

February 2025 Pickleblast

Club President's Message

As I write this, the nominations window our club's open Board of Directors positions has closed. We have an excellent slate of candidates—thank you all for being willing to serve the club with your time, skills and experience—I look forward to serving with you! I will be sending out a special edition *Pickleblast* soon with more detailed election information.

This year has gone by incredibly quickly, I have learned a lot and am learning more each day. I am grateful and feel blessed to be surrounded by an extremely talented group of dedicated and committed peers.

I am happy to provide important information below regarding the club tournament that will take place on March 15 and 16. Big shout out of thanks to Maria Acevedo and the tournament committee for organizing this event and all the associated activities. Maria and her team have put in a lot of time and effort to make this a great event—thank you!

Pickleball in Green Valley is alive and well and growing by the day. There are some exciting developments just down the road a bit that we believe will help build an even stronger community and welcoming pickleball culture including improved technology infrastructure, new and progressive play programs and the opportunity to further enhance our already spectacular physical facilities.

We value all of the volunteers that make this club what it is and encourage everyone to seek a way to contribute. Check out some of the latest information below.

Cheers,

Jeff Washburn - President, GVR Pickleball Club



1. Club Board of Director Nominations / Meet the Candidate Events - Nominations for the club Board of Director's (BOD) positions are now closed. Nominations were open for the Vice President, Treasurer, and Member at Large positions. We have an excellent slate of candidates. The club is hosting two "Meet the Candidate" events at the East Center Auditorium:

Friday, March 7th from 3:00pm-5:00pm AND

Tuesday, March 11th from 1:00pm-3:00pm

These events will be your chance as a club member to learn more about our candidates as we work to fill these important board positions. Please plan on attending and participating in these events. Light refreshments will be served.

As noted earlier a special edition *Pickleblast* will be sent out next week with more details about the candidates and the process..

Note: In order to participate in the club elections members must be current in their dues as of March 1st. If you haven't yet renewed this year please do so now. Election results will be

announced at the annual club meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 20th from 4-6pm in the West Center Room 2.

2. Club Tournament - The GVR Pickleball Club is hosting a St. Patrick's Tournament on Saturday, March 15, and Sunday, March 16 to raise money for enhancements at the Pickleball Center. All pickleball enthusiasts will want to participate! It will be a round robin format and we'll have mixed doubles and men's and women's gender doubles. Registration starts on Friday February 28th. Please see the [club website](#) for more information and [sign-up on Pickleball Plus](#) under "Events" tab before the March 10th deadline!

Due to the number of participants we are anticipating and given the limited parking available at the pickleball center, we have been given permission for street parking along Camino de la Canoa. Vehicles must be completely off the roadway.

Notes:

1. There will not be any normally scheduled events at the Pickleball Center on either day (e.g., APPL, Round Robins, Advanced Play Program, Intramural League, Ball Machine or court reservations). Plan accordingly.

2. Tournament follows USAPA Guidelines: All paddles must be USA Pickleball Approved. [See list here.](#)

3. Club Dues / Expenses / Fundraising – The BOD is in the process of evaluating the current club member dues in light of some of the major expenses the club is incurring this year including the Pickleball Plus Porting Project and the architectural studies required for the possible Court Expansion Project (which was proposed by the club last year and which is on the approved GVR budget for 2025 as a club-funded project). These two expenses alone total ~\$10k and, because they were not known at the time, were not included in the club's last budgeting cycle. Note that the BOD voted to use some of the club's invested funds for the architectural studies (which came from dues and previous fundraising activities) and that GVR will bill the club after the completion of the studies. Based on these expenses and others that we are anticipating, such as a Pickleball Plus enhancement project, the BOD is evaluating dues increases for 2026. Future *Pickleblasts* will include information about this as well as notification regarding club meetings where future expenditure allocation motions will be presented for a BOD vote.

The BOD does not anticipate funding future large expenses (e.g., Pickleball Plus enhancements or court expansion) via dues increases alone. But it is important to recognize that going forward, our club, along with other GVR clubs will need to raise our own funds for many things that we may want / need to do. The BOD is trying to save money where it can to fund day to day operations and material needs such as purchasing pickle balls when they are on sale.

Finally, the BOD is in the process of reactivating the club fundraising committee to help pay for specific future projects. We have been trying to get this committee started for a few months now and are actively looking for someone to chair it. I anticipate that the BOD will be hosting project-related informational and fundraising events starting in the near future.

4. Donations to the Club - I have heard from club members on both sides of "dues" topic—some opposing any change in dues, and some demanding immediate increases. It is the intent

of the BOD to be thoughtful in approaching this subject with an eye to ensuring funds are available for mission-critical infrastructure such as Pickleball Plus and our club website, supporting growth opportunities in a responsible way and maximizing benefits to club members at the lowest possible cost.

In the meantime, club members can make donations to the club using this link: [General Donations to the GVR Pickleball Club](#). All donations made in this manner will go into the club's general funds and be used to offset club such as those mentioned above. If you choose to use the donation link remember to enter only whole dollar amounts with no "cents [.00]" or "dollar signs [\$]". For example, enter "50" for a 50 dollar donation – not "\$50.00".

5. Positively Pickleball!

A. Court Expansion Project: The Steering Committee recently conducted a site visit with the architectural firm that has been contracted by GVR to complete the architectural studies for the possible court expansion. In addition to the steering committee, club members, GVR staff and members from the architectural firm were part of the visit. The BOD will continue to update the club as new information becomes available.

B. Celebrating Club Members accomplishments: (If you know someone or something we should celebrate as a club – send the information to greenvalleypickleballclub@gmail.com).

From Club Member Victoria Bic:

"Alex and I competed in the Tucson Area Pickleball (TAP) Give Back Classic February 14-16, taking gold in the 4.0/4.5 19+ mixed doubles bracket.

It was a great experience and a great cause, raising funds to bring more courts and pickleball amenities to the Tucson area. Here is their site if you are interested in getting involved with their non-profit organization. TAP members get discounts on their tournament registration fees!

<https://tucsonpickleball.org/>

A big shout out to the GVR Pickleball Club and Jeff Washburn for teaching us how to play, Wayne Gregg for coaching us, Bryon Sordo, Nancy Williams, Mark Robertson and many, many others for their friendship and for keeping us competitive.

Pickleball has changed our lives, made us healthier physically and mentally, and given us something new to strive for every day. We are so lucky to have found this sport and the awesome people that play it!"

C. The Green Valley Pickleball Club was recently featured in [The Valley Friends and Neighbors magazine](#).

D. In Memoriam:

The Club received a special note of thanks from Mark Robertson to all those who supported him and his wife Junie, and attended the recent Celebration of Life in her honor.

6. Event Recaps:

A. Club Showcase—January 31st Thanks to the volunteers that manned our booth and demonstration courts and made this a special event for all GVR members!

B. Dine and Dance—February 1st – Thanks to the volunteers and attendees that made this a special event for club members and other guests – Rock on! ("Country On" doesn't sound the same)

7. A Request from GVR Regarding Bicycle Parking at the East Center

GVR asked me to pass on the following:

“We’ve been running into some trouble with bikes being parked under the ramada near the pickleball courts at the East Center. During a recent fire inspection, it was noted that an exit door from the auditorium was blocked by bikes. Staff report that the storage closet doors are often blocked and sometimes riders will lean their bikes against the auditorium windows.

Solution: We will soon install a sizeable bike rack against the brick wall to the left of the storage room doors. Cyclists will be asked to park only at that rack or in the covered alcove where all the bag hooks go unused...”

Editor’s note: The bike racks and signage have been installed at the East Center. There are bike racks at each pickleball center that should be used.

8. Court Cacophony – From Janet Reynolds Club Vice President / Chair of the Scheduling Committee

In September 2024 the club sent out a survey to members requesting their input on club operations. There were many comments related to how the club utilizes our 36 courts. Many of the comments have been addressed during the 2024-2025 Season. Court/Program changes that have resulted from September 2024 Member Comments:

New 2024-25 Programming

- Intramural League Play - Saturday afternoons February - March, 94 participants, all skill levels
- APPL League teams - last season one team, this season nine teams, all skill levels
- 4.0 Advanced Play Pilot program - Saturday afternoons February - March
- 3.5 mixed Gender Round Robins - added four RR events
- 4.0 women’s RR added Thursdays at noon East

These new programs have increased court usage during the afternoons.

A good number of comments revealed that some members are just learning the guidelines that we use to schedule courts—which is why we have added "Court Cacophony" to the monthly Pickleblast.

Club Policies regarding Court Usage can be found in the Club Policy Manual Section 5, on the Club Website: <https://www.gvrpickleball.org/policy-manual>

Next Board Meeting

Annual Club Meeting: The Annual Club meeting will take place on Thursday March 20, 2025, 4 – 6 PM, Location: West Center Room 2. Note: A Zoom link to the meeting will be included on the agenda that will be sent to members before the meeting.

Board Meeting Highlights

For the complete minutes from the previous board meetings go to the club’s website under the “About the Club” tab here: [Board Agendas and Minutes](#)

Special Notices

2025 Rules Changes

Court Updates & Reminders

Skill Ratings

Skill Ratings testing is in progress. For complete information about Skill Ratings and RAP (Rating Assessment & Demo Practice) visit the Club's website Rating tab at: [Ratings | PB2021 \(gvrpickleball.org\)](#).

Members whose skill rating has changed through the Club rating process, IPTPA, APPL Index or other accepted rating testing:

2.5: Fred Andrews, Melinda Andrews, Ron Rowcotsky, Steve Schraw, Suzanne Woodard

3.0: Sherry Durnford, Guy Howerton, Terry McCoy, Norman (Woody) Woodard, Margaret Zimmerman

3.5: Daniel Harding, Scott Spaulding

4.0: Victoria Bic, Don Seymour, Dwight Stockham

New Members

Please join us in welcoming following new members to the club:

New Members in February (51):

Stephen Bacon, Karen Baldwin, Sally Belcher, Jim Belcher, Lori Bird, Patrick Bird, Thomas Bright, Retha Cameron, Jaymee Carland, Rob Criminger, Pat Davitt, Laurie Drill-Mellum, Richard Drill-Mellum, Jerry Ellis, Sharon Ellis, Linda Eutz, David Frink, Julie Gasbarro, Tim Graves, Christine Grundy, Mark Heiniger, Jeannie Kile, Carol Kingbay Williams, Tim Kuehn, Darrell Marcelle, Tamera Martens, Lori Miller, Ron Miller, Dianne Newton, Anne Nordwald, Dawn Odasz, Cathy Perkins, Michael Perkins, Connie Radebaugh, Dan Reno, Cynthia Rhoads, Ann Roman, Richard Roman, Jr., Daniel Sayre, Peggy Schauff, Don Seymour, Joe Shallbetter, Joe Sikora, Teresa Sikora, Dennis Soukup, Faith Soukup, Scott Spaulding, Dwight Stockham, Rich Stuber, Peggy Tomasek, Tom Webb.

Winter 2025 Club Classes

Note: These days / times are subject to change – always check Pickleball Plus for the current schedule.

Developing Skills:

The Club offers a Developing Skills program to active 2.0 & 2.5 GVR and club members looking to learn and improve their skills. Players are encouraged to use the Developing Skills sessions as a stepping stone to improve their skills after taking a GVR Pickleball 101 class. There is no charge for this program which incorporates drills and game play with a coach observer. However, after four sessions players will need to join the Pickleball Club to continue to attend. Coaches are authorized to advance players club skill level ratings from 2.0 to 2.5.

Developing Skills sessions are on Tuesday and Thursday's 12:00 – 3:00 at the Pickleball Center. Sign up on [Pickleball Plus](#).

GVR Classes

From our GVR coaches - See the Winter 2025 GVR Catalogue (hard copy or online) for classes and sign up information. More classes start in [March](#).

Training for Ball Machines

The Club has a Lobster Ball Machine at the East Center and the Pickleball Center. Both are available to reserve through [Pickleball Plus](#). If you want to be trained on the Lobster ball machine, check “Events” in Pickleball Plus for the monthly training sign ups (in season only).

Play Safe and Be Prepared

As a reminder, when you go to play pickleball it is a great idea to have a copy of your insurance card, driver’s license, and emergency contact with you. Plastic bags in the cabinets at the three locations are to be used for impromptu ice packs in case there are no ice packs in the first aid kits.