

## World Team Tennis Amador-Style Knocks Our Socks Off!

In late October, Amador Tennis Club (ATC) completed its first, but not last, "season" of World Team Tennis (Amador-style) matches with all four teams competing for final ranking. Kim Nielsen initiated WTTA in an effort to encourage new momentum among our adult tennis players. With the help of Rosalie Pryor Escamilla, players were solicited, dates set, and teams organized for fun and competition throughout October.

WTTA is adult team tennis involving four teams of 4-6 players using a modified World Team Tennis format. Teams of 3 men and 3 women were arranged with balanced levels of experience so that all matches could be competitive and fun. Each Sunday afternoon, the teams played five matches at the Argonaut High courts: men's and women's singles, men's and women's doubles and mixed doubles.

Twenty-seven players participated in the season, including regular team members and alternates. The weather was wonderful and the format allowed for manageable time commitments and match completion; team members supplied snacks and beverages.

Proceeds from the season were donated to ATC, a non-profit USTA Community Tennis Association, for the benefit of tennis facilities and programs throughout our county.

Response to WTTA has been very positive with some suggestions for next time, but those involved all agree we need to do it again. Watch for notification of the next "season." All players are invited to participate.



Some of the smiling participants in the first-ever World Team Tennis Amador event held in October.

### ATC Board Meeting Dec. 14th

The Board of Directors of ATC will meet this year on December 14th at 6:30pm at the New Hong Kong restaurant in Jackson (Main Street). Agenda items include brief recap of 2006, budget and "state of the association" report, planning/calendaring of activities for 2007, and election of new officers. The meeting is open to **all** ATC members – in fact all are encouraged to attend. This meeting will be the only official "holiday" gathering for ATC in 2006. Please call Rosalie at 257-1545 if you would like to come, so we can have an approximate head-count for the "no host" dinner.

This Jackson 4th grader earned a silver medal and a free trip to Colorado! See inside for details on this rising tennis star...



### Rosalie Changes Hats

You may know that our USTA Community Tennis Coordinator (CTC), Charles Hanks, has moved to Austin, Texas where he is no doubt playing tennis on his new clay court. We'll miss Charles' involvement with tennis in Amador County. ATC's own Rosalie Escamilla had the good fortune to take over as the CTC for the Central San Joaquin Sector of USTA NorCal. This area includes Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne counties. The primary purpose of the CTC is to promote and encourage tennis participation and USTA membership.

"Figure on me being even more vocal about getting people out to play tennis than I have been in the past," says Rosalie when asked about her new job. "It's hard to believe I am working for the USTA doing something I love to do."

In her new capacity, Rosalie will work with clubs, schools, park and recreation departments, and other government entities to "grow the game" and find funding for programs and facilities. Due to this new endeavor, it is appropriate for her to resign her long-standing role as President/Queen of ATC (making the board meeting and elections even more important – see yellow box at left).

# Summer Tennis Camp a Winner

In August, the City of Jackson and ATC teamed up to offer the first-ever ATC Summer Tennis Camp to youth and interested parents. Sessions were conducted at the Argonaut High School tennis courts from 8:00-9:30am, Wednesday-Saturday during the two weeks before school started. The idea was simple – provide an opportunity to learn and play the game while having a whole lot of fun. Mission accomplished!

Under the guidance of lead instructors Kim Nielsen, Mark Hansler, Charles Hanks, and Brad Harris, each session provided instruction and drills for 10-20 participants. Additional fun and coaching were made possible by the help of our own ATC players who volunteered: Peggy Zeiderman, Emily Daniel, Nancy Beishline, Carol Eichman, Gwen Starrett, Gloria Telegan, Dale Telegan, Vera Ferguson, Rosalie Pryor Escamilla and Benita Asher. Youth assistant Jessica Casillas – a student at Argonaut High and member of the tennis team – helped with equipment and registration, as well as on-court activities. Benita Asher provided assistance with curriculum and court activities planning.

The program was a continuation of Jackson’s participation in the USTA/NRPA “Tennis in the Parks” initiative. Original grant monies, awarded in 2005, have been replenished by the self-funding nature of the programs offered. ATC plans to host the second annual Summer Tennis Camp in August of 2007.



Giovanni Casillas demonstrates perfect form and keeps his eye on the ball.



“Girls being girls” at the first-ever ATC Summer Tennis Camp.



ATC summer “campers” learn the ins and outs of a forehand.

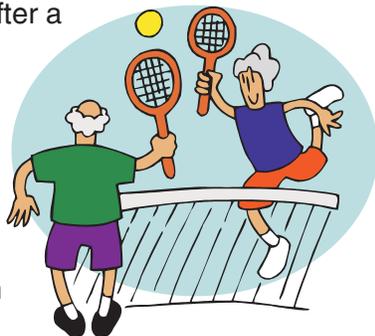
## 2007 at a Glance

We need your help to make these and other programs a reality. Call 257-1545 to get involved!

January 1:	New Year’s Day Play and Brunch on the Argonaut Courts
April 14:	USTA Recreational Coach Workshop starring Jason Jamison
April - May:	Junior Team Tennis featuring teams from different areas of the county
April 21 & May 5:	Free Rapid Rally Clinic at Detert Park, ages 8-13
May 19:	Rapid Rally Tennis Competition at Detert Park, ages 8-13
August TBD	Summer Tennis Camp for Youth and Adults
October TBD	Season 2 of World Team Tennis Amador
Ongoing...	Drop-in Doubles – Wed & Fri evenings from 5:30pm at Argonaut [Partner not mandatory, but helpful.]

## New Year’s Day on the Courts

January 1, 2006 was dry and WINDY, but 6 hearty (and hardy) players showed up at the Argonaut Courts to kick off the new year. After a wild set of men v. women, Gwen Starrett and Steve Doss, Dennis Dickman and Penny West joined John and Rosalie for brunch at the Escamilla home.



In the spirit of optimism and “let’s play”, ATC will again plan to meet Jan 1 at 10am at the Argonaut High School courts to kick off 2007. If it rains (or snows, sleet, or hails), go directly to brunch at 227 Mountain View Drive, Jackson. All are welcome. Please bring a brunch dish to share. For more information contact Rosalie at 257-1545.

# Local Girl Wins Silver Medal at Junior Olympic Tennis Event

“Awesome” is the word Jackson City Manager Mike Daly used when reciting the travel log of the his family’s journey to the United States Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs during the weekend of August 10-13, 2006. The reason for their trip was 9-year-old daughter Sarah’s successful climb to national competition in the first annual Junior Olympic Skills Rapid Rally Tennis competition sponsored by the US Tennis Association and Kellogg’s Frosted Flakes.

The adventure began for the Daly family with the Amador Tennis Club’s organization of a local venue for the USTA’s Rapid Rally Tennis competition. The Club hosted two free clinics to introduce children to basic tennis skills and to the Rapid Rally format – serving a low compression ball against a backboard, then continuing to rally for 30 seconds to achieve a maximum number of



Participants in the free Rapid Rally clinic work on some eye-hand coordination drills.

hits above the net line. The local competition, held in May at Detert Park in Jackson, was one of dozens across the country involving some 1.5 million 8-13 year olds in four different sports. The local competition was a family affair as the following sibling champions were crowned: Giovanni Casillas (Boys 8-9), Steven Casillas (Boys 10-11), Sarah Daly (Girls 8-9), and Meghan Daly (Girls 10-11).

These budding tennis stars then advanced to a regional competition in Sacramento. After diligently practicing, the Amador group represented themselves well, with all 4 winning their age groups and returning with gold medals.

However, the excitement didn’t stop there for Jackson fourth-grader Sarah Daly. Shortly after the regional competition in Sacramento, she received a phone call telling her that her score was the highest in her age group west of the Mississippi! She had earned

an all-expenses paid trip to the US Olympic Training Center in Colorado, where she would vie for the national Rapid Rally title.

At the National event, Sarah competed against other girls from the eastern and central regions of the United States in the 8-9 year-old age group. Sarah’s performance earned her the silver medal. The national event included 72 finalists, and was truly the experience of a lifetime for the youngsters. Hosted regally with all of the pomp and circumstance of a genuine Olympic event, competitors received gifts of Junior Olympics’ backpacks, T-shirts, shorts, athletic equipment, and more. Participants and families enjoyed the Olympic Training Center and were treated to sightseeing in the surrounding area. One outing took them on the tram to the summit of 14,600 ft. Pikes Peak.



Sarah Daly competes at the US Olympic Training Center in Colorado.

“We all did pretty well with the altitude,” said Mike, showing a family picture with four smiling faces.

Amador Tennis Club’s Benita Asher, who organized the local competition, said she “never dreamed that a beginning tennis player from our little rural community would make it all the way to nationals. Actually, I did entertain the thought early on. I thought that would be so cool. And it ended up happening! Now Sarah will inspire many more children to get involved and compete in next year’s Rapid Rally competition. What a wonderful success story!”



Amador’s Rapid Rally stars all earned gold medals at the regional event in Sacramento.



Sarah (left) stands on the podium with her silver medal. Practice and determination earned national recognition for this local youngster in the Rapid Rally tennis portion of the US Junior Olympic Skills competition.

Follow in Sarah’s footsteps when Rapid Rally Tennis returns next Spring!



AMADOR TENNIS CLUB

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### Organization

**President:** Rosalie Pryor Escamilla

**Vice President:** Emily Daniel

**Treasurer:** Benita Asher

**Secretary:** Bill Condrashoff

**Board Member-at-Large:** Bob Devlin

### Newsletter

We strive to publish quarterly. Subscriptions are free upon request. Many thanks to:

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### Mission Statement

To promote tennis as an enriching, healthy, lifelong sport to all people without discrimination.

The Amador Tennis Club (ATC) is a public nonprofit corporation recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Membership is open to all, free of charge.

Donations enable us to continue publishing our newsletter and promoting tennis in Amador County.

Voluntary annual dues of \$10/year per household may be mailed to: ATC, 11180 Ranchette Dr., Jackson CA 95642. We appreciate your support!



by Rosanna Hammer

For those who have been to the US Open (or any other Grand Slam tournament for that matter) you will understand the great endorsement of yours truly and **JohnERocket** upon their return from Flushing Meadows this year. Fantastic and fun. We recommend the first week early rounds and General Admission to the grounds. Seek out a good seat in the grandstand and wait for the right action. Terrific tennis up close and personal.

"Gee this is better than most weddings I've attended," commented **Kim Nielsen** as we waited for dinner to be served at the **Starrett-Doss** residence in Willow Creek this summer. That comment turned out to be predictive when, to the surprise of the crowd, the "party" turned into a marriage celebration. We wondered how those two could miss out on so much tennis just for a house-warming party! Now we know...

**Bill Easton**, feeling rejected by son **Ridge** (who I guess is busy playing other companions closer to his level), brought in the reinforcement from "out of area, out of country." A young man from France interning at the winery this year. Will we see more of them?

**Charles Hanks** has been advised that "we will be down" for our first visit soon. All are invited! Party-time, Charles. We will miss Charles' helpful and humorous support with our efforts. Speaking of missing... **Benita Ball Buster** was greatly missed due to her bout with PF (Plantar Fasciitis) and numerous other aches and pains, but I have personally seen her back on the court and believe me, she still plays like a tigress. The feet are feeling better and we're attributing at least some of the recovery to the "signature-basher-orange" sandals she wore all summer. Those gazillion \$\$ shoes have become a bit of a trademark for Benita.

Back on the scene for a few months was "new knees" **Don Cordes** (rhymes with knees, and sounds good when you say it out loud) and mystery knees **Backboard Bennie**. These two were not an item, but they are a couple of funsters to play with. Now Don's deserted Bennie – run off with his wife to Hawaii to wait out the weather. **Toddster the Modster** has been a Wednesday night regular along with **J.Rocket** and **Rosanna**; and

**Steve "Esteban" Elias** makes it over the river -- "si Dios quiere," right Steve? Now that Measure "K" is history (until another election?) we have **Bullet Bill** back in force running around like a rabbit.

Friday nights are sometimes a bit lean, but still find a number of couples out, braving the perils of mixed doubles play, fighting to stay together and keep playing. **The Fergusons** are always faithful (no pun...). Rumors that **Bicycle Bill (Tanner)** may be joining us soon. Don't forget the evenings over the winter months. Still lots of fun and usually not TOO cold out there. We do have those tournament quality lights to play under.

**JohnERocket** forgot his vows to **Rosanna** ("through miss-hits and unforced errors") and decided he had to take a break from mixed dubs. This drove him to seek new opportunities and sure enough, he's been sighted mornings on the courts with **John Shepherd**, **Gene Sproul**, **Dale Telegan** and **Jerry NKLN** (no known last name). It didn't take me long to interlope on that group. Rocket amazes his new friends by reciting 15-20 of the 47 tennis tips reported in Tennis Magazine in October. If you missed the article, just call John E.

Days you can catch the women's invitational group of **Peggy Zeiderman**, **Nancy Beishline-Rodman**, **Gloria Telegan**, **Vera Ferguson**, **Diane Olsen**, **Emily Daniel** and **Marge Chisholm**. To get your invitation to play, just call one of them to see when the tennis equivalent of "surf's up" is occurring, and you are sure to be invited. Newcomers (since we last wrote) are **Jerry and Sandi Beeman** -- who also participated as alternates in our WTTA season.

It has been reported that **Dr. Paul Metzger** sneaks out with **Mike Sweeney**. I really need a spy at Amador to report what's going over there. Don't forget we have two lovely courts in our outlying areas with new surfaces: Pioneer Park and Fiddletown Park. I need spies there too.

We put the call out for volunteers to consider attending the USTA Community Development Workshop in Feb. 2007 and our very own **Neil and Emily Carlson** expressed interest. We shall hope it works out for them to attend. Grant applications submitted and pending. And a final tidbit of gossip: **Stanford** has a crush on **Cody**.

*Keep chasing those balls, all.*