

May 2024 Pickleblast

Club President's Message

The latter part of April and the early part of May have been very active for the club with several developments that will positively impact us for years to come. Here's information on a few of them:

First up: You may remember the survey regarding court expansion earlier this year. The club made a Capital Improvement Project proposal to GVR and several of us from the club met with the GVR P&E Committee last week to see if our proposal made it past the first hurdle. Several other clubs had made proposals as well. Turns out we made it past this initial phase and are moving on to phase two in July. It was an educational experience to say the least and I am hopeful of positive interactions with the committee going forward.

Second: The "Drop Squad" (our State Champion women's 4.0 APPL team) have decided to go to the National Tournament scheduled for September 11-15 in Hilton Head South Carolina. The team estimates that it will require approximately \$17,000.00 for the 12 players and coaches to participate (including an estimated 7-night stay, travel days and tournament play).

In an effort to help the team offset the expenses of the tournament and in lieu of directly using club funds (which were not in the budget anyway) we are opening a couple of channels of support for their fundraising efforts which will be evolving over the summer and which we will inform you of in future Pickle Blasts. Currently, if you would like to donate to the team you can:

1. Write out a check (and similarly labeled envelope) to "Green Valley Pickleball Club" with "Drop Squad Travel Fund" on the memo line and place it in either of the club's two lock boxes in the East Center foyer or in the breezeway at the Pickle Ball Center.
2. Alternatively you can write out a check to "Green Valley Pickleball Club" with "Drop Squad Travel Fund" on the memo line and send it to the Green Valley Pickleball Club PO Box 845 Green Valley AZ, 85622
3. In the near future we hope to have a donation "event" on Pickleball Plus where you can donate using a credit card.

As the team identifies more ways to donate or opportunities to participate I will let you know. I anticipate that there will be some Green Valley folks in South Carolina to support the team and if I receive information about any group efforts I will let you know. September is right around the corner already. See below for excerpts from a couple of letters Carol and team including a thank you note the team sent to the club recently.

NOTE: If you would like to assist with all the work it will take over the summer to get the team to the event please contact Coach Carol Hammerle at starfsh59k@aol.com

Third: The summer schedule at the courts typically starts June 1st but in some cases may have already started - be sure and check the days / times of your events.

Fourth: Speaking of June 1st - GVR has informed us of changes to the way courts and Canoa Ranch will be scheduled and used at least for a pilot period to run this summer (see summary of BOD meeting below for more detail).

Fifth: Thanks very much to those of you who have donated good, gently used (or even new) paddles to our "Paddle Drive" (boxes at PBC and EC) for folks that might need them for classes or practice or whatever. We will continue this for a while and see what pops up (see what I did there?).

Sixth: The BOD completed a grueling series of planning sessions during April and everyone now has their committee assignments with prioritized objectives derived from our club's Mission, Vision, Values and Purpose and are in the process of reviewing committee membership and actively trying to recruit new help. Just one example of this is that Jay Salerno is conducting a club space review with an eye to collaborating with several committees (e.g., Scheduling, Ratings / Testing) to optimize our club space according to best use, layout, and security. I will share more of the BOD's work with you in the future.

Finally: Thank you volunteers - oh and did I mention we need a whole lot more? Maribeth Kwasneski, and Kristi Swanson with a big assist from Jean Robison conducted a great Trivia night for our April Dink and Dine in coordination with Mary Wright and Gail Gersonde, and Julia Sheppard-Cole have completed an overhaul of the Round Robin stations at East and PBC (RR coordinators please help keep them that way!) in coordination with Jay Salerno. Bravo! And thanks! I know I missed many other acts of service here; forgive me and thanks anyway.

Upshot: We need many more volunteers - please let us know if you have a particular area of interest or a skill that would serve the club. We'll try and minimize the time commitment - because - you know: Retired!

I wish you and yours a great summer wherever you spend it.

Our Community - Our Club!



Jeff Washburn - President, GVR Pickleball Club

Board Meeting Highlights

Next Board Meeting

Next Board Meeting: September 19, 2024, Time 4pm, Location TBA

Board Meeting Highlights

New Business

Discussion as to whether and if so, how, the club will support the 4.0 Women's APPL team going to Nationals in September.

Discussion: Carol Hammerle wrote and read a letter to the club about the experience of winning the State APPL tournament and the team's decision to participate in the National Tournament which will take place in Hilton Head South Carolina September 11-15. Carol and Liz Cronin presented a rough budget of what it might cost to have the team participate.

Because this is an unprecedented event for the club and since the club did not budget for this type of expense in the current budget, the discussion was about ways the club could provide indirect channels of support for the team while not using general club funds.

A motion was introduced and passed as follows: (Note: see Carol's letter, a document outlining what we know about the tournament at this time, a copy of a thank you note from the team to the club thanking us for supporting them at the GVR event where they were celebrated shortly after the State tournament and a WAG budget estimate for team expenses to participate in the national event below)

Motion to support fundraising efforts on behalf of the women's 4.0 APPL team - Sheppard-Cole 2nd - Mary Wright. Passed with 6 ayes (Campfield absent)

The 2024 Green Valley Recreation Pickleball Club will support fundraising efforts led by the Green Valley 4.0 Women's AAPL Pickleball State Champions by communicating to the club membership details of the fundraising effort. This may include Facebook, email notifications, collecting donations in PBC mailboxes, and processing credit card donations through PB+.

8. Club Board Comments

Announcement: Jeff Washburn: I received the following communication from GVR late on Tuesday May 7th after a meeting at their offices regarding a change to the way courts will be used and reserved at Canoa Ranch. Note that this is a "pilot" program being run by GVR during the summer, starting June 1st, in response to specific requests for "casual play" at that location:

"(Starting June 1st) Courts 1, 2 and 3 will be for 'all play levels'; each of these three courts can be reserved from 1pm to 2:30pm or from 2:30pm to 4pm; at all other times these will be 'open play.' One reservation per day per GVR member.

Court 4 will be for 'casual play' only and be available for 90-minute reservations (90-minute increments beginning at 7am and ending 7pm); at all other times court 4 will be 'open casual play' only. One reservation per day per GVR member.

GVR will handle all court reservations for Canoa Ranch on the Active Net system. Deadline to reserve for the following day will be 3pm Monday thru Friday. Saturday and Sunday reservations must be made by 3pm Thursday. We will have an online reservation facility available by June 1st. We will post a court schedule each day.

Signage will be developed by GVR and will confirm each court's use and define 'casual play.' This will also be discussed in some detail on our website and be conveyed in weekly eBlasts beginning Friday,

May 17th. We will share this information with the Club as soon as it's developed. If we find Court 4 isn't enough to handle the demand for 'casual play' – not expected, but possible – we'll revisit."

To summarize:

Starting June 1st GVR members (including pickleball club members) will be able to reserve court 4 at Canoa Ranch all day, every day in 90 minute increments (that mirror our current times) through GVR's Active Net reservation system - NOT Pickleball Plus. Members will be able to make these reservations up to 3:00 PM the day before. GVR will post physical signage at Canoa Ranch with the details on how to do this.

Courts 1-3 at Canoa Ranch will remain as Open Play courts with the exception that at 1:00 and 2:30 courts can be reserved for 90 minute increments through GVR's Active Net reservation system - NOT Pickleball Plus.

More information as to how these changes will be reflected in the Pickleball Plus Schedule will be forthcoming since the reservations will no longer be done through Pickleball Plus.

9. Committee Comments

None

10. Member Comments

None

11. Closing Comments

Jeff Washburn congratulated the APPL team on their hard work and achievement, and all attendees for being present at the meeting.

12. Next Board Meeting: Thursday, September 19, 2024, 4pm, Madera Vista Center, 440 S Camino Del Portillo

[For the complete minutes from the Board Meeting go to the club's website under the About the Club tab.](#)

Highlights of Work Area Reports & General Interest to Members

[Click here](#) to access past Board Agenda & Work Area Reports. .

Special Notices

Arizona State APPL League Champions Corner

From Coach Hammerle and the Drop Squad:

I received many thanks from Coach Hammerle and the women's team. Next is an excerpt from one of them that I would like to share with the club, below that a complete letter to the club and below that are screenshots of a card from the team:

"The success of the GVR Drop Squad was based on a great work ethic but an underlying factor the entire year was scrimmaging against so many players from this pickleball club.

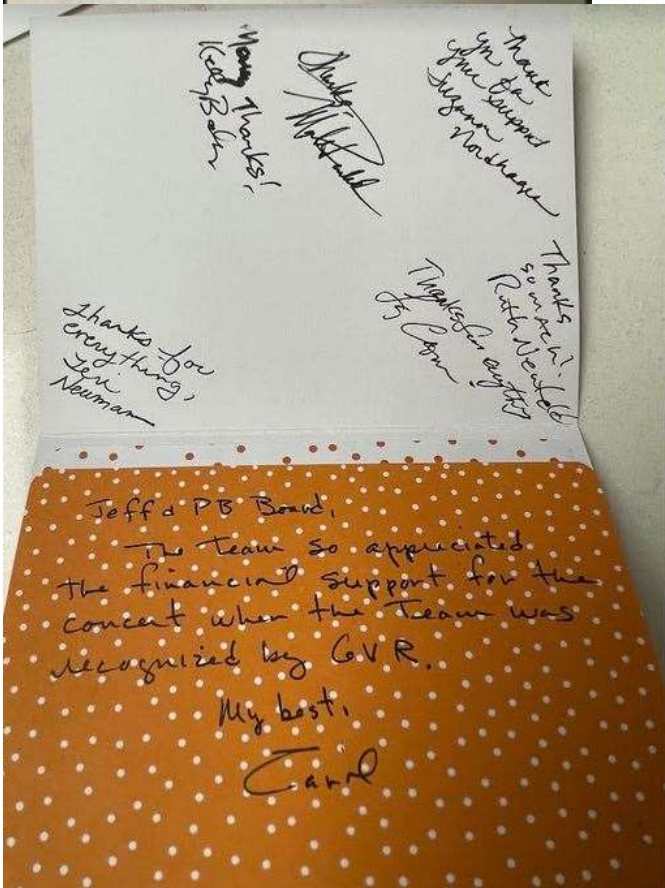
Thank you for being there for us and making a difference. We hope many of you will consider joining us at Nationals. After all, you are retired!"

Dreams do come true! Last spring, Sharon Falor and I decided we wanted to coach an APPL 4.0 women's team. We began recruiting with the result being 12 really hard-working players named the GVR Drop Squad . Practice began in October with Tuesdays being two-hours of drills and Fridays being a two hour scrimmage against men or top female players. Every player responded well to the workouts and gave 100% all season. The end result was a 7-1 regular season finish, which qualified us for regional playoffs. At regionals we had to play the same team who gave us our only loss. The GVR Drop Squad had learned a lot from their only loss and beat the same team in the regional playoff to advance to the state tournament at El Mirage, Arizona.

It was difficult for us as a team to believe that we were one of only four teams left in Arizona at the 4.0 level. For the state tournament we were the 3 seed so we played the 2 seed in the morning beating them by nine points. Obviously, this meant we had to play the #1 team for the championship. This was our second match on the same day, which we had not done before. It was difficult to imagine, but we even played better in that second match to win the Arizona State Title.

For the first time APPL has provided winners of the State Title to advance to the National Pickleball Tournament in Hilton Head, S.C. on September 12-15, 2024. The team believes this is an opportunity of a lifetime which cannot be passed up. The cost of this endeavor will be expensive so I am asking the GVR Pickleball Club to consider donating money to the GVR Drop Squad to help them pay for expenses to compete at Nationals. By supporting this endeavor you will allow 10 very special women an opportunity of a lifetime while positively representing Green Valley on a national platform.

Thank you,
Carol Hammerle



NOTE: If you would like to assist with all the work it will take over the summer to get the team to the event please contact Coach Carol Hammerle at starfish59k@aol.com

What is the NTPL National Championship Tournament?

In 2024, 16 Communities (Local or State Based) will run qualifying leagues or tournaments to select the team to represent their state at the National Championships.

Each of these 16 teams will come together to compete in the National Championship tournament to crown the NTPL 2024 CHAMPION! There will be two different venues for the NTPL Championship events. The Drop Squad's event will be held at Hilton Head, SC from September 11-15.



Animal League of Green Valley - Thanks

Here's a note I recently received from Kim Eisele, president of the Animal League of Green Valley to the club:



1600 W. Duval Mine Rd.
Green Valley, AZ 85614
520-625-3170
E-mail: info@talgv.org
Website: www.talgv.org
www.facebook.com/TALGV

Serving Green Valley Pets and People Since 1984

April 23, 2024

GVR Pickleball Club
Attn: Jeff Washburn, President
P.O. Box 845
Green Valley, AZ 85622

Dear Jeff,

Thank you for the generous donation of \$1,000.00 from the GVR Pickleball Club to The Animal League of Green Valley. The cats are purring and the dogs are wagging their tails in delight.

The Club's donation is helping our cats and dogs more than ever before. Every dollar donated helps feed and medicate our animals and helps keep other animals in the community in their homes.

TALGV is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization staffed and managed by volunteers. All of your donations are tax deductible. This letter verifies that you have not received any goods or services in consideration of your donation.

I am honored to be able to write this letter on behalf of TALGV and all our canine and feline residents. As always, TALGV remains focused on loving and caring for homeless animals. We believe there is "A Home for Every Pet." Thank you again for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Kim Eisele
President

Renewed Call for Paddles

We still need paddles for use in next season's classes and training sessions. Please donate any you may have.

Court Updates & Reminders

Saturday Morning Sign Ups

7:00 am: Court reservations, 2.0/2.5 RR's, DS (Developing skills), Rating Testing, RAP, Lobster

7:10 am: 3.0 RR's

7:20 am: 3.5 RR's

7:30 am: 4.0 RR's and mixed skill level events, i.e. 75+ RR, Ladies RR, 3.0/3.5 Ladies RR

Selkirk & Franklin Balls on Courts Now

Currently Selkirk and Franklin balls are in the sleeves at the courts. We are still in the process as a club of determining which ball we will be using going forward. We will keep everyone posted as to our progress. Please put broken or "out of round" balls in the broken ball baskets at each facility.

SLP (skill level play) Reminder

During SLP play in the mornings, please play within your skill level and do not 'play' up. Since, this is peak time for all of us, this isn't the time to take up a spot in the paddle queue if you are not at the same skill level as the SLP. Be fair and respectable to the players in the designated skill level.

Don't be surprised if someone checks in with you to inquire about your skill level play to keep play consistent and challenging within the same skill level.

Open Play (all skill levels): Remember at Canoa Ranch courts every day and at various times at the East Center & the KJB Pickleball Center, open play is available for those players who want an opportunity to play with different skill levels.

The latest court schedules are on the Club's website home page.

Skill Ratings

Skill Ratings testing is over for the season - we will start again next fall - probably in October. For complete information about Skill Ratings and RAP (Rating Assessment & Demo Practice) visit the Club's website Rating tab at: [Ratings | PB2021 \(gvrpickleball.org\)](#).

2023-24 Season Ratings Testing Summary - Greg Wright

"I thought I would share some statistics with you from our recent testing season. We had an amazing group of volunteers who contributed to this essential club activity. My rough calculations show an estimated 440 volunteer hours from 75 on-court volunteers as Feeders, Recorders, and Control Players. This works out to 2.25 volunteer on-court hours per testee! Also this does not include all their training time nor all the other volunteers who helped with organizing and training with them. **We held 194 tests with a 68% pass rate, up from 187 tests and a 64% pass rate in the prior year.**"

Thanks to all the amazing volunteers for helping us with this important function!

Testing Key reminders!

The first step in the Rating process is to submit the results of the USA Pickleball Rules test. See website for the link to the rules test.

No-Shows! When you sign up for RAP and do not show up, this counts as your 1 allowed sign up. As for testing, if you sign up and do not show up, this is counted as Failed skill test. You are allowed two attempts per year for testing at one rating level. It is disappointing when people are no-show because we work hard to bring volunteers to help our students and testees to be successful. **Please be respectful and cancel appropriately with plenty of notice for us to adjust. Call Marilyn or Greg with notice please.**

Members whose skill rating has changed through the Club rating process, IPTPA, DUPR, or other accepted rating testing.

2.5 Laura Sheppard, George Losleben, Anne Frame, Ted Mongeon, Terry Doke

3.0 Velma Whittier, Eileen Gordon, Jane Ferderer, Marti Hunt, Kristie Swanson, Molly Pollock, Carole Pillow, Gary Patzer, Steve Rykaczewski, Bob McKeeman, Scott Taylor, Steve Swanson, Cliff DeJong, Mark Ferderer

3.5 Divya De Garde, Otto Souder, Karen Harding, Jeff Gross

4.0 Stephanie Velsmid, Janet Reynolds, Dale Statsman, Peter O'Leary, Kim Roehrig, Jeff Washburn

New Members

12 New members –

Lorna Zarkowski-Fuller, Lynn Teolis, Bruce Gudanowski, Marilyn Arthur, Irene Goltz, Thomas Horn, Darryl Goltz, Julie Olson, Kathleen Garcia, Christine Kelly-Smimmo, Jeanne Kern, Michael Kern

Summer 2024 Club Classes

Developing Skills:

Tuesday and Thursday mornings 7:00-8:30. For players up through 2.5 level. Lead Coach Peter Fronsee.

Player Development:

For 2.5 rated players Mondays 7:00 - 9:00 am. Must be 2.5 rating. Lead Coach Marilyn Rambo.
For 3.0 rated players Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30 am. Must be 3.0 rating. Lead Coach Greg Wright.
For 3.5 and 4.0 players Wednesdays 8:30 - 10:00 am. Must be 3.5 or 4.0 rating. Lead Coach Carol Hammerle.

The Club offers classes free of charge to active club members for those looking to learn and to improve their skills. While there is no charge for these they do require registration through Pickleball Plus (gvpc.pickleball.plus).

Developing Skills for 2.0 & 2.5 players. Players are encouraged to use Developing Skills as a steppingstone to improve their skills after taking a GVR Pickleball 101 class. These sessions incorporate drills and game play with a coach observer. After 4 sessions players will need to join the Club to continue to sign up.

Coaches are authorized to advance players from 2.0 to 2.5.

GVR Classes

None scheduled for the summer.

Training for Ball Machines

The Club has a Lobster Ball Machine at the East Center and the KJB 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).

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. Hopefully, you will never need to use them on the courts, but they are important, if you have a medical issue. Also, if you see plastic bags in the cabinets at the 3 locations, they are to be used for impromptu ice packs in case there are no ice

packs in the first aid kits.