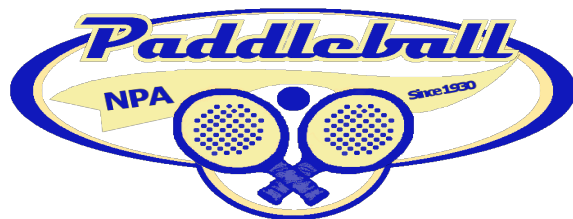


SUMMER 2014



WWW.PADDLEBALL.ORG

NATIONAL PADDLEBALL ASSOCIATION



The National Paddleball Association's National Doubles 2014 Championships were held at the Michigan Athletic Club in East Lansing, Michigan, April 12th to 14th. *Twenty-four time National Champion of Hall of Fame award recipient Mike Wisniewski was on hand to view the Open Doubles final. The following are his observations:*

"Just think if I was 20 pounds lighter, didn't smoke or drink and actually trained before a tournament..." (Todd Entrikin)

Six-time National Doubles Champion Todd Entrikin from Riverside, CA may not be the norm when thinking of past Paddleball Champions who may train, practice and try to make a habit of clean living in hopes of experiencing just a shade of Todd's ability on the paddleball

court; but he proved once again his formula works for him, at least it does at age 32. He may need to adjust his strategy with age though.

Todd's latest doubles partner, 2012 National Doubles Champion, Emmett Coe from San Diego CA is one of only a few people to have ever beaten Todd in a past indoor National Doubles Paddleball tournament.

Emmett's skills have been mated with tutelage from the Master, Charlie Brumfield, who has recast Emmett from an unrefined flailing racquetball banger into a smooth precise striker of paddleball. He is cool as ice on the court. Together Todd and Emmett made an unstoppable team. Team California cruised to victory with 21-11, 21-11 wins over Chad Krager and Andrew Price in the final.

Two-Time National Doubles winner Chad Krager from Bay City, MI and Andrew Price, who hangs in the top 5 in Michigan racquetball at age 22 is much like Coe age 22 used to be, unrefined (in paddleball) and in need of more paddleball tutelage. Although, given the right opportunities on the court Andrew can shoot the lights out – and did in a previous match against a very tough local Lansing team of Pete Ruhala and Brandon Creamer.

Both Todd and Chad had a warm-up match prior to the Open final. Both had reached the Seniors Division Final. Their younger open partners sat on the sidelines and watched a 2-1/2 hour Seniors Championship match between Mike Wisniewski/Chad Krager against Todd Entrikin/Eugene Rush. The Bay City team's strategy for the get-go was to try and wear the Riverside Machine down!

Go three games, play out all points win or lose 21-20 and extend the rallies to tire Entrikin, for a possible team Bay City edge in the Open final. While the strategy produced a Seniors Division Championship for Chad and Whiz, it didn't seem to have the effect hoped for in the Open final.

I felt they should stick with the same plan that had worked in the senior's final. Play soft nick lobs to Todd who played the right side, wait for Emmett to come out of position, and then sting him with a hard well-placed pass shot. Sounds simple enough; make Entrikin shag and let Coe cool. Coe shut down the plan by calling off Todd every chance he could to take the heat; swing left and right deep in the court and take the ball from either side and produce offense.

He produced some of the most spectacular short hop and back wall kills I have ever seen from deep in the court. While Todd hovered in the front court and dared Krager or Price to shoot, where he would pounce like a cat onto a mouse and splat a kill forehand or take an uncanny overhead soft spike kill if they didn't get it over his head that would paralyze an opponent who did not have their momentum moving forward to within inches from the front wall to defend such a shot.

The match was filled with spectacular gets and kill shots from both teams and was one of the cleanest finals ever; only one or two hinders, no disputed get or skip balls and most of all no momentum shifts. Team California held the lead from start to finish in game one and where only down 0-1, 1-3 and 6-8 in the second, otherwise they put on the cruise control and finished the match in 75 minutes. Congratulations!

2014 NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONS



MENS 'A' CHAMPIONS
PAUL SYLVESTER & KEVIN MCLAUGHLIN



MENS "B" CHAMPIONS
BILL LOTT & SAM HOLTZ



MENS "C" CHAMPIONS
BOB DEBONIS & AL LEVEQUE



SENIORS CHAMPIONS
CHAD KRAGER & MIKE WISNIEWSKI



MASTERS CHAMPIONS
JIM SWENDRIS & JIM STERKEN

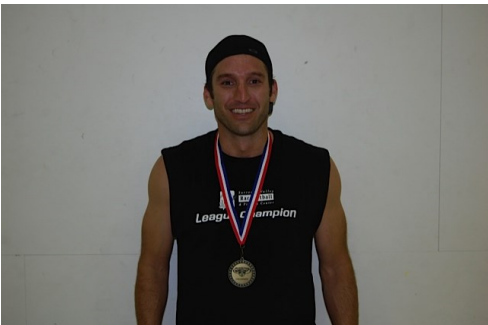


GOLDEN MASTERS CHAMPIONS
SANDY DEGRIEF & RANDY WACKERLE

2014 NATIONAL SINGLES & WESTERN DOUBLES CHAMPIONS



Dale Valentine Seniors Champ



Brannon Allison "A" Champ



Vince Carlone Golden Champ



Ryan Moreno "B" Champ



Alex Robles & Rick Ingles "C" Champs



Todd Entrikin Open Champ



Todd & Dale Open Doubles Champs

Brannon Allison is from San Diego, CA—all other champions are from Riverside, CA.

Men's C Champion, Joe Pomathy from Ann Arbor MI
(not pictured)

2014 NPA National Singles and Western Doubles

The Tournament House Riverside, California

March 1st and 2nd

Open--National Singles

1st Todd Entrikin (Riverside, CA) **21-6, 21-14** **2nd** Aaron Embry (San Diego, CA)

3rd Kevin McLaughlin (Kalamazoo, MI)

A--National Singles

1st Brannon Allison (San Diego, CA) **2nd** Tim Herman (Riverside, CA)

B--National Singles

1st Ryan Moreno (Riverside, CA) **2nd** Alex Robles (Riverside, CA)

C--National Singles

1st Joe Pomathy (Ann Arbor, MI)

Seniors--National Singles

1st Dale Valentine (Riverside, CA) **2nd** Steve Price (San Diego, CA)

Golden-- National Singles

1st Vince Carlone (Riverside, CA) **2nd** James Owens (Ann Arbor, MI)

3rd Greg Childs (San Diego, CA)

Open—Western Doubles

1st Todd Entrikin and Dale Valentine (Riverside, CA)

2nd Mike Myers and Tim Herman (Riverside, CA)

C—Western Doubles

1st Alex Robles and Rick Ingles (Riverside, CA)

2nd Jerry Conine and Rick Aten (Riverside, CA)

2014 NPA NATIONAL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS
MICHIGAN ATHLETIC CLUB (EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN)

Open

- 1st** Todd Entrikin (Riverside, CA) & Emmett Coe (San Diego, CA) **21-11, 21-11**
2nd Chad Krager (Bay City, MI) & Andrew Price (Freeland, MI)

A

- 1st** Kevin McLaughlin (Kalamazoo, MI) & Paul Sylvester (Paw Paw, MI) **21-15, 10-21, 21-12**
2nd Sam Baldori (East Lansing, MI) & Joe Baldori (East Lansing, MI)
3rd Robert Stone (Jackson, MI) & James Owens (Ann Arbor, MI)

B

- 1st** Sam Holtz (Ann Arbor, MI) & Bill Lott (Ann Arbor, MI) **21-15, 21-15**
2nd Ted Ruble (Kalamazoo) & Jared Arnold (Kalamazoo)
3rd Eugene Rush (Ann Arbor, MI) & James Reid IV (Ann Arbor, MI)

C

- 1st** Bob DeBonis (Dearborn, MI) & Al Levac (Dearborn, MI) **21-14, 21-16**
2nd Randall Slager (Memphis, TN) & Randy Slager (Memphis, TN)

Seniors

- 1st** Mike Wisniewski (Bay City, MI) & Chad Krager (Bay City, MI) **20-21, 21-5, 21-15**
2nd Eugene Rush (Ann Arbor, MI) & Todd Entrikin (Riverside, CA)

Masters

- 1st** Jim Sterken (Ann Arbor, MI) & Jim Swendris (Ann Arbor, MI) **21-19, 21-19**
2nd Pete Ruhala (East Lansing, MI) & Ron Glosser (East Lansing, MI)
3rd Ted Wray (Jackson, MI) & Robert Stone (Jackson, MI)

Golden

- 1st** Randy Wackerle (Bay City, MI) & Sandy DeGreif (Bay City, MI) **21-20, 21-14**

2014 Hall of Fame Inductions



Charlie being inducted into the Hall of Fame by Steve Lerner (photo by Roby Partovich)

CHARLIE BRUMFIELD

Charlie’s help in promoting the sport of paddleball is unprecedented. He was one of the original players of the Pacific Paddleball Association . The strength and development of the talent of the west coast players is largely due to the unflagging determination of “THE HOLDER OF ALL TITLES”. Charlie is one of the best players in the history of the NPA. A listing of his national championships follows:

- 1969 NATIONAL MEN’S OPEN SINGLES
- 1970 NATIONAL MEN’S OPEN SINGLES
- 2005 NATIONAL MASTERS SINGLES
- 2008 NATIONAL MASTERS SINGLES
- 2011 NATIONAL GOLDEN SINGLES
- 2012 NATIONAL GOLDEN SINGLES
- 1968 NATIONAL MEN’S OPEN DOUBLES (with Dr. Bud Muehleisen)
- 1969 NATIONAL MEN’S OPEN DOUBLES (with Dr. Bud Meuhleisen)
- 2004 NATIONAL SENIORS DOUBLES (with Mike Wisniewski)
- 2006 NATIONAL GOLDEN DOUBLES (with Randy Wackerle)
- 2008 NATIONAL GOLDEN DOUBLES (with Eric Campbell)
- 2009 NATIONAL MASTERS DOUBLES (with Jamie Lawson)
- 2011 NATIONAL GOLDEN DOUBLES (with Bob Sterken)

EARL RISKEY AWARD 2004



Mike being inducted into the Hall of Fame by Andy Mitchell

MIKE WISNIEWSKI

Mike has been one of the best ambassadors for the sport of paddleball since the day he picked up a paddle. He has won at every level he has played. In total, he has won 23 NPA national championships in singles and doubles.

The “Wiz” has more Open Singles titles than anyone in the history of the NPA. He won his latest Open Singles Championship at the age of 53 and latest Open Doubles Championship at age 54. Following is a list of his championship titles:

NATIONAL SINGLES TITLES:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| MEN’S OPEN 1989 | SENIORS 1994 |
| MEN’S OPEN 1991 | SENIORS 1996 |
| MEN’S OPEN 1993 | SENIORS 2001 |
| MEN’S OPEN 1994 | SENIORS 2005 |
| MEN’S OPEN 1996 | SENIORS 2007 |
| MEN’S OPEN 1998 | MASTERS 1996 |
| MEN’S OPEN 2002 | |
| MEN’S OPEN 2003 | |
| MEN’S OPEN 2010 | |

NATIONAL DOUBLES TITLES

- MEN’S OPEN 1998
- MEN’S OPEN 2002
- MEN’S OPEN 2008
- MEN’S OPEN 2011
- SENIORS 2004
- MASTERS 2007
- MIXED DOUBLES 1995
- MIXED DOUBLES 1999

EARL RISKEY AWARD 1995

2014 Hall of Fame continued

LOU GIAMPETRONI



LOU GIAMPETRONI WITH HALL OF FAME
PRESENTER JIM SWENDRIS

Lou Giampetroni is a key figure in the growth of paddleball in the Midwest. Not only an excellent player, but a key ambassador for the game. Lou worked tirelessly to put together the NPA newsletter from the early 1980's until 2013. The NPA thanks him for the countless hours, numerous contributions and dedication to the organization of the game. Lou is a pillar of the sport and will always be our “godfather”. Not only was his very presence been a great asset to our sport, his national titles include:

- MASTERS 1981 NATIONAL DOUBLES (with Jer Fennell)
- MASTERS 1984 NATIONAL DOUBLES (with Bob Paige)
- MASTERS 1987 NATIONAL DOUBLES (with Max Calhoun)
- GOLDEN DOUBLES 1996 (with Gary Nehring)
- PLATINUM DOUBLES 2006 (with Gary Nehring)

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD 1977
EARL RISKEY 1978

STEVE “BO” KEELEY



Steve Keeley dominated the sport of paddleball in the 1970's. His play and enthusiasm brought many players to the sport. Steve keeps paddleball alive with his books, blogs and many postings. He parlayed his paddleball skills into becoming a highly ranked professional racquetball player. His tenure with paddleball was short but impressive. A listing of his national titles follows:

- 1971 NATIONAL MEN'S OPEN SINGLES
- 1973 NATIONAL MEN'S OPEN SINGLES
- 1974 NATIONAL MEN'S OPEN SINGLES
- 1976 NATIONAL MEN'S OPEN SINGLES
- 1977 NATIONAL MEN'S OPEN SINGLES

- 1974 NATIONAL MEN'S OPEN DOUBLES (with Len Baldori)
- 1976 NATIONAL MEN'S OPEN DOUBLES (with Andy Homa)

2007 EARL RISKEY AWARD

Bo in his playing days. He was unable
to attend the ceremony

Steve Trent: Tough as Nails by Jamie Lawson

It was the March Madness tournament, March 1994, in the era before paddleball made its big return to Southern California. I wanted to see the first round men's open doubles racquetball match on Court 1. Two huge men entered the court turning sideways so that their broad shoulders could fit through the door, and they began punishing their warmup ball. Another spectator in classic black horned-rimmed glasses chuckled and said, "It's not a good day to be a bodybuilder". I was puzzled. I would not want to be on the court with these behemoths. But two little guys opened the door, found their way in, navigated past the beef, and the match began. From 0-0 in the first, things didn't work out so well for the big guys. The little guys beat them down like they were bad dogs.

"The little guy on the right has got some hands!" I said.

"That's Steve Trent", said the gregarious spectator in the funny black glasses. "He's got the fastest hands in racquetball".

"Really?" I queried. This was kind of important to me because I had always fancied my game as one of quick hands.

"Yeah, he's something else", said my bespeckled friend. "In 1980, Trent was the only guy that could get past Hogan. Drake had to figure out a way to get him off the tour, but he still won five national doubles titles..."

The story he told was no doubt apocryphal, but about 15 minutes later, the big guys left the court for the last time, their shoulders slumped enough to fit through the door without much trouble. I don't remember who Steve played with but it didn't much matter. Steve Trent was always the favorite to win at doubles, and I cannot remember seeing him lose a racquetball match no matter whom he played with. Steve's father Jim had been one of Charlie Brumfield's training partners back in the day, and so Steve was exposed to racket sports early and had a champion's attitude.

But Steve's fast hands, his lean, tough physique, and his passion for doubles were even better suited to paddleball. He eventually left racquetball behind almost entirely, but quietly, several times a week, Trent would meet up with Aaron Embry, Rick Florence, and Kevin Williams for "recreational" paddleball doubles that was anything but recreational. The three most feared right side players in California were always Trent, Brumfield, and EntriKin. And Trent was the toughest to play against because his fast hands gave him the tools to play a step closer to the front wall than anyone else could. Steve took a lot of shots away just by being there. As a left side player, my reverse pinch was far less consistent with Steve as my opponent because I had to hit it around him.

I faced Steve in tournament situations twice. The first time was in the finals of the 2009 NPA National Doubles Masters division where Brumfield and I had to face down Steve Trent and David Fleetwood. Trent's T-Shirt summed up his approach to the game: "No Candyasses!" Brumfield's instructions to me were unequivocal: "Do not hit the ball to Trent!" It was the most exhausting, and rewarding match I have ever played. I still fancied myself as a guy with really fast hands and In the first game, I wanted to challenge Steve up front. He and I got into a rally about ten feet from the front wall. I was quick, but I found that with each successive shot I was a little further back and Trent finally put the ball down in my corner for a winner. I never tried that again. Charlie and I started strong, but by the middle of the second game we had begun to tire. Trent was like a rock and smothered every ball that went to his side. In a show of unprecedented in-game respect, from the midpoint on Charlie hit every single ball crosscourt, away from Trent and I did what I could to follow orders and keep the ball away from him and as far to the left hand side as possible. Finally, at tournament point, Brumfield struck the kill shot to the right for a perfect winner. It was probably the only ball Trent saw in the last half of that game. Afterward, even in defeat, Steve was cordial and the four of us posed while Bill Torres took pictures.

The second time we met was Western Regional Doubles in 2011. Mike Czebala and I faced Aaron Embry and Steve Trent in the finals. They had blitzed everyone they played. I don't think anyone even made double figures. Steve wore me down but I thought I played great! And when they had us at match point, I hit a wide pinch to keep us in the game. I was justly proud of that shot because the ball was so good that not even Steve Trent could retrieve it! But even with my good fortune, Steve and Aaron prevailed 21-16, and Steve was just as cordial in victory.

Not long after that, Steve was diagnosed with renal carcinoma. In March, 2012, Steve made his last major appearance on the court--as the guest of honor rather than as a player--at the Steve Trent Doubles Shootout Fundraiser Social. His hard muscles had dissipated. He was thin like I had never seen him, and his face was drawn but still carried a smile. The event drew a Who's Who of racquetball and paddleball: Marty Hogan, Charlie Brumfield, Bud Muehleisen, Aaron Embry, Chris Crowther, and Todd EntriKin, whose names have collectively been engraved on the NPA singles trophy ten times. Steve Lerner made an appearance, as did Dale Valentine, Jason Maninno, Mike Orr, Alvaro Beltran, Jackie and Joy Paraiso, Stan Wright, Rhonda Rajsich, Rick Florence, Ward Leibur, and Kevin Williams. People donated memorabilia and pecan pies for auction to help with Steve's medical bills. Racquetball pros and paddleball greats played novices at no charge in quick exhibition games to 11.

At the Shootout there was hope, as Steve was starting a new treatment designed to turn the disease around. But Steve's condition grew worse, and he passed away on June 10, 2012, just a month and a day before he would have been eligible to play the Golden Masters. His brother, Mike, has been playing paddleball a couple times per week since. The family tradition lives on.

See photos on the next page



That's Steve Trent, near the center, flanked by Dr. Bud Muehleisen on one side and Rhonda Rajsich. Paddleball greets Marty Hogan, Todd Entriakin, and Kevin Williams in the back row. Rick Florence, Alvaro Beltran, Ward Leibur, Aaron Embry, Charlie Brumfield and Jackie Paraiso on the right. Steve Cohen, Stan Wright, Mike Orr on the left.



A few of Steve Trent's friends at the Steve Trent Doubles Shootout Fundraiser and Social.

SENIORS CHAMPIONS

UP COMING TOURNAMENTS

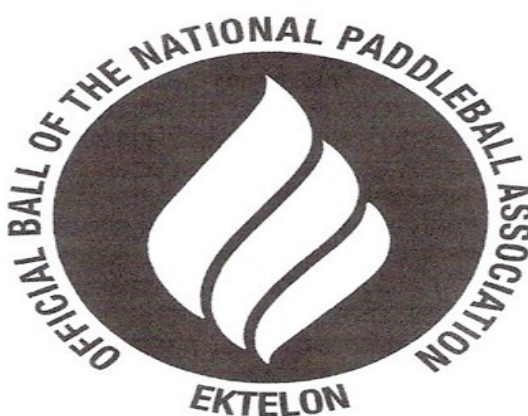
BELLE ISLE FUN DOUBLES - Outdoor, 3 Wall, Long Wall, JUNE 21, 2014, Belle Isle MI

BATTLE OF THE BORDERS - Indoor, AUGUST 3rd, San Marcos CA

PIG ROAST AND HUMAN SACRIFICE - Indoor, Play paddleball from 9 to 3 and enjoy your friends, games and a pig roast immediately following. AUGUST 16th, Bronson Athletic Club, Kalamazoo MI

WOR 2014 - Outdoor, 3 Wall, Short Wall, SEPTEMBER 10-14 (paddleball usually runs 11-13). An incredible event with racquetball, handball and paddleball all playing on the same courts. The fun level is off the charts.

[INFORMATION ON ALL THESE EVENTS ARE ON THE WEB SITE](#)



NPA ANNUAL AWARDS



SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

This award is given annually to the person who most represents the American ideal of good sportsmanship under extreme competitive conditions. We are proud to present the 2014 award to: **KEVIN MCLAUGHLIN**

When Kevin was nominated the votes came flooding in for him...Brandon Creamer summed it up when he said "Kevin drives me crazy with how nice he is win or lose".

Photo: Kevin with last year's winner Eugene Rush



THE REMSBERG AWARD

This award is presented annually to a young player who show promise in the sport of paddleball. We are proud to present the 2014 award to: **ADAM KOEHLER**

Adam is an outstanding young player who has swiftly moved thru divisions with only two years of NPA tourney experience. He is a protégé of Mike Wisniewski and with his natural talent and Mike's tips promises to be one of the NPA's best.

Photo: Adam with Randall Slager the 2013 winner of the Remsberg award.

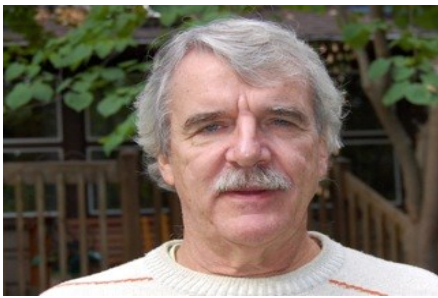
The 2014 Earl Risky was presented to **THOMAS BODARY** for all of the work he has done to update our website and to help with our social profile.

Thomas was married the weekend of the awards ceremony so was unable to attend.

We hope he knows how much the NPA and all the players appreciate what he has done for our sport.

*EARL RISKEY MEMORIAL TROPHY
AWARDED IN HONOR OF THE FOUNDER
OF THE GREAT GAME OF PADDLEBALL*

PRESENTED BY THE
NATIONAL PADDLEBALL ASSOCIATION
TO THE PERSON
WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED MOST
TO THE SPORT OF PADDLEBALL



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Paddleball has been exposed to hundreds of outdoor racquetball and handball players and fans throughout the country and beyond, thanks to WOR, the World Outdoor Racquetball organization.

In June in each of the last two years, WOR has offered a paddleball division in their Belle Isle Fun Doubles. This annual Detroit outdoor 3-wall tournament hit the 20-year mark this past summer. As the name implies, it is good time: sun, warm to hot weather, food, nice courts, beautiful location, racquetball and paddleball side by side.

In September for the past three years, WOR has included paddleball in their 3 Wall Ball World Championships in Las Vegas. This is the big one, hundreds of players and fans. In the 2012 3 Wall Ball World Championships there were nearly 225 racquetball players, 175 handball players, and 20 paddleball players. Twenty-one states and three countries were represented in this four-day tournament.

Multiple plywood portable outdoor courts are set up in the parking lot of the hosting Stratosphere Hotel. Quite a site! Envision--racquetball, handball, paddleball, numerous pro and amateur divisions, hundreds of court-players and fans, three and one-wall courts, no back walls, baking sun, celebrations, and Vegas.

Not all three-wall courts are alike. There are long-wall and short-wall courts. A long-wall court is missing a back wall. Whereas, a short-wall court is missing a back wall and half of each sidewall. The sidewalls actually stop at the short line; all those drives that would hit the sidewall beyond the short line in 4-wall or 3-wall long wall are out in this game.

Belle Isle features 3-Wall Long Wall Courts, Vegas—3-Wall Short Wall Courts. The Belle Isle courts have ceilings; there are none in Vegas. Like a typical 4-wall court, the walls in Belle Isle are 20 feet high; in Vegas they are 16 feet high. It is remarkable how often I hit the ball over that short front wall.

I've participated in all five of the WOR tournaments in which paddleball has been included. At times, I have felt like a fish out of water, but I certainly enjoyed each tournament. It is a joy playing the game I love outdoors.

The MAC in East Lansing has two fine 3-wall long wall courts. I played there a couple of times this summer. I have also played at several 3-wall long wall tournaments in the Chicago area. If there were good 3-wall courts near Ann Arbor, I'd play outdoor paddleball a lot more.

One of paddleball's legends and best promoters of the game, Charlie Brumfield, "The Holder," was inducted in the WOR Hall of Fame this past summer for his remarkable success in outdoor racquetball. I encourage you to view an introduction by Marty Hogan and Charlie's entertaining acceptance speech, if you have not previously done so. Marty's introduction: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEVI7gSSDJo>, "The Holder's" acceptance: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WAYNbpYa04>.

Hank Marcus, the Executive Director of WOR, and Greg Lewrenez, WOR National Director, have been particularly instrumental in exposing paddleball to the outdoor court world. Greg, "Big Daddy," enjoys playing paddleball himself and has encouraged the NPA to run a paddleball division at the Fun Doubles Tournaments. We are free to do as we wish. Jim Price, a new member of the NPA Board of Managers, has served as the NPA representative and has worked well with Greg.

Hank is the first person in NPA history to be awarded the Earl Risky Award without being a member of the NPA. In addition to being on the tournament committee for the 3 Wall Ball Championships and the primary individual responsible for having the NPA included, he helped secure a deal with Ektelon for our ball. Hank, who also works for Ektelon, was a clear choice for the 2013 Earl Risky Award for his contributions to paddleball.

As is the case with Belle Isle tournament, the NPA is at liberty to run the paddleball divisions as it sees fit in Vegas. Todd Entrikin, NPA Vice President, serves as our representative and takes charge of the paddleball divisions.

The paddleball community has been invited to the 21st Annual Fun Doubles Tournament in Belle Isle and the 2014 3 Wall Ball World Championships in Las Vegas, Nevada. Information will be posted at www.paddleball.org. I encourage you to try it outdoors.

Jim Owens

NPA President