
THE BASELINE

Field Club News

February 2013



A Message from the **NEW** President

Happy New Year! I am excited to serve the Field Club as President of the Board of Governors this year.

2012 was a year of many facility changes at The Field Club. Recommendations for capital improvements made by the Capital Planning Advisory Committee several years ago have been realized. Members can fully enjoy and utilize the projects completed over the past year or so – new tennis courts on 9 and 10, new fencing, new court lighting, a 5th paddle court, beautifully expanded tennis deck, and last but not least, our new paddle warming facility.

The paddle facility is beautiful and just about complete. I am not sure we can continue to call it a “hut.” As of this printing, we are looking forward to a grand opening ceremony on Saturday, February 2, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. This open house format will include a ceremonial ribbon cutting at 1 p.m. Guests will also enjoy cake, conversation and a toast to celebrate!

Onto 2013! We have added many new members and families over the past several years. I continue to encourage everyone to use your club and keep the tradition of volunteering going. For events, check your emails and the Club event calendar on our website: www.field-club.com. If you have a particular area of interest, contact a Board member or Committee Liaison. I became actively involved upon joining The Field Club and appreciate what a peaceful yet energetic place it is. By using the Club as a member and serving as a volunteer, I made many new friends while learning about the operation of The Field Club!

Soon The Field Club will mark its 50th Anniversary! Yes, the Club was founded in 1964

by a forward-thinking group of people who had a vision, acquired land and built The Field Club. Much planning will need to take place this year in order to properly celebrate this milestone in 2014. The Board would like to form a committee to brainstorm and generate ideas so that we celebrate in style! Many thanks to our founding charter members, I know they will share early memories as we look forward to The Field Club’s 50th anniversary in 2014.

Help our Club grow! It is a great time to sponsor a candidate for membership into the Field Club. Contact new Board member and Membership Chairperson Karen Brayton for an application packet.

Together, let us continue another great year at The Field Club. I will plan to share information through *Baseline* articles and on the President’s page on our website. Thank you for your continued membership and your participation. A dedicated history of member ownership and volunteer spirit will see the Field Club continue to thrive in 2013. I look forward to working with the Board and membership this year.

Respectfully yours,

Carolyn Marchese

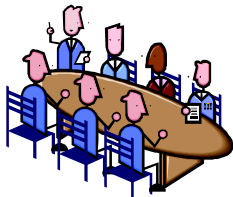


At Your Service

Below is a listing of Board Members and Committee Liaisons for 2012/2013:

Executive Board

Carolyn Marchese
President
Gary Weiner
*Vice President/
Capital Improvements*
Brad Hoffman
*Treasurer/
Snuggery*
Ken Vincunas
*Assistant Treasurer/
Jr. Paddle*
Jacqueline Pleet
Clerk/ Communications
Karen Brayton
Membership
Sherri Ehrenberg
*Assistant Clerk/ Pool/
Tot Lot*
Scott Brindle
Tennis/ Jr. Tennis
Denise Collins
*Social/ Apparel/
Beautification/ Gardens*
Brian Prast
Ex-Officio



Get Involved!

One of the basic tenets that makes The Field Club such a great place is that it is a member driven club. From the Board, through the Committees, our members volunteer their time to set Club policy, plan four seasons worth of events and activities, and help execute those plans.

Jim Girotti and his staff do a terrific job of running the Club, providing the swim lessons and tennis instruction and maintaining facilities. But without member-volunteers, events like Spring Fling, Annual Meeting, Tailgates and Mixers, just would not happen.

As we enter a new year, the Board felt it would be a good time to ask our members how they might want to get involved. **Denise Collins** has volunteered to help get you involved in any capacity that you might like. Got a green thumb? Give Beautification and Gardens a thought. Love to organize parties? Then Social Committee might be for you. Tennis fanatic? Try the Tennis Committee. Other options include Paddle, Jr. Paddle, Pool, Snuggery, Jr. Tennis, Tot Lot, Capital Improvements, Communications and Membership. Also, this year we will need to form a committee to plan future events for the Field Club's 50th Anniversary in 2014.

If you want to learn more about how to get involved, please contact Denise at ddcollins@comcast.net or 567-1593. Time commitments can vary from only a couple of hours to being involved in multi-month events. The Board of Governors wants to see our five paddle courts full during the winter, and tennis and pool facilities in the summer. If you have an idea for something new, or a suggestion on how to improve something the Club

is already doing, we want to hear from you. Contact anyone on the Board and share your feedback.

To those of you who already volunteer, thank you. You know how good it feels to be a volunteer, so when you meet a new member, let them know what you do. Let them know that volunteering not only makes the Club a better place, you also get to know others who share your interests. — *Your Board of Governors*

Guidebook 2013

The Field Club Guidebook is updated every year, and the new version is published each March. Having accurate demographics is very helpful when trying to connect with other members of the Club.

Please submit any corrections to your listing (such as address, phone number, email address, addition of any children) to Carleen Hoffman, who now edits our Guidebook for us, at carleen@clutterdoctor.com. Also, please make sure that you have indicated your preferred email address for Field Club billing statements.

Changes must be submitted to Carleen by February 14 and will not be accepted after that date.

— *Jacqueline Pleet*

Next Deadline: March 20

The next issue of *The Baseline* will be distributed in early April. Be sure to send your news items to Editor Lee-Anne Sprague at lsprague7@cox.net. For more information, she can be reached at (860) 335-8793.



Welcome New Members

A warm welcome to our newest members:

John & Kara Benson
Scott & Susan Cooper
Dina Ditmar & Family
Neal & Jennifer Hadro
Scott Halista & Family
Bob & Sheila Hoffman
Bill & Bonnie Knowlton
Katie & Eric Kroon
John & Lori McMahon
Trey & Molly Orr
Rick & Debra Purrington
Usman & Asmi Qayyum
John & Betsy Stevens
Frank & Hilary Suher
Stephen Wagner & Christina Turgeon
Derek & Wendy Upson
Victoria & Tim Wright

Welcome back to our returning members:

Dietmar & Angela Kuhr
Jeffrey & Madeline Roberts

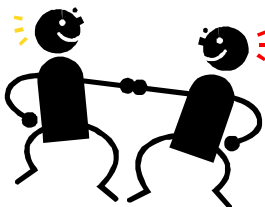
Wait List On the Move

The Field Club Wait List is ever changing, as new members are accepted and new candidates are added! Below is the current Wait List:

1. Porfilio, Pasquale & Diane (McKenna)
2. Thomas, Jim & Denise (Carroll)

Please return completed applications to Membership Chairperson Karen Brayton, 34 Burbank Road, Longmeadow, to get your candidate on the waiting list. She can be reached at craig.brayton@verizon.net or 567-8436.

— Karen Brayton, Membership Chair



Attention Members!!

Do you know of someone who is interested in becoming a member of the Field Club? Now is an excellent time to submit an application for membership, as we have recently added many new families from our waiting list to our membership. Membership application packets can be requested from Membership Chairperson Karen Brayton at craig.brayton@verizon.net or by calling 567-8436.
— Karen Brayton

Field Club Event Calendar

We have added a new Event Calendar page to the Field Club website! **Maira Murphy**, our volunteer 'email blaster,' will manage this page and add events to it as they are submitted. The page will include the scheduled social, tennis, paddle, and swimming events submitted by the chairs of those committees. Maira will make any necessary changes to the calendar and keep it updated.

Event organizers should be sure to send the details of their events to Maira at least a week in advance in order for an email blast invitation to be sent out (guidelines for what to include in an email blast are listed in the last *Baseline*). Organizers can also send Maira another note closer to the event if they want a reminder blast sent out.

Be sure to check out the new Event Calendar on our website! — *Jacqueline Pleet*

Looking Ahead to Tennis 2013



Adult tennis co-chairs **Jamie Dunbar** and **Cathy Herchel** are busily preparing for the upcoming tennis season. Please note that they will have an informal meeting sometime in March to plan and organize all the tennis tournaments and mixers.

With many new members joining in the last few years, now is a great time to volunteer and help run an event. New ideas and suggestions help keep the Field Club from becoming just another club. You do not have to be a great tennis player.

So, remember: **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** The only requirement is that you like to have fun! Look for future notices by e-mail. — *Scott Brindle*

Paddle 101 Clinics Create Storm of Interest

This year, the Field Club offered four Paddle 101 clinics in hopes of spreading knowledge of the game and getting more members excited to play. These clinics were timely, as the Field Club is committed to growing the game. As you know, we've recently added a fifth court and built a beautiful, large paddle hut.

The clinics were held monthly from October through January. The October clinic drew 10 participants and 8 volunteers, while the November clinic drew 17 participants and 8 volunteers. The December clinic drew 28 participants and 8 volunteers, and the last clinic, held in January, drew 16 participants and 7 volunteers. Of all the participants, 57 people attended one clinic, while 11 attended more than one. Two members attended 3 of the 4 clinics. **A total of 71 different participants attended one or more clinic.**

The December clinic was especially fun, as we had such a crowd that we divided the clinic into two sessions. I'm sure it had nothing to do with the anticipated stress of the holiday season. For all the clinics, each session began with introductions. The clinics provided a great opportunity to meet new members and make friends. Then, each court had one or two volunteers who helped participants learn how to hit lobs, volleys, ground strokes, overheads, serves, and off the wires. The participants learned quickly that paddle is a very different game than tennis. Clinics ended with actual playing time, guided with instruction from the volunteers. Clearly, all of our participants caught on quickly, as many great points were played.

A few essential tips shared at these clinics included:

- Learn to LOVE the LOB.
- Get your SERVE in...you only get one.
- COMMUNICATE with your partner.



Field Club President Carolyn Marchese enjoys a Paddle 101 clinic

The Platform Tennis Magazine is a great resource. It includes articles about racquets, instruction, and information about board members, players, and tournaments. You can join the APTA to get this magazine OR simply view it whenever you are in the hut at the Field Club. The Platform Tennis website is another excellent resource for more information about the game. It features information and articles, and also hosts instructional videos, great points, and live scoring from tournaments. Many of our own members play these local and national tournaments. Check it out: www.platformtennis.org.

These paddle clinics could not have been possible without the volunteered time and enthusiasm from our own members. A BIG THANK YOU to **Asa Nilsson, Kelly Hellstein, Candy Weiner, Jeff Morneau, Gary Weiner, Michael Shields, Scott Cowan, Ken Vincunas, Steve McKenna, Gerrit Toebe, Naren Dhamodharan, Per Nilsson, Hans Doup, Brad Hoffman, Jonathon Spencer and Rob Durfee.**

Perhaps the best way to convey the success of the paddle clinics is through the feedback of our own participants. Here's what some had to say:

"Thanks so much for organizing a great learning opportunity. I learned so much and enjoyed every minute. I appreciate the time and energy all of the instructors contributed as well. My thanks to them."

"Thanks for the follow-up email and a great organized clinic! I really learned a lot and had tons of fun..."

"Thank-you to everyone who helped organize and volunteered and participated that made this paddle event a success! The FC has so many excellent players and the fact that this afternoon consisted of all members just goes to show again why the Field Club is such a great place... The group I was with received wonderful feedback and positive instruction and, oh Yeah....it was fun!!!! Thank-you and your Paddle Committee for planning and putting on this great event!"

"I did the Paddle 101 clinic on Sunday, and while I am not sure where it will lead, I would like to take advantage of the opportunity to purchase one of the demo paddles - and spend a little less since I am such a novice."

"I had so much fun on Sunday. Great organization and instructors. Thanks so much for your time."

It is my honor to serve as paddle co-chair (along with **Jonathan Spencer**) at the Field Club, and to be surrounded by such an incredible group of dedicated members and friends (old and new). See you on the courts and in the hut! — Kate Morneau

Men's Wanna B

This year's Men's "Wanna Be" paddle tournament was a great success. With 30 players, including both annual stalwarts and new members alike, matches were exciting, exhilarating and downright fun. Thanks to hosts **Chris Messier, John Abbot, Doyle and Jamie Dunbar**, participants were treated to a delicious meal, a bounty of beverages and take-home souvenirs. This year's event included score keeping and playoffs to bring back bragging rights for those "B's" who shined like "A minuses." Those bragging rights were earned by **Carl Wistrieck and Stephen Gelling**.

Kudos, men — just know that a swarm of "B's" will be looking for those coveted top spots next season. Thank you to all who participated and continue to make great annual events such as this so successful year to year! — *Jamie Dunbar*

Deep Freeze Mixer a Success!

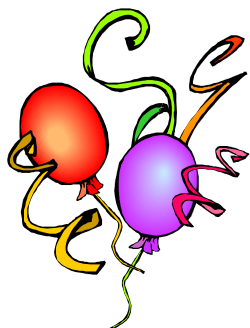
The Deep Freeze Mixer, aka the Deep Thaw Mixer, featured platform tennis on all five courts.

Twenty-six stalwarts swam through our muddy parking area for an afternoon of paddle, conversation and snacks, a few covert peeks at the Patriot's on the TV, and some longing looks across the court to our gorgeous new Palace of Paddle (we can't really call it a hut any more, can we?).

Although there were a number of seasoned vets, the highlight was all the promising newbies in attendance whose skills belied their inexperience and gave testament to the effectiveness of our Paddle 101 clinics.

Despite being forced to play with new partners and in unexpected combinations, players by and large maintained their composure. There were relatively few verbal altercations, and the fisticuffs were limited to glancing blows with only minor bruising. No blood was lost, and we are most happy to report that there were no broken bones.

With this great beginning, 2013 is promising to be a banner year for paddle. See you at the next mixer. — *Rick Plant*



Save the Date!

**Field Club of Longmeadow's
Spring Fling**

**Friday, April 5, 2013
Springfield Country Club**

***Come out and kick off the season with
friends, great food, live music and dancing.***



Annual Ladies' Oscar Mixer

February is not all about the Super Bowl. In some circles, the main event is the Academy Awards, and in our little Field Club circle, it is time again for the almost-famous Annual Ladies' Oscar Paddle Mixer!

This event is a fun, all-levels, ladies mixer. It is not whether you win or lose, it is how you look playing the game! Start planning your outfit now — we encourage furs, sequins, white gloves, jewels, and all manner of high-fashion accoutrements. Or, dress in character for one of the movies running in contention. Our annual Oscar photo will be taken, so be prepared!

The Oscar Event will be held on **Sunday, February 24**, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Join us for a morning of paddle and after-party refreshments in our glamorous new digs! Look for an email blast sign-up in mid-February.
— *Dary Durfee, Jenna Goodman, Jackie Pleet, Margot Seefeld*