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Save the date!
**FTA Annual
Membership
Meeting**
**Wed April 15,
2020**
5:30-6:30 pm
ONLINE
**Contact FTA via
email for call-in
information**

From our President:

Dear Fairbanks and Interior Tennis Community,

I am very pleased to announce that we have an exciting and varied lineup of tennis programming for this coming 2020 Season. We are building on the successes and lessons learned from the 2019 season and the results of your feedback, tailoring our programs to best meet our growing tennis community's expectations. We have also made improvements and upgrades to our website to facilitate information access and program enrollment.

In addition to our season kickoff events in April and May, we have comprehensive program options for all ages and skill levels throughout June and July, with several fun tournaments to put new or improved tennis skills to the test through friendly competition. Our coaching team this year will include local experienced and certified staff and our returning Tennis Pro, John McElroy, who will run our programs in July. Please read more about our 2020 season events and programming in this newsletter and at our website: www.fairbankstennis.com

As always, we are ever so grateful to our sponsors, donors, partners, friends and volunteers whose time, interest and generosity are the core strength of our organization.

Thank you!
Tony Ely
President

FTA is a qualified 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.
FTA's Mission is to promote tennis and educational opportunities for all youth and adult residents of the Fairbanks area.

FTA Board of Directors

Tony Ely, President
Peter Beardsley
Charmagne Alder, Secretary
Sabine Siekmann, Treasurer
Liane Kondrak
Jr representatives:
Klara Kondrak
Fiona Beardsley

FTA's Spring Kids Free tennis event was held at the Catholic Schools of Fairbanks Gym on Saturday April 13, 2019 68 children aged 4-18 participated in this fun indoor tennis event.

FTA's May Kids Free Tennis, sponsored by DesignAlaska, and the Block Party offered tennis and food for 45 children. The breakdown of each age group was 11 Prek-Kindergarten, 13 1st-3rd graders, 6 4th-6th graders, and 14 7-12 graders.



The Fairbanks Tennis Association brought tennis professional, John McElroy up for 3 weeks in July 2019. This was the second summer FTA was able to bring Coach John to Fairbanks. In addition to offering lessons to all ages and skill levels, Coach John ran our annual Sam Woodke Tournament and participated in the Golden Days Parade.

FTA had 12 tennis enthusiasts represent the organization for the Golden Days Parade in July 2019. The weather was fantastic and FTA was able to show off our nice new banner.



The 2019 Sam Woodke Tournament was sponsored by Fairbanks Youth Sports and Mt McKinley Bank. Congratulations to the winners Faustine Bernadac, Women's Singles; Gina Pender and Lee Lemay, Women's Doubles; Matt Wharton, Men's Singles; Jim Hackett and John McElroy, Men's Doubles; Brett Carlson and Jelica, Mixed Doubles.

Middle School Tennis had 18 participants in 2019. FTA's Middle School Tennis program is for students in grades six through eight and was coached by Bobby Trujillo. Peter Beardsley served as a parent volunteer as we had a few tennis players who had never played tennis before. FTA is exploring the possibility of moving the Middle School Tennis program from August to earlier in the summer.

Fairbanks Tennis Association would like to thank Ivory Jacks for supporting FTA by supporting our organization with pulltabs.



Tennis fun in the midnight sun, your community tennis organization.



Fairbanks Tennis Association was happy to welcome two junior representatives to our board this past year. Our junior representatives are junior high and high school tennis players who help bring the board fresh ideas on how FTA can continue to grow tennis in our community. Learn more about our junior representatives below.

Klara Kondrak: I am very passionate about tennis. For me, tennis has allowed me to grow as a leader, athlete, and friend.

I have been playing tennis for 9 years. Back in Minnesota, I was a coach wherein I assisted in coaching drills and taught private lessons to beginners. I also helped coach a winter tennis camp for 5-12 year olds. I was the captain of my varsity tennis team this previous season, and I really enjoyed being in a position of leadership where I could help by sharing my enthusiasm with my team. Since tennis is a lifelong sport, it has given me the opportunity to make friends of all ages. Tennis has taught me discipline, commitment, and allows me to stretch outside of my comfort zone.

My name is Fiona Beardsley, and I am a junior representative. I love tennis and getting involved in my community. I think everyone should try tennis, because it is so much fun. I have had so much fun this year learning more tennis, and I hope to keep being a part of growing tennis here in Fairbanks.

The 2019 High School Tennis Season was very successful! Gwen Ramras, FTA founder and benefactor, was instrumental to this success. She campaigned for tennis at the high schools and recruited all our coaches, also arranging for Milo Griffin and Jason Ringstad, both experienced coaches and longtime FTA supporters, to instruct our coaches and provide additional coaching to players. As in the past three years, Colony HS Coach Susan Brunner came up with over 20 players, providing our local players with two days of interregional fun matches. We had 21 players participate in the Anchorage invitational and, thanks to Gwen, we offered the new 'Dan The Man Blue-Gold Tourney' as a fun alternative for all other players. Despite a season of near-perfect weather, rain delayed our Region VI Tournament and we finished on the last make-up day. Flexible, dedicated parents and volunteers such as Joe Sample, Leila Blanchard, Liane Kondrak and the other West Valley Tennis parents providing delicious food and warm beverages, all ensured the tournament's success. Congratulations to all our Interior players that participated in the ASAA State Tennis Tournament! Klara Kondrak (West Valley-2nd GS), Helen Wharton (Lathrop-3rd GS), Jordan Dick and Samantha Stark (West Valley-4th GD), Luke Millam (Lathrop-BS), Cole Neal (West Valley-BS), Hannah Knott and Ashley Plys (Lathrop-GD), Greg Hale and Ryan Thomas (Lathrop-BD), Axton Siekmann and Kade Rowland (West Valley-BD), Sofia Squires and Isaiah Moore (Hutchison-MD), Erin Hendricks and Oliver Pender (Monroe-MD). We are excited to see what our returning and new HS tennis players will achieve in 2020!



Tennis fun in the midnight sun, your community tennis organization.

Fairbanks Tennis Association, in following the public health guidelines in regards to Covid-19, is sad to announce that our April Kids Free Tennis event will be canceled for 2020.

At this time we are hopeful summer programming may continue as scheduled, but will keep the tennis community posted via email and social media (Facebook & Instagram) Registration for summer programs will not open until May 1, 2020.

2020 FTA Calendar

5/31/20 Block Party and Kid's Free Tennis 12-4 pm

6/1/20-6/26/20 RecTennis

6/29/20-7/31/20 Visiting Tennis Pro John McElroy

7/18/20 Golden Days Parade

TO:



Fairbanks Tennis Association thanks our donors & sponsors from 2019:

James & Susie Hackett, Rachel Thomas, Marvin & Cindy Bergeson, Gina Pender, Anthony Ely, Nicole Millam, Aidan Payan, Danny Wallace, Jeffrey & Susan Cook, Quinn Therrell, James Immel, Grace Minder Realty, Maria M. Doolittle, Rasmuson Foundation, United Way, Design Alaska, Kroger, Foundation Health, Mt McKinley Bank, Ear Nose & Throat Clinic, Fairbanks Youth Sports, Denali State Bank, Jeffrey W. Kilgore DMD, Usibelli Foundation, Kinross Gold Mining, Marlo's Bakery, Pumphouse Restaurant, Fred Meyer, Safeway, Coca Cola, Prospector Outfitters, Beaver Sports, Costco, Sunrise Bagel & Espresso

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