



PickleBlast

Pickleblast December 2019

Hope you're having a great time playing in this typical southern Arizona winter weather. Cool mornings and warm afternoons with little wind makes for great weather on our outdoor courts. Some of you are temporarily absent or will be with the holidays approaching. We're crowded, but there's 24 reasons to eagerly anticipate January. The contractors are on schedule and the courts are rapidly taking shape. Here's all the news you've been looking for.

What's in this PickleBlast?

GVRPC Board Meeting Highlights

GVR Pickleball Center update

Welcome New Members

Member Rating Changes

Conversation with Ballot Bob

Observations

New member photos

GVRPC Board Meeting Highlights

- Update on pickleball center and new courts
- Nominating Committee formed - Donna Talarski, Becky Lupo, Brenda Russell
- Education Committee report on expanded classes once new courts are operational
- Bylaw revisions to allow electronic ballots and voting prior to Annual Meeting

GVR Pickleball Center update

Fencing and gates are up, nets and posts are being installed and the courts have been painted. Still some work to do, but it's looking more and more like a pickleball complex!

Watch for details on our grand opening ceremony as we get closer to the first of the year.

Welcome New Members! (November)

Dana Barnes	James Chiesa	Mark Cole	Marlene and Wayne Kerr	Lauren Olson
Gigi Weixler	Susan Wilson			

Congrats to Members with New Ratings! (November)

Moved to 2.5:				
Moved to 3.0:	Ann Hess	Cathie O'Brien		
Moved to 3.5:	John Carlon	John Dresbach	Debra Hall	Greg Wright
Moved to 4.0:	Jeanne Ingalls	Colleen Mellyn	Wally Rhodes	Glenn Tomalty
Moved to 4.5:				

Conversation with Ballot Bob

Today we have a very special guest in studio. Ballot Bob is here to share with us a little about his passion and how we can make a difference in GVR and our community. Ballot Bob is the son of Hanging Chad, who rose to prominence in 2000 during the US Presidential election in Florida. What words of wisdom do you have for us today, BB?

[Ballot Bob]: Back in the day, there was a group of people who lived in a small community in southern Arizona. The community started out very small, and everyone raised horses there. One day, a group of home builders realized that more and more people would come if they built more casas and casitas. People would come for the warm weather, the beauty of the area, and the low cost of living, and of course, to raise horses. When the builders made their plans for more homes, they also reasoned that as more people came, there would also be a greater need for horse facilities, such as stables, barns, racetracks, polo fields, and pastures. So, the builders included these facilities in their plans and built them in different locations around the valley.

Once the new casas and casitas were built, the builders didn't want to manage the horse facilities, and neither did the community. So, they all devised a plan whereby a group would manage all the horse facilities, starting with the racetracks, as they were the most popular feature. Everyone called this group the Green Valley Racetracks, Inc., or GVR. It was a wonderful life and the more people talked about the community, the more people wanted to move there or visit the area during the winter. Several national magazines even gave the community awards and recommendations as the best place to raise and enjoy their horses!

As more people settled in the area and more casas and casitas were built, residents and visitors began to discover that not everyone wanted to use their horses in the same way. Many still loved the racetracks and polo fields, but there was a small but vocal group who just wanted to (you ready for this?)... put their horses out to pasture. Doing so would be much less work and keep the costs of running GVR as low as possible. And it would reduce the influx of new residents so that those already there wouldn't need to worry about adding more or different horse facilities.

Each year the community held elections to choose leaders of GVR, but there were only a small number of residents who cast their vote. So, the smaller but more vocal group began to change GVR, while the majority of the residents paid no attention and went about using the horse facilities and pastures without a care for the future. This created a divide in the community as those who disagreed with this trend began to push back.

[PB]: Well, that's a very entertaining story BB, but what does that have to do with us?

[BB]: I'm just an interested observer here, but it seems to me that those who don't learn about the issues and leadership candidates and fail to vote are really missing the opportunity to shape their future and the future of their community. There's absolutely nothing wrong with having a different opinion from your neighbor and supporting that opinion. The real tragedy is the issue of the majority of residents not participating or seeming to care about their future and the future of their community. If you are not learning about the issues and candidates and casting your vote, why not? People have worked very hard to get information to you and to make voting as easy as possible for you.

One of the most valuable gifts we have is the ability to discover issues and leaders that align most closely with our own and support them with our votes. It astonishes me that so many people choose to ignore what is going on around them that will most assuredly impact them and their future. If you choose to not participate or participate without knowing what the issues are and what the candidates stand for, don't be surprised if what you enjoy today isn't there tomorrow.

[PB]: Ballot Bob, thanks for sharing your thoughts on this important topic. Hopefully, this call to action will encourage our community to pay attention to the issues and candidates and vote intelligently. And, watch your step as you go. There is a lot of horse residue out there!

Did You Know?

When you scan your GVR card to access the East Center courts through the outside gate, the system records that you accessed the East Center, but not the courts. Please remember to use the card scanner by the sign-in desk so we have accurate usage records when you play.

Observations

- If you haven't already renewed your membership for 2020, consider doing it now. Our club finances are stretched, as we've contributed all of our reserves to build 24 courts but there are still expenses for the small things that make playing enjoyable. Such as pickleballs. Can you imagine how boring a game is without pickleballs? Here's the membership renewal application. Please pay by check, as cash payments present a myriad of complications for our club leadership.
- Need one of those spiffy pickleball name tags? You can order them through our website here. Please use this page only for orders. Putting an order in the club mailbox or including with dues payments doesn't get the info to the right people.

- We're looking for someone to take charge of providing pictures of new members. If you can help to coordinate providing these pictures to those who create the member profiles, it would be a big help. Just reply to this email and indicate that you're willing to help.
- Focus play is where you can "play up" if you're working to get to the next skill rating level. But, please do so intelligently. If there are 20-30 paddles already in the queue, that's not the time to join the crowd. And, if you're playing up, don't double up and play in your current skill level group on the same day.
- As Ballot Bob mentioned in our PBlast interview for this month, this is a critical time for GVR. There are forces at work who would like GVR to return to the days of sitting around and waiting for the inevitable end. As a group of active retirees, we are changing that expectation. Consider increasing your knowledge and involvement in electing those who serve as GVR Directors. We need leadership that is proactive and progressive with a realistic vision of what GVR is now and what it can be in the future.

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**