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**Racquets & Ritas**

Thursday, March 1  
Ladies Annual  
New Member Mixer

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**Valentine's Day**

Tuesday, February 14  
Special Menu  
& Live Entertainment

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**Membership**

Welcome to our  
New Members of  
the Club.

A PUBLICATION OF THE HOUSTON RACQUET CLUB [houstonracquetclub.com](http://houstonracquetclub.com)

# raconteur

February & March 2012

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## Times Have Changed But The Tradition Continues

42nd National Senior Women's Clay Court Championships  
Feature Article







Roni Atnipp

Happy New Year! I hope you and your families enjoyed the holidays and are now looking forward to a great year ahead.

Our Club will have some big changes in 2012 both inside and out. It's been several decades since our Lobby area has been updated, and the wear and tear from years of use are beginning to show. Renovation of the Lobby will take place later this spring and we will be asking for your patience while the main clubhouse work is being done. You will be excited to see the changes as they include everything from wallpaper, carpet, draperies, flooring and new furniture. Our Lobby will have a complete cosmetic facelift with new leather chairs and couches as well as dramatic chandeliers. You will see changes to the Ladies and Men's restrooms in the Lobby and an update to the small adjacent dining rooms.

If you have tried to play tennis on Courts 18 and 19, no doubt you noticed the cracks in the concrete that have been growing in size due to the drought. These courts are no longer repairable and must be replaced. The Board has approved construction of new post-tension courts which should prevent the sort of cracking these courts are now showing. Construction may involve creating new routes for you to get around our tennis courts so again we will ask for your patience - it will be worth the extra effort to have new courts to play on.

Now you may be wondering how we plan to pay for the renovations without a dues increase or an assessment. Our General Manager/COO Thomas Preuml and his team have the Club in an excellent financial position so we can afford to move forward with the Lobby and tennis court projects as well as several other improvements scheduled for the coming year. Our conservative fiscal approach should allow us to continue capital expenditures without borrowing money or going to our membership for additional funds. The best way to raise funds for capital improvements is for new members to join so I encourage you to invite your friends and families to be a part of HRC. Please contact Cathy Lassetter in the Membership Office if you would like her to follow up with membership information.

I haven't mentioned the plans for the reopening of the restaurant but you will hear about this in the coming months. However, the Grill is getting a major improvement with the addition of a "super" salad bar with more than 50 items stretching from one end of the restaurant to the other. You can toss your own salad or the staff will chop it for you! Chef Hurley is eager to start work on this new dining endeavor for our members.

Spearheading these renovations is our Facilities and Grounds Committee chaired by John Meredith, Tennis Committee chaired by Dan Crawford and Dining and Entertainment Committee chaired by Cary Dunham. Over the next year these projects will require many hours of extra volunteer work - we appreciate the time they will be putting in for the Club.

The coming year at HRC is shaping up to be a good one! If you have any questions or comments about upcoming work or any other thoughts about our Club, don't hesitate to contact me. See you up at the Club!

Roni

Sneak Peek



FEATURE

Times Have Changed But The Tradition Continues

By Sue Bramlette

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2011-2012

HRC Board Of Directors

- Roni Atnipp - President
- Read Boles - Finance
- Dan Crawford - Tennis
- Robert Derrick
- Cary Dunham - Dining & Entertainment
- Dayna Erck - Fitness
- David Fisher
- Patty Harris - Secretary
- Andrew Johnston
- Ryan McCleary
- Jonathan Mefferd
- John Meredith - Facilities
- Paul Peacock - Ex-Officio
- Leland Putterman - Vice President
- Mary Smith
- Bob Stagg

HRC Women's Association Executive Board

- Jamie Alford - President
- Allison Groppe - Social VP
- Heidi Hedrick - Tennis VP
- Leslie Brittain - Treasurer
- Vicki Locascio - Secretary
- Sue Bramlette - NSWCCC
- Cathy Lassetter - NSWCCC
- Carolyn Keeble - Bridge
- Marcia Gsell - Parliamentarian

Reminders

1. **Court Etiquette:** Please do not walk across the clay courts to the parking lot. Use the concrete paths. Walking across especially when it rains causes excessive damage and creates unnecessary work for our maintenance staff. Remind your guests not to cross courts unless playing on them.
2. **Dining Etiquette:** Please remind your kids NOT to run through the Grill. Our Grill is more popular than ever - the Club is thrilled to see everyone enjoying the Chef's creations - but it makes attending to the tables difficult for the staff and can be downright dangerous.
3. **Sunday Brunch:** Sunday Brunch is business casual. Tennis & athletic clothes are acceptable only in the Grill.

TIMES HAVE CHANGED BUT THE TRADITION CONTINUES

The National Senior Women's Clay Court Championships

By Sue Bramlette

From March 26 thru April 1, the Houston Racquet Club will host the 42nd annual National Senior Women's Clay Court Championships. This tournament is one of the most popular on the women's senior tour.

In 1970, just one year after HRC officially opened, Gladys Heldman and several fellow members of HRC hosted Billie Jean King, Rosie Casals, and six other female players in the first Virginia Slims women's professional tournament ever held. HRC is the birthplace of modern professional women's tennis! That same year HRC hosted another inaugural USTA event - the NSWCCC. In the first few years there was only a 35 and over division. Over the next forty years, we have added 45, 55, 65, 75, and 85. For these age divisions, this tournament is the annual Category I National clay court championship. It is also a Grade 3 ITF championship, and is played by all of the top ranked US players as a qualifying tournament for USTA Cup team selection.

In an effort to familiarize HRC's scores of new members with this historic tournament, and to re-introduce the importance of the event to older members, here are some relevant facts concerning the NSWCCC.

1. Tournament week is annually one of the most financially productive weeks of the HRC calendar. HRC benefits from serving the 200 plus players breakfast and lunch every day, two happy hours, and one annual banquet. Our visitors shop in the Pro Shop and often gather around our bars at day's end.

2. Each year approximately 20 HRC members compete in the tournament. Approximately 50 more come from the greater Houston area, and another 50 from other parts of Texas. One of the tournament sponsors is the USTA Texas Section.

3. In 2011, the tournament boasted 16 sponsors and 6 tournament underwriters, including Gardere LLP, the HRC Women's Association, Memorial Hermann, Styles Jewelers, Tarantino Properties, and the USTA.

4. In 2011 the tournament welcomed 226 players from 38 states and 2 foreign countries. More than \$10,000 was awarded in prize money, as well as trophies

in all divisions thru sixth place. The players are not the only ones to be rewarded. In recent years, both HRC and our community have benefited from the tournament. Each year since 1996 the tournament has awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to a deserving high school senior girl. Since 2005 the

tournament has been able to contribute funds to various causes, including Tennis Against Breast Cancer, the Katrina Fund, the Zina Garrison Foundation, the Galveston County Recovery Fund, the National Junior Tennis League, the Jefferson Davis High School court renovation project, and also to HRC in the massage rooms and the Club shade project. In 2012, the tournament committee has elected to contribute to the replacement of trees lost here at HRC.

So at the end of March, when you see many new faces gathering at HRC, come on out and see some really, really good tennis in our own world-class event!

2012 Tournament Committee:

Co-chairs: Sue Bramlette & Cathy Lassetter  
Julie Gillaspie, Patty Harris, Harriett Hulbert, Judy Job, Ruth Mae Kohnke, Dana Kurtin, Bootsie LeFeuvre, Peggy Schwabenland & Kathy Zay.





# Tennis Events

## Cardio Tennis Drill

B Level & Above  
 Monday & Thursday 6:30-7:30PM  
 A Level Ladies  
 Thursday 9:15-10:30AM  
 B Level & Above Ladies Cardio  
 Tuesdays 9:15-10:30AM  
 Advanced Beginners  
 Thursday 10:00-11:45AM  
 B Level Ladies  
 Friday 9:15-10:30AM  
 Co-Ed B Level & Above  
 Saturday 10:00AM  
 Scheduling for Cardio Tennis is with Randy Druz (rjdruz@aol.com).

## The Price Is Right (Free) Drill

Sundays 1:00-2:00PM  
 These are pro rotation drills for adults only. Call the Pro Shop to sign up.

## Men's Night Out

Wednesdays 6:45-8:00PM  
 Join Marlon for fundamental oriented drills for "B" level players and higher. Beer is provided. \$17/person.

## A Power Hour

Tuesdays 6:30PM  
 This is a 1 hour clinic for "A" level players. Join Randy for shots and interactive situation tennis. Cost depends on the number of people.

## Competitive Edge

Taught by Otis Sadler, this intense high level program is designed for state and nationally ranked players. The players will be involved in live ball drills, point play and match situations.

## Championship Power Hours

Mondays 6:30AM with Otis  
 Wednesdays 6:00PM with Randy  
 This is a 1 hour clinic for "Championship" level players. Join in for shots and interactive situation tennis. Cost depends on the number of people.

## Men's Saturday Intraclub League Matches

February 4, 11, 18, 25 & March 3 10:00AM  
 The league is doubles team format for all levels. Play when available. The price is \$55. Raindates are February 26 & March 4.

## Singles Intraclub League

Begins week of February 6  
 Men's and Women's Divisions  
 Sign up by level (3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 or 5.0) and play every player at your level. The format is one match per week with a mutually agreed upon day & time.

## Club Singles Championships Tournament

Saturday & Sunday, April 21 & 22  
 Be the next face on the Wall of Fame! All levels are welcome. \$25/person.

## Racquets & Ritas

Thursday, March 1 6:00PM  
 Join us for the annual women's new member mixer. There will be round robins followed by dinner. \$30/person and new members are FREE. Raindate is March 22. Childcare available by reservation in the Kids Club. Sign up in the Pro Shop.

## National Senior Women's Clay Court Championships

March 26-31 42nd Anniversary  
 This tournament is run by volunteers from HRC and is funded by local sponsors and our generous HRC members. Be a Game, Set, Match donor and attend the Happy Hour in the Pavilion on Thursday the 29th as a thank you! Donation forms are in the Pro Shop.

## Junior Tennis Program

Spring 2012  
 This is a developmental program designed to provide junior players of all ages with a quality training program. Sign up in the Pro Shop.

## Women's Member Guest Tournament

Friday, April 27  
 Hostesses are Tonja Brown, Monica Skeete and Allison Tatum. Raindate is May 11. Save the date. More information coming soon.



## HRC Swing Sisters

HRC Swing Sisters were enjoying a WHLTA lunch celebrating winning their division. Congratulations Ladies!

Leslie Krivan, Holly Arian, Kathy Pappas, Marlene Jessurun, Heather Gaw, Amber Bretches, Gaby Tormo, Paula Cutts, Meredith Cooley, Vicki Locascio & Rachel Mattox.



## Grab a racquet and a 'rita! Racquets & Ritas

Thursday, March 1 6:00PM

Debra Baker, Staci Johnson & HRC Women's Association invite you to the

## Women's Annual New Member Mixer

Round Robins followed by dinner  
 \$30/Person • New Members FREE • Raindate March 22  
 Sign up in the Pro Shop. Childcare available by reservation in the Kids Club.

# Congratulations To Our Winners

## Roederer Cup ProAm Tournament



**Roederer Cup ProAm Tournament**

- Nebuchadnezzars:** 1st Am Steve Riner, 1st Pro Harry Fowler, 2nd Pro Jeff Dadamo & 2nd Am Paul Peacock
- Balthazars:** 2nd Am Bob Hogan, 1st Pro Eoin Collins, 1st Am Steve Smith & 2nd Pro Josip Juric
- Salmanazars:** 1st Pro Michael Nuesline, 2nd Pro Sean Straley, 1st Am Brad Patt & 2nd Am Mark Bragg (not pictured)
- Methuselahs:** 2nd Pro Otis Sadler, 2nd Am Jonathan Chung, 1st Pro Volkan Solar & 1st Am Peter Currie
- Magnums:** 2nd Am Betsy Beasley, 1st Am Jamie Alford, 1st Pro Leif Berger & 2nd Pro Jason Mok
- Calcutta Winners won both 1st & 2nd Place:** Craig Beasley, Tom Van Denver, Byrd Larberg, Otis Sadler & Arlo Van Denver

## Men's Member Guest Tournament



**Men's Member Guest Tournament**

- Coyotes**  
 2nd place Jeep Christian & Ugo Tombolini  
 1st place Nick Stephens and John Hastings
- Armadillos**  
 2nd place Blake Benton & Michael Monk  
 1st place Lars Zeisig & Albert Schneuwly
- Jackalopes**  
 1st Place: Blane Bauch & Matt Aycock  
 2nd Place: Chip Cowell & Eddie Blanton (not pictured)



# Tennis Tournament Fun

## Ladies Snowball Tennis Tournament



## Men's New Member Mixer



## Junior Jingle Bell Tournament



### Ladies Snowball Tennis Tournament

Many thanks to Jenna Jackson, Tiffany Wong, Carrie Sturges & Kim Sanchez for organizing this annual event. We had 56 players who enjoyed nice weather and a super lunch with very festive table decorations and great prizes.

### Men's New Member Mixer

Everyone had a great time during the Men's New Member Mixer held last weekend at the Club. 28 guys played tennis for 3 hours, changing partners, getting to know one another and enjoying a great lunch, too. 1st place went to Will Davis, 2nd place to Nick Stephens and 3rd place went to Malcolm Patterson. Congratulations guys!

### Junior Jingle Bell Tournament

1. Nicolas Perdomo, Johnny Kaldis, Alex Treistman & Richard Anderson
2. Nico Feder, Tyler Baldrige, Jackson Edwards, Mather Austin
3. AnnaBelle Newton, Sara Beth Shelton, Andrew Gilbert, Lily Austin, Frances Waring & Alexa Griffiths
4. Mitchell Griffiths, James McKenzie, Katherine Berman & Sadie Hewitt
5. Matthew Johnson, Lawson Knowles, Ariel Schumacher, Field Hewitt & Martin Schumacher

## Meyers Family Selected To Louisiana Tennis Hall Of Fame



### Meyers Family

Left-Right: Bill Meyers, Jr., Meg Smith, Cullen, Drew & Mark Meyers, Mary Howard, Bill, Sr. & Lorraine Meyers

One of the most accomplished tennis families in Louisiana, the Meyers family from New Orleans, joins Chanda Rubin as the newest members of the Louisiana Tennis Hall of Fame.

Bill and Lorraine Meyers raised six children, each of whom grew up playing tennis at the New Orleans Lawn Tennis Club. Coached by the legendary Emmett Pare', Bill, Jr, Meg, Mark, Drew, Mary and Cullen quickly established themselves in the competitive ranks. The siblings agree that the single most important factor in whatever success they enjoyed as players was the love and support of their parents, win or lose, and that the sacrifices made by their parents were immeasurable.

Mark was the 9th ranked Junior in the country and chose to attend Duke University where he won the A.C.C. #1 Singles Championship in 1972. He then went on to win a number of

professional titles and closed out 1976 with an ATP Ranking of 148. Now a lawyer in Houston, Mark reached the semifinals of the World 45s Championships in Vienna, Austria in 2001, and in 2009, captured the U.S.T.A. National Men's 55 Clay Court Championship. Meg was also a highly ranked Louisiana and Southern Section junior player, winning several junior events. She later became a member of the first women's tennis team at L.S.U. She served two years as President of the Houston Ladies Tennis

Association before becoming the first female President of the Houston Racquet Club where she was instrumental in turning the HRC into one of the top tennis facilities in the country.

Bill Jr, was a top ranked Louisiana junior who attended Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois on a full scholarship. During his collegiate days, Bill played #1 singles, served as team captain and reached the finals of the Big 10 in the #1 singles position. The top ranked Louisiana junior in 1975, Drew signed with L.S.U. and became the first freshman in L.S.U. tennis history to capture a S.E.C. Singles Championship. An All-S.E.C. selection in 1980, Drew's victories also included three Sugar Bowl titles and a USTA National Mixed Doubles title. Mary and Cullen were ranked junior players in Louisiana and have continued to play tennis as adults.

## Prospective



**Thomas Cook**  
Tennis Director

Spring is such a great time of year at HRC! Our weather is perfect for all kinds of outdoor activities. One of the best cardio activities is playing tennis, mainly singles. Our

HRC Club Championship Singles tournament is coming up on April 21 and 22. This is a fun weekend for everyone, of every level. By Sunday afternoon we will crown a men's and women's singles champion in the Championship, A, B, C, and senior divisions. Even if you don't usually play singles, it's a great way to practice all of your strokes. Remember the old saying, "To play better doubles, play singles. To play better singles, play doubles." So call the Pro Shop and sign up today. Enjoy some tennis fitness and some great HRC camaraderie.

For the kids, don't forget about our junior tennis program. It is in full swing. But I'd like to remind you that one of the benefits of being a member of HRC is that we are very flexible about your child's tennis lessons. You can start or stop in the junior tennis program whenever you like, and we will bill you accordingly. Hopefully this is helpful to you as you work around spring baseball and softball. If you have any questions about your child's level, please check with Otis or me.

See you on the courts,



## Club Singles Championships

Saturday & Sunday, April 21 & 22

Be the next face on the Wall of Fame!  
All levels are welcome.  
\$25/person  
Sign Up in the Pro Shop.



## Women's Member Guest Tournament

Save The Date: Friday, April 27  
Raindate May 11  
Hostesses are Tonja Brown, Monica Skeete & Allison Tatum.  
Sponsored by the Women's Association



# Club Scene

## Snow Day & New Year's Eve Party

HRC hosted its first Snow Day in Club history to ring in the year 2012! On December 31st children under age 12 lined up for their chance to jump in the 20,000 lbs of artificial snow that was delivered earlier that morning. The children had their share of hot chocolate, marshmallows, and sugar cookies in between bouts of play. A special thank you to the following Members who sponsored a portion of the event: Bob Shealor, Dave Beerbower, Andy Billip, Leon Davis, Jim Fischer, Miguel Miro-Quesada, & Chuck Stehr. Later that evening members enjoyed Bingo to ring in the New Year.



# Social Events

### Bridge

2nd & 4th Thursday Each Month  
10:00 am - 2:30 pm

*Sponsored by the Women's Association*  
The first is \$10 and the second \$5. You do not need a partner. Simply call Carolyn Keeble 713.464.0117 for a reservation before the prior Sunday.

### Houston Area Inter-Club Bridge

February 23 - Sugar Creek Country Club  
March 22 - Pine Forest Country Club  
April 26 - Houston Racquet Club  
*Sponsored by the Women's Association*  
Contact Elene West at 713.464.8549 to join the competition.

### Couples Evening Bridge

3rd Wednesday Each Month  
7:00PM  
Courtside Café  
Contact Sondra Maxfield to reserve a table.

### Men's Game Night

Thursday, February 2  
6:30-9:30PM  
Pavilion  
*Sponsored by Club40*  
Join some of the other men at HRC in a game of Texas Hold'em. \$35/person includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and 2 draft beers. Prizes will be awarded to the winners. Reservations required.

### Middle School Valentine's Dance

Sunday, February 12  
6:00-8:00PM  
Ballroom  
*Sponsored by the Women's Association*  
6th, 7th & 8th graders are invited and members may bring one guest each. There will be snacks, a DJ, dancing and a photobooth. The cost is \$12 per person. Call for reservations.

### Valentine's Dinner

Tuesday, February 14  
Seatings 6:00-9:00PM  
Seasons

Enjoy a special menu & live entertainment. Reservations are required.

### Club40 Ritas & Fajitas

Thursday, February 16 & March 15  
6:00PM  
Grill  
Join us on the Redwood Deck for a Club40 fajita dinner. FREE childcare for the event. Make reservations through the Kids Club.

### Kids' Movie Nights

Fridays, February 24 & March 23  
6:00PM  
Game Room & Pavilion  
Complimentary popcorn & lemonade will be served and children's buffet available for purchase. Movies are Ramona and Beezus in February and Monsters vs. Aliens in March.

### Ladies Spring Trends & Luncheon

Friday, March 2  
11:00AM-1:00PM  
Ballroom  
*Presented by the Women's Association & Saks 5th Avenue*  
Demonstrations by Premiere Make Up & experts of Dolce&Gabbana. Members \$30++ and Guests \$35++. Call for reservations 713.464.4811. Please note there is a 24 Hour cancellation policy.

### Crawfish Festival

Sunday, April 22  
4:00-8:00PM  
Pavilion  
Join the other members of HRC for our annual Crawfish Festival.

### Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 7  
Save the date. More details to come.

### Easter Brunch

Sunday, April 8  
11:00AM-2:00PM  
Ballroom  
Enjoy a brunch buffet with live entertainment.

### Ladies' Night Out: Spring Wine Dinner

Wednesday, April 18  
7:00PM  
Seasons  
*Sponsored by Club40*  
The night begins with champagne & passed hors d'oeuvres before Chef captures your taste buds at the table with 3 more courses of elegant wine and food pairings. Invite your friends and reserve your table in advance for this fun evening.

### Girls Just Wanna Have Fun Martinis & Manis

Thursday, May 10  
Time TBD  
*Sponsored by Club40*  
Treat yourself to an evening of relaxation and a bit of pampering. Martinis will be served with light hors d'oeuvres, while you take your pick of manicure and hand massage services as you socialize with your friends.



## Valentine's Dinner In Seasons

Tuesday, February 14  
Seatings Begin at 6:00PM

Do something memorable for that special someone this Valentine's Day.

Special Menu & Live Entertainment  
\$39 Per Person  
Reservations 713.464.4811

## Middle School Valentine's Dance

Sunday, February 12  
6:00-8:00PM • Ballroom  
Snacks • Dancing • DJ • Photobooth  
6th, 7th & 8th Graders Invited  
Reservations 713.464.4811  
Sponsored by the Women's Association



# Club Scene

## Club40 Holiday Party



## Past Presidents Dinner



### Club40 Holiday Party

Members enjoyed a special holiday meal in the ballroom with Mickey Hobbs singing smooth classic carols in the background.

1. Bethany Factor, Lee Zieben, Canaan Factor & Trisha Zieben
2. John & Tracey Moss
3. Ashley Holmsten, Ginny Keyser, Elin Jackson & Leah Leggett

### Past Presidents Dinner

The Past President's of the Board were honored for their dedication and work for the Club when they served. Many memories and stories were shared.

1. **Top Row:** Bob Bramlette 1996, Bob Landauer 2008, George Uthlaut 1995, Doug Dawson 2003; **2nd Row:** Tim Purcell 2009, Steven Madden 2010, Clyde Buck 1998, Bert Tabor 1991, Pete Sterling 1999, Bob Stephens 1997, David Frantz 1992; **Front Row:** Current President Roni Atnipp, Earle Alexander 1988, Bill Kottwitz 1986, Nick Nichols 2000, Meg Smith 2006 & Ted Erck 2007
2. Thomas & Susanne Preuml, Ruth & Bob Landauer

# Summer Camp 2012

Registration Begins February 1



Summer Camp returns to the Houston Racquet Club for 2012! Get ready to embark on an adventure as we travel across the United States on the classic highways and byways,

the back roads of forgotten places and through the wilds of the west. We've gassed up the trusty KV RV, loaded up all necessary camping supplies and we're hitting the open road for a vintage Kidventure summer like you have never experienced before. Welcome to our 2012 theme "American Road Trip."

### Camp Racquet Club Highlights

- Activities include athletics, art, field trips, swimming, tennis, science, special guests and much more.
- For kids grades 1-7 (Explorer program).
- There will be 10 weeks of camp from June 4-August 10, 2012. Pick and choose the weeks you want!
- Kidventure operates on a weekly basis (Mon-Fri) from 9 AM to 3:30 PM. Pre Camp and Post Camp are also provided as an option from 7 AM to 6 PM.
- Age-appropriate groups and an all-adult team of dynamic, positive role models.
- Registrations for all Kidventure Camps begin February 1st at 9 AM. To register and learn much more simply logon to kidventure.com or call us at 713-960-8989. Spaces are limited and fill fast.

Together we'll have the time of our lives and discover the only thing better than a great American adventure is one shared with camp friends. So grab your stuff and climb on in. This adventure is ready to roll!

# Train With The Best

Personal Training - Change Your Routine, Change Your Body, Change Your life



**Kyle Rakoczy** is a Certified Personal Trainer through Professional Fitness Instructor Training (PFIT) and a graduate of Texas A&M University with a B.S. in Sport Management.

**Jamie Smith** is a Certified Personal Trainer through the National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM), American Council of Exercise (ACE), and has a Bachelors Degree in Kinesiology and Exercise Science.

**Craig Adams** is a Certified Personal Trainer through the Cooper Institute and AAI (American Aerobics Association International). He has over 20 years of experience in the fitness industry.

**Kim Jones** is a Certified Personal Trainer through FITOUR and has trained at the HRC since 2006 as well as taught group exercise since 2005.

**Julie Veiseh** is a certified Personal Trainer through the National Exercise & Sports Trainers Association (NESTA) & has worked in the fitness industry for over 20 years. She is also a BOSU Master Trainer/Presenter, & is certified in AFAA, BODYPUMP, BODYBAR, Hydro-Cycle, Johnny-G Spinning & is STOTT Pilates Trained.

**Marion King** is a Certified Personal Trainer through the American Council of Exercise (ACE) since 1991, Gold Level, as well as a Licensed Massage Therapist since 1996 with the Department of Health, TX.

**Kay-Kay White** has been in the fitness industry since 1995. A Certified Personal Trainer through the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), she also maintains Group Exercise, Pilates, and Spinning Certifications. In addition, Kay-Kay holds state certifications in Psychology, Dance, and Physical Education.

**Sally Whitworth** has worked in the fitness industry for 20 years and obtained certifications in London, England as a Group Fitness Instructor and Personal Trainer. Sally is a Master Instructor for Cardio Strength Conditioning training and Group Cycle.

**Kyle Fite** obtained his Bachelor's degree from Lamar University and is a certified personal trainer through the American Council of Exercise (ACE). He has helped people get fit for over 25 years. Kyle has a variety of certifications including TRX, Bosu, Rehabilitation and Kettle Bell.

**Blake Stovall** is Director of Fitness and Pools at HRC and has been in the Fitness industry for 19 years. He is a Certified Personal Trainer through National Exercise Trainers Association (NETA), a Certified Spinning Instructor as well as a graduate of Texas A&M University with a B.S. in Kinesiology and a specialization in Sports Management.

# Fitness News



**Blake Stovall**  
Director of Fitness & Pools

### My Top Ten Secrets For Successful Strength Training:

1. List your goals and plan to achieve them over time.
2. Don't try to do too much, too soon.
3. Change your exercise program every four to six weeks.
4. Change your exercise order.
5. Change the number of sets.
6. Vary your recovery time between sets.
7. Change the combination of reps and sets.
8. Keep a log and evaluate your progress every four to eight weeks.
9. Be flexible with your training.
10. Give purpose to every workout.



## Crawfish Festival

Sunday, April 22  
4:00-8:00PM • Pavillion

Please join us  
for this fun annual Club event.  
Live Entertainment



## Bridge Winners

December 8th  
1st Place Eddie Mattei, 2nd Place Nancy Kerr  
January 12, 2012  
1st Place Dot Stehr, 2nd Place Diane Goodwin  
See page 9 for more info. on bridge.

## Austin Ironman Finisher Will DeJong



HRC Member Will DeJong recently competed in the Ironman 70.3 in Austin. The Ironman 70.3 is a long distance triathlon consisting of a 1.2 mile swim, 56 mile bike ride and 13.1 mile run. Will finished in a time of 6 hours and 26 minutes. Will is using our lap pool to train for the upcoming Full Marathon in May. We could all use a little bit of his determination and spirit. Way to go Will!



## Basketball League

Basketball anyone? Contact us if you're interested in participating in an organized basketball league at the Club. It is open to all levels. cbarajas@houstonracquetclub.com 713.464.4811 X125



# PICTURE PERFECT MEMORIES

From business events and fundraisers to elaborate weddings and anniversaries...



Houston Racquet Club makes any event an unforgettable one.

To book an event contact: Kellie Stuff, Director of Private Events  
713.464.4811 X114 • kstuff@houstonracquetclub.com

## Culinary Corner



**Chef Bernard**  
Executive Chef

Chocolate Dipped strawberries and handmade truffles all wrapped and ready to go!

You may contact the front desk to place an order or make a reservation for the Cooking Class or Chef's Table.

*ch*

### Cooking Class

Tuesdays, March 6, 13 & 20

What to cook right now: recipes, tips, and menu ideas from our expert Chef. A series of three classes offered. \$100 for all three dates.

### Chef's Table

Tuesday, February 28

Intimate dining with multiple courses. The cost is \$90 per person.

### Chocolate To Go

Nothing says I love you better than dinner, a good bottle of wine and over the top chocolate dessert.



## HRC Members Skiing Over Christmas

HRC Members the Dunham Family with HRC member Betsy Beasley enjoying the slopes over the Christmas break.

## Cliff Notes

Cliff Tyree

1. Superman's birthday is February 29th.
2. Ensign Chekov of the U.S.S. Enterprise full name is Pavel Andreievich Chekov
3. There are more chickens in the world than people.
4. Short-haired dogs shed more than long-haired dogs.
5. The electric razor was invented by retired Army General Jacob Schick and first put on the market in 1931.
6. Next time you see the movie about Buddy Holly or listen to his songs remember "The Crickets" could not play any musical instruments.
7. Karl Marx never worked for a living.
8. Birchwood is the elementary school that the "Peanuts" children attended.
9. February is the month to prune roses.
10. Bees cannot fly in the rain.



## Isaac's Featured Wine: Goldeneye Pinot Noir '08

A Wine From Anderson Valley, CA

This Pinot Noir grape variety is native to France in the Burgundy and Champagne regions. The grape usually grows in a cool climate and does well in clay or chalk soils. It is a challenge for this type of grape variety to grow and for that reason I have much admiration for this type of wine. Pinot Noir is about aroma, succulent texture, fruit flavor and beautifully balanced acidity. The color is ruby red. The nose offers a sophisticated medley of aromas including layers of raspberry, blueberry, toasty oak, bittersweet chocolate, licorice and anise. On the palate, it is ripe, round and complete with layered fruit flavors that are well integrated with velvety tannins and a long persistent finish.

Enjoy this Pinot Noir with fish like halibut, salmon or mahi mahi as well as chicken. Here at the Club you can order this wine and other high end wines at the Grill Bar.

## Employee Recognition



### ROSA BARRETO

Team Champion of the Month, Grill Kitchen

### ARTURO SAINZ

Team Champion of the Month, Courts

### JHERAD LEMIER

Manager of the Quarter, Banquet Manager

### BERTA GONZALEZ

Manager of the Quarter, Service Director

The Club's Employee Recognition Program highlights those employees within the organization who take initiative and exceed expectations within their job responsibilities. Employees within the department select a nominee for Manager of the Quarter and Team Champion. Congratulations to our 4 departmental winners.



# Welcome New Members



**LAURIE & WILLIAM DAVIS**  
 His: Attorney/Partner - Baker & McKenzie, LLP  
 Her: Healthcare Consultant  
 Children: Trey (5), Jackson (3)  
 Sponsors: Courtenay & Justin Nichols and Kathryn & Adam Roark  
 Referral: Jenny & Josh Martin



**KRISTEN LATTA & DAVID ENDELMAN**  
 Her: Graduate Student  
 His: Managing Director - Studley  
 Sponsors: Bob Stagg and Ron Latta, Jr.  
 Referral: Ron Latta



**DENISE & WILLIAM FISHER**  
 His: Insurance/ President - Benefit Specialist  
 Sponsors: Mike Brunner and Timothy Purcell  
 Referral: Ronald Fisher



**SUSAN & THOMAS HEWITT**  
 His: Senior VP Commercial - KBR  
 Her: Health Administrator Consultant  
 Child: Alexis (18)  
 Sponsors: Susan & Mark Meyers and Sue & Bob Bramlette



**MATT KEEVER**  
 His: Private Equity/Associate - The Sterling Group, LP  
 Sponsors: Anna & Tim Jones and Bill Murski



**SUSAN & JOHN KNOWLTON**  
 His: Senior VP Technical - ENSCO  
 Children: Natalie (21), Charlotte (16)  
 Sponsors: George & Marcia Gsell and Rob Saltiel



**JENI & BERT TURNER**  
 Her: Administration - Houssiere, Durant & Houssiere  
 His: Vice President - IHS  
 Children: Gannon (3), Harrison (4 mos.)  
 Sponsors: Ashley and Russ Holmsten and Christine & Ty Hoffer



**MEGAN & JASON WILLIAMS**  
 His: Attorney - Fulbright & Jaworski  
 Her: Attorney - Doherty & Doherty LLP  
 Children: Virginia (2), Clare (5 mos.)  
 Sponsors: Meg & Dave Bissinger and Meg & Johnnie Randolph



**LARS ZEISIG**  
 His: Sales & Market Research Analyst - SPIR STAR, Ltd  
 Sponsors: Albert Schneuwly and Michael Stavinoha



**KATIE & ROBBY ZORICH**  
 His: Commercial Real Estate/SVP - Jones Lang LaSalle  
 Her: Registered Nurse  
 Sponsors: Paul House and Chase Canfield  
 Referral: Kyle Kafka

# Membership News



**Cathy Lassetter**  
 Director of Membership

Happy New Year and a big welcome to our new members! Spring is around the corner so be sure to invite your friends to the Club and show them all that the HRC has to offer.

“Music, Fun & All That Jazz” was a great evening for our new members and their sponsors. Larry and Nelson provided the smooth jazz tunes and Chef Bo once again treated us to a fabulous selection of foods reminiscent of the French Quarter. A variety of gift certificates were given to a lot of lucky members. Congratulations to Branch Sheppard who was the grand prize winner and he will be going with his wife Hayley to the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in April.



“Music, Fun & All That Jazz” Sponsor Party

1. Winner Branch Shepherd & Thomas Cook
2. Rob & Blake Adams
3. Jason Keyser, Cathy Lassetter & Thomas Cook
4. The Band!
5. Susan & Tom Hewitt & Susan & Mark Meyers
6. Thomas Cook, Cathy Lassetter & Winner Sue Bramlette
7. Eva Routs & Paul Hescox



**Thomas Preuml**  
 General Manager

for giving it a creative facelift just in time for the 2012 National Senior Women's Clay Court Championships (NSWCCC). If you would ever like to see how the Raconteur has changed over the years, we have many past issues on file. I'd be happy to show them to you if you're interested, including the first issues from the sixties.

Thanks to Sue Bramlette for writing the feature article about the history of the Virginia Slims Tournament and the NSWCCC. There are a lot more photographs in our archives similar to the ones featured on the cover, and I have emailed some of them to several members who appreciated the memories and promptly forwarded them to family. The Houston Racquet Club has a lot of history, and we plan on sharing tidbits of the days gone by in future issues. If you have any old photographs or articles about the Club in your personal archives, please share them with your fellow members by sending me a copy for publication.

We are very fortunate to have every single Club President since the Club opened on display

How do you like the new look of the Raconteur? Many thanks go to members Heather Halaska and T.J. Burns, as well as Executive Assistant Jean Northey

in the trophy room in addition to the many tennis trophies our members received over the years. Of course, the names of the many Club Champions are prominently displayed as well, and so are the Past Presidents of the HRC Women's Association. To top it all of, you may

to excellence, and a testament to the dedication and hard work of many members and staff over the years to ensure that our Club remains an ever growing influence in the local and national tennis community. I encourage our many new members to spend some time in the trophy room and take it all in.

Why so much talk about history? It is what defines us as a Club. As we go about our day to day business, we must remain focused on what the Houston Racquet Club stands for. Ongoing updates to our long term strategic plan and adjusting the priorities of facility improvements are all driven by the experiences of our past, the needs of the present, and the wants of our future. We must never lose sight of our Club's mission. What will the Club look and feel like when we celebrate the 50th anniversary of its inception? (2015 will be here before we know it). In a sense, our history serves us as a roadmap when decisions are made that will ultimately affect you as an individual member and the Club as a whole. As I have said in past Board meetings: "Thank you for telling me in which direction to drive the car." Without an experienced driver (our management team), a focused navigator (our Board of Directors and Club Committees) and a precise roadmap (our mission statement) it is easy to get lost. I am proud to say we are far from it. I close with what I wrote in my first Raconteur article in 2008: "I look forward to contributing to more history in the making."

Enjoy the spring weather.

*Thomas*

“If we examine our thoughts, we shall find them always occupied with the past and the future”  
 - Blaise Pascal

gaze at memorabilia donated by members, such as autographed tennis balls from the historic 1973 Bobby Riggs and Billie Jean King battle in the Astrodome. One of our most significant trophies, the 2008 USTA Organization of the Year Award, is a reflection of HRC's commitment

Look How We've Changed







PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

# SPRING FASHION TRENDS

PRESENTATION BY  
SAKS FIFTH AVENUE

Friday, March 2

11:00AM Check-In  
11:30AM Seating  
12:00PM Luncheon

*Sponsored by the  
HRC Women's Association*

Premiere Make Up  
Demonstrations by the  
Experts of Dolce&Gabbana

Members \$30++  
Guests \$35++

Reservations 713.464.4811  
24 Hour Cancellation Policy