

Our newest inductee to the LOTA Hall of Fame is Rick Spors. Rick was one of the founders of the Lake Oconee Tennis Association and an important part of laying the organizational groundwork that has allowed LOTA to be a success.

Each time we recognize someone as part of our Hall of Fame, we ask the honoree to answer a few questions. When we received Rick's answers which are below, we found that Rick had been way too humble about some of his other contributions to Lake Oconee. In addition to his contributions to LOTA, Rick is a valuable member of several other organizations. Just to name a few:

- As a Rotarian he accompanied one of the Alliance for Smiles Missions (at his own expense) and was the official photographer during the group's mission.
- Rick offers many community groups his expertise on computers and the ability to fix and/or understand how to fix the mess we made.
- In 2008 he organized a community recycle event for folks to bring old PC's or parts, as often these items are not properly disposed of.
- He does a lot of work for the Catholic church, to include in 2008 or 2009 installing a new phone system for the church.
- Assisted many community groups in obtaining PC's for their initiative, often at no or minimal cost to the group.

What positions have you held with LOTA?

I was one of the original founders of LOTA who met with Ruth Hendrix, Reynolds Recreation Director, and a USTA representative in 1999. Early in 2000 we agreed to form a Community Tennis Association which is the grass-roots organization within the USTA. I was "elected" the first president and board chairman and initially acted as treasurer. I designed the LOTA logo, created the website and am proud of the slogan "LOTA Tennis is a LOTTA Fun". I wrote the first 20 or so newsletters with articles from committee members and published 100 or so local newspaper articles. In 2000, I was given the USTA Georgia Community Development Award which I accepted on behalf of all the LOTA board members at the annual USTA Friends of Tennis banquet in Atlanta. I was so moved by the banquet and the presentations of awards and a scholarship that I convinced the LOTA board to hold a Lake Oconee Friends of Tennis Banquet. The banquet itself would not have been possible without the participation of Brenda Roberts who handled the arrangements for the banquet hall and its decorations. The banquet concept was to parallel the Atlanta banquet which included a speaker, the presentation of awards and a \$1000 scholarship. The LOTA board, however, agreed to do more than the Atlanta banquet by awarding three \$1000 scholarships, one to a student in each of Greene, Morgan and Putnam counties. The LOTA board agreed to solicit sponsorships from local businesses to provide the \$3000 in scholarships. There were three annual banquets and \$9000 in scholarships were awarded. If my memory is right, most of the money was raised by Martha Franks, Danny Roland and myself but several other board members secured sponsorships also. I am proud that there were three banquets but disappointed that the banquets and scholarships were dropped after I left the board to open a business.

When did you first start playing tennis?

High school with friends

What is your “go-to” or signature shot in tennis?

I wish I had one

What is the one word others would most often use to describe you on the court?

I hope "good sport"

What is the one word others would most often use to describe you off the court?

Computer nerd

What do you do when you aren't playing tennis?

Servicing computers and community organizing and volunteer work

What are you most proud of?

Of course my family but LOTA ranks right up there as one of my best memories

What is the best reason to be a LOTA volunteer?

LOTA is not possible without volunteers and LOTA is necessary because you cannot play tennis by yourself