

# Kitchen Talk

Sun City Texas Pickleball Club Newsletter

### FROM THE PRESIDENT



As Sun City continues to grow, so does the Pickleball Club. For every 10 homes closed in North Pointe, we see 3+ new members. What we know is the club does not recruit, but the popularity of the sport

drives the interest and we are exploding. With 180 new members through June, as a board, we made a decision to do things differently, as we are not the same Pickleball Club that we were this time last year.

Last month, the board outlined, and I quote, "Beginning immediately, you will see both Training and Novice Instructional Play being conducted during the cooler periods of the day. As a board, we have agreed to provide any member with the opportunity to learn and play right along with everyone else." This created a number of questions such as "Why are we training now, why not wait until the fall like we used too." So allow me to provide some additional detail in regard to our decision process.

Again, we are <u>not</u> what we used to be. The Paddle Rack is gone. Gathering is gone. The ability for a new member to walk up and join a game is GONE. Now a new member must know at least three other people to play (preferably 8 to get a group of 4) and with no gathering, no paddle rack, and a mandatory reservation system, how can a member ever get to know anyone and play? So, the elected club board stepped up as something had to be done, and we are doing it. AND, please don't a minute forget that this training also provides a foundation for safe and knowledgeable play. For additional insight, please be sure to read the "From the Training Front" article that follows, by Kathy Carr, our Player Development Director.

July

Also, in the last few CA Communicators, a couple of items to point out. First, they mentioned the continued progress in the new Pickleball Courts. I expect we may have some additional detail to share before the next Kitchen Talk. And, yesterday, the Special CA Communicator stated ALL July and August meetings are canceled, so our July General Meeting is canceled. We have been working hard to keep you up to date on many aspects of the club and please don't hesitate to reach out to any of us with questions.

We all lost a friend, club member, a club board member, and the definition of a true gentleman in Dare Plantz. A tragic accident prematurely has removed his physical presence from all of us, but we are blessed with the many fond memories. Our thoughts and prayers are with Dare, Shaz and the families.

I'd also like to mention Davey Stateler will serve as the club Maintenance Director. Thank you to Davey and please see his BIO in this newsletter.

Please continue to stay healthy and safe.

#### Ed Cahill

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Sun City Texas Pickleball Club

### CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS TREASURER'S REPORT SUBMITTED BY ALLIE BOWER



#### May 2020 Financial Synopsis

The Club began the month of May 2020 with a balance of \$10,637; income for the month totaled \$430 all from new memberships. Expenses totaled \$810; \$77 for Court Cameras, \$160 for a one-year Zoom subscription (driven by COVID-19 gathering restrictions) to conduct ongoing club business, and \$73 in support of administrative and training needs. Also included is the previously announced \$500 donation to Matt Lazarine. The club ended the month of May with a balance of \$10,257. We had 43 new members bringing our YTD total to 726 in May.

# NEW MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR

The SCTPC Board has selected Davey Stateler to fill the position of Maintenance Director after the passing of Dare Plantz. Thank you Davey for stepping up to assume the duties of this important role on the board. Here is a little bit about Davey in his own words....

I am a born and raised Texan. Graduated from a Fort Worth high school in 1966 and promptly went to work for Uncle Sam. After returning from Viet Nam in 1968 I decided I needed an education and graduated from Texas Christian University, while working at Southwestern Bell Telephone. I married my high school sweetheart Cathy and still am after 51 years. Cathy and I moved to Sun City in 2013 and found Pickleball shortly after and we are both still going strong.



### "Keep your head up in failure and your head down in success."

~ Jerry Seinfeld



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME		
Joy	Alexander		
Brenda	Alicea		
Kathy	Bargeron		
Katie	Beitelshees		
Patricia	Bohnak		
Stephen	Bohnak		
Donnell	Burns		
Ray	Burns		
Ginny	Collins		
Liesa	Conklin		
Richard	Соре		

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME		
Lynn	Dillow		
John	Foley		
Barbara	Friedman		
John	Gavin		
Pamela	Helge		
Julie	Kirtley		
Harry	Kokolus		
Michelle	Mainz		
Dean	McCormick		
Jennifer	Mitrovich		
Lilly	Naley		

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME			
Rolf	Naley			
Karen	Pickels			
Ann	Richards			
Alan	Ringel			
Micki	Rundell			
Ned	Thurmond			
Tony	Vajdos			
Vilma	Vromant			
Diane	Williams			
Kat	Wilson			
Gina	Zwolinski			



### As of 06/30/2020, our Sun City Texas Pickleball Club has 750 members!



### CALENDAR



### July 2020 — Training Calendar

- Designated Courts Reserved for Club Training
  Designated Court Reserved for Matt Los Lessons (5)
- Designated Court Reserved for Matt Laz Lessons (\$)
- Designated Courts Reserved for Club Leagues

#### Notes:

#### Court Reservation System in Effect.

- Available Courts can be reserved (for 2—5 players) on-line using holdmycourt.
  - 0 Courts 1 4 and 7-10 open from 7 am 9 pm
  - Courts 5 6 open from 7 am 10 pm
- Court reservation for 1.5 hours (includes 80 minutes of play and a 10-minute buffer between reservations to ensure social distancing between groups of players)
- \* Play restricted to 1 Prime Tme and 1 Non-Prime Time reservation per day.
- Leagues, Intermediate Training and Club Ball Machine use are temporarily suspended at this time.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			1 Beginner Wettoring 700—8:30 am Courte 9:5:10 Novice Play 11:30 am—1:00 pm Courte 6:6:6	2 Beginner Vertoring 7:00—8:30 em Courte 9:8:10 11:33 em—6:30 em Mat Las Lessons Court 7	3 Beginner Wertbring 7:00—6:33 am Courte 9:8:10 Norice Play 11:30 am—1:00 pm Courte 5:8:5	4 Beginner Mertoding 7:00—8:30 am Courte 9:8:10 Novice Play 11:30 am—1:30 pm Courte 5:8:6 Intro to Pickleball 2:30—4:39 pm Courte 8:10	
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					As of 25 June 2020		



### TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

#### From the Training Front – By Kathy Carr, Player Development Director

I used to be a runner – 10Ks, half-marathons, marathons. It didn't matter; if there was a race, I was signed up. It's not that I was very good or that I earned many medals. I was motivated by what I called the "body count". That's the number of people I would pass along the route on my way to the finish line. Yep, the body count kept me going. What kept my ego in check, however, was the fact that I had to deduct a body every time someone passed me. At the end of the race, if I ended up with a positive number, I was a winner.

Managing our Club's Training Program reminds me of my body count days. Since taking over the job of Player Development Director it's been my goal to reduce the number of folks on wait lists and the consequent amount of time our members have to wait to get into any of our classes. Turns out, the combination of COVID-19 and explosive growth in our Club's membership have made that a bit of a challenge.

Social distancing has forced us to reduce the size of our classes from 12 to 8. We've had to sideline our Intermediate Training Program and Leagues to accommodate player reservations, and we can't use the Club's ball machines for drills. Due to the surge in membership, it seems that for every member we teach the Introduction to Pickleball, graduate from the Beginner's Mentoring Program and encourage to fly from Novice Play to Open Club Play time, three more new members show up behind them with a request to participate. Instead of using the paddle rack system to rotate folks through Novice Play, we can only put 10 players through a 2-court reservation at a time. While formerly able to play twice a week, our newest players only get to participate once every two weeks. The body count is in the negative numbers, people. When will it end?

Actually, the good news here is that it's not all bad news. COVID-19 will pass, we're going to see those additional courts promised by Pulte and life will be good sometime in the future. In the meantime, the tweaks we've had to make to ensure social distancing have actually been a blessing in disguise.

- Introduction to Pickleball. Peg O'Toole and Judy Blackman have tailored their Pickleball in a Nutshell presentation to fit into a 1.5-hour session. They have been conducting the Intro Class every single Saturday and many Sundays over the last two months during non-prime time hours (2:30 – 4:00 pm) to meet the demand. After teaching a full class this coming Saturday, their wait-list will have been reduced from 62 to 22.
- Beginner's Mentoring. With smaller classes, our Beginner's Mentoring students are getting more paddle on the ball time and more personalized instruction. Since we reopened the courts in May, 32 students have graduated this 5-day, 1.5 hour per day immersion program and two more classes are programmed for the next two weeks. That will leave 59 candidates on the wait-list. Thanks to our current roster of dedicated instructors: Jan Baldwin, Mary Payne, Ron Longino, Sandy Piland, Rick Piland, and to their Assistants: D'Les Longino, Wayne Schaefer, Hannah Nguyen and Karen Adams.
- Novice Instructional Play. Rather than the "one game and get to the end of the line" approach to novice play, our newest players now get an hour and a half coaching session under the guidance of an experienced player. They are guaranteed the experience of 4 games per session to reinforce their understanding of scoring, rules, shot execution and court positioning. An added benefit with this venue has been the networking opportunity for new members to meet others with whom they can make reservations and play. We currently have 71 members signed up for Novice Play. Thanks to our current roster of instructors: Karen Adams, Toni Briggs, D'Les Longino, Ron Longino, Sandy Piland, Rick Piland, Sally Tompkins and Jim Tompkins.



## TRAINING CONT'D.

I've learned it's not all about statistics. Are we making a difference? Here's a comment sent by one of our novice players to our club president.

The novice practice time has been so valuable, as I am able to network with other beginners and with the continued help of experienced players, I'm steadily improving my game. The amount of time organizing these groups is tremendous and a blessing for beginners. I also appreciate the effort you have put into the whole reservation system, while we are waiting for the return to "normalcy".

Well, I don't think that I am going to stop counting bodies. I still want to eliminate our wait lists and get to the point where we offer classes on a predictable schedule with enough courts to meet the demand.



Front Row L to R: Anne Diaz, Belen Nobert, Larry McPherson, LaWanna McPerson and Ron Longino (Instructor). Back Row L to R: Kathy Carr (Instructor), Leonore Chambers, Cindy Nelson, Rod Nappier, Margo Haley.



L to R: Verna Lockwood (pink top), Gary Lockwood (behind Verna), Sandy Wallace, Ardath Stewart, Phyliss Frey, Jan Baldwin (Instructor), Mike Chow, Kim D'Arcy, Mike Thornton, Mary Payne (Instructor) in front with Fiona (Retreat Ambassador Dog).



Left to Right: Sandy Reeves (blue cap), Nicida Maerefat (red shorts), June Prince (pink shorts), Alice Clemons, Mark Nissen, Jennifier Mitrovich, Sharlotte Carey and Richard Cope.

#### **Beginner's Mentoring Class #24**

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### VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH Karen Adams (aka "Ball Queen") - June 2020



Nominated by Kathy Carr

Karen Adams is recognized for her contributions to the Club in support of the Novice Supervised Play and Beginner's Mentoring Programs, as well as her service as Court Monitor during the COVID-19 pandemic. While this award captures the last couple of months, Karen's service reaches back to her arrival in Sun City, when she and her late husband, James, jumped in to take pictures, keep score during mini-tournaments, and even cook hot dogs for the Intermediate Training Program. If there's a job to be done, Karen is there to help.

Karen has been instrumental in reshaping Novice Supervised Play by conducting practice drills, evaluating player performance, and providing feedback for individual improvement. She has also helped preserve the health and well-being of our members by serving as a court monitor during the current health crisis with tact and professionalism. When

offered her most recent volunteer position to help with the Beginner's Mentoring Program, Karen was told she would initially serve as an assistant instructor. She asked what that entailed and was informed that she'd start down in the basement and work her way up to the main floor. That meant she would have to retrieve balls during student drills. Unabashedly, she responded that she would accept the job on condition she be recognized as the "Ball Queen".

Besides not being afraid to get her hands dirty, this "Ball Queen" continues to work on her own pickleball skills and is sharing her savvy with the newest players in our Club.

#### From Karen

We lived in Southeastern Wisconsin until our retirement in 2008. I worked in healthcare as an RN in various roles. I was a Medical Group administrator in a 300 multi specialty clinic. We moved to the Seattle Washington area upon retirement and lived there for 9 years before moving to Sun City. I have been an avid long distance bicyclist in the past. I was a Master Gardener In Wisconsin and Washington and am learning the differences of gardening in Texas, which are many. We started playing Pickleball after we moved to Sun City and enjoy it a lot. The club does an awesome job of training and classes. I also have met so many great and supportive friends in Pickleball.

#### Click here to learn how to nominate someone for "Volunteer of the Month."



### DJ'S WEEKLY TIP

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#### Do not "coach" your teammate during matches!

Your teammate is your teammate, not your student (unless, of course, you are a real pickleball instructor and your teammate IS your student, but that is rare and you get my point, so please go with me here). You are peers with your teammate. This is true whether you are a guy playing men's doubles, a gal playing women's doubles, or you're playing mixed doubles.

You ought not be TELLING your teammate what to do. If they ask for advice, you may give it. Exception: if you have a longstanding relationship in which you are the boss and they are a mouse who is willing to do the bidding of whatever the boss says, then I guess I'm not speaking to you. But my guess is that it is a very small minority.

A good teammate will make suggestions. He/she will communicate well without bossing you around. A good teammate allows you to offer your opinion and discuss the suggestion he/she just made.

Try this: approach your teammate with a suggestion or something to think about. "Think about hitting to player A's backhand." Or, "next time my serve return is really deep and gets the opponent off balance, consider poaching. You good with that?" Or, "When is this (X) situation, I'm seeing this (X). Let's try (X)."

This non-threatening approach keeps your teammate in your good graces and won't make them feel badly for making a mistake and won't make you upset if they don't do exactly as you say.

Do NOT say to your teammate, "Help me out! You need to take those balls out of the air!" Or, "You're hitting too short. You need to hit your returns deeper!" Or, "Don't hit that shot. It doesn't work. You need to do X instead."

This approach does not breed camaraderie, but has the potential to put an emotional wedge between the two of you.

If you want to stay connected emotionally with your teammate, offer advice or make suggestions. But please save the coaching for someone else like a qualified pickleball pro or at least wait until you are done with your match when you have an opportunity to discuss things with your teammate.

Til next time, keep reppin'!

-DJ

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Sun City Texas Pickleball Club

# REMEMBERING DARE PLANTZ



#### Celebration of Life by Sharon Douglas

Unfortunately, we have to postpone the 'Celebration of Life' gathering for Dare due to the recent COVID-19 county restrictions.

Dare's children, Travis, Allyson, Dylan and Ian and I would like to share some pictures of Dare, his life and his family with you as we wait to reschedule Dare's memorial service.

Thank you Barb Patterson for all your tireless effort, time and work in setting up and updating the Caring Bridge website, Facebook and the Sun City Pickleball website to keep Dare's friends and loved ones informed of Dare's condition and his memorial services.

We also greatly appreciate Jannine Grant and Conley Giles for organizing such a wonderful prayer vigil. Thank you to all of you who prayed for Dare and sent your positive thoughts and caring support to Dare via those websites, cards, calls and flowers. We are forever grateful for your love and friendship, concern and prayers.

Thank you Annette Franke for your tireless effort, time and work beautifying my tired and overgrown lawn and yard with weeding and pretty plants that brought life to my yard.

I am so grateful to you, Barb and Annette, for walking me through Dare's tragedy from the day of Dare's accident, letting me cry on your shoulders and cheering me up and just being by my side to listen and comfort me through my despair and pain. Thank you for being my angels on earth.

Dare is my angel in Heaven. What I admired most about Dare was his unconditional love for others without discrimination. Dare's heart was huge and he always made time for other people, sensing when they needed a hug, a listening ear or a helping hand.Dare put others' needs before his own. Dare treated me with such kindness, consideration and love and he was my best friend. He valued my opinions and my beliefs, which gave me strength and confidence to be myself.

Dare and I were peas in a pod. We loved pickleball, tournaments, social activities, pickleball camps, dancing, table tennis, hiking, exploring, going on adventures and especially having friends or family over on our patio for conversation and laughing.

Dare was my best friend and my soulmate. I was blessed to have Dare grace my life. I have such happy memories of Dare to cherish. I will strive to pay Dare's love forward and find ways to carry on his example of unconditional love, caring and support for others by being a better listener and offering a hug or a helping hand to others.

Dare's loving spirit has inspired me to start a group which I am going to call, "Dare To Care." It will be a network of single women in Sun City helping each other with things like rides to doctor appointments, hanging a picture, planting some flowers, showing them how to work their TV remote, someone to go to dinner or a movie with, etc.

Has Dare inspired you in some way? Will you "Dare to Care" for others in some new way?



# REMEMBERING DARE, CONT'D.

Dare was an accomplished and successful self-made man. He started with simple means and worked hard to make something of himself. He cared for animals in a zoo and worked as an elephant trainer for many years and he taught himself how to operate computers and had a long career in computer companies, including IBM. In Sun City, Dare had a successful Handyman service because he loved helping people. He was a pretty darn good pickleball player and won medals at tournaments.

But what we all remember most about Dare, is what a loving and caring person he was. Dare's real success in life and what made him stand out was how he loved everyone unconditionally. Dare was an example of what truly makes a person successful and accomplished in their life is how they treated other people and that is what we will remember most about him.

Dare made an enormous difference in my life and I am so blessed to have shared my life with my loving care bear Dare. I will strive to let Dare's kind and generous heart live on in me and, like a stone tossed in a lake, I will let those ripples of love and care extend to touch as many lives as far as they will reach from Dare's heart, to mine, to yours and beyond.

Warmest regards,

Sharon (Shaz) Douglas

If you would like to honor Dare's life through a gift, we know that he would have appreciated a donation to the charity of your choice in his memory. Donation acknowledgments may be sent to: Sharon Douglas, 436 Davis Mountain Circle, Georgetown, TX 78633 or shazhas3kids@gmail.com

#### A video slideshow featuring Dare and his family & friends can be viewed by clicking here -





## LETTERS TO THE BOARD

These are some emails that have been sent to board members during the past month and we thought that all members may want to see them.

**Question:** Why are we allowing guests and non-residents to play on the pickleball courts when it seems that our courts are so crowded all of the time? That doesn't make much sense.

**Board Response:** The Community Association advised all clubs to open up amenities to guests and non-members of their clubs. The CA received a number of complaints from residents who said they were paying HOA fees for ALL amenities and didn't like being told they couldn't use them. In the past the rule (from the CA) has been that we must have non-member courts available to residents at least 25% of the time.

That is why we elected to allow non-member SCTX residents to be able to use courts during non-prime hours in the afternoons. And guests of members may play with a member, during regular court time, as long as the member is present on the court.

**Email from member:** I sent the following to a friend. Maybe some form of this would be helpful to the group. Or maybe they will catch on more easily! Thanks!

I had to make a chart to follow the new 9:00 pm reservation timing and this is what I came up with:

Monday night for Thursday

Tuesday night for Friday

- Wednesday night for Saturday
- Thursday night for Sunday
- Friday night for Monday
- Saturday night for Tuesday
- Sunday night for Wednesday

**Board Response:** Thanks so much. We hope our members are catching on.





# LETTERS TO THE BOARD, CONT'D.

#### Compliments received in the Inbox: (Kudos to Kathy Carr and the training crew for all of these!)

**1)** I just wanted to thank you and the board for giving all of the beginners the extra time and guidance under Kathy Carr's supervision. I had just started the beginner mentoring classes in March right before we had to shut down. My husband did set up a makeshift court in our driveway and garage so that I could kind of get my skills sharpened, but couldn't wait to be reintroduced to the game with classes. I was one of the lucky ones to be in the first reopening mentoring classes and loved every minute of it. We had the first day in the afternoon and almost passed out due to the heat, but were so thankful that you allowed us to finish out the week at 7:00 am, not that I like getting up that early, but learned so much. Kathy and her advisers have been so helpful and encouraging, of which I am thankful for having never played racquet sports before. The novice practice time has been so valuable too, as I am able to network with other beginners and with the continued help of experienced players, I'm steadily improving my game. The amount of time organizing these groups is tremendous and a blessing for beginners. I also appreciate the effort you have put into the whole reservation system, while we are waiting for the return to "normalcy". Thank you for your leadership and the board's."

**2)** Wanted to take a moment and recognize your staff members instructing the beginner and novice classes. I was impressed with their enthusiasm for the game and interest in my personal development. My first novice class included helpful instruction on the volley and concluded with competitive court play. Looking forward to our next session. Can't beat free instruction from talented players for a \$10.00 membership fee. Classy club, classy people.

Thank you for providing the instructors and court time.

	Reserved Activity	Time Slots	Time Per Slot	Total Hrs	% Total	% Total	
BM	Beginner's Mentoring	14	1.5	21	2.17%		
IP	Introduction to Pickleball	2	1.5	3	0.31%	E 400/	
NP	Novice Play	12	1.5	18	1.86%	5.43%	
ML	Matt Laz Lessons	7	1.5	10.5	1.09%		
OP	Open Play by Reservation - Prime Time	267	1.5	400.5	41.46%	04 57%	
OP	Open Play by Reservation - Non-Prime Time	342	1.5	513	53.11%	94.57%	
		644	1.5	966	100.00%	100.00%	

#### Info from the Training Department Concerning Training Time on the Courts



# PICKLEBALL IN COLORADO



Check out the pickleball courts in beautiful Vail, Colorado where SCTPC members Diane and Bob Cleaver are spending the summer. They are teaching pickleball classes and living the good life!

# JOKES AND FUN STUFF

#### The Painter (submitted by Chuck Flanagan)

A guy in College Station answered a knock on his front door one morning. It was a young man, wearing an Aggie T-shirt, who asked if he had any odd jobs for him so he could earn a little money.

He said that he'd been planning to paint his porch at the back of the house, but he'd pay him \$50 to do the job.

He accepted his offer. The guy told him that white paint and brushes were in his garage.

An hour later he knocked on his door again,

and told him that he'd finished the job. He paid him the \$50.

Then he added, "By the way, that's not a Porch – it's a Ferrari."





# MORE JOKES AND FUN STUFF



#### Breakfast submitted by Chuck Flanagan

I was in the McDonald's drive-through this morning and the young lady behind me leaned on her horn because I was taking too long to place my order.

"Take the high road," I thought to myself. So, when I got to the first window I paid for her order along with my own.

The cashier must have told her what I'd done, because as we moved up she leaned out her window and waved to me and mouthed "Thank you," obviously embarrassed that I had repaid her rudeness with a kindness.

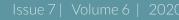
When I got to the second window I showed them both receipts and took her food too.

Now she has to go back to the end of the line and start all over.

Don't honk your horn at old people.



I want to lose weight, but I don't want to get caught up in one of those "eat right and exercise" scams.





# STILL MORE JOKES....

#### Now that I'm Older...

1. My goal for 2020 was to lose 10 pounds. Only have 14 to go.

2. Ate salad for dinner. Mostly croutons and tomatoes. Really just one big round crouton covered with tomato sauce, and cheese. FINE, it was a pizza...OK, I ate a pizza! Are you happy now?

- 3. How to prepare Tofu:
- a. Throw it in the trash
- b. Grill some meat, chicken or fish

4. I just did a week's worth of cardio after walking into a spider web.

5. I don't mean to brag, but I finished my 14-day diet food supply in 3 hours and 20 minutes.

6. A recent study has found women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it.

7. Kids today don't know how easy they have it.

When I was young, I had to walk 9 feet through shag carpet to change the TV channel.

8. Senility has been a smooth transition for me.

9. Remember back when we were kids and every time it was below zero outside they closed school? Yeah, Me neither.

10. I may not be that funny or athletic or good looking or smart or talented. I forgot where I was going with this.

11. I love approaching 80, I learn something new every day and forget 5 other things.

12. A thief broke into my house last night. He

started searching for money so I woke up and searched with him.

### 2020 SCTPC BOARD MEMBERS AND MANAGERS



**Ed Cahill** President



President

Ron Franke



Judy Blackman







Kathy Carr Director of Player Development

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Treasurer

#### **Davey Stateler** Maintenance Director



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