



The Pickle Vine

Volume 2, Issue 3
Sept/Oct, 2019



Sept/Oct

Volunteer/Mentor Play (see page 3)	9/8
"Hurricane Hustle" Tournament 	9/14-9/15
Haunted Halloween Tournament 	10/25-10/27
Lucy Kitcher Gamma PicklePlex®  Championship	11/23-11/26
Holiday Hoopla- canceled This event will be replaced with an event in February, details TBA	Previously 12/6-12/8 Rescheduled 2/14-2/16

PEACE RIVER PICKLERS Mission Statement:

The Mission of the Peace River Picklers, Inc. pickleball club is to promote pickleball through education, clinics, and competitive tournaments to residents of Charlotte County and surrounding areas as well as providing opportunities for competitive and social pickleball activities. Our overall theme is to encourage sportsmanship and camaraderie through fun and exercise.

Younger and Younger Pickleball Players Hitting the Courts

Our "Members of the Month" feature this issue is focusing on the younger players that are quickly catching on to the sport of pickleball and bringing with them a great sense of enthusiasm as well as an incredible skill aptitude. As we all know, it's not a game just for "seniors"! Recently, PicklePlex® hosted Lucy Kitcher's Summer Slam tournament, drawing many younger players. Two of our PRP tournament volunteers had a chance to talk to a couple of them about their game. Also present was Noah Waddell, young piano prodigy from Fort Myers and also a 5.0 ranked player. Our very own newsletter editor, Sue Meyer got a chance to talk with Noah in Michigan at the Beer City Tournament and features that below. As PicklePlex® holds more and more sanctioned tournaments, we can expect to see more young up and coming players, as well as some seriously established high level players. Already the game of Pickleball is changing as younger players join in the fun. As these young players hit our courts, remember to be welcoming and challenge them to a game! How many of you have children and grandchildren playing? Such a terrific family sport!

Meet Alec Lamacchio... Submitted by Stephanie Long

Having only played pickleball for nine months, Alec Lamacchio of Naples, Florida has already competed in three tournaments! Sponsored by Paddletek, he adorned their black cap for the Summer Slam at PicklePlex®. The twelve-year-old states that he practices almost every day in the summer, but will have to cut his time back to 4 days a week when he returns to school. Although he enjoys football and soccer, it seems that pickleball has taken over the limelight for Alec! Good luck in your pickleball career, Alec!



Meet Mike Leonard... Mike Leonard's passion for pickleball

is evident, as I watched him play at the Summer Slam at PicklePlex® in July. He is a high-level twenty-five-year-old player who is using his skill and enthusiasm to teach others the game. Mike recently assisted at a three-day pickleball camp and plans on volunteering locally to teach pickleball to high school students. He looks forward to becoming more involved in his community. We wish Mike the best with both pickleball and his community involvement plans.



Meet Noah Waddell... (By Sue Meyer) I met 18-year-old Noah earlier this year when Tyson McGuffin came to Punta Gorda for his LevelUp Camp. He joined Tyson and others for some drop-in games after our Camp finished. Noah challenged Tyson to a couple of singles game and he so impressed us all. His precision, tenaciousness and energy gave Tyson a run!! While watching and sitting next to Noah's Mom (Anita), I learned that Noah is not only a talented 5.0 Pickleball player, but also an extremely gifted pianist who has performed on many stages, including with the Tampa Bay Symphony performing Beethoven's 3rd Concerto! He will go off to college this fall, continuing his music studies. Noah played extremely well at the Summer Slam at PicklePlex®, going home with a silver medal with his partner Zachary Higginson. Watch for him in the future, I believe we will see him on the gold medal stand at the big tournaments!

We welcome newsletter submissions, suggestions, comments.

Co-editors: Ginny MacDonald (macdonald24520@gmail.com)

Sue Meyer (sue Meyer@umich.edu)



Younger Players Brought Much Enthusiasm **To PicklePlex®...**

Charlotte High School Basketball Players Enjoying the Pickleball Scene!

Submitted by Suzanne Smith

Also present at Lucy Kitcher's Summer Slam Tournament were members of the Charlotte High School Basketball team. Along with Coach Tom Massolio and Coach Mike Williams, the boys sold hamburgers and hotdogs to both participants and spectators, earning proceeds for their team. The boys seem to enjoy the game of pickleball and as of this writing were looking forward to playing in a two-day tournament in August at PicklePlex.® Think we are looking at some future pickleball stars in the making!



Thanks for sending us your pic, ladies, and congratulations on your recent win at The Tarpon Hoops Tournament!

Kim Damien and Lorraine Mushacke capture Gold, Theresa Stevens and Bari Cook take Silver and Beth Ferns and Mary Ann Gilroy grab the Bronze.

BIG CHANGES COMING

FOR THE DISSEMINATION OF THE PICKLE VINE AND PRP INFORMATION

After much consideration and recognition of the changes in how our club information is shared, we have decided to streamline our newsletter content. Information pertaining to leagues, skills/drills, instruction, and upcoming tournaments, will be posted on our website and our members will receive updates via email. Beginning with this issue, the Pickle Vine will be published on a bi-monthly basis.

Please visit our website and/or Facebook page to stay abreast of current PRP events.

PRP's Website address: peacriverpicklers.com

PRP's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/881124178732695/>

PicklePlex® news is available on their website: pickleplex.org

PicklePlex® Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/PicklePlex/>



VOLUNTEER HAPPENINGS...



Build it and they will come...

Tournaments are in full swing at PicklePlex® and that means more and more volunteers will be needed to ensure the success of each, thus spreading the word just how great our facility is! Whether you sign up to sweep courts, put up tents, sell merchandise, or help register players, there's a job for you! PRP wants to show their thanks to the many volunteers who help with these tournaments and Lin Coe, PRP Vice President, has come up with an incredible way to do just that! Lin has recruited high-level player Deb Sarkisian (a long-time PRP member) to implement this "tournament volunteer appreciation" initiative. Please take the time to read Deb's letter below as it is sure to pique your interest in volunteering!



Dear Picklers,

I'd like to take a few minutes to tell you about an exciting new mentoring program just getting started. This program is a way for our pickleball community to pay back the volunteers who are working so very hard to support the PicklePlex® tournaments. Currently, we have a group of 12 mentors who will be helping with these sessions. We hope to grow this number as the snowbirds come back in town.

Here's how it works. The Volunteer Committee will hold monthly raffles, selecting up to 16 of our tournament volunteers to be partnered with 8 mentors. These mentoring sessions will be limited to two hours. They will consist of two 30 minute game-playing sessions along with 15 minutes of exhibition games. Any time remaining will be open to specific questions you might have about your game, the rules, or anything else that is pickleball related. These mentoring sessions will be held once a month for the next 6 months on the following Sundays:

9/8/19 10/6/19 11/3/19 12/1/19 1/19/20 2/16/20

Not only is this a wonderful way to pay back those of you who work so hard as volunteers, but also to provide incentive for new and future volunteers for the upcoming PicklePlex® tournaments. Thank you in advance for volunteering and please know that we appreciate all of your support!



Volunteers Mark Wesaw, Donna DeNardo, Stephanie Long, Ginny MacDonald and Jean McGee enjoying their playing experience with mentors Donna Wilson, Ricky Deller, Kris Johanessen and Deb Sarkisian on July 28th at PicklePlex®.

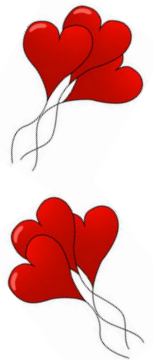


PRP MOVERS AND SHAKERS....



Saying Good-bye to a Dear Friend and Dedicated PRP Member...

At our first volunteer/mentor practice session, we also had the opportunity to present Julie Heitman with a paddle signed by all PRP members in attendance. The signed paddle, donated by Chuck Taylor, was an unexpected delight judging by Julie's reaction. She will be such a loss to our pickleball community, but we wish her the best as she starts her new life in California. They are sure to quickly recognize her talents and be thrilled that she is on the west coast! While living here, Julie selflessly donated her time and talent as an instructor in many drill/skill lessons and was always willing to help with PRP programs. Julie was the top rated tennis pro in her country of Burma and has become an outstanding pickleball player. Julie has captured not only many tournament wins, but also our hearts. We love and miss you, Julie!



PRP Members Step Up To The Plate!



A big thank you to Donna Sullivan and Mary Ann Gilroy for undertaking the task of heading the newly established PRP Volunteer Committee. Donna and Mary Ann will be organizing volunteers who are needed for various club events and community outreach activities and of course tournaments at PicklePlex®



We have a volunteer tent!

We have a volunteer committee complete with leaders!

Bring on the volunteers!





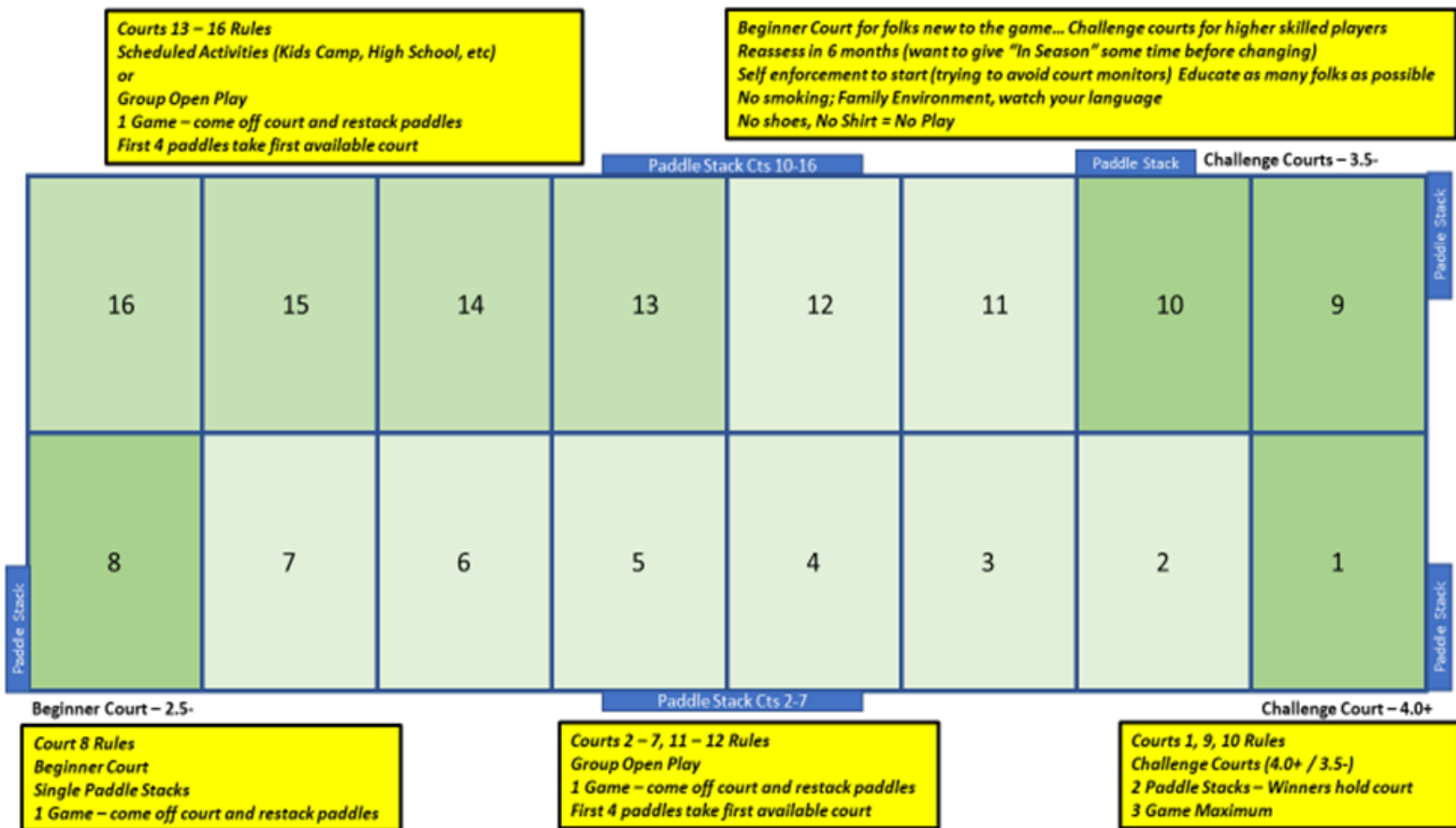
PRP MOVERS AND SHAKERS



New PicklePlex® Court Designations...

Submitted by Bruce McPhee

With many seasonal players soon to return to the courts, PRP Board members met with the PicklePlex® Board of Directors to discuss and plan for the best way to utilize all 16 courts to the benefit of all players. The following diagram displays how each court will be utilized. Remember as always– PicklePlex® is a family friendly environment with no smoking or foul language, and shoes and shirts must be worn at all times.



KEY:

- Dark Green- Courts # 1, 9, 10 (Challenge Courts for skill level 4.0+/3.5-)
- Dark Green– Court # 8 (Beginner Court)
- Med. Green– Courts # 13, 14, 15, 16 (Scheduled event play...high school, campers, etc. Otherwise open group play)
- Light Green– Courts # 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12 (Group Open Play)

***The above court designations came about after many meetings and discussions. Attempts were made to get opinions from both new players and experienced players, intermediate and advanced. The plan is to reassess these court designations in 6 months to see if modifications need to be made.



Miscellaneous Announcements

September/October Leagues

Remember to keep checking PRP's website to see when you can sign-up for the Fall session of leagues!

Monday evening ladies league, 6:30pm-8:30pm 3.0+

Sept. 16-Oct. 21

Tuesday morning 65+ league, 8:30am-10:30am 3.0+

Sept. 17- Oct. 22

Saturday morning mixed league, 8:30am-10:30am, 3.0/3.5

Sept. 21- Oct. 26

***all Fall sessions of leagues will be held at Cooper Street.



SAVE THE DATE!!!

PRP's Annual Holiday Gala

December

15th



ATTENTION MEMBERS

Still having problems receiving PRP email BLASTS??? Below are email addresses to **add to your email contact list** which might (hopefully) eliminate the problem.

- peacerverpicklers@pb04.ascendbywix.com
- peacerverpicklers@pb04.wixshoutout.com
- peacerverpicklers@gmail.com

Picklers Playgrounds

In Punta Gorda:

PicklePlex® FSW Campus , 26300 Airport Road

Gilchrist Park, West Retta Esplanade

South County Rec Center, 670 Cooper Street

In Port Charlotte:

Harold Avenue Rec Center, 23400 Harold Avenue

In Englewood:

Tringali Sports Center, 3460 N. Access Road



PRP now has a Facebook page thanks to administrator Leo Millward. If you have difficulty receiving email blasts, consider joining as our Facebook page will keep you updated on current club news.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/881124178732695/>

Or while in Facebook, search for "Peace River Picklers"



Fun and Games at Beef 'O'Brady's

What a great way to spend a Saturday afternoon! Pickleball players who came out in support of the PicklePlex[®] Plex-a-thon fundraiser were treated to some fun competition while playing games and treated to some tasty food while enjoying each other's company. It was a full house! Great raffle prizes and auction items went to some lucky participants. Thanks goes out to Sue Carman and Dave Fox and all their volunteers who helped make this fundraiser such a success. Enjoy the pictures below!



Upcoming PicklePlex[®] Tournaments...

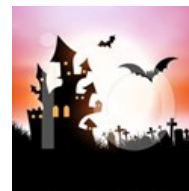
9/14/19-9/15/19...Hurricane Hustle

10/25/19-10/27/19...Haunted Halloween

11/23/19-11/26/19...Lucy Kitcher PicklePlex[®]

Gamma Championship

12/6/19-12/8/19...Holiday Hoopla...postponed ...TBD



PAVER PURCHASE CONTINUES FOR PLAYERS AND COMMUNITY!

The pavers look amazing on the path leading up to the courts. Don't miss out on being part of PicklePlex[®] history. Order your personalized paver(s) now! Go to the link below to make your purchase.

<https://polarengraving.com/pickleplexofpuntagorda>

