

November 2010 SUN LAKES SPLASH

The Cottonwood Tennis Club has 283 members who love watching and playing tennis. Members range from ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS to seasoned players who have enjoyed the sport for most of their lives. Monday's and Wednesday's, the women dominate the courts in vibrant league play designed to help individuals participate in doubles matches that allow individuals to compete with players who have similar skill levels. The tennis leagues on Tuesday and Thursdays are dominated by the men. Each day, prior to the start of league play, the courts are devoted to organized tennis sessions that allow all interested persons to play in matches set up by either Mary Jane Williams for the women or Bob Walk for the men. Players sign up for each of the organized sessions and the skill ranges of the players varies from week to week. On Friday, Gerry Picker helps set up both organized and league matches for mixed doubles matches and a wide range of men and women make those sessions a capstone event for the week.

The club enthusiastically reaches out to men and women who would like to learn the game or refresh lost skills with FREE lessons every Monday and Tuesday evening at the Cottonwood courts. The club has loaner rackets so the lessons are indeed free to anyone who wants to explore this life-long sport. The lessons are offered from 7:30 to 9PM and we always have experienced coaches offering fun and functional lessons. Mr. Don Neu, pictured above on the right side of the photo, has been offering free lessons each Monday and Tuesday for eighteen years. His longtime colleague, Mr. Pierre Moresi is pictured on the far left and Mr. Bob Pivec is shown in the middle. Several other individuals serve as instructors during the season. On some evenings, as many as twenty individuals come for the free lessons and the fun they experience is so palpable they often draw an audience.

During the course of the year, the club offers a wide range of tournaments, leagues and organized play opportunities that give all the members a chance to sharpen their tennis skills. At the same time, as a social organization, we have frequent gatherings devoted to fun and fellowship so individuals from all skill levels can share in the fun. We have even had a social gathering where all members had to play with ancient ol' wooden rackets and white tennis balls. Once a month, we have meetings that allow the social networking to continue. Most meetings are preceded by an opportunity to share a meal with the membership. We are currently beginning our new season and anyone interested in joining the Cottonwood Tennis Club is encouraged to contact our membership chair: Mrs. Susie Dunn at 802-4419.

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Photo Caption: Don Neu, Pierre Moresi and Bob Pivec offer free lessons to enthusiastic beginners.