



The Pickle Vine

DECEMBER 2022

In This Issue:

Messages from the PRP Board

From the President

Board Candidates

Regional Tournaments

Regional Tournament Results

Board of Directors Roster

Area Ambassadors

Play Locations

PRP Club Info, Policies and Procedures

And more...

Note to readers: The Pickle Vine is best when viewed on a larger screen, e.g. a tablet, laptop, desktop, TV, projection screen, outdoor movie screen or even an IMAX screen...

The Pickle Vine team expresses thanks to the Peace River Pickler community for their support during our tenure.

Chief Editor: Kellee Gabel - kellee-web@live.com

Tournament reporter : Maureen Blanton - mblanton116@gmail.com

MESSAGES FROM THE PRP BOARD

TOM WARD, PRESIDENT

FINAL THOUGHTS

After providing oversight to Skills and Drills for three years and being on the PRP Board for two years I am stepping away after our annual meeting on January 3. I am sincerely grateful for the contributions of many people that help to make PRP a success.

In the three years I have been involved with Skills and Drills, PRP has had at least 1,600 members take one or more classes. I am grateful for Sarah Saari, Bob White, and Deb Mascarini for their expertise in training our trainers. Their guidance put me on the path to becoming a certified instructor myself, and I have thoroughly enjoyed helping others improve their pickleball skills. I have also recently become an USAPA Ambassador for Sarasota County and look forward to promoting pickleball closer to my home.

Many thanks to Julie Frainier and Ron Horton for planning, organizing, and overseeing our league play the past three years. They have been a tremendous asset to PRP and have seamlessly shouldered that responsibility for the club.

I am also grateful for Ann Horton who has been expertly answering all of the PRP email for the past three years.

Many thanks to Kellee Gabel for assembling and editing our PickleVine. She has saved my grammar and punctuation and spelling countless times. Also many thanks to Maureen Blanton for tracking down the information of all of the PRP tournament medal winners for the PickleVine.

Volunteers are the very lifeblood of the club and I am sincerely grateful for everyone that either led a league or taught in our Skills and Drills classes.

I am also thankful for the two different groups of Board members I have been a part of that have provided oversight and guidance the past two years.

This has been a very unusual year to say the least. We were all elated at the prospect of having eight permanent courts and an additional eight courts with temporary nets. The project that was supposed to be started in late spring encountered delay after delay after delay. I have had communications with the County every week asking for progress and never dreamed the process would take so long. I will not miss dealing with that specific project. It hasn't come to fruition at the time of this writing but you should know that the County is doing three nice things specifically to accommodate PRP.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRP BOARD

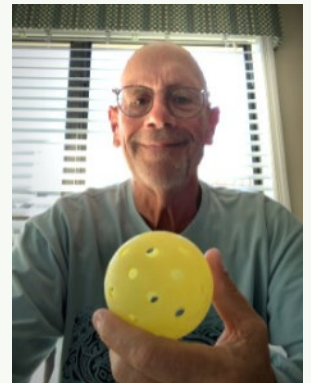
1. The permanent courts will have a different (light blue) color in the kitchen area. The original specifications just asked for green courts with white lines.
2. The new dual purpose tennis/pickleball courts will have a concrete apron beyond the fence for PRP to stand and store our nets on.
3. We do not know the specific dimensions yet but PRP will be allowed to have our own storage box of some type in proximity of the courts. So while we are all frustrated with the slowness of the project, the County is looking out for our interests and it is in our best interest to continue to nurture that relationship.

While this has been a frustrating year, the sky is not falling. PRP will be up and running very soon with more options for leagues and classes than we have ever had before. Our membership remains strong at 530 members and our current finances are on very solid footing. Paula and I have met and made dozens and dozens of friends through our pickleball community and will continue to enjoy those relationships in the years ahead.

Enjoy your holidays (I already unwrapped and used my new paddle).

See You on the Courts.

Tom



Tom Ward,

THE PEACE RIVER PICKLERS ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE MEMBERSHIP WILL BE HELD ON

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2023 AT 4:00 PM

PUNTA GORDA CHARLOTTE LIBRARY, ROOM B

401 SHREVE ST. PUNTA GORDA, FL 33950

MESSAGES FROM THE PRP BOARD

We have two vacancies for the Board of Directors of Peace River Picklers and two candidates for those positions.

LINDA COE

Hi, my name is Linda Coe and I have been involved in pickleball for 8 years. Like most people, I started playing and then got addicted to this great sport. I have been active with Peace River Picklers (PRP) since 2016 serving on the Board and actively involved in leading various educational programs and leagues.

In addition to my volunteer work with PRP, I became a certified instructor with the International Pickleball Teaching Professional Association (IPTPA) as well as with the Professional Pickleball Association (PPR).

My love of the sport and my passion for teaching others continues to be a significant and rewarding experience for me. As such, I would love the opportunity to again be on the Board and help to add value to the various educational programs of the club.

HEATHER WASHIK

Hi, my name is Heather Washik and I was introduced to pickleball in 2018 by my 6th grade recreational softball coach and was immediately hooked! I have been the treasurer and served on the Board of PRP for 2 1/2 years. I have enjoyed giving back to the community that has helped me develop many friendships. I grew up in a suburb of Buffalo, New York and moved here in 2016 after living in North Carolina for 14 years. I have recently retired from a career in Finance and am loving the opportunity to play more frequently. I live in Deep Creek with my husband, 3 dogs and 2 cats. I would love to serve on the PRP Board for a second term.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS! UPCOMING REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

APP 2023 Punta Gorda Florida, PicklePlex
Punta Gorda — 1/11-1/15/23

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Punta Gorda Classic, Pickleplex  
Punta Gorda — 1/27-1/29/23

~~~~~

2023 Naples Pickleball Center Championship, East Naples Community Park
Naples — 02/03-02/05/23

~~~~~

Valentines Weekend Classic Tournament, Sundial Beach Resort & Spa  
Sanibel — 02/16-02/18/23

~~~~~

PicklePlex of Punta Gorda Challenge, Sponsored by UnitedHealthcare
Punta Gorda — 3/23-3/26/23

~~~~~

Minto US Open Pickleball Championships, East Naples Community Park  
Naples — 4/15-4/22/23

Above dates reflect changes, which may be related to  
cancellations or postponements following Hurricane Ian.

For a comprehensive list of tournaments, searchable by region, visit:

[https://www.pickleballtournaments.com/pbt\\_main.pl](https://www.pickleballtournaments.com/pbt_main.pl)

## Pickleball Central DISCOUNT

PRP members will receive a 5% discount from Pickleball Central when they use our membership discount code.

The website is [PickleballCentral.com](https://www.pickleballcentral.com) and our discount code is: **CRPuntaGorda**.

Not only do you receive a 5% discount but PRP also receives a 5% Club Reward over the course of a year.

OUR EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNT PROMO CODE IS **CRpuntagorda**.

This past year **we saved \$294 toward the purchase of new pickleballs,**  
because of your use of our discount code.

# REGIONAL TOURNAMENT RESULTS

## Pickleplex Christmas Classic

Fri 12/09/22 thru Sun 12/11/22

### Mens Doubles

- 3.0-5.0: bracket 19+ **SILVER:** Tony Vassos
- 3.0-4.0: bracket 35+ **SILVER:** Ken Yoder
- 4.0-5.0: bracket 50+ **GOLD:** Martin Pickup
- 3.0-4.0: bracket 60+ **GOLD:** Kris Johanessen and Duncan Harrod  
**SILVER:** Gary Wilson
- 3.0-4.0: bracket 65+ **GOLD:** Tom Ward and Bill Terhune

### Mens Singles

- 3.5-4.0: bracket 50+ **BRONZE:** Martin Pickup
- 3.0: bracket 60+ **SILVER:** Peter Feldhusen
- 4.0-5.0: bracket 60+ **BRONZE:** Ron Kurtz

### Mixed Doubles

- 3.0-3.5: bracket 50+ **BRONZE:** Tania Bloodsworth and Dan Bloodsworth
- 3.0-3.5: bracket 55+ **SILVER:** Suzanne Smith and Rob Jamros
- 3.0-4.0: bracket 65+ **GOLD:** Carrie Palmer and Tom Ward
- 3.0-4.0: bracket 70+ **SILVER:** Kathy Seward

### Womens Doubles

- 4.0-4.5: bracket 19+ **GOLD:** Karen Memoli

## 2022 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

|                |                |                                                                          |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President      | Tom Ward       | <a href="mailto:rocknpickleball@gmail.com">rocknpickleball@gmail.com</a> |
| Vice President | Dave Brotzman  | <a href="mailto:hotonpi@yahoo.com">hotonpi@yahoo.com</a>                 |
| Treasurer      | Heather Washik | <a href="mailto:hwashik@att.net">hwashik@att.net</a>                     |
| Secretary      | Susan Bell     | <a href="mailto:mom8348@yahoo.com">mom8348@yahoo.com</a>                 |

### DIRECTORS

|           |                                                                    |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pam Volk  | <a href="mailto:pambvolk@yahoo.com">pambvolk@yahoo.com</a>         |
| John Hace | <a href="mailto:johnhace@gmail.com">johnhace@gmail.com</a>         |
| Dave Pike | <a href="mailto:davidleopike@gmail.com">davidleopike@gmail.com</a> |



### Mission Statement

Peace River Picklers Pickleball club is a nonprofit organization established to cultivate the game of Pickleball through social play, competitive leagues and standardized, consistent educational programs for our members. These activities provide opportunities for players to realize their own potential in an environment that promotes socialization, fun & exercise.





# USA PICKLEBALL AREA AMBASSADORS

## THE ROLE OF AMBASSADORS

Ambassadors are volunteers who have pledged to promote the sport of pickleball and the USA Pickleball in the local area that they represent. They are individuals or couples who work with the communities, clubs, and other various recreational facilities to guide and help build pickleball programs for all to enjoy. These Ambassadors work together as a teams within their Districts and across their Region to enhance the development of the USA Pickleball and pickleball. The main prerequisite is a love of the sport and the desire to share our game with others of all ages.

Below is a listing of current ambassadors within a 25 mile radius of Punta Gorda.

|                 |                    |                                 |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jorge Aguilar   | Venice, FL         | Ambassador: Venice, FL          |
| Colleen Blakley | N. Fort Myers, FL  | Ambassador: Key West, FL        |
| Sue Carman      | Venice, FL         | Ambassador: Sarasota County, FL |
| Tom Ward        |                    | Ambassador: Sarasota County, FL |
| Linda Coe       | Port Charlotte, FL | Ambassador: Port Charlotte, FL  |
| Dick Crossland  | Englewood, FL      | Ambassador: Englewood, FL       |
| Gloria Reilly   | Punta Gorda, FL    | Ambassador: Punta Gorda, FL     |
| Robert White    | Arcadia, FL        | Ambassador: North Port, FL      |
| Dave Pike       |                    | Ambassador: At Large            |

A complete and searchable list of USA Pickleball ambassadors  
and email addresses, can be found at:

[https://www.memberleap.com/members/directory/search\\_USAPA.php?ambassadors](https://www.memberleap.com/members/directory/search_USAPA.php?ambassadors)

Further information on USA Pickleball Ambassadors can be found at:



## PICKLER PLAYGROUNDS

| Park Name                                    | Physical Address     | City           | Indoor | Outdoor | Outdoor Lights | Outdoor Blended | Outdoor Dedicated  | Restrooms     |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|--------|---------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park              | 6791 San Casa Dr.    | Englewood      | 4      | 8       | Y              | X               |                    | Y             |
| Tringali Park                                | 3460 N. Access Rd.   | Englewood      | 3      | 16      | Y              | X               |                    | Y             |
| Centennial Park                              | 1184 O'Donnell Blvd. | Port Charlotte | 4      | 0       | N/A            | N/A             |                    | Y             |
| Franz Ross Park                              | 19355 Quesada Blvd.  | Port Charlotte | 0      | 4       | Y              | X               |                    | Y             |
| Harold Ave. Regional Park                    | 23400 Harold Ave.    | Port Charlotte | 6      | 6       | Y              | X               |                    | Y-indoor only |
| McGuire Park                                 | 21125 McGuire Ave.   | Port Charlotte | 0      | 3       | N              | X               |                    | Y             |
| Midway Park                                  | 23023 Midway Blvd.   | Port Charlotte | 0      | 8       | N              | X               |                    | N             |
| Port Charlotte Beach Park                    | 4500 Harbor Blvd.    | Port Charlotte | 0      | 4       | N              | X               |                    | Y             |
| William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park | 20499 Edgewater Dr.  | Port Charlotte | 0      | 8       | N              | X               |                    | Y             |
| Bissett Park                                 | 12455 Path Ave.      | Punta Gorda    | 0      | 4       | N              | X               |                    | Y             |
| Deep Creek Park                              | 2555 Sandhill Blvd.  | Punta Gorda    | 0      | 8       | N              | X               |                    | Y             |
| Harbour Heights Park                         | 27420 Voyageur Dr.   | Punta Gorda    | 0      | 2       | Y              | X               |                    | Y             |
| South County Regional Park                   | 670 Cooper St.       | Punta Gorda    | 4      | 8       | Y              | X               | Future-in progress | Y             |
| Rotonda Community Park                       | 10 Rotonda Blvd. E   | Rotonda West   | 0      | 8       | N              | X               |                    | Y             |



The above **updated Pickler Playground** was recently presented in the article, "**It's Just the Beginning**" by Dave Pike, Board of Directors member and Ambassador at Large.

# The Peace River Picklers Merchandise Store

**Have you visited the PRP online Store yet?**

Available through the [Peace River Picklers website](#)....



## **FROM THE PEACE RIVER PICKLERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The purpose of the Peace River Picklers (PRP) is to promote the game of pickleball. This implies that sportsmanship, etiquette and generosity will be foremost in all PRP efforts. Pickleball can be competitive or it can be recreational. PRP will respect the wants and goals of all players, endeavoring to provide events, activities, and play to meet all members' needs.

### **PEACE RIVER PICKLERS (PRP) CODE OF CONDUCT**

- I will not act in a way that threatens my safety or the safety of others.
- I will refrain from verbal outbursts which are profane, threatening or abusive.
- I will refrain from acts or language which harasses or belittles a teammate or opponent, or which creates turmoil and/or dissension among players.
- I will respect the pickleball courts and property and perform no action which may cause damage.
- I will comply with posted court schedules.
- I will make fair line calls and respect calls made by others. I will consider the ball to be "in" if uncertain of the line call.
- I will behave in a manner consistent with this code and, as such, will be an ambassador for the sport of pickleball.



# Pickleball Nets

The pickleball nets at South County Regional Park are owned by Peace River Picklers, with repair and maintenance work coordinated by Doug Gammie of PRP.

It is in our collective best interest to properly maintain these nets to insure quality of play and keep replacement costs and repairs to a minimum. Members of PRP are asked to review the following suggestions from Deb Sarkisian and Bruce McPhee that will help to prolong the “life and health” of our nets.

1. Nets should be stored at the two opposite ends of the courts—the parking lot end and the Cooper Street end. Nets brought onto the court from one side should be returned to the same side.
2. Nets should be stacked together with the center bars facing out.
3. Nets stored on the parking lot end of the courts should be secured against the wooden barrier structure on that end. Nets stored at the opposite end of the courts should be secured against the chain link fence.
4. Bungee cords should be wrapped around the nets as tightly as possible to keep the nets upright.
5. Once nets are in place, wrap the cable lock to secure the nets against the barrier/fence. The pictures below show properly stored nets:



Should nets be found to be in need of repair, please contact Doug Gammie at [gammie72@msn.com](mailto:gammie72@msn.com) or 941-505-0893.

Combination for the net locks can be found at: <https://www.peaceriverpicklers.com/net-code>

# PRP Leagues, Skills/Drills, & Advanced Clinics

## Refund Process Update

We would like our membership to know that the PRP Board has updated our Refund Policy to include:

Any/all refunds will **ONLY** be given to those who make a request no later than two weeks prior to the start of the event. After that, no refunds will be issued.

**NO EXCEPTIONS!**

All of our events require a certain amount of players for the programs to function both physically and financially, thus the reason for this policy change!!

Setting up these events requires a great deal of work including:

- Court Rentals:
  - o Determine and pay for the number of courts required by event
  - o Work with South County Regional Park team to contract/rent the courts
- Leagues:
  - o Recruit enough volunteers to be League Leaders
  - o Define which Leagues to offer:
    - § Shootout
    - § Round Robin
    - § Ladder
- Skills/Drills, Advanced Clinics, & PB101:
  - o Recruit enough teachers to adhere to teacher/student ratios
  - o Recruit Skills/Drills Coordinators

Due to these events being driven by the number of members who sign up, it's a constant work in progress up until a few days before the events launch. Again, all of our events require a certain amount of players for the programs to function.

This doesn't get done easily. This process requires numerous volunteers working with PRP board to ensure all events are organized and ready to go when players arrive. Late/last minute requests are not acceptable.

I'm sure you can all understand the need for this change!

Thank you

Peace River Picklers Board





# PEACE RIVER PICKLERS

## South County Regional Park

### Pickleball Court Etiquette Guidelines

South County Pickleball Courts are considered "Open Play" when Leagues & Skills & Drills are not in session. Please adhere to the following Pickleball court etiquette guidelines so that we make open play fun for everyone:

During open play, players' play 4 to a court, play to a score of 11, team must win by 2 points.

There are three gates to enter & exit from the courts. Please be respectful and use the gate that is closest to the court you are going onto or leaving. This will alleviate disrupting another group's game.

Make sure you enter & exit the courts when you have all 4 players together.

**Move on/off the court quickly** so that you are not holding up another group's game.

**Close the gate after last person enters or exits!**

If you have to cross an active court to get onto a vacant court or to leave a court, wait until their current point is over. Ask the players for permission to cross their court.

If your ball goes into another court during play, please call out "ball" to notify the team so they can stop play. We do not want anyone to get hurt.

If you are standing around waiting to play, please be assertive and ask any player if you can join next game. Open play means everyone has an opportunity to play, but you own making that happen!