

New Beginnings by Benita Asher, "the prez"

Things are changing for the better at ATC. You may have noticed our new look with this newsletter. The design has been updated to facilitate mailing to our ever-growing distribution list and to keep our (donated) printing costs down. This layout also allows us to feature more events, stories and updates, so if you have any suggestions, please email us at info@amadortennisclub.org

From the above email address, you can see that we've joined the 21st century with a presence on the Web. In December, the new ATC board (see story on p.11) voted for the creation of a web site and Larissa Wood, my sister and budding web designer, graciously donated her time to do the "oh-so-cool" design and layout of the site. I will be maintaining the site, where you can find info and forms for all our upcoming events, a calendar including high school team matches, and much more. We invite you to visit the site at www.amadortennisclub.org and let us know what you think!

Lastly, I want to welcome readers who are new to our mailing list. ATC's volunteers are always working hard to expand tennis offerings and to improve facilities in our area. We invite you to join us in our efforts!

Benita

Check us out on the web:

www.amadortennisclub.org

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AMADOR TENNIS CLUB
11180 Rancho Dr. Jackson, CA 95642

Organization

President: Benita Asher
Secretary: Bill Condrashoff
Vice President: Neil Carlson
Treasurer: Vera Ferguson
Board Members-at-Large: Bob Devlin, Todd Sargent & Rosalie Pryor Escamilla

Newsletter

We strive to publish quarterly. Subscriptions are free upon request. Many thanks to:
Writers: Benita Asher & Rosalie Pryor
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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 Rancho Dr., Jackson CA 95642. We appreciate your support!



Recreational Coach Workshops

For All Interested in Playing, Teaching, Coaching or Parenting Tennis

Sign up Today!

Anyone interested in learning the basics of coaching and teaching tennis or seeking a refresher on more current methods and effective tools should attend a Recreational Coach Workshop.

Taught by a specially trained, certified teaching professional this active 6-hour session covers:

- Games and drills every coach should know
- The games-based approach to coaching
- Teaching large groups
- Running effective team practices

When: Saturday April 14, 2007 9:30am-4pm
(registration at 9am)

Where: Argonaut High School Tennis Courts, Jackson

Trainer: Jason Jamison, United States Tennis Association

Cost: \$20* for Amador County Residents, \$40 for non-residents
Lunch will be provided. *Fee will be refunded if participant volunteers with local tennis programs in 2007.

RSVP and more information: 257-1208 or email
info@amadortennisclub.org



UNITED STATES TENNIS ASSOCIATION



IT'S YOUR GAME™



featuring
special guest
instructor
Jason Jamison
USTA National Manager,
School Tennis



Flash Points and Slime Balls

by Rosanna Hammer

The new ATC “Prez” toes a hard line and limits me to approx. 350 words so expect to see some abbrvtns. OK, so let it be known that on NY Day while we played here in the cold, the **Starrett-Doss**, newest married-mixed-dubs, were playing as our satellite team on Maui. They didn't hesitate to ~~rub it in~~ call me immediately upon their return! **Dapper Don** emailed a greeting from the warm island state too.

Test your tennis knowledge: Drama star, **Chris (Witte)** just became eligible for “USTA Super Senior...” league play. How old is he? He is still moving around the court like a rabbit, right behind **Bullet Bill** – who according to his partners – “plays a whole court game”, literally.

We have a certain group of *better than senior* guys (ouch!) playing weekday mornings. **Toddster the Modster** began joining in sporadically (referring to attendance, not his game...or, urr, well?) According to best sources, to get Todd up and out by 8:45 AM recently, **JohnERocket** had to bribe him with coffee and Valentine's Day cookies. “V-Day cookies?” Todd chirped. “I'll be there!” and so he was...

Cross training seems to be the happening thing: **Benita BB** and **Gail Nielsen** doing yoga, **Bullet Bill** now running, and ring-leader runner **Bob Devlin** played two weeks of tennis with wife **Kathryn** in Mexico during Club Med vacation. I have it from my spies – **Sue & Rob**, a tennis playing couple from El Dorado Hills – that Bob & Kathryn play good tennis and BTW, Bob also ran 2-1/2 hours in the hot sun around the Club Med complex in a fundraiser for the local disadvantaged. Everyone there was so impressed, I hated to tell them that Bob does that all the time here for free & for fun. Nice job, Bob.

BackBoard Bennie is off the court procuring a new knee. Her first words upon waking after surgery: “No more popping out?” Doc assured her “no more popping out.” I haven't had the heart to tell her though that the next trip to Stan Smith's Tennis Academy we'll have to leave 2 hours earlier so she can do the individual pat-down version of security clearance at the airport. No way those knees get through without sounding alarms.

There you have it! Outta space and outta time, as they say. Keep playing – It's Your Game!

Local Teams Promise Great High School Season

The high school tennis season is already underway. Last year's league champs, the Amador Buffaloes, will once again be led by Coach Chris Fuller. The team has already seen dozens of kids coming out for practices and Fuller says that even though he knows "every match will be hard fought, I think we have a great chance of repeating". Amador has several veteran players on the team, including seniors Ridge Easton and Britney Shiflet, and the beginning players are getting great experience through J-V play and novice tournaments scheduled in the region.

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. Harris is "very excited about the season. We've got more than 20 kids coming out, and some great new additions to the boys' squad, including football and basketball players." A strong girls' squad will be anchored by returning veterans Jordyn Nielsen, Breanna Peyton, and Andrea Fletcher. "We are optimistic that with hard work and dedication, we can make a run at the league title this season," said Coach Harris.

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!



The 2006-2007 Amador Buffaloes League Champion Tennis Team.

Mark Your Calendar!

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

- 4/12 Amador at Argonaut 4pm
- 5/1 Argonaut at Amador 4pm

Please come out and support our local teams!
(Complete schedules for each team are available on our site www.amadortennisclub.org)

The Most Fun You'll Ever Have...on a Tennis Court

by Benita Asher

If you're like me, you may occasionally get a little competitive on the court and you might even lose sight of the FUN in the game. Well, have I got a cure for you! About a year ago, I attended a Recreational Coach Workshop put on by the USTA and led by star instructor Jason Jamison. I have never smiled so much on a tennis court (and possibly even off a tennis court!). The 6-hour active session had dozens of people rocking and rolling with music, drills, games and fun as a way to introduce the USTA's games-based approach to learning tennis. Throw out your old notions about standing at net while a coach feeds balls. Forget about having to hit 10 successful forehands in a row before you can play a match. With this latest approach, you'll be playing a real match and keeping score within an hour or less!

ATC is honored to host Jason Jamison as the guest instructor for our session on April 14th at Argonaut High from 9:30am - 4pm. Jason is the "best of the best" and his enthusiasm and energy are contagious. This workshop is open to anyone interested in learning the latest techniques for introducing tennis. The morning session will focus on introductory techniques, and after lunch we will move into group drills and games.

Don't let the title "Recreational Coach Workshop" scare you away. Think of it as the most fun you'll ever have...on a tennis court. Sign up today by returning the registration form below.



Sign me up for the RCW on April 14th! I understand that I may experience unprecedented levels of fun on a tennis court!

Participant Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Enclosed is my check payable to ATC for:

\$20* (Amador County resident)

\$40 (non-resident)

*Workshop fee will be refunded to Amador County residents who volunteer with a local tennis program in 2007.

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

ATC Offers First Junior Team Tennis League

Many of you have requested additional youth tennis programs as follow up to the tennis clinic(s) your child(ren) attended. In response to this request, Amador Tennis Club and the United States Tennis Association are teaming up to offer Amador's first ever "6-Tennis" – Junior Team Tennis League. The program is called "6-Tennis" because the format calls for 6 teammates, 6 games, and 60 minutes of play on match days. It is a community-based and volunteer-driven entry-level league for players ages 8-13 -- no tennis experience is necessary! Administrators, coaches and officials are all volunteers. While we've been privileged to sponsor other tennis opportunities in the past, this is the first time our youth will have the chance to play team tennis in a league format. Can you say "FUN"?



Details are available at right. Register by March 21st using the form on pages 8-9 of this newsletter.

Not Quite Young Enough, but Still Want to Participate?

We need enthusiastic volunteers to help make Amador's first-ever junior team tennis league a success. 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
- After-match snacks
- 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 at the April 14th workshop (see p.2), 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.

Rapid Rally Tennis Registration Form

FREE Competition: May 19, 2006

Detert Park Tennis Court (behind softball field)
1pm ages 8-9 🟡 2pm ages 10-11 🟡 3pm ages 12-13

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.

YES, sign me up for a FREE clinic on (choose one):

- April 21 at 1-3pm at Detert Park
- May 5 at 1-3pm at Detert Park

Space is limited but additional sessions may be added. Please wear athletic shoes and clothes and don't forget sun protection!

My age group is:

- | Age Group | Born Between |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ages 8-9 | September 1, 1997 - August 31, 1999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ages 10-11 | September 1, 1995 - August 31, 1997 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ages 12-13 | September 1, 1993 - August 31, 1995 |

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 clinics and the competition.

Parent Name: _____

Participant Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

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

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

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:** _____

Registrations will be processed on a first-come, first-registered basis until each clinic is full (maximum 24 participants per date). In the event the class is full when your registration is received, you will be notified and may be given the option of a third clinic date.

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

Rapid Rally Competition Approaches

Last year, Jackson fourth grader 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 19 from 1-4pm at Detert Park.



Sarah Daly competes at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.

Complete rules and details will be available at our two **FREE** practice clinics at Detert Park on April 21 and May 5. The practice clinics will introduce the basic strokes and the serve needed for the Rapid Rally competition. Low compression tennis balls* will be available for purchase at each clinic--then it's time to get practicing against that backboard! Space in the clinics is limited, so register today using the form at right. For more information, please go to www.amadortennisclub.org, call 257-1208 or email info@amadortennisclub.org

*Low compression balls are a special type of tennis ball without the pressure of a regular tennis ball. They are being used widely by USTA to introduce and teach tennis to new players.

More Jr. Olympic Skills Opportunities

Due to the success of last year's program, the Amador County Recreation Agency is pleased to offer Junior Olympic Skills competition in three additional sports (basketball, soccer and track & field) on April 28 at 10am at Jackson Junior High. Contact ACRA at 257-0693 for details.



There's a whole new ballgame in town. Introducing 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!



WHAT

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

WHEN

6-week season runs
April 16 - May 26

Each team will have one practice per week after school and one match each Saturday at 4pm.

WHO

Boys and Girls Ages 8-13

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 \$65* for one child
\$40 for second child

(max \$110 per household)

Fee includes t-shirt, awards, Jr. USTA membership and end-of-season party on May 26th.

For more info:

- 🌐 web: www.amadortennisclub.org
- 📞 call: 257-1545
- ✉ email: info@amadortennisclub.org



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

SIGN UP

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

USTA Corner

by Rosalie Pryor Escamilla
USTA Community Tennis Coordinator

Those of you who have seen me lately have probably received a blue wristband with the imprint: IT'S YOUR GAME - www.usta.com. I might have also asked if you are a USTA member. And I may even have given you a little promotional piece entitled "Membership Benefits".

You haven't joined? No worries. You can play all the tennis you want without USTA membership.

If you visit the USTA website or read the literature, you'll see something like this as rationale for membership: A monthly copy of Tennis Magazine, special discounts, special ticket prices, etc.

Let me give you an added incentive – and I think this is the VERY BEST reason for becoming a USTA member. USTA funds come almost entirely from the US Open and from membership fees. This is the money that is given back in grants and scholarships, community outreach and support. Membership fees help make many things possible. The local programs and activities you see described throughout this newsletter are in part the result of a decision by Amador County tennis players to "team up" with USTA in the form of a Community Tennis Association. This connection has brought us additional form and substance we might otherwise never have achieved.

Our relationship with USTA has given us grant funds, resources, ideas, program curriculum, equipment and perhaps most importantly BALLS!

ATC in turn has been more able to organize and increase our tennis outreach to youth and adults in our own local community. USTA memberships help provide the resources needed to build the visibility, outreach capability, and inclusiveness of our great sport, which is by the way, the #1 fastest growing traditional sport in the country.

So think about it. By joining the USTA, you join the ranks of Roger Federer, Andy Roddick, Venus Williams, Maria Sharapova and all the other professional tennis players who participate in the US Open. Together we can continue to bring the game to many, many more that might otherwise not ever have a chance to play tennis. Ready? Call 1-800-990-USTA or download an application from www.usta.com.

USTA member or not, call me if you want a wrist band! My number is 257-1545.



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 December 2006, ATC held its annual board meeting to summarize events of the year and make plans for the new year. New officers were elected, and many ideas floated for programs and activities in 2007.

The following board was elected:

Benita Asher, President

Neil Carlson, Vice President

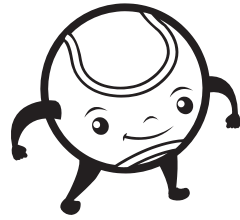
Vera Ferguson, Treasurer

Bill Condrashoff, Secretary

Board Members at Large: Bob Devlin, Todd Sargent,
Rosalie Escamilla

Read the complete meeting minutes on our web site
at www.amadortennisclub.org

**DID YOU KNOW?
PENN is the only major
tennis ball brand still
manufactured in the USA!**



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Jerry & Sandi Beeman

Jerry and Sandi Beeman of Lone have been regulars at ATC's Wednesday and Friday night drop-in tennis sessions, mixing it up with other couples. Jerry began playing in high school, but was away from the game for awhile to focus on waterskiing. He got back into the game a few years ago, about the time Sandi started to learn the game. Jerry has been Sandi's unofficial coach and we can already see her game improving. Welcome Jerry and Sandi!



New Year's Day "Brunch on the Courts" Becomes Annual Event

The weather could not have been more perfect on January 1, 2007, and the courts were full with some 16 tennis enthusiasts ready to embark on their resolutions to improve their tennis (not their waistlines). A round robin format had players mixing it up with different partners throughout the morning, with occasional breaks for snacking on the brunch buffet coordinated by Rosalie. If you weren't with us for this second annual event, mark your calendars now for 2008!



JohnERocket admires Bullet Bill's forehand form at 2007's installment of New Year's Day "Brunch on the Courts".

Can't Keep It All Straight? Here's a Summary

WHEN	WHAT	DETAILS
March 21	Registration deadline for Jr. Team Tennis League	page 5
April 12	HS Tennis: Amador at Argonaut 4:00pm	page 14
April 14	Recreational Coach Workshop	page 2
Week of April 16	Jr. Team Tennis practices begin	page 5
Saturdays, April 21-		
May 26	Jr. Team Tennis Matches at Argonaut, 4:00pm	page 5
April 21	FREE Rapid Rally Clinic at Detert, 1:00pm	page 12
May 1	HS Tennis: Argonaut at Amador 4:00pm	page 14
May 5	FREE Rapid Rally Clinic at Detert, 1:00pm	page 12
May 19	Rapid Rally Competition at Detert, 1:00pm	page 12
May 26	Jr. Team Tennis End of Season Party	page 5
Wednesdays & Fridays	Drop-In Doubles at Argonaut from 5:30pm (partner not mandatory, but helpful)	

Complete calendar of events including all high school matches is available on our web site: www.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

Years Played: _____ Has Racquet: Y N Comments: _____

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: _____

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: _____