

THE COURT REPORTER

Newsletter of the Walnut Creek Racquet Club

August 2025



Longest Day Issue!

Walnut Creek Racquet Club

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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy August!

Hi again, everyone! This month I have some odds and ends to mention.

First off, I would like to thank **Glenn McBee**, **Euna Roh**, **Doug Fish**, and **Kevin Kyono** for running another successful **Longest Rally** event in June. And thank you to everyone who donated and participated in the event. Our organizers did a tremendous job as we raised almost \$13,000 for the battle against Alzheimer's. I'm looking forward to it again next year.



Garvin Tom
2025 WCRC President

Court resurfacing at **Arbolado Park** has begun and should be completed this month while the courts at **Rudgear Park** are scheduled to be resurfaced soon after Arbolado is done. This has been much needed for a while, and I'm glad that it's finally happening.

We're trying out something new for Fall Mixed this year. We will be forgoing our Fall Mixed season and instead holding just a **Mixed Doubles tournament, scheduled for 10/3-10/5**. Again, we're just trying something different and testing this format out. Stay tuned for more details and how to sign up. And don't forget we also have our **Mid-Summer Night Tennis event this Saturday, 8/2**. It should be a beautiful day for this one, and it shouldn't be very hot like in previous years.

Check out our new storage shed that we just got built at Heather Farm next to the bathrooms. This will be used exclusively by the WCRC, so now we can store our supplies for WCRC events and USTA League matches.

I would like to thank everyone for their comments about my pet peeves last month. I didn't realize people actually read my columns. LOL! I have a few more to add later in the year, so look for more in the future. There was a topic I wanted to discuss this month, but obviously I ran out of room. I'll try again next month.

See you on the courts!

Garvin Tom

M EMBERSHIP

Welcome to Our 19 New Members
Current Membership: 1,165

Alfredo Barreto Jr	Walnut Creek	4.0	Max Kwok	San Francisco	3.5
Belinda Buchanan	San Leandro	3.5	Jeannette Michiels	Danville	3.0
Julie Choy	Alamo	4.5	Laura Norden	Livermore	4.5
Diana Corbin	Orinda	3.5	Anna Pana	El Cerrito	2.5
Lara Facticeu	Danville	3.5	Sharon Ressa	Danville	4.5
Will Gamarra	Alamo	3.0	Leah Spain	Alamo	2.5
Masha Graizer	Concord	3.5	Paul Swink	San Francisco	3.5
Steven Green	Alameda	4.0	Zhen Zhang	Pleasanton	4.0
Lohadas Gunabalasingam	Mountain House	N.A.			
Tami Harvey	Moraga	3.5			
Nosakhare Ikponmwonba	Concord	4.5			



Membership questions contact:
Pam Maloney at 925-787-3970 or
email at: pam4tenis@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERSHIP RAFFLE

Each month a random draw will pick a WCRC member's name to receive free WCRC membership for a year!

This month's winner is:

Eric Wall



18+ 4.5 Women's team



After a tight nail-biter victory over St Mary's, women's 18+ 4.5 is headed to Sectionals!



Pictured, left to right: Jill Van Slyke, Kiran Narsinh, Sharleen Houston (with Enzo), Mariia Gryukova (and Daria), Cristina Tudor, Lena Larionova, Tiffany Liew, Sara Schipani, Julia Overs Bates, and Andrey Arevalo.

Not pictured: Susan Chiosso, Elaine Eigenmann, Nicole Goridkov, Alexandra Gunnell, Puja Mukherjee, Julia Porter, Elani Phan, Karlene Steelman, Sarah Stewart, Noriko Swanson.

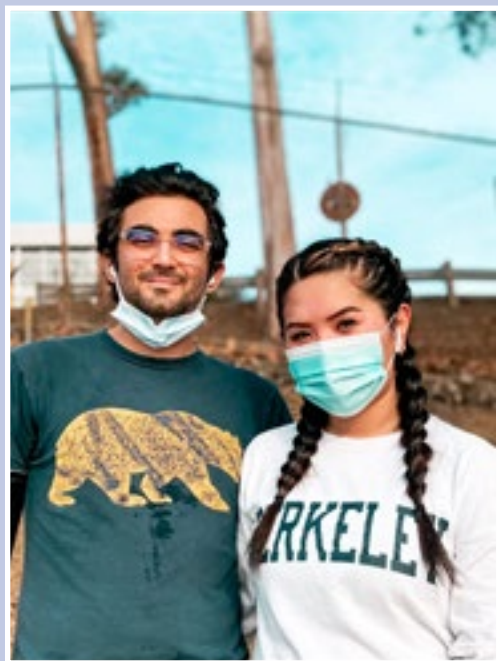
A Cal Golden Bear Back in His Home Lair: Nader Azari

Interview and article by Ian McLaughlin

W CRC member Nader Azari is a local boy, having been raised in Pleasant Hill, but as a young man he grew some deep roots in Berkeley before eventually returning to Contra Costa County and finding a tennis home at Heather Farm.

As a child in Pleasant Hill Nader played a little tennis, mainly just watching and hitting for fun with his older brother, but he got more serious about the sport when he played on the tennis team at College Park High School.

After high school Nader headed to U.C. Berkeley to study computer science (go Bears!) and while at Cal he put down his racquet and didn't play much tennis. But it was during his collegiate career at Cal that he met his future



wife Bethany when they both lived in the same dorm complex (unit 2 for those who are familiar with Cal). Nader and Bethany were already a serious couple when they graduated from college, and they remained living in Berkeley while Bethany pursued her optometry degree at Cal and Nader began his career in the tech industry in San Francisco, working with tech giant Uber initially.

Eventually Nader decided to start playing tennis again, mainly out of boredom because Bethany was so busy pursuing her graduate degree and she encouraged him to get back out on the court. Since most of the tennis teams in Berkeley are housed in private clubs, the only local publicly-accessible teams Nader was able to locate in the immediate area were in neighboring El Cerrito. By then we were in the midst of the Covid

pandemic and since everyone was working remotely Nader decided to relocate to Denver temporarily to take advantage of the ample outdoor recreational opportunities there, particularly the excellent skiing.

For Nader it was his only time living outside the Bay Area, and like most people who were raised in this infectious beautiful area, Nader couldn't resist the pull of the East Bay and he found his way back to Berkeley. He and Bethany were married in 2021. Still looking for a tennis club and familiar with the Walnut Creek/Pleasant Hill area, Nader contacted all the local public clubs in this area and Glenn McBee, a prolific captain at Heather Farm, responded and welcomed Nader out to WCRC.



Nader has been a steady presence at the club ever since, mainly playing on Glenn's USTA league teams, but due to his young age he's only eligible for the 18+ league so his options are limited as far as USTA is concerned. But Nader loves the facility and people at Heather Farm and he competes in summer singles as well. (Like so many club members, Nader wishes there were more court availability.) Bethany doesn't play tennis but she and Nader play a little pickleball

together, even though Nader doesn't consider himself the best pickleball instructor.

After so many years in Berkeley Nader and Bethany have settled in Walnut Creek near the Pleasant Hill BART station, and Bethany now works as an optometrist for both Target and Costco.



Looking for a change of pace himself after years of working for giant tech companies, Nader joined a small artificial intelligence startup



Nader Azari continued...

called Arize as a software engineer. Arize helps companies build and monitor their AI platforms, and since artificial intelligence is now ubiquitous, his work keeps him very busy.

Nader and Bethany enjoy cooking together, and they're working mainly on Asian cuisine because

Bethany is Chinese American and her grandparents still live in China so they're planning a trip there this fall. (Nader is also trying to learn some Mandarin for the trip). Like a lot of young couples, they also like to just hang out and are currently binging

"F1" on Netflix, about one of Nader's other favorite sports. It's fair to say that after several years of living and studying in Berkeley where their relationship began, this couple of golden bears has found their new lair on this side of the Caldecott tunnel. ▲





CPR Training



The WCRC recently sponsored CPR training for members of the club. The training was conducted by Dr. David Pintado MD,MHA,CCMA-NHA. And it was well received by all 11 attendees. We were given verbal instructions, watched detailed videos and able to do "hands on" practice on simulated models which were equipped with audio and visual feedback on our technique. It was an impressive training session and one we hope to offer again in the near future.



l-r: Heidi Belton, Bruno Walker, Steve Wheeler, Dan Katzman, Dr. David Pintado, Chandra Mundra, Jim Hawkins, Ning Docena, Bill Ogden, Vera Ogden, Sanjay Backliwal and Glenn McBee



Sectionals Bound



Guess Who's Heading Back to Sectionals?

Walnut Creek Daytime 18+ 4.0A (Captained by Stacey Blackman & Megan Patterson) is packing up the sunscreen and heading back to Sacramento, August 8–10!

We handled the playoffs like pros — cool, calm, and totally in control.

Round 1 vs. Sleepy Hollow: Ana Larner, Laurie Radonovich, Margaret Harrison, Stacey Blackman & Corazon Bellamy



Rd 1 Playoffs - Pictured Above - Kristen Foster, Laurie Radonovich, Margaret Harrison, Stacey Blackman, Ana Larner, Megan Patterson & Christine Hohenstein

not pictured: Bridget Bradford, Laura Flowers, Babe Franey, Esther Parti, Anne Poirier, Nicole Shay and Melissa Smith

Round 2 vs. Moraga Country Club: Singles defaulted, Doubles Dominated by Martha Matrisian, Corazon Bellamy, Ana Larner & Cassie Kim

Let's bring that NorCal trophy back to Walnut Creek for the second time this year — because once just isn't enough.



*Round 2 Playoffs - D1
Martha Matrisian and
Corazon Bellamy*



*Round 2 Playoffs - D2
Cassie Kim and
Ana Larner*

WC 3.0 women 18+ ladies Sassy Smashers won 4-1 in 2nd round of playoffs to advance to sectionals.

L to R: Nancy Anderson, Shirley McLaughlin, Donna Templeman, Jean Kondo, Pelen Wu, Noelle Sheehan, Leslie Wuischpard, Tina Ly, Sam Ng, Jessica Ford, Beth Negrete.

Not in photo: Joanna Ha(co-captain), Ro Arsanjani, Jan Lipnicke, Hannah Mitchell, Traci Rebiejo and Stephanie Wendell



"The Longest Tennis Rally" 2025 for the Alzheimer's Association. This year was great fun and a BIG success!

Thank you all for your support of The Longest Tennis Rally. We had a record-breaking year as we raised \$13,233 this year from 110 donors in this, our 10th year of hosting the tournament and fundraiser! We have now raised over \$95,000 in our fight against Alzheimer's. We had 8 courts and 33 players competing in 2 flights of mixed tennis in a round robin format. The food was superb, catered from Mercado del Sol. The weather was delightful. Just a great day of tennis and fund and awareness raising.

We had some first-time players joining us this year and a new slate of winners. Karen de Martini and Dan Kwan won in their flight. In the other flight it was Linda Jones and Bahurudeen Mohamed who were our winners. We also had 12 players win raffle prizes.

Congratulations to our 4 tournament winners, our 12 raffle winners and all who participated and donated. And as a bonus, all who participated will receive an early invite to next year's tournament.

Again, thank you to Lifetime Activities for the courts and support as well as the Walnut Creek Racquet Club for their donations and support. We couldn't have done this without the support of both of these generous supporting groups.

Thanks again to all who donated, to those who came out and played and supported the tournament and the worthy cause.

Thank you for your continued support!

See you in 2026!

Committee members: Glenn, Euna, Doug and Kevin





Photos by Bob Satcher



Photos by Bob Satcher



Photos by Bob Satcher



Photos by Bob Satcher



OPERATING HOURS AT WCTC

Monday – Friday: 8am-10:00pm • Saturday & Sunday: 8am-8pm

**AUGUST PASSHOLDER SPECIAL: US OPEN SOCIAL**

For our August Passholder Special, we are hosting a US Open-themed social on Wednesday, August 20th from 5:00-6:30p. Wear your best retro tennis or New York gear and join us for round robins with some music and light refreshments. Courts will be grouped by skill level as evenly as possible, based on participation.

Bonus Challenge: Guess who'll win the US Open! One of the attendees who guesses correctly will win a FREE Annual Plus Pass.

The US Open Social is free for passholders and \$20 for non-passholders, only one free event per passholder. Click [HERE](#) to register for tennis, and click [HERE](#) to register for pickleball.

BACK TO SCHOOL SALE

Back-to-School = Back on Court! Get 40% off shoes and 20% off Pro Shop gear (excluding strings, string labor, balls, and drinks/snacks). Valid 8/6-8/15 — grab your gear before the bell rings!

CLASS DROP-IN OPTIONS

Can't attend an entire session? Lifetime now offers drop-ins for select adult classes:

Wednesday 6:30pm-7:50pm – Intro to Matchplay 5:1 (\$53 per class)

Thursday 1:30pm-2:50pm – Drill + Play 5:1 (\$53 per class)

Saturday 9am-10am – Cardio 5:1 (\$39 per class)

Saturday 10:10am-11:30am – Advanced 8:1 (\$39 per class)

Sunday 9am-10am – Cardio 8:1 (\$39 per class)

Sunday 2:40p-4pm – Advanced 5:1 (\$53 per class)

Remaining spots are first come, first served. Call the office to confirm availability.

TENNIS ACCELERATION AND FAST TRACK PICKLEBALL OPEN HOUSES

Interested in our Adult and Youth Accelerated Learning Programs? [Register now](#) for one of our TAP or FTP Open Houses! Learn about our programs with curriculum overviews, brief lesson demos, and Q+A sessions and find out which program fits best for you with drill & play.

TAP Youth (ages 5-15) – August 5th at 5pm-6:20pm

TAP Adult – August 5th at 6:30pm-7:50pm

FTP - August 8th at 6:30p

For more information about our offerings and benefits of our Accelerated Learning Programs, [check out our website](#).

FALL PROGRAM REGISTRATION SPOTS STILL OPEN

We still have spots available in our classes starting at the end of the month. Join Fall Session 1 (August 26-October 19) and/or Fall Session 2 (October 20-December 14). [Check out our Fall offerings](#) and [register on CourtReserve](#).

TEAM DROP-IN CLINICS COMING SOON

We hope to launch team-specific and session-based clinics to offer USTA teams a chance to get on-court coaching with their doubles partner and other members of their team. Details and pricing are still to be determined, but the goal is to have captains register their team for a 6-8 week clinic and can rotate various team members in each week. Please email Jeff at jefff@lifetimeactivities.com if you are interested.

LEAGUE MATCH SCHEDULE WIDGET

View upcoming USTA League and Day League matches [here](#).



App Store



Google Play Store

Visit us online at www.lifetimeactivities.com or stop by the the office at 1751 Heather Drive.
Please call with any questions at 925-945-0105 or 925-945-1102.

CALENDER OF EVENTS

2025

Aug - **Sept** - **Oct** - **Nov**

Aug 2	WCRC Mid-Summer Tournament
Aug 8-10	USTA 18+ Sectionals Opt 1
Aug 8-10	USTA 18+ DT Sectionals Opt 1
Aug 15-17	USTA 18+ Sectionals Opt 2
Aug 15-17	USTA 18+ DT Sectionals Opt 2
Aug 17	USTA 40+ Mixed Season Closes
Aug 21-24	USTA 40+ Mixed Playoffs Round 1
Aug 25	USTA 70+ DT Season Opens
Aug 25	USTA 55+ Mixed Season Opens
Aug 25	USTA Combo Doubles Season Opens
Aug 25	USTA Combo Doubles DT Season Opens
Sep 4-7	USTA 40+ Mixed Playoffs Round 2
Sep 11-14	USTA 40+ Mixed Playoffs Round 3
Sep 26-28	USTA 40+ Mixed Sectionals
Oct 3-5	WCRC Mixed Doubles Tournament
Oct 18-19	WCRC Summer Singles Tournament
Oct 18-20	USTA 18+ Nationals (2.5, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0)
Oct 25-27	USTA 18+ Nationals (3.5)
Oct 31	USTA 70+ DT Season Closes
Oct 31	USTA Combo Doubles DT Season Closes
Nov 1-3	USTA 55+ Nationals 7.0/9.0
Nov 1-3	USTA 18+ Mixed Nationals
Nov 2	USTA 55+ Mixed Season Closes
Nov 2	USTA Combo Doubles Season Closes
Nov 6-9	USTA 55+ Mixed Playoffs Round 1
Nov 8-10	USTA 55+ Nationals 6.0/8.0

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cara Mia Barnacascel

July 8, 2025



Income

Total League Dues	3,313.12
Membership Dues	15,004.97
Total Tournament Dues	5,281.77
Total Income	23,599.86
Gross Profit	23,599.86

Expenses

Board Meeting	686.10
Captains Meetings	974.22
Contributions	500.00
Equipment	221.76
Total League Expenses	3,038.81
Nationals Fee	1,424.00
Office Supplies	194.58
Total Printing and Reproduction	99.99
Rental Fees	-500.00
Sectionals Fees	2,200.00
Software	557.97
Tax Preparation	335.00
Taxes	25.00
Total Tournament Expenses	12,655.62
Website	697.50
Total Expenses	23,110.55
Net Operating Income	489.31
Net Income	489.31

Balance through July 8, 2025	\$71,285.50
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WCRC LEAGUES/EVENTS

Mid-Summer Tournament - August 2

Mixed Doubles Tournament - Oct 3-5



Summer Singles League - Standings

Men's

3.0	W	L
Dave Wong	1	0
3.5		
Nader Azari	2	0
4.0		
Sam Chaccour	13	0
4.5+		
Sam Chaccour	4	0

Women's

3.0	W	L
Erin Brindley	2	0
3.5		
Kathy Maratukulam	2	0
4.0		
Samantha Dullea	1	0
Susan Hill	1	0
4.5+		
Mariia Gryukova	1	0
Nicole Goridkov	1	0

Longest Day



Photo by Bob Satcher