



PickleBlast

November 2019 PickleBlast

Wow! What perfect weather for enjoying our sport and the comforts of southern Arizona. Honestly, we can play from sunrise to sunset and beyond, and all of us present should be out enjoying Arizona in the Fall. It doesn't hurt our construction schedule for new courts either. Lot's of info this month, so let's get to it.

What's in this PickleBlast?

- GVRPC Board Meeting Highlights
- GVR Pickleball Center update
- Welcome New Members
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GVRPC Board Meeting Highlights

Update on pickleball center and new courts

Discussion on request to endorse and support Friends of GVR

Modify Policy Manual to allow multiple weekly Round Robin signups - watch for an update soon

Club shirts for Complex Grand Opening

Donna Talariski resignation effective March 2020

GVR Pickleball Center update

Concrete has been poured and fencing and gates are almost done. The contractor has begun work on the parking lot, while courts continue to cure.

Watch for details on our grand opening ceremony as we get closer to the first of the year.

Welcome New Members! (October)

Denise and Bruce Burg	Barbara Dentzman	Carolyn and Tom Mazaika	
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Congrats to Members with New Ratings! (October)

Moved to 2.5:	Barb Dentzman	Debbie Goulet	Sandy Seright	
Moved to 3.0:	Ted Boyd	John Giese	Debbie Goulet	Helen Stewart
Moved to 3.5:	Dean Barnes	Bill Goodrich	Pam Goodrich	Randy Howard
	Jed Johnson	Fred Schmidt	Deb Whitecotton	Jane Hunt
Moved to 4.0:	Rick Eiland	Ray Kuehl	Larry Wolfe	
Moved to 4.5:				

Interview with Kris Servais

This month's interview is with Kris Servais. Kris has been an active member of our club and our community for several years and has some interesting things to say about the future of Green Valley. Kris played an important role in facilitating planning meetings while our club was advocating for the new courts and helped with coordinating our efforts to educate GVR leaders on the importance of adding these courts. Kris has been an important sounding board for our club leadership during this process. Let's listen in.

[PickleBlast]: Thanks for taking some time to talk to us today Kris. 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.

[Kris]: I retired from my position as a professor in educational leadership in the Chicago area a little over 5 years ago. My partner Carol and I fell in love with Green Valley after visiting here on vacations for two years before I retired. Carol and I began playing pickleball and immediately were hooked. We live here full time--and also enjoy the less hectic and busy "off season" of Green Valley. I still work part time as a leadership consultant which involves some virtual coaching but also travel back to the midwest several times a year. I am originally from Green Bay Wi, and still make many trips back to Green Bay to see my amazing 93-year old mother and my 6 siblings (one of these is my twin).

[PB]: You have been vocal about some of the trends in Green Valley and specifically within GVR leadership. Tell us more about that.

[KS]: One trend of course has been the growth of GV, now cited by Forbes as a top place to retire. So glad I can now enjoy my two favorite additions of Dairy Queen and Chipotle. :)

Seriously though, among one of the first trends we experienced coming to GV was the shortage of pickleball courts. I sat in meetings over the past five years with battles over noise from pickleball courts, sharing tennis courts, locations for courts, and fund-raising for new courts. It is finally a dream come true that we have a 24-court complex being built in our back yard. I have to say I have such admiration for our Club leadership and members to raise \$350,000 to help accomplish this dream. What an amazing benefit for members of our active retirement community.

But I have become pretty concerned watching the GVR Board operate over these past several years. I know the impact of effective leadership because of my career of training and coaching leaders, and I am seeing divided and divisive actions from some Board members that will certainly be detrimental to the next big club projects, bylaws and policy issues, and recently, disregard for the role of the CEO. Honestly, very disheartening! Until now I have said to others: I love living in Green Valley, I am retired, active and happy, and don't want to get involved in local politics?!? But I think deep down we all know what the outcome can be if we fail to be mindful of the policies, rules, and requirements that govern where we live. And now I know I need to step up.

[PB]: Why do you think the GVR Director elections in March are so critical for the future of GVR?

[KS]: I recently began to attend meetings organized by the Friends of GVR. I see an honest and sincere effort to recruit competent and ethical future leadership for the GVR Board. I have enjoyed meeting the other members of Friends who are also seeking a healthy and more effective future GVR Board. This of course puts great importance on the next election on both finding quality candidates and getting members to vote. I know what a difference effective leadership can make for this community and I am willing to invest my time and energy to work with Friends of GVR toward this goal.

[PB]: What advice do you have for other members to get more involved?

[KS]: I think everyone needs to at least get informed about our GVR Board, and I would recommend joining Friends of GVR to get informed, get involved and/or volunteer for a wide variety of activities. Secondly, check out the Friends website (<http://www.friendsofgvr.org>) and consider making a donation to support the costs of activities, help campaign efforts, etc. And I guess, like me, just talk to your friends and neighbors about getting a little more committed to our next GVR Board election in March.

[PB]: If our readers would like to hear more about your thoughts on the future of GVR, would you be open to that discussion and how can they get in touch with you?

[KS]: I am open to talking with anyone regarding efforts toward the next Board election or how to get involved with Friends, or just come to one of the Friends of GVR meetings. I can be reached at kservais59@gmail.com or look for me on the pickleball courts. :)

[PB]: Kris, thanks for taking some time today to share with us and for all of us to get to know you a little better. And thanks for your contributions in helping us to get the new courts!

Did You Know?

We have a new first aid kit at the Canoa Ranch courts. You might notice a new addition to the cluster of storage containers on the NW corner of the courts. That ♦s where the new and expanded first aid kit lives. Keep this in mind when you see an emergency situation at the Canoa Ranch courts.

Observations

1. **WE NEED HELP.** We currently have no one on our Nominating Committee to coordinate applications for board positions for 2020. We're looking for 3 people to collect applications, help to prepare ballots, and count the ballots on the day of the annual meeting. This is a small, but important function of our club, and

requires a small investment of time. Without it, we cannot elect and seat board members for next year. Please reply to this email or contact any board member.

2. We are now accepting membership applications and renewals for 2020. Please pay by check, as cash payments present a myriad of complications for our club leadership.

3. Our courts are getting crowded! Please observed the published court schedules and be patient as we await the opening of the new courts. If you want to play up to a higher level in anticipation of testing for that level, be considerate. Doing so when there is already a large contingent of players at that level waiting to play is just inconsiderate and won't win you any points with the group you might soon be joining. There is light at the end of the tunnel!

4. As Kris mentioned in our PBlast interview for this month, this is a critical time for GVR. There are forces at work who would like GVR to return to the days of sitting around and waiting for the inevitable end. As a group of active retirees, we are changing that expectation. Consider increasing your knowledge and involvement in electing those who serve as GVR Directors. We need leadership that is proactive and progressive with a view of what GVR is and could be, rather than becoming an assisted living based community.

5. If you haven't already renewed your membership for 2020, consider doing it now. Our club finances are stretched, as we've contributed all of our reserves to build 24 courts but there are still expenses for the small things that make playing enjoyable. Such as pickleballs. Can you imagine how boring a game is without pickleballs? Here's the membership renewal application.

Upcoming Events

November Dink and Dine: November 17 2:00-8:00 pm. Pick-Olympics (SUG)

East Center courts will be cleaned on Saturday, November 23 at 1:00 pm. No need to volunteer, as we have a full crew who have already volunteered. Watch for a reminder of the court schedule change for that day.

Referee Training - Watch for more information. Tentatively scheduled for 12/18/2019.

SUG = There is a signup page on SignUp Genius for this event [CLICK HERE](#)

In Closing - If you have a suggestion, comment, or a question, let us know - preferably by email - as discussions on the court sometimes (actually quite frequently) get lost or forgotten. And let us know if you find this newsletter helpful. Use the GVR Pickleball Club website (<http://www.gvrpickleball.org>) to contact us.

That's all for now folks.....stay positive, keep smiling, and enjoy playing!!!!



Jeff Harrell, President

GVR Pickleball Club