



Fun With CATS



Fun With CATS will be published occasionally until CATS is able to resume playing tennis. It's a way of keeping in touch with each other and remembering how much fun we have on and off the court. We'll look at photos of past events, share news about members or information about tennis instruction—anything we can think of that's fun and relevant to CATS! If you have suggestions, please contact Jim Vahey at jimvahey@sbcglobal.net.

It was the party to end all parties, 50 years in the making!

When 85 CATS members, alums and guests gathered at the Corinthian Yacht Club last April to celebrate CATS' 50th birthday, there was great food, fast-flowing adult beverages, dancing, photos of what we looked like in 1969 or so, and, of course, birthday cake! This issue of FWC remembers that evening.



George Ahlgrim declared it the “best CATS Party ever. The Corinthian Yacht Club was a great venue! View from Montrose Harbor out at the City and close by parking was terrific! Perfect mix of music and fun DJ, food was really good and plentiful. It struck the right balance in every way; a great memory!”



Jim Emrick said, "It was a blast! The music made me feel as if I could actually dance!"



Jim Emrick, George Ahlgrim, Mike Sweeney



Jack Keehma and Helen d'Assatouroff

In a brief program, CATS President **Bill Himmelmann** introduced the board members. Joyce Weber read *CATS Turns 50, Isn't That Nifty* by CATS' Historian John Wagner. **Meg Givhan** announced that Chicago Advertising Tennis Society would become Chicago Area Tennis Society as of September 1, 2019. She explained that after CATS was founded in 1969 by a group of people in advertising, it experienced some rocky years. To add to its member base, the club brought in non-advertising people in 1972, but, over the years, the number of members who worked in advertising steadily decreased. The new name reflects who we are today.



*Joanie Jones, Maria Willmer, Meg Givhan, Jack Keehma,
Helen d'Assatouroff, Peggy Harrison, Elba Rodriguez, Mark Jones, Jim Emrick*

Another surprise was commemorative mugs for all members.



What else happened, you ask? Well...



Sue Ondas got to meet the person whom **Peggy Harrison** insists Sue looks like: **Joanne Grace**. Sue said, "No, I don't see it at all!"

Mark Jones, Sue Ondas, Young Park



Jim Vahey and Peggy Harrison





Dave Herd posted a photo of himself “from the early ‘80s, hitting a backhand with my feet off the ground. I was just learning to play tennis then. A woman stopped me and gave me a compliment on how great my body was in the photo and how fit I have kept myself, with her husband standing beside her. It was a bit awkward but I thanked her and nodded to him.”



Meg Givhan brought in a photo from a 1968 college formal for the photo board. “At first, no one recognized me with my long hair, and then someone thought my short, dark-haired date had morphed into tall, blond **Jon Sollberger!**”



Dave Herd



Meg Givhan



Carolyn Popp said she “brought photos of a trip to Hilton Head with **Karen Brach**, where we visited with several former CATS members: Dwight and Emeline Hunting, Gerry and Tom Pinkerton and Tom Walsh. Several longtime members were very happy to see those and we had a chance to reminisce.”

Many longtime members came, a few very recent members, and several who joined somewhere in between.



Fred Heilizer (joined 2010), Carolyn Popp (1983), Alan Engel (2000)



Chuck Freidl (1995), Richard Cobb (pre-1983), Michael Fox (1990)



Karen Brach (1993), Diane and Alan Johnson (2014)



Erica Heatwole (2018) and her guest, Angela



Anne Brodley (1994) and Maria Willmer (2009)

All the 2017-2019 board members and the Social Committee contributed to the success of the evening but special thanks go to **Jo Ellen Reed** for making the arrangements with the yacht club and overseeing the food; **Bob Henze** for tending bar; and **Joyce Weber** for finding a DJ and creating the decorations.



Jo Ellen Reed (1991)



Bob Henze (1991)



Brian Kaye and Joyce Weber (2001)

For more party photos and information about CATS' history, visit <http://www.catstennis.org/cats-celebrates-50-years/>. If you have any photos of the party that you would like to share with the online archive, please send them as jpgs to Meg at mgivhan@aol.com.

And ask Bill for a CATS mug, if you don't have one!

FWC #3: *Fun With CATS* is a collaboration between the Social Committee and the Director of Communications