

## Club President's Message - March 2025 Pickleblast

The season is changing quickly and some of our winter friends are already starting to leave. It has been an eventful winter.

A new Board of Directors will take their positions on April 1st, the APPL, Intramural League and Advanced Play Program Pilots are concluding, the recent club tournament was a very successful event, the rollout of the new look of Pickleball Plus was exciting, the court expansion project is making progress and our club continues to grow. Still to come in April: club BOD meeting and a Dink & Dine.

As this season winds down, I would like to acknowledge the service provided by our outgoing BOD members Nina Campfield, Mary Wright and Wes Elder and thank them for their contributions.

I would like to extend a welcome to our new BOD members: Janet Reynolds (who is continuing to serve as Vice President), Debra Hall—Treasurer, and Members at Large—Julianne Howell and Suzanne Remington. Welcome aboard - I look forward to working with all of you over the coming year. I would also like to acknowledge and thank current BOD members Maribeth Kwasneski (club Secretary), Greg Wright (Member at Large) and Patrick Furumoto (Immediate Past President) for their tireless dedication and commitment to serving the club.

Our club is blessed with a large contingent of amazing volunteers who are the backbone of the club and without whom we would not be able to operate the club effectively. Space is limited here so I will not attempt to name everyone (I will inevitably not remember someone) but I know who you are and acknowledge your service. Truly an amazing group of volunteers. Thank You!

And - just to put in a plug here - we can always use more volunteers—the club BOD has big plans for the next year.

Speaking of the next year - please keep your eye out for future communications from the club in the Pickleblast and emails about the progress we are making with the court expansion project. The BOD will be sending detailed information about the results of the architectural studies that have now been completed and the committee's recommendation regarding the project and information about how club members will be involved in determining details of the project going forward.

We will continue to work on our technology overhaul effort. We are grateful to Ray Kuehl and the volunteer team of Patrick Furumoto, Sam Schaen, Dean Beilke, Cathy Baker, Bill Hathaway, Darlene Thorsen, Julie Mueller, Phil Hirtes and others who have helped us get to this point—setting the stage for our next steps.

Also, over the next year the BOD and related committees will be reviewing existing programs and events and introducing new or modified ones to benefit our members. It will be an exciting year and we encourage you to participate with us.

Finally, thanks to Janet Reynolds for writing and editing this month's Pickleblast. Have a great summer and don't forget us.



Jeff Washburn - President, GVR Pickleball Club

## **March 2025 GVR PBC Pickleblast – Editor Janet Reynolds**

### **A. 2025 Pickleball Club Board of Directors Elections**

2025/2026 Club Board of Directors Nominations were open for the positions of Vice-President, Treasurer and two Member-at-Large positions. Online Voting ended on March 19, 2025.

The club hosted two “Meet the Candidate” events at the East Center Auditorium:  
Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 3:00pm-5:00pm (Attendance 36)  
Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm-3:00pm (Attendance 29)  
These events were a chance for club members to learn more about the candidates.

Approximately 550 votes were cast—a very good turnout of close to 50%!

### **The 2025/2026 GVR Pickleball Club Board of Directors:**

President – Jeff Washburn  
Vice President – Janet Reynolds  
Treasurer – Debra Hall\*  
Secretary – Maribeth Kwasneski  
Members-at-Large – Greg Wright, Julie Howell, Suzanne Remington

\*As there were no candidates running for the Treasurer position, per Club By-Laws, Article VIII-Vacancies: This vacancy will be filled by appointment of the President subject to Board Approval by 3/31/25. The club BOD approved the nomination on 3/27/2025.

### **B. Dink and Dine – April 19 East Center 4:30-8:00pm**

Dink & Dine will be a celebration of volunteers—everyone is invited!

During this last Dink & Dine of the season, the club would like to acknowledge and recognize members who make our programming and events possible! Pizza and Dessert will be provided by the club at no charge to attendees. All are welcome to attend. BYOB.

4:30PM - Tables will be ready  
5:00PM - Pizza will arrive (approximately)  
5:45/6:00PM - Presentation by President Jeff Washburn  
7:00PM – Open Play Pickleball  
The Social Committee will provide plates, napkins and pitchers of water

***ATTENTION: In order to get an accurate count to order pizza, you must sign up for the event by April 16<sup>th</sup> on Pickleball Plus [here](#).***

### **C. St. Patrick’s (non-sanctioned) Tournament March 15-16, 2025**

At the January 16, 2025 Board Meeting, the Board approved a motion to earmark funds raised by the 2025 tournament for a sunscreen canopy over the walkway at the Pickleball Center between courts 1-4 and 5-12. An auspicious start to fundraising for pickleball Center improvements.

Another successful Club Tournament under our belts. The Club held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual St Patrick’s tournament; it gets better every year. A testament to the community spirit of our members and volunteers.

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Club Participants</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>Non-Club Participants</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>TOTAL PARTICIPANTS</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>204</b>
<b>Net proceeds to Club</b>	<b>\$1,732</b>	<b>\$4,962</b>	<b>\$8,306</b>
<b># Volunteers</b>	<b>unknown</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>60</b>

Look for pictures of Tournament Gold, Silver and Bronze Winners on Facebook or [on the club website](#).

**D. Court Expansion Project:**

Members of the club’s Steering Committee have met twice with GVR staff and the Architectural Firm (Shive-Hattery) since their 2/21/25 PBC site visit, to review and refine the design plan that we will be receiving cost estimates for. The BOD will continue to update the club as cost estimates and new information becomes available.

**Events (New and Ongoing)**

**E. Inaugural Intramural League**

The club’s Intramural league is coming to an end. Thanks to Steve Fernandez and Jay Salerno for taking this on. Almost 100 club members are participating, and even more expressed interest after the February 8 start date. Participants mentioned they enjoyed meeting new people to play & practice with, it was good-hearted competition, and they were excited to possibly go home with a medal! Playoffs are this Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PBC with a medal ceremony to follow. Please feel free to come out and cheer on your friends. Results and more information will be posted in next month’s Pickleblast.

**F. Medical Advisory Committee**

The Hands Only CPR class in February was attended by 20 club members in two different sessions. Training included Hands Only CPR and AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) training. We are hoping to have another class in April for 10 more members. It is provided free of charge and scheduling is flexible to meet our needs.

Thanks to Patrick Furumoto, Nancy Buseth and CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) from Greater Green Valley.

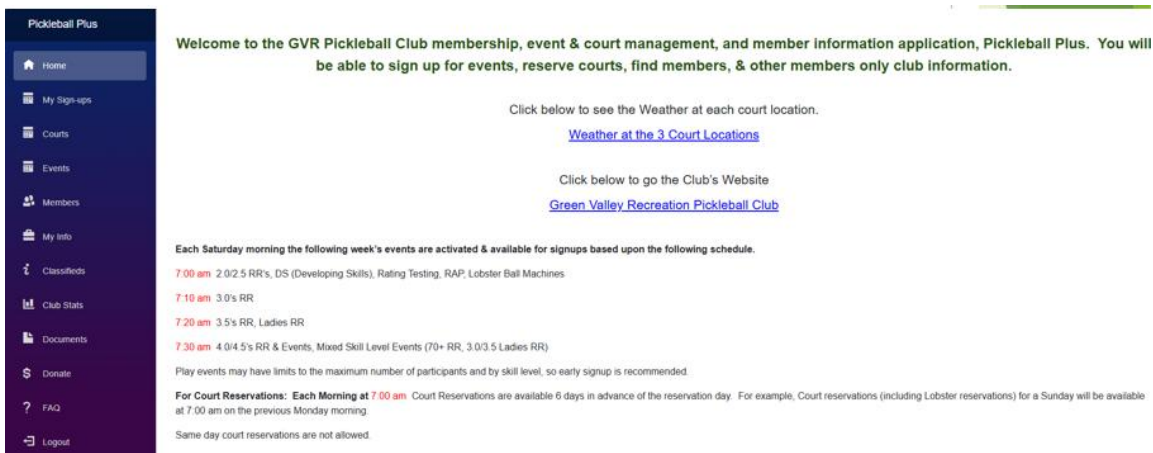
CPR certification Training/AED and first aid Class

The SRFD (Santa Rita Fire Department) BLS Training Center is an authorized American Heart Association Training Center and offers CPR & First Aid classes for health professionals, healthcare

workers, and the public. Classes are offered twice a month at the SFRD Headquarters Training Center (1285 West Camino Encanto, Green Valley). Each class can have up to eight participants and lasts 4-6 hours. Classes for April are the 5th and the 12th. Training includes Basic CPR, automatic external defibrillator training, and first aid training. Two club members took the training in March—we are looking for several club members to take the class in April (either the 5th or 12<sup>th</sup>). The pickleball club will pay the fee for attendees. These events are not on Pickleball Plus. Please contact Nancy Buseth directly at nancybuseth@msn.com if you are interested in signing up for either class.

## G. Technology Oversight - Pickleball Plus – updated platform rollout

The new look version of Pickleball Plus was introduced to the club on Sunday March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. This was a “functionality only” rollout – as there are no major changes in how it is used. The major change is that the menu of functions is now on the left side of the screen as shown here:



Most users do not need to change URL bookmarks, user ids or passwords. A couple of the menu items were renamed to clarify use (e.g., “update” is now “My Info” and “Upcoming” is now “My events”).

We would like to give a very large THANK YOU to Ray Kuehl, and Patrick Furumoto for their leadership on this project as well as Dean Beilke, Cathy Baker, Bill Hathaway, Phil Hirtes, Maribeth Kwasneski, Debbie Parkhurst, Richard Maniscalco, Janet Reynolds, and Jeff Washburn for their assistance!

Note: As with any software rollout there have been minor issues and “lessons learned”. A future Pickleblast or email will include information about the resolution of some of the minor issues we have encountered in this roll out such as how to add photos to your profile with an Android or iPhone. Thanks for your support and patience.

## H. Court Cacophony

It is that time of the year: seasonal court schedule changes are coming up. Our snowbird friends are starting to pack up and head North. It has been a busy, fun season: more afternoon activities, more RR's, more APPL Teams.

### Primary Changes to the April/May Court Schedules vs. the Winter Court Schedules:

- a. Afternoon APPL practices and matches will drop from the court schedule.
- b. Some events will have earlier start times (due to the heat).

c. Some afternoon RR's will be dropped from the schedule (due to low attendance and heat).

### **Major Changes to Summer Court Schedule vs. Prime Winter Season Schedule**

Full Summer Schedule effective June 1<sup>st</sup> as follows:

a. Mixed Skill Level Play (MSLP) is allowed during Skill Level Play (SLP) even though the court schedule will identify the court assignments by one skill level.

Club Policies regarding Court Usage can be found in the Club Policy Manual Section 5, on the Club Website: <https://www.gvrpickleball.org/policy-manual>

b. All Scheduled court events will be scheduled in the morning before the heat of the day. No events will be scheduled in the afternoons, when courts will be Open Play.

c. In addition to SLPs and RRs, morning events will include Developing Skills (DS) and Player Development (PD).

### **I. 2025 Classes**

#### **Developing Skills:**

The Club offers a Developing Skills program to active 2.0 & 2.5 GVR and club members looking to learn and improve their skills. Players are encouraged to use the Developing Skills sessions as a stepping stone to improve their skills after taking the GVR Pickleball 101 class. There is no charge for this program which incorporates drills and game play with a coach observer. However, after four sessions players will need to join the Pickleball Club to continue to attend. Coaches are authorized to advance players club skill level ratings from 2.0 to 2.5.

Developing Skills (DS) sessions are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 – 3:00 pm at the Pickleball Center. Sign up on [Pickleball Plus](#).

#### **GVR Classes**

PB 101 Wednesdays--April 2, 9, 16, 23 from 3:00-5:00 pm PBC

PB 202 Mondays--April 7, 14, 21 from 3:00-5:00 pm PBC

See the Winter 2025 GVR Catalogue (hard copy or online) for class signup information.

### **J. 2025 APPL Season:**

As part of the Southern Region, GVR Pickleball members formed 9 teams consisting of :

6 women's teams, 2 men's team and 1 mixed team. The women's teams were one 3.0 team, two 3.5 women's teams, two 4.0 teams and one 4.5 team. The most successful team for the women was the 4.5 women's team, Trail Blazers, who competed in the Metro league, which provided no state tournament because only 4 teams competed for matches because of limited numbers. Hoping next year, numbers will increase so a state tournament will be a reality.

The highlight of the season is the 4.0 men's 65 + team, Golden Picklers (Captain-Steve Reynolds Co-Captain-Ray Wardlaw) who qualified for the State Tournament in El Mirage on Sunday March 30. Congratulations! Mark Striepe, coached a 4.0 men's 50 + team, who were quite competitive for their first year. Lastly, 3.0 mixed team, Rinky Dinks, Captain Nancy Buseth, whose team finished third overall in their division. Great job for the first year. After the completion of the State Tournament, plans will be made to schedule a captain's meeting to discuss future plans for APPL.

If you are interested in being an APPL Team Captain and pulling together a team for the 2026 season contact Carol Hammerle at [starfsh59k@aol.com](mailto:starfsh59k@aol.com)

## **K. Facilities**

### **All Pickleball Centers**

The weather forecast beginning April 1st looks like the low temps will remain above 50 degrees. We will remove the Onix balls from the courts before then. Let's enjoy the warm temps and regular balls!

### **East Center**

#### **A Request from GVR Regarding Bicycle Parking**

GVR asked me to pass on the following:

"We've been running into some trouble with bikes being parked under the ramada near the pickleball courts at the East Center. During a recent fire inspection, it was noted that an exit door from the auditorium was blocked by bikes. Staff report that the storage closet doors are often blocked and sometimes riders will lean their bikes against the auditorium windows.

Solution: We will soon install a sizeable bike rack against the brick wall to the left of the storage room doors. Cyclists will be asked to park only at that rack or in the covered alcove where all the bag hooks go unused..."

**Editor's note:** The bike racks and signage have been installed at the East Center. There are bike racks at each pickleball center that should be used.

### **Pickleball Center**

Look both ways when leaving the PBC: Let's be good neighbors

"When leaving the Pickleball Center from de la Canoa, people who live in that area are concerned because the cars turning left do not always stop and/or notice the cars coming from either direction and just pull out. It is possible that the tree on the right has recently been cut back making it easier to see oncoming traffic from the right but they say there's a lot of people that just turn not expecting cars. They just mentioned this in hopes of reminding everybody to safely pull out from the center." From GVR - "...trees [by the intersection with the road] may see another trim shortly to improve the merely OK visibility. [Also, we are looking into adding stenciling on the parking lot exit to read something like] WATCH FOR CROSS TRAFFIC.

Also, be aware when you back out of parking spots, we have had several near collisions.

## **L. Skill Ratings**

Skill Ratings testing is in progress. For complete information about Skill Ratings and RAP (Rating Assessment & Demo Practice) visit the Club's website Rating tab at: [Ratings | PB2021 \(gvrpickleball.org\)](https://gvrpickleball.org).

Ratings Testing for the Season will end on April 30; RAP ends on April 24.

Members whose skill rating has changed through the Club rating process, IPTPA, APPL Index or other accepted rating testing:

**2.5:** Vicki Baier, Pete Beck, Frank Benarth, Paul Carney, Tom Ebert, Lynn Fesseden, Brian Hurtgen, Suzy Kruppa, Rhonda Needham, Anne Nordwald, Annie Olson, Mike Perkins, Cynthia Schraw, Linda Zarenko, Jon Zurek

**3.0:** Michael Davis, Brian Hurtgen, Gretchen Kabler, Michaelene Lucia, Debbie Parkhurst, Lewis Riley, Judith Swanson

**3.5:** Dorothy Bruxvoort, Lisa Fenner, Steven Kenny, Tim Reding, Roland Reidhead, Lewis Riley

**4.0:** Dave Chartier, Bev Cote

### **New Members (34):**

Lynn Adcock, Mark Adcock, Lauren Boice, Tracey Campbell, John Carpenter, Lorey Carpenter, Tom Ebert, Eileen Freed, Jane Giatras, James Heinert, Janice Hilsenkopf, Joyce Hughes, Ross Hughes, Luciano Iezzi, Richard Kuhblank, Kathy Kuzma, Tom Kuzma, Virginia Magnusson, Lynn Mergen, Victoria Moffatt, Cindy Morris, Donna Morris, Roger Myers, Debbie Neil, James Neil, Frank Ryan, Karen Sherrick, Sona Siegel, Maria Smith, Dan Stallbaumer, Cindy Tarvin, Kirsty Thoreson, Lamar Troutman, Vickie Troutman

## **M. Training for Ball Machines**

The Club has a Lobster Ball Machine at the East Center and the Pickleball Center. Both are available to reserve through [Pickleball Plus](#). If you want to be trained on the Lobster ball machine, check "Events" in Pickleball Plus for the monthly training sign ups (in-season only). EC Lobster has been repaired and is available to reserve.

## **N. Next Board Meeting**

Board of Directors meeting: The meeting of the BOD will take place on Thursday April 17, 2025, from 4 – 6 PM, location: West Center Room 2. Note: A Zoom link to the meeting will be included on the agenda that will be sent to members before the meeting.

## **O. Board Meeting Highlights**

For the complete minutes from the previous board meetings go to the club's website under the "About the Club" tab here: [Board Agendas and Minutes](#)

## **Play Safe and Be Prepared**

As a reminder, when you go to play pickleball, it is a great idea to have a copy of your insurance card, driver's license, and emergency contact information with you. Plastic bags in the cabinets at the three locations are to be used for impromptu ice packs in case there are no ice packs in the first aid kit.