

Quarterly WSPC Club NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2022



The Fall 2022 WSPC Tournament

Rained Out then Cancelled!!!

Brenda Furnace said that competition was cancelled Sunday after being rained out the previous 2 days. Very disappointing!

A huge thank you to our volunteers who worked diligently to get the courts prepared only to have the rain soak them, making them unusable. Thank you too to the desk/bracket Ladies, Referees and all who committed time and effort to make it all happen!

A thank you to the players too for their patience and understanding as we worked to prepare the temporary courts for play only to have the rain to undo the work.

Approximately 179 players had signed up for the tournament and this was the largest and our first 3 day tournament.

We will aim for a spring makeup tournament.



Brenda Furnace, WSPC Tournament Director, had a battle with Mother Nature at the Fall Tournament- Mother Nature won!

Upcoming Tournaments

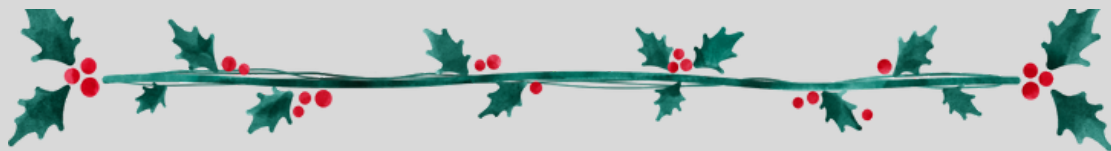
There are no Western Slope tournaments coming up in the in the near future.

However, the **Huntsman World Senior Games** are currently happening in St. George, Utah.

WSPC has players who are attending that tournament.

There is also a **Las Vegas Tournament** that WSPC members Tao Thongvanh and Lisa Gan are playing in. They each have their own tournament partners.

Good luck to everyone!!



Upcoming WSPC Social Events

Save the date! *December 10, 2022*

WSPC Christmas Party!



Time: 6-10pm

Location: Moose Lodge

567 25 1/2 Road, Grand Junction

There will be a DJ- Bring your best Karaoke voice!

Cash bar

More details to follow in November



WSPC End-of-Summer Ice Cream Social

50-60 WSPC members enjoyed delicious ice cream & watermelon on Labor Day weekend.

Delicious homemade ice cream was created by **Sue Slaughter, Brenda Furnace, & Kent Snowbarger**. Thank you!

Cathy & Bob Funderburk generously stored all the ice cream in their HUGE freezer!

This fun event was organized by **Cindy Fewell**, WSPC Social Director, with wonderful volunteers who handled the set up, logistics, and cleanup. Thank you to **Sandy Mallory, Gayle Smith, Denise Clark, Howie Fitzner, & Elizabeth Wheeler!**



WSPC Social Concert in the Vineyards

The Eagles Tribute Band, The Long Run, held a beautiful evening concert at Carlson Vineyards that was enjoyed by many WSPC members.



WSPC Player Spotlight

Want to learn a little more about local players?
Meet a couple of players you see regularly on the courts:

.....

Ed & Aiaga Roffey



How long have you been playing pickleball and what got you started?

My wife, Aiaga and I, started playing probably about 9 years ago.

I had been hearing about pickleball since I was in my 40's and finally a friend named Ed Andrews, who we played racquetball with, got us to start playing. I think there were only two courts then on a beat up old tennis court at Lincoln Park. We had painted lines and temporary nets. I know George Gerson was there along with Ken Hobbs.

What do you like best about the sport?

Definitely the camaraderie but also the challenge in that you can always be working on improving but the sport doesn't beat up your body the way most other sports do.

*Huntsman Games,
a few years ago*

Are you originally from GJ?

If not, where are you from and how long have you been here?

I was born on Long Island NY, went to high school in Tyler TX. Spent 6 1/2 years in the Navy and went to work in Central California until we moved to Grand Junction to start a company in the oil and gas industry in 2001.

Aiaga was born in American Samoa, graduated from BYU Hawaii and was a dancer at the Polynesian Cultural Center in Oahu, Hawaii for 10 years.

We have 4 children and four grandchildren (soon to be 5!)

Anything surprising/wonderful/unusual about you that you would like us (the pickleball community) to know? Hobbies, etc?

I teach a lot of Pickleball lessons but I came to Pickleball from racquetball. I'm still an open level player in racquetball (5.0) (but my body is trying to convince me to stick to Pickleball).

Aiaga is also a high level racquetball player and an excellent golfer!

More social ideas from Cindy Fewell, WSPC Social Director:

Now that days are shorter and nights are longer, are you interested in doing something fun, healthy, and active on Friday evenings?

Please join some fellow pickleball players for the Night Club Two Step and other dances. No partner required.

Where: First Baptist Church, 720 Grand Ave., Grand Junction

Time: Fridays, 6-7pm

Cost: \$10pp or \$15 at the door. 1/2 off for single men who sign up for 4 weeks in advance.

Instructor Madison Rogers is a partner dance instructor since 2011.

To learn more about Madison or the dance classes, contact her at

970.986.2849 or madisonsballroom@protonmail.com

Pickleball is booming now across the United States and elsewhere, but here in GJ pickleball has been enjoyed for quite a while:

HISTORY OF PICKLEBALL IN GRAND JUNCTION (By George Gerson – August 2022)

Nancy Friedman, who learned the game while wintering in Arizona, asked GJ Parks and Rec in 2009 to paint lines on one half of a tennis court at Lincoln Park (LP) and build one portable net. She had 25 players on the pickleball email list that year. By 2012 we had lined four pickleball courts on two tennis courts at LP with the number of players increasing to the point that the first pickleball tournament was held at LP with 28 participants.

Nancy moved to Arizona full time in 2012 and asked George Gerson to take over the e-mail list. He and Ken Hobbs led the effort in working with GJ Parks and Rec to grow the sport in Grand Junction. In 2013 the LP tennis complex was razed and, in its place, the city built four full sized tennis courts, four children's tennis courts, and four dedicated pickleball courts. That same year, lines were painted on the two tennis courts at Pineridge (PR) giving us four additional pickleball courts. In 2014 the City painted lines for three indoor pickleball courts at the LP Barn for use in the winter months. In 2016 pickleball lines were painted on the four children's tennis courts at LP giving us a total of eight pickleball courts at LP.

In 2017 the courts at PR were resurfaced and redesigned so as to have four dedicated pickleball courts plus one tennis court with lines painted for two additional pickleball courts. In 2021 lines were painted for four indoor pickleball courts at the Bookcliff Activity Center giving us a total of seven indoor courts for winter play. We now have a total of fourteen outdoor courts and seven indoor courts with an additional twelve outdoor courts at LP expected to be completed by June of 2023.

The growth in the number of pickleball players has been explosive. The Western Slope Pickleball Club was started by Brenda Furnace in 2016 with the purpose of continuing to grow the sport and to coordinate with Grand Junction Parks and Rec for improving our facilities. In its first year the Club had 184 members and now, as it starts its seventh year, there are **currently almost 600 members**. The pickleball e-mail list has over 800 local players and we estimate that there are well over 1200 players in the Grand Valley.



**George Gerson &
Ken Hobbs 2012**



Pineridge Courts 2014

Have you ever wondered about your pickleball skill level ?

Jeffrey Smith, WSPC President, provides information that can start you on determining where you are at with your pickleball skills:

Skill Level

What's your pickleball skill level? Many of us believe we have a good idea of what our skill level is. It's usually based on comparing our play with observations of players we know or watch that are known to compete at specified levels.

Thankfully, it's not that ambiguous. With a little research at the IPTPA website (International Pickleball Teaching Professional Association), you can find a tool for performing a true evaluation of your skill level. On this site you will find a "Rating Skills Assessment" listing skill levels from 2.0 through 4.5 with lists of player capabilities to qualify for each of these skill ratings.

Some examples:

A 3.5 player "Can consistently dink while changing directions from cross court to down the line forehand & backhand".

A 4.0 player "Uses offensive lobs effectively" and can "Dink with a purpose to elicit a put away shot".

Along with the player skill list an assessment test of skill requirements is listed.

Example: for 4.0 play a player must successfully perform 7 out of 10 3rd shot drops with a backhand from the baseline.

Most players will find the requirements more difficult than they can perform consistently for the level they aspire to. I can certainly confess to that finding when I review the skill assessments. And I find the real key to developing skills for the next level up is consistency. Many of us like to mix in to games with our higher skilled local players and feel we're keeping up for some of the play.

I like to say "I can recreate with them but can't compete against them."

And if you win a tournament at, say level 3.5, does that make you a 4.0 player?

Sure, you beat all the other 3.5 players but until you can complete the required skills outlined for a 4.0 player, you're still a 3.5.

If you really want to pin down a skill level for yourself, the Western Slope Pickleball Club has a skills evaluation team available to assess players.

You can schedule an assessment by contacting Mike Fortner at driller6181@gmail.com

Players with established ratings and players who frequently play in tournaments can track their rating on the DUPR pickleball rating smartphone app.

Check it out at mydupr.com

Thank You to our Generous Sponsors!



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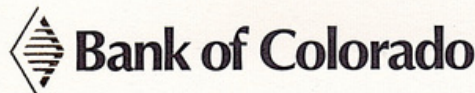
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Quarterly "Business Sponsor Spotlight"



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Don Deimling

Play It Again Sports Grand
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Each newsletter will spotlight a WSPC Business Sponsor to learn more about local businesses who support WSPC. Additional spotlight links can be found on the WSPC Business Sponsor page.

Play It Again Sports

We buy and sell both new and used sporting goods items. We own another resale store in town and spent a lot of time thinking about what Grand Junction was missing in the way of stores that we would be interested in. Play It Again Sports Grand Junction is exciting because you never know what will come in each day, for quality used items. It is always exciting to help someone get set up in a new sport or find just the right gem for their existing sport.

No one in our family currently plays pickleball. It is however on the bucket list. We are a family-owned business, so right now we are focused on growing the business, but 3 generations are wanting to give it a try.

Play It Again Sports Grand Junction can help the pickleball players in Grand Junction by giving them an opportunity to shop both new and used pickleball items. If we don't have it, we will try and work with you to get what you are looking for. If it is time to upgrade your existing equipment, sell to us for cash on the spot or a same day trade.

You can reach us at:

The store at 2454 Hwy 6 and 50, unit 111B, Grand Junction, CO 81505

Phone us at 970-628-1024

Email at playitagainsportsgrandjunction@gmail.com

or check out our web page at www.playitagainsportsgrandjunction.com

Business Spotlight Provided by Gordon Dirst, WSPC Corporate Sponsor Director

NEWSLETTER

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WSPC Information

If you know someone who would like to join the Western Slope Pickleball Club, the membership application can be downloaded on our website:
<https://westernslopepickleballclub.com/join/>
or contact George Gerson at g20520@aol.com

For further club events and news, check the calendar on the website

www.wspcgg.com

WSPC Newsletter created by Diana Rooney

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