



Kitchen Talk



Pickleball Association of Sun City Texas Newsletter

2015 PASCT Board Members

President Nancy Grafton	Vice President Judy Swain	Treasurer Gary Pinkston	Secretary VA Miller	Player Development Director Richard Bradley	Communications Director Kathy Carr
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Volume 1, Issue 10

Fun, Friends and Fitness

December 1, 2015



Club Announcements

By Kathy Carr
PASCT Communications Director

- **Seeking New Social Director.** After more than a year of dedicated service, Kim Stout is stepping down as the Club's Social Director. 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.

- **Time to Pay Your Annual Dues.** Starting today, 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.
- **Annual Business Meeting Results.** Minutes from the PASCT Annual Business Meeting, conducted on 4 November 2015, are now posted to the Club's web site. To review them, click on [2015 Annual Business Meeting Minutes](#). Within the order of business at this meeting was the election of the 2016 Executive Board Members.

President:	Nancy Grafton
Vice President:	Don Hayes
Secretary:	V.A. Miller
Treasurer:	Gary Pinkston
Member at Large:	Peg O'Toole (Player Development Director)
Member at Large:	Kathy Carr (Communications Director)
- **Simon Training.** If you require training on Simon's setup and operation, send an email request to Lee Miller, mtime1952@gmail.com to register for an upcoming class. Please include your name, email, and phone number. The next scheduled class is Thursday, 10 December from 4:00 – 5:00 pm.

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From the President

By Nancy Grafton
PASCT President

Dear Members,

“Engage the problem and find a solution”. That’s a mission your 2016 Pickleball Board and all our new committee volunteers will work hard to fulfill. Thank you to everyone who attended our Annual Business Meeting and recommended involving more of our membership in 2016. November was a busy month, and as a result of your suggestions, we have added:



Nancy Grafton
PASCT President

1. **A Welcoming Committee**, comprised of 7 volunteers, who will personally greet new members and provide them with an overview of the Pickleball Club, our bylaws and Club activities;
2. **A Court Utilization Committee**, comprised of 20 volunteers, representing various skill levels and interest groups. Over the next few months, they will offer suggestions to the Board on how best to utilize the six courts we use until more are built; and
3. **A Grass Roots Committee/Task Force** that will develop strategies to resolve our current court shortage problem. (There are still openings for this committee, so if you are interested in helping, please contact me).

One important position that is still unfilled is our Social Director. Why not share this role with another individual so that we can continue to offer all the activities our members enjoy?

I'd like also to take this time to speak for the Board in acknowledging how much we appreciate the time and talent of Richard Bradley, Mary Payne, Stan Payne, Kim Stout, and Judy Swain. These individuals have contributed so much to our pickleball experience. When you see them, please let them know how much you appreciated all their hard work these past few years.

Lastly, I'd like to wish each and every one of you a wonderful holiday season and a most prosperous new year.

Welcome, New Members

Judy Swain
PASCT Vice President

Let's talk turkey. As of today, we have 487 active members in the Pickleball Club. Here is a list of the 8 new members who have 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.



Frank Edwards	Ralph Posey	Bill Weidert
John Gioia	Carlos Rio	Glenn Zauber
Richard Holt	Cindy Rio	
Jill Morgan	James Snyder	

Where in the World is Chuck Flanagan?

By Kathy Carr

Photos by Chuck Flanagan

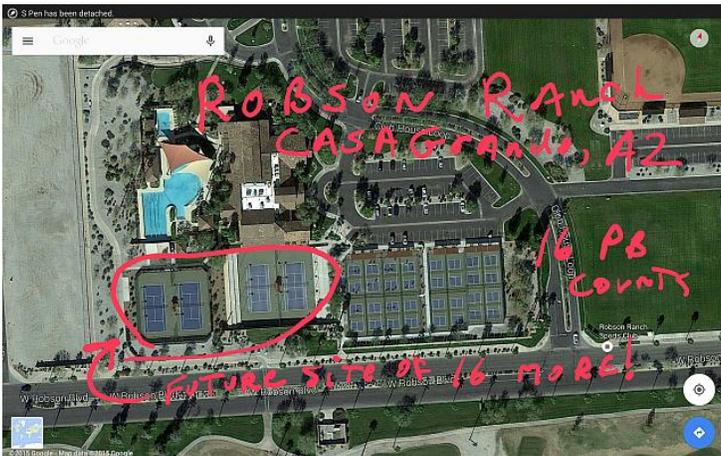


Chuck Flanagan with his doubles partner, Diane Baumgartner, on the podium after winning a bronze medal at the Sun City Arizona Shootout in Bend, Oregon.

If you've ever watched Good Morning America, you've likely caught a segment called "Where in the World is Matt Lauer?" Well, there's been a similar question floating around the Sun City courts as folks have been asking "Where in the world is Chuck Flanagan?" I've been sent a few clues over the last couple of months in the form of emails from Chuck. These have included pictures from some of the courts he's visited and some of the tournaments he's played in.

At first I thought Chuck was sharing these pictures as a way of saying "having a great time; wish you were here." However, the more I think about it, I'm starting to think perhaps he was saying, "Look where I am and you're not. Na nan a nan a." What do you think?

Welcome home, Chuck. We missed you and look forward to the article you write about your experiences in next month's "From the Ambassador" column.



Sample pictures sent by Chuck - Robson Ranch, Casa Grande, AZ. 16 courts on site and 16 more on the way.

Fred's Corner

Editor's Note: I'd like to introduce a new column this month called Fred's Corner. It's named that because it belongs to Fred Kandel, a smart, witty and somewhat opinionated member of our club who has a few things to say. It's also named that because if Fred doesn't behave with his new column, he will end up in the corner. Fred presents his viewpoints with humor that yields pause for thought. There is no intent for malice. So, as they say, don't take it personally. It's just one man's opinion.

Silence of the Fans

By Fred Kandel
Contributing Writer and Member of the Sun City Texas Pickleball Club

Recently, the Pickle Ball Club had its annual meeting to elect officers for 2016. Much like our country, less than 10% were present to vote for those who will be our leaders. Fortunately, those elected are all good people who have the PBC as a priority. (Because most of us are old, and, most of us can't remember who just served the ball, PBC stands for Pickle Ball Club).

Our club is growing exponentially year over year. And, with that growth come problems and complaints. As is typically the case, many of the complaints have been made by those who did not show up for the meeting.

Some of the problems mentioned were:

- Overcrowding of courts
- Poor lighting on Courts 5 & 6
- Lack of lights on Courts 1 - 4
- Member non-member use
- Court time by skill levels
- Cracks on the courts
- Wind screens

Some of the problems not mentioned but on everyone's mind were:

- Can we do away with daylight savings time (not really)
- Can we air condition the courts (not really)
- Noise on the courts (this is the sound of people having a good time)
- Lack of benches in the right locations
- Need for an ice machine (just a dream)
- Scoreboards for each court (just a joke)
- How do we get more people to participate in the governing body instead of the 8% we had at the meeting (this is real)



Fred Kandel

We have a great and growing club. In order to be more responsive to the needs of the members, we need more members to become involved. The squeaky wheel gets the oil, and we are not getting any oil from Pulte. Other clubs smaller than ours, do a better job making their needs known to Sun City management. If we want more courts as well as other things, we need the majority of our members to be talking about and writing letters to the right people.

If you really care about the PBC (remember this means Pickle Ball Club), please begin to participate in the governing of our club. Ask our elected leaders how you can help us meet our goals. If you don't care, believe me, no one else in Sun City will.

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.

Sun City Team Medals at Texas A&M Pickleball Tournament

By Kathy Carr

Photos by Mary Payne

Texas A&M University hosted its 1st Recreation, Parks and Tourism Sciences (RPTS) Pickleball Tournament on Sunday, 15 November 2015. The event attracted sports enthusiasts from local and surrounding communities for tournament play that included age and skill level bracketed pickleball competitions. There was no need to worry about inclement weather as matches were played indoors on 12 beautiful courts set up in the university's newest gym (PEAP - opened in 2013).

Three of Sun City's own participated in the tournament – Mary Payne, Barb Patterson and Stan Payne. Mary and Barb partnered to bring home the silver in women's doubles. In a match for the gold, they won their first game, lost the second 13 to 15, and ultimately lost the third game in a fiercely fought battle.



Mary Payne and Barb Patterson (on left) pose for a photo with their opponents following the gold medal match.



Stan Payne saves the day with a gold medal win.

Stan Payne got a lot more than he expected at the tournament when he was asked to fill in for a no-show in the open mixed doubles category. In a flash his role changed from casual spectator to tough competitor. Ultimately, Stan and his partner rolled through the competition to win gold medals in their event.

This tournament enabled students in the Recreation, Parks and Tourism Sciences class to gain experience with the logistics of planning, organizing, and implementing management skills in a real life setting. This was one of several non-profit venues they support throughout the semester to further hone their skills and prepare for their futures.

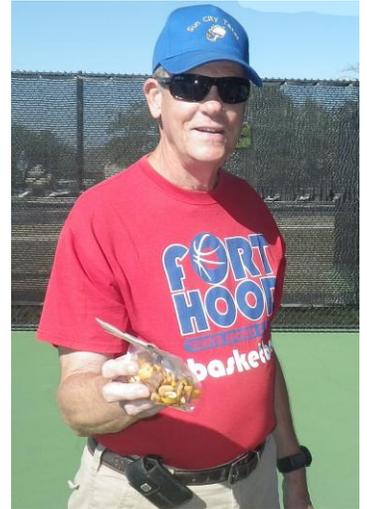
Way to go, Sun City!

Fall 2015 Ladder League Is Now One for the History Books

By Richard Bradley

Yeah! We survived another season of pickleball leagues. Here are the results for the top 5 finishers in each Division. To place, players had to complete 6 of 8 scheduled matches. If you'd like to view the complete list of results, click on [2015 Fall Ladder League Results](#).

This is the first time the Club has used the USAPA software to track a ladder league and it is the first time we employed Ladder Captains to help manage the ladders. A survey was sent out last week to players, substitutes, and ladder captains in the league soliciting their comments on how things went and how they can be further improved. The results are being compiled now and will be released soon in a future



Richard Bradley
League Director

Women's Ladder League

Place	Name	Winning Percentage
1 st Place	Mary Payne	87.88%
2d Place	Kathy Carr	87.37%
3d Place	Nancy Grafton	86.36%
4 th Place	Joyce Cadwallader	84.45%
5 th Place	Peg O'Toole	79.17%

Men's Ladder League

Place	Name	Winning Percentage
1 st Place	David Stout	89.61%
2d Place	Cle Alexander	85.23%
3d Place	David Laird	84.42%
4 th Place	Larry Black	82.32%
5 th Place	Steve Timmons	82.25%

Mixed Doubles Ladder League

Place	Team	Winning Percentage
1 st Place	Mary Perez and Steve Timmons	93.94%
2d Place	Dorinda Williams and Don Hunt	83.93%
3d Place	Kathy Carr and Grant Leslie	78.28%
4 th Place	Barb Patterson and David Stout	77.27%
5 th Place	Nancy Grafton and Clark Grafton	76.26%

Should We Revise Our Description of Pickleball?

By Kathy Carr

Have you ever worn one of your pickleball shirts out in public and had people come up and ask, “What’s pickleball?” I have, and for as long as I’ve been playing the game, my response has been that pickleball is a fun, active game that combines the elements of tennis, badminton, and ping pong. Yep, that’s been my story, that is, until yesterday. Something happened to change me and my definition of pickleball.

On the last day of the Women’s Fall Ladder League I ran around the courts in between my own games to take some pictures. It was my intent to put together an article for this Kitchen Talk with the league results and some action shots from the courts. Well, I never made it to the Men’s Ladder on Tuesday and the Mixed Doubles were rained out on Friday. That left me with the handful of photos I took on Monday afternoon. I reviewed the pictures, and then it dawned on me. There is so much more to pickleball than the simple elements of tennis, badminton and ping pong. This multi-faceted game encompasses skills we’ve learned in every sport and game we’ve ever played from the day we started to walk. See if these pictures don’t support my point.



Hide and Seek



Twister

I don’t know about you, but the next time someone asks me, “What’s pickleball?,” I’m going to say, “It’s a fun game that brings you back in touch with your inner child.”



Rock, Paper, Scissors



Hokey Pokey



**Softball
Outfield Catch**



Square Dancing



**Judging for Ice Skating
Competition**

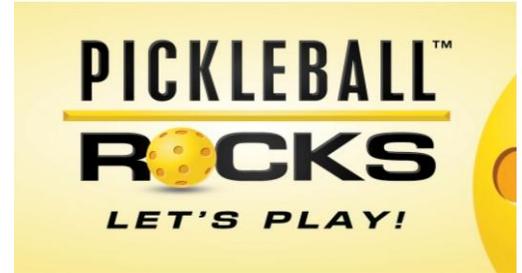


Frisbee

The Paddles and Balls Are Changing

DON'T PANIC.... YET

From the Desk of Rodney "Rocket" Grubs
at AllAboutPickleball.com



By now you may have heard that the USAPA is revamping their testing approving paddles and balls for sanctioned play. And you may have heard that certain balls and paddles will not be approved. Most of what you've heard is probably right, but **DON'T PANIC.**

First of all, the USAPA is doing a great job and we are very thankful for them and their efforts.

What is happening, as you all know, is that **pickleball is growing faster** than anyone ever thought it would or could. And because it is growing so fast it is attracting the attention of companies big and small who are **trying to create new equipment** that will or could fundamentally change the game as we know it.

When pickleball was invented, the creators built a great game with rules and equipment that were designed to **keep an even balance between offense and defense.** Their hope was that neither side of the net would have any distinct advantage over the other side.

That is why we have a "**double bounce rule**" and an **underhand serve** and a **non-volley zone** that somebody mysteriously decided to call a kitchen. That is why paddles must not have a gripping surface and can only be a certain overall size.

Until now the USAPA has used only a very limited amount of tests to approve balls and paddles, and it was pretty easy to pass those tests. Now manufacturers are coming up with all kinds of new equipment that pass those tests, but some of the new paddles and balls were changing the fundamental game.

So the USAPA has put some additional tests into their approval process and given manufacturers until May 2016 to get their stuff within the new guidelines. This will help keep our great sport as it was intended to be.

So what does this mean right now to you? Virtually nothing!

The vast majority of paddles already on the market will be just fine. And if you've heard that our old reliable **Jugs Indoor Balls will not be approved** after May 2016, that is correct. But Jugs is working diligently to get their ball updated and within the new specs. **So relax.** What you will see is a new Jugs ball as well as all the other balls that will still bounce great on any surface, but it will also do all the new stuff too. From a playability standpoint, **we probably won't even be able to tell a difference.**

So the USAPA is doing a great job of trying to prevent troubles before they occur rather than wait until it is too late. That is a good thing for all of us.

Ed. Note: If you liked this article and would like to read some of Rocket's othe ramblings, you can subscribe to the Pickleball Rocks Newsletter by going to the [Pickleball Rocks Home Page](#) and entering your name and email address.

Twas the Night Before a Pickleball Christmas

Submitted by Kathy Carr

Twas the night before Christmas, when all through Sun City,
not a player was stirring; it's really a pity.
Their paddles were triple stacked in the racks with great care,
in hopes that additional courts soon would be there.

Nancy in her visor and Clark a ball cap, had just settled in
for a senior afternoon nap.

When out on the courts there arose such a clatter, Nancy
sprang from her bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the window she flew like a flash, tore open the
shutters and threw up the sash.

Pulte announced 2017 is the year; no more courts until then;
so sorry, my dear.

Our Club president was upset; she raised up in ire. Yep, you guessed it, her hair was on fire.

She asked the Sports Committee to approve temporary lighting.

Despite their concurrence, the CA response ("Let's table the issue.") was most frightening.

"What else can we do" she and her Board wondered aloud. "Let's form a couple of committees", they decided -
so proud.

The first will recommend a fair court schedule for all; the second will alert the community of the issues with
pickleball.

So, on the 9th of December, volunteers from each ability group will meet, to figure out how 500 members can
coexist on 6 courts - what a feat.

Our Beginners are huddled on Courts 5 and 6, hoping that more court time for them is part of the fix.

Social Players, meanwhile, are standing out in the cold, wishing their solution will be the one to take hold.

Of course, the Intermediates represent a significant majority, but let's not forget those in the Advanced
Player Sorority.

We're looking for members to fill the second committee, a group that can execute a plan to wake up Sun City.
Pickleball is the fastest growing sport around, we need more court time now; let's stake our ground.

If you think you can contribute to this just cause, stand up and be heard, now is *not* the time to take pause.

Contact Nancy Grafton to let her know that you care, and that you are willing to help take on this dare.

There are no promises for the next couple of years, but that is not reason for us to shed tears.

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly, when we meet with an obstacle, we must mount to the sky.

So up to the house-top we coursers will go, with a pickleball bag full of solutions we'll sow.

Hopefully, by this time next year, we'll have the court space we need and can cheer.



Club Volunteers Keep the Pickleball Train Chugging

By Kathy Carr

The PASCT Volunteer of the Month Program was started in February of this year to recognize the efforts of those members who render outstanding service to the club. While the rewards they receive are meager (a handshake from the Club president, a homemade plaque and a brief biography in Kitchen Talk), they symbolize the Club's sincere appreciation and recognition that without them, pickleball in Sun City would stall.

The following individuals distinguished themselves over the last year with their leadership, enthusiasm, creativity and selflessness. As a result of their combined accomplishments, the Sun City Pickleball Club is simply the best.

February



Kim Stout

March



Stan Payne

April



Mary Payne

May



Phil Coraggio

June



Chuck Flanagan

July



Lonnie Walker

September



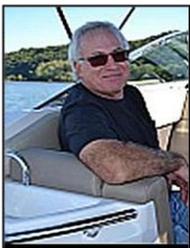
Peg O'Toole

October



Joe O'Toole

November



Lee Miller

December



Sandy Piland

Any Club member can nominate an individual as volunteer of the month. All you have to do is download and complete a [Volunteer Recommendation Form](#) and submit it by email or in person to the club secretary, [VA Miller](#) no later than the 15th day of the month following the recognized event or activity. So as to provide the broadest recognition of club members who dedicate their time and service to the club, a volunteer can only receive one volunteer award per quarter. PASCT Board members are not eligible for this award.

A Tactful Trump

Submitted by Jackie Minze

Note: this is not a political joke

A private jet arrives at Heathrow international airport and Donald Trump strides to a waiting limousine which drives him to a warm and dignified reception from the Queen. From there, they are driven in a 1934 Bentley to the edge of central London where they change to a magnificent 17th century carriage hitched to six white horses. They continue on towards Buckingham Palace waving to the thousands of cheering Britons; all is going well.



Suddenly, the right rear horse lets fly with the most horrendous earth-shattering release of gas ever heard in the British Empire. The coach shakes, the smell is atrocious and both passengers in the carriage must use perfume-dipped handkerchiefs over their nose, but they do their best to ignore the incident.

The Queen turns to Trump saying, "Mr. Trump, please accept my regrets. I am sure you understand there are some things that even a Queen cannot control."

Trump, with his usual diplomatic aplomb, replied, "Your Majesty, do not give the matter another thought. Until you mentioned it, I thought it was one of the horses."

Introduction to Pickleball Class Dates

By Richard Bradley
Player Development Director

Our last two Introduction of Pickleball class dates for 2015 are listed below and are posted to the Club's website.

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 Richard Bradley, at rbradley1963@aol.com to schedule a class.

Those members interested in helping to teach this class should also contact Richard. He will appreciate your assistance.



Introduction to Pickleball Class Schedule		
December 5, 2015	Saturday	4:00 – 5:30 pm
December 12, 2015	Saturday	4:00 – 5:30 pm
Classes are held on Courts 5 and 6. Paddles, balls and instruction are provided by the club.		