



# PickleBlast

## October 2019 PickleBlast

We're as close to the start of fall in Green Valley as we ever get. High temps have returned to double digits and many of you are returning to the area. Our courts are filling up rapidly and there are many more familiar faces around these days. Welcome back and read on for the latest news and updates for you, the GVR Pickleball Club.

### What's in this PickleBlast?

GVRPC Board Meeting Highlights

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### GVRPC Board Meeting Highlights

- Update on pickleball center and new courts
- Discussion on changes and adoption of revisions to the club policy manual for conduct code
- Explanation of the club ratings process and how it relates to other tournament and third-party ratings

### GVR Pickleball Center update

The court construction company is now onsite currently surveying and staking out the courts. The project is on schedule 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.

Many of the court furnishings (including shade) are being added back into the project as a result of recent discussions and a better idea of the deliverables from the court contractor. Thanks for your patience as we work with GVR to finalize construction details and ensure that the new courts will have what we need.

Watch for details on our grand opening ceremony as we get closer to the first of the year.

**Scan Twice!!**

When you enter the East Center courts from the parking lot using your proximity card be sure to also head for the card reader by the old sign in box and scan your card again. That is the scanner used for pickleball usage. Also, if you play in the morning then return later to play again - scan again!!

**Welcome New Members! (September)**

Diane & Kevin Breaux	John Giese	Warren & Linda <u>Bilsterin</u>	Sheryl Haupt
Dee & Tony Sullivan			

**Congrats to Members with New Ratings! (September)**

<b>Moved to 2.5:</b>	Mike Andrews	Pat Andrews	Nancy Au	Christi <u>Heintz</u>	Anni Hess
	Lynda Magill	Mary Wright			
<b>Moved to 3.0:</b>	Susan Brooks	Mary Clark	Vicky <u>Fennerty</u>	Andi Frank	Steve Frank
	Patrick <u>Furumoto</u>	Dan Harding	Karen Harding	Michael <u>Heintz</u>	Peggy <u>Kurzmann</u>
	Jim Lawyer	David Linn	Frank Morrison	Jane Stambaugh	Greg Wright

**Interview with Suzanne Nordhagen**

We are happy to welcome Suzanne Nordhagen to our PickleBlast studios today. Suzanne is here to share information with us about our club ratings process, as the chair of that committee. Club ratings are the backbone of our club, as they guide us to when and where to play each day and provide structure for our club events.

**[PickleBlast]:** Thanks for taking some time to talk to us today Suzanne. 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.

*[Suzanne]: I am a retired physical education/health teacher from Oregon. I was also a high school volleyball coach and activities director. Pickleball was part of our PE curriculum, but teaching the sport to 40 high schoolers in a gym with 6 courts is a little different than the level of the sport we have today. My dad has lived in Green Valley for the last 25 years so when my husband Lee and I retired, we decided to come here to enjoy the beautiful sunny climate.*

**[PB]:** The Ratings Committee started in 2016 and both the committee and the process have gone through changes and improvements each year. Who are the ratings evaluators this season and would you please describe how ratings are created and changed as we improve?

*[SN]: The committee consists of myself, Lee and Bev Cote. Unfortunately our last member Howard Schroeder moved away. The pickleball board requested that I head up a ratings committee to help out with our club. We researched different clubs' rating processes and developed a rating system that we used for several years. Since then, we have evaluated and made changes to the rating process.*

**[PB]:** How do we request a ratings evaluation? Do we need to do anything special on the day of the evaluation or just show up and play?

*[SN]: For those wanting to advance to 3.0 or 3.5, there is a [sign up genius](#) to request a rating review. During your scheduled time, one of the committee members will meet you on the courts and will arrange for you to play 3 games with players rated the skill level you are testing for. You will play with and against all players in the group, and if you score 21 points you advance to the next level. After play the rating member will discuss your play and give you advice on what skills you can work on to get better. For those wanting to advance to 4.0, players need to send us a request and we will organize a rating session for them.*

**[PB]:** Suzanne, thanks so much for taking time to share your thoughts and for all of us to get to know you a little better. And thanks for the information on club skill ratings and for the big job you and your committee provide.

## Observations

- Please don't relocate benches from the pool area to the courts. When you do so, you are not creating a solution - just more work for GVR staff to perform to return the benches to their proper locations.
- PB 201 class starts on October 14. If you'd like to volunteer as an assistant instructor, please contact Carol Hammerle or reply to this newsletter to volunteer. You don't need to bring anything to the court but your willingness to learn, your enthusiasm for the sport, and your smile.
- And speaking of instructors, our core instructors group leads both GVR and club classes. They have received training on how and what to teach to provide cohesion and consistency in the methods and techniques for coaching and are making great strides in providing an excellent program. There are others who volunteer to provide instruction outside of this framework while working with smaller and more specialized groups. Any compensation for instruction on GVR courts is regulated by GVR with specific requirements. At no time are instructors to solicit or accept any compensation or donations outside of those fees charged through GVR or through board-approved fundraising efforts. Should you be approached to contribute for instruction, it is your responsibility to know these requirements and to let the Board know of the solicitation request.
- There was a special board meeting held in July to discuss club events such as Round Robins. Details of the meeting are [here](#). If you sign up for a Round Robin outside of your club skill level, you will be asked to withdraw. If you want to play up a level, use Focus Play. Otherwise, you are creating a situation where the coordinator will ask you to withdraw your name and in some cases, others who could be playing don't sign up when they see that the event is full. Full details about Round Robins are in our [club policy manual](#).
- Our courts are getting crowded! Please observed the published court schedules and be patient as we await the opening of the new courts. There is light at the end of the tunnel!

## 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 eight 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

- Coat drive for Warmth from the Heart - Monday, October 14 and Wednesday October 16, 9:00-11:00 am at East Center
- Dink and Dine Halloween Chili Cookoff - Saturday October 19, 4:00-8:00 pm at East Center (SUG)
- Referee Training - Thursday October 24, 8:00-11:00 am, 12:00-2:00 pm at East Center (SUG)

SUG = There is a signup page on [SignUp Genius](#) for this event

### 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!!!!**



**Jeff Harrell, President**

**GVR Pickleball Club**