



VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

Nominated by Kathy Carr

Our **February 2021 Volunteers of the Month** were **Alice Clemons, Anne Diaz, Cindy Kaminky and Cathy Stateler**. They were recognized for their support and contributions to the Club's Beginner's Mentoring and Novice Supervised Play Programs. As coaches they conduct warm up drills, evaluate and provide feedback on player performance, and provide guidance to reinforce the players' understanding of the rules, scoring and court positioning.



Alice Clemons - February 2021

I still consider myself a Michigander even though I've been in Texas for 28 years. I raised 2 sons in Waco, managed a large pediatric medical practice, owned a consignment store and a home decorating business (not all at the same time). Once my boys were in college, I relocated to the Austin area where I was in management at the Round Rock Lens Crafters store. It was there that I met so many upbeat, glass-half-full, energetic happy seniors from Sun City and I made up my mind that I would live in Sun City too. Life takes some interesting and often wonderful turns and so on Christmas Eve, 2019, I married Barron Clemons, my good friend of 35 years, and we moved to Sun City.

I was introduced to pickleball in 2018 in northern Michigan while visiting my parents' farm. A family friend built a court in the middle of their cornfield and I was invited to play. So I agreed and spent a few weeks "playing," knowing little about the game other than it was great fun. Jan Baldwin and Mary Payne were my instructors in the Beginning Mentoring program and in no time, I was hooked on the game. I played as often as the pandemic would allow (my husband started playing too so we could see one another) and decided to give back to this great program by offering my help to the training coaches, even if it meant just running around and picking up balls, and I've enjoyed every minute of it.

Sun City Pickleball has been a great addition to our lives, but the friends we've made because of this great program have been the highlight of moving to this great community. We are living our best lives and we're here to stay!



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Anne Diaz - February 2021

When my husband Will Díaz and I moved to Sun City in May of 2019, we had absolutely nothing on our agenda. We were open to our new life of retirement in Texas. We wanted to travel and visit our three daughters as often as possible. After transferring several times over the years and having lived in Round Rock previously, we knew we were home.

We dutifully signed up for Intro to Pickleball at the new homeowners meeting and thought July 12th seemed a long way off. So, on that very hot Saturday afternoon in July we were introduced to the game by Peg O'Toole and Judy Blackman. I learned we had the wrong shoes! I remember attending Novice play,

which at the time was only twice a week for two hours of learning from other Novices.

Little by little we have both gotten the hang of it! We enjoy meeting new people almost daily and playing with all skill levels. We have taught the basics to a few neighbors, friends and to our family when they visit.

I like think that our excitement and enthusiasm for pickleball has been contagious in our neighborhood (N83) as many have now joined the club. It took over a year for me to get into the Beginner's Mentoring class and since then I knew I wanted to be part of the training team and give back to the club.

Kathy Carr has done an incredible job with the training and development program. Coaching Novice groups and assisting Beginners/Mentoring has been a great experience and I continue to enjoy playing and learning more about the game every day!





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Cindy Kaminki - February 2021



I am a Midwest girl, raised in the Chicago area. My husband and I have 3 children and a large extended family. We raised our children in a suburb of Chicago (Naperville) and we both had careers. His was advertising and I owned a retail flower shop in downtown Naperville.

Once our kids were educated and married and having their children, we retired. Looking for an escape from the cold, we jumped at the opportunity to explore Texas, where my sister and her husband lived in Sun City.

After several years of visiting, we bought a house 2 doors away from them. That was in 2013. We did the "6 month snow bird thing" until 2018. My husband passed that year and I decided a permanent move to Sun City would be the

best thing for me. Travel is easy and everyone is always delighted with my visits, including me.

I love the Sun City lifestyle and the people. And I especially love pickleball. I started playing in 2013. There was very little training then. You picked up skills as you played and, luckily, I had some tennis in my background. It still took me years to get to the basic intermediate level. That is why I love to be able to help with any of the classes. The level of dedicated teaching that is offered to all those wanting to learn the sport is phenomenal.

I am not a "tournament" player, but I love to have fun. And "FUN" is what pickleball is. I feel lucky to be able to fully participate.



Those who bring sunshine to the lives
of others cannot keep it from
themselves.

JAMES MATTHEW BARRIE





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Cathy Stateler - February 2021

My husband, Davey and I have been married 52 years. We moved to Sun City in 2013 and have loved every minute.

Before coming here, we had never heard of pickleball. All it took was the Introduction to Pickleball Class and we were hooked. We ordered our paddles that same day.

I feel I have received so much from the club's training program that it was time for me to give back. I love teaching Beginner's Mentoring and coaching Novice Supervised Play to our newest

members. It is VERY REWARDING!

Davey and I have 2 children and 7 grandchildren. Most of my career was working in Criminal District Courts and State Appeals Court. I LOVE to travel and can't wait to get on the road again.



Those who can do,
do. Those who can
do more, volunteer.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN