



The Pickle Vine

Volume 3, Issue 1
January, 2021

JANUARY, 2021

Reminder

Peace River Picklers Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 10th, 2021 1:00 pm

Outdoors at the Laishley Park Pavilion — bring a chair & beverage

150 Laishley Park Rd Punta Gorda, FL 33950



A continuing friendly reminder

With COVID-19 still present, 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

Chief Editor: Jack Laflamme - ccb50@comcast.net Editor: Katie Gove - keg.5671@gmail.com

Tournament reporter : Maureen Blanton - mblanton116@gmail.com

A Message from PRP President Deb Sarkisian

Dear Peace River Picklers,

It's hard to believe a year has passed since I started as President of this wonderful organization. I am excited to see many of you at our upcoming Annual Meeting, this January 10th at 1:00 at the Laishley Pavillion. There have been so many accomplishments, with many more to come. Please come out to meet our board and ask any questions you might have for us, as well as to vote for the nominee(s) who will fill our open board position currently held by Doug Gammie.

Our first winter session sign up is well underway. Leagues and education will start on January 11th at South County Recreation Center, so take a look at our website to see which class or league might be of interest to you. Please note there are still several openings for our 4.0+ Advanced Clinics, taught by our 5.0 pro Sarah Saari. These classes are held from 12:00-2:00 each Monday and are stand-alone classes covering topics like: Unforced Errors, Turning Defense into Offense, Stacking 101, Respect the X, Communication and Teamwork and, last but not least, Think Ahead and Keep Moving. They are offered at a bargain price of \$25!! Don't miss out!!

Last, I'd like to personally thank all of the volunteers who give their time to help this club be so great. None of this would be possible without you. Thank you for being the life blood of this organization!!

Hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season. See you in January!!

All the best,

Deb Sarkisian

PRP President



Peace River Picklers website

www.peacriverpicklers.com

Peace River Picklers

League News

From Bruce McPhee, Director of Leagues

WINTER 2021 LEAGUES SIGN-UPS !!!!

Hello PRP Members!!

We are excited for the overwhelming response for our Winter League sign-ups!! There are still more openings and we don't want you to miss out! Please go to peaceriverpicklers.com and sign-up soon!!

Winter Leagues:

Monday 8am – 10am, Men's 3.5 Round Robin (4 Courts)

Monday 8am – 10am, Mixed 2.5 Shootout (4 Courts) **(Subs Only)**

Monday 6pm – 8pm, Ladies 3.0+ Shootout (4 Courts)

Monday 3:30pm – 5:30pm, Burnt Store Marina Mixed 3.5-4.0 Ladder (8 Courts)

Tuesday 8am – 10am, Mixed 65+ 3.0+ Round Robin (4 Courts) **(Subs Only)**

Tuesday 8am – 10am, Mixed 65+ 3.5+ Round Robin (4 Courts)

Tuesday 6pm – 8pm, Men's 3.0+ Shootout (4 Courts)

Wednesday 8am – 10am, Competitive Mixed Ladder 3.5-4.0 (8 Courts)

Thursday 8am – 10am, Ladies' Novice Play (4 Courts) **(FULL)**

Thursday 8am – 10am, Mixed Novice Round Robin (4 Courts)

Thursday 6pm – 8pm, Competitive Mixed 3.5 Round Robin (4 Courts)

Friday 8am – 10am, Ladies' 3.5 Round Robin (8 Courts)

Saturday 8am – 10am, Mixed 3.0-3.5+ Shootout (8 Courts) **(Subs Only)**



Peace River Picklers

Educational Programs

Pickleball 101

Update

Do you have friends or family who are new to pickleball and interested in learning more about this tremendous game? Encourage them to sign up for PB101, where our volunteer instructors will spend 90 minutes teaching the basics of the sport! Classes are held outdoors at South County Regional Park on the first and third Sunday of each month from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. and are free of charge. Classes have filled up quickly, so the second monthly class was added to accommodate our seasonal visitors.

Registration is required and class size is limited to 12 players with three instructors. Dates and sign up can be found on the PRP website at www.peaceriverpicklers.com under the "Learn" tab.

We are now taking reservations for January 3rd and look forward to seeing new players on the courts!



Skills and Drills Update

Peace River Picklers first session of Skills and Drills was a hit with our members. The second (Winter) session is now gearing up to be even better than the first! It is a great opportunity to learn new skills or improve on the skills you already possess. The classes range from 2.0 to 3.5 skill levels and are adjusted as such. There are only a few spaces left: 2.0-2.5 only 9; 3.0 is full for this session, 3.5 has only 2. You may request to go on a waiting list in the event someone drops out by contacting me at marytomstewart@gmail.com. Don't delay in signing up to participate in a great learning program.

Mary Stewart

Skills and Drills Director



PRP Board Member Nominee Biography



Tom Ward

Peace River Picklers is a terrific organization with many great members that are just plain fun to be on the court with. For that reason I am announcing that I would like your consideration for being a Board member. I hope to build on the foundation that has already been laid. I want to keep all of the programs, leagues, and activities that PRP sponsors as both fun and challenging. We are one of the most fortunate groups of people in all the earth to know each other and to be a part of this great organization. Personal: Married 40 years, two adult sons, no grandchildren (yet). Moved from Michigan to North Port in 2018. Worked 25 years as a Public Affairs Specialist for the State of Michigan, Disability Service and 5 years as a front line manager. Retired in 2017. Passionate about: 1) Cooking dinner for my wife every weekday. (40 years, get it?). 2) Serving the poorest people on earth in the Artibonite Valley region of Haiti since 2009. 3) Being retired in sunny Florida. 4) Pickleball (yes, this is 4th..get a grip) PRP experience: Recently started obtaining and coordinating volunteers for many of the needs for the different PRP programs...a work in progress. (and yes we need many volunteers to continue to thrive). League leader in 3.5/4.0 ladder league. Teacher in skills and drills and coordinator of the 3.5 level teachers and participants. Past volunteer experience: Served on multiple boards and committees in my private and professional life. Highest profile volunteer position was the President of the National Association of Disability Examiners. This position afforded me the opportunity to meet personally with the Social Security Commissioner, the Congressional Budget Office, the House and Senate sub committees on Social Security, and multiple national stake holders in the Social Security Disability process.

Volunteer Support

One of our extraordinary volunteers and a member of the Peace River Pickler community, **Beatrice Traub**, is in a recovery center in Sarasota as she recuperates from Covid. If you would like to send her a card to help lift her spirits, please send to the following address:

PAM Specialty Hospital
Beatrice Traub, Room 105
6150 EdgeLake Dr.
Sarasota, FL 34240



From your friends at
Peace River Picklers



11-21-2020 to 11-23-2020

3.0: 50-54 — Gold: Joe Cripe

3.5: over 60 – Bronze: Bill Terhune and Tom Ward

4.5: 19-49 — Gold: Kris Johannessen

4.5: over 60 -- Bronze: Jon Ralph and Bruce McPhee

3.0: 50+ -- Silver: Margie Izzo and Joe Cripe

3.5: 55+ — Bronze: Tony Mateus

4.0: 60-64 – Bronze: Paula Rockwell and Jon Ralph

4.0: 65+ — Gold: Gary Wilson

4.0: 65+ – Silver: Kathy Seward and Tom Ward

4.0: 65+ — Bronze: Deborah Colbert

4.5: 55+ -- Gold: Liz Ameruoso and Kris Johanessen

3.5: over 60 – Bronze: Diane Bonnstetter and Margie Izzo

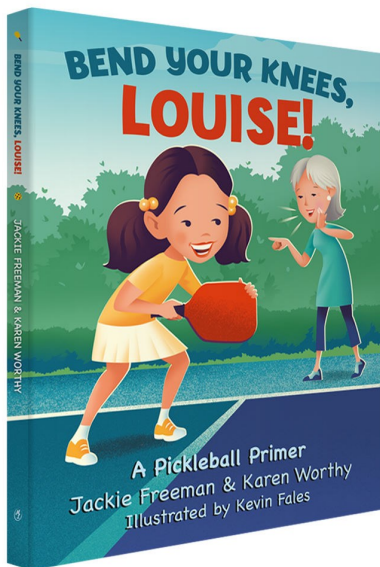
4.0 & 4.5: over 60 – Bronze: Kathy Seward

Tournament 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 certainly hate for that to happen!

An Early Introduction To Pickleball

PRP member and former Pickle Vine editor Sue Meyer posted a children's-appropriate pickleball-related gift suggestion on Facebook. Written with clever rhymes, and art work by professional illustrator Kevin Fales, the authors describe the children's picture book as follows:

"Overcoming the children's early reservations, a fun-loving grandmother teaches the sport in a wise and playful way – and the results are even better than she hopes. This book is guaranteed to make believers and devoted pickleball players out of its readers."



Further information is available at:

<https://www.bendyourkneeslouise.com/>



Pickleball Exercise During the Pandemic



If the pandemic has limited your pickleball playing opportunities, you should be sure to do stretching exercises before hitting the courts. My partner Celine and I have adopted this warmup technique on the days that we play (just the two of us playing skinny singles). Great routine, highly recommended....Take a peek.....Jack Laflamme, Editor

<https://morningmail.org/try-our-limbering-up-exercises-once-a-day-is-enough-%E2%98%BA/vid-20190711-wa0001/>

Peace River Picklers - 2020

The Year in Review

January

Peace River Picklers elects new Board Members:

President: Deb Sarkisian, Vice President: Jean McGee, Secretary: Laurie Price, Treasurer: Andrea Gately

Directors: Doug Gammie, Bruce McPhee, Mary Stewart

PRP adds a Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/881124178732695/>

PRP players compete in the 2020 AAU Outdoors National Championships, resulting in 29 PRP medals.

Pickleplex® holds its Grand opening Tournament, with 282 PRP members competing, winning 52 medals.

PRP introduces a more organized pickleball education program that includes "Beginning Pickleball" as well as skills/drills for various levels of players.

February

PRP holds a Pot-luck luncheon at Cooper Street where the new Board members were introduced and Susan McKittrick hosted her last event as head of the Social Committee.

PRP players compete in the Sweetheart Tournament, with members standing on the podium 48 times.

Winter Round Robin Leagues wrap up with over 400 players. Karen Kelleher, Kay Shanley, Bill Hodges, Ed Kelleher and Rick Sullivan won league credits.

Burnt Store Marina and Maple Leaf Pickleball Clubs are recognized in The Pickle Vine for their volunteer efforts.

March

Spring Round Robin Leagues begin and end, a victim of the Covid-19 pandemic, and all pickleball activities and tournaments are severely curtailed or cancelled for the same reason.

April

Sue Meyers and Ginny MacDonald produce their final Pickle Vine issue (May/June) after two years of outstanding newsletters.

May

Pickleball courts at Gilchrist Park, South County Recreation Center and Pickleplex® reopen, with new player "return-to-play" safety guidelines. Masks, hand sanitizer, hand wipes, "social distancing" and playing singles become new norms.

PRP members celebrate the life of colorful member Johnny Carroll with an evening pickleball event.

June

PRP members and Pickleplex® players generously donate almost \$4000 for The Society of St Vincent DePaul District Council of Charlotte to help restock their food bank shelves.

Dwayne Carr wins the Social Distancing and Safe Play Guidelines slogan contest with "Stay out of my kitchen".

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Peace River Picklers - 2020

The Year in Review

(continued)

July

In a July Special Edition of The Pickle Vine, the PRP Board announces numerous updates and improvements...

a revised Mission Statement, a new logo, an updated website and improved educational, instruction and assessment programs and new online apps for use in setting up open play.

With his flock of 85 flamingos, Jim Knott celebrates his 85th birthday.

The Pickle Vine extends best wishes to Roger and Colleen White , departing for Georgia.

Heather Washik joins the Board of Directors as Treasurer.

August

Deb Sarkisian, Bruce McPhee, Mario Spathis, Joel Schaffer, Pete Reilly, Sergio Gonzalez and Bob Lombardo, install a new PRP Banner designed by Judy Robertson on court 12 at Pickleplex®.

September

Charlie Morris, Jim Mays and Doug Buuck are recognized for their volunteer efforts for PRP.

Charlotte County Community Services announces that recreation centers will begin reopening for indoor activities with modified programming and social distancing.

October

PRP league & clinic fall sessions, plus skills and drills and individual lessons, begin at South County Recreation Center.

PRP membership renewals are due.

An interview with Sandy Lane, M.D., reviews common pickleball injuries and prevention.

Annual Christmas party is cancelled due to member concerns with coronavirus.

Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2021 at 1:00pm outdoors at the Laishley Park Pavilion...bring a chair and beverage.

Jim Mays is again recognized for his considerable efforts in maintaining the PRP website.

November

PRP, in support of member and coach Ricky Deller, donates two pickleball nets to the Compass Center.

PRP members compete in the Lucy Kitcher Grand Slam at PicklePlex®, with 20 players winning medals.

December

Signups open for winter leagues, 4.0+ Advanced Clinics and skills and drills, and PB101 classes continue.

Snowbirds are slowly dribbling back to their winter homes.

Note: Past issues of The Pickle Vine can be found on the Peace River Picklers website:

<https://www.peaceriverpicklers.com/newsletter>

Pickleball Around the Web

101 Pickleball Terms to Add to Your Vocabulary

Another interesting item from PickleballMAX, this piece is an alphabetical review of pickleball terms, mostly referring to shots, rules, the court and paddles, but also including some less familiar entries like “bert”, “erne”, “kamikaze” and “nasty nelson”. A good summary of proper pickleball lingo.

<https://www.pickleballmax.com/2020/11/pickleball-terms/>

The One Pickleball Fundamental You HAVE to Understand

An interesting article discussing the importance of understanding the Two-Bounce Rule. A basic guide for the beginner and a good “brush-up” for the seasoned player. Written by ski instructor, personal trainer, former LPGA player and 5.0 pickleballer C.J. Johnson

<https://www.cjjohnsonglobal.com/the-one-pickleball-fundamental-you-have-to-understand/>

Thoughts on Choosing a Pickleball Paddle

A frequent subject of conversation among pickleball players is paddles....how to choose one, the differences in core and surface materials, handle size, paddle shape, weight, edge guards, face designs. The PickleballMAX website has a great article on the topic, entitled “Pickleball Paddles 101 – How to Choose a Pickleball Paddle that is Best for You”. And, while it comes down to personal preferences, the many facets involved in choosing a paddle are well covered.

<https://www.pickleballmax.com/2020/11/pickleball-paddles/>

Breaking News!

The USA Pickleball Rules Committee has released new rules changes for 2021. These include a few surprises, like elimination of the “let” serve and introduction of a drop serve. The 81 page document can be found on the PRP website:

<https://www.peaceriverpicklers.com/2021-rule-changes>





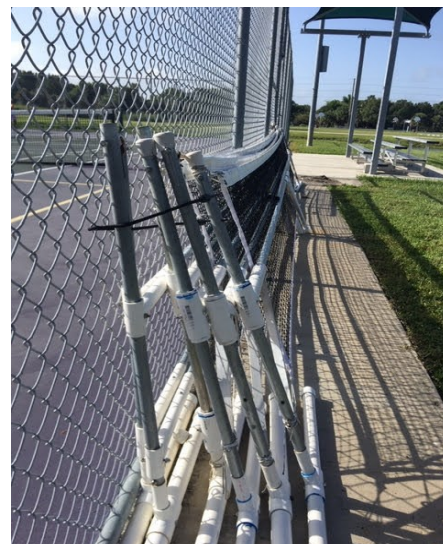
Pickleball Nets



The pickleball nets at South County Regional Park are owned by Peace River Picklers, with repair and maintenance work coordinated by Doug Gammie of PRP.

It is in our collective best interest to properly maintain these nets to insure quality of play and keep replacement costs and repairs to a minimum. Members of PRP are asked to review the following suggestions from Deb Sarkisian and Bruce McPhee that will help to prolong the “life and health” of our nets.

1. Nets should be stored at the two opposite ends of the courts—the parking lot end and the Cooper Street end. Nets brought onto the court from one side should be returned to the same side.
2. Nets should be stacked together with the center bars facing out.
3. Nets stored on the parking lot end of the courts should be secured against the wooden barrier structure on that end. Nets stored at the opposite end of the courts should be secured against the chain link fence.
4. Bungee cords should be wrapped around the nets as tightly as possible to keep the nets upright.



Should nets be found to be in need of repair, please contact Doug Gammie at gammie72@msn.com or 941-505-0893.

Senior Words of Wisdom

This is one of those random postings you sometimes come across on Facebook that, while not specifically pickleball related, strikes you as worth sharing. Author unknown.

I asked one of my friends who has crossed 70 & is heading to 80 what sort of changes he is feeling in himself?

He sent me the following very interesting lines, which I would like to share with you

#1. After loving my parents, my siblings, my spouse, my children, my friends, now I have started loving my self.

#2. I just realized that I am not "Atlas". The world does not rest on my shoulders.

#3. I now stopped bargaining with vegetables & fruits vendors. A few pennies more is not going to burn a hole in my pocket but it might help the poor fellow save for his daughter's school fees.

#4. I pay my waitress a big tip. The extra money might bring a smile to her face. She is toiling much harder for a living than me

#5. I stopped telling the elderly that they've already narrated that story many times. The story makes them walk down the memory lane & relive the past.

#6. I have learned not to correct people even when I know they are wrong. The onus of making everyone perfect is not on me. Peace is more precious than perfection.

#7. I give compliments freely & generously. Compliments are a mood enhancer not only for the recipient, but also for me. And a small tip for the recipient of a compliment, never, NEVER turn it down, just say "Thank You"

#8. I have learned not to bother about a crease or a spot on my shirt. Personality speaks louder than appearances.

#9. I walk away from people who don't value me. They might not know my worth, but I do.

#10. I remain cool when someone plays dirty to outrun me in the rat race. I am not a rat & neither am I in any race.

#11. I am learning not to be embarrassed by my emotions. It's my emotions that make me human.

#12. I have learned that it's better to drop the ego than to break a relationship. My ego will keep me aloof, whereas with relationships I will never be alone.

#13. I have learned to live each day as if it's the last. After all, it might be the last.

#14. I am doing what makes me happy. I am responsible for my happiness, and I owe it to myself. Happiness is a choice. You can be happy at any time, just choose to be!

I decided to send this to all my friends and family. Why do we have to wait to be 60 or 70 or 80, why can't we practice this at any stage and age....

From the Peace River Picklers Board of Directors

The purpose of the Peace River Picklers (PRP) is to promote the game of pickleball. This implies that sportsmanship, etiquette and generosity will be foremost in all PRP efforts. Pickleball can be competitive or it can be recreational. PRP will respect the wants and goals of all players, endeavoring to provide events, activities, and play to meet all members' needs.

Peace River Picklers (PRP) Code of Conduct

- * I will not act in a way that threatens my safety or the safety of others.**
- * I will refrain from verbal outbursts which are profane, threatening or abusive.**
- * I will refrain from acts or language which harasses or belittles a teammate or opponent, or which creates turmoil and/or dissension among players.**
- *I will respect the pickleball courts and property and perform no action which may cause damage.**
- * I will comply with posted court schedules.**
- *I will make fair line calls and respect calls made by others. I will consider the ball to be "in" if uncertain of the line call.**
- *I will behave in a manner consistent with this code and, as such, will be an ambassador for the sport of pickleball.**

The Board of Directors appreciates your adherence to this Code of Conduct. Please feel free to contact any one of us with any concerns.

Deb Sarkisian, Jean McGee, Laurie Price, Heather Washik, Doug Gammie, Bruce McPhee and Mary Stewart

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



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.

(Note: No change in rankings or points since previous issue)

Top pro rankings as listed by the Professional Pickleball Association as of 12/13/2020

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	3000		Simone Jardim	3000
Tyson McGuffin	1510		Lucy Kovalova	3000
Zane Navratil	960		Jessie Irvine	1950
Women's Singles				
Simone Jardim	2500		Mixed Doubles	
Irina Tereschenko	2250		Simone Jardim	3000
Michelle Esquivel	1600		Ben Johns	3000
Men's Doubles			Jessie Irvine	1660
Ben Johns	2700		Jeffrey Irvine	1660
Matt Wright	2700		Lucy Kovalova	1650
Riley Newman	1730		Matt Wright	1650

Top Pro Rankings as listed by Pickleball Global as of 12/13/2020

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	11000		Simone Jardim	8450
Tyson McGuffin	6850		Lucy Kovalova	7800
Jay Devilliers	5250		Irina Tereschenko	3950
Women's Singles				
Irina Tereschenko	5200		Mixed Doubles	
Simone Jardim	5000		Ben Johns	11000
Michelle Esquivel	3950		Simone Jardim	10600
Men's Doubles			Lucy Kovalova	6150
Ben Johns	10750		Riley Newman	6150
Riley Newman	8100		Matt Wright	5800
Tyson McGuffin	7900		Irina Tereschenko	5700



Future Events

American Pickleball Tournament @ Pickleplex®	Dec 18-20, 2020
Punta Gorda Pickleball Open	Jan 6-10, 2021
World Pickleball Championship	Feb 3-7, 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/calendar https://www.pickleplex.org/	



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

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

American Pickleball Endless Summer Series....Fort Myers, FL 01/22-24/2021

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

American Pickleball Endless Summer Series....Fort Myers, FL 02/12-14/2021

St. Pete Grand Slam....St. Petersburg, FL 02/13/2021 (see PRP FB page)

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

2021 Hopen its Open....Estero, FL 04/08-11/2021

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

Lucy Kitcher Gamma Sundial Championship....Sanibel, FL 09/24-26/2021

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

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