



Kitchen Talk

Sun City Texas Pickleball Club Newsletter

January

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Happy New Year Everybody....

I don't know about y'all, but I'm excited about the new year and our new courts. Although we were expecting to see the courts finished in 2017, Murphy seemed to have his say, which means that if things can get delayed, they will. But I really believe that we will get to play on the new courts before the end of 2018-for real!

Boy, was I wrong. Murphy apparently took a vacation and we have 4 new courts!!!

Whew Whew (and it sounds like Barb and Ken Patterson beat me to it, they played on the courts first). We may have to wait until the CA gives us official notice that we can start using the new courts, but they are basically done and have that "new car smell".

I also want to welcome our newly elected Voting Board Members, Charles DeSa, Vice-President and Bob Cleaver, Director of Maintenance. The Board also wants to acknowledge Lee Miller for the years of taking care of Simon/Simone for the Club. And we are really lucky that Wayne Schaefer will be taking his place.

Plus, one BIG huge Thank You to all of the members who filled out our survey. Contrary to popular belief, we will not be throwing this away, but we will be using it to guide changes to our club. In the comments section of the survey, the Board also noticed several questions that we have been wrestling with over the years, but (based on the comments) the answers to these questions apparently have not been widely understood. So hopefully within the month, we will be posting a FAQ (frequently asked questions) section to our PB website that will answer several of these recurring questions.

See you on the courts

Hutch



CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM OUR TREASURER



The Pickleball Club fund balance as of November 30th is \$10,112. Total revenues were \$9,507 and total expenses were \$8,764 for Net Income of \$743. We budgeted a loss for the year of \$2,000 giving us a positive variance of \$2,743.

Membership dues for 2018 will be \$10 and can be purchased now.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE EVENTS

Don't forget - Tuesday, January 2nd will be the first "Dinks, Chow and Chat" of 2018 at Wriggley's from 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Come join your SCTPC friends and enjoy discounts on house drinks and pitchers!

Thursday evening bleacher parties will be suspended until after Daylight Savings Time.



"DINKS AND DOGS DUOS" NEWS ARTICLE

Our second annual "Dinks and Dogs Duos" event was featured in the December 20th issue of "City Week." Here is a link to the article reported by Wayne Dawson -

City Week - December 20



NEW PICKLEBALL COURTS

YAY - THEY ARE ALMOST FINISHED!!

Four new pickleball courts and the surrounding "common area" are almost completed in the Queen Tract subdivision off of Cattleman's Drive. Stay tuned for "grand opening" news.





LEAGUES & TRAINING

WINTER LEAGUES

Winter Leagues will run 8 weeks from January 15 through March 5 starting at 1:00. Format is round robin - 3 games to 11 points.

DIVISION

Beginners (2.0 to 2.9) Mondays

Intermediate (3.0 to 3.4) Wednesdays

Advanced (3.5 and above) Fridays

These will be drop-in leagues. All you need to do is show up and sign up (first come, first served). About 30 minutes before start time, a sign up sheet will be available. After all players (up to a total of 24) have signed up, there is a random draw for court assignments. You must be a Club member to participate in the leagues. An individual can only play in one league per week.

INTRO TO PICKLEBALL CLASSES

Classes are scheduled twice a month on Saturdays from 3:00 to 5:00. Classes are currently scheduled for January 13 and 27. You do not need to be a Club member for this class. Equipment is provided. **YOU NEED TO REGISTER IN ADVANCE FOR THE CLASS** with Peg O'Toole (see email address below).

BEGINNER MENTORING

A new session of Beginner Mentoring Classes will be held in February. Classes are from 1:00 to 3:00 on Saturdays, February 3,

10, 17 and 24. Participants need to commit to all four weeks.

BEGINNER SKILLS AND DRILLS

Beginner Skills and Drills will start on Thursday, February 8 and continue for four weeks. Classes are from 1:00 to 2:00. You do not need to sign up in advance for this training.

INTERMEDIATE TRAINING

Next classes are scheduled from 1/8 through 1/14/18. Class size is limited to 12 participants. There are a couple openings available for these Intermediate Training classes.

For all training and leagues, except the Introduction to Pickleball Class, you need to be a member of the Pickleball club.

FOR MORE INFO OR TO SIGN UP

If you are interested in any of the training classes, please send an email to Peg O'Toole, Director of Player Development, at jgmlo@yahoo.com.

PICKLEBALL...
It's cheaper
than therapy!



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

NANCY GRAFTON



From Barb Patterson: Nancy Grafton deserves "Volunteer of the Month" more than anyone that I know. She never was eligible for this recognition in the past because she was too busy being President of SCTPC. She spent nearly all of her waking hours (as well as some hours when she should have been sleeping), thinking, worrying, organizing and planning for all of us. Thank you Nancy, for always being there to pitch in, dream up new events (such and "Dinks and Dogs Duos") and smiling through it all. Your energy, positivity and hard work are an inspiration to all of us!

About Nancy Grafton:

Since moving here four years ago, Nancy and Clark have enjoyed all the new friends they have made in Sun City, and all the activities that are offered. "Living here is like visiting a resort every day, and some days, it's just nice to choose to do nothing!"

Besides the "birthday and bunco gals" monthly get-togethers, Nancy is a language instructor (Russian), and co-chairs the monthly speaker series for the International Languages Learning Club, as well as spending a good bit of time on the pickleball courts - more time now that she is no longer president of the Club.

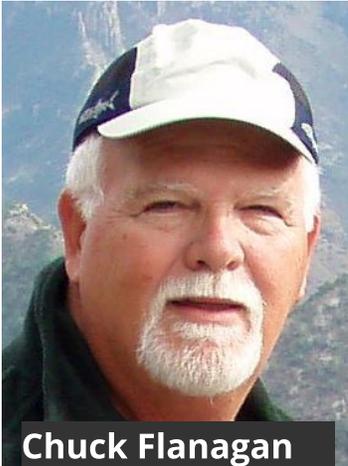
Travel spots for Nancy and Clark are either going back to Ohio to visit family and friends (they lived there for 60 years) before moving to Texas, or going to Europe.



Do you have someone you'd like to nominate for our "Volunteer of the Month?" If so, click here - [Volunteer of the Month Program](#) to learn more.



FROM OUR DISTRICT AMBASSADOR



Chuck Flanagan

APPROVED PICKLE-BALLS

I sincerely hope that you all had a very joyous holiday season and are looking forward to a great pickleball year in 2018!

The most asked question I've received lately has been, 'Chuck, what's the new approved ball?' That's kind of a trick question because there are currently 17 USAPA approved pickleballs. But that really only matters for USAPA sanctioned tournaments. Here at Sun City, we can play with any ball we choose...approved or not. It just happens that the balls that most of us like to play with are on this approved list:

List of Approved Pickleballs

While I'm on the subject about pickleballs, I met the Onix Pickleball rep at the USAPA Nationals and was offered the opportunity to buy their new Onix Fuse pickleball and a very good price. I was putting together an order for our club and members (335 balls so far) when I received the following message on the day I planning to place the order:

"ONIX Pickleball is committed to the highest standards for our products. Since receiving our first production run of the FUSE Outdoor Ball, we've been testing it internally and have discovered that some of the balls are not meeting our quality standards. Because of this, we are going to delay the launch of the ONIX Fuse Outdoor ball. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. However, we want to ensure the product's integrity to ensure the best experience for our customers.

We will update you with a new launch date as soon as we have more details."

Obviously, I will not be ordering balls until they get their issues fixed. I'll keep track of everyone's ball request but my intention is to phone my contact and request that he send me sample balls for all of us to test. Then, if we're satisfied I'll place the order for those of you that still want Fuse balls.

Meanwhile, I think I'm close to getting "The Pickleball Blues".

The Pickleball Blues

Here's a link to the latest copy of "PickleballNews". Lots of pictures from the 2017 USAPA National Championships. Recognize anyone?

December Pickleball News



A PICKLEBALL STORY

Reprinted with the written permission of Aspen Kern (Pro Player and USAPA Nationals Gold Medalist)

Whenever the discussion about playing with other level players arises it usually heats up pretty fast, so I would like to mention something that happened to me years ago.

I was drilling overheads with my coach (Dad) when 2 boys, probably 6 or 7 years old, came on the court and asked if they could join in. I knew my dad would say yes; he always does. One boy had glasses that kept falling off and if I remember right the other one had one shoe that was built up so he could walk better. They stayed for about 45 minutes and as usual my dad had us lose a game to them. When they walked over to their bikes one of them stopped and gave me a high five.



On the drive home I mentioned to my dad that I thought I didn't get a good practice in and I felt cheated. He told me, "Today you practiced compassion; other days you practice hitting a yellow plastic ball. You tell me - which is more important?"

He said he was more proud of me for giving that boy a high five than if I had hit 100 overhead winners.

Now when I think I only have time to play with my "level" I remember the boy with the loose glasses and the boy with the thick shoe sole, and I find comfort in not taking the sport so seriously that I lose touch with what is really important.

Have some fun out there guys!





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We have added a FAQ section to our SCTPC website here - [Frequently Asked Questions](#). This is a sampling of a few of the questions along with answers from your SCTPC board. Rules and regulations from our club, as well as the Community Association, which apply to these questions, are listed at the end of the FAQ on the website.

I don't like it when players skip over 2 or 3 paddles and put their paddles in together and then go out on the courts. That leaves those 2 or 3 paddles sitting there and we aren't getting to play as often or we get ignored and I end up going home.

This comment parrots at least a 1/3 of the club's membership based on the survey comments. It is a serious issue that the Board feels could be alleviated by some common courtesy and a little empathy. The club's court policies can be found under the "Paddle Rack System" on the website. Having said that, the Board would encourage all groups (of 4) to consider playing with others when there are paddles waiting to form a group. When there are players trying to get ready for a tournament, that typically means 2 players and they in turn could play 2 other players that are waiting.

The Board does NOT want to play "Enforcer" and there's no reason not to play with everyone.

Why is there a concrete wall on the new courts?

While it is true that there is a low concrete wall that exists along the north and west fenced part of the courts, these cement walls were not a part of the original drawings that members of our club helped design with Pulte. When this was brought to the CA Facilities and Pulte's management, we were told that they would see what could be done and get back in touch with the club. **this communication took place the first week of December 2017 and the club has not heard anything further at the time of this writing.

We need more lights; why can't we have them?

We don't know of anyone who would disagree with this comment. Unfortunately, when the club was finally able to get the CA to agree to fixing (and paying for) the lights on courts 5 and 6, the CA facilities manager told the club that there could not be any lights put onto courts 1-4 because of an agreement the CA had with the homeowners living directly across Sun City Blvd. As a side note, all of the new Queen Tract courts will have lights.

You can continue reading more FAQs here - [Frequently Asked Questions](#)



THANK YOU LEE & BILL!

We extend huge kudos and BIG THANKS to outgoing Vice President, Bill Chalmers and also to Lee Miller, our outgoing Pickleball Machine Coordinator. Bill stepped up to fill the VP vacancy for us last year and was always willing to pitch in whenever needed. We will miss his smiling face at our board workshops. Charles Desa is the incoming VP and we definitely expect a lot of smiles (and laughs) from him as well!



Lee Miller has been our Pickleball Machine Coordinator since pretty much the beginning of time. Lee has made it look easy:

- he has always made sure the machines are in good working order
- he called the manufacturers when problems arose and always managed to get things fixed
- Lee implemented new procedures for signing out the machines
- he trained dozens and dozens of people on how to use the ball machines
- he was a fixture at training, often running the machines for drills and lessons
- he attended board workshops and provided valuable insights and opinions regularly

We know that Wayne Schaefer will do a bang-up job, just like Lee, and welcome Wayne aboard too.

(If you're interested in reserving the ball machine, please click [Ball Machine Info](#) to learn more.)

***Thank you all for stepping up to the plate to help the members of SCTPC;
we appreciate you!***

TX SENIOR GAMES REGISTRATION



Registration is now open for the 2018 Texas Senior Games which will be held on April 10-12 at the Alamo City All Stars (San Antonio). Early bird registration rates will expire on February 2nd, so don't delay if you're interested in signing up. More info is available here - [Texas Senior Games](#).

JOKES AND FUN STUFF!



We're not even going to ask!

A widowed man is with his friends months after his wife passes away. He tells them he's started dating.

They are very happy for him, yet are very curious. They ask for details.

He goes on to explain she is young, has movie star looks, gorgeous body, beautiful hair, perfect smile, and is a dream girl.

They are all amazed, as their friend is a nice looking man but clearly in his mid-to-late 70's with age undeniable.

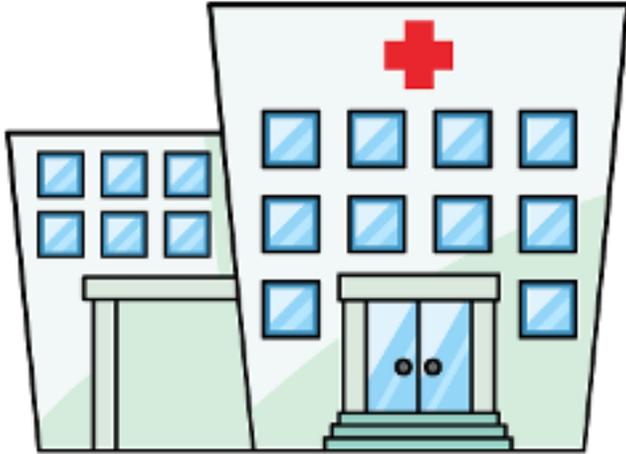
They asked "How did you do it? How did you attract a woman like this?"

He says, with a slight smile on his face, "Well, I did have to lie about my age, I admit."

"Oooohhh!!" they all said chuckling among themselves, nudging each other a bit. "What did you say? That you were in your sixties?"

The man says, "Oh no.... I told her I was 95."

MORE JOKES AND FUN STUFF!



A sweet grandmother telephoned St. Joseph's Hospital. She timidly asked, "Is it possible to speak to someone who can tell me how a patient is doing?"

The operator said, "I'll be glad to help, dear. What's the name and room number?"

The grandmother in her weak, tremulous voice said, "Norma Findlay, Room 302."

The operator replied, "Let me place you on hold while I check with her nurse."

After a few minutes, the operator returned to the phone and said, "Oh, I have good news. Her nurse just told me that Norma is doing very well. Her blood pressure is fine; her blood work just came back as normal, and her physician, Dr. Cohen, has scheduled her to be discharged on Tuesday."

The grandmother said, "Thank you. That's wonderful! I was so worried! God bless you for the good news."

The operator replied, "You're more than welcome. Is Norma your daughter?"

The grandmother said, "No, I'm Norma Findlay in 302. No one tells me crap!"

2018 SCTPC BOARD MEMBERS AND MANAGERS

President - Hutch

Vice President - Charles Desa

Secretary - Judy Blackman

Treasurer - Kathy Goodall

Player Development Director - Peg O'Toole

Communications Director - Barb Patterson

Maintenance Director - Bob Cleaver

Pball Machine Coordinator - Wayne Schaefer

Social Committee Chair - Sharon Douglas

Sunshine Ambassador - Pat Hall