

SHOWDOWN IN MADTOWN GAYZETTE

VOL. 3 – JULY 2009

Dear Players, Coaches, Umpires, and Fans:

33 days until the Showdown in MadTown! We are ready for you and this volume will knock your cleats off as we share with you our special events and introduce you to Madison's gay sports community and another sponsor, Out Lives! Meet two more of our local ladies, Toni Baker and Maria Parker, our volunteer committee leaders! We are also featuring a male perspective on five favorite things to do in and around Madison as Ken Baker, our Wives Club coordinator give you the scoop on what he enjoys about Madison after moving here from Washington D.C.

Thanks again for reading this, and be sure to check out our web site – www.madtown2009.org – for the latest information on Showdown in MadTown!

Play ball!

Ben Monty and Dawn Siebert
Host City Co-Directors for Showdown in MadTown



SSBL-MADISON NAMED OUTREACH'S ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR!

On July 17, 2009, SSBL-Madison received the 2009 Organization of the Year Community Award from OutReach, Madison's LGBT Community Center. When presenting the award, OutReach noted SSBL-Madison's history of promoting social interaction through its softball events and that SSBL-Madison builds community through supporting other LGBT sports leagues and by fundraising for deserving groups.

MADISON'S GAY SPORTS COMMUNITY

Madison has a very large gay sports community. With rugby, hockey, volleyball, darts, and bowling, it's easy to find an alternative to softball during the off-season (we do have winter!). Our sports community supports each other, and we would like to introduce you to the Madison Gay Hockey and Volleyball Leagues. Both organizations have hosted fundraisers for the Series. We appreciate their generosity, as well as the volunteers from all the sports organizations in Madison. Our gay sports community also includes bowling, darts, and rugby.



MADISON GAY HOCKEY ASSOCIATION (MGHA)

MGHA was founded in 2006 and currently has over 100 members, making it the largest gay hockey league in the country. The league was also awarded Outsports top gay sports group in April. The league provides an environment free of harassment and discrimination for members and friends of the LGBT community to play ice hockey and fulfill their athletic aspirations. MGHA hosted a pillow-fighting contest called Pillowpalooza in January to raise money for the Series.



MADISON GAY VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

The Madison Gay Volleyball League started in 2007 and has grown to be the second largest sports organization in Madison. With seasons going on through out the year (indoors in fall/winter/spring and sand courts in summer), the Madison Gay Volleyball League is quickly becoming one of the hottest sports in town. They recently hosted a very successful fundraiser for the AIDS Network's ACT Ride.

SPECIAL EVENTS THE WEEK OF THE SERIES

The Showdown in MadTown Committee wanted to make your week in Madison is memorable. Here is the breakdown of what we have planned for you!

Sunday, August 30, we will be hosting an **Early Arrivals Cookout** on Ben's rooftop. Ben's place is located on Madison's isthmus seven blocks east of the Capitol at 123 N. Blount St. Enjoy great views of the Capitol, Lake Mendota, Lake Monona, and downtown Madison while enjoying free food and drinks.

Monday, August 31, are the **Delegate Meetings** at the Sheraton. Although we do not have any formal event planned for the evening, we encourage the delegates and early arrivals to support the sponsor businesses supporting the Series.

Tuesday, September 1, is the **ASANA Golf Outing Fundraiser** in the morning. Contact Angela, ASANA's Assistant Commissioner (aka Butterbean), for more information about this event, which will be held at the Monona Golf Course. At 4:00 PM, we will have the **ASANA Kickoff Opening Party and Registration** at Willow Island at the Alliant Energy Center located across from the Sheraton (see Vol. 1 of the Gayzette). The party ends at 8:00 PM in time for the post-party at Club 5.

Wednesday, September 2, **Round Robin Competition** begins at Elver and Olbrich parks. In the evening, we have a **Pub Crawl** organized that starts and ends at the Shamrock Bar. Pick up your shirt with the map on it there—stop at all the bars and you will be eligible to win some Miken gear!

Thursday, September 3, **Round Robin Competition** continues at both parks and the **Tournament** begins at Elver Park. In the evening, enjoy a **Roller Derby Exhibition Bout** by the Mad Rollin' Dolls in the Exposition Hall at the Alliant Energy Center (starts at 7:00 PM, tickets are \$10). After the bout, ASANA is hosting a party at the High Noon Saloon.

Friday, September 4, **Tournament** play continues at Elver Park. In the evening, you have two options. For those who enjoy gambling there will be a bus available to take interested people to **Potawatomi Bingo Casino** in Milwaukee. We will also be hosting **Burlesquepade** as a local fundraiser. All

proceeds from this event will be donated to local non-profit organizations. This event is a Drag King/ Burlesque Show hosted by Miss Tamale out of Chicago and will be held at the Majestic Theatre with a dance party afterwards. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the fields. This show will sell out! Doors open at 8:30 PM and the Show begins at 9:00 PM.

Saturday, September 5, Tournament play continues at Elver Park and Championship games will be played. After the last game, head over to the shelter at Elver Park for the closing celebration. Food and beverages will be provided.

Throughout the week, we will also have a bus available to shuttle people to and from hotels and events.

MEET OUR SPONSORS: OUR LIVES



Our Lives' mission is to clearly, candidly and openly reflect the diversity and optimism in the Madison area community. It is dedicated to improving its readers' quality of life by celebrating the people, establishments and events that encourage us to embrace our identities as individuals and as an LGBTQA community. The cover of Our Lives recently featured the ASANA Softball World Series. Editor Patrick Farabaugh is very excited to see this event come to Madison and to is proud to be a sponsor. An issue of Our Lives will be provided to all players.



Here's a picture of the BP Sparta Travel Center Z-Dogs. The team primarily consisted of women from SSBL-Madison's Tuesday Night Women's League and took 3rd at the Sparta, WI, Women's Softball Tournament in its B Division. The team was coached by Host City Co-Director Ben Monty (tall dude in center) while the Host City Co-Director Dawn Siebert (baby blue bandana on head in center) played on the team. It was a fun tournament and we even ran into a few ASANA members from the Twin Cities.

MEET TWO MORE MADISON WOMEN!

Without volunteers, no Series would be a success! When the Showdown in MadTown Committee needs volunteers, it turns to Toni Baker and Maria Parker, our diligent volunteer coordinators. In preparation for Series 2009, Toni and Maria have created a volunteer list with over 150 people on it. It is our pleasure to introduce you to them.



TONI BAKER

Toni has lived in Madison since 1998. She currently resides on Madison's near east side with her partner Paula Orton (see Vol. 1 of the Gayzette), and she works at the Shamrock Bar. When she's not working Toni enjoys playing with her dogs, playing softball, and drinking Miller Lite from a bottle. Prior to living in Madison, Toni lived in Anchorage, Alaska, where she worked as an aircraft refueler in the Air Force. Toni has been active with SSBL-Madison through coaching its Blue Team and organizing volunteers for events and fundraisers. In 2007, she received the league's Doug Hinderliter Character Award, SSBL-Madison's highest honor. Toni also helped organize SSBL's first women's team, the L Team. Toni is looking forward to playing in this year's World Series and serving drinks to everyone when she welcomes them to the Shamrock Bar.



MARIA PARKER

Originally from Stuart, Oklahoma, Maria lived in Washington, D.C. for three years prior to settling in Madison 12 years ago. She attended Southeastern Oklahoma State University where she majored in Political Science, hence her propensity to living in Capitol cities. She currently lives in Madison with her Partner, Kelley Richardt and their zoo—two dogs and four cats! Maria is very active in Madison's LGBTQ community serving as junior co-chair of the 2009 Capital Pride committee and community service chair for SSBL-Madison. She also is involved with the City/County Martin Luther King Jr. Coalition and in the past has volunteered as a crew member for the ACT Ride. She also plays softball in SSBL-Madison's co-ed league. When not recruiting volunteers for ASANA or raising funds for Capital Pride, Maria enjoys traveling country roads looking for out of the way places and finding forgotten history. She and Kelley prefer to stay at Bed and Breakfasts. She feels it's a better way to get to know the local area. Her dream vacation is traveling down the Amazon or the Yangtze (China) Rivers by boat.

TOP 5 THINGS TO DO IN MADISON

BY KEN BAKER

Ken moved to Madison from Washington, D.C. As a close friend of Showdown in MadTown Co-Director Ben, he knew that when ASANA Softball World Series was coming to Madison, he would get the call for help. Ken is organizing activities for the "Wives Club." Contact him if your partner is looking for alternative activities to watching the games during the week - k_a_baker@sbcglobal.net.

Madison is the type of place that offers just about something for everyone. Whether you decide to spend your free time indoors or outdoors, you will find an activity to stimulate the mind, body and soul. Here are a few of my personal favorites:

1.) The Dane County Farmer's Market takes places on Saturdays the entire way around the Capital Square and Wednesdays on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (just off the Capital Square). All the vendors at both markets are required to sell only what they produce so it is a great way to experience real Wisconsin cheese. Helpful hint - walk around the Square counter-clockwise.....all the locals do it.

2.) A Day Trip to New Glarus, WI. Known as America's Little Switzerland, New Glarus attracts visitors from all over the world for their Swiss heritage and architecture. Personally, one of my favorite stops is the New Glarus Brewery for a Spotted Cow sampling.

3.) Ride the Capital City Bike Loop. Just over 16 miles, it's a tour around Madison that gives you access to Olbrich Gardens, Lake Monona, Olin Park, and Monona Terrace Convention Center. Helpful hint - you can rent a bike for as little as \$15 a day right along the path.

4.) Rooftop Cinema at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art (MMoCA). Located in the Overture Center complex - the rooftop sculpture garden is a great place to take in the hustle and bustle of State Street below.

With out a doubt, my favorite thing to do in Madison is:

5.) Just hanging out with my FRIENDS anytime or any place. Madison has a diverse and unique community where you will find support and friendship in every corner of the city. Madison is type of place that makes EVERYONE feel welcome.

Enjoy our food and drink; enjoy our city sights; enjoy our hospitality; but most of all ENJOY OUR COMMUNITY!

Be sure to check out our web site – www.madtown2009.org – for more information about what we have planned for Series 2009 and look for the August issue of the Showdown in MadTown Gayzette!

