

President's Message March, 2026

NMRacquetball.com

New Mexico Racquetball Facebook

Fifty years and counting!! Below are some anecdotes/highlights:

Note: Time-line plus or minus 2 years

- ...1974 1st Racquetball State Championship held at NM State University by Jack Reznik;
25 players; 1 woman and 24 men.**
- ...1976 (Oct) Tom Young's opens in Albuquerque; first phase with 10 courts; 8 more in 1980.
Grand Opening features Dr. Bud Muehleisen, Peggy Steding, and Paul Haber.**
- ...1977 (Nov) Midtown (nee Supreme Courts) opens in Albuquerque.
Childs, Mazaroff, & Wright organize NM Racquetball Assoc. Mazaroff President.
NM Racquetball welcomes Southern Colorado & West Texas into its sphere.**
- ...1979 State Championships at Supreme Courts accommodated 350 players; seventy
entered the Mens C Singles Division.
Mazaroff takes a one year teaching sabbatical to Los Angeles. Ralph Waddington
holds Presidency through 1984, at which time Mazaroff takes the position again.**
- ...1980 All players must pass a rules test in order to compete in tournaments.**
- ...1982 Pro Tourney at Tom Young's; features Marty Hogan, Davey Bledsoe, & Shannon Wright.**
- ...1984 NM Racquetball achieves IRS 501C3 designation.**
- ...1985 World Senior Racquetball Championships inaugurated in Albuquerque.**
- ...1989 New Mexico Games become a reality; racquetball one of 30 disciplines.
Through efforts of Luke St.Onge; World Seniors comes under the IRF umbrella.**
- ...1991 World Senior Racquetball draws 403 players; 103 women.**
- ...1992 Academy Court Club & Rio Grande Sporting Club both close doors within 30 days.**
- ...1993 Albuquerque maxes out at 93 Indoor/4-wall courts; currently it has 21. ****

- ...1995 **New Mexico has over 650 USA Racquetball members; most per capita in USA.**
- ...2001 (June) **Tom Young’s Athletic Club closes!**
- ...2003 **Albuquerque hosts PASO International Coaching Camp at Four Seasons & Midtown.**
- ...2009 **IRT Mens Pro Stop held at Midtown; Rocky Carson defeats Ben Croft for title.**
- ...2013 **New Mexico Racquetball hosts 13 countries at World Senior Doubles in Pojoaque.**
- ...2017 **Albuquerque Sports Commission endorses and promotes World Senior Racquetball.**
- ...2019 **UNM Johnson Center undertakes a remodel; demolishes its nine courts.**
A minimum of four new courts to be built in next phase (15 years)!!
- ...2019 **First National Paddleball Tourney held at Midtown.**
- ...2023 **World Senior event relocates to Las Vegas, New Mexico. Lodgers Tax drives success.**
- ...2025 **State Racquetball Championships integrated into New Mexico Games.**
- ...2026 (Jan) **PASSINGS: Sarah Conaway & Neffie Quintana ****
- (July) Fifty year NM Racquetball Celebration; Daily Grind, Albuquerque**
- (Nov) Return of Bi-National Racquetball Pro Tourney; Stout PFC/Ft. Hood, El Paso, TX**

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

‘Eighty is the NEW Fifty’ Jerry Northwood

UPCOMING check website for full calendar

- April 30-May 3 Chile Traditions IRT Pro-Am; Riverpoint, Albuquerque**
- May 28-31 Meadow City IRT Pro-Am; Montoya Rec Center, Las Vegas, NM**
- June 26-28 New Mexico Games & State Racquetball Singles; Midtown, Albq.**
- July 25-26 New Mexico Games & State Racquetball Dbls; Midtown, Albq.**
- Sept. 1-5 41st Frank Hotels IRF World Seniors; 3 locations, Las Vegas, NM**
- Sept. 25-27 Meadow City Regional Pickleball; Montoya Rec Center, LV, NM**

