

GREAT FALLS TENNIS ASSOCIATION

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA *Play tennis...for the health of it!*

MISSION STATEMENT

"To develop and promote tennis in the Great Falls area"

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The officers are:

President.....Ben Rangel
1st Vice President.....Michael Mason
2nd Vice President.....Jim McCarvel
Treasurer.....Doug Morton
Secretary.....Don Godtel

The board held its first meeting in December, 2009 and discussed new bylaws, articles of incorporation, 501(c)(3) status, membership recruitment and committee assignments. It was also understood by the board that none of its organization's income will inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS: How future membership meetings will be conducted was also a focus of the initial board meeting. Although business items will be briefly reviewed at membership meetings, the primary interest is to have fun and informative gatherings with special tennis events, demonstrations and presentations on sports psychology, physical fitness, tennis playing techniques and strategies, hands on performances, equipment reviews, etc.

MEMBERSHIP: Due to a Montana Tennis Association grant, first year memberships are free. After that, if you are a paid member of the United States Tennis Association, you are also a full member of the GFTA.

OUR GOALS: There are a number of tennis related programs and projects the board would like to accomplish under the guidance and direction of the GFTA. These have been structured with the interest and intent to meet our Mission Statement. Essentially, four specific actions are involved, as described here:

1. Advocate youth and adult recreation & physical fitness/wellness activities. Because of the documented benefits of tennis, which include maintaining or improving agility, mobility, strength and fitness, as well as, providing a great diversion from life's stresses, tennis needs to be introduced as an alternative activity in a number of existing local youth & adult programs, such as, Boys & Girls Club.

2. Promote the growth of tennis in Great Falls. Tennis is a great family activity. There is a need to increase tennis in school P.E. programs and after school programs to create a new generation of future players. Additionally, in concert with the Great Falls Parks and Recreation Department, there is a need to promote USTA programs, including Tennis in the Parks, Quick Start Tennis, USTA Junior Tennis, USTA League Tennis, etc.

3. Establish public/private partnerships/reinvestment in tennis facilities. Plans are for GFTA to establish partnerships with the City of Great Falls, Great Falls School District and other local key organizations and sponsors to resurface the 8 CMR courts and to reconstruct the 4 Hurd (Riverside) courts, with interest to construct 4 additional courts at the site.

4. Support local economic development via high school tennis tournaments and USTA leagues. Once new and upgraded tennis facilities are in

place, bids can then be made to host AA, A, B & C high school divisional and state tennis tournaments, as well as, USTA adult, senior, super senior and mixed league tournaments. A Montana State Open could also be in the mix.

If GFTA is successful in accomplishing its four stated goals, these would be the resulting benefits to the Great Falls community:

1. Economic development via tournaments
2. New tennis facilities for Great Falls High via reconstructed Hurd Courts
3. Upgraded tennis facilities for CMR High via resurfaced CMR Courts
4. Increased community vitality & amenities via enhanced court facilities
5. Additional physical fitness opportunities via enhanced tennis programs
6. Additional family based activity via enhanced tennis activities
7. Long-term court maintenance fund via annual fund raising

Benjamin M. Rangel, President