



PickleBlast

April 2017 PickleBlast

Hi all and welcome to the latest **PickleBlast**. Many of you return to your summer homes in April, but we still have a lot going on. Let's take a look at the latest club news.

WHAT'S IN THIS PICKLEBLAST?

April Board Meeting highlights

Website updates

Food Bank Challenge

Welcome New Members

Members with New Ratings

Interview with GVR's Jim Conroy

Observations

Upcoming Events

APRIL BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- East Center shade approved and work will start in May
- Club Round Robin tournament scheduled for October 30-November 1
- Policy decisions :
 - Only active club members may participate in weekly shootouts and Improve Your Game skills classes
 - Per GVR policy, people playing on guest cards cannot become club members. They are welcome to play at all times except the events mentioned above.
- Club consolidated calendar to be made available on our website.
- Welcome to our new board members: Mark Robertson (VP), Donna Talarski (Treasurer), Paul Serra (Member at Large)

WEBSITE UPDATES

- Recent tournament results for our club members are now posted [here](#). Congrats to our winners!
- FaceBook! Did you know we have a club FaceBook page? It's [here](#). It's not only a good communication source but is great for that information which doesn't quite fit elsewhere such as: Lost and Found, Stuff For Sale, training videos, saying Why I Love Pickleball, etc. "Like" the page to receive regular updates from other club members.

FOOD BANK CHALLENGE

Our Prez attended a lunch celebrating the program which brought together several organizations to focus on donations to the Green Valley Food Bank. Each of the participating organizations agreed that this was definitely a worthwhile effort and that we should partner in some fashion next winter to contribute to the community. For GVRPC, we'll begin preparations in the fall and have better structure for the next effort. Thanks to all of you who volunteered and donated. We're making a difference in Green Valley!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! (MARCH)

James Gardner	Fred Mysliwicz	Roderic Ruggier	Cathey Wallace
Franci McCloy	Patricia and Robert Nakoneczny	Patricia Tracy	Velma and David Whittier
Ron Metz	Jane Noah	Jim Vickers	Pat Woodruff

MEMBERS WITH NEW RATINGS (MARCH)

Moved to 3.0:

Mark Ahern	Dave Henrikson	Deb McPartland	Marilyn Vitale
Dan Fennerty	Peter King	Paul Osika	

Moved to 3.5:

Dean Beilke*	Kathee Richter	Phil Spencer
Sandy Odin	Kim Roehrig	Wally Towne

* Oops! Dean actually moved up in November.

INTERVIEW WITH JIM CONROY - GVR CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

[PickleBlast]: Hi Jim. Thanks for taking some time today to chat with us and give us some insight on the latest developments surrounding a new pickleball complex. Recently the GVR Board authorized GVR staff to begin exploration for potential sites for the complex. Why is this an important step?

[Jim Conroy]: Pickleball is an extremely popular activity in our GVR community. Due to a shortage in GVR Pickleball courts it has been very challenging to properly accommodate our membership who enjoy playing this great activity. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the country, particularly amongst seniors. The GVR Board's direction for our CEO Kent Blumenthal to explore potential sites for a pickleball complex is the first step in this process of pursuing a pickleball complex. During this exploration of potential sites, Mr. Blumenthal and GVR staff will work closely with the Pickleball sub-committee. The Pickleball sub-committee was established under the authority of the GVR Planning & Evaluation committee. The Pickleball sub-committee is made up of a very knowledgeable group of GVR Pickleball Club members, and is chaired by Kathy Palese. I think Kathy and her group will provide very valuable insights and recommendations as to what will best

constitute a good site for a pickleball complex. GVR staff will work very closely with the Pickleball sub-committee to achieve the best result for our overall GVR membership.

[PB]: Once GVR staff has a prioritized list of potential sites, what are the next steps?

[JC]: Once potential sites are identified they will need to go through an examination process by the P&E Criteria Committee.

[PB]: How can we as pickleball club members contribute to and encourage progress towards the new pickleball complex?

[JC]: I think like any project or program that GVR members have an interest in seeing developed, it is important to stay involved in the process. That would entail attending both P&E Committee meetings as well as GVR Board meetings. I also believe it is important for pickleball advocates to stay informed about other potential stakeholder initiatives which can add value to GVR membership. Pickleball players may find interest in supporting these activities, too.

[PB]: Sounds like we may still be overcrowded during the 2017-2018 season. The temporary courts were a big help this year. Will we be able to find additional court space for the high season next year?

[JC]: Yes, I have already talked to Pima County Parks & Recreation Department concerning the possibility of reserving the Continental Community Center Pickleball courts again for next season. I'd like to start that rental much earlier next year, possibly even in the Fall of 2017.

[PB]: Great interview, Jim. Thanks for all that you do for us as GVR members. We really appreciate your support for our club.

OBSERVATIONS

- One more round of thanks to all of our volunteer coaches helping with Pickleball Orientation and Assisted Play. Your contribution to the introduction of our sport and our club is invaluable for helping us to grow and creates a lasting impression of the quality of our club and our sport.
- Poker night! Thanks to Dean and Marsha Olson, Ellen Brancazio, and Pam Sweigart for organizing and managing our latest club fundraiser. We netted over \$1200 and had a great time, too!
- Well that was an interesting four months! During our high season this year we:
 - Staged a very successful Southern Arizona Senior Games tournament - for pictures and club medalists [click here](#).
 - Saw the boulder move a little on a new pickleball complex.
 - Created new classes for those wanting to learn about Pickleball (after maxing out on our existing classes).
 - Reached an agreement for temporary courts (twice!).
 - Welcomed 120 new club members.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer! For those of you traveling, please do so safely. And, if you're staying to take advantage of all that court time that will be available, play smart and keep hydrated.

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