

THE DRC GAZETTE - September Edition 2011

[Our motto: There is no rumor, conjecture or filth that is not fit to print.]

Since our last sold out edition, there have been a few happenings within the Dallas Racquet Club social groupies.

First and foremost, of course, was another successful tournament held at the Garland Tennis Center in July, and subsequent gathering at the corner bistro (whatever it was called), same one as last year, where we corrupted a young girl's birthday party. This was the Sadie Hawkins tournament. The winning couple was Bill Griffis and his companion, Angie, who it is rumored just came off the WTA tour. Runners up were Marty and his lovely mate. Bringing up the bottom was Suzanne with her partner, Don "Fountain of Youth" Watson, though with this weather, there ain't much water left. The day was capped by RAINFALL, just about everywhere except on my lawn. Our September tournament fared even better with 9 courts in King/Queen of the Hill format at the fancy Prestonwood CC, with subsequent libations at Don Pepe's. Our thanks to all, but specially our leader Ross and the board, who work tirelessly to keep the club humming. Top winners were Craig and Angie with Charles, Susan, Lisa and Marty not far behind. All were rewarded handsomely with gifts that will surely become family heirlooms.

July was a month of much festivity with a lot of camaraderie, including surprise birthday parties and movie going by various folks. Also Ms. Marceau hosted a small tennis moment (at Hi Point) and dinner (at Reds in Plano) for her bro, Mark and his lovely new wife. Something is wrong with her thermostat because she chooses the hottest hours (specially to play singles). I had the pleasure of playing with the newly weds and the redheaded school teach, while on the adjoining court, a bunch of rowdy annoying juniors (Suzanne, Alan, Kathy M. and July birthday boy Pablo Britton) were also playing their 2.0 match. By the way, Pablo got his wish and for his birthday we (the guys) got to see a guy movie (Cowboys and Aliens), which the ladies seemed to enjoy, except Lana, who kept shrieking and covering her eyes during all the cool scenes.

The dinner afterwards at TGIF was also enjoyable; present were Ted Brotherton, Anne Marceau, Lanelle Lively, my cuz 10 times removed, Steve Jensen, Roxanne, Kathy "Merlot" Cassidy, Suzanne, Lana, Debbie and Debbie, Jim Gunn, Tim, yours truly, and of course the birthday boy, complete with birthday cake. Earlier in the month, I was honored as well by many friends, who helped me celebrate another decade of breathing and walking upright; the party hosted by Anne at her place, for which I was very grateful. Among my gifts was a coupon for Last Rites at any Catholic church, since Charles, whose last name starts with a C and ends with an x is too chintzy to do it for free (only accepts prepaid Visa.)

Also some have braved the heat to play singles, more with intentions than in actual fact, since this summer we have broken every record in the weatherman's book for DFW, which probably accounts for the camel dung I have found on my lawn.

Charles Cox and Annette Sudhof also spent a month or so vacationing, he in sunny California (chasing WTA tennis players into the locker room) and she from Germany and other European destinations where she visited with family and friends. Also doing well after some surgery is Roxanne, who also flew across the pond to attend a Jane Austen thingy in England.

Chandler's Landing Club in Rockwall (Dave Mallard's lair) held a tennis mixer with abundant libations. Some tennis die-hards made it over there, including Suzanne 007 Payne, Kathy "Whack me if you can"

Murphy, Francy "Picasso" Renz, Carlos "Surfer Boy" Cox and yours truly, Pulitzer Emeritus -in-waiting celebrated journalist. Also present was the always lovely Lynn, besides Dave and his much better half, Sherry.

Also several Racquetees were sighted at the WTA tournament at the DFW Hilton in Grapevine, where several top 20 women pros showed up and also Melanie Oudin, who recently won the mixed doubles title at the US Open (first title in a long time.) Seen out there were Carlos Cox ogling Sabine Lisiki, Anne Marceau, notable sports photographer emeritus Ross James and Alan Brock among others.

Francis Renz also organized a few art district get-togethers, where Racquetees congregate to drink free wine and cheese. Seen there were Carlos Campbell, Pat Bowring and Mike Sims and your roving reporter.

Also Jim "Salsa" Gunn was sighted at Addison Circle in the company of two ladies, writhing to saucy salsa tunes. Kathy and Suzanne's last name are withheld to preserve their innocence. It was fortunate that our roving reporter just happened to be there to record this decadent event.

Unfortunately not all was rosy, as Kathy Newman lost her grandson to a motorcycle accident. I know our condolences go out to her.

And no one can forget 9/11 on the 10th anniversary. But at least we can take some comfort in the fact that Osama bin Laden has made his last trip to the outhouse.

TENNIS STUFF

Recently, a recent controversy about tennis rules was brought to my attention (also am a distinguished USTA umpire.)

The question was: "If team A returns a ball and it ricochets off the net post into the opponent's (Team B) court, is the ball good or out?"

There are **two** answers, according to the ITF Rules of tennis:

If playing **SINGLES**, the ball is **out**; BUT, if playing **DOUBLES** the ball is good (Rule 2 and comment 13.3 of the ITF/USTA Rules define this situation.) I know, weird.

So, the Djoker wins his third Slam of the year (almost 4 - as Fed took him out of the French in the quarters, I think.) And Sam Stosur finally got a well deserved win over (screaming sour grapes) Serena in the finals of the US Open.

The Lighter Side:

With all the sadness and trauma going on in the world at the moment, it is worth reflecting on the death of a very important person, which almost went unnoticed last month. Larry LaPrise, the man who wrote "The Hokey Pokey" died peacefully at age 93.

The most traumatic part for his family was getting him boxed up. They put his left leg in.

And then the trouble started.

