



# The Pickle Vine

APRIL 2023

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**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](mailto:kellee-web@live.com)

Tournament reporter : Maureen Blanton - [mblanton116@gmail.com](mailto:mblanton116@gmail.com)

## MESSAGES FROM THE PRP BOARD

At this time of year, we say farewell to a number of snowbirds. It is a good time to reflect on where we have been and where we are going as a club.

Before getting to that, it is important for everyone to remember that this club is powered by volunteers and would not exist if they did not step in and step up to the task of managing our leagues, our drills/play sessions, and our social events. Without them, we would not exist. Having said that, we can always use more help and fresh ideas on growing the club and adding value. Please give some thought to joining our team by filling out the [volunteer form found on the club website](#) (volunteer tab in the upper right hand corner).

**Looking Back:** As many of you know, the county has diverted many resources to deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Ian. As such, they stopped taking reservations for county amenities across the board. On top of that, we were dealing with a construction period for new dedicated courts that eliminated that venue to use.

That action by the county made pickleball courts unreservable. So, the challenge was to provide programming to all our members with no court reservation ability and no main venue to use.

Last January, we rolled up our sleeves and were determined to provide as much programming as possible with one hand tied behind our back. The County recently resurfaced the courts at Harbor Heights, and it quickly became the place to play and the neighborhood was extremely welcoming ([see separate article on HH](#)).

In the space of 10 weeks, we have successfully held many events for various levels of play from beginner to intermediate. We have also provided professional training to our volunteers so that they would be more confident and skilled in helping our membership improve their skills and have a more enjoyable experience.

We have also had our first **Pickleball Trivia Night** with over 50 enjoying our first social event in quite a while. Finally, our recent **St. Paddle Day Round Robin** was a great way to celebrate the opening of the county's first dedicated pickleball courts.

**Moving Forward:** At the time of this article, the county has still not opened up their reservation system and they have not given any timeline as to when they will. The success of our informal programming has shown that we can and will continue to provide opportunities to drill, play, and learn.

## MESSAGES FROM THE PRP BOARD

While some of you are leaving for cooler climates, we will continue to offer programming to those living here full time.

**Changing the subject**, we want to alert you to a change you will begin to see as it relates to competitive league play. This does **not** apply to those of you who just enjoy social play. We will always have programming for both.

We will be migrating to the use of **DUPR (Dynamic Universal Pickleball Rating)** for all of our competitive leagues. DUPR is generally accepted as the best tool available to reflect a player's skill level relative to those they are playing against. Using DUPR means that you are more likely to be playing with similarly skilled players. It will take away any subjectivity to where you stand skill wise and prevent sandbagging in tournament play. DUPR is a free app that you can put on your phone and also access it on your computer (<https://mydupr.com/>). You create a DUPR account and you are ready to start entering your scores. When you join a competitive league, you are agreeing to enter your scores at the end of the match. Once the scores are entered the system and have been validated by another player, you will have a DUPR rating. Over time, your rating will become more and more reliable. By the way, DUPR is gender and age blind. It does not care how old you are or your gender. A true DUPR league, therefore would be mixed and ageless.

However, we recognize that guys will want their leagues and gals will want theirs. DUPR would still be used to determine start positions in, for example, a ladder league.

So, this is a heads up. There is nothing to stop anyone from joining DUPR and reporting your scores, even you snowbirds. Just remember that all four players have to have accounts in DUPR. If you play in recognized tournaments, many already download tournament information into DUPR. You already might have a DUPR rating and not even know it.

In closing, your Board is hard at work keeping itself relevant in the fast changing world of Pickleball. We have other exciting plans for the future and your support is greatly appreciated.

## 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://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.**

# MESSAGES FROM THE PRP BOARD

## 2023 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

President	Dave Pike	<a href="mailto:davidleopike@gmail.com">davidleopike@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	David Brotzman	<a href="mailto:hotonpi@yahoo.com">hotonpi@yahoo.com</a>
Treasurer	Heather Washik	<a href="mailto:heather88ted@gmail.com">heather88ted@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Pam Volk	<a href="mailto:pambvolk@yahoo.com">pambvolk@yahoo.com</a>

### DIRECTORS

Director-Social Comm.	Susan Bell	<a href="mailto:mom8348@yahoo.com">mom8348@yahoo.com</a>
Director-Education Comm.	Lin Coe	<a href="mailto:l.coe49@gmail.com">l.coe49@gmail.com</a>
Director-League Play	John Hace	<a href="mailto:johnhace@gmail.com">johnhace@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.



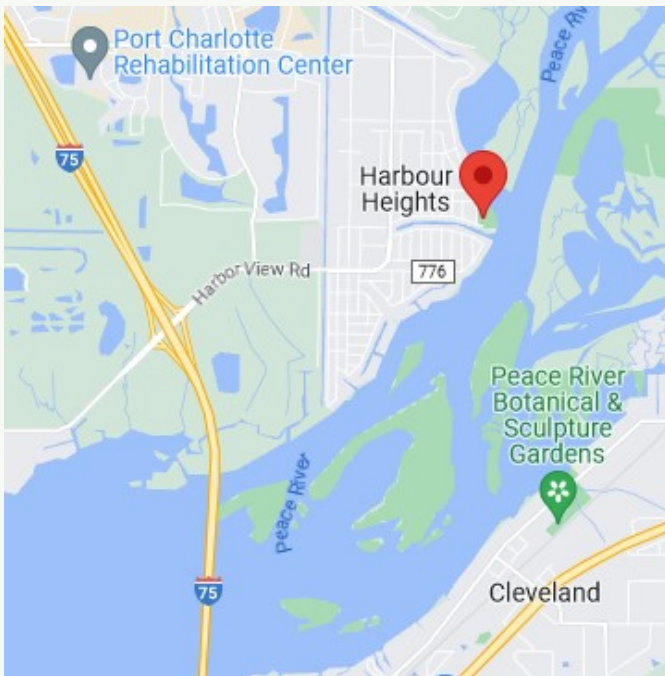
# Harbor Heights Pickleball and so much more!

by PRP member Shelly Walsh

If you were to drive by Harbour Heights Community Park just two years ago, you wouldn't find much pickleball activity going on in this quiet little town next to the Peace River. In fact, most people in Charlotte County don't even know where Harbour Heights is or what it has to offer.

Fast forward to now, and the park has become a bustling, popular destination for pickleball enthusiasts of all ages and abilities. With South County courts previously out of commission due to reconstruction, word got out about HH, and players came from all over. PRP also found this little gem to be available and invaluable, allowing programs and leagues at Harbour Heights to continue for the PRP community, after a long hiatus following Covid.

In the fall of 2022, Charlotte County Parks Department reconditioned the existing courts to include eight lined pickleball courts and two tennis courts. Harbour Heights currently has pickleball nets stored in a caged area that anyone can use, provided by the county. (PRP supplies their own.) Due to the abundance of trees in the park, the courts even sport some shade in the early part of the day. Clean bathrooms and a covered, concrete sitting area complete this ideal pickleball playground.



Enjoy playing at night?

No problem...the courts are lit as well!

What is also growing at Harbour Heights is a sense of enthusiasm and ownership that is taking hold within the community. Players can be seen sweeping, cleaning, and caring for the courts and nets as if it were their own. A few volunteers even repurposed an old tennis net that is used between the tennis courts to keep balls on their respective side. It shows just how much players appreciate the park and how important the courts are to the community.

If you ask players, PRP coaches and volunteer leaders to tell you what they think about HH, they will tell you just how much they enjoy playing there. Under the direction of our educational director, LIn Coe and John Hace, our league coordinator, they have been instrumental in gearing up PRP's programming that continues to offer a variety of programs to our pickleball community.

## Harbor Heights Pickleball and so much more! Continued...

What's great about Harbour Heights Community Park is that there is so much more than just pickleball and tennis. Located on the Peace River, boaters and kayakers take full advantage of the water access. Weekends in the park tend to be particularly busy for families and anyone looking for a shady, peaceful venue. The park has a beautiful playground, charcoal grilling areas, and 2 covered pavilions that can be utilized and rented for a variety of events. Shuffleboard and basketball courts are available too, and there is even a lovely botanical butterfly garden for passersby to enjoy.

If you haven't been here yet, check it out! A hidden gem right under our noses.

### 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

# RECENT REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS RESULTS

## APP SUNMED PUNTA GORDA OPEN

### 1/11-1/15/23

#### Amateur Men's Doubles

4.5: bracket 35+ **SILVER**: Martin Pickup

3.5: bracket 60+ **BRONZE**: David Allenick & Tony Gray

4.0: bracket 60+ **SILVER**: Davis Moore & Tom Ratzki

4.5: bracket 50+ **GOLD**: Martin Pickup

#### Amateur Men's Singles

3.5: bracket 50+ **BRONZE**: Tony Gray

#### Amateur Women's Doubles

4.0: bracket 60+ **GOLD**: Liz Croft

5.0: bracket 60+ **BRONZE**: Deb Mascarin

#### Amateur Mixed Doubles

4.0: bracket 50+ **SILVER**: Rob Jamros

4.0: bracket 60+ **GOLD**: Kren McManus & Tom Ratzki

5.0: bracket 50+ **SILVER**: Scott Tingley

4.5: bracket 35+ **GOLD**: Karen Memoli

4.5: bracket 35+ **SILVER**: Mark Manguine

5.0: bracket 35+ **SILVER**: Sarah Saari

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### UPCOMING REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

**UNITED HEALTHCARE 2023 HOPEN its OPEN, Verdana Village  
Estero — 4/7-4/9/23**

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

**NP Punta Gorda Classic, Pickleplex  
Punta Gorda — 10/20-10/22/23**

**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)**



# 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 Aquilar	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:





# PICKLEBALL UNIVERSITY

## NEWS, TRICKS & TIPS

**The Best Shot in Pickleball**

**Practice Prehab to Avoid Rehab**

**When Can You Be in the Kitchen?**

For more articles like this, visit: [pickleballuniversity.com](http://pickleballuniversity.com)

# 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.

