



PickleBlast

February 2017 PickleBlast

Hi all and welcome to the latest **PickleBlast**. Our high season is in full swing here and finally the weather has turned nice and the courts are full! We have a lot going on, so let's get to this month's topics.

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What's in this PickleBlast?

- GVRPC February Board Meeting
- Website updates
- Senior Games Interview with Donna Coon and Donna Davis
- Green Valley Food Bank Challenge From BAJA
- Welcome New Members
- Thanks to our Volunteers
- Club Membership Renewals
- Focus Play Reminder
- Upcoming Events
- Observations
- We Need Your Help!

Board Meeting highlights

Our February Board meeting was held on the 8th of this month. Here are the highlights from that meeting:

- Emergency Contact information: GVR has set policy that they will manage all emergency contact info, due to privacy concerns and our system limitations. In the event this contact info is needed, please notify GVR staff at East Center or Canoa Ranch or contact a Center Operations Assistant (COA) at 520-343-2440. And, we encourage you to place emergency contact info on your paddle. Here are the [requirements](#).
- New Court Schedules: We will be publishing revised court schedules as we continue to respond to your suggestions to optimize the court times during our busy season. We have recently been given access to the East Center tennis courts

for certain days and times and will be expanding play opportunities there in the next few days. Watch for this announcement.

Board member and officer nominations end March 3. If you are interested in being a candidate or nominating someone, info is located [here](#).

Senior Games Interview with Donna Coon and Donna Davis

Our interview this month is about the upcoming Southern Arizona Senior Games. We have Donna Coon and Donna Davis in the studio today and they're here to share information about the Games.

[PickleBlast]: Thanks for taking some time to talk to us today, Donna and Donna. We're about a month away from the Southern Arizona Senior Games and we'd like to know how things are shaping up. Are we doing well with registrations? Which categories are full and which still have availability?

[Donna Coon]: As of February 6, we have 392 signed up. Some are on the wait list or still haven't registered so that number is higher than the final count will be. We have a few openings in some of the women's doubles events and we are hoping for more sign ups in the 2.5 Round Robin scheduled for Saturday, March 11.

[Donna Davis]: If you have registered and still need a partner, please try to find one as soon as possible. One good place to start is by [clicking here](#). This will take you to our tournament home page. At the bottom you will see a tab marked **Players Needing Partners**. Players are listed by skill, age, for which events partners are needed and a place where you can email that person. Also check out the folks you play with every day, they might just be waiting to be asked.

[PB]: As a participant what are the three most important things I need to know?

[DC]:

1) Know your day and event start time and be listening for your court assignment over the PA.

2) Come prepared to spend the day - bring food , extra clothes, sunscreen and a comfy chair to watch when you are not playing.

3) Be prepared to watch and learn - we have a good turnout of 4.0/4.5/5.0 players and you can learn a lot by watching these matches.

[DD]:

1) Be patient. If you have not played for awhile check the brackets posted on the fence, it maybe that you are waiting for other matches to finish before your opponent is determined.

2) Good sportsmanship is vital, if you cannot honestly call a ball clearly "out" you must call it "in".

3) Remember that our referees are volunteers and we cannot run the tournament without them. Mistakes will be made (usually in scoring), and most of these can be

easily corrected between the two teams and the referee. If there is a rules interpretation question on which you cannot come to an agreement, just asked to have the person in charge of officials come to the court to straighten things out. Most of the time it is not what you are saying but how you say it (tone of voice, word choices, etc.) that escalate disagreements.

[PB]: As we all know, the success of these events is largely determined by the number of volunteers we have and the coordination to get everyone working together. Where do we need volunteers and what are the qualifications and duties for each group?

[DC/DD]: To volunteer, go to our website and then to SignUp Genius.

- **Registration** - Check-in players in as they arrive. Qualifications - be able to be patient and cheerful at 7:15 am.
- **Shirts** - Distribute t-shirts for those who pre-ordered and sell tournament t-shirts to those that didn't pre-order. Qualifications - be helpful and friendly. All of our volunteer positions will be representing Green Valley, GVR, and our club.
- **Event Desk** - Update the system as games start and finish. Qualifications - be comfortable working on an automated system.
- **Score Posters** - Update the brackets on the display boards as games finish. Qualifications - good handwriting, ability to push everyone out of the way so you can get your job done!
- **Line Judge teams** - Something new this year. We want to have teams of four ready for the gold medal matches to make the line calls. Qualifications - a short training session will be provided. You must be able to sit still and focus on the lines!
- **Referees** - Experience needed! Training and refresher sessions will be provided.

[PB]: Do you have an update for us on the 2.0/2.5 Shootout Tournament scheduled for Saturday, March 11?

[DC/DD]: We still have openings! Everyone will play at least six games. Give it a try!! This separate tournament will be held at East Center on Saturday, March 11th. If you need help registering or have questions just reply to this email and we will help you.

[PB]: Donna and Donna, thanks for taking a few minutes to talk to us today and thank you so much for all the work you are and have been doing behind the scenes to make this year's Southern Arizona Senior Games a success! This is our annual showcase event for our members and others in the region to share how great our club and GVR really is. Let's work together to give others an accurate representation of what we get to enjoy every day!

Website Updates

- **FaceBook!** Did you know we have a club FaceBook page? It's [here](#). It's not only a good communication source but is great for that information which

doesn't quite fit elsewhere such as: Lost and Found, Stuff For Sale, training videos, saying Why I Love Pickleball, etc. "Like" the page to receive regular updates from other club members.

- **Pickleball Name Tags** - Order your name tag today! With +800 club members it's the absolute best way to remind people who you are. You don't even have to remember your own name. You can wear a name tag and just point.

PickleballCentral.com - Shopping for pickleball equipment or merchandise?

PickleballCentral.com offers a 5% discount and a 5% contribution to our club for all orders received from our members. We have discount cards at the signup desk at East Center, or mention you're a club member when you call in your order. Win-win!

BAJA Throws Down the Gauntlet!

BAJA has challenged the GVR Pickleball Club to match their donations during the month of February to the Green Valley Food Bank, as reported in [this GVNews article](#). The focus in February is personal items, including shampoo, conditioner, hand soap, bar soap, deodorant, lotions, brushes, toothpaste, tooth brushes, etc. These are items the Food Bank cannot get from the government but fly off the shelves when donated and are requested every year. So far our response has been good, but we can do better. Bring your donations to the East Center patio any day between 10 and 2 and watch for regular updates in the Green Valley News and on our website.

Welcome New Members! (January)

Jay Annis	Jim and Mary Dunaway	Clarence and Laurel Laborde	Lorna and Scott Soderling
Jim Bergen	Mary Durgin	John and Mary Jo Lee	Bill Studer
Gene Chandlee	Jim Ferrer	Dave Nichols	Tommy Thompson
Elizabeth Churchill	Susie Hager	Pat and Sid Olson	Jan Weiner
Norm Cohen	Liz Hayes	Barb and Mike Rainey	Deb and Len Whitecotton
Stephen Curtin	Karen Hendrickson	Mary and Merlin Reed	Brenda Zenan
Jan and Michael Day	Dave and Robin Henrikson	Klaus Richter	Susan Zimmerman
Art Dill	Bruce Johnson	Jeff Schroeder	
Mary Drey	Graham Kidde	Barbara Sincere	

Thank You Volunteers!

Thanks to those who helped at the **GVR Fit N Fun Day** on January 29 - John Wicklund, Ralph Feldt, Paul May, Ellen Sink, and Jeff and Kathy Harrell. We answered a lot of questions, passed out information, and held a pickleball demo at Las Campanas. Thanks to those who planned and managed the **GVRPC Poker Night** fundraiser on February 1 - Paulette Patterson, Pam Sweigert, Dean and Marsha Olson. We had a great turnout of 45 players and raised \$1,210 for the club! We may do this again very soon.

Club Membership Renewals

Membership renewals are now due! Link to <http://www.gvrpickleball.org/club-information> to print the form or pick it up at the sign-in boxes. Why do we need to fill out the form again? We report all of our membership information to GVR at yearend, so we must have accurate GVR numbers and addresses, plus we need current phone numbers (in case of emergency).

Focus Play

We've been pounding the pulpit for months now, asking that when you play during focus play that you do so in your rated group. This month, we want to take a break and just simply say **Thank You** to the 99.9% of you who respect your fellow players and play when you're supposed to. There are only a handful who continue to ignore the court schedules, but from a club of +800 members, that's a pretty good percentage. **Again, Thank You.**

Suggestions / Ideas / Complaints

Your club Board is more than willing to discuss and consider your ideas and thoughts on club operations and events. However, stopping us while we're walking to a court to play isn't the most effective or considerate way to let us know - particularly at this time of year. Please use the Contact Us feature on our website and we'll be happy to respond as quickly as we can.

Upcoming Events

Dance Fever - Our annual Potluck and Dance event is scheduled for Saturday, February 11 at the Canoa Hills Social Center 5:00-8:30 pm. Details will be coming out in the next few days.

GV Firefighters Foundation Pickleball Tournament - February 17 at Quail Creek Pickleball Center. Registration deadline is February 13, so don't dawdle!

Southern AZ Senior Games - Registration is now open for both the Double Elimination Tournament and the new Round Robin Tournament for 2.0/2.5 players. Details are [here](#). Spots are filling up fast, so if you want to play, don't delay!

Observations

Overcrowding - To speed up play, we are encouraging you to make a slight change to the scoring when it's crazy busy. Play to 11 and suspend the rule that you must win by two. You'll be surprised how that reduces game time and keeps people moving.

Stacking paddles during focus play - During designated focus play it is fine to stack paddles with a partner, as many of our members are practicing for tournament play. However, please limit this to two paddles. There should be no reason to stack three or four paddles during focus play. Save that for drop-in sessions.

Challenge Courts - We have designated Challenge Courts to provide a space for our higher rated players a place to play. They are not afforded their own designated time because their numbers are small. So, we provide them with an opportunity to play with similar caliber players. The addition of temporary courts will alleviate this designation somewhat.

Light switches - The light switches at East Center have been malfunctioning for some time. In response, GVR has disconnected them and moved to a manual on/off system. So, don't worry about activating the switches regularly. The lights will stay on until 9:00 pm or until no one is playing.

GVR Board of Directors elections - Please watch for ballots and participate in the Director elections. The GVR Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 28 at 9:00 am at West Center. Candidate information can be found [here](#) and FYI, the following candidates are GVR Pickleball Club members: Donna Coon, Tim Stewart.

In the news - Have you seen the latest Green Valley News article about two of our club members? If not, you can read it [here](#). Thanks to Lee and Suzanne Nordhagen for all you contribute to our club.

Member Directory

The Member Directory button on the home page of our website will take you to a password protected list of current members. We receive a lot of requests for that password, which is "1965". As the directory information recording used to say, "Please make a note of it."

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