

May 2025 Pickleblast [FINAL COPY]

Your short-court to member-centered news!

Editors' Message

Welcome to this month's edition of Pickleblast. As we completed this newsletter it became clear that there is a common thread linking what you are about to read in this issue, and that thread is *change*. From changes to two Club policies, to changes in skill development, and MSLP for our year-round members braving Arizona heat, to small gestures of a few Club members that have positively touched the Club's relationship with others.

You've probably noticed, the format of Pickleblast is changing, too. As we, the co-editors of Pickleblast continue to get our feet wet, please let us hear from you about how we're doing. It's easy to send an email to us at, gvrpbclubpickleblast@gmail.com. We also need your help on scoops for *potential* stories involving the Club, yourself or other members, and of course, we invite original articles on *anything* pickleball.

Juli Howell and Janet Reynolds

Member at Large

Vice President

Member Engagement

New members (17)

We are thrilled to have 17 new members join our Club! Welcome- Barry Barefoot, Carol Benight, John Bermejo, David Daniels, Kathleen Day, Channa DeSilva, Gary Elkind, Robert Gasbarro, Shari Holmes, Julie Kiker, Kim Luebcke, Thomas Luebcke, Annette Olson, Kevin Ryan, Dennis Stahl, Robertasue Stahl, and Sheryl Wunderlich.

Your contributions are appreciated!

Did you know a portion of your shirt and hat purchases from Mr. and Ms. Pickleball, as well as ordering name tags, results in a donation to the Club.



Gum wads don't belong here...

Hey pickleball players! We love your energy—but not your gum wads stuck to courts, fence posts, or the hitting board. This isn't a middle school desk- it's a place for dinks, not sticky surprises.

Health & Wellness

Are you looking for a healthy group (4-10 people) activity this summer? A one-hour Hands only CPR training is available by request. It's free and scheduling is flexible - Contact Nancy Buseth, her contact details are on Pickleball Plus under Members.

Calling all photographers

Jeff Lierman has volunteered to be the new Coordinator of Photos for 2025-2026. This is a big job, Jeff has agreed to compile photos of Club events and members, but he needs volunteers who enjoy taking candid photos. If this sounds like a way you might want to serve the Club, please reach out to Jeff at liermanjeff@gmail.com.

Around the Post

Summer player development sessions are here!

Beginning June 2 and running weekly until October 1 at the PBC. Sign up on Pickleball Plus on the Saturday *before* your event.

Mondays at 7:00 am is for players with a 2.5 rating. Class objective is to cover and drill pickleball skills needed to pass the 3.0 skills test and drill for game test. *Note: A special ratings testing at 3.0 level for this group only will be held in September; to be eligible, you must attend 5 sessions.*

Wednesdays at 7:00 am is for players with a 3.0 rating

Wednesdays at 8:30 am is for players with a 3.5 and 4.0 rating

The object for both classes is to improve your game skills, not to prepare for ratings testing! Instead, players will be working on proper footwork and mechanics, executing appropriate shots, court positioning and game strategy.

Do you have a question, concern or just want to share some good news?

Our tech team has now made it easier for you and others to get to the proper source for answers to your questions/concern via **CONTACT US**. Take a look at the Club's official website, www.GVRpickleball.org and click on **CONTACT US** to learn how many selections are now available, including **CONTACT Pickleblast** editors with your ideas for future features!

Updated GVR casual play court reservation process

Effective June 1st, the GVR Casual Play Court Reservation process will be revised as follows.

1. There will no longer be a court at Canoa Ranch designated as GVR Casual Play. Open play and court reservations at Canoa Ranch will resume their regular schedule.
2. Instead, at the *East Center*, the GVR Casual Play Court Reservation is now assigned to *Court #1 on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 6:00pm.*
3. *As a Club member, you will not be able to reserve the GVR Casual Play Court #1 on those designated evenings.* Please be aware that a Non-Club GVR member may have reserved Court #1 as described above, so please, if someone says they have the court reserved, relinquish the court to them and find another open/non-reserved court to use.
4. If you view the East Center court schedule on Pickleball Plus, you will see Court #1 on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 6:00 pm designated as 'Reserved Casual Play' for the GVR Casual Play court.
5. *This process will continue until September 30th, when it will be reviewed by GVR and the Club.*

Ratings changes (32)

Congratulations to all our pickleballers who have achieved a higher rating —your hard work and dedication have truly paid off!

2.5: Karen Arendsen, Terry Boyd, Bill Holmes, Lin Holmquist, Stacey Reichardt, Annie Roman, Richard Roman, Jr., Kevin Ryan

3.0: Kathy Arnold, John Carpenter, Sandra Edwards, Dan Frink, Ken Hargreaves, Tamera Martens, Nancy Sayre, Nadine Sinclair, Natalie Whitman

3.5: Chuck Bishop, Lorey Carpenter, Kirk Cross, Amy Demers, Sheri Fronsee, Robin Greco, Carroll Kinnamon, Angela Krahulec, Richard Maniscalco, Tom Olson, Michelle O'Rourke, Paul Smith

4.0: Gary Elkind, Julie Kiker

4.5: Liz Cronin

Tech TIPS

In this edition of Pickleblast you will read about changes the Board has made to several Club policies ([In the kitchen with your BOD section](#)). Here's how you can read the changes in full, by accessing the Club's website-

-To find the Club's Policy Manual, [Click on the About the Club navigation link](#)



- On the Board, Committees, Governance page, [Click on Governance](#), then [Select Policy Manual](#)



Court Cacophony

Event and court reservation time blocks to change in July

You will see some scheduling changes in Pickleball Plus sometime in September/October. The Club will be changing time blocks from 1.5 hour to 2.0 hour time blocks for Events and Reserved Courts. . We will start testing out the longer time blocks starting mid-July to work out any coding adjustments needed before the October/November busy events season.

Facilities and Equipment

New colorful banners have been hung at each pickleball facility. Both Club and GVR logos are now on display.

East Center- Hey, don't turn the East Center's TV monitor on this summer, it's too hot for you and for the TV! Look instead for the printed schedule attached to the screen or the bulletin board.

Canoa- We want your autograph, please sign in when you play, your signature registers when and how many are using these courts.

Pickleball Center- Did you notice how clean the PB Center Courts are after their cleaning May 9-10th?

Attention pickleballers! While we love your creativity, please refrain from using the emergency ice bags for your *non-emergency* needs—like chilling beer, your dog's poo, or storing your chewed-up gum. Those ice packs are for real injuries, not personal convenience!



Positively Pickleball

'Positively Pickleball' highlights the inspiring doings of our Club members. This month, Club members' volunteerism inspired us. We hope you'll be inspired, too!

Adaptive pickleball play

In early May, a group from the Club gathered to discuss ways in which Club members with mobility impairments might be able to continue playing pickleball. *Bill Goodrich*, a member of this group, did some follow-up research that opened a door of opportunity between GVR Pickleball Club and Southern Arizona Adaptive Sports (SAAS). On May 13th the executive director of SAAS, Mia Hansen traveled from Tucson to Green Valley with her crew of wheelchair athletes. The caravan brought along with them extra sports wheelchairs for our members to try-on for fit, and use while navigating a game of pickleball following USAPA adapted pickleball rules.



Among the wheelchair athletes was Michael Garcia, therapeutic recreation leader for La Villita Community Center in Sahuarita, a wheelchair athlete himself, and an advocate for wheelchair pickleball. After the session, Bill shared a few comments voiced by the guest athletes about GVR's PB Center, "Wow, what a complex" and "How amazingly accessible". Thanks goes to Bill and the group, as they are keeping the door open for accessible pickleball play, a small gesture from which we all may benefit. If this experience has piqued your interest, an introductory wheelchair coaching session has been scheduled with Michael at the PB Center on Saturday, June 7 at 8:00 AM. Be sure to check out SAAS www.soazadaptivesports.org, a non-profit organization that has loaner equipment for people with recreational impairment. Consulting services are offered for fitting, selecting, obtaining, or purchasing adaptive recreational equipment.

Small gestures- A positive reflection on us all



The New Member Welcome committee, led by Gail Gersonde has clearly demonstrated how small gestures, like the 'new-member-welcome-phone-call' developed into a positive first impression of GVPB Club. Committee members a.k.a 'Callers' have expressed how fun these phone interactions have been. One unidentified Caller has even gone a step further in organizing a meet-up with new members to drill or play pickleball! During the Caller-arranged meet-ups, the new members get to mingle with each other and ask questions about the Club. Conversely, the Caller reports learning about new member concerns such as "I don't think I'm good enough to play in a Round Robin (RR)" or "I've never played in a RR". So guess what, after hearing this, the Caller organized a series of mock RRs that included current, recently new and the new members. The mock RRs introduced the newcomers to the nuances of playing and coordinating a RR. All participants have experienced the benefits of new friends, new mentor relationships, and the hidden gem the Club has benefited as, several are now confident RR coordinators, and at least five of the new members served as volunteers for the St Patrick's Tournament!

In the kitchen with your Board of Directors

Pickleball facilities improvement (PBFi) committee: Update report May 2025

The architectural firm hired by GVR to do a design and cost analysis for potential improvements to GVR's pickleball facilities has completed their work. As communicated in previous Pickleblast issues, the *PBFi steering committee*¹ will then meet with the architects to review their report, after which the steering committee will develop a recommendation to present to the GVPB Club Board. The Board will then discuss which improvements should be presented to the membership for their input and comment.

Soon after the Board's review, the *PBFi communication committee*² will actively initiate a plan aimed at gathering members' opinions about the recommended improvements and determine actual member interest in making contributions to finance the improvements.

The communications committee hopes to complete this information gathering process September 2025. Input from everyone will be critical, please assist us by responding to committee member's inquiries. Your opinion and willingness to contribute financially are important.

¹PBFi Steering Committee - Jeff Washburn (Chair), Janet Reynolds, Barry Stock, Janice Redinger, Patrick Furumoto

²PBFi Communications Committee - Barry Stock (Chair) Jeff Washburn, Patrick Furumoto, Kris Servais, Natalie Whitman

Club policy changes

The following Policy changes were approved at the May 15, 2025 Board meeting:

https://www.gvrpickleball.org/_files/ugd/10a4e3_1969b05f14e5448a9417c15a9c393913.pdf

Ratings policy change *(GVRPB Club Policy Manual Section 6, Ratings)*

- 1) DUPR and UTR-P ratings will be accepted if rating is derived from participation in a minimum of THREE tournaments
- 2) Testing events are composed of two components that occur on separate days: 1) skills testing and 2) game testing
- 3) The current “ghost doubles” game play requirement will be replaced with “doubles” game play; this new game play will involve three Control players of the rating for which the testing candidate is testing. Testing candidates will play three games total, one game with each Control player, with the testing candidate requirement to achieve 23 points total.

Court Usage and Scheduling policy change *(GVRPB Club Policy Manual Section 5.B. X Court Usage and Scheduling)*

- Mixed Skill Level Play (MSLP) is now effective May 1 through October 31

The next Board meeting will be announced at a later date. Stay tuned.

May 15, 2025 Board meeting minutes will be available on this link

<https://www.gvrpickleball.org/board-minutes-agenda-reports>

Do yourself and your fellow picklers a favor... When you go to play pickleball, it is a great idea to have a copy of your *insurance card, driver's license, and emergency contact information* with you. ***Play Safe & Be Prepared!***

