

## ATC Goes to Hollywood--“Heroes Among Us”

by Rosalie Pryor Escamilla

**“Heroes come in all shapes and sizes, from international tennis stars to local people running community tennis programs.”** This was a perfect description of the types of people we met at this inspiring event. Representing ATC, Benita Asher and I attended the 2006 USTA Community Tennis Development Workshop in Hollywood, CA, February 3-5.

The workshop sessions and networking with other tennis enthusiasts, both on and off court, were better than the legendary landmarks like the Hollywood Walk of Fame and the Kodak Theatre (home of the Academy Awards ceremonies). In fact, the USTA Awards Banquet was like an Academy Awards ceremony, hosted by the lovely and gracious Mary Joe Fernandez. Weekend highlights included a Recreational Coach Workshop, educational sessions about working with and as volunteers, a Cardio Tennis demonstration, and preview of a fantastic documentary film on Richard “Pancho” Gonzales.

Many of the programs and ideas you'll read about in this edition of the ATC Report reflect ideas and information we gained from the workshop. And for the other volunteers who generously give their time and energy to tennis, you could be the lucky one(s) to go to the annual conference next year. Speak up if you are interested. It is bound to be a positive experience for you.



## Sampras to Make Amador Appearance

This spring, the USTA will send an expert trainer from their national office (**OK, so it's not Sampras!**) to lead a free 6-hour Recreational Coach Workshop (RCW) in Jackson. This is an active, on-court participatory session demonstrating the latest and greatest techniques for introducing tennis. The approach has changed significantly over the years, and now focuses on getting players rallying and even competing during their first session!

*(This is the same workshop that Benita and Rosalie **paid** to attend in Hollywood and it is a great event! You have the opportunity to experience this fantastic workshop **for free.**)*

The RCW will be held at Argonaut High on May 13 from 9:30am-4pm. We need at least 20 participants, so if you don't call us, we will probably call you! This is a wonderful opportunity to get moving and learn some new skills, meet new people and have a ton of fun! Please pass the word to anyone who might be interested. All abilities are welcome! To sign up, contact ATC by calling Benita at 257-1208 or email [basher@volcano.net](mailto:basher@volcano.net)

Demand for tennis in Amador County is growing, but we need more help to meet that demand! This year ATC will focus on involving parents, teachers, local players, and others to help us develop new and expanded programs. Potential offerings include Cardio Tennis, a senior “Welcome Back to Tennis” party and follow-up program, and of course youth tennis. The USTA has extensive marketing kits and “how to” guides for these programs, and believe it or not, you don't have to be a teaching pro or even a tennis player to work with beginners. You just have to want to make a difference in people's lives and in your community.



**KIDS! Win a free trip to Colorado! See page 2 !**

# Imagine! Junior Olympians in Amador County!

Three boys and three girls from Amador County will advance to the regional Rapid Rally tennis competition and will have a chance to compete for **an all expenses paid trip to Colorado for the National Championships** this summer. The opportunity is called "Rapid Rally Tennis" and is part of the US Junior Olympic Skills Series.

Open to ages 8-13, Rapid Rally Tennis tests how many times a child can hit a low compression tennis ball\* against a backboard in a 30-second time period. For a hit to count, the child must be standing at least 15 feet from the wall and the ball must hit at least 3 feet up the wall. The Rapid Rally competition will take place on May 20 from 1-4pm at Detert Park (8-9 year olds at 1pm, 10-11 year olds at 2pm, and 12-13 year olds at 3pm).

Complete rules and details will be available at our two **FREE** practice clinics at Detert Park on April 8 and 29. The practice clinics will introduce the basic strokes and the serve needed for the Rapid Rally competition. Low compression tennis balls\* will be available for purchase at each clinic--then it's time to get practicing against that backboard! Space in the clinics is limited, so register today using the form at right. For more information, please call Benita at 257-1208 or email [basher@volcano.net](mailto:basher@volcano.net).

\*Low compression balls are a special type of tennis ball without the pressure of a regular tennis ball. They are being used widely by USTA to introduce and teach tennis to new players.



## Local High School Tennis Promises Great Action

Amador High tennis coach Chris Fuller reports that nearly 30 kids have come out for tennis this year. The season shows great promise for the team, which has been building momentum over the past couple of seasons and has several strong returning players on both the boys' and girls' sides. At Argonaut High, Dave Harris will be returning as head coach, assisted by Kim Nielsen. Many of the Argonaut players are still finishing up basketball season. They'll be back training and practicing soon to try and carry on the strong Argonaut tennis tradition.

Mixed doubles has been added to the high school match play format this year, so look for a lot of healthy competition on the courts. Mark your calendar for the two important local match rivalries (Mar. 28 & Apr. 20). Complete league schedule is available from ATC (call Benita at 257-1208 or email [basher@volcano.net](mailto:basher@volcano.net))

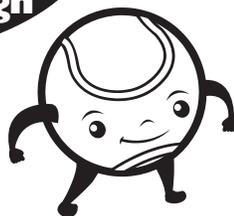
Come out and support your local high school teams!

## What's Love Got to Do With It? 2006 at a Glance

January 24 – March 7:	7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade Tennis, 3-4 PM Tu & Th, Jackson Junior High
March 28:	High School tennis match – Argonaut @ Amador
April 8 & 29:	Rapid Rally Tennis Clinics – Detert Park, Jackson
April 20:	High School tennis match – Argonaut @ Amador
May 13:	USTA Recreational Coach Workshop – Argonaut High
May 20:	Rapid Rally Tennis Competition – Detert Park, Jackson
Ongoing...	Drop-in Doubles – Wed & Fri evenings from 6PM at Argonaut [Partner not mandatory, but helpful.]
TBD	"Welcome to Tennis" evenings - fun, competitive, "transitional" play to equalize the playing field. Watch your ATC news for more information.
TBD	Summer FUN-Raiser
TBD	Fall Fundraiser Tournament
TBD	Holiday Party or New Year's Day on the Court (see Flash Points for a preview)

### Tennis Lessons for Life

1. Be in the ready position
2. Keep your eye on the ball
3. Always follow through



# Rapid Rally Tennis Registration Form

Competition will be held May 20, 2006 at Detert Park Tennis Court (behind softball field)

1pm ages 8-9

2pm ages 10-11

3pm ages 12-13

All participants must submit a signed registration/waiver/liability form and a copy of a valid birth certificate or baptismal record for age verification at all levels of competition.

**Yes, sign me up for a free clinic on (choose one):**

April 8 at 3-4:30pm at Detert Park

April 29 at 3-4:30pm at Detert Park



Space is limited but additional sessions may be added. Please wear athletic shoes and clothes and don't forget sun protection!

My age group is:

- | Age Group                           | Born Between                        |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ages 8-9   | September 1, 1996 - August 31, 1998 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ages 10-11 | September 1, 1994 - August 31, 1996 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ages 12-13 | September 1, 1992 - August 31, 1994 |

I have tennis experience (prior youth program, lessons or frequent play): yes no (circle one)

I have my own racquet: yes no (circle one) [loaner racquets will be available]

Rapid Rally rules and regulations will be available at the free clinics. Low compression balls will be available for purchase for \$1 each. Children are encouraged to practice hitting against backboard between the clinics and the competition.

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I absolve and hold harmless the City of Jackson (City), and Amador Tennis Club (ATC), its employees, officers or agents from any liability that may result from the participation of the above named minor in my legal custody in the above activity. I also give my permission for his/her participation in the above activity, and for any necessary medical treatment. I understand the City and ATC have no obligation to supervise my child(ren) at the close of the above activity, and I release the City and ATC, its officers, employees and agents from any liability resulting from any lack of supervision of my child(ren) at the close of the above activity. I understand that participants involved in the above activity may be photographed and such photography may be used to publicize future programs and activities.

Parent or Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Registrations will be processed on a first-come, first-registered basis until each clinic is full (maximum 24 participants per date). In the event the class is full when your registration is received, you will be notified and may be given the option of a third clinic date.

Return form to: ATC, 11180 Ranchette Dr., Jackson CA 95642  
Questions? Call 257-1208

**Flash Points and Slime Balls**  
by Rosanna Hammer

Didn't we tell you that we'd be out on New Year's Day 2006 if it wasn't raining??? It wasn't raining, but the wind that morning was about 20 knots and gusting. Reminded me of a few tennis games I played with **Backboard Bennie** back in the early part of the century in Malaga. She actually beat me once or twice with the help of those gusts! But wait, I was talking about ATC and Argonaut courts and New Year's Day and Brunch. Where was everyone??? Sleeping it off? The match was an even tie with **JohnERocket** and **Steve Doss** claiming an early #1 ranking (within ATC) for men's doubles; "**Party Animal**" **Gwen Starrett** (spotted late last year at lone holiday party... dancing the night away!) and myself taking the number one spot for Women's Doubles! Of course we were the only fools out there. Hmmm... maybe we could do this on April "Fool's" Day? We were relieved when **Dennis** and **Penny Dickman** arrived, encouraging us to get out of the cold... and where was the food, anyway? So brunch was served at the Escamilla home nearby. Now, next year, ... plan on it!

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## Flash Points and Slime Balls...continued

So far this winter we've had some pretty good luck with the tennis weather, especially in February. Warmer weather tends to bring more players, but you never know the mix you'll find. On January 11<sup>th</sup>, it was clear and crisp... kind of romantic really... and then **Bullet Bill** yells out "kill the frogs!" which we all know he wouldn't really do, but some guys will use any excuse to explain that service fault! I maintain that the frogs have gone crazy this year. At our house in Jackson they've been chirping (or whatever it is that frogs do to make noise) so loudly that we can't hear the traffic from Highway 49. That's a lot of frog-talk! And speaking of frog talk, we've seen "**Grandpa**" **Dale Telegan** out on his own-- "**Grandma**" **Gloria** home with new twin grandchildren. Gloria hangs with the girls who get out to play during the daytime hours-- **Nancy, Emily, Margie**... wish we could find a way to get us all out at once. But hey, I suppose that is why we have 24-hour days-- so the courts won't get too crowded. Lucky us that we can always find an open court. Unlucky me that Benita often finds the open court on my side when she is playing opposite me! **Vera Ferguson** is the woman for all seasons--and hours. She plays with the girls and carries **David** ("Thank you David.") in the evening sessions, too.

With the advent of high school tennis season, we've been seeing **Vegas Andy** back on the scene again. True to my predictions, his game has gotten better. His propensity for chatter hasn't slowed; good thing the kid can sing. I'm not sure we ever properly thanked Andy for kicking off our Fall Fundraiser by singing the National Anthem for us. If you missed it, maybe we can get a repeat performance this fall.

**Ridge "Extreme-Western" Easton** has been aching a

few of us with his top-spin serve. **Steve Elias** and **Todd Sargent** team up on occasion, and oh my! yes we saw a return of **Jungle Jim DuCray** the other night, along with his son **Christian**. Next day Christian came out to the jr. high session and reported that "dad" was really sore! And he didn't mean "mad."

While Benita and I were in Hollywood one Friday night, Vegas Andy, Bullet Bill and **Basher-sister Sheilah** were out for a version of "triples." They needed **JohnERocket**, but he was working (getting worked up for retirement?) Andy's account of the evening: "I beat Bill!" I'm thinking Bill may have a different take on it. But, that's the way I gotta tell it since I wasn't there.

I brought back information from Hollywood about Richard "Pancho" Gonzales and ever since he read it, JohnERocket has insisted we start calling him "**JohnE-Pancho**". Guess he figures that will improve his game.

Finally, I've been running more lately (as in jogging slowly) and among that group are **Bob Devlin** (of the Bob and **Kathryn** who used to play tennis with us), **Dennis Rodman** (the spouse of **Nancy Beishline**--both play tennis), **Mike Slater** (rumored to be "in relationship" with **Margie Chisholm**--both play tennis)... so I've been working the guilt real hard and heavy to get them to come out. So far, they have been deep in excuses, but I don't give up easily. Warm weather and longer days, and I am hoping we'll have some new faces out on Friday nights.

Recent Wednesday rare sightings: **Mike Daly, Mike Sheehan, Bill Easton, David** and **Neil Carlson**. Still waiting on Dave and Neil to bring **Gretchen** and **Emily** out on a Friday night. Also on the lookout for **Sharon** and **Bob Watson**.

*Still hoping. Good sign.*



AMADOR TENNIS CLUB

11180 Ranchette Dr. Jackson, CA 95642

### Organization

**President:** Rosalie Pryor Escamilla

**Vice President:** Emily Daniel

**Treasurer:** Benita Asher

**Secretary:** Bill Condrashoff

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

### Newsletter

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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!