

THE COURT REPORTER

Newsletter of the Walnut Creek Racquet Club

April 2026



**Congratulations
to Darien Lum and
Melissa Bach for
winning back to
backs 55+ 7.0 mixed
Nationals titles.
Seems like Melissa did
all the heavy lifting.**

Walnut Creek Racquet Club

P.O. Box 4574 • Walnut Creek, CA 94596
(925) 945-0105 • www.wcrc.net



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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy April!

This has been on my list of things to write about, and with recent events that have happened in my city, I figured there's no better time to talk about... pickleball, or more specifically, the battle to keep tennis courts away from pickleball. Last month, the city of Martinez voted to shut down the pickleball courts at Hidden Valley Park after only one year of opening them up to the public (the new tennis court that they did build at the same location is still open, by the way).



Garvin Tom
2026 WCRC President

It didn't surprise me that the city decided to close the courts since there are houses literally next door to them. What did surprise me was the fact that the city council chose to convert two tennis courts into pickleball courts in the first place, especially after the debacle at Rudgear Park. I don't think the city did its due diligence to look at other communities and how pickleball courts affected nearby homes because if they read about Rudgear, the city may have passed on Hidden Valley as a site. Once I heard that there would be pickleball courts at Hidden Valley, I really thought that they wouldn't last long, and they didn't.

So, what did convince the city of Martinez to convert the tennis courts into pickleball courts? A major reason is the advocacy from local pickleball groups. They are well organized, they come out to council meetings to have their voices heard, and they're persistent. Unfortunately for us, instead of pleading for the construction of new courts, which I wish they would do, they're advocating for the conversion of tennis courts into pickleball courts, which is the cheaper and more feasible alternative.

I personally have nothing against pickleball. It looks like a lot of fun, there's a great social aspect to it, and it's something that I probably would play down the road once I'm not able to play tennis anymore. But when it comes to taking away tennis courts, that's where we have an issue. I may find some of their arguments a bit dubious at times, but they're effective. So I urge all of you to please contact your local city council members (by phone, through email, or attending the meetings) and tell them we would like to keep our tennis courts. And not just Walnut Creek, contact your own city representatives as well, whether it's Martinez, Concord, Danville, etc. This is an ongoing fight that may last a while, so we need all the help we can get.

See you on the courts.

Garvin Tom



M EMBERSHIP

Welcome to Our 43 New Members
Current Membership: 1,218

Caitlin Beatty	San Francisco	4.5	Shay Martin	Napa	4.0
Cecile Chenevey	Oakland	4.0	Matt Nolan	Orinda	3.5
Darrin Cohen	Alamo	5.0	MS Oh	Walnut Creek	3.5
Carolyn Comerford	Pleasanton	3.5	Eric Olson	Lafayette	3.5
Jonathan Degg	Lafayette	3.0	Gail Pearson	Lafayette	4.0
Doug Ditmer	San Ramon	4.5	Brad Pecchenino	Stockton	3.5
Jennifer Do	Lafayette	4.0	David Pilosof	Danville	3.0
Michelle Estrada	Lafayette	4.0	Rodel Pontanares	Pittsburg	2.5
Charlotte Fisher	Pleasant Hill	3.5	Patti Presto	Hayward	3.5
Dale Fredriks	Walnut Creek		Kiran Puppala	San Ramon	3.0
James Greig	Alamo	4.5	Hawa Safi	Martinez	2.5
John Hadley	Brentwood	4.0	Lillian Santos Stables	San Leandro	4.5
Patrick Kim	Orinda	3.5	Kurt Sindel	Martinez	4.5
Yoshiharu Kobayashi	El Cerrito	3.0	Christine Start	Union City	3.0
Kay Kolos McCubbin	Alameda	3.0	Bryn Strong	Orinda	3.5
Alan Lam	San Ramon	3.5	Ashley West	Pleasanton	3.5
Tiep Le	Berkeley	4.0	Todd Whyte	Alameda	4.5
Alicia Lee	Walnut Creek	4.0	Jennifer Wirfel	Concord	4.5
Frank Li	Walnut Creek	3.5	DAVID YUEN	San Ramon	4.5
Somi Lim	Walnut Creek	4.5	Hannah Zobin	San Ramon	4.0
Wyatt Lin	San Francisco	4.5			
Gerry Linendoll	gansevoort	3.0			
Jeffrey Magidson	Martinez	4.0			



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:

Natilee Luna



WCRC Members Toast Jamie Guzzaldo

There was a huge turn out for long time WCRC member Jamie Guzzaldo's memorial. We toasted to Jamie with his favorite drink a kamikaze. Cheers to you Jamie. You and your forever smile are sorely missed down at Heather Farm.

One Playing Heir Guitar (with a French twist): Jeff Magidson

Interview and article by Ian McLaughlin

For WCRC member Jeff Magidson, music is more than just a hobby or a passion, it's basically part of his family's DNA. Jeff is a local boy who grew up in Orinda, and both of his parents were musicians (mainly playing the piano) so Jeff naturally developed a musical ear himself and learned how to read music from a relatively early age at home.

Tennis was also an important part of Jeff's upbringing, and he played seriously from about ages 10-14, taking lessons regularly with renowned instructor Lynne Rolley at Sleepy Hollow tennis club in Orinda. By the time he entered Miramonte High School, Jeff had become less serious about tennis and turned his athletic attention to football and track, where his main events were the 880 and 440 meter races.

After high school Jeff attended U.C. Berkeley (go Bears!) and in a move that would redefine the rest of his life, he decided to study abroad in France during his junior year of college. What began as a year abroad turned into a new life path. Jeff ended up staying in France for the next couple of decades, developing a musical career and getting married and having children. Jeff played both guitar and piano when he left for his year abroad, and while in France he met a band that offered him a steady gig as their guitarist. He took them up on the offer and settled into his new life across the pond. He met Isabelle, a French woman who would become his wife, and they got married and started a family; Jeff and Isabelle had two children, daughter Anna and son Ben, and raised them in France through their early childhood while Jeff continued to build his musical career.



As with so many people who grow up in the Bay Area and leave for school or work, the allure of god's country is very strong and Jeff and Isabelle moved to the Bay Area when their kids were about ten years old, both so that Anna and Ben could learn English better after beginning their childhood education in a French elementary school, and so that they could experience the wonderful culture we are so fortunate to enjoy here. Initially their family settled back in Orinda, where Jeff's mother still lived, and Jeff became the music director at Red House, a "school of rock" in Walnut Creek that has since closed. In 2013, Jeff and his family moved to Martinez in the north county, where Jeff and Isabelle currently live with their cat Leo. Jeff played very little tennis while in France in part due to shoulder issues that might have been caused by playing so much guitar, but around 2015 he decided it was time to

pick up the racquet again after a long hiatus, and while looking around for places to play locally, one of the first people he met from the Heather Farm community was Sean Barnacascel, one of the club's most gregarious and welcoming members, who quickly brought Jeff into the Heather Farm tennis family. With his extensive tennis background Jeff started playing on one of Sean's 4.0 teams, (earning the nickname "the magician", based both on Jeff's skills and playing off his last name, since everyone who plays on one of Sean's teams receives a custom nickname). After just a few years back in the sport, Jeff got bumped up to 4.5 relatively quickly in 2017 and has played at that level ever since.



Isabelle is not a tennis player herself, although she is also an accomplished musician, both a singer and guitarist, and she and Jeff have formed two bands together that regularly perform around the Bay Area, "Duo Gadjo" and "The Mighty Mules Band". (you can check out their work and upcoming gigs at www.duogadjo.com and <https://themules.band/>) Isabelle also teaches private French lessons, and Jeff himself is bilingual, fluent in French from having studied the language in both high school and college before spending two decades immersed in French culture while living there.



Aside from playing in their two bands, Jeff also teaches private music lessons, and both of their adult children have also followed in their parents' musical footsteps. Anna and Ben both hold French citizenship since they were born there, and attended university in Montreal, with its hybrid French/

North American culture. Anna currently lives in Paris and is a singer/songwriter herself, while older sibling Ben works as a music therapist in Montreal

Based on his background, it's evident that Jeff's connections to France run as deep as his musical roots. Both of his younger siblings moved to France and have been there for over thirty years themselves now, and his mother also moved there several years ago (while in her 70's) to be closer to her grandchildren, which include Jeff's daughter Anna in Paris, and his five nieces and one nephew who also live in France. And now that one of Jeff's nieces has become a mother herself, his mother's only great grandchild also lives in France. While his family is dispersed throughout the country, Jeff's mother lives in gorgeous Bordeaux with his younger brother. One can only imagine how great the food and wine is at their family gatherings.

While the movie "The French Connection" might have been a hit thriller from the 1970's starring the late Gene



Jeff Magidson continued...

Hackman, WCRC member Jeff Magidson and his family have established a French Connection in the truest sense of the term, as their ties to the country runs as deeply through their family as their combined musical talent does. They have handed down a real heir guitar through several generations, with a distinctive French twist. ▲



2026 WCRC Men's & Women's Summer Singles League Registration Form



Full Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

NTRP Rating: _____

Great prize selection for winner and runner-up
in each division!

Keepsake items for all participants!

I would like to enter the following divisions:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Women's 3.0 | ☐ Men's 3.0 |
| ☐ Women's 3.5 | ☐ Men's 3.5 |
| ☐ Women's 4.0 | ☐ Men's 4.0 |
| ☐ Women's 4.5/5.0 | ☐ Men's 4.5/5.0 |

I am a: ☐ WCRC Member (\$25)
☐ Non-Member (\$35)

Checks to: Walnut Creek Racquet Club
c/o Steve Lehmer
P.O. Box 30173
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
Or Online: wcrc.net/login

Dates: April 20 - Aug 30th

Entry Fee \$25 WCRC Members
per bracket: \$35 non-WCRC Members

Note: 4.5/5.0 combined in regular
season, but will have separate
playoffs/championship.

Scheduling: This is an open schedule. Players
are responsible for scheduling
their own matches. Players will be
provided with a contact list of
participants in their division.

Format: Best two out of three sets. When
opponents agree, a super tie
breaker (10 point) can be used in
lieu of the third set. Winner gets
unopened can.

Match Site: Any site mutually agreed upon

Scoring: The winner is responsible for
reporting the match score by
logging on to www.wcrc.net

Standings: Division standings will be
updated on a real time basis as
scores are posted

Tournament: End-of-season tournament with
draw determined by league
standings.
Tournament will begin in Sept,
with 1 round per week,
scheduled by player arrangement.
Hosted tournament at Heather
Farm scheduled on October 9-11
for Semis and Finals.

A minimum of 4 players are
required to generate a draw.

Questions? Call Steve Lehmer at (925) 285-0028 or via e-mail Lehmer@pacbell.net



Tennis News



Tri-Level 3.0/3.5/4.0

The Wild Things tri-level team delivered an incredible performance this past weekend, finishing in 3rd place after a series of hard-fought matches. The team came out strong early, losing only two out of 12 lines before facing Marin in the semi finals, and carried that momentum into a tough and competitive showdown where we gave them a true run for their money.

The first day brought intense heat, adding an extra layer of challenge, and several players stepped up in a big way, competing twice in one day due to availability. That kind of commitment and resilience speaks volumes about this group.

Beyond the results, what stood out most was the energy and camaraderie that defined the weekend. Players supported one another on and off the court, creating the kind of positive, team-first environment that makes these events so special.

A special thank you goes out to everyone who contributed, whether competing, supporting, or stepping in when needed. From those who battled on court to those who came out to cheer, every person played a role in making the weekend a success.

Congratulations to the Wild Things on a fantastic showing and a memorable weekend of tennis, teamwork, and heart!





Tennis News



TEAM

3.0's

Melissa Bach
Cara Mia Barnacascel
Erin Brindley
Marjan Gholamalipour
Christina Tapp

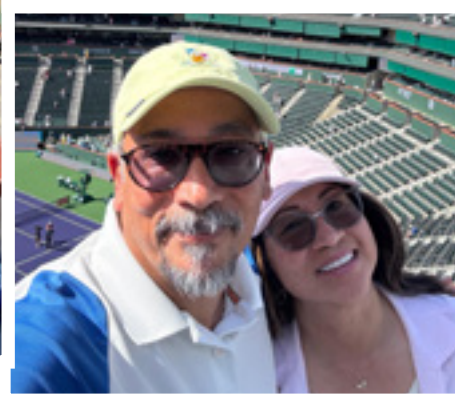
3.5's

Kayla Baier
Stefanie Cohen
Amber Golini
Rebecca Kay
Lang Lindsay

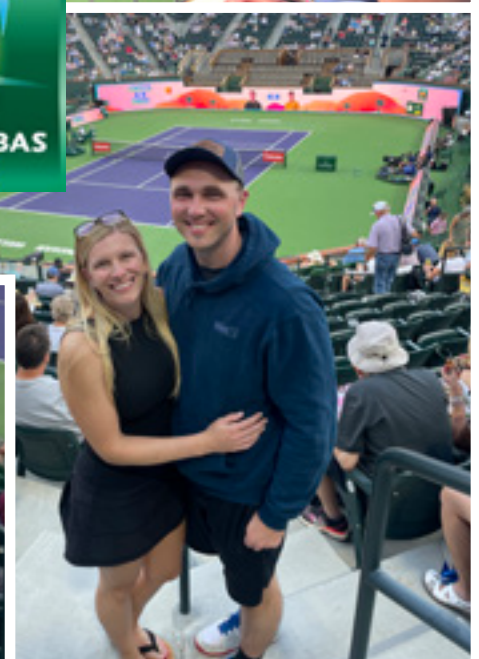
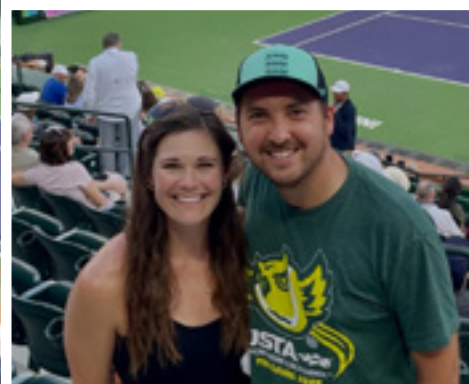
4.0's

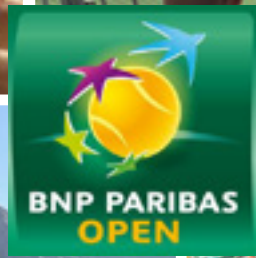
Darcy Beauchemin
Jennifer Grant
Athena Lofquist
Angela Merola



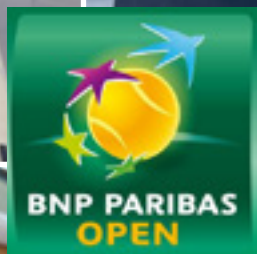


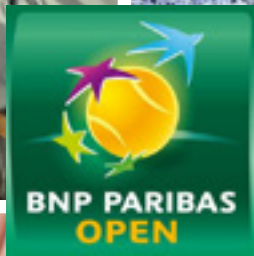


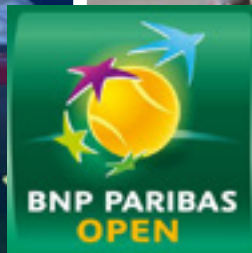






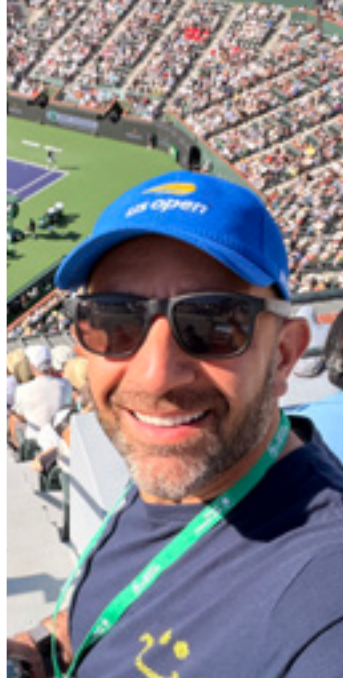
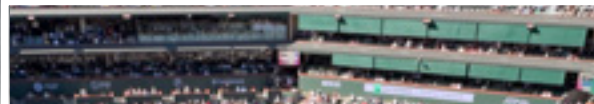
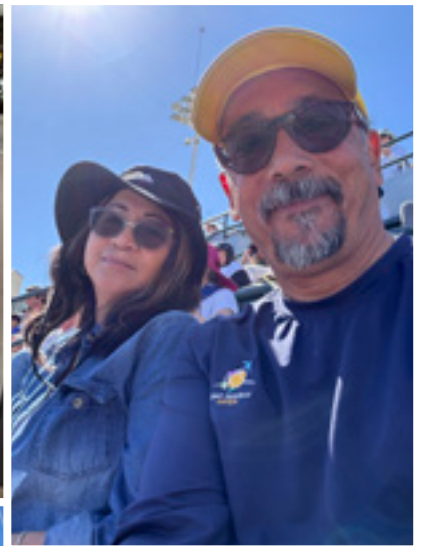














OPERATING HOURS AT WCTC**Monday – Friday: 8am-10:00pm • Saturday & Sunday: 8am-8pm****April 2026****APRIL PASSHOLDER SPECIAL**

This month all passholders get to choose one egg with a special prize inside from our Spring Prize Basket, on display in the office. Prizes can include a sweet treat or special discount.

SPRING SESSION DROP-INS

Drop in options for tennis and pickleball, available until 4/19. | Spring Session 2 starts 4/20

- Tuesdays: 9:30-10:50a – Pickleball: Round Robin with Coach Ben (Adv Beginner to Intermediate) – Fee \$20 per person
- Wednesdays: 8:00-9:20p – Tennis: Adult Intermediate - Fee \$39 per class
- Thursdays: 10:30-11:50a – Tennis: Adult Intermediate - Fee \$39 per class
- Fridays: 10:30-11:50a – Tennis: Adult Drill & Play (Intermediate+) - Fee \$39 per class
- Saturdays: 11:40-1:00p – Tennis: Adult Intermediate - Fee \$39 per class
- Sundays: 11:40-1:00p – Tennis: Adult Intermediate - Fee \$39 per class

Check online or in the office for availability regarding specific classes and drop-in options.

TENNIS IS BETTER WITH FRIENDS - SPRING SESSION PROMOTION - APRIL 21 - MAY 3

Learning is more fun together. This Spring, if you or your child registers for one of our introductory classes, you can bring a friend or family member and get 50% off the second registration. View full terms and conditions here.

MARCH PASSHOLDER WINNERS!

Congratulations to our March Passholder Special Drawing Winners:

Head Boom Tennis Racquet (v. 2023) – **Karen James**

Head Radical Tour Pickleball Paddle – **Thomas Crenshaw**

4-Month Extension – **Boris Bindman**

SUMMER CAMPS

Looking for fun summer activities for your kids? Lifetime Activities offers a variety of camp options starting on June 1st and running weekly through August 16th:

- Little Tennis and Rallyer Camps (ages 4-6) – NEW extended option available
- Youth Improvement Tennis Camps (ages 7-15)
- PM Paddle Sports, Activity & Swim Summer Camp (ages 8-15)
- All Day Tennis, Paddle Sports & Swim (ages 8-15)

USTA CAPTAINS - NEW TEAM INTENT TO CAPTAIN FORM - REQUIRED SUMMER 2026 AND BEYOND

Due to the immense popularity of USTA League Play, there will be a new process to register teams with Lifetime Activities out of the Walnut Creek Tennis Center. An "Intent to Captain – Team Application" will be required and approved and is on the homepage of the reservation portal, under the Leagues tab. Follow the link for more information about the Team Application.

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.



Learning is more fun together. Register for an introductory Spring tennis class with a friend or family member and get **50% OFF** the second registration!

Eligible Programs: Little Tennis, Ready! Ready! Play!, Adult Beginning Tennis, and Adult Advanced Beginning Tennis. Sign up before the second class of any Spring Session!



CALENDER OF EVENTS

2026

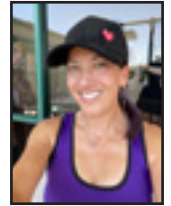
Apr — **May** — **Jun**

Apr 2-5	USTA 40+ Playoffs Round 1
Apr 2-5	USTA 18+ Mixed Playoffs Round 2
Apr 6	USTA 18+ Season Opens
Apr 6	USTA 18+ DT Season Opens
Apr 6-10	USTA 40+ DT Playoffs Round 3
Apr 14	WCRC - Summer Singles League Opens
Apr 9-12	USTA 40+ Playoffs Round 2
Apr 9-12	USTA 18+ Mixed Playoffs Round 3
Apr 10	USTA 65+ Season Closes
Apr 16-10	USTA 40+ Playoffs Round 3
Apr 19	WCRC - WING Singles League Closes
Apr 20	WCRC Summer Singles League Opens
Apr 20	USTA 40+ Team Registration Opens
Apr 20-24	USTA 65+ Playoffs Round 1
Apr 27-May 1	USTA 65+ Playoffs Round 2
May 1	WCRC - Summer Doubles League Opens
May 1	WCRC Calcutta Party & Auction
May 2	WCRC Calcutta Tournament
May 8-10	USTA 40+ Sectionals (Opt 1)
May 15-17	USTA 40+ Sectionals (Opt 2)
May 18	USTA 40+ Team Registration Closes
May 19-21	USTA 65+ Sectionals
May 24	USTA 55+ Season Closes
June 8	USTA 40+ Season Opens
June 9-11	USTA 40+ DT Sectionals
June 11-14	USTA 55+ Playoffs Round 1
June 12	USTA 18+ DT Season Closes

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cara Mia Barnacascel

January - February, 2026



Income

Total for League Dues	\$283.22
Membership Dues	5,375.38
Total for Income	\$5,658.60
Gross Profit	\$5,658.60

Expenses

Board Meeting	377.51
Captains Meetings	67.90
Contributions	771.55
Office Supplies	290.91
Rental Fees	1,195.00
Software	69.99
Supplies	190.75
Taxes	20.00
Total for Website	\$19,234.95
Total for Expenses	\$22,218.56
Net Operating Income	-\$16,559.96
Net Income	-\$16,559.96

Balance February 28, 2026

\$51,307.96

Upcoming EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Walnut Creek Racquet Club

Calcutta Party/Auction	May 1, 2026	Summer Doubles League	May 1 - Sep 7, 2026
Calcutta Tournament	May 2, 2026	Fall Mixed Doubles	Sept. 1 - Feb 18, 2027
Longest Day Tournament	June 20, 2026	Summer Doubles Tourny	Sept. 19-20, 2026
Mid-Summer Tournament	Aug 1, 2026	Summer Singles Tourny	Oct. 9-11, 2026
Summer Singles League	Apr 20 - Aug 30		



Back to back champion for the lucky few. WCRC members Sandra Harris, Melissa Bach and Darien Lum went on to defend NorCal 55+ 7.0 mixed National win from last year. This year, WCRC members Shuangxi Xu and James Cochrane joined the trio. Congratulations!



Nationals Winners!