

FTA Fairbanks Tennis Association

PO Box 73993, Fairbanks, AK 99707 (907)455-4301

Email: info@fairbankstennis.org

Website: www.fairbankstennis.org

Newsletter

December 2017

TO:



SAVE THE DATE!!!

Please join Jewish Congregation Or HaTzafon and FTA in blessed memory of FTA's founding father, Dan Ramras, at Congregation's Miracle of Lights event December 12, 2017,

Tuesday, 6pm at Pike's Waterfront Lodge for live music, dinner, dance and silent auction. Tickets

are available online at orhatzafon.org,

calling [\(907\)456-1002](tel:9074561002), or

emailing orhatzafon@mosquitonet.com. Tickets

are \$60 for adults, \$30 for children 12 and under until December 6 after which time ticket prices increase. Show your support of FTA by

attending the event, by donating a gift certificate or merchandise to the silent auction.



FTA's Mission is to promote tennis and educational opportunities for all youth and adult residents of the Fairbanks area.

FTA Board of Directors 2017

Gina Pender, President

Eric Markham, Vice President

Charmagne Alder, Secretary

Lee Lemay, Treasurer

Tony Ely

Joe Sample

Sabine Siekmann



501(c)(3) non-profit Alaska corporation #92-0155602
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NEWSLETTER December 2017

Hello Fellow Tennis Fans!

In this issue:
Free tennis
Block Party &
Summer
Programs
Middle School
tennis
High School
tennis
Golden Days
Parade
Sam Woodke
Tournament
Indoor Task
Force Survey and
Update
Raffle Results
Donation Request
Letter
Volunteer
Appreciation
Sponsor
Appreciation

On behalf of Fairbanks Tennis Association, thank you for your ongoing interest in community tennis. It's time to update you on what FTA does for our community, to share tennis highlights of 2017, and to bring you up to speed on indoor tennis in Fairbanks.

FTA is a non-profit 501c3 organization governed by a volunteer working board that provides affordable tennis instruction to our community since 1995. FTA's mission is to promote tennis and educational opportunities for all youth and adult residents of the Fairbanks area, and our vision is that people will have year-round tennis opportunities in the FNSB.

FTA offers free tennis clinics to children and adults, provides instruction, provides middle school and high school tennis, fosters competitive play in round robins and tournaments, and promotes tennis as a life-long sport to be enjoyed by players of all ages and abilities. FTA programs are held primarily at the Dan Ramras Community Tennis Courts behind the Mary Siah Recreation Center. FTA relies on the interest, volunteerism and generosity of community members, and we fundraise to support the day-to-day operations of tennis programming. This year, the 4wheeler raffle was our main fundraiser in place of a fundraiser event.

Closure of The Alaska Club's two indoor tennis courts in June left Fairbanks without the ability to play on indoor tennis courts on rainy, smoky or winter days. FTA formed a task force to garner the desires of our community and to explore various indoor tennis options; we surveyed community members about indoor tennis interest, reviewed and discussed the data. Currently, the FTA board is in the process of strategic planning, recently having agreed upon a one year goal to establish an indoor tennis facility plan. As you may be aware, FTA's Endowment Fund was established in 2008 for the sole purpose of ensuring long-term funding of FTA's day-to-day programs; these funds cannot be used for an indoor facility. Once FTA has the financially feasible plan for an indoor facility, we will announce a capital funding campaign.

As of now, one indoor, modified tennis court is available for use for blocks of time at UAF Student Recreation Center for anyone interested; please find additional details in the newsletter.

Your FTA board and committees continue to work hard to improve our current programs, expand new ones and explore our goal of an indoor tennis facility. Please join forces with FTA as a member; renew your membership annually and encourage your tennis friends to do so as well. Rally to maintain tennis programming in our community! Become an FTA volunteer. FTA is asking you to consider making a donation at this time to assist us with ongoing programming, programming the makes our community a better place to live and play!

FTA recognizes our volunteers who put countless hours toward community tennis efforts. FTA thanks our community's generous donors and sponsors for sustaining FTA programs. FTA appreciates YOU for keeping the ball bouncing in our community. THANK YOU! Learn more about FTA at our website fairbankstennis.org. Like us on Facebook.

Enjoy reading about community tennis highlights of 2017!

Gina Pender
FTA President



FREE TENNIS ANYONE?

FTA's 2nd Annual Swing Into Spring Kids Free Tennis Clinic on April 1st placed racquets into the hands of 68 kids. A fun time was had by all! Thanks to the volunteers including Lead Coach Sabine Siekmann, and thank you to Nancy Hanson and Frank Ostanik of The Catholic Schools of Fairbanks for allowing FTA to use their beautiful school gym, Boileau Hall.

BLOCK PARTY SUMMER PROGRAMS

Tunes filled the early summer air by emcee VMAX at FTA's Free Block Party and Kids Free Tennis event May 21st. Everyone enjoyed tennis fun under the sun at the family-friendly BBQ at the Dan Ramras Community Tennis Courts that Sunday afternoon. Visiting Summer Pro Nathan Huggett from Michigan provided free tennis instruction to children and adults, assisted by FTA volunteers.

Nathan Huggett coached the 2017 season along with Milo Griffin and Jason Ringstad. Nathan was a positive coach relating on all levels to the children and adults; he brought a fun, innovative perspective to tennis. We had a wonderful summer season with the weather cooperating most days. FTA appreciates Operations Manager RoseAnne Sample for another great tennis season! If we missed you this year, we look forward to seeing you on the courts in 2018.

I LOVE A PARADE!

FTA bounced balls on our racquets and waved to the crowd in the Golden Days Parade July 22nd with Pro Nathan! Players of all ages walked in the parade, and following the parade FTA volunteers provided free tennis lessons to kids in the street carnival making this another fun FTA event under

the midnight sun...what summer is all about!

SUMMER TOURNAMENT NEWS

FTA's Annual Sam Woodke Quickstart, Junior and Adult Tournament mid July was a hit, drawing players from the Anchorage area! While winning isn't everything, winners deserve credit.

Winners of the 2017 Sam Woodke Tournament are:
Quickstart Round Robin: Leif Anderson
Junior Singles: Axton Siekmann
Adult Women's Singles: Gwen Holdmann
Adult Men's Singles: Jonathan Ries
Adult Women's Doubles: Gwen Holdmann and Alexis Rhynard
Adult Men's Doubles: Jack Cook and Josef Schruf
Adult Mixed Doubles: Catherine Sample and Jason Ringstad.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TENNIS

20 middle school tennis players took to the courts this year under returning Coach Rosie Simko Wall's enthusiastic direction! Stay tuned as several up-and-coming players transform into our high school tennis force in the very near future.

High School Tennis

2017 was a splendid season for High School Tennis in Region 6.

We had 57 players enrolled in the Fairbanks Tennis Association High School Tennis program.

These players formed our Lathrop, West Valley, North Pole, Hutchinson and Monroe High School Tennis Teams. We kicked off this season on July 26th and after some weather hurdles and make-ups, we were able to complete all 40 matches with Bonnie Owen as our trusted Official. We also had some great out-of-region experiences for our players with the Anchorage Invitational and our Region 6-

hosted friendly scrimmage with Colony. We wrapped up on September 22nd with a great Regional Championship! Lathrop excelled hosting the opening ceremony, with the Army JROTC Color Guard and a great band trumpet section. Monroe hosted the matches on the 23rd, with fantastic food and beverage support. Joe Sample ran the championship, managing brackets and matches. At the conclusion, Gwen Ramras provided an inspirational message for all the players, coaches and families. Our Regional award ceremony recognized North Pole as the only undefeated team with an 8-0-season record and Regional points winner, while honoring all 16 first and second place Regional winners, headed to the ASAA Tennis State Championship. This was one of the best years ever for our players at state! There were some really intense matches, some decided with tie-breakers, resulting in North Pole earning a 4th place in Girls Doubles, Monroe 4th place in Boys Singles, North Pole 3rd place in Boys Singles and our West Valley State Champions in Mixed Doubles!

A special recognition goes to our Coaches, Parents, RoseAnne Sample and Leila Blanchard who supported and contributed to the success of this season. Thank You!

FTA appreciates our 2017 high school coaches:

Tom Hammond, West Valley
Jonathan Ries, West Valley Assistant
Brett Carlson, Lathrop
Chris Baird, Monroe and Hutchinson
Jamie Duncan, North Pole
Carol Smith, North Pole Assistant

INDOOR TENNIS SURVEY SCOOP:

FTA's Task force sent out an 18 question survey late summer to at least 1000 individuals whose e-mail was known to FTA or who had contacted us after the survey was mentioned in an August 28 Newsminer article. We received 86 anonymous responses to the survey by the deadline of September 10, 2017. 59 responses expressed the need for between 2-4 indoor courts.

43 responses expected to play between 2 and 6 hours each week.

The factors deemed important/very important by the highest number of respondents were: Affordability (79 responses); Multiple Courts (70 responses), and Speed of Completion (50 response).

Only 10 responses rated access to amenities such as showers as important or very important.

Anybody wishing to review the raw data generated by the survey can request the spreadsheet by e-mailing Sabine Siekmann (ssiekmann@alaska.edu).

INDOOR TENNIS TASK FORCE UPDATE:

Formed within a week of the announcement that The Alaska Club indoor courts were closing this summer, FTA formed a Task Force that has been exploring options for providing indoor tennis for the Fairbanks area. Simply put, there do not appear to be any easy solutions but we remain optimistic that something can be done. The only current indoor tennis accommodation is one court at UAF SRC. The Task Force is pursuing details, continuing conversations, exploring possibilities. Read on, and stay tuned for more!

SO, WHERE CAN I PLAY TENNIS INDOORS? IT'S COLD OUTSIDE!

The nearest indoor tennis court is 365 miles away in Anchorage. One indoor, modified tennis court is available for use most days at UAF Student Recreation Center for anyone interested. Due to UAF SRC being the only indoor tennis option in Fairbanks this winter, some special options have become available to us.

UAF SRC TENNIS COURT RESERVATION OPTIONS

Tennis court is designated for tennis, first-come, first-serve. SRC membership or \$5 day pass required.

- Saturdays: 3PM-5PM
- Sundays: 3PM-5PM

To reserve Tennis court for specific time, such as every Thursday.

- \$55/hour for Public (includes admission)
- \$45/hour with SRC membership

Book the court with less than 72 hour notice.

- \$10...Day pass for Public
- \$7...Day pass for UAF Affiliates
- Free with SRC membership

For more information or for tennis court reservations, check out uaf.edu/draw/src/space-reservations.

Thanks to the SRC Director, Mark Oldmixon, who recently increased tennis court hours!

STAY TUNED, JUNIORS!

Anticipate the 20th Annual USTA Foundation NJTL Essay Contest which runs March-July 2018. Contestants age 18 and under participating in an NJTL chapter (FTA is an NJTL chapter).

Enter and you could win a trip to New York's City for Kids' Day, maybe catch the US Open!

More info is available at www.ustafoundation.com/njtl etc.

RAFFLE OUTCOME

FTA's main fundraiser this year was our raffle netting approximately \$4000. Thanks to Delta Power Sports for securing the 4wheeler at cost to FTA, and many thanks to Lee Lemay for organizing another successful raffle and selling most of the tickets. Thank you to all of you who supported the raffle by selling and/or buying tickets! The drawing was held 9/22/17 at High School Tennis Regionals with winners:

1. Steven Crouch, 4wheeler with trailer
2. Jeff Gimble, \$400
3. Joe Buzby, \$100.

Your FTA membership means:

You are supporting tennis in our community

You and your family have access to tennis opportunities

You are promoting health and wellness

You are enriching our community, making it a better place to live.

Together, we can continue to grow tennis programs in our community.

Become an FTA member! Activate your membership at fairbankstennis.com.



FTA 2017 VOLUNTEER & SPONSOR APPRECIATION

SWING INTO SPRING KIDS
FREE TENNIS VOLUNTEERS

Sabine Siekmann
Eric Markham
Bobby Trujillo
Jonathan Ries
Alexis Rhynard
Annie Armstrong
Josef Schruf
Brian Ely
Charmagne Alder
Karen Harris
Bryan Birmingham
Axton and Zia Siekmann
Todd and Lee Lemay
Gina Pender

BLOCK PARTY/KIDS FREE
TENNIS VOLUNTEERS

Ken Vehmeier
Leila and Karilyn Blanchard
Roan Wilson
Brian Ely
Josef Schruf
Jack Cook
Eric Markham
Sabine Siekmann
Joe Sample
Charmagne and Ryan Alder
Todd and Lee Lemay
Gina Pender

SAM WOODKE TENNIS
TOURNAMENT VOLUNTEERS

Eric Markham
Axton Siekmann
Jason Ringstad
Gina Pender

GOLDEN DAYS PARADE
VOLUNTEERS

Nathan Huggett
Charmagne and Kiana Alder
Garrett Bosch
Terin and Camilla Porter
Roan and Finn Wilson
Fletcher Burnett
RoseAnne Sample
Gina and Oliver Pender

GOLDEN DAYS CARNIVAL
VOLUNTEERS

Rosie Simko Wall
Eric Markham
Axton Siekmann
Becky, Jay and Carly Donald
Leila and Karilyn Blanchard
Nathaniel Huggett
Jack Cook
Josef Schruf
Charmagne and Kiana Alder
Todd and Lee Lemay

NORTH POLE CARNIVAL
VOLUNTEERS

Becky and Carly Donald
Leila and Karilyn Blanchard
Nathan Huggett
James Kardash
Charmagne and Kiana Alder
Teryl, Todd and Lee Lemay

TANANA VALLEY FAIR
VOLUNTEERS

Becky Donald
Maria Messina
Nathan Huggett
Anne Hauer
Teryl, Dana, Todd and Lee
Lemay
HIGH SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS
Leila Blanchard
Jonathan Ries
Heather Hartman
Jason Millam
Denise Cook
Dallin Young
Matt Wharton
Joe Sample
Tony Ely

INDOOR TENNIS TASK
FORCE

Eric Markham
Sabine Siekmann
Carol Lewis
Grace Minder
Pat Moodie
Alexis Rhynard
Susie and Jim Hackett
Denise, John and Jack Cook
Mark Oldmixon
Carol Warbelow
Lee Lemay
Gina Pender

BEHIND THE SCENE
HELPERS

Debra Fitzgerald
Dave Partee
Phylene Jeffcoat
Maria Messina
Paul and Julie Accola
Gwen Ramras

ENDOWMENT FUND
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Randy Weaver, Chair
Ken Ringstad
Virginia Farmier
Jim Hackett
Maria Messina
Lee Lemay
Gina Pender

FTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gina Pender, President
Eric Markham, Vice President
Lee Lemay, Treasurer
Charmagne Alder, Secretary
Joe Sample
Tony Ely
Sabine Siekmann

FTA 2017 VOLUNTEER & SPONSOR APPRECIATION

THANK YOU 2017 FTA SPONSORS!!!!

General Operations:
Interior Alaska Orthopedics
Jeffrey W Kilgore DMD, PC
Summer Block Party:
Design Alaska
Kids Free Tennis:
Kendall
Summer Programs:
Fairbanks Youth Sports
Sam Woodke Tournament
Fairbanks Youth Sports
Mt McKinley Bank
Middle School Tennis:
Ear Nose & Throat Clinic Inc
Fairbanks Youth Sports
High School Tennis
Ear Nose & Throat Clinic Inc
Fairbanks Youth Sports
Denali State Bank
Kinross Gold

Special thanks to Delta Power Sports for securing the Polaris 4wheeler at cost for FTA's 2017 Raffle!

HOW CAN I SUPPORT FURTHER TENNIS IN MY COMMUNITY?

Invest in our community. Here's how.
Join FTA as a member every year; strength in numbers.
Enroll in FTA programs! Play tennis! Bring a friend or family member!
Make a donation using the enclosed contribution form or by secure on-line payment fairbankstennis.com.
Sponsor our summer program, middle or high school tennis, a tournament, or free kids clinic.
Volunteer your time, service, expertise, passion for tennis to FTA; see our website or call [\(907\)455-4301](tel:9074554301).
Fred Meyer shoppers: link your Rewards Card to FTA to earn an FTA donation from Fred Meyer at <https://www.fredmeyer.com/signin?redirectUrl=/account/communityrewards/enroll>.
Amazon shoppers: designate FTA at <https://smile.amazon> to earn FTA money from Amazon.
Pick.Click.Give. to FTA by visiting www.pickclickgive.org.
United Way of Tanana Valley at <http://www.unitedwaytv.com/Donate>; designate FTA.
Talk to any board member or email FTA at info@fairbankstennis.org if you are interested in serving on the board.

Thank you to all FTA members, volunteers, generous donors and sponsors who make our community a better place to live and play!

Your FTA membership means:

You are supporting tennis in our community
You and your family have access to tennis opportunities
You are promoting health and wellness
You are enriching our community, making it a better place to live.

Together, we can continue to grow tennis programs in our community.

Become an FTA member!
Activate your membership at fairbankstennis.com.

FAIRBANKS TENNIS ASSOCIATION DONATION FORM

I would like to support FTA by making a tax-deductible donation in the amount of:

___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 ___ \$500 ___ \$ _____

Payment can be made on our secure website: www.fairbankstennis.com or charged to your Visa or Mastercard

Card # _____ Exp Date: _____ V code _____ Zipcode _____

Donor signature

Date

Make checks payable to **Fairbanks Tennis Association**. Mail to: P.O. Box 73993 Fairbanks, AK 99707

THANK YOU FOR MAKING YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT TO FTA!

Visit our website www.fairbankstennis.com to check community tennis offerings, news and events.