

Walnut Creek Pickleball Club 2020 January Newsletter

2020 is a leap year and the beginning of the twenty twenties! January has come and almost gone! Catching up after Christmas time travel or having guests and getting our homes back in order is always nice. We have had many cold and foggy days and wet courts. We now have a new roller, so two makes it easier with the new squeegee to help move the puddles off the courts. We also have towels to help dry the courts stored in the shed too. Remember to take the wet ones home and bring them back dry for the next day. Everyone gets to help out.

It was a good month to curl up on the couch and stay warm, have a fire in the fireplace, but lets not forget those resolutions.....have you been to the gym yet or gone for a walk? Are we going to eat out less or get out and enjoy all the great restaurants in the Bay Area? Either way we are watching our diets and making good choices. Are you planning some foreign travel? Be safe and plan for all the shots and pills to keep you in good health. Coronavirus is out there! Let's get organized for the new year, then have some friends over to watch the Super Bowl! **Go Niners!!**

Welcome to Our New Members

Laura Cooksey, Valerie Duda, Dick Davis, Karen Degerberg, Mickael Fields, Ron Fong, Mitch Goldblatt, Alison Gomez, Maria Hawes, Mike Hitchcock, Darrell Holt, April Jourdan, Clay Kallam, Tamas Kerekjarto, Greg Koos, Rachel LaField, Candace and Sidney Lee, Steve Mink, Yarin Molad, Mary Parodi, Judith Peake, Read Powell, Stewart Prizeman, Ferris Suer, Mike Tyberski, Ellen and Mark Whitfield, Sherman Wong

Welcome to all our new members! Thank you for joining our club. Don't forget to get your **Member Directory** available at Rudgear Park, on the Sign In table or at Tice Gym, (in the red bag). You will also be on our Member only area of the **WCPC website**. We also have the **Facebook Page** and Website with links to lots of information. Don't forget to use our club code, **CRRPC** when ordering anything from Pickleball Central on line. You get a **5% discount** and the club get the same amount back at the end of the year. The credits help with buying balls for our three venues.

Where to Play

Our website has links to all the following sites and information.

Tice Valley Gym

Open Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays - 9 AM to **3 PM** and Fridays 9 AM to Noon 6 courts on Monday and Wednesday and 3 courts on Thursday and Friday. Please remember, if you are the last ones on the courts, please put the portable nets away and put the balls back in the Red Bag with the loaner paddles. Wipe off the White Board. You can always check to see if there are balls behind the front desk. The staff finds them and puts them in with their equipment.

The gym has new access cards that will never expire. You can pay for 10 visits and get the 11th for free. Each visit is \$5. Just swipe the card when you come in. It's much easier than cash. They accept either but no Apple Pay, Venmo, etc.

Ultimate Fieldhouse

The February schedule shows Drop In on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - 11 AM to 2 PM. \$5 cash at the door. If you have any questions or needs just ask the front desk staff. They are more than happy to help you.

Balls and paddles are in the Red Bag. No white board, but you can put paddles up on the floor, so the next four players go in after a court finishes. Players move to the back of the gym so the open court is near the bleachers. This keeps everyone from walking behind busy courts so often.

The ARC - San Ramon United Methodist Church

Drop In is on Monday through Friday - 9 AM to 1 PM; \$5 at the door. They provide balls. Three courts each day.

Rudgear Park

Drop in everyday, starts around 9 AM if it is not too cold. No play before 8 AM per the CCand R's of the neighborhood. Balls are in the shed with loaner paddles. We welcome Ball donations from visitors. The two rollers and squeegee are in the shed, along with the blower, when needed.

One of the movable barrier plastic gates by the tennis nets needed repair in December. Thank you **Ron Blasquez** for fixing it. Remember, our club has provided these and lets keep them closed to prevent balls from rolling on the courts.

New Place to Play

Last month I missed this one and **Bill Dougherty** reminded me about it. The **Lafayette Multi-sport Rink** converted their hockey ring into 6 pickleball courts using portable nets. Both **Rusty Lent** and **Carmen Sanz** have been helping them with lessons and getting new players started on the right path. Carmen teaches on Wednesdays from 9:30 -10:30 AM. The schedule is Monday and Wednesdays from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM. I believe you can check this information on the web at www.lafayetteRec.org/ 925-284-2232.

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Demo Day - Gearbox Paddles and Dura Balls - Sunday, Feb. 2nd

Our friend **Tom Hartman** from South San Francisco is going to have another **Gearbox paddle demo** at Rudgear. **Put this date on your calendar, Feb. 2nd!** Many members have been asking to have him come back. He is bringing the **New** full line of current paddles and he can tell you which paddle will work best for your game. He is also bringing Dura Balls and will be selling them to our club members for a great discount, \$26 a dozen!! (\$36 a dozen on Amazon or Pickleball Central. He will have several dozen available and he takes cash or checks only. Tom, thanks for getting us this great deal! All the tournament players will love this price. The paddle prices are \$140, cash or check also. Come prepared to shop!

It looks like the weekend weather will be good for this event. Come out before the Super Bowl which starts at 3:30 Pacific Time, San Francisco 49ers and the Kansas City Chiefs. (Their first Super Bowl in 50 years!)

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Round Robin at Mare Island - January 31st

Patricia Stazzi one of our ITPA Certified Teaching Pro's and 5.0 player, let us know she is organizing a Round Robin at the Mare Island indoor pickleball courts for 3.0 to 3.5 players. The address is 785 Walnut Ave., Vallejo. You can contact Patricia at pickleballpatricia@gmail.com or (650) 218-3468. Call or text her soon and have some fun! Prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th!! Starts at 9 AM, \$15 to play.

Valentine's Day - Fun Play Day!

Put this date on your calendar also, **February 14th, Friday at Rudgear Park**. We will be sending out more details about this event soon. We will have snacks and some fun pickleball!

Many Thanks!!

Thank you **Rich and Gail Zavala** for donating 5 dozen bright yellow Franklin outdoor balls! Your timing was great, as we have been running low on balls after going through 16 dozen or more balls since late November!! The cold weather does not help the Dura or Franklin balls. Many don't last a day when it is so cold.

Thank you **Carol Manuel** for taking the huge load of wet towels home after we dried the courts last week. It is really appreciated! Thank you all for helping out.

Thank you **Rusty Lent** for your large donation to our ball fund! That will buy us many many balls!

Mike Palucki, thank you for your donation to our ball fund also. Really helps out!

Gary Caires for donating more balls to the club too!

Mark Whitfield, thank you for all the towels to dry the courts!

Chris Reilly, thank you for the balls you donated too!

New Pickleball Rules 2020

Pasko Varnica posted the USAPA Rule Changes on our Website. You can catch up on the do's and don'ts there.

Saying Good Bye

Long time member and Ambassador, **Bill Lide** and his wife have moved to Vancouver, WA. They have listed their beautiful home in Pleasanton for sale. Did you know it has a lighted pickleball court?? It is at 8001 Jorgensen Lane, Pleasanton, CA. If you are shopping for a new amazing home, this might be every pickleball lover's dream! We will miss you "**Doctor Bill!**"

Up coming Tournaments

Liam Krauss wanted to let players know The Irish Open is **June 21 - 28th** and the English Open is **July 1-5th**. If anyone is interested give him a call. He played well over there last year and brought medals home. His email is liamonacoustics@yahoo.com. If you don't remember him, he is the lead singer of the band "**Remedy**" that played at our Summer and Christmas Party!

By the way Remedy has a new website, remedybandrx.com. Check it out!

Kirby Wong let us know the Liverrmore Community Center is holding their Indoor Pickleball Tournament on **March 7th and 8th**. It is located at 4444 East Ave. It is a great local tournament. You can contact him for more info at skw1859@gmail.com

MIA and/or Injured

I ran into **Ed Baxter** at the Alamo Shopping Center. He had knee surgery and is doing very well rehabbing. He and his wife were doing a little walking and shopping down there. We haven't seen

Lu Lynn de Silva in ages! She has been recuperating from a surgery for a while and we hope to see her back in 2020! I got a call or email from **Barbara Fitterer** and she was looking for a paddle that she left at Rudgear last almost a year ago. It was a Christmas present. She injured a disc in her neck that day and totally forgot about it. There it was! Safely stored so it was like another Christmas present this year! Hope you are back soon.

Bob Walgren stopped by Tice Gym to pick up a membership form and let me know he will be out for two months because his throat cancer is back and he has to get it treated again. We will miss playing with you Bob. Hope it is the last time you have to do this! Our past board member, **Ana Leskovar** came home early over the holidays to see her SO who was in the hospital and then she had a bad fall on the Rossmoor indoor courts, playing with **Linda Bower**. She fractured her right wrist, and yes she is right handed! Suddenly, we see she has a new short hair cut that is so cool and much easier to take care of! Good idea!

Elaine Hennessy has been doing her laps and working out those lungs and legs, like the pickleball athlete she is, She is now starting to work on stairs and inclines! She knows how to push herself and we hope she and **Kevin** are doing well. We miss seeing you both!

Pastor Rob Baker said yesterday that his MRI found a torn meniscus in his good knee. He scheduled the surgery in May so his great wife **Linda**, didn't have to spend her vacation taking care of him. We pray it goes well Rob!

Robert and LeAnne Strong, where the heck have you two been?? I know there are many other members fighting aches and pains and we hope you are doing well and will be back on the courts soon!

Eric Tate, Happy Birthday and Happy new knee surgery this week! You really know how to celebrate!

Back In Action

Len Saputo had been out with a hip replacement a while back, but let me tell you, he is back in action! I had a few great games and he is moving better than ever and you know, he already has all the shots! Glad he is doing so well. **Vicki Morse** was finally back on the courts after a long absence. She played a bit and then brought our all her bowls and wood dog dishes and fun plant stands from her wood working class! Wow, she is pretty good at all those skills! She even sold a couple of items. Hope this means you are back Vicki!

Wind Screens

The back two courts were staying so wet and not drying with all the rain we have been having, so some of our men decided to roll them up for the winter. We need to keep eight courts open for play because we are so busy every day! This really did the job!

Thank you to **Steve Bagot, Tosh Kuritsubo, Ed Oncena and Eric Benson** for all your very professional work getting them rolled up!

Rudgear Grub!

Starting in December, the 20th, **Rusty Lent** brought pretzels and peanut clusterrrs and **Cece Kohl** brought spice cake. on the 21st, **Carl Taibl** brought pomegranates and **Carl Taibl Junior** was back in town from college for Christmas vacation. It's always nice to see the father and son playing together! **Rusty Lent** brought more pumpkin treats.

I was missing for a couple of weeks, then on Jan 11th, **Teresa Wenzel** brought her special cheese balls and crackers. On Jan 20th **Rusty Lent** brought cookies and the best lemon bars we've had in ages! The following week **Rusty Lent** brought Spice cake and cookies! **Rich and Gail Zavala** brought oranges from their trees and they were so sweet! On Jan 25th **Rusty Lent** brought more cookies!

I know I've missed more than I listed here, I blame it on the cold I was fighting for weeks! Thanks to all our members for bringing all the fruit and treats!

Pickleball Is A Gift

Sometimes when we realize how wonderful it is that we found the game of pickleball we have to stop and count our blessings and understand that in many ways pickleball really is a gift.

For many who have reached "the age" or who are fast approaching it, pickleball has been revitalization. Lost was their hope of ever playing anything remotely in the form of a sport again. Yet, there they are returning serves, hitting dink (a word that wasn't even in their vocabulary) shots and congratulating friends at the net with a renewed enthusiasm for competing.

Sometimes people play in small groups of eight to ten. There are times though these groups will number in the hundreds. Whether big or small, new friends are found. Count how many dear friends you have acquired since you started playing pickleball. **Amazing isn't it?** Pickleball importantly breeds social opportunities. It's from all of these opportunities that we can look forward to each and every day with guarded optimism that we will not let our partner down or that we will play better than the last time we played pickleball and perhaps, meet a new friend.

Certainly, there are some aches and pains. It's all part of being active regardless of what we do at any age. On the flip side, however, just how much fun is it that a grandparent can teach their grandchildren a sport that maybe their own children don't know much about. It's all part of the gift that pickleball gives to us every time we step onto the court. It keeps us going strong.

We all know the look we get when someone comes up to us and asks, "What is pickleball?" From now on we should not be embarrassed to tell them proudly that "**Pickleball is a Gift.**"

It's a gift that brings so much joy to our lives and it can do the same for them if they only will give it a try.

BruceCuddy.com

Thank you **Bob Jensen** for sending this over the holidays. After all, it is how we all met you and **Joyce so long ago! You are missed!**