

Happy New Year

2023

PebbleCreek Pickleball Club Board of Directors, Elections

In just two months (March) membership will elect a new Board of Directors. All members are eligible to run for any of the 5 volunteer seats: president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, and officer at large. The duties of each of these offices are like those of any other club with a basic description and responsibilities being found at pcpickleball.org under About Us/bylaws. All terms are one year with the opportunity to rerun for multiple years. For the past two years the Board has chosen to work through a variety of member committees, which makes recommendations to the Board. However, it is the Board that makes the final decisions on the direction and operations of the Club outside of the Annual Membership Meeting. If you are interested and want more information, please speak to any current or past officer. To submit your name as a candidate please contact Jeff Antrican, jeffantrican@gmail.com. All election guidelines can be found in the Club bylaws.

Membership Renewal

Those members who joined three or more years ago, membership renewal is in the month of January. Members who have joined more recently, the date of when you first joined become your renewal anniversary date. In both cases, Court Reserve should send out a notification for dues renewal. Lifetime members should not be receiving any notification for annual dues; however, in years past, some lifetime members have mistakenly gotten a notice. If this happens and you are a lifetime member, please disregard the notice. Members can check their membership status by going to their individual member profile, on Court Reserve, and click on My Membership.

For 2023 membership dues remain at \$50.00. Many members have auto renewal via their credit cards, and their renewal will occur automatically. Members can also use their credit cards on a one-time basis on Court Reserve. To renew using your card, go to your personal profile click on billing and under action click on PAY. If you prefer to renew via a check, there are envelopes located on the whiteboards in the ice room simply put your check in an envelope and place it in the drop box, also located in the ice room. For questions contact Club Treasurer, Sharon Hadley treasurer@pcpickleball.org

Name Badges

When members order a new name badge, the timeline to receive your badge is generally 3-4 weeks. The Club collects and submits 7 or more name badges per batch, so the timetable is very general. The engraving takes approximately 10 days to complete each batch. Our volunteer, Jackie Cameron, then picks up the finished badges, emails each badge member and places the new badges on the whiteboard in the ice room. If you have ordered a name badge and have not yet received your badge, please contact our Club Secretary, Terry Kelly, at secretary@pcpickleball.org.

I hope you will join me in my New Year's Resolution ... EVERY DAY THANK EVERY VOLUNTEER you see for the work they are doing for the betterment of our Club. As I reflect on the past year and look forward to 2023, I continue to be grateful for our volunteers.

Volunteers, that's what makes the PebbleCreek Pickleball Club work! We have members who pick up balls and close gates at the end of the day, measure net height, refill ball tubes, run tournaments, toy drives, socials, round robin and ladder captains, pick up name tags, maintenance, CAC and Parity Team committee members, Court Reserve and Technology, newsletter proofreaders and layout, website and so many more, WE THANK YOU!

If you aren't a volunteer, maybe it's your turn? Please consider volunteering, either for a short-term activity or more involved and long-running volunteer positions.



Final4 Men's and Women's Tournament

Fantastic play was seen for two straight days as the first of two in-house tournaments were held. Once again, VOLUNTEERS along with the players are what makes this event so much fun. We had many volunteers who gave their time to referee multiple games, set up and take down tables, check in players at registration, provide refreshments, snacks, and so much more!

The Final4 format (seamlessly run by volunteers Alex Potapoff and Tony Wells) is different from most tournaments. In this format, players are seeded in groups of eight. The group of eight is then divided into two pools of round robin play. After the three games of round robins, players are ranked according to the win/loss records. The topped ranked players from each pool play each other, 2nd, 3rd and 4th ranked play each other. Below are the medal winners from all the groups.

WOMEN'S

| GOLD | SILVER | BRONZE |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Linda Doud/Nancy Preston | Melinda Klinka/Hope MacAllister | Charla McGue/Kathy Mendel |
| Lee Ann Thompson/Debbie Welsh | Darleen Lockhart/Linda Nathan | Virginia Coffee/Cathy Adkins |
| Barbara Graves/Jody Ryan | Deenie Clinton/Mikki Leach | Chris Jimenez/Judi Johnson |
| Michelle DiLeonardo/Laurie Johnson | Debbie Jones/Nancy Vansickle | Teresita Laron/Tammy Sorg |
| Arleen King/Karen Kraus | Kristin Diliberti/Kit Mays | Sue Crawford/Chong Hilger |
| Libbie McClaflin/Jan Raugust | Kathleen Heigh/Stella Mitchell | Ellen Enright/Kathy Hubert-Weiss |
| Wendy Langhals/Danielle Tsai | Sharon Hadley/Renee Salko | Chris Stelplugh/Jean O'Reilly |
| Jo Comstock/Jill Lewis | Renee DeLassus/Andrea Dilger | Heidi Farrell/Lynn Lionhardt |

MEN'S

| GOLD | SILVER | BRONZE |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Bill Fensters/Ron Flathers | Raul Rivas/Bruce Weintraub | Joe Soling/Victor Villafor |
| Frank Gorski/Dan Zukowski | Bill Segal/Randy Harvey | Alan Boyce/Scott Coffee |
| Glenn Schneider/Scott Weide | Ron Nelson/Mark Sellnow | Darrel Livingston/Mike McWhorter |
| Walt Heitz/Steve Peterson | Jerry Johnson/Jim Littlefield | Mark Mecklenburg/Brian McClaflin |
| Gerry Clipperton/Al Drennan | Mike Adkins/Doug Hartman | David Graeff/Dick Spampinato |
| Gary Bertolet/Monte Williams | Bart Alford/Steve McElroy | David Carlson/Roger Rosenbusch |
| Dave Trimble/Reg Van Drecht | Guy DeCosterd/Darrel May | Marty Braden/John Stiepel |
| Steven Schaefer/Howard Mendel | Jim Barbe/Terry Long | Steve Manns/Kerry Krueger |
| Dick Burns/Dan Schuler | Bobby Czajkowski/Jeff Tomkins | Brent Ebert/Byron Knapp |



PebbleCreek Holiday Toy Drive

By Brenda Weide

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! With an amazing number of VOLUNTEERS and extremely generous members, this year's toy drive was a tremendous success! This years PCPB Club Toy Drive provided gifts for over 250 children and Christmas for an additional 47 families.

This was our 7th annual toy drive and was bigger than ever, even with the late morning rain! Martha Urbin brought her train; Santa was there to get everyone's Christmas wishes. Many elves came from the North Pole to help fill our train, serve breakfast, and help with pickleball games.

We had many gifts donated by local businesses to help both with toys and to provide raffle items for our players. To help generate excitement, we gave raffle tickets through pickleball games and for donations. Thank you to Mike and Pam McWhorter, Mary Jo Wagner and Scott Weide for their hard work! Many gift cards were also collected for Kroger groceries and Visa gift cards. These cards were given to the city for additional help to the families. We had a wonderful breakfast provided by Arriba restaurant. Kathy Delaney & Bill Saunders and their elves worked effortlessly to provide everyone with a delicious breakfast. We held a "split the pot" raffle to raise money and were able to raise \$500. Thank you to MaryJo Wagner and her elves for their hard work selling these tickets! Congratulations to our winner, David! Deenie Clinton and her elves hosted the various pickleball competitions, those were a definite hit.

The courts were full, and everyone had so much fun. Andrea won a set of golf cart tires! Way to go Andrea and to all our winners. Our main elf, Bill Saunders, provided information and fun as he DJ'd our event!

A Special Thanks to Goodyear Fire for picking up and delivering our toys.

The donors of our Toy Drive and we hope you consider supporting them.

BMD Printing
Starbucks on PebbleCreek Parkway
Robeks Fresh Juices & Smoothies
Arriba Mexican Grill
Empower Nails & Spa
Sheri Spirek from Home Smart Realty
Arizona Hardwood Floor
Rays Racquets
Earnhardt Hyundai
Stellar Kitchen & Bath
Superior Blinds
Roy Johnson Realty
Thairapy Salon

Van's Golf Shop
Lazy Boy Furniture/Murph
Neil's Garage Cabinets
Mary Couzens Realty
Acme Grill Cleaning
Deb Smedley: Selkirk Paddle Rep
Richard Aldrich of Earnhardt Glass
Bryan Cary of A Quality HVAC
Estrella PKWY Medical Center
Dee & Rich Rochel: Onix Paddle Reps
Apex Window Cleaning
Big O Tires on Indian School RD.

Thank you to all who helped bring a better Christmas to so many children and families.



Coaches Corner

By Kevin Hillstrom

Tori, Linda Tompkins and I attended a clinic in Wickenburg, hosted by Riley Newman and Lindsey Newman. Yes, Linda and I teamed up against Riley/Lindsey, and yes, Riley abused me in ways that will scar me for years. Seriously, it is amazing what he does with deception. I had no idea where the ball was going. None.

I want to share with you their method for determining whether to hit a 3rd shot drop or a 3rd shot drive/groundstroke. They taught a process (most of the players at our clinic were 3.5 to 4.0 UTPR tournament players) that results in a lot more aggression than we teach at Pebble Creek. You may disagree with this, and that's fine ... as Dave Flemming says on PPA broadcasts ... "There's no right way to play pickleball, there is a right way for you to play pickleball."

Here we go.

If the return of serve is hit middle or 2/3rd depth, in the middle of the court, hit a groundstroke up the middle at 60% pace, with partner running up with player hitting the drive, stopping one step in front of the player hitting the drive to poach any popups. Do not hit this ball too hard or it will be hit into the net.

If the return of serve is hit deep and bounces between waist/knees, hit a groundstroke with topspin at 60% pace up the middle, because drop shots will pop up if hit at waist/knees.

If the return of serve is hit deep and bounces at shin to foot level, hit a 3rd shot drop to middle of court or across court into the corner of the kitchen. Do not hit 3rd shot drop in front of you, as those balls tend to pop up. When the player about to hit a 4th shot points their paddle to the ground, it is your job to crash to the kitchen. Lindsey hounded me on how ineffective I was at misreading the quality of my drops and then not immediately crashing up to the kitchen with my partner.

Look up at the player returning the serve as you get ready to select your third shot. If this player is not going to get to the kitchen, hit a groundstroke toward the feet of the player not getting to the kitchen.

If receiving team is unwinding a stack (player goes from left side back to right side near kitchen or vice versa, like in mixed play or playing with a left-handed player), hit your third shot at the location where the receiver making the long run should end up, forcing a moving player to hit a 4th shot.

FYI – where possible, 4th shots should be taken out of the air with a roll volley. These were fun shots to practice, and hoo-boy did we practice them.

Logically this should make sense.

Logistically, this results in about 75% of third shots being drives (and yes, this is what we see in 3.5/4.0 tournament play outside of Pebble Creek).



Lindsey Newman stood behind me during game play and absolutely chided my shot choices ... “WHY DO YOU KEEP HITTING DROP SHOTS??” Linda and I won our first game 11-7, we won our second game against the same team 11-1 after strictly following her rules. I know, small sample size.

I realize the skills we’ve often valued as a club (for moving up to higher ratings levels or to higher color levels) are soft skills ... “Pebble Creek is a drop and dink club” as Tori and I were told at Nationals. I think when coaching our gold-star game, we can encourage both soft skills and what Lindsey required of us this morning. We can do both. I believe we want our players to be well-rounded, armed with many different skills that the player can choose from.

The Player Development Schedule for the New Year is below.

| Month | Day | Colors | Class |
|---------|-----|------------------|---------------------------|
| January | 8 | Teal | 3rd shot drops, 4th shots |
| | 15 | Red, Purple | 3rd shot drops, 4th shots |
| | 22 | Orange and Above | 3rd shot drops, 4th shots |
| | 29 | Teal | Dinking |
| | 5 | Red, Purple | Dinking |
| | 19 | Orange and Above | Dinking |
| | 26 | Teal | Volleys & Blocking |
| March | 5 | Red, Purple | Volleys & Blocking |
| | 19 | Orange and Above | Volleys & Blocking |
| | 26 | Teal | Lobs & Overheads |
| April | 2 | Red, Purple | Lobs & Overheads |
| | 9 | Orange and Above | Lobs & Overheads |



Thanks to the efforts of Scott Weide (and sons) our pickleball shed was moved forward to make room for a 2nd shed. Scott has generously offered to help build this much-needed 2nd storage shed. Once again, volunteers at work!



Upcoming Events:

- January 6: First Friday, No Host Social
- January 14: Chili Cook-Off and Paddle Demo Day: 10 am – 1 pm
- January 18: PCPBC Board Meeting: 3:00 Milan Room, Tuscany Falls
- February 3: First Friday, No Host Social
- February 8-10: USAP Sanctioned Tournament, All Courts/All Day
- February 15: PCPBC Board Meeting: 3:00 Milan Room, Tuscany Falls
- March 9, 10 & 12: Club Championships Women’s, Men’s and Mixed

Future date activities can be found by clicking on the calendar icon on the Club homepage, pcpickleball.org.



Between the Lines and Rules:

- One of the most important rules in pickleball is when in doubt if a ball is in or out, the advantage goes to the opponent. This means if a team cannot make a decisive call on their side of the net on whether the ball hit in or out, then the call needs to be IN.
- An IN ball is anytime the ball lands in the court or on the line, with the one exception, on the SERVE, the served ball must hit BEYOND the Non-Volley Zone line (kitchen line). A ball that lands on the kitchen line during the serve is a fault.
- If a ball hits the POST (not net) the ball is dead. The team hitting the post commits the fault and will lose the rally. This is also true if a person touches the net post or any of its parts (including the net) while the pickleball is in play.
- A player may not cross the plane of the net until after the player hits the pickleball, UNLESS, the pickleball bounces back over the net due to extreme spin.

Rule Changes for 2023

Every year the USA Pickleball rules committee reviews and revises the rules of pickleball. To read the all the changes for 2023, players should go to the official USA Pickleball Rulebook.

The SIX major changes for 2023 are:

- No More Spin Serve: Anytime a player adds spin (using their hand or paddle) prior to the ball contacting with the paddle is now illegal. Spin off the paddle remains legal.
- Illegal Serves: Fault or Replay: Refs will have the option to call for a replay or fault in the New Year immediately after a serve. If a referee is unsure if a serve was illegal, they can call for a re-serve. If the referee is certain that the serve was illegal, they will call a fault.
- Clothing: A change to rule 2.G.1. Safety and Distraction. A player may be required to change apparel that is inappropriate, including that which approximates the color of the ball. Tournament Director's have always had this ability, however, by adding the color wording to the actual rule, it solidifies that players should avoid similar ball colors.
- Equipment Timeouts: Previously, players needed to use up their regular gameplay timeouts before they could use an equipment timeout. This means that if there was an equipment issue, a regular timeout would be charged if it was still available. In 2023 the equipment timeouts are accessible even if regular timeouts remain.
- More Time for Score Clarification: USA Pickleball is returning to the 2021 rules as for clarifications of the score. Players will have until the return of serve to stop the point for a score correction. If a player stops the point but the correct score was called, it will result in a fault.

Chili Cook-Off and Paddle Demo Social Event

By Bill Wood

Yeehaw! The annual PebbleCreek Pickleball Club Chili Cook-Off competition is coming! On January 14, 2023, social play will start at 10AM, and our best chili makers will present their creations for members to taste and vote on starting at 11:00.

We have a full slate of chili chefs that will give members an opportunity to blind taste test for voting for the 2023 PCPB Club best chili. In addition to tasting chili there will be drinks, snacks and a non-chili entrée.

Registration is open on Court Reserve. Players do not need to register to play, however, we do need players to register so that we have a count for the amount of food to order. Please register today as not too be left out!



Paddle Demo

Also available at the Chili Cook-off will be the opportunity to try out different makes and models of paddles. Many of our member paddle representatives will have a variety of paddles available for players to try starting at 10AM. For those who don't know, on the PCPB Club website, (pcpickleball.org), under merchandise, there is a list of members who sell paddles from PaddleTec, Selkirk, Onix, ProKennex, Topp, OneShot, GearBox, Armour and Engage. These paddle representatives will be located outside of courts 13-16.



How Do You Know If Your Paddle Is Dead?

What is a dead paddle (no, it's not a paddle that makes bad shots, that may be called operator error) but a paddle that has been damaged or over-used to the point that it's no longer playing with optimal potential. Trying to figure out if the inside core of a paddle has broken down may be tricky, and there is no guarantee if the following can truly determine if your paddle is losing its full potential. Paddles normally last 1-3 years, depending on how often a player plays and/or how aggressive a player hits. Here are a few clues:

- Does your paddle Sound dull? When you hit a ball, does it still have the same sound as when you first got the paddle? If you rap your knuckles over the surface, do all of the areas sound the same?
- Does your paddle Feel unresponsive? Again, does the ball feel different when you hit the ball? Does it still have the same pop?
- Can you See obvious signs of damage? Sometimes by carefully examining the paddle at different angles, you can small unevenness, dips, or grooves on the face of the paddle.

Players should always check the paddle's warranty information if you believe a paddle departed before its time.

Name Badges

When members order a new name badge, the timeline to receive your badge is generally 3-4 weeks. The Club collects and submits 7 or more name badges per batch, so the timetable is very general. The engraving takes approximately 10 days to complete each batch. Our volunteer, Jackie Cameron, then picks up the finished badges, emails each badge member and places the new badges on the whiteboard in the ice room. If you have ordered a name badge and have not yet received your badge, please contact our Club Secretary, Terry Kelly, at secretary@pcpickleball.org.

Is It Time You Volunteer?

We are currently looking for volunteers for:

- Pickleball Board of Directors Officers – One year term (contact either Nancy Popenhagen, president@pcpickleball.org or Jeff Antrican, jeffantrican@gmail.com)
- USAP Sanctioned Tournament needs volunteers for multiple jobs from baking, first aid, parking guides and many more. To volunteer contact Pam Cagle, caglepj@gmail.com.

Your 2022/2023 Board of Directors

Marty Braden, Officer at Large
Terri Kelly, Secretary
Nancy Popenhagen, President
Sharon Hadley, Treasurer
Bill Wood, Vice President

