

January 2022 Pickleblast

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Committee / Work Area Reports / Pickleblasts

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Board Meeting Highlights - 01/13/2022

- Approved specs and order for the hitting wall system to be located at the Pickleball Center to be an “L” shaped, 90 degree corner configuration of two 12 foot panels, which will allow for better stabilization when installed and options for advanced drilling. Distributor estimates up to a five-month time frame for delivery.
- Approved new banners to be ordered for Canoa Ranch, East Center and Pickleball Center to indicate: 1) GVR Pickleball Club, 2) club logo, 3) website address with QR code.
- Approved invoice for Service Ace, which provides computer hosting and email services for Pickleball Plus in the amount of \$1545.00. Invoice reflects a unit price of \$1.50/member.
- Approved invoice of \$150 for a 3 year club membership to IPTPA, which provides a reduced individual membership fee of \$15 (down from \$25) for GVR Pickleball Club members.
- Approved the purchase of six ball hoppers to be located at the Pickleball Center.
- Member comment topics:
 - Request for classes on weekends/evenings for members who work.
 - GVR Board President advised of a policy that he plans to propose at the 1/26/22 GVR Board meeting (that the GVR Board support the Foundation Games with facilities and staff for 5 years). Requested support.
 - Use of unused Focus Play courts.
 - Policy to restrict Focus Play by level.

2022 Board Nomination & Election Committee

Nominations and/or any questions concerning the process should be emailed to all of the following committee members.

Mike Andrews: mag61010@gmail.com	Gina Rowsam: ginarowsam@gmail.com	Mary Wright: wmary1966@gmail.com
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Provide responses to the following in the email message. Nominations Close - **Thursday, February 24, 2022.**

- Person making nomination
- Person nominated
- Position
- Self Nomination - Describe motivation to serve on the Board of Directors
- Other Nomination - Describe motivation to serve on the Board of Directors
- Describe experience this nominee will bring to the position and what three issues are most important to the club
- Rate skill and experience with computer systems to work with member databases, scheduling, communications and websites (1 - low to 5 - high)

Player Development - Ratings

[Club testing for ratings](#) Between 12/13/2021 and 01/15/2022, the following club members were successful in advancing their skill level rating. In addition, six club members successfully completed their [JPTPA](#)* ratings test. Congratulations everyone!

2.5 to 3.0 - Elke Wolfe, Jarl Dyrud, Jacque Goodrich, Bob Treadway, Ellen Meents*, Gail Gersonde*, Ann Montgomery*, Randy George*, Nancy Seright*, Elizabeth Churchill*

3.0 to 3.5 - Mike Andrews

3.5 to 4.0 - Paul Osika (inadvertently left of last month's report), Dan Petree, Debra Hall, Kelly Bales

Mike Andrews volunteered to share how he prepared and provided a document. Thank you, Mike! [Click here to be taken to the Ratings information page](#) and link to access the tips and tracking tool on how to prepare.

New Members

27 new members 12/01/2021 - 12/31/2021 - WELCOME!

Cathy Barrette-Boals, Darrell Bernard, Bob Boals, John Breen, Jackie Czeiska, Stephen Dreier, Jean East, James Ellis, Sharmon Ellis, Leah Grant, Janet Hadley, Stephen Hesse, Joe Hubbell, Karla Hubbell, Kay Keding, Cheryl Kutella, Karen Larson, Jack Loan, Pam Loan, Linda Mohr, Richard Murray, Doug Richardson, Karen Richardson, Beth Robertson, Ann Sturdivant, Colleen Walker, Tracy Wilson

Social Activities

Dink, Dine & Toss

Pickleball and Cornhole
Saturday, February 19, 2022
3PM - 7PM @ East Center Auditorium & Courts

Hello Fellow Picklers! We are adding a new activity on Court 5 for a Cornament. Asking for all Cornstars to join the fun alternative activity. Pickleball will be on the remaining courts. To add to the laughs, here are a few terms that you should be prepared to know!

- Air Mail - Bag went into the hole without touching the board or other bags.
- Dirty Bag - Bag landing on the edge of the board while touching the ground.
- Grasshopper - Bag that touched the ground before landing on the board.
- Six Pack - Two bags ended in the hole during a round. (6 pack carries 6 points)
- Cornholed - It means that you were hit by a cornhole bag.
- Screaming Eagle - When you miss the whole board without touching it.
- Stiff Bag - Bad shot that was caused by disturbing competitors.

We are needing Cornhole sets including score cards. Contact Mary Wright, 970-218-9059, if you can bring boards.

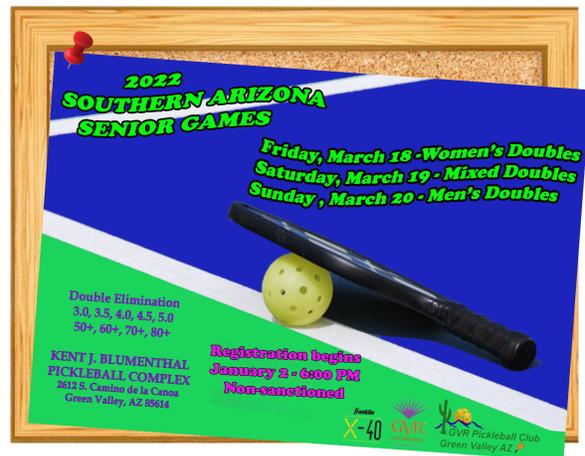
Please bring an appetizer to share. B.Y.O.B. The club will provide plates & utensils.

[Register via Pickleball.Plus](#)

2022 Southern Arizona Senior Games Pickleball Tournament

The Southern Arizona Senior Games Pickleball Tournament will be held March 18-20, 2022. Registration is available via pickleballtournaments.com.

Thank you club members who have volunteered to assist the tournament committee. You are greatly appreciated!



Adamson-Catino Trail Open

Club members who want to ride their bikes to the Pickleball Center will be interested in the following.

PIMA COUNTY, Jan. 18, 2022 – The Adamson-Catino Trail is finally ready to open. There will be a dedication ceremony for the long-anticipated Green Valley trail this Saturday, Jan. 22, at 10 a.m. The ceremony will be held at Canoa Preserve Park, located at 3500 S. Camino De La Canoa in Green Valley, where the trail begins.

“This is a terrific trail,” said Steve Anderson, planning division manager at Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation. “From the park, it crosses the Santa Cruz River, then connects to the 1,200-mile Juan Bautista De Anza National Historic Trail, so it’s really something special.”

The trail is named for two well-known bicycling advocates in the Green Valley area. One of them, Bill Adamson, will be speaking at the dedication ceremony.

“Bill came to me with the concept of linking up the Anza Trail with Canoa Preserve Park with a new trail,” Anderson said. “He’s one of our great bicycle advocates in the Green Valley area.”

The trail’s other namesake is Chuck Catino, a former member of the Pima County Parks Advisory Board who died in 2014. Catino was instrumental in the establishment of Canoa Preserve Park, tirelessly working to raise the money needed to fund it, Anderson said.

About 70 percent of the Adamson-Catino Trail crosses a pecan grove that is owned by the Farmers Investment Company (FICO), which agreed to a public easement that would allow the trail to be constructed on their property. FICO President and CEO Richard S. Walden will be speaking at the event.

“We owe FICO an enormous ‘thank you’ for partnering with us on this project,” Anderson said. “They really went above and beyond.”

Along with permitting the easement, FICO helped with preparation of the new trail, including grading the trail and trimming trees and bushes. They also added interpretive signs to inform trail users about the pecan growing process, as well as signs that honored Adamson and Catino for their role in the trail’s creation.

The trail also crosses under a Union Pacific Railroad line west of Canoa Preserve Park. Anderson said the railroad agreed to an easement that would allow the crossing on the condition that Pima County take precautions to protect users of the trail.

“We placed a canopy that extends approximately 30 feet from each side of the train tracks that will keep trail users safe,” Anderson said.

Funding for the trail was provided by Pima County and the Freeport-McMoRan Foundation, who contributed \$40,000 to the project.

Club Classes

The Club offers options free of charge to active club members for those looking to learn (beginners) and improve (intermediate and advanced) their skills. While there is no charge for these they do require registration through Pickleball Plus (gvpc.pickleball.plus) (select Events tab and look for available options). See [explanation of Pickleball Plus](#) for more information on the sign up process.

Developing Skills (to sign up look for DS on the Event tab in [Pickleball.Plus](#)). Sessions are designed for new and beginner players (at the 2.0/2.5 level) who have completed the GVR Pickleball 101 class or equivalent. These sessions incorporate drills and game play with a coach observer. Coaches are authorized to advance players from 2.0 to 2.5.

Player Skills Development (sign ups are limited in number, it's recommended to look for openings at the beginning of the month for PSD on the Event tab in [Pickleball.Plus](#)) sessions are intended for intermediate and advanced players seeking to move up to the next level. They are organized around the [ratings process](#) skills requirements.

GVR Classes

Registration has opened for the following Winter 2022 classes offered through GVR. [Click here](#) to access catalog descriptions, prerequisites, cost and registration instructions for the following. All classes are held at the Pickleball Center. NOTE: WE RECENTLY LEARNED THAT SOME OF THE COURSES WERE NOT LISTED IN THE CATALOG OR ONLINE. PLEASE CONTACT GVR DIRECTLY TO SIGN UP.

(520) 625-3440, please choose option #2 for class registration.

PB 101 - beginner (4 week sessions offered on T and W from 3-5 pm)

PB 201 - intermediate (3 week sessions offered on M from 3-5 pm)

PB 202 - intermediate (3 week sessions offered on M from 3-5 pm)

PB 301 - advanced (3 week sessions offered on M from 3-5 pm)

SNAP Pickleball - intermediate/advanced (3 week sessions offered on T from 12-2 pm)

SNAP to the Next Level - intermediate/advanced (1 week session offered on T from 12-2 pm)

Training for Ball Machine

There are monthly signups on the second Wednesday of each month at 12:00 pm, East Center Court 7. Signups will be open 30 days in advance of the training date. Signups will close two days in advance of the training date to allow instructors time to prepare. Once you have been trained you will be added to the certified Tutor Group allowing you to reserve Tutor.

Connect on Facebook!

If you have not joined our Facebook group page I encourage you to do so. It is a private group limited to active club members. Here is the link. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/252938121566884>

Observations

As I finish the last two months of my term as club president it has been a good exercise to reflect on what I envisioned when I ran in 2020. Here is what I offered in my nomination bio answering the question "What do you see as the three most important issues for our club?"

1. Build club membership and engagement by improving our existing systems and communications platforms and recommend the board develop and adopt a budget to manage the club's finances.
2. Examine existing and develop new programs and activities that will reach any level of member, e.g. recreational, competitive and social. Toward this end, inventory, analyze, and assess current roles of Board members and volunteers. From this assessment, develop a written matrix of job descriptions and lines of authority and make available to the membership for their information and involvement.

3. Maintain good communication with GVR administration and board as they work through leadership transitions.

Next time I create such a list, I'll make sure to add a caveat that would entail having to deal with something like a pandemic! Despite the curve balls that were thrown at us, the club – through its many dedicated members – accomplished several of the proposed ideas and created the foundation for forward movement on the others. I hope the following summary is informative and helpful for those considering getting involved either to run for an open board position or other volunteer opportunity.

In the first item each of these efforts involved a large number of committed and talented club members.

- Established routine reporting mechanisms for board members and key volunteers to initiate, discuss, adopt, implement, and record club business.
- Achieved full adoption and integration of Pickleball.Plus to handle membership, court scheduling and event management.
 - Alleviated the use and expense of other disparate systems which created many limitations including the inability to electronically validate GVR membership in a real-time manner.
 - Allowed the club the ability to move member engagement to join online and freed the club secretary and treasurer from loads of manual paper and computer work.
- Created and adopted annual budgets which allows the club to be proactive, anticipate and account for club expenses.
- Re-designed website based on club member feedback and recommendations.
- Conducted member surveys to identify volunteers, gauge interest and feedback on court usage options and preferences.
- Provided timely response to member requests for court usage options.
- Continue to address dynamics and challenges of court allocation considering member play preferences and trends over 1,000 members.
- Survey on court usage and social events will be conducted January 2022.

The second area saw considerable growth in player development for both recreational and competitive offerings due to the increased footprint we now have with the additional 24 courts giving the club a total of 36 courts to schedule and manage.

- The GVR class PB101 doubled in size over the past two years. Other GVR classes PB201, PB301 and SNAP also grew.
- Experienced increases in its Developing Skills participation as this is the primary place where new members coming through PB101 typically go. We have seen an increase in the preference for Round Robin play formats at all skill levels including a ladies group.
- Reservations for arranged play groups increased.
- Arranged play groups in general have increased during Focus (playing on unused courts) and Open Play.
- Work group convened to review and revise the skill rating program resulting in new testing structures.
- Classes to support the new process were developed by the club (Player Development Skills) and through GVR (SNAP to the Next Level) to assist members wishing to improve and advance as well as assist in the testing process.
- Members desiring a competitive experience are participating in the Arizona Pickleball Players League fielding 13 teams with an average 10 players per team.

- Will resume the club's annual tournament Southern Arizona Senior Games in March and the Foundation Games in October.
- Our social activities were adversely impacted in the first year of the pandemic but resumed and have been welcomed and well attended since.
- We are now positioned to address the second half of item one relating to inventorying the roles to develop job matrices.
- With the implementation of the various computer systems over the past two years and the expansion of volunteer activities by club members, especially with the skill rating program, the club's job roles and definitions have markedly changed and are ready to be documented.
- Many many of our members' faithful and voluntary participation makes all of this possible.

Finally, the third area as it relates to communication with GVR, worked through the challenges the organization faced with several staff changes including an interim CEO for 2020; the first year of the pandemic. A new CEO was hired in 2021 and our joint communication aided the refund of the fiscal outlay for the PBC shade structure and plans for benches and a monument to be erected at the entrance. Revisited discussions regarding the role of the club to create and manage the court schedule for GVR as it relates to skill level and types of play. Discussion continues re: January 2022 Focus Play. In addition, the club fulfilled the role to communicate with GVR as we identified, initiated and followed up on court maintenance and repair work orders across all three court locations.

If you are like me and many others in the club and feel a desire to invest in it through the sharing of your talents and gifts, please consider getting involved. There are various ways to plug in and make a contribution. Whether you want to or you know someone you think would be good to run for a board position (see nomination information above), help with player development through classes or ratings program, update the website, assist with our member management system, have talent for designing and analyzing survey information to create play events and schedules, help with court maintenance and management, organize social events, round robin coordinator, league team captain, tournament director or volunteer (as stated in prior communications, Donna Davis will step down from her director role at the end of this year and she will train a replacement), fulfill member outreach in times of grief, illness, or injury, etc. Or, you have something in mind you want the club to consider, we need your experience and there is a space for you! Connect through the [Contact Us form](#) on the website. And thanks in advance for your service to the club to keep the game, sport and social aspects of Pickleball vibrant and resonant for all of our members in whatever way they desire to play. I can think of no better way to honor the work of the many over the last decade plus who set such a great foundation for us. We are indeed fortunate for what we have!

Carpe Dinkum!



Gina Rowsam, President
GVR Pickleball Club