

Home to Rudgear Courts  
2261 Dapplegray Lane  
Walnut Creek CA



**WALNUT CREEK PICKLEBALL CLUB**

*Around the Post*

# First Quarter 2024

*Written and Edited by Dee Morris & Mark Nollsch*

The Board of Directors would like to wish everyone good health, happiness and blessings in the new year!

Special thanks to Cece Kohl and Teresa Wentzel for their five years of service as Social Director/Recording Secretary and Membership Director, respectively. Their hard work and dedication will sorely be missed.

Wishing them both the best in their future endeavors!



## Introducing your 2024 Board of Directors

President	Tony Parisi	tonyparis9@gmail.com
Vice President	Mike Gabrielson	cpa711@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Dave Holland	holland_42@yahoo.com
Secretary	Dee Morris	deirdre8morris@gmail.com
Venue Maintenance	Darrell Hoh	darrell.hoh@compass.com
Membership Director	Mark Nollsch	mark.nollsch@gmail.com
Social Director	Cindy Gershen	cindymgershen@gmail.com
Public/Community Relations	Jill Shinkle	jill.shinkle@gmail.com
Tournament Director & Skills Director	Skip Sewell	mjsewell13@gmail.com

## & 2024 Committee Members

Venue Maintenance Assistants	Ed Oncena Pete Sciarretta	eoncena@sbcglobal.net pjss10030@yahoo.com
Fundraising	Lisa Regal Brad Falk	lrmama007@gmail.com bradfalk@gmail.com
Webmaster	Pasko Varnica	varnica@pacbell.net

Board of Directors and Committee Members meet on the third Thursday of each month. Agendas and meeting minutes are posted on the club's website.

### Rudgear Court Hours

Monday	0800-1300
Tuesday	0800-1300
Wednesday	0800-1300
Thursday	Closed
Friday	0800-Sunset
Saturday	1000-Sunset
Sunday	1000-Sunset

### Alternative Places to Play

- Lafayette Rink *check schedule*  
576 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette
- Tice Valley Community Gym (\$7) *M-Th 10-3*  
2055 Tice Valley Boulevard, Walnut Creek
- Ultimate Fieldhouse (\$15) *T, Th 9-12*  
2675 Mitchell Drive, Walnut Creek
- Osage Park  
876 Orange Blossom Way, Danville
- Willow Pass Community Park  
2748 E. Olivera Road, Concord
- The HUB Sports Club (\$30)  
800 W. Tower Avenue, Alameda



**Walnut Creek Pickleball Club**  
PO Box 374, Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
925.272.9728  
[www.walnutcreekpickleballclub.com](http://www.walnutcreekpickleballclub.com)

# THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Dear Walnut Creek Pickleball Club Members,

As the new year unfolds, I sincerely hope each of you had a joyous holiday season, filled with cherished moments spent with loved ones and, of course, the delight of playing pickleball with family and friends.

Reflecting on 2023, it was a year that tested our resolve but also highlighted our club's spirit and determination. Our efforts to advocate for keeping our courts open at Rudgear Park while looking for a new permanent home at other locations, were nothing short of inspiring.

I extend my deepest thanks to every member who dedicated their time to sound studies, neighbor outreach, participated in task force meetings, and attending city council meetings. Your unwavering support and advocacy have been the lifeblood of our club's endeavors. While I cannot name everyone individually, please know your contributions are deeply appreciated. As we continue our quest to find a permanent home, we must have your participation in city council meetings so please remain active.

Turning to an exciting development regarding new courts - the WCPC and the City are currently drafting a Memorandum of Understanding for the construction of new pickleball courts. This important step, mandated by the Mayor, precedes the city council's final vote on the approval of new courts. I presented our club's proposal on January 19th, which demonstrates our commitment to contributing financially for the construction in exchange for dedicated reserved play times for our club for years to come. In anticipation of a payment plan to the City spread over multiple years, the Board approved an increase in our dues this year.

As we continue to progress, the sound study for Tice Valley Park has commenced and is expected to be completed by the end of February. This study is essential for the City's California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Review. It is important to note, however, that the proximity of a firehouse and church near Tice Valley Park presents potential challenges. As a contingency, the Heather Farms Park parking lot along Ygnacio Valley Road remains a backup location.

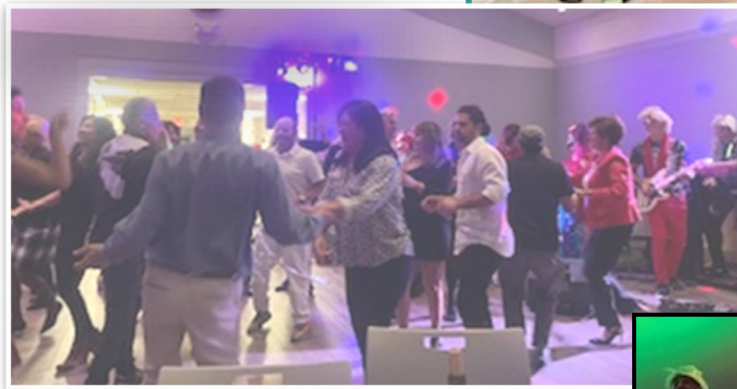
As we step into 2024, we welcome new Board members, each brimming with enthusiasm and fresh ideas to propel our club to greater heights. Their energy and vision are vital for our future success. In the midst of these new beginnings, I want to extend a special note of gratitude to Cece Kohl and Teresa Wenzel for their years of dedicated service to the club and Board. Their contributions have been immeasurable, and we are forever grateful for their relentless dedication in various capacities. Additionally, I extend my thanks to Lisa Regal, whose invaluable assistance in our social activities has greatly enriched our club's spirit and community bond.

Stay tuned for more updates and get ready to embrace all the opportunities and challenges that 2024 has in store for us. Together, let's make it a memorable year for our club!

Warmest regards,  
Tony Parisi  
President, Walnut Creek Pickleball Club



The **Annual Holiday Party** for club members was held in Rossmoor at the Hillside Room. Special thanks to **Linda Bowers** for being our hostess with the mostest. The event was well attended by over 125 members and guests. Festivities included a delicious dinner prepared by Sunrise Bistro & **Cindy Gershen**, tasty libations, and grooving to Patrick Vaucheret's 80's band **Rewind**. This was beautifully orchestrated and made possible by Social Chair, **Cece Kohl, Lisa Regal**, and their spirited elves **Leslie Holt, Teresa Wenzel** and **Laura Townsend!**



*Save the Date for these two upcoming members-only Social Events*

♥ *St. Valentine's Day Mixer, Wednesday, February 14, 9:00-12:00*

♣ *St. Patrick's Day Mixer, Friday, March 15, 9:00-12:00*

*Contact Cindy Gershen for more information*



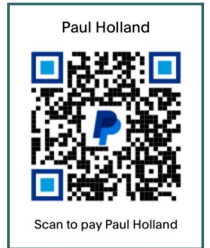
# 2024 Membership

Please welcome our 24 newest members!

Eric Anders	Mark Cohen	Kyla Grant	Steven Dorcelien	Natalie Fox	Joyce Cunningham
Lynn Green	Ramie Hinkley	Amy Hopkins	Lucinda Hurley	Debbie Kim	Sharon Lindorf
Doug Lindorf	Dana Longmire	Scott Pollack	Andrew Min	Steve Mink	Gene Lusherovich
Chase Redd	Carlos Roman	Mary Russell	Stacy Walsh	Lisa Zuffi	Brian Schoenrock

Thanks to all of our members that have renewed their 2024 membership. We are now 600+ members strong! Even with the recent dues increase, we still have the lowest dues among Bay Area pickleball clubs. Where else can you have so much fun for only \$5 a/month!

For those that have not yet renewed their membership, please do so as soon as possible. We need your support! We offer three easy ways to pay:



1. Cash given directly to **Mark Nollsch**, *Membership Director* or placed in the provided envelope with your name and dropped in the ball donation box
2. Check (payable to WCPC) given directly to Mark, placed in the ball donation box, or mailed to Walnut Creek Pickleball Club, PO Box 374, Walnut Creek, CA 94596
3. PayPal using the link on [walnutcreekpickleballclub.com](http://walnutcreekpickleballclub.com) or QR code displayed here. When paying by PayPal, please specify the member's name in the **Comments** section and check the **Friends and Family** box to avoid PayPal fees.

## Let's Talk About Pickleball Etiquette

In the spirit of the New Year, let's talk about upping our sportsmanship and etiquette toward our fellow players. Whether you're dropping by open play or playing in a tournament, you could probably benefit from a refresher on pickleball etiquette. Here are a few tips to prevent you from coming off as rude or aloof.

- Give consideration to lower level players and be willing to play with them *at least once*. Remember there's always going to be someone better than you and they may be thinking the same thing.
- Politely pick up and toss a stray ball to your fellow player. Don't just kick or throw it in someone's general direction or worse yet where they have to go chasing it.
- Be ready to play. Check the white board or queue often.
- Quickly get on and off the courts to cut down on wait times
- Announce the score **LOUDLY** enough for the receiver to hear. The receiver can't be ready if they don't know when the ball is being served. No quick-serving, please! Say all three numbers first, then serve the ball.
- When a ball leaves your court, don't chase it. Instead be respectful of the other game in progress.
- Safety first. If the ball is rolling near players in an active point, call 'BALL ON' to prevent accidents.
- Respect the point. If all four players are in the point and your ball rolls through, don't immediately stop the point, or worse yet run to retrieve the ball. Wait it out.
- Between games, keep warm ups to 2 minutes or less
- Always paddle-tap after the game to show good sportsmanship
- Don't argue line calls - accept the decision the first time
- Even up teams. Don't just pick the best player because you want to win. Let's make every game fun for all!



Goofus wildly throws the ball back.

Gallant politely hands the ball back.



# 2024 Pickleball Rule Changes

Go to [USAPICKLEBALL.ORG](http://USAPICKLEBALL.ORG) to download the complete 2024 Official Rulebook

Did you know that over 90 rule suggestions were made but only 27 were approved for 2024?

Here are some of the most significant changes to the rules:

- Faults for incorrect server, receiver and player position errors are eliminated. The referee will now correct any such player errors before calling the score. Rule 4.B.9 is the primary rule text, but other rules have been modified/deleted to correlate with this change.
- Rule 7.L now makes catching or carrying a ball on the paddle a fault without having to determine that the catch or carry was deliberately done. Double hits however are still permitted. Players should understand the definitions/difference between a carry and a double hit. See Rules 3.A.1 and 3.A.8.
- Paddle specifications have been updated to address new and emerging paddle technology and features
- Players are now allowed to use available standard timeouts after the 15-minute medical timeout has expired to allow more time before a player must retire from the match
- Mini-Singles is now an approved format



## Member Spotlight

### Featuring Pete Sciarretta

with input from Kim Bouffard & Ed Oncena



You can find Pete Sciarretta (pronounced *shur-ret-ta*) on the courts almost every day of the week. His passion for the game is immense as is his kindness and willingness to help others.

If Pete were to be given a nickname, it would be ‘Sweet Pete!’ Kim says, “He’s one of the kindest men she has ever known.” Pete defines the word chivalrous to a T, because he truly is courageous, courteous, loyal and considerate.

Pete had an illustrious 30-year career as a California Highway Patrol officer! In his retirement, he has umpired baseball leagues, refereed football games and plays in various pickleball leagues and tournaments. When he’s not on the courts, he spends time with his beautiful wife Joan, and handsome sons Daniel and Stephen. He also enjoys a round of golf, e-Biking and mastering the daily Wordle. **Now, isn't that sweet!**



A golden smile win in 60+ Singles!  
2021 US Police & Fire Championships  
San Diego, California

Pete shown here with his longtime pickleball partners and besties Ed and Kim.



# Beyond the Baseline



## It's Official!

WCPC is now a 501(c)(7) organization, which is a social or recreational club organized for pleasure, recreation, and other non-profitable purposes. Social clubs are membership organizations primarily supported by dues, fees, charges or other funds paid by their members. Our tax-free status will help our club stay financially secure so it can continue to offer recreational activities to our members.

## Less Pain in the Rain

The club is now the proud owner of a new VAPTR ROLLER with big thanks to **Kent Godfrey** for ordering it!

This bad boy removes up to 95% of water from the court surface with a single pass. To prevent misuse and damage, we ask that only 'certified' members be allowed to use it.



## Automated External Defibrillator

An AED is now available at the courts with big applause to our club members for doing such a great job installing it!

Our **heartfelt** thanks goes to generous donors **Rusty Lent, Missy Park, Miriam Garfinkel, Carolyn Daniels**, with special thanks to **anonymous** for their sizable contribution.

Additional club funds were used to purchase the AED.



To learn more about AED, go to [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

## TopspinPro is Here!

This training aid helps players master the art of hitting with topspin. Using it two minutes a day will help you master topspin groundstrokes and dramatically improve your technique.

It's easy to use, just ask a Board member or knowledgeable user for a demo. Now available at the courts!



## Recycle Those Broken Pickleballs!

According to club records, WCPC goes through 1,200 pickleballs each year. Hundreds of thousands of broken pickleballs are going into landfills and oceans yearly.

The Board has approved the collection and recycling of dead pickleballs, with appreciation to **Mark Nollsch** for spearheading this environmental initiative.

Our club has also placed ball collection bins at Rudgear Park, Lafayette Rink, and Hidden Valley Park, Martinez.



When the bins fill up, our club will ship the dead balls to a recycler on the East Coast, where the plastic will be turned into everyday products.

We are looking for a sponsor to fund the shipping cost of sending the dead pickleballs to the recycler.

Contact Mark if you can help!

### White Board Update

If you haven't noticed, the white board now has permanent painted grid lines. Our gratitude to **Don Means** for getting us 'squared' away!

### Lost and Found

The club is no longer collecting lost and found items due to the inability to store such items.

### WhatsApp

Want to stay in-the-know? Join the Rudgear Park Pickleball WhatsApp chat group at <https://chat.whatsapp.com/GoeUi94H3vg-Bro8JYk91s6>

### Let 'em Roll

Court Nets have been rolled up at the bottom to allow balls to freely roll underneath the net. Windscreens have also been rolled up higher to allow better drying and less shadows on the courts.



Use discount code 'CRWALNUTCREEK' to get a 5% discount on all your pickleball purchases

### Advertising Space

Advertising space is now available in **Around the Post** or at [www.walnutcreekpickleballclub.com](http://www.walnutcreekpickleballclub.com)  
Contact Dee Morris or Mark Nollsch