

Towerpoint Tennis Club - Appreciation Award

Our club thrives because of the dedication of our volunteers.

Steve is known for his time, his skills and his unwavering commitment to this club. Steve's biggest contribution to the club is his noticeable dedication to player skills and development. Every year he is involved in tennis clinics, beginner tennis lessons, coaching and evaluating. His critique is always valued and appreciated.

As club president the year Steve received the "volunteer of the year" award, Liz Gassmann was very grateful for Steve's volunteer time throughout the season, Steve's commitment to the club and the energy Steve brought to the courts with his coaching. His commitment to the players makes for an outstanding tennis club.

Steve, thank you for your time, your energy, and your commitment to our club. We are lucky to have you!

Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can. --Arthur Ashe

Steve Ward



2024 - 2025



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During Kevin's many years with the tennis club, he has been involved in just about everything at one time or another. Kevin is one of those members that likes to be involved in many club activities from getting the courts ready for the start of the season, to helping with club tournaments to player development. One of the key contributions Kevin makes time and time again is player development and advancement. He coaches, evaluates, advises and yes, even offers constructive criticisms when asked (even sometimes when not asked. hehe). Listen, if you want the truth about your game, ask Kevin. Not only will you get a fair, accurate and honest assessment, he will also be the first one to help you improve it if you ask.

As president the year Kevin received the "outstanding member" award, Jim Gawluk was very grateful with all Kevin's behind the scenes help and advice. From court set up and maintenance to communications with the resort management and much more. These are the sorts of things that go un noticed by many, but make a President and executive look very good. When a club has a positive year like we did, it usually means there are members like Kevin Fabian making that happen. Kevin is an outstanding leader of our tennis club. He is an excellent player and a fun guy all around. Thank you Kevin for all the years you have contributed to our club. You make this a much better place to be part of.

Kevin Fabian



2023

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Besides having a nice sound to the name, Joel means “The Lord is God” in Hebrew. Make of that what you will.

You know that TV show “Better Call Saul”? Saul, a shyster lawyer, is always called in to save the scofflaws from their problems. For us it’s “Better Call Joel!” The Towerpoint Tennis Club has called on Lord Joel many times to help us solve our problems.

But, let’s acknowledge that the Woods have misjudged a few things about Towerpoint. For instance, they first came here because they believed a brochure that claimed that **table** tennis was a big deal at TP. After they were disabused of that, they took up a REAL tennis and the die was cast. Our club read the cards and soon realized what an asset Joel was. And we began to institute our habit of “Better Call Joel.”

Need someone to get in the leadership line for President?

All together now, BETTER CALL JOEL

Need a coach for the 1.5s? All together: BETTER CALL JOEL

Need a stand in for our President trapped in Canada?

All together now: BETTER CALL JOEL

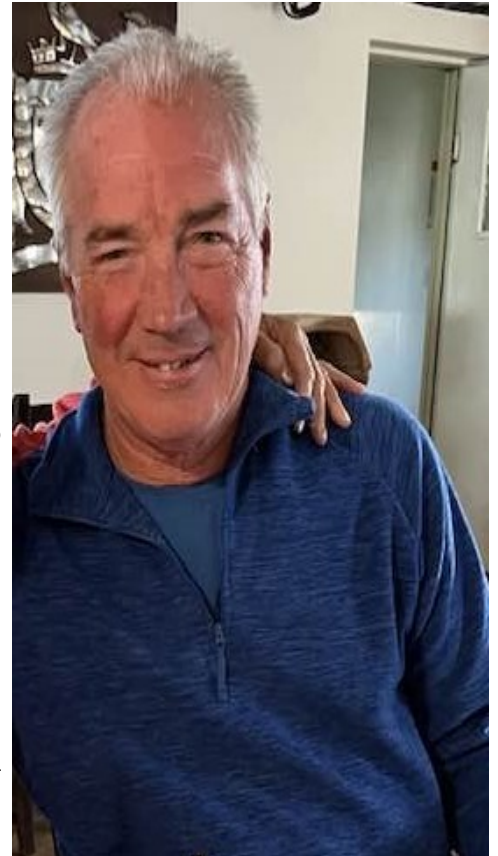
Who can demonstrate the reservation system for our newbies? All together: BETTER CALL JOEL

Let’s play rec tennis. But, how do we work that program for the 3.0s? All together: BETTER CALL JOEL

Who can grill a hot dog for a party? All together: BETTER CALL JOEL

He answers the call and solves the problem. We can only hope he’s here for many more seasons when we have to say: BETTER CALL JOEL!

Joel Woods



2022

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During Dave's many years with the Towerpoint Tennis Club, he has accumulated an impressive list of accomplishments as an outstanding leader.

He has been or is currently club president, a team captain, team co-captain, team coach, Tencap coordinator, member of the nominating committee, first aid coordinator, court maintenance worker, maker of spaghetti sauce for the fund raiser and tournament coordinator to name a few and I am sure I probably missed something. He is truly an inspiration to others and continues to dedicate his time and energy for the betterment of our tennis club.

Congratulations Dave and thanks for being an outstanding inspirational person.

Dave Demeter



2020

John & Sandy Kwas



2019

A wonderful couple, John and Sandy have contributed to our Tennis Club in so many ways. John has served a Club President, Team Captain, and the coordinator of the Two Jacks events for many years. Sandy is our "official" club photographer. Over the past 14 years, she has photographed our club history – from tournaments to tennis dinners, from skits to parades, Sandy has taken our photos and shared them with us all.

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In her eight years as TP Tennis Club's Sunshine Lady, Jan reached out to members and their families during difficult times in their lives, always with a smile and a hug. She sent notes and cards, as well as making personal visits to our members when it was most needed.

Jan Daphne



2018

Rod Shade

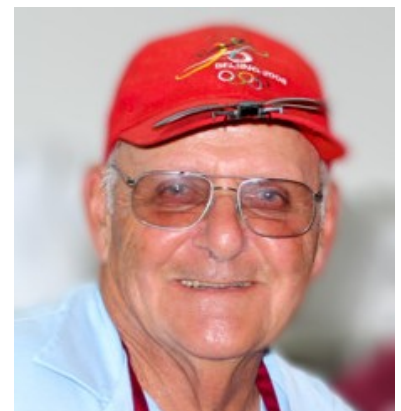


2017

Rod has lead the TP Beginning Tennis program for more than 7 years. He can be found every Friday at the courts ready to introduce new players to the game of tennis. Known for his patience and sense of humor, Rod taught many current TP club members basics of the game. As Club President, he was one of four club members who developed and presented a plan to Cal-am to add a fifth court when court renovations began.

As one of our most avid volunteers, Joe has contributed over 28 years of support and service to the Club. "Mr. Spaghetti" as he is known, has been responsible for preparing the meat and sauce for 450 plus guests every year at the Spaghetti Dinner. He also served as Club President, Team Captain, and held other leadership roles.

Joe Morales



2016

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Bill Echert



Bill is probably the best known member of the Tennis Club as a very active player and his frequent informative membership emails with Diana's help as **Club Communication Coordinators**.

They came to Towerpoint in 2003 and soon became involved in the Entertainment Committee helping raise money for the Tennis Club. On seeing the time consuming task of scheduling the In-Park Tournament, Bill volunteered to put this on his computer converting a 3 day task into half a days work. From Rating Committee Coordinator, Club Website Design Assistance to Spaghetti Dinner Greeter, Bill's cheerful contributions to the Club have been invaluable.

2015

Steve was Tennis Club President - 2x, Team Captain - 3x and counting, Event Coordinator - many x's, Scorekeeper, Cheerleader, Advisor to Club Presidents and Captains. There isn't a Tennis Club function that Steve hasn't been involved in or been consulted on since coming to Towerpoint in 2001. Steve's second term as Club President was in 2011 - 2012. This was the season the Club finally achieved a tennis team uniform. Also, that year, club coaching by Pat Hurley was implemented to help improve team performance.

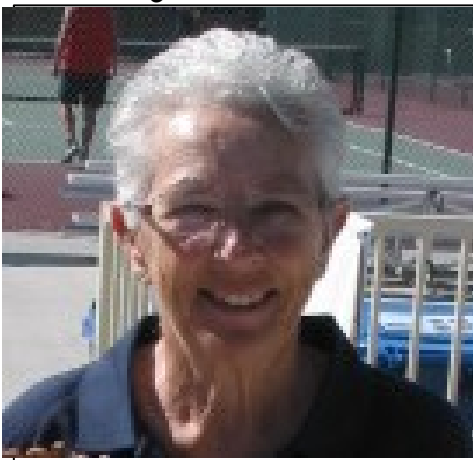
Steve and Joanne Nelson's Minnesota home is wonderful and they also love their Towerpoint winter community.

Steve Nelson



2014

Sandy Lou Simon



Sandy Lou coached the Towerpoint 1.5 teams for 10 years. She enjoyed teaching this developmental level as the players are so eager to learn. They get excited about playing on the tennis court and don't worry about a win or loss. They are having fun.

She taught basic strokes - forehand, backhand, volley and serve. Court position and tennis etiquette.

Sandy Lou took up tennis at Towerpoint in 1999 after retiring from a career in teaching Medical Sciences. In addition to being an accomplished tennis player, she has also won 1st place in Precision Shooting competitions.

2013

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Kline Wilson



2012

Kline became a member of the Towerpoint Tennis Club in 2001 and served as President during the 2004-2005 season.

He initiated the development of Rating Committee Guidelines, and assisted in their refinement before the club arrived at the current guidelines.

During his year as EVSTL President - 2013-2014, one challenging task he addressed was declining club membership in the 16 park league.

Since 2005, as Club Statistician, Kline has coordinated the consolidation of membership win-loss and games played statistics, and maintained an updated club roster.

Kline and Jan Wilson's summers are spent in Sequim, WA

Darren has been a resident at Towerpoint since 1997. As a member of the Tennis Club for 13 years, Darren has served in many positions: Team Captain at all levels from 2.0 to 3.5, Club President 2005/2006, Rating Committee Coordinator 2x, In-Park Tournament Coordinator and many other Club committees. He also finds time to head up Towerpoint's chapel board, monitors in lapidary and stained-glass, and now finds himself at the wood shop. While contributing so much leadership to the Tennis Club, Darren also managed to undergo 8 major replacement part operations - now making him a true "bionic" man. Darren and Jan Sipe live in La Conner, Washington.

Darren Sipe



2011

Marv Broman



2010

Marv received this award for his tireless efforts behind the scenes at the courts and his positive attitude on the courts.

With a smile and a wave, Marv greeted all comers.

Marv served in the Coast Guard, retired as a Commander and then was asked to develop and administer a vocational river training program for teens in Cincinnati. This was to become a landmark youth training program for future work on commercial river boats.

Along with being a valued member of the 3.0 team, Marv served as Coordinator of Court Maintenance, was a scorekeeper, and assisted with the annual In-Park Tournament.

Marv had fun at all events. At the 2010 Christmas Tennis Fun Day, Marv served as official Costume Judge.

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Diana Echert

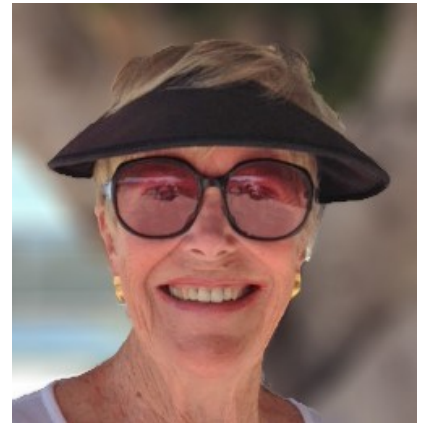


2009

A very energetic lady - often found organizing an event, writing a story, helping at the courts, or teaching ball exercise classes. On first arriving at Towerpoint in 2003, she didn't play tennis but her years as a sports physical therapist prompted her to develop a court-side first aid kit. She helped organize the TP Tennis Entertainment Committee responsible for the tennis dances. Diana is also known for her publicity and communication skills - designing posters for TP Tennis events and writing Time for Tennis articles and email notices. Since 2005, Diana and Bill Echert have been involved in planning or coordinating the end of season Towerpoint Tennis Tournament.

Energy and elegance best describe Emily Hughes. Over her many years at Towerpoint, Emily has been our official decorator and designer. When planning decorations and a theme for the monthly Tennis Dinners, many hosting teams have found their way to Emily's door. She always had new and fresh ideas which made us all feel good. Emily's ideas also extended to the Festival Parade where she helped the Tennis Club win the Grand Prize several times in the past few years. She has devoted hundreds of hours to the Tennis Club creating costumes, centerpieces, and writing skits for us all. Perhaps her most famous achievement was the Club parade winning entry, "Cleopatra-in-de-Nile".

Emily Hughes



2008

Irv Smith



2007

An avid tennis player for 70 years, he describes himself as "a constant player and student of the game". Irv's enthusiasm for tennis is contagious, and many know Irv best as an instructor who volunteered numerous hours helping them fine-tune their tennis skills. He initiated team training drills at Towerpoint and developed some innovative drills to get his teaching points across. Irv was a highly successful high school tennis coach in Bainbridge Island, WA and has continued to coach many players over the past 50 years. More recently, Irv began playing with a Wheelchair Tennis group in Scottsdale and is currently working to organize a Wheelchair Tennis group in the East Valley.

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Reggie Lavesque



2006

Reggie was known as the “man with a heart of gold”. If Reggie heard of anyone at Towerpoint needing help, he would be the first to arrive and the last to leave. When it came time to clean the courts, he was already hard at work when the rest of the guys arrived. Always a smile, handshake, and a word of encouragement. His hidden talent was as a 50/50 ticket seller at the Tennis Dinners...no one said “no” to Reggie. An excellent athlete, he played both softball and tennis at Towerpoint. Reggie was a long-time member of the 3.0 men’s tennis team and was know to have the best fist pump in the East Valley.

Joe is a man who can fix just about anything. Through sun, rain, floods and dark of night, Joe supervised Towerpoint court maintenance for many years. Joe has dedicated endless hours to making our courts the best place to play in the East Valley.

Originally from Kansas, he moved to Seattle where he worked as a machinist for over 25 years before finding the good life at Towerpoint. An avid volunteer, Joe can be seen helping at the Spaghetti Dinner, tennis invitationals, and many mornings as a league scorekeeper.

Joe can always find time for a tennis game, and has found another talent - photography, for which he has received several awards.

Joe Henwood



2005

Beginning in 2005, the Tennis Club initiated the annual presentation of an award to recognize an individual Club member who has made a special contribution to the Tennis Club.

Initially the award was called an Inspiration Award. Starting in 2012 the award is called the Appreciation Award.