

ISRA NEWS



*Players "Pretty in Pink"
at Peoria's RFTC Tourney*



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From the PRESIDENT

May 2008 will long be remembered as a significant month in Illinois racquetball.

It was the month when we lost our dear racquetball friend, Diane DeArmas. Diane and Joe DeArmas have owned the Glass Court since 1993.

Many of us remember Diane from her days at DuPage Courts. I played against her often and remember her as a fierce competitor. Each time we played, the matches were close. DuPage had tartan floors that were hard on the knees. I'm not sure if those floors were the reason, but Diane ultimately had to give up playing the game she loved because of bad knees. She once told me it was difficult for her to watch women playing in tournaments because she couldn't play anymore.

Luckily for all of us, she only gave up *playing* racquetball. She didn't give up the sport entirely. As owner of the Glass Court, she provided a place for the rest of us to play and compete. She and her family have hosted the Shamrock Shootout, Summerfest and the Turkey Shoot, as well as the ISRA State Doubles Championships, for many years. The recurring theme for all the tournaments was a warm environment and great hospitality.

Diane was a great supporter of the ISRA and did whatever she could to support us. She always had my back when it came to State Doubles. She made my life

easy by handling all the hospitality-related chores (including the shopping) so I could concentrate on the rest of the tournament. At some point after the tournament we would get together and settle the money. It was always easy to do. I hope she knew how much I appreciated her help.

Diane will be missed. Others have shared their comments about Diane. You can find them on pages 11 and 12 of this newsletter.

On a happier note, Cheryl Kirk was elected President of the USA Racquetball Board of Directors at the annual board meeting held in Houston in May. Geoff Peters was re-elected Vice President. With Dave Negrete as the IRT Commissioner and board member and Jason Thoerner as a player representative to the board, Illinois has a great deal of influence on the national racquetball scene. Congratulations to Cheryl and Geoff and to all of the ISRA members and volunteers who make Illinois such a great place to play racquetball.

Laurel



FAMILY NEWS

The Year of the Babies

Ella Hope Weisbart celebrated her first birthday on July 6th! Parents Josh and Vicki Weisbart hosted a



huge soiree in celebration. Her Bubbie, Lynne Weisbart, says, "She is our pride and joy. Howard and I have been blessed with the most wonderful year since becoming grandparents."

Emma Elizabeth Wehrli, entered the world on February 3rd, 2008, and was



greeted by adoring grandparents Jim and Diane Wehrli. If you look closely, you'll see she has already sewn up her Ektelon sponsorship...

Brooke Pauline Macuba, born April 25th at 9:44 pm, was 7 lbs. 1/2 oz. and 19 1/2 inches long. Mommy



Jane and Baby Brooke are doing fine and Daddy Grant is exhausted.

Tom and Barb Utterback are the proud new grandparents of Wyatt Emery Rebresh, son of Sherry and Michael. Shown here at one week



old, he was born on June 21st and weighed in at 6 lbs. 8 oz. and 19" long. "Maybe we can groom Wyatt and Emma Wehrli to be a future mixed doubles team," says Barb.

Snyders and Goldblatt at Junior Nationals

by Trevor Snyders

The Junior National Championships were held in Concord, California at the Big C Athletic Club. The club had nine courts, and two of the courts were glass back wall show courts. On Court One there was stadium seating with the Racquetballonline.tv camera showing the matches online live. The competition was intense in all age divisions. Geoff Goldblatt and I represented Illinois. Unfortunately, the outcome for the Illinois guys wasn't as good as expected: I lost in the quarterfinals of the B16-Singles to Nick Montalbano of New York and took third place in the B16- Doubles with my partner Josh Hungerford of Oregon.

Overall it was a great tournament with great hospitality every day for the players. The host hotel was very nice and less than a mile away from the club.

(Editor's Note: Sounds pretty respectable from this vantage point. Team Illinois is proud of Trevor's and Geoff's impressive accomplishments over the years!)

Travel League Note

from Pam Grace

Hope you're having a great summer...see you at the **ISRA Travel League Captain's Meeting on August 19th at 7:00 pm at Glass Court in Lombard.** Please have someone from your team attend the meeting, and if you know of any clubs that would like to have a team, please encourage them to come out as well! Remember, this is where we vote for changes that affect everyone. If you can't make it, call me at 630-424-6035 or e-mail pgrace@cata.info.

Thanks for your participation and let's grow the league bigger than it's ever been!

ISRA FAMILY NEWS *continued from page 3*

Meet the Board - Marla Cusano

I've been playing racquetball for 27 years, starting out in Ashtabula, OH. After I moved to Illinois, I joined Glass Court in Lombard. Playing racquetball and participating in tournaments was a way of life for me and my family. Both of my kids grew up around racquetball. My son played for a short time and my daughter, being very young at the time, was happy just to follow me around the club. She quickly became known as my little "barnacle."

I met my husband Kerry Spix at a tournament, and we began playing mixed doubles together. Our relationship soon became more than just partners on the court, and we eventually were married in Las Vegas, NV.

I have participated in many leagues

and tournaments and this has helped develop my passion for the game. For me, racquetball has been a fantastic way to work out and have fun at the same time. I have met a lot of wonderful people over the years who are likewise committed to this sport, many of whom have become good friends.

In 1995 I moved to Las Vegas to spend time with and help care for my parents. The racquetball community there was not like that of Illinois. When I moved back to Chicago, I connected back up with Glass Court right away and was warmly received by Joe and Diane DeArmas. I have enjoyed getting back into the game, playing on the women's travel league and reconnecting with old friends.

I've been employed as a court reporter my entire working life and am now operating as Cusano Court Reporting Services (CCRS), freelancing in the greater Chicagoland area.



In addition to racquetball, I enjoy spending time with my family, cooking and playing golf.

I've played in Regionals in many states, including Ohio, Nevada and California, as well as National Singles and Doubles. Illinois has always stood out with its superb representation at many of these events on and off the court. The ISRA Board has always impressed me as being the gold standard in racquetball organizations. I decided to join the Board so that I, too, can contribute and help to keep this sport alive.

CHICAGO'S LEGENDARY DEEP DISH PIZZA



Legendary pizza that improves cross court shots!
Available in your grocer's freezer.

Motorola IRT

PRO NATIONALS

*presented by Verizon Wireless
and USAR Regional Championships*



Motorola Event Staff (back row, L to R) Patti Moser, Lynne Weisbart, Bill Milbach, Julie Vincent, Rachael Huske, Ros Gusinow, (front row, L to R) Liz Molitor, Diane Bunker, Martha Huske, Lori Good

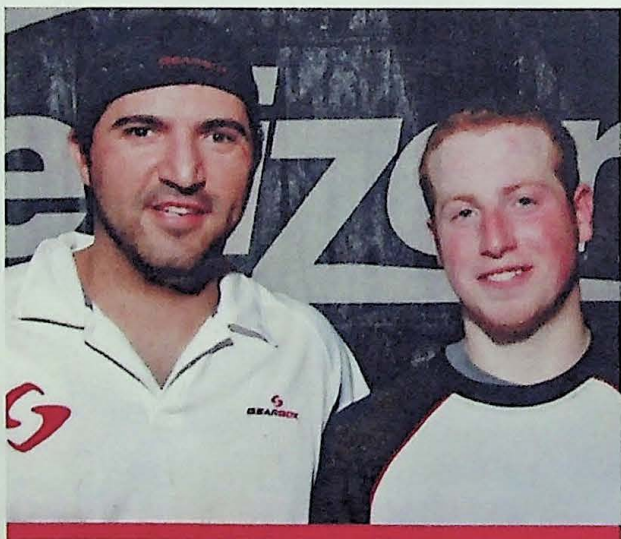
**Schaumburg Tennis Plus and
Forest View Racquet Club
April 23-27, 2008**

Just a note to thank everyone who played in the Motorola IRT Pro National presented by Verizon Wireless and the USAR Adult Regional Racquetball Championship. I hope that you all enjoyed the event and the new all-Lucite court. As the Commissioner of the IRT, it is one of our dreams to present the sport in a fashion that will captivate and attract new players and sponsors to

our sport. I believe we achieved both at this year's event and it could not have been done without your support.

If you missed the semifinals and final because you were playing, you can catch a replay at www.ESPN360.com. All of our Tier One events in the U.S. will be streamed live on ESPN360 next season. The event will also be tape delayed on ESPN Classic later this summer and you can keep your eyes on www.irt-tour.com for air dates.

I also would like to thank all the volunteers who ran the event including: Julie Vincent, Martha Huske, Diane Bunker, Liz Molitor, Patti Moser,



*IRT Pro Alvaro Beltran and Geoff Goldblatt
competed in the ProAm Doubles*

continued on page 6

Motorola IRT **PRO NATIONALS** *continued from page 5*

Patti Ummel, John Mason, Dennis Negrete, Joe Williams, Bill Milbach, Karen Denu, the ISRA Board and all the other volunteers who helped with the event. They did a great job keeping both clubs on time and making the event happen. Also, hats off to Jaime Vine at Schaumburg Tennis Plus and Jim Thurber at Forest View Racquet Club for opening their clubs for us to use all weekend. A big thank you goes to Eddie Meredith and his crew, Jeremy Johnson and Joe Gall, for their meticulous work on the court. They were responsible for the assembly of the court and making it shine at the event. It was pretty cool, wasn't it?

Thank you to Jim Hiser and USA Racquetball for their support behind the scenes and to the Klimaitis and Taylor families for their dedication to the event and the sport. Keith Minor at KWM Gutterman deserves a lot of credit because without him, the event would not have happened — thank

you for coming through in the clutch, Keith! Also, gratitude goes to Otto Dietrich, Kevin Chan, Mike and Vicki Boatman, and Orlando Mayo for their tireless hours of work on the sound, lights and photography.

Last but not least, thank you to Dan Aderhold of Motorola for his continued support of the racquetball. You are so much appreciated for having a grand vision of where the sport should be and for involving Verizon Wireless in the plan.

If you see the above mentioned folks at a future tournament, please take a second to thank them — they are who help make the sport what it is.

We have a great group of professional players out there now who represent the sport to their fullest, and I am very proud to be their leader as we move the sport to the next level. Please continue to

support the IRT and USAR as you did at the Motorola event and help not only to bring new players to the sport but assist as well in creating a new fan base.

Thanks again for participating!

— Dave Negrete,
IRT Commissioner and
Event Director

Editor's Note: Five countries (U.S., Mexico, Venezuela, Canada, Japan)...23 states + Washington D.C....220 players...102 men and 26 women from Illinois...please visit <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/viewResults.asp?TID=3647> for complete results of this event!



Ashley Ryan and Abby Singer volunteered at the Forest View tournament desk



Patti Moser, Jazzi the Clown (aka Patti Ummel), Dave Negrete, Lynne Weisbart and Lola Markus

USA Racquetball National SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

– “The Finals”

Houston, TX
May 21-26, 2008
Tournament Director –
Dr. Jim Hiser

After several years away from the National Singles tournament (due to work-related commitments and a struggling game), I joined 20 other Illinois players for the trek to Houston this year.

This was a year like none other in the history of the National Singles Championships. USA Racquetball hosted a celebration commemorating the 35th Anniversary of the Racquetball Hall of Fame. Hall of Fame members were honored at the annual banquet on Saturday night. The best part of the evening was to see how happy – almost giddy – the honorees were to be there. It was fun to watch them interact with each other over the weekend. Even if they no longer play the game, their conversations still re-

flected a competitive spirit.

For the Hall of Fame members, this event served as a reunion. For me, it was like a trip down memory lane. I didn't necessarily know all of the Hall of Fame members personally, but I have watched most of them play racquetball at one time or another. This was an opportunity to talk with many of them.

Charlie Brumfield was there. I first encountered Charlie at the Aurora (IL) YMCA when he participated in a couple of pro tournaments we held there in the late 70's or early 80's. We had 400 people gathered around the three-wall glass court for his matches and even used tuxedo-clad ushers to give the event some class.

Charlie was on top of the racquetball world then. But, there was somebody lurking nearby who was looking to knock him down a notch. That someone was one young Marty Hogan. I re-



Tim Kirk sports one of his two medals!



USAR Hall of Fame members at the Grand Gala Celebration

member him coming to Aurora with his mother. She took him to the movies to occupy him in the evening while the older players chose other types of entertainment. Other Hall of Famers who played at those Aurora tournaments included Jerry Hilecher and Mike Yellen.

Others I encountered in Houston included Dan Obremski and Caryn McKinney. Both of them served as instructors at USAR Elite Training Camps that I attended. That was a great way to get to know these fabulous players. You basically lived with them for a week at a time. Caryn was a great pro player but usually ended up in second place – behind our own Lynn Adams-Clay. Lynn and Rich also made the trip to Houston. It was

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USA Racquetball National SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

continued from page 7

fun to see Caryn and Lynn reconnect after many years. One thing you can say about this game – some of your fiercest opponents are also your best friends.

This year's tournament included military divisions. The military players came to the banquet in dress uniforms. They formed an honor guard on each side of the red carpet down which the Hall of Famers were escorted as they were introduced. It was an impressive site. I told Kevin Brylski that he looked like one of my favorite TV characters in his dress white dinner jacket – Harmon Raab, Jr. of JAG!

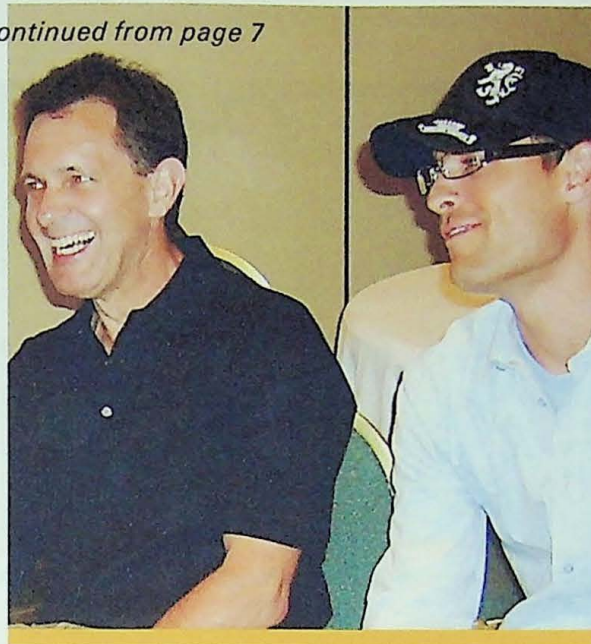
I'm sure the trips down memory lane were different for each person in that room on Saturday night. Each person's memories are different based on when they came into the game of racquetball and where they have played it. In addition to honoring the Hall of Fame members, there was a "History of Racquetball" exhibit on display during the entire week that was excellent. I hope we can keep this all going so

people can attend a Hall of Fame Anniversary to celebrate 70 years!

Other highlights of the banquet included:

- Recognition of Leo Klimaitis and Pat Taylor for making the new portable court a reality.
- Pat Taylor received the Bud Muehleisen Age Group Player of the Year Award, from Dr. Bud himself. *Congratulations, Pat!*
- Cheryl Kirk took over the reigns as USAR Board President.

I'm glad I didn't stay home this year and I'm proud to say I'm from Illinois! Illinois players were successful in the tournament, as well — not me, but others. Most notably, Cheryl Gudinas Holmes recaptured the Women's U.S.



Dan Aderhold and Shawn Royster enjoyed Casino Night

Team Qualifying championship, earning her a spot on the U.S. Team competing in Ireland in August. Check out Team Illinois results and stats in this issue.

— Laurel Davis

continued on page 9



Cindy Tilbury, Cheryl Kirk, Kate Brylski, Laurel Davis, and Lynn Yeazell partied late!

USA Racquetball National

SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS *continued from page 8*



Patrice Calvi (center) with nieces Casey and Marijo Kohler



Kate and Kevin Brylski, Watmora Casey, and Keith Minor

RESULTS

Team Illinois Medal Count — 17

Gold (6) – Chris Evon, Cheryl Gudinas Holmes, Tim Kirk, Gregg Mandell, Keith Minor, Pat Taylor

Silver (2) – Tim Kirk, John O'Donnell, Jr.

Bronze (5) – Leo Klimaitis, Phil Mathews, Keith Minor, Diane Bunker, Kathy Ruzycki

Pewter (4) – Watmora Casey, Wil Rounsaville, Cheryl Kirk, Lola Markus

Team Illinois Individual Results

* Denotes Top Finisher (quarterfinals or better); PP=pool play; RR=round robin

Men's U.S. Team Qualifying – Phil Mathews, Jason Thoerner*

Men's Military B/C – Tim Kirk (2nd)*

Men's Open – Phil Mathews

Men's Elite – Brent Huff

Men's B – Tim Kirk

Men's 24+ – Phil Mathews (3rd)*

Men's 30+ – Brent Huff

Men's 35+ – Keith Minor (1st)*

Men's 35+A – Dennis Negrete

Men's 40+ – Keith Minor (3rd)*

Men's 40+A – Dennis Negrete,

Men's 40+B – Tim Kirk (1st)*,

Men's 45+A – Dan Aderhold, John Mason

Men's 50+ – Watmora Casey, Geoff Peters

Men's 50+A – Dan Aderhold*, Watmora Casey (4th)*, John Mason, Geoff Peters

Men's 55+ – Gregg Mandell, Frank Milazzo

Men's 55+A – Gregg Mandell (1st)*, Frank Milazzo*, Wil Rounsaville (4th)*

Men's 60+A – Leo Klimaitis (3rd)*

Men's 65+ – Pat Taylor (1st)*

Men's 75+ – John O'Donnell, Jr. (2nd)*

Women's U.S. Team Qualifying – Krystal Csuk*, Cheryl Gudinas Holmes (1st)*

Women's Elite – Diane Bunker (3rd)*

Women's A – Kathy Ruzycki (3rd PP); Lynn Yeazell (4th PP)

Women's D – Samantha Keca (5th RR)

Women's 24-C – Samantha Keca (4th PP)

Women's 35+A – Lynn Yeazell (3rd PP)

Women's 45+ – Diane Bunker (3rd PP); Patrice Calvi (4th PP); Laurel Davis (3rd PP); Julie Vincent (3rd PP)

Women's 50+ – Laurel Davis (4th PP); Chris Evon (1st)*

Women's 50+A – Cheryl Kirk (4th RR)*

Women's 55+A – Kathy Ruzycki (3rd RR)*

Women's 75+ – Lola Markus (4th RR)

Awards

Bud Muehleisen Male Age Group – Pat Taylor

Peggy Steding Female Age Group – Mildred Gwinn

Presidential Award – Twayne Howard (MI)

Joe Sobek – Shane Wood
Female Athlete of the Year – Rhonda Rajsich

Male Athlete of the Year – Mitch Williams

US Team Qualifying Finals

Rocky Carson def. Jack Huczek: (11), 9, 5

Cheryl Gudinas Holmes def. Kristen Bellows: 2,5

Team Illinois Cheerleaders

Jerry Fronczak, Pat and Bill Gudinas, Susan Klimaitis, Kit Lawson, Dave Negrete, Arlene O'Donnell, Deb Peters, Len Ruzycki, Mary Taylor, Casey Kohler and Marijo Kohler.

GUDINAS HOLMES:

At the Top of Her Game

Cheryl Gudinas Holmes took a few minutes, fresh off of winning her 7th national title and preparing to compete to win her 4th World title next month in Ireland, to talk a little bit about her racquetball accomplishments and why she continues to excel at such a high level.

Cheryl had a terrific USAR Nationals Tournament in Houston this past May, being pushed in a match only by fellow legendary player Malia Bailey. "It was my toughest match. I have so much respect for Malia, and she used to be my coach. I was a mess playing her." Winning the finals rather handily against Kristen Bellows, Cheryl had some rare lapses in concentration that caused her to reflect on her career. "Kristen was not really on her game, so I had the luxury of having a few thoughts that I normally don't have in a match. I just kept thinking about how far I had come after all these years. Having Shannon Wright and all the other Hall of Famers there was inspirational!"

As Cheryl prepares for the next big event in her already-illustrious career, the World Championships in Ireland this August, she is working harder than ever. "I have been on the USA Team every year since 1993. It is a wonderful experience to represent your country. I am very focused on this event. I have a chance to be the first person to win four World Titles. My dad has been very ill lately, and he is my number one fan, so I want to win the title for him. I am very excited to go to Ireland, as I have never been to Europe."

Even with her lengthy and successful career, Cheryl continues to push herself. "I definitely want to tie or break Michelle Gould's record of eight national titles. I believe I can continue to win on the tour this season and compete for the #1 position. I have always had the mentality that there is some improvement I can make. I enjoy training hard, doing the hard work off the court that makes the difference on the court." In addition to playing rac-

quetball, Cheryl cross-trains with weights, squash, cycling, golfing and swimming. "I like to work hard in the summer because that's when others take it easy."

Besides her renowned mental toughness, Cheryl believes that the extra effort is what gives her an edge over younger competition. "I don't think they understand and enjoy doing the work like I do to truly be as good as you can be on the court. There is a lot of good young talent in Junior Team USA, but if they want to continue to succeed, they will need to put their minds into it and get physically stronger to compete." She feels that her athletic ability, honed with all of her training, is underrated. "It's insulting to me that people think that you aren't athletic if you aren't diving around the court. It is harder to play and not have to dive, because that means that you are moving efficiently, you're in good position, and you are hitting good shots. Then, you don't have to dive!"

Cheryl has no timetable for ending her competitive racquetball days. "I will continue to compete until I feel I can no longer win pro stops. I will not play 'just to show up' or be happy just to be in the top eight. If I can't continue to improve and stay competitive with the top players, I will know that that is it." From her comments, though, that day is a long way away. Cheryl is drawing new inspiration from Dara Torres, the Olympic swimmer who just qualified for the Beijing games. "I want to work at racquetball as hard as she does in swimming. We're the same age — she is my new idol!"

Speaking of idols, Cheryl has a long list of people who have influenced her and (most importantly to Cheryl) who have been there for her for almost her entire career. People like Chris Evon (who beat Cheryl consistently when Cheryl first started playing), Malia Bailey, Kaye Kuhlfield (who Cheryl thinks of to this day during almost every match). Also, Tim Lang of DePaul University and Eugene Coyle, who have helped train her, as well as Andy Pitock and Ted Huddleston. And of course, she



Cheryl Gudinas Holmes with Houston runner-up Kristen Bellows

wouldn't be where she is without her parents. "They have always told me that I can do it but have never put pressure on me or made me feel bad for not winning. They still offer to help me get to the tournaments. How sweet is that?"

What does Cheryl see for the future of the WPRO? "There are a lot of good up-and-coming players. Veronica Sotomayor from Ecuador is already making a statement; Paulo Longoria and Samantha Salas are also impressive. I consider all the players to be tough, and I don't underestimate anyone, at any tournament. The players on tour love having Shannon Feaster at the helm. She is the Billie Jean King of racquetball. She is increasing purses, getting the value for the tour that we deserve, to keep players motivated to play. She is professional and classy and gets the job done."

Cheryl continues to work and play at a high level. She has committed herself to getting better when most people would be happy where they are. She plays the game with intensity and integrity, and she works with the Junior Team to pass on her knowledge and passion. There aren't many athletes who have represented their sport as well as Cheryl has. Congratulations, Cheryl, and good luck in Ireland!

— Rick Seaberg

DIANE DeARMAS

— A Grateful Tribute

A wife, a mother and grandmother, a sister, a friend, a colleague and an employer...

Diane DeArmas touched so very many people in her life, a life that was cut tragically short on May 14, 2008, when she passed away during a trip to the Bahamas. She leaves a legacy of caring, for her family, for her friends, and for the members of Glass Court Swim and Fitness.

Friends and Colleagues Remember Diane DeArmas

Thank you, Diane, for 15 years. I miss you. I think about you every day. God Bless.

— Barb Vagedes

The thing I remember most about Diane is her smile. No matter how big a fuss was going on during a Glass Court tournament (tournaments are generally controlled chaos!), she always seemed to carry a smile with her wherever she would go. That smile will always be with us.

— Mike Davern

My fondest memories of Diane are back when she used to run events at the DuPage Racquet Club with those darn rubber floors! That was when I was still playing every weekend and you could always count on Diane to run great events and offer great hospitality that she carried on through to her days at Glass. She was also the first to run a series of tournaments that we all know now as one-day shootouts. You will be missed, Diane!

— Dave Negrete

Diane was someone I will never forget. In 1996, when most clubs had few junior players, she allowed us to bring kids into Glass Court for a Junior Clinic. It was a "Kids Clinic" for racquetball, taught by "Kids." Krystal Csuk and Nick Bischoff were the instructors. Diane was so impressed and felt it was something that would be great for state racquetball. She encour-

aged me to take the Clinic on the road.

As a result of our first Junior Clinic Tour, we now have Junior Team Illinois. Over the years, with Diane's support, the program has produced many elite players such as Krystal, Andy Hawthorne, Geoff Goldblatt, Trevor Snyders, and Diane and Joe's son Richard DeArmas, just to mention a few. Diane always made me feel both welcome and a part of the Glass Court Family. It has indeed been a pleasure to have known, worked with and considered Diane to be a good friend.

— TJ Ferro

When I heard the news, as all of you were as well, I was shocked. My heart weighed heavy knowing that I had lost someone very special in my life. After all, it was her willingness to host a Women's Professional Racquetball tournament at the Glass Court Swim & Fitness Club in 1990 that first introduced me to Lynn Adams, who later became my wife. Almost eighteen years later, this was a blessing I could not thank her enough for giving to me. The sport of racquetball has many amazing people that love the game, but few who have done so much not just for the sport itself, but for the people. Diane was that extraordinary ambassador who made you feel special about playing a game that she loved as much as you did. Every tournament she ran was such a well-orchestrated event, always with great participation, a thrill to be part of. This was due to her endless effort to make sure every detail was handled. Add to that the countless hours she spent with her tournament staff in the kitchen to make sure we as players all experienced a magnificent feast. All that aside, it was her ability to make you feel so special. Whether you worked for her, volunteered to help, were a member at the club, or just came to play in a tournament, she al-



ways gave heartfelt praise for your involvement. She got to know so many of us and our lives, our families, etc. and always took special note of things that troubled us in order to help in any way she could. I will miss her greatly. I will miss the warm smile and hugs, the late night fun trips to a river boat after the tournament ended or just kickin' back talking about life. Our hearts and thoughts go out to the DeArmas and Jaskier families.

We love you all. I know she is probably preparing the next big event for us all in heaven and smiling down with anticipation.

— Rich Clay

Diane thought about and cared for all levels of racquetball players. This was reflected in her friendly disposition and generosity to all who shared her passion for the sport.

— Patrice Calvi

The sudden loss of Diane DeArmas was such a shock. Diane's quiet disposition and work ethic gave the sport she loved a positive flow of energy for us all to enjoy every time she and the Glass Court hosted an event. She was a special lady who will always be missed but never forgotten.

— Joe Silius

Diane always went out of her way to greet me when she saw me. She made a point of expressing her thanks for our support of Glass...and always, always gave me a nice hug. I know she struggled mightily with her back problems...yet there she was, preparing a fine meal for the multitudes...with a smile on her face and a good word to those around her.

— Kit Lawson

I was so proud when Diane thanked me for writing newsletter coverage for Glass Court's tournaments and

continued on page 12

DIANE DeARMAS *continued from page 11*

consequently I seldom allowed anyone else the honor! It was a privilege to support Diane and Glass Court, and it remains so today. A personal story: Diane knew I don't eat meat and she made a point of creating her seafood salad as well as tuna salad and other items for the tournaments, then letting me and others know that it was waiting for us in a secret part of the kitchen. Her TLC was so evident; she made note of and followed through with so many kindnesses to make people feel special. I still can't believe she's no longer with us...but truly, in our hearts, she is here.

— Cheryl Kirk

I met Diane in the fall of 1992. Although I knew of Glass Court and was just getting into competitive racquetball, I had no idea of the impact she would have on my life. Little did I know that I was meeting a great person — *an all-around Great Person*. And you would find it impossible to meet someone who did more for the racquetball community. Diane, through her kindness and inquisitiveness on that "lucky for me" afternoon, changed my life for the better, forever, and I will never forget it. As all of us deal with the loss of Diane and the regrets we have in our own lives, please remember you are not alone. Most people never get the chance to meet someone so inspirational. Because of Diane, I became part of two new families — not the kind you are born into, but the kind that welcomes you for who you are. The first was her own family, of which I am so grateful to be a part; the second is the racquetball family. I am so lucky to be involved, both personally and recreationally. Most important of all, I met my soul mate, Michelle, because of Diane. Thanks to her, I wake up with the wife/friend of my dreams every day. I thank Diane for being the person she was to me and to so many others. I will always miss her and hope that each of us has an opportunity to touch at least one person's life as profoundly as Diane touched mine.

— Doug Halverson

Diane's son Dan Jaskier tells of his mother's involvement in and love of the sport:

When did Diane begin playing racquetball?

My mom began playing at the DuPage club in 1982, when she was 29. She took lessons from Joe DeArmas, who was the club's Wallyball Director. They were married in 1985 and would have celebrated their 23rd wedding anniversary this summer.

Sharilyn Pope was one of Diane's first hitting partners. By age 32, Diane was playing in the Women's Open division. Although she played pretty exclusively in just the local tournaments, she found herself in Women's Open when she had made the finals of Women's A and the ISRA eligibility rule (for a short time) stipulated that both finalists in a division had to move up to the next level, *not just the winner!*

Why did Diane eventually stop playing the sport?

Her back and knees wouldn't allow her to continue to play the game. She eventually had two knee replacements, one in the last couple of years. However, my sister Jennifer, my brother Richard and I have brought racquetball into the next generation of our family.

When did Diane and Joe buy Glass Court?

They departed DuPage in 1992 after a re-organization, bringing about an exodus of racquetball and wallyball league players from DuPage to Glass Court. Although it was understood that they would eventually buy the club, both Diane and Joe worked there as employees until financing could be arranged. They bought the club in 1993. We currently employ 50-60 staff members in the areas of racquetball, aquatics, aerobics, fitness training, office, front desk, and maintenance. Brian McNally and Jack Burke are our most tenured employees — they were here even before Diane and Joe arrived on the Glass Court scene!

What do you think Diane would want to say to her racquetball family?

I think she'd say, "Life is too short — don't let it pass you by. Keep playing racquetball and keep bringing friends into the sport. Don't neglect your

injuries...if you've been hurt, make sure you're okay before you play again."

What do you remember most about working at Glass Court with Diane and Joe?

I started at Glass Court working in the bar. Joe and Diane had doubled gross revenues within a few years of buying the club and I was really happy when the club could support hiring me full time in 1997.

My mom and I always got along pretty well working at Glass together. Relative to Diane and Joe, I remember one of the funniest times was when Brian (McNally) and I escaped from the office at a run — they were having a really healthy business discussion about assembling office furniture!

In the early days at tournaments, Diane was there from dawn 'til late at night. Geoff Peters was her only help, usually. One thing about which she was especially proud was that she was the first in Illinois tournament history to offer prize money for skill divisions below Open (i.e., A through D); there are so many tournaments that don't offer prize money for the lower divisions.

Later, my mom passed the tournament director torch on to Doug Halverson so she could coordinate the hospitality. The food was her baby; she really enjoyed making all the preparations to provide great meals and snacks for the tournament players.

"We are Not Selling Glass Court!"

To carry on Diane's legacy, her son Dan Jaskier now assumes the role of President of Glass Court. Joe DeArmas will be by his side, providing support in his ongoing role as Vice President. Joe is Purchasing Manager at Reliance Gear, a company in Addison that manufactures custom gears for machinery such as tanks and NASCAR automobiles. Dan says, "We hope people won't jump ship, thinking that the club will be sold. Diane's family will continue to operate Glass Court, and Joe and I look forward to making sure the club maintains its reputation of service to its members."

4th Annual

RACQUET FOR THE CURE

**Landmark Racquet
& Health Club, Peoria**
June 27-28, 2008
Tournament Directors –
Pam Schubach and Jim Maroon

This popular racquetball event was held to benefit the Peoria Memorial Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. The foundation was established in 1982 with a mission to eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease through the advancement of research, education, screening and treatment.

The committee's goal this year was to donate \$8,000 to the organization. The Planning & Fundraising Committee consisted of Pam Schubach and Jim Maroon (co-directors), Karen Carter, Joann Kempthorne, Gail Goeppinger, JoAnn Wickwire, Jim and Monica Freaner, Traci Steen, Gary Steiger, John Snarr and Bob Schwab.

This sanctioned tournament's format was a two-day tournament featuring Women's Singles and Doubles, and to include the men, Mixed Doubles and Men's Doubles. Fifty-four players from Illi-

nois and Iowa competed (29 women and 25 men), up from last year.

After Friday evening's Men's Doubles competition and the popular Casino Night, Saturday was a full day of racquetball for the Women's and Mixed divisions. Pro player Jason Thoerner greeted players at the control table Saturday morning. Match play finished at 6:30 p.m. just in time for cocktails and the evening banquet held in Landmark's Starting Gate banquet room.

The banquet included a slide show, silent auction and dance. Awards were presented to the top three players/teams in all divisions. Guest speakers



Tournament Directors Jim Maroon and Pam Schubach congratulate Women's Open Singles champ Laurel Davis

included Stu Regnier of Komen Peoria as well as Pam Schubach and Jim Maroon, tournament directors of the Peoria RFTC. Cheryl Kirk presented Stu a check for \$425 from the USA Racquetball Women's Committee raffle held during National Singles at the Houston Ladies' Night Out.

continued on page 14



Peoria's 2008 RFTC Committee (L to R): Pam Schubach, Monica Freaner, Jim Freaner, Jim Maroon, Karen Carter, Gail Goeppinger, Joann Kempthorne, Bob Schwab, JoAnn Wickwire and John Snarr (Not pictured: Traci Steen and Gary Steiger)

4th Annual **RACQUET FOR THE CURE** *continued from page 13*

"Up All Night" DJ had everyone up singing and dancing. Karaoke was a hit, especially as the evening went on. WMBD-TV (CBC) was on hand to produce a story which was aired on the Saturday evening news.

There were a large variety of quality items to bid on this year and the silent auction raised over \$4,400! Many companies, racquetball companies and individuals provided a wide range of merchandise and services for the silent auction. Michael Schubach donated many popular sports items for the silent auction including autographed items such as a Dallas Mavericks basketball, Greg

Odom shoes, Ryne Sandberg baseball, etc.

Gold sponsors were Carter Law Offices, Landmark Racquet & Health Club, OSF Medical Group, Advanced Asset Management-F. Michael Schubach, Dr. Michael Veeder and RJ Distributing. **Silver sponsors** were Steiger Farms, C. Kirk Consulting, Ektelon, Green Chevrolet Hummer, Midwest Urological Group, and Maui Jim. **Bronze sponsors** were Illini Golf, Mitchell Family Trust, Hammer's Bar & Restaurant, Clinique at Bergner's, Crusen's II,

Wickwire Chiropractic and Ponte Vecchio's.

Pink Racquet sponsors were Dennis Toland, Jim Chambers-Smith Barney, Avon, Clark Management (McDonald's), Midwest Equipment, Pepsi and Wilson.

Peoria has exceeded its contribution goal all four years. A donation in the amount of **\$10,000** will be presented to Linda Maricle, Program Director of the Peoria Memorial Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen for



Tom & Dolores Lamberson made the trip to Peoria

the Cure. This brings Peoria RFTC's four-year donation total to **\$34,200!**

Thanks for the support of the sponsors, tournament players, Planning & Fundraising Committee, Landmark Racquet & Health Club and the many volunteers in making this event a success! Plans are underway for the 5th Annual Racquet for the Cure tournament in Peoria in 2009.

— Jim Maroon



Who says Laurel Davis isn't limber after a full day of racquetball?

RESULTS

Division — 1st ; 2nd; 3rd

Women's Open/A Singles — Laurel Davis (Glass Court, Lombard); Sharon Hunter (Decatur YMCA); Janet Eminger (Orland Park)

Women's Open/A Doubles — Cheryl Kirk (Glass Court, Lombard) / Barb Curran (LA Fitness, Naperville); Laurel Davis / Patrice Calvi (Glass Court, Lombard); Pam Schubach / Joann Kempthorne (Landmark, Peoria)

Women's B/C Doubles — Joann Kempthorne / Traci Steen (Landmark, Peoria); Liz Anderson / Shelley Marquez (Springfield R & F); Debi Ramos / Erin Hayworth (Landmark, Peoria)

Mixed Open Doubles — Brenda White / Mike Vicary (Landmark, Peoria); Pam Schubach / Dan Curless (Landmark, Peoria); Barb Curran (LA Fitness, Naperville) / Brent Huff (Lockport)

Mixed A Doubles — Georgia Russell / David Noyes (Forum Fitness, Rantoul); Marla Cusano /

Kerry Spix (Glass Court, Lombard); Cheryl Kirk (Glass Court, Lombard) / Scott Fauque (LA Fitness, Naperville)

Mixed B/C Doubles — Traci Steen / Ron Jones (Landmark, Peoria); Liz Anderson (Springfield R & F) / Ken Smith (Landmark, Peoria); Debi Ramos / Todd Ziegler (Landmark, Peoria)

Men's Open/A Doubles — Brent Huff (Lockport) / Brian Andresen (Quad Cities); Brady Mann / David Angevine (Landmark, Peoria)

ISRA MOVIN' ON UP — 2008-2009 Season

Racquetball success equates to greater challenges. These individuals won at least one full-draw division the 2007-2008 season and recently received The Letter notifying them of their new eligibility. Good luck to all in the coming year!

Singles Divisions

Men's A to Men's Open –
Eric Battaglia, Mike Hammel, Desmond Slusher, Mike Vieni

Men's B to Men's A –
Pierre De Janon, Dean Hamiti, Rick Seaberg, Bryan Tubbs

Men's C to Men's B –
Kenny Brown, Jake Ryan, Andy Stoltmann, Jim Zidek

Men's D to Men's C –
Jose Alberto Acosta Gallardo, Oscar Madrigal, Enrique Rodriguez

Doubles Divisions

Men's A to Men's Open –
Jim Bono (IN)/Drake Deavours (IN), Tim Brown/Dan Flood, Chris Liljestrand/Matt Macheski

Men's B to Men's A –
Steve Angelo/Don Kuehn

Mixed A to Mixed Open –
Desmond Slusher/Leila Slusher

ISRA Officer and Board Member ELECTION HELD

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors took place on Wednesday, June 11th. As with all ISRA meetings, this meeting was open to the membership.

ISRA Board Elections were held, with the following results: Geoff Peters is Vice President, Michelle Halverson continues as Treasurer, Steve Angelo was renamed as South Zone VP and Doug Halverson as West Zone VP. The following three individuals were re-elected to the Governing Board: Patrice Calvi, Rich Clay, and Joe Silius. Kevin Brylski and Marla Cusano were elected to their first terms on the Governing Board; additionally, Kevin Brylski assumes the position of North Zone VP, replacing Geoff Peters. Not all Officer and Governing Board positions were on this year's slate since the Board operates on a two-year staggered term format to help ensure balance and continuity.

Note that Cheryl Kirk has exited the

ISRA Governing Board. On May 20th in Houston, she was elected President of the USA Racquetball Board of Directors. While Cheryl will be quite busy with her new responsibilities, she will still be pitching in with the ISRA Newsletter as well as assisting at local tournaments.

The ISRA continues to welcome volunteers who would like to join the Auxiliary Board and become more involved in supporting racquetball on the state level. This sort of "apprenticeship" prepares individuals on the aspects of conducting ISRA business and serves as a stepping stone for aspiring governing board members and officers. Any member who would like to lend time and talent in support of the ISRA should contact Laurel Davis (laurelmdavis@comcast.net) or any board member.

— Rick Seaberg, Chair,
ISRA 2008 Nominating Committee

2008 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, 2008.
- Deadlines are as follows:

- **Issue Publication Date:** 11/1/08
- **Articles/Releases/Ads Due:** 10/3/08

- **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 cherylkkirk@aol.com
Send ads to Joe Silius at jsilius@yahoo.com

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*

Attention ISRA MEMBERS!

Beginning with this issue, 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!

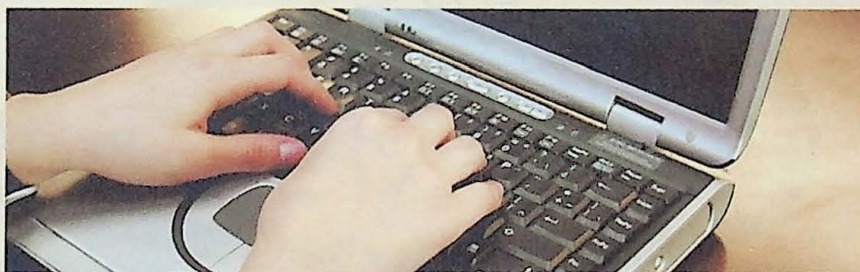
Please follow the steps below to update your profile:

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.



Send to:

ISRA
603 E. Wilson Ave.
Lombard, IL 60148

*Member Sport,
U.S. Olympic
Committee*



COMPETITIVE LICENSE APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (Home) _____ (Business) _____

E-MAIL _____

BIRTHDATE _____

Adult competitor \$35.00 _____

Junior competitor \$20.00 _____

RACQUETBALL Magazine subscription only \$20.00 _____

Tax-deductible donation \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Tournament _____ Representative _____

All memberships are for one year, and include a subscription to RACQUETBALL Magazine (six times/year) and the Illinois Newsletter (four times/year).

ALL NEW COMMAND

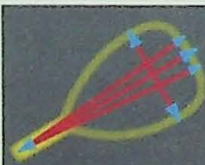
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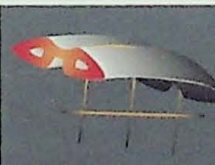
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- CLUB PRO



2008-2009 Tournament CALENDAR

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

July 25th – 27th

15th Annual Summerfest Open, \$\$
The Glass Court Swim and Fitness, Lombard
Doug Halverson; (630) 629-3390
Enter online at www.usra.org

August 9th

5th Annual Dog Days Open
The Southlake Health and Fitness, Mundelein
Cindy Flores-Mocarski; (847) 949-8180

August 26th – 30th

20th IRF World Senior Championships
New Mexico Sports and Wellness
Albuquerque, NM
Gary Mazaroff; (505) 321-1110
Enter online at www.usra.org

September 17th – 21st

Motorola IRT World Championships, \$\$
Colorado Springs, CO
Dave Negrete; (630) 430-1478
Enter online at www.usra.org

October 3rd – 5th

2nd Annual Illinois Vest-A-Dog Racquetball
Fundraiser
Norris Center, St. Charles
Rick Seaberg; (630) 803-1396

October 22nd – 26th

The 14th Annual US Open Championships, \$\$
The Racquet Club, Memphis, TN
Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396
Enter online at www.usra.org

October 31st – November 2nd

The Southlake Pumpkin Open \$, JR
Southlake Racquet and Fitness, Mundelein
Cindy Flores-Mocarski; (847) 949-8180

November 13th – 16th

The Turkey Shoot Open, \$\$
The Glass Court Swim and Fitness, Lombard
Doug Halverson; (630) 629-3390
Enter online at www.usra.org

November 14th – 16th

2008 All Military National Championships
Naval Base San Diego, CA
Contact: Steven Harper
Enter online at www.usra.org

December 7th

One Day Ladies Tournament
Schaumburg Tennis Plus, Schaumburg, IL
Dave Negrete; (630) 430-1478

December 14th – 20th

20th IRF World Junior Championships, JR
Tempe, Arizona
Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396

January 8th – 11th

ISRA State Doubles Championships, JR
The Glass Court Swim and Fitness; Lombard
Cheryl Kirk; (630) 215-4242
Enter online at www.usra.org

January 16th – 18th

WS/MRA National Championships
Canoga Park, CA
Contact: Debbie Tisinger- Moore
Enter online at www.usra.org

February 7th – 8th (tentative)

Lake County Open \$, JR
Southlake Racquet and Fitness, Mundelein
Cindy Flores-Mocarski; (847) 949-8180

February 11th – 15th

42nd Annual USA Racquetball National Doubles
Championships
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396
Enter online at www.usra.org

February TBA

ISRA State Singles Championships, JR
Location TBA
Laurel Davis; 630-476-6896
Enter online at www.usra.org

March TBA

23rd Wilson National High School Championships
St. Louis, MO
Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396
Enter online at www.usra.org

March 11th – 14th

2009 NMRA National Championships
Canoga Park, CA
Contact : Debbie Tisinger - Moore
Enter online at www.usra.org

March 19th – 22nd

The Shamrock Shootout, \$\$
The Glass Court Swim and Fitness, Lombard
Doug Halverson; (630) 629-3390

April TBA

37th National Collegiate Championships
Location TBD
Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396
Enter online at www.usra.org

April TBA

USA Racquetball Regional Championships
Weekend
Various Sites Nationwide
View: www.usra.org

April 22nd – 26th

Fourth Annual IRT Motorola Pro Nationals
Presented by Verizon Wireless
Dave Negrete; (630) 430-1478

May 20th – 25th

42nd USA Racquetball National Singles
Championships
The Downtown YMCA, Houston, TX
Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396
Enter online at www.usra.org

June 24th – 28th

36th National Junior Olympic Championships, JR
Lansing, MI
Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396
Enter online at www.usra.org

June 26th – 27th

5th Annual Racquet for the Cure
Landmark Health and Fitness, Peoria
(Women's Division plus Men's/Mixed Doubles)
John Snarr; (309) 685-8360

July 15th – 18th

2009 NMRA International Championships
Urbana, IL
Contact: John O'Donnell, Jr.
Enter online at www.usra.org

July 24th – 26th

16th Annual Summerfest Open \$\$
The Glass Court Swim and Fitness, Lombard
Doug Halverson; (630) 629-3390
Enter online at www.usra.org

JR - Includes Junior Divisions

\$ - Prize Money in
Open Divisions

\$\$ - Prize Money in
Multiple Divisions

All tournaments listed are sanctioned by USA Racquetball

sponsored by



Racquetball

CHALLENGE COURTS

Buehler YMCA

(847) 359-2400

Palatine, IL

Thursdays

7-10 p.m.

Saturday 8 a.m. - Noon
\$15 One-Day Guest Pass

Landmark Health

and Racquetball

(309) 685-8360

Peoria, IL

First and Third

Friday each month

6 - 8 p.m.

\$5.00

Schaumburg Park District

(847) 490-2505

Saturday

8 - 10 a.m.

Sunday 6 - 8 p.m.

\$3 Members,

\$9.00 Non-Members

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

Life Center Health and Fitness at

the Bartlett Park District

(630) 540-4848

Bartlett, IL

Wednesdays

7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Saturdays

7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

\$4.00 Members

\$6.00 Non-Members

\$9.00 Non-Residents

Silver Lake Country Club

(708) 349-6940

Orland Park, IL

Friday 7 - 10 p.m.

\$7.00 Members

and Non-Members

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

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

The Southlake Club

(847) 949-8180

Mundelein, IL

Monday-Friday 5 - 8 p.m.

Saturday

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

\$10.00 for ISRA Members
(with membership card)

Heritage YMCA

(630) 420-6270

Naperville, IL

Saturday

9 - 10 a.m.

\$4.00 Members,

\$8.00 Non-Members

West Cook YMCA

(708) 383-5200

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: **Lynne Weisbart (847) 732-7245**