



The Pickle Vine

Volume 2, Issue 13
November, 2020



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A continuing friendly reminder

With COVID cases still prevalent, and a few reported cases within our very own local pickleball community, please remember to practice social distancing and proper hand sanitizing. If you have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for the virus, please do not play at the courts for 14 days. As always, please be considerate of your fellow players.

The Pickle Vine team welcomes any comments, submissions or suggestions

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A Message from
PRP President Deb Sarkisian

Dear Picklers,

I hope this communication finds you all well. Looking forward to seeing our snowbirds as you start heading back!!

Recently you have seen several emails from the board. First, we let you know that our annual membership renewal is underway. The 2020 membership period ends on 10/31/20 and the 2021 membership year will start November 1. You can easily renew your membership by logging into the website and clicking Members>Annual Membership Fee, then choosing one of the two paid plan options. Once you make your selection, simply click Buy Now and you will be taken to a Pay with Paypal screen where it gives you a **choice** to pay with your credit/debit card **OR** pay with paypal. Once complete, you will receive a payment confirmation email. Please note that if you do not renew your membership, site permissions will change and certain event accesses will be removed. So please sign up today so you do not miss out!!

Second, we sent a request to each of you asking for help to support our club by volunteering. We have several positions which need to be filled. But most immediately we need teachers and league leaders for our upcoming Winter session which will start 1/11/21. Hosting these events will be in jeopardy if we do not get enough volunteers to fill these positions. Please remember, this is YOUR club and we strive to provide you the most comprehensive schedule of events with the volunteer staff that we have. Please sign up to volunteer!

Last, we sent out a survey regarding our upcoming Christmas Party and Annual Membership Meeting. We will forward the results shortly.

Thanks in advance for being part of the Peace River Pickler club and for your support!!

Deb Sarkisian,
President PRP

Peace River Picklers website

www.peaceriverpicklers.com



Membership Renewals



Hey Picklers!! It's time to renew!!

Yes, it's that time again. Our current PRP membership year **expires October 31, 2020.**

Please take a minute to visit our website at, peacriverpicklers.com. Once there go to Members>Annual Membership Fee and choose either the one-year membership or the recurring membership option.

Please be sure to renew your membership on or before October 31, 2020, so that you continue to receive pertinent club information. Please note that you must be a PRP member to participate in club events that include Leagues & Skills/Drills.

We thank you for joining Peace River Picklers!! We look forward to another fun year playing pickleball and meeting new friends!!



To Renew, go to: <https://www.peacriverpicklers.com> Then Members, then Annual Membership Fee

If you have already renewed since July 1, 2020 or have just recently joined, please disregard this reminder.



PRP Volunteers Needed!!!



Wow! What a great response we had when we asked members through our PRP survey who would be willing to volunteer--- a whopping 165 say they will support and 20 say they would lead!!!!

Here is your first opportunity to support our club by volunteering for openings below:

Teachers for the January/February, 2021 Session of Skills and Drills

We just kicked off our fall season event of our newly designed program for Skills & Drills. This program includes a formal "Teach the Teacher" training that provides our teachers with standardized curriculums taught by our 5.0 USAPA rated instructor, Sara Saari. We have 20 volunteer teachers participating! If the first session is any indication of how successful this program has been, we have just taken Pickleball in SWFL to new heights! If you love pickleball and think you would enjoy teaching others, this is for you!

What do we need from you? Attend the "Teach the Teacher" session each week (2 hours) prior to your skill & drill class. Gaining insight & direction on how to teach that week's skill to your students. You will be training 4 -6 students in a two-hour session that same week. Don't be nervous. You don't have to be a pro and you learn everything you need to know.

How much time is required? 4 hours per week for 6 weeks

League Leaders for the January/February, 2021 Session

What do we need from you? You will be responsible for coordinating one of the different skill level leagues. Think it's complicated? It's really not. We have folks who will support you along the way. Tasks will include setting up the first matches of the day prior to arriving at the courts, (the computer helps) or organizing the matches for the 2nd round after the first round is complete, following up with email a few days after the matches with the scores.

How much time is required? Leagues are six weeks and you will spend less than an hour per week organizing off the court and two hours during the league play. You can even play in your league if you wish. Before the league starts you will probably spend an hour a week for two or three weeks organizing, checking rosters, waivers, etc.

Please email peacriverpicklers@gmail.com with your interest and/or questions. Prior to submitting an email, **you MUST enter into the email "Subject Line" if your question is related to "League Leader" or "Teacher"**, this will help expedite a response back to you.

Signup to Volunteer at www.PeaceRiverPicklers.com *Deadline is November 15, 2020*

We are all in this together and it's OUR CLUB! Volunteers are the only way we can continue to offer these great programs to our members. We are all needed to make our club great!



PRP Attendance Survey

The Membership Responds



Results from the survey

Given our current pandemic environment, on October 8th the board of directors asked the membership for feedback on the subjects of the yearly Christmas party and the annual membership meeting....and was pleased to receive over 220 responses. Survey results and our conclusions are as follows:

For the Christmas Party, we had a significant percentage (76%) say that, due to the Covid situation, they would not attend a Christmas Party. Therefore, we have decided to cancel the event this year. The additional two party questions resulted in almost a 50/50 split on the meal setting (buffet or served) and 65% indicating that they would not stay for dancing after dinner. This information will be included when we plan the next holiday party, and we thank you for your feedback!

For the Annual Membership meeting, it was almost a 50/50 split on attending or not, and a majority (70%) of the responses indicated that they would prefer an outdoor venue. Thus, the board has set the Annual Membership meeting for the afternoon of Sunday, January 10th, 2021. The specific time and location will follow.



The specific questions and results:

Would you be interested in attending a Membership Christmas Party? (December 13th):

Yes: 24.2% No: 75.8%

Would you prefer a Buffet or Served option?

Buffet: 47.3% Served: 52.7%

Would you stay and dance if there was a band?

Yes: 34.7% No: 65.3%

Would you want to attend the Annual Membership meeting? (sometime in January)

Yes: 51.4% No: 48.6%

What type of setting would you prefer?

Indoor: 10.5% Outdoor: 70.4% Facebook (online): 19.1%

Peace River Pickler Volunteers

Judy Robertson

Graphic Artist



Peace River Picklers has had the unique benefit of enjoying the services of graphic artist (now retired) Judy Robertson in the design of numerous banners for both PRP and Pickleplex®.....most recently, the below PRP banner installed at Pickleplex®.



As a member of Peace River Picklers and an avid pickleball player since 2012, Judy is also a Junior Assistant at Viking Pickleball working with coach Sarah Saari, a familiar figure to many PRP players. A former tennis and youth baseball coach, she is also a past national competitor in both tennis and softball.

While pickleball is a pleasant retirement activity for Judy, it is by no means her only form of enjoyment. In 2019, she won the Art Battle in Sarasota, a live painting competition where twelve featured artists create the best work they can in twenty minutes and spectators vote for their favorite. Her winning painting is shown below.

Peace River Picklers is fortunate to have had the volunteer services of Judy, who notes “I am happy to share my expertise with PRP. Its my way to give back to the pickleball community.”



Judy earned a BFA in Graphic Design and worked in the corporate world for 45 years, most recently with Boar's Head Brand...so you can see her work at most deli counters. A resident of Sarasota and mother of two, her husband Bruce also plays pickleball.

Judy's art can be seen at: www.judyrobertsonart.com



Getting Certified

A Great Way to Give Back and Learn More



The Peace River Picklers educational team is just finishing up with the first pickleball lessons in the COVID environment. With fewer people playing, sign up was not as brisk as in the last few years, however the classes ensued and many showed up to assist and learn. This year the format is slightly different, adding a new depth to the material that adds consistency and continuity to your game.

The undertaking was a two-fold approach: A “Train the Teacher” session, taught by certified coaches once a week, introduced the lesson to the volunteer teachers with the opportunity to gain knowledge on how to critique and coach. Then, later in the week, the volunteers assisted with the training.

The format taught everybody the same information, guiding the teachers in the same principles that the certifying agency has already vetted and approved. Uniformity of lessons and teaching skills will allow for a cohesive training program, and most likely many of the teachers will go on to get certified.

On Oct 20, the official education and certifying partner of the [USA Pickleball Association, Professional Pickleball Registry \(PPR\)](#), will hold a workshop in Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte. Professional Pickleball Registry was established in 2018 to educate, certify, and service those professionals teaching pickleball.

Another popular education source is the [International Pickleball Teaching Professional Association \(IPTPA\)](#). Like PPR, the IPTPA has specific standards and once you meet the criteria, you are certified. The next workshop for the IPTPA is Nov 15 in Coral Springs FL.

If you are interested, there are still a few openings for the PPR workshop on Oct 20th at Port Charlotte Park and for Oct 21st in Englewood at Boca Royale Golf & Country Club. If you are not ready now, the schedule for new sessions will be coming out soon for next year. Check out the websites below and talk to our members who have been certified.

USAPA Professional Pickleball Registry: <https://www.pprpickleball.org/>

Int'l Pickleball Teaching Professional Assoc: <https://iptpa.com/>



“Train the Teachers”
Coach Sarah Saari



Sarah Saari on the court

PRP “Train the Teachers” — Fall session wth Sarah Saari

"My personal teaching philosophy is to provide an inclusive and safe learning environment that promotes social engagement, builds competency, and provides opportunities for all PRP members to maximize their potential." Sarah Saari

Train the Teachers consists of 20 instructors-to-be who volunteered for the fall training session. At four weeks into it, the program seems an enormous success. With co-teacher Bob White and the teacher volunteers' dedication, Sarah considers that PRP is "so lucky to have both Bob and the 20 volunteer instructors on board."

The program has allowed the PRP coaching staff to maximize potential with teacher volunteers and class participants. With an educational background and experience teaching Pickleball, Sarah has the tools to help PRP build a robust education program. She points out that, "not everybody learns the same way, and if we can teach our volunteer instructors to adapt a lesson plan for each student, then every player will be set up for success." She also says, "I would like to add how impressed I am with the involvement of the PRP volunteers. They are fantastic and couldn't be a better group of people to work and teach".

When asked about any obstacles, Sarah points out that: Covid-19 has discouraged a few players/instructors from participating in large groups. However, she adds that, "we are taking precautionary measures for sanitization and social distancing. We will continue to put our players' safety first while providing a fun and safe learning environment."

Sarah Saari graduated in 2007 with a Bachelors's in Physical Education in her home state of Minnesota. She found a new passion when she found pickleball just a few years ago and fell in love with the sports' universal appeal and accessibility for all ages. Sarah is currently the Pro Instructor at Islandwalk in Venice, FL, and owns [Viking Pickleball](#), which offers pickleball lessons, camps, and clinics. A certified instructor through the International Pickleball Teaching Professional Association (IPTPA), she is also a 5.0 USAPA rated player, a member of Peace River Picklers and one of five instructors listed on the PRP website for private lessons. ([see the PRP webpage](#)) As a member, she has assisted in the development of the PRP educational program.

Sarah is motivated to stay involved as a player and instructor; feeling that "it helps promote lifelong wellness through physical fitness" and recommends that folks "get involved, stay fit, be happy". For the future, Sarah reports that "Viking Pickleball is growing exponentially. Our camps and clinics are in great demand, and I am excited to continue to grow my company".

With plans to continue touring the country and playing in various tournaments throughout the next year, she states that "I've been lucky enough to find great partners, both in Womens & Mixed Doubles, to be strong enough to compete in Pro Events. I am most proud of winning a bronze medal at the USA Pickleball Nationals in 2019 in Indian Wells, CA. I plan to continue to teach pickleball with PRP and through my own company, [Viking Pickleball](#)."

When not on the road coaching or playing, Sarah lives with her wife Karen Francis, who is "usually by my side either helping me teach or supporting me at tournaments. She has become a pretty good player herself, and most of my students love her even more than me, ha!" Sarah also keeps her eye out for Elvis, as she wishes that if anyone could return from the dead aside from relatives, it would be Elvis! She's quite a fan.

Thanks to Sarah for working so hard for Peace River Picklers, and we all wish you the best in your endeavors. And, thanks to all the teachers and coaches who volunteered this session.



A Message on PRP Leagues

From Bruce McPhee, Director of Leagues



Hi Picklers!

Now that we are into the fall, we have started another session of our Pickleball Leagues. Typically, we offer a limited number and types of leagues in the fall and provide more options when the snowbirds come to town (Winter and Spring).

This session has a majority of the leagues between the 3.0 and 3.5 skill set. The Club is offering leagues four days per week and utilizes several formats, which allow for varied interests. We are using three forms:

- The Round Robin (where each player will play each other player at least once);
- Shootout (players move up or down a court based on their match score);
- Ladder (each player gets a rating based on which court and how they did).

PRP is always looking to improve what we offer. In this session, we are using a new “formula” for moving people in-between matches. The verdict is still out as we are getting mixed reviews. So time will tell. However, the Club is pleased to be running a successful league at Burnt Store Marina.

Starting in the new year, we will be offering additional Novice and 2.5 and leagues planned for each day along with a couple new options in the evenings. The Club is investigating other courts' use to offer additional leagues, for example, Deep Creek Park. We will also be looking at differentiating the sessions as “competitive” or “recreational.” Whereas the competitive league would have a more robust vetting process to ensure the player skill level meets the criteria. The vetting would be verified through an assessment from PRP, PickleballTournaments.com, or USAPA rating, past history in PRP leagues.

With the expanding schedule of leagues starting in January, additional “League Leaders” are necessary to help keep each session moving along each week. We have a brief description on the PRP website where you sign up to be a volunteer. Please check it out.

Thank you for your support!

Bruce McPhee



NBA Bubble Pickleball

Pickleball a hit in the National Basketball Association “Bubble”

ESPN, USA Today, The Washington Post and other sources reported on the popularity of pickleball to fill the void in the NBA “bubble”, when games and practices weren’t taking place. The bubble was an isolation zone created by the National Basketball Association at Walt Disney World as a means of protecting its players from the Covid-19 pandemic during the final games of the regular season and the playoffs. Since all participating players and staff were restricted to the Disney campus, they were searching for activities to fill their spare time....and pickleball rose to the occasion.

Led by NBA Referee Crew Chief Scott Foster, who set up a pickleball court in one of the Disney courtyards, the sport grew to become the most popular spare time activity inside the bubble. And what began as a game played by referees evolved into a game played by team staffers, cameramen, announcers, photographers, security, NBA Association employees, reporters and TV analysts.

Referee Josh Tiven said “The pickleball battles that happened here inside the bubble will be talked about for probably the next 20 years”. Sounds a bit like some of the PRP league games played at South County Regional Park.

This is a link to a Fox Sports video interview with referee Scott Foster:

<https://www.foxsports.com/nba/video/1785459267860>

Peace River Picklers Member Achievement

On September 11-13, 2020, PRP member Ricky Deller participated in the Georgia Open Grand Slam Qualifier in Peachtree Corners, GA. Playing in the age group 35+, he won the gold medal in the mixed Doubles at 4.5 level with partner Mae Brown of Marco Island, FL, and with partner Matt Minardi of Mission Viejo, CA, he won the silver medal in the Men’s Doubles at 5.0 level.

Our congratulations to Ricky, a PRP member and coach, for a super accomplishment!



Professional Pickleball Player Rankings

**Note: Numerous groups rank the pros and all do not agree.
See the basis for rankings in the following two organizations.**

**Top pro rankings as listed by the Professional Pickleball Association as of 10/09/2020
Ranking based on player results in tournaments on the PPA Grand Slam Tour.**

Player	Points		Player	Points
Men's Singles			Women's Doubles	
Ben Johns	1000		Simone Jardim	1000
Tyson McGuffin	700		Lucy Kovalova	1000
Gabriel Joseph	600		Jessie Irvine	550
Women's Singles			Lindsey Newman	550
Michelle Esquivel	800		Mixed Doubles	
Irina Tereschenko	560		Simone Jardim	1000
Simone Jardim	500		Ben Johns	1000
Men's Doubles			Lucy Kovalova	700
Ben Johns	800		Matt Wright	700
Matt Wright	800		Jessie Irvine	460
Tyson McGuffin	800		Jeffrey Warnick	460
Riley Newman	800			

**Top Pro Rankings as listed by Pickleball Global as of 10/09/2020
Ranking based on the best 12 tournament results during the last 52 weeks.**

Player	Points		Player	Points
Men's Singles			Women's Doubles	
Ben Johns	9800		Simone Jardim	6850
Tyson McGuffin	7750		Lucy Kovalova	6400
Frank Davis	5250		Leigh Waters	4550
Women's Singles				
Simone Jardim	4200		Mixed Doubles	
Irina Tereschenko	4100		Simone Jardim	9500
Michelle Esquivel	3650		Ben Johns	7500
Men's Doubles			Lucy Kovalova	6850
Ben Johns	9250		Matt Wright	6500
Riley Newman	8250		Riley Newman	6200
Tyson McGuffin	8050		Lindsey Newman	5850



Peace River Picklers Member Recognition!

There are many processes within a club that have to be managed by the board, some more interesting than others! One of the “tasks” is to review the club’s liability insurance every few years. It didn’t sound like it would be very interesting, for the simple reason that insurance was not an area of expertise for us.

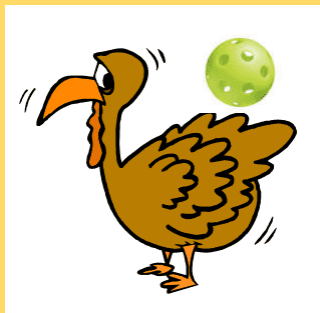
But we were very fortunate when **John Grossenbacher, CPCU**, one of our PRP members, volunteered to assist with this process. John brings a wealth of knowledge and many years of experience in the insurance industry.

John without hesitation jumped in to support us as we were trying to understand insurance requirements for our club. Insurance is one of those complicated and essential needs that requires a certain expertise/skillset. John not only brought all of those requirements, but he spent quality time reviewing numerous insurance quotes, simplifying and explaining different coverages & costs. He was then able to provide comprehensive information that gave the board the ability to make the best decision for our club. We could not have achieved obtaining the best coverage at the right price without his involvement.



We would like to send a huge **THANK YOU** to John! It was a pleasure working with him, and we are very grateful for his time & dedication to our club!

Peace River Picklers
Board of Directors



Pickler Playgrounds

Englewood, FL

Englewood Sports Complex	1300 S. River Rd, Englewood, FL 34223	941-681-3742
Tringali Park recreation Center	3460 N. Access Rd, Englewood, FL 34224	941-861-5000

Port Charlotte, FL

Centennial Park Rec. Center	1120 Centennial Blvd, Port Charlotte, FL 33953	941-613-3230
Harold Ave Reg. Park Rec. Center	23400 Harold Ave, Port Charlotte, FL 33980	941-627-1074
McGuire Park	21125 McGuire Ave, Port Charlotte, FL 33952	941-681-3742
Midway Park	23023 Midway Blvd, Port Charlotte, FL 33952	941-625-7529

Punta Gorda

Bissett Park	12455 Path Ave, Punta Gorda, FL 33950	941-681-3742
Gilchrist Park	400 W Retta Esplanade, Punta Gorda, FL 33950	
Pickleplex®@ FSW Campus	26300 Airport Rd, Punta Gorda, FL 33950	941-451-9923
South County Regional Park Rec Center	670 Cooper St, Punta Gorda, FL 33950	941-505-8686

Rotonda, FL

Rotonda Community Park	100 Rotonda Blvd, E Rotonda, FL 33947	941-681-3742
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Peace River Picklers Officers and Directors

President	Deb Sarkisian	debsarkisian@aol.com
Vice President	Jean McGee	jmmcgee@comcast.net
Secretary	Laurie Price	lauriep81@gmail.com
Treasurer	Heather Washik	hwashik@att.net

Directors

Doug Gammie	gammie72@msn.com
Bruce McPhee	bjmcphee@me.com
Mary Stewart	marytomstewart@gmail.com



Future Events

PRP Leagues PRP Skills & Drills @ South County Reg. Park	Sept 21-Oct 31, 2020
LevelUp Pickleball Camp (with Lisa and Wayne Dollard) @ Pickleplex® https://www.leveluppickleballcamps.com/florida	Oct 16-18, 2020
PRP Skill Assessment @ South County Reg. Park	Oct 31 & Nov 1, 2020
Halloween Hollow @ PicklePlex®	Oct 31-Nov 1, 2020
PRP Skill Assessment @ South County Reg. Park	Nov 8, 2020
Lucy Kitcher Pickleplex® Gamma Zero Zero Grand Slam	Nov 21-23, 2020
PRP Skill Assessment @ South County Reg. Park	Dec 5, 2020
Punta Gorda Pickleball Open @ PicklePlex®	Jan 6-10, 2021
AAU Outdoor Nationals Tournament @ Pickleplex®	Jan 29-31, 2021
2nd Annual Sweetheart Tournament @ Pickleplex®	Feb 12-14, 2021
Spring Fling @ Pickleplex®	Mar 19-21, 2021
For the full calendar of PRP events & details: https://www.peaceriverpicklers.com/ For Pickleplex® event details: https://www.pickleplex.org/	



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.



Upcoming Southwest Florida Pickleball Tournaments

2nd Annual The Hopen its Open at Pelican Sound....North Naples/Estero, FL 10/23-25/2020

6th Annual 3D Pickleball Turkey Classic....Babcock Ranch, FL 11/01-03/2020

American Pickleball Endless Summer Series....Fort Myers, FL 11/12-15/2020

Lucy Kitcher Gamma Sundial Championship....Sanibel, FL 01/16-18/2021

Winter Classic....Naples, FL 01/29-31/2021

6th Annual 3D Cupid Shootout....Babcock Ranch, FL 02/14-16/2021

Southern Tropics....Naples, FL 03/05-07/2021

Minto US Open Pickleball Championships....Naples, FL 04/17-24/2021

More info on these and other tournaments can be found at:

https://www.pickleballtournaments.com/pbt_main.pl