

Mike Meltzer (NGM)

Mike Meltzer was born in the Bronx, New York in 1946. His pedigree comes from a handball family. Both his mom and dad played the game. At the tender age of 6, he started playing handball at the Mecca of handball, Castle Hill Beach Club in the Bronx.

He grew up with many well-known future national champions. Among those were Fred Lewis, Lou Russo, Marty Decatur, Marty Katzen, Joel Wisotsky, Max Lasskow, Flip Wolfarth, and Ken Smolack. As a child he concentrated on 1-wall handball. At 12 he started playing 4-wall. In the winters he played 4-wall at the Bronx Union YMCA with his father, Joe, and his friends. In summers he played handball at Castle Hill. He played on the handball team for DeWitt Clinton High School

in the Bronx. In 1964 he was selected team captain and he led them to the Bronx Championship.

All the while his game steadily improved. But it wasn't until Mike was in his mid-30's that he hit his stride. From 35 years of age until this writing, he has won 13 National Masters events, which elevated him to National Grandmaster status. Additionally he won numerous championships in local, state, and regional tournaments. For many years Mike and Max Lasskow

USHA NATIONAL FOUR-WALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Super volunteer Meltzer wins Porter Award

The Carl Porter Award was established in 2005 to honor those who have performed outstanding service to the USHA at the national level.

The award is named after the USHA's second president, Carl Porter, who is considered the architect of the modern USHA. This year's winner was Mike Meltzer. Here are excerpts from his acceptance speech:

"To be placed in the same category as former winners] Dr. John Aronen, Ray Chronister and Kevin Regan, our crack medical team, makes me extremely proud.



who has put up with me as his handball partner for over 20 years, Dick David. Together we've won five national titles.

"Third, where would we be without Keith Thode, our volunteer photographer? As my roommate at the tournaments, he puts up with my snoring.

"Next, working with Vern Roberts has been and will continue to be a pleasure. He is truly dedicated to handball.

"I would like to thank my wife Jen for encouraging me to keep on playing handball despite a double hip

were the only Grandmasters to win National titles in all three venues of handball, 1-, 3-, and 4-wall. Mike was inducted into the Albany Hall of Fame, the Poughkeepsie Hall of Fame, and Florida's Vic Hershkowitz Hall of Fame. At this writing Mike is a "snowbird," living in Florida where he helps run the annual Vic Hershkowitz Hall of Fame Doubles Tournament in Davie, Florida each mid-January.

In his professional life Mike was a NYC teacher of physical education. At Junior High School 135 in the

Bronx he coached the handball team. In 1986, while teaching at John F. Kennedy High School in the Bronx, he took a sabbatical, traveled through the entire United States playing in as many handball tournaments as possible, and developed a "handball curriculum."

He won his first National Masters Championship in 3-wall when he slammed, winning the 35+ singles and 35= doubles. In 2011, in the 65+ Division in 3-wall he won his last (at this writing) National title.