



The Pickle Vine

Volume 1, Issue 12
May 2019

MEET THE MEMBERS...

INTRODUCING **RICKY DELLER**



MAY Calendar

US OPEN Pickleball Championships, Naples, FL	Apr 28- May 5
 CINCO DE MAYO	May 5
 Mother's Day	May 12
 Memorial Day	May 27
Peace River Picklers Annual Tournament at PicklePlex® (MARK YOUR CALENDAR!)	Dec 6-8



It is a true honor for your editors to introduce Ricky Deller to you, although most of you know him—he is a constant presence on our courts. We believe that our membership is so much better when he is around, on the courts or participating in events. He is always there for us. He greets us all with his infamous and infectious smile, and a warm embrace, whether it be at Gilchrist Park, South County, or Burnt Store. In return, he sees the faces light up in his direction. He is genuine and generous, has been there for all of us when we lose our serve, need to sharpen our forehand or backhand, or soften our dinks. He is there when we risk losing our courts, or when we want to offer help to the local kids. But he's also a fierce competitor and has realized many medal wins in various tournaments. So while these editors regularly use Ricky's services to improve our games, we had the opportunity to sit and talk with

Ricky to get to know him just a little better, and we are happy to share that with you.

Ricky and his family came to the U.S. from Haiti while he was still in high school, arriving first in New Jersey for two years. His family then moved to NYC where they lived the next 10 years. Their move to Florida followed, where Ricky still remains with his Sister nearby, and his Mother in Jacksonville, but much of his family still resides in NYC. I recall a conversation with Ricky about his arrival in the U.S., realizing that his skin color dictated a division that was not so prevalent in his homeland of Haiti, where all people were dark-skinned. "We were all the same." But perhaps that helped him to develop a love for all people, to treat everyone equally and hear/see different perspectives. His faith also drives that notion. In his words, "Everything matters, but people matter more." His acceptance and love of others bring him a sense of peace.

Ricky's varied and diverse work in the U.S. includes working with autistic children at the Charlotte Behavior Health Center where he came to realize that we all have challenges in our lives, even perhaps a bit of autism. That realization helped him to better understand the challenges kids face as they find their way in the world. His work with Compass Center affords him time with young adults in crisis with hopes that he can make a difference in their lives, if only by planting a seed that they can create and have a better life.

Ricky has worked a variety of jobs in the area, but his most recent work is with Chuck Taylor, owner of "Your Pickleball Place," [home of The Quiet Sting and Quiet Thunder Pickleball Paddles]. This position affords Ricky the opportunity to improve on his game while helping to assess and provide valuable feedback to improve these awesome paddles. They are the favorite of many in our Pickleball Community.

(Continued on page 2)

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.

We welcome newsletter submissions, suggestions, comments.

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

Sue Meyer (suemeyer@umich.edu)



PRP HAPPENINGS!



CHARLOTTE COUNTY SENIOR GAMES (Fit for Life)

Pickleball was featured in the Senior Games "Fit for Life" on March 30 & 31 at South County Outdoor Courts. PRP was well represented and the games were a huge success from the perspective of the players and observers. Congratulations to all the PRP medal winners!!!

DIVISIONS	AGE GROUP	MEDAL	WINNERS
Women's Doubles	50-54	GOLD	Debra Pawlowski/Susan Tant
	60-64	SILVER	Melissa Eichmeyer/Rebecca Hodges
	60-64	BRONZE	Deb Sarkisian/Tambi Zaun
	65-69	GOLD	Gail Spires/Bonnie Rivers
	65-69	SILVER	Cynthia Morrell/Gloria Reilly
	70-74	GOLD	Lin Coe/Susan Croft
Men's Doubles	75-79	GOLD	Mike Carpino/Henry Halat
	Mixed Doubles	50-54	GOLD
55-59		GOLD	Rebecca Hodges/Steve Roforth
70-74		GOLD	Linda Coe/Peter Reilly
70-74		SILVER	Susan Croft/Nick Zacharuk
75-79		GOLD	Henry Halat/Sharlene Peter





CONGRATULATIONS, PRP PLAYERS!



**PRP MEDAL WINNERS
IN LOCAL TOURNAMENTS:**



1st Annual 3D Pickleball Shamrock Slam, Englewood Sports Complex—3/29/19—3/31/19

Bruce Suardini & Steve Walter won Silver in MD 3.0 50+
Gary Wilson & Kris Johanessen won Bronze in MD 4.5 50+

Gamma Sundial Grand Slam, Sanibel—4/4/19—4/7/19

Bert Peacher & Mike Welter won Gold in MD, 3.5 60+
Darryl Noble & Rick Colling won Gold in MD 4.5 60+
Darryl Noble & Rick Colling also won Gold in MD 4.5 8+
Bobbi Little & Darryl Noble won Gold in MXD 4.5 50+
Melody & Greg Woodsum won Bronze in MXD 4.0 60+
Bobbi Little & Darryl Noble won Bronze in MXD 4.5 & 5.0 60+
Gail Spires & Sandy Crouse won Bronze in WD 4.0 60+
Bobbi Little & Michelle Foster won Gold in WD 4.5 & 5.0 60+
Anita Waddell & Julie Heitman won Silver in WD 4.5 50+
Sarah Saari & Courtney Miles won Gold in WD 4.5 8+



Congratulations to you all for your accomplishments.



***GOOD LUCK TO ALL PRP PLAYERS AT THE
U.S. OPEN PICKLEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN NAPLES,
APRIL 28—MAY 5***

REMINDER:

Tournament information is not always readily available and your editors are not always able to access and report on all tournaments. We hope you will help us out by sending your tournament info if you would like it to appear in our PRP Newsletter! With close to 700 members, we are having difficulty keeping track of all the tournament winners!!!



PRP MOVERS AND SHAKERS



THREE GENERATIONS OF O'BRIENS



Granddaughter Lauren, Daughter Sandra and Grandmother Brenda have been playing together for two years and “loved it straight away, under the watchful eyes of Frances Gammie and Linda Coe,” so says Sandra. She goes on to describe the instructional classes and skills/drills, “we began to get the hang of it. We (Brenda/Sandra) are here year round and Lauren visits four times a year, and she always plays pickleball with us when she visits. It is a great sport for all ages, and it brings us all closer together.”

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHUCK TAYLOR!



Ricky Deller (working alongside Chuck at the shop), Su Chaplin, and Chuck Taylor with Su’s custom paddle #1,000.

“YOUR PICKLEBALL PLACE”, a pickleball paddle company based in Punta Gorda, celebrated the building of their 1,000th paddle this month. The company is owned and operated by local resident and pickleball player, **Chuck Taylor**. The lucky customer ordering #1,000 is member **Su Chaplan** from Punta Gorda. Chuck has been producing quality, customized pickleball paddles for six years. They are USAPA-approved and have become the paddle of choice for our pickleball community. Chuck spent a great deal of his career in product development, he was head of the Sharper Image’s product development for 15 years. As he learned the game of pickleball, trying out different paddles, he formulated a plan to create his own. In his workshop there are paddles made from carbon fiber, Kevlar carbon and S-glass, which is a stronger version of fiber glass. He says, “We make the faces first and they are all done under vacuum”. The faces are stiff, smooth and light, and then they are bonded to the core materials. Most of the paddles are made out of PolyCore. Members interested in more information go to the website: yourpickleballplace.com

PRP Members come to the aid of Ricky Deller for the Kids!

On Thursday, April 18th, several PRP members volunteered to assist Ricky Deller in bringing together the young adults from Punta Gorda’s Compass Center for an Easter Pickleball Day. The kids were transported to the South County Rec Center outdoor courts to have fun and play pickleball, interact with our members and enjoy lunch and treats together. Thanks to Ricky for allowing us to work alongside you and to all those who came to help. Thank you for your time, efforts and great treats!!

Special thanks to PRP members: Su Chaplin, Donna Denardo, Laurel Phillips, Sue & Mac Meyer, Ginny MacDonald, Pete Parsil and Brooke Minnich for bringing treats and playing pickleball with the kids.





FROM CANADA TO PUNTA GORDA TO AUSTRALIA!

Our Amazing Community Members Never Cease to Amaze!

Have you ever dreamed of going to Australia to play pickleball? How about teaching there to a bunch of very enthusiastic beginner players? Well, we found two couples who made this dream a reality! Two Canadian couples in our Club have tag-teamed this dream and we asked them to share their stories with us. Karen Wallace and Reg Dumont, of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada visited there in early 2018 and passed the baton later in 2018 to Steve and Diane Baulch, of Southampton, Ontario, Canada. We want to thank them profusely for the stories they submitted to the The Pickle Vine!

From **Karen Wallace and Reg Dumont**, of Saskatchewan, Canada, visit Punta Gorda in Winter:

We have been doing “home exchanges” for 20 something years. This has led to many interesting voyages and adventures to various countries on a few continents. In the Fall of 2018, we were asked to exchange our house in Punta Gorda with a couple living in Gold Coast Australia. We patiently searched the web for places to play pickleball in Australia. Very few clubs were listed. After arriving in Gold Coast, we found a “Seniors’ Tennis Club” that reluctantly admitted that they allowed pickleball.



Karen (in pink) helping newbies Down Under.

Upon arrival, the President of the club, Roxy, checked with us to see if we had ever played pickleball before. Very quickly, she was asking if we would teach pickleball at their club. She tried encouraging us by saying “We will pay you!” We were very clear that we did not want to be paid, but before we did any lessons, we would like to just play and see the level of players and IF we could help.

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Reg (in blue) demonstrating proper technique.

The first day was a lot of fun as Roxy, kept bringing a new set of people before us to play to “test out how they were doing”. Negotiations began in Aussie style; over a few too many drinks and a bottle of champagne, at their local club. Somehow we agreed to five separate lessons in the very style we had been teaching to Peace River Picklers. Several days for each level. It was the most fun I have had in a while. The former tennis players in each one of them came out. The enthusiasm and pure desire to learn and compete was wonderful to work with.

From **Steven and Diane Baulch** of Ontario, Canada, also spending Winters in Punta Gorda:

Our Pickleball journey began the winter of 2014/15, Diane and I were both retired and spent our first “snowbird season” in Port Charlotte/Punta Gorda area. We were looking for an activity that we could do together and had heard about Pickleball, so off we went to the South County Recreation Center where we were introduced to Frances Gammie! She proceeded to take us under her wing that first winter, and we met so many wonderful people that to this day remain our friends and that’s what inspires us to keep coming back to the sunny South! We often ask ourselves ‘what would we do without Pickleball’ and we have found that wherever we are, we seek opportunities to maintain our ‘healthy addiction’ and make friends across the world!



Diane and Steven in smart red shirts.

This takes us to the Fall of 2018, when our friends Reg and Karen shared their expertise and passion for Pickleball with the Gold Coast Pickleball Association.

Prior to Reg and Karen’s departure, the dynamic Executive members inquired about the possibility of finding other volunteers who would be willing to follow in their footsteps. Diane and I received the invitation and decided that we would embark on this new adventure. We connected with members of the GCPA, their warmth, kindness and desire to improve the level of play for their members prompted us to quickly firm up our travel plans!

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Diane and Steven with the Down-Under Club.

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FROM CANADA TO PUNTA GORDA TO AUSTRALIA!

(continued from page 8)

From Reg & Karen (continued from page 8):

We were repeatedly asked to stay in Gold Coast and play on our team against Brissy (Brisbane, their rival city). In the end we agreed to find someone to come to the Gold Coast to continue the lessons we had started. Steve and Diane answered the call. We are most grateful to them for following up. The opportunity is still there to connect with the Gold Coast and with other Australian clubs.



From Diane & Steven (continued from page 8):

Their generosity goes beyond words as for the duration our stay (10 wks.) they allowed us to stay in their amazing Holiday House and made us feel like we were family.

The Executive Committee arranged for a meet and greet the following day and it was wonderful to connect with such a welcoming group of individuals. No down time for us! We were on the courts to meet the players that evening and they were all anxious to partake in lessons. Diane and I were well prepared and had outlines and equipment ready for our first Pickleball 101 session that very weekend! The members were eager to learn, highly motivated and so thoughtful and considerate.

It was truly a pleasure to provide skill development, introduce game playing options such as round robin play, shoot out, challenge courts, league play as well as responding to questions that arose. We also offered private lessons for club members, as well as other interested parties from surrounding areas such as Brisbane and Mount Tamborine. We also had a number of requests to offer lessons in other areas, but had to decline due to time restraints.

It was wonderful to observe the positive changes that occurred during such a short period of time. The goal of increasing the level of play was clearly evident, the club programming expanded to include the various types of play and prior to our departure, a number of players were preparing for their 'first tournament'! All in all, a win – win experience for all of us! The GCPC is 'going places' and wouldn't it be great if one day they host the Nationals in Australia!

During the month of March, we did some travelling that took us to Sydney where we enjoyed exploring the various sites such as the Opera House, Botanical Gardens, Hyde Park and much more. Our week in Tasmania was filled with amazing panoramic vistas, hikes and lovely people. We spent 4 magical days on Lady Elliot Island, an Eco Reserve on the Southern Barrier Reef. Seeing the coral reefs up close with its countless inhabitants of every colour was breathtaking. Swimming with the sharks, eagle and manta rays, parrot fish...was truly a dream come true. that allowed us to explore and discover Queensland and New South Whales. The GCPC members readily shared and at times accompanied us as we discovered made sure that we took time to discover and explore their beautiful country. We fell in love with the coastline, the climate, the scenery, the history and most of all, the people.

Our time in Australia came to an end on March 29th and we will forever be grateful for this incredible opportunity that came to fruition as a result of Pickleball.

THANKS TO ALL FOUR OF YOU FOR YOUR SUBMISSION

NEWS FLASH!

We have working lights AND asphalt on the new PicklePlex® courts!!! To celebrate this milestone, a very impromptu lighting of the courts celebration was quickly organized for Thursday, April 25 at 8 p.m. for interested members of the pickleball community. We are all so proud of the work that has been done by the PicklePlex® Team over the last several years, and especially this year, to make this dream a reality. The pickleball community enthusiastically answered pleas of help when hard labor was needed to keep the effort moving forward in a timely way. Enjoy a few pictures from the event to get your heart pumping!!! Well done!!!



WHAT ELSE HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED? With the help of many donors, other items have been purchased/ordered: Bleachers, picnic tables, water mister, bike rack, trash receptacles, water fountain and brick pavers that will set a beautiful stage for this facility. After the asphalt cures, a leveling compound will be added to fill in the low spots that hold water. Then two coats of sealer are added, then 2 coats of paint, and then the lines, not forgetting the net posts and fenceposts that go between each court.



So... now that you see it... and that it's really happening... you want in on it, right? There are still so many ways you can take part in this incredible effort. We are looking for sponsors for the remaining four courts and one shed, an incredible opportunity for an individual or business/organization. If you are interested or can lead us to any possibilities, please contact sue@PicklePlex.org

ANNOUNCING....

A NEW VOLUNTEER FOR A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE:

Welcome Joanne Parker

Tournament Director, *Dave Fox*, is pleased that *Joanne Parker* has volunteered to assist him as Team Tournament Coordinator for the many tournament activities that will be necessary over the coming year. She will coordinate the groups of volunteers for tournaments and will make sure that all tasks are assigned and can be carried. The success of this team, which is shaping up quite nicely, will be key to the financial success of our complex. If you are interested in working together with Joanne, please contact her at :

joanneharker@icloud.com

Thank you, Joanne!



WE ARE LOOKING FOR IDEAS ON OPEN PLAY COURT ROTATION: We will be experimenting with how we will rotate players onto our new courts during open play. We invite your ideas so that we can try different approaches that make our courts THE place to play.. Please send an e-mail to info@pickleplex.org

UPCOMING PICKLEPLEX® EVENTS

- ◆ **June 23, 2019** "American Made" event (tentative)
- ◆ **June 28-30, 2019** PicklePlex® Summer Sizzler Competition. For info go to pickleballtournaments.com
- ◆ **July, 2019** Guns & Hoses (Police vs. Firefighters) Charity Event
- ◆ **July 20-21, 2019** Lucy Kitcher, Zero Zero Tournament
- ◆ **August 17, 2019** Pickleball Triathlon
- ◆ **September 14-15, 2019:** PicklePlex® Tournament
- ◆ **October 25-27, 2019:** PicklePlex® Tournament
- ◆ **November 23-26, 2019:** Lucy Kitcher, Zero Zero Tournament
- ◆ **December 6-8, 2019:** Peace River Picklers Annual Tournament
- ◆ **January 2-5, 2020:** AAU National Tournament
- ◆ **January 10-13, 2020:** [PicklePlex® "Grand Opening" Tournament](#)
- ◆ **February 7-9, 2020:** PicklePlex® Tournament

Mark your calendars, details will follow in future newsletters

If you would be interested in volunteering to assist the Tournament Team, please contact **Joanne Parker**, Team Tournament Coordinator. joannehparker@icloud.com

GOING TO THE U.S. Open Pickleball Championships in Naples? Show your love your PicklePlex® facility by wearing your shirts, hats, visors, all your gear! We are becoming very visible locally and state-wide and we want to show that we have dreamed the dream and will soon be living it.

PAVER PURCHASE CONTINUES FOR PLAYERS AND COMMUNITY!

Still Time to Have Your Name Carved on the Path Leading Up to the Courts!

Since the release of this fundraising effort a couple of months ago, paver purchase is proving to be a huge success and there is still time for you to participate. These pavers will help to beautify the paths that surround PicklePlex® and will add a personal touch as well. You can participate by cutting/pasting this link into your browser that will take you to their website where you can fill in a form to add your engraved message.

<https://polarengraving.com/pickleplexofpuntaorda>

