



Network News Blast #50: 2010-01-18

Topic: Visiting Your Club - Palm Coast Tennis Center

Hello tennis friends in Volusia & Flagler Counties.

Our two counties have an array of tennis facilities. From public courts with wide-open gates, to exclusive country clubs with impressive amenities, almost everything is represented. The Greater Volusia Tennis League currently lists 31 facilities on its website. Some of the facilities in our area have very active players and operators, while others just offer the open courts.

This is the 50th of the “Tennis Network News Blast.” To celebrate that occasion, we will start a new series: “Visiting Your Club.” In a loose collection of articles, we will introduce some of the active facilities and clubs to you.

For our first chat, we choose a facility that like no other, represents the power of the people. When a large private club in Palm Coast closed some years ago, the tennis community with leadership from the “Friends of Tennis Group” (FoT) lobbied actively, loudly, and ultimately successfully for public tennis courts in town. Today, they are the proud players at the “[Palm Coast Tennis Center](#)” (PCTC) off Belle Terre Parkway.

Many of the PCTC players are also members of the “Friends of Tennis Community Tennis Association.” FoT’s current president is Jeff Davis, a Florida native and retired Navy pilot who has lived in Palm Coast for 10 years. The author recently had the opportunity for a longer conversation with Jeff.

FoT's mission is to support the tennis community in Palm Coast and Flagler County. Activities include donating four scholarships to college bound high school tennis players, providing funding for professional training, FoT volunteers helping with the local high school teams, sponsoring USTA training clinics for our volunteers and coaches, an ambassador program for new or returning players looking for games, working with the local Chamber Of Commerce and city government to support the expansion and improvement of PCTC, and providing PCTC with volunteer support for events and programs like the upcoming men's futures professional tennis event.

FoT has about 150 members, of which approx. 120 are players at PCTC; the remainder is outsiders. Annual membership is \$10 per year. This actually makes money for FoT’s members because of the discounts provided by local business partners. FoT discounts are available at a variety of local businesses including many restaurants, “Tail Outlet,” “PC Bike,” and “Plantation Wine and Spirits.” The complete list and a membership form is available at their website <http://www.friendsoftennis.org/>.

What does FoT offer in monthly activities for their players at PCTC?

Every Monday evening from 6 p.m. on, and Tuesday mornings at 11 a.m., there is open time when players can join in with tennis players. This is open to the general public. Members of PCTC do not pay extra for this time. Non-members pay a small fee. FoT also offers monthly round robins with different themes.

What is on tap for the next weeks and months?

FoT volunteers help at the local high schools with teens who wish to join the tennis teams there. FoT also supports the teams by funding clinics and lessons. Look for the “Palm Coast Cup,” which is a rivalry between

the two high school teams in town. FoT also schedules tennis social mixers about every 2 months like the upcoming "Wine and Cheese - Play with the Pros" event on Feb 02.

Dear tennis friends in Volusia/Flagler counties, as you can see, for \$ 10 per year you can become a member of this active group of players. And even if you cannot travel to Palm Coast regularly to join in their activities, FoT's agenda might give you inspirations to do similar programs at your club or facility.

This has been the second "Blast" article back-to-back about events in Palm Coast. That is not quite a coincidence, as PCTC is a very active facility. We'd be happy to write about YOUR facility in a future article, too. Just give us a call or send us a note. Happy Trails to y'all.

The news blast is written on Sunday afternoons by Jan Buenner. Jan is a local tennis player, on the GVTL board of directors, and owns the Trails Racquet Club in Ormond Beach. If you have comments about today's "Network News Blast," or newsworthy tennis topics from your club for the next "Blast," or know someone who wants to be added to our mailing list, please contact Jan at Jan@Trailsracquetclub.com, or (386) 677-8081. We are always interested in hearing from you.

Thank you for supporting local tennis!