

Passing the Torch

by Benita Asher, "the ex-prez"

This is my final column atop the ATC perch. I am handing over the presidential reins to the capable hands of Rosalie Escamilla. In fact, Rosalie has done much of the "visioning" for the club over the past year. Her energy to provide increasing opportunities for tennis in our area is nearly boundless.

I am so proud of our accomplishments in 2007, particularly in the area of junior tennis. Our first (and second) junior team tennis leagues were wildly successful, and I had some really special moments as I watched the smiling faces of excited kids learning tennis and improving with every stroke.

So now that we've got all these budding tennis stars, how do we keep them interested and challenged? One great opportunity is our first-ever USTA sanctioned Junior Novice Tennis Tournament March 1&2. This allows players 18 and under to compete in full court singles in a real round-robin tournament environment. We hope to even attract some players from out of the area! For more info, see page 6.

As I change hats over to the ATC Secretary position, I am eagerly awaiting the time (in just a year or two) when our junior tennis prodigies make their way onto our local high school teams. LOOK OUT!

Benita

Check us out on the web:

www.amadortennisclub.org

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The Fall 2007 Match Monsters

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KIDS! Earn a free trip to Colorado! page 12

Better Late Than Never

Due to a production error in our last newsletter, we accidentally left out the photos of two of our Spring 2007 Junior Tennis League teams. We apologize for this omission and are printing the photos here as promised. We hope you will join us for our next Junior Team Tennis League in April-May 2008. See page 4-5 for details.



Lone Smash coached by Cliff Hughes and Melissa Johnson




Lone Lobbers coached by Annie Fountain and Trish Rubel

**Used to play tennis?
Tired of watching your kids have all the fun?**

**We have the answer
to get you into the game.**

**Don't miss
this fun
event!**

A graphic of a tennis racket head, rendered in a dotted, cross-hatch pattern, positioned behind the word 'BLOCK' in the main title.

TENNIS BLOCK PARTY

Causin' a racquet in your town

**We're throwing a swinging bash
in your neighborhood.**

**Saturday, June 21st, 6pm - 9pm
at Argonaut High School Tennis Courts**

**FREE games and tennis activities for all ability levels
ages 15 and up.**

**Plus BBQ, music, and prizes!
Beginners welcome.**

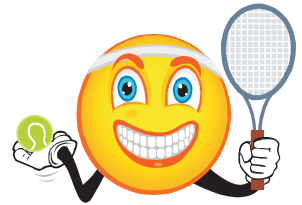
**For more info or to sign up: 257-1545
www.amadortennisclub.org**

A USTA EVENT

Junior Team Tennis Returns for Spring 08

Following the success of our second Junior Team Tennis League last Fall, we are gearing up for another season April 12-May 17. JTT is a community-based and volunteer-driven entry-level league for boys and girls ages 8-15 – no tennis experience is necessary! Administrators, coaches and officials are all volunteers. Our youth have so much fun learning and improving tennis by playing in a team format. Last Fall we had six teams – 4 intermediate and 2 beginner – with about 40 kids total participating. This time we will likely offer three levels of play: beginner, intermediate and “advanced”.

See details on next page and register by March 21st using the form on pages 8-9 of this newsletter. (Online credit card registration will also be available after February 22nd). Six weekly matches will be played Saturday afternoons starting April 17th and weekly practice times and locations will be determined for each team. There will be a coaches training session on April 5th. Any returning player who wants to move up to a higher flight level, or any new player who wants to play above beginner level MUST be evaluated by the designated league coaches (date and time TBA). So please mark your calendars and contact us if you want more info: 257-1545 or email info@amadortennisclub.org



Not Quite Young Enough, but Still Want to Participate?

We always need enthusiastic volunteers to help make Amador's junior team tennis leagues successful. You can donate as much or as little time as you want in the following areas:

- Coach/Assistant Coach (no tennis experience is necessary!)
- Help at practice
- Uniforms & awards
- End-of-season party/photos
- Make team phone calls and more!

You do not need to be a tennis player to be involved. Coaches and assistant coaches will receive the necessary training on April 5th (time and location TBD), including info on how to run practices and encourage your team. We welcome high school team players, retirees, parents and others who want to make a difference. If you are interested in helping out with the league, please call Rosalie at 257-1545.

Perhaps you've heard about the new ballgame in town. It's Junior Team Tennis from the USTA. Boys and girls compete on teams, learning tennis by playing the game and having fun with friends. No tennis experience is necessary to participate!



*No child will be denied participation due to inability to pay. Contact ATC for information on grant assistance.

WHAT

Learn tennis with your friends & play against other local teams. No experience is necessary!

WHEN

6-week season runs
April 12 - May 17

Each team will have one practice per week after school and one match each Saturday (Returning players who want to move up to a higher flight level, or new players who want to play above beginner level MUST be evaluated – date and time TBA)

WHO

Boys and Girls Ages 8-15

WHERE

Practices will be held in each team's local area.

Matches will be played at Argonaut High School Tennis Courts in Jackson.

HOW MUCH

Fee is \$60 for one child
\$40 for second child

(max \$100 per household)

Fee includes t-shirt, awards, Jr. USTA membership and end-of-season party on May 17th.

For more info:

- 🎾 web: www.amadortennisclub.org
- 🎾 call: 257-1545
- 🎾 email: info@amadortennisclub.org

SIGN UP

**online at www.amadortennisclub.org
or by mailing in the registration form
on p.8-9 of this newsletter by March 21st**

**DON'T MISS
AMADOR TENNIS CLUB'S
JUNIOR NOVICE
TENNIS
TOURNAMENT
March 1-2, 2008**

WHEN: Check-in 20 minutes before first match time (participants will be notified of their starting match time)

WHERE: Argonaut High School Tennis Courts in Jackson (matches may be played at Amador High and other locations)

WHAT: Round robin tournament, full court singles play with regular tennis balls (# of matches depends on enrollment)

WHO: Boys and girls 18 and under

HOW MUCH: \$30 per player includes drinks, refreshments & awards

Register online at www.amadortennisclub.org
(click on USTA logo on home page)
or return the form on page 11 with payment by
February 24th.

**A
USTA
Sanctioned
Event**



Questions? Call 257-1545
or
email amadortennisclub@comcast.net

Yes! I want to support ATC!

Just like public television and radio, this publication is free. No obligation, honest. But in case it makes you feel better...please feel free to fill out the following short form. Your tax-deductible contributions will allow ATC, an all-volunteer organization, to continue growing tennis in Amador County.

Please check one:

I would like to continue getting the ATC Report for free

I would like to "subscribe" at \$10 a year

I have too much money and need to unburden myself, please let me give you the following amount: _____

Please remove me from your mailing list

Name: _____

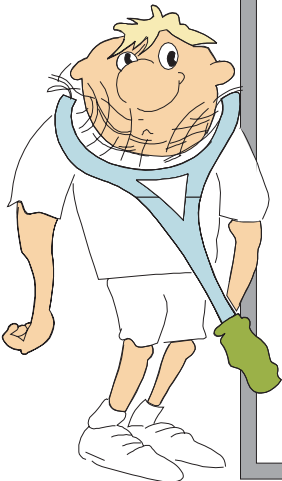
Mailing
Addr: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

(Your email address allows us to save money on postage by sending tennis-related news electronically!)

**Please make checks payable to ATC and mail to
11180 Ranchette Dr. Jackson CA 95642.**



NEW BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

In January 2008, ATC held its annual board meeting to summarize events of last year and make plans for the new year. New officers were elected, and many ideas floated for programs and activities in 2008.

The following board was elected:

Rosalie Escamilla, President

John Escamilla, Vice President

Vera Ferguson, Treasurer

Benita Asher, Secretary

Board Members at Large: Jerry & Sandi Beeman, David Ferguson

If you have any input or suggestions for the board, please email info@amadortennisclub.org

Junior Team Tennis League Player Registration Form

Participant Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Birth Date: ____/____/____ Gender: _____

T-Shirt Size (circle): Youth M L Adult S M L

Additional Notes (preferred teammates, etc.): _____



Parent/Guardian Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Emergency contact if parent cannot be reached: Name: _____ Phone: _____

Are you interested in volunteering? No tennis experience is necessary – training will be provided by the league.

(Circle all that apply) Coach Help at Practice After-match snacks Uniforms/Awards End-of-season Party/Photos

Other (please explain): _____

Medical Information

Family Physician's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Health Plan and Policy Number: _____

Special Medical Notes: _____

Previous Tennis Experience

Has played Jr. Team Tennis before? Y N What level? Beginner Intermediate Has Racquet: Y N

(Returning players who want to move up to a higher flight level, or new players who want to play above beginner level MUST be evaluated – date & time TBA)

Release of Liability and Coach/Player/Parent Code of Ethics

I hereby pledge to show good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, parents, coaches and officials at all times.

I, my child, friends and guests will demonstrate respect toward others. We will place the emotional well-being of others ahead of our own desire to win. We will be aware of all Amador Tennis Club and USTA Junior Team Tennis rules and regulations and will adhere to them at all times.

I understand that this is a "timed" sporting event and that my child may not receive the exact playing time in every game.

I understand that participation in athletic programs may result in serious injury and that it is impossible to totally eliminate such occurrences. Players, parents and guardians can reduce the risk of injury by obeying all safety rules, follow a proper conditioning program and wearing proper attire.

I absolve and hold harmless the United States Tennis Association (USTA) and the Amador Tennis Club (ATC), its employees, officers or agents from any liability that may result from the participation of the above named minor in my legal custody in the above activity. I also give my permission for his/her participation in the above activity, and for any necessary medical treatment. I understand that the USTA and ATC have no obligation to supervise my child(ren) at the close of the above activity, and I release the USTA and ATC, its officers, employees and agents from any liability resulting from any lack of supervision of my child(ren) at the close of the above activity. I understand that those involved in the above activity may be photographed and such photography may be used to publicize future programs and activities.

Parent or Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____

Participant Signature _____

Return form and payment by March 21st to: Amador Tennis Club, 11180 Ranchoffe Dr., Jackson CA 95642
Questions? Call 257-1545 or email info@amadorfennisclub.org

For ATC Use Only: Payment Type - Check # _____ Cash Amount: _____ Date Received: _____

ATC's 2008 Calendar

Here is just some of what we've got cooking for 2008. We would love to offer even opportunities for tennis in Amador County, and welcome any/all volunteer help. Note that our calendar of events is subject to change. Please be sure to check our web site for the latest info: www.amadortennisclub.org



WHEN	WHAT	DETAILS
2/24	Registration deadline for USTA Jr. Novice Tourne y	p. 6, 11
3/1 & 3/2	USTA Jr. Novice Tourney at Argonau t	p. 6, 11
3/28	Registration deadline for Jr. Team Tennis League	p. 4, 8-9
4/5	Jr. Team Tennis coach training at Argonaut	p. 4-5
week of 4/7	Jr. Team Tennis practices begin	p. 4-5
4/8	HS Tennis: Amador at Argonaut 4pm	p. 14
Saturdays, 4/12-5/17	Jr. Team Tennis matches at Argonaut	p. 4, 8-9
4/24	HS Tennis: Argonaut at Amador 4pm	p.14
5/5	FREE Rapid Rally Clinic at Detert Park at 1pm	p.12
5/17	Jr. Team Tennis End-of-Season party	p. 4
5/31	Rapid Rally Competition at Detert Park at 1pm	p.12
6/21	Tennis Block Party at Argonaut 6-9pm	p. 3
August (TBD)	Summer Tennis Camp	
Wednesdays & Fridays	Intermediate Drop-In Doubles at Argonaut from 5:30pm (partner not mandatory, but helpful)	
Fridays	Beginning Drop-In Doubles at Amador from 6pm	

Help Us Update Our (e)Mailing List



We would love to reduce costs by sending this newsletter out via email, but our mailing list is incomplete. If you have an email account that you check regularly, please email us at info@amadortennisclub.org. Include your full name and email address in the body of the email. This will allow us to stay in touch more frequently with tennis news!

USTA Jr. Novice Tourney Registration

Please complete a separate registration form for each participant.

NOTE: Participants may “play up” (ie, play in an older age group) but may not “play down” (ie, play in a younger age group).

Please select age group (based on child’s age as of 3/1/08):

- Ages 8 and under
- Ages 10 and under
- Ages 12 and under
- Ages 14 and under
- Ages 16 and under
- Ages 18 and under

**A
USTA
Sanctioned
Event**



Please select division: Boys Girls Birthdate: _____

Parent Name: _____

Participant Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

USTA #: _____ (any child who has participated in Amador Junior Team Tennis has a USTA #. If you cannot locate the # or need to purchase an instant membership, call USTA at 1-800-990-8782 Mon.-Sat., 8AM – 12AM ET or Sun. 8AM – 10PM ET)

Amount Enclosed: _____ (checks payable to Amador Tennis Club)

WAIVER OF RESPONSIBILITY

Acceptance of my entry in these events is without assumption of responsibility or any kind by the USTA, the USTA Northern California, the host club, committees or the management of any event in which I may be entered or may participate. In consideration of the acceptance of my entry, I do hereby for and on behalf of myself and my heirs and legal representative release and forever discharge the USTA, USTA NorCal and host club, their officers, committees and representatives and their successors and assigns, of and from any and all claims and demands of every kind, nature and character which I may have or may hereafter acquire for any and all damages, losses or injuries which may be suffered or sustained by me in connection with my activities during the period for which such permission is waived and released and I covenant not to sue therefor. I understand that this tournament will be governed by applicable USTA rules and regulations, the rules and regulations of this tournament, the rules and procedures governing discipline of players in USTA NorCal sanctioned tournaments, the USTA NorCal Code of Ethics, tournament policy, and ranking regulations, and agree to conduct myself accordingly.

Player

Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Return form by Feb. 24th to: ATC c/o Mike Daly, 105 Arroyo Pl., Jackson CA 95642

Questions? Call 257-1545 or email amador2008@comcast.net

Rapid Rally Offers Colorado Trip

Kids, this is your chance to strut your tennis stuff! You may remember that two years ago, Jackson's own Sarah Daly won a free trip to Colorado where she earned a silver medal in the tennis portion of the Junior Olympic Skills Competition, sponsored by Kellogg's. Open to ages 8-13, Rapid Rally Tennis tests how many times a child can hit a low compression tennis ball against a backboard in a 30-second time period. For a hit to count, the child must be standing at least 15 feet from the wall and the ball must hit at least 3 feet up the wall. This year's Rapid Rally competition will take place on May 31 at 1pm at Detert Park. Winners in each age group will advance to a regional competition where they have an opportunity to compete for a free trip to the National Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.



In 2007, six young Amador County tennis stars were among the medalists at the Rapid Rally regional competition in Sacramento.

Complete rules and details will be available at our **FREE** practice clinic at Detert Park on May 3. Low compression tennis balls will be available for purchase at each clinic--then it's time to get practicing against that backboard! Register today using the form at right. For more information, please go to www.amadortennisclub.org, call 257-1208 or email info@amadortennisclub.org

More Jr. Olympic Skills Opportunities

Your Amador County Recreation Agency is pleased to offer Junior Olympic Skills competition in three additional sports (basketball, soccer and track & field) on April 26 at 8-11am at Amador High School in Sutter Creek (rain date May 3rd). Contact ACRA at 223-6349 for details.



Rapid Rally Tennis Registration Form

FREE Competition: May 31, 2008 at 1pm

Detert Park Tennis Court (behind softball field)

All participants must submit a signed registration/waiver/liability form and a copy of a valid birth certificate or baptismal record for age verification at all levels of competition.

My age group is:

- | Age Group | Born Between |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ages 8-9 | September 1, 1998 - August 31, 2000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ages 10-11 | September 1, 1996 - August 31, 1998 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ages 12-13 | September 1, 1994 - August 31, 1996 |

I have tennis experience (prior youth program, lessons or frequent play): yes no

I have my own racquet: yes no [loaner racquets will be available]

Rapid Rally rules and regulations will be available at the free clinics. Low compression balls will be available for purchase for \$1 each. Children are encouraged to practice hitting against backboard between the clinic and the competition.

Parent Name: _____

Participant Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

For players new to Rapid Rally, there will be a FREE clinic to introduce the format and rules on May 3 at 1pm at Detert Park. Please indicate below if your child will attend.

- YES, I will attend the FREE clinic on May 3rd at 1pm**
(please wear athletic shoes and clothes and don't forget sun protection)

WAIVER AND LIABILITY RELEASE

I absolve and hold harmless the City of Jackson (City), and Amador Tennis Club (ATC), its employees, officers or agents from any liability that may result from the participation of the above named minor in my legal custody in the above activity. I also give my permission for his/her participation in the above activity, and for any necessary medical treatment. I understand the City and ATC have no obligation to supervise my child(ren) at the close of the above activity, and I release the City and ATC, its officers, employees and agents from any liability resulting from any lack of supervision of my child(ren) at the close of the above activity. I understand that participants involved in the above activity may be photographed and such photography may be used to publicize future programs and activities.

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date: _____

Return form to: ATC, 11180 Ranchette Dr., Jackson CA 95642
Questions? Call 257-1208

Local Teams Promise Great High School Season

The high school tennis season will soon be underway. A few eager players are already out on the courts shaking off the rust. Two-time Mother Lode league champs, the Amador Buffaloes Thundering Herd, will once again be led by Coach Chris Fuller. Returning to coach for Argonaut High School is Dave Harris, assisted by Kim Nielsen. Both are long-time contributors to high school tennis in our area.

Both Argonaut and Amador have joined the USTA's "No Cut Coaching" initiative. These coaches play a critical role in our sport by allowing young players the opportunity to participate on a team with their friends while representing their school. We applaud our local coaches for this effort!

Mark Your Calendar!

Our local rivalries will heat up with two cross-town matches this season:

- 4/8 Amador at Argonaut 4pm
- 4/24 Argonaut at Amador 4pm

Please come out and support our local teams!

(Complete schedules for both teams are available at highschoolsports.net)

Flash Points and Slime Balls

by Rosanna Hammer

New Year. Same old game. But it's still the BEST game in town. The past year saw more Amador-ians of all ages taking to the courts (better than the streets). As a loosely organized band of racquet swinging, ball whopping competitive-recreational tennis players, "we've come a long way, Baby." What other "virtual" tennis club do you know that has organized and launched two seasons of junior team tennis in one year (spring and fall), involving nearly 100 juniors from 8-15 in tennis – many for the first time ever? Add to that the number of parents and interested adults we roped into recreational coaching and you have a highly successful club. Picture this: no club house, no full time tennis pros, no well-tended country club courts. With the love and energy for the game brought to bear by just plain old tennis players, we have drop in nights – come out and see **Benita, Bill, JohnE, JerryB** and **Sandi-land, Steve Elias, Bird-man Todd**, the occasional **Starrett-Doss**, the **Fergusons** and even on rare occasion **Vegas Andy** and 'retired guy mornings' with **Dale, John**

continued next page

Flash Points & Slime Balls, cont'd

Shepherd, JohnE, Jerry, (they let me play!) ... and the daytime women: **Marge, Diane, Vera, Gloria, Peggy, Sandi, and Emily.** I know there are beginners and returnees dropping in at Amador, too. Too many others to mention, like **Kristina Hodge, Pam Harris & Susan Vinciguerra.** And others who are strangers to me are enjoying our public courts. I've seen **Kim N., Dan, Chris V., Mighty Mike, Steve Thomas, Jungle Jim & Christian, Mad Dog and Melissa, Bob & Kathryn,** the **Maddens,** the **Dalys,** the **Harris'** ... I'm feeling like Dr. Seuss here! We've formed our first ever USTA Mixed Dubs team, and we're proud to hold onto our place in the win-loss rankings. That team includes some of the above, plus **Nancy and Andy O'Loan, Keith and Annie Fountain, David Romero,** and **Carla Backovich.** We've had block parties featuring by **Derek Galli,** USPTA and we've had junior tennis camps sponsored by the City of Jackson and lead by **Brad Harris.** We've seen junior hitting sessions attended by our up-and-coming junior players, with high school team players, **Jessica Casillas** and **Alden Spence** assisting. Our local players have helped coach and teach: **Big Little Mark (Hansler), Chris Fuller, Kim Nielsen, Brad Harris.**

So this is not your usual slime column, but more of a great big thank you to all the tennis players in Amador County (and surrounding areas) who take "Get in the Game" seriously. 2008 will be another great year for tennis in our community. If you've been thinking about being more involved, then I hope you'll read about all of the great opportunities to play and help others play our game for life. We'll be in touch – and remember, it's a small community and we know where you live!



No hangovers here! Our New Year's Day "Brunch on the Courts" tradition continued this year with the Maddens, Mike & Sarah Daly, Steve Elias, Steve Doss and Gwen Starrett (pictured at left) and Rosalie and John Escamilla (right, preparing the courts for battle).



AMADOR TENNIS CLUB

11180 Ranchette Dr. Jackson, CA 95642

Organization

President: Rosalie Escamilla

Secretary: Benita Asher

Vice President: John Escamilla

Treasurer: Vera Ferguson

Board Members-at-Large: Dave Ferguson,
& Jerry and Sandi Beeman

Newsletter

We strive to publish quarterly.

Subscriptions are free upon request. Many thanks to:

Writers: Benita Asher & Rosalie Escamilla

Printing: Condrashoff Fabricators

Mission Statement

To promote tennis as an enriching, healthy, lifelong sport to all people without discrimination.

The Amador Tennis Club (ATC) is a public nonprofit corporation recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Membership is open to all, free of charge. Donations enable us to continue publishing our newsletter and promoting tennis in Amador County. Voluntary annual dues of

\$10/year per household may be mailed to: ATC, 11180 Ranchette Dr., Jackson CA 95642. We appreciate your support!