

## September 2020 PickleBlast

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### Board and Committee Activity & Reports

#### ***President, Gina Rowsam***

Working with Dean Olson, club fundraising chair, implemented a campaign to offer the opportunity for donors to level up previous contributions. Just under \$10,000 was raised from eight contributors.

Presented two motions to the GVR Board of Directors which were approved on 08/26/2020, 1) shade structure and 2) donor recognition installation. Working with Tim Stewart, artist and club member, on design and details on the structure and with vendors SteelCrest and CustomPlus. Agreed to co-host a dedication event for donor recognition and naming of the center in honor of Kent J. Blumenthal to be held at the Pickleball Center on 11/06/2020.

Worked in coordination with Dean Beilke, Webmaster, and Ray Kuehl, Pickleball.Plus Developer, on the transition from SignUpGenius to Pickleball.Plus system for court reservations and event management (round robins, rating reviews, etc.) which launched on 09/01/2020.

Launched in late August 2020 the updated membership application system which now allows for the entire process to be completed and paid online.

Met with Mike Harrington, Treasurer, and Susan MacMillan, Secretary, to discuss procedural changes to the process for member applications with the new online functionality. The new system will relieve much time for both positions which will yield time to devote to other areas of need as it relates to management of member information.

Established a new task force to address the club "growing pains." Patrick Furumoto, board member at large, serves as chair and is joined by Ellen Brancazio, Ed Fickes, Connie Griffin, Jeff Harrell, Mike McCarry, and Tim Stewart.

#### ***Past-President, Jeff Harrell***

No report.

***Vice President, Mike Clemens***

TV monitor mounted at the PBC but waiting for GVR to connect a computer to drive the monitor.

Shade structure at the PBC has been approved by GVR and will be financed by the club with possible reimbursement from GVR by Dec, 2021. Cost estimate \$17,000.

Shade structure to be completed in 6-8 weeks.

Windscreens for the PBC have been ordered and funded by GVR.

***Treasurer, Mike Harrington***

Checking account balance: \$10,099.87

Reserve account balance: \$19,923.87

Paid \$24.99 to SignUp Genius

Paid \$4.99 to WINK

Additional donations to Pickleball Center from August 2020 appeal: \$9,100

***Secretary, Susan MacMillan***

Communicated with GVR regarding room reservations for board meetings. The September meeting will need to be held via ZOOM as GVR meeting rooms are not available due to COVID-19.

Met with President and Treasurer to discuss and determine new processes and procedures that will be in place as a result of the new features in Pickleball.Plus as it relates to membership applications.

***Member at Large, Paul Serra - Court Scheduling & Management***

Inventoried balls and equipment in preparation for GVR classes to be held in October 2020.

***Member at Large, Dianna Michels - Social Committee***

All previously scheduled club social events are cancelled until further notice. The social committee will assist with the planned donor recognition and naming event on 11/06/2020 and will have available for sale the hats and visors previously purchased for the SASG that was cancelled. They are priced at \$15 apiece.

***Member at Large, Patrick Furumoto - Education & New Member Initiative***

Message to our Club membership:

There were 158 members who completed the Education Survey. Again, thanks for your responses, which will assist the Education Committee and the Board in the future.

As mentioned in the August Pickleball Blast, the results have been insightful and full of great suggestions from the 2.0 thru 4.0 players, who responded. The final results showed that only 17 of these 158 members have not taken a pickleball class and most of them want to take more when available.

Some of the suggestions included:

---More classes on specific skills for each skill level

- Coaching tips while playing a game
- Team strategies & court positioning
- More round robins including where specific shots must be utilized
- Evening and summer classes

Here is the breakdown of those who want to take the following classes.

- Improve your game skills 55%
- SNAP 30%
- PB 301 Helle Sparre 25%
- Guest instructor 23%
- Pball 201 17%
- Pball 201 13%
- Developing Skills 6%
- Pball 101 3%

Here are the attributes of the players who completed the survey.

Time living in Green Valley:

- Fulltime 47%
- Up to 9 mos 11%
- Up to 6 mos 32%
- Up to 3 mos 9%
- N/A 1%

Skill level:

- 2.0 4%
- 2.5 15%
- 3.0 34%
- 3.5 38%
- 4.0 8%
- 4.5 1%

How often played during a week:

- Less than 1 time a week 8%
- 2to3 times a week 19%
- 4 to 5 times 52%
- More than 5 times a week 21%

Yrs playing pickleball:

- Less than 1 year 10%
- 1 to 2 years 20%
- 3 to 5 years 46%
- 6 to 8 years 13%
- More than 8 years 11%

There were also general comments about education, scheduling, and the Club.

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Will be developing a membership drive campaign to begin in October.

Some of the ideas being considered are:

Membership info and signup tables at the 3 pickleball court locations – dates and times TBD. This will promote online enrollment and the benefits for joining the Club.

Soliciting volunteers from the Club to provide mentorship to new members to answer any questions they may have about being a member, playing schedules, education opportunities, etc.

Promote membership at Pickleball 101 and Developing Skills classes.

Send emails to membership soliciting renewals.

Convened via ZOOM first meeting of the Growing Pains Task Force on 09/03/2020.

***Education Committee - Carol Hammerle, Chair***

GVR Fall Pickleball Classes will be starting in October for PB 101, 201, 202, and SNAP. With GVR offering free classes I anticipate classes filling even though the response survey indicated 60% would not sign up and 40% would. The club will need to block off 6 courts for each of the respective classes at the PBC. Also, balls will need to be provided so each participant may have their own ball which will be returned at the completion of class.

I will be discussing the classes and required USA Pickleball guidelines with Marisa, the new GVR staff person this Monday to finalize everything.

Considerations for starting Developing Skills in November should be considered depending on the success of the October classes with no incidents.

***Webmaster - Dean Beilke, Chair***

SUG weekly and operational edits.

Supported the launch of Pickleball.Plus Court and Event reservation system.

***Tournaments - Donna Davis, Chair***

Tired of playing the same people every day? Challenge yourself and test your skills against players from outside our club at the Southern Arizona Senior Games, March 27-29, 2021 and the Foundation Games, October 22-24, 2021. Both of these are sanctioned USA Pickleball tournaments and will be played at the Green Valley Pickleball Center.

What does this mean for our club players?

- Sanctioned tournaments carry great benefits for our players and tournament management. (See August PickleBlast for detailed list of benefits)
- You must be a USA Pickleball member. Annual membership is \$20. Click [here](#) to become a member or renew your membership.
- Membership in USA Pickleball is for 1 year from the day you join. It must be valid through the last day of any tournament in which you play. If you join in November 2020 your membership will be active for both of the above tournaments.

Stay tuned to the Pickleblast for further information about USA Pickleball / UTPR and Club Ratings.

### **Board Meeting Update - 09-09-2020**

Motions approved: funding for donor recognition structure and installation not to exceed \$3,500, colors for shade structure will be true blue for the canopy and almond for the posts, funds for refreshments for joint event to recognize donors and naming of facility for Kent J. Blumenthal not to exceed \$250, and purchase of 100 Onyx balls not to exceed \$230 to be used for GVR education classes - GVR will be invoiced for their cost.

### **Re-Opening Update**

Please [click here](#) for the 09-11-2020 Eblast from GVR.

### **GVR Pickleball Center Update**

In addition to the information shared in the reports above, we had previously reported the installation of security cameras with live feeds. These were very popular with the pickleball community as they were used to see if courts were occupied and for weather conditions. This sentiment was not held among some other GVR members at other facilities and based on the feedback the organization received the live feed has been turned off for public viewing. Administration is still able to view the feed but it is not known if a live feed will return for members.

Knowing that weather conditions, especially wind, are critical for play, the board is reviewing options to install weather stations at each pickleball location with the information linked via the internet. These would be acquired and purchased by the club and installed and maintained by GVR. Details to follow.

We received notice on 09-11-2020 that GVR will begin installation of the windscreens next week. See schedule below.

- Tuesday 9/15/2020
  - Courts #21,#22,#23,#24 - 5:30am
- Wednesday 9/16/2020
  - Courts #20, #13 - 5:30am
- Thursday 9/17/2020
  - Courts #12, #5 - 5:30am

- Friday 9/18/2020
  - Courts #1, #2, #3 - 5:30am

These installations will require courts to be closed down until each windscreen is installed. Please plan your play accordingly.

### **Welcome New and Renewed Members (August 2020)**

Jayne Nelson (Renewal)  
Thora Bausch (Renewal)  
Robert Weir (New)  
Susan Ammons (New)  
Randolf Beerman (New)

### **New Ratings (August 2020)**

3.5 to 4.0: Jeff Harrell  
3.0 to 3.5: Linda DeClerk, Arne Maki, Barbara Nelson  
2.5 to 3.0: Monica Zimmerman, Hart Krumrine, Kim Mesa

### **Interview with Patrick Furumoto**

[PB]: Thanks for taking some time to talk to us today, Patrick. For our members who may not know you, tell us about your background, how you came to Green Valley, and how you discovered the game of pickleball.

[PF]: I have known about Green Valley since the 1980's, when my parents began coming as snowbirds. I would come to Green Valley every few years for family gatherings especially during the holidays. I enjoyed my time here and began to plan on retiring here.

I retired in late 2017, after 37 years with Follett Corporation as Director of Customer Service serving university bookstores across the U.S, and Canada. Since our plan was to move to Green Valley once I retired, in February of 2018, my wife, Mary, and I made the move from the Chicago area to be here fulltime. In late spring, friends of mine from Sacramento, who also had a place in Green Valley, asked us to try pickleball, which was the first time we had heard of it. We ended up taking classes in the fall, and of course, we now play whenever our schedules will allow.

[PB]: You are serving as a Member at Large. What are some things you would like to explore and implement during the remainder of tenure?

[PF]: The 2 areas I have been asked to oversee are being the Educational Committee Liaison between the committee and the Pickleball Club Board and the second area is Membership.

For the Educational Committee, I thought it would be worthwhile to conduct a survey of our members to confirm the educational needs of our membership. Working with Carol Hammerle from the Education

Committee, a survey has been completed with 157 respondents. The feedback was insightful and included many suggestions on how to improve and provide education in the future.

For Membership, the effort to solicit renewals and new members will ramp up in October as the part-timers begin to return. With the help of other members, I would like to have a plan to retain the current level of membership and seek to grow membership from players who are not currently members. I believe the Club has much to offer members regarding a variety of options for playing pickleball on 36 courts at 3 locations including education for all skill levels, and once the pandemic is over, social opportunities to make and nurture friendships among the members.

[PB]: What ideas do you have on how we can encourage pickleball players in Green Valley who are not currently club members to join us?

[PF]: Continue to get the message out that the Club has many options for one's preferences on when and where to play, that there are classes for all skill levels, we love to play pickleball, but also want to make this a friendly atmosphere for all.

[PB]: What do you see our club doing well and where can we improve?

[PF]: The Club is committed to finishing the PBC by adding wind screens, shade structure, and the donor wall, so that it will be ready for the return of the players in the fall and be better prepared to host the Senior Games next year. We have an Education Committee that is continuing to develop classes for beginners to the more experienced players both in class size and content to fill the need of membership.

We need to continue to understand the various types of players in the Club, i.e. recreational vs competitive, those who play once a week vs 6 days a week, beginners to experienced players and create a schedule and play formats that meets the needs of all, while fostering the social aspect of the Club. Unfortunately, the restrictions due to Covid19 have eliminated social gathering, which have been well attended in the past.

## **Observations**

I am fortunate to work among many wonderful people who want nothing more than to see our club mature and grow into its next phase; as evidenced by the reports chronicling activity in each area. Even with the challenges we continue to face, the overall sentiment I sense among club members is one of optimism and encouragement. It is with this attitude that I know we will address the following.

In the [09-11-2020 eblast](#), GVR requested: *"Club presidents, please join us in this effort to improve relationships at GVR. Encourage folks to be considerate and observe the rules. Model a temperate temperament. Practice disagreement without hostility. We are all neighbors--imperfect human beings doing our level best and deserving of grace."*

Realizing the organization is at a point where some members, staff, and board members were treated in a threatening manner and resulting in a member's privileges being revoked, brings sadness and frustration. Despite this and embracing optimism, I am heartened to see GVR taking action demonstrating to its members what is rightly expected of all of us. On this note and with respect to the mask policy, GVR also stated the following which addresses complaints received by members who have reported being verbally accosted and photographed by other members.

*Please do not bully fellow members who are not in masks outdoors. They may have a legitimate exemption. Call a Center Operations Assistant at 520-343-2440 if you observe obvious defiance of the mask rule.*

Do you know someone who could use a pick me up? Simply click on the Contact Us button at the top of our webpage <http://www.gvrpickleball.org> and select **Wellness/Outreach Committee** and complete the form.

In closing, if you have not joined our Facebook group page I encourage you to do so. Here is the link. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/252938121566884>

If you want to become involved, have a suggestion, comment, or a question please use the Contact Us feature on the GVR Pickleball Club website <http://www.gvrpickleball.org>.

Carpe Dinkum!



Gina Rowsam, President  
GVR Pickleball Club