

June 2020 PickleBlast

What's in this PickleBlast?

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Board and Committee Activity & Reports

President Rowsam accepted Sandy Heintz' resignation for Member at Large and appointed Patrick Furumoto to fulfill the remainder of her term (2021).

Unanimous Consent Actions - approval gained via email vote.

05/20/2020

Beginning Saturday, May 23, 2020, reservations at the GVR Pickleball Center will be available from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon on courts 8, 9, 16, and 17.

06/04/2020

Canoa Ranch Schedule - keep as Drop-In Play as we continue to assess demand and usage.

06/11/2020

The following will be effective on 06/29/2020

- 1) Authorize payment of \$1 per member per year to maintain the Pickleball.Plus DBA "Service Ace" member database.
- 2) Authorize the club to enter into a contract with STRIPE to manage our online payments calculated as 2.9% of the transaction amount plus \$0.30 per transaction.

Reports

Normally, these reports would be part of board meetings supporting documentation. As we do not have regular meetings in the summer months, I offer them for your review here. Many thanks to everyone who does so much for this club!

Past-President, Jeff Harrell

Now reviewing appropriate sections in the Club's Bylaws describing board officer and member appointments to fill vacancies.

Vice President, Mike Clemens

- Ratings committee is waiting for phase 2 of the re-opening.
- A revised draft of the reservation policies and procedures have been submitted to the club board of directors for review.

Treasurer, Mike Harrington

- Worked with Gina and Ray to go forward with online applications and dues payments via STRIPE on our website.
- I was so excited about (1) I had to mention it again!!
- Processed manual apps and deposits.
- Checking account balance: \$11,275.88
- Reserve account balance: \$16,693.59

Member at Large, Paul Serra - Court Scheduling & Management

PBC seems to be running smooth enough that we don't need monitors there anymore. Canoa seems to be doing alright and am still using monitors. The new ball system looks like a positive thing to come out of a bad situation.

With the opening of Canoa Ranch the Scheduling Committee agreed the best use for it would be to use it as drop-in center. Two days in and it seems to be working. The next project is to start working on a schedule for the East Center in case it should open Wednesday June 17th.

Member at Large, Dianna Michels - Social Committee

The Social Committee will coordinate with the Court Management Committee to place supplies stored in Deb McPartland's garage in the outer East Center storage room as many of the club's supplies currently at the East Center will be shifted to the storage room at the Pickleball Center.

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

I reviewed the Education Committee minutes from the March, 2020 meeting with Carol Hammerle. The class offerings have not changed, i.e. PB101, PB201, PB202, etc. The main instructors for PB101 will be Al Willette and Jim Logan, which is a change from the original plan. We also talked about adding court time in between the weekly PB101 classes for students to come and practice what they learned and to become comfortable with going to the courts to play.

At the present time, no classes will be held during the summer due to the pandemic. There will need to be further discussion to create the social distancing guidelines for classes. As we get closer to knowing when classes will be offered, there will be discussion regarding how to promote the classes and if any volunteers will be needed to assist with the classes. We discussed sending out a survey to the club membership to get feedback on the classes being offered and what the members would like. I told Carol that I would get back with her to discuss the questions, etc for the survey. I wanted to discuss it with Gina and Board to see what is possible.

I understand that Pickleball Plus app has survey capabilities. I would like to see what those features are to see what it will take to send out a survey. I propose sending out an initial survey asking about member preferences on their preferences for their play and questions about the classes.

I talked with Sandy Heintz to get her ideas regarding the New Member Initiative and key areas for retaining and growing the membership. In addition, I understand that the goal will be to promote pickleball and club membership among GVR and the community. I look forward to working with Gina Rowsam and Susan MacMillan on this.

Education Committee - Carol Hammerle, Chair

I have finalized GVR PB 101 for the Fall/Winter catalog with 11 classes being offered for 2020-21. This is an additional 5 classes to meet the needs of the PB club because we have had extensive wait lists on the majority of PB 101 classes in 2019-20. Hopefully the additional classes will meet the needs of the club. Al Willette and Jim Logan will be the new instructors for PB 101 which will be offered both on Tuesday and Wednesday from 3:00-5:00 PM. The class will meet once per week for 4 weeks at the PBC.

Once GVR and the club think it is safe to start Developing skills, plans will be put into place to provide instruction within a safe environment. Patrick Furumoto, new at large board member is in the process of putting together a survey to help determine educational needs for the club. The Educational Committee has tried to address more programs to advance 3.5 players to 4.0 but because of the virus everything has been placed on hold.

Helle Sparre is scheduled for October 24, 25, 2020. As we get closer to those dates sign ups will be placed on SUG for all skill levels.

Webmaster - Dean Beilke, Chair

Revised Monitor signup to include Canoa Ranch, removed PBC monitor signup

Web site: Added Canoa Ranch court schedule, removed W. Town's video link from header, suspended name tag orders for the summer.

Re-Opening Update

Email updates were sent to the membership on 05/21/2020, 05/26/2020, 06/02/2020 and 06/05/2020.

As of 06/15/2020, we have been notified that the East Center pickleball courts will be delayed opening for a few weeks due to the spike of reported COVID-19 cases in Arizona and the construction project ongoing there.

If you read last Friday's GVR eblast it contained information about which we sought confirmation that centers would open at 5:30 a.m. It is NOT going to be effective for the CR and PBC pickleball courts. See schedule below.

Canoa Ranch - Sunday-Saturday from 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. If you are not aware, there is a prior agreement between GVR and the nearby neighbors not to open CR Pickleball until 7:30 a.m.

Pickleball Center - Sunday-Saturday from 6:30 a.m. - Dusk. This is the earliest they can get staff clocked in and out to open the courts.

Ratings Testing

Ratings testing is a service and benefit of being a club member and is available at no additional cost (some clubs charge for this service). Testing for club members desiring to level up to their next rating will be offered at the Pickleball Center. Please watch SignUpGenius for available dates and times beginning the week of 06/21/2020. The Ratings Committee encourages testees (bring your own balls) to be familiar with USAPA Player Skill Rating Definitions located at https://612d4947-b374-4da0-a8c1-56705852895f.filesusr.com/ugd/82c67c_61a4dd6643474e5e988f65e3563db154.pdf Members being tested should be prepared for the following. Questions regarding the process can be sent to Suzanne Nordhagen, Ratings Chair, at snordo98@gmail.com:

- 1) Evaluator will contact the testee to confirm date and time.
- 2) Testee and testers should meet with the evaluator inside the building five (5) minutes prior to testing time.

- 3) There will not be a pre-assigned court. The evaluator will select the court the day of the testing and the testing group will remain on it for the duration of the testing period.
- 4) Testee should be warmed up and ready to play with their own ball. There will be no warm up time allowed.
- 5) Testee will play with and against three pre-selected testers who consistently demonstrate proficiency at the skill level being tested. For the 4.0 level, testers must have a current USAPA 4.0 rating.
- 6) Testee has three games to score a combined total of 21 points.
- 7) Testers are instructed to hit the majority of the shots to the testee.
- 8) If the testee reaches 21 points, they are advanced to the next level.
- 9) If the testee does not reach 21 points, they can re-test in two weeks.
- 10) Evaluator will provide constructive feedback for areas played well and also needing improvement.

GVR Pickleball Center Update

Re-opening efforts across GVR and reduced staffing have created some delays in forward movement as it relates to next steps for finishing the amenities. However, last Friday, we learned that the outstanding accounting has been completed for both the board approved GVR and donation escrow accounts. With this necessary step done, we hope to meet with the pertinent GVR staff in the next week or two to move forward. Again, I appreciate Past President, Jeff Harrell, and Vice President, Mike Clemens, for teaming up to assist in this important work.

We have tapped into the incredible talent of our members to create a new storage cabinet to replace the card table and empty plastic bins and will be located in the breezeway of the Pickleball Center. A big thank you to Mike Clemens, Ed Fickes, Connie Griffin, and Mark McIntosh for listening to needs and then applying their creativity, skill and amazing resources to create this unique and sure to be sturdy piece (see all that welded metal!!!???). The top will be adorned with a special surprise. Here are some pics of its progress.



Welcome New and Renewed Members! (May - June 14)

New and renewed Members:

Steve Vogel (new)

Tom and Sue Hausam (new)

Debra Ward (new)

Nancy Elliott (new)

Jerry Norsman and Laurie Bratvold

Hart and Karen Krumrine

Alice McKenzie

Steven Kuhn (renewal)

Tim and Katie Liddle

New Ratings

This could be you! Check out SignUpGenius starting the week of June 21, 2020.

Interview with Susan MacMillan

[PB]: Thanks for taking some time to talk to us today, Susan. 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.

[SM]: I was born in Chicago and grew up in Southern California. I spent some of my younger years as a secretary for a number of organizations before being hired by a major accounting firm in Los Angeles as executive assistant to 4 partners. I left there in 2004 to work as office manager for Planned Parenthood whose mission I respected. By then my grandchildren had arrived, so I moved to Orange County to be closer to them and worked as an executive assistant for a hospital before being laid off in 2008. During this time I had reconnected with a former boyfriend who retired to Green Valley and loved it. I moved here in 2008; the relationship didn't work out, but by then I was very enmeshed in making friends in Green Valley, tennis and volunteering.

It took 3 attempts at pickleball before I was addicted, about 4 years ago. I soon lost interest in tennis, which seemed way too slow to me compared to pickleball! Pickleball is the perfect sport for a Type A personality and I can't imagine ever losing interest in it.

[PB]: You have been elected to serve as our club Secretary for the next 2 years. What are some things you would like to explore and implement during your tenure?

[SM]: As Secretary I hope to maintain the high standards of my predecessor in keeping accurate, current records of all members, tracking dues and keeping Pickleball Plus up to date, and coordinating Board meetings with GVR to reserve meeting rooms, including taking Board minutes.

[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?

[SM]: So far, what works best for me in enhancing current membership is just day to day chatting with folks in town, sharing my passion and enthusiasm for the game and explaining the wonderful social aspects of pickleball in which

everyone is excited to play the best game they can play. I'm hopeful we can come up with new innovative ways this year to spread the word and increase membership.

I appreciate the welcoming nature of the Pickleball Club in general and players' willingness to offer tips, constructive criticism and overall support to help improve my game. It's a constant learning process, but I never forget to have fun, tease other players, and not take the game too seriously. I think the website is comprehensive and user-friendly. The communication from the Club has been excellent in keeping us informed due to the pandemic with regard to when and how the game would be resumed.

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

[SM]: A couple of areas that I believe need improvement include the ball situation that I find confusing. When a new member joins, let's give him the correct ball in an effort to be uniform! Some players are not distinguishing between regular, night and tournament balls. Lining up paddles is another process that needs to be simple and straightforward for the different levels. It is obvious that social distancing is dicey and not always being practiced consistently and I am guilty of this also. Perhaps use Canoa Ranch for reservations only in the Fall if we maintain the Center schedule?

Observations

Who knew how much coordination and communication it would take to open up some pickleball courts?! It was with great anticipation that we thought this week we would see the opening of the East Center and we could engage in night-time play and round robins, but the COVID-19 spike in Arizona is creating some obstacles. GVR wants to slow down some of the next phases of opening as they continue to assess the situation. So, we will just plow along with what we DO have.

We are pleased to offer ratings sessions again as there are many picklers ready to level up. And, that is FANTASTIC! Good job on readying yourselves. The experience of testing can be stressful, but we have a very supportive community to help buoy you. My advice if you are not sure whether you should test, find someone in the level where you want to test (and who is a solid, well-rounded player) and ask them to help guide, drill and play with you on a regular basis for a few weeks. It is important to get a variety of play in before you test up.

You will see in Mike Clemens' report that the board is reviewing an updated reservations policy that he has taken the lead on to develop. In the next week or so, watch for a draft of it to be circulated to the membership for input.

If you are on our Facebook group, you saw the following poll posted on 06/08/2020 (please join our group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/252938121566884/>): **Based on member requests, the pickleball club is contemplating changes to its member database to provide a new option for member applications and renewals. We need to estimate how many members would use an online system versus the traditional paper / check payment system to process.**

87 people replied with 80 voting for online and 7 for the traditional paper system. Based on this response (which is a statistically valid sample of our entire club of just under 800 members) the board voted to move forward with this option (the paper option will still be available). See Unanimous Consent section above. This change will not only make it more convenient for new and renewal applications from the member perspective, but it will significantly change the way things are processed on the club side. It will relieve much manual and duplicate effort on the part of the Treasurer and Secretary. The best part, I think, is that once a member clicks SUBMIT their application will be **instantly** processed and they will become an active member and eligible to register for club only events such as round robins.

Since 2012, club member Ray Kuehl has developed and supported our member database called Pickleball.Plus and done so pro bono. Last year, the board began discussing areas we needed to anticipate as our club grows and needs change with respect to managing member information. There was strong support to begin compensating Ray for the specialized software product he has created. We are making several customizations to the product that will benefit our club. I am very pleased that we are taking this step and I hope you will join me in thanking Ray for this amazing contribution (among others) he has made over the years.

These changes will represent new expenses to the club. Mike Harrington, Treasurer, is working to develop a budget (it will be the first one the club has had) and is currently analyzing past years' trends and new trends we anticipate as it relates to ball purchases. He has some club volunteers who will assist with this as well as Mike Clemens, Vice President.

For the past decade, the club has focused most of its energy and resources toward securing ample number of courts. One of the areas that really could not be actively developed was increasing membership in the club. I can remember when I asked Jeff Harrell what the club did to promote membership. He gave me that coy look and then said, "are you kidding, we can barely handle the number of members we have right now." So, we have transcended the situation where we did not have enough courts to handle member use and we now have the opposite situation. Toward this end, the New Member Initiative we will embark upon will look quite a bit different than what you have seen in prior years as we will not only reach out to existing pickleball players but also general GVR members and promote pickleball in the community. I am excited to work with fellow board members, Patrick Furumoto and Susan MacMillan, on this and would also like to plant the seed for any interested member to join us.

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