

**MILLBRAE
RACQUET
CLUB**

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BETWEEN THE LINES

MRC NEWSLETTER

**MRC BOARD WISHES ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES
PROSPEROUS AND HAPPY 2023**

President: Missy Chiesa

Secretary: Jim Van Ness

Treasurer: Humberto Melara

Membership: Claudia Edson

Communications: Helen Brosnan

Operations: Bob Lopez

Tournaments: Ken Hoeck

Newsletter: Ramesh Dronamraju

Scheduler: Kari Roberts

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MRC WANTS TO INTRODUCE THE MRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR YEAR 2023

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello MRC Members,

Happy New Year!! As we begin the new year, please join me in welcoming three new board members:

Missy Chiesa, President; Humberto Melara, Treasurer; and Kari Roberts, Scheduler. They are familiar faces on our courts, so many of you know them, but if you don't, learn a bit more about them on page 3.

Stepping down from the board are Rita Armstrong (Treasurer), Ginny Machak (Scheduler) and myself (President). Rita has contributed far more to the club than her Treasurer role. You ladies know her well as the Tuesday Ladies Organized Tennis coordinator, which she will continue. She was also instrumental in helping us to spruce up the clubhouse this year.

Everyone has benefited from our court reservation system, Skedda. Prior to 2020 our courts were first come, first served. While it's hard to identify anything positive resulting from the Covid pandemic, perhaps one silver lining is our new court reservation system. To address contact tracing, Ginny researched options and brought us Skedda. Ginny also developed the exterior

color palette for our newly painted clubhouse. Please thank Rita and Ginny for their service when you see them.

There are many members that have given their time and energy to the club. In addition to the board of directors, we have sub-committees supporting our social events, club improvements and more. If you have a special talent you'd like to share at our all-volunteer club, please contact any of our board members (see list and contact information on page 1).

We're starting off the year with clinics on Sunday, January 8 (and the first Sunday of each month thereafter). Pro, Shannon Randolph will lead the clinic for beginners and

advanced beginners from 11:30am - 12:30pm and then intermediate players from 12:30pm -1:30pm. These \$15/person clinics are a great way to tune up your game for a great 2023. Please RSVP to Shannon via mobile 650-303-7913. Also, mark your calendars and RSVP for our first Fun Day on Sunday, January 15th. Check out the complete 2023 Fun Day calendar on page 5.

We truly have a hidden gem here at MRC and it's because of all of you wonderful members that love the game of tennis.

I look forward to seeing you on the courts!

Jan

Do not return the ball to other court while play in progress on other court. Please wait for the play to complete before you return the ball in a bounce or two.

MRC Etiquette



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INCOMING PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Hi there, I am Missy Chiesa. I've been a member of the Millbrae Racquet Club "MRC" since September 2003. On a funny note, I stumbled upon this hidden gem of a club, MRC, when I was trying to find a short cut off of El Camino during a very heavy traffic congested day. Like who knew there was a tennis club behind Orchard Supply? Right?

I can certainly say it was one of the best and easiest decisions I ever made to join this club MRC. I really love and enjoy MRC not only for the amazing fun tennis, but mainly for the people. MRC members are always so fun,

happy, smiling and that just puts a pep in my step and is a great way to start my day. I am happy to re-join the role as president of the MRC and be back on the board. It truly takes a village to make things run smoothly. MRC board has always been is the cheese to the macaroni, the peanut butter to the jelly, the icing on the cake, the good in goodwill. All kidding aside, The MRC board has always been here to help to represent the club and to guide the club and its members. I'm very honored to be back.

Wishing everyone a fantastic 2023. Let's get out there and play some tennis. Have some good times and enjoy ourselves on the court. We truly have a hidden gem here at MRC and it's because of all of you wonderful members that love

I look forward to seeing you on the courts!

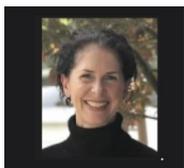
Missy



When returning the ball to another court, the correct way is to return it on a bounce or two.

MRC Etiquette

Meet our other two new directors (Kari Roberts and Humberto Melara)



Kari Roberts

Kari began playing tennis soon after moving from Canada to California 20 years ago. She has a husband, Sandy, and two kids Naomi and Leyland who are both at school on the east coast. You will often find Kari on the courts on the weekends as she works full-time. Kari has been a member of MRC for several years and is looking forward to giving back to the club as she built up so many fun memories over the years. Her current role is scheduler.



Humberto Melara

Humberto is a member of MRC for about two years. He is also member of two other tennis clubs in San Mateo and San Francisco. Humberto has a USTA ranking of 4.0 and has played tennis off and since he was 11 year old. He has many years of experience serving as a board of director for non-profits, and has held positions as president, treasurer, and secretary. Humberto is a great asset to the club. He always willing to assist on club projects and help other members improve their game. Now he decided to extend his services by becoming the director. In his role he will handling the function of Treasurer.



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MRC NEWSLETTER

ON THE LINE-EDITORIAL NOTE



I am an old timer who loves the game of tennis. While looking back at this great sport, it is not the same as it used to be when I was in my teens. Tennis definitely experienced a boom in the 1970s and was very popular through the mid 1980s. Long waits at public courts were very common during the boom era. But boom was a critical tonic required for the long term survival of tennis in my opinion. Even though its popularity had subsided a bit by the late '80s, and beyond, I am glad it is fairly stable now.

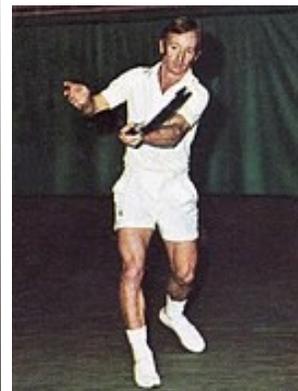
As for the causes of the tennis boom in the '70s and

into the early '80s, there was a perfect storm of factors at play in tennis that has not since been replicated. In 1968, two huge things happened that changed the face of tennis. The first is that 1968 was year the "Open Era" started. Prior to that, professional players were not allowed to compete in any of the four Grand Slam tournaments, nor in Davis Cup play. This meant that, all of tennis's top talent can not compete. Once the Open Era came about, it made it possible for a player to make a living competing at tennis, and raised interest in the public that hadn't existed before. Open Era allowed it to become a proper professional sport, like other major sports had been for decades. Secondly, while Grand Slam titles had been contested for almost a century at that point, many of the

best players in the world hadn't been competing, because the pros were out playing in exhibitions.

Lastly in 1968 the US Open was broadcast on television for the first time (by CBS). It would soon be followed in 1969 by the first Wimbledon broadcast on NBC, and eventually by the French Open on NBC in 1975. So the mid-'70s was the first time that the tennis most prestigious competitions were all available to be seen by the general public and the top tennis talent was exposed to millions of people. Since then its popularity continued in to the 80's, since that time, many other sports have achieved professional status, and became competitors for tennis. I am glad with all other popular and rich sports in existence, tennis found its space in the public. Tennis is a great sport. I am glad I am a part of it. Guys and gals let's enjoy it. Thanks for the opportunity to serve.

Ramesh



Watch the clock. If someone made a reservation for the court you are on after your reservation time is up be sure to be off the court.

Tennis Court Reservation Reminder to all members

To all members:

When you reserve a court using Skedda bookings, you must include the names of

all players. Please add/update players prior to using the court. Thanks in advance for your compliance.

Have fun on your courts.
MRC board

MRC Etiquette

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MRC FUN DAYS-HOLIDAY CALANDER 2023 EXTRAVAGANZA

Come and join us in 2023 Fun Days. If you have never experienced a Fun Day, it's a morning full of social doubles, in-person conversations, food and drink. It's the best place to meet people and to find your tennis partners.

MRC will provide all the beverages and tennis balls. Because Fun Days are popular, sign-up quickly when you receive the email announcement, using the link in the email or at the MRC website under Events/Fun Day registration. If you can't get either method to work, contact Ken Hoeck at frankus33@aol.com

- Sunday, January 15 th - "Hello 2023"
- Monday, February 20 th - "Presidents' Day"
- Sunday, March 26 th - "Go Giants"
- Sunday, April 30 th - "Cinco de Mayo"
- Monday, May 29 th - "Memorial Day"
- Sunday, July 2 nd - "4 th of July"
- Sunday, August 6 th - "Fun in the Summer"
- Monday, September 4 th - "Labor Day"
- Sunday, October 1 st - "Welcome Fall"
- Sunday, October 29 th - "Trick-or-Treat"
- Sunday, December 3 rd - Holiday Party (not a Fun Day)
- Sunday, December 10 th - "Ho Ho Ho"



MRC Social Directors : Janice Carter and Ric Knowlton



Loud, excessive talking and or shouting that might distract other players is not allowed.

MRC Etiquette

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MRC NEWSLETTER



UNCLE SLEEPY UNSOLICITED ADVICE FOR NEW MEMBERS

How can I find someone at my level to play?

That's a piece of cake. Go to club website (millbraeracquetclub.net). Click on page called "Find a Player". It has a list of other members who are looking for someone to play with. Enter your data too. Don't be shy -- call or text them or ask them if they want to play.

Can I bring a guest to play?

Yes, pay the \$5 per guest fee, either by using Venmo or cash. Don't leave cash on the table. Fill out a provided guest fee envelope, put the cash in the envelope, and drop the envelope in the slot in the door between the two bathroom doors.

How do I schedule my court time?

Now you are talking. Go to MRC booking system

(mrccourts.skedda.com).

Login with your email and use your password and you can schedule.

I lost my club key what should I do?

No worries. Call or send a text or email to Claudia Edson (stedson1@aol.com) She will help you to get a duplicate. Also please make sure you lock the gates and main door if you are the last person to leave.

That's all folks for now. Have fun and it's time for me to sleep.



You should always give benefit of doubt on all close calls to the opposing team.

**MRC
Etiquette**

WELCOME TO THE CLUB- NEW MEMBERS

Christy Covalesky 3.5 Self

650-269-2360

christycovalesky@yahoo.com

James Chou 3.5 Self

650-421-6849

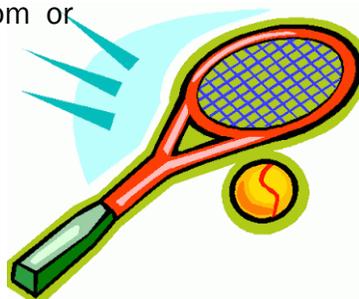
Chou7777@gmail.com

TENNIS CLINICS FOR YOUR GAME IMPROVEMENT

Hello Members! The next 3 dates for Tennis clinic schedule are January 8, February 5 and March 5. The clinic starts from 11.30 to 12.30 PM for beginners/adv beginners and 12.30 -1.30 PM for intermediate players.

Please contact Shannon

at: needcalgon@gmail.com or
call 650-303-7913



BETWEEN THE LINES

MRC NEWSLETTER

MEET YOUR SPECIAL MEMBERS WHO SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTED THEIR SERVICES TO THE CLUB IN 2022.

Hello members, You should have noticed when you enter the club the newly painted clubhouse inside and outside. Also you can not miss the new sign plates. It all happened because of the efforts of a few members who decided to offer their services to the good of club. The board would like to recognize and thank all the members who helped in 2022, especially Mimi Lim, Allan Tse and Humberto Melara worked

hard to paint the interior of the clubhouse; Nancy Torres worked with Ginny Machak on the outside paint scheme and Nancy's daughter did the lettering on our new sign; Ken Hoeck ordered all the new instruction signs and also purchased and installed the new kitchen lighting; Ole Flodin worked on making and putting up the new MRC sign at the parking lot entrance; Rita Armstrong refurbished the couch and ordered the new inside chairs and rug; Bob Lopez led

the efforts on landscape improvements; Judy Mitchell, Helen Brosnan, and Ric Knowlton helped Janice Carter on the social committee for fun days; and Ken Hoeck, Robert Falls, Mike Evans and Ric Knowlton worked on fun day set-up and clean-up; and a number of members helped at the clean-up day. Special thanks from the BOD on behalf of all members for everyone's contributions of time and effort. Kudos to all, **Thank you** , Thank you, Thank you.

Thank You

Please use Venmo to pay membership dues and guest fee (\$5)!!!

Just make sure your guests sign the club guest book. It is located on the inside or outside table depending on the wind conditions. We offer contactless payment service via Venmo. The club Venmo user name is @Millbrae-RacquetClub.

ments via Venmo are faster and smarter. For further information contact us at MRC-BoardofDirectors@gmail.com

Happy hitting

Load it into your Venmo app now and you will be set to go. The club 's scan code is also posted prominently in several spots at the club. You can still use the payment envelopes next to the guest book, but you will find that pay-



When a serve is hit out, do not hit the ball back over the net. Call it out, either grab it and put it in your pocket or lightly hit to the net.

MRC Etiquette

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MRC NEWSLETTER

PLEASE SAY THANK YOU TO THOSE LEAVING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS- WE MISS YOU-WE LOVE YOU

JAN AKERS, RITA ARMSTRONG AND GINNY MACHAK



Jan Akers

Jan needs no introduction. She is the captain of the ship. She is well organized, down to the earth, and very sensitive to other's feelings. She was instrumental in molding all our ideas into working realities.

Her motivation, leadership, and encouragement did so much good for the club. She has taken a key role in looking at better alternate solutions for the club website. We are fortunate to have her as a member of the board. While we miss her role as a President, we are glad she is still around to give us advice.

MRC thanks Jan Akers for her contributions to the club.

Rita Armstrong

Rita is the soul of the board. She has a suggestion on every little issue the board brings on to the table. Every member of the board appreciates the energy she brings to meetings. Rita has contributed far more to the club than her Treasurer role. She was also instrumental in helping us to spruce up the clubhouse this year. Everyone has benefited from our court reservation system, (Skedda). Rita led the writing of the new membership agreement, Covid rules, and liability waivers over the last three years.

MRC really appreciates her passion and work for getting things done. MRC thanks Rita Armstrong for her contributions to the club.

Ginny Machak

MRC has been lucky to have Ginny on the board. No one knows better than her in what is happening in USTA and its schedules. She always calm, composed and ready to serve. Apart from her role as a scheduler and coordinator with team captains, Ginny also implemented and managed Skedda and the exterior color palette for our newly painted clubhouse.

She also worked with Jan on looking for a better solution to club website.

MRC has been fortunate to have Ginny as the member of board and thanks her for her contributions to the club.

Always be certain your opponents are ready before you serve.

MRC Etiquette



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MRC NEWSLETTER

ORGANIZED TENNIS CALENDAR

Men's Doubles

Thursday 8.30–10.30 AM

Contact:

Ken Hoeck

frankus33@aol.com

Women's Doubles

Tuesday 9.00 –11.00

Contact :

Rita Armstrong

ritaarmstrong300@gmail.com

USTA TEAM UPDATE

USTA NEWS - 40+ Season is Here!

USTA is making a strong post-pandemic comeback with a full flight of 40+ teams. MRC will sponsor two 40+ teams – a Men's 4.5 team captained by Ben Wu (wu.benjamin@gmail.com) and a Women's 3.5 team headed by Rita Armstrong (rita.armstrong300@gmail.com). The season runs from the beginning of January to mid-March. Matches are played once weekly, mostly on the weekends with some evening games to accommodate working folks. The 40+ format is one line of singles and two doubles – something for everyone. Please contact the captains if you're interested in joining or want more information. Happy hitting!

Rita Armstrong

Representing MRC for the

SFPTL, which stands for San Francisco Peninsula tennis league, We have two teams.

The team in the regular 18 and up Master division is the Banshees. We just started the second half of the season and we're going in with a bang. Our home matches are Tuesdays. Please check the calendar to see when we're playing and please come by to cheer us on.

Representing the senior team in the Monte Carlo division is our team called the Royals. We have 35 people on this team, all representing their best tennis at all times, and smiley faces with a Racquets Swinging while wearing royal blue on the courts. The second half of the season got off to a bang a couple weeks ago where we took 11 out of 15 points from High Strung, one of our strong rivals in the Monte Carlo division. The Royals home matches are Wednesdays. Please check the calendar and see when we're playing and come on by cheer them on. We love to have you

Little more information on the "SFPTL" is we start roughly in Sep-

tember and end, roughly April the following year. It's a long season but it's fun and we thoroughly enjoy it. SFPTL matches play during the week, not during the weekends and Always in the mornings .

Good luck to Banshee and the the Royals as they head into the second half of the season.

Hugs an Volleys Everyone.

Missy Chiesa

The Millbrae Hurricanes has a difficult year this year! Like the Niners and Warriors we have experienced lots of injuries and medical issues but we play competitively and with conviction! We have not won many of our games, but we are enjoying the tennis! We Thank MRC for allowing us this opportunity to continue playing in the SFPTL!

Wishing everyone Happy Holidays and a healthier 2023!

Arline Van Ness

Always observe all the court rules, insist the others do the same.

MRC Etiquette

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MRC NEWSLETTER

CLUB ANNUAL CLEANUP DAY NOVEMBER 13, 2022

Several members participated in the all volunteer cleanup day on Nov, 13, 2022 from 9.00 AM to 10.30 A.M. It was a group event that not only helped the club but also brought camaraderie among the members. MRC wants to thank everyone who participated in the event. Members were served Pizza and soda for their hard work.



BETWEEN THE LINES

MRC NEWSLETTER

GALLERY OF MEMBERS IN ACTION AND FUN



BETWEEN THE LINES

MRC NEWSLETTER

GALLERY OF MEMBERS IN ACTION AND FUN

