



# PickleBlast

## August/September 2017 PickleBlast

Hi all and welcome to the latest **PickleBlast**. In Green Valley we're still enjoying the desert summer and some monsoonal rains, while playing early morning and in the evenings. Several of us have been hard at work this summer meeting with GVR staff on classes scheduled for the next nine months and helping to evaluate potential Pickleball Center sites. Here are the updates on these activities and more!

### **WHAT'S IN THIS PICKLEBLAST?**

September Board Meeting Highlights

GVR Pickleball Center update

Website updates

Welcome New Members

A Big Thanks!

Interview with Paul Serra

Observations

Upcoming Events

### **BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

After not meeting since Spring, we had a lot of topics to discuss during the latest Board meeting. Here are some of the issues we discussed:

- Fall court schedules will be effective October 1. Classes are starting up and will all be at Canoa Ranch, Round Robins will move to afternoons, and East Center courts will return to dedicated blocks of time for the different skill levels.
- The Ratings Committee will resume activity in October and will have evaluators available during the summer months next year. Signups will start in early October.
- The cost of GVR pickleball classes will increase by \$10 effective in the Winter Catalog, with the extra revenue earmarked for fundraising for the new center.
- Club membership dues will increase by \$10 effective October 1 for calendar year 2018. Of the \$25 annual membership dues, \$15 will be designated for fundraising for the new center.
- A Club Vision Statement and Club Policy Manual were proposed for adoption. The Vision Statement was approved, while the Policy Manual will be reviewed by the Board and a vote for adoption will be conducted at the October Board meeting.

## PICKLEBALL CENTER UPDATE

The Pickleball subcommittee and GVR staff have been meeting with a commercial realtor to identify and research potential sites for the new Pickleball Center. As you might imagine, there are several potential sites and factors such as proximity to existing homes, purchase and development costs, and the characteristics of each site are being evaluated. The GVR Board will discuss the next steps to take at their next scheduled board meeting. **Please attend this meeting if you can. It is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26 at 1:30 pm at West Center. Come out and show your support for a new pickleball center!**

## WEBSITE UPDATES

- Have a question, suggestion, or complaint? The best way to communicate with the Board is through our [Suggestion Box](#). We try to remember the conversations we have at the courts, but that's not the most reliable way to pass on your ideas. Send us your ideas through the website and we'll respond as quickly as we can.
- [PickleballCentral.com](#) has established a rewards program for all purchases through their website. If you use the discount code "CRGreenValley" at checkout, you receive a 5% discount on your purchases and they contribute another 5% of the amount to our club. You can get all of the details [here](#).

## NEW PICKLEBALL MEMBERS (AUGUST)

- |                          |                |                                |  |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Karen and Jimi<br>Brewer | Terry McMullen | Constance and Gene<br>Prescott |  |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|--|

## A BIG THANKS!

"We received something from 'Outreach' today and have no idea who to thank but are completely overwhelmed by the wonderful pickleball community we have in Green Valley. Ralph will be moving to The Villas Assisted Living on Sunday, Sept 10. I know he would love visitors. Take Desert Bell (at light) off La Canada and turn right (immediately across from the DMV and side drop-off of White Elephant) then turn right again. He's in Bldg C (where the office sign is). Go to front door for entrance. You can visit any time of day and anywhere in the facility including his room - #2, or if there's some shade on the rear patio. If not occupied, there's also a private room off the living area especially for family/friends."

*Received from, Mary Lou & Ralph Feldt*

## INTERVIEW WITH PAUL SERRA

Our special guest today is Paul Serra. Paul is one of our Member At Large representatives on the Board and chairs the Court Management Committee, which is responsible for monitoring court conditions, managing supplies and inventory, and leading the Court Coordinators program. Let's see what Paul has to say.

*[PickleBlast]: Welcome to the PickleBlast studios, Paul. Please tell us about your background, how you came to Green Valley, and how you discovered the game of pickleball.*

**[Paul Serra]:** Hello Jeff and club members. To give you a little back round on me, I was born and raised in Boston MA. I graduated Hyde Park High in 1967, attended Graham Jr. until 1969, and entered the U.S. Air Force in June of 1969 to May 1973. I married in October of 1970 and our son Jason was born August 1974. We moved to Illinois in September 1990 so I could go to work for UPS. For my 50th birthday my brother and sister-in-law gave me a book on the top 50 places to retire in the U.S. and after eliminating states with snow and cold and the humidity of the east coast, we decided to explore Arizona. Green Valley was listed in the book and as soon as we got here, we knew this was where we wanted to be. In 2006 we bought a house and in 2014 we both retired and moved here full time and have not regretted a single day of it. Butch Sapletal and Scott Ellington introduced me to pickleball and I have not been off the courts since.

*[PB]: The Court Management Committee that you chair is relatively new and has a lot of responsibility in managing our courts and the equipment we need to be able to play. There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes to enable us to enjoy the pickleball courts. Tell us about the activities of this committee and particularly about the Court Coordinator program we're implementing this fall.*

**[PS]:** I am very excited at being the Chairperson of the Court Management Committee. Our goal is to make all club members' experience at the courts an enjoyable one. Paul May and Dennis Tarr have been helping me come up with ideas on how to keep the paddles moving and waiting time to a minimum. Final details will be hammered out during our next board meeting. In the meantime, we have addressed some safety issues by making the gates at Canoa one way and removing the big rocks and having the new rail put around the walkways at Canoa Ranch. At the East Center they have started making gates one way.

*[PB]: What can we as club members do to help the Court Management Committee successfully support and manage our courts?*

**[PS]:** As we introduce the Court Coordinator program, we anticipate that we'll have to make adjustments as we go and figure out what works best. Our intent is to not only

assist in keeping play efficient, but also to be a resource for those new members or those with questions. Be patient with us as we learn what works and what should be changed. Also, we try to be aware of the condition of our courts, but if you see something that needs to be repaired or improved, let us know.

*[PB]: Paul, thanks for sharing about you and giving us information on the Court Management Committee. This is a critically important function as we continue to try to manage too few courts for our members for a little longer, and we appreciate your work to make the best of a challenging situation.*

## **OBSERVATIONS**

Inter-community (IC) Play has ended and it was a rousing success. Not only did our members enjoy the chance to play with a different group of people, but those from out of the area had the opportunity to play on our courts - some for the first time. We received quite a few positive comments from all, learned a few lessons on how to manage IC Play, and are looking forward to a repeat next summer.

The Court Management Committee is a step forward as we attempt to improve our court utilization and provide the best possible experience for all of our members. The Court Coordinators are knowledgeable about the schedules and policies governing court usage and will help with any questions you might have.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

We are already beginning preparations for next high season in Green Valley. Here are some of the topics we've been working on over the summer:

- Club Rating Evaluations: Are you ready to move to the next club skill level? Watch for an announcement to sign up for evaluation sessions which will be starting in late October.
- Temporary courts: We are working with GVR staff to identify and get commitments for temporary court space to accommodate overflow for orientation, instruction, and possibly focus play. In obtaining temporary courts last year, we learned more about how we can collaborate with others in the area to take a little pressure off our regular courts and yet still provide for those wanting to learn about the game.
- Volunteer opportunities: Our descriptions of club volunteer positions have been updated and posted [here](#). We encourage you to look through this and consider

volunteering to help in those areas where you have expertise or interest. There is simply no shortage of opportunities to help - from administration to instructors to support committees. If you would like to participate but aren't sure where, contact a Board member and let us know and we'll match you with the opportunities we have.

- Mark your calendars! October 30-November 1 is our Club Fun Tournament, followed by our first club social of the year on November 1 from 5-8pm. More details to come!

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Paul's Pickleball Paddles offers a 5% discount on all paddle sales to GVRPC members, with an additional 5% donated to the GVR Foundation to be dedicated to the proposed GVR Pickleball Center. Pricing is consistent with Internet prices and pricing will be matched versus all advertised prices, including sporting goods stores. Demo paddles are available. <http://www.paulspaddlesgreenvally.com/home>

### **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***