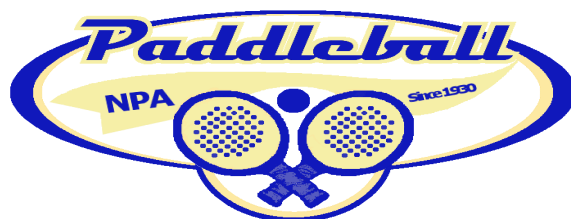


WINTER 2016



WWW.PADDLEBALL.ORG

NATIONAL PADDLEBALL ASSOCIATION

2016 TOURNAMENT SEASON

The NPA Board of Managers has voted to change the tournament format for the upcoming 2016 season. We would like to concentrate more on promoting local – one day – tournaments. We are hoping that a grass roots approach to tournaments might help boost the numbers of people playing by encouraging local players to play. We are also hoping that the one-day format will be an enticement for players to travel to these events.

We will still have the National Singles and National Doubles events. Additionally this year we will have a sanctioned doubles event in East Lansing at the MAC on February 6th and 7th. This tourney, formerly the Midwest Doubles Championship, has been renamed the Midwest Shootout and the event director is Brandon Creamer. Brandon has been working hard putting this event together and will offer a Pro Singles Division with a \$2000 cash payout for this event. A full roster of doubles events will be held in addition to the Pro singles.

We are also happy to announce that The Tournament House in Riverside CA will be the site of the National Singles (the Western Doubles will be held along with the National Singles).. The NPA will also be doing the 2016 Hall of Fame inductions at this event. We are working with Aaron Embry to have cash prizes in the Pro and, possibly, other divisions of this event. The National Singles will be held on March 25th to 27th.

The National Doubles will be held at the Glass Court House, located near Chicago IL. This is a great facility with catwalk viewing on all courts and a nice bar on the premises so that we can have a party and awards ceremony on Saturday night. The tourney will be April 15th to 17th.

To date for the local, one-day, tourneys we have events in Saginaw MI, Davision Athletic Club (Davison MI) and Bronson Athletic Club (Kalamazoo MI). If your area is planning any local tournaments please let the NPA know so that we can help promote your event.

2016 PADDLEBALL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Saginaw Fun Doubles – January 9th, 2016

Davison Grab-Bag Doubles, Davision Athletic Club – January 23rd

Midwest Shootout, Michigan Athletic Club – February 6th to 7th

Brigham Classic, Bronson Athletic Club – April 2nd

NPA National Singles, Tournament House – March 25th to 27th

NPA National Doubles, Glass Court House – April 15th to 17th

40TH Pig Roast & Human Sacrifice, Bronson Athletic Club – TBA (August)

2016 3 Wall Ball World Championships, Las Vegas NV = Spetember 21-25

2015 3 WALL BALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Jim Owens, NPA President

Emmett Coe from San Diego, CA and Brian Pineda from Fullerton, CA claimed their third 3 Wall Ball World Championships Paddleball Pro Division title in an exciting match broadcast live on ESPN3, September 26, 2015. As has been the case in each of the last four years, they faced fellow Californians Todd Entrikin from Perris and Dale Valentine from Riverside. Coe and Pineda prevailed in 2012 and 2014, and now in 2015—Entrikin and Valentine in 2013.

Vince Carlone, NPA Board of Managers member and owner of Liquid Nitro, awarded the champs with the Liquid Nitro Cup. They also collected \$1000 from the NPA, compliments of the sponsors, for their first place finish. Entrikin and Valentine received \$500.

Unlike the previous finals, which had finished in tiebreakers, this match was decided in two games: 15-8, 15-13. ESPN3 announcer Dave Fink, who had never seen paddleball played before, raved about the terrific shots and “gets” on display throughout the match. After the match, Fink emphasized how impressed he was with the quality of play and with paddleball in general. He invited me to join him in the broadcast booth again next year.

The Pro Division final began at 9:25 p.m., P.S.T., avoiding the 100-degree plus daytime temperatures. It was actually quite comfortable. Players and spectators were constantly in search of shade during the day.

The Open Division also featured a Californian repeat match-up, all from the Riverside area: Mike Myers and Tim Herman finished ahead of Vince Carlone and Albert Gutierrez, as they had last year. Carlone and Gutierrez won in 2013. Myers and Herman won all four of their matches in a five-team round robin; Carlone and Gutierrez won three of four.

The California dominance continued in the remaining divisions: Mixed Doubles and a division simply named Combined. Roxanne Rehling and Aaron Embry of San Diego won all three of their matches in round-robin play to finish first in Mixed Doubles, as did Vince Carlone and Steve Mitchell of Riverside in the Combined. The Combined was a consolidation of the 50+, Men’s B, and Women’s Divisions paddleball tournament offerings.

In something new this year, the Paddle/Hands Division, the Pro Champs squared off against each other in the final. Each team was comprised of a player playing with a paddle and another using his hands. The new Revolution Ektelon Racquetball was used, one hemisphere is red and the other is blue.

Coe was paired with fellow Californian Kevin Gonzalez and Pineda with New Yorker Bori Love. Coe and Gonzalez, after being down 3-16, remarkably finished on top 21-16 in an extremely exciting single game final.

Charlie Brumfield, Vince Carlone (Liquid Nitro), Albert Gutierrez (ABG Construction), and I were this year’s paddleball sponsors.

According to Mike Coulter, the founder and main organizer of the annual event, this year there were 678 participates in racquetball, handball, and paddleball, 70 participates in the Boy Scouts/Youth night clinics. Mike is already working on making next year’s tournament even bigger and better.

Aaron Embry ran the paddleball youth clinic and was gratified with the interest in paddleball. Aaron said the young participants just did not want to quit playing.

Join us at the Stratosphere Hotel in Las Vegas, September 21th-25th. It promises to be another spectacular event.

PHOTOS ON FOLLOWING PAGE

20153 WALL BALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

LAS VEGAS, NV



Open Champions
Mike Myers, Riverside CA
Tim Herman, Riverside CA



Combined Champions
Steve Mitchell, Riverside CA
Vince Carlone, Riverside CA



Mixed Doubles
Champions
Roxanne
Rehling

Aaron
Embry
San Diego CA

Pro Champions
Emmet Coe, San Diego CA & Brian Pineda, Fullerton CA
Vince Carlone, presenting



NEW EKTELON PADDLES
AVAILABLE SOON AT THE NPA WEB STORE...
BUT CHECK BELOW FOR A SPECIAL OFFER!!!



COMING SOON TO THE NPA WEB STORE...THE EKTELON POWER STICK AND SHARK.

You Can Check On-Line for all of the specifics on the make-up of these new paddles.

They are priced right at:

SHARK - \$80

POWER STICK - \$85

These paddles are not on the web right now, but as an incentive to buy them now

And we will **WAIVE THE SHIPPING FEE** on all orders placed by January 1st.

Simply contact Lorri at lbrigham@yahoo.com to arrange payment and delivery

A PROFILE OF DON TRAXLER

By LOU GIAMPETRONI

Have you ever met a long-time paddleballer who has won a whole bunch of tournaments but can't remember them specifically?

Well, Don Traxler fits that description to a T. He is part of that group that got in on the ground floor of the sport and is keeping his hand and paddle involved.

Like many of the long-time competitors, Traxler, 78, of Midland, Mich., can't seem to remember all the wins. But the list is considerable."Here is what I remember and/or can prove," said Traxler who retired from Dow Corning in November of 1994 as manager of financial systems. "Six master's singles championships, four, golden masters singles, one platinum singles, one golden masters doubles with Larry Piper and two Men's "C" doublesThen Traxler, a native of Ponitiac, adds: "Don't know how many other state or other tournaments won or the years." He also matter of factly says: "Somewhere between fifteen to twenty Midland City Championships.

Is he still competing?

"I will play in the occasional tournament in Bay City or Midland or elsewhere if we ever get a Platinum division going or I can find a young stud to partner with," said Traxler.

Traxler was the 2003 recipient of the National Paddleball Association's Earl Risky Memorial Trophy for contributions to paddleball and was elected to the Midland Sports Hall Of Fame.

He got into playing paddleball by taking a class at Michigan State University in 1956. Starting in 1964 he played in a doubles league in Midland MI.

"I resumed playing in 1964 to lose the 40-50 pounds I had gained since getting married in 1961," he said.

Traxler fits the description of "all-around athlete" because he played handball and racquetball "in the 1970s and 1980s and now plays pickleball occasionally.

Paddleball still is No. 1 for Traxler but "I currently play basketball, pickleball, golf and lift weights (6 days a week); used to run a lot but now do mostly cross-trainer (30 miles a week.) Walk and carry when golfing and always play two balls. Usually get in about 150 rounds a year. Still bike 30-50 miles in good weather."

Traxler's long-time partner was Larry Piper in the 1970s "until he could no longer play in the early to mid-90s"

Any suggestions on how to get more players in paddleball?

Recruit racquetballers and pickleballers," said Traxler. "Get high school and college coaches to use PB for off-season conditioning (male or female). Stress novice division - especially in the city where a tournament is being held."

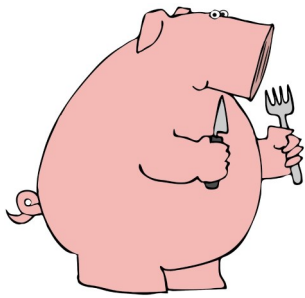
Traxler also gained some notoriety when he ran 50 miles on his 50th birthday -- June 8, 1986. FIFTY MILES!! "It was just one of those things," he said. "We had been talking about how we had been slacking off in our running and we decided it was because we didn't have any incentives." Traxler said it took him about 13 hours, beginning at 6:30 a.m. "I walked and I ran, mostly I ran, and a local radio station played the "Rocky" theme quite a bit. I lost six pounds. But I still made it to Bill Knapp's for my 50-percent-off (birthday) dinner that night."

Traxler and his wife, Carol, have been married for 53-plus years. They have three daughters, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

It was pointed out to Traxler that he has been one of the long-time paddleballers."What has been the attraction?" he was asked."Competition," he said. "People.... Found something I was good at, exercise, weight lost/maintenance. Relatively inexpensive."

Asked how long he will play, Traxler said: "Until I can't."





39th Annual Pig Roast and Human Sacrifice

Well, the NPA's 39th annual Pig Roast & Human Sacrifice is in the books. So all paddleballers can do is look forward to the 40th next year.

The Roast is one of the sport's most intriguing rites and is hosted by players and others in the Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Sometime in the summer of each year, the bash is held for fun and frolic for players who venture in from cities in the Midwest.

It began modestly enough in 1977 and was established to honor a particular individual -- or individuals -- for their contribution to the sport of paddleball. Although many only look forward to the drinks and eats. But so what?

This year's honoree was longtime player Sonny Salazar.

Right about here, let's let Doug (Chop) Averitt, a former Kalamazoo player, quote from a history of the event he wrote in 1980.

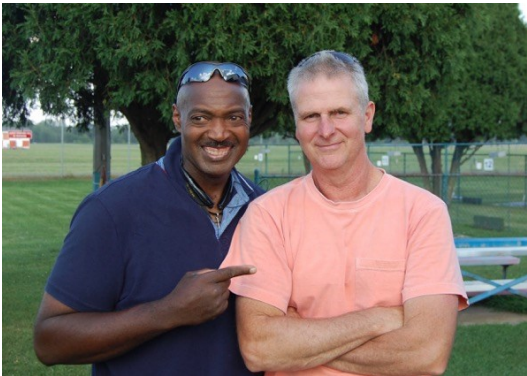
"In the Spring of 1977, Mark (Pappy) Smith -- one of the Kalamazoo area's most popular and proficient practitioners of paddleball -- faced a bleak prospect: graduation. "Knowing that this watershed meant in reality that Pappy would have to go to work in an area where the noble game is unknown, his friends and colleagues were depressed by his situation."We resolved to lighten his load by sending him off into the non-paddleball oblivion of Maine by throwing a party of monumental proportions. But that didn't seem appropriate for Pappy. The obvious solution was a tournament with a party and meal afterward." And thus the Pig Roast :& Human Sacrifice was born. Averitt said the Human Sacrifice designation "simply means that vast quantities of beer were consumed as rapidly as possible".

The remark was once made by a devoted member of the paddleball fraternity that "There is a lot more to paddleball than 21 points". The annual Pig Roast exemplifies this remark perfectly.

-- LOU GIAMPETRONI



Sonny Salazar
2015 Honoree

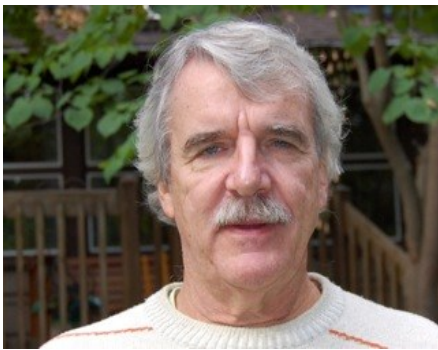


2015 Champions
Eugene Rush and Mike "Wiz"
Wisniewski...yes it really is a
blind draw

DON'T MISS NEXT YEAR'S 40TH PIG ROAST & HUMAN SACRIFICE

It will be in August of 2016

(if we had known we were going to live this long we would have taken much better care of ourselves!)



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Craig Melvin Promotional Fund

Adapted from a 2012 article.

On January 29, 2012, an extremely upbeat paddleball player and all around great individual, Craig Melvin, lost a long and difficult fight with cancer. Before his death, Craig had graciously designated the NPA as a recipient of memorial contributions.

In Craig's honor, the NPA established the Craig Melvin Promotional Fund with the \$2100 received. NPA members and friends have contributed to the fund to make it an ongoing resource to date.

Several players have benefitted from the Craig Melvin Promotional Fund these past four years. In the 2015 season, eight worthy paddleball players received \$200 each from Craig's Fund to apply to travel expenses to NPA National tournaments.

The NPA Board of Managers certainly values Craig's generosity and those who have contributed to this promotional fund.

Please help promote paddleball and honor Craig's legacy by donating this season to the Craig Melvin Promotional Fund either at a tournament site or at www.paddleball.org (From the homepage click on the tab NPA , then Online Payment.)

If you have any questions, please contact Lorri Brigham or me at npa.paddleball@gmail.com

Jim Owens