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# THE BASELINE

## *Field Club News*

April 2009

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### A Message from the President

**H**appy spring! It's finally here. I love the winter and all that goes with it, especially waking up to school cancellations! But even I, a lover of winter, am happy to see the grass again!

As the paddle season comes to an end, I'd like to thank everyone who coordinated the many paddle events; Co-Chairs **Gary Weiner** and **Leslie Haskins** and their **committee members** did an outstanding job of filling our calendar with events and mixers for all playing abilities. A big thank you goes out to our junior paddle instructor, **Lynn Travers**, for all her time, energy, skill and patience in teaching our younger members the wonderful game of paddle.

As we begin to enjoy the warmer weather, our pool, tennis and social chairs and their committees are busily planning events to provide us with another fun-filled season. **Jim Girotti**, our wonderful Club manager, is hiring our summer staff and overseeing the many projects that are underway to get the Club in shape for the upcoming summer season. **Rob Durfee** is getting the *Guidebook* ready to go out to all our members. With so many new members this year, Rob and **Craig Carr**, our membership chair, have had quite a task getting our valuable *Guidebook* up to date. Thank you Rob and Craig!

Mark your calendars for **Friday, May 15**, for the social kick-off of the season, the **Annual Spring Fling** at Hampden Country Club. Co-Chairs **Jacquie Kenny** and **Denise Collins** promise an excellent night of dancing and socializing with members old and new. I would especially like to extend an invitation to our new members to attend – it's always a great night, and what better way to get oriented with the Field Club than the Spring Fling! In my seven years as a member, I have not yet missed one! I would also encourage members to invite prospective members that they have sponsored and who are waiting to join the Field Club.

The Field Club continues to thrive, and the ongoing success is attributable to the involvement and volunteerism of our members and the dedication of our experienced staff. So, welcome to spring, and I look forward to seeing you all on May 15 at the Spring Fling!

Sincerely,

*Chris Nicholson*



Kick-off the summer at the  
**Annual Field Club  
Spring Fling**

**Friday, May 15, 2009  
7 p.m. to 12 midnight  
Hampden Country Club  
Hope to see you there!**

## Get Set for Another Exciting Season on the Courts!

The start of the 2009 tennis season is almost here. As usual, we've got a great summer planned. Be sure to mark your calendars for the following tennis events:

Mon., May 25	Adult Mixer
Sat., June 6	Welcome New Member Mixer
Sun., June 7	M/W Singles Kickoff
Sat., June 13	M/W Member Guest
Sat., June 20	Adult Mixer (Wine Theme)
Sat., June 27	Davis Cup
Sun., July 5	Mixed Couples Trouble
July 9 - 12	Super Seniors (USTA Event)
Sun., July 19	Adult Mixer
Fri., July 31	Adult Mixer
Sun., August 16	Women's Wanna B Event
Sat., August 29	M/W Doubles Championship
Sun., September 6	M/W Singles Championship
Sat., September 12	Mixed Doubles Championship
Sat., September 20	Adult Mixer
Sat., September 26	September Fest

Event updates can be found on the Field Club website, tennis bulletin board, monthly calendars and in the next edition of *The Baseline*. For more information, please contact Tennis Chairpersons Tom O'Brien or Jackie Pleet.

## Calling All Gardeners

Darcy Durfee will be coordinating the garden plots this year and expects to know soon if there are any available plots. If you are interested in obtaining a garden plot to try your hand at growing vegetables or flowers, please email your request to [casadurfee@comcast.net](mailto:casadurfee@comcast.net) so she will know who to contact in the event that there are open gardens.

The cost of a garden plot is \$10/year (what a deal!). There is an extra charge of about \$15 if you choose to have the plot rototilled in early spring.

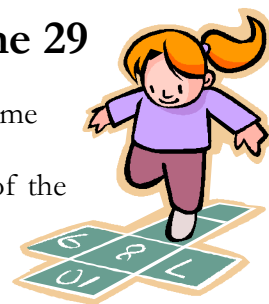
Hope to see you out there!

— Darcy Durfee



## Tot Lot to Open June 29

The Tot Lot would like to welcome back all returning members and extend a special welcome to all of the new families joining the Field Club! For those of you who are just coming on board, the Tot Lot is a shady play area behind the pool and Snuggery that, for a small hourly fee, provides supervised childcare for members who are on the Field Club premises. Children between the ages of 1 and 7 are welcome, and infant care may be arranged in advance. Hours are **Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 12 noon**, beginning **June 29** and running through **August 27**.



This year, the Tot Lot is fortunate to have **Maria Berthaume** as director. Maria has been a lifeguard at the Field Club for the past three summers and has also run the popular Thursday Kids Crafts.

We will be recruiting **helpers** between the ages of 11 and 15 to assist Maria with childcare in the Tot Lot. Helpers assist the director by playing with and reading to children, and bringing children to and from swimming and/or tennis lessons. Tot Lot helpers sign up for one week at a time and are then paid for 12 hours of work. Depending on level of interest, it may be possible to sign up for more than one week. If you are interested in being a paid helper, please e-mail Maria O'Reilly with your available weeks.

— Maria O'Reilly



### Next *Baseline* Deadline May 18...

Send your submissions for the June edition to Editor Lee-Anne Sprague at [LSprague7@cox.net](mailto:LSprague7@cox.net). Questions? Give her a call at (860) 335-8793.

## A Tale of Blue Smoothies

Until just a few years ago, the Field Club Snuggery didn't make enough money to cover its own costs. It never made a profit. From 2002 to 2005, there were steady losses, and in 2004, the Snuggery incurred an \$8,000 loss. The staff produced tuna melts on old broken down equipment. And the kitchen restaurant-style refrigerators and grills began to age... and started to rust and emit odd sounds and give off Hades-like heat. The kitchen staff began to wilt. Although it was a difficult and expensive undertaking to replace equipment and there was a perpetual operating loss, the Board accepted this fact; the Snuggery continued to operate as a convenience to members.

It became obvious that expensive restaurant equipment would have to be put on the list of capital fund expenditures, along with court lighting and resurfacing. To reduce the operating loss and to allow for Snuggery equipment replacement costs, the Board voted to require every family to spend a minimum of \$25 a year at the Snuggery. Field Club founders had never wanted to institute such a policy, but it looked as though money would be needed to help offset the overhead of running it. It has worked, encouraging most members to at least use up their minimums.

Since it first opened, the Field Club had subcontracted Snuggery operations to professional food service firms that provided the Club with wholesale food prices, ordered the food, figured out the pricing and employed a staff person to run the kitchen. They tallied up the order sheets so the Club's bookkeeper didn't have to decipher them. The service provided a nice convenience for us.

Then, along came some wise members with a Good Idea that has made all the difference. Under the sage direction of **Stew Creelman**, Snuggery Chair; **Bill Monks**, Snuggery Board Liaison; and **Jim Girotti**, Staff Member Extraordinaire, the Board made the decision to stop subcontracting Snuggery services and run the Snuggery itself.

In a conversation with **Eileen Mason**, the longtime food service employee who had been managing the Snuggery for several years, Stew Creelman learned Eileen was doing all the ordering, and she was willing to work for the Field Club and bring her expertise about Snuggery management with her. Since he had crunched the

numbers, Stew was certain the Club could run the Snuggery and, in all likelihood, at a nice profit.

"Under the guidance of Eileen, the Snuggery has turned a profit the last three years," Jim Girotti said. "The profit allowed the Club in 2007 to replace a small blender with an Ultra Gourmet Ice System for frozen lemonade and strawberry." That summer, enthusiastic Snuggery fans lined up for fruit smoothies that, like baby clothes, came in two colors – pink or blue.

The next year, the Snuggery made enough money so the Club could purchase a new refrigerated sandwich unit. It cools 12 open containers under a hood so sandwich ingredients like turkey, ham and potato salad can stay fresh and be easily at hand. Jim recounted the day the original sandwich unit was replaced: "It was very, very old. It probably predated me. When it was being removed from the Snuggery kitchen, its motor crashed to the floor. We all remarked that Eileen was right. It was on its last legs. Because we didn't have to make the sandwich unit a capital expenditure in 2008, we were also able to install lighting on courts nine and ten and take care of pool deck repair. We would have had to wait on those last expenditures without the Snuggery's profit."

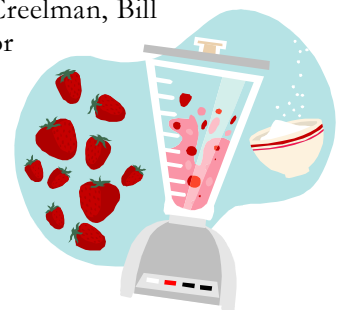
According to Bill Monks, "To date, \$4,300 has been used to buy two pieces of equipment; \$10,700 remains for future equipment purchases."

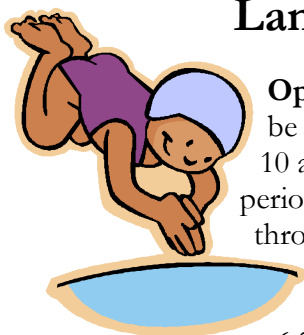
And now, because of the Good Idea engineered by Stew, Bill and Jim, for the first time in the history of the Field Club, here in priority order is the Snuggery's 2009 Wish List. These items will be purchased when the Snuggery's profit can cover them.

1. The repairman mentioned we should not call him the next time the **glass-door refrigerator** breaks down, as it would be impossible to fix.
2. **Twelve cup automated coffee brewer**, a coveted appliance on those cold mornings after the end-of-summer campouts.
3. **Panini grill** for sandwich extravaganzas

So... the next time you see them, say thank you to our Good Idea people – Stew Creelman, Bill Monks and Jim Girotti – for their excellent business acumen. And when you are in the Snuggery, let Eileen Mason know she is valued for her astute management.

— Katherine Charbonneau





## Lane Lines

Opening day at the pool will be **Saturday, May 24**, 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 — 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 to 7 p.m.  
Saturday: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sunday: 12 noon to 5 p.m.

### Tot Lot

Monday, June 29 - Thursday, August 27  
Available Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12 noon  
See article page 2.

### Pool Events Schedule

#### **Junior Fun Day** (*Ages 4 - 12*)

Thursday, July 2, 2 to 4 p.m.

#### **Junior Poolside Party** (*Ages 8 - 10*)

Tuesday, July 7, 6 to 8 p.m.

#### **Young Poolside Party** (*Ages 4 - 7*)

Thursday, July 9, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

#### **Middle School Fun Night** (*Entering grades 6 - 8*)

Friday, July 17, 6 to 8 p.m.

#### **Junior/Member Guest Day** (*Ages 4 - 12*)

Friday, July 24, 1 p.m.

#### **FC Swim Championships** (*Ages 16 and under*)

Sunday, August 16, 12:30 to 2 p.m.

#### **Swim Awards Ceremony** (*presentation of swim lesson certificates and pizza in the Snuggery*)

Friday, August 21, 12 noon

#### **Kids Krafts**

Thursdays, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

### Swimming Lessons

Session 1: June 29 – July 10

Session 2: July 13 – July 24

Session 3: July 27 – August 7

Session 4: August 10 – August 21

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.

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

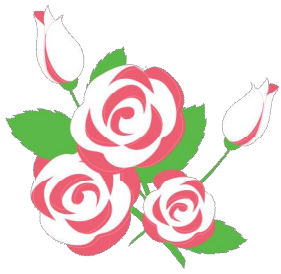
Please see *The Baseline* and poolside notices for further information and sign-ups. New ideas, suggestions or assistance on event committees are welcomed and encouraged. – *Elena Oundjian*

## Bring a Book - Take a Book (BAB - TAB)

Be sure to visit our  
poolside book swap table  
throughout the summer!







## Fond Farewell

Sadly, one of the our original members, **Barbara Wilkinson**, has passed away. She will be missed by many.

Please also note the resignation of **Judy and Marc Schweiger**.

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## ACT NOW... *Before Wait List Gets Longer!*

There has been quite a bit of movement on the Field Club waiting list this year, so it is shorter than usual. If you have been thinking of sponsoring anyone for membership, this would be a great time to get your friends or family onto the list. Grab the opportunity... before the list gets long again! Contact Craig Carr at for an application packet.

— *Craig Carr*

## Men's Field Club Paddle Championships

Seven teams filled out this year's draw, and we couldn't have asked for a better day. Good eats, drinks and nonstop tunes rolled right along a full morning of quality platform tennis. There were a few familiar names in the draw, and it was great to see and welcome some new members who came out to enjoy the action.

**Dick Seiler, Mark Rush and Jonathan Spencer**, all recent additions to the Club, showed us that their games are firing on all cylinders late in the season.

The semi-final matches featured **Naren Dhamodharan and Donny Douglas vs. Hans Doup and Per Nilsson** on court three, and **Gary Ulrich and Brad Hoffman vs. Mike Shields and Alex Seiler** on court two. In the finals, **Naren and Don** played flawless paddle to overtake

**Mike and Alex** in two straight sets in front of a small, yet vocal crowd.

In the consolation round, newly teamed partners **Mark Rush and Jonathan Spencer** pulled out a nail biter in two sets from **Tom Libbos and Billy Santaniello**, but then ran into the brick wall of **Dick Seiler and Rodney Larsen**. Great points all around!

Photos will available for viewing on [www.field-club.com](http://www.field-club.com) very soon! Special thanks to **Dunkin Donuts, The Iron Chef**, and someone named **Stella**. Tournament directors hope to see a few more names in the draw next year, including some of the "B Champions."

We hope you enjoy the rest of the paddle season!

— *Mike Schields and Per Nilsson*



## Congrats to the Mixed Paddle Champions

Great weather, a great turnout, great paddle, great camaraderie! Six teams vied to win this year's Mixed Paddle Championships on Saturday, March 14. The teams were: **Jacquie Kenny and Dick Forrest**, **Lynn Travers and Alex Seiler**, **Leslie Haskins and Rob Durfee**, **Carol and Rick Plaut**, **Asa Nilsson and Alex Guardia**, and **Sara Suchy and Hans Doup**.

Each team played five matches, one match against each opposing team. The teams played an eight game pro-set with no-add scoring at deuce, for each match. One team came out on top by winning all of their matches: **Lynn Travers and Alex Seiler**. To the victors go the spoils: Lynn and Alex each received a bottle of wine, and their names will be etched for time immemorial on the Field Club Mixed Championships plaque hanging up in the Paddle Hut. One team, to remain nameless, who won the least number of games, received lottery tickets as a consolation. Special thanks to **Bob Barnhart**, **Gerrit Toebes**, and **Dick and Sue Forrest** for hosting and/or helping with the event. — *Dick Forrest*



## No Spoiling Oscar Night!

On Sunday, February 22, the weather tried to ruin the "Night at the Oscars" Paddle Mixer, but co-chairs **Candy Weiner** and **Lynn Travers** wouldn't hear of it. The event, along with the red carpet and champagne, was moved to Lynn Travers' home, and the ladies enjoyed a bit of fun while casting their votes for this year's nominees. Everyone received a shirt, thanks to the handy work of Candy, and dinner from Iron Chef was delicious. And the Oscar goes to.... **Stacie Mancuso** for correctly voting for 9 out of the 10 categories. — *Lynn Travers*

Congratulations to the Field Club's 2009 Women's Paddle Champions:  
**Asa Nilsson and Sara Suchy**





## Men's B Paddle Tourney

A motley crew of ten teams participated in the eagerly awaited Men's B Tournament.

**Keith Fuller** directed the festivities that saw a semi-final featuring **Gary Weiner – Doug Jangraw**, **Ken Vincunas – Tom O'Brien** falling in tight matches to **Mike Doyle – Bill Seefeld** and **Bill Santinello – Alex Guardia**. The weather cooperated with a sunny day of almost 60 degrees, and breakfast was served on the deck for the 8:30 a.m. start of round-robin play.

Seniors Doyle and Seefeld fell to the younger but not better looking team of Santinello and Guardia in the finals, winning for the second straight year. The paddle committee will meet to decide their eligibility next year.

Welcome to tournament play to birthday boy **Jamie Dunbar** and his partner **Jonathan Spencer**, who acquitted themselves well, and thanks to wily veterans **Angelo Teixeira** and **Dick Hausmann**, for their spirited play again. It is not an official tournament if Tex doesn't play.

**Scott Brindle** won the eating contest sponsored by the Iron Chef, with his partner **Brian Prast** winning the BBC award. This is a very tall and strong team off the court.

Hoping some of these teams participate in the A tournament ! – *Ed Barbeau*



## Happy Spring...

Be sure to visit the Field Club online at [www.field-club.com](http://www.field-club.com) for an updated listing of all this spring's and summer's fun tennis, pool and social events.

## See you at the Club!