



# The Pickle Vine

Volume 3, Issue 4  
April, 2021

**APRIL, 2021**

*a Heartfelt* 



**TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!**

*You  
Are  
appreciated*

**As noted by Vice President Jean McGee in her league instructions:**

**COVID is still lurking...practice social distancing off the courts. It's easy to forget and gather closely together. PLEASE be respectful of every one's personal space. Be smart...bring hand sanitizer and use it.**

The Pickle Vine team welcomes any comments, submissions or suggestions

Chief Editor: Jack Laflamme - [ccb50@comcast.net](mailto:ccb50@comcast.net)      Tournament reporter : Maureen Blanton - [mblanton116@gmail.com](mailto:mblanton116@gmail.com)

[And we would still like to add an editor to specialize in covering local club activities and events.](#)

[If interested, please contact us.](#)

# Messages from the PRP Board

## From PRP President Deb Sarkisian

Dear Picklers,

It's hard to believe that once this edition of the Pickle Vine reaches you, March will be more than half over. Our current session of events will be winding down by mid-April BUT never fear, in May we will be offering 3.0 and 3.5 Specialty Clinics taught by Bob White, one of our Peace River Picklers endorsed instructors. Spots are limited, so please visit the Peace River Pickler website to sign up today!! Also be on the lookout for a few leagues during June thru August for those who love to continue to play on those hot summer days. Once we have league leaders in place, we will be sending out an email blast to our membership to let you know to sign up.

Thanks again to all of our hard-working volunteers. Hope you enjoyed the Volunteer Appreciation Day held on Sunday March 14<sup>th</sup> at South County. The food, the hats AND the prizes were all to celebrate YOU. Thank you again, and again, for all you do to support Peace River Picklers. You are the best.



Deb Sarkisian, President

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## From PRP Director of Skills & Drills Tom Ward

The PRP Skills and Drills classes continue to be very popular with the membership and they continue to get rave reviews from the students that participate. Likewise, the volunteer teachers feel greatly rewarded for helping the players improve their pickleball skills.

We currently have 80 students enrolled in PRP Skills and Drills, and these classes exemplify what the wonderful community of pickleball is all about.... making new friends, helping others to improve, and enjoying a great sport no matter what skill level we may be at. Skills and Drills sessions will be offered again in the fall, and an email blast will be sent to the membership to insure that you don't miss the opportunity to sign up.

A big thank you to the volunteer Skills & Drills instructors for their efforts, and a big thank you also to the participants for supporting your club and helping to promote the game of pickleball.

Tom Ward, Director of Skills and Drills









# Volunteer Appreciation Day!!!!

Sunday, March 14th — South County Regional Park



You are Appreciated





*Volunteer Appreciation Day!!!!*



A celebration of our volunteers was held on Sunday, March 14 at the Cooper Street outdoor courts. More than 40 of our volunteers were there to socialize and play some pickleball on a beautiful sunny day, enjoy food provided by Wally's BBQ food truck, and win prizes. Each volunteer was awarded a high quality ball cap with our PRP logo on the front and "volunteer" on the back.

**Cheryl Bellio, David Brotzman, Susan McKittrick, Dale Parker, and Frank Wong** all won individual one hour lessons with **Bob White**.

**Susan Barnhart, Pat Gaddy, Fred Graham, Jack Laflamme, Stephanie Long, Tony Mateus, Sue Meyer, Karen Harrod, Doug MacDonald and Mike O'Donnell** all won \$25 cash prizes.

Peace River Picklers appreciate the supporting efforts of all our volunteers.



# Want to Improve your game?

Amy Decker of Peace River Picklers knows the way.....

As do top-ranked players in almost any sport.

## Drill

And as evidence of this fact, Amy has provided the following resources to bolster her position. If you really want to “up your game”, take a few minutes and review these articles in support of the need to develop muscle memory. Then take the necessary next step and recruit a few friends to join you in some drilling sessions (see Amy’s article in this issue on Playtime Scheduler). As these authors (and Amy) suggest, it will improve your game!

### Pickleball Training | How Can I Improve my Pickleball Game?

*“(Pickleball) athletes should set up a time to practice specific skills as the cornerstone of their program.”*

An article from “Atlantic Pickleball”, a group in the Atlantic Region of the USAPA

<https://www.atlanticpickleball.com/can-train-improve-pickleball-game/>

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### Want to Play Better Pickleball?

### Caution: You May Not Like the Solution

*“Your improvement is incremental at best, and you are wondering just what to do to get better.”*

An article with a number of drill suggestions by coach and player C.J. Johnson.

<https://www.cjohnsonglobal.com/play-better-pickleball-with-drills/>

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### How Does Practice Hardwire Long-Term Muscle Memory?

*“Neuroscientists have pinpointed a new mechanism behind long-term motor memory.”*

An article from “Psychology Today”, based on a study published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-athletes-way/201503/how-does-practice-hardwire-long-term-muscle-memory>

# Pre-plan Your Pickleball Matches & Drills

## PlayTime Scheduler for Pickleball

By Amy Decker

Peace River Pickler members should consider using this online scheduling routine to arrange matches and drilling sessions. **PlayTime Scheduler for Pickleball** is a free website scheduling tool where you will be able to create and/or join pickleball court sessions with other players. Once registered, the process to establish a session at the courts of your choice is pretty straightforward, with a reminder that you must follow the rules of the courts where you will be playing.

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As noted on their website, benefits of using this scheduling process are:

- Quickly see where the action is on the weekly calendar
- Sign up for a session with just one click
- Know who's going to show up before you head out the door
- Arrange public play sessions by skill level
- Create invite-only sessions for leagues or private groups
- Get customized email notifications
- Easily communicate with other players
- Discover new court locations using the interactive map
- Works great on all browsers and smartphones

To use PlayTime Scheduler you must first register at:

<https://www.playtimescheduler.com/login.php>

You will need to enter basic information including name, email address, gender, skill level and region, with our region being Florida. You then need to set up your email preferences. The important part of this is that you want to be notified via email whenever there is a session setup. It says "email me about sessions within **10** miles of **33950**". You will need to enter the miles and zip code. Then, every time there is a session added within 10 miles of Punta Gorda you will receive an email.

If you are setting up a session at South County Regional Park on Cooper Street, you will need to look on the Peace River Pickler site under **Court Availability** to determine what time the courts are available daily. PRP does reserve South County courts for league play and independent drilling and their schedule is shown on this website page:

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

I added an option in PlayTime Scheduler for "South County Cooper St Drilling" that you can select, which will show up as a gray circle on the schedule when the session is added. These sessions will be for training classes for the skill levels noted.

You can use this site to meet up and play at any of the courts available under the Punta Gorda location, which at this time are South County Regional Park, PicklePlex® and Gilchrist Park. You will just need to follow the specific courts rules.

Thank you everyone.....See you on the courts.....Amy Decker





## Winter Pickleball “Up North”

PRP member Pete Parsil submitted these two pictures of former PRP members Deb & Al Rothermel and friends clearing their courts of snow in Lancaster, PA.

Pete noted: “Diehards in the north! Maybe they are the equivalent of PRP members playing down here in the summertime.”



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## Compare with.....

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## Winter Pickleball “Down South”





# Charlotte County Senior Games



**Too late to register to play  
but not too late to watch.**

**South County Regional Park outdoor courts**

**March 27th & 28th**

670 Cooper St., Punta Gorda, FL

Saturday, March 27 (Singles)

Saturday, March 27 (Doubles)

Sunday, March 28 (Mixed Doubles)

8:30 a.m. Start time



# Pickleball Around the Web

## Top 20 Pickleball Blogs & News Websites To Follow in 2021

Really into pickleball? Searching for more pickleball-related information sources? Then this is the place for you! Covering almost every imaginable subject within the realm of pickleball, you are bound to find articles of interest here.

Note: Feedspot is a Content Reader. It helps you keep up with multiple websites in one place so that you need not visit each website to see what's new.

[https://blog.feedspot.com/pickleball\\_blogs/](https://blog.feedspot.com/pickleball_blogs/)

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### Take control of the things YOU CAN control!

The Crazy Pickleball Lady has written an article on the two things that we can have control over on the pickleball court.

<https://crazypickleballady.com/2021/03/15/take-control-of-the-things-you-can-control/>

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## 2 Helpful Pickleball Strategies for Beginners

Todd Jungling of Pickleball Max stresses two strategic principles that – all things being equal – will set up beginners for immediate success on the pickleball court. While these strategies are obviously not the only two, these two will, inarguably, make us all better pickleball players.

<https://www.pickleballmax.com/2021/03/2-helpful-pickleball-strategies-beginners>

He also cites the following interesting fact:

The sport of pickleball is currently comprised of approximately 4.2 million players in the United States — according to the 2020 Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) Participant Report.

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# PRP Leagues, Skills/Drills, & Advanced Clinics Refund Process Update

We would like our membership to know that the PRP Board has updated our Refund Policy to include:

- Any/all refunds will ONLY be given to those who make a request no later than two weeks prior to the start of the event. After that, no refunds will be issued.

**NO EXCEPTIONS!**

All of our events require a certain amount of players for the programs to function both physically and financially, thus the reason for this policy change!!

Setting up these events requires a great deal of work including:

- **Court Rentals:**
  - o Determine and pay for the number of courts required by event
  - o Work with South County Regional Park team to contract/rent the courts
- **Leagues:**
  - o Recruit enough volunteers to be League Leaders
  - o Define which Leagues to offer:
    - § Shootout
    - § Round Robin
    - § Ladder
- **Skills/Drills, Advanced Clinics, & PB101:**
  - o Recruit enough teachers to adhere to teacher/student ratios
  - o Recruit Skills/Drills Coordinators

Due to these events being driven by the number of members who sign up, it's a constant work in progress up until a few days before the events launch. Again, all of our events require a certain amount of players for the programs to function.

This doesn't get done easily. This process requires numerous volunteers working with PRP board to ensure all events are organized and ready to go when players arrive. Late/last minute requests are not acceptable.

I'm sure you can all understand the need for this change!

Thank you

Peace River Picklers Board





# PEACE RIVER PICKLERS

## South County Regional Park

### Pickleball Court Etiquette Guidelines

South County Pickleball Courts are considered “Open Play” when Leagues & Skills & Drills are not in session. Please adhere to the following Pickleball court etiquette guidelines so that we make open play fun for everyone:

During open play, players’ play 4 to a court, play to a score of 11, team must win by 2 points.

There are three gates to enter & exit from the courts. Please be respectful and use the gate that is closest to the court you are going onto or leaving. This will alleviate disrupting another group’s game.

Make sure you enter & exit the courts when you have all 4 players together. ***Move on/off the court quickly*** so that you are not holding up another group’s game. ***Close the gate after last person enters or exits!***

If you have to cross an active court to get onto a vacant court or to leave a court, wait until their current point is over. Ask the players for permission to cross their court.

If your ball goes into another court during play, please call out “ball” to notify the team so they can stop play. We do not want anyone to get hurt.

If you are standing around waiting to play, please be assertive and ask any player if you can join next game. Open play means everyone has an opportunity to play, but you own making that happen!

Following these simple Pickleball “court etiquette” guidelines will create a fun & enjoyable open play experience for all!!





# 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.



Combination for the net locks can be found at: <https://www.peacriverpicklers.com/net-code>

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

## **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, Bruce McPhee, Mary Stewart and Tom Ward



# 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 03/10/2021**

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

**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			Mixed Doubles	
Simone Jardim	2500		Simone Jardim	3000
Irina Tereschenko	2250		Ben Johns	3000
Michelle Esquivel	1600		Jessie Irvine	1660
Men's Doubles			Jeffrey Warnick	1660
Ben Johns	2700		Lucy Kovalova	1650
Matt Wright	2700		Matt Wright	1650
Riley Newman	1730			

**Top Pro Rankings as listed by Pickleball Global as of 03/10/2021**

**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	10200		Simone Jardim	7750
Zane Navratil	9100		Lucy Kovalova	7000
Tyson McGuffin	8000		Jessie Irvine	3900
Women's Singles			Mixed Doubles	
Simone Jardim	9600		Simone Jardim	11500
Lea Jansen	4750		Ben Johns	9800
Catherine Parenteau	4650		Lucy Kovalova	8000
Men's Doubles			Matt Wright	8000
Tyson McGuffin	9200		Catherine Parenteau	6350
Ben Johns	8700		Jay Devilliers	5500
Patrick Smith	7150			

# 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	<a href="mailto:debsarkisian@aol.com">debsarkisian@aol.com</a>
Vice President	Jean McGee	<a href="mailto:jmmcgee@comcast.net">jmmcgee@comcast.net</a>
Secretary	Laurie Price	<a href="mailto:lauriep81@gmail.com">lauriep81@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Heather Washik	<a href="mailto:hwashik@att.net">hwashik@att.net</a>

### Directors


Bruce McPhee	<a href="mailto:bjmcphee@me.com">bjmcphee@me.com</a>
Mary Stewart	<a href="mailto:marytomstewart@gmail.com">marytomstewart@gmail.com</a>
Tom Ward	<a href="mailto:rocknpickleball@gmail.com">rocknpickleball@gmail.com</a>





## Future Events

Charlotte County Senior Games— Pickleball...registration closed	Mar 27-28, 2021
G\$ Tournament @ Pickleplex®	Apr 10-11, 2021
American Pickleball Endless Summer Series @ Pickleplex®	Apr 16-17, 2021
For the full calendar of PRP events & details: <a href="https://www.peacriverpicklers.com/">https://www.peacriverpicklers.com/</a>	
For Pickleplex® event details: <a href="https://www.pickleplex.org/calendar">https://www.pickleplex.org/calendar</a>	



## 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

Florida Satellite....Bonita Springs, FL 04/02-04/2021

Cottontail Classic....Englewood, FL 04/03/2021

2021 Hopen its Open....Bonita, 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

Collier County Turn Up—The PINK....Naples, FL 10/15-17/2021

The Halloween Havoc....Fort Myers, FL 10/29-31/2021

The Fall Brawl....Fort Myers, FL 11/12-14/2021

The Holiday Paddle Battle....Fort Myers, FL 12/17-19/2021

More info on these and other tournaments can be found at:  
[https://www.pickleballtournaments.com/pbt\\_main.pl](https://www.pickleballtournaments.com/pbt_main.pl)