

February 2022 Pickleblast

[Committee / Work Area Reports / Pickleblasts](#)

[Board Meeting Highlights - 02/10/2022](#)

[2022 Board Nomination & Election Committee](#)

[Player Development - Ratings](#)

[New Members](#)

[Balls](#)

[Court Cleaning & Washing Schedules - 2022](#)

[Social Activities](#)

[Club Classes](#)

[GVR Classes](#)

[Training for Ball Machine](#)

[Connect on Facebook!](#)

[Observations - Ratings, Member Survey, Endorsement, GVR Dog Park](#)

Committee / Work Area Reports / Pickleblasts

[Click here](#) to access past committee / work area reports. And [click here](#) for past Pickleblasts.

Board Meeting Highlights - 02/10/2022

Approved that GVR Pickleball Club endorse the 2022 GVR Board Candidates being promoted by the Friends of GVR. [Click here for press release.](#)

2022 Board Nomination & Election Committee

The Committee is pleased to report it has received nominations for the four open positions (President 2022-24, Treasurer 2022-23, Secretary 2022-24 and Member at Large Position #2 2022-24) and will continue to receive additional nominations through the posted closing date of Thursday, February 24, 2022. Send nominations to the committee members listed below.

Mike Andrews: mag61010@gmail.com	Gina Rowsam: ginarowsam@gmail.com	Mary Wright: wmary1966@gmail.com
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- 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 01/16/2021 and 02/14/2022 the following club members were successful in advancing their skill level rating. In addition, three club members successfully completed their [IPTPA](#)* ratings test. Congratulations everyone!

2.5 to 3.0 - Maureen Spahn, Craig Barnes, Angela Elgee, Malcolm Serfontein, Harry Johnson*, Joy Johnson*

3.0 to 3.5 - Rick Nistico, Peggy Kurzmann, John Frazier, Sue Hausam,

3.5 to 4.0 - Becky Lupo, Jackie Czeiska*

As a reminder, the club's ratings program runs mid-October through April so keep that in mind if you are interested in testing soon. We have members in different stages of the process, e.g. some who passed the Skills Test have not taken the Game Play test as they continue to hone their game. Others who took the Game Play test and did not pass are also honing the application of the skills in their game. The club will be checking with these players to see if they intend to test before this season's program concludes in April. Anytime of the year, but especially after April and through mid-October, club members can pursue the [IPTPA rating](#). If a club member elects this option, they should indicate that they are a member of Green Valley Recreation Pickleball Club to receive the \$10 IPTPA Member Club discount (the club voted to continue its membership with them for another three years).

New Members

69 new members 01/01/2022 - 01/31/2022 - WELCOME!

Raymond Carle, Elaine Petersen, Frederic Petersen, Burt Archambault, Patrick McDermott, Marlene Baggett, Susan Bouvy, Diane McCrann, Timothy Meza, Marianna Pietralik, DON AMBROSE, Charles Golec, Ursula Kempe, Cindi Mattern, Jim Mattern, Roger Graff, Marilyn Hartzler, Marti Hunt, Toni LaMalfa, Linda Page, Emilie Sikora, Tom Hall, Kay Houghton, Dwain Hartzler, Richard Calderazzo, Bonnie Doherty, Mike Doherty, Siegfried Wakefield, Lisa Wilson, Brian Harding, Michelle Divine, Bill Laurent, Dave Barker, Allison Barker, David Fenner, Barbara Oemcke, Michael Oemcke, Jill Deaton, Michael Goodrich, Diane Hutchison, Bonnie Sortland, Dale Statsman, Delano Jones, Kim McCarty, Jane Ballantyne, Tim Begun, Michael Blumberg, Michael Haugen, Sharon Smith, Scott Gifford, Cindy Schlager, Betty Joslyn, Mark Patterson, Francisca Butler, John Butler, Ed Horsman, Kathie Horsman, Robyn Gentry, James Wahl, Michael Carper, Dennis Dean, Kathleen Foley, Richard Foley, Gwen Teeple, Gary Yerke, Wayne Deaton, Glen Holdren, Sheila Gillilan, Samuel Herman

Balls

One of the benefits of club membership is not having to bring balls for play as the club provides them on the courts. Because of COVID the club began distributing balls to individuals and they were responsible for bringing them to the courts for play. When the ball had become unusable they would get another one. This required a lot of folks having access to the balls and was not the most efficient use of anyone's time. We

recently went back to the prior method of making them available in the ball sleeves on the courts. Unfortunately, the rate of balls disappearing completely from the courts is such that some are concerned that people are not replacing them back into the sleeves but are taking them. For the remaining couple of months of our high season please observe the following suggested best practices as it relates to balls. Based on how we do it will determine what, if any, changes need to be made, e.g. it has been suggested that the players bring their own balls like in tennis or racquetball.

1. Do not use Franklin balls until the outside temperature is **OVER 49 °F**. Per manufacturers, the balls will weaken and crack at less than that temperature.
2. The club has placed weather stations at each pickleball location and temperature and wind speeds for each is available online - [click here](#) or view the digital displays at each location.
3. Onix balls should be used at colder temperatures.
4. Always put balls back in the ball holders after every game, even Round Robins. It is a courtesy to those following you on the court. Leaving balls on the court exposes them to the ball-destroying sun.
5. Ball holders can only take so many balls. Refrain from leaving a court with a ball or transferring a ball to another court. Ball holders are stocked with 2 Onix balls and the balance with Franklins during the colder weather.
6. Cracked balls should be discarded in the trash save for East Center that has a large disposal container located by the ice machine.

Court Cleaning & Washing Schedules - 2022

The club has been working with GVR to ensure the routine cleaning and washing of our courts. Our preferred day was Sunday during non prime hours, but they do not have sufficient staff for that and offered the following. Please plan your play accordingly.

Schedule below will show court washings (water involved) for 2022. To assist staff with getting this completed promptly, they have asked us to block any play time to those courts based on the time and date.

Thursday, February 24 - Pickleball Center courts 1-12. All day.

Friday, February 25 - Pickleball Center courts 13-24. All day.

Friday, March 25 - East Center courts 7-11am

Friday, July 29 - Canoa Ranch courts 7-12pm.

Thursday, August 25 - Pickleball Center courts 1-12. All day.

Friday, August 26 - Pickleball Center courts 13-24. All day.

Schedule below will show the weekly center court cleaning (blowing and sweeping involved)

Thursdays - Pickleball Center cleanup. 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Sundays - East Center cleanup. 7:00 – 8:00 AM

Sundays - Canoa Ranch cleanup. 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Social Activities

Dink, Dine & Toss

Pickleball and Cornhole

Saturday, February 19, 2022 - 4:30PM @ East Center Auditorium & Courts

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

[Register via Pickleball.Plus](#)

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 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 but will be increased for March offerings, 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 continues for the remainder of Winter 2022 classes offered through GVR. [Click here](#) to access the online catalog descriptions, prerequisites, cost and registration instructions for the following classes. Or, if you need additional assistance call **(520) 625-3440, please choose option #2 for class registration.**

All classes are held at the Pickleball Center.

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 for 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 - Ratings, Member Survey, Endorsement, GVR Dog Park

Ratings - The club's progress continues with the revised rating program. Overall, the feedback we have received has been positive. But, there are some who continue to point out issues with what they deem lack of demonstrated skills especially in Focus Play (single skill rating). The assertion is that there are players

who are not making necessary adjustments and improvements to play at the skill rating they have. Then, there are others who couldn't care less about ratings and they simply want to play with whoever is on the court. These are not unique observations for our club; it is a common refrain in many pickleball communities. As the sport continues to grow and attract a wide variety of players – everything from inactive, newly retired folks who have never played a sport to very active, accomplished athletes who bring incredible ability from other sports – our club is challenged to find and develop avenues of play for all of these players AND those in between. So, if you have the perception that the club has placed more focus on those who deem themselves as competitive, you are correct. There has been intentionality to address long term concerns and requests from those who fall into that category hence more play types that are competition oriented. For this group, they consider competition fun. For those more on the recreational side, they do not define their fun the same way. Up until the past two seasons, emphasis had primarily been on developing play opportunities from a recreational perspective. We need to do both and that is the goal. The responses to the member survey will aid in this ongoing effort to address these varying degrees of interest and need.

Member Survey - sent to 1,079 members, received 322 responses for a response rate just under 30%. GREAT JOB RESPONDING EVERYONE! The many and varied results will be analyzed and organized for an open meeting to present and discuss with members. This will inform the court scheduling and management responsibility the club has been granted from GVR. Watch for details in another communication.

Endorsement - As indicated above, the club board voted 5-2 to support a request from Friends of GVR for the Pickleball Club to endorse their candidates who have expressed support of pickleball. My position going into the meeting was to vote no; as it was for four other board members. My reasoning was that the club is not a “political” entity with respect to GVR in an overall sense. I also voiced my personal concern about how some past candidates who expressed support for pickleball have generally performed in their roles as board members with respect to other decisions and matters unrelated to pickleball.

After hearing from all board members, a rationale was offered from several club members that the club **does** have a duty to advocate for the best interests of pickleball club members and the sport – especially in light of the significant asset we helped make possible in the construction of the 24 court pickleball center. After hearing this perspective three board members, including myself, changed our vote to support the request and it passed. [Click here](#) for general GVR Board candidate and election information. [Click here](#) for the endorsement announcement and information on the Friends of GVR candidates. Voting begins on Friday, February 18 and there is ONE vote per household.

I would like to address how important it is for members (especially if you're new since mid-2019) to know and understand our club's history and why this decision matters. Make a point to talk with those who are in your pickleball orbit who can give their perspective on the very good and multi-year fight this club put up to get what we have. And, talk with those of us who have been involved along the way for particulars. To help you get up to speed, [click on this link](#) which will take you to a presentation that was made at the point where some GVR board members wanted to limit the number of courts at the new complex to eight (8). Yes, that is correct and not a typo! Having experienced our growing numbers the past two years, can you imagine having eight courts there and now trying to advocate to build more courts given the increase in costs and other needs GVR has? The club was offered an opportunity to see how much money it could raise inside a 60-day period in 2019 to add to the eight courts which would leverage having the large equipment on site thus reducing future costs to GVR. We accepted the challenge and were successful in garnering the additional monies required to build out to 24 courts. For those of us who believe in miracles, we definitely

experienced one with this! However, several of the project's original design elements could not be included due to cost limitations. Some of these have been addressed and others will need to be discussed.

I could not be more proud to be connected with people who care deeply about what pickleball brings to so many and who want to ensure it is here not only for current members but for those who will come after. While this was a tough discussion, it serves a good purpose for us all to remember what was done by HUNDREDS of passionate, dedicated, courageous, and generous members to get us to this point; especially providing significant and unprecedented financial support. No other GVR club has ever done this. It is this history and legacy that is worth advocating for NOW and electing board members who will do likewise. Click here for a [donation summary](#) and [donor list](#).

GVR Dog Park - A recent report in the GV News indicated the Pickleball Club was in favor of a dog park near the courts at Canoa Ranch. The club has not considered or taken a vote on this. I was contacted by those involved in advancing the idea and mentioned that I personally supported them exploring possibilities and thought the pickleball club could be supportive. The latter was taken to be a club position which is incorrect. If the dog park idea advances the organizers will ask for the club's blessing.

Pickle On! - When Scott and I moved to Green Valley in August of 2017, we came with an intention to play a lot of golf. Since being introduced to pickleball in early 2018, our golf clubs have mostly been gathering dust in our way-too-small garage!!! Like so many others, this sport has completely enthralled and consumed us. I am very glad that I stepped up to offer my particular skills, talents and abilities as it relates to serving in volunteer and board capacities. It was the least I could do to honor and recognize the work of so many who came before me. And, to ensure that there will be opportunities for others in the future. With our club elections just around the corner, I am excited about what the next crop of committed volunteers will bring to the club. We have got a very special thing going here at GVR Pickleball Club - Pickle On!!!

Carpe Dinkum!



Gina Rowsam, President
GVR Pickleball Club