

USPTA San Diego

DIVISION

NEWSLETTER

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Spring 2012

Tennis Fest 2012



The San Diego District Tennis Association and the San Diego Division of the USPTA sponsored the 12th Annual Tennis Fest at Balboa Tennis Club on May 6, 2012, and it was a splendid example of win-win tennis! Hundreds of participants of all ages took advantage of this free celebration of tennis. Sixty top teaching professionals conducted on-court stroke clinics for beginners to advanced skill levels, led fun games for prizes, introduced tiny tots to the sport, and in a few cases became targets for “Beat the Pro” contestants. They all wore snazzy camou age t-shirts in honor of past and present military personnel because this year a new component was added – The USPTA Thanks USA “Tennis Thanks The Troops” program became the first charitable organization to bene t from Tennis Fest.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hello San Diego Tennis Pros:

It is June already! It is summer camp planning time for tennis pros. I always enjoy the seasonal transition from afterschool lessons, clinics, and ladies leagues, to full day summer camps for kids. When fall arrives, I always enjoy the transition back again. I hope all of you are getting geared up as well.

Each season we try to provide educational opportunities and programming ideas for you to try at your club. Our newsletter always welcomes educational articles from all of you, and we schedule on court seminars and workshops so that we can all learn and grow in our careers, and not get stuck doing the same thing each year. Our May Workshop and January Convention were both held at La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club. I hope you had the chance to join us.

Please let the Board know if you have any ideas for educational events, or if you would like to host an event at your club. We are constantly looking for areas in which we can help our USPTA professionals get the tools they need to be successful on and off the court. We are role models and motivators. It is important that we all set the example of continuing to grow, and working hard to be the best instructors that we can be.

As always, we would like to get more people involved. If you know of a fellow pro who would like to attend workshops, write tennis tips, or join the organization, please encourage them to contact us.

Have a wonderful summer. See you on the courts!

Dophie

Dophie Poiset
President
USPTA San Diego Division

WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW YOU BETTER !!

Please send us a few paragraphs about yourself. We would like to feature several of our San Diego/Coachella Valley pros in each newsletter. We have so many accomplished professionals in our division. Let us know more about you.

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Funds were raised through voluntary donations during the registration process, and through an eye-popping silent auction. Spearheading that project was Manuela Griffin who prepared 20 gorgeous gift baskets. Teaching pros donated lessons, restaurants donated dinners and Griffin filled baskets with tennis balls, rackets, and other donated goods and services. Many gladly opened their wallets to contribute. The tally is not complete but at least \$2800 was raised. All funds provide need-based educational scholarships for children and spouses of San Diego-based military personnel.

Tennis Fest began because Ben Press and Monty Grout (both San Diego Division members) thought it would be great to offer a free festival of tennis for the community. This year the recipient of the Ben Press Award was Jerry Magee. You've seen his by-line for decades in the Union Tribune sports section where he has championed tennis in our community at the high school, college, grassroots, and professional levels.

This huge event runs smoothly thanks to the hard work and leadership of Bill Rennie, Steve Kappes, Geoff Griffin, and Jeff Anderson and many other volunteers with a passion for the game.

By Lesley Waite



Pictures of 2012 Tennis Fest
Photo credits: Jeff Anderson



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Tennis Pro Free Lunch Seminar (TPFL)

Lisa Dodson (pictured at right) gave a presentation on May 30, 2012 at the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club on "Ball Tracking and Shot Selection - The Keys to Controlling Match Play". The hour-long seminar was on court giving many examples of drills to use with students.

Each of the 24 members that attended will receive credit for Accredited Professional Coach continuing education. The next TPFL will be Wednesday, September, 5.



Membership News

New Members:

Oscar Blando (San Diego), Chase Huebner (San Diego, David Salemi (San Diego), Thomas Svajda (San Diego) and Aurelie Udall (San Diego).

Reinstatements:

Jake Worseldine (San Diego)

USPTA WORLD CONFERENCE IN MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA

Dophie Poiset

Educational Benefits: I attend the USPTA World Conference for the educational benefits. The presentations available at the conference cover every facet of teaching - private lessons, school coaching, managing a facility, equipment, etc. The best in our industry are there, and willing to share their knowledge and success with us. It can motivate and energize you.

Marketing Show: All the major tennis vendors display at the World Conference tennis show. You can meet with vendors, learn more about their products, look at the new lines, and see new innovations that can benefit your programs.

Relationship Building: This is an opportunity to meet the best and the brightest talent in our industry. You can meet fellow tennis pros from around the world, develop relationships and have camaraderie, make industry contacts that last a lifetime.

This year's conference is on the west coast, beautiful Monterey, California. There is a financial cost to going, of course, and we tennis pros all count up the lessons we must cancel while away. But, you leave more educated, and a better professional for the effort. Plus it is a blast, and always at a beautiful, world class resort. I always come away energized and enthused.



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Tennis Tip

Let Tennis not stress you

by Mike Rogers

Teaching the wheelchair tennis program at the Barnes Tennis Center, I see first hand how grace and ease can be part of tennis. The students I work with are having fun and enjoy learning the game, gracefully gliding and manipulating their wheeled movements, respecting their playmates' space. A valuable observation and education for myself to work with; something that I would like to translate into anyone's tennis learning experience.

I gave Alex Djorievic, who works at Barnes in the front of ce, his first tennis lesson the other day, and again noticed the relaxation and joy the student player put into his first time tennis experience. I wish everyone would be less concerned about perfection and competition, be more positive, motivated, and relaxed, leaving the stress out. Which by the way, will create a lot of positive chemistry in your system, and lets you utilize tennis to become a part of your well-being. Two goods in one shot. And make sure to remind yourself to exhale when you hit the ball, which will get rid of stress too and give you a lot more control and power.



Tennis Thanks the Troops

Like all Americans, tennis professionals appreciate the sacrifices that our military and their families make every day. Now there's a way for the pros to show their appreciation by raising money to fund scholarships for those in uniform and their spouses and children.



The United States Professional Tennis Association and ThanksUSA have joined together to encourage USPTA professionals to help fund the military family scholarships through Tennis Thanks The Troops, the sport's first nationwide effort supporting ThanksUSA and its education program.

How you can help

We're asking tennis pros to collect at least \$5 from every player, fan and guest through tournaments/contests, lessons, silent auctions and even setting out empty tennis ball containers for donations. Or any other challenges that best fit your club.



Thanks USA has tools available on its website for USPTA members running an event at www.thanksusa.org/main/events/tennis-thanks-the-troops.html.

The Bryan Brothers have also created a public service announcement in support of Tennis Thanks The Troops (www.thanksusa.org/main/media.html?id=Le5MwNpQ00PY.)

When

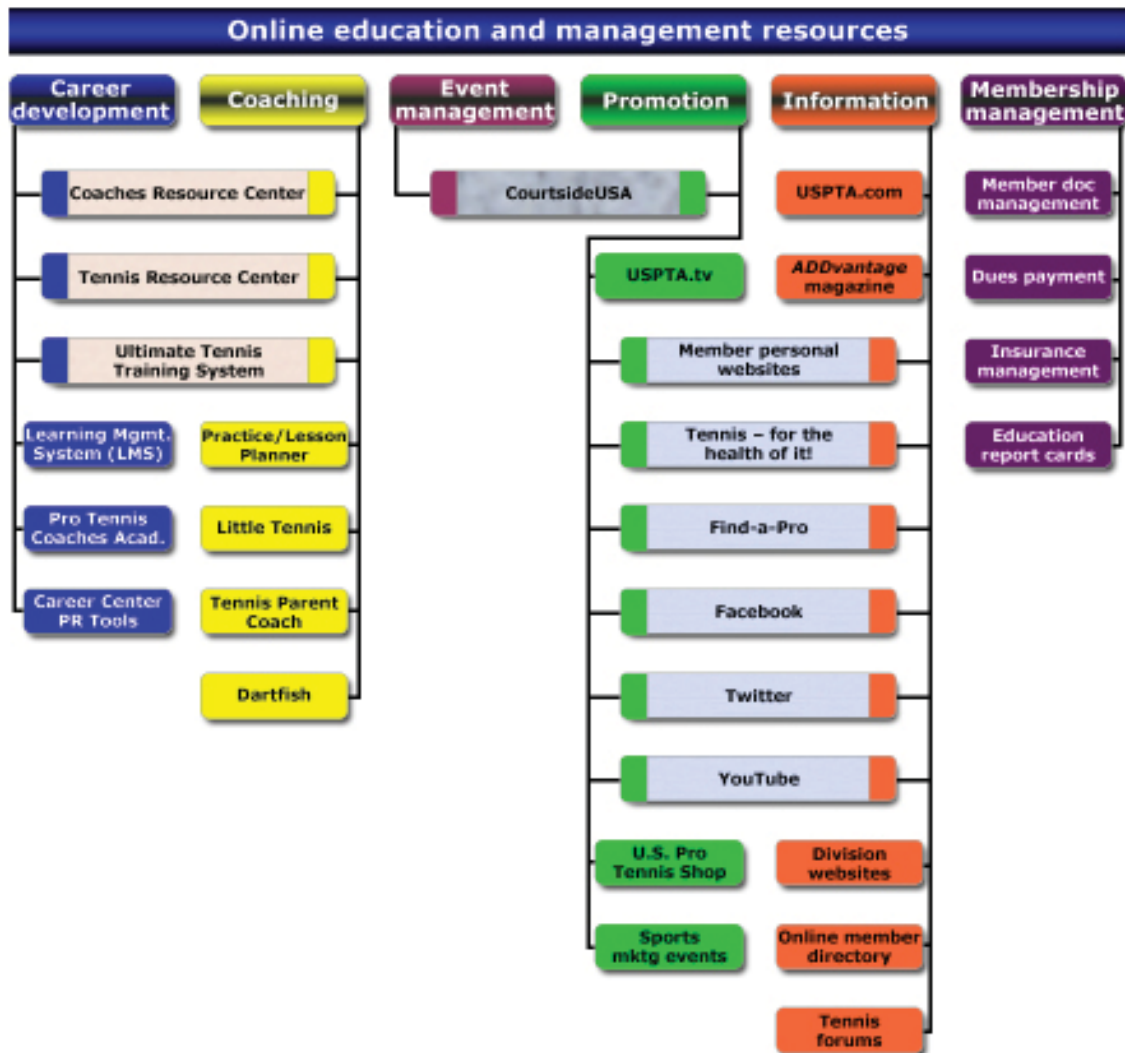
Any date that fits your 2012 calendar, all of June is fine.

For more information contact Michele Stork at (703) 855-4108 or MicheleStork@ThanksUSA.org

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Military Outreach Update

Steve Kappes, Chairman

It has been a very busy season for our Military Outreach team. On April 1st, we ran a huge Family Tennis Day at the Navy's annual Spring Fling at Naval Station San Diego. Over 5000 military and family members participated in a fun-filled day of sports and other activities to celebrate the season. Following a massive Easter egg hunt (50,000 eggs!), an enthusiastic crew of two dozen tennis volunteers set up fifteen mini-tennis courts on an Astroturf covered football field and facilitated tennis games and free play among kids and their parents using foam and low-compression balls and "right-sized" racquets. For over four hours, the balls flew back and forth over the nets as everyone discovered with great delight that anyone can rally using this modified equipment. Our volunteers handed out information about free USTA memberships for military kids, on-base tennis programs, and other community tennis resources. The feedback from the parents and the kids was heartening – many who had tried tennis before had given up, but were now interested again. The Navy was very appreciative as well, telling us that the tennis was the highlight of the entire Spring Fling, and inviting us to return next year.

Our tennis therapy program for Wounded Warriors and other ill and injured service members from Naval Medical Center San Diego is still going strong. Established in late 2009, the program has now run more than 100 of these clinics for over 300 patients, and has become a model for similar programs that are being established at other military medical cen-

ters and warrior transition units across the country. In an effort to expand our outreach even further, we ran the 1st Military Tennis Camp for Ill, Injured and Combat Wounded Service Members and Veterans at Balboa Tennis Club from May 16-19, 2012. Over 40 participants from all the military branches, along with a dozen of their caregivers, participated in sixteen hours of tennis instruction, clinics, and friendly competitions designed to improve their physical and emotional well-being. Group evening activities provided additional opportunities for socializing and bonding.

They came from 17 states, as far away as Maine and Hawaii, and ranged in age from 20 to over 60. Some had been on the battle fields of Afghanistan as recently as a few months ago, and a few had served in Vietnam. Their injuries were diverse, from double amputees to those which are invisible. The feedback we received from the participants has been extremely positive. In addition, Rear Admiral Forrest Faison, the Commander of Naval Medical Center San Diego, visited the camp. In a letter to the President of the USTA, he wrote,

"I want you to know what an impressive clinic this is and what a difference it is making in the lives of those who have sacrificed to serve our country. I saw

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smiles, camaraderie and true happiness amongst the wounded warriors, all of whom have had life changing injuries, but are on the road to recovery with bright futures because of outreach services like this.“

Thank you very much to the 60 sponsors and individuals who contributed financially, through in-kind donations, and through sweat equity to make the camp a reality. Because of your help we were able to cover all the participants' airfare, lodging, meals, and local transportation costs. We could not have run our camp without your support. We are truly grateful for your commitment to our nation's heroes and to our program. A list of all our contributors can be found on the District website. And special thanks go to the people who organized and ran the camp – Marla Knox, Geoff Griffin, M.A. Hillier, Spike Lowndes and Joaquin Picazo.

USPTA T-shirt program

USPTA and Havana Bob's are offering USPTA members 3 different options of stock USPTA T-shirts for only \$4.45 each! Minimum orders of 12 T-shirts. To order call 877-887-8811 or click on "Benefits" in the "Members Only" section of the USPTA website at www.uspta.com.



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Certification Exams



On April 23, 2012, a certification exam was held at the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club. Pictured left to right are Chase Huebner, Kristin Coyle and Aurelie Udall. Thanks to Tennis Director Conan Lorenzo for organizing the day.

On May 20, 2012, a certification exam was held at the Rancho Santa Fe Tennis Club. Pictured left to right are Head Pro Derek Miller, Tester Don Goms, Donald Johnson and James Conda.



A certification exam was held February 19, 2012, at the Riviera Oaks Resort in Ramona. Pictured left to right are: Nataliya Bondarenko (San Diego), Jacob Nelson (Orem, Utah), Oscar Blando (San Diego), Hector Arellano (Temecula), Doug Failla, upgrade and host pro (Ramona), Harold Maier (Shedd, Oregon), and Head Tester Don Goms. Thanks go to Doug for setting-up the exam and for the excellent weather.

HEAD

Robin Soderling

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Upcoming Events

Date	Time	Event
Wed., May 30	11:30 AM	Board Meeting and TPFL - La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club
Mon., June 4	All day	Certification Exam at La Costa Resort & Spa
July 14 - 22	All day	Mercury Insurance Open Tournament at La Costa
Wed., Sept. 5	11:30 AM	Board Meeting and TPFL
Sept 16 - 21		USPTA World Conference in Monterey, CA

Newsletter Deadline

Find-a-Pro. Visit USPTA's free job listing service, Find-a-Pro, at www.uspta.com, to find a job, list a job or find other USPTA Pros.

Newsletter deadline for next issue is August 27, 2012. To submit articles, email them to Don Goms at usptasd@hotmail.com. We encourage articles on anything that will assist the tennis-teaching professional. If you have questions about submitting articles, email Don or call 760-636-8061.

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