



VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH



Toni Briggs - November 2021

Truth be told, I started playing pickleball in 2000. It was at a campground and free instruction was offered. All it took was a wooden paddle, a wiffle ball, and a converted tennis court.

It was easy to bat the ball back and forth, and I didn't have to run far, because I had a partner. Worries about stepping into the NVZ after a volley, committing foot faults, or delivering an illegal serve were not part of the plan.

I was hooked, and I got to play in RV parks all over the U.S. Over time, I learned the rules.

Fast forward to 2013, when Sun City became my new home. I was introduced to a whole different sport and fell in love with it. Trash talk, social get-togethers, and meeting lots of new folks.

Now, when on the road, all I have to do is look up "Places to Play" on the USAP website in whatever state I am in. I have new friends all over the U.S.

I get great joy out of teaching new folks this game with a silly name. I always start out telling them it won't be long, and they will be addicted to it.

I have played in a few tournaments, but mostly, I referee. It lets me watch players in all ability groups and appreciate the fact that it just takes a bit longer for the best players to make the same mistakes that I do.

The plus is that I always learn something.

Start where you are.

Use what you have.

Do what you can.

- Arthur Ashe