



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.



Calendar

Celebration of Life	Wed 9/5
Tom Stewart (see p 5)	5-8 pm
Beginners' Class, South County Rec, Indoor courts (see p 6)	Thurs 9/13 11- 12:45
Intracoastal Cleanup Day (see p 5)	Sept 15
Monday evening Mixed Drills So County Rec, Out- door courts (see p 6)	Starts Sept 10
Wednesday morning Ladies drills (see p 6)	Starts Sept 12, 9 am—11
Fundraiser for PRP Christmas Party @ Visani's (see p 5)	Oct 3 8 pm show
Poker Run Fundraiser for PicklePlex (see p 7)	Nov 10 8:30 am check-in
AAU National Out- door Pickleball Cham- pionships (see p 10)	Nov 28- Dec 2
PRP Christmas Party, more to follow (see p 5)	Dec 16

The Pickle Vine

Volume 1,
Issue 4
September

AND THE WINNER IS.....

Congratulations Joanne Hace!!! Joanne and her husband John, hail from Chaska, Minnesota, home of the 2017 Ryder Cup at Hazeltine Golf Club. While in Florida, Joanne and John reside in the Deep Creek area. Most of their playing time is at the Gilchrist courts, though they have participated in drills and leagues as PRP members. They have been PRP members since 2015, believing in the importance of supporting local community organizations. They are parents of three sons and have six grandchildren. We want to thank all members who submitted entries to our contest...so many fun and creative ideas. There were quite a few "repeats", so we chose our winner by entry date and Joanne was the first to send in "The Pickle Vine".



Our winner...Joanne Hace with husband John!

MEET OUR MEMBERS...

*This month, we are proud to feature our **Club's President, Joel Shaffer**. Joel was instrumental in both forming the Peace River Picklers and establishing dedicated pickleball courts at Gilchrist Park. He and his wife Melissa are avid pickleball players and continue to be strong forces in the promotion of the sport, especially in their work toward PicklePlex. Read on to learn more about Joel and the history of our club!*

Introducing Joel Shaffer

Growing up in Michigan, I learned that I wanted to move to warmer weather. I had great opportunities during my working years, as I owned restaurants and was a district manager for food service companies around the country. All those places I traveled to were never far enough south! So, my wife Melissa and I spent time in Florida and realized that this is where we wanted to settle. I guess we didn't realize how big Florida actually was, as it took us five years to find the perfect spot to retire. You see... I found an article about Port Charlotte, being a top place to retire. In 2011, after one visit, we quickly moved before the first snowfall hit St. Louis, Missouri, where we were living at the time.

I have tried different activities, including being a lead singer for a group called the "Exits", but my favorite pastime has been sports. I had the opportunity to play semi-pro football in my younger years and being a sports junkie,



I have been involved in multi-sport activities, including golf, tennis, and racquetball.

After Melissa and I settled in Port Charlotte, we started looking for a fun sport that we could play together. Our requirements were to have a fun way to exercise, while enjoying some socialization. We had heard about pickleball from friends, so we found ourselves knocking on the door of South County Rec Center to learn the sport. Frances took us under her wing and we

(Continued on Page 2.)



MEET OUR MEMBERS

JOEL SHAFFER

(continued from Page 1)

...were addicted! I soon learned that pickleball was more than a great way to exercise, as we quickly got involved in tournaments and creating friendships that stretch beyond the courts.

As we got more involved with pickleball, we became part of a group trying to create a Club and build the first outdoor courts at Gilchrist. A group of fellow Picklers built nets that are still being used at South County today. We became hooked on playing outside, no matter how hot.

We had plenty of struggles as we faced many tennis players and citizens who did not understand the game and the potential it was to bring. One night, tennis players poured oil on all the Gilchrist courts to chase us away. The fire department was not happy about cleaning up the courts—twice! We did not let this deter our efforts, but it just made us more committed to build a strong club. Power in numbers!

Peace River Picklers was born with 11 members, starting our journey of making Punta Gorda the place to play pickleball. When I was asked to be PRP's President, I knew I wanted to be part of the growth of this sport in our community. I have seen our club grow gradually to almost 700 members, holding annual tournaments and numerous social events. We continue to educate the public on what a terrific sport this is for both our youth and seniors.

Are you ready to take the challenge with us as Picklers? One challenge is to expand our number of courts—through PicklePlex of Punta Gorda. These new courts will give current and future players great opportunities for exercise, laughs, and fun! What a great way to stay healthy! *Thanks so much, Joel, for your help in getting this together and giving our members an opportunity to "meet" you.*

A Florida Celebration of Life for PRP Member **Tom Stewart**

Wednesday, September 5th, 5 pm—8 pm, Fountain Court Condominium Clubhouse

255 West End Drive, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950

Refreshments and light drinks will be provided. BYOB if you prefer.

"Tom loved a good party, so please bring stories to share."

—Mary Stewart

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

September 15

Intracoastal Clean-up Day

Submitted by

Gloria Reilly



We invite all members of **The Peace River Picklers** to participate in this event as a community service project. Our clean-up area is from the courts at Gilchrist on the southwest side to the Hotel at the end of Gilchrist on the northeast. We will gather together at the Gilchrist courts at 7 a.m. and will work in groups to clean the park and area along the Peace River. Snacks will be provided to participants and a free t-shirt will be given to those who sign-up by **Aug 31st** (sign-up at:

peteglo.reilly@gmail.com) **We start early so that we can play pickleball that morning as well.** This is a great project that gives back to the community on behalf of the Club.

PEOPLE WATCH...

PRP MEMBERS FEATURED IN LOCAL PAPER! THANKS TO SUN REPORTER BEN BAUGH



PRP member, **Julie Heitman**, was recently featured in a two-part series in the *Charlotte Sun*. Those of you who know Julie, know that she held the title of number 1 ranked tennis player in her native country of Burma. Her dream was to come to America to pursue a better life. She received a scholarship from Stetson University and after finishing college, settled in Southwest Florida. Julie began teaching tennis in Punta Gorda. At first, she felt like many tennis players do toward the game of pickleball—uninterested and not enthused. Finally, convinced to give the game a try, she played at South County Rec Center. Needless to say, she took to the game, like fish take to water. We are so fortunate to have her as an active PRP member where she willingly shares her skills and talents with other players, participating and helping with drill instructions. ***Congratulations, Julie!***



Bobby White, known to some as **Rev. Bob White**, was also featured in the *Charlotte Sun* recently. When his parents came to Punta Gorda for a visit from Ohio, Bobby mentioned the game to his Dad and would he like to try it. The two purchased paddles, balls and headed for Gilchrist only to find a good number of players already waiting their turn to play. The opportunity arrived, but only after 5 minutes of play, Bobby's Dad sprained his ankle. Recognizing his love of the game, even in just 5 minutes, as well as the fellowship that came with it, he returned to the game and has played since. Bobby is the pastor of Liberty Community Church on Veterans Boulevard and he's been sharing Pickleball with his congregation, as well as others. He comes from a competitive background—basketball referee and coach in Ohio for 15 years and now plays in local Pickleball tournaments, as well as the U.S. Open the last two years. Recently he has reached out to schools in Fort Myers, North Port and Port Charlotte High Schools providing inspirational support to the football teams on Friday nights. ***Well done, Bobby!***

Ralph Hagman and friends are enjoying this summer up north in Huron, Ohio, playing on courts in Fabens Park that are striped for dual purpose play. The Huron Yacht Club formed a new pickleball league with twelve players new to the game. Nearby Osborne Park also provides four pickleball courts. Full-timers here in Ohio are desperately searching for a place with indoor courts, as the local YMCA recently closed. As an added bonus, **Lin Coe**, PRP's newest Ambassador, was vacationing in the Ohio area this summer and generously offered to provide drills for new players. ***Way to go, Lin!***





Social News...

By Susan McKittrick

Our Social Committee did a great job this summer keeping our full time members mingling both on and off the courts during the hot months of July and August! Check out the pictures below from the July Beach Bash at Charlotte Beach Park and the August Pizza/Pickleball event at Cooper Street courts. **Thanks Susan and Karen for planning these fun events!!!**



Peace River Picklers Christmas Party Fundraiser

COMEDIAN AL ROMAS

At Visani Comedy Theater and Restaurant

Wednesday, October 3, 2018,

8 p.m. For Show

(if you plan to have dinner, arrive around 6-6:30)

Visani's, 2400 Kings Highway, Port Charlotte

Cost: \$10.00 (for show only).

Dinner and drinks purchased separately,
there is a 2-drink minimum required

PLEASE CALL VISANI'S TO GUARANTEE YOUR SEATS.

Tell them you are with Peace River Picklers.

For a preview of the show, see Al Romas on YouTube:

<https://youtube/DBPavHGgfu8>



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

Sunday, December 16, 2018.

Peace River Picklers' Christmas Party! Twin
Isles Country Club, Punta Gorda

Featuring the band TAT2

More details to follow in upcoming
newsletters.



Leagues/Drills/Instruction...

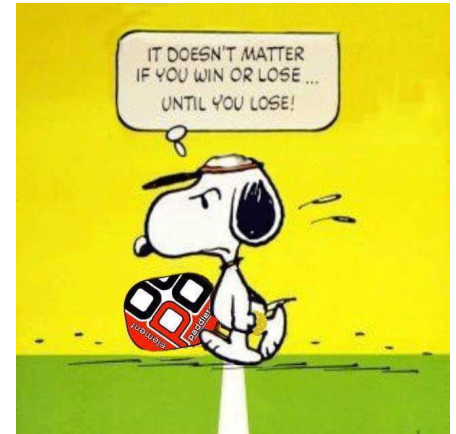


Upcoming League Activities

Submitted by Bruce McPhee

Leagues will start this month using the Shootout format. We hope to have indoor beginner and intermediate leagues during the week, outdoor-over 70 during the week, and another outdoor Shootout league on Saturday mornings. Final scheduling is taking place and a separate email will be sent out when it's time for signing up!

The leagues will run for six weeks. We will be assessing how the participation goes and also asking folks how they feel about each league, so that we can plan for future leagues.



Upcoming PRP Drills

Submitted by Lin Coe and Bruce McPhee

Drills will be starting up this month as well. We will be working with our instructors to coordinate offerings and time/locations. Drills will be provided to give folks a basic understanding of rules and strategies.

We hope to work with our certified instructors to offer a wider variety of drills for all skill levels. Look for a separate email coming this month with dates and times.



HOW TO PLAY

Beginner Pickleball Instruction Coming up in September!!!

Submitted by Frances Gammie

Have any friends wanting to learn to play pickleball? Instructional classes for beginners will be on Thursdays, starting September 13, from 11:00-12:45 p.m. at South County indoor courts. Call 941-505-8686 to reserve your place, pre-registration is required.

Paddle rental = \$1.00; Gym fee = \$3.00. **The class is free.**

Special thanks to all our volunteer instructors and league coordinators for making fun opportunities for all of us.





ONLINE SURVEY — FINAL RESULTS

By Bruce McPhee



We ended up with about 60 responses...thank you for your input!!!

The goal of our survey was to find out what our Pickleball Community thinks about league play and what they would like us to offer them along this type of play. We asked questions about when people would like to play and what format and venue desires they would prefer. We will use the information received to help us set up the leagues for the 2018-2019 season. We will aim to be flexible, adjusting our thinking based on actual turn-out and continued feedback from players. Our survey gives us a great jumping off point!

The top two league types chosen were the Shootout format on a weekday morning and a Team Play format, also on a weekday morning. Two thirds of our survey input indicated league play is desired from November through April. Five out of six wanted mixed double leagues. There was also a desire for weekend or weekday evening play.

As we set up leagues this year, we will utilize this information and hopefully people will have an opportunity to join a fun, challenging league!

COURTESY PLEASE!



Each month we will attempt to feature little tidbits from various sources and members. Your suggestions are welcome!

Before you begin your game, always come to the net and introduce yourself. If you know all the players, wish them a good game. It's common courtesy to begin in a friendly manner.

After the game is over, always come to the net and tap paddles or handles, bump fist, and say something nice. "Nice game", "great plays", "thanks for the game".

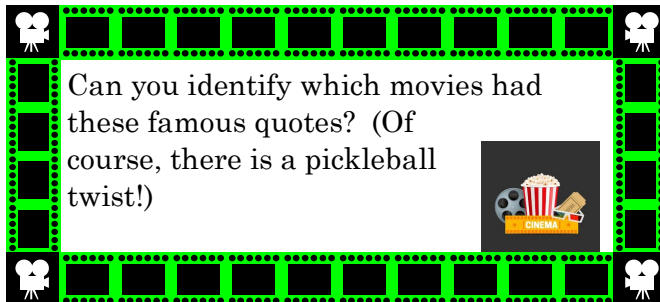
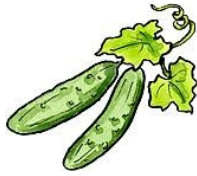
When a ball bounces out of bounds, try to call "OUT" right away, or point a finger up indicating out of bounds. Your opponent should not have to ask you if it was out.

If your partner believes the ball is going out before it actually lands outside the court, he/she should call "NO" or "BOUNCE IT" to alert you that it MIGHT be out, rather than saying "out". Remember, a ball is not out until it bounces outside the court.

SAFETY: Always wear eye protection. There are a number of quality sports glasses that are very effective at every price point, but even frames without lenses are better than nothing. So many players have had eye injuries (including detached retina) from being hit by the ball. The ball can also ricochet off the paddle, causing a similar situation. BE SAFE, NOT SORRY!



Miscellaneous Info/Fun...



Pickler's Playgrounds

In Punta Gorda:
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 Rd

1. "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a dink."
2. "I'm going to make him an overhead smash he can't refuse."
3. "Toto, I've got a feeling we're not in the Villages anymore."
4. "Here's volleying at you, kid."
5. "Go ahead, make my dink."
6. "You dinking to me?"
7. "Why don't you come up and dink me sometime?"
8. "We'll always have pickleball."
9. "A census taker once tried to lob me. I ate his liver with some fava beans and a nice Chianti."
10. "Pickleball green is people!"

Answers...next month's issue

From Jennifer's blog at Allpickleball.com

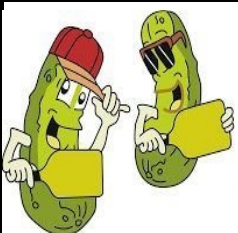





A big welcome back to
some of our returning
snowbirds! See you on
the courts!



Submitted by Sue Carman

The PicklePlex Poker Run will be on November 10th beginning at 9am. We will be playing at Gilchrist Park, South County outdoor courts and at the FSW Punta Gorda Campus near the PicklePlex location. There is no need to have a partner. Please bring water for while you're playing and a chair. A picnic will be provided afterwards at Creekside. Water will be provided at the picnic or BYOB, please NO PETS. All of this for just \$25, sign up at PicklePlex.org or mail in the attached registration to PicklePlex, 130 E Marion Avenue #512691, Punta Gorda FL 33951

	Pickleball Poker Run Fund-raiser for the PicklePlex Saturday, November 10th 9:00 am— 2:00 pm Check-in at 8:30 am. (info to come on where) Cost: \$25 per person	
<p>Play 6 games of pickleball at 3 different locations to collect cards. Gather at Creekside RV Resort, 27005 Jones Loop Road for lunch, poker hand reveal, music, more pickleball and swimming. Soda and water will be provided for lunch. Bring your own beer or wine. Prizes for the best poker hands!</p> <p>Register and pay online at pickleplex.org</p> <p>Or print and complete this form and mail with your check to Pickleplex, 130 E. Marion Ave. #512691, Punta Gorda, FL 33951.</p> <p>Deadline: November 6, 2018</p>		
<p>Name _____</p>		
	<p>Playing level 2.5 3 3.5 4.0 4.5+ (Please circle)</p> <p>Email address: _____</p>	

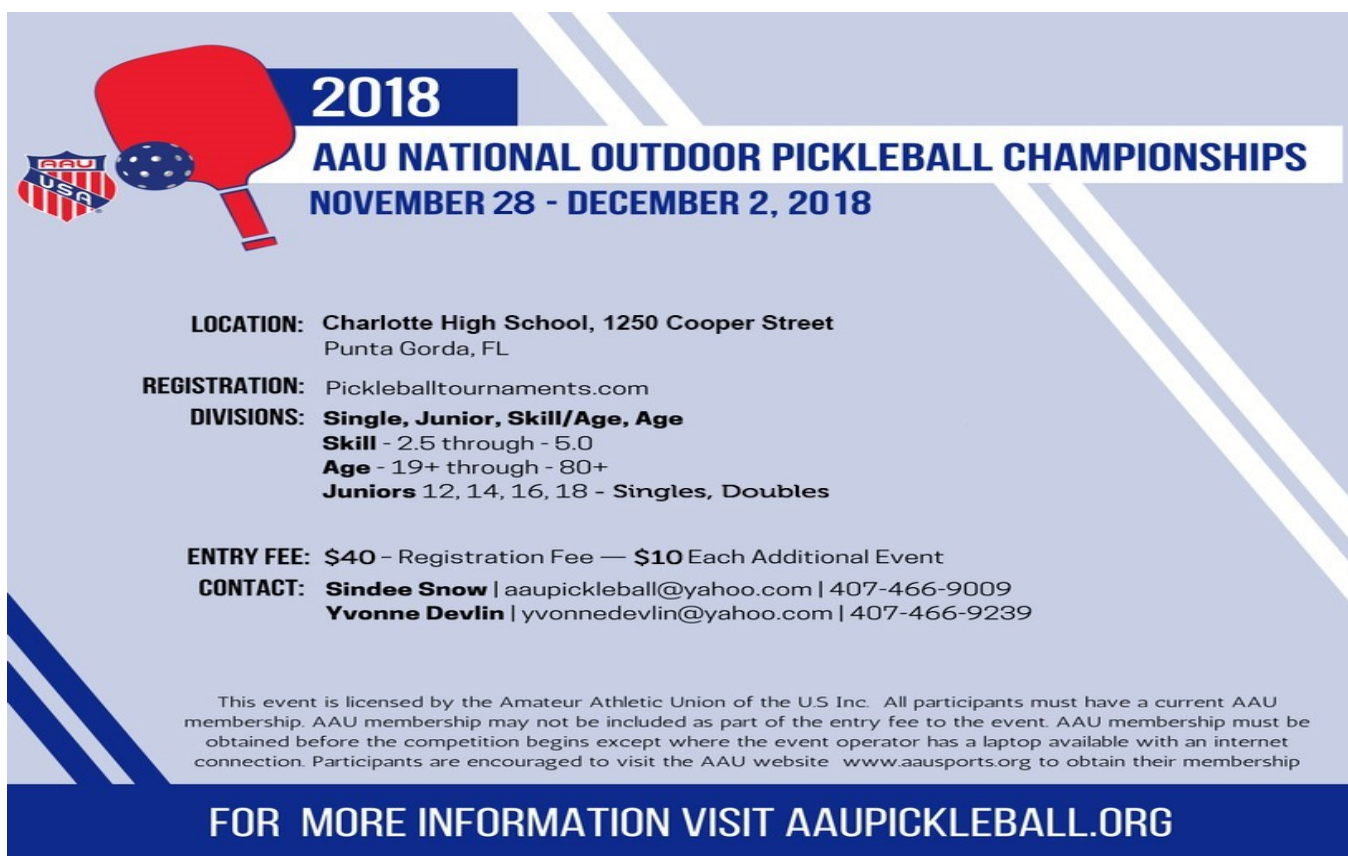
More PicklePlex news on next page...



Submitted by Sue Carman

PicklePlex Team continues to meet weekly and work towards construction. To be conservative with our time-line, we are projecting October/November will be when construction will start. We anticipate that 16 courts will be available for play within 90 days after the first shovel moves dirt.

AAU will be holding their outdoor National Tournament in Punta Gorda at Charlotte High School and the PicklePlex Team will be assisting them. The dates will be November 28 - December 2 and sign is posted on pickleballtournaments.com. Let's all support this AAU tournament!!! Next year AAU will hold the same National Tournament at PicklePlex.



2018
AAU NATIONAL OUTDOOR PICKLEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS
NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 2, 2018

LOCATION: Charlotte High School, 1250 Cooper Street
Punta Gorda, FL

REGISTRATION: Pickleballtournaments.com

DIVISIONS: **Single, Junior, Skill/Age, Age**
Skill - 2.5 through - 5.0
Age - 19+ through - 80+
Juniors 12, 14, 16, 18 - Singles, Doubles

ENTRY FEE: \$40 - Registration Fee — \$10 Each Additional Event

CONTACT: **Sindee Snow** | aaupickleball@yahoo.com | 407-466-9009
Yvonne Devlin | yvonnedeclin@yahoo.com | 407-466-9239

This event is licensed by the Amateur Athletic Union of the U.S Inc. All participants must have a current AAU membership. AAU membership may not be included as part of the entry fee to the event. AAU membership must be obtained before the competition begins except where the event operator has a laptop available with an internet connection. Participants are encouraged to visit the AAU website www.aasports.org to obtain their membership

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT AAUPICKLEBALL.ORG

You must be a member of the AAU to register.

To join, go to their webpage aaupickleball.org