved into a no referee/call your own game.

I remember a time when Sam
continued on next page

Retrospective View of the **HISTORY OF RACQUETBALL**

continued from previous page

Caiza and Gene Grapes invited about ten teams to Newcastle, Pennsylvania to play doubles for three days. Luke St. Onge was the referee. The housing, meals and court costs were covered by a raffle on the last day at a community banquet. Tournament winners required special baggage handling because the trophy was so huge.

One tournament was memorable for an incident related to the limousine that always picked up the players from the airport. Two players from Dallas arrived at the airport and looked for the limousine while prominently displaying their racquets and equipment bags. After a long wait, they finally called and asked about the limousine, only to find out that they had arrived one week too early.

There are a thousand stories and anecdotes of players and games. I have personally played in thousands of games on a friendly competitive basis against and with thousands of fellow players. I play for the fun of it, but I have more fun when I win. Sometimes I have more fun than at other times. In a period of over 40 years, I have set out to win against the opponent *as a person* in only two instances. In one case, the fellow was the host at his club. I went to go into the hospitality room and he told me I couldn't go in because he didn't know me. He viewed me as a threat to his dominance in the tournament. He was slightly overweight and as it turned out, we ended up playing for the championship. I felt he should "pay" for his poor manners, so I did not kill the ball, I only returned it over and over and over until he was unwilling to even make a motion toward the ball.

A second individual was a very rough player and I noticed he was running into his opponents, crowding and generally making it a physically punishing game. At one point as we were playing, I passed him and a few seconds later he threw a body block into me that threw me to the floor, knocking the wind out of me; he claimed a hinder. A little later, I passed him again, but this time I stepped aside at the last second and he missed me and ran into the wall full tilt. His head wound required many stitches.

I watched a match in which one of the players contested every point and every shot. At the end of the match, the complainer stated that the last point would have to be played over again. His opponent smiled and said, "We will have to play it in the locker room, because that is where I will be." These and a few other bad experiences are the exception rather than the rule. I have shaken the hands of thousands of opponents and partners after each game and match. There are few other sports that can claim this degree of civility.

From the web site Phree Philosophy <http://www.life.illinois.edu/repro.copy/news/Phree.html#The%20Professor>:

Phil D is a retired professor. The initials Ph.D. fit the name. He received his Ph.D. in 1955, which is before most students were born. He has advised many undergraduate and graduate students, served on NIH and USDA study sections and on editorial review boards, helped organize many conferences and has been a participant in many conferences. For this he has received awards. Dr. Dziuk also is an accomplished racquetball player. He has won many medals in competitions.

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2009 ISRA Players of the Year

Vote for your favorite male and/or female Player of the Year and Most Improved Player using the form below. Please include comments regarding your selection(s) using the following criteria:

1. Accomplishments
2. Number of years played
3. Sportsmanship
4. Improvement
5. Contribution to the sport of racquetball

Nominees must be USAR/ISRA members and may play at any level. Winners will be chosen by the ISRA Governing Board and will be honored at the ISRA State Singles Championships on February 27, 2010.

Players of the Year — past recipients: Chris Evon, Marshall Waldo

(1988); Cheryl Gudinas, Rich Clay (1989); Pat Tarzon, Bill Lyman (1990); Laurel Davis, Ron Johnson (1991); Lola Markus, Bill Lyman (1992); Cheryl Gudinas, Andy Pitock (1993); Cheryl Gudinas, Greg Hasty (1994); Cheryl Gudinas, Horace Miller (1995); Dawn Gates, John Negrete (1996); Krystal Csuk, John O'Donnell, Jr. (1997); Mary Crawford, Greg Hasty, Sr. (1998); Terri Graham, Cary Slade (1999); Cheryl Gudinas, Bill Lyman (2000); Nancy Kronenfeld, Bill Lyman (2001); Liz Molitor, Ben Croft (2002); Liz Molitor, Dave Milazzo (2003); Krystal Czuk, Dave Milazzo (2004); Liz Molitor, Keith Minor (2005); Liz Molitor, Keith Minor (2006); Pat Taylor; Julie Vincent (2007); TJ Ferro, Ellen Somberg (2008).

Most Improved Player Award – past recipients: Robert Gates, Jr. (1998); Ben Croft (1999); Diane Bunker (2000); Ubaldo Melo (2001); Angel

Khamis (2002); Carolyn Watkins, Adrian Beltramino (2003); Geoff Goldblatt (2004 & 2005); Richard DeArmas (2006); Trevor Snyders (2007); Frank Milazzo (2008).

Act Now: Nominations must be received by January 15, 2010!

Submit your nominations to: Illinois State Racquetball Association, 1163 S. Grace St., Lombard, IL 60148; or email your nomination to Marla Cusano at marcusano@comcast.net. Your nomination(s) should include your name, address, day and evening phone numbers, the name of the nominee(s), and the reasons why that person(s) should receive the award, including a list of achievements. *Note: The more detailed your nomination (including tournament results), the better chance your nominee(s) will have!*

2009 ISRA Players of the Year & Most Improved Player NOMINATION FORM

Male Nominee's Name _____

Female Nominee's Name _____

Most Improved Player's Name _____

Include paragraph regarding your selection(s) (may use separate sheet of paper):

Name of ISRA member initiating nomination (please print): _____

Phone (day) _____ Phone (night) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return by January 15, 2010 to:

ISRA c/o Marla Cusano
1163 S. Grace St., Lombard, IL 60148

or email nomination to: marcusano@comcast.net.

2010 Distinguished Service Award

Nominations are being accepted for the 2010 ISRA Distinguished Service Award. Criteria for consideration include commitment to the sport of racquetball; quality of service; and accomplishments benefiting the sport and its players. Any ISRA member may make nominations. The winner, chosen by the ISRA Governing Board, will be honored at the ISRA State Singles on February 27, 2010.

Distinguished Service Award – past recipients: Tom Street (1978); Bob Troyer (1979); Art Michaely (1980);

Gay Kenna (1981); Jim Harper (1982); Jim Cartwright (1983); Alan Shetzer (1984); Clyde Senters (1985); Diane Gabrisko (1986); Geoff Peters (1986); Bill Feigen (1987); Alvin Barasch (1988); Judy Young (1989); Bill Roberts (1990); Al Danielwicz (1991); Bill Piggott (1992); Rich Clay (1993); Dave Negrete (1994); Lori Kaiser (1995); Brian Stuertz (1996); Diane DeArmas (1997); T.J. Ferro (1998); Laurel Davis (1999); Rich Clay (2000); Mike Davern (2001); Pam Grace (2002); Cheryl Kirk (2003); Patrice Calvi (2004); Geoff Peters (2005); Doug Halverson (2006); Laurel Davis (2007); Michelle Halverson (2008); Cheryl Kirk (2009).

Act Now: Nominations must be received by January 15, 2010!
Submit your nominations to: Illinois State Racquetball Association, 1163 S. Grace St., Lombard, IL 60148; or email your nomination to Marla Cusano at marcusano@comcast.net. Your nomination(s) should include your name, address, day and evening phone numbers, the name of the nominee(s), and the reasons why that person(s) should receive the award, including a list of achievements. *Note: The more detailed your nomination (including tournament results), the better chance your nominee(s) will have!*

2010 ISRA Distinguished Service Award NOMINATION FORM

Nominee's Name _____

Include paragraph regarding your selection(s) (may use separate sheet of paper):

Name of ISRA member initiating nomination (please print): _____

Phone (day) _____ Phone (night) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return by January 15, 2010 to:

ISRA c/o Marla Cusano
1163 S. Grace St., Lombard, IL 60148

or email nomination to: marcusano@comcast.net.

James B. Dvorak Award

Mr. James B. Dvorak was an individual who supported racquetball and especially loved to watch young people play. Through the generosity of the Dvorak family, a scholarship is awarded annually in Mr. Dvorak's memory to a deserving junior player (18 years of age and under) who exhibits high standards in the areas of racquetball participation, sportsmanship, com-

munity service and scholastic achievement. The \$500 scholarship is intended to be used to supplement the cost of the award recipient's education.

The 2009/2010 winner will be announced at the ISRA Annual Awards Ceremony at the ISRA State Singles Championships on February 27, 2010. Entries will be accepted through January 15, 2010.

Past winners include Kevin Schultz, Jake Sutton, Trevor Snyders, Geoff Goldblatt, Vinny Carvallo, Jeremy Dixon and Noor Michael.

To request an application, please email Junior Team Illinois (JTI) President Barry Dixon at bdixon@holophane.com. Remember, you must apply to be considered!

2009 ISRA Newsletter Advertising Rates

GUIDELINES:

- The ISRA Board of Directors has established a formal policy of not allowing advertisements to include ***product pricing***.
- All ads are assumed to be camera ready. They can be accepted electronically in .tif, .jpg or .pdf formats.
- These rates are in effect until December 31, 2010.
- Deadlines are as follows:

- **Issue Publication Date:** 2/5/10
- **Articles/Releases/Ads Due:** 1/15/10

• Ad Rates:

Full page: \$150/issue

Half page: \$75/issue

Quarter page: \$50/issue

Other sizes quoted on a case-by-case basis.

- For any questions or submission:

Send articles/releases to Cheryl Kirk at cherylkirk@aol.com

Send ads to Joe Silius at jsilius@yahoo.com





2009-2010 Tournament

CALENDAR

For updates or edits to the ISRA Tournament Calendar, please contact
Geoff Peters at (773) 251-4413 or at Petersgeoff@Hotmail.com

November 19th – 22nd
The Turkey Shoot Open, \$\$

IRT Satellite

The Glass Court Swim and

Fitness Lombard

Doug Halverson
(630) 629-3390

Enter online at

www.illinoisracquetball.com

December 5th
Pro Kennex Ladies One Day

Forest View Racquet Club

Arlington Heights

Jim Thurber

(847) 640-2574

Enter online at

www.illinoisracquetball.com

December 12th
One Day Doubles Shootout

Forest View Racquet Club

Arlington Heights

Jim Thurber

(847) 640-2574

Enter online at

www.illinoisracquetball.com

December 14th – 20th
21st IRF World

Junior Championships

Dominican Republic

Heather Fender

(719) 635-5396

JR

January 14th – 17th
WS/MRA National

Championships

Gaithersburg, MD

Contact: Brenda Loube at

bloube@corporatefitnessworks.com

Enter online at

<http://www.wsmra.com>

January 22nd – 24th
ISRA State Doubles

Championships

The Glass Court Swim &

Fitness, Lombard

Laurel Davis; (630) 476-6896

Enter online at

www.illinoisracquetball.com

JR

February 10th – 14th
43rd Annual USA Racquetball

National Doubles

Championships

Arizona State University,

Tempe, AZ

Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396

Enter online at

www.usaracquetball.com

February 12th – 14th

2010 St. Valentine's Day

Massacre

IRT Satellite

Forest View Racquet Club

Arlington Heights

Jim Thurber; (847) 640-2574

Enter online at

www.illinoisracquetball.com

February 25th – 28th
ISRA State Singles

Championships

The Glass Court Swim &

Fitness, Lombard

Cheryl Kirk; (630) 215-4242

Enter online at

www.illinoisracquetball.com

JR

March 3rd – 7th
23rd Wilson National High

School Championships

Portland, OR

Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396

Enter online at

www.usaracquetball.com

JR

March 17th – 20th
NMRA National

Championships

Tucson Racquet & Fitness Club,

Tucson, AZ

Steve Cohen; (714) 767-4622

Enter online at www.nmra.info

March 18th – 21st

The Shamrock Shootout, \$\$

The Glass Court Swim and

Fitness Lombard

Doug Halverson; (630) 629-3390

Enter online at

www.illinoisracquetball.com

March 27th
One Day Singles Shootout

(MO/A and B/C)

Forest View Racquet Club

Arlington Heights

Jim Thurber; (847) 640-2574

Enter online at

www.illinoisracquetball.com

April 7th – 10th
38th National Collegiate

Championships

Springfield, MO

Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396

Enter online at

www.usaracquetball.com

April 16th – 18th
USA Racquetball Regional

Championships Weekend

Various Sites Nationwide

View: www.usaracquetball.org

JR

Dates TBD
Sixth Annual IRT

Motorola Pro Nationals

Location TBD

Dave Negrete; (630) 430-1478

Enter online at

www.usaracquetball.com

JR

May 26th – 31st
43rd USA Racquetball

National Singles

Championships

The Downtown YMCA

Houston, TX

Heather Fender

(719) 635-5396

Enter online at www.usaracquetball.com

June 2010 TBD

38th National Junior Olympic

Championships

Location TBD

Heather Fender

(719) 635-5396

Enter online at www.usaracquetball.com

JR

June 25th – 26th
6th Annual

Racquet for the Cure

Landmark Health and Fitness, Peoria
(Women's Division plus Men's/Mixed Doubles)

John Snarr; (309) 685-8360

Enter online at www.illinoisracquetball.com

July 2010 TBD

NMRA International

Championships

Location TBD

Steve Cohen; (714) 767-4622

Enter online at www.nmra.info

July 23rd – 25th (Tentative)
17th Annual Summerfest

Open, \$\$

The Glass Court Swim and Fitness, Lombard
Doug Halverson (630) 629-3390
Enter online at www.illinoisracquetball.com

JR - Includes Junior Divisions

\$ - Prize Money in Open Divisions

\$\$ - Prize Money in Multiple Divisions

All tournaments listed are sanctioned by USA Racquetball

Lend Your **SUPPORT**

Your membership in the ISRA has helped make our organization second to none. Though we strive to make improvements to build and grow the sport for future success, we sometimes struggle to keep our heads above water as an organization. Our focus is not for the purpose of monetary gain but to generate enough funds to give back quality, first-rate programs, tournaments and events we can all be proud to participate in. Our volunteers who donate their time and/or money are greatly appreciated as are those who advertise in this ISRA Newsletter. For as little as \$25 for a business card size ad, we can help get your name out there to let everyone know what you do; for \$150, we can run your ad on a full page. Help Us Help You by getting your ad into the next ISRA newsletter.

Many thanks,
Joe Silius,
Advertising Editor



Send to:

ISRA
603 E. Wilson Ave.
Lombard, IL 60148

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U.S. Olympic
Committee



Attention **ISRA MEMBERS!**

The ISRA Newsletter has transitioned to an electronic format. As you know, it is presently available on www.illinoisracquetball.com. We may, however, move to an email (members only) format in the near future. Please take the opportunity now to update your USA Racquetball membership profile, most especially supplying your current email address so you don't miss any issues of this cutting edge publication!

Please follow the steps below to update your profile:

1. Log into www.usra.org
2. Select Membership Login in the upper left hand box
3. Enter your six-digit USAR membership number and password*
4. Update the information in the profile
5. Click on Edit Contact Info
6. Log out

Now, wasn't that easy?

*If you don't know or have misplaced your membership number and/or password, contact Heather Izzett at hizzett@usra.org.

Thanks for taking the time...and be sure to visit www.illinoisracquetball.com for tournament schedule revisions and competition results.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (Home) _____ (Business) _____

E-MAIL _____

BIRTHDATE _____

Adult competitor \$50.00 _____

Junior competitor (age 21 and under) \$25.00 _____

Tax-deductible donation \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Tournament _____ Representative _____

All memberships are for one year, and include a subscription to RACQUETBALL magazine (four times/year).

Racquetball

CHALLENGE COURTS

Buehler YMCA

(847) 359-2400

Palatine, IL

Thursdays 7-10 p.m.

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(630) 833-5064

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8:30 -11:00 a.m.

\$2.00 M-F,

\$3.00 Sat. Members

\$10.00 Non-Members

Fitness Formula Clubs –

Old Town

(312) 640-1235

1235 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL

Tuesdays 6:00-9:00 pm

Saturdays: 9:00 am – 12 noon

\$20 for guests

Forest View Racquet

and Fitness Club

(847) 640-2574

Arlington Heights, IL

Thursday

6:30 -10:00 p.m.

\$2.00 Members,

\$5.00 Non-Members

Heritage YMCA

(630) 420-6270

Naperville, IL

Saturday

9 -10 a.m.

\$4.00

Members,

\$8.00

Non-Members

Norris Rec Center

(630) 377-1405

St. Charles, IL

Tuesday and Thursday

7 - 9 p.m.

Friday 5 - 7 p.m.

Sunday 8 -10 a.m.

\$5.00 Members

and Non-Members

Schaumburg Park District

(847) 490-2505

Schaumburg, IL

Saturday 8 -10 a.m.

Sunday 6 - 8 p.m.

\$3 Members,

\$9 Non-Members

Silver Lake Country Club

(708) 349-6940

Orland Park, IL

Friday 7 - 10 p.m.

\$7.00 Members

and Non-Members

West Cook YMCA

(708) 383-5200

Oak Park

Wednesday 7 - 10 p.m.

Thursday 2 - 4 p.m.

Saturday 8 -10 a.m.

Free to YMCA members,

\$9.00 Non-Members

To add your club to this list, contact: **Marla Cusano** at marcusano@comcast.net