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# THE BASELINE

## *Field Club News*

October 2016

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### A Message from the President

**A**utumn has arrived, and it's time to write my final letter for *The Baseline*. The Board faced a few challenges right from the get go (i.e. finding **Jim Girotti's** successor and filling eleven open family memberships). Fortunately, we were able to hire **Jeff Dubiel** and fill all the open memberships within a seven month period. With the new initiation fees and memberships, we funded several maintenance projects, beautification projects and added some new events. It has been a very busy year, a very fast year. I am proud of all that we accomplished and could not have done it without the support of our members, the staff and the Board of Governors. My sincere appreciation goes out to all of you.

During the past year, I began thinking of the founding families that spearheaded the creation of The Field Club of Longmeadow. I began to really appreciate the vision, the planning and the work involved to build a sustainable swim and racquet club for our community. The three people that were the driving force behind this dream were **Ted Lincoln, Jake Rogers** and **Suzanne (Sue) Warner**. They purchased an eleven-acre potato field and 52 years later, we are fortunate enough to be able to enjoy a club, their vision, where members can enjoy activities from infancy through their senior years. While the club has grown over the years, its founding principles have remained constant. The club today still provides ample opportunity to enjoy athletic and recreational

activities, but perhaps more importantly, a place for "social exchange."

Over the past year, we witnessed significant staff changes with the retirements of **Jim Girotti** and **Eileen Mason**. We are currently experiencing a fluctuation in our membership numbers. There will be opportunities for membership growth over the next few years. We need to continue to actively fill family vacancies that arise due to families moving out of the area or due to families moving into senior status. We project an average of ten families moving into senior status over each of the next five years.

What does this mean for all of us? Because we are a member driven club, it is the responsibility of all our members to actively recruit new members. We also need to stress to members, new and old, the need to volunteer their time either by hosting an event, helping during the spring cleanup, chairing a committee, or even suggesting new activities or events that might have a broad appeal to our membership. We all need to volunteer where we can.

It is my hope that while we continue to enjoy our wonderful club, we also continue to be the active and contributing members that the founders envisioned 52 years ago.

—Tom O'Brien





## Join Our Membership Kick-Off Drive

Yes. You read that right... We need to attract new members to fill recent openings that are the result of normal yearly changes in our membership.

The wait list has evaporated, and we need to replace the families that are leaving, and the dues they would have contributed. The Club relies on annual dues for payroll and maintenance, and we'd like to keep these at the current level.

Any potential new member will be able to enjoy the Field Club as soon as their application process is complete and they have attended a Meet & Greet.

**Our best source of recruitment is you, our current members.** Grab an application and let your non-Field Club friends know about our hidden gem.

We are looking for volunteers to join our **Membership Drive Committee**. We welcome any member to join us. If anyone has marketing expertise, we could really use your assistance.

Please contact Rick Plaut ([rickplaut@gmail.com](mailto:rickplaut@gmail.com)) if you are interested in joining this committee or if you have any creative ideas.

As always, contact Membership Chair Connie Pierson ([bobconniep@comcast.net](mailto:bobconniep@comcast.net)), with any questions regarding sponsorship or to obtain an application. — *Tom O'Brien*

## Wait List On the Move



*As the all too brief summer comes to a close, the Field Club fiscal year closes, as well. This leads to membership changes. Some members move to senior status and others resign. These changes mean we have openings and will begin moving families off the wait list. Now would be a great time to sponsor a family, there will be no wait for a little while. Take advantage!*

### Regular Wait List (As of September 28, 2016)

1. Christine Sanford (Meth)
2. Paul & Marja Barr (Weiner)
3. Nathan Duval & Jennifer Skelly (Stewart)
4. Brian & Wendy Breed (Griffiths)
5. Craig & Maureen Robbins (Freedman)

Now is a great time to get your candidate on the wait list. If you would like to sponsor someone for membership please contact the membership chair, Connie Pierson, at [bobconniep@comcast.net](mailto:bobconniep@comcast.net) for the paperwork and instructions. — *Connie Pierson*

## Paddle Open House for Prospective New Members

The Field Club will host an open house to introduce the game of paddle tennis to prospective members on **Sunday, October 16**, from 4 to 6 p.m. We will have members available to introduce you to this fun game. We will also host tours of the facilities, watch the game being played, and invite people to play as well.

So... invite your prospective members – friends and neighbors – to join us. **No guest fees will apply!** Any questions, please contact Rick Plaut: [rickplaut@gmail.com](mailto:rickplaut@gmail.com).

— *Moirra Murphy*



## Farewell from Ned Fauteux

As many of you are aware, the Fauteux family relocated to Texas this summer, thus ending their longtime membership at The Field Club. What follows is Ned's heartfelt letter of resignation, as emailed to Tom O'Brien. We thought you might enjoy reading about how much our Club has meant to Ned and his family.

*Dear Tom,*

*It is with sadness and emotion that I am submitting my family's resignation from the club effective August 22, 2016.*

*As you know we are moving to the Houston, Texas area as part of my company's regional HQ reorganization.*

*During the last four years my family has come to love the club and will sincerely miss the friends we have made. For me personally, the years go way back. The FC has been a part of my life since I can remember.*

*I have seen the FC grow, and now more than ever can see the friendships that the FC has provided.*

*The FC is truly a special place. Quiet summer evenings at the clay courts, cold nights at the paddle hut, families enjoying the pool. A little piece of heaven in our world.*

*I will miss the FC. Will remember the times spent here forever. The world is a better place because of it, and this makes me feel good and hopeful for the future.*

*Let all the members know how we feel. If anyone from the club needs help in Texas or has a kid that needs a room or a pickup or just advice in the Houston area, let 'em know there is an ex FC member there. We are easy to find. Just think French when spelling the name.*

*The Fauteux's  
Ned, Lili, Mariana, Giovana*

*Sincerely,  
Edgar (Ned) Fauteux*

Many thanks to the Fauteux family for their longstanding dedication to the Field Club. We wish them all the best as they build their new life in Texas. They will surely be missed!

## Happy Retirement Wishes to Eileen Mason!

After 25 years at the Field Club, **Eileen Mason** is hanging up her chef's hat and retiring. During the summer, Eileen was either busy at the grill, hunting for sale items at Big Y, or preparing her famous Snuggermuffins for our members to enjoy. We are grateful to Eileen for her many years of hard work and dedication and wish her a very happy retirement. – Meralee Kratovil





## Garden Plots

Most of the gardening is wrapped up now, after a particularly challenging summer. Did it rain three times or four? There was almost no "complimentary" watering at all! Regardless, with great commitment, there were some impressive gardens thriving this summer. Take advantage of a beautiful fall day to clean up the garden and put it to bed lovingly. Besides looking tidy, it is healthier for the soil to discard any diseased foliage from this season's crops.

There's one fun bit of gardening you can do in October...it's the time to plant GARLIC. Almost carefree, it is the first green sprout in early spring - very rewarding! The bulbs are pulled in mid-July, so for those who find themselves traveling all summer, your crop is already harvested.

- Select the largest "hard neck" garlic bulbs you can find. A Farmer's Market is a good source, but grocery store Elephant Garlic will work.
- Break the bulb into its individual cloves and plant each clove "pointy end up" in loose soil, 3" deep and 4" apart.
- Water in the spring through the end of June, and keep weeded. Cut the curly scapes when they appear, fun and yum. If you have children, let them do it, because it is like playing I Spy!
- Pull up the whole thing in mid to end July, wipe off dirt, and hang in a dark airy location. With luck, you will have garlic till the end of winter!

Next year I pass the trowel to enthusiastic gardener **Deirdre Mailloux**. She will take over organizing our garden plot gatherings. Thank you, Deirdre!

So clean out your garden tote and sharpen your tools before the snow flies, and be ready to jump back into the dirt again next spring.

Happy resting! — *Darcy Durfee*



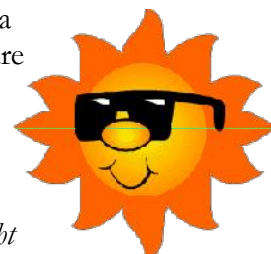
## Making Summer Memories

This was a summer to remember at The Field Club! Whether it was enjoying fireworks to commemorate the Fourth of July or catching up with Field Club friends at the Labor Day tailgate, summer 2016 was a great one!

This year's Labor Day tailgate brought out members and guests in record numbers. In addition to celebrating summer's unofficial end, we also were able to say a meaningful goodbye to **Eileen Mason** and celebrate her many years of hard work and dedication. We were lucky to have some of the Club's founding members on hand for what most of us consider to be the "closing event" of the summer. Kids of all ages loved the cotton candy and popcorn, and we were so thankful to the Davis family for coordinating the purchase of a very low-cost batch of Friendly's ice cream cups for all to enjoy as well.

Many thanks to all the other folks who helped the Social Committee pull off a successful year! As sad as we are to see the season draw to a close, the memories made will have to be enough to tide us over 'til summer 2017!

— *Molly Orr and Victoria Wright*



## Kids' Triathlon a Success

A good time was had by all at the Kids' Triathlon this summer, as shown by the wonderful photos below shared by **Patrick Mailloux**:



## Attention Paddle Enthusiasts!

The 2016-2017 Field Club Paddle season is upon us, and we are looking forward to another GREAT year of paddle at our beloved club. We have completed the "Contract Time" schedule, and there are still plenty of slots available for start times at 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. As of right now, all the 7 p.m. start times have been claimed. Courts may also be reserved at the reservation site ([www.reservemycourt.com](http://www.reservemycourt.com)) for times on the weekends (Friday through Sunday) and during the weekday (8 a.m. through 4 p.m.). Contract times will be posted on the bulletin board in the paddle hut.

We have also been busy planning our "Paddle Calendar of Tournaments and Mixers," which will be posted on the bulletin board in the hut and uploaded to the Field Club website ([www.field-club.com](http://www.field-club.com)).

We encourage input, questions, and/or recommendations from any of the membership. Please feel free to contact either Tom Kietzman at [tkietzman@att.com](mailto:tkietzman@att.com) or Sally Gallucci at [galluch@aol.com](mailto:galluch@aol.com). — Sally Gallucci & Tom Kietzman



### Getting Ready for Paddle Season

Many thanks to **Tom O'Brien**, **Tom Kietzman** and **David Appleman** for power washing the Field Club paddle courts in preparation for the upcoming season. The courts look great!





## Wine & Dine Mixer

The end of the tennis season Wine & Dine Mixer was held on Saturday, September 17. Forty hearty members made it to the Club to enjoy some tennis and dinner.

**Gerrit Toebes** prepared and served up a smorgasbord of delicious appetizers, a bouillabaisse, meatballs in a hearty but subtle marinara sauce, as well as other fine foods. Dessert followed, with a cheesecake and a chocolate cake that was as dense as the Brazilian rain forest! A fine grouping of wines, selected by our Club sommelier and host, Gerrit, flowed well into the evening. I am happy to report, all members made it home safely.

As for the tennis, balanced matches seemed to be enjoyed on all six courts. Great to see **Lyman and Leslie Woods** in attendance. It was also reported that **Kathy Brock** made her annual pilgrimage to the Club! — *Tom O'Brien*

## Labor Day Mixer

On the Friday Evening of Labor Day weekend, 40 Field Club members turned out for a red, white and blue-themed mixer hosted by the **Dunbars**. After a fun round robin of four matches, all retired to the tennis hut upper deck for shared appetizers, snacks and desserts. A “best coordinated tennis attire” award was given to the **Plauts**, along with awards for newcomers, best shot, and **Dave Dumala’s** tuck and roll to win the final point. It was a great night of fun, play and food with fellow members.

— *Jamie Dunbar*

## Good Times at the Tot Lot

Thank you to all of the junior members that helped baby-sit at the Tot Lot this summer! Our Tot Lot Director, **Emily Coughlin**, really appreciated your help. Thanks to you, we were able to provide a fun, safe environment for the youngest members of the Field Club. Have a great school year, and we hope to see you next year. — *Meralee Kratovil*

## Lane Lines

As the fall season approaches and school commences, another fantastic FC pool season has concluded! The hot days with abundant sunshine allowed for warm pool water, and therefore, plenty of activity on a daily basis. This activity may also have been due to the addition of the large marker board for swimmers to log their total laps per day, which brought about some friendly competition amongst everyone! Either way, it was great to see everyone “hanging out” poolside, having fun, and to see members – of all ages – utilizing the lap lanes.

A big **thank you** goes to our lifeguard staff for keeping us safe and entertained. There were many days when they could be seen in the water, interacting with the children or participating in diving games. During downtime, they sometimes played “Heads Up” with groups of the younger children. They truly are a great group and are dedicated to the Club.

We also want to say **thank you** to those who volunteered to host one of the many events we had. **Heidi Merchant and Sonia Zeroogian** pulled off a fun-filled Junior Poolside Party, **Lori McMahon** did strong work with the Triathlon, **Sherri Ehrenberg and Angie Silva** dished out heaps of ice cream at the Member Guest Party and, lastly, **Hallie Fox and Erin Hornyak** rocked out with hiring a DJ for the End of Year Pool Party! We appreciate the time and effort to organize the events.

We hope everyone enjoyed the FC pool, and we look forward to seeing you back next year! Maybe we’ll even see your name, with total laps completed, on the marker board!

— *Deirdre Mailloux and Rosaria Pepper*

## Next Deadline January 18

The deadline for the next edition of *The Baseline*, will be **Wednesday, January 18, 2017**.

The issue will be distributed in early February. Please send your submissions to Editor Lee-Anne Sprague at [lsprague7@cox.net](mailto:lsprague7@cox.net).





## Founders Cup Mixed Doubles Championship

The first Founders Cup Mixed Doubles Championship was a most memorable event, not only highlighted by the tribute to our club's founders, but also for the number of three-set matches and the number of rain delays (3!).

Eleven teams competed in the warm weather of September 10th. Consolation rounds assured all players of at least two matches. Annie ran the tournament in her usual seamless manner. Grapevine restaurant provided a delicious lunch, and we had many spectators enjoying the great matches.

We had two rain delays on Saturday and planned the finals for Sunday morning due to the players having played three-set matches in the semis. The finals began at 8:30 Sunday morning, only to be interrupted by such a major storm that everyone dashed home; the match resumed at 4:00, under beautiful, sunny skies.

And, to keep with the three-set streak, the final itself was a hard fought three-set match. Defending champions **Carolyn Marchese** and **Mike Freedman** bested **Jacquie Kenney** and **Dave Pleet** 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 – finally under perfect conditions!

The trophy presentation was done by **Sue Warner**, one of The Field Club's founders. Sue was in attendance for nearly all of the matches of the tournament, cheering from the sidelines and sharing interesting stories of The Field Club's origins and early years.

Congratulations to our champions, once again, Carolyn and Mike! — *Connie and Tom Gould*

(Left to Right) Mixed Doubles Champions Mike Freedman and Carolyn Marchese stand with finalists Dave Pleet and Jacquie Kenney.



Sue Warner, one of the Field Club founders, presents the trophy to this year's (defending) champions Carolyn Marchese and Mike Freedman.

## Daiquiri Doubles Mixer

The 6th Annual Daiquiri Doubles event, held July 16th, was once again hosted by the **Pleets**. Thirty eager drinkers played three rounds of mixed social tennis, allowing members to socialize with new and old friends alike. The weather was perfect, and the event was capped off with delicious thirst-quenching strawberry and banana daiquiris, prepared by mixologist David P. with his special recipe, including home grown mint and hand-picked frozen strawberries (not frozen when picked). Thanks to **Eve**, from the tennis hut, for helping to set up, and to **Darcy Durfee**, for supplementing the flower arrangements, and to Darcy and **Sara Suchy**, for clean up. Cheers... and hope to see you there next year! — *David and Jackie Pleet*





## Tennis Season Wrap Up

The tennis season at the Field Club ended with some fantastic tennis events for players and spectators alike.

The Men's and Women's singles were fiercely competed.

The Men's Singles saw **David Wartman** winning the Championship and runner up and consolation going to **Jamie Dunbar**. The Women's Singles saw long-fought, brilliant matches throughout the day with **Kellie Hellstein** coming out as champ over last year's champion **Noelle Ehrenburg**.

The Men's and Women's Doubles, hosted by **Marna and Mike Shields**, was another great day of tennis at the Field Club. There were A & B levels for the women's. The A Championships were won in a long battle. **Kathy Waddington** and **Marna Shields** defeated **Jen Wilson** and **Jackie Kenny**. The B Championships had **Lori McMahon** and **Caitlin Steiger** defeating **Mona Swanson** and **Moira Murphy**.

The Men's Championship was won by **Andrew and Craig Waddington**, defeating **Hans Doup** and **Jay Kimmel** in an exciting match. Great way to wrap up the tennis season!

— *Jamie Dunbar*



Men's Doubles winners( A & B combined): Champs Andrew and Craig Waddington defeated Hans Doup and Jay Kimmel.



Women's A Doubles winners: Club Champs Kathy Waddington and Marna Shields defeated Jen Wilson and Jackie Kenny.



Women's B Doubles winners: Champs Lori McMahon and Caitlin Steiger defeated Mona Swanson and Moira Murphy.

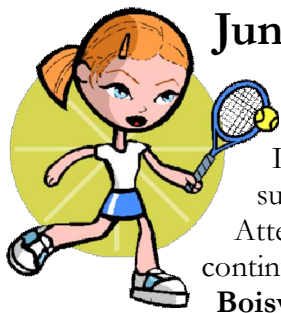


## Mediterranean Mixer

Eighteen members participated in the Mediterranean Mixer, with four more attending the dinner. The delicious meal was provided by Nadim's Restaurant; Chef Nadim came and described the evening meal and also gave out gift certificates. The meal was well received and enjoyed by everyone.

The event drew to a close just before 10:30 p.m. Everyone helped in cleaning up and securing the facilities. Thankfully, the rain held off. It was a terrific evening, with good attendance, fun tennis playing, and great camaraderie.





## Junior Tennis Wrap Up

It was another exciting summer for Junior Tennis. Attendance at daily clinics continued to grow, and **Ann Boisvert** and the assistant

pros did a superb job organizing weekly tournaments and round robins for all of the junior participants throughout the summer. The junior tennis program finished with singles, doubles and mixed doubles championships and trophies were presented at the end-of-the-season awards party on August 26.

The Most Improved Player Awards went to **Kelsey Harris** and **Aiden Bone**, the Sportsmanship Award went to **Owen McGeer** and the Coaches Award was presented to **Norah Dumala**. Trophies were also given in each age group for the singles, doubles and mixed doubles championships.

Two Field Club USTA U14 teams, coached by junior pro **Tom Knight**, and one Field Club USTA U18 team, coached by junior pro **Eve Sullivan**, competed in the Western Mass USTA State Championship. The level of play at the tournament for all three Field Club teams was very impressive. After defeating the younger Field Club U14 team in the championship



round, the older Field Club U14 team came in first place and moved on to the New England USTA Section Championship at Mount Holyoke College.



Congratulations to all the junior tennis players who participated in the Junior Tennis program at The Filed Club this summer. The efforts and hard work of all our juniors, combined with the outstanding dedication of Ann and the junior pro staff, made for a very fun and productive summer of tennis.

I hope to see you all of you on the courts again next summer! — *Kate McGeer*

## Junior Paddle Clinics Start Soon

Join coaches **Glenn Snyder** and **Sam Freedman** for Junior Paddle Tuesday afternoons beginning in November. Get introduced to platform tennis, or work on your skills with your friends; enjoy being outdoors during the winter. It doesn't matter whether you have played before or will be holding a paddle for the first time – all are welcome!

Beginners and Advanced Beginners (ages 10+) will play Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. and Intermediate clinics (ages 12+) will be Tuesdays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Space is limited to the first 12 players per clinic and is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Call or email Rick Plaut for more information or to sign up: 413-330-2906, [rickplaut@gmail.com](mailto:rickplaut@gmail.com)

Session I	November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Session II	December 6, 13, 20, 27
Session III	January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Session IV	February 7, 14, 21, 28
Tournament & Wrap-Up Parties	March 7

— *Rick Plaut*