

Huntcliff

OCTOBER
NEWSLETTER

Huntcliff Resident Homeowners' Association

In Full Swing...



Huntcliff's tennis community is active and thriving

According to studies made by the National Sporting Goods Association, tennis is the only traditional sport to grow in participation in the last 5 years, compared to the decline of other mainstream sports like football, baseball and basketball. There are over 13 million Americans that play, and some would say that most of them can be found on the Huntcliff tennis courts.

Tennis has always been something of a tradition here at Huntcliff, and our courts usually stay quite busy. The championship signs hanging at the

Be sure to see Pages 6 & 7 for a feature on Weldon Rogers, the man who is helping Huntcliff tennis teams elevate their game.

courts also speak volumes about the success of Huntcliff tennis, and serve as something of a historical timeline. For almost 20 years, our tennis facilities have been annexed by the Atlanta Lawn Tennis Association (ALTA),

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HUNTCLIFF TENNIS

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and we have fielded participating teams the entire time. There were very few lean years, when there were only one or two teams playing out of the subdivision, but that certainly is not the case this year. For the current Fall season alone, over 70 people comprise a total of 5 ALTA teams, with 2 men's teams, 2 women's teams, and a Junior Girl's team. In addition to that, there is a growing number of people participating in the relatively new T2 and Ultimate (K-Swiss) tennis leagues as well.

Neighborhood Round Robin tournaments are currently held 2 times a year, and have become very popular. There are also a number of summer tennis instructional camps for children.

During the ALTA seasons, scheduled practices take place Monday through Thursday, and matches occur on Saturdays and Sundays. The T2 and K-Swiss leagues are both designed to have a minimum of schedule overlap with ALTA

seasons, but their growing numbers contribute to a bit of the court congestion. While it's great that Huntcliff tennis is thriving, a majority of nightly court time during any week is blocked off for league play, and it becomes something of a challenge for someone just seeking to play a friendly set or two.

What do you do if you are one of these people? Most



would say that the answer is to simply join one of the league teams. However, we were reminded recently of just how intimidating that might seem to someone outside our tennis 'subculture'. Just how do you get signed up? What if you're not sure what level of play is right for you? What if my schedule prevents me from practicing every week?

These are good questions, and by and large, you will find the people involved in Huntcliff

tennis very welcoming and willing to help you with the answers. To further assist you in the coming months, this newsletter will carry information about forming teams and upcoming seasons, captains' names and contact information, tournaments and camps. There will also be team sign-up sheets in the recreation area in the weeks preceding the league

seasons, so keep an eye out for those as well. If you should choose not to join in any structured play, there is a monthly court sign-up sheet posted at the courts,

where you can reserve some playing time.

The Huntcliff Board is also taking an active role. A Tennis Committee has been formed to study the current regulations, and will make their recommendations for any changes to the Board in the coming months. Tara Guise chairs this committee, and she welcomes any comments or suggestions you may have about Huntcliff tennis. You can contact her by e-mail at tlguys@aol.com.

HUNTCLIFF HAPPENINGS

The Huntcliff Labor Day Party was held on Monday, September 1st, at the recreation area. Residents all enjoyed a variety of activities.

There were games, prizes for the kids, and the inflated bouncy slide kept youngsters hopping.

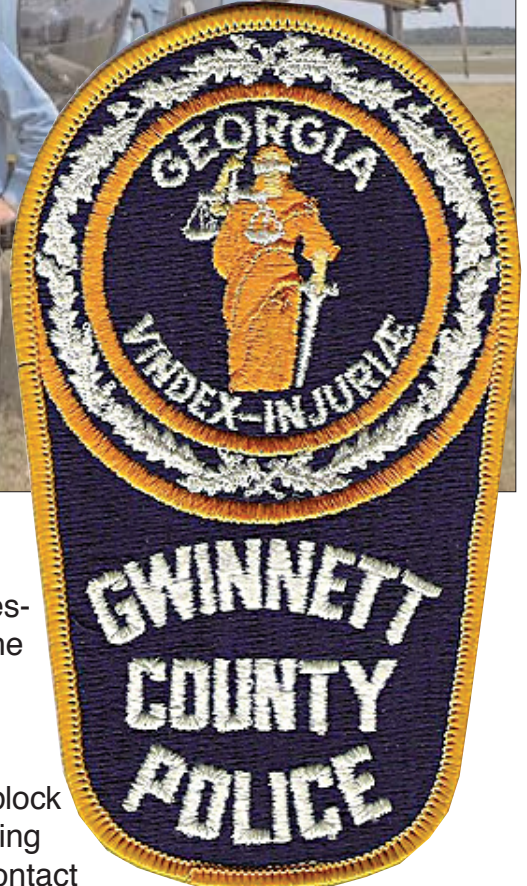
There was also a Round Robin Tennis Tournament for the adults, which served as a final competitive tune-up before the Fall ALTA season began. There were a total of 18 contestants, and the winners this time out were Mark Hildebrand and Tammy Knox.

Donna Donoghue won the raffle for 6 tickets to opening night of the Ringling Bros. Circus at the Gwinnett Arena.

Special thanks go to Tara Guise for her tireless efforts in coordinating this event. Thanks also go to Nate Burnside for overseeing the Round Robin, and to McKendree Methodist Church for allowing us to use some of their festival games.

See some photos from this event on Page 5

Make some time this year to attend the C.O.P.S. Festival



The Gwinnett County Police Department's annual C.O.P.S. Festival will be held on Saturday, October 11th at the Gwinnett County Fair Grounds, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m..

This festival celebrates the partnership between the Gwinnett County Police Dept., the C.O.P.S. neighborhoods and the community as a whole. Featured will be special units of the Gwinnett County Police Department, including SWAT, Bomb Squad, CSI, K-9, Motors, Aviation and DUI. Representatives from different branches of Gwinnett government will also be on hand.

This free event always promises a load of activities for kids, and is a great opportunity for everyone to become familiar with the different law agencies, and see the latest in law enforcement technologies.

For more information on this event, please call 770-963-6522.

My name is Tammy Knox, and I am the C.O.P.S. liaison for Huntcliff. C.O.P.S (Community Oriented Police Service) is Gwinnett County's Neighborhood Watch program. The Huntcliff C.O.P.S. program consists of a network of block captains who alert their neighbors of incidents that happen in our neighborhood. If you

have any questions about the C.O.P.S. program, or are interested in becoming a block captain or being added to a contact list, please contact me at wknox10@msn.com.

In order to maintain our status as a Master Community with the C.O.P.S. program, we are required to host a meeting with our coordinating officer and block captains, this meeting was held earlier in the spring. We had an informational table at the open house when the pool opened and members are required to attend the annual C.O.P.S. Festival.

There is a sign-up sheet for Huntcliff at the festival to document the level of our attendance. It is important for homeowners to come to these meetings and events, to not only gain important information, but also to maintain Huntcliff's status as a C.O.P.S. community. Help support this important neighborhood program... come out to the festival, be sure to sign the Huntcliff attendance book and find out more about becoming involved in the C.O.P.S. program.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

The Huntcliff swimming pool officially closed for the season on September 28th. Only a few tables and the restrooms will be accessible to players during tennis seasons. Captains, when cleaning up after your matches and practices, please check to make sure the pool gates are completely closed, and the lights in the restrooms are turned off before you leave. Parents: though the pool gates will sometimes be open during tennis matches, please don't allow your children in the pool area. The pools are covered, and can present a danger to anyone getting too close.

There have been several instances this summer of residents placing their trash, yard debris or construction leftovers in the trash cans reserved for the Huntcliff facilities. This is **NOT** a public trash area, and we ask that you refrain from using it as one, and to have your trash picked up by your own waste collection firm.

We always want our residents to drive safely through the neighborhood, but we ask that you take extra care now that schools are in session. Watch your speed and be alert, especially around cars that are parked on the street.

We understand that Huntcliff residents have a legal right to park on the street, but we will take every opportunity to discourage this practice, and ask everyone that if at all possible, to please park in their driveways. Parking on the street can impede the flow of traffic and force cars travelling in the right of way to maneuver around them, creating a potentially hazardous situation for both drivers and pedestrians.

Another reminder: If you see any suspicious persons or activities in the recreation area (especially after 11:00 p.m.) please call the Gwinnett County Police non-emergency phone number: **770-513-5100** (*Tip: program this number into your cell phone*).

Huntcliff Special

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A Few Scenes from Our Labor Day Party and Tennis Tournament



Bye-bye... NEXT! Almost anyone who has played on a Huntcliff tennis team in the last several years has heard those words... it's a phrase heard during practice drills, and loosely translated, means "better luck next time...go to the back of the line."

Bye-bye... NEXT! As abrupt as the phrase may seem, it's not delivered with malice, but with a matter-of-factness that's designed to keep the drills moving at a quick pace. The man speaking the words is Weldon Rogers, a local tennis professional who handles the coaching responsibilities for a number of Huntcliff teams. If you hear Weldon say it during drills, chances are you have lost the game point in the drill, so you quickly surrender the court and go to the back of the line to wait for your next turn.

Having become something of a fixture at the Huntcliff courts over the last several years, Rogers has become well known not only for his coaching skills, but also for the rigorous pace he sets when running drills. "When you reach the end of one of Weldon's practices, you'll definitely feel it... he really keeps you moving", said one player.

"A lot of my tennis training was based on the theory of 'hit a million,'" Weldon says. I believe that repetition is important to coaching and learning tennis. So that sets the fast pace of my practices. We hit a lot of balls."

"He's demanding of you," says another player, "but he's so even-tempered. He never gets down on you for a bad shot, but he gets pumped when you hit a good one. He's great coaching the kids that way, too. They love him and we do too."

The credentials of Welson Douglas Rogers, 55, boasts an impressive set of accomplishments and accolades throughout his tennis career. He began playing at the age of 10, and soon was ranked in the Top 10 as a Juniors singles player in the Middle Atlantic area. He helped his high school team win the Massachusetts State Championship title, and he played varsity singles and doubles at Brown University in Rhode Island. At the age of 24, he and his playing partner won the National Doubles title for the American Tennis Association. For 5 years, he was ranked in the top 10 in the nation by the A.T.A., including a spot at number one in 1977.

Weldon has been a tennis instructor since he was 23 years old, and his professional resume is equally impressive. In the mid 80's, he was the

Weldon

Taking Huntcliff Tennis to New Heights



head pro at the Costa del Sol /Doral Park in South Florida and the Sea Glen Tennis Club in New York, and was an assistant pro at the famed Doral Country Club in Miami, where he worked under Tennis Director Arthur Ashe. He also served for five years as a tennis professional at the Great Neck Racquet Club in Great Neck, New York.

Though he currently works independently as a teaching professional, he has strong ties with the Magnolia Raquet Club in Buford, as well as with the Gwinnett County Department of Parks and Recreation. He and his wife Donna live in Clarkston, and he plays in ALTA at the AA1 level out of Hudlow Tennis Center in Norcross.

Weldon made his first appearance in Huntcliff around 2000, when he took on coaching one of the women's teams. He has since become the coach of choice for most Huntcliff teams. He is currently the coach for 3 of the 4 adult ALTA teams here. He has also conducted summer tennis camps for Huntcliff kids.

Huntcliff tennis players feel very fortunate to have Weldon as their coach.

"Weldon is just such a great guy... a consistently great teacher, and we learn so much from his experience and his knowledge of the game," said one player.

WELDON-ISMS

A newcomer to one of Weldon's coaching sessions might need a handbook at first to understand all the catch phrases used by him and his teams. Here's a quick reference guide:

New Queens or New Kings: A lot of drills are based on the concept of a reigning team and a challenging team. When a challenger wins the point and dethrones the reigning team, they are the New Queens/Kings.

Kill or Be Killed: Mirroring one of Weldon's tennis philosophies, this is a frantic drill where 4 players are all positioned close to the net and must continue hitting the ball without it touching the court.

Crispy: A well placed, well hit shot

Big n' Tasty: An opportunity to put the ball away and win the point, as in "Crispy on that big 'n tasty".

W.W.W.D.: When a player in a match makes a particularly well-placed angle shot, proving that they have been paying attention during Weldon's drills.

Teammates will often shout "WWWD!!" which stands for *What Would Weldon Do?*