



# The Cottonwood Tennis Club News

The Cottonwood Tennis Club News January 2009

Volume 3—Issue 4

## Message from the President

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- CTC Spring Events
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- Newsletter — CTC on the Web

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## President's Message—Susan Stewart

### A very Happy New Year to all our Cottonwood Tennis Club members!

The many Children's Christmas Gifts and monies donated by CTC were much appreciated. The Holiday Dinner Dance was a beautiful way to end 2008.

### Banquet Facilities for 2009.

The HOA categorizes CTC as a Special Group Event, which means we have discounts or fees waived because of our extensive usage of Banquet amenities (\$8000 annually). We have met the \$8000 expenditures and will continue to receive special pricing in 2009 for our club dinners at the San Tan Ballroom. Credit is also given for expenditures only at the Bar in the ballroom (not the lounge bar), and if \$250 in drinks are purchased the \$50 bar set up fee is waived, each month.

**CTC Spring Events.** We are already nearing the end of our Fall Leagues and activities and moving to our Spring activities. We have our Spring Leagues, two more CTC Tournaments, three more Interclub events, the Robson Cup, the Cottonwood/Palo Verde Recreational Evening, the Annual Picnic, and the Spring Fling, plus a March event to be announced. There will be lots of good tennis and camaraderie. CTC free tennis clinics for beginners are held Monday and Tuesday evenings

from 7:30 to 9:00, covering basic strokes, court positions, rules, and etiquette, and "drop in tennis" is on Sunday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 for new and advanced beginners to learn to play the game, with Don Neu running these programs.

### Election Committee Nominations.

At our January Dinner Meeting the Election Committee will announce its nominations for the slate of officers for next year, April 1<sup>st</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>, with voting taking place at the February Dinner Meeting, and the installation of officers at the March Dinner Meeting. All other 120+ essential positions are filled by you volunteering, so please take a look at these Volunteer positions posted behind the big glass bulletin board. Your hard work is what makes our club such a great success, so *please volunteer!*

### Newsletters will be delivered to your email address.

This is our first email to all members with an email address, so please telephone me at 895-6385 if you encounter any problem. Beginning in 2009 we no longer mail Newsletters except to the few members without computer access, a large man-hour and cost savings for CTC. The Newsletter is always put on the website prior to the new month, plus the bonus calendars with all scheduled activities already entered for your convenience, all for you to read or



print out. Write down our websites: for the **Newsletter** go to [www.ctcnewsletter.com](http://www.ctcnewsletter.com) and for the **Cottonwood Tennis Club** site go to [www.cottonwoodtennisclub.com](http://www.cottonwoodtennisclub.com), which has a link to go to the Newsletter as well as numerous other links in the What's New area of the Home page, so please go often and familiarize yourself with the extensive information you will find there.

**Happy New Year !**  
**Susan Stewart,**  
**President**

Club Events

Socials

Tournaments

Events

Meetings

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS !****MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR !**

**January 5-9**  
Mens & Womens Doubles

**January 21**  
CTC Dinner & Meeting  
(Report of the  
Nominating Committee)

**January 24**  
Oakwood Inter-club at  
CW

**February 14**  
CW Inter-club at Leisure  
World

**February 21**  
The Robson Cup at Sun  
Lakes

**February 23-27**  
CTC Closed—Mixed  
Doubles

**Tournament News — Al Wagner, Tournament Director**

Team Tennis Tournament - The Triple T week turned out fairly well with the club divided into three leagues with ten teams. Just about everyone played with a different partner for each match and faced different opponents each match as well. The Sting Rays won the first league thanks to the efforts of Ray Sluzewicz, Rae Lewis, Wayne Mangold, Pam Lenar, Lou Galiano, Tony Simonelli, Susie Welker and Neda Mead.

The De De's came out on top the second league with Roger Diddock, Kathy Sundsrud, Gerry Picker, Horst Flachsmann, Lou Simmons, Susie Dunn, and Paul Riedell earning bragging rights. The Scorpions came out on top over the Killer Bees in league three. Bill Adams, Art Miller, Bert

Wall, Ron Peterson, Marsha Coffman, Lois Koenig, Teddy Cole, and Carole Kile showed their winning ways. Thanks to everyone who filled in for those who were injured or unable to play.

Sunbird, Sun Lakes Country Club Social. Saturday the 13th saw CTC hosting two clubs at home on the same day. CTC prevailed over Sunbird, 208-154. We also came out ahead of Sun Lakes Country Club 136 - 101. A total of 41 matches were held during the day. Thanks To Judy Crane and her assistants for this day long event.

Four singles ladders have been formed with an upper and lower division for both the men and the women. Thanks to Bob Walk, Bob Baker, Judy Crane, and Susie

Welker who agreed to serve as score coordinators for these ladders. If you wish to follow the progress of these groups, check out the bulletin board by the entrance to the exercise room.

Our next social is at home with Oakwood and the sign-up sheet has been posted. The doubles tournament is schedule for the first full week of the New Year. Another sign-up sheet has been posted for anyone interested in joining doubles ladders. This play would go on outside of Cottonwood Tennis Court scheduled time. See Al Wagner or Kathy Klotz if you have questions on these items.

See You on the Courts!

**Al Wagner,  
Tournament Director**

**Other Events Coming Up !**

January 15—Arrowhead Sr. Open—Glendale  
January 20—Campbells Natl. Sr.

February 2—Calcutta Charity at Oakwood  
February 4—Polar Bear Sr. Open—Gilbert

**CTC Red, White & Blue Dinner & Meeting**  
**A celebration of our patriotic spirit !**

Wednesday, January 21, 2009 — SanTan Ballroom  
No host bar—5:15 Dinner—6:00 Meeting--7:00 PM  
Sign-up deadline: Wednesday, January 14th

Cost per person \$16.75

Menu — Burgundy Beef Tips Over Noodles, Rolls,  
Salad, Peas with Pearl Onions, Carrot Cake  
Vegetarian option available

**Hosts -Tony and Kaipo Simonelli**

Extra

## Publicity

Rating  
Committee

## Miscellaneous

**Publicity—Keith & Susie Welker 802-9704**

Please send any newsworthy publicity items to Keith & Susie Welker. Every month, articles and photo(s) are sent to local publications, and we would be delighted to include your league's results (be sure to give me a written script). If anyone has photos for publication, please e-mail those as well

and be sure to include a caption. Publicity articles for the winter editions of the SPLASH have been recently limited to 500 words. Names of some participants and/or winners may have to be omitted in order to report more of the news. My apologies!  
keithsusan@earthlink.net

**Tennis Quote of the Month —**

“Be bold. If you're going to make an error, make a doozy, and don't be afraid to hit the ball.”

**Billie Jean King**

**Looking to improve your game?  
CTC has it all !!****CTC Qualified  
Tennis Instructors:**

Al Wagner  
H.S. Tennis Coach  
802-7142

Dick White, USPTR  
895-0858

Don Neu, USPTA  
895-2763

Jack Sanders, USPTA  
883-7421 or 221-6388

**Free Tennis Lessons**

*by Don Neu*

**October—April**

**Monday 7:30 pm—**

**Beginners**

**Tuesday 7:30 pm**

**Intermediate**

**Beginners**

**Rating Committee—Keith Nelson 802-7330**

The Ratings Committee would like to thank the players who participated in the group evaluation ballots. There was an overall 70% return rate which is considered very good. This peer survey allows us to pick out individuals who may have been overlooked and combined with our other

criteria gives us a more complete overview. The third and last in the series of surveys will target the Orange and Brown players and be distributed in the spring.

**Keith Nelson, Chair**  
Pat Bowlus, Kathy Klotz,  
Al Wagner, Jack Fitzsimmons,  
Mike DeMalleville

**Welcome New Members ---**

*Mary White,  
Membership Chair*

Mary Burke

Gerry Mitchell

**Have you changed email addresses?**

**Online feature only** – look for the **SUBMIT** button to update your contact information !



The [www.cottonwoodtennisclub.com](http://www.cottonwoodtennisclub.com) website has recently had a "facelift". The home page has a new look, an "about us" page was added, a "President's Message" page replaced the "What's New" page, plus other cosmetic changes were made throughout. Take a look! We hope you like it!

Visit the [www.cottonwoodtennisclub.com](http://www.cottonwoodtennisclub.com) website – the Photo Gallery page — for pictures from the December CTC Holiday Party!

## How, Why & When to Hit the Lob [www.all-about-tennis.com](http://www.all-about-tennis.com)

The **lob** is one of the most valuable shots in tennis. You should use it to your advantage every time you have a chance. There are two kinds of lobs: **Offensive Lob** and **Defensive Lob**.

### TECHNIQUE

Hit the shot with a full stroke without quite as much backswing but a long upward follow-through. Try to step into the shot as though you were hitting a ground stroke.

### THE OFFENSIVE LOB

The **Offensive Lob** is used to push your opponents away from the net because when your opponents are at the net they are at an advantageous position to win the point. The best place to aim an Offensive Lob is over an opponent's backhand side, ideally just inside the baseline on a low trajectory but a little higher than your opponent can reach with a slight jump. After you hit the Offensive Lob do not rush the net, because you should anticipate that, when your opponents have a chance to return the shot, they will use an **overhead smash**. Your best position is about 3 feet behind the baseline for men and nearer to the baseline for women. If you can return your opponent's shot, your team now has an opportunity to get to the net and to be in an advantageous position

to win the point. Now, your team should be ready for your opponents to hit an Offensive Lob or to try to drive the ball, after which your team should hit either a winning volley or an overhead smash.

### THE DEFENSIVE LOB

The Defensive Lob is used when you are in trouble, usually by having been taken wide off the court by your opponent's shot and you need to get back into position.

The best place to aim a Defensive Lob is as near your opponent's baseline as possible. It is excellent strategy to lob diagonally across the court, because you will be hitting into the longest area of the court, which gives you a better chance to keep the ball in bounds and more time to get yourself back into your playing position.

### MORE LOB TIPS

1. If a lob is hit at you, even if it is well aimed over your backhand side, try to run far enough ahead of the ball so that you can turn around and take it on your **forehand**. It is always best to use your forehand.
2. If your opponent lobs and has not come to the net, so that now all players are in the backcourt, you should try to

## Racquet Talk



return the lob as a regular ground stroke and attempt to gain the advantageous net position.

3. A lob with **top-spin** hit at you should be struck **before it bounces**, remembering to hit up and through the ball. This allows your team to maintain a more advantageous court position. If you can't do that, you should get back farther than usual because the rotation of the ball will cause it to bounce deeper out of the court, increasing the distance which you need to get the ball back into a safe area.

## 2008-2009 CTC Board of Directors

President — Susan Stewart

Vice President — Keith Nelson

Secretary — Pam Lenar

Treasurer — Kelz Kelzenburg

Tournament Director — Al Wagner

1st Past President — Wayne Mangold

## CTC Tennis Apparel

Many of our Cottonwood players are not wearing their logo shirts or hats during our community socials. Did you know that it is a proven fact that players that wear their Cottonwood attire not only look good but seem to play much better! If you would like to purchase a Cottonwood shirt, hat, visor or maybe a beautiful towel, you can purchase these items at our cost. There's even an easy payment plan just to help you look and play your very best!

**Bob Walk, Apparel Coordinator, 940-6009**

Visit us on the web —

[www.cottonwoodtennisclub.com](http://www.cottonwoodtennisclub.com)    [www.ctcnewsletter.com](http://www.ctcnewsletter.com)

Contact us —

[president@cottonwoodtennisclub.com](mailto:president@cottonwoodtennisclub.com)    [webmaster@cottonwoodtennisclub.com](mailto:webmaster@cottonwoodtennisclub.com)

## Mens Leagues

### Tuesday League

The Men's 2008 Fall Tuesday League is coming to an end. There is only two weeks left in the Fall season. The league standings are still pretty close. Team 4 (led by Ernie Laenertz) has a slight lead, but Team 4 has a bye on the final week, so things could change. The final day of play will be January 20<sup>th</sup> (if we don't have a rain-out). The League awards, food and drinks party will commence immediately following the last match of the day on January 20<sup>th</sup> (about 12:30).

The sign-up sheet for the Men's 2009 Spring Tuesday League has been posted and so far we have 36 Black and Orange rated players signed up to play, plus an additional 12 Blue rated players who are willing to play in the Tuesday league should they not be selected for the Thursday league.

It appears that the Men's 2009 Spring Tuesday League will have 6 teams with 7 players on each team.

The Spring League will need 6 captains. There is a sign-up sheet posted for anyone interested in being a captain. If you have never been a captain and would like to, please sign-up. The perks that come with the job are to numerous to mention. It would be nice to see some new leaders.

This will be my last year as director of the Tuesday league and the league is looking for someone to assume the job. I will assist anyone who would desire to accept the position. Anyone interested in the position please contact me at 895-7704.

**Pete Dalecio, Director 895-7704**

## League Information

Mens

Womens

Organized

### Thursday League

Two more weeks to go in the Thursday League. After two strong weeks in December, the Chrome Domes have taken a commanding lead over the second place team, The Kiddy Corps, who themselves had two good weeks to jump into second place overtaking the Oldies But Goodies now in third place. The Sly Foxes are hanging on by a thread to fourth place over The French Legion by a mere three points. The Polish Falcons have retaken their usual spot bringing up the rear. If you haven't gone back to read the November newsletter yet and still don't know the names of the team captains, I will reveal them in the next newsletter when the winners will be announced and the bonus checks handed out (only kidding).

The draft for the spring portion of the league will be held Jan. 12th and play will start Jan. 29th. Something to remember --at our level of play, for every winner you hit, you will make eight to ten errors. Kind of depressing isn't it."

**Lou Galiano, Director 895-6093**

**DROP-IN tennis  
every Sunday—  
7 pm—for beginner  
and intermediate  
levels !**



**Semi Singles  
Friday's at 1:00  
Contact — Mary  
White**

League Information continued on Page 6 .....

## Womens Leagues

### Monday League

The Monday Womens League ended up their league with a very close race going in. First and second place were 3 games apart before the last day. Jancie Kilbreath's team, Mary Jane Robinson, Kay Wengert, and Carol McCulley ended up winning and Jill Seager's team took second. We had a great time and a lot of good tennis this season and looking forward to the Spring Session.

**Pat Davidson, Director 883-9716**

### Wednesday League

The Spring Session for the Wednesday League will start on January 21 and end on April 1. So far, 33 people have signed up to play as a regular team member. Drafting will take place during the first week of January. Players can be excused from 3 days of play during the season and still remain on a team. Due to a decrease in sign-ups of players who wish to be a full-time team member, the league will probably have 5 teams of 6 players during the Spring Session instead of the current 6 teams of 6 players.

The Tennis Board has approved a schedule change allowing the league to play at 8:30 and 10:00 for the Spring Session.

**Donna Nelson, Director 802-7330**

## Organized Play

### Mens Organized

We made it through the year with no major problems and with the new year of 2009, we will once again face challenges that we must overcome and push forward with another fun year. With the new year, I will be looking for new or used volunteers to make sure our courts get filled and scheduled in an orderly manner. I did not get one call this past year complaining about our volunteer organizers, which means that they all did a very good job and we will continue that trend.

Thank you again for your time and please try it again when I come around next month looking to fill our needs for 2009 & 2010.

**Bob Walk, Coordinator 940-6009**

### Mixed Doubles Organized

All is well on the home front. No news is good news!

**Gerry Picker, Coordinator  
802-6732**

### Womens Organized

Nothing to report !

**Mary Jane Williams, Coordinator 895-7666**

## League Information

**continued**

*CTC Tennis -*

*It's the best game in town !*



Sun Lakes, Arizona

[www.cottonwoodtennisclub.com](http://www.cottonwoodtennisclub.com)  
[www.ctcnewsletter.com](http://www.ctcnewsletter.com)

## *The Cottonwood Tennis Club Newsletter*

This newsletter is published monthly, six times a year, October through March, by the Cottonwood Tennis Club, Sun Lakes, Arizona. This club was established to provide opportunities for tennis playing residents of Cottonwood Palo Verde at Sun Lakes to participate in organized play, team play, tournament play and social events with friends and neighbors with a common interest. IronOaks and Sun Lakes Country Club residents may also join the club if they have paid the appropriate annual fee required by the Cottonwood Palo Verde Homeowners Association.

An annual club membership entitles members to participate in Monday-Friday mornings organized play, club tournaments, league participation, club-sponsored social events, and subscription to the newsletter and websites.

Membership meetings are held monthly, October through April. Time and place of meetings are posted on the club bulletin board, in this newsletter, and on the websites!

### THE COTTONWOOD TENNIS CLUB NEWSLETTER

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**CTC Member**