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# THE BASELINE

## *Field Club News*

August 2008

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### A Message from the President

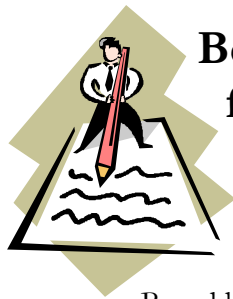
I consider myself one of the longest standing members of The Field Club, having joined at birth in 1965. There is that foggy period of young adulthood, post 23, when you are no longer on your parent's membership, but not quite ready to sever your ties to the Club or join on your own. But I did join as an adult in 1998, so allowing for that murky time, I have been a member for 43 years. I love that history with the Club. I have so many fond memories of the place both as a child and an adult, and I know I am not alone. I canvassed friends and family to ask for favorite Field Club memories. The following are comments and recollections that were shared. I hope you enjoy this walk down memory lane as much as I did.

- ♥ *I remember playing pitch in the Snuggery, using cheeseburgers as currency, underwritten by our unknowing parents. Somehow it tasted better when it was won.*
- ♥ *Greased watermelon battles at the pool, trying to push the slippery fruit to the other side.*
- ♥ *The frozen candy bars at the Snuggery, especially the Milky Way, were the best.*
- ♥ *The white canvas sun deck in the corner of the pool area where the high school girls hung out.*
- ♥ *Epic doubles battles between Paul Doherty/Ken Kinsley against the young turks of the day: Peter McGlauthlin/Honvie Schultz or Jim Barnhart/Rob Paulides, to name a few.*
- ♥ *Matt Doup and Matt Himmelsbach getting stuck together in an inner tube at the pool.*
- ♥ *Sneaking to the tennis courts in your swim suit and getting yelled at because no suits allowed at the courts.*
- ♥ *The Snuggery cards with dollar amounts printed on them, which were hole punched to reflect usage. A new \$5 card seemed like a fortune.*

- ♥ *Renting cross country skis at Twin Hills and skiing over to the Club. My friend and I tried to climb the tree by the pool gate in our skis. It was an awesome day.*
- ♥ *Sibling duos dominating mixed doubles tournaments: Peter and Leslie McGlauthlin in the 70's and Michelle Ditto and TJ Megas today.*
- ♥ *Marco Polo games at the pool with the real Marco Macchiaroli.*
- ♥ *Annie Corcoran hired as our pro in 1986, becoming Ann Boisvert and bringing toddler Michelle around through the 90s. Michelle stills hangs around, working in the pro shop with mom.*
- ♥ *Lynn Tarnowski winning every event at the annual swim championships year after year after year.*
- ♥ *Roger Thorne Thompson, the fun tennis pro with a Fu Manchu mustache and really cute kids.*
- ♥ *The overnight swim marathon where teams of four would sign up to swim 30-minute segments all through the night. The 3 a.m. through 6 a.m. shifts were tough to fill.*
- ♥ *Tennis baseball on the turnaround.*
- ♥ *Glen Snyder, Ray Hainey and others as the driving forces behind paddle courts built in the mid 70s.*
- ♥ *Curt the lifeguard and his timeout bench if you acted up.*
- ♥ *The annoyance of adult swim interrupting a perfectly good swim time, especially when there were no adults swimming.*
- ♥ *The fun and the exhaustion of the Field Club campouts!*

The Field Club is in great shape and continues to create awesome memories for families. Have fun making your own history there.

*Lisa Doherty*



## Be On the Lookout for Membership Survey

In our effort to better serve the needs of our members, the

Board has decided to survey the membership. Our goal is to get your feedback on various components of the Club to learn what works well and to determine where there are opportunities for improvement. We want your input on where to invest the Club's resources, which facilities are most important to you. We will be offering the survey both electronically and the old-fashioned paper way. Look for it at the Club and in your inbox in the later part of August. If we do not have your email in our distribution, please send it to John Abbott. Any questions on the survey, please contact Lisa Doherty.

— *Lisa Doherty*



## Micro-Burst Topples Field Club Trees

An early July thunder storm wreaked havoc at the Club. A micro-burst of wind damaged 12 mature trees on the property, causing enough damage that six of them had to be removed. Also, the awning on Court 14 was destroyed, as the wind lifted the awning supports out of the ground.

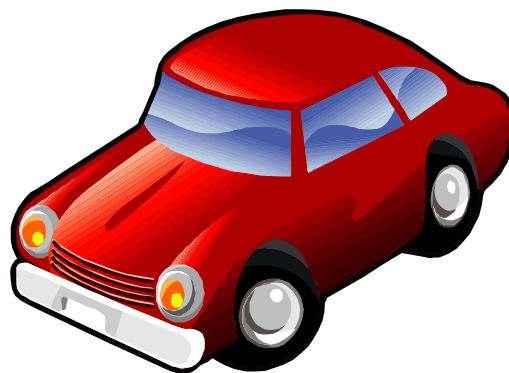
Jim Girotti and his crew did an outstanding job of cleaning up the grounds and directing the tree removal crew. Jim is now working with our insurance company to recover the expenses.

Ed. Note: You're not alone if you don't know what a micro-burst is. A friendly TV weatherman explained to me that a micro-burst is a sudden down draft of winds exceeding 100 mph that often accompany storm fronts. Unlike a tornado, which moves horizontally along the ground, winds from a micro-burst go straight down to the earth, then bounce up and outward from the point of impact, causing tree branches to flex down then up quickly and violently. — *John Abbott*

## ALERT: Lock Your Car!

On June 30, in the early evening, thieves stole a car from the Field Club parking lot while its owner was playing tennis. The car was subsequently used in an armed robbery in Madison, CT. The car has been recovered, and police continue to investigate the theft and later robbery.

This incident is an unfortunate reminder that while our Club seems like our private paradise, we are not immune to the realities of life. So, please remember to remove valuables and lock your car while at the Club...or anywhere else. — *John Abbott*



## Next Deadline: September 15

The next edition of *The Baseline* will be distributed in early October, just in time to wrap up the summer and gear up for the paddle season. The deadline for submissions will be Monday, September 15. Send your submissions to Editor Lee-Anne Sprague at [LSprague7@cox.net](mailto:LSprague7@cox.net). She can also be reached via phone at (860) 335-8793 or fax at (860) 684-6163.



## Russia Takes the Lead

Saturday June 28, brought perfect weather for the 20th Annual Davis Cup Tournament. Nearly 100 people participated in the event and played for Teams Russia, Spain, USA and Germany. A great time was had by all.

The day began with pictures and team line-ups at 8:30 a.m. USA and Spain were the 1st teams out. Each country played the other once, and each match had 11 positions up for grabs (3 mixed, 4 women's doubles and 4 men's doubles teams). To make it more interesting for participants (and challenging for captains), everyone had to play with a different partner in each match; until **Brad Walulak** announced the pairings, the players did not know who their partners or opponents would be.

Despite the heat and the challenge of not knowing their partners in advance, teams rose to the occasion and played well. Tiebreakers determined the outcome of several matches. **Jim Girotti**, Brad, and the rest of the FC team provided great support, ensuring that all participants had everything needed throughout the day. They provided courts in great condition, a light breakfast, and cold beverages during play. Frigo's catered a tasty and carb-filled lunch. **Alex Seiler**, **Kent Griffiths**, **Alex Guardia**, **Angelo Teixeira** and others provided lunchtime entertainment by continuing to play (Tex explained that he played so he could remain "warm" for the next match).

Team Russia, ably lead by **Cindy Hibert** and **Gary Weiner**, was crowned champion after several hours of great play. Russia was the only team to defeat all challengers (the rest split matches very closely) on the way to their victory. Other captains included **Mike Shields, Jr.**; **John Abbott**; **Sara Suchy**; **Asa Nilsson**; **Laurel Grow** and **Kim Putnam**; and **Brad Hoffman**. While Russia was the "winner," Mike was overheard saying, "Everyone who participated was really a winner – the camaraderie, the food, and the weather made this a great event, regardless of team origin."

**Pam Stewart**, **Penny Soder** and **Pam Low** organized a great event for Saturday evening. They picked and arranged flowers

from their own gardens for each of the tables (making very professional looking arrangements for everyone's enjoyment). Events By Laura Chipouras catered the event, and music was provided by Steven Merklein of Brian Nicks DJ's.

During the evening party, the Russian captains were called up by Alex Guardia to receive their prizes for being the winning captains. Cindy and Gary will no doubt treasure their cocktail napkins for years to come! For everyone else, the fantastic food and great DJ enabled them to enjoy a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Thanks to the entire Davis Cup Committee for making it a great event for the Club and for the newbie captains. — *Brad Hoffman*

## Members and Guests Unite

Saturday, June 14, brought out members and their guests for a great morning of tennis. We had 24 players participate in the Member/Guest event.

Congratulations to the following winners: **Sarah Suchy** and her guest, **Esther Donahue**; **Mike Shields, Sr.**, and his guest, **Roger Morin**; **Angelo Teixeira** and his guest, **Thoma Miller**.

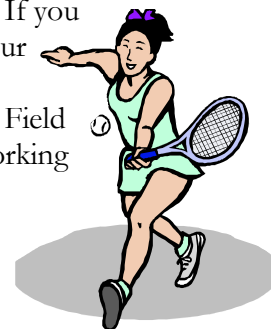
Consolation prizes were awarded to: **Pam Rovere** and her guest, **Michelle Pratt**; **Jon Rovere** and his guest, **Jay Bruns**; **Dave Olsen** and his guest, **Janet Bennett-Roberg**.

Thanks go to Tennis Pro **Brad Walulak**, Tennis Assistant **Chris Moskal**, and our great Field Club Manager, **Jim Girotti**! Everyone enjoyed a tasty and filling luncheon provided by Gus & Paul's. — *Shirley & Bob Barnhart*

## Swinging Singles

If you have not noticed, there are a lot of singles matches being played this summer at The Field Club. Our singles ladders (for the men and for the women) are going strong. If you want to join in the fun, add your name to the bottom of the ladder, which is posted at The Field Club. Then, you can begin working your way up the ladder.

See you on the courts!  
— *Candy Weiner and  
Lynn Travers*





## Paddle Tennis Blues?

As the summer months move swiftly by and the cooler weather begins to set in, it's only natural that we start thinking about the upcoming paddle tennis season. During the summer, FC Manager Jim Girotti works diligently with a platform tennis contractor, Charles Brown of BulletWorks, on the yearly maintenance and repairs.

Two of the FC's four paddle courts will be noticeably different as **BulletWorks Blue** will be applied. Similar to the US Open Blue that was painted onto the new hard courts (tennis courts #11 and #12), BulletWorks Blue, according to Charles, "is very popular and is being seen more and more on paddle courts across the Northeast." The timing was perfect as paddle courts #2 and #4 were scheduled for resurfacing this year.

Our paddle courts are getting a tremendous amount of play, so it does not surprise me that an extensive list of repairs and screen replacements are scheduled. Here's just some of the work being done this summer:

- Complete replacement of all screens on court #2
- Resurfacing and painting of courts #2 & #4
- Undercarriage lagging for court stability on court #1
- Cross bracing of courts #1 & #2
- Replacing of 3 screens on court #1
- Tightening of all screens
- Purchase of 2 new nets
- Purchase of 2 new propane heaters
- Planned replacement of a new gas line to replace the old existing line

- Carpet cleaning the Hut
- Annual staining of the surface decking

All work is scheduled to be completed by the end of the summer. Please continue to check the website for this year's Contract Paddle Applications and further updates from your Paddle Committee Chairs, Gary Weiner and Leslie Haskins. Enjoy the rest of the summer everyone, and I look forward to seeing you on the paddle courts this fall! — *Dave Appleman*

## Lane Lines

We hope everyone has been enjoying the wonderful summer! The poolside parties have been well attended and so much fun. Many thanks to our event co-chairs for doing such a fabulous job in planning and coordinating these events. Thanks, also, to our lifeguards for helping with the event games.

The Kids Craft sessions on Thursdays, run by Lifeguard **Maria Berthaume**, are a huge success! The children are truly enjoying the creative and fun craft projects Maria introduces each week.

Please remember to sign in when entering the pool area. Signing in helps our lifeguards maintain a safe environment for everyone. Also, remember that adult swim is Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The baby pool is closed during this time.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer!  
—*Elena Oundjian and Maureen Dhamodharan*





## A Mid-Season Junior Tennis Update

It's hard to believe that we're halfway through our season of Junior Tennis. Anne and Brad have been hard at work developing the next generation of tennis stars. The Wednesday afternoon tournaments have been well attended. All juniors who can serve and keep score are welcome to play. Congratulations to the winners of all of the tournaments to date, as follows:

### US Open

Jack Appleman, Matt Draymore, Dan Draymore and Austin Little

### French Open

Austin Little, Jack Ryan, Matt Draymore and Emmet Shea

Finalists: Ross Kamin, Megan Appleman, Jacob Freeman and Stevie Eagan

### Australian Open

Austin Little, Ross Kamin, Sam Adler, Adam Acker and Emmett Shea

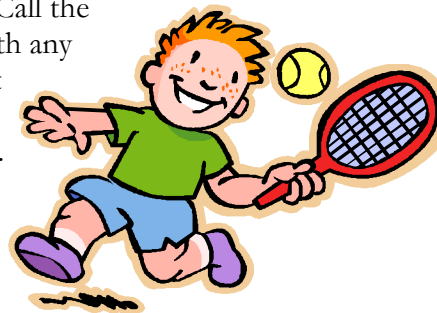
Finalists: Jack Neil, Matt Draymore, Jack Appleman, Ashley Toebe and Caroline O'Reilly

### Junior Davis Cup

Spain defeated the United States

Don't miss the upcoming **Family Round Robin, Corcoran Cup, Parent/Child Tournament, Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles Tournaments**. It won't be long before we celebrate the end of another active and fun season with the **End of Season Tot Party on August 21** and the **Awards Party on August 22**.

In addition to all the tournaments, the tennis pros have kept everyone busy with Tuesday afternoon **Round Robins** and a new **Junior Tennis Ladder** on Monday afternoons. **Tennis clinics** are ongoing for all ages 4 and up. It's never too late to join in the fun! This year's junior tennis pros, Michelle, Pete and Chris, are available for lessons as well – a bargain not to be missed at \$20/hour for a private lesson (or share an hour with a friend!). Call the tennis office with any questions about clinics, lessons or tournaments. Keep swinging!  
— *Mary Adler*



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## Field Club Wait List On the Move...

The Field Club Wait List is constantly changing, as new members join the Club and others express an interest. Currently, the "voted-in" list includes 10 prospective memberships, while the regular list includes an additional 28 prospective memberships. If you would like to sponsor someone for membership at The Field Club, please contact Craig Carr. The actual Wait List was included with the print version of this newsletter.



## More Fun Still to Come!

There's still an entire month of summer fun to look forward to at The Field Club. Don't miss out on the following social events:

### **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!

## Board Corner

*(Highlights of the June 10, 2008, Board of Governors' Meeting. The Board did not meet in July.)*

### **Manager's Report**

Jim Girotti reported: Bill Hamby of Markel Insurance and his wife surveyed the Club. They really liked the Club and Bill's wife took notes. The Snuggery needed a new sandwich unit. The motor fell out of the old unit. We spent \$2500, saving \$400 from Kittredge. This unit has a cover and is refrigerated. Both the pool and the Snuggery were opened on Memorial Day. Tennis: The pro shop is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The phone has been ringing off the hook. Thirty-two participated in the Adult Tennis Mixer on May 26th, but the Wooden Racquet Classic had to be cancelled due to few sign-ups. Ann Boisvert would like to continue the "Super Singles" tennis event this year on Saturday, July 19th, since it was successful last year. Jim mentioned that Ann Boisvert had been approached about hosting a charity tennis event called the "Rally for the Cure-Cancer." Bill Monks: We should support a locally based charity, not a national one, and it should be member-initiated. They approached us. Discussion ensued. Bill was of the opinion that we should "pass" on this event. Bill questioned how much of the charity dollars goes administratively to the national organization versus how much of the money raised goes to the local organization. There seemed to be consensus that the Board should support locally based charity events at the Club that are member-initiated. Under member and tennis guest fees, members are not being signed in, and Ann Boisvert feels that the tennis staff is being placed in a tough position in order to police this problem. We should have one guest fee for the day. Jim: Instead of starting the pro shop person on Monday, I would like to start him today. Brad Walulak has 4 new tennis racquet demos. There were 15 to 20 people at the new member orientation, but tennis and lunch were cancelled

due to lack of interest. Under maintenance, there was a water leak in the utility room. Bark mulch has been put down. A little progress has been made on the sunshade situation for the tennis courts. In regard to platform tennis, BulletWorks will install new screens, new heaters and bracing and will paint the courts. Under capital improvements, Collins Electric is 6 weeks out. Western Mass Electric has given us a \$400 rebate for the installation of the new electric pole. Allen Lawn Mower will try to sell a 60-inch commercial mower that we no longer need because we are using Ryland Landscaping to cut our lawns instead. It's on sale for \$5000, and we hope to get \$4500, with 10% going to Allen for selling it. In regard to opening the Club for the summer, we hope to open the pool full-time next Friday at noon. Member Mike Cohen has donated 3 to 4 wooden racquets to the Club. I would like to have another CPR/AED training for untrained staff and FC members on Tuesday, July 17th, or possibly the 18th. Both the Snuggery and tennis ice machines are currently not working. Renee: Priority Press overbilled us, but it was rectified. (Renee found the error.) Bill Monks thought the *Baseline* was strong. Jim: We put down calcium on the courts yesterday. We have a tennis court watering schedule in place. We will put out a Club email and *Baseline* article about watering.

### **Membership**

Craig Carr reported: We had a new member orientation at 9:00 a.m., a week later than last year. It was too late because it conflicted with showers, weddings and graduations. This is the first year we had to cancel the luncheon.

### **Social**

Chris Nicholson reported: The Spring Fling went well. Pam Stewart and Pam Lowe are heading up the Davis Cup party. Liz Collins is heading up the Poolside party on August 9th.

### **Pool**

Maria O'Reilly reported: Discussion centered on the presence/absence of cell phones by the pool. The problem: there seems to be very selective enforcement of the rule to ban them. Maria spoke in support of continuing the ban of cell phones by the pool. It was mentioned that most clubs have the same policy.

— Dick Forrest