

## August 2020 PickleBlast

### What's in this PickleBlast?

Board and Committee Activity & Reports  
Re-Opening Update  
GVR Pickleball Center Update  
Welcome New & Renewing Members  
New Ratings  
Interview with Paul Serra  
Observations

### Board and Committee Activity & Reports

*Unanimous Consent Actions - approval gained via email vote.*

07/16/2020

Approved revised [Court Reservations Policy](#).

07/26/2020

Approved purchase 200 pickleballs at a cost of \$300.

### Reports

Normally, these reports would be part of board meetings supporting documentation. As we do not have regular meetings in the summer months, I offer them for your review here. Many thanks to everyone who does so much for this club!

***Past-President, Jeff Harrell***

No report.

***Vice President, Mike Clemens***

Received multiple quotes for windscreens at the pickleball center.

Received one quote for a hip roof shade structure.

Requested approval from GVR for the club to purchase the shade structure at the pickleball center. Details forwarded to Randy Howard of the GVR PE committee.

I recommend all available funding from club members and outside foundations be solicited for funding of a shade structure and other amenities for the pickleball center.

***Treasurer, Mike Harrington***

Processed manual apps and deposits. I check the PO Box and EC PB Club mailbox every Tuesday during the Summer months.

Checking account balance: \$10,079.85

Reserve account balance: \$16,798.73

Paid \$773 to Service Ace (PickleballPlus website run by Ray Kuehl - long overdue!)

Paid \$294.94 to Amazon for 200 Franklin X-40 Pickleballs. Delivered to Paul Serra.

### ***Secretary, Susan MacMillan***

Deb McPartland has requested to GVR that the 2021 Dink & Dine events for the months of May, June, July and December take place at the East Center. The other months have been scheduled elsewhere. Details will be forthcoming as facilities open.

### ***Member at Large, Paul Serra - Court Scheduling & Management***

As you know it's been a busy and difficult month trying to get a new schedule out that works for all groups, but I think we got one that is working. At each step we reached out to the GVRPBC board members to get feedback on changes we were implementing and their feedback was very helpful. I do recommend that members view the schedules carefully as some have assumed things that are not correct.

### ***Member at Large, Dianna Michels - Social Committee***

No report.

### ***Member at Large, Patrick Furumoto - Education & New Member Initiative***

Message to our Club membership:

A big thank you for the 146 members, who completed the Education Survey, which was emailed on July 31.

The initial results have been insightful and full of great suggestions from the 2.0 thru 4.0 players, who responded. This information will be forwarded to the Pickleball Club Education Committee for their review. Initial results showed that only 17 of these 146 members have not taken a pickleball class and most of them want to take more when available.

Some of the suggestions included:

- More classes on specific skills for all skill levels
- Coaching tips while playing a game
- Team strategies
- Court positioning
- Evening and summer classes

Here are the most wanted pickleball classes, although all classes were requested.

- Improve your game skills 55%

- SNAP 30%
- PB 301 Helle Sparre 25%
- Guest instructor 23%

Here is a brief summary of the attributes of the players who completed the survey.

Time living in Green Valley:

- Fulltime 47%
- Up to 6 mos 32%

Skill level:

- 3.5 38%
- 3.0 34%

How often played during a week:

- 4 to 5 times 51%

Yrs playing pickleball:

- 3 to 5 yrs 46%

If you haven't completed the survey, there is still time to complete it by [clicking here](#). Thanks to all who have given your feedback, it will assist the Education Committee as they plan for future class offerings.

***Education Committee - Carol Hammerle, Chair***

GVR Fall Pickleball Classes and Educational Recommendations:

Because of COVID-19 many of the GVR classes are not being offered this fall with exceptions for outdoor classes such as tennis and pickleball. GVR contacted me in July asking if plans were in place to offer pickleball classes. My thoughts were a better decision could be made by the end of August by discussing interest with the instructors of the respective classes, receiving feedback from members, and having a better handle on virus numbers by then. In addition, USAPA COVID-19 guidelines would be utilized to insure participants safety in all classes.

To determine interest level from the club, a brief survey using Pickleball.Plus will be sent to members the week of August 17, 2020. Also, I will contact GVR requesting their assistance in providing the same survey to determine interest from individuals who are not part of the club but may be interested in signing up for PB 101. Here are the questions that will be posed on the survey.

Please indicate your interest by responding to the following questions:

1. Would you register for GVR pickleball class (PB 101, PB 201, PB 202, SNAP) classes this fall?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

2. Would you agree to follow USAPA COVID-19 Guidelines during class to insure participants safety?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

GVR Pickleball 101 classes will be offered on Tuesday and Wednesdays from 3-5 PM at the PBC requiring 6 courts.

- PB 101 A: Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27

- PB 101 B: Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28
- PB 101 A: Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24
- PB 101 B: Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25
- PB 201 & 202 will be offered on Mondays from 3-5 PM at the PBC on 6 courts. Classes are scheduled as follows:
  - PB 201: Oct 5, 12, 19
  - PB 202: Nov 9, 16, 23
- SNAP Classes will be offered on Tuesdays from 12-2 PM at the PBC on 6 courts. Class dates are as follows:
  - October 6, 13, 20
  - October 27, November 3, 10
  - November 17, 24, December 1
- Helle Sparre Clinic is set for Oct 24-25, 2020

**APPL (Arizona Pickleball Players League)**

The response to the Southern APPL from the club has been quite positive with the largest teams represented by 3.5 for both men and women. We have a good response from 3.0 women but really would like to have more 3.0 men involved from the club. 4.0 teams for both men and women could use additional numbers. The league would start in January 2021 but the club needs to commit by the middle of November 2020. I have listed the possible teams (communities) we would be competing against on a home and away basis. If we can form 10-12 players per team, the captain would rotate players for both home and away matches. Each pair of players would play 3 matches consisting of 2 games per match.

I believe the APPL is going to be the new version of pickleball competition for the future. If you haven't already signed up please consider joining us for three (3) months of fun while improving your game through good competition.

The following is a list of the communities we hope will be involved.

- Quail Creek
- Green Valley Recreation
- SaddleBrooke
- SaddleBrooke Ranch
- Sun City Oro Valley
- Voyager
- Tucson Racquet Club
- Tubac

***Webmaster - Dean Beilke, Chair***

SUG weekly and daily operational required edits

Added PBC & CR schedule changes to web site, 7/15

Re-started Tutor Signups. 7/16

Added PBC and GVR camera links to web-site

Updated PBC & EC schedule changes to web site, 7/26

### ***Tournaments - Donna Davis, Chair***

Last month's PickleBlast announced two (2) pickleball tournaments for the 2021 season to be played at the Green Valley Pickleball Center. Southern Arizona Senior Games, March 27-29, 2021 and the inaugural Foundation Games, October 23-25, 2021. Both of these tournaments have been sanctioned by the USA Pickleball Association (USAPA). This is exciting news.

What does this mean for our club players? You must be a USAPA member to play in both tournaments. You will also be eligible to play in several other tournaments within driving distance to GV (Tucson, Eloy and Casa Grande). Annual membership is only \$20. [Click here](#) to become a member or renew your membership.

Sanctioned tournaments carry great benefits for our players and tournament management, the following benefits come with no additional cost:

- Secondary Accident Insurance (USAPA Members)
- All matches referee officiated
- Referees, tournament directors and all volunteers are covered under USAPA insurance (because we are paying referees, they become vendors and would not be covered by GVR insurance and would have to provide their own insurance. With the cost of personal insurance the referees would pay more for insurance than they would make by officiating, leaving us with no referees).
- Tournament results are used to calculate USA Pickleball Tournament Player Ratings (UTPR) with a 100% weight factor
- Standardized and Approved IFP Rules and playing formats will be used
- Accurate bracketing and seeding using the official USAPA ratings makes for a more competitive and fun tournament for all participants
- Use of the sanctioned logo in all event media
- Free listing and flyer attachment on the USAPA tournament calendar
- Increased participation. Players prefer events run in accordance with all USAPA rules
- Public acknowledgement that your local organization supports the USAPA – governing body of pickleball.

Stay tuned to the Pickleblast for further details.

### **Re-Opening Update**

With all three centers open, our court management and scheduling has faced some challenges given our summer population and distribution of players in each level. As mentioned in Paul Serra's report, please review the schedules carefully before making assumptions based on past schedules. We continue to monitor things and make adjustments as needed.

### **GVR Pickleball Center Update**

The GVR Board discussed funds identified as available (\$44,000) after the invoices for the Pickleball Center construction had been processed as it relates to adding remaining features previously identified. They voted to approve spending \$9,000. As indicated in Mike Clemens report, bids have been received on wind screens and we are awaiting GVR's response to move forward. Unfortunately, the amount approved will not cover everything that remains, specifically the shade structure over the artificial turf area. A bid for this has also been received and if it meets with GVR's approval, the club will cover this expense.

Three security cameras have been placed at the Pickleball Center. These and additional cameras at other facilities can be viewed by [clicking on this link](#). The hosting site is free and requires viewers to watch a short promotion before the live stream kicks in. The expense for these is covered by GVR.

The donor recognition structure design has been developed thanks to the amazing creativity of our club member and former GVR board member, Tim Stewart. It will be a metal artistic depiction of two pickleball players with a net and placed on the east wall of the building directly in front of the artificial turf. Approval for this structure has been placed on the next GVR Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday, August 26, 2020. The expense for this structure will be covered by the club.

### **Welcome New and Renewed Members! (July 2020)**

Steve Aiken (renewal)  
Todd Denny  
Frank Konrad  
Tamara Marcotte

### **New Ratings (July 2020)**

3.5 to 4.0: Scott Rowsam  
3.0 to 3.5: Dean Bryan and Julie Zeilenga  
2.5 to 3.0: Nancy Williams

### **Interview with Paul Serra**

[PB]: Thanks for taking some time to talk to us today, Paul. 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.

[PS]: For those who don't know me I was born and raised in the Boston area. Attended a Jr College and enlisted in the U S Air Force in 1969 to 1973 moved to West Dundee IL in 1990 to work for UPS. I was given a book as a gift for my 50th birthday of the top 50 spots to retire in the US. After exploring a few of the places on various vacations we came to Green Valley and instantly fell in love with it. In 2007 we bought a home in Canoa Ranch and were only able to visit until we retired in 2014. My neighbors Scott, Jim and Butch introduced me to pickleball and the rest as they say is history.

[PB]: You are finishing your last term as club Member at Large. What are some things you would like to explore and implement during the remainder of tenure?

[PS]: I would like to thank the club members who voted for me these past two terms. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve this club. As we continue to get through these unprecedented times I would like the club to work together to be able to socialize yet remain safe. I would like to see the PBC completed before the end of my term.

PB]: What ideas do you have on how we can encourage pickleball players in Green Valley who are not currently club members to join us?

[PS]: To encourage new membership, I believe we have to offer our club members more exclusive functions and tournaments and actively talk to prospective members and get them to know what the club has to offer.

[PB]: What do you see our club doing well and where can we improve?

[PS]: As a social club I think we are doing well in keeping members needs a number one priority.

## Observations

As COVID-19 fallout continues to impact everyone's lives I wanted to address questions that have come up in a couple of places in our club recently relating to travel and whether people are required by the state of Arizona or GVR to quarantine after going from or back to Arizona. Or, what would happen if a pickleball player was diagnosed with this virus. When I posed the questions to our GVR liaison I received the following response:

*No change from the last time we spoke. Currently, we have no quarantine requirements and so far no protocol for shutdown from a player or players diagnosed with COVID-19. If GVR staff notices someone who appears ill, they will be asked to leave.*

*We ask that members follow the guidelines posted on our website under "What to Expect," use good judgment, and follow CDC guidelines before and after travel -*

*<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>*

*Thanks for all you do and for enduring the continuous barrage of rumors.*

With all three facilities being open (realizing that adding 24 courts represents a 200% increase over the 12 courts we previously had) combined with our decreased summer population spread across these facilities and the increased usage of reserved courts where people arrange play groups, at times it may feel like there are not many people to play with at your level, especially on days where your level may have focus play scheduled

at both the East Center and Pickleball Center - this happens for each level two times per week. This is what I am hearing from some members. But, did you know that we continue to attract new club members? If you find yourself feeling similarly, perhaps you might want to check out a level or so below where you are right now and find someone who's ready and eager to do the work to improve their game and move to the next level. This is what I have been told the summer season is all about. Stretching ourselves while also making ourselves available to others. I hope I always remember what it felt like to be the newbie and how grateful I was for those who reached out to me. And perhaps more importantly those who said yes to me when I approached them for guidance and help to improve my game. And, yes it is alright to approach someone and ask them for guidance or to ask to be included in a group for arranged play on a reserved court. This is also a good time to sign up for the level specific organized play the club offers such as round robins.

The testing work Dean Beilke has done with Pickleball.Plus has progressed to the point where he is recommending we roll out the new system on September 1, 2020. Toward that end, we will distribute guides on how the system will work as it relates to court reservations and signing up for events such as round robins and socials. This system will replace SignUpGenius. In addition to these areas, we will roll out the online membership application and renewal process this month. Watch for details on both to come in separate emails.

The education survey results Patrick Furumoto reported are fantastic. Thank you to everyone who participated and to Patrick for conceiving, developing and processing the survey. It is great feedback and will help guide us as we continue to build this aspect of our club.

I want to put another plug in for the APPL that Carol Hammerle reported on. If you have any interest in participating in the league, please [click the link](#) and submit your response. It is going to be great fun!

The club is instrumental in keeping GVR apprised of maintenance needs. One in particular has been the center line straps that have been disintegrating at a very fast rate. Because these are not required - rather recommended - by USA Pickleball, the decision to not replace them has been made. This applies to both recreation and tournament play.

Do you know someone who could use a pick me up? Simply click on the Contact Us button at the top of our webpage <http://www.gvrpickleball.org> and select **Wellness/Outreach Committee** and complete the form.

In closing, if you have not joined our Facebook group page I encourage you to do so. Here is the link. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/252938121566884>

If you want to become involved, have a suggestion, comment, or a question please use the Contact Us feature on the GVR Pickleball Club website <http://www.gvrpickleball.org>.

Carpe Dinkum!





Gina Rowsam, President  
GVR Pickleball Club