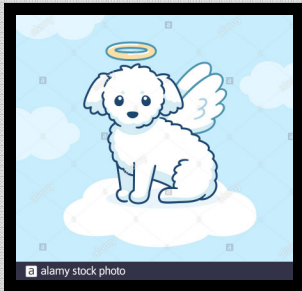




Trails Newsletter

May 01, 2025



Cookie in Heaven

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Tariffs & Borders & Trails Sale

It is quite rare that a full month passes without a single drop of rain. Well, such was April – not a minute of tennis was lost to rain. Nice!

Well, besides the dryness, there are LOTS of other things to talk about this month, too.

1. The sale of the club: might the fourth time be the charm? A teaching pro out of the Lone Star state is looking, and It is looking very promising, once again. Details on the back page.

2. Trump's Tariffs. You may think about the tariffs what you want. Fact is, all racket manufacturers have increased their prices by about \$10/racket across the board already. With more increases to come. Expect everything (balls, strings, grips, hats, etc.) to become more expensive. While firms with production facilities in China got hit the hardest, firms

with plants in other parts of the world get hit, too. Luckily, the Trails had preordered quite a bit of merchandise and should not need to increase its prices until after mid-year.

3. Opa's Birthday. Both of Jan's parents are old - 88 and 89, to be exact. Jan would LOVE to visit them. Particularly since in mid-May is his dad's 90th birthday. But because of the unpredictable current immigration process, it is unclear if even someone with a valid green card (Jan's is good through 2031) and no criminal record would be allowed to re-enter the U.S. Most are, but some have been rejected and immediately sent back home. As little as a critical social media post or newsletter or e-mail can be enough. I cannot risk that right now and feel very sad for my dad. He will have to celebrate his birthday without his only son. Sorry, Opa.

New Members

No new members in April. To the contrary – a couple of snowbirds played their final winter matches

recently and are now heading back to their summer residences. We'll miss them. See you back in the fall.

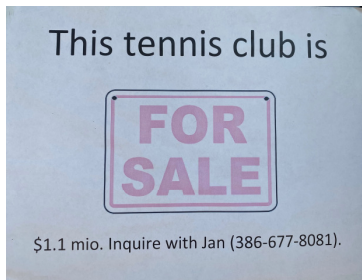
Repair Completions

The unusually dry weather in April allowed us to finish or make progress on a number of open maintenance projects: 1. Courts 1,2,3,4,7, and 8 have finally been resurfaced. Thank you, Dan! Hopefully our players will notice how well the courts are playing now. Courts 5 and 6 to follow in early May.

2. Painting of the deck has concluded. It is mostly cosmetic, but lots of little areas needed a touchup. It's done now.

3. Deck board repairs: a never ending story. Thankfully, Mike The Frisbee Dog has recovered from his bowling injury and is catching up on the rotten boards. Thank you, Mike.

Sale Of The Trails - Update



Your Trails Racquet Club might have a new owner soon! Heard that before, you say? Possible. This time it seems extra promising, though! A tennis teaching pro out of Austin/TX with his wife and 2 young kids has expressed serious interest. He visited the club in early April. And during that visit some of our members met the new guy already. He has plenty of plans how to improve the players' experience at the Trails, what renovations and repairs to do, how

to increase programming, extend operating hours, create a community, and more. He has also been able to find grant money from the U.S. Tennis Association for some of the renovations. Nice job! Hopefully an agreement to purchase the Trails can be reached soon and the club goes into new, skilled, energetic hands. Targeted closing date is August 01. Our members will get updates as new information becomes available.



Celtic Festival – Winners!

After many weeks of merciless try outs and grueling rehearsals, the group on the left had been selected to represent the Trails Racquet Club at the Ormond Beach Celtic Games 2025. Not surprisingly, this elite team of top athletes took FIRST PLACE in the ultra-competitive "Scottish Country Dance Mixed

Doubles age group 70-74" category. Congratulations, team. Your hard work and dedication have paid off! Next up: regional qualifiers in Titusville in June, sectional qualifiers in July in Orlando, and State championships in Pensacola in August. Good luck team and its coach Tina Piejak!



Junior News

Not only did the Trails score big in the 70-74 age group – our 10 & under kids succeeded, too. Two of our young players who work with coach Herb Branham enjoyed outstanding first-ever tournament appearances in April, at the Junior Futures tournament hosted by Oceanside Country Club.

Sophia Szabo and Genevieve Wilken were the dominant players in the Novice division which combined singles play and various skills tests. Sophia then went on to win the orange ball division, too. Genevieve and Sophia are on the far left of the attached photo. Expect more great results from these two.



Dear members of the Trails Racquet Club,

After the unusually mild and bone dry April, warmer and more humid weather will be on its way soon. Enjoy the cooler days while they last. And let us know if you want to get involved in matches. Old owner or new owner, setting up good matches for our members is the #1 priority here at the Trails. Happy Trails,

Jan Buenner & Team