



# PickleBlast

## **January 2018 PickleBlast**

Welcome to the latest **PickleBlast**, which has been voted the best club newsletter in Green Valley! If you've made it to Green Valley - welcome and glad you're here! And if you haven't made it here, we miss you!

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

January Board Meeting Highlights  
New GVR Pickleball Courts update  
Website updates  
Welcome New Members  
Member Rating changes  
Interview with Kathy Palese  
Netiquette  
Observations  
Upcoming Events

### **Board Meeting Highlights**

- New GVR classes - Classes will be added in 2018 for Playing Smart and Pickleball Fitness. More details to follow as we get closer to the dates.
- Assisted Play - Because of overwhelming demand coupled with a lack of court space and time, signups have been restricted to once per week for each member.
- Member donations for Pickleball Center - GVR and the GVR Foundation have determined that donations submitted along with annual club dues is a policy violation. Donors will be contacted individually to resolve those issues.
- Simon the ball machine - The ball machine is currently broken. Funds were authorized for a replacement unit while we research possible repair of the current machine.

### **New GVR Pickleball Courts update**

GVR staff continues to work with both a commercial real estate agent and an engineering firm to evaluate potential sites for more courts. This process is slower than we would like, but we want to consider all of the factors in selecting a site and it takes time to obtain all the answers we need to make a good decision. Location, proximity to existing homes, land and development costs, and topography are all contributing factors in selecting a site.

**If you haven't yet completed the GVR Survey, please do as there is a question measuring support for new pickleball courts!**

Our club fundraising committee met last week and we are planning several possible fundraising events, including an auction/raffle at the Southern Arizona Senior Games, a golf tournament, a chili-cookoff, and a club-wide garage sale. We are also considering club and sanctioned tournaments for 2019. If you would like to help with any of these events, please [contact us](#) and we'll be happy to add you to the team. We cannot have a successful fundraising effort without your help.

## Website Updates

- Have a question, suggestion, or complaint? The best way to communicate with the Board is through our [Suggestion Box](#). We try to remember the conversations we have at the courts, but that's not the most reliable way to pass on your ideas. Send us your ideas through the website and we'll respond as quickly as we can.
- Our club website will be going through some changes over the next few weeks, which are designed to make site navigation more intuitive and easier to use. Thanks to those of you helping us to identify better ways to present our club information through the website.

## Welcome New Members! (December)

Lavonne Anderson	Susan and Gary Anderson	Kathy Betts	Ellie Birmingham
Laura and Larry Broyles	Gene Bruner	Paul and Jackie Davis	Rick Eiland
Jill Evans	Jon Fogg	Richard Kidwell	Thomas Nathan
Guy Nelson	Lynn Pritchard	Scott and Gina Rowsam	Timothy Schmuck
Valerie St Marie	Michael Vincent		

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

<b>Moved to 2.5:</b>			
<b>Moved to 3.0:</b>			
Jimi Brewer	Dave Chadsey	Steven Kuhn	Pat Marron
Dale Thibodeau	Mike Wooldrick		
<b>Moved to 3.5:</b>			
Susie Hager	Rick Hamilton		

<b>Moved to 4.0:</b>			
<b>Moved to 4.5:</b>			

\*\* Have you received a new rating through USAPA or IPTPA? If so, let our Secretary Virginia Smith know and she'll update your club profile.

## **Interview with Kathy Palese**

Our special guest today is none other than Kathy Palese. Kathy is the Vice-President of the GVR Board of Directors, the Chair of the Board Affairs Committee, the Chair of the P&E Pickleball and Park Subcommittee, and one of our lead instructors for the GVR Pickleball Club. We were fortunate to catch Kathy between meetings and classes to record some of her thoughts about our club and Green Valley Recreation.

*[PickleBlast]: Welcome to the PickleBlast studios, Kathy. Please tell us about your background, how you came to Green Valley, and how you discovered the game of pickleball.*

**[Kathy Palese]:** Thank you. It is my honor and pleasure to be here. I was born and raised in Pontiac, IL. My life took me to live in Texas for 5 years then back to Illinois where I met and married my husband Bruce. Long story short, our life took us to live in Iowa then to Rio Rico, AZ. When Bruce retired we had the opportunity to live anywhere but we just moved 30 minutes north to Green Valley. I was briefly introduced to the sport of pickleball in 2007 but no one in Rio Rico played. Once we retired, I introduced Bruce to the sport and we knew that wherever we ended up there had to be pickleball courts.

*[PB]: Your 3-year term as a GVR Board Director is coming to an end in a few months and you have been very active as a Board leader. What accomplishments are you most proud of during your tenure and where do you see GVR going from here?*

**[KP]:** It has been an experience and a pleasure serving on the GVR Board. GVR is a committee-driven corporation and it is through the committees, with the approval of the directors, that items get accomplished. I am but one passionate person on the committees who have campaigned for progress along with a pickleball complex. GVR is blessed to have many talented and dedicated volunteers willing to serve. It is my hope that GVR keeps moving forward and continues to incorporate services for all of its members.

*[PB]: You are also taking a more active role as a club instructor through Assisted Play and Improve Your Game classes and as a mentor to several of our members. What advice do you have for those who want to improve their game?*

**[KP]:** I absolutely love coaching and watching people improve their pickleball game. If I could just give one bit of advice to all players it would be to strive to have a well rounded pickleball game. In other words, don't be that player that just lobs, or just uses spin, or just drives the ball all of the time. Learn what shot to use when, play smart, and most importantly, have fun.

*[PB]: Kathy, you have been an active leader in the process of obtaining a new site for a pickleball center. What do you say to those who predict the new center will not be a reality anytime soon and how can we as GVR and club members best support this initiative?*

**[KP]:** As a GVR Director, I am concerned about the future well-being of all of GVR. This includes planning for an ever-expanding interest and participation in pickleball. On a personal level, I would like to have an offer on the table to purchase an appropriate property for a GVR Pickleball Center before my term on the Board is up. What can our members do to help achieve the pickleball complex goal? Start by attending the P&E committee meetings and the GVR board meetings. Let your voice be heard and your support be seen. Right now is a crucial time for progress. I encourage each and every one of you to vote when you receive your GVR ballot. It's simple really, just be active in the process. Oh yeah, and we also need to raise a lot of money.

## **Netiquette**

- We have entered the high season! Welcome to all who have recently arrived. Just a reminder to observe the posted schedules. If you're playing when another group or event is scheduled to start, you'll be asked to finish after the next point and then leave the court.

Please keep track of where you are in the queue. We don't want any unnecessary delays while we try to determine who is next up for a court.

## **Obervations**

- Our club offers several events for members only, including Round Robins and classes. To afford all the opportunity to participate, limits have been placed on the number of times you can signup and each event is designated for particular skill levels. Please be considerate and follow the instructions posted on the signup form at Signup Genius. If you ignore these instructions, your registration will be removed or you will be placed on a waiting list. Thanks to the vast majority of you who follow these instructions, but there are always a few...
- The [adopted policies of our club](#) are never more important than when the courts are crowded. The belief that as GVR members we can play wherever and whenever we want is incorrect. GVR has given our club the responsibilities for both creating and managing court schedules and this applies to all, whether club members or not.
- Do you have any social skills? If so, we need your help. Our Social Committee is down to one member and we desperately need help to plan and manage not only the February 10 Winter Social but any future social events we want to provide. Contact us through the [club website](#) if you are interested.
- Nominations for open board positions are open until Monday, March 5. Please contact Mark Robertson, Donna Talarski, or Jerry Hooley with your nominations or for more information.

## **Upcoming Events**

- Poker night is back! January 17 from 4-8 pm at the East Center. Register through **SignUpGenius** and if you'd like to help, we need two or three of you to help us put this on. Contact Dean Olson for details.
- Scott Moore clinics are scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, January 24-25 at the Quail Creek courts. You can get details and register [here](#).
- The annual GVR Fit N Fun Day is scheduled for Sunday, January 28 1:00-3:00 pm. During this event our club creates a demo pickleball court at Las Campanas and provides club information at an indoor booth. Come by and see us or join us in a demo game.
- Winter Social at Canoa Hills Social Center on February 10. Dinner and Dance. The band will be CROSSFIRE. We will have details soon on Signup Genius.
- Save the Date! The Southern Arizona Senior Games is scheduled for March 6-8, 2018, and registration is now open. Go to [pickleballtournaments.com](http://pickleballtournaments.com) for details, registration and to see the brackets (some are already full!).
- A Pickleball Club sponsored golf outing is tentatively scheduled for April 22 at San Ignacio Golf Course. This will be a fundraiser for new pickleball courts and details will be released closer to the date.

### **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!!!!**

