



# The Drop Shot

Official Newsletter of the Peninsula Tennis Club

Jeff Tateosian, editor

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## January 2010

### President's Message



*Rob Delantoni*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as President of the PTC for the past year. While I look forward to my final year on the Board with enthusiastic anticipation, I will miss the drama, excitement, and special responsibilities that come with the job of President. More importantly, we will all miss the ideas, energy, and contributions of our departing board members -- **Erik van Dillen, Stuart Batchelor, and Becky Showen**. They have all spent many hours in meetings, discussions, and club related activities, contributing to the many projects undertaken for the PTC in 2009. Their leadership, and the hard work of their committee members, has made 2009 a very successful year for the PTC. I hope you all get a chance to thank them individually when you see them at the club.

The PTC will be in good shape on all fronts going into 2010, especially with the addition of our three fresh, new Board members **Ron Martinucci, Rob Adams, and**

### Upcoming Events

•  
**Annual Membership Meeting**  
**January 19th 6:30 PM**

•  
**Super Bowl Party &**  
**8th Annual Chili Cook Off**  
**February 7th 2:00 PM**  
•

**Karen Harrigan.** I hope you will all join me at the January 19th PTC Annual Meeting in welcoming them officially to the Board. Also, the committee assignments and the name of our new President will be revealed then, so be sure to plan on attending.

**On a final note, I ask all members** to consider making a New Year's resolution to stay involved with the PTC. As a member owned club, we need active members in order to be the best club we can be. Attend the quarterly meetings, vote in the elections, keep writing, emailing, petitioning, and/or telephoning the club manager (or the Board) on matters of interest to you. Although every suggestion, complaint, or idea can not be acted on, all input from members (even one member) is taken seriously, and responded to when possible.

**Onward and upward! 2010, here we come!**

## Editor's Note



Jeff Tateosian

**Congratulations to the Board** for another fine year leading the club. Board Members **Erik van Dillen** (representing Special Projects his two years) and **Becky Showen** (leading the Tennis & Membership committees her two years) did a commendable job. **Stuart Batchelor** (President his second year and House & Grounds his first and third years) spent an unparalleled amount of time working for the club during his time on the Board. Amongst the efforts of many members, he was the member most responsible for helping to complete the very successful makeover of the club a couple years ago. Thank you for your service my friends.

As Rob mentioned above, we have some very enthusiastic new members joining the Board of Directors. Please be sure to view the bios of **Rob Adams**, **Karen Harrigan** and **Ron Martinucci** below in Club News. Thank you to the three of you in advance for volunteering and good luck over the next couple of years.

Speaking of years at the club, be sure not to miss our spotlight on a very special member who has been with the club for over 58 years. The long-running story of **Doris Stirm** can be found after Riaz's article.

## Club Anniversaries

**December Club Anniversaries (5+ years)**  
Congratulations to the following members:  
**Heidi Carey** 5 Years

## Manager's Corner



Lona Means

**Show your club spirit by proudly wearing PTC logo apparel!** The Tennis Station (706 Carolan Avenue, Burlingame) is offering to stitch our PTC logo free of charge to apparel purchased at the local tennis shop. Drop by my office to check out a sample of an Adidas dry fit shirt with the PTC logo. PTC logo hats (\$12.00) and Nike dry fit hats (\$25) will still be available for purchase in my office.

**The staff and Riaz would like to extend a heartfelt thank you** for your very generous contributions to the Holiday Fund. We all very much appreciate your thoughtfulness and would like to wish you and your families a very healthy and happy 2010!

**January Tennis Etiquette Tip of the Month** – When watching a match, whether it is social, tournament or league play, please use proper discretion in “cheering” for one player or another. It is a reflection on our club and its membership. Please error on the side of conservatism.

**Please help me to welcome our three new Board Members.**

## Club News

**Congratulations to Brooke Tsu, daughter of Jeff & Kathy Tsu**, for being named this year's San Mateo County Daily Journal Female Tennis Player of the Year. She went 23-5 this year while playing #1 at Burlingame High School.

## New Board Members

**Rob Adams and (Beth Beisecker)** have been members of the club since 2004. They have a lovely daughter named Katie (96) in 8th grade at BIS. She plays volleyball, loves to sing and is now taller than her Mom! Beth loves the exercise room, the pool and feeling part of the club. Rob confesses, “as in all aspects of family life, she and Katie are the ones people actually like.” Rob is currently employed at SuccessFactors as Sr. Director, Talent. Though he’s worked in upper management for the past twenty years, Rob has had a couple of unusual jobs while growing up in Los Altos. Two of his favorites were repossessing cars for his first job, and working as a bouncer at a rugby bar.

Rob started playing tennis in 1968 and even took lessons from Dick Gould before he hit the big time as the Nation’s top tennis coach at Stanford. He drifted away from the game for twenty years so he could pursue some big-boy sports (football, rugby & softball). Now that he’s “back,” he’s playing better than ever. When asked about his most memorable moment at the club, Rob confessed that it was the last time someone served to his forehand – it happens so rarely.

He is definitely looking forward to serving on the Board. Rob believes his skills are best suited to helping the Board operate efficiently, addressing employee/contractor issues and concerns, and hosting the first ever “Lefty Hefty Doubles & Wine-Tasting” event. He is very grateful to the past few Boards who have helped turn the club into such a beautiful facility.

**Karen and (Robert) Harrigan** view the PTC differently than the rest of us, as their two-story house literally overlooks the club.

(Editor’s note: Prior to **Dennis Mayer** adding the court cam onto our website, I used to call Karen to have her look out the window to see what the court availability was). They have three kids, two of which are very active in tennis: Alexandra (96) and Robbie (99). Stephanie (85) lives in San Diego and is recently engaged.

Karen is the Regional Business Director for Genzyme and has been with them for eleven years. Rob is entering his 20th year as Construction Services Manager for TRC. They joined the club in 2003, though Karen became a Junior Member in 1978 when she was on the BHS varsity tennis team. Karen started playing tennis at an early age. She remembers being demolished 6-0, 6-0 in her first Open tournament at Golden Gate Park, but nothing could stop her. Karen played competitive tennis through college and besides adding many friends and memories, she has developed a lethal forehand along the way.

Her fondest memories of the club during her Junior days were the USTA National Junior Hardcourt Championships (her parents hosted players each year), playing in the Adult/Junior Doubles Tournaments with her favorite adult partner, **Dick Foster**, driving her Brown Corolla, the same car that **Steve Brooks** was driving (and probably still is today), the same hamburgers as are served today at the snack bar, and of course, the “off the table” ping pong game invented by **Ray Bilsey**, that kept all of the kids out past sunset.

Karen is truly excited to be able to give back to this great club by being part of the 2010 board. She adds, “lessons learned from this extended family and the game of tennis continue to serve me well each day. I hope that we can maintain this feel of our “home away from home” for us adults who can use the relief of our daily demands, and

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to continue the legacy with our children who will hopefully have similar warm feelings of this club in their adult years.”

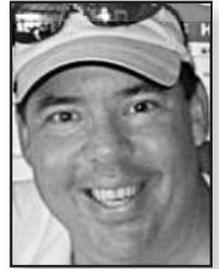
**Ron & (Marci) Martinucci** are two very involved members that joined the club in 2003. Ron is a Regional Manager for Universal Building Services and has been with them for 22 years. He says he only has another 20 to go. Ron started playing tennis in 2005. He has come a long ways in a short period of time, but it didn't start out that way. After playing for just a few months, he thought he was ready to not embarrass himself. Unfortunately, that's just what he did after signing up for his first Calcutta Tournament. I believe he is still apologizing to his team captain, **Steve Wong**. Besides Calcutta, his most memorable moments at the club include winning the van Dillen Doubles Tournament in the 3.5 division last year with partner **Kelly Kemp**, and his USTA rating being bumped up to a 4.0 recently.

Marci was a Junior Member here at the club and it's like she never left. If you don't see her on the courts or working on a committee, you'll see her helping out in Riaz's office. They have two kids that are also quite involved with Junior tennis. Zach (95) is a freshman at BHS and Halle (99) is in 4th grade at Franklin Elementary. They are both active in sports and within their schools.

While on the Board, Ron hopes to continue making the club a fun and safe place for families to enjoy year round. He would also like to see players show up on Saturday/Sunday mornings and pick up games like they used to before the remodel. He would love to see members be able to meet and play with a variety of players.

## House & Grounds News

**How fast time flies.....** as I conclude my third and final year on the PTC Board it is hard to believe how much the Club has changed during that time. I'm pleased to have been a part of the efforts that so many contributed to in making our Club the great place it is. I'd like to take a quick moment to thank a few of those who have worked so hard to help me by giving of their time and efforts to the Club.



Stuart Batchelor

**First and foremost, I need to thank Bob Sinclair.** Bob has worked far beyond what anyone knows to make sure the CIP renovations to the Club were done correctly and to the satisfaction of our members. Whenever I had an H&G project or a problem I'd call on **Ron Martinucci** to assist. Ron has unselfishly always said yes every time I called upon him which was frequent. While it always seemed like simple tasks, it frequently resulted in a six hour job requiring multiple trips to the store and far more time than either of us planned for. Next, I would like to thank **Dennis Mayer** and **Jerry Ceglia**. Whether it was moving exercise equipment, painting, or demolishing the kitchen counter, they always made themselves available.

**Lastly there are many, many others** that have answered the call to help the Club that is far too many to list. These are the members who were there to help demo the old and erect the new maintenance shed, paint interior and exterior walls, clean and prep the fences, trim the flowers, and so on and so forth. While your efforts go unnoticed by most, I can only say thank you on behalf of myself and the Club. I appreciate the

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opportunity that was afforded me to serve the Club and hope that I can continue to be supportive to the new Board in the year to come.

### Membership News

Please help us welcome our three newest members:

**Sally & David Davenport** - Sponsored by **Marissa Hauselt & Nancy Chew**. Sally is a very active 3.5 tennis player, trying to play 3-4 times a week.

David is an intermediate player who enjoys the game, but has a hard time finding opportunities to play with his busy schedule. He is Fellow at the Hoover Institute at Stanford, where he also got his undergraduate degree. They have lived in many cities up and down the state, but are glad to finally settle down two blocks from the club.

They have three children - all out of college (Kate (82), Charles (84), and Scott (88)). Sally is a student in interior design at Canada College, volunteers at both First Resort and the Redwood Church, plus she loves tennis. David belongs to the Bohemian and Cal Club, and is looking forward searching out any domino players at the club.

**Kelly & Mark Bradley** - Sponsored by **David Andrews & Pat Fallon**. Kelly and Mark are excited to be new members and bring a high level of tennis to the club. Both play 4-5 times a week and are currently ranked as 4.0's. Their three kids all play tennis; Taylor (95) with Crystal Springs School, Matthew (95) with Menlo School and Caroline (99) weekly lessons with Riaz.



Becky Showen

Mark is an Investment Banker with Morgan Stanley. He went to college at Cal and got his MBA from Stanford. Coincidentally, he and Kelly met at the Big Game. Mark was an outstanding water polo player at Cal where they won two NCAA titles. Kelly graduated from UC Santa Barbara and was active in many sports. She has played tennis all her life and looks forward to new challenges at the club.

**Brian & Jenifer Beswick** - Sponsored by **Karen Harrigan & Rob Adams**. Brian has been in the commercial real estate business for 22 years. He is currently First Vice President with CB Richard Ellis. Jenifer spends her time teaching music at school, volunteering for many organizations including serving on the Executive Board with BCE. They have two children named Brandon (98) & Claire (00), who are both at Washington Elementary School.

Brian grew up in Tiburon, Jenifer in Modesto, and they met at in college at Cal during an English Class. His hobbies include golf, skiing/snowboarding, running, soccer, wine and tennis, his new-found sport. He is also serves as the Dads Club co-leader at Washington. Jenifer keeps in shape with her daily workouts and loves to cook. They look forward to meeting many new families at the club.

### Social Events News



Nancy Batchelor

**PTC closed out 2009 with a great Holiday celebration at the club.** Over 120 people attended the Holiday Open House which featured our piano bar with holiday songs and standards played by our professional piano player.

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Everyone brought delicious food to share and toasts were made all around. Thank you to all those who helped make this event a grand success, as well as all the other social events throughout the year. A special thank you to Board Member **Dennis Mayer**, who gave so much of himself to make each event special for our membership. Thank you for being my partner in all things PTC Social this past year.

**The 2010 Social Committee would love your help.** Please contact **Lona** if you are interested in working on Social activities for the PTC in 2010 and she'll make sure to let the Board member in charge of Social Activities know of your interest.

**The last "official" event for this Social team** will be the Super Bowl Party and 8th Annual Chili Cook Off on Sunday, February 7th. The Chili Kick Off will be at 2:30pm and the Super Bowl Kick Off at approximately 3:20pm. Bring your special chili dish to share (outlets will be available for crock pots) before the game. If you are not a chili connoisseur, bring a side dish (serving 8-10) to share and enjoy the potluck party before watching the Super Bowl on the big screen TV. Beverages will be provided by the club. Please sign up in the clubroom or call **Lona** and let us know how many people to expect and what you plan to bring to share. To add a little excitement to the game, Taddy's Sports Book will once again be providing the Super Bowl pool and proposition bets. Be sure to bring those left over dollar bills from the Holidays.

### Director of Tennis News



Riaz Shivji USPTA

#### ADULT TENNIS

I'm looking forward to a great year in 2010. There will be plenty of tennis for everyone with many fun and competitive events and activities for you all to participate! Amongst the highlights will be Team Tennis, Woods N Whites, Calcutta, van Dillen Doubles Championship, and Twilight Tennis. I am also very keen to organize and run a Junior / Senior tennis event later in the year that will ROCK! All of these events are a great way to have the chance to meet and play with a variety of members of all levels, in a social and competitive atmosphere!

USTA League Tennis is already under way with the Mixed season about to start in early January. If you are interested in joining a PTC team, please contact the Captain of the team that you are interested in for details. If you need further assistance please contact me. USTA League Tennis is open to PTC members. The teams currently registered are:

7.0 mixed – Captain – **Stuart Batchelor**  
8.0A mixed– Captain – **Mindy Wong**  
8.0B mixed – Captain – **Eileen Lewis**  
9.0 mixed – Captain – **Jennifer Desler**

Starting in January, I will be running a Pro Court at PTC. On the 3rd Saturday of the month from 9-11:30am, Court 3 will be reserved for drop-in play only. Members can sign up with me and play a number of drills/games in a fast moving format. The number of games depends on the amount of players. If there are players waiting, then fewer games will be played before new

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players enter the Pro Court. Come out to enjoy the camaraderie of playing with other members, in this competitive and fun new venue! This service is free and for adult members only.

The **SAP Tennis Tournament** will be held Feb 8-14th, at the HP Pavilion in San Jose! It's a great chance to see world class men's tennis professionals, playing in the second oldest men's professional tennis tournament in the United States! This year, players include...Andy Roddick, Juan Martin Del Potro, James Blake, Mardy Fish, the Bryan Brothers, and many more! Our PTC Ball Kids have been training hard, and are looking forward to this big event. The SAP is a fantastic tournament to see great tennis! I will be putting together a PTC Couples night for Friday, Feb. 12th, as well as a Parent/Child night, with the date to be announced. Please contact Marci at the Tennis Office if you are interested.

### JUNIOR TENNIS

I have created and developed a structure to the program which is about to begin its 7th year here at PTC. Juniors from ages 6-18 have been nurtured and given positive reinforcement every single day. As a result, we have a program that is one in which the kids learn far more than just the fundamentals of tennis! Our goal is to teach each Junior respect for the game and for each other, to hopefully result in a lifelong love and appreciation for the game of tennis! By doing this, we also hope to create an environment where adults and juniors can enjoy their tennis together!

All Jr. Academy and Academy programs will resume the week of January 11th. The STAR Program will begin again in the spring, with the dates to be announced soon. Please look in next month's Drop Shot for the new start dates! Once again,

there will be Green, Blue and Red Star programs offered.

We will also be having a Jr. Academy Evaluation Day next month, please contact **Marci** for more information, if you are interested in having your child attend.

### GOALS for 2010:

- Spread Tennis Goodwill with fellow members and guests
- Support the future (Junior Tennis)
- Volunteer to help your club

## Member Spotlight

### Doris Stirm

The member with the third most seniority in the club, Doris Stirm, represents the best of the club's past.

Joining the club in 1951, Doris has seen three generations come and go. She has fond memories of the many families who grew up at the club - especially the "kids" (**Torry Bryant, Craig Zimmerman, Rob Delantoni, & Erik van Dillen**). They were all fabulous young tennis players, who only got better with time. The boys also seemed to get into mischief more often than not (*editor's note* - some things never change). She also fondly remembers seeing the likes of a few other soon-to-be famous players at the club. They included Jimmy Connors, John McEnroe, Pete Sampras, Billy Jean Moffitt (King), Rosie Casals, and Michael Chang.



Her son, Larry Preston, also grew up at the PTC. He played #2 on the BHS tennis team along with **Craig, Erik, Betty Cookson's son Bob**, and other fellow Juniors from the club. Like many BHS tennis teams in the past, they won the Mid-Peninsula League title all four years.

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In 1968, Doris received her biggest honor at the club when she won the coveted PTC Award for all her outstanding contributions. She was involved with many activities during her 58 years at the club. Doris held the position of social chairman three different years, House & Grounds chairman, and she was the co-editor for the Drop Shot along with **David Kwan**. Along with the various club positions, you could always see Doris volunteering for the tennis tournaments over the years. Like most members during the days of the USTA National Junior Hardcourt Championships, she housed players, called the lines and helped make her famous sandwiches. Doris played a fair amount of tennis during her days. She also captained the Women's Inter Club teams, which played competitively three days a week.

Fellow long-time member, **Dennis Huajardo** adds "Doris was always a 'get the job done' person as well as a fun-loving and caring person. Our clubhouse definitely misses her infectious laugh. We dearly appreciate her contribution to the club that we all love."

Outside of the club, Doris is best known as an artist. She graduated from Stanford University and has studied with nationally known artists both locally and abroad. Doris has enjoyed teaching pastels, oils, and watercolors for twenty-five years in her own studio and for the Burlingame Recreation Department. She is a signature member and past President of the Society of Western Artists and is a charter member of the Pastel Society of the West Coast. Her works are a part of many private collections and has been shown in juried shows and galleries, winning numerous awards for her paintings. In 2006, she won the Art Educator Diamond Award from San Mateo County Arts Council. When asked about her passionate hobby, she said, "painting is such a joy, a wonderful therapy and a constant learning process. I feel so blessed to have the ability to see the beauty around me."

When the club thinks of Doris Stirm, we too feel blessed to have such a caring long-time member with such a rich history at the PTC. Thank you Doris for all that you have meant to the club through the years.

## New Board Members



Rob Adams



Karen Harrigan



Ron Martinucci

## New Members



Sally & David  
Davenport



Kelly & Mark  
Bradley



Brian & Jenifer  
Beswick