

NEWS

WASHINGTON RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

Spring/Summer 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE RUSTY POLLOCK MEMORIAL SHOOTOUT
June 20-21, 2009
Director: Neal Heggen

WRA SUMMER PICNIC
Saturday, July 25, 2009
West Fenwick Park
Kent, Washington
Details inside this issue

BACK TO THE COURTS
September 18-20, 2009
Bally's Total Fitness – Lynnwood, WA
Directors: Pat Lew & Bill Dodge

WWW.WASHINGTONRACQUETBALL.ORG



Junior Regionals

Washington State was well represented at the Sunset Athletic Club in Portland, Oregon May 14-17. Four players participated and brought home honors. Jessica Munoz of Burlington and Hollie Scott of Bellingham were both double gold medal winners, with Jessica taking 1st place in Girls 18- and Mixed Advanced Doubles and Hollie taking first in Girls 10- and Beginner Junior Doubles. Noah Thompson of Bellingham placed 2nd in the 10 – multi bounce division, and Nick Gallaher of Bellingham placed fourth in Boys 14-. The club and tournament directors were great hosts and the players had a good time both on and off the court.



Noah Thompson, Holly Scott, Nick Gallaher

Twenty-Seven Washington Players Compete at Adult Regionals

Cascade Athletic Club in Gresham, Oregon hosted the 29th Annual Regionals tourney in April. This tournament has a long history, and the group at Cascade A/C, including Brian Ancheta and Connie Martin, continue to do a great job in providing hospitality and a warm welcome to their club each year. With over 200 players, the competition was tough. If you haven't attended this one, mark it on your calendars for next spring. You'll get a chance to play against a lot of new faces and take a weekend trip to the Portland area.

Highlight finishes for Washington included Alan Lawson of Burlington placing 1st in both Men's Elite Singles and Mixed Elite Doubles with Jessica Munoz, Tumwater's Lon Bergstrom placing first in Men's 40+, Rich Seiler of Sammamish, Rick Cabral of University Place, and George Brewer of Bellevue sweeping 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the Men's 50+ event, Loren George of Onalaska taking first in Men's 45+ A/B, and Amy Eyton of Maple Falls grabbing first with former Washington resident Dianne Pratt.

Others attending the event were: Craig Allen, Ken Allen, Daryl Boris, Jackie Burns, Rich Carver, Favian Elmore, Bryan Hamm, Myron Johnson, Tony Korn, Christine Kulina, Pat Lew, Tony Lopez, Mike O'Donnell, Neil Olstad, AJ Reyes, Tina Thomas, Carl Vaughn Jr., Kyle Warren and Tom Wolfe.



from the President

BY NEAL HEGGEN



There are a lot of events coming your way during the 2009-2010 tournament season! We will have a full slate of 3 day tournaments, as well as some special one day tourneys and a few women's and junior events. We hope all of you mark your calendars to come to as many as you can. Your game will improve, you'll meet a lot of great people and you will be helping to keep the sport growing in Washington State. Try to bring someone from your club who has never been in a tournament before: maybe someone who participates in your league, but has never taken the next step in competition. With your help, they can try the atmosphere of a full tournament and learn "the ropes". We will also be organizing more of our referee clinics with Craig Allen at some of the three day events. This is a chance for you to become familiar with more of the rules and how to be an effective referee. The Women's Committee will continue to work at bringing more women into the game, and some of our improving juniors will be creeping into those adult divisions to give you more competition.

There have been a few changes to our state ranking system in regards to one day and special events, so look for the article in this edition that reviews how it works. Remember that the state ranking system is a separate system from the National one, with its own rewards at the end of the season.

Neal Heggen

WRA Board

718 Griffin Avenue, #118 . Enumclaw, WA 98022

Executive Board:

President, Neal Heggenneal@washingtonracquetball.org
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The WRA News is published quarterly. We welcome

Deadlines for Issues

718 Griffin Avenue, #118, Enumclaw, WA 98022.

The WRA welcomes letters, articles, and photos for submission in future newsletters and on our web site. Please send all correspondence to...

wanda@washingtonracquetball.org
 Deadlines for issues are as follows...

Fall 2009.....September 1, 2009

Winter 2009/2010..... November 1, 2009

If you have any racquetball events upcoming at your facility, we would be glad to include them in our publication.

The WRA News is published quarterly. We welcome articles, photos, and letters for publication. Advertising rates available upon request. Address all inquiries to 718 Griffin Avenue, #118, Enumclaw, WA 98022.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL SUPPORT THE U.S. NATIONAL TEAM



Date: _____

Last Name		First Name		MI
Address				
City		Zip		
Birthdate	Home Phone		Business Phone	
MONTH/DAY/YEAR				
E-Mail				
Club Affiliation			Level of Play	
Sponsoring Member				

- 1 Year Single \$50
- Juniors (18 & under) \$25
- Renewal of Membership
- Transfer from Out of State
- Donation \$ _____

WRA

718 Griffin Avenue, #118
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 www.washingtonracquetball.org

Tournaments in the Coming Season

By Wanda Collins

We are putting together our junior calendar for 2009/2010, and would like to hold three events, besides the State Championships, to give juniors a chance to play in their local area. If you have a core group of juniors who would like to participate in a tournament at your facility (or one nearby), let us know! The annual Racquets Without Borders tournament series between the juniors of British Columbia and the Washington Juniors will be scheduled again for the months of October and November. Dates are being ironed out now. These are great tournaments, bringing together about 70 juniors. There are divisions for all ages and abilities. You can play in one or both events, and help to bring the trophy back to US soil! Entry forms will be out in September. State Singles will be held in conjunction with adult singles again in April. We'd like to add an event sometime in January or February and another in May as a tune up for Junior Regionals and Nationals. Contact me at racquetball@bellinghamathleticclub.com for more information.

The Birnel Family Represents Washington at Nationals

As we sit and read this, the Birnel family will be hopping a plane to play at Junior Nationals in Lansing, Michigan. Not many of our players were able to attend this year, as traveling expenses can be daunting when you leave the west coast and head east. Good luck to each of the three boys: Jake, Jordan and Nick. Bring home some hardware and stories for us.



Junior Summer Camps in Washington

As of this writing, there are racquetball summer camps being offered at two locations:

1. The 9th Annual BAC Summer Camp will be offered in Bellingham at Bellingham Athletic Club. Director Wanda Collins and staff will be hosting a beginner and advanced camp the week of July 27-31, 2009.

Look for information fliers on the BAC website: www.bellinghamathleticclub.com

2. Renelle Risley is organizing camps for juniors at Olympic Athletic Club on Leary Way in Ballard. Dates are not yet set, but you can contact Renelle for more information at the club if you're interested.

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE CREW FROM THE SENIOR TOURNAMENT FOR THEIR DONATION TO THE JUNIOR FUND!

Tournament Pictures

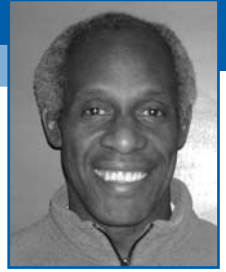
BY ARUN ROHILA

I hope you are enjoying the pictures that I have been taking at the WRA tournaments, especially the pictures and videos taken at the Seattle Open Pro/Am. Please go to <http://www.washrball.myphotoalbum.com/> to view them.

Feel free to leave comments on any of the pictures and let me know what pictures you would like to see. You can contact me at arun@rohila.net with comments, or if you have pictures that you would like to add to the website. Email me the picture along with identifying who is in it, as well as when and where it was taken. I would especially like to get some pictures from the "old days" if you have any.



<http://www.washrball.myphotoalbum.com/>



Hello racquetball players, families, and friends.

The OHC (On Hold Concepts) Men's Master's/Women's Open Racquetball Championships was a great success. I want to thank the players and sponsors (On Hold Concepts and Golfnow.com) for their support.

A big thank you to Lisa Morrow and Bethany Rinke for the nutrition bars that provided nourishment to the players in between matches; I hope you return next year.

I also want to thank the WRA board members for their help. Mike Penders (Vice President, WRA) provided the racquet stringing for the tournament - you should see him again at most sanctioned events for the WRA. Cheyenne Hayes was like a right arm in helping to get the word out to all the lady racquetball players that attended the tournament (twenty two in all). Thank you ladies! We even had some new ladies in the Women's Open

Division (Tracy Sundquist and Breane Martinez) to mix it up a little.

Aaron Rohila spent a lot of time helping at the tournament desk, and taking some great pictures of the players. The photographs can be viewed @ www.washrbball.myphotoalbum.com.

The silent auction was a big hit. The players received some great deals, especially with the tournament shirts, and we even raised some money for the WRA Junior Racquetball Committee. Yuni Cobb, along with the help of Pam Silver (Sid Williams' fiancée), did an awesome job with the hospitality. The outdoor barbecue that was planned for Saturday was rained out, but David Cobb and Amado Loyola still stood outside and grilled hamburgers and hotdogs for all the players. Quite a few of the draws were round-robin. It demands more court time for the tournament director, but provides a good number of matches and a good workout for the players. Warren Bailey traveled from Anchorage Alaska.

Thanks for showing up.

One division I was somewhat disappointed in was the 65 and 70+ age divisions (I know there are players out there). The whole concept of this tournament is based on giving players the opportunity to compete with other players of their own age/skill level. When players do not enter the tournament this forces the tournament Director to combine divisions/skill levels, and defeats the purpose of the tournament. I sincerely hope that next year's event will fill ALL of our divisions. Speaking of next year we plan on growing, having more sponsors, and even having some door prizes (shhhhh.... Don't tell anyone). See you then!

BTW: Don't forget to add the upcoming WRA picnic to your calendar and plan to attend.

Nine Washington Players Attend National Masters Tourney

Nine players ventured to Southern California for the National Masters Racquetball Championships March 11-14. Players from every corner of America come to try and earn a National Title. All divisions are broken into age categories in five-year increments starting at 45 and ending at 90+. There are no breakdowns for skill level within the brackets. All players play every person in their age, or with 11 or more players, the division is pool play with a playoff to determine the winners. For that reason, players are limited to two events of which only one can be singles. The oldest competitor in the tourney was Ben Marshall (San Antonio, Texas) at the young age of 92. He was the only entrant in the 90+ age category, so he played down to the 85 and even 80 groups to get some competition!

Michael Wolfe (Washougal) has to be commended for his dedication, as he volunteered to play in a third event

so an out-of-state person would not come to the tourney only to forfeit all her matches. He would play 27 total matches, 54 games to 15, in a four-day period! He earned a spot in the playoff for 60 Singles and lost in the first round of the playoffs. He finished 6th out of 11 teams for the 60 Doubles and took home the gold medal for the 60 Mixed Doubles! I know he will not be asking for any pickup games for a few weeks!

Dan Pischke earned a gold medal in the 45 Singles, playing eight matches and not dropping a game. He partnered with Roguer Crouse for the 45 Doubles where they earned a silver medal. The highlight for Roguer was playing doubles against Ruben Gonzalez and re-killling one of Ruben's pinches for a winner and crowd applause! Roguer also played 50 Singles and finished in sixth place.

George Brewer played in the toughest bracket of the tourney which included four former National Champions. He

finished fourth in his flight and seventh overall in the Men's 55. Rick Howick earned his way out of pool play to the championship bracket only to lose in a tiebreaker to the eventual runner-up in the Men's 55. Rick also paired with Vicki Panzeri in the Mixed 50 earning second place honors. Vicki also played in the Women's 50 Doubles and did not drop a single game on her way to a gold medal.

Doug Peterson competed in the 65 Singles and Doubles placing fourth out of seven in both divisions. Daniel Furman placed seventh in the 65 Doubles and second in the 70 Doubles. Aaron Vederoff competed in the 75 Singles and came away with the gold medal.

Players from Washington brought home four National Titles and three Runner-Up finishes--a very good showing for the "Masters" in our state!

Spotlight on a Member

BY WRA BOARD

Member: Vinnie Vela

Vinnie Vela has become a regular face at many Washington State Tournaments as well as some national events in the last couple of years. You might have noticed him selling off “skybox seats” at the last men’s pro stop in Seattle and helping out as doorman and colorful bouncer. He brings a spark and positive attitude to every tournament he attends, and we look forward to seeing him there. It is obvious that Vinnie loves the competition on the court and has been working to improve his game. When he’s not traveling to the next tournament, you can find him in Friday Harbor working at Cousin Vinnie’s NY Pizza Café on Spring Street. Stop in, have a slice, and say hello next time you’re on San Juan Island.

WRA News: Give us a little idea of your background.

Vinnie: I grew up in Brooklyn, New York. I have two married sons with sons!

WRA News: When and where did you start playing racquetball?

Vinnie: I learned the sport in 1984 at “Off the Wall Racquetball” in Holbrook, N.Y. I grew up in Brooklyn playing handball, then moved to Long Island and continued playing handball. Went from that to paddleball, and was finally introduced to racquetball. I basically taught myself to play. It came naturally.

WRA News: How long did you play before entering your first tournament?

Vinnie: It was four or five years after I started. I had a great time and the tournament I entered was highly competitive.

WRA News: What divisions of play are you entering these days?

Vinnie: B’s and A’s.

WRA News: Do you have any goals for your game?

Vinnie: I want to win the B’s convincingly. I love racquetball and will play until I drop!

WRA News: What are some of your favorite tournaments you have attended?

Vinnie: All of the tournaments have held a special place in my heart. I love meeting all of the old and new players over and over again. All of the people that work the tournaments work so hard, and do an awesome job of making each and every player, no matter what their level of play, feel important! For this reason, and many more, ALL of the tournaments are favorites.

WRA News: Is there anything you would like to see the WRA Board work at in the coming years?

Vinnie: All players should know the rules. All players should have a rule book. A lot of players don’t know the basics of the game. For this sport to continue to grow, we all need to know our sport, and rules are an important part of it. I’d like to see more referee clinics that include the ideas of good sportsmanship and conduct. I feel that every match played should have a ref. Just because you play in the early morning should not mean you have to self ref.

WRA News: Living in Friday Harbor, you have to do a bit of traveling and must have to stay at hotels every time you participate at a tournament. This is definitely a commitment to the sport. Do you have any traveling advice for players when they hit the road? Any good stories from your travels?

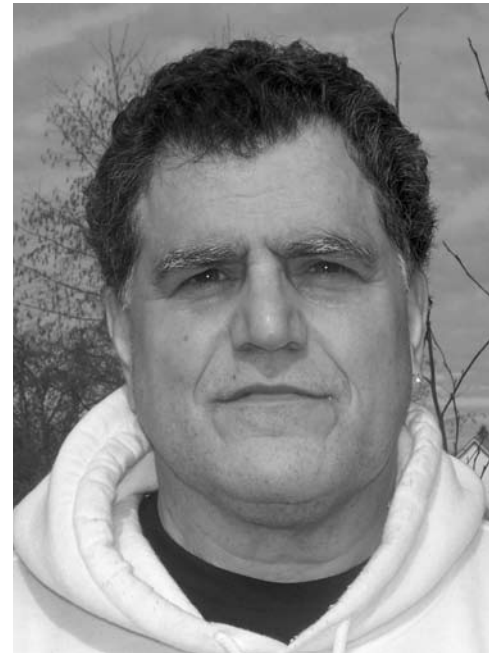
Vinnie: Get a “G.P.S.” I save all the tournament, restaurant, and hotel info for my next visit. Motel “6” average stay is around \$50 and most of the time, they have free internet. I try to get there a day before or at least 8 hours before my first match is scheduled. I used my boat to go to the Northwest Open in Bellingham, which made for no hotel fees and just a small mooring charge. The trip was magnificent, and I got to view whales and sea lions along the way.

WRA News: Besides your standard gear, what’s the most important thing you carry in your gear bag?

Vinnie: Nutritional bars, water, snacks and “Aleve”.

WRA News: Any other comments?

Vinnie: Every player those involved in our sort should tell others about the game and try to get them to play. Racquetball is a great sport and we should be proud of it. My thanks to all of the tournament directors – you guys and gals are great! And thanks for giving me the opportunity to speak up. Most people know that Vinnie is actually very shy and soft spoken...



WASHINGTON RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION (WRA)

Invites you to the

Sixth Annual Year End Celebration BBQ

Brought to you by the Washington Racquetball Association Board Members

Saturday, July 25, 2009
11:00am - 3:00pm

West Fenwick Park
3824 Reith Road (42nd Ave. S. and Reith Rd.)
Kent, Washington



All WRA Members and Guests are Welcome!

This is our sixth annual end-of-the-year party to say thanks to all those who have supported the WRA and the USA Racquetball Association

The park has 3 outdoor racquetball courts and we will have some fun doubles for those who would like to play some outdoor 3-wall racquetball.

There is also a baseball field and a playground for the kids as well as tennis courts. So plan on coming out for a fun day in the sun!

Food and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided.

Bring your own chairs and whatever else you'd like to bring to play!

We will be raffling off prizes and giving out awards too!!

We do not know what the weather will be like so please check the WRA website (www.washingtonracquetball.org) for status of the BBQ.

Last year's BBQ was a blast so we look forward to seeing you there this year!

Brought to you by the WRA Board - John Avendano, Wanda Collins, Elliot Crosby, Neal Heggen, Pat Lew, Beth Neff, Mike Penders, Sam Smith, and Keith Turley

Directions to the Park:

From the North: Take Exit 149-toward Kent-Des Moines. Turn Left going East on S. Kent-Des Moines Rd.. Turn slight right onto Reith Road. Park will be on the left side.

From the South: Take Exit 147/S. 272nd St. Turn right onto S. 272nd St. Turn LEFT onto Military Rd. S. Turn slight RIGHT onto Reith Rd. Park will be on your left.

Women's Corner

BY CHEYENNE HAYES



Women throughout Washington have been shaking things up in the racquetball world recently! We had great representation at the recent National Doubles event in Arizona, even bringing home a few National Titles to our state!! Way to go!

Here are the results of our state women at Nationals:

- Women's Open 1st Place - Tammarrian Rogers and Wanda Collins.
(These gals took 1st in Elites last year, moved up, and did it again!)
- Women's Elites 2nd Place - Vicki Panzeri and Jessica Munoz
3rd Place - Beth Neff and Debra Bryant
- Women's 30+ 2nd Place - Beth Neff and Debra Bryant
- Women's 35+ 2nd Place - Vivian Rodriguez and Tammarrian Rogers
- Womens 45+ 3rd Place - Vivian Rodriguez and Wanda Collins
- Women's 55+ 3rd Place - Joann Johnson and Terry Rogers
- Mixed 35+ 2nd Place - Beth Neff and Raphael Filipini
- Mixed Elites 2nd Place - Jessica Munoz and Alan Lawson

Queens of the Court

August 1st-2nd

Come join other women racquetball players in this special 2 day event!!

Everyone welcome!! All levels represented!

Singles and doubles!

Saturday night Banquet!!

Where: Bally Total Fitness, Olympia

Cost: \$25/1 event, \$35/2 events

Entry forms: Available 7/1/2009

Deadline: 7/23/2009!!!

(Please get your forms in on time! I WILL be doing the draw on 7/24 and will make no changes afterwards)

Membership required with WRA or Bally's? NO!

Women's Playday In Olympia

We had 33 women attend the Women's Play Day hosted at Olympia Bally's on February 28th. The day was kicked off by a beginner's clinic attended by 14 new women. We are so excited to have you! Thanks for all the time and sacrifice you all make to keep this sport going strong in Washington. We should be proud!



(If you are currently NOT receiving the Women's Monthly Newsletter, please send me an email at olympiaizzys@aol.com).

Rankings Info

BY WRA BOARD

We wanted to bring your attention to some of the key updates/changes to the WRA State Ranking System.

1. Player must hold a current USRA Competitive License to be eligible to accumulate WRA ranking points.
2. Points will be awarded only for play in tournaments sanctioned by the WRA.
3. Points are awarded in 3-Day, or standard tournament events as shown on the table to the right.
4. Points are **not awarded** for participation in a One-Day Event (Shootout, Women's Only) event.
5. If a player enters a singles division that is canceled, and plays in another singles division, any points earned may be assigned to the division entered at the players request.

Player Divisions

Skill Divisions:	Doubles:	Age/Skill Divisions:		
Open	Open	24- Open/Elite	24- A	24- B/C
Elite	Elite	35+ Open/Elite	35+ A	35+ B/C
A	A	45+ Open/Elite	45+ A	45+ B/C
B	B	55+ Open/Elite	55+ A	55+ B/C
C	C	65+ Open/Elite	65+ A	65+ B/C
D/Novice		70+ Open/Elite	70+ A	70+ B/C

Points Awarded for 3 Day Tournaments

Based on number of Participants

Participants	Draws		Round Robins		
	7+	5-6	5	4	3
1st Place	100	60	100	60	30
2nd Place	75	45	75	45	--
3rd Place	50	20	50	--	--
4th Place	25	--	--	--	--
Cons Winner	20	20	--	--	--

Washington Racquetball Association



718 Griffin Avenue, #118

Enumclaw, WA 98022

From The Rule Book

by CRAIG ALLEN

Seems like few players read the rulebook or many forget what they read.

Send your questions or comments to the editor.

Encroachment/Safety Zone

The encroachment or safety zone is defined as the space between the short line and the receiving line and is only observed during the serve or receiving of serve. If the safety line is not painted on the floor it can be marked with tape and would be exactly five feet from the short line. Here are the two rules surrounding the safety zone:

Rule 3.10 OUT SERVES

(i) Safety Zone Violation. An immediate loss of serve shall result if, after the serve has been struck, the server or doubles partner steps into the safety zone before the served ball passes the short line.

Rule 3.11 RETURN OF SERVE

(a) Receiving Position

1. The receiver may not break the plane of the receiving line with the racquet or body until the ball either bounces in the safety zone or else crosses the receiving line. For example, if the receiver steps on the dashed receiving line with either foot (with any part of the foot contacting the line), a point shall be called for the server.
2. The follow through may carry the receiver or the racquet past the receiving line, but neither may break the plane of the short line unless the ball is struck after rebounding off the back wall.
3. Any violation by the receiver results in a point for the server.

What does this mean for me as a player or referee?

As the server you are not allowed to come out of the service box before the ball crosses the plane of the short line. This is easier for referees to call when the server is hitting a lob serve. As the receiver you are not allowed into the safety zone until the ball touches the ground in the safety zone or the ball crosses the plane of the safety line in the air. The easier of the calls for the referee occurs when the receiver steps on the receiving line before the ball bounces or crosses the plane of the receiving line. The more difficult call is when the receiver short-hops the ball and is waiting behind the receiving line.

If you have a change of address, please notify the WRA as soon as possible so that your services continue without interruption. If you are not sure when your membership expires, check the date on your mailing label! Thanks, Member Services