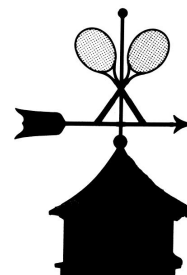

THE BASELINE

Field Club News



February 2016

A Message from the **NEW** President

Welcome to the first issue of *The Baseline* in 2016. The holiday season is behind us, the sweaters have all been returned, one too many cookies has been consumed from **Candy Weiner's** butter kitchen, and spring is around the corner. The good news is that we are now deep in the middle of paddle season.

Before I talk about the game which keeps our orthopedic friends in business, I would first like to thank all of our members for supporting this year's Board of Directors. The kind words of encouragement and support expressed for those serving on the Board is much appreciated. I would also like to thank our past president, **Ken Vincunas**, for his stewardship of the Club's financial well-being and for the projects he guided us through. Particularly noteworthy was his introduction of the Spring Volunteer Day. We had an impressive turnout of over 55 members to help in the spring cleaning. We had members painting the pool house and tennis bleachers, removing trees and debris, and planting new flowers. We are also proud that the rebuilding of tennis courts 5-8 was finished and new paddle court lights were added to courts 1 and 2. I am not sure how we will match this list of accomplishments, let alone top it! Well done, Ken, and thank you for your leadership.

We are now three months into FY 2016, and we are already hard at work resolving three significant undertakings. The first is that our long-serving and beloved general manager, **Jim Girotti**, has announced his intention to retire this summer. The Board is working diligently to find his successor. Our second challenge is to fill our open membership slots. We currently have eight family openings, with only two applications out. And third, we are working with our members, neighbors and town residents to argue against the relocation of the Department of Public Works (DPW) to Wolf

Swamp Road. Fortunately, we have the troika of **Moirá Murphy, John Glenn and Doug Jangraw** putting their 180 combined years of leadership and energy to block this move. We should all applaud their Herculean efforts on our behalf and join them in support for an alternative site.

Since the start of the paddle season, we have held a Parent/Child mixer, hosted by **Ryan and Lauren Shanks**; the Men's Wanna B, hosted by **John Abbott**; two APTA events; the Men's 95+, hosted by **Gary Weiner** and **Tom O'Brien**; Men's Nationals, hosted by **Jeff Morneau** and **Dave Fuller**; The Boxing Day Mixer, hosted by the **Ehrenbergs** and **Spencers**; and the Men's A/B, hosted by **Dave Appleman** and **Tom Kietzman**. We are grateful to all who volunteered their time to host and attend the events. League play has been spirited, and it is great to see many new members on the courts.

Spring is fast approaching, and we hope to see a surge in participation in tennis leagues and tennis mixers this season. **Annie** will be back with a talented staff on the courts, **Eileen** will be adding a few more culinary treats in the Snuggery, and the pool staff will be prepared to supervise or rescue any of our less buoyant swimmers. **Darcy Durfee** will be sending out her email soon, soliciting commitments to secure garden plots. I don't recall any sightings of the Club's woodchuck last season, but, unfortunately, the rabbits were filling their bellies at our gardeners' expense.

In closing, I would ask that all of us try to introduce new families to our club and volunteer time whenever possible. I look forward to this year and encourage anyone with suggestions to help improve and grow our club to present them to the Board at any time. See you on the paddle courts!

Tom O'Brien



Annual Meeting in Review

The annual meeting was held November 6, 2015, at Twin Hills Country Club and was well attended by a fun crowd. Details of the Field Club business were discussed in between cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. We wished a fond farewell to the following outgoing board members:

- Ken Vincunas
- Karen Brayton
- Cathy Herchel

...and welcomed the following new board members:

- Mike Freedman
- Connie Pierson
- Jamie Dunbar

We are looking forward to a wonderful New Year at the Field Club!
— Mona Swanson

Planning a Party? Don't Forget...

...If you are planning a party with more than twelve guests, you will need to submit a request to the Board, in writing, a month ahead of the party date. Also, please remember that guest slips are outside the paddle hut under the thermometer or in the kitchen. Please refer to the Guidebook if you have any questions. — Mona Swanson

Baseline Deadline March 23

The next edition of *The Baseline* will be distributed in early April, just in time to gear up for the spring and summer. The deadline for this issue will be **Wednesday, March 23.**

For your convenience, below is a list of deadlines for other 2016 issues::

Monday, May 23 (June)
Friday, July 22 (August)
Friday, September 23 (October)

As we go through the year, be sure to share your news and photos with Editor Lee-Anne Sprague. Newsletter submissions can be sent to her at lsprague7@cox.net. If you have any questions, she can be reached at (860) 335-8793.

Information at Your Fingertips

Be sure to check out the Field Club's website at www.field-club.com for updated listings of all the Club's fun paddle, tennis, pool and social events, as well as other useful information.

Let's Be Candid...

Everyone enjoys seeing photos in *The Baseline*, and it's helpful to have a few on file to fill in awkward spaces (like this one) when we're putting together the newsletter. If you've got a great photo you've taken during a Field Club activity, send it to Lee-Anne Sprague at



lsprague7@cox.net. It may just appear in a future issue!

Spring Fling Just Around the Corner!

Mark your calendars for April 1, 2016, the date of the Field Club's highly anticipated Annual Spring Fling. This year's event will be held at the Springfield Country Club and promises to be a great night.

With Brian Nicks scheduled to "spin the tunes" and a delicious menu of appetizers, dinner and dessert planned, the Spring Fling is a fabulous way to kick off the season. Please join us to catch up with old friends and meet our newest members. We promise you'll enjoy a night of great food, fun music and excellent company!

Additionally, please think about taking the reins on a social event yourself this year. Opportunities to play host or hostess include the Fourth of July tailgate, the Labor Day tailgate and the adult poolside social. If you are interested in hosting one of these fun and easy events, please contact Molly Orr or Victoria Wright, your social committee co-chairs.

— Molly Orr



Welcome New Members

A warm welcome to the following new Field Club members:

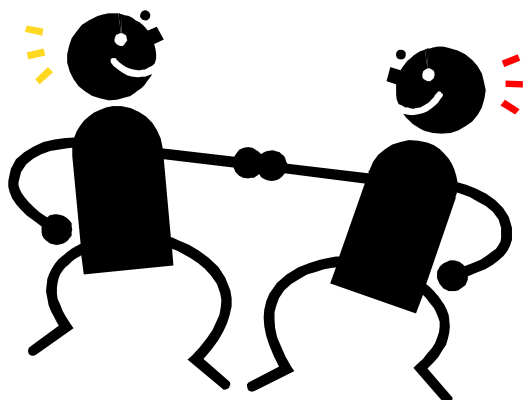
- Scott and Stephanie Foster (Soder)
- Erin Beaulieu (Burns)
- Franca and Tim Conway (Mailoux)
- Bill and Kim Moccio (Orr)
- John Pappas (Pappas)
- Stephen and Jennifer Keaney (Nicholson)
- John and Leslie Moutafis (Stathis)
- Paul and Cathy Szubelick (Shea)
- Susan Monoussoff (Porfilio)
- Gene and Margaret Grayson (Tarsa)
- David & Mary Dumala (Dunbar)
- Todd and Kristin Ondrick (Draymore)
- Michelle Morey and Scott Taylor (Morey)

Field Club Wait List

The Field Club Wait List is ever changing, as new candidates are added. Take a look at the list below to see where your candidate stands as of January 15, 2016:

1. Case, Brian and Charlene (Friedberg)

— *Connie Pierson, Membership Chair*



ATTENTION MEMBERS:

What are Your 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 Connie Pierson. She can be reached at 567-5924 or by email at bobconniep@comcast.net. If you need an application packet, please contact Connie. If you are the sponsor and have a completed application packet to submit, send it to Connie by email or to 85 Pinewood Drive, 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 a 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! Membership application packets can be requested from Membership Chairperson Connie Pierson at bobconniep@comcast.net or by calling Connie.

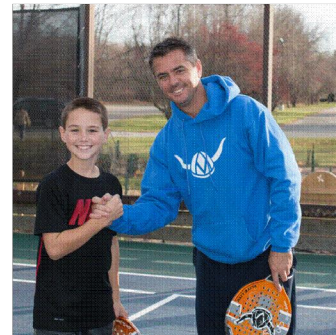
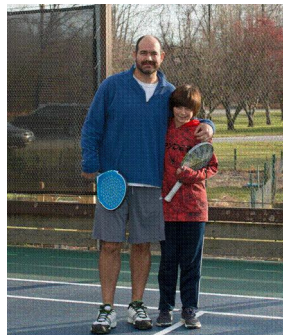
— *Connie Pierson*

Thanksgiving Day Leftover Mixer

This mixer has taken place informally through the years and **Tom Kietzman** (my light beer brother from another mother) mentioned we should put together a formal one!

We had an awesome turnout of 43 people, and the weather was toasty. It was incredible to see so many parents and kids playing paddle together. The ages ranged from 6 to 34 for the kids. We won't get into the parents' ages! With so many attending, we carved out play time in 30-minute segments, all compliments of John McMahon's spreadsheet skills. So many brought great food and snacks... a special shout-out to **Seth and Jenna Goodman** for the Lobster Rolls!

— *Your Hosts, John McMahon and Ryan Shanks*




Junior Paddle News and Notes

There are just a few short weeks left in the Junior Paddle season, so bring your 10-to-14-year-olds over for an introduction to a great sport.

Junior Paddle has a couple of changes to announce. Please welcome **Glenn Snyder**, who, with continuing assistance from **Joe Swanson**, is now coaching the kids. He brings with him his many years of experience, his high level of talent and his boundless patience.

Also, for the foreseeable future, junior paddle is limited to one session, Tuesdays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. To learn more, please contact Rick Plaut. — *Rick Plaut*






Ladies Oscar Buzz!

The nominations are out, so get ready for the **Annual Ladies' Oscar Mixer!** Save the date and join the fun on **Sunday, February 28, at 3 p.m.** for a walk down the red carpet at the Annual Ladies Paddle Oscar Mixer.

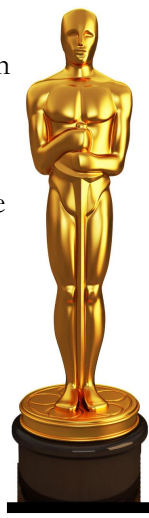
Every year, FC ladies get their "glam" on for this fun Paddle Mixer. Players of all levels are encouraged to signup. We wear paddle clothes with a touch of gems, jewels, fur, feather boas – you get the picture. If you are really daring, you can come in character as one of the nominees.

No partners are needed. You will play under a movie title (mixer style) and, yes, we do vote "pre-Oscar" for the films we think will win. The event will "wrap" by 6 p.m., just in time for us all to get home and catch the "other" red carpet event broadcast from Hollywood.



Save the date and see the signup in early February on the paddle hut bulletin board. More details to follow!

— *Your Emcees for 2016, Carolyn Marchese and Sonia Zeroogian*



Good Times at Men's A/B Paddle Mixer

The Field Club hosted its annual Men's A/B Paddle Mixer on Saturday, January 16th. Despite the tenuous weather, we had 24 brave players from our Field Club, along with three players from Longmeadow Country Club, and even an individual from GreatHorse participate.

David Appleman manned the tournament with enthusiasm and aplomb and handled the weather-related scheduling changes seamlessly. A fantastic lunch was provided by Grapevine, along with some delicious breakfast snacks, not to mention tasty beverages (some of which could be considered "Adult").

Special thanks go out to some of our "Big Stick" paddlers, including **Naren Dhamodharan, Steve McKenna, Jonathan Spencer, Ted Robbins** and **Tom O'Brien** (yes, the President bribed me to include him in the "Big Stick"

category) for making sure many of us "Average Joe" players got a taste of how the game is played at a higher level.

The day was filled with laughter, fun paddle, and terrific food and drink, - another day in the life of being a Field Club Member.

— *Your hosts, David Appleman and Tom Kietzman*

Davis Cup Paddle

The Field Club hosted the Davis Cup Paddle Tournament on November 14, 2015. The terrific weather helped to ensure a good turn out, and everyone seemed to have a great time! Thanks to the **Grapevine** for catering a delicious lunch. In the end, the New Zealand Kiwi's came out with the win. Thanks to **Dennis and Cathy Herchel** for hosting the event and keeping the Davis Cup Paddle a popular event!

