



# Trails Newsletter

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# 1974 - 2024

## Happy New Year 2024!



*Cookie in Heaven*

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### IN THIS ISSUE:

New Members	1
Sonny Marra 90 Rule	1
Review & Preview	2



It is obvious from the header above that 2024 will be a special year at your Trails Racquet Club. Yep - the club will turn 50!! That demands some celebration, of course. More importantly, it will be a year where a number of major upgrades will take place, too. More on that on the back page, and also in February's newsletter.

While that's the future, a look at the past shows that all in all, 2023 was quite a calm year at your tennis club. No unusual highs or lows. The most impactful development was the end of Trails' management of the Ormond Beachside Tennis Center. (OBTC) That contract ended after 3 years at the end of November. It felt like owning a boat: you are happy to have it, and even happier when it is over.

## New Members

Pre-holiday is usually a time when people do other things than joining a tennis club. NOT SO THIS MONTH! December was quite busy here at the Trails. Gregg Eisele, Greg Wagner, and Hector Padilla all joined the Trails. The Greg(g)s aren't really new

Interestingly, at the end of the cooperation with OBTC, 3 of their coaches relocated to the Trails: Bruno del Granado, Gary Heatwole, and Kevin Tierney are all offering their services at the Trails now. That is in addition to current coaches Herb Branham and Andy Harrison. Quite an accumulation of coaching talent and experience there! If you are looking for a variety of coaching styles, the Trails has that for you. Some of OBTC's members joined the Trails, too. More on that in the next paragraph.

**A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO Y'ALL.**



HAPPY NEW YEAR

– rather, they had been players at OBTC and are hoping for more good matches at the Trails. Hector moved here from Chicago, hoping for good weather and good tennis. Trails promises both. 😊 Welcome to the Trails, everyone.

## Free Membership: The "SONNY MARRA 90" Rule

Want to become famous at the Trails Racquet Club? DO SOMETHING SPECIAL. Like Sonny Marra just did. Sonny, a looonng time member of the Trails, turned 90 in late November! That's amazing! HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SONNY! Sonny still plays tennis at the Trails twice a week. To celebrate his milestone

appropriately, the Trails has now established the "SONNY MARRA 90" rule: when a Trails member turns 90, they will get a FREE LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP! The longer they play, the more value it has. 2 others of our members are 89 right now and will qualify soon. What a special club the Trails is!

## Review 2023 & Preview 2024

### Review 2023

As stated earlier, 2023 was a relatively quiet year here at the Trails. No major changes, no real problems, and no hurricanes. YAY! Also: NO SALE of the tennis club. Not so yay. While we talked to A LOT of prospects, no buyer ultimately came through. Some didn't seem a good fit for your club; with others, the money just wasn't right. Or the vision. Or all three of those. So we'll keep looking, and Jan will have to work another couple of years, it seems. Not too hard, though - after all, late in the year, Trails' management of OBTC ended. The 3 years gave us no joy and made next to no money. Yay again.

And there were also no deaths among our members in 2023, thankfully. To the contrary; one active member turned 90 (see article on the previous page), and another two will in 2024. Talk about a lifetime sport.

Bottom line: Trails had a good, worry free year in 2023.

### Preview 2024

2024 will be a special year in many ways. For one, it will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club. For two, plans are in the early stages of upgrading the club in many areas. Sometime early in the spring, you will be asked what improvement YOU would like to see. There will also be decisions with regards to funding the upgrades, and those will get addressed in due course, too. For three, the Buenner family's ownership will continue, for better or worse. More on all of that in the next months.

Overall, 2024 might be one of the most transforming years in the Trails Racquet Club's 50 year history. And YOU will not only be witness to that, but can influence the direction it will go.



Dear members of the Trails Racquet Club,

Thank you for being a member or friend of the Trails Racquet Club. Your kindness, loyalty, and support make this club a wonderful place to play tennis and socialize. We look forward to serving you again in 2024. A safe and healthy New Year to you and your families.

Jan Buenner & Team (Victoria, Dan, Gary, Mike, and Liam, Roan, and Finn)

