



In this issue:

Annual Meeting
Swing into Spring
Kids free tennis
Block Party/free
tennis
Junior Compass
Tournament
Sam Woodke
Tournament
Golden Days Parade
Middle School Tennis
High School Summary

Save the date!

**FTA Annual
Membership
Meeting**

Wed April 17, 2019

5:30-6:30 pm

@Mary Siah

Conference room

President's Message:

Dear Interior Tennis Players and Supporters,

2018 overall was both a period of transition and opportunity for tennis in the interior and our Fairbanks Tennis Association. As a tennis community, we continued to adjust to the absence of indoor tennis facilities, now limited to one multiuse court in the UAF Student Recreation Facility. However, we are hopeful that a joint approved Fairbanks and Fort Wainwright indoor recreation facility study is a firm first step towards a structure that includes indoor tennis court capabilities.

We are also encouraged and motivated by the unwavering support of donors, volunteers and tennis friends that generously give funds, time and resources to keep our programs viable. Most importantly, we want to recognize the invaluable interest and support of parents and young elementary through high school tennis players that consistently have been the largest part of our organization.

We strive to improve to meet the tennis needs of our community, which is why we welcome feedback and input. We also encourage those who wish to become volunteers and be part of this organization as we continue to provide "Tennis Fun in the Midnight Sun."

Please enjoy this newsletter issue with our program details, highlights and contact information.

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 2018

Tony Ely, President
Gina Pender, Interim Vice President
Charmagne Alder, Secretary
Sabine Siekmann, Interim Treasurer

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

Fairbanks Tennis Association had a fantastic 2018!

FTA appreciated the community turnout to our Annual Board meeting April 2018 to discuss indoor tennis facility options and possible partnerships. At this time FTA is waiting to see how the Fairbanks North Star Borough Ordinance 2018-20-1H with the US Army Garrison continues.

The 3rd Annual Swing into Spring provided free tennis instruction to 70 children!

The Annual Block Party and Kids Free Tennis was May 20, 2018 and put tennis racquets into the hands of 46 children. 12 adults took advantage of free tennis instruction. The weather was fantastic and FTA is thankful for the many volunteers who assisted in coaching, barbecuing, registration and Dj-ing.

FTA offered our first Junior Compass Tournament June 4 -8, 2018. It was a great success with 32 participants from grades 6 through 12.

FTA partnered with the USTA-PNW to bring USTA RecTennis to Fairbanks for 6 weeks of programming summer of 2018. RecTennis offered camps for kids 5-17 years of age as well as Friends & Family Tennis for players of all ages. RecTennis will return to Fairbanks summer 2019.

FTA summer programs had 2 new visiting coaches the summer of 2018. Tristen Lerma came up for the whole summer, and John McElroy came up during the month of July 2018.

Annual Sam Woodke Tournament had 31 players participate, with some tennis players playing in multiple events.

The 2018 Golden Days Parade had 15 FTA players or volunteers, plus Coach Tristen. The Parade is always fun and a great way to promote our community tennis organization.

The FTA Middle School program had 15 budding tennis players under the instruction of Coach Bobby Trujillo and Assistant Coach Hailey Messick.



Middle School Tennis 2018



Golden Days Parade 2018

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



Region 6 Players and Coaches at Regional Championship (22-24 SEP 2018)

High School Tennis:

Our High School Tennis Program experienced significant transitions in 2018, as about a third of the players were graduating seniors, to include 2017 State Champions and Finalists. In all cases, FTA was able to provide these young adults the opportunity to play tennis in the interior and a chance to learn and develop the skills and interest to enjoy this lifelong sport. This 2018 season we were encouraged by the large number of freshmen that joined high school tennis, comprising about a fourth of our 45-player total. Thanks to the diligent work of our coaches Brett Carlson, Jamie Duncan-Infantolino, Eric Markham, Liam Putnam, our official Bonnie Owen and our outstanding volunteer Leila Blanchard, 2018 was another successful season. Milo Griffin, as always, dedicated time to mentor and assist during practices. We also greatly appreciate the generosity of our FTA Founder Gwen Ramras, whose donation made the Anchorage Tennis Invitational possible for ten of our Region Six players. We coped with a lot of rain, but still completed all 20 regular season matches, a great two-day invitational where we hosted the Colony High School Tennis Team and an exciting Region 6 Regional Tournament to select those players competing at the Alaska Schools Activities Association (ASAA) State Tennis Championship. Lathrop High School won the Region Six Best Season and Regional Champion Awards. All our players had a great experience at State and the West Valley High School players earned the ASAA Academic Achievement Award.

Tony Ely
FTA High School Tennis Coordinator

Below: Region 6 Regional Championship Winners and Runners-Up



West Valley High School Tennis Players with ASAA Academic Achievement Award (6 OCT 2018)

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TO:



Fairbanks Tennis Association thanks our donors & sponsors from 2018:

Jeffrey & Susan Cook, Richard & Grace Minder, Gary & Susan Wilken, Joni Ellsworth, James & Susie Hackett, Kristen Frieburger, Todd Lemay, Kroger, DesignAlaska, Jewish Congregation of Fairbanks, Ear Nose & Throat Clinic, John P. Bast, DDS, Interior AK Orthopedic-Dr Mark Wade, Denali State Bank-Randy Weaver, Mt McKinley-Patty Mongold, Usibelli Foundation-Lisa Herbert, Fairbanks Youth Sports, Jeffrey Kilgore DMD, PC, Amazon Smile, United Way, Foundation Health, Holland America, Kinross Gold USA, Dan & Gwen Ramras Charity- Gwen Ramras.

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