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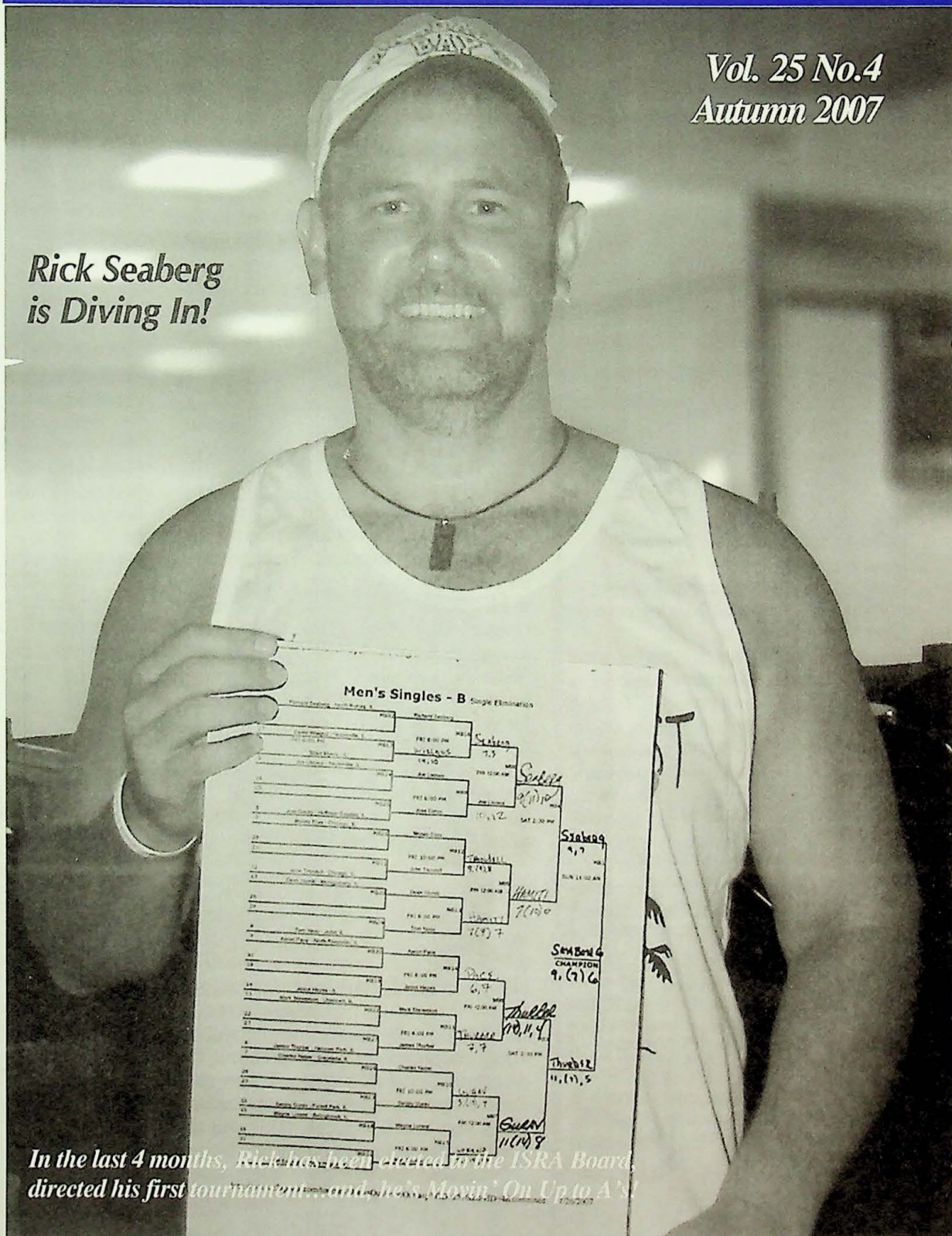


Newsletter

The Official Publication of the Illinois State Racquetball Association

Vol. 25 No.4
Autumn 2007

***Rick Seaberg
is Diving In!***



In the last 4 months, Rick has been elected to the ISRA Board, directed his first tournament, and he's Movin' On Up to A's!

ILLINOIS STATE RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

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From the President

FACT: Illinois' ISRA Travel League is the oldest and largest league of its kind in the country.

FACT: The Women's Travel League almost disintegrated this season. The reason is that due to club consolidation, we were down to three teams. That means large rosters and playing the same teams over and over and over again. Suffice it to say, many players were not enthused by that.

FACT: Rather than let the league die, some players stepped up and instigated a dialogue among *all of the players* to come up with alternative formats for the league.

A meeting was held and the formats were discussed and voted on. A new format was implemented that creates new teams and adds some excitement to the league.

I was very impressed with the process. The participants took charge and rationally discussed what was best for the league, the players and the clubs. Leaders in the process included Liz Molitor, Julie Vincent and Patrice Calvi.

All of the players were divided by playing level. The six highest level players were chosen as team captains. From there, players were picked from a hat (by level) to fill out the six teams. ISRA Travel League Administrator Pam Grace served as auditor to ensure that there was no "funny business." Most players have been playing with the same teammates for years. This was a great way to mix up the teams and give people the opportunity to get to know other players better. It was also a great way to improve the competition because the talent is evenly divided between teams.

We began with a one-club solution. Patrice suggested that it was good for racquetball that we play at more than one club so that club members who may not play racquetball are exposed to the game. So, the three clubs that were originally going to have teams were contacted about the newly-formatted league. It was determined that all teams will play at the same club each week - rotating between clubs from week to week. This will also enhance the fun and competitiveness of

the league because everyone will be together during the matches. By taking the interested players and making up six teams, more players will be able to participate regularly. Players who could not commit to playing every week have been designated to a substitute pool and can be picked up by any team, as needed.

So, why am I sharing this with you? I'm sharing it because I want to emphasize that the ISRA is an organization *for its members*. The Women's Travel League will continue to be part of the ISRA Travel League. The ISRA will be responsible for maintaining rules, scorekeeping, monitoring memberships and end of season prizes. But, the ISRA will not dictate the format of this league or any others. Things change over time and as they change, what we've done in the past might not be the best thing to do in the future.

We're at the beginning of a new racquetball season. Change can sometimes bring new life. If you have things you'd like to see changed, let us know. We don't have all of the ideas. If you bring the ideas, we'll bring the support to implement ideas that make sense for us all.

Welcome back to a new season.

Laurel



ISRA Family News



Racquetball Romance – Wedding x 2!

Tom and Dolores (Bethune) Lamberson, August 25, 2007: The groom reported, "Dolores and I met on the volleyball court back in the summer of... '98? I couldn't take my eyes off her and of course she found me irresistible and charming! On the 25th of August, we got married at Union Church in Hinsdale and our reception was at Carriage Greens Golf Club in Darien. Walter Fornek was my best man and Dolores' sister Sharon Wheeler was her maid of honor. We had a fantastic Beatles tribute band — they made everyone dance including me, and I have two left feet! For the wedding cake, we wanted something fun. Dolores thought it would be great to have a racquetball cake with us on it, so she did all the research on figurines and came across a company who makes clay statues of people. The price was reasonable and we said, "Yeah, sure, let's do it." They needed photos of us in our racquetball gear — we did that early on a Sunday morning at Glass Court when nobody was around. Dolores' sister Patty took all the pictures. So when you look at my little statue, you'll notice something dark on my face. That's not dirt, it's my beard. I can't believe those little statues made it through the reception. They ended up on the bar!"



Frank and Julianne (Beran) Valentino, September 29, 2007: Frank and Julianne met playing racquetball at the Chalet in 2004. Their wedding was a Catholic ceremony at St. Ann's in Channahon. Frank's best man was his brother, Keith Valentino, and Julianne's maid of honor was Kathy Dvorak, her sister. Tom Lamberson, attending his second wedding in a month, reported, "The reception was at Julianne and Frank's house and they really did a great job with set-up. Walter Fornek and his wife Shawn did a lot of the coordinating that day and Barb Vagedes filled in as bartender. I drank several different colored cocktails. Hats off to Julianne and Frank for a beautiful, fun wedding!"



John Thorson Runs (and Finishes!) Chicago Marathon

When so many succumbed to the heat and lack of water at October's marathon, John Thorson possessed a special inspiration to complete the event. In John's own words...

"Over the years, I have gone out to see people do the marathon and I always wanted to do it. This past year, the Glass

Court family lost a very special person, Lauren Kiefer. Many times when I would work out at Glass, she would be right next to me working out on a treadmill or Stairmaster. It was always nice to see her smiling face.

"In March, I asked Jan Kiefer if I could run the Chicago Marathon in her daughter Lauren's memory. She said yes and that she was so proud that I would do this. That was all the inspiration I needed! On October 7, 2007, I ran the Chicago Marathon. On a day with record heat, it was the hardest run I have ever done, but it was all for Lauren. I will never forget the friend who was so kind to everyone."



In Memory of Susan Mertes by Nancy Kronenfeld

Racquetball lost one of its great enthusiasts in September when Susan Mertes lost her battle with breast cancer. I only knew Susan for a short three years. I met her when she was first diagnosed with breast cancer. She treated it as no big deal and proceeded to become a member of the Lattof Travel Team. Susan was always willing to play anywhere at anytime. She never let her treatment stand in the way of being involved and she remained so strong throughout those three years that it was hard to believe this powerful woman couldn't beat anything that came her way. Her courage and ability to keep moving forward will always be an inspiration to me. In memory of Susan, Lattof Y will be hosting "Slam it for Susan" - a fun-for-all evening of racquetball to remember her and to raise money to help fight the battle against breast cancer. Susan was only 46 years old.

continued on next page

NMRA International Championships — Kansas City Here We Come!

By Nancy Kronenfeld

On Wednesday, July 25th over 200 senior citizens converged on the Athletic Club of Overland Park to compete in hundreds of racquetball matches. This round robin event had Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles. A new format began this year and all divisions played two games to 15. Playoffs began on Saturday for divisions with two or more flights of players.

Illinois had 11 entrants and 8 came home with medals, including *double gold* by Lola Markus and Nancy Kronenfeld! And the participants were:

Phil Dziuk, Men's 80+ (Silver) and Men's 75+ Doubles (Silver, with John O'Donnell, Jr.)

TJ Ferro, Men's 55+ and Men's 55+ Doubles (Bronze, with Jim Elliott, UT)

Dennis Healy, Men's 55+ (Bronze)

Nancy Kronenfeld, Women's 55+ Doubles (Gold, with Shirley Parsons, CO) and Mixed 55+ (Gold, with Tony Upkes, SD)

Dan Malone, Men's 50+

Lola Markus, Women's 65+ Doubles (Gold, with Mildred Gwinn, NC) and Mixed 70+ (Gold, with Ron Dorst, CA)

Dennis McKee, Men's 60+ (Gold)

Dave Negrete, Men's 45+ (Gold)

Bruce Nelson, Men's 55+
John O'Donnell, Jr., Men's 75+ (Gold), Men's 75+ Doubles (Silver, with Phil Dziuk)

Pat Taylor, Men's 65+

Congratulations to everyone who won, played or just enjoyed the camaraderie. The NMRA's National Championships will be held in Orem, Utah, 45 minutes south of Salt Lake City, March 5-8, 2008. The site of the NMRA International Championships will be West Allis, Wisconsin, July 16-19, 2008 (nice and close for the Illinois players!). Visit the NMRA website at www.nmra.info for details on both of these 2008 events. **One last note:** The Women's Senior/Masters Racquetball Association (WS/MRA) will be going to Kansas City for their National Tournament in January 2008!



Phil Dziuk took 2 NMRA medals home to Champaign!

ISRA Family News

continued from previous page

Meet the Board

by Patrice Calvi

When I was learning racquetball in high school, I never imagined what effect the game would have on me. Beside my family, husband Nick (26 years), sons Jason, Joseph and Nicolas, racquetball is truly one of my loves. Although I was bitten by the racquetball bug in high school, I really developed my love for the game later in life.

Starting to play leagues out of the club in Richton Park, I gradually moved up the ladder advancing to "A" division and eventually to the Open level. I love the competition and the camaraderie that racquetball offers. Let's be honest...we are a "family." This is what drove me to volunteer on the ISRA Board.

For me, being on the ISRA Board is a true labor of love. As one of my main "jobs" of



lining up volunteers to work tournaments, the response from the racquetball community has been outstanding. Thanks to all of you who have stepped up big-time to help make these events successful. Without this

support, we would not have been able to sustain, and grow, these tournaments year in and year out.

Some of my favorite memories are Peoria State Doubles (sleeping with 5 Italian women — ask me for details when you see me at the next tournament!). Also, the ISRA Golf Outing 17th Hole, Playing with the Pro's, and Summerfest.

Outside of my involvement and responsibilities as a team leader for E-Force, I enjoy working on my flower garden.

I appreciated being recognized with the 2004 Distinguished Service Award, although for me being around racquetball and a great group of "family" is all I need.

Editor's Note: The ISRA Board is grateful for Patrice's continued service and support. She is fun and dedicated in equal measure. Thanks, Patrice, for all you do for the racquetball players of Illinois!

Summerfest

The Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard, IL
July 27-29, 2007

Tournament Director – Doug Halverson

Just a lazy little summer tournament...yeah, right! Entries numbering 145...seven states represented (Alabama, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Nebraska, Ohio, Wisconsin). Down-state Illinois made the trip as well; players traveled from cities such as Peoria, Minooka, Champaign, Chatham, Forsyth and Kankakee. The entries just kept on coming in and Tournament Director Doug Halverson was ecstatic!

This was a good tourney for the inaugural use of the R2 Sports tournament management system. Doug and Michelle Halverson especially liked the ease of use and the reduced time in putting together the draws, draw sheets and scorecards.

The Men's and Women's Open draws were enhanced by up-and-coming young players who come over to Glass for the hospitality, the camaraderie, and of course, the prize money! Men's Open boasted 21 players, with the Finals between Ben Croft and Andy Hawthorne. Croft emerged in first place, 15-11, 15-8. Women's Open had 13 entries, including Indiana and Ohio juniors Sharon Jackson, Sheryl Lotts and Lily Berry. Tracy Cerovski came over from Ohio to play as well, a month before her wedding to Andy Hawthorne on August 31 – congratulations and best wishes, Andy and Tracy!

The draws at Glass Court tournaments afford many players the opportunity to win full draw divisions. The following players will move up to the next division at the end

of this season (or until they win another full draw at which time they will move up immediately): Mike Hammel to Men's Open, Rick Seaberg to Men's A, Kenny Brown to Men's B, Enrique Rodriguez to Men's C. Nice job, guys!

Magnificent weather provided the perfect backdrop for the annual barbecue and beach party on Sunday – including swimming, volleyball, bean bags and, of course, the raffle! A nice relaxing finish to a competition-packed weekend...

Doug thanks his crew of volunteers – Marian Bala, Char Borre, Kevin Brylski, Ron Calloway, Patrice Calvi, Dan Flood, Lori Good, Jeff Grace, Pam Grace, Michelle

Halverson, Brent Huff, Cheryl Kirk, Liz Molitor, Geoff Peters, Kara Peters, Kathy Ruzycki, Joe Silius, Chuck Snyders, Tom Utterback, Lynn Yeazell. Much gratitude also to Glass Court owners Joe and Diane DeArmas and their outstanding staff. Everyone feels welcome at Glass!

— Cheryl Kirk



The Essence of Summerfest — Sun, Sand, Volleyball...and Racquetball!

Results

Division/# entered: First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Open (21): Ben Croft; Andy Hawthorne (OH); Christopher Crockett (AL), Keith Minor
Men's AA (8): Phil Mathews; Geoff Goldblatt; Martin Gonzalez, Bryan Crosser (IA)
Men's A (15): Mike Hammel; Chris Liljestrand; Tom Lamberson, Justin LaBelle (OH)
Men's B (17): Rick Seaberg; Jim Thurber; Dean Hamiti, Sanjay Gurav
Men's C (19): Kenny Brown; Andy Stoltmann; Kevin McMillan, Antonio Vazquez

continued on next page



*Wil Rounsaville and Geoff Peters
Do we really want to know what's so funny?*



Jim Thurber — In the Money!

Croft defeats Coyle to take the Dog Days Open!

The Southlake Club, Mundelein, IL

August 19, 2007

Tournament Director – Cindy Flores-Mocarski

Ben Croft of Lake Bluff, currently ranked #9 on the International Racquetball Tour, defeated Eugene Coyle of Palatine 15-13, 15-4 to take the \$300 first place prize at the Fifth Annual Dog Days Open on August 19th at The Southlake Club. Over 50 players competed in this annual summer event with Croft capturing both the Men's Singles title, then teaming with his dad Bob (who teaches racquetball at Southlake and coaches Ben) to take the Men's Doubles title as well.

In other divisions of play, Joey Limonciello of Mundelein defeated Geoff Peters of Chicago 15-8, 15-14 to take the Men's A division; Bryan Tubbs capped a tournament of straight game wins to take out Steve Grujich in the Men's B division; while in Men's C, Juan Arteaga beat Jesus Rojas in a hard-fought tie-breaker. Local Southlake

player Frank Milazzo took home the Gold in the Men's 45+ age group with a 15-9, 9-15, 11-3 win over Mike Davern Sr., while Mundelein's own Pat McGrath teamed with Waylon Adams of Bristol, WI to win the Men's B Doubles. Another Southlake team of Kathy Mysliwiec and Joe Garay took the Mixed Doubles division in straight games over local players Robin Smulsen and Herbie Rodriguez.

Tournament Director Cindy Flores-Mocarski thanks the dedicated team of Southlake staff and volunteers who helped her run a smooth and enjoyable tournament. Check out the ISRA tournament calendar at www.illinoisracquetball.com for more Southlake tournaments in the coming months!

— Geoff Peters

Results

Division/# entered: First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Open (10): Ben Croft; Eugene Coyle; Zach Archer, Geoff Goldblatt

Men's B (8): Bryan Tubbs; Steve Grujich; Antonio Vasquez, Jesus Aguirre

Men's C (4): Juan Arteaga; Jesus Rojas; Mike Davern, Jr. (3rd), Val Carrasco (4th)

Men's 45+ (6): Frank Milazzo; Mike Davern, Sr.; Howard Lampert, Jeff Grace

Men's Open Doubles (6): Ben Croft/Bob Croft; Geoff Goldblatt/Brandon Ritschard; Zach Archer/Joel Worthington, Frank Milazzo/Mike Davern, Sr.

Men's B Doubles (6): Pat McGrath/Waylon Adams; Bryan Tubbs/Arlyn Tratt; Joe Garay/Val Carrasco, Rick Nielsen/Alan Crane

Mixed Doubles (6): Joe Garay/Cathy Mysliwiec; Herbie Rodriguez/Robin Smulsen; Kerry Spix/Marla Cusano, Antonio Vasquez/Carrie Mory

Summerfest

continued from previous page



Joe, wait...no! Don't do it, please!

Women's Open/A (13): Sharon Jackson (IN); Liz Molitor; Sheryl Lotts (OH), Ellen Somberg

Women's Open/A dropdown (6): Tracy Cerovski (OH); Patrice Calvi; Mary Crambes, Pam Grace

Women's B/C (8): Joann Kempthorne; Mary Crambes; Jane Arnold, Pam Jacobsen

Women's D/Novice (6): Joyce Satorius; Melissa Ballate; Letty Maldonado, Joy Deshazer

Men's Open Doubles (15): Jacob Hutkins (NE)/Phil Mathews; Christopher Crockett (AL)/Allan Crockett (AL); Ben Croft/Eugene Coyle, John Amatulli (IN)/Keith Minor

Men's A Doubles (8): Chris Liljestrand/Matt Malcheski; Paul Nicotra/Pete Schmeichel; Bernie Scheer (WI)/Joey

Salamone (WI), Glen Bero/Jeff Grace

Men's B Doubles (7): Frank Valentino/John Geatros; Mark Coleman/Matt Rowland; Gene Cromwell/Mike Mahon, Kenny Brown/Tom Ness

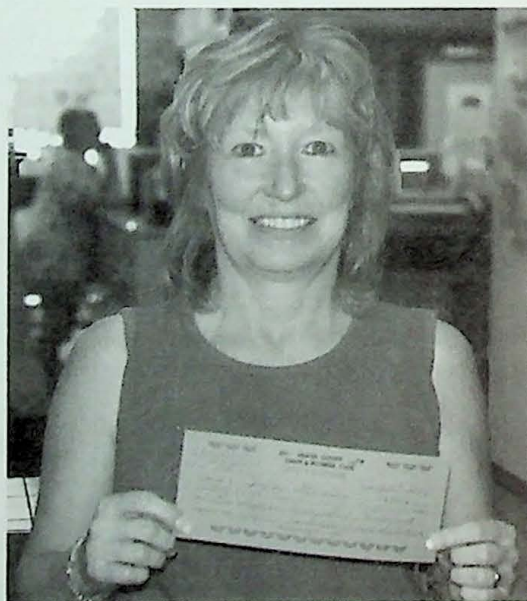
Men's C Doubles (5): Elton Trindade/Enrique Rodriguez; Adrian Montes Deoca/Marco Montes Deoca; Ray Almaraz/Rodrigo Vazquez (3rd)

Men's D (13): Enrique Rodriguez; Bob Richmond; Eric Mittermann, Rick LaFine

Men's 35/40/45/50+ (13): Cary Slade; Tony Marquez; Steve Horve, Lem Rowans

Men's 45+ Int. (4): Rick Seaberg; John Geatros; Larry Schum (3rd)

Men's 55+ (9): Joe Silius; Mark Coleman; Jim Maroon, Wil Rounsaville



Joyce Satorius, Women's D Champ

Women's Open/A Doubles (4): Ellen Somberg/Renee Roux; Barb Curran/Cheryl Kirk; Laurel Davis/Lynn Yeazell (3rd)

Mixed Open/A Doubles (15): Allan Crockett (AL)/Sharon Jackson (IN); John Amatulli (IN)/Liz Molitor; Geoff Goldblatt/Sheryl Lotts (OH), Andy Hawthorne (OH)/Tracy Cerovski (OH)

Mixed B/C Doubles (4): Frank Valentino/Julianne Beran; Mike Mahon/Cheryl Kirk; Elaine Isham/Ray Almaraz (3rd)

3rd Annual Racquet For The Cure

Landmark Racquet & Health Club, Peoria, IL

August 24-25, 2007

Tournament Directors – Pam Schubach and Jim Maroon

The 3rd annual Racquet for the Cure (RFTC) tournament was held in support of The Peoria Memorial Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. The foundation was established in 1982 to help fight breast cancer by funding research grants and supporting education, screening and treatment projects in communities around the world.

To achieve this year's goal of \$7,500, the Planning & Fundraising Committee got to work! Pam Schubach & Jim Maroon (co-directors), Traci Steen, Karen Carter, Joann Kempthorne and Gail Goeppinger set objectives. We added more local committee members including JoAnn Wickwire, Jim and Monica Freaner, John Snarr, Bob Schwab and Gary Steiger.

Players numbering 48 (30 women and 18 men) came from Illinois, Iowa and Indiana. The format was a two-day racquetball tournament beginning Friday evening with Women's Singles, Women's Doubles, and to include the men, Mixed Doubles.

This year the fundraising event added a new Friday night activity – "Casino Nite." Jim and Monica Freaner took charge of organizing this event. We played Texas Hold'em, Black Jack and Crown & Anchor. Players made a donation to Susan G. Komen for the Cure in exchange for poker chips. At the end of the evening, the chips were traded in for some very nice prizes, including jewelry, die-cast NASCAR cars, sports merchandise, etc.

On Saturday, we had a full day of racquetball. The final matches finished at 6 p.m.



RFTC Committee members, from left: Monica Freaner, JoAnn Wickwire, Jim Freaner, Karen Carter, Jim Maroon, Joann Kempthorne, Gail Goeppinger, Pam Schubach, Traci Steen and Gary Steiger (Not pictured — Bob Schwab and John Snarr)

just in time for cocktails and the evening festivities. An awards banquet, slide show, silent auction and dance was held. Guest speakers included Dave & Becky Auer, Race for the Cure Chairs; Pam Schubach, CEO of Peoria YWCA; and Jim Maroon, Peoria RFTC. Cheryl Kirk made a check presentation to Dave & Becky from a raffle held at National Singles in Houston, by the USA Racquetball Women's Committee. They donated \$2,800 raised from a painting entitled "Spirit of the Journey" created by racquetball legend Ruben Gonzalez.

Michael Schubach donated many popular sports items for the silent auction including autographed items such as a Franco Harris Steeler helmet and football, Terry Bradshaw football, Bob Gibson baseball, Jerry West basketball and Grizzley jerseys. Local companies, racquetball manufacturers and individuals provided a wide range of merchandise and services. The silent auction raised over \$5,300 (an increase of \$1,300 over last year!).

Many companies and individuals were sponsors donating money, gift certificates and items to assist with expenses, awards and the silent auction.

Gold sponsors (\$1,000+): Carter Law Offices, Ektelon, OSF Medical Group, Advanced Asset Management-F. Michael Schubach and RJ Distributing.

Silver sponsors (\$500+): Landmark Racquet & Health Club, Steiger Farms, Associated Bank, Green Chevrolet Hummer, Wilson, National City Bank, Dr. John Richier & Associates and LA Weight Loss.

Bronze sponsors (\$250+): Illini Golf, Mitchell Family Trust, Rhythm Kitchen & Music Café, Hammer's Bar & Restaurant, Maui Jim, Inc., Pepsi and Clark Management (McDonald's).

Awards sponsors (\$100+): Terry Schubach, Dennis Toland, John Bisanz - Tri-County Appraisal Services, Wickwire Chiropractic, Michael McCord - Illinois Mutual, Lisa Vicary - Identity Day Spa and Jim Chambers-Smith Barney.

We exceeded our fundraising goal again this year. A donation in the amount of **\$9,200** will be presented to Linda Maricle, Program Director of the Peoria Memorial Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure by Pam and Jim. This brings our three-year donation to total over **\$24,000!**

Thanks to the support of our many sponsors, the tournament players, the Planning & Fundraising Committee, the Advisory



Missy Moses, Debi Ramos and Jessica Thomas enjoy the RFTC banquet

continued on next page

3rd Annual Racquet for the Cure
continued from previous page

Committee and the many volunteers for making this event a success! Plans are underway for the 4th Annual Racquet for the Cure tournament in Peoria in 2008.

— Jim Maroon

Results

Division/# entered: First; Second; Consolation

Women's Open/A: Alice Douglass-McClure (IN); Kristen Coulter (Ottawa); Georgia Russell (Rantoul)

Women's AA: Pam Schubach (Peoria); Laurel Davis (Oak Brook)

Women's B/C: Erin Hayworth (Peoria); Debi Ramos (Peoria); Keri Vance (Peoria)

Women's Open/A Doubles: Brenda White (Peoria)/Debbie Chaney (IN); Anna Shunk (IN)/Alice Douglass-McClure (IN); Laurel Davis (Oak Brook)/Lynn Yeazell (Naperville)

Women's B/C Doubles: Shelly Marquez (Springfield)/Liz Anderson (Springfield); Karen Carter (Peoria)/Gail Goeppinger (Peoria); Erin Hayworth (Peoria)/Debi Ramos (Peoria)

Mixed Open/A Doubles: Pam Schubach (Peoria)/Dan Curless (Peoria); Lynn Yeazell (Naperville)/Brent Huff (New Lenox); Kelly Carter (Bloomington)/Jim Maroon (Peoria)

Mixed B/C Doubles: Liz Anderson (Springfield)/David Angevine (Peoria); Gail Goeppinger (Peoria)/Brad Goeppinger (Peoria); Erin Hayworth (Peoria)/Matt Kaag (Peoria)

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 March 31, 2008.
- Deadlines are as follows:

- **Issue Mail Date:** 2/4/08
- **Articles/Releases Due:** 1/4/08
- **Stuffers/Inserts Due:** 1/11/08

- All stuffers/inserts are to be received by:

Laura Kreiner, 2307 Arrow Street, Carpentersville, Illinois 60110

- 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:

Joe Silius, jsilius@yahoo.com

CHICAGO'S LEGENDARY DEEP DISH PIZZA



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

2007 US National Doubles Championships

Arizona State University Recreation Center, Tempe, Arizona

September 26-30, 2007

Tournament Director – Jim Hiser

It's always nice to arrive back at the ASU Rec Center — the sounds of racquetballs cracking against the walls, the smoothie bar all a-whirl, gorgeous weather outside...ah, Tempe!

Here in Illinois, unseasonably warm weather has spoiled us...but, sadly, not forever. Long about the first of February, we'll yearn for a bit of sun and warmth. Gosh...did you know National Doubles will again take place February 13-17, 2008, back in Tempe? A change in the scheduling cycle affords the opportunity for a racquetball escape just when we'll need it most. Check out the next issue of *Racquetball* magazine for details and the entry form.

But let's review the National Doubles just past...416 players, 46 divisions. The women's pool play format was a hit, player hospitality stepped up a notch, and the silent auction offered some fun items as a fundraiser for the US National Team. (I'm expecting a personal thank-you note from Jim Hiser any day now for my enthusiastic participation ...my credit card is groaning...)

Including partners and divisions played, the Illinois Seven logged the following:

Ben Croft

Mitch Williams (CO)
– Men's US Team
Qualifying (Gold)

Chris Evon

Gordon Kirkland (FL) – Mixed 50+ (Bronze)
Malia Bailey (VA) – Women's US Team Qualifying

Cheryl Kirk

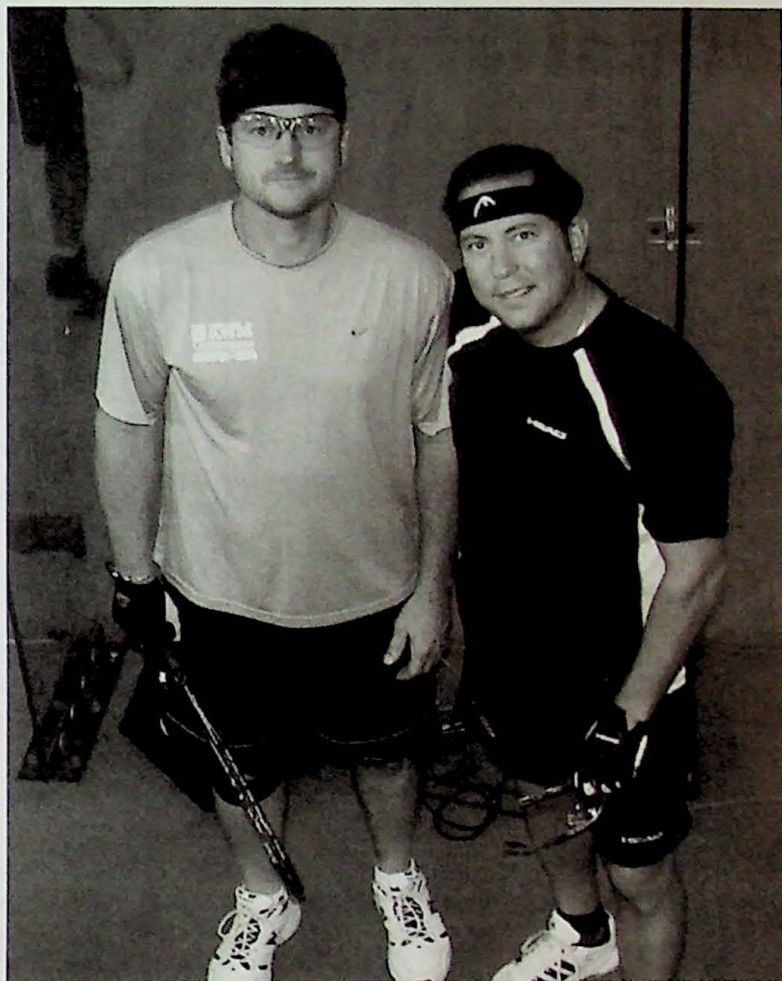
Laura Natividad (HI) – Women's A
Barbara Ahearn (AZ) – Women's 45A/55A (Silver)
Geoff Peters – Mixed A

Keith Minor

John Amatulli (IN) – Men's 35+ (Gold)
John Amatulli (IN) – Men's 40+ (Gold)

Nancy Kronenfeld

MeriJean Kelley (CA) – Women's 55+ (Gold)



Minor & Amatulli — Double Gold and a Force to be Reckoned With!



*Illinois Women in Tempe — Nancy Kronenfeld, Cheryl Kirk and Brenda White
(Not pictured — Chris Evon)*

George Heidelmeyer (TX) – Mixed 50+
George Heidelmeyer (TX) – Mixed 55+ (Bronze)

Geoff Peters

Cheryl Kirk – Mixed A
Rich Bowman (IN) – Men's 45+

Brenda White

Debbie Chaney (IN) – Women's 55+ (Pewter)

The Cheerleaders are always appreciated: Terri Graham, Kit Lawson; Arizona transplants Chris Cotton, Brad Jordan, Barry Berger-Hendricks and Jim Verhaege.

So...start chanting, "February in Tempe...February in Tempe..." What a nice holiday gift to yourself and/or your favorite racquetball player!

— Cheryl Kirk

Illinois Vest-A-Dog Racquetball Fundraiser

Norris Center, St. Charles

September 28-29, 2007

Tournament Director – Rick Seaberg

Do the math! What do 20 sponsors, 38 racquetball players, 4 courts, and 52 hard-fought matches equal? In the case of the First Annual Illinois Vest-a-Dog Racquetball Fundraiser, it equals \$1,778 dollars raised to purchase 2 bullet- and stab-resistant vests for some of the state's finest on four legs!

This was the first tournament held at the Norris Center in more years than anyone can remember, so thanks to Jon Monken for allowing us the opportunity to add another host club for events. The staff went out of their way to accommodate us and the club has extended an invitation to host another event!

The Men's Open/A opening round went as expected, with Eugene Coyle, Cary Slade, Kent Habrada and Brian Berkelhamer advancing to the semifinals. The final pitted Cary Slade against Eugene Coyle. It was an intense match, with Cary finally earning his first "career" win over Eugene in two straight games.

In the Men's A flight, Pat Taylor started the round by putting on a serving exhibition, scoring nearly 70% of his points in the match on service aces! What's your secret, Pat?

Saturday was Tony Medina's birthday, so tournament host Kim Seaberg baked a nice chocolate cake (to go with the homemade chocolate chip cookies!) to celebrate Tony's birthday. Tony decided to celebrate in his own way by getting to the finals in Men's A. He had to settle for a silver medal on his big day, losing to Mike Davern.



*Carlos Diaz and Bill Doyle —
at Carlos' first-ever tournament!*

The Men's B action got off to a quick start in a spirited contest between Moses Elias and new-comer Dan Daoud in Men's B singles. Moses warmed up after a slow start and pulled out the match in a tiebreaker. Bryan Tubbs showed that he came to play with a big tiebreaker win over top seed Pete Schmeichel. Bryan and Dean Hamiti fought their way through a strong B draw to meet in the finals, with Bryan coming out on top. Make room for Bryan in the A's next season!

First-time tournament player Carlos Diaz made a big debut by making it to the semis in Men's B and losing in the Men's 35+ Intermediate finals to Bill Doyle. Look out for Carlos in future events!

Dave Wielgus and Dan Musgrove were the Iron Men of the competition, making it all the way to the finals in Men's C. Dave squeaked out a tiebreaker win over his doubles partner. Then they teamed up to play the last match of the tournament and defeated Tony Medina and Juan Ortega in the Men's B Doubles.

I want to offer a big thank you to Cindy Flores-Mocarski for all of her help over the weekend. Cindy came down to do some stringing and wound up helping run the tournament desk, reffing, setting up lunch, and doing laundry, for all I know. Thanks, Cindy, for rolling up your sleeves and jumping in!

Another big thank you to Kim Seaberg for all of her hard work before, during and after the tournament, and to Mark Coleman and Paul Shafar, who helped organize the event and solicited many of the sponsors and donations. Without the effort of those two, the contribution to Illinois Vest-a-Dog would have paled in comparison to our actual final donation.



IVAD's Youngest Sponsor — Ashley Grace!

Finally, thanks to all the players for your support in coming out and producing such a good turnout for a first-time event. We had several casual observers come through the tournament during the course of the weekend and every one of them commented on the high quality of play, the sportsmanship among the players, and the generosity of everyone to give their time and dollars to a great cause. There are no tournaments without the players! See you next year!

– Rick Seaberg

Results

Division/# entered: First; Second; Semifinals

Men's Open (9): Cary Slade; Eugene Coyle; Kent Habrada, Brian Berkelhamer

Men's A (5): Mike Davern, Sr.; Tony Medina; Pat Taylor, Scott Fauque

Men's B (15): Bryan Tubbs; Dean Hamiti; Carlos Diaz, Aaron Pace

Men's C (6): Dave Wielgus; Dan Musgrove; Lee Scoville, Tom Barr

Men's 35/45/55 Int. (6): Bill Doyle; Carlos Diaz; Ernesto Tan, Ray Meisner

Men's Open/A Doubles (9): Brian Berkelhamer/George Pappas; Rick Coleman/Matt Rowland; Moses Elias/Aaron Pace, Scott Fauque/Dean Hamiti

Men's B Doubles (5): Dan Musgrove/Dave Wielgus; Tony Medina/Juan Ortega; Paul Shafar/Mike Carlton, Brian Lien/Dale Willenbrink

Mixed Doubles (3): Mike Davern, Sr./Bernadette Bland; Dale Willenbrink/Jonelle Kohoutek; Matt Rowland/Tricia Gatliolis



TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

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

November 3rd — 4th

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

November 8th — 11th

The Turkey Shoot Open, \$\$
The Glass Court Swim and Fitness,
Lombard
Doug Halverson; (630) 629-3390
SANCTIONED

November 14th — 18th

**The 13th Annual Choice Hotels
US Open, \$\$**
The Racquet Club, Memphis, TN
Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396
SANCTIONED

December 2nd

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

December 17th — 22nd

**IRF World Junior
Championships (JR)**
Cochabamba, Bolivia
Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396
SANCTIONED

January 11th — 13th

**ISRA State Doubles
Championships (JR)**
Glass Court Swim & Fitness, Lombard
Laurel Davis; (630) 476-6896
SANCTIONED

January 24th — 27th

**WS/MRA 19th Annual
National Championships**
The Athletic Club, Overland Park, KS
Julie Heitkamp; (913) 383-9060
SANCTIONED

January 25th — 27th

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

February 8th — 10th

ISRA State Singles Championships (JR)
The Chalet (tentative)
Cheryl Kirk; (630) 215-4242
SANCTIONED

February 13th — 17th

**40th Annual USA Racquetball National
Doubles Championships**
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396
SANCTIONED

February 28th — March 2nd

**20th Wilson National High School
Championships**
Location TBA, (Tentative: St. Louis)
Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396
SANCTIONED

March 5 — 8

NMRA National Championships
Orem (SLC), UT
www.nmra.info

March 13th — 16th

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

April 5th — 6th

Midwest Seniors/Masters (Tentative)
Location TBD
Cheryl Kirk; (630) 215-4242
SANCTIONED

April 10th — 13th

**USA Racquetball Regional
Championships Weekend**
Various Sites Nationwide
View: www.usaracquetball.org
SANCTIONED

April 23rd — 27th

**Fourth Annual IRT Motorola Pro
Nationals/Chicago USAR Regionals,
\$\$**
Schaumburg Tennis Plus, Schaumburg
Dave Negrete; (630) 430-1478
SANCTIONED

May 21st — 26th

**41st USA Racquetball National Singles
Championships**
The Downtown YMCA,
Houston, TX
Heather Fender; (719) 635-5396
SANCTIONED

July 16 — 19

NMRA International Championships
West Allis, WI
www.nmra.info

JR - Includes Junior Divisions
\$ - Prize Money in Open Divisions
\$\$ - Prize Money in Multiple Divisions

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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!

In 2008, the ISRA Newsletter will transition to an electronic format. 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

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Adult competitor \$35.00 _____

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RACQUETBALL Magazine subscription only \$20.00 _____

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Tournament _____ Representative _____

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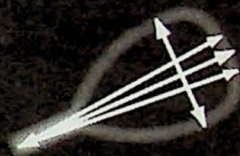
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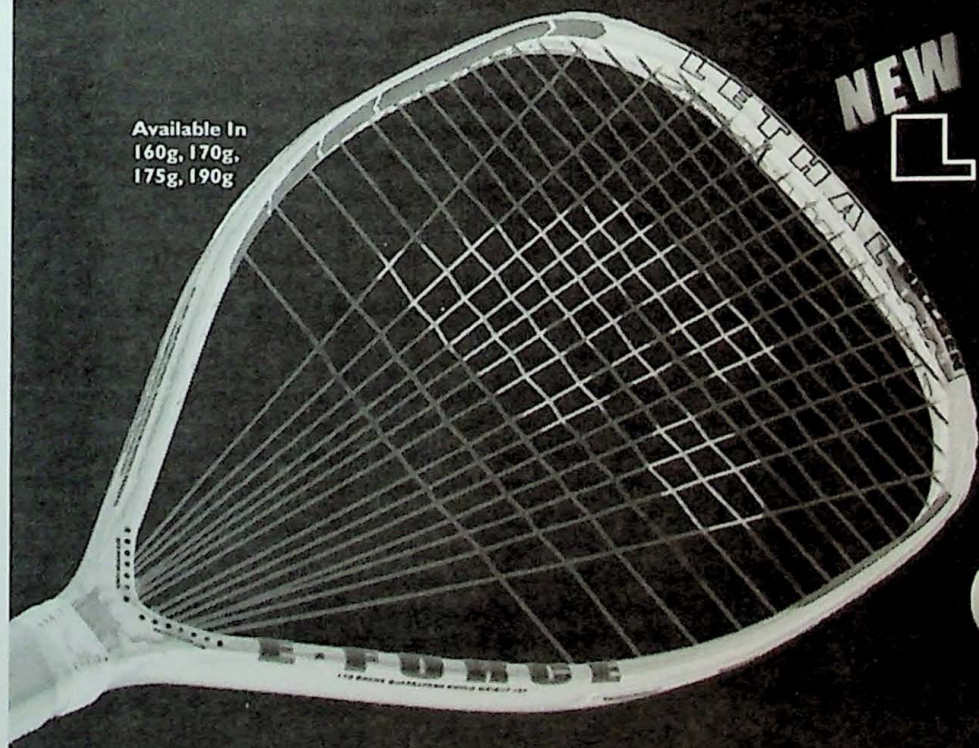
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Racquetball Challenge Courts

Bartlett Health and Fitness

(630) 540-4848

Bartlett, IL

Wednesdays

7:30 - 10:00 p.m.

Saturdays

8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

\$5.00

Buehler YMCA

(847) 359-5098

Palatine, IL

Thursdays 8-10 p.m.

Saturdays 8 a.m. - Noon

\$15 One-Day Guest Pass

Courts Plus

(Elmhurst Park District)

(630) 833-5064

Saturdays 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Members \$3,

Non-Members \$10

Heritage YMCA

(630) 420-6270

Naperville, IL

Saturdays

8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Members \$4,

Non-Members \$8

Landmark Health & Racquetball

(309) 685-8200

Peoria, IL

First & Third Fridays of Month

6-8 p.m.

\$5.00

MultiSports Complex

Melrose Park

(708) 343-5151

Mondays 7 - 9 p.m.

Members \$5

Non-Members \$7

Norris Rec Center

(630) 377-1405

St. Charles, IL

Tuesdays and Thursdays

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Fridays 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Sundays 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

\$5.00 Members & Non-Members

Schaumburg Park District

(847) 490-2505

Saturday 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Sunday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Members \$3, Non-Members \$9

Schaumburg Tennis Plus

(630) 430-1478

Women Open/A Players

Wednesdays

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Members \$3,

Non-Members \$9

Silver Lake Country Club

(708) 349-6940

Orland Park, IL

Fridays 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Members &

Non-Members \$7.00

The Southlake Club

(847) 949-8180

Saturdays 10 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

\$10.00 for ISRA Members

(with membership card)

West Cook YMCA

(708) 383-5200

Wed. 7-8 p.m.,

Thurs. 2-4 p.m.,

Sat 8-10 a.m.

Free to Y Members,

\$9 for Non-Members

To add your club to this list, contact: Lynne Weisbart (847) 732-7245



Illinois State Racquetball Association

c/o Cheryl Kirk
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