



# PickleBlast

## September 2019 PickleBlast

Well, what a summer for our club and for Green Valley. We exceeded our goals through our GVR Pickleball Campaign Blitz and are now watching construction of the new courts we've been promised for years. Each of you who contributed should be proud of what we have accomplished and excited for the future. We have much work to be done before the new courts open, so if you haven't volunteered to help and would like to, please reply to this email.

### What's in this PickleBlast?

GVRPC Board Meeting Highlights

GVR Pickleball Center update

Welcome New Members

Member Rating Changes

Interview with Carol Hammerle

Observations

Upcoming Events

### GVRPC Board Meeting Highlights

- Update on pickleball center and new courts
- Review/approval of new brochures on education and new member orientation
- Discussion on changes to policy manual for conduct code
- Limitation of IPTPA prep classes to club members only

### GVR Pickleball Center update

The final amount transferred from our club reserves to the escrow account was \$347,455 and was made on August 29. This exceeds the estimated amount of \$340,000 needed for the 24 courts, but we have not yet received a final cost from the court contractor. Interestingly, a bid for all 24 courts was never requested as no one anticipated that we would be able to raise that amount of money. Congrats to us!

Final details of fencing, gates, landscaping, and shade structures are being completed now. One of the next steps is to create court schedules incorporating the new courts. If you have ideas about court usage, we'd love to hear them. We will continue to have focus play and open play, but now have the room to expand our club events such as challenge

courts, round robins, ladder leagues. If you have participated in events such as these in other clubs, please share with us.

Court construction is expected to begin this month and there has been no adjustment of the January completion date due to the additional courts. Weather may be a factor over the next three months, but it appears that we are on track to have the courts completed and operational well before the Southern Arizona Senior Games in March. Watch for details on our grand opening ceremony as we get closer to the first of the year.

### Welcome New Members! (August)

Barb Fleshman	Gary Galbreath	Jodie Jennings	Becky Lupo
Alice McKenzie	Terri Nolte	Ted Robison	Bill White

### Congrats to Members with New Ratings! (August)

Moved to 2.5:					
Moved to 3.0:					
Moved to 3.5:					
Moved to 4.0:					
Moved to 4.5:					

### Interview with Carol Hammerle

This month's interview is with our club Education Director, Carol Hammerle. Carol has many years of experience as a coach and an instructor and has created the education program that the club and GVR offers today. She has graciously agreed to put down the whistle for a few minutes and join us in the GVRPC studios. Let's see what Carol has to share with us.

**[PickleBlast]:** Thanks for taking some time to talk to us today Carol. For our members who may not know you, tell us about your background, how you came to Green Valley, and how you discovered the game of pickleball.

**[Carol]:** I spent 32 years as a Division I women's basketball coach, starting the program at University of Wisconsin Green Bay for 25 years and finishing my last 7 years at Northern Illinois University. Kris and I with two very good friends, Nancy Demmuth and Donna Davis started looking for retirement communities during spring vacation breaks. We started in Scottsdale - way too much pavement and traffic, then Tubac, which is how we discovered Green Valley. The next year in 2009 we rented in Green Valley for 3 months. In March 2009, Green Valley hosted the Senior Games in pickleball so Donna and I decided we should try the sport. We entered the event and won a bronze medal! With immediate gratification, we were hooked on the sport of pickleball!

**[PB]: You and your coaches have worked very hard over the past year to revamp much of what we offered for initial and continuing education for this crazy game called Pickleball. Would you please share with us information about the classes offered and how they work to provide a progressive path for improvement?**

**[CH]:** Much like the game of pickleball, the educational program has evolved over the years to provide club members a scope and sequence of instruction to improve overall performance. The GVR Pickleball Club is unique from most clubs in AZ because of the impact of Green Valley Recreation. As a club we offer free classes to assist the members in developing skills, plus there are classes through GVR for a fee which enhance overall performance as well. The Educational Committee has created an instructional methodology for a beginning PB player, which would incorporate the following classes: Pickleball Orientation which is a two hour class for those who have never played pickleball. Players will then be directed to the next appropriate class. The logical progression would be GVR PB 101 or Developing Skills. Developing Skills is a 1.5 hour game play coaching session for beginning players. The GVR PB 101 class consists of four 2 hour sessions for beginning players. Individual assessments will be given to each player. All GVR classes are at an additional cost. GVR class sequence would include PB 201, PB 202 and SNAP Pickleball which is for 2.5-3.5 skill levels. In addition, as a club we offer Improve Your Game Drills during October-May. These consist of 1 1/2 hour drill sessions concentrating on one specific skill for different skill levels. The purpose is to provide an academy for competitive and tourney players. I am proud to say the club offers something for all the members.

**[PB]: You have a great group of coaches helping you with all of this work. What training is provided for volunteer coaches? If someone is interested in helping with this, whom should they contact?**

**[CH]:** I learned a long time ago in leadership, the key is to surround yourself with good people. I have done exactly that with the Educational Committee which consists of Sandy Heintz, Karen Riley, Bob Seeman, Donna Davis, Kathy Palese, and Dean Olson. With regards to volunteer coaches and instructional training, I created a Coaching Core Training Program where participants are introduced to the do's and don'ts of teaching and proper instructional methodology. To date we have offered three Coaching Core Training Sessions with individuals who completed the program listed on the website as resources or mentors for members. Anyone interested in volunteering as a coach/volunteer instructor should contact me or anyone on the Educational Committee.

## **Observations**

If you have a disagreement or concern with an instructor please bring it to the club leadership. We have a board of volunteers and entire committees to address member concerns and questions. Please make use of them and let us address your concerns.

## **Wanted!**

With new courts coming, we are looking at realigning some of the committees and volunteer opportunities in our club. We currently have Round Robins four times a week and that will probably be increasing with new courts. We are looking for someone to coordinate our club court events. This includes ensuring that each club event has a coordinator (when needed) and monitoring signups to ensure that everyone is registering for events in accordance with club policy. You won't need to come up with the ideas for club events, although you're welcome to. You don't have to be rated at a specific skill level - just be able to operate a computer and communicate with others. Please reply to this email or contact a board member, if interested.

## **Upcoming Events**

September 21 2:00-5:00 pm: Dink and Dine at Canoa Hills Rec Center - [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up

**That's all for now folks.....stay positive, keep smiling, and enjoy playing!!!!**



**Jeff Harrell, President  
GVR Pickleball Club**



**Progress at the Pickleball Center - bathrooms and storeroom building goes up:**