



OCTOBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

Washington Park Tennis Club

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*As we are at the end of our leagues, tournaments and summer socials, the board would like to congratulate the participants and winners for 2015 -- our 50th anniversary year as an organized club!*

*We hope that you have enjoyed the t-shirts, water bottles, dampners, food and drink and the willingness of the Board to offer cash incentives for those teams that make it to both the section and national tournaments. As always, the board is open to suggestions for the betterment of the club, so please contact any board member with your information.*

*-- [Gordon Rulon](#), President*

### Upcoming Socials

Summer may be over, but tennis continues...with the Winter Socials. Yep! It's that time again and Colorado Athletic Club at Monaco is ready to host again this winter. The 1st social is:

**Saturday, October 10, 2015  
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
CACM  
South Monaco Parkway & E. Yale Ave.**



Since we are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Wash Park Tennis Club, the theme for the first social is **1960s tennis attire** (with a prize for the best dressed).

If you are new to WPTC, the winter socials include social tennis (round robin format) and a pot luck dinner for ANYONE and EVERYONE (every level). **Everyone must bring a dish to share.** Each player plays 40 minutes with 40 minutes off to eat, drink and be merry - a total of 3 rounds each. The cost is \$16.00 for WPTC members and \$21.00 for non-members. All drinks (alcoholic and otherwise) are provided by WPTC. Plus, there are raffle prizes!

Upcoming socials are: November 7, 2015 and January 16, February 6 and March 5, 2016.

**[Sign up now!](#)**

*-- [Mary Salsich](#), Winter Socials Director*

### WP Green Mens 5.0 Goes to Nationals October 2-4!

[See More Photos Here](#)

The 2015 Wash Park Men's 5.0+ team, captained by Jerad Harbaugh, posted a successful 10-0 division season. All players from the 2013 Wash Park team returned, and two new players were added, Hayden

Sabatka, the current #1 singles player at University of New Mexico and former Class 5A No. 1 singles state winner in 2011 & 2012 for Highlands Ranch, and Bryan Knepper, former University of Colorado Men's Tennis player and Class 5A No. 1 singles state winner in 1996 as a member of Wheat Ridge High School.



The Men's 5.0+ Districts was played at Lone Tree Tennis Club the weekend of July 31st and consisted of the three division winners, 1) Wash Park (WP Green), captained by Jerad Harbaugh, whose team went 10-0 in Denver Division I, 2) Ranch Country Club (RCC Green) captained by Mikka Keronen, whose team went 8-0 in the North division, 3) Denver Tennis Club (DTC Blue) captained by Lew Miller, whose team went 9-1 in the Denver II division, and one wildcard team 4) Colorado Athletic Club Inverness (CACI Black) captained by Jordan Jacob, whose team went 8-2 in Denver II division.

The first match of districts was ultimately the toughest test. A 2-1 nail-biter match against DTC ending in a third set tie-breaker was the match that kept the season alive. Wash Park paired its two biggest servers, Bryan Knepper & Chris Celechovsky, against DTC's Rob Kuseski and Lew Miller, Colorado's best serve returner and winner of 9 National Doubles titles, to neutralize Lew Miller's return game. Celechovsky is a former University of Colorado tennis standout and teammate of Harbaugh & Knepper. Wash Park's Jeff Loehr, a Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame inductee and Colorado tennis living legend, went undefeated in Districts and continued that same streak at Sectionals.

The Men's 5.0+ Sectionals was played at Liberty Park and the Sports Mall in Salt Lake City, Utah the weekend of August 21st. After the first day of play Wash Park (team Colorado) and team Idaho were both 2-0. Sunday morning's match against Idaho was the season's most challenging and rewarding match yet. With various Wash Park players unable to attend (including team captain, Jerad Harbaugh whose wife's mom passed away on August 21st), Dietz Fry and Chris Jenkins made last minute decisions to go and support the team, both ended up playing huge roles in SLC; 314 text messages were sent over the course of the weekend to give play-by-play updates. At 1-1 vs. Idaho, Loehr won at singles and Jenkins & Knepper dropped a close one at #1 doubles, the deciding match came down to Steve Nolen, former University of Virginia No. 1 and Chris Celechovsky playing at #2 doubles. Steve and Chris were down in the first set tie breaker 3-6 and rallied back 5 straight points to win 8-6 first set! Second set came down to another tie-breaker where "Checko" and Steve, found themselves down 2-4 in the breaker. Each point was texted by Dietz Fry was just as exhilarating for those out of state!

The next challenge for the 5.0+ men will be at Nationals Playoffs on the weekend of October 2-4 in Indian Well, Ca. Good luck team... bring home the trophy!

#### Team Roster:

Chris Celechovsky  
Dietz Fry  
Jerad Harbaugh (team captain)  
John Hereford

Cary Hodges  
Chris Jenkins  
Bryan Knepper  
Martin Krbec

Jeff Loehr  
Stephen Nolen  
Hayden Sabatka

– ***Patricia Robertson***, Leagues Director

## Chet 2015 Tournament

[See Winner Photos Here](#)

Chet Niemeyer tournament celebrates tennis and Labor Day! With only one evening of rain, the Chet was held over five days at our beautiful Washington Park.

Players enjoyed 50th anniversary t-shirts and dampeners and a scrumptious picnic on Saturday. Our fearless president manned the grill and readied the courts for each day's play.



Once again, superstar volunteer Ruth Herre was the tournament desk queen getting matches on the courts in a prompt and orderly fashion. Mary Salaich provided beverages and ice and Kathy Boyle made sure the picnic was not just Cricket burgers.

A hearty thanks to all who helped make this another great tournament! Thank you to our sponsors: Game Set Match, Sports Plus and The Cherry Cricket.

-- [Melissa Harris](#), Tournaments Director

## More WPTC Teams Named State Champions

I am one Proud Captain of both 8.5 and 9.5 State ITA mixed Champions! We will be traveling to Nevada to compete in Sectionals on 10/30/15 thru 11/01/15. We'll hope to win the costume contest and most importantly the Sectionals Championship.

It is an absolute honor to play in one of the most beautiful Colorado settings and be a member of The Wash Park Tennis Club. This has been a tremendous year for my mixed teams (USTA 18s included) and we would like to thank The Wash Park Tennis Club for your continued support, always acknowledging our tennis accomplishments. Thank you so much for making our tennis experience so much fun! Pictured are 9.5 (top) and 8.5 (bottom).



- [Marie Nguyen](#), Membership

**Director**

## Fall Weekend in Vail 2015

[See Photos Here](#)

What a remarkable weekend! Wash Park Tennis Club made our annual fall pilgrimage to Vail Racquet Club in the mountains. More than 60 members attended -- our largest group yet -- and we were sold out another year. The weather was perfect, friendships were forged and many a tennis games were lost and won!



WPTC organizes a trip in the spring and fall every year. If you love tennis and getting away from Denver for a carefree tennis weekend... join us! Don't delay, spring trip registration will be here before you know it!

[Brooklyn Kennedy](#), Fall/Spring Weekend Director  
303.345.3462

## Summer Socials Recap

This year, our May and June Socials were widely attended, but they were just a lead up to the BIG 50th Anniversary Social in July.

Our July Anniversary Social was exceptional, with approximately 80 members attending! Many played tennis, some came just to socialize, and others were old friends of the club.



We also had a racquet demo provided by Game-Set-Match. The food provided by Dickey's Bar-B-Que was great. There was very little left. We also had cake and ice cream for dessert. As a club, we gave **Gordon** an award for his outstanding service and never-ending contributions to the club. All in all, it was a fabulous day!

-- [Pam Greenwell](#), Summer Socials Director

## Photos Are Always Welcome

We are always looking for photos of our members to highlight our socials, trips, tournaments and events. We use them on our website, in our annual printed newsletter and on our Facebook page.

If you have digital photos, please email them to [Melissa Siemion](mailto:Melissa.Siemion@washparktennisclub.com), *Website & Newsletter Director*.



## Financials Are Open to Our Membership

Our financials are always open to our membership. If you are interested in seeing them, contact our *Treasurer*, [Kristen Hanson](mailto:Kristen.Hanson@washparktennisclub.com).

[www.washparktennisclub.com](http://www.washparktennisclub.com)