

November 2024 Pickleblast

Club President's Message

Halloween has already come and gone and Thanksgiving is fast approaching. There are lots of things going on in the club:

1. **Canoa Ranch Courts:** Effective immediately, court 3 at the Canoa Ranch pickleball courts is now available for "Open Play" (paddle up) all day, every day except for three 1-hour blocks starting at 1:00 PM and ending at 3:00 PM weekdays. The three 1-hour afternoon blocks of time can be reserved by sending an email to reservations@gvrec.org. (Note: the email address was incorrect in the club email notification that was sent out on November 2nd.) Additionally, courts 1 and 2 are now available to be reserved in Pickleball Plus at 1:00 and 2:30 on week days. Court 4 will continue to be "Open Play" all day. See "Court Schedules" below for more detailed information.

2. **Proposal for New Courts at Canoa Ranch:** The Club's proposal for four new courts at Canoa Ranch was included in the 2025 GVR Budget that the Board of Directors passed on October 23rd. No GVR funds were included in the budget as per our proposal to fund the construction of the courts if / when we can raise the money for the construction. The next steps are to a: enter in to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with GVR and b: begin the fund-raising campaign. The BOD has established a steering committee to oversee all efforts related to the project and the work has already begun. Please send me an email if you are interested in participating in the planning and execution of the fundraising effort.

3. **Club Survey:** The club survey is now over. We received over 300 responses and the BOD and I express our thanks for taking the time to complete it. The answers and comments you all provided will help the BOD set priorities for efforts for this season and beyond. Each and every response will be reviewed and considered for action. Additionally, for those of you who indicated an interest in volunteering in specific areas we will be forwarding your information to the relevant individual or group.

4. **Technology Corner:** Our club is blessed with amazing technology, much of which is home grown and owned by the club. The club's board of directors (BOD) is cognizant of the importance of keeping and growing our legacy in this regard and we are grateful to those members who developed it, maintain it and help support it in so many ways. We are always looking for volunteers who are tech savvy to help us in this endeavor.

5. **Arizona Pickleball Players League (APPL):** Carol Hammerle, the club's APPL coordinator, and two members of the women's 4.0 State Champion Drop Squad team recently conducted an informational meeting regarding club member participation in APPL. Although APPL is not a GVR or club-sponsored organization, several men's and women's teams are in the process of being formed. If you are interested in participating on or with an APPL team (coordinating / coaching, or playing) please contact Carol at STARFSH59K@AOL.COM for more information. You can also find the APPL information using the links in the popups on the club's website <https://www.gvripickleball.org/>.

6. **Club-specific League:** The club is seeking to identify whether there is enough member interest to form a club-specific league. Board member-at-large Jay Salerno is organizing an exploratory committee to look into this. Please reach out to Jay at jaysalerno7@gmail.com if you are interested in participating on the exploratory committee or participating in the league (if one is started).

7. **GVR Holidays Schedule:**

November Court Closures

- Wednesday, November 27: All pickleball courts close at 6pm.
- Thursday, November 28: The East Center courts will be open until 1 PM. The Canoa Ranch courts will be open. **The Pickleball Center will be closed.**
- Friday, November 29: Pickleball centers will be open as usual. (GVR offices and customer service desks are closed.)

December Court Closures

- Tuesday, December 24: All pickleball centers close at 6pm.
- Wednesday, December 25: The East Center courts will be open until 1 PM. The Canoa Ranch courts will be open. **The Pickleball Center will be closed.**
- Tuesday, December 31: All pickleball centers close at 6pm.
- Wednesday, January 1: Pickleball centers will be open as usual. (GVR offices and customer service desks are closed.)

8. **Dink & Dine:** The November social event is the annual Dink, Dine and Food Bank Drive, taking place on Saturday, November 16th at the East Center Auditorium and Pickleball Courts. The courts are reserved and Cornhole will be played on Court 5.

Please bring a non-perishable food donation to help our Green Valley Food Bank with their Holiday Food needs. Bring a dish to share. B.Y.O.B. The Club will provide utensils, plates, and water. Tables ready at 4:30pm Buffet at 5:00pm

Pickleball, Cornhole or just relax and socialize! Let's have some fun before the Holidays begin!

Please sign up on [Pickleball Plus](#).

9. **Pickleball for students in Green Valley / Sahuarita:** I received the following request from Lenny Friedman, USA Pickleball Education Ambassador for Green Valley/Sahuarita, Arizona (Lenny can be reached at lenny.pickleball@gmail.com): "This school year, I have volunteered to teach pickleball in an after-school program at Continental School on Thursdays from 2:45pm - 4:45pm from October 17 - December 19, 2024 and March 20 – May 22, 2025. Are there GVR pickleball players who would like to volunteer to help teach the kids pickleball?" I think this is a good opportunity to engage with our larger community.

In this regard, the club has been granted permission by GVR to host the end of school year Spring Tournament for Community Youth in May 2025. Much more information forthcoming about this – but I am happy we get to do this for our extended community. Reach out to me at the club email (greenvalleypickleballclub@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating in any way (e.g., coordinating, volunteer staff).

10. **Courtesy, Etiquette and Conduct:** As happens every year around this time many folks are returning to Green Valley and the pickleball courts. Please be courteous and respectful to each other. I have been made aware of a few isolated incidents where players have been confronted by other players regarding perceived infractions. Some of the confrontations have been aggressive and inconsiderate at a minimum and are not acceptable.

If you have a concern, notify the GVR Facility employee (COA – Yellow Shirt) and let them know the issue and let them handle it. If it is not something that a COA can or should address – such as whether or not someone can play in a Round Robin – contact the coordinator for the event and have them address the issue. In any case – all interactions on the court should be kind and considerate. Finally, If you have experienced being confronted by someone other than the GVR Facility employee (COA) or designated others in an inconsiderate manner on any of our courts please file an incident report with the club (greenvalleypickleballclub@gmail.com) and also with GVR (as appropriate).

For those of you that this has happened to I want you to know that I understand filing an incident report is pretty much like being victimized again. If you choose to come forward, the club (in collaboration with GVR and Club policy), will address your situation with full discretion while protecting your identity.

To end on a positive note: In large measure I think we have an incredible pickleball club. On behalf of the club's board of directors thank you for your continued support and efforts in making this such a great community.

Jeff Washburn - President, GVR Pickleball Club



Board Meeting Highlights

Next Board Meeting

Next Board Meeting: Thursday November 21, 2024, 4 – 6 PM, Location: West Center Room 2.
Note: We will be sending Zoom link for future BOD meetings.

Board Meeting Highlights

For the complete minutes from the previous board meetings go to the club's website under the "About the Club" tab here: [Board Agendas and Minutes](#)

Special Notices

Court Updates & Reminders

The volunteer members of the scheduling committee would like to welcome our seasonal players back to Green Valley and extend a warm welcome to all new members to the club. The GVR Pickleball Club prides itself on being a friendly group that offers competitive play in a recreational environment. It's going to be another season of Pickleball in beautiful Green Valley! We are looking forward to seeing you all on the courts!

Reminder: **Priority use of courts**

Although our club is privileged to have 36 courts, there are certain times that there will be high demand for the same courts. Club membership is now almost 1,100 people.

As our 36 PB courts begin to fill up for the winter season I would like to remind players of individual court use priorities:

Court use schedules can be found on the home page of the club website and on PB+ in the courts tab.

Priority 1 - play format* assigned on the schedule (and skill level if assigned)

Priority 2 - skill level (if assigned)

Priority 3 - anyone else

* play formats are defined at the bottom of the court schedules on the club webpage.
Court assignments are designed to incorporate the multitude of skill levels and interest groups among our players.
Continue to stay tuned to the court schedules and pickleblast for any future court schedule changes.
As always, thank you for your continued cooperation.

Court Schedule Changes:

1. APPL (Arizona Pickleball Players League)

Practices for the APPL League teams start in November. Certain courts have been designated for league practice during the afternoon hours. Here is an example of how this looks on Pickleball Plus:

AP-4.0-50+-KB cts 9-11

And here's how to read it:

APPL 4.0 / 50+ / Kathy Burns captain / courts 9-11

Note: All APPL practices and home matches are scheduled in the afternoons at the PBC or East Center. Home Matches will run from January through March (also in the afternoons). There are currently eight Green Valley teams registered with APPL. Stay tuned...there could be more.

2. Lobster court 17

By popular request...use of court 17 for various play formats has been adjusted. The new schedule for lobster reservations is reflected on Pickleball Plus.

3. Mixed Skill Level Play (MSLP)

Although a popular format during the summer, the "mixed" level play ends its run on October 31. Please follow regular Skill Level Play.

4. Play Format

During prime time, all skill levels have Open Play (OP) (aka Paddle-up) and Round Robin (RR) play formats available. Please check the court schedules for which day and location each level plays and the play format on:

- Pickleball Plus ([Pickleball Plus](#)),
- the club website (gvrpickleball.org) OR
- the monitor in the PBC breezeway.

5. Canoa Ranch Court Reservation Update

The reservation process for the courts at Canoa Ranch is being adjusted to accommodate prime time play for the upcoming fall/winter season. What's changing?

- ✓ Courts 1 and 2 which are typically "open play" can now be reserved on weekdays for either the 1pm or 2:30pm time slots. Reservations are made on [Pickleball Plus](#).
- ✓ Court 3 as noted above is now an "open play" court at all times except for 3 one-hour blocks (1pm, 2pm and 3pm) on weekdays. The court can be reserved for "recreational play only" for those times by sending an email to reservations@gvrec.org.
- ✓ Court 4 will continue to be an open play court throughout the day.

Skill Ratings

Skill Ratings testing has started again. For complete information about Skill Ratings and RAP (Rating Assessment & Demo Practice) visit the Club's website Rating tab at: [Ratings | PB2021 \(gvrpickleball.org\)](#).

Members whose skill rating has changed through the Club rating process, IPTPA, APPL Index or other accepted rating testing:

2.5 Carol Benight

3.0 Eileen Foresman, Sharon Robinson, Joy Johnson, David Spense, Arne Hales, Michael Murt
3.5 Jeff Lierman, Morris Eagleman
4.0 Greg Schoenberg, Scott Taylor
4.5 Teri Neumann, Karin Striepe, Nancy Williams

New Members

Please join us in welcoming 16 new members to the club: Janice Redinger, John McNally, Lise McNally, Steven Ramp, Anna Mays, Curtis Mays, Morris Eagleman, Kandise Andrist, Kathy Arnold, Mike Arnold, Barbara Hall, Rob Donnelly, Ted Smith, Dan Frink, Douglas McCoy, Debra Grande, Janette Henderson, Jay Henderson

Fall 2024 Club Classes

Note: These days / times are subject to change – always check Pickleball Plus for the current schedule.

Developing Skills:

The Club offers a Developing Skills program to active 2.0 & 2.5 GVR and club members looking to learn and improve their skills. Players are encouraged to use the Developing Skills sessions as a stepping stone to improve their skills after taking a GVR Pickleball 101 class. There is no charge for this program which incorporates drills and game play with a coach observer. However, after four sessions players will need to join the Pickleball Club to continue to attend. Coaches are authorized to advance players club skill level ratings from 2.0 to 2.5.

Developing Skills sessions are on Tuesday and Thursday's 12:00 – 3:00 at the Pickleball Center. Sign up on [Pickleball Plus](#).

GVR Classes

See the Fall 2024 GVR Catalogue (hard copy or online) for classes and signup information

Training for Ball Machines

The Club has a Lobster Ball Machine at the East Center and the Pickleball Center. Both are available to reserve through [Pickleball Plus](#). If you want to be trained on the Lobster ball machine, check "Events" in Pickleball Plus for the monthly training sign ups (in season only).

Play Safe and Be Prepared

As a reminder, when you go to play pickle ball it is a great idea to have a copy of your insurance card, driver's license, and emergency contact with you. Hopefully, you will never need to use them on the courts, but they are important if you have a medical issue. Also, if you see plastic bags in the cabinets at the 3 locations, they are to be used for impromptu ice packs in case there are no ice packs in the first aid kits.