



# PickleBlast

## April 2019 PickleBlast

*Our high season in Green Valley is drawing to a close for 2019. Safe travels to those of you headed to your summer destinations and keep reading the PickleBlast while you're away to keep up with the latest news and developments.*

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

- *April Board Meeting Highlights*
- *GVR Pickleball Complex update*
- *Welcome New Members*
- *Member Rating Changes*
- *Interview with Gina Rowsam*
- *Skill Ratings*
- *Club Policy Manual*
- *Observations*
- *Upcoming Events*

### **April Board Meeting Highlights**

- *Inter-Community Play - Use four courts, four nights per week, every other week, starts May 28*
- *Summer court schedules are being created and will be available for member review soon*
- *GVR and club classes have been scheduled for 2019-2020 and are on the club calendar*
- *A committee will review current board member voting procedures and annual meeting format for potential changes*
- *Players with USAPA tournament quarterly ratings changes are to send documentation to the club secretary to update their club profiles*

### **GVR Pickleball Complex update**

*Our Pickleball Complex Advisory Group has finalized the revised pickleball complex plans and they have been submitted to Pima County for final review and issuance of the necessary permits. On Thursday April 11, the Green Valley Council P&A Committee gave approval for the pickleball center design. Next, the RFP package will be completed and published for responses from general and specialty contractors. Anticipated contract award is the first of June. We are also still awaiting GVR Board approval of an agreement with the GVR Foundation to enable corporate and large donor fundraising efforts.*

**Project Timeline**

**GVR Foundation**  
**Statement of Revenue and Expense**  
**PICKLEBALL**  
**Year-to-Date: 1/1/2019 - 3/31/2019**  
**Acct is In (4100, 4102, 9030)**

		<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Prior Year</b>	<b>Totals</b>
		<b>Year-to-Date</b>		
<b>Revenue</b>				
	Pickleball Contributions	\$6510.71	\$10,785.00	
	Pickleball Golf Receipts	\$0.00	\$15,808.00	
<b>Revenue Totals</b>		<b>\$6,510.71</b>	<b>\$26,593.00</b>	<b>\$33,103.71</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
	Pickleball Expenses (Golf)	\$0.00	\$4,080.15	
<b>Expenses Totals</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$4,080.15</b>	<b>\$4,080.15</b>
<b>Excess or (Deficiency) of</b>	<b>Revenue Over Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,510.71</b>	<b>\$22,512.85</b>	<b>\$29,023.56</b>
	Pickleball Grants	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	

**Pickleball Club Reserve for New Courts: \$79,755.34**

**Foundation Reserve for New Courts: \$29,023.56**

**TOTAL: 108,778.90**

**Welcome New Members! (March)**

Doug Funston	Jim Lawlor	Sue MacLellan	Cristy Reichet	Dena and Joel Salinas
Rhonda Savoy	Yvonne and Keith Stukenberg			

## **Congrats to Members with New Ratings! (March)**

<b>Moved to 2.5:</b>	Mary Clark				
<b>Moved to 3.0:</b>	Steve Gentle	Dick Gunder	Joan Iserman	Fred Schmidt	Paul Smith
<b>Moved to 3.5:</b>	Kelly Bales	Diane Liguori	Kate Lindsay	Susan MacLellan	Gina Rowsam
	Jay Salerno	Joel Salinas			
<b>Moved to 4.0:</b>	Ed Fickes	Mike McCarry	Pam Sweigart		
<b>Moved to 4.5:</b>					

### **Interview with Gina Rowsam**

*During our Annual Meeting this year, we elected two new club officers. Today, we are joined in the PickleBlast studios with Gina Rowsam, our new club Vice-President. Let's meet Gina and hear what she has to say.*

***PickleBlast]: Thanks for taking some time to talk to us today, Gina. 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.***

***[Gina Rowsam]:** I was born and raised in Alamosa, Colorado, and then moved to Boulder to attend college. While there, I married Scott and had our daughter, Ashleigh. After college we moved to Laramie, Wyoming, where we both worked at the University of Wyoming. I had intended to obtain my Masters Degree in Geology, but the oil bust happened and life took a detour and I ended up on a trajectory that would have me becoming a university administrator working in a wide array of functions including fund raising, professional and career development, student services, alumni, donor and employer relations. We lived there for about seven years and during that time I earned my Masters Degree in Philanthropy and Non Profit Development at St Mary's University in Winona, Minnesota. I was recruited to an administrative position as assistant dean at a law school in Oklahoma City where we lived for 15 years. Colorado beckoned us back and I took a stab at running an insurance business for about four years. I've been coming to Green Valley since I was 12 as we had relatives in Tucson and Nogales, so I watched the community develop. My parents eventually retired here and so our visits became more frequent and longer. I remember thinking it would be great to do what they were doing but it always seemed so far off and I didn't know if I could afford it! Thankfully, in 2017, circumstances aligned for Scott and me and we realized we were in position to*

*make a go of retirement and so we jumped at it and decided to become full timers thinking we would play lots of golf and look into this game we kept hearing about called pickleball. In the beginning we did play lots of golf, but as soon as we were introduced to pickleball in January 2018 (thank you to our Canadian friend Terry Archambault for getting us started!), our clubs began collecting dust. We love pickleball and everything it has to offer, especially the camaraderie of the players and the real sense of having family. I feel a true sense that I stand on the shoulders of many who have gotten the club to the point we are and I want to offer whatever service, talent, and ability I have to keep their momentum going so we can continue to evolve as we meet the needs of our current members and be prepared for the continued and inevitable growth that the sport is manifesting.*

*[PB]: You have been elected to serve as our club Vice-President for the next couple of years. What are some things you would like to explore and implement during your tenure?*

*[GR]: Coming into the club at this juncture with GVR poised to begin Phase 1 of the new pickleball center, I want to make sure that our current and potential members understand that they must continue to keep their voices heard and when possible, be visible at PB and GVR Board and Committee Meetings. I have spent this past year attending numerous GVR meetings and have seen first hand how the corporation works and where things can get bogged down or off track. I want to be a resource who members can call on to help them understand the process and if warranted get them involved. I'm also looking forward to seeing how we can continue to harness technology using our website to help members be more engaged. Along these lines, a couple of areas I'll look into will be online voting for elections and more opportunities for members to have input with periodic electronic surveys.*

*[PB]: Do you have any ideas on how we can encourage pickleball players in Green Valley who are not currently club members to join us?*

*[GR]: We have to offer some type of added value since you don't have to be a member to play on GVR courts. This value has been identified by past boards in various ways, e.g. educational opportunities, free use of balls and invitations to social events and programs, but I think it might be time to expand what being a Green Valley Pickleball Club Member means. One thought I'd like to explore is for us to have a more visible community presence such as having a float and/or marching in the White Elephant Parade. This would be a great (and relatively easy) way to thank the community for their current support of pickleball and also to encourage folks to give the game a try and join the club. I'd also like to see the club experiment to get more visibility by placing ads using social media such as Facebook and having more regular articles such as the one Bev Cote recently got published in the GV News regarding tournament results and/or events the*

*club sponsors. Just because we as club members are excited about this amazing game and being part of the club, we cannot expect others to understand this unless we tell the story and I think we can do that and serve our larger community at the same time. Finally, an idea another member mentioned that I think merits exploration is to have a cadre of pickleball club members who are interested in assisting other GVR clubs with their events, e.g. let's say the hiking club wanted to have a dinner - we could offer our service to assist them with setup, serving, cleanup so that they could enjoy the event. I don't think any other club is doing anything like this...it could be a good way for us to differentiate our club in that we aren't here just to take, but are interested in giving back.*

**[PB]:** *What do you see our club doing well and where can we improve?*

**[GR]:** *The instruction I've received to learn the game and continue to develop my skills is excellent. I am so proud to tell others who know nothing about pickleball about all of the great teachers/coaches we have. With the new courts, I believe we can expand and refine the educational offerings to develop more tailored classes for folks hoping to be more competitive or just wanting to improve on their recreational game. I was glad to see the board adopt the IPTPA membership and look forward to that being further promoted. Our website is also a great resource and I have already enjoyed working with Dean Beilke and Ray Kuehl on some of the ideas I have to make it even better.*

**[PB]:** *Thanks Gina for taking some time to speak with us today and welcome to the club board. We are excited to work with you to improve our club and provide the best possible experience for our members.*

## **Ratings**

### **IPTPA Rating System**

*Recently our club board approved the funds to join IPTPA at the club level for the next three years. This means that all of our club members will receive a \$10 discount when registering for an [IPTPA ratings session](#). When you register, indicate that your rater is either Joey Farias or Sean Rickard and that you're a member of the GVR Pickleball Club. This option is particularly valuable to our club members who wish to test during the summer months when our Ratings Committee is inactive.*

### **Club Ratings**

*If you are an active USAPA member and tournament player, you have a tournament rating (UTPR 2-digit number) which is updated quarterly, based on tournament results. When that number changes, please print or capture the*

*information displayed on your screen and send to the club secretary to update your club profile.*

## **Club Policy Manual**

*We continue to receive questions from our members on club policy for various issues. Most of those questions are answered in our [club policy manual](#). This section features one portion of the manual each newsletter as a reminder for all of us.*

### **5. Court use**

*a. Court schedules are evaluated and modified throughout the year as court usage statistics indicate the need for a schedule modification. The intent is to optimize play for all skill levels, provide open times for mixed skill levels, and allot court time for reserved courts and instructional classes and clinics. Changes to court schedules will be made available to the membership for review and input for at least one week prior to finalizing changes.*

## **Observations**

- Paddle lost? Paddle found? If you find a paddle that someone has left, please turn it into the East Center office. If you just leave it in the signup desk, others may think that it is for loaner use and it could disappear. If you lose or leave your paddle behind by accident, check with the office staff to see if they have it.*
- There have been suggestions on how we can encourage non-members to join our club, and the Board continues to consider options to make club membership more attractive. We ask all participants to adhere to the published schedules and to donate towards the cost of balls if not a club member. However, our activities are largely based on the honor system. We don't have a good way to enforce and validate that everyone is playing when they are scheduled and that all contribute fairly to costs associated with play. The events which are open to club members only require a significant amount of time and effort to monitor.*
- Do you have extra paddles you no longer use? We need those paddles for our introductory classes. Please contact a board member or Carol Hammerle if you can help.*

## **Upcoming Events**

- East Center courts opening celebration - Wednesday, April 17 5:00-8:00pm at East Center. Bring appetizer or dessert to share and your beverage of choice. Open play will be available 5:00-8:00pm. Sign up [here](#).*
- Next GVR Board meeting is scheduled for April 24 2:00pm at West Center. And, don't forget about the GVR Committee meetings scheduled monthly. The calendar for all of these meetings is [here](#).*

## **Celebration of Life**

*Join us for a Celebration of Life for Ron Gilchrest on April 27, 2019 at East Center 2-5pm. The family has requested that all club members who can attend come and share memories and comments about Ron. We were blessed to have the opportunity to share time with Ron on the courts and want to honor his memory and his family through this event.*

***In Closing** <sup>L L L</sup><sub>SEP:SEP</sub> 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***