



# Kitchen Talk



## Pickleball Association of Sun City Texas Newsletter

### 2016 PASCT Board Members

President Nancy Grafton	Vice President Don Hayes	Treasurer Gary Pinkston	Secretary VA Miller	Player Development Director Peg O'Toole	Communications Director Kathy Carr
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**Volume 2, Issue 2**

*Fun, Friends and Fitness*

**February 1, 2016**

### From the Prez

By Nancy Grafton  
PASCT President



Nancy Grafton  
PASCT President

When I lived back East, I thought of February as the month of Valentine's Day, and President's Day (and maybe a work day off to play), and that the snow and cold would be gone in two (or three months), and longer sunlit days would return. Well, here in Texas, we still celebrate those two special days, many of us retirees play more than we work, and we eagerly wait for the wind-blown cedar pollen to blow somewhere else (much like the snow), and the cold and early morning dew on the courts to evaporate in the morning heat. I keep telling myself, patience, it will happen.

Your Pickleball Board held a workshop in January to discuss all the new programs that you will be reading about in this issue of Kitchen Talk and in the months that follow. If you have any ideas for socials, please share them. We are attempting to fill dates on the event calendar for the remainder of 2016. This month's Kitchen Talk also features the recommendations of the Court Utilization Committee, and the results of the survey many of you participated in.

For those of you who are like me and look every time you go to the courts to see if the new poles and lights have been installed on Courts 5 and 6, I will be as excited when that happens as I am when the pollen is gone and more sunlit days return. For those of you who ask about repairing the cracks – it won't happen until the nicer weather is here to stay – probably in April - along with repainting the gate posts.

See you on the courts,

Nancy

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## From the Ambassador

By **Chuck Flanagan**

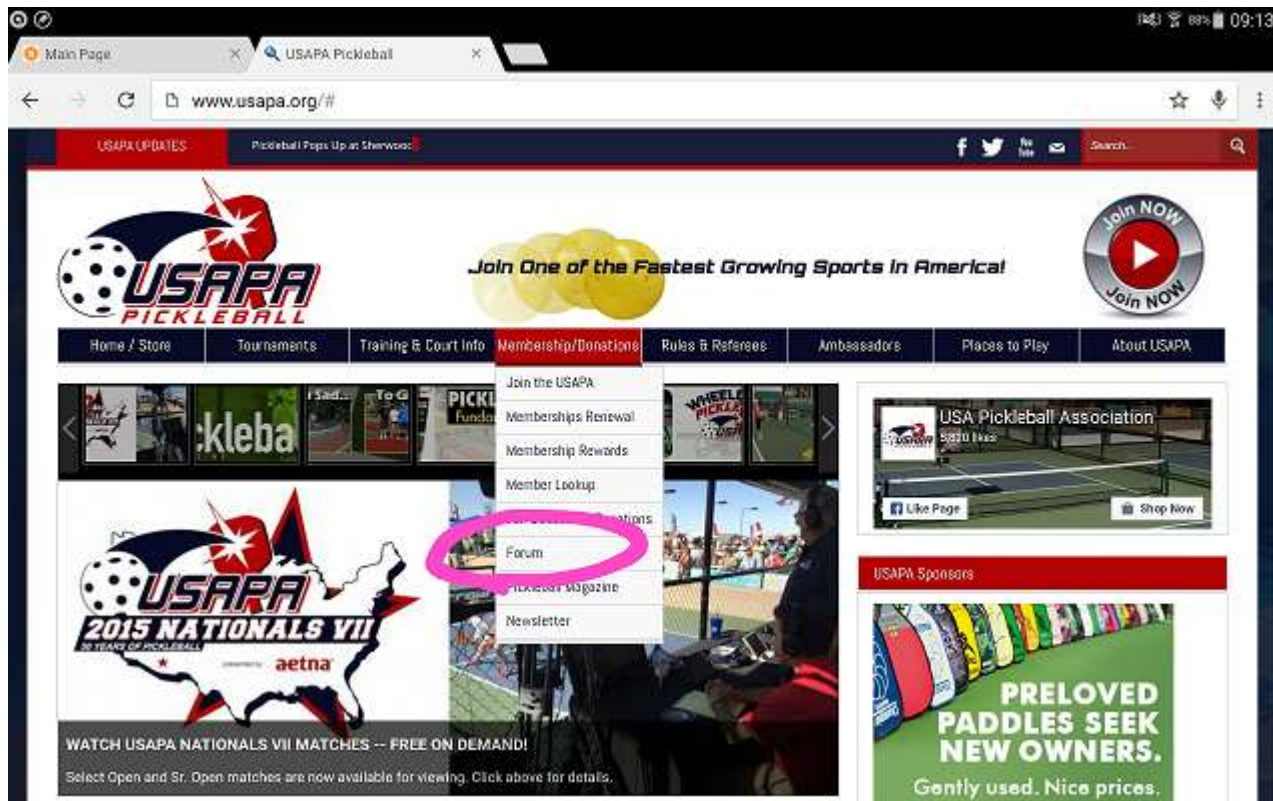
*Texas Central and South Central District Pickleball Ambassador*



**Chuck Flanagan**

All your pickleball questions answered here. Well, not directly “here” (they could be if you asked), but they may be on the USAPA web forum. The USAPA web site hosts a forum where members can ask a variety of questions - pickleball related questions. The current topics include: “Pickleball General, Rules, Balls, Places to Play, Tournament Information, Pickleball Equipment, and Promote the Sport.” You can find and join this forum by clicking on the “Membership/Donations” tab on the menu bar of the USAPA web site home page (see image below).

In addition to the members’ forum, there is an ambassadors’ forum where USAPA ambassadors can post information and ask questions or solicit assistance from other ambassadors. This forum is a Google Groups forum and ambassadors can elect to have all posting delivered via email. That’s how I have mine set up and recently there have been some lively discussions on line calling and non-volley zone violations. The line call issue revolved around a player shouting, “Out!”, before the ball bounced and then continuing the play. The NVZ question concerned what happens when a player volleys the ball and knocks the partner’s paddle into the NVZ.



Take some time to think about those and tell me what you think the calls should be. If you need a copy of the IPFP rule book, look here... <http://www.usapa.org/ifp-official-rules/>

## Club Announcements

By Kathy Carr

PASCT Communications Director

- **Club Membership.** As of today we have 389 members in good standing with the Pickleball Club (that means they paid their dues for 2016). If you know of someone who was a member last year but hasn't as yet signed on for 2016, please give them the nudge that they need to receive the Club's outstanding news publications.
- **Pickleball Play Day at Georgetown Recreation Center.** On Saturday, 6 February from 10 am – 1 pm, the Williamson County Wellness Alliance is sponsoring a FREE "How To" pickleball clinic, practice play and skills challenge on the indoor courts at the Georgetown Recreation Center. If you have some friends and neighbors who would like to learn the game, invite them over. Location is Georgetown Recreation Center, 1003 North Austin Avenue, Georgetown. For more information, email [misha.lee@georgetown.org](mailto:misha.lee@georgetown.org).
- **Simon.** Our pickleball throwing machine is still on the fritz. Clark Grafton, Maintenance Director, is packing Simon up now for shipment back to the manufacturer for repair. Hopefully the fix is under warranty.
- **Sun City Georgetown Spring Pickleball Tournament.** Details to follow soon, but make sure you mark Saturday, 9 April down on your calendar. The Club will host its annual Spring Pickleball Tournament with lunch provided by Stacy Group and a dinner venue that is still being worked. Point of contact is Barb Patterson, PASCT Tournament Director.
- **Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.** On Saturday, 12 March at 12:30 pm the Club will sponsor an appreciation luncheon for volunteers who kept pickleball humming along in 2015. Those volunteers have been notified of the date via email with a promise of more information about this event as it becomes available.
- **In Lieu of a New Social Director.** As you know we are still in the hunt for a Club Social Director to backfill Kim Stout. It appears, at least for now, that despite Kim's small stature her shoes are a little big to follow. If you think you might have the organizational and people skills required to schedule, coordinate and execute social events for the Club, we really need you and your friends. Interested individuals or team of individuals are encouraged to contact Nancy Grafton, the Club president at [nancygrafton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nancygrafton@sbcglobal.net).

**A new job.....**

**Submitted by Walt Holt**

A taxi passenger tapped the driver on the shoulder to ask him a question. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the sidewalk, and stopped inches from a shop window. For a second everything went quiet in the cab, then the driver said, "Don't ever do that again. You scared the daylight out of me!" The passenger apologized and said, "I didn't realize that a little tap would scare you so much." The driver replied, "Sorry, it's not really your fault. Today is my first day as a cab driver - I've been driving a funeral van for the last 25 years."



## Your Opinion Really Does Matter

By Kathy Carr, PASCT Communications Director

When Sun City Texas converted over to its new web system last year, we gained some pretty neat capabilities that we didn't have in the past. Some of these capabilities offer convenience, mostly to me as the microsite manager, but others, like the Survey Maintenance Module, provide powerful utility for our club.

I must admit that with the new system it is a lot less painful for me to send out a *Pickleball Express* or *Kitchen Talk* to you than it used to be. I can even include a photo or graphic to make the message more appealing. I can control who looks at our club's microsite by setting security levels. I can add events to our calendar, set up event registrations, insert links, and post a significantly greater number of pictures to an image album than ever before. While all of this is nice, the capability I like the best is the ability to conduct a survey of our membership. I like it because it takes the burden off me and the rest of the board members to try and figure out what we think you want. Now we can just ask.

The Club recently conducted two surveys; one was regarding the Fall Ladder League, and the second addressed Court Utilization. I'd like to share the results of these surveys to show how your response really can influence the decisions being made within the Club, and to remind you that you can't be heard if you don't respond.

### Fall Ladder League Survey.

The purpose of this survey was to determine whether the Club should continue to conduct ladder leagues or to revert back to the Round Robin format that was used in the Spring. It was sent to 102 Club Members who either played or substituted in the 2015 Fall Ladder League. Of those who were surveyed, 50 (49%) responded.

1. Do you prefer a Ladder League or a Round Robin League?  
*Results: Ladder League (64%), Round Robin League (36%)*
2. Should the standings (based on winning percentage from the Fall Ladder League be used as the start point for the beginning of the next league. Under this concept, new players would be inserted into the ladder at the lowest rung of their ability group at the beginning of the league.  
*Results: Yes (54%), No, start the next league fresh using players' self-rating (46%)*
3. In addition to the Fall, Winter and Spring leagues, should the Club also have a Summer league?  
*Results: Yes (60%), No (40%)*
4. If the Club did have a summer league, would you consider playing it at night?  
*Results: Yes, start at 6 pm (34%), Yes, start at 7 pm (22%), No (44%)*
5. Should a separate Men's Team Doubles and Women's Team Doubles league be added to the schedule (in addition to the Individual Doubles leagues)?  
*Results: Yes (74%), No (26%)*

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6. On the condition that leagues cannot compete for court space during the peak play periods (7 am – 11 am), what time would you recommend the (Fall, Winter, Spring) leagues start?  
*Results: 11 am (44%), 12 pm (8%), 1 pm (32%), 2 pm (16%)*
7. If scheduled play is preempted by inclement weather, the match should be a) made up at a later date, or b) cancelled entirely.  
*Results: Made up at a later date (34%), Cancelled entirely (66%)*
8. If it is determined that cancelled play due to poor weather will be made up, should it be left to the players to coordinate with their opponents to reschedule the match or should the league be extended by 1 week (i.e. an 8-week league, but with 7 weeks of play and 1 week for makeup)?  
*Results: Let the players reschedule their match (28%), Play 7 weeks and use Week 8 for a makeup (72%)*
9. Should players be allowed to reschedule matches when they have competing commitments?  
*Results: Yes, as long as the other players agree and the match is played in advance of scheduled play (54%), No, players should either play as scheduled or follow established procedure for an absence (46%)*
10. Should we continue to schedule Women's League on Mondays, Men's League on Tuesdays and Mixed Team Doubles on Fridays?  
*Results: Yes (86%), No (14%)*
11. If you answered "No" to Question #10, what schedule change would you like to see and why?  
*Results: This was an open ended question that yielded a wide variety of answers. The most common response (4 out of 50) was that the league not be conducted on Fridays due to long weekends, where some people have to leave the area early.*
12. What additional comments or recommendations do you have regarding the conduct of leagues in the Sun City Pickleball Club?  
*Results: This was another open ended question with 23 distinctly different responses. They ranged from satisfaction with the ladder league to wanting to go back to signing up as an A, B, C player in a round robin venue. While there were no significant trends picked up in the responses, all were referred to the board for consideration.*

The results of this survey had a significant influence on the rules and conduct of the Winter 2016 Ladder League. The Board adopted the majority vote on all responses except Questions #3, 9, and 11. And with those, the reasons are explainable. On Question #3, no decision has been made on whether or not to have a summer league; on Question #9, the majority percentage was not large enough to outmatch the administrative burden of managing make up matches, and on Question #11, it is easier and more consistent to schedule all leagues at the same time. Also, completing the league at 12 pm is still early enough for folks to depart Sun City on a long weekend.



## Court Utilization Survey.

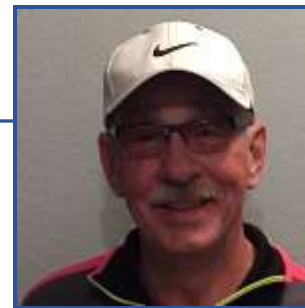
This survey was initiated at the request of the Court Utilization Committee to help in their task to recommend a plan that best supports the shared use of the existing 6 courts by our nearly 500 club members with varying skill levels. Of the 483 members who were sent the survey, 151 responded (only 31%).

1. What is the average number of days per week you play pickleball on our courts in Sun City?  
*Results: 0 (13%), 1-2 (36%), 3-4 (38%), 5-7 (13%)*
2. If you answered “0” to the first question, what is the primary reason you are not playing pickleball in Sun City?  
*Results: 85% did not answer “0”, injury 7%, travel (less than 1%), courts too crowded (2%),*
3. On average, how many days per week do you play pickleball at a facility outside of Sun City?  
*Results: 0 (90%), 1-2 (9%), 3 or more (less than 1%)*
4. If you are playing pickleball at a facility outside of Sun City, what is the primary reason?  
*Results: Not applicable (85%), more competition (2.5%), more social interaction (0%), better court availability (2.5%), weather (10%)*
5. What segment of the day do you mostly play pickleball?  
*Results: not applicable (7%), early morning (28%), mid-morning (40%), afternoon (23%), evening (2%)*
6. What level of player would you rate yourself?  
*Results: Beginner (24%), Intermediate (53%), Advanced (16%), Non-competitive (7%)*
7. Would you be interested in having experienced pickleball player(s) evaluate your individual skills using the International Federation of Pickleball (IFP) rating system?  
*Results: yes (59%), no (41%)*
8. If the Club offered pickleball training beyond the current mentoring program, what is the first class you would sign up for?  
*Results: Advanced Beginner skills (19%), Intermediate skills (35%), Advanced skills (19%), USAPA Referee Certification Training (3%), None (24%)*
9. If the Club provided an email/phone number listing of members by (self-rated) ability group for the purpose of scheduling game play and social networking would you like to be included?  
*Results: yes (81%), no (19%)*
10. What is the single most important thing you think the Club can do to improve and how?  
*Response: As was learned with the earlier survey, open ended questions like this yield individual responses that take you all over the map. It is difficult to capture a majority vote on issues. The two most common recommendations we could extract from the responses were to lobby for more courts and functional lights (24%) and to schedule play by ability group (16%). There was a thread of perception (1%) that players could be more inclusive and accepting of lesser level players. Comments included “encourage new players,” continue with the friendly attitude that defines pickleball”, play with us even if you are a step above” and “be nice or go home.”*

The results of this survey were passed onto the Court Utilization Committee as Don Hayes, PASCT Vice President, explains in the next article.

## Results from the Court Utilization Committee

By Don Hayes  
PASCT Vice President



At the Club's Annual Board Meeting in November of last year, attendees had a lengthy discussion about how the Club's membership continues to grow and how we only have 6 courts to support us until new courts become available 2 – 3 years from now. The Board subsequently endorsed forming a committee to determine a court utilization plan that could best accommodate the entire membership's wants and needs. As the incoming Vice Present for 2016, I was asked to serve as the Chairman/Facilitator for the committee that consisted of 20 volunteers representing the varied skill levels and types of play within the Club.

### **Beginners Group**

Tom Hartman (Lead)  
Danny Ballard  
Wendy D'Entremont  
Earl Forbes  
Alicia McNamara

### **Social Group**

Katie Janssen (Lead)  
Vicki Gahlbeck  
Virginia Laird  
Brenda LaPlante

### **Intermediate Group**

Paul Straube (Lead)  
Toni Briggs  
Ron Fritz  
Charlie Hagen  
Sandy Piland

### **Advanced Group**

Fred Kandel (Lead)  
Larry Black  
David Laird  
Joe Lish  
Dave Stout

We focused on a schedule for the Spring and Summer months (April 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>) because this is historically the busiest time of the year for pickleball. We had until the middle of January to complete our study and with the holidays in the mix, we knew the committee would be challenged to reach an agreement on a new court usage model and recommendations.

At our first meeting on December 9th, each group met separately, chose a leader and began working on court utilization models and recommendations. In the weeks that followed, I met several times with the leads to review and share progress within their groups. The discussions at these meetings always centered on how best to use the courts in a way that would be fair to the majority of our club members.

After many exchanges of ideas and very strong opinions, a consensus was achieved. The group leads agreed that the majority of club members prefer to play early to mid-morning and the Intermediate Group is the largest group of players in our club. Results from a recent survey within the Club supported their thoughts. They also recognized that with 4 different groups plus leagues, training, Simon and the Introduction to Pickleball classes, all of which required court time, they could not give each group what they wanted. As a consequence, they submitted the following recommendations, along with the court model.

- Change the 50% (Club Time) - 50% (Open Time) Rule to 75% Club Time - 25% Open Time.
- Reserve Saturday and Sunday for Introduction to Pickleball, Simon, other Player Development Classes
- Establish e-mail groups for same-level skill play
- Introduce a program, using USAPA guidelines, to evaluate skill levels. This program would be for those individuals who request assistance in identifying/confirming their USAPA rating.

It was agreed that because of the heat, Club Time should be scheduled from 7am - 3pm and 7 pm – 9 pm Monday thru Friday. Leagues should be scheduled from 11:00 am – 12 pm, M-F). All Training should be on Saturday and Sunday.

The committee looked at what was fair for the whole club and not just their individual groups. They also realized that not everyone is going to like it. This committee worked very hard to be as fair as they possibly could. I am very proud of the all of the hard work that the members of this committee have done. It was a challenge and we hope the Board considers these changes in their final decision.

## Save the 1000 Words about Leagues; Here Are the Pictures

Photos by Kathy Carr  
PASCT Communications Director

If you want to follow the scores for the 5 divisions in the 2016 Winter Ladder Leagues, go to [Week 2 League Results](#). Otherwise, just enjoy the pictures here from the Ladies and Men's Individual Doubles played last Monday and Tuesday.

### Monday Ladies Individual Doubles





Tuesday Men's Individual Doubles



## Fred's Corner (which seems to have expanded around the block)

By Fred Kandel

Contributing Writer and Member of the PASCT

### Fred's Experience on the Court Utilization Committee

As you all know, we recently broke into groups to discuss how to better use court time, and to, if possible, come up with a way to give different groups specific reserved times on the courts. The group consisted of four members, one each from the advanced, intermediate, beginners and social group.

After the first organizational meeting, we were charged with coming up with an equitable plan, providing court time for each group, while also providing enough club time during key hours between 8am and 11am daily.

The first thing I did, was go to a class for excel spreadsheets so that I could create a big beautiful color chart showing how each group could have all the courts they wanted every morning. Quick math showed that each group could have 1.5 courts for 3 hours each day (back to the drawing boards).

The second thing I did was get ink for my color printer, although having all four groups shown in different shades of gray, made the plan just fuzzy enough to perhaps fool some of the members into thinking that they had the courts every morning for 3 hours.

Each member came to the next meeting armed with their spreadsheet, and the reality of it all was that we were not totally smoking dope during the exercise since the charts looking somewhat alike. Thinking back now, perhaps we were smoking or drinking because the most common thing on each chart was the colors used to show each group (here I jest).

There were two major sources of contention: the desire of beginners to move up the ladder and play with intermediates or advanced, and the meaning of social pickleball.

I think the first issue was really not an issue, but a misunderstanding of club time. Hopefully, everyone knows that every day of the week, from sun up to noon, the opportunity to play with anyone and everyone exists. All you have to do is come out, put your paddle in the rack and play when your turn comes up. At any given time, you may be playing with people of all different skill levels. Sometimes you will be the bug; other times you will be the windshield. You just have to be willing to take the chance. ISSUE ONE, SOLVED.

Issue two, Social Players requires more work, so I started by going to the dictionary for a definition of social. I really got confused at first when the word soiree (pronounced swoor A) came up. Unfortunately, I read a little further and the phrase "gregarious breeding or nesting in colonies" appeared and got me even more confused. Still further down the page were the words informal, party, gathering, get-together.

Dazed and confused (a good movie title), I contacted a professor at UT Austin to get a further understanding of the word social as it pertains to pickleball. Unfortunately, the professor had never heard of pickleball so he was useless. The other problem might have been that he was a professor of astrophysics. Potato... potato.

I decided to use my vast experience in Social Science (one of my two majors in college was Social Welfare), and use common sense and observation. I went to the most social place I know in Sun City, and it wasn't the Market. I went to the pickleball courts, and here is what I observed.

- While I am a member of the MGA, Table Tennis, Softball, Line Dancing, and various other clubs, there is no club more social than the pickleball club.



Fred Kandel

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- During the most competitive of games, I have heard the following said. “I love the pants you have on; I want them.” “You look great; did you just have a prostate exam? It must have done wonders.” “Is that your only pair of socks?”
- With the exception of a few very competitive games, pickleball is nothing but social in nature except for keeping score, and I have yet to meet anyone who played the game at any level that did not want to win.

When we get more social than the above, we call it a party, like when the women dressed up in tutus or when we had our great steamed shrimp and sausage dinner, all which were held at off peak times of the day or night.

Social is whatever we make it. Social is what we are every morning of every day. If we want a different kind of social, we schedule by email for a time when the courts are generally empty. And I’ll bet that if the social you are having involves music and drinking, it will be even bigger than you think. There is plenty of time to be social with anyone you want. You just have to get organized. There are about 6 hours of court time available every day of the week to have the social gathering you want to have. Just do it yourself.

Social is what we are and what we do best.

*This article was written by Fred Kandel, who is responsible for its content. Any comments or criticisms should be sent to someone else, as he is very sensitive and cannot deal with negative comments about his work. Just ask his wife.*

### Travel Plans for 2016

Submitted by Sharon Campbell

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Kahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Kahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there.

I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my children, friends, family and work.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often.

I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favorite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!

I may have been in Continent, but I don't remember what country I was in. It's an age thing. They tell me it is very wet and damp there.





## Volunteer Spotlight – Brad Duffy

**Submitted by:**

**Clark Grafton, PASCT Maintenance Manager**

Congratulations to Brad Duffy, the Club's selectee for the February 2015 Volunteer of the Month.

Brad has been working behind the scenes to make certain that the pickleball paddles that are donated remain in the best possible shape for use by nonmembers, guests and new members. Over the past twelve months, he has checked the paddles weekly in both storage containers to determine their condition; regrips them when necessary, and advises the Maintenance Manager when the supply dwindles, so that requests for more donated paddles can be made.

Individuals who borrow the paddles have commented how much they appreciate the "loaners" and the good shape they are in. Thanks to Brad's diligence, he keeps it happening!

Brad and his wife, Donna, moved to Sun City in 2019 after five years looking for a place to retire. Both grew up in Iowa, met in college, and spent the rest of their years living in Omaha, Singapore, Australia and San Diego. The majority of Brad's time is spent trading equities a few hours a day, but he also enjoys pickleball, billiards, swimming, hiking and fishing. Brad also volunteers as a taste tester for the not-for-profit Prairie Creek Micro Brewery in Georgetown.



*Brad Duffy, February 2016 PASCT  
Volunteer of the Month.*

## On the Road Again

Here are a few pictures from Dana and Paul Straube, who have been traveling in their RV the last several weeks.



The first stop on our trip was at the beautiful Buckhorn Lake Resort in Kerrville, Texas hill country (Pics 1 & 2). They converted a tennis court into four pickleball courts. Even with the temps in the 30's, a nice crowd showed up first thing Monday morning. The third picture shows the courts at Rincon West RV Resort in Tucson, AZ. They have 1,100 RV sites and around 800 park models for 8 pickleball courts. Every morning at 8:30 folks start showing up to play. At 10:30 Monday - Friday they have a round robin play-off. The people here are super friendly. It reminds me of a mini Sun City with similar clubs and activities. Our Old English Sheepdog, Olive, has made tons of new friends, especially a golden named Suzi.



## Welcome New Members

By Don Hayes  
PASCT Vice President

Here is a list of the 47 new members who have joined our pickleball ranks since the beginning of the new year.



Please welcome these folks when you see them on the courts. If they're wearing a hat, look for the little green pickle on it. They've been pickled – that is, they were presented a welcome letter from our club president along with a hat pin pickle to recognize their new membership.

Julie Ard	Sharon Buford	Eglia Flores	Dave Levy	Larry Peters
Krish Arunachalam	Erica Bushner	Janet Fulk	Peg Levy	Rober Pugh
Sam Arunachalam	Janet Buss	Dick Garlick	Roger Manderscheid	Claudia Ryner
Leah Baker	Bob Cleaver	Patrick Garren	Dale McJunkin	Cindy Shuman
Jane Barnes	Diane Cleaver	Katherine Goodall	Gary Mendelsohn	Roger Smith
Stan Bates	Gary Dennett	Betty Gresham	Daisy Mitchell	Norman Wietting
Paul Black	Cheryl Drees	Susan Hannah	Shane Mitchell	Cheryl Zabierek
Billy Blackman	Rober Drees	Linda Heideman	James Mizell	Steve Zabierek
Judy Blackman	Janet Drumm	Cheryl Howell	Colin Murphy	June Zauber
Louise Bollinger	Jeanne DuBois	Victoria Hutchins	Paul Neuman	
Paul Bollinger	John Emley	Ricky Klein	Dave Niegsch	
Jim Brown	Margaret Emley	Jan Laughlin	Janice North	

## Introduction to Pickleball Class Dates

By Peg O'Toole  
Player Development Director

Introduction to Pickleball class dates for the remainder of first quarter of 2016 are listed on the table below and are posted to the Club's website. We recently updated the program of instruction for this class, so it is now scheduled for two hours and will be presented twice a month on Saturday afternoons from 3:00 – 5:00 pm.



Introduction to Pickleball Class Schedule		
February 13, 2016	Saturday	3:00 - 5:00 pm
February 20, 2016	Saturday	3:00 - 5:00 pm
February 27, 2016	Saturday	3:00 - 5:00 pm
March 12, 2016	Saturday	3:00 - 5:00 pm
March 19, 2016	Saturday	3:00 - 5:00 pm
Classes are held on Courts 5 and 6. Paddles, balls and instruction are provided by the club.		

This class introduces participants to the game of pickleball, covering terminology, basic rules of play, equipment and court etiquette, as well as 5 basic strokes. By the end of the class, participants will be able to engage in a social game of pickleball on the Sun City courts during designated open hours. It is free and open to all Sun City Texas residents.

If you know an individual, club or neighborhood that would like to learn how to play pickleball, please advise them to contact the club's Player Development Director, Peg O'Toole at [jgmlo@yahoo.com](mailto:jgmlo@yahoo.com) to schedule a class. Those members interested in helping to teach this class should also contact Peg. She will appreciate your help.

## Mentoring Program Changes

By Toni Briggs  
Mentor Program Coordinator

With the first class starting on February 6, the Pickleball Club is rolling out a new Beginner's Mentoring Program. The revised program of instruction will run on *5 consecutive Saturdays from 11 am - 1 pm*. Members must be registered for the class to participate.

The goal of the new program is to develop beginner skills required to more confidently participate in Club Time play, while having fun and enjoying the social aspects of the game. This program is designed for those players with minimal knowledge of the game of pickleball and its rules. Experienced Club players are assigned as mentors to train, evaluate and guide player performance through practice drills and an actual game environment.

Before completing the program, players should demonstrate *basic* shot strokes – forehand, backhand, volley, overhead, and the serve; be able to conduct a short rally with players of equal ability, and be familiar with court positioning in doubles play. They should demonstrate the skills commensurate with an International Federation of Pickleball (IFP) rating of 2.5.

The first class of 16 students is full and a wait list has been started. If you would like to register for the next class, which starts on 12 March (weather permitting) and you can commit to 5 consecutive classes on Saturday mornings, email our Mentor Program Coordinator, Toni Briggs at [sheltietalk@suddenlink.net](mailto:sheltietalk@suddenlink.net).

Again, this program replaces the previous mentoring program, and as a result, mentors will no longer be available on Monday afternoons on Courts 5 and 6.



Clark Grafton and his partner scan the skies for a high lob shot into the clouds by their opponents during Men's Team Doubles on Wednesday afternoon.

## He Might Be 80, But He's No Light Weighty

By Kathy Carr

PASCT Communications Director

This past weekend I participated in the State Games of Oklahoma, which sponsored pickleball at the Greens Tennis Center in Oklahoma City. Several other folks from our Pickleball Club were up there as well, including Chuck Flanagan, Barb Patterson, David Stout, Bill Treadway and Jack Warner. While much of my weekend was spent sitting behind a huge glass wall in a very congested room watching other matches in progress, I did get a chance to occasionally check my email. On Saturday morning, I noticed a Facebook message alerting me that it was Jack Warner's birthday. Jack was within earshot, so I asked him how old he was. He said "80."

I actually had to bring out the calculator for this one. If Jack was 80, in what year was he born? Don't start subtracting; let me save you time. The answer is 1936. This, of course, begged the follow on question of what other famous people besides the former president of the Sun City Texas Pickleball Club were born in 1936? Turns out that year is shared by Jim Henson from the Muppets, Winnie Mandela, David Carradine, Alan Alda, Glen Campbell, Charlie Daniels, Engelbert Humperdinck, Kris Kristofferson, Michael Landon, John McCain, Mary Tyler Moore, Roy Orbison, Robert Redford, Bert Reynolds and Yves Saint Laurent. While each of these celebrities is recognized for one thing or another, not a single one besides Jack Warner can say that on their 80<sup>th</sup> birthday weekend they won a Gold medal in Singles (Ages 75+), a Silver medal in Men's Doubles (Ages 75+), a Bronze medal in Men's Doubles (80+) and a Gold medal in Mixed Doubles (Ages 75+) for pickleball at the State Games of Oklahoma.



*Jack Warner and his wife, Dorothy, bask in the glow of Jack's gold medal win at the State Games of Oklahoma.*

In 1936, President Roosevelt was re-elected for a second term, the Boulder Dam was completed, sunscreen and the Zippo lighter were invented, and *Gone with the Wind* was published. These may be significant events in their own right, but they pale in comparison to the birth of Jack Warner. Today Jack might be 80, but those of us who have been humbled by him on the pickleball court know he's no light weighty.

Happy Birthday, Jack.

## Sun City Texas Results from the Oklahoma State Game

By Kathy Carr

PASCT Communications Director



If you read the previous article about Jack Warner and were paying attention, you should be asking yourself how the other club members from Sun City did at the State Games of Oklahoma this past weekend. One word – outstanding. Here are the results:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Medal</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Age Group</u>
David Stout	Silver	Men's Doubles	60+
Joe Lish	Gold	Men's Doubles	70+
Joe Lish	Bronze	Mixed Doubles	70+
Jack Warner	Gold	Men's Singles	75+
Jack Warner	Silver	Men's Doubles	75+
Jack Warner	Bronze	Men's Doubles	80+
Kathy Carr	Silver	Women's Doubles	60+
Barb Patterson	Silver	Women's Doubles	60+

Special highlights: David Stout and his partner, Randy Shannon, were the victors in an all-out battle for the gold in Men's Doubles (60+) that lasted more than 2 hours. Fighting their way back from the loser's bracket, their final matchup went 3 games with scores of 11-8, 9-11, 11-8, followed by 15-3 final game for the gold. Joe Lish and his partner, Larry Honeycutt ripped through their bracket undefeated and took the gold. Barb Patterson turned heads and people asked, "who is she" as she towed her partner to a silver medal in Women's Doubles (60+).



## Upcoming Tournaments

Here is a list of upcoming tournaments outside Sun City. If you are informed of any changes, please send an email to [kathy.carr11@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.carr11@gmail.com) so the listing can be as accurate as possible for our members

### Brazos Valley Senior Games – Bryan/College Station, TX

Registration Dates: 5 Jan – 9 Feb 2016

Event Dates:

Singles	Thursday, 19 Feb 16, 8 am	Lincoln Recreation Center
Singles/Doubles	Friday, 20 Feb 16, 8 am	Lincoln Recreation Center
Doubles/Mixed Doubles	Saturday, 21 Feb 16, 8 am	College Station Middle School
Mixed Doubles	Sunday, 22 Feb 16, 8 am	College Station Middle School

Cost is \$30 for registration plus \$8 for each event (Singles, Doubles, Mixed Doubles)

Register online at <https://rectrac.cstx.gov/wbwsc/webtrac.wsc/wbsplash.html>

### Cedar Park Compass Tournament – Cedar Park, TX

Registration Dates: Now until all teams are filled.

Location: Cedar Park Recreation Center, Cedar Park, TX

Event Date: Saturday, 19 Mar 16

Cost is \$25 per team. A team can be any combination of men and women.

Venue: There will be a high division (players 3.5 and above) and low division (players 3.0 – 3.5), 16 teams in each division playing on 6 courts.

Register online <http://www.cpsports.us>. If you are looking for a partner let us know and we can see if there is another looking for a partner.

### Texas Senior Games – San Antonio, TX

Registration Dates: Now thru 17 Mar 16

Location: Alamo City New Stars (new venue over last year)

Event Dates (Tentative): Currently, this tournament is scheduled for 11 – 14 Apr 16; participants must be ready to play all days.

Cost between now and 27 Feb 16 is \$35 for early bird registration plus a fee for each event (Singles, Doubles, Mixed Doubles); cost from 28 Feb – 17 Mar 16 is \$40 for registration plus a fee for each event.

Register online at <https://texas.nsga.com/registration/361/TSSGwebsite/>. There is an additional \$10 processing fee if you decide to register by mail.

Note: This is a qualifier for the 2017 National Senior Games.

### USAPA Mid-South Regional Tournament – Monroe, LA

Registration Dates: Now thru 10 May 16; early registration deadline is 3 May 16

Location: University of Louisiana at Monroe, Monroe, LA

Event Dates: Start times will be posted after divisions and brackets are determined.

Men's Doubles	Saturday, 28 May 16
Women's Doubles	Saturday, 28 May 16
Mixed Doubles	Sunday, 29 May 16
Men's & Women's Singles	Monday, 30 May 16

Cost between now and 3 May 16 is \$40 for early bird registration plus a \$10 fee for each event (Singles, Doubles, Mixed Doubles); cost from 4 – 10 May 16 is \$60 for registration plus a \$10 fee for each event.

Register online at <http://midsouth.usapa.org/>. USAPA membership is required. There is an additional \$10 processing fee if you register by mail.

Highlights of the tournament include an Open Division in doubles, mixed doubles and singles; practice on Thursday (May 28) at the tournament venue from 1:00PM to 6:00PM; a social on Thursday starting at 6:30PM when practice time closes; lunch for players each day they are scheduled to play, and fruit for all participants on all three days of the tournament.

## Kitchen Talk – the Official Pickleball Newsletter of Sun City Texas

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### About 9 months later...

Submitted by Walt Holt

Jack decided to go fishing with his buddy, Bill. After driving a few hours, they got caught in a bad storm and pulled into the nearest farm. They asked the attractive lady who answered the door if they could stay there for the night.

"I realize it's terrible weather and I have the huge house, but I'm recently widowed and afraid the neighbors would talk if I let you stay in the house" she exclaimed.

"Don't worry", Jack said. "We'll be happy to sleep in the barn and if the weather breaks we'll be gone at first light".

The lady agreed.

About nine months later, Jack got an unexpected letter from an attorney. It took him a few minutes to figure it out, but he finally determined it was from the attorney of that attractive widow.

He dropped in on his friend, Bill, and asked, "Bill, do you remember that good looking widow from the farm we stayed at nine months ago?"

"Yes, I do," Bill replied.

"Did you happen to get up in the middle of the night and pay her a visit?"

"Well, um, yes, Bill said, a little embarrassed about being found out, " I have to admit that I did."

"And did you happen to use my name instead of telling her yours?"

Bill's face turned beet red and he said, "Yeah, look buddy, I'm afraid I did, why do you ask?"

"Because she just died and left me everything."

