



**PebbleCreek  
Pickleball Club**

# NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021

## WELCOME TO OUR JULY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the July Newsletter! Our features this month take us through our first Social on July 4, Board Briefs, Important Updates, a recap of the Pilot In-House Tournament play by our 3.5 level players, safety, and fundraising. And, a new fun feature – a quiz – pairing a few members with interesting things about them. As always, we appreciate your feedback and continue to strive to provide meaningful communication in a variety of ways.

### JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> SOCIAL

We are so glad to have socials back as part of our Club events.

This year's July 4th social and school supply drive was a huge success! Kudos to Constance and John Angus and Felechia Justice for organizing this event.

Thanks to the generosity of our members, the Club donated one truck and two SUVs full of

school supplies for the teachers and students at Eliseo C Felix school. Eliseo C Felix's Principal, Gina Schmitt, who has been an educator for 30+ years in a variety of capacities, was present to address and thank the club for the generous donations to the 28 teachers and 550 students who attend.

Additionally, there was \$557 in cash donations which will be used to purchase additional books and supplies by the teachers.

*L to R: John Angus, Principal Gina Schmitt, Constance Angus and Felechia Justice. Below: John & Constance Angus*



Gina Schmitt also said any individuals wishing to volunteer their time at the school, even just an hour a week, would be most welcome.

This event could not have happened without the help of the 19 volunteers who stepped forward to provide support. A BIG thank you to all who showed up to help and those who stuck around to tear down.

## BOARD BRIEFS

### AROUND THE POST (ATP) with the Board: July 14, 2021

These Board Briefs will be a short synopsis of the July Board meeting. The full minutes can be found on the Club's website. The meeting was streamed live by Jo Comstock on the private Pickleball at PebbleCreek Facebook page. The video of the meeting can be viewed at your convenience on this Facebook page. Thank you to Jo Comstock for doing the live video. This Facebook page is not a Club sponsored page. It is a closed Facebook group managed by Club members, Kathy and Marty Aalto.

## INFORMATION

### Fencing

The fencing began with the removal of fencing and pouring of new pads required for the additional gates. Unfortunately, the wire fencing did not come in on time, so work has been at a standstill this week. The contractor is striving to maintain the schedule.

### New Courts

The site plans have been returned to RCI from the City of Goodyear. RCI intends to resubmit in the next couple of weeks. Following site plan approval, RCI is hopeful they can submit civil and building plans simultaneously. The lighting package will be bid as proposed by the Club.



*L to R: Renee Salko, Sharon Hadley, Wendy Langhals, Dee Rochel, Ellen Enright.*

## BOARD ACTIONS TAKEN

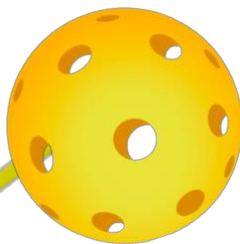
- Approval of the contract for the referees and dates for the Club's February Sanctioned Tournament.
- Announcement: the August Monthly Board Meeting is cancelled.

### Committee Report Highlights

- The July 4th Social was a success (see article)
- Coaching for Courts yielded \$810 in the month of June
- Judy Layton was added to the New Court Finance Team Committee. The Finance Team is now complete.

## AUGUST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please contact Joanne Burch, Furniture Committee Chair, if you would like to volunteer to straighten the furniture, pick up balls left on the courts and gather items left at the courts for Lost & Found at the end of each day during the month of August. You can reach Joanne by email or text at [jburch33@gmail.com](mailto:jburch33@gmail.com) or 805-218-8841.





# IMPORTANT UPDATES

## Why is the Court Reserve countdown timer before event registration often incorrect?

We submitted this question to the fine folks at Court Reserve. The short answer is, they are working on it. From Court Reserve: "This countdown is not really working real time, and is intended to show you the time left at the time when you open the page. After reviewing this more with our team we see how this is confusing and we are going to improve it, maybe by showing the exact date and time when registration opens, instead of showing x hours and minutes. We added this on the list to discuss more with the team to include it in an upcoming development."

## Hidden strengths in our Club.

We asked the HOA staff to help us replace the broken timers for the fans and canopy lights. After replacing the canopy light timer, staff asked us to have an electrician look at the one for the fans.



*Sparky checking the replacement*

was up to code, but that a relay could be added for as an extra precaution. Donating not only his time, John went out of pocket to buy the relay and improved weather housing.

Club members John Brumback (aka Sparky) and Jim Jimenez jumped on it the next day. John confirmed everything

## Keeping all of the balls in the air!

Did you know the Club budgets more than \$7,000 a year for pickleballs? We're looking for ways to get the most out of them. We have found 43% of pickleballs in the yellow buckets are still playable. We believe we have an opportunity to save as much as 25% on the Club's ball expenses with these two easy steps:

1. Check the size of the crack in the ball. If the crack is significant or extends hole to hole, it's a goner. We've done some research and found that a small crack(s) doesn't significantly impact performance. Try it out for another round or two. You can always blame the cracked ball for that whiff.
2. If the ball is egged out (out of round), it's a goner. If it has major soft spots, it's a goner. We check each ball in the bucket and for some of the newer ones that have cracks or are egged out, we can receive a credit.

As a courtesy to the nightly Club volunteers who straighten the chairs and pick up balls on courts, when finished playing your matches, please pick up and return your ball to the ball sleeve.

## HOA staff doing a great job!

Can you imagine how hard it is to clean up after 150+ sweaty players day in and day out? We've got a great HOA staff here in PebbleCreek that goes out of the way to make life better for us.

Kelly Pothier and Kolleen Estrada are two of those staff members. Kelly is the evening housekeeping supervisor. Married for 30 years with two adult children, she's been working here at PebbleCreek for seven years. Kollen has been with PebbleCreek for almost 2 years and started out cleaning the golf bathrooms and a few other amenities. In February, she became the Housekeeping Supervisor and is looking forward to many more years to come.

## THE WELCOME COMMITTEE

### A Huge Thank You!

Many of you know Kathy Aalto as one of the most welcoming people on the courts, making her the perfect chairperson for the new Welcome Committee. She is supported by Lynn Manns and Jackie Cameron. During the last monthly Board Meeting, we learned that 15 new members joined the Club in May, and 16 new members joined in June. Kathy and Lynn support Novice activities and Kathy assigns buddies to our new members who want one.



*Kathy Aalto (left) and Lynn Manns*

What you might not know is that Kathy is also responsible for formatting the newsletter. She has an incredible publishing background and does a fantastic job. We truly appreciate her help – and her ability to stay calm and support our deadlines. Kathy is a wonderful asset for our Club, and we thank her.



*Jackie Cameron*

Also, thank you Jackie Cameron. Jackie is in charge of New Club Member Badges.

She picks them up from the local supplier, places them in the Ramada by the ice machine and then contacts the new Members to let them know their badges are at the Ramada ready to be picked up

Kathy, Lynn and Jackie are excellent champions for our Club.

## UPCOMING

### Member Survey

All members will be receiving a survey to garner information and feedback on the following topics:

- Types of Play
- Communication
- Court Reserve
- Fundraising

The survey is not for voting. The responses will help guide the Board as we move forward and look toward the fall.

### Dance Party/Game Night.

August 28, 2021:

We are having a FunRaiser to raise \$\$ for the New Pickleball Courts. Saturday, August 28, from 6-10 p.m. in the Tuscany Falls Ballroom we are having a Dance Party/Game night. Tickets are \$20 per person. There will be a cash bar and you can bring your own unopened snack food. Contact Lynn Manns for tickets 215 527 5793, or email [Manns4pets@yahoo.com](mailto:Manns4pets@yahoo.com).

### Fall Kick-Off Social

October 17, Tuscany Ballroom

### General Membership Meeting

November 10

### Final 4 Mixed Doubles Tournament

November 10

## A TALE OF TWO FAMILIES

A short story by David & Joanne Burch

Several months ago, Joanne and I noticed we were being watched by a pair of hawks who were using the new pickleball light standards to view our matches. Curious as to where they called home, we went in search of the nesting site. After many more weeks of pickleball play we noticed that the hawks were carrying branches out toward the golf course. After a recent search we were able to locate the first of

two nests. Yes, there are two nesting pairs. Today on the way home from playing pickleball we stopped to view the nests. There was a lot of chirping going on.

We were able to find information as to the type of Hawk. They are Harris's Hawks. Dark brown overall, rufous shoulders and thighs, white at

tail's tip; yellow legs and feet. They are 18-23 inches; wing span 3.5 to 4 feet and weigh between 1 and 3.5 pounds. The females are larger than the males. This type of hawk has a lot in common with, you guessed it, us pickleball players. They hunt in groups searching for prey/OPEN COURTS, form social groups of four to eight birds/PLAYERS. Now and then these birds/PLAYERS exhibit an even more peculiar behavior called stacking. These Harris's Hawks/PLAYERS are naturally vocal and often draw attention to themselves. I guess we have a lot in common with Mother Nature.

Stay safe-Hydrated and have fun! Be kind to each other! See you on the courts. Dave & Joanne.



## MATCH 'EM UP!

We are introducing a new feature to the newsletters – we hope you find this fun, and also enjoy learning a few interesting facts about fellow players. Here's how it works:

There are one or two facts that relate to one of the people listed. All you need to do is figure out how who did what. The answers will appear later in this newsletter. Have Fun!



*Jo Comstock*



*Karen Weldon*



*Ron DeBrincat*

- A. Bob Funkhouser
- B. Georgia Graeff
- C. Jo Comstock
- D. Karen Weldon
- E. Larry Stanek
- F. Ron DeBrincat



*Bob Funkhouser*



*Georgia Graeff*

\_\_\_\_\_ **AS** an airline pilot came within 30 yards of another plane crashing on top of their plane while on the runway

\_\_\_\_\_ **HAD** a backpack stolen by a bear while hiking

\_\_\_\_\_ **HAS** a 3\* Taekwondo black belt

\_\_\_\_\_ **HAS** been married 51 years

\_\_\_\_\_ **IN** a helicopter, flew under the Golden Gate bridge

\_\_\_\_\_ **LIVED** in Asia for 14 years and 5 of those years was in a log cabin without running water

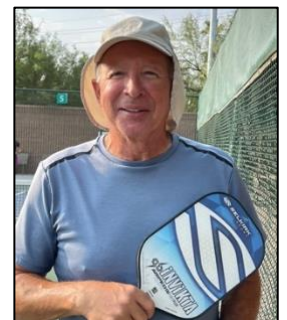
\_\_\_\_\_ **TAUGHT** kickboxing

\_\_\_\_\_ **OWNED** a pet slow loris while in Indonesia

\_\_\_\_\_ **WAS** pulled under by a rip tide and needed full resuscitation

\_\_\_\_\_ **OWNED** a recruiting company for outside sales staff

\_\_\_\_\_ **THIS** husband and wife, after 35 years as computer programmers, became truck driving partners



*Larry Stanek*



## FINAL 4 EVENT

### June 24th Pilot Tournament



The Club held a pilot for a new format for the Final 4 on the evening of June 24. We had 8 teams of 3.5 men and 8 teams of 3.5 women entered in the event. The format chosen was to have two groups of 4 teams each for the men and women. Each group played a round robin against the other three teams, two games to 11, win by 1. At the end of group play, each group had a first through fourth place finisher. In the finals for the event, group A played against group B with 1st place playing against 1st place, 2nd against 2nd, etc. The finals were intended to be two games out of three to 11, win by 2. Everyone plays 8-9 games total.

#### THE PARTICIPANTS

The weather was very hot as we approached the date of the event so the start time was moved to 7 pm.

Two special accommodations were made as a result of the heat, first there were 2 men and 2 women subs that, if requested, could step in and play.

Second, the teams were given a choice in the final round to play one game to 15, two games to 11 win by 1 or the original 2 out of 3 games to 11, win by 2.

These accommodations will not be a standard in the regular Final 4 Event.





## THE WINNERS

### Men's 3.5 Winners

1st - Spike Razem, Jerry Johnson  
 2nd - Mike Mitchell, Gary Mattevi  
 3rd - Chris Johnson, Dave Trimble  
 4th - Mark Handzel, Mark Hohnbaum

### Women's 3.5

1st - Sharon Hadley, Sarah Marsh  
 2nd - Tammy Chicklero, Cindy Finnegan  
 3rd - Lorri Poppe, Patti Holden  
 4th - Susan Slaughter, Tammy Wood

Overall, the pilot was a success and the feedback from the players was very positive. We want to thank everyone who participated, refereed and the spectators who cheered everyone on, as well as the committee and volunteers who helped plan and execute the event.

We did learn some important lessons and reinforced some things we thought we knew:

- the lights on courts 1-8 go out promptly at 10 pm, need to ensure event will end before that time
- it is very hot in the evenings during summer months, if an event like this is to be held, early morning is a cooler option, although players did enjoy playing under the lights
- having referees for an event like this is really nice for the players
- having refreshments for the spectators and players is a nice touch
- the format guaranteed every player would get 8-9 games in, this was seen as a positive from the players, although not getting to see their friends play was a small drawback
- overall, the players enjoyed the format for the event



A huge thank you to Alex Potapoff and Renee DeLassus for organizing and making this event a success, to the players for supporting the pilot and playing in extreme heat, and to the spectators who came out to watch and offer encouragement!



# SAFETY

## Avoid a Pickleball Eye Injury

By Pat Chernow – Safety Committee Chair

A broken bone from a fall on the pickleball courts will hopefully heal over time, but an eye injury may lead to permanent vision loss. Wearing protective eyewear is your best way to prevent a serious eye injury.



A pickleball can reach a speed of 40 mph. A slammed ball from one paddle to another when opposing players are at the non-volley line can be less than half a second. Even with a great reaction time, it is difficult to see the ball hit your opponent's paddle and for you to begin to move to protect your face to avoid being hit. You won't be able to protect your eyes with your paddle or to even turn your head in time. Serious damage can also occur from being hit in the eye with a paddle.

### Common eye injuries that occur while playing pickleball are:

- Orbital fracture
- Ruptured globe
- Vitreous hemorrhage
- Detached retina

To protect yourself, you should consistently use protective eyewear such as sunglasses, sports glasses or goggles. It is recommended that they be shatterproof and made out of a polycarbonate material. The goal is to wear protective glasses or goggles that can withstand a direct shot or a ball that ricochets off a paddle and strikes you in the

eye. I experienced a direct shot while at the non-volley line, by an opponent who was at the non-volley line. The ball hit my sunglasses and the impact knocked me over. Fortunately for me my sunglasses absorbed the direct hit.

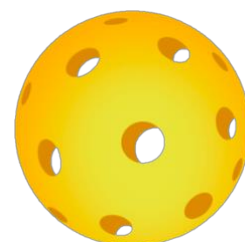
Some protective glasses have different lenses that can be switched out for use indoors or outdoors in full sun or on an overcast day. You can find a wide selection on the internet and some can be worn over your own glasses. If you are playing a lot of pickleball, remember that the radiation from UV light from the sun can cause damage to your eyes, so consider the benefit of UV protection.

Should you experience an eye injury and have a loss or change in vision, pain, bruising or bleeding, you need to follow up with a physician or Ophthalmologist immediately for evaluation and possible treatment to preserve your eyesight. In the event of an injury, we request that an accident report form be completed. You will find the forms in the ice machine room.

Remember, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Pat Chernow also shared injury statistics at the last monthly board meeting. She advised we have had 11 reports filed to date for 2021. 8 were females and 3 were males. The injuries consisted of 11 falls; 4 fractures; 4 pulled muscles; and 1 rapid heart rate. Five of the incidents were reported at the In-House Tournament.

Safety should remain the first goal of every game!



## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Our Club has formed an affiliation with Medicleaf, the official cannabinoids product sponsor of the PPA (Pro Pickleball Association) tour. If you're interested in trying their products, click on the logo at the top right corner of the Club website.



**20% of all purchases go directly to our new courts fund.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Shake your booty Dance Fundraisers. Aug. 28 & Nov 4.

### Coaching for Courts and Buy Your Own Bricks are ongoing!

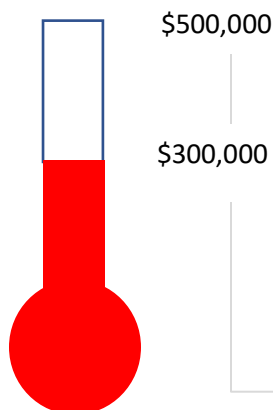
Thanks to our latest brick buyers: Craig and Judy Hauger, Lance & Cathy Dosch, Michael Watty, Felechia Justice and Jeff Antrican, and Tori Benz-Hillstrom & Kevin Hillstrom.

### New Courts Fundraising projected revenue, 2022-2027

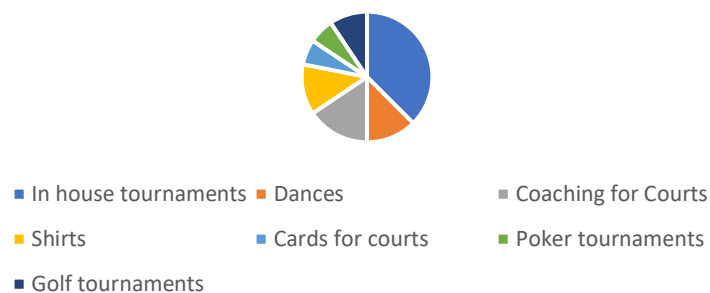
Upon completion of the courts (2022), approximately \$150,000 will remain of original \$500,000 commitment.

EVENT	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	TOTAL
Coaching for Courts	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	25,000
Shirt Sales	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	20,000
Dances	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	20,000
Cards for Courts	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,000
Annual Poker tournament	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,000
Annual Golf Tournament	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	15,000
In-House tournament series	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	60,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>160,000</b>

### Progress as of July 1, 2021



### 5 YEAR PROJECTION



If you are interested in coordinating a project, or have other fundraising ideas, please contact Tony Wells at [tonywells1960@gmail.com](mailto:tonywells1960@gmail.com).



## EARLY MORNING PLAY

Thank you to everyone, for waiting to start warm-ups and play until 6:00 a.m.

## MATCH-EM UP

Here are the correct matches for our 6 players from Match'em Up. Let's see how well you did!

- Bob Funkhouser: was pulled from a rip tide and needed full resuscitation; this husband and wife, Teresa, after 35 years as computer programmers, became team truck drivers.
- Georgia Graeff: lived in Asia for 14 years and 5 of those years in a log cabin without running water; owned a pet slow loris while in Indonesia.
- Jo Comstock: has a 3\* Taekwondo black belt; taught kickboxing.
- Karen Weldon: had a backpack stolen by a bear while hiking; owned a recruiting company for outside sales staff.
- Larry Stanek: has been married 51 years.
- Ron DeBrincat: as an airline pilot, came within 30 yards of another plane crashing on top of their plane while on the runway; in a helicopter, flew under the Golden Gate Bridge.

## NEW COACHES FOR COURTS

### JONATHAN COLTER

(4.5 CLUB RATING)

Philosophy/Coaches Statement

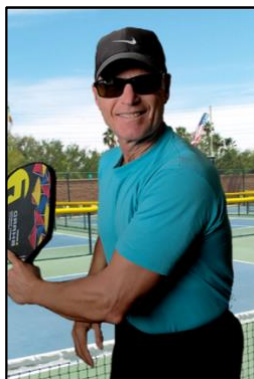
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*"In addition to learning the various skills in pickleball, you will come to appreciate the growth and development that's possible to improve confidence and consistency in performance."*

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FOCUS: 2.5 – 4.0

Men and Ladies



### RICH & DEE ROCHEL

(Rich: 4.0; Dee: 5.0 club rating)

Philosophy/Coaches Statement

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*"Our philosophy is bringing beginner players into an amazing sport. We focus on touch shots, 3rd shot, player/partner positioning and above all have fun while learning."*

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FOCUS: 2.0 – 4.0

Men and Ladies

