

Official Publication of the Illinois State Racquetball Association

Gudinas Medals at 4th Pan American Games!



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From the PRESIDENT

Can you believe we're at the end of another year? I certainly can't! Each year at this time, I talk about making New Year's resolutions to play racquetball to help you achieve your goals of better health, weight management, etc.



This year I am asking that you do something specific for deserving Illinois racquetball players.

Please make a New Year's resolution to nominate one deserving Illinois racquetball player to the ISRA Hall of Fame. This past year, we inducted Dave Negrete, a recognition long overdue. There are several other players, both old and new, who belong in our Hall of Fame. The only way they can get there is by being nominated.

All current ISRA members will be receiving an e-mail that includes the criteria for nominating someone to the ISRA Hall of Fame. Please read it and act. You never know, that future Hall of Famer could be *you!*

Enjoy the holidays, and we'll see you on the court in January.

Laurel



*The ISRA Women's Travel League is cookin' this season!
(Aprons compliments of Lynne Weisbart)*

On the Cover...

Photos courtesy of Jim Hiser and USA Racquetball

Main picture: The US Team arrives in Guadalajara, Mexico!

L to R: Team Leader Jim Hiser, Rocky Carson, Cheryl Gudinas, Chris Crowther, Aimee Ruiz, Alex Ackermann, Rhonda Rajsich, Shane Vanderson, Coach Mike Guidry

Inset: US Team medalists in the individual singles and doubles competition

ISRA FAMILY NEWS



Photo courtesy of
Nancy Kronenfeld

Nancy's Future Contribution to Women's Racquetball

Evelyn Vogt Kronenfeld arrived on 11/1/11 at 11:01 p.m.! Her parents are Scot and Kacey Kronenfeld. Beginning stats: 7 lbs 14 oz and 20 inches. Evelyn is Dave and Nancy Kronenfeld's first granddaughter after four grandsons. Nancy relates, "Of course, she is absolutely gorgeous! I was actually there when she was born.

My daughter-in-law asked if her mom and I wanted to be there, and it was amazing!"



Photo courtesy of Barry Dixon, Jr.

ISRA Mourns Loss of Barry Dixon, Sr.

Barry Otha Dixon, Sr., 66, passed away on November 19, 2011, in Chicago, IL. He was born on March 21,

1945, in Cincinnati, Ohio to Otha and Mary-Lou Dixon. Barry is survived by Mary, his loving wife of 45 years; a brother; and four children including Barry, Jr., daughter-in-law Jennifer and grandchildren Jeremy and Sarah Dixon who are ISRA junior players. Barry Dixon, Jr., takes this opportunity to reflect on racquetball memories of his dad:

"Hello ISRA members and staff. On behalf of the entire Dixon family, I would like to thank the racquetball community for the outpouring of support regarding the passing of my father, Barry Dixon, Sr.

"Barry Sr. was a racquetball lifer. He began playing in the early 1980's and around the same time he introduced me to the game, and we started playing at the Naper Olympic Club. From there it was the Western Sports Mall in Cincinnati, and then we came full circle when he moved back to Chicago in 2000, playing at the Glass Court and finally ending up with the guys at L.A. Fitness in Naperville.

"Senior always talked a big game and loved to compete, but at the end of the day it was the camaraderie that kept him coming back. He enjoyed coming to tournaments, cheering me on along with others and making sure Eric Battaglia always played his best.

"Barry Sr. also would come to JTI to help with the kids and watch his grandkids play. The night before his surgery we had three generations of Dixons playing cutthroat and it was agreed upon that when he was healthy, he and my son Jeremy would play a doubles tournament together. But it was not to be...

"However, the love and passion

he had for the game will continue in our family. The time we spent together on the court will always be cherished. Senior was a gamer, a character and best of all, my father. I will miss you, Dad."

John LoMonaco Memorial Grant

For players who have never attended *National Singles*, check out the most recent USA Racquetball eNewsletter or the USA Racquetball website (www.usaracquetball.com). An all-expenses paid trip (up to \$2,000) to the USAR National Singles Championships in Fullerton, California, May 23-27, 2012, has again 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 must be at least 18 years of age, a member of USA Racquetball 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 are posted on the USAR website. The deadline for submissions is January 15, 2012, with the recipient announced on or before February 28, 2012.

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GLASS COURT ONE-DAY

Doubles Tune-Up

Glass Court Swim & Fitness,
Lombard

October 1, 2011

Tournament Directors:
Dan Jaskier and Cheryl Kirk

On this beautiful fall day when the frost of late autumn was thankfully still a number of weeks away, 37 players spent parts of their Saturday at Glass Court honing their doubles skills for the season to come. It was good practice for those planning to attend the US Open the following week, with competition offered in Men's, Women's and Mixed Mixed Open/A as well as Men's B/C.

Dan and Cheryl repeated the successful format of the Glass January one-day event with the women



Men's B/C players Dave Chesonis, Tom Wanda, Mike Hunter and Stephen Lindstrom



*Mike Hunter and Jonelle Dubois
competed in Mixed Open/A*

playing in the morning, mixed divisions kicking in early afternoon and the men rounding out the day.

Dolores Lamberson was MVV (Most Valuable Volunteer), helping out on the desk all afternoon – thank you!

This event saw several new tournament players in the draw: Mike Hunter, Stephen Lindstrom, Tom Wanda, and David Chesonis.

Check out the winners below, or to view the draws, go to www.r2sports.com.

— Cheryl Kirk

RESULTS

Division/# entered: First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Open/A (8): Rich Bowman (IN)/ Martin Gonzalez; Juan Martinez/Juan Martinez III; Brandon Ritschard/Dave Bachar, Doug Halverson/Dan Flood

Men's Open/A Consolation (4): Jose Alberto Acosta/Erik Salgado; Jeff Grace/ Tom Lamberson; Dan Jaskier/Geoff Peters, Enrique Rodriguez/Mario Becerra

Men's B/C (4): Mike Hunter/Stephen Lindstrom; Art Davis, Jr./Michael O'Dea; Shahram Tousi/Arlyn Tratt, Tom Wanda/ Dave Chesonis

Women's Open/A (5): Ellen Somberg/ Renee Roux; Nancy Healy (IN)/Rebecca Bowman (IN); Julie Vincent/Liz Molitor, Cheryl Kirk/Pam Grace

Women's Open/A Consolation (2): Julie Vincent/Liz Molitor; Barb Vagedes/Marla Cusano;

Mixed Open/A (8): Rich Bowman (IN)/ Nancy Healy (IN); Andy Pitock/Ellen Somberg; Rebecca Bowman (IN)/ Martin Gonzalez, Jonelle Dubois/Mike Hunter,

Mixed Open/A Consolation (4): Barb Vagedes/Doug Halverson; Jeff Grace/ Pam Grace; Geoff Peters/Marla Cusano, Cheryl Kirk/Rick Seaberg

SLAM IT FOR SUSAN!

The Lattof YMCA began Breast Cancer Awareness Month holding the *Fifth Annual Slam it for Susan*. As in the past it was a night for remembering Susan Mertes and all the other women who have and have not survived their fight against breast cancer. But this year was really special as we also had several breast cancer survivors who attended. Tina Hernandez was one of them – she couldn't play yet as she has one more chemo treatment left, but she vowed she'll be back on the court when we hold this event next year!

Pink was the order of the evening! Pink Hope Balls were donated by Wilson Sporting Goods, and pink wigs were donned by Janet Leet, Margaret Hoff, Dee Carroll and Nancy Kronenfeld at the check-in table. Jordan Kahn managed to snatch one of the wigs and played in it all evening! Janet Leet, Gretchen Michael, Margaret Hoff, and Dave and Nancy Kronenfeld were checking in all the players and giving them goodie bags stuffed with many treats including a Susan G Komen shirt.

Challenge courts were set up for Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, and Mixed Doubles. Art Michael was working the courts, making sure everyone got in lots of playing time in either the advanced or intermediate divisions. Dave Negrete volunteered to string racquets and made a generous donation to the



Janet Leet and Nancy Kronenfeld — Pretty (wacky) in Pink
Photo by Mike Zarnek

Susan Komen Foundation from what he collected that evening. Thanks to Wilson Sporting Goods, Susan Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Mike Davern, Dave Kronenfeld, and Dave Negrete, there were plenty of items donated for the auction. Also, huge thanks to Rick Colletti for donating awesome pizza from his restaurant Coletti's. Rick has been so generous every year at this event.

When the night was over \$2,500 was raised with \$1,500 donated to the Su-

san Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and \$1,000 to the Lattof YMCA in memory of Susan Mertes. I am very grateful for the support we received from all of you this year — this is a very special event that I would love to continue as long as you will all come out to play. SO I HOPE YOU'LL BE BACK NEXT YEAR FOR THE 6th ANNUAL "SLAM IT FOR SUSAN"!

—Nancy Kronenfeld

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2011 US OPEN RACQUETBALL

Championships

Life Time Fitness
Minneapolis, MN
October 5-9, 2011
Tournament Directors:
Doug Ganim and Jim Hiser

Pro Results

Men's Pro Singles

Kane Waselenchuk (CAN) def. Rocky Carson (USA) (7), 2, 4, 7
Semifinalists Jose Rojas (USA), Chris Crowther (USA)

Women's Pro Singles

Paola Longoria (MEX) def. Rhonda Rajsich (USA) 7, 5, 9
Semifinalists Kerri Wachtel (USA), Samantha Salas Solis (MEX)

Men's 40+ (Classic Professional Racquetball Tour – CPRT)
Woody Clouse (USA) def. Corey Osborne (CAN) 3, 5, 1
Semifinalists Travis Aldinger (USA), Jimmy Lowe (USA)

Team Illinois at the US Open

Men: 23
Women: 6

Illinois' 29 participants ranked us fifth in total players behind Minnesota (111), Texas (73), California (48), and Florida (30).

Team Illinois (29)

Eric Battaglia – Men's Elite, Men's 35+A
Watkora Casey – Men's 45+A, Men's 50+
Fred Conforti – Men's 45+C, Men's C Doubles (3rd)(Michael Conforti/ MN)
Eugene Coyle – Men's 35+ (QF), Men's 40+ CPRT
Ben Croft – Men's Pro (QF)
Krystal Csuk – Women's Pro (QF); Women's Open; Mixed Open Doubles (QF)(Geoff Peters)
Chris Evon – Mixed 50+ (1st)(Scott Cullins/GA)
Geoff Goldblatt – Men's Pro, Men's Open
Cheryl Gudinas – Women's Pro

Juan Herrera – Men's Pro
Cheryl Kirk – Women's A Doubles (Terry Rogers/CA); Mixed 40+ Doubles (QF)(Jeff Elder/MD); Mixed A Doubles (QF)(Rick Seaberg)
Leo Klimaitis – Men's 55+A
Juan Martinez III – Men's Pro
Dave Milazzo – Men's 50+, Men's 45+ Doubles (3rd)(Steve Wattz/CA)
Frank Milazzo – Men's 55+
Keith Minor – Men's 40+ CPRT (QF), Men's 45+ (2nd)
John O'Donnell, Jr. – Men's 75+ (2nd), Men's 80+ (1st)
Alberto Palacios – Men's 55+B (3rd),

Triple medalist Kathy Ruzicki with Head Cheerleader Len

Men's 65+ (QF)

Geoff Peters – Men's 55+, Mixed Open Doubles (QF)(Krystal Csuk), Mixed 50+ (Brenda White)
Ray Redelman – Men's 45+B (QF), Men's 55+B (1st)
Bill Roberts – Men's 55+A, Men's 60+
Jesus Rojas – Men's C, Men's A Doubles (Antonio Vazquez)
Kathy Ruzicki – Women's 45+A/ 55+A (3rd), Women's 55+A (2nd), Women's 60+ (1st)
Rick Seaberg – Men's 45+B, Men's B Doubles (Bill Bearden/TX), Mixed A Doubles (QF)(Cheryl Kirk)
Nadeem Siddiqui – Men's 45+C (3rd), Men's B Doubles (Saad Siddiqui)
Saad Siddiqui – Men's B, Men's 24-A (QF), Men's B Doubles (Nadeem Siddiqui)
Louis Smalley – Men's C, Men's 45+C
Antonio Vazquez – Men's A, Men's 35+A, Men's A Doubles (Jesus Rojas)
Brenda White – Women's 50+, Women's 55+, Mixed 50+ (Geoff Peters)

continued on next page



Courtside at the Target Center: Eric Battaglia, Sara Lyons, Bill Roberts and Brenda White



2011 US OPEN Racquetball Championships *cont. from previous page*



A thorn between two roses:
Dave and Frank Milazzo with Cheryl Kirk



Ghazala Siddiqui was on hand to cheer
for son Saad and husband Nadim

Team Illinois Medal Count (12)

Gold (4): Chris Evon, John O'Donnell, Jr., Ray Redelman, Kathy Ruzicki
Silver (3): Keith Minor, John O'Donnell, Jr., Kathy Ruzicki
Bronze (5): Fred Conforti, Dave Milazzo, Alberto Palacios, Kathy Ruzicki, Nadeem Siddiqui

Highlights

- Juan Martinez III excelled in the Men's Pro Qualifier draw to earn 25th seed in the main draw; lost to Charlie Pratt (IRT #9) in four games
- Keith Minor beat nemesis Jimmy Lowe 11, 13 in the Men's 45+; lost to Brad McCunniff (IA) in the finals

Team Illinois Cheerleaders

Bringing their enthusiasm to Minneapolis were Keith Brown, Laurel Davis, Terri Graham, Susan Klimaitis, Kit Lawson, Sara Lyons, the Palacios Family, Bobbi Redelman, Len Ruzicki, Wil Rounsaville, Kim Skarupski Seaberg, and Ghazala Siddiqui



Rick Seaberg turned 50 at the Open!
Front: Kim and Rick Seaberg, Bill Bearden and girlfriend Nancy
Rear: John O'Donnell, Jr., Geoff Peters, Cheryl Kirk, Eric Battaglia

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GUDINAS EXCELS

at Pan American Games

The US Team traveled to Guadalajara, Mexico (October 14-30, 2011) to compete in the Pan American Games. This is the biggest sporting event that includes racquetball and occurs just every four years. Making the trip were Alex Ackermann, Rocky Carson, Chris Crowther, (Illinois' own) Cheryl Gudinas, Rhonda Rajsich, Aimee Ruiz, and Shane Vanderson, along with US Team Coach Mike Guidry and USA Racquetball Executive Director/Team Leader Jim Hiser. Our team earned seven medals: one gold, two silver, and two bronze in the individual divisions, plus a silver medal each in the Men's and Women's Team competition.

Just a few days after returning from the US Open in Minneapolis, Gudinas traveled to Guadalajara with the rest of the US Team. She captured the bronze medal in the women's individual competition, one of five the US Team earned there in Mexico.

Cheryl recalls her reflections going into the Opening Ceremonies at Omnilife Stadium on October 14: "As we waited in the tunnel to be announced as Team USA, tears filled my eyes and my mood went from jovial to melancholy. I turned to Jim Hiser and said, 'You know, this is the 18th straight year I have been doing this.' He told me, 'Enjoy it. It could be your last Pan Ams.' I started to wonder if I will be too old to try to qualify for Toronto 2015, knowing what a struggle this year has been with my injury. [Fellow US Team member] Aimee Ruiz noticed that I was, all of a sudden, quiet. She asked why. I told her, 'You just never know if this will be your last one.'"



*Team USA's Cheryl Gudinas, Aimee Ruiz and Rhonda Rajsich
Photo courtesy of USA Racquetball*

On her overall experience, she continued, "I have competed in all four Pan American Games in which racquetball has been included, spanning 18 years, capturing silver once, gold twice, and now, the bronze. Of all the teams I have been on, I had the most fun at this event. I told Aimee Ruiz and Rhonda Rajsich that I could see the three of us getting together in 30 years and still having a great time reminiscing about this trip. That's how much I enjoy and appreciate them for what they do and bring to me as an athlete and a friend. This trip truly made me remember what I have worked so hard for all these years, how proud I am to be an Ameri-

can, and how I blessed I am to have the best friends, coaches, and support system in the world. I am rejuvenated about the game, learned what I need to do to improve, and am happy with my performance in Mexico."

Cheryl provided an update on her current status after surgery for a torn meniscus: "PT is going well. I recently began training with my strength and conditioning coach from

when I was #1, with the goal of playing in Canoga Park on January 6th. I have some discomfort after harder training sessions, but no pain when I am actually training. I am told this is normal and to be expected...the outlook is good. It is an exciting time for me as I attempt to improve my game and conditioning again. I may not be 100% yet, but my goal is to finish the season and get my ranking back to where it was before!"

Editor's Note: Portions of this article reprinted courtesy of *Racquetball* magazine.

—Cheryl Kirk

Pan American Games Facts

Timing: Every four years in the year before the Summer Olympic Games

Sports: Some sports are automatically included, others are chosen on a Games-by-Games basis

2011 Games: 42 countries, 36 sports, 6,003 athletes

Next Pan American Games: Vancouver 2015 – Racquetball has been named as a participating sport.

HALLOWEEN CLASSIC

**Forest View Racquet Club
Arlington Heights
October 29, 2011
Tournament Director:
Dave Negrete**

The Halloween Classic was a great day of racquetball that started at 9:00 am ended at 9:00 pm with a tiebreaker doubles match in the Men's Open/A Doubles. George Pappas and Brent Huff emerged as winners of that match to take top honors. The event was also highlighted by some excellent play by Alok Mehta who won the Men's Open, Josh Cohen who captured the Men's A, and Matt Reeser who earned the title of Men's B Champ. All of the above are Rip It Racquetball students — the hard practice and lessons paid off!

The tourney was a big success and doubled in numbers from last year. Due to the great turnout, the singles featured regular draws with dropdown consolation divisions. In those scenarios, NIU student Eric Mathews won the Open, Ryan Fosco took the A's and Cari Mory took home first place in the B's. Singles concluded around 5:00 pm and the doubles kicked in with a round robin format. Diane and Frank Bunker teamed up to win the Open/A Mixed division; taking the B/C honors was the team of Ranferi Salgado and Jose Alberto Acosta.

Special thanks to Jim Thurber and the Forest View Racquet Club for

their continued support of the one-day shootout series. Also, a big thanks to Diane Bunker and Julie Vincent for their support at the desk. Additional gratitude goes to Julie for making the Sloppy Joes and pasta and to Diane for the additional goodies!

Once again the Gearbox ball played ex-

tremely well and very consistently. Thanks to Gearbox Racquetball for their support of the event.

I really appreciate all the support and sportsmanship that you all exhibit at the tourney. That is what makes these one-day events fun and competitive.

—Dave Negrete



*Men's A Champ Josh Cohen and Open Champ Alok Mehta
Photo courtesy of Dave Negrete*

RESULTS

Division/# entered: First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Open (10): Alok Mehta: Dave Milazzo: Brent Huff, Eugene Coyle

Men's Open Consolation (4): Eric Mathews: Matt Sochacki: Frank Bunker, Scott Fauque

Men's A (16): Josh Cohen; Antonio Vazquez; John Moscato, Sam Shin

Men's A Consolation (4): Ryan Fosco: Ray Redelman: Tony Reitinger, Jr., Hector Landeros

Men's B/C (15): Matthew Reeser: Jesus Rojas: Dan Musgrove, Dave Wielgus

B/C Consolation (7): Cari Mory: Eugen Gheorghiu: Diane Bunker, Zachary Shulman

Men's Open/A Doubles (playoff): Brent Huff/George Pappas: Alcides Gutierrez/Adrian Montes de Oca

Men's B/C Doubles (3): Jose Alberto Acosta/Ranferi Salgado: Dan Musgrove/Wielgus: Alcides Gutierrez/Adrian Montes de Oca

Mixed Open/A Doubles (3): Diane Bunker/Frank Bunker: Cari Mory/ Antonio Vazquez: Julie Vincent/Dave Negrete

The 20th Annual **TURKEY SHOOT PRO/OPEN**

The Glass Court Swim & Fitness

Lombard

November 18-20, 2011

Tournament Directors:

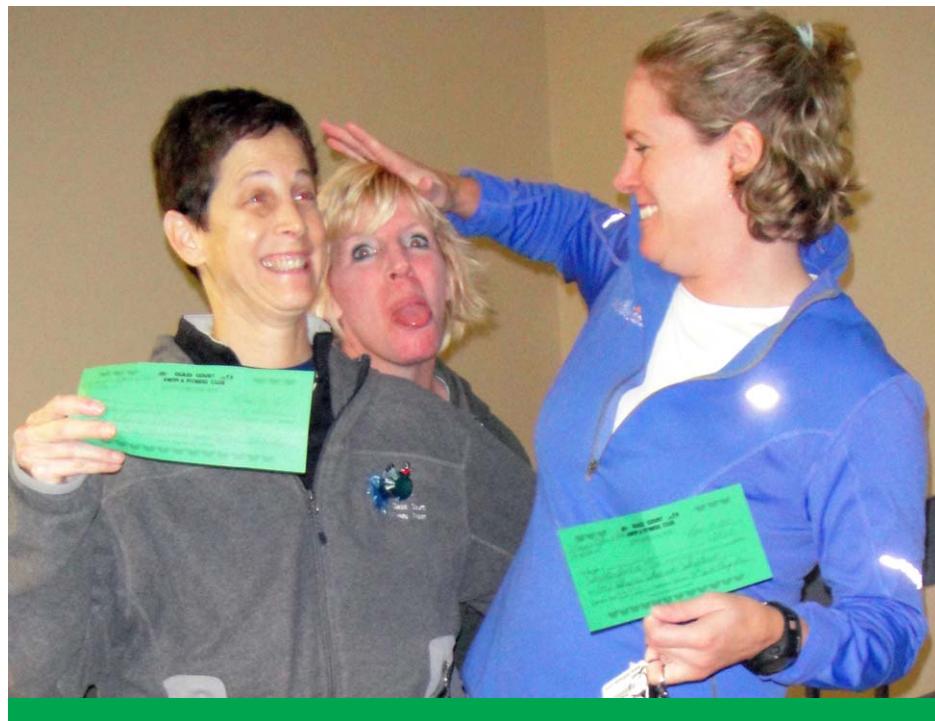
Doug and Michelle Halverson

The 20th Annual Turkey Shoot drew 148 participants. Most hailed from Illinois, but nine traveled in from Arizona, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin to join in the action. Coupled with an IRT Pro-stop Satellite event, it was a weekend of exciting racquetball punctuated by a packed full house constituted of those who participated as well as those who came out to lend moral support and witness some first-class racquetball.

Hats off to Dan Jaskier and his staff for once again setting the standard for tournament hosting. Tournament Directors Doug and Michelle Halverson have tirelessly worked to keep this event one of the most anticipated and enjoyable tournaments on the ISRA calendar. Their sincere thanks go out all of the hardworking volunteers: Marian Bala, Dustie Baker, Addison Berich, Xavier Berich, Char Borre, Marla Cusano, Mike Davern, Laurel Davis, Dan Flood, Jeff Grace, Pam Grace, Cheryl Kirk, Dolores Lamberson, Jim Maroon, Eric Mathews, Katelyn Singer, Dave Singer, Dave Milazzo, Liz Molitor, Geoff Peters, John Puccio, Len Restaino, Pam



*Jorge Ortiz and Clint Hickman —
still/friends after the final!*



*"Hey, we won, stay out of our picture!"
Ellen Somberg, Janet Eminger, and Renee Roux*

Schubach, Joe Silius, Sam Singer, Chuck Snyders, Marcia Warren, and Jim Wehrli.

There were full draws in most divisions, notably Men's B and C having 19 and 20 entries respectively. Juan Herrera dominated the Men's Pro/Open division with its 15 entrants as well as the Men's Open Doubles with his partner Juan Martinez III. Similarly, Ellen Somberg won the Women's top draw, then teamed up with Renee Roux to take first in the Women's Open Doubles. In other singles action, John Puccio took the Men's A, Matt Reeser the Men's C and Rogelio Ruiz the Men's D, earning each a ticket to the next higher division at the end of the tournament season. Lynn Yeazell and Martin Gonzalez continue to be a force, again winning the Mixed Open Doubles.

continued on next page

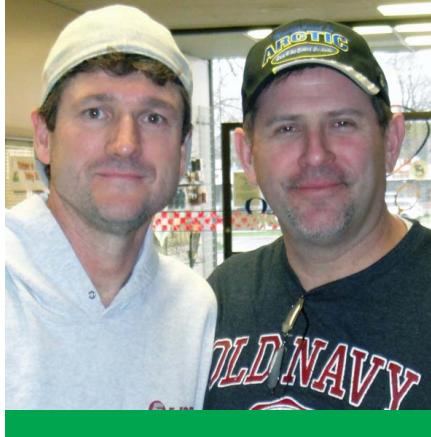
20th Annual TURKEY SHOOT PRO/OPEN

cont. from previous page

Welcome to Alexis Eli Martinez, Samuel Schlicher, and Ronald Shockley who played in their first-ever sanctioned tournament!

Check out the results for all divisions below. To view all match draws and scores, go to <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/viewResults.asp?TID=8531>.

— Cheryl Kirk



Keith Minor and
TD Doug Halverson



Men's C Champ Matt Reeser



Mixed A Winners
Carolyn Watkins-Vazquez
and Joe DeArmas

RESULTS

Division/# entered: First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Pro/Open (15): Juan Herrera; Keith Minor; Brian Simpson (IN), Arthur Schmeiser (AZ).

Men's AA (7): Clint Hickman; Jorge Ortiz; Alok Mehta, Eugene Coyle

Men's A (12): John Puccio; Antonio Vazquez; Tom Ness, Blair Wagner

Men's B (19): Arturo Barranco; N/A; Jesus Rojas, Andrew Stoltmann

Men's C (20): Matt Reeser; Jesse Ortiz; Art Davis, Jr., David Singer

Men's D (13): Rogelio Ruiz; Bruce Young; Louis Smalley, Joey Eminger

Men's Novice (4): Ronald Shockley; Samuel Schlicher; Alexis Eli Martinez (3rd)

Men's 30/35/40+ (5): Richard Berich (IN); Alok Mehta; Antonio Rosselli (3rd)

Men's 30/35/45+ Intermediate (11): Ric Marroquin; Alan West; Daniel Kennedy, Ray Meisner

Men's 45/50+ (10): Tom Utterback; Tom Horton; Dave Milazzo, Frank Bunker

Men's 55/60+ (10): Steve Mac Innis; Bruce Nelson; Jerry Fronczak, Joe Silius

Women's O/A 40+ (9): Ellen Somberg; Diane Bunker; Renee Roux, Kathy Ruzicki

Women's O/A 40+ AA (5): Lynn Yeazell; Marcia Warren; Letty Rivera, Georgina Marin

Women's B (2): Deanna Munro; Georgina Marin

Men's Open Doubles (6): Juan Herrera/Juan Martinez III; Jorge Ortiz/Martin Gonzalez; Dave Bachar/Bob Morrison, Richard DeArmas/Tom Lamberson

Men's A Doubles (10): Marty Havlik/Chris Liljestrand; Jerry Fronczak/John Moscato; Doug Halverson/Nick Curcio, Alcides Gutierrez/Jose Alberto Acosta

Men's B Doubles (6): James Camasto/James Zidek; Ed Libby/Tim St. Clair; Jim Wehrli/Dominic Rossi, Ranferi Salgado/Jose Alberto Acosta

Men's C Doubles (6): Salvado Galvan/Danny Ortega; Dan Pacetti/Levester Dean; Jesus Rojas/Guillermo Reyes Rivaz, Art Davis, Jr./Michael O'Dea

Men's 40+ Doubles (6): Dave Bachar/Bob Morrison; Andy Pitock/Eric Jensen; Joe Silius/Michael Burns, Dave Milazzo/Frank Milazzo

Women's Open Doubles (3): Renee Roux/Ellen Somberg; Janet Eminger/Nancy Amaro; Joann Kempthorne/Pam Schubach (3rd)

Women's A Doubles (5): Carolyn Watkins-Vazquez/Joann Kempthorne; Julianne Valentino/Pam Grace; Marian Bala/Cheryl Kirk (3rd)

Mixed Open Doubles (6): Lynn Yeazell/Martin Gonzalez; Tom Utterback/Janet Eminger; Andy Pitock/Marian Bala, Diane Bunker/Frank Bunker

Mixed A Doubles (8): Carolyn Watkins-Vazquez/Joe DeArmas; Julianne Valentino/Frank Valentino; Mary Crambes/Antonio Vazquez, Jeff Grace/Pam Grace

Mixed B/C Doubles (3): Arturo Barranco/Georgina Marin; Dustie Baker/Brett Dahlgren (IN); Deanna Munro/Michael O'Dea (3rd)

20th Annual **TURKEY SHOOT PRO/OPEN** *cont. from previous page*

More winners...



Steve MacInnis—Men's 55/60+



Women's A Doubles—Carolyn Watkins-Vazquez and Joann Kempthorne



Men's 40+ Doubles—Bob Morrison and Dave Bachar

701 E 22nd St. Suite 125, Lombard, IL 60148

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GEARBOX WOMEN'S

One Day

Presented by Gearbox Racquetball

December 3, 2011

Forest View Racquet Club

Arlington Heights

Tournament Director:

Dave Negrete

Twenty-five women participated in this round robin format event that offers a full day of play, showcasing, per usual, some great women's racquetball!

Liz Larimer won the C division in a closely played round robin. Liz plays out of Lifetime Fitness in Bloomingdale, and this is the one event a year that she gets out and competes...and compete, she did!

The B division winner was Buehler and Lattof YMCA representative Donna Albert. Donna is a veteran at this event, and she played some top ball in all of her matches.

Karen Blair came out on top of the A division, defeating Mary Crambes in the playoff match. (Karen also was kind enough to bring custard from her Culver's Restaurant in South Elgin for all the players – a great treat!) Janet Eminger won the Open division, taking out the very tough Lynn Yeazell in the playoff round. Lynn made it to the playoff round by one point over Renee Roux and Diane Bunker in her pool. (Janet also made a great barbecue dish for everyone!)

The event was sponsored by Gearbox Racquetball, and each player received a Gearbox shirt and wrist bands.

My gratitude goes to all the ladies who brought a dish or snack and helped make the tourney a fun one (thanks for the Oreos, Lynne and Liz!). Also, special thanks to Scott Fauque who ran the tournament desk and kept order throughout the day. Last but not least, the event couldn't happen without the support



Tim Doyle (center) stopped by to visit with Scott Fauque and Dave Negrete (and the women!)



Bunker and Blair take a short rest at the One-Day

of Jim Thurber and the Forest View Racquet Club.

— Dave Negrete

RESULTS

Women's Open (2 RR flights = 8): Janet Eminger; Lynn Yeazell; Julie Vincent, Diane Bunker

Women's A (2 RR flights = 8): Karen Blair; Mary Crambes; Cheryl Kirk, Barbara Vagedes

Women's B (4 RR): Deanna Munro, Patti Moser, Donna Albert, Joy Herth

Women's C (5 RR): Liz Larimer, Linda Stevens, Angelina Seltzer, Diane Simnick, Madeline McCarron



All 25 players in one shot? How did that happen??

2011 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 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 25, 2012.

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); Alok Mehta, Nancy Amaro (2009); Juan Herrera, Janet Eminger (2010).

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); Juan Martinez III (2009); Saad Siddiqui (2010).

Act Now: Nominations must be received by January 29, 2012!

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!*

2011 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 29, 2012, to:

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

or email nomination to: marcusano@comcast.net.

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2012 Distinguished Service Award

Nominations are being accepted for the 2012 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 25, 2012.

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 Sinters (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); Lori Good (2010); Diane Bunker (2011).

Act Now: Nominations must be received by January 29, 2012! 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!*

2012 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 29, 2012, to:

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

or email nomination to: marcusano@comcast.net.

The Kill Shot **KIDS CORNER**

The 2011-12 season is under way! Our juniors are already starting to develop their playing skills. Team Illinois meets on Sundays at Glass Court from 12:00 Noon until 2:00 p.m. Currently we have a nucleus of 15-20 junior players ages 12-15, and there's room for more in the age range of 6 years to 18 years old.

Included in this quarter's publication are announcements and application forms for anyone who would like to sign up. We typically go November through March as a formal program. We will encourage our juniors to participate in local tournaments. We are also considering attending some out-of-state events in Missouri and Michigan.

Many thanks to the ISRA for sponsoring the Illinois junior racquetball program at the Annual Golf Outing. The Board and many of our members are very supportive of our juniors, and it is greatly appreciated.

Player Profile

Jeremy Dixon

Jeremy is a 13-year-old attending the 8th grade at O'Neill Middle School. He has been playing racquetball as long as he can remember. He is currently sponsored by Ektelon and has played in juniors tournaments for the past 4-5 years. He is planning to start playing in adult divisions soon to help develop his skills. He has played three years in the National Juniors Tournament with impressive results including a first place medal! Besides racquetball, he enjoys travel baseball and plays contrabass clarinet in the school band. He is a gentleman on the court and a truly great kid. We wish him luck as he develops as a solid player and sportsman.

—Steve Goodman

Photo courtesy of Junior Team Illinois



Please contact either Barry Dixon at bdixon@holophane.com or Steve Goodman at goodman055@comcast.net if your club would like to hold a junior clinic or demonstration. We have two USAR-certified Instructors on staff who are proficient at developing junior players at any level.

Illinois Junior Racquetball Clinics

- ▶ Offered on a volunteer basis at clubs in the Chicagoland Area
- ▶ Sponsored by JTI Coaching Staff
Barry Dixon — Top Illinois Amateur Player
Steve Goodman – USAR Certified Instructor
- ▶ Times - Typically on Saturday or Sunday afternoons
 - Ages 6-18
 - Multi-bounce as an introduction to racquetball
 - Juniors demonstration of advanced play
 - Pizza and refreshments afterwards

Contact Information:

Barry Dixon at bdixon@holophane.com 630-881-4639
Steve Goodman at goodman055@comcast.net 708-819-3067



THE TJ FERRO JUNIOR AWARD

The TJ Ferro Junior Award is sponsored by the Illinois State Racquetball Association (ISRA) in memory of Thomas (TJ) Ferro, a Founder of Junior Team Illinois. A \$250 scholarship will be awarded annually to a deserving junior player who is a member of USA Racquetball, to be used to supplement the cost of that player's education. The 2012 Award will be announced at the ISRA Annual Awards Ceremony to be held at the ISRA State Singles Championships on Saturday, February 25, 2012.

Applications will be accepted through 2/10/12.

Four categories that were important to TJ will be used to evaluate applicants:

- Racquetball Participation
- Sportsmanship
- Scholastic Achievement
- Community Service

Please complete this application and return it to Barry Dixon via e-mail at Bdixon01@comcast.net. ***Remember, you must apply to be considered!***

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Name: _____ USA Racquetball Member #: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Please describe your activities and involvement in each of the following four categories:

- Racquetball Participation
- Sportsmanship
- Scholastic AchievementCommunity Service

References:

List three people (non-family members) who can provide a reference for you. Include people who are familiar with the activities you have described above. They may include coaches, teachers, peers, et al. Please include an e-mail address and phone number and their relationship to you.

JUNIOR TEAM ILLINOIS RACQUETBALL

AN AFFILIATE PROGRAM OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION (ISRA)

Membership Enrollment Form

The *Illinois State Racquetball Association* (ISRA) invites young Illinois-resident athletes, ages 6-18, to join the junior racquetball state team program, *Junior Team Illinois*. Each team member will receive individual training from experienced coaches, scheduled weekly practices and clinics, age and skill-level competitions, and the opportunity to participate in local, regional, national & world tournaments. Each member on the active roster will receive a Team Shirt for the 2011-12 season.

There are many additional benefits for each team member and may be reviewed by discussion with any team official, or by contacting *Junior Team Illinois* directly. The membership fee to join the team is \$85.00 for the season.

To enroll now, simply complete the information requested adjacent, detach and return the form, with your membership fee, to the address shown below or bring it to practice.

Junior Team Illinois
c/o Barry Dixon
6291 Woodward Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60516

Team practices will be held on Sundays at the Glass Court Swim & Fitness in Lombard on Roosevelt Road from 12-2PM. Practices do change periodically due to court availability and holidays. Practices began 12/6/11.

Contact Barry Dixon at 630-881-4639 or Steve Goodman at 708-819-3067 for more information.

Waiver and Release of Liability

I hereby represent that I have the authority and responsibility vested in me, either by virtue of being the natural parent, custodian, guardian, or other such patron of _____, whereas I can attest and affirm this waiver and release of liability on said minor's behalf, and thereby duly hold harmless all of the parties, but not limited to said parties, hereinafter named. The aforementioned minor athlete intends to join Junior Team Illinois entirely upon his/her own initiative, risk, and responsibility. I, therefore, on behalf of the aforementioned minor athlete, myself, and his/her heirs, successors, and assigns, do hereby release and forever discharge Junior Team Illinois, the Illinois State Racquetball Association, and/or the United States Racquetball Association from any and all claims and demands and causes of action of whatsoever nature, which I, this minor, or our individual and/or collective successors and assigns may ever have against any of them for any reason. I also realize that it is imperative that the minor athlete referred to herein, becomes an active member, currently, of the USA Racquetball.

Adult Signature _____

Relationship to Minor _____

Print Name _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____

Phone _____

Date of Birth _____

Sex: M F

Shirt Size: S M L XL XXL

Years Playing _____

Email _____

Print Parent's Name _____



2011-2012 Tournament **CALENDAR**

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

January 13-15
23rd Annual Women's
Seniors/Masters Nationals
Sarasota, FL
Chad Bailey, 941-545-5802

January 21
**Doubles Tune-up Racquetball
Tournament**
LA Fitness, Naperville
Krystal Csuk, 630-862-9330

January 27-29
**ISRA State Doubles
Championships**
Glass Court, Lombard
Laurel Davis, 630-737-0669

February 8-12
45th Annual USAR National
Doubles
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ
Jim Hiser, 719-635-5396

February 10-12
St Valentine's Day Massacre
Forest View, Arlington Heights
Jim Thurber, 847-640-2574

February 22 - 26
26th Annual High School
Championships
Portland, OR
Jim Hiser, 719-635-5396

February 23-26
**ISRA State Singles
Championships**
Glass Court, Lombard
Cheryl Kirk, 630-215-4242

March 7-10
NMRA National
Championships
Orem and Provo, UT
Steve Cohen, 714-767-4622

March 15-18
Shamrock Shootout
Glass Court, Lombard
Doug Halverson
630-629-3390

March 24
One Day Singles (Men)
Forest View
Arlington Heights
Jim Thurber, 847-640-2574

March 27-31
40th USAR National
Intercollegiate Championships
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ
Jim Hiser, 719-635-5396

April 13-15
USAR Regional
Championships
Various
Jim Hiser, 719-635-5396

May 23-27
USAR Ektelon Nationals
Fullerton, CA
Jim Hiser, 719-635-5396

June 8-9
8th Annual Peoria
Racquet for the Cure
Landmark Racquet
& Health Club, Peoria
JoAnn Wickwire/Mike Vicary
309-685-8200

June 20-24
USAR 39th National Junior
Olympic Championships
Fullerton, CA
Jim Hiser, 719-635-5396

Visit www.illinoisracquetball.com for online entry links

All tournaments listed are sanctioned by USA Racquetball.

Illinois tournaments are highlighted in red

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:

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Lombard, IL 60148

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U.S. Olympic
Committee



2012 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 should be camera ready. They can be accepted electronically in .tif, .jpg or .pdf formats.
- These rates are in effect until December 31, 2012.
- Deadlines are as follows:
 - **Issue Publication Date:** 3/2/2012
 - **Articles/Releases/Ads Due:** 2/10/2012

• 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*



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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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

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Bolingbrook, IL
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Mondays & Thursdays
6pm to 8pm
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Members and
Non-members

Buehler YMCA
(847) 359-2400
Palatine, IL
Thursdays 7-10 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - Noon
\$15 One-Day Guest Pass

Courts Plus
(Elmhurst Park District)
(630) 833-5064
Monday-Saturday
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

Landmark Health
and Racquetball
(309) 685-8360
Peoria, IL
First and Third
Friday each month
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and Fitness at the
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(630) 540-4848
Bartlett, IL
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7:30 -9:30 p.m.
Saturdays
7:30 - 9:30 a.m.
\$4.00 Members
\$6.00 Non-Members
\$9.00 Non-Residents

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