

MILLBRAE RACQUET CLUB

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BETWEEN THE LINES

MRC NEWSLETTER

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Treasurer: Rita Armstrong

Membership: Claudia Edson

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Tournaments: Ken Hoeck

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to you all,

As we continue to manage the disruptions caused by Covid, we've been able to restore and reinvent most of MRC's customs and activities. I want to thank our board for their relentless efforts to run our club as normally as possible. I also appreciate you, the members, for your patience and cooperation. The only Covid safety precaution still in play is the wearing of masks while in the clubhouse, and I think this practice will stay with us for some time to come. But, good news, **as of September 1, clubhouse show-ers will again be available to members.**

During the summer the club fielded three USTA teams and coming this fall are three new USTA (Mixed 7.0 55+, W6.5 combo and M9.5 combo) and two women's day league teams. Organized tennis will be returning in the fall also. In addition to men's and women's play, we are planning a late afternoon coed weekday session. Stay tuned for details in the next couple of weeks. If you are a beginner, **starting Sunday September 5th**, please join us from 12:00-

1:30pm on court 5 for **"Beginner Rally" sessions.**

The **ball machine** continues to be a hot commodity so in the interest of making it available to as many members as possible, **please limit your use to one hour.** Please also remember to **cancel court reservations when your plans**

change. When you book a court and don't show, you are taking a court away from another member. Skedda provides a means for us to manage this through reservation confirmations, but we'd prefer not to add this step.

A great MRC tradition we're thrilled to have reinstated has been our Fun Days. Janice Carter and Ken Hoeck have done a spectacular job rounding you all up, getting you on

the courts, and even feeding you! We've held two fun days to date, and they've been smashing successes. "Smashing" is an apt description: we've had a few instances of heavy hitting which have left players nursing injuries. Please remember that **Fun Days are a chance to get different levels of players on the courts** hitting



and howdy-ing with each other – **they're social not competitive!** Please leave your inner pro in the car. He'll be there when you get back.

Finally, we're excited to now have **four teaching pros at the club.** Please see details in this newsletter, on the MRC website and posted at the club.

I encourage you to share your ideas with me or any member of the board on how to make the club a better place for all members.

Happy hitting!

Jan

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Meet your spotlight member Bob Lopez. Bob needs no introduction. You might have seen Bob working in the club; some times collecting the trash, some other times raking the weeds and on Monday morning giving tennis lessons to beginners and kids. We can call him man with several hats with a big smile on his face. Don't be fooled that is all he does.

Bob is a member of the club for over forty years and is a 4.0 tennis player. He is humble about it. But most of all, he is a dedicated volunteer who decided to offer something back to the club and a role model for anyone interested in service. We are honored to recognize Bob on member spotlight for this quarter issue. Bob, keep doing all the good work and

always mesmerize everyone with your smile.

We welcome members involvement in the club activities. If you would like to get more involved please let any board member know: MRC Board of Directors will respond to you. Do you have ideas or content for the news letter? Please reach out to Ramesh at rcdronamraju@gmail.com

We publish quarterly, June 1, Sept 1 Dec 1 and March 1.



ON THE LINE-EDITORIAL NOTE

I am a great fan of Wimbledon. I was so sad when the tournament was cancelled in 2020. But this year it was a different story. After two long years since competition, it was held at its hollowed home, the All-England Club. Before the start of the tournament, I was not sure if all the top ranked players would participate in the light of continued pandemic. I became worrisome since it was a grass court tournament and most of the players rarely practice on grass, due to the slippery nature of the grass. The ball tends to bounce faster and lower to the ground compared to other surfaces, further the court is softer under the foot. It favors big servers and those who like to play close to the net. Finally there hasn't been a non "Big - Four" (Federer, Djokovic, Nadal and Murray) men's champion at Wimbledon since 2002.

I was disappointed when Nadal opted out this year, and thought other top players will also give this year a pass. Believe it or not, the discomfort on grass wasn't the only storyline at Wimbledon, certainly not the main story any way.

Novak Djokovic winning Wimbledon and earning his 20th major title was the huge main story. It put him immediately in a three-way tie with Nadal and Roger for the most ever grand slam wins. There will be non-stop GOAT conversations until the US Open on who is the best. These three have long been considered the best ever, but this latest milestone would make the debate all the more interesting.

Djokovic won the past three Wimbledon titles, and six overall, at the All-England Club. He is coming off of a victory at Melbourne, Roland Garros and Wimbledon; heading towards

completing possible calendar year Grand Slam. It is safe to call him now the overwhelming favorite of the discussion.

Of Course, the debate is not over. Federer might have other plans. "[I'm] still building up to being stronger, better, fitter, faster and all that stuff," Federer told reporters. "After two knee surgeries and over a year of rehabilitation, it's important that I listen to my body and make sure I don't push myself too quickly on my road to recovery," Federer said in a statement. By no means is he going to fade away any sooner ?

Not to mention, Medvedev and Zverev are capable of beating anyone on a given day and take the role of spoilers.

Guys, it is an exciting time of the year. US open is around the corner. Let's all enjoy the game we love, and the GOAT discussion continues.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve.

Ramesh

Why can a spider win Wimbledon?

Because it has great topspin.



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MRC NEWSLETTER

MRC FUN DAYS-2021 SCHEDULE

MRC announcing its famous fun days schedule for this calendar year.

If you have never experienced a fun day, it's a morning full of social doubles, in-person conversations, food and drink. The best place to meet people and to find your tennis partners.

Fundays are pot-lucks where everyone brings an entrée or a side dish or a dessert to share: MRC will provide the beverages and tennis balls.

Because fun days are pop-

ular, we had to limit sign-ups to the first forty players, members only, no guests. So sign-up quickly when you receive the email announcement, using the link in the email or at MRC website under Events/Funday registration. If you can't get



either method to work, contact Ken Hoeck at frankus33@aol.com

Sunday June 27th (Independence day Celebration)

Sunday August 15 (San Francisco Giants day celebration)

Monday September 6th (Labor day celebration)

Sunday, October 10th (Halloween—dress up in your costume celebration)

Sunday November 7th (Veterans Day celebration-bring pics of your veterans)

Sunday December 5th (year end pot-luck celebration)



SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS TO A SPECIAL MEMBER

August 15th Giants Day celebration. This celebra-

tion would not have been complete without the kindness of another member and ardent fan of both games. Missy Chiesa, long time tennis lover, fan of San Francisco Giants and past MRC pres-

ident donated all her precious Giants memorabilia to the club to run a free raffle on this day.

With her generous donation almost every one was a winner and able to get a piece of her memorabilia. But the true winner is Missy Chiesa, with her willingness to share her memorabilia with all of us.



Thank you Missy

KUDOS

members picking them when they get a chance.

Thanks Carol for the find.

SPECIAL FINDS MEMBERS SHOULD EXPLORE

Club member Carol High, went blackberry picking beyond the south side fence of the club and presented

her find to the members on Aug.15th, the fun day.

They are very luscious and delicious. We encourage all

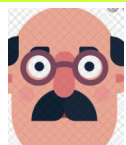
What do a dentist and a tennis coach have common?

They both use drills.



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MRC NEWSLETTER



UNCLE SLEEPY UNSOICITED ADVICE FOR NEW MEMBERS

How can I find someone at my level to play?

That's a piece of cake. Go to membership directory on club website (millbraeracquetclub.net). It has list of all players with their play levels. Don't be shy- -- call or text them and ask them If they want to play.

Can I bring a guest to play?

I guess so. You can if you (or your guest) pay the \$5 per guest fee, either by using Venmo or by cash. Don't leave cash on table. Fill out a provided guest fee envelope, put the cash in the envelope, and drop the envelope in the slot in the door between the two bathroom doors.

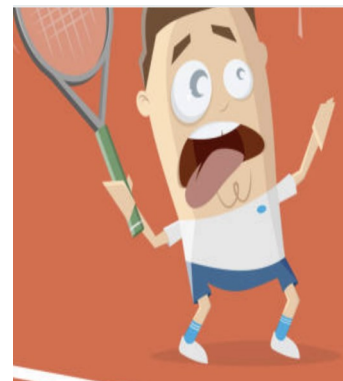
How do I schedule my play time?

Now you are talking. Go to MRC booking system (mrccourts.skedda.com). Login with your email and use your password and you can schedule.

I lost my club key what should I do?

Oh my God! Call or send a text or email to Claudia Edson. She will help you to get a duplicate.

That's all folks for now. Have fun and it's time for me to sleep.



WELCOME TO THE CLUB- NEW MEMBERS

Ray Grinsell 3.0 Self

415-309-9131

ray@foundersrealty.com

Allan Liu Intermediate

415-828-1323

Allan_liu@msn.com

Saynie Liu Beginner

510-378-2316

Saynie0818@gmail.com

Roger Tsu Beginner

510-303-7462

Rogertsu627@gmail.com

Christine Tsu Beginner

650-291-4408

Christine.abalos@gmail.com

Harry Qian Beginner

650-495-2957

harryqian16@gmail.com

Yuhua Chen Beginner

650-417-8101

yuhuchen2011@gmail.com

Doug Bradley Intermediate

619-807-4367

douglas.bradley@pobox.com

Barbara Young 3.5 Self

650-740-6796

Byoung2010@comcast.net

Emily Kohler Intermediate

267-788-0216

emilyrkohler@gmail.com

Pat Tagliaferri 3.5 self

650-490-6494

swypat@aol.com

Mayur Bhosale Intermediate

650-619-7934

mayurbhosale@hotmail.com

Sherman Lee 3.0 Self

451-425-2792

Slee95@yahoo.com

Al Bolanos Beginner

650-636-6369

ABolanos@oiba.us

Kathy Lundstedt 3.5 USTA

760-889-6889

kathylundstedt@yahoo.com

Shannon Randolph 4.5 USTA

650-303-7913

needcalgon@gmail.com

Sung Sim Park Beginner

408-429-0670

Sungsim.park@gmail.com

Matthew Moskewicz Beginner

510-681-4527

moskewcz@gmail.com

" Luck has nothing to do with it, I have spent many, many hours, countless hours, on the court working for my one moment in time, not knowing when it would come"

Sarena Williams



BETWEEN THE LINES

MRC NEWSLETTER

MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBER

I'm Rita Armstrong. I serve as Treasurer on the MRC board. You can recognize me by my oversize pink or orange visor. I have seen the club's size, composition, and tone shift remarkably in my eight or so years as a club member. I really like where we are right now. The membership is becoming ever more varied, and meeting new people of all types. That adds to my enjoyment of the great sport of tennis.

As Treasurer I fulfill the traditional responsibilities of billing, collections, financial review, and paying bills – I hate that last part. I'm also involved in insurance and liability

issues, contracts, and generally, any job that needs filling. I'm part of a really great board of directors. We bring out the best in each other and have worked well together to improve club operations. This year has been especially challenging – for everyone – but we look ahead, knowing that we have the structure and resolve to deal with whatever comes our way.

First and foremost, however, I view promoting inclusivity and equal play opportunity at the club for all members as my primary responsibility. We're more

vibrant when we hear everyone's laughter on the courts. The desire for inclusivity led to the development of the men's and women's "Organized Tennis" sessions, which enabled us to meet new members and reacquaint with old friends after the pandemic. We look forward to more such offerings in the future. If you need help reach me at email rita.armstrong300@gmail.com if you have questions, ideas, or feedback on club operations. Onwards!

Rita with her new grandson, Owen



Experience is a great advantage. The problem is that when you get the experience, You are too damned old to do anything about it."

Jimmy Connors

MEET YOUR PRESIDENT

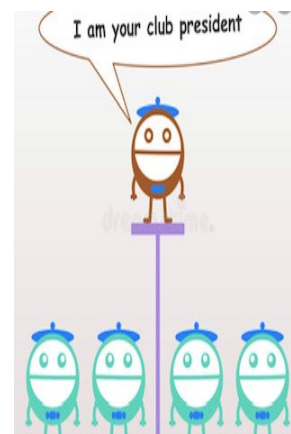
I'm Jan Akers, MRC President. As you might guess, I do my best to keep everything running smoothly at the club and

welcome all suggestions and ideas on how to make the club great for every member.

MRC NEEDS YOU

Do you have experience working with **Wix** website builder or have interest in website management? We are looking for a member to manage periodic website updates.

Contact **Jan Akers** for more information, text **650-740-7421** or jakers002@gmail.com



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MRC NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL MEMBER PROFILE

This quarter profile is Brittany Grasberger. She was interviewed by Carol High for the September, 2021 Newsletter issue:

How long have you played tennis?

I started playing tennis in 2016 as I was looking for a new sport.

Have you played other sports?

I played soccer and gymnastics growing up and pole vault in college and after college. I quit pole vault when I wanted to move back to California from Arizona.

What's the best thing about tennis?

All the exercise you get without feeling like you're exercising plus the social aspect of the sport.

What's the worst thing about tennis?

All the sunscreen you have to put on.

Do you have any hobbies?

I'm currently working on my MBA (healthcare emphasis) while working full time so I don't have a lot of free time. But, if I had free time, I'd love to become proficient in a second language. I minored in Spanish, but I've forgotten a lot of

it. I would love to become proficient in Spanish. I studied in Spain one summer.

I love to hike in my free time anywhere that's dog friendly.

Do you have dog?

I have two Kai Ken dogs (from Japan) named Kona and Louie. They each weigh about 35 pounds, they're very energetic, and they love to chase squirrels. I grew up with dogs.

Any memorable travel destinations?

In 2009 I took a cruise from Singapore to Rome—we stopped in UAE (United Arab Emirates), India, Oman, and Egypt. I absolutely love travel! It was amazing to see the pyramids of Giza. I want to travel everywhere I've never been. It was an amazing trip.

What made you want to do this trip?

I was in college and my parents were going and asked if I wanted to go. It was an opportunity I couldn't pass up.

I've always wanted to visit ... everywhere! But I've always wanted to visit New Zealand because it looks gorgeous in pictures. I'd like to hike around the country and see the sights.

My biggest pet peeve is ...

When my dogs bark and wake me up before my alarm. They start barking

at birds they see out the window before 6 a.m., sometimes 5:45 a.m.

Finish the sentence: Since I was a kid, I always wanted to be a ...some sort of job that pays me to travel around the world. Maybe be a travel blogger. I've always had the travel bug as far back as I can remember. I love experiencing cultures and food and the world through other people's eyes.

Greatest accomplishment: ...getting my clinical doctorate in physical therapy.

What would MRC members be surprised to know about you?

I have no idea how to whistle.

Anything else you'd like to share with MRC members?

I've been enjoying playing tennis with everyone!

"Tennis uses the language of life. Advantage, service, fault, break, love—The basic elements of tennis are those of everyday existence, because every match is a life in miniature"

Andre Agassi



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MRC NEWSLETTER

ORGANIZED TENNIS CALENDAR

Men Doubles

Thursday 8.30–10.30

AM Contact:

Ken Hoeck

frankus33@aol.com

Women Doubles

We will be resuming shortly probably with a different schedule.– watch for an email announcement.

Contact :

Rita Armstrong

rita.armstrong300@gmail.com

Beginner Rally

Sunday 12.00 –1.30 PM

Court 5 scheduled from Sept 5

Contact:

Bob Lopez

maplebonit@aol.com

TENNIS COURT RESERVATION REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS

To all members:

When you reserve court using Skedda bookings, you

must include the names of all players. Please add/update players prior to using the

court. Thanks in advance for your compliance. MRC board



USTA CALENDAR

Current USTA teams:

Men's 4.5 18+

Captain Ben Wu ***

The ladies San Francisco Peninsula Tennis League (SFPTL) teams will start in September. Members interested in joining should contact a team captain. Nancy Shaw or Arline Van Ness

Men's 4.5 40+

Captain Ben Wu

for the Hurricanes, Missy Chiesa or Janice Carter for the Royals, or Missy Chiesa or Ginny Machak for the Banshees.

New USTA teams being formed with paly beginning September 13– any member

*** Women's 3.5 40+

Captain Kathy Blenko

interested in joining should contact the captain.

Mixed 7.0 55+

Captain: Robert Falls

Men's Combo 9.5

Captain Ben Wu

Women's Combo 6.5

Captain Kim Sullivan

"If you react the same way to winning and losing, that's a big accomplishment. That quality is important, it stays with you for the rest of your life, and there's going to be a life after tennis that's a lot longer than your tennis life"

Chris Evert

Arthur Ashe

League Type	Format	Team Registration Open	Player Registration Open	Team Registration Close	Paying Season	Max. Number of Matches per Team	Payoffs	Sectionals
Adult 70& over	3 Doubles	Aug .9	Aug. 9	Aug. 23	Sept. 13-Dec. 3	10	N/A	N/A
Mixed 50& over	3 Doubles	Aug. 9	Aug. 9	Aug. 23	Sept. 13-Dec. 5	10	Dec.9-12	Dec.10-19
Combo	3 Doubles	Aug. 9	Aug. 9	Aug. 23	Sept.13-Dec.5	10	N/A	N/A

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USTA TEAM COACHS

Women's Team

Kim Sullivan and Rita Armstrong are co-captains of the MRC women's combo 6.5 team. Matches will be played between September 13 and December 3. There is no post-season play. If you are a 3.0 or 3.5 player and are inter-

ested in joining the team, please contact Kim or Rita at ks94010@yahoo.com or rita.armstrong300@gmail.com. "Kim Sullivan and Rita Armstrong are co-captains of the MRC women's combo 6.5 team. Matches will be played between September 13 and December 3. There is no post-season play.

If you are a 3.0 or 3.5 player and are interested in joining the team, please contact Kim at ks94010@yahoo.com or Rita at rita.armstrong300@gmail.com."



Men's Team

Reflection on Captaining USTA Team Through MRC.



Benjamin Wu, Aug 2021

After the world changed with COVID, many of us find comfort in what we always love – tennis! On the court, we experience a sense of normalcy trying to hit that perfect shot by tuning out the life distrac-



tions and focusing on the technique/strategy. The pandemic actually made tennis a popular sport again. More than ever, it is a critical time to stay physically and mentally healthy though exercise. I was excited to see the USTA open up for leagues in Q2 this year after being radio silent for over a year, but quickly realized many facilities will not be hosting. Thinking this could be a good time to give back to the tennis community, I've decided to host USTA 4.5 team through MRC. I am also in the process of forming a 9.5 team through MRC. This could not have been possible without the help of Ginny Machak and Rita Armstrong. Their responsiveness and patience to work with a new captain like me were absolutely needed to successfully host two USTA teams this summer. There were multiple occasions where we were exchanging email at odd hours. Despite many requests (including ones to correct errors), Ginny and Rita always



have a "we're here to help" attitude. Thank you!

A reoccurring theme when we have a home match is that someone would comment on how nice these courts are...and, they have never heard of MRC. Of course, the ones with longer history have played at MRC's 5.0, 5.5, 9.5 teams in the past. It does beg the question, how do we maximize the MRC court each day?! Anyway, we don't know where the world is going but grateful many of us can continue to play competitive tennis this summer.

"True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost"

Arthur Ashe



BETWEEN THE LINES

MRC NEWSLETTER

YOUR TEACHING PROS AT THE CLUB

You talk, we listen! You told us you want to see more tennis instruction at the club. Over the summer we searched for pros who were a

good fit with our membership. We are excited to now have four teaching pros at our club. These pros are a supplement to the superlative youth instruction offered

by Jonathan Sun of Sun Tennis. Profiles and contact information for all our pros, starting with Jonathan, follows. We really appreciate your push on this issue. Please keep your feedback and observations coming!



Jonathan Sun, owner of Sun Tennis, has been an coach for 20 years, a MRC member for over 10 years, and has coached tennis for over 18 years. He is a certified USPTA professional instructor. His competi-

tive background includes numerous USTA junior competitions and attendance at high-level coaching academies. Jonathan's current program caters to intermediate-to-high-level juniors seeking to make their high school team or

compete in sanctioned tournaments. Jonathan is hoping to cater to more MRC members as time allows and the club continues to grow. When you see Jonathan, don't be afraid to say "HI" or ask him for tips. He's always willing to help fellow members with their game. Jonathan can be reached at jonathansun81@gmail.com or (650) 892-1278.



Alex Strom is another USPTA-certified pro who grew up at MRC. He is a "passionate" instructor (his words!) with over 15 years experience in teaching and 20+ years playing tournaments. He enjoys sharing knowledge acquired from com-

peting and coaching. He teaches students of all ages and abilities. His playing background consists of competition in high-level NorCal and National Tournaments as a Junior, playing Division I College Tennis, and participating in the Northern California Men's Open Division

circuit for many years after obtaining his BA degree. Alex encourages effort, interest, and curiosity, as well as granting his students the space to take risks and make mistakes in order to learn, grow, and find autonomy in their own games. Alex specializes in private lessons but is open to working with small groups. Alex can be reached at superstromtrooper@gmail.com or (415) 350-1440.

Shannon Randolph has been a USPTA teaching professional for over 15 years. She attended SF State, where she played on the women's tennis team. Shannon has built a personal business,

coached high school for 11 years and worked for the Parks & Rec departments in Pacifica and Daly City, as well as the Bay Club SF. Shannon is looking forward to getting to know our members and the types of instruction they are looking for. She's thinking of lively group

classes, such as Cardio tennis, drills, and lessons in doubles tactics and execution. Shannon is interested in instruction for girls, adults of all ages and abilities, including family instruction and getting rackets in the hands of little kids too young for Jonathan's groups. Shannon can be reached at needcalgon@gmail.com or (650) 303-7913.



Sean Beaty comes from a long line of tennis players. He started playing at the age of 10. His step dad and brother are professional instructors, and his mom still

plays 4.0 competitive tennis and has been to nationals three times. Sean played in Ohio, where he was seeded USTA top 3 in 14's, 16's and 18's, and competed in the Ohio state tennis tournament all three years in high school. He received a full tennis scholarship to Bowling Green State University. Soon after his military

career he moved to Los Angeles, where he was a USPTA-certified teaching pro at the prestigious Hillcrest Country Club. He has played on USTA teams in both SoCal and NorCal. Sean hopes to bring fun, fast and competitive clinics like Live Ball to MRC. There's nothing that excites him like seeing players have a space to be competitive, improve, and more importantly, have fun while getting a great workout. Sean can be reached at thegystgroup@me.com or (818) 207-5748.



"The mark of great sportsmen is not how good they are at their best, but how good they are at their worst."

Martina Navratilova

BETWEEN THE LINES

MRC NEWSLETTER

GALLERY OF MEMBERS IN ACTION AND FUN



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