



PickleBlast

November 2018 PickleBlast

It's the time of year when we see new and familiar faces every week. Welcome to those of you who have returned to Green Valley and safe travels to those of you who will be arriving soon.

What's in this PickleBlast?

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November Board Meeting Highlights

- Court usage - Lack of participation by 2.0/2.5 group in Focus and Round Robin plan may lead to reducing the amount of time scheduled for this group
- Ball usage fees for non-club members - create court signage, sign-in sheets for club guests, instructions on how guests can make a donation for ball usage **
- Education Committee to manage all class schedules and fees and regularly report to Board on changes
- Need volunteer to coordinate ball machine certification **
- Voluntary donations for free classes - members to deposit checks made out to GVR Foundation in East Center lobby mailbox and annotate on check that the donation is for Pickleball Center

** We can start both of these projects once we have volunteers to do the work.

New GVR Pickleball Courts update

The Pickleball Center Advisory Group has reviewed and given approval to the final pickleball center design plan. GVR will present the design plan and take questions and feedback during a meeting tentatively scheduled for December 13. Following that, the GVR Fiscal Affairs Committee and GVR Board will identify funding for construction. Our attendance at these meetings remains critical to continue to encourage GVR to provide the necessary new courts to alleviate our overcrowding. Below is a more extensive Q&A on the new courts.

GVR Foundation
Statement of Revenue and Expense
PICKLEBALL
Year-to-Date: 1/1/2018 - 9/30/2018
Acct is In (4100, 4102, 9030)

		Current Year	Prior Year	Totals
		Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date	
Revenue				
	Pickleball Contributions	\$50,620.00	\$6,240.00	
	Pickleball Golf Receipts	\$15,808.00	\$0.00	
Revenue		\$66,428.00	\$6,240.00	\$73,168.00
Expenses				
	Pickleball Expenses	\$4,080.15	\$0.00	
Expenses		\$4,080.15	\$0.00	\$4,080.15
Excess or (Deficiency) of	Revenue Over Expenses	\$62,347.85	\$6,240.00	\$69,087.85

Pickleball Club Reserve for New Courts (Club) \$55,400.07
Pickleball Club Reserve for New Courts (Foundation) \$69,087.85
TOTAL \$ 124,487.92

Welcome New Members! (October)

Connie Cedarholm	Bob Grisham	Linda Nitz	Cindy Webb
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Congrats to Members with New Ratings! (September/October)

Moved to 2.5:	Len Whitecotton			
Moved to 3.0:	Larry Backus	John Dresback	Sarah Kenney	Diane Liguori
	Jerry Rambo	Marilyn Rambo	Jay Salerno	Len Whitecotton
Moved to 3.5:	Gary Anderson	Susan Anderson	Marcia Baraldi	Geri Bryan
	Brenda Carlson	Rick Eiland	Linda Phillips	Scott Rowsam
				Michael Weston
	Larry Wolfe			
Moved to 4.0:				
Moved to 4.5:				

Volunteer of the Month

This month's volunteers are **all of you helping with cleaning and setting up the temporary courts at the East tennis courts**. There is much more work to setting up and maintaining these courts than you might think. Thanks to those who have stepped up to provide these additional courts for all of the club to use.

New Pickleball Center Q&A

Q: Where is GVR in the pickleball center design process?

A: Since last Spring the Pickleball Center Subcommittee (Steve Gilbert, Carol Hammerle, Jeff Harrell, Jim Maxwell, Mike McCarry, Curt Wagner) have held regular meetings with GVR staff and WSM Architects to create a design plan to be presented to the GVR Board and membership, along with an estimate of project costs. This presentation is scheduled for December 13 at 1:30 with the location TBD.

Q: Can we get the details on the design before the December 13th meeting?

A: That is a GVR decision and at this time they are electing to wait until that meeting to release the plan. However, we can tell you that the plan is for 24 courts, a Ramada, and parking lots. One of the courts will be an instructional court with seating on the north, west, and south sides.

Q: Ok, once the design is presented, what happens next?

A: Following the public forum, the design plan will need to be approved by the GVR P&E Committee and accepted by the GVR Board. Then the GVR Fiscal Affairs Committee begins the process of identifying funding sources for the project. At the

same time, the plans are to be submitted to Pima County for review and approval. The county review process for a project of this scope is estimated to require 90 days.

Q: So, will all 24 courts, the Ramada, and the parking lots be built as a single project?

A: That makes the most financial sense, as the bulk of the costs are for the Ramada and for leveling and preparing the site for the new courts. Building courts without the Ramada would be an unworkable solution. Building a reduced number of courts would be a foolish attempt to save money, when construction costs are forecasted to rise over 1.5% each month that GVR waits to complete the project. However, that decision is completely in the hands of the GVR Board and its Committees. The only thing our club can do is to attend as many Committee and Board meetings as we can and continue to voice our support for completing the project and doing so as quickly as is possible. This is why we encourage you to attend as many of these meetings as possible - particularly those with the pickleball center on the agenda.

Q: What about fundraising for the new center? Will the club continue it's efforts to raise funds or will we wait to see what GVR does with the project?

A: Our club will continue to look at ways that we can sponsor fundraising for the new courts, partnering with the GVR Foundation if possible. However, we realize that significant fundraising amounts and pledges probably won't be made regularly until GVR has accepted the design plan, approved the funding, and has set a construction timeline. Many donors are waiting for the day when GVR takes meaningful action to begin construction to make donations and pledges through our club fundraising efforts.

Q: One final question - when will we have new courts?

*A: At the very earliest construction could begin at the conclusion of the county review and approval period, which would be 90 days following GVR Board project approval. If the GVR Board honors previous promises and there are no more delays, we could see construction begin before May 2019. But as I've mentioned before, the GVR Board is the decision-maker and controls all aspects of the pickleball center project. We can only continue to support the project through our meeting attendance, **emails to the Board** and **local news**, and talking with our friends and neighbors. We are quickly approaching a tipping point on the new pickleball center project.*

We Need Your Help!

Our club is ready to begin the process of defining the agreement we will have between GVR, our club, and the GVR Foundation regarding operations at the new pickleball center.

We want to make sure that we have a strong voice in how these courts are managed and maintained to provide the maximum benefit to our club. The GVR Pickleball Club has been tasked with raising approximately 1/4 of the total cost of court construction, which has never been done in GVR history. So, we believe we should have a significant say in how the courts are managed. If you are interested, please reply to this email or contact us through our website [here](#) and we'll pass along your contact information to the committee chair.

Policy Update

Our club Board has adopted a number of policies over the past two years to help standardize how and when we play and how club events are conducted. The entire [club policy manual](#) is posted on our website here, but we're also featuring a portion of the manual each month to remind all of us about our responsibilities as club members. If you have any questions or suggestions to improve our policies, send us an email or contact any Board member.

Paddle decibel levels are not officially governed by GVRPC, but the club does provide recommendations published by the USA Pickleball Association (USAPA) for paddles that are approved for USAPA Sanctioned Tournaments. Current information is published on the club website.

GVR Pickleball Club Members Compete at Nationals

Over 2200 player participants, 9 different age categories with five skill levels in each as well as a pro division with a \$75,000 purse, 4600 matches, 45 courts newly resurfaced and painted for pickleball, 2000 registrations received during the first 5 minutes of each staggered registration: welcome to the 2018 USA Pickleball National Championships!

Between Nov 2 and 11, pickleball enthusiasts from across North America gathered at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden in southern California. Each year the BNP Paribas Open, the largest combined men and women's pro tennis tournament in the world, is held there. For 10 days in early November, the Garden became the focus of the American pickleball world.

Thirteen members of GVR's Pickleball Club participated as players and referees. Others came as spectators to applaud friends. Five brought home medals, finishing in the top 3 of their divisions. As Mike McCarry, who won a silver medal at 3.0 level, age 65 plus with his partner and wife Margaret said, "Arriving at the Nationals in Indian Wells, all of our thoughts of what it might be like were now amplified many times. It became quickly obvious that this, as many fellow players commented, was Pickleball nirvana. The sheer size and scope of the venue was breathtaking."

Charlotte Jorgensen and Marsha Raymond, GVR Pickleball Club members, were 2 of the more than 160 referees needed for all the matches. They have gone through special training and spent much of the summer traveling to tournaments in Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and Oregon, and have now added California and a national tournament to their list.

Shirley Schaller had been planning to play with Sandy Heintz. When Sandy's knee refused to cooperate shortly before the tournament, Shirley submitted her name as "needing a partner." She obviously received a good one, as together, with little practice, they won a bronze medal in the 4.0, age 65 plus division. Sandy became cheerleader par excellence by also cheering on her husband, Gary, who won a silver medal with his men's partner from Colorado in the 3.5, age 70 plus division. Shirley also played mixed doubles with Gary after Sandy discovered she could not compete.

Doug Cook captured a bronze with his partner in the 4.5 Mixed, age 70 plus category. Nancy Steffy and Bev Cote were one win away from hardware as they took fourth out of 22 teams in the 4.0, age 60-64 women's division. Also competing from the Green Valley Club were Marlene Rockwell and Kathy Palese in the 4.0, age 50 plus women's, Mark Robertson in 4.5, 65 plus men's doubles, and Joanie Davis, the only Green Valley member to play singles at 3.0, age 70 plus, as well as advancing to a 4th match at 3.5, 75 plus in mixed doubles.

The USAPA (USA Pickleball Association) and Indian Wells Tennis Garden have signed a 5 year deal to host the National Pickleball Championships exclusively at this amazing facility. Look forward to seeing more GVR pickleball club members there next year.

Observations

- Our courts are quickly becoming crowded as many of us return to Green Valley. The East Center court expansion project will place further strain on our courts and we'll need to adapt to temporary courts and a bit of inconvenience. Please be patient during the construction phase, which should end about the end of January.
- Did you know? The courts are open for play beyond the 9 am to noon period. If you're tired of waiting to play, look at the schedule more closely and come at a different time. There is plenty of opportunity to play for each skill group outside of "rush hour". And once the East Center court remodel is complete, we will gain 4 more courts for night play.
- The club has adopted the Gold/Silver Queues format to be used during Focus Play when there are a sufficient (~16 or more paddles in a single queue) number of players waiting for a court. When you first arrive you place your paddle in the Silver Queue. After each match the two winning players move to the Gold Queue, while the

two losing players remain in the Silver Queue. The 3.5 skill level group is using this system and other levels are encouraged to also use it, when there are a number of people waiting to play.?

Upcoming Events

- East Center courts 1-3 will close beginning Monday, November 19 for an estimated 65 calendar days. The temporary courts at the East tennis courts will be ready and the new schedule is posted [here](#).
- Our club will host a presentation by Rif Rifkind of the International Pickleball Teaching Professional Association (IPTPA) on the ratings system his organization provides in the East Center auditorium at 6 pm on December 1. Recently the Quail Creek PB Club adopted this ratings model and this is our chance to hear from the founder of IPTPA about the benefits and details regarding this rating system.
- Upcoming GVR Board meetings are scheduled for December 4 and January 29. The discussion about approving the pickleball center design plans and funding the project are beginning and your support for the club is greatly appreciated. And, don't forget about the GVR Committee meetings scheduled monthly. The calendar for all of these meetings is [here](#).
- [Mark Renneson](#) will be holding clinics at GVR courts on March 18-19, 2019. He is working on a schedule of clinic and lesson times and rates and we'll send you the info once we have it.
- Our club Pickleball Olympics has been rescheduled for April 14, 2019. We'll send out reminders when we get closer to the date.

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 Club