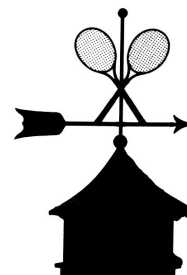

THE BASELINE

Field Club News

June 2008



A Message from the President

I was recently cleaning out my Field Club file, spring cleaning that happens about every third year. My file had gotten pretty thick, as I am now serving my third year on the Board. As I sorted and organized, I was struck by a list of capital improvements. The annual budget for capital expenditures is \$70,000. Each year the Board determines which items have the greatest priority for our members. Some are big ticket items that are easily recognized, and some are the smaller details that keep the place in terrific shape.

So, I thought you might be interested in where the Board has spent its annual fund over the past few years. We have made our most significant investment in the tennis area, starting with the hard courts in 2006. Because of the \$80,000 price tag, that required a small assessment in addition to the annual spending. In addition, we did the practice court area, including fencing and landscaping, for a cost of approximately \$32,000. Both of those areas were dangerous and under utilized, so the upgrade was a real necessity. The tennis building saw some overhaul, with the repair of a leaking roof, the replacement of the lounge rug, and new deck chairs for a cost of \$4,500. And, in the unglamorous-but-much-needed category, we repainted the lighting poles at a cost of \$10,000. We continue to invest in the awnings to provide shade between courts, spending nearly \$20,000, with more to come.

At the swimming pool, we did some repair and repainting in the 2006 season for \$14,500. We also added the gate to comply with new town regulations, price tag \$500. We have been refurbishing the pool lounge chairs, spending roughly \$3,000 to date. On the paddle courts, after the investment of a new court a few years ago, our commitments have been smaller. We have planted two sets of arbor vitae to help with the wind, a \$7,500 expense. In the Snuggery, we have invested about \$6,000 in equipment upgrades such as a new cooler.

After 40 years, we were concerned that the pump in the well might give out, so that was replaced last year for \$7,000. We added some lighting in the parking lot for \$4,000. We also added a new AED machine (the cardiac equipment) to allow us to have one at the pool and tennis courts. The new equipment, which cost \$2,000, can be utilized on children, an important enhancement. Also in the unglamorous category, we replaced the pressure tanks for the sprinkler system at a cost of \$8,300. New tractors set us back \$2,500.

For 2008, our biggest capital expenditure will be the additional lighting for courts 9 and 10. The project is well underway, and we hope to have them in service soon. It should help alleviate some of our capacity challenges at night. Total cost: \$40,000.

I am sure I missed a few along the way, but the point is, we continue to invest in the Club for the needs of its members, both to add services (new lights, new backboard, etc.) and for necessities. We try to be frugal with our money, to maximize our investment. And, as always, here is an open invitation to share your opinion about where your dollars are being spent. Contact myself or any board member; we are happy to have your opinion. Enjoy the Club... I look forward to seeing you out there this season.

Lisa Doherty



Snuggery News

As reported in previous editions of *The Baseline*, the Snuggery, under our own management, has been operating profitably, and that's very good news. Now, we are able to afford to replace failing equipment without having to go pleading to the Board for approval of such things. The result was last summer's purchase of a new frozen ice machine (like for frozen lemonade), which proved to be quite popular. We are continuing with our \$25 family minimum for the summer, so be sure to use the Snuggery to avoid that charge at the end of the summer. You may wish to take advantage of the following:

SUNDAY BRUNCH: On Sunday, July 20, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Snuggery will be serving Sunday Brunch. Bring the family and enjoy the full array of "off the menu" items we'll be serving that day. This is a first-time event, so we'll be eager to see if you like it.

COLD SALAD PLATE: This delicious new menu item includes tuna salad, egg salad and cottage cheese.

ORDER IN ADVANCE: Want to have your lunch ready for you when you arrive? Drop by the Snuggery today after tennis and put in your order for tomorrow's lunch. Simply fill out your order from the menu, tell Eileen when you want it to be ready, and then... BE SURE to show up (as you'll be billed for your meal). Or, alternatively, go to Eileen in advance of your match and request that your meal be ready when you're through. Your whole group can enjoy lunch together, and it will be helpful to the staff to have your order in advance.



— *Your committee*
(Marna Shields,
Katherine Charbonneau,
Chris Nicholson, Julie
Graves, Ellen Burton,
Maria O'Riley, Carol
Creelman & Stew
Creelman, Chair)



Congratulations to **Mike Shields** (left) and
Alex Seiler, the Field Club's
2008 Men's A Paddle Champions.

Recession Buster

Have you reached 60? If so, we have a deal for you! The Field Club has a little known membership category for those who have reached a certain milestone in their lives. Our senior membership affords you all the benefits of membership at a reduced annual fee. If you are eligible for this membership, we strongly encourage you to take advantage of it. It will allow us to add members from our wait list, while saving you money. It's a win for everybody. Please contact Craig Carr, Membership Chair, if you have any questions.

— *Lisa Doherty*

Baseline Distribution

The Board of Governors is considering, not unlike many organizations these days, to have our members opt for and view a password-protected electronic version of *The Baseline* (issued 5 times a year). We are hoping to cut down on printing and mailing costs for *The Baseline*, which are substantial. Since not every Field Club member has access to the Internet, a limited number of paper copies would continue to be printed and mailed. The implementation of this proposal would potentially be next year. In September, we hope to have a member survey to poll members about this issue.

— *The Board of Governors*

Guidebook 2008 Reminder

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.

All members should now have the updated 2008 *Guidebook* sections. Please take a moment to verify that your family info, address and email are correct and up to date. Please email Rob Durfee with any questions or changes.

Do not assume, just because your email is in Dick Forrest's master (website) email distribution list, that it is updated or even in the *Guidebook*.

Please note: John Abbott is chairperson for communications and Dick Forrest is the liaison to the board. They are both great resources for questions and suggestions and are always looking for ideas to improve communication within the Club membership.

Enjoy the summer season. — Rob Durfee

Get Social!

Another great season of Field Club fun is upon us. Mark your calendars for the following social events:

2008 Social Events

Fourth of July Tailgate

Saturday, July 5 (raindate: Sunday, July 6)

Poolside Party (Adults)

Saturday, August 9

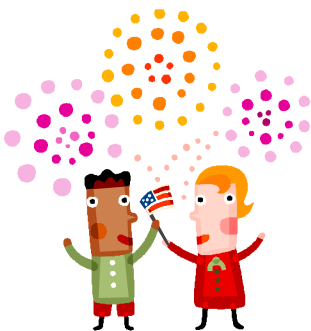
Family Campout

Friday, August 15

Labor Day Tailgate

Sunday, August 31

Watch for signs-ups on the bulletin boards at the tennis hut and pool, and be sure to join in the fun!



Kids Crafts

with Lifeguard Maria Berthaume

Starting Thursday, June 26th



- 1 to 2 p.m. Children ages 2 through 7 will engage in weekly projects such as masks, visors, wind chimes and more.
- 2 to 3 p.m. Children ages 8 through 12 years will learn more challenging crafts such as crochet, cross-stitch, macramé, etc.

Classes will be held every Thursday afternoon throughout July and August, weather permitting.

Pool Guest Policy Change

Guests may be introduced to the pool no more than **"twice a month"** by the same family. (Previous policy: no more than "once a month.")
— The Field Club Board of Governors

Next Deadline: July 18

The next edition of *The Baseline* will be distributed in early August. The deadline for submissions will be Friday, July 18. Please send information to Editor Lee-Anne Sprague at lsprague7@cox.net. She may also be reached via phone, at (860) 335-8793, or fax, at (860) 684-6163.



Tennis Season Now in Full Swing

The 2008 tennis season got off to a great start with the Wooden Racquet Classic and Adult Mixer in May! Mark your calendars for the following tennis events still to come:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Event Chair(s)</u>
June 7	Welcome New Member Mixer	Cathy & Brian Grayboff
June 14	M/W Member Guess	Shirley & Bob Barnhart
June 21	Wine and Cheese Adult Mixer	Tom Libbos, Tom O'Brien
June 28	Davis Cup	Leslie Haskins, Cindy Hibert, Pam Stewart, Mike Shields, John Abbott, Brad Hoffman, Gary Weiner
July 5	Mixed Couples Trouble	Carol & Rick Plaut
July 10-13	Super Seniors (USTA Event)	Angelo Teixeira
July 20	Adult Mixer	Jackie & David Pleet
August 8-9	Rambler/Gambler	Lynn & Buzz Travers
August 23-24	M/W Doubles Championship	Alex Guardia, Sara Suchy, Bill Santaniello
August 30	Croquet and Tennis	Peggy & Bob Conley, Mary & Tom O'Brien, Erin & Keith Fuller
August 31	M/W Singles Championship Final	Candy Weiner & Lynn Travers
September 6	Mixed Doubles Championship	Connie Gould & Candy Weiner
September 13	World Team Tennis	Doug & Debbie Jangraw, Carol & Rick Plaut
September 27	September Fest	Grazyna & Ken Vincunas, Sue & Dick Forrest

Event information updates can be found on the Field Club website, tennis bulletin board, monthly calendars and in the next edition of *The Baseline*.

Attention Junior Tennis Players...

Don't miss out on the following events taking place in the weeks and months ahead:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Event Chair(s)</u>
June 23	Junior Opener	Janine Idelson
June 24	Tot Opener	Ruth Griffiths
June 25	US Open	Shirley Barnhart
July 2 - 3	Junior Davis Cup	Mary Adler (July 2), Laurel Grow (July 3)
July 9	French Open	Jeanine Little
July 16	Australian Open	Laura Kane
July 23	Wimbledon	Nancy Rodriguez
July 26	Family Round Robin	TBD
July 30	Corcoran Cup	Becky Hatch
August 6-7	Doubles Championships	Kathe Rollings (both days)
August 13-14	Singles Championships	Susan McFarlin (August 13), TBD (August 14)
August 16	Parent/Child Tournament	TBD
August 20	Mixed Doubles Tournament	Alissa Korn
August 21	End-of-Season Tot Party	TBD
August 22	Awards Party	Beth Ryan





Lane Lines

The Field Club pool is now open! During the pre-season period (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 — Labor Day*)

Monday through Friday

10 a.m. to 12 noon: 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 a.m. 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)

Friday, June 27, 2 to 4 p.m.

Young Poolside Party (Ages 4 - 7)

Thursday, July 10, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Junior/Member Guest Day (Ages 4 - 12)

Friday, July 18, 1 p.m.

Middle School Fun Night (Grades 6 - 8)

Friday, July 25, 6 to 8 p.m.

Junior Poolside Party (Ages 8 - 10)

Thursday, July 31, 6 to 8 p.m.

Field Club Swim Championships

(Ages 16 and under)

Sunday, August 17, 12:30 to 2 p.m.

Kids Crafts

Thursdays, 12 noon to 1 p.m.

Swimming Lessons

Session 1: June 23 Session 3: July 21

Session 2: July 7 Session 4: August 4

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. 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. Be sure to fill out an **Emergency Safety Card** for each of your children.

Watch the poolside notices for further information and sign-ups. — *Elena Oundjian & Maureen Dhamodharan*

Meet the Pool Staff

Manager: Dan Pulsford — Dan is a 2007 graduate of Lyndon State College in Vermont. He was a four-year varsity swimmer at Minnechaug Regional High School and previously worked as a lifeguard here at The Field Club for six years. This will be Dan's first year as manager.

Assistant Manager: Martin Gullberg — Martin is a 2008 graduate of Springfield College, a four-year varsity swim team member and captain of the team this past season. This will be Martin's fifth year with The Field Club, second as assistant manager.

Lifeguards:

Ashley Bacon — Ashley will be entering her senior year at the University of Vermont this fall. She swam competitively at Minnechaug Regional High School and is returning for her fourth season at the pool.

Maria Berthaume — Maria just graduated from Minnechaug Regional High School and is headed to Wentworth University to study architecture. She was a four year varsity swimmer in high school, captaining the team her senior year. This will be Maria's third season at the pool and second as our Thursday afternoon "Kids' Crafts" director.

Leah Gernux — Leah is finishing her college degree in education at Eastern Connecticut State University and will be student teaching this fall. She swam competitively in high school and was also a member of the Synchronized Swim Team for four years. Leah will be returning for her third season at The Field Club.

Meaghan McCullough — This is Meaghan's first year at The Field Club. She is a sophomore at Assumption College in Worcester, MA. She is a graduate of Minnechaug Regional High School and was a four-year member of the Synchronized Swim Team. She comes to us with three years experience as a lifeguard/swim instructor.



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Meet the Pool Staff

(...continued from page 6)

Lifeguards:

Meaghan McCullough — This is Meaghan's first year at The Field Club. She is a sophomore at Assumption College in Worcester, MA. She is a graduate of Minnechaug Regional High School, where she was a four-year member of the Synchronized Swim Team. She comes to us with three years experience as a lifeguard/swim instructor.

Caroline Murphy — This will be Caroline's second summer at The Field Club. She just graduated from Minnechaug Regional High School and is headed off to Bridgewater State College in the fall. She was a four-year varsity swimmer, three-year field hockey player, and four-year lacrosse player in high school.

Kellie Pennington — Kellie will be entering her junior year at Monson High School in the fall. She is an "All Western Mass." varsity swim team member. This will be her first year on our staff.

John Weaver — John returns to The Field Club pool for a third year. While in high school, he swam competitively for East Longmeadow. He is a recent graduate of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, where he also swam for four years. He will be a graduate student at Springfield College in the fall. — *Maureen Dhamodharan & Elena Oundjian*

Board Corner

April 10, 2008, Board Meeting

Tennis: Treasurer Bill Monks: In reference to Vice President Doug Jangraw's letter, we need to make a decision on tennis court lighting. Doug submitted a thorough report on the tennis court renovation/maintenance situation entitled, "Notes from a Discussion with Tim Reid – 3/26/08."

Discussion ensued. The question: Should we light tennis courts 13 and 14, which are closer to the road and drain better, or should we light tennis courts 9 and 10, which are closer to the other courts currently lit? Western Mass Electric (the power supplier from the street) and Larry Eagan, a Club member with Collins Electric, our lighting consultant and contractor, can light either set of courts. Candy Weiner spoke out in favor of lighting courts 9 and 10. She thought the proximity to the other courts was important. Dave

Appleman spoke out in favor of lighting courts 13 and 14. Dave mentioned that courts 13 and 14 drain the best, are better courts, and that it would be easier to run an electric line from the street. A vote was taken (6-3) in favor of lighting courts 9 and 10, as originally planned.

Membership: Membership Chairperson Craig Carr moved (seconded by Candy Weiner) that the six couples that came to tonight's Meet & Greet be moved from the Regular Wait List to the Voted-In Wait List. Unanimously approved. The candidates and their sponsors are:

Tim & Mary Ellen McKenna

Sponsored by Ellen & Steve McKenna

Dalton & Kathryn Madore

Sponsored by Kathleen & Scott Brindle

Mark & Kelly Hellstein

Sponsored by Carol & Rick Plaut

Sarah & Tim Corrigan

Sponsored by Craig & Christopher Carr

Jodie & Brad Foster

Sponsored by Glen & Lois Brooks

John & Sonia Zeroogian

Sponsored by Jackie & David Pleet

These candidates make nine couples on the Voted-In Wait List. Craig gave out 11 new applications over the last two months, but only two have been received. Two couples, Gelling and Spagnoli/Soares, have accepted membership to make to 235 families.

Communications

Dick Forrest reported that the *Guidebook* inserts and *The Baseline* have gone to print. Bill Monks: A number of organizations that I deal with are abandoning U.S. Mail in communicating with their membership because of cost. Dave Appleman: We should have one mailing a year and a password protected website. Candy Weiner: Crestview is targeting their membership to view club events online. Bill: We should train our membership to do the same. We should announce the change to online information versus mailed information at the Annual Meeting, and this should be the transition year; we should implement it by January '09. Jim Girotti asked about the monthly calendars. Dick will contact Kim Conant, Renee's daughter, who has put them together in the past.

Beautification

Jim Girotti says that Tom Magill wants to give three walnut trees to the Club. He would like to plant them somewhere on the hill. The plum tree on the way into the pool has to go because it's diseased.

Board Corner

(...continued from page 7)

May 13, 2008, Board Meeting

Manager's Report

Jim Girotti reported: Tim Reid will be working on courts 5 through 8 tomorrow, to get them ready for the tennis season. The first four courts are super soft, and signs are up telling people it's pre-season. Some of the players are digging in and are not sweeping at night. Six Har-Tru and two hard courts are currently ready to play. Ann Boisvert is already teaching tennis. The pro shop is open on the weekend. The tennis deck has been touched up and painted in areas. The Snuggery operating applications are in. We had a meeting at Stew Creelman's house in regard to the Snuggery. In regard to the swimming pool, the pool is ready to be filled. Mother Nature has been against me, but we will start filling the pool tomorrow. It will take three straight days to fill it. The chlorine is in. We will meet with pool staff on Sunday to clean. We have purchased six new stop watches, a new life line and lap lines. Our power washer died. We purchased a new tractor from Home Depot for \$299. The town selectman rejected Western Mass Electric's proposal for a new electric pole for The Field Club because they said that it would take away a parking space. Western Mass Electric assures us that we will have plenty of juice from the existing pole. There will be a meter on the pole. President Lisa Doherty: What is the estimated time to completion? Jim: three weeks. The tennis practice area needs to be painted. In regard to platform tennis, two companies have submitted bids for annual maintenance. We have been working in the Snuggery, and we have been trying to get the pool up and running. The water system is being replaced for the hard courts. Two out of 16 awnings are in. It was supposed to be done before Memorial Day. Sun shades are being installed on the pool deck. Reid Tennis wants to postpone the installation of courts 9 and 10 until after Memorial Day, which I have agreed to. The wind screens are up.

Platform Tennis

Dave Appleman reported: We have two different estimates for maintenance. Members are still playing. We are not paying for the satellite dish. There is a big pile of Lost & Found items. Jim: Ronnie Leavitt takes many of the items to the islands. Dave: We need to replace five or six arbor vitae that got winter damage. The extension of the decking was positive. The lattice work underneath probably could wrap around. We need to decide on an annual maintenance contract

from one of the two companies. Some of the paddle screens are on their last legs. Bill Monks suggested that we could make the replacement of screens a capital expense. We will be painting the courts a new color, U.S. Open colors, and possibly test the new colors on court 4.

Social

Chris Nicholson reported: 120 to 130 are signed up for the Spring Fling at 7 p.m. at LCC. We need a ticket booth for drinks. For the Davis Cup party, Pam Low and Pam Stewart, one from the Social and one from the Tennis Committees, will be overseeing it.

Membership

Membership Chairperson Craig Carr reported: There are now 36 couples on the waiting list, which is healthy for the Club, a 2 ½ to 3-year wait for candidates. From Craig's report: ten couples are on the Voted-In Wait List, five applications have been received, and two applications have been released for membership.

Communications

Dick Forrest reported: Kim Conant, Renee's daughter, is creating the Monthly Calendar, combining June and July for the June *Baseline*, and will create the August Monthly Calendar to be mailed with the August *Baseline*. The deadline for the June *Baseline* is this coming Friday. A photo of the Men's A paddle champions and the tennis schedule will be included in the *Baseline*. Bill Monks brought up the issue about having an electronic version of the *Baseline* to save on printing and mailing costs. There was a discussion about having an online survey through Constant Contact in September to poll members on the feasibility of going to an electronic version of *The Baseline*. Dick will investigate the survey through Constant Contact for the Club.

— Dick Forrest

