



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
----------------------------	-----------------------------	----------------------------	------------------------	--	---------------------------------------

Volume 2, Issue 1

Fun, Friends and Fitness

January 1, 2016

From the Prez

By Nancy Grafton
PASCT President



Nancy Grafton
PASCT President

Greetings and Happy New Year! The start of a New Year is so invigorating – well, maybe it's the cold, windy breezes that have everyone moving at a faster pace. In any event, your Pickleball Board is fired up about the potential for even more pickleball events in 2016 than last year. And, if there was an event you really enjoyed and would like repeated, please let us know.

So that you don't miss out on all the fun, renew your membership before it expires on February 1st. You may enroll on-line through the ticketing system (check the applicable box if you are renewing, or a new member), or you may enroll at the CA Member Service Office, Mon-Fri, 8 to 4 p.m. Dues remained unchanged at \$15 per year per member.

Some of you asked for a follow-up to the suggestions that were presented at the November Board meeting, and I am happy to report that several committees have been formed:

- 1) A Welcoming Committee to meet and greet new members and to explain Club procedures (we now have seven volunteers who are carrying out these responsibilities);
- 2) A Court Utilization Committee to offer solutions to the overutilization that occurs during the prime playing times April-September (this group is comprised of eighteen individuals representing beginner, intermediate, advanced, and noncompetitive players – pretty much every type of player that steps on the courts) and they have already met several times to share ideas. You can help the committee by completing the survey that was emailed to you earlier in the week. We look forward to hearing their suggestions on how to share more effectively the six courts we currently enjoy.
- 3) A Task Force to develop strategies on how best to promote the necessity of more courts in the short-term until more courts are added at the proposed amenity center in 2017 or 2018. We now have enough volunteers for this committee, and you will be contacted by mid-January.

I started my message with greetings for the new year, and wanted to share the good news that the Pickleball Club received regarding the lights on Courts 5 & 6 during the closing days of December. Turn the page and read the latest.



Starting the Year on a Bright Note

By Nancy Grafton
PASCT President

Update on Lighting on Courts 5 and 6

I am pleased to announce that through the cooperative efforts of Jim Romine, Executive Director, and the Sports and Property & Grounds Committees, Finance, and your Pickleball Board, the poles and lighting on Courts 5 and 6 will be replaced in early January, 2016! There will be no additional financial cost to the Pickleball Club.

To effect this cooperative effort, the Pickleball Board was presented with two caveats before any further action would be taken to replace the existing poles and lights: (1) that the lights must be off at 9 p.m., and (2) that lighting for courts 1-4 would no longer be pursued.

The Board agreed unanimously to accept the caveats for the following reasons:

- 1) Many of our members will not play on courts 5 and 6 after sunset because of the poor lighting. The new poles will be 25' high and the average illumination will be improved to 30 foot candles on each court. As a point of comparison, the current lighting on these courts measures between 4 – 18 foot candles of illumination. We expect to have a similar amount of lighting comparable to those that are on the lighted tennis courts, and are optimistic that more members will come out for evening play as a result.
- 2) The projected cost to add poles, lights, and underground cables to courts 1-4 is approximately \$50,000. That assumes that all the necessary CA approvals and permits were received (as well as a source for funding).

With the expansion of Sun City and the anticipated addition of more amenities for our residents, including more pickleball courts, we will not pursue lighting for Courts 1-4.

The previous and current Board members have worked for two years on the illumination problems on Courts 5 & 6, and the resolution is only a few weeks away. We will continue to report on the progress of the installation of the new poles and lights on courts 5 and 6, and the CA will communicate to all Sun City residents that the lights must be off at 9 pm. A sign will also be posted at Court 5 & 6.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. I look forward to seeing you on the newly lighted courts!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Prez	1
Starting the Year on a Bright Note	2
From the Ambassador	3
Club Announcements	5
Picture This in Reverse	6
Fred's Corner	7
Jokes and Quotes	8
Welcome, New Members	8
Volunteer Spotlight	9
Updates	10
Spreading the Word	12
Intro to Pickleball Classes & Simon	13
Upcoming Tournaments	14

Okay, VA Miller,

*You can stop riding
your bike down to
the courts every
night. We got the
light situation under
control.*



From the Ambassador

By Chuck Flanagan
Texas Central and South Central District Pickleball Ambassador



Chuck Flanagan

Elaine and I recently returned from playing in the USAPA national championship tournament, the “2015 Nationals VII”, which was held in Casa Grande, AZ. This is USAPA’s annual flagship tournament and draws players from around the world. This year’s event had over 800 competitors, took eight days to complete, and involved more than 2,000 individual matches.

That took a lot of work and could not have been accomplished without the help of hundreds of volunteers and two great venues; Palm Creek Golf and RV Resort and Robson Ranch. Palm Creek has thirty-two dedicated pickleball courts and Robson Ranch currently has only sixteen. “Currently” only sixteen; they are getting ready to build new tennis courts and convert the current ones into sixteen more pickleball courts. (During the tournament, sixteen temporary nets were used on the tennis courts.) So, with sixty-four courts available, this was a really big event.



These are the sunken center courts at Palm Creek with overhead lights.



Satellite view of Palm Creek courts (right).



Center courts at Robson Ranch.

2016 promises to be another exciting year for pickleball. This is a qualifying year for the National Senior Games (<http://www.nsga.com/>) as well as the lesser known State Games of America (<http://www.sga2015.com/>). Both of these organizations will hold their national championships in 2017.

2016 will also be a year of changes for the USA Pickleball Association. New rules governing the specifications of pickleballs will go into effect on May 1, 2016. This will not affect our club play but will apply to all balls used in sanctioned tournaments. Additionally, starting January 1, 2016, all participants in USAPA sanctioned tournaments must be members of the USA Pickleball Association. The decision to seek USAPA sanctioned status will lie with the individual

tournament directors. There are numerous advantages for the directors (liability insurance, free advertising, discounted rates on PickleballTournaments.com, etc.). Benefits for the players include: secondary accident insurance, referees, eligibility for tournament points, and the opportunity to be rated.

One of my tasks as a USAPA ambassador is to promote our sport and to support various start-up groups in their efforts. This means that I frequently provide intro and intermediate pickleball classes throughout the area. I need help when I have large groups to work with and there are several of our club members who have readily given their support. Earlier this month I held a clinic in Killeen and I'd like to take this opportunity to publically thank Stan and Mary Payne, Dorinda Williams, and Don Hunt for their assistance. I'd also like to thank some of my other helpers; Larry Hudson, Nancy Grafton, David Laird, and probably several others whose names escape me at the moment. THANK YOU!

And, speaking about my ambassadorial job, there's been a change there too. I've been asked to be the Texas Central and South Central District Ambassador. My new area of responsibility (support only, not administrative) runs from Waco-Victoria/Seadrift-Brownsville-Del Rio-San Angelo-Abilene-Waco.

Wish me luck.

Club Announcements

By Kathy Carr
PASCT Communications Director

- **2016 Winter Ladder League Registration.** Registration for the Sun City Winter Ladder League will continue through 7 January 2016. This 8-week league will have the following 5 Divisions and is scheduled to run from 18 January – 4 March 2016.

<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>START TIME</u>
Women's Individual Doubles	Monday	11 am
Men's Individual Doubles	Tuesday	11 am
Men's Team Doubles	Wednesday	11 am
Women's Team Doubles	Thursday	11 am
Mixed Team Doubles	Friday	11 am

To play in the Winter Ladder League, players must:

- Be a member of the Pickleball Club.
- Indicate their self-rated skill level based on the IFP numeric rating system.
- Sign up for the league using the Sun City ticketing system.
- Play with a pickleball paddle that meets USAPA established standards

To register for one or more of the listed divisions, players can use the Sun City online ticketing system or go to the CA office to pay in person. Cost is \$5.00 per player for each ladder played. So, if you sign up for more than one ladder (e.g. individual doubles, team doubles and/or mixed doubles), you must register for each one separately. For those wishing to pay in person, write a check (payable to SCTXCA) and take it to the Sun City Community Association Office.

Questions related to the 2016 Winter Ladder League should be directed to the Incoming Player Development Director, Peg O'Toole, at jgmlo@yahoo.com.

- **Seeking New Social Director.** We're still in the hunt for a Club Social Director to backfill Kim Stout. If you think you might have the organizational and people skills required to schedule, coordinate and execute social events for the Club, we have the job for you. Interested individuals or team of individuals are encouraged to contact Nancy Grafton, the Club president at nancygrafton@sbcglobal.net.
- **New Entrance to Billiards Hall Restrooms.** The Billiards Club received approval from the Property & Grounds Committee to put an exterior door in the parking lot side of their building. This new entrance will allow us pickleball players to enter, use the restrooms and exit without disrupting billiards play. CA Maintenance expects the project to be completed soon, so be on the lookout for the change.

Picture This in Reverse

Photos Submitted by Barb Patterson
PASCT Tournament Director

In preparation for the holidays, a volunteer crew of club members came together to deck the courts with strings of pickleballs and homemade pickleball wreaths. We weren't able to get these photos into last month's Kitchen Talk, but "better late than never". These same folks are probably going to be called upon to help take the decorations down, so picture these scenes in reverse, or better yet, come on down and help Clark Grafton, our new Maintenance Director.



Many thanks to all who contributed their time:

Clark Grafton, Chuck Flanagan, Larry Hudson, Chuck Elley, Paul Straube, Joyce Cadwallader and Barb Patterson.



Fred's Corner

By Fred Kandel
Contributing Writer and Member of the PASCT

Fred's Observations

After you have lived in Sun City for a while, you realize that it is but a microcosm of the rest of world. The same is true for the pickleball community. The names of the hierarchies may change, but they are still there. Let's look at the classifications for the world versus our pickleball community:

Age

	World	Pickleball Community
Young	20 – 40 years of age	50 – 60 years of age
Middle Age	41 – 59 years of age	61 – 75 years of age
Old	60+ years of age	75+ years of age



Fred Kandel

Politics

World	Pickleball Community
Extremists	A Players
Activists	B Players
Independents	C Players

Dreams of the Pickleball Community

A Players	Their own courts <i>when</i> they want them	Approval of who becomes an A Player	Appreciation for playing with the lower class (only some A players)	"A" Player parking spaces	No talking on the sidelines and absolutely no smiling or laughing while playing
B Players	To one day be an A Player.	To beat the crap out of the A players once in a while.	Realizing that being an A Player isn't that big a deal.		
C Players	To hit the ball over the net 3 times in a row.	Learning to keep score properly.	Realizing that in a reasonable amount of time you too will be injured and become a B Player.		

The great thing about the Pickleball Club is that for the most part, we have great members that truly enjoy playing the game at all levels with friendly outgoing people. And, while everyone is out there trying to win each game, the thrill of victory is short-lived compared to the relationships made while playing the game. So get out there and remember these 4 things:

1. Most of us can't remember the score of the game or who served the last point, let alone what our dreams were from last night.
2. A player's dreams will never come true.
3. Point 2 for B players will come true.
4. C players stretch before you play and practice. Someone else will tell you the score. Don't care about your classification. Just have a good time.

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.

Chutzpah!

Submitted by Leon Hananel

Chutzpah is a Yiddish word meaning gall, brazen nerve, effrontery, sheer guts plus arrogance; it's Yiddish and no other word, and no other language, can do it justice.

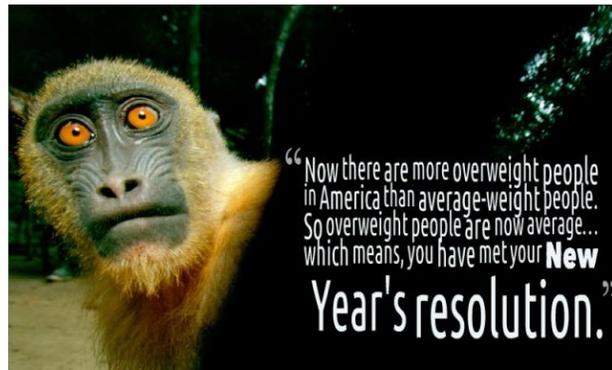
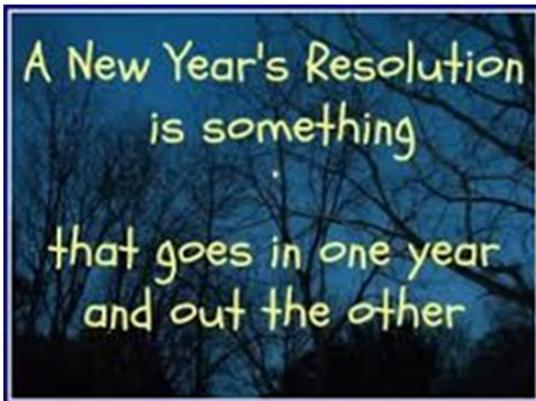
A little old lady sold pretzels on a street corner for a dollar each.

Every day a young man would leave his office building at lunch time and as he passed the pretzel stand he would leave her \$1.00, but NEVER take a pretzel.

This offering went on for more than 3 years. The two of them never spoke.

One day as the young man passed the old lady's stand and left his dollar as usual, the pretzel lady spoke to him for the first time in over 3 years.

Without blinking an eye, she said: "They're \$1.25 now."



More exciting tales of life in the slow lane:

Submitted by Bill Treadway

An elderly gentleman walks into an upscale cocktail lounge. He was in his mid-eighties, very well dressed, hair well groomed, great looking suit, flower in his lapel, and smelling slightly of a quality after shave. He presented a very good image.

Seated at the bar was an elderly really classy looking lady in her mid-seventies. The sharp old gentleman walks over and sits alongside of her. He orders a drink. He takes a sip.

He slowly turns to her and says, "So tell me, do I come here often?"



Volunteer Spotlight – Sandy Piland

Sandy Piland was voted by the Board to be the December 2015 Volunteer of the Month. Unfortunately, we weren't able to get her nomination, biography, presentation and photo together before the last issue of Kitchen Talk was published. So, in the spirit of being better late than never, let's celebrate the efforts of another of our great Club members, Sandy Piland.

When asked to help with the decorations for the Fall Tournament, Sandy jumped on board. Even though she was unfamiliar with what needed to be done and the amount of time required to do it, she committed to the task without hesitation. Sandy willingly learned and executed all tasks she was asked to perform – for hours, days and weeks. Her efforts contributed to an outstanding and memorable event put on by the Club's Social Committee.

Sandy is a true Pickleball Ambassador. In addition to her own involvement in the Pickleball Club, she has recruited more than 20 of her friends and neighbors in N-56 to hit the courts. Every Wednesday night you can count on a group of 12 regulars to show up for some friendly competition. Sandy sends out an email invite to all, shows up to get the group started, and can be counted on to help her neighbors improve their game.

Sandy and her husband moved to Sun City three years ago. While her husband still works, Sandy retired from Dell Computers 17 years ago.

After raising their kids and sending them off to college and the working world, she and her husband decided to move from Pflugerville to Georgetown. They both feel very lucky to have a community in the Central Texas Area like Sun City, where they have found their forever home.

After moving to Sun City, Sandy got involved in the NRO as Neighborhood Representative, Alternate Representative and Treasurer for N-56 the first two years. She's very active in her neighborhood's activities. In addition to coordinating various gatherings, she's involved in the Book Club, Hand and Foot Canasta, Ladies and Couples Spades, and the Cruisers.

A year and half ago several neighbors signed up for the Introduction to Pickleball class. Two months later Sandy organized a neighborhood Pickleball group. To this day, they make it a point to meet and play once a week. Sandy also enjoys playing in the Ladies League, Summer Social Nights, Club Tournaments, and several days a week with a fun group of ladies from the Pickleball Club. It would be an understatement to say Sandy is addicted to Pickleball. She absolutely loves the game.



*Sandy Piland, December 2015 PASCT
Volunteer of the Month.*

It's Annual Dues Time

Don Hayes
PASCT Vice President

Just a friendly reminder; you can pay your 2016 membership dues of \$15 on line. Remember, each resident must login under his/her own Member ID to ensure the membership you purchase is credited to your account.

The grace period for your 2015 membership ends January 31, 2016. If you do not purchase a 2016 membership by this date, your membership will expire and you will be removed from the membership roster and email list. That means no more Pickleball Express or Kitchen Talk publications for you.

Cedar Park Hat Tournament

Thursday, January 14th, the Cedar Park Recreation Center will host a pick up Hat Tournament. There will be 2 levels of play - high and low. You will be asked what level you want to enter when you check in.

You may arrive at 8:00 am to warm up, but must be onsite no later than 8:40 am. All non-members must pay the daily admission fee.

This double elimination tournament starts at 9:00 am. Individual names for teams will be drawn out of a hat. You will get a partner randomly.

You must stay for the entire tournament playing all your scheduled games. This will be over about 12:00 pm. No reservations accepted; just show up on time.



Getting an Early Start...

Grandma Barb Patterson beams with pride as her new grandson, Theo, poses with his favorite Christmas present. Barb's advice, "We always need to start them early."



Sunday Morning Ladder League at Cedar Park

The Cedar Park Sunday Morning Ladder League Will Start again on January 31st and run 8 weeks to March 20th. To register soon. Go to:

https://apm.activecommunities.com/cityofcedarpark/Activity_Search?txtActivitySearch=pick&applyFiltersDefaultValue=true&cat=Activities.

Silver Sneakers

By Nancy Grafton
Vice President

Oh, the weather outside is frightful (well, maybe just cold or wet), and you are eager to play pickleball. If you are a member of the Healthways Silver Sneakers® Fitness program, you can use your Silver Sneakers® card to visit participating fitness locations (one is the Georgetown Recreation Center on Austin Avenue). Pickleball is offered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at **no cost** to Silver Sneaker® cardholders.

There is no cost to join Silver Sneakers®; however, you must be over 65 years of age and a member of a Medicare health plan that participates in the program (there are currently eleven in Texas). Visit their website at www.silversneakers.com for information about benefits, eligibility, and locations where the card is honored.



New USAPA Pickleball Magazine Starts This Month

From the USAPA Website

Pickleball Magazine is the official publication for USA Pickleball Association and is the world's only publication for the sport of pickleball. Each issue of *Pickleball Magazine* offers readers the opportunity to learn more about the sport and the people involved with it. Beginning this month, all USAPA members who join the association will receive FREE electronic editions of *Pickleball Magazine* delivered to their email inboxes. Members will be able to read these on any computer, phone or tablet. Current USAPA members can also receive a mailed subscription of *Pickleball Magazine* (6 issues) for \$12 per year, which is 40% off the non-member rate.

Each issue of *Pickleball Magazine* will include:

- *Instructional Content*
- *Tournament Schedules and Results*
- *Facility of the Month*
- *Player Profile*
- *Destinations*
- *Rules Q and A and much more!*

To maintain monthly correspondence, USAPA members can expect to receive an e-newsletter during the 6 months not covered by *Pickleball Magazine*.

A *Pickleball Magazine* website will be available soon where you can secure your subscription online. In the meantime, you can go to the USAPA website and download a flyer to mail or email your subscription request. Again, all USAPA members will receive the electronic version for free!

Spreading the Pickleball Word

By Kathy Carr

Photo by Chuck Flanagan

According to my friend, Merriam-Webster, an ambassador is a person sent on a mission to represent another. Among the synonyms Merriam lists for the word “ambassador” are spokesperson, messenger and mouthpiece. While we typically associate the term with diplomatic envoys or government representatives, there is also an unofficial connotation to the word. As it applies to pickleball, it means having a love of the sport and the desire to share our game with others of all ages.

We’re all ambassadors of pickleball. Whether we bump into someone at HEB, volunteer to teach the Introduction to Pickleball class, mentor beginners, deliver welcome letters to new members, help with tournaments, man the booth at the Newcomer’s Orientation, participate in tournaments outside of Sun City, serve as board members or invite family and friends to the courts, we all share the physical and social aspects of the game with others.

The Sports & Fitness Industry Association reports there are 2.46 million pickleball participants. With a world population of 7.3 billion people, that means each of us has to recruit 2,967 new players to cover the globe. Let’s get cracking.



Mary Payne, Don Hunt, Dorinda Williams and Stan Payne assist Chuck Flanagan as at a clinic in Killeen, TX in December.



Joe Torres introduces pickleball at Kids Camp last summer.



Members share pickleball war stories at a club social.



Don Hayes captures scores from players, Bill Treadway and Will Saunders at the Club’s Fall Tournament

Introduction to Pickleball Class Dates

By Peg O'Toole
Player Development Director



Introduction to Pickleball class dates for the first quarter of 2016 are listed 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.

This class introduces participants to the game of pickleball, covering terminology, basic rules of play, equipment and court etiquette. 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 to schedule a class.

Those members interested in helping to teach this class should also contact Peg. She will appreciate your help.

Introduction to Pickleball Class Schedule		
January 16, 2016	Saturday	3:00 – 5:00 pm
January 30, 2016	Saturday	3:00 – 5:00 pm
February 13, 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.		

Simon Training



The number of club members certified to use Simon, the pickleball throwing machine continues to climb. Kudos to all who have completed the training. If you haven't been able to attend a class on Simon's setup and operation, send an email request to Lee Miller, mtime1952@gmail.com to register for an upcoming class. The next one is scheduled for Thursday, January 7, 2016 from 3:00 – 4:00 pm. Please include your name, email, and phone number.

If you've completed the training and would like to reserve Simon, all you have to do is send an email request within 24 hours of your desired usage to Lee with the date and time you would like to use the machine. As a reminder, Simon is available on Court 6 the following times:

- Monday from 4:00 – 5:00 pm
- Tuesday through Friday from 2:00 - 5:00 pm
- Sunday from 1:00 – 5:00 pm

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 so the listing can be as accurate as possible for our members.

State Games of Oklahoma – Oklahoma City, OK

Registration Dates: Now thru 23 Jan 2016

Location: Green's Tennis Club, Oklahoma City, OK

Event Dates:

Women & Men's Singles (Age Groups)	Friday, 29 Jan 16
Women & Men's Team Doubles (Age Groups)	Saturday, 30 Jan 16
Mixed Doubles (Skill Level)	Sunday, 31 Jan 16

Cost: \$40 for all 3 events.

Notes: This is a qualifier for the State Games of America. Must be a USAPA member to play. Tournament Director reserves the right to combine age groups to more evenly distribute teams within brackets based on participation. Pickleball Now green indoor ball will be used (changed from the Jug Ball).

Register online at http://pickleballtournaments.com/pbt_listing.pl?selstate=OK&daysout=60.

Houston Real Dill – Bryan/College Station, TX

Registration Dates: Now thru 27 Jan 2016

Location: Houston Badminton Center, 10550 Airport Blvd. Stafford, TX 77447

Event Dates:

Women & Men's Team Doubles (Age Groups)	Thursday, 4 Feb 16
Mixed Doubles (Age Groups)	Friday, 5 Feb 16
Women & Men's Team Doubles (Skill Level)	Saturday, 6 Feb 16
Mixed Doubles (Skill Level)	Sunday, 7 Feb 16

Cost is \$50 for one (1) or two (2) events entered and \$60 for three (3) or four (4) events. A Referee Service Fee of \$15 will also be added to all player registration charges. This fee covers the cost of paying referees and lines people \$5 per match served

Register online at http://pickleballtournaments.com/pbt_listing.pl?selstate=TX&daysout=60.

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>

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 at the); 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.