



# Senior Tennis Times

Newsletter of the Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.

Jan-Feb  
2008

## Tennis events

By Bob Busch

### Davis Cup Title for USA

The Portland Memorial Coliseum was the site of the first US Davis Cup title since 1995 with a win over Russia. On Friday, November 30, Andy Roddick and James Blake won singles matches to get the US off to a fast start.

Andy Roddick defeated Dmitry Tursunov 6-4, 6-4, 6-2. James Blake gave the US a 2-0 lead as he defeated Mikhail Youzhny 6-3, 7-6, 6-7 and 7-6 in a very exciting match. Sixth-ranked Roddick improved his record in Davis Cup play to 6-0 this year.

The Bryan brothers, Bob and Mike, finished the job on Saturday with a big doubles win over Nikolay Davydenko and Igor Andreev 7-6(4), 6-4 and 6-2 for the third consecutive victory in the best of five Davis Cup final.

In the other two matches James Blake defeated Dmitry Tursunov 1-6, 6-3, 7-5 and Bob Bryan lost the last singles match to Igor Andreev 6-3, 7-6(4). This was a great win for the US Davis Cup team and ended a 12-year Davis Cup drought.

### Gopher Tennis

The best tennis in town can be watched **free** at the Baseline Club on the U campus. Details on [gophersports.com](http://gophersports.com). See home schedules on page 10.

### Australian Open

This great event will have the strongest field ever. All of the top 100 men, and 99 of the top 100 women will compete. The Open will be held January 14-27. ESPN and ESPN2 provide TV coverage.

### STPC Members Volunteer for ICT

*(Tennis events—continued on page 10)*

## Send your Renewal

You've received a letter from STPC with your 2008 renewal. Haven't sent it in yet? **Do it now!** Otherwise, this is your last newsletter; you won't be in the Roster; and you won't be eligible to play in any STPC groups.

## Remember the Dow

By Dottie Gardner



Time's a-flying!! Have you contacted a partner for the Dow Tournament in May? Just a reminder—watch your future newsletters and talk to your captains about this event. **New Members:** this is a fun yet competitive tournament. Keep it in mind over these winter months.



## We love Senior Tennis!

By the Baseline Crew

This gang of 3.5+ killers is not too proud to show off their Senior Tennis Players Club T-shirts. Front: Bob Ostergard, Tom Waki, and Tom Alleva. Back: Henry Sosin, Denny Schwartz, Herb Cederberg, David Sommer (captain), and Joan Thomas. We play Mondays 10-12 AM.

## Upcoming Events

### Valentine Party

February 16, 2008, 9 AM to 12:30 PM

Info and signup page 6

### Annual Meeting

May 3, 2008

### Jack Dow Tournament

May 5-8, 2008

Mark your calendar!

Mens, Womens, Mixed doubles, 2.5-4.0

See story this page

### Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.

A nonprofit corporation, P.O. Box 5525  
Hopkins, MN 55343  
On the web: [www.seniortennismn.com](http://www.seniortennismn.com)

### Senior Tennis Times

The Senior Tennis Times is published ten times annually by and for the members of the Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.

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### Advertising

Send by e-mail or USPS to the newsletter editor by the 15th of the month for publication the following month. **Please send all payments to the newsletter editor.**

Ad rates (first month/additional months):  
Full page (7.5x10).....\$110/90  
Half page (7.5x4.9).....85/65  
Quarter page (3.7x4.9).....60/40  
Eighth page (3.7x2.4).....40/25  
4-line ad (members only).....10  
2-line ad (members only) First three months: free, then \$5/issue.

### Membership information changes, newsletter delivery problems, etc.,

can be made by writing Senior Tennis Players Club, P.O. Box 5525, Hopkins, MN 55343 or [currentmembers@seniortennismn.com](mailto:currentmembers@seniortennismn.com)

Membership total: 1549  
Jan-Feb 2008, Volume 21, Number 1



*Letters to the Editor are wanted! This is your space to express an opinion or relate an interesting experience.*

### Comments from a management freak to tennis control freaks.

**Preface:** After 49 years of managing airline engineers and a much longer time attempting to manage my children and grandchildren, I believe that I am able to identify divergent personality traits. I qualify as an assessor by having tangible success with a few thousand engineering projects and having descendants that, for starters, are all college graduates.

**Item #1:** As I have written in a previous newsletter, one obvious characteristic of a tennis control freak is in often not returning the third ball to the serving side. I can think of no rational reason for this except to exert a little control over

other players. A possible logical, if nefarious reason, is to interrupt the rhythm of the server if a third ball is needed.

**Item #2:** Senior tennis players do not take advice, either oral or from physical examples. They keep making the same mechanical and strategic errors with their game. For instance, if 90% of their first serves are not good and 90% of their second serves are good, you would think that they would adjust their first service by compromising the wild effort for an "ace" to gain reliability.

Arrivederci..... felix perry

*Editor comment: Return the third ball as soon as so doing does not in itself slow play. Return it to the server or his/her partner, depending on what they seem to prefer. (Some servers like to hold all three balls; some want to handle only two.)*

*As a non-profit organization, the Senior Tennis Players Club gratefully accepts donations, memorials and estate gifts.*



### Mission Statement

The primary purpose of the STPC is to provide tennis playing opportunities to people 50 and older for their mental, physical, and social well-being; and to support the growth of tennis.

### Newsletter Submissions

To help make the newsletter as correct as possible, please submit all items in writing only, by mail or email. The deadline is the 17th of the month for publication the following month. All material submitted for publication is subject to editing. Enclose self-addressed stamped envelope if you want materials returned.

**Send your submissions to:** David Sommer, 3657 17th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55407-2805.  
Email: [editor@seniortennismn.com](mailto:editor@seniortennismn.com).

We need help and input from writers, artists, and photographers.

# Percy's tennis rhythms



## By Percy Hughes

2008 greetings to all members of this great tennis club. I hope we all enjoyed Santa's visit, and we all brought in 2008 safely with lots of love for our neighbors, as well as all members of our own family. How many played tennis New Years Eve

day? I bet some did.

**Roger Boyer's** Xmas drills and his 66<sup>th</sup> birthday were celebrated the same day (20<sup>th</sup> of December) as usual—we've been doing that for many years. Happy Birthday, our great Mentor. Roger's drill always draws lots of enthusiastic players. If you missed it this year, be sure to catch it in '09.

Our instructors have lots of concern about late comers to the classes. I have to be concerned, in all fairness to the students that are on time, and it is disruptive to the teaching pros. Those that have a good reason for this problem, please call me and let's talk about it—please? Believe me, my theme song is "Brotherly Love"—let's work it out.

Hooray! The **Owies** program is once again with us! Those that prefer to recuperate between the lines, with careful instruction, are back on court. I'm sure you're enjoying the gentleness of our wonderful pro (and new mother), **Dilcia Pederson**. She's probably treating you as gentle as she does her son. ☺ ☺ ☺

Have you started the new year with fresh equipment, if needed? Racquet, shoes, fresh strings, balls, etc.. Always

have water with you also. Give yourself every chance to play better than last year, with new equipment, if needed. Oh, and start thinking about a partner for this year's **Jack Dow Tournament**. Meantime, Please!

**No foot faults!** Percy



**"Here's what I want you to do!"**

## Want ads

These two-liner want ads are available to all STPC members. Your ad is free for three issues. After that, there is a charge of \$5 per publication.

**Interested in Head racquets & clothing?** Consult Percy Hughes 612-866-1102 for what's best for you.

**Expert Racquet service.** Fred Jurewicz (952) 496-1018 (H); (612) 250-3185. *10% STPC discount.*

**For sale:** complete Total Gym exercise set. New condition. \$30. 952-935-6656.

**Timeshare for rent,** 1 week, 2BR, 2BA, kitchen, 5 star, Sleeps 6, \$1200; Use US or international. 763-544-9757



**Free color TV.** 28" Zenith analog floor model in fine working order. Don Knauer, 952-941-1174.

**For sale: WWII in pictures & descriptive narration.** 3 volume collector books (750p) \$50. 952-935-6656.

**Racquet exchange?** Did you get mine? Mine has white grip; yours black. Same Head cover. 612-823-0046.

**2 Greek homes** 3 BR 2.5 BA near Nafplio, €780/wk. MN owned. Details Sally Howard 612-340-9706.

**For rent: 2BR condo. Palm Springs Country Club** in Indio, CA, (sleeps 6), Mar 14-21, 2008, 27-hole golf, 8-lighted tennis courts, \$940. Perfect for Pacific Life Tennis Open at Indian Wells, CA. Call 303-220-1670.

**●● STPC lessons and drills—all levels ●●**

Some court locations are subject to change during the season. No reservations necessary.

Location	Day	Time	Skill	Cost	Instructor	Phone
<b>Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center</b> 4005 Nicollet Ave S Minneapolis 612-825-6844	Mon	1:30-3:00 PM	All	\$5.00	Dilcia Pederson	612-824-6099
					Duncan Welty	952-933-8592
	Mon	10:00-11:00 "Owies"	All	\$7.50	Dilcia Pederson	612-824-6099
	Thu	8:30-10:00AM	All	\$5.00	Percy Hughes	612-866-1102
				Paul Stormo	952-944-6286	
<b>Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center.</b> 100 Federal Drive, Minneapolis	Tue	11:00-12:30	All	\$5.00	Tom Bauman	651-738-6726
<b>Williston Fitness &amp; Sports</b> 14509 Minnetonka Drive Minnetonka 952-939-8370	Tue	5:30-7:00PM	All	\$5.00	Duncan Welty	952-933-8592

**Free or low-cost lessons\*** are offered as part of your STPC membership. New members are encouraged to take advantage of them. After twelve lessons, you will receive a free can of balls and a certificate of accomplishment and congratulations from the STPC president. You should notify your instructor when you have completed twelve lessons.

\* Lessons are free during outdoor season; they cost \$5 when indoor (to pay for court time). You may continue taking lessons as long as you are a member of the club.

**●● Private Club Drills Open to STPC Members ●●**

Location	Day	Cost	Time	Phone
<b>Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center*</b> 4005 Nicollet Ave S, Minneapolis	Tue Thu	\$8.00	9:00-10:00 AM	612-825-6844 Call for reservation.

**\*Additional classes for all skill levels available, open to seniors and younger players.**

## Spooks and Goblins

**By Joanne Schwartz**

40 **spooks and goblins** gathered at Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center on Saturday, October 27 for four hours of good tennis, camaraderie, door prizes (note pads, napkins, and note cards) and excellent food buffet.

I want to thank our committee—Marv Schneider (who set up the tennis), Dick Brandt, and Amy and Roy Rincon for all their good work and support in making this Halloween event a great success. It's people like you who make this the great club it is!

A big thank you also to Wade Brautigam from



Affordable Best Catering in Bloomington for the wonderful taco bar, which included Mexican rice, corn bake, apple cider and coffee. Wade received many nice compliments on the buffet. He may be contacted at 952-887-9607 for future events.

David Houghton donated a big box of apples to STPC and Fred Wells Tennis and Learning Center. Thanks, David, for your generosity!

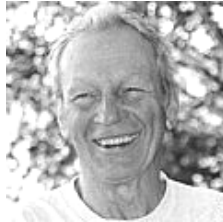
Thank you all for coming, and see you at the next event. Wishing you a blessed and happy New Year.

## In Memory...



### Don Diez

Diez, Donald E. Beloved Husband, Dad, Grandpa, Brother, Uncle and Friend. Survived by beloved wife Gail of 45 years; children, grandchildren, nieces, other relatives and friends. He was a phenomenal jelly and jam maker who received several blue ribbons at the Min-



nesota State Fair. An amazing handyman husband, father, grandfather who found joy in helping others. Frustrated metal detector who never had enough time, but was interested in history. Don was a member of Senior Tennis from 1995 to the present.

### Keith Davidson

Davidson, Keith W. 84, died on Wednesday, November 28, 2007 in St. James, MN. He is survived by his wife, Elaine of St. James; daughters, Mary O'Leary of Minneapolis and Ruth Davidson and husband, Mehdi Elketroussi and grandchildren Matthew and Nadia Elketroussi all of Peachtree City, Georgia. Keith was a lifetime member of Senior Tennis, joining in 1983 and continuing through 2006.

## T-shirts on sale at Reed-Sweatt

### By Tom Waki

Due to delivery problems associated with T-shirts sales through the mail, I will no longer be accepting orders. The T-shirts will be on sale at Reed-Sweatt 9:00



AM to noon, January 21-25. Anyone wanting a T-shirt after that may make special arrangements with me.

We'll also sell T-shirts at events such as the Valentine Tennis Party, the Annual Meeting, and the Dow Tournament.

## Tennis in northern suburbs

PublicIndoorTennis.com, a new public tennis facility in Spring Lake Park, is looking for senior groups to fill their weekday court time from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Interested players should contact Tom Waki (612-388-7879 or [tamisan2@comcast.net](mailto:tamisan2@comcast.net)). Court rates will be \$5.00 per hour per person, and players will be grouped according to ability.

PublicIndoorTennis.com would also like to offer Senior Group Drills, but they need to know what days and times would be most beneficial. Players interested in drills should contact Tim Jachymowski (763-231-3109 or [timj@publicindoortennis.com](mailto:timj@publicindoortennis.com)) and advise of optimal drill times and their skill level.

## Players wanted!

### Tuesday 8:00 PM 3.25 MW at Crosstown

This new evening group started play November 13. Subs, and future regulars, needed. Call the captain David Houghton 612-220-6780 or email [dasu100@msn.com](mailto:dasu100@msn.com).

### Wednesday, 10:00, 3.5+, MW

New group at Baseline. Regulars and subs wanted. Tom Waki (612) 388-7879 or [tamisan2@comcast.net](mailto:tamisan2@comcast.net).

## Wireless Internet service

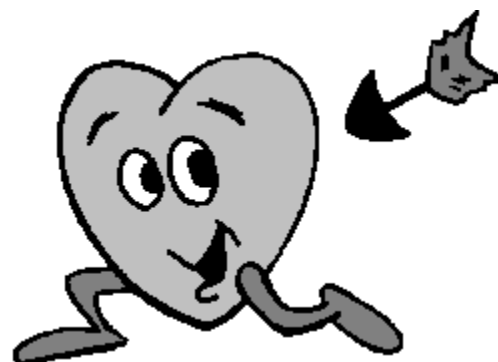
### By David Sommer

Minneapolis and Chaska have wireless Internet service. I've recently converted from my Comcast service, which cost \$42/month, to USI Wireless, costing just \$18/month. That's an annual difference of \$288! For that price I get 1 megabit/second downloads and uploads. For a few dollars more you can get up to 6 MB/sec. (The faster speed would be desirable only if you do a lot of downloading of movies and music.)

USI Wireless has installed transceivers on light poles every few blocks throughout Minneapolis. I happen to live about as far away from the nearest node as is possible, and it took some time before the company found the right modem to give me good results. Most people will not have any such difficulties.

I've been very pleased with USI Wireless' technical support. I can always reach a knowledgeable human being quite promptly. And the company has not started billing me until I was completely satisfied with the quality of the service.

# Fort Snelling Valentine Tennis Party



Saturday, February 16, 2008  
9:00 AM to 12:30 PM  
Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center

Open to Singles and Couples. Mixed Doubles. Rotating Partners.

**Only the first 40 players to enter will play!!**

**Cost: \$12 for tennis and food; \$4 food only**

**Food: rolls, cookies, fruit, juice and coffee**

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Please detach and mail in this registration form.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Rating \_\_\_\_\_ (You do not need a partner; this is rotating doubles)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Rating \_\_\_\_\_

**No-shows will not receive their money back—sign up, be there!**

I agree that any participation by me in the activities of, or sponsored by, the Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc. (STPC), a nonprofit organization, including, but without limitation, activities such as tennis lessons, clinics, drills, rating sessions, camps, trips, playing in or attending tennis games, tournaments, groups or social events, shall be at my sole risk; and I hereby release and hold harmless STPC and its officers, directors, members, employees, agents, tennis pros, tennis clubs, courts and facilities used or licensed by STPC, and all independent contactors with STPC (all being "Associated Others") for all claims of damage, whether due to injuries to person or property; to any direction, conduct, scheduling or claimed discrimination, nonfeasance or malfeasance, or otherwise, arising out of, or occurring in connection with, any such activities or conduct of STPC or such Associated Others.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Send check for \$12 per person payable to STPC before January 20 to:

Marv Schneider ♥ 17774 Evener Way ♥ Eden Prairie, MN 55346 ♥ 952-975-1895

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# Marmie Ankeny

By Lisa Mushett, Northern Section USTA

"I want to live. That is why I play tennis," crowed Margaret "Marmie" Ankeny proudly when asked what keeps her playing the sport.

Ankeny, of Minneapolis, is proving that tennis is truly the sport of a lifetime as she is still playing at age 93. She is currently believed to be the oldest female tennis player in the Twin Cities. A member of the Senior Tennis Players Club, one will see Ankeny and her friends hitting winners at the courts behind Benilde-St. Margaret's High School three or four times a week in the summer and at Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center in the winter.

"I am just crazy about tennis," Ankeny said. "It is just so wonderful."

She first picked up a racquet 87 years ago at the age of 5 when her father would take her to the old Minneapolis Tennis Club on Grand Avenue and 22nd Street. Then at age 17, she became a tennis counselor for the summer at Lyman Lodge—a YWCA camp for young girls and working mothers—on Lake Minnetonka after her mother's friend saw how much Marmie loved to play tennis.

Once married, Marmie turned her attention to the links as her husband was an avid golfer. One day, one of her husband's golf buddies asked him to play tennis. He did, falling in love with the sport too, much to Marmie's delight. They formed a tennis group at Minikahda Country Club in Minneapolis and then transferred that group to Florida when they moved there. Her two sons then started playing, as well as

other family members. Her two grandsons were on the varsity tennis team when they were seventh graders at Benilde-St. Margaret High School.

"Tennis has been such a big part of my life," Ankeny said. "I have had so many friends and family play tennis over the years. It has brought all of us closer together. When my husband passed away three years ago and I moved back to Minnesota, tennis was the one thing that really kept me going during that terrible time."

Although she knows her skills have deteriorated somewhat as she has aged, she still feels such a sense of joy and accomplishment when she's on the court. There are days when mentally and physically she feels unbalanced, but when she walks on the court, all that seems to go away.

"I could not be feeling the best that day, but the minute I hit the tennis court, I feel better," Marmie said. "It is strange, but I never lose my train of thought or forget the score when I am on the tennis court."

She also realizes that her endurance is not what it used to be, but she still plays one to two hours a day, with some limitations. "I never play singles anymore," Marmie said. "I will not even warm up playing singles. That is about the only concession I have had to make over the years."

Her coach (yes, she still has a coach) at Reed-Sweatt last winter, Barb Meyer, is still amazed by what Marmie can do on the court.

"She is something," Meyer said. "She plays extremely well. I try to keep the ball reasonably close to her and she runs me all over the court. She can hit the ball as hard as many of my ladies half her age. She is living proof that tennis is a sport for a lifetime."



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## Make tennis more fun

David Adams

*Editor's note: Excellent ideas from David Adams. His comments are not **rules**, but simply reminders of ways to make the game among seniors more enjoyable. Here they are:*

1. Always insure that the serving team has all three balls in its possession before serving the first serve. The server is responsible for knowing that the third ball is either with his/her partner or in his/her own possession. This speeds up play and continuity in the event of a "let" serve.
2. When returning a ball to your opponents which is not in play, make sure you hit or throw it back accurately to a specific individual, and make sure that individual is alert and aware of the ball coming back. Don't make the opponents shag balls off the back screen, or, worse, take a hit from a returning ball. Much time can be saved.
3. When a serve is "out", avoid hitting it back if you can. Sometimes, of course, you're in the process of swinging at it before the "out" call, but too often players tend to practice their returns on "out" serves. Not good. Best place to put an "out" serve is into the net.
4. Remember that the server is obliged to call the game score before the first serve, and loudly enough for both opponents to hear it. Likewise, a team receiving a shot which is deemed "out", should call "out" loudly, and signal by raising one hand into the air. Remember, a lot of seniors are hearing-challenged, and need a visual signal.

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## Baseline Tennis Center

By Tom Waki

Did you know that you don't have to be a member at Baseline to play tennis there? You can call the front desk at 612-625-1433 anytime to reserve a court, but you can only reserve a court one day in advance. Weekend court time is \$22/hour and weekdays from 7AM to 5PM is \$16/hour. What a deal! However, if you would like permanent court time, call Reven Stephens at 612-625-2444 or Email him at [step0222@umn.edu](mailto:step0222@umn.edu). If you do play there, make sure you wear tennis shoes and not running shoes. You will be asked to leave the courts if you are not wearing the right shoes. I think this is the rule no matter what facility you play in.

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## Tips from a pro

By Laurie Kozlak

### Where should I be when I play Doubles?

Being in the right place at the right time is essential for success in doubles. Knowing when and where to go can be confusing to new and old players alike. Often Senior players play the **split formation** (one up and one back) thinking they'll cover for the lob, when actually they give their opponents a larger area with angles to hit to versus if they were at the net (mid-court) with their partner. In addition, playing back makes it difficult to **finish the point** as you give your opponent a long time to react to your ball and you almost have to rely on them making an error. An exception to this may be if you have superior ground strokes and lobs (and inferior volleys/overheads), then staying **behind** the baseline may be your positioning of choice while you are improving your volleys and overheads. However, the best way to practice volleys and overheads is getting up to the net where you will get the opportunity to hit these shots. Bottom Line? The strongest positioning in doubles is getting with your partner at the net (inside the service line) and secondly, behind the baseline. The split formation is a distant *third* place in the running for strong doubles positioning. Thus, get to the net, improve your volleys and overheads, and start winning more matches!

### How do I get to be a better returner?

"Practice, Practice, Practice" and then "Focus, Focus, Focus"! First, practice your returns outside of your match against as many different servers as you can so come to the STPC lessons and drills. Next, learn both the low cross-court return as well as the lob return to give you an ability to "mix it up" and keep your opponents guessing as to what return to expect. The "lob return" over the net player in Senior tennis is undoubtedly one of the most effective returns a player can make so if you don't "own" a lob return then make it a goal to learn it. The straight ahead return is a distant third choice but it is used primarily against a net player who is "asleep on the job" or to "keep them honest" in their ability to volley. When you've learned the returns, then your next job is to choose which return you're going to hit **before** the serve and then **focus** on executing it. Keeping your backswing compact, moving forward into the return, and following through to the target will help improve your return success. Remember, being ready before the serve will help you to "return the return"!



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## South of the river tennis

By Mary Alterman

*Editor's note: Congratulations to our south of the river members for their initiative in getting senior tennis going in their own neighborhood. Others wanting to do the same may get some help from our Area Directors Tom Waki (Minneapolis) or Thue Rasmussen (St. Paul).*

If you find yourself south of the river, watch your head! The rackets are swinging and the balls are flying this year, the first year for the South of the River Tennis Seniors (SORTS). The group came together in early August 2007, and despite the tardy start, seniors filled from two to three of the eight courts available at Century Middle School in Lakeville (located at 18610 Ipava Avenue, two miles east of the 185th Street exit off 35W) on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, as well as Monday evenings through the end of September.

Team captaining was a shared enterprise with Warren Porter (952-431-5850, [winston781@charter.net](mailto:winston781@charter.net)) taking Monday mornings; Marty Alterman (952-435-6394, [malterman@usa.net](mailto:malterman@usa.net)) in charge of Monday nights, and Wednesday mornings; and Lester Drankwalter (952-432-7218 [lesterd@charter.net](mailto:lesterd@charter.net)) Friday mornings.

Unwilling to be stopped by the heavy rainfalls throughout October, the Seniors moved directly across the street to the spanking new indoor tennis courts at the Lifetime Fitness Club at 18425 Dodd Blvd. (two miles east of the 185th Street exit off 35W in Lakeville). There, for just \$9 a time per person, seniors have taken over two of the courts from 8:30-10:00 on Monday and Friday mornings and two courts on Monday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. from October through December with a new session beginning in January (fitness club membership is waived).

SORTS is open to players at all levels. If you're interested in enrolling for any of the monthly sessions in 2008, contact Lester Drankwalter at 952-432-7218 or [lesterd@charter.net](mailto:lesterd@charter.net) to reserve your playing slot. Payment for the month is required in advance.

SORTS team captains use a variety of ways of mixing and matching doubles partners. Players are using various drill opportunities to sharpen their games, such as those offered through Senior Tennis by Percy Hughes, Read-Sweatt, and Fred Wells. Friday morning players also participate from time to time in informal drills offered by a member of the group, Lee Smeltzer, new to STPC and the cold north. Lee recently moved from the year 'round outdoors tennis country of sunny North Carolina, where he's been playing tennis for the

past ten years.

SORTS is anticipating a busy summer 2008 with tennis being offered five times a week at Century Middle School. Seniors Tennis board member Bruce Abrahamson (952.461.2617 or [brabraham@integra.net](mailto:brabraham@integra.net)) will run the additional Tuesday and Thursday morning groups.

With the Matchpoint Tennis Center (952-469-9900) opening in early 2008 at 9913 214th Street West in Lakeville (at the corner of Country Road 70 and Jacquard Avenue near the new Lakeville South High School), SORTS is anticipating expanded opportunities for indoor tennis, including the addition of men's only and women's only sessions at reasonable rates.

For some of the Senior tennis players, taking up tennis is a fairly recent phenomenon. Yet, they are finding a passion for the game that keep their feet moving to catch some of those overheads, lobs, and volleys. Add to that, morning coffee and conversation following many of the sessions and you have a recipe for celebrating new friendships as well as improved fitness.

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## Players pool

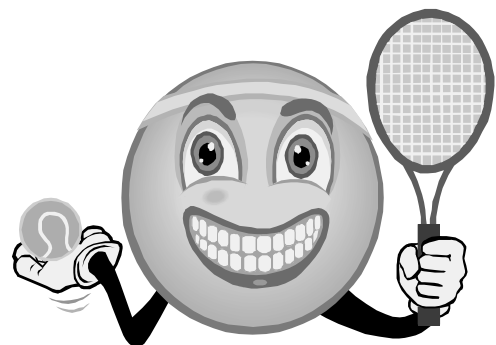
By Tom Waki

I find that there are many players out there who want to play tennis but are unable to find other players. Of course, they can call the captains in the schedule, or even go through the roster and call people at random. But sometimes these methods fail to work. I would like to start a Players Pool where people can meet other tennis player without any hassle.

If you are interested in being in the Players Pool contact me at 612-388-7879 or [tamisan2@comcast.net](mailto:tamisan2@comcast.net). I will need the following information from you:

- Your name
- Skill level
- Singles or doubles
- Days and time (morning, afternoon, evening)

I will do my best to help you play tennis.



(Tennis events—continued from page 1)

**Roger Boyer**, Executive Director of the InnerCity Tennis program, reported recently that during the last five years the ICT organization has grown from a simple summer parks and winter indoor program involving 2,500 kids to a program that currently serves over 5,000.

ICT programming is now offered six days a week, up from two days a week five years ago. Hundreds of kids participate in the free Saturday afternoon winter indoor program from 1:30 to 4:30. In addition, ICT is offering outreach programming with the YMCA, Headstart, Colin Powell Youth Center, Learning for Leadership Charter School and Golden Eagle at the American Indian Center.

Roger says that without the volunteers it would be impossible to serve the existing programs. The volunteer staff has grown from 50 to 150. It is exciting to see some of the older participants help deliver the programs to the younger kids. He also expressed his appreciation to the STPC members who regularly volunteer for the weekly ICT programming.

STPC members involved in some of the early ICT programming over 10 years ago include: **Bill Sturm, Bob Sloan, Willy Prawdzik, Ray Ranallo and Jim Schneider.** Bill Sturm remembers Roger Boyer coaching and preparing for the after school program with senior volunteers at the Decathlon Club. Bill said that seniors really appreciate the Monday morning tennis and coaching provided by Roger. Bill makes it a practice of volunteering 1.5 hours of program time for

every hour provided on Monday with Roger. In addition to 32 years with Ford Motor Company, Bill, a former marine, also coached girls tennis at Totino-Grace and the Ramsey Area Middle School.

Willy Prawdzik joined the STPC in May, 1995. He remembers volunteering for some of the early ICT programs at the Williston and Highway 100 tennis clubs. He has seen a lot of growth and tennis improvement over the years. Several of the kids that have participated in the program have gone on to lead their high school tennis varsity teams and some have played in the State High School tennis tournament.

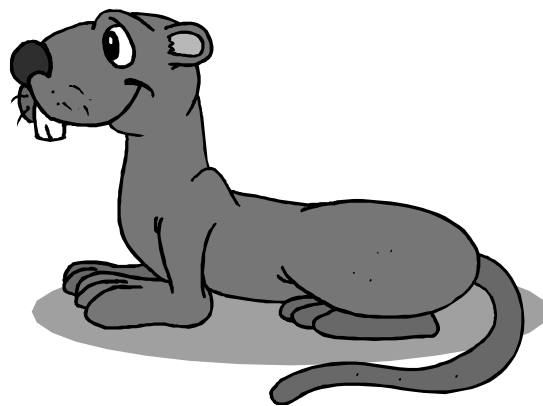
Ray Ranallo is another long-time STPC member who continues to volunteer for ICT programs. In addition to being a very dependable volunteer, Ray finds time to play competitively. He recently returned with a silver and bronze medal for his play at the Senior Olympics in Utah. Ray competed at both singles and doubles in the 85-89 age bracket.

STPC volunteers fill vital roles in the delivery of ICT programs. Because many of the volunteers go south for the winter, there is a bigger need for volunteers in January and February.

Roger Boyer expressed his appreciation for the annual financial support to ICT programming by the STPC and for the defibrillator recently donated by STPC in honor of former President Paul Steen.

For information about volunteering for ICT programming call Paul at 612-824-6099 and visit the website at [www.innercitytennis.org](http://www.innercitytennis.org).

Gopher Men at home		Gopher Women at home	
Date, time	Opponent	Date, time	Opponent
Feb 1, 6:00 PM	Denver	Jan 18, 6:00 PM	Drake
Feb 2, 9:00 AM	Middle Tennessee State	Jan 20, 10:00 AM	Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Feb 9, 10:00 AM	Wisconsin-Green Bay	Jan 20, 3:00 PM	South Dakota State
Feb 9, 6:00 PM	Oklahoma	Feb 15, 6:00 PM	Montana
Feb 10, 1:00 PM	Drake	Feb 17, 9:30 AM	Eastern Michigan
Mar 9, noon	Ohio State	Feb 17, 3:00 PM	Gustavus Adolphus
Mar 22, noon	Indiana	Feb 29, 6:00 PM	Missouri
Apr 4, TBA	Michigan State	Mar 2, noon	Iowa
Apr 18, 6:30 PM	Illinois	Mar 29, 11:00 AM	Penn State
Apr 20, noon	Purdue	Mar 30, 11:00 AM	Michigan
		Apr 12, 11:00 AM	Wisconsin
		Apr 13, 11:00 AM	Northwestern



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# Trudy Hughes

By Mary Kaminski

In the early nineties, the Senior Tennis Times monthly published an “up Close and Personal” feature article which really was a biography of a member. Trudy Hughes was the subject in the February, 1991 issue.



Trudy was one busy lady then, with an interesting life of many activities besides tennis. So here it is seventeen years later when I heard that she wrote a book last year, a children’s book.

Trudy was an elementary school teacher until she retired. She joined the Senior Tennis Players Club, learned tennis, and became a lifetime member in 1986. She served a two-year term on the executive committee, played lots of tennis, and participated in all Club events.

Trudy still plays tennis, though not regularly with a group.

Let’s go back a few years. Richard Hughes, Trudy’s husband, learned to sail on White Bear Lake as a teenager with his teenage cousin. He fell in love with sailing, and dreamed of owning his own sailboat some day. Years later, still dreaming about owning a sailboat, he said to Trudy and to their two children, then nine and twelve, “Why don’t we build a sailboat?” Trudy thought he was “crazy”. But build a 20’ sailboat they did, complete with a mahogany cockpit! It took four years of hard work for the four of them, in the garage of their Lake Nokomis home, and it was a proud day, indeed, when the Hughes family launched their sailboat on White Bear Lake where Richard’s dream started!

With encouragement from her son and daughter (Richard died many years ago), Trudy wrote a book, “A Sailboat for Dad” which was published in 2006. Besides the memories of the adventure, Trudy has a collection

*(Trudy Hughes—continued on page 12)*

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## STPC New Members

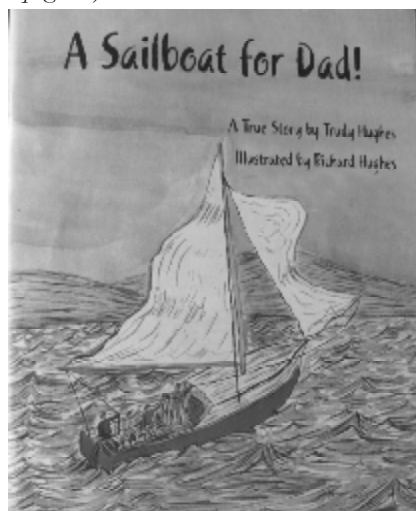
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*(Trudy Hughes—continued from page 11)*

of twenty water colors painted by her husband, his portrayal of their experiences in building their sailboat. All through the years, they sailed, and the boat is now docked in the San Francisco Boatyards near Trudy's son's home.

This incredibly energetic woman has taken up bowling and is a member of the Southtown Bowling League. She entertains groups while singing with the Silver Notes, and plays piano at the VFW. She also plays piano at church. Not too long ago, she took tap-dancing lessons. She still loves to dance, and goes dancing at the Lennox Community Center.

Congratulations, Trudy, on your success as an author. May you continue to stay young and may you continue to find happiness in many more new pursuits!



## Can't find a group?

By Tom Waki

Thanks to all the captains, the Club uses 222 indoor courts in 13 locations in the Twin Cities area. That translates to 888 people playing tennis every week keeping themselves mentally and physically healthy. If you are not one of those people, I suggest you look in the schedule for groups at your skill level and that are reasonably convenient in location and time of play. Call those captains, and volunteer to be a sub or regular. If you are not successful, call the Facility Coordinator. I am sure that person will be more than happy to get you into a group or set up a new group. Maybe you can become a captain.

There are five locations in which the Club has no groups playing: Burnsville Tennis Center, Hwy 100, Moore Lake, Oakdale Gold, and Lifetime Fitness Center of Lakeville. Recently opened is Public Indoor Tennis in Spring Lake Park. Also, I understand that there is another new club, Match Point Tennis, scheduled to start up in Lakeville in February. As the Area Directors of your Club, Thue Rasmussen (St. Paul area—651-917-0075) and Tom Waki (Minneapolis area—612-388-7879) will do all they can to get more court time if needed.