

NPA NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL PADDLEBALL ASSOCIATION

These unprecedented times caused us to postpone the 2020 National Doubles scheduled for April in Midland Michigan. Although we did not take this step lightly, our concern for players safety was utmost in our minds. As it is beginning to look like there might be a light at the end of this long tunnel we have been in, your Board of Managers will be meeting this summer with the hope of rescheduling the National Doubles for October of 2020. We will keep you informed by both email and on our web page as soon as we can confirm a date. Stay safe and we hope to see you this Fall.

NPA Board of Managers

2020 NPA National Singles Championships and Rocky Mountain Doubles

In a promotional piece for the 2020 NPA National Singles Championships and Rocky Mountain Doubles, Gary Mazaroff, the president of New Mexico Racquetball, noted: “

Paddleball aficionados, mark the following dates onto your calendar (March 5-8, 2020); because the NPA National Championships are coming to New Mexico. Rarely held outside of California and Michigan, the National Singles will network with the Rocky Mountain Doubles to create a super opportunity for all. Come early and stay late to enjoy the local, state, and regional flavors of the *Southwest*.”

Based on remarks made to me from paddleball players from California and Michigan who attended the historic event, I am confident in saying--The tournament was a blast!

Thank you, Gary Mazaroff and the members of New Mexico Racquetball, who have ventured into the world of NPA paddleball. You were great hosts. The hosting tournament facility, the Midtown Sports & Wellness Club, with its six well-maintained quality courts, is an excellent place for a tournament. The banquet at the Ramada Inn was exceptional. In addition to playing in a very successful tournament, many of us from out of state did come early and stayed late. We did enjoy the local, state, regional flavors of the Southwest.

At the Saturday evening banquet at the Ramada, Gary Mazaroff was awarded the NPA's annual award for significant contributions to the sport of paddleball.

He undoubtedly deserves NPA's highest honor, the Earl Risky award, for successfully introducing paddleball to a whole new set of players. Many of those players made a point of telling me that they really enjoyed playing paddleball.

After seeing Gary in action, I can attest—he is a great promoter; the type of person that could sell almost anything. It is nice to have him in our corner.

I hope Rocky Mountain Paddleball Doubles continues to flourish and that the number of players playing paddleball continues to increase.



**Gearbox is the OFFICIAL ball
and paddle of the NPA.**

2020 NPA NATIONAL SINGLES AND ROCKY MOUNTAIN DOUBLES

National Singles

Pro/Open

1st: Emmett Coe (San Diego, CA) 21-14, 21-10

2nd: Aaron Embry (San Diego, CA)

3rd: Jonathan Gutierrez (Albuquerque, NM)

AA (Drop Down from Pro/Open)

1st: Ken Cheshire (Albuquerque, NM) 14-21, 21-16, 21-10

2nd: Carlos Juarez (Gallup, NM)

3rd: Donovan Duran (Albuquerque, NM)

A Division

1st: Paul Thiel (La Jolla, CA) injury forfeit

2nd: Pete Callstrom (San Diego, CA)

3rd: Dominic Maestas (Albuquerque, NM)

B Division (Drop Down from A)

1st: Rigo Marin (San Diego, CA) 21-12, 21-18

2nd: Andy Pappas (Detroit, MI)

3rd: Michael Garcia (Santa Fe, NM)

C Division

1st: Gabriel Harrington (Albuquerque, NM) 21-13, 21-14

2nd: Vernon Bradley (Corrales, NM)

3rd: Shane Smith (Poway, CA)

35+/45+ Combined

1st: Darin Randles (Phoenix, AZ) 21-11, 21-13

2nd: Dominic Maestas (Albuquerque, NM)

Contenders: Rigo Marin (San Diego, CA)

55+/65+ Combined

1st: Paul Thiel (La Jolla, CA) 21-7, 21-10

2nd: Peter Callstrom (San Diego, CA)

3rd: Richard Hammer (Los Alamos, NM)

Women’s Open

1st: Ysabel Espinoza (Albuquerque, NM) 21-7, 6-21, 21-6

2nd: Frossene King (Albuquerque, NM)

3rd: Sharon Chang (Albuquerque, NM)

Women’s B (Drop Down from Women’s Open)

1st: Iva Espinoza (Albuquerque, NM) 21-7, 21-17

2nd: Marisa Reimers (Albuquerque, NM)

3rd: Roseann Fitzpatrick (Albuquerque, NM)

Rocky Mountain Doubles results on following page

Rocky Mountain Doubles Results Continued

Pro/Open

- 1st:** Emmett Coe (San Diego, CA) & Mike Czabala (Camarillo, CA) 21-11, 21-11
- 2nd:** Ramon Gomez (Sante Fe, NM) & Raaj Mohan (Albuquerque, NM)
- 3rd:** Carlos Juarez (Gallup, NM) & Evan Ussery (Albuquerque, NM)

AA Division (Drop Down from Pro/Open)

- 1st:** Ken Cheshire (Albuquerque, NM) & Darin Randles (Phoenix, AZ) 21-7, 21-11
- 2nd:** Michael Garcia (Santa Fe, NM) & Dominic Maestas (Albuquerque, NM)
- 3rd:** Riley Sievers (Albuquerque, NM) & Cameron Cannady (Albuquerque, NM)

A/B Division

- 1st:** Karl Briggs (Saginaw, MI) & Paul Carr (Lansing, MI) 21-7, 21-10
- 2nd:** Dan Cannady (Albuquerque, NM) & Herman Hernandez (Rio Rancho, NM)

Women’s Open

- 1st:** Sharon Chang (Albuquerque, NM) & Frossene King (Albuquerque, NM) 3 Wins 0 Losses
- 2nd:** Pam Garcia (Sante Fe, NM) & Yvonne Grinnell (Albuquerque, NM) 2 Wins 1 Loss

50+/60+

- 1st:** Peter Callstrom (San Diego, CA) & Paul Thiel (La Jolla, CA) 4 Wins 0 Losses
- 2nd:** Butch Wilder (Santa Fe, NM) & Larry King (Albuquerque, NM) 3 Wins 1 Loss

Mixed Open

- 1st:** Pam Garcia (Santa Fe, NM) & Emmett Coe (San Diego, CA) 3 Wins 0 Losses
- 2nd:** Roseann Fitzpatrick (Albuquerque, NM) & Donovan Duran 2 Wins 1 Loss

Mixed B/C

- 1st:** Sharon Chang (Albuquerque, NM) & Javier Guzman 9 Albuquerque, NM) 4 Wins 0 Losses
- 2nd:** Butch Wilder (Santa Fe, NM) & Marisa Reimers (Albuquerque, NM) 2 Wins 2 Losses

2020 NPA National Singles Championship and Rocky Mountain Doubles

By Aaron Embry

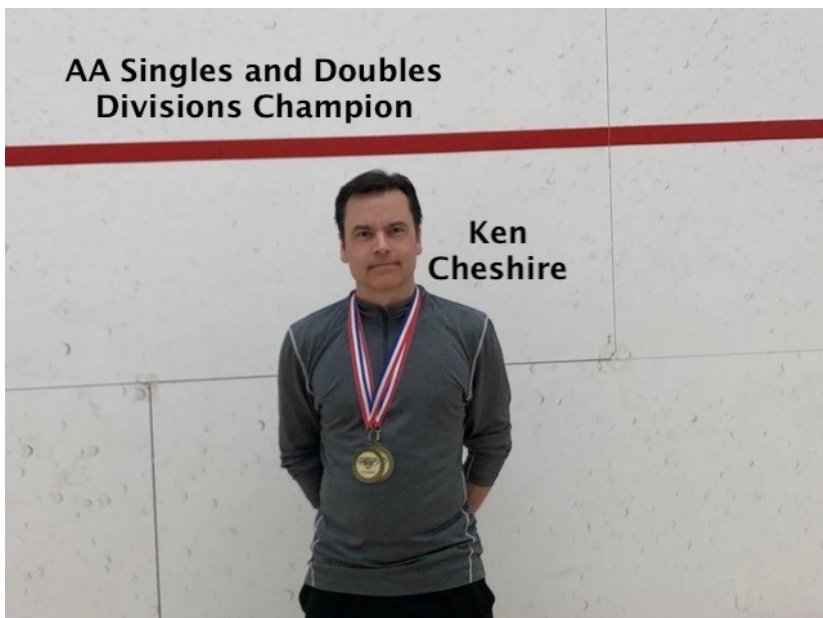
The 2020 National Paddleball Singles and Rocky Mountain Doubles Tournament was AWE-SOME...that’s really all you really need to know!!! If you missed it, then you need to make sure to attend the next event in Albuquerque. The facility is fantastic, the number of exciting matches were numerous, the hospitality and banquet were second to none, and yours truly played his first singles event since my accident about 5 years ago!

Gary Mazaroff and his loyal staff ran and hosted a first-rate event at the Midtown Sports and Well-ness in Albuquerque, NM March 5th – 8th. Not only did Gary do an amazing job running the event but he is this year’s winner of the most prestigious award in Paddleball, the **Earl Risky trophy**. Each year “The Risky” is given to a person who makes an outstanding contribution to the sport of Paddleball, and Gary certainly deserves that honor!

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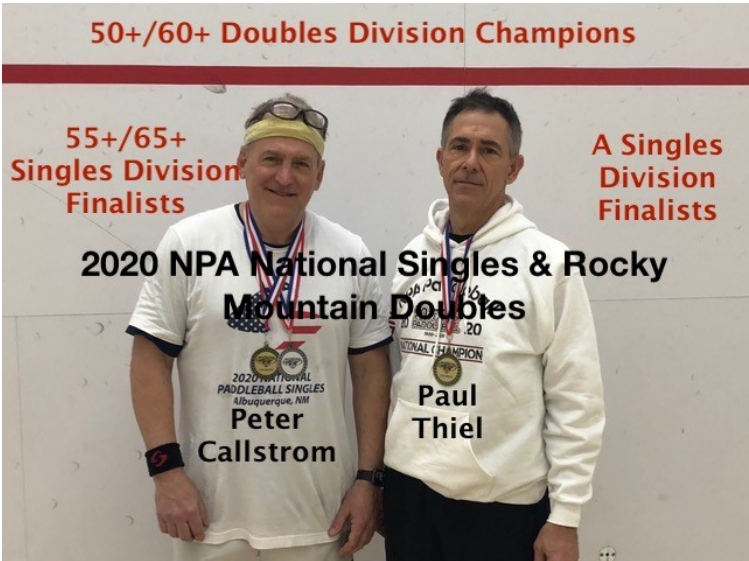
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Gary Mazaroff

2020 Earl Risky Award Recipient

By: Karl Briggs

This past March I traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico to compete in my first National Singles Paddleball Tournament. My motivation for traveling to New Mexico from Michigan was twofold. First, I always wanted to go out west and play in a singles tournament. Second, I had played in the Rocky Mountain Doubles tournament the year before in Albuquerque. I was really impressed with the quality of the tournament, the welcoming participants, the host community, and the tournament director Gary Mazaroff.

It was clear to me that Gary is more than simply a tournament director; he is a guy who really takes a personal interest in his participants. For example, last year my partner Paul Carr and I had a terrible time getting to the tournament. After getting stuck in Chicago, due to one of our famous Mid-western snowstorms, we were ready to simply head back home. Here's where Gary personally reached out to us with assistance and reassurance. So when this year's National Tournament was scheduled in Albuquerque again, Paul and I didn't give it a second thought, we were all in!

It was shortly after this year's tournament that NPA President Jim Owens approached me with an idea. He asked me if I would write an article on Gary Mazaroff winning the Earl Risky Award. Well, because I think Gary is such an exceptional man, I eagerly accepted the task!

Let me start off by giving you a little history about Earl Risky.

Earl Risky invented the sport of Paddleball in 1930. He was a Physical Education instructor and later director of the intramural sports program at the University of Michigan. Interestingly, during inclement weather, U of M's tennis teams would be forced to practice in doors on the handball courts. They used wooden paddles from paddle tennis for their workouts. It wasn't long before Risky saw the potential for the addition of a new intramural sport. A sport that used worn tennis balls or dime store rubber balls and wooden paddles. From there, the awesome game of Paddleball was born.

Annually the NPA board looks for an extraordinary individual to nominate for the Earl Risky Award. Someone who embodies the personal character and commitment to continue the growth and promotion of the sport of Paddleball. In other words, someone who would continue to be the standard bearer of Paddleball that Earl Risky carried over 90 years ago.

Gary's goal is to promote all court sports with the objective of saving the courts! He reminds me of Superman, as he singlehandedly goes from town to town managing tournaments and fighting the *Lex Luthor's* of the world who are trying to convert our courts into some other use. His passion is courageous and contagious, as his band of *Superhero's* follow his lead to achieve his selfless quest.

Aaron Embry, from San Diego, has known Gary for so many years says: "It was when my Mom started playing Racquetball that I first met Gary. He was running tournaments 35-40 years ago and promoting court sports. Gary typifies the Earl Risky ideal. He's always promoting court sports, giving back to the players on many levels including the Am-Pro Certification Teaching Program, and more importantly giving back to the communities."

Frossene King from Albuquerque, is a living example of Gary's continued dedication to the promotion of Paddleball. "Gary Mazaroff gives so much to the sport and to the players," Frossene states. "He continues to provide opportunities to advance the game and build a community of players. I had never even heard of Paddleball until one day Gary said: 'There is a Paddleball tournament coming up in Albuquerque next month. You should play. Come by Sunday night to practice with the group. I have a paddle you can borrow.' And the rest is history, I've been hooked on the game ever since, thanks to Gary."

When I asked my new friend and competitor, Dr. Dominic Maestas, for a couple of thoughts on Gary's contribution to Paddleball he couldn't stop writing:

Says Dr. Maestas; "Leadership, proactive, education, and growth are just a few of the many words that can be used to describe Gary Mazaroff. But the best and lasting name for Gary is "The Great One". Gary has been responsible for more large gatherings bringing together enjoyment, competition, social interaction, and learning as an equation for growing and ensuring paddleball's success. He has practiced what he has preached that those of us who play have a responsibility to sustain and to grow the sport. Gary has done this tirelessly and with great stewardship. From Age Group Championships at Rocky Mountain Championships to fundraisers to National/International development campaigns, Gary has been an inspirational source of inhibiting a zero-growth mode for paddleball. He keenly understands the changing club climate and is always up for Sunday afternoon Paddleball matches or games at the Venice Beach district on the outdoor courts. The message Gary has been responsible for is that all of us who have a stake in maintaining the infrastructure need to be more proactive-insisting on courts to be in place at all locations in order to drive Paddleball as a court sport as a 'Lifetime' endeavor."

Indeed, Gary has touched so many lives in so many positive ways, both on and off the courts, with his long history of involvement. His love for people and the way people love him back, made it an easy choice to select Gary Mazaroff as this years recipient of the Earl Risky Award. Congratulations Gary and well deserved!



Gary Mazaroff

Outdoor Rules

The 2019 3WallBall Outdoor World Championships in Las Vegas September 26th – 30th featured some amazing Paddleball play.

In the Pro Paddleball division, Emmett Coe and Alvaro Beltran won again, making this their 3rd Pro paddleball victory together. Coe currently stands at 6 total titles after this.

In the finals, Coe and Beltran played Michael Medina and Luis Romero. Coe and Beltran took the first game easily, 15 - 2. In the second game, Medina and Romero decided to show up and they started playing some great ball. They took the lead right away in the second game and looked to be in control of that game at 9 – 4. Then Coe and Beltran started chipping away at the lead. After several very long and punishing rallies, Coe and Beltran were down by just one point with a score of 8 - 9. In the next rally, after several amazing gets by Medina and Romero, the team members collided going for the same ball. This collision caused Romero to take an injury time out. After the injury time out, Medina and Romero never recovered, and ended up losing the second game 15 - 9.

The winners of the Mixed Paddleball combined divisions were Roxanne Rehling and Aaron Embry, both from San Diego. This is their second championship win together. The last time they played this tournament was 2015, and they won it.

The Mixed Paddleball Doubles division saw amazing play and improvement by several players. First was Jaime Blanco Dios and his son Mario Blanco Boullosa, both from Spain. This is Jaime’s third time competing in this event. He and his son traveled over five thousand miles to play. It took them a little while to get their feet under them, but by the end they were playing great. The other person who needs to be mentioned is Jewelz Santiago from New York. Jewelz is a fantastic 1-wall paddleball player but she had never played 3-wall paddleball before. She had to learn new skills and tactics very quickly, but like all talented champions, she pulled it off.

It was great to see old faces and make new paddleball friends. We look forward to seeing you next time!

Aaron Embry



2019 BRIGHAM CLASSIC

AGE RULES

The National Paddleball Association once again returned to the Dow Bay Area Family YMCA in Bay City, Michigan, on December 4th for the 2019 NPA Brigham Classic. And once again, Bay City hosted a very successful tournament. As usual, it ran smoothly and was a fun event by all accounts.

Thirty-two players, sixteen teams, entered from various parts of Michigan. Notably, veteran tournament director Chad Krager persuaded a couple of those teams to change divisions, enabling him to create two brackets of eight teams with drop-downs resulting in four competitive divisions: Open, A, B, and C.

Ron Malecki and Sandy DeGreif, two-time 55+ Division national champs, asked to play in an age division. But, since there were no divisions with age restrictions offered, the director put the fellow Bay Area players in the open.

The 55+ championship team's first game was very close, defeating the team of Jim Howland and Andy Pappas 21-18. After that, Malecki and DeGreif easily won the remaining games through the semifinal, earning a place in the Open Final.

The Ann Arbor area team of Jim Swendris and Ron Harris, the number one seed and a team also of an age that would qualify to play in a 55+ division prevailed in the top half of the bracket.

After two hard-fought games, Ron Malecki and Sandy DeGreif claimed the Open title, 21-20, 21-15.

Age ruled on this day in this tournament.

Jim Owens

2019 Brigham Classic Results

Another successful tournament at the Dow Bay Area Family YMCA!

OPEN DIVISION

Champions: Ron Malecki (Midland, MI) & Sandy DeGreif (Bay City, MI)

2nd Place: Jim Swendris (Ann Arbor, MI) & Ron Harris (Ypsilanti, MI)

Scores in the Final: 21-20 21-15

3rd Place: Greg Keenan (Bay City, MI) & Dennis Dinauer (Bay City, MI)

A DIVISION (Drop Down from Open)

Champions: Jim Richter (Ann Arbor, MI) & Scott Rettelle (Midland, MI)

2nd Place: Mike Madis (South Lyon, MI) & Eugene Rush (Superior Township, MI)

Scores in the Final: 14-21, 21-7, 21-14

B DIVISION

Champions: Joe Martin (Bay City, MI) & Trevor Keys (Bay City, MI)

2nd Place: Dan Gauthier (Waterford, MI) & Marty Gauthier (Waterford, MI)

Scores in the Final: 21-16, 15-21, 21-15

3rd Place: Rick Kogelman (Kawkawin, MI) & Teddy Jevicks (Bay City, MI)

C DIVISION (Drop Down from B)

Champions: Karl Briggs (Saginaw, MI) & Jason Beckers (Bay City, MI)

2nd Place: Thomas Bodary (Auburn, MI) & Steve Pope (Midland, MI)

Scores in the Final: 21-14, 21-18

3rd Place: Rick Birdo (Birch Run, MI) & John Holmes (Midland, MI)



2020 NPA MIDWEST DOUBLES TOURNAMENT

FEBRUARY 1st, 2020

Cyrus Chinoy's Facebook Post

On the first day of February in the great State of Michigan, the National Paddleball Association held the 2020 Midwest Doubles Paddleball Tournament at Schoolcraft College located in Livonia, Michigan.

48 players from all over Michigan, attended this fun doubles only tournament.

As always, before going any further into the action, these types of events are successful in large part due to the hard work and dedication of the tournament directors and support staff.

This year a huge thank you goes out to tournament director and National Paddleball Association President Jim Owens for his awesome efforts in organizing a great tournament as always. Jim always does an amazing job of planning these tourneys in advance, getting players signed up and just offering up a great day of fun and friendly competitiveness. He is a great ambassador for Paddleball and is always receptive to listening to ideas and in keeping to grow the sport.

I'd also like to recognize Jim Price, Andy Pappas and Peter Magar for helping out as well throughout the day with the tournament. I appreciate all your gentlemen's hard work and hard play on the courts.

Plenty of food was provided for everyone, along with drinks and snacks throughout the day and players were very appreciative of that.

Plenty of great action was seen in all divisions, with players battling it out on the courts with great shots all day long.

Out of our element, my normal doubles partner Howie "Snacks" Webb and I decided to try our hand and battle with other talented Paddleball players.

We held our heads high and battled all day long together fighting for every point in playing every experienced team. Our journey for the day ended up respectfully, getting to the quarterfinals in the B division and the semi finals in the A division.

I continue to be astonished by the high level of caliber players, experience, sportsmanship and ageless wonderment. It's so amazing seeing the vast number of players skill, age and experience all mesh into one beautiful sport.

I continue to be humbled every time I play this game and in these tournaments. I continue to absorb and learn all new strategies from the other players who are so kind in sharing their knowledge.

Howie, my brother, we played great together as usual. No matter the sport, nothing ever really changes as we know where each other is going to be on the court and covers each other's back. Great shooting and playing your game and giving it your all. You played awesome brother and it is always a joy to play with you and compete with you. Not the exact result we wanted, but proud to continue to get better together as a team.

All in all, just a fantastic weekend in Michigan and for Paddleball. It was wonderful talking to all the players that have played for decades and listening to their great Paddleball competition stories, as well as getting advice from them. A true passing of knowledge from legends of the past still playing this great game of skill, grace, power, accuracy and timing.

As always, the camaraderie between all players on and off the court is just the best part for me, getting to know each other on a more personal level and just enjoying each other's company while playing this fantastic Paddle sport.

Thank you to my sponsor Gearbox Sports for all your support, passion, great products, great events and overall family atmosphere.

Congratulations to all the Champions!

Peace to all.

Cyrus Chinoy

2020 MIDWEST DOUBLES RESULTS

Here are the top finishers out of the 48 players.

Team pictures—The first players listed is the player on the left.

OPEN DIVISION

Champs: Chad Krager (Bay City, MI) & Mike Madis (South Lyon, MI) 21-7 21-3

Second: Ron Malecki (Midland, MI) & Sandy DeGreif (Bay City, MI)



A DIVISION (Drop Down from Open)

Champs: Ron Harris (Ypsilanti, MI) & Jim Swendris (Ann Arbor, MI) 21-14 21-9

Second: K Hatcher (Hazel Park, MI) & Joe Lowell (Detroit Area, MI)



B DIVISION

Champs: Paul Carr (Lansing, MI) & Lance Krager (Bay City, MI) 21-13 21-16

Second: Bob St.Clair (Livonia, MI) & Andy Pappas (Detroit, MI)



2020 MIDWEST DOUBLES RESULTS CONTINUED

C DIVISION (Drop Down from B)

Champs: Eric Boks (Saginaw, MI) & Karl Briggs (Saginaw, MI) 21-19 21-3

Second: Samuel Alvarez (Lansing, MI) & Bruce Diven (Monroe, MI)



VINTAGE DIVISION (Rotational Doubles, 105 points possible)

Champs: Mark Gruber (Monroe, MI) 105 points--on the right

Second: Fin Henk (Taylor, MI) 96 points



Paddleball lost one of its great players and great friends this winter. Bob Berg passed away after a short, but fierce, battle with cancer. Anyone who ever met Bob walked away knowing they had made a friend. His personality was outgoing and sunny, his play amazing to watch...it seemed he had not moved but there he was reaching out those long arms and killing the ball.

Bob left behind his beloved Gail and three beautiful children – Chelsey, Blake and Cammy. His memorial was attended by many, many paddleball players coming from all over Michigan, Wisconsin and even Florida. It was a great testimony to the man, the player, and the friend that Bob was to so many.

Bob, enjoy that beer up in heaven and know that you will be missed by all of us that you left behind.



West Coast Player Profile--Ricardo Callado

By Jamie Lawson

This issue's West Coast Player Profile focuses on Ricardo Callado, who came out of the Sorrento Valley Racquetball Club and is easily recognized at all of the paddleball venues in San Diego and Riverside counties.

Ricardo's background is uniquely diverse. Though he was born on the US side of the border, he's just as comfortable on the Mexican side and has lived for extended periods in both countries. Similarly, his sports experience covers a very broad range. He's won championships in bowling and distance running, has competed in mountain bike racing and sailing, and dabbled in gymnastics, street hockey, boxing, tennis, karate, and even ballet. So Ricardo not only brings a lot of skills to paddleball, he also brings lots of friends to paddleball, and when you see Ricardo on the court, your likely to see a new face or two nearby, usually smiling, as Ricardo has been one of the players most active in building the sport in Southern California.



One of Ricardo's converts to the game is his father-in-law, Mike Barrera, who has also become quite a regular in tournaments, hit-arounds, and other competitions, and often partners with Ricardo, not just in paddleball, but also in sailing competitions. Mike is equally tenacious and competitive.

Ricardo was born in San Diego in 1984, but spent most of his first two years on his father's ranch about two hours south of Tijuana. The Callado Ranch has been described as "very rustic", and basically off the grid. The place still serves as a sort of refuge for beleaguered urbanites and paddleball players who need to get away from it all for a while. But because of the ranch's remoteness, it wasn't the best place for school, and so Ricardo moved to bustling Tijuana for his primary school years, and then back to the US again for college. There he met the equally athletic Karla Barrera (a lifelong runner and marathoner) and they began their five year courtship. Most of that time they lived in Mexico. When they married, in 2014, they returned to the US, and took up residence with Karla's family in Chula Vista.

Continued on following page

Ricardo began working out at Sorrento Valley Racquetball during the mornings before work. There he met Charlie Brumfield, who pushed him onto the court and got him hitting a ball. From the first day, it was clear that Ricardo was fast, and also determined. Even before developing a swing, Ricardo could get to any ball, and developed a reputation as a tenacious competitor. No ball could be counted as down when playing Ricardo; not until it bounced twice. Even the top players enjoyed playing him because they were guaranteed a workout. And Ricardo's ability as a getter made him an ideal sparring partner for Charlie Brumfield. The recent photo here shows the two of them in the back lot at the Pacific Paddleball Association, which is now Charlie's home address. Ricardo is holding the classic "Aluminum Brumfield" racket from 1977, arguably the worst racket ever manufactured for any purpose.



Asked what it was like as a beginner playing the likes of Charlie Brumfield and Emmett Coe every day, Ricardo said this:

"It impacted me in numerous positive ways:

I had to set up smaller goals and move up from that. At first, my goal with Charlie was to last more than 5 minutes in court; after that, I only wanted to avoid getting the donut. Then, I wanted to get five points; then more, and so on and so on... I spent my first year without ever winning a singles match -- against anyone. But I enjoyed every loss. Plus, it is fun to lose against a legendary talent like Charlie.

Not having any racquetball experience, I learned to play paddleball from scratch. By playing against Charlie and Emmett, I had to become comfortable hitting the ball off balance, and I learned the benefits of gradually wearing your opponent down using control as opposed to killing the ball with fierce power. Also, I never think about whether or not I will be able to get to the ball on time, before the second bounce. I just go for it as fast as I can to find out!"

In 2018, Ricardo and Karla had a baby boy, their first, Ricky, who already shows athletic promise and competitiveness. In 2019, Ricky won the Crawlathon at the Del Mar Fair Grounds. That's actually a pretty big deal and the trophy was almost as tall as he was.



Ricky has since outgrown crawling contests and is walking and running at a pace to keep both parents busy. During the coronavirus lockdown, outside of a 5K run each night, Ricardo and Karla have been spending a lot of quality time with Ricky, and Ricky has been supplying them with aerobic workouts to help them further improve their endurance skills.

WE HAVE HAD A LOT OF LOCAL TOURNAMENTS THIS SEASON, HERE ARE A FEW PICS OF THEIR CHAMPIONS



WE HAVE HAD A LOT OF LOCAL TOURNAMENTS THIS SEASON, HERE ARE A FEW PICS OF THEIR CHAMPIONS



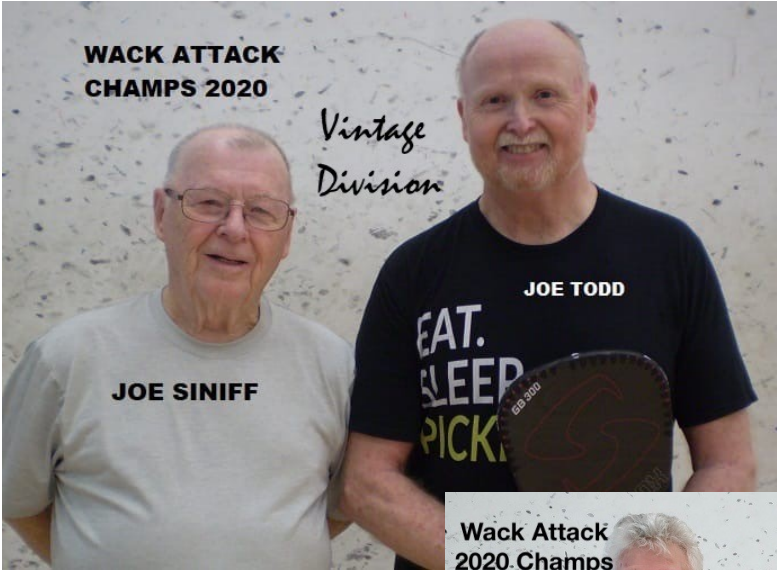
2019 Saginaw Doubles Open Champs



Saginaw Doubles A Division Champs

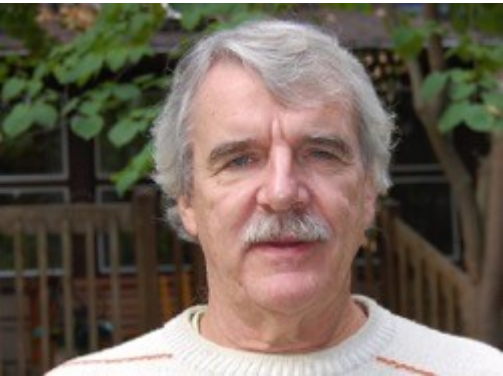


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WE HAVE HAD A LOT OF LOCAL TOURNAMENTS THIS SEASON, HERE ARE A FEW PICS OF THEIR CHAMPIONS





PRESIDENT’S CORNER

COVID-19

I hope you, your families, and friends are healthy and remain so as the world comes to grips with this very contagious and deadly novel coronavirus, COVID-19, a global pandemic.

What a difference a month can make.

March 6th through March 8th: The history-making 2020 National Paddleball Association's National Singles Championships and Rocky Mountain Doubles tournaments took place in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Gary Mazaroff, president of the New Mexico Racquetball Association and master tournament director, so labeled the event in a promotional piece leading up to the tournaments. It was the first time New Mexico has hosted an NPA sanctioned event. This history-making event was a big success.

COVID-19 Count: U.S. 319 confirmed total cases, 15 total deaths

March 9th: My wife Rochelle and I had a post-tournament dinner with Gary and his wife Jennifer in Albuquerque. I remember talking about the virus that evening. Michigan and New Mexico were two of a few states that had no confirmed cases of COVID-19. Earlier in the day, Rochelle and I decided to re-route our return to Michigan. There were news reports that two TSA workers at LAX (Los Angeles, CA) had tested positive for COVID-19, and we were to change planes at LAX. I called Delta around 4:30 p.m. and received a return call a little after midnight. Delta did reroute us through Salt Lake City at no additional cost.

COVID-19 Count: U.S. 704 confirmed total cases, 26 total deaths

Michigan 0 cases, 0 deaths

March 10th: The first two people tested positive for the virus in Michigan, and the governor promptly issued a state of emergency.

COVID-19 Count: U.S. 994 confirmed total cases, 30 deaths

Michigan 2 total confirmed cases, 0 deaths

March 12th: All k-12 Michigan schools closed.

COVID-19 Count: U.S. 1630 total confirmed cases, 41 total deaths

March 13th: I announced to the Board of Managers that we would vote on a proposal from Vice President Jamie Lawson to cancel the 2020 NPA National Doubles tournament scheduled for April 18th & 19th in Midland, Michigan, and reschedule it for fall if conditions permit. The four-member executive board unanimously supported the proposal. The vote would be on Monday, March 16th.

COVID-19 Count: U.S. 2183 total confirmed cases, 48 total deaths

March 16th: ‘Places of public accommodation’ were closed in the state of Michigan, which includes, restaurants, bars, and gyms. The proposal to cancel National Doubles and reschedule it for the fall if conditions permit passed by a vote of 11 to 0. Two board members did not vote. The result of the vote also makes the 2020 NPA National Doubles tournament historic. The Bay City paddleball group canceled the Bean Smith Doubles tournament scheduled for April 4th. The rescheduled date is to be determined. The Mid-Michigan Paddleball Players canceled the Saginaw King/Queen, Prince/Princess of the Court tournament scheduled for March 21st.

COVID-19 Count: U.S. 4,596 total confirmed cases, 87 total deaths

March 24th: The 'stay home, stay safe' executive order went into effect in Michigan.

COVID-19 Count: U.S. 55,222 total confirmed cases, 781 total deaths

April 14th: The day before I submitted this article.

COVID-19 Count: U.S. 622,412 confirmed cases, 27,549 total deaths

Michigan 27,001 total confirmed cases, 1,768 total deaths

_____: You read this article.

COVID-19 Count: U.S. _____ total confirmed cases, _____ total deaths

All numbers for cases and deaths were obtained from the website worldometers.info

Thank you, medical workers and other essential workers for carrying us through these tragic times. Our lives continue to depend on you.

I hope to see you at the 2020 National Paddleball Association's National Doubles Championships.

Jim Owens