

# USTA SOUTHERN ARIZONA (SAZ) NEWSLETTER



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www.saz.usta.com

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## USTA SAZ PRESIDENT'S CORNER – Mike Capp

I had the opportunity of attending the U.S. Open from August 30 – September 3. The tennis, of course, is out of this world good! As we all know, there is nothing like seeing the best in the world, in person.

In addition to the tennis though, there was a whole slate of committee meetings in New York, such as, to name a few: the “Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee”; the “Constitution and Rules Committee”; The “Sports Science Committee” and numerous committees dedicated to junior tennis development. I had the privilege of being able to attend many of these committee meetings in a “roving” fashion;

meaning, I was able to attend a meeting for as long, or as short amount of time, as desired. What struck me most about these meetings was the number of volunteers and their commitment to promoting tennis throughout the United States. It is truly amazing how many people give tremendous amounts of time to promote our great game!

Here in the USTA-SAZ we also have many exceptional volunteers to promote our game within Southern Arizona. We also have an exceptional staff within SAZ.

Below are updates from our staff members. Jeff Brack, SAZ Director; Mark Swenson, Community Program Coordinator; Sara Kaufman, League

Coordinator; and, Renee Lopez, Target Market Coordinator. All of these aforementioned people work hard to promote tennis throughout Southern Arizona. Please take a minute and scroll down to their respective SAZ tennis updates.

Thank you for supporting tennis in Southern Arizona,

Contact Mike at  
[SAZpresident@gmail.com](mailto:SAZpresident@gmail.com)



### SCHEDULE OF NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS COMING TO REFFKIN TENNIS CENTER

**September 27-28-29 – 3.0 – 18 and over – men and women**

**October 4-5-6 – 3.0 – 40 and over – men and women**

**October 11-12-13 – 4.0 - 18 and over – men and women**

**October 18-19-20 – 4.5 - 18 and over –men and women**

**October 25-26-27 – 3.5 – 18 and over – men and women**

**MATCHES BEGIN EACH DAY AT 7:30AM**

**MIXED DOUBLES**

**November 15-16-17 – 18 and over - 2.5-7.0-9.0**

**November 22-23-24 - 18 and over – 6.0-8.0-10.0**

## TEN AND UNDER TENNIS – RENEE LOPEZ

The TMI for Ten and Under tennis is really getting off to a good start. As Tucson is a new Market, we have really been in the exploration process for the first few months of the program. However, with that said, we have already had some great success.

Four new Kids Tennis Clubs have been started at Canyon View Elementary, Sunrise Elementary, Manzanita Elementary and Ventana Vista.

These are after school kids tennis clubs that are on site at the schools. Jared Isaacman and David Flores are the newly hired coaches for the Catalina Foothills schools. I am sure they will do a great job for them as they both have scads of experience!! And the good news is that the program is fully sustainable without any funding from the grant!!

We are currently working with Jon Davis and Serena Quarelli with the Tucson Community Tennis Program in helping them to grow their projects into after school kids clubs as well. This is a very exciting project as the schools TCTP works with do not have many of the assets as some of the other more affluent schools. More details on which schools and what is happening with that to follow.

Thirdly, we are working on getting area clubs joining in to have a rotating Play Day for ten and under kids. For those of you not familiar with what a USTA Play Day looks like, it is an event designed to introduce kids to competition in a low-pressure setting where the results are not documented. It can be a great format for novice and experienced kids to play and work on skills but also experience fun and social aspects of tennis.

Ten and Under is all about getting kids playing early so they can quickly experience how much fun tennis is!!!

The new kids sized equipment and format is really making a difference!

Renee Lopez  
10 and Under Coordinator  
[saztaut@gmail.com](mailto:saztaut@gmail.com)



## SAZ USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS – Mark Swenson

SAZ recently completed the summer season of USTA Jr. Team Tennis. The league involved kids 8-18 in team competition. There were 20 teams representing clubs and programs from all over Tucson. Over 100 kids, all USTA members, and their families, swarmed to the Reffkin Tennis Center each Sunday evening. JTT is about juniors, it's about teams, and playing tennis. It was as much about the flavor of the week of the Eegees, Sonoran Snowballs, or Otter Pops that were provided. All participants had fun and made many new tennis playing friends. There will be another season of JTT coming this fall

Mark Swenson  
[sazcpc@gmail.com](mailto:sazcpc@gmail.com)



## Tucson Junior Open Winners!

Held on Sept 7-8, 2013 at Reffkin Tennis Center

**Girls' 18 Singles** – Jamie Schroer 1<sup>st</sup>; Kirtana Bhat 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Girls' 16 Singles** - Janine Fernando 1<sup>st</sup>; Cody Hutchison 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Girls 14 Singles**- Misa Malkin 1<sup>st</sup>; Chloe Gavino 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Girls' 12 Singles** - Emily Flowers 1<sup>st</sup>, Rio Lederer 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Boys' 18 Singles** -Jackson Lee 1<sup>st</sup>, Quinn Gardner 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Boys' 16 Singles** -Bogdan Racolta 1<sup>st</sup>; Nate Rasmussen 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Boys' 14 Singles** -George Jiang 1<sup>st</sup>; Frederick Wentling 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Boys' 12 Singles** -Jesus Cordova 1<sup>st</sup>; Jon Grammond 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Boys' 10 Singles** -Kaylan Bigun 1<sup>st</sup>; Meechan Bigun 2<sup>nd</sup>.

[Link to more tournament information click here](#)

## Wheelchair Tennis – Amanda Kraus

**SAZ Wheelchair Tennis has some exciting updates and announcements!**

**Weekly Drop-ins:** The SAZ Wheelchair Tennis Committee will continue to have options for wheelchair tennis players this season! Weekly drop-in tennis is scheduled every Thursday evening at Reffkin Tennis Center through mid-December. We provide balls and a pump, so please come by and hit!

### **Southwest Section Wheelchair Tennis Summit:**

Sue Kroeger, SAZ Board Secretary, also chairs the USTA Southwest Section Wheelchair Tennis Committee. The Southwest Section has identified the growth of wheelchair tennis as one of its priorities. The biggest challenge is Phoenix. With a population over 3 million, there is virtually nothing happening relative to wheelchair tennis.

Sue, with support from section staff is hosting a "Wheelchair Tennis Summit" in conjunction with the November annual meeting. Wheelchair Tennis players from Albuquerque, El Paso, Flagstaff, Tucson, and Phoenix along with key adaptive sports professionals in the Phoenix metro area and District TSR's will convene to develop an action plan that each district can replicate.

### **Fab-U-Life Desert Classic Moving Up:**

Tucson's annual wheelchair tennis tournament, the Fab-U-Life Desert Classic is now an ITF 2. We hope that the more competitive ranking will draw even more players to Tucson. Now in mid-March, the Fab-U-Life Desert Classic will be in line with the spring wheelchair tennis circuit, increasing incentive for international players to attend!

**Questions?** To get involved or learn more about wheelchair tennis in Southern Arizona, please contact Amanda Kraus, SAZ Vice President and Wheelchair Tennis Committee Chair, at [akraus@email.arizona.edu](mailto:akraus@email.arizona.edu) or 520-626-0940.

Amanda Kraus

[akraus@email.arizona.edu](mailto:akraus@email.arizona.edu)




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## Reffkin Tennis Center

Reffkin Tennis Center was constructed in 1961 and consisted of 10 red-dyed concrete courts. It now has 25 lighted hard courts on the corner of Alvernon and Broadway Blvd. It is a Tucson Public Court and open to all residents and visitors. You will also find QuickStart 10 & Under Tennis Lined Courts; 10 Lighted Racquetball Courts; and a Pro Shop. Lessons are available to the public from qualified USPTA Pros.

For more information contact:

Jim Reffkin

Reffkin Tennis Center

Director of Tennis

(520) 791-4896

[jimreffkin@reffkintenniscenter.com](mailto:jimreffkin@reffkintenniscenter.com)

<http://reffkintenniscenter.com>

## UMPIRES NEEDED

Tennis umpires are always needed to work local and national tournaments in Tucson. Anyone interested should contact ED Osnowitz, District Chair of Umpires for SAZ. Call 648-6338 or e-mail at [emoz@cox.net](mailto:emoz@cox.net).

Ed Osnowitz



[emoz@cox.net](mailto:emoz@cox.net)

## SAZ League Winners 2013!

The following teams were the winners for the 2013 SAZ 40&Over league. (2013 USTA 40&Over Sectional Championships were held in El Paso, Tx May 3-5.)

- 3.5 Women - Kathy Kang - El Conquistador Country Club**
- 4.0 Women - Carol Bandy - Himmel Tennis Center**
- 4.0 Men - Jim Ruhman - El Conquistador Country Club**
- 4.5 Men - Benny Morentin - Tucson Country Club**

The following teams represented SAZ at the 2013 USTA Sectional Championships in Albuquerque, NM August 9-11.

- 3.0 Women - Kendell Hartenbach - Tucson Country Club**
- 3.5 Women - Mindy Evans - Himmel Tennis Center**
- 3.5 Men - Scott Stoddard - Reffkin Tennis Center**
- 4.0 Women - Teri Flanagan - Tucson Racquet Club**
- 4.0 Men - Ted DiSante - Tucson Racquet Club**
- 4.5 Women - Jeanne Kraft - Tucson Racquet Club**
- 4.5 Men - Phillip Drachman - Tucson Country Club**
- 5.0 Men - Evan Feldhausen - Sabino Vista Hills**

The following teams will represent SAZ at the 2013 55&Over USTA Sectional Championships in Phoenix, Az on December 13-15.

- 7.0 Women - Margaret Holland - Tucson Racquet Club**
- 7.0 Men - Bruce Nissenbaum - Saddlebrooke Tennis Club**
- 8.0 Women - Natalie Ashburn - Tucson Racquet Club**
- 8.0 Men - Bill Wallin - Tucson Racquet Club**
- 9.0 Men - John Davis - Tucson Racquet Club**

The following teams will represent SAZ at the 2013 40&Over Mix USTA Sectional Championships in Tucson, Az on September 13-15.

- 7.0 Mix - Martin Chavez - Reffkin Tennis Club**
- 8.0 Mix - Chris Strohm - Tucson Racquet Club**

The following teams will represent SAZ at the 2013 18 & Over Mixed League at the USTA Sectional Championships.

- 6.0 Mix - Richard Capurro - Reffkin Tennis Club**
- 7.0 Mix - Jennifer Columbus - Reffkin Tennis Club**
- 8.0 Mix - Su-Wen Chang - Reffkin Tennis Club**
- 9.0 Mix - Meghan Houk - Reffkin Tennis Club**

## Managing Director's Update – Jeff Brack

With the conclusion of the 2013 US Open, we've crowned new champions, but we've also drawn to a close the largest annually attended sporting event in the world. Being in attendance at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, I was able to observe and reflect on the engine that really makes our sport go. The thousands of people filling the stadiums and crowding the grounds are fans, players, organizers, coaches, students, sponsors, volunteers, staff... in other words... us!

The spectacle of professional players doing battle is amazing and inspiring, but they are a tiny fraction of those of us that make tennis a part of our daily lives. Without us, there is no professional tennis, no leagues, tournaments, manufacturers nor lessons. And to my point, no USTA. We are the United States Tennis Association and our membership not only makes us part of the official American tennis family, allows us to participate in exciting organized competition, but it also supports our association's mission statement, "To promote and develop the growth of tennis". Our memberships underwrite programs at every level from 10 & Under Tennis to Tennis on Campus to Adult Leagues to professional events, as well as court construction and renovation, schools programs, scholarships and paid national, sectional and local USTA staff. The US Open revenue is certainly the cash cow, but memberships are not only important for supporting nationwide programming, it makes us all part of something bigger. It creates a network for all us like-minded tennis fans to participate, share and contribute to the sport we love.

So, if you're a member, continue to be one. If you've got a friend who isn't, encourage them to join. Become an ambassador for our sport. Better yet, volunteer and help make the engine turn! The nominating committee is currently taking nominations for the upcoming election of the board of directors, committees, etc.

Jeff Brack

[sazdirector@gmail.com](mailto:sazdirector@gmail.com)




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## SAZ LEAGUE UPDATE – SARA KAUGHMAN

Please join me in congratulating the SAZ league teams for winning the 18&Over USTA Southwest League Sectional Championship tournament and for advancing to the USTA National League Championship Tournament!!!! Great job teams!

Adult 18&Over 3.0 Nationals  
September 27-29, 2013  
Jim Reffkin Tennis Center  
Tucson, Az

Adult 18&Over 4.0 Nationals  
October 11-13, 2013  
Jim Reffkin Tennis Center  
Tucson, Az

Adult 18&Over 5.0+ Nationals  
September 27-29, 2013  
Indian Wells Tennis Garden  
Indian Wells, Ca

*Come cheer on these teams at our SAZ local facility!*

The 2014 League Schedule has been posted online at [www.saz.usta.com/USTASAZ\\_League\\_Schedule](http://www.saz.usta.com/USTASAZ_League_Schedule) and includes the league dates. Captains' meetings are being held prior to the league matches beginning to meet captains, discuss updated rules and rules to emphasize, and to review the format of each league. Thank you to the captains who were able to attend these meetings for the 18&Over Early Start league that is just beginning play this week. The captains meeting also introduced the Captains Corner webpage for all your fast reference of league regulations and tennis rules. It is a great resource for anyone! Check it out at [www.saz.usta.com/captains\\_corner](http://www.saz.usta.com/captains_corner). If you interested in joining an 18&Over Early Start team, please send an email to [saztennis@gmail.com](mailto:saztennis@gmail.com). It's not too late to join and matches are scheduled into November and December. Please also contact the email address above if you are interested in captaining a team or looking for a team to join for any of the future leagues coming up.

Sara Kaufman

<mailto:saztennis@gmail.com>



# Winners Gallery

## 18+ ADULTS USTA SOUTHWEST ADULT LEAGUE SECTION CHAMPIONS! August 9-11, 2013



3.0 Women - Southern Arizona's squad from Tucson Country Club ended up being the top dog of three teams with 2-1 team records, edging past a Central Arizona squad and Greater El Paso squad both with 2-1 records as well. Team Captain is Kendell Lynn Hartenbach. Team members include Sarah Compton, Amy Heuther, Jen Jewell, Elizabeth Naughton, Elizabeth Bollinger, Allison Ashton Hugeback, Gisele Pohoretsky, Elizabeth Longenecker, Linda Douglas, Beth Rustand, Amy Draper.

4.0 women - Southern Arizona's team out of Tucson Racquet Club went 4-1, as did Northern New Mexico's squad from Santa Fe's El Gancho Swim & Racquet Club, but the SAZ squad advanced on (even with a head-to-head loss to NNM) based on more matches won (19 to 17). Team Captain is Teri Flanagan. Team members include: Cheryl Hoge, Christ Strohm, Beth Harmon, Ellen Haebe, Donna Qabazard, Rachel Rulmyr, Shelley Watson, Adrienne Walker-Heller, Stephanie Black, Lindy Mullinax, Margaret Yrun, Karen Kime, Stephanie Waldo, Renee Lopez



5.0 Men - In a two-team field, Southern Arizona's squad swept Northern New Mexico 2-0 to earn their second national championship bid in the last three years. Team Captain is Michael O'Connor. Team members: Evan Feldhausen, John Perry, Jonathan Davis, Joshua Brown, Daniel Rapcsak, Brett Schroer, Jared Aldor, Naren Shanmugavelu, Karthik Chandrasekaran, Mitch McDaniels, David Tzou, Matt Dunn

## Bryan Barten makes Wheelchair Tennis impact in Tucson

Tucson KGUN9-TV interviewed Bryan Barten and noted that at the age of 22 Bryan was involved in a car accident that left him paralyzed. A year later Bryan came to realize there were still things he could do. He won the first tournament he played in wheelchair tennis was was hooked. He moved to Tucson where he played rugby and wheelchair tennis and eventually became a pro and competed in the London Paralympics. Brian is now a coach for Arizona's wheelchair tennis team. To view his interview go to: <http://www.kgun9.com/news/sports/210949861.html>

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### 2014 League Schedule

#### 2014 Early Start Leagues

##### *55 & Over League*

Week of October 6; Deadline to register September 29.

##### *65 & Over League*

Week of October 13; Deadline to register October 6.

##### *40 & Over Mixed League*

Week of October 6; Deadline to register September 29.

#### JANUARY - AUGUST LEAGUES

##### *40 & Over and 55 & Over Leagues*

- January 6 – March 16, 2014 (Playoffs March 22 & 23)

##### *65 & Over League*

- February 3 – April 6, 2014 (Playoffs April 12 & 13)

##### *18 & Over League*

- March 24 – June 1, 2014 (Playoffs June 7 & 8)

##### *40 & Over Mixed and 18 & Over Mixed Leagues*

- June 9 – August 21, 2014 (Playoffs August 30 & 31)