

The Pickle Vine

Volume 1, Issue 9
February, 2019



Calendar

Tyson McGuffin and LevelUp Camp. Two sessions, 5 hrs/day for 3 days. All outdoor courts at Cooper are rented for this event for these days.	Jan 28-30 and Feb 1-3
Super Bowl LIII 	Feb 3
Pickleball Marathon at Harold Recreation Center, call 941-627-1074 to register (see p.7)	Feb 9, 9am-6pm
Picklers' Challenge Final Round Robin and all-PRP Party (see p 4)	Feb 10
	Feb 14
5th Annual 3D Pickleball Cupid Shootout (at Charlotte High School, Punta Gorda)	Feb 15-17
PRP Members' Tourney (see p 6)	Mar 2-3
Charlotte County Senior Games- Pickleball (see p 6)	Mar 30-31
PicklePlex® Grand Opening Tournament (more info in March newsletter)	Apr 12-14

MEET THE MEMBERS...

What a wonderful opportunity to introduce these two members to you this month. You certainly know them because they are always around, at South County and Gilchrist, working to make PRP a better Club. Bruce McPhee is the Director of Leagues, a tall guy who smiles a lot, driving a beautiful midnight blue Corvette!! Lin is Director of Skills/Drills and also Vice President of PRP, and our USAPA Ambassador. She spreads the Pickleball Love wherever she goes and is a determined coach. She has an interesting sense of humor (she gets us way too much), and is always there to help when needed. These two always go the extra mile and we all benefit from that. But here is more in their own words ...

INTRODUCING...

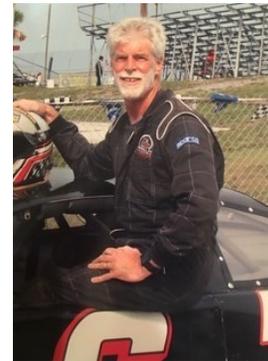
LINDA COE & BRUCE MC PHEE



I first learned about pickleball while playing softball in the 2007 National Senior games in Louisville, Kentucky. A court was set up for "how-to play" demonstrations and it looked like fun. But I soon forgot about it as it wasn't played in Louisville at the time.

After retiring from GE and moving to Port Charlotte in

2013, a friend mentioned pickleball to me once again. A call to South County Recreation Center led me to playing a game, and immediately I was hooked. I had found my new playground! I wanted to learn more, but there were no clinics at the time. I remember playing with a man named Don and increasingly feeling frustrated. He told me to be patient. It took me a long time to understand what he meant by having patience.



When I retired, my wife, Debbie, invited me to go with her for instructions at South County Rec, where we met Frances Gammie who introduced us to Pickleball. This was in April

2017. I enjoyed the exercise and the great group of people that were very helpful and friendly. The game and the involvement in organizing leagues and other activities continues to keep me busy and I enjoy learning more and more about the game. I have found that the more I figure out, the more I realize what I don't know!

Back in college, I played racquet ball. Before that, I was into ping pong and beach volleyball. What I have noticed, is that my beach volleyball experience is very helpful in terms of court awareness and having to key off of the opponents for your offensive shots. Two-man beach volleyball was especially helpful for the defensive aspect of the game, extending my range.

(Continued on page 2.)

We welcome newsletter submissions, suggestions, comments.

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MOVERS AND SHAKERS IN PRP



MEET THE MEMBERS...



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.)

Linda Coe (continued).

I was at THE first PRP annual meeting at South County and the question was asked how many members were permanent Florida residents and would they be interested in continuing pickleball during the off-season. Most members and even the board members were snowbirds. I met Roger and Colleen White, who were also permanent residents, and we talked with then-Board Member Doug Gammie about starting league play. And voila... Indoor leagues were formed.

I was also helping Frances Gammie with "Introduction to Pickleball" and knew we needed to help players further develop their skills. When another instructor indicated they would not be returning the next year, I asked the Manager of South County Rec Center if I could have his time slot to start a drills program and she agreed. Between myself and Gloria and Pete Reilly, four indoor courts were started and by the end of the month we expanded to the outdoor courts. Brooke Minnich and Pete Parsil joined in to help with the growing number of students. This was the beginning of recruiting more volunteers to help with the growing number of players that wanted to learn more.

Last year I was elected Vice-President of PRP and also completed workshops to become a certified IPTPA instructor as well as a PPR Instructor. My goal is to continue to learn and share my passion and knowledge for pickleball with anyone willing to learn the game and to have fun doing it.

A little about my sports background... I have been involved in basketball, racquetball, golf, and softball. Now pickleball!

Two great accomplishments so far in my life: 1) being named "Pigtail Queen" when I was 8, after pitching the first no-hitter in the city girls league; and 2) Ohio All-Star Left Fielder in Softball when I was 18.



Bruce McPhee (continued).

My immediate goal as a member of PRP, is to continue to be involved in organizing and running leagues, and to ensure others have fun and enjoy competitive games when playing in those leagues.

While my game has improved over time, my future personal goals are to be able to compete at a 4.5 level and be competitive in tournaments.

OK, you say you want to know something about me that few know... I did several "stints" with the **Racing With Rusty** folks at 3 Palms Speedway (near the Punta Gorda Airport), DeSoto Speedway (Bradenton), and Michigan International Speedway (Brooklyn Michigan). 3 Palms and DeSoto are 3/8 Mile tracks (max of 60mph), and I did a total of 80 laps between the two, and I drove 20 Laps at MIS (up to 160 mph).



♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥

What did the volcano say to his Valentine? "I lava you!"

What did one pickle say to the other? "You mean a great dill to me."



PRP Annual Membership Meeting



Following our annual Membership Meeting on February 12, we are pleased to report that two new Board Members were elected: ***Kris Johanessen and Mary Stewart***. Mary will be serving as President and Kris will be serving on the Board as Director. We are so pleased to have them as our leaders, as their knowledge of our club and the pickleball community along with their pickleball expertise, make them a great addition to our team! 102 members attended the meeting, a far cry from the 35 who attended the first PRP Annual Meeting!!!

We would like to acknowledge and extend our heartfelt gratitude to parting board members ***Joel Shaffer and Gloria Reilly***, who have been so pivotal in the growth and success of our Pickleball Club. From the original 15 members only 5 years ago, our Club now has a healthy membership of 602. We are confident that we will reach 700 this year. So, once again, thanks to our Founding members for jobs well done!!

Departing ***President Joel Shaffer*** named and thanked the many PRP volunteers, recognizing their importance in the success and growth of the Club.. Thank you for your hard work on behalf of all the membership!

The Board also announced the investment by Peace River Picklers to sponsor a court at PicklePlex® This court will forever be named Peace River Picklers Court, announced as players are assigned their location to play, especially during tournaments. This is not only an honor for our Club to be a part of this exciting project, of which we will all benefit, but necessary to accommodate our incredible growth.

The official minutes from the meeting are available and posted on the PRP Website.

OTHER CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A **Financial Report** has been added to the PRP website for your perusal.

NEW LOCK COMBINATIONS: As is the case each year, all locks have been changed at South County outdoor courts that secure the nets to the storage station. For the new number, sign onto the PRP website in the “members only” log-in area. Or, you can email your request to the main account: peacriverpicklers@gmail.com



We are a forgetful bunch of pickleball players... Remember to check inside South County if you have lost or found an item while playing outside. Sunglasses, sweatshirts, hats continue to be left at the courts and rumor has it that a “certain someone” continues to leave behind her Yeti cup! We have a women’s gray “Maine” hoodie, a purple/black zip up jacket, and are looking for a black “Zurich” hat. Contact: macdonald24520@gmail.com to claim these items or turn in the hat! THANKS!!!!



VOLUNTEERS Needed for...

Upcoming Pickleball Tournaments!!!!



Please give these volunteer opportunities serious consideration, for volunteers are the “key” to both successful and enjoyable tournaments!

FEB 15-17, 2019: “3D Cupid Shootout Tournament”
Port Charlotte High school

NEEDED:

- ◆ Set-up Committee (Thursday evening)
- ◆ Take– down Committee (Sunday evening)

Volunteers will work 2-3 hour rotations. To sign up, please contact:

l.coe49@gmail.com

March 2-3, 2019: “PRP Members Tournament”

South County Rec Park

NEEDED:

- ◆ Welcome Committee (check-in players 7:30am– 1:00pm)
- ◆ Set-up Committee (nets, tents, tables, court-prep, trash 7:00am)
- ◆ Take-down Committee (nets, tables, tents, trash)
- ◆ Food/raffle Committee (stuff players’ goodie bags, work food/water tent, sell raffle tickets)
- ◆ Scoreboard/Court Assignment/Awards Committee (verify scorecard completions and court assignments, update scoreboard, present awards, take photos)

April 12-14, 2019: “Pickleplex®Spring Grand Opening Tournament”

Pickleplex®Courts, Florida SouthWestern State College Campus

NEEDED:

- ◆ Welcome Committee (check-in players 7:30am– 1:00pm)
- ◆ Set-up Committee (nets, tents, tables, court prep, trash 7:00am)
- ◆ Take-down Committee (nets, tents, tables, trash)
- ◆ Scoreboard/Court Assignment/Awards Committee (verify scorecard completions and court assignments, update scoreboard, present awards, take photos)

WE L  VE
OUR VOLUNTEERS

Mark your calendars now

2nd Annual PEACE RIVER PICKLERS, INC MEMBER-ONLY TOURNAMENT



(Now Your Choice of Outdoor or Indoor Venue)

Meet up with your Pickleball friends for some play, food, drinks, Awards and fun in the sun!!

PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT - Mens/ Womens/ Mixed Doubles based on age and skill level, using Round Robin format with a guarantee of 5 Pickleball games. Your choice to play matches on the inside or outside Pickleball Court venue at South County Rec Center.



WHEN: **Saturday, March 2**

Men & Women Doubles – Inside and Outside Venue (your choice)

Sunday, March 3

Mixed Doubles – Inside and Outside Venue (your choice)

WHERE: South County Rec Center, inside and outside courts

Registration and payment available at the website,

<https://www.peaceriverpicklers.com/tournament-sign-up>

FORMAT:

Skill Level/Age

Levels 2.5 to 5.0

Ages 19+, 35+, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80+ (Note: Ages could be combined depending on number of participants in brackets)

Round Robin (Note: If multi groups, will have single elimination games for winners)

Pickleball Dura 40 outside, and standard inside Pickleball from South County

COST:

\$25.00 registration and one event. +\$5.00 if you choose a second event

CHARLOTTE COUNTY SENIOR GAMES *Played On Outdoor Courts*



Charlotte County Senior Games (Fit for Life) are being held in Punta Gorda on March 1-31, with Pickleball on March 30-31. Men's Doubles and Women's Doubles will be March 30, Mixed Doubles on March 31 at South County Regional Park, 670 Cooper Street, Punta Gorda. This is a Double Elimination tournament. All matches will be conducted in accordance with USAPA rules. Partner must be named during registration for doubles. Director: Leah Williams (941.505.8686) For information and to register, go to the following link.

<https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/services/ParksRecs/Pages/senior-games.aspx>

Miscellaneous Info/Fun...

LOVE IS IN THE AIR... AND ON THE COURTS!!

Mike & Renee



Barbie & Hank



Mike & Rena

Happy Valentine's Day



Arvon & Sally



Barb & Ken



Amy & Dale



Can you guess which one of our "sweetheart" couples have been married 54 years??? **WOW!!!**



COUPLES WHO PLAY TOGETHER, STAY TOGETHER!!!



***News from Sue Carman.... LIGHTS!!!! We will have lights!!
PicklePlex® anticipates having the first 16 courts open in March!!!***

PicklePlex® Facts

PicklePlex® is being built with the idea that it will provide an *additional* venue for play in Punta Gorda. It is available for play WITHOUT a membership and is open to the general public.

While PicklePlex® is free to the public, the expenses associated with its operation still need to be met. To this end, PicklePlex® will either sponsor or play host to occasional tournaments. It is anticipated that tournaments will be held once a month, and will be short in duration.

PicklePlex® may also host clinics that are offered by various pros throughout the year. Again, there will be a few courts reserved for such clinics, with the remainder of courts open for free play.

The Board feels that it is important for our local pickleball community to recognize that PicklePlex® use is extensively free, and paid events are only needed to meet financial obligations.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need a few volunteers to work the PicklePlex® tent selling merchandise at the Cupid Shoot-out Tournament February 15-17 at Charlotte High School. Please e-mail Sue Carman if interested. sue@pickleplex.org

PAVER PURCHASE A BIG HIT AMONG PLAYERS AND COMMUNITY!

This fundraising effort is proving to be a huge success since its release last month, but there is still time for you to participate. These pavers will help to beautify the paths that surround PicklePlex® and adds a personal touch as well. You can participate by following the link to their website and filling in the form to add your engraved message.

polarengraving.com/pickleplexofpuntagorda



U.S. OPEN BOOTCAMP

(Doubles Strategy Camp)

Held at Pickleplex®

Led by John Sperling (with two additional Pros for an 8:1 ratio)

March 27-28, 2-day camp or

April 25-26 2-day camp

Both camps work on doubles strategy, court coverage, tournament toughness, and analyzing your opponents' strengths and weaknesses. Camps are from 8 am to 3 pm with an hour break for lunch (not provided). Camps are for all levels and skills. Players will be matched and will work with similar skill levels. Cost for each 2-day camp, with 12 hours of instruction: \$300 per person.

To sign-up for this excellent camp, please contact John Sperling at: pickleballpro2323@gmail.com