



Volume 2, Issue 9
July Special Edition

The Pickle Vine

July Special Edition

Peace River Picklers Board Announces Changes

“COVID gave the board a chance to reflect on our club and allowed us to review *your* survey inputs and combine them with *our* own ideas on how to grow and evolve Peace River Picklers.”Deb Sarkisian, Board President

This special issue of *The Pickle Vine* is devoted to the forthcoming changes that have resulted from that effort by your board. We encourage all members to review the enclosed pages which reflect the continuing evolution of our club.



Revised Mission Statement and Logo

Dear Peace River Picklers,

We are finally regaining some sense of normalcy and slowly emerging from the ill effects of the COVID pandemic. Hoping that all of you have remained healthy and safe during these uncertain times.

COVID gave the Board a chance to reflect on our club, review the membership survey and look at our mission statement. The club mission developed five years ago was ready for an update and, with an eye on the current membership inputs, the Board set to work. As times change and clubs grow, mission statements that served well for many years often need a revisit of wording. Did the intent genuinely depict our purpose and objectives? The Board agreed the club mission required a small amount of tweaking, removing verbiage related to competitive tournaments and replacing with new wording related to social play, competitive leagues and standardized education.

REVISED PRP 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.

Promote Respect Play

Next, we looked at our logo. This logo was designed at the same time as the original mission statement. In my short time as president I've had many of our members ask me "why the angry ball?" to which I replied, "I don't know!" It seems incongruous to be called PEACE River Picklers, yet have our logo appear aggressive. The decision was made to slightly soften the face to reflect a more welcoming, happier logo to communicate a more representative club.



We thank you for taking the time to provide your inputs and your thoughts on how to continue the growth and evolution of our club. We appreciate your support on our journey to make Peace River Picklers the best Pickleball Club we can be.

Peace River Pickler Board Update

*From the results of our member survey.... You **ASKED** and we **HEARD YOU!!***

You **ASKED** for a **Website** that was easier to use and more efficient. We **HEARD YOU** and the Board has been working over the past months with our WIX website consultant. As you may have noticed, our website is currently down while we implement improvements to help ensure ease of access and a more positive experience for all members. By mid-July our website will be open for public and membership access.

You **ASKED** for better **Educational Opportunities and Higher-Level Instruction**. We **HEARD YOU** and the Board has partnered with a 5.0 USAPA Pickleball rated player and certified IPTPA Instructor with over 20 plus years of educational, coaching & teaching experience. We are developing a new and exciting educational plan that will provide consistent, high-level training to our volunteer teachers to disseminate to our 2.0/2.5, 3.0 and 3.5+ level players. In addition, we will be offering "Clinics" provided by high-level instructors for our advanced skilled players. The Fall classes will start September 21 and run through October 31.

You **ASKED** for **Player Level Assessments**. We **HEARD YOU** and the Board has partnered with two 5.0 USAPA rated, IPTPA certified instructors to help conduct club assessments. We will be scheduling these assessments during the November/December time frame.

We "**Heard you**" and want you to "hear us" as well. We understand how important education and learning is for everyone as we continue to enjoy playing Pickleball and reaching our full potential. We understand the frustrations navigating through our website to register for Membership, Leagues & Skills/Drills. We worked diligently to make these improvements, but with all improvements there's a cost associated. With that being said, we will be increasing our **PRP Membership and League fees** (South County), **effective "immediately" from \$15 to \$20**. Thank you in advance for supporting this adjustment to make the significant changes necessary to ensure our club functions at a high level standard. Please join us on our journey to make Peace River Picklers the best Pickleball Club in Southwest Florida.



FALL 2020 LEAGUES

The below leagues are tentatively scheduled for this fall (9/21/20 – 10/31/20). We will also be offering club assessment sessions in November and December. These assessment sessions will identify a 4-digit skill level based on USAPA criteria (e.g., 3.175) and will establish a club rating for each participant. These ratings can be used to determine if individuals are qualified for each league offering.

Monday 8am – 10am, Ladies 3.5 Round Robin. (4 Courts)

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

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

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

Thursday 6pm – 8pm, Ladies 4.0+ Ladder (4 Courts)

Friday 8am – 10am, Mixed 3.5-4.0+ Ladder (8 Courts)

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

We will require appropriate skill levels for each league. Your rating may be determined from the club skill assessment, previous league participation, or Tournament play/ratings (e.g., PickleballTournaments.com).

We will be leveraging our new website for reservations and invitations for these leagues starting in July.

The leagues we offer will be dependent on court availability at the South County Regional Park on Cooper Street in Punta Gorda. At this time court rentals are not available and availability will depend on timing from the Charlotte County Parks and Recreation department.

Each league will also require a “League Leader”, which is a volunteer position. **We are actively looking for volunteers for these leagues.** League availability will be based on identifying these individuals. Once the website is open (mid-July), please complete the volunteer form and specify that you are interested in the league leader role.



Peace River Picklers Educational Program

Peace River Picklers (PRP) is proud to announce a new and improved Education Program to be rolled out for the upcoming 2020-2021 season. Our new program will provide a consistent, education-based approach for our members to develop and improve their skills and provide opportunities for growth at all abilities. Each session, we are offering PRP members to sign up for a **6-week education course** that will work on a progression of skills with players of similar abilities. If you are unsure about your player rating or ability [click here](#). Completing the 6-week course will not only improve your Pickleball game but will introduce you to new friends who share your same goals.

Part of Peace River Picklers mission is to "cultivate the game of Pickleball through consistent educational programs" and with our new program, we have an opportunity to do just that. In order to guarantee consistency, PRP has invited two Certified Pickleball Instructors to facilitate "**Teach The Teacher**" classes during a 6-week course for our volunteer instructors. PRP volunteer instructors will be the heart of our new program and are able to attend this class every week **FREE** of charge. **Tom Roesle and Sarah Saari are both 5.0 USAPA rated players**, are well respected Pickleball instructors in our community, and are excited to join PRP's new Education Program. Do not miss out on a chance to learn the secrets of teaching Pickleball skills effectively, discover new drills and activities, share your knowledge and experiences of the sport and be empowered to teach Pickleball with confidence. Classes start September 21st and volunteer teachers are needed!! Once our website is open (mid-July), you are invited to complete the volunteer form and specify that you are interested in the skills and drills teacher role.

Through professionalism and collaboration, our new Education Program will promote the growth and development of Pickleball for Peace River Pickler club members that will last for generations to come.



New Apps

To Help Our Membership Facilitate Open Play

Dear PRP Members,

In our March membership survey, you asked for “organized schedules for social play”, “lists of members broken down by skills” and “more organized rated play where you can just show up without joining a league.” You ASKED and we HEARD YOU.

We would like to present two free mobile device Apps to help facilitate your desired type of open play. The first is called PickleUp. This app allows registered players to create an invitation to play at specific locations. You can specify levels of play so that only those players receive an invite. Upon receiving the invitation, players can respond Yes, No or Maybe. PickleUp will tally the responses so that everyone knows who is playing. You can search for locations by city or by location name. Once you find a location, you can view the details and get directions. Gilchrist, PicklePlex, Englewood are a few of the locations that are currently available to schedule play dates. If you want to add additional locations, it is a very simple process and can be handled on your mobile device.

The second App is called Team Reach. This app requires a Team Leader who creates the group, then invites as many players as they wish to join their group. The leaders set up calendar events for the entire group. These events are visible to all group members. Each member responds Yes, No or Maybe and everyone can see all responses. You can send group messages, or message specific individuals. You can even post pictures to your site. This App is similar to PickleUp, but the group is ‘by invite’ and has a Team Leader who controls the group and sets up all events. You can also appoint a co-leader to help with managing the group. TeamReach is also a mobile device app.

Please take a look at both of these Apps. They are a great way to schedule open play and many of our club members are already using one or both of them!

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

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



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FOR FALL LEAGUES AND EDUCATION

(9/21 - 10/31/20)

Dear PRP Members,

Once again we need your assistance. Volunteer leaders and teachers are needed for the upcoming fall leagues and skills and drills (to be held 9/21/20 – 10/31/20). We need LEADERS and TEACHERS for both of these activities. As we have communicated in the past, we cannot provide these offerings to you, our membership, if we do not have leaders and teachers in place. Please help US to help YOU!! Please volunteer by completing the Volunteer form on our website. The site will be open for use mid-July.



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	To Be Announced	
Directors		
	Doug Gammie	gammie72@msn.com
	Bruce McPhee	bjmcphee@me.com
	Mary Stewart	marytomstewart@gmail.com