

To All Our Members,

The holidays are in full swing! Time to say "thank you" for a great year, now mostly behind us. We are never promised tomorrow and only have today. Live in the moment. Be kind, be helpful, give thanks for our good health, our families, our friends and loved ones, those here or gone or those living far away. I hope you spend time with those you love.

Christmas Party

We had 70 party people at **Bob and Joyce Jensen's** lovely home. It was decorated so beautifully for all of us to enjoy. The tree, the wreaths, the flowers, the decorations and warm fireplace were exquisite! Thank you for being the perfect hosts, helping us with whatever we needed and making it a very special evening for all. Thank you **Maggie Hochfelder** for picking up the Honey Baked Ham and bringing it from Berkeley! We all enjoyed it! Thank you **Val Robertson** for bringing all the extra rolls we needed! Everyone brought great food and desserts! Thank you so much! It was a nice evening to catch up and enjoy everyone's company.

Membership Renewals

Memberships need to be renewed for 2017. We have already had many, many, renew and new members still signing up. We are now over 300 members! Wow!

A new member asked about the club and what the club provides. I told her, at each venue our members play at Tice Valley Gym, for example. We provide the balls used everyday for play, so the members have balls that are the same and it makes going from court to court, easy, using the same ball. We provide two portable nets, otherwise the gym would only provide 4 Pickleball courts, instead we have six courts, which we fill every day. We provide for the repair of nets also, which is necessary, more than you think. We provide the White Board and help the gym manage the play everyday, with all members helping out, making for better social play. Otherwise, it would just be drop in. We meet repeatedly with the gym staff, trying to get more hours for our pickleball play, which we have needed with our growing numbers.

We provide nets and balls at the Ultimate Fieldhouse at Shadelands, a private facility. We meet with their staff to improve the hours there.

We provide four portable nets and balls and a White Board, when needed at Rudgear Park, as well as plastic chairs for seating. We meet with the City of Walnut Creek and Lifetime Tennis to get permanent courts and to get resurfacing done when needed. We meet with contractors to do the work. We have a Drill Day once a week during the warmer playing months, provided by one of our members, Rusty Lent that has given our members, creative fun drills to improve their games.

We have social events, like the Poker Chip Play day at Rudgear Park, that was just for fun. We have a couple of parties in the summer, our Anniversary Party BBQ and the End of Summer Party. And we have a Christmas Party. Everyone that volunteers, helping the Board, is a huge part of our club. That is a very long list of people. That is what our club is all about.

Missing Friends

We have been missing Manny Bustos, because he has been out with knee surgery. I thought he was just in Arizona enjoying the great weather! Sorry Manny! Nancy Smith has still been out, but she hopes to get back on the courts in the New Year and it was nice to see her at the Christmas Party. We are glad to see Addie Mattox back on the courts after her surgery. Still missing Tim Tamura and Giani Givogri and hope to see both in the New Year. I know there are others that have suffered injuries or have fought cancer this past year. Keep rehabbing and keep up the good fight!

Many Thanks

Ron Blasquez will be retiring as our Equipment Manager. He has done an amazing job, keeping balls and working nets at all our venues. His nick name is "Macgyver". If you have seen the ball barriers between the courts at Rudgear Park you would understand! First they were magnetic which worked pretty well. Now we have actual gates that can roll in to place to make all the permanent courts safer from balls rolling into a court. The City of Walnut Creek/Lifetime Tennis liked them so much, they even suggested putting them on the Multi-use courts with the Portable Nets! Now that is an endorsement! Thank you Ron for all your hard work and "Macgyver" skills this year!! It has been appreciated!

More Thanks

Thank you **Rusty Lent** for our "**Drill Day**"!!! You volunteered, week after week and month after month and taught so many of us, new ways to practice and we had fun doing it! The time you spent researching the drills and your teaching skills were so appreciated!!!

Thank you **Jordan Briones** for sharing all your You Tube videos! We are all learning more by watching these!

Thank you **Karen Siefert** for your donation of Pure2 Outdoor Balls. That was a very thoughtful donation and you know we can always use them!

Thank you **Dan Young** for redoing the tags on the Rudgear Portable Net Bags. It helps the Club track our equipment if it needs to be used elsewhere.

Thank you **Mike and Annette Cohn** and **Rob Evans** for volunteering at Tice Gym, helping the Board, with equipment, ideas and information.

Thanks to all of you that have helped with our events, for your donations, your advice and your friendship.

Special Thanks

Thank you **Budd Mackenzie** for your humanitarian efforts in Afghanistan since 2003. We are proud to have you as a member!

Tice Valley Gym

Our Vice President, Jeane DeKelder has been busy working with the Tice staff. Starting in January they are going to extend the play hours to 1 PM on three days!!!

The **New Hours** they are testing out will be:

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from **9 AM to 1 PM**

Friday 9 AM to Noon

This will give us an extra hour and now we can try staggering play. You can come 9 to 11, 10 to 12 or 11 to 1 PM. Most of us like playing at least two hours, some may want to play four hours. We think this extra hour may help the long waits we see many days. If we use the extra hour, we will get to keep it. Lets see if this helps with the play there. Thank you Jeane for helping us get these extra hours!

Remember, on January 1st, the price goes up to \$5, so load your cards up early at the lower rate! Also, if the number of balls seems low, ask the desk employees. They sometimes find balls and have a box with lost items behind the desk. We all know the balls get lost in the bleachers.

Ultimate Fieldhouse or the "Shade"

The hours have been Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 AM to 1 PM. I am not sure but am hoping that schedule stays the same for January. They have been nice to open on Fridays, when we can assure them of 20 plus players coming in. It is their day off, so that has been very nice! There are now four of our portable nets on site at their venue.

Rudgear Park

It has been so cold and when wet, Rudgear courts takes more time to dry out in the Winter. Some players are coming at 11 AM or even Noon to play. It is warmer and sunnier. It has been hit or miss there during the cold weather. Many people are going to Willow Pass Park. Their courts are built for drainage and they are not shaded. It is still cold and can be windy, but it is another option we have, especially with 14 courts.

Don't forget to check out our web site if you are new. Sign in to the Member Only area if you need to find someone's information.

www.walnutcreekpickleballclub.com

There are many links to other sites and information.

As always, join the USAPA, they send out great news and have an extensive web site.

Use Pickleball Central and our discount code to order equipment and balls, etc. You get 5% off and the club gets the benefit too. **CRRPC** is the discount code.

Christmas Lights to Check Out

Here are the directions to different places with great Christmas lights! Get in the mood and take some hot chocolate!

1. Laurel Drive in Walnut Creek
2. 361 Love Lane behind SRV High School in Danville
3. 108 Dana Highlands in Danville
4. Vista San Ramon; Alcosta to Overlook Drive (before Bollinger) This is a huge neighborhood of lights.
5. 3200 Thompson Ave in Alameda, between High and Fernside.

Have a great holiday!

Kris