



# Senior Tennis Times

*The 50+ tennis experience*

March 2013

## What is the Dow and why should I play in it?

**By Ken Landro, Dow Chair**

The Senior Tennis Players Club is the largest not-for-profit tennis club for men and women age 50 and over in the United States. It was started by Jack Dow in 1982. I didn't have the opportunity to meet Jack but I am so thankful that he started the Club and it has thrived for 31 years. The Club has only one big tournament each year and in honor of Jack, we call it the Dow Tournament. Your opportunity for **fun, exercise, and to meet new people** is some of what the Dow provides.

This year's round robin tournament will be held on May 6, 7, 8, and 9. We will go back to our basic categories of play based on current ratings (2.5 play 2.5, 3.0 play 3.0, etc). Men and women can play in a maximum of two events, men's or women's doubles and/or mixed doubles. All players must be members of STPC.

A knowledgeable and energetic committee is at work to bring back the fun, treats, rewards, and good times of the Dow that we all experienced in the past. More info and an application is in this newsletter and on our website. Questions? Call me at 763-544-9757.

**Captains**—please talk up the Dow with your team members: fun, meet new people, treats, and awards. An award will be made to the Captain who has the most team members playing in this year's tournament.

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## Tennis events

**By Bob Busch**

It is with mixed emotions that we send our best wishes to Roger Boyer on his retirement as Executive Director of InnerCity Tennis. His creative leadership over the past 19 years led to the development of the ICT youth program into what many believe is the best in the country. He provided many seniors and other volunteers with an opportunity to serve the youth in our community and lay the foundation for their development as solid citizens. He helped in my own transition to retirement in 2000 with an invitation to work with the program. He attracted and retained the hundreds of volunteers necessary to deliver a high quality program. The many examples of youth who benefited from the program through participation and success in high school and college programs should provide Roger with a high level of personal satisfaction. See also the story about Roger on page 8.

### Australian Open

Awesome! For the past two or three years the level of play in men's professional tennis among the top four players—**Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal** and **Andy Murray**—has been absolutely amazing. This year's tournament again included many long and hard-fought matches that left the players exhausted and kept the fans highly focused. Novak Djokovic won his third consecutive title in Melbourne with a victory over Andy Murray 6-7(2), 7-6(3), 6-3, 6-2.

*(Tennis events—continued on page 5)*



## Upcoming events

### Jack Dow Round Robin

May 6-9. Details and signup page 11

### STPC Annual Celebration

May 11, 11:00-2:30 at Town & Country Club  
**Important! All members (not just captains) are invited. Details in April Newsletter**

## 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 email 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).....\$165/135

Half page (7.5x4.9) .....110/85

Half page on back cover .....125/100

Quarter page (3.7x4.9) .....70/50

Eighth page (3.7x2.4) .....45/30

Business card special .....30/20

Horizontal strip ads: \$55 first two inches; \$20 each additional inch. Vertical: \$75 first two inches; \$25 each additional inch.

2-line ad (members only), first three months free, then \$5/issue. Additional lines \$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 email [dsommer7@usiwireless.com](mailto:dsommer7@usiwireless.com).

March 2013, Vol. 26, #2

Membership total: 1152

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## Tip from a pro:

### Improving our overhead

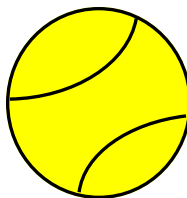
By Bill Stark, Reed-Sweatt pro

Overheads are a tough shot for everybody, and for us seniors it can be even more so. Here are 3 things that have helped me with this shot.

1. Move properly to the ball. We shouldn't run backwards, facing the net, but rather pivot on our left foot (if a right-hander), moving into position by side-stepping. I find seniors always pay lip service to this footwork pattern but often neglect it.
2. Learn to modify the "scissor kick". When we move and find ourselves "falling back" to strike the ball, we don't have to leave the ground like Roger Federer does. Rather, as we move and fall back on our right foot (as a right hander) and turn our body to strike the ball, we catch ourselves with our left foot. This helps us cover more ground and hit more smashes, yet in a manner that we can do! Try practicing this simple footwork pattern.
3. Give it your best effort, no matter how tiring or difficult it is. This is the most important factor, because let's face it, hitting an overhead smash expends a lot of energy. I always ask the players that I coach, "is one point really worth all the energy spent in hitting a proper, and hence, a more effective overhead smash?" The answer is always yes!



***As a non-profit organization, the Senior Tennis Players Club gratefully accepts donations, memorials and estate gifts. Please send to Senior Tennis Players Club, P.O. Box 5525, Hopkins, MN 55343.***



### 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 15th of the month for publication the following month. All material submitted for publication is subject to editing. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want materials returned.

#### **Send your submissions to:**

David Sommer, 3657 17th Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55407.  
Email: [dsommer7@usiwireless.com](mailto:dsommer7@usiwireless.com).

Opinions expressed in articles, letters or advertisements are those of the author, and do not necessarily represent views of the newsletter editor or the Board or officers of STPC.

## Mark's corner

### By Mark Mudra

**A life saved!** Tim Jachymowski, owner of Public Indoor tennis, just saved the life of a tennis player who stopped breathing on the court using a heart defibrillator. STPC has provided these at the indoor venues we use.



InnerCity has handed out free first racquets to young tennis players for years at Christmas. This year they could not, but thanks to quick action by our board on a suggestion by Jon Holmgren, we donated \$500 so these kids will receive a new first racquet for Christmas this year. Hopefully they all play the game we all love for many years.

The news from our recent board meeting:

The Board approved Brady Schmidt who maintains the InnerCity web site and does ICT's e news, to do a email Monthly Update for us, and work with David Sommer on improving our web site.

Two additional free summer drills were approved for our members in the north and south areas, plus our usual six summer outdoor classes, which are two weekend, two evening and two morning. Look for details on these free lessons beginning in May .

## Players wanted

3.0-3.5 men and women needed as subs in a fun group. Fridays 9:30-11:00 am at Baseline. Call or email Judy Sweeney at 612-866-5298, jasweeney740@hotmail.com.

## 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.

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

**Time for a Spring project?** Bathroom update, kitchen, paint, tile, lighting/electrical, plumbing. High quality attention to detail. Home improvement specialist. Eric Ostergaard, 612-710-7055 ericostergaard@yahoo.com

**Snowbird returnees alert:** 2BR/2BA furn condo in E. Blmgt. \$1200/mo (util incl). 6 mo rental. 612-243-1300.

**2 Greek homes** 3BR 2.5BA near Nafplio. €770-€994/wk. MN owner Sally Howard. Details greekhomes.net.

**Buddy Holly memorabilia.** Books, records, pictures. If interested call 952-888-7855.



**Mark your calendars.** New Open House Tennis Saturdays: two hours of tennis at Lifetime 98th street, March 9 and April 13, 2:00-4:00. Open to all STPC members, all levels of players for only \$7.00. You don't need to be a member of Lifetime. There will be courts for 4.0, 3.5, 3.0 and 2.5 players. The last open house had over 60 STPC players attending.

**Some exciting news from Lifetime.** The Bloomington South group has grown to over 40 STPC members. Benefits include playing 7 days a week, two classes, free use of a ball machine, free fitness classes, and an instructional level class. We also are in the process of setting up for this group an elite summer senior league that will play Edina, Bearpath, Wayzata, Golden Valley and other country clubs. Visit our web site for more details and information on the membership offer—click Tennis Schedule, and look for “Membership offer from Life Time 98th Street.”

**March skill: Doubles play.** See bottom of page 4.

**This month fitness tip** is to avoid trans fats (think doughnuts, deep fried fast foods, French fries). Trans fats increase inflammation and lower good cholesterol in our bodies. At least let's try to limit our intake.

Any questions regarding any of the above, please contact me. Mark Mudra markmudra@aol.com

## Gifts to Senior Tennis

We want to acknowledge with thanks for a generous gift from Jean Murdock, in memory of George Halder.

## Senior Games

Minnesota Senior Games are coming June 19-22 in Owatonna. For info, [www.mnseniorgames.com](http://www.mnseniorgames.com).

And the National Senior Games will be held July 19 through August 1 in Cleveland. Check out the Nationals at [www.nsga.com](http://www.nsga.com).

Chuck Supplee, 952-884-2575, can tell you more. Every year, several STPC members participate in these games. Events include tennis singles and doubles.

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## Senior Tennis Players Club Indoor Lesson Season

### *The 50+ Tennis Experience*

Lessons and drills—September through April—All levels

No reservations needed—show up and play.

Cost \$7, except where noted

#### SENIOR TENNIS PLAYERS CLUB

Day	Location	Time	Instructor, Phone, Email
Mon	<b>Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center</b> 4005 Nicollet Ave S, Minneapolis, 612-825-6844	1:30-3:00 PM	Dilcia Pederson 612-824-6099 dilcia.pederson@innercitytennis.org
			Duncan Welty 952-933-8592 idwelty@q.com
Tue	<b>Life Time 98<sup>th</sup> St – only open to Life Time Tennis Pass Members. FREE!</b> 952-830-7900	9:00-10:30 AM	Mark Mudra 952-833-1469 <a href="mailto:markmudra@aol.com">markmudra@aol.com</a>
	<b>PublicIndoorTennis.Com.</b> 7833 Highway 65 N.E., Spring Lake Park, MN 55432. 763-231-3109	1:00-2:30 PM	Mark Mudra 952-833-1469 <a href="mailto:markmudra@aol.com">markmudra@aol.com</a>
Wed	<b>Baseline Tennis Center</b> , 1815 4th St SE, Minneapolis, 612-625-1433 (will rebate \$2.50 to cover parking)	9:30-11:00 AM	Mark Mudra 952-833-1469 <a href="mailto:markmudra@aol.com">markmudra@aol.com</a>
	<b>Williston Fitness &amp; Sports</b> , 14509 Minnetonka Drive, Minnetonka 952-939-8370	5:30-7:00 PM	Duane Ryman 612-865-9517 <a href="mailto:dhrtennis40@hotmail.com">dhrtennis40@hotmail.com</a>
Thu	<b>Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center.</b> Coaches Dilcia, Duane, & Duncan rotate with Paul Stormo	8:30-10:00 AM	Paul Stormo 952-944-6286 pjstormo@aol.com
Fri	<b>Life Time 98<sup>th</sup> St – only open to Life Time Tennis Pass Members. FREE!</b> 952-830-7900	9:00-10:30 AM	Mike Johnson or his staff
	<b>PublicIndoorTennis.Com.</b> 7833 Highway 65 N.E., Spring Lake Park, MN 55432. 763-231-3109	1:00-2:30 PM	Mark Mudra 952-833-1469 <a href="mailto:markmudra@aol.com">markmudra@aol.com</a>
Sat	<b>Life Time 98<sup>th</sup> St. Special!</b> Open to all STPC members these dates: 3/9/13, 4/13/13	2:00-4:00 PM	Mark Mudra 952-833-1469 <a href="mailto:markmudra@aol.com">markmudra@aol.com</a>

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

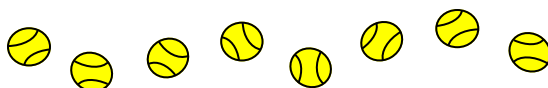
Location	Day	Cost	Time	Information
<b>Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center</b> 4005 Nicollet Ave S, Minneapolis	Tue Thu	\$11.00	9:00-10:00 AM	Call 612-825-6844 for reservation.
<b>Williston Fitness Center</b> 14509 Minnetonka DR. Minnetonka, MN 55345	Mon	Williston member \$10, non-member \$14	3:00-4:00, 2.0-2.5	Call front desk to sign up: 952-939-8370
	Wed		8:00-9:00 am, 3.0-3.5	
	Fri		8:00-9:00 am, stroke & play	

#### March skill: Doubles play

- 80% of points won when both players are inside the service line. Get to the net!
- On serve, try to move three steps from the baseline to reduce return of serve angles.
- Play percentages:
  - target the T on volleys

– target cross-court 4x4 corner square on ground strokes and ROS.

- Always try to be within 10 feet from your partner. Move together.



(Tennis events—continued from page 1)

The winners of the last four Grand Slam tournaments were Nadal at the French Open, Federer at Wimbledon, Murray at the US Open and now Djokovic in the Australian Open. Nadal did not play in Australia because he was rehabbing from a knee injury and recuperating from a stomach bug. **Serena Williams**, probably the best woman player when she is healthy (and she wasn't) lost in the quarter-final to Sloane Stephens, a 19-year-old USA player with great potential. **Victoria Azarenka** from Belarus defeated **Li Na** from China 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 in the final. Identical twins, **Bob & Mike Bryan** of the USA set another record in Grand Slam history by winning their 13th major title, defeating **Robin Haase/Igor Sijsling** of the Netherlands 6-3, 6-4. The Bryans have won each major tournament at least once. In the women's doubles final, **Sara Errani/Roberta Vinci**, Italy, defeated **Ashleigh Barty/Casey Dellacqua**, Australia, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2.

### Mattek-Sands & Butorac

Rochester natives, **Bethanie Mattek-Sands** and **Eric Butorac** reached the finals of the Brisbane International tournament that preceded the Australian Open in early January. Mattek-Sands and partner **Sania Mirza**, India, defeated **Anna-Lena Groenefeld**, Germany and **Kveta Peschke**, Czech Republic 4-6, 6-4, 10-7 in the championship match. Eric Butorac and **Paul Hanley**, Australia, lost in the final to **Marcelo Melo**, Brazil and **Tommy Robredo**, Spain, 4-6, 6-4 & 10-7. Butorac and partner were seeded #1. Great to see our fellow Minnesotans do so well in the opening tournament of 2013.

### Davis Cup

**Sam Querrey** defeated **Thiago Alves** 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (3) to win the final singles match and give the USA a hard-fought 3-2 victory over Brazil in early February. The stage for the final match was set after **John Isner** lost his singles match to **Thomez Bellucci** in five sets. The USA will host Serbia in Boise, Idaho in the next round, April 5-7. This round will feature the world #1 player, Novak Djokovic.

### Fed Cup

**Mary Jo Fernandez** is the captain of the USA team in this international women's team tournament. Even though **Varvara Lepchenko**, USA, won both of her singles matches over **Sara Errani** and **Roberta Vinci**, the USA team lost 3-2 to Italy in early February. The matches were played on clay indoors in Rimini, Italy.

### Gopher Tennis

Gopher men lost to Boise State 4-3 in early February and have an early 2013 record of 2 and 5. They lost their doubles matches to Boise but got singles victories from **Mathieu Froment**, **Rok Bonin** and **Ruben Weber**. Boise came into the matches ranked #38 compared to Gophers at #44. The Gopher women lost to Oklahoma 6-1 in Norman, OK in early February. **Aria Lambert** recorded the only victory in singles as they have lost 6 consecutive matches and continue to struggle in singles play. The women were ranked #41 in the national preseason rankings and were 2-6 in 2013 play. For the best tennis in the Twin Cities be sure to watch the Gophers at the U of M Baseline Tennis Center. Mark your calendar for their next home match. The remaining home games are listed here.

Gopher men at Baseline	
03/01/13, 6:30	Drake
03/03/13, Noon	Washington
03/30/13, Noon	Northwestern
03/31/13, Noon	Illinois
04/12/13, 3:00	Indiana
04/14/13, Noon	Purdue
04/21/13, Noon	Iowa
Gopher women at Baseline	
03/22/13, 5:00	Michigan State
03/24/13, 11:00	Michigan
04/05/13, 3:00	Penn State
04/07/13, 11:00	Ohio State
04/19/13, 2:00	Nebraska

## USTA Code on court etiquette

By Steve Keefe

**Editors's note:** Steve extracted these from *The Code*, which is the guide to unofficiated matches. We have a link to the Rules and Code on our website. Click Links.

**"1. Courtesy.** Tennis is a game that requires cooperation and courtesy from all participants. Make tennis a fun game by praising your opponents' good shots and by not ... losing your temper, using vile language, throwing your racket, or slamming a ball in anger; or sulking when you are losing."

You heard your mother! No sulking!

**"3. Warm-up is not practice.** A player should provide the

opponent a five minute warm-up (ten minutes if there are no ball persons) ... Some players confuse warm-up and practice. A player should make a special effort to hit shots directly to the opponent."

**"15. Audible or visible calls.** No matter how obvious it is to a player that the opponent's ball is out, the opponent is entitled to a prompt audible or visible out call."

Probably calls in Senior Tennis should be pretty loud since not all of us hear as well as we once did.

**"19. Lets called when balls roll on the court.** When a ball from an adjacent court enters the playing area, any player  
(USTA Code on court etiquette—continued on page 6)

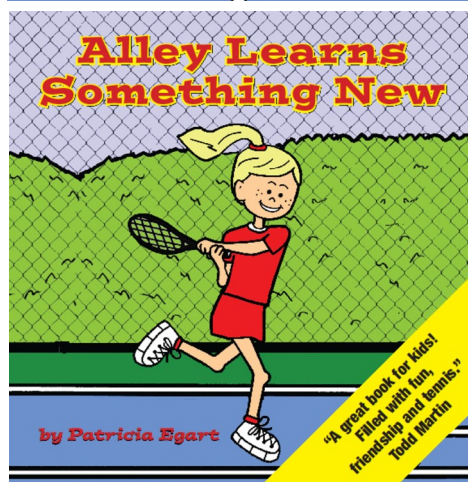
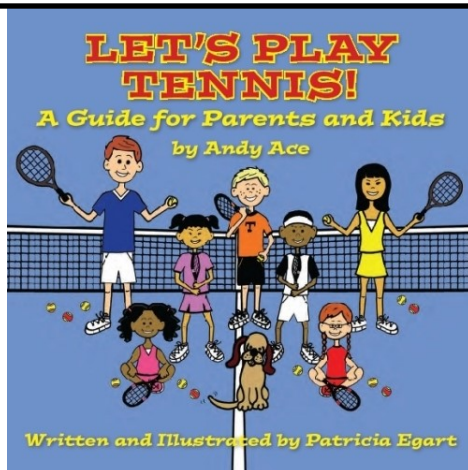
# Book review: "Let's Play Tennis"

By David Sommer

This book is a beautiful guide for both parents and kids to get started in tennis. Much of the following I've cribbed from the press release.

Let's Play Tennis! A Guide for Parents and Kids by Andy Ace is a book about getting parents and their children started playing tennis together. The author and illustrator, **Patricia Egart**, has coached youth and high school tennis for fifteen years.

**Jim Brown**, PhD, author of Tennis: Steps to Success and Sports Talent: How to Identify and Develop Young Athletes, former health and human performance professor and college tennis coach and USPTA Professional, had this to say about the book, "Patty Egart has come up with just the right formula—not too much information and not too little—for introducing tennis to very young players. Now kids and their parents have a guide for equipment, rules, and fundamentals that is easy to read, colorful, and fun. Those who teach tennis, those who want their children to play, and tennis organizations would make a



wise investment by getting their players started with Let's Play Tennis." This book is especially geared to children between five and ten years of age.

Mike Goldammer, executive director of the United States Tennis Association Northern Section said, "Unfortunately, parents with limited exposure to tennis can shy away from the notion that they can get their kids started in tennis the *right* way. Let's Play Tennis! A Guide for Parents and Kids is the perfect resource to help parents help their kids. This book offers a unique blend of easy reading, kid-focused illustrations and tangible technical advice to make tennis easy to learn and fun to play."

Patty has also written a companion book Alley Learns Something New—a story book about the adventures of a little girl who starts playing tennis, becomes worried that her new enthusiasm may cause

her to lose her old friends, but then sees that they too want to play. A happy ending.

Both books can be ordered directly from the author, Patty Egart, for \$10 each (includes shipping). Patty will accept credit cards. She says you may call her at 763-438-8466 or email [patricia@andyacetennis.com](mailto:patricia@andyacetennis.com).

(USTA Code on court etiquette—continued from page 5)

*shall call a let as soon as the player becomes aware of the ball. The player loses the right to call a let if the player unreasonably delays in making the call."*

**"23. Server's request for third ball.** When a server requests three balls, the receiver shall comply when the third ball is readily available. Distant balls shall be retrieved at the end of a game."

Better players usually strive to avoid delay and don't take time to pick up all three balls and pass them to the serving team after every point unless that can be done without delaying the server. Three people can pick up three balls about as fast as one can pick up one, and fewer people are standing around waiting.

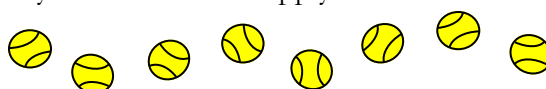
**"30. Delays during service.** When the Server's second service motion is interrupted by a ball coming onto the court, the Server is entitled to two serves. When there is a delay between the first and second serves:

- the Server gets one serve if the Server was the cause of the delay;
- the Server gets two serves if the delay was caused by the Receiver or if there was outside interference."

(But!) "The time it takes to clear a ball that comes onto the court between the first and second serves is not considered sufficient time to warrant the Server receiving two serves unless this time is so prolonged as to constitute an interruption. The Receiver is the judge of whether the delay is sufficiently prolonged to justify giving the Server two serves."

This is a good rule for receivers to be liberal about.

Sadly, our role models on television don't always follow these rules. Still, they are just impulsive kids and they are playing in very important matches. (And many have been raised by tennis parents!) Only the delusional think any of these excuses apply to us.





# Wheeler Smith—oldest active Senior Tennis player

By Felix Perry

Wheeler Smith enjoys being called Whee. He is loquacious, but that goes with the territory of being a lawyer, now retired. He is also cheerful, current and intelligent on many subjects. He knew and knows a lot of people including tennis greats. He is a gracious host, personable, friendly and well-groomed, to mention a few of his attributes. He has played tennis since he was eight years old. Since he is now nearly 94 years old, that makes over eight decades with this activity. He joined the STPC in 2007. We recognize him as the oldest active playing member. He maintains his activity by taking part, on a half-hour basis, as often as he is able, with the “2 T Group,” Tennis On Tuesday, and with organized practice sessions on Thursday at the Nicollet Courts (I mean the Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center).

As a lawyer, he did legal work for Jack Dow in creating the Senior Tennis Players Hall of Fame Corporation, that hosted its one award event in 1988. Wheeler reported on that event in this periodical in the March, 2012 issue, page 8 (to read it, go to our website, click Newsletter, then click on the March, 2012 issue). The event was attended by many tennis greats who received awards. Wheeler had the opportunity, that he fondly remembers, in talking to Donald Budge, one of the greatest of the greats at that event.



Another admirable attribute of Wheeler's is his communication skill and drive. He has written weekly letters about things in which he is interested and sent them to 39 people that he claims enjoy reading them. What is also very unusual is that he has collected the letters in twenty-three, 400-page, beautifully-bound books on display on shelves in his den.

Wheeler demeans his lack of a backhand—he hits a left-handed forehand instead. He is pragmatic in totally avoiding its use, a realism that it might pay the rest of us with our ineffective backhands to adopt. He keeps in physical condition with his tri-weekly push-up sessions that extend to 65 repetitions. He is sadly widowed after 63 years of happily-married life to Guyla, a wonderful woman. I can speculate that a source of his current happiness is living in a condominium in the elegant, secure Kenwood Isles near the Lake & Hennepin “Uptown” area, a scene of action, as do five other STPC members. So, Whee, stick around. We need you.

**Editor's note:** *Altogether, we have 15 members who are 90 or older. Our very oldest member is Mary Kaminski, born in 1918. Mary no longer plays tennis, but she is still an advisor to the STPC Board. Felix Perry and Chuck Supplee were born on the same day in April, 1919. Florence Halverson (my mother-in-law) was born May 2, 1919. Louise and I always have a joint birthday party for Flo and my dad, who was born on May Day 1916. Finally, David Brink, born in July, is the baby of the 1919 cohort. **What's the lesson here? Play tennis, live long, stay healthy in mind and body.***

## January—time for tennis!

By Stan Murray

The story of the **Iceman Tennis Event** started New Year's Day, 2005 on a dare. My son Van said “Let's play tennis outside,” and I said “Right. You shovel off 8 inches of snow and I will come right over.” (Thinking he wouldn't—but he *did*). Over the years we've played

as low as 20 degrees, but with no wind.

The first time we played singles and later that week other friends from Minnesota came up to Grantsburg, WI to play doubles. Ken **Sutton** (an STPC member) has played every year. We also play in Isanti, just south of Cambridge

Getting the snow off the court is a big deal. It usually takes four guys two hours and about 150 lbs of salt.



## In Memory...



### Chuck Daggett

Loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend to many. Survived by wife, Jan; children Susan, Peter (Wendy), Pat (Suzanne); 6 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; and sister, Aurora Boyer. Chuck was a member of Senior Tennis from 2005. David Sommer remembers him playing in Chuck Sampson's Tuesday group at Reed-Sweatt—fun guy, interesting stories about his cattle business.

### George Halder

George passed away suddenly on January 30 near Topeka, KS, en route to Scottsdale, AZ. Survived by children, Jeanne (Richard) Yeager, of Phoenix, AZ, Jackie (John) Fallenstein, of Bloomington and Tim Halder of Seattle, WA; grandchildren, two brothers, a sister, beloved friend Anne Barry and many nieces, nephews and friends. An enthusiastic story and joke teller, he naturally made friends wherever he went. He enjoyed participating in tennis tournaments, ballroom dancing, and the ULLR ski club - but his family was always his first priority. George was a member of Senior Tennis from 1995, and frequently volunteered at InnerCity Tennis and at events such as the Jack Dow Tournament.



### Deni Sahr

Devoted, grandmother, mother, wife active sportswoman and friend age 76, died January 9, 2013, surrounded by her family at home in Forest Lake, MN. Survived by husband of 54 years, Ben; many children and grandchildren; other relatives and friends. Deni was an avid sportswoman and loved participating in activities with her family and friends, including tennis, skiing, golf, badminton, kayaking, swimming and waterskiing. Deni was a member of STPC since 1989.



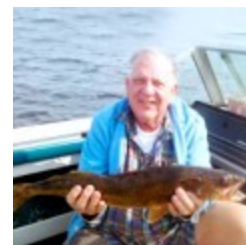
### Bob Ylvisaker

Ylvisaker, Robert D. 81, died on December 17 in Minneapolis. Born in Fergus Falls, he grew up in the Twin Cities. He received his B.A. from Luther College and an M.A. in history from the University of Minnesota. A professional journalist, he reported and wrote for the Cedar Rapids Gazette, Rochester Post-Bulletin, Minneapolis Star & Tribune, the Sun news-

paper group, and the Metro Lutheran. Bob was a member of Senior Tennis 1993-2010

### David Zimmer

*Note: we have two remembrances of David by STPC members. Here's the first by Connie Waterous:*



David Zimmer, a long-time member (1988-2010) and captain in Senior Tennis, died January 11, in Mesa, Arizona. He is remembered by his wife Nancy and a good-sized family: six children, 11 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

David was known in his engineering profession as a bright guy who would tackle any project. He was recognizable to fellow Senior Tennis players as the guy who wore the carpenter's apron (yes, the half-apron from the hardware store) and kept the spare tennis balls there ... and later the tennis player with the bicycle helmet, which he wore in case of a fall.

David captained three courts of evening senior tennis at the old Decathlon Athletic Club. (The Club closed after serious damage in a fire; the site is now a giant Water Park). He was the first captain I knew who "auditioned" prospective regular players (although none of the prospects appeared in a tutu). He had not played tennis for about a year before he died, because of his heart condition.

*And the following is from Shirley Kresko:*

We lost another Senior Tennis captain and player, David Zimmer. He was a quiet gentleman who didn't want to talk about himself. We became friends when we were both captains in Roseville and White Bear Lake. As friends we played in tournaments together.

As a captain, he knew all the rules of tennis. When I had a question about something that happened at my tennis night I would call him and he would know the rule! As I got to know David, I realized he was very knowledgeable on several different subjects. He married Nancy in the 1980's. They spent their winters in Mesa, Arizona and David was a leader in senior tennis there also.

When I retired I rented a home in Mesa, AZ. I spent time with him and Nancy in their townhome. I met many of their friends and had many interesting conversations with them.

David was just fun to be with and he never said a bad word about anyone.



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## Roger Boyer and STPC

By David Sommer

Roger recently retired from his position as Executive Director of InnerCity Tennis. Hundreds of STPC members have worked with Roger over the last 15 years. We've appreciated his dedication to the mission of ICT and his willingness to share generously of his time, especially with the ICT volunteers. This article is based largely on an interview I did with Roger recently.



*From the InnerCity Tennis website: Roger is a tennis professional and instructor with 30 years of experience. He served as assistant men's coach at Gustavus Adolphus College and as men's coach at Mankato State University. As regional tester and trainer for the United States Professional Tennis Association, he is also responsible for educating, evaluating and licensing new and advancing professionals. Roger served as director for Minneapolis Urban Tennis prior to its merger in 1998 with ICT. During his tenure with ICT, the program has grown five fold while increasing its focus on character development and personal asset building.*

Roger says, "Yes, I'm retiring from ICT but not going away! I will be teaching at Reed-Sweatt and continuing to teach and test for the USPTA [United States Professional Tennis Association]."

"The last 30 years of my career and any success I've had are owed to and closely linked to Senior Tennis. Percy Hughes first introduced me to STPC when he invited me to conduct a clinic at an STPC camp at Mankato State in 1984 while I was coaching there.

"Then in 1986 I was invited to lead a weekend STPC camp at Myramar Resort on Lake Mille Lacs.

"From 1987-93 while I was at the Minnetonka Country Club, STPC filled my Sunday mornings with over 100 players attending clinics each week.

"In 1994 when I was asked to lead and grow the ICT program, the greatest need was for volunteer coaches, and again Senior Tennis came through and has continued to be the very foundation of ICT growth and service to the 'kids' and community. A great 20 years!

"I retire knowing that during the next 20 years, ICT will continue to grow and serve with the great staff of Dilcia, Brady, Paul, Nancy, Chris, and with the continued link to the Senior Tennis Players Club.

"Thanks!"

I was surprised to find that Roger is 71 years old! He says his secret is that doing what he loved, he never really had to grow up! He has certainly kept the fresh enthusiasm of a boy in love with a sport.

I asked him what his coaching philosophy was. "Very simple! Most is play simulations, with instant feedback. A tennis teacher's real job is to keep the students entertained. Keep it simple—give at most one

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## InnerCity Tennis volunteers

InnerCity Tennis can always use more volunteers for its Saturday Winter Program as well as its week-day School Year Outreach Program. No tennis experience is necessary—if you like working with kids, ICT can use you! If you are thinking about getting involved and have questions you can contact Dilcia Pederson at 612-824-6099 or via email at [dilcia.pederson@innercitytennis.org](mailto:dilcia.pederson@innercitytennis.org). We conduct trainings for new volunteers on Saturday afternoons at 2:00 for volunteers working with Levels I & II (kids ages 3-11) and at 4:00 for volunteers working with levels III & IV (junior high and high school kids) at the Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center.



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## Louie Colson, pool shark

By Jo Rolling

Big congratulations go out to STPC member Louie Colson for being awarded MVP in a recent MN 8-Ball Pool Tournament. There were 60 participants and he came out on top. By the way, this was not a seniors-only tourney—all ages participated. Louie likes to take advantage of his seniority by telling his younger opponents to "respect an old man". Louie has been an STPC member for about four years and plays in Joell Anderson's Friday group at Reed-Sweatt. What makes this honor even sweeter for him is the fact that a month or so before the tourney, he fell playing Friday tennis and split his left palm wide open. It required ten inside stitches and ten outside. But, it didn't stop him from shooting those balls in their respective pockets.

**But there's more!** As far as tennis goes, Louie has also participated in ten-plus national USTA tournaments. Keep up the good work and good luck, Louie!

# History of the Senior Tennis Players Club

**By Carol Hall**

The organization came about in 1982 when Twin Cities businessman Jack Dow brought a small group of senior tennis enthusiasts together to form a club exclusively for their age group. These 60-and-70-somethings incorporated under the name of Senior Tennis Players Club, and proceeded to organize doubles matches for themselves at the old Parade Stadium courts near downtown Minneapolis. Their numbers quickly swelled. Today, the STPC membership exceeds 1300 members, aged 50 to 90-plus, who participate regularly in organized leagues, playing year-round at outdoor courts during the summer and racquet clubs in the winter. Their playing venues are scattered throughout the greater Twin Cities area.

Jack Dow is credited not only with founding the STPC, but also with its long-term success. An entrepreneur and go-getter who thrived on tennis, Dow, of Edina, was inducted into the Minnesota Tennis Hall of Fame, served as president of the Northwest Tennis Association, and, at his peak, was ranked No. 6 in Minnesota. He initially got the club off the ground by snagging members from among his tennis-playing friends, even giving out some free memberships to increase the numbers. Somewhere along the way, Dow decided that novices should be admitted to this group of seasoned players and hired senior tennis pros, including Percy Hughes, Virginia Morgan and the late Ernie Greene, to provide them with beginner lessons.

Through the years Dow expanded club activities. Senior tennis camps, parties, drills, clinics and trips were added to the established leagues. Some of these trips saw Dow lead-



ing groups to Wimbledon, French Open, and U. S. Open, others to a Florida tennis resort where they played tennis daily.

Jack Dow died in 1996. The club thereafter initiated a tournament in his name, which is held annually. The programs and lessons that Dow began are going strong still today. A program for members to teach tennis to inner city youngsters was added to the list, as was a yearly grandparent-grandchild competition.

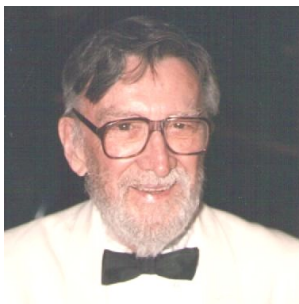
Each year the Jack Dow traveling trophy is presented to a member whose attitude, character, sportsmanship, enthusiasm and service

best typify the organization. Long-time member Mary Kaminski of Saint Anthony, who serves on the STPC Board of Directors, was the 1998 trophy winner. Kaminski says of the STPC: "It does much more for seniors than offer tennis. The club creates the opportunity for new friendships; I've made so many good friends through Senior Tennis. Why, many members who've met on the courts have even found romance, and we've had a number of marriages."

Promoting the sport he so loved for the enjoyment and social opportunities it offers seniors was important to Dow, but more important was its benefit of improved physical health, of which he was keenly aware. Jack Dow played tennis five to seven times a week, continuing well into his eighties, and he lived to be 89.

Because the Senior Tennis Players Club is a nonprofit organization, members volunteer to handle all of its activities. They also serve as team captains for leagues. The STPC Board of Directors elects board members for three-year terms; board officers serve one-year terms. Members are encouraged to volunteer for activities and board positions, and to captain league teams.





## Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc. 18th Annual Jack Dow Tennis Round Robin Tournament

**May 6-9, 2013, 8am-4pm**

Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center

4005 Nicollet Ave. S. • Minneapolis, MN 55409 • 612-825-6844



### Round Robin Rules

- **Fee:** \$13 per event, per person
- Applications must be received by **Monday, April 29**.
- Round-robin format—you will play *at least* three regular sets, or two 8-game pro sets.
- Divisions 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, and 4.0 Men's, Women's and Mixed Doubles.
- All entrants must play at or above their rating as published in the March 2013 Senior Tennis Roster.
- No partner substitution after first set.
- No participant may play in more than 2 events. If in 2 events, one must be Mixed Doubles.
- A first place winner in an event in 2012 automatically jumps to the next rating or *must* change partners.
- Those unable to find a partner *must* state that on the

application. We'll help you find a partner.

- All entrants *must* be current members of STPC.
  - **Please check in for your match at least 15 minutes early.**
  - **Cancel after close date—lose entire fee.**
  - **Schedule:** Men's doubles and women's doubles will be played on May 6-7 (Monday-Tuesday). Mixed doubles on May 8-9 (Wednesday-Thursday). Detailed schedule will appear on our website Wednesday, May 1. It will also be posted at Reed-Sweatt. You **must** appear on the first date and time shown on that posting.
  - Medal awards to the top two finishers per category
- More info:** Ken Landro 763-544-9757, Ronnae Wagner-Garrity 952-938-0374, Roz Bernstein 952-938-7698.

### Donations needed!

Entry fees do not cover the cost of this great event. We need donations from individuals and

organizations! Recognition of your generosity will appear in the Senior Tennis Times newsletter.

**IMPORTANT! Keep upper part; send only Application!**



### Application

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Rating: ☐ 2.5 ☐ 3.0 ☐ 3.5 ☐ 4.0

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Men's Doubles ☐ 2.5 ☐ 3.0 ☐ 3.5 ☐ 4.0 ☐ N/A

Women's Doubles ☐ 2.5 ☐ 3.0 ☐ 3.5 ☐ 4.0 ☐ N/A

Mixed Doubles ☐ 2.5 ☐ 3.0 ☐ 3.5 ☐ 4.0 ☐ N/A

Check one or two events only!

**Partner needed? Write "Needed" for Name in form below.**

1st Doubles Partner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rating: ☐ 2.5 ☐ 3.0 ☐ 3.5 ☐ 4.0

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Doubles Partner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rating: ☐ 2.5 ☐ 3.0 ☐ 3.5 ☐ 4.0

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

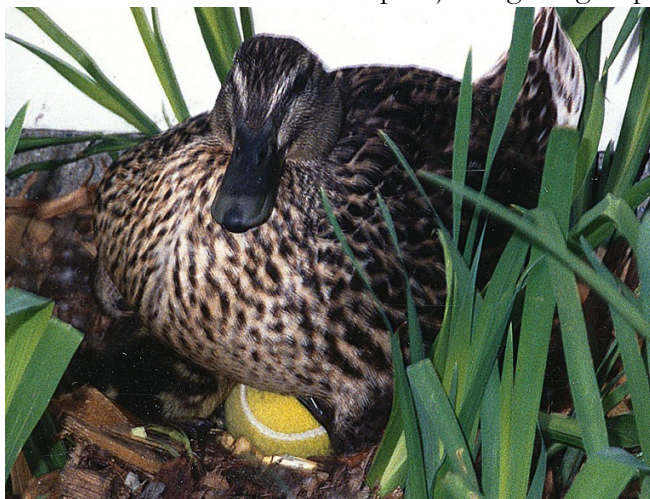
Send Application and Check payable to STPC for \$13 per event, per person to:  
Ronnae Wagner-Garrity • 6085 Lincoln Drive #115 • Edina, MN 55436 • 952-938-0374



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## She's hatching what? A tennis player!

Marla Johnson reports "A pair of mallard ducks were scouting for a nesting site one spring and chose our neighbor's yard—apparently thinking a tennis ball in the garden was an *extra large* egg that needed hatching. The tennis ball was included in the clutch of eggs until the ducklings appeared. When the ducklings all hatched and were ready to go down to Lake Nokomis, Mrs. Duck pushed the tennis ball out of the nest since it seemed to need help in joining the group."



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## "Out" call from spectator. A hindrance?

By David Sommer

Commentators on **Tennis Channel** told about an incident in which Caroline Wozniacki stopped playing because she heard an "out" call, and presumed it was from an official. But it was from a spectator. The chair umpire awarded the point to Caroline's opponent. But then Caroline's father harangued the chair, the chair eventually changed her mind, ruled the spectator's call *was* a hindrance, and declared a let.

### Wrong, wrong, wrong!

First, the father should have been ejected from the arena because of his interference.

Second, the official was right the first time. Under **Hindrances** in the rules we find this: "**USTA Comment 26.6:** *Is an out call or other noise from a spectator a hindrance that allows a point to be replayed? No. The actions of a spectator in an area designated for spectators is not the basis for replaying a point.*"

And finally, the chair should not give in to arguments by someone (the father) who has no official capacity in the match.