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# SENIOR ♦ TENNIS ♦ TIMES

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NEWSLETTER OF THE SENIOR TENNIS PLAYERS CLUB, INC.

MARCH 1998

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## Comedy Strikes!

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### Comedian Marilyn Belgum to Perform at Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Marilyn Belgum, "Queen Mother of Comedy," is the featured entertainment for the STPC Annual Meeting and Luncheon, to be held May 2 at the Doubletree Grand Hotel in Bloomington.

Thirteen years ago, Belgum, 74, gave up a 41-year career in social work ("even though it had just begun to look promising,") to become "funny full time."

She has received rave reviews for her hilarious stand-up comedy act, performed throughout the US, Canada, and Sweden, on public



Marilyn Belgum,  
"Queen Mother of Comedy"

television, and at the Guthrie Theatre. STPCers may recall she was featured at the 1992 STPC Holiday Dinner Dance.

Belgum draws on her experience as a wife, mother, grandmother, and 25 years as a University of Minnesota School of Social Work faculty member for her humor.

A registration form for the Annual Meeting and Luncheon is in this issue of the Times. Sign up early—you won't want to miss Marilyn! ■

### See Your Name in Print

#### The 1998 Membership Roster in this Issue of the Times

The names are compiled, the information entered into the database—and the 1998 STPC Membership Roster has arrived.

Please take a look at your roster entry to make sure it's accurate. If there are any corrections to be made, call Nancy Kaminski at 781-3271 or email her at [nancykam@pioneerplanet.infi.net](mailto:nancykam@pioneerplanet.infi.net). ■

### Strategic Planning

#### Part 2: Identifying Internal and External Factors

By Jim Tornoe—Last month's article described the Board's efforts to begin a strategic planning process and led us to adopt a mission statement for the club. In case you missed it, the statement is as follows:

"The primary purpose of the Senior Tennis Players Club is to provide tennis playing opportunities to people 50 and older for their mental, physical, and social well-being."

Since then, the Long Range Planning committee has met each month for four months. The first couple of sessions had us wrestling with many ideas during our discussions. We agreed to try and stay with



Continued on page 6

# Line Calls

**By Dick Lidstone, STPC President**—Welcome new board members! The STPC Board of Directors unanimously approved the candidates presented by the nominating committee, their terms to begin April 1, 1998. The new members are Patrick Calvin, Carol Curry, Paul Leonhart, Wendell Munson, and Beverly Sinniger.

The current board members filling unexpired terms this past year have also been unanimously approved for the 1998–99 session. They are Shirley Pratt, Bob Tischbein, and Jack Wallin.

All these board members have volunteered to accept the responsibilities of their position and perform to the credit of STPC.

Did you notice the lead article in last month's Times—"Strategic Planning" by Jim Tornoe? When we discussed long range planning some months ago and determined that we wanted to get it accomplished shortly, Jim volunteered to steer the board mem-

bers through the concept and write articles on our progress. Jim has the talent and is willing to share it for the benefit of the club and its members.

Also, it looks like the splitting of the facility responsibilities into East and West Regions is working. We still have a few bugs to work out, but I'm confident that Chuck Emme and Jack Wallin will do a good job in getting courts for summer and league play.

Rollie Arndt is working diligently with Jim Tornoe in revising the STPC bylaws. Dot Guenther was working on this ongoing project before her term on the board was up. Jim and Rollie will finish this one soon, too.

We are fortunate to have people like these folks on the board, all volunteering to get the job done. That's what volunteering is all about. My thanks to them. ■

## Newsflash!

**New or almost new players (1.5 and below) wanted for 8 weeks of free lessons!**

**Anyone rated 2.0 or higher—no need to apply! Series limited to 16 players.**

Just getting started? A little afraid to join a group because you're "not good enough?" Don't know a lot from a fault? Then you're just the person we're looking for!

Percy Hughes and Jim Tornoe will conduct a club-sponsored 8 week course in tennis fundamentals. You will learn court etiquette, how to score, how to hit a backhand, and a hundred other things you need to know. We'll finish up with on-court play and very basic doubles tactics and strategy.

**When:** Weeks 1–4, 7:30–8:30 a.m. Thursdays, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23  
Weeks 5–8, 10–11 a.m. Thursdays, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 5/28

**Where:** Nicollet Tennis Center, 4005 Nicollet Avenue South, Minneapolis

**Contact:** Jim Tornoe, 941-9145



# STPC Spring Luncheon

STPC social event of the year • annual meeting •  
entertainment • fun • door prizes • music

**Program:** Social hour with the piano music of STPC member Jack Wallin, lunch, then a brief meeting to introduce the new president and board members, followed by the featured entertainer, 74-year-old comedian Merrilyn Belgum, the "Queen Mother of Comedy," talking about how she "wears more boas when love is not enough."



**Cost:** \$14.50 per person until April 25, \$15 per person after. Deadline April 29.

**Menu:** Flank steak with mushrooms, onions, peppers, water chestnuts, and bean sprouts on a bed of white and wild rice, or grilled boneless breast of chicken topped with julienne of red and green peppers, onions, and mushrooms, with parsley

buttered potatoes, both with salad, raspberry sorbet, and beverage.

**Where:** Doubletree Grand Hotel, 7901 24th Ave S and Hwy 494, Bloomington (the hotel entrance faces 24th Ave and the Mall of America). Free parking.

All STPC members, spouses, and friends welcome! Bring your friends and introduce them to tennis—they could win a free tennis lesson!

**When:** Saturday, May 2,  
11:30 a.m. social hour,  
12:30 p.m. sit-down lunch

## 1998 Spring Luncheon Registration Form

Send this reservation form with your check payable to STPC to:

**Carol Hall**  
2696 Horseshoe Ln  
Woodbury MN 55125

For more information, call Bev Sinniger at 698-8153 or Bernice Hanson at 633-3276.

Reservation deadline: April 29

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Menu choice: flank steak          grilled chicken breast

I'm coming with a group. Put my name \_\_\_\_\_ on a reserved table. (Tables seat 8)

Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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# Club Notes

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## Grandparent-Grandchild Tournament Returns

"The Grandparent-Grandchild Tennis Tournament will be chaired in 1998 by Bob Eidem," announced Firmin Alexander, the past chairman. "Bob has been a member of STPC for years, and has been a participant in the tournament the past three years."

Eidem announced the tournament has been scheduled for Saturday, July 18, 1998 at the Valley View Tennis Courts in Bloomington. "We've made arrangements to go indoors at the Nicollet Tennis Center if it rains, which happened last year," declared Eidem.

According to Eidem, entry forms and other important information regarding tournament details will be announced in the *Times* this spring. ■

## Captains' Corner

By Chuck Emme—Spring is just around the corner, and it's time to think of tennis outdoors. If you want to play TeamTennis, Genuine Seniors, or Super Seniors, now is the time to get a team together, or contact one of the captains and get your name on the roster.

Play generally starts in June and ends in August. More specific details appear elsewhere in the *Times*. ■

## Summer Leagues Now Forming

### 1998 Stecklein TeamTennis

Make your plans now to play Stecklein TeamTennis this summer. This year's program will start Tuesday, June 16 with play from 9-11 a.m. and continue ten weeks, ending August 18.

There will again be two levels of play: Level A for 3.0-4.0 players, and Level B for 3.0 and under players. To reduce travel time, we hope to organize two leagues for each level, with playoffs between them.

Captains will form their own teams of four men and four women. Players are responsible for finding their own substitutes. Regular and substitute players must sign up before May 1 with a captain (a list will be published in the *April Times*) or by calling the contact for your level of play. The contacts are:

- Level A: Deni Sahr, 483-8880
- Level B: Jack Wallin, 457-2266

We need captains! If you would like to be a captain, call the contacts by April 5 to sign up.

If you have any questions, call John Connelly at 771-2664. ■

## Super Seniors Tennis

The newest attraction for senior tennis players is the USTA Super Seniors League, mixed doubles for players at least 65 years old.

Matches will be scheduled once a week for about eight or ten weeks. The starting date, day of the week, time of play, and location will be publicized in future issues of the *Times*. Skill levels are 3.5 and below, and 4.0 and above.

If you're interested in playing, call Dick Pratt at 433-3583, and give him your name, phone number, and skill rating, or call the NWTa at 887-5001, ext. 17. ■

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55418-2545.

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## USTA Senior Leagues

Sign up now for the USTA Senior Men's and Women's League—format-3 doubles matches for players at 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, and 4.5 skill levels. The leagues play once a week, June through August.

Besides regular league play, there are area, sectional, and national championships for league winners. Call 333-6030 if you would like to sign up. ■

## Tennis Carnival

NWTA is holding a free tennis carnival at the Crystal Community Center, March 31, from 3–7 p.m. There will be games, prizes, and fun! Bring your tennis shoes and racquet! For more information, call 531-0052. ■

## Playing Nice

### Encouraging Civility on the Courts

*By Bob Tischbein—There are rules and customs governing the playing of tennis that promote fairness and civility. Some of you might not be aware of them—after all, how many of you have read the USTA Rule Book? Here are a few "rules of the road" that are frequently violated. Look them over and mention them to your playing group if you think they're being ignored. Playing nice makes tennis so much more enjoyable for everyone!*

- Returning a serve that is obviously out, accompanied by an out call, is a form of rudeness. When the receiver knows that in making these returns he bothers the server it is gamesmanship. At the same time, it must be expected that a fast serve that just misses the line will frequently, with justification, be returned as a matter of self protection even though an out call is made.
- First ball in is not an acceptable procedure. It provides the server with a definite advantage. Warm up serves should be taken prior to play.
- To eliminate arguments about the score, the server should announce in a voice audible to the players and spectators, the set score prior to the first serve in each game, and the game score prior to serving each point. This is important.

- It is not permissible to call a let on line calls. The ball is either in or out. If there is doubt, the ball is in.
- Never ever question an opponent's call—not even with a comment, a gesture, a quizzical look, or a raised eyebrow.
- After the match, shake hands with your opponents and congratulate them on their play and never make excuses for losing.

As seniors, we should set an example and play by the rules! ■

## Save Those Balls!

**Attention, Captains:** Percy Hughes asks that you hold onto your used tennis balls. They will be needed next spring for tennis instruction and drills. Arrangements will be made to collect them at a later date and turn them over to Percy. ■

## Logo Adopted by Board

The STPC Board, at their February meeting, decided to adopt the emblem shown on page 7 as the official STPC logo. See the ad on page 7 for how you can purchase an emblem. ■

## In Memoriam

Harold Wonson, 79, an STPC member since 1992, died of injuries suffered in a fall while clearing ice from the roof of his Hopkins home on January 28. Harold had been a longtime teacher at Blake School and a pitcher for the Minneapolis Millers baseball team between 1942 and 1946.

He is survived by his wife, Dode, also an STPC member, daughter Barb Liukkonen, and sons Peter and Mitch. We extend our sympathies to his family and friends. ■

*Continued from page 1*

the big picture—ideas that would have significant impact on club affairs into the future. At times we fell into the muddy puddle of trying to solve the day-to-day problems of any organization, but the little picture distractions were soon washed away and we got back on course.

As mentioned last month, part of the process is identifying internal strengths and weaknesses, and external threats and opportunities, the subjects of today's article.

As you might imagine, we came up with lots of ideas and concerns, we had written input from many club members, and generated a lot of debate among ourselves. The real problem it seems is not getting ideas, it is focus—deciding on which are the more important and which will really have an impact on the club. Here's what we see.

#### **Internal Environment**

1. **Strength:** We are able to get many members to help out when there is work to be done. **Weakness:** We have difficulty recruiting people to take responsibility for leadership positions.
2. **Strength:** We have a very good financial situation; with significant reserves and an ability to fund current operations without dues increases. **Weakness:** We have not had much success in the past of developing abilities of our beginner or advanced level members.
3. **Strength:** We have an ability to recruit large numbers of new members. **Weakness:** We do not attract many members in the 50–60 age group.

#### **External Environment**

1. **Threat:** A continuously declining amount of indoor space available to our club. **Opportunity:** Northwest Clubs and InnerCity space availability; University of Minnesota space.
2. **Opportunity:** A growing number of people, the baby boomers, now entering the 50–60 age group.

Obviously, these lists are not all-inclusive and we may even be missing the mark somewhere. However, these lists then led us to the next phase, identifying the strategic issues facing the club—the subject of next month's article. ■

*Coming soon...*

## **John Bolger Tennis Clinic & Luncheon**

**Tuesday, May 19, 1998**

**tennis—9 a.m.  
luncheon—noon**



Nicollet Tennis Center  
40th and Nicollet Ave S

\$10 per member  
\$15 per guest

Watch for your reservation  
form in April!

First 72 registrants  
guaranteed one hour of play.  
Everyone above that will  
participate in lessons only.

## STPC Member Badges For Sale

Now's your chance to purchase a Senior Tennis Players Club Member badge. These embroidered green, purple and gold badges can be attached to hats, jackets, tennis bags, or anything else you can think of! They are available to members for \$3 each, or two for \$5.

To order one, just complete this form and send it, with your check made payable to STPC, to **Bob Tischbein, 5471 Rowland Rd, Minnetonka, MN-55343.**

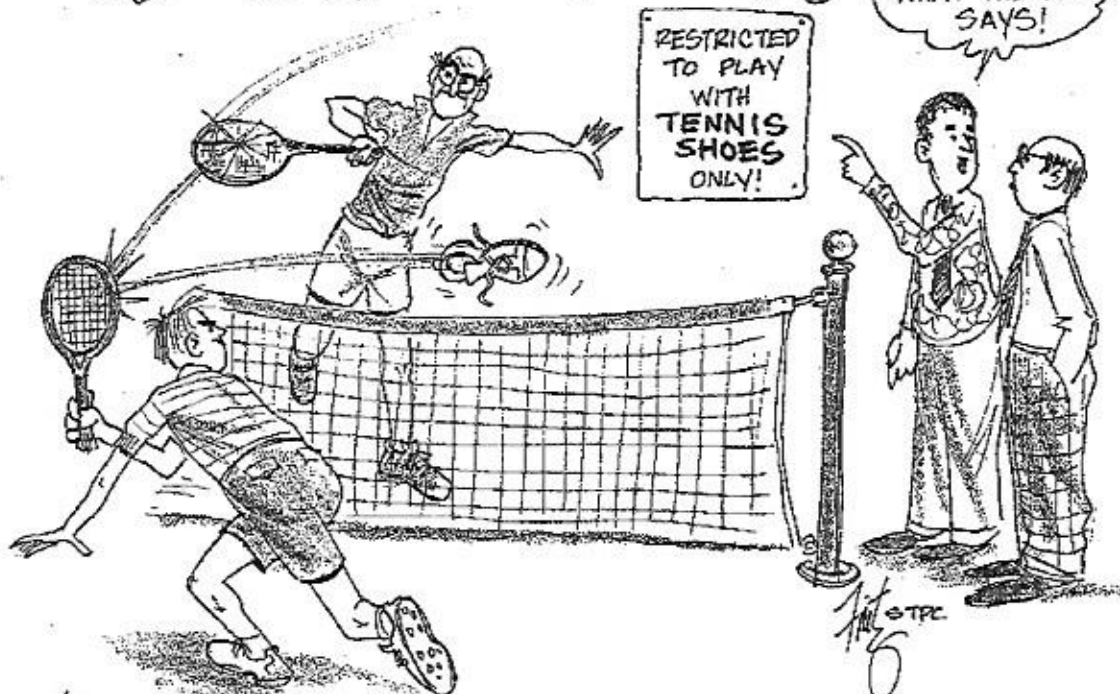
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Number Ordered \_\_\_\_\_



# TENNIS ANYONE?



\* SIGN AS APPEARS AT FRIDLEY COMMONS COURTS

• THANKS AN AN "ACE" TO PETER MEYERHOFF

# Captains' Profiles

## Marilyn Erickson

**By Carol Hall**—If she had her life to live over, Marilyn Erickson would follow her strongest interest and become a botanist. Doing the next best thing, Marilyn joined the volunteer program at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum when she retired.

Which isn't to say Marilyn disliked the work she actually did. "My last job was with Dayton Hudson. I was executive secretary to the president of Dayton's Development Co., which developed the 'Dales,' she explained. "It was wonderful." Previously an executive secretary for several other Minneapolis companies, Marilyn opted for early retirement in 1973: "I knew I could do things in a volunteer capacity that I couldn't do in a paid capacity," she explained. "I knew I could grow in different ways."



**Marilyn  
Erickson**

Indeed, Marilyn's first volunteer duty was to guide visitors around the Arboretum's 530 acres of flora. She next worked with their new learning center for children, teaching grade schoolers about seeds and plants. "My botany notes were the only ones I'd saved from college, and they came in handy," said Marilyn, noting that the children's learning center is now nationally recognized.

"College" is Carleton. Marilyn majored in sociology and graduated in 1948 from what is widely accepted as one of the ten best liberal arts schools in the country. This year marks her fiftieth class reunion. She is helping organize the June event, which provides an opportunity to renew her "acquaintance with Carltonians."

A Minneapolis native, Marilyn attended Southwest High School when it was brand new. She was in the first class to graduate after having gone all four years. She has one older brother. "I'm thankful to him for three nephews and one niece. I'm wealthy with family," she said.

Having joined STPC in 1988, Marilyn has the distinction of captaining STPC's smallest (one court) league. With friends Marilyn Thorne, Betty Western,

and Jean Ann Durades, the foursome plays Sunday afternoons, and has great fun at it. "We tried to expand to eight," she said. "But Nicollet didn't have an extra court. I'm kinda glad, I'd hate to change."

Travel also claims much of Marilyn's time. On a trip to Sweden, she dug into her roots. It proved to be a joyful and emotional first meeting with relatives from both her father's and mother's families.

Viewing travel, as volunteering, as an opportunity to grow and learn, Marilyn toured China in the 1980s when the country first opened to outsiders. "There were no fancy hotels then," she said. "We brought our Lysol and sprayed." The Chinese considered her goup not tourists but rather Americans interested in their country.

Marilyn is humbled by Burma, Thailand, India, and Nepal—countries whose cultures differ so dramatically from ours. "It's unbelievable how many different ways of living exist in the world. Seeing them puts me in a different perspective. I feel less important. I wish everyone in the world could go to these places."

When Marilyn wants a real vacation, she goes to Palm Island, Florida. "I found Palm Island through Char Hall, who also steered me to Senior Tennis," Marilyn said. "It's a retreat, the shelling, the ocean. It's my favorite vacation spot."

Over the twenty-five years she's volunteered, this capable and caring woman has assisted with many different programs. Among them are tutoring one on one in the Minneapolis schools, serving meals for the Loaves and Fishes program, and acting as secretary for the STPC board. Today Marilyn is a Rocking Reader.

Seated in a rocking chair, cuddling a child, she reads books to kindergartners who need a one-on-one relationship. Marilyn also delivers Meals on Wheels to shut-ins. And she is very pleased to be chairman of the Paige Department of the WCA Foundation, a grant giving organization for those in need.

Indeed, a great many people benefit from Marilyn Erickson's early retirement—including Marilyn herself. ■



## Two-Liner Want Ads

These free two-liner want ads are available to all STPC members. If you would like to place a free ad, call or write the editor, Nancy Kaminski. **Your ad can only be about 100 spaces long, so be brief!**

**Naples, FL House.** 1950 ft. \$196,000 includes golf equity and tennis. Call 941-353-1143.

**Your Friend in Real Estate.** 27 years experience. John Cummins, Counselor Realty, 566-4111.

**For Sale.** Alpine Trek exercise machine. Movement emulates cross country skiing. \$75. 731-5127.

**For Sale:** New unassembled Roadmaster 26" men's mountain bike, Northern Point, \$90. Call 829-5650.

**TWIN CITY TENNIS SUPPLY**  
4747 Chicago Avenue South 823-9285

*"We are serious about racquet sports."*

**RESTRING YOUR TENNIS RACQUET FOR**  
★ ★ HALF PRICE ★ ★

Bring your racquet and this coupon in  
and we will professionally restring it with  
the string of your choice.

(—always FREE stringing with racquet purchase—)

At Tennis I'm a Novice  
But at Real Estate

**I'M DEFINITELY A PRO!**



Make "The Right Move"

call

**NANCY LINDEMAN**

Burnet Realty

827-9450



*paid advertisements*



If you look good on the court,  
imagine how good you'll look on stage!

...Especially with 30 other singers & dancers with everyone having the time of their lives! Even if you sing only a little, you can share in the fun of "putting on a show" with others your age (50 and older).

### AUDITIONS

for the NEW Fogey Follies Spring Show, "Shuffle Off To Buffalo, Bill", will be held April 27 & 28, 1998. If you're over 50 and have a little "ham" in your system, COME ON OUT!

- 1) Bring a song you like to sing
- 2) Come either Monday or Tuesday, April 27 or 28, 1998, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM.
- 3) Charlotte Lehman Theatre in Bloomington Education Center, 8900 Portland Avenue South, Bloomington
- 4) Show dates are June 3 - June 14, 1998.
- 5) For more information, call 593-5671

## New Member Lessons and Member Drills

### Nicollet Tennis Center

4005 Nicollet Ave, Minneapolis. 825-6844

Mon .....	4:30-6 pm .....	M/W .....	\$2.00 .....	All Ratings .....	Ernie Greene .....	488-6359
					Dave Earlewine .....	470-4041
Thurs .....	8:30-10 am .....	M/W .....	\$2.00 .....	All Ratings .....	Percy Hughes .....	831-2872
					Paul Stormo .....	944-6286

### Williston Fitness & Sports

14509 Minnetonka Dr, Minnetonka. 935-8638

Tues .....	5:30-7 pm .....	M/W .....	\$2.00 .....	All Ratings .....	Connie Custodio .....	824-2569
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### Wooddale Recreation Center

2122 Wooddale Dr, Woodbury. 735-6214

Mon .....	8-9:30 pm .....		\$2.00 .....		Lois Nordman .....	735-6214
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## Private Club Drills Open to STPC Members

### Decathlon Hotel and Athletic Club

7800 Cedar Ave S, Bloomington.

Wed .....	9-10 am .....	M/W .....	\$6.00 .....	2.5-3.5 .....	Chris Combs .....	854-7171
Fri .....	9-10 am .....	M/W .....	\$6.00 .....	2.5-3.0 .....	Chris Combs .....	854-7171

### Nicollet Tennis Center

4005 Nicollet Ave, Minneapolis. Note: Phone no later than the day before to sign up.

Tues .....	9-10 am .....	M/W .....	\$5.00 .....	3.0 and up .....	Rod Vaught .....	825-6844
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### Wooddale Recreation Center

2122 Wooddale Dr, Woodbury. Note: Space is limited. You must sign up.

Thurs .....	1-2 pm .....	M/W .....	\$7.00 .....	All Ratings .....	Lois Nordman .....	735-6214
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New members are welcome to take 12 (or more) lessons. After 12 lessons you will receive a free can of balls, a certificate of accomplishment and congratulations from the STPC president. **You must notify the instructor when you have completed 12 lessons!** The lessons are offered free, as part of your membership.

Members are encouraged to attend lessons and drills at any time. If your game needs improvement, here is your opportunity.

Skill rating: If you need to know your skill rating, attend one of the lessons/drills and ask the instructor to rate you. If you have any questions, call the instructor.

If there are any errors or omissions in this schedule, please call Chuck Emme, 788-2824, or Jack Wallin, 457-2266 with your corrections.

## River Falls Adult Tennis Camp July 27–August 9, 1997 Registration

- Camp 1 .....July 27–30 ..... \$240
- Camp 2 .....July 31–Aug. 2 ..... \$185
- Camp 3 .....Aug. 3–6 ..... \$240
- Camp 4 .....Aug. 7–9 ..... \$185

Prices are for a double room with air conditioning. Single rooms are \$4/night more. There is a 10% reduction if enrolled in two or more camps. If you participate in Camps 1 or 3, there will be a Banquet Night.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please remit payment of \$50 per person (made out to Senior Tennis Camp) to either of these addresses:

Chuck Supplee  
5144 Balmoral Lane  
Bloomington, MN 55437  
(612-888-0551)

Pat Williamson  
521 Ferndale St. N  
Maplewood, MN 55119  
(612-738-6953)

Note which camp(s) you will be attending on your check.

A \$25 service fee is retained for cancellations after May 1. After July 1, half of fees paid will be forfeited, except in the case of a medical emergency. Balance due by July 1.

### Waiver and Indemnity Agreement

Acceptance of my entry to camp is without responsibility of any kind by Adult Tennis Camp. I do hereby on behalf of myself and heirs and legal representatives release and forever discharge the River Falls Camp from any and all claims, demands and injuries howsoever arising and all such claims are hereby waived and released and I covenant not to sue.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*paid advertisements*

**Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.**  
A nonprofit corporation. 6800 Sally Ln  
Edina, MN 55439 (612) 941-4724

**Senior Tennis Times**

The *Senior Tennis Times* is published monthly by and for the members of the Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.

**Editor**

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E-mail: nancykam@pioneerplanet.infi.net

**1997-1998 Board of Directors**

President: Dick Lidstone ..... 941-4724  
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Treasurer: Jim Tornoe ..... 941-9145  
Secretary, Shirley Pratt ..... 433-3583  
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                                    Jack Wallin ..... 457-2266  
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                                    Kent Dickerman ..... 292-1933

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John Connelly ..... 771-2664

Ron Liddiard ..... 829-7530  
Director of Training: Percy Hughes ..... 831-2872  
Founding President: H. Jack Dow  
Contributing Cartoonist..... Fritz Christensen

**Advertising**

Send camera-ready art and payment to the editor by the 20th of the month for publication the following month. We can create an ad for you for a \$20 fee. Ad rates are:

full page (7 x 9 in) ..... \$100  
half page (7 x 4½ in) ..... \$75  
quarter page (3½ x 4½ in) ..... \$50  
eighth page (3½ x 2¼ in) ..... \$30  
classified ad (members only, max. 4 lines) ..... \$15  
2-line ad (members only, 50 spaces/line) ..... free

**Publication Deadline**

Submit articles to the editor by the 20th of the month for publication the following month. All material submitted for publication is subject to editing.

**Address Corrections**

Please notify the Editor with any address corrections.

**STPC Membership**

As of February 15, 1998, STPC membership totaled 1,510  
March 1998: Volume 11, Number 3

Senior Tennis Times  
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**Address Correction Requested**

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US Postage  
PAID  
Minneapolis, MN  
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