



RACQUET RACKET

FALL 2017

Official Newsletter of the National Masters Racquetball Association (NMRA)

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NMRA Spring Tourney Set for May

(Moved from March)

By Jerry and Peggy Prentiss, Easton, PA NMRA Members

Hi NMRA players! Are you ready to come to the Northeast US for the first time in many years? We are really excited about having the NMRA come to our neck of the woods, so we jumped in and volunteered to help get the tournament set up. NMRA President **Cindy Tilbury** asked us to check out hotels and make a list of great things to do in the Warren and Newark, New Jersey areas.

Right away, we discovered that the original March dates were not going to

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IRF Albuquerque World Seniors 95+ Division Championships

By Rick Betts

Some of us young players were lucky enough to be around when the match of the century got started at the *Midtown Sports & Wellness* club in Albuquerque during the *2017 World Seniors Championships*. The local news crew and reporter were there to get the scoop. The 95+ Singles final was about to begin. Both players were wearing red for military Friday reasons, and they played their hearts out.

Bill Matotan lives in Albuquerque and he had just turned 95. He plays handball and racquetball two times a week, so he was ready.

Lake Westphal, also 95, drove in from Sun City West, Arizona, to compete. *Sun City West* is the site of **Greg Steger's** annual *Men of October* tournament where the youngest division is the 80s.

It was a great match and Lake Westphal emerged as the winner. Check out the story that ran in the *Albuquerque Journal*. Video may be uploaded to the IRF Youtube.com soon by **Tim Baghurst**.

<https://www.abqjournal.com/1057434/senior-racquetball-championships-come-to-a-close-saturday.html>

This is not the first gold medal ever awarded to 95-year-old players, but in the past, there has

been only one player signed up for the division, so he had to play younger players in his round-robin draw. It was great to see how athletic and skilled we are all going to look in another 25 to 30 years. ***Congratulations to all of the 80+ players in the tournament—you are so inspirational to the rest of us.***



President's Corner - More Racquetball Hats

By Cindy Tilbury, NMRA President

Just a few short weeks ago I knew I spent a little too much time on the business of racquetball and could not imagine that I could take on even one more racquetball duty. Somehow I have taken on several more.

As I am compiling the content for the *NMRA RacquetRacket* newsletter, I am thinking not just about the upcoming four NMRA events. December 1 through 3 Pleasanton is fairly well planned; May 2 through 5 Warren is coming along very nicely; July 25 through 28 Denver has the contracts in the works. Two great options are available for the *Doubles-Only* tourney in December 2018. I'd say we are doing well in our planning—especially compared to other years when events were NOT coming together smoothly.

Then, this January, I will be in a group of tournament directors putting on the famous *Women's Senior Masters Championships* in Tucson January 12 through 14.

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Racquetball in Unexpected Places

By Cindy Tilbury

I love finding racquetball mentions or videos or people in unexpected places. Here are some of the recent ones.

June 12, 2017 Tony Awards

- Falsettos Musical "How Was Your Day" Song
- Gay Couple Plays Racquetball (No Court)
- Small Racquets With Old Eyeguards

HGTV Lakefront Bargain Hunt

- Lake Erie, Ohio
- Couple Buys Condo on the Lake With Racquetball Court and Plays Badly But Cutely

August, 2017 Malibu Surfside News

- Rick Betts and Cindy Tilbury have long article about how they met, bought the *IRT Tour* and want to grow the sport of racquetball

September 12, 2017
ESPN Sports Center Los Angeles Edition
- Kane Waselenchuk / Daniel DeLaRosa at 2017 Chicago Shamrock Open Top Ten Plays Number Four

October 4, 2017
ESPN Sports Center Los Angeles Edition
- Kane Waselenchuk / Rodrigo Montoya at 2017 Canoga Park Phase IV Pro Am Top Ten Plays Number Two

October 12, 2017
Comic Strip "Baby Blues"
Just a mention but pretty cute.

President's Corner - More Racquetball Hats continued from page 1

The Saturday night banquet with dancing makes this the most fun tournament of the year for women. Most of that preparation is done, too. I can't wait.

At our local club, I coordinate just a few activities for my group of players, including some shootouts and leagues.

I recently joined the *USAR Board of Directors* and that mainly consists of conference calls and votes on issues that arise. I like representing our 40+ players to the *USAR* board and staff. I truly believe our group has kept the sport thriving and embodies the most fun aspects of tournament play.

If that was not enough racquetball hats for one person, I took the opportunity in July to join a group of investors buying the men's pro racquetball organization, the *International Racquetball Tour*. At first, I didn't think there would be much to do on a day-to-day basis, but my passion to make racquetball grow in numbers of players and recognition would not let me sit still. I look at the entire sport differently now and try even harder than before to make it better.



To achieve that goal, I decided the *IRT* needed a September tour stop at my club in Southern California. I got lots of help, but basically, **Rick Betts** and I turned a planned one-day shootout into a four-day Tier 1 pro stop with added pro doubles. It was a great success—very gratifying—but I am still getting my energy back after the long hours. The men pros will next compete at the *US Open* in Minneapolis for *Grand Slam* money. Thankfully, **Doug Ganim** and the *USAR* staff will be running that one. I hope you will all send your positive thoughts our way for the new organization and let us know if we can do better or make changes to realize our goal of making more money for *IRT* pro players and raising the profile of racquetball around the world. Simple, no?

In that same thread, if you perceive that I have racquetball or other interests that conflict with the *NMRA*, I hope you will bring those to my attention right away and we can sort it all out. It has never been trouble in the past, doing non-profit work for non-profit organizations that are sister organizations. Wish me luck. **It is going to be a great 2018!**

NMRA Spring Tourney Set for May (Moved from March) continued from page 1

make any friends of the racquetball crowd in the area. We would have probably been okay working around Easter, since we end our tournaments on Saturday afternoon, but the first night of Passover would have been the night of our banquet, and we wouldn't want anyone to have to choose. We had to move it. It was not easy finding another date, but May 2 through 5 was the first weekend we could book. It seems the March/April timeframe is an extremely busy one for racquetball events in that area.

After making that difficult decision, we went ahead and booked the *Warren Racquet & Health Club*, which has ten courts. Then, we were able to get a great deal on a hotel in the area that had not even been built (finished) yet. The brand new *Somerset-Bridgewater Hotel* in Somerset

will be our host hotel and banquet site. Thinking that most of our players will be from the area, we only booked 26 rooms per night. **PLEASE BOOK YOUR ROOM RIGHT AWAY** if you plan to play this tourney, so we can get more reserved if we need them. Online registration on R2Sports.com is ready to go, also.

Go to the www.nmra.info website to get the Info Sheet, the mail-in Entry Form, a Flyer you can post at your club, and a list of Things To Do in the Newark area and beyond. Book your plans to stay awhile and see a Broadway show or a *Statue of Liberty* harbor cruise. The weather should be beautiful in May. If you need suggestions on things to do, feel free to call us at 610.659.1989, or ask us during the tournament. **Jonathan Clay**, our club contact, will also be a great resource on this one.

See you in May 2018!





2017 NMRA DOUBLES-ONLY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Registration Thursday, November 30, Play December 1-3

at ClubSport Pleasanton, 7090 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588

Entry By Mail Must Be POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN: 11/10/2017

Online Entries Must Be COMPLETED BY: 11/13/2017

<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=21765> Maximum Players 100! Sign up early!

Hotel: DoubleTree Hilton, 7050 Johnson Dr., Pleasanton, CA 94588 | 925.463.2822, code NMRA

Please Print — Be Legible, Complete & Accurate

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Day: _____

Phone Night: _____

Email: _____

DOB: m____ / d____ / yr____ Age on 12/01/2017 _____

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

ENTRY FEES: (NO REFUNDS OF ANY FEES AFTER 11/21/2017)

First Event \$ 165 \$ _____

Second Event \$ 30 \$ _____

Guest(s)* (Daily hospitality & banquet); per Guest \$ 70 \$ _____

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

USRA Membership (1 Year) \$ 50 \$ _____

USRA Membership (1 Event) \$ 20 \$ _____

General Fund Donation \$ xx \$ _____
Anything is greatly appreciated.

Total Due: \$ _____

*Guest(s) Name(s): _____

____ ****Check here if your first NMRA tournament**
(First time players do not have to join the NMRA)

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

Saturday Sandwich Lunch preference:
____ Turkey ____ Tuna ____ Roast Beef ____ Veggie

Limit of two events

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

DOUBLES PARTNER(S): Please Print

Name/Div/Age Bracket: _____

Name/Div/Age Bracket: _____

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

__ Yes __ No Would you play a 2nd Doubles if someone needs a partner?

__ Yes __ No Would you play Mixed Doubles if someone needs a partner?

Emergency Contact Information:

Name _____

Phone # _____

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

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

The National Masters Racquetball Association is a not for profit 501 (c)(3) organization of men and women racquetball players who are age 45 to 90+ years young. Remember to visit WWW.NMRA.INFO.



NMRA 2017 Doubles-Only Championship

ClubSport Pleasanton | Pleasanton, California

December 1-3, 2017 [***New*** Friday, Saturday & Sunday ***New***] www.nmra.info

****Round Robin Age Divisions Starting at 40 Years Young** | 100-Player Max**

Tournament Directors / Staff

Tournament Director - Cindy Tilbury 303.888.4461 cindy.tilbury@att.net
 Tournament Director - John Winings 209-743-6487 johnwinings@hotmail.com
 Carmen Alatorre - Martin – Membership Director teamalamar@gmail.com
 Elaine Dexter - ClubSport Pleasanton Contact rbqueen@gmail.com

Host Club



ClubSport Pleasanton – 8 Panel-Walled Courts www.clubsports.com/pleasanton
 7090 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588 925.463.2822

Bring a lock. Towel service available free.
 All club facilities are available to tournament players and paid guests.
 Great club and locker room amenities available during the event.

Host Hotel



Doubletree By Hilton Pleasanton at the Club

7050 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588 925.463.8000

Attached to the club so no shuttle needed.

Single/Double Rate for **Friday, Saturday and Sunday** with breakfast \$129 per night + tax.

Triple Rate \$139 / Quad Rate \$149.

Single/Double Rate for **Thursday** \$179 per night + tax

Mention NMRA when registering by phone

Reserve early—Only 25 rooms reserved for NMRA but more may be added when those are booked
 Rate available through November 6, 2017. Free parking / free hot breakfast

Enter Online Maximum of Two Divisions



Enter online by November 13, 2017

<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=21765>

First event--\$165 Second event--\$35 Credit Card Fee \$5

Two Doubles Division Limit. Guest Fee \$70 for the week.

We can help find doubles partners and/or roommates.

Enter via US Mail Maximum of Two Divisions



Fill out the entry form at www.nmra.info (Tournament Info page).

Mail completed entry form and fees by November 10, 2017, to:

NMRA / Cindy Tilbury, 23308 Bocana Street, Malibu, CA 90265

Two Doubles Division Limit

Player Maximum **IMPORTANT!**

We anticipate that we will need to cap the number of players at 85, due to the great location, the round-robin format and the number of courts available. You will want to sign up EARLY to ensure your place. An online waiting list will be available to allow players to get in as openings happen after the participant list is full.

Doubles Partners / Roommates

Contact Cindy Tilbury for a doubles partner (cindy.tilbury@att.net) or roommate request. You may also use the list feature of R2Sports when you enter online.

Special For Ladies!

We are trying something new to the NMRA—two new B/C Singles age divisions for ladies 59 or younger. If you feel you are not an Open/A-level player, you may enter B/C. Choose 40+ B/C or 50+ B/C.

Special for 70+ Players! Rotating-Partner Doubles

We are again offering Rotating-Partner (or Jackpot) doubles as a second division for our 75+ players. If there is enough interest, we will also open up a 70+ division for the younger players. This special division is limited to 16 players and is played during at least 3 days of the event. Each player partners with and against all of the other partners. One individual winner is crowned. Come and meet other players and join the fun. If you prefer, set-partner doubles will also be offered, so grab your favorite guy or gal and sign up as a team.

Special Doubles Division for 40+ Ex-Pro-Tour Players and Amateurs

We will offer a special round-robin doubles division, schedule to be determined, where regular age-group players can pay the entry fee of and play with a 40+ ex-professional player. This will be a mini-tournament within the event—possibly 40+ and 55+ round robins and both genders, if players are willing to try this. Contact Cindy Tilbury for more details and lists of interested ex-pro players.

NMRA 2017 Doubles-Only Championship INFORMATION SHEET continued from page 4...

80+-Year-Old Free Entry	This is the best special of all! We are trying to encourage all 80+ players to join us for the 2017/2018 tournaments by offering FREE entry. To sign up and avoid paying, you MUST call Cindy Tilbury and she can do this with you over the telephone. We hope you will take advantage of this great offer.
Nearest Airport	San Francisco International SFO. 90 minutes by BART train to Pleasanton Station or \$170 by cab Book flights at www.flysfo.com
Airlines Flying Into SFO	40 Major airlines fly into SFO
Alternate Airport	Oakland International OAK. Book flights at www.oaklandairport.com
Airlines Flying Into OAK	11 Major airlines fly into OAK
Airport Taxi / Shuttle Ground Transportation	Airport-to-hotel shuttles are not available, but the Doubletree will send a shuttle to get you from the Pleasanton BART station. Uber and Lyft are great options.
Shuttle From Hotel to ClubSport Pleasanton	Host hotel is attached to the club property so no shuttle is necessary. At certain hours, a walkway door will be opened to provide indoor access to/from the club.
Driving Directions from SFO to Host Hotel	39 Miles East / 50 Minutes With No Traffic Click Link for Directions: http://mapq.st/10-dSzyNFc
Driving Directions from OAK Airport to Host Hotel	21 Miles East / 25 Minutes With No Traffic Click Link for Directions: http://mapq.st/1-UMtRKXhY
Directions From Host Hotel to ClubSport	Walk out the hotel front door and turn left Walk five minutes through the parking lot to the ClubSport entrance
Parking at Host Club	Free. RVs may park with no hookups/utilities
Tournament Check-In Player Meet and Greet / Player Meeting	Thursday, November 30, 2017, 5 pm to 8 pm, at the ClubSport Pleasanton Club; Complimentary reception with beverages and food. Pick up tournament souvenir, play schedules, etc. and socialize Early and later player meetings will be held for new players' benefit.
Play Begins / Ends	Starting at 8 am every day. Ends by 10 pm Friday. Ends around 5 pm Saturday and (probably earlier) Sunday. Every division plays every day (Friday through Sunday) Please show consideration for all players and remember that we play every bracket every day of the event. Schedule your travel arrangements accordingly. Sign-in is required at club.
Practice Courts	Courts may be available free of charge November 30, 2017 Special guest fee \$5 for tournament-related guests may apply
Tournament Ball	Pro Penn Green is the official ball of the NMRA.
Tournament Scoring	All round robins, self-refereed matches. Every division will play two games to 15. Larger "pool play" divisions will have Sunday playoff matches. Playoff format will be two games to 15, tiebreaker to 11 if needed. Bonus points are awarded for winning games (2 per game) and the match (4). Ties will split the extra four match points. Points are automatically calculated by the R2sports tournament software. When any team or player must forfeit, average scores will be used to determine final results of the division or pool. If a forfeit occurs during a match, the opposing team or player will be awarded points required to finish the match.
Appeals	The NMRA has a rules committee that can be used by the players to submit an appeal on a rule or issue that arises during the event. The decision of the rules committee is final and binding on all parties concerned.
Eligibility	USAR-sanctioned; Current USAR membership is required to participate. Your membership must be valid thru the last day of the tournament, December 3, 2017. Entries will not be accepted without payment for USAR membership. Limited Event Membership is available for \$20 if you do not want to join for a whole year. USAR membership is available at www.usra.org . NMRA membership is required for all EXCEPT players who are playing in their FIRST NMRA event. Special recognition and gift for first-time players and new NMRA members. You must be a current member as of the last day of the tournament.
Tournament Awards	NMRA medals will be awarded to First through Fourth place winners for each age division. Combined divisions will be awarded medals based on separate age divisions.

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NMRA Tidbits

Results on R2Sports

In addition to reading the recent results in this newsletter, check NMRA scores and the detailed results on R2Sports. The July 2017 West Allis results can be found here: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/viewResults.asp?TID=18834>

The March 2017 Arlington results can be found here: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/viewResults.asp?TID=18874>

Fundraiser During the West Allis Banquet

We were proud to raise \$1,500 for our Future Fund at the banquet in Wisconsin in July. Our high-level plan is to lower Spring 2018 entry fees for the Warren, New Jersey tournament. More details will be available in 2018.

Videos From West Allis

Bruce Adams is pleased to announce that the five videos associated with the recent banquet and Hall of Fame induction at West Allis are now ready for your viewing on YouTube. You will note that one is a photo recap of our tournament there in 2013. You can search for the files easily using the search criterion "nmra west allis bruce adams". They should be the first five in your results window. Other videos from Bruce and Leon Jackson are available via search, too.

NMRA 2017 Doubles-Only Championship INFORMATION SHEET continued from page 5...

Morning Hospitality	Breakfast is available at the hotel for hotel guests. Fruit and drinks available at the <i>ClubSport Pleasanton Club</i> .
Lunch	Lunch is served at the ClubSport Pleasanton Club; you will need to present your tournament pass or bag tag.
Evening Hospitality on Thursday	<u>Not a substitute for dinner.</u> Will be served at the ClubSport Pleasanton Club. You will need to present your tournament pass.
Banquet on Saturday Night	Doubletree Pleasanton ballroom, included in your entry fee. Guests are invited for \$50, or \$70 for food all week in addition to the banquet. Cash bar at 6:00 pm; Dinner and program from 7 to 10 pm
Local Activities	http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/community/visiting/index.html#things
Sights to See	See the separate sheet for a long list of northern California places to visit and things to do. San Francisco and Napa Valley are only a short drive away.
Average Temperature	Year – 50° F December – High 65° F – Low 42° F Average March Precipitation 2.58 Inches
RV Parks	RV parks near the club are: https://www.google.com/maps/search/rv+parks/@37.6995324,-121.9180463,13z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!2m4!3m3!1srv+parks!2s7090+Johnson+Dr.+Pleasanton,+CA+94588!3s0x808fec0945be7d65:0x2d69490e157eb6b0
Laundromats	Laundromats near the club are: https://www.google.com/maps/search/laundromat/@37.6995324,-121.9180463,14z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!2m4!3m3!1slaundromat!2s7090+Johnson+Dr.+Pleasanton,+CA+94588!3s0x808fec0945be7d65:0x2d69490e157eb6b0

Things to Do in Pleasanton/San Francisco Area

By Elaine Dexter, ClubSport Pleasanton Racquetball Program Director

Welcome to *Pleasanton* and the NMRA Doubles-Only tournament! There are so many things to do in and around *Pleasanton* that we suggest you take a few extra days to see them. Below is an abridged list, but please ask me and the other local area players for suggestions on sightseeing and dining for your non-court hours. Below are some excellent ideas you might want to check out during the tournament.

Climate - Average high temperature 65, average low 42 for December

City of Pleasanton -

There are several local web pages for visitor information.

<http://www.trivalleycvb.com/> <http://www.pleasantondowntown.net/>

Downtown *Pleasanton* is about a 10-minute drive from the club and host hotel, but the hotel has a shuttle, of course. My personal choices would be the walking downtown self-tour, which will feature most of Pleasanton's best restaurants, <http://www.pleasantondowntown.net/pdfs/WalkingTourGuide.pdf>

an interesting museum in downtown *Pleasanton*, <http://www.museumonmain.org/>

and the Saturday morning *Pleasanton Farmer's Market*, also right downtown.

There is a great comedy club right near the hotel. <http://www.tommyts.com/>

The *Pleasanton/Livermore* area has several local wineries:

<http://www.mitchellkatzwinery.com/>

<http://www.rubyhillwinery.net/>

<http://www.wentevineyards.com/>

Fremont is only a 20-minute drive to see the *Mission San Jose* (or the *Tesla* plant for *Tesla* owners)

<http://www.missionsanjose.org/>

BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) is less than 5 minutes from the club and host hotel. This train conveniently takes travelers to many destinations, including San Francisco.

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City of San Francisco

There are endless attractions to see in the city of *San Francisco*, and for those who have never been to SF, this would be the city to see while visiting this area, a few highlights listed below:

- The *Forty-Niners* host the *Miami Dolphins* on Sunday, December 9 at *Candlestick Park* at 4:00 pm!
- *Alcatraz* • *Pier 39*
- *Coit Tower* • *Chinatown*
- *Golden Gate Bridge*
- *North beach and more...*

Napa Valley Wine Country

Beyond *San Francisco* to the north are the *Napa* wineries.

San Jose and South

San Jose and the *Silicon Valley* are less than a one-hour drive south of *Pleasanton*.

South of *San Jose* is *Santa Cruz*, a well known beach site and refuge of many hippies still living in the 1960's.

The *Pacific Coast Highway* is a legendary drive that leads down past *Los Angeles* and to *San Diego* and beyond. It is best enjoyed when you take two or three days to enjoy all of the scenery, *Monterey*, *Carmel*, *Big Sur*, the *Hearst Castle*, *Pismo Beach*, *Morrow Bay*, *Solvang*, the *Sideways Wine Country*, *Ventura*, *Santa Monica*, and all of the beaches down to *Orange County*.

With so much to do, you will definitely want to come back soon. Make sure you bring your racquet.

MORE NMRA Tidbits

Dallas (Arlington) Tournament Warm-Up

We had a very special tournament souvenir for the March 2017 Arlington event. A full warm-up suit was given to each player and we had many great comments. We try to do our best and mix up our giveaways, so let us know if you have ideas for us. We love the input. We also have a few leftover warmup to sell for \$50. Contact me via email if you are interested. Sizes are XL (quantity 5), L (quantity 3), and M (quantity 2). The Smalls and XSmalls I ordered for the ladies who contacted me were sent awhile ago. Sorry they took awhile—it is a long story. ☺

Karen Turner Takes Over for Scott Kraemer

By Carmen Alatorre-Martin



Our Wisconsin NMRA board member, Scott Kraemer, has decided to leave the board after successfully putting on the July 2017 West Allis event. We were so glad he decided to stay through that tournament, as it was one of our best. The club and the high level of competition was just superb. We are so grateful to Scott for all of his years of service to the NMRA and for his work on the tournaments.

Starting in March of last year, we had a new NMRA player and member interested in working on tournaments and helping run the show. In a unanimous vote, we have filled the board position left open by **Scott Kraemer** with **Karen Turner** (Denu) from Alexandria, Virginia. She has been running tournaments for decades, including her own LPRT pro stop and the US Open. Karen recently told us:

"Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the board of the NMRA. In the last year and a half that I have been attending NMRA events, I have come to appreciate not only the hard work and tremendous effort put into the events by you and the rest of the board, but also the supportive atmosphere these events maintain and the community feeling that develops through repeated attendance and involvement. I look forward to helping with the NMRA's efforts to continue to promote the sport and grow its memberships throughout the year, as well as providing desk support or whatever else is needed at the tournaments.

"I have twenty years of experience with various racquetball organizations in several roles that I believe will benefit the NMRA. I have been running racquetball tournaments in Virginia, Maryland and nationally over the last twenty years. As a tournament director for local tournaments, I organize the entire events, from start to finish. Nationally, for the past 15 years, I have worked at the U.S. Open, first in Memphis, and now in Minneapolis, as a tournament desk organizer.

"I have also served, for 12 of the past 14 years, as a board member of the Commonwealth of Virginia Racquetball Association (CVRA). Over those years, I have been actively involved in working to grow the sport (at the grass roots level as well as in tournaments). I spent two years as the Board's secretary, three years as its Treasurer, and several years as its tournament coordinator. I am really looking forward to getting more involved in NMRA efforts as soon as I can."

The current board members are excited to work with Karen to make our events even better for you, the members.





NMRA Future Fund

By Mike Grisz,
NMRA Future Fund
Executive Director

As many of our members know, in addition to the general operating fund we run our tournaments with, we have set up the *NMRA Future Fund* to help us preserve and maintain the legacy of our organization. Right now, we are fiscally solvent and want to remain so. We also want to continue to provide benefits to our members in the pricing and staging of our tournaments.

I believe in this organization, the way we conduct ourselves and our tournaments, our mission to create a warm and collegial environment, and to cater to and grow the sport for its mature participants.

Should you agree with me, I would encourage you to contribute to the *Future Fund*. The gift is tax-deductible. We will be fully transparent and accountable as to how we spend and invest any of the Fund dollars.

Feel free to call me (972-849-0212) or email me (mgrisz@aol.com) at any time if you would like to talk or catch me at one of our upcoming events.



NMRA International Championship Results

Wisconsin Athletic Club, West Allis, WI | July 12-15, 2017
Carmen Alatorre-Martin / Cindy Tilbury, Tournament Directors



Division	Place	Name	State	Points
M40	1st	Curt Gustafson	WI	23.75
M45	1st	Bill Luoma	WI	19.13
M50	1st	Eugene Coyle	IL	37.50
	2nd	Tyrone Gilmore	TX	33.88
	3rd	Richard Anderson	AZ	13.63
M55	1st	Francis Mifsud	PA	36.33
	2nd	Glenn Martineau	TX	34.33
	3rd	Daniel Pischke	WA	34.33
	4th	Michael Stoner	OR	30.89
	5th	Bob Wright	IN	28.33
	6th	Harold Patterson	AK	27.22
	7th	Dale Knapinski	WA	21.22
	8th	Michael Brytowski	MN	13.33
M60	1st	Mike Grisz	TX	36.40
	2nd	Dave Milazzo	IL	35.80
	3rd	Rick Betts	CA	30.20
	4th	Ray Redelman	IL	21.60
	5th	Stacy Sauer	KS	19.40
	6th	Donald Szeszycki	IA	18.00
M65	1st	Frank Taddonio	AZ	38.00
	2nd	Michael Stephens	MI	34.38
	3rd	Michael Wouk	CO	30.63
	4th	Jim Barrett	AZ	28.13
	5th	Jeff Heath	KY	27.00
	6th	Frank Greenfield	GA	22.25
	7th	Bob Kruger	OH	21.38
	8th	Robert Rivera	ME	18.13
M70	1st	Dan Jones	GA	38.00
	2nd	Tony Berkemeier	OH	32.33
	3rd	Gordon Levy	CO	26.83
	4th	Kevin Dorr	VA	24.33
	5th	Bruce Hollander	FL	24.00
	6th	Greg Kearney	CA	21.50
	7th	Greg Podolsky	MB	10.83
M75	1st	Wayne Toyne	VA	33.00
	2nd	Patrick Taylor	IL	31.33
	3rd	Bill Baker	CA	22.67
	4th	Alex Gonzalez	FL	22.67
M80	1st	Francis Florey	CO	37.25
	2nd	Leon Jackson	MI	32.75
	3rd	Don Milkie	WI	25.38
	4th	Donald Rambadt	WI	18.00
M85	1st	Mike Martin	CO	12.63

Division	Place	Name	State	Points
MD40	1st	Curt Gustafson / Jeremy Peters	WI / WI	30.67
MD45	1st	Dan Hodges / Jay Wollenberg	WI / WI	38.00
	2nd	Lee Kimball / Bill Luoma	WI / WI	12.17
MD50	1st	Patrick Gibson / John Winings	TX / CA	30.00
	2nd	Tyrone Gilmore / Lars Cold	TX / MI	29.67
	3rd	Roy Hare / Mike Grota	VA / WI	24.67
	4th	Curtis Perry / Richard Anderson	DC / AZ	13.67
MD55	1st	Mike Grisz / Mark Baron	TX / VA	37.00
	2nd	Glenn Martineau / Lars Cole	TX / MI	33.86
	3rd	Rick Betts / Michael Stoner	CA / OR	30.00
	4th	Michael Linsky / Eric Robinson	MD / MD	27.71
	5th	Dale Knapinski / Daniel Pischke	WA / WA	27.14
	6th	Robert Kramer / Harold Patterson	TX / AK	20.57
	7th	Philippe Jean Baptiste / Curtis Perry	MD / DC	16.71
	8th	Bruce Adams / Bob Foster	FL / WI	12.57
MD60	1st	Ruben Gonzalez / Frank Greenfield	SC / GA	37.29
	2nd	Ray Carney / Doug Piszczek	WI / WI	35.43
	3rd	Michael Hiles / Bruce Adams	MN / FL	27.86
	4th	Donald Szeszycki / Bob Foster	IA / WI	23.71



Division	Place	Name	State	Points
MD65	1st	Jeff Heath / Michael Stephens	KY / MI	33.00
	2nd	Dennis McKee / Barry Hendricks	IL / AZ	21.86
	3rd	Gordon Levy / Michael Wouk	CO / CO	21.14
	4th	Bob Kruger / Mark Miller	OH / OH	16.43
MD70	1st	Dan Jones / JerryPrentis	GA / PA	36.71
	2nd	Leonard Marsocci / Mike Pawka	FL / CA	34.86
	3rd	Dennis McKee / Barry Hendricks	IL / AZ	33.14
	4th	Greg Kearny / Greg Podolsky	CA / MB	29.86
	5th	Glenn Allen / Kevin Dorr	VA / VA	23.71
	6th	Bill Baker / Bruce Hollander	CA / FL	22.14
	7th	Ted Moreau / Fred Tabak	WI / WI	20.86
	8th	James Funk / Joseph Marshall	CO / WI	10.71
MD75	1st	Alex Gonzalez / Glenn Allen	FL / VA	38.00
	2nd	Wayne Toyne / Jerry Raddatz	VA / MN	30.00
MD80	1st	Mike Martin / James Funk	CO / CO	16.00
	2nd	Don Milkie / Donald Rambadt	WI / WI	15.00
W50	1st	Jean Halahan	NY	38.00
	2nd	Marie Gomar	GUA	29.88
	3rd	Sheila Champion	WI	16.00
W55	1st	Kim Whalen	WI	25.50
W65	1st	Sharon Huczek	MI	7.25





MORE NMRA Tidbits

Next NMRA Events

Although there are about ten great racquetball events for players 40 and over each year, I'll highlight the next three that the NMRA hosts, and you can go to the back page to find the rest. Mark your calendars now so you can join us at the 2017 NMRA events:

May 2-5, 2018 in Warren, New Jersey. This will be a first for us and we expect to attract a lot of Northeast US players. Details will be posted soon on our nmra.info website.

Check out the back page *Tournament Trail* for more great 40+ racquetball action. As always, we are interested in hearing about potential new venues for NMRA events—have us give them a call.

July 25-28, 2018 in Denver, Colorado. The dates are set and we are excited to get back to the *Highlands Ranch Recreation Center* and the *Hilton Garden Inn*. Plan your summer vacation for 2018.

Color is Better

I recommend you print the *NMRA RacquetRacket* newsletter in COLOR and leave it at the club for all of your 40+ players to peruse.

Just for Fun

Overheard at the gym: "Keep up that training, Larry. You're almost ready for that 'before' picture."

NMRA International Championship Results Continued from Page 9...



Division	Place	Name	State	Points
XD45	1st	Jane Torch / Jay Wollenberger	WI / WI	31.90
	2nd	Lori Southwick / Ruben Gonzalez	MN / SC	28.67
	3rd	Phillippe Jean-Baptiste / Karen Turner	MD / VA	17.11
XD50	1st	Jenny Franckowiak / Michael Grota	WI / WI	34.89
	2nd	Marni Winings / John Winings	CA / CA	31.56
	3rd	Bob Wright / Cindy Tilbury	IN / CA	25.89
	4th	Sheila Champion / Roy Hare	WI / VA	23.44
XD55	1st	Scott Kraemer / Gladys Leonard	WI / AL	38.00
	2nd	Michael Brytowski / Page Kern	MN / MN	21.86
	1st	Carmen Alatorre-Martin / Patrick Gibson	VA / TX	35.00
XD60	2nd	Michael Hiles / Sharon McNeill	MN / MD	27.14
	3rd	Cheryl Kirk / Dave Milazzo	IL / IL	26.86
	4th	David Nelson / Susan Schatz	MN / MN	18.14
XD65	1st	Nancy Kronenfeld / Frank Taddonio	IL / AZ	29.57
XD70	1st	Marquita Molina / Joseph Marshall	CA / WI	9.71
WD45	1st	Marcia Richards / Michiele Stapleton	CO / CO	29.17
	2nd	Karen Turner / Cindy Tilbury	VA / CA	29.00
	1st	Marni Winings / Marie Gomar	CA / GUA	35.50
WD50	2nd	Olive Curtis / Olivia Bower	TX / TX	27.17
	1st	Marni Winings / Karen Turner	CA / VA	28.75
WD55	2nd	Page Kern / Lori Southwick	MN / MN	26.50
	1st	Marie Gomar / Jean Halahan	GUA / NY	38.00
WD60	2nd	Jenny Franckowiak / Jane Torch	WI / WI	29.50
	3rd	Kim Housman / Amy Hunter	MD / MD	17.75
	1st	Kim Whalen / Cathy Pendergast	WI / WI	32.38
WD65	2nd	Carmen Alatorre-Martin / Gladys Leonard	VA / AL	32.00
	1st	Cheryl Kirk / Sharon McNeill	IL / MD	16.88
WD65	1st	Marquita Molina / Sharon Huczek	CA / MI	8.13

USA Racquetball and R2Sports.com Provide Free Challenge Ladder Software

By Cindy Tilbury

Are you interested in joining a challenge ladder? How about starting one for all the random players at the club to get them to meet and play? You probably don't know how to go about it. There is good news for you!

Nick Irvine of *USA Racquetball* wants to remind you that there is a FREE online tool that allows you to set up challenge ladders quickly and easily. Many of the players in your club are already in the player database, but if they are new, they DO NOT need to join the USAR. This means that the leagues are not USAR-sanctioned, and therefore, no ranking points will be accumulated and no secondary liability insurance is provided by the USAR for the players or clubs. Players can sign up online and challenge others online—no more excuses not to get a match going! Of course, results are updated immediately and all players will know the winner at the end of the league.

Nick will send you a professional-looking poster that you can post in your club to notify players. You can add your club logo and details of how/when to sign up.

The best part is that the challenge ladder site can be used for singles, doubles and mixed doubles!!! The league coordinator sets up the divisions available, and that same person would probably suggest which skill level a player would choose.

Setting up a ladder has never been easier. YOU can be the one to facilitate the social racquetball scene at your club. There is no reason for all of the club players not to meet. Take some initiative and start a challenge ladder in your area today so your players can join the 500 players who are already participating in 60 ladders across the country!

2018 World Racquetball Championships in Shanghai, China

By Cindy Tilbury

Hey everyone! This is a BIG DEAL! There are some avid *Asian Racquetball Association* leaders making things happen in China leading up to the *Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games*. You already heard about the Central and South American countries that have embraced our sport with open arms and now it is time to concentrate on Asia and Europe. Anything could happen, but definitely keep your eye on the *International Racquetball Federation*, the *USOC* and the *LA2028* organization for announcements. Demonstration sports will be chosen by the host country, so when Los Angeles hosts the *Olympic Games*, cross your fingers for racquetball!

Please keep in mind that, even though it is very early for details, the *USA Racquetball Executive Director*, **Jason Thoerner**, told me that it is going to be a massive undertaking to raise the extra travel dollars to get the *Team USA* players to China. You will hear about some fun fundraiser events very soon. Meanwhile, if you would like to spread the racquetball gospel to Asia and make sure our country is well-represented at the *2018 World Championships*, be assured that there are other donors out there who will match your contribution. The team will also travel to Chile in Spring—another costly venture. Contact **Jason** at the *USAR* headquarters if you want to know more or can help out in any way. jthoerner@usaracquetball.com

Great Racquetball PEOPLE Stories

By Patti Adams

Hi *NMRA* players! I heard two of the most amazing stories while visiting with the racquetball players and wives in West Allis, Wisconsin.

One was about racquetball player **Francis Florey** from Longmont, Colorado. He lived most of his life in the Superior, Wisconsin area. He and his wife, Ardys, just got married 6 months ago. She told me Francis was married for 57 years and then his wife passed away. She then stated that she was married for 60 years and her husband passed away. She and Francis have known each other since high school and have been long-time friends. They have found love again in each other. They are both in their 80s and I had to share that. Francis was very broken up when his wife died and probably thought he would never be that happy again. There is hope for all of us after great loss, and the racquetball community can help us get through the tough times.

Another great story I heard from **John Winings** was about **Daniel Pischke** from Seattle. Dan is an amazing man who is resilient and has returned to racquetball after being diagnosed with full-fledged Parkinson's disease. Such a fighter and so inspiring! Dan is an amazing player and, in the past, regularly brought students to *NMRA* tournaments where he would play doubles with them as they learned to be better players. I watched him as he played against Bruce and I had no idea what he had been through. The fight to keep going in spite of difficulties and life circumstances gives hope to all. I hope Dan will be back for years to come. I believe others would truly be blessed by his story.

If you have a story to share with the *NMRA* family, please send it to the board or tell them at a tournament. The group is so special and everyone should know that!

Patches

It is a recent tradition that we create sew-on patches with the tournament logo and make them available for sale at each tournament. *NMRA* logo patches are also available. If you would like to get a patch from past tournaments, just send me a quick email and we'll get it out to you right away. We ask for \$8 per patch.



MORE NMRA Tidbits

Spring/Summer 2017 NMRA RacquetRacket Newsletter

Click here for the full-color online version of the last newsletter, or refer to our www.nmra.info website.

You will also want to print out some of the newest newsletters and give them to a 40+ racquetball friend to let them know that they are MISSING OUT! If you opt out of email (and please consider opting back in via your USA Racquetball profile), you may ask for a printed-paper copy through the US Mail.

Consider a Coach

You may not have thought about this, but our four-day (probably eight-match) tournaments are perfect for being coached. Consider bringing a coach to watch your matches, suggest changes, video-record the action, and work with you before and after. Playing great is much more fun than playing badly, and each coaching session can get you a couple more points until you are beating players you could not beat before. Single-elimination tournaments just don't provide that opportunity. If you need some suggestions for great coaches, just contact us. If you are like me, each tourney I do poorly at is a huge motivator for me to work on my shots and fitness.

Things To Do In and Around Warren Township/Somerset County, NJ and the New York City Area



	Online Link:
Climate: Average high temperature 72, average low 46 for May.	www.weather.com
The Township of Warren, NJ Nestled in the Watchung Mountains, the Township of Warren was described as the greenest place in New Jersey. It is less than 35 miles from Manhattan. It has several very nice strip malls and many restaurants. Malanga Farm Market is an inviting Country Store.	www.warrennj.org
Somerset County, New Jersey Somerset County Tourism & Information Center. Somerset County is part of the New York Metropolitan Area and is home to many State Parks and golf courses.	www.co.somerset.nj.us www.visitsomersetnj.org
Things to do near the host hotel, the Hotel Somerset-Bridgewater , which is 9 miles from the racquet club	www.hotelsomersetbr.com
USGA Golfer's Museum (Cooperstown for golfers) in Far Hills, NJ. 7 miles from club, 16 miles from hotel.	www.usga.org
Somerville (8 miles) has many ethnic restaurants and a lovely downtown area. Favorites are Café Picasso (BYOB) and DaFilippo's (BYOB)	www.downtownsomerville.com
Bridgewater Commons Mall (8 miles). Maggiano's and the Cheesecake Factory are two of the many restaurants in the mall.	www.bridgewatercommons.com
The Mall at Short Hills is 34 miles from hotel.	www.shopshorthills.com
Princeton is 17 miles away. Professorial home to Albert Einstein and many others.	www.princetonnj.gov www.princeton.edu
Spring Lake at the Jersey Shore is 47 miles away with a quiet ocean front.	www.visitspringlake.com
Asbury Park , NJ is 45 miles away. Bruce Springsteen sings about his youth in Asbury Park.	www.apboardwalk.com
Newark Liberty International EWR Airport is 30 miles from the host hotel.	www.airport-ewr.com/newark
New Jersey Transit (973-275-5555) has train service to Newark Penn Station and Jersey City.	www.njtransit.com
Contact Jerry and Peggy Prentiss (as well as local players) for more suggestions during the tournament.	
From Jersey City or Liberty Landing Marina at Liberty State Park (38 miles), you can take a Ferry or the Path train to the World Financial Center Terminal which is very close to the Freedom Tower and Wall Street. Ferries also go to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty . Jersey City and Hoboken have wonderful views of Manhattan and the Statue of Liberty.	www.libertylandingferry.com
Other points of interest in New York City are Central Park, Times Square, Eataly (Mario Batali's Famous Italian Market) and Union Square Farmer's Market .	www.nycgo.com/maps-guides
The Highline is a 1.45 mile-long linear park built on a historic freight line elevated above the streets on Manhattan's West Side. Easy walk with great views.	www.thehighline.org
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (90 minutes) The birthplace of America with many Revolutionary War sites to see, in addition to the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall and professional sports teams.	www.visitphilly.com
Hershey, Pennsylvania (2 hours) Home of the chocolate company	www.visithersheyharrisburgh.org

Penn[®]

WORLD'S #1 SELLING BRAND.

To Us, The Ball Matters™



"I LOVE the new Pro Penn Pink ball! The fast crisp action off my racquet helps me dominate the competition. In addition, the vibrant visibility of the ball, especially on courts with glass walls, makes the Pro Penn Pink a joy to play with."

Paola Longoria

"All the Pro's on the IRT know that the Pro Penn HD ball is second to none. With today's lightweight racquets this is the only ball to play with. Its lightweight design and softer feel offers players of all levels the most comfortable experience on the court, even with shots exploding over 180 mph!"

Rocky Carson

MORE NMRA Tidbits

First-Timers

We have had an amazing number of first-timers in the past two years as we move our tournaments around the country. More than 30 first-time NMRA players have been joining our group each event. We couldn't be happier and hope they return many times. To get a few of these first-timers, we have also been quietly dropping our minimum age requirement to 40. Although we don't get many "young" players, we've found a few by doing so. Our goal is to provide a very special and social tournament experience for our players and guests. Let us know what would make your tourney better.

Christmas Gifts

There are many inexpensive gifts for racquetball lovers. My favorite is a set of Courtgrabbers to make sure the floor is not slippery when you play. They are available at Courtgrabbers.com or RacquetWorld.com for about \$16. A can of balls, a vibration dampener or a rubber grip might be welcome, too. Of course, many racquetball enthusiasts love a subscription to the IRTNetwork.com to watch the men pros play live. Check out the online racquetball warehouses to find lots of great ideas.

NMRA Inducts Three More Into the Hall of Fame

Gladys Leonard and Mike Martin Share the Evening in Wisconsin By Cindy Tilbury

At our *West Allis* July banquet, we got to do something special—something that probably should have been done long ago. We inducted **Mike Martin** from Golden, Colorado, into the *NMRA Hall of Fame* for his amazing contributions to our organization and specifically the 75+ players. Mike had more than enough medals (gold and non-gold) to qualify for an Athlete induction, but the committee of about 30 voters decided he would be designated a Contributor. Mike chooses not to join the board in an official capacity, but he has voluntarily put in countless hours to survey the 75+ players, and then make sure they get to the tournaments. He calls them individually to keep them up-to-date and to find doubles partners for them. He has sponsored our tournaments for years and identified other sponsors. His induction speech and slideshow



were most charming—it's always so fascinating to find out how players find our NMRA family and become so involved.

Then, the second treat of the night was when **Gladys Leonard** was inducted into the *Hall of Fame* as an Athlete. Gladys is from Eclectic, Alabama, and spent many years in the Washington, DC area playing with the Fort Myer military base group. They initially introduced Gladys to the NMRA about a decade ago and Gladys has always gotten a medal when she competes. She was introduced by her regular Mixed Doubles partner, **Scott Kraemer**, with a delightful presentation with pictures from her past. Everyone asks to play with Gladys—she is a great competitor and so worthy of the *Hall of Fame*.



Andy Gomer Gets Inducted on the Court

Our third *NMRA Hall of Fame* inductee is an extra special one. **Andy Gomer** of Arlington, Virginia, has never been to an NMRA event and yet, he is one of our staunchest supporters and fans. Over the years, Andy Gomer has loved the work of **Carmen Alatorre-Martin** and the NMRA so much that he has made many contributions to make sure the tournaments are even better for the players. Andy has owned several companies over the years and regularly plays high-level racquetball with the group at the *Fort Myer* military base. That is where he heard about the NMRA and its round-robin, social style of tournament play. All of the players in the group raved about their experiences and Andy has done much to make sure the events continue to be top-quality. Much of the *Future Fund* balance is due to Andy's generosity and commitment. To induct Andy into the *Hall of Fame*, we traveled to *Fort Myer* in June and surprised him with a mini-ceremony. It was a great weekend!



Congratulations to Mike Martin, Gladys Leonard and Andy Gomer. There are still several NMRA inductees that have yet to be formally inducted. **Phil Dziuk** and **Ralph Stillman** will be honored posthumously in the near future.



NMRA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

May 2-5, 2018 - Warren Health & Racquet Club, 149 Mt Bethel Road, Warren, NJ 07059

Entry By Mail Must Be POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN: April 16, 2018

Online Entries Must Be COMPLETED BY: April 18, 2018

<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=22262>

Please Print — Be Legible, Complete & Accurate

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: Home _____

Cell _____

Email: _____

DOB: m____ / d____ / yr____ Age on May 2, 2018

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

ENTRY FEES:

First Event \$ 165 \$ _____

Second Event \$ 30 \$ _____

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

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

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

Total Due: \$ _____

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

____ ****Check here if this is your first NMRA tournament ****
(First time players do not have to join the NMRA, but we hope you do.)

NO REFUND OF ANY FEES AFTER APRIL 18, 2018

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

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

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

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

DOUBLES			AGE	SINGLES	
MEN	WOMEN	MIXED		MEN	WOMEN
			40+		
			45+		
n/a	n/a	n/a	45+ B/C	n/a	
			50+		
			55+		
n/a	n/a	n/a	55+ B/C	n/a	
			60+		
			65+		
			70+		
			75+		
			80+		
			85+		
	n/a	n/a	90+		n/a
			75+ Jackpot		

DOUBLES PARTNER(S): Please Print

Name/Div/Age Bracket: _____

Name/Div/Age Bracket: _____

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

Emergency Contact Information:

Name _____

Phone # _____



NMRA 2018 National Championships

Warren Health & Racquet Club (Greater New York City Area) | MAY 2-5, 2018

(Wednesday through Saturday) **Round Robin Age Divisions Starting at 40 Years Young**

www.nmra.info | <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=22262> Please read carefully.

Tournament Directors / Staff

Cindy Tilbury 303.888.4461 cindy.tilbury@att.net
 Mike Grisz 972.849.0212 mgrisz@aol.com
 Trish Beatty - On-Site Host
 Panel of Three Members – Rules Committee

Primary Host Club



Warren Health & Racquet Club – 9 Cement-Walled Courts
 149 Mt. Bethel Road, Warren, NJ 07059 Phone 908.647.0400
www.warrenhealthclub.com

Club is open 6 am to 10 pm. Bring a towel and a lock. Four practice courts available on May 1 afternoon/evening. Lunches served in the hospitality area. Club facilities will be available to players and paid guests. Daily sign-in at the club may be required. Viewing is available for all matches. WiFi is normally not available at the club, but we will try to provide it.

Host Hotel



Hotel Somerset-Bridgewater

110 Davidson Avenue, Somerset, NJ 08873 732.560.0500
 Call 732.560.0500 to Register Mention National Master Racquetball
www.hotelsomersetbr.com Online Registration at NMRA. Group Rate is not Available
 Kevin Maxwell and Christina Piccoli, Sales
 \$139 + Tax Per Night Double Queen or King Room (Up to 2 People)
 Rates available until April 1, 2018, but please reserve early (25 reserved)
 Rate includes two full hot breakfasts, wireless internet access, parking, mini-refrigerator, fitness center, more. More roommates will pay breakfast buffet price of about \$13. RV parking is free in a designated area of the parking lot, without hookups. Registered guests will be entered into a “free night” lottery.

Enter Online



Enter online by April 18, 2018 <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=22262>

First event--\$165 Second event--\$30 Guests \$70 for the week

You may request a doubles partner and/or roommate and we will do our best to accommodate you (Try the “Find a Partner” list feature of R2sports). \$5 credit card convenience fee will be charged.

Enter via US Mail



Fill out the entry form at www.nmra.info (Tournament Info page). Make check payable to NMRA. Mail completed entry form and fees by April 16, 2018, to: NMRA / Cindy Tilbury, 23308 Bocana Street, Malibu, CA 90265

Refunds

Refunds are available until April 18, 2018, when shirts will be ordered, banquet dinners will be committed, and match scheduling will be completed.

Special Doubles Division for 40+ Ex-Pro-Tour Players and Amateurs

We will offer a special round-robin doubles division, schedule to be determined, where regular age-group players can pay the entry fee of and play with a 40+ ex-professional player. This will be a mini-tournament within the event—possibly 40+ and a 60+ round robins and both genders, if players are willing to try this. Contact Cindy Tilbury for more details and lists of interested ex-professional players.

Special for 75+ Players!

In the event that there are not enough singles and doubles matches for 75+ players, a special no-charge Jackpot Doubles will be offered where players switch partners every round and the one player with the most points at the end of the event wins the division. This will be played Saturday afternoon, so plan your flight accordingly.

Special for Ladies!

We are offering two new B/C Singles age divisions for ladies 59 or younger. If you feel you are not an Open/A-level singles player, you may enter B/C. Choose 45+ B/C or 55+ B/C. The two divisions may be combined to provide enough matches. Most ladies end up playing in the general round robins, as we have only had a few ask for B/C singles. Call Cindy with questions.

Nearest Airport

Newark Liberty International Airport EWR | 3 Brewster Road, Newark, NJ 07114
 Make your flight reservations early / Book flights at <http://www.panynj.gov/airports/newark-liberty.html> 29 miles or 40 minutes from the hotel (with tolls)

Airlines Flying into EWR

All major airlines fly into EWR

continued on Page 17...

NMRA 2018 National Championships INFORMATION SHEET continued from page 16...

Alternate Airport	New York LaGuardia LGA (Not Recommended Due to Traffic). 17 Miles from Warren club area
Airport Taxi/Shuttle	First try Uber or Lyft and then airport ground transportation like taxi or the New Jersey Transit, Dunellen station (10 minutes from the club). Try the "Share a Ride" list feature of www.r2sports.com when registering for this tournament
Shuttle to Club	Shuttle van provided by the hotel between the host hotel and clubs. Tips appreciated.
Parking at Host Club	There is a large parking lot at the WHRC, free to all players and guests. No overnight parking is available.
Directions from Airport EWR to Host Hotel Somerset-Bridgewater <small>110 Davidson, Somerset, NJ 08873</small>	No Car - 40 Minutes 30 Miles: Take Uber or Lyft or use a taxi. Other option is to use New Jersey Transit to the Dunellen stop, then taxi Car / 27 Minutes 10 Miles: Print the directions from the link below, or use GPS to navigate with or without tolls (from PDF, click on following link) https://www.google.com/maps/dir/Newark+Liberty+International+Airport+(EWR),+3+Brewster+Rd,+Newark,+NJ+07114/Hotel+Somerset-Bridgewater,+110+Davidson+Ave,+Somerset,+NJ+08873/@40.6205345,-74.5504352,11z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m13!4m12!1m5!1m1!1s0x89c252e1c5ec0cef:0xb3f3b437c5d7f286!2m2!1d-74.1744624!2d40.6895314!1m5!1m1!1s0x89c3c0bcc4aa5407:0x6ebfb26aea4858e1!2m2!1d-74.5184878!2d40.5402774
Directions From Somerset-Bridgewater Host Hotel to Warren Health & Racquet Club	No Car / NMRA Shuttle – 20 Minutes 8 Miles: Take the NMRA shuttle Car 20 Minutes 8 Miles: Print the directions from the link below or use GPS to navigate (no tolls) (from PDF, click on following link) https://www.google.com/maps/dir/Hotel+Somerset-Bridgewater,+110+Davidson+Ave,+Somerset,+NJ+08873/Warren+Health+%26+Racquet+Club,+Mount+Bethel+Road,+Warren,+NJ/@40.5887771,-74.6061729,12z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m13!4m12!1m5!1m1!1s0x89c3c0bcc4aa5407:0x6ebfb26aea4858e1!2m2!1d-74.5184878!2d40.5402774!1m5!1m1!1s0x89c3bc03ae05e17d:0x864d0299b1505699!2m2!1d-74.507155!2d40.632879
Tournament Check-In Player Meet and Greet	Tuesday, May 1, 2018, 5:00 to 8:00 pm in the hospitality area. (Check www.r2sports.com for venue changes) Light appetizers and drinks, with early and later player meetings. Plan to stay and socialize!
Tournament Souvenir	A high-quality shirt or jacket will be given out at check-in night.
Play Begins / Ends	8:00 am Wednesday, May 2, to 5:00 pm Saturday, May 5, 2018 Every division plays every day (Wednesday through Saturday) Please show consideration for all players and remember that we play every bracket every day of the event. Schedule your travel arrangements accordingly. ID/bagtag may be required at both venues.
Practice Courts	Practice courts are available Tuesday, May 1, in the afternoon at no charge. Come practice before the tournament check-in event.
Tournament Ball	Penn Green is the official ball of the NMRA.
Approved Eyewear	Eyeguards are mandatory. The USAR has established strict criteria for approved eyeguards. This document represents those products which meet or exceed the USAR's criteria. Approved Eye Guard List
Tournament Scoring	All round robins, self-refereed matches. Every division will play two games to 15. Large "pool play" divisions will have Saturday playoff matches. Playoff format will be two games to 15, tiebreaker to 11 if needed. Bonus points are awarded for winning games (2 per game) and the match (4). Ties will split the extra four match points. Points are automatically calculated by the R2sports tournament software. When any team or player must forfeit, average scores will be used to determine final results of the division or pool. If a forfeit occurs during a match, the opposing team or player will be awarded points required to finish the match. You must play all of your matches in a division to receive a medal. In rare circumstances, a "watcher" may be requested of the tournament director to settle disputes.
Appeals	The NMRA has a rules committee that can be used by the players to submit an appeal on a rule (immediately) or issue (not necessarily immediately) that arises during the event. The decision of the rules committee is final and binding on all parties concerned.
Tournament Awards	NMRA medals will be awarded to First through Fourth place winners for each bracket. Combined brackets will be awarded medals based on age. No medal will be awarded for the combined division itself.
Eligibility	USAR-sanctioned; Current USAR membership is required to participate. Entries will not be accepted without payment for USAR membership. NMRA membership is required for all, EXCEPT players who are playing in their FIRST NMRA event. Special recognition and gift for first-time players and new NMRA members will be given out.
Breakfast / Morning Hospitality	Full hot breakfast is included in the price of the Somerset-Bridgewater host hotel. NMRA will put out fruit and drinks at Warren Health & Racquet Club.

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NMRA 2018 National Championships INFORMATION SHEET

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MORE NMRA Tidbits

Jackpot Doubles for 70+ Players (and Anyone Else)

In the upcoming year in every NMRA tournament on the afternoon of the last day, we will offer a free Jackpot (Rotating Partners) Doubles division for players 75+ and above. If there is room, we will also recruit 70+ players. To make this happen, I need your input and help. As a free event, with a medal for the winners, we offer Jackpot Doubles where all players change partners every game. We need a minimum of four players, but 16 is much better. Try to make your plane and dinner arrangements accordingly so that you can play later on Saturday. Ideas to make this a better tournament-within-a-tournament? Let me know.

Men of October 80+ Tourney

NMRA enjoys sponsoring a very special tournament in Sun City West, Arizona—the *Men of October Racquetball* tournament. You have to be 80 years old to play in this event, and the guys come from all over the country to compete at that age group level. If you are 80+, plan to play in this October event in 2018. This tournament gets rave reviews.

Where Do You Want To Go?

If you know of clubs that you want me to pursue for a future NMRA tournament, please send them along and I will do my best. We are pretty well set through 2018.

Lunch	Available at the club in the hospitality area. Check for details during the tournament. Planned lunch times will be 11:30 am to about 2:00 pm. Match times may be scheduled around lunch, but please set aside a lunch if you are playing and will want to eat afterward.
Evening Hospitality	Available at club in the hospitality area—not a substitute for dinner. Feel free to hang out in the bar and watch matches.
Friday Banquet	Friday night, May 4, 2018, at the Somerset-Bridgewater ballroom Cash bar at 6:00 pm; Dinner and program from 7:00 to 9:00 pm or so Videos, slide shows and possible awards (fun and serious) presentations are customary. Don't miss this! Guests are invited for \$50 (or all-week hospitality with the banquet is available for \$70)
Eastern New Jersey / New York City Activities and Attractions	Warren is one hour from New York City and one hour from the Jersey shore. Casinos in the area are in Bethlehem, PA, and New York. Atlantic City is two hours from Warren, as is Philadelphia. See the separate handout of Things To Do in the greater New York area.
RV Parks	RV park with hookups near the host hotel: https://www.google.com/maps/search/rv+parks/@40.8180122,-74.9094831,10.78z/data=!4m8!2m7!3m6!1srv+parks!2sWarren+Health+%26+Racquet+Club.+149+Mt+Bethel+Rd.+Warren,+NJ+07059!3s0x89c3bc03ae05e17d:0x864d0299b1505699!4m2!1d-74.507155!2d40.632879
Laundromats	Here is are some laundromats near the host hotel. https://www.google.com/maps/search/laundromat/@40.8183873,-74.9094839,10z/data=!3m1!4b1
Massage Therapist	Massage Therapists should be available during the tournament at a suggested rate of \$1.00 per minute. Sign-up sheets will be out if there is a wait.
Racquet Stringer	Racquets can be restrung by the stringer at the <i>Warren Health & Racquet Club</i> . A pro shop is located in the club, with clothing, shoes, and basic racquetball gear.
Doubles Partners	Contact Cindy Tilbury for a doubles partner or roommate cindy.tilbury@att.net or 303.888.4461 Please try the "Need a Doubles Partner" list feature of R2Sports when registering. There are also "Need a Roommate" and "Need a Ride" lists.
Player Profiles / Shirt Sizes	It is extremely important that you keep your player profile, including shirt size , up-to-date in the www.r2sports.com system. The profile is used to help you enter tournaments online and, more importantly, to contact you with the latest tournament information and changes when you enter tournaments. This profile is the same as your www.nmra.info and www.usra.org profile. Contact the USAR staff in Colorado Springs at 719.635.5396 if you need a little help getting started or remembering your password for this feature.
Average Temperatures	Warren in May – High 72° F – Low 53° F – Average 62° F Precipitation 4 Inches Humidity 60crow%
Altitude	509 Feet

Skip Ball and Double-Bounce Sensor? Not Quite...

By Cindy Tilbury

I recently saw this great device for tennis and immediately thought it should be adapted to racquetball for the pros and even fun club games. It is a personal line calling device that fits on both ends of the tennis net and can figure out where the lines are. It will not only call in/out good/bad shots, but it will also show you a great chart of where your shots are going. For the price of a racquet, you have the power of a much more expensive Mac Cam. It is the In/Out and more details can be found here. Very impressive!

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-03-02/this-200-ai-will-end-tennis-club-screaming-matches> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUQG45juSN8>

MORE NMRA Tidbits

Join the NMRA

If you have not already done so, we invite you to join the NMRA as a full three-year member at a total cost of \$45. Membership dues help us cover newsletter and medal costs, as well as award plaques and other organizational expenses. First-timers do not have to join to try us out. We had about 70 first-timers in Atlanta and Arlington together—a great accomplishment for us! If you first-timers want to join, simply bring up the USAR website (www.usar.org is one way) and click the Membership link, then Join USAR. The list shown is USAR memberships, but below that on the left is the link to purchase an NMRA membership. Direct link is as follows, but please call if you have any trouble: <http://www.usaracquetballevents.com/cartProduct.asp?productGroupID=45&categoryID=172&brandID=0&modeIID=984&cartID=>

Ladies Professional Racquetball Tour - LPRT

By T.J. Baumbaugh, LPRT Commissioner



Have you met our top 4?

The LPRT includes some of the top athletes in the world. They come from more than a dozen countries to battle in events all around North and South America. These women compete for prize money as well as the Tour's top spots. Here are the top four women who currently hold the highest of ranks.

#1 Paola Longoria – Monterrey, Mexico

A powerhouse in a small package, Longoria continues to solidify her place as one of the greatest female professional racquetball players of all time. She has 8 season-ending finishes as the #1 player on Tour and is a 7-time *United Healthcare U.S. Open Champion*.

In addition to Longoria's outstanding racquetball accomplishments, she has become a true sports star in Mexico. From magazine covers to TV shows to dinners with the President, she is one of the most recognizable athletes in the country. In late 2015, *Forbes-Mexico* named her the 18th most powerful woman in the country.



#2 Jessica Parilla – San Luis Potosi – Mexico

Exciting to watch may best describe Parrilla. She has incredible speed and an aggressive game style with skills to match. When Parilla made the commitment to play the Tour full-time, she quickly shot up the ranks. Parrilla reached the semi-finals 8 times in 2016-17, which helped her finish 4th for the season.

Off court, Parilla is a morning show TV personality in San Luis Postosi. She also does some modeling and recently competed in *Miss Cosmopolitan World* which was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

#3 Samantha Salas Solis – Monterrey, Mexico

A Tour veteran with seven Top 10 year-end finishes, "La Violenta" plays every match with incredible energy and intensity. She won her 2nd career LPRT event in June 2017, defeating Longoria in the semi-finals and then Rhonda Rajsich in the finals. She has a big swing forehand and a willingness to throw herself all over the court to retrieve shots. Unfortunately, due to having shoulder surgery in June 2017, she was unable to begin the 2017-2018 season.

If her on-court intensity isn't enough for you, Salas' off-court training includes many hours spent in a *Cross-Fit* gym. Even with her arm in a sling post-surgery, she was in the gym getting ready for her return to the Tour.

#4 Frederique Lambert – Montreal, Canada

Young, talented and smart, Frederique is one of the shining LPRT stars. Ranked outside of the Top

10 in 2013, she climbed the ranks quickly to earn her (former) spot at #2. While that is an amazing accomplishment, more amazingly, she did it all as a full-time medical school student. Frederique is the #1 player on the *Canadian National Team* and has won several medals in international competition. In August 2016, Frederique won her first Tier 1 event on the LPRT. The victory put her in an elite group of 5 players who have won a Tier 1 or Grand Slam event since December 2010.

Due to the demands of Medical School, Lambert is unable to play the Tour full-time for the 2017-2018 season, but will compete as much as possible.

To catch all of the LPRT tour action this season, follow them on their LPRTour.com website, Facebook, Twitter, and other social media posting sites. Livestreaming of matches is free, but these matches are best watched live!



MORE **NMRA** Tidbits

Get on the Lists!

Two lists have been set up to give extra recognition to special racquetball resources—ambassadors and partner facilities. These lists are new and you will definitely want to get on them. We hope you all will consider being deemed “ambassadors” of our sport, and having your club on the list of places that have courts. If your club/school is not on the list of *USAR Facility Partners*, we need your help making that happen. Here are both links; more info is included there:

<http://www.teamusa.org/usa-racquetball/programs/ambassador-program>

<http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Racquetball/Programs/Facility-Partnership-Program>

Court Hinders

It never hurts to remind people that court hinders are still valid, except that the professionals have decided not to allow them. In NMRA and other amateur events, if the ball changes direction due to something in the court, the rally should be replayed. That is also the case if the ball hits a wet spot on the first surface of contact (floor for serve, basically). Other wet spots, like walls, don't get a replay.

NMRA Recent Incentive Deals *By Marni Winings* **40+ Players! We are working hard to get you to our events.**

In our NMRA board meetings, one of the topics we spend most time on is “New Members.” The second most popular topic is “Current Members.” We are all about finding and keeping players and are trying some new things to get people to play in our events. We love moving the tournaments around the country to support tournament clubs, find new 40+ players, and encourage players to explore new places. We know that traveling across the country to play a four-day racquetball tournament might not be a top budget item for a lot of players, so we have some ideas to help with your racquetball budget.

Although we wish we could help with airfare, it's not really logistically possible. So the next expense on the list, higher than airfare, is hotel. Behind the scenes, we have been paying *NMRA Future Fund* and *Operation Fund* money to make your hotel bill much smaller. We find that weekend rates are usually pretty reasonable at hotels, but the weekday rate can be \$50 more. If we only had one weekday night, that might

be easier to take, but our players usually come in Tuesdays to check in and practice on the unfamiliar courts. If it's possible, you will only see one rate for our hotel nights.

Next, the entry fee can seem daunting to players who are used to shootouts and local weekend events. We ask for \$165 but we promise to feed you, give you plenty of racquetball, have you meet new friends, award great medals, and have you take home a great jacket or sweatshirt. The banquet and slideshows are always big hits, and you rarely have to rent a car since we shuttle you to the club. Even with all of that, we know that we can show our appreciation by providing \$0 entry fees for our players who enter the 80+ and older divisions. We will also offer free second division fee for our 44 and younger players. Then the last incentive to note is free entry if you bring a friend to play our event (reference the friend pair in the comments). To take advantage of these deals or to ask questions, please contact **Cindy Tilbury** at 303.888.4461 or cindy.tilbury@att.net.

Player Profile - Mike Hiles, Bayport, Minnesota *By Mike Hilles*

Hello! My name is Mike Hiles and my game is Racquetball.

I have been married to a lovely woman named Diane for 35 years and have two children. They are both married. Our son, Nathan, and his wife have been married over ten years. Our daughter, Kimberly, and her husband, Mike, have been married seven years and have a son, Dominic and daughter, Lilly--our two grandkids. We all live in Minnesota on the east side of the Twin Cities. I like to read and, in the summer, go out on our boat on the St. Croix River with the kids. It is also the best time of my life to have the grandkids--they sure keep us on our toes.

I started playing when I was 23 years old. My dad, Harold “Cap” Hiles, started me on this journey. It was a fun and competitive game. In the “olden days,” tournaments went from 4pm on Friday to late afternoon on Sundays. It was common to have 100 to 150 participants, as it was that big of a sport in those days. I won a State C doubles title after playing for about 6 years. I joined the State Racquetball Association board and stayed with that for a long period and helped with 3 major pro-stops in that time. I remember seeing all of these great players and

wanting to be a better player. Some of the names of the players were Marty Hogan, Mike Yellen, Dave Peck, Brett Harnett, Jerry Hilecher and many more. Some of my greatest



McNeill - Hilles, XD 60 Milwaukee

memories are line judging for the Olympic Festivals held in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. I had to face off with the great Egan Inoue over a short serve and, thanks to Otto Deitrich, there was no more trouble. Man, could Egan give you the cold eye. My dad got me interested in the Masters. When I turned 45, that was my first masters tournament, and it was the International one. I believe that we were the first Father/Son combo in the NMRA. The tournaments are the best, with lots of playing, good food and great friendships. I love the fact that we play all 4 days and that we

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Player Profile - Mike Hiles

continued from Page 20...

know when we are playing. I must give a shout-out to all of the players who have helped me improve my game over the years. Thank you! I was talked into running for the NMRA board. I did not win but there was an opening due to a person stepping off the board. That started a 9-year run of being on the board of directors. I will tell you it is an eye-opening experience to see what it takes to put on a tournament for the NMRA. I now take care of the medals and, as I like to joke, I have more medals than anyone in the NMRA. Now, as I look forward, I am the elder statesman instead of the youngster in the crowd. I feel it is my mission to give back to the sport and the NMRA as much as it has given me.

I also want to talk about my dad, Cap Hiles. Dad started the filming of matches to be shown at the banquets. There are many hours of film from the past, and I believe they are in the archives of the NMRA. He was a fixture at all of the tournaments until about 6 years ago when health issues came up. He was a great help to me when I needed advice and different views on where to take this organization as a board member.

Many of the pre-2000 tournaments were in the Midwest at the great clubs in Minnesota. Minnesota has a rich history with the NMRA and I am proud to be a lasting part of it.

Not for Ladies Only

By Cindy Tilbury

Okay, ladies! Our numbers have been **holding steady at about 22%** for the last year of tournaments. We always have great *Women's Doubles* and the *Mixed* is exceptional, but I will admit that the *Women's Singles* could be a little stronger. I will continue to work on that, but I need your help—invite all of your lady friends to travel with you. I will make sure they have a great time.

You all probably know about the **2018 Women's Senior Masters Racquetball Association in Tucson**, but please mark your calendars. There are so many great tournaments put on during *Martin Luther King* weekend that it is hard to choose. Try our round-robin tourney once and you will know how to choose from then on. All of the ladies rave about this yearly tournament, which is moved around the country. Tucson is a great place to have it—in fact, in 2016, Tucson was the warmest place in the country during an extremely cold winter. I'm sure the weather will cooperate again. You can sign up online at *R2Sports*. Call me if you have any questions at all. <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=21574>

Next, I need to report on **two Malibu Racquetball Camps** that we had in 2018. They were in August and September, with a total of nine ladies. Most were from Minnesota, and everyone was spoiled rotten. Consider getting a group of your lady friends together to come out to Malibu and work on your game a little, drink a little wine, go to some nice restaurants, sit in the hot tub a little, get a massage, and laugh a whole lot. You won't be disappointed. I have a little brochure I can send you that gives details on what we do. Ask me for details.

There is a separate update on the *LPRT* women's pro tour, but I want to mention how great it was to see **Maria Jose Vargas** (Bolivia/Argentina) back in action. She played really well and it's nice to see a few years away from the spotlight has not lessened her skills hardly at all.

I hope to see you all in **Pleasanton, California** for the December 1 through 3 doubles-only *NMRA* tournament. Because we don't offer singles at this one, the *Mixed* and *Women's Doubles* are always a little better than our other two events. Pleasanton is near San Francisco, and it is in the general vicinity of some terrible wildfires right now, but we are praying the firefighters will have everything under control very soon so we can enjoy our visit to the area, and maybe even head up to the wine counties after the tournament. Their economy will probably need a boost from our wine-drinking players.



Update from Men's Professional Racquetball – The IRT and IRT Network

By Kelly Diesel and John Scott, IRT



Coming off its first Tier 1 tournament of the new season in Canoga Park, California, the *International Racquetball Tour's* (IRT) 2017-2018 season is underway.

As of July 2017, the Tour has been under new ownership and management. New CEO of the IRT, **John Scott**, and new Commissioner of the *IRT*, **Andy Kullback**, have enjoyed their new positions thus far, and are looking forward to accomplishing the goals they have set out this season.

"We are really focused on showcasing the great sport of professional racquetball to the world," Scott said. "Unifying our fan base and growing our outside industry partnerships are just as important."

For more information about the upcoming *IRT* schedule of tournaments and the *IRT's* staff and players, please visit: <http://www.irt-tour.com> or checkout our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/IRTFan/>. Catch the matches LIVE or view the archived action on www.irtnetwork.com.

MORE NMRA Tidbits

Court Hinders

It never hurts to remind people that court hinders are still valid, except that the professionals have decided not to allow them. In *NMRA* and other amateur events, if the ball changes direction due to something in the court, the rally should be replayed. That is also the case if the ball hits a wet spot on the first surface of contact (floor for serve, basically). Other wet spots, like walls, don't get a replay.

Penalty Hinders

I don't know why penalty hindes are forever so difficult in self-refereed games, but they are. This is a long discussion, but in general, of course, if you take away from your opponent an offensive opportunity (primarily defined by a straight-in or cross-court pass) or otherwise interfere in the swing of your opponent's racquet, you should call the penalty hinder on yourself. It shouldn't cause controversy, anger or awkwardness, but somehow it usually happens. Do your best and call them when they happen.

IRT on Facebook Live!

John Scott, owner and commentator extraordinaire of the *IRT Network*, decided to boost his pay-per-view racquetball broadcasts by using *Facebook Live* to get out and find some people new to racquetball. All of the normal *IRT* lovers shared the feed and within about an hour, he had over 10,000 watchers.

NMRA Election Candidates 2018

By Cindy Tilbury

Carmen Alatorre-Martin, Occoquan, VA

What will I bring to the *NMRA* board? Experience, expertise, enthusiasm, and a positive can-do attitude. Most of you already know me, but for those of you who don't...I've been the *NMRA* Vice President for the last few years, I'm often at the tournament desk running the matches or helping with venue activities, and I love playing doubles in our *NMRA* championships.

Promoting goodwill and professionalism; instilling a sense of community and comradery; encouraging a high level of competition and sportsmanship among players across all age groups and all levels of play—these are the things I believe in...these are the things I strive for. I hope to continue to make the *NMRA* an organization that folks want to be a part of. Email me at teamalamar@gmail.com if you want to talk about *NMRA* racquetball issues.



Bill Baker, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

As a member of the *NMRA* for nearly 25 years and nearing the end of my second term as a member of the Board of Directors, I am seeking your support for a third term. During my current term, I have experienced and been a part of the enthusiasm, success, and collegiality

of the current Board, which has encouraged my candidacy to continue serving the *NMRA*. I am therefore seeking your support of my candidacy for a third term as a member of the *NMRA Board of Directors*. I plan to continue to represent the 70+ group of players, and all fans of round-robin, social competition. You can reach me at wabassoc@cox.net.



Mike Grisz, Dallas, TX

I am proud to be able to run again for the *Board of Directors* of the *National Masters Racquetball Association*.

For the past two years, I have been fortunate to participate on the Board, assist in running the tournaments, play in the tournaments, but, most importantly, meet a good amount of the membership. I would rather serve on this Board, help run these tournaments, play in these events, and associate with all of you more than anything else I do in the sport of racquetball.

I've played since 1974. I've won and lost more matches than I can remember. I've had good times, and, yes, some things I'd rather forget. But I want to give back to a sport that means so much to me. I would like your vote for another term on the *NMRA* Board.

I also serve as treasurer to the *TXRA*. I am an investor in the *IRT*. And, as long as I can, will be a competitor on the court. Contact me at mgrisz@aol.com if you'd like to talk about my candidacy.

1975 National Masters Plaque Photo

By Cindy Tilbury

Mark Malowitz sent me a photo of a special *National Masters* plaque that his dad, **Milton Karp**, had from when they invited the top ten Masters singles players to Texas to compete. Mark told me this about Milton: "Yes, my father passed away at a very young age. Milton Karp was my stepdad, but I would never call him Stepdad. He treated me just like his own. As far as I was concerned, he was my dad. He was one of the true pioneers of Texas racquetball. He went from handball, to paddleball, to start playing racquetball in 1968 at the JCC in Houston. He won many State, regional, and National titles. He won 5 National titles. My father and I have the rare distinction as the only father and son to both win the Men's 50+ at the *National Doubles*—him with **Bob Troyer**, and me with **Tim Hanson**. He competed until he was 85 years old. He was a true ambassador of the sport that he dearly loved!" I really appreciate Mark's sharing the photo and the memories!



From the Membership Corner

By Carmen Alatorre-Martin,
Membership Coordinator

Membership is holding pretty steady, around 550 active members, which is up from last year where we were holding around just under 500 active members. Our active members include our 3-year members, as well as our 80+ Lifetime and First Time Event members.

We hope to begin various activities to bring in both active members and championship participants.

Marni and John Winings, our Co-Directors for Membership Development, have taken on the task of putting in place these different activities, such as surveying current members for great ideas and opinions, and creating incentives to get new members in. In general, we are targeting 40+ players and 80+ players. We also try to lessen hotel room night rates for the players who travel to our events.

We hope our members will encourage their friends to come and play with us in any of our three yearly championships, and look forward to your feedback with the new measures we'll be trying.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone soon!

Pedometers Pedometers Pedometers

By Cindy Tilbury

Are you wearing your pedometer every day to make sure you get a minimum of 10,000 steps? If not, get to *Dick's Sporting Goods* and pick up some (or other *Fitbit*-like devices) for you and your friends. You'll be amazed at how many steps one game of singles or doubles generates—I estimate 1,800 and 1,300, respectively. Unlike an elliptical or treadmill that gets you about 7,000 steps per hour, it doesn't take much time to reach your goal. **Ask me about mine!**

2018 NMRA Election Ballot and Voting Process

By Cindy Tilbury, NMRA President

Our yearly election is at hand. This year, we solicited players at the two previous tournaments for NMRA board member candidates and made many email and phone call communications to find qualified candidates for the open positions. Only one of our board members whose three-year terms are expiring decided to run for re-election. We will again be offering online voting. The election will be available to all current NMRA members at the www.r2sports.com website (event type is Election, rather than Tournament). It only takes a few minutes to vote, so log on and voice (click) your opinion! Click this link to vote. Do it now while you are thinking about it! You must have a USA Racquetball profile in R2sports.com, but you may set it up or find your password, if you don't already know it.

<http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=22327>

If you would like to run and you are NOT listed in this newsletter, we can do several things to further your campaign:

- Send a blast email with your intent to run, along with your bio and picture. In addition to phone calls/emails you initiate, you can run an effective write-in campaign.
- Invite you to run for the Board in one year. We welcome your involvement before the next election, and you can get a feel for the group's efforts.

If you are considering running for the board in the future, please contact a current or past board member to ask about the duties and commitment. You might have in mind an area of interest where you feel you can contribute. We sincerely welcome that.

Questions or comments? Contact me at cindy.tilbury@att.net or 303.888.4461.



The NMRA and the Future

By Mike Grisz, NMRA Secretary, Dallas, Texas

One of the best things about my life and times in racquetball is the *NMRA*. People who know me understand I like to compete—perhaps too much. But what I also like about the *NMRA* is that I'm able to compete in a more relaxed (don't laugh) and collegial setting. Even I can make friends at these tournaments.

Our round-robin format, at different venues, being able to play singles or doubles with everyone in our bracket, enables us to get to know one another. In running the desk at the tournaments, I'm fortunate to have met many of our players and I thank you for the opportunity. I play at *National Singles*, *National Doubles*, and the *U.S. Open*. The one-and-done format makes for a much different experience.

Ok, I'm on the *NMRA Board*. It's the best Board I've ever worked with. We're financially sound. I hope/think the quality of our tournaments is very good. But.....I'm concerned.

We have a loyal core, especially the age group of 65 and older. Look...our numbers of tournament players entries are down. Not drastically, but down. We need and want to appeal to the membership to help us out. This isn't quite an existential crisis yet, but we would like to see the trend reverse itself. We are going to be sending out a survey to all the *NMRA* members. I want you to respond.

Better yet, email me, call me. Tell us:

- What can we do better to get you to come to our tournaments?
- How can we get more players, from 40 and up, to come?
- If you don't like something, tell me/us.

I think Cindy, Carmen and the rest of the Board are among the finest people I've ever dealt with in racquetball. I hope you want the *NMRA* to succeed as much as I do. Let me hear from you.

Thank you.



Check the www.nmra.info website or Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/191509017552909/>) for news and updates.

2018 '17

DATE	TOURNAMENT	LOCATION	CONTACT	Website www.r2sports.com
Dec 1-3	NMRA Doubles-Only 40+	Pleasanton, CA	Cindy Tilbury	www.nationalmastersracquetball.org
Jan 12-14	WSMRA 29th Championships <i>Ladies-Only 35+ Doubles and B/C Singles Divisions Now Offered</i>	Tucson, AZ	Cindy Tilbury	www.wsmra.com
Feb 7-10	USAR National Doubles	Phoenix, AZ	USAR	www.usra.org
May 2-5 *Change*	NMRA National Championships 40+	Warren, NJ	Cindy Tilbury	www.nationalmastersracquetball.org
May 23-27	USAR National Singles	Pleasanton, CA	USAR	www.usra.org
Jul 25-28	NMRA International Championships 40+	Denver, CO	Cindy Tilbury	www.nationalmastersracquetball.org
Aug 28-Sep 1	World Seniors 30+	Albuquerque, NM	Gary Mazaroff	www.internationalracquetball.com

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RACQUET RACKET

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PLEASE CONTACT US
TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP



Be sure to check the www.nationalmastersracquetball.org website for updates and immediate election results!