
THE BASELINE

Field Club News

April 2007



A Message from the President

Greetings... and welcome to this year's second installment of *The Baseline*! The paddle season is winding down, and the last of the scheduled tournaments will have already been played by the time this edition reaches your mailboxes. Thanks go out to **David Appleman**, **Gary Weiner** (co-chairs of the Paddle Committee) and all of the Paddle Committee members for orchestrating another successful paddle season filled with a multitude of paddle events and mixers for all playing abilities.

The end of paddle season means the active Field Club spring/summer season, with all of its tennis, pool and social events, is right around the corner. The updated Field Club *Guidebook* has been mailed with this edition of *The Baseline*. The *Guidebook* includes schedules for all of the busy spring/summer events. The schedules for all of these events can also be found on the Field Club's website (www.field-club.com), along with the monthly calendar. Thanks to **Rob Durfee** for his work in putting together *The Guidebook*, as well as **Bob Conley** and **Dick Forrest** for their work on the Communications Committee and Field Club website. The concerted effort that started a few years back to improve communications to the Field Club membership has really paid off. So, please take some time to see what events are coming up and attend or sign up for those that interest you. The various committees representing tennis (adult & junior), pool, social, beautification, communications, Snuggery and Tot Lot have worked hard to put together what looks to be a very exciting season for The Field Club.

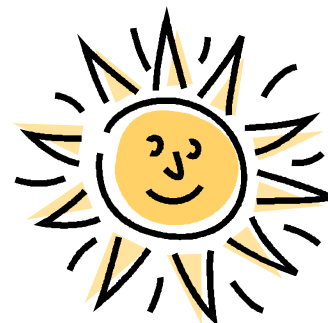
The **Spring Fling** is traditionally the marquee Field Club social event of the year, and the kick-off to the Field Club spring season. This year's event has been scheduled for **Saturday, May 5, at the Springfield Country Club**. Invitations to the event will be mailed out shortly to the membership. Please mark your calendars now and be sure to come out for an evening of dinner, dancing and meeting up with old Field Club friends who have been hibernating all winter. **Chris Nicholson** and the rest of the Social Committee have worked hard to put together a great event.

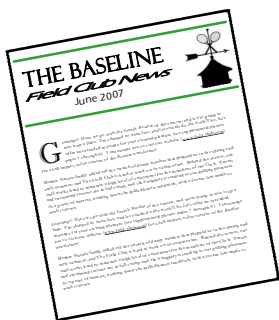
A quick update on ongoing capital projects at the Field Club: New lighting has been installed at the paddle courts, and I am sure everyone who has contract time in the evening immediately noticed the improved visibility. The Field Club's 40+ year old original well pump was replaced. Work continues on the refurbishment of the tennis backboard practice area. The hard top was pulverized and fencing removed. Improvements are expected to be completed this spring. Work will soon begin on getting the clay courts in shape for the upcoming season, as well as sanding and repainting the tennis light poles. Thanks to **Jim Girotti** for overseeing all of these projects and much more.

I look forward to a busy spring season at The Field Club and to seeing everyone at the **May 5th Spring Fling**.

Sincerely,

Tim Kenny



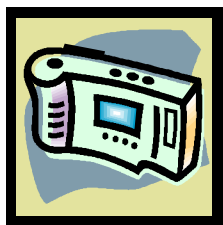


Next Deadline: May 18

The next issue of *The Baseline* will be distributed in June. The deadline for this issue will be

Friday, May 18.

Send your submissions to Lee-Anne Sprague via email (lsprague7@cox.net) or fax (860-684-6163). Questions? Give her a call at 860-335-8793.



Seeking Digital Camera

The Field Club is seeking the donation of a digital camera to be used at various Club events and activities. If you have one that you'd be willing to donate, please contact Jim Girotti.

Guidebook 2007

The Guidebook (the green binder that typically lies in a place near your phone book) is a useful resource for key information about the Club and its membership. Although generally opened only for an email, phone number, address or remembering a name, it also contains information on by-laws, membership rules and regulations, committee and board members, various events and activities.

The updated 2007 sections are included with this *Baseline* mailing. Please replace the existing ones in your green binder. Please email Rob Durfee (rdurfee@wgi.us) with any questions or changes.

Note: Do not assume that if your email is in Dick Forrest's master (website) email distribution list that it is updated or even in *The Guidebook*.

— Rob Durfee

Snuggery News

Open Weekends Starting May 26

We are pleased to report that the Board has approved the opening of the Snuggery on weekends between Memorial Day and the close of school. So, put **Saturday, May 26**, on your calendar for an early snack with friends, and celebrate the beginning of the summer season.

Also, you'll be pleased to know that Eileen and most of last year's staff will be returning. I'm particularly pleased with this news, as it means that our members are the kind of people our staff likes to work with. Speaks well for our membership! We thank you for your patience, your kindness and your humor. — Stew Creelman, Chair

Mark Your Calendars...

The Spring Fling

Saturday, May 5, 2007

Springfield Country Club
1375 Elm Street, West Springfield

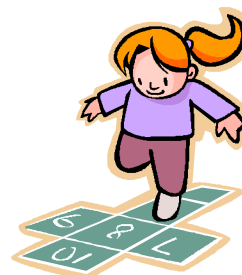


Kick off another great season of fun at The Field Club!

Tot Lot Helpers Needed

The Tot Lot is looking for helpers once again this summer. If you are between the ages of 11 and 15 and would like to be a paid helper in the Tot Lot, please contact Jacquie Kenny at 596-9964.

Tot Lot helpers assist the Tot Lot Director with crafts, stories, bringing children to and from swimming and/or tennis lessons, and having fun with the children! Sign up for one week of helping during the Tot Lot hours of Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Schedule details will be worked out in the beginning of June. — Jacquie Kenny



Platform Tennis Championships 2007

March 24th proved to be a great day for the Men's and Women's Paddle Championships. With a bright sun shining all day and balmy temperatures nearing 60 degrees, 17 teams battled for top honors and the chance to get their names engraved on the coveted championship plaques.



Carol Plaut (left) and Asa Nilsson

For the women, four teams went toe to toe with long rallies, great wire play and very competitive action. This year's title went to **Asa Nilsson**

and **Carol Plaut**. They prevailed over **Lynn Travers** and **Leslie Haskins**. The consolation winners were **Jacquie Kenny** and **Marna Shields**, who eked out victory over **Candy Weiner** and **Stacie Mancuso**.

The men's draw pulled a total of 13 teams, all vying for a shot to dethrone the reigning champions, **Per Nilsson** and **Naren**



Jacquie Kenny (left) and Marna Shields

Dhamodharan. Early round matches set the stage for a great day of quality paddle, including a sensational scuffle between **Greg Birtwell/Jim**

Barnhart and **Rick Steele/Rob Durfee**. The draw progressed through a flavorful lunch and moved into the early afternoon. At the end of the day,

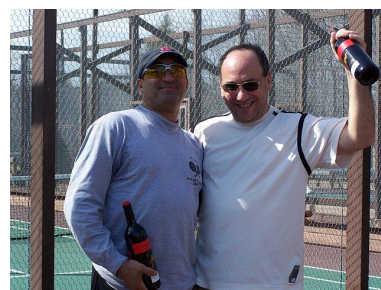


Per Nilsson (left) and Naren Dhamodharan

Per and Naren four-peated as Club champions by defeating **Alex Seiler** and **Mike Shields** pretty handily. The formidable team of **Alex Guardia**

and **Rick Plaut** took the consolations by defeating **Ed Ballis** and **Dick**

"Communications" Forrest. The Reprieve finals had **Rob Durfee** and **Rick Steele**



Alex Guardia (left) and Rick Plaut

upending backboards **Kenny Vincunas** and new member **Bradley Hoffman**.



Rob Durfee (left) and Rick Steele

A great day for a great event! Thanks to all those who came out to play and watch. Special thanks to the Nilssons and

Shields for organizing this year's event. Check www.field-club.com for a bunch more photos from the day! — **Mike Shields**

Women's Iron Paddle

While many women spend hours primping for the Academy Awards, 24 paddle players turned out, dressed in their most glamorous paddle attire, for a day of round robin paddle fun. The sun was warm and the red carpet was out as the players approached the paddle hut. The event started off with Mimosas before we hit the courts. The paparazzi were kept away, allowing play to continue for five un-interrupted rounds.

Everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal prepared by the famous cooks of Iron Chef. The day was topped off with a little "Oscar's Trivia," and a prize was awarded to the player who guessed, or had insight into, who would win Oscars that night. Kudos to **Deb Jangraw** for having the correct answers for 7 out of 10 categories.



— **Candy Weiner** and **Lynn Travers**

“The Big Mamou” in 2007 to Become “The Big Barry” in 2008

Once again on Super Bowl Sunday, the Big Mamou was the men’s paddle event of the season, hands down, or rather, hands up to our salivating mouths. (There was no need to advertise this event — word spread fast). Chief Paddlemeister **Ed Barbeau** reports that 48 people played paddle, with seven on the wait list, plus five who came only for lunch. Yet 60 ate lunch, which seems logical to conclude that the seven on the wait list snuck in to taste **Chef Barry O’Connor’s** culinary tour de force. Who can blame them? Forget the paddle.

Last year, Chef Barry cooked all day on the Saturday before the event, and he had to have done the same thing this year, although this year he’s not saying. However, Chef Barry did want to mention his sous chefs’ contributions: **Dave “bagels for everyone” Pyers** (the breakfast host and Chef Barry’s right-hand lunch server), **Todd “five second rule” Ciepick** and **Kevin “just call me Cornbread” Maynard**.

Chef Barry reports: “We made three different gumbos (mild, medium and a little more than medium), Chicken Etouffee, Basmati rice and grilled boneless chicken thighs with a Cajun dry rub. We went through the following: 12 lbs. of hot Italian and andouille sausage, 15 lbs. of lucanica sausage made with fennel and white wine, 20 lbs. of boneless chicken breasts, 30 lbs. of boneless chicken thighs, 18 lbs. of shrimp, 3 lbs. of tasso ham, one case of fresh okra, one case of red peppers, 15 lbs. of Spanish onions, 10 quarts of chicken stock and 15 lbs. of Himalayan Basmati rice cooked in 6 gallons of chicken broth, and four baker’s trays of cornbread. Thanks for the chance to cook.”



*My God, Barry, thanks
for the chance to eat!*

Last year it was reported that there was a lot of food left over. This year it was reported that many went back for seconds and thirds, and that there was little food left over. It is truly impressive when the

chef shows up with his own grills. For the second year in a row, to quote the Beatles: “It’s getting better all the time.” Ed Barbeau suggests that we call next year’s event “The Big Barry.” — *Dick Forrest*



*** Big Mamou Bonus ***

The Super Bowl pool (\$100)
was won by **Rob Durfee**
(square 41 – 29-12 AFC win).

We Lucked Out!

On Saturday, March 17, the storm had come and gone. The **Men’s B Club Championship** started just 30 minutes late thanks to the help of the first-round players. They cleared the courts from snow and ice, and the tournament was off and running. Nine teams played at least three matches each in a regular three-set format. Many of the matches were incredibly even and were decided by a third-set tie breaker. The defending champions, **Jangraw/Weiner**, repeated in a tight two-set final against the team of **Guardia/Santaniello**. The consolation final between **Bagge/Conley** and **Seefeld/Doyle** ended in a tough three-setter in favor of the latter team. The teams of **Prast/Brindle** and **O’Brien/Toebe**s get the award for the most positive attitude and highest spirit. The team of **Seefeld/Doyle** gets a special mention for playing superb paddle in their heartbreaking third-set tie-break loss to **Guardia/Santaniello** in their first match of the day. Also, the team of **Magill/Texiera** gets a special mention for taking the semi-final team of **Brock/Hauser** to a third-set tie-breaker in an early morning match.

All participants set a good example of sportsmanship and competitiveness, and there were plenty of very exhausted players at the end of the day.

Plenty of refreshments reenergized the participants throughout the day. This tournament is a terrific opportunity to play more paddle than you would think possible in a few hours, to learn about the game, and to get to know your fellow Field Club members on and off the courts. You’ll surely enjoy and learn from the experience, so start thinking early about playing next year. Great company and glorious play! — *Leslie Haskins and Asa Nilsson*

Mixed Club Paddle Championship

Rick and Carol Plaut and **Dick and Sue Forrest** hosted the Mixed Club Paddle Championship on Saturday, March 10.

Six teams participated in a round-robin format. Every team played each other team, which amounted to a lot of paddle.



Per and Asa Nilsson

To the victors, **Per and Asa Nilsson**, went the spoils – two bottles of

wine, one of red and one of white, and their names etched in perpetuity on the Club's championship plaque. Serendipitously, two teams won all of their matches (there was keen competition among all of the teams, with a number of close matches) and were scheduled to play each other in the last round on court #2, in front of a group of spectators. Per and Asa, the most dominating team, handily defeated **Dick Forrest** and **Jacquie Kenny** for the title in an eight game pro set, 8-2. — *Dick Forrest*

The BIG Paddle

Longmeadow, bringing top players from The Field Club and the Springfield area, battled to a hard fought second place in this annual event. Once again, the Madison/Essex (CT) team will be bringing home the coveted Big Paddle.

On March 17, after the courts were cleared of two-foot snowdrifts, Longmeadow competed in the Big

Paddle challenge hosted by the Hartford Golf Club. **Alex Seiler/Mike Shields**, playing some very athletic paddle, won all three of their matches. **Rick Steele/Dave Kinsley** held their own, playing Big Paddle for the first time. Veterans **Greg Birtwell/Rod Larsen** and our international team, **Per Nilsson/Naren Dhamodharan**, each won two of their three matches. Captain **Rob Durfee** and nationally ranked **Jeff Morneau** ran into some tough matches.

This is the seventh year Rob Durfee has put together a team of players from the area to play in this fun and very competitive event. The Big Paddle has been played at Hartford Golf Club for over 30 years, beginning in 1977. Top players drawn from four clubs and their surrounding areas play one match against each of the three other clubs. The other teams include Essex/Madison (CT), Shelter Harbor (RI) and Hartford (CT).

— *Rob Durfee*



Attention Green Thumbs!

There's still a garden available for this spring/summer. If you are interested, please call Mike Cohen at 565-9931.

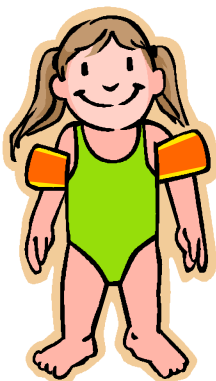
Junior Tennis Springs Ahead

Daylight Savings brings tennis cravings, so start looking for those rackets and tennis shoes!

Clinics and tournaments will begin the first full week of summer vacation. To kick off the season, there will be a **Junior Opener** (8 years old and up) on **Friday, June 22**, and a **Tot Opener** (4 to 7 years olds) on **Tuesday, June 26**. In addition to the clinics and tournaments, mixers and skill checks will be held throughout the summer. Sign-ups and times will be posted on the tennis bulletin board.

Further details will be included in the June *Baseline*, and clinic and tournament schedules will be on the Field Club's website. Any questions, don't hesitate to contact Junior Tennis Chairpersons Sally Gallucci (567-9221 or galluch@aol.com) and Denise Collins (567-1593). — *Sally Gallucci*





Get set for another season of poolside fun!

Lane Lines

Another fun-filled summer by the pool is almost here! **Opening day** will be **Saturday, May 26**, at 10 a.m. During the pre-season period (Memorial Day weekend through the end of school), the pool will be open weekdays from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Summer Pool Hours

(End of School through Labor Day)

Monday through Friday

10 a.m. to 12 noon:

open for swimming lessons only

12 noon: opens for general use

Saturday and Sunday

10 a.m.: pool opens for general use

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

5:30 to 6:30 p.m.: Adult Swim

(Baby pool closed during adult swim.)

Thursday, Saturday and Sunday

5:30 to 7:45 p.m.: Family Swim

Snuggery Hours

Monday - Wednesday, Friday:

10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thursday: 10:30 to 7 p.m.

Saturday: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday: 12 noon to 5 p.m.

Pool Events Schedule

Junior Fun Day (Ages 4 - 12)

Thursday, June 28

2 to 4 p.m.

Young Poolside Party (Ages 4 - 7)

Tuesday, July 10

6 to 7:30 p.m.

Middle School Fun Night

(Grades 6, 7, 8)

Wednesday, July 11

6 to 8 p.m.

Junior/Member Guest Day

(Ages 4 - 12)

Friday, July 20

1 p.m.

Junior Poolside Party (Ages 8 - 10)

Monday, July 30

6 to 7:30 p.m.

Field Club Swim Championships

(Ages 16 and under)

Saturday, August 11

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Kids Krafts

Thursdays

12 noon to 1 p.m.

Swimming Lessons

Session 1: June 25

Session 2: July 9

Session 3: July 23

Session 4: August 6

Please sign up for swimming lessons in the Pool Office prior to the start date. The pool staff can help with selecting the proper level for your child. Throughout the summer, odd levels (1, 3, 5 and 7) will meet at 10:15 a.m., and even levels (2, 4 and 6) will meet at 11:15 a.m.

Please remember to fill out an Emergency Safety Card for each of your children. They will be available at the pool check-in table.

Please see *The Baseline* and notices at poolside for further information and sign-ups. New ideas, suggestions or assistance on pool event committees are welcomed and encouraged.

— Kerri Lockhart and Lauren Walt



Treat your family to a swim and dinner at the Snuggery on Thursday evenings!



Board Corner

(This edition of "Board Corner" highlights agenda items from the February and March 2007 Board of Governor meetings.)

February 13, 2007 Board Meeting

President **Tim Kenny** mentioned that President Bob Bonsall of **Twin Hills C.C. is proposing a price-reduced dining membership** for Field Club members. Tim will meet shortly with Bob to negotiate the offer.

Tim would like to get a **by-law subcommittee** in place to update the by-laws. Names were thrown out to head this committee.

Rob Durfee has agreed to chair a **long-range paddle planning committee**. In March, **Gary Weiner, Dave Appleman** and **Melanie Gagnier** will establish priority rules for the awarding of paddle courts for contract time slots for the next paddle season.

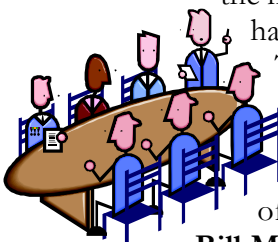
Jim Girotti supplied the **long-range tennis plan reports** to both **Tim Kenny** and **Doug Jangraw**. More tennis court lighting is a potential need. Current and future boards need to decide when to implement the plan and what to implement first.

Manager Jim Girotti reported:

- 1) Under Capital Improvements, All-Weather Practice Tennis Courts: Pulverization took place on Wednesday, January 17.
- 2) After a short delay, Contois Electric was able to complete the upgrading of the platform tennis lights on courts 1, 2 and 3 on Monday, January 22, 2007. Members seem very pleased!
- 3) On Wednesday, January 24, Charles Brown was here from "Bulletworks," tightening all the [paddle court] screening, and he performed all the maintenance issues that had surfaced this winter.

The discovery of a rotten main girder beam on court #2 was handled quickly with the approval of funding from Treasurer

Bill Monks.



March 20, 2007 Board Meeting

Update on Twin Hills: Tim brought out a proposed letter that will be mailed out to Field Club members concerning a social/dining membership offer by Twin Hills. Tim will write up a cover letter explaining the offer.

By-Law Review Sub-Committee: Tim mentioned that he and **Jacquie, Mike Shields** and **Paul Doherty** are on the sub-committee, and that they have a timeline of June to finish the review. In relation to the by-laws, **Bill Monks** expressed the opinion that the current term limits of officers should be looked into further by the Board. And, for the role of the President ex-officio, who is a member of the Board, there is currently no expectation for that person to serve. Bill thought that one year as a term for a president is too short.

Maria O'Reilly asked about the policy of **guest sign-ins** at the pool and mentioned that they should be reviewed. Bill Monks said that the Rules and Regulations pertaining to guest sign-ins should be reviewed annually.

The Board gave **Jim Girotti** approval to operate the **Snuggery on weekends from Memorial Day** through the closing of schools.

Board liaisons reported that **Tennis, Junior Tennis and Pool Committee event schedules** are in place.

Dick Forrest reported that **Rob Durfee** does a super job with the **Guidebook**, and the inserts will be mailed with the *Baseline* for April.

Tim Kenny wants to have a **digital camera** that multiple people can use, either donated or purchased, to have photos of Field Club events.

Bill Monks asked **Jim Girotti** about the status of **current capital projects**. Jim reported that these projects are pending: opening of the well, awning for court #'s 12 & 13, carpeting for the upstairs Tennis House, parking lot lighting, tennis court light poles, deck chairs, the backboard and surrounding area, and the Tennis House roof.

— *Dick Forrest*

Where Does Your Candidate Stand?

*The Field Club Wait List is ever changing, as new members are accepted and new candidates are added!
Take a look to see where your candidate now stands.*

Voted-In Wait List

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Soder, Doug & Penny | Rothstein |
| 2. Boone, John & Elaine | Schweiger |
| 3. Friedberg, Richard & Diane | Gang |
| 4. Poole, Stephen & Carrie | B. Coughlin |
| 5. Frank, David & Diane | Barnhart |
| 6. Turkel, William & Beaudoin, Barbara | Plaut |
| 7. Swanson, Bill & Mona | Shaker |
| 8. Swinton, Neil & Gianturco, Laurie | Weiner |
| 9. Cove, Christopher & Joy | Keiser |

Wait List

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 10. Marcus, Ben & Ann | Birtwell |
| 11. Schwartz, Donald & Tina | D. Collins |
| 12. Winn, Gerard & Pat | Ditomassi |
| 13. Broadbent, Mark & Renee | C. Berry |
| 14. Brault, Michael & Filios, Elena | Griggs |
| 15. Miller, Ken & Sandy | Snyder |
| 16. Engleman, Dan & Bonnie | Korn |
| 17. Daboul, Vinnie & Mary | Kalman |
| 18. Fitzpatrick, Bob & Barbara | Stephens |
| 19. Messier, Christopher & Margaret | Appleman |
| 20. Bagge, Bill & Joanne | Bagge |

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 21. Freedman, Michael & Tricia | Rahn |
| 22. Kosiorek, David & Penny | Kreitzer |
| 23. Kratovil, Brian & Meralee | Epstein & McFarlin |
| 24. Gelling, Stephen & Barbara | Glenn |
| 25. Marchese, Paul & Carolyn | Abbott |
| 26. Soares, John & Spagnoli, Berrita | Ballis |
| 27. Brennan, James & Marilu | Eagan |
| 28. Madore, Dalton & Kathryn | Brindle |
| 29. Crews, Richard & Kathleen | Korn |
| 30. Blumberg, Mark & Jenny | Sher |
| 31. Slater, Jonathan & Olga | Tallaksen |
| 32. Plotkin, Daniel & Mollie | Plotkin |
| 33. Low, Holland & Mernie | McKenna |
| 34. Parasad, Rajeer & Santwana | Freeman |
| 35. Sanford, Christine | Meth |
| 36. Hellstein, Mark & Kelly | Nilsson |
| 37. Corrigan, Tim & Sarah | Carr |
| 38. Foster, Brad & Jodi | Brooks |
| 39. Zeroogian, John & Sonia | Pleet |
| 40. Ehrenberg, Steve & Sherri | O'Reilly |
| 41. Llewellyn, Bob & Christine | Griffith |
| 42. Corsetti, John & Amy | Appleman |

www.field-club.com

Your source for Field Club schedules, photos, committee lists and a whole lot more. Log on today!

