

March 2019



Topspin News

The Official Newsletter of the Santa Fe Tennis and Swim Club

DINNER AT THE CLUB "Irish History & Literature Through Troubles" Ed Walkiewicz



The Club is delighted to host lecturer and educator Ed Walkiewicz as guest speaker for Dinner at the Club on March 15.

Educated at Yale, Columbia, and the University of New Mexico, Walkiewicz is Professor Emeritus of English and the Ann and Burns Hargis Professor Emeritus at Oklahoma State University. Furthermore, he served as Editor of the Cimarron Review and Director of the Doel Reed Center for the Arts in Taos. He has authored or co-authored two

books, as well as numerous chapters, articles, notes, and reviews on modern and contemporary American and Irish literature.

Walkiewicz will be speaking on Irish culture, including such topics as "the influence of Catholicism on Irish society, the impact of British colonialism on the Irish psyche and the constructions of gender roles during the time period."

Members are cordially invited to attend this event, on Wednesday, March 13 at 5:30 PM in the clubhouse.

For dinner, Chef Tim will be preparing a buffet of Irish Cuisine:

*Braised Corned Beef w/Whole Grain
Mustard Sauce*

Roasted Root Vegetables & Cabbage

Crackin' Irish Roasted Herbed Spuds

Blueberry, Apple Crisp

Cost: \$25 per Person • Wine & Beer Extra

Please make your reservations for this event by calling the club at 505-988-4100 or send us an email, club@santafetennis.net.

NEW GROUNDSKEEPER

Our new head of facilities and grounds, Jesse Thomas comes to us from a background as a native plants landscaper, estate caretaker and Tai Chi enthusiast of over 20 years.

A graduate of Colorado State University, he has a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture/Economics and a keen eye for improvement projects.

As groundskeeper, Jesse is most looking forward to improving the flow and functionality of the whole property.

Additionally, Jesse hopes to return to his love of tennis, a game he played competitively as a youth in Atlanta, Georgia.



LOCKER ROOM MAINTENANCE

Currently, the men and women locker rooms are undergoing minor maintenance, to repair broken and malfunctioning locks.

The project is expected to be completed by the end of March and will not prevent members from using the locker rooms.

Although at times, male staff may be working in the women locker room at they will vacate to allow members their privacy.

2019 BNP PARIBAS OPEN LIVE

Don't miss out! The 2019 BNP Paribas Open is scheduled March 4-17 and live HD coverage will be playing in the clubhouse for the duration of the tournament.

Club members are welcome to enjoy a beer at the bar, relax in the media lounge, and follow our real-time elimination poster in the clubhouse.

Stay tuned for special offerings during the men's and women's finals, scheduled for March 15 - 17!

Dinner at the Club

Dr. Stephen Becker

President

Pajarito Astronomy Club

Club members are cordially invited to join us for dinner with Dr. Stephen Allan Becker on Saturday, March 30 at 5:30 P.M. Dinner will be served in the Café & Lounge at 6:00 P.M. sharp, with a lecture to follow.

Born in 1950, in Evanston, IL, Dr. Becker “earned his BA degree from Northwestern University in 1972 and a MS degree in Astronomy from Case Western University in 1974 before going on for his PhD in Astronomy from the University of Illinois, Urbana in 1979, specializing in the field of stellar evolution and nucleosynthesis. (Thesis title: “The Evolution of Intermediate-Mass Stars as Function of Mass and Composition.”)

He became a LANL staff member in group X-2 in 1983 and has been at the Los Alamos National Laboratory for over 35 years serving the national interest.

Steve’s work in nuclear weapons has included active participation with six nuclear tests at the Nevada Test Site, with four as the principle secondary designer. He was also the appointed design physicist for two unfielded nuclear tests.

Steve has received numerous awards through the years, including three DOE Awards of excellence (1989, 1999, and 2000),



the Feynman TITANS class teaching award in 1997, a 1999 R & D 100 Award (as a member of the Predict Project) and LANL Distinguished Performance Awards in 2005 and 2008.

In October 2009, Steve was made a Laboratory Fellow, an honor restricted to the top 2% of the Lab PhDs. Since then, he has continued on as a SCIENTIST LEVEL 5 (out of 6 levels). He is an expert in the field of nuclear weapon design and he currently is involved in assessing foreign intelligence on other nations nuclear weapon capabilities. Furthermore, he is the author of numerous classified reports, and was actively publishing in the astronomical world through 2000. Today Steve is still committed to his initial scientific interest in astronomy, serving as president of the Pajarito Astronomy Club and conducting Planetarium shows at the Los Alamos Nature Center. He is also a member of the American

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Dr. Stephen Becker

Astronomical Society and the International Astronomical Union. In non-scientific activities include: private flying, photography, travel, riding rollercoasters and history.

Chef Tim will prepare the dinner for the evening, the menu for which is as follows:

Appetizer

Caprese Salad with Spring Tomatoes, Fresh Basil, & Balsamic Glaze

Entrée

Braised New York Striploin with Portobello Mushroom Au Jus

OR

Vegetable Stuffed Portobello Mushroom w/Blue Cheese

accompanied with

Zucchini, Yellow Squash Souffle & Roasted Yukon Potatoes

Dessert

Caramel Cheesecake

Cost: \$29 per Person • Wine & Beer Extra

Please make your reservations for this event by calling the club at 505-988-4100 or send us an email at club@santafetennis.net.

➤Deadline to RSVP: *Wednesday, March 27*◀

PRO'S CORNER

By Jimmy Parker

SFT Pro Emeritus and USPTA Master Pro

When we watch a tennis match on television, we're treated to an almost daunting array of numbers and statistics that have been spewed from a computer—serve percentages, break-point conversion ratios, and number of trips to the towel. Often, these are flashed on and off the screen so fast that you could sprain an eyeball trying to speed-read them before a cut to a commercial break jerks them away.

And yet, buried in these statistics are revelations that can enable us to improve our own games. For those who say they're just out there for the exercise or the camaraderie, I do notice that they seem to enjoy winning more than losing. So, at the bottom of many of our efforts on a tennis court is the intention to play as well as we can.

The concept of percentage tennis is a way to do that. It simply means that we hit the shots that have the best chance of being successful. What if, in a given situation, we're going for winners and we're making two errors for every winner we hit? The handwriting is already on the wall!

How we select the shots we hit is a fairly complex process involving habit patterns, psycho-motor link-ups, and even things like

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PRO'S CORNER

confidence levels. When we're playing well, the instantaneous decision-making process often takes us by surprise with its effectiveness.

Unfortunately, we're not always so brilliantly in-the-flow, and may, in fact, be playing like a dog. In such situations, we may be forced to consider some numbers.

For instance, we learn that on the pro tour, the winner of a match wins an average of 53% of the points, and the loser 47%. That's a pretty slim margin! That suggests that you may not have to raise your own game by much to snatch victory from those apocryphal jaws of defeat against your about-even sparring partner!

How do you raise your game by a few percentage points? Oh, take a little speed off your first serve, add a little spin and get it in more often. Players win 25–30% more points from their first serves than second!

Always try to get the return of serve in, don't just give it a blast even if you hit it down the middle. Half the shots hit in a match are either serves or returns!

Try to direct the next two shots to big targets that you have a good chance of hitting. Over 75% of points played are over

before each player or team has hit 3 balls! You're thereby giving your opponent a chance to hang themselves with an error, rather than inappropriately going for too much yourself. About 80% of points played end in an error, so your chances of hitting a winner are slim!

Once again, the key is to be appropriate! Just as you don't bet the farm on a pair of deuces, you don't try for too good a shot when the odds are stacked against you. But you do seize the opportunity when dealt a good hand, and you do go for big shots when you've got a good chance to make them. The trick is in recognizing the difference!

YOUR CLUB STAFF

David Garcia

General Manager

Rachel Gonzales

Assistant General Manager

Victor Avila

Tennis Pro

Tim Lopez

Executive Chef

Jesse Thomas

Groundskeeper

EMAIL CLUB STAFF

We would love to hear from you!

To contact any member of the Santa Fe Tennis & Swim Club team, use the following format:
firstname@santafetennis.net

NOT A MEMBER?

Contact us today at 505-988-4100 and come see what we're all about! Tours available daily.

CLUBHOUSE HOURS

Monday - Thursday:

8:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Friday - Sunday:

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

