

Splash Tennis Article for April 2011 by John Crawford



Tennis players know how to party. In keeping with tradition, we bring the tennis season to a joyful end with a picnic at Sisk Park. On Saturday, April 2, more than 200 tennis players gather to celebrate the friendships they created or reinforced during the thousands of tennis matches that were played at the Cottonwood and Palo Verde tennis courts during the season. This is a special event for club members only and no pets, children, or guests are allowed.

For this event, no tennis rackets are required because the games involve activities such as bocce ball, bean bag tosses, golf putting competitions and even some occasional activities that were unplanned. Starting at 11am and ending at 3pm, the party is designed to be a dynamic good time. This year, due to the availability of new shade screens and special umbrellas, even the folks who are about to flee from the sun will find shady places to sit and enjoy the festivities.

As the party ends, there is a raffle for a series of delightful prizes. Those present at the time of the drawing can hope to get tennis balls, hats, shirts and a host of gift cards to the Cottonwood and Palo Verde restaurants. The tennis club takes special pride in the fact that we offer a great deal of support to the excellent restaurant facilities in Cottonwood and Palo Verde throughout the year.

Club members who purchase tickets before the event gain access to the fun for a mere \$2.00. Individuals who procrastinate pay \$5.00 to attend. For both groups, the party is a bargain because it includes a chicken feast and ample beer, wine, water, and soft drink beverages to keep everyone hydrated even in the event that the Arizona sun is starting to warm things up.

For the second year in a row, Pete and Kathleen Dalecio volunteered to organize the event with the invaluable help of Jack Fitzsimmons, Art Miller, Bob Walk, Al Wagner and Jim Dittman. Ron Peterson, a long-time member of the tennis club, again volunteered to play and sing for the event. Additional individuals pitch in before, during and after the picnic to keep everything working smoothly.

With over 300 members, the Cottonwood Tennis Club helps to assure that Robson promise of an ACTIVE adult community continues to be a promise kept. With free lessons each Monday and Tuesday to help bring new individuals into the club, we are proud to be an organization that keeps individuals active and healthy well into their 90's. If you or a friend has yet to give tennis a try, now is a good time to get involved.