



WSPC Quarterly
Pickle News
March
2019



Please vote!

The WSPC board encourages you to please vote yes on this measure. It will give us more indoor facilities to play pickleball. All of the other included features of the community center are so positive for overall health, wellness and community spirit. And there are 12 outdoor courts planned at the Matchett Park development.

There is no in-person voting for this election. You can:

- 1) **Mail** your ballot before Thursday, March 28 to be sure it has time to arrive. Sign your name with your usual signature.
- 2) **Drop It off.** City ballot boxes are available 24/7 at the following locations: GJ City Hall, 250 N 5th St.; Mesa County Central Services, 200 S. Spruce St.; Grand Valley Transit, 612 24 1/2 Rd.; Dept. of Human Services, 510 29 1/2 Rd.

For more information, call Mesa County Elections before 7 p.m. April 2. Located at 250 N. 5th St. Bring ID.

2019 Members Only Club Tournament

As the weather warms up, it's time for pickleball tournaments again. Our annual club tournament takes on a new exciting format, combining the skills of team players, who then compete against a variety of teams: mixed, men's and women's, all in one bracket. Why not give it a try? This is a free tournament for all WSPC club members only. Email George at g20520@aol.com to sign up or for help finding a partner. **The signup deadline is March 22.**



GJ Western Slope Regional Tournament

May 11-12, 2019, Lincoln Park & Pine Ridge Courts. Registration is \$35 and includes lunch and swag bag. New this year will be a 5.0 division. Check the WSPC website for more information. Presented by Rocky Mountain Health Plans. Register with GJ Parks & Rec. at (970) 254-3866.

Important Dates

April 2: Round Robins will begin at the Pine Ridge Courts, 359 Ridges Blvd. and will continue until Nov 22. The play is every Tuesday and Thursday morning and is open to all skill levels. Time TBA

April 10: Round Robins will be at Lincoln Park, east courts, from 9-noon on Wednesday and Friday. Wednesday is for levels 3.5 and below, Friday is for levels 3.5 and above.

April 13: Beginner Clinic from 9 - 11:00 designed for brand new and beginning players. Intermediate Clinic from 11-1 p.m. designed for players 2.5 - 3.5. Registration is required: g20520@aol.com. The cost is \$15 and is limited to 20 players.

June 29 and September 8: WSPC Members Only Sweet 16. Details, including signup dates TBA.





Membership

The WSPC is still growing. We are now at 329 members Cheers and High Fives! Let's keep spreading the good news of our club.

Social Events Survey

was conducted by Anna Goetz and Mary Kusack. There were 101 responses. A summary and important points follows:

Level of Play for Participants responding to the survey:

2.5-30(15%) 3.0(17%) 3.5(43%)
4.0(17%) 4.5(7%) 5(1%)

Best Time for Socials (highest choice listed first, respectively) :

Saturday & Sunday afternoons,
Friday evenings, and weekdays
after 5 p.m.

Responsees' Partner Status:

Partner plays--7% , Non-play
partner--0%, Spouse plays--41%,
Non-play spouse--31%

Most Popular Social Activities listed by order of popularity:

Potluck before/after open play;
Open play drills/skill games;
Attend free concerts;
Sweet 16-mixed level teams;
Adult night out
Many additional suggestions were
also noted .

Anna would like to thank everyone who responded to the survey. Some members offered to host an event or outing. The Club social calendar will be quite busy. Anna and Mary are planning to bring donuts and juice on Tuesday, April 23 to the Pineridge Courts (359 Ridges Blvd.) during the Round Robin.

Tips From Tao



Poaching

There are so many debates and controversies involved around poaching. Advanced players consider poaching as a strategic play, a "normal" play, a "must know" play while at the intermediate or lower level, it's considered a hindrance, annoying or worse. Most players get upset about it when their partners are poaching what is "supposed" to be their side and their ball! Some of you may have heard the phrase "If you're going to poach, you better put it away". There is no such a thing as a put away! Balls tend to come back. How many pop ups have you failed to put away or completely missed? How many overheads have you failed to put away? Why does it have to be a faultless shot when it comes to poaching? Of course, there are good poaches, bad poaches or reckless poaches, but it's like any other play where you have bad and good play. It's all part of the game. It's a team play, there's no my side or your side. Your partner is poaching because: 1) You fail to get to the net fast enough, 2) You don't want to get to the net and hang in the back, 3) You were at the kitchen line and decide to back up. You have to accept the fact that, 1) Your partner is not "stealing" your ball but helping the team. 2) Your partner is in a better position to hit a better shot against the opponents. 3) Not poaching when it's called for is a missed opportunity for a potential winning shot, etc. The list is pretty long on the benefit of poaching, so try to understand, accept and embrace poaching as a

skill. Most importantly, go out there and try poaching for a change instead of getting frustrated from just watching.

Referee Clinic



16 members attended the recent referee clinic. We appreciate their time and efforts to assist with tournaments and to help players learn the rules of pickleball.

In the next few weeks, they will be practicing refereeing during recreational play at Pine Ridge and Lincoln Park. Please help them by allowing them to referee your recreational games. Thank you for your patience and assistance.

A new USAPA/IFP rulebook, as of February 2019, is posted at USAPA.org. Go to Rules and Referees on the menu bar, then scroll to USAPA/IFP Official Rules.

Under the rulebook icon is a "2019 revisions document." It does not cover every wording change, but is designed to guide you through the significant rules changes.



(not pictured: Maxine Behrman and Eileen Egloff)

Member Spotlight

Rich Garrett



I have been playing pickleball for about 5 years. I used to go to the Delta Rec Center to work out and there were always people in the gym "doing something." After several times of seeing them, I decided to go in and watch. They immediately asked me "Do you want to play?" I tried to say no, but they said "No way, give it a try." So I did and liked it right away. I had to make some adjustments from racquetball and tennis, but I enjoyed it so much. I went home and told my wife, Betty, about it and suggested that she try it too. So she did. She also liked it and we were hooked right away.

Normally I play 3-4 times a week, winter and summer. Since we have such a wonderful rec. center here, we have no trouble playing all through the winter. However, I had back surgery recently so am not playing while I recover.

I was born in Queens Long Island, New York. My family moved to Phoenix when I was 8 where I grew up. Twenty-one years ago, Betty & I took a vacation to see where we wanted to retire and picked Delta.

I am an authorized dealer for Paddletek. But I can also

help you with any of your pickleball needs.

I am retired now, but occasionally consult for import/export of paper products. I also have real estate investments in Nicaragua along the Pacific Coast.

I am a "Casa" volunteer. These volunteers are appointed by a judge to help children who are neglected and/or abused and advocate for their rights.

I feel that service to and for the community you live in is important and I try to be helpful in many ways.

Rich is also a sponsor of the WSPC and continually aids in helping with various projects and events.

Dennis Costlow



I've been playing pickleball for about 5 years. Prior to that, I was playing softball in a geriatric league. 2 of the players kept talking about pickleball and telling me I should try it out. So I did and liked it right away. My wife, Cheryl, used to play tennis. So I told her about it. She tried it and liked it also. She could use a lot of the same strokes. I had never played a racquet sport. The only backhand I knew was the one from my Mom when I was messing around doing something I shouldn't.

I played a lot of baseball growing up. In high school, I even played with Johnny Bench and Bob Mercer. Later in life, when I played softball, I was always comparing to how I used to play and didn't feel like I was playing very well. Since I have never played pickleball before, I don't have to worry about that frame of reference. This is the absolute best I've ever been! It's great!

The best thing about pickleball is all of the friendly people. I love the competition. I don't get mad if I don't win, but it sure is more fun when I do. But the people are so friendly. I have more friends--right away--when I started playing pickleball, than ever before.

I grew up in Chickasha Oklahoma. Later, as an adult, I was driving a bus for Trailways and drove through Colorado many times. I thought it was beautiful and wanted to live there. Finally I arranged a transfer, even though it meant losing seniority. Later, I was a traveling sales rep for a chemical company. I have been in Colorado for 43 years.

I also like to play the banjo. I play with friends at their homes, or at various locations: Pea Green, churches and events. I play for at least an hour every day. Recently I went to N. Carolina for a Bluegrass Festival, but also looked online for places to play PB. I found an indoor place. There were 20 people there. Every single one of them made it a point to welcome me and visit with me. I think that is typical of pickleball. In softball, no one hardly spoke. It took a long time to meet people. But not so with pickleball!

George Gerson



I was one of the first pickleball players in Grand Junction. I started in 2009. Prior to that, I played tennis but then tore a ligament in my wrist and couldn't play anymore. A friend of mine, Nancy Friedman, called me and invited me to play pickleball. I said "What kind of a stupid game is that?" Nancy got Parks and Rec. to draw lines on the tennis courts and we had 2 temporary nets. It was very hard to find a foursome to play in those days. So we played singles, or 2 on 1. We would play Monday through Friday. The next year we added weekends. I started out with an email list of 24 people, now there are over 600.

Prior to pickleball, I played tennis and racquetball. I think pickleball is a much easier game to learn the skills. You can be as competitive as you want to be. Or you can just play leisurely. There is a lot of strategy. The points last a lot longer than in tennis and it is much more fun!

I was born in Havana, Cuba. I came to the USA in 1961. In 1977, I moved from Chicago to Grand Junction. I was a chemical engineer at an oil refinery in Fruita. I am now an investment advisor, so am not retired, but can make my own hours.

My wife is Gayle who is an artist in mixed media. She teaches classes at the art center. She is also a pickleball player. She not only enjoys playing, she also helps with various activities, such as teaching pickleball to kids

who are attending GJ Parks and Rec. summer camp along with helping in other events.

I have been the Communications and Membership Director since the WSPC formed 3 years ago. You've probably seen all the emails from me pertaining to the WSPC.

I have 2 kids: a son who owns an ad agency in Denver and a daughter who is a Senior Counselor at Central High School.

For my wife and I, one of our favorite things to do is to travel all over the world. When you don't see my emails for awhile, it is because we are off somewhere enjoying seeing the world.

Guido Schulte



I heard about pickleball from my neighbor, Bob Funderburk in January 2017. He invited me to play at the Barn. I had no idea what pickleball was. Everyone was really welcoming and I liked it right away. I played a lot that first winter.

During my twenties, I played serious league tennis. With all of that continuous play, I developed chronic elbow tendonitis, so had to stop playing tennis. I also played some racquetball.

The best thing I like about pickleball is the casualness of the sport and all the social aspects. It is much easier to learn than tennis and much more fun to learn. As in tennis, drilling improves your game, but it seems that you can learn skills much faster

than in tennis. There still is a lot of strategy and exercise too. Pickleball is also more social. No matter where you go, you can find someone who plays pickleball and they are almost always welcoming. I have also played in Arizona when we have traveled.

I moved to Grand Junction from southern California in 2005 for the fantastic mountain biking available here. I still do a lot of mountain biking and road biking.

I have been in the Real Estate business for 36 years. I'm happy to give you advice or coaching if you are confused on any real estate matters. I've worked with entry level homes to luxury estates. (Guido is one of our WSPC sponsors. You can find all of his contact information on the last page of this newsletter-- Business Sponsors).

I just started as a sales rep for Pro Lite Paddles. Previously I was always trying to use the lightest pickleball paddle available. This was because of all the technical stuff I do when I go bike riding, that sometimes aggravates my arm injury. So I would try to use a light paddle, so as not to hurt it further. Then I tried the Carbon Fiber Pro-Lite paddle which is heavier. I was amazed. I was able to play a very long time without feeling any pain in my arm. Now I'm happy to spread the word on how much better this paddle has worked for me and may help others too.

My wife, Linda, is a master gardener. We grow and distill lavender and produce the highest quality pure essential Lavender Oils and Hydrosol. We also enjoy hiking and camping in our trailer. Colorado is also a wonderful area for those activities.



Please support our generous WSPC business sponsors below.

To learn more about each of our business sponsors, please go to <http://westernslopepickleballclub.com/sponsors/>

You'll also find information on how you can become a WSPC sponsor.



Guido Schulte
real estate

Guido Schulte ePRO Realtor
Office: 970-263-7777
Cell/Text: **970-250-1162**
E-Mail: guido@guidos.com
Website: GJHomeStore.com

 

GJ Sales Group, LLC
817 Falcon Way, Suite 212
Grand Junction, CO 81506



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Tel: 970-462-7770 • Email: info@MozaicTech.com



Chris Kopanos
President

Phone : **970.241.2237**
Cell : **970.261.8664**
Fax : **970.241.2303**

Screen Printing • Embroidery
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570 E. Crete Circle #4, Grand Junction, Colorado 81505
sales@nexgenpromo.com www.nexgenpromo.com



Alecia Gordon, GRI
Broker Associate
Property Manager
Real Estate Professional

Ph: (970) 263-7250
Cell: (970) 260-2555
Email: Alecia@BuyGrandJunction.com
www.BuyGrandJunction.com
759 Horizon Drive, Unit B
Grand Junction, CO 81506-8737

  



Dana Sullivan
INDEPENDENT BUSINESS OWNER
970-260-7646
darycole3@yahoo.com

livepure.com/danasullivan



Lisa Bilki, Broker/Owner/Realtor®
970-270-3573 or LisaSellsGJ@gmail.com
HometownRealtyTwins.com
Leslie Kent, Realtor®/ Licensed Assistant
970-270-0213 or LeslieSellsGJ@gmail.com

  