



Laguna Woods Tennis Club Newsletter

August 2024

Board Members - 2024

President – Russell Seagal

Vice President – Bob Schwartz

Treasurer – Theresa Kennedy

Secretary – Judy Brown

Membership Director – Jim Quigley

Activities Director – Manny Robledo

Social Directors – Linda De Villers

with Melissa Fort

Facility Director – Vacant

Contact any of us via email:

Russell: rustytennis10s@gmail.com

Bob: bobschwartz11@hotmail.com

Theresa: tak10s@yahoo.com

Judy: judysb62@gmail.com

Jim: jq07017@gmail.com

Manny: lovejoy@comline.com

Linda: lindadevillersphd@yahoo.com

Melissa: alohafort@gmail.com

Comment Cards are available in the clubhouse if you prefer to drop us a note that way – Just fill one out and drop it in the podium slot at the

Notes from the President:

Many of you noticed that we finally have a sign-in sheet on the table near courts 9-10. It's important that players on these courts sign in with the time noted, because their reservation in CourtReserve is not sufficient to "count" court usage for VMS. It's even ok to sign in at the end of play if not done at the beginning, as long as players **record their start time**. We can't emphasize enough how vital it is to use the sign-in sheets every time you play. VMS relies on this information — along with other means — to assess court utilization, and you know the saying, "If you don't use it, lose it."

There's more good news related to **whiteboards**. After a couple months of dealing with a patched up, scribbled over whiteboard, a new board is in the works and should debut soon. Again, thanks for making the best of it. The whiteboard will include some familiar guidelines on court use, but it's also worth reminding everyone of a few of VMS's Operating Rules around waitlisting since we've received reports of noncompliance since Lorie left:

- Players must post their start and stop time on the board and may not change it. Not to exceed 1.5 hours
- Back-to-back reservations by the same group are not allowed
- When time expires play may continue until a new group arrives and there are no other courts available

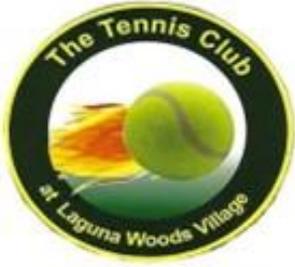
Bottom line, we all share 10 courts and we all deserve equal time to play the game we love. And speaking of, I'm doing **drills again August 18th at 4:30 PM** — details are below under Upcoming Events.

From VMS:

A rewrite of the Job Description for Lorie's position is underway but that requires several levels of approval. Thanks for your patience — especially those residents who are interested in applying for the position. Once filled, it is expected the Recreation Department will reintroduce their groups several times a week at 10:30 AM on adjacent courts. For those of you who are unhappy with this hiatus, please consider informally getting together with the other participants and waitlisting for walk-on courts. Availability is not usually a problem after prime time. Likewise, you could make reservations in CourtReserve for adjoining courts 9-10 at 10:30. The point is, don't let Lorie's departure keep you from playing tennis.

Tennis Club Webpage:

<https://www.lagunawoodsvillage.com/amenities/clubs/tennis-club> is the place to go for all the info about our Tennis Club.



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From the Activities Director:

By now you should have received our sign-up email for the next Compass Tournament scheduled for Friday, August 30th from 9:00 AM — 12:00 PM. Based on the responses to our survey on Monthly Tennis Activity, we are trying a different format. We will sign up as individuals grouped by self-declared skill level (A, B, C). There will be rounds of Mixed Doubles, and Men's and Women's Doubles. You will play with different partners. We won't mix up players from different skill levels, and there will be a winning pair in each of the 3 levels. We have room for 8 players (4 women, 4 men) in each skill level — so don't wait to sign up. The \$7 entry fee includes a catered lunch, or you can pay \$7 for lunch as a spectator.

If you haven't yet signed up via the Tennis Club email that was sent on Friday, August 9th, just contact Manny Robledo (714-293-9363 or lovejoy@comline.com) and be sure to specify your skill level.

From the Membership Director:

An updated Member Directory will be emailed to all members this month, and it includes players' skill levels and partner preferences. Meanwhile, we're pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Jim McFarlin, mcfarlin.jim@gmail.com
- Jeff McMichael, jeffmcmichael1@hotmail.com

And in the Olympic spirit of competition, country and camaraderie, we're excited to host a **Watch Party for the US Open Women's Final on Saturday, September 7th** from 1:00 - 4:00 PM in the all-purpose room at Clubhouse 5. We'll be able to watch Iga? Coco? Arena? Elena? — whoever makes it to the Championship match — and cheer on our favorite player. A high-resolution projector and large, pull-down screen will immerse viewers in the sights and sounds of tennis from Flushing Meadows, NY. There will be complimentary snacks and beverages, so be on the lookout for an upcoming Tennis Club email with all the details. And in the spirit of equal rights, next time we will host a Watch Party for a Men's Final — we couldn't make it for both this time as no meeting space was available on Sunday.

Things to Ponder:

The 2024 Tennis Club Board is more than halfway through our tenure — so how are we doing? Please take a minute to email us, or use the Suggestion Box, to give us your thoughts on how the club is being run:

- What changes, activities, philosophies **do you like**?
- What have you been **disappointed** in?
- What do you wish we **did more of**?
- What do you wish we **did less of**?
- What **improvements** would you like to see?

In response to last month's Thoughts to Ponder on online payments, we are no longer pursuing this option as most members who responded preferred to pay in person and avoid additional fees.



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Upcoming Events:

- Russell's Drills — Sunday, August 18th, 4:30 AM. Our first session was very well received, so let's do it again! Call Russell at **818-681-4889** to sign up. If you leave a message, be sure mention "drills."
- Compass Tournament — Friday, August 30th, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM.
- US Open Women's Final Watch Party — Saturday, September 7th, 1:00 - 4:00 PM at Clubhouse 5.
- Board Meeting — Monday, September 9th, 11:30 AM. Come join us!

In Memoriam:

We lost a beloved Tennis Club member and a true gentleman when Lew Stephenson passed away on July 28, 2024 at age 98. Lew and his longtime tennis partner, Bob Seymour, competed in the 80, 85 and 90 doubles divisions as the years went by. Originally from Spokane, Washington, Lew worked for Boeing as well as the Washington State court system and the Federal Court system, from which he retired and eventually landed here in Laguna Woods. All who knew Lew appreciated his kindness, and in his deep, powerful voice he always had something good to say. Lew will be missed.