



# PickleBlast

## January 2017

Hi all and welcome to the latest **PickleBlast**. Happy New Year and here's to a great 2017 - on the courts and off. A special welcome to those of you who have temporarily relocated to southern Arizona to enjoy the sun and fun and of course, pickleball. We hope you thoroughly enjoy your time here.

### What's in this Pickleblast?

- GVRPC January Board Meeting
- Nominations Committee Interview With Tom Oliver
- Website updates
- Green Valley Food Bank Challenge From BAJA
- Welcome New Members
- Pickleball Orientation
- Club Membership Renewals
- Focus Play Reminder
- Upcoming Events
- Member Directory

### Board Meeting highlights

Our January Board meeting was held on the 11th of this month. Here are the highlights for those of you unable to attend (and for those of you who did but forgot!):

- Food Drive competition with BAJA in February and March. **We need help** with collecting, staging, and delivering contributions to the GV Food Bank. Please contact a board member if you can help.
- Reciprocal play with other regional pickleball clubs. Mark Robertson and Carol Hammerle will research the GVR requirements to participate in reciprocal play starting in April.
- The Board will request a meeting with GVR staff to explore alternatives to provide more court space now. We are bursting at the seams and need to find short-term solutions to overcrowding during our prime playing times and class times.
- Plans for the proposed Pickleball Center are being created by GVR Board committees, including setting priorities for the project presented in the WSM plan and site exploration for the new center.

## **Nominations Committee Interview With Tom Oliver**

Our interview this month is with our own Tom Oliver, Vice President of the GVR Pickleball Club. Tom is also chairman of the Nominations Committee and at this time of year is busier than Santa on Christmas Eve. Tom's work and that of his committee is vital to managing the process of filling a ballot with the names of those fortunate volunteers whom you'll be voting for at the Annual Meeting in March. Let's learn a little more about the nominating process and what we can all do to help.

*[PickleBlast]: Hi Tom. Thanks for taking some time to day to chat with us and give us some insights on the nominating and election process for our GVR Pickleball Club. What positions are open and receiving nominations for this coming year?*

**[Tom Oliver]:** The positions that are open this year will be two year terms for the following offices; Vice President, Treasurer, Member at Large (Position 1) and Member at Large (Position 3).

*[PB]: Who is eligible to be nominated and how are they nominated?*

**[TO]:** Any GVRPC Club member holding a membership card or a tenant card in good standing with GVR is entitled to participate in club activities. Members maybe nominated by other club members . Once the person is nominated they will be contacted by the membership committee to verify their willingness to participate in the election process.

*[PB]: What is the deadline for nominations and can we still make them at the Annual Meeting in March?*

**[TO]:** Nominations are open the first week of January and closed the first Friday of March. Members may nominate more than one person to serve on the board, but must be SPECIFIC to which office they are nominating each person or it will NOT be a valid nomination. (It would be appreciated if the person submitting the nomination would contact the person they are nominating to verify their willingness to accept the nomination). There will be NO nominations accepted from the floor during the annual meeting held in March.

*[PB]: Thanks for this info, Tom. Tell us a little about your committee and how they help behind the scenes.*

**[TO]:** The nominating committee consists of myself, Donna Talarski who is spearheading the project (this is Donna's second year on the committee) and her assistant Dean Barnes. We will be soliciting members who will hopefully volunteer to serve as Officers and Members at Large on the GVR Pickleball Club Board. So, if you or if you know of a member that would be willing to become involved, please feel free to contact us. We would appreciate your assistance.

*[PB]: Great interview, Tom. Thanks for all that you and your committee do in managing the stuff behind the curtain and keeping our club running smoothly.*

## **Website Updates**

Board member and officer nominations info is [here](#).

Have you seen the proposed plan for the [new pickleball center](#)? It's a drawing representing the proposal from WSM Architects but provides an idea of what GVR is considering for the

future. And if you'd like to learn more, there is a special presentation of the WSM Plan scheduled for Friday, January 27, 1:00 pm at West Center.

### **BAJA Throws Down the Gauntlet!**

BAJA has challenged the GVR Pickleball Club to match their donations during the month of February to the Green Valley Food Bank, as reported in [this GVNews article](#). The focus in February is personal items, including shampoo, conditioner, hand soap, bar soap, deodorant, lotions, brushes, toothpaste, tooth brushes, etc. These are items the Food Bank cannot get from the government but fly off the shelves when donated and are requested every year. So, we'll be organizing our response and setting up a collection point for contributions from our club. If you have any interest in contributing time and effort to this, please let a board member know. We need help storing and transporting our contributions to the Food Bank weekly. Let's show those jocks how a real club responds to a challenge!

### **Welcome New Members! (December)**

Harlan Chapman	Jeanne Ingalls	Donald Schooley	Rebecca Sunderland-Sloan
Bonnie and Guy David	Pat Jacob	Jane Schroeder	Frances Sutherland
Laura Fischer	Kathryn Karr	Frances Shapman	Michael West
Rober and Nancy Gajewski	Patrick Marron	Vicki Spies	Patty Witt
Fred Hunt	George Minervin		

### **Pickleball Orientation**

The popularity of our sport just continues its amazing growth. We are becoming overwhelmed with the introductory GVR classes and our Assisted Play sessions. As a result, we are now offering Pickleball Orientation classes on Wednesdays 8-9 and 9-10 at East Center on court 1. If you know someone who wants to start playing and has been unable to get into Pickleball 101 or Assisted Play, encourage them to sign up for these one-hour introductory sessions and discover why you're so crazy about this sport. Details on our website at Sign Up Genius - [Pickleball Orientation](#).

### **Club Membership Renewals**

Membership renewals are now due! Link to <http://www.gvrpickleball.org/club-information> to print the form or pick it up at the sign-in boxes. Why do we need to fill out the form again? We report all of our membership information to GVR at yearend, so we must have accurate GVR numbers and addresses, plus we need current phone numbers (in case of emergency).

## Focus Play

Some of you more astute (and fanatically loyal) readers may recognize the following as a repeat from last month, and it is! Unfortunately, some of those to whom it applies did not apparently get the message last month, as our executive offices continue to receive complaints. Our club has many challenges and this should not be one of them, but sadly it is.

*As more of us arrive in Green Valley and come out to play, it is appropriate that we review the guidelines for focus play for the benefit of all. Our court schedules are designed to provide court time equitably for all skill levels, yet to also encourage those within a skill level to come to the courts when others of your skill level are playing. It is okay to occasionally play with a different skill level to measure how you play against those of a higher level or to play with a friend or family member who is not yet rated as highly as you are. This does not mean showing up to play when you want, no matter who is scheduled to play. If on that rare occasion you are playing during focus play for another skill level, be considerate. Mix with those scheduled to play. During the summer this guideline is relaxed, as we don't usually have enough playing during focus play to fill all of the assigned courts. But, those times are over for now.*

## Upcoming Events

**Mark Renneson Clinic** - This event is scheduled for January 17-19 at East Center. Go to [Renneson Clinic](#) to register, but hurry. There are very few spots still available.

**GVR Fit N Fun Day** - On January 29 GVR will host the annual Fit N Fun Day at Las Campanas, providing info about all GVR clubs. Our club will have a table and demonstrations setup on the tennis courts. **We need help** with both locations. Please contact a board member if you can participate.

**Feeling Lucky?** - Join us at the East Center on February 1 from 4:00-9:00 pm for a [Texas Hold'em Poker Night](#). This is a club fundraiser event and details are available [here](#).

**Dance Fever** - Our annual Potluck and Dance event is scheduled for Saturday, February 11 at the Canoa Hills Social Center 5:00-8:30 pm. For details and how to order tickets [click here](#).

**Southern AZ Senior Games** - Registration is now open for both the Double Elimination Tournament and the new Round Robin Tournament for 2.0/2.5 players. Details are [here](#). Spots are filling up fast, so if you want to play, don't delay!

## Member Directory

The Member Directory button on the home page of our website will take you to a password protected list of current members. We receive a lot of requests for that password, which is "1965". As the directory information recording used to say, "Please make a note of it."

**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