



The Pickle Vine

Volume 2, Issue 6
Mar/Apr 2020



Mar/Apr

MEET THE MEMBERS...

Daylight Savings Time Begins	Mar 8
St. Patrick's Day	Mar 17
PicklePlex® Spring Fling Tournament	Apr 3-5
HAPPY PASSOVER	Apr 8
EASTER	Apr 12
U.S. Open in Naples	Apr 18-25

In this Pickle Vine issue, we will focus on two local clubs that are actively involved in both PRP and Pickleplex® events and volunteer work. We are so fortunate to have these two clubs give their time and talents to help promote our favorite sport. Learn about the great things these clubs are doing both at Pickleplex® and in their communities to shine the light on pickleball.

Submitted by Katie Gove

Did you know that besides PRP, other pickleball clubs volunteered almost 40 people, totaling 144 volunteer hours during the World Pickleball Championship and the Grand Opening Tournament?

Burnt Store Marina and Maple Leaf Pickleball Clubs actively support the pickleball community by putting their paddles down to volunteer for PRP and PicklePlex®. The BSM Club is part of the Burnt Store Marina Community in Punta Gorda. They have eight brand new courts, offering open play every morning; ladies' and men's open time, free introductory lessons, structured lessons from Club Pro Ricky Deller and a variety of social tournaments that encompass all levels of play.



Burnt Store Marina Pickleball Club

The MLPC Club from Maple Leaf Golf and Country Club in Port Charlotte boasts a membership of almost 200. The Club has outgrown the 2 courts built 3 years ago and is now in the process of designing and fundraising for 4 more courts. MLPC also has both open and structured play, including men's, ladies' and mixed ladders, instruction, and social tournaments.



Maple Leaf Pickleball Club

Both Maple Leaf and Burnt Store Marina Clubs are making significant efforts to offer a lending hand to the larger Pickleball Community and having fun in the process! The Maple Leaf Club sent 18 members to volunteer in both the WPC and Grand Opening Tournaments which included drying off the courts due to rainy weather! BSM members volunteered as court monitors and runners and worked the VIP tent, volunteer tent, and ticket sales table.

Suzanne Smith, a member of BSM, says, "We can always be counted on to offer at least 4 members volunteering at every PicklePlex® Tournament." Suzanne says it all when she points out that, "BSM pickleballers, like all clubs, are passionate about the game and are dedicated to supporting each other and the sport within the community and beyond."

A special thanks to these great clubs for their dedicated and consistent volunteer work!

Any group, club, team or association that would like to volunteer for Peace River Picklers or PicklePlex®, check out their web sites!

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 (sue Meyer@umich.edu)



PRP/PICKLEPLEX® COMMUNITY PAGE



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED PRP BOARD MEMBERS!!!

In case you missed the voting results...here is your new Board!

President: Deb Sarkisian **Vice President:** Jean McGee **Secretary:** Laurie Price

Treasurer: Andrea Gately **Directors:** Doug Gammie, Bruce McPhee, Mary Stewart



Fishing and Pickleball Meet on the Radio!!!



Recently, I found out that two of my pickleball buddies, Donna Sullivan and Kitty Cayo who are also PRP members and volunteers, have been broadcasting a pickleball talk radio show. How exciting is that! Now, we want to spread the word so that all PRP members can enjoy the show! Read below to see how it all got started.

Frank Hommema, owner of Fishin' Frank's Bait & Tackle Shop in Port Charlotte, has been helping people find and catch fish for over 30 years. He set up a small radio studio on his property and began recording a variety of fishing radio shows. The pickleball "buzz" was first put in his ear by some of his loyal fishing customers who enjoyed the game. Curious about this popular game and why his customers were so passionate about it, Frank began reaching out to see if anyone was interested in doing a pickleball chat on his show. Donna Sullivan heard about his interest and called her friend Kitty Cayo (who had broadcasting experience) to tell her about it. Both ladies met with Frank and the rest, as they say, is history. Frank was impressed with their knowledge and ease of speaking and began producing the show in Oct 2019. Later, he handed over the production to an employee, Alex Benard. At first, these recordings were only available on Fishin' Frank's web site, but recently, Frank and Alex convinced Northport channel WKDW radio 97.5 to give them a time slot to air some shows. After growing to 900 listeners without any promo, their pickleball chat show is aired at 11:00 on Wednesday mornings.

Donna and Kitty first began their talk show explaining the game of pickleball and its terminology and history. They now focus on specific topics and are happy to host guests speakers like Dave Fox and Ricky Deller. So, if you haven't already listened in, be sure to turn your radio dial to 97.5 on Wednesday mornings or you can catch up on some past broadcasts by going to Fishin' Frank's web site. These ladies are doing a great job of spreading the love for pickleball and it's just plain fun to listen to them chat up our sport! Way to go, Donna and Kitty! See you on the courts or maybe our favorite martini hang out!





WINTER SKILLS and DRILLS And INSTRUCTIONAL CLASSES

PRP'S NEW EDUCATION PROGRAM

In December 2019, a plan was presented to PRP's Board by the Education Team for a more organized pickleball education program that included "Beginning Pickleball" as well as skills/drills for various levels of players. The Board approved, the program was announced in an e-mail to members, and all sessions were quickly filled. We were quite overwhelmed by the response.

Most of those first sessions are still going on as we plan ahead for our next rotation of offerings. We are trying our best to offer as many classes as we can, but you can understand the limited resources of court availability and volunteer instructors/coaches.



We are planning to expand a bit, and do our best to offer what players are telling us they are looking for. We think you will be able to find the right class for you and you get registered before they fill up. Our advice to you... decide what you need, check the league offerings to avoid conflict in your schedule, and sign up accordingly, but swiftly. Because most of these sessions "build" from one class to the next, we encourage you to attend all sessions. We do not substitute players in Skills and Drills or in our Beginning Pickleball classes.



January PB 102 "Beginning Pickleball"
Lead Instructor: Sue Meyer with
Coaches Mac Meyer, Louise Bouck,
Karen Harrod



PB 103: Skills & Drills, Monday Night.
Lead Instructor: Doug MacDonald with
Coaches Susan Barnhart, Joanne Hace,
Karen Harrod, Renee Jackson



February PB 102 "Beginning Pickleball" Lead Instructor: Ginny MacDonald with Coaches Renee Jackson, Louise Bouck, Mark Wesaw and Lin Coe



PB 106 Skills & Drills, Wednesday afternoon.
Lead Instructors: Gloria & Pete Reilly with
Coaches Steve Schaab, Barbie Bosch, Lin Coe,
Mark Wesaw



Not pictured:

PB 105: Skills & Drills, Monday morning. Lead Instructor: Kathy Ross with Coaches Laurie Price, Sue Meyer, and Katie Gove



PB 104: Skills & Drills, Tues mornings. Lead Instructor: Mark Wesaw with Coaches John & Joanne Hace, Brooke Minnich, Pete Parsil, Lin Coe



WINTER LEAGUES



Monday Mixed Ladder 3.5/4.0,
Leader: Brad Barnes



Monday Evening 3.0 League,
Leader: Gabby Thompson



Tuesday Mixed 65+ 3.0+ League,
Leader: Curt Crosser



Tuesday Mixed 65+ League 2.5-3.0, Leader:
Susan Barnhart



Wednesday Women 3.5+ league, Leader: Lin Coe



Wednesday Mixed Novice Round
Robin, Leader: Jane Warren



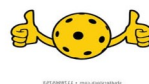
Saturday Mixed 2.5/3.0 League,
Leader: Carol Sahovey



Wednesday Mixed Ladder 2.5/3.0
Leader: John Moore



Friday morning Women's 3.5 League,
Leader: Brooke Minnich



Friday Men's 3.5 League, Leader Kim Brotzman



WINTER LEAGUES (continued)



Saturday 3.0-3.5 Mixed League,
Leader: Mary Ann Gilroy



Tuesday night Mixed 4.0+ League, Leader:
Deb Sarkisian



Thursday Women's Novice League,
Leader: Denise Macisaac



Thursday Women's 3.0 League
Leader: Renee Jackson



Thursday Men's 3.0 League, Leader:
Mike Jackson

Not pictured:

Wednesday Advanced League
4.0+ Leader: Gary Wilson

Thursday Advanced League,
4.0+, Leader: Melissa Schaffer

Special thanks to our PRP Director of Leagues, Bruce McPhee, for all the time and work he puts in-
to the organizing and running of our awesome leagues! Something is offered for everyone!!!
Also, thanks to the many PRP members who have stepped up to the plate to be league leaders!!!



Congratulations to the Champions of the Winter Round Robin Leagues! The PRP Board is awarding each of these winners with a league credit!

Women's 3.0– Karen Kelleher	Women's 3.5– Kay Shanley
Men's 3.0– Bill Hodges and Ed Kelleher (tie)	Men's 3.5– Rick Sullivan





PRP Tournament Medalists

2020 AAU Outdoor Nationals Pickleball Championships

Men's Singles

3.0 35+

Silver: Jon Ralph

3.0 65+

Bronze: Richard Daniel

3.5 60+

Gold: Tony Mateus

4.0 50+

Gold: Bruce McPhee

Women's Doubles

3.5 35+

Silver: Julie David

4.0 3.5

Gold: Susie Ruettimann

4.0 60+

Silver: Annie Sweeney, Cindy Schiffer

Men's Doubles

3.5 35+

Bronze: Rob Jamos, Tony Mateus

4.0 35+

Gold: Mark Hilliard, Gary Wilson

Silver: Jon Ralph, Bruce McPhee

Bronze: Thomas Sweeney, Mike Schiffer

Women's Singles

3.0 50+

Gold: Karen McCormack

Silver: Petra Hinterschied

3.5 60+

Bronze: Sherron Smith

Mixed Doubles

3.5 60+

Gold: Paula Rockwell, Jon Ralph

Silver: Sheryl Brunken, Tony Mateus

Bronze: Brad Barnes

3.5 70+

Silver: Julie Davis

Bronze: Bonnie Stade

4.0 35+

Silver: Mark Hilliard

4.0 60+

Gold: Debbie Smith

Silver: Sheila Moffatt

Players.... It is important that you list your club as Peace River Picklers when you register for tournaments. As you know, only PRP members are listed in The Pickle Vine Tournament Winners' pages and if you have not identified yourself as a PRP member, chances are you may be overlooked. We would hate for that to happen!



THANK YOU!



Tournament News!

ROB JAMROS—As a sincere apology to our very active and absolutely fun member from Burnt Store Marina, who we routinely left off of our list of tournament winners, we are dedicating a space to you! We proudly announce (finally!) your awesome accomplishments. Congratulations on your wins and keep that ball a hoppin'! We love you, Rob!!!



Haunted Halloween Tournament: Men's doubles 3.5 55+, Gold to Rob and partner Dennis Frank

Mixed doubles 3.5 50+, Bronze with partner Barb Jamros

<<———**Lucy Kitcher Gamma Tournament:** Men's doubles 3.5 19+, Gold with partner Jonathan Ralph

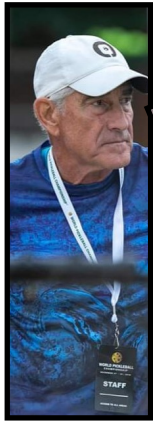
Mixed doubles 3.5 19+, Gold with partner JJ Gebhart.



THE WORLD COMES TO PICKLEPLEX®

The World Global Pickleball Championships took place at PicklePlex® between Christmas and New Year's and while it was a fabulous event, it tested all our skills and resources to make it work. But we persevered and the event was seen world-wide on social media with us in the spotlight! Even during the rain delay, our stars shined! And while we saw our many favorite pickleball stars play some awesome matches, we wanted to feature a few of our local stars from PRP and PicklePlex® that helped make it happen. And... mind you, this is just a very few of those stars.

We love our volunteers!!!



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PicklePlex® Expresses Their Gratitude!!!

On Sunday, January 26th, Volunteer pickleball players from PRP were treated to a fun-filled bash at the Women's Club of Punta Gorda. Complete with a DJ, dancing, and lunch, we were treated like kings & queens! This awesome event was planned by Stephanie Long and Donna Sullivan and those two sure know how to make you feel special. Both ladies should consider careers as event planners!

Submitted by Stephanie Long

PicklePlex® celebrated the commitment, dedication, and hard work of its volunteers and donors by throwing an appreciation party! Fun was had by all at the Women's Club of Punta Gorda. Ted Kegeris, President of PicklePlex®, thanked everyone involved in making PicklePlex® what it is today and looks forward to the future of our amazing complex. We said good-bye to outgoing Board member, Dave Fox, and welcomed new Board members, Gary Wilson and John Gilroy. Good food, fun games, and dancing to the sounds of Steve Willard made for a most enjoyable night! The PicklePlex® Board hopes that this will become an annual event!



Another Awesome Mentor/Volunteer Session!!!

On Sunday, February 16th, the first Mentor/Volunteer session of the New Year took place on the PicklePlex® courts. For the mentors, it's their way of "giving back" to the sport they love and showing their appreciation for all PRP's dedicated volunteers. For the volunteers, it's a wonderful learning experience to get to play with higher level players! Enjoy the pics and comments below!

Eye on the ball...place it down the middle



Talk to and move with your partner!

Greatest session today!

Great coaches...no problem finding areas I can improve on!



Relax and have a good time!





PRP SOCIAL NEWS



A fun time was had on Valentine's Day at the Cooper Street courts as PRP members gathered for a pot-luck luncheon and of course some pickleball. Our Board members were introduced and each had positive remarks to make about some of the changes being made to make our Club thrive and meet the needs of its growing membership. Susan McKittrick announced that this will be her last event as head of the Social Committee and wishes the best to the new Social Committee members. It is so sad to see Susan leave this position because of her warm, enthusiastic personality, but she sure has done her share of work over the last couple of years and we THANK her for her commitment and high-energy level! That goes for Frances Gammie too! As Susan said, they worked as a team, planning our fun-filled social events. Everyone who knows Frances, knows the many hats she wears to spread the love of pickleball. Thanks again, ladies, for doing such a bang up job bringing us all together to eat, drink, and be merry!





Miscellaneous Announcements



HAPPY EASTER



NEW EDITORS FOR THE PICKLE VINE!

Your Pickle Vine editors have decided to pass the baton to a new team on July 1. We believe it is good for the Club to have new perspectives and ideas and would like to volunteer our time in different areas of PRP work. We will continue to develop the newsletter for May/June and then step down. We would like to thank our readers for their support of our launching of the Pickle Vine, their contributions and many compliments.

Please welcome Jack Laflamme, Maureen Blanton and Katie Gove as your new Pickle Vine Editors!!!!



CELEBRATE...

March 17th— St. Patrick's Day

March 19th— First Day of Spring

April 8th— The Start of Passover

April 12th— Easter Sunday

April 22nd— Earth Day



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. Also, be sure to check your SPAM folder or adjust your e-mail settings if needed.

peacriverpicklers@pb04.ascendbywix.com

peacriverpicklers@pb04.wixshoutout.com

peacriverpicklers@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

Recreation Center at Centennial Park, 1120 O'Donnell Blvd

In Englewood:

Tringali Sports Center, 3460 N. Access Road

Englewood Sports Complex, 1300 S River Road



PRP is looking for a new Facebook page administrator! If you enjoy posting to Facebook and are willing to volunteer to help our club with this endeavor, please contact Deb Sarkisian at: debsarkisian@aol.com





Spring into Spring at the PicklePlex®

April 3-5, 2020

26300 Airport Road

Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Registration Fee: \$40, plus \$10 for each event

Friday Over 60 Men and Women's Doubles

Saturday Mixed Doubles (All Ages)

Sunday Men and Women's Doubles (All Ages)

Check in at 7:30 am

LEVELS 2.5 3.0 3.5 4.0 4.5 5.0

Age Divisions: 12-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80 plus

- *Ages and levels may be combined if less than 4 teams*
- Format will be determined by the number of teams in each division.

Deadline: March 28, 2020, must be paid by deadline to participate

Ball: Dura Fast 40

Go to Pickleballtournaments.com to register



Find PicklePlex® on Facebook!!! Go to facebook and search for : PicklePlex of Punta Gorda at FSW

Join and you will see all posts.

PICKLEPLEX GRAND OPENING TOURNAMENT PRODUCES WINNERS AND INSTILLS PRIDE!

The PicklePlex[®] Grand Opening tournament was a huge success, drawing in 442 players, of which 282 were PRP members (way to go, PRP!). There were 356 in-state players, 91 from out-of-state. The top 4 represented Clubs were: Peace River Picklers, First State Pickleball Club, Bonita Bay Pickleball Club, Burnt Store Marina Pickleballers. The age range of our competitors was 13-80+, showing once again that PICKLEBALL is a life-long sport. 16 players were under age 19, while the majority of players were in the 60-65 age range (250). Mixed doubles was definitely the most popular, with over 254 players in 27 brackets. But our men's and women's brackets were equally impressive: 201 men played in 17 brackets and 156 women in 17 brackets. All in all, it was a fun and successful event and laughter was heard throughout the weekend as hard-fought games were played. Huge KUDOs to the Tournament organizers for their well-run event and especially to all the VOLUNTEERS who worked tirelessly to make it all happen. You all make us very proud of our venue. Here are a very few of our favorite winners!!!



PicklePlex[®] Grand Opening PRP Member Medalists

Men's Doubles

3.0 60+

Bronze: David Brotzman

3.0 70+

Gold: Joe Stewart, Doug MacDonald

Silver: Ralph Hagman

Bronze: Mac Meyer, Mike Jackson

4.0 Under 60

Bronze: Gary Wilson

4.0 60+

Gold: Jonathan Ralph, Bruce McPhee

Silver: Steve Willard, Peter Maher

4.5 Under 60

Silver: Blake Wilson

4.5 60+

Silver: Gary Zepnick

4.5-5.0 Under 60

Gold: Andrew Hurley, Ricky Deller

Silver: Kris Johanessen

Women's Doubles

2.5 60+

Silver: Leslye Gariepy, Barbora Panhuise

3.0 60-64

Gold: Diane Bonnstetter, Beth Ferns

Silver: Kay Shanley, Susan Barnhart

Bronze: Barbara Mills, Lorraine Mushacke

3.0 65-69

Silver: Sue Meyer, Ginny MacDonald

Bronze: Mary Olsen, Susan Sitzberger

3.5 60+

Silver: Su Chaplin, Donna Wilson

4.5 Under 60

Silver: Debra Pawlowski, Susan Tant

Bronze: Susan Nelson, Deb Sarkisian

4.5 60+

Gold: Charlene Otteni, Deb Sarkisian

Bronze: Susan Nelson



PicklePlex® Grand Opening Tournament PRP Member Medalists (cont.)

Mixed Doubles

3.0 19+

Silver: Joe Cripe

3.0 60+

Silver: Susan Sitzberger

Bronze: Ginny MacDonald, Doug MacDonald

3.5 60-64

Gold: Paula Rockwell, Jon Ralph

Silver: Sheryle Brunken, Tony Mateus

3.5 65-69

Silver: Su Chaplin

3.5 70-79

Bronze: Joanne Hace, John Hace

3.5 70+

Gold: Sue Croft

4.0 60-64

Gold: Melody Woodsum

4.0 65-79

Silver: Donna Wilson, Gary Wilson



PicklePlex® Sweetheart Tournament

Men's Doubles

3.0 60+

Silver: Jim Saracino

3.0 70+

Gold: Mac Meyer

3.5 Under 60

Silver: Rob Jamos, Davis Allenick

3.5 60+

Gold: Randy Becker

Silver: Tony Mateus

3.5 65+

Silver: Gabe Gablehouse, Bill Terhune

Bronze: Larry Ferns, Jay Knupp

3.5 70+

Bronze: Jack Laflamme

4.0 19+ Under 60

Silver: Thomas Sweeney

Bronze: Mark Mangune

4.0 50+ Under 60

Bronze: Steve Roforth, Bob Lambardo

4.0 60+

Gold: Jon Ralph, Bruce McPhee

Bronze: Tom Van Wingen

Women's Doubles

3.0 60+

Gold: Anne Mccolgan

Bronze: Sue Meyer, Ginny MacDonald

3.5 Under 60

Silver: Sally Hussey, Liz Croft

3.5 60+

Gold: Cathy Carlton, Paula Byrnes

4.0 Under 60

Gold: Mac Moody

Bronze: Lora Ash, Renee Barkman

4.0 60+

Gold: Melissa Shaffer, Ritzy Hodges

Silver: Sheryl Brunken, Annie Sweeney

4.5 Under 60

Gold: Carrie Palmer, Debbie Smith

Bronze: Lisa Wehr

Mixed Doubles

3.0 50+

Bronze: Sue Meyer, Mac Meyer

3.5 50+

Gold: Myrna Speas

Bronze: Karen McCormack

3.5 60+

Gold: Sheryl Brunken, Tony Mateus

4.0 35+

Gold: Mac Moody, Bruce McPhee

Silver: Mark Mangune

4.0 55+

Silver: Ritzy Hodges, Steve Roforth

4.0 60+

Silver: Paula Rockwell, Jon Ralph



CONGRATULATIONS TO PicklePlex® BOARD MEMBERS!!!

As Dave Fox steps down from his many accomplishments on the Board of Directors, John Gilroy and Gary Wilson are added members. Many thanks to Dave and welcome aboard, John & Gary!

OTHER HAPPENINGS AT PicklePlex®

A number of other events took place at PicklePlex® the last couple of months and were very successful endeavors. These are private events planned by pickleball-related businesses renting our courts. This income helps us to pay the bills (lights, water, sewage, lawn mowing, etc.). It is also good for players, providing a variety of activities for people nearby and far-away. And finally, we have data that show the increased boost to the local economy through hotel stays, restaurants, etc. Those events include the following:

Suncoast Camp—a 3-day camp Jan 28-30 for 32 campers, organized by Coach Russell. Many picked this camp as a destination vacation that would include pickleball. Others drove from as far as Bradenton and Naples, and a few were local residents. More than half stayed in nearby hotels. A nice little bonus for Punta Gorda! Pro Players **Scott Tingley, John Sperling, David Duncan, and Barry Waddell** coached players in the many shots and strategies of the game, all delivered very professionally. The reviews of the Camp were excellent. For future opportunities, go to their website at suncoastcamps.com

LevelUp Camps—two 3-day back-to-back camps provided 64 campers with some new skills from the LevelUp team. The camps were held on Feb 18-20 (for 3.0-3.5) and Feb 21-23 (for their first 4.0-4.5) both led by **Tyson McGuffin, and assisted by pro-coaches Andrei Daescu, Kyle MacKenzie, and David Seckel**. Again, a high percentage of Campers were in hotels and traveled from afar for this destination vacation, and campers were all very complementary. For future opportunities, go to their website at levelupcamps.com

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS—This activity was borne by our own PicklePlex® players over the Summer as an opportunity for people to gather together and play and socialize under the fabulous lights in a timed round-robin format. This event is so well-received that it has continued weekly when tournaments are not scheduled. All courts are used, a \$3/pp is collected, and the group is divided into two skill levels. Sign-in, get a number and that defines where you play each 12-minute game. All players come off the courts after the buzzer, and a new roster is posted for the next 12 minute game. It is quite fun and everyone has a good time getting to know one another. For more information, show up at 6pm to sign-in for 7pm play.

PRP Skills & Drills and Beginner Classes—4 to 6 of our courts are rented on the back side of our venue for periodic classes offered by Peace River Picklers during times when the courts are less busy. The ever-popular Skills & Drills classes are offered by skill level, allowing players a structured means to learn and practice. Our 3-day “Beginner classes” also offered new players an opportunity to learn the rules, how to score, and the various shots in the game. For more information on our entire education program go to peaceriver-picklers.com