



# PickleBlast

## *October 2017 PickleBlast*

Hi all and welcome to the latest **PickleBlast**. We're beginning to see many familiar faces return to the courts in Green Valley. And, we're starting to notice more people showing up to play. We have a new court schedule effective October 1, and have implemented a Court Coordinator program, along with some new policies designed to speed up transition and play to accommodate our increased numbers. During our October Board meeting we adopted a Club Policy Manual to help define club policies and will be posting pertinent sections at both facilities to help answer questions you might have.

### **What's in this PickleBlast?**

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### **Board Meeting Highlights**

1. The initial Club Policy Manual has been adopted and will be distributed to the membership and to GVR.
2. Two Bylaw revisions were approved and will be sent to GVR for approval prior to a general membership vote at the 2018 Annual Meeting.
3. The current schedule has been modified to designate Court 1 at the East Center as a reserved court Monday through Friday between 12 and 1:30.
4. Plans for our fall social and club tournament are on track. You can sign up for either or both on SignUp Genius

### **GVR Pickleball Center update**

GVR is now negotiating for purchase of a site for the new pickleball center, with the goal of obtaining the site before the end of the year. Our club will be asked to help raise funds for the construction of the new facilities and we are busy finding ways to raise the necessary money to contribute to those costs. If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution through the GVR Foundation, contact a Board member to learn how to do so. And, plan to participate in our fundraisers as much as you can. They're fun and an easy way to contribute to the project.

### **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.

**Who is that?** Having a hard time remembering everyone's name? Our club name tags are just the thing to keep from having to introduce yourself over and over. You can order [here](#).

Are you looking for information about skills rating sessions, current court schedules, GVR guest policy, or reserving a court? You can find all of that (and more!) [here](#).

## Welcome New Members! (September)

Corinne Leachman	Karen and Glen Riley	Helen and Chuck Stewart	Susan Stussy
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## Interview with Virginia Smith

Today we have Virginia Smith here in the PickleBlast studios at the East Center in Green Valley AZ. Virginia is currently our club Secretary and responsible for taking meeting minutes, maintaining member records, coordinating room reservations, and quietly managing many of the administrative tasks to keep our club running smoothly. She is one of those indispensable, behind the scenes volunteers that our club is built on.

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

**[Virginia Smith]:** I have been honored to serve as club secretary since 2015. I grew up on a farm in Western Colorado, and moved to Wyoming when I married Bill. We have lived in the same home in Casper since 1967 where we raised our two sons. I worked in retail, banking, as an insurance agent, and also 29 years as a tax preparer for H&R Block. In early 2012 we visited a friend in GV and were very impressed. Later that year we traveled through Utah, Nevada, and Arizona and never found an area with the facilities we had seen in GV, so we wound up here and made an offer on a home. We moved down in October and loved it, but missed our family and friends. We were lucky to get into the PB class right away--we had heard about PB and had attended one class in Casper--and soon began getting to know people. Of course, we all feel that 2012 class was the best ever! We found if we got to the courts very early we could practice, and usually were invited to play a couple games as players began showing up.

*[PB]: You have been a long-time GVR Pickleball Club Board member and have been a part of the growing pains (and successes!) we have and still are experiencing with the explosive growth of our sport. What is our club doing well and what could we improve on?*

**[VS]:** Scheduling the courts to provide quality play for everyone from beginner to competitive levels and everyone in between is a continual challenge. The 7 courts with 189 members in 2012 and the 11 courts with 800 current members demonstrate the growth we are experiencing. We try to offer classes and/or Assisted Play(AP) to help all those wanting to learn the game. When I joined the club, everyone pretty much self-rated as beginner, intermediate, or advanced. Then as the club grew, they started assigning the numerical ratings. Last year the Rating Committee set criteria and held rating sessions which has really improved our focus play. We will always be a work in progress and welcome constructive ideas and appreciate volunteers.

*[PB]: Though we have plenty of court time in the off season, our seasonal visitors are beginning to return. What advice do you have for those just arriving and facing another year of crowded courts?*

**[PS]:** The PB motto "Everyone plays, Everyone has fun" about sums up my attitude and I try to pass this on when I assist with AP and at the courts. Five minutes after walking off the court you won't remember who won that game, but will remember the feeling of playing a good game, having a few laughs, and enjoying our wonderful weather and our new friends. As the courts become more crowded this winter we will need to have patience, enjoy our social time, and maybe find afternoon times when there are empty courts. The news that GVR is negotiating for a site to build a PB center is very exciting! I'm sure we will utilize them all as we have ideas for more classes, drills and competitions and our numbers keep increasing as PB keeps growing.

*[PB]: Virginia, thanks for sharing about you and giving us your thoughts on our club and pickleball today. And a special thanks for your quiet and effective support for our club. The contributions you and Bill make are invaluable.*

## **Survey Says!**

Dr. Richard Gitelson, Professor, Chico State University and Professor Emeritus, Arizona State University has developed an online survey to measure the impact pickleball has on community needs, policy issues, and recreation behavior. He has used this survey primarily in CA and has agreed to expand to include Green Valley AZ. If you're interested in sharing your thoughts through the survey, you can access it [here](#). Once complete, Dr. Gitelson will share the results with us. This might be important information to share with GVR and with our community as we navigate the process of building new facilities.

## **Observations**

- a. Buckle up, folks. The high season in Green Valley is starting and our courts are filling up. Please work with the Court Coordinators as they facilitate play and utilize them to answer your questions regarding court usage and policy. If you have suggestions for improvement, please use the [Contact Us link](#) on the website so that we can respond thoughtfully.
- b. Almost every pickleball tournament struggles to find enough referees. As a result, those who do volunteer carry a disproportionate amount of the work. Take advantage of the referee classes and refreshers offered by our club, starting October 23. Not only will you help tournaments run more smoothly, you'll also gain a better understanding of the rules and have more appreciation of others who are refereeing. [SignUp Genius](#) is where you go to reserve your spot!
- c. Condolences to Mary Cay Puska on the loss of her husband, Rocky. If there's anything you need, please let us know and we'll be there.

## **Upcoming Events**

- October 30-November 1 is our Fall Round Robin Fun Tournament – no partner needed! Enjoy our first club social of the year , a Taco Bar, on November 1 from 5-8pm. Make your reservations for both on SignUpGenius through our [website](#).
- We will begin taking orders for club shirts soon. Watch for an announcement with all the details upcoming.

- November 11-12 is Quail Creek's Blind Date Tournament, which is limited to players from Quail Creek, Sahuarita, and Green Valley. Each of us from Green Valley who register will be paired with another player from one of the other clubs in a Round Robin format. Proceeds are designated to go to the Green Valley Foodbank and Friends Indeed. Registration information is [here](#).
- The annual GVR Fit N Fun Day is scheduled for Sunday, January 28 1:00-3:00 pm. During this event our club creates a demo pickleball court at Las Campanas and provides club information at an indoor booth. We are looking for volunteers to setup the court and to work at the booth inside.
- Save the Date! The Southern Arizona Senior Games is scheduled for March 6-8, 2018, with registration scheduled to begin January 7, 2018. The 2.0/2.5 Round Robin tournament will also be that week, with details to be released later.

### **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***