



Kitchen Talk

Sun City Texas Pickleball Club Newsletter

FROM THE PRESIDENT

March



Barb Patterson

Thanks to everyone who took the time to fill out the 2024 Club Member Survey. We had a lot of very thoughtful and constructive comments submitted. This year 456 members responded (compared to 479 last year). This is approximately 30% of our total club members. According to Allen Lovins (head of IT for the Community Association) most clubs get a 10% response rate to their surveys so 30% isn't bad.

The club board is in the process of evaluating all of the percentages and comments. Here are some take-aways from what we have so far:

- The largest proportion of respondents (79%) were Intermediate/High Intermediate. 11% were Novice/Beginner and 10% were advanced.
- 76% play at least two times per week.
- 10:00 am to noon was the favorite time to play (36%), followed by early morning (29%).
- Monday (63%) was the top-vote-getter for preferred day to play, followed by Thursday (60%).
- 53% of members responding said they prefer to play at Northpoint.
- Over 50% of members agreed with offering some training/leagues on weeknights/Saturdays for members who cannot participate on weekdays.
- 31% of members took at least one private lesson in 2023, 30% played in at least one league and 50% played in at least one Round Robin last year.



FROM THE PREZ (CONT.)

●The most important activities that the club offers to members (from a long list) are:

- 1 - Ability to reserve a court in advance
- 2 - Availability of Open Play
- 3 - Skill-level play.

●Open play vs. reserved court play was the area that received the most comments from members and it was pretty much split right down the middle. From the multiple choice questions, 39% said the mix of open play vs. reserved courts was good. 18% thought there should be more open play, while 21% said there should be more reserved courts available.

The area in which club members were most in agreement concerned the Capital Expense Fund with 75% of members saying that we should start forming a Capital Expense Fund committee to look into future projects.

I will say that from my initial reading through all of the written comments, it is clear that many members want to see either additional courts, covered courts or indoor courts in the future. We should all keep in mind that any of these projects will take considerable resources and our club would need to provide most of them. A few folks insisted that the Community Association should pay for these amenities; this is unlikely to happen given the huge cost and budgeting concerns. As we mentioned at the annual meeting and also in this survey, costs could run in excess of \$500,000 for some projects. Covering 4 courts at Kissing Tree in San Marcos cost \$320,000 and that was in addition to the cost of the courts themselves. There also would be maintenance and insurance costs for the CA after any new amenities are built. These are all issues that must be kept in mind if/when a Capital Expense Project proposal is submitted.

Again, we appreciate the input from members; it is a great tool for the board to use when making decisions in the future. All of the survey responses are now available for all members to read by logging into your SCTexas.org account and heading to the [Pickleball Club](#) (click) microsite.

See You on the Courts! Barb



CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

TREASURER'S REPORT SUBMITTED BY D'LES LONGINO

February 2024 Financials



We began FY2024 with \$6,650.25 in our checking account. In the month ending January, we had income of \$21,400.47 from renewed and new memberships. After expenses of \$694.53 (player development \$66.41, court activities \$37.81, maintenance \$150.46, first aid \$21.09, admin \$49.20, Kitchen talk software and Arlo \$138.56, Court Reserve \$231) and sales tax payable \$5.06 on an expense item, we ended January with a balance of \$27,732.76.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME
Anne	Beck
Beverly	Capozzoli
Ernest	Capozzoli
Gus	Cardenas
Carol	Carter
Mark	Ferris
Robin	Garza
Dianna	Guyette
Lee	Guyette
Alan	Heinzke

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME
Susan	Hoss
Lisa	Jay
Csilla	Kollar
David	Krause
Leslie	Krause
Nancy	Kromar
Tonya	Larsen
Dianne	Mackie
Jim	Mackie
Suzanne	Mardock
Michael	Mazzarella

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME
Matt	McLaughlin
Teri	McLaughlin
Patricia	Perkison
Phyllis	Popplewell
Sandra	Roth
Rudy	Tabares
Brian	Telle
Nancy	Telle
Karin	Wolff
Tom	Zoerner

At press time, total number of club members is 1546.



CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT.)

And So The Capital Expense Fund WORK begins!

As your newly elected Vice President, I have taken on the task to head this committee! As Barb stated, 75% of members who responded are in favor of forming a Capital Expense Fund and now is the time to volunteer to be part of this project. Many of you expressed your desire for more courts, shade over existing courts or indoor courts. This committee will be separated into categories in order to prepare a well-written report to present to the CA by this May. The sub-committees will be comprised of:

- A. The Think Tank - Compile information collected to write the request and establish a time-line to meet the deadline for submission.
- B. The Nitty Gritty - Justify the need for our project and how this would benefit the community (not just the Pickleball club) as a selling point to the CA.
- C. Just Give Me the Facts - Determine useful life of the project and include estimate of annual operations and maintenance of project. Ensure project complies with community standards and aesthetics of Sun City.
- D. The Money Makers - Develop a plan to raise money for the project with fund-raising events, corporate sponsorship, etc.
- E. The Social Butterfly Group - Visit other communities (Harker Heights, Kissing Tree, Chicken N Pickle, etc) and inquire about contractors and costs of their project. Take pictures of their courts and find out their participation numbers as well as upkeep costs.

A subsequent survey will then be sent out to all club members with each viable project which will include specific details/pricing etc. After a review of this survey, it will then be determined which project is the best option to pursue at this time. It will take several people to assist in this project and by participating, you can take pride in the fact that you were there on the ground floor! Please email me before March 4th at liznsugar@gmail.com if you are interested in helping.



CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT.)

The Gauntlet has been Thrown

I was playing a match down at Retreat yesterday with my mixed doubles partner, Steve Frank, against Margo Chase-Wells and John Carter. Hannah Nguyen and Anne Buhls were on the adjacent court working on their dinks. Anne had been off the courts for several months following multiple arm surgeries. Hannah was helping her recovery with dinking drills. As my group of 4 ran through several points, the dinks on the other court continued non-stop. I couldn't help but notice the consistent rhythm of their back and forth battle. When the action finally stopped Hannah announced that she and Ann had hit 368 continuous straight across dinks. The gauntlet has been thrown. How many consecutive dinks can you and your partner do? Way to go Hannah and Anne.





CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT.)

Upcoming Events - Next 6 weeks

Mar 2 - BIG Tournament at North Point

Mar 4 - Team Challenge League Starts

Mar 6 - BYOBB&D at Northpoint

Mar 11 - Registration for "Rally Round the Court" Opens

Mar 13 - Registration for Post Tournament Party Opens

Apr 3 - BYOBB&D at Northpoint

Apr 4 - Registration for "Rally Round the Court" closes

Apr 10 - Registration for post tournament Party Closes

Apr 20 - "Rally Round the Court" Tournament

Apr 20 - Post Tournament Party

CMARS Reminders

Recently several members have noted some concerns on reserved courts. If you have reserved a court, but then found out that you can't use it, please cancel your reservation. While you can cancel the reservation right up until the start time, please be courteous and cancel as soon as you know you will not need the court. It has come to our attention that some people are reserving courts for their group of friends but the person making the reservation does not play at all in the reservation time slot. If this happens, violators will receive an email from the Club and the second offense may result in the member's CMARS privileges being revoked. We have over 1500 members in our club so let's keep it fair for everyone.



CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT.)

Are you tired of WET Courts?

Have you lost towels to court Drying Efforts?

See the Big Absorbent Tennis Towel (BATT) being evaluated at the Retreat and Northpoint

We received two BATT (Big Absorbent Tennis Towel) systems to evaluate. One is located at Northpoint hanging on the west side of Court 21, the other is located at The Retreat, hanging on a fence by court 9.

This is a fairly new concept for drying tennis/pickleball courts. If the evaluation goes well we will purchase additional systems for Texas Drive and more for North Point.

For the best explanation and video on the unit I suggest going to the web site.

<https://battowel.com/battowel>

This has the history, videos to watch and customer testimonials. With the recent rain last week I had a chance to test it out. At The Retreat I did one court with the large Squeegee on wheels and another court with the BATT.

The court I used the BATT on was ready to play in about 10 minutes, where the squeegee court took about 30 minutes to be ready to play.



If you have a chance to use it, let us know your thoughts at sctxpickleball@gmail.com



MORE COURT IMPROVEMENTS

Our Maintenance Director, Tim Schutte, has been hard at work. In addition to the continual efforts of replacing wind screen ties and court net tie downs, Tim has fabricated 3 new gates on display on courts 23 thru 26 to replace the net gating we had in place. Tim fabricated these gates based on his own design and built and installed them seemingly over night. Here are a couple of pictures, but you really need to see them yourself. Stop by Northpoint and check them out.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Admin Help for New Members:

We need another volunteer to print out name tags and address labels for new members. This is a twice a month duty that takes about 30 minutes each time. Please contact Barb Patterson (barbpatter1@gmail.com) if interested.

Social Committee:

The social committee wants to open their ranks to all members with a interest in event planning, prize solicitation, decorating, event set up and event take down - and other related activities. If you are interested in joining this group contact Colleen Nadolski (colleen.nadolski@gmail.com)



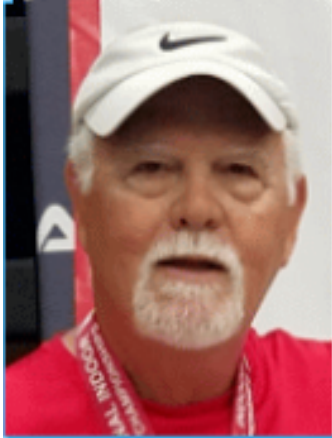
Volunteer Appreciation Dinner 2024

On February 2nd, the Pickleball Club held a thank you dinner for our Club volunteers. The event was held in the Lone Star room at the Retreat and featured salads, a selection of pizza choices and home made desserts made by members of the social committee. Almost 100 of our volunteers attended the event. The room was buzzing with laughter, shared stories and camaraderie. The balloon centerpieces were a big hit. The Pickleball Club Board of Directors thanks all the volunteers for their help in keeping the club functioning and the Social Committee for setting up this event





FROM OUR PICKLEBALL FRIEND



Chuck Flanagan

2024 10th Anniversary Cedar Park Paddle Battle

The 10th annual Cedar Park Paddle Battle pickleball tournament is scheduled for May 8 - 12, 2024, and is a great opportunity for players wanting to play in their first tournament outside Sun City. It's also a great opportunity for those who would just like to come see what all the tournament hype is all about. There is plenty of free parking at the Cedar Park



Recreation Center, 1435 Main St., and admission is free for all spectators.

This will be a five day tournament with the following categories:

May 08, 2024 - Men's 3.0, Men's 3.5 60+, Men's 4.0 60+

May 09, 2024 - Mixed 3.0, Mixed 3.5 60+, Mixed 4.0 60+

May 10, 2024 - Women's 3.0, Women's 3.5 60+, Women's 4.0 60+

May 11, 2024 - Men's 4.0, Women's 4.0, Mixed 3.5

May 12, 2024 - Men's 3.5, Women's 3.5, Mixed 4.0

Matches will begin at 8:00 am daily and usually run until late afternoon.

For people interested in refereeing at the tournament (all matches will have a referee), there will be two referee clinics just before the tournament: May 6th, from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm and May 7th, from 9:00 am - 12: pm. Unlike previous years, these clinics will be conducted as practical exercises entirely on the court.

Complete details about the tournament can be found here:

<http://tinyurl.com/2024PaddleBattle>



PICKLEBALL FRIEND (cont.)

Rules:

Q:Is it legal for the receiver's partner to stand next to the center line and jump back and forth like he's going to intercept the serve?

A:No. That would be a 'distraction' and a referee should immediately call a fault on the offending player. Here are the two rules that explain this.

3..A.7. Distraction – Physical actions by a player that are 'not common to the game' that, in the judgment of the referee, may interfere with the opponent's ability or concentration to hit the ball. Examples include, but are not limited to, making loud noises, stomping feet, waving the paddle in a distracting manner, or otherwise interfering with the opponent's concentration or ability to hit the ball.

11.J. Distractions. Players may not distract an opponent when the opponent is about to play the ball. If in the judgment of the referee a distraction has occurred, the referee shall immediately call a fault on the offending team

Q:Can the receiver become 'not ready' after the score is called?

A:No. According to the rules, "*4.C.2. After the start of the score being called, "not ready" signals will be ignored, unless there is a hinder. A player or team out of position is not considered a hinder.*"*

*While it is true that being out of position is not a hinder, under the new rules about the referee confirming player positions before calling the score (4.B.9.), a player may stop the rally to correct player position errors (4.B.9.a.).

I replaced my rooster with a duck

Now I wake up at the quack of dawn



PICKLEBALL FRIEND (cont.)

Last Month's Rule Quiz - Expert Level

"How can one player get called for committing four simultaneous faults in one rally?"

I had two people try to answer the quiz. Both had obviously given it some thought but missed the mark.

Here's the answer: The server's partner is standing close to the NVL when the receiver returns the serve with a very short lob. The server's partner runs forward into the kitchen and hits a hard drive before the return crosses the net. At the same time as he hits the ball, his shirt brushes the net. The four faults are:

1. Violation of the two-bounce rule.
2. Contacting the net while the ball is live.
3. Hitting the ball before it crosses the plane of the net.
4. Kitchen violation.

7.A. If the serve or service return does not bounce before the ball is struck.

7.G. A player, a player's apparel, or a player's paddle contacting the net system, the net posts, or the opponent's court, when the ball is live.

7.K. Once the ball is in play, a player hitting the ball before the ball entirely crosses the plane of the net.

9.B. It is a fault if the volleying player or anything that has contact with the volleying player while in the act of volleying touches the non-volley zone.

Got a rules question? Feel free to contact me at Chuck.Flanagan@Gmail.com.

Shout out to the people wondering what the
opposite of in is.



TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

By Ric Hutchinson, Director of Player Development

Pickleball in March in Sun City Texas. Can anyone say WINDY!!! If nothing else it does make us keep our eye on the ball.

I hate to beat a dead Pickleball but we continue to have a problem with people playing above or (even) below their skill level. I know in Sun City we tend to rate ourselves a little higher than we may actually be. And if you want to play with players of all levels, then Open Play is a good way to do that.

However, our Pro Clinics and Round Robins are designed to put players of fairly equal levels together. Having a 3.5 player in a clinic designed for 2.5 players is not productive. And quite frankly not fair to the other (2.5) players. Conversely, having a 3.0 player register for a 4.0 clinic is also a problem.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, consider your actual skill level when registering for clinics or other events that are designed for specific skill levels.

Ongoing Program Updates

Introduction to Pickleball.

So far this year we have taught four Intro to Pickleball classes. As I discussed last month all registrations for this class are now made through self-registration using CMARS. All classes for the remainder of the year will be available on CMARS as much as 90 days prior to the start of the class.

Beginner Training.(BT).

This month we completed Beginner Training Classes 124 and 125. My thanks to all the volunteer instructors who gave their time to make this possible. Here are the photos of the graduates of BT Classes 124 and 125.



TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT (cont.)



BT 124

Backrow / left to right; Rodney Dowd, Murray Graham, Becky Greening, Doug Israel, Robin Clark

Middle row / left to right; Scott Singer, Lee Barrett, Larry Patton, Robert Young*, Jack Osterbrock, Kym Myers, Jamie Sandel, Doug Roper, Alice Clemons (instructor), John Leezer (instructor)

Front row / left to right; Jan Baldwin (instructor) and Mary Payne (instructor)



BT 125

Front Row (L to R): Gary Schrempp (Assist Instructor), Karl Weiss, Becky Musil, Lisa Theurer, Ray Kivimaki, Cole Ballard, Ed Padar and Susan Burgardt.

Back Row (L to R): Alice Clemons (Instructor), Martha Speakman (Instructor), Cindy Gallien, Linda Elton, Kelly Kretz, and Judy Padar.



Fun, Friends
and Fitness



TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT (cont.)

Supervised Novice Play. (SNP)

We have graduated 17 students from SNP in 2024, bringing our total to 769 graduates since the program's inception in August 2020.

Skills and Drills (S&D)

The Spring Skills and Drills classes will be offered beginning on 5 March 2024. CMARS registration opened on 1 February at 5:00 pm. At this time there are still a few openings for those who are interested. In the meantime, if you have taken some of the classes, find someone who was not able to and become their drill partner.

Advanced Pickleball Strategy. (APS).

March APS classes will be offered on 5 and 19 March. Registration will be through CMARS and will open 14 days prior to each scheduled class at 5:00 pm.

Our thanks to Will Saunders who developed and organized the initial classes. Will is going to step down and Richard Wells will be replacing him. Richard and his wife Margo will be leading the March classes

Train the Trainer Classes.



It's 2024 and time to start gearing up for our Spring Train the Trainer Classes. Our next class is scheduled for 20 April. We are modifying the training program this year to shorten the initial training time from 3 days to 1 day and to add specific on-the-job training for our instructors in training.

This program is a prerequisite for the progressive development of our volunteers who will apprentice as assistant instructors and potentially work their way to joining the Supervised Novice Play, Beginner Training and Skills and Drills programs. For more information or to register for this class, contact Ric Hutchinson, Player Development Director, at novicehutch@gmail.com.

Club Pro Clinics.

The response to the Pro Clinics continues to be amazing. One of the things we are looking at is to use the number of people on the waitlist as a basis for scheduling a second clinic that day. So, if you like the clinic and it is full, please register for the waitlist. If we get enough people on the waitlist, we will schedule a repeat of the clinic from 1:00 – 2:30 the same day and move the people on the waitlist to that clinic.

The updated schedule for March is included below.



TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT (cont.)

2024 Club Pro Clinics								
Pro Clinic #	Instructor	Pro Clinic Name	Date	Skill Level	Cost per Person	Courts/ Time	Registration Opens	
24-12	Matthew Boyett	Red, Yellow, Green Light Volleys	9-Mar-24	3.0	\$25.00	NP 11-13 11:30 - 1:00	24-Feb-24	5:00 PM
24-13	Matthew Boyett	Paddle Position	14-Mar-24	2.5	\$25.00	NP 14-16 11:30 - 1:00	29-Feb-24	5:00 PM
24-14	Matthew Boyett	Control the Kitchen Line	21-Mar-24	3.5	\$25.00	NP 14-16 11:30 - 1:00	7-Mar-24	5:00 PM
24-15	Matthew Boyett	Reduce Your Pop-ups	30-Mar-24	3.0	\$25.00	NP 11-13 11:30 - 1:00	16-Mar-24	5:00 PM
24-16	Esteban Espada	3rd Drop Shot and Transitioning	4-Mar-24	3.0	\$25.00	NP 14-16 11:30 - 1:00	19-Feb-24	5:00 PM
24-17	Esteban Espada	Dinking and <u>Attacking</u>	25-Mar-24	2.5	\$25.00	NP 11-13 11:30 - 1:00	11-Mar-24	5:00 PM

Please note- As we begin to expand these clinics to include all skill levels **IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** that everyone respects the specific skill level requirements of each clinic when registering.

Club Teaching Professionals.

Available Hours.

Our Teaching Professionals, Matthew Boyett and Esteban Espada share Court #23 at North Point, Monday through Saturday from 7 am – 10 pm. If you prefer evening lessons, please contact them. They also schedule make up sessions for inclement weather days on Sunday. For more information on our pros, their contact information and their rates, click on [Sun City Texas Community Association Private Lessons \(sctexas.org\)](http://sctexas.org) or head on out to Court #23, peak through the fence and see these guys in action.

Take Advantage of Our Pros.

Many of you have asked me how you can continue to improve your pickleball skills after you have completed our Club training programs. The answer is to contact Esteban or Matthew and take a lesson.



COURT ACTIVITIES

By Terry Kennedy, Director of Court Activities

Court Usage

Weekend Round Robins are running

Over 175 registrants for the first 2 months –weather has been a little better for February

Team Challenge League

216 players – 36 teams – starts March 3rd

Round Robin Fall Tournament

Dates have been set & confirmed

Women play September 6th & 7th

Men play September 13th & 14th

To qualify play at least three times – in 2.5, 3.0, or 3.5/4.0 skill level

Any weekend between 3/8 and 9/1

Seeding in tournament will be based on your 3 best winning % scores

On these weekends:

3/29-3/31, 4/26-4/28, 5/31-6/2, 6/28-6/30, 7/26-7/28, all weekends in August thru 9/1

More details posted at Round Robin Courts or ask Round Robin Moderators





COACH'S CORNER



Matt Boyett

Hey everyone, Matthew Boyett back again for another Coach's Corner. I recently came back from teaching a pickleball camp in Mexico. These camps are great tools to learn as well as a fun vacation. This month I wanted to talk about how you can maximize your time and experience if you choose to attend a camp!

- **1. Take notes, not videos**

This is the most important and least used in my opinion when I teach camps. Videos from camps are great to look back on to remember your experience. As far as learning goes, this is not your best option. Often times it is hours of videos that do not get looked at. What I recommend is to take notes at the end of your camp hours each day. This way, you will see what your brain remembers that day. You can then go back home, in your own words, and read what you learned that day.

- **2. Be willing to have short term failure**

In a camp you cannot worry about playing your best. You will mess up. You will be thinking a lot. If you barely miss on the shot or strategy you are working on, take that as a good sign. You are beginning to understand and develop a new skill!

- **3. Seek out a coach that you click with**

Usually at camps there are a wide variety of coaches. You will come to click with some more than others and that's completely fine. Once you find the coach that really seems to understand your game, try to seek more information.





DID YOU KNOW??

Did you know?

- Years ago, when Courts 1-4 were built at Texas Drive, Brent Baker (former CA Director before Jim Romine and Josh Lockhart) made a promise to the neighborhoods near the courts that there would never be lights on those four courts. And that's why we need to use the other 22 courts, which do have lights, for our evening play.
- The Community Association has money in the Reserve Fund for pickleball court maintenance and resurfacing. Resurfacing is tentatively scheduled for every 6-7 years. The Retreat is scheduled for 2024 and Texas Drive is scheduled for 2025-2026. We are meeting with the P&G Committee concerning resurfacing since we believe that Texas Drive courts probably need attention earlier than is scheduled.
- There is a "Player List" available on the CMARS system app and also a list of club members on our microsite. These are both great tools to use if you want to contact other club members via email or phone.
- If you see someone who does not appear to be a Sun City resident, using any of the pickleball courts, it's perfectly fine to ask them if they are residents. We have had some instances of non-residents using the courts and once it has been pointed out that these are private courts, all of them have left immediately. (Apparently they either cannot read the large signs or have chosen to ignore them.)
- There is a Facebook page for our club here [-https://www.facebook.com/SCTXPickleball](https://www.facebook.com/SCTXPickleball)





One of our new members, Bill Cochran, MD, found this article in one of the professional journals:

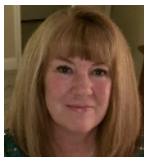
Pickleball Rx: Serving Up Advice for Patients and Players

The Dynamic Warm-Up

Follow [this link](#) for the details!



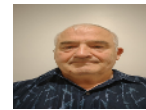
2024 SCTPC BOARD MEMBERS



Barb Patterson
President



D'Les Longino
Treasurer



Tim Schutte
*Maintenance
Director*



Liz Blount
Vice President



Ric Hutchinson
*Director of Player
Development*



Terry Kennedy
*Director of Court
Activities*



Peg O'Toole
Secretary



Pete Nadolski
*Communications
Director*





PARTING SHOT

Sunset at Northpoint Feb 2024

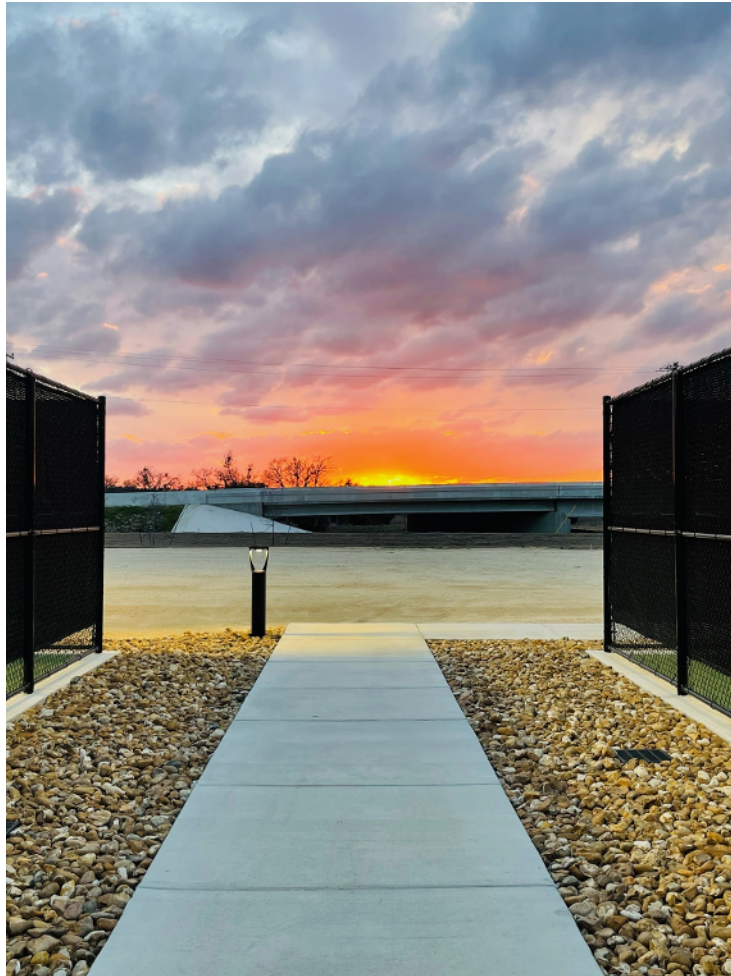


Photo Courtesy of Lisa Medina

I am always looking for photos for the parting shot. If you have something, send it to me at sctxpickleball@gmail.com