



# PickleBlast

## March 2017 PickleBlast

Hi all and welcome to the latest *PickleBlast*. March is always our busiest month, so let's get caught up on what's been happening and what's coming for the rest of the month.

### What's in this PickleBlast?

- GVRPC Annual Board Meeting
- Southern Arizona Senior Games
- Website updates
- Green Valley Food Bank Challenge From BAJA
- Welcome New Members
- Members with New Ratings
- Interview with the Prez
- Observations
- Upcoming Events

### Annual Board Meeting

The GVRPC Annual Meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday, 3/22 at 3 pm at East Center. Please plan to attend to vote on a Bylaw revision, new officers, and hear some of what our club has accomplished in the past year. Jim Conroy from GVR will also be in attendance to take some of your questions about GVR and Pickleball.

### Southern Arizona Senior Games

What a great time we had! There were 380 registrants for the pickleball tournament, which featured near-perfect weather. The tournament ran very smoothly, thanks to our Directors and host of volunteers. More details to come in a report at the Annual Meeting.

### Website Updates

**Photos** - from this year's Southern Arizona Senior Games are now posted [here](#). Did the roving club photographer capture you?

**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, just saying 'Why I Love Pickleball', etc. "Like" the page to receive regular updates from other club members.

### **Food Bank Challenge**

BAJA has challenged the GVR Pickleball Club to match their donations during the month of March to the Green Valley Food Bank, as reported in [this GVNews article](#). The focus in March is toilet paper. These are items the Food Bank cannot get from the government but fly off the shelves when donated and are requested every year. So far our response has been good, but we can do better. Bring your donations to the East Center patio any day between 10 and 2 and watch for regular updates in the Green Valley News and on our website.

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

Robert Barkman	Marc Mennel	Sally Mylett	Julie and Brad Verbout
Carl Bergman	Claudia Miller	Paul Osika	Bob Woodbuth
Louise Bowlby	Michael Mogavero	Fred Searle	Mike Wooldrik
Bill Gugins			

### **Members with New Ratings (2016-2017)**

#### **Moved to 3.0:**

Dianna Michels	Mark Michels	Linda Phillips	Dennis Ford
Stephen Burr	Sharron McCartney	Mike McCarry	Jean Roske
Arne Maki	Russ Wolfe	Tim Liddle	Al Willette
Carol Sonnenberg	Scott Ross	Rene Lachowich	Judi Anderson
Sue Hubbard	Tom galvin	Bill Smith	John Maher
Carla Herrmann	Paulette Patterson	Katie Liddle	John Frazier
Barry Russo	Nary Drey	Jed Johnson	Carl Woloszyk

#### **Moved to 3.5:**

Charlie Jones	Bob Peck	Connie Griffin	Mark McIntosh
Brad Dubuc	Howard Schroeder	Layne Johnson	Ed Fickes
Steve Gilbert	Bob Seeman	Paul Serra	Jeff Harrell
Earl Schaller	Joanie Davis	Cathy Ciferri	Cam Crawford
Jane Schroeder	Katie Peterson	Carol Franklin	Laura Fisher
Kris Servais	Louise Bouck	Lee Sprengelmeyer	Jan Wee

Janet Nein	Carl Weiderman	Pam Vair-Haley	Barb Crane
Dean Beilke			

## Interview with the Prez

For months we have attempted to get an interview with our GVRPC President, Jeff Harrell. He's finally agreed to sit down with us and discuss his thoughts from the past year.

*[PickleBlast]: Thanks for taking some time to talk to us today, Jeff. You've been in office for about a year. What are some of the accomplishments?*

**[Jeff Harrell]:** We have made significant improvements in our education and ratings processes. Our introductory phase to pickleball has just exploded this year and we have responded with additional classes - and additional temporary courts. We have seen several members advance in club ratings (see below) as a result of formalizing our evaluation and ratings efforts. Our work towards a new pickleball complex has begun to produce results, as GVR is now prioritizing the design and construction in the near future. And, we have increased the community involvement for our club. I love the fact that we are beginning to move beyond playing our sport to become a significant contributor to our community.

*[PB]: Are you pleased with the number of members actively participating in the club?*

**[JH]:** Our club has a core of about 30 people who are extremely dedicated to the core activities of managing the multiple facets of our club. It has been a joy to work with this group and I'm looking forward to our newly elected board members joining us. However, we need to expand beyond this core which represents less than 5% of our membership. In the coming weeks we will make a push to better document club volunteer opportunities to make it easier for all of our members to have the chance to learn about what we're planning and to participate. Our social events are very well attended. We would love to see more of you at the monthly board meetings. It's your chance to give us your thoughts on how we can do the best job possible for our club.

*[PB]: What are some things that you hope to see in the next year?*

**[JH]:** I'd like to see significant progress toward obtaining more courts. The new complex is an obvious focus, but I'd like to see more short-term solutions to our overcrowding. For the first time, we created an agreement with the GVR Tennis Club to share some of their court space. That ultimately didn't work out, but just the fact that we were able to collaborate with this club was very encouraging. We continue to actively explore other opportunities to increase court space until the complex is built. We will continue to evaluate and modify court schedules to find the best mix of reserved courts, focus play, drop-in play, and Round Robins. The demands for court time from players with a wide

variety of skills and interests provides a continuing challenge to offer the best experience possible.

*[PB]: Has any thought been given to working with other regional clubs for shared clinics and playing time?*

**[JH]:** We are in discussion with several other clubs to jointly schedule professionals to conduct clinics and to promote inter-club play. Our limitation on reciprocal play is that we just can't invite even more people to our courts when we're already overflowing. So, we'll be working on inter-club play once we have more available court time in the next few weeks.

*[PB]: Thanks for the interview. Any final words?*

**[JH]:** I've received many positive comments about the PickleBlast. Keep up the good work, editor! Many of us will be leaving Green Valley for the summer soon. We'll keep sending updates on the new pickleball complex, so you can all follow our progress until you return for next season. Thanks to all of you who are patient and respectful as we try to manage court times and club functions to best serve all of our members.

## **Observations**

**Many of us are members of USAPA.** USAPA publishes a bi-monthly magazine either electronically or a hard copy. For those receiving a hard copy, our members could recycle it via the new little libraries erected in the major GVR lobbies. This would give non-pickleball folks some information on this great sport and promote the club.

**Thanks to all of the volunteers** 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.

**Decibel levels** – Did you know that paddles vary widely in the sound they make when striking the pickleball?? Pickleball 'noise' is a big factor as we look for a site for our Pickleball Center. Our Club actively promotes the purchase and use of the quietest paddles on the market. We encourage you to follow the recommendation of the Sun City Grand report ([click here](#)) if you are considering purchasing a new paddle.

**Contributions/donations** – many of our members made donations to the Club when paying their annual dues. We greatly appreciate these donations that have ranged from \$5 up to \$100 and they have all been deposited in our Reserve Account for the Pickleball Center. We have received these nonmember donations this season:

Proceeds for Texas Hold'em Tournament	\$1,210.00
Donation from Mark Renneson Clinics	\$410.00
Raffle sponsored by Pickle-Pro	\$132.00

## **Upcoming Events**

**GVRPC Poker Night** - Join us at the East Center on March 29 from 4:00-9:00 pm for Poker Night. This is a club fundraiser event and details are available [here](#).

**Quail Creek Charity Classic** – April 1&2. All proceeds go to St Judes Childrens Research Hospital. For details and how to register [click here](#).

### **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*