

What's in this PickleBlast?

Board and Committee Activity & Reports
Re-Opening Update
GVR Pickleball Center Update
Welcome New & Renewing Members
New Ratings
Interview with Dianna Michels
Observations

Board and Committee Activity & Reports

Unanimous Consent Actions - approval gained via email vote.

06/29/2020

Whereas the GVR Pickleball Center construction contract and invoices have all been paid and settled, but there remains work to be done for finishing the center with necessary equipment not specified in the original contract, and that donor recognition signage needs to be developed, the GVR Pickleball Board and the GVR Foundation Board votes to authorize the remaining monies in the escrow account totalling \$3,270.00 be used toward these purposes.

Reports

Normally, these reports would be part of board meetings supporting documentation. As we do not have regular meetings in the summer months, I offer them for your review here. Many thanks to everyone who does so much for this club!

Past-President, Jeff Harrell

No report.

Vice President, Mike Clemens

- Work orders have been issued for windsocks, a new ice machine, a webcam, and a wall mounted TV/Monitor near the sign-in area.
- A new sign-in cabinet has been made and installed by club members Ed Fickes and Mark McIntosh.
- Windscreen locations and details have been submitted to GVR.
- A revised GVR Pickleball Club Court Reservation policy and procedures were completed. Waiting for additional revision requests from the court scheduling committee.

Treasurer, Mike Harrington

- Checking account balance: \$11,198.08
- Reserve account balance: \$16,693.59

Auto-pay via Debit card in place for Sign Up Genius and WIX.COM

Secretary, Susan MacMillan

Based on member feedback, the in-person board meetings will now take place at 3 p.m. instead of 6 p.m. Due to this change, we are not able to meet at the East Center. See below for locations. All meetings are on Wednesdays. Please mark your calendars.

- 09/09/2020 – Las Campanas Cottonwood Room - 565 W. Belltower Drive
- 10/14/2020 – Las Campanas Cottonwood Room - 565 W. Belltower Drive
- 11/11/2020 – Casa Paloma II - 333 N. Calle de las Banderolas
- 12/09/2020 – Las Campanas Cottonwood Room - 565 W. Belltower Drive

Member at Large, Paul Serra - Court Scheduling & Management

No report.

Member at Large, Dianna Michels - Social Committee

No report.

Member at Large, Patrick Furumoto - Education & New Member Initiative

With input from the Education Committee, a survey to all members is being planned before the end of July asking for your input regarding the educational opportunities offered by the Club and GVR. We want to hear from our members, so that the Education Committee can provide education suited to our membership. Thanks in advance for completing the survey.

Education Committee - Carol Hammerle, Chair

Pickleball Future: APPL (Arizona Pickleball Players League)

Those of you that know me realize I am always trying to find ways for club members to improve their game. Recently, Gina sent out a survey asking members who would be interested in participating in the APPL starting January 2021. Please understand if it is not safe to play by then because of the virus we will reevaluate and make appropriate decisions for the safety of the members.

The GVR Pickleball Club has been approached by APPL to join the Southern League, which may consist of Oro Valley, Tucson, Sierra Vista and Green Valley. As a part of the league, the club would compete home and away with both women and men teams at 3.0-5.0 skill levels.

Ideally, I would like the club to create teams of 10-12 individuals per skill level with a captain assigned to each team that would be a part of the core group to coordinate and organize the respective matches. Each match would consist of 3 teams competing against one another on a home/away format. The season would run January-March with a culminating Regional and National Tournament. Cost is minimal compared to tournaments about \$10 or \$15 per person for the year.

There has been some concern regarding age within the level of competition. Based on my conversations with the APPL, the demographics of the league East Valley, West Valley, Casa Grande

and Southern League would be similar in age, as the majority are all enjoying retirement. So those of you concerned about playing against 40-50 year olds, though not impossible, is highly unlikely.

Lastly, my thoughts regarding competing in the APPL for the first year would be to enjoy the moment and look at it as an opportunity to improve your skill level within a competitive environment. If following the first year you decide this is not for you there would be no problem dropping from the team. Please consider becoming a part of something new and exciting as we venture into 2021 with goals of having fun and improving as a player.

Webmaster - Dean Beilke, Chair

Added East Center schedule to website. Re-started SUG evening Round Robins signups for East Center.

Tournaments - Donna Davis, Chair

Looking to take your game to the next level or wondering how it matches up against players from outside our club? You will have two opportunities to do just that during the 2021 season as the annual Southern Arizona Senior Games and the inaugural Foundation Games will be played at the Green Valley Pickleball Center. Mark your calendars for March 27-29 and October 23-25, 2021 and stay tuned to the Pickleblast for further details.

Re-Opening Update

Email updates were sent to the membership on 06/29/2020, 07/04/2020 and 07/14/2020.

All three centers are now open. We requested that the start times for the Pickleball Center be 6:00 a.m. and Canoa Ranch 7:00 a.m. and we received notice on 07/16/2020 that this change will take effect 07/22/2020. We will adjust schedules and reservations accordingly, so please be mindful of those changes and pay close attention when you sign up. If you would like to express gratitude for this change, please send to the GVR Administration at hotline@gvrec.org and Board at board@gvrec.org.

GVR Pickleball Center Update

A meeting was held on June 25, 2020, that included GVR facilities and club support personnel, two GVR board members, and two club members. We discussed the remaining items that need to be secured. The meeting went well and we received information regarding estimated costs on several things and that has created a path for us to move forward. Our immediate attention is on the wind screens and donor recognition signage and much work behind the scenes is occurring to complete both. Other areas to be addressed include a shade structure over artificial turf, additional wind socks, court water spigots, PA system, clocks, electronic bulletin board, webcams, weather station, and a new ice machine that will accommodate the majority of players' containers. Because we have been doing well with bringing our own chairs and utilizing the fencing as a bag rack, benches and a bag rack system will be explored later.

Welcome New and Renewed Members! (June 14 - July 15)

Steve Aiken (renewal)

Marge Garneau (renewal)

Sandie Secrest (renewal)

Jack Stoddard (renewal) - his form and payment was held in COVID-19 hostage in the East Center pickleball mail box since mid-March!

New Ratings

3.5 to 4.0: Tim Liddle and Wes Elder

3.0 to 3.5: Tim Stewart, Jodie Jennings, Richard Gunder and Dean Bryan

2.5 to 3.0: Jeff Ashburn

Interview with Dianna Michels

[PB]: Thanks for taking some time to talk to us today, Dianna. 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.

[DM]: I was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I graduated from St. Catherine's college with a degree in Occupational Therapy. I Began my career as a therapist in the school district and, five years later, went back to school and received my teaching license and started teaching. In the evenings I worked at a Pediatric clinic as an Occupational Therapist. I eventually went back to college and received degrees in special education, autism licensure (at the time only Minnesota had this speciality degree) and my Master degree in education. I was in the education system for 35 years.

My husband, Mark, and I frequented Green Valley for several years before buying a house in 2012. During this time we frequented Green Valley just a few times a year because we were both working. I retired in 2017 and during this time we split our time between Minnesota and Arizona. In 2018 we sold our house in Minnesota and became full time residents in Arizona. We are both happy we made the move!

I began playing pickleball in Minnesota during the winter months, so I started out playing indoors. When Mark and I were visiting in Green Valley for longer periods of time we started playing at the courts and we eventually joined the club. I love playing pickleball and it has been a great avenue to meet new people!

[PB]: You have been elected to serve as our club Member at Large for the next 2 years. What are some things you would like to explore and implement during your tenure?

[DM]: As a Member at Large I would like to see more activities that include all skill levels of play.

Currently, with the corona virus we have not been able to have our monthly social activities, so this has not provided new members to meet existing members and the opportunity to engage socially with others. These social activities have provided all players to engage socially and play pickleball with everyone no matter what your skill level is.

Over the past three years I have been involved with the Green Valley senior pickleball tournament. Again, due to the virus we unfortunately had to cancel our tournament this year. As a member I would like to get others

interested in playing in our tournament or volunteering their time. For me this has been a great opportunity to support our club, help others and meet some wonderful people. So, if anyone has interest in knowing more about the tournament please don't hesitate to ask.

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

[DM]: I feel the more we can share our enthusiasm and passion for the game we can help encourage others to get more involved and join the club. As I had shared earlier the game of pickleball and being a club member has been such a great avenue for meeting others.

I also feel our educational team is doing a good job with sharing what the club has to offer and providing them tutorials with navigating our website.

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

[DM]: I feel the club is doing a great job with encouraging and supporting everyone. We also do a good job with welcoming new members and assisting when needed.

Observations

Last month at this time we were experiencing some disappointment that the East Center was not going to open when we thought. Happily that lasted only a few days and now all three pickleball centers are open with varying **schedules**. As stated above, we have submitted requests for GVR to adjust the opening times at CR and PBC, but in the meantime we are now able to fully experience what having all these courts means. Based on the feedback I have received on the courts, the overall sentiment is positive with some giving good thought to analyzing how our current schedule is working and how it might be improved especially as the fall approaches and our numbers increase and we add in classes and more round robins and league play. When all levels were playing solely at the PBC, the atmosphere was fantastic. Many members expressed how much they appreciated being able to connect with players at different levels. With the EC now having level play each day that does reduce the available number of players between all of the centers. Coupled with typically low summer numbers having a variety of players in a particular level can feel a bit sparse. I would like to thank Paul Serra and his scheduling committee for the work done to get us to this point.

With respect to the requirements and recommendations GVR has outlined for us to play in this **COVID-19 environment**, please remember that the club is not the authority or enforcer. While each person is expected to know and understand the requirements and recommendations, if there is a concern that there is a lack of understanding or adherence, we each should feel comfortable in approaching each other and stating our concern. If it is not resolvable, then it would become a GVR matter. I receive regular feedback from our GVR liaison and to date there have been no issues needing attention. So, on behalf of the entire board, please accept our sincere thanks to everyone who is doing what they can in their best way possible.

We had hoped to circulate an updated proposed **reservations policy** for review, but it has been delayed a bit. Watch for it before the end of the month. And, please provide your feedback.

The work we are doing with the **Pickleball.Plus** system is moving along and rollout for some of the changes could happen before the end of the month, e.g. the online membership system. We don't typically get a lot of new and renewing members in the summer, so it would be a good time to test it out with the few that do come in. The other goal we have had is to have a streamlined system requiring only one login where you can make reservations, sign up for round robins, socials, classes, etc. This aspect is taking a bit longer to develop and refine, but it looks promising. I would like to thank Ray Kuehl, developer of Pickleball.Plus, and Dean Beilke, club webmaster and wrangler for all of the SignUpGenius events.

The survey conducted to gauge interest in the **Arizona Pickleball Players League** yielded a sufficient number for us to make the decision to move ahead. I would like to thank Carol Hammerle for agreeing to be our club's administrator for this (please re-read her piece above). We are working closely with the founders of the league and we feel quite confident they will help us create a wonderful experience for those who choose to participate. If you did not complete the survey, please click on this [link](#). We will leave it open for the next couple of weeks.

I appreciated Dianna Michels contribution with her interview and her focus on members being connected. One of the areas where we try to stay connected as club members is when someone has fallen ill, experienced a loss, or has something we can congratulate. Please help us out when you know of a situation the club can address. It is very easy to do! Simply click on the Contact Us button at the top of our webpage <http://www.gvrpickleball.org> and select **Wellness/Outreach Committee** and complete the form. Thanks to Deb McParland for managing this important club function!

Presuming we will be able to meet in person beginning in September, we look forward to seeing you at one of the two new **meeting locations** that Susan MacMillan reported and at our new time of 6 p.m.

In closing, if you have not joined our Facebook group page I encourage you to do so. Here is the link. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/252938121566884>

If you want to become involved, have a suggestion, comment, or a question please use the Contact Us feature on the GVR Pickleball Club website <http://www.gvrpickleball.org>.

Carpe Dinkum!



Gina Rowsam, President
GVR Pickleball Club