



PickleBlast

March 2018 PickleBlast

Here it is! This edition of the **PickleBlast** gives our year-end summary, along with the latest in news on new courts and a new section called Volunteer of the Month. Let's get started!

What's in this PickleBlast?

- Annual Meeting
- New GVR Pickleball Courts update
- Website updates
- Welcome New Members
- Member Rating changes
- Volunteer of the Month
- Southern Arizona Senior Games
- President's Report
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Annual Club Meeting

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 21 at 3:00 p.m. in the East Center auditorium. We will vote on club Board candidates and a Bylaw revision and get reports from our club committees. Please plan to attend and if you have not renewed your membership for 2018, do so today! Otherwise you will be marked as inactive and be unable to participate in the meeting.

New GVR Pickleball Courts update

Thanks to all who came out to the GVR Board meeting on 2/27. We had quite the showing, people waving paddles, and lining up to speak publicly to the GVR Board. With that show of support, the GVR Board voted to purchase a site for new courts on Camino De La Canoa. GVR is now conducting due diligence and should have the results back by the end of this month. And, we should see progress on lighting the rest of the East Center courts soon. But we're far from done. The GVR Board will still need to vote on funding for design and construction after the site purchase is finalized. **We need your help!** [Here are the details](#) on how you can get involved. Most of these tasks take little effort but demonstrate to the GVR Board that we need new courts now and aren't going away.

Our golf tournament for fundraising for new courts is scheduled for April 22 at San Ignacio Golf Course. You can get the registration form [here](#). If you would like to help with any of these events, please [contact us](#) and we'll be happy to add you to the team. We cannot have a successful fundraising effort without your help.

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.
- We've started a new Frequently Asked Questions for those questions and answers that come up regularly. This page will receive updates as we post information that most of you request. You can view the new page [here](#).
- There's now another new page on the website dedicated to [information about the new courts](#) project. We will continue to post the latest news as we receive it.
- Don't forget about our club [FaceBook page](#). It's tournament season and you can catch up on all the medal winners from Green Valley there.

Welcome New Members! (February)

Colleen Baldwin	Patty Calver	Rich De Clerck	Joan and Blake Iserman
Leslie and Ray Kush	Fred Lascelles	Paul Mitsch	Edward Moreno
Nancy and Frank Morrison	Susan and Charles Nelson	Curtis Norwick	Paul Saperstein
Kathy Schneiderwind	Jim Shomenta	Jolene Stavropoulos-Kuhn	

Congrats to Members with New Ratings! (February)

Moved to 2.5:	Dennis Au	Ellie Birmingham	Michael Lawrence	Barbara Mauser
Sue Meese	Kathy Murphy	Ruth Neufeld	Roderic Ruggier	Jeff Schroeder
Brenda Zenan				
Moved to 3.0:	Gary Anderson	Susan Anderson	Cathy Ireland	Deb Whitecotton
Moved to 3.5:	Jimi Brewer	Deb McPartland	Ken Parejko	Dale Plante
Klaus Richter	Barry Schneiderwind	Lori Thonander		
Moved to 4.0:				
Moved to 4.5:				

** Have you received a new rating through USAPA or IPTPA? If so, let our Secretary Virginia Smith know and she'll update your club profile.

Volunteer of the Month

This is a new section dedicated to recognizing a club volunteer who's contributions may not always be noticed by the majority of the club. There are so many volunteering quietly, so this is a tough choice each month.

This month's volunteer is **Mike DiDonato**. Mike recently made a set of measuring sticks to help us keep our nets at a consistent level. And, have you notice the new ball holders at the courts for the two types of balls we use? Yep, Mike made those also. Thanks Mike!

Southern Arizona Senior Games Recap

391 Registrations

103 Registrations from Green Valley

164 players on Men's Doubles Day

180 players on Mixed Doubles Day

110 players on Women's Doubles Day

234 volunteers over 5 days

180 referees over 5 days

Many volunteers did double and triple shifts and multiple duties

Many thanks to all of you who helped. If you weren't able to volunteer, please consider doing so for next year's Games.

Interview with the Prez

This month's interview is with our President, Jeff Harrell. It's been a year since we last interviewed him and it's high time that he takes a little time to give us his perspective on the last 12 months.

[PickleBlast]: Welcome to the PickleBlast studios, Jeff. We've been anxiously awaiting another interview since last Spring. Do you have any updates for us from the past year?

[Jeff Harrell]: Well, of course! Our Board has been very busy, as we have implemented a new **Club Policy Manual**, introduced Inter-Community play to GVR courts, and overhauled our club ratings process. As most of you know, we are beginning to gain a little traction on getting new courts and lighting the remaining courts at East Center. It looks like the GVR Board will not be voting to allocate funds for design and construction of the new courts for another month or two. So, many of our members will be gone for the summer, making it even more important that those of us who are still here stay visible at GVR Board and committee meetings.

[PB]: What are your greatest concerns about our club?

[JH]: I have three concerns about our club and it's future. First, what happens if we don't get new courts? We've had much discussion about new courts but what about the alternative? Frankly, I don't know. What we go through each high season is not sustainable and we need to do a better job of educating GVR and the new GVR Board of the conditions we experience each winter. Second, how do we get more of you involved? For years we have had the same core of 20-30 people leading our club. While we

thoroughly value their contribution, we need more of you to step up to help with the work and make everyone's load lighter. Third, how do we promote the positive aspects of 90% of our club. The overwhelming majority of our members are courteous, respectful, patient, and understanding and as a club, we thank you. Club leadership spends the majority of our time responding to the 10% who are consistently unhappy about something and wanting to change what the club offers to meet their individual needs. Maybe that's a reflection of the community in which we live, but we always strive to keep all of our members happy and informed and work constantly to respond to those with problems.

[PB]: What are the most noteworthy accomplishments of the past year?

[JH]: We have finally captured the attention of GVR and the community. There is overwhelming support for building new courts and soon. Now, the real success will be when we not only have a dedicated site, but also the commitment to paying for the design and construction of new courts. Our fundraising efforts will go a long way towards demonstrating that we're invested as a club and insisting that GVR honor their stated commitment too. We have better organized our club through the creation of a Club Policy Manual. No more are we dependent upon what someone might recall as the guiding policy on any particular issue. With the impending elections, we are saying thanks to those who have served on the Board faithfully for years and transitioning to a new group of leaders. We have a dynamic group of newer members who are becoming involved in our club and bringing renewed energy to our leadership.

[PB]: That's pretty heavy, dude. Any final thoughts?

[JH]: I think we have the most active and positive sports club in all of GVR, and it's a club I'm proud to represent. We've begun on a journey to obtain the facilities we need for our sport and our membership, but we're not close to being done. We're on the threshold of acquiring a site but we still have a lot of work to do to ensure that those courts are designed well and built. I so look forward to the day when I can run onto the new court and hit that first ball winner. Or, hit it squarely into the new net. It is my hope that all of you reading this are there with me to not only celebrate our new courts but also the journey we took to get there. Thanks to all of you for all that you contribute to our club.

[PB]: Mr. President, thanks for taking time to talk to us today. We appreciate your thoughts on both the past and the future and look forward to the coming year and progress towards the new courts we so desperately need. If any of our readers have specific questions for the Prez, you can submit them [here](#). If he's not playing pickleball, he's sitting at home waiting for your emails, so let's keep him busy!

Netiquette

- Remember that we can stack two paddles only during focus play. Want a men's game or women's game? Chances are if you ask those in the queue around you, they'll accommodate your request, because that's how we roll.
- You'll notice two ball tubes at the courts now. One is for the Onix Pure 2 balls, the other for the DuraFast balls. Please return the correct ball to the correct holder. And, if the temperature is below 50 F, please use only the Onix Pure 2 balls. The DuraFast balls will

crack easily when played in temps below 50 F, which results in more expenses for our club.

Observations

- Need a copy of the new 2018 USAPA/IFP Rulebook? See Paul May who has ordered a few and will sell one to you at cost plus shipping.
- Just can't stress enough how much we still need everyone to show support for new courts. Those in opposition are loud and persistent and the GVR Board is listening. If we're to ever have new courts, we all need to make our voice heard. Show up for the meetings, use the available channels to express your support to the GVR Board and to those reading the local paper. Silence on our part is interpreted as ambivalence and acceptance of the status quo. Make sure your expression is factual and positive. That's a direct contrast to what the GVR Board and public have been hearing and we can make a difference!

Upcoming Events

- Club Annual Meeting! March 21 3:00 at the East Center. We'll vote on a club bylaw change and candidates for three board positions. And we'll recap the year and talk a little about what's coming next year.
- 2018 Quail Creek Classic Tournament for St. Jude Children's Research is March 24-25. You can get more info and register [here](#).
- SAVE THE DATE!! SPRING PICKLEBALL PICNIC. Come join the Picnic Fun with Burgers and all the fixins. Games and Prizes
April 15th, 1pm – 4pm at Canoa Hills Park. Cost is \$10 each, BYOB. Please sign up [here](#) so we know how many to plan for!
- A Pickleball Club sponsored golf outing is scheduled for April 22 at San Ignacio Golf Course. This will be a fundraiser for new pickleball courts and details are [here](#).

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