



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 4

Fun, Friends and Fitness

April 1, 2016

From the Prez

By Nancy Grafton
PASCT President

The last two months have been a whirlwind of activity that shows no signs of abating. Kathy Carr, in her capacity as Chairperson of the Pickleball Task Force, and I met with the Expansion Committee, the Sports Committee Board, and then the Tennis Club Board. Presentations were made to each group from research compiled by the Pickleball Task Force comparing pickleball facilities around the USA, and recommendations made that reinforced our need for addressing the future growth of the pickleball community here in Sun City, and the need for four additional courts in the short-term while we await construction of more courts (anticipated in 2-3 years).



Nancy Grafton
PASCT President

Our proposed solution to the short-term need for four additional courts was presented to both the Sports Committee Board and the Tennis Club Board. The solution: temporary use of tennis courts #11 and 12, with exceptions for tennis socials (4 – 5 times per year, and tennis tournaments (twice a year). The cost to our Club to add blended lines to create four pickleball courts from two tennis courts would be approximately \$1000, and we would furnish temporary nets and poles at a cost of an additional \$640, for a total amount of less than \$2000. Throughout the USA, more and more facilities are adding blended lines to make tennis courts multi-purpose.

We are awaiting a response from the Sports Committee; however, the Tennis Club Board felt that they could not act on our request as long as the 2013 direction from the President of the CA (Brent Baker), was still in effect. Based upon an email that I received later in 2015 from Brent, I am hopeful that our proposed solution will be revisited, thereby resulting in the best utilization of our community's resources. I appreciate all the work that has gone on with our grass roots letter writing campaign. Your input provides significant substance to the discussions we have with our community's committees.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Prez	1
Centralized Paddle Shelf System	2
Club Announcements	4
From the Ambassador	5
Why I Love This Club	7
Fred's Corner	9
Volunteer of the Month	10
Welcome New Members	11
Mentoring Program	11
Fun Under the Lights	12
Guess the Owner	12

On a lighter note - and just around the corner: The Spring Tournament and Social on April 9th. Even if you aren't playing, come on out and cheer for your favorite team(s). And be sure to watch for the latest news on the May Ice Cream Social and the Men's, Women's, and Mixed Doubles Social in June, July, and August.

Nancy

New Centralized Paddle Shelf System Starts Monday

Background. To accommodate the continued growth of pickleball within the Sun City community, while preserving the social aspects that the game represents, a centralized paddle shelf system will take effect on Monday, April 4, 2016. This system is designed to ensure first come, first serve usage of all 6 PASCT managed courts. It is also designed to ensure player safety by moving the court waiting area outside of the court fence line.

New Paddle Rack.

A consolidated paddle rack for Courts 1 – 6 (see Figure 1) is centrally located between Courts 4 and 5 (see gold star in Figure 2). The rack has multiple shelves, each of which holds up to 4 paddles.

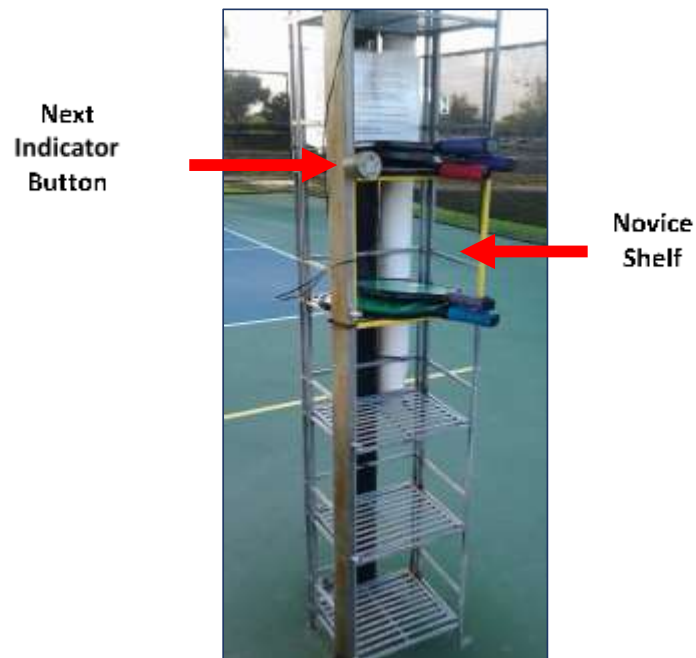


Figure 1. New Paddle Rack

- The rack has a “Next Up Indicator Button” which is wooden and slides over a protruding peg for each shelf.
- The third shelf on the rack is hereby designated the “Novice Shelf.” It is reserved for Beginner players who are more comfortable playing with other beginners. **The use of this shelf by Beginners is optional, as they may elect to play with individuals of a higher skill level.**

Revised Traffic Flow.

- After placing their paddle in the consolidated rack, players should wait on the bleachers, or in the shaded area between Courts 4 and 5 until there is an open court.
- When a court becomes available, players should **enter** the appropriate court area nearest the paddle rack (see beginning of green arrow lines as they lead from the gold star in Figure 2).
 - Courts 1 – 4 use entry gate at Court 4.
 - Courts 5 – 6 use entry gate at Court 5.
- Players completing a game should **exit** the court opposite the Billiard Hall side of the complex as follows: (See red arrow lines in Figure 2).
 - Court 1 exits the gate on court 1
 - Court 2 exits either the gate at Court 1 or 2
 - Court 3 exits either the gate at Court 2 or 3
 - Court 4 exits the gate at Court 4 nearest the centralized rack, allowing new players on the court first.
- As a court empties, remaining players on the other courts will shift courts in a direction away from the centralized rack (See the green arrow lines in Figure 2).

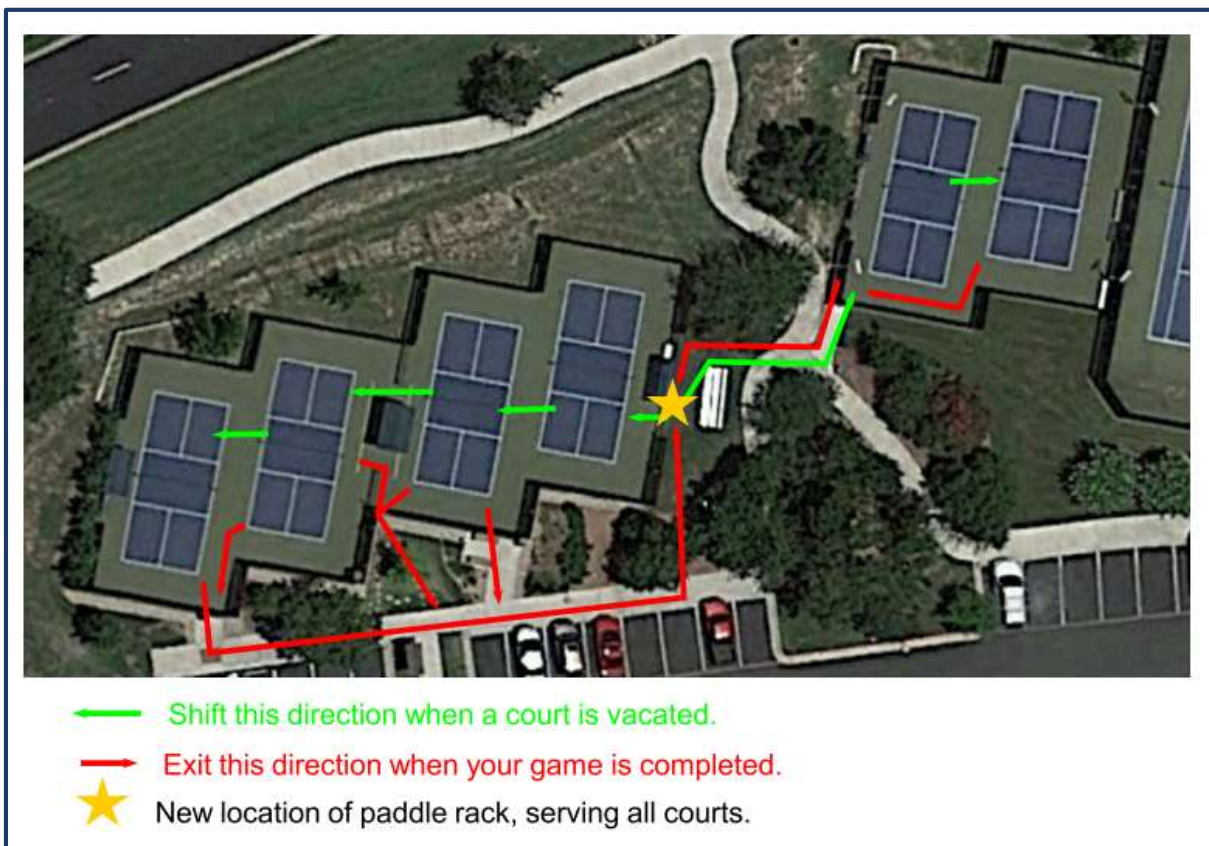


Figure 2. Graphic of Revised Traffic Flow.

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Centralized Paddle Shelf System. The Centralized Paddle Shelf System determines the players for the next open court during Club Time and Open Time.

- A player arrives at the centralized rack and places her/his paddle on the next available shelf with 3 or fewer paddles in it.
- Beginner players (self-rating of 2.5 or below) have the option to insert their paddle on the “Novice Shelf” so that other beginners can join them or they can put their paddle on the next available shelf with paddles belonging to higher level players.
- When more than one shelf has 4 paddles, the “next indicator button” is used to show which paddles have been on the shelf the longest and thereby designates those players who are next to play.
- When a court becomes available, one player from the next to play group approaches the rack; removes the 4 paddles from the shelf, distributes them to the other players, and moves the “next indicator button” to the next peg.
- If a court becomes available, but the shelf of the next to play group has fewer than 4 paddles in it, the group can ask other waiting players to fill out the group. This includes the Novice Shelf. If the request does not yield 4 players, the next indicator button will move to the next peg, and the players with 4 paddles on the next shelf will take the court.

In accordance with the PASCT Court Rules and Regulations, dated 12 December 2014, if all courts are occupied and more than 8 players are waiting, players must relinquish their court when games reach 8 points. Note: If there is an empty court, players do not have to relinquish their court when games reach their end, even if players are waiting.

- For increased safety, there should be no one on the courts except the players.
- Please do not take bags or clothes onto the courts unless you are playing a match.

Thank you for your patience as we work to resolve the overcrowding on the pickleball courts. If you have any questions related to the paddle rack system, please contact one of the PASCT Board members.

Club Announcements

By *Kathy Carr*

PASCT Communications Director

- **Spring/Summer Court Hours.** On 1 April 2016, the Club’s Spring and Summer Hour Court Schedule took effect. If you would like to download a copy of the schedule, click on [2016 Spring and Summer Court Hours](#). With the new lights, you will be able to play on Courts 5 and 6 until 9:00 pm, when we have to turn them off.
- **Spring Leagues Start This Week.** If you are playing in the spring league, you should have already received an email with the administrative instructions from Peg O’Toole, League Director. If you are not playing in the league, it is important to note that while leagues have court priority Monday through Friday from 11 am – 12 pm, not all courts will be used. Here are the minimal number of courts that will be open for non-league play M-F, 11 am – 12 pm:
 - Monday 1 open court
 - Tuesday 2 open courts
 - Wednesday 2 open courts
 - Thursday 3 open courts
 - Friday 1 open court

From the Ambassador

By **Chuck Flanagan**

Texas Central and South Central District Pickleball Ambassador



Chuck Flanagan

Have you heard about the new “Pickleball Magazine”? The official magazine of the USA Pickleball Association began hitting our inboxes and mailboxes in January of this year. When I say, “inboxes and mailboxes”, I mean that the magazine will be published six times a year, in two formats - electronic and hard copy. A regular subscription is \$20 a year. But here’s the really good news. Every USAPA member gets the electronic version free. It’s just one of the benefits of your USAPA membership. USAPA members who also want the paper version may subscribe for only \$12 a year (a 40% discount).

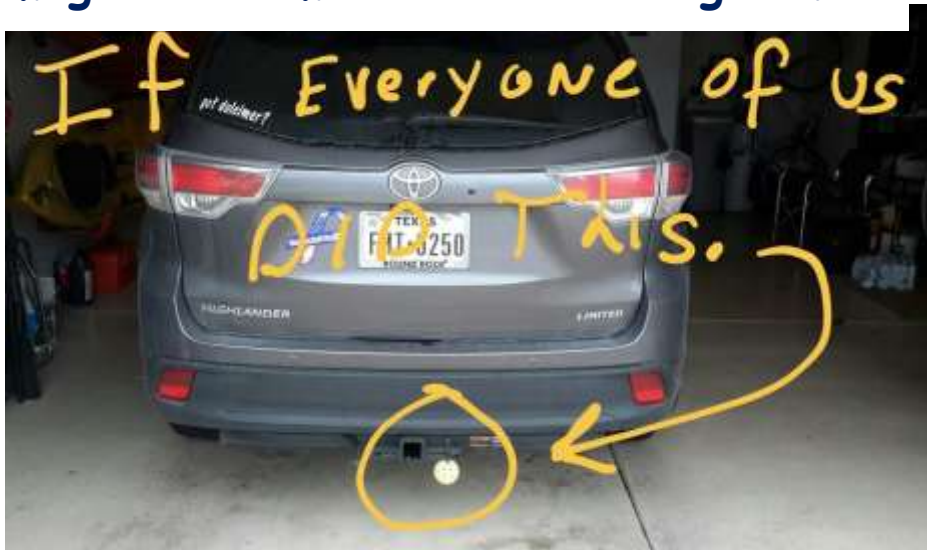
The new magazine is a full color cornucopia of training tips, ads from sponsors, USAPA news, and articles about great players. For example, many people have new ball rules and which balls are legal. Well, check out the article on page 16 in the March issue. It describes the new ball specifications and lists the currently approved balls. Have you ever watched “The Pickleball Show”? Read the article on page 19 to learn all about it.

If you’re not a USAPA member you probably haven’t had a chance to see, much less read, the magazine yet. So, let me loan you my copy of the March issue. Just click on the link below and enjoy a couple hours of reading about our favorite sport.

<http://www.joomag.com/magazine/pickleball-magazine-1-2/0844916001458661443?sh>



Imagine how much notice we'd get....



Waiting on a Court - Been There, Still Doing That



Winning Argument.

Submitted by:

A man was walking down the street when he was accosted by a particularly dirty and shabby-looking homeless man who asked him for a couple of dollars for dinner.

The man took out his wallet, extracted ten dollars and asked, "If I give you this money, will you buy some beer with it instead of dinner?"

"No, I had to stop drinking years ago," the homeless man replied.

"Will you spend this on green fees at a golf course instead of food?" the man asked. "Are you NUTS!" replied the homeless man.

"I haven't played golf in 20 years!"

"Well," said the man, "I'm not going to give you money. Instead, I'm going to take you home for a shower and a terrific dinner cooked by my wife."

The homeless man was astounded. "Won't your wife be furious with you for doing that?"

The man replied, "That's okay. It's important for her to see what a man looks like after he has given up drinking and golf."



Another Reason I love This Club

By Kathy Carr

PASCT Communications Director

It truly takes a village to keep the pickleball club running smoothly. Just imagine how things would be if we didn't have folks maintain the courts, organize social events, train newcomers and beginners, participate on committees, set up and run tournaments and leagues, deliver welcome letters and pickleball pins, contribute to the newsletters, manage Simon training and reservations, or serve as board members. Not a pretty picture I'd say.

To recognize the 120 member volunteers who gave of their time in 2015, the Club sponsored a volunteer appreciation luncheon on 12 March at Putter's Café. More than 60 members showed up for the event and enjoyed an afternoon on the patio with a free buffet that was arranged by one of our greatest volunteers, Mary Payne.

Okay, so here is another reason why I love this club and the people in it. You don't have to ask for help (unless you're looking for a full-time social director to replace the incredible Kim Stout), people just jump in. I was down at Courts 5 and 6 a couple of weeks ago to help teach a mentoring class. The courts were drenched from the previous night's rain, and I worried that we might not be able to dry the courts in time for the class. I grabbed a roller and started pushing water. No lie – within 5 seconds people who had come to play on the other courts rushed over to help dry our courts. VA Miller and Andrew Gray used their own gas blower and fuel to help clear our 2 courts. Sarah Wahlquist, Charlie Hagen, Scott Brady, Clark Grafton, and Marcelle Hagan pushed squeegees and rollers back and forth. It was amazing; they were amazing, and what's best, the students had no clue. They only knew that when their class started the courts were dry and we were ready to go.



Sarah Wahlquist, VA Miller, Scott Brady, Andrew Gray and Charlie Hagan sweep the courts in preparation for a Mentoring Class. Not pictured, but still working hard were Clark Grafton, who has since purchased a shop vac for the club, and Marcelle Hagan, who was moving so fast, we couldn't catch her in the photo.

Poor Ol' Blue

*Submitted by:
Leon Hananel*

A group of friends from Sun City wanted to get together on a regular basis, socialize, and play games. Each couple would take turns and be responsible to prepare the dinner.

When it came time for Al and Janet to be the hosts, Janet wanted to outdo all the others. She decided to have mushroom-smothered steak. But mushrooms are expensive. She then told her husband, "No mushrooms. They are too high." He said, "Why don't you go down in the pasture and pick some of those mushrooms? There are plenty in the creek bed."

She said, "No, some wild mushrooms are poison." He said, "Well, I see varmints eating them and they're OK." So Janet decided to give it a try. She picked a bunch, washed, sliced, and diced them for her smothered steak.

Then she went out on the back porch and gave Ol' Blue (the yard dog) a double handful. Ol' Blue ate every bite. All morning long, Janet watched Ol' Blue and the wild mushrooms didn't seem to affect him, so she decided to use them.

The meal was a great success, and Janet even hired a helper lady from town to help her serve. After everyone had finished, they relaxed, socialized, and played dominoes. About then, the helper lady came in and whispered in Janet's ear. She said, "Mrs. Williams, Ol' Blue is dead."

Janet went into hysterics. After she finally calmed down, she called the doctor and told him what had happened.

The doctor said, "That's bad, but I think we can take care of it. I will call for an ambulance and I will be there as quickly as possible. We'll give everyone enemas and we will pump out everyone's stomach. Everything will be fine. Just keep them calm."

Soon they could hear the siren as the ambulance was coming down the road. The EMTs and the doctor had their suitcases, syringes, and a stomach pump. One by one, they took each person into the bathroom, gave them an enema, and pumped out their stomach.

After the last one was finished, the doctor came out and said, "I think everything will be fine now," and he left. They were all looking pretty weak sitting around the living room and about this time the helper came over and whispered to Janet,

"You know, that fellow that run over Ol' Blue never even stopped."



Fred's Corner (One Man's Opinion)

By Fred Kandel

Contributing Writer and Member of the PASCT

A few weeks ago, a luncheon was given for the many people who have volunteered their time and skills over the past year. The menu consisted of shrimp scampi as an appetizer, prime rib and potato as a main course, and wonderful cheesecake for dessert. If that doesn't make you want to volunteer next year, I don't know what will. Wait a minute; that was a description of my dinner last night. Now I remember, we had pasta for lunch. That was an honest mistake, just like we can't remember who just served the ball less than a half minute before.



Fred Kandel

While much fun was had by all, a serious discussion was had about our attempt to get the courts needed to meet the requirements of our growing club. Compared to other Sun Cities, we are woefully short of pickleball courts.

I digress for a moment in order to inform each and every member that WD40 is available at the following locations: HEB, Home Depot, Lowe's, Tractor Supply, Walmart, and Target. Do not buy it, and if you have any at home, throw it away. Why you ask? Because it is a well-known fact that the squeaky wheel gets the oil, and in our case, we need a lot of squeaky wheels.

You were all asked to write a letter to the Sun City Board members telling them why we need more courts now, not in 2017 when the new amenities are complete, and how we need at least 100 (might be a typo) courts in one location. Thanks to all of you that took the time to be a squeaky wheel.

Here are some comments made by our squeaky wheels:

"Tennis is dwindling while pickleball is growing"

"I never see the tennis courts full"

"Waiting times to play are getting longer"

"We should borrow that last two tennis courts since they are rarely used"

"Membership has increased by 84% over the past 4 years"

"I feel our community is totally out of step with our sport"

"Sun City Georgetown falls far behind other Texas communities when it comes to pickleball facilities"

The bottom line is we need more courts now. Like our current political situation, the lobbyists (tennis), have been around longer, and are more vocal in support for their sport. They even have a slogan: "WE HAVE MORE COURTS THAN YOU."

We all must become lobbyists for Pickleball. So become a squeaky wheel today and talk up the sport at every opportunity. Maybe even write another letter. If you know a board member, invite them out to the courts. Show them what a great sport it is. More courts are in our hands. Take action today!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Note: There will not be a Fred's Corner for May as I will be on a 29-day transatlantic cruise with my wife starting April 16. Condolences can be sent to my wife at ydnasnadroj@yahoo.com.

Volunteer of the Month Spotlight – Toni Briggs

By Nancy Grafton
PASCT President

Congratulations to Toni Briggs, our March 2016 Volunteer of the Month.



Nancy Grafton presents Toni Briggs the April Volunteer of the Month award.

Toni exemplifies our Club motto of fun, friends and fitness by sharing her love of the sport with anyone who shows an interest in the game. She is the "cheerleader" and assistant leader for the new 5-week Beginner's Mentoring Program, not only encouraging others with her enthusiasm, but also helping instill self-confidence. She helped co-develop a training program for players and mentors, and challenges the class participants each week to learn new skills while reinforcing those learned in prior classes. Toni continues to give her time, energy and talent to the sport we all love. She is one of the reasons that membership continues to grow!

A Few Words from Toni:

Hello, my name is Toni Briggs. I moved here 3 years ago from the Fort Hood area, and it took me almost five years to make that decision. I looked at Sun City as an older person's community (I was 65 at the time, but didn't consider that "older"), and was resistant to what I thought was senior retirement.

The property I left behind had a regulation pickleball court, horseshoes, mowed fields for softball, and a huge bonfire pit. A few times a year there would be a large yard party, and games would be played from 11:00 until it was too dark to see. Then everyone went home, and there was nobody to play with until the next yard party.

At other times in the year, I was traveling in an RV. That's where the trouble began. In 2000, at a campsite at Lake Whitney, pickleball was being taught. I watched the drills, and the hook was set. Not being particularly athletic, but enjoying sports, it seemed like a perfect fit - easy to learn, friendly people, and lots of fun "trash talk". From then on, whenever I checked out a campsite, I looked to see if they had a pickleball court. Playing while on the road in the RV worked for a few years, but then pickleball came to the community center in Harker Heights 17 miles away from my house. It was worth driving that distance twice a week just to play!

In 2008, following much persuasion by friends, I came to look at Sun City. I liked what I saw but kept the thought of moving on the back burner for a few more years. In 2013, I got serious about downsizing, and Sun City came back on my radar. A few more visits later (after rearranging the furniture in one of the models to make sure my stuff would fit), I came to realize that this place had it all. Now I get to play anytime I want, and I even get to work with others who want to learn the game. What's not to love? I'm sorry it took me so long to make the move.

In addition to playing, I also like to referee pickleball. I've gone to several events where our Sun City folks are competing, and while they play, I volunteer to ref. The referee's job is to call the score for the players; call foot faults on the serve and the Non-Volley Zone, and respond to line calls that are contested by the players. I was honored to be a referee for 3 days at the National Senior Games in Minnesota this past July. Yes, life is good.



Toni Briggs, April Volunteer of the Month

Welcome New Members

By Don Hayes
PASCT Vice President

Here is a list of the 14 new members who joined our pickleball ranks within the last month. 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. A special shout out to Janis Gonzalez, who actually renewed her membership at the end of December for 2016, but it's taken this long to get her recognized in the system. That makes her a new old member, or is it old new member?

Linda Baker	Dennis Carroll	James Hopkins
Rick Brainard	Marita Carroll	Sharon Hovendick
Barbara Brown	Marsha Doebler	Sheryl Murphy
Robert Brown	Janis Gonzalez	Elizabeth Poplawski
Dave Carey	Garry Goodall	



Beginner's Mentoring Program

By Toni Briggs
Program Director, Beginners' Mentoring

Member interest in the new Mentoring Program has been overwhelming, and reviews from those who have completed the program are very positive. With our second class in progress and registration for the one that follows already full, I am now accepting reservations for Class #00004, that will run from 4 June - 2 July 2016.



The 10-hour program, which is held for 2 hours (10 am – 12 pm) on 5 consecutive Saturday mornings, targets those players with minimal knowledge 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. Mentors evaluate player weaknesses and work to develop individual skills and rule knowledge. The goal is to enable participants to develop the skills to more confidently participate in Club Time play, while having fun and enjoying the social aspects of the game.

Whether you just completed the Introduction to Pickleball Class and joined the Club, or you've been a member for a while and would like to improve your basic pickleball skills, this may be the class for you. For more information on the course, go to [Mentor Program Information](#).

If you can commit to attendance for the entire program and would like to sign up for the next class, contact me, Toni Briggs at sheltietalk@suddenlink.net.

Having Fun Under the Lights.

Ladies night out takes on a whole new meaning now that the new lights are operational on the Sun City Pickleball Courts. Fun, friends and fitness – that’s what it’s all about as several of our club members checked out pickleball under lights a few nights ago.



Club Members pose under the new lights on Courts 5 & 6. Back Row: Bobbie Brookhouse, Janie Timbes, Alice Hunt, Patti Ayers, VA Miller, Becky Kelley, Sheri Brainard. Front row: Kim Stout and Debbie Schultz, Sandy Piland and Allison Worley



Alice Hunt and Janie Timbes battle to control the Non-Volley Zone.

Guess the Owner.

The first person to guess who owns these shoes, wins a free subscription to this newsletter. You must guess all 4 correctly to win. And no comments about the hairy legs in the third picture. Note: only 1 pair of these shoes belongs to a member in the group above.



Okay, another thing I love about this club. People are up for anything. The owners of these shoes actually posed for these pictures.