

April 2017 Newsletter

Pickleball has been in full swing this month. April showers and more showers kept us inside on some days. But it is true, April showers, bring May flowers. Everything is in bloom and I'm sneezing so much now!

The U. S. Open Pickleball Championships are going on in Naples, FL. You can see live action on Facebook, on the Pickleball Forum page. Great action, not always great photography all the time, but its enjoyable to watch such high level play!

Arizona

I spent much of the month in Arizona checking out pickleball in many areas. In Scottsdale there are public courts, eight of them at Cholla Park. Last year the courts were new and few players. This year, they are packed with good players from Canada and snowbirds from Walla Walla Washington and locals. I met and played with so many nice people there. When a ball crosses to another court, everyone says, "Pickle!" "Pickle!" "Pickle!" So funny! There is also La Camarilla, a local club on Shay that has ten courts and costs \$7 to play there. I was their opening manager back in 1981, many lifetimes ago.

I also played at the Marionette Center in Sun City again, love that 4.4 Million dollar facility! They have twenty courts, all outdoors, but eight are covered courts for those too sunny days! You have to live in Sun City or some of the other areas, Grand or Sun City West to play there. I read that they have over 700 members now. We also drove over to see the City courts in Surprise, Arizona, nice new courts there with 4.0 play on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Open Play on Saturdays. We drove south to Goodyear to check out the Robson 55 plus community there. Lots of pickleball courts and great women playing the day we stopped by. Beautiful model homes and two golf courses and multiple pools and athletic and art facilities! Everyone drives their golf carts to the pickleball courts! What fun!!

Crazy Eight's

Back in Walnut Creek, now and Crazy 8's are in play at the Rudgear Park courts starting around 5:30 in the evening. Eric Tate is running the show, keeping scores and players are moving from court to court, mixing up the play, on Tuesday and Thursday nights. I hope to sub in sometime soon. If you are interested in playing/subbing in, let Eric know at etate.stn1@gmail.com. Thank you Eric for all your time and efforts!

Rusty Lent's Drill Days

Wow! This week, I think there were 26 players, running the gauntlet under Rusty's direction! It was a sight to see!! So many new players coming to find the game and get some tips to improve. Rusty is thinking about holding a fundraiser to help us get four more permanent courts at Rudgear. He has a couple of pretty good ideas. We will wait to see what he wants to put those players through next!! Thank you Rusty, for making pickleball so much fun!!

Save The Date

Annual Membership Meeting will be held on **May 18th**, Thursday at Rudgear Park at 11AM. We will be approving the By Laws Update. But the best part is that we will start the day at 9AM with a Poker Chip Play Day. Just show up at 9 AM and have some fun before the meeting!

Put this one on the calendar too. The **Annual Anniversary BBQ and Picnic** will be held on **June 24th** at Rudgear Park around noon. We will play pickleball in the morning and then go up to the BBQ area and have lunch. It costs \$5 and we all bring side dishes. Burgers and Hot Dogs and drinks are provided by the club. More to come later.

Tice Valley Gym

The schedule is the same, MWTTh 9-1PM and Fridays 9-noon for the month of May.

Pleasanton Middle School Gym

Bill Lide let us know that they will have Thursday evening hours on May 4th and May 18th, from 6-9 PM.

Methodist Church in Alamo, ARC

We are getting updates and hope to hear the new courts in their gym will be open in June. They are planning a Open House soon, per **James Burk** who is helping the church orchestrate all things, with this new facility! We are looking forward to seeing your new courts.

Those We Miss!

Bill Dougherty has been MIA. He had a knee replacement that is taking a lot of time to heal. We miss seeing you and Joan more often! He will be back in Tahoe soon and back on the courts!

Brad Falk's wife **Jenise**, fell while ice skating and was injured this winter. We hope she is doing well and back playing pickleball someday soon!!

Nancy Smith has been too busy with doctor's appointments, trying to get her health issues under control. We miss you very much! Come back soon!

Duff Danilovich injured his shoulder and we haven't seen him in a while and his son in law, **Cash French** was still getting over his injury. We miss you boys! Hurry Back!!

I heard through the grapevine, **Giani Givogri** has been seen on courts near by. She is back!! Welcome home!

Many members are dealing with losses or illnesses. Remember to be kind and a friend to all.

Teaching Professionals

Our club is so lucky! We now have two teaching professionals, certified by the IPTPA, International Pickleball Teaching Professional Association. **Jordan Briones** was the first certified professional in Northern California. He is a wonderful instructor and a well known 5.0 player! His videos on YouTube and our website are great! He is holding, with his wife **Katrina**, the Sanctioned tournament this summer in Concord, **The Golden State Championships**. They are now registering players for the August 18 to August 20th dates. Check out

www.pickleballtournaments.com

Patricia Strazzi was recently certified by Steve Paranto, who coached Sarah Ansboury, currently one of the top women players. Congratulations! We believe she is the first woman in

Northern California to be certified!! We are so happy for you Patricia!

We wish you both the best and are lining up for lessons!! If anyone needs their contact information, just let us know!

Many Thanks

To **Torrey Wall**, our webmaster that keeps everything updated and cares for our website! She is a wiz! And to **Pasko Varnica** for helping Torrey and creating a mobile website.

Thank you very much **Thom Macpherson** and **Duff Danilovich** and **Bill Dougherty** for attending the first meeting with the City of Walnut Creek, for our Community Service Day. Thank you for attending when none of us could!! We really appreciate your help!

USAPA

Your membership in this organization now includes Member Rewards, which launched in April. This includes discounts in hotels, travel and dining. Check out the information at the USAPA.org. All members also receive for free the Pickleball Magazine which comes digitally. Lots of information and updates!

Tournaments

Relish Tournament in El Cerrito run by our member **Bell**. Contact him at 510-559-7677. June 10th and 11th, Register by 5/22/17.

The **2017 USAPA National Championships** have just been scheduled for Nov. 4-12, 2017 in Casa Grande, AZ. Registration opens on August 1st.

Be sure to send us any updates about your tournament play so we can update your information! So many members are playing tournaments now, it's hard to keep up with all the hardware everyone is bringing home!

New Members

Don't forget to check out our web site,

www.walnutcreekpickleballclub.com for links to organizations and information about our club.

Finally.....

Ode to Dinking

I was thinking about dinking,
When I noticed something stinking.
But I probably was drinking,
So I chalked it up to that.
But if I had a job,
And when I give a damn,
There's nothing like a slam.
But why dink around and fiddle
Just bonk it down the Middle!

---The ghost of Rita Rhymenstern