
THE BASELINE

Field Club News

April 2015



A Message from the President

Think Spring!

Greetings, fellow Field Club members. As I write this, it is 39 degrees, and we are at last seeing a forecast regularly including temperatures above freezing. Thankfully, this long winter appears to finally be losing its grip on our region. Unless you are a skier, it was tough to keep spirits up with the relentless cold and snow. Keeping our paddle courts playable despite the excessive snowfall was a major challenge for **Manager Jim Girotti**. I want to thank him and his hardworking staff and contractors for making the courts available as much as anyone could. We now look forward to spring – tennis on our four new courts, gardening, and before long, activities at the swimming pool. By the time you read this, we will have enjoyed another successful Spring Fling, with 100 or more attendees toasting the end of the long challenging winter.

I was recently reminiscing with some longtime members about the way the Field Club “used to be”... when members would tack down the lines on the clay courts, trim the trees, plant bushes, and even lay pavers at the tennis courts. With that in mind, I am excited to announce that the Beautification Committee is preparing to have a “Spring Volunteer Day.” This day [or weekend] is a chance for energetic, outgoing members to donate their time and talent toward some easy improvement projects at the Club. We are currently developing a list of projects that require no special skills or knowledge, such as painting, planting, and trimming, so that any interested member can participate. The Club will get a fresh look for spring, while participants will bond with fellow generous members, gain extra pride in our Field Club as a result of making a personal contribution, and enjoy the results of their efforts on each visit. I can’t think of a better way to put this difficult winter behind us. If you would like to be involved or have project suggestions, please contact me or **Tom O’Brien** and watch for upcoming email announcements with further details.

I look forward to seeing you at the Club. Three cheers for spring!!



Sincerely,

Ken Vincunas

Welcome New Members!

A warm welcome to our newest members:

1. Goodhines, Jim and Lori (O'Reilly)
2. Trudeau, Matthew & Carolyn (Tourtelotte)
3. Nicasio, John & Vela (Gould)
4. Pepper, William & Rosaria (Miller)
5. Guidrey, Phil & Jennifer (Kolias)
6. Cooley, James & Christina (Dunbar)
7. Shebar, Ila (Weiner)

Wait List

1. Wilson, Ryan and Michelle (Kuhr)
2. Foster, Scott and Stephanie (Soder)

From the Desk of Our Club Manager...



Platform Tennis Lost and Found

It's time to look through the lost and found area, as we have many items that have been left this winter: gloves (pairs and singles), a black pea coat, reading eye glasses (which are on top of the fireplace), hats (all types), cooler bags (2), water bottles (13), sunglasses (2 pairs), a hair clip, several ear rings (pinned to the top of the bulletin board), etc. Also, I have one pink hope light paddle that was left in the "hut."

Any items left after Easter (April 5) will be donated to charity.

Platform Tennis Paddles

Three brand new paddles are in stock:

Viking TTPRO....\$179.99
Viking O ZONE..\$144.99
VIKING OZ....\$154.99

We are still missing the Viking O-Zone Ultra Blue/white, which retails for \$179.99.

— Jim Girotti

Re-SPONSOR-bilities

Have you been asked to sponsor someone into The Field Club? If so, below is an outline of things you should know:

The Membership Chair is Karen Brayton. She can be reached at 567-8436 or by email at craig.brayton@verizon.net. If you need an application packet, please contact Karen. If you are the sponsor and have a completed application packet to submit, send it to Karen at 34 Burbank Road, Longmeadow, MA 01106. Names are added to the wait list as soon as the completed application is received.

Who qualifies as a sponsor?

Any member who has been a member for at least two years can sponsor someone. A member may sponsor only one candidate per calendar year.

What does being a sponsor entail?

To sponsor someone, each candidate for membership must be proposed by a member of The Field Club in writing and seconded by two letters of support. Members should only write letters of support if they know the candidate(s) well and have known the candidate(s) for at least one-year.

Responsibilities:

- To locate two other members to write letters as a seconder and a support person.
- To assist candidates with the two-page application.
- To supervise the candidacy of the applicant, including escorting the candidate(s) to a Meet & Greet and introducing them to at least five Board members.

Now is an excellent time to sponsor a candidate for membership! Contact Karen now for an application packet.

— Karen Brayton



Kicking Off the Spring Season in Style!

While Mother Nature may be a bit slow to change the season, The Field Club members came out to celebrate the arrival of spring at the 2015 Spring Fling. The event was a great success, with just shy of 100 guests at Longmeadow Country Club. Good Acoustics once again entertained the group with its vast array of music, so much so, that many of us struggled to leave our conversations and the music to enjoy dinner. It was as if we all reverted back to being kids, ignoring the numerous calls from mom that dinner was being served.

The Spring Fling gives our newer and established members the chance to meet, mingle and discuss — what else — but the promise of warmer weather and spending days at our favorite club. We hope that everyone had a great time and look forward to seeing you all at the popular Fourth of July tailgate in just about three months!

In the meantime, be sure to mark your calendars for the upcoming social events: **Fourth of July Tailgate** (Saturday, July 4th - host to be confirmed), **Adult Cocktail Party** (August 2015 - details to come soon), **Family Camp Out** (August 2015 - hosts **Lisa Kelly** and **Beth Renola** will provide information on this in early July) and, of course, the **Labor Day Tailgate**. I guess if you have to bid farewell to those lazy days of summer, you might as well do it with your friends and family.

Thank you to all those who have supported our social events and who are considering hosting an event this season.
See you at the Club! — *Wendy Upson*



Breaking News: Field Club Takes Over Facebook!

Not really, but now we do have a presence! Check out the Field Club's Facebook page ([Field Club FB page](#)), post your photos and your comments, “like” the page, and invite your friends to follow (and join the Field Club), as well.

If you want to help administer the site, especially if you have any Facebook expertise, please contact Rick Plaut (or send us a message on Facebook). — *Rick Plaut*

Garden Plot Available

There is one garden plot available this spring for a new owner. It seems a little premature to even mention gardening, when the plots are still buried beneath piles of snow! However, being the hardy New Englanders we are, we trust it will be melted by April...or May. Since there is only one plot open, I will “pick from a hat” on April 21.

If you are interested in a plot to garden this year, please email me at casadurfee@comcast.net before the 21st. Thank you... and keep dreaming!
— *Darcy Durfee*

Seeking Tot Lot Assistants

The Tot Lot is seeking assistants to help the Tot Lot Director. The job includes helping with crafts and stories, bringing children to and from tennis and swimming lessons, and playing with children ages 1 to 7. This is a one-week commitment, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, for the assigned week. If you are between the ages of 11 and 14 and would like to be a helper, please contact Meralee Kratovil at bmkratovil@msn.com with the list of weeks you are available (starting the week of June 29). Get your name in quickly, as the slots fill up! — *Merulee Kratovil*

Field Club Apparel Now Available for Order

Orders are now being accepted for a variety of men's, women's and children's Field Club apparel items. The selection includes New Balance tees and tanks, Champion sweatshirts, Nike hats and visors, Marmot vests and more. More information and an order form can be found on the Field Club website at www.field-club.com. Get your orders in soon!

Junior Paddle Wraps Up

With the end of March, our Tuesday Junior Paddle lessons came to the end of their season. We had a great year and learned a lot about paddle. We perfected our serves, launched lobs, blasted drives, finessed drop shots and figured out the fences.

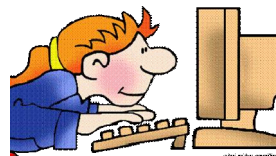
We also discovered a lot that will help us in other facets of our lives, including how to communicate (YOUR'S!) and how to survive by foraging (microwaving frozen hot dog rolls). We also found out how tough we are by playing through some rather extreme cold.

We helped dig out cars from snow banks, we didn't interrupt the bridge games too often, and as far as we can tell, none of us got injured.

Yup, another successful Junior Paddle season. Congrats to our grads and looking forward to welcoming returnees and new players next autumn. — *Rick Plaut*

Next Deadline May 22

The deadline for the June edition of *The Baseline* will be Friday, May 22. Please send your submissions to Editor Lee-Anne Sprague at lsprague7@cox.net.



She can also be reached via phone at (860) 335-8793.

Paddle Finale Coming Soon!

Don't miss the **Friday, April 10th** paddle finale to be held at 7 p.m. The Longmeadow Country Club has been invited to join us.

Sign up in the paddle hut or by emailing Lisa Kelly at lisaMTkelly@gmail.com.
— *Samantha Edwards*

Oscar Paddle: The Tradition Continues

In keeping with Field Club tradition, the ladies gathered for some paddle and Oscar themed fun on February 22. We rolled out the red carpet, selected our movie "teams" and hit the courts. There is no scientific process to our winner selection, but we sure have some fun tallying up the points.

The ladies arrived in Oscar glam – furs, boas, gems and jewels that were truly red carpet worthy. The fashion police had to stop **Michelle Meth** at



the door and do a security check due to her portrayal of American Sniper – (see the picture!). No threat was found, and ultimately, she walked off with Best Costume award – thanks for your creativity Michelle.

Twenty players came ready and

despite some cheating, answered all of the Oscar trivia that my clever co-chair **Denise Collins** could throw at them. We switched the event from a brunch to late afternoon play and gathered for a wonderful Iron Chef catered dinner at our Paddle Palace!

We actually got a day that was not brutally cold and played several random rounds of paddle. The movie tallying the most points in our red carpet extravaganza did not ultimately win at the big event in California. We had some fun discussing the Oscar nominations and making predictions on the winners.

If you could not join us this year, the Ladies Oscar Paddle Mixer is an annual event, so put it on your calendar for next year. Now that's a wrap!
—*Carolyn Marchese and Denise Collins*



2015 Platform Tennis Club Championships

The Platform Tennis Club Championships were held on what most would consider being "not your average spring day." A light snow blanketed the players most of the day, and the court heaters did their best to keep things as dry as possible. The paddle was good! Sixteen teams in three different draws competed for Club champion status and bragging rights.

Women's Draw: Surprisingly, only two teams entered this year, but it was a solid match-up of some of the Club's top players. **Marna Shields** and **Jacque Kenney** won a close first-set tie breaker (7-6) over **Kate Morneau** and **Asa Nilsson**, only to have Kate and Asa storm back to win the second in commanding fashion. The third set was tight, including several long rallies, pins in the corner and amazing shots! In the end, Shields and Kenney prevailed in what some called the "rage in the cage!" Congrats to Marna and Jacque.



Men's B Draw: A healthy chunk of six teams challenged each other for the title of Men's B Champion. Welcomed newcomer to the game, **Rob Campbell**, got his first taste of competition by pairing up with veteran **Dick Forrest**. Keep an eye out for Rob's drop shot! With a small draw of only six teams, the road to the finals is short, but not always easy, as was the case this year. The team of **David "Apples" Appleman** and **Ned "Snapshot" Fauteux** pulled an upset in the draw over **Dave Pleet** and **Tom Kietzman** and moved



into the finals against **Gerrit "To be or not to be" Toebe**s and **Tom "Lumberjack" O'Brien**. A big first-set, tie-breaker win for Apples and Snapshot propelled them into the second

set, where they pulled off a 6-4 victory to take the match. Congrats to David for winning his first Club championship and to Ned for taking his second after a long hiatus!

Men's Open Draw: Eight respectable teams formed one of the stronger draws in recent history, including some of the Club's younger up-and-comers, who are well on the way to paddle stardom (**Chris Barnhart**, **Andrew Waddington** and **John Hughes**). The wet courts early in the morning made for some creative shots as the ball skid and slid off the court surface. Two teams emerged from the rest and faced off for the Club championship. Phenom **John "Johnny Huge" Hughes** and **Craig "Backboard" Waddington** squared off against last year's champs **Mike "Lucky to be there again" Shields** and **Jeff "So ready for golf" Morneau**. Huge and Waddington took the first set easily (6-2) with the help of about six net cord winners. John graciously apologized for each only to stir up the team of Shields and Morneau who came back to take the second set (6-2). Down 0-2 in the 3rd set with 0-3 quickly approaching, the match turned and **Shields/Morneau** went on to take the set in what some considered a minor upset. Congrats to Jeff and Mike!



Another great way to finish up the platform tennis season. **Thank you to everyone who participated!** Special thanks to **Gary and Candy Weiner** and **Mike and Marna Shields** for hosting the event. Thank you to **George Kollias** (Grapevine) for providing a tasty lunch and, lastly, to **David Appleman** for helping set up and clean up at the end!

Check for more pics soon on www.field-club.com. Lastly – put this event on your calendars for next year – it truly deserves more member participation!

— *Mike Shields*



Lanes Lines

It is hard to imagine we will ever be poolside again. However, our planning has begun for another great summer. A wonderful way for new and seasoned members to get involved is to volunteer at one of the following events.

- 2nd Annual Tri-Athalon: Field Club Tri
- Field Club Scavenger Hunt
- Field Club The Voice
- Sew Crafty Activities
- Poolside Party (ages 4 – 12)/Tuesday, July 25
- Member Guest Party (all ages)/Thursday, August 12 (all ages)

Event information updates (dates, event chairpersons, etc.) can be found on the website, pool bulletin board, monthly calendar and in *The Baseline*. If you are interested in volunteering to help out, please let us know!

Pool Hours

The pool is tentatively scheduled to open on Saturday, May 23, 2015. Hours will be as follows:

Saturday, May 23 through the End of School

Weekdays:

3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (Pool open for general use)

Weekends:

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Pool open for general use)

End of School through August 30th

Weekdays:

10:00 am to 12:00 pm (Pool open for lessons only)

12:00 pm to 5:45 pm (Pool open for general use)

6:00 pm to 7:15 pm (Pool open for Family Swim - two lap lanes)



Weekends:

9:00 a.m. – 10 a.m. Pool open for lap swim only - wading pool closed

10 a.m. – 5:45 p.m. Pool open for general use

6 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. Family Swim

Snuggery Hours

Preseason (May/June)

Weekends/Holidays:

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (grill closes at 4:30)

Summer Hours

Monday – Friday: 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday: 11 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Swimming Lesson Sessions

There will be four two-week sessions. The start date will be June 29, 2015.

Session I: June 29

Session II: July 13

Session III: July 27

Session IV: August 10

— *Lori McMahon or Beth Renola*

What Makes the Field Club Your Club?

Your Family's Involvement!

Please consider volunteering to host one of our popular social events this summer. It's not only a great way to meet members, but these events are easy to host and always lots of fun.

Memorial Day Tailgate: Sunday, May 24

Fourth of July Tailgate: Saturday, July 4

Labor Day Tailgate: Sunday, September 6

Poolside Cocktail Party: You and a friend would send a group email out through the Club inviting adult members to a poolside potluck. Members bring a dish, libations and mixers. . One easy way to determine what dishes everyone brings is by basing it on their last names (i.e. A - I appetizer; J - S main dish; T- Z dessert).

Camp Out/Late Night: This is perfect for two families to co-host. Think s'mores, field games and fun.

Please help us make summer 2015 one that all our families will enjoy. Cheers!

— *Amy Ratner and Wendy Upson*